

OFFICIAL FC UNITED MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

NEL REYNOLDS

FC UNITED'S MANAGER TALKS BEFORE TONIGHT'S GAME

I'd like to extend a big welcome to everyone from Brera FC who has made the trip over here to Manchester for what I'm sure will be another great European night in the FENIX Trophy.

Our trip to Milan last month is one that will certainly live long in my memory, and I'm sure will for everyone who was able to be there. Walking out into the Arena Civica was an incredible experience for myself and the players, with all the history that it holds.

On the pitch, Brera really went out there to give us a game, and we found ourselves a goal down from the penalty spot inside 20 minutes. That really woke us up, and we equalised through a penalty of our own, dispatched by Charlie Ennis.

We took the lead not long after the half hour with a nice finish from Ali Waddecar, and carried that lead into half-time. There wasn't much to write home about in the second half, as we controlled the game well. Brera kept having a go at us, but we finally put the game to bed with another penalty, this time from Regan Linney.

The hospitality Brera gave us from the minute we arrived was superb, and we will be doing our best to return the favour today.

We will certainly need to put on a better performance on the pitch than we saw against Hyde United last time out here, closing out our league campaign with a disappointing defeat.

I made no secret of my displeasure with the performance, and there were a few questions asked after the match – including between some of the players themselves, not just from me and the coaching staff.

You could argue that that game really summed up our season – not getting

ourselves up for games against teams lower down the table, after putting in superb performances against the likes of South Shields, Buxton and Matlock.

The fact that there was nothing to play for, with respect to a playoff place, is no excuse – and especially in front of a big crowd.

We should be taking the same mentality into every game, and that's what has let us down too often this season. We know it's not down to ability, as we've seen how well we can play on so many occasions this season.

We have already started the work to build for next season. The core of the squad will return, but with additions where we need them – with a particular focus on leadership out there on the pitch.

One player who I am sad to announce will not be making a return next season is Michael Potts. He phoned me up last week and asked if

"From my coaching staff and players, the office staff, the board, the volunteers, and all of the supporters – you have all played your part in what has been a good, if at times frustrating, season"

we could meet face to face, where he gave me the news that he has decided to call it a day on his playing career.

Pottsy has been an absolute warrior throughout his career, always putting his body on the line for his team. He's had a couple of tough injuries over recent seasons, and with the pressures of work and family life, he's decided the time is right to hang up his boots.

Michael has been a great player, a great captain, and someone who I am lucky enough to call a great friend. He knows that he is always welcome back here at Broadhurst Park, and I am sure we have not seen the last of him.

With the league season over, we now turn our full attention to the FENIX Trophy. Whilst we may be all but assured of winning the group, we want a strong performance here tonight against Brera.

We really want to head into the finals weekend in Rimini with an unbeaten record, so we need to get the job done this evening. We've also got players eyeing up individual glory in the form of the Golden Boot, with a number in the running – most notably Regan Linney who currently leads the way.

I'm sure it's going to be a great weekend of celebration on the Adriatic coast next month, but we're going over there with our sole focus on bringing the silverware back to Manchester.

As I write for the final time this season, I'd just like to thank everyone who has played their part this year. From my coaching staff and players, the office staff, the board, the volunteers, and all of the supporters – you have all played your part in what has been a good, if at times frustrating, season.

Whilst we achieved the top half finish that we were targeting this season, we know that it could've been so much more. Rest assured that the work is already well underway to make that a reality next season. Bring on United!

Reno

This issue of FCUM Review was produced by – Editor & Design: David Bergin. Contributors: Paul Hurst, Paul Hinson, Karl Ladley, Jason Davies, Ruud van de Graaf Photos: Mark Lee, Sam Coates, Matt Wilkinson, Alicia Day Thanks to: The FC subs and matchday sellers



FC UNITED Democratically agreed by the club members (owners) in 2005: - The Board will be democratically elected by its members - Decisions made by the membership will be decided on a one-member, one-vote basis - The club will develop strong links with the local community and strive to be accessible to all. discriminating against none - The club will endeavour to make admission prices as affordable as possible, to as wide a constituency as possible

 The club encourage young and local participation, playing and supporting, wherever possible
The Board will strive to avoid outright commercialism

- The club will remain a non-profit organisation

OWNERS: THE FANS

Board Members: Adrian Seddon. David Ashurst, Warren Heppolette, Luc Zentar, Paul Butcher Secretary: Viv Ware Manager/Chief Executive Officer/ Football & Academy Principal: **Neil Reynolds** Assistant: David Chadwick Coaches: Mike Faulkner. Matty Clarkson, Tom Conroy, Paul Chapman and Dave Carnell Physio: Liv Smith Kitmen: Nigel Brookes, Joe Winskill Academy Manager: Tom Conroy Academy Secretary: Pete Moulds FCUMW manager: James Mulvihill FCUMW secretary: Lee Jones Chief Operating Officer: Natalie Atkinson Community Liaison Manager: Vinny Thompson Matchday/Team Secretaries: Viv Ware & Paul Delamere FC United Limited, Registered Society number 29969R

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BROADHURST NEWS



PETE & PAT SHAW

Following many years of dedicated service to the club, Pete and Pat Shaw have decided to step down from their positions at the end of this season.

Pete is FC United's Safety Officer and has played a crucial role for the club behind the scenes since we first moved into Broadhurst Park, whilst overseeing the matchday stewarding operation.

Pat, meanwhile, misses the majority of games volunteering effortlessly in the club office and, like husband Pete, has been another whose work often goes unnoticed since we've moved into our own ground.

Their 'retirement' is well-earned and everybody at FC United would like to thank Pete and Pat for everything they have done for our club.

Both will be sorely missed in their working capacities at Broadhurst Park but we hope to see you again next season on the terraces and in the bars, finally getting a chance to enjoy games.

