

# FCUM REVIEW

2020-2021

Emirates FA Cup First Round  
v DONCASTER ROVERS  
Broadhurst Park



Saturday 7th November  
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Emirates  
FA CUP

OFFICIAL FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER MATCHDAY PROGRAMME





# Neil Reynolds

## FC UNITED'S MANAGER TALKS IN THE BUILD-UP TO TODAY'S GAME

After last weekend's display against Marske United, I expected a reaction on Tuesday night against Warrington Town, and I couldn't have asked for any more than what I got from this group of players.

We got a little bit of luck with the missed penalty early on, before taking the lead soon after. We didn't let our heads drop after conceding the equaliser, and I thought we were brilliant for much of the first half. It was a pair of clinical finishes from Curtis Jones and Fin Sinclair-Smith to send us into the break at 3-1.

Warrington came out with a point to prove after half-time, but we stuck to our game plan and had chances of our own to extend the lead. The sending-off obviously put us under pressure for the last 25 minutes, but I thought we defended absolutely superbly to hold on to the lead.

It's hard to single out any one player after that performance.

I thought we were brilliant across the park. We lost as a team last Saturday and won as a team on Tuesday night.

I'm delighted to welcome the players, staff and officials from Doncaster Rovers to Broadhurst Park today.

My lad Jack plays in the Preston North End academy, but both being so heavily involved in football ourselves, it's rare that we get chance to go to Deepdale to see the first team. The first game we went to together was when they faced Doncaster in the FA Cup a couple of years ago.

I remember being very impressed with Rovers that day as they came away with a 3-1 win, and we've both kept an eye on their results since then. So I was really pleased when they came out of the hat alongside us last Monday.

Darren Moore had a fantastic career as a player and has had a strong start to his management career, taking Rovers to the cusp of

the play-offs when the League One campaign was brought to an end last season. They're right up there again this season, having claimed impressive victories against the likes of Ipswich Town and Bristol Rovers already.

This afternoon's match represents a huge occasion for our club. It's just over five years since we moved into Broadhurst Park, and whilst it was an incredible achievement to build this place from scratch, it also created new challenges for us as a club.

As one of our fans once put it to me; the members suddenly went from a group of fans going to the match, to being homeowners with the mortgage to pay. That led to issues within the club, and when I was linked with the managerial vacancy here just over two years ago, I received calls from friends in football advising me to give it a wide berth.

However, the minute that I walked through the doors of this fantastic facility for the first time, I knew that I was making the right decision. I make no secret of my ambition as a manager, and this club is the place I want to be to achieve that. The support I've had from the Board has been invaluable.

That first season was certainly a baptism of fire, and relegation from the National League North was a humbling experience. We had to sit down as a club after that season and take some tough decisions to begin rebuilding. That has been driven by core values of financial sustainability, playing attractive football, and being rooted at the heart of our community.

There are so many people who have played a part in that. I have a brilliant coaching staff around me, looking after this special group of players. Graham and Jimmy work tirelessly to provide us with this fantastic playing surface, along with so much other work

they do around the ground.

Paul Smith, Peter Shaw and the office staff have had so many extra operational challenges thrown at them, on top of everything they already do, during the pandemic and have met every single one of them.

Everyone involved in the TV, radio and media side has done an amazing job at making sure everyone has been able to stay connected to the club.

Vinny and everyone else involved in the Community Food Hub project, helping to look after vulnerable local residents throughout lockdown, exemplify what this club is about.

For everyone – staff, members, volunteers, fans – today should be a huge celebration, and I'm just absolutely devastated that supporters are not allowed to be here in person.

The national lockdown announcement ultimately made the question of having fans here today an academic

one, but I've already spoken previously at the frustration over the way we were treated prior to that.

Beyond today, along with the rest of the non-league family, all we face is more uncertainty. We're in the fortunate position of featuring on TV today, which will help to cushion the blow for us, but this is going to hit all clubs at this level very hard.

I really hope that there is a recognition of just how much these clubs sit at the heart of their communities, and that some form of proper support is put in place.

It is going to be strange for us all running out here today without the wall of noise from the fans. For so many of these players, as well as myself as a manager, today is probably the biggest game of our careers so far.

We want to create our own piece of history at this club, and we hope to do all of you proud out on that pitch today. Bring on United!

*Reno*

For match highlights, interviews, and much more...

visit [www.fcum.tv](http://www.fcum.tv)



The FC United of Manchester boss was speaking to FCUM Review's Paul Hurst



# Broadhurst News

## SPONSORS

We would like to thank the FC United Stockport Branch for sponsoring today's match ball.

Also, huge thanks to members of The Soul Is One (TSIO) and official forums who donated towards the cost of a match sponsorship for our previous Emirates FA Cup match at home against Guiseley.

Only FC United members are able to join the official forum, which can be accessed via the club website, whilst you can sign up for TSIO forum by visiting fcumforum.org.uk

Future match, ball and programme sponsorships can be obtained by calling 0161 769 2005 or emailing office@fc-utd.co.uk

## PRINTED PROGRAMME

We will be producing a limited run of printed programmes for today FA Cup game.

They will be available to buy from the programme stall at Broadhurst Park before our next home game (whenever that might be).

Meanwhile, after receiving orders at the last few games, the previously unprinted pre-season programmes

(plus last season's Whitby mag) will be printed soon and will be on sale at our next home game.

## DAVE TOMLINSON RIP

We were saddened to hear that former North West Counties League chairman Dave Tomlinson passed away during the week.

