

Message from the Chairman

A very warm welcome to our first ever Currie Star FC Newsletter! I am delighted to finally have this letter in circulation to keep all coaches, players and parents updated about what is happening within our Club. I am keen to develop a greater 'community' spirit amongst all teams and this is the first step to address this.



It has been a very busy 2 months since I took over as Chairman. On the night I was voted into post, our beloved Club Treasurer, Issie Blue, suffered a heart attack. Issie has provided sterling service to this Club over the years and I am delighted to say she is recuperating well under the watchful eye of her son, Jim, and daughter-in-law, Lesley. We look forward to seeing Issie back at Fortress Kingsknowe in the future.

One of my first tasks upon taking up my new position was to review where we are as a Club, and what needed done in the short and longer terms. From watching training sessions, it was apparent the coaches were doing a great job, but many lacked Currie Star clothing and equipment. We ask for a lot of commitment from our coaches and the least we can do is buy them a jacket and a sweatshirt! They now also have a plentiful supply of balls and markers.

All the boys should now be training at the various winter venues, which come at a significant cost to the Club. However, it is important we have good facilities so the coaches can work with players, develop them and hopefully give them more confidence as players, but more importantly, as people.

In the longer term, we are looking to obtain funding to develop Kingsknowe. This will not be an easy task and will require a lot of work. It will also need a little help from those of you out there who have business acumen and good contacts! If this is you, please don't be afraid to volunteer your services. We need as much help as we can get to grow the Club for future generations.

We have also recently been joined by our first female coaches to the Club. Debbie and Jade are students at Napier University and are keen to develop their coaching careers. A big welcome to them both and our other new coaches, Ally, Scott, Adam and Callum.

That's enough from me, other than to say a huge thanks to David Muego, who kindly volunteered to coordinate this Newsletter for the Club. Without his expertise and commitment this would not be in place. I hope you all enjoy our first edition and many more in the future.

John Brock

Did You Know...?

A HISTORY OF DOVECOT PARK

Our current home at Dovecot Park in Kingsknowe was formerly known as Hailes Quarry Park. At its height, the quarry employed 150 men and 100,000 tons of stone were taken out each year. Many more people were employed to cart the stones either to the railway station or to the builders.

Sometimes as many as 500 cartloads of stone would leave each day. The quarry was abandoned in 1902 when it had reached a depth of 100 feet and became flooded with 300-400 million gallons of water.

This water was pumped out into the Murrayburn in 1949 to make way for a landfill site, which was gradually filled until the 1970s. It is rumoured that an elephant from Edinburgh Zoo is buried there. When the landfill site was full, it was grassed over and in 1981 made into a public park.



Competition Time

NAME THE NEWSLETTER

We need your help in naming our new Newsletter and thanks to Colin Campbell Sports we have a £20 Gift Voucher to spend with them for the winning entry chosen by the Committee. So kids, get your thinking caps on and e-mail your Newsletter name suggestions to david.muego@sky.com remembering to add your name, age and contact details. Entries close on 31st October and the winner will be contacted when the new name has been chosen. Details will be published on the website www.curriestarfc.co.uk. Good luck and thanks again to Colin Campbell Sports for their support.

Competition open to all Currie Star Age Groups and Committee's decision is final.

COLIN CAMPBELL SPORTS
Total Football



Fundraising Updates

Team 1998 are very grateful to First Rate Foreign Exchange Services, kit sponsors again for 2012/13 season - huge thanks to Gordon & Laura Gourlay for arranging this very important funding for the team. The team also have a bag pack arranged at Morrison's Gyle on Sat 24th November to raise funds for the team. Would all players and parents make sure they have that in their diaries. They are working on other fundraising opportunities (special thanks to Laura Gourlay for all her efforts!), including another bag packing session in the spring (Sat 27 April) and a possible Race Night and Disco early in 2013.

2 of the 2003 Teams had a fundraising night at Colinton Bowling Club on Sat 22nd September. It was a quiz and a raffle and they managed to raise over a £1000 for the two teams - well done to all concerned.

On 25 January 2013, Currie Star will be holding their first ever Burns Supper, which will be held at George Watsons College, Edinburgh. This is a Club event and we are targeting each year group to sell 30 tickets. We have year groups from 2005 to 1996 so all teams are encouraged to attend. The focus is to bring together coaches and parents from across all the Currie Star family so we can socialise informally and get to know each other. All proceeds will go back into the central funds to allow for the purchase of coaching courses, equipment and kit. Please contact John Brock if you wish to attend and he will direct you to the relevant contacts. (john.brock999@gmail.com).

Team News - Juniors

Teams 2005 and 2004 have a fantastic collaboration with Play2Learn for Monday night training. This works three ways - the kids get great structured coaching, the Currie Star Coaches muck in and learn the ropes with a view to flying solo at under 9 and Play2Learn get to use our facilities and tap into our numbers for holiday camps. It's a win-win situation.

Team 2001 were successful with their application for a grant from Scotmid for £500 which will be used towards the purchase of hooded training tops for the winter for each of the 31 boys. Thanks to Scotmid for their support.



Team 2001 also hosted a Sportsman's Lunch with guest speakers Alan Rough, Jimmy Nicholl and a comedian called Gareth Waugh, pictured below with coaches John Brock, Gary McDonald and Billy Hislop. More than £3,000 was raised and this will go towards the planned trip to the Gothia Cup in Sweden in 2013. Thanks to Gary McDonald for organising this event and for all parents who supported it so well.