SEASON TICKETS

With FC's league campaign now complete, our attention turns to next season's push for promotion. Early Season Ticket and Ten Match Ticket Book [TMTB] sales are vital to this, so please buy yours as soon as you can. Alongside the Season Tickets, our TMTBs also return. These allow you 10 tickets to any FC home game next season. It could be you and nine mates, it could be 10 separate games for just yourself, or it could be any combination of 10 admissions across home matches.

Season Tickets and TMTBs will be available from the membership stall at tonight's game or you can buy them online at www.fc-utd.co.uk/ seasontickets

Memberships are also on sale for next season, priced £15 for adults and £3 juniors.



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FC UNITED...... 0 HYDE UNITED...... 2

A lacklustre end-of-season performance from the Reds saw relegation-threatened Hyde take full advantage to claim maximum points.

A Monty Python-esque defensive mix-up eight minutes before the break saw Hyde gifted the lead as a surprised-looking Tom Pratt walked the ball into an unguarded goal to give his side a half-time lead.

The game was then wrapped up as the visitors hit FC on the break with 12 minutes remaining when a coolly-taken chipped effort from Edward Brown, which many thought was floating harmlessly wide, ended up in the top corner of the stranded Dan Lavercombe's net.

There was no coming back from that on a disappointing afternoon which saw a season's-best crowd of 2,307 in attendance at a sunny yet chilly Broadhurst Park.

It meant FC dropped down a position and finished the season in ninth spot, behind Stafford Rangers on goal difference and just one goal in front of 10thplaced Morpeth Town, with all three sides tied on 61 points from their 42 games. We ultimately finished 10 points off the play-off positions and 20 behind eventual champions Buxton.

REDS ARE RELEGATED

FCUMW sadly succumbed to the drop after one season competing in the FA Women's National League Division One North following an agonising final week of a challenging campaign.

James Mulvihill's side faced Leeds United for a penultimate midweek fixture at Broadhurst Park a week ago in what had become a must-win game for the relegation-threatened side.

The Reds went into yet another crucial fixture having dropped back into the bottom three after Barnsley secured a vital victory just a few days earlier to leapfrog FC United and leave them trailing by two points.

Hopes then suffered an agonising blow on Wednesday when the FCUMW fought back from a half-time deficit to make it two apiece with around 15 minutes remaining thanks to Ashleigh Hayes after Chelsea Flanagan had initially levelled in the opening half.

Yet a potentially huge point was then snatched from their grasp as Leeds struck late on to leave the home players devastated and with a real mountain to climb against title-chasing Liverpool Feds on the final day.

And so it was off to Merseyside, two points behind both Bradford and Barnsley to face a Feds side on the verge of promotion and Mulvihill's team needing a minor miracle.

Unfortunately, the Reds had no answer against a team intent on success and succumbed to a heavy 6-1 defeat as the Feds marched to title glory and FC United suffered the dreaded drop.

Elsewhere on the same day, a record crowd for a women's match this season was set by Newcastle United at St James Park when 22,134 turned up to see the Magpies take on another team relegated alongside FC, Alnwick Town.

Captain Kirsty Chambers said after Sunday's game: "It didn't go our way but we've learnt a lot over the season and, as a team, we are so grateful for you all who turn up week in, week out, to show your support, and for the ones supporting from a distance - your support doesn't go unnoticed.

"I think you know we've had everything thrown at us this season but one thing we can't fault and I'm sure you all agree is the fight and desire from the players right up until the final game.

"It's time for us to now regroup, recover and rebuild. So, from me, and everyone at the team, thank you for all your continuous support and we will see you back on the sidelines soon."

F.C United of Manchester



Jonathan Allsopp wrote the following about FC United's trip to Brera on his wonderful blog nowtmuchtosay.wordpress.com

It's not often you get to watch your team play in a historic stadium in the heart of one of Europe's great cities under the lights on a serene early spring midweek evening with the whiff of a European trophy in the air. So Wednesday 6th April provided one of those occasions when you had to gently pinch yourself to confirm that you weren't day dreaming about some old **Manchester United match** and the red shirts on the pitch in front of you were in fact representing the semi-professional, seventh tier football club you helped to found only seventeen years ago.

When we quit going to watch United in 2005 we tended to assume that trips to European cities to watch matches at the business end of a season with a European pot at stake were well and truly a thing of the past. The occasional pre-season or post-season friendly match perhaps. But a competitive fixture in an actual European tournament? Nah, you're having a laugh surely.

For the more than three hundred FC United supporters who made the trip to Milan and stood on the terraces of the Arena Civica – the oldest stadium in Europe having opened in 1807 – and watched their team take on Brera FC, Milan's third team, in the Fenix Trophy this was a truly special occasion. FC had already played one away match in the group phase of this new tournament for non-league clubs in Warsaw in October but pandemic complications had meant the date of that match had only been confirmed at relatively short notice leaving many fans unable to make the trip to Poland. So this felt, for many, like the first proper away match of the tournament.

And many of FC's support would probably have been in the same city almost exactly twenty-three years earlier to see Paul Scholes score that crucial late equaliser against Inter to take United through to the Champions League semi-finals and on course for the treble.

The noise in the San Siro that night, with the Inter fans roaring their team forward, was immense. This latest trip to Milan was very much, as a smart new flag said, "a new version of the old" with the

"Whilst there was no alcohol on sale in the ground fans were able to bring an assortment of refreshments in with them – including multi-packs of Peroni beer, Aperol Spritz aperitifs from a nearby bar and red wine drunk straight from a carton. The type of scenes you don't often see on Stanley Tucci's Searching for Italy"

likes of Regan Linney and Ali Waddecar striving to emulate Paul Scholes and James Quinn commentating on the match on Fenix Trophy TV instead of Clive Tyldesley on ITV. Meanwhile the peerless Gazzetta dello Sport still gave us a mention if none of the headlines.

