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The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



Message from the Chairman

"Hello Folks

I hope this final Newsletter of the year finds you all well and looking forward to a much deserved festive break. Well, we are nearing the end of 2016

and it is time to reflect on what we have achieved as a Club and where we want to be in future. Our newest age group, the 2009 boys, started their football in March of this year and have gone from strength to strength under the watchful eye of Rob Marshall and his fellow coaches. They now have 45 players and a waiting list. Having such strong foundations is crucial for any Club as they are the future of the Club. Our 2010 year group will be starting in the New Year.

look forward to more silverware in future! 2017 will see a number of our teams heading off for the Gothia Cup. This will be the THIRD time Currie Star have participated in this tournament and I am sure all those involved will thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Finally, this is my opportunity to thank those who have contributed to Currie Star over the last 12 months. Our Committee members of Mike Scaife, Ken Stewart and Julien Reynolds sit quietly behind the scenes but I cannot thank them enough for the time, effort and energy the three of them put into Currie Star. Gentlemen, I salute you. Gary McDonald arranges all the pitches for the 11 asides every weekend in addition to being a great sounding board for me. GP, many thanks. David Muego will be standing down as Editor of this very Newsletter at the end of this season after 5 great years. David has been with me since I took over as Chair and I would like to say a personal sincere thanks to David for everything he has done for Currie Star. It is appreciated David. David McLellan continues to coach two year groups in addition to doing all the weekly fixtures for our 7 asides. David has been with Currie Star for many years and still continues to contribute heavily to the Club. Thank you David.

Our partnerships with Play2Learn, Heriot Watt and Kingsknowe Golf Club have been strengthened over the last 12 months and we continue to enjoy working with them. This is down to the people I work with namely Shaneo and Dave (Play2Learn), Chris Sellars (Heriot Watt) and Colin Pearson (Kingsknowe Golf Club). Gents, many thanks.

Can I wish all the players, coaches and parents of Currie Star FC a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2017.

John

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BURNS SUPPER 2017

CURRIE STAR FC invites you to join us for our annual Burns Supper.

Date: Friday 27th January 2017

Time: 7pm Drinks reception followed at 8pm by Dinner (includes wine) and entertainment until 12pm

Venue: Kingsknowe Golf Club, 326 Lanark Road, Edinburgh, EH14 2JD

Tickets: £25 per person.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by Friday 20th January 2017. To book tickets please visit::

<https://event.bookitbee.com/10241/currie-star-annual-burns-supper-event>



2002s UPDATE

“Welcome to Michael McCraw, Jamie Phayre, Niall Dance. We've had a mixed season so far, we've played well enough in most matches but haven't got the results. We've had to contend with injuries to various players means chopping and changing the team each week. However we recently had a great performance and win which will give all the players confidence and if we can repeat that on a weekly basis then we will do well. We hope all players and families have a great Christmas and thanks for all their efforts and support during 2016,”
Dave McLellan, Head Coach.

2000s UPDATE

Phil Hay, Head Coach summarises the season to date, “Amazing to think we are almost half way through the season. Things have settled down with the 2000 squad with 20 players doing well for the team. We are comfortably mid table in a very competitive league and starting to show real signs of improvement for the rest of the season ahead. There is quite a step change in moving to the full 90 minute Under 17 Saturday games and it takes a wee while to make that adjustment. Fund raising for the squad has been cracking on apace with a fab

disco and a very enjoyable and successful bag pack at Sainsbury's Straiton. The lads thoroughly enjoyed it and I must thank the people at Sainsbury's who were really friendly and helpful. As well as the customers who supported the guys by a total of almost £1,000 - incredible!

Thanks as usual to the fund raising committee of Donna, Claire, Kirstie and Jayne, to my fellow coach Gary Stoddart, our excellent first aider Graeme Hunter, all our parents and last but not least the lads! C'mon the Star!

The boys went bowling for Christmas and are pictured below.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!”



