



The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



Message from the Chairman

Hello All

Well, the football season is now well and truly under way and all the boys are back into their routines again. There

are a few matters to update you on and fantastic news regarding one of our 17's players.

Our 2007's are now firmly established and doing very well at the football 4's. We have 26 boys in the age group under the watchful eye of Dave and Shane of Play2Learn and Bobby Smith, our sole parent volunteer. Marie Moran is doing an excellent job running the administration for the team also. But we still need more parents to help out with running the teams on Sundays. Please don't be shy!

Our 2002's have made the transition from 7 aside football to 11's and I am reliably informed the boys are enjoying it. There are now referees and big goals with nets...the simple things in life! We have THREE teams at this year group, which is the most Currie Star have ever had in my time at the Club, and it is great to see so many young boys playing football. Well done to all.

Work has now started at Malleny Park on our new astro facility, which is great news. We have had great difficulty securing

training venues for ALL the boys this winter and it will certainly ease the burden and makes things better for us when we get first option on the new park.

Ken Stewart (2005's) successfully applied for, and obtained, Charity Status for the Club. This is a great achievement and my sincere thanks to Ken for pursuing this. We were to be charged £500 for this to be done on our behalf by a solicitor but Ken did it for free! What this means in reality is that we now have greater access for funding opportunities to develop Kingsknowe....which is still and always will be our main goal.

There is an article about how one of our very own Currie Star players has now moved up and signed professionally for Livingston Football Club. More of that later!

And finally, registration is now open for the Gothia Cup! We still aim to take 3 age groups - 2001 / 2002 / 2003 - over to the competition next July. Fundraising is well underway as we strive to ensure that all players can attend for free. To give an example of how much the boys enjoyed this competition, when our 2001 boys travelled last year, we took approximately two thirds of the squad. EVERY single player in our two teams has now signed up to go next year....testimony to how much the boys enjoyed not just the football but the journey overall.

The best of success to all our Currie Star boys this season.

John

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2004s UPDATE

The 2004 squad have had a busy start to the season with 8 new players and 3 new coaches. A warm welcome to players Santosh Rowe, Saul Forbes, Sean Panglea, Tommy McEwan, Aaron Strachan, Teddy Leatherbarrow, Calum Forman and Ross Mckinlay and Coaches Alan Forman, Tom Watson and Mitchell McEwan.

We now have 3 teams, 2 playing in the Beckham division and 1 in Zidane. Our teams are all doing well with the boys all getting used to playing in their new teams. We have had some wins, some losses and some draws, but the main thing is that the boys are all getting to play the game they love every Sunday.

In October the boys are helping Beechwood FC make a short video promoting football from grassroots to amateur level - We will hopefully be sending you all a link to watch the final footage.. Watch this space!

2003s UPDATE

2003s have 28 players for this season and we welcome the most recent additions this season who are Cameron Fallon and Tom Mackintosh - welcome boys and we hope you enjoy being part of the Currie Star family.

After the moving on of two coaches to Spartans and the loss of 5 boys at the end of last season the Pele team changed its spots but we managed to still maintain 3 teams this season in the Maradona League.

After losing the long standing keeper in August, Angus Mackie has since put the

gloves on - typically an out field player for the 2003s for over two years, Angus has made a great transition to this key role and has done well so far - thanks for stepping into this key role in the team Angus.

This season a squad of 10 boys played an out of catchment friendly v Broxburn, which was set up after Coll Dracup befriended their 2003 keeper on holiday in Menorca this summer. The fixture was played at Dovecot Park in September and we took a photo to remember the event. Currie Star won 6 - 3, a game played with great spirits. Broxburn have invited us back to play them again at a later date.



Joseph Cantle joins the 2003s as a coach assistant for 15 weeks as part of his Duke of Edinburgh scheme - he has also tried his hand at refereeing some of our games and helping on training nights so welcome Joseph.

Gail Gourlay is also looking at organising some fundraising events including bag packs and Scott Neil is trying to secure a race night to raise funds, so watch out for further details.

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PLAY2LEARN UPDATE

The Monday night foundation 4s football, delivered by Play2learn has gone from strength to strength. The session now has over 70 players in the age groups of 2006 and 2007. There is also a very supportive and committed group of Currie Star coaches. The session is on a Monday evening 6.30 -7.30. During the light nights we were based at Kingsknowe, however, last week was our first session at our winter venue of George Watsons.

Players who attend are part of 4 aside teams that play in theme related games. Players are encouraged to make decisions and mistakes to improve them as players. At the end of every training session, the player of the night from each age group is awarded a Golden Boot.

The players in these age groups represent Currie Star on Sundays where they are proving to be one of the strongest clubs in the City at the 4v4 club gatherings. We are creating an excellent foundation at the club which is supported well by our Play2Learn Saturday morning sessions for 2008s and 2009/10s. I believe we have the biggest and best early years provision in the City. The benefits of this will hopefully be seen in the future 7 aside and 11 aside squads for Currie Star.