After surviving the chaos of an under-staffed Manchester airport, arriving at Malpensa airport was a comparative breeze and the train into the centre of Milan brought us into the magnificent Milano Centrale – perhaps the finest railway station in Europe with its giant archways and sprawling, opulent galleries adorned with lions, eagles and symbols of the Roman empire which, when it opened in 1931, was meant to convey the power of Mussolini's fascist reaime.

Me and a mate tried to kip in the entrance hall one summer night in the early nineties having run out of lira whilst on a cheap-as-chips backpacking trip round Europe but were moved on in the early hours by a disdainful security guard who informed us that "you English, you sleep everywhere".

The atmosphere in the ground was good – although not quite on a par with the San Siro in '99 – with the mostly well-oiled FC fans in fine voice. The old fashioned, Romanesque stadium with its athletics track – it also hosts athletics meetings and is the home of the local rugby team – reminded me of the old Olympic stadium in Stockholm where we played Djurgarden in a friendly in 2009 but the Arena Civica is a century older and becomes not only the oldest but the finest stadium that I think FC have ever played in.

Although Gainsborough Trinity, with their claim that their Northolme ground is 'the oldest single team ground in the world' may dispute that first point.

For the first time in the FENIX Trophy, FC fell behind as Brera took the lead from the penalty spot with the scorer running almost the entire length of the pitch, past most of the home fans, to celebrate in front of the section of terracing populated by the vast majority of FC's travelling support.

It was a harmless bit of fun, almost akin to that memorable Castleton Gabriels celebration many moons ago, so why



some dickhead chose to throw a bottle in the direction of the celebrating Brera players is anyone's guess, although I suspect alcohol may have been involved.

Whilst there was no alcohol on sale in the ground fans were able to bring an assortment of refreshments in with them – including multipacks of Peroni beer, Aperol Spritz aperitifs from a nearby bar and red wine drunk straight from a carton. The type of scenes you don't often see on Stanley Tucci's Searching for Italy.

It's a shame that there wasn't a pre-match get together similar to the guided tour of Warsaw that AKS Zly had offered FC United supporters last October – the Fenix Trophy is, after all, meant to about more than just the football.

Understandably the prevalence of the pandemic made this difficult though – and Covid continues to be treated much more seriously in Italy than England with mask wearing still compulsory in indoor public areas and most of the bars and restaurants that we visited asking for confirmation of vaccination.

FC equalised within a few minutes, also from the penalty spot, before a superb solo goal by Ali Waddecar put the 'ribelli



rossi' 2-1 up at the half-time break. The second half continued to be keenly fought with FC having most of the possession, and looking relatively comfortable, but only securing the three points with a softer than soft penalty in the final moments of the match.

Both sides were applauded off the pitch by a crowd of around seven hundred spectators many of whom joined the two teams for a post-match celebration just up the road in Milan's Corso Como district.

FC's manager Neil Reynolds later tweeted that nights like this had been one of the main reasons why he had resigned as the head of an academy school in Blackpool last year to take up a full time position as Head of Football and Academy Principal at FC United. As he led the fans in song at the end of the match, it's clear that he's loving his time at FC – where he is now the club's chief executive officer following a recent management restructure.

Despite our promotion challenge petering out in the Northern Premier League, the giddiness of being involved in a European competition abounds and supporters are now eveing up a trip to the finals weekend in Rimini. on Italy's Adriatic coast, in June when it's highly likely that FC will be playing in the final which features the top two teams from each of the two groups of four - a draw in our last group match at home to Brera would be sufficient to secure first place in Group B and a place in the final.

Group A is wide open, however, with all four teams still in with a chance of finishing top so FC's opponents in the final could come from either Hamburg, Valencia, Prague or Rome.

Regardless, at least one team from the red two-thirds of Manchester is still flying the flag in Europe this season. Forza FC United!

SPORTING MEMORIES CARRIES ON

Although the season on the pitch is over bar this evening's game and the finals in Rimini, Sporting Memories will carry on through the summer months.

We have had an extremely interesting series of talks so far this year covering issues as diverse as United in the 1950s and 60s by the two Dereks, James Quinn and Kevin Conroy on acting, Barry on drug testing, and John Ludden on his book Paradise - a behind- the-scenes story of United in Europe during the 1950s.

This Friday, George Ryan will be recounting his memories of the Manchester 50s and 60s club scene plus a general knowledge quiz. We have some interesting speakers lined up including our very own Reno, ex-Lancashire cricket captain John Abrahams and Steve Grainger, a Brummie Red, will visit us on 17th June to discuss his books 'Glam, Grime and Petty Crime' and 'Red All Over', about his time growing up in Birmingham and following United home and away from the 70s to the 90s. We meet every Friday 1.30-3pm in the Main Function Room at Broadhurst Park. All welcome and refreshments will be provided. Follow us on Facebook at FC Sporting Memories and on Twitter at @fc_memories.

FENIX TROPHY

Tonight's match between FC United and Brera Calcio will be the final Group B fixture of this inaugural FENIX Trophy campaign before we all head off to Italy again next month.

Reno's unbeaten Reds will top the group should they avoid a 9-0 defeat this evening and will automatically qualify for the final in Rimini, where all teams will be taking part in a weekend-long Trophy finale.

Elsewhere, in Group A there are still four games remaining as Lodigiana, Falke, Cuenca-Mestallistes and Prague Raptors all remain in with a shout of topping their table - with Italians Lodigiana leading the pack so far.



Unsurprisingly, with FCUM netting the most goals in the competition so far, our players topped the scoring charts [before last night's Group A match] with fourgoal Regan Linney leading the pack and both Charlie Ennis and the now-departed Brad Holmes one behind with three. Ewan Bange and Joe Duckworth, meanwhile, have bagged two apiece.