Dave was chair of the NWCL when FCUM were first accepted into the bottom tier of the football pyramid over 15 years ago, and proved a huge help and big supporter of our club during those formative years.

The brother (and double) of Ricky Tomlinson, Dave had been involved in non-league football for many years, being chairman at Skelmersdale United through from the early 1990s to the early 2000s and served as League Chairman between 1998 to 2015, before becoming League President.

Current North West Counties League chairman Paul Lawler said: "We are devastated to learn of the passing of our good friend and colleague Dave Tomlinson. Dave was the longest serving chairman

of the league, having spent 17 years in the role before stepping up to President in 2015.

"Despite his position, he never forgot his club roots and used this experience to ensure the league was run correctly on behalf of its clubs, something that still holds true today. His passing puts the current situation with the suspension of football into perspective."

Our founding members will always remain grateful for Dave Tomlinson's support during our memorable first two seasons, and FC United would like to pass our condolences on to Dave's family and friends.

## MEMBERSHIPS

FC United currently have more than 2,600 members and co-owners.

By the middle of this week, we had a total of 2,283 adult members and 322 juniors.

To become a co-owner of FC United, memberships are available priced at £15 for adults and just £3 for U16s.

Please visit the official website, call 0161 769 2005 or email office@fc-utd.co.uk to become an owner of this thing of ours...



FC UNITED.....3  
WARRINGTON.....1

FC United celebrated a wonderful victory against Warrington Town at Broadhurst Park on Tuesday night in the club's final Northern Premier League match for at least a month.

The visitors were given a golden opportunity to go ahead in the opening exchanges when ex-Red Jordan Buckley was brought down inside the FCUM area but Bohan Dixon thankfully blazed the resultant spot-kick high and wide into the back of the SMRE.

Neil Reynolds' side capitalised on that early let-off by netting a ninth-minute opener following some fine play down the right that led to Finlay Sinclair-Smith firing the Reds in front.

Just over five minutes later, though, Warrington were level when they pounced on a misplaced pass before Luke Duffy found the back of the

FC net but it wasn't long before the hosts regained their lead.

In the 25th minute, a corner from the left was fired home by defender Curtis Jones at the back post and then seven minutes before the break, Sinclair-Smith grabbed his second and FCUM's third with a stunning strike from the edge of the Wire box.

With half an hour remaining, Luke Griffiths was red-carded for what appeared from distance to be a 50-50 challenge but the 10 men stood resolute and restricted Warrington to mostly half-chances and efforts from distance.

As the clock ticked down, realisation set in that this would be the last game fans would be attending for a while, and the noise levels rose considerably in the SMRE and Main Stand Paddock with Reds willing the team over the finish line.

The cheer that greeted the final whistle felt more like winning an FA Cup final than three points against Warrington Town, but with no fans inside Broadhurst Park for today's game, it was the final chance that supporters had to salute our team, providing a perfect send-off from the terraces.



## FC UNITED MANIFESTO

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, Sam Mullock & Dennis Shannon  
Secretary: Viv Ware  
Manager: Neil Reynolds  
Assistant: Brian Richardson  
Coaches: David Chadwick, Mike Faulkner & Paul Chapman  
Physio: Olivia Smith  
Kitman: James Deadman  
Women's team manager: Kamran Hussain  
Women's secretary: Rob Fullen  
Academy Manager: Tom Conroy  
Academy Secretary: Pete Moulds  
Operations Manager: Paul Smith  
Community Liaison Manager: Vinny Thompson  
Matchday/Team Secretaries: Viv Ware & Paul Delamere  
FC United Limited, Registered Society number 29969R



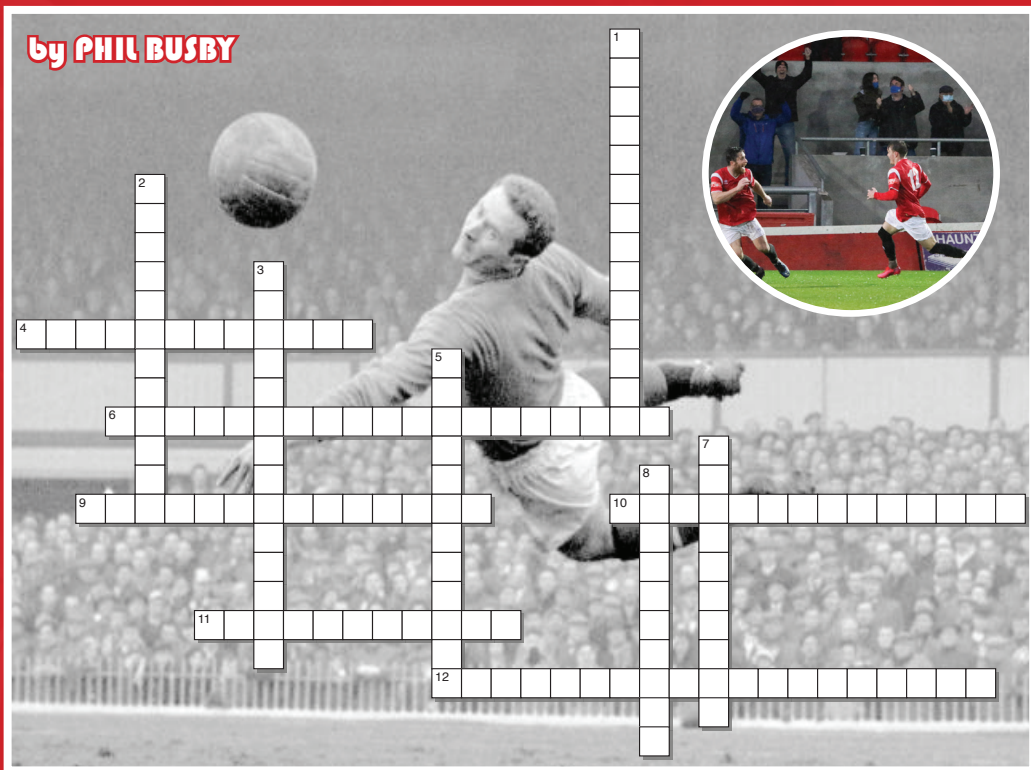
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by PHIL BUSBY



