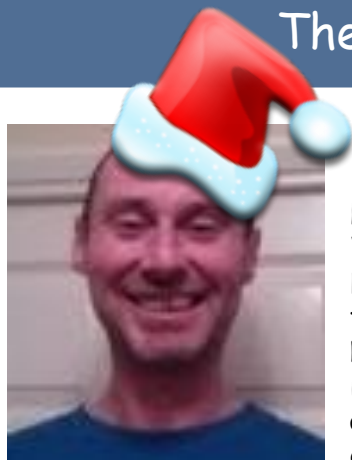




The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



David Muego, has warned me not to go beyond my word count!!

First of all, as many of you will now be aware, myself, Dave McLellan (Secretary) and Billy Hislop (Vice Chairman) attended a press release with the Justice Minister, Kenny MacAskill, on Monday 16th December, where it was formally announced that Currie Star and Currie Rugby Football Club, along with Balerno High School, will have exclusive access to a brand new 4G astro facility, which will be built in the grounds of Malleny Park. This is a fantastic achievement for our Club and means that more of our teams will be able to train and play there in future years. We currently use 7 different venues across the city, so having access to our own, will help unite the Club. The project is due to commence on 1 April 2014 with a completion date of late July. We are hoping to have access for the start of the 2014-15 season. Many thanks to Robin Yellowlees (City of Edinburgh Council) and David Drummond (South East SFA Manager) for all their efforts in making this happen. We are very grateful and cannot thank them enough.

However, in addition to this, we are still actively seeking funding to have Kingsknowe redeveloped. This will always be our spiritual home, and if we can improve the quality of the playing surface, will hopefully be so for many

Message from the Chairman

Hello All,
Welcome to the Festive Edition of the Currie Star Newsletter. There is much to write about since the last one and our Editor,

years to come. You still cannot beat playing on a quality grass park and the Committee will pursue this with vigour to ensure we achieve our goal in the New Year.

The Clubhouse was broken into during November and our boiler was stolen. Whilst it is never nice to be the victim of any crime, it could have been worse. At least our goalposts were left behind! That would have caused us serious problems and would have led to us having to cancel fixtures. Fortunately, Gary McDonald was able to sort the plumbing problem for us and my fellow coaches managed to restore the Clubhouse without too many problems.

November also saw Currie Star parents turn out in record numbers for the Positive Coaching Scotland event at Tynecastle Stadium. The staff from the SFA were blown away by the number of parents who attended. I have to say, it did not surprise me one bit, because I know what a great, committed group of parents, players and coaches we have at our Club. You all did the Club proud that night. A huge, sincere thanks from myself and my fellow Committee members for your efforts. We really appreciated it.

Finally, can I thank everyone at the Club for all their efforts in 2013. I don't have space to mention everyone personally, but every player, coach, parent, Play2Learn, Heriot Watt, kitchen staff and Treasurer, have played their part in taking our Club forward. We will continue to do so in the months and years ahead, as we aim to make Currie Star one of the biggest Clubs in the Capital City!

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2014. The future's bright.....it's blue and white!!

John



WEBSITE UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that our new website is up and running now with lots of extra functionality which allows you to follow what's going on at your Club and also to provide an opportunity for anyone looking for a new Club to see what we are about and how we run our Club.

All age groups have the ability to update their own pages with information and fixtures, plus notices affecting the whole Club can be found on the front page. If you have missed a copy of our quarterly Newsletter you can find the back editions on there too. It also gives us a better platform to give publicity to our Team Sponsors and Partners without whom we, as a Club, would struggle to operate. You can still find us at www.curriestarfc.co.uk and remember you can also follow us now on Twitter @CurrieStarFC.

We aim to keep the content on the website fresh so make sure you save the link to your desktop or home page and check in with us on a regular basis. Our sincere thanks go to the Nectre Group (and especially Callum Greens) who helped us with the development of the new site and are hosting it for us at no cost.

