



## The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



### Message from the Chairman

Hello Folks

Well, the season has now come to an end and I am delighted to report we have more silverware in

the burgeoning Kingsknowe trophy room!! Our 19's won the Hibs Supporters Cup and were unfortunate in another final. Our 15's won the 2nd Division League Cup and narrowly lost out on the league, finishing as runners up by just three points. And our 13's won the Polar Cup whilst again being pipped right at the end of the season for the league title. Well done to all the players.

All our younger boys should now have received their end of season trophies, which I hope they will enjoy. Again, we encourage these awards to be handed out at events organised by the parents / year group committees to make it special for the young boys. We have also handed out a number of 5 year awards to players from the 2001 - 2005 year groups, in addition to coaches and administrators. One award of special note is that being given to Donny Campbell from our 19's. Donny is now at the end of the pathway and moving through to Glasgow to attend University but will do so after receiving his TEN year award for loyalty shown to Currie Star. Many thanks Donny. We wish you all the very best in the future.

For the younger boys I am keen to encourage the coaches to provide memories for the boys that will ensure they look back on their time with Currie Star fondly. The 2006 boys participated in a football Festival in Barcelona during April and all the boys (and parents!) had a wonderful time. They also went down to visit

our English counterparts in Cramlington to play a few games then attended St James Park to watch Newcastle in the Premiership. Our 2005 boys had a trip down to Newcastle earlier in the season when they enjoyed a training session at the Newcastle Academy. I would wholeheartedly encourage ALL the younger teams to organise such trips as they provide great experiences for the boys.

Our partnership with Kingsknowe Golf Club was strengthened recently when all the players from our 2001s to 2006s attended taster events. Golf is a sport played by many footballers and we are keen to encourage players to try the sport to decide if they wish to pursue this further. Many thanks to Colin Pearson for organising.

I am sure many of you will have noticed the huge banks of soil which were deposited at Kingsknowe recently. We managed to source 200 tonnes of soil (many thanks to Andy McKinlay of our 2004's) which we estimated to be enough to make the playing surfaces more even. It became apparent we are going to need a lot more!! We are hoping the grass will have grown in the areas we have re-soiled by August. Phase 2 will be planned for next June....so all donations will be welcome!!

Well, that's all from me for now. Lots of football to watch on the TV to compensate for the leagues being completed. However, can I take this opportunity to thank all those boys who pull on the Currie Star shirts, week in and out and represent our Club so brilliantly. Sincere thanks boys!! The future's bright ... it's Blue and White!!

*John*

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## 2009s UPDATE

Head Coach Rob Marshal has summed up the season so far "Being the newest team of Currie Star FC, our time with the club so far has been fantastic. The club have been extremely welcoming with John Brock and Mike Scaife, in particular, always being on hand for advice and assistance when required.

The initial purchasing of kit was something we found tricky with having so many kids. Luckily with the support of sponsors from local businesses Cruden Homes and Porteous Funeral Directors, along with kind donations from Lindsay's Solicitors and Pentland Veterinary Clinic, we were able to purchase strips for the kids, who now definitely look the part and we're now up to around 30 kids.

It's great to see them all having so much fun on a Sunday morning for the 4 a side games and a on a Monday night at training where Play2Learn carry on the coaching for the next 2 years. Working with the likes of Dave Upton will be great for me and the other coaches to learn from. Opposition teams have been very complimentary of the kids approach to games and team shape etc, which are taken from the Play2Learn coaching.

We now approach the summer break and already we can see massive progress in most if not all of the kids. Not all football related either, we've definitely noticed a difference in some kids emotionally, maybe who were maybe shy to start off but seem to be coming out their shell.

The parents have also been fantastic, so thank you to them. I have no doubt the 2nd half of the 2016 season will be equally as successful as the 1st.

## 2008s UPDATE

"It seems like a long time ago now when we first rocked up at a muddy and wet Carrick Knowe Primary with nearly 30 little boys, fresh faced and so proud in their brand new slightly too big Currie Star kits", says Danny Flynn. "Well, 15 months later and we are definitely making progress. The boys are getting more confident, and enjoying their football. After we finished the first year of fun fours it was time for the winter tournament at Riccarton where we turned up to find the Hearts first team training.

We've just started the fives, and it has been great seeing the development of the kids, and how they are responding to the new challenges. But the biggest highlight of the year is without a doubt when we took part in the half time heroes during the Hearts V St Johnstone game. The boys had a wonderful day and it is an experience they will never forget (see below).



