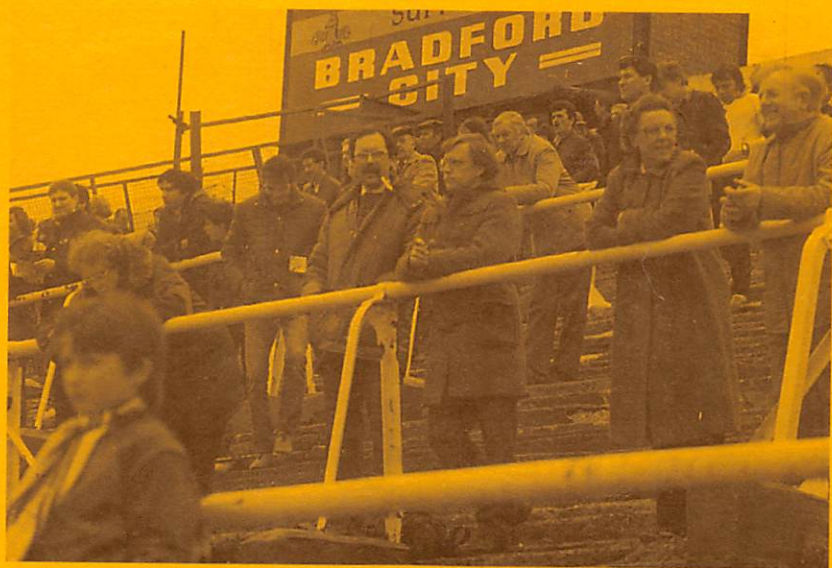


THE CITY GENT

The Voice of Bantam Progressivism



ISSUE 62

APRIL 1996

**WHEN WATCHING FROM THE
KOP COULD MEAN A SOAKING -
THE SMILING FACES SUGGEST
THAT CITY HADN'T KICKED-OFF!**

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THE CITY GENT



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CITY GENT

EDITORIAL AND NEWS

The CITY GENT you are holding will probably be the final issue of the season, unless City reach a play-off position. Hopefully readers will have found items of interest in the five issues @ 100 pages published this season. As always we invite contributions and constructive comments on CG - see below. Hopefully the next CITY GENT will be out in mid-July.

As our financial situation isn't quite as buoyant as in previous years, we have been unable to support as many 'worthy' causes as usual. We have, however, continued to provide FULL kit sponsorship for the manager (£200 + VAT); enabled the Club to net at least £450 from sales of CITY GENT publications via the City Shop; donated modest sums for picture frames and towards the balloons v Bolton. Last and not least, of course, the Magazine produced the 'Now That's What I Call City' Tape. The main priority remains to give our readers the best magazine we can, whilst keeping an eye on increasing costs. With this in mind thanks go to Al Press in Wetherby who have done their best to accommodate us.

Enclosed should be our annual CITY GENT Questionnaire compiled by Richard. We would be very grateful if you could complete and return it by the end of the season.

Thanks and acknowledgement goes to everyone who has helped with the Magazine over the past year, not least to everyone who has purchased a copy. As usual thanks to Mark Neale for the cuttings, contributions, etc., etc. Also acknowledgement to Brighton Bill for additional cuttings and CG sales from the ALBION CAFE. Thanks to Derek Pickles for yet more newspaper cuttings and sorry your name was missed from the letter in CG#61. Duncan Kerr has again sent in an envelope of footy snippets with a City connection from various football magazines. Apologies if your contribution has been carried over. (I ran out of space and wanted to point out that the two cuttings below the 'GENT WATCH' title on page 25 are from 'Total Football'. Thanks to everyone who provided the material including David Geenwood)

EDITOR :- JOHN WATMOUGH

ASSISTANT EDITORS :- RICHARD HALFPENNY AND DAVID PENDLETON

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO :- 46, AINSTY ROAD,
WETHERBY, WEST YORKSHIRE, LS22 7QS.

THANKS TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE
AND/OR HAVE HELPED THE MAGAZINE :-



STRAIGHT FROM THE BANTAM'S BEAK

Once again City fans are wondering what might be in store for the remainder of the season. Initial optimism following the appointment of Chris Kamara has given way to familiar despondency after home defeats by Brighton and Stockport. There's still seventeen games to be played including three important games which we 'lost' to the weather - Swindon, Notts County and Wycombe. Had these matches been played our position might have been clearer. Following the defeat at Ashton Gate I heard the dreaded words "relegation fight" on the Pulse Talkback which once again emphasises how City fans perceive our failure to sustain a positive sequence of results. It should be said that this anxiety is not without foundation as some of the clubs immediately below us look capable of overhauling City and launching a late challenge themselves. As we know a couple of wins can change the whole outlook, so lets hope our season isn't over yet.

We didn't have the best of starts to 1996, suffering a 3-0 demolition from a Bolton side who played very well on the day. City didn't show this seasons cup form, with many fans expecting us to beat Bolton, in front of the biggest crowd of the season (not counting the Man Utd. friendly) Our mini League revival continued with a win at Stockport, though keeper Gavin Ward's heroics were undoubtedly a major factor. We then suffered a stunning defeat at the hands of Brighton. The Seagulls launched a series of quick and effective counter-attacks which had City's defence reeling. City came back strongly after half-time, but even the introduction of new signing Mark Stallard could not save the game. I gather the team played quite well at Bournemouth, but we slipped to yet another defeat. The support who travelled to Millmoor on that cold January night witnessed a fast and entertaining game from two sides committed to playing football - lots of short, quick passes

John Dewhirst, Paul Donnelly, Mike Harrison, Mark Neale, Duncan Kerr, Liz Simpson, Jonathan Hudson, Gill Otto, Frank Dickinson, Mark Douglas, Brighton Bill (Arnold), Dave Welbourne, Derek Pickles, Chris Hawkrige, Nigel Hall, George Fylde, Richard Mallison, the stewards at Valley Parade and all our ADVERTISERS and SUBSCRIBERS plus everyone who has sent-in letters, E-Mails and cuttings.

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CITY GENT is an INDEPENDENT supporters magazine and the opinions expressed herein are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the editor(s) or City Gent Publications Ltd. - will certain individuals PLEASE, PLEASE NOTE.

FRONT COVER:- The old Kop at Valley Parade circa 1984-85. Stephen West and Philip Metcalfe are in the centre. Thanks to Mark Neale (photo) and Richard Halfpenny.

and movement. Unfortunately, for all their efforts City went behind to a long range, well directed header. Then Wardy was completely deceived by a floated free-kick which drifted into the net. Wardy is a first-class keeper - he should be at £175,000 - but he does make errors on occasions as all keepers and players do. He has got away with quite a few handling mistakes this season, but I feel he has a tendency to come off his line too much. If in doubt stay put is the sensible option.

City did manage a win, perhaps surprisingly, against the high flying football purists from Crewe. Somehow the visitors failed to convert all bar one of their many chances and allowed City to grab the three points. At least City improved during the second-half. One of the surprise teams at this stage of the campaign has been Shrewsbury, who were terrible when they visited VP earlier in the season. With this in mind maybe a draw was deemed a good result. Also, despite having three centre-backs unavailable, City were still able to field a partnership of Graham Mitchell and on-loan Republic international Alan Kernaghan in defence. Another slip-up at home followed when Stockport gained revenge for their defeat a month to the day earlier. Yet more gloom at Ashton Gate a week later when chances were missed and the points lost. On the day the Club announced plans for the new 4,500 seater Midland Road stand City celebrated by beating in-form Wrexham 2-0. It was a sobering thought that the attendance of 3,800 could have been comfortably accommodated in either the N&P Stand, Kop or new Midland Road stand. By City's standards I thought this was a good performance. Although Wrexham missed one or two clear chances, I thought City's back four played very well and generally contained the visitors attacks comfortably - unlike many home performances. Our defence was well organised with both Nicky Mohan and Kernaghan towers of strength. Not forgetting yet another solid display from Whoopi Liburd, he is finding odd pockets of support in the crowd. Mitchell and Lee Duxbury did sterling work in midfield - they had to! Mitch again filled the midfield slot just in front of the back-four and I think he has done well so far when asked to deputise. Always looking to play the short, simple pass and keep possession. Yet another strike partnership for this game with Sticks and Mark Stallard together, until Mark went off injured. Then it was a return to a partnership seen seven years ago - for the odd game - as Jagger came on and cracked in the second goal.

I think space is running out, so maybe the loss of 'form' by Eddie Youds was due to the injury he seems to have been carrying for most of the season. Although we have had a lengthy injury list, we have a very large squad. To date only two inexperienced out-field players have been called on - Craig Midgley and Neil Grayston. The three subs at Bristol City were Jewell, Shutt and Sticks. At just about any other club in this Division, given our injury list, they would have been fielding YTS, trial and non-contract players, inexperienced loan-signings and ageing player-coaches etc. Therefore there can be no excuses about the injury situation, we have far bigger resources than just about every other club we play. JLW 29.02.96.

CITY v LIVERPOOL - still no date for the T&A's game

The REAL Football Magazine

A Magazine on the Endsleigh League 2nd & 3rd Divisions is available @ £1.00 +25p stamp from Andrew Poole, 10, Wood Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 5NE

We can only hope at least the first two groups are proved wrong, I don't think the third group will be swayed by anyone.

Oh, and I bet the T&A poster writers are glad we've actually signed someone they must have got fed up with trying to find different ways to say we were seeking to sign a striker and then that we had failed.

Word reaches City Gent Towers that plans to build on the Midland Road are well underway or a lot farther progressed than most fans would expect, depending upon source. This can only be good for the club but one request to Geoffrey Richmond. Can he please arrange for City fans to be allowed in the Midland Road one last time before it is pulled down. There are a number of long standing City fans who started their supporting life in the Midland Road and one last chance to stand in the 'bike shed' would be much appreciated. It is also the last bit of the ground which survived the fire so again there are those who will wish to pay it a final visit.

Having just watched the Newcastle United v Cheese FA Cup match I suspect I've missed yet another FIFA change to the laws of the game. I always thought the goalkeeper couldn't move until the ball had been kicked at a penalty. Having watched this penalty shoot out it must have been abolished as there wasn't one penalty where the goalkeeper did not move clearly before the ball was kicked.

I'm not sure about Chris Kamara's "don't panic" message before the Rotherham United match. I'd have thought he had been with the club long enough to know the stoical nature of most City fans precludes them from such extremes of emotion as panic. This does not mean, however, that they will 'waste' money supporting a team they feel has let them down. This, unfortunately, has become the case following the Bolton, Brighton and Bournemouth debacles if this example is anything to go by.

Due to work prating me about I was unable to travel to the Rotherham and consoled myself with going round a few pubs in town. Here I found a group of City fans that you would normally expect to go along to away matches such as Rotherham. We don't know each other well but struck up a conversation as to why we weren't at Millmoor. Their general view was that City had pissed them off so much in recent matches that they really couldn't be bothered forking out any more money to be let down once again. One season ticket holder even mentioned not bothering wasting his bus fare to come down to Valley Parade against Notts County. Main complaints were the inconsistency of both the team as a whole and the individual players: "It looks like they take it in turns to play up to their ability, maybe once every three matches." (Ward was excluded here, the view being that if we didn't have him we'd have at least 10 fewer points.) There was also mention of throwing money away on forwards when the defence was so "crap" and a feeling of Kamara's honeymoon period being over and the team not being up to it as a team.

I hope, however, this isn't a general feeling but it is bad enough if these particular fans feel so let down, and that was before we got the Rotherham result. Chris Kamara is really going to have to get the team back on course both in attitude and results pretty damn soon if fans like these are drifting away otherwise City are going to be playing to very small crowds of supporters indeed by the end of the season.

Following the issue of the last City Gent we received information regarding the Midland Road Stand counter to that given on the previous page of this item. Apparently we were only raising false expectations by printing the new stand specifications and that progress in this area is still very much linked with progress on the field.

The information above was given to us on the Saturday of the snowed off Notts County game. Come Monday diner time and the T&A posters are proclaiming the unveiling of the new stand proposals for Valley Parade. Hey-ho.

A friend over at Scarborough passes on more transfer speculation. According to what the player himself has said we are about to sign centre back Jason Rockett for Shaun Murray and a cash adjustment (though in which direction is un-clear). He feels the Scarborough fans would view this as a good deal. He heard this around the new year, anyone know anything at our end ?

A story about a couple of our more sartorially challenged fans in Rotherham. Apparently they entered a particular pub resplendent in their battered donkey jackets. The lady behind the bar looked them up and down and said:

"If you've come in for a warm you've got to buy a drink loves."

Do they perform some sort of lobotomy on T&A Sub-editors ? They must do to come up with the execrable headline 'Chris wants a Crewe cut'.

A fine win over Crewe but wasn't it just typical of City. They get two goals in front but can they just cruise to victory ? No, they've got to let the opposition get one back and leave fans biting their nails up to the final whistle.

Off to the reserves against Blackpool the following night and it's back to earth with a bump as a makeshift City side go down 5-2. Whilst there we receive more information regarding the new Midland Road Stand, work on it is now supposed to start in March. (I think it's now got to the stage that I'll believe it when I see the girders going up.)

