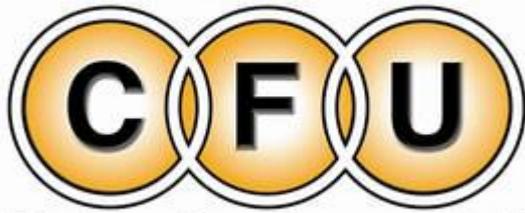


Cambridge Fans United



"Uniting Our Community"



AMBER NEWS

Special 'Promotion' Issue



March 2021

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

Dr Seuss

Opening Endeavour,

The Role of CFU?

Since becoming Chairman, I have asked by a variety of people, including James Mills of CUSP and Paul Barry what I saw as our role. There is some uncertainty too about the role of others supporters' groups in relation to ours, although that is not really our concern. I am happy to work with any other group but first we must agree our own role with the club. We are concentrating particularly on the issues of diversity and inclusion at the moment and it is clear that CFU have a very significant role to play for years to come.

It is not for CFU to find roles for other supporters' groups but it seems clear to me that, unlike any of the others, we have a global view and long term aims to benefit both the club and all supporters.

First, I think that we may have to overcome some deep seated distrust from those who don't fully understand the concept of critical friend and why having a critical friend is not just a good thing but vital. When CFU first appeared in 2000, it was against a background of clubs having their existence threatened by irresponsible owners whose attitude to finance was not what it should be. Some Trusts actually took over the running of clubs, with mixed success and were, consequently seen as a threat by some directors and owners, who failed to understand what the threat of losing the club you support means to some supporters. The bald fact is that owners and directors are temporary custodians of football clubs, whereas supporters are there all their lives. Supporters' Trusts are there to hold those custodians to account and, no doubt, some people don't like the idea. They should.

CFU made themselves unpopular by insisting on an independent audit against the wishes of the club. This followed years in which fans were told that money was ring fenced and that our financial position was fine. In fact, we were still trading while we were insolvent. I attended a Shareholders' Meeting in which it soon became apparent that Steve Chamberlain didn't have a clue about the true financial situation. It couldn't go on. The audit was necessary and, I believe, was the first step in achieving the stability now so evident at the club. It created conflict but, in the interest of all Cambridge fans, it was the right thing to do. Only CFU were in a position to ensure this action.

Similarly, when two of our directors sold the ground to themselves as we slipped out of the league, the club's finances were in a mess and Dave Kitson was transferred for peanuts, should CFU have stayed silent? We nearly disappeared on the watch of those people entrusted to run the club for the benefit of its fans. CFU moved might and main to ensure that there would be a Cambridge United in the future. Were we disloyal to question George Rolls who offered the manager's job to three different people at the same time? Any club should value an independent set of eyes just in case things are not as they should be.

Some see CFU as being pointless unless there is a crisis and we are far from that now. When the club is being run as well and responsibly as it is now, there are many more positive opportunities.

What are our strengths and what makes us unique among supporters' groups?

We have a Fans' Elected Director on the Board. He is elected by our members to represent the interests of all fans.

Although we are no longer an important shareholder, we have significant reserves which can be used to help the club's work. As it has.

The lottery Scheme, which works closely with CFU and has its own finances, has made significant contributions to the club. Most recently the newly installed scoreboards were paid for with lottery money.

Coconuts, similarly to the Lottery, works closely with CFU to preserve the history and traditions of the club. It is responsible for a thriving former players' association which is the envy of many clubs. It was actually set up by CFU to document and preserve Cambridge United's history. It does this extremely well.

Our Board is elected by its membership and accountable to it. Our meetings are minuted and those minutes are published. We communicate regularly with our members and the public through the matchday programme, our website, the Amber News and on Facebook. Terry Wilby emails our members weekly and informs them of what we are doing and invites feedback. We are democratic and accountable. We are not a talking shop or an implacable opponent of anyone. We simply want the club to be successful and for the fans to be happy. Supporters can see that their concerns are being recognised and dealt with by looking at our Facebook site, Twitter account and regularly updated website. Feedback is continuous and we respond quickly to questions raised.

Our membership, having declined, is now back to over 300 and rising. Many lapsed and cynical former members have rejoined because they agree with what we are doing. A supporters' trust should aim for 10% of the average home gate in order to claim that it represents the views of fans. Not everyone wants to pay for the privilege

but everyone cares about the prosperity and success of their club. No other group can claim to be as democratic and accountable as CFU. No other group has ever contributed as much. I would say that CUSP, which were set up by DMJ to address day to day concerns are reactive but CFU are proactive, well resourced and best placed for working on long term initiatives. We have been sleeping a bit but this is what we are working on now.



Weeks of Action

For disabled sports fans



Greater diversity in the club, in CFU and in our crowd.

Working closely with the Council to make our club more visible and better served by public transport. We also hope to have bottled beer in a new and improved Fanzone.

Establish better relations with community groups not commonly seen at the Abbey. The Mosque is a good example of a significant community which we have had comparatively little to do with so far.

Better provision in the ground for those in the community with different needs. This requires an audit of the needs and a survey of the stadium.

Working closely with Fans for Diversity to raise awareness through different events and activities.



Establishing closer links with the Community Trust and their work.

Developing the Foodbank.

Continuing the cycle of ringing the isolated and vulnerable.

All of these projects are long term and ambitious. They will be beneficial to club and community. A football club can be a powerful force in changing the quality of peoples' lives. We can make a contribution to a wounded society.

We are well regarded by the FSA, formerly Supporters Direct, because of the work we have already done in support of the welfare of fans and the provision for away fans.

Finally, it seems to me that CUSP's role is more likely to involve responding to issues raised by individuals and that their concerns are mostly short term. Only CFU are capable of affecting the bigger picture by initiating long term strategies. We must get past the perception of being simply of nuisance value. We have a lot to offer the club and the fans. We can achieve something valuable and long lasting. If we do our jobs properly, we will.

Andrew Stephen

DAVID CROWN



In Paul Mullin, for the first time in many years, Cambridge United have a striker making a legitimate challenge for David Crown's goalscoring record. A very appropriate time, then, to take a close look at David's time at the Abbey Stadium and that record-breaking season.

I'm plenty old enough to remember David Crown at United so some of this is drawn from memory, but for the facts and figures I have dipped into Kevin Palmer's book "*Cambridge United: The League era a complete record*" and Andrew Bennet's "*The Moose That Roared*". By a neat quirk of fate, however, I also managed to have a chat with David in his office in Leigh-on-Sea.

