



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 95

DECEMBER 2018

Hello CUSA members and welcome to the Christmas edition of the newsletter.

From the CUSA committee to all our members -

*We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year*

and so we hope it will be for our football team.

It would be great to wipe the smile off Mr Guthrie's face with an emphatic win over Stevenage on Boxing Day and a top seven finish culminating with a win at Wembley or better still automatic promotion.

We have the squad to do it, but there is a need for more consistency and the ability to be able to cope with injuries and suspensions. Home form has been very good with the blip against Northampton and the unlucky defeat to Bury being the only setbacks. We would have beaten Exeter but for their keeper, great strike from Sammie. The thumping of Crewe and the excellent win over Lincoln are my highlights so far.

However, we still need to do better on the road. I am writing this following our excellent win at Forest Green which came after 3 defeats in a week and 5 losses from the previous 6. Not too disappointed at being out of the cups this year and I thought we did ok at Accrington, losing to a deflected goal. The Forest Green win was needed and we looked very good defensively. With Luke Norris missing for a while it was good to see others helping Sammie by scoring a few goals, particularly Mikael Mandron.

Cambridge in the Checktrade. After dodging the bicycles where the riders seemed to have forgotten how to use a bell, in our walk across the common, we arrived at the stadium resembling the *Marie Celeste*. Eventually I spotted a figure skulking around in a day-glo jacket who then let us in. Less than 600 there for a winner takes all game. This is the EFL's idea of giving the competition a boost! I think Sean Harvey (EFL CEO), who has allowed the Premiership and Championship to hi-jack the competition by offering inducements, should attend some of these group games and see what is really happening.

Have a great Christmas

Mike Heaps
CUSA Secretary

Away Travel

The sudden demise of Talisman Coaches in June led to much work for Jon, Malcolm Cole and Graham Sargeant, who very quickly got us a deal with Roman Coaches as our new travel partner.

At our recent committee meeting we reviewed the situation and agreed that the relationship with Roman was working very well. Financially the deal is clearly beneficial. The CUSA income so far this season is not insignificant and the debate is ongoing as to how we best use this for the benefit of our members.

The CUSA has announced an incentive for the trips to **MK Dons** and **Crawley** where Junior CUSA Members can travel at half price. During the season so far, Roman Coaches have generously also agreed lower prices with ourselves on several occasions. This time the CUSA is happy to cover the cost and really try to help and encourage the younger fans over the festive period. The same rules apply in that Under 16's must travel with a parent/guardian, and for all of our safeguarding information and travel info, please have a look at www.cusa.co.uk

7 CUSA members have already with us for 12 games this season and as such will now benefit from a £2 reduction on all future coach trips this season - unless they reach 18 away games with us, when we will increase that to £4. Thank you to Trevor Bailey, Jim McLean, Alan Partner, Malcolm Cole, Dave Adams, Jack Bishop and Paul Wright

FSF (Football Supporters Federation)

We are affiliate members of the FSF and Mike Heaps and Malcolm Cole attended a meeting for EFL clubs, in London, on 29 October. The main points to emerge were:-

After months of debate the FSF have merged with SD (Supporters Direct) for both organisational and financial reasons. The new organisation has national councils for Premiership, Championship, Leagues 1 and 2 and non league. An inaugural meeting took place on 22 November. We were given 3 votes for the candidates for the national council leagues 1 and 2. There were 7 nominees, all of whom had very impressive CV's with considerable experience in the field of football support.

Now that the merger is ratified we will need to re-sign as affiliate members and there may be a nominal fee. We "tick all the boxes" but are required to have a Diversity policy, a template for which has been requested to be adapted for CUSA.

Safe Standing is now called Stand Up for Choice, a more appropriate title. The move towards standing is progressing in the right direction through parliament. There is no evidence that standing in seated areas is unsafe and 21 EFL clubs currently have terracing. The EFL will issue guidance, in due course, but how this operates is likely to be down to local safety officers.

iFollow is available for all EFL clubs. The FSF support the 3 pm blackout, and they are unhappy that this was lifted for international break weekends and will be making representations to get this rescinded. Transmission quality varies, hence the view amongst some clubs that it could be poor. However Matt Hudson tells us that "We have overwhelmingly had positive feedback on the quality of footage of the games that we've shown, particularly those that have qualified for UK broadcast. We think that iFollow has an opportunity to retain interest from fans who might not be able to make every game, both local and further afield"

We have emailed the FSF, detailing the situation regarding the lack of meetings between CUSA and the football club. A report is being compiled on supporter engagement.

