

THE CITY GENT



ISSUE 19 / WINTER 1987/88

It was 80 years ago...
Div Two Champions 1908!
The Voice of Bantam Progressivism

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pence
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after 25 Years'
Martyrdom.



THE CITY GENT



Mr J. HARDY,
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after 20 Years'
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Welcome to another 52 pages of undiluted drivell in CITY GENT #19. Once again it's a bumper issue thanks to readers' contributions and of course something to read while you're eating those turkey sandwiches. Seasons Greetings to all and fingers crossed that 1988 will be the Year of the Bantam!

Since the last issue we have some news on football literature that should be of interest to CG readers. In November the long-awaited compilation of articles from 'FOUL' (the original Alternative Football Paper) went on sale. 'FOUL' was the private eye of the soccer scene during the early 70's and despite the passage of time a lot of the issues it raised are still particularly pertinent; "FOUL - A COMPILATION" provides an excellent and amusing record of the problems and personalities that plagued British soccer. Quite frankly as a piss-rip of the likes of Revie, Clough and Hardaker it's invaluable and if you're a regular reader of the likes of 'When Saturday Comes' you'll enjoy it.



Following on from the success of the FOUL compilation the publishers, Sportspages, plan to produce a compilation of all the present day independent football mags. This will of course include CITY GENT and we'd be interested to hear from readers asto which of the many CG articles from the last 18 issues they'd elect to have included in such a compilation. Not all the material will be old however but whatever is selected will be representative of the drivell normally found in CITY GENT. Other magazines to be featured will be those sold at Valley Parade such as When Saturday Comes, Off the Ball and The Absolute Game etc.



The Park Avenue Book written by Tim Clapham and Malcolm Hartley (see review in CG#18) proved to be such a success that it has generated interest in a book on Bradford City. Readers will no doubt have already heard about the Breedon publication to be edited by Terry Frost which will come out next summer. We can exclusively reveal that another book on City is proposed... Temple Press of Nottingham who produced the Avenue book are compiling a companion volume on Bradford City with an emphasis on a pictorial history. Further details of this are to be found on page 9 of this issue or by writing to the publishers c/o CITY GENT. Anyone who might be able to assist in providing material (photos, programmes, cartoons etc) is urged to get in touch asap.

Meanwhile here's the other news:

SPONSORSHIP. CTC/73 and CITY GENT have sponsored players' kit in the match-day programme. Unfortunately, as with Peter Jackson last year, the CG choice -Aidey Thorpe- has now left the club! Clearly CG sponsorship has greatly assisted City's transfer revenues...

MATCH-DAY PROGRAMME. Supporters will probably have realised that this season's programme is an improvement on last year's effort. As with CG, its success depends on the interest and enthusiasm of readers. Send contributions, news or ideas for the programme to Mick Dickinson, 13 Meadow View, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield.

CITY GENT CONTRIBUTIONS. Please address these to the Editor John Dewhirst, 18 Ling Park Avenue, Wilsden, BRADFORD BD15 ONE.

BACK ISSUES AND CLASSIC CITY GENTS from John Watmough, 46 Ainsty Road, Wetherby LS22 4QS. (SAE's please).

SAM CRABTREE (London Branch)* Please contact the Editor asap. Thanks.



STRAIGHT FROM THE BANTAM'S BEAK

Much as though I resent Bradford being talked about in the same breath as Brussels when hack journalists in Fleet Street start talking about the events of May 1985, it is a sobering thought that the only two English clubs playing to near capacity crowds are City and Liverpool. I'm not quite sure however that there is anything to be gained in trying to search for any more similarities between these two; personally I'd prefer us to be worlds apart. Sure, playing them again at Valley Parade (and beating them again) would be great. Having some of the undesirable elements oft associated with big clubs as a regular feature at Valley Parade would not be welcome. Now here I've got to be careful because the number of people who claim to have been in that record low crowd of 1,249 vs Hereford in May 1981 has made me wonder if we haven't been getting regular 5-figure gates for a long time! What concerns me is that Bradford City FC will remain a family -and community- club. What is becoming increasingly unbearable is the growing level of racism on the Kop as well as a certain arrogance that expresses itself in mindless and totally unimaginative chanting.

When City were 6 points clear at the top there were many who resorted to the traditional cries of 'gerrit forward, get rid'. It was suggested then that the Bradford football public need educating in how to follow a successful side. That may be correct, but the old wisdom, the old wit and the old modesty should still have a place at Valley Parade. In that respect let us see the hiccups against Barnsley, Villa and Ipswich as a reminder for us to keep our feet on the ground. The defeats have suggested not only the need for new options and new ideas on the field, but the need for a bit of thinking on the terraces. Let's remind ourselves that we're not Liverpool and that only six years ago Darlington were our Yuletide opponents (note 4,473 at VP!). The season is far from over and although it is most likely that we shall remain in the thick of the promotion battle it is far from certain that we'll get promoted. 1988 calls for people getting behind the team and for genuine supporters to make their intolerance of fickle comments known. Encouraging City into Div One needs a little more than chants of "Yah boo f*** off" and "Bloody rubbish" when mistakes are made. The vitality and spirit of Bradford City is as much in our hands as Terry Dolan's.

The need for new ideas on the pitch seems obvious but the team's recovery against Bournemouth in the second half is confirmation enough of what City are capable of. Of course in addition to the League we're still involved in all three cup competitions. The worth of the Sinod Cup may well be doubted; participation was made worthwhile if only to see Jacko playing against us. His reception was great and the sort of sporting display by the City crowd that is likely to earn us a good reputation. Good luck Jacko and the Mags from all at City. The Wolves game . . . will be interesting for us to compare the standards of lower division football. It's the first time we'll have played them since 1931/32 which means that we've played all but Chelsea (29/30), Coventry (60/61) and West Ham (36/37) since 1970. A replay at Molineux for a new ground? -don't tempt fate! And aren't we lucky to visit Luton? The fact that they are prepared to allow away fans for such a special occasion reveals the cynical extent of Luton's directors. City fans have a wonderful opportunity to show the FL that away fans can behave themselves; a win at Luton and an exemplary display by City fans is the best way of sticking two fingers right up the Luton Chairman's nose.

Finally can I on behalf of all City supporters express thanks for the sterling work of Kath (who was until recently employed at Wheeldons Printers) for her valiant efforts in improving the standard of City's programme. In order that the standard be maintained, if not improved, it is upto City supporters to contribute ideas or perhaps material for possible inclusion. Mick Dickinson, the OSC secretary, writes a regular column and would welcome any news or information that supporters care to be included. It's in our court... contact Mick at 13 Meadow View, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield.

And on behalf of all those connected with CITY GENT may I thank you for your continued interest and support, as well as for the many contributions. May we wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 1988 - The Year of the Bantam (80 Years On).

On the lighter side

Don Goodman - 'Prince' - this is hardly a compliment as our Prince is a much better entertainer than his less talented but much more famous namesake. THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT...

other end, McCord had a goal disallowed for handball. Hopes were raised when Goodman actually rounded the keeper, but stumbled and was dispossessed when a goal looked certain. With Albion looking bet-



ALAN GLENWRIGHT.

NEWS OF THE WORLD, September 27, 1987

By BRIAN RUSSELL
Shrewsbury 2 Bradford City 0

Lee Yarnold of Gomersal asks what scandal interrupted the Screws of the World coverage of our game at Shrewsbury (2-2). Clearly there was also an identity

problem. Perhaps "Ian Ormonroyd in spanking session as Alan Glenwright equalises for Bradford City?"

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FOOTBALL

FRIENDLIES (7.30): Wycombe v Chelsea;
Orient v Chelsea; Slough v Fulham; Millwall v Gillingham; Orient v Chelsea.

SPEEDWAY

CENTRAL LEAGUE.—Division One:
Aston Villa 1, Hull 2, Leicester 2, Man Utd 2,
Nottm For 2, Bradford 0, Sheff Utd 2,
Liverpool 1. Division Two: Blackburn 5,
Barnsley 0, Bolton 2, Newcastle 3, Oldham 1,
Preston 2, Port Vale 3, Mansfield 0, Wigan 1,
Doncaster 0.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE.—Maidstone 0, Wycombe 1, Welling 6, Dagenham 1, Weymouth 3, Lincoln 0.

DRYBOROUGH NORTHERN LEAGUE.—Division One: Bishop Auckland 2, Ferryhill 1, Bradford 2, Whitby 1, Shildon 2, Tow Law 2. Division Two: Evenwood 6, Norton 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST

A rather low 4 figure crowd at Mansfield (top left). Chelsea's attempts to raise £15m has caused an unbearable fixture crisis (bottom left). Meanwhile the Bradford (PA) revival sees them competing in both the Central League and Dryborough's Northern League. (Guy Jamieson)

Swap pays off

Bradford 2, Palace 0

● BRADFORD boss Terry Dolan's decision to replace his top scorer Ron Butcher with striker Mark Leonard paid off handsomely

when he got the vital breakthrough goal in the 49th minute of this promotion battle with rivals Crystal Palace.

● Less than a month ago Leonard was on the transfer list, but he has now picked up four goals in five league games and is a firm favourite with the Valley Parade crowd.

"Leigh Palin lost the ball, and Dale Evans was then caught in two minds whether to block or tackle, and Terry Hurlock scored.

THE BALD BUTCHER
DALE?

thanks for all
contributions!

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. **C**olourful 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



THE FIGHTING COCK
Preston St., Bradford

THE DUCK & DRAKE
Kirkgate, Leeds

ALE HOUSES

Birds with all the "right stuff" inn

BARLESS AND CARLING BLACK

The continuing saga of the supporters' bar has had more sequels than a Jeffrey Archer novel. The whole epic began at the inception of the Supporters Club in 1985, when some sort of facility with regard to a headquarters was first mooted. At this time the affairs of Bradford City were in flux, with the future of Valley Parade in doubt. Nobody felt too aggrieved that this initial idea was low on City's list of priorities.

The next representation was made early in 1986. OSC were promised space in the new stand for office facilities and perhaps a bar. Another idea was to have the Executive Club in the stand with OSC taking over the Century Club. The season came to an end with neither scheme being adopted.

Season 86/87 began with further promises of a facility of some kind in the stand. As the plans were unveiled it became obvious that such a facility had never been seriously considered. Despite numerous enquiries the subject was avoided or parried, and OSC was left to explain as best it could to an ever-cynical membership as to why the bar was not forthcoming.

Towards the end of last season, the idea of the Players' Lounge was favourite. The players would move upstairs into the Century Club, and the Executive Club would move into the stand. It never happened. OSC were then promised space in the old GPO building purchased by City, but this was pulled down after it was decided that it would cost too much to put right.

Other schemes have been mooted, such as a two-storey building on the site of the present club shop. The feasibility of this is apparently being investigated. There is also a scheme to add another storey to the present administration block, which would apparently cost less than a brand new building. Mr Heginbotham remains adamant that OSC will eventually be given a bar, although he has said that he would not want to see a "7 days a week" facility. As he is a man of honour, we must wait and see.

But the saga underlines fundamental assumptions which lie at the heart of football in the '80s. Alcohol and football do not go hand in hand, according to current schools of thought. But some of those who scream loudest about alcoholism are to be seen enjoying an after-the-match drink in Executive Clubs throughout the length and breadth of the country. At its most basic, the saga of the supporters' bar can be said to be a class-political one.

Admittedly, Executive Clubs and Sponsors' Bars do guarantee a fixed income for soccer clubs, but their clients are worlds away from your average terrace supporters for whom such facilities will forever be denied. Many of them will struggle to find the price of a ticket into a game, let alone find the £150-£300 needed for membership of organisations which can offer such facilities.

It is said that football is a working-class game. Whoever said that obviously hadn't looked at the 'inner sanctums' of football clubs, Bradford City included. At the end of the day money talks, and in football it talks rather loudly. Look at the Atkinsons and McMenemy's of this world. I bet they don't drink Carling Black Label either! Clubs depend on ordinary blokes coming through the turnstiles, it's true, but their loyalty in the end is to those whose wealth finds its way into the coffers.

