

SUNDERLAND RCA FC

Review of the Season
2010/2011
& Preview 2011/2012



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gentoo



First Team Season Review

A warm welcome back to the big league said our good friends from Newcastle Benfield when we turned out there on the first Saturday of August 2010; and then promptly hammered us 5-0 to show us just what a warm welcome meant in Northern League language.

Well, hammered 5-0 is probably not strictly accurate, we were in the game for a long time, then got punished chasing things late. Or as the good old Geordie boys on Radio Newcastle put it, "Benfield will come up against a lot stronger sides than RCA this year". Good for the North East to have an impartial local radio station, don't you think?

Anyway, we wouldn't be playing sides as good as Benfield every week would we? On the Tuesday night we came up against the might of Ryton, and lost 2-1 to give them what turned out to be their only win of the season. Then Shildon in the FA cup, a cracking 4-3 game but another defeat, followed by the Roofers scoring first and making it last in unbelievable fashion. A draw against Consett then four straight defeats, a draw against Synners then another 5-0 tousing, this time from Dunston. This looked like being a long hard season, but did we panic?



Keeper Gary Hoggeth gets there just in time

Well, obviously we did, but we knew we were getting better as the team was strengthened by Hicker every week, with Carl Beasley tightening the back and leading from the front, if you see what I mean, and a thumping of Esh Winning put us well on our way.

In the next ten games we lost only twice, moved off the bottom of the table, and from then on we

rarely looked back. A memorable winner from Gav Parkin at Ashington stands out, as does the boost Smithy gave us when he came in, and of course the boy wonder Joe Walton, plucked from nowhere and making it look like this was an easy game. A run in the County Cup came to an end in unlikely fashion at Gateshead, shipping late, late goals for fun to turn victory into defeat, but we ploughed on to the semis in the League Cup, pushed up towards mid table, and saw the crowds drawn to Meadow Park rise, slowly, slowly but surely.



John Butler shepherds the ball

It's just a real new thing in Sunderland this Northern League lark, never meant much in these parts so it will take time. Some tremendous highlights on the road, cracking games win, lose or draw, new experiences and good new friends everywhere we went.

So overall a successful season with a lot of good football and the pleasure of watching a team really coming together week after week. And staying together for 2011/12 as well, so a better start this time, yes? And some luck with the FA Cup and Vase draws for a change? And a few nice bright Saturdays and Tuesday nights to pull a few punters in?

Bring it on!

