



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 87

SEPTEMBER 2015

THE WINNING FEELING IS PRICELESS

Fair to say that the opening month or so for the U's has been one of the toughest I can recall. Long term injuries to key players have not helped in the slightest, and at various points it was hard to see where the first win was going to come from. Therefore it is so great to have the back to back wins against Sheffield United and Gillingham this month to help get our season started. The U's are not exactly going to be big spenders in the transfer market, but they do look to the post "bun-fight" market to secure a few new recruits and I think it is fair to say that Marvin Sordell has been the one new signing that has attracted the most attention so far. Quite some player and I know we will all be wishing good things for him whilst he is with us.

The key is now for the U's to build on what they have achieved recently. Winning games or even keeping an unbeaten record is a habit worth forming. Your support is crucial to this and although I appreciate it has been hard, and there could still be bad games ahead, please do what you can to get behind the players. The U's play so much better with you, the fans, behind them

Jon Burns, Chairman

SAD TIMES

Over the past few months, we have sadly lost some good friends and supporters of the CUSA and Colchester United. They will certainly be greatly missed by all who knew them, but on a personal level, the sudden and recent loss of Kev Roberts has really hit home hard. Kev was a great U's fan and one of my best friends and it was my pleasure to have known him these past 20 odd years. He loved his family, football and friends, and above all he loved life.

Back in the Heddingham coach days when we travelled to watch the U's together, our little "gang" always had a brilliant time with the odd drink or two fuelling some top banter, normally with Kev leading proceedings, and ensuring some very happy days whatever the result. I even managed to persuade Kev to play for the CUSA FC a few times. I think it was because he told me that back in the day he was a gifted left footed bomber. Well his advancing years meant that he could do little "bombing" from left back but I seem to recall that he was still a top player, scoring his one and only goal with a long distance ping away at Lincoln City Supporters if my memory is correct.

This is one of many wonderful memories of Kev and I know that many more of you will have your own. He made each and every moment in his company a complete and utter joy.

All of our thoughts and best wishes are with his son and daughter, Blake and Bryony, at this most difficult of times

Rest in peace Kev
Jon Burns, Chairman

GEORGE FISHER

Recent games have brought back memories of my father, George Fisher, who recently passed away on August 30th at the age of 90.

George played for Millwall, Fulham and Colchester during his football career. Benny Fenton the U's Manager signed George from Fulham and he quickly established himself in the first team. He was then made Captain and enjoyed a number of seasons with the U's before departing at the end of the 1959/60 season.

Layer Road was the home of Colchester in his days and, as his son, I was allowed into many areas of the stadium not seen by the general public. The home dressing room was so small compared to today's one. Eleven pegs only for kits as no substitutes were allowed. The smell of horse oils was always evident. There was only one trainer to try to repair damaged limbs or cuts. Oranges were cut into quarters to quench thirsts at half time; there were no energy drinks or fruit bars. At the end of the game there was no cool down session, players used the communal bath. If it was a cold wet muddy day it always paid to be one of the first to use it. Training sessions always involved a lot of running, usually in the streets around the ground. The players could not take it easy at the back of the pack because the trainer, Bill Light, would be following them on his bike and tell them in no uncertain terms to get a move on! No state of the art training grounds were available in those days and, if the team were to kick the football, the Colchester Garrison ground was used on many occasions to protect the Layer Road pitch.

How things have changed since his era. The professional footballer of his day was paid £10 a week and had to make their own way to home matches often travelling by train or bus. On away matches the team would often have to travel on the day no matter where they were playing. The thought of booking into a hotel the night before was out of the question because lower league clubs could not afford the bills. The kit would arrive with the team and players would then pick out their kit. There would only be one set per person. The outfield players would be numbered 2-11 with no names on the back and no change of kit at half time. If the shirt/shorts got muddy they stayed muddy! Any injury on the pitch was managed by the "trainer" running on with a sponge and bucket of cold water. At the end of the football season (during the summer months) the wages would reduce so my Dad had to get a summer job to earn money for us, his family. Can you imagine the likes of David Beckham having to work on a building site to feed his family! I recall Dad once coming home with a bandaged head after he got hit by bricks from the demolishing of a chimney breast. No Health and Safety hard hat for him!

