**Club History**

The Corinthian-Casuals Football Club was formed in 1939 following the merger of the two great amateur sides bearing those names.

**The Corinthians**

The Corinthians were founded in 1882 by N.L."Pa" Jackson, Asst. Hon. Sec. of the Football Association.  His aim was to develop a club side capable of challenging Scotland at international level.
Within four years, calling on the best amateurs from the public schools and universities, there were nine Corinthians in the England team. Twice, the national squad consisted of all Corinthian players.
The Corinthians went on to challenge some of the top professional teams in the land including, in 1904, beating Manchester United 11 - 3, still their worst defeat.

They also took football round the world, touring in South Africa, Canada, the United States, South America and across Europe, including Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Denmark and Germany.
In 1910, after a visit to Sao Paulo in Brazil, the locals were so impressed they founded a Corinthians of their own, now Corinthians Paulista, one of the most successful clubs in South America; in 2012 they beat Chelsea to become the current World Club Champions.

Real Madrid, Leeds United and some say the English National Team, play in white shirts partly in tribute to the Corinthians.

**The Casuals**

The Casuals were founded in 1883 with a membership restricted to the Old Boys of three public schools, Charterhouse, Eton and Westminster, although that was soon changed to include all ex-public school and university players.

Casuals were a strong force in the early amateur game, runners up in the first FA Amateur Cup Final in 1894, founder members of the Isthmian League in 1905, first holders of the A.F.A Senior Cup in 1907, winners of the Amateur Cup in 1936.

"Casuals'  victory in the Amateur Cup Final came after beating Ilford 2 - 0 in a replay before 28,000 at West Ham  after a 1 - 1 draw at Crystal Palace.  It was crowned by a civic reception in Kingston.

**Corinthian-Casuals**

The Corinthian-Casuals Football Club had played only one game when World War II broke out, though it really wasn’t our fault. Come the recommencement of football in 1945, the club proudly retook its place in the Isthmian League, were it would remain for another 39 years. In 1954, the club beat Epsom 2-0 to win the Surrey Senior Cup. Two years later in 1956, they reached the FA Amateur Cup Final, drawing 1-1 with Bishop Auckland at a packed Wembley Stadium. The neo-legendary north-eastern club won the replay at Middlesbrough 4-1. A year later, another good run in the FA Amateur Cup saw the club reach the semi-final. After this high point, the club slipped into a long decline, a rare moment of success seeing them reach the FA Cup 1st Round in 1965/66, where Watford won 5-1.

The 1973/74 season was an historic milestone; heralding the end of the amateur. As if in empathy, Corinthian-Casuals were relegated, for the first time in their history, into Isthmian League Division 2. There they would stay there until 1978, when further relegation to the basement followed a third bottom finish in four years. A number of steady seasons were played out before new ground-sharing rules created by the Isthmian League saw the club unceremoniously thrown out in 1983/84. This coming after 65 years of continuous membership, and in spite of a 5th place finish, simply because the club’s long nomadic history meant it shared a ground, thus did not have one of its own. Ironically, the year this occurred was the best in quite a while. The club reached the 1st Round of the FA Cup, holding Bristol City to a goalless draw at Champion Hill, before losing 4-0 in the replay. The club also made it to the 5th Round of the FA Vase, the replacement competition for the FA Amateur Cup.

The first season in the Spartan Premier League was a disaster and a second consecutive relegation occurred. Next year, the Corinthian-Casuals fortunes took an upturn when they bounced back as Champions, remaining in the Premier Division for a further 12 seasons. 1988 was a truly historic year, with the club securing its first ever home ground, merging with the crippled Tolworth FC, thus taking over the running of their facilities. This season also saw the Corinthian-Casuals Tour of Brazil, when legendary Brazilian international, Socrates, donned the famous chocolate and pink colours for a special game. A runners-up berth in 1993 and winning the League Cup in 1995 were the highlights of the Spartan League era, before the club switched to the Combined Counties League in 1996. This was a greatly improved experience. In the first season, a runners-up spot was achieved to at last win back our place in the Isthmian League.

