



THE PEASHOOTER

Cowfolk News
March 2023



WANTED

PLAYERS FOR:



After a several year hiatus, the Cowfolk have a cricket team and have joined the North Somerset League for the 2023 season. We are looking for players to join the squad for Sunday league fixtures and weekday evening friendlies. Players of all abilities welcome. As per Cowfolk constitution: Women, POC, and LGBTQ+ welcomed and encouraged. Our home ground is the fabulous Rose Green Centre, ran by Bristol West Indies.

Interested? Come along to training at 6:30pm on Mondays at City Academy Sports Centre, BS5 9JH
Or for more information contact Steve - 07743 484 299 or scan QR Codes above.

Forza!



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ECCSSC WEBSITE

Get all the latest club and community news at

<https://eastoncowfolk.org.uk/>

Forgotten tournament dates? Want to know what amazing fun stuff is coming up? Check out the diary at <https://eastoncowfolk.org.uk/diary-of-events/> (note this might not work on mobiles, we're working on it).

If you have any content or edits for the website - e.g. fixtures, match reports, events, musings etc - email webgimp@eastoncowfolk.org.uk



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Kev is running Cursus Festival in Dorset on 26th - 28th May bank holiday weekend. It's small, grassroots and family-friendly, although plenty enough adult-friendly too! Live bands, DJs, camp fire, boozing, dancing, Kids DIY Den and general larking about in the Dorset countryside. Info and tickets at www.cursusfestival.com or shout Kev for one of the last few stewarding shifts for a free ticket.

26th - 28th MAY 2023

CURSUS

CIDER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE DEADNOUGHTS
SOUND OF THE SIRENS
IMPERIAL LETSVAPE
RISKEE & THE RIDICULE
THE LONGEST JOHNS
THE SKIMMITY HITCHERS

GAZ BROOKFIELD - COSMIC NINJA - SAMANTICS - MONKEY BIZZLE
GOLDWATER - SOMETHINGSKI - MIKE DENNIS - SINFUL MAGGIE
SHANNON WHITE - CARSICK - BOOT HILL ALL STARS - DR BEATROOT
MASAU'U - HARMONY ASIA - DIRTY CASH - SIOBHAN & THE SUNSET HAZE

**PLUS! INBREDZ SOUND SYSTEM DJs - CAMP FIRE
KIDS DIY DEN - CURMUDGEON'S CORNER & MORE!**

ADULT TICKETS FROM £89 KIDS from £10
Tent camping included, Live in vehicles from £35

