

September 17, 2014

Queen City Soccer Club LLC Announces Plans to Bring Professional Soccer Back to Memorial Stadium

Queen City Soccer Club LLC has announced it has acquired the USL PRO franchise rights for Charlotte from the Charlotte Eagles. The new team, owned and operated by Queen City Soccer Club LLC, will begin play in 2015. The ownership group is headed by Jim McPhilliamy, current president and managing partner of the Charlotte Hounds (Major League Lacrosse).

“We are excited to be launching Charlotte’s new USL PRO soccer team at a time when soccer is booming,” said Jim McPhilliamy, president and managing partner of the Charlotte Hounds. “There has never been a better time for pro soccer than now. We have lots to do, including bolstering our staff, assembling a team and expanding American Legion Memorial Stadium to suit soccer. But, most importantly, we need to work with our fans, community and partners to promote the team – local area youth clubs, local supporters groups, Charlotte Center City Partners, the Charlotte Chamber, the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, the Hospitality and Tourism Alliance, government officials and our corporate sponsors, all helping out for the greater good. This team is a true community property and it’s going to be fun to see it grow and succeed here in Charlotte.”

The organization also announced that it will play its home games at historic American Legion Memorial Stadium. The team will share the stadium with the Charlotte Hounds. Queen City Soccer Club LLC is working with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation on improvements to the stadium and will invest up to \$1.5 million on expansion of the playing surface to accommodate soccer. Queen City Soccer Club LLC currently has eight full-time employees and has plans to hire additional staff, including seasonal and game day personnel.

The team announced that it is working toward an official affiliation with the Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise Colorado Rapids.

The new team, to be named the Charlotte Independence, pays tribute to the city’s rich history, specifically the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Captain Jack will serve as a key symbol for the team.

OrthoCarolina has signed on as the team’s presenting sponsor and will be featured on the team’s home and away kits.

“Professional sports are an integral part of what makes Charlotte’s quality of life special,” said Bob Morgan, president and CEO of the Charlotte Chamber. “The efforts of Queen City Soccer Club LLC will further Charlotte’s position as a national leader in professional sports and will enhance our efforts to attract new jobs and investment to the community.”

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The team will begin season ticket sales at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 18. Tickets may be purchased online at charlotteindependence.com or by phone at 704.206.1515.

Fans are invited to go to charlotteindependence.com to vote for their choice of 12 proposed team logos. Four of those options are shown below.



For more information on the team, visit charlotteindependence.com. Fans may follow @CLTIndependence on Twitter, like the team on Facebook at facebook.com/charlotteindependence and follow CLTINDEPENDENCE on Instagram.

You may also wish to contact one of the following:

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