Season Stats

DATE	V	OPPOSITION	TIME	FIXT	RES	GOALSCORER(S)
Sat 07 Aug 10	A	Newcastle Benfield	3.00pm	NL1	L 0-5	
Tues 10 Aug 10	H	Ryton	7.30pm	NL1	L 1-2	Kokes
Sat 14 Aug 10	A	Shildon	3.00pm	FA Cup	L 3-4	Keegan (og), Hodgson (pen), Coe
Tues 17 Aug 10	A	Jarrow Roofing	7.30pm	NL1	L 0-1	
Sat 21 Aug 10	H	Consett	3.00pm	NL1	D 1-1	Fairish
Tues 24 Aug 10	H	Bishop Auckland	7.30pm	NL1	L 0-3	
Fri 27 Aug 10	H	Tow Law Town	7.30pm	NL1	L 1-2	Wardle
Sat 04 Sep 10	A	Selby Town	3.00pm	FA Vase	L 2-3	Wardle, Tate
Wed 08 Sep 10	A	Shildon	7.30pm	NL1	L 1-3	M.Smith
Sat 11 Sep 10	A	Billingham Synthonia	3.00pm	NL1	D 2-2	Coghlan (2)
Sat 18 Sep 10	H	Dunston UTS	3.00pm	NL1	L 0-5	
Tues 21 Sep 10	H	Coxhoe Athletic	7.30pm	DCCC	W 1-0	Davis
Sat 25 Sep 10	H	Esh Winning	3.00pm	NL1	W 7-0	M.Smith (3), Walton, Beasley, Logan, Parkin
Tues 28 Sep 10	A	Billingham Town	7.30pm	NL1	W 1-0	Davies
Tues 05 Oct 10	A	Whitley Bay	7.30pm	NL1	L 0-2	
Sat 09 Oct 10	H	West Allotment Celtic	3.00pm	NL1	D 1-1	M.Smith
Tues 12 Oct 10	A	Ashington	7.30pm	NL1	W 2-1	Walton, Parkin
Sat 16 Oct 10	H	Bedlington Terriers	3.00pm	NL1	W 2-0	Davis, M.Smith (pen)
Tues 19 Oct 10	H	Ryton	7.30pm	DCCC	W 6-0	Ryan (3), Parkin, Logan, McGuinness
Sat 23 Oct 10	A	Norton & Stockton Ancients	3.00pm	NL1	L 0-1	
Sat 30 Oct 10	H	West Auckland Town	3.00pm	NL1	W 3-2	Davies (pen), Coghlan, Logan
Sat 06 Nov 10	A	Spennymoor Town	3.00pm	NL1	D 1-1	Walton
Tues 09 Nov 10	H	Chester-le-Street	7.30pm	DCCC	W 2-1	M.Smith, Ryan
Sat 13 Nov 10	H	Penrith	3.00pm	NL1	W 3-0	Coghlan, Walton, Ryan
Tues 16 Nov 10	A	Birtley Town	7.30pm	LC2	W 4-3	M.Smith, Duke (2), Beasley
Mon 03 Jan 11	H	Ryhope CW	1.00pm	ATMC	W 4-3	Triallist, Ryan (3)
Sat 08 Jan 11	H	South Shields	3.00pm	NL1	L 1-2	Walton
Wed 12 Jan 11	A	Gateshead	7.30pm	DCCC	L 4-5	Logan (3), Beasley
Sat 15 Jan 11	A	Stokesley	3.00pm	NL1	D 1-1	Logan
Tues 18 Jan 11	H	Jarrow Roofing	7.30pm	NL1	W 4-1	Walton (2), Logan (2)
Sat 22 Jan 11	H	Shildon	3.00pm	NL1	L 1-2	Jones
Tues 25 Jan 11	A	Dunston UTS	7.30pm	NL1	W 3-2	Bulford, Pickering
Tues 1 Feb 11	A	South Shields	7.30pm	LC3	W 2-1	Dalton, Davies
Sat 05 Feb 11	H	Billingham Town	3.00pm	NL1	W 4-3	Toft, Beasley, Graydon (2)
Mon 07 Feb 11	H	Whitley Bay	7.30pm	NL1	L 0-2	
Sat 12 Feb 11	A	South Shields	3.00pm	NL1	L 2-3	Davies (2)
Tues 15 Feb 11	H	Newcastle Benfield	7.30pm	NL1	L 1-4	Davies
Tues 22 Feb 11	A	Ryton	7.30pm	NL1	W 4-0	Logan (2), Ryton (og), Davies
Sat 26 Feb 11	A	Tow Law Town	3.00pm	NL1	W 4-3	Hewitson, Thompson (2)
Tues 01 Mar 11	H	Billingham Synthonia	7.30pm	NL1	W 2-0	Abel (og), Walton
Sat 05 Mar 11	A	West Allotment Celtic	3.00pm	NL1	L 0-2	
Wed 09 Mar 11	A	Consett	7.30pm	NL1	L 0-3	
Sat 12 Mar 11	A	Bedlington Terriers	3.00pm	NL1	D 3-3	Walton, Graydon (2, 1 pen)
Tues 16 Mar 11	A	Bishop Auckland	7.30pm	NL1	L 2-3	Walton (2)
Sat 19 Mar 11	H	Norton & Stockton Ancients	3.00pm	NL1	L 1-3	Graydon (pen)
Tues 22 Mar 11	H	Stokesley	7.30pm	LCQF	W 4-1	Pearson, M.Smith, Walton, Taylor
Sat 26 Mar 11	A	West Auckland Town	3.00pm	NL1	L 1-4	Dalton
Tues 29 Mar 11	A	Esh Winning	3.00pm	NL1	W 1-0	Taylor
Sat 02 Apr 11	H	Spennymoor Town	3.00pm	NL1	L 0-2	
Sat 09 Apr 11	A	Penrith	3.00pm	NL1	L 0-1	
Mon 11 Apr 11	H	Spennymoor Town	7.30pm	LCSF	L 1-3	Walton
Sat 16 Apr 11	H	Ashington	3.00pm	NL1	W 3-2	Tymon (2), Graydon
Sat 23 Apr 11	H	Stokesley	3.00pm	NL1	W 3-2	Beasley (2), Shields

