

Classic City Gents



£1

A compilation of the best articles
from the first six issues of
CITY GENT – 1984/85
The Voice of Bantam Progressivism

What's so **Firkin Special** about an alehouse where you buy your **Own Ale** whether you're out for a **Celebration** or just looking for **Brain Damage**.

At a T.F.C. Alehouse apart from **Rail Ale** there's the company. Colourful characters like **Alice Sixty** a real old **Battleaxe** who's in most nights with **Old Faithful** by her side.



She usually gets **Topsy Turvy** and has a good **Old Grumble** before **Ten Thirty Five**.

Then there's the **Bombadier** a man of **Pedigree**, who was in with all the local **Squires** until he made an **Exhibition** of himself with some **Blackbird!** now he just gets **Piston Bitter**.



From time to time one of the **Directors**, an **Extra Special** yet **Heavy** man, not from this **County**, who has made **great Progress**, will be in situ.



Through winter **Old Snowy** often keeps him at home, but during summer months he will **Down Moore Ale** than many a **Landlord** whilst telling you he still needs more **Capital** – but don't be fooled, he drinks **Theakstons Bitter**.

THE WOODCOCK

Gibbet St., Halifax

THE RED ROOSTER

Beckfoot, Brighouse



ALE HOUSES

THE FIGHTING COCK

Preston St., Bradford

THE DUCK & DRAKE

Kirkgate, Leeds

Birds with all the "right stuff" inn

THE "CITY GENT"

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

THE PUBLICATION OF CITY TRAVEL CLUB'S (BFD)



This compilation of articles from the first six issues of CITY GENT has been produced in response to the demand for back issues of CITY GENT which have now long since sold out. CITY GENT was conceived during the summer of 1984 by Jon Burgess, John Dewhirst and Brian Fox as an attempt to provide Bradford City supporters with the latest in club news and information as well as to provide value for money reading at half-time or on away coaches. The first issue went on sale at a Valley Parade reserve fixture on October 30th, 1984 and there were to be another five issues in that triumphant, yet tragic, season. 350 copies were printed for the original issue but by CG #6 that figure had quadrupled and interest in CITY GENT has continued to grow ever since.

Since the Valley Parade disaster of May 1985, Bradford City FC has become stronger in spirit, both on the field and off, and out of despair has come great optimism. The roots of that optimism and self-belief can be traced to the moment when The Bantams went to the top of Division Three in November 1984 after defeating Millwall at Valley Parade. Hopefully this publication will provide an alternative perspective on what has become known as BANTAM PROGRESSIVISM.

John Dewhirst, EDITOR Sept 1987.

CONTENTS: pp4-8 CG#1 (Nov'84); pp9-17 CG#2 (Dec'84); pp18-25 CG#3 (Jan'85); pp26-27 CG#4 (Feb'85); pp28-33 CG#5 (March'85); pp34-38 CG#6 (April'85).
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STRAIGHT FROM THE BANTAM'S BEAK

ONE OF THE BEST things about the season so far has been the encouraging start made by City's defence. In successive matches we have kept at bay Hull, (more on them later), Brentford and York. The back four has played confidently, with Evans and Jacko playing out of their skins and Eric no longer looking like soiling his trousers at the approach of the ball. There's a calmness about the defence not seen for a while and happily Eric's been keeping clean sheets as well as clean shorts!

CITY'S recent taste of 'the big time' against Newcastle United will have left many supporters with both good and bad memories. The low point has to be missing fifteen minutes of the away leg whilst queuing to get in. Police on duty at St. James's Park agreed that the club was at fault for opening only two turnstiles for City fans. Full marks for effort to John Dewhurst for trying to enter the ground via the family enclosure - posing as Ricky Holden's proud Daddy. (He's not much older than John...) Still, some had an even harder task getting into the match - one chap in dark blue seemed to be trying to force his way to the front of the queue on the back of a horse. Hope it enjoyed the game...

Once inside the ground the cattle-pens and rip-off catering set me thinking about the half-price pies and cinder terrace atmosphere of lower division football - it's hard to beat. Of course if all you want is a glimpse into soccer's murky past than there's always The Shay just down the road.

MY ENJOYMENT of the second leg of the tie was somewhat marred by the presence of a very loud part-timer standing next to me on the Kop. As City had all the play but just failed to provide the finish he spurred on his team with cries of 'I've paid £2.50 for rubbish!'

Perhaps if he paid his £2.50 more often he'd have some better 'rubbish' to support - but if he does I hope he picks somewhere else to stand!

The contrast between First and Third was underlined by one curious decision by the ref: with a Newcastle player writhing on the turf Mr. Ashley blew up against Stuart McCall for a perfectly good tackle on another player - clearly in order that the costly first division merchandise might be tended to as soon as possible. I wonder how long one of our lads would have had to wait?

Maybe one or two of the free kick decisions suggested that the referee had got it into his head that he ought to protect first division flair from third division thuggery - even though the reality was very different. Still, we've had worse refs at the Valley this season and I'm not after Jimmy Hill's job so I'll leave it at that. It was a brave performance against Newcastle and all in all Trevor Cherry is right in saying that it's been a good overall start to the season. Let's hope for more good performances to report in the next CITY GENT.

TREVOR CHERRY

TALKING TO THE CITY GENT

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ENCOURAGING START TO THE SEASON - DO YOU THINK THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF PROMOTION? I don't think that we are a promotion team and I've said that it's up to the players to prove me wrong. I think that what we've built here - without buying players, augurs well but I think that there is a time when you reach a block and you've got to say 'are we going to spend and get out?' or 'are we going to remain a 3rd Div. club?' A good manager has always got to be looking for better players than he's got and I think that goes for Ron Atkinson who has got Bryan Robson! If he can get a better player he'd get rid of him and that's how football should be.

WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT SELLING STUART McCALL? When I came to City I inherited a lot of players who weren't saleable assets - the only asset was Bobby who had to be sold in the end. I don't like selling players and I don't like making players for other clubs but I also think that there is a certain time that when you get offered a certain amount of money and you can use it, then the offer should be considered. Unless someone is going to give me say £100,000 to spend on the team then I've got to generate it myself in order that I can strengthen the team. I have players constantly under consideration and we've made enquiries - I have not spent a penny here and would obviously like to spend ...

WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE SET UP HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY AT V. PDE? Yes and it's changed for the good of Bradford City and we're now on a stable financial footing. We've got new floodlights and there will be a new stand roof shortly. Don't forget that a new roof will cost £25,000 and that's an amount I'd like to have to buy players with.

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THAT YOU'LL KEEP ON PLAYING? It's something that I quite honestly can't tell you - I didn't think that I'd play as much as I have this season. I think that when you get to 33, and I'm 36 you're living on borrowed time. I'll play it week to week; my contract as a player is up at the end of 84/85 so we'll review the situation in the summer.

THE TEAM CERTAINLY MISSED YOUR PRESENCE IN THE WIGAN AND ORIENT GAMES ... Yes, the lack of experience must be considered when we start talking about changing players. We might need to bring in experience players if we can although it must be remembered that we have to watch the wage bill. In our last league game we had 7 players under the age of 23; it's good to go for youth but you suffer the faults of the lack of their experience. When I came here Stuart McCall had only played a few League games and those were at right back but he gradually knocked off the rough edges and he's developed into a fine player as we all know. Thereagain I'm not pleased with young players coming into the side too early and before their time, so patience is the virtue. For example I'm unhappy about Don Goodman having come into the team so early because he's only just become a full-time professional but we've had problems with John Hawley's fitness; first of all John needed stitches and now it's mumps and of course he had trouble at the start of the season, but I'm afraid that, that's the way it goes. I wasn't happy with Gary Haire's form up front so in came Don. Although he might be finding it difficult at the moment I've no doubts whatsoever about his future. I think that he's got a great chance of being a good player but he's still got rough edges to knock off.

CES PODD and his life without CITY

CITY GENT TALKS TO HALIFAX TOWN'S NEW FULL BACK

AS CES PODD himself puts it, fourteen years with one club is a long time, and if City Fans haven't yet got used to the idea of a Bradford City side without Ces, they should spare a thought for the player himself. "It hasn't sunk in yet" admits Ces, "I still look for the (City)results," Despite the difficulties of breaking the ties with his old club Ces has already taken the fortunes of Halifax Town very much to heart (I noticed that he managed to get the 'we's' and 'theys' in the right place when comparing Halifax and City!) and, with creditable commitment, feels personal anguish at his new club's sorry league placing: "I've never been bottom before in my life - it's a blow" he concedes. The fact that he was brought to the club to provide experience has given him a greater sense of responsibility for the performances of the team in general.

Ces realises that lack of money dictates that Halifax are bound to have problems: "Don't underestimate our ability but when money is not available younger players don't have time to learn the game." He explains that in a club without a reserve team a promising youngster's initial mistakes have to be tolerated in the first eleven. Ces is quick to defend the level of skill in the Fourth Division however, and points out that the Halifax style of "driving balls in through the middle, creating room to bypass players" in some ways requires more concentration than the tactics employed at Bradford City, where the luxury of taller players ensured that 'getting up to the line and crossig anyhow' was always likely to yield good results. Ces admits "I'm still feeling my way - it's a different type of game." At least he has a fair contingent of ex-City lads to help him feel at home, including close friend Garry Watson.

One of the strangest sights for City fans this season has been that of Ces playing in the colours of Halifax Town against his old team-mates in the West Riding Cup. "I can't get used to playing in a blue shirt" he laughs, "I kept on noticing Mark Ellis white shirt and wanting to pass the ball to him!" Ces also admits that he still has problems identifying his new team-mates on the pitch.

