



The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



Hello All

Message from the Chairman

I can't believe it is nearly the end of another year. Incredible! And it has been another year of progress for our Club as the Currie Star bandwagon continues gaining

enthusiastic coaches and kids who love playing the beautiful game.

Our older boys have also improved this season and which is reflected in the leagues they are playing in and the positions they currently occupy. Our 13's are already into their first cup final this season and sit 2nd top of the league whilst our 19's currently proudly sit on top of the 1st Division, the first time I can recall a Currie Star team not only playing in the top league but also leading it.

pace!! In March we moved into the brand new facility at Malleny Park and despite some teething problems things have settled and allowed us to enjoy having access to what is, without doubt, one of THE best facilities in Edinburgh. All our 11 aside teams are using the facility for their home games, which is proving to be advantageous as visiting teams are taken aback at just how big the playing surface is. You certainly need to be fit to cover the ground!!

To that end, we are working more closely than ever with our partners at Heriot Watt (HW) and Chris Sellar deserves special mention for all his hard work. Our 19's are now getting the experience of playing and training with HW at U20's and East of Scotland level in addition to player recruitment.

July saw Currie Star venture into Europe for the second time with 63 boys participating in the Gothia Cup in Sweden. The benefit for kids participating in such trips is massive. It gives them memories for the rest of their lives, teaches them to mix with other kids, develops team morale and last, but not least, is great FUN. Playing teams from across the world is a fantastic experience and both the coaches and players benefit from pitting their wits against them. Our next trip will be in 2017 and the time will fly by so please start your fundraising, if you haven't already done so, to minimise the costs for everyone wishing to attend.

We signed a partnership deal with Kingsknowe Golf Club earlier this year, the aim of which is to introduce CS kids to the wonderful game of golf. It has already had success with some younger lads joining the Club. There are events planned for April 2016 where we hope to give more kids the opportunity to sample the sport and hopefully widen their sporting horizons.

I receive weekly match reports from nearly all the teams playing 7's and 11's and there is no doubt our boys are all developing and learning how to play football in the proper manner. It is encouraging to read and provides me with great hope for our Currie Star teams in future. We want this Club to progress and develop and it starts by having good quality facilities,

P2L now feel like part of the CS family as opposed to partners! Dave and Shaneo do an amazing job with our younger players as does Graeme with the goalkeeper training. We are grateful for all the hard work the guys put in.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2016. The future is bright ... it's Blue and White!!

John

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CHAIRMANS NEW YEAR HONOURS!!

John Brock, Club Chairman adds "I didn't have space in my introduction to this edition of the Newsletter to say thanks to the team who make this Club what it is and I want to take some time out now to do so.

Gary McDonald and Dave McLellan arrange the weekly fixtures pitches for the seniors and juniors respectively every weekend and without them we would have anarchy! Many thanks to both in addition to David Muego who has developed this Newsletter from day one and does a brilliant job with our website.

The Committee of Mike Scaife, Billy Hislop and Treasurer Julien Reynolds are the strategists behind the scenes. They keep me reigned in and ensure the Club stays focused and developing. Thank you gents.

Lastly, but most importantly, I want to say a huge and sincere thanks to all the Currie Star coaches who put in hundreds of hours every week to ensure the boys get to play this wonderful game. Every one of them deserves a medal (you will get a trophy after 5 years service!). I raise a glass to you all."

2007's UPDATE

"2007's are at the end of their Fun 5's and it has been a blast", says coach Bobby Smith. "There were curve balls, pressure balls, juggled balls ... and that was before a ball was kicked!!! The boys all had a great time, loads of game time, loads of line-up changes and everyone learning how to play and trust their team mates. On more than many occasions it was a joy to watch, many thanks are due and it was well worth every effort from all the players and clubs and parents involved to

make it all happen. Seeing the players develop and learn to confidently out think opponents against the large variety of teams at such a young age is something everyone enjoyed. That learning came from all those match experiences, all those tackles won and lost, passes made, goals scored and lost, injuries, substitutions, positional changes ... the boys experienced it all and they smiled and laughed their way through everything ... mostly!

We break for Christmas now and prepare for the giant leap to 7 a side.

The 2007's have in the past 6 months raised nearly £300.00 from which the boys all recently received either a Currie Star football rain jacket or hoodie with each parent paying £10.00 and our year group funds subsidising the remaining cost. As a surprise for the boys we had their individual initials printed on. And as you can see from the pictures they look just like little professional footballers.



We also used our funds to pay for a Christmas Party at Gambado for the boys. Thank you to Carla, Tracy & Cath who all helped organise this event which was a real success. We wish all our 2007 parents and players (and wider Currie Star Family) and Play2Learn coaching team a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. "

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1998's UPDATE

As the U19s reach the half-way stage in the season they can look back on what has been a terrific start to their first season in the top league.

