

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME | SPECIAL ISSUE | £1.50

THE SALT



TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST 2023
CORINTHIAN CASUALS, KING GEORGE'S FIELD, KT9 1TR
KICK-OFF: 7.45PM
STELLA LAMONT TROPHY



Reg Madgwick Stadium, Leg O'Mutton,
Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1AA
(Ground Share with Cobham FC)

OFFICIAL CLUB WEBSITE
www.epsomandewellfc.co.uk

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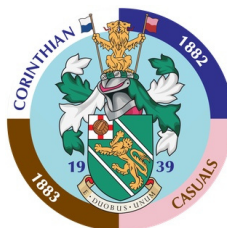
FOOTBALL

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In This Issue..





2023/24
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CLUB PRESIDENT STELLA LAMONT

Good Evening Everyone,

It is a genuine joy to be able to welcome you once again to a trophy match being played in my name. And for those of you unaware who I am, here is a quick overview. I was born in an era when women wore cloche hats and danced the Charleston (when they were not playing football in boots as heavy as hobnails).

My interest in football was kindled in the early years of the 1950s when I began going to matches with my brother-in-law (whose wife never took to the sport). I was happy watching from the terraces for twenty years when a move to Surrey offered an opportunity for greater involvement. My son played for a newly formed club in a newly formed Surrey youth league and I joined the club's committee as secretary. Soon afterwards I stepped up to the league committee as secretary, treasurer, and eventually chairman before settling into the background as life president.

Between times as my interest in nurturing youth football grew, I was pleased to be part of a group that took teams to America and hosted them here. These football and cultural exchanges as they were known fashioned many happy memories and made friends for life. Running parallel to this my interest in semi-professional football was developing. When our youth league finals were played at West Street, Epsom's original ground in Ewell, I couldn't resist the opportunity to become involved here as well, and for thirty years I was part of the hidden wiring - the small and dedicated group who ensure there is club to play for at all -

taking various committee posts and co-writing match day programmes with my great and much missed friend Dave Wilson. At the time of writing, I am two months shy of my ninety-fifth birthday and proud to be club president. You'll understand that the infirmity that goes with being half way down your tenth decade is the reason why I can't be with you today. Not being able to see live football anymore and to share its elations and frustrations in good company - especially when you once routinely attended games home and away, season after season - is, I can tell you, a source of the keenest regret.

When you find yourself only five years away from being a hundred years old, there's a fair chance of there being less life ahead of you than behind. The compromise is to live as thoroughly as possible in the moment. And it is in that spirit that I would like to welcome all the new faces to our club - management, players, and supporters alike - as we begin another chapter of Epsom and Ewell's history, a history that spans just a decade more than my own. And of course, a very warm welcome back to our supporters and officials of long standing.

CLUB PRESIDENT STELLA LAMONT

When I began attending football matches half way through the last century, I would oscillate between the amateur and the professional game in the leafy suburbs of south London or the shadow of its docklands. Whilst I certainly enjoyed both, I soon became most attracted to the scale and camaraderie of the former, and the community of the semi-professional game became my home. So, it seems quite appropriate that this match should be competed between Epsom and Ewell whose games you now know I began watching all of fifty years ago and Corinthian Casuals who are synonymous with the spirit of fair play and edifying conduct, the touchstones of my enthusiasm for and love of the game.

A line you often hear in relation to sport is 'show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser.' But that like the view from the away seats at some grounds I've been to over the years is an obscured one. Though it is rarely quoted, Vince Lombardi went on to say 'but show me a gracious loser and I'll show you someone who is always a winner.' Now that completely turns the meaning on its head. Far from encouraging a win at all costs mentality, the suggestion is that while there should clearly be a natural and proper desire to win there is also reward and dignity in how you accept defeat. I like the spirit of that – the Corinthian spirit, you might say.

Good luck and good health to you all.