TOP GOALSCORERS			
Name	App	Goals	Per Game
Joe Walton	40	14	0.35
Richard Logan	27	11	0.41
Martin Smith	27	9	0.33
Harrison Davies	37	9	0.24
Carl Beasley	41	8	0.20
Keith Graydon	21	7	0.33
John Ryan	10	5	0.50
Michael Coghlan	16	4	0.25
Paul Taylor	20	3	0.15
Gavin Parkin	21	3	0.14
Matty Tymon	4	2	0.50
Paul Wardle	17	2	0.12
Michael Dalton	20	2	0.10
John Toft	22	2	0.09
David Duke	24	2	0.08

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Spennymoor (C)	42	32	4	5	116	31	85	100
2	Consett	42	29	6	7	103	51	52	93
3	Whitley Bay	42	28	9	5	73	32	41	93
4	Newcastle Benfield	42	27	6	9	94	53	41	87
5	Shildon	42	26	5	11	114	46	68	83
6	West Auckland	42	26	4	12	96	63	34	82
7	Dunston UTS	42	24	8	10	84	49	35	80
8	Ashington	42	21	5	16	83	65	18	68
9	Bedlington Terriers	42	20	7	15	94	62	32	67
10	Norton & Stockton	42	19	9	15	66	45	21	66
11	South Shields	42	17	7	18	61	66	-5	58
12	Billingham Synth	42	16	9	17	63	65	-2	57
13	Sunderland RCA	42	15	6	21	67	80	-13	51
14	Bishop Auckland	42	15	6	21	75	93	-18	51
15	Billingham Town	42	13	7	22	58	88	-30	46
16	Stokesley	42	12	9	21	51	85	-24	45
17	Penrith	42	12	10	20	65	76	-11	43
18	Tow Law Town	42	12	7	23	49	77	-28	43
19	Jarrow Roofing	42	10	9	23	50	98	-48	39
20	West Allotment (R)	42	9	5	28	51	82	-31	32
21	Esh Winning (R)	42	4	4	36	40	121	-81	16
22	Ryton (R)	42	2	2	38	34	170	-128	8

Players Name	App	Goals	Players Name	App	Goals	Players Name	App	Goals
Dave Anderson	5	0	Gary Hoggeth	43	0	Graeme Pickering	16	0
Carl Beasley	41	8	Matthew Hyson	4	0	Scott Richards	39	0
John Butler	9	0	Steve Jones	45	1	John Ryan	10	5
Stuart Brightwell	6	0	Niki Lawson	4	0	Craig Shields	3	0
Leon Carling	25	0	Richard Logan	27	11	Gary Shields	10	1
Tony Coe	8	1	Dave Gordon	10	0	Chris Smith	19	0
Michael Coghlan	16	4	Keith Graydon	21	7	Martin Smith	27	9
Michael Dalton	20	2	Darren Kokes	11	1	Paul Talbot	26	0
Harrison Davies	37	9	Adam McGuinness	5	1	Craig Tate	2	1
David Duke	24	2	Scott McGuire	5	0	Paul Taylor	20	3
Liam Dunn	4	0	Mark McLeod	14	0	John Toft	22	2
Marc Ellison	21	0	Marc Moon	3	0	Matty Tymon	4	2
Joe Fairish	20	1	Phil Naisbett	2	0	Joe Walton	40	14
Jim Farrell	6	0	James Oates	49	1	Kraig Wilkinson	3	0
Wayne Henderson	28	0	Luke Olabode	1	0	Paul Wardle	17	2
Michael Hepplewhite	6	0	Lee Owens	2	0			
Richard Hodgson	7	1	Gavin Parkin	21	3			

Action from the Season game one

Two cracking away wins are last season's selections as games of the season. The first is the game at Ashington in October which really convinced us we had turned the corner, and could compete at this level; and secondly an absolutely cracking performance in January against a top class Dunston side. These games showed just what we are capable of as a club, and are well worth remembering. Read, remember and enjoy!

Ashington 1 Sunderland RCA 2

Wed, 13/10/2010 - Liam Dufferwel
Tuesday, 12 October 2010
STL Northern League Division 1

A trip to the Northern League's furthest north ground faced Sunderland RCA as they travelled to Woodhorn Lane, the home of Ashington AFC. RCA manager Neil Hixon was without Scott Richards, Richard Logan and new signing John Ryan, but was able to call on other debutants left back Paul Talbot and Marc Ellison, who came in to partner Micky Coglán in the centre of midfield. With a lack of striking options, central defender Paul Wardle was entrusted with the job of spearheading the RCA attack.

