



FOOTBALL CLUB UNITED OF MANCHESTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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The Season So Far 2

The incredible journey continues for FC United. After the highs of last season, the good times continue to roll, with a second consecutive promotion on the cards. We look back at the season so far.



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The supporters speak. Catch up with all the happenings at this year's AGM when you decide how your club is run.

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The boss wants a word...



Karl Marginson

I'm delighted with how this season has gone so far on all fronts. Not only are the first team top of the league and playing well, but in the bigger picture, the reserves have done really well and have started to supply a couple of players who have come through to the first team.

Then there's the youth team, who have developed well even though results haven't always gone their way.

Last season was all a bit hectic but now we're just building bit by bit to make sure the club continues to be successful.

The youth and reserves are a big part of that. It's part of the club's constitution that we make FC United accessible to all and we want to see lads from all around Greater Manchester fighting their way through the ranks to eventually play for the first team.

We would like to extend the youth setup even further and in the long run not only will it be good for the future of the club but it will save us money!

But, focussing on the first team, we are really pleased with how things have gone.

The guys we brought in at the start of the season have all made a huge impact. Everyone knew that Stuart Rudd was quality and he has definitely proved that, not only scoring goals but helping to bring along Rory that bit more.

"I'm delighted with how this season has gone so far on all fronts..."

I knew all about Matty Taylor and Alex Mortimer before they arrived here as well and neither has disappointed.

We brought in Jerome Wright recently and we feel he's just the type of player we needed on the left flank. But I'm happy with the squad now and I can't see us bringing any more new faces in because we've got plenty of good back-up in the reserves.

We had a bit of a blip before Christmas but I think the players realise now that there's plenty of competition for places and if they don't perform, there are lads who will take their place in the team.

Starting with the win against Ramsbottom on Boxing Day, I wanted

us to get back to the kind of form we showed at the start of the season when we were flying. I don't see any reason why we can't go on a run like that again between now and the end of the season.

The only real disappointment so far was the FA Vase defeat. We knew how much it meant to the fans but also personally, it was my first time managing a team in a national competition.

But we've still got the League Challenge Cup ahead of us. Colne beat us last year but we're determined not to slip up because we want to give the fans that cup final.

All the fans need to do is keep up their fantastic support. I've said it a million times before, but your support is really important and it really can make the difference.

"...the only real disappointment so far was the FA Vase defeat. We knew how much it meant to the fans."

For up to date ticket and match information

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• Fixture & venue news • Cup draws
• First team, reserves and Under 18s results & more



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Surely it couldn't get any better...

After the elation of last season's runaway title-winning success, few Reds would have expected their team to fare quite so well as they adjusted to life in the North West Counties Division One.

But, in fact, it became a whole lot better for Karl Marginson's side.

New signings significantly strengthened the championship-winning squad, with Stuart Rudd banging the goals in up front and Matty Taylor marauding down the right flank in tandem with Rhodri Giggs, and FC quickly emerged as the early pacesetters in the league, steamrolling their way to 12 straight wins.

"FC quickly emerged as the early pacesetters in the league, steamrolling their way to 12 straight wins."

The signs had been good in pre-season, the Reds recovering from early defeats against Radcliffe, Altrincham, Bury and Sheffield to end on a sequence of three straight wins, including a 4-2 triumph at Conference side Halifax.

It was this form that United carried into the new season and despite leaving it late in their first game against St Helens



Town - Simon Carden only opening the scoring 13 minutes from time before Stuart Rudd sealed the win - they soon became unstoppable.

After the opening day triumph, there followed a 6-0 thrashing of Nelson at Gigg Lane, in which Rory Patterson

bagged a hat-trick, and a 2-0 triumph over highly touted FA Vase holders Nantwich Town.

It didn't stop there and the wins kept rolling in throughout August and September, highlights being a 7-0 win away to Atherton LR and a 3-1 win for 10-man United at Curzon Ashton, one of the pre-season promotion favourites.



There was also success in the FA Vase, as United started on the road to Wembley with a superb 3-1 win and a great day out at Yorkshire side Brodsworth MW.

But no sooner had the Reds extended their 100% league record to 12 games with a 3-0 win over Bacup than their run predictably came to end on the 13th time of asking.

In front of a massive Tuesday night crowd of 4,058 at the Willows, United took the lead against Salford City with just 10 minutes to go after Josh Howard latched onto a Sam Ashton free kick.

