



Crawley Town Supporters Alliance

# One For All

The Newsletter of the Crawley Town Supporters Alliance

Issue 2

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## Investing in the future- CTSA announce Centre of Excellence Sponsorship



**Simon Rusk received a cheque for £5000 from Alliance Board members Barb Robinson and Simon Smith. Also pictured- players from the Centre of Excellence, the Golden Gamble Girls, and Reece Smith- a future CTFC left back!**

Crawley Town will never be Manchester City. We will never be able to go out and buy the best players in the world at enormous prices. We will never be Arsenal or Chelsea either; able to let other clubs develop good young players before picking them up for a song. If we want to compete and be sustainable in the long term we have to, for want of a better phrase, "grow our own". That is why the work of the Centre of Excellence is so important.

Since last summer Simon Rusk and his dedicated team have taken on the near impossible job of building an entire academy structure from scratch in what seems like ten minutes flat. CTFC now has successful teams at every age range from under 9 to under 16's, plus- of course- a Youth Team already exceeding expectations. Most of the players within the youth set up come from Crawley and the surrounding area, and this is how it should be- the club at the centre of the community and the community at the centre of the club.

The Crawley Town Supporters Alliance was formed to assist the success of our football club and our community and to represent the interests of CTFC supporters. On that basis it seems only right- as agreed at the EGM- that we do all we can to support the Centre of Excellence. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November we proudly announced a sponsorship deal which will see the players from Under 9 to Under 16 wearing the CTSA logo on their shirts for the remainder of this season and all of next season. We also relaunched Golden Gamble, with much of the profit also going to the Centre of Excellence, and we are committed to working alongside Simon and his team to help bring success to the club in the future. We are sure that all CTFC supporters join with us to wish Simon and his academy scholars success for this season and beyond- particularly as if that success is forthcoming, we all reap the benefit.

## Have a laugh with CTFC!

In these days of financial crisis and austerity measures, everyone's in need of a good laugh! Who'd have thought that Crawley Town FC could help with that (anyone who saw last month's pictures of David Hunt's moustache on Twitter is excluded from answering that question)?

On Thursday 15th December Redz Bar will host its inaugural comedy night, where a selection of Britain's finest up and coming comedians (and one Bavarian), including the acclaimed Flange Krammer -possibly the son of David Hasselhoff (allegedly!)- will give you up to date skiing tips and Steve Evans will lecture on the secret of a perfect physique (I may have made the last one up). (Sorry for all the brackets, I got a job lot cheap and have to use them up!)

**CRAWLEY TOWN F.C.**  
Hosts  
**THE F.A. CLUB**  
Thursday 15th December  
Stand up comedy in Redz Bar  
Tickets £7 in Advance from the club  
£9 on the door  
Doors: 7pm Show: 8pm-10.30pm

**Flange Krammer**  
He is brilliant! The finest character comedian I've seen in years. - Matt Forder (BBC Radio 6)

**PRIME CUTS**  
Live act may be subject to change  
www.primecutscomey.com

Tickets are a measly seven quid in advance and available now from reception, or nine quid on the door. The show starts at 8, but if you like you can turn up a whole hour early, get a pitcher of fine ale, claim the best seats and sneer with contemptuous self regard at any latecomers (that isn't compulsory, by the way)!



*Bell Ringing Paul, James "Bambi Killer" Laraman and Travel Ken would like to take you for a ride.....and bring you back.....and Alf, stop trying to hide at the back, we all know it's you!*

## HAVE YOU SEE THESE MEN?

*Warning- do not approach (unless you'd like to travel to Crewe, Oxford or some other far flung part of the football empire.....)!*

**At 8AM on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December we're off to Gresty Road to watch our mighty Reds play Crewe Alexandra. And if you travelled with us to Rotherham, you can go for nothing!**

As you may know, we had a few technical issues with the coach at Rotherham. We and WH Coaches were rather embarrassed by that even though, in the end, we arrived home only 15 minutes behind schedule. On that basis, and to thank you for your support and patience, all of those who went to Rotherham can travel to Crewe without paying a penny. If you can't go, or have already paid for your trip to Gresty Road, you can defer your free trip to another game!

**Fares for Crewe are £15 for members, £20 for non-members and £10 for members under-16 accompanied by a responsible adult.** But remember that last bit- Under 16's must be accompanied by a responsible adult, and we need to know up front who that responsible adult is!



On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, shake off that New Year Hangover for a Bank Holiday Trip to Oxford United- and see if we can manage a 4-1 away win to go with the 4-1 home win! The Alliance Coaches will leave the Broadfield at 11AM.

**Fares for this match will be an astonishing £10 for all!** But remember that Under 16's must be accompanied by a responsible adult, and we need to know up front who that responsible adult is!

There are a number of ways to book Alliance Travel:

1. Visit Travel Ken in the Alliance Cabin on matchdays.
2. Call Travel Ken on 07843124845
3. Email [travel@ctfcsa.co.uk](mailto:travel@ctfcsa.co.uk)
4. Call into CTFC Reception at the Broadfield during office hours.