CURRIE STAR BURNS SUPPER

The annual Currie Star Burns Supper will be held Friday 24th January at Myreside Pavilion 7.30 to midnight. Tickets are £25 per head for adults and overage players for three course meal and half bottle of wine. Upstairs there is a room for 40 kids for pizza, pop and a movie for £12 per child. Both events will have the pleasure of a magic show by Mr Duncan Wilson of Currie Rugby Club and Crusaders Club. The latter raises money for prostate cancer awareness. Funds raised will be split between Crusaders Club and Currie Star Pitch Fund. Currie Star pipe band will also perform again. To book your tickets please visit the following site - <https://event.bookitbee.com/372/currie-star-burns-supper/>

HERIOT-WATT UPDATE (Scott Dargo)

In November, Currie Star and Heriot Watt University met to discuss future plans on developing and expanding on the current links created between the two clubs a few years ago. The outcome of the meeting was very promising, with a number of ideas to re-invigorate the partnership, as described below:

1. HWUFC to have a dedicated volunteer working on the partnership, with assistance from the Community Sport Hub.
2. A pathway to and from Heriot Watt University with Currie Star giving players a chance to impress and move to one of three Heriot Watt East of Scotland teams (1's, Under 21's and Under 19's).
3. Heriot Watt providing Currie Star with coaches through the Community Sport Hub.

Heriot Watt hosted two successful fundraisers with money going to both the Club and Sport's Union charity - Penumbra. On the pitch, the first team, who play in East of Scotland Premier Division had a mixed start to the season, with issues with numbers for a large spell at the start of the season. They have now managed to pull together and have a promising season ahead of them, buoyed on by their impressive form in BUCS Scottish 1a.

The Under 21s are currently sitting top of Scotland 21s Youth Football Association, Division 2, with 5 wins and 1 draw. Coach Banji Koya stated "the boys have been a fantastic bunch to work with, the hard work and dedication in both training and games have put them in pole position in the league". The Under 19's also had some problems with numbers at the start of the season but since then have been improving week by week, with other teams coaches praising said improvements most noticeably in the shape of the team. Although some disappointing results, the 19's are now looking to kick on up the East of Scotland U19s (Sunday) League.



SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

2002s Coach Bianca reached the SWF Youth Scottish Cup final with Hibs u17s, where they unfortunately lost to Rangers. We asked Bianca to share with us her journey to the Final.

Q Is this your first Cup Final playing for Hibs Girls?

A "I played in this year's League Cup Final which we lost in injury time to Forfar 4-3 and at under 15s in the League Cup Final both years with Hibs girls."

Q How many matches did you need to win to reach the Final?

A "We played Hutchinson Vale, then Hamilton Accies followed by Forfar in the semi-finals and Rangers in the final."

Q What was the feeling like when you won the Semi Final?

A "I had won the Scottish cup with Murieston the year previous and thought 'Could this be happening all over again? One game away from being Scottish Champions?' - the feeling was unreal to be involved in a game which most people including myself could only dream of playing in, but twice in two years is so fortunate."

Q How did you prepare for the Final both as a team and as an individual?

A "Training is always hard going throughout the year to keep fitness and skill levels to the best they can be. On a personal level I eat pasta the day before the game and what I always do before a match (and I hate it) is have an early night but it's the only way to give yourself a chance to be 100% ready." (Ed -All players take note please!!)

Q Was the preparation different from a normal league game?

A "We had Hibs Head Coach come in and give us a training session which was good and we did lots of work on the shape and formation of the team."

Q If you had to pick a favourite personal moment of the Cup run what would it be?

A "The Hamilton game as I had been out with a bad injury which was ongoing. I was introduced at half time and I was really pleased to be back."

Q What advice would you give to players at Currie Star if they ever get to a Cup Final?

A "Enjoy the day no matter the score and be proud of your team for reaching a Final - you are already winner for being there."