The team’s best finish for many years, 5th in 2000/01, saw them miss promotion by a meagre 3 points, whilst the Reserves won the Suburban League South and London Intermediate Cup. In May, the club toured Brazil again, winning the Sao Paulo Athletic Invitation Cup. Victories were achieved over Paulistano and Sao Paulo AC, though SC Corinthians Paulista’s U21’s inflicted a 2-0 defeat.

The next season saw the reorganization of the Isthmian League, with a top 6 finish guaranteeing a place in the new Division 1 South. Although being in the running for much of the season, a late slump saw the Corinthian-Casuals slip to finish in 10th place. However, thanks to some astute thinking, the ground had been improved anyway, gaining a “Grade B” award. Thus, due to circumstances elsewhere, the promotion places sank to as low as 11th and the club got to play its highest level of football since 1978.

Season 2006/07 saw the club enjoy the momentous honour of celebrating 125 years of football with a commemorative match at Wembley Stadium.

The 2010/11 season was memorable as the club lifted the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time in 57 years when Leatherhead were defeated 2-0 in the final at Gander Green Lane.  This triumph was a fitting tribute to Brian Adamson who stood down as manager at the end of the season.

In January 2015, Corinthian-Casuals embarked on an historic tour to Brazil to play the two-time FIFA World Club Champions SC Corinthians Paulista. The match played out in front of 30,000 fans in attendance and screened live on two national TV stations. Although the final score was 3-0 to the hosts, Casuals held the professionals to 0-0 for 78 minutes. Corinth won the hearts of many millions of fans in the week spent in Sao Paulo.

With James Bracken now in charge, we look forward with quiet optimism to another year as the eternal underdogs, punching above their weight. The Corinthian-Casuals Football Club continues to take great pride in its rich and glorious history, and still so very much more in its present day standing as the highest ranked amateur club in England.

**Some Amazing Facts About Corinthian-Casuals:**

* Corinthians were founded in 1882 by the Football Association to develop a club capable of defeating Scotland. **In essence, Corinthians were the first England team.**
* Between 1883 and 1890, 52 of the 88 caps awarded against Scotland went to Corinthian players. In fact, in 1894 and 1895, **Corinthians fielded the full England side twice… the only club to ever manage this feat.**
* **It’s acknowledged that England wear white in homage to the Corinthian strip**. It’s also a fact that Real Madrid, inspired by Corinthians, adopted their white strip.
* However, **Corinthian’s greatest contribution to the game was their missionary work**; touring overseas across Europe, South Africa, USA, Canada and South America.
* It was on a tour to Brazil in 1910 which inspired locals to found their own team in Corinthian’s honour… **that club has since gone on to be the largest in South America** and the only team to win the FIFA World Club Championship twice (defeating Chelsea in 2011).
* Corinthians were the English club to field the **first ever Black International player**.
* The Corinthians were so good, they regularly defeated league and FA Cup winning opponents. **In fact, in 1904, they defeated Manchester United 11-3 – their heaviest defeat to this day.** The centenary of that match was played in 2004 with United claiming a 3-1 victory.
* In 1939, Corinthians merged with another famous club, Casuals to **become the club that, to this day, resides in Tolworth.**
* Corinthian-Casuals are the only club to be honoured with a **Royal Coat of Arms.**
* Corinthian-Casuals has called the borough of **Kingston upon Thames home for over 25 years.**
* **Corinthian-Casuals are the highest ranked fully amateur team in Senior football.** We maintain our original ethos of fair play and good sportsmanship across all levels of football.
* **Corinthian-Casuals has over 145,000 enthusiastic and avid Facebook followers.** That puts the club in the social media site’s top twenty most supported football teams in England, beating many Premiership clubs in the process.