CHEERS, POTTSY

Club captain Michael Potts last week made the decision to call time on his playing career.

Widely recognised as one of the best central midfielders at this level, Potts joined FC from Bamber Bridge, following the appointment of Neil Reynolds as manager in October 2018.

Making over 100 appearances in an FC shirt, including being involved in every league fixture during the 2019-20 season, Potts quickly became a fan favourite here at Broadhurst Park.

He scored seven goals during his tenure, including on his debut here against Brackley Town and a couple of notable screamers – at Atherton Colls in 2019 and at Basford this season.

However he will be remembered by most here for his tenacity out there in the middle of the park, never shirking a tackle or considering any ball a lost cause.

Everyone at FCUM Review would like to take this chance to say thank you, and to wish Michael all the best for his post-playing career.



F.C United of Manchester

WELCOME TO THIS EVENING'S VISITORS

FCUM Review's Ruud van de Graaf asks Brera General Manager Leonardo Aleotti some questions in the build-up to tonight's FENIX Trophy Group B fixture

Based in Milan in the beautiful region of Lombardy and with a wonderfully traditional coliseum-like stadium, Brera FC were formed at the start of the millennium.

Currently playing in the seventh tier of Italian football, Brera employed former Italy and Inter Milan keeper Walter Zenga as manager in their early years.

Their Arena Civica home, as hundreds of Reds will confirm, is truly stunning and dates back more than two centuries, having first opened in 1807.

It has served as home for both the Italian national team - including their first official match on 15th May 1910, a 6–2 victory over France - and Inter Milan for many years, and more recently been a venue for some of the biggest stadium acts in the musical world.

Figures for the capacity vary from between 10,000 and 30,000, yet the grand old arena was, for a long time, the biggest sports ground in Milan.

Brera are not fan-owned and the FENIX Trophy has been created by their owner and founder, the young publisher and journalist Alessandro Aleotti, who aims to turn Brera into Milan's third club. FCUM Review: Who are Brera Calcio? Brera Calcio is more than a simple football club, it's an idea, a lab where we like to try out social, cultural and artistic experiments. However the "football" side of it (even though this year we have added a basketball section) is very important, as we believe that no project can be done in sports overlooking the competitive side, on-pitch issues and matters should be taken very seriously.

FCUM Review: As a young club you already have quite some history. What have the highlights been during those 22 years? In these 22 years we have done our best to create as many projects as possible, combining football with off-field elements that looked relevant to us.

I'd say, also media-wise, our main hits were: the MilanoMondo Tournament in 2000-2002 (a World Cup with Milan-based immigrants); FreeOpera Brera in 2003/2004 (the first team in an official FIGC [Italian Football Federation] championship to be composed solely of detainees, inside a jailhouse); the Fans' Brera in 2008/2009 (an experiment of democracy in football, where supporters would have a



say on starting XI and substitutions); and a Romani People Football Team in 2015-16 (a selection affiliated to CONIFA representing players of Roma ethnicity).

FCUM Review: Playing at your iconic stadium must be quite special. On the other hand, it's also very big for a small club. How do you create an atmosphere for the games?

Well, as you've seen recently, we try to create an event out of the matchday, to reach out to all the club's supporters. For league games, being on Sunday afternoon, there are also a lot of tourists and park strollers that I feel are attracted to the event.

FCUM Review: What is more important for Brera: promoting or creating an impact on the community?

We firmly believe that a great impact on the local community contains a lot of value, however throughout our history we've always been nomadic wanderers (just recently we have obtained our own training ground) and we like creative projects, so with our initiatives we try to give back to a larger community rather than a single local one.

FCUM Review: What is the influence of the fans on the daily matters of the club?

To be fair, given the amount of media-worthy ideas we've had, we are very well known, but we tend to create more supporters than fans per se, and the governance is pretty traditional, so there is no real impact.

FCUM Review: Since your players come from all over the globe, does that reflect on the fans? Are they from all over the world as well?

Well, yes, through our projects we've been dealing with foreign communities in Milan, as we believe the team should be representative of the city, and as such, multicultural.

This has, of course, created a lot of recognisability and support with the foreigners in Milan and abroad. In general, it stands as I said about the supporters/fans thing: we happen to be known for our history and the ideas we've had around the world, we've shipped merchandising to the US and Israel last year, for instance.

FCUM Review: What impact has the visit of FCUM had on your club?

It has been like a hurricane – quite literally also. Absolutely an historical night for the club, an unforgettable experience for the players, a great event for the city and a celebration that reignited the media interest towards us.

FCUM Review: What was your strongest feeling after the game?

Tiredness for sure! Jokes aside, definitely happiness, to have been able to carry out such an event, to have had the chance to meet so many wonderful people, to have experienced a lively atmosphere and to finally have met my counterparts of such an inspirational club.

I really hope you all enjoyed the stay and the event in general.

FCUM Review: How has the Italian press reacted to the event?

Amazingly! We've had great media coverage, both from highly read blogs and national newspapers. In Italy, non-pro football is not that interesting, so to see such a crowd at that event really moved the media.

FCUM Review: What are the lessons and benefits you have received from the FENIX Trophy and how are you going to use them in the club?

We've had the chance to meet some like-minded people managing like-minded clubs in different countries, and that's amazing because we were starting to feel lonely.





There are certainly aspects in the club management I will personally use as a lesson and apply to our context. Generally speaking, the best is yet to come, as I'm planning on developing more of the FENIX Trophy.

FCUM Review: How have the players experienced probably the biggest game in their careers?

They were ecstatic for sure, it was an unforgettable experience for all of them. The only thing I'm sad about is we won't be able to bring along many to Manchester because the UK requires VISA for non-EU citizens.

FCUM Review: What do you expect from the trip to Manchester?

Our trip will be an experience I'm not sure I'm ready to bear sports-wise.

