CUSC TRAVEL NEWS

July 2010

Weekends away with CUSC Travel

29 – 31st October 2010 – Bristol Rovers

2 nights bed and full English breakfast in a 4* city centre hotel – more details to follow.

4 – 6th March – Brighton – more details to follow.
Come and join CUFC away supporters at the seaside

If you want to join us on one or both of the weekends please let Kate know as soon as possible as there will only be 1 coach travelling for the weekend. Prices for both weekends to follow. A day coach will travel to both venues.

Away fixtures

Away Fixture list is with departure times and prices. Please note **COLCHESTER** and **BRENTFORD** are **FRIDAY** games.

Location	Departure time	Price £
Darlington	16.30	10
Kendal	1700	8
Plymouth	0500	35
Colchester - FRI	1100	32
Sheffield Wed	1000	17
Bournemouth	0600	35
Hartlepool	1600	12
Exeter	0600	34
Bristol Rovers	0630	28
Walsall	0930	19
Leyton O	0600	32
Yeovil	0600	33
Oldham	1600	15
Tranmere	1000	17
Charlton	0600	32
Notts County	0700	20
Huddersfield	1600	15
Southampton	0600	35
Swindon	0800	29
Brighton	0600	35
Peterborough	0800	25
Brentford - FRI	1100	32
Milton K	0700	28
Rochdale	1000	12
Dagenham & Redbridge	0600	30
Season Travel		**602**

£40 DD for 12 months = £480 saving of £122

Direct Debit

We have been able to hold Direct Debit payments at £40 per month over a 12 month period. Commence payment in August 10 and continue your last payment July 2011. All travel to League games only is booked in advance but if you are unable to travel sell your seat to another traveller – you decide the price you charge. If you want further information please see Kate or Ali.

League Position Competition

Once again we will be running the League Position Competition – its easy, no skill required. The league positions are listed 1 – 22, 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.

Bottle Draw

Commencing 14th August (Plymouth) we will be holding our Christmas Bottle Draw. £1 per away game, finishing with the Yeovil game on the 18th December. Everyone is a winner. It costs you £10 and the winners have the

choice of spirits, wine, beer or like, even if you are not a winner you will not go away empty handed.

Player Sponsorship

Once again we will be sponsoring at least 2 players, the club photographer and the away mascot. When possible we will be sponsoring a game or ball.

We have asked the club what projects they would wish us to donate money to from that raised on the Everton and Wembley trips. We have been approached with a proposal and whilst the committee of the away travel have no problem with this as it falls within our remit of donating money to benefit players fitness or supporters facilities, we understand that the request is being considered by the board of the club. Will let you know when we have confirmation as to what the money will be donated for.

Wembley 2010

As the dust settles on another season and we look forward to the 2010 – 11 one to come possibly the uppermost thought in travelling supporters minds are the thousands of miles we will travel during the season.

But let us case our minds back to Wembley. Coming up to the stadium in the coach this time at about 10.45am on the Sunday morning, the first thing that strikes you again is how ugly and uninspiring the surrounding area is. I would guess that when the original ground was constructed for the British Empire Exhibition in 1923 on the site of the unfinished Watkins's Tower, that there weren't industrial units all around.

And it those units that take away some of the mystique of the ground too, it's like having Buckingham Palace stuck in the middle of Tower Hamlets. You want to see a nice approach to the ground, an aesthetic area for the eye to feast upon, something to get your heart pounding for the beauty that is about to be thrust upon you. Even Wembley Way, or Olympic Way as it is now called, well really it is just a big concrete path, particularly without the Twin Towers to see in the distance now.

Call me old fashioned if you like but my opening thought when getting off the coach, actually make that the second thought after where do we get beer from, was it's just glass and concrete. And as for the arch, well don't even get me started on that, apparently it is there to support the retractable stadium roof. But surely there must have been some other way of doing that that would have been nicer to look at than a big metal arch that looks completely out of place compared to the rest of the stadium.

The complete lack of pubs and other entertainment in the area, due to those aforementioned industrial units, doesn't exactly help you enjoy the occasion. Although at least next to Wembley Park tube station there had been an outside bar set up in the Premier Inn car park next door, that seemingly having been solely for Carlisle fans despite the fact that were some well behaved Southampton supporters in there too. Mind you, at a relatively reasonable £3.50 a pint, who could blame them.

Walking up Wembley Way with a small amount of fuel on board didn't make my pulse race on the £800 million the rebuilding of the stadium cost, but it's when you get inside it's where you see your money was really spent. For a start, with our tickets being on the top tier, I can't remember ever going on an escalator in a football ground, although you do feel that one was needed on that old bank at Springfield Park, Wigan or the tarmac slope at the old Shay, Halifax.

Once you wander around the concourses I suppose it is pretty much the same as any other modern ground these days, albeit on a much larger scale. But when you go up the steps and into the seats fully inside the stadium, then the view from around 20 rows down from the back simply takes your breath away. That is one area in which it certainly defeats the Millennium Stadium, although the view in there wasn't bad either to be fair.