# THE FC UNITED CROSSWORD

## CLUES

### Across

- 4) Attacking midfielder who recently joined FC from Stoke City (3,9)  
 6) Scored a last-gasp winner against Guiseley (inset) in the last round of the FA Cup (6,8,5)  
 9) FC's youngsters crashed out of the FA Youth Cup last week. Who beat them? (6,8)  
 10) Our opponents last Tuesday night, current NPL leaders (10,4)  
 11) Scored FC's first goal in the Trophy match last week (6,5)  
 12) FC United, South Shields and which other NPL club recently sent a joint letter to the government about lack of support for clubs at our level (11,8)

### Down

- 1) Forward who made 62 appearances for FC, scoring 29 goals. Played against the Reds for South Shields last week (5,9)  
 2) North Yorks opponents who knocked FCUM out of this season's FA Trophy last week (6,6)  
 3) Scored the 85th-minute winner against Chorley to get FC United Women into the first round of the FA Cup last weekend (6,8)  
 5) Scored this season's first FCUM FA Cup goal with the opener against Pontefract Collieries (7,5)  
 7) Munich survivor and Manchester United legend, signed from Doncaster Rovers in 1957. Sadly passed away earlier this year (5,5)  
 8) Defender, new signing for FC who made his debut in the Trophy match last weekend (5,5)

Answers can be found at the foot of our Stats Entertainment page

# WHAT NOW FOR OUR SEASON?

We feared during pre-season that with this campaign being like no other in our lifetimes, we would be lucky if we managed to reach the end of 2020-21 without any serious disruption to our footballing calendar.

FC's pre-season schedule saw two games postponed within a fortnight of our resumption, instantly scuppering any serious plans of a 'normal' warm-up to the competitive fixtures.

Only a day before our first home friendly against Barrow was it confirmed that fans would be allowed back into the ground, in limited numbers. It was too late to prepare for a proper matchday, but a couple of hundred volunteers finally managed to enjoy their first taste of football since March after our initial away friendlies behind closed doors.

The competitive season then started with a Northern Premier game at home to Nantwich before an FA Cup match against Pontefract a few days later – with the imposed 600 capacity now in place being around 1,000 down on our average crowd at this stage over previous seasons.

Despite many hurdles in place since the onset of Covid, our players, coaches, staff, board and volunteers have worked tirelessly and dedicated countless hours helping to provide us with a semblance of normality as we've watched these early months of a



challenging campaign.

We've managed to keep the FC United bandwagon rolling and provided a safe environment for everybody at Broadhurst Park, along with the wonderful food hub which has been an essential asset to many in our community.

In the meantime, we've had an away game switched to Broadhurst Park less than a week before we were due to face Scarborough, and received a bye in the FA Cup as Alfreton Town pulled out of our scheduled tie on the day of the match due to positive Covid cases in their camp.

We've also seen millions of pounds distributed amongst teams operating in the 'elite' tiers of the National League and North and South divisions, whilst it feels to many at our level that clubs operating from Step 3 and below in the non-league footballing pyramid have been mostly abandoned during this time of crisis.

Just minutes before the draw for today's tie was due

to take place, it was revealed that supporters would not be allowed to attend any of the first-round fixtures.

It means that for the first time this season for a competitive game, and our third home match at Broadhurst Park in this year's FA Cup, even the minimal 600 will be denied a chance to witness what should be one of the greatest days in our club's 15-year history.

Confirmation was only received on Monday that due to this tie being an 'elite' match, it will go ahead. Then two days later we found out that should FC United progress today, our 'non-elite' players will now be allowed to train in the build-up to a potential second-round tie. Returning to our Northern Premier League situation, all football at our level is now suspended until at least the beginning of December. And then who knows.

One thing we do know is that once again we've got no idea what tomorrow will hold, how and if we can survive this current situation, and just how many clubs will eventually die during what is the most worrying time for countless non-league football clubs who have long been at the beating heart of their communities.

Let's hope we can get back to some form of normality as soon as possible, and we can minimise the devastating effect on many in the meantime.

DAVID BERGIN, EDITOR



# THE FC UNITED TIMELINE



## 10 YEARS AGO

### ROCHDALE 2 FCUM 3

Having eliminated Radcliffe Borough, Gainsborough Trinity, Norton & Stockton Ancients and Barrow in the qualifying rounds, FC United were handed a plum draw away to League One side Rochdale for the club's first ever appearance in the FA Cup first round.

The game was chosen for live broadcast and moved to a kick-off of 7.45pm on Friday 5th November 2010.

Reds boss Karl Marginson had a number of issues to contend with when considering his starting line-up. In defence, club captain David Chadwick had suffered a setback in his comeback from injury and Lee Neville had broken a foot the previous weekend that would ruin his ever-present record. Up front, both Ben Deegan and Glynn Hurst had limped out of the triumph over Barrow and new signing Matt Wolfenden was ineligible for this round. Deegan was declared fit to start, and Hurst was named on the bench.