Coach Paul McGovern says "We have seen a few players depart - Callum Thompson, Callum Brown, Mario Falsonie, and Jack Blaney- and I would like to thank them for their efforts. We added a new face in Callum Reid with the hope of securing two or three more in not too distant future. As we go into the break we find ourselves sitting 9 points clear at the top of the league with a remarkable 114 goals been scored with no fewer than 12 different goalscorers.

Our link up with Heriot Watt has proved invaluable with us fielding triallists from their U20 squad and in the opposite direction it has seen Cammy Ross from our team play for Heriot Watt U20s recently and scoring in a league match for them. We have seen a bad injury sustained to one of our players - Nathan Stokes with ankle ligament injury and we wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back fit again in the New Year.

A big congratulations is also in the cards for Dominic Kane who, after having a number of trials, has just received the news that he has been selected for the U18s Scottish School's Squad. Very well done Dominic -just another bit of good news from such a hard working squad.

I'm really looking forward to the second half of season and may I take this chance to wish everyone at Currie Star a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the myself and the U19 squad."

2004's UPDATE

The Maradona's have adjusted well to playing at a higher level. Early defeats showed how concentration from start to finish and accurate passing are key. The boys are now winning closely fought games - a particular thriller saw the boys come from 4-1 down to win 5-4, playing with real confidence and team spirit.

The Zidane's have struggled to field a settled team, but they have played some highly entertaining football. The team have played against some high quality opposition, with higher level players, but the boys have learned quickly, train really hard and positively and the future is bright for a really good group.

The Beckham's have faced similar challenges however the boys seem to have perversely benefited from a few early big defeats. They have been able to field a settled team, underpinned by an excellent training turnout, resulting in recent strong performances. The football is becoming a joy to watch.

Cameron Lamont joins the 2004's and new coach Balazs, who comes from Hungary joins us through our link with HWU. Burns' Supper organisation falls to the 2004's and they are very grateful to the parents for giving up their time to ensure the night will be another roaring success.

The boys did a bag pack at Morrisons in the Gyle Centre heralding the start of their fundraising efforts for the 2017 planned trip to Gothia.

Thanks and a very Merry Christmas from the 2004 coaches and secretary.



2005's UPDATE

Ken Stewart reports "Currie Star 2005s have had a great 2015. In the ESSDA set up they have had one Maradona, two Zidane and one Beckham team this term. All teams have been winning the vast majority of matches and the coaches will be considering rejigging this after the winter Futsal break. Training has moved to twice weekly - Monday at Malleny and Friday at Firhill. We thought it best to stick with the alliteration to insure parents remember!

Training is lead by master tactician Richard whose diligent training plans have resulted in great progress. There are perhaps a few boys that could focus on concentrating a little more on what the coach is saying - Messi never messed around is our new Maxim. They are all missing JP and Logan who moved back to Arizona but a big thanks to Mike Sinclair who took over as new team secretary.

Thanks to Kathy's older son Thomas who staffed our part of the cleaning rotation at Kingsknowe - very able and available for hire at a reasonable rate.

The highlight so far was undoubtedly the trip to watch Newcastle FC and to train at their ground - very ably organised by Ken Hughes. The kids had a ball and arrived back in Edinburgh wired, we think, on sweeties. Ken has now taken over as sweets supplier prior to matches to ensure appropriate enhanced performances.

Finally thanks to all new coaches, in no particular order except good looks, Hans Lambert, Graeme Doran, Alex Fowler, Colin Brown, David Goodbrand, Alan Telfer and David BB for scraping though their early touches courses! Merry Christmas to all! "

2005's UPDATE (cont)

The photos below were taken during the trip to Newcastle:



The first is a group shot when they trained at the Newcastle first team training complex before the game and the second has 4 of the 2005 boys who were selected as ball boys for the game and got to get nice and close to the action on the pitch.

They are the 4 in the front, from left to right, Ben Lambert, Ben Telfer, Callum Lewis, Angus Moran. Well done boys - hope you all had a fabulous day.

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PLAY2LEARN UPDATE

Dave Upton says "Play2learn are proud to say that the Monday night development sessions are almost at full strength. The numbers are reaching 40+ for 2007/08 age groups. We have now split into two separate sessions. This has enabled the squads to utilise the space to enhance their development.

