



## The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



Hello All

### Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter of 2015. I hope you are all well. The summer is now over and we are all back into the routine

of training and playing. However, for those who attended the Gothia Cup in Sweden, we have memories that will be with us a lifetime. 63 players attended the event and it would be fair to say, we all had a ball...pardon the pun!

All the Currie Star players stayed in the same school, in different classrooms, and it was great to watch them all mix and enjoy each other's company. Instead of sitting in their bedrooms playing X-Boxes, they went outside and played football, learnt how to play cards (!) or just chilled after the demands of the games. I don't think anyone will appreciate how good these trips are until you have taken part. Our next visit will be in July 2017 and by that time all the boys from 2006 to our 2000's will be within the age groups eligible to take part. The planning begins!

At our recent AGM we agreed what the Currie Star philosophy should be. For the kids playing 4's, 5's and 7's, they will all receive equal game time. When the boys start playing 11's, it is competition football and players will be selected based on performance, attendance at training and attitude. We want the Club to develop and grow its reputation. This season, our 19's have started brilliantly in the top division. They are playing fantastic football and setting the standard for the rest of the seniors. Well done to Paul and his boys.

Our partnership with Kingsknowe Golf Club is also growing with Currie Star teams holding their presentation nights and Club meetings in the Club itself. We have had a few of the senior players signing up and they are now enjoying their golf. We will be working with Colin Pearson, the Club Manager, to deliver opportunities for more kids to take part during the Easter break in 2016.

Congratulations to Gary McDonald (01's) and Mike Scaife (06's) who were appointed as Senior and Junior Liaison Officers for the Club recently. They will assist overlooking and running the two sections and be a point of contact for all the coaches due to their experience within Currie Star. Their enthusiasm is already evident with Gary managing to secure a Regional Coaching event at Malleny Park and Mike overseeing the management of PVG matters across the Club. Mike has also been appointed as Club Secretary and will take up a position on the Committee.

Unfortunately, Ken Stewart (05's) has had to resign his positions as Head Coach and Committee member. However, we are grateful for all he has contributed to the Club during his time. Ken organised the first and second CS Burns' Suppers, an event now embedded in the Club calendar, and grew the year group from practically nothing to the current 40 players. More than that, we all witnessed his first class delegation skills and have learnt so much from him! Ken, you are a CS legend! The future's bright.....it's blue and white!!

*John*

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## 2003's UPDATE

The 2003s welcome the new coach to Currie Star - Scott Clapperton, a local lad who once also played with Currie Star and is keen to give back some of his time assisting with coaching the 2003s as they transition from 7s to 11s this season. Scott currently plays football for the Civil Service Strollers and passes on his expertise to the boys.

The 2003s started their preparation with the Broxburn pre season tournament playing 3 games. The boys worked hard and had a fantastic day with a photo at the end of the tournament which was taken in the dugout.



The 2003s have started their campaign in the 4th Division to develop as a new squad with 20 players signed for the season. Most of the boys have also been with the 2003s for over 3 years now. Their first match was recorded by Youth Football Scotland and parents can now buy it. For the match itself, coming back from 3 nil down to win 8-3, it's a must buy and securing their first 3 points caught on camera - what more could you ask for. As it stands the team are currently unbeaten after 5 games and are currently positioned 2nd place in the league.

## 2000's UPDATE

The new 2000's team are well and truly up and running now having secured their first league win of the season away at Peebles. The squad who won that game are pictured below. A truly great squad effort as two of their outfield players had to volunteer to cover in this game for the injured keeper, what a great example of brilliant team spirit!



In fact the team spirit is the single thing coach Phil Hay is most proud of with this group, it really is fantastic so well done one and all of the 19 man squad. With it being their first season it really is difficult to put a specific aim on what they might want to achieve by the end of this season. That said though, with the spirit in this squad Phil is sure they can go on to something pretty special so fingers crossed!

