

# CUSC TRAVEL NEWS

December & January 2010/11



## Blatter: A Modern Satire on the Excess of Greed

The name 'Sepp Blatter' tends to induce a fairly uniform reaction amongst the majority of football fans, namely one of disgust and derision. Blatter, the FIFA president of twelve years, is today seen as a figure of fun, painted by swathes of the media as a bumbling, incapable and allegedly corrupt buffoon. It's very easy to ridicule Blatter, often with ample justification, but from where did he emerge and what has he done to achieve such a dismal reputation?

When in 1996, Joao Havelange announced his intention to retire from the FIFA hot-seat, Blatter (FIFA's general secretary at the time) became one of the leading contenders to replace the Brazilian on what became a hard-fought campaign. In direct competition with Lennart Johansson, Blatter embarked on a global tour of football associations and was quickly accused of electioneering in breach of FIFA's supposedly stringent regulations. The Swiss former lawyer, however, got away with it and was elected president of FIFA on 8th June 1998.

While Blatter may receive occasional praise for some of the measures he has introduced during his tenure (limiting the altitude above which game can be played, for example), his leadership has been largely shambolic, nepotistic and self-interested throughout. David Golbatt offers a particularly savage critique of the Blatter years in his excellent book, *The Ball is Round*:

*"Many things in the world are badly governed. There are many elites who are incompetent, self-serving, self-important and arrogantly blasé about their evident limitations. None of them can reign to compare with the circus masquerading as the global governance of football. Sepp Blatter's first eight years in power [the book was published in 2006] make one nostalgic for the authoritarian certainties, the despicable charm and haughty, patrician discretion of the Havelange years. At the level of everyday management and internal politics, Blatter's regime has been a disgrace. From the very start of his reign he attempted to create a new circuits of bureaucratic power among his hand-picked staff and within the presidential office. The conduct of official FIFA business, always an opulent intercontinental affair, has spiralled to the levels of the grotesque"*

Goldblatt's uncharacteristic negativity is certainly not without foundation, much of the Swiss' "reign" has been characterised by divisiveness and seemingly flagrant corruption. Blatter's successful re-election campaign in 2002 was plagued with allegations of financial irregularities and bribery. The issues were originally brought to light by Farra Ado, the president of the Somalian FA, who reported to the British press that he had been personally offered \$100,000 to vote for Blatter in the leadership election. Indeed, concerns at the general lack of transparency that surrounds FIFA's momentary dealings have been a recurring theme of the Blatter era.

During Blatter's presidency various debts owed to FIFA by various confederations - some huge in size - have been written off without explanation or investigation. There has also been a total lack of monitoring the effectiveness of the money that has been used to fund "development programmes" in various corners of the globe, with unexplained and extraordinary payments being made to individuals with football associations. He may be a figure of fun to many, but the likelihood is that Sepp Blatter is a serial financial criminal (although for legal reasons it must be stressed that he has never been convicted of any crime).

The World Cup bidding processes have also descended into farce on Blatter's watch. While the system has always been open to corruption, recent years have seen it become dominated by the personal whims of FIFA officials, the likes of Blatter and CONCACAF president Jack Warner seemingly basing their decision on the quality of freebies they are given by each participating country. It has also emerged that three of the men that will be voting on the 2018/2022 World Cup bids took significant bribes back in the 1990's. It would appear that FIFA, and Blatter in particular, have no shame.

It can justifiably be said that football has enjoyed an unprecedented rise in its global popularity since Blatter took the reins at FIFA in 1998, but I would argue that that has occurred in spite of the Swiss and the questionable practices of his ubiquitous organisation. When Blatter eventually brings an end to his presidency he will not be remembered fondly; history will almost certainly judge him as an agent for selfishness and immorality within football.

## From Brunton to Bristol and back

Once upon a time in a land far, far away there lived an old man on a bus. The old man was renowned for using magic potions, that made his legs as wobbly as a new born lamb, to keep him entertained on his long adventures. But, this weekend was even more extraordinary, as the old man had with him a very special magic potion in a green bottle.