As the usual suspects were discussing this during one of the many lulls in the game it was noticed that the top deck of the Midland Road double decker pigeon huts had disappeared since the Crewe match. Can any readers visiting other grounds in the future please keep a look out and report any sightings of the aforesaid structure.

We also got round to discussing the oldest advertising hoarding in the ground. (Yes, it was that sort of a match.) Our view is that it must be the Seabrook Crisps one on the Midland Road which we also believe has never even been re-painted. Along with our request to allow City fans back in the Midland Road for one last time we also believe a preservation order should be placed on the Seabrook Crisps hoarding and that it should be transferred to a prominent position on any new stand.

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Visiting the reserves is, in one way at least, preferable to watching the first team at home in that you are allowed out at half-time to get a drink in Campbell's. (And you often need one.) Indeed a nice lady steward comes to tell us when the teams have come back on to the pitch so we can drink up and get back to the match.

Returning from the rather disappointing game at Shrewsbury we heard a match report on their local radio. I am convinced the reporter wasn't at the same match as he made it sound like an absolute thriller.

Oh, and weren't those Shrewsbury fans cheeky chanting "Is this all you bring away?" at us. I can't remember Shrewsbury actually bringing many fans up to Valley Parade ever.

From the Walsall fanzine 'Moving Swiftly On' the following extract:

"It had to happen at Bradford didn't it?! You just know what's going to happen. Your holding on for a decent draw and they introduce an ex-Saddler as substitute striker. Not anyone but someone who has been a little less than prolific as 12 goals in 5 seasons indicates....Thanks for nothing Neil Tolson..... you even put us through the agony of another match against Yeovil once... What on earth have you got against us ?!!!!."

Now when Neil filled in his Player Profile for us he said he'd only had 2 seasons with Walsall and one of those was YIS. Is he lying to us to conceal his true age or did it just seem like 5 seasons for the Walsall fans? We are checking.

I saw the interview with Lennie Lawrence on the 'Endsleigh League Extra' programme after he had just won the Manager Of The Month Award when he was going on about the "Lennie Lawrence Escape Kit" and how he preferred, and was best at, getting clubs out of relegation problems. Perhaps that was what he was trying to do with us at the end of last season; get us into the relegation zone so he could get us out again. If he'd have started that abominable run up to the end of the season earlier we could have been in the relegation zone, though whether he could have got us out again is debatable.

Two other things I noticed on the same programme.

Firstly, Hull City's away kit. Did it look to be a claret body with amber trim to you or do I need to adjust the colour balance on my television? Secondly, Scott Partridge is now with Plymouth. Hardly the take off of his football career as predicted by some. (Though I still wish him all the best as I do most ex-Bantams.)

Well, typical of City. A chance to do the double over a side, not just any side but Stockport and what happens? We blow it. Not many complimentary remarks towards the team and manager by the fans passing our corner on the way out. Also there were a few audible shouts for Kamara to resign.

Just before the postponed Swindon game we have been informed that there is to be a press conference the following week to unveil the plans and artist's impression of the new Midland Road stand. I bet your roving/raving reporters at City Gent don't get an invite.

Moving Swiftly On have written back regarding their comments about Neil Tolson reported above. Apparently they were commenting on what they believed to be Neil's career league goal record. Regarding the Yeovil comment, it appears Neil scored an equaliser for

Walsall when they were at home to Yeovil in the FA Cup thus condemning (in the writers view) them to a unpleasant return trip to Yeovil.

It appears that the advertising industry is still living in the past when it comes to using football as a back drop to push their product. First it was the Royal Insurance poster now it's the Orbit Chewing Gum advert, both of which seem to think a crowd of football fans will all wear (red and white) old style scarves and matching bobble hats without a replica shirt in sight. I suppose it's good to know football hasn't become that trendy that advertising executives know what a crowd of football fans actually do dress like.

You can tell confidence in our side is not at it's highest when a number of fans were relieved that the Swindon match was postponed, hopefully to a date when we've got our act together a bit more.

Various news items keep informing us that this is the coldest winter for years and years but it doesn't seem to have effected the football as badly as some years. You who are long standing City fans may remember the 1962-63 season when City didn't play a competitive match between 22nd of December and 7th of March. With City's usual style they managed to lose their first match after the enforced break 6-1 at home to Newcastle in the FA Cup. City had to play 6 matches in 17 days in May to finally complete their league programme and apply for re-election.

RICHARD HALFPENNY



ACTION FROM THE SHREWSBURY v CITY MATCH 3.2.96.

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MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

with Prof Dick Mallison

Whilst shackled in the library ploughing through piles of dusty volumes for a future piece on the boot sizes of B.C.F.C.'s reserve teams 1908 - 1939, the CG research team came across the Concise Richmond Dictionary of Words with Dubious Meanings. Now, somehow many of the words contained therein have evaded your average Oxford English and Collins dictionaries, yet the following extracts could prove invaluable for followers of Bradford City. Feed your heads :

- abbo** (v) : to lash out in an apparently mentally subnormal manner with no thought for the kneecaps of those in the direct vicinity.
- bobbiham** (n) : a person who tries to give the impression that he knows what he's talking about, but fails miserably for the simple reason that he doesn't know what he's talking about.
- gilliver** (v) : to announce something in a loud, forthright, and somewhat abrupt manner, yet still manage to incorporate an air of dithering incompetence. i.e. "when faced with the intercom, he gillivered terribly."
- jacobs** (coll.n) : name given to a set of those nicely embroidered pouffees underneath church pews which you weren't allowed to rest your feet on as a child even though it was obvious that was what the jacobs were for.
- jagger** (v) : to run in circles while staring at one's feet.
- jonford** (adj) : medical term describing the rare syndrome whereby hairloss is the sole contributory factor in a complete lack of strength, skill, and vision in the victim. As with Samson in the Bible, but without the uninvited hairdresser scenario.
- kamara** (int) : whereas on the one hand "eureka !" means "I have found it !", then "kamara !" means "I have lost it !"
- kiwomya** (n) : ritual dance performed involuntarily by chickens immediately after having been beheaded.
- lennie-lawrence** (n) : (colloq) male genitals i.e. "he said he'd bought a season ticket for L**ds United, so she kicked him right in the lennie-lawrence."
- lybird** (n) : species of bird which may at first appear ungainly, knock-kneed and totally inadequate, but on shedding its plumage transforms into a far superior-looking animal.
- mackevoy** (n) : a bobbiham (qv)

ormondroyd (n) : (esp W.Yorks) outside toilet. i.e. "nah then lass, ah'm off to't ormondroyd for a long crouch."

torpey (n) : animal excrement. i.e. "darling, the cat's done a torpey on the ethnic rag-rug."

tolson (n) : old agricultural name given to young men who tired themselves out working on the fields but reaped scant reward for their efforts. Presumably taken from their bosses' orders to "toil, son!"

verveer (n) : term used to describe a person who possesses a vastly inflated ego with thighs to match, and who talks a bit like the woman in that Ferrero Rocher who says, "monsieur, weeth zeese Ferrero Rocher you are rilly spoiling us, a-ha ha..."

wardy (n) : (archaic) military term for last line of defence. To become a wardy, one had to have a shaved head and be a proficient gurner in order to deter the attackers. However, all too often the wardy was let down by the incompetence of its infantrymen.

Well that's enough to be going on with. Plenty there to make friends and influence people with. Hopefully CG will be printing further extracts from this valuable volume, now sadly out of print, in future issues in order to educate and expand your vocabulary, dear reader, so that when you are confronted by an ill-educated TB's supporter you will be able to tell him that his side is a pile of torpey, and consequently avoid being kneed in the lennie-lawrence.

POETRY FROM THE PARADE

Do I not like, Do I not like,
The pain in the arse TB Tyke
Haven't you got anything else to do
than write those letters to the City Gent crew?
Every time I open my 'zine,
pro-Town jibes make me want to scream!
We know all about you Spen valley types,
with that part-owned ground and wrong coloured stripes.
Buying back Duxbury wasn't such a waste,
we've got the cash and Lee's got taste!
Yes, its true you're HIGH in the League,
but its hardly surprising when your players smoke WEED!
Next time you write, first think it through,
MAYBE ITS US THATS LAUGHING AT YOU!

by THE THORNBURY SKINHEAD

(Note:- Apologies to the author, but I changed the first line of the poem to remove a name. CITY GENT's policy is to provisionally accept contributions from any supporter, regardless of which team they support - JLW)

Yes he stands behind you on the kop and talks out of his poo-shute,
awww bloody 'ell, it's

NOBBY KNOWNOWT

AWWW BLOODY 'ELL CITY I mean I don't know why he plays Huxford in
midfield he should be at right back instead of GET YER FINGER OUT ·
LIBURD bloody 'ell y'see y'see I told you he's bloody useless how
he gets int' first team I don't know Charlton must have been laughing
all the way to the bank when we gave 'em two hundred grand yeah
Middlesborough yeah I meant Middlesborough but that Liburd doesn't
know his arse from his OH WELL TACKLED WHOOPI yet you can tell he's
a class player leaps and bounds top scouts before the end of the
season you'll see AWWW BLOODY 'ELL SHOWLER he shouldn't be on the
park bloody fart in a trance where's all his confidence my granny
could beat that right back he's hanging onto t'ball too bloody long
what a bag of OH WONDERFUL PASS PAUL did you see the way he held
onto the ball while he sized up the situation inch perfect ball
that he's a class player used to be a copper y'know AWW BLOODY 'ELL
CITY we give it away every bloody time we get to their penalty box
I don't rate that Stallard at all he's like Leonard all elbows and
no skill can't beat a man GO ON MARK MY SON did you see the way he
turned that defender Leicester must be kicking themselves for letting
him go yeah Derby that's right he's a class player AWWW BLOODY 'ELL
STALLARD he should've passed he's not ready for first team football
though we need a goalscoring centre forward like Torpey GOOD TACKLE
EDD-EEE EDD-EEE heh heh that bloke won't get up for a while class
player Eddie hundred and ten per cent Steady Eddie I call him best
thing Lawrence ever AWWW BLOODY 'ELL YOUDS who was that to I mean
he's just a clogger really no cultured footballing brain AWWW BLOODY
'ELL CITY Duxbury's bloody hit and miss since he came back he's a
shadow of his former OH WELL PLAYED LEE christ knows how we've
managed without him he's a diamond that lad AWWW BLOODY 'ELL CITY
there's only Ormondroyd up this'll come to nowt how the 'ell he's
kept in football this long I'll never know I knew we shouldn't have
laughed so much when Arsenal shelled out six hundred thou yeah Aston
Villa that's what I said he's a big long streak of OHHH YESSSSSS
STICKS WHAT A GOOOOAAALLL I knew he'd come good didn't I say I said
he'd come good didn't I what did I say but we can't sit back on
this four goal lead GET THE BLOODY SUBS ON KAMARA bring back Lennie
that's what I say...

as yelled in Dick Mallison's lug

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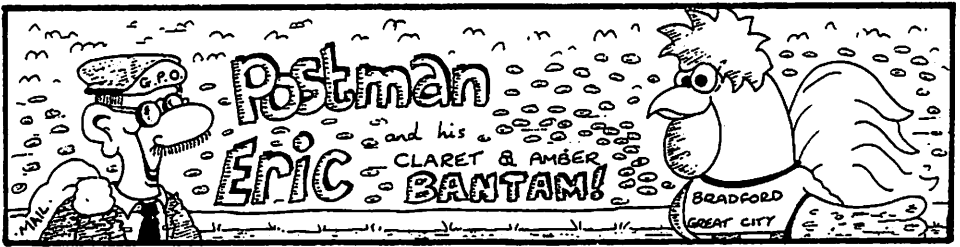
WHAAAAAAT? First named author currently reading from his works at Moaners Corner on the Kop.



NEW ENGLAND
REVOLUTION

New England Revolution

We'll be keeping an eye on
this lot for obvious reasons



LETTERS and E-MAILS

Mr. John Watmough
Editor, City Gent Magazine
46 Ainsty Road, Wetherby
West Yorks., LS22 7QS

UNIVERSITY OF
BRADFORD
 21 November 1995

Dear Mr Watmouth,

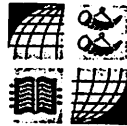
It gives us the greatest pleasure to inform you of the success of our fund-raising Appeal for the Bradford Burns and Plastic Surgery Research Unit. Following its public launch on May 8th 1995, this appeal - the T&A Extra-Time Appeal - has now raised in excess of £ 80,000.

As you have supported our Appeal we would all like to offer you our sincere gratitude for all of the help that you have given us. Thanks to all of your magnificent efforts we now are confident that our Unit will survive for the foreseeable future.

We will, ourselves, continue to raise money for the Unit with a view to securing its long-term survival, and are overwhelmed that many of you have promised your continuing support.

Above all, however, we can now maintain our Research Programme, and assure you that we shall work hard to ensure Bradford's tradition in the scientific goals of a more complete understanding of wound healing, burns and scar formation.

