



UBAFC

END OF SEASON REPORT 2021/22



August 2022

REFLECTIONS FROM OUTGOING CLUB CAPTAIN, RYAN DONOVAN

It's been an absolute pleasure being Club Captain of UBAFC this season, working with some great people and seeing players enjoying their football again after a strange couple of years. There have been so many highlights, which I have had the honour of overseeing, but I'll let the team captains talk about those.

It was a strange period at the start of the season, with new teams getting to know each other, and we were trying to place people in teams for the first time. It seemed as though we had lost our touch as a successful football club for the first months, however at some point around the Christmas period everything seemed to click, and successes began on the pitch. By the end we had some great finishes from teams in the leagues and some unbelievable results in the cups. Team captains did an amazing job of persevering, and deserve much credit for this, a lot more than people give them credit for. The 2's vs 3's title charge was something which really sticks out for me, and just proves what a force we are as a club. Having two teams at the top of the league, in what was a very competitive season for the Western 2A, is a massive statement.

Next, I'd like to say a big thank you to my committee. I feel as though many roles haven't had anywhere near as much credit as they truly deserve. A couple of things stand out for me, and can be pushed even further by Pat and his new committee; the Family system, and under-the-lights events. Stan did a great job setting up the system, which was implemented well by the committee. However, there is definitely a case for more social events where the family system is used. As is true for every season, it's so important for the freshers to feel comfortable from the off.

Moving onto under-the-lights events: this is something I am so proud of our committee for. For me, we haven't made a big enough deal out of it in past seasons, and it is the perfect opportunity to show the university just how important we really are. Having 200+ people in attendance for the 1's Cup game was seriously impressive and for that we owe a big thanks to the committee for all the pre-planning and work behind the scenes. This is also something which can be taken further again, and I fully expect Pat to take the reins on that.



Moving forward, the club is in great hands with Pat and his new committee. Everyone seems 100% committed to taking this club to even better places, with many plans already being implemented. Get behind these boys, and the club will thrive. I look forward to seeing it in motion!

Finally, I think it's important to mention Tyers, our 1st team coach. The man is UBAFC through and through, and I promise you we would be going nowhere without him. I owe him a massive thank you, and so do you all. The dedication shown, year in year out, is something that we should all aspire to, towards UBAFC, and any other commitments you have in life. I know that there are big plans in place to provide Tyers with more resources, so once again, get behind the club. The more you put in, the more you get out.

It's been a pleasure, and I am so grateful for the opportunity. **DONOVAN**

UBAFC NEW SEASON 2022/23 CLUB CAPTAIN, PAT GIBBS

Before I talk about next year, on behalf of the whole club I want to say a massive thank you to Donovan for everything he did for our Club last season. To pick up the Club in that strange post-Covid era and have a successful year on and off the pitch was not an easy job, so a massive thank you to him and all of last year's Committee who worked so hard for us all. We will miss all the boys leaving very much and thank you all for what you have brought to our club. I want to also say thank you to all of the boys who stepped forward for this year's committee – we are already a strong unit and will work hard for all of you.

Tyers and I are really looking forward to this new season. We have high ambitions to build on everything that was achieved last year, both on and off the pitch, and can't wait to get going again and to welcome the new freshers into our UBAFC family.

I have already been working with the Sports, Exercise and Health Centre hoping to introduce a Sports Coordinator role for UBAFC. This gives us several benefits, including an **all-inclusive pre-season** at Dingle starting 22nd August (make sure you sign up) and **extra slots every week on the 3G** for next year! I'm hoping all the boys here next year will be fully committed to a successful season. On top of this, I am sure all the boys will be pleased to know we have managed to secure training in the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. **No more morning sessions!!!!** This should improve turnout at regular sessions as well as giving us the opportunity to reintroduce a "whole club" session on the Friday early evening slot.

More great news is that Cam McEwan, last years' Alumni Secretary, secured a grant for a Veo camera. This means we can live-stream and analyse games! When Tyers and I have worked out how to get the best out of it, we will release more details as to how to live-stream our games. Then players, friends, family and alumni can all access and follow our season!

This does, however, all come at a cost. I know this is not something that has been done before, however we are hoping to draw on the fact that UBAFC was/is an integral and important part of every past and present member's university experience and as a club we are looking for financial support so that we can provide the same service and experience for our boys not only this year, but for many years to come. Details of this are later on in this report.

I am already very excited for this season and I really hope the rest of you boys are too. Our pre-season training kicks off soon and I hope players will make every effort to attend. As Donovan said, the more you put in, the more you get out! See you all soon, **PAT**



WHAT IS UBAFC ALL ABOUT?

