



Blues Briefing

News from the Swansway Chester Stadium

OUR CITY, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR CLUB

Bern & Jonno ready as Blues Enter Exciting New Era



The start of the 2018-19 season heralds the beginning of an exciting new era for Chester Football Club.

With a new management team and an influx of summer signings, the Blues are heading into the National League North campaign full of optimism.

Anthony Johnson and Bernard Morley, who guided Salford City to the title last season, will take charge for the first time on Saturday 4th August when Spennymoor Town visit the Swansway Chester Stadium (3pm kick off).

And the duo are relishing the challenge of reviving the club's fortunes

after a difficult period which culminated in relegation from the National League last term.

Johnson said: "Chester is a massive club with a big fan base and it is a club that needs to be rejuvenated and for fans to enjoy coming again. That is what our aim is.

Chester's opening month includes four home games with visits from Kidderminster Harriers, FC United of Manchester and Hereford United too, and Johnson feels that tough introduction is a positive.

"The fact we've got a tough start is good in the way it will be easier for the lads to get themselves right on it from the first whistle," he said. "Having four home games in the

"It will be a rollercoaster but it will be exciting. Hopefully the fans buy into what we are all about"

first month is great as our pitch is like a bowling green, it's perfect and it should suit the style of football we want to play."

The new managers have called on supporters to get behind them and the team, promising an exciting campaign awaits.

Johnson said: "This is a project for me and Bern and one we are so excited about. It's all we can think about.

"We don't want to fill peoples heads with grand plans and saying we will be in the Football League in a couple of seasons. That stuff is nonsense, what will be will be.

"What we will be is competitive and giving it a right good go, and if that takes us on a great journey then brilliant. It will be a rollercoaster but it will be exciting. Hopefully the fans buy into what we are all about."

Reds boss Klopp hails "fantastic reception" for pre-season friendly

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Community Trust is reaching out in more and more ways

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Blues bid to attract more families and younger supporters

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Join City Fans United and become an owner of Chester FC for just £12
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Football League move for Tom

Local lad Tom Crawford became the latest success story for Chester FC Academy when he joined League Two side Notts County for an undisclosed fee.

Following a breakthrough season in which he made 17 appearances and won an England C call up, the Blacon teenager attracted attention from a number of Football League clubs and it was the Magpies who won the race for his signature, paying an undisclosed fee for his services. Academy head coach Calum McIntyre said: "It is terrific for Tom to have been given the opportunity to progress into the English Football League and is a testament to his quality and performances during his time with Chester FC."

Young quartet sign new deals

Academy quartet Alex Downes, Rhain Hellowell, Iwan Murray and Matthew Thomson have signed contracts with Chester FC after impressing with the club's youth team.

Downes, Hellowell and Thomson have signed one-year deals while Murray has put pen to paper on a deal until January 2019; with the option of a further six months. The contracts have been funded thanks to the continued support of Ian Swettenham and Swettenham Chemists, who are the academy's main sponsors and have the naming rights to the West Stand at the Swansway Chester Stadium.



Top of the Kloppps

More than 4,300 fans turned out as Chester FC faced Premier League giants Liverpool FC in a pre-season fixture at the Swansway Chester Stadium.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp expressed his delight at the reception his team received and the size of the crowd, particularly as the game took place at the same time as England's Russia 2018 World Cup quarter-final win against Sweden.

Klopp said: "It was unbelievable, I didn't think anybody would be there. It is nice, obviously it is very important to the Chester people. The last time I

heard we were here was 2002.

"It is fantastic. The reception was brilliant and the people were really nice and I tried to sign as many shirts and programmes as possible." The Champions League finalists fielded a strong squad for the game, including the likes of Daniel Sturridge, James Milner and big mon-ey signings Fabinho and Naby Keita.

It was an occasion to remember for Chester's players and supporters, and the result mattered little as the visitors eased to a 7-0 victory in front of a crowd of 4,396 with goals from Harry Wilson (2), Sturridge (2),

Ryan Kent, Danny Ings and Milner's penalty.

Joint-manager Anthony Johnson paid tribute to Klopp and everyone connected with the Reds for affording Chester the game. Johnson said: "He thanked us for being good hosts as a football club. He was a pleasure, he was stood there watching our lads do their warm up, and the players, James Milner's waiting to give Scott Burton his shirt.

"What a great bunch of people. I've genuinely absolutely loved the day, it's been great."

National Recognition for Trust

Chester FC Community Trust has been presented with a cheque for £5,000 after winning Best Health Project in the 2018 National League Trust Community Awards.

The awards celebrate the impact of clubs across the three divisions of the National League in their communities and recognised the Chester FC Mental Health & Wellbeing project, which helps to reduce social isolation and improve participants' physical and mental health through weekly training sessions and monthly fixtures. Susan O'Brien, project manager for the National League Trust, said: "It was a pleasure to present this award to the Trust for two reasons. "It is great to see such a project making a real difference to the lives of people living with mental health problems, demonstrating how sport

can help make a change in self-esteem and confidence.

