

Canterbury United really deserve a lottery look-in

SIR - The success story of Canterbury United FC, as reported in your issue of June 8, is one which deserves all the publicity it can be given.

It is a triumphant example of what can be achieved when ordinary people cease listening to politicians - whether local or national - and take control of their own lives.

Politicians are, to quote a friend of mine, very long on initiatives and very short on follow-up; their time-scale, after all, stretches only as far as the next election. In a great many areas such as Bradford they have drowned us in words while diverting much-needed cash to such nonsensical projects as the Millennium Dome. It takes

local people with an understanding of local issues to come up with such a blindingly obvious idea as a local football team.

Will Canterbury United ever get a Lottery grant? Will pigs ever fly? No, lottery money - contributed by precisely the sort of people who live on the Canterbury Estate - goes to fund opera houses in the South-East, not to help struggling football teams in inner-city areas.

I have never supported a football team in my life, despite being the son of a former professional player; but from now on I shall follow the fortunes of Canterbury United fervently. This is real power to the people.

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