But then lightning struck - twice! With seconds remaining Salford cruelly

"wins kept rolling in throughout August and September, highlights being a 7-0 win away to Atherton LR and a 3-1 win for 10-man United at Curzon Ashton."

equalised through Nick Bagguley's free kick and if that wasn't enough, Nick Robinson scored deep into injury time to deny the Reds even a point.

Margy's side didn't let this blow get them down, however, and they got back to winning ways with a 3-0 Vase win at Padiham fuelled by two goals from midfield maestro Simon Carden.

Points continued to flood in in the league as well, FC doing the double over St Helens with a 3-0 win at Gigg Lane before running riot against Squires Gate, Patterson scoring four and Rudd three as they recorded their biggest win of the season so far, 8-0.

But that landmark was then equalled in the next home game, Glossop North End this time the victims as seven different players got themselves on the scoresheet.

Then came the game all FC United fans had been waiting for - the club's first ever derby clash against fellow promotion challengers Maine Road.



There was plenty of passion on show both on and off the pitch at Stalybridge Celtic's Bower Fold ground but the Reds did not disappoint. Rudd gave FC the lead in a fiery first half that saw Maine Road reduced to 10 men and although the Blues equalised after the break, the deadly Rudd struck again nine minutes from time to seal a sensational win.

Double delight followed in cup competitions as FC United beat Nantwich 3-0 in the League Challenge

Cup and gained revenge over Salford with a 3-2 Vase win at the Willows.

But even though a 7-0 win over Stone Dominoes seemed to suggest the Reds would continue their rampant form, the month before Christmas proved to be tougher than expected.



A 3-0 home defeat against Atherton Collieries was followed by a 1-1 draw at Congleton Town and then United's Wembley dreams were ended after a 3-2 Vase defeat against Quorn.

However, the nature of the Vase defeat suggested there was plenty still to come from the Reds.

"There is plenty to get excited about in the second half of the season... the reds have their sights firmly set on the double."

In one of the most exciting games ever seen at the club, nine-man United came within two minutes of an unbelievable victory only to concede a last gasp equaliser. And, after battling their way valiantly through extra time, the Reds suffered another cruel blow when Quorn snatched a win in injury time to dump them out of the Vase.

There is plenty to get excited about in the second half of the season though and with FC United still well placed in the league and through to the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup, they have their sights firmly set on the double.

FC United and George Wimpey Manchester build on coaching success

Philips High School took the spoils after a dramatic win on sudden-death penalties against Ramsbottom's Woodhey High School in a new tournament supported by FC United and George Wimpey Manchester.

The Bury Schoolgirls Cup was a new tournament aiming to develop girl's football in and around Bury, and was initiated by FC United of Manchester and local schools, in partnership with sponsors George Wimpey Manchester, who recently launched their new Oakwood Park development in Radcliffe, and with enthusiastic support from members of the Bury Supporters Branch.

The event, held at Broad Oak, followed four weeks of taster sessions and coaching in each of the participating schools. More than 130 girls attended the taster sessions, with teaching staff selecting squads of ten to take part in the tournament. The six schools involved were Broad Oak, Castlebrook, Philips, St Gabriel's, Tottington and Woodhey.

The pool games got off to an exciting start as Tottington upset St Gabriel's 3-1, while Woodhey emerged as favourites as they put seven goals past Broad Oak with no reply. Woodhey's form continued as they put a further five goals past Castlebrook, guaranteeing themselves a place in the final.



However, their opposition was still to be decided as Philips beat St Gabriel's 1-0 putting them level on points with Tottington. The crucial pool game between the two sides finished 1-0 to Philips after a tight contest. Broad Oak also took the points in a 1-0 win against Castlebrook, setting them up for a 3rd-placed play-off draw against Tottington.

The finals saw St Gabriel's take 5th place in a hotly-contested 2-1 victory over Castlebrook, and Tottington march to a convincing 5-0 win over Broad Oak to take 3rd place.

The grand final saw the most exciting football of the day as Philips drew 1-1 with Woodhey after fifteen minutes of normal time. It was straight into sudden-death penalties for the two teams, from which Philips emerged as winners taking the cup, which was presented by Siobhan Shiels from George Wimpey Manchester and Phil Sheeran from FC United.



