

= Broadhurst Park =

Broadhurst Park is a football stadium in Moston , Manchester , England . It is the home of F.C. United of Manchester and Moston Juniors F.C. The stadium was known by its project name , Moston Community Stadium , before being changed at a members ' meeting in 2014 .

F.C. United were formed in 2005 , and aimed to construct a ground in Manchester by 2012 . After plans for an initial site collapsed , the development of a new stadium at the Ronald Johnson Playing fields in Moston was announced . A protracted planning process followed , and construction began in November 2013 . Broadhurst Park was completed with a capacity of 4 @, @ 400 in May 2015 . The opening match was a friendly between F.C. United and Benfica on 29 May 2015 . F.C. United played host to Stockport County in their first ever competitive league match at Broadhurst Park on 11 August 2015 , eventually losing 2 ? 1 .

= = Background = =

= = = F.C. United = = =

F.C. United were formed in 2005 by a group of Manchester United supporters following the club 's controversial takeover by Malcolm Glazer which led to hundreds of supporters defecting from the club . Without a stadium of their own they agreed to use Bury 's Gigg Lane stadium , but the agreement continued at the cost of approximately £ 5 @, @ 000 per match . Within a year , the fan @-@ owned club set aspirations to build its own 7 @, @ 000 to 10 @, @ 000 capacity stadium as close to Manchester city centre as possible by 2012 and consequently entered into negotiations with New East Manchester and Manchester City Council to develop their plans . Despite attendances averaging over 2 @, @ 000 in their first few seasons , the fact that the club did not have access to a stadium of its own on its match days was a contributory factor in the club 's financial loss for three years (£ 42 @, @ 267 in 2007 , £ 40 @, @ 669 in 2008 and £ 9 @, @ 663 in 2009) .

F.C. United initially proposed a stadium at Ten Acres Lane in Newton Heath , on the site of an existing leisure centre and AstroTurf outdoor football pitch . The plans indicated that these community facilities would have been maintained within the new scheme . Newton Heath is 2 @. @ 8 miles (4 @. @ 5 km) east north east of Manchester city centre and has close links to Manchester United , who were formed in the urban area and were originally known as Newton Heath LYR Football Club between 1878 and 1902 . However , on 4 March 2011 it was announced that Manchester City Council had backed out of plans to fund the new stadium with grants , despite the fact that the previously agreed £ 1 @. @ 5 million was close to being raised by fans , and F.C. United moved to search for other sites . Despite this the Council stated that they were still committed to helping F.C. United build a ground in Manchester and on 5 April 2011 it was announced that , after considering three possible alternative sites , Ronald Johnson Playing Fields in Moston was the preferred location for the stadium to be built according to Manchester City Council .

= = = Moston Juniors = = =

Moston Juniors is a youth football club , formed in 1993 . The club has Active Sports and Charity Club status and was the first club in Manchester to receive FA Charter Standard Community Club status . The club signed the lease for Ronald Johnson Playing fields in 2007 , with work to improve the site being completed in 2009 due to a grant from Manchester City Council and the Football Foundation . The club had further plans with the help of a proposed £ 750 @, @ 000 council grant to build a clubhouse and upgrade their pitches , however they were unable to secure sufficient additional funding to make the project happen . On announcement of the intended redevelopment of the Ronald Johnson Playing fields into a new stadium , Moston Juniors entered into a partnership with F.C. United and Manchester City Council so that they could lease the new ground facilities .

= = History prior to construction = =

The surrounding area was part of the manor of Moston , near the now demolished Moston Hall . It was owned by Sir Edward Tootal Broadhurst , a local industrialist , who in 1920 donated 80 acres of the land for use as a park , as a recognition of victory in the First World War .

The ground on which the stadium is built has long been used for sport . The playing fields in Moston were purchased on behalf of the workers of " Johnson , Clapham and Morris " , a metal working and fabrication business . The fields were named for Ronald Lindsay Johnson (24 September 1889 ? 29 May 1917) , a member of the Johnson family who died while serving as an Acting Captain and Divisional Trench Mortar Officer (DTMO) in the First World War . As DTMO for the 23rd Division , Johnson was responsible for co-ordinating the targeting and positioning of mortar batteries and it was during preparation for the Battle of Messines that he was mortally wounded on 29 May 1917 . He had ascended to chairman of his family business following the deaths of his father in February 1914 and his brother William in July 1916 . His will (compiled before Christmas 1916) originally left his shares in the family business in trust for the benefit of the employees of the firm ; but when this bequest was deemed to be impractical , the trustees decided instead that eight acres of land should be purchased for the staff as playing fields and a recreation ground . They were opened in the presence of his mother on 17 June 1925 .

