“CUAFC Old Boys,

Better late than never, the newsletter is back by popular demand! Continuing from last year, we will do our best to keep you all up-to-date with the news of the Club.

Having played Blues football for the past two seasons and as Vice-Captain of the Club last year, I appreciate the challenge that lies ahead to continue the fantastic work of previous captains. At this point I’d like to thank Ross for the incredible job he did last season. Under his guidance the Blues have been promoted to the Premier Division for the first time and finished as runners up in the Cup, all three sides were victorious in their respective Varsity Matches, Varsity was back at a traditional London venue and huge strides have been made with the Old Boys network. This record will certainly be tough to match, but the foundations put in place by Ross and previous captains will make my job a hell of a lot easier.

Saying that, it’s been all change at the start of this season. Long time coach Che Wilson has taken up a course at Loughborough University and, as hard as he tried, he couldn’t find the time to come back and coach the Club. Many of you will have played under “The Beaver” and will know the significant influence he has had. He was an integral part of the success last year and the boys will do their best to do him proud this season. Che’s departure has led to an exciting new partnership with Cambridge United Football Club. Director of Football Jez George has taken the Club under his wing and ex-professional Matt Joseph has taken over the weekly training sessions. The partnership was agreed very late in the day and we are very grateful for their ongoing support, we hope that it is a partnership that will prosper for many years to come.

With the set-up we now have and the quality of boys in the Club, I have no doubt that we are capable of staying in the Premier Division. As Club Captain my further ambitions include getting the Falcons promoted, retaining the Blues Varsity Match at a prestigious venue and continuing to expand the Old Boys network. On this note, if any of you have any questions or know of any former CUAFC players we are yet to reach, please feel free to contact me at ac722@cam.ac.uk.

Anthony Childs
CUAFC Captain 2013-14”

CUAFC Committee 2013-14:

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Vice-Captain: Haitham Sherif hs471@cam.ac.uk
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Broadway’s Final Message:

“I feel very privileged to have met and spoken to so many of you last season in what was a monumental campaign for the Club. It was an honour to captain CUAFC and I am delighted to be joining you on the Old Boys’ side of the table from here on.

This time last year, we could not have comprehended that we were preparing to earn a successive promotion, reach a national cup final, and retain our Varsity trophy in such stunning fashion. It was a tremendous season and one in which the squad benefited from tremendous support from Dr. Little, all of yourselves, and our sponsors.

The boys are back in Cambridge preparing for life in the highest tier of University football, and I know they will do their utmost to compete in the BUCS Premier Division. Last season, beyond our hard work on the field, we also worked very hard to make more of our network of former players. I trust that you will support Anthony Childs and continue to re-connect with former teammates and help Ant and his Committee keep driving the Old Boys network forward.

Should it be of interest, I am contactable at rossbroadway91@gmail.com. In the meantime, I look forward to joining you all at the Varsity Match. Thanks again for all of your support last season.

Ross Broadway
CUAFC Captain 2012-13”

Blues Update:

The Blues began life in the top tier away to UWE Hartpury, league winners in the previous 7 seasons with the past 3 being unbeaten. Despite a solid defensive performance we came away with a 2-0 loss, largely due to a tactical reshuffle following a skull fracture to long-serving centre back James Day. An away trip to Chichester, which was initially put in doubt following a downpour, eventually got given the go ahead in difficult conditions and ultimately resulted in a second loss. “Fortress Fenners” played host to the 3rd and 4th games of the season to South Wales and the return UWE fixture, respectively. A 2-2 draw was followed by a sensational 4-3 win, which ended Hartpury’s formidable record. A loss to Bath was a harsh reminder to the difference between the Premier Division and the lower leagues in that ‘beatable’ opposition can punish teams who under perform on a given day. With a home game to Gloucester rounding off the term, the boys will be quietly confident that a good performance will get us the result that would lift us to mid-table over the Christmas break.

Falcons Update:

The Falcons had a disjointed pre-season, with a new squad and several opponents cancelling friendlies. After impressive wins against top of the league Biggleswade Utd Reserves and Alleyns School, we started the competitive season with optimism.

However, we were left shocked after our first league game with a trip to newly promoted Wolverhampton. Playing on marshland against a physical team, we shipped two sloppy early goals and never recovered, slipping to a 2-0 defeat. The disappointment was short lived and a string of home fixtures allowed us to build up some form, as Emmanuel pitches became the place to see goals. In three games we won 7-0, 5-1 and 4-0 against De Montford, ARU and Nottingham respectively, with the team creating chances for fun.

Our most recent match saw a trip to Birmingham in the cup, competing against a team 2 divisions above us. Sloppy early defending cost us, going down 2-0 and unable to claw ourselves back in a second half completely dominated by the Falcons. The performance showed we can compete at this level and it gives us confidence as we chase promotion after Christmas.
Jamie Rutt Testimonial:

The Annual Old Boys’ Event this year was named The Jamie Rutt Testimonial in homage to Rutt obtaining an unprecedented seventh Blue last year. The final score of the match was 3-3 with the current Blues winning on penalties in a game that magnificently showcased the classy cross-field balls on which Jamie has built his footballing career. The current crop of players soaked up some early pressure before going ahead courtesy of Griffiths and Childs. Griffiths added his second of the game with Gotch notching for the Old Boys for a half-time score of 3-1.

The second half was a relatively low-key affair until the closing stages when former Blue Danny Kerrigan scored with an outrageous half way line lob that sailed over the goalkeeper. Kerrigan later got his second and despite a chance to record a hat trick, the score ended 3-3. The current squad prevailed victorious with the old boys missing two of their allotted penalties courtesy of two former skippers, Broadway and Rutt.

The dinner that followed was enjoyed by all and despite a lower attendance than previous years, we still managed to pack out the Hawks Club for post-dinner drinks. For future reference, the first weekend of November is when the Old Boys’ event tends to be held so act ASAP to ensure your availability for then!

We are in the process of forming an Old boys’ committee so that certain Old Boys are responsible for their generation of Old Boys. The committee will be announced in the next newsletter, if you would be happy to help out please get in touch.

How can you help?

As you will be aware from the emails you received over the summer, CUAFC’s main sponsors from last season decided against renewing their deals. We’d like to thank all of you for your efforts in attracting a new sponsor, however we are yet to find a replacement. While the efforts are still ongoing to attract a sponsor for the remainder of this year and the years to come, it has become clear that we need to look at other avenues to fund the Club.

That’s where you come in! Many of you have got in touch to say you would be willing to contribute yourselves. With the Old Boys’ database now containing well over 100 names, it could provide a significant contribution each year and allow the Club to function properly in years when a sponsor is not obtained.

Please feel free to get in touch if you wish to discuss this further.

Come On You Light Blues.