Meanwhile, pubs like the Belle Vue, the Oakleigh, the Cartwright, The Watmough, Arthur's Bar and the Fighting Cock (to name but a few) will continue to act as unofficial supporters' bars for City's thirsty thousands. More importantly, however, they will continue to reap rewards which should be heading Bradford City's way. For without adequate supporters' facilities on match days, a potential source of revenue will continue to be dissipated, and the Supporters Club will continue to be a half-hearted affair.

- Mick Dickinson

Withe likes County spirit

"Bradford is all behind me now. I just want to concentrate on the future here."

"I've just come from a side that are top of Division Two, yet Notts tried to play football which I consider equal to theirs."

"The lads here all want to play. At Bradford, we adopt a sweeper system but there is none of that attitude here."

"The entire spirit and way the team play has impressed me straight away. You wouldn't believe Notts were a Third Division side."

"I won a Division Three championship medal at Bradford. It would be great to win another with County this season. I don't see any reason why I shouldn't."



POSTPHOTO P6118G

● Above, Notts' new signing Chris Withe gets straight into the action.



BROOKSIDE AT VALLEY PARADE

DAMON TELLS DEBBIE
THAT HE'D RATHER BE
WATCHING CITY.

Since its inception Brookside has continued in cycles, often venturing towards the sublime and the ridiculous, but never failing to provide good excuse for a weekly hour of cult-viewing.

The programme has suffered with the loss of Laura and Heather as well as Phil Redmond's obsession with Barry Grant and the Liverpool ganglife. But at least the demise of the Corkhills has continued and at least Harry Cross continues to be the nation's favourite senile old git.

Frustrated with the confines of Merseyside (and who wouldn't be?) the producers of Brookie have cast an envious eye across the Pennines and decided to make Bradford the location for the Debbie and Damon mini-series. On the run from Brookside, Damon and Debbie explore York before discovering the pleasures of Bratfud. JB Priestley, the Nat Photographic Museum and the city centre join the plot until Damon gets a job at VP sweeping up the main stand.

Of course what better opportunity for Phil Redmond's social conscience than to allow Damon to sit and contemplate his brush strokes whilst muttering his thoughts about May 11th, 1985. All done in the best of taste say the Brookside producers in the same way that they justified the Shiela Grant rape episode or the Brookside siege. Were references to the disaster really relevant?

On the credit side VP got good coverage and viewers nationwide will no doubt have been impressed by the Alhambra or even Bombay Stores. Sympathetic publicity is what this city needs but if TV producers find it necessary to dwell on the VP Disaster why won't they acknowledge the subsequent progress that has been made both on the field and off? Lessons of Bradford might not be totally inappropriate in Liverpool.

BY SSS...SIZZLER

After THE AVENUE a companion volume on the PICTORIAL HISTORY OF BRADFORD CITY

We have great pleasure in announcing that the publishers of the superb, best-selling book on Bradford Park Avenue are compiling a companion volume of similar style and format on Bradford City in response to an enormous request from City supporters. CITY GENT is able to offer readers a unique opportunity to place a priority order for the subscribers' Limited Edition which is planned for publication in Autumn 1988. Readers taking advantage of this offer will be assured of a personalised low-numbered copy of what should quickly become a collectors item. CITY GENT is co-operating in this venture and will be keeping readers informed of developments throughout its preparation.

Donald Gillan has written the text on the club's history from its formation in 1903 up to the present season. "THE AVENUE" co-author Tim Clapham is compiling a selection of pictorials for the Pictorial History section and the volume will be edited by Keith Mellor who produced "THE AVENUE" for Tim and Malcolm Hartley. A further point of interest on the Park Avenue book is that it has beaten Geoff Boycott's autobiography into second place in the region's best-selling book lists. The early-numbered subscriber copies are already collectors items and the aim is to emulate this achievement with the City volume, so it is advisable to get in an early order to secure a personalised copy. The subscriber edition will sell at £9.95 (Retail price £13), you can send a deposit of £2.95 immediately as per coupon below.

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MIDLANDS FOOTBALL-OBLIVION TO OBSCURITY

Having lived in Leicester for the last three years I have watched Midlands football both on the field and in the pages of the press. During my time here I've had the pleasure of watching Gary Lineker as well as seeing City enjoy a fine win at Filbert Street!

Generally the quality of Midlands football is in poor health; the East Midlands can at least boast to having two First Division sides; Forest and Derby. Meanwhile only Coventry represent the West Midlands. That part of the region is dominated by Aston Villa whose resurgence we've come to know about unfortunately.

Earlier this season Graham Taylor suggested that Second Division football was of a poor quality which was fair comment given Villa's early performances. In August I had the grave misfortune to witness the Villa/Blues derby. Villa struggled to make passes whilst Blues defenders seemed quite content to kick Mark Walters. The recent signings of the two Grays from Palace and Barnsley respectively would suggest that Taylor has now got his act together. Certainly he's under pressure to bring back success to Villa Park.

As for the other Brummie clubs, City and WBA, the future looks less rosy and it will be quite some time before they are orthy promotion contenders. Blues are by far the most physical side I've seen this season whilst WBA are perhaps the most boring. 'Goldfinger' Atkinson needs something of a miracle to lift Albion to greater things.

I've not seen Stoke City play this season but their position must surely reflect their ability. However onto Leicester City who are something of an enigma. They've beaten Liverpool, Everton and Forest quite convincingly but then have struggled against lesser opposition. As City fans will recall, Ian Andrews (goalie) and Mark Venus (full-back) are two current players to watch out for. Nevertheless it seems that a return to Div One is a long way off.

Onto a more topical note, City's game with Luton. Why are Luton so anxious to lift the ban on away fans for this game? Could it be that they fear playing City on a neutral ground or simply to cash in on home advantage? Or are they saying that it is now possible for away (read marauding) away fans to watch a game without hint of trouble. If they can lift the ban for a cup match there seems little reason why it couldn't be done for a League game too. by JES MYERS

City fans in the East Mids should contact: ROBIN POINTON, 96 Wilberforce Road LEICESTER LE3 0GW (0533-548759) to share travel/obsession etc.

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Compiled by **TERRY FROST**

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The Golden Years of BANTAM PROGRESSIVISM

My first view of Valley Parade was one that is much changed from the scene today, not as much as the ground itself, but the surroundings which give the place its own aura. A line of terraced houses strode down the hill to the kop gates. From the houses end it was possible to watch the game from the bedroom windows. Along the Midland Road side there was nothing, just a crude net to retain the ball, and a steep drop. Across the railway lines the large power station loomed, and emitted its own aura in terms of smoke and steam. Leathers' Chemical Works did the rest with a constant plume of acrid sulphur from its chimney. If the wind was right (and it often was) this smoke came right across the pitch. This was not the dark ages, but late sixties and early seventies, and the fourth division football served up was just as dour. No crowd segregation in those days. At half-time you changed ends to stand behind the City goal. If there were any numbers of visitors, such as in a local 'Derby', the two sets of supporters met half-way, grimaced at each other, but passed on without trouble.

A lot has happened since, but on August 15th normality at last returned to t'Valley. City started their first full season back home following the events of that May Saturday in 1985. Following the fire the club became the focus of a lot of media attention, the coverage of our return to Valley Parade being a major example of this.

It is likely that this latest landmark in the club's history will go largely unnoticed by the press, who have got mileage out of the disaster and its knock-on effects but who don't really care all that much. For those who have followed the club for a number of years it is significant. The fire was, of course, just one of a series of 'Happenings' which have been part of the way of life of City fans over recent years. Who can forget the agonising days when BCFC nearly went out of existence following the Martin regime? There was the McFarland saga, the case of the wobbly floodlight, the odd memorable cup-tie. We have seen a living legend leave the club to save it, then return to save it again, before finally leaving with all our unprecedented good wishes. We witnessed the end of what appeared to be a formidable management duo, the sacking of a manager, the discovery of a second formidable duo when all seemed lost, and transfer records smashed.

In the immortal words of Trevor Cherry, "It could only happen at this club." It's true! Being a City fan in recent years should have carried a government health warning, or instant qualification for discount on nerve tablet prescriptions. If such events had been conjured up for a comic strip, I feel that they would have been rejected on the grounds that they were too unrealistic !!

Bradford are currently top of the Second Division with a three point lead over their nearest rivals and it will be an opportunity to gauge the difference between the First and Second Divisions as theoretically City are only one place below us.

Personally I think the difference between the two divisions is vast and it will be interesting to see if this is borne out by tonight's match.

Lennie Lawrence

JINGLE ALL THE WAY . . .

A definition of misery for a First Division footballer: you're running around in the drizzle in front of fewer than 4,000 spectators, losing 1-0 to a Second Division club; your fans are singing "What a Load of Rubbish" and the away fans are applauding them; and you'd like to be playing better but that lot in claret and amber won't let you. Yes, we're talking about Charlton Athletic, the team that gives a whole new dimension to the word 'mediocre'.

The visit of Bradford to Selhurst Park gave me the chance to see the club with the best Division Two record of 1987, and also to meet City supporters and sample the warmth and spirit that pervades every page of 'City Gent'. On neither count was the evening a disappointment. I had the good fortune to stand near the CTC'73 contingent, one of whom, upon establishing that I was unfamiliar with several of the names on the team sheet, gave me a quick rundown as an introduction to the world of the Bantams, for which I was grateful. I'll spare his blushes by not naming him - is that OK by you Jim? His best line went something like: 'Ormondroyd?' (I'd said I'd heard good things about him.) 'Well, he's useless, but the big clubs are after him - that's fine by us, 'cos that way they miss the good 'uns, like Palin and Ellis. Don't tell 'em, will you?'

'Mega' Ellis (is that what you call him?) had an outstanding game, the kind of display that has you roaring a player on by half-time, although you may never have heard of him an hour previously. A combination of skill, pace and a lucky break got him behind the defence on 24 minutes; he kept his head and delivered a perfect cross for Greg Abbott to head the winning goal. After that (indeed, before that), there was only one team in it. The defence were the proverbial men against boys, McCall lived up to his reputation, while Hendrie (who looked like a mascot next to Dave Keegan in that photo in CG 18) looked a different prospect altogether on the ball. Uncle Ron Fletcher nearly made it two before half-time with a replica of Captain Kev's World Cup '82 header against Spain - a bit more hair up top and you'd have been safe.

City slackened off a little in the second half, which was a pity since they were certainly more than one goal better than Charlton, and a risk as well since, although the home side never seriously threatened, a lucky bounce or defensive slip could have earned them an undeserved draw. The arrival of the much-maligned Ormondroyd perked things up, and Palin forced Bolder into a good save near the end. But don't run away with the idea that you've beaten a First Division side - put it this way, you're unlikely to meet them in the League next season, at least I hope not.

The Bradford fans, meanwhile, were brilliant. (Thinks: what is it about West Yorkshire? - I loved the atmosphere among the Huddersfield fans as they lost 10-1 a week or so later). Apart from one bloke who thought it devastatingly witty to shout 'Big Mac and chips please, Garth', whenever Crooks had the ball, they were some of the friendliest supporters I've ever met. I particularly liked the Hallelujah Chorus when the linesman finally gave Charlton offside. You and your team will be a credit to Division One - I just hope you don't blow it. Good luck.

- Brian Spurrell of London

"THE OUTSIDE VIEW"

It was about ten years ago that Bradford City Football Club made its immediate and lasting impression on me on their visit to Colchester for the final Fourth Division fixture of the season. Admittedly not the most salubrious of venues, but then I must confess my recollections of that day owe nothing to the exploits of the teams, but rather the pre-match stampede by a section of the huge and vociferous away support which threatened to leave me embedded as a permanent fixture in the crumbling brickwork of the main stand.