With Best Wishes and Many Thanks
 Yours Sincerely



Mr David Sharpe OBE, MA, FRCS
Consultant Plastic Surgeon and
Director of Research Unit

Having just got access to the WWW I was astonished to find that I can keep in touch with the soccer club I love and had to leave behind 4 years ago to come out here to Frankfurt, Germany.

When City have played a match on the Saturday I have to be at home at 5:55 CET to listen to extremely poor reception of BBC World Service on my tranny (if I can receive it at all!) to get the result. The only other options open to me to keep in touch with goings on at Valley Parade are to spend a fortune on British newspapers or make expensive phone calls back to my parents. The City Gent Web Site, as it exists so far, at least provides me with a speedy, inexpensive results service - what I would like to see in addition are short, regular news bulletins from Bradford, possibly based purely on evening reports in the T&A (although be careful of that infamous D. Markham optimism!). For example, I never know who City have bought or sold or got on loan (the latest example being insight. Perhaps a quick comment on just why Lennie was sacked, the prospects for Chris Kamara's daunting task ahead, etc.

When you're so in touch with BCFC, it's probably difficult to imagine just how cut off from it all we ex-pats are and how valuable a reliable lifeline is. As I say, it doesn't need to be extensive info., just short, regular updates.

Thanks for the opportunity to air my views. Never in the field of ex-patriot ex-communication, has so much been owed, by so many (?), to so few...

I'll no doubt be in touch again before too long.

Long live Bantam Progressivism!

Richard Briggs



I hope City beat Bolton in the Cup this weekend. The Preston Cup-tie was interesting, I would have appreciated being able to see the away end of the pitch though! I've never been at a five o'clock kick-off anywhere before nor at a game that was so foggy. Just a brief note on the Preston fans behaviour. One of City's catering staff tells me that she was in the away end working and was terrified by the behaviour of the Preston fans, who threatened catering staff with violence and were generally obnoxious. The women needed a police escort out of the away end. A young lad was saying to his mate at the end of the match that he couldn't remember the last time that City had reached the 3rd Round of the Cup. Nor can I. (The last time City featured in the 3rd Round of the FA Cup was in 1990 when we were in the old Barclays League Division 2 - we were relegated that season. City drew 1-1 away against Charlton Athletic on 7.1.90. with Brian Tinnion scoring. City lost the replay 0-3 on 10.1.90. - JLW) Who knows, maybe this year City may meet my side, Sheffield United - old enemies from the 1981-82 4th Division Championship race of course. Ex-Blade Chris Kamara is at the helm, but personally I cannot see you being promoted while Chris is in charge, though I would like it if you were.

One thing I dislike about the Kop is the abusive way that the young lads chant "Now f**k-off" to the away fans. Very upsetting to any impartial fans there, I'm sure. The fact is that all football fans are being ripped-off alike so why can't they start to see a common interest instead of chanting abuse at each other?

SEAN O'BRIEN (Leeds)



John,

Sorry for the delay in contacting you - work got in the way! They can be so bloody inconsiderate in this company...

Thanks very much for taking the trouble to reply to me - I wasn't expecting it. I notice that you wrote the reply quite late on Saturday night - no doubt after a hefty session down the pub drowning your sorrows, eh?! Why do City fail to come up with the right result when the task in hand is so apparently straightforward? Okay, so Bolton were expected to lose so the pressure was on City but let's face it, so far this season Bolton have been crap and with the home advantage we should at least have got a draw out of it. I didn't see the game so I can't comment on City's performance but from what I've read it was all Bolton. It's nice to know that some things never change...

Yes, I was a City Gent reader before leaving God's Back Garden and have since had to rely on a mate of mine occasionally sending me a copy - not a very reliable service though, I must admit! A Eurocheque for 10 quid will soon be winging its way to John Watmough...

I really enjoyed my first visit to the web site - as you say, the potential is really exciting. I appreciate that it is still a 'construction site' and that it is a time-consuming task to do it all on your own but I see absolutely no reason why it shouldn't become one of the best soccer sites around - the CG hard copy is still recognised (and quite rightly too!) as arguably the best fanzine in existence, and with the added input of web site visitors from around interested to know just whereabouts in the world all the City exiles contact you

Unfortunately, my WWW input is restricted to my work place so time is limited but if I could assist you in any way with contributions to the site then just let me know. I wish you all the best and look forward to the coming months.

Vorsprung durch Technik!

Yours in sport,

Richard Briggs



10 January 1996

This was my first Bradford game since moving from Wimbledon last Summer. I have to confess to previously being attracted to Huddersfield Town's new Stadium and slightly higher league status for a league game against a reasonably impressive Port Vale side a couple of months back (it ended 2-0 to Vale). However, with the prospect of a visit from a Premiership side (just) I thought it was time I checked out my local team (you will note that I haven't even considered Leeds Utd - a club almost as hated as Arsenal where I come from).

Anyway, to the main point of the letter. Decent enough ground, good atmosphere, appalling performance - all these things I sort of expected but **who on earth was the prat who does the announcements?!?!?** My God! he sounded like some low quality 70's DJ. Is he from this Pulse Radio Station that the stadium is rather naffly named after? He clearly knew nothing about football. A few eg's:

1. He was making a double substitution announcement just as Bradford were about to take a freekick which could have led to a vital consolation goal (I have to put the embarrassingly tame attempt down to the taker being put off by this - I have not yet witnessed enough of Bradford's set piece repertoire to form an alternative, and probably more likely, opinion);
2. He couldn't pronounce the East European Bolton maestro who destroyed us; and
3. The low point for me was when he pronounced Gillingham with a hard "G".

I know it may seem trivial but these things matter. For one thing I would have thought it's embarrassing for the home fans to have someone like this associated with the club. There must be someone who can do the job (a Yorkshire accent would be nice) with a bit of genuine enthusiasm so we (I say we, as I shall continue to support Bradford despite the performance, result and the ginger left back) could enjoy getting stuffed without this annoying distraction.

Yours faithfully


ANDY BROWN



Dear John,

Life as an exile in Surrey is bloody frustrating. Good to see Lennie go, especially after the most abject performance against Brentford. Quite the worst performance in years - well at least since the last really bad one! Funny though to see him summarising the Preston game on Sky - a nice ironic touch that. However, the beer glasses nearly went through the TV when he said that "Bradford aren't the best at defending" - well, how much did you spend on it Lennie?

Playing footy for the Bradford Supporters team in London is fun - a real buzz to pull on the Claret & Amber every week and our magnificent cup run (semi-final March 3rd) threatens us with being the only City team to pick up silverware this season! More coverage required I think!

ROB HUNTER (New Malden, Surrey)



Dear CITY GENT,

7.1.96.

As an ardent, yet not regular spectator at Valley Parade, I found time to write to you with a few points. The only reason I am not a regular at VP, is that it would be roughly a 6,000 mile round trip for me to see a match, so I have to make do with my kibbutz team - HAPOEL YAKUM. Anyway on to the points:-

1) I would like to heap tons of praise on to my sister Esther, as she goes to almost every match and keeps my brother Chris and myself posted on how the lads are doing. Recently she sent me video footage of the Notts Forest and Norwich games and she also sends us copies of CITY GENT. So with Chris in Australia and me in Israel I think she deserves a big cheer for seeing City get round the globe.

2) When is THE PULSE going to become a world-wide radio station? At present I spend many a frustrated hour listening to the BBC World Service hoping to hear the City result and heavens above if we get a mention its a celebration in itself. Then trying to find out results in midweek is totally impossible - it took me a week to discover we'd lost to Norwich. COME ON PULSE!

3) For Christmas my mother sent me the City video entitled '95-96 Highlights Part 1'. Can you explain to me how the 4-0 pasting by Wycombe at home was a highlight and the thrilling 4-1 defeat at the hands of Swindon? Anyway, its still quite a good video and maybe she'll send me further copies (if there are any).

4) Unfortunately for me my local team HAPOEL YAKUM tend to follow the same pattern as City i.e. if YAKUM lose so do City and if YAKUM win City usually don't, but at least I don't have to pay £7.00 to watch them, roughly 20p for my bag of sunflower seeds - Israeli traditional match day food usually lasts the whole match depending on how many people are knicking them. Anyway we suffer the same problem as City in that we really lack a striker. We did have one at the beginning of the season, who scored 8 goals in 4 games, but he then buggered off to Brazil on a free transfer. Maybe when you've finished with 'Sticks' you can send him over. Perhaps one day we'll see City doing a pre-season tour of Israel - you get a better tan than in Scotland (hmm ... maybe, the weather was scorching hot during the tour of 1995 - JLW)

Finally, perhaps City can start making merchandise for the Jewish contingent of fans with Bradford City in Hebrew as personally I feel it would look rather good. To help you out heres how it looks:-

'U'O T719T71

You must remember that it is written backwards! Anyway that's all. Heres to a final push for promotion and a good end to the season - not like last year.

From somewhere in the Middle East

BEN WILSON (City Supporters Club, Israeli Branch - maybe the only member)



CITY GENT MAGAZINE
PROVIDING FULL KIT SPONSORSHIP FOR
DOHERTY STAPLETON LAWRENCE
CHRIS KAMARA

Dear John "The Arm" Watmough,

Recently Chris Kamara commented on the lack of atmosphere at VP. The way I see it the only way to create any sort of atmosphere would be to do any of the following:-

1) Give the H&G stand back to City fans and put the 100 or so skateboard travelling fans in the Midland Road shed. Yes I know we make money from the likes of Burnley's 2,000 odd, but we have no chance of creating a **PARTISAN** atmosphere on two sides of the ground.

2) **A YOUNG FANS SECTION** - The hordes of young fans who locate at the back of the Kop would now pay their concession fee in the H&G stand. These fans make more noise than the rest of the Kop does. I'm told by a friend that the "Family" stand idea was abandoned after the period of time that the club was required to do this under the terms of the grant they received towards building costs. Well put them back!

3) Premiership clubs have now realised the mistake of splitting up their singing social areas and have now created "SINGING AREAS" in the seats to increase the atmosphere again. The only requirement of buying a seat in these sections is that **YOU MUST SING YOUR HEARTS OUT**. Now I laughed when I heard this, but the idea can work. A section of the ground that will be for those who want to sing. The Midland Road shed would be great. The side is unused so the whole of that side of the ground is quiet! Lets not only open it up, but outwardly encourage supporters to shout along the team! We know the H&G stand will be needed to cope with away fans if we go up, but for now lets do something and use the Midland Road to boost our teams performance. I hope someone at the club still listens to the fans and takes a risk to answer Chris Kamara's call.

Up the Singing Section.

NIGEL "fat bald git" HALL (Bradford)



P.S. Matthew Stott (CG#60) - go see a doctor, your paranoid mate!

Dear John,

Since my last letter things have not improved at the Vetch. I assume you know that we have yet another new man at the helm namely JIMMY RIMMER the ex-Man Utd., Arsenal and Villa keeper. Bobby Smith, Frank Burrows' understudy has parted company due to a disagreement over the purchase of all weather boots for the players and a cancelled cheque for £500.00 from his testimonial game when a Swans XI played the Welsh 1st team, one of the highlights was seeing Bobby Gould playing - he did very, very well for the short period he was on the park.

There has been plenty of speculation about take-overs. To date our ex-chairman has only been in talks with two possible candidates, both of whom are outside South Wales and the matter is unlikely to be resolved until the latter part of the year. I want to know if Swansea are likely to be expelled from the Endsleigh League (being a Welsh club) and with this in mind I have written to JOSEPH BLATTER FIFA's General-Secretary in Zurich for an answer. Hopefully the prospective take-over candidates have also been in contact. On the bright side TORPS has now knocked in 13 goals from 30 appearances and could well have a new strike partner up front if rumours are correct.

ED STEWARD (Swansea)



Dear City Gent

My name is James Lunn and I have recently been mascot for City when they played out a 1-1 draw against Burnley at the Pulse Stadium. I would like to thank all the staff at City for giving me a marvellous day out and something to put in my scrap book. I would also like to thank Gerry Beavers (he runs the club shop) and all the players for being so nice and friendly. It was good fun having my photo taken with all the players, getting their autographs and taking shots at Gavin Ward at the Kop end. But the best bit was running out onto the pitch with a capacity crowd screaming and cheering their teams onto the pitch. I was also surprised to see myself on the match video, although it is a shame Keith Coates can't say my name correctly! As I live in Portsmouth it is very unusual to see a home game, but when I do it is nice to be welcome and not be regarded as a soft southern-jessie which is often the abuse hurled at Bournemouth or Brighton and Hove Albion!

I would also like to congratulate yourselves on a superb fanzine, keep up the good work, the Exiles Express is one of the many great features!

Yours sincerely
James Lunn (13)



Dear City Gent.

I write this letter after what, to me, is the final straw. I speak of the totally inept display at Rotherham. Now after the dizzy heights of our victories over Stockport and York we are most certainly back down to earth, and it is at this point where the fingers start pointing. I have two grumbles to share, the first being the appointment of Chris Kamara. Despite being one of the most resolute Lawrence supporters I finally gave in and acknowledged that it was time to go for him, and sure enough two days later...exit Lawrence. Now the rights and wrongs of that sacking are purely personal opinion, but surely it would have been wise to totally start a fresh and remove all elements of the Lawrence legacy? but no, we chose Kamara.

