



The United Trust

Carlisle United Official Supporters Club



Come and Support the Cumbrians Carlisle United Fixtures 2005/6 season

AUGUST

06	Wycombe Wanderers (a)	3:00pm
09	Peterborough United (h)	7:45
13	Barnet (h)	3:00pm
20	Wrexham (a)	3:00pm
27	Northampton Town (h)	3:00pm
29	Lincoln City (a)	3:00pm or 7:45pm

SEPTEMBER

03	Bury (a)	3:00pm
10	Macclesfield Town (h)	3:00pm
17	Cheltenham Town (a)	3:00pm
24	Leyton Orient (h)	3:00pm
27	Chester City (a)	7:45pm

OCTOBER

01	Bristol Rovers (h)	3:00pm
08	Oxford United (a)	3:00pm
15	Mansfield Town (h)	3:00pm
22	Notts County (a)	3:00pm
29	Stockport County (h)	3:00pm

NOVEMBER

12	Torquay United (a)	3:00pm
19	Oxford United (h)	3:00pm
26	Wycombe Wanderers (h)	3:00pm

DECEMBER

06	Rushden and Diamonds (a)	7:45pm
10	Peterborough United (a)	3:00pm
17	Wrexham (h)	3:00pm
26	Darlington (h)	3:00pm
28	Boston United (a)	3:00pm
31	Rochdale (h)	3:00pm

JANUARY

02	Grimsby Town (a)	3:00pm
07	Bury (h)	3:00pm
14	Shrewsbury Town (a)	3:00pm
21	Cheltenham Town (h)	3:00pm
28	Macclesfield Town (a)	3:00pm

FEBRUARY

04	Chester City (h)	3:00pm
11	Leyton Orient (a)	3:00pm
14	Shrewsbury Town (h)	7:45pm
18	Rushden and Diamonds (h)	3:00pm
25	Barnet (a)	3:00pm

MARCH

04	Lincoln City (h)	3:00pm
11	Northampton Town (a)	3:00pm
18	Darlington (a)	3:00pm
25	Boston United (h)	3:00pm

APRIL

01	Rochdale (a)	3:00pm
08	Grimsby Town (h)	3:00pm
15	Bristol Rovers (a)	3:00pm
17	Notts County (h)	3:00pm
22	Mansfield Town (a)	3:00pm
29	Torquay United (h)	3:00pm

MAY

06	Stockport County (a)	3:00pm
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Guess The Champions 2004/5 Season Results

CUOSC would like to thank everyone who entered the 2004/5 guess the champions' competition. 20 points were given to those who correctly guessed the champions of each division, with 10 points for runners-up and 5 points for third place. The top four point scorers were as follows:

John Bouch (Carlisle), 60 points
Geoff Fuller (St. Albans), 55 points
David Minnican (Silloth), 55 points
David Bowman (Wigton), 55 points

Well done to John who won the £100 prize! His choices were Chelsea (20 points), Wigan Athletic (10), Hull City (10), Yeovil Town (20) and Scarborough (0)

Guess The Champions 2005/6 Season

We are running this competition again for the 2005/6 season. If you would like to enter simply tell us who you think will win each division (Premiership, Championship, League One and League Two) and send a cheque for £2.00 (made payable to CUOSC) to CUOSC, c/o 19 St Edmunds Park, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 6TS.

A downloadable form is also available on the CUOSC website at www.cuosc.co.uk

Thanks
Adam Sheridan

Awards Evening

Once again the Carlisle United Official Supporters Club hosted their awards evening at the Shepherds Inn, Carlisle. The ever popular John Bell was the Master of Ceremonies assisted by our very own member Jazza Boyle.

The committee of the Supporters club always work hard prior to and during this evening and try to make sure that the players have an evening to remember. The awards once again rivalled those presented at many Premiership clubs. Always kept a secret until the last minute this years recipients of the awards were no different.

Player of the Season

The main award of the evening the Supporters' Club Player of the season went to Kevin Gray. Kevin received almost 80% of the votes cast. The sponsor Martin Vevers presented the trophy

Goal of the Season

This year's recipient was Kevin Henderson who scored from 30yds against Scarborough. His trophy presented by Louise Fawcett a member of the CUOSC Committee

The Players player of the Season

A contest closely fought and in the end went to two players who could not be separated - Kevin Gray and Chris Lumsdon, the award presented by last years winner Brendan McGill.

The Junior Blues Player of the Season

Voted for by all members of the Junior Blues. The trophy went to Kevin Gray and was presented by the one person who has worked so very hard for the Junior Blues all season and has agreed to do the same in the coming season - Gayle Davidson.

Away Player of the Season

Those travelling on transport provided by CUOSC vote for this award. The number of votes for each player was calculated and the player with the greater number of wins on individual journeys won the award. This season that player was Peter Murphy and the award was presented by Yvonne Bowman who is well known by both home and away travellers as the person who always seems to be selling something - badges, raffle tickets, lotto you name it Yvonne can be depended upon to sell it.

Youth Player of the Season

Fred Story donated the award for the Youth Player of the season and this season went to Dan Kirkup. The award is voted for by his fellow youth team players and was presented by Billy Barr.

Most Improved Player of the Season

The award was presented by the Manager Paul Simpson and his choice this year went to the very popular Danny Livesey.

The United Trust Player of the Season

Unlike other awards the United Trust awards its trophy to the player who has contributed to the supporters enjoyment and shown commitment and passion over the season. This year the award went to no one player but

three who between them share the qualities required to receive the award.

Always enthusiastic, passionate and approachable they contribute towards the supporter's enjoyment of the game. They enthuse the crowd and their passion spills over.

For his outstanding enthusiasm and dedication both on and off the field, his passion and his trademark rallying cries and gestures to the travelling Blue army - **Tom Cowan.**

Whenever called upon by supporters groups this player is always one of the first to respond. He is without doubt one of the finest shot stoppers Carlisle United has ever had and always remains popular with supporters of all ages - **Matty Glennon.**

For leadership qualities, strength, dedication and determination, a colossus in defence and someone who puts the fear of god into many a forward - **Kevin Gray.**

The evening also consisted of a raffle and auction, which raised cash to allow the Supporters club to sponsor players next season and secure sponsorship of at least one match. (Our thanks to individuals is contained in the newsletter)

A great deal of interest was shown in the signed shirt of Kevin Gray, which finally went to a young man John Ward from Lancaster. The beam on his face when he finally secured the shirt was worth every penny.

Steve Pearson, also known as PI and who is reported to have a photograph of Karl Hawley's dad on his mobile now has a photograph of Karl Hawley and himself but his obvious support for Karl did not stop him bidding successfully for the shirt of Tom Cowan.

At one time Chris Lumsdon and Peter Murphy were bidding against each other for the same auction item a Newcastle Brewery day out at one of the following - St James Park or Newcastle races. I think they are actually planning to go together. Lummy won and his day out cost him £210.