As we plan for the year ahead we are still looking for more parents to join in and help out, so we can keep offering all the boys a chance to play. So if want to get involved in any way please talk to one of the coaches. Best wishes and thanks for your continued support."



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## 2007s UPDATE

Bobby Smith, Head tells the Newsletter "Like all new football teams we started this year with a plan but by the time we were a goal down and restarting in the first minute of our first game in the league we were on to "plan B". This is a big learning curve for all of us. We have lost key personnel but picked up some new friends and now have almost 40 boys across 3 teams who love playing football with their mates. The development across the whole group has been pleasing to watch - the boys are young and are still getting grips with a number of challenges, but their love of the game is unquestionable.

A big thank you to Play2Learn for helping us navigate the coaching side - Cammy, Lewis and Jack have all been great to work with and have been giving guidance to all our coaches, about how to keep the learning fun and how to stretch the boy's abilities. We need more parents to become coaches. The club will cover the cost of training and you get some free Currie Star kit. This will help us deliver more focused training and let us work with the players in smaller groups for certain exercises. Finally we sent a team to a tournament in Dalkeith in May to win 4 and draw 1 - well done boys. The are pictured below!"

## 2000s UPDATE

Phil Hay says "I can't quite believe that's our first season over, it's been fantastic! The majority of the lads who started the season are still here and will be going forward into next season. We have already identified a couple of others to strengthen the squad and have room for a couple more. In the end we finished 3rd in the league and only fell at the semi-final hurdle of the League Cup. All in all a brilliant performance from a new team! Well done fellas!!!

The off field performance by the fund-raising A-Team has been truly impressive! We already have £2,500 in the bank for Gothia 2017 and our next fundraiser is already booked. We managed to acquire a £500 donation from the Currie and Balerno Roundtable which was a wonderfully generous boost. Below is Neil from the Roundtable handing us the cheque at our end of season fun-day, which included a lads v dads take on - great fun indeed!



Without a doubt the most pleasing and humbling aspect of the whole season has been how everyone has pulled together to make our first season so memorable and enjoyable. Thanks to everyone and bring on next season."



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## 2006s UPDATE

Mike Scaife tells us "It's been a busy few months for the 2006s. At Easter we took two squads out to Barcelona to play in the prestigious 'Football Cup Barcelona'. The trip got off to a rocky start when the flights to Spain were cancelled. After some frantic rearranging we were able to fly out of Newcastle and make it in time - hardly ideal preparation. The quality of the opposition was extremely high, with teams from as far away as Hong Kong, Australia and Japan present. Despite the tough games, Jamie Thomson finished the tournament as one of the top scorers, and the boys all enjoyed a great experience.

Later in the season we took almost the entire group down Northumberland to play a set of games against Cramlington. Football legend Peter Beardseely made a surprise appearance (below), which left some of the coaches acting like giddy schoolboys. Following the matches the boys watched Newcastle v Crystal Palace. A fun day out for all concerned.



It's been a great year. Starting with 'half-time heroes' at Tynecastle, the boys have played in tournaments across Scotland and even further afield. All the teams are doing well in their respective leagues and the boys are superb ambassadors for the club."

## 2003s UPDATE

Coach Dracup wishes to thank all the parents and players for their continued support during the season. "The boys developed into a good 11s team over the season playing 24 league games and in various cups, I am sure you all would agree it was a long season but the coaches thank you for your commitment. The team end their first 11s season finishing 2nd in League 4, losing only 2 league games against the league winners and winning the Polar Foods Cup Final against the league winners 5 - 1 (pictured below).



Coach Clapperton completed his Physical Preparation course and is currently working on his C license. There are five year awards going to Cammy Scaife, Rory McGeogh, Daniel Findlay, Oliver Findlay, Ruari Westwood and John Bailey. We finished with a BBQ after the last game of the season at Boroughmuir Rugby club to celebrate the season success and the boys had their awards presented by Chairman John Brock (below)."





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## 2004s UPDATE

Liz Shand says "The 2004's have now played their last game of 7 a side football and are looking forward to moving on to a much bigger pitch & bigger goals! In May we took part in a 'Transition festival' which was a great opportunity to play lots of 11 a side games and get a feel for playing 11 a side. A week later we were back playing 7's in Longniddry Villa Football Festival. The standard was very high & we came 2nd in most of our games, but the sun was shining and the players were all given a small trophy and an apple at the end of the day so that put a smile back on their faces!