Ces has a sensible, realistic approach to life and his own future, admiring honesty and putting enjoyment before money. "People told me I could have gone to a bigger club but I enjoyed myself at Bradford. Money isn't everything if you're happy. My feet are firmly on the ground and I never thought I was big time. Football's just a game I have to do well because it's my living." As a christian, Ces's spiritual life is the most important thing to him, and will remain so when he eventually decides to quit football. As regards a future career, Ces says that his hairdressing salon in Leeds keeps him busy, and will continue to do so when his playing days are done. Exactly when that will be is hard to say - Ces says he wants to carry on as long as he still enjoys the game. Thinking, as ever, of his responsibility to others, he amends that to "As long as I'm not letting people down, and there isn't someone who could do the job better than me."

Despite his interests outside the game Ces freely admits that he would be interested in management should the chance come along - although in no way casting envious eyes on the vacancy left at Halifax after Micky Bullock's departure. "I'd be interested in management but you've got to plan - you need a foot in the door." He adds, astutely: "They look for names." He quickly returns to what he rightly sees to be the task in hand: "We've got to get it right on the field." Ces says he's not entirely happy with his own form in this respect but if certain Halifax fans known to the editor are to be believed then Ces will be candidate for Player of the Year at The Shay come the end of the season!

Honesty was the factor which attracted Ces to Halifax in the first place, having also had talks with Rochdale. "Talks were dragging on for ages" recalls Ces, whereas Halifax were straight forward enough to admit that there was no money at the club as soon as negotiations began. Also I got the impression that they (Rochdale) didn't know how to organise the team"... "If you're not honest with people you haven't a prayer."

Ces concedes that his new playing life at Halifax "takes a lot of getting used to"... "it's not as big a club" (one of the first things that he told me was that players often have to wash their own kit). The players at Halifax look on City as a bigger outfit. "as rivals, but friendly rivals - there's no hatred."

It is undeniably hard for Ces to forget his BCFC past - there are always reminders - like a wave from Terry Yorath as he drives past Ces's salon every day - but there's no doubt that Ces's sound sense of responsibility will ensure he'll give his all for them as he did for us, week in, week out.
The City Gent wishes Ces Podd all the best for the future.

STUART MCCALL CITY'S NEXT INTERNATIONAL?

An article in last week's SUNDAY MIRROR has outlined City's Stuart McCall as a likely candidate for international honours soon -but not necessarily for England!

Stuart has gone on record as saying: "If I have the choice there's only one country I'd play for... and that is Scotland. I was born in Leeds but my parents are both Scottish and come from Hamilton. I've been up there for holidays and I love the place".

The 'Soccerbeat' column reports that although Stuart has been recently watched by England u-21 boss Dave Sexton his wish to play for Scotland may be granted instead. Trevor Cherry has been in touch with Jock Stein and is described as 'glowing in his praise' of Stuart.

As far as we are concerned England's loss will be Scotland's gain if Stuart does achieve his ambition. Whatever nation benefits from his undoubted talent it is good to see a City player described as 'one of the most promising players in England' in the national press.

LOOKING BACK

1 year ago: 5/11/83. Wimbledon 4 City 1 (Ellis). This defeat left City languishing in 23rd position in Div 3 but the game did see the welcome return of Bobby Campbell from his Derby excursion and can therefore be seen as the turning point in City's fortunes: we were not to suffer another league defeat until March 1984...

Why Don't We Play at Odsal ?

LOOK TO THE FUTURE!

Bradford Council has committed itself to a substantial investment at Odsal stadium in the attempt of putting Bradford back on the sporting map. The return of speedway to Bradford has brought the Odsal dream to fruition and Northern will now become the envy of the other RL clubs. The question in many people's minds has been whether CITY might not be better at Odsal as well, and although the question is purely hypothetical it is nevertheless interesting to gauge opinion on the idea of a move across town.

Eleven years ago City had the opportunity of moving up to Park Avenue - a stadium which a lot of football supporters regarded as being more pleasant and better situated. But homage to tradition left City at Valley Parade and Avenue was subsequently demolished. An opportunity to develop a new super stadium was missed and by 1983 the new regime at City had inherited the years of neglect - crumbling terraces, a leaky roof and inadequate supporters' facilities.

So instead of spending money on the Valley and making it suitable for 3rd let alone 2nd Div. football wouldn't it make sense to pool resources at Odsal with Northern and acquire a 1st Div. stadium instead of remaining at a 4th Div. ground? Wouldn't this release funds for the new players sought by TC? Tradition is all well and good but let's face it, there hasn't been much to shout about since 1911 and stubborn provincial myopia hasn't exactly bred success. A move up to Odsal would make economic sense for both City and Northern. Instead of Bradford being known only for its slums and deprivation perhaps the new look Odsal could be the symbol of ambition - both at City and in the Metropolitan District at large. After all, the area around Valley Parade is nothing to be proud about and does not give a good reflection of the city of Bradford.

But, would it be practical? As the issue is hypothetical we will ignore political considerations and concentrate instead on the feasibility of staging football and rugby on alternate weekends at Odsal. Clearly the stands and terraces as well as the facilities at Odsal put Valley Parade to shame but there are three crucial questions to be asked - where would the dressing rooms be located? Where would away supporters be located and could the pitch stand up to the use?

On the first point it seems unlikely that the FL would consent to the use of Odsal's infamous piranha way for players and officials - but perhaps that would be the price paid by referees for their inconsistencies and stupid decisions! As for the second point, stewarding at Odsal would be difficult although segregation would not necessarily be impossible. Finally, although the Odsal pitch has taken a lot of criticism in the past, it has improved over the last couple of seasons and is it really any worse than Valley Parade? Besides, with adequate draining, Leeds (who?) and Fulham have both been able to stage the two codes and pitch sharing has not deterred the likes of Mansfield, Carlisle or Cardiff.

Well a move to Odsal is something to think about, and we hope to continue the discussion next month. We hope to receive comments from City supporters on this matter as well as on any other subject that you think should be faced by BCFC if we are going to build a successful team for the future.

IN A FRANK INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BEFORE THE DERBY COUNTY MATCH (10/11/84) BRADFORD CITY'S CHAIRMAN TALKS ABOUT THE REALITIES OF RUNNING BRADFORD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB.

CITY GENT: How committed is the present board to success? What's the club policy with regard to buying, selling and keeping players?

STAFFORD HEGINBOTHAM: There's an over-riding policy that the club has got to be made to run within its own finances ... I am not prepared to chair this football club, or any other, where we are looking at a loss situation before the financial year begins. If we are talking about keeping players, buying players, selling players, all that has got to be in the context of can one reach a break even figure ... The whole desire of the club is to break even or do better and I regard that as being successful. In the last time of my chairmanship we made a profit in six out of eight years. I'm proud of that record and I intend to keep it during this spell at the club. But we will never sell players here for the sake of creating money which we don't particularly need. And we have the situation here at the moment where we're not being pinned to the wall by any bank manager, so consequently we can take a much more long-term view of what it's necessary to do to shove the club up a division or two.

I regard football as having some credibility from 2nd Div. upwards and it is very much my ambition that this club will achieve 2nd. Div. status as soon as ever possible and that would be a consideration in whatever we did with the present team.

C.G.: Would you be prepared to make a short-term loss in order to make money available for players to strengthen a promotion push?

S.H.: I said that we were prepared to make a short term loss by the fact that we reformed the club last year. We were looking at one period last year, at making a loss of £100,000, particularly when the crowds were down to 2,500 and we were down at the bottom of the league. Of course we had the record-breaking run which lifted the average crowds. We were able to get rid of players off the staff to cut the wage bill, and the biggest thing that happened was that we created a good deal of finance from revenue from special events like the Executive Club Dinner, like the golf - of course these are now essential parts of the running of the club.

But if you're asking me would we put out 50, 60 or £100,000 speculatively on strengthening the present squad, on the chance that we might get promotion, then the answer to that is No, we wouldn't.

I believe that the situation is that a club of this kind can run within its own finances ... I don't believe the opinion that the best players are the ones that cost the most money. I think there are signings that Trevor and Terry have made that measure up to a lot of signings at other clubs of £40,000 and £50,000. Dave Evans, for instance, £50,000 or £60,000 or anybodys money at any time ... I think the corrolation between a transfer fee and a player is that you need that player at a specific time to do a job. Where transfer fees apply is when you plan properly on a 2 or 3 year basis and plan to bring players in when they are available, either at no cost or at a minimal cost. I think that is the success of managing a lower division football club.

We were asked £20,000 for John Hendrie a week before the deadline. We offered half of that and had it rejected. Seven weeks later he was a free transfer player and came here.

There isn't a Robert Maxwell here so we won't ever do an Oxford United. But what we will do is stop this club from ever getting in the bloody mess it was twelve months ago: in debt and people spending money that neither they nor the club never had.

C.G.: So did you have to do a great deal of work to rectify the financial situation of the club?

S.H.: Yes, and we are still doing it. Roy McFarland will come back here today. I think he'll be shocked at what he sees when he comes through that entrance - from the bloody Anne Hathaway's cottage and Fingal's Cave that he left to what he's coming back to. And all that's been achieved in just over twelve months.

C.G.: How do you find the business community in Bradford has adjusted to the change of board?

S.H.: I think the business community of this city is giving more support to this club that it has ever done in its history. What is wrong now is bums on seats and feet on terraces. It's the actual football supporter that isn't getting out of his armchair on a Saturday and coming to watch what we've done, because we've worked miracles, there's no two ways about it.