To fill the left-back spot, Margy asked the experienced Richard Battersby to fill an unfamiliar role. Usually a right-back or midfielder, Battersby had been given compassionate leave for the previous month to care for his fiancée Jenna, who was suffering from the cervical cancer that would tragically take her life a few weeks later. Despite being short of match fitness, Richard bravely answered the call to help the team in the club's biggest match to date.

With the game falling on a slightly foggy Bonfire Night, a smoky backdrop added to the atmosphere. Local fireworks were drowned out by the noise from the United fans packing out the away stand in the crowd of 7,048. The hosts sat mid-table following promotion in the spring, and could have taken the lead inside the first minute, but Sam Ashton did well to narrow the angle to prevent Jason Kennedy from getting a shot on target. Ashton also did enough to put off striker Anthony Elding, while Carlos Roca produced FC's first shot on target.

The game exploded into life when the Reds broke the deadlock three minutes before the break. After playing a one-two with Mike Norton, Jerome Wright brought the ball infield and spotted the forward run of an unmarked Nicky Platt. Wright's precise pass split the defence and Platt timed his

run perfectly to lift the ball over home keeper Josh Lillis before defender Craig Dawson could intervene.

The deafening noise shook the stand, and continued throughout the half-time break. It got even louder four minutes into the second half when United amazingly doubled the advantage. Wright and Norton were again involved to feed Ben Deegan wide on the left, where the big striker produced an outrageous dummy to embarrass Marcus Holness and hare into the penalty area. He pulled the ball back to Platt, who was marked with his back to goal. Spotting the run of midfield partner Jake Cottrell, Platt laid the ball back and Cottrell unleashed a left-foot 25-yard rocket that arrowed into the net just under the bar.

The hosts got themselves back in the game just five minutes later when Elding was given too much space to nod home Brian Barry-Murphy's free-kick. They continued to put pressure on the Reds and were denied an equaliser after 70 minutes when Chris O'Grady's shot beat Ashton but that man Battersby was there to clear off the line. Dale finally levelled with 12 minutes to go when Dawson rose to power home Barry-Murphy's corner, and the feeling amongst most Reds at that point was that we'd hope to hold out for a deserved replay.

Marginson used his three

substitutions in the closing stages, replacing a limping Roca, Deegan and adrenaline-fuelled Battersby with Chris Ovington, Simon Carden and James Holden. With the game well into the 94th minute, FC were defending a throw-in deep in their own half. Wright won possession and found Norton who carried the ball forward before feeding Wright on the halfway line wide on the left. The winger advanced before checking slightly and slipping the ball towards the left side of the area for Norton to chase. Holness got in ahead and invited Lillis to collect, but Norton had other ideas and caused confusion between defender and goalkeeper. Under pressure, Lillis spilled the ball and Norton took advantage to sweep the ball into an empty net before wheeling away to celebrate a dramatic winner with the thousands of jubilant Reds.

**FC:** Sam Ashton, Kyle Jacobs, Richard Battersby (James Holden 88), Nicky Platt, Karl Munroe, Scott McManus, Carlos Roca (Chris Ovington 74), Jake Cottrell, Mike Norton, Jerome Wright, Ben Deegan (Simon Carden 85).

Subs not used: Martin Parker, Mark Ayres, Glynn Hurst, Zach Hibbert.



## 5 YEARS AGO

### FCUM 1 CHESTERFIELD 4

FC United reached the first round for the second time in 2015, having seen off Witton Albion, Buxton (after a replay) and Sporting Khalsa along the way.

The Reds were awarded a home draw with League One side Chesterfield, and it was another game chosen for live TV coverage.

However, the scheduled re-arrangement of the kick-off to the night of Monday 9th November was against the expressed wishes of the club and both inconvenienced and angered the vast majority of supporters.

Many chose to boycott the game entirely, whilst a large contingent spent the first half noisily protesting outside the ground before making their presence felt inside for the second half.

On the pitch, the team made a stuttering start to life in a higher division after promotion in the spring, and were deep into a seven-game losing run in National League North fixtures. Cup competitions had provided some respite, but Karl Marginson was still in the process of rejuvenating his squad. Six players who started the campaign in August had already played their last games for the club, and would be followed by three more before November was out.

United started the game just like a team that was low on confidence, and the side from three leagues higher ruthlessly

took advantage to go two up inside 12 minutes through Gbolly Ariyibi and Lee Novak.

Visiting keeper Tommy Lee, a former Manchester United reserve, was rarely troubled, with only half chances falling to Tom Greaves and Rory Fallon causing him any concern.

Marginson made two changes at the break, replacing Fallon and Craig Lindfield with Rory Patterson and Greg Daniels, but the Spireites increased their lead in the 68th minute when substitute Rai Simons

lifted the ball over the onrushing Dave Carnell to finish a swift counter.

Over the previous two years, Chesterfield had bought two players from FC, and both Charlie

Raglan and Oliver Banks were given warm receptions when they came off the bench to appear at Broadhurst for the first time.

Banks (pictured above) put sentiment aside to celebrate smashing home the fourth with three minutes remaining, before Lee was finally beaten in injury time when Luke Ashworth headed home a United consolation from a corner.

**FC:** Dave Carnell, Liam Brownhill, Adam Thurston, Dean Stott, Chris Lynch, Luke Ashworth, Rory Fallon (Greg Daniels 46), Sam Sheridan (Callum Byrne 80), Tom Greaves, Jerome Wright, Craig Lindfield (Rory Patterson 46). Subs not used: Nia Bayunu, Tom Brown, Matt Wolfenden, Sam Madeley.



by KARL LADLEY



# RECONNECT

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# Doncaster Rovers

## SINCE FCUM FORMED

Doncaster Rovers were formed almost a century and a half ago, in 1879, and spent much of their existence playing in the third and fourth tiers of the Football League before dropping into the Conference in 1998.