David Crown holds the Cambridge United record for the highest number of Football League goals scored in a season - 24 in 1985-86. Or is it 25? We'll come back to that. He was at United for only two and a bit seasons, between 1985 and 1987. This was a twilight period for the football club, we were fighting for survival. He was signed by probably United's worst ever manager, Ken Shellito. That's quite a claim; there are a fair few creditable challengers for that particular title (points in the direction of John Ryan, Steve Thompson and Martin Ling). Nevertheless, by bringing David Crown to the club, Shellito at least left one positive legacy to mark his car-crash period in charge.

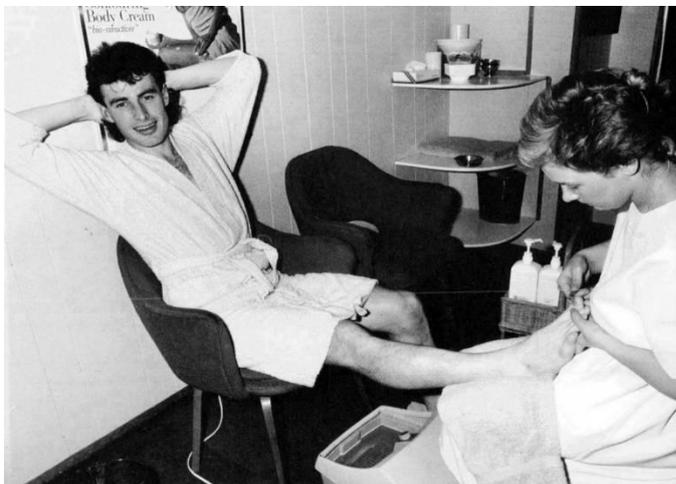
Crown signed for United from Reading on a free transfer, aged 27, in the summer of 1985. He was a regular starter at Reading in the old third division but had been deployed mainly as a winger, scoring 14 goals in 88 league appearances over two seasons. This was a successful period for Reading and included promotion from the fourth division in 1983-84. Crown started all but one game for Reading that season, scoring seven goals. He had previously played for Brentford, Portsmouth, and Exeter on loan, all in the third division. Considering these credentials and given that United had just suffered a second successive relegation, were skint and were predicted to struggle in the fourth division, the more I look back on the signing of David Crown, the more of a coup it appears to be.

On signing Crown, Shellito said he intended to play him as a central striker. That decision may well have been based on DC's performance for the Royals against Shellito's United in

April the previous season when, switched from the wing to centre forward, he scored both the goals that beat the already-relegated U's at the Abbey. In an interview for the United fanzine "*The Abbey Rabbit*" in 1989 Crown explained that the pitch at his first club, Walthamstow, was so boggy through the middle he was moved out wide, hence his early days were spent as a winger. Northampton wanted to sign him from Reading, he told "*The Abbey Rabbit*", and offered a fee, but he didn't fancy their manager or their ground (shared with Northamptonshire Cricket Club back then) so he chose United.

He joined a rag-tag United squad that included Alan Comfort, David Moyes and Andy Sinton (still only 19 years old) and three members of John Docherty's great team (Tom Finney, Steve Spriggs and Steve Fallon) whose best days were behind them (Fallon's due to injuries). It would be misleading to say it was a squad in transition as that would imply there was some kind of plan on the club's part.

United started the 1985-86 season true to the form of the previous two and were quickly



scraping along the bottom of the table. It took Crown seven games to score his first United goal, a consolation in a 4-1 loss at Colchester. Let's count his goals as they go in.

(1) Colchester United (a)

By the time David Crown opened his account United had already sunk to 23rd. It was clearly going to be a long, hard, miserable season, the third in a row.

(2) Exeter (h) (3) Halifax (a)

I'll confess, I stayed away from the Abbey at the start of that season. My first sighting of David Crown in a United shirt was against Mansfield on 5th October. I was prompted to go that afternoon by the genuine thought that our days in the Football League were numbered. Such was my sense of dread that I took a camera with me, to record some of the action before it was too late. In another sign of the shambles around the club at the time, a steward spotted me at the front of the NRE with my Zenith and asked why, as a member of the press, I wasn't sitting on the perimeter? I said nothing and allowed him to open a gate for me before taking up a prime spot next to Roger Hansbury's left hand post. True story. Three late goals, including David Crown's fourth in five games, saw United to a fine 4-2 win. Perhaps all was not lost after all, especially if Crown could keep on scoring. He did.

**(4) Mansfield (h) (5) Wrexham (a) (6) Orient (h) (7)(8) Boro (h) (9) Crewe (a)
(10) Northampton (h) (11) Tranmere (h)**

By the end of 1985 David Crown had 11 league goals, not at all shabby given our form and lowly league position. Scoring a brace in a 3-1 victory over Boro really started to endear him to the Abbey faithful. When wouldn't it?

Shellito resigned in December. He was replaced by Chris Turner, but even he wasn't able to stop United slipping back into the re-election zone. David Crown missed a couple of games with an ankle injury late in the year, but he scored on his return against Hereford in January.

(12) Hereford (h) **(13)(14)** Wrexham (h) **(15)** Preston (a)

By the end of March, with only a month of the season remaining, Crown had scored 15 league goals. That's a very decent return, but not record-shattering form. United were 22nd in the table and looked nailed on to have to apply for re-election. We had won only 11 of 39 games. But then David Crown caught fire.



(16) Swindon (h) **(17)(18)(19)** Halifax (h) **(20)** Burnley (a)
(21) Crewe (h) **(22)** Northampton (a)

Crown's 22nd league goal of the season at Northampton took him past Alan Biley's United record, set in 1977-78. Curiously, I don't remember any great celebrations when he broke the record, either on the terraces or in the media (ie the Cambridge Evening News, that's all there was). I guess it was because the prevailing mood around the club was still one of despondency, following another rotten season. David Crown wasn't finished yet, though.

(23) Colchester (h) **(24)** Torquay (h)

United won four and drew one of the last six games of the season, Crown scoring nine in the last seven, and lost only one of their last 11. Sadly, it didn't manage to lift United out of the re-election zone and we finished 22nd, but it took us to 54 points, level with Exeter, Halifax and Tranmere, the latter two above the dotted line on goal difference. A few weeks later the 92 league chairmen voted for United to stay in the Football League.

There was only one guy to thank for this achievement: David Crown. By my reckoning his goals won us 19 points that season. It doesn't bear thinking about where United would have been without him. To break your club's goalscoring record, by three goals, is a great achievement. To do it in such a rank season, in such a rank team, is the stuff of legend. There were only three penalties amongst his goal tally (Steve Massey was the U's penalty taker until late in the season).