This club had its highest league position since 1938 last year and what happened? Season ticket sales in the summer were

half of what they had been the previous year.

CITY GENT: To what do you attribute the disappointing crowds?

STAFFORD HEGINBOTHAM: After all the drama of the previous summer and 'would it be saved - wouldn't it be saved?' and all the lip service people paid I think the football became an anti-climax. I think that people thought because we'd achieved a high league position there was no need to commit themselves on a seasonal basis - that's nonsensical - we need season ticket holders more than we've ever needed them before.

C.G: Could falling attendances be due to high admission prices?

S.H: No - I don't think so because I don't think they're high. You can come here and see a match for £2.50 on the terraces - you can see 27 live entertainers - you can walk down the road to Cloud Nine and you pay £3 to go in there to see one fellow putting records on a disc machine and you'll entertain yourself down there by dancing on the floor. We'll entertain you here while you're standing on the terrace. You can't get into a cinema for less than £3 in a decent seat.

C.G: Is it good value compared with Elland Rd or Old Trafford, where you can watch 2nd. or 1st. Div. football in better facilities, without a leaking roof or crumbling terraces?

S.H: Of course we will repair the terracing, of course we will repair the stand roof. By the start of next season the entire kop will have been re-concreted for the first time this century. We shall repair the stand in the next few weeks. And you don't see at the present time, the level of entertainment that you see here, at Elland Road!

C.G: We agree with that! But's a comment some people make

...

S.H: I find in my experience that the people who make the comment couldn't find their way here if somebody brought them for nothing ... I speak at a lot of dinners and they announce me as the saviour of Bradford City and what a wonderful job I've done. It's all very nice to listen to but it's not so nice when I say, "Fine, I've done my bit, you've made me a hero in the last ten minutes but what the hell have all you folk sat around this dinner done in the last twelve months? ...They all feel that we should do well and they all follow our progress - but they follow it through the pages of the T & A - they don't follow it where it matters and that's bums on seats and feet on terraces.

CITY GENT: Are you, personally committed to a future at Valley Parade?

S.H: There's no commitment from me or Jack Tordoff to stay here 4,5 or 10 years ... If at any time I thought there was someone at the club who could do a better job than I'm doing I wouldn't have any thought whatsoever at standing down and letting him do it.

C.G: Is the club committed to a future at Valley Parade?

S.H: The club is committed to a future of league football in Bradford. If we found that the stadium here didn't match up to the requirements of what we achieve. I personally have no particular feeling that Bradford City always have to play here.

C.G: If a move to Odsal became possible, would you be in favour?

S.H: A shared stadium is fine when people say you're playing on a Saturday, they're playing on a Sunday, but there's a tremendous number of other things involved in that relationship. For instance a large part of our revenue is the ground advertising here. If we go to Odsal do Bradford Northern want all that revenue?

C.C: It has been said that Valley Parade is hardly the most salubrious stadium. Perhaps the stadium at Park Ave. should have been developed or a move to another part of the city, in order to create interest and hopefully increase attendances ...

S.H: A lot of the criticism of playing here is by people who wouldn't come if we were in the middle of Tong Village - God forbid that they're ever going to build a stadium there! I agree with what you say about Park Avenue but there can't be many people who would say that the Canterbury estate is the most salubrious location for a football ground either.

I think that they acknowledge at City Hall that they have a positive role to play if the club is to go far. There is no point in me going to them and asking for an 80,000 capacity stadium to bring 4,100 people there every other Saturday, 8 months a year. Until we can prove there's a need we're not going to get the right kind of response from City Hall. We can prove there is a need by creating first or second division football.

C.G: A couple of years ago there were grandiose plans for a wonderful all-seater stadium at Valley Parade with a tunnel or bridge from North Parade to Midland Road. Have you paid lip

service to the ideas of Bob Martin?

S.H.: No - I don't live in Cloud Cuckoo Land. They were having plans like that here with debts of £300,000 at the time ... the thing is non-sensical. They proved it to be so in where the club finished the summer before this. I think improvements have to be piecemeal within the finances of the club.

C.G.: Finally, have you any plans for new supporters facilities?

S.H.: When I built the Edwardian Club it was the best supporters club outside the 1st div. The very best it did was to lose £1,400 in a year. We cannot take on those sort of liabilities for a supporters club that won't get used. The record here says that because of the area that we're in people won't come down here at night and risk their cars being vandalised... So until there is a change or until we have got monies that we are prepared to put into something not self-funding then the supporters club will just have to wait.

THE CITY GENT THANKS MR. HEGINBOTHAM FOR HIS CO-OPERATION

On the lighter side

Record Crowd at Valley Parade

It's gratifying to see that the public are responding to City's success by attending matches in greater numbers. We are indebted to The Sunday Times results service for confirming some people's suspicions that the Derby County match drew an attendance greater than the official figure of 8560. The gate represents an increase of 88,884,000 on the average this season and should please even Mr. Heginbotham.

WATFORD	(1)	3	1	(C)	SUNDERLAND	18,900
Jackel					Hodgson	
Terry						
Stirling						
WEST BROM	(1)	2	0	(C)	STOKE	12,268
Hunt						
MacKinnon						
WEST HAM	(C)	0	1	(C)	EVERTON	24,089
					Heath	

LEAGUE DIVISION III

BRADFORD	(C)	3	1	(C)	DERBY	
McCall					Palmer	8338,600
Goossens						
BRISTOL	(1)	2	2	(1)	LINCOLN	4,115
Cooper					Jack 2	
BRISTOL C	(1)	3	0	(C)	BRISTOL R	18,672
Evans						
CAMBRIDGE	(C)	2	3	(C)	BURNLEY	2,805
Spinks					Biggs	
Overton					Raymont	e.g.
					Ward	

Before going Back to the Valley
... go back to other old favourites



THE WATMOUGH ARMS



Wild Boar and Trough Bitter
Hot meals served every lunchtime
Bar snacks available at all times



PINK ELEPHANT

ARTHUR'S BAR



Traditional beers from Thwaites and Websters on handpumps
Mon-Wed 7pm-12; Thurs-Sat 7pm-2am; Sunday 7pm-10.30pm

there's more to Lumb Lane
than meets the eye

STORIES of a REVOLUTION

no 1: Roy McTrotsky

Two years ago when Roy McFarland left Valley Parade, City were riding on the crest of a wave. Promotion from Div. 4 the previous season, an encouraging start in Div. 3 and a magnificent display against Manchester United in the FLC gave promise for the future.

Admittedly George Mulhall had laid the foundations for success but who could deny that Roy McFarland had injected a new dynamic spirit and revolutionary fervour to the club? No longer it seemed would City remain in the depths of Div. 4 McFarland had injected a new confidence into the supporters; he had become a shaman with a strange command over his followers. 'Stand by us' he declared at the promotion celebrations, 'We are going places.'

Naturally, we didn't think that he was going to Derby, but it was because McFarland meant so much to the supporters and because he seemed to promise so much that his departure made it all the more reason for him to become the new Antichrist.

He had asked for loyalty and support and the Bradford public had responded accordingly. Supporters had not seen 2nd Division football since 1937, or since 1948 at Avenue, and those years of pent-up frustration were focused on McFarland.

As events were to prove, the momentum was not to be regained until perhaps Boxing Day 1983. The disruption on the field and the financial traumas seemed to have destroyed the progress that had been made and it could be said that McFarland became the scapegoat - the Trotsky of a faltering revolution. Perhaps this can explain the intensity of feeling that was shown when McFarland returned in November. Victory over Derby was indeed sweet, especially so when he had threatened to have the last laugh when his team had taken the lead. It was a result that supporters had yearned for and perhaps it is the result that will finally conclude the scandal; McFarland was beaten and Bobby's goal symbolised the pick axe to Trotsky's skull.

With Trotsky dead and the externa bogey eliminated, the revolution could continue.

But our tale is not complete. Subsequent revelations in the Pravda & Argus by chairman Heginbotha, the true leader and saviour of Bantam Progressivism, suggest that Roy McTrotsky was not such a bad bloke after all and that the source of counter revolution and disruption was in fact that hound-dog of non-attendance, Bob Martinov.

Will the de-Martinisation of BCFC bring with it a reinstatement of Roy McTrotsky and the rewriting of history?

At the end of the day, perhaps Roy McFarland's contribution to Bantam Progressivism will be seen in a different light and the early days of revolution will be remembered with nostalgia and not bitterness.

Although it is difficult to swallow one's pride and although one cannot necessarily condone McFarland's actions two years ago, it seems that there are two sides to the story ...

Watch out for more news about the Valley Archipelago in next month's City Gent.

Up the revolution!! Long Live Bantam Progressivism!!

RECORD SCORERS*O'ROURKE AND CAMPBELL

AS A TRIBUTE TO BOBBY CAMPBELL WHO RECENTLY BEAT FRANK O'ROURKE'S LEAGUE GOAL SCORING RECORD, CITY GENT COMPARES THESE TWO GREAT MARKSMEN.

FRANK O'ROURKE

SEASON	DIVISION	LEAGUE APP.	LEAGUE GOALS
06/7	2	5	4
07/8	2	36	21
08/9	1	38	19
09/10	1	35	20
10/11	1	32	13
11/12	1	21	4
12/13	1	18	5
13/14	1	7	2
		192	88

Towards the end of the 1906/07 season, City realised that the the coming campaign they would need a good centre forward. On Easter Tuesday 1907, City played Airdrie at Valley Parade. They were impressed by the Scots team's striker and officials went to their Leeds Hotel in the hope of signing him. Eventually Airdrie agreed and anxious City officials got O'Rourke out of bed to complete the signing.

