



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 97

JANUARY 2020

Welcome to the CUSA Newsletter for New Year 2020.

On behalf of the CUSA Committee we hope you all had a great Christmas boosted by the excellent win at Leyton Orient and wish you all a Very Happy New Year, indeed decade. Will this see a return to league 1 next season and then a further promotion to the Championship?

We intended to send out a newsletter at the end of September and again in early November, however, preparations for the Carabao Cup games at Crawley and Manchester United meant that all our efforts went in to these fixtures. As I wrote items for each intended publication I have left these as they were at the time.

Crystal Palace and Tottenham Hotspur

I am writing this the morning after our fantastic Carabao Cup win over Tottenham Hotspur. Still can't quite believe that we have knocked another Premier League side out of the competition and this time one of the "really big fish". Much emphasis is put on both Crystal Palace and Spurs fielding weakened sides, hogwash! Palace had 7 internationals on the pitch and brought on Cahill and Zaha in the second half. Spurs may have been without Kane and Rose but internationals Dier and Dele Alli played 90 minutes and Eriksen, Son and Lamela came on in the second half to join a team of players with plenty of Premier League and European experience. I thought John McGreal's tactics were spot on. Concede possession but break up the play and defend manfully. Had we gone "gung-ho" we would almost certainly have lost. Against Spurs Deano was assured, the back four heroic (didn't Paris Cowan-Hall do well when Jacko got injured?) and I thought Tom Lapslie and Brandon Comley were superb. Of course everybody raised their game in both matches and the boys also showed a coolness in taking penalties, particular young Noah at Palace but also Tom (Lapslie) against Spurs. Great nights.

Like all U's fans, I watched the eagerly awaited 4th round draw. I think "after the Lord Mayor's Show" sums it up. Still we have had 2 Premier League opponents and may well have another if we can see off Crawley. Won't be any easier than beating Palace or Spurs but will be a different type of game. I am expecting a blood and thunder cup tie given the potential prize for both clubs.

Crawley Town

Fast forward to 1 November Great night at Crawley and an electric atmosphere, largely down to our 1700 fans. It was indeed a "blood and thunder" cup tie with 4 great goals. Crawley came out of the blocks fast and I think it caught us out a little bit in the first 10 minutes. You have to give the Crawley lad credit for a superb finish, but within 2 minutes Luke Norris equalised for us with a bullet header. From then on I think we bossed the game. Fantastic free kick from Cohen beat the keeper and we deserved the bit of fortune when it went in off his back. Well worked third goal, clinically finished by Luke Gambin.

I was still buzzing the next morning when the draw for the Quarter Finals was made. Oxford came out first, my initial instinct was "I hope this isn't us", relieved when Manchester City came out next as they have the ability to demolish good sides in the Premier League. Then came Manchester United and then wow, we've hit the jackpot! Absolutely fantastic to be going to Old Trafford. We just ask for fans to be a little patient as we sort out arrangements to transport you all.

The league season didn't start too well and has been somewhat up and down, but the signs are there that we are capable of mounting a promotion push. For me, the victory at Swindon was the stand out performance. After the lows of the second half at Crawley and the even more dreadful home defeat to Morecambe, we achieved a creditable draw at Crewe, the best footballing side we have played so far. It was also good to see a dominant second half against Stevenage and a dominant 75 minutes against Newport avoiding the nail biting finishes we endured against Northampton and Orient.

Manchester United

Work started in earnest pretty well as soon as the draw was made. We had a short committee meeting after the Coventry FA Cup tie to plan how we would transport fans up to Old Trafford. Jon did a great job taking coach bookings, arranging for advance payments from everyone and sorting out the coach lists, 20 coaches and 1000+ people.

Malcolm (Cole) also took booking details and has input and sent membership cards to around 1200 people, I think he sees them in his sleep !! Jackie also took a large number of calls and Malcolm (Bailey) had the task of deciphering and inputting several hundred email addresses to enable us to use the Mailchimp system as a primary communication vehicle. We all took our turn at manning a desk to receive payment for travel. In addition I did a couple of small jobs, liaising with Norton Canes services and providing short documents on Coach Standards and a briefing for stewards. Each committee member looked after a single coach and we then had 10 other volunteers, thanks to you all. Such was the planning, that things worked out very well on the day. We have received a number of plaudits, which were well deserved. A special thanks as well to Roman Coaches who were instrumental in providing the 20 coaches and 40 drivers.