### Win a signed CTFC Away shirt!

For every trip you make with us during November and December you receive one entry into a competition to win a signed away shirt. This will be presented to the lucky winner on the pitch before the match against Barnet on 30<sup>th</sup> December. So if you haven't booked for Crewe yet, don't delay!

## Farewell to the King and Queen of Argentina!

Sergio's Mum and Dad have travelled to Bury and Rotherham with us whilst paying a visit to Sergio and his family. Our home FA Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Round match against Redbridge, however, was their last match with us before they head back to South America. We'd just like to thank them for their delightful company, for letting us eat all of Sergio's favourite sweets, and for letting us in on a few secrets. Let's just say that Sergio would undoubtedly be much better appearing as a footballing celebrity on Strictly than Robbie "not allowed in the Broadfield" Savage! Bon Voyage, and hurry back! We hope they will think fondly of us whilst sipping coffee from a CTSA Mug and watching replays of that goal against Derby!

(Oh, and thanks to Nikki for all the translation. Football may be an international language, but it was still good to have someone who spoke fluent Spanish!).



## Alliance- or not?

When the CTSA was formed in the summer, the principle was that Crawley Town supporters would all work together to help build a positive future for our football club and our community. Since that point, we've worked very hard to build the organisation, and we thank you for your support and suggestions. But we've also noticed a little friction of late.

In an ideal world, we would like all CTFC supporters to follow the team away by boarding an Alliance coach. We think we provide an exceptional service and great value; and we also put our profits back into initiatives which bring our club and our community closer together. But we also appreciate that some people like to drive, to go by train, or to use an alternative coach provider. What we don't want is friction between the travelling factions. And recently there has been a little of that.

The most important message we'd like to send out to all CTFC supporters is that we want the people of our community to be united in supporting our football team. We want them to promote our club and our community for the mutual benefit of us all. What is important is that we all stand (or sit) together and encourage our team in a positive, united way. That we're the "Twelfth Man", if you like. Whether you board an Alliance coach or not, you're important to our club. And that's something we should never forget. So we'd ask you to all remember that, show the love, and be united as a Red Army!

## Golden Gamble- the return!

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November the Alliance relaunched the Golden Gamble in a flurry of publicity and with a fanfare of trumpets (well, one out of two isn't bad!). First prize of £165 went to Andy Hubner, pictured left with the photogenic members of the Golden Gamble team (sorry James!). Andy had probably the longest journey of any CTFC supporter, given that he comes from Malta. We hope that the prize money meant he enjoyed his visit even more.

Golden Gamble is designed to raise funds which we will split between the Centre of Excellence and our "Football in the Community" projects. So when you buy a ticket not only do you get the opportunity to win one of two cash prizes (or a third prize of a signed football donated by the club), but you can rest assured that your cash is being invested in the future success of your football club and your community.

Tickets are available outside and inside the ground, priced at 50p each. Look out for our Golden Gamble sellers, put your hand in your pocket, and you'll be a winner in every way!



## Soccer Schools- CTSA & CTFC in the Community- Bewbush Community Primary School

CTSA's latest community initiative has introduced youngsters from Bewbush and Broadfield to the benefits of professional football coaching- and to the joy of being part of Crawley Town FC. John Hooper and Colin Lowes (CTSA Community Officers) have been pivotal in this process and John was very pleased with progress after visiting Bewbush Community Primary School last Thursday. He explained "CTSA have been funding young CTFC coaches to take 45 minute after-school football sessions for the past 8 weeks". He added "I was amazed at the energy levels shown by the children and it was clear that everyone was having fun."

Deputy Head teacher Matt Batchelor said "this scheme has been fantastic, our pupils have really enjoyed themselves and skill levels have flourished over the past few weeks". He added ' there is real kudos for these kids to train with Crawley Town coaches"! After such a success at Bewbush and Broadfield Primary the Crawley Town Supporters Alliance will be endeavouring to roll this programme out to further schools in the new year. And we'd particularly like to thank Dean Smart (Bewbush Games Master), who was unwell last Thursday and missed the presentation, for all of his encouragement and support.

## Monthly Liaison Meetings



Upon the formation of the Crawley Town Supporters Alliance it was confirmed that Alliance representatives would meet with Alan Williams, the Chief Executive of CTFC, on a monthly basis. The purpose of this meeting would be to enhance constructive dialogue between the supporters of CTFC and the club itself, and to allow supporters to have their suggestions and other issues raised directly with the board.

Meetings will be held on the first Friday of every month, with dates for the rest of the season as follows: 6th January 2012, 3rd February 2012, 2nd March 2012, 6th April 2012, 4th May 2012. If you have any issues which you would like us to raise, please contact us via the contact form on the website, email to chairman@ctfcsa.co.uk or write via CTSA, 17, Chatfields, Gossops Green, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 8PZ. Oh, and you can approach us directly at home and away games and we will be glad to listen! If we could have your information by the Wednesday preceding the meetings to give us chance to prepare, that would also be a great help. Thanks again for all your support!

Follow the Crawley Town Supporters Alliance on the web at [www.ctfcsa.co.uk](http://www.ctfcsa.co.uk) ,on twitter @ctsalliance or via our Facebook Page

