



## The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



Hello All

As we near the end of yet another year it is time to reflect on what we have achieved, and more importantly, look forward to the future and where we want our Club to be.

## Message from the Chairman

exist to provide a platform for ALL players, irrespective of ability, to enjoy the game, and that will always remain. However, we are competing against a lot of Clubs in our area, and there is no doubt parents are attracted to Clubs which can offer quality coaching and an environment conducive to the development of their children. Gothia 2015 is now on the horizon and we will be taking about 60 boys over to compete in what is effectively, the Youth World Cup. This is the biggest international tournament for kids football and Currie Star will be heading back for a second time. Again, it is important this trip is embedded in the fabric of the Club, as it provides an opportunity kids will remember for the rest of their lives.

In the Christmas Newsletter last year, I announced the proposed development of a new 4G facility at Malleny Park. The foundations of this facility are now in place and we are hoping to move, in either February or March 2015. This is a significant step forward for us as a Club, and will give our players access to a facility, which I am advised, will be the second biggest pitch in the UK, with only Premiership Club Arsenal, beating us!!

We are still some way off getting Kingsknowe redeveloped, which is still one of our key objectives for 2015. What we have learned through the partnership with the Malleny Park project, is that these issues are not resolved in a couple of meetings! There are many obstacles to be overcome and lots of hurdles to jump over. We need to be patient and work closely with various partners to ensure everything is completed in a professional manner, which will hopefully leave a legacy for all players at Currie Star in the future.

Our partnership with Play2Learn remains vibrant and is key to developing players to represent and enhance the reputation of our Club in future. It is hugely important we attract and retain young players at an early age, and there is no doubt, in my opinion, boys will get no better grounding than being coached by P2L. At the other end of the spectrum, our 17's have seen two players sign professional contracts in the last few months. Mark McGovern signed for Livingston, and Daniel Jardine for English Championship side Middlesbrough. We are a Community Club, and

Finally, I would like to pay homage to everyone involved with making Currie Star what it is today. No Club would exist without dedicated coaches, who generously give up their time and energy to run sessions and deal with the other ancillary matters!! Coaches I salute you. Our Committee work tirelessly in the background, attending meetings, running the finances, arranging pitches on a weekly basis and producing Newsletters. Billy Hislop, Ken Stewart, Julien Reynolds, David Muego and David McLellan, without your help, we would not be here. Many thanks.

Lastly, there are two ladies who we are very fortunate to have at the Club, Jane and Kerry Watson. They ensure the boys have a clean Clubhouse every weekend and supply us with hot food and drinks in those cold winter months. Ladies, as always, we appreciate all your hard work.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2015. *John*

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## GOOD LUCK AND FAREWELL

We are delighted to announce that one of our players has just signed a 2 year contract with Middlesbrough Football Club - Daniel Jardine from the Under 17s. Head Coach Paul McGovern said "I started coaching Daniel from an early age of 4 years old and then continued as his coach at Hearts and then Hibs before spending his last 2 seasons playing in France with Monaco.

On his return to Scotland at the start of this season I was contacted by his father and had a meeting with him and Daniel. Although he had options to go to a number of clubs including Hutchison Vale, he chose for me to be his coach once again and signed for Currie Star. He has come in this season and been fantastic and had a host of senior clubs chasing him for his signature. After much consideration Daniel decided to put pen to paper and sign a 2 year deal with Middlesbrough. Everyone at Currie Star is delighted for him and we wish him all the best." Paul went on to say "That's 2 players now moved on to senior clubs since the start of the season from my squad and another at present in training with St Johnstone. I'm hope this will help raise the profile of the club further." Well done Daniel and we will watch your progress with interest.

## 2003s UPDATE

After an enjoyable 15 week season the 2003s are still developing and playing 7 a side football, the season starting with 28 players and 3 teams. A departure by Ben Henderson, a long standing Currie Star player until October, who moved to Edina Hibs for Pele football, allowing new arrivals Matthew Darrington and Neil McInlay (keeper) to join the Star, finishing this year with 29 players.