Phil is very lucky to have been given great support from all the parents involved so far and he'd like to thank them all for that. It certainly makes a massive difference to the team. He's also very lucky to be supported by a number of other coaches who have greatly helped the team in their inaugural season - thanks also goes to them.

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## 2004's UPDATE

The 2004's welcomed 5 new players in August - Cian Tangney, Ross Leng, Fraser & Charlie Kentish and Chris Ramsey. They also have a new coach Paul Kentish - it has been great to see everyone settling in so quickly, they are all valuable additions to the 2004 squad.

As a little pre-season warm up the 2004's entered a team into the Ken Ritchie Festival at the excellent Pinkie Playing Fields Facility in Musselburgh. The boys played 7 matches each lasting 12 minutes. The first game was against a well drilled Musselburgh Windsor 1 team and the boys were well beaten which was put down to the shock of having to get up early in the summer holidays! The next game saw a much improved performance against Musselburgh Windsor 4's despite a 1 - 0 defeat. Game 3 was against a very strong Hutchy Vale 7 and the boys worked hard in a 2 - 0 defeat. Fortunes turned in Game 4 against Leith Athletic when hard work and growing confidence created lots of chances and resulted in their first goal in the festival to help the team to a well-earned 1 - 0 victory. Everything clicked in Game 5 against Musselburgh Windsor 2's resulting in a 3 - 1 win. Game 6 against Musselburgh Windsor

3's was even better, with a hard fought 2 - 2 draw, the fruits of a superb performance and by far their best game in the Festival. The 7th and last game was just a step too far for the very tired squad who were well beaten by Penicuik Athletic.

Nevertheless a good overall performance in a well-organized festival. The boys are pictured below left collecting a medal for taking part in the Festival. Onwards and upwards and now it's training twice a week and league games to look forward to.

## 2001's UPDATE

The 2001s have 2 teams in Division 2 this season and met for a very competitive derby game early in the League campaign, the Star team winning 4-0.

They welcome some new players to the teams - Reece McGurk, Bobby Tully and Archie Sommerville have all joined the Colts and Angus Hoffie has moved from the 2002s to the 2001 Star team. Good luck to all of you in the coming season.

The Colts have had a bad run with injuries so early in the season and this culminated in the recent game against Edinburgh City Real. Oli Coutts playing his first game of the season after coming back from injury, went in for a ball on the edge of the box and fell awkwardly under a challenge from the Edinburgh City Goalkeeper. After attending A&E it turns out that Oli has fractured both his wrists and will now be out of the game for a few weeks until they have fully healed. We all wish Oli a speedy recovery from this freak injury and hope he is back playing soon.





## 2006's UPDATE

It only seems like yesterday that they were having their end-of-season party, but the 2006s are back at training and straight back into matches. They've made some changes to the squads for the first half of the season. As always, the intention is to have the players playing at a level where they can best develop their skills, take a full and active part in competitive matches and most importantly have fun. The coaches know that change can be difficult, and they'd like to reassure parents that none of the decisions were made lightly, nor is anything 'set in stone'. They'll continue to train together as much as possible and monitor the progress of all the players.

Over the summer most of the players were fortunate to take part in a number of tournaments. They took two teams to an extremely competitive tournament in Barrhead in Glasgow. The standard of football was very high, with some of the opposition players already signed to professional clubs. The boys did very well and will have learned a lot from the experience. Later in the summer they took two teams to a tournament in Musselburgh. Their Maradona team won their competition, playing some superb football and the Zidane team were unlucky to lose in the final of their competition. Both teams should be proud of their efforts. To wrap up the summer season they hosted a tournament at Kingsknowe, inviting a small number of teams from the area and giving more boys the opportunity to play a tournament day. The boys are pictured above right.



Finally, 36 players had a fantastic day out at Tynecastle as 'Half Time Heroes'. The day consisted of training with some of the Hearts youth coaches, followed by lining the centre circle to welcome the players onto the pitch prior to kick off.