We won't have many players, so it's going to be kind of hard to organise, but we'll make the best of it and hopefully with an honourable result.

FCUM Review: We're especially interested in your leadership. Is the club fan-owned and how does it work?

No, we're not fan-owned, unless you consider my father and me being fans of the team – which we definitely are. The club is my father's brainchild, as he founded it and managed it continuously, and for 10 years I've been getting involved in the management, a bit of a family business.

We think fan-owned clubs within amateur football represent an important and meaningful football experience, but they're not the only type of governance.

THANK YOU...

As this is the last edition of the season, it is only right that, as the proud editor of FCUM Review for seven years now, I say a few much-needed thank yous.

Firstly, it wouldn't be possible to buy the programme if it wasn't for our loyal group of sellers who will turn up in all weathers to help distribute the mag. So FC hats off to Tom and Goughy for keeping the stall running every game, along with Gary Adelman, Ste Percival and the reliable Dad n Lad duo, Steve and Brad.

Then we have our regular contributors; Paul Hurst who speaks to Reno before games and transcribes the wonderful manager notes, while Karl Ladley and Paul Hinson write the superb Timeline and Stats Entertainment pages,

respectively. Other contributors include Jonathan Allsopp, Pete Wharton, Des Gallagher and Ruud van de Graaf, amongst others, and again their help has proven invaluable over the past nine months in an effort to meet some very challenging deadlines.

Then we have a fantastic selection of photographs supplied by a group of talented snappers. Alicia Day started to cover the first team this season after progressing through the academy, whilst some from the original days - including Matt Wilkinson, Russell Hart and Mick Dean - still appear on occasion and it's always good to see them again.

Finally, Mark Lee and Sam Coates have for many years covered almost every game and travelled thousands of miles to provide a wonderful gallery of pictures, both on and off the pitch. After spending so long committed to the role, they have decided to take a slight step back after this year. However, they will still be seen on the sidelines, just not with the frequency we have become accustomed to. Thank you for such dedication and reliability over the years.

I believe all of the above help to provide what is a fine matchday programme and one that plays a huge part in maintaining the football fan's match-going traditions.

Finally, a huge thank you to everybody who purchases the programme for your continued support over the past season. Have a great summer and see you back at Broadhurst Park again in a few months.

Cheers, Dave

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Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON

Cradio

This is the first visit of an Italian team to face FC United but, down the road, Manchester United have hosted six different sides from Serie A in 21 ties dating back to 1958.

Post-Munich disaster, United's patched-up team continued with League and Cup commitments. Having qualified for the semi-finals of the European Cup, they were drawn to face AC Milan.

On May 8th at Old Trafford a crowd of 44,880 saw Juan Schiaffino put the Rossoneri ahead after 24 minutes, but Dennis Viollet equalised before the interval and Ernie Taylor netted the winner after 80 minutes.

Harry Gregg is pictured plucking the ball from the head of AC Milan forward Gastone Bean during this game.

The lead was always going to be slender at the San Siro and on May 14th, United, without Bobby Charlton who missed both games due to England internationals, crashed 4-0 with Schiaffino (2), Liedholm and Danova on target watched by 80,000 passionate fans.

Milan returned on May 15th, 1969, for a more controversial semi-final clash.

The Reds, reigning European Champions, had lost 2-0 at the San Siro on April 23rd with Angelo Sormani and Kurt Hamrin doing the



damage in front of 80,000. In the second leg, 63,103 saw Charlton pull a goal back in the 70th minute and Denis Law thought he had levelled the tie, forcing the ball over the line, but French referee Machin thought otherwise. It was United's last game in the European Cup for 24 long years.

On April 10th 2007, United enjoyed their most conclusive victory over an Italian side at Old Trafford.

AS Roma were swept aside in a Champions League quarter-final second leg, with Carrick, Smith, Rooney, and Ronaldo all scoring before half-time, watched by 74,446.

Ronaldo, Carrick and Evra added to the misery of the Giallorossi with De Rossi's consolation leaving the score line 7-1 and an 8-3 aggregate victory.

Atalanta were the last Italian side to visit Manchester, on October 20th, 2021. Mario Pasalic and Merih Demiral gave the visitors a 2-0 advantage, but in a dramatic

second period Marcus Rashford, Harry Maguire, and lastly Cristiano Ronaldo in the 81st minute completed a memorable comeback in front of 72,279.

Juventus have been here seven times between 1976 and 2003, losing three times and winning twice, in 1996 and 2018.

AS Roma suffered further losses in 2007 (1-0), 2008 (1-0) and 2021 (6-2).

Since 1969, AC Milan have returned four more times, making their record four defeats, one draw and a win in 2005.

Internazionale lost 2-0 at the quarter-final stage in 1999 and again 2-0 in 2009. Fiorentina are the sixth opponents, losing 3-1 in 2000.

F.C United of Manchester

THE FC UNITED TIMELINE



15 YEARS AGO: 2006-07 FC United had been promoted to the Northern Premier League by comfortably winning the North West Counties League Division One title in 2006-07.

The Reds had picked up 112 points, thirteen more than closest challengers Curzon Ashton, who also earned promotion to the higher level. The league's best two teams then ended the campaign by contesting the League Challenge Cup Final on Thursday 3rd May 2007. FC had eliminated Nantwich Town, Colne, Silsden and Congleton Town in the earlier rounds, but faced a tough task as the final was held at Curzon's own Tameside Stadium.

United boss Karl Marginson had no injury worries but was without two of his star performers with top scorer Stuart Rudd suspended and winger Jerome Wright ineligible after appearing for his previous club Maine Road in an earlier round. The Reds took time to adapt to a poor pitch, with Curzon unsurprisingly more used to the sandy surface. The 'home' side had the best chances of the first half, with future Reds Mike Norton and Chris Worsley both testing FC keeper Sam Ashton.