Nowadays our team has a Luxury coach to take them to away matches. A Kit Man to look after their needs and lay out their kit with spares at half time should they wish to change for the second half. Players are so valuable that a fully qualified Medical Team is available for the management of any injuries. On return coach journeys highly nutritious food and drink are available to ensure energy levels are restored as soon as possible.

How football has changed

Kevan Fisher

CUSA Committee Member



CUSA AWAY TRAVEL

Talisman Coachlines have kindly agreed to look after us again for the new season and the away travel details are below for you. If you would like our excellent coach drivers to look after the driving and fancy mixing with a good bunch of U's fans then we would welcome your company

Saturday 26 September – Swindon Town

Coach leaves the WHCS at 9.30am

Witham pick up if requested

Adult Members £22

Concession Members £20

Saturday 31 October – Doncaster Rovers

Coach leaves the WHCS at 9.00am

Braintree pick up if requested

Adult members £24

Concession members £22

Saturday 10 October – Shrewsbury Town

Coach leaves the WHCS at 8.30am

Braintree pick up if requested

Adult Members £26

Concession Members £24

Saturday 21 November – Millwall

Coach leaves the WHCS at 12.00pm

Witham pick up if requested

Adult members £16

Concession members £14

Saturday 17 October – Wigan Athletic

Coach leaves the WHCS at 7.30am

Braintree pick up if requested

Adult Members £30

Concession Members £28

Saturday 28 November – Burton Albion

Coach leaves the WHCS at 9.30am

Braintree pick up if requested

Adult members £22

Concession members £20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 2015-2016

As in previous seasons, through our membership of The Football Supporters Federation, the CUSA is again able to offer our members a discount to the new Sky Sports Football Yearbook

If you would like to continue your collection of this annual publication or just fancy reading one of the best football books out there, then please get in touch by sending your name and cheque (payable to Football Supporters Federation Services Ltd) to the address listed in our contact points

The prices are as follows : Paperback at £14 each (RRP £25) and Hardback at £23.50 each (RRP £40)

PROGRAMMES FOR SALE

The CUSA is pleased to be able to offer members the following Colchester United programmes for sale at below current market value. All are for the league games unless stated, and all have a slight crease or fold.

They are all £1 each and all monies raised will go to the CUSA

1961/62	1962/63	1963/64
Aldershot	Barnsley	Coventry
Barrow	Bournemouth	Millwall
Chester	Bradford PA	Northampton (League Cup)
Chesterfield	Bristol Rovers	Notts County
Crewe	Carlisle	Oldham
Darlington	Millwall	Peterborough
Doncaster	Northampton	QPR
Exeter	Notts County	QPR (FA Cup)
Millwall	Reading	Southend
Oldham	Shrewsbury	Walsall
Southport	Swindon	
Wrexham	Watford	
York	Wrexham	

Rare single sheet 1961/62 – Colchester United v Chelmsford (Pearson Charity Cup) £2

Malcolm Cole
CUSA Committee Member

CUSA SEASON BAR 2015-2016

The new season bar is now available for sale at £3 each

Please contact us if you would like one sent out in the post or would like to collect one from us

We are planning to do more on season bars in a future newsletter, so if you have any related stories or pictures of your collection, please send them into us – thanks

JUST THE TICKET

With the introduction of Print-At-Home tickets by the club from the beginning of this season, some collectors will find that their match day souvenirs are reduced. Many attending games now like to have a set of ticket, programme and teamsheet. The ticket confirms your attendance at the match if you look back at details of the game. This newsletter, I thought that I would look at some of those I have from Colchester games since the start of the year 2000.

If you look at tickets from different clubs, they all have one thing in common, the match details. However the difference is the background detail and colouring which makes them of interest. Most will have the club colours forming part of the text and also the badge is integrated somewhere, with sponsors often incorporated and the league or competition logo also included.

The first ticket I have selected is from an F. A. Cup match at Layer Road versus Leamington from season 2005/06. The club colours are prominent with the U's Eagle outlined in Gold. The sponsors

are also featured as are the match details so nothing remarkable about the ticket. However a remarkable score line of 9-1 makes the ticket a nice item to have.

