

Exeter University Football Alumni 3rd Reunion: March 17-19 2023

Another great weekend - as expected!

The 3rd EUAFC alumni reunion was held in Exeter in March 2023. In total 49 attended from across several decades, from far and wide, and a great time was had by all. Special mention to Neil Burlison who travelled from Australia, and Nick Evershed and Roger Cantello who both from the USA.

It all started at the Black Horse on Friday night with yet another Black Horse landlord substantially building their EUAFC financed pension fund. This was followed by campus tours on Saturday am - thanks to John Ross and Craig Williams for helping us revisit past venues and see both familiar sights and also considerable development. Next was pre-match drinks at the Countess Wear Beefeater preceding watching the current 1st XI score a last gasp equalizer to draw 1-1 with North Molton FC.

The alumni dinner at the Mercure in the evening included a very well received EUAFC celebration video and an excellently supported prize draw with great prizes including a SW France holiday, Premiership tickets, award winning wines and EUAFC golf balls amongst others. A particular highlight of the evening was the fierce auction bidding for the prize lot - a signed Mark Clatworthy framed picture of 'The greatest alumnus that never was'. Well worth £110 I say! And a commendable effort by a small group of 60s plus alumni managed to outlast the youngsters at Timepiece, arriving back at the Mercure around 3am.

Sunday morning after the night before saw an exciting and well contested inaugural Ted Wragg Trophy alumni match on the main campus 3G. The alumni raced into a 3-0 lead, the 1st X1 drew back level, the alumni led 4-3 with seconds left, and then with the last kick of the match student Louis Rosher forced a penalty shootout, which the 1st X1 narrowly won. Captains Louis Rosher and Josh Bailey became the first ever winning captains - and the responsibility of engraving the trophy and keeping it safe until next time. Special shout out to alumnus Phil Greenfield who rolled back the years with a master class display at centre back.

It was an absolute pleasure for everyone to re-engage with old friends from EUAFC, and also to meet so many like-minded alumni from different eras. A massive highlight was to have confirmed once again that the club is in such great hands with the current committee and players, who massively impressed throughout the weekend.

With the prize draw, Clatters auction, and other fundraising activities, the alumni (both present and absent who contributed fully) impressively raised £2,287 towards the overall 3 year target of £15,000 to support the employment of a 1st XI coach and ensure the future positive development of the club. This leaves us just £301 short of the target.

Future plans include a 4th reunion - proposed date March 2025 – a 2nd annual bike ride in August 2023, and further annual Ted Wragg Trophy matches.

A particular goal is to engage the younger alumni aged 25-40 who are currently not represented at all. Please can all who read this do anything possible to share, communicate, and contact any from these eras to enable as strong a representation as the 60s to 90s, and recent graduates.

Thanks to all EUAFC alumni for your continued support and I hope to meet many of you again or for the first time over the next few years.

If anyone wants further information, to join our WhatsApp groups and/or group email, or wants to know how they can support further, please contact sportsalumni@exeter.ac.uk.

John Palmer, 1979-83

EUAFC - Alumni Network Co-ordinator