

MANCHESTER UNITED MUSEUM: Archive Collection

Historical Background

The idea for a Museum devoted to the history of Manchester United Football Club dates back to the early 1980s. A committee was set up in 1984 after successful 'Open Days' had shown the potential for a Museum at the Old Trafford Stadium. The Museum opened on 1st May 1986. It was expanded to incorporate a trophy room in summer 1991 when a professional curator was employed and on 11th April 1998 it reopened at its current location within North Stand.

Mission Statement and Aims

“Presenting Manchester United to the World”

The Manchester United Museum aims to provide Manchester United Limited with an outstanding museum, which preserves and develops the collections in its care and promotes research on them, so that they can be used to communicate and increase knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the history of Manchester United whilst enhancing its image regionally, nationally and internationally.

Archive Collection

The Manchester United Archive forms part of the Museum and provides facilities for the staff of Manchester United Limited and members of the public for reference and research into the history of Manchester United. It has an extensive library of books, magazines, programmes, maps and other archival material comprising c.12,500 items. (Please find a separate listing of groups of material held below).

The Archive actively collects material for its archive and library, that is, all documentary material relating to the history of Manchester United Football Club and Manchester United Limited.

Access

Access to the Museum's Archive and Library collection is restricted to Manchester United staff, bona fide researchers and students and is by prior appointment only. Such appointments will not be unreasonably withheld, but persons wishing to study the archives or use the library will be offered times and dates where appropriate Curatorial staff are available, and may not be possible at short notice. The Museum reserves the right to refuse access to vulnerable material in the interests of its long term preservation. Material of a confidential nature may also have access restrictions placed on it. Where the field of study can be pursued using the resources of public or university libraries; the purchase of currently available books or the use of the internet, the Museum may at its discretion direct the student or researcher to those sources. In certain cases references may be required from the researcher or student.

ITEM	DATE	NOTES
Books/Documents/Paper Ephemera		
Minute Books (Directors' Meetings)	1903-1991	CONFIDENTIAL
Property Committee Meeting Minutes	1997-1999	CONFIDENTIAL
Player/manager contracts		CONFIDENTIAL
Annual Reports (published accounts)	1909-2006	
Nominal Ledgers	1911-1919, 1946 to 31 st July 1985	RESTRICTED
Income books	1948-1970	CONFIDENTIAL
Payment books	1944-1970	CONFIDENTIAL
Cash received and payment books	1957-1970	CONFIDENTIAL
Finance Committee Minutes	1969, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1980	CONFIDENTIAL
Income and payments (loose)	1970-1977	CONFIDENTIAL
Wage book	1925-1936	
Wages and Financial Statements	1946-1948	
Ordinary Share certificates 101 - 350	1924 -39	
Preference share dividends	1921-22 to 1937-38	
Register of members and share ledger		RESTRICTED
Ordinary/Preference share dividends	1958-59 to 1977-78	RESTRICTED
Ledgers General Club – matches, players, transfers, utility bills, sundries, receipts (loose) General Club - matches, internationals, inland revenue, player loans		RESTRICTED
Ledgers club houses	1960-1972	RESTRICTED
Ledger club houses rents	1964-75	RESTRICTED
Gate Books	1912-18, 1958-74	
Match results	1979-82	
Match results and teams	1975-79	
Newton Heath Railway Company – list of contents held at the National Archive		
Old Trafford documents – letters and agreements		RESTRICTED
Photocopies of legal documents		CONFIDENTIAL
Sir Matt Busby Memorial documents		RESTRICTED
Barcelona '99 documents		
European Cup Winners' Cup documents		
FA Cup semi-final 1989 post Hillsboro documents		
BSkyB announcements		
Contract of employment duplicate book	1960s	CONFIDENTIAL
Book - copy of letters from Louis Rocca mostly inviting players for a trial	26.6.1946 to 29.7.1946	
Guide to marking of referees	August 1990	
Voucher books	1946-47, 1947-48	
Mascot and Trade Marks correspondence	1960s	CONFIDENTIAL
MA by research: Manchester United FC, An analysis of the	September 1999	