Frank O'Rourke made his debut the following Saturday in a home game against Nottingham Forest. A huge crowd of 18,800 was attracted to see O'Rourke score, but City lost. The following Saturday, O'Rourke scored twice in the away defeat of Lincoln.

O'Rourke played a vital part in the 1907/08 season when City were promoted to the First Division as Second Division Champions. In the close season, City toured Belgium and Germany where O'Rourke was a great hit. As O'Rourke skillfully dribbled around the bemused Belgians, an enthusiastic onlooker likened him to a cat playing with a mouse.

The debut season in Division One was a tough one for City, and come the end of the season they were in severe danger of relegation. The Bantams had to beat cup-holders Manchester United at Valley Parade to stay in the first division. An O'Rourke goal gave City the lead which they managed to hold onto, thanks to a fine save by Mark Mellors in the closing stages. City stayed in the first division. O'Rourke played in the 1910/11 Cup Final and the replay where he played a vital part. As he charged towards the Newcastle keeper the goalie took his eye off the ball, allowing Speirs header to go in over his shoulder - City had won the cup!

Unfortunately, O'Rourke was injured in the first round F.A. Cup match the following season against Queens Park Rangers and he appeared infrequently after the 1911/12 season.

BOBBY CAMPBELL

SEASON	DIVISION	LEAGUE APP.	LEAGUE GOALS
79/80	4	21	8
80/81	4	41(1)	19
81/82	4	45	24
82/83	3	40	25
83/84	3	32	9
84/85	3	15	7
upto 10/11/84			

Bobby's goal in the 1-0 victory over York this season equalled O'Rourke's tally of 88 league goals. Whereas O'Rourke had taken 192 league games to reach this figure, Campbell managed it in three fewer. He broke the record by scoring in the home draw with Bristol City - his 190th league game for City.

It is, of course, hard to compare the two players - football has changed in the seventy years between the two. Similarities certainly exist - in the number of games taken to reach 88 goals and also in the fact that both scored on their debuts for City, Bobby's debut goal coming in the 1-1 home draw with Peterborough on January 12 1980.

Campbell has certainly scored more important goals for City. Probably the most memorable was in the defeat of Liverpool in the League Cup following up Terry Dolan's free kick. It is also hard to forget the two cracking goals he scored against Bournemouth to clinch promotion for City in 1982. Even last season, when he didn't find the net as often as most City fans would have liked, his value to the team was obvious. It is no coincidence that City's brilliant revival last season coincided with Campbell's return from Derby.

Whereas it might be argued that O'Rourke's feat was probably harder to achieve - City were in the first division and they won the cup after all, defences were certainly not so good as today's. Although he has played for City only in the lower divisions Campbell has scored goals consistently. O'Rourke played eight seasons for City in establishing his record. Campbell has broken it in his sixth.

Whatever your thoughts on the matter, what is certainly true is that both players are fine examples of the traditional centre forward. Let's hope Bobby can go on to another 88 goals for City (at least!) and enjoy many more seasons at Valley Parade. Well done, Bobby.



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P-9's Tony Delahunty Talking

C.G.: Did you have any difficulties as a stranger getting used to Bradford and sport in this area?

T.D.: I found all the clubs very helpful from the start. I was told Yorkshire people are a bit blunt - that's probably true but they are also very friendly. They probably had more difficulties with me - as a scouse I ask blunt questions. I believe if a team has lost 4-0, you should ask 'What went wrong?' not say 'You were unlucky.' One or two coaches found this a bit difficult. Eventually they appreciated it wasn't all the 'Bill Shankly' - 'We lost 4-0: three offsidés and a dive in the penalty area.'

C.G.: So you never tone down criticism to 'keep in with' the people you are interviewing?

T.D.: It's a good question. You've got to temper common sense when interviewing. If it's a question people want to hear then you should ask it. I believe a journalist who is scared to ask a question which should be asked is a bad journalist. Whether I come into this category is for others to decide, not me.

C.G.: When City almost folded Pennine - and especially yourself - did a lot of good work. Is there something about the Club which makes it easy for people from outside the area to become attached to it? Do you now consider yourself to be a true supporter?

T.D.: I always get accused by football clubs of being a supporter of the area's other clubs and not theirs! But it would be difficult not to become a City supporter - especially in the time of Jones and McFarland. I was caught up in their enthusiasm and in that of people you don't hear so much about like Frank Lee and Bill McGrath. If I was working elsewhere, I'd look for the Liverpool result first, then City, followed by Halifax and Huddersfield. There's no mistake when I don't mention Leeds United. I have to say that of the four Leeds would be the one I'd look for last.

C.G.: Why isn't there more live commentary on Pennine, especially on away matches in places like Plymouth?

T.D.: We try whenever possible to have commentary on Saturday afternoons. It's not always possible. Firstly commentary is expensive - it costs about £150 - as a local radio station we haven't a charter to pour money about all over the place. We also have to think of our advertisers, and so include music with sport to appeal to a wider audience. If City needed two points for promotion, or something like that, we would certainly have live commentary then. At the moment we're not in that position and we have to be fair to all our listeners. Pennine's not just about City or just about music.

C.G.: Have you noticed any major changes at Valley Parade yourself since the reformation of the Club?

T.D.: You need a new stand roof! I always thought City were all shiny shoes running around the boardroom - a club with plenty of money. I was as surprised as anyone when they went through the financial traumas. I think now you've a shrewd businessman in Jack Tordoff, the best frontman in football in Stafford Heginbotham, and the best accountant I've ever met in Peter Flesher on the board. The fact he's on the board is I think an insurance against the same thing happening again.

C.G.: There was supposed to be an inquiry into where the money went under the old board ...

T.D.: There was an inquiry as far as the Official Receiver and Liquidator were concerned - that's still going on. I also understand that papers were put before our friends in blue. The fact that as far as I know, they haven't prosecuted would well mean that they found nothing irregular in the books. There has been no direct evidence of criminal intent, as far as I know.

C.G.: Obviously the fans would like to know of any findings ...

T.D.: I'd go as far as to say that we have a file of information which has been available to the Official Receiver for some time - how much is relevant I don't know. Certainly we found no evidence of illegal transactions - obviously I've got to judge my words carefully ...

C.G: With City going so well at the moment, don't you think there's scope for a nightly City spot on Pennine?

T.D: We now have an onus to cover a much wider area since December 4th. If we gave more to City, we would have to give more to the other clubs. I would argue with my Programme Controller that there should be a 24-hour sports station.

C.G: Will Pennine's expansion mean that coverage of City will suffer?

T.D: No, I hope it will become fairer. Next season I'd like to see two teams from the area in the First Division, City in the Second Division and Halifax in the Third - I know its a wild hope for Halifax to get into the Third, but I'd like to see it happen. Having a more general sports coverage will, I hope, make me more professional. If we can get more to-the-point news, rather than having to pick around the waffle to get to the story, then both the supporters and Pennine Radio will benefit.

CITY GENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK TONY DELAHUNTY FOR ALLOWING US TO INTERVIEW HIM.

CG TERRACE TALK

Dear CITY GENT,

As an avid City supporter for the past nine years, I am glad to see that City are rising to the challenge of being the best team in Yorkshire, there is without doubt the potential and hopefully they will blend together to form an even more successful team, if and when they are promoted to the Second Division.

I feel that I must congratulate the backroom staff for producing a plain but informative magazine for only 20p. A great credit to you all!

An interesting piece in the magazine was the interview with Mr Heginbotham, which vaguely covered the topic with which I am now concerned. What alterations are to be made to the ground, should we reach the Second Division? Would there be changes such as an all-seater stadium or a brand new grandstand opposite the existing one?

Yours in Bantamism

D.Pickersgill

EDITOR: I think that ground improvements of the scale that you are talking about are, to say the least, extremely unlikely. Mr Heginbotham comes over as a very realistic man who would never commit himself to heavy spending lightly. He has gone on record as saying that improvements to Valley Parade will be piecemeal, as yet.

THE MANAGERS SPEAK

In January CITY GENT wrote to all Div 3 managers asking them a series of questions on who had impressed them most in the Division this season.

George Kerr (Rotherham, bless his soul) made few comments although did admit that Bristol Rovers had impressed him. He suggested that the top three will get promoted which was quite an astute comment.

Brian Horton (Hull) and Harry McNally (Wigan) made special mention of McCall, Abbott and Withe; defeat at Valley Parade obviously persuaded Horton that City 'are a good, well organised side with a sprinkling of good players in all departments while McNally said that we were very good and likely to go up. As for the other promotion contenders, Horton suggested Doncaster, Derby, Millwall, Walsall and Hull while McNally gave mention to Millwall while at the same time giving credit to Hull and Gillingham.

Another manager impressed with Gillingham was John Ryan of Cambridge who also commented that City were very strong and workmanlike with McCall in particular outstanding. He forwarded Millwall and Burnley (?) to accompany Gillingham next May but was unable to suggest any relegation candidates. No doubt he's in full control of the situation at the Abbey! Terry Cooper of Bristol City said that the Bantams were strong contenders for promotion and ranked alongside Bolton and Lincoln as the teams that had impressed him. He nominated Millwall, City, Doncaster, Bristol Rovers, York, Gillingham and Hull as the likely promotion contenders. Aside from McCall, Cooper said that he was impressed by the performances of TC and Terry Yorath and even went so far as to put Taff in his 84/85 Div 3 team.