So, Preston NE at home, a potential 'banana-skin', but everyone around me seemed full of optimism. They spoke of how Kamara would really wind the players up and instill pride and the willingness to battle for Bradford City. I pointed out that surely he should have been doing that already, whilst being assistant manager, that coupled with Lennie's tactical know-how and man management should have been the ideal partnership. My observation was greeted with grunts and murmurs. However, we won 2-1 and played reasonably well, so for the time being I was silenced. Then the unbelievable happened, any half-witted Martian could realise we were in need of a proper "centre-forward" (someone who kills all that stands before him to score goals, preferably 6'4"), so Kamara resigns Paul "obviously an a**e-licker" Jewell!. Peterboro at home was next, again a 2-1 victory, and again I was silenced. Then before our 57th game with Blackpool this season, Kamara signed Wayne Bullimore from Scunthorpe, for \$40,000. Obviously class by the way he has been rejected from everywhere and the way Scunthorpe really tried hard to keep him. It may be apparent that I have a dislike for Mr. Bullimore, this is due to the fact he plays practically the same role as Shaun Murray (in my opinion the most gifted player at the club). We lost 4-1, with Jewell and Bullimore excelling (!), and with a team that highlighted the tactical inexperience of Kamara. After that defeat Kamara signed David Brightwell, eventually for \$30,000. Next it was Oxford Utd at home, and after the first minute goal from Nicky Mohan it became a rather drab affair, with both defences dominating. The only other notably incident was the serious injury to substitute Wayne Bullimore. Despite viewing him as a needless signing he is still a City player and I definitely wouldn't wish anything like that on any Bradford player. The good run continued, and then before the Brighton game we were in for Devon White. Despite that dreadful miss against us earlier in the season he would have been ideal, but that fell through, and instead we signed Mark Stallard, from Derby for \$110,000.

This brings me to my second grumble, when are City going to really prove they have this "ambition" we hear so much about. Mark Stallard, although too early to properly judge is another "promising youngster". Along with Neil Tolson and Lee Power that is \$460,000 spent on potential that has never

materialised. Apart from the half-hearted effort for Paul Barnes and the collapse of the Shaun Goater deal City haven't gone for what I would describe as the finished article. If we have the ambition that Kamara and Sir Geoffrey go on about we should make a genuine effort for someone of the calibre of Barnes. A genuine effort isn't offering \$250,000 and then giving up, a genuine effort is paying the \$500,000 they demand rather than waste that amount on a number of "promising" players.

Going back to my first grumble, Kamara, this is another case of the missing ambition. It is time we got ourselves an experienced, successful manager who will get us out of this crappy league. I speak of the one and only Dave "Harry" Basset. It will probably cost a lot to get him, but if our potential is to be realised we have to stop being half-hearted. Basset has taken Wimbledon from obscurity to the Premier League, Sheff.Utd from the old third to the Premier League all without a load of cash. So, it would be in our best interests to get him sooner rather than later as I'm sure the cash will not keep coming (especially as Kamara wishes to buy two players after every defeat). I am also sure that the majority of City fans would prefer the long-ball game (played properly, NOT Docherty) and success, to the mediocre "passing game" we supposedly play.

So overall my advice is Kamara OUT, Jewell OUT, Basset IN, Barnes IN, also give Eddie a kick up the a**e, Duxbury the captaincy and make sure Shaun Murray plays every week.

JON MAHER



Dear City Gent,

25th January 1996

How frustrating can it get?. At York we looked convincing, and I was sure this was going to be the start of a run that would take us into the play-offs at the very least (if not to the automatic promotion places). But yet again we let ourselves down. We were hammered by Bolton, who looked far more superior than we did, won at Stockport due to Wardy's superb goalkeeping and then faltered again to a Brighton side who are struggling near the bottom of the league. Why Sticks didn't play from the start is beyond me, as he was scaring the Brighton defence to death with his height after coming on. The Bournemouth and Rotherham games were both bad results against teams we really should be beating. The Rotherham game was particularly frustrating as we should have been 3-0 up at half time, but failed to take our chances and paid for it. Despite what Chris Kamara says we just aren't good enough to go up. I think there are several reasons for this.

1, The strikers at the club just aren't good enough. Jewell and Shutt put some good touches together but never look like scoring 10+ goals a season, Tolson tries hard but only looks effective when he comes on as sub. Sticks is 100% City but will never score many, whilst the new lad Stallard is yet another 'promising' striker. Haven't we had enough of these in the past? Torpey, Power and Tolson to name a few. What we need is a proven goalscorer for now! Devon White would have been perfect, but I think someone like Phil Stant or Tony Ellis could do the job.

2, Eddie Youds appears to be playing for his wage packet at the moment. His 'never say die' attitude seems to have worn off and he doesn't stand out as much in midfield as he did at the start of the season. Whether this is due to him playing out of position or not I don't know, but maybe taking the captaincy off him would benefit him, and allow him to return to his 'Hit Man' days.

3, Gavin Ward, although almost unbeatable on his day has made some horrible blunders. He was at fault at Blackpool for a couple of their goals. Against Brighton he played like a totally different player to the one that had won us the game at Stockport, and at Rotherham his distribution was poor, with most of his kicks going into the main stand. Maybe a permanent signing of another goalkeeper would keep Wardy on his toes a bit more.

Anyway, lets hope Kamara can get us into a challenging position and into the dizzy heights of Division 1, and here's to Bantam Progressivism!.



GARETH ACKROYD

Tasting their own medicine

THOUGHT Bradford City had a cheek in trying to block ex-Evertonian Gary Megson's chance to become the new manager of Norwich City.

Norwich targetted the former Goodison midfielder as the successor to Martin O'Neill. Bradford, where Megson was assistant to manager Chris Kamara refused to allow him to move. Megson took matters into his own hands and departed without waiting for the leaving party.

It's hard to have sympathy with a club like Bradford which makes use of the sack more often than Santa. Over the past 10 years the club has had six managers and has fired all six of them. The most recent was Lennie Lawrence, an excellent manager who deserved better than to be thrown to the wolves — or Luton, if you insist — simply because the team had won only two games in 13.

It was Bradford City who executed one of the most cynical of sackings when they dismissed Trevor Cherry eight years ago.

**Sent in by Bob Ireland (Liverpool)
- a Blackpool supporter.**

Liverpool Echo, Thursday, December 28, 1995

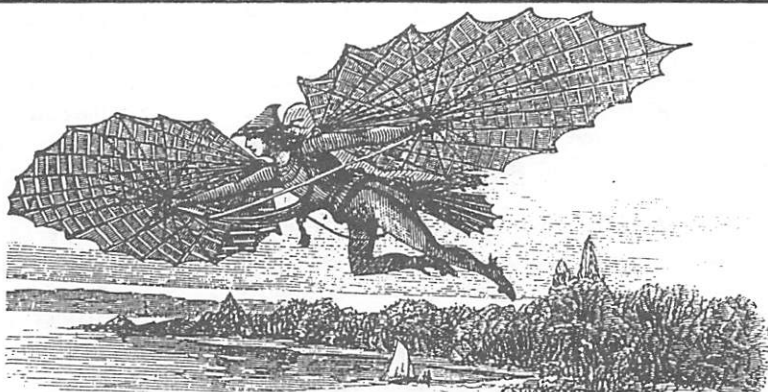
Charles Lambert
THE MAN INSIDE SPORT

Cherry was the man who kept Bradford going in the aftermath of the Valley Parade fire, when the team was obliged to lead a nomadic existence with "home" games at Odsal, Leeds, Huddersfield and Halifax. It was a tough task for the manager but Cherry and his team successfully consolidated their place in the Second Division.

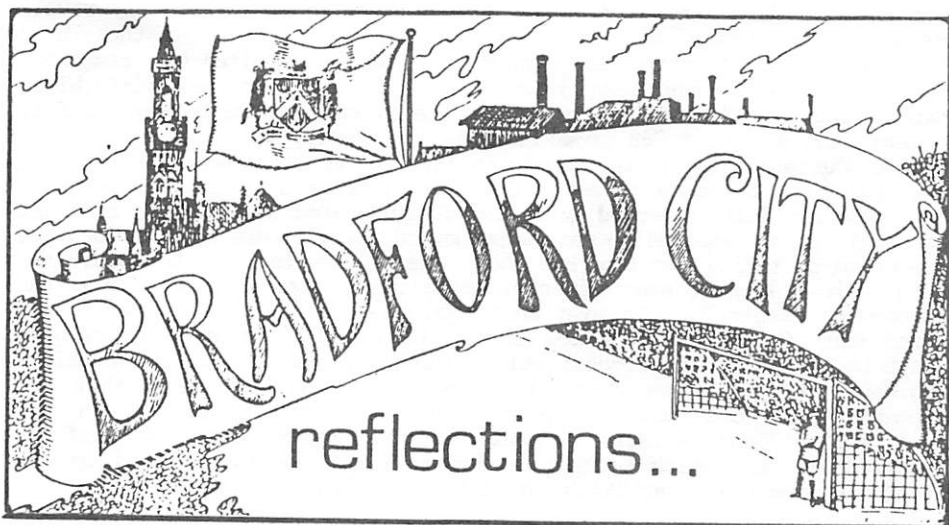
The directors showed their appreciation by firing the manager only 10 days after the team returned to the rebuilt Valley Parade. From that moment, Cherry turned his back on a managerial career.

So it's hard to feel that the club has been badly treated by Megson's departure. A taste of their own medicine is long overdue.

City had to try and stop Megson moving to Norwich in order to receive some dosh from Chase. As for 6 managers in 10 years, I think each case should be judged individually. JLW



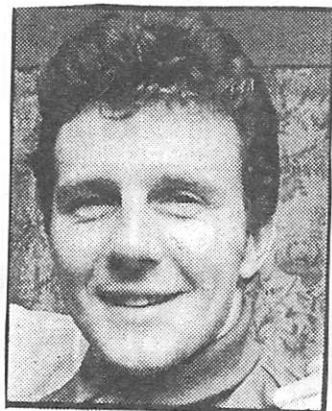
JUST BECAUSE THE MATCH WAS BEING PLAYED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WASN'T GOING TO STOP THIS AIRDRIE FAN SEEING HIS TEAM'S PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY AGAINST FAULDHOUSE.



GOING PLACES ... McFARLAND'S FINEST HOUR

When City gained promotion from Division Four on the penultimate Saturday of the 1981/82 season it marked the beginning of a decade of Bantam Progressivism, the player-manager, Roy McFarland, had lead the club from its lowest ebb (the last home match of the previous season was watched by City's lowest ever League gate) to a remarkable awakening that was to end on the brink of the old First Division six eventful years later.

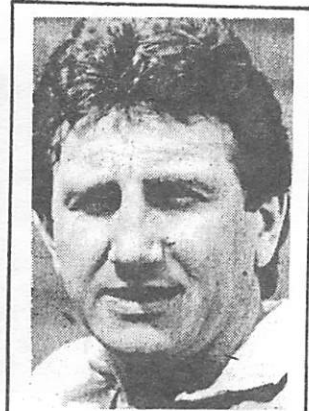
McFarland's achievement has been somewhat overshadowed by the acrimony following his departure to his first love Derby County. His infamous 'stick with us we're going places' speech will always cloud his relations with City, however, in light of the clubs financial collapse of 1983 one can only speculate whether he had forewarning of its approach? Roy has, to his credit, kept his counsel on the matter, perhaps one day? The 1981/82 season has been well documented elsewhere, notably CG#27, here we concentrate on a fans eye view of the final two games which ensured promotion and the runners up spot.



PETER JACKSON



91 Les Chapman



ROY McFARLAND

City entered their last home game of the season with promotion rivals Bournemouth requiring one point to secure their place in the Third Division, the Championship was assured to Sheffield United, the remaining three promotion places were being contested by four teams: City, Wigan Athletic, Bournemouth and Peterborough United. A sense of déjà vu was felt by many fans in the 9,768 crowd as City had gained their last promotion against Bournemouth at Valley Parade in 1977. The visitors were also chasing promotion so a close match was anticipated, however, the City fans were in party mood and fully expected McFarland's rejuvenated side to gain at least the single point required to secure promotion. The visitors thus subdued the home crowd by taking the lead, but Bobby Campbell pulled City back into the match with a looping shot after intercepting a poor clearance from the Bournemouth keeper. The visitors once again led but City were not to be denied when Campbell hit a low shot into the far corner with seconds left, Bobby raced to the Paddock whilst the pitch was invaded by delirious fans. When the pitch was eventually cleared it was discovered that Les Chapman's shirt had been pinched, a reserve jersey was supplied for the final seconds. Every whistle brought minor invasions until the referee signalled the end which brought scenes of great joy, fans danced on the pitch, champagne flowed and McFarland made his infamous speech.