At the request of the manager the Awards ceremony was moved from its usual Sunday evening to the Monday. Hopefully next year we will not have to accommodate the play offs but be in Championship place and we can revert to the Sunday evening. Members of the committee have received several messages of congratulations on yet another successful awards evening. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this event.



Gayle Davidson presenting The Junior Blues Player of the Season to Kevin Gray



Martin Vevers presenting Player of the Year to Kevin Gray



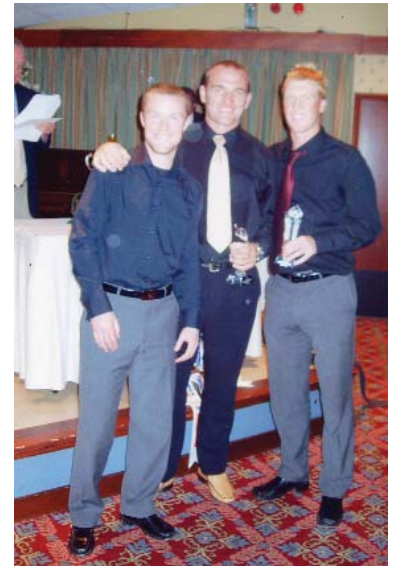
Matty Glennon Trust Player of the Season



Danny Livesey with his Award for Most Improved Player of the Season



Yvonne Bowman presenting The Away Player of The Season to Peter Murphy



Kevin Gray & Chris Lumsdon receiving their Awards as Players Player of the Season from last years winner Brendan McGill



Louise Fawcett presents the Award for Goal of the Season to Kevin Henderson



All Award Winners

Farnborough Weekend

A great weekend was had by all who went on the away trip with the Supporters Club to Farnborough.

Friday

We set off at 7am from a cold Carlisle and made our way down to Stratford-upon-Avon where we stopped for 1½ hours to stretch our legs and take in the sights and shopping of Stratford, some of us didn't manage to do any sightseeing or shopping but did manage a pint or three (and lunch) in one of the lovely riverside pubs. Back onto the coach, we arrived mid-afternoon to the 4* Hilton Hotel in Bracknell which was to be our home until Sunday. The hotel lived up to its 4* rating, it was complete with swimming pool and Living Well gym. After settling in we (as in hubby, son and myself) went for a laal walk to find our bearings and to fill in time until dinner. After a very resplendent and varied buffet dinner (all diets went out of the window this weekend I'm afraid) quite a lot of us made out way to the local friendly hostelry where we received a warm welcome from both the bar staff and the locals.

Saturday

After a very large breakfast, again buffet (the best kind) although a chef was on hand to cook the eggs the way you liked them, we sat around in reception for a while obviously predicting the score until two of our party (who shall remain anonymous) decided to visit the physic fair which was being held in the Hotel, we expected to be told what the score was going to be when they returned but although they had had their photos taken and their "auras" were explained to them unfortunately the auras didn't seem to predict what the score would be.

The bus picked up from the hotel or for those of us with a thirst, from the pub. We could have had a drink from the hotel bar but at over £3 a pint my other half preferred to walk the five minutes to the pub. The driver then drove us to the match where we had time for a few more bevies and a crack with other Carlisle fans in the club bar before the match. After the 2-1 win we reboarded our bus and went back to our Hotel in time for a shower and then another dinner banquet in the Hotel restaurant. We were then given the choice of having a trip to Windsor or a night in Reading, although we didn't take part in either of these excursions, preferring instead to go to the local pub again, apparently a good time was had by all.

Sunday

After another very large and leisurely breakfast we were taken for a tour around London the finale being a trip to see how the rebuilding of Wembley Stadium was coming on. It's a lot bigger close up than we first thought. A few of the lads managed to fit in a couple of pints before we set off at 12.30 on our journey home. We made excellent time and arrived back in Carlisle around 7.00 stopping only once at Stafford.

Bob was kept very busy with h Bob's Bargains, for those uninitiated supporters, Bob's Bargains consist of Krispie

Cake and cookies (baked by Mrs Bob and when help is required by Bob's Bobettes), drinks, chocolate bars and crisps, which are sold on our away travel to raise money for club funds, last year Bob's Bargains amongst other things sponsored Tom Cowan both home and away. If you have never partaken of Mrs Bob's Krispie Cake or cookies you don't know what you are missing (ask any supporter who regularly travels with us). Also if you do travel with us bear in mind the prices we charge for drinks, etc are a lot cheaper than you will be charged in the Service Stations on route.

All in all a really good time was enjoyed by everyone with many supporters asking Kate to put their name down for next year no matter where we may find ourselves.

By the way if any of you know P.I. ask to see his picture of Carl Hawley's Dad!

NB - The cost of this weekend which included all transport and two nights' dinner bed and breakfast was only £110

Supporters Travel



Stewart Anderson on his way to the play off's final at the Britannia Stadium

Another season over and many more miles travelled by supporters of Carlisle United. Grounds visited that we have not been to before and hopefully unless the clubs come into the Football League we will only visit should we draw them in the cups.

CUOSC Away Travel carried over 4150 supporters to away games during the 2004/5 season. Thank you for your support.

One of our regular drivers not only this season but for many seasons past is Stewart Anderson. Stewart can always be relied upon to get you to the ground and not once this season have we been late or lost, well not that Stewart would admit too! Nothing is too much trouble for him, as is the case with many of the other drivers. There was a rumour that he may hang up his tachograph this season but he's decided to give it one more go. Thanks to Titteringtons, Stewart and all the other drivers who have taken us many thousands of miles in the last 10 months.

Scandinavian Branch Visit Canvey Island

Canvey Island - Away 25 March 2005

BEFORE actually going there, Canvey Island, to me, was merely a name on the conference fixture list. After looking on the map I discovered it was not that far from London.

In my mind I pictured Canvey as a lovely little island on the river Thames. There would be few cottages and a small farm with friendly Canveyans greeting us as we got off the boat and headed for the match. The stadium would be on top of a little hill, all fenced in to keep cows and sheep away from the grassy pitch, which in summer, when no football was being played, also doubled as grassing turf for the farm animals.

Anyhow, my picturesque view of Canvey Island would soon be demolished. I was well disappointed to find that Canvey Island was not really an Island at all (at least I can't remember passing any water, except for at half time). The lovely little farm from my imagination, turned out to be a huge oil refinery and there was not a single sheep, nor cow to be seen anywhere. But the Stadium was there, and at first I was quite taken by it. It was even a bit bigger than I first had thought, and there was even a good group of Canvey fans present. Nice!

I must honestly say that it felt great to be back supporting the Blues. (Sondre, Kim-Freddy and I) met up with the travelling supporters from both Carlisle and the London Branch, and enjoyed a smashing day out in the sun. Carlisle got three easy goals in the first half and Canvey responded by getting two of their players sent off. Now, that's hospitality for ya! As nothing happened in the second half I won't bother saying anything about it.

We were all happy for the win and had a nice 6 hours coach trip back up to our beloved Border City.*

Up the Blues!