- UBAFC is one of the largest sports Club at the university in terms of size of membership and is the most trialled for sport at the uni! Last year saw over 450 trialists and this year we are expecting similar, if not more than this.
- UBAFC has 6 fantastic high quality squads that all compete in BUCS, confirmed again for this year. Whilst we have separate match fixtures, we are all part of the same football family. Every week we support each other and the Club ethos is that we are one Club as opposed to 6 teams, with absolutely no hierarchy based on what team players are in.
- Each week we have one official social together on a Wednesday, match day, where the whole club comes together to have fun off the pitch. This year we are also having a “whole club” training session every week.
- We have recently put out a post on our Instagram inviting prospective students to send us their footballing CVs as we are hoping to welcome some freshers to our pre-season ahead of Freshers Week, when our trials will take place. More information will be released soon.
- We want to ensure our Club is accessible to everyone and our Equality and Welfare Secretary is there to achieve this. This year Kamal, our new E&W Sec will be looking after our boys.
- As a Club, we are always keen to support the local community and charities when we can. As part of this, this year we will be supporting Movember again – last year we raised over £3,500 for this cause that is close to our hearts.
- Contact with our Alumni is really important and something that our 3 Alumni Secretaries this year are looking to expand.

This photo was taken at our first Olisa Odukwe Memorial tournament at the end of last season, which was a fantastic event





This season, we are looking for financial support over and above the membership subs paid by the students. We want to make our UBAFC boys' University football experience the best possible. We want to support every one of them, in all 6 squads. We want them all to have the chance to progress with decent training facilities, improved training slots, improved equipment, and loads of support and togetherness in their UBAFC football family.

We cannot rely only on the members' subs to take us forward and although it is surprising, we get very limited financial support from the central Bristol university pot. We hope that our esteemed alumni, players' parents and friends might be interested in supporting us with our aims. Can you help us?

ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY RAISED WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS...

- **INTRODUCING A DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL** by promoting Alan Tyers to UBAFC Sports Coordinator, costing £5,000. This would not only provide us with a team of back-room professionals to overlook progress but would increase our access to facilities and coaching. UBAFC would become a more professional outfit and the service we are able to provide to our brilliant members would be much improved. More information on the Just Giving page.
- **ADDITIONAL TRAINING SLOTS** throughout the whole season on top of the free allocation (that the university has reduced this year by an hour a week 😞), costing £1,000. Allows every team to have sufficient coaching time.
- **ADDITIONAL 2 WEEKS OF PRE-SEASON** – all hosted at Coombe Dingle with technical and Strength & Conditioning sessions included.
- **NEW EQUIPMENT AND KIT** for the upcoming season, costing between £500-£700.

HOW CAN WE RAISE THE FUNDS NEEDED?

- ✓ Our new Sponsorship Secretary is working hard to develop new partnerships between UBAFC and local businesses. If sponsoring UBAFC is something of interest to you please contact Max at officialubafc@gmail.com. Sponsorship can come in many different forms, and we are more than willing for your business to benefit from our large online platform as well as traditional sponsorships such as kit and equipment.
- ✓ Alumni events are already being planned by the new Alumni Secretaries. Please support them!
- ✓ We have formed a partnership with intramural football, earning the club around £500 a year.
- ✓ We have a new Just Giving donation page. Any donation goes straight to the SU which transfers it to our Club bank account. We will make sure that any contribution, however big or small, is well used, and everyone at UBAFC is very grateful for your help. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ubafc
- ✓ Look out for the chance to subscribe to our live match streaming to keep up with the action!



CAPTAINS' 2021/22 REVIEWS

UBAFC 1's SEASON REVIEW 2021/22 – CAM MCEWAN, CAPTAIN



Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

The 2021/22 season was always going to be challenging post- COVID. We would begin the BUCS season with only the three veterans up top having ever played a BUCS game before.

The season was to be a steep learning curve, but our BUCS campaign got off to a solid start with a 3-1 win away to Gloucester. Next came the worst result in UBAFC 1s history...6-1 loss to a merciless UWE was hard to take. We bounced back with a 4-1 win over Southampton, but this was followed by a mixed bag of results leaving us facing the battle of a four-way relegation scrap after Christmas to prevent the unthinkable.

The first game back in the new year was our first cup match against Brighton, led by interim manager Ryan Donovan, our Club Captain. 120 minutes of ball kicking later and no goals from either side meant we needed an impeccable performance from debutant Kamal in goal to see us thro' on penalties.



The decision to practice pens earlier in the week was a masterclass in preparation by Donovan as all five penalty takers slotted with class!

