

# Bristol Ladies Union FC Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018



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### Chairman's Piece:

As we approach half way through this season, it's fantastic to see so many of our teams doing well in their league: U10s & U11s do not report their results, but signs are that all is looking really good for BLUFC for future players; U13s are mid-table in their A league; U14s are two from the top; U15s are struggling in a very difficult A league; our Development Squad is 3rd in their first season in an adult league, with most players still under 18; and our 1st team is mid-table in the top division of the Gloucestershire County Women's League. Congratulations to all our players and coaches for putting in the effort that they do every match day and in training.

We are always on the search for new players, so please bring along your friends, sisters, cousins etc! Of course, U9/8s is where most of our players feed through into the league age groups, and Lloyd deserves our thanks for managing this for so long. He is due to hang up his training boots at the end of this season, so the last few months have been dedicated to finding a suitable way to engage with younger girls who will hopefully move on to play competitive football for the club. Excitedly, we have recently agreed with the University of Bristol to partner in the running of an SSE Wildcats Centre, which aims to provide football opportunities for 5-11 year olds in a fun and engaging environment. The aim is to run these sessions on Sunday mornings, as Lloyd does now, and give the very young players an exit route through BLUFC. In this way, we hope to build on the legacy that Lloyd has

developed over the many years that he has been involved with the club and create a sustainable flow of players into competitive football. Watch this space for more details!

Wishing everyone involved with the club in whatever capacity – players, coaches, parents, volunteers – a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Justin

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## Under 10s news

A full squad of 14 girls are registered with the league, with two more girls regularly training with us, so we have an enthusiastic bunch who have made a great start to the season. We've now played 9 games putting in some great performances, winning 6, losing 2 and drawing 1.

It's not all about the results at this age though and with a focus on long term development we've been challenging the girls in lots of ways. Our primary objectives this season are to have fun, develop their technical skills and to help them become confident and composed on the ball while under pressure in order to make the right decisions. The squad is already showing more confidence on the ball, so we are looking forward to seeing how the U10s progress during the rest of the season.

Next up is our Girls v Parents Christmas special on the 16th December at Canford Park. With the way the girls have been playing my money is on them to win!..

Merry Christmas to all at BLU.

(Thanks to Les Abraham)



Celebrating the winner against Team Mendip

## Under 11s news

Under 11s have recruited a female coach (Amy) to join them for training on Thursdays at St. Bede's. Amy is currently the only female coach at BLUs and is working towards her level 2 FA badge.

(Thanks to Russell Kingston)

## Under 14s news

With the storms, postponed games and scraping ice off from the car, we know we are in to the hub of the football season. I actually quite like it, and once the girls are running around at training, or matches, so do they. Not so sure about our loyal band of parents on Sunday mornings, but they are always there providing valuable support!

After our usual slow start to a season we have got into our stride and have crept back up the table with some great wins. Unfortunately, two teams have folded which has reduced the league to only seven teams and the league are looking to add an additional fixture against each team to provide competitive games and to prolong the season.

We are also on the semi-finals of the GFA Cup after beating Cheltenham Town 11-4 when we only had 10 players and carrying a couple of injuries. Great spirit and determination made sure we got the result, as well as playing some flowing football that received great feedback from the opposition and the referee.

With four new girls joining us this year it is pleasing to see how well they are progressing. The core of the team have been together for four years and some even longer, after starting with Lloyd aged 8. So coming in to a competitive league is a big step and can be a learning curve that the coaches and existing players are keen to help with. A lot goes on that parents may not see or be aware of, particularly at training and on the sideline during games. We also know that what may work for one player may not work for another, so individual coaching and encouragement is commonplace throughout the season. This has seen all four really

## Under 14s cont.

progress, with two already starting most games. Keep up the good work girls!!

I think something we take for granted at times is the excellent way the girls of BLU conduct themselves before during and after games. We played a game recently when the conduct of the opposing team, management and parents was far below the standard we set. Despite all the intimidation the girls did not retaliate and let their football do the talking as we ground out a very tough win. We want to win games but, more importantly, enjoy ourselves; showing respect to the opposition, referee and coaches at all times. This attitude is something that BLU as a club adhere to and it is a credit to the players and all of the parents.

I wish you all a fantastic Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2019 when I will be aiming to lose the extra pounds put on during the holidays.