Goran Henriksen
Scandinavian Branch

*Courtesy of Supporters Bus

The Supporters Club then liaised with the club and before our home game with Halifax Goran. Sondre and Kim-Freddy were all given a tour of the ground which included the changing rooms complete with one or two players present and they were then thrilled to be asked to make the half-time draw at the Halifax game.

Relegation to Elevation

It happened over quite a few seasons
For a number of different reasons,
That Carlisle were threatened with League relegation,
Each escape was indeed a dramatic sensation.

Then, in April two thousand and four
Lady luck failed to smile any more,
While the club with resolve put up a brave fight
The conference beckoned, it was a grave plight.

Against almost impossible odds
With just a glimmer of hope from the gods,
Though it seemed that United might stay up once more
Alas, at the end they dropped through the League's floor.

Faced with their first test in the Conference
Which was tackled with no little confidence
All efforts were made to make it straight back
And with fervent support, they had a good crack

Thus, with quite a few ups and some downs
Causing not only smiles but some frowns,
They battled their way into play off position
All fingers were crossed and stout hearts were wish'n.

It was Aldershot they had to face
In order to gain a last two, final place
The away leg came first, what a test of endurance,
Returning one down posed the question, "Just what chance!"

A dramatic encounter ensued
Not one for faint hearts, that is true,
Then, penalty victors, hearts thumping with fright,
They earned their momentous grand final night -

In Britannia Stadium, brim full of emotion,
Locked horns with Stevenage, the prize was promotion.
What a night, what a match, what a brilliant end,
Farewell to the Conference and conference friends.

To the league now, were we do belong,
Voices singing aloud a new Champions' song
Fans, team, Simmo, Fred Story, can all share the glory
Let's climb up next season to Division One!

Howard W. Laws, Carlisle - 14.5.05

A Big Thank You

Thank you to the following who donated prizes for the Raffle at the **Awards Evening**.

Auctioneer	Rosehill, Carlisle
Martin Clancy	Kendal
Billy Atkinson	Currock Road Service Station, Carlisle
Martin Horn	Carlisle Leisure Ltd, The Sands, Carlisle
Pioneer Ltd	Rosehill, Carlisle
Senator Homes	Hillcrest Avenue, Carlisle
Norman Steel	Carlisle
Bernie Stephenson	Workington
Martin Vevers	Scottish and Newcastle Breweries
Dick Young	Carlisle
Committee Members of CUOSC	

Junior Blues

Another season over and another about to start for the Junior Blues, more events than ever and more involvement with our club.

When I took over the Junior Blues section of the Supporters' Club at the beginning of this season I knew it was going to be a lot of work but I can say that I have enjoyed every minute of it and you have made it so much easier. There were 69 JB's at the end of last season, 04 there are now 170 - wonderful.

To summarise the season:

The Christmas party was brilliant and the icing was Paul and the team joining in. Every JB received a Christmas present from Father Christmas, Olga helped with the party and some of the players judged the competitions.

About 36 JB's were ball boys and girls at 2 matches. We will all remember the Leigh game where it took some time for those doing the job to warm up. Thanks to Barry Mossop and his team for all their help in pointing us in the right direction and giving some hints as to what and what not to do.

Family Disco held in the Sunset Suite was another new venture for us and everyone tells me that they really enjoyed it. Ashley Middlemore and Rachel Connelly won massive Easter eggs.

Free Tickets - the club has allowed JB's free tickets to three games.

The Exeter game saw a Guard of Honour of Junior Blues cheer their players onto the field. Mascots for the day were Harry Davidson and Ellis Graham who had a wonderful day. Sadly at Christmas Ellis was not well and I thought that after reading about him in the News and Star it would be nice for him to be mascot at this game, it was also his birthday the day before so what a present. Both Ellis and Harry have been under the weather and their visits to the hospital for treatment have been many so I just hoped that as mascots they will enjoy their special day at Brunton Park.

Player of the Season, this received a brilliant response from you all and Kevin Gray was presented with his award by his 7 year old brother Sean Gray who is also a JB member in the Sponsors Lounge at the end of the Exeter game. Kevin will receive the award again at the Annual Awards Ceremony to be held in the Shepherds Inn on 16th May. As you know there was a draw from the returned voting forms for a signed ball and the lucky winner was Rebecca Potts who was presented with the ball by Kevin Gray.

Some of the responses giving reasons why Fred should swap the executive box with one of you are really funny. Please keep these coming in.

Many of our Junior Blues play for local teams and the Carlisle School of excellence to you all good luck for next season and a wonderful closed season.

I will be back in touch with you with a programme of events for the season 2005/6 in the next few weeks.

Gayle

Away Travel Provided By CUOSC

Coaches will be provided to ALL league, trophy and cup games for the forthcoming season. We will once again aim to get supporters to all venues at a minimum cost.

We are currently in the process of tendering to coach firms for the seasons travel. The popular direct debit charge will be available to those wishing to take part in the scheme.

Soon we will then be in a position to advertise the cost for members, concessions and non-members.

Our Web site will have an up to date list of travel locations, times of departure and a full list of prices by the beginning of July. As in previous seasons travel will commence from Brunton Park calling at Penrith Railway station.

Advance Notice

CUOSC will be running 2 night mini breaks to the following

Torquay 11 & 12 November
Central London (Barnet) 24 & 25 February
Bath (Bristol Rovers) 14 & 15 April

Prices and information re accommodation to follow

Anyone interested please contact for more information

07968 498941

CUOSC will also have a coach travelling on the day for all matches

Renewal of Memberships

The annual renewal of Membership to Carlisle United Official Supporters' Club are due

1.9.05

Those members due to renew will have received a reminder with this newsletter

Anyone wishing to join the Supporters' Club, forms can be downloaded from the web site, available in the club shop, ring the CUOSC number for information or ask any member of the committee.

Direct Debit Away Travel

Forget about having to find the money for travel each away game

Forget about having to book your seat each journey

Join the Away Travel Direct Debit Club

Pay the same amount each month and cover all your League travel for the Season

- Seat confirmed on each journey
- If you don't use it sell to another

What do I have to do?

Contact Kate on 07968 498941 and we will send you the information and the forms

Once we have the prices for travel for the season the Direct Debit price will be confirmed

My Greatest Sporting Moment

In a sea of blue and white, with the occasional touch of red, our wonderful fans converged with good-humoured optimism on Stoke City's imposing Britannia Stadium. Parking was well organised and adequate even for David's Campervan, and as we were about two hours early we sat in it and watched the crowds pass by with a multitude of shirts, hats and flags of many shapes and sizes. In an adjoining field some solemn cricketers must have wondered what had hit them, as they received some good humoured but noisy banter from the passing throng.

Seated at the front of the Sentinel Stand we were surrounded to the left, right and behind by a noisy, friendly and welcoming crowd, and we felt even more at home when Nixon's Vixens appeared to do their routine. Blue and white balloons drifted down among us and I captured one. Ticker-tape was released, I'm not sure how, and fireworks were let off. My mouth was dry with nerves and anticipations the noise rose to a crescendo and we greeted our heroes with a frenzy of flag-waving, horn blowing and cheering. What wonderful, loyal supporters!

