



The Newsletter from Currie Star FC

Message from the Chairman



Hello All

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter of 2015. I hope you are all well. Gothia 2015 is nearly upon us after 2 years of planning. We are taking 60 kids from three

age groups - 2001,2002 and 2003's - over for the International Youth World Cup on 13th July. The boys will be kitted out in their brand new Club tracksuits as they board the plane to begin their adventure. We are all staying in the same school and will be eating, sleeping and breathing football for 7 non-stop days! For updates please follow us on Twitter @CurrieStarFC.

We are now using the wonderful new facility at Malleny Park, which is outstanding. We did anticipate teething problems but these have proved bigger than we thought. However, we are working with our various partners to resolve for the benefit of all. I have no doubt things will settle down and we will have access to a first class facility for many years to come.

Our Club is continuing to grow with the addition of a new under 16 team. We have been lacking a team at this age year group for 2 years but Phil Hay has shown great desire and enthusiasm to offer this opportunity for youths in the area to be part of Currie Star. Welcome Phil and all the new players.

As part of our strategy to work closer with other clubs in the South West Hub, Currie Star has formed a partnership with Kingsknowe Golf Club (see article in newsletter). In essence, we want to provide kids with the opportunity to experience golf and will be working closely with

Colin Pearson, Club Manager, to achieve this. The Golf Club have also kindly offered their facilities so if anyone wishes to use their function suite for birthday parties etc please contact me directly so we can arrange.

All the Currie Star coaches enjoyed a night on the town recently to let their hair down after another great season. We had a meal in town and were treated to entertainment kindly arranged by Mr Delegator, Ken Stewart. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to JP who returns to his home in the USA after 3 years in Edinburgh. JP and Logan will be missed by all.

A big congratulation to Currie Star 2001 Colts. The boys finished the season winning the Pilmar Smith Cup and also the Armadale Festival Cup. Well done the Colts.

I have attended a few end of season and fundraising events recently. It has been fantastic to meet parents and gather feedback. We continue to review what we do and strive to provide the best possible football club for all players, parents and coaches to be part of. Please contact me directly if there is something you think we can improve on.

Right, that's enough from me. I'm off to pack my bag for the second trip to Gothenburg as a Currie Star coach. Hopefully, we will take even more teams in 2017 to allow more players, coaches and parents the wonderful experience this tournament offers. Can't wait!!

The future's bright.....it's blue and white!!

John

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Young Footballers Score a Hole in One

A new partnership has been formed between Currie Star Football Club and Kingsknowe Golf Club (KGC). Both clubs have now come together to create exciting new opportunities for the 360 or so players at Currie Star. Louise Fraser, the first Lady Member to Captain Kingsknowe Golf Club said: "Kingsknowe Golf Club is delighted to strike up a partnership with our neighbours Currie Star FC and looks forward to this initiative helping to grow and develop our junior membership. The Golf Club recognises the importance of building ties with the local community and is extremely keen to do what it can to help local kids "Get into Golf" by providing them with the opportunity to practice and play the great game of golf on their doorstep." KGC have also kindly sponsored Currie Star 2001's with strips for their impending trip to Sweden (see below).



Currie Star Physiotherapist

We are delighted to announce an agreement with local physio Edel Farren-McCann. Any Currie Star player requiring treatment should contact Edel directly on 0770 918 5221. Sessions cost £20, payable direct to Edel upon your visit. This is a substantial saving on her usual consultation rate of £44.

You Can Count On Ronnie

"Hi, I'm Ronnie Millar and I have been coaching Currie Star 2006's for the past two years. I have just retired after spending thirty years as a police officer in and around Edinburgh. To make good use of my time I intend to tutor Mathematics at National 4, National 5 and Higher level. I have an honours degree in Mathematics and previous experience of tutoring. I also have a current PVG certificate permitting me to work with children. I intend to start when the schools return in August so if you feel that your child might benefit from additional tuition, you can contact me as shown below. I would be more than happy to come to your house to discuss the matter in person." Ronnie can be contacted at Ronniemillar835@btinternet.com or on 07929 560820/0131 441 2034.