The last Saturday of the season took City to Field Mill, Mansfield, for a game that was to see City clinch the runners up spot behind Sheffield United, the large following from Bradford were in party mood and whether City finished second or third was of secondary importance to having a mobile party from Yorkshire to the Nottinghamshire coalfields and back. On the way into the town all the roadside pubs were full of City fans, many of whom were drinking outside enjoying the sunny weather. An almost constant stream of cars, vans and coaches honked and hooted as they passed their





comrades who saluted with raised glasses. The Stags had nothing to play for which ensured that the travelling support formed the bulk of the 3,107 crowd. The small open terrace was a colourful sight with several fans in fancy dress; a City Gent, victorian soldier, Kermit the frog and many others caused great amusement with their antics. The match itself seemed of little importance, indeed the most memorable incident of the afternoon was a half time pitch invasion by a pantomime chicken! The chicken ran to the half way line, made some less than complimentary gestures to the home fans and pretended to lay an egg on the centre spot! The police shared the general amusement until a bevy of attendants joined the happy hen on the field, fearing a mass pitch invasion the invaders, plus chicken, were hauled off the field with a reprimand.

In the event City won 2-0 with goals from Daisy McNiven and Peter Jackson and the runners up spot was secured. At the final whistle a line of police tried to prevent a mass pitch invasion, however, bit by bit the number of fans on the field increased, eventually the thin blue line was left guarding a near empty terrace whilst their former charges danced on the field. This being the early eighties there was the obligatory charge towards the home end, fortunately a pair of police horses intervened and sanity was restored. It's easy to condemn such actions in these enlightened times, but at the time it seemed perfectly natural for a charge to be made, madness to be sure but hardly exclusive to City.

The attached photographs show the errant bird, at this stage still in the crowd, and the aftermath of the invasion, already they look dated (our behaviour certainly was!) but the match seems like yesterday.

DAVID PENDLETON

NAUGHTY ME

BRADFORD CITY player-manager Roy McFarland has taken the unusual step of punishing himself.

The former Tranmere, Derby County and England centre-half has fined himself a week's wages after collecting 20 disciplinary points.

McFarland wants new club

ROY McFarland is leaving Derby County after 14 seasons at the Baseball Ground. The England defender, however, has no intention of retiring and is looking around for a new club.

He has not exactly had a successful time over the past two seasons because of a series of injuries.

McFarland played in only 18 first team games the season before last and only appeared in five more in 1980-81.

Despite these set-backs he is still highly rated in the game and if he could escape further injuries he would be a big asset to any club.

This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Dianne Anderson of Little Canfield, Dunmow in Essex.

ROBBERS!

It is deplorable that Derby County should be allowed to rob Bradford City of player-manager Roy McFarland and his assistant Mick Jones. So much for the "gentleman's agreement."



I am firmly on Roy McFarland's side here. Bradford must have known he was not going to stay there forever. Anybody with any sense could see it was just a stepping stone to bigger things. In fact, I think Bradford are taking a real liberty by asking £250,000 compensation when they only paid him £10,000 a year for being a manager and a player. Jackie Charlton said McFarland's let the Bradford fans down. As I said in The Sun recently, that's rubbish. Bradford don't have that many fans anyway.



CUTTINGS FROM SHOOT MAGAZINE

players I'm sure the board will back me to the hilt to find the money to bring them to Valley Parade."

But even if McFarland finds recruiting difficult, his arrival considerably strengthens the team. The big six-footer hopes to turn out regularly.

"I certainly don't intend to spend



MANAGER MCFARLAND TO PLAY ON

FORMER England and Derby County centre-half Roy McFarland has stepped down from the Second Division to the Fourth because he wants to prove that he has what it takes to be a successful manager.

The ambitious 33-year-old, after 16 distinguished years as a player, jumped at the chance to manage Bradford City.

He says: "I watched them a couple of times towards the end of last season and I'm sure the potential is there."

"The squad I've inherited from George Mulhall (now in charge at Bolton) is basically the one that was just pipped for promotion to the Third Division a year ago."

"If I can find a couple of new

Saturday afternoons on the touchline if I can help it," says the rugged defender who made 521 appearances for Derby.

McFarland, who left his native Liverpool 14 years ago when the then Derby manager, Brian Clough, signed him from Tranmere for £24,000, turned down two "tempting" offers from the United States because he is optimistic about English League football.

And he wants to do his bit to further the cause. "It's also a wonderful opportunity for me to learn the business of management and, hopefully, do Bradford City a lot of good in the process."

"If I can provide entertaining football I think the fans will respond."

McFARLAND'S M1 DASH TO SUCCESS



BRADFORD City's dash up the Fourth Division table this season resembles a motorway journey.

Which isn't surprising considering that manager Roy McFarland and coach Mick Jones spend the first hour and a half of their working day on the M1... plotting their next victory!

The 34-year-old former England centre-half explains: "One of my first jobs after I took over at Valley Parade during the summer was to appoint my old Derby County team-mate Mick Jones as first-team coach.

"As both of us still live in the Midlands and drive up the motorway each day we hit on the idea of whiling away the time on what can be a boring trip by discussing our tactics.

"Each day I drive from Derby and pick up Mick, who lives at Mansfield, on one of the motorway junctions.

'Valuable'

"Then we take it in turns to drive to the ground. Believe me those 'talk-ins' represent one of the most valuable working sessions of the day.

"There's no telephone to disturb our discussions so we can talk at leisure about team matters.

"It's interesting how our views can alter sometimes overnight. Things we have moved towards on our way home can be overturned the following day."

The important thing is that this highly-original system works. With virtually the same team that he inherited from George Mulhall (now manager of Bolton) McFarland has revitalised the Paraders.

Indeed his only signing was himself! And the presence of a man who was one of England's most commanding post-War centre-halves obviously has strengthened the defence.

But McFarland stresses that City are not a one-man band. "Whenever I've had to drop out it hasn't made much difference. The lads have filled in admirably for me.

"Our success has been due to hard work, discipline and enthusiasm. My players believe they are as good as any Fourth Division team and that they won't be out of place in the Third.

"And their marvellous effort in drawing away to mighty Ipswich in the League Cup Third Round (below) won't have done their confidence any harm. And I'd like to stress I wasn't playing that night!"

Master spy Maurice Lindley, sacked by Leeds United recently, provided McFarland with his dossier on Ipswich — and how it worked. It's a pity Leeds didn't act on his advice!

Life looks good for Bradford City. Attendances are well up on last year, the players are happy and generally the displays have been good to watch.

If their managerial team continue to analyse their opponents so successfully the dynamic duo of McFarland and Jones look like achieving their "driving" ambition of getting City promotion at the first attempt.

GENT WATCH

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

Middlesbrough fans are demanding that the COMPLETE BOLLOCKS broadcast over the Riverside PA before and during games is STOPPED. Former Radio One DJ Mark Page gets everyone's backs up before kick off by adding editorial comments to the names on the team sheet. And the tune to which Boro used to run out, *The Power Game*, has been scrapped. The punters WANT IT BACK. They are also SICK of toss-pot jingles being played when corners are taken, and WELL PISSED OFF with the playing of *Another One Bites The Dust* when Boro score. Nick Yorke wrote to fanzine *Fly Me To The Moon* deploring "this embarrassing nonsense." And he wasn't the only one. Meanwhile, Bradford City fans are forming themselves into a LYNCH MOB to sort out their Tannoy geezer. Richard Halfpenny writes in the *City Gent* fanzine: "I know we get money off Pulse FM, but do we have to use their DJs to do the Tannoy? I've never heard such rubbish at City as the stuff he was coming out with at half-time against Blackpool. Sack him now before people with ropes start waiting for him to leave the ground." Gulp.

THE CITY GENT is a toff among fanzines. The latest edition flopped on to The Determinator's desk with a hefty thump — this is one meaty production and, at a penny a page, represents remarkable value. Features, letters and reams of Bradford City trivia are shoe-horned into its bulging pages. The glossy cover is cool and groovy and it takes absolutely yonks to read. All in all, *The City Gent* is difficult to fault.



In a detailed plan published in the *City Gent*, a soccer fanzine devoted to followers of the club, plans for the new stand include a club shop, offices and a creche as well as a new police control room.

The City Gent

<http://www.█.co.uk:8001/citygent>

This spirited Bradford City fanzine deserves a mention. Fairly professional and quite graphics-intensive but, if anything, a little lacking in bloke-ish jokes. From 'Internet - the Essential Guide' magazine

Derby mementoes

Mementoes from the last two City-Avenue league derbies have a permanent place at Valley Parade. *City Gent* magazine have presented two enlarged framed full colour copies of covers of programmes from the last two matches of the Bradford rivals to City, and they are on display at the Campbells Club. John Dewhurst and David Pendleton made the arrangements.

from
the
<T&A>

THE CORN DOLLY QUOTES FILES THE DRIVEL IS OUT THERE

The strange, the mysterious, the frightening and the down right odd can all be found in this edition of The Corn Dolly Quotes Files. But don't be surprised if everything is denied.

"If you can't afford the train down to Norwich for your court case just don't turn up and the police will come up and take you down for nowt."

"If we sign that Gottier we'll have to start playing in triangles."

"I used to play cricket against Ian Ormondroyd. I wish he was as good at bloody football as he was at cricket."

"Good for the Wimbles of Wombeldon Common..."

"He must be a *\$&!, he runs rather than drinking !"

"Hiya,.....how are they hanging ?"

"In this country, it was with a rope and gibbet !"

"Catholics who live in greenhouses shouldn't throw stones."

"Where were you born ?"

"York."

"Whereabouts ?"

"The outskirts."

"Did you say someone pissed on the floor ?"

"No, you fool, I said there were crisps on the floor !"

"There's only two people who don't pay their rent, one's Paul and Barry, the others Tez."

AND FROM THE COMMENTATORS AND PUNDITS

"That was a reactionary save by John Lukic."

NK

"His goal famine was like manna from heaven."

Kevin Kegan

"The lad got over-excited when he saw the whites of the goalpost's eyes."

Steve Coppell

"He wasn't just facing one defender, he was facing one at the front and one at the back as well."

Trevor Steven

"If you were in the Brondby dressing room right now, which of the Liverpool players would you be looking at ?"

Ray Stubbs

"As with most things in football the goalposts keep changing."

David Rhodes

.....We made this.



David Pendleton (on right) presents two enlarged, full colour, framed programme covers to Phil (second right) outside Campbells before the Oxford Utd. game on 23.12.95. (apologies to Phil as we don't know his surname and he's now left Campbells). The covers of the last League derby meetings between City & Avenue are on display inside Campbells. (Thanks go to John Dewhirst). Mark Neale and Catherine Stirk are also pictured.

ATMOSPHERE and FUN

Be careful not to enjoy yourself

Yes that correct, When as a shed boro fan you travel to certain grounds be careful not to look too happy. many clubs Stewards and Police have taken this as the first sign of a possible riot. You can't even put flags up on fences either. even though theres only 30 of you in a massive away end. The flag or banner would in no way prevent an easy exit.

Plus anything in good fun like fancy dress, horns, drums are frowned upon. The Officials were to blame in a big way for the demise of the inflatable craze. Many grounds inflicting a ban on 6ft bananas -- well done you square pratts.

I know from nice comments directed my way in the shed that many people prefer to stand and fold their arms for 90 minutes. and any noise is strictly 'not nice at all'. Boring, Yawn!. Go buy a drum each, and some flags, streamers etc. Lets be amongst the first to bring the fun back.

From defunct Scarborough fanzine 'BEYOND THE 843' thanks to NIGEL HALL

THE VOICE OF THE SOCCER

FAN IN THE STREET



Those of you who have been fortunate enough to read all my insightful and articulate columns will know that I am not one to criticise those 'fellow' journalists and commentators who lack my undoubted talents. However, I cannot let off the hook those buffoons responsible for the television coverage of Lyon against Nottingham Forest. If you are silly enough to put a microphone in the Forest dugout then you must expect to hear Frank Clark shouting things like, "play the fucking thing first time". But you then don't expect some dimwit commentator to say, "Frank Clark encouraging his players there", as if to convince us that we didn't hear what was clearly said. Perhaps if the television companies employed someone with more and wider ranging abilities this sort of nonsense can be avoided.

It was also interesting to note at Lyon how successful English companies appear to be doing in France. I could clearly see adverts round the ground for Norwich Union, Bonus Print, Scottish Life, Agfa and Konica. Well done those firms.

And what about the events at your own little club. I see those despicable rogues from Luton Town (who, incidentally, once banned me from their directors lounge because, quite rightly, I was pointing out the faults with their club) have lured away your Manager, Lennie Lawrence. I found Lennie to be a pillar of sense and intelligence in this, otherwise, unsavoury area and I know he always looked forward to his weekly visits to my Wapping Office near the Cathedral for advise on any forthcoming matches. No doubt the massive increase in his salary offered by Luton was responsible for this regrettable lapse in loyalty.

If this wasn't bad enough your new manager, Gary Megson, is then lured away by your hated rivals Norwich City. Strangely, I had just written to him and left him a lengthy message on his ansaphone offering advise on how to improve the team's performances and a couple of days later he leaves. One can only hope whoever you get as a new manager has the capacity to seek out my opinions and recommendations on all matters football related.

