



The Newsletter from Currie Star FC

Message from the Chairman



Hello All, welcome to the first Currie Star (CS) Newsletter of 2014. Time seems to be flying by and, as ever, I have a few things to update you on regarding our Club. January saw the second CS Burns Supper at Watson's Rugby Club,

which was a huge success and a fantastic evening out for all those who attended. Many thanks to Ken Stewart of the 2005s for expertly organising once again. For those of you who know Ken, he is a master at delegating, and his skills came to the fore again on the evening of the event, as before the night ended, he had managed to commandeer next years organisers!! This is the only event we run currently which is aimed at the WHOLE Club and it was great to meet and chat with parents and coaches from other year groups. We are all looking forward to next year!

At our recent Club meeting there was a proposal from Harry Lawrie of CS 1996s to hold joint end of season award events, as opposed to individual team ones. We agreed that this will be split into two sectors: one for the juniors (2006 to 2002s) and one for the seniors (2001 to 1996s). Mike Scaife of CS 2006s has taken ownership for the junior event and Paul Wedgewood of CS 1998s for the seniors. Times and dates will be revealed soon.

Work on the new 4G facility at Malleny Park was due to start on 1 April but I am hearing through the grapevine it has been delayed. I will be speaking with the Council soon to get an idea when we will be able to move in. We are

also looking at various options to upgrade Kingsknowe, one of which is to engage a professional fundraiser and pay a percentage of the total amount raised as a fee if successful. If they fail to raise the money we would not pay anything.

However, there are a lot of hoops to jump through before we fully engage. In the meantime, we have agreed to pay a nominal amount to have some cosmetic work done on the parks at the end of this season.

The next generation of CS footballers, our 2007 year group, played their first games of football 4's at Leith recently. Welcome aboard the coaching bandwagon to Bobby Smith and Hugo Dulisse who have taken the reins and brought the boys into the Club from our partners Play2Learn.

The 2001 year group had their first fundraiser for the trip to Sweden (Gothia Cup) next year and raised just short of £3k. The target is £12k and we are confident of achieving this with 2 other events penned in for the next 12 months in addition to bag packing. As I said at the start of this article, time flies in and before you know it, we will be back in Sweden for another fantastic event. Lets ensure we have other CS year groups attending with us, as Boroughmuir Girls, our latest partners (see article later) are targeting 3 of their year groups to travel with us.

I will conclude with the mantra for our vibrant Club.....the future's bright....it's blue and white!! Take care.

John

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CURRIE STAR BURNS SUPPER

"A great night was had by all at the second Currie Star Burns Supper", says Ken Stewart, Head Coach of the 2005s. "146 tickets were sold this year and everyone was welcomed by the 2002s Currie Star Pipe Band - Harry Simpson, Gregor Farrer and Andrew Aitken. 'Address to the Haggis' was done by Andrew Inglis & Ben McLellan and both boys had a glass of Irn Bru each on the table in front of them.

Upstairs the kids had pizza, pop, magic shows and movies and downstairs the big children were treated to a great 'Toast to the Lassies' by Bob Forman and an equally great reply by Yvonne Balfour. A magical and memorable 'Immortal Memory' was delivered by Duncan Wilson of Crusaders Rugby Club which raises money to increase awareness of prostate cancer. Gordon McKenzie reached intellectual heights that we thought not possible by explaining how Holy Willies Prayer was actually a running commentary on modern Scottish Football. El chairman and Blue Brazil legend Mr Brock summed up just to prove the point! Thanks to Face and Body, Spire Healthcare, Dermal clinic, Wannaburger, SortmyPC, Ticket Scotland, the Forman's, MacLeod's, Glancy's and Dracup's and more for raffle and auction prizes.

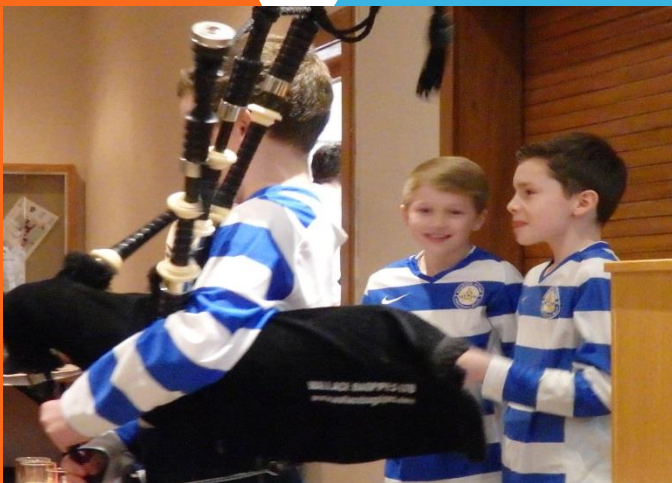
Thanks to Dianne McLellan, Kelly McFadden and Al Reynolds for volunteering to organise next year, which just goes to show that if you want something done you should always ask a drunk woman. (Although that never seemed to work for the author in his youth!). Next year is looking awesome already."