As the game progressed, we went through all our repertoire - horns blasts ending with "Carlisle!", drum-rolls and handclaps ending with "United", "Stand up for the Cumbrians" (and we did), "We love you, Carlisle, we do", "Carlisle till I die", etc, even, with a slight exaggeration, "We're by far the greatest team the world has ever seen".

Words cannot describe the tremendous roar, then the feeling of ecstasy mingled with relief, that greeted Peter Murphy's goal, yet there was still a long way to go. Half-time was a respite, with a penalty shoot-out performed by the mascots, which Carlisle won. Was this an omen? But, please God don't let it be penalties this time - my heart won't stand it!

In the second half Stevenage came back strongly, there were some scary moments but our defence held firm and Matty made some very good saves. We also had chances to make it 2 - 0, which would have been a wonderful relief, and the four minutes of extra time were the longest in Simmo's life, as he later said; I know how he felt! Then that most wonderful moment, the final whistle, brought rapture, which at first we could hardly believe. Round came the ecstatic team waving to us, with their medals and the trophy, as big as the FA Cup, and a notice saying, "WE'RE GOING UP" Man of the match proudly displayed his bottle of whisky, and Andy Preece had come back, to join deservedly in the celebrations. I went as far forward as I dare - stewards prevented any pitch invasion, waving my flag continuously till the last player had disappeared. My arm ached from waving, my voice was hoarse with singing and shouting and my knees were weak with excitement but I felt as if I was floating on air.

More fireworks and a speech from Stoke City authorities praising both sets of fans ended proceedings. Stoke had put on a wonderful and beautifully managed show. We drifted back to our vehicles still singing triumphantly. The late kick-off, prolonged celebrations

and congestion on the M6 meant that the food we got at Forton literally was a midnight feast. Due to tiredness we turned off into a narrow lane, parked between two lamps in a pool of darkness and slept for nearly four hours. Imagine our surprise waking in the cold grey dawn to discover we were in the middle of a council estate!

Was I crazy to class this as my greatest sporting experience? After all I had been to Wembley three times (but never celebrated a win). I first got interested in football through my schoolboy sons in the Seventies. Though we are Cumbrians, we were down on Merseyside because of our jobs, and saw some great matches at Everton, still visiting them from time to time after moving back to Cumbria. But in 2003 we realized our local Cumbrian team was in dire straits and suggested we support them. I went along to Brunton Park prepared to clap politely but as they made a brave push for survival that so nearly succeeded, I found that I was getting emotionally involved. It is strange but true that on that awful day when the 1 - 1 draw with Cheltenham meant certain relegation I fell in love with Carlisle United. As the players sank dejectedly to the ground at the final whistle and supporters were in tears I thought, "Why should this brave team, this lovely ground and its friendly, intimate family feeling, these wonderful, loyal fans suffer this? They must return next season and we must see it, so we have followed them right through the Conference the excellent start the devastation of the floods, which only served to increase my devotion, the thrilling run in to the play-offs, and finally this wonderful triumph. I have never experienced such emotion on the sporting scene before and now can most truthfully say, in the words of the song, "I know I am, I'm sure I am, I'm Carlisle till I die."

Sally Beaumont - Kendal
Member of CUOSC

£3,850 handed over by The Blues Lotto

The United Trust set up the "Blues Lotto" on behalf of Carlisle United in September 2004. Its intention to provide Carlisle United FC with a platform of players from which it could launch its own lottery in the spring 2005 (on completion of its contact with Newcastle United FC). The "Blues Lotto" admirably achieved its aims and during the course of its existence if short had almost 20,000 players many of which on a weekly basis.

In April a cheque for £3,850 was handed over to Carlisle United FC on behalf of the "Blues Lotto" by agents and their manager Helen Fuller in Foxes Restaurant. Helen would like to extend a BIG thank you to all of the agents, players and supporters of the "Blues Lotto" those people ensured the success of the lottery enabling the lotto to fulfil its objective of providing our club with cash and a platform of players and agents on which they can launch the Carlisle United Lottery.

Helen Fuller

News From The United Trust

It is important that all supporters are given the opportunity to appraise themselves of the current developments in relation to the issues involving the United Trust and the current and former owner. Whilst we have tried to keep the membership up to date with the ever-moving situation, it has been difficult. We make no apology for repeating information already sent to members but rather feel it is important that the full picture is available to all.

The following articles give the history of the ongoing situation and are as follows:

- The address delivered by the Chair to the Open Meeting held in Carlisle. Interesting to note that this meeting was told by John Nixon (Director CUFC) that the News & Star headline quotes were all in the past and we had to move forward. Quite the contrary, the attacks are now personal to individuals.
- Article in the Guardian newspaper
- Update letter sent to members of the Trust.
- Press Release 20.6.05 (B. Mileson) in response to an article in the News and Star and press release from CUFC on their message board.
- Press release 21.6.05 (United Trust) in response to a press release from CUFC.

Unfortunately we have been informed that the Trust will no longer have a page in the match day programme whilst the current situation is ongoing.

Over recent weeks and months there has been much in the press regarding the ongoing situation between Carlisle United Football Club and the United Trust. The majority of it has been an attempt to discredit members of the Trust board. We have responded to the allegations made against us but for whatever reason these have often been ignored or restricted to a comment only. The local newspaper in its editorial has gone so far as to support the Club directors in their attempt to prevent the Trust from fulfilling the purpose for which it was established.

The United Trust under the name of CCUIST was established in 2001 to prevent any future abuse of our Club and its assets by an individual or group of individuals. That together with the acquisition of shares were the main objectives contained within the brochure that was at the heart of the launch of the Trust in the Sands Centre, Carlisle.

The objectives contained within the brochure were

To acquire a shareholding and establish on-going supporter representation on the Board of the football club - permanently.

In 2002 John Courtenay acquired the Club and almost immediately commenced negotiations with the Trust to bring about those objectives. It was his intention at that time to transfer progressively from the Club to the Cumbrian community through the Trust 49% of the shares in CUFC (Holdings) Limited while he was still at the club and the balance, to give control when he left. £800,000 for the first 40% of shares, the next 9% at a price to be agreed and the balance to be negotiated when he left the club. These were objectives that John Courtenay firmly believed in.

In March 2003 the agreement for 49% of shares in CUFC (Holdings) and an elected member of the Trust as a director on the board of Carlisle United Football Club was signed. Our objectives have never changed from that date.

Early in 2004 the club was in the grip of a continuing cash crisis and John Courtenay was unable to provide resources to meet on-going needs of the Club. In order to assist the Trust offered to relinquish its option on the second 20% of shares but to keep all voting rights. John Courtenay initially agreed to this course of action but then for whatever reason changed his mind. In order to assist the ailing club the Trust balloted its members regarding a reduction to 25.1%. Whilst the membership gave their permission for this to be done it still required negotiations with the owner to formally agree the changes to the original agreement. The main reasons for the change from 49% to 25.1% was to allow a much needed cash injection into the club immediately. A cash injection that appeared at that time the Trust would not be in a position to provide. The proposed consequential sale of the shares to be given up by the Trust under this arrangement were proposed to be offered to the public, which without a proper prospectus was in fact illegal and therefore no funds were generated for the club.