The EFL do survey their clubs but it is dubious how effective this is.

A review of stewarding is being carried out, the main issue is considered to be with training.

More information can be found on the FSF website www.fsf.co.uk

Special Offer

With **Christmas** just around the corner, what better way to bring some joy to a U's supporting relative or friend. We have a special offer on a badge and current season year bar for a bargain price of £5.00.

These can be purchased from us in the Supporters Bar at any home game or posted to you at an extra £1.25 in a protective envelope.

Any enquiries please email badges@cusa.co.uk

A Look Back at Festive Football

As we approach the festive seasons we will all be looking forward to a feast of football over the holiday period, weather of course permitting. Christmas Day, however, is a football-free zone these days when players and fans alike can spend time relaxing with their families and friends.

This wasn't always the case, though – up until the 1950s, football was traditionally played on Christmas Day. This made a lot of sense, particularly in the early years. Christmas Day was a rare public holiday, and football was one of the few entertainments available to all. There would be a full programme of fixtures on Christmas Day and, usually, another full programme on Boxing Day.

The last time the majority of League clubs played matches on Christmas Day was in 1957 when 38 League matches were played. After that the number of matches played declined dramatically largely due to a lack of public transport, with most operators themselves having the day off to be at home on Christmas Day. By 1959 just two League matches were played on December 25th - Blackburn 1 Blackpool 0 in Division 1 and Coventry 5 Wrexham 3 in Division 3. The next - and last - match played on Christmas Day took place at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool, on December 25th 1965.

The home side defeated Blackburn Rovers 4-2 in a First Division match in front of 20,851 spectators.

Colchester United followed the tradition of playing back to back games on Christmas Day and Boxing Day like other league clubs into the late 50's. Usually these games would be local derbies but for us geography often got in the way and Christmas Day games at Nottingham Forest and Aldershot could hardly be called local.

The only Christmas Day respite during that time was in 1952 when the back to back games with Norwich were due to be played on Boxing Day and the 27th. The Boxing Day fixture at Carrow Road was fulfilled but the return at Layer Road on the 27th was postponed due to thick fog after many thousands had turned up in expectation of seeing a much anticipated fixture. Two further Christmas Days were football free when the 25th fell on a Sunday in 1949 and 1955. Even given the tradition of football on Christmas Day, Sunday was still religiously kept as a day of rest. Indeed it was not until Jan 20th 1974 when Fulham visited the Old Den to face Millwall, that Sunday football first gained a foothold.

Departures to the format apart from shifting the fixtures by one day with the Sunday influence came in 1945 and 1948 in our pre-league days. The Christmas Eve match at Southend in 1955 is still our only football league fixture to take place on the 24th. The proper back to back matches that year were against Ipswich though and not Southend

1956 saw the last true Christmas Day, Boxing Day fixtures, this time against Norwich City. 1957 saw a complete departure from the tradition, whilst 1958 saw the reinstatement of the back to back games but moving to the 26th and 27th. In 1959 the Boxing Day game at QPR saw the return at Layer Road on the 28th. 1960 saw games against Newport County straddle Christmas on the 22nd and 26th and the following year the long haul to Bradford City on Boxing Day with the return at Layer Road on the 30th. This game was also noteworthy as still being our record league score of 9-1, with 4 goals apiece for Martyn King and Bobby Hunt. A curious score line considering we had gone down to the Bantams 4-1 just a few days earlier.

Below is a list of our fixtures when Christmas Day formed part of the fixture list, it is followed with a look at some of the programmes from some of the games involved.