The Reds improved after the break, with Simon Carden twice going close, but suffered a blow when Nicky Platt had to leave the field to receive stitches to a head wound after a clash with Curzon keeper Dave Carnell. The vound midfielder was off the field for around ten minutes, during which time United's ten men fell behind to Nick Allen's 25-yard shot in the 67th minute. The patched-up Platt returned to the fray and within two minutes had coolly dispatched the equaliser from the penalty spot after Josh Howard had been felled. Rhodri Giggs forced future

Red legend Carnell into an acrobatic save, before Howard scored a goal that was fit to win any cup final.

With ten minutes remaining he beat four men after cutting in from the left before slotting home a right-footed drive inside Carnell's post. United held on to the 2-1 lead to seal the club's first cup win, with skipper David Chadwick proudly lifting the second trophy of another magnificent season.

10 YEARS AGO: 2011-12 After a terrific 2-0 win at Chorley in the Northern Premier League promotion play-off semi-final, FC United travelled over the Pennines to face old foes Bradford Park Avenue on Sunday 6th May 2012 with a place in the Conference North at stake.

The hosts had finished in fourth spot in the table, two places above FC having gained six points more. However, the Reds had every right to be confident after twice beating BPA 5-2 during the campaign. Moreover, United had also triumphed at the Horsfall Stadium in the previous year's play-off semi-final on the way to narrowly losing the final at Colwyn Bay.

The capacity for the final was limited to just 2,000 spectators on the advice of police and council safety

officers, with FC allocated only 1,000 tickets.

Reds boss Karl Marginson was expecting to have a fully fit squad at his disposal, but suffered a major blow the evening before the game when goalkeeper James Spencer was ruled out after injuring a finger at work. The big stopper had been in terrific form of late and had only missed one previous game during the season (a Manchester Premier Cup tie at Mossley back in October). Margy had shrewdly taken the precaution of signing Jon Worsnop as cover five weeks earlier, and the experienced custodian lined up between the sticks to make his United debut in his home city and against one of his former clubs.

In a cagey encounter, FC had the best opportunity in the first half when Mike Norton's shot was deflected narrowly wide, with Avenue providing more pressure after the break. United went close with Carlos Roca's free-kick and a shot from Jake Cottrell that was tipped over by home keeper Jon Lamb, who had been Leigh RMI's guardian in FC's first ever game in 2005.

With neither side able to break the deadlock within the 90 minutes, the game went into extra-time. The hosts soon brought on substitute Tom Greaves, who had bagged a late hat-trick to sink the Reds the previous season. With the match looking destined for a penalty shootout, a ball across the six-yard box was bundled home by Greaves with just seconds left to play, leaving United no time to reply. The last-gasp 1-0 defeat was another sad ending to the season, but of course it wouldn't be long before Greaves would be endearing himself to the Reds faithful.

5 YEARS AGO: 2016-17 FC United had finished the 2016-17 campaign in 13th place in the National League North table, which had comfortably secured the club's place in the division for another season.

The Reds then had one more game to look forward to, as attention turned to the Frank Hannah Manchester Premier Cup Final. Margy's men had eliminated Chadderton (6-0), Abbey Hey (3-0) and West Didsbury & Chorlton (7-1) in the previous rounds, to earn a showdown with Stalybridge Celtic.

The game was set for Thursday 4th May 2017 at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park, a ground where United had won three times in the final five week's of the club's inaugural 2005-06 season.

FC took an early lead in just the third minute when Jake Williams, who had impressed in his maiden season as a Red, netted his first goal for the club. The young full-back's effort was, in all honesty, a mis-hit cross from the right wing that deceived keeper Callum O'Neil before nestling into the back of the net. He might not have meant it but neither he nor the United fans cared one bit as they had one hand on the trophy. The Reds had several chances to double the lead, with youngster Tomi Adeloye, and later his replacement Tom Greaves, going close. Captain Jerome Wright looked to celebrate his 400th appearance for FC with a spectacular late effort, but it sailed over the bar.

Stalybridge came close to an equaliser numerous times but the Reds defence held firm to see out a 1-0 win and claim the cup for the first time in the club's history.

Skipper Wright, who collected his fourth medal since joining United, led his team to lift the trophy and then took it to the front of the stand as the players and staff celebrated with the fans.

However, this proved to be the last game for FC for not only the club's record appearance maker, but also for Matthew Wolfenden, who at the time stood second in the club's scoring records with 94 strikes.

Also donning a red shirt for the final time that evening were fan favourites Sam Sheridan, George Thomson and Chris Chantler, as well as goalscorer Williams.