There are pics on our Teamer site of the guys in a state of post-match euphoria at "The Currie Bench" on Leith Links. The bottom line is when the boys focus on their "aeroplanes", when they play their 1-2's, when they use their dribbling skills effectively, there isn't a group of 4 boys this side of the Rhine that can live with them, AND ... more than that ... even when they are tired and concentration is harder for them they all support their team mates, they all play with a smile and they all demonstrate a level of enjoyment that makes it easy for their parents to bring them along, everyone loves watching their children PLAY2LEARN.

1998s UPDATE

The start of the season saw a number of changes to Paul McGovern's Under 17 squad in readiness for the challenges ahead. The team is now competing in the South East Region Division One having gained promotion at the end of last season. Already the competition is proving to be tougher but the squad are more than holding their own in both league and cup competitions.

The end of last season saw the departure of Terry O'Meara as assistant coach. Players also departing included Sam Millar, Jack O'Meara, Thomas Wedgwood, Murray Drew, Cammy Ross, Kyle Dixon, Connor Holleran, and Ross Howarth. The Club wishes them all well in their future footballing pursuits. We are delighted to bring on board Liam Boath, Daniel Jardine, Arran Singh, Sean Watt, Jake Henderson, Samer Lazim, and Aidan Quinn. This now takes us to a current playing squad of 20 which will allow us to meet the significant challenges ahead.

Tony Brice has also joined as goalkeeping coach and this gives us a dedicated resource to help Paul McGovern with the squad. Having faithfully served the club for 2 years Paul Wedgwood has now given up his position as secretary and we thank Paul for his many efforts in keeping the non-footballing aspects of the team ably supported. Secretarial duties for the team have now been taken over by Derek McDonald.

The team has registered wins in all three cup competitions played so far this season and are currently sitting third in the first division achieving two wins, a draw, and a loss. At the end of the September we host Polbeth United in the second round of the Scottish Cup where we hope to repeat the performance against Spartans FC. A big thank you also to all our supportive parents in helping the team along the way.

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2006s UPDATE

The squad continues to grow and grow! Since the last newsletter we've been joined by Andrew Cameron, Finlay Fife, Bailey Innes, Rory Kerr, Daniel McKinnon, Sean Mouat, Callum Murray, Matthew Teague, Harry Templeton and Jake Veenboer. Welcome to the club boys, and we hope you all have a great time. We also welcome a new coach joining the 06's - step forward Lee Brown.

Training has picked up from where we left off before the summer break, with lots of emphasis on developing teamwork and movement off the ball to create space. We're also working on encouraging the defending player to stay involved in the game. In the Football 4s at Redhall we continue to play some great football. It seems that no matter how we juggle the teams around, the four boys on the pitch can give anyone a good game. We now regularly have 6 teams playing every Sunday. I'm sure the boys all appreciate the support and encouragement from their relatives and friends on the side-lines.

PLAY2LEARN CAMPS

Want something to keep the kids amused during the School Holidays in October?

From 13th to 17th, Play2Learn will be running some Football Camps in Edinburgh with Indoor & Outdoor facilities available.

The camps are for all boys and girls who love playing 4 or 7 a-side football from any school, team or club! Players of all abilities are welcome. You can sign up for a combo of any morning only, afternoon only, full days or the full week.

All info is online www.play2learn.info - please check the website for further details.

HERIOT WATT UPDATE (Scott Dargo)

1st Team:

"After numbers for the first division East of Scotland side started to strengthen there has been a real promise and glimpse of what this team has to offer. More recently, the 1st team have completed 3 wins with only conceding 1 goal in said games. There is a real sense of togetherness within the team and this should help with the their challenge of claiming the league title which is within Heriot Watt's sights."

Under 20's:

"After lengthy talks, we decided to get rid of the under 21's team that was already in place here at Heriot Watt and replace it with an Under 20's East of Scotland team with the same manager, Bejay Koya. The new league will be far more demanding and will be filled with young quality players in amongst all teams taking part. Hopefully this will help develop our players and get them playing a style of football most teams will envy. The league campaign starts on Saturday 27th September and we wish the boys good luck over the course of the season."

Currie Star Players:

"Its been with great pleasure welcoming the new additions from Currie star within our set up. Boys such as Liam and Connor who it has to be said have not looked out of place and have merged in with the relevant teams very easily. This partnership is starting to blossom and we hope this pathway from Currie Star to Heriot Watt and likewise is utilised where both parties reap the awards."

The new HW Community Officer Grieg Donaldson will take forward input to the Currie Star Newsletter and we welcome him on board.

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CURRIE STAR 2001 CHARITY SUPPORT

The 2001s earlier this year asked parents to donate unwanted boots, trainers and football strips for a great cause in Rwanda - Together in Sport. Kari Spence (below right) from Together in Sport has provided us with some feedback following this collection from parents.