In April 1934 , following the moving of the Richard Johnson , Clapham and Morris Ltd firm to Trafford Park , the playing grounds were offered to the Parks Committee of the Manchester Corporation for £ 2 @, @ 400 . At the time , the ground was described as being fenced all round with iron railings , containing bowling greens , a number of tennis courts and a cricket pitch , together with two well @-@ built pavilions . For many years the land was used for community events including football and funfairs . A cycle speedway track was built during the 1980s . In 2005 , a 2 @. @ 4 m green powder coated weld mesh fence with gates was erected at the perimeter of the fields . Moston Juniors Football Club secured a lease for the site in 2007 , with a view to future development .

= = Development = =

= = = Planning = = =

The original plans for the Moston scheme remained similar to the original Ten Acres Lane proposal with a total capacity of 5 @, @ 000 expected . The plans were developed by architects Taylor Young (now known as IBI Group) and structural engineers Scott Hughes Design .

Some local objections emerged in response to the plans to use of the fields for the stadium . Residents opposed to the stadium were concerned that it would lead to parking problems and devaluation of their property . There were also concerns about the loss of green space . There were also Moston residents who supported the stadium proposals , believing the stadium would provide sports facilities and activities for local children and teenagers , improving the overall health of people in the area . By the end of the consultation process 5 @, @ 635 letters of support and 2 @, @ 226 letters of objection were received . ? of these 7 @, @ 653 (97 @. @ 3 %) were " standard letters " with supporters and objectors simply adding a signature . There were also six petitions with 854 names in support and 1 @, @ 420 names in objection .

In April 2011 , the Executive Committee of Manchester City Council approved the proposal to site the ground development subject to a planning application and consultation with residents , local community groups and Moston Juniors F.C. Detailed information about the new facility , including the tentative name Moston Community Stadium , was released on 9 June 2011 . A decision by the planning officers from Manchester City Council regarding consent had to be moved from 15 September to 27 October due to the volume of interest in the application . The Head of Planning recommended that the Committee were " Minded to Approve " the planning application subject to a total of 42 attached conditions including the signing of an agreement for the site to have community

use , an ongoing travel plan and off @-@ site parking provision . At the planning meeting on 27 October , Manchester City Council approved the planning permission for the new stadium .

= = = Judicial review = = =

After the planning approval was granted , local residents hired barristers to consider an appeal against the decision . The activation of the planning permission allowed solicitors on behalf of a group called Residents United Residents Association (RURA) to launch its Judicial Review Pre @-@ Action Protocol , which challenged the council 's decision making process . One of the original areas for appeal revolved around historic covenants on parts of the land , but the Charities Commission ruled that the fields are not charitable land .

The residents gained legal aid to launch the judicial review and argued that there were flaws in the planning process . The review took place on 18 ? 19 December 2012 in Manchester to decide whether the council 's planning process was legal . The judge reserved his decision for a month , but decided to reject RURA 's claim to quash the planning permission . The final legal action from RURA came to an end after an unsuccessful challenge was made to the Court of Appeal in March 2013 .

= = = Funding = = =

In total , £ 6 @. @ 5 million was required to fund construction of the ground : ?
£ 2 million ? F.C. United Community Shares scheme (target reached on 26 Feb 2015)
£ 1 million ? from other fundraising , e.g. £ 467 @, @ 000 from the F.C. United Development Fund (including £ 51 @, @ 000 from crowdfunding) and £ 345 @, @ 000 from a Loan Stock scheme
£ 918 @, @ 000 ? Sport England (Iconic facilities fund)
£ 550 @, @ 000 ? Manchester City Council (approved January 2012)
£ 500 @, @ 000 ? Football Foundation Community Facilities Fund
£ 500 @, @ 000 ? Manchester City Council loan (approved January 2012)
£ 303 @, @ 000 ? Government grant , Community Assets and Services Fund (announced January 2014)
£ 150 @, @ 000 ? Football Foundation Football Stadia Improvement Fund
£ 90 @, @ 000 ? Viridor Waste Management