At half-time Currie Star exploded from the tunnel and took over the pitch, playing three short matches in front of a full house. Then a quick lap of honour before re-taking their seats and watching Hearts close out a 3-0 win to remain top of the league. It was a great experience for the kids, and even the Hibs fans enjoyed it! See below the team photo from the day. Well done boys!



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## 1998s UPDATE

The close season has been a busy time for the team which has seen a few changes over the summer months. Phil Blaney and Arran Singh both departed from the club and they wish them well this coming season with their new teams. Into the squad they welcome Greg Benson, Gianmario Falzone, Cameron Hoehle, and Nathan Stokes. Mark McGovern has rejoined the 19s after spending most of last season at Livingston FC. The team has a strong balance of players and there is a good depth of talent challenging for a starting position.

The team has started the season brightly and has recorded four wins, one draw, and one loss out of six in the league. The team is currently sitting in fourth place in Division 1. Paul McGovern is currently in the process of organising new kit for the squad and within the next few weeks they hope to see the team playing in the new Currie Star strip. The team has now taken possession of new track suits and polo tops which will enhance the professional approach on match days.

Over the coming months they will see the initiative with Heriot Watt University kick in and there could be some movement of players as part of the development route. The University altered its sporting constitution to allow an exclusive partnership with Currie Star. A clear player development path will be available to Currie Star players which ultimately, depending on ability and personal choice, could allow players to graduate through the system with further potential opportunities at senior level and beyond.

## HERIOT WATT UPDATE

After a lengthy and robust recruitment and selection process, Heriot-Watt have appointed Ian Little as Head Coach in replacement of Chris Smith. Ian has a wealth of playing and management experience, notably with Berwick Rangers and Vale of Leithen, and will start the role immediately. The senior East of Scotland side began the competitive season on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 with 4 defeats in 4 cup games, however have now reversed the losing trend by drawing 3-3 with Stirling University in the opening league game and following up with a convincing 6-0 win vs Eyemouth. Notably, ex-Currie Star player Liam Walker has scored 5 goals in 3 games in his first experience of East of Scotland senior football.

HWUFC Under 20s have been drawn against Alloa Athletic in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the Youth Scottish Cup. This is a historical moment for the club as this is the first time any team from the University has been represented in the main Scottish Cup competition at reserve or senior level. The tie will be played on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm KO at Riccarton. Gate will be £2 for adults, £1 for concessions and HWUFC members. Please get along and support the boys!

Oriam building work is taking shape nicely with both the outdoor and indoor synthetic pitches upgraded this summer. The steel work for the new sports hall, gym, café and indoor football rugby arena is ahead of schedule and very visible on and off campus due to the size! For more info and photos on visit: [www.oriamsotland.com](http://www.oriamsotland.com).

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## 2002s UPDATE

The 2002s have 2 teams this season - Dave Mclellans team welcome Ben Steel, Bryan Blackburn and Emilio Martone. The team were invited to play in the Broxburn tournament in July. They finished second in their group, narrowly losing to the eventual winners Broxburn. They have now drawn Broxburn in round 2 of the Scottish cup. A chance to make amends.

Ricky Borthwick's team have put together two squads from last season and made 1 squad. At present they are working with 27 players which is huge. They have now selected a squad of 18 with the rest battling to get into the squad. Regarding new players they have a new player called Gus White but are still having a look at another 2 players bringing the squad to 29. It has been a huge task finding the strongest 18 and it was very difficult to tell 9 players that you they are not in the squad. They have started the season ok winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 2 but the way the team have worked has been fantastic and they hope to have good season.

## 2008s UPDATE

To end last season the 2008's took part in a fun day at Kingsknowe including 4 different age groups doing dribbling competitions, head coach's races and a trophy presentation for all players from John Brock. They have recently started this new season with a trip down to Leith for their first game, to which all the players coped really well with the new venue. At present they have 44 players training and playing for 2008's which is a fantastic commitment.