A £500 donation was made to Crusaders Rugby for Prostate Cancer and £1700 will go into the Club coffers for the "pitch flattening fund". Only £99,000 more and Kingsknowe will be flat! Pictured below is Magnus Stewart of the 2005s handing over a cheque to Duncan Wilson of Crusaders Rugby Club.



FIRST AID UPDATE

A number of Currie Star Coaches, parents and family members recently qualified as First Aiders which means that we can ensure we have the right number of First Aiders on duty at all our games - thanks to Paul Wedgewood, Terry O'Meara, Ricky Borthwick, Chloe Blyth, David Lorimer, Ian Simpson, Chris Lewis, JP Bonn and David Muego for giving up their time to attend the important course. We are going to run a further course in early October so if any parent wishes to help out or you need any of your coaches certified then please let Billy Hislop know - wjhislop@gmail.com - and he can add your name to the list.



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1998s UPDATE

Since the last newsletter the 1998s have registered two new players to the U16s squad - Jackson Barker and Conner Holleran, who have both settled in well and are making important contributions in the midfield area.

Meanwhile, they said farewell to Scott Gourlay, who decided to move on at Christmas after a good few years with Currie Star. The team wish Scott well and also say a big thanks to his parents Laura and Gordon who have been great supporters of the team in numerous ways over the years, including in fundraising and sponsorship activities.

Most of their matches since Christmas have been in the group section of the Division 2 League Cup and they've been going great guns, topping the section with six wins and only one defeat so far, meaning they are definitely through to the semi-finals.

They've also played two matches against top Division 1 sides - in January losing 2-0 to Tynecastle FC in the semi-final of the Colin Greenhill Memorial Trophy and more recently they played a friendly against Musselburgh Windsor FC which finished 4-2 to them, though the 1998s had held the lead. Both matches were close fought and with a bit more luck the team could have won either game, proving that at their best they are definitely capable of competing at that level.

P2L EASTER CAMPS

P2L are running football camps over the Easter Holiday period. There are Soccer 4s and 7s for primary 1 -7 and also Petite Football for pre-school 4 - 5 years old. Why not take advantage and keep the kids occupied. Full brochure can be found in the Latest News section of the Currie Star website - www.curriestarfc.co.uk.

TOGETHER IN SPORT

The 2001s have joined up with charity "Together In Sport" to get unwanted football strips, training tops, socks, trainers and football boots for the less fortunate kids out in Rwanda. The charity are planning a trip out to Rwanda in May and through the generosity of parents in the 2001s there are currently 3 full holdalls of kit ready to go.

Sincere thanks go to all those parents who kindly donated and we will be asking the charity to take some photos of the kids in the kit and we will publish in a future Newsletter edition.

If they are able to take more kit then we will widen the appeal further to other age groups. Details of the charity and their activity can be found at the following web address - <http://www.togetherpartnership.org/together-in-sport>

By way of background an important objective of the project was to bring the schools together, enabling them to build relationships with other youths, improving their social communication, and gaining skills such as respect, trust, fairness and being able to work with others.





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 Logan Bonn from 2006s. We asked Logan (pictured below) a few probing questions and here are his answers.



1. My favourite team is Liverpool and Real Madrid
2. My favourite players are Gerrard, Suarez, Ronaldo and Bale
3. I'm wearing Nike Bombas just now
4. I prefer Xbox
5. My favourite computer game is Plants and Zombies
6. My favourite song is Wake Me Up by Avicii
7. The last song I downloaded was Hey Brother by Avicii
8. My favourite movie is Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
9. My best holiday destination would be Hawaii
10. The last movie I saw was Harry Potter and the Tri Wizard Tournament
11. My favourite singers are Avicii, Daft Punk and Jason DeRulo
12. My ambition is to become a professional footballer
13. I also do Skiing, Tennis, Cycling and Rugby
14. At school I like doing P.E.

2001s UPDATE

2001s said goodbye to Craig Anderson who has decided to take a break from football. Craig has been with us for a good few years now and we thank him and his family for their commitment to Currie Star and wish him well in whatever he does next in his future.

As they head towards the end of their first season at 11 aside, both teams are sitting near the top of their leagues and both have achieved a semi final place in a cup competition. They also wish a speedy recovery to 2 of their players - Dylan McMillan who has a broken arm and Lewis Muego who has broken metatarsals in his foot. Get well soon boys!