Woodhorn Lane, Ashington's home since 2008 when they moved from Portland Park to the edge of the town, has a wonderful playing surface that lends itself to tidy, passing football. This suited RCA who began the game looking accomplished in possession. However, RCA's early attacking moves found themselves breaking down up front with a final ball. At the opposite end Ashington were less subtle in their approach play. Long balls up top to the target of ex-RCA centre forward Phil Bell. It would be Ashington who would carve the first opening of the match. A long ball out of defence found its way to the Ashington right flank. Alex Houlsby was given time to pick a decent cross into the box and he didn't fail to deliver. His ball with pace picked out Phil Bell at the back post but the big centre forward headed wide from six yards clattering RCA goalkeeper Gary Hoggeth in the process.

As the first half progressed RCA began to look more threatening in front of the Ashington goal. Wardle as the makeshift centre forward was causing the Ashington defence problems with work rate and unpredictability. 20 minutes in a long ball up to Wardle caused uncertainty in the Ashington defence. Karl Dryden in the Ashington goal, trying to read the play, came out to intercept and clear but a touch from an Ashington defender took the ball away from him and into the path of Harrison Davies, who hooked a special effort over the back peddling Dryden. Joe Walton had been causing problems for Ashington

left back Darren Lough all night and on the 35th minute he found the breakthrough. Walton ran at his man, carrying his team forward, before neatly checking back and laying the ball into Martin Smith. Smith held the ball in front of the square Ashington defence and bided his time before picking the perfect ball through to find the run of Walton who finished confidently.

RCA came out after the interval still on top. Ellison in the centre of the park was having an excellent debut winning every tackle and motivating the team with his tenacity. RCA were presented with two excellent chances to extend their lead. Firstly, Wardle pressured Dryden, who had come out of his area to deal with a long ball, into a mistake. But, with the goal gapping and more time that he imagined he miscued his finish sending the ball wide. Then, five minutes later, an excellent passing interchange on the edge of the box put Coghlan through on goal but, off balance, he sent his effort into the side netting.

Ashington began a 20 minute spell of pressure on the RCA goal however, Carl Beasley and Oates looked comfortable in dealing with everything thrown at them. An RCA corner would be the source of the Ashington equaliser. Floated in, the corner was easily defended landing towards Talbot who pushed up field to collect. His first touch however was poor and presented Ashington with the opportunity to spread the ball wide then play a long ball over the top. Steve Jones stepped out to deal with it but misjudged his positioning and got under the flight of the ball. RCA were now exposed at the back and a simple cross into the middle found Phil Bell who headed into the bottom corner.

In the dying embers of the game an Ashington corner was well dealt with by RCA who found themselves with a break on. The ball was played to substitute Gavin Parkin, who had come on only minutes earlier for Smith. Parkin carried the ball the length of the field and found himself with a three on two situations. Opting instead to shoot, Parkin picked his spot from 25 yards and found the postage stamp between post and crossbar, emphatically giving RCA the lead and ultimately all three points.

Action from 2011/12



Desperate defending keeps us out



Martin Smith under pressure



Joe Walton on the charge



Joe Fairish lines up a shot



Smithy chasing hard



Scott Richards takes control

Action from the Season game two

Dunston UTS 2 Sunderland RCA 3

Wed, 26/01/2011 — Liam Dufferwiel
Tuesday, 25 January 2011
STL Northern League Division 1

It promised to be a difficult away trip. Dunston UTS were on a high after reaching the last 16 of the FA Vase when they overcame Runcorn Town with a 3-1 victory away to the North West County's First Division side. Sunderland RCA manager Neil Hixon made two changes from the side that lost to Shildon at the weekend. The unavailable Steve Jones was replaced by Scott Richards with James Oates dropped back to fill in at right back and Chris Smith replacing Harrison Davies on the left side of midfield.

RCA started quickly. Keith Graydon fed the ball into Richie Logan who had dropped deep off the defence. Logan turned and ran at the Dunston centre back pairing of Michael Robson and Ben Cattanach. Easing passed the first defender Logan looked up and weighted a perfect threaded pass through for the inside run of Joe Walton. Dunston keeper Liam Connell advanced from his line as Walton took one touch to set himself before striking a clean shot that beat Connell and clipped the top of the upright.