Myncen Farm, Dorset, DT11 8DH
www.cursusfestival.com

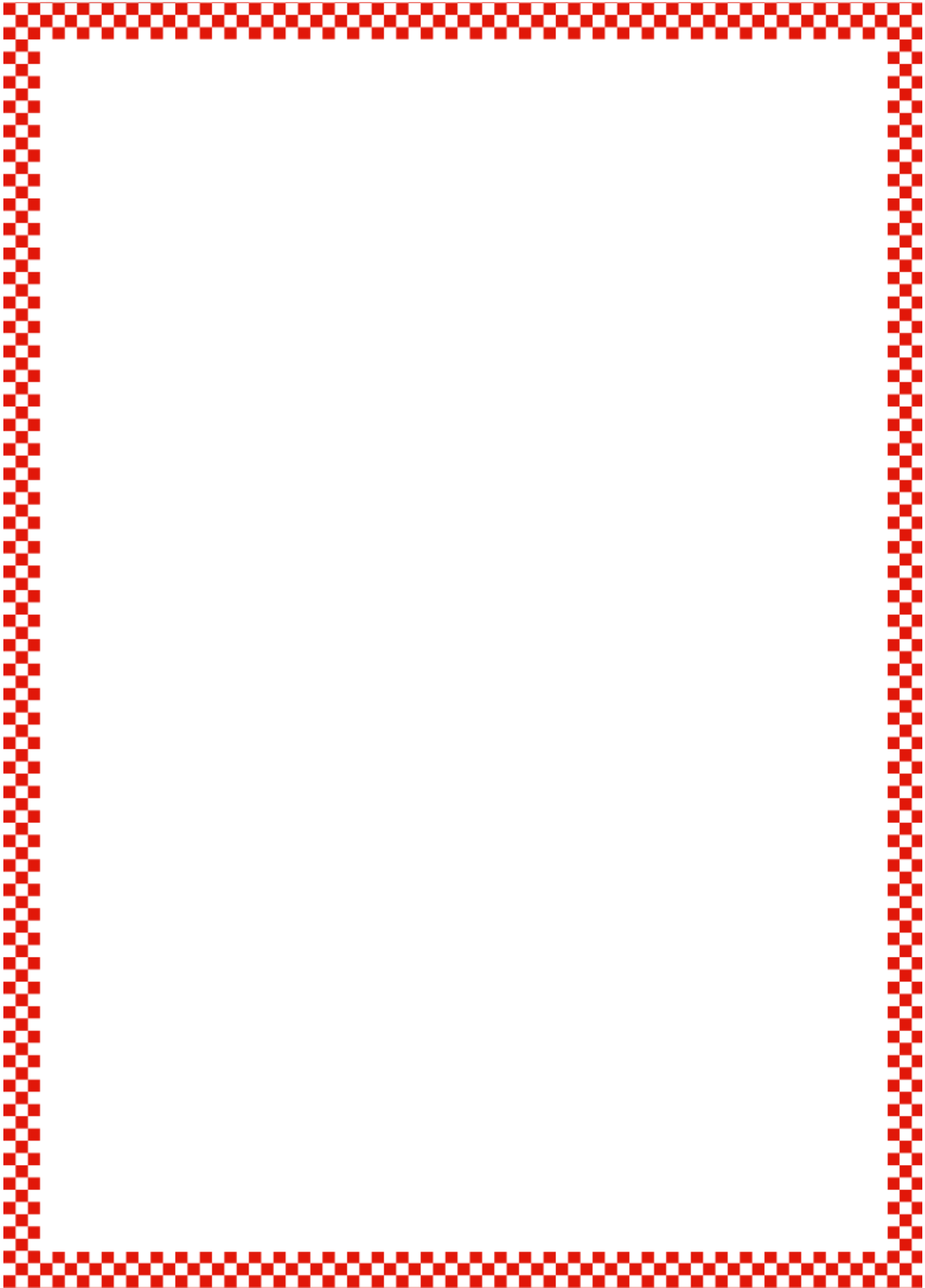
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I hate walls. And fences and all that other shite that separates us. So I never thought I'd say this, but...

We need to build a bigger fence. Ibrahimiya School in the Old City area of Hebron, Palestine has an illegal Israeli settlement right next to it. There is a fence separating the two, but the kids keep on losing their footballs - once one is accidentally kicked over the current, quite low, fence it never ever comes back. And what are breaktimes without football?!

Living and learning in the midst of an illegal occupation is tough, and play is important. Play should be free from worry, including worries about losing footballs for good! The kids and teachers have asked us for help.

So: we (Neil and Becs) would like to ask for your help to build a higher fence. Just this once...

We need a total of £1,500. In order to earn your support, we have already completed the Free Movement Palestine 10k in Bethlehem - it took place on the 10/03/2023. We didn't raise funds in advance to avoid having Palestine-connections advertised online to make things a bit easier getting in and out. Go on! We promise after this we'll go back to what's written on the separation wall in Bethlehem: make hummus not walls!



Thank you all! I know money is tight so don't worry if you can't donate. All the cow-love, Becs xx