2005s UPDATE

Alex Fowler from the 2005s provides this editions update, "2016 has seen the Currie Star 2005s continue to flourish. With close to 40 boys we have been able to field four teams two playing at Maradona level and two at Zidane indeed several of the boys currently in the Zidane team should be playing at Maradona such has been there improvement. At times we have been a bit threadbare so it has proved challenging to remain competitive across all the teams but by and large we have shown up very well in the matches. It's fair to say the brand of football served up by 2005 is easy on the eye with the emphasis being pass and movement.

There is a fantastic spirit within the group and the boys all get along terrifically well, possibly a little too well sometimes as training sessions can sometimes become a little bit fractured due to (shall we be polite here) over exuberance. Talking of training the 2005 lead coach Richard Lewis deserves massive credit for shaping the style of play we now enjoy through his thoughtful and inventive training drills, can't be long till there's a laptop involved I'm guessing.

Along with Richard there is of course a whole host of coaches who assist along the way be it helping deliver training, managing match days or simply all the admin which just seems to magically just happen. I will not list everyone for fear of missing someone out but like the boys all the coaches get along very well which has helped when we've needed to discuss the odd tricky issue here or there.

After the success of last year's trip to Newcastle we once again made our way to a Premiership match and took in the Sunderland v Arsenal match complete with training drills with Sunderland's own youth coaches. I'd suggest David Moyes should be sending the Sunderland team up to Maleny Park to sample one of Richard's sessions before it's too late.

2017 will be a huge year as the boys will make the transition from 7s to 11s and we reduce the number of teams from 4 to 2. There will no doubt be more news on that front to follow. For some of the boys and coaches there is the prospect of the Gothia Cup in Sweden in July to look forward to. Fundraising is well underway and is being expertly managed by the Gothia Committee.

On behalf of all the coaches have a fabulous and safe Christmas and New Year."



2007s UPDATE

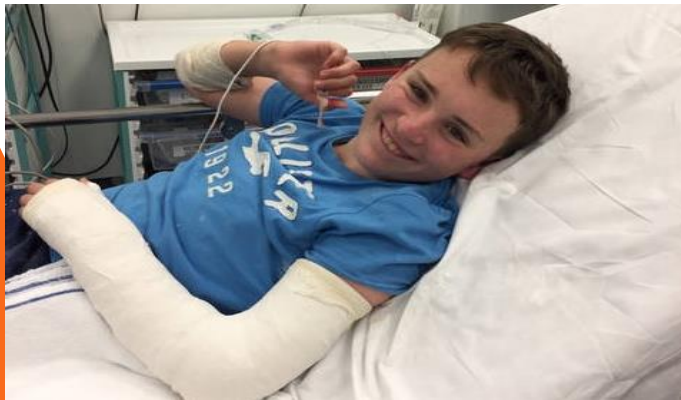
Carla Pagliarulo from the 2007s updates us on what the 2007s have been up to, "The 2007s enjoyed an amazing first trip away to Sunderland watching the Sunderland v Arsenal Premier League game where they saw 5 goals between the teams – the game ended 4-1 to Arsenal. On our way home we visited the Newcastle stadium where we had a tour and the staff were amazing and very knowledgeable.

We used "The Premiership Experience" and couldn't fault the whole day, the kids all had an amazing time and continue to ask when the next one is! To finish off the year the kids are having a nerf gun party as their Christmas treat. After the year we are taking part in the Winter Football at the Corn Exchange and holding a race night in march to try and subsidise another Premiership game."



2003s UPDATE

"Coaches Scott and Ian are delighted to say since the last newsletter the U14s now have squad stability with 18 signed players and enjoying coaching the new squad. U14s have played 17 games this season including cups and won 4 out of last 5 league games with 15 league games to play. Unfortunately in the same breath Josh I'Anson 4 years with the club broke his arm at training and will return in the New Year after a 10 week absence.



Fundraising is high up on the agenda with the squad going to Sweden 2017 trip to Gothia, the weekly drinks team are pulling out all the stops to provide local baking and hot drinks at games which is fantastic. There was a recent local Ice Hockey trip to see Edinburgh Capitals where 39 family and friends enjoyed the evening raising £162.10. This will be an annual event offered to the Club by Scott Neil at the Capitals and I am sure more families will also enjoy this great opportunity as u14s will be going back next year." Coach Dracup.