The club then regained their League status two years before FC United were formed and then celebrated a double promotion in 2004 with a magnificent Third Division title triumph.

A year after moving into the new ground, further success followed in 2007 when Donny reached their first-ever major final and defeated Bristol Rovers 3-2 in extra-time of a Football League Trophy final held in front of almost 60,000 fans at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

Rovers then celebrated an unlikely five-year rise from non-league football to the second tier in 2008 when the club gained promotion to the Championship. They were pipped to automatic promotion by Nottingham Forest on the final day but reached the Wembley play-off final after semi-final success against Southend United.

Yorkshire rivals Leeds United awaited in the Wembley showpiece, and a second-half James Hayter header proved enough to send Donny into the Championship in front of a near 75,000 crowd at the national stadium.

Their first-ever taste of football in the second tier saw the team struggle to adapt, but a fine post-Christmas run helped them off the bottom spot to eventually finish in a comfortable and respectable 14th position.

The 2009-10 campaign again saw Rovers propping up the division at the halfway point, but a remarkable second half to the season inspired by Billy Sharp had them on the verge of the play-offs at one point before ultimately securing a wonderful club record 12th-place finish.

However, in 2010-11 Doncaster finished just six points above relegation in 21st, seeing local rivals Sheffield United and Scunthorpe drop out of the Championship. The same fate, though, befell Rovers in 2011-12 after a disastrous season brought an end to their four-year stint in



the second tier as they finished at the foot of the table.

Doncaster bounced back at the first time of asking with League One title success in 2013 but their return to the Championship lasted just one season, coming third bottom in a forgettable campaign.

In a real tale of ups and downs, following a disappointing 13th-place finish in 2014-15 the club had somehow managed to drop back into the basement division of the Football League in 2016, finishing fourth bottom and four points from safety.

An instant and automatic promotion from League Two was achieved in 2016-17 (coming third), with a 15th-placed finish the following season being backed up by a sixth spot in 2018-19. Doncaster ultimately suffered play-off semi-final heartache against Charlton Athletic, and last season were sitting in ninth position when the domestic campaign was brought to an abrupt end by Covid.

This season and after 10 League One fixtures, Rovers are again ninth in the table with five wins, three draws and two defeats, having earned an injury-time point in the opening of Wimbledon's new Plough Lane ground on Tuesday night.

## MANAGER

**Darren Moore enjoyed a memorable start to his managerial life after being thrust into the West Bromwich Albion hotseat with the Baggies scrapping against relegation from the Premier League.**

The Birmingham-born defender started his career as a trainee at Torquay United in 1990 and remained at Plainmoor for five years, making over 100 first-team appearances.

He was signed by today's opponents in 1995 and spent two seasons with Donny before making the short switch to Bradford City (for £350,000) where, in another two-year spell, he helped guide the Bantams into the Premier League.

Moore then signed for Portsmouth for £500,000 in 1999 and joined West Brom for £750,000 in

2001. He would remain at the heart of the Hawthorns defence for five years and played a pivotal role in two promotions to the Premier League before joining Barnsley in 1997.



Two years later, the now 46-year-old was on the move for a final time, joining Burton Albion in the summer of 2010. He retired from the professional game in February 2012 and following a short spell playing for Wellington Amateurs, he was recruited by former club West Brom as a youth coach.

In early April 2018, West Brom manager Alan Pardew was dismissed with the side bottom of the Premier League and 10 points from safety. Moore was appointed caretaker manager until the end of the season and oversaw an unbeaten run in April that brought a 1-0 win against Manchester United (handing the title to City).

The Baggies were ultimately relegated but Moore was appointed as the permanent head coach. Yet despite being in fourth place in early March 2019, the manager was surprisingly let go.

Capped three times by Jamaica, the highly-rated Darren Moore was appointed as Doncaster Rovers manager in July 2019.

Moore is assisted by Jamie Smith, who enjoyed a long career in the professional game. The full-back spent a number of years at Wolves before joining Crystal Palace in 1997 and he remained at Selhurst Park until 2004, with just a brief spell on loan at Fulham halfway through that long stint in South London. From there he played for Bristol City, Brentford, the team formerly known as Wimbledon FC, Halesowen and Airbus.

The club's goalkeeper coach, meanwhile, is a name who will be familiar to many Manchester United fans with Paul Gerrard appearing numerous times between the sticks for Oldham Athletic and Everton throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.

## PAST HERO

**There's only one Harry Gregg, and it was Doncaster Rovers who initially brought the great man over the Irish Sea and into the English Football League in 1952.**

Harry had started his football career with Linfield reserve team, Linfield Swifts, before joining his local club Coleraine. Then at the age of 18, fellow Irishman and Harry's childhood hero, the former Burnley star Peter Doherty, signed the goalkeeper for Second Division Doncaster.

The stopper soon established himself as a first-team regular during a rare spell in the second tier for the club, and in December 1957 Manchester United manager Matt Busby paid a world record fee for a goalkeeper when he signed Harry for £23,500 to replace England number one and long-time United regular Ray Wood.

"I'd arrived at the Hollywood of football," said Harry about joining the Busby Babes and First Division champions and whilst he will always be associated with Manchester United, and was often given the unwanted 'Hero of Munich' moniker, the great man always had a place in his heart for today's visitors.

