



Open Letter to All Carlisle United Supporters

Calling ALL SUPPORTERS of Carlisle United - the situation in League 2 for CUFC has become critical. 4 straight defeats has left our wonderful club once again in the League 2 relegation zone; granted those last four games were all against teams in the top 5 positions in the league. We now have 13 games (39 points) to go until the end of the season and we need to give the club and the team our full & unhindered support.

This isn't a time for recriminations. It isn't a time to say 'I don't agree with the manager or the tactics or The Trust or the Board or for getting on the case of individual players'. The situation off the field continues to make progress and I for one am certain that the new structure at Carlisle United will be a success. The new proposals ensure that we will have the right people in the mix and at the helm. Having met with Andrew Lapping with the rest of the Trust Board last week I am clear that he and the supporters share a vision for the future of our club.

So at this stage in the season we simply have to put our faith in Keith Curle and his coaches on the field to ensure we attain the necessary number of points to retain our league status. That is the critical part - WE SIMPLY MUST REMAIN IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE. Keith can do his bit on the field, on the training ground and maybe even in the loan market if possible; off the field things are being manoeuvred into place; so the third & final part of the 'Great Escape' jigsaw is what we, the supporters, can do to help and that is 'SUPPORT' – it's just that simple. It's at the hardest times in our lives that we need support. We don't need our nearest and dearest walking away when we need them the most. We are CUFC's nearest and dearest and must now give the support that the club so desperately needs to help get it over the line.



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Whatever happens, there will be plenty of time to moan about the current season, for those who wish to, however I think what is currently happening off the field will go a long way to turning that around, especially if we stay in League 2. However, this is not the time to have that moan. We have 13 games left and 7 of those are at home. All 7 of those home games are games we can win on paper, no real top sides, a couple of tougher ones in Stevenage & Plymouth, but all winnable games. We have proved that we can do it against the better sides, (1-0 up versus Shrewsbury after 92 minutes), but we have to concentrate & play to the final whistle – every single time!

As supporters, if we want to keep our club in the football league, it is our duty to do our bit and that means putting all our energies into filling Brunton Park for those home games and getting as many supporters as possible for the away games (especially for the shorter trips to York & Accrington and I'm sure the London Branch will swell the numbers at Oxford, Northampton and Stevenage).

As supporters we need Keith Curle & his players to know two things:

1. We will give them our full and 'positive' support for the rest of the season, in exchange for their 100% commitment to those 13 games
2. Although they may, in the main, only be employees of the football club, not having it in their hearts & their blood as much as we do, the players need to understand just how important this football club is to us and the wider community in Carlisle, Cumbria & further afield. I'm sure the likes of Danny Grainger are all too aware of this being both player and local. As supporters we will kick every ball in watching them, but we put our faith in them to actually carry it out on the pitch - we have 'the fear' (of relegation, of losing) but we need them to play 'without fear' and to the best of their abilities for us, for Carlisle. If they can do it they will go down in recent CUFC folklore like Jimmy Glass, David Brightwell, Peter Murphy, Dean Walling, Kevin Gray et al (I'm sure Chris Lumsden probably feels he should be on that list as well so I'll pop him in to keep him sweet & also because he agreed with one of my Tweets on BBCRC on Saturday...

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We have been relegated from the Football League once before and we do not want to go through that gut-wrenching horror again. It would be a footballing and economic catastrophe for the club & the city and there will be no St Jimmy Glass to save us this time.

So we have the following games at home where we are asking, nay pleading, for ALL supporters to put any differences or issues aside and Unite as One, Support as One, come to Brunton Park and do your bit. Let's make Brunton Park a fortress, a wall of noise, let's make it as uncomfortable as possible for the other team. It's Your City, Your Club & Your Supporters Trust so let's hear your voice in support of Carlisle United - COME ON YOU BLUES!!!

Nigel Davidson
The United Trust



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