RCA were putting heavy pressure on the Dunston goal and the breakthrough looked inevitable. Controlling the ball on the right Richards was fouled by a clumsy tackle 30-yards from goal. Graydon casually went over to take the freekick and placed the ball perfectly onto the head of Leon Carling on the edge of the 6-yard box for the defender to score.

RCA were passing the ball around Dunston and looking comfortable in possession but after 15 minutes Dunston found a way back into the match. In their first attack of the game Dunston caught RCA with an incisive break away. Picking the ball up on the left Lee McAndrew ran Oates down the flank, outpacing the RCA defender before cutting back onto his right and floating a ball in between Carling and Carl Beasley. Andrew Bulford had pulled off his man and found himself in the space in between the two defenders and stooped to direct the ball into the corner of the net.

The goal gave Dunston more emphasis and they began to exert their presence on the game. Playing to their strengths, pace on the flanks and physicality up top, Dunston began to utilise their wide men and make RCA defend balls. It was from this tactic that Dunston nearly took the lead Bulford again getting his head on a ball into the box. His effort beat Gary Hoggeth in the RCA goal but some good positioning from Carl Beasley allowed him to clear the ball from the line.

Just before half time Logan picked the ball up deep and turned to attack the Dunston defence. Working his way past the first challenge from Robson with a clever one-two with Martin Smith, Logan found space between the centre halves and burst past Cattanach. Bearing down on goal Logan was about to pull the trigger when Cattanach ran across the back of him making contact. Logan went down but Referee Mr. Neil Sharp waved away RCA's adamant claims.

After the interval Graydon really began to orchestrate play in the centre of the park. RCA had begun the second half in the same manner as they had started the first passing the ball well and putting pressure on the Dunston goal.

It would be Dunston who would take the lead though. McAndrew, again, broke away down the left after latching onto a long ball out of defence and with men up RCA were looking exposed. Taking Oates to the byline McAndrew cut back onto his right and crossed into the box. Beasley attempt to win the header leaving space in the area but misjudged the flight of the ball. The cross went over his head and hit off the back of Carling falling perfectly for Steven Pickering to fire home.

The feeling was perhaps RCA would struggle after conceding against this tough Dunston side, the same way as they did in the first half. RCA, however, looked strong after the goal and continued playing in the same manner as before. The game was end to end for a five minute spell. Hoggeth was forced to make two excellent saves to stop Dunston increasing their lead and Logan's running across the line was causing all sort of problems for the Dunston defence.

Walton, also, was becoming a menace down the right flank with the Dunston defence struggling to get near him. After outpacing Terry Galbraith Walton fed the ball inside to Martin Smith. With quick feet Smith stepped out of the way of the first challenge on the edge of the area and, with the shot inviting, elected to look square to Logan. With defenders quickly on him Logan was forced to check away from the shot and play the ball into the box for Richards. Richards's eventual strike was blocked and the ball ran tamely into the hands of Connell.

Minutes later Walton earned a foul on the right after turning Galbraith. Graydon again stepped up to take it and the delivery, curling to the back post, was inviting for Beasley who aimed his header down to beat Connell. Knowing Walton had the beating of the Dunston left back Graydon and Richards were picking him out with a ball to feet at every opportunity. Walton created the chance that should have put RCA into the lead. Beating Galbraith Walton pulled the ball back to Martin Smith who with his first touch squared it to Logan. Six-yards from goal Logan struck a tame shot, which was comfortably pushed away by Connell.

RCA got the winner with ten minutes remaining. Awarded for an infraction about 20-yards from goal, Chris and Martin Smith worked a simple freekick rolling the ball to Graydon who fired the ball low into the back of the net.

With Dunston committing men forward RCA were finding gaps in behind. Richards threaded a through ball into the channel for Walton to chase. Getting there easily before the defender Walton drove on before squaring the ball to substitute Paul Taylor. Unmarked Taylor took it first time but his effort hit the top of the crossbar and went over before the forward realised he had been flagged for offside.

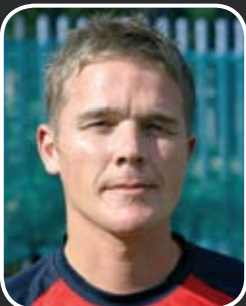
Dunston hit the bar late on but an equaliser would have been cruel on RCA who, after an eternity of stoppage time, welcomed all three points.