1996s UPDATE

The progress of the Under 19s this year has been a slow one with various reasons behind that. They have been missing key players for long spells since early on with serious injuries - a broken leg to Mark and a number of problems with Lee have not helped. Both are now starting to train again so fingers crossed. The league is a very competitive one with most of the teams a year older and they have also played in the division last season. That makes a huge difference in terms of experience and maturity on the pitch.

Having said all that, the boys have worked hard and played some good football at times but not consistently enough throughout the campaign and this is the key. They have shown enough to suggest there is a lot more to come so Harry Lawrie, Head Coach, is positive. The record in the league so far is won 4, lost 4 and drawn 1. Hopefully they'll have a positive second half of the season.



STAR PLAYER PROFILE

Every edition of the Newsletter features an interview with a 'Star' Player. In this edition we chose to find out more on Glen Lorimer from 2003s. We asked Glen (pictured right) a few probing questions and here are his answers.



1. What is your favourite position - Left Midfield
2. Previous Clubs - Hutchie Vale
3. Favourite football team(s)/player - Hearts and Chelsea/Lionel Messi
4. Best goal scored - Against Edina Hibs where I beat three defenders and then fired a shot on the turn into the top corner, off the underside of the bar.
5. What boots are you wearing just now? - Nike Hypervenom Electric Purple / Volt
6. PS3 or Xbox? Favourite Game - Xbox/FIFA 14
7. Favourite current song - Ylvis - The Fox
8. Favourite Singer/Band - Ed Sheeran and Avicii
9. Favourite movie - Avengers Assemble
10. Best holiday destination - Florida
11. Funniest moment on the pitch - At training, the goalie was swinging on the cross bar, suddenly there was a loud clatter and we turned around to see him lying in a heap on the pitch with the goals all around him. He was ok, so we had a good laugh.
12. Ambitions: - To play for Hearts
13. Who/What makes you laugh? - People being silly, slapstick comedy is my favourite.

1998s UPDATE

The Under 16s welcomed 3 new players to the squad in recent weeks - Cameron Ross, Calum McDonald and Jackson Barker. Cameron and Calum have already got themselves on the score sheet in key matches.

They have seen popular defender Andy Scott move on, so farewell and thanks to Andy for all his efforts with Currie Star. Thanks also go to Willis, Andy's dad, who has continued in the role of First Aider for the time being - any volunteers to take over from Willis?

The boys have had an excellent time in the Scottish Cup, reaching the last 16 (5th round), where sadly they lost to Syngenta Juveniles in a close match, in which they led 2-0 at half-time. It was a good Cup run, including a convincing 4-1 home victory over Rangers SABC and a trip west along the M8 (in our own Currie Star team and supporters bus) for a victory in Coatbridge over Moorlands BC. Thanks go to parents, relatives, friends and former teammates, who came out in big numbers to support our Scottish Cup journey.

Also thanks to the parents who did a great job providing food in the buffets served after the home Cup games. The team made lots of new friends in Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club who kindly welcomed them at their Clubhouse at Meggatland for after-match hospitality - their facilities within the Clubhouse are excellent and will be further upgraded in the New Year. They are keen to welcome in the Currie Star family to make greater use of their coffee bar, bar, fitness gym and other facilities.

Finally, best wishes to striker Jack Harkness - Jack has a long-term injury and it's hoped that he recovers soon and gets back to join the strike force on the pitch.



2004s UPDATE

A new sponsor for the 9s brought 33 new strips - it felt like Christmas had come early! Many thanks to Dhaba Diner - an Indian tapas style restaurant on West Nicolson Street. The Currie Star coaches all recently had a great Curry night there and the 2004 parents will be there for a night out soon! They have 6 new players - Dominic Fudge, Thomas Luff, George Hand, Sean Scullion, Thomas Reynolds and Max Lauder, who have all settled in well. That brings the squad up to 31 boys which is fantastic. Sadly coach Kenny Brydon ('King Kenny' as he is affectionately known by the boys) has an 8 month work placement in Aberdeen, starting in January. Kenny played for Currie Star for 3 years and has coached for nearly 3 years and he will be sadly missed. We thank Kenny for his contribution to the Club and hope he has fun in Aberdeen but that comes back to join us soon!