It was a magic potion that would give him the gift of song, just about, and the more of his magic potion he drank the more he began to sing, particularly about buttercups. But, the magic potion contained a dark, hidden secret, for it made the old man very, very sleepy after all his singing and walking, and more walking, and more walking, and the poor old man would eventually venture into the land of nod.

His long journey had begun early one Friday morning in the car park of a football ground in a small northern city as he joined 30-odd other people on a bus for a weekend trip to Bristol. He joined his fellow travellers in taking in pies and beer and wine and all kinds of other delectable tasty morsels before a quiz saw them into the old historical town of Lichfield where they parted with their steed to search for gruel and more mead.

After nearly two hours the steed was mounted once more for the rest of the trail to Bristol with the travellers stopping in a nice hotel where they were based for their Friday and Saturday evenings. A quick wash and rest and then a nice meal was followed by a short trek into Bristol city centre for many, and a night resting in the hotel for others.

Breakfast came and went on Saturday morning and it was back out on another search for mead for many of the travellers, while some explored Bristol. In the afternoon it was up to a sports ground to watch two teams jousting with each other. The Pirates holding the early advantage before the Knights in blue fought back to level with their opponents, and almost slay the Avon dragon only to stick the sword in their own foot as time ebbed away.

Many of the well-wishers were feeling tired by the time they had their lovely meal in the hotel on Saturday evening, but there were still some travellers searching relentlessly for more and more mead deep into the early hours of the morning. Some of them being more single-minded in their pursuit of the goblet than others who went to bed with a belly full of medieval banquet and local cyder, served by local wenches on a floating bar.

Sadly, after another hearty breakfast on Sunday morning, the time came to leave Bristol and make the long journey back north. Despite spending a whole weekend searching for mead, many were still hunting

for it as the travellers jumped onto their steed. A short stop in the medieval town of Tewkesbury saw some take in the quaint delights of the Gloucestershire settlement, while the remainder rested and continued their dogged quest to drink more than is humanly possible.

So, a wonderful weekend away for all involved, with great thanks being given to the organisers and drivers of the noble metal steed, was coming to an end. But while others had fallen by the wayside in the midst of ghosts and ghouls and goblins the old man had his special green bottle of magic potion to while away the dark travelling hours.



*Raffle winner on Bristol Trip*

His journey was soon over though as the secret spell given to him by the ancient German druid Jagermeister began to take over the power in his legs and he began to feel sleepy once more. The lights eventually going out later in the evening as he dreamt of more adventures to come in Brighton in March, and despite the amount of mead consumed by some of the other travellers too, they all lived happily ever after.

### Fans net refund thanks to the Football Supporters' Federation

MK Dons fans have been given a £14 refund on their away tickets for their game at Huddersfield. Huddersfield were giving home fans a discount but not away supporters - how bad is that? This isn't breaking any rules but it's mighty unfair.

### If you're a Gunner you could be skint

Arsenal supporters have the chance to make history in 2011, but it's not exactly the type of history that they will welcome. They will become the first fans in the Premier League to fork out more than £100 per game for the privilege of non-hospitality seats. With VAT set to rise to 20% in January, and with the ubiquitous booking fees and postage, the best 'ordinary' seats in the house will soon cost Gooners £100.60

## Too big to fail to notice

When clubs like Chesterfield and Exeter became owned by crooks, people didn't seem to care that much, because neither were big clubs, like Liverpool.

When Portsmouth's owners turned out to have been functionally innumerate, or broke, or maybe to not even exist (or maybe all of those things), people didn't seem to care much because Portsmouth were just a small club which seemed bigger just by dint of the league it played in. It wasn't a big club like Liverpool.