Speaking in the summer of 2001, Harry said: "They were a very good Second Division club. A club averaging crowds of 17,000-22,000. It was frightening.

"I have great memories there and had great times there. They got in touch with me before they went out of the league, and I would like to see them and others back in the league. I think it's sad when I see some of the clubs that have gone to the wall."

Remembering his time at Belle Vue and in particular his childhood hero, Harry added: "The man who had the biggest influence in my life was Peter Doherty. He was the manager of Doncaster Rovers and also manager of the Northern Irish national team... and is possibly





one of the greatest all-round players I have ever seen.

You ask anyone in Manchester about 'Peter The Great'. He played for Blackpool, Manchester City, Derby County. I was a young player at Doncaster in the first team. At around that time United were really coming high and they'd played Real Madrid when they lost in Madrid and won in Manchester. And we, the players, watched it in our home or digs on a black and white television.

The following day all the players were ranting and raving in the dressing room about 'The great United last night. Did you see the Busby Babes?' And into the dressing room came Peter 'The Great' Doherty. 'Well lads. Talking? What are you talking about?' The older players said 'United. Last night. Did you see the Babes?' And they started talking about the players when he said (puts on a stern voice) 'I was at the game. The finest player on the pitch was the boy Viollet'. This always stuck with me because Peter was a man you would always listen to. He was not only a wonderful man but a wonderful teacher.

"I had moved to United within a year and, to this day, Peter Doherty was right. Dennis was the best all-round player. Dennis Viollet was a genius."

## GROUND

**The Keepmoat Stadium opened one year after FC United's formation, with the first game being played the day after Boxing Day.**

As the community stadium is used by Doncaster Rovers FC, the Doncaster Belles women's team and Doncaster RL, that first match in fact saw the town's Rugby League club play host to local rivals Sheffield Eagles, who returned to the Steel City with a 16-10 victory on the 27th December 2006.

The official opening arrived in early August 2007 when a Manchester United XI attracted

a 13,080 crowd to the new ground. A United side featuring the likes of Jonny Evans, Mikael Silvestre, a chunky Anderson, Darren Fletcher, Ryan Shawcross, and Gerard Pique celebrated a 2-0 success thanks to a Darron Gibson penalty and late Sean Evans goal.

Before moving to the new 15,000-capacity stadium, Doncaster Rovers had played at the much-loved Belle Vue since 1922. A recorded 37,099 (with many more said to have obtained other ways of gaining access) brought the ground's record crowd against Hull City in 1948.

Yet by the mid-90s, and a decade after Belle Vue's capacity was drastically reduced to 4,859 in the aftermath of the Valley Parade disaster at Bradford, the old ground endured a tragic demise during its final decade.

A fire devastated the main stand in 1995 and led to chairman Ken Richardson being arrested. He was charged with conspiracy to commit arson and found guilty, being sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Eventually, the start of some much-needed renovation work began in 2003 yet just two years later, and with a redeveloped Belle Vue's capacity back up to 11,500, building work got under way on a new community stadium for the town.

After 84 years at Belle Vue, the final game Doncaster Rovers played at their much-loved old ground came against Nottingham Forest on 23rd December 2006, with the hosts providing a perfect send-off courtesy of a 1-0 win.

## RANDOM FACT

**Alick Jeffrey was a promising young forward during the 1950s who former Manchester United assistant Jimmy Murphy nicknamed "The English Pele".**

The Doncaster Free Press featured an article published three years ago about the life of the man unanimously regarded as Donny's greatest

ever player, saying: "He was only seen in action a handful of times before Christmas in Rovers' 1954-55 season but became a regular as the season progressed, bagging rave reviews and drawing the attention of big clubs, including Manchester United who agreed a deal for the rising star.

"At 15, he scored twice for England Schoolboys against Scotland. Before he left school, Alick met Matt Busby, and everyone predicted he would become a Manchester United player.

"Remarkably, Alick made his first Rovers' appearance aged only 15, and a fortnight after his 16th birthday scored two goals against Aston Villa to win an FA Cup replay.

"Alick attracted the attention of all the top clubs and after an appearance for the England amateur side, Stanley Matthews said that the boy showed genius. In one England game, Alick was proud to take the place of the injured Johnny Haynes.

"Before the Under 23 England international game with France in October 1956 Matt Busby said: "You'll be a Manchester United player very soon." Sadly during the game with France, Alick broke his right leg in two places. The move to Old Trafford never happened and he was forced to retire."

Following the release of Alick Jeffrey's autobiography that was published three years after his death in November 2000, James Lawson would write in an article for The Independent that Matt "had already given Jeffrey £200 – or the equivalent of 20 weeks wages for a young player in those frugal days – as an earnest for his intention to smash the transfer fee for a teenager." Sadly, his stay at United was just that week-long training stint that left such an impression on so many.

Lawson then added: "After breaking his leg, Jeffrey called Busby to ask him if he wanted his money back. Busby said 'No lad, get well as soon as you can - and buy something nice for your mother.' Jeffrey bought his mum a state-of-the-art washing machine. Different time indeed."

The Independent journalist then claimed that "Jimmy Murphy, a former drill sergeant with all the lack of sentimentality that implies, went on record as to say that he rated Alick Jeffrey in the same bracket as the great Duncan Edwards", who was of course the player Murphy said was without doubt the greatest he'd ever seen. Whilst the recently departed Nobby Stiles would state that "Everyone knew he was special".