PLAY2LEARN

"Leading up to Christmas changes are happening in the foundation age groups in the club. 2008s have excelled in their transition from 5 aside to 7 aside. The players have completed a 2 month programme of various aspects of the 7 aside game, both in possession and out of possession. Following the festive break the parent coaches will be mentored by the P2L coaches. The parents will lead the weekly sessions with an aim to improve confidence and coaching when they are moving on to lead their age group in March. Exciting times!

2009s, are growing in size and strength. The age group is an extremely talented age group. The players are full of focus and fun in each weekly Monday session. This age group has a large volunteer coaching team that creates a very supportive environment for both playing and coaching. The 2009 age group have been playing the fun 4s on a Sunday. In the future the players and coaches will be changing to 5 aside. P2L will continue to lead sessions on aspects of the new format, and will begin to introduce the mentoring system for the 2009 coaches.

Saturday morning football sessions have moved indoors for the winter. We are located at Edinburgh College(Napier, Sighthill complex). The sessions are for the following age groups: 9.10 am – 2010, 10.00 am – 2011 & 10.50 am - 2012/13. The Saturday morning programme is providing 25+ players each season into the club. This year will be no different, there is a fantastic group of 25 players ready to represent the mighty Currie Star. This 2010 age group will progress from the Saturday morning sessions to the Monday night collaborative training with Play2Learn and Currie Star. A very Merry Christmas to all from Play2Learn and don't forget to sign up with your 10% discount for festive footy camps! Dates are: December 28th, 28th, 30th and January 4th, 5th and 6th at The World of Football." Dave Upton

Contact : shane@play2learn.info

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2004s UPDATE

Liz Shand, squad administrator has updated us on what the 2004s have been up to so far this season. "The 2004 Colts have steadily improved in their first season of 11-a-side football and are really coming together as a cohesive team. Their hard work at training is paying off and they have put in some excellent performances in recent matches. None more so than in recent cup fixtures against higher league opposition. After running Gullane FC close in two separate cup competitions, the Colts had a great match in the Polar Foods Cup against Lochend YFC Colts winning 5-3 after a dominant extra time performance. Well done boys –keep up the great work! We welcome a new player, Euan Westwater, to the squad who will undoubtedly help improve the team still further.



Our other team - Currie Star 2004 boys have had a mixed start to 11 asides, but good attendance at the twice weekly training sessions is improving fitness, skills and performances on the pitch. We have further strengthened our squad with Tom Mulvagh joining us from North Merchiston. The highlights were an 8 – 5 league win over Musselburgh Young Stars and despite narrowly losing a Polar Foods cup tie to Edinburgh South, the boys experienced the rollercoaster of exciting extra time and penalties.....every day's a school day!"

2009s UPDATE

Rob Marshall, Head Coach tells us "The 2009's finish 2016 having just completed their 1st full season. For just starting off at Fun 4's, it is safe to say it has been a massive success. The difference in the boys since we began in March has been remarkable. We started with 24 boys and have now ended 2016 with 45. This speaks volumes for how much the boys are enjoying their football, telling their friends and that the club appears to growing its continuing great reputation.

Managing so many players certainly has its challenges however seeing the boys having smiles on their faces and hearing so much positive feedback from the parents, makes you realise it's all worthwhile. We move onto Super 5's in Mar 2017 and the boys got a little taster in Dec, with some friendly game vs. Bonnyrigg Rose Academy. Thanks to Play2Learn for providing top drawer coaching.

Many thanks again for the last few months to our sponsors - Cruden Homes, Porteous Funeral Directors, MH Autos and PBS Security. Lastly, but not least, thanks to all the parents and CS 2009 boys for their dedication. Getting to training and games in all sorts of weather – it's been great to be involved in!!!"

KINGSKNOWE GOLF CLUB UPDATE

Everyone at KGC would like to wish the players, coaches, and officials at Currie Star FC a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As January approaches, we have now opened our membership for 2017 and all prices and application forms are on www.kingsknowe.com. Anyone connected with Currie Star FC will obtain a 10% discount off these prices if they join in January or February, and there will be a further 10% discount if three or more in the same category or in the same family join at the same time. Anyone wishing a complimentary round to "play before they pay", should contact clubmanager@kingsknowe.com.