For example, it might be an idea to spend what little funds are available to him on a recognised striker, someone who could, say, score around twenty goals a season. It seems very fashionable these days to purchase players from abroad. It has got to the ridiculous state whereby even tiny teams like Wigan Athletic and Conference escapees Darlington are fielding Spanish and Portugese strikers. I would urge City to avoid making this mistake. What is needed is an old style English centre forward in the mould of Malcolm MacDonald or Martin Chivers. I would suggest Phil Masinga from your neighbours, Leeds United or Sean McCarthy, who seems out of favour over at Oldham Athletic would fit the bill.

Finally, I'd just like to also suggest that playing with two wingers might be worth a try against some of the more static defences which can be seen in this division.

City tales of the unexpected

BRADFORD'S CIGARETTE CARD HEROES

No.10 GEORGE ROBINSON & CHARLIE CRAIG

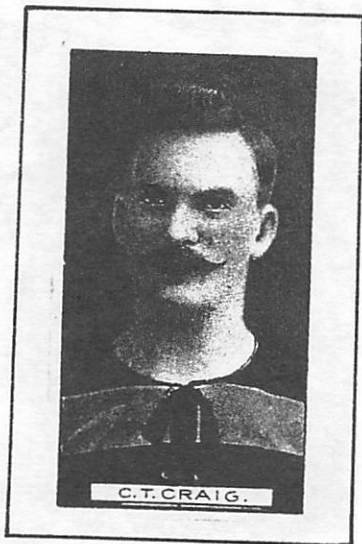
George 'Geordie' Robinson's Valley Parade career reads like a mini history of City;he played in the clubs first ever match,captained the side to the Second Division championship in 1907-8,played in both FA Cup finals and left the club after the 1921-22 season when City were relegated from Division One.

Born in Basford,near Nottingham,he made his League debut for Nottingham Forest in 1899,after 63 appearances he transferred to the embryonic Bradford City in 1903 and played in City's first ever League match at Grimsby.His illustrious career at Valley Parade covered 19 years,he made 377 appearances between 1903-15 before becoming the clubs trainer after the Great War.His association with the club came to an end in June 1922 when he resigned his post as club trainer,he left football to work in a garage near Valley Parade,he was a regular spectator at VP,he died in March 1945 aged 67.

George was featured in Cohen Weenen's Football Captains 1907-8,also depicted in the series was Avenue's captain Charlie Craig,Avenue were in their first ever season and were members of the Southern League;an audacious entry into the world of Association Football that met its reward when they were elected into the Football League the following season.Craig made 30 appearances for Avenue in the Southern League but only 6 the following year in the Second Division.A native of Dundee he also came to Bradford from Nottingham Forest.



David Pendleton



BRADFORD FOOTIE FACTS

Bradford Footie Facts...Jack Padgett made only three League appearances,two for City and one for Avenue,amazingly he scored for both clubs!

Bradford Footie Facts...North East Counties League Club Glasshoughton Welfare's record attendance is 300 for a friendly against a Bradford City.

GRIMSBY TOWN

LUTON TOWN

NI
seven

DIRECTED BY LENNIE LAWRENCE

A "NEVER IN ALL MY" PRODUCTION

INTERNET INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY UPDATE AND OUTPUT ANALYSIS

As you will probably be aware City Gent / Bradford City have our own Internet Bulletin Board and E-Mail Address: So do a lot of other clubs and some fanzines. The ones we have seen are all fine. However, the Internet, like all communications mediums has quickly become subject to input from the usual weirdos and rip-off merchants. (For example telephones and heavy breathers or double glazing salesmen: Fax Machines and those sad individuals who send pictures of their arses on them or television and Noel Edmunds.) Anyway as we were dog paddling the Internet, we're not fast enough to call it surfing (and why do they call it surfing anyway ?), we came across these new net addresses you may do well not to bother with:

hophop@sadbstrds.nilfriends.uk - Groundhoppers Browser featuring the latest information on the London Banks League reserve team fixtures 1995/96.

capitalmeathead@moron.uk - Listing of various tenuously football related "offs going down in London" this coming weekend.

£\$yenmark@footballerbung.malaysia - A consortium of Far Eastern 'businessmen' hoping a hard up football star will log into the server.

giggs@squeal.faint.uk - An hour by hour forward planner of Ryan Giggs' week highlighting the best place to get autographs, touch his clothes and watch him change for his latest photo shoot.

megatv@armchair.fatarse.uk - Swap or buy service for videos of all terrestrial, satellite and cable TV football coverage since 1985. 'Offer Of The Week' is Transworld Sport's special on the Chinese Second Division play-offs 1992/93 season.

gloryglory@ldsutd.uk** - A blank Bulletin Board when we logged on.

ultraanorak@hopground.trekkie.uk - Descriptions of all Northern League grounds translated into Klingon.

frankp@soccergenious.uk - Opinionated ravings about football from some dipsomaniacal old hack.

pukkapiess@munchmunch.co.uk - Complete listing of all grounds serving these renowned comestibles. Best of the nine locations offering pie information.

rh@fanzine.uk - Advice to fanzine editors on plagiarism, easy targets for abuse and space fillers.

If we find any more we'll let you know.



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WHY NOT BOOK CHRIS KAMARA?

Perhaps the Club may consider booking Chris Kamara the vocalist for City's dinner-dances, sportsmen's dinners etc., etc., or maybe for the annual 'Player of the Year' presentation night? Just think, a Chris Kamara double header with a vocalist and a manager who's a bit of a comedian - away from his proper job!

Many thanks to Pete Vale, Editor of L**ds Utd. fanzine
'Till the World Stops', plus Tom Huck of
Boston who originally sent the poster to Pete.

ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH ANY REPUTABLE AGENT
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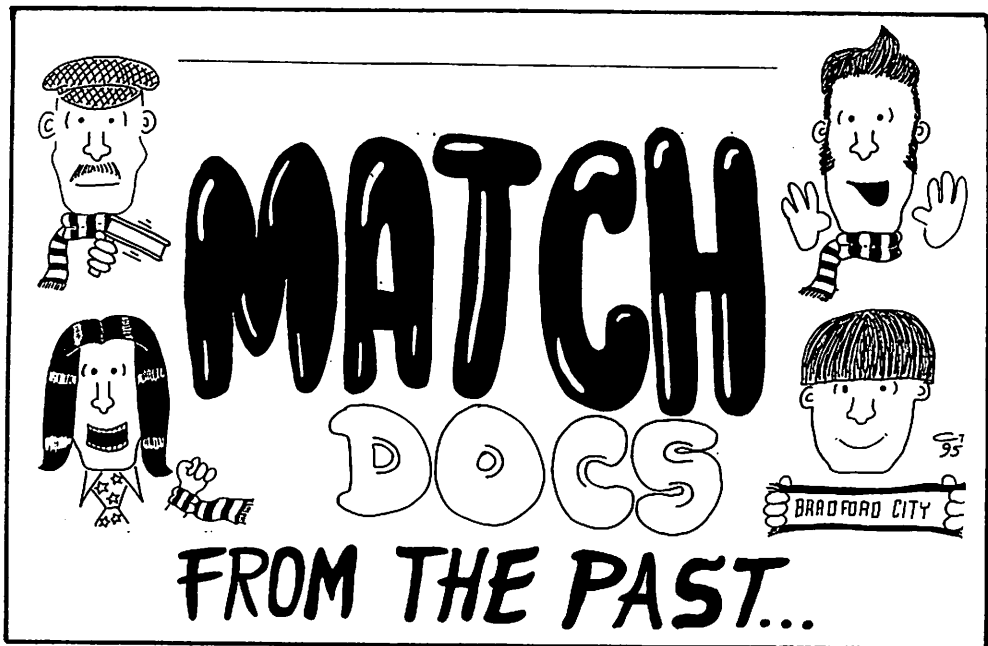
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NOW BOOKING (DIRECT) FOR WEDDINGS, CABARET, HOTELS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS, SELECTIVE PUBS,
& PRIVATE FUNCTIONS



BRADFORD CITY 0 DONCASTER ROVERS 1 27.12.1984.

This defeat ended a run of eight successive wins for City (six league and two cup) and 13 matches unbeaten (nine wins and four draws). The bare, unpleasant bones are as follows : Doncaster had four players booked, two sent off, gave away 24 free kicks (as against seven by City), and the referee, Mr Glover, had an excellent game in my opinion. Get the picture ?

It was sad to see City lose, especially in front of a crowd of nearly 10,000, some of whom might not return for a while. They were the superior side, with most of the play and most of the chances. But I would not begrudge Doncaster their win - only their manner of achieving it.

They announced their intentions with three fouls and five back-passes in the first four minutes, not to mention the tactic of playing Ian Snodin, their young international midfielder player, as a sweeper. I would not deny that these tactics helped to stop City scoring, but I would question whether it was the best use of Snodin's considerable talent, and value to his team. Once, in the second half, he moved forward, like a poor man's Beckenbauer, to exchange passes with Douglas and then thread a beautiful ball through to Butterworth. It was a glimpse of what might have been.

Doncaster's attacking threat was limited to a header against a post from Lister in the first half, and the goal after 66 minutes - a perfectly struck free-kick from 30 yards by Glyn Snodin which left McManus helpless. The Rovers will be remembered, alas, for their violence, which started with Harle's foul on Abbott in the second minute. Greg required lengthy treatment, and is doubtful for Saturday's game with Bolton.

Parker's disgraceful late tackle on Fletcher, for which he was booked, led to the City player being carried off after 20 minutes. He later had seven stitches in a gashed shin, and is also doubtful for Saturday.

In the second half the abrasive Harle, already sent off once this season, committed a foul on Chris Withe that would have got him sent off in a rugby league match, and for this he was booked. I thought the referee should have sent him off then, but when he later manhandled McCall by the corner flag, Mr Glover had had enough.

There is a picture in today's 'Telegraph and Argus' showing the official pointing to the dressing room, and Harle, mouth wide open in an angry snarl, is clearly not wishing him a happy new year.

Minutes earlier, an astonishing episode had led to Butterworth's dismissal. He had hardly been on the field for ten minutes as a substitute for Buckley, (more of whom later), when, following a City corner, Peacock, the Rovers goalkeeper, was left unconscious on the ground. Now the referee saw nothing wrong with Campbell's challenge, (well, there wouldn't be, would there ?) and allowed play to continue. With the crowd screaming and pleading while the goal was unprotected, Rovers finally hoofed the ball clear, and it reached Butterworth, all alone on the half-way line.

As he set off for goal, he was overhauled and dis-possessed by Abbott, and then fouled him. The linesman flagged, play was stopped, and Peacock received some lengthy attention. All the while the linesman was nursing his grievance, and when Peacock was eventually restored to health, he could be seen in animated conversation with Mr Glover, who then sent Butterworth off ! The newspapers report that this was for 'foul and abusive language'. Fair enough.

As Kowalski argued, he too was booked, and somewhere in the last few frantic minutes Ian Snodin also had his name taken. It must be said that City behaved with commendable restraint in the face of all this provocation. McCall, who does not have the longest of fuses, had to be restrained at one point following the tackle which got Harle sent off. I was thankful that Terry Yorath was not on the field to exact his own personal brand of vengeance. Otherwise, City kept their heads, and kept playing their football, none more so than Chris Withe.

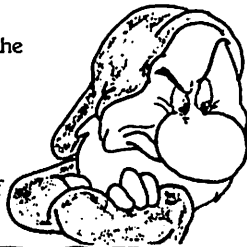
The morning papers singled out McCall. With Snodin confined to his sweeping duties, we saw the full gamut of Stuart's midfield talents; that 'embryonic Billy Bremner' tag was looking true today. "He was brilliant" said Trevor Chery. Well, I thought Stuart was very good, and I thought Chris Withe was brilliant.

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And in 1994 Bradford CAMRA voted us Pub of the Year for the second year running.



THE CORN DOLLY

110 Bolton Road, Bradford. Telephone 01274-720219

Opening hours 11.30-11 Monday to Saturday, 12-3, 7-10.30 Sunday. Featured in the Good Beer Guide.

He is another (along with Jackson, McManus and Abbott, as well as McCall) who is maturing impressively under Cherry's managership. He was always a player full of good sense and humour, who liked to attack down his wing. But now it seems he has learnt to tackle, and is becoming a very good full-back indeed ; just one more reason why City's defence looks so impressive.

Yesterday there was a fascinating duel between Withe and John Buckley, one of those old-fashioned, tricky, dribbling wingers of fond memory, who could make a fool of lesser full-backs. I think maybe he got past Withe a couple of times, but more often than not Chris nailed him with a decisive tackle. Sometimes he dispossessed him, and brought the ball away to set up an attack, and was always ready to support his forwards by galloping down his wing.

And when he was violently wrestled to the floor by Harle, he was able to restrain himself so commendably that a few moments later he was quickly in to intervene as peacemaker between McCall and Harle as the latter was sent off.

City played well enough to win this one. They will surely play worse and win (indeed, have already done so against Newport County). But Peacock had an inspired, consistent day (and he doesn't have many), and Doncaster defended with resolute skill.

Even so, McCall smashed one beauty against the bar from 25 yards, had another shot blocked by Peacock's dive, Campbell toe-poked against a post, had a header kicked off the line, and Hawley headed against the bar.