Since then Bradford City has continued to make the headlines for all the wrong reasons - the self-inflicted wounds incurred by the acrimonious departure of Roy McFarland and the later dismissal of Trevor Cherry adding to the 1985 fire tragedy. This succession of paroxysmal setbacks afflicting one of the few diversions from economic recession could be ill afforded.

Despite (or perhaps because of) such adversity, the team has concurrently made rapid strides. My Southern status and lack of fanatical interest in City's affairs could not prevent my attention being drawn to the ability of youngsters McCall and Hendrie in contributing to the success. A recent visit to the City afforded me an excellent opportunity to compare my own estimations with the hitherto sporadic plaudits of the media. The aforementioned protagonists performed admirably and fully merit the attention lavished on them by the big-name clubs. Stu McCall assumes a Souness-like grip on the midfield, while up front John Hendrie's pace and close control would worry the most resolute defence.

What pleased me most about the team was its variety of attacking options, a prerequisite for continued success in the top flight. Industry in abundance and the much-maligned "long ball" approach might have an initial debilitating effect on defences, but the current plight of Watford, Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon testifies to the limitations of such a strategy. Bradford's workmanlike but creative players (Palin and Ellis fall into this category) ensure a multifarious threat to the opposition.

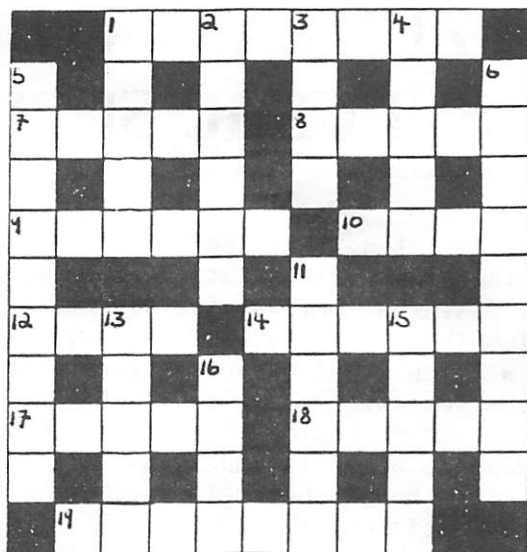
Before I am accused of merely jumping on the ever-weightier bandwagon of pseudo-admirers, I admit to having enjoyed only the most meagre exposure to the City phenomenon. Moreover, just to show my objectivity, I would proffer a note of caution. Bradford's progress will fail to assume meteoric proportions until defensive fallibilities have been radically reduced. The purchase of Lee Sinnott is a step in the right direction, though doubtless the existing last-line will show my admonition to have been nothing more than spurious criticism.

How could I avoid comment on the Valley Parade ground itself, where the visitor is confronted with a curious amalgam of Fourth Division inadequacy and grandiose edifice (please excuse the poetic licence), an uneasy compromise between a humble past and the realisation that promotion is on the curry-scented horizon? The prospect of the team's apotheosis necessitates a parallel improvement in the size and quality of the place of worship, especially in a city the size of Bradford, but Mr Heginbotham's cautious approach is justified (over expenditure is the ever-reliable harbinger of long-term detriment).

The denouement of the Bradford City story has been turbulent enough in recent seasons to shame most soap operas. But now it would appear the scriptwriters have dispensed with their poison pens and are currently drafting the happy ending (beginning) which not only the team but the whole city deserves.

by Dave Shand of Colchester

can you do it then?



ACROSS

1. Their home is Gayfield Park (8);
 7. Surname of scorer in 1968 FA Cup Final (5);
 8. Christian name of scorer in 1971 FA Cup Final (5);
 9. East End and Our Boys amalgamated to become this club in 1893 (6);
 10. Christian name of former Ipswich player who sank with Sunderland last season (4); 12. Surname of defender who was a member of the 1974/75 FL Champions (4); 14. Surname of ex-Burnley, Spurs and O's player capped 4 times for England (6); 17. Surname of one time Imps defender now to be found at Worcester CCC (5); 18. Surname of forward who went from Fulham to Leicester in 1973 (5); Sam Bartram made nigh on 400 appearances for this club (8).

- DOWN* 1. Surname of player who left Old Trafford for Luton in early 70's (5); 2. City which provided 1965 West German champs (6); 3. Surname of ex-MCFC and WBA player last heard of at Panionios (4); 4. Surname of Newcastle striker 1970-76 (5); 5. losing finalists in Bob Lord Trophy 1985 (9); 6. Club where Don Revie started his playing career (9); 11. Proper first names of Messrs Delgado and Shinton (6); 13. Surname of Royals keeper in 70's (5); 15. Home of 1977 UEFA Cup Winners (5); 16. Surname of footballing brothers Viv and Keith, both at Hereford briefly in the 70's (4).

by BERTIE BLADE of Chesterfield



Dr FINCH INTRODUCES ZEN BANTAMISM FOR SUBLIME SUPPORTERS

For so is it written, that the disciple shall meditate the paths of Bantam Progressivism at the feet of the Guru, prior to all away fixtures. Only at the feet of sri Doc Finch can the novice find the inner peace of the sublime supporter.

For so it is written, that one-ness is everywhere City go. The Master chanted softly to himself chants of meditation at the chosen holy place, beside the lockers in the Interchange, where his devout peace in Bantamism affected even the most unruly souls, far though they were from Inner Peace.

For so it is written, that the coach to Oakwell leaves at 1.30pm precisely, thus allowing plenty of time for the communion with the Buddha before the Master and I, the humble student of Bantam Progressivism, ate our sandwiches on the journey.

For so it is written, that the disciple shall record the sayings of sri Doc Finch, in order to reveal the workings of that great sublimeness.

"It is a cold day, master", I said.

"Speak not of the cold, Clodhopper. There shall be no cold when all art joined in the unity of the Bantam in the dress of Damart".

"Shall we take home the three points reward to advance us along the way to Bantam Perfection, Master?", I asked.

"Be calm, Clodhopper. Three years hence the sign of the goose will fly over Valley Parade, as it was seen to do three years back. The points are ours."

"Did not that goal count against us, Master?"

"In Faith is the only way to self-enlightenment."

"Master, was that not the third strike against us, and rather a good goal at that?"

"Dolan, Dolan, Hare, Hare, we are the champions".

"Master, should we not take comfort? Is it not written that the paths of perfection are many?"

"That's as may be, lad, but losing three-nil to bloody Barnsley is not one of them."

Thus spake the Master, sri Doc Finch. Hoping that this finds you in the best of health and Bantam Awareness.

TIM COOKE

ISSUES OF SOCIALISM IN 1988



"Neil, I'm still worried about the extreme left "

"No problems, Roy!
Mega is beating the right back every time."



THE MEANING OF GLASNOST

Gorbachev tells the people that
Stalin supported Stockport County.

OH NO ! ITS
JANICE BERRY OF BAILDON

The Return of Lady Luck

Almost a year back at the Valley
And Bradford's bouncing back
We've seen some players come and go
Then Cherry got the sack,

Terry Dolan stepped in
Almost like "Lady Luck"
We really do thank him
For getting him unstuck,

Its Bradford's turn to show the Leeds
What Super really means
Then on a Sunday afternoon
They can watch us on their screens,

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So come on City do your best
And we will do the rest,



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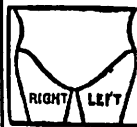
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"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PARK AVENUE SUPPORTERS ?"

Those who have never stood on the top of Baildon Moor in the teeth of a gale, have never sat in the stand at Park Avenue. It was cold, bitterly so, and the soccer in the club's latter years in the Football League did nothing to help. Yet even on the coldest Saturday afternoon in January with the wind whistling through the stand like creditors after a funeral, there was a warmth at Park Avenue which is hard to define.

Following the club's expulsion from the Football League a large number of supporters deserted the terraces and only a few hundred remained at the time the club went into voluntary liquidation in 1974. These ardent fans were faced with a dilemma. Should they give up soccer once and for all or should they throw in their lot with another club? Many took the second option and it is interesting to learn where their peregrinations took them.

City was out of the question. What right-minded Avenueite would be seen down at the valley other than on derby day? Not many gave a hoot for Leeds United, the club which many locals held responsible for enticing fans away from Bradford in the sixties when both Avenue and City were in desperate need of support.

The two towns, Huddersfield and Halifax, accounted for a fair few Avenueites and this was hardly surprising. Both clubs were within easy reach and neither had ever done anything to upset the Avenue faithful. More ambitious fans travelled over the border and made for Old Trafford and even as far as Goodison Park where top drawer entertainment was assured. Bradford fans were to be found at Turf Moor, Boundary Park and even Spotland!

Outside of the Football League many of the older brigade turned to their neighbourhood amateur club and a sprinkling of Avenueites appeared at Thackley, Guiseley, and Farsley Celtic. But the prize must be given to the youth who made for Gresty Road, the home of perennial strugglers Crewe Alexandra. What he went there for will probably remain one of those unsolved mysteries; perhaps he was a train spotter?

Scribbled on a wall at Park Avenue can be found a message which was probably addressed to Avenueites wherever they may be. It reads: 'He that is down can fall no lower'. Perhaps one day the Avenue will rise again.
Up the Avenue!

- Tim Clapham (author of "The Avenue", a pictorial history of BPA. Temple Press £12.95 hdbk.)

Promotion would be like a miracle

FRANK TOMLINSON (Manager of Bradford Park Avenue)

AN UNSUCCESSFUL club is usually a financially poor one. And the further down the League you go, the bigger the bank overdraft of a club is. Things are worse in the Fourth Division, which attracts the smallest crowds.

This is the division mocked for its 'shoestring' clubs - those which can't afford staff to maintain the football equipment, and where the manager has to do the chores, as well as looking after the team affairs. Bradford Park Avenue is such a club. It lies at the bottom of the Fourth Division.

At the moment, on results at least, Bradford doesn't look as if it will improve its position and will have to apply for re-election to the League at the end of this season. To get them out of the doldrums, new staff have been taken on. Three months ago a new coach, and six weeks ago a change of manager.

Said Frank Tomlinson, the new manager: 'The problem of this club is something that has to be faced. We are a Fourth Division team and that means we haven't got the best players.

'All I can really say is that we have a good, forward-looking chairman, who has been an encouragement.

'Next season I hope to make four or five changes in the team at least. But with things going as they are, all I can hope for at the most is the team getting up to the middle of the Division.

Harder

Tomlinson, who had been out of football for ten years before becoming manager, continued: 'What I am after is some harder players. People who pull their weight. And lack of this is something

I have noted with some of Bradford's players. They haven't been going in the way I want.

'That doesn't mean I want them to foul. But in this Division, because talent is less in other Divisions, success can only come by a team playing its heart out.

'And if it does this, it will get the chances, because there will be that many more times that the team will be in an advantageous position.

'I am opposed to 'mamby pamby' play. You can do that when you are at the top, but Leeds fought their way out of the Second Division by playing hard and that is why they got their reputation for tough play.

'Now that they are at the top, they can play football as well as being hard, but only success has given them the chance to play the game as they really want to play it.

'I have told my players that football gives them a good living and that it is a good life - if things are going well.

'But when they don't play with their hearts, I can't see a future for them or the club in any full-time professional Division.'

Tomlinson, 44, a former outside-right, played two games for Manchester United, then floated for 15 years among clubs in the Third Division. He was six seasons at Oldham Athletic and also played for Rochdale.

Manage

Said Tomlinson: 'The chance to manage a team came completely out of the blue. I had been ten years out of the game and was offered it, and I suppose in a way it offers me the sort of challenge too few people can have.'

He admitted that if Bradford did well under him it would partly make up for his lack of outstanding success as a player.

'There were some better and some worse,' he said. 'But I played my game and I did it the way I thought. If I can make Bradford into a team worth talking about, I will have made myself content and will have also raised the club morale.

'These are important things and I hope I can get the team to help me work for them.'

About the club, Tomlinson added: 'This area has produced its share of good players, and we have had some in our time.

'We have a youngster, 19-year-old Harry Dolan, who plays centre-half. I think he could be of Second Division standard when his game matures.