Fred Story successfully obtained the club from John Courtenay in July 2004 and loaned the Club 2 million pounds from Story Construction on an interest-bearing loan.

The Trust has given some £170,000 to CUFC Holdings Limited as part payment for the first 20% of shares in CUFC (Holdings) Limited.

The difference between CUFC (Holdings) Limited and CUFC (1921) Limited is as follows:

- CUFC (Holdings) Limited own 93% of shares in CUFC (1921) Limited. The Trust has 20% of shares and access a further to 29% of shares in Holdings under the current agreement.
- CUFC (1921) own all the assets of CUFC. Individuals own 7% of shares in CUFC.

In August of 2004 three members of the Trust were required to sign a consent form to allow the sale of the club to Fred Story, a document that has been referred to by Andrew Jenkins in a programme and the press.

This document purported to give the Trust's consent for the shares to be transferred from John Courtenay to Fred Story. At the time of signing the Trust were assured that a Deed of Adherence would be signed within the following days confirming the validity of the agreement, this has never been done.

The Deed of Adherence would have bound Fred Story legally to adhere to the terms of the original agreement.

Between July and November 04 the Trust through I tried to negotiate the reduced share agreement on no less than 5 occasions. Each time these requests have been rebuffed by Fred Story and on 29th November he withdrew the offer of 25.1% in writing. Accordingly, the only agreed position in relation to the Trust's shareholding is the original agreement of March 2003.

No other offer was or has ever been agreed.

Whilst the Trust were attempting to negotiate a change to the share option and working to raise funds for the Club the board met with Fred, as a result of that meeting an agreement was reached for a joint promotion in which Fred would match £ for £ all monies raised by the Trust to allow them to purchase the shares. At that time it seemed very exciting, promises, promises. Everything gave the impression that we were moving forward together. Not so. Some 6 weeks after the offer of fund matching was made the offer was withdrawn. I was told to look elsewhere.

I looked elsewhere. I approached Brooks Milesen. Brooks offered to support the £ for £ scheme and the Brooks big match was launched. It's at this point that the News and Star and Cumberland News became interested for whatever reason. Firstly they reported that it was Fred's feeling that we were taking money away from the club as we were trying to raise money from the same events. Not true. To the best of my knowledge the club have never organised a Golf Day, never had a function for many years, raffles I don't think so, but nevertheless so that we didn't compete for the same money or drain the club of much needed revenue, Brooks initially offered to loan the remainder of the money so that the Trust would have the funds to pay in full for the 20% of shares it holds and to acquire a further 20%. He later donated £600,000 to purchase outright the shares on one proviso. That was done on the basis of the original Courtenay Agreement thus avoiding the possibility of conflict between Club and Trust in raising money. This was probably the largest ever donation by an individual to a trust anywhere. A magnificent gesture, money ultimately that would find its way into the club. Brooks Milesen was asked by Fred Story NOT to give the money to the Trust - WHY?

Somewhat ironic, its okay for CUFC to take money from Brooks, but its NOT OK to give money to the Trust.

There were then the allegations from the club of 'fundamental flaws' in the original agreement, at the same time as these allegations were being made several directors were demanding money from the Trust under the same agreement. If on one hand a document is fundamentally flawed then why ask for acts to be performed from that very same agreement?

Once Fred Story and other directors of the Club had made a statement regarding a flaw in the agreement, the Trust had no option under its rules but to obtain legal advice before any further members monies could be made available to the club. Fortunately all legal advice has been paid for by several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

At a meeting in January with Fred Story, Andrew Jenkins, John Nixon, three members of the Trust board and lawyers for both sides Fred stated he had bought the Club in the belief that the original agreement with Courtenay would not bind him. This means that he could reduce the percentage shareholding of the Trust at any time of his choosing. Despite this knowledge Fred continued to take money from the Trust and berate them for not handing over further monies.

Legal advice states that the Agreement is valid against CUFC Holdings and that the Consent signed is invalid. This would mean that the transfer of shares from John

Courtenay to Fred Story is in contravention of the original agreement. This is advice from the most senior lawyers in the country and NOT an allegation made by the Trust. Much has been made about the cost of legal fees. Just to repeat NO COST FOR LEGAL FEES IS BEING MET BY TRUST FUNDS.

Directors of the club have passed off the dilution issue as good business practice. In fact the ability of Fred Story to continue to sell shares to 3rd parties thus reducing the Trust's shareholding would NEVER be agreed to in any business transaction.

Imagine the situation where you buy a house valued at £800,000, next year you are told that the person from whom you bought the house wants to sell the garden, bedrooms, kitchen and lounge to someone else, but you can keep the rest of the house for the time being. Now all of a sudden you have half a house for the £800,000 you paid. The next year more is sold off, you could end up with the broom cupboard for £800,000. That ladies and gentlemen is called dilution, and that's what we are being asked to accept. Hard as we have tried to explain this to the media the message has not been printed. The Trust want and will pay for 40% of shares, we have the £600,000 required. In the years to come we want supporters to have 40% of shares not diluted to 8% or less as has been stated. We have a responsibility to the generations of Cumbrians who succeed us to ensure their interests in the Club are protected.

The Trust do not wish to proceed to court to resolve this and have again asked for a meeting with the club to try and resolve this by way of negotiation. If the club's present stance continues however, we shall be obliged, as Trustees of the Trust's money to take whatever action is necessary to protect the Trust's existing investment in the company.

A massive on-going PR campaign has been launched against the Trust by professionals employed by the Club much of which is simply untrue. In a series of articles the Trust have been called many things not least of all extremists by Steve Pattison.

Ladies and gentlemen an extremist is 'a person who holds extreme or fanatical political or religious views and subscribes to extreme action'. We have never sunk to the depths of some, gutter press allegations levelled against us, neither have we openly criticised directors of CUFC or the manager. Sadly the off pitch situation and run of poor results were blamed on the Trust. Comments such as "I supposed we will have to call them supporters" and the fact we were not "real supporters" is unacceptable, we have supported the Club for 50 years We are some of the many fans who attend both home and away games - as you can see by the brochure and handout on your seat we are exactly the same people as we were when we set out in 2001.

Brunton Park new PR propaganda machine started to roll, sadly led by the owner and directors who also enlisted the support of the manager and local MP, with printed comments such as:

- United Chairman Blasts Trust - Andrew Jenkins
- Vote of no confidence in Kate Rowley and Alan Steel - Lord David Clark of Windermere
- Secret society - Lord David Clark of Windermere
- A disgrace - Andrew Jenkins

- Never experienced the off field turmoil the club has been subjected to in recent months - Andrew Jenkins
- Keen for the Trust to buy 40 per cent stake, but want the freedom to sell the shares to others in the future - Fred Story
- Pattison declares war on the Trust Extremists - Steve Pattison
- A word from the Chairman (programme notes 12th March 05 and Official website 13.3.05) Trust making decisions to intentionally disrupt and disunite the club and supporters and accuses Alan Steel of trying to get shot of the (United) board - Andrew Jenkins
- The only way forward is to get shot of the (Trust) board members, There is no reasoned argument behind what they are doing - Lord David Clark of Windermere.
- But possibly the worst of all was when the comment was made "I suppose we will have to call them fans".