2005s UPDATE

Key highlights this season to date include many victories (and the odd defeat) at Leith Links on a Sunday morning however the venue has had to be abandoned due to the pitches being too cut up by bad weather. Ken Stewart, Head Coach, says "Find me a parent or boy though that will ever drive past there without fond memories of Sunday mornings!" The team have taken this opportunity to start preparations to progress to

7 asides next season by running friendly games at Kingsknowe. The team have welcomed 3 new players - Ethan Lee, Freddy Foxwell and Finlay Coward-Nicoll. Finally, all the boys attended their Christmas party at Edinburgh Dungeon and had a great time!

2001s UPDATE

The Under 13s attended an alternative training session early in November based on martial arts and there was a lot of punching, pulling and elbowing - a great bit of variety which tested co-ordination and balance! The boys all had smiles on their faces, which was a clear sign they enjoyed it, which is most important. The coaches will be looking to do similar activities for them in future, to try and vary the boys routines and expose them to different types of fitness activity. A huge and sincere thanks must go to Fiona O'Brien (Rory's mum) and her friend Danni, for taking the session at George Watsons College.

If any parent within the Club has hidden talents or has a friend or colleague who specialises in different types of training, please speak to your Head Coach and offer to help run a different type of training session for the boys. And for the record, the boys were told that if anyone got sent off on the next Sunday game for punching an opponent and turned around and said "we did that in training this week", it wouldn't wash! Thankfully the Sunday games passed without incident.

1997s UPDATE

Raymond Johnstone, Head Coach, advises that the team are doing very well in the league having played 6 games and won all 6 so a great start to the season. The form of the team in the Cups has been a bit up and down in contrast to their league form but keep up the good work boys.



GOTHIA 2015

On the back of the success of the 2001s in Gothia this year, we aim to take the 2003s, 2002s, 2001s and the 1998s back there in July 2015. This means one thing...**FUNDRAISING!!** I am not hearing about many events happening in relation to this. Parents need to drive this forward and help the coaches. Gothia was a phenomenal experience for players, coaches and parents and I am keen that as many as possible get the chance to attend this event in future years. Let's get driving things forward in 2014!!

COACHES UNITED!

We are very fortunate at our Club to have such a fantastic bunch of coaches who freely give up their time and energy to ensure our boys can play the beautiful game. This has never been formally recognised previously. To address this, the Club took them out for something to eat at Dhabis Diner in West Nicolson Street, sponsors of our 2004 year group. Everyone had a fantastic evening and it was great for coaches to meet and chat with others from different year groups. This will unite us more as a Club, as we strive forward to increase our numbers in future years. Well done coaches!

2002s UPDATE

The 11s welcomed 2 new players since the start of the season - Keelan Henderson and Owen NCube -welcome boys. They have 3 teams in the Maradona ESSDA League, 1 in the Zidane League and 1 in Beckham League this season. During the winter break they are entering 3 teams for Futsal at Corn Exchange which will allow the boys to maintain fitness and skill levels during the break. Dave McLellan is looking forward to working on transition to 11 asides for next year and they are already taking initial steps in preparation for that.

PLAY2LEARN

"The Monday night Football 4's Academy is going from strength to strength. The players from the 2005s and 2006s enjoy age group challenges and also seeing their parent coaches being challenged. The silent coach night was a huge success!

The GK academy has two flourishing groups. Graeme has been assessing the keepers with technical challenges and each individual goalkeeper will receive an evaluation on the last Monday before Christmas. Great effort this year from all involved on a Monday!

Our Saturday morning programme has over 60 players striving to be the next Currie Star legends. We are currently based at the World of Football. The age groups that are covered in this fun packed 2 hours are 2007/2008/2009 and 2010. If you have a child in those age groups then give it a try in the New Year!