The supremos of two other of our close rivals also had good words for City. Keith Peacock (Gillingham) said that City and Millwall had impressed him most this season and like David Williams (Bristol Rovers) saw City as strong promotion contenders. Both had been impressed by Stuart McCall and John Hendrie and suggested that Millwall, Bristol Rovers, Hull and Derby were the other realistic promotion contenders. Both Williams and Peacock saw Swansea and Cambridge as Div 4 bound with Orient as another struggler.

The Preston manager, Alan Kelly, gave no comment as to those clubs he saw as relegation candidates. Nevertheless, resounding defeat at the hands of City had convinced him that we were likely to go up. He was very impressed with our performance at Deepdale and ranked us ahead of Doncaster, Bristol Rovers, Gillingham and Hull as the teams likely to go up. The City players who had caught his eye most were 'Ellis, Withe, Gooding, Hendry and McAll'. In fact he nominated Withe and 'McAll' amongst those Div 3 players who had impressed him most so far this season which included 'Snodden' (DRFC), Cascarino (Gill), 'Davidson' (Derby), Williams (Bristol Rovers) and Curle (Bristol City).

So, as Alan Kelly's reply would suggest, City appear to have a number of mysterious characters playing for them and it is those unsung heroes who should at last be given the recognition they deserve. Watch out for Ian Hendrie and David Evens who the PNE programme editor has credited to our colours and don't forget Paul Hendrie and Bobby Howley who apparently played for us at Wigan. Perhaps our squad is not so small afterall!!!



Back Row : David Evens, Chris Withe, Bobby Campbell, Eric McManus, John Hawley, Peter Jackson, Greg Abbott, Brian Edwards (Physio). Front Row : Terry Gray, John Hendrie, Gary Haire, Trevor Cherry (Manager), Terry Yorath (Assistant Manager), Stuart McCall, Mark Ellis.

Jacko Speaks Out

THE CITY CAPTAIN'S REGULAR COLUMN

First of all I would like to talk about the F.A. Cup. While I have been at the club we have always done well in the F.A. Cup. We began well with a home tie against County Durham part-timers Tow Law Town, beating them 7-2. Then we had another home draw, against Mansfield Town from the Fourth Division, and they provided us with a hard game. They came here with a good defensive record and they defended well. We didn't play very well that day, but it's the result that counts in the Cup. As you all know, we have been drawn away to Telford in the Third Round. People have varying views about this draw, but I think it could have been worse, and if we play as we can do there should be no problem in beating Telford and progressing to the next round. Obviously we would have preferred the tie to have been at home - we believe we can beat anyone at Valley Parade.

The longer the match at Telford goes on the more chance we have of winning the game, but if Telford get an early goal we shall be up against it - as any League side would be against a non-League team.

Naturally I am pleased things are going so well in the league.

I think our 3-0 win at Reading was one of the best displays we have given as a team since I joined the club. Stuart McCall has had all the publicity but his midfield partner Greg Abbott deserves special mention - he has been absolutely tremendous - his passing, winning tackles and winning headers have all been outstanding and his work in Midfield is making defending easier.

There was no looking back at Reading once we had scored our first goal. The only real danger came from free kicks and corners because they were a big side, but there were no serious problems

We have to play a lot of the top sides away from home, but of the bottom twelve, we have to play ten at Valley Parade. We have some difficult matches away from home but we are confident - although not over-confident. We just need to keep winning games and picking up points. Our policy of playing just two in midfield and two wingers is paying off because we look dangerous every time we go forward.

Big Bobby Campbell

CITY'S ALL-TIME TOP SCORER TALKS TO THE CITY GENT

C.G.: Congratulations on the goal-scoring record, Bobby. Were you ever really conscious of it?

E.C.: I didn't really know about it until it was mentioned to me, then I began to look forward to beating it. I was a bit worried when the goals dried up for eight matches, so it was really nice to get one in and break the record.

C.G.: What's the atmosphere in the dressing room like these days?

B.C.: It's very good. There's a lot of younger lads, of course, and they are starting to take responsibilities and play as if they're going to do well in the game. Some of them have got ten years in front of them yet.

C.G.: What were your thoughts during the crisis period, when you had to leave City for Derby County? Did you expect the club to survive?

B.C.: I always thought City were going to be O.K. I've got confidence in the club - I was surprised that they didn't make a better start after they'd been saved. But I never thought I'd be coming back to Bradford after signing a three-year contract for Derby. I was happy to leave Derby - I hated the place.

My future is up to the Chairman - my contract's up at the end of the season and hopefully I'll sign a new one next year.

C.G.: You must have enjoyed the experience of going to Spain for the World Cup Finals in 1982, but were you terribly disappointed at not getting a game?

B.C.: I wasn't as disappointed as people seemed to think I would be. It was just a big bonus to be there - I had a bad run with injuries, of course. Obviously I'd have been over the moon if I had got a game - it would have been the highlight of my career.

C.G.: Did you ever expect to get a chance to play for Ireland, after being banned so early in your career?

B.C.: I never thought that the ban would be lifted. It wasn't while I was at Sheffield United, so I thought there was no chance when I moved down to the Fourth Division ...

C.G.: Finally, we're sure everyone would like to know how you unwind after a match ...

B.C.: A game of snooker and a pint! There's nothing better!

FOUL – A COMPILATION

edited by Mike Ticher

For a few glorious years in the 1970's FOUL added its idiosyncratic voice to the debate on what was wrong with British football. Managers, the FA, the Football League, referees, the press, and of course the players – the ball-winners and the recipients of the "Foul of the Month" and "Clogger of the Year" awards – were attacked with verve and venom. As the editor put it, FOUL consisted of "the witty, the brave, the well-informed, the snide, the downright cheap".

Since the last issue in 1976 FOUL has become a legend as one of the few attempts to provide an intelligent and unvarnished account of the British soccer scene. This compilation gives something of its unique flavour but is not just an exercise in nostalgia – some of the names may be different now, but not much else has changed.

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SOME WEEKS AGO THE CITY GENT WROTE TO ROY MCFARLAND, ASKING HIM FOR HIS VERSION OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING HIS DEPARTURE FROM VALLEY PARADE. NOW, AT LAST ...

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter, and I do apologise for taking so long to reply. As with the daily and weekly newspapers who have asked me to write an article referring to the events at Bradford, I have chosen to remain silent. What has happened has happened, and to talk about the past would only open old wounds.

But what you must remember is that nothing can take away the memory of how loyal my staff was to me. How the players gave me everything, and I was fortunate to be part of the best dressing room in 17 years of football. We didn't win all our matches through ability, many were won by character.

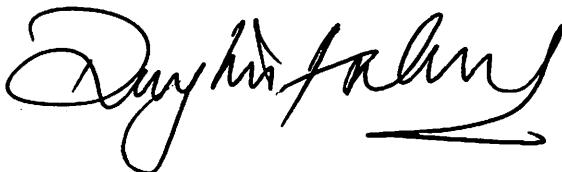
To the supporters ("The most important people at any football club"), we gave you exciting football, goals, promotion, and above all else value for money.

Nobody can ever take those memories from me, and nobody can ever take away the friendships I have made and still keep with a lot of Yorkshire folk.

To Bradford City Football Club I wish them every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Roy McFarland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy McFarland', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: It came as a pleasant surprise that Roy McFarland took the trouble to reply to our letter, and for that we are grateful. It may well be that memories of good football under McFarland eventually prove more enduring than the justifiable bitterness expressed at his departure. All is now well at City and the club has improved its position under Trevor Cherry's skillful guidance. Nevertheless, some of McFarland's words still arouse memories and provoke comment. The true supporter isn't just looking for 'value for money' football. He sticks with his team even when they fail to provide it. He's looking for the same sort of loyalty which he provides himself, each week on the terraces and which he has a right to expect, as one of 'the most important people at any football club': the kind of loyalty which Roy McFarland says was shown to him by his staff at V.Pde.

TERRY YORATH

CITY GENT spoke to City's affable Terry Yorath before the Wigan game. (12/1/85)

C.G.: Congratulations on our present league position. Do you think that we can keep it up and be there at the end of the season?

T.Y.: Obviously I'm pleased with how things are going and barring misfortune there seems little reason why we shouldn't achieve promotion. I have to admit that I would have preferred to have gone top later in the season - it's a long time to have to stay on top - but it's better to be up here than worrying about relegation.

C.G.: Is there any truth in the suggestion that City were happy to go out of the Cup at Telford so as not to impede our progress in the league?

T.Y.: Absolutely none at all. It was a game that we wanted to win and the lads gave 110%. It was an unfortunate result but we had our chances and didn't take them. Telford played like a league club for 15 minutes in the second half, but the rest of the time we were in control. The conditions made things difficult and that's how it goes, but we've got it all out of our system.

C.G.: It was noticeable that the team were slipping and sliding all over the pitch - can you blame a bad choice of footwear for this?

T.Y.: I told the lads to choose the boots they felt most comfortable in and to stick with them. There was little else we could do in such conditions because you can't be continually changing your boots.

C.G.: Do you have any plans for new players to reinforce our promotion push?

T.Y.: The present squad has been tested to its limits over the last few weeks, but we seem to have come out okay and the new faces have performed very well. But when you talk about spending money you have to understand that we have to be extremely prudent. We can't emulate Liverpool and spend £¼ million on a 17 year old, and besides, we do not intend to buy indiscriminately. We only want to sign those players who can fit into this club, both on field and off. We want players who will work for us and who will play as a team. We don't want to sign someone for the sake of it and when we do spend it will be on the basis of a very great consideration.