Keith Blaxall, CUSA Committee Member

	Dec 24th	H/A	Score	Dec 25th	H/A	Score	Dec 26th	H/A	Score	Dec 27 th	H/A	Score
1939				Norwich City Res	A	2-1	Norwich City Res	H	3-4			
1945				Colchester Junior League XI	H	7-2	Short Sports	H	8-2			
1946				Gillingham	H	0-1	Gillingham	A	2-4			
1947				Gillingham	H	3-0	Gillingham	A	2-2	Cheltenham	A	2-5
1948				Gloucester City	H	1-1	Sunday			Hastings United	H	5-1
1949	Bedford Town	A	4-2	Sunday			Bedford Town	H	1-0	Hastings United	A	5-0
1950				Nottingham Forest	A	0-0	Nottingham Forest	H	0-2			
1951				Gillingham	A	2-1	Gillingham	H	1-0			
1952							Norwich City	A	0-3	Norwich City	H	P
1953				QPR	H	5-0	QPR	A	0-0			
1954				Aldershot	A	2-2	Sunday			Aldershot	H	1-1
1955	Southend United	A	0-4	Sunday			Ipswich Town	H	3-3	Ipswich Town	A	1-3
1956				Norwich City	H	1-1	Norwich City	A	2-1			

Programmes from some of the Christmas Fixtures in the 40's and 50's



FSF

Copy of an email we have recently sent to the **FSF (Football Supporters Federation)** who are kindly taking it forward on our behalf...

"At our recent committee meeting, the point was raised that at the previous 4 away stadiums when we had scored (Tranmere, Oldham, Stevenage and Morecambe), no announcement of the goal scorer was made.

This is something we do for visiting supporters at our home games and failure to do so is regarded as disrespectful to our travelling support.

I don't know how the FSF view this but would appreciate it if the matter could be raised with the EFL to take up with their clubs. In the scheme of things, it may seem a small point, but one that clearly irks supporters and can be easily rectified.

We played at Accrington recently, in the FA Cup and everybody was subjected to a stringent body search by the stewards, the kind that takes place at airports. The view of our supporters being that this was way over the top and unnecessary given there were only around 130 of us. I know that Amanda Jacks is interested in any examples of stewarding behaviour that is seen as excessive and she may well have received other reports about stewarding at Accrington. Can you please forward this email to her. As a plus point for Accrington, it was good to sit in the new stand with plenty of leg room"

The CUSA welcomes any input from our members and indeed any Colchester United fan about their matchday experiences, and we will look to take up with the right people on your behalf. Please contact us at enquiries@cusa.co.uk

Richard Whiting

The CUSA was saddened to hear of the death of Richard Whiting, for many years a good and loyal U's fan and CUSA member. We had some good fun and banter on the coaches with Richard. Always a character and he dearly loved his football. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and best wishes go out to his family at this difficult time

New fans' organisation confirmed - Merger of Football Supporters' Federation and Supporters Direct voted through

Supporter representatives from across the country recently met in central London to finalise the merger of the Football Supporters' Federation and Supporters Direct into one unified organisation at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The new organisation's structure features a National Council which embeds within it fan representatives from clubs at Premier League, Championship, League One and League Two, and National Game (non-league) level. FSF chair Malcolm Clarke was elected as the chair of the newly-merged organisation which he said can give fans an even more effective voice in how the game is run

Programmes

We have recently added to our stock of Colchester home and away programmes thanks to donations from members. We have items back to 1960 and a couple from the late 50's, plus a number of other teams programmes dating back to the 60's not involving Colchester. Some of these are on display at home games in the Supporters Bar. If you have any enquiries regards programmes, please come and talk to us, or email programmes@cusa.co.uk as we may be able to help fill those gaps in your collection!

CUSA Coach Travel Details

Thanks for your support this season, and thanks to Roman Coaches and their drivers for looking after us as we travel up and down the country. For all of the up to date coach times and prices please visit our website

Saturday 22 December – Mk Dons
Coach Departs The Jobserve Community Stadium At 11.00am
Adult Members £18
Concession Members £16
Junior Members £8

New Years Day – Crawley Town
Coach Departs The Jobserve Community Stadium At 11.00am
Adult Members £17
Concession Members £15
Junior Members £7

Saturday 12 January - Port Vale
Coach Departs The Jobserve Community Stadium At 9.00am
Adult Members £27
Concession Members £25

Saturday 26 January - Crewe
Coach Departs The Jobserve Community Stadium At 9.00am
Adult Members £27
Concession Members £25

The following is a reminder for the regular travellers with us and to inform all our new members who we welcome on board for the first time.