Now we have Liverpool. No-one could have foreseen just how messy it would end up being, but that the club was fundamentally in grave difficulty was foretold. The only counter to the predictions was that it couldn't happen to a truly big club. Something would turn up, someone would come forward. They were too big to fail. They did turn up but will they keep coming to all the clubs in debt?

It was with a perplexing degree of incredulity that the world's media watched as the team who share the record for most English championships, third in the all-time European Cup honours board, were fought over by lawyers desperately trying to keep Hicks and Gillett in the box seat and lawyers trying to keep the club out of administration for unpaid purchase debt they should never have had in the first place.

The drama was end to end stuff, but with no pause for breath and reflection, the wider lessons were never reflected upon. Once the saga had unwound, it was time to start the football again, and lest anyone start to get notions of thinking this through, along came Rooney to keep people's minds of it.

What minds need to focus on is that the unedifying spectacle is exactly what regulation by the market looks like. Being intensely relaxed about who owns clubs, why they own them and how they own them ends in courtrooms because English football has acted as if it were somehow unseemly to do something as have a view for the wider good. The absence of any comment whatsoever from the FA, as one of the jewels of the game they are charged with protecting was undermined so publicly, was as depressing as it was predictable. Maybe the silence is the calm before a storm, before a raft of regulations are proposed to ensure that leveraged takeovers can't happen again, but there's a point where having hope over experience ceases to be optimism in the face of adversity but insanity.

Now we have Tom, one of the new US owners of Liverpool who is reported to have said they'd not be having any debt at the club from their purchase of it,

but the last American called Tom who owned Liverpool said that too. Does anyone think that Liverpool will adopt the Arsenal approach and open their shares to fans. At the AGM of Arsenal the club Chief Executive Ivan Gazidis underscored his reputation as the most progressive administrator in the game by drawing attention to their model of stable ownership and sustainable finances, and linked the two to their support for fans having a place in the ownership of clubs. This approach has won admirers in government, but will government policies reflect this.

It has been proved that no club is too big or too small to be immune from leverage buy-outs, appalling owners after satisfying their own financial interest first, asset strippers and ego trippers. That's why supporters have to be involved in their clubs.

## What's in a nickname for Fox sake?

With a trip to Somerset coming up in a fortnight, I was rather hoping that Yeovil Town being known as the Glovers would prove to be more interesting than you would have expected. Sadly that wasn't to be the case though as, upon further investigation, the town of Yeovil has been a centre for glove making production since as early as the 14th century, in fact it is said that in the 1830s three million pairs were made each year in Yeovil.

Now wasn't that intriguing, you want more of this you say? Well, you often get the more bizarre nicknames in the non-league world, Formby, apparently "famous" for red squirrels are known as The Squirrels. While, and this one takes the biscuit, Grantham Town are called The Gingerbreads for obvious reasons, the Grantham gingerbread apparently being a hard, pale, domed biscuit - hmmm, sounds lovely. Another sweet one being The Toffeemen of Everton which has various different theories behind it.

Continuing the food theme and, Quorn, in Leicestershire, are nicknamed The Hunts (now, now, behave yourselves) because it is a well known area for fox hunting, while in the same area Coalville Town are called The Ravens. Now that'll teach you to get ahead of yourself won't it, it's got nothing to do with birds, it's because the club was originally called Ravenstone Miners Athletic, Coalville certainly being a great name for a mining town though.

Back in Lincolnshire, Bourne Town are called The Wakes, not after Brian or surfing, but because it was reputedly the birthplace of Hereward the Wake, the last Saxon to resist the invading Norman army. In fact Lincolnshire seems to be a hotbed for more interesting nicknames with Boston Town called The Poachers after a song from the 1700s called the Lincolnshire Poacher, while Boston United are named

The Pilgrims because of the famous sailing of the Mayflower across the Atlantic Ocean.