As for the match itself, it was great to have 5000+ fans at Old Trafford, terrific atmosphere in the upper tier. I thought the team played really well against a very strong United side full of internationals, Solskjaer paid us the ultimate compliment. Rashford let us off the hook a bit in the first half but then destroyed us in 10 second half minutes. Even then we didn't buckle, were a credit to league 2 and deserved the applause of the supporters at the end. I personally did not feel disappointed, a fantastic cup run and £1 million pounds in the bank. Now let's concentrate on the league. Our league form continues to be good. 9 unbeaten, great comeback at Scunthorpe, dominant performances against Carlisle and Orient and a hard earned point against a strong and physical Exeter.

Governance

It is perhaps ironic that on the day of one of our greatest away triumphs, beating Crystal Palace, Bury were expelled from the EFL. From well before the season started the plights of Bury and Bolton were major news and the latter are probably fortunate to still be in the EFL.

What is abundantly clear is that Financial Fair Play has not worked and there needs to be a far more robust system in place regarding the governance of football clubs to root out rogue owners, stop their ability to take charge and banish financial mis-management from the game. Players and staff not being paid for 2 months in a row should sound alarm bells. Rumours abound regarding Oldham, Morecambe and particularly Macclesfield, who have been docked points and the relegation of both Leyton Orient and Notts County is arguably down to their owner's financial impropriety. The FSA (Football Supporters Association) are putting forward proposals on governance to the EFL and MP's are also involved, hopefully giving the subject serious attention, it's not all about BREXIT and General Elections !

How does this affect Colchester United ? I refer to Robbie Cowling's article in the Leyton Orient match day programme, which explains how he sees it and I think sums up where we are. For older supporters, think back 30 years to the Jonathan Crisp era and the disastrous appointment of Roger Brown as manager which ultimately led to our relegation to the then Vauxhall Conference. Robbie appears to be genuine in his stewardship of our club, so stop having a go at him on social media as soon as something goes wrong.

There are genuine owners with money. I still have an allegiance to Watford. Why wouldn't I ? I spent the first 28 years of my life in the area and watched them regularly for more than 20 years before moving to Colchester in 1982 when I started to follow the U's. Watford were not a top flight club in those days and would still be in the lower tiers had not a young musician put his money in to the club. Elton John was and is a genuine football supporter. They do exist but are a rare breed.

Racism in Football

As we have seen, recently, this is still an unacceptable issue that regrettably blights both football and society. I personally do not understand why the Bulgarian authorities allowed a group of neo-Nazi's into the stadium. It was obvious who they were and what they were doing there, which was not to watch a football match.

At home we have had Yeovil "fans" abusing the Haringey Borough goalkeeper, causing the Haringey players to walk off the pitch. I also read that a so called Liverpool "fan", abused Trent Alexander-Arnold. Why would anyone wish to abuse a highly talented, articulate young man, who is not only a gifted footballer but who also gave money to local charities last Christmas to help the local community. Most clubs now have a number of non-white players in their ranks. We have the likes of Jackson, Comley, Senior, Nouble, Bramall etc and until recently the superb Kane Vincent-Young, all of whom make a valuable contribution to this football club.

Personally, I would go for tough custodial sentences to attempt to stamp this problem out.

Mike Heaps CUSA Secretary

Coach Travel

At our recent committee meeting we discussed the subject in some detail. It would be very helpful to those of us who collect money and steward the coaches, if members can buy their coach tickets in advance. This will cut down on the time it takes prior to departure and means we carry less money on the coach. We are present in the corner of the fanzone bar for around 2 hours before every match and your co-operation will be much appreciated.

Some of you will be aware of problems with coach V24ROM recently. Notably an issue with the air con and a few minor problems. These were all reported promptly to Roman Coaches, both by the drivers and ourselves. We received an immediate reply and are assured that the problems were of concern to them and therefore corrected as soon as they were able.

Martin Henriksson

Martin Henriksson of our famous Swedish branch was over in this country last year and attended the Swindon and Leyton Orient games. A small presentation was made to him by CUSA life member John Tweed after the Orient home game as recognition for his loyal support over a number of years which has taken him to 100 games and trips to England. In fact the 30th anniversary of his first ever visit was the New Years Day victory, also against Orient.