The 2007s are "dipping their toe" into the 7 aside game. P2L have delivered 3 introductory sessions on shape and roles and responsibilities of positions in the formation. They've grasped the concept extremely well, even better than the previous age groups. The 2008s have been focussing on aspects of the game in the 4v4 format, enjoying various coaching methods that promote linked learning over a number of weeks. This age group is supported by an energetic and supportive parent coaches team. We will all be involved in developing 5aside sessions after Christmas, which allows the transition from 4s to 5s to 7s to be smoother."

On Saturday mornings P2L have two foundation sessions for 2009/10 and 2011/12 at World of Football (see below).



Dave continues "P2L have been impressed with young Lewis Muego who plays for Currie Star Colts 2001. Lewis has been helping as

PLAY2LEARN UPDATE (cont)

an assistant coach for 4 months on Saturday morning sessions and shows great attributes to take into coaching and also great characteristics that we all should be promoting at the Club - honesty, commitment, reliability, punctuality and enthusiasm. We will be delighted to continue mentoring Lewis - he is a credit to the Club."

Play2learn have football camps at the World of Football 28th-30th December and 4th-6th January 2016. Players from all clubs and schools welcome. Contact Shane on 07825 6086108.

2003s UPDATE

The players are making a great transition to 11s in their first season, the new squad are training twice a week which is essential to learn the 11 aside game. The boys are really playing as a team and you can see the morale and banter which is brilliant in the changing room.

The boys have also qualified for the Polar Foods Cup Final and just lost out in the AC Taxi Cup Semi Final after extra time. The team welcome Steven Logan who joined in October and is looking like he has played with the boys for 4 years as most of the squad has been with Currie Star. They have a grant application going though thanks to Susan Bailey for recommending and Gail Gourlay for applying, which will buy new training equipment and kit.

Coach Dracup says "We hope to see all the 2003 parents at the Burns Supper as this will be a fantastic opportunity for a mid term gathering."

Follow them on Twitter @CurrieStar2003

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2006's UPDATE

Chris Lewis tells us "It's been another busy period for the 2006's. The squad size is now at an incredible 49 with Alan Rouf and Niall Geary joining recently. Welcome to the club boys - we hope you enjoy your time here.

Training moved to the astro pitches at Oxgangs Primary and our own Malleny Park. On the pitch all four teams continue to play some great football, despite the weather taking it's inevitable toll on the matches.

In October they took two teams to play against Rangers at Murray Park. As you'd expect, both the Rangers teams were packed with very good players. Although Rangers came out on top, all four games were very competitive and the Currie Star boys should be proud of their efforts in running them so close. It was a fantastic experience for everyone concerned. The boys are pictured below with coach Ronnie Millar:



During this period somehow the coaches managed to squeeze in some courses: Alan McLean completed his SYFA 1.1 'Early Touches' course and Ronnie Millar completed his SYFA 1.3 'Coaching in the Game' course.

2006's UPDATE (cont)

The SYFA courses are a great way to learn from experienced coaches while also being reminded of what kids football is all about. Mike Scaife completed two days of First Aid training.

We're also delighted to add Sam to our coaching 'staff'. Sam is studying Sports Science at Heriot Watt and you may have already seen him helping us out at training sessions. If you get the chance, please stop and say 'hello' to help him feel part of the squad.

Our 7-a-side games have now finished and after Christmas we'll be switching to indoor games at the World of Football, running from 10th January to February 14th. This is a good opportunity to remind parents that although it's indoor, it's hardly tropical - please make sure the kids are wearing appropriate clothing. It's usually as cold inside as it is outside!

Finally, we held our Christmas Party at the Fountainpark ten-pin bowling alley. It was a great way to finish the 'half-season', with lots of fun enjoyed by all. "

2016 BURNS SUPPER

Just a reminder to all that the Annual Currie Star Burns Supper is taking place on 22nd January 2016. The venue as usual will be Myreside and another exciting evening of food and entertainment with great company guaranteed!

Tickets are £25 per person and must be purchased in advance by Friday 15th January 2016. To book please visit:

<https://event.bookitbee.com/e/rnf79>

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2000's UPDATE

Phil Hay gives us his thoughts on his first season with the 2000's "Wow, I can't believe we are almost half way through our first season! The team is taking great shape and settling down well. We have 15 players currently (still room for one or two more) and every one of them has played a significant part to date.

At the time of the Autumn newsletter I was reluctant to be too specific regarding what we might achieve this season. Now, though we haven't quite played everyone in our league yet, we are sitting comfortably in the top half of the table. Realistically the top two teams in the league look uncatchable but based on our performances so far I really believe we should be aiming for a top 3 or 4 finish at the end of the season. So that will be our league aim! Our best two performances to date have been against teams also in the top half of the table and we won both games convincingly playing some excellent football. Not unsurprisingly both of those performances were at Mallyn and there are some real signs of the lads getting used to playing on that fab surface.