Our end of season bash was held at 'The Old Bell' and 3 of our players - Tommy Thin, Patrick Milne & Ruari Shand (pictured) received their 5 year awards which is very special when you are only 11 - one of the boys commented that he had played for Currie Star for almost half his life!



We welcome new players Alex Backler & Danny Lavery - they are both enjoying making new Currie Star friends. In July we are playing in the Grassroots Tournament at Peffermill & then we will have 5 weeks off before we start preseason training ready to face the new challenges of 11 a side."

## 1998s UPDATE

Paul McGovern commented "We went into our first season at under 19's knowing that it would be real test for us, against teams that had already competed at under 19's, but what a season it was. We proudly sat at the top of the league from the first day of the season, and led the pack going into the final month of the season in May, only to be overtaken by teams who had games in hand, but still finished with a very creditable top 5 finish. Two cup finals were also achieved along the way - the League Cup and the Federation of Hibs Supporters Cup which we won after beating Spartans. To reach two cup finals and go on and win a trophy was fantastic and one which the players deserved for all their efforts and excellent football that they produced along the way. (see below)



On a final note, I would like thank all my players and staff for all their effort and hard work that they put in over the course of the season - we will not be re-registering the team for the coming season. It has been a fantastic journey along the way, going from the 3rd to the 1st division in 4 seasons, and to see them competing in the top division against the top teams speaks volumes for them all and also how they have all developed as players. I would like to wish them all the best for the future, be it football, higher education or working lives."

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## PLAY2 LEARN

Dave Upton from P2L reflects on the last couple of months.

"Saturday morning Aeroplane and Petite Football - The introductory sessions between Play2Learn and Currie Star are proving popular again with our youngest players. The 2010 players at 9.30 am Kingsknowe are there to develop both individual skills and introduce the 4,aside format through our innovative "aeroplane" match format. The players have flourished this year and have added skills and tricks to their game through our Play2Learn play of the day. This move is broken down into 5 steps like a dance move. It is a great way to practice the trick or turn at home and it has been great seeing the little legs and feet whirling around the ball trying the scissors and step overs in the matches

The second session has been divided into 2 groups due to demand and the size of the group. The older group, older ha ha, are 2011 birth years and the youngest group are 2012, and even 2013 birth years. These mini players enjoy the freedom and the excitement of playing activities where they all touch the ball as much as they can. The activities range from Star Wars where the players enjoy passing the balls like lasers to enjoying hitting the net with the Super heroes shooting game. All of these activities promote freedom, confidence and maximise involvement with the ball. The players from the youngest session on a Saturday finish their day with multi ball matches where teams play with 5 balls (5 alive).

Any parent or friend who knows of any children in that age bracket of 2010-2013 should contact Shane at: [shane@play2learn.info](mailto:shane@play2learn.info) for further information.



Dave continues "The Monday Evening foundation football programme between Currie Star and Play2Learn forms a great introduction to representing the club.

The respective age groups currently are 2009 play 6-7 and the 2008 play 7-8. These age groups have been training in blocks, where 3 weeks are focused on an area of the game like team possession or attacking quickly.

This linked learning approach is there to help the players focus and gives the parent coaches an understanding of coaching sessions on different parts of the game. The sessions culminate with 4 aside and 5aside matches, where the training theme can be tried and experimented with in the match situations.

The support from the parent coaches from both age groups has been excellent in these age groups. Some of the coaches are beginning to lead certain sessions. A great opportunity to coach and learn with these young enthusiastic players. The numbers on a Monday exceed 70 players, this represents the huge success at the foundation of the club."



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## 2001s UPDATE

Gary McDonald told us "The Colts first season in Division 2 has ended with 11th place out of 14 achieved in the league which when you consider the start the boys had to the season, losing their first 7 league games, is a creditable position. The coaches are amazed at the boys resilience with them refusing to throw the towel in and they kept going and eventually started getting the results they deserved. They took points from a number of the teams who were challenging for the top spot at times during the season and they have set the benchmark for how they need to start next season.

Congratulations also to Oli Coutts who gets his 5 year award - Oli you may recall suffered fractures to both arms this season and has bounced back remarkably. The Colts and coaches enjoyed an end of season treat at Footgolf at Swanston (below), followed by Nandos which everyone enjoyed. Well done to Blair McDonald for having the lowest score at the Footgolf."



Meanwhile Head Coach John Brock says "The CS 15's have enjoyed their best ever season since moving to 11 aside football. They were narrowly beaten for the 2nd Division League title by 3 points but managed to counter this

by beating the eventual League winners 3-1 in the League Cup Final. We also recently volunteered at two running events handing out water bottles, which will contribute to the cost of attending Gothia 2017. The boys will enjoy a good break this summer before starting back in late July. Well done boys! The boys are pictured below with the trophy."