Of the club's aims, he said: 'If we get in one of the top four places in the division we could be getting crowds of eight or ten thousand, which would be just what is needed to help with finances.

'The stadium can take 34,000, and the facilities are very good for the Division.'

Bradford was in the First Division for three years, for the first year of the First World War, and for the two years after and has since worsened in standing.

'Said Tomlinson: 'Promotion would be like a miracle, but I think there are the players about who could be moulded into a winning Bradford side.

'It's all a matter of time giving us the chance to find our way out of our present position.'

FOOTBALL WEEKLY
April 10th, 1970

AVENUE
BALLS

THE FINGERPOST INTERVIEW

Don Goodman

Interviewed by Simon Wright and Adrian Goldberg

Don Goodman left Bradford City in March 1987, despite manager Terry Dolan wanting to keep him, and readers of City Gent voting him 'Most Improved Player' the previous term. So why did he leave?

"I just felt left out in the cold. When Trevor Cherry left I was top goalscorer with 8 in 24 (I wish I had that now!). Then all of a sudden Terry Nolan dropped me. I kept plodding away and banged lots of goals in for the reserves yet he kept putting other people in my place in the first team. I owe Bradford City a lot, obviously, but I did feel the time was right to move.

I'm pleased for the Bradford lads that they're doing well; I reckon that they'll be in the top five at the end of the season. Bradford's a tiny club and the lads there are like one big family. Everybody lives near to each other, whereas Birmingham's massive and the players are scattered".

Many Bradford City supporters have made comments like....Don Goodman? Spends more time on his...bottom...than standing up.

"I've been waiting for that! Typically City Gent. Yeah, it's weird. I think I've got flat feet. I'm no ballet dancer like Tony Morley. I think I've got over it a little bit compared to what it was. You couldn't have believed it at one time!

Bobby Campbell, according to the pages of City Gent is almost a living legend. Yet he remains almost unknown in the West Midlands. Don explained how a legend was made.

He's a great big, rough, tough, rugged man you don't want to get the wrong side of. A monster! We call him beastie.

They like it up there; 'Get in there', 'Get stuck in'. In the Third and Fourth Divisions, he'll always score a lot of goals. He had a bad spell in the Second Division, where it's a different style of game. You've got to be quick, react to situations. In the air, he was untouchable, an unbelievable header of the ball. He could probably head as hard as I could kick. He's got a bit of a reputation off the pitch; spotted out a few times drinking and that. Bobby Campbell's his own man. If he wants to go out, he'll go out. He's the sort of person it wouldn't effect. He's a hero for the way he plays and he's still knocking 'em in.

YOU ARE THE REF

the new CITY GENT competition

2

Leeds defender (Paul Madeley) loses a boot during a vital stage in the game. He asks the referee for permission to have the lace cut by Leeds trainer Les Cocker on the touchline. What was the answer?

1

On a very wet pitch, a Leeds player (white strip) challenges for the ball, slips and brings down an opponent. What was the referee's decision?



Send your entries to the editor and win a pair of Super Leeds sock tags!

Even Maradona has standards and his decision not to join Super Leeds has left Billy short of ideas on how to bring back the glory days to Elland Road.

Bremner's bids fail

Still keen to sign a striker who can provide the goals for a sustained promotion challenge, Bremner has had three bids turned down in the last few days.

"All three players were strikers who I felt could do the job for us," said Bremner. "It has been the most frustrating week I have had.

It is never Bremner's policy to reveal the identity of players in whom he is interested, but his search is continuing.

■ Diego Maradona, the Argentine captain, said yesterday he hoped to sign a new contract with his Italian club Napoli within the next few days. The deal could keep him at the club until 1993.



And so Billy's search continues...

EXCLUSIVE

Manager Billy Bremner told the fans: "Our start has not been as successful as we would have wanted and it is not my plan to make excuses about injuries or anything like that. When I came to the club I never promised you anything except hard work and the calibre of player who is proud to wear the Leeds United shirt.

Billy has found it tough to find the calibre of player who is proud to wear the Leeds Utd shirt. Despite Billy's refusal to tell the press which new Maradona he's pining for, CITY GENT can reveal Billy's new target...

Misha, the masturbating monkey, has displayed the kind of ball control that Billy knows will make him an ideal signing. "As soon as I saw those pictures from the Russian spacecraft I knew he was our man, or rather monkey" he admitted. "I was really impressed and all those electrodes in his head would suggest that he's suitably brainless. We've already got the work permits arranged and paid the travelling expenses to get him down here. The Russians were very obliging. However before he can fit into my plans I've decided to sell him to Portsmouth: I've already agreed to buy him back again at twice the price!" Clearly Super Leeds look destined for honours this season. Good luck Billy -you're even more popular in Bradford than Jimmy Adamson.



■ Space monkey: It's no joke



Misha takes a break from masturbating to contemplate a new career as the darling of Elland Road in the Super Leeds revival.

CITY v PARK AVENUE A DERBY DAY LAMENT ?

Kenny Hibbitt was in the Park Avenue squad for the last Bradford derby that took place at Park Avenue on January 25th 1969 (0-0). He is currently player-coach with Bristol Rovers and since his Avenue days has played in a plethora of colours, mostly in the Midlands. He's seen his share of big city derbies, the latest being in Bristol last September. Sadly derby days may soon be as much a thing of the past in Bristol as they have been in Bradford for the past 20 years. Rovers are "Bristol" in name only, playing in Bath. No longer do thousands of Rovers fans cross the city from their doorsteps in Eastville to Ashton Gate on the opposite bank of the Avon. Only a few hundred made that short journey this year, a far shorter trip than that required to see their "home" matches at Twerton Park. For Rovers' 5 Bristol-born players it was their only chance to play in their home town this season.

But were the derby matches to go in Bristol what would Bristolians miss? Bradford City's current strength might suggest that centralising local interest in one club leads to greater strength. And surely annual matches with local rivals (Leeds!) fulfil the same function? Well, ask most older Bradfordians and I suspect that they'll tell you that something is missing. The true local derby - the game that "splits families" in the old cliché, has far more to it than any game between two cities. Firstly, Bradford football has lacked, for many years, the "friendly" rivalry between City and Park Avenue - the opportunities to revile old friends and swap insults with people you'd normally consider friends. Certainly if Bristol Rovers went bust many Bristol City fans would regret the passing of the chance to get one over on them. Their latest clash - which ended 3-3 - proved a typical example of the "tonic" which such games give football in a town - national press coverage, big local stories and an advertisement at a time when all good publicity is welcome. And a thrilling derby match invites superlatives; on the strength of one game the press can speak of "a growing belief that Bristol soccer is finally leaving the wilderness years". Opportunities to put yourself in the shop window are rare.

That said, the derby days are long since gone in Bradford - Bristol, Sheffield, Liverpool, Nottingham and the rest must fight to keep theirs. So what can Bradfordians do - keep the fires of reminiscence burning through cold winter evenings, shed the odd tear for Avenue? Well maybe, but given the circumstances tormenting Leeds and leaving them in the lower reaches might offer some consolation !!!

Brian Mitchell

Brian Mitchell provided the entertainment at a recent supporters' evening at Valley Parade, and was an interesting if rather taciturn speaker.

He was asked if there was any difference between the English Second Division and the Scottish First Division. He reckoned that Scottish football was generally more aggressive and said that he knew that some players found the transition difficult moving from England to Scotland. But moving the other way around he hadn't found much difference really. He reckoned that the English game probably provided more variety.

Brian also felt that referees were much stricter in England. In Scotland the referees tended to let the game flow much more. Also they tended to be more inconsistent (if that is humanly possible!). In Scotland the referees aren't as integrated as they are in England, as they don't train with a club and don't have the opportunities of mixing with players in the bar as most clubs don't have them.

His greatest moments so far have been the European football he has played with Aberdeen. He has played against Servette and Dynamo Berlin. The kind of football was completely different, as the home-and-away rule played a significant part in the tactical approach to a match. Brian played in the semi-finals of the European Cup and the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners Cup. He won League and Cup medals with the club, and is proud of his achievements.

With Aberdeen Brian felt that he didn't have as much opportunity to go forward as he does with City. Consequently he is enjoying his goal-scoring exploits and is aiming for double figures this season. He rates the last minute winner against Huddersfield as the sweetest he has scored, but naturally enjoys them all. he described himself as a 'closet forward'.

Brian was quick to scotch (if you'll pardon the pun) rumours about the 40 minute inquest after the Ipswich defeat which was being put around by some tabloids. He put the recent 'mini-slump' down to mistakes, and said that talk of clubs having rumbled the sweeper system was nonsense. He liked the system as it was so versatile, and felt that it increased the number of options at the team's disposal. He acknowledged that one of the big problems was the tendency for the team to push forward after conceding a goal, thereby running the risk of conceding more. He put it down to youth and inexperience.

He believes that promotion is a definite possibility, but like others at the club is aware of the size of the squad. He reckoned that the priority areas were another midfielder and a utility player down the left-hand side. He dismissed the recent defeats as minor hiccups and stressed that they will prove to be vital lessons which needed to be learned.

Brian is a fine ambassador for the club and is the kind of player that City will need if they do manage to make the big-time. He has begun to settle into his new life in Bradford, and says that living here makes him appreciate Aberdeen more. Not that he dislikes the town; it is much better than he was led to believe before he came here. He particularly enjoys the friendliness of the people, and rates the atmosphere at Valley Parade as being much better than at all-seated Aberdeen. He said that Dons' fans were known for their moaning, and someone in the audience suggested that he'd come to the right place if he wanted to hear moaners!

He admires the style of Terry Dolan, and said that he had managed to generate an atmosphere of openness and trust. Brian was certainly very open and frank in his answers, and we thank him for an interesting and thought-provoking evening. His answers were not flashy but were always pertinent and to the point, just like the football he plays. City Gent wishes him all the best for the rest of the season.

- Mick Dickinson

GIMMER GIBBER

'Av bin watchin' futball in Bratfud fer more years than yer've 'ad 'ot curries an' ahm no spring chicken tha knaws. Ah've seen some stuff in mi day but fer the likes o' me 'ave nivver seen t'sort o' things that are gooin' on nar at t' Valley Parade. Ah'm fair brassed off. Ther wor a time when tha cud go dahn ter t'Valley an 'ave a reet gud rant. Yer cud winge ter yer 'art's content. There wor rubbish on t'park an' rubbish off it. Team wor crap an' so wor t'grahnd. But nar ah dun't knaw but ahm cummin' or gooin'.

Ah sumtahms wonder if t'young 'uns know owt abaht meanin' o' tradition. Its all changin' yer see. Tap rooms 'ave got carpits 'stead o' lino, an' yer can't get a decent bit o' black puddin' this side o' Barnsley. Yer gets lads wi' ear-rings an' lasses wi' muscles, an' metric measurements an' mosques. Fowk 'ave got ivverything they bluddy well want, but its all rubbish if yo' ask me.

Now there's a lad nex' door ter mi, nowt wrong wi' 'im sept 'is pink cardigan, an' 'e's City mad. Anyroad 'e gives us a lift dahn ter t'match an' in t'car 'e's nowt but bluddy smiles! Ah jus' cuddent believe it. Smilin' in Bratfud on a Satdi! Ah tried ter tell 'im that 'e wor spoilin' it fer mi, but 'e wuddent lissen. Ivverybody's ser dammed 'appy these days. It's sickenin'. Yer 'ardiy ever 'ear "Wakey Wakey City" or "Bloody Rubbish City" or "I'M Never Comin' Again". Then there wor "Get Yer Finger Out" an' "I'm Not Payin' Good Money To Watch This Load o' Crap". By, but them wor t'good old days!!

It's nivver bin T'same since Gary Watson left- best pillock we ever 'ad (and in 'is day we 'ad some proper pillocks, not these part-timers yer see occasionally at t'Valley nowadays.) Where 'ave they all gone? Men that could turn the best o' games into a disaster wi'out tryin', like Norman Corner, Alan Jones an' Lammie Robertson. Men that'd bring grown men to tears.