In addition to a promising start in the league we have already beaten a side from Division 2 in one of the all division cup competitions and will aim to repeat this when we meet them again in another cup tie. Success in these competitions isn't our aim this season but certainly when the league cup begins we will be setting our sights on making real progress. On our day we can give everyone in our league a right good game.

A huge thanks to all the lads for their hard work, dedication and great play. To the parents, carers, sponsors, other coaches and all

2000's UPDATE (cont)

supporters a massive thank you! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! C'mon the Star!!"

2002's UPDATE

The Colts 2002 have had a difficult start to the season after combining 2 squads into 1. Once the squad was picked they have had a patchy season so far with their fair share of wins, draws and defeats. They have played some great football at times but consistency has been the biggest problem, playing very well against teams in higher leagues in the cup ties but very slow to start in league games. Going out the cup in the last minute with a wonder strike was a sore one to take as they were the best football team by far.

There is still plenty of work to do regarding having a good solid well behaved training session but we are getting there on and off the park and should have a good second half of the season.

In the 2002 Division 2 team some players have been moved around to play in different positions as they look for a good team shape. The players have adapted well. They have seen an improvement in players attitude and work rate during training. If they take this onto the pitch on Sundays then they can expect to finish in a respectable position in the league when the season ends. Welcome to new players Rory Ferguson & Konrad Cooper, who scored a hat-trick on his first full game, a game which was reported in the Edinburgh Evening News.

Everyone in the 2002's hope all players and their families at Currie Star have a good Christmas and all the best for 2016.



HERIOT WATT UPDATE (Connor Gammie)

"It has been a busy quarter for everyone at HWUFC, on and off the park. In terms of performance, on a Wednesday all 7 men's teams have been competing well in the University leagues but the stand out squad so far this season is the ladies, winning three quarters of all games and aiming for a strong league finish to push for promotion.

Our East of Scotland/ Lowland Under 20s are developing well, holding their own in a very tough league currently sitting on 8 points from 10 games. Coach Bejay Koya focuses on player improvement and getting the boys ready for senior football, and is happy with progress so far. Notably, the Under 20s narrowly lost 2-0 to Alloa Athletic in the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup (a first for the club) after a superb performance cheered on by a club record attendance.

The East of Scotland Senior team are also performing well under new manager Ian Little, currently sitting 5th in the East of Scotland league after 11 games with 18 points. Although only promoted to this league this season, the Watt are performing well and can be happy with the results so far.

Liam Walker, a graduate of the Currie Star youth set up is continuing to impress everyone here. Liam made the step from the 20s to the senior team at the beginning of the season, and regularly appears for both teams this year. We can only hope more Star players follow in Liam's footsteps.

Walking football is an up and coming part of the club. We are now running a session in Balerno on a Friday afternoon and one at Heriot Watt on a Wednesday afternoon.

It's fantastic to see such good numbers attending both and these will hopefully become a weekly feature on the agenda for community and staff alike.

The building progress of Oriam has also been a highlight with the future of the club in great health. Anyone who has been to the campus in recent weeks will have seen the amazing progress the new build is making, with everyone at the university eagerly anticipating its opening in Autumn 2016.

The facility will really open new doors for the club in terms of extra space for training and help us to continue to develop, and will be very much available for community use also.

Last but by no means, least the club's 70th Anniversary Dinner was a massive success and on behalf of all at HWUFC we'd like to thank everyone from Currie Star FC for attending.

A big thank you also to Chris Donnelly, our Alumni Officer, for organising such a great night, a fantastic evening of enjoyment was had by all."



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2001's UPDATE

The 2001 Colts have had a hard start to the season adjusting to playing in Division 2 and also with injuries to players which has stretched the squad at times. At the time of writing the boys have only won 2 league games but there are at least 6 games where they could have and probably should have picked up a win or a draw. The 2 games which they have won have been against teams sitting 2nd and 3rd in the league at the time of playing the games which shows the coaches that the boys have the ability to compete but just maybe need to work on the consistency from game to game. They welcomed a new player to the Colts - Jakub Odolczyk - who has hit the ground

running with 6 goals in the same number of appearance so far. Looking forward to the second half of the season.

The 2001 Star team meanwhile have made a fantastic start to the season and as we write they are sitting top of the table at the halfway stage. The boys have been playing some great passing football and are working well as a unit. Head Coach John Brock believes that the camaraderie shown in the squad is a tangible benefit of the summer trip to Sweden for the Gothia Cup where the boys got the chance to bond with each other off the pitch. The boys are fully aware that there is still a lot of hard work to do and that they mustn't become complacent.

Remember to follow us on Twitter @CurrieStarFC

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!!