

# Bristol Ladies Union FC Newsletter

MAY 2019



In this  
issue



Chairman's Piece:



I'm writing this on Sunday 28th April after a full day of BLUFC activities, and what a fabulous day it was. It started with dropping my daughter off at the Bristol Girls League end-of-season U9s/U10s and U11s tournament. She wasn't there to play, but rather to referee, having just completed the FA mini-soccer ref course. It's a great way for girls to earn a bit of extra pocket money, whilst also boosting their confidence and teaching them new skills, like communication and decision making. If your daughter is interested, take a look at the Gloucestershire FA website -<http://www.gloucestershirefa.com/referees>; refs are always in demand, especially female ones.

After that I went along to our first SSE Wildcats Centre session, run in conjunction with the University of Bristol at Coombe Dingle on Sunday mornings 10-11am. This is a replacement for Lloyd's Sunday morning sessions (he has decided to hang up his boots at the end of this season) and is designed especially for girls aged 11 and under to encourage greater participation in women's football. It was brilliantly attended, as you can see from the photos, and it was fabulous to see girls as young as 6 years old getting stuck in and enjoying themselves. We hope they will progress up through the age groups with BLUFC, as so many of Lloyd's charges have done already.

And last - but by no means least - I watched our 1st Team beat Chipping Sodbury 6-2 to win the League Cup, which means that they have done the double having already been crowned League Champions! This is a fantastic and unprecedented achievement: no BLUFC 1st Team has won either the League or the Cup, so to win both is wonderful and shows what great strides Steve and his team have made over the last couple of seasons. Congratulations to them all: as I told them afterwards, they should be proud of themselves; the rest of the club certainly is!

So all-in-all a wonderful day of BLUFC related activities, bringing to an end my first season as Chair of the club (although I know there are still a few fixtures to be completed....good luck to the teams concerned). What made the day so special was seeing the enthusiasm of the 6 to 9 year old at the Wildcats Centre replicated in the joy of our 1st Team at the final whistle. BLUFC goes from strength to strength, and thank you to everyone who has helped us to get to where we are. See you at the end of season party to celebrate!

Justin

- Under 10s news
- Under 12s news
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- Bristol Ladies Union history
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- Useful information

## DIARY DATE

**Presentation night -  
friday 28th June**

[More Details to follow](#)



## Under 10s news



U10s team photo after reaching the semi finals of the Bristol Girls League end of season tournament.

“Boot it out!”, “get rid!”, “clear it!”.

These old school phrases sadly still exist in junior football but not in the U10s! Such sayings were banned this season and instead the girls were encouraged to stay on the ball in all areas of the pitch and challenged to develop their individual ball skills.

It has to be said that all the girls embraced this philosophy and their commitment, willingness to learn and their energy as enabled the team to make great strides in their individual and team development.

For most of the girls it was their first season and they all deserve a huge congratulations for a very successful and enjoyable one.

Well done girls, roll on next season!  
(Thanks to Les Abraham)

## Under 12s news

Flying high in the league and having a long cup run, BLU U12s are certainly having a great season, but they had a tough week back in March.



Evie Jean on another of her runs from deep against Ashton

Firstly we set off to play Gloucester City's 1st team (they have 3 teams at U12!!) away in the semi-final of the GFA Cup. In driving wind and rain, there was nothing in the game until the last minute. Then with a wonder strike from outside the box, which flew into the top corner, BLU's cup run was over. Not downhearted, we dusted ourselves off in readiness for our top of the table clash at home to Ashton the following weekend.... As coach I admit I may have rose tinted glasses(!), but how we were not 2 or 3 clear by half time I have no idea....Throughout the game we did everything but score and eventually lost 0-2 while chasing the game.

What I'm most proud about with this group is their reaction. They are not too downhearted, they win well and they lose well....and they are still smiling and looking forward to finishing the season with a flourish.

(Thanks to Darren Crew)



Jas crosses into the box against Ashton..... how did we not score!!!



Our very own speedster Gemma heading towards goal in the GFA semi-final against Gloucester City.