Personally ah blame t'Chairman fer ruinin' mi Satdis. Look what 'e's done fer us- 5 figure gates an' near capacity crowds, but spirit's gone somehow. There's just nowt ter moan abaht. Yer even get 'alf-price pies after 'alf-time in t'kop. No more gettin' wet when yer sat in t'stand. No more fightin' ter t'one bog in t'grahnd. No more 'oofin' an' 'opin'. No more George Mulhall an' 'is route one balls. It's a bluddy disgrace. I'm a Bratfordian born an' bred an' I've a bluddy right ter be able ter spend mi Satdis moanin'. From where ahm sittin' t'future dun't look so grand, me gooin' 'ome actually lookin' forrard ter t'next match. If it goes on like this, ah might 'ave ter get ovver ter t'Shay. Come back Gary Watson, all is forgiven!!!

" JUST WHAT YOU DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW "

Another letter dropped onto the mat. Who was it from today? Mark Hughes? Mark Wright? Mark Ellis?

Nearly every day a letter arrives from some football starlet, because a pastime of mine is to send out questionnaire-type forms to players of my choice. 368 have been sent out so far with 200 coming back. Questions range from "type of boot" to "who would you and wouldn't you like to be stuck in a lift with". The top answers for that question are Samantha Fox and Margaret Thatcher. I'm sure you can work out which answer belongs to which bit. An interesting answer for the "wouldn't like" part of the question came from Lawrie Pearson of Hull City whose answer was "a homosexual nympho"!!

Kenny Dalglish comes out on top for the player most admired, closely followed by Hoddle, Robson and Lineker. One unusual candidate for this was made by Gordon Hobson, who put "Gordon Simmonite" whoever he is.

The "what would you do if someone gave you £50,000" question got predictable answers like buy a house/car. But John Fashanu's answer was simply "I'd be gone too quick to write about it!" Stuart McCall answered "Buy a black Porsche and then pay off all my speeding fines". Glynn Snodin would buy the whole of the Sheffield Wednesday team with his, whilst cautious Steve Clarke would "ask 'em where they got it from".

Claim to Fame's brought out some well-kept secrets. Brian McClair states he's a world champion...at underwater origami!! Stuart McCall says he was actually there when Martin Singleton refused a free drink, which I find harder to believe than the first one! And one story about Elton John that the Sun hasn't printed (yet) is that Nigel Gibb's beaten him...in a Sinclair C5 race. I always knew Watford's training methods were different but...! Gary Megson apparently went to school with Wayne Hussey from 'The Mission'. I don't think there's any truth in the rumour that they both use the same hairdresser. As you can see from the amount of replies, not everyone has been good enough to reply. Leeds and Man U have been the worst culprits with Bradford (thanks lads!), Oldham and Leicester being the top teams. One question I've started to ask to those sent to City is "Do you read City Gent?" Answers so far? Why else are they top of the league!!

- Debbie Stokes (WBA fan believe it or not)



Stoke City F.C. SUPPORTERS CLUB

Affiliated to the National Federation of Football Supporters Clubs

11 Westland Street,
Penkhull,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire.
ST4 7HE

8th September 1987

Dave Keagan Esq.,
Bradford City A.F.C. Official Supporters Club,
Valley Parade,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire.
BD8 7DY

Dear Sir,

re: Darren Slingsby - "Daftest man in t' world!"

Following problems experienced with the above named person prior to our match with Bradford at the Victoria Ground last season, we would be most pleased if he was omitted from your party to visit Stoke-on-Trent for our match on 12th September 1987.

Yours faithfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.J. Mansfield'.

NICHOLAS J. MANSFIELD
SECRETARY

A pleasure!

CG TERRACE TALK



Dear sir,
 I write with a throbbing head, due to the gymnastic display of a City fan after viewing the "well-deserved" last minute winner at Udders. He landed on my head. The ever-growing band from this side of the border are looking forward to introducing new members to the delights of BCFC and weaning them from the horrors of the big two here.

Michael Hobbins

Anyone in Manchester wanting to share the cost of transport to City games should contact Michael at 65 Randolph Street, Levenshulme, MANCHESTER M193DW.

Dear CITY GENT,
 May I appeal to any City fans in the Yeadon area to join the YCF (Yeadon City Fans). We travel to away games by cars and vans -do you remember the puke green Avenger that went to Brighton with no window winders? What about the time we stopped off at Great Yarmouth after the Norwich game in '86 when our entire membership was forced into the hotel cocktail bar starters after getting locked out of their room (Ed: rooms?). We desperately need new members. Duncan 'I live in a crimewatch UK Fiat' Kerr is getting married, Alan 'Coke please' Kirkbride is spending all his Saturdays with his German girlfriend, and as for Sean -Debbie won't let me go- Stanhope, well what do you say? The YCF is Stanly and Birdy and we need new recruits.

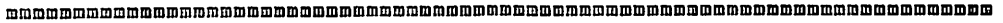
Mark Stanhope

So if you live in Yeadon and prefer a laugh with the boys, ring Rawdon 504853.

Dear CITY GENT,
 I as a loyal City fan am writing to you on the subject of the transport people use to get to away matches. the match I have in mind is the time we played Derby County on April 27th 1987. I could not believe the number of hire vans taking City fans down the M1. Are hire vans a new trend like Green, Pink and other yukky coloured 'jumpers' that is going to carry on? Will CTC resort to vans instead of coaches? Maybe CTC could run a Hire van to Heaven (ie CG #17).
 Anyway on to the "Lighter Side": is our super little winger Mark Ellis really as heavy as they make him out to be in the April Sunderland programme? It says that he's 25, height 5'9 and weight 19st 9lbs!

B.J.R. Wilson

PS My sister Miss Esther Wilson is very annoyed with the 'm' on John Dewhirst's typewriter because it blotches. Her method to rid this is dab it with blue-tac.



ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD ON PAGE 15:

Across: 1: Arbroath; 7: Astle; 8: Eddie; 9: Dundee; 10: Eric; 12: Todd; 14: Coates; 17: Neale; 18: Earle; 19: Charlton.
 Down: 1:Aston; 2:Bremen; 3:Owen; 4:Tudor; 5:Maidstone; 6: Leicester; 11: Robert; 13:Death; 15:Turin.



Edwina's Discerning What's On Guide



BLACKBURN 28.12.87 £2(Members), £3(Non-Members) Depart 1pm.
LEEDS 01.01.88 Members FREE, non-members £1, depart 1.45pm.
SWINDON TOWN 16.01.88: £7 (M), £8.50 (NM) depart 8.30am.
LUTON TOWN to be decided subject to tickets but we'll be there!
MILLWALL 06.02.88: £6(m) and £7(nm), depart 9am.
MIDDLESBROUGH 27.02.88: £3(m) and £4(nm), depart 12.30pm.
BIRMINGHAM 05.03.88: £3.50(m) and £4.50(nm), depart 12 noon.

Passengers please note -tickets should be booked and paid for in advance to guarantee a seat. All excursions depart from the Bradford Interchange and tickets can be booked at the Duchess of Kent on Sackville Street. CTC'73 Committee meetings are held every Monday evening at the Duchess and information about travel can be obtained there.



CTC'73 Complete Outings



*The Award Winning
Cruise Line*

CTC'73/Official Supporters Club FOOTBALL TEAM RESULTS:
City 4-1 Swindon (City scorers Pedley 2, Cooper and Domo);
City 0-1 Shrewsbury Town (Away);
City 0-5 Sheffield United;
City 1-6 Leicester City (Away: Scorer Keegan).

If anyone is interested in playing football or wants to organise a game against CTC'73/OSC XI please contact Dave Keegan, CTC'73 (Bfd), c/o The Duchess of Kent, Sackville Street, BRADFORD. Any representatives of other supporters' clubs reading CITY GENT who would like to try and emulate Leicester City (ha, try it!) should write to the OSC Secretary Mick Dickinson, 13 Meadow View, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield HD8 9ET.

Any away fans/CG readers wanting to meet CTC'73 members and the CITY GENT editorial team should pop into the Watmough Arms between 1-2pm on match days.

A CTC'73 newsletter will be issued to CITY TRAVEL CLUB '73 members explaining the financial situation to date. As members are becoming aware there have been problems arising from our former treasurer. The newsletter will also explain the new coach ticket selling arrangements. Anyone wishing to join CTC can do so either at the Duchess on a Monday evening or on any CTC excursion. Leisurewear and independent football fanzines are also on sale on Monday evenings.

Readers are asked to report to us anyone selling CITY GENT leisurewear other than the regular CTC'73 people.



THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Do you want:
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Fans are the true sponsors of football — yet for years we've been ignored by the people who control it. The F.S.A. is changing that.

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JOIN US NOW: complete this form and return it to the address shown below.

I would like to join the Football Supporters Association and I agree to abide by its rules.
I enclose a membership fee (Minimum £2.00).

Signature.....

Date

Surname.....
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Forenames

Address

.....

Post Code.....

Team supported.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate AGE: Under 16 16-21 Over 21 .

Are you disabled? Yes/No

Unwashed Elements at V.P.

THE BRADFORD FOOTBALL DISTURBANCE

BRADFORD DAILY TELEGRAPH, 21/02/1906

It is a matter of common knowledge amongst those most intimately concerned with Association football that whatever in the way of praise may be given to the Football Association for steadiness of purpose and a strong disinclination amounting to conservatism in the matter of alteration of rules, etc., yet in its dealings with the clubs it is not only most autocratic in methods, but indolent in its manner of dealing with them; hence the information that the Valley Parade disturbances was to be investigated within ten days of the event came upon the local officials as a great shock, attended with a feeling of exceeding relief that the affair was to be decided so soon, and so enable the fixtures that it was felt would be disturbed by the Commission's findings to be re-made without delay. Whatever may have been the fear felt beforehand by those concerned as to the attitude likely to be adopted by the Commission during the investigation, it must be admitted after the event that nothing could have been more considerate. A serious breach of the laws of good usage had undoubtedly occurred, and the Association were bound to take cognisance of it and to mete out such punishment to the club as the events demanded, but having arrived at this stage they evinced not the slightest desire to be vindictive, but rather leaned to going so far as to fix the period of suspension over a time when the City's home match was not the most remunerative of those remaining to be played at Valley Parade. The scope of the enquiry was not confined to the actual disorder alone but, as is known, included what most people considered the unfair and nasty tactics on the field of play, which, more than in any other game played in Bradford, incited the spectators to feelings of great repugnance. It was clearly shown during the proceedings yesterday that for these excited feelings there was some considerable warranty, not that they in the least were held to be excuses for what followed after the finish of the game. Indeed, if one thing more than another is now distinctly understood by Bradford spectators it is that whatever disapprobation may be felt to what happens in the field, it must not be followed by hostile demonstrations outside. Legitimate methods to meet the case are at hand, and the club officials are the people to use them. If the officials are unwilling or unable to do this, the members of the club have the remedy in their own hands, and, it may be hoped, will not hesitate to apply it at the right time should occasion call for it. Meanwhile it may be said that the committee's lot is already sufficiently onerous, without adding burdens, such as this case has carried, and it is to be hoped for their sakes, as well as for the good name of Bradford sportsmanship, that this, the first blot on the escutcheon, will be the last.

THE LADS' AREA

It may be interesting to mention one or two of the points that arose during the deliberation of the commission. The first was a matter that has often been more or less informally discussed in local football circles, and concerns the "lads". These are undoubtedly, to the club officials or to other people -parents and others- a source of anxiety, and "what to do with our boys" is a question that oft vexes the mind of the official and the individual. The opinion was strongly expressed yesterday that it was unwise to have a portion of the ground set apart for their occupation, and that it would be a step in the right direction to discontinue the practice at Valley Parade, and let the lads go to either parts of the field, and so get separated from one another. There is much to be said for this view, and it is hoped it will be considered by the officials most concerned on its merits, and a logical and final decision arrived at.