To confirm, then, David Crown's Cambridge United Football League goalscoring record is 24. I stress this as, for many years, I thought it was 25 - because that's what it says in Kevin Palmer's book. "*The Moose That Roared*" doesn't clarify matters; it notes that Crown broke the record but doesn't specify how many goals he scored that season. I have cross-checked

each of his goals in Kevin's and Andrew's books and found no contradictions. I guess there was just some wayward arithmetic on Kevin's part. I have always considered Kevin's book my bible on United stats ... and still do! I think we can allow him one error. Sorry to labour this point, but if Paul Mullin is going to get close to David Crown's record it's crucial we all know what the record is!

In all competitions Crown scored 27 that season, and this too is a United record. His 24 league goals were supplemented by our consolation in a horrible 2-1 FA Cup first round defeat at non-league Dagenham and by a brace against Boro (again) in the Freight Rover Trophy. This all-competitions total is confirmed in Brian Attmore and Graham Nurse's piece on David Crown in their book "*Cambridge United 100 Greats*".

The following season, 1986-87, was less prolific for David Crown, scoring 12 league goals, 16 in all competitions. That might have spelt trouble for United if Mark Cooper, just 19 years old, hadn't stepped up to share the goalscoring burden, outscoring Crown with 13 league goals. The two struck up a great partnership. Crown told "*The Abbey Rabbit*" their styles complemented each other (not unlike the Mullin and Ironside pairing that we are enjoying right now).

There were clear signs of a recovery at the Abbey Stadium and, although Chris Turner's team did not manage promotion in 1986-87, it embarked on a cracking League Cup run to the fourth round, where we were finally knocked out by a frighteningly strong Tottenham team. Along the way Crown scored the only goal of the game to beat second division Ipswich, set up by Mark Cooper. Watch the goal here (from a very weird Abbey camera angle):



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuGRDGbbPBI>

This, sadly, appears to be the only available online footage of DC in black and amber.

The 1987-88 season was to be David's last at the Abbey. He started in cracking form, netting a hat-trick against Crewe in August. According to "*The Moose That Roared*", scouts from Arsenal, QPR and Newcastle watched him score the two goals that beat Halifax in late September.

In early November 1987 David Crown was sold. We were shocked on two fronts: first, the fee, a measly £30,000, and second, his destination, third division Southend. There was a third point, too: what did the sale of our record goalscorer say about the ambition of the club? Mark Cooper had already gone to Spurs for £80,000, Peter Butler would follow Crown to Southend for £75,000 and, to complete the set, young keeper Keith Branagan was sold to Millwall for £100,000. Our four best and/or most promising players out of the door inside 12 months.

We didn't know it at the time, of course, but the £285,000 transfer bounty allowed the club to clear its debts, reset and relaunch. Under Chris Turner's management the ground was

being prepared for John Beck and a new, young, highly ambitious set of players to ... well, you know the rest!

In his final season at the Abbey David Crown scored nine league goals, 12 in all competitions. I still think he was worth far more than thirty grand. He should have gone to QPR, he'd have been the new Stan Bowles.

During his time with United, Crown scored a total of 45 league goals in 106 league games, 55 in 121 games in all competitions. I have checked and cross-referenced each goal. "*The Moose That Roared*" has him on a total of 46 league goals, I wonder if Andrew also thought Crown scored 25 league goals in 1985-86.

Crown kept on scoring after he left United; at Southend he bagged 61 in 113 games and at Gillingham, 40 in 87 games. No wonder, as he told "*The Abbey Rabbit*", his TV Teletext page was constantly paused on the leading goal scorer's page! (Teletext? Ask your dad!).

When we spoke, David was in no doubt as to how many league goals he scored in his record-breaking season – 24. He has his own accountancy firm now, so numbers are important to him! He pointed out that he still finished as United's top scorer in 1987-88, even though he left after just 17 league games. He did the same the season he left Southend for Gillingham, he added! He admitted to me he didn't know about the very poor state of the club when he joined United, but he said he was happy to leave Reading as he had been



getting some stick from fans there. Unbelievable, Jeff. He said he wasn't aware of any interest from 2nd division clubs when he left United, and that, as far as he was aware, Southend paid £50,000 for his services. Still not nearly enough.

He currently works as a match day host at Southend United (covid permitting) but he has fond memories of Cambridge and his time at the Abbey – his daughter was born in the city. He does have

one gripe, though: he says he did his left knee in at United. The injury wasn't deemed worthy of an operation by the club; there were no same-day scans to check injuries out in those days, he lamented. A nasty skiing accident has since done for his right knee. Ouch. David kindly sent me a couple of (annotated) photos from his scrapbook, reproduced here. One shows him getting the better of Richard Money!

He has been back to the Abbey, quite recently in fact, to watch the U's beat Gillingham 2-0 in the Papa Don't Preach Trophy. He was impressed with what he saw, particularly the player who could well break his 35-year-old goalscoring record. He saw much more in him

than just a goal scorer. He liked Harvey Knibbs, too, and the team's shape and organisation. He thinks we are a good bet to go up.

Well, there you go. David Crown. What a goal scorer. What a top fella.

Nigel Pearce
January 2021

As I write, Paul Mullin is still waiting to break David's record, having missed a penalty against Forest Green Rovers .I am sure that he will break it at Carlisle.



Words from the FED

When I first became Fans Elected Director (FED,) following a vote by members of CFU, I was given two additional roles by the club. The first was inherited from Colin Proctor and was to assist Ian and Mick with work around the Abbey Stadium. The second was the role of Supporters Liaison Officer (SLO). The roles of SLO and FED are both about representing and assisting all supporters. Within my remit is the following line: "The main aims of the Fans' Elected Director are to represent CFU and all supporters' interests."

To carry out all these roles I have no budget. I have to beg, borrow and re-use whatever I can, whenever I can. Thankfully, both CFU and CUFC Lottery (organised by members of CFU) have been able to help with finance, assistance and advice to ensure that the projects have been completed where possible. These projects have been done on behalf of all supporters and not just Trust members. Both home and away supporters have benefitted from the changes made around the ground.

During recent years when I have spoken to or worked with politicians, national groups and other club representatives I have done so with the premise that the supporters trust works for everyone and is representative of everyone involved with the football club. I am a firm believer that issues change at a National Level and at that is where to find the most amount of help.

Since the pandemic started the welfare of all supporters has been at the forefront of my thoughts. With the support of CFU we were firstly able to create the “You are Never Alone” programme last year which signposts supporters to national organisations and then “Abbey Chat” which is about listening. We have built a team of volunteers to assist with this. Now at a National Level the Football Supporters Association (FSA) has started #Terracetalk which is based on the above and recognises our concerns at a National Level. It also going to be a long-term campaign capturing the work being done by supporter groups across the country.