One good one in West Sussex is Arundel FC being known as The Mullets, as much as we'd love it to be the crap haircuts reason, sadly we'll have to settle it for being the fact that the River Arun is renowned for mullet fishing. Staying on the fish scene, Morecambe are called The Shrimps but then Southend United are known as The Shrimpers, and then, perhaps one of the most well observed ones, being Grimsby Town as The Mariners.

A lot of club nicknames unsurprisingly come from the industry of the town in bygone times. Hailsham Town as The Stringers and Hinckley United as The Knitters being two prime examples of the way England relied so much on the textile trade. With Stockport County and Luton Town both obviously getting The Hatters from hat-making, although Luton seems to be laying the most claim to be the hat capital of England.

Over the border and things become more complicated where there are three theories as to why Clyde are The Bully Wee. The first being the local Bridgeton area, so people were known as "wee bullies", the second extremely tenuous in that a Frenchman at a Clyde game around 1900 shouted "But il'y, oui?" or "Their goal, yes". Then the third, and most probable, that bully was a Victorian term for first-rate, bully wee thus being small but first-rate.

Ayr United take things more literally, or literary if you prefer. Ayr taking their nickname, The Honest Men, from a line of the poem Tam o'Shanter by Robert Burns. While Queen of the South are known as The Doonhamers apparently because in the early part of last century a lot of Dumfries people worked on the railways. They stayed in Glasgow during the week and at the weekend they went "doon hame" or "down home".

Overseas, in Argentina, Rosario Central once refused to play a charity game for a Leprosy charity, hence their nickname Canallas (The Scoundrels). Local rivals Newell's Old Boys stepped in to play the game though, which meant that from then on they earned the nickname Los Leprosos (The Lepers). While on the same continent, and back to the fish theme from earlier, Vasco da Gama in Brazil, are called The Cod, derived from the Portuguese tradition of eating dried cod.

One corker in Sweden is AIK Solna being called The Tuxedo Players, an expression used in that country to describe those players that are very skilful but not very physical, I can see this one catching on in the United dressing-room if any of the lads are reading this. Last but not least comes my winner, Partizan Belgrade being nicknamed The Gravediggers. The moniker given by city rivals Red Star as Partizan's mostly black colours were similar to official uniforms of cemetery undertakers.

## Ten To Try

1. Who came third in the 1978 World Cup?
2. And who was the golden boot winner in that tournament?
3. Carlisle lost 1-0 at home to Fulham in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup in the 1974-75 season, who did they beat on the road by the same score in round five?
4. And which striker scored the goal in that fifth round game?
5. Name two of the four pubs on the corners of Brentford's ground
6. And the name of the pub on the corner as you enter the car park at Prenton Park?
7. Which England player has the most goals, Peter Crouch or Frank Lampard?
8. Which England player has the most caps, Steven Gerrard or Ashley Cole?
9. Who has won the most Scottish FA Cups, Celtic or Rangers?
10. And which club comes third in that list of total Scottish FA Cup wins?

\*\*\*\* ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE \*\*\*\*

## Potential Away Cup Fixture Dates

### Johnstone's Paint Trophy

Area Final L1 - week commencing 17th January

Area Final L2 - week commencing 7th February

Final - Sunday 3rd April

### **Johnstone's Paint Trophy Prize Fund**

First Round Winners	£5,000
Second Round Winners	£7,000
Area Quarter-Final Winners	£10,000
Area Semi-Final Winners	£17,000
£39,000 in the bank so far	
Area Final Winners	£25,500
Overall Winners	£40,000

## Player Sponsorship

Apart from our sponsorship of Paul Thirlwell and Tom Taiwo we have agreed to sponsor Tom Cruise for as long as he is with CUFC.

## Travel Newsletter

The travel newsletter will be available each month during the season and gives travellers up to date information on all away trips. This can also be found on the Supporters' Club website ([www.cuosc.co.uk/](http://www.cuosc.co.uk/)).