THE BRADFORD FOOTBALL DISTURBANCE continued...

Space forbids mention of other interesting matters that received some amount of ventilation, but the wish may again be expressed that such discreditable scenes as occurred on February 10th, will not be repeated, here or elsewhere, but that a manly game will be played and watched in a manly spirit. To parody the notice sometimes seen in billiard rooms; "Gentlemen are kindly requested to use the rest; others MUST." Gentlemen are requested to watch a football match and to leave in an orderly and quiet way -OTHERS MUST.

FOOTBALL VIOLENCE AT VALLEY PARADE
BRADFORD WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, 23/02/1906
THE BRADFORD CITY DISTURBANCE, FA COMMISSION, CITY GROUND SUSPENDED

"After an inquiry which lasted close upon three and a half hours, the chairman... announced that the commission found as follows:
'That an unseemly disturbance took place at the close of the match. The referee and visiting players and officials were assaulted on leaving the ground. The commission order the Bradford City ground to be suspended for 14 days from March 1st 1906. In future matches the directors of Bradford City should give orders to the police to immediately clear the public from the approaches to the ground at the close of the match'."

A PINK ELEPHANT **A**
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SCARBOROUGH ROCK AND GEOMORPHOLOGY TOO

The Broad Acres have another league club. Not since 1970 when Avenue failed to gain re-election have there been as many as 13 Yorkshire clubs in the Football league. And what a treat for Fourth Division fans to be able to spend match day in that wonderful resort! How good it would have been to have made regular visits to Scarborough in our own Fourth Division days - although of course the last time we went (in 1964/65 for a cup-tie) we lost 0-1. Until the era of cheap Spanish holidays Scarborough was probably the favourite destination of Bradford holidaymakers with Morecambe a close second. What a pity then that we could never combine football at the Athletic Ground with visits to Peasholme Park or the castle. Misty recollections of 'traditional' away grounds are reluctantly confined to the likes of Darlo and Hartlepool and despite the omnipresent tug in Hartlepool harbour it was most definitely a lower class of North Sea up there. A trip to Scarborough with CTC'73 would have been a positive treat and so a group of us set off to sample the delights of combining seaside with soccer.

Our chosen fixture was the league cup tie with Doncaster way back in August, some 4 days after Scarborough's infamous league debut against Wolverhampton Wanderers. A large police presence was pretty obvious and so too were the local constabulary's B-registered black marias. Promotion to Division Four must have been welcomed by the police justifying, as I'm sure it did, a little more expenditure on accessories and new vehicles to play in. The ground is not difficult to find - simply look out for a mass of policemen and no-parking bollards on the left of the main road into Scarborough from York and you've found it. Those visitors less aware of events outside their vehicle might however turn up at Peasholme Park in the hope of attending the match; clearly the 'Athletic Ground' is an unimaginative title and it was noticed later that signs for the former are in greater abundance. (Presumably the miniature railway is now adequately segregated).

The ground is dominated by an imposing cantilever stand which puts many other Fourth Division clubs to shame. To the left of the stand is an open terrace of about 15 steps with a large expanse of tarmac in front. Opposite the stand is a scratching shed which should provide adequate shelter from the elements except beneath where Volvas fans dared to tread. Finally, behind the other goal is a curious mishmash of terracing and tidily mown grass banking divided into caged pens. Welcome to Scarborough - this is the visitors' end and please don't expect a good view.

The panorama from the grandstand however is splendid to say the least and I thoroughly recommend taking a seat at Scarborough. I say panorama because from the stand you are made aware of the valley in which the ground is situated and down which you enter Scarborough. On both sides are the high wooded slopes of the valley (separated from the ground by a housing estate to the south and the railway line and commercial premises to the north). Surely no other ground in the League can inspire

geomorphological thoughts? The question of by how many goals Scarborough would win was secondary to the issue of whether Scarborough FC is the only ground in the FL to sit in a glacial valley. (Is it?)

There's more to football than watching 22 men kick a ball and certainly more to lower division football where there is so much more to provide satisfaction. And when it comes down to it, local pies from the likes of Rochdale make the whole experience of away travel at that level most worthwhile. Hence it seemed a good bet that Scarborough would introduce fish and chips to the Football League. On the terraces were litter bins (another first for the club?), which we presumed a litter-conscious council had provided for the disposal of f'n'c papers. Imagine then the disappointment of being served with McCain's oven-ready chips after queuing for twenty minutes. Unbelievable to think that such an Americanism be introduced by the league's newest member. And sure enough McCains boast the sponsorship of Scarborough FC. The only concession to tradition were the quirky refreshment huts, outdated boilers, Wagon Wheels and Ces Podd (just like the old days!)

Despite the chips, the locals (who have consistently provided Scarborough FC with good gates and no doubt helped to shovel snow and ice from the pitch to allow Boro to get this far) are rightly proud of their club's achievements. That the club should have achieved league status after voicing such aspirations over the last 15 years or so is an achievement irrespective of boardroom squabbles, a friendly, homely atmosphere does exist - even if away fans are literally kept well out of it. Not long ago Scarborough had attempted to take the place of Halifax Town in the league by buying out the Shaymen. Fortunately both clubs are able to compete this season and, who knows, both might achieve promotion. Yet while success is possible the Boro should be careful of losing their identity. If Bradford City are ever the visitors I hope that the McCain chips will have been replaced; likewise, once the novelty of new black marias has worn off I hope that the police will be able to suggest more imaginative away facilities. In preparation, then, find the bucket and spade and get the geography school books out of the attic.

JOHN DEWHIRST

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Fixture Card NOW where you see
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SCARBOROUGH FC

ELECTED TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
BY BASS BEERS, 1984/85



CITY GENTS FROM THE PAST...

no.16 STEVE BAINES by TWO-WATS-MOUGH

Newark born Stephen Baines joined Nottingham Forest as an apprentice professional in 1970. Two years later in June 1972 Steve signed as a full professional and made his League debut at Preston on April 21st, 1973 in a Second Division game. Steve played in the no.4 shirt that day and played one more game for Forest before Brian Clough gave him a free transfer and he signed for Huddersfield in the summer of 1975. While at Town Steve played in the same side as Bobby Campbell, Terry Gray and Terry Dolan. After over 100 appearances for Town he joined City for £18,000 on March 9th 1978.

Despite signing Steve City were unable to avoid relegation to Division Four. Next season Steve played 43 games, 37 at centre-half and 6 as a makeshift centre-forward, scoring 10 goals. After another full season with City he joined Walsall in July 1980 for £50,000. Two years later, after a loan spell at Bury, Steve moved to Scunthorpe for £5,000. He then played over a hundred games for Chesterfield before joining Matlock Town in the Northern Premier League. This season I believe he has played for Alfreton although at the moment is with Gainsborough Trinity.

Steve 'Bruiser' Baines gained a reputation as a tough uncompromising centre-half during his League career. Many opponents were unfortunate enough to feel the weight of his body as Martin Tyler remarked while commentating on highlights of a televised City match. As a player lay prone on the ground he observed: "When you are hit by Steve Baines you tend to stay hit!" Steve got his head on the end of most crosses which came into the City box including those which arrived at knee-height! These comments, however, should not detract from his ability as a player and this was recognised in 1980 when his fellow professionals voted him into the PFA Fourth Division side. Although a somewhat clumsy player he nevertheless gave City's defence much needed height in the late seventies and was always an aerial threat in the opposition penalty area.

STEVE BAINES FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD

Nottingham Forest 2 appearances, 0 goals;
Huddersfield Town 113 (1 sub), 10 goals;
Bradford City 98 (1), 17;
Walsall 47 (1), 5;
Bury (Loan) 7, 0 goals;
Scunthorpe United 37 (1), 1;
Chesterfield 132 (1), 9.

city gents of old ...

There are now only very limited back issues of CITY GENT although photocopies can be provided on request. Anyone requiring such issues should write to JOHN WATMOUGH, 46 Ainsty Road, WETHERBY LS22 4QS including a SAE and any cheques made payable to "City Gent".

There are still some copies of the 1986/87 BEER AND BANTAMS GUIDE (£1) as well as CLASSIC CITY GENTS (£1 - a compilation of the best articles from the first six issues of CG).

Anyone who has a copy of CITY GENT #15 which they no longer require is encouraged to inform John Watmough immediately. One reader has written to us offering to pay £5 for this publication!!!

KEEPING FEET ON THE GROUND

In May 1979 Bristol City finished the season in 13th place in Div One. Their best position for any season since 1909. The club looked to Europe in 1980. Sadly 1980 brought relegation and only three years later the club faced bankruptcy. Although saved at the last minute on 4/12/82 Bristol City began a 2 week occupation of the 92nd spot for the only time in their history. Three and a half years - a real riches to rags story. It's great to be a Bradford City at the moment but the dangers inherent in promotion to Div One were hidden to Bristolians as they went through the same experiences in 1976. In the fall of Bristol City there may be lessons for Bradford City.

In 1976 the Robins were a workmanlike and effective side of youngsters. Players like Geoff Merrick and Tom Ritchie had attracted offers from the bigger clubs but City held onto them in their promotion push back to Div One for the first time in 65 years. Bristol, like Bradford, it was said could support a First Div club yet disappointment came early. In the close season players discovered that the paths to Old Trafford and Anfield were lined with gold and this had an unsettling effect on the side. The first season back was a struggle against relegation which set the trend for every season thereafter - only 78/79 being relatively successful. In 1979 freedom of contract was negotiated for players and City's disaster began. After Collier negotiated his own transfer to Coventry, City panicked and awarded long-term contracts to other valued players. The following season they were relegated. The bottom fell out of the transfer market and City were saddled with highly-paid players on lengthy contracts whose value had been slashed overnight. Relegated with Derby and Bolton it is no coincidence that financial problems led to all three plummeting even further down.

For Bradfordians that may seem of little interest yet there are parallels between Bristol City of 1976 and Bradford City of today - a team of young and sought after players, inflated gates with a high-proportion of fair-weather fans, a good team - but perhaps not strength in depth - and a city that has waited years for a return to the top flight.

Consider the dangers. Fair-weather support that melts away when times are hard and when there is little chance of winning anything. More significantly perhaps is that swelling gates may destroy the intimacy that supporters felt in the less successful days. Desire for success from the boardroom down can destroy the character which a club has built up over generations.

It is simply not worth gambling with a club's future in the euphoria of promotion and who is to say that promotion is the be-all and end-all? Sure, sit back and enjoy the success but as supporters make your voices known and keep your feet firmly on the ground.

STEVE HOCKING

HERE'S HOPING....

MITTWOCH DEN 4 OKTOBER, 1989, 19.30Hr

UEFA POKAL 2e RUNDE --- BAYERN MUNICH V BRADFORD CITY

Unsere visitors heute sind Bradford City von NordEngland. Vor 2 years spielten City in der Englische 2e Liga, aber in 1987 sind sie promotiert in der 1e Liga. In 1988/9, zu alle surprisen finishen den Bantams 3e mit 77 punkte. Sie gewinnen against Man Utd, Liverpool und Tottenham und mit der plannenbuilden von der Neustand an der Midland Road ist der Valley Parade Stadion jetzt 30,000 spektatoren holden.

Die papers in England printen das City ein nastyfoulenkicken side sind, aber der manager, Terry Dolan, wird das disputen. Er says das in 88/89 die nastybiasedrefereen gab City only 14 rote carten und 39 yellow carten. Der team ist kompletlich rebuildet since der lukrativ move von Stuart McCall nach Stockport County fur £7,000,000 (DM5 Mil) Die neue players haben already ein understanding mit sich developiert und City's fussball ist jetzt very attraktiv zu see.

Die only schokkendisasterupsetten in 88/89 war die defeat gegen die Non-Liga manschaft, Leeds United, in der 3rd Runde, FA Pokalspiel by 1-0. Terry Dolan erklart "Es ist always ganz tricky ein Non Liga team zu playing. Following der Leeds bankrupten playen Leeds bei der klein 4,000 spektator Bramley Internationalstadion, und followen der awful donnerundblitzendownpourensplaschenschlippenonderwetbitsoopsadaisy konditions adapten wir badly, aber alle kredit zu Billy Bremner. Sein lads gebattled away, und bei der daysende komplainen wir nicht.