= = = Construction = = =

The club signed a Section 106 and lease agreement in July 2012 , activating the planning permission which had been granted subject to the 42 conditions recommended by the Head of Planning back in October 2011 . Many of these conditions would be routinely applied to applications , such as the ground must be completed within three years (July 2015) and the building matching the submitted drawings . Other conditions include the recommendation that F.C. United not play any home games when Manchester City are also at home , or there being a major event at the City of Manchester Stadium due to the grounds being just over 3 miles apart and the possible impact on traffic and car parking availability within the area . Floodlights on one of the community pitches must be switched off at 8pm , with the other pitches being allowed to operate until 9pm . The club 's original target was to open the Ten Acres Lane site in August 2012 . However , several delays ensued including the change of site to Moston and a 13 @-@ week " cooling off period " after the successful application . The F.C. United board had initially identified a tentative construction start date of May 2012 , but the legal challenge to the council 's decision delayed this for nearly 18 months until work finally began in November 2013 .

The ground was then scheduled to be completed by September 2014 with the work being undertaken by Barnes Construction . The project manager was Frank Whittle Partnerships . The completion target was to be 40 weeks after construction had commenced . The club had hoped to play the 2014 ? 15 season in their own ground . However , some difficulties with the steel and logistics led to delays . The opening was initially moved back to December 2014 but further delays

led to F.C. United playing the entire 2014 ? 15 season at Bower Fold in Stalybridge and at Curzon Ashton 's Tameside Stadium . Much of the stadium 's fittings were constructed by fans and volunteers , while one terrace was recycled from the Drill Field ground in Northwich which had closed in 2002 . The facilities were largely completed by April 2015 and a test event was held at the ground on 16 May 2015 .

= = = Ground naming = = =

The " Moston Community Stadium " was the project name for the ground announced in the summer of 2011 . However , the official ground name was chosen by F.C. United members at the club 's Annual General Meeting on 10 April 2014 . The members were able to propose suggestions and these were reduced to a shortlist of seven .

Broadhurst

Broadhurst Park

FCUM Hall

Lightbowne Road

Ronald Johnson Ground

The Boardwalk

United of Manchester Stadium

The name was announced as " Broadhurst Park " on 11 April 2014 , after a members ' vote . The surrounding area has been named for Edward Tootal Broadhurst since he donated land to the people of Moston in 1920 .

= = Opening = =

F.C. United hosted a test event on 16 May 2015 , staging a short match between their first team and an Invitational XI made up of past players . This event was organized to test the facilities and prove that the stadium can hold a large capacity crowd , and took place with 3 @, @ 241 supporters in attendance . The official opening game was a friendly between F.C. United of Manchester and Benfica B on 29 May , the anniversary of Manchester United 's victory over Benfica in the 1968 European Cup Final . The date also happened to be the anniversary of the death of Ronald Johnson . Benfica won the opening game 0 ? 1 in front of a crowd of 4 @, @ 232 . The ground 's first league game was on 11 August 2015 , the second match of the 2015 ? 16 season for F.C. United , in a National League North local derby against Stockport County , a 1 ? 2 loss .

= = Facilities = =

The pitch at Broadhurst Park is surrounded on all sides by covered stands : the St. Mary 's Road End (east) , the North Stand , the Lightbowne Road End (west) and the Main Stand (south) , the last of which has seating sections . Spectators enter via twelve turnstiles in the corners of the stadium . The Main Stand contains a clubhouse with a bar and catering facilities , club offices , changing rooms , a medical suite and a classroom . There is an additional bar under the St. Mary 's Road End and food , concessions and merchandise areas are located both inside and outside the ground . Broadhurst Park also has a 3G pitch and two grass pitches adjacent to it as well as training and community facilities . The 3G pitch is used for home fixtures by F.C. United 's Reserve and Women 's teams . The ends of the main stand have been constructed with future expansion in mind , specifically with space to trial a safe standing area . The club has a partnership with Pennine Telecom to provide free Wi @-@ Fi to supporters at the ground .

Broadhurst Park has 50 ? 60 car parking spaces , though on match days these are only available via booking in advance . The stadium is also served by Newton Heath and Moston tram stop (tram / light rail) , Moston railway station (heavy rail) , and several bus routes , including match day special buses from the city 's Northern Quarter . 80 bicycle stands have also been installed by the club to encourage cycling to the ground .