Diversity is another area where work has already commenced and, through my contacts at the FSA, we have been able to commence work with Anwar (Fans for Diversity) on making our club more diverse. Communities are changing everywhere and football clubs need to change with them. Clubs cannot any longer rely just on the traditional groups to build their supporter base. Unless clubs change with the times then they will no longer be the local football club and the fan base will shrink and become smaller with each generation. We need to welcome all groups and individuals and we must make sure that everyone is welcomed and feels comfortable.

While talking about coming to the match we need to re-build the links that will see existing supporters come back when lockdown allows. It will be over a year before many will have been able to start coming again. Football is a social event that sees many supporters come to matches especially to meet and mix with families and friends. During the past year those links and support mechanisms have disappeared for many fans. Some will find other means to fulfil their social needs whilst many others will have lost the habit / routine of coming on match day.



Some will find other means to fulfil their social needs whilst many others will have lost the habit / routine of coming on match day.

Preparing for the return of supporters to matches will require us to work on improving all areas of the matchday experience for all supporters. We need to aim for perfection everywhere if we can. The EFL has schemes such as “Family Excellence” and “The Away Supporter Experience” for us to use to improve upon and ensure everyone’s experience when dealing with the club is a good one, shared by everyone.

Jock Stein once said "Without fans who pay at the turnstile, football is nothing. Sometimes we are inclined to forget that. The only chance of bringing them into stadiums is if they are entertained by what happens on the football field." However, nowadays for supporters it needs to be about far more than just what goes on the green area

Please contact me via dave.matthew-jones@cambridge-united.co.uk or follow what is happening

via the www.facebook.com/CambridgeUnitedFootballClub facebook site

www.cambridgefansunited.org website or now via twitter [SLO@CambridgeUTD](https://twitter.com/SLO@CambridgeUTD)

Jonnoisms - The Sequel

The fact that we are now forced to watch United on 'I Follow' or not at all has produced a whole raft of new admirers of our famed commentary . Not only are they radio stars but we now have pictures to check against their sometimes eccentric commentary. We now know which side of the ground they sit on and we can surmise that they sometimes identify our players by the colour of their boots. Not always easy when many are the same colour and a long way away. Oh for the days of Adidas Mexico and black and white television.

Any road up, it appears that I missed a few. Some I include with a rough translation, others will, no doubt, speak for themselves. It was pointed out to me that "summoned to the Headmaster's study", might only involve a telling off rather than a booking. Either way, a nightmarish prospect in Jonno's eyes.



Hacked clear

Gets it away. Not too far though and back it comes= description of the Alamo

Returned with interest= with aggressive intent.

Posthumous appeal for a free kick= apparently damaged after a strong challenge. May involve acting.

Bowled out in an instant= quick thinking Goalie

Couldn't quite get it under his spell= poor first touch

Several post codes offside= brainless forward play

We are now in the fourth minute of three added minutes

Eschews=abstinence makes the heart grow fonder

With aplomb=showboating

He only pushed him with two hands because he didn't have three= playground bully.

He'll need a motorbike to catch that one=horribly overhit and misplaced pass.

Went down in instalments= Slow dive, following loss of the ball usually

Ran into a crowd scene= well marked

Like picking apricots in a French Orchard= class player helping himself and making dominating the opposition look easy. Wes does this all day long.

That had goal written all over it...but, unfortunately, not in indelible ink=should have scored



Appeared as if by magic like the shopkeeper in Mr Benn= Stealthy play worthy of John White or Martin Peters. An impressively literary reference based on an eighties TV programme, allegedly for children. It appealed to adults in the same way that Magic Roundabout did and contained the same levels of wisdom. If Jonno's dry professionalism invites comparison with Mr Benn, is Doug Shulman Marvin the Robot?

Sometimes his pessimism and grim predictions are worthy of the Habbin North.

Thud and Blunder= a Steve Evans team

Or a minimum thereof= a bit

You can fire up Coconuts=we won

To be perfectly honest, Cambridge United were lucky to get nil today=rhetorical device

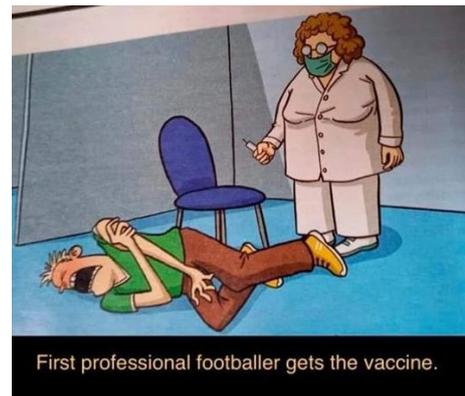
Covidian Age= TBH, I wish I'd thought of that

In a crowd scene=being tackled and roughed up by several opponents at once=see Steve Evans

Marauding

Run into traffic=headless chicken impersonation

No doubt I will have missed a few but there are still a few more matches to complete the set.



First professional footballer gets the vaccine.

1970-71

The Season Moves On

United's debut in the League Cup quickly brought the club down to earth with a 5-0 defeat at Colchester United. Colchester had been criticised for playing percentage football, of getting the ball into the box quickly which was very similar to the tactics employed by United under John Beck 20 years later. The first League away match also ended in defeat by 2 goals to 1 at Northampton Dennis Walker scoring United's second League goal. The next two matches

were at home and provide the U's with their first two Football League wins. The first a 3-1 victory over Oldham Athletic, who were to win promotion at the end of the season, Peter Leggett, George Harris and Bill Cassidy the scorers in front of 5,435. Then a 1-0 victory under the Abbey Stadium lights over Brentford, Meldrum the scorer, began a run of six games without defeat, including the first League away win at Crewe Alexandra. A John McKinven penalty and an 83rd minute goal from Malcolm Lindsay giving the U's a 2-1 win. The run included a 4-2 victory over Wimbledon (the original Wimbledon FC, that is.) in the Southern League Championship match, which was played annually between the previous season's League Champions and the SL Cup winners. Two goals from Roly Horrey and one each from Bill Cassidy and Ron Howell gave United a comfortable win and their last Non-League trophy, for 40 years anyway! A attendance of only 1,768 showed the Cambridge public were more



interested in League football than the past Non-League days.

Football League status was coming at a price though. Following on from the unwanted visit of "skinhead" hooligans from Lincoln for the opening match, more incidents followed this time initiated by so called United supporters. Visiting Oldham supporters had their coach windows smashed in and police with dogs had to intervene to prevent

Oldham fans exacting revenge. Later on, nine arrests were made on Newmarket Road. Manager Bill Leivers appealed to the trouble makers to stop saying "I am sure these people are not Cambridge United fans but hooligans using football as protection while they cause trouble". He went on to say he sympathised with those who advocated the return of the birch (a method of corporal punishment carried out with a birch rod) and would like to see the return of national service.