"Secondly, the Trust has an excellent track record in the quality and variety of its programme, and justifiably deserved the award for their work and the contribution they make to their community.

"At the National League Trust we are

proud to support and help develop community programmes at the majority of our member clubs, and to see the difference they make." Chester FC Mental Health & Wellbeing is a partnership between the Trust, ForFutures and the Cheshire Centre for Independent Living.



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£20k grant to improve the matchday experience

Chris Matheson, MP for the City of Chester, was on hand to award the cheque for Chester FC Community Trust's Premier League Fans Fund grant.

The £20,000 grant will allow the Trust to run a new Fans First project, which will centre on engaging more young supporters and families on matchdays.

The Trust will create a new family-friendly fan zone and a community area in the Swansway Chester Stadium, which will be a vibrant and fun place for supporters to engage with Chester FC ahead of kick-off. Face painting and football inflatables will be just two of the additions to the area which aim to encourage more young supporters to get involved.

Mr Matheson said: "I'm really pleased to be able to officially award funding for Chester FC Community Trust's Fans First initiative.

"It is great to hear of their plans to engage more young supporters through the project, helping to improve the club's relationship with its fan base.

"I'd like to thank the Premier League for their support of projects such as this one, which will have great effect



on improving a club's local following by providing a better experience and further engagement opportunities for supporters. Jim Green, chief executive of Chester FC Community Trust, said: "We are so grateful to the Premier League Fans Fund for supporting this project and we believe it will have a significant impact."



Blues launch new home kit

Chester Football Club has unveiled a new home kit for the 2018-19 season featuring the traditional blue and white stripes.

The new shirt, which carries the branding of the club's principal partner MBNA, is accompanied with blue shorts and socks, and was worn for the first time during the pre-season friendly with Liverpool.

The shirt is now on sale from the club shop price at £30 for juniors (ages 8-14) and £40 for adults (sizes S-XXXL).



Women are double Champions!

Double-winning Chester FC Women have been promoted to the North West Women's Regional Football League for 2018-19.

Last season the Blues were crowned Cheshire Women's League Division One champions and lifted the Challenge Cup, and now make the step up next level of the women's football pyramid. The team, which receives fantastic backing from the club's principal

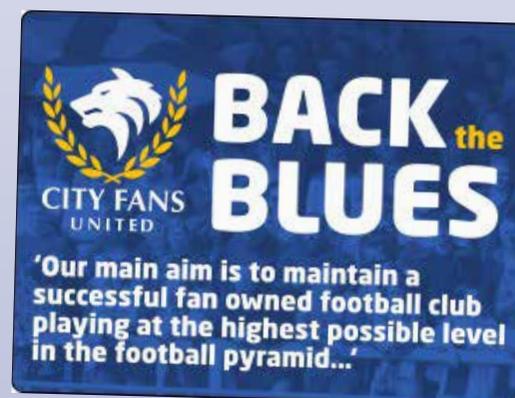
partners MBNA, will line up in Division One South. Promotion caps an outstanding 12 months for manager Dean Vian and his squad, who are looking forward to the challenge ahead. He said: "We know that we will need to improve again but I am confident the squad will do so and sure we will give a really good account of ourselves."

The club's women's football section is managed through Chester FC

Community Trust and includes an Under 18s team competing in the Cheshire Women's Youth League as well as a Girls Player Development Centre and Girls Football Centres for ages five and up.

Jim Green, chief executive of Chester FC Community Trust, said: "We are passionate about developing women's football in Chester and establishing a pathway to give local players the opportunity to represent the city at the highest possible level."

"We are passionate about developing women's football in Chester"



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Family scheme enhanced

Chester FC Community Trust is working with The Blue & White Fanzine to provide tickets for families who through no fault of their own may not be able to afford to attend matches.

Fanzine editors Neil and Richard Bellis established the community ticket scheme last season to give deserving families the opportunity to visit the Swansway Chester Stadium. To ensure the scheme can continue this season, the fanzine have donated the cost of one season ticket

and the Community Trust has underwritten the cost of another, with supporters asked to chip in to fund initiative through the charity's JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/chester-fc

Together the fanzine and Community Trust will purchase six season tickets - two adults and four children - which will be distributed to families for each home game in partnership with local organisations.

Richard Bellis, fanzine editor and founder, said: "Last season the scheme was enjoyed by a number of local families, but we struggled with some logistical issues that this new partnership will help solve. We can't wait to see the scheme go from strength to strength." Jim Green, CEO of the Community Trust, said: "We hope supporters will get behind this great initiative. Local organisations will nominate people who will really benefit from sharing our exciting journey."

A 'Brilliant' response to pricing for families and younger fans

Fans have responded in numbers to Chester Football Club's efforts to attract families and younger fans with price cuts and new initiatives for the 2018-19 campaign.