All this, of course, with an unbalanced team, since Abbott went to right back when Fletcher was carried off, and Ellis, the left-footer, played right midfield, leaving the right-footed McCall on the left, which seemed odd. As I have said before, 4-2-4 is great to watch, but it only works when the '2' are very good. With Abbott and McCall, City can cope, but put a non-specialist in there, and the wheels can come off. Later in the second half Ellis went back to the wing, with Hawley dropping into midfield, but the rhythm was never there.

I still suspect City are falsely placed because of their luck with injuries (which is suddenly showing signs of running out) and their fearsome list of away fixtures : how about Hull, Rotherham, York, Walsall, Bournemouth, Bristol City and Derby ?

Still, if you had asked me last August where City would be at Christmas, I might just have settled for first place, and four points clear .
Happy New Year, City.

31.12.1984

An interim paragraph or two, around the theme 'Has the bubble burst ? ' or maybe 'Ye of little faith'. Following the defeat by Doncaster, City struggled to overcome an ordinary Bolton side, and were hanging on 2-1 at the end.

The side is now weakened by the absence of two right-backs, Cherry and Fletcher. The problem has been temporarily solved by the acquisition of Singleton from Coventry to play in midfield, enabling Abbott to go to right back where he is quite at home.

More serious is the news that Evans faces a two match suspension (the cup-tie at Telford, and the league match at Cambridge, provided there is no replay). Now these are not the stiffest tests City will face all season, and it will not be the end of the world if they go out of the cup, but there must be a worry over the centre of the defence without Evans, who has had a wonderfully calm , consistent season.

Still, we remain at the top of the heap, and four points clear, and I have my ticket for Millmoor next Tuesday when we attempt to take away Rotherham's unbeaten home record.

FRANK DOBSON

HULL City striker John Hawley is something special. His manager John Kaye has tried everything to persuade him to sign on as a professional but he refuses.

"I am happy as I am," says Hawley.

Bradford's junior captain

If you are good enough age is immaterial. That was the motivating thought in the mind of Bradford City manager George Mulhall when he appointed 19-year-old centre-half Peter Jackson as captain.

Jackson, the youngest member of the Fourth Division team, has also signed a new three-year contract, a good move by City at a time when several big clubs have been taking more than a passing interest in his form.

Mulhall says: "I feel I have made a wise decision. Peter is a natural captain and I always prefer my captain playing at the back. I have every faith in him."

"I shall be surprised if he is still playing here in two years' time because he is such a good player and is in excellent form at the moment."

AFTER making their third application for re-election last season, it was apparent that Halifax were in desperate need of a top quality defender. So when David Evans was released by Aston Villa in July, Halifax boss George Kirby had no hesitation in bringing him to the Shay Ground. Although short of League experience, full-back David had nevertheless spent his entire career with the First Division club and was sure to prove a useful asset to struggling Halifax. Made his League debut in September, 1978, against Everton as a replacement for the injured John Gidman, but played only once more last season. David's arrival at Halifax, however, has clearly had the desired effect, and for the first time for many seasons Halifax are handily placed in the top half of the Fourth Division.



DAVID EVANS

DEBUT v. CRUYFF

DAVID Evans (right) will never forget his debut for Aston Villa because it was against Barcelona in the U.E.F.A. Cup. And the player he found himself marking for long spells of the game was none other than Johan Cruyff.

Evans, who comes from nearby West Bromwich, has been with Villa for the past six years.

Two years ago he suffered a bad shoulder injury which kept him out of action and more recently he has faced the prospect of being John Gidman's deputy.

Commenting upon his game against Barcelona, Evans said: "I was pleased with my performance, and now I want to play some more games in the first team."



Who do you rate as the best Latics player during your career here?

There were so many, we had a good balance. The back five were very strong and didn't give many goals away, in midfield Tony Kelly was the passer and Graham Barrow the winner, while David Lowe, Paul Jewell and Mike Newell would run and score goals all day. The best goalscorer of them all however, had to be Bobby (the great) Campbell.

from Wigan fanzine 'Latic Fanatic'

• The phenomenon of people believing that only others are influenced by the mass media is what W. Phillips Davison calls the "third-person effect" in communication. The assumption that gullible others, but not one's own canny self, are slaves to the media is so widespread that the actions based on it may be one of the mass media's most powerful creations.

BRADFORD PARK AVENUE
F.C.



BRADFORD CITY A-F-C



BRADFORD CITY v BRADFORD PARK AVENUE A COMPLETE HISTORY 1907-73

The return match of the 1920/21 season was the last time the two Bradford clubs met in the First Division, unfortunately torrential rain seriously reduced the attendance, it had been widely forecast that a record gate would gather at Valley Parade, over 40,000 had been expected. In the event 'only' 21,000 paid at the gate for the last First Division Bradford derby on 2nd October 1920. The following match report is from the Yorkshire Observer.

Bradford City
Ewart
Potts Boocock
Hargreaves Storer McIlvenny
Bond Fox Howson Lindley Logan
o
McCandless Bauchop McLean Little Turnbull
Barnett Howie Crozier
Blackham Dickenson
Scattergood
Bradford Park Avenue

AVENUE OUTSTAYED IN LOCAL DUEL A Victory. Repeated

By exactly the same score as that which was recorded at Park Avenue a week earlier, City won the return match with Avenue at Valley Parade, the result being two goals to one in their favour. Unfortunately the affair was to a large extent spoilt by the complete breakdown in the weather. The conditions could scarcely have been worse, and for an hour and a half before the start rain fell heavily. Under the circumstances an attendance of 21,000 was better than expected and the receipts amounted to £1,300, the disparity in the figures as compared with [Avenue v City 25th Sept] last week (28,000 and £1,500) being accounted for by the fact that there was a great rush for the covered accommodation.

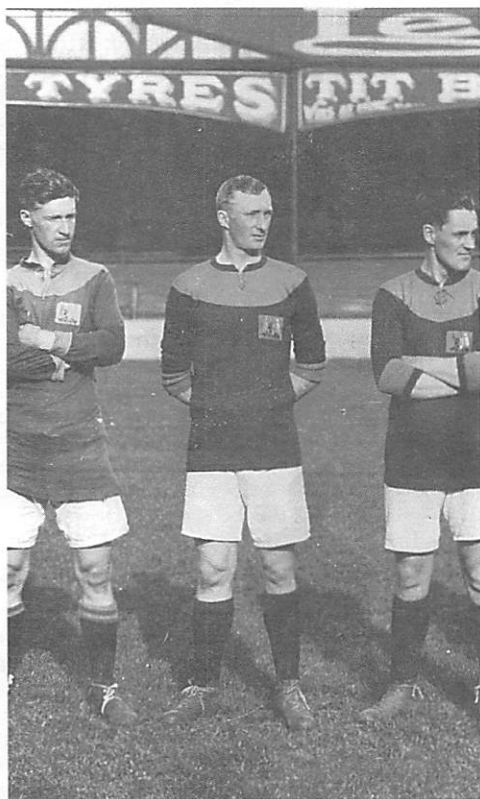
The game was not such an exhilarating affair as the first, although it never lacked interest. But there were two or three incidents which one would like to forget and there was some disputing of both goals which City scored. This did not tend to the sweet harmony which is needed if a game is to proceed along its course with each set of players showing the best that is in them. The luck of the day was unquestionably with the winners, for the Park Avenue men might have been awarded a penalty in the first half for a foul on McLean at which nobody could have grumbled, while this same player, usually so safe a shot when there is half a chance of scoring, missed the chance of a lifetime in the first five minutes.

After conceding so much in the losers favour it cannot be denied that City stayed the pace in a manner which left no doubt that the verdict went to the more deserving team. Under the fierce onslaught of the Avenue in the first half the home defence never crumpled and gave way as the Avenue defence did in the last half hour. Whether this was because the losers were put off their game by the granting of the equalising goal, which they disputed so hotly, or they were not possessed of the stamina of the home team on a wet and heavy ground is difficult to say. Perhaps it was a combination of both. Whatever the true reason the Avenue half backs were utterly incapable of holding the opposition forwards at this period of the game, the backs were overrun and Scattergood had a harassing time. Indeed if the home forwards had shown marksmanship as good as Avenue did in the first half they must have piled on the goals.

THE REFEREE AND THE GOALS

As the view was obstructed by a crowd of players crowding in the goalmouth, it was impossible from the press seats to tell precisely what happened when City scored their first goal, but from what one could glean afterwards it appeared that a cross shot by Fox struck Howie, the Avenue captain, where upon the ball was hooked into the net by McIlvenny. The referee was quite satisfied upon the point and so was at least one of the linesmen. Indeed, after taking into account all the representations that were made to them afterwards, these two officials were emphatic as to the legitimacy of both the goals. It is impossible to get beyond that. What the Avenue players ought to have done, instead of taking decisions which they thought were mistaken to heart, was to have made redoubled efforts to have regained the lead. They had held their own up to that time and had been more dangerous in front of goal. Had they done that they would not have lost, and they might possibly have won.

The good points of both teams were clearly definable. The shooting of the Avenue forwards was a bit ahead of that of City, and Ewart had a more anxious time than Scattergood, especially in the first half when Avenue were full value for their goal lead. Despite the watchfulness of Storer, McLean managed to get in two or three drives which caused anxiety, and Bauchop looked as though he meant to get his first goal of the season. But the best marksman on either side was Turnbull, who rather neglected the ordinary duties of an outside forward in the effort to beat Ewart. Dash, stamina and opportunism were the special characteristics of the home vanguard. There was no combination on the field better than that of Bond and Fox, behind whom Hargreaves played one of the games of his life. Lindley and Logan showed an excellent understanding which led to the frequent raiding of the Avenue territory, and the element of thrustfulness which City have lacked for a long time was supplied by Howson. The Castleford youth shows traces of the raw recruit, but his strong dribbling brought just that bit of uncertainty in the minds of the defence which often leads to a score.



JOE HARGREAVES (CENTRE) HAD, ACCORDING TO THE YORKSHIRE OBSERVER, "ONE OF THE GAMES OF HIS LIFE." TO HIS LEFT IS PETER LOGAN WHO ALSO FEATURED IN THE MATCH



CITY'S SAFE DEFENCE

Judged on the match as a whole City were superior both in the intermediate line and at the back. Neither Howie, Crosier, nor Barnett was as consistently effective as the City trio, and Potts and Boocock clearly outshone their vis-a-vis. Indeed, there was nothing in the game better than the unflurried tackling, the well-timed interceptions and the accurate volleying of the Valley Parade backs.

Some people though Ewart should have saved the goal credited to McCandless, which was scored after thirty two minutes play in the first half. The Irishman and Bauchop made a sudden raid, but all the defenders were in position and a score looked unlikely. However, McCandless, seeing a chance, shot from near the penalty line and the ball, coming off the wet ground at a great pace after pitching, went over Ewart's hand into the net. Scattergood was seriously tested after Howson had burst through in great style, and Ewart made splendid saves from McLean and Turnbull before the interval. City, who had been mainly defending in the first half, did much better afterwards and in seventeen minutes they drew level in the manner described. A long dropping shot by Potts from near the halfway line hit the crossbar, and after much pressure City scored the winning goal ten minutes from time. Howson tapping the ball through from a corner kick placed by Logan.

Bradford City 2 Bradford Park Avenue 1

Avenue were relegated from Division One at the end of the season, the teams were never destined to meet as top flight clubs again, indeed it would be seven years before the two Bradford teams once again came into conflict, this time in the lowly Third Division (North). How the mighty had fallen! It was the end of an era, Bradford's pre-eminence was over, other Yorkshire clubs, seen as mere parvenus at the time, rose to the heights vacated by the Bradford teams, where we led they followed. Unfortunately we never returned!

David Pendleton

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DR KLEINFENNIG

DR. KLEINFENNIG'S WELL CITY FAN CLINIC

Hello, and welcome back to my Well City Fan Clinic. Many apologies for being absent from these pages for so long in this capacity but other projects have had call upon my limited resources.

The one medical area about which I have received a number of enquires in recent months is 'alternative medicine' and whether it can help with the various ailments all too frequently associated with supporting our own dear Bradford City. I must humbly confess that I am not too familiar with all the non-orthodox medical practices (as we 'in the trade' refer to them), but I will, however, give a brief resume of some of the more widely known ones which may be of service.

ACUPUNCTURE: An ancient art practiced by the Chinese for nearly 5,000 years. As I understand it if something is painful then you stick a pin in something else. I suppose then that if Ford's defending is being painful you go stick a pin in Ormondroyd up in attack. I can't see it working at Valley Parade, not least because the police would treat the pins as an offensive weapon and take you off to the cells so missing the rest of the match. Then again.....



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AROMATHERAPY: Various essential oils are massaged into the head and body. Whilst I remain to be convinced that this treatment actually cures the illness which leads to the pain it is quiet clear that a massage is most useful for relieving tension and knotted muscles, both symptoms of the watching Bradford City.