End of Season Awards - Juniors

On a bright sunny Sunday morning at Kingsknowe ALL our junior players received their trophies from Chairman John Brock for all the hard work they have put in over the course of the season (see below). Very well done boys. Hopefully you are working towards your special 5 year awards!!





2002s Update

The 2002's finished the season with their annual Fun Training Night BBQ at Kingsknowe. They had the usual challenges for the players - cross bar challenge, penalties, corner kick challenge. All winners were rewarded with iTunes vouchers. New to this year was a 2v2 contest. This was won by Coll Dracup and Liam Livingstone (see below). At the event they also handed out end of season player awards. Congratulations to all winners. They are saying goodbye to some players - all the best for the future.



Currie Star 2000s Are Back

"I'm delighted to say that a Currie Star team for lads born in 2000 is back and all things going well with our registration we'll be playing in the Under 16 3rd Division for the new season. We're off to a really encouraging start with 18 lads already training weekly for the new season and we've even managed our first unofficial match, duly won 2-0, on the magnificent pitch at Malleny.

A sincere 'thank you' goes out to the other Currie Star coaches and officials who have helped gets us up and running, it's a pleasure to be associated with such excellent and welcoming folk. In addition I should also say thanks to our shirt sponsor, A F Calder and Sons of Balerno for agreeing to be our shirt sponsor for next season. I am also hopeful that we can confirm another sponsorship arrangement for training gear for the lads shortly, so watch this space for more news!

To the lads and their parents/carers involved so far with the squad can I lastly just say - I'm really excited and looking forward to the season ahead and can't wait to get started for real!" Phil Hay, Head Coach (below left)



P2L Summer Football Camps Offer

Our coaching partners at P2L are offering 10% off all camp prices for any Currie Star player this Summer. P2L have 7 weeks of camps at various venues across Edinburgh and this is a fantastic opportunity for your kids to keep up their skills and fitness up over the Summer not to mention the most important thing having FUN! Please book asap to guarantee your space on the camp via email Shane@play2learn.info or telephone Shane McCreevy on 07825 086108.



2004s Update

The 2004's have had a busy summer term with league fixtures every Sunday and training nights on Mondays and Fridays. In May we helped the SFA by providing players for a coaching session at Peffermill. In June we competed in 2 tournaments - Tranent and Livingston. Tournaments are always a great way to get a whole day of football in - the boys played well in both tournaments, finishing top of their group in Tranent.

We welcome two new players, Oliver Hean and Krianth Mahesh both boys are a great addition to the squad and bring with them lots of energy and enthusiasm.

A few weeks of rest now & then we will start training again early August, kicking off the new session playing in the Musselburgh tournament mid August.



2003s Update

2003s coaches thank the boys and parents for turning up for all the fixtures in sometimes horrendous Scottish weather to play this beautiful game. This was the last season of 7 aside and finishing with two Maradona squads. The 2003s had gone from

4 teams of 40 boys to 2 squads over the last 3 years with the changes in players and coaches. They say goodbye to coach Allen Pratt this season after over two years with the club and thank Allen for all his support and commitment and Ian Dracup's personal thank you as they set up the 2003 Silvers 3 years ago with 10 boys. Allen's experience and Coerver background helped the training flow.

2003s played in the 11s transition festival in May at Meadowmill run by the SFA in the worst weather to play football - the boys and parents kept their spirits up for 4 matches, drew 2, won 1 and lost the last game 1 nil. Next season the 2003s will have one 11s squad in the South East Region league.

2003s campaigned to get a squad to attend the Gothia tour to Sweden for 7s but just fell short of a few boys to make it happen, however Ian Dracup is delighted to say that Coll, Nicky and Torquil will be supporting the 2002s in the tournament. A big thank you to Gail Gourlay and Cathrine Gray for organising an end of season bowling night (see below) last week instead of training for the Silvers



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2007s Update

Update from a very busy few months for the 2007's. They recently played in the Dalkieth Miners tournament and have been invited back to their Armed Forces Day on 27th June. It was a very good and very testing tournament for the boys. They have got used to playing at the Pitz in Sighthill and the sudden change in environment and pitch size caught them out a little bit. However there were a few excellent performances and some great displays of team work on show.