A bad knee injury to George Harris in the Oldham match was looking like it would cause him to be out until November. When Leivers found out that much travelled striker Tony Hateley had been transfer listed by Birmingham City he made enquiries, thinking that at the age of 29 Hateley wouldn't be carrying a six figure fee he had in the past. The £50,000 price tag was way outside United's budget though and Hateley went to Notts County.

It wasn't just on the pitch that United had to adjust to Football League status. There were complaints about matchday congestion on Newmarket Road and at the turnstiles. With regular attendances of 4-5,000 United appealed for fans to adjust their routines and try to arrive earlier. There were also PA announcements for fans to refrain from running onto the pitch during and after matches and not to climb the walls and floodlight pylons (believed to be the tallest in the League, by the way).

Hard to believe these days but it wasn't until the eighth match into the season that United received their first League booking (Yellow Card). Dennis Walker having the dubious honour in the 2-1 defeat at Chester on 23rd September. How times have changed.

For myself this was the beginning of a period of great change. My final year at school and lots of deliberations about choosing a career. After endless visits to career fairs I was beginning to think about a career in the police force. But, to be honest, careers and GCSE's (O-Levels) were not exactly top of my priorities. Girls, youth club, music, playing snooker and football both badly and of course Cambridge United were taking up most of thoughts and time, not to mention the little money I was earning as a evening waiter at Selwyn College.

My daily routine was School, home for tea, then cycling to Selwyn to spill soup over students, then cycling to Comberton for the youth club or village disco. What time was there for home work? Someone once said "youth is wasted on the young!" Well they may be right.

Nigel Browne

I must apologise to Nigel for crediting his article last month to Nigel Pearce. Wrong Nigel. This month we have touches of nostalgia from both. Thanks Nigels! Ed



Dennis Walker, the first League booking.



Tony Hateley, a transfer target.

The Sheldon Review

EFL statement: Sheldon review into child abuse in football has been published today:

<https://www.efl.com/news/2021/march/efl-statement-sheldon-review-into-child-abuse-in-football/>

Below is the EFL statement:

Clive Sheldon QC's report illustrates the devastating impact that child abuse within football has had on survivors and continues to have on their everyday lives.

Football should be a safe environment for any participant, yet sadly these experiences and testimonies demonstrate that this was not the case for the survivors, who bravely came forward to give accounts of how individuals within the game heinously abused the positions that they held. The EFL is extremely sorry for the abuse and pain that survivors suffered throughout.

The crimes of the perpetrators and the findings of this report must serve as a reminder about risks that remain both in our game and across society. The courage shown by those abused will help the game do all it can to ensure these tragic instances cannot be repeated.

In the years since these harrowing events took place, working closely with football's governing bodies, the EFL has developed and continually reviews its safeguarding policies, as well as its safeguarding strategy and standards for Clubs.

The EFL accepts Clive Sheldon's recommendations for the League and will work with The FA, Clubs and other stakeholders to ensure that they are implemented as a minimum, where they have not been already.

Having consistently enhanced its safeguarding operation and procedures in recent years, the EFL remains committed to promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and providing a safe environment for them to thrive and achieve their potential.

Better late than never, I suppose. Some clubs clearly ignored what was going on. It didn't help that Dario Gradi apparently believed that putting your hand down a boy's trousers wasn't assault. Ed

Who wants some programmes?

Most football fans are creatures of habit: we wear our "lucky" shirt, leave home to go to the match at the same time each game, meet the same people, buy a programme, stand in the same place and so on.

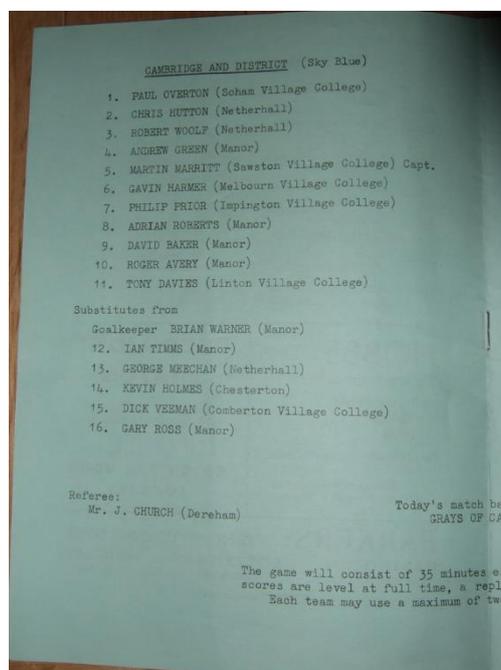
That has been me. I'll buy a programme, sometimes quickly read it at half time, then read it properly when I get home. Then put it in a box and at the end of the season up in the loft.

As I have been going to the Abbey since the 70's I have a lot of programmes but didn't know how many. During lockdown I decided to sort out the loft and list my programmes.

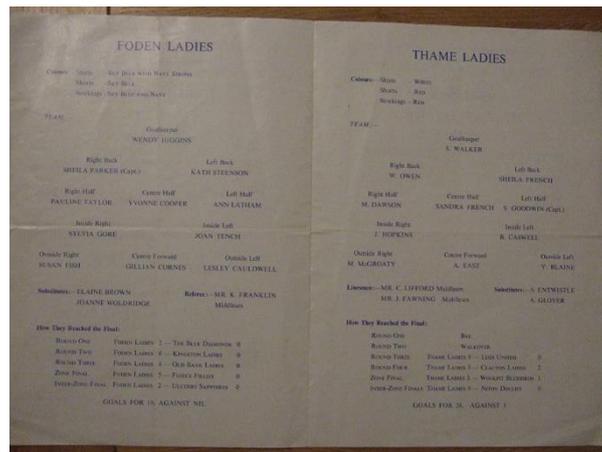
Once I started listing I had to have a read, so it took somewhat longer than I had first thought! I now know I have around 1300 CUFC programmes (mostly home but some away), and over 200 non-CUFC programmes (mostly Arsenal and Chelsea from the late 60's, and a handful of England at Wembley programmes. I had an uncle who lived in London who was an Arsenal fan, so I would badger my parents to go and see him on a Saturday so I could go to a match with him, but as my Dad worked on a Saturday we usually ended up going on a Sunday!).



Of the unusual programmes I have an English Schools Trophy Quarter final for Cambridge & District Schools FA v Rotherham Schools, played at the Abbey on 14th February 1976. I wonder if any of the Cambridge Players in that game go to the Abbey?