### FA Cup

Third Round - Saturday 8th January  
Fourth Round - Saturday 29th January  
Fifth Round - Saturday 19th February  
Sixth Round - Saturday 12th March  
Semi-Finals - Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April  
Final - Saturday 14 May  
FA Cup replays generally take place ten days after the initial tie

### **FA Cup Prize Fund this season**

First Round winners	£18,000
Second Round winners	£27,000
Third Round winners	£67,500
Fourth Round winners	£90,000
Fifth Round winners	£180,000
Sixth Round - winners	£360,000
Semi-Final winners	£900,000
Semi-Final runners-up	£450,000
Final winners	£1,800,000
Final runners-up	£900,000

### **Results 2010-2011**

Date	Fixture	Result	Goal Scorer
14 August	Plymouth	1 - 1	Harte 68
Friday 27 August	Colchester	1 - 1	Thirlwell 90
11 September	Sheffield Wednesday	1 - 0	Curran 36
25 September	Bournemouth	0 - 2	
Tuesday 28 September	Hartlepool	4 - 0	Michalik 8 Madine 26, 36, 71
16 October	Exeter	1 - 2	Robson 71
30 October	Bristol Rovers	1 - 1	Grella 87
20 November	Walsall	1 - 2	Grella 26

### **Away fixtures and departure times 2010-2011, Saturdays unless stated**

Date	Fixture	Depart	Cost
TBF	Leyton Orient		£32.00
18 December	Yeovil	6.00am	£33.00
Sunday 26 December	Oldham	11.00am	£15.00
Monday 3 January	Tranmere	10.00am	£17.00
8 January	Charlton	6.00am	£32.00
22 January	Notts County	7.00am	£20.00
Tuesday 1 February	Huddersfield	4.00pm	£15.00
12 February	Southampton	6.00am	£35.00
19 February	Swindon	8.00am	£29.00
5 March	Brighton	6.00am	£35.00
12 March	Peterborough	8.00am	£25.00
Friday 25 March	Brentford	11.00am	£32.00
9 April	MK Dons	7.00am	£28.00
23 April	Rochdale	10.00am	£12.00
30 April	Dagenham & R	6.00am	£30.00
To be confirmed	Charlton	6.00am	£32.00

Times of departure may be subject to change - please check at time of booking.

Telephone number for booking travel - **07563 700987**.

This season there have been two weekend trips arranged, with one of them being the excellent Bristol trip at the end of October, but limited spaces are still available for the Brighton trip at the start of March, the details for that long weekend away being as follows:

### BRIGHTON 4th - 6th March 2011

cost £190 pp, £160 ppr those paying direct debit for their season's travel.

Payment required in full by **21st January 2011**

**4\* Sea front hotel, the Barcelo Old Ship Hotel, Kingsway promenade.** The only accommodation we now have available is in twin rooms. The price includes Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Friday 4th March 2011 - depart Carlisle 0700hrs and travel to Brighton.

Saturday 5th March - return travel to the Brighton v Carlisle United game.

Sunday 6th March - morning at leisure departing Brighton at approximately 1300hrs.

Partners who do not wish to attend the match will be more than welcome on the trip should they wish to spend time shopping.

## League Position Competition

Once again we will be running the League Position Competition - it's easy, no skill required, fortunately.

The league positions are listed 1 - 24, you draw out a raffle ticket which gives you the league position you have picked for CUFC at the end of the 2010 - 11 season. Cost £1 per ticket with a cash prize around 7th May 2011.

