



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 94

AUGUST 2018

Hello again CUSA members and welcome to the pre-season newsletter of 2018 – 19 season. Since the end of last season there have been changes that affect CUSA and departures and arrivals of the playing staff.

COACH TRAVEL

With great disappointment, the CUSA ended its' long relationship with Talisman Coachlines this summer when the company ceased trading. Following several productive meetings with other local coach companies, we are pleased to announce that for our away coach travel this season we will be going into partnership with the very supportive U's sponsors and partners, Roman Cars and Coaches.

We are very grateful for their generous offer and look forward to working with them throughout the season

All bookings will be through the usual CUSA contacts and with all travelers being members, it is worth reminding everyone that they are therefore obliged to adhere to our rules and those of Colchester United Football Club

END OF SEASON DINNER

Mike Heaps (Secretary) attended on behalf of the CUSA Committee. Both the home and away player of the season were won by Tom Eastman. Mike presented the home trophy with Rachel Wilkin and the away trophy with Arthur Morehen. It was an enjoyable, if somewhat noisy evening with the guest speaker being former player Perry Groves.

Many thanks for all of your votes



COMINGS AND GOINGS

We have said goodbye to Drey Wright and wish him well up in Scotland. Sam Walker has signed for Reading, Kurtis Guthrie for Stevenage and Sean Murray has left the club seeking pastures new. Good luck to them all.

The new signings give us renewed optimism for the new season.

Whilst the young goalkeepers are something of an unknown quantity, Dillon Barnes did well against Swindon and Exeter and Ethan Ross has been coached by Ben Foster.

Defensively we look pretty strong with the good news that skipper Luke Prosser has signed a 2 year deal. We have brought in Harry Pell in midfield, but the main difference is in the strikers, with proven goal scorers Frank Nouble and Luke Norris there to feed off Mikael Mandron who has opted to stay with us.

Compare this to last season. Luke Prosser did not return until the New Year, but put in some sterling performances. Brennan Dickenson, so influential in 2016-17, returned in February but was unable to find his true form and suffered with more niggling injuries. A fully fit Dicko will be a tremendous asset this time round. Up front we allowed Denny Johnstone to return to Scotland early on and with Kurtis Guthrie injured much fell on the shoulders of Mikael Mandron. When Guthrie did come back, he was certainly "not himself" apart from his thunderbolt against Cheltenham. Sammie Szmodics had his "purple patch" but failed to score in 2018.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Membership forms for 2018/19 are attached for those of you who have not renewed at the Open Day. Please note we have added appropriate wording to comply with new GDPR requirements (Data Protection).

ENCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS

Your committee are working hard to engage formally with the football club. This has not been easy, but it will help our cause if we can increase the size of the membership significantly. We are not just a travel club. We are the only official body representing Colchester United supporters and we attend meetings with the Football Supporters Federation (FSF) who in turn speak to the EFL and parliamentary committees.

We are looking to be in a position to formally discuss supporter issues and suggestions with the football club, through the SLO Matt Hudson. However, we are supporters and the purpose of CUSA is to support the football club and so we look to communicate with them in a professional but friendly capacity.

Please endeavor to encourage other supporters to join us, £10 for adults, £8 for seniors and £5 for students and juniors is a small amount. Finally we feel we would like to have a couple of younger members on our committee. By our own admission we are somewhat "Dads Army". The current committee are happy to carry out the leg work but it would be good to have some fresh ideas.

PROGRAMME INITIATIVE

After the announcement by the EFL that a motion was going to be made at the AGM for programmes to no longer be mandatory, the U's made an early statement that it was their intention to produce a programme for the coming season. They also announced that the price of your ticket would include the item.

As many of you are not collectors and may not wish to keep the programmes, CUSA would be grateful for any that members would like to donate. This helps us to keep our stock up to date and therefore raise funds from the sale of them. If you would like to donate, please email us to make arrangements or hand them in to us at the outlet in the South Stand, or of course pass to any Committee Member.

YEAR BARS

We have available our very popular year bars for season 2018-19 priced at £3-50 each. These are available from the South Stand, on the coach travelling to away games or by post if you want to get in touch. Also if you have any gaps in your collection, we have many older ones going back to the forties!

SADLY NO LONGER WITH US

We were informed of the passing of two members since the end of last season, June Green and Roger Matthews. We have passed on our condolences to the families and some of our Committee Members attended the funeral of Roger as he sat at the stadium with them.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The CUSA AGM will take place on Wednesday September 12 at 7.30 pm at the Jobserve Community Stadium. Further details will be announced in the U's Matchday Programme and the CUSA website

CUSA WEBSITE

Our website www.cusa.co.uk was re-vamped last season and we hope you like it

One new feature is Away Days, which will be your place to house your comments on away games, stadiums and your journeys there and back

There is also a Guestbook page where you might like to talk about anything else CUSA or U's related. You may even want to advertise something you are doing or selling – we don't charge!

Effectively we want it to be an interactive place for our members to talk to us about anything they like

If you have any questions or suggestions about the website, please get in touch

CUSA CONTACT POINTS

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

Email – enquiries@cusa.co.uk

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

Email - [away\\_travel@cusa.co.uk](mailto:away_travel@cusa.co.uk)

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CUSA Membership – Malcolm 07901 612063 – membership@cusa.co.uk

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Twitter - @CUSAsupporters

Facebook – Colchester United Supporters Association