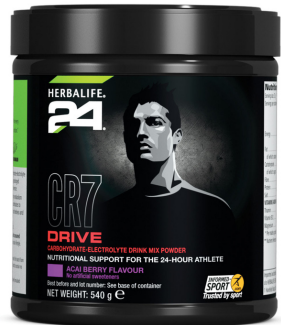
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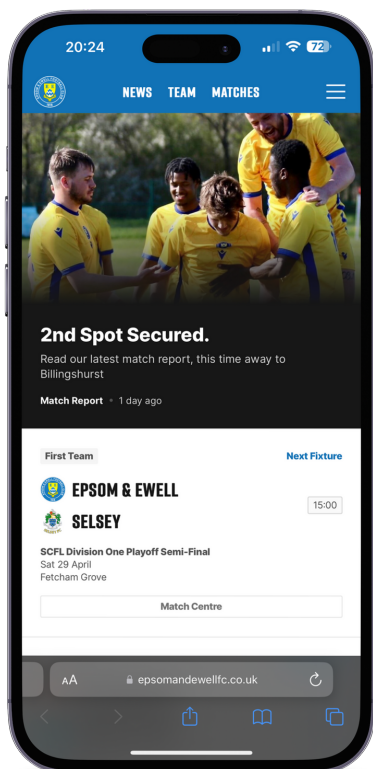
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You may pre-register on our website!

We also held our first showcase football trial, where we brought in multiple scouts representing different clubs (Southampton FC, Gillingham FC, Bromley FC, and more) and observed players aged 8-22 years old to scout for their respective clubs. Out of 29 players who attended, 5 drew interest from the scouts and were put in contact with them. We hope to host more showcases soon. Head over to our website for further information!



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2023/24

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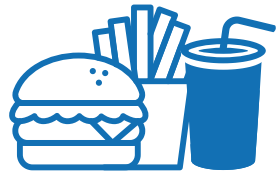
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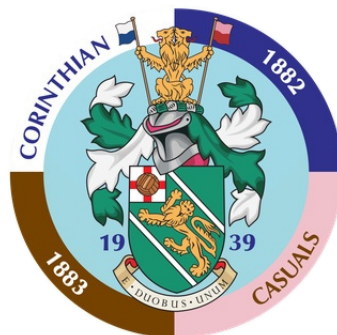
Corinthian Casuals

WEBSITE: WWW.CORINTHIAN-CASUALS.COM

FOUNDED: 1939

NICKNAME: CASUALS

HOME GROUND: KING GEORGE'S FIELD



Corinthian-Casuals Football Club was formed in 1939 following the merger of the two great amateur sides bearing those names.

The Corinthians were founded in 1882. N.L. "Pa" Jackson, who was then Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Football Association, aimed to develop a club side capable of bolstering England's national team and challenging Scotland at international level. A meeting was held at Jackson's offices in London's Paternoster Row and thus was the club born. The name 'Corinthian' came from a suggestion by England international, H.A. Swepstone, which was accepted unanimously. In the recently published history of the club, "Play Up Corinth," author Rob Cavallini explains "the most likely explanation for this choice ... is the word's long forgotten meaning – 'man of fashion and pleasure,' which captures the whole essence of the playing membership and their sporting ideology."

The Casuals were formed in 1883 by a group of old boys from England's prominent public schools and rapidly became a strong force in the amateur game, providing Corinthians with many of their first team players. In 1905 they became founding members of the Isthmian League, won the AFA Senior Cup in 1907 and the FA Amateur Cup in 1936.

The newly amalgamated Corinthian-Casuals Football Club had played only one game before World War II broke out and the league was suspended. Remarkably, the team made the decision to tour France in the spring of 1940 as part of a Red Cross party, however they were forced to return home in haste when the German offensive was launched on May 10th. Come the recommencement of football in 1945, the new club proudly took Casuals' old place in the Isthmian League, where it would remain for another 39 years. It was decided that they would wear the famous chocolate and pink colours of the Casuals for their home matches, and Corinthian white away.