Next, we won a 7-2 demolition against Marjons, who we beat again two weeks later to shake off any threat of relegation. Our biggest game of the season was to follow, the next round of the cup against a Nottingham 2s side who looked very strong on paper. Despite an early lead with some strong performances we lost 2-1 in a game that could have gone either way. Overall, a valiant performance that demonstrated how far we'd come since the start of the season.

We lost our final BUCs game to Southampton with a below par performance, but there have been huge improvements throughout the season, and this was illustrated with an excellent 2-1 win in our Varsity match against UWE who were league champions. No doubt, the team is in a better starting place for the coming season. Additionally, two or three players who were injured for most of last season will be fully fit for the next campaign. It is important that everyone comes to the pre-season training sessions and gives 100% effort so we can challenge for the league.

Player's Player of the season: Matt Greenwood
Manager's Player of the Season: Chad Mitchell-Turner



BAFC 2's SEASON REVIEW 2021/22 – ALFIE AIREY, CAPTAIN



Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

The 2021/22 season saw Peter Bradbury's 2's seal a place in UBAFC history, winning the Western Division 2A and becoming the first Bristol 2's side ever to gain promotion to Western Tier 1. A title winning campaign ensured not only a highest ever league finish, but also the reality of an interclub clásico next season with both the 1's and 2's competing in the top tier for the very first time.

With Bradders at the wheel, we flew out of the blocks to begin the season with memorable back-to-back victories against Bath 2's and Plymouth 1's. Naturally, the wheels proceeded to come clattering off as we crashed into a nasty pre-Christmas slump, with two defeats in the league to complement a premature cup exit. The togetherness and grit on show after the break was outstanding and ultimately swung things in our favour, culminating in four wins from our final six games. One particular day in Exeter will live long in the memory. After a strange pre match tweet from their camp, we knew a defeat would see them crowned champions whilst a victory would put us massively in the driving seat. Heading towards an anticlimactic 1-1 draw, George Moody-Stuart took it upon himself to rattle home a late, late winner. Pandemonium ensued in front of the Exeter faithful with everyone but caretaker manager Tyers on the pitch. Meanwhile Bradders was on a beach somewhere in Dubai; I'm sure the pina colodas tasted much sweeter after I delivered the news.

We can safely call it a season to remember for everyone involved with the 2's this year – the boys can be immensely proud of themselves. Winning the league in our final year feels a fitting note for myself and the other older boys in the side to go out on, whilst the talented youth within our squad stands the club in good stead for the future.

Bradders, 2nd Team Coach - Our group came a long way from the eleven players in that first session to the squad who would win the Western 2A title in mid-March. In a ridiculously close league, I was proud of how the lads were able to adapt to their opposition, being compact and disciplined to see off talented Bath 2's and Exeter 2's sides, whilst then able to be more expansive against Plymouth 1's and Bristol 3's. Whilst there were strong individual performances, it was the strength of the collective team performances that would see us crowned Western 2A champions.

It was a real pleasure to work with such a great bunch of lads, and a massive thanks to my skipper, Alfie Airey. Winning a league title is always special, especially in BUCS when the margins are so fine. It'll be fantastic for the club to have two teams competing in Division 1 next season for the first time, and I look forward to playing the 1's under the lights in front of a packed Dingle crowd! #The2sAreGoingUp
Manager's Player of the Season: Alfie Airey



The Mighty 3s, it's fair to say are everyone's favourite team. Going into this season we were firm favourites to be relegated from Western 2A with a number of 1s teams in our league and a couple of strong 2s sides from successful footballing uni's. It's also fair to say it's been a bit of a rollercoaster.

After going down to 10 men in the first minute of the first game and losing 4-0, it looked like we had a tough ride ahead. We bounced back against Plymouth 1s with a great victory at the fortress, but a couple of poor results followed, leaving us rock bottom at Christmas. Things were looking bleak.

The new year, however, gave us an opportunity for a fresh start and we grabbed it with both hands. The January fresh settled in well and the team came together and started to believe we could get out of this hole. We went on to do the double over a strong Bournemouth 1s side, which was followed by taking all 3 points away at Plymouth. From relegation favourites to title contenders within 3 matches, the turnaround was sensational!

We now sat on 14 points with 1 game to spare and what better way to end the season than to have a title decider against our 2s. We knew it would be tough as only a win could clinch it for us, but we still came into the game brimming with confidence and that showed on the pitch after a superb first half display. Unfortunately, we couldn't capitalise on our many chances and the 2s nicked a goal on the stroke of half time, leaving us needing at least 2 goals in the 2nd half, which killed the game for us a bit.

The 2s were crowned champions, with us ending the campaign in 3rd. Although it ended in disappointment for us and the feeling of 'what could have been', I could not be prouder of what we have achieved as a team this season and every single player in the squad should have their heads held high.