# Who's who?

**Introducing our opponents today in the Doncaster Rovers squad...**

## JOSEF BURSIK

Keeper on loan from Stoke City and a current England U21 international. Played for FC in a friendly at Thackley in July 2018.



## LOUIS JONES

A young back-up goalkeeper.

## BRAD HALLIDAY

Defender developed by Middlesbrough and later played for Hartlepool, York City and Accrington on loan before joining Cambridge United.

## REECE JAMES

Former Sunderland and Wigan Athletic left-back who started out with Manchester United and enjoyed loan spells at Carlisle United, Rotherham and Huddersfield before leaving Old Trafford in 2015.

## TOM ANDERSON

Tall centre-back who joined Donny from Burnley two years ago following a period on loan.

## JOE WRIGHT

A former Wales Under 21 defender, signed in 2016 from Huddersfield Town.

## ANDY BUTLER

Veteran defender who joined in 2015 from Sheffield United and has made over 500 professional appearances for Scunthorpe, Huddersfield, Walsall, the Blades and finally Doncaster.

## DANNY AMOS

Reserve left-back who has represented Northern Ireland at U19 and U21 level. Spent time on loan at Hartlepool.





### CAMERON JOHN

Young centre-back who joined Doncaster a year ago from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

### MADGER GOMES

Spanish midfielder returned to England last year having started in the academies at Liverpool and Leeds. Previously played for Croatian side NK Istra.

### BEN WHITEMAN

Captain and former Manchester United youngster (right). Initially joined Donny on a six-month loan in 2017-18 before making the move permanent.



### JASON LOKILO

Congolese midfielder who signed on loan last season from Crystal Palace, then rejoined the club permanently after leaving Selhurst Park in the summer.

### JON TAYLOR

Winger snapped up a year ago following his release from Rotherham United.

### MATTHEW SMITH

A 21-year-old Welsh midfielder.

### TAYLOR RICHARDS

Teenager on loan from Brighton & Hove Albion, who he joined having spent a number of years playing for Manchester City's youth and U23 sides.

### ED WILLIAMS

Midfielder looking to establish a regular place in Doncaster's first team.

### JOSH SIMS

Winger and another hoping to establish himself as a first-team regular.

### JAMES COPPINGER

A Doncaster legend. Signed a year before FCUM were formed, in 2004, and is the holder of many club records. Now aged 39, Coppinger started as a Darlington trainee before Newcastle United snapped him up. Moved to the other St James' Park and Exeter City in 2002, then two years later made the switch that would see him ultimately enter Donny folklore.



### RAYHAAN TULLOCH

Recruited on loan in September from West Bromwich Albion, the teenage forward has been capped for England at U16, U17 and U18 level.

### FEJIRI OKENABIRHIE

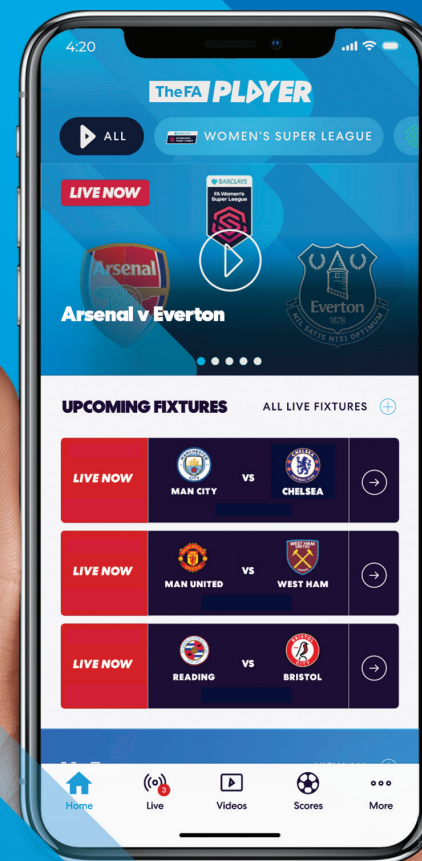
Frontman signed in January from Shrewsbury Town. Has previously played for Stevenage, Farnborough and Dagenham & Redbridge.

### TYRECE JOHN-JULES

Teenage forward (below) with huge potential who has spent many years in the Arsenal academy. Joined on loan from the Gunners in September and has previously had a loan spell at Lincoln City. The 19-year-old has represented England from U16s to U19s, and played for the Arsenal first team during their American tour a year ago.



In the event of today's FA Cup tie ending all square after 90 minutes, extra time and, if necessary, a penalty shootout will take place



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# Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



FC United have played four matches in the FA Cup against League opposition.

Victory against Rochdale, a draw and defeat against Brighton & Hove Albion and most recently the loss to Chesterfield in 2015.

In all of those games the opposition wore Blue shirts. As today's visitors normally play in red and white and have a grey/black change kit that pattern may be broken.

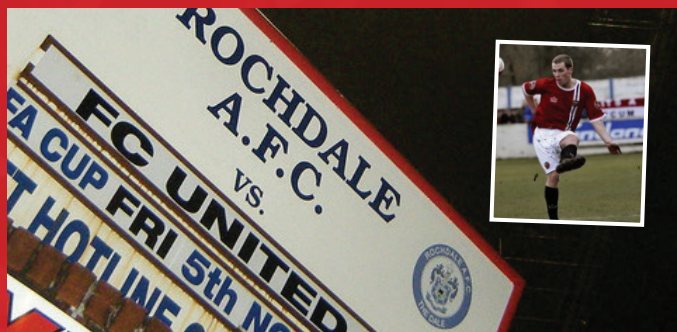
It is probably more than a coincidence that in the two games we did not lose FCUM scored first.