Player Awards



Leading Goalscorer, Players' Player & Fans' Player of the Year: Joe Walton

A great night down at Doyles in Deptford for the annual Sunderland RCA awards evening, saw young Joe Walton pick up most of the gongs for the season, due reward for his great climb from local football to being a recognised Northern League player, with a lot of clubs asking, "So where did Hicker find him?" They might well ask! Leading Goalscorer, Players Player and Fans Player of the Year, a great achievement by Joe, well done that lad!



Overall Player of the Year: Carl Beasley

Just a little bit older than Joe, inspirational skipper Carl Beasley picked up the overall Player of the Year award, a recognition of the impact he had when he joined us from Spennymoor, driving himself and others on, a great signing for the club, and a tremendous credit to himself and his dedication to the game. And the best news is that both Carl and Joe will be with us again for this coming season.



Coach of the Year: George Herd

And, finally, completing the cycle from youngster to, well, lets say veteran; a well deserved award to the evergreen George Herd as club Coach of the Year. What is there to say? A legend, whose enthusiasm and knowledge simply can't be bettered anywhere in the world of non league football. We are unbelievably lucky to have him, long may it continue!



Joe, George and Carl at the awards evening

RCA Barnes Enjoy Great Run in Sunday Cup

RCA The Barnes had a very mixed season in 2010-11, definitely two halves, and the second much the better!

Pre-season was disrupted when the manager, Ray Hartley, decided he had had enough and resigned with only three weeks to go to the start of the league campaign, which resulted in his assistant Glenn Moan taking over the reins for the beginning of the campaign. Having already lost a number of the previous seasons playing squad, through various non-related football matters, things didn't go well and after losing the first four games of the season Glenn decided he didn't wish to carry on either.

We pulled together enough players to keep fulfilling our fixtures and were fortunate to get Gary Gee Errington to come in as our new manager, but still found it difficult to improve our fortunes initially. We did manage to get one or two new players on board but still continued to suffer defeat after defeat, resulting in us losing our first nine league games and being cast adrift at the bottom of the league.

However the season turned in the most unlikely of circumstances, when we were paired with Swanfield FC, a team from Hull, in the FA Sunday Cup, first round. We travelled to Humberside with a depleted but determined squad and battled to a 1-0 victory, courtesy of a late winner from Martin Metcalfe, and this gave much needed confidence that we could turn our season round.

From there on the side grew in confidence and with some astute signings by Gee we started to compete and win games, especially in the FA Sunday Cup, defeating Derby Lane Gym FC from Liverpool in round two at Meadow Park and then travelling to Runcorn and defeating Sandstone FC, again from Liverpool in round three. This put us into the last 16 of this prestigious national competition, but placed us against the formidable Oyster Martyrs FC from Liverpool who showed us just what a good side they were when comfortably defeating us in the Wirral and then going on to subsequently win the competition at Prenton Park against Paddock FC, also from Liverpool.

This new found confidence spread into our league performances and we went from strength to strength and finished the season comfortably in 8th position, winning our last three games.

Thanks should go especially to Gee and his able assistants, Phil Hall and Mick Curtis, for their sterling work in achieving continued Premier Division status, and of course our loyal players who put in a great shift for the cause.

Gee has now appointed Andy Colledge as his assistant for the coming 2011-12 season and we look forward to hopefully starting the season on the front foot and challenging for honours, as well as trying to at least emulate last season's success in the FA Sunday Cup.

Thanks should also go to the RCA mother club officials, Colin Wilson, Graham Defty, Owen Haley and Sgon for their continued support and help, and hopefully we can reward them with some silverware next season.

SUNDERLAND RCA FIRST HOME GAMES OF 2011/12

Northern League First Division unless stated

Sunderland RCA v Shildon

Saturday 13th August - 3:00 pm

Sunderland RCA v Birtley Town

(FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round)

Friday 19th August - 7:30 pm

Sunderland RCA v Ashington

Saturday 27th August - 3:00 pm

Sunderland RCA v Marske United

Saturday 3rd September - 3:00 pm

All playing at Meadow Park,
Beechbrooke, Ryhope



Preview 2011/2012

Preview of the Season

2011/12 is a big year for the club. Was last year's decent effort a flash in the pan? Or can we really establish Sunderland RCA as a Northern League top flight club, and get the people of Sunderland on board, or a good few of them anyway, to support what we are trying to do? Gates went up last year by around 40%, no surprise with the likes of Spenny and Whitley Bay bringing a good few, but we need to get more Sunderland folks getting out of the pub and down to Meadow Park. The fixture compliers and the draws have been kind, with a run of home Saturday games in August and September, including home draws in the FA Cup and Vase means we have a chance to show what we can do and publicise games early on while the weather is nice, hopefully.