There were a few scare stories about in the weeks coming up to the game about the price of food and drink inside the ground, well for me one side of the coin was fine and the other was expensive. In the National Stadium, in London, I thought £4 for 500mls worth of lager wasn't too traumatic to be honest, but the food was daftly overpriced. And you'd think they would want football fans to have it the other way round in a captive arena, less drinking on an empty stomach.

And of course that drinking has to end up somewhere too, so the toilet situation, was it just me or where there far more sit down facilities than there needed to be as compared to stand up ones? Surely, and I am going to help myself out here by saying that I am no expert on male toilets, I would think that around 90% of people need the stand up ones and that didn't seem to replicate itself inside the ground.

Oh, and whose idiotic idea was it to close the some of the stand up ones at the final whistle, and thus force twice as many punters into a block of sit down ones, stupidity in the extreme. It would seem pretty obvious that the lack of stand up ones was the reason that were enormous queues at half-time that were still there well into the second-half, some men even going into the ladies toilets, maybe not for the first time, to avoid the queues.

As for leaving the stadium itself, let's be wise and not talk about the game, it felt like the stairs going round and round and round to reach the exit doors would never stop but eventually they did and it was back to the coach. Getting out of the car-park proved to be surprisingly easy, and better organised than I expected, and we were soon back on the motorway, eventually getting home to Carlisle at just after 11pm.

The lasting memory for me of the New Wembley once I have had time to think about it, is it a case of what could have been for a massive £800 million spend. Apart from the view, which I suppose is the main concern really, it's just another modern ground with the same facilities as are everywhere else, albeit, as already mentioned on a larger scale. And some of the facilities aren't really up to the mark either.

That's not to say that I am pining for the horrendousness of the Old Wembley but what emotions does the new ground pull into your heart? Can you imagine as it the same place the White Horse strode out onto, the same place that saw the "Matthews Final" in 1953, the same place Geoff Hurst scored his hat-trick in that World Cup Final. I can't, and that for me is a shame that those memories have pretty much disappeared to be replaced by glass, concrete and a complete lack of history and nostalgia.

Season 2009 - 10

Usually when someone mentions nine months, I start to wonder if it's going to be the DNA test on The Jeremy Kyle Show all over again, although I suppose at least I got a day off work. But that is exactly how long it is to the day since we started the League One season on August the 8th with a 3-1 defeat at home to newly promoted Brentford, one of four home losses in the opening six league matches at Brunton Park.

Things finally turning round on that front with the arrival in mid-October of Vincent Pericard, his presence upfront seeing the Blues hit a better run of form over the Christmas period that pretty much banished any early lingering fears of relegation. Winning form on the road in the league at the start of the season was also a struggle to find, although, albeit with draws, more points were being picked up away from Brunton Park.

In many respects though the turning point of the league season came in Pericard's first two games, starting with the 3-1 defeat at Yeovil that heaped massive pressure on Greg Abbott, and then the scrappy 2-1 win over Southend at home that allowed the Blues manager some breathing space. All of a sudden after the Yeovil game, by the end of which it was two league wins in our first thirteen matches, Carlisle then picked up five wins in their next eight games in the division.

It was also the period where the entertaining FA Cup run came to an end at Everton's Goodison Park, the first big match United had played in the competition since Arsenal at home in January 2001. It was a first round struggle to get to Merseyside eventually though with it taking two ties to get past Morecambe before the excellent televised 3-1 win over Norwich in round two.

Carlisle then pushing the Toffeemen all the way in the third round before eventually succumbing 3-1 on the back of two late Everton goals. And oh what might have been had Danny Livesey's shot gone two inches lower than the crossbar it hit with 20 minutes to go and the score at 1-1. Still, after so many disappointing seasons in the FA Cup it was just nice to get the chance to play one of the big boys again.

It was one of the lesser big boys that the Cumbrians had taken on in the third round of the League Cup too in September when they lost 3-1 at home to a Portsmouth side who were then yet to go financially pop. One of Carlisle's best wins of the season coming with a 2-0 victory at Bristol City in round two, that coming after a largely uninspiring 1-0 home win over Oldham at the opening stage of the competition.

Back in the league, and with Pericard now circumnavigating The Magic Roundabout in Swindon, results started to get bitty once more, culminating in a three game losing streak that itself ended with a gruesome 4-1 defeat at Hartlepool. Into March now, and with another strong player now upfront, in loanee Jason Price, three good home wins in a row followed against Colchester, Yeovil and Bristol Rovers.

In the August newsletter I will be looking at the season ahead……
Article kindly donated by TG

Do you want to Donate an article

If you want to donate an article to the newsletter please feel free to do so and give to either Ali or Kate.

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 and hopefully this season on the scoreboard / programmes at the ground.

NEW NUMBER FOR BOOKING AWAY TRAVEL

CUSC (Away Travel) now have a dedicated number for supporters to book travel this is :

07563-700987

Thanks go to all those who will try to make your as friendly and comfortable as possible.

Ali, Becky, Steve, Karen, Linda, Susan, Keith, Kate, Martin & all the drivers from Titteringtons Coaches. The list would not be complete without a huge thanks to Helen who this season, with the games at Everton and Wembley has had to bank and account for more money than in other seasons - Thanks Helen.

Thanks for your support Carlisle United Supporters' Club Away Travel

***** See reverse for League fixture list *****