Much has been said in the press both in articles and letters. Not something that was started by the Trust, we have been blamed for poor performances on the pitch and much more, but possibly the shortest letter of all said everything.

3 wins in a row - I blame the Trust.

I ask the following questions of Fred:

Why won't you sell the agreed shares to the Trust, on the terms of our agreement, we have the money for the 40%, money you say is much needed by the club, We want that 40% for generations to come, so what's the hold up?

Throughout, the people sitting on this platform have acted with dignity and truth, we have been lambasted personally and in the press by those who have charge of our club. Called extremists we are nothing more than fans.

In the audience is Brooks Milesen who has kindly agreed to answer any questions you may have in regard to his reasons for donating money to the Trust, his involvement with the Trust and to squash once and for all any suggestions of his ulterior motives for helping supporters achieve their objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen the floor is now open to you to ask any questions you wish. Unfortunately we may not be able to answer in full some of your questions which relate directly to the ongoing legal process.

The United Trust - Update

Dear Member

Let us first offer our warmest congratulations to everyone at the club for the magnificent performance of the team on the field, which led to our promotion back to Nationwide League 2, and further congratulations to our magnificent supporters who contributed so much to that achievement. The supporters were perhaps not always appreciated, in some cases even having their loyalty questioned after 50 years of supporting the Club, but nevertheless to the players and manager - well done!

In furtherance of our aims we signed a legally binding contract in 2003 to acquire up to 49% of the shares in the Club's Holding Company. Thanks to the more than

£200,000 of donations from several hundred ordinary fans and one single donation of £600,000 made specifically to allow the completion of the purchase of the first 40% of the shares, (the largest single donation ever made to a Trust anywhere ever), the Trust now have the funds to complete the purchase of those shares. Because of the public attacks made on the validity of our contract we have been obliged to take the necessary legal steps to validate the contract before transferring further money to the Club. We remain hopeful that the issues can be resolved in the very near future. It is heartening that despite the torrent of spin and propaganda against us, having recently undertaken a survey of our membership, the result of which is attached, the overwhelming majority of our members continue to support us in our purchase of the 40% shareholding.

Propaganda

It has been suggested many times in the press, even by the Editor of the News and Star himself in his editorial, and sadly also by management at the club, that the Trust's activities in raising £800,000 for the benefit of the Club somehow adversely affected the performance of the players. Let us assure you that each of the many players we have spoken to recently, confirms that this propaganda IS as nonsensical as it sounds. To understand how players really feel about off-field matters one only has to look at the words of Rio Ferdinand of Manchester United referring to the take-over situation there, "Our aim is to win and nothing that happens off the pitch is going to get in the way of our goal, we are professionals". Our players are also professionals.

It is indeed unfortunate that it has become a regular feature of the local press for the Trust to be the target of a stream of baseless and unfounded allegations. We can only wonder at the motivation of the people who issue such comments and the people who appear to delight in printing it. The Trust's objectives have remained unchanged from the day it was established. Our aim remains to ensure that the Club, its assets and its interests are protected for its supporters forever by achieving a shareholding and permanent supporter-elected representation on the Board of the Club.

Trojan Horse

Since it has received virtually no recognition elsewhere, neither from management, directors nor the club in general, let us also record here our debt of gratitude to one of the most prominent supporters of the Trust movement throughout the British Isles, **Brooks Milesen**. Brooks apart from supporting Gretna also supports Clubs at Penrith, Whitby, Workington, Berwick, Dundee United and a host of others, and has recently made another donation to Dundee United to allow their Trust to have a 40% share holding in their club. Both the Club and Trust at Dundee United were so delighted he was their guest at the recent Scottish Cup final. At CUFC he has financed and continues to finance many of our regular first team squad - at a projected cost of £500,000, and together with the gift to the Trust of

£600,000, that is more than £1m in straight donations which will end up in Carlisle United's coffers - and nothing asked for in return. Where would we have been this season without Vieira, Hawley, Lumsdon, Westwood, Livesey, and Grand etc., all brought to the Club and financed by Brooks Mileson's donations? Certainly not back in League 2. Some people don't seem to complain about the donations made directly by Brooks to the club.

In the middle of last year, when the Trust needed money to meet its obligations under the agreement and we were told that the commitment given by Fred Story to match each £1 raised by the Trust with £1 of his own could not be honoured, an approach was made to Brooks Mileson for financial help. This help was simply and freely given. No 'hidden agenda'. No 'hidden agenda' either for the money donated to finance the players. A simple desire to see the Trust and the Club do well. A huge thank you to Brooks Mileson who has made a reality our ability to pay for our shares and thus put finance into the club. Again, no 'hidden agenda'.

Bizarre campaign

In the course of last season efforts were made through the local press to change the Trust's leadership and its aims by urging supporters to join the Trust and oust its board. Thousands of leaflets were left on seats at Brunton Park, messages were passed across the scoreboard, announcements made and individuals approached by directors of the club. At the same time the Trust board was being called 'extremists' and 'not real fans' by the Club's directors and management. Simply put, those responsible for the management of the Club were endeavouring to overthrow an elected body representing supporters. Not only were they doing that but the Club's directors were openly abusive to members of the Trust committee at every possible opportunity. As a result of this bizarre inaccurate campaign many hundreds of new members DID join the Trust, but their intention was not to undermine its people and its objectives but to support them. Consequently Trust membership has now once again reached the levels achieved in the weeks following its launch in 2001.

Open Meeting

The Trust needs no PR professional. It has nothing to hide and therefore an approach was made to both BBC Radio Cumbria and CFM to hold an open forum along with representatives from the Club live on air, at which we would have been more than happy to give our responses to any and all questions asked by the listeners. The Club refused to attend and coverage of the Trust's position by the local media has continued to be scrappy, biased and in many cases simply untrue. For our part we held an open meeting where we answered all comers and dumbfounded many, and thankfully a national newspaper heard of the situation and printed a passably unbiased report on the situation at the Club. (Paul Kelso's article in the Guardian Newspaper 2.5.05)

We will never be dragged down to the level of those waging the war of words against us for their own reasons. And, whilst it may even cause some frustration

to some of our own members, we will never indulge ourselves in base propaganda or respond to it - that forms no part of the purpose of the Trust. Despite severe provocation each member of the Trust board has and will act with professionalism when representing its members and will remain focused on the issues.

Legal Advice

Criticism has also been levelled at us for our use of solicitors in dealing with issues raised by the Club's owners in relation to our contract. We had no option. The matters we deal with concern hundreds of thousands of pounds of your money and the effects of what we do will have ramifications for the club for decades. We have onerous legal obligations as Trust directors and will always act responsibly after taking the best advice available. Fortunately the cost of our legal advice has always been sponsored by a succession of anonymous donations. We continue to receive the support and advice from Supporters' Direct.