As John has mentioned fundraising for Gothia 2015 has started in earnest for the 2001s with a Sportsmans lunch held at Currie Rugby Club. 70 coaches, parents and friends came together to hear 2 speakers - Eric Davidson and John Gahagan - as well as having a sports quiz, raffle and auction. After deduction of costs the event generated a profit of just under £3,000 which has got the team off to a great start in hoping to raise enough money to take all the boys to Gothia 2015 with no cost to the parents. There are a number of letters out looking for bag packing slots and other fundraising ideas are being considered to help achieve that target. Thanks to Gary McDonald for once again organising, thanks to everyone who generously gave prizes and also to our friends at Currie Rugby Club who provided the venue for the lunch.

Finally, in the quest to provide alternative training methods for the boys, John Brock arranged a callanetics session for training one night and the boys enjoyed finding out how to exercise the body's muscles in a different way and they can use that to more effectively warm up for training and games. Unfortunately there are no pictures of John and Gary in their leotards! Just as well probably.

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2004s UPDATE

The 2004 group have increased again in numbers since the last newsletter and have warmly welcomed Pablo Laird, Louie St. John and Harry Duncan.

In January and February the players all enjoyed Sunday morning Futsal at World of Football at Chesser. Futsal is a great way for children to develop modern football skills and improve their technique through the winter months. The game helps develop fast, quick thinking, skilful players. The game is played indoors to touchlines not walls, making players use drag backs and other skills to utilise space. With 4v4 outfield it is the optimum number of players to enhance skill and technique.

The 2004s had 4 teams entered this year and despite it often being colder inside than outside, the teams did well and even played more than their allocated number of games some weeks to help out the ESSDA organisers when other clubs hadn't appeared!

The teams are now back to league games until the end of the season and have 3 teams entered - 2 of the teams are going into the Beckham league and 1 team is going into the Zidane league. Fingers crossed to a run of good weather and no cancelled games at Kingsknowe to keep the boys all fit, healthy and off their Xboxes and PlayStation's!

2005s UPDATE

Great progress for the 2005s in recent months. The football 4s finished early due to Leith Links pitches being cut up but the boys have made excellent progress to 7s with several friendlies prior to Futsal

starting. They have 5 new players in Finlay Coward-Nichol (Grandad played for Hibs), Ross Patey, Jack Flockhart, Keegan O'Brien and Ethan Lee. Two coaches Ian Simpson and JP Bonn gave up their time to do First Aid course and Ian, Al and Ken also went through the humiliation of trying to do "a Ronaldo step over" on the level two course.

Arrangements have been made for Play2Learn to continue coaching the boys on Mondays. We are indebted to Shane and Dave for doing so much to bring the boys on. Teams have been entered into the Pele/Maradonna merged league, Zidane and Beckham for next season. And the best news ever is that the mighty JP has taken over as 2005s Head Coach! He is threatening to return to Arizona at some point so if anybody has any influence with Homeland Security if they could make sure he isn't allowed back that would be great. His son Logan says he would rather play for Scotland anyway.

Ken Stewart bumped into Fahad Al - Faoudi - apparently Oman's best player in the national squad (below). They were staying in the same hotel. Ken signed him for Currie Star and assured him Chairman Brock would pay his wages.



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PLAY2LEARN

Play2learn and Currie Star F.C. are flourishing at the younger age groups. This time of year sees the changeover of all age groups.

For the Monday group, the winter training for the 2005/6s at Watsons astro has just finished. This programme of small sided 'brain games' has grown immensely and is going from strength to strength all the time. We all return to the clubs spiritual home at Kingsknowe from Monday March 31st from 6.30-7.30pm.

The oldest age group are the 2005s, who are leaving the FUN 4s set up and they have started training and playing the 7-a-side format. There are approximately 30 players who are learning the game, improving all the time and most importantly having FUN!

The 2006s are a very strong group who are representing the club on a Sunday in the 4-a-side format at Redhall and again there are approximately 30 players attending and they are receiving some great reviews on the style with which they play the game and more importantly the spirit in which they play the game!

The 2007s, who are joining them from the Saturday morning programme, have just started playing their Fun 4s at Leith Links on a Sunday and they too have been making headlines for the unbelievable way in which they have taken to playing the Fun 4s.

For the Saturday group, the 2007/8/9/10s have been enjoying our football fun and football 4s over the winter period at the World Of Football. The 2007s are joining up with the 2006s on the Monday night 4s programme and this will see the clubs first two years of playing the ESSDA 4s in a very healthy position indeed! This means the 2008s will become the 9.30-10.25am slot and the 2009/10s will be 10.30-11.25 slot.