Nicky Platt was the scorer, in the 42nd minute at Spotland and the 40th minute at the Withdean Stadium. In those games the Reds kept a clean sheet in the first half.

Penalty kicks are also a factor. Sam Ashton's save against Elliott Bennett in added time on the South Coast earned his side a replay.

Unfortunately, Jake Cottrell (pictured inset) struck a post with his spot kick at Gigg Lane in the 68th minute with the score 2-0 in the replay.

It may not have ultimately changed the result but it did derail any chance of FCUM getting back into the game.



Concession of goals in the opening half-hour are not a good sign. Francisco Sandanza scored for the Seagulls after 25 minutes in the replay.

At Broadhurst Park five years ago, Gbolly Ariyibi netted for the Spireites inside seven minutes. In both losses the Reds trailed by two goals at half-time.

All the League opposition including Doncaster Rovers were/are in League One at the time.

Rochdale's manager at the time was Keith Hill.

They were ninth when FC United were visitors. Hill left seven months later to take over at Barnsley.

In 2012 the club dropped back to League Two for a season.

Uruguayan international Gus Poyet was in charge at

Brighton. The Seagulls were top of the table and won the title five months later to enter the Championship.

In June 2013, Poyet was sacked. Brighton reached the promised land of the Premier League in 2017.

Chesterfield were managed by former Welsh international Dean Saunders.

Just 16 days after the win in Moston, he was sacked.

The club dropped to League Two in 2017 and by 2018 were in the National League.

The prize for the winner of the Brighton tie was a home fixture against Portsmouth in the third round.

The Seagulls reached the fifth round. In 2015 the reward would have been a home tie against Walsall in round two. Chesterfield lost on penalties in a replay.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 4) TrePemberton, 6) FinlaySinclairSmith, 9) OldhamAthletic, 10) WarringtonTown, 11) CurtisJones, 12) ScarboroughAthletic. Down: 1) JasonGilchrist, 2) MarskeUnited, 3) KirstyChambers, 5) CharlieEnnis, 7) HarryGregg, 8) CalumWoods

# FC UNITED PLAYER SPONSORS



## MEN'S TEAM

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Oldest Winger in Town

**MORGAN HOMSON-SMITH**  
Course You Can Malcolm

**MICHAEL FOWLER**  
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**REGAN LINNEY**  
Alex Croft

**JAMES DEADMAN**  
KitAid

**OLIVIA SMITH**  
Gally

## ACADEMY TEAM

Special thanks to our CATALAN BRANCH, who have sponsored six Academy players – Israel Aghahowa, Alfie Clarke, Osman Agerso, Drayke Holland, Charles Adomako and Kelvin Agyei

## WOMEN'S TEAM

**CHELSEA PATIENT**  
Kas & Sheila Kabbani

**JESS McCARRICK**  
Dale Leslie

**KATE O'GARA**  
Helson Solutions

To sponsor an FC United player, it costs (excluding VAT) £250 for the men's team, £100 for the women's side and £50 for an academy player.

All men and women's team sponsors will have their names printed in each edition of FCUM Review, and will be presented with a signed shirt by their chosen player, along with a pitchside presentation photograph. Academy sponsors will receive a signed picture.

If you would like to become a player sponsor then please email the club at [office@fc-utd.co.uk](mailto:office@fc-utd.co.uk) or phone 0161 769 2005.



FC United of Manchester would like to thank our academy sponsors Chauntry, whose website can be found at [www.chauntry.com](http://www.chauntry.com)



# TODAY'S SQUADS

## EMIRATES FA CUP FIRST ROUND

Saturday 7th November  
2020



DAN LAVERCOMBE ●  
JOSH BROOKS ●  
TOM STEAD ●  
KAIN DEAN ●  
AARON MORRIS ●  
JOE WHITE ●  
CALUM WOODS ●  
CURTIS JONES ●  
ADAM DODD ●  
CHRIS DOYLE ●  
MICHAEL POTTS ●  
LUKE GRIFFITHS ●  
JORDAN SIMPSON ●  
TRE PEMBERTON ●  
MORGAN PENFOLD ●  
MIKE DONOHUE ●  
MORGAN HOMSON-SMITH ●  
FINLAY SINCLAIR-SMITH ●  
REGAN LINNEY ●  
DANIEL COCKERLINE ●  
PAUL ENNIS ●  
MICHAEL FOWLER ●

**Today's referee:**  
Thomas Bramall

**Assistants:**  
Robert Atkin  
Darren Wilding

**Fourth Official:**  
Michael Salisbury

**Observer:**  
Gary Kellett

**BP BOOST**  
A DEVELOPMENT FUND

**NEXT HOME  
MATCH:**  
versus  
To Be Confirmed

JOSEF BURSİK ●  
LOUIS JONES ●  
BRAD HALLIDAY ●  
REECE JAMES ●  
TOM ANDERSON ●  
JOE WRIGHT ●  
ANDY BUTLER ●  
DANNY AMOS ●  
CAMERON JOHN ●  
MADGER GOMES ●  
BEN WHITEMAN ●  
JASON LOKILO ●  
JON TAYLOR ●  
MATTHEW SMITH ●  
TAYLOR RICHARDS ●  
ED WILLIAMS ●  
JOSH SIMS ●  
JAMES COPPINGER ●  
LIRAK HASANI ●  
RAYHAAN TULLOCH ●  
FEJIRI OKENABIRHIE ●  
TYRECE JOHN-JULES ●

Today's match ball is sponsored by FC United of Manchester's Stockport Branch