As CUSA members you have committed to abide by not only our rules but also those of Colchester United

Please remain in your seat while the vehicle is in motion unless you need to visit the toilet. Where seat belts are fitted, it is a legal requirement to wear one.

For the comfort and wellbeing of your fellow passengers, please moderate your language and behavior, this has never been a problem in the past and long may it continue.

Rubbish bags will be provided and collections made at various times during the outward and return journeys.

When journeys exceed 2hrs or more, the coach will stop at least once on each leg, you will be advised of the length of stay at the chosen service station on arrival.

Hot food must not be brought onto the coach without permission of the driver.

If you do not intend to continue a journey or make your way home after a game by other means, please inform a CUSA steward.

No alcohol may be taken on board a coach heading to a sporting event. The police are empowered to search a coach and stop it from continuing its journey should alcohol be found. To be specific, Section 27 from the Violent Crime Reduction Act of 2006 gives police power to serve banning orders on the spot, to whole groups of supporters, whether an offence has been committed or not. It allows police to move someone from a specified area for up to 48 hours. No offence needs to have been committed for the act to be enforced: the legislation gives police the power to move on people who they say pose a risk of alcohol-related disorder. If you return to the coach after the game in a highly intoxicated condition, the driver has the power to refuse to take you on the return journey if he feels you pose a nuisance to the other passengers.

While attending an away game, if you think the club you are visiting is doing something that is not best practice, we are able to help guide you through the complaints procedure. Should the matter not be resolved satisfactorily, CUSA are members of the Football Supporters Federation who have a case worker with a very high ratio of resolving matters and can put you in touch.

On away days we will be taking advance bookings for away games in the near future. We will also be asking you to vote for your top three players for the Away Player of the Season award, for which the votes are added up during the season and the trophy presented at the End of Season Dinner.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a Committee Member.

Thank you

Florence Park

As part of the kit sponsorship of John McGreal, we receive two invites to watch the team train at Florence Park.

Last season, CUSA member Alan Partner and myself were the lucky two who were invited to join other player kit sponsors for a tour, meet the players and enjoy a spot of lunch.

We were shown around the training facilities by Tony Ashby, Head of Football Operations. I was unsure what to expect prior to the visit but I was very impressed with the whole set up right from the junior through to the senior ranks. The Academy is particularly exciting and with players now starting to come through into the first team I can understand why the club place so much emphasis on this route into the game.

I agree bringing experienced players into the club is very important but getting the right blend of committed players into the squad will bring the success that the club and supporters want to enjoy at Colchester.

The club is outgrowing the facilities at Florence Park and the Chairman has already admitted that he is looking for a new site to take the club, forward.

Following the tour, our photograph was taken with John McGreal who was then very happy to spend some time with us answering our questions and talking about the club. Afterwards, we spoke to some of the first team players that remained behind to talk to other sponsors.

It was a very enjoyable morning and we both left Florence Park with the feeling that the club is going in the right direction and that it will not be long before the success that we are all craving for will arrive.

Malcolm Bailey, CUSA Committee Member

COLCHESTER UNITED F C FORMER PLAYERS DINNER

SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2019 – Jobserve Community Stadium

John Schultz and the U's Former Players Association has just announced their next dinner

Former Players already confirmed, in no particular order;
Karl Duguid, Kem Izzet, Tony Adcock, Carl Emberson, Rudy Hedman, Alec Chamberlain,
Ian Philips, Simon Burman, Jeff Hull, Bobby Hunt, Steve Dowman and Barry Smith

CUSA will be supporting the event and will be hosting a table or two for this most brilliant of evenings. If you would like to join us, please get in touch. Supporters Tickets only £40.00



CUSA CONTACT POINTS

www.cusa.co.uk

Mike Heaps, Secretary, 18 Blackwater Avenue, Colchester CO4 3UY

Email : enquiries@cusa.co.uk

CUSA Away Travel : phone (7-9pm and please leave messages) or text
Jon 07752 531600 and Jackie 07873 294146

Email : away_travel@cusa.co.uk

CUSA Membership : Malcolm 07901 612063 or membership@cusa.co.uk

Twitter - [@CUSAsupporters](https://twitter.com/CUSAsupporters)

Facebook : Colchester United Supporters Association