

FRIENDS OF COLERAINE FC BULLETIN

EDITION 3 - AUGUST 2026

HELLO FRIENDS

This autumn Friends of Coleraine FC will complete the current phase of our transition towards a charitable organisation - supporting both Club and Community.

We will invite as many Bannsidiers as possible to join us on that journey - as we celebrate Friends 21st Anniversary and plan towards the Coleraine FC Centenary year in 2027/28. Friends Committee has continued to push on during the close season with lots of news to report and details of some future plans in this edition of Friends Bulletin.

I hope you enjoy reading it and look forward to seeing you during the 2026/27 season.

C'mon the Bannsidiers – we got off to a great start in our first league match - we can do this!

Peter Morrow (Chair, Friends of Coleraine FC)

A MESSAGE FROM ROB HELLE, CHAIRMAN OF COLERAINE FC

On Tuesday 28th July I had the pleasure of welcoming Peter Morrow, Jimmy McAleese and Frances Pearson to The Showgrounds for my first proper sit-down with Friends of Coleraine since joining the club. It will not be the last.

I came away struck by two things. The first is the depth of what Friends has done for this club for over twenty years – quietly, consistently, and often when times were hardest. That support continues today, from the work on the grounds to October's sponsored match against Cliftonville, and on behalf of everyone at Coleraine FC I want to say a sincere 'thank you'.

The second is how closely our ambitions align. The Board is finalising a five-year plan to put Coleraine FC on a sound, sustainable footing – a club that stands on its own feet financially, competes at the very top of the Irish League, and is a source of pride and hope for our whole community.



We will build it patiently and professionally: one per cent better every day. Sustainability is not a slogan; it is the foundation on which everything else — the football, the academy, the ground — will rest. Friends' own plans the move to charitable status this autumn and the drive to grow membership ahead of our centenary — will make Friends an even stronger partner on that journey, and the club will fully back them. If you are reading this and have yet to join, there has never been a better time

There will be much more to share in the months ahead, and I have offered to speak to the members in person around the match Friends is sponsoring on the 10th of October — I look forward to it. Our centenary is coming; together, let's make it one to remember.

Rob Helle (Chairman, Coleraine Football Club)

BREAKING NEWS ON OUR HOME

Investment in our ageing infrastructure at the Showgrounds plays a vital part in the future sustainability of the Club.

Friends Committee is excited to announce that we have recently approved a donation of £30K towards a project that will see the south side of the ground transformed into a space that: significantly enhances health and safety; increases our ground capacity; provides a safe and welcoming environment for all Bannsidars; and lays firm foundations for the broader redevelopment of the stadium.

FRIENDS MATCH SPONSORSHIP & EVENT FOR ALL BANNSIDERS
Friends will sponsor our home match against Cliftonville FC on Saturday 10th October.

Immediately after the game we will host a special open event for “Friends and All Bannsidors” at the Showgrounds to share some of Friend’s future plans. Rob Helle will be our main guest speaker – and we will maybe even manage a few nibbles, courtesy of our wonderful CFC VIP hospitality team! Further details will be publicised prior to the event. Meantime, please save the date!

FRIENDS AGM – DIARY DATE

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th October (which is open to members only). This meeting will herald a key moment in our transition towards a charitable model for the organisation so please save the date. Further details will be forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

FRIENDS WEBSITE

Friends is delighted to announce the launch of our new website. You can find it at:

www.friendsofcolerainefc.org

We will be continuing to develop the site throughout the coming season. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Armada Bar & Restaurant Armoy for kindly sponsoring the cost of website development to date.

NEW FRIENDS SIGNAGE

We’ll all notice a few changes to the advertising boards around the Showground this season and that includes Friends.

Keep an eye out for our new signage – a Club 1927 Gold package – on the home terracing. Here’s a sneak preview!



secretary@friendsofcolerainefc.org

CONSTITUTION

A new form of draft constitution for Friends was agreed at our EGM on 25th June 2026, following a consultation period with members. The organisation will transition to a charitable Company Limited by Guarantee this autumn when a final version of the governing document is formally approved and adopted by the membership at our AGM.

The new structure will initially consist of a small Board of Directors who will establish a Members Advisory Council that reflects grassroots participation and broader stakeholder engagement. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as a Director or as an Advisory Council member please contact:

secretary@friendsofcolerainefc.org

MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

At our Full Committee meeting on Wednesday 5th August, we reviewed proposals from our Change Sub-Committee about our current membership fee structure and terms. It was agreed that the annual membership fee will remain at a minimum of £60 per year for the 2026/27 season and that we would retain the current option of paying monthly by direct debit/standing order. Meanwhile we are in the process of enhancing the opportunities and rewards on offer to new and existing members and planning towards a formal re-launch of the Friends Membership Scheme this autumn. If anyone has suggestions around potential rewards and incentives or ideas around attracting new members we would be interested in your feedback. Just pop an email through to:

info@friendsofcolerainefc.org

SUPPORTING THE BAM-BAM-SIDER!

Super-Bannsider and professional boxer Matty “Bam-Bam” Boreland steps back into the ring again at Croke Park, Dublin on Saturday 5th September. He will fight the undefeated Joe McGrail for the vacant WBA Continental Gold Super-Bantamweight Title.

In keeping with Friends commitment to support and enhance opportunities for the local community through sport, we are delighted to sponsor Matty on this next phase of his boxing journey. We'll all be rooting for you Matty!



Friends Ambassador
Matty “Bam-Bam” Boreland weighs in with Friends Officers
John Marshall (Treasurer), and Jimmy McAleese (Secretary)

Speaking to Friends Bulletin, Matty said “I’m over the moon with the support from Friends for my upcoming fight at Croke Park. And I’m made up to accept their invitation to become the first Friends of Coleraine FC Ambassador.

I’m so looking forward to playing my part in making Friends bigger, stronger, and better in the coming months and years. Wherever I go the Bannsidars go with me – we are the best fans in the Irish League by a country mile and, if we all pull together, we can become the “undisputed champions” of supporters’ clubs as well.

Let’s go and thanks for all your support – we are All Friends and All Bannsidars!”

AND FINALLY

We would like to express our thanks to Colin McKendry, Mark Kane, Richard McFetridge, Alistair Kyle, and Raymond Kirk - the five outgoing CFC Board members - for their 60+ years of dedicated service to the Club.

Congratulations and best wishes to Rob Helle on his appointment as CFC Chairman and also to Niall McGill on his appointment as a new CFC Board member. We wish them and all of the Board members well for the coming season.

Finally, congratulations to Colin on his appointment as IFA President. We truly value having a Bannsider occupy such a key position within the broader football family.