



Universities of Canterbury Association Football Club  
Newsletter – June/July 2023

Kia ora everyone. Hope exams went well for all those who had them! Semester 1 is officially over and we're getting deeper into the season now with winter well upon us. In this June/July issue, we have a quick look at an exciting new club sponsor and how our top two teams are getting along, one of which has qualified for Southern League! We also take a look back at our first quiz night of the year, and a couple of major player milestones!

With our president, Matt venturing off abroad the very capable Anthony O'Connor and Tiffany Ilott step up to take the reins. Below we hear from them both as they step into their new roles.

### **Anthony O'Connor (Acting President)**

Hi all!

With Matt our President bolting to Europe on a scouting mission I've been asked to step up from Vice President to the big seat. Tiff will be helping keep the ship steady during this time.

I've been with the club for 3 years as a coach and was sponsorship manager before AGM last year.

For the club nothing really changes with Matt away - we'll still be aiming to provide a quality footy experience for all, while our social events team will be kicking off some awesome off field shenanigans for you all.

If you need anything flick me an email.

#unirah

Ants

[vice.president@ucfootball.co.nz](mailto:vice.president@ucfootball.co.nz)

### **Tiffany Ilott (Acting Vice President)**

Kia ora!

My name is Tiffany and I have stepped into the position of vice-president while Matt is away. I have been the social events manager for UC Football since 2021 and have been playing across the women's space since 2019. Feel free to say Hi if you see me around :) !





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While I can't tell you too much about being vice-president, I can let you know about all the events we've got coming up for the rest of 2023! Currently on the table is our Bus Party, Ball, Prizegiving, and AGM, with more events still in the works! All information for events is available on our Facebook page. I hope to see you all there!

Ngā mihi nui

Tiffany Illott - Social Events Manager/Stand-in Vice President

### **Social Footy – Volstead Uni League**

We're excited to announce a partnership with Volstead Trading Company who will be sponsoring UCAFC social competitions going forward! The Volstead Trading Company operate a great bar down on Riccarton Road with a wide range of drinks on offer and some great food. They also make their own drop for the craft beer enthusiasts out there!





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**Premier Teams' Season Update: Southern League and Table Toppers!**

After a single round-robin series against the top Mainland teams, our top women's team secured a top four finish and booked themselves a spot in the inaugural Women's Southern League! Now they'll spend the rest of the season playing off against the top teams from around the motu with trips south to Dunedin and up to Nelson. The opening round saw us make the trek up to play Nelson Suburbs. A 2-2 draw ensued with goals apiece to Jasmine Ball and Katie Harris. In the Kate Shepard Cup, the girls drew the table topping Coastal Spirit in round 1. Unfortunately Coastal just edged us in a tightly fought game that ended 1-0.

The men's team finally hit their form and have climbed up to the top of the table! A streak of 7 league wins and a draw since they lost to Christchurch United in the English Cup means that they now sit top of the Canterbury Premier League five points clear of second place. The boys also made it through to the second round of the Chatham Cup for the first time in a few years after seeing off Waimakariri United in the opening match. The second round game meant facing Christchurch United again down at Yaldhurst where the Southern League Leaders won 3-1 with Jacob Brookes scoring a hard-fought goal for us.





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**Player Milestones – Kelsey Barrett & Matthew Aitchison**

Two amazing club members have hit the ton this season! Kelsey Barrett and Matthew Aitchison have both reached their 100<sup>th</sup> appearance for the club which is a special milestone at any club but even more so for a university team. Both players have been a huge asset for uni, not just for their playing ability but also their leadership and off field support. Matt plays between the sticks for the men whilst Kelsey captains the women's team. From the club, we once again would like to congratulate you and wish you both the best for the rest of the season!



**Futsal**

Keen to play a bit of social futsal? Hit up the link below to register your interest for the UCAFC mixed social futsal team to play on Thursday nights in UC Rec and Sports comp. Games are 12 minute halves played down at the Rec Centre with a focus on being a fun and social vibe. <https://forms.gle/En7UhdWgEmJaLjhQA>





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### Quiz Night

Last month we hosted our first quiz night of the year. Big thank you to all those who came along to Bentleys for the night, it was great to have a chance for members to showcase their knowledge beyond the football field. Congratulations to the various prize winners pictured below.



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### Upcoming Events

The next major event we have planned is the Bus party on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. Tickets are currently available for purchase and can be found on the club Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UCFootballClub>. Tickets are limited so be sure to get in while you can!

### Onwards and Upwards!

With the Christchurch winter weather doing its usual thing and interrupting the footy season we hope you all take the chance to have a good time off over the winter break. Thanks for all your efforts this season so far and we look forward to seeing the success that the club continues to have, develop this season. A big shout out as well to Niels for the photos, catch some of his work on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nielsvaphotography>