If there is one moment this season that best encapsulated the spirit of FC United, it was

People United Day

The event was organised as part of football's Kick Out racism week but soon took on a life of its own, underlining the spirit of solidarity and inclusiveness at the club.

Under 18s were allowed in free for the day's game, a spectacular 8-0 league win over Glossop North End, and more than 1,000 youngsters took advantage of the offer to create a unique atmosphere inside Gigg Lane.

A number of schools and youth groups got involved in the day's events, as did Bury Council for Race Equality and many young refugees and asylum seekers.

The game was also attended by Cabinet Minister Hazel Blears, who was massively impressed by what she witnessed.

She said: "Football is the people's game, and should be at the heart of the community. That means that everyone, regardless of who they are, or where they come from, should be able to watch, enjoy and play football."

noisy youngsters did their best to out-sing the Manchester Road End.

The Youth Stand was also the starting point for the pre-match People United parade, led by ten of our club juniors carrying an "FC United Against Racism" banner around the pitch.

The unorchestrated standing ovation from the 3,000 supporters around the ground was a moving tribute to all those who had taken the time to make banners and parade on the pitch.

“People United Day is about honouring the pledge we made in the manifesto members adopted at the start of the season, by making FC United accessible to all the communities of Greater Manchester.”

— Andy Walsh

"Because football is a global phenomenon, there is a danger that football clubs lose their basis in the community."

"FC United has shown that passion still counts for something, that football is as much about the small teams as well as the giants, and that communities can come together to create something special."

“Football is the people's game, and should be at the heart of the community. That means that everyone, regardless of who they are, or where they come from, should be able to watch, enjoy and play football.”

— Hazel Blears

Both Glossop and FC United players wore People United T-shirts during the warm up, and the sweaty shirt of Man of the Match Jamie Phoenix was auctioned off for £35.

To mark the special day, the Cemetery End of the ground was opened and declared as the Youth Stand, where the

The Glossop North End supporters were the first to applaud, and in a further gesture of respect, the Glossop and FC United captains exchanged club pennants before the kick off.

This kind of response from all in attendance ensured People United Day was a huge success and left general manager Andy Walsh delighted.

"It is great that the initiatives we are undertaking at FC United are being recognised. We are firmly behind Kick it Out week and yet also wanted to broaden it out to address all socially excluded groups within Greater Manchester," he said.

"People United Day is about honouring the pledge we made in the manifesto members adopted at the start of the season, by making FC United accessible to all the communities of Greater Manchester."

"There were a thousand young people in the ground, so it's been a great success and something that's not been tried before."

"Football against racism has been going for a long time now. In our first season we put our toe in the water, but this season we've pushed the boat out a bit further."

FC UNITED SQUAD MID-SEASON APPEARANCES & GOALS SEASON 2006-2007. (Up to and including January 6 2007)

Player	NWCL1		NWCLCC		FA VASE		TOTAL	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Ahern	10(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	11(1)	0(0)
Allen	3(2)	3(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	3(4)	3(0)
Ashton	25(0)	0(0)	2(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0(0)	31(0)	0(0)
Brown	5(5)	1(0)	1(1)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	6(6)	1(1)
Carden	16(4)	9(1)	1(0)	0(0)	3(0)	3(0)	20(4)	12(1)
Chadwick	20(1)	2(0)	2(0)	1(0)	2(0)	1(0)	24(1)	4(0)
Coyne	5(3)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2(0)	0(0)	7(3)	1(0)
Ellis	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)
Elvin	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Foster	3(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0(0)
Giggs	16(6)	3(1)	2(0)	1(0)	4(0)	0(0)	22(6)	4(1)
Howard	15(5)	6(0)	1(1)	0(0)	4(0)	1(0)	20(6)	7(0)
Lomax	3(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	3(2)	0(0)
Lyons	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)
Melville	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Mike	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Mortimer	23(0)	1(0)	1(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0(0)	28(0)	1(0)
Nugent	21(0)	3(0)	1(0)	1(0)	4(0)	0(0)	26(0)	4(0)
Ogden	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Ormes	3(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	3(1)	0(0)
Orr	2(8)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	2(9)	0(0)
Patterson	23(1)	18(0)	1(0)	1(0)	3(0)	2(0)	27(1)	21(0)
Phoenix	1(6)	1(1)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	1(8)	1(1)
Platt	7(5)	2(0)	1(0)	0(0)	1(1)	0(0)	9(6)	2(0)
Power	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(1)	0(2)	0(1)
Roscoe	2(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	3(0)	0(0)
Rudd	24(0)	27(0)	2(0)	2(0)	4(0)	3(0)	30(0)	32(0)
Sampson	2(1)	0(0)	1(1)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	3(3)	0(0)
Shannon	0(1)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(1)
Spencer	21(3)	1(0)	2(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0(0)	27(3)	1(0)
Smith	2(12)	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	2(13)	1(1)
Swarbrick	4(3)	2(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	5(3)	2(0)
Taylor	18(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0(0)	23(0)	0(0)
Wright	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)
Vaz Te	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)