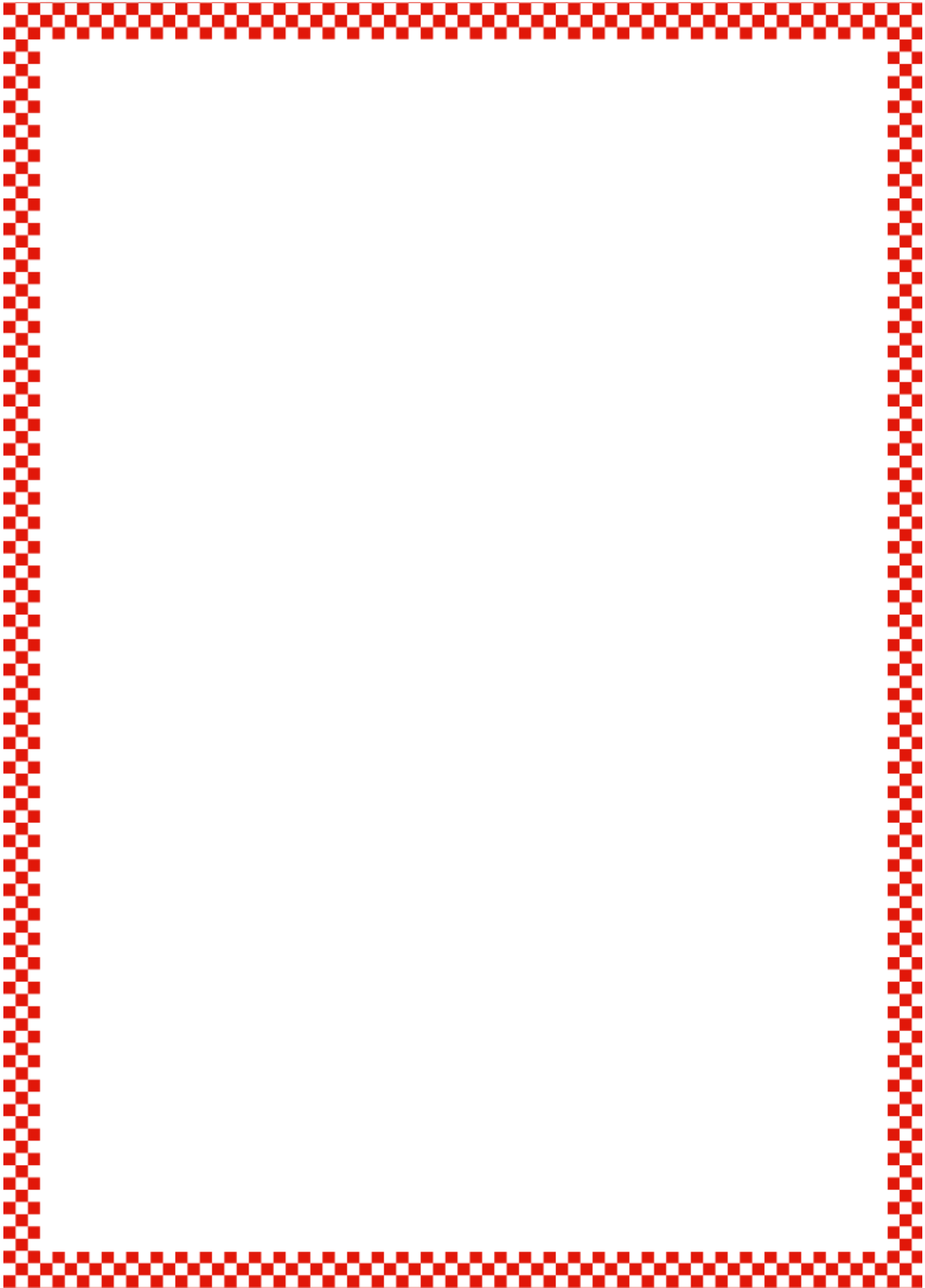
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Bristol Central Youth Football Club are looking for a female coach or two to help run their new Wildcats football programme for younger girls. This is an excitement development for the club which until now has run teams mainly for boys from U6s right through to U21s. The club Chair has specifically reached out to the Cowfolk as they already have a number of Cowboys coaching kids teams there, and they are aware of the success of the Cowgirls' football teams.

The commitment is only 1 or 2 hours a week and Bristol central will fully support you to get established. It's an amazing way to get young girls interested in football in a fun and safe environment. Some info on the FA's Wildcats programme below. If you would like to find out more, get in touch with Kev and he'll have a chat. It would be great to strengthen this relationship between the two clubs and create new pathways into kids and adult football.

Are you looking for a fun way for girls 5-11 to get involved with football? Then look no further! Weetabix Wildcats is the place to be, everyone is super awesome; from the friends you'll meet to The FA qualified coaches and volunteers who deliver the sessions.

So, what is Weetabix Wildcats? Well, it's non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with other girls their own age. Most importantly, Weetabix Wildcats is all about having loads of fun and meeting new amazing friends.

WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT WEETABIX WILDCATS?

There are so many amazing things that make Weetabix Wildcats awesome! If we had to choose our top five favourite things, these would be them:

1. It boosts confidence
2. Gets girls active
3. We include everyone
4. Meet new friends
5. It's super fun!

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Play Football



The perfect way
for girls aged 5-11
to get involved
with football



TIME AND DATE

10am - 11am - Saturday

LOCATION

City Academy Bristol, Russell Town Ave, Redfield3, Bristol

NEXT STEPS

Head to thefa.com/WeetabixWildcats to book on to a session,
or for more info contact us via: [Mobile 07783387134](tel:07783387134)



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Alright Cows,

If you were at the last BGM you will be aware of the request we have a vote in a months time regarding starting a new men's Sat team. That vote is coming up in the EGM.