Another unusual one is Butlins Holiday Camps All England Final of the Ladies Television Football League played between Foden Ladies of Cheshire and Thame Ladies from Oxfordshire on Sunday 20th September 1970. It was played at Hendon FC (near where my uncle lived which explains how I got it!). A quick google and it seems the Foden Ladies (from the Foden truck manufacturing company) were the top team and included many ladies that played for England. Foden beat the blue Diamonds, Kingston Ladies, Old Bank Ladies, Fleece Fillies and Ulcerby Saphires to get to the final, Thame beat Legs United, Clacton ladies, Woolpit Bluebirds and Niton Dollies. Not sure those names would be allowed now! Foden ladies won the match. The first woman to score for England in an official match played: <https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/football/sylvia-gore-football-pioneer/>



The older programmes were made with thinner paper, and had no pictures. The adverts were around 8 to a page, and for local companies. Later ones had black and white (actually dark grey and light grey!) pictures and half/full page adverts for national companies. I suppose the paper quality had to increase for colour pictures. Oddly I seem to be missing a few years from the late 80's. This could have been due to the early years of marriage, child being born and high mortgage payments which stopped me going to matches!

I started putting the programmes back up in the loft because I have been telling my wife for many years that "one day they will be valuable". After climbing the steps with the 6th box I was getting knackered and sat down for a rest.

It was at this time I decided I was being stupid to keep moving them about. They should have a new home and be offered to fans who would appreciate them more than me. I sent the list to Coconuts to see if they needed any, and I had a few which have been donated for their museum collection.

I spoke to Ian Elliott, a CUFC fan and programme collector who had everything I have, but gave me a good steer on prices. Surprisingly the oldest are not worth the most, the newspaper style ones from 1995/6 seem to be rarest. Even non-league (pre 70!) aren't worth a fortune!

I looked at CUFC programme prices on Ebay. There are loads available at all sorts of prices! Interestingly I found some for games from this season when there has only been an online programme, it seems some people are printing the online version. I suppose all you need is a good printer and the right sort of paper to make it (Personally I always have problems trying to print booklets, getting the pages the right way up and the page numbers in the correct order in the options settings is practically impossible!). I guess the club will have to make a decision on whether it is worth printing a programme, maybe have a print to order system?



Anyway, rather than try to individually price the programmes I have decided the nominal price for newspaper ones is £3 each, League years up to year 2000 are £1.50, and after 2000 are 50p, but I am open to offers.

If you are interested let me know and I'll send you the list: Wilby1@ntlworld.com

To get back to where I started, the CUFC online programme I think is really good (although it would be nice if the quiz gave me a score,) so come the day when we can go back to watch matches I'm sure I will buy a paper copy. And takes up no space in my loft!

When the programmes have gone I will be left with only 1 box of CUFC memorabilia to go in the loft, which includes assorted books, newspaper articles, calendars and Moose!

Up the U's,

Terry Wilby

Much as I have enjoyed the digital programmes, I look forward to adding to my extensive collection!
Ed



[UK Sport Survey- Return to Major Sports Events 2021](#)

As the nation begins to cautiously look forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions. All sporting organisations are tentatively preparing for the return of spectators to major sports events. With such unprecedented times, they are mindful that everyone's experience of Covid-19 will have been different and each of us had been affected in different ways.

As everyone continues to play their part in preventing the spread of the virus, we really need to hear your thoughts on the current situation and understand how you, the fans, feel about attending major sports events again in the future.

UKSport are specifically interested in your thoughts regarding attending major sports events in the UK – those which feature elite level athletes at the pinnacle of their sport.

The survey will take about five minutes. It is important to collect as much information and feedback as possible

If you have completed the survey. Thank you for taking part. Your answers will be very helpful for event planning and supporting our sport and the industry going forward.

The survey can be accessed here www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LPZYVL7

United for Cambridge: Our Impact Report

Cambridge United Community Trust has today announced its' first-ever Community Trust Impact report.

The report outlines the impact that the Community Trust had over the 2019-20 season and how they responded to the coronavirus pandemic by providing real support for our community.

2020 was of course a year unlike any other, with the coronavirus pandemic affecting every part of our society both here and abroad. Yet in Cambridge, as a football club we were determined to be part of the solution and nearly 12 months ago, we launched the Here For U's programme of support. We opened up a Community Careline for over 70's to ring up asking for help with their everyday needs - from picking up prescriptions or shopping as well as having a friendly chat. Moreover, utilising the club



staff, first-team players and board of directors – we made over 1200 calls to seniors in the next 3 months. We also partnered with Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance to cook and deliver over 1700 meals for those families at risk of food poverty, delivering over 300 education activity packs at the same time to families attempting home education.

Sam Gomarsall, Community Trust Manager, was rightly proud of the work his team put in over this past year but also paid tribute to United fans amongst others:

“During the past year, everyone has been affected by the pandemic in some way but the response of everyone involved within this football club has been humbling to see. It is evident that the work we were able to achieve in both national lockdowns, and throughout this whole period, simply would not have been possible without the partnership of



Cambridge United Football Club and its' incredible fanbase. The level of support from club staff members, board members, players, supporters & volunteers has been phenomenal. The journey has certainly not been an easy one over this period, but I have also never been prouder of the caring & collaborative staff we have at the Trust as they adapted to the ever-changing circumstances to continue to make a positive difference on our city.

I hope that as people read this report, and in particular the stories from our participants, they can see the profound ability sport has to change lives and create meaningful impact in our communities. As we look to navigate a route out of the pandemic, divisions which already exist in Cambridge have the potential to be exacerbated. Yet we will strive to help Cambridge build back better as a healthier, stronger and more equal city and we will continue to be there for those who need us most.”

Graham Daniels, Chair of Trustees of Cambridge United Community Trust and one of the directors at Cambridge United FC said:

“Over this past year, it has never been clearer to me that Cambridge United Football Club can make a tangible difference in empowering our community and changing lives for the better. I'm proud that our vision over this period didn't change, though the means by which we delivered this vision did.

We hope you find that our 'United For Cambridge Impact Report' provides a beneficial insight into the work our Community Trust does across our city & community and we hope that you are inspired by the impact we have.”

If you want to find out more, we will be hosting an event called “United For Cambridge: An Impact Evening” on March 31st at 6pm via the club's Facebook Live.

Join us for as we look back over a year since our Here For U's programme was launched and an insight into Cambridge United's work in the community. We will be hearing direct

from participants who have benefited from the work of the Community Trust as well as being joined by Head Coach Mark Bonner and United players, speaking about everything Cambridge United. This is an event not to be missed so look out for more announcements!