2003s have entered 4 teams in the six week Winter Futsal at the Edinburgh Chesser Corn Exchange starting in January, which will be exciting and allowing players to experience the quick pace of Futsal and help them showcase their skills - a big thank you to Gail Gourlay for entering us for this popular event.

Lewis Carey's brother Aiden Carey has joined the 2003s for 15 weeks as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and supports the boys at training along with Joe Cantle who is already half way through his award - welcome onboard Lewis and thanks for your help at training.

Bonfire night fell on a training night this year and it was an opportunity for the 2003s that wished to attend the local Currie Community Round Table Fireworks display with their parents and coaches for a bit of team building.

9 players from the 2003s are interested in attending the 2015 Gothia Cup with the other Currie Star teams and a few parents - we still need a least 1 or 2 more player to come forward and come to this competition to help the kids experience a trip of a lifetime.

This season there has still been training twice a week for the 2003s and the Monday smaller groups have continued and moved to Ogangs - this has been very useful allowing the boys to use the 11s goals and practice new skills.



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## 1998s UPDATE (Paul McGovern)

"The 17s have managed to continue delivering some very good performances over the last few months. The team has settled down and are playing an attractive style of passing football which is a result of the hard work being put in on the training ground.

Every week we are witnessing scouts from senior teams coming along to watch the team and observing how many of the players are performing.

If there is a disappointment at present it is the manner in which the team has exited from the Scottish Cup and South East Regional cup where, in both competitions, they were by far the best and stronger footballing side. The run in the Scottish Cup was commendable and the team reached the last sixteen where all ended against Syngenta on a day when the game went through extra time without any goals and eventually Currie Star lost 4-5 on penalties. The team certainly deserved to be in the last 8.

A similar fate was also met in the South East Regional Cup where, despite playing all of the football and creating far more chances from open play, the team lost 3-2 to Shotts who scored in the last few minutes of the game. Sadly the best footballing teams do not always win but great pride can be taken from playing very good football and producing fine performances in the most challenging, and often unfair, circumstances.

The league has seen two clubs folding recently being Fernieside and Musselburgh Windsor. With nine teams in the league in mid November Currie Star had the opportunity of going joint top of the table if they won against Cavalry Park. Despite a draw on the day Currie Star are now bottom of the revised seven team First Division due to the rules regarding points deductions - 30<sup>th</sup> November proved to be Black Sunday for the team.

We welcome Dominic Kane to the squad who came from Motherwell FC and also Cameron Ross who returns to the club after a brief spell at Leith Athletic. Best wishes to everyone over the festive season."

The boys are pictured below before a game against Tynecastle.



## 2004s UPDATE

The 2004's ended the season with a festive training session and a fun game. The boys were all dressed in their Christmas gear & ended the session with a 'Secret Santa' gift and a selection box from the club - thanks to all the coaches - a great evening to celebrate another good year of football.





## 2006s UPDATE

The arrival of winter has seen us move our base to Watsons astro pitch. The Football 4s at Redhall are now over, and judging by the state of the pitches down there, not before time! Hopefully all the boys who have played down there have enjoyed the experience. From the sidelines the coaches have been very impressed with the progression and spirit shown. The boys are a real credit to the club.

In recent weeks the guys from Play2Learn have been taking groups of boys to do a few weeks 'introduction to 7s'. This is really intended to give them an understanding of what's different about 7-a-side, as well as what's the same, covering basic positioning and team shape. Not all of the boys have had this opportunity yet, but they will.

Recently some of the boys had chance to play in some 7-a-side friendly games, and this is something we'll be looking to continue as the opportunity arrives. These friendlies are intended to give the players some real match experience in a low-pressure situation. I'm sure all the boys are very excited about the upcoming change.

Pictured below are some of the boys in action from a game earlier this season.



## HERIOT WATT UPDATE (Greig Donaldson)

"Liam Walker has been making great strides at the Club with his coach Bejay Koya commenting on his technical progress. He has been scoring some good goals and is great to have around the dressing room. Bejay says he is looking forward to seeing Liam back in action in the second semester.