C.G.: Do you have any particular players lined up?

T.Y.: I'd very much like to have Mark Singleton on our books because he's just the type of player we're after. He works hard and fits in very well; he likes the set-up at Valley Parade and would like to join us but the Coventry want £25,000 and so we will have to negotiate with them.

C.G.: Is it right to speak of a Coventry connection at City?

T.Y.: I'm a good friend of Bert Edwards, the Youth Recruitment Manager at Coventry, and I know that any lad who comes under his guidance will be of good pedigree - you've only to look at Greg Abbott and John Hendrie in our ranks to see that!

C.G.: What about selling players? Will you hang on to Stuart McCall and the like?

T.Y.: It's a great compliment for us to receive offers for players because when we came here we had no saleable assets apart from Bobby. There were players like Joe Cooke, Ian Mellor and Mike Lestor, who were always going to be Third or Fourth Division players, whereas members of the present squad could quite easily hold their own in higher divisions and the offers for Stuart McCall have demonstrated this. The players are all happy at City and want to stay with us.

C.G.: Would you accept offers in the close season?

T.Y.: As I said, the players are happy but if we missed out on promotion the situation could change and they might be unwilling to spend another season in Division Three.

C.G.: Do you intend playing any more?

T.Y.: Not unless we face a dire emergency! I'm quite happy to play in the reserves and help our youngsters along... I can't really say that I miss playing first team football.

C.G.: So how do you regard your role at City?

T.Y.: I derive a lot of satisfaction from the coaching side and although our reserves are struggling in the Central League Div.1 they're getting great experience. My role as coach involves more than just training, however, because it's important to make sure that the players are happy and that they want to work for us - if they have problems it's up to us to sort them out. You've got to try to understand players, and how, for instance, Bobby Campbell lives his life, rather than just saying to him: "Go out and play, Bobby." It's important to develop character and spirit and this helps to explain the tenacity of the present team.

C.G.: Which managers have had the greatest influence on your career?

T.Y.: Don Revie was a great influence and did much to promote loyalty from his players. I know that the press have given him a hard time over the England Manager's job, but when he was at Leeds to ensure that his players gave their all to the club. He made sure that his players were happy and that they could concentrate on their game. At Coventry I felt that my game did not improve under Gordon Milnes, but I really benefitted from my time as a Spurs player and I have a lot of respect for Keith Burkinshaw who treated his players like human beings, not just trained footballers.

C.G.: Finally, we would like to ask if you are happy at Bradford and if you have dreams of League management elsewhere?

T.Y.: I'm very happy at Valley Parade, and while I'm not saying that I'm going to spend the rest of my life here, I am quite committed to making the most of the opportunities that face us and to bringing success to City. I've had offers from Swansea, Cardiff and Northampton in the past, but I'm happy where I am.

City Gent thanks Terry Yorath for his co-operation.

Name the ale!

The Bradfordian, Westgate, Bradford, is offering a prize of no less than four gallons of a new, strong ale - to whoever can think of the best name for it. The only condition is that the name must have some relevance to Bradford City, since The Bradfordian's Landlord, Arthur, is a staunch City fan! The beer is brewed by West Riding Brewery of Huddersfield and has an O.G. of 1050. This is a great chance to publicise the club so let's have lots of good suggestions rolling in to Arthur at The Bradfordian.

Until a name is chosen for the potent brew it will be sold as... wait for it.... CITY GENT ALE!

Still on the subject of pubs, Trough Brewery are holding a 5s and 3s competition. Entry costs £1.50 per pair and there is a prize of £500 for the winners. If you're interested get in touch with any Trough pub.

Stuart McCall is for Staying

After rumours that Stuart McCall could be moving anywhere other than 'Chester or Thackley' the news that he was in fact to sign a fresh two-year contract for City came as welcome relief to all the club's supporters. In an interview carried out following the 1-1 draw with Swansea, Stuart insisted: "I'm happy here. We've got a good team and everything is geared to going up." He dismissed all the talk of his leaving Valley Parade as pure 'speculation' and made it clear that no approach had been made to him personally - he relied upon the word of Trevor Cherry as the rumours began to accumulate. "We're trying to build up a team here and we don't want to let players go" pointed out Stuart, "It's a good set of lads and a smashing club." He emphasised his desire to bring success to City for the good of Bradford as a whole, not just to further his own career: "Everyone's very confident within the club. Supporters have known little success for a very long time - except, of course, for the West Riding Cup, which gave us the taste for more success and was a very good thing in itself."

McCall put much of City's present success down to a sound youth policy. "There's a lot of young lads in the team at the moment - all 20 or 21. But there's a second group of lads like Don Goodman on the way up who are even younger. This can only mean success in the future."

Stuart admitted that the club's varied choice of substitute might appear puzzling to some supporters, with Gary Haire, Micky Holmes and Don Goodman presumably all in contention. Stuart explained that the choice of sb was made on merit - on how well each player had performed in reserve games. Would Garry Haire be staying with the club? "Garry has been unfortunate" answered Stuart. "He plays in goals in training! There's a year left of his contract so he might go on loan. But he is happy with the club."

When talking about the other players, Stuart is quick to relate stories which exemplify the present spirit at Valley Parade: "Mark Fletcher's a good lad. He drives in from Barnsley every day even though he's got a pot on his leg and isn't supposed to be driving! He'll be able to train as soon as the pot comes off." He regrets that Trevor Cherry's return to fitness can't be so speedy: "The gaffer's a vital part of the team." Would Greg Abbott be playing in midfield on Cherry's return? "Greg plays well in midfield but has also done well at right back. The gaffer doesn't get forward as much as Greg but still makes a valuable contribution."

Stuart made no excuses for his own poor performance in the disappointing draw with Swansea. "Once you say you're fit to play then there can be no excuse. I'm never going to play as badly as that again." Stuart's rapid return to form has been a credit to his determination and professionalism - lesser players would have been content to blame injury for a poor showing.

McCall admits that a larger squad would be an advantage but feels that it is important to keep faith with the players whose efforts have been responsible for City's progress so far. When it was suggested that this attitude was arguably responsible for City's relegation in 1977/8 Stuart says: "We need someone in midfield. Trevor and Terry are looking to sign a couple of people. They are forever at reserve matches as far away as the North East and even Watford - they put in a tremendous amount of work when they could be going home to their wives!"

Stuart's faith in Bradford City is outstanding and the fact that he is happy at the club can only be greeted with delight among supporters. CITY GENT thanks Stuart McCall and wishes him all the best in his career.

WHITE OR STRIPES ?

CITY GENT INVITES YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY

TREVOR CHERRY has told the City Gent that he would welcome supporters' suggestions on strip design for next season. The issue of what colours a team should play in is not one which tends to concern players too greatly, so Trevor sees no reason why supporters, who may have stronger views on the subject, should not have their say. Trevor says: "As long as it's smart I don't mind what colours we play in - the strip could be blue for all the difference it makes to me!" This does not mean that City's manager is insensitive to the issue, and should be taken as an indication of his willingness to listen to suggestions.

The structure of the game being what it is, a club cannot merely design a strip and go out and have it made up. As TERRY YORATH reminded us, the procedure is to look through producers' existing patterns in the hope of finding something suitable for adaptation. The popular claret and amber strip of 1983/4 was as much that of Motherwell as it was City's! So although strip design is to some extent out of our hands broad issues such as white v claret and amber certainly are not. The management have indicated their willingness to listen so now it's up to us to show our strength of feeling. What strip do you want to see City wearing in 85/86? Write to CITY GENT and tell us what you think. For starters, here are some viewpoints we've already received:

DAVID MARKHAM would favour a return to the traditional colours of claret and amber. He is less concerned about the actual design of the strip but thinks narrow claret stripes on amber shirts might look effective.

DAVID EVANS, in a recent meet-the-players night at Valley Parade admitted a preference for white because it shows off his suntan at the start of the season!

THE CITY GENT editorial staff make no secret of the fact that they would welcome a return to a claret and amber striped kit: but we want to hear from you no matter what your views!

LEARNING TO SWEAT

the CITY way

Equipped with football kit, two left feet and unbounded enthusiasm, City Gent reporters John Dewhirst and Jon Burgess turned up at Valley Parade to find out exactly what makes City tick.

After calming reassurance from Gilly they joined the first team squad at Scholemoor to be put through their paces under the guidance of Terry Yorath.

The session started with a game of 'one touch tennis' and immediately John Dewhirst demonstrated his prowess by lofting the ball up into the heavens as everyone looked on unimpressed. By the time that the official City Gent photographer looked up from his camera, two players had already been eliminated! No prizes for guessing which ...

Warmed up, the likely lads joined the players in a jog around the perimeter of the gym - breaking into skips or jumps at the command of Taff who shouted his orders from the middle. But if it was difficult to work out what steps or action to take, worse was to come. Without warning Taff gave a shout and JD found himself giving David Evans a piggy-back. And he soon found himself lost when Taff gave the order for everyone to get into groups of 3,6,5 or whatever. As Taff explained, these complications help keep the players' concentration and ensure that they have to think about what they are doing - as is the case in a match. Failure to respond meant a punishment of ten spring jumps each and our baffled reporters soon found themselves jumping up and down when they had completed their running!

These circuits were then followed by stretching exercises with a partner and these painful gyrations were interspread with quips from Big Bob. Everything was taken very seriously but somehow the players found time for a joke. Better to laugh than cry after all!

It would have been easy to cry as they started to sprint across the gym from corner to corner at seemingly breakneck speed with Taff demanding ever greater effort.