Later this year, Cambridge United Community Trust will be launching its' 3-year strategy to help Cambridge build back better as a stronger, healthier and more equal community.

~~~~~

Cambridge United Community Trust are determined to support you throughout this challenging time. We have therefore created 'Forever United', a scheme to help us all keep connected. Please email [simon.wall@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:simon.wall@cambridge-united.co.uk) or phone 01223 632129 for more information.

# FOREVER UNITED

**CUCT MATCHDAY CHAT**  
Do you miss the whole matchday experience at the Abbey? Then why not join our Facebook matchday chat group so that you can interact with other fans before, during and after each CUFC match.



This week, two scoreboards were put up at the ground. These were paid for by the Lottery and the clocks were provided by AR Aspinall. We have already recorded our first goal on it – and what a significant one!



# CFU Corner (1)



Paul Wanless Pictured with Ian shaw (right)

It is with great sadness that we have learnt of the tragic death of another lifelong U's fan, Ian shaw. Ian was known to many, having stood in the Newmarket road end for over 30 years, and in the Habbin stand before that. He attended the games with his friend Noel Young and made a devotee of at least one of his sons, Elliott. Ian's sharp wit and affability earned him many life-long friends and acquaintances at United. He wasn't just a passive supporter but used his professional influence to sponsor matches & was a regular poster on the supporters' forums. Ian was a passionate supporter of the club and will be interred there on Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 when a memorial will be held for all those who would like to commemorate his life.

The pandemic has been a difficult time for many and has removed many of the outlets people need to balance their stressful lives. The football club already does a lot of great work at ensuring it is a mental health friendly football club, through arranging initiatives and campaigns to encourage fans of the club to speak out & seek appropriate help and support if needed.

CFU as a supporter's trust has been working with the football club on helping with a number of mental health initiatives for supporters. We have recently signed up for the football supporters' federations latest mental health scheme called #Terracetalks which encourages all football fans to have honest and open conversations about mental health and offers advice on mental health support services.

CFU is working with former U's player Liam Hughes, who has faced his own mental health battles off the pitch in supplying mental health talk workshops to fans and the wider community, through Liam's company called WAND. As an organisation we have already delivered a mental health workshop talk to youngsters with Liam at Cambridge Regional college sixth form, which proved a success and beneficial to those youngsters who attended. We have also created a new link recently in the community with the YMCA Hostel in Cambridge, where through the power of talking about football & people's own experiences, we are helping people with mental health difficulties.

Cambridge United Community trust have launched some great initiatives within the community. The club's disability officer, Phil Mullen runs specific mental health football sessions for fans and people in the community who may want some support. The weekly drop-in sessions run on a Wednesday morning from 10-11am and it is a great opportunity to safely meet up, exercise, chat and support new and old. It also gives people another opportunity to seek advice and chat about issues they maybe experiencing. If you would like to find out more details on this session or any of the ones mentioned above, then please email Phil on [phil.mullen@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:phil.mullen@cambridge-united.co.uk)

At CFU we believe that so much can be achieved through sport. All football clubs have an opportunity to reach out to their fans and all groups in the community they serve. Especially now at a time when many social groups have broken down, huge numbers of people feel have felt isolated and routines have disappeared, we face a mental health crisis and many social problems yet to be seen. Some will say that society's ills and misfortunes are nothing to do with football. We disagree. We have an opportunity to make things better for many people, at CFU this is something we will be striving to do alongside the football club, and we hope you will join us.

United in Endeavour

Ben Phillips

Vice Chair of CFU



## CFU Corner (2)

Supporters now haven't visited the abbey for over a year, we know everyone is missing attending games and a lot has happened in that period. I can imagine if we were under normal circumstances that the abbey would be rocking and that we would have a bumper crowd today for the visit of Forest Green in what is probably the biggest game of the season to date. We understand as a supporter trust more than ever the importance of engaging with the fans of the club and are working with the football club at achieving this in several ways.

It looks unfortunately like it will still be a while before we can welcome the return of everyone at the abbey therefore we would like fans to contact us ([cambridgefansunited@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgefansunited@outlook.com)), with your Block, row and seat number in the main stand and we will reply to you with a photo of the view from your seat.

There is still time to sign up for CFU and become a member. If you sign up currently, we are offering new members a discount in the club shop. We have over 300 members now and will be shortly hosting our first Player Q & A for CFU members. If you would like to find out membership details, please visit; [www.cambridgefansunited.org](http://www.cambridgefansunited.org)

CFU has been proactive again in last couple of weeks in several ways. The Abbey Ward area is the most deprived ward in the city of Cambridge, and we want to be able to help people who are our neighbours within proximity of the Abbey Stadium, as well as the wider community. We have recently set up two new relationships within the abbey ward area.

We visited the Cambridge Cyrenians Community Garden project, they provide work experience, therapeutic horticulture sessions and a supportive network to anyone who is rough sleeping or living in a hostel or who may be vulnerable to homelessness. The site of the community project is based directly behind the south stand of the stadium on the Whitehill Road allotments. The community group relies a lot on donations and support from local people for the project to run annually. Members of the CUFC Lottery and CFU donated some much-needed funds to ensure the project could buy items needed to keep the allotment maintained.

We have also been in contact with Nicky Shepard the CEO for Abbey People, who is working closely with Barnwell Baptist Church at providing an Abbey food hub in the ward. We have discussed how as a supporters' trust we can offer support to the food hub and how to encourage fans to donate items and help. We have created a flyer for fans highlighting the details of when visits to the food hub can happen for donations and for those who maybe in need to use the hub.

CFU is working hard at reaching out to people within the community and helping others and will continue to try and make a difference for everyone!

United in Endeavour

Ben Phillips

# Hot off the Habbin

---

Scunthorpe.

---

“We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars”. Oscar Wilde.

I read today that Dover FC are withdrawing from all future games as a result of a Covid related financial crisis. Sad though this is, they are far from unique. Many other so-called little clubs are hanging on, not knowing whether they can survive until the end of the season or until fans are allowed to return to our football grounds. It appears that the Government reneged on a pledge to give them financial support until the end of the season. They were offered a loan but, not surprisingly, they can't afford to pay it back. Should someone step in and help the clubs we love to survive? You could possibly argue that football is not something to spend public money on until you start to think of the effect football has on the mental well being of so many people. No sign of an intervention from our bloated TV companies either, despite their huge profits from football.