They held a Race Night to raise funds for the team (£1800 raised) and knew they were on the right track when they were graced by the Chairman himself making an appearance. The race night was initially intended to raise funds for strips for the boys, however in the weeks before the event they were fortunate enough to secure a sponsorship from a company Bobby Smith works with in his day job. EOL IT Services are based in Essex and specialise in Secure Data Destruction, IT Project Management and IT Asset Recycling Partner <http://www.eolitservices.co.uk/>

Jan Smith (the owner) is football mad and during the discussions proved that they are very fortunate to have her backing.



After many thanks from the 2007 team and from Mr Brock himself Jan said "It's a pleasure to support the wee footballers". The generosity shown by Jan and her team took everyone by surprise and was a real reaffirmation that getting the young boys on the pitch playing football is important to many people everywhere. Football needs more people like Jan. The boys are pictured below left in their new kit:

2001 Colts Update

Gary McDonald, Colts Coach reports "By far our best season so far even though it's only our second season at 11's - the boys have developed on and off the field in a very positive manner. They stand up for each other in so many ways, showing that great togetherness. This has kept them in contention for their league up until the last few games but finishing joint second is great on top of winning their first trophy in a tense final! It is a pleasure being involved in such an enthusiastic group who can lift each other up and have a never say die mentality, which in the up and coming season will be tested as the Colts elect to go up a division which is their second promotion in the two years of 11's. We bid farewell to three players who have served our team so well - goodbye and good luck to Luis Wood, Fraser Sayers & Callum Shand. We will have a few new boys coming in to the Colts, including Lewis Muego who switches from the other 2001 team. We must also thank all our fantastic parents who have supported the Colts all season. For me a bit of media training is required following my 'Chic Murray' style interview after the Cup Final!!"



1998s Update

Bearing in mind that only 3 seasons ago Currie Star 17s were competing in the SERYFA Division 3 the team has been on a remarkable journey since then. At that point it may have been difficult to envisage being able to compete with the best teams in the country but that is where the current squad stands. The final league position in the SERYFA Division 1 shows the team achieving a very creditable 4th place gaining ground over more established squads and pressing higher profile teams for a top three finish. While sadly two teams folded during the course of the season Currie Star's final position would most likely have been unaffected by these circumstances. At one point, due entirely to points deductions against the two disbanded teams, Currie Star found themselves temporarily at the bottom of the league in very bizarre circumstances so credit should be given to the efforts which elevated the team back up the league table.

As is the way in football there have been highs and lows along the way but a consistent feature of the 1998s was that the team played an attractive passing style of football which is often sadly lacking in the game at times. Credit has to go to Paul McGovern who, as head coach, has managed to install a developmental approach to the squad which has allowed the team to progress to its current position. Sadly at the start of the season the team was disqualified from the Victor Paris Cup where, despite losing the fixture comprehensively, the opposing club decided to raise an objection to a player who was unregistered but ineligible to play.

This was essentially the only real footballing blight on the season and nothing more than an honest mistake along the way. It is doubtful if Currie Star would ever behave in such a way towards other Clubs under similar circumstances. However the team quickly put the issue behind them and worked towards good performances in other cup competitions. A good run was achieved in the Scottish Cup where the team unfortunately lost out to Syngenta in a penalty shoot-out. Notably the team got to the semi-final of the Tom Wilson Memorial League Cup and performed well in other cup competitions.

Some players came and went during the course of the season and not always in the desired way. Disappointingly a couple of players were advised to leave the Club as behavioural shortcomings surfaced and this cannot be tolerated in a good Club like Currie Star. On a more positive note, and to illustrate proper player development, two squad members left the Club to join senior clubs. Mark McGovern left to join Livingston FC in the autumn and Daniel Jardine left for Middlesbrough FC early in 2015. These are the success stories which should be highlighted and show what can be achieved.