Conclusion

Many thanks once again for all of your efforts in taking the Trust forward to a position of greater strength. We have never changed our objectives since our launch and we look forward to a year in which those objectives will rapidly be met and to our club's rapid progress up through the divisions.

If you feel that the information contained within this update would help to explain the situation please feel free to pass this letter onto other supporters who may not be members of the Trust.

Up the blues

The United Trust Board

The result of Survey

Number of members surveyed	934
Returned forms	641
Support for the acquisition of shares under the 2003 Agreement	461
Opposed to the acquisition of shares under the 2003 Agreement	180
Percentage turnout of members	68.5%
Percentage of members who support the acquisition of shares under the 2003 Agreement	72%
Against	28%

In view of the overwhelming outcome of this survey the board of the Trust will continue to negotiate the acquisition of shares under the 2003 Agreement.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of the United Trust

Brooks Mileson - Press Release

As a supporter of Carlisle United FC I was offended by Fred Story's recent public comments in relation to my discretionary donation of £600,000 to the Carlisle United Supporters Trust.

Mr Story has made a number of unsupported assertions in respect of the conduct of both the Trust and myself, which are both inaccurate and misleading to the general public.

The Trust approached me with a request to provide funding which would enable it to increase its shareholding in the Clubs parent company, CUFC Holdings Limited, to 40%. Since I am a strong advocate of supporters' trusts generally, I was happy to be in a position to assist. However, for the avoidance of doubt, I do not currently and have not held any official position with the Trust nor am I able to exercise any influence over the conduct of its affairs.

While Mr Story has speculated widely about the terms attached to the gift of these funds. I can confirm that my donation to the Trust was subject to only one condition; namely that the Trust used those funds solely for the purpose of purchasing shares in the parent company of the Club by exercising an option available to it under the terms of the 2003 Agreement with the previous owner John Courtenay. If the funds could not be applied for this specific purpose they were to be returned to me. This arrangement was confirmed in writing at the Trusts request.

I consider that I have acted like any other reasonably prudent benefactor of a trust or other community association, in taking the necessary steps to ensure that funds donated by me were to be applied for the very purpose for which they were sought, particularly in view of the sum involved.

Notwithstanding the stated purpose of my donation, I have in the interests of both parties further agreed with the Trust that should they consider it to be appropriate and expedient under the circumstances, they may use those funds to negotiate with Mr Story in respect of any specific issues arising from the 2003 Agreement.

In addition, it is widely acknowledged that I have previously made donations to and/or concluded arrangements with the Club for specific projects, including the sponsorship of individual players and the Youth Academy football kit. Such donations are similarly for specified purposes and have not been queried by the Trust or any other party who could be perceived as having an interest in the Club.

I take exception to both the content and manner of Mr Story's comments and have instructed my legal advisors to prepare and commence proceedings against him for defamation and libel in accordance with the relevant protocol.

20th June 2005

Released with the permission of Brooks Mileson

Press Statement The United Trust

The Trust misled on the share reduction vote

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT PRESS STATEMENTS released from Brunton Park and verbally made by Fred Story on both BBC Radio Cumbria and Border Television regarding his offer of shares to the United Trust, The Carlisle and Cumbria United Supporters Trust feel that those who organised and voted in the 2004 resolution to negotiate with the owners of Carlisle Football Club to reduce the potential ownership of the Trust in the holding company that owns the Club, CUFC Holdings Limited ("CUFC"), to 25.1% were misled.

The Trust has an agreement with the previous owner of CUFC, John Courtenay, for the Trust to acquire a maximum of 49% of the shares in CUFC. The Trust currently holds 20% of the shares in CUFC and has an option to acquire another 29%.

You may remember that the Trust were approached by John Courtenay, who claimed that he needed immediate cash for the Club to pay a tax bill and openly stated at a meeting of the Trust that the club was in financial difficulties and asked for help from the Trust. John Courtenay asked the Trust to relinquish their first option over a further 20% of the shares in CUFC to enable him to offer those shares to a third party for the much needed cash. The Trust agreed in principle to negotiate relinquishing this option because it was thought that the funds to release the club from its debts could not be raised in any other way other than selling those shares and the Trust did not, at that time, have sufficient funds to pay for these shares.

The statement on the internet made by John Courtenay last December was therefore viewed by the Trust with great interest, as it appears that the reason the Trust was approached to relinquish its option was to placate the future owner of CUFC, Fred Story:

"I felt and still feel that the way forward for Clubs such as Carlisle is through the fans ownership or involvement. That does not mean that is the only way and obviously Fred does not think that and he has every right not to and he never hid the fact that he did not want the trust to have a holding of 49% or anything like that. Before I sold the Club to him he made this point and I asked the trust to forego its right to 49% and accept (when paid for) 25.1%"

It appears therefore, that the Trust board and its members were misled into voting for one thing when the reason for seeking a reduction of shares was for an altogether different reason.

The United Trust 21.6.05

Millionaire Scores With Football's Grassroots

Soccer philanthropist nurtures the lower leagues
via handouts to supporters' trusts

Paul Kelso - Sports correspondent The Guardian

In a league table of football's most extravagant philanthropists, Brooks Milesen would trail some way behind Roman Abramovich. In the lower reaches of the British professional game, however, the chain-smoking, pony-tailed insurance millionaire is proving an influential and controversial as the Russian oligarch.

While Abramovich has spent £250m on reviving Chelsea, who secured their first league championship in 50 years, Milesen's millions - his fortune is estimated in excess of £75m have been dispensed across the lower leagues of the English and Scottish game to startling effect.

The clubs he has assisted are almost as numerous as the exotic animals the 58 year old nurtures on his 40-hectare (100 acres) sanctuary north of Carlisle. From a 17th century mansion overlooking fields filled with llama, alpaca, ostrich and wallaby, Milesen distributes funds to clubs from Dundee to Whitby and most stations in between.

"My wife said to me the other day, "You would go and watch two teams of spiders push a ball about" and she's right," he says by way of explanation, gasping on an apparent everlasting Marlboro Light. "Football is about communities and the grassroots, and to get that buzz you have to be involved with the clubs."

Milesen has made, or is about to make, donations to supporters' trusts at Berwick, Dundee, Montrose and East Fife, and his company sponsors clubs in Penrith, Whitby, where he is president, and Workington, where he is vice-president. As if to emphasise his commitments to the muddy roots of the game, his holding company sponsors the Northern League in perpetuity via a trust.

The most significant of his investments, however, lie either side of the English-Scottish border at Carlisle and Gretna. By investing massively in the latter, and backing the supporters' trust at the former, the self-made Wearsider has become a contentious figure in his adopted town.

Two years ago, frustrated in his attempt to buy Carlisle United after it had fallen into administration under its controversial former owner Michael Knighton, Milesen turned his attention 11 miles north to Gretna. Famous for shotgun weddings but little else the border town's football team - average gate 65 - had the previous season been elected to the Scottish third division, the bottom run of the professional game.