KARL LADLEY



FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER

OPPONENTS	DATE	F/T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Warrington Town	14/08	0-2	Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Smith	Baker	Jones	Ennis
Morpeth Town	17/08	3-0	Lavercombe	Smith	Dodd	Simpson	Baker	Morris	Ennis
Buxton	21/08	1-1	Lavercombe	Smith	Dodd	Simpson	Baker	Morris	Linney
South Shields	24/08	1-1	Lavercombe	Smith	Dodd	Jones	Baker	Morris	Cooke
Hyde United	28/08	1-2	King	Smith	Dodd	Simpson	Baker	Morris	Cooke
Radcliffe	30/08	3-0	King	Waddecar	Dodd	Ennis	Baker	Morris	Rain
Bootle [FAC1Q]	4/09	2-2	Lavercombe	Rain	Dodd	Simpson	Baker	Morris	S-Smith
Bootle [FAC1QR]	7/09	3-2	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Rain	Baker	Morris	S-Smith
Stafford Rangers	11/09	1-3	Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Donohue	Baker	Jones	S-Smith
Bamber Bridge	14/09	1-0	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Jones	Baker	Morris	Waddecar
Blyth Sp [FAC2Q]	18/09	1-1	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Jones	Baker	Morris	S-Smith
Blyth Sp [FAC2QR]	21/09	0-2	Lavercombe	Jones	Rain	Dodd	Baker	Morris	Waddecar
Stalybridge Celtic	25/09	2-5	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Simpson	Baker	Morris	Campbell
Scarborough	28/09	6-0	Lavercombe	Waddecar	Dodd	Donohue	Baker	Morris	Ennis
Matlock Town	2/10		Lavercombe		Dodd	Donohue	Baker	Morris	Ennis
Basford Town	5/10	1-0	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Jones	Baker	Morris	Ennis
Nantwich Town	9/10	0-2	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Jones	Baker	Morris	Ennis
Lancaster City			Lavercombe	Smith	Dodd	Jones	Baker	Morris	Ennis
Grantham Town			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	J White	Jones	Morris	Ennis
Witton Albion			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Griffiths	Baker	Jones	Linney
AKS Zly [FT]			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Baker	Morris	Jones	Ennis
Runcorn [FAT3Q]			Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Griffiths	Baker	Jones	Linney
Gainsborough Trinity	6/11		Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Griffiths	Baker	Jones	Hayes
Whitby Town	9/11		Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Griffiths	Baker	Jones	Donohue
Marske Utd [FAT1]			Lavercombe	Baker	J White	Griffiths	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Atherton Colls	20/11		Lavercombe	Donohue	J White	Griffiths	Baker	Morris	Hayes
Mickleover			Lavercombe	Donohue	J White	Smith	Baker	Morris	Hayes
Stafford Rangers			Lavercombe	A White	J White	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar 2
Buxton			Lavercombe	Donohue	A White	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Ashton United	27/12		McMahon	Donohue	A White	Smith	Morris	Baker	Waddecar
Radcliffe	1/01		Lavercombe	Donohue	A White	Smith	Morris	Halls	Waddecar
Bamber Bridge			Lavercombe	Halls	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Stalybridge Celtic			Lavercombe	Halls	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Whitby Town			Lavercombe	Halls	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Donohue
Grantham Town			Lavercombe	Halls	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Witton Albion			Lavercombe	Halls	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Donohue
Lancaster City	8/02		Lavercombe	Halls	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Gainsborough Trinity					Dodd	Smith	Morris	Potts	Donohue
Warrington Town			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Halls	Waddecar
Scarborough Ath			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Griffiths	Morris	Halls	Galloway
Matlock Town			Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Smith	Halls	Sikora	Waddecar
AKS Zly [FT]			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Taylor	Morris	Jones	Galloway
Nantwich Town			Lavercombe	Smith	Dodd	Griffiths	Morris	Sikora	Waddecar
Basford Town			Lavercombe		Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Galloway
Mickleover			Lavercombe		Dodd	Griffiths	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Atherton Colls	2/04		Lavercombe	Morris	Dodd	Smith	Sikora	Jones	Donohue
Brera FC [FT]	6/04		Lavercombe	Taylor	Dodd [2]	Griffiths	Morris	Jones [9]	
Morpeth Town	9/04		Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
South Shields			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Griffiths	Morris	Jones	Askew
Ashton United			Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Smith	Morris	Jones	Galloway
Hyde United		0-2	Lavercombe	Donohue	Dodd	Griffiths	Morris	Jones	Waddecar
Brera FC [FT]	4/05								