Next up is a ticket from the same competition in the same season, but an away trip to Chelsea. The layout on this item has a blue border across the top with the club name in gold lettering, possibly reflecting the Premier League status of the team and the badge towards the edge. The rest of the ticket has a white background with the lion from the badge taking up a third of the area. Match details are shown and sponsors logos on the far right hand side. The game was played on a Sunday in front of a television audience and 6,000 plus travelling supporters. I will never forget the looks on the Chelsea supporters faces when the U's took the lead and Chelsea only looked like a Premiership team when they brought on Joe Cole and Frank Lampard for the second half.

Finally from the same season was our final match on the 6th May at Yeovil. A blue border top and bottom (I thought they had green as their dominant colour), club badge top left and the team name depicted in yellow. The bottom border shows the league and a local sponsors logos. The rest of the ticket has a background picture of the Main Stand for which I had one of only fifty seat tickets the club were allocated. Again the match was not one to remember for action on the field, but of course the end result of a goalless draw meant so much! Celebrations on and off the pitch were momentous and the journey home on the coach was a joy.

On now to the first game at the highest level the U's had ever played at, away to Birmingham. The ticket has a white border left hand side and across the top which shows the club badge and name. The remaining space has a background picture of a game in progress under floodlights, with the match details and price of £25 shown. Welcome to the Championship! The U's gave a good account of themselves with Richard Garcia scoring the first goal at this level and the U's showed that we had a team who could compete even with a smaller playing budget than most of the other teams in the division.

The last ticket is from one of my own personal favourite games, when being a football supporter seems to be absolutely one of life's great pleasures! The date Saturday August 8th 2009 and we are at Carrow Road - yes that game. A 7-1 win and one of the best performances by a Colchester United team that I think I have ever seen. The ticket as you would expect has a green tone to it, with the Norwich badge in the background. Gold lettering at the top for the club name and league sponsors on the left hand side and club sponsors on the right. Match details and prices are then printed in black.

None of the above tickets have any real monetary value, but as a souvenir of memorable matches they are priceless.

Last newsletter a Football Teaser was asked "In which year did fog end an F. A. Cup Final at Wembley?" It was 1935 between West Brom and Sheffield Wednesday and the Referee who ended it was Mr Bert Fogg.

The next Teaser is asking, if you were watching a game between the Red Lichties and the Bully Wee, who would be the teams and what would be the name of the ground you were at?

Malcolm Cole
CUSA Committee Member

COLCHESTER UNITED F.C. CONCESSION

Ticket Office: 0871 226 2161 www.cu-fc.com
 Official Home Sponsor Official Away Sponsor

EASY-SKIP 118TRADES.COM

F.A. Cup Round One
 Colchester United F.C.
 vs Leamington FC
 Sat 5 NOV 2005

BLOCK C THE EVENING GAZETTE STAND
 ROW 1
 SEAT 38
 ADULT
 Use Turnstile 14/15

PRICE £17.00

DUPLICATE 239/11N2D9NJG

Mr. Malcom Andrew Cole
 239/11N2D9NJG

RETAIN THIS PART OF THE TICKET FOR FUTURE APPLICATIONS TO BE GIVEN UP

YEovil TOWN F.C.
 www.yeoviltownfc.net Main No. 01935 423662 Ticket Office 01935 847888

Coca Cola League One
 Yeovil Town v Colchester United
 06 May, 2006 K.O. 3:00 pm
 Yeovil College Stand

Block	Row	Seat	Price
AA	E	1	£16.00

Please enter via Turnstile 1 Adult 00145067

Coca-Cola FOOTBALL LEAGUE Bradfords TO BE RETAINED

BIRMINGHAM CITY FOOTBALL CLUB
 e-mail: ticket.office@bcfc.com
 Tel: 0871 226 1875 option2

Coca-Cola Championship
 Birmingham City v Colchester United

Saturday 05 Aug, 2006
 Kick Off 3:00 pm
 RAILWAY STAND BLOCK RS1

ROW	SEAT	PRICE
27	028	£25.00

ENTRANCE VISITORS CAR PARK
 PLEASE SIT IN THE CORRECT SEAT AND DO NOT STAND

flybe.com www.bcfc.com

CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE SAMSUNG UMBRO

FA CUP 5TH ROUND
 CHELSEA v COLCHESTER UNITED
 Sunday, 19 FEB, 2006
 Kick Off Time: 4.00pm
 SHED END UPPER
 AWAY VISITORS
 ROW: 10
 SEAT: 0005 £25.00