On the community side of things, Heriot Watt University Football Club has delivered coaching sessions to the S2 football team at Currie High School and will look to continue and grow this relationship after the New Year break. There is also a walking football initiative in the pipeline which we would love to be able to involve Currie Star Football Club in. We also have a number of coaches participating in the Active Schools Communities Project.

We will be holding a 70th anniversary dinner next September and would love some representatives from the community, but will provide further details in subsequent newsletters next year.

An update on the pitch from HWUFC and pleased to report that the first team are currently sitting third in the League and can move to within a point of 1st place with wins from their game in hand. With cup success in the SFA Challenge Cup also still a possibility with a third round tie against Civil Service Strollers to come.

The Under 20's team is currently second in the League and can go top with two wins from their games in hand.

Heriot Watt University Football Club also wishes everyone at Currie Star a very Merry Christmas and also Best Wishes for 2015 as the partnership between us continues to grow and develop."



## 2002s UPDATE

Player News - Welcome to new players, Harry Mack, Kyle Clark, Matthew McDonald & Lachlan Bradford. The white team are looking to boost their squad numbers - if anyone knows anyone looking to play please contact [CurrieStar2002@gmail.com](mailto:CurrieStar2002@gmail.com)

Team News - The 3 teams have settled into playing 11s and progress has been steady. The Div 2 team have put a winning run together in the Lothian Buses Cup - where they are now in the later stages.

Fundraising - The 2002s have applied for 2 teams to complete in the Gothia Cup in Sweden in July next year. A series of fundraising events will take place in 2015 for Gothia - the first of which will be a sponsored 5k run in January. The will take place at the Meadows in Edinburgh.

## 2005s UPDATE

The 2005s were delighted to receive their selection boxes from Santa after training. We hope they all have a great Christmas and are ready to go after the New Year break.

The players are pictured below with Santa and the rest of the coaches.



## PLAY2LEARN CAMPS

P2L will be running camps at the February Holidays (16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>) so if you are looking for something to keep the kids amused then head to their website [www.play2learn.info](http://www.play2learn.info) for details of how to book your place. Choice of full days or half days are available.

Play2Learn and Currie Star partnership is flourishing. On Saturday mornings the two groups ages 3-6 have been enjoying football fun and football fours over the winter at the World of Football. The 2008 age group are soon to leave and join the Monday night 4s programme. Interested parents who have children born in years 2009, 2010, 2011 contact [shane@play2learn.info](mailto:shane@play2learn.info) for more details

Monday night small sided games programme is growing and going from strength to strength. The 2006s have started playing and sampled training on the 7 aside format. There are approximately 40 players. The 2007s are a very strong group training on a Monday and representing the club on a Sunday in the 4 aside format - there are approximately 30 players. In the last few months a focus for the players and coaches has been understanding terms and language that we were using to assist playing and being effective in positions on the pitch. A footballing dictionary covering these terms will follow in the New Year.

A big thank you to the coaching team from Currie Star 2006s and 2007s for assisting and buying into what we are trying to achieve. The first four years in the Play2Learn foundation for Currie Star is a fun, but educational model that will provide one of the best introductions into club football in the region.

Play2Learn would like to take this opportunity to wish all at Currie Star a very merry Christmas.

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## 2001s UPDATE

The 2001s have been busy raising money with a Race Night and Bag Pack having been held in the last few months. The Race Night at Currie Rugby Club was a great success and sincere thanks go to Gavin Slawson for organising it and to Ian Dracup for being his bookie buddy on the night helping him keep track of all the bets. A number of parents also helped with the food on the night and big thanks to them as well.



Morrisons Ferry Road kindly allowed the boys to do a bag pack to raise funds and this was well supported with the majority of boys able to attend during the day to help out and the shoppers were very generous. Out thanks go to Morrisons for their support. The boys are pictured right with their buckets.

Well done also to Gary McDonald's Colts team who have reached the final of the Pilmar Smith Cup beating Lauriston Thistle 3-2 in a tense semi-final. They now meet Edinburgh City in the final and we hope for some silverware for the Currie Star trophy cabinet.

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!!