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SEASON'S STATISTICS 21-22

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Potts	Waddecar	Main	Linney	Rain [4]		Simpson [7]			-
Potts	Waddecar	Main	Linney	Bennett [7]		Jones	Rain [9]	White [4]	-
Potts	Cooke	Main	S-Smith			Hanson [9]			-
Potts	Waddecar	Main	S-Smith		Fieldhouse		Rain	Simpson [4]	-
Potts	Ennis	Main	Linney	Jones	-			Waddecar[4]	Fieldhouse
Potts	Cooke	Main	S-Smith	Bennett		Linney [11]			-
Potts	Waddecar	Main 2	Linney	Bennett [4]	Fieldhouse	Donohue	H-Smith [7]	Smith	-
Potts	Waddecar	Main	Pemberton			Linney [11]			-
Potts	Cooke	Main	Linney	H-Smith	King	Rain	Simpson [4]	Waddecar [9]	-
Potts	Holmes	Main	Ennis	Cooke [9]	King	Linney [11]		S-Smith [7]	-
Potts	Holmes	Main	Linney	Bennett	-	Ennis [7]	Rain [2]		Waddecar [11]
Potts	Holmes	Main	Ennis	Bennett	Fieldhouse	Donohue [2]	Linney [7]	S-Smith [3]	Mulvey
Potts	Holmes 2	Main	Linney	Ennis [7]	-	Jones	Mulvey	Rain	Waddecar [4]
Potts	Holmes	Main 2	Linney	Bennett [8]	-	Campbell	Mulvey	Rain [3]	Simpson [4]
Potts	Holmes	Main	Linney	Bennett	-	Campbell [7]	Jones	Rain [2]	Simpson
Potts	Holmes	Main	Linney	Bennett	-	Campbell	Rain [11]	Simpson [9]	J White [7]
Potts	Holmes	Main	Linney	Bennett	-	Rain [7]	Simpson	Smith [2]	J White [9]
Potts	Donohue	Main	Linney	Campbell	-	Mulvey [8]	Rain [2]	Simpson	J White [5]
Simpson	Campbell	Main	Linney	Burns [9]	-	Potts [4]	Rain	Baker	Sanyang [7]
Potts	Burns	Smith	Hayes	Ennis [10]	-	Holmes [9]	Major	Sanyang	J White [11]
Potts	Burns	Holmes 3	Bennett	Mulvey [8]	-	Rain [6]	Waddecar [10]	Deadman [7]	Brooks [1]
Potts	Waddecar	Burns	Major	Ennis	-	Bennett	Donohue	Rain	J White
Potts	Holmes	Burns	Linney	Bennett	-	Ennis [11]	Smith [7]	White [3]	Waddecar
Potts	Holmes	Burns	Linney	Bennett	-	Ennis [7]	Sanyang	Waddecar [10]	J White [3]
Potts	Linney	Holmes	Ennis	Burns [4]	-	Chadwick	Dodd	Donohue [5]	Humphries [8]
Smith	Holmes	Ennis	Linney	Da Silva [11]	-	Humphries	Major	Sanyang [3]	Waddecar [10]
Ennis	Waddecar	Holmes	Linney	Duckworth [11]	-	Da Silva [10]	Griffiths [3]	Owen	Major
Griffiths	Holmes	Duckworth	Ennis	Baker	-	Da Silva [10]	Gooden	Humphries	
Griffiths	Linney	Wilson	Ennis	Baker	-	Duckworth [10]	Major	Potts	J White
Griffiths	Linney	Duckworth 2	Ennis	Jones	Brooks	Dodd [11]	Major [10]	Gooden [2]	-
Griffiths	Linney 2	Wilson	Duckworth	Dodd	-	Gooden	Major [11]	Potts [10]	J White
Griffiths	Linney	Wilson	Donohue	Duckworth [10]	-	Gooden	Major	Potts [8]	J White
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Bange	Duckworth [8]	-	Donohue [11]	Gooden	Griffiths	Wilson [10]
Griffiths	Linney	Wilson	Duckworth	Ennis [6]	-	Galloway [11]	Gooden	Potts	Waddecar [10]
Potts	Linney	Griffiths	Donohue	Duckworth [3]	-	Ennis [10]	Galloway [8]	Gooden	Wilson
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Galloway	Duckworth	-	Griffiths [10]	Humphries	Waddecar [7]	Wilson [11]
Griffiths	Linney	Ennis	Galloway	Donohue	Hamer	Duckworth [9]	Humphries	Potts [6]	-
Griffiths	Linney 2	Ennis	Galloway	Duckworth [10]	-	Humphries	Itota	Owen	Taylor [7]
Griffiths	Linney	Ennis	Galloway	Duckworth [2]	-	Humphries	Potts [10]	Taylor	Unsworth
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Bange	Duckworth	-	Humphries	Smith	Taylor	Waddecar [7]
Griffiths	Linney	Ennis	Bange	Duckworth	-	Galloway [10]	Humphries	Potts [6]	Taylor
Potts	Linney 3	Ennis	Duckworth 2	Bange 2 [9]	Hamer	Griffiths [10]	Humphries [5]	Sikora	Smith [6]
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Bange	Donohue	Hamer	Duckworth	Galloway	Waddecar	-
Griffiths	Linney	Ennis	Bange	McGee [4]	Fieldhouse	Potts [8]	Taylor	Waddecar [7]	-
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Taylor	Askew [11]	-	Bange [4]	Galloway [7]	McGee	Sikora
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Askew	Bange [10]	-	Galloway [11]	Griffiths	McGee	Waddecar [5]
Potts [4]	Linney [11]	Ennis	Bange	Galloway *	Hamer *	Duckworth *	McGee *	-	Askew [7]
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Askew	Bange [7]	-	Galloway [8]	Giffiths [4]	McGee	Taylor
Potts	Linney	Ennis	McGee	Bange [10]	-	Galloway	Sikora	Smith	Waddecar [11]
Potts	Linney 3	McGee	Bange	Askew [11]	-	Ennis [10]	Griffiths [4]	Sikora	Waddecar
Potts	Linney	Ennis	Askew	Bange [4]	Hamer	Galloway [7]	McGee	Smith [8]	-
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STATISTICS PAGE INFORMATION

Home games are listed in red; away matches in black. Player names in red denotes goal scorer FAC1Q = FA Cup first gualifying round, FAC1QR = first gualifying round replay FAC2Q = FA Cup second qualifying round. FAC2QR = second qualifying round replay, FAT3Q = FA Trophy third qualifying round. FAT1 = FA Trophy first round FT = The Fenix Trophy Subs v Blyth [A]: No.18 Chadwick, No.19 McDowell. v AKS [H]: No.18 Waddecar [11] S-Smith = Sinclair-Smith, H-Smith = Homson-Smith v Brera: * = Started the game. No.18 Sikora also started

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GENERAL MEETING NEXT MONTH



FC United's 2022 General Meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd June at Broadhurst Park, starting at 6.30pm.

Registration opens at 6pm and all members will receive full formal notification no later than 21 days before the meeting.

This will be a physical meeting with an online option. Any members intending to

submit proposed resolutions are strongly urged to read Rule 29 of the club's constitution.

If any members are considering putting forward a resolution but require assistance, please contact the club secretary prior to the cut-off date.

For further clarification on submitting motions, please read The Election Policy,

which can be found via a link on the official website story entitled 'FC United's General Meeting date confirmed'. Submit resolutions to: FC United of Manchester, Broadhurst Park, 310 Lightbowne Road, Moston, Manchester, M40 0FJ.

Alternatively, resolutions can be emailed to office@fc-utd.uk to arrive no later than noon on Monday 9th May, being 45 days before the AGM date.

Those wishing to attend and vote at the meeting must have membership for the current season 2021-22 and have taken this membership out before the 23rd May 2022.

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TONIGHT'S SQUADS

Wednesday 4th May 2022



- BP BOST **© DEVELOPMENT FUND**
- AARON MORRIS JOSH ASKEW JORGE SIKORA CURTIS JONES MICHAEL POTTS PAUL 'CHARLIE' ENNIS JONATHAN SMITH CHRIS TAYLOR MICHAEL DONOHUE HARRY McGEE TOBY HUMPHRIES LUKE GRIFFITHS REGAN LINNEY JOSH GALLOWAY ALI WADDECAR
 - JOE DUCKWORTH EWAN BANGE