The Blues have announced almost 1,000 season tickets were sold prior to the early bird deadline and expect to pass that number before the first game of the new season

against Spennymoor Town on Saturday 4th August. Matchday admission prices have been reduced for adults to £12 (standing) and £15 (seating) and concessions frozen at £10 (standing) and £12 (seating). Prices for 18-21 and 5-17 year olds are £10 and £3 respectively in all areas while under 12s can watch the action for £1 in the Swettenham

Chemists Family Zone, and admission is free for children under five. City Fans United director Jeff Banks said: "The take up has been brilliant and we're really pleased to see so many supporters either renewing or buying their first season ticket as we move into an exciting new era for our football club."



Thanks a million Stuart!

Local businessman Stuart Murphy has agreed to donate £1million to Chester Football Club over the next three years.

The board of City Fans United announced a donation agreement had been reached which ensures the fans group retains full ownership and control of the club with Mr Murphy offered a place on the operations board. The majority of the donation will be allocated to infrastructure improvements to enable the club to increase its long-term sustainability. "I am really delighted to be able to join forces with the board and supporters at Chester FC," said Murphy, who has previously sponsored the club's shirt and stadium.

"This gives me a great opportunity to give something back to the City of Chester and to the football club

that I care for so much. I have lots of ideas to move the club forward positively and I can't wait to get started. There is much to do, but I am confident that together we can now start to write a new and exciting chapter in the history of Chester FC." David Harrington Wright, the chair of Chester FC, said: "I am so pleased for everyone that we have been given this opportunity. I know that Stuart is brimming with ideas and we are so grateful to him for this generous donation and for his skill, expertise and time that he will commit to help our club. "This is a one-off chance for everyone at Chester Football Club. If we all pull together, we can really make it work."



Cut out this fixture list, put it on your fridge and come and cheer on the lads!



Chester FC League fixtures 2018/19



2018

Sat 4 Aug	3pm	Spennymoor (h)
Mon 6 Aug	7:45pm	Curzon Ashton (a)
Sat 11 Aug	3pm	Blyth Spartans (a)
Tue 14 Aug	3pm	Kidderminster (h)
Sat 18 Aug	3pm	FC United (h)
Sat 25 Aug	3pm	AFC Telford (a)
Mon 27 Aug	3pm	Hereford (h)

Sat 1 Sep	3pm	Guiseley (a)
Sat 8 Sep	3pm	Bradford PA (h)
Sat 15 Sep	3pm	Boston (a)
Sat 29 Sep	3pm	Chorley (a)

Sat 13 Oct	3pm	Nuneaton (h)
Sat 20 Oct	3pm	York (a)
Sat 27 Oct	3pm	Alfreton (h)
Tue 30 Oct	7:45pm	Ashton (h)

Sat 3 Nov	3pm	Brackley (a)
Sat 10 Nov	3pm	Altrincham (h)
Sat 17 Nov	3pm	Leamington (a)

Sat 1 Dec	3pm	Darlington (h)
Sat 8 Dec	3pm	Stockport (a)
Sat 22 Dec	3pm	AFC Telford (h)
Wed 26 Dec	3pm	Southport (a)
Sat 29 Dec	3pm	Hereford (a)

2019

Tue 1 Jan	3pm	Southport (h)
Sat 5 Jan	3pm	FC United (a)
Sat 12 Jan	3pm	Guiseley (h)
Sat 19 Jan	3pm	Curzon Ashton (h)
Sat 26 Jan	3pm	Spennymoor (a)

Sat 2 Feb	3pm	Blyth Spartans (h)
Sat 9 Feb	3pm	Kidderminster (a)
Sat 16 Feb	3pm	Boston (h)
Sat 23 Feb	3pm	Bradford PA (a)

Sat 2 Mar	3pm	Altrincham (h)
Sat 9 Mar	3pm	Leamington (h)
Sat 16 Mar	3pm	Darlington (a)
Sat 23 Mar	3pm	Stockport (h)
Sat 30 Mar	3pm	Chorley (h)

Sat 6 Apr	3pm	Nuneaton (a)
Sat 13 Apr	3pm	York (h)
Fri 19 Apr	3pm	Ashton (a)
Mon 22 Apr	3pm	Brackley (h)
Sat 27 Apr	3pm	Alfreton (a)

Fixtures are subject to change. Visit www.chesterfc.com for current fixture list, or use this QR code.



Registered Charity Number 1174370

The Swansway Chester Stadium, Bumpers Lane, Chester CH1 4LT
t 01244 371376 e community@chesterfc.com
w community.chesterfc.com

BECOME A VOLUNTEER WITH CHESTER FC

From sitting on the board, working in the office or the club shop or helping to fundraise, volunteers are the life blood of Chester FC and allow our football club to function. There are a wide range of roles available, both matchday and non-matchday, and anyone wishing to volunteer or find out more about how to get involved can email info@chesterfc.com or call **01244 371376**.

JOIN CITY FANS UNITED TODAY

For £12 a year you can become a member of City Fans United and a co-owner of Chester Football Club. We have more than 1,600 members at present. You can join online at www.cityfansunited.com/join-online or visit the ticket office at the Swansway Chester Stadium or call **01244 371376**.

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