

# BRISTOL LADIES UNION FC – NEWSLETTER

**June 2018**

## **Chairman's Piece:**

When we as a committee get together every couple of months we often talk about the need to communicate more with our players and parents. A newsletter is often mentioned and it gets added to the "To Do" list. I was therefore delighted when Rob Groves (U14 parent) volunteered to take it on. We hope you find it informative and interesting.

As a club BLU FC is going from strength to strength. We have about 180 playing for us; from the under 9's with Lloyd on a Sunday to the first team. This makes us one of the biggest female football clubs in Bristol. As you'll see from this newsletter, we're pretty good too. We win more than we lose and the standard of football is high. I'm glad to say, though, that we are not a win at all costs club and seeing all our players develop as they progress through the age groups is a real joy.

Off the pitch, we like to think we look to what it means to be part of a club in its broader sense, such as hosting touring teams, social events etc. This year we have established link with a club in Uganda - more of this later - which is something that we are very proud of. Safe to say, however, we could always do more and I'd ask that if you do have some spare time, please get involved.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the club and we are currently looking for positions to be filled on the committee. I am standing down as Chairman at the AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> June and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for a brilliant three years. I wish you all the best for the future and I look forward to watching BLU FC develop further.

Finally Rob asked me to name my favourite 5 songs so here goes:

- 1- Sweet Caroline (Neil Diamond) – Top one for Karaoke.
- 2- Come on Eileen (Dexy's Midnight Runners) – Memories of University
- 3- Mull of Kintyre (Wings) – Sung at Forest home games. Well a version of!!
- 4- Vienna (Ultravox) – The first single I bought
- 5- Castle on the Hill (Ed Sheeran) – I used to live down the road from the Castle

Best Wishes

Dave

**Presentation night arrangements** - This is our flagship night and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. It is at the Port of Bristol Social Club, Nibley Road, Shirehampton. BS11 9XW - <http://www.pbaclub.co.uk/contact/how-to-find-us/> Doors open from 6pm and we will be looking to do the presentation at 7pm. We do all the teams presentations together.

There will be a hog roast and the bar will be open. There is plenty of grass area for a kick around too! This year we will be looking to raise money for our Ugandan friends, Ben Boham and team Halleuyah – see below.

Also, to save extra arrangements, we have decided to collect next season’s registration forms at the presentation evening – more details to follow from your coaches.

**Halleuyah 2008 FC Fraternity, Uganda** – Last year, BLUs contributed second hand kit and football boots to this worthy cause in Uganda. The 14 to 16 year old girls there come together to play football matches as a social interaction and as an occasion for them to discuss and be selected for bursaries for higher education.

The photo below shows BLU coaches, players and parents with Ben, one of the coaches from the Ugandan club, meeting in Bristol recently. Ben visited us to thank the club, parents and players for their generosity and to explain how the Ugandan girls have benefited.

A collection will also be made during the presentation evening to further help this worthy cause.



## The BLU Journey – from U11s to Seniors in America

Ever wondered what may lay ahead when you play football at Bristol Ladies Union? Here is one success story to inspire you.....

Anna Hubble joined BLU in 2009 at age 11 and progressed all the way up to the first team, captaining them in the 2016/2017 season.

Along the way, Anna enjoyed great successes, including being part of the BLU U18 League and Cup double winning team in 2015/2016.

She became an integral member of the GFA County Women's representative team and in 2017 was awarded GFA County Women's player of the year.

Anna was selected for the FA Leadership Academy (2 players from each county represented) and is currently studying at Delta State University (USA) as part of a soccer scholarship.

The photos below show Anna with the BLU U18 double winning team (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and with her Delta State University team in USA (back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right):



(Thanks to Martin Lewis, First Team Coach)



### **U10s enjoy season of fun and develop their skills**

Les Abraham and Simon Giddings – U10s coaches – are proud of their players, especially with the team spirit and participation.

There have been celebrations too, with the girls winning two tournaments recently:

Bristol Girls League, winning on penalties against Team Mendip and the St. Nicholas tournament when both the U10s teams contested the final!

Here are photos from both days:



### **News from U14s coaches – Justin Ogilvie and Andrew Peachey**

The U14s had a great 2017/18 season, with all 18 players in the squad developing really well. Highlights included winning against each of the top two teams, Avon Athletic and Keynsham. We also beat Bradley Stoke, from the top league, in the GFA Cup, putting in really good performances all round, and eventually went out in the semi-final.