City's stars heute sind John Hendrie, mit 64 goalen in der 1st Liga in 88/89, und "Bommer" Ormondroyd, mit 47 goalen, aber der "Bommer" ist in only 16 games in 88/89 playing, followen der nasty accidenten mit der headbangeronderstandroofen.

City sind sure zu given uns der hardmatch, und ich hoffe das wir ein kleenscheet, und ein lead taken zu Valley parade in zwei weeks. Ticketen fur der returnleggen sind onsale in der Klubshoppen after der game, und die coaches fahren von der Geburtstagskuchenstrasse Interchange an Dienstag, 17 Oktober um 13.30 Hr, preis DM150 (Mitglieder) und DM200 (Non-Mitglieder).

Enjoyen das spiel - "Franz"

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.

Available now £5.95 (add 70p postage) from CITY GENT. Special discount of £1 if you are a CG contributor.

A WAR STORY

The national football teams of Germany and England meet for the 22nd time today. We would like to welcome the guests from the mother country of football especially as well as their supporters, who came

with them across the Channel. Together we are looking forward to a great football evening which will only be possible however if everybody sticks to the following motto: enthusiasm yes, riot no!

„Diese Spiele sind Klassiker“ said Franz Beckenbauer in eager anticipation of West Germany's confrontation with England at the Rheinstadion Düsseldorf on September 9th, 1987. The classic confrontation indeed and probably dominated by the fact that on our part Anglo-German relations seem to be influenced by the war(s) and 1966. English complacency has stood still in more than one way to the extent that our economy is as weak as the national eleven in comparison to Germany. The Germans know it while we find it hard to accept. Unfortunately we still look upon them in the same way as we did in 1944.

They look like us, except that there are fewer of the wiry type and more big, fleshy, fair-haired men and women, especially in the north.

But they are not really so much like us as they look.

The Germans have, of course, many good qualities. They are very hard working and thorough ; they are obedient and have a great love of tidiness and order.

But for centuries they have been trained to submit to authority—not because they thought their rulers wise and right, but because obedience was imposed on them by force.

No matter how seemingly successful the Germans are they seem prone to look towards England for ideas or spirit.

Sport. The Germans have only taken to sport during the last thirty years, but they are keen and capable performers. They learnt most of their sport from us. Football is the most popular game, but is played less vigorously than in Britain ; charging is regarded as rough play. Football is entirely amateur, and “pools” are unknown. There is no cricket, but plenty of athletics, some tennis and a little golf. Boxing and wrestling are both popular spectacles, and the Germans go in for a good deal of cycle racing.

Pop music is the prime example with record shops dominated by English music and German youth culture adopting the same styles as the English. Punks, skins and rockers speaking German and singing in English! No wonder we don't bother learning Deutsch. Football is no different. Graffiti in English and a fascination with English football heritage. Souvenir stands at the Rheinstadion sold a multitude of English pennants, badges and scarves with different stock lines outnumbering German equivalents by 4:1. (Maggie take note especially of the fact that German flags and scarves were

made in England. We always get the last laugh and win on aggregate, eh?). I might add that the more 'obscure' English clubs (Wigan, Rochdale and Torquay etc) were represented and that this stock was standard for all games.

Cue the English fans. The continental last night at the Proms. Britons never never shall be slaves. Union Jacks fly high. And of course the majority of these fans are certainly not slaves but the members of the conquering British Army that occupies a part of the Federal Republic.

There are signs that the German leaders are already making plans for a Third World War. That must be prevented at all costs.

Cue the Germans. Skins from the big cities and Terror Fan Clubs in Pringles. These games are indeed classics and moreover a rare opportunity for the Germans to show the Englanders that they can fight for a flag too.

before Hitler—German writers of great authority have been steadily teaching the necessity for war and glorifying it for its own sake. The Germans have much to unlearn.

No self-respecting trouble maker wanted to miss this game. Only 3 weeks previously, Rudolph Hess had died in Berlin and so the fixture had a rather sinister dimension for a few minority elements eager to restore Germany's honour.

Bobby Robson's boys lost 1-3. After the match the English were ambushed by a bottle-hurling enemy. Military training had been numbed by alcohol and the precision tactics of a new generation of Guderians decided the battle. Not very funny really. On the trams after the game it was unwise to speak English and a situation that teaches you German quicker than any Berlitz course. A real war story! Can the lads escape undetected to the Hauptbahnhof and get back to Blighty?

At the European Championships next summer the Germans may have to learn from the English again. The British police are arguably the best when it comes to crowd control. The Polizei have no idea whatsoever and prefer the intimidation of heavy-handed tactics. There were even large detachments of police at all main railway stations within 30 miles of Düsseldorf. Next summer the scope for crowd trouble and cynical violence seems inevitable. A chance for a new post-war ascendancy to be established between the Germans, English, Dutch and Italians.

Hitler claims that the Germans are a very special people; they are not only Aryans (by which he apparently meant natives of Northern Europe); they are also the Master Race, and their destiny is to rule and lead all other nations.

Should the English be allowed to travel?

When you reach Germany, this evil system will be swept away, but the German people will find it hard to get rid of much of the Nazi creed.

In September the military element was predominant and that will presumably be the case next year also. Off-duty, the English squaddy is renowned for being a drunken lout and in Düsseldorf there was no evidence of civility on the terraces. Ironically these are the fellows under Maggie's charge, the ones to whom thorough discipline and traditional instruction can be applied. Do parents and teachers create the fighting English football-follower or is it something more intrinsic in society -like the army and glorification of our military victories? Are army initiation ceremonies the norm?

The old Prussian army—and the Nazi army too—set out intentionally to break the spirit of recruits. They were made to do stupid and humiliating things in order to destroy their self respect and turn them into unquestioning fighting machines. This method produced a formidable military force, but it did not produce good human beings. It made the Germans cringe before authority.

On the evidence it would be foolish to travel to Germany and make one's allegiance known (which is impossible anyway). Take heart that there'll be at least one Bradford City supporter in Düsseldorf. At a stage in the game when some of the English fans started 'Sieg Heiling' at the police a German asked me if there was a significant fascist contingent in the crowd. Then, noticing my City Gent badge, a more fundamental question was asked. "Are you from Bradford?" And so I met a German who had worked at Thornbury, supported City between 1984-86 (he had been at the Lincoln game in May '85) and had been a regular CITY GENT reader. Trivialities of European rivalry seemed irrelevant.

Even Hitler had a grudging respect for us, as he admitted in *Mein Kampf*. He envied us the British Empire and admired the national qualities that went to building it up—imagination, enterprise and tough endurance. He thought we had grown decadent and lost them. Our fighting forces—and the civilians at home—have proved the contrary.

Germans believe we have other national virtues. They think that we are, fair, decent and tolerant and that we have political common sense.

Now that the Nazi dream of world-conquest has been shattered, these homely qualities look all the more attractive, and many Germans would probably say to-day that their ideal of the new Germany is something like Britain.

While you are serving in Germany you are representatives of Britain. Your behaviour will decide their opinion of us.

Extracts from a 1944 British Army manual

And it came to pass....

And it came to pass on the Saturday in the afternoon, that there were shoutings and cursings, and a thick cloud upon the coach, and the voice of the siren exceeding loud; so that all the people in the coach trembled. And Robbo brought forth the people out of the coach to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the coach. And The Hawthornes was altogether silent, for the Lord's servants descended upon it in a helicopter, and the whole coach quaked greatly. And when the voice of the copter sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Robbo spoke, and God answered him by a voice. And the Lord came down in his clothings of blue, with his helmet on his head and his truncheon by his side, and Robbo went up.

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of the heathen north, out of the house of unemployment and violence. Hear unto thee these my commandments.

"For as long as thou art in West Bromwich, thou shalt have no other God but me.

"Thou shalt not make unto thee songs, neither 'The Referee's a Bastard' nor 'Terry Dolan's Bradford Army', nor even 'One Team in Yorkshire', nor sing them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and a strong one, and I have my empty cells waiting.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; neither references to beasts of the field or particularly sties, for I have my empty cells waiting.

"Thou shalt not relieve thyself behind the sheds or the trees, for I have my empty cells waiting.

"Thou shalt not enter the ground before 10 past 3, for there is only one turnstile open.

"Thou shalt not get a decent view of the game, for I am with thee, and my face will look on thee exceedingly, and my form will block thy view.

"Thou shalt not obtain a pie, for the kiosk shall sell out before half-time.

"Thou shalt not visit the club shop, for my helicopter has instructions to escort thee back to thy coach, and thy coach to the northernmost limit of my kingdom.

"Thou shalt not kill time by looking around, nor by walking, nor by talking, nor by meeting with friends. But thou wilt go directly to thy coach, and thou wilt not pass GO nor collect £200.

"Thou shalt not complain unto me, for I do not care about thee or thy well-being, nor about thy hand-maiden, inasmuch as thou art an hindrance to me and vex me exceeding sore; and if thou dost complain, I shalt ignore thee; nor will I let thee see thy friends whom I arrested for relieving themselves behind the sheds or the trees; for thou art not wanted in this place.

And the Lord gave unto Robbo, when he had made an end of communing with him at West Bromwich, a tablet of stone, written with the finger of the West Midlands Police.

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'you're only sick when we're singing'

With You know we're going to win hitting the terraces, ha ha on a day when it was soon clear we weren't going to win, it's time again to reassess the value of the football record, and also to give a quick guide to football's finest appearances in the hip world of rock'n'roll.

The football record is usually a vile thing, an embarrassing singalong using musical techniques redundant outside the Eurovision song contest. There are few people who have heard classics like Back Home, Blue is the colour and Glory, Glory etc for whom the mental scars healed completely; for Chas'n'Dave (Spurs) and Heaven 17 (Wednesday) they never did. The football record is constructed like the advertising jingle. "Nice one Cyril, nice one son..." enters and rots your subconscious in the same way as "A million housewives everyday, pick up a can of beans and say...". City's song is actually quite good by these standards. In parts the chorus sounds like a second rate 60's spy thriller movie tune, which is brilliant. True, in other parts it sounds like third rate Euro-disco. But, by restricting sales to the ground, the club cannot be accused of subverting a whole nation -only those who know the words to the "kerr-ching" saverstrip song will find themselves humming along to "Bradford City, Bradford City, you know we're gonna win".

Perhaps much hipper and with tongues nailed firmly to their cheeks are those rock'n'rollers who are also dedicated football fans. For instance, New Order (of True Faith, Thieves Like Us and Blue Monday fame) are Man Utd fans (don't the titles imply it?). The Chameleons, of no particular fame but bloody brilliant, are Man City fans. The Housemartins whose Caravan of Love was performed so well by 'Udders fans at Leeds Rd last Xmas, are Sheffield Utd fans. To go one further, Stuart Adamson of Big Country and Richard Jobson (ex Skids) have both played at various levels for Dunfermline Athletic.

Serious Drinking, from Norwich, have in Love on the terraces, written the most touching song about boy meeting girl at a match. The Teenage Filmstars litte known skiffle classic There's a cloud over Liverpool is the most complete 3 minute picture of a weekend in said city, and includes the lines "he said Liverpool are at home to WBA today... so we trot off to Anfield to see the match which Liverpool won 4-2". The Fall (who have filmed a video at Bury FC) have also made the most complete analysis of the sociology of soccer violence ever contained in a pop single, the awesome Kicker Conspiracy.

Elton John deserves a mention for his touching devotion to Watford, but not for his music. And who could forget Genesis' Match of the Day? The cover photo is of Blackburn-Man City game. I can't remember the song though! And just to prove that football supporters are not totally devoid of taste, who can remember those dullards who wrote songs to become terrace classics -let's not hear it from Queen (We are the Champions) and the laughable Judas Priest (We're gonna take on the world).