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2006s UPDATE

"Since the last newsletter we've had a number of new players join the club", writes Chris Lewis. "These are Euan Reid, Euan Riach, JJ Burns and Ewan Dunlop. Welcome to the club and we hope you enjoy your time with us. The 2006s started had a day trip to Sunderland. After the bus trip South, we had three teams playing against local team Heaton Hawks. The Hawks provided a warm welcome, complete with food for the kids and games played in a great spirit. After the matches we went to the Stadium of Light to watch Sunderland play Crystal Palace. I think it's fair to say that the game won't go down as a classic, but everyone enjoyed the day.



In amongst the usual run of Sunday games, we had a team play a couple of tough games against Hearts youth team. As you might expect, this proved to be a very stern test, but our boys acquitted themselves well and it will prove to be a useful learning experience. A number of boys have also had the opportunity to play at the new Oriam centre against teams from Edinburgh City.

As the matches came to a close for this portion of the season, we held our Christmas Party at Tenpin in Fountain Park.

Finally, advance notice that the 2006s are in charge of organising next year's Burns Supper, which will be held on 27th January. More details on page 2 of the Newsletter. We'll be looking for parents and children to get involved."

HERIOT WATT UPDATE

HWUFC have continued their fine vein of form since the start of the season with the EOSFL side sitting in 2nd in the league behind the defending champions Leith Athletic. The Under 20's side have exceeded expectation and currently sit top of their league, with all of the former Currie Star Under 19's still heavily featuring in the team! The success from the weekend teams is also influencing the university BUCS league teams! On several occasions five or six out of the seven teams came away with positive results! Hopefully this good form continues into the new year and we might even have a few BUCS teams pushing for promotion!

Over the semester the club has been involved in a couple of fundraisers. They had a spin off from the TV show 'Lip Sync Battle' with a band of 5 footballers winning with their take on Westlife's "When You're Looking Like That". Also, the club have their 'Last Man Standing' competition running now.

Since the last update, four of the current Currie Star under 16's squad came to train with the HWUFC Under 20's squad! The boys acquitted themselves brilliantly and did very well in session receiving high praise from head coach Bejay Koya (below is a photo of the boys with the HWUFC 20's and 1st team).



From all at HWUFC a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead!



2001s UPDATE

David Muego writes "The 2001s Colts have had a good start to the season and have greatly improved upon last season at this stage. Currently they are sitting mid table and have some games in hand against teams around them.

They reached the quarter final of the South East Region Cup and only lost out to Hutchie Vale 1st Division team. New signings Thomas Sweeney and Joseph Burns have settled into the squad well and there is strong competition for starting places.

The boys are attending the Trofeo Adriatico in Rimini, Italy at Easter and will be the first Scottish team to attend in 20 years of the competition. The fundraising continues and we received a very generous donation of £250 from the C&B News and we are very grateful for that. We also had a collection at the Westside Plaza where the boys rode a static exercise bike in shifts from 9am to 5pm and the parents baked goodies which the boys sold – we raised just short of £600 which was fantastic – and thanks to everyone who supported this.



Thanks also go to Exercise4Less Edinburgh West who kindly allowed us to borrow a bike for the day. Some of the boys are pictured below.

Merry Christmas to all the boys and parents from Gary and David"

John Brock updates us on the Currie Star 2001's "The boys have started the season well and are sitting well placed in the league. They defeated first division opposition in the cup and have two quarter finals to look forward to. However, we know from our experiences last season that league titles and cups are not won at this time of year. We need to remain committed and focussed if we are to achieve success and that comes from hard work on the training ground. Well done boys. John, Rory and Chris"

CURRIE STAR AND THE SCOTTISH CUP

Currie Star FC was delighted to host the Scottish Cup on its travel around the Edinburgh and Lothians recently. John Brock arranged to have the Cup brought to Kingsknowe Golf Club where the boys from all age groups had the chance to come along and hold it and have their pictures taken with it. Some of the boys are pictured below.



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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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HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

SPORTS UNION FOOTBALL

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!!