If there was a real winner during the season it would have to be the way the team went about its business both on and off the park. The team played some of the best football that could be seen at their level and there have been many positive comments about Currie Star 1998s this season. Testament to a good squad guided by an effective coaching team and supported by a very good youth football Club. Overall the season should be viewed as a success.

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Monday Night Play2Learn Foundation

The club have a very strong foundation - if you visit Kingsknowe on a Monday you can see it in its entirety. After passing an excellent 2006 group up to the 7 aside format, Play2Learn have welcomed the 2008s age group up from the Saturday morning petite programme. This group is led by Kris and Jack from Play2Learn, who are supported well by the parent coaches led by Danny. This group play in themed game activities focussing on four a side formations in the well established P2L 'aeroplane format'.

The 2007s have now progressed to the 5 aside format led by Dave Upton. The players have been focussing on the roles and responsibilities in the 5s shape. Each position has been covered and players and coaches have used common terms like a dictionary to learn appropriate play/movement patterns.

Both age groups have excelled at Play2Learn in a supportive, friendly and fun environment.

Parents of older players, if you have younger siblings they can start their Currie Star career early. Play2learn classes begin again on Saturday mornings after the summer. The age groups and timings are as follows:
2009s first group 9.30 Kingsknowe
2010/11s second group 10.30 Kingsknowe.
Indoors in the winter, year round fun!

2006s Update

The last three months has seen the boys playing in the 7-a-side leagues for the first time. They have one team in the Pele league (Madrid), two teams in the Maradona league (Barca and Munich) and a team in the Beckham league (Milan). All four teams have

been involved in some great games, and the boys are clearly loving playing 7s. I'm sure all the parents and supporters on the sidelines have enjoyed watching the games. During this period they've also had two new players join them. They are Pdraig Ryan and Ben Henderson. Welcome to the club and we hope you have fun playing football with Currie Star.

The 2006s had an 'end of season' awards night at Colinton Bowling Club. A fun evening was attended over a hundred people. They were very honoured to have special guest star Craig Gordon of Scotland and Celtic (below) at their presentation night, along with our very own John Brock. In addition Hearts sent along the Scottish Championship trophy for the boys to see. It was a great night & they raised a lot of money for club funds. Many thanks to all the people who helped make it happen.



Access to the great facility at Malleny park is allowing them to train twice a week, so they can spend more time on all aspects of the game. They're already seeing that pay off in the matches, with all the teams trying to play an exciting style of football.

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2006s Update (continued)

The improvement over the last few weeks has been rewarding to see. Recently, Mike, Lee and Chris completed the two day 'Coaching Young Footballers' course. That means that all six coaches have completed the second stage of the SFA training.

The end of the season saw a keenly-contested Coaches v Dads match at Kingsknowe. The idea was to have a bit of fun while raising some money for the club. The game finished 5-3 to the Dads, but I think it's fair to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves even if there were some sore legs the following week! Finally,. The player awards were handed out to the following:

Milan Team: Most Improved - Rory Kerr,
Coaches Player of the Year - Dylan McLean,
Players Player of the year - Max Budziosz,
Captain - Thomas Brons

Munich: Most Improved - George Ness,
Coaches Player of the Year - Josh Loukes,
Players Player of the year - Jake Veenboer,
Captain - Jayden Semple

Barca: Most Improved - Callum Murray,
Coaches Player of the Year - David Millar,
Players Player of the year - Keir Rice,
Captain - James Hunt

Madrid: Most Improved - Adam Phayre,
Coaches Player of the Year - Jamie Thomson,
Players Player of the year - Ethan Lorimer,
Captain - Miko Brown

Thanks, as always, must go to all our partners, sponsors, parents, coaches and supporters who make it all possible through their support and hard work.



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Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. The Newsletter will only work going forward if we continue to get input from every age group. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future editions of the Newsletter please contact david.muego@sky.com. Remember, it is your Newsletter!!