We look forward to next season with great anticipation, although we're as yet unsure whether the league will again be split into two small leagues or joined into one larger league. Either way, all the squad has proven this year that they can compete with strong teams.

We say goodbye to two longstanding club members at the end of this season, Sian and Livvy, who are concentrating on the vastly inferior sport of hockey! We will miss you both. We are looking to bolster our numbers a little for next season, so please keep an eye out for any friends who might want to join, especially as a regular goalkeeper.



### **U13s draw(?) the all-important parents v girls game!**

After a successful season the last U13's training session of the season took place on the Downs last week. The girls were keen to play the parents and show them up with their skills and determination. We will call it a "draw" although both teams were sure they won! This was followed up with food and drinks on a lovely sunny evening.

It was a great way to finish the season where we came runners-up, with still a chance to pinch the title on the last day of the season. We were also runners up in the Portishead Tournament to a team from Newport in a very competitive game. We play in the Nailsea Tournament this weekend before we start planning friendly games for August.

Thank you to all players, coaches, parents and BLU for their commitment and support over the season.



Thanks to Paul Maggs, U13s coach)

### **First Team Receive Best Defence Award for League One**

Although the first team finished 3rd in the GCWFL div 1, just missing out on promotion, they were awarded with the best defence award this evening for the most clean sheets over the course of the season.



(Thanks to Martin Lewis, 1<sup>st</sup> Team Coach)

### **U16s League and Cup Winners Again!!**

Huge congratulations to the U16s this season. League and Cup winners for the second season in a row and a great reward for a group of players who have worked really hard for each other, proving teamwork and friendships are key to being a great, successful team.

A huge thanks also goes to the helpers .... coaching, running the line, team admin and supporting the team through the winter months.

For those who enjoy the stats, in the last 3 seasons: Played 44 league games. Won 43 and lost only 1 (with 9 players), won the cup 2 out of the last 3 seasons. Scored millions of goals and not conceded very many.

The picture below, whilst great, is unfortunately missing Alice and Finnola who also have contributed massively to the success of the team and club over the years. You will be missed next season and I wish you all the best for the future. If you change your minds, then there will always be a place in the squad for you.

(Thanks to Andrew White, U16s coach)





### **Recruitment shout out....**

BLU Committee is looking for volunteers to join them in the following roles.....

Treasurer and Kit Manager.

Contact Fran Kendall (Secretary) on 07702 591698 if you are interested.

U14s have an opportunity for a regular goalkeeper and an outfield player.

Contact Justin Ogilvie (U14s coach) on 07872 190132.

### **Caption competition – WIN A FOOTBALL**



Submit your captions to [rob.groves13@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rob.groves13@hotmail.co.uk) by Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> June to be in with a chance of winning a football.

## **England Women news and Bristol City Women news:**

- England women sit proudly at the top of the table for World Cup qualifying after 5 games and 13 points, just ahead of Wales, who frustrated them into a 0 v 0 draw in April. The finals are in France in June/July 2019.
- Bristol City women completed their season in Super League 1 ending up in eighth position out of 10. They won 5 games in a tough league. Home games are played at Stoke Gifford Stadium BS34 8LP.

## **Useful websites:**

Bristol Girls FA Full Time – results and leagues = <http://fulltime-league.thefa.com/Index.do?league=4508388>

World Cup Russia 2018 - <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/>

## **Committee members: (and contacts) – please note new email addresses**

**Chairman – Dave Morrell 07879 666245 [blufc.chair@gmail.com](mailto:blufc.chair@gmail.com)**

**Vice-chairman – Justin Ogilvie 07872 190132**

**Treasurer – Nathalie Haines 07779 165849 [blufc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:blufc.treasurer@gmail.com)**

**Secretary – Fan Kendall 07702 591698 [blufc.youth@gmail.com](mailto:blufc.youth@gmail.com)**

**Membership Secretary – Sandra Freke 07766 938977**

**Club Welfare Officer – Sian Morrell**

**Volunteers – Dave Morrell 07879 666245**

**Kit Manager – Martin Lewis 07837 376359**

**Referee Coordinator – Andy White 07970 644370**

THANKS FOR READING – HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE FIRST EDITION AND FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ROB GROVES TO OFFER FUTURE CONTENT OR GENERAL COMMENTS ON [ROB.GROVES13@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:ROB.GROVES13@HOTMAIL.CO.UK) OR 07582 437972. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME FROM PARENTS, PLAYERS AND COACHES.

BLU Website = <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/BLUFC>

June 2018