1987 has been a good year for the football-loving band, particularly if you ignore Hoddle and Waddle's attempts to be Wham. Half Man Half Biscuit, the only group I know of to have given up an appearance on national TV to watch Tranmere Rovers, released a retrospective album Book Again in the DHSS containing gems like Dickie Davies' Eyes ("...Brian Moore's head looks uncannily like London Planetarium...") and their ode to Subbuteo All I want for Xmas is a Dukla Prague away kit. Like the football record, 1/2M/B flirt with advertising jingles. But 1/2M/B are witty and you can spot the difference.

The Proclaimers, famous at the moment for Letter to America, have written a song Joyful Kilmarnock Blues which describes a religious-type experience having just seen Hibs play at Kilmarnock. The Wedding Present, Leeds Utd's hippest supporters, have just released a fine album dedicated to George Best. Now why couldn't they dedicate it to a great Super Leeds player of the 70s? I,Ludicrous -a London band- have chosen a shot of Elland Road's floodlights for their LP cover. Three English Football Grounds is a song just about that -The Den, Burnden and Craven Cottage -and could almost be a pisstake of the CG Beer and Bantams Guide. And the wonderful Preposterous Tales, about Ken Mackenzie's tall stories in a pub, contains the line "And I saw the Palace score 4 goals away from home"... "Oh that's preposterous Ken". Finally mention of City's brief moment of fame... check the Justified Ancients of MuMus LP 1987-What the ****'s going on? which includes a tape cut-up of James Alexander Gordon reading the 2nd Div results -a touching tribute to our 0-0 draw at Shrewsbury!

So get devoted and buy You Know We're Going to Win. And then get hip and get into the crazy world of football-supporting rock'n'roll.

Mrs Coalbrookdale



OLÉ, OLÉ, OLÉ BUT DO YOU KNOW ALL THE WORDS?

Rumour has it that School Inspectors have infiltrated the Spion Kop. We've all had to listen to that moronic Olé, Olé We are the Champions record but haven't we had enough? It has been suggested that the record is played as a Memory Retention Test. And how many of you can remember the words?

It has to be said that while the level of wit on the terraces has probably never been better, the chanting that emanates from the Kop is boring, unimaginative and just tedious. Where has the old Bradford End originality disappeared to?

In CG#20, Uncle Two-Wats writes on the City songs of long ago. Send your comments on the subject to the editor at the address on page 2.

-your team to success



Arsenal players chant the Hare Krishna mantra at a Cynthia Payne party in Streatham, circa 1971. Note progressive stages of self-induced trance that was a vital feature of their double-winning season. Bob Wilson in need of second verse. Charlie George suitably mean. Note bondage dresses at Bertie Mee's insistence.

so who do you call?

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Since CG#18 the number of independent football magazines has continued to grow and here we provide an update on what's available. A selection of these is sold alongside CITY GENT at Valley Parade but all are available at SPORTSPAGES, The Specialist Sports Bookshop, Cambridge Circus Shopping Centre, Charing Cross Road, LONDON WC2H 0JG (01-240-9604) which is highly recommended for a visit next time you're in London. SPORTSPAGES have a comprehensive selection of football books and provide a mail order service.

"UND NUN VOLL DAMPF" is a CITY GENT production. Translated as "And now full steam" this publication provides an alternative perspective on East German football in the usual scurrilous CITY GENT fashion (ie piss-rip). It has had a good response in London and is now on sale with CITY GENT #19 -don't miss it! Only 40p with a contribution from Attila the Stockbroker.

BALLS is now in its second issue. This is a general mag and worth buying. Other recommendations include **ANOL** (Scottish), **Not the View** (Celtic) and **Kick Up The R's** (QPR). A new Man City fanzine is expected shortly (contact Mike Kelly, 9 Latham St, Chesham, BURY BL9 6LX) which promises to be a good publication judging by what has been heard.

ADDRESSES - Please include an SAE when ordering:

TIRED AND WEARY (Birmingham City). An apt title unfortunately. 50p from 133 Longmore Rd, Shirley, Solihull, West Mids. **NOT THE VIEW** (Celtic): excellent but not for Rain Jars fans -50p from PO Box306, Glasgow G21 2EA. **EAGLE EYE** (Crystal Palace): the first issue was a little unimaginative but worth getting hold of -40p from Manor Court, York Way, Whetstone, London. **OUT OF COURT** (Bournemouth) 20p from 61 Oxford St, Southampton -we haven't seen a copy of this as yet but we hear it's good. **THE ABSOLUTE GAME** (General - Scottish, European etc) -hot on the black comedy and recommended; sold at VPde or 35p from Box99, 26 Glen St, Edinburgh. **CHELSEA INDEPENDENT** well produced counter voice to Ken Bates, 20p from 45 Ridley Road, London SW19 1ET. A **KICK UP THE R'S** (QPR) -one of the best club mags, 50p from 51a Alexander Drive, Upper Norwood, London. **LEYTON ORIENTEER** 30p from 1 York Road, Leyton, London. Includes adventures of Rupert the Bear who regularly visits us at the Fighting Cock. **THE PLE** (Notts Co) -good beer guides: 30p from 61 Stratford Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham. **TERRACE TALK** (York) -comment on pies and police in Div 3: 30p from 9 Waverley St, York. **BALLS** 40p from 6 Grays Inn Buildings, Roseberry Ave, London. **VALIANTS VIEWPOINT** (Charlton) 30p from 93 Waylands, Swanley, Kent -haven't seen this one yet! **HULL CITY SOUTHERN SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER** provides a good service for exiled Tigers fans and includes interesting comments on Super Leeds (they don't like them either) £5 for a season from 56 Cranmer Rd, London E7 0JL. **FINGERPOST** (WBA)- City fans bought 105 out of the 750 they produced at the time we visited the Hawthorns so CG readers will be well acquainted: 40p from 19 Ashville Drive, Halesowen West Mids B63 3ZD. **HARDAKER RIDES AGAIN** -plenty of laughs, 35p from 151 Corporation St, Plaistow, London, E15 4HE. **ARSENAL ECHO ECHO**- the editor has lost the address of this one; worth getting hold of a copy as it is good humour but only as a one-off. Send 50p to the CG address and somehow we'll forward it. **THE ELMSLIE ENDER** (Wealdstone) 40p from 37 Grange Rd, Kenton, Harrow Middx HA1 2PR: good insight into non-league footie. **CHAIRBOYS GAS** (Wycombe Wanderers) 30p from Cedar Cottage, Green End Rd, Radnage, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4BZ: if you want statistics on WW then buy it. **ANOL** (Meadowbank Thistle) 50p from 66 Broughton St, Edinburgh EH1 3SA -highly recommended. **THE WEB** (Queens Pk) -40p from 120 Prospecthill Circus, Glasgow G42 0LW. **OFF THE BALL** on sale at VP or 40p from POBox 861, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4NB. **WHEN SATURDAY COMES** 12 Sutton Row, 3rd floor, London W1V 5FH; 35p and also sold at V.Pde.

This list may be far from comprehensive so please keep us informed of any omissions. Meanwhile get hold of a copy of the **BRAINTREE TOWN** programme which has recently included excellent photos of both Park Avenue and Valley Parade past and present.

FOUL COMPILATION : paperback compilation of the best articles from the original alternative football magazine (1972-76). Available from CITY GENT sellers £5.95 or from CG address plus 70p p&p.

A TRIBUTE TO SCORCHER

"THERE'S MORE TO FOOTBALL THAN BEER"

I would like to pay a special tribute through the pages of CITY GENT to Mr Rawdon Clift, better known to City Travel Club '73 members as "Scorcher". Rawdon joined CTC'73 in 1974 and until last season was our longest serving member. During this time he loyally followed City all over the country with CTC'73.

He also follows other local sides, namely Huddersfield and Halifax, with keen interest and over the years there has been a steady stream of 'Scorcher' sightings reported at these grounds. Although he no longer travels with us his words of wisdom still remain as our club motto. The following immortal phrase came about in 1980, or so, when City were away at Port Vale. Scorcher and 'Sir Alan' Wood were waiting for coach tickets. The conversation went something like this:

"What time are we setting off?" asked Scorch,

"11am" was the reply of the ticket seller.

"That's no bloody good" said Sir Alan indignantly "we should be in a pub by then!"

Scorcher suddenly stepped forward and exclaimed "THERE'S MORE TO FOOTBALL THAN BEER, YOU KNOW!"

Sir Alan and the rest of us were stunned into silence- the immortal words had been spoken.

Now a member of the OSC Rawdon still shows a keen interest in CTC'73 and I was delighted to find that my seat in D-block is only two rows behind his so making it easy to keep in touch. I would like to finish this article by wishing Rawdon, a true City fan, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of all CTC'73 members and CITY GENT.

TWO-WATS-MOUGH

Revival bid for Avenue

It's good news to hear of the proposals to revive football at Bradford Park Avenue. As the T&A reported on December 7th a Bradford man, now vice-chairman of Central League club Heanor Town, has launched a campaign to set up a company aimed at reviving Bradford Park Avenue FC which folded in 1974. Support has been pledged by Kevin 'Zak' Hector the old Avenue scoring ace. Mr Robinson, 29, who lives at Alfreton and works for the Inland Revenue wants to hear from anyone who is prepared to join him in forming a Bradford (Park Avenue) FC company and he has already opened an account at the Yorkshire Bank in Broadway.

Bradford could support a good amateur or semi-professional side and Hector says that if money was made available a good team could be put together. Provided the social side of the club was well-established they believe an Avenue would be viable.

Anyone interested in Bradford football or concerned about the present state of the Park Avenue stadium must surely be prepared to consider Mr Robinson's suggestions.

Donations can be made to the Campaign for the Revival of Bradford (Park Avenue) Football Club and deposited at the Broadway branch of the Yorkshire Bank. Anybody interested in setting up a company with Mr Robinson can contact him at home on 0773-833289.

And don't forget that the excellent book "The Avenue - a Pictorial History" by Tim Clapham and Malcolm Hartley (Temple Press) is available in Bradford book shops for £12.95.

the last minute additives

Rod, Pat

Steve, Sue

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Tenerife

The Government's decision to consider the use of breathalysers on the terraces has brought mixed reaction amongst CTC'73 members. Noddy has been quick to state the advantages of being a committed teetotaler:

WHY DO WE SAY THAT?

Soccer hooligans.

The Hooligans were a rowdy Irish family who lived in 19th century London. Their behaviour was so infamous that any similar performance bears their name.

"I find being a non-smoker and a non-drinker the greatest comfort on a campaign. The amount of trouble and worry fellows go through when they are unable to get their drinks and smokes is appalling. I never feel thirsty out here, and often go from morning to night without a drop of any fluid passing my lips. Men undoubtedly bring on thirst by excessive smoking, and I see them in consequence drinking at every puddle, no matter how dirty, they find on the roadside, hence enteric."

Found on a packet of crisps by Richard Jones—an exiled City fan now living in Lincoln, who asks: "What's a Soccer Hollinger?"

ARE THERE ANY HARDY BANTAM GOAL GIRLS???

GOAL GIRL 1970

SIR—This morning, glancing out of my study window, I saw my first Goal Girl of the year. Is this a record?

Observant. Wembley.

NO, indeed! Goal Girls, Britain's newest species of dolly bird, are with us the year round. During the football season you can see them in increasing numbers perching, cooing and trilling wherever the game is played. This June, though, some of them will be making a short migratory flight to Mexico.

Goal Girls are a hardy breed, with brilliant plumage and beauty to boot. And May is the kick-off month for their great annual contest to find the Goal Girl of the year.


This year she could be the one YOU saw. So next time she passes your window, nip out and tell her all about the contest. It's open to all female football fans over seventeen summers, and the winner gets £100 cash and a lot of glory.

For the two runners-up there are cash prizes of £50 and £25, not to mention an all-expenses-paid trip to London and a galaxy of special prizes for the ten finalists.

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