

CUSC TRAVEL NEWS

Run up to the end of season



Wembley, Carlisle United and a Trophy



Back we were again then, with this being our sixth attempt at taking home the trophy within 90 minutes, and thankfully this time it was a successful attempt as the cup came back to Cumbria for the second time in 15 seasons. After last season's nightmare final against Southampton hopes had been high of a Wembley victory this time around too,

despite the 2-1 league defeat at Brentford just nine days before the game. The thought being that United would have a much better chance against a Bees side that were more on a level playing field than the Saints were 12 months ago, and also that the hefty 4-1 defeat against the St. Mary's outfit would stand the Blues in good stead experience-wise this time around.

The weekend didn't start as well it had done last season though as heavy rain greeted the punters waiting for the overnight coaches to depart Brunton Park at 7am on the Saturday morning, that in stark contrast to the cold but clear conditions in March 2010. It was a much smaller convoy that headed down the M6 laden down with pies this year too, with numerous reasons coming to the fore in Carlisle only taking 13,000 fans to Wembley as opposed to 21,000 last year. With varying whys and wherefores for the drop in support, it was surely the current economic climate that headed the list, with memories of the Southampton catastrophe and been there done that no doubt coming a close second and third.

Regular away travellers must feel like Norton Canes is their second home at times and it was there that the first break in the journey down to London was made, at least it's a good motorway services though, if there is such a thing, and I remember seeing some deer loitering around in the evening one time following a lengthy away trip. Once the outskirts of the capital were hit it was either joy to misery or misery to joy depending on your opinion, although I'd hazard a guess that the first option there was the winner with most. West Ham not being the victors themselves though as across the

radio waves came their 2-0 lead to eventual 4-2 defeat at home to Manchester United, in a game remembered more for Wayne Rooney's television appearance in the end.

The hotel was reached around the 3pm mark and with plenty on offer in London it was here, there and everywhere, including the pub, depending on what your plans were. As for her indoors and I, well, I honestly never planned it, but we ended up getting separated on the underground straight away as I made it onto the tube train while senior management was left standing on the platform looking at a pair of closed doors. I'm not sure if disappointment or happiness was the expression on her face when we were reunited at the next stop, albeit via different trains, infact it was almost like a scene from Sliding Doors, if I looked at all like John Hannah, which I don't. Her indoors as Gwyneth Paltrow? No comment.

After a late night followed by an early rise there were fortunately no travel problems the next morning though as both day and overnight buses seemed to reach Wembley at about the same time of 11am or so on a lovely bright and relatively warm day in HA9. What did you do for the two or three hours before the game then? Well, like last year a group of us headed up to the Holiday Inn next to Wembley Park tube station to moisten the tonsils, it's the salty bacon in the cooked breakfast you see, it makes you thirsty, which is surprising from my point of view considering I had a small bowl of muesli with skimmed milk followed by a light fruit salad.

Luckily that substantive meal did me well when we turned up at the outdoor bar there to find the new addition of two pint glasses on the menu this year. So, following the pre-match embalming of the innards it was up Wembley, sorry, Olympic Way, for the big game, and despite the overall attendance being over 30,000 down on last year it didn't really seem that much quieter to be honest. I made my feelings on the new Wembley known last year and I haven't changed my mind after a second visit either, it does nothing for me and in my opinion is just a more grandiose version of one of the many plastic and concrete identikit grounds springing up around the country these days.

Onto the game itself anyway, well it looked like we were going to make it a particularly grim afternoon for Brentford early on as we took the lead through Peter Murphy, something about him and a baby or some such, in the 12th minute with Ben Marshall also looking particularly dangerous. Marshall's day was over midway through the opening period though as a "crunching tackle" from Adam Reed, that allowing the Bees to get into the match a lot more although Carlisle did keep up a good pace going forward to the half-time whistle. It was after the break that things got tough for United however, as it turned a little bit into an at arm's length backs to the wall performance - if those bodily parts make sense together.

Still, the only real chance Brentford had to nick an equaliser came in the 56th minute when Leicester City-loanee Jeffrey Schlupp, who had bagged a brace the week before at Griffin Park against United, perhaps a little selfishly choose to shoot instead of passing to Gary Alexander only to see his effort on goal cannon away off the base of Adam Collin's left-hand post. No-one seems to really know how referees decide how much added time is to be played these days, but just over six minutes was the call in the end as we all waited with baited breath for the last blow of the whistle to come. And it finally did as jubilant scenes of celebration were shown both on and off the Wembley turf at Carlisle's 1-0 victory.

With the trophy presented in all its glory, the United players having made their half lap of glory and the buses back at full strength it was homeward bound once more, but this time in a far more triumphant manner compared to last season. I don't know about your way home but our bus was surprisingly quiet as an early start, a late night, another early start and then an afternoon of excitement and pure nervous tension began to take its toll. But, what better way to sleep off the weekend back up the motorway than with a trophy safely locked away in the cabinet, and having had an enjoyable time in the capital with friends, sometimes football isn't a cruel game after all.

Thank you

Tim Graham has contributed to our newsletter all season by providing articles, quotes and competitions for your amusement. CUSC would like to thank him for his fantastic contribution to this newsletter. Hope we can rely on you next season.

2011 - 12 season Match Day Travel

As you will be aware the aim of CUSC travel is to transport supporters to ALL away games with the minimum of expense. With that in mind, and the knowledge that diesel prices have increased dramatically since we last reviewed our prices, we are still hoping to keep next seasons travel prices in line with the 2010 - 11 season.

Once the fixture list is published we will be able to advertise the prices and are confident that once again we can offer the direct debit scheme. You pay a monthly fee and are able to travel to all league games without thinking about the cost. This season that cost was £40 per month over a 12 month period, so if you are considering this method for next season please let us know and the appropriate form will be sent to you - there is no administration cost to this service.

**Contact number for travel is
07563 700987**

Weekends away 2011 / 12 Season

Depending on the fixture list we hope to organise our very popular weekends away, but more information will be available when the fixture list is announced.

Thank you

A huge thank you, to you the supporters, who have travelled thousands of miles to support the Blues.

A special thanks to those who help organise the travel, Bob's Bargains and steward your coaches:.

Ali Ross

Susan & Keith Elliott

Steve & Becky Potts

Linda, Rich and Karen Gallagher

The Merry family - Carol, Michelle & Jo

Martin Armstrong

and numerous others who gave their time to steward coaches to Wembley.

All this time is given free and is very much appreciated.

CUSC want to thank Titterington Coaches, Colin, Paul & Ian for all their help. Our drivers, who apart from taking an interest in our travel arrangements in the main are supporters themselves. Look forward to seeing you all again next season.

Last but by no means least, our treasurer Helen Fuller, who this season has handled thousands of pounds on our behalf and kept us, the supporters' travel on the straight and narrow.

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

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

Date	Fixture	Depart	Cost
23 April	Rochdale	10.00am	£12.00
30 April	Dagenham & R	6.00am	£30.00
To be confirmed	Charlton	6.00am	£32.00

Pre Season matches

Yes we will be running travel to some if not all the pre season matches.