Youth Policy 1950-57 by Anthony M Whelan		
MA Thesis: In search of the true fan: populism, football and fandom in England from antiquity to the end of the 20 th century by A. Lim	January 2000	
PhD thesis looking at the social impact of football in England. Case study: Manchester United by Claude Boli	January 2003	Mostly in French
Menus – includes UEFA Champions League dinners, Championship dinners, award dinners, other events at Old Trafford		
Invitations – pre and post event dinners, championship dinners, award ceremonies, special occasions		
Press releases and press packs		
UEFA Champions League documents – includes media guides, club manual, statistics handbooks, press packs, team sheets, half-time and full-time reports		
Football League Registration Forms	1891-92 to 1992-93	Photocopies only Originals held at The Football League
Maps and plans of Old Trafford football ground		Some originals and some photocopies Some originals held by Trafford Borough Council
Stewards Briefing Notes		
Merchandise catalogues		
Tributes – Munich Air Disaster anniversaries, Sir Matt Busby death, George Best death		
Player passes and itineraries		
Security passes for matches		
Selection cards		
Postcards, trade cards, cigarette cards		
Supporters		
Official Manchester United Membership brochures/packs		
Fanzines – Red News, Red Army, Red Issue, United We Stand, various others		
Newsletters/magazines – MUSC yearbooks, MUDSA, IMUSA, There's Only One United, The Red Devil, Branch magazines (British, Other European, Australia and New Zealand, Far East), London Fan Club		
Team Sheet Books		
Academy		
B Team - Lancashire League Div 2	1990-1992	
A Team - Lancashire League Div 1	1990-1992	
Reserves – Central League	1920-21, 1931-32, 1933-1940, 1945-1949, 1950-1953, 1954-1956, 1962-1973, 1974-1983, 1984-1986, 1990-1992	
First Team - Football League Div 2	1933-1936, 1937-1938, 1974-1975	
First Team – Football League Div 1	1936-1937, 1938-1940, 1975-1983, 1984-1986,	

	1990-1992	
First Team – Football League Cup	1978-1979, 1982-1983, 1985-1986, 1990-1991	
Team Sheets (Individual)		
MUFC competitive and friendlies (all levels), other events at Old Trafford		
Centre of Excellence registration forms		
Under-9	1998-1999	RESTRICTED
Under-10	1997-1999	RESTRICTED
Under-11	1997-1999	RESTRICTED
Under-12	1997-2000	RESTRICTED
Under-13	1997-1999	RESTRICTED
Under-14	1997-2000	RESTRICTED
Under-15	1997-1999	RESTRICTED
Club Reports on Referee Books		
B Team – Lancashire League Div 2	1962-1973, 1974-82, 1985-1986	
A Team - Lancashire League Div 1	1962-1973, 1974-1983, 1984-1986	
Reserves – Central League	1970-1973, 1974-1983, 1984-1986, 1990-1991	
First Team - Football League Div 2	1974-75	
First Team – Football League Div 1	1970-1973, 1975-1979	
First Team – Football League Cup	1978-79	
Programmes		
First Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Away - including Cup finals 	1890 onwards (incomplete) 1904 onwards (incomplete)	RESTRICTED
Reserves - including Manchester Cup and Lancashire Cup	1925 onwards (incomplete)	RESTRICTED
Youth and Juniors - including FA Youth Cup and youth tournaments	1950 onwards (incomplete)	RESTRICTED
Testimonials – matches featuring former/current MUFC players/managers and matches featuring MUFC	1948 onwards	
Tours and Friendlies (all levels)	1946 onwards (incomplete)	
Internationals (schoolboy, youth, Under-21, Under-23, Amateur, Senior). Matches featuring former/current MUFC players/managers or matches played at Old Trafford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England • Scotland • Wales • Northern Ireland • Republic of Ireland • Other nations (including Great Britain and Football League representative matches) • Euro '96 • Euro 2000 • World Cup 	1949 onwards 1948 onwards 1953 onwards 1956 onwards 1952 onwards 1947 onwards 1996 2000 1966 onwards	
Other events at Old Trafford – includes schoolboy matches, rugby, boxing, concerts		

Specials – pirates, signed, non-United with relevance e.g. Munich Air Disaster tributes, George Best for other teams		
Tickets		
Home – including non-football events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • Season tickets Away – including Cup finals		
Magazines		
Official Manchester United Magazine Official Glory Glory Man United Magazine	August 1992 onwards 1994 onwards	
Football related magazines Includes: 4-4-2, Goal, Shoot, Match, Total Football, Charles Buchan Monthly, Match of the Day, FM, Total Sport, Libero, World Soccer, unofficial MUFC FA Cup, Championship and souvenir magazines	April 1948 onwards	
Non-football related magazines – feature past/present MUFC players/managers Includes: OK, Hello, Arena, Now, Loaded, TV Times, FHM, GQ, Loaded, Esquire, Company, Marie Claire	October 1958 onwards	Mostly recent magazines featuring David Beckham & Eric Cantona
Newspapers		
Newspapers (separate lists) Collection of scrapbooks Newspaper cuttings		RESTRICTED
Books		
MUFC - players and managers, history, business, supporters, general (separate list) General football (separate list)		REFERENCE library available for research
Photographs		
Players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First team - team photos, head & shoulders, action, celebrations, training • Youth and reserves – team photos, head & shoulders, action Old Trafford football ground Miscellaneous – including other events at Old Trafford		Not MUFC copyright pre 1986. REFERENCE ONLY. No copies provided