Without time to catch a breath everyone assembled into a circle with two mugs in the middle who hoped to intercept the ball. Hope was the right word and despite the circle being made smaller our reporters were still unable to get a touch. It was all too easy for the Bantams who teased their victims like animals in a cage ... only charity allowed the dynamic duo to be replaced.

Clearly our two reporters could dismiss any dreams of being selected - although Jon Burgess managed to net a goal vs Eric in the subsequent five-a-side game. Even the body checks and lunging tackles of John Dewhirst failed to stop Bobby, Stuart and the like from performing their near one-touch football. But to give them their due the City Gent boys chased after every ball and broke a heavy sweat!

To round off the session, the players were instructed to sprint across the gym at various intervals. By this stage our reporters were ready to drop with their groans becoming heavier and heavier! Meanwhile City Gent's editor (who had exhausted himself rewinding the camera) was being assured by Tony Clegg that this particular session was a mere morning stroll compared to the excesses of Tuesdays.

Despite being lapped continually in the sprinting Jon and John did at least manage to complete the exercises and that was a feat which the Yorkshire County Cricketers could not boast - in fact they had turned down the opportunity to train with City! Our reporters did consider themselves to be relatively fit - Jon Burgess a regular player for Manchester University rugby league club and John Dewhirst, a keen racing cyclist with East Bradford Cycle Club, but they were inevitably outpaced and outstretched by what Stuart McCall admitted as a very easy session.

It was certainly hard work and although the continual banter might have suggested otherwise, everyone put in maximum effort. Anything less would have run counter to Terry Yorath's encouragement and chatter which demanded 100%. Cliches should as

'good spirit' and 'professional attitude' were clearly applicable and the competitive atmosphere amongst the players was very noticable. Everyone wanted to succeed and this became apparent in arguments over matters such as misplaced passes or defensive mistakes in the five-a-side game.

In fact the competitive element was reinforced by the daily election of the 'worst player in training' and the dubious privilege of being able to wear a yellow shirt.

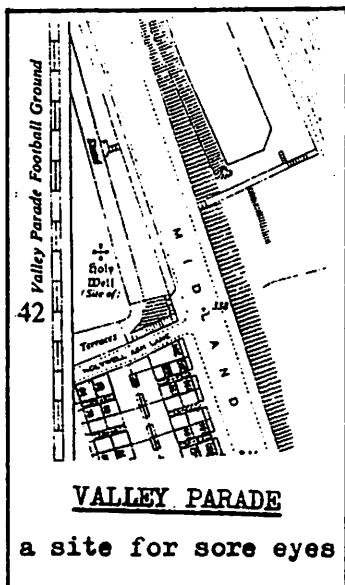
According to John Hendrie the atmosphere was much healthier than at Coventry where it seems few of the Sky Blues are happy. The camaraderie was indeed strong as Jacko pointed out, and was a reason Stuart McCall gave for staying at Valley Parade.

The dedication and effort exuded confidence and impressed our reporters. It demonstrated the hard work and commitment of the players and the management to success and it helps to explain the tenacity and determination of the team on Saturday afternoons.

Our reporters left the training session feeling enlightened, reassured ... and knackered. Readers can rest assured that all the players give 100% and are wholly committed to the Club's success. Let's all get right behind them and give them the encouragement they deserve in the latter stages of the season.

CITY GENT THANKS TERRY YORATH AND THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD FOR THEIR PATIENCE AND CO-OPERATION.

HOLY WELL AT VALLEY PARADE



Valley Parade has been a place of pilgrimage for a number of centuries now-being the site of a Holy Well. According to the Central Library, the well was mentioned in a 1638 survey and was said to have healing properties, especially for weak eyes. In the nineteenth century it seems that the site was even something of a tourist attraction!

The extract from Plan SE 1634 shown opposite confirms the site of the well in the corner of the Valley Parade pitch bounded by the Bradford End and Midland Road side. Hence Holywell Ash Lane!!!

David Markham of the T&A

TALKS TO THE CITY GENT

David Markham's long career in journalism has taken him to a variety of far-flung locations, ranging from Keighley to Luton (where he confesses he became a Luton Town fan!). Mr. Markham did not, however, set out to be a sportswriter, and stood on the kop as a City supporter long before he took on the task of following their fortunes each week for the Telegraph & Argus. In 1974 he began reporting City's matches on a trial basis, and presumably enjoyed it since he is still going strong eleven years later.

David admits, however, that the pressures of sports journalism can take some of the pleasure out of watching football. In addition to the pressures of space and style within the office Mr. Markham has the unenviable task of writing on a subject on which disagreement is rife! He emphasises the fact that watching a match in order to report on it can hardly be compared to viewing the game from the kop, and the dictates of journalism ensure that the reporter's view of a match is likely to be less extreme than that of the average fan on the terraces. "We take a vastly different standpoint from the pressbox" he explains, "All you can do is report as fairly and accurately as you can. No-one can do better than that. A lot of the critics would find the job difficult." He understands, however, that those who would at times be more critical it can be a measure of the affinity you feel with the club." David recognises that vehement criticism can be an expression of the frustration felt by supporters when the team they love has not fared as well as they believe it ought to have done - when one cares deeply about a club it's easy to panic unduly at supposed signs of weakness.

Emotional reactions have no place in the pressbox, however, Mr. Markham freely admits that in himself the elation of the supporter has been replaced by the concentration of the reporter; there's no time for celebrating when City score a goal! "It's frowned upon to get carried away with the match" he says, but life is still enjoyable in the pressbox: "There's lots of co-operation. It's not quite one big club but there's a good spirit." Reporters enjoy renewing friendships with fellow journalists and there is often a familiar face following the fortunes of the opposition - except at Telford; of course...

Mr. Markham believes it is important to stress the benefits League football brings to Bradford as a whole: "The paper will back the club as it would any other business enterprise in Bradford - it wants to see City do well - but you have to be objective, of course."

David's view of the football club as a part of the Bradford community as a whole is consistent with his ideas concerning the redevelopment of Valley Parade. Instead of any proposed move to Odsal he would like to see a range of sports facilities made available under one roof at Valley Parade, with the football club as the centrepiece.

"Valley Parade could be a neat and well-appointed stadium capable of serving all Bradford City's future needs, with a possible all-seated and covered capacity of 20 to 25 thousand." Mr. Markham believes that covered accommodation for standing supporters could be improved and would like to see a tall, if not unduly sizeable stand erected on the Midland Road side of the ground, comparable to the main stand at Hereford.

"The board are doing what they can in a limited way and the behind-the-scenes facilities have improved. Valley Parade has suffered due to years of neglect by successive managements." Mr. Markham feels that the old stand on the Midland Road should not have been so hastily taken down, blaming this action on a panic reaction to the Bolton disaster of 1946, after which councils became more safety-conscious.

Despite an eagerness to see redevelopment at Valley Parade Mr. Markham does not share the 'Cloudcuckooland' notions of those who advocated a complete transformation of City's stadium, without considering where funds for such a venture could be obtained. On Bob Martin he says: "He was always more willing to talk about last week's good result than next week's financial crisis!"

Mr. Markham is confident that a full-strength Bradford City are well capable of gaining promotion, but would like to see a stronger squad for the coming season: "There isn't adequate cover at the moment and all players need competition for their places."

CITY GENT THANKS DAVID MARKHAM FOR HIS CO-OPERATION.

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From the Press Box

After reporting Bradford City's affairs for more than 30 years I can honestly say that this season's exciting events have re-charged my batteries and done wonders for my soccer appetite.

Hopefully by the time this appears City's promotion dream will be a reality but whatever the outcome, Trevor Cherry and Terry Yorath have put together the most exciting bunch of youngsters for many years with the potential to take the club far.

Before everybody's feet leave the ground, it is well to look back and give credit to directors and managers who struggled and scraped over the years to keep the club going. Survival rather than success has been the name of the game for so long at Valley Parade.

Smallpox, gales and bankruptcy have failed to knock out the club so far but special praise must go to current chairman Stafford Heginbotham. The miracle was that he was around the second time to save the club with the backing of Jack Tordoff after his first rescue act in 1965.

This season apart, I look back to the mid-fifties as one of the club's most settled and satisfying spells. They did not achieve a lot but held respectable positions in the Third Division. The side played some good football, had some good Cup runs. It was mature and I felt that it was on the brink of bigger things.

Those were the days, of course, of the Jackson twins, the ever-reliable George Mulholland, the solid Jock Whyte, who is at most matches these days, the steady Jim Lawlor and inside forward John Reid who could turn a few heads and players with his skills. There were youngsters Derek Stokes and Trevor Hockey who went on to win fame, if not fortune, elsewhere.

The manager was Peter Jackson, father of the talented twins. He was one of the old school managers, of the Bob Paisley type, shrewd without seeking the glamour, friendly and far-seeing. Crackshots John McCole and 'Broncho' Layne were part of those golden days when the average gate ran at between 10,000 and 11,000. Alas it all went wrong in time. City went down to the Fourth Division.

There were other moments of glory and other players who made considerable impact. City have had the happy habit of discovering more than their share of centre forwards with gold dust on their boots. Mention has been made of the magical McCole and bustling Broncho. There was also Rodney Green, a lad from Halifax, who cracked 29 goals in the 1963/64 season. There was the stylish Paul Ainson, the likeable Tony Leighton, and also our own Alan Gilliver.

Now of course we have the indestructible Bobby Campbell who compares with the best, which means dashing Goodman has a lot to live up to.