In 1954, the club beat Epsom 2-0 to win the Surrey Senior Cup. Two years later in 1956, they reached the FA Amateur Cup Final, drawing 1-1 with Bishop Auckland at a packed Wembley Stadium. However the legendary north-eastern club won the replay at Middlesbrough 4-1. A year later, another good run in the FA Amateur Cup saw Corinthian-Casuals reach the semi-final where they eventually succumbed to Wycombe Wanderers at Highbury. After this high point, the club slipped into a long decline, a rare moment of success seeing them reach the FA Cup 1st Round in 1965/66, where Watford won 5-1.

The 1973/74 season was a historic milestone; heralding the FA's decision to abolish official 'Amateur' status. As if in empathy with the end of the amateur era, Corinthian-Casuals steadfastly refused to accept the new 'semi-professionalism' and were relegated, for the first time in their history, into Isthmian League Division 2. Further relegation followed after a third bottom finish in four years. Then, in 1984, new ground-sharing rules summarily introduced by the Isthmian League saw the club unceremoniously thrown out of the league after 65 years of continuous membership (and in spite of a 5th place finish!) simply because the club's long nomadic history meant it shared a ground and thus did not have one of its own (imagine that today!!). Ironically, the year this occurred was the club's best in quite a while. Casuals reached the 1st Round of the FA Cup, holding Bristol City to a goalless draw at Champion Hill, before losing 4-0 in the replay. The club also made it to the 5th Round of the FA Vase, the replacement competition for the FA Amateur Cup.

In 1988, Corinthian-Casuals were invited to Brazil by Sao Paulo Athletic Club (SPAC) to help celebrate their centenary. SPAC had been the club of former Corinthian Charles Miller, the man credited with introducing football to Brazil. It was Corinthian's visit to Sao Paulo for a game against SPAC during their Brazilian tour in 1910 that had led to the formation of Sport Club Corinthians Paulista.

To celebrate the club's first tour of Brazil since the First World War, Corinthian-Casuals also played a Corinthians Paulista XI in a match at the majestic Pacembeu Stadium, which was billed as "a father and son reunion" which the sons duly won 1-0. The goal was scored by none other than Brazilian legend Socrates (left), who played much of the second half for the visitors in the famous Chocolate and Pink.

1988 was a truly historic year as the club, in addition to touring Brazil, finally secured its first ever home ground, taking over the lease at King George's Field from the crippled Tolworth FC. A colossal effort from the club's members helped to transform the ground - installing turnstiles, terracing and seating, as well as completing the construction of the clubhouse. A runners-up berth in 1993 and winning the League Cup in 1995 were the highlights of the Spartan League era, before the club switched to the Combined Counties League in 1996. This was a greatly improved experience. In the first season, a runners-up spot was achieved to at last win back our place in the Isthmian League.

In 2000/01, a 5th place finish - the team's best finish for many years - saw them miss promotion by a meagre three points, whilst the Reserves won the Suburban League South and London Intermediate Cup. In May, the club toured Brazil again, winning the Sao Paulo Athletic Invitation Cup. Victories were achieved over Paulistano and Sao Paulo AC, though SC Corinthians Paulista's U21's inflicted a 2-0 defeat.

The next season saw the reorganization of the Isthmian League, with a top 6 finish guaranteeing a place in the new Division 1 South. Despite being in the running for much of the season, a late slump saw the Corinthian-Casuals slip to finish in 10th place. However, thanks to some astute thinking, the ground had been improved anyway, gaining a "Grade B" award. Thus, due to circumstances elsewhere, the promotion places sank to as low as 11th and the club got to play its highest level of football since 1978.

So much more can be found on their website including videos and pictures throughout the years. Check it out now!

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Corinthian Casuals

Manager: Andy Gray

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ASSISTANT: RODNEY VAN NIEKIRK