Paul and Leigh

(Thanks to Paul Maggs)

## First team news

In terms of squad numbers, we have 20 players signed on, but only 13 that can make the games each week. Some girls have just signed on for cover and we are managing at the moment. Training is very good and at least 8 to 10 players attend each week.

In the league we are currently 4th and fingers crossed we might end up in the top 3!

We are in the last 8 of the Gordon Perrett cup, after beating Bishop's

Cleeve in the last round. We are now home against Longlevens in the quarter-final.

Our last league game was against St Nicks, a team which came down from the league above. They beat the leaders of our league the week before 3-0, but the girls put up their best performance of the season and came out winning the game 6-0 with some really good goals and the defence were outstanding.

(Thanks to Steve Price)



First Team warm up

## Gloucestershire County Team



Lucy Groves, who plays in the U15s at BLU, is part of the Gloucestershire Schools U14s county team and made the long trip to Brighton on 8th Dec to compete against Sussex in the National Trophy Cup. The game ended 2 v 2, but unfortunately Sussex scored twice in extra time to go through to the next round.

## Top 5 Songs Selection

This time Steve Price, BLU first team manager, has selected his top songs to share with us. Enjoy....

### 1. You're Still the One by Shania Twain.

The song we played when I got married  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNZH-emeHxA>

### 2. Wild Thing by The Troggs.

My first vinyl record I brought (a few) years ago  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRxt2A7inIU>

### 3. Fairytale of New York by The Pogues.

This Christmas song always stands out for me  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9jbdgZidu8>

### 4. Tears in Heaven by Eric Clapton.

Brings a tear to my eyes just listening to it - this song was for his son who fell out of a skyscraper window....so sad  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxPj3GAYYZ0>

### 5. My Way by Frank Sinatra.

When I hear this song it always gets me singing  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onWf4\\_yl-pY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onWf4_yl-pY)

## Recruitment shout out...

The good news is that a previous 'shout out' has brought an offer for the role of Kit Manager. Anna Sice has kindly volunteered and her contact details are  
 Mob: 07968 411471  
 Email: annasice@hotmail.com

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

## Treasurer

The current (interim) treasurer would support the new volunteer as needed.

Contact Fran Kendall (Secretary) on 07702 591698 or Justin Ogilvie on 07872 190132 for more information if you are interested.

## Useful websites:

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

Womens World Cup France 2019 – <https://www.uefa.com/womensworldcup/>

## Committee members: (and contacts)

Please note new vice chairman

### Chairman

Justin Ogilvie  
 07872 190132  
[blufc.chair@gmail.com](mailto:blufc.chair@gmail.com)

### Club Welfare Officer

Sian Morrell  
 07900 257618  
[morrells@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:morrells@blueyonder.co.uk)

### Vice-chairman

Natalie Haines  
 07779 165849

### Volunteers

Dave Morrell  
 07879 666245

### Interim Treasurer

Natalie Haines  
[blufc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:blufc.treasurer@gmail.com)

### Kit Manager

Anna Sice  
 07968 411471  
[annasice@hotmail.com](mailto:annasice@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

Fran Kendall  
 07702 591698  
[blufc.youth@gmail.com](mailto:blufc.youth@gmail.com)

### Referee Coordinator

Andrew White  
 07970 644370

### Membership Secretary

Sandra Freke  
 07766 938977

Thanks for reading – 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.

Many thanks again to Les Abraham for the final newsletter presentation.

### BLU Website

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/BLUFC>



## Caption competition – WIN A FOOTBALL

Submit your captions to [rob.groves13@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rob.groves13@hotmail.co.uk) by Friday, 28th January to be in with a chance of winning a football.

## England Women news and Bristol City Women news:

- England will host the 2021 World Cup, with the final at Wembley. In the meantime, the 2019 World Cup is in France – here is a link for anyone interested in tickets <http://www.thefa.com/news/2018/oct/19/fifa-womens-world-cup-tickets-on-sale-191018>
- Bristol City Women are currently mid-table in the FA Womens Super League. There is a special offer for half season tickets here. <https://www.bfc.co.uk/news/bristol-city-women-201819-half-season-cards-now-on-sale/>





**BRISTOL LADIES  
UNION FC**

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/BLUFC>