### League Position Competition

League Position	Competition 1	Competition 2	Competition 3
1	Susan Elliott	Colin Moore	Steve Potts
2	Harrington	Brian Sanderson	Paul Little
3	Tim Graham	Jackie Mansell	Laura Bristo
4	Dave Bone	Dan Irving	Pat McLean
5	Ian Tuer and Val	Kate Rowley	Helen Ross
6	Phil Little	Neil Ferguson	Barry Johnston
7	PI	Nobby	Keith Elliott
8	Sandra Steel	Dave Bone	Mike McCartney
9	Harrington	Gary Nichol	Susan Elliott
10	Harrington	Hazel Robbins	George Gayle
11	Watters	Ali Ross	Donald Bell
12	Neil Ferguson	David Maclean	Roddy Harrison
13	Mike Ferguson	Gary Nichol	Francis Blenkinsop
14	Les Story	Helen Ross	Stuart Anderson
15	Phil Little	George Gayle	Ian Tuer
16	Lynda Gray	Jackie Mansell	David Gayle
17	Edgar	Adrian Docker	Mike Aird
18	Watters	Tommy Coleman	Susan Elliott
19	Edgar	Turtle	Barbara Hetherington
20	Baz Carruthers	PI	Ricky Brown
21	Baz Carruthers	Kate Rowley	Turtle
22	Ian Tuer and Val	Pat McLean	Brian Sanderson
23	Liam - Phil Little	Janet Rae	Krystal Gayle
24	Dave Bone	Mrs Pattinson	PTF

## Bottle Draw

Having commenced in August here are the winners so far. This is a draw no one goes away from without a prize.

Number	Name	Winner in Week
1	Blank	Any prize won on this number will be raffled
2	Susan	
3	Barry Johnston	
4	Steve Potts	Winner week 4
5	Blank	Any prize won on this number will be raffled
6	Helen Ross	
7	John Rowley	
8	Keith Elliott	
9	PI	Winner week 5, 6 & 7
10	Monkey	
11	George Gale	Winner week 3
12	Ray Bristo	
13	Norman Steel	Winner week 2
14	Ali	Winner week 2
15	Barbara Hetherington	Winner week 1
16	Krystal Gayle	
17	Nobby	Winner week 7
18	Paul and Sarah	Winner week 6
19	Ricky Brown	
20	Tommy C	Winner week 1
21	Kate R	
22	John Smallwood	Winner week 3 & 4
23	Les Story	Winner week 5

**3 drawers will take place on the Yeovil coach and prizes will be available to pick up on the Oldham coach**

## Ten To Try Answers

1. Brazil
2. Mario Kempes with 6 goals
3. Mansfield
4. Bobby Owen
5. Royal Oak, The Griffin, The Princess Royal & The New Inn
6. The Mersey Clipper
7. Peter Crouch at 21 to 20
8. Steven Gerrard at 88 to 86
9. Celtic at 34 to 33
10. Queen's Park with 10

## Don't Quote Me On It

In my office I often regret the fact that players do not sit in chairs fitted with a lie-detector and an ejector seat - Gordon Strachan

Can anyone tell me why they give referees a watch? It's certainly not for keeping the time - Sir Alex Ferguson

I've always believed in treating the ball like a woman. Give it a cuddle, caress it a wee bit, take your time and you'll get the desired response  
Jim Baxter

Let the women play in more feminine clothes, like they do in volleyball. For example, they could wear tight shorts  
Sepp Blatter

I don't even understand offside so I'm not likely to understand a Manchester United contract  
Victoria Beckham

What I love most about Norway is you ladies. Back home I'm used to fat and hairy women  
journalists - Diego Maradona

Great striking partnerships come in pairs  
Nigel Spackman

What I said at half-time would be unprintable on radio - Gerry Francis

The Belgians will play like their fellow Scandinavians, Denmark and Sweden  
Andy Townsend

Arsenal's touch and movement are amazing, I hope the listeners are watching this  
Chris Waddle

I've always said there's a place for the tabloid press in football. They just haven't dug it yet  
Tommy Docherty

I used to quite like turnips. Now my wife refuses to serve them - Graham Taylor

Some managers in England are fat and drink beer, How can players respect that, and not drink and stay fit? - Eric Cantona

Pathetic, abysmal, gutless and disgraceful. If my players were bricklayers the house they built would fall down - Alan Ball

I wince at players who cheat and foul, who abuse referees and who think only about winning and the money it will bring  
Tony Blair