## 2002s UPDATE

Dave McLellan updated "The both squads from the 2002 year group had a players night out bowling at Fountain Park on 15 June. The group happened to be bowling a couple of lanes down from Hearts players Juan Manuel Delgado & Miguel Pallardó. Both were kind enough to join our boys in a group photo (pictured below). The 2002 season ended with a lads v dads match on 19th June at Malleny Park. The player award presentation followed the big match."



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## 2002s UPDATE (cont)

Dave continues "The Division 2 team started the season with four straight loses but after that we settled into some decent form where we won or drew as many matches as we lost. We kept the decent form going until March this year when we started playing mid week matches - we went on a losing streak which saw us lose our last 13 matches. Was a shame to finish the season on such form as you tend to forget the positives earlier in the season when you finish on a low. Most of our losses were competitive games in which there was a fine line between winning and losing. The aim is cross the line next season and win these matches."

Ricky Borthwick of the Division 3 team adds "We had a decent start to the season until Easter when we lost our way. The last 2 to 3 games we were fantastic and played some lovely football. If we continue to play the way we finished the season we can definitely kick on for next season. Once we learn to keep our shape in a match and don't wander out of position we will compete better against the top teams. We will work hard and make sure that we continue playing the ball on the deck and play a good passing game like we have done recently."

## Heriot Watt UPDATE (Chris Sellar)

Since our last update the football season came to an end with our EoS senior team and LEAFA amateur team experiencing difficult seasons and finishing around mid-table in their respective leagues. Our under 20s team playing in a very tough league in the Lowland & East of Scotland Development League had a very up and down season. They ended on a significant high, post Easter, having beaten a number of teams placed near the top of the league. We have

## Heriot Watt UPDATE (cont)

high hopes for those graduating out of this team into our Senior team, likewise with those that find themselves graduating up to the 20s from Currie Star 19s team, who have themselves had a fantastic season that has made everyone so very proud. Our attention turns quickly to pre-season with our players in the midst of an off-season gym programme before arrival back for duty on 27th June and the competitive season starting on 30th July 2016. We have three pre-season fixtures confirmed, including what will be a great game against Whitehill Welfare on 16th July at home (2.30pm KO) - all fans welcome! Have a great summer from all of us at the senior section of this wonderful partnership club and well done for all the hard work on and off the field during the season past. The future is bright, it is yellow, blue and white"

## 2005s UPDATE

Richard Lewis tells us "The 2005s have had a busy season with over 40 boys making up four teams - the progress of most of the boys was apparent. We have attended tournaments at St Andrews, Tranent and Longniddry and the boys acquitted themselves well. The coaches saw clear improvement in the boys' skills and abilities and after the winter Futsal break and the decision was taken to move to two Maradona and two Zidane teams. The boys did not struggle at the higher level and played some lovely football throughout the season. Fostering team spirit among all the 40 boys in the squad is important and it is likely that the squads will be rotated again next season.

The group held their end of season party at Swanston Golf Club, culminating in a round of Footgolf, which the boys thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks to Ken Stewart for organising.



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## 2005s UPDATE (cont)

Next season will be important as the boys look to progress to the full 11-a-side game in the summer of next year. The Summer of 2017 will also see us attending the Gothia World Youth Cup in Sweden. Fundraising has begun, with a Quiz Night arranged for the end of June and further exciting events planned over the next 12 months.

A big thank you to all the boys for their hard work and attendance throughout the year, and to all parents for ensuring regular attendance. The new season kicks off again in August with a return to St Andrews for Fife's premier footballing festival. Finally, we are delighted to announce a special date for your diaries - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 where Sky Sports' David Tanner will interview the

## 2005s UPDATE (cont)

Current Northern Ireland Manager and BBC Sports Personality Coach of the Year 2015 Michael O'Neill. This event will be in aid of the 2005s fundraising for the Gothia World Cup 2017 trip. Ticket details will be announced at a later date so keep an eye out."

## PLAY2LEARN SUMMER CAMP INFO

Any Currie Star players who wish to enjoy football in the summer come and join in at Play2Learn. They have 6 weeks running throughout the summer. All blue and white players receive 10% discount. More details are available - please contact Shane on mobile at 07825 086108 or email [shane@play2learn.info](mailto:shane@play2learn.info)

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](mailto:david.muego@sky.com). Remember, it is your Newsletter!!