It has been a pleasure working with and leading this great group of lads and undoubtedly UBAFC is in safe hands going forward.

Manager's Player of the Season: Ben Spano

UBAFC 4's SEASON REVIEW 2021/22 – ED SMILEY, CAPTAIN / MANAGER



The 4s had a tough start to our campaign losing the first couple of games by a three-goal margin. Then there was a great cup game in which we were strong outsiders against USW 2s (having lost 4-0 to their 3s the week before), in which the scores were level at 1-1 for most of the game before USW stole the result in the final minutes. After this we had three tough away games in a row with the results continuing not to go our way. The defence continued to leak goals despite the attack finally being able to find the net more consistently.

The pivotal games were two back-to-back matches against Cardiff Met 4s who were the rivals for relegation. The first was a tight contest away in which we conceded the first goal before scoring a quick equaliser. We were later relegated after giving away a last-minute penalty. The return fixture was an equally competitive fixture finishing 1-1.

Only here did things properly click for the team as we finished our season with two wins beating the best team in the league 4-2 before seeing off UWE in Varsity. This was a fantastic way to end the season and although it wasn't a successful one on paper, there is nothing more important than beating UWE!

Manager's Player of the Season: Cal Livingston



UBAFC 5's SEASON REVIEW 2021/22, FRUIN MACKILLOP-HALL

CAPTAIN/MANAGER



Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

This season held a mixed bag of results for the 5's. We had a strong start with two 2-2 draws against Swansea 3's and Cardiff 4's in the first two games, and put our first BUCS points on the board, leaving us 4th out of 6.

Unfortunately, bad weather and an isolating bus driver saw our next 3 games postponed, and the lads left out of sorely needed game-time, leading to a couple of frustrating losses on the road against UWE 2's and Swansea, and the loom of relegation.

However, the new year led to a renewed vigour in the changing room, and after an unfortunate narrow loss to Hartpury 3's, we faced up to UWE 2's at home. Early goals from Max Mulliri and Luke Stylianou saw UBAFC 5's take the lead 2-1 going into HT.

An incredible defensive display against the UWE onslaught left the scoreline 2-1 in favour of the better university in Bristol, and was the true highlight of the season.

Performances from there on were strong, including a 6-0 trouncing of USW on home turf, not only relegating them and securing our place in the league for next year, but seeing VC Dominic 'Swaz' Lynch tally up his first and last BUCS goal in his penultimate game for the university. We narrowly missed 4th place on goal difference, but enjoyed a good season, nonetheless.

Manager's Player of the Season: Luke Stylianou



UBAFC 6's Season Review 2021/22 – Harry Bassi, Captain/Manager



The 6's season started with a tough game against eventual league winners Cardiff Met. Despite being the better team for most of the game, a late Cardiff Met goal saw them beat us 3-2.

We responded well, comfortably beating Falmouth and Exeter, a strong outfit, 5-2. The start of the season continued to stagger as Bristol 6's were beaten comfortably by a strong UWE 3's 6-1 at Lockleaze.

Questionable refereeing and pitch conditions made an away trip to Bath Spa difficult, but Bristol were able to get over the line in the end and win 2-1 courtesy of a Luke Styllianou double.

The best performance of the season came following a 3-hour journey to the Welsh coast to take on Aberystwyth, where a Carlo stunner helped us cruise to a 3-0 win.

Then a last-minute Whiteside goal helped beat Gloucester Uni 3-2 in a dramatic game which saw a missed UBAFC penalty and some bad behaviour on the pitch. This saw Bristol 6's finish 2nd overall.

A good season but disappointing not to get the top spot which perhaps we deserved. Owen Hall took players' player of the season and was a rock at Centre back all season.

Manager's Player of the Season: Freddie Payne, an inspirational character both on and off the pitch.



UBAFC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022/23 SEASON

Pat Gibbs	Club Captain
Fruin Mackillop-Hall	Vice Club Captain
Chad Mitchell-Turner	Vice Club Captain
Ethan Myers	Match Secretary
James McDougall	Treasurer
Ben Jackson	Vice-Treasurer
Tom Aden	Tour and Charity Secretary
Kamal Nehali	Equality and Welfare Secretary
Ben Spano	Social Secretary
Callum Mountain	Social Secretary
Dan Sutton	Alumni Secretary
Solly Tomlin-Kent	Alumni Secretary
Rory McGoldrick	Alumni Secretary
Max Houchin	Sponsorship Secretary
Harry Chappell	Social Media Secretary
Owen Hall	Kit Secretary

Some old faces from last year's committee plus some fresh new faces join the team. Thanks to all of you for stepping forward and taking on responsibility for your role.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you'd like to discuss any aspect of the Club.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH



You can reach us at officialubafc@gmail.com



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