The first four years in the P2L foundation for Currie Star F.C. is a fun, but educational model that will provide one of the best introductions into Club football in the region. Also as part of the Clubs player recruitment drive there will be a Tesco taster programme at Kingsknowe for new players born 2006/7/8 for 6 weeks starting April 26th from 12-1pm. For enquiries on all the above please contact:

Web: www.play2learn.info

Twitter: @P2LSportsCoach

Facebook: Play2LearnSportsCoaching

Or contact Shane, at P2L on:

Mobile: 07952147577

Email: Shane@Play2Learn.info

2002s UPDATE

The 2002s welcomed a few new players to the group - Cameron Bond, Bradley Morris and Kaiden Stannard (who moved from Canada to join Currie Star - our reputation is worldwide!). Welcome boys, we hope you enjoy your time at Currie Star.

In the ESSDA leagues there are 3 teams at Maradona level, 2 teams at Zidane / Beckham. All 5 teams have made good starts to the season following the winter break, the Black team especially after winning recently which ended a run of defeats.

The 2002s were heavily involved in the Burns supper - well done the 2002 boys who make up the Currie Star Pipe Band - Gregor Farrer, Andrew Aitken & Harry Simpson. Also well done to Ben McLellan & Andrew Inglis for doing a fine job at reading the address to the haggis - it couldn't have been easy standing up in front of all those people.

Team 2002 will be looking for shirt sponsors to help supply new kits to all players for starting 11 aside matches so if interested or know of anyone then please speak to Dave McLellan.

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2003s UPDATE

2003s received sponsorship from Expert Eye to help with the purchase of strips for the boys. Pictured below are coach Stephen Glancy, Gregor and Sophie Glancy, Lesley Guild (Director of Expert Eye), Dr. Scott McKie (Expert Eye Radiologist). Unfortunately, Dr Don Collie, EE Radiologist, wasn't in the photo but he's the MD and agreed to the generous donation of £500.



On the 7th March, Allen and Ian took 12 2003 boys to a behind the scenes look at the Hearts Academy. They had tour of the facilities before moving into the indoor football pitch to watch the under 9s, 10s and 11s train for 30 minutes. Harry Lauder (goalie) was given the opportunity to join in with goalie coaching session, which was fantastic. They then had a Q&A session to finish and all boys had a great time.

After much discussion, the 2003s have decided to reduce the squads from four to three. They lost more players over the winter break and simply don't have enough boys to run four teams. Until the summer they will have the Golds in the Pele league, the Blues in the Maradona league and have moved the Silvers into the Maradona league. Training will be unaffected with the boys mixing a bit more recently at training and Futsal. This has various advantages, not least allowing the boys to get to know everyone in their year group.

The Falkirk Cup takes place on the Easter weekend from Saturday 19th to Monday 21st April and it is hoped to take at least one team on each of the three days. This has been a really great day out in past years.

The 2003s are also planning to take the boys to Gothenburg in the summer of 2015 for the Gothia Cup! This is a huge event with over 1500 youth teams - it's basically the World Cup of youth football. The 2001s went last year and had a fantastic time. They need to start thinking about fund-raising, as the plan would be that all of the players would go free where possible. Check it out on the internet - www.gothiacup.se.

The 2003s hope to try and have an informal gathering of boys and parents in the near future. This would provide an opportunity to discuss plans for the squads, fund-raising, the Gothia Cup etc. Any suggestions for a suitable venue, maybe with a games room for the kids and somewhere for the adults to chat and have a drink would be welcome.

2006s UPDATE

In recent weeks the 2006s had a number of new players join - Thomas Brons, Jayden Semple, Reece Forbes, Artur Sagitov and Max Budziosz. Welcome to the Club boys!

Over the winter the 2006s played football 4s at the excellent indoor pitch at Heriot-Watt University. Recently they've moved back outside to the pitches at Redhall. The boys are improving all the time, and playing some very nice football. They score a lot of great goals, and are really starting to move the ball well. It's great to see the boys putting into practice the ideas from the Play2Learn training. What's just as important is the attitude and approach: the boys are playing with a smile on their face, respecting the rules and competing fairly. As ever, many thanks to all the parents for their support on the side-lines.

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BOROUGHMUIR LINK

Whilst in Sweden last year at the Gothia Cup it was apparent how big girls football is on the continent and we enjoyed watching some great football. Currie Star do not have a girls section and this was something we needed to address.

Our partners P2L also coach Boroughmuir Girls and John Brock met with their Chairman, Gavin Michie (left), recently where they signed a deal which will see Currie Star actively trying to recruit female players, who will join the swelling ranks of Boroughmuir. Gavin has created a fantastic Club since 2006 and it made sense to tap into their great knowledge of girls football rather than trying to start our own section. If you know of any girls who would like to play football, please have their parents email John via the contact link on our website, and he will refer them to Gavin in the first instance.

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.



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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.