Of course we should be grateful that we know that our club has taken the necessary steps to remain viable until some months after the return of the fans. Many of us are still haunted by memories of the season when we slipped out of the league and financial mismanagement almost drove Cambridge United out of existence. A protest march from the centre of the city to the ground helped to demonstrate just how much a football club means to its fans. We should be delighted at how much better run the club is now. And yet, the social media experts are never satisfied. Last Tuesday we lost a pretty even game to a decent Cheltenham side. They took their only chance and we missed ours. The windy conditions suited their robust, more physical style better than us and won the points. Even the best teams lose but some of our so-called fans seem to think that we have a divine right to win matches. Football isn't like that. Some of those same fans have been on Liam O'Neill's back since he got here, just as they were with Joe Pigott. His goal at Port Vale will no doubt silence some of them for now. What good, I wonder, do they think their constant whingeing do the club?

Finally, we welcome Scunthorpe United tonight. I have always enjoyed going there and remember crowing in the Berkley Hotel after Tom Youngs' volley, which stuck in the stanchion, won us the points. I would love to have been there this season for our five nil win, and suspect that the home fixture will be much closer. Win or lose, however, this has been our best season for years, even though we are only top of the league!

“There was nothing wrong with the performance, apart from throwing away the game”.

Glenn Hoddle

I don't often agree with the eccentric Mr Hoddle. He certainly wasn't very complimentary about us when we demolished his fancied Swindon Town team some years ago. His comments about disability place him somewhere alongside David Icke



and other misguided saviours of mankind. For all that, he was a wonderful player in the days when Spurs played attractive and compelling football and his comment above could have been made about our last home game. There is not much between many of the teams in our league and most games are a battle. Despite that, we outplayed Scunthorpe and , on chances, should have won comfortably. Any long term football fan knows that sometimes things don't go your way.

Scunthorpe never looked like scoring but did. We all know that winning away when you don't deserve it is one of the great pleasures of football. I love it when we win like that.

Do I think that our promotion push is over? Certainly not. A couple of poor results don't ruin what is turning into a very good side. I am no tactician but I do know that our front two, effective as they are, are not blessed with blistering pace. I think we miss Hannant when he is injured or out of form. The thought of him and Dunk and , sometimes, a third pacy winger is one to bother any defence. Our forwards missed a few on Tuesday but they don't often. Creating chances is a guarantee that we will win most matches. It is strange how pessimistic fans are. I wonder if they are gnashing their teeth at chequebook wonders FGR or primitive Newport. I imagine so. To say that we can't play without Wes, the Boat or anyone else is insulting to the other players. We generally have a strong bench now and a couple of youngsters champing at the bit. I hope we see Worman and Simper soon but I am getting ahead of myself. The point is that the club are financially sound, we have a great manager and a team to be proud of. Apart from that, everything is awful. At least when we're struggling , we can listen to Jonno and Doug coming up with new ways of saying that it's not going well or endless variations thereof.



And so Walsall, who I remember from their Fellowes Park days . They remain the Saddlers, a profession once common in that part of Birmingham apparently. Now its all motorways and IKEA but the accents and traditions have not changed. I have a bit of a soft spot for them. Alan Buckley was one of the most cultured players I have ever seen at any level. Mr Entertainment, alias Richard Money, managed there and Dave Serella, another seriously good player, I knew from my schooldays. They are a bit of a sleeping giant who seem to draw a lot of their matches this season. Like most opponents, they will be tough to beat but its time to get back on track now. Earlier this season we were being told that we only played well on I Follow. This Saturday we will and capricious Fortune will smile on us once again!

---

*Forest Green Rovers*

---

“England is the paradise of individuality, eccentricity, heresy, anomalies, hobbies and humours.”  
George Santayana.

It will be difficult for today's game to match the thrills and spills of our last game at Oldham. Many of our fans turned into Marvin the Robot, announcing with total confidence that the promotion dream was over, the wheels had come off and that we had been flattering to deceive until March. After that, United scored four times to show everyone that you can never write them off. Two down after ten minutes, playing into a gale and being refereed by a man who often looks like he has his own private rule book, things looked bleak. We were even able to survive a plainly ludicrously awarded penalty which Callum Burton saved. It was our day and there will be more. We have all had setbacks. Newport have had some poor results, forest Green lost heavily to a poor Southend side and last night Cheltenham lost at home to Barrow. There is not much between the teams at the top and I expect a tight finish. I don't see us falling away though.



And what of Forest Green? Their story is the stuff of romance. Their ground is perched on the top of a hill in Nailsworth, a scantily populated rural idyll where you might go to live a life of rural bliss and solitude. It is a stunningly beautiful place and one wonders what the likes of Portsmouth or Ipswich will make of it if Rovers are promoted? I have many fond memories of going there, watching their fans playing skittles and drinking cider in their supporters' club. One year their former Chaiman directed us to a space in their car park before thanking us for coming. A lovely man. If they are promoted , it will show that the dream is still alive for little clubs perhaps, a far cry from the football world being controlled by the big boys in the Premier League and envisaged by the tv companies.

Of course the club has been bankrolled by millionaire owner Dale Vince and it would



be disastrous for them if he lost interest in football in the way that he lost interest in the Green Centre in Swaffham, which remains closed to this day. He is a risk taker and something of a visionary, introducing solar panels and banning meat products from the ground. I have always had visions of the players running off to Macdonalds after games but who knows. We know Mark Cooper from his time at Kettering. I remember advising him not to go to Peterborough where the atmosphere was still toxic after the first sacking of Darren Ferguson. But that's another story. It should be an interesting game.

## and finally....

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Having just watched our well-deserved win over Forest Green Rovers and the performance of Wes in particular, it is clear that we have nothing to fear from any team in this division when we are at our best. What José would have given for commitment and teamwork like United have. It makes you proud.

The Sheldon Review has only shown up what we already knew. Give people too much power without real accountability and the potential exists for disaster. Looking the other way is never the right thing to do.

CFU seem to be involved in a lot of things at the moment and many are bearing fruit. We haven't yet been successful in getting permission for a fanzine at the stadium but we will find a solution.

I am proud that we are developing links with Fans for Diversity, Level Playing Field, the organization for the homeless, and the Cyrenians Allotments Association. We are establishing with the Club, and with the Community Trust, where we can be of the greatest use and how we can co-ordinate our efforts effectively. We are also hoping to establish a group for 'exiled' fans who live a long way from Cambridge.



We have a club we can be proud of. One which is still discovering the immense power of sport to make a difference. Covid has damaged our society. Together we can improve lives and the matchday experience of all our supporters.

COYU's!

Andrew



**Make a difference and join CFU.**  
**Your opinions and contributions are always gratefully received: [acstephen@hotmail.com](mailto:acstephen@hotmail.com)**

[Deadline for next newsletter-April 15<sup>th</sup>]

**United in Endeavour**