As requested, I worked on explaining the values of our club to the refugees and asylum seekers I am proposing to join us. I have received back 19 out of 22 of the questionnaires I sent the guys out and every one was a positive. They are all still very keen to join us.

So the proposal for the EGM is that we start a new Saturday team, specifically to have an influx of refugees and asylum seekers - the guys that I have been playing with and coaching for the last 18 months.

If it is voted in then there will be some work to do and it would be great and helpful if some Cowgirls join the Cowboys that are part of the team so far.

Work this will give us to do:

We will need to raise between 5 - 8.5k a season for boots and other kit, travel, match fees, training fees. There are various fundraising ideas including applying for grants (not usually done within our club but probably necessary).

We will perhaps look at a way of tightening up reinforcing our values to all new players so everyone knows who they are representing. This was possibly necessary anyway.

We might want a group to look at best ways of tackling discrimination when experienced, with input from club members who have worked on the constitution, safer spaces, anti-discrimination statement or other relevant aspects of club policy.

Anything else that comes up from EGM and working group.

I can get someone from Aid Box Community to be there at the EGM if wanted. To help us look at potential obstacles/solutions.

As it's a vote, I have tried to stay factual rather than bang on about why I reckon it's a good idea but I should point out that the Cowboys are very enthusiastic about this and have already voted in us having this new men's team at our men's football BGM. The idea is that the players we bring in will over time spread out across the four Saturday teams according to their ability.

The question for the EGM is: Is it supported by the wider club, especially with all the fundraising efforts it will need and any other potential issues?

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* * * Setting up a monthly litter- picker-uppering group * * *

Looking for people that don't like but also do like litter.

Join this fancy new WhatsApp group to get involved when you can.

We will acquire professional grabby-sticks and circle-bin-bag-holder things.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HdSFm9CluT771bfervvReN>



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Should we boycott the Copa Lucrecia / Sandino tournament?

The Copa Lucrecia / Sandino is a sponsored, charity five-a-side football tournament which raises money to support solidarity and development projects in Nicaragua.

The Cowboys and Cowgirls have participated in this tournament for over 10 years.

At the last general meeting some cowgirls proposed we boycott the tournament because it was brought to our attention that the Nicaraguan government has repeatedly used photos from the tournament to argue that UK progressive circles continue to support the Ortega regime, which is now condemned by the UN and various human rights organisations for extensive human rights violations.

Full details on next page

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We would like to put to a vote that the Cowfolk participation in Copa Lucrecia is inconsistent with our foundational principles, including support for women's rights, for LGBTQ rights and for political rights more broadly.

1. The Ortega regime in power has been condemned by the UN, various human rights organisations (including some that are not close to the US) for extensive human rights violations and prosecution of political opponents, including feminist/women's organisations, student organisations and old Sandinistas that have denounced the Ortega regime. Left wing, progressive governments in the region – Chile, Argentina - have also condemned the Ortega regime.

2. On women's rights, Ortega has waged a war against feminists and outlawed even therapeutic abortion in a bid to buy the support of the Catholic church. Whether some of these feminist groups are bourgeois or not is irrelevant, since the attack on reproductive rights mostly affects poor women who cannot afford to go abroad and are forced into dangerous illegal abortions.

3. The Copa Lucrecia organisers have argued in response to previous Cowgirls questions that the tournament raises funds for Nicaraguan organisations and we shouldn't boycott it. But the Nicaraguan government has repeatedly used photos from the tournament to argue that UK progressive circles continue to support it, so even if we do not take photos with the Nicaraguan ambassador (our compromise last year), we can end up participating in the legitimisation of an authoritarian conservative regime simply by participating.

Our participation in Copa Lucrecia is inconsistent with Cowgirls/Cowboys stance on Palestine or recently, on Qatar. We can't ignore the harsh realities of an authoritarian conservative regime or hope that our participation will not be instrumentalised and should take a principled stance.

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The Cowgirls did raise our concerns with the organiser Alex Hughes last year and Isabel spoke to him about the concerns raised above. While he did have responses to a lot of the concerns, he did acknowledge our information source was probably more up to date.

His counter arguments were:

- Amnesty International being against Nicaragua in general.
- Sandinistas being so much more than Ortega.
- US meddling with disinformation.
- The feminist movement being seen as bourgeois and not on right side of class struggle.
- The charity being completely independent, grass roots and already receives funding from US Embassy in Nicaragua who are supposedly anti Ortega.

He asked us not to protest at the event, urged us not to boycott and suggested we raised our concerns with the ambassador directly – Unfortunately they never turned up.

At the proposed EGM in April we will vote

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