() = as substitute.

Leigh branch show their local footballers the "FC experience"

By Steven Wood,
Leigh Supporters Branch

When the Leigh branch formed back in January, one of the things the members wanted to do was to include the local community in it and in FC United in some way.

During our meetings we decided that we would try to bring some local kids along to a game. The Stone Dominoes game was chosen and the two teams selected were Westthoughton Juniors (their manager is a branch member) and Astley Miners, both U15 teams that play in the Bolton Boys and Girls Federation.

The day actually started with a training session at Broad Oak School, Bury arranged by FC. The training consisted of a few drills and a short match at the end. The teams seemed to enjoy this and hopefully they got something out of it.

After a quick change, it was all back on the bus for a pre-ordered meal at that world renowned Michelin-rated restaurant, McDonalds, then onto Gigg Lane.

When we arrived, the teams and helpers were ushered into the ball boys room for a question and answer session with

Josh Howard, Steve Spencer and Leigh branch patron Rob Nugent. After a slow start, the questions started to flow, "Do you get paid?" (nothing like getting straight to the point!!) "Would you consider leaving FC and what would it take?" and "Are you all still United fans?" (the look on Steve Spencers face was a picture!)

After around 50 mins of questions and answers, the players signed all the programmes that were thrust under their noses and after a quick look at the flags going up in the South Stand, we were ushered out again.

After a quick drink in the social club, it was time to dish out the tickets and get into Gigg for the game. Unfortunately, the tickets were for the Main Stand, which for a committed MRE dweller was difficult.

Despite a draught that would have frozen the brassiest of monkeys and an atmosphere in there akin to Leigh Library, the lads enjoyed their game, particularly the twirling bar scarves.

Thankfully (in the end) the team served up a goal feast, so everyone went home happy. All that remained to do was to get everyone back on the bus, and raffle off the 2 signed balls and 2 signed pennants that we had purchased and had signed.

Overall the day was a success, the club were a superb help throughout and hopefully the two teams enjoyed their day and who knows maybe we will have some new fans for the future.

FC United AGM

FC United's historic first year and plans for the future development of the club were presented to members at the 2006 AGM which took place at Manchester's Central Methodist Hall on 31 October.

The resolutions at this year's AGM were largely tidying-up exercises with regards to the club's constitution, whilst members also had the opportunity to participate in elections to the club board.

In the end, three new board members were given a mandate from the membership, replacing Russell Delaney (who died shortly after the start of the club's first season), Joe Tully (who was stepping down due to work and family commitments) and Andy Walsh (who resigned his position on the club board to take up a paid position as the club's General Manager).

The three new board members, Alan Hargrave, Mike Turton and Alison Watt, were elected along with three serving members (Adam Brown, Martin Morris and Pete Munday; all of whom had been chosen at random to step down from the original board) with sizable mandates from the membership of the club.

There were also a number of presentations to the members on the achievements and direction of the club. Pete Munday gave a presentation outlining the financial situation, highlighting the successful financial position at the end of the club's first year, whilst emphasising the importance of retaining and growing both match attendances and sponsorship and merchandising income.

Adam Brown, Scott Fletcher and Vasco Wackrill then presented an outline plan for the future of the club as a community asset, building on the successes achieved so far whilst staying true to the club's founding principles. An importance was placed on the unique way in which FC United of Manchester is owned and run by its members, and the need to promote and strengthen membership and the IPS itself was highlighted.

Finally, a vote of thanks was offered to the meeting's Chair, Joe Tully, for all his sterling work over the past year on the many and varied legal aspects of running a football club of our size and profile. Approximately 300 members were present, all of whom made their thanks to Joe well known at the end.



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