I am making no comparison or mention of pre-war days. I'm not that old, but finally a word about managers. Many have come and gone, some without even saying goodbye. I feel stepping stones for this season's success were laid back by the canny George Mulhall, and by the new vision brought by Roy McFarland and Mick Jones.

It looked as if they would be a difficult duo to follow but Trevor and Terry have bettered them with their leadership and example. Thanks all for making an old scribe happy.

DON NEWTON

LONDON CALLING

Yes, all right, I know that it's boring and I'm sorry. But I've said it before, and no doubt I'm going to have to say it again. Something has happened over the last four years at Valley Parade that, considering a few minor (?) setbacks on the way has been, in football terms, not far short of a miracle.

Looking at the national press however what do I find? On the Thursday after the Bristol Rovers game when City went 54,672 points clear at the top I invested in no less than three papers to find out what Fleet Street thought. Yet despite the fact that City's was one of only four games played that night, I found myself none the wiser and 65p lighter. Worse still, by the time that I got to WH Smith's at Kings Cross after work they'd sold out of the Yorkshire Post, so I wasn't even treated to an (almost) unbiased view of the game.

So what lies behind this Berlin Wall of indifference? I'd like to put forward one or two theories. firstly the 'northern scumbag' hypothesis. Briefly this states that Fleet Street sports reporters are unable to look past their noses, or at least, beyond 50 miles of London, with the exceptions of one or two lucrative 'Megaclubs'. This is due to an element of Southern chauvinism that undoubtedly exists 'darn sarf' and particularly in the capital.

Secondly I suggest that the manner in which the miracle is unfolding has influenced our lack of press coverage. Why? Because the team, management and everyone connected with the club has worked diligently for higher grade football in the city, without all the outspoken commnets and flamboyant behaviour that makes good, solid, down-to-earth sensationalism.

As a Fulham Rugby League fan for four years I know from bitter experience how damaging press apathy and lack of publicity can be. If the armchair fan can see for him/herself from big, bold headlines that something is happening, if he can be persuaded to get off his backside and switch off the the wrestling for an afternoon, then perhaps some of the less fashionable clubs might get the break that their hard work deserves.

Finally then might I not suggest that because what's been achieved at Valley Parade has been done without the financial support of a millionaire book publisher or a semi-final cup run, it's perhaps that much more newsworthy?

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THE FOUNTAIN

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CG TERRACE TALK

DEAR CITY GENT,

So Mr Heginbotham thinks we stand on the Kop for fresh air. I can assure our chairman that the reason I, and most other knowledgeable supporters, stand on the Kop is because it is the one place standing supporters can achieve a decent elevated view of the play. I quite understand that the present financial position of the club may not stretch to include such luxuries as a roof on the Kop. But I think that long term plans to improve facilities for the terrace supporter should be well up on the list of priorities.

Just imagine the overwhelming impact the sight and sound of a packed and covered Kop would have on visiting teams as they took the field from the Bradford End. It would be worth a goal start to City any day.

Phil c/o the Kop

PS Claret and amber stripes please.

DEAR CITY GENT,

I am writing to express my amazement that the form of Bobby Campbell has failed to attract the attention of Billy Bingham. In my opinion Bobby is playing better than ever this season and yet the Northern Ireland manager seems to prefer to delve for players in the 4th Division or to resort to Linfield lorry drivers! Surely Bobby must make the next squad, at least.

TREVOR CHERRY

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CITY GENT

CITY GENT: At the start of the season you said that you didn't think we were strong enough to go up, how do you feel now?

TREVOR CHERRY: I think the lads have done better than I expected them to do. I thought that we'd probably finish in the top 8 but I didn't think we'd be strong enough to go top of the division. On reflection I suppose that you can say we underestimated the strength of the squad. Of course now we have an excellent opportunity to get promoted...

C.G.: Which other clubs do you think will go up with City?

T.C.: I couldn't really care as long as we go up. It looks as though Millwall and Hull are best placed but I'd have liked another Yorkshire club, Rotherham, to accompany us.

C.G.: Do you intend making your new loan signings permanent?

T.C.: There is a chance that they will become permanent if we can sort things out with them at the end of the season. In the meantime it gives us a chance to look at Wes Saunders and David Mossman a little more closely and to decide at the appropriate time.

C.G.: Will you be looking to sign other players in the close season?

T.C.: We have been doing so over the past few months - it's not a process that begins overnight; we have made plans for the close season and identified players we would like but we still don't know which division we'll be in! However I must emphasise that we don't necessarily seek to replace our players, rather we hope to strengthen our squad.

C.G.: What is the state of your injury?

T.C.: I saw a specialist at the end of March; I still get soreness and I'm presently stepping up training to get some strength back into my leg.

C.G.: As the season reaches a critical phase do you regard your best place as on the pitch or in the dug-out?

T.C.: At the moment, the way the team is going I think that I can be in the stand or in the dug-out. I can play if I am needed - I judge every game as it comes.

C.G.: So you don't have any plans to retire at the end of the season?

T.C.: No, I've no plans to retire. The decision of playing or not will be up to my own fitness.

YOUR OVERWHELMING VERDICT ON THE 'CITY'S STRIP' ISSUE

CITY GENT was delighted to receive so many of your letters on the subject of City's strip. Below are a few examples of what you had to say. Roughly 80% of the dozens of letters we were sent came out in favour of a return to the traditional striped kit; the remaining 20% wanted to see City play in a claret and amber strip of some other design. Yes - we did not receive a single letter defending City's decision to play in white this season!

Dear C.G. - I favour claret and amber stripes and very much like the idea of Umbro shirts. I notice Sheff. Utd. and Newcastle have Umbro shirts in a striped design and I think they are very striking. I would also like a return to black shorts with white socks. The kit would be very traditional and would comprise the colours City have worn over the last 20 years. Mike Bishop.

Dear C.G. - A return to some form of claret and amber would be most appreciated. After all, we are the only club in the FL who have these colours so why not promote their individuality? A secondary reason for not having a white strip is that my son's football strip is a devil to get clear and my wife would be more willing to buy him a kit every season were they something other than white! Charles V. Wilson.

Dear C.G. - May I cast my vote for City's strip for next season (and after) for a return to the traditional claret and amber. My personal choice would be claret and amber striped shirts and black shorts. It should also be remembered that claret and amber were the colours of Manningham Rugby team, who occupied Valley Parade until 1903 when the soccer team took over. Long Live Bantam Progressivism! Chris Hawkrige (Weymouth)

Dear C.G. - I've been watching City since the days of Charlie Rackstraw and Dennis Hallett and the best kit I've seen is the old claret and amber stripes and black shorts. Anything that distances us from LUFC must be good! Andrew C. Tyne

Dear C.G. - My own choice would be the old second strip from Mulhall's days, amber shirts and socks, claret shorts - I couldn't see why it wasn't continued. S.Brook (Saudi Arabia)

CITY GENTS FROM THE PAST...

THE FORMER CITY CHAMPIONSHIP GENTS

by TWO-WATS-MOUGH

PETER JACKSON - Captain and centre-half Peter Jackson joined City as an apprentice in 1977 and went on to make over 250 appearances with the club. After leading City to the 3rd Division Championship 'Jacko' was ever-present in the 'homeless' 1985/86 season. In a surprise move Peter realised his 1st Division ambitions when he joined Newcastle United for £250,000 in October 1986. As at Valley Parade he quickly became a favourite with the fans and the big-hearted model professional duly helped Newcastle avoid relegation.

ERIC McMANUS - Previous to joining City Eric had played for Coventry, Notts County (200 plus), Stoke and Lincoln (on loan). At the age of 34 he finally won a medal with City but did not play for us again in a League game. During 1985/86 he went on loan to Middlesbrough (2 games) and Peterborough United (18) before being released. He then joined Tranmere Rovers before moving to Boston United.

BOBBY CAMPBELL - Opinion is divided on the ability and personality of Big Bobby, you may regard him as a hero or with complete disdain, but on or off the field he certainly made his charismatic presence felt. After an distinguished early career Bobby joined City in December 1979 and in his two spells with the club scored an impressive 134 League and Cup goals in 155 appearances. In September 1986 he moved to Wigan Athletic for £25,000 and was soon among the goals.

JOHN HAWLEY - John played for Hull, Leeds, Sunderland and Arsenal before joining City in 1983. A quality striker on his day, John's career was ended by injury, the 1984/85 season being no exception. He was given a free transfer by City and joined Scunthorpe United.

TERRY YORATH - 'Taff' was Trevor Cherry's first signing when he was appointed Manager in December 1982. Although he made little impact with City as a player, it was as Assistant Manager that his coaching was doubtably a major influence. Anxious to be a manager himself, Terry was linked with various clubs, including his old club Coventry City, before joining Swansea City. He made a successful start with the Welsh club and City were unable to negotiate his return after the sacking of Trevor Cherry in January 1987.

TREVOR CHERRY - Came to City as a successful player with Huddersfield Town and then Leeds and England. Forged a good partnership with Taff which managed the Championship team. He played 20 times during 1984/85 before hanging up his boots. On January 5th, 1987 with City bottom of the division, Trevor was sacked and has since had no further appointment in league football.

MARTIN SINGLETON - Martin joined City from Coventry for £16,000 in January 1985 and slotted into midfield. Although possessing skill in abundance he was never able to make a substantial impact. He was transferred to West Ham in December 1986 for £35,000 but has since made few first team appearances.

NIGEL GOODMAN - Won a Championship medal in his first season as a professional, scoring 5 times in 23 games. Was unable to realise the potential we all hoped for and signed for WBA in April 1987 for £50,000.

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