COLCHESTER UNITED F.C. FORMER PLAYERS DINNER

SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2020

8.00pm till Midnight

3 COURSE DINNER

with tea, coffee and mints to follow

NEW INDUCTEES TO THE

COLCHESTER UNITED F.C. HALL OF FAME

AFTER DINNER ENTERTAINMENT

If you would like to join us on the CUSA table please email enquiries@cusa.co.uk or to book separately please email johnschultz@cufcfpa.com

Membership Update

Amazing, the only word to describe the number of people that have travelled on the CUSA coaches to support the team this season!

We now have a membership totalling almost 1200 and over 1000 of you have made trips to Crystal Palace, Crawley and Manchester United in the Carabao Cup run, many have also joined us on the road for league games to far flung places like Plymouth and Oldham. The team really do appreciate your support and backing.

Those of you who made the trip to Old Trafford will never forget the sight at the start of the journey, of 20 coaches lined up ready to board close to 1000 supporters, it had a real community feel about it and will live long in the memories of all those fans.

The team responded to the 5000 plus fans and gave the red side of Manchester some questions to answer before they scored. By the way, we have about dozen U's scarves left on the coaches if you're missing one

We now need to get behind the team in the league and help them to push on for a chance of promotion, either through the play-offs or an automatic place.

CUSA will of course be running coaches to all the remaining away league games and beyond if required. You can book your coach travel in the usual ways, by text or phone, the numbers are on your membership cards, come and see us in the Supporters Bar before any home game up to 20 minutes before kick-off or via email travel@cusa.co.uk .

We still have a few badges left and year bars for the current season, both are priced at £3-50 each. For those that require programmes from past matches, we have a vast back catalogue and this was added to recently by the family of Doreen Cherry. A loyal supporter of many years, her collection reflected her time supporting the U's and thanks Peter for the donation.

Badges and Bars

With the sales of the new CUSA badge and current season year bar proving popular, we previously asked members for pictures and details of them with their year bars and we include the first two.

Pictured holding his badge and year bars is Colin Amoss, these start from 1960-61 through to this season.



The second picture is from Michael Middleton, who is shy or wanted by the legal system! His collection of year bars starts from 1947-48 up to and including this season.



If you would like to have your picture in our next newsletter displaying your collection of year bars and badges, then please forward photo and details to enquiries@cusa.co.uk

We do have a back catalogue of year bars starting from the 1940's, so if you are missing any please email the above or come and see us in the Supporters Bar before any home game.

Malcolm Cole CUSA Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary

The Double Over Lincoln

Lincoln City v Colchester United – Saturday 4th May 2019

The U's soon silenced the Lincoln fans that were watching in the crowd
How the boys from Essex made us feel so proud

Brennan Dickenson scored the 1st goal in minute 22
With Sammie Szmodics scoring both the other 2

The final score of 0-3 did not flatter the team at all
We could have had 6 in this end of season game of football

The full time result of 0-3 meant Colchester had won
The double had been completed, an excellent job done

The U's finished the season with 70 points and in 8th place
Very close to the reaching the play offs, so certainly no disgrace

In season 2019-2020 I hope we can up the pace
And try to get an eagerly desired automatic promotion place

A poem from CUSA member Gavin Doe

CUSA coach away travel

Saturday 25 January –
Exeter City

Adult members £28

Concession members £26

Coach departs the JCS at 7.30am

Saturday 1 February –
Cambridge United

Adult members £16

Concession members £14

Coach departs the JCS at 12
noon

Saturday 15 February –
Port Vale

Adult members £27

Concession members £25

Coach departs the JCS at 9.00am

Saturday 22 February –
Salford City

Adult members £27

Concession members £25

Coach departs the JCS at 8.30am

Saturday 7 March –
Carlisle United

Adult members £30

Concession members £28

Coach departs the JCS at 6.00am

Saturday 21 March –
Newport County

Adult members £27

Concession members £25

Coach departs the JCS at 8.30am

Saturday 4 April –
Bradford City

Adult members £27

Concession members £25

Coach departs the JCS at 8.30am

Friday 10 April –
Northampton Town

Adult members £18

Concession members £16

Coach departs the JCS at
10.30am

Saturday 18 April -
Walsall

Adult members £22

Concession members £20

Coach departs the JCS at 9.30am

CUSA Contact Points

www.cusa.co.uk

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Email: enquiries@cusa.co.uk

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

Email: away_travel@cusa.co.uk

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

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