## First team news

### First team do the double!

It has been a great season and we won the Gloucestershire Women's County League and the Gordon Perrett Cup! - not many teams can do the double, even the great team of Frampton last year couldn't do it! Ours is quite an achievement considering we have a very young side who are all around 18 years old and we are playing against some really strong sides.

We are managing every game with only 13 players each week. We are top scorers in the league and have the best defensive record and have 4 BLU girls in the top 5 scorers in the league, with Hannah Price being top!

The girls have created history for our club by becoming the first senior side to win a league title and the cup. This may never happen again, but hopefully more will follow. Next season we will be playing in Ladies South West League. This will be a big step up and a real test for our girls.

On our route to the final of the Gordon Perrett Cup, in the first



**Back row left to right:** Ellie Haines, Olivia Stone, Melody Lewis, Symira Lowe, Emily Baker, Madison Price, Anna Frazer. **Front Row left to right:** Laura Holden, Aoife Condon, Lilly Farr, Chole Howourth, Hannah Price, Sophie Price

round, we were 3 - 0 down at half time to Abbeymead, but stormed back to win 4 - 3. In our run of 5 games in the Cup we scored 42 goals and only let in 6 goals.

(Thanks to Steve Price)



First team photos from the Cup Final victory on 28th April.....

## Bristol Ladies Union History

BLU FC formed in June 2008, incorporating Shirehampton Colts U11, Rockleaze Rangers U11 (and Bristol University Ladies Team). The University Team became BLU FC 1st Team, competing in the South West Womens Premier League and they finished mid table most years. BLU FC 1st team competed in the final of the GFA Womens Trophy Cup competition in both 2014 and 2015, losing both games to Forest Green Rovers.

The original 1st team disbanded at the end of the 2015/16 season due to lack of players. The Development Squad then became the 1st Team, but competed in the Gloucestershire County Womens Football League.



## Top 5 Songs Selection

This time, the BLUs treasurer Nathalie Haines has selected her top songs to share with us. Enjoy....

1. **Billy Joel – Piano Man.** I would say anything by Billy Joel as I love him – was lucky enough to see him in concert a couple of years ago and he lived up to expectations – just brilliant. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxEPV4kolz0>
2. **Sam Smith – I know I'm not the only one.** My eldest loves Sam Smith and we were listening to him non-stop when we did the tour of Universities last year, so much so that I now love him too – this is definitely my favourite. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCkpzqqog4k>
3. **Take That – Hold up the light.** A good uplifting song, again was lucky enough to see them live and going again in May – will probably have this song at my funeral! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeOTUadLDiM>
4. **Wham! – Freedom.** I was a proper Wham fan when I was younger and this was the first single I bought with my own money! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFwOs-jy53A>
5. **Chesney Hawkes – The One and Only.** Just love it, was out when I was at Uni and one that gets me up on the dance floor every time I hear it – cheesy I know! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVEohM8BOQQ>

## Boot exchange



Children grow very fast and a new pair of football boots each year is expensive, so we will be hosting a boots exchange at the party on 28th June. We need a few parents to run the table, so please do volunteer to help raise some funds for the club.

The way it works is that anyone who donates a pair of boots (clean please, and in a reasonable state!) can then choose one other pair for £5. Without a pair of boots to exchange, the price is £10. Feel free to bring all types of sports shoes, like astro and studded footie boots, trainers and hockey boots.

## England Women news and Bristol City Women news:

- England will host the 2021 Womens European Championships, with the final at Wembley.
- In the meantime, the 2019 Womens 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: Here is a link if you are interested in season tickets. <https://www.bfc.co.uk/news/season-cards-on-general-sale/>

## Recruitment shout out...

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)

#### Vice-chairman

Natalie Haines  
07779 165849

#### Interim Treasurer

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

#### Secretary

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

#### Membership Secretary

Sandra Freke  
07766 938977

#### Club Welfare Officer

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

#### Volunteers

Dave Morrell  
07879 666245

#### Interim Kit Manager

Martin Lewis  
07837 376359

#### Referee Coordinator

Andrew White  
07970 644370

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>



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UNION FC**

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