On the field things are looking promising, with most of last years team staying with us, and a few significant new signings to bolster things. Big Andy Jennings and his old strike partner Mark "Sparky" Davison are back, and the prolific Gavin Barton joins from Consett, so we should have plenty of firepower, something I know Neil has said was a big concern last year. And in behind them Brian Close, Dave Wells and Andy Cuthbertson should add competition.

By the end of last year I think we believed in ourselves when we went to places like Ashington and Bedlington, lets keep it going. Is top six too much to ask?

(Pre) View from the Cemetery

Middle of July, three or four weeks to go, plenty of grass on the pitch, lots of hammering and banging in the clubhouse, level on points at top and bottom, must be time to think about the season ahead. Worked out all right in the end last year, though there were a few more grey hairs around at the end than the start, thats for sure. Usual raft of new faces at pre season training, most of them been and gone before you can learn their names, but a couple of blasts from the past even I can recall seeing before, and a promising young keeper. And Owensy returns, and is a wizz at the pre season beep tests, just wind him up and let him go.

Looks like the big lad AJ is back, and the one they call Sparky, as well as another kid who fancies himself as a striker, even though his dad was a centre half for the Mags no less, and he is called Barton, surely no relation to Joey? Well, we can only hope.....

So no shortage up front, but how does it look further back? The ginger kid is gone again I hear, but another Irishman takes his place, better tackler for sure, and Scotty's ankle might be fixed, which will be bad news for somebody....

Lots of talk of new sponsors and an advertising campaign to get the crowds rolling in, good draws in the Vase and FA Cup, but playing the first round on the Friday night could be risky, what price first team knocked out this year? And have we got that new lease on the ground yet?

Nice new carpet in the clubhouse, somebody must have found it, roof fixed at last, even on the gents, talk about new signs to follow, is this the year RCA make their mark? Maybe, maybe. Anyway you will get the real story from me in my occasional website and programme contributions, so keep looking in, no propaganda here...

Thanks Everyone

Once again a big thank you to our main club partners, Gento, Springboard and Rivergreen Developments, your support is very much appreciated, and is essential as we try to build the club.

Thanks also to stalwart supporters Jeff Wilson Funeral Director, A.J. Butler & Son Quality Butcher, Blue Sky Property Group and Dave Hall and all at Station Taxis, plus our many other friends and supporters.

Once again, thanks to Derek Winlow at the Promenade for the fabulous corned beef pie sponsorship; probably the most innovative sponsorship deal in the Northern League and the talk of the league.

And of course to everyone who has joined as members for this coming season, it should be fun!

Club Community Development Partner



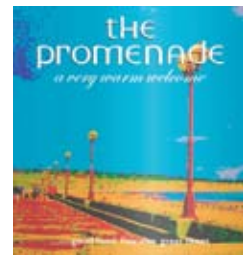
Rivergreen Developments PLC
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham DH1 5TS
United Kingdom
T: 0191 383 7300
F: 0191 383 7329
E: info@rivergreen.co.uk

Club Community Development Partner



Springboard Sunderland Trust
Rivergreen Industry Centre
Pallion
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SR4 6AD
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E: info@springboard-ne.org

Official Corned Beef Pie Sponsor



the promenade
1 & 2 queens parade
seaburn
sunderland
SR6 8DA
tel: 0191 529 2919
bar: 0191 529 2226
fax: 0191 529 3437

Club Community Development Partner



T: 0191 525 5000
www.gentogroup.com or
Doxford International Business Park
Sunderland SR3 3XR
T: 0191 525 5000
E: Enquiries@gentogroup.com

Thank
You!

Jimmy and George are on board with RCA why don't you join them?



Match Sponsorship from £100.00 per game

Pitch and Programme Advertising for a Full Season
from £250.00 including artwork

Player Sponsorship only £150.00

Contact Colin Wilson on
secretary@sunderlandrca.co.uk
or **07802 523533**

to discuss how you can support Sunderland RCA
and enjoy full partnership benefits.