## 2008s CONTINUED

Head coach Danny Flynn has kindly provided and sponsored the strips this season to which we are all very grateful. ([www.flynnmotorgroup.co.uk](http://www.flynnmotorgroup.co.uk)). The team are currently looking into options for fundraising events to provide footballs and equipment for the team. Training is currently being held at George Watsons College 6.15pm until 7.15pm for any 2008' s wishing to join them.

## PLAY2LEARN UPDATE

The P2L and Currie Star development Monday night sessions have now moved to George Watsons. The age groups are 2007 and 2008. These age groups are strong in numbers, approaching 40 boys in each and strong in ability. It's great to see the parent coaches in good numbers assisting the Play2learn lead coaches. The sessions are themed on an aspect of the game, this involves individual skill work, group activities, conditioned games and matches.

P2L'S GK training is now at the new Malleny facility. Graeme the lead specialist coach has an ever growing squad of goalkeepers. They are put through their paces in all the technical areas of goalkeeping, which is serving them well when they return to this specialist position in their teams.

The P2L and Currie Star foundation football sessions on a Saturday morning provide an excellent fun introduction to the club. The age groups are 9.30am for 2009s and 10.30 am for 2010s and 2011s. Send your younger budding players early to start the beautiful game.



## KINGSKNOWE GOLF CLUB UPDATE

Colin from Kingsknowe Golf Club has updated us on the partnership to date "Despite the partnership being announced well into the golf season, we have already had some children and parents signing up for membership for 2015 and that is great to see. It is the intention of Kingsknowe Golf Club to offer activities and tailored memberships to Currie Star for the 2016 season and information on this and a 2016 membership offer will be available shortly. We do however have a "Join now for 2016" offer immediately available which enables anyone signing up in October to get 15 months membership for the price of 12. Anyone applying to join as a member, coach, parent, family, member, or friend of a Currie Star player will receive a 10% discount off the advertised 2015-16 price.

Kingsknowe Golf Club also offers facilities for parties, weddings, fundraising, private functions, meetings and private lunches and dinners. Anyone booking as a member, coach, or immediate family member of a Currie Star player will receive free facility hire (not including weddings) and any family or friends referred by a Currie Star member will receive a 25% discount off the advertised price for the hire of facilities (not including weddings).

All the information on these offers is available on [www.kingsknowe.com](http://www.kingsknowe.com). If you go to the Currie Star spot on the Partners Page there is a link to our "Currie Star" Page where all this information is in one place. You can also sign up there for the Kingsknowe Golf Club "e" news for updates and news on what is happening at the club."

## FAREWELL ALLY BROWN (2002s)

One of our younger coaches has fled the nest to progress his coaching career abroad. Ally Brown played for Currie Star from the age of 12 years and at the tentative age of 15 took his first step on the coaching ladder helping assist our younger players and starting his coaching badges.

Now 19 years old Ally (below) is working on Camp America, gaining great experience which will no doubt stand him in good stead for his future. Currie Star Chairman John Brock said 'We are very proud of what Ally has achieved at the Club both as a player and a coach. He is an example for others to follow. We wish him all the very best and look forward to seeing him at some stage in the future.'



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## GOTHIA 2015

As the Chairman has mentioned in his introduction to the Newsletter, we have had another successful trip to Sweden and the Gothia Cup, going this year with 2 age groups. A number of the 2001s returned for a second time and we had new attendees from 2001 plus the 2002s.



During our adventure we kept a blog running with updates of our games including photos. An added bonus for some of the 2001 and 2002 players was a quick visit to the home of Ajax FC (see and below).



If you missed the blog you can catch it at [www.curriestargothiatour2015.wordpress.com](http://www.curriestargothiatour2015.wordpress.com).

Thanks, as always, must go to all our partners, sponsors, parents, coaches and supporters who make it all possible through their support and hard work.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. The Newsletter will only work going forward if we continue to get input from every age group. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future editions of the Newsletter please contact [david.muego@sky.com](mailto:david.muego@sky.com). Remember, it is your Newsletter!!