Play2Learn offer some extra training, which is available to the Currie Star younger age groups (7-aside down). It is Futsal every Wednesday night at Firhill School, (indoors over the winter). It's great fun and an ideal way to sharpen up your technique over the colder months.

Please keep a look out for our camps that run throughout the year in all school holidays. All booking info is on:

Web: www.play2learn.info

Twitter: @P2LSportsCoach

Facebook: Play2LearnSportsCoaching

Or contact Shane, at P2L on:

Mobile: 07952147577

Email: Shane@Play2Learn.info

Merry Christmas To You All At Currie Star!"



2003s UPDATE

The 10s have had a very enjoyable first half of the season with four teams (Gold, Blues, Silvers and Whites) starting in the Pele, Maradona and Zidane ESSDA leagues. Due to reduced player numbers the Whites temporarily withdrew from the League, but the team is up and running again and planning to go back into the Zidane league after Christmas. The teams have been competing well in their respective leagues and the weekly match reports describe lots of terrific play and the occasional wonder-goal! They still have openings for one or two new players at various levels so if you know anyone who is interested then please contact the coaches.

Training has been well attended with the coaches trying to work on ball skills, one-on-one situations and small-sided games. On the dark nights they've benefited from the all-weather surfaces at Braidburn and Longstone. They've been fortunate to obtain new strip sponsors for the Gold's (Expert Eye) and the Silvers (Quality Resolution) and they are very grateful for this support. As a result of other fund-raising they have also secured new strips for the whole year group.

They had lots of parents at the recent Positive Coaching Scotland event and they have taken some of the key messages from that into training sessions and match days. The emphasis is first and foremost on the players enjoying their football.

The teams are looking forward to Futsal over the winter, working on new skills and tricks in the small-sided games. Roll on 2014 (and the Gothia Cup in 2015!). 69 players and parents attended a pre Christmas evening on the 14th December at the Capitals Ice Hockey game for a bonding night out for boys and parents which was well attended. Thanks go to Scott Neil (Zack's dad) for organising. The Silvers also welcomed Ben Flockhart who joined in October and has settled in to the team very well.

15 YEARS SERVICE TO THE STAR!

Iain Morris (pictured below) recently received an award from Club Chairman John Brock after giving 15 years sterling service to our Club. This is a phenomenal achievement and one which deserves great credit.

Iain was the 2nd Currie Star Club Chairman and held this position for 5 years where he successfully introduced the football 7's to the Club, as Currie Star were originally set up only to play 11 asides! Without people like Iain in our community, boys clubs would not exist.

Chairman John Brock commented "Iain's contribution to Currie Star to date has been exceptional. Most parents will coach a team and leave when their son does. But Iain has carried on, season after season, and has contributed to successful teams throughout this time. His dedication to the Club is an example for many. It is loyalty above and beyond and we are extremely grateful to him for all the many hours he has put into the Club over the years."





ON TOP OF THE WORLD



Paula Richmond (above, mother of Oli in the 2001s) recently completed an expedition to Mount Everest. Paula took a Currie Star 'pennant' to Base Camp to grab a great photo opportunity - apparently the first time in 19 years that it snowed in October at Base Camp! Well done Paula!

2006s UPDATE

The last few months have seen the boys continuing to make excellent progress under the Play2Learn coaching. It is very encouraging to see players of all abilities improving and becoming more confident. In the 4-a-sides at Leith Links and more recently at Redhall, the Currie Star boys have been playing some great passing football, scoring some lovely team goals, and most importantly having fun. Thanks as always to the parents for their support on the side-lines.

Recently they've been joined by new player Adam Phayre - welcome to the Club Adam. We're also happy to welcome two new coaches, Ronnie Millar and Graham Hunt and again we thank the guys for coming forward to help out and join the other Coaches in the Club - it's great to have you on board.

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. Remember, it is your Newsletter.