Demonstrating spending power unrivalled outside the Glasgow clubs, Milesen set about transforming Gretna. With a full staff including strikers signed from the top divisions they have marmalised the opposition in the largely part-time league, breaking records at every turn. They were promoted by February and have scored more than 120 goals. Hat-trick scorers are rewarded with a week's loan of the proprietor's Aston Martin Vanquish,

and the man of the match gets two days in a Jaguar XKR.

Milesen now plans a 6,000 seat stadium for Gretna (population 3,149) to fulfil his ambition of taking them to the Scottish Premier League, prompting fears that Gretna will compete for Carlisle's fan base, and an abundance of conspiracy theories.

Despite spending millions on Gretna "it's loads of Zeros", is a specific as he will get - Milesen's interest in Carlisle, financial and personal, has not eased. A regular at Brunton Park when Gretna are not playing, Milesen has poured money into the club in sponsorship: he says £500,000 the club say £200,000.

Most controversially of all he has also donated £600,000 to the Carlisle Supporters Trust to enable the fans to take a stake in their club. This offer, the largest single donation in the history of the burgeoning trust movement, has taken Milesen into open conflict with the club's present owner, the local construction millionaire Fred Story.

Story believes Milesen is using the trust as a Trojan horse to take control of the club by the back door. Story's view is backed by the Labour peer Lord Clark of Windermere who is also dubious about Milesen's motives and has resigned from the trust board.

For his part Milesen claims he is simply a fan with deep pockets, a view shared by the trust who, according to the chair, Kate Rowley, simply want what they are entitled to and are grateful to Milesen for the chance to get it.

As well as stirring local tensions, Milesen's gift has raised questions about the vulnerability of trusts to abuse by wealthy benefactors, the very thing they are designed to protect against.

The trust movement is one of football's great success stories. Based on a mutually owned democratic model, 61 supporters' trusts hold equity in English and Scottish clubs and around 39 have board representations. At Carlisle, however, some are concerned that its trust may be being taken for a ride.

The dispute has its roots in an undertaking made by the last-but-one-owner John Courtenay, who agreed to sell the trust 40% of the club for £800,000. He also agreed to allow a trust representative to join the club board, and granted the trust a veto over who could buy the club.

Story, who has kept the club afloat with an interest-bearing £2m loan, was not willing to accept that deal. Initially he offered the supporters 25% then said he would match every £1 raised by the trust. He then withdrew that offer, at which point the trust went to Milesen. To Rowley's amazement, he agreed to make up the shortfall with his £600,000 cheque.

Story says he is willing to negotiate with the trust, but will not accept its veto, fearing it will open the door for Milesen. "It's totally unacceptable for the minority shareholder to have power of veto," He says "Say I want to sell - and I do not - they could stop me selling to

anyone except who they supported. And with wealthy benefactors having influence, that could be a person who does not have Carlisle's best interests at heart.

"I am not interested in making a penny out of Carlisle. This club is too important to the local community to be the plaything of one man, it's about the town, not an ego."

Mileson denies he is interested in a takeover "I have been lucky enough to make a bob or two and I'm very passionate about the things that I do. I've got one kidney that operates at 50%, I've got ME, so the whole buzz of the way that I am and the way that I operate helps me.

"The club say this is Brooks trying to get in by the back door, but that's absolute nonsense. It is a trust, it's independent, it will be around long after I'm gone, and I have no control over what the trust does beyond being a member."

The dispute between the two millionaires will not be settled before Carlisle's play-off fate is known. What is certain, regardless of whether they return to the Football League, is that when it comes to support, for once the club is spoiled for choice.

Ups and mostly downs of 30 years

- Carlisle United's supporters are desperate for a stake in the club to prevent a repeat of the indignities of the past decade, during which the club became synonymous with crisis.
- Cumbria's only professional club peaked in the 1974 - 5 season when they were briefly top of the first division, but since then struggle had been their watchword.
- Michael Knighton, a businessman who tried and failed to buy Manchester United, arrived at the club in 1992 and promised he would make them richer than United, only to lead them to administration. Hated by supporters, he was ridiculed after reporting an alien sighting, then lost further credibility when presenting Stephen Brown as the club's saviour, only for him to be revealed as a part-time barman in a Peebles curry house.
- Drama on the field matched the madness off it in 1999, when a last minute goal in the final game of the season by the goalkeeper, Jimmy Glass, kept Carlisle in the league. It proved a stay of execution as they were relegated to the conference last season.
- With the club in administration Knighton was eventually replaced by John Courtenay, who then sold out to Fred Story last summer.

10,000 plus miles for our Conference year.

Next season will be a little easier on the Blues Travelling Supporters. Cup matches aside they will have 400 miles less to travel over the season to see the league game. The longest of our trips will be Torquay at a massive 740 miles. We can only hope that the Football league do not do a Conference on us and make it a 1pm kick off like they did for Canvey Island which resulted in a 4am start from Carlisle, but if they do we will still be there.

There are numerous trips of last season that stand out in my mind but three come to mind immediately and for very different reasons.

I bet the Chairman of Forrest Green Rovers had tears in his eyes when Carlisle returned to the Football league. It was our first trip to their ground and they had really pushed the boat out for us. We obliged by spending as much as possible in the small but very friendly social club. Those of us who got there early saw an elderly gentleman in the car park, he told our driver where to park, he then popped up again in the social club telling us they had put two bars on so we didn't have to hang about. They had heard we liked a drink and spent very well. The man was sighted again selling raffle tickets and helping with catering requirements. As we went through the turnstiles there he was again making everyone welcome - so who was this fella? Turns out to be the Chairman. We know that much needed finance transferred hands that day but the hospitality was wonderful.

Leigh RMI - narrow street and a back lane entrance. Our driver negotiated potholes the size of craters. Little if no lighting and a very sad looking place altogether. A fellow supporter said "this is nothing wait until you see Canvey Island". You can imagine how we were looking forward to that trip!

Canvey Island was a journey to the unknown. As we turned into the car park we were met by a charming attendant who directed those requiring a watering hole to the nearest, he gave instructions that they were to knock on the door and say they were from Carlisle. It worked, the pub was open for business. On entering the ground all ladies and children were given an Easter egg. Friendly staff and beautiful weather - what more could we want - a result!

All in all it has been an interesting season but not one we want to repeat again in a hurry.

Travelling Blue

Address:- CUOSC, 19 St Edmunds Park, Carlisle, Cumbria. CA2 6TS

Website:- www.cuosc.co.uk **E-Mail:-** info@cuosc.co.uk **Telephone Number:-** 07968 498941

Address:- The United Trust, Warwick House, Allenbrook Road, Rosehill, Carlisle Cumbria. CA1 2UT

Website:- www.ccuist.org **E-Mail:-** info@ccuist.org **Telephone Numbers:-** 07968 741128 and 07968 498941

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT KATE ROWLEY