Play2Learn are also doing specialised Goalkeeper Training Sessions on a Monday night for all the Currie Star Keepers to receive delivery of a consistent training programme.



Team News - Juniors

Currie Star Team 2005 off to a flying start! They started in May with a meagre band of 6 of whom 4 remain ever faithful. They have been joined by another 22 giving the squad a total of 26 players. They now enter 4 teams virtually every Sunday to the football 4s at Leith.

Training for 2004s and 2005s over winter is at George Watsons College. If other teams wish to use the floodlit Astro pitches then slots are available. 4 of the 2005 coaches have completed level 1 Coaching Badge. They were on the same course as the Hearts ladies team which left their blistering inadequacies fully exposed. Luckily the Hearts ladies were very polite as they ran rings round the middle aged dads!

The newly formed 2003 Silver team are developing well in the Beckham League. The team is made up of mostly new players with a couple from last seasons 2003 team. There are 15 teams in the Beckham League and this will give the boys a great opportunity to play weekly games and gain experience of 7 a side football.

Team News - Seniors

Team 2000 played at the Glasgow City Cup in August and got to the quarter finals losing 2-0 to PDF United from Clydebank in a game they probably deserved to win. Along the way they also played Grieg City from North London (eventual winners) lost 5-1, Celtic Boys Club drew 1-1 and Centara FC won 6-0. Great experience for the boys and 2 cracking days in Glasgow weather wise.

A new recruit has joined the Team 1999 coaching team, Jade Armstrong. Jade is from Newcastle and is studying at Queen Margaret's University. A central defender for the University team, she has a good playing background and brings a different dimension to the team. Plans are also being developed to take the team away on a tour early next year, down into North England over the Easter break.

Grant Pollock's 2003 says that his team have taken a bit of time to get used to the step up in level from last year (which is always a challenge) but hopefully things are starting to come together. Most of the games have been fairly well matched apart from 2 wins in which they won comfortably.

Gary Bushnell confirmed at the time of writing 2003 team in the Maradona league had won 5 of their first 6 games and Blazej's team who are in the Zidane league have won all 6.

Team 2002 year has the most amount of teams in the ESSDA league for that year - 6 teams playing in the ESSDA leagues. Teams are (in age order) blue, white, black, silver, gold, yellow. We said goodbye and thanks to Scott Henderson who has coached the black team for the last 18 months. Scott leaves us to concentrate on year 1 at Edin Uni. We wish Scott well. We welcome some new coaches - Callum Arnott, Adam Gillard, Jack Conway, Ally Brown, Scott Blyth & Stuart McDonald. Some of them are enrolled on SFA courses in November and some of the existing coaches are sitting further courses too. We welcome some new players to the club too - Kieran, Jamie, Aodhan, Josh, George, Leo, Robert & Max.

Team 1999 have had a good start to the season, played 10, won 9 and lost 1, 2nd in Division 2, and undefeated in the league. The core of last seasons team remained, with four key recruits. Billy has returned after 3 years out recovering from a hip and knee injury. Richie and Darren have been recruited from Hutchinson Vale and Robert from Tynecastle. All four players will have an influence in our season.

Team 1998 have had some changes in coaches recently - Euan Blue has left and been replaced by Paul McGovern. Euan helped the team win the 'double' and the team and parents would like to wish him all the best in his new endeavours. Paul has a wealth of experience, having played professionally over an 8-year period and is now coaching with Hibernian. Paul is assisted with the Thursday training sessions by Ricky Clapperton (thanks also to John Brock for giving his own time to help with training and other matters).



Player Profile

Every Newsletter edition will feature an interview with a 'Star' Player. This edition it is Ruari Shand - Team 2004.



1. **When did you join Currie Star?** - When I was 7 (I'm 8 now)
2. **Why did you choose Currie Star?** - Because my big brother Callum plays for the 2001s
3. **What is the best thing about training?** - The Play2Learn coaches are fun and I like trying to be in 'The team of the week' & learning new skills
4. **Where do you play your games?** - We play football 4's on a Sunday at Leith Links. We play five minute games against lots of teams.
5. **Do you win many games?** - Sometimes we win ALL our games!
6. **What's the best thing about Currie Star?** - Playing games against lots of other teams & having a Currie Star hoody.
7. **Who is your favourite football team?** - Manchester United
8. **And your favourite player?** - Robin Van Persie
9. **Have you ever seen Manchester United play?** - Yes - I have seen them twice on trips with the 2001 squad
10. **What would you like to be when you grow up?** - A Cricket player!

Strange But True

There is a healthy Queen of the South following within the Team 2002 Silver team. They have 3 players and 3 parents who are Queen of the South fans and also have an ex Queen of the South player amongst the parents. More like Currie Star of the South!



A Plea for Help

Ken Stewart from 2005s has a final plea - Primary 3 teachers love the two ticks and a wish when marking homework. We have two ticks for a successful start with great bunch of kids and a great coaching collaboration with Play2Learn. Our wish is for an Accountant/Banking or spread sheet savvy parent to come out of the woodwork and offer to run our finances. Anyone out there?

Thank You

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 for future editions of the newsletter please contact david.muego@sky.com.