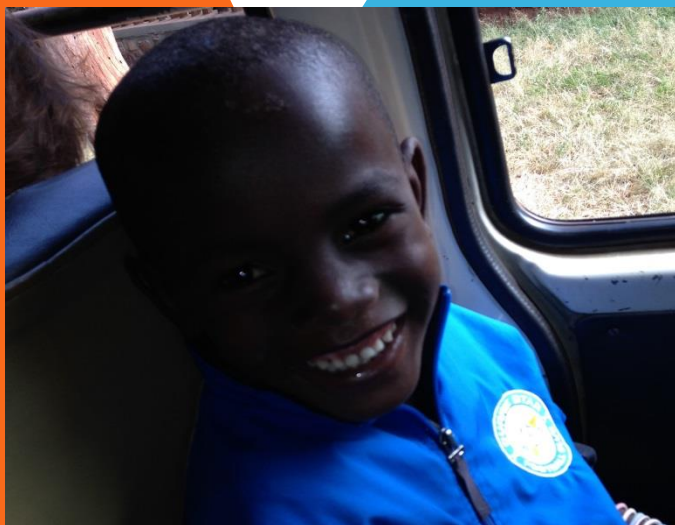
"Together in Sport Rwanda would like to thank Currie Star 2001s for all the equipment they donated earlier this year. I spent two months out in Rwanda this summer at my partner school Faith and Hope primary school. Due to lack of luggage allowance I was not able to take over all the strips which were donated, however these will be getting across to Rwanda this October. The football strips and shoes I was able to take out made such a huge impact on the children in Rwanda.

I left all the strips at Faith and Hope School where they are used as PE kit for the children and this is where the larger strips going across in October will also be taken. This is an exciting time for Faith and Hope Primary as Together in Sport has recently secured an area of land next to the school which will be turned into quality sport facilities, which is something they currently do not have.



I have strong connections with the Rwandan national rugby team. One of the players has recently moved house and lives in a village which has many children living on the streets. He has recently set up a rugby club for these children to teach them life skills and give them a sense of belonging. I helped out with his sessions throughout the summer and was shocked to see that these kids were training with nothing on their feet, therefore this is where I donated all of the boots and trainers which you kindly gave."

Well done to everyone who supported this - you really are making a difference. Please keep hold of those unwanted items for the next collection!





CURRIE 'STARS' - THE UNSUNG HEROES

On a regular basis we focus on the achievements of players, coaches and teams however Kerry and Jane (pictured below) are two unsung heroes in Currie Star who clean the Clubhouse every week and run the shop on a Sunday morning to provide parents and visitors with teas, coffee and bacon rolls. They truly deserve a public pat on the back for this invaluable support in running the Club - well done ladies and thanks for everything you do.



2002s UPDATE

The three 2002 team's are settling into playing 11s with some games being tougher than others. All the players are grateful for the new match kit supplied by Schuh.

We welcome all new players and hope they enjoy their football with Currie Star. The 2002s intend to send a squad of players to compete in the 2015 Gothia Cup. The teams recently played each other in a Cup Game at Meggatland and they are pictured above right with their home and away kit.



BREAKING NEWS

As our own Chairman mentioned in his welcome to the Newsletter we are delighted to announce that one of our players at Currie Star has signed for Livingston FC. Mark McGovern who plays with our under 17s has recently signed terms with the Championship side.

Mark is pictured below with Livingston FC Chairman Gordon McDougall signing the paperwork in the his office. Everyone at Currie Star wishes Mark well with his future and we hope one day to see him playing in the first team.



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DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ...

The annual Currie Star Burns Supper will be held on Friday 23rd January where parents, coaches and players from all year groups can come together for a good night out. Details will be communicated as soon as they are known and tickets made available for purchase. Keep an eye on future editions of the Newsletter and website for further details.

2001s GOTHIA FUNDRAISING

The 2001s are busy raising funds for the trip to Gothia 2015. They will be running a Race Night in October and also doing a bag pack and bucket collection in December, with further activities including more bag packs and a further Sportsman's Lunch in early 2015. Registration for Gothia 2015 is now open and planning has started now in preparation.

CURRIE STAR CLUB JOURNALIST

Currie Star were delighted to learn that they had secured the services of a Youth Football Scotland journalist for season 2014/15. We welcome Chris Grieve to the Club and Chris will be covering Currie Star teams playing 7s and 11s over the season. He will compile match reports from selected games and these reports will be posted on the YFS website along with match photos and interviews with players and coaches alike.

This Programme benefits Currie Star who will get great exposure on YFS plus Chris will gain journalistic experience which he may wish to put to good use to further a career in Journalism if he so chooses. I'm sure you will make Chris feel part of the Currie Star family whilst he works with us though the season.

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!!