WWW.CHELSEAFC.COM TEL: 0870 300 1212
 PARKING IS RESTRICTED, PLEASE USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

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Norwich City Football Club

COCA-COLA LEAGUE 1
 NORWICH CITY v COLCHESTER UNITED
 Saturday, 8 AUG, 2009 3pm
 THE JARROLD STAND
 AREA G
 Row: J Seat: 0023

ENTER VIA TURNSTILES 54 - 55

Prices: ADULT	£22.00
16-21/60+	£13.00
UNDER 16	£12.00
UNDER 12	£9.00

UNDER 12 £9.00

TO BE RETAINED

Ticket Office: 0844 826 1902 Open: Mon - Fri 8am - 8pm Sat 9am - 2pm

Register for myluckysat! Text
 R51 27 028 to 825555
 Texts cost £1.50 + network charges
 Colchester United 0866775

MEMBERS AND LETTERS PAGE

We always have done and we always will encourage contributions from our members for this newsletter. Already you have read a few interesting articles from Malcolm and others, and I hope that going forward we will be able to include many of your own stories, pictures or letters as you may wish to send for publication in response to our most recent member letter below

22ND August 2015

Dear CUSA,

I write the following for publication. The CUSA does very good work particularly arranging travel and I am proud to support them.

However, in my view there needs to be a complete reappraisal of their approach particularly in voicing concerns about the running of the Club.

'Tough Love' is a phrase that comes to mind. Over the last three seasons Col U have rocked. Three times relegation was avoided - just. Many of us thought it was not possible given mistakes made compared with other Clubs. Now we are facing a desperate season after only four games.

So what is wrong? Much is clearly so. But what is CUSA approach? A following of the decisions made by the Club. We must all be grateful to the CUSA but I see no reference to issues put forward by so fans in any published comment. But Col U are:-

- following a youth policy that will be the ruin of the Club.**
- demoralising the young side put out each week to face seasoned older professionals.**
- showing a complete lack of craft necessary to win games.**
- so porous in defence that each side we face looks like Barcelona!**
- unable to recruit and retain seasoned professionals – look at the exodus in past seasons.**
- lacking a managerial set up many fans believe is able to cope in League 1.**

I have very great concerns about the future for the Football Club we support. CUSA has a great local presence. It has a column in each match programme. It also has a column in the Essex Standard.

I would urge CUSA to take a more critical stance towards the running of the Club. It need not be negative but the Col U Chairman appears to take the support of CUSA for granted and with it many of the fans. Unless action is taken then it will surely become very critical.

There needs to be fundamental changes both in the Club and CUSA. I personally would support a summit to be held at which the views of all the fans including CUSA could be put forward.

I do hope that this can be published in your newsletter. I was unable to attend the AGM owing to the notice of it not being received. I am also sending a copy to BBC Radio Essex and other news outlets as this a matter I believe of much local importance.

**Best regards
John Akker MBE
West Mersea**

CUSA CONTACT POINTS

Post – Jon Burns, Chairman, 17 Northgate Street, Colchester CO1 1EZ

Email – enquiries@cusa.co.uk

CUSA Away Travel - phone (7-9pm) or text – Jon 07752 531600 and Jackie 07873 294146

Email - away_travel@cusa.co.uk

CUSA Membership – 07763 359136 - Robert.anderson110@btopenworld.com

Twitter - @CUSAsupporters

Facebook – Colchester United Supporters Association



CUSA FC

It's our 5th consecutive season in the Premier Division of the Colchester and District Sunday Football League and whilst injuries and holidays (Tony Humes doesn't have that problem) have meant that we have been short of numbers in the early games, the players who have been involved have performed wonderfully well

Lots of games ahead in the league and cup competitions to look forward to for the lads and supporters to enjoy

Always pleased to hear from anyone who has an interest in playing a good standard of Sunday football, so please get in touch if you fancy coming to Thursday night training as a start

You can track our progress at www.colchestersundayleague.co.uk