(My younger brother has just arrived and, with a lewd grin, suggested that if the charming young lady in the tea hut at the back right of the kop was an aromatherapist he would give it a go, away from football. I shall ensure his lady wife sees this whereupon he may need to look to the orthodox medical treatment of bandages and plaster casts !) Though making the point in his usual salacious way my brother has hit upon the problem with aromatherapy, in that it is not really viable during the match itself. (Unless you don't mind having more people watching you than the game in progress.) Probably best practiced at home with your partner after the inevitable home defeat or whilst tormenting oneself listening to the away match commentary on the radio.

HERBAL MEDICINE: Many drugs in common use today derive from the herbal remedies of years gone by and these may well still offer some curative qualities of use to City fans. Here are a few which you may like to consider:

Basil: An efficient digestion settler, will quell the most violent vomiting and nausea. A dose whilst hungover before long away coach journeys seems a good idea: As is a dose after some of the disgusting catering at certain away ends.

Betony: Is believed to prevent drunkenness if leaves are chewed before a 'session' (not that I approve of such things but if this can prevent the worst excesses so be it):

Useful on trips to Blackpool, Scarborough, York, Hull and especially Norwich.

Periwinkle: Plagued on those long coach, car or train journeys by friends with flatulence ? Giving them an infusion of periwinkle could put a stop to that problem.

Rosemary: Allegedly good if taken at bed-time in preventing bad dreams and sleeplessness. Take the night before and after a City match.

Valerian: A nerve tonic which has a relaxing, even euphoric, effect on the system. A stress preventative dose before each match could be of use.

YOGA & MEDITATION: Relaxation is said to derive from sitting still and quiet, staring at nothing in particular. Still we can't all be Hull City fans.

And on that rather unkind note I will bid you all farewell.

See you back at the hospital.

Dr K.

BACK ISSUES (full details page 52)

Carefully cured in charred oak tubes, CG back issues are unearthed only when they're at the peak of pickled freshness. CG has a tendency to precede the mainstream periodicals by about five years in its examination of emerging ideas. Buy a couple of our 1990 issues and hold them up next to last month's TV Guide. Which magazine is more interesting? We think you'll agree that CITY GENT country-style back issues are the best you've ever assimilated.

CITY GENT
BRADFORD CITY
PLAYER PROFILE



NAME Wayne Bullimore

PREVIOUS CAREER Manchester United, Barnsley, Stockport County & Scunthorpe United.

POSITION WITH THE CLUB ? Midfield.

ANY OTHER POSITIONS PLAYED OR WOULD LIKE TO PLAY ? -

HIGHLIGHT OF CAREER SO FAR ? PFA Third Division Team 93-94.

AMBITION WITH BRADFORD CITY ? To play First Division football.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF TRAINING ? Small sided games.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAM OF ALL TIME & WHY ?
Holland 1988 European Championships - Gullit, Van Basten, Koemen, Rikaard - says it all really.

PLAYER MOST ADMIRED & WHY ? Paul Gasgoine, the way he's bounced back from so many set backs.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE LAW OF THE GAME WHICH WOULD IT BE ?
None, I would leave the game alone as it stands now.

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE GAME IN GENERAL ?
I would like to see more money being filtered through to the lower leagues from the Premiership.

DO YOU STILL GO TO FOOTBALL MATCHES, IF SO WHICH ? Bradford, Barnsley, Scunthorpe.

AS A SPECTATOR, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL MATCH OF ALL TIME ? England v West Germany 1990 World Cup.

DO YOU EVER BUY OR READ FOOTBALL FANZINES, 'WHEN SATURDAY COMES' OR ANY GENERAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE, IF SO WHICH ? None.

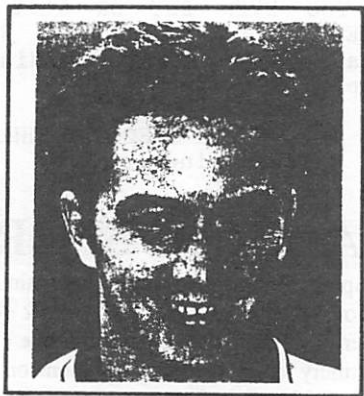
AND A 'SHOOT' SPECIAL, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL ? Cooked breakfast and cup of tea.

I sure all City fans will wish Wayne a full and speedy recovery and that he is back playing for City as soon as possible.

CITY GENT

BRADFORD CITY

PLAYER PROFILE



NAME David Brightwell

PREVIOUS CAREER Played for Manchester City from the age of 14, graduating from junior to youth to reserve and then first team. Made league debut for Chester on loan aged 18. Debut for City v Wimbledon aged 20, went on to make 49 appearances.

POSITION WITH THE CLUB ? Centre back or left back.

ANY OTHER POSITIONS PLAYED OR WOULD LIKE TO PLAY ? Started off as midfield then played up front.

HIGHLIGHT OF CAREER SO FAR ? League debut and scoring the winner against Newcastle in '94 that guaranteed City staying in the Premier League.

AMBITION WITH BRADFORD CITY ? To get promotion this season. The potential is definitely here.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF TRAINING ? I do enjoy training as a whole. My favourite would be shooting though.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAM OF ALL TIME & WHY ? The Liverpool team of the late 70's and early 80's. I was always a Liverpool fan and this team personified everything good about the game.

PLAYER MOST ADMIRER & WHY ? Of the past Alan Hansen because he was always so composed. At present it would have to be Alan Shearer because he makes a difficult job look easy.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE LAW OF THE GAME WHICH WOULD IT BE ? I would revert back to the old offside rules. The interpretation of when a player is interfering with play is too inconsistent.

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE GAME IN GENERAL ? Nothing.

DO YOU STILL GO TO FOOTBALL MATCHES, IF SO WHICH ? I have been back to Maine Road once and would always watch Liverpool when possible.

AS A SPECTATOR, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL MATCH OF ALL TIME ? City beating United 5-1 a few years ago.

DO YOU EVER BUY OR READ FOOTBALL FANZINES, 'WHEN SATURDAY COMES' OR ANY GENERAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE, IF SO WHICH ? Occasionally read '90 Minutes', used to read 'King Of The Kippax' City fanzine.

AND A 'SHOOT' SPECIAL, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL ? A good hot chicken vindaloo.

TALKING SPORT AT THE FOUNTAIN

The Sports Forum held at the Fountain Inn during January was in many ways one of the most ambitious events held by the Heaton & North Bradford Branch. The panel represented the largest number of guests ever assembled in one evening by the branch. The plan was to give sports fans an opportunity to ask the panel questions on a wide variety of local, national and international sporting issues. The week leading up to the forum was full of issues which could only add to the interest. Bradford Bulls continued to baffle their fans by virtue of their results, despite the almost daily arrival of new players, generally of antipodes origin. Also the imminent departure of El Tel from the England managerial hotseat and the intense speculation on who would succeed him. In the event a crushing injury to the Bulls Robbie Paul prevented him from attending, but we were fortunate that T&A Sports Editor Peter Rowe stepped in at short notice.

The panel lined-up as follows:- **Shaun Harvey** and **Des Hamilton** (Bradford City); **David Powter** (Editor of "Winger" Magazine); **Peter Deakin** (Marketing Manager at Bradford Bulls); **Trevor Foster** (Bradford Northern and Wales legend); **Derm Tanner** (Sports Editor at Radio L**ds) **Peter Rowe** and **David Markham** (Sports Dept. of T&A).

As each panel member took his place a relevant question was put to them and answered in full prior to the next guest. **Shaun Harvey** was asked about the recent row between First Division clubs and the rest of the Endsleigh League regarding the Sky TV deal. City chairman **Geoffrey Richmond** had played a leading role as peacemaker, which was much appreciated by the City faithful. **Shaun** said that the threat to lower division clubs had been very real and that most First Division clubs had simply done what three stronger chairmen had told them to. The threat had been alleviated for the time being, but City did not expect the matter to end. **Geoffrey** had done much to gain some breathing space and the time must be used wisely by the 2nd and 3rd Division clubs.

Des Hamilton was asked about how his injury had affected his chances of making his mark in what is commonly regarded as a very important season for him. He replied that he had felt very frustrated at not being able to play when City were doing well and, indeed, when they were not.

David Powter, who had kindly sponsored the event and provided copies of his magazine free of charge for those present, was asked whether the so-called gulf between the Premier League and the lower divisions was growing ever wider. He said he saw lots of games in the course of his work and had in fact seen Bolton several times prior to their game at City. He concluded that Bolton are not as bad as Swindon or Norwich were in previous seasons and could stay up. He said clubs should not start to regard promotion into the top sphere as a recipe for instant relegation.

Peter Deakin, who prior to his Bradford Bulls career had worked on promoting indoor soccer in the USA, talked about the changes made in recent months at the club, particularly the name change which he felt had now been accepted by the fans. He spoke about the new Superleague and how he hoped going to the match would become more than just a few hours and that the whole family would be involved in a total day out. Barbecues at Odsal before the game???

Trevor Foster spoke of the Superdrome development, stating that all of Bradford should be more positive about the proposal as it would be wonderful for the city and surrounding districts. He also said that when he arrived in Bradford in 1938, there was talk that Odsal would be made the "Wembley" of the north! Incidentally, John Garside of the Superdrome project had been invited onto the panel, but had declined due to the workload involved with the project.

Derm Tanner talked about the radio coverage that Radio Leeds is giving to City and Huddersfield and revealed that they wish they were known as Radio West Yorkshire as the "L**ds" tag did tend to give potential listeners the impression that they were slanted towards that club east of Pudsey, which is not the case. "Hats, Caps & Scarves" is growing in reputation and City are certainly well represented with branch committee member Mike Harrison a regular guest.

David Markham and **Peter Rowe** were both asked about the obvious change in policy which has led to increased coverage of City and the Bulls in the T&A at the expense L**ds Utd. Peter said there had been a change of policy, but there were other reasons as well. Cost of newsprint allied to changes in the number of editions published and the areas of Bradford they are delivered were also factors. Keighley Cougars are well supported in Bingley and Skipton. L**ds Utd. do, unfortunately, have supporters in all areas of Bradford, whilst City and the Bulls have support in the Dales, Brighouse and Guiseley to name but a few areas. David said he was pleased that he was given additional space on Saturday, now amounting to a full page, where he could cover additional stories on City.

Following a break questions of a more general nature came from the floor and often the panel were debating the issues themselves. Summer rugby was a topic that was raised several times in various guises and was generally looked upon as likely to succeed, but David Markham was less certain. The much talked about break in the football season was a non-starter as nobody could decide when the winter would be at its most severe. It would also expand the season which is already regarded as too long for players and supporters. Shaun Harvey came across very well during the evening and pointed out that with cup games and possible play-off games, City could be looking at 70 games this season. With nine injuries for the following game (v Bournemouth) City were down to the bare bones despite having a large squad.

The evening was wrapped up at about 10-30pm with questions still flying on a variety of subjects and from that point of view it was a successful evening. The Heaton Branch would like to record our gratitude to all those on the panel and give special thanks to David Powter who sponsored the evening.

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BEER AND BANTAMS



WHERE BANTAM'S THIRST ARE QUENCHED BRADFORD PLAYHOUSE BAR, CHAPEL STREET

A strange choice some might think but not if you are a thirsty Bantam who appreciates a wide and interesting choice of bottled beer. Indeed we're hard pressed to think of another place where you could find some many different types outside a warehouse (and that includes Ricky Holden's kitchen). There are usually over 60 lines on at any one time but these change from month to month depending on what the City Gent reading 'beer procurement officer' spots on his travels. However, just as an example the choice after the last reserves when we visited included:

Belgium - Chimay, Orval and Rochford 8. France - Ch'ti. German - Kaiserdom and Hefe. America - Pete's Wicked Ales. Czech - Bohemia Regent. England, Fullers, Tolly Cobbold, Harvey's and Freedom Ale. There is also a draft Belgium beer and prices of bottles stocked by some local pubs compare favourably.

Chats amongst the City fans who drink down there range from the usual 'another rubbish performance' to Glyn's often hilarious tales of 'sleeping under hedges for Bradford City'.

The bar is only open evenings around play and theatre performances but, as I said, if you like bottled beer and want to try a some a bit different get along.

(If, as a Bantam, you have a recommended thirst quenching establishment you wish to write about all contributions are gratefully accepted.)

COVER-UP OVER DEATH OF M.P.


Allegations of a cover-up involving an M.P. where rife in Westminster today, the M.P. who has not been named, was found dressed in fish net stockings, and a

Manchester United shirt, he had apparently tied himself up and had a small orange in his mouth. It has since emerged that he had, in fact been found in a

Leeds United shirt, but the authorities did not want to cause his family further embarrassment.



NEW KID FROM THE KOP



STARRING THE EVER-OPTIMISTIC
MARK DOUGLAS

So, another season of 'consolidation'. The loss yesterday against Bristol City puts us out of touch with the Play-Off berths and leaves us looking towards 1997 already. Chris Kamara's appointment would seem to be a masterstroke by Geoffrey Richmond, after winning most of his early matches (Blackpool aside) he was firmly backed for the job of manager next season, but once again Kamara has flattered to deceive, indifferent results against Bristol City and Stockport have seen us slide to 11th place but has left us with bigger problems than at first seems. City's continuing need for a tight defence, creative midfield and GOAL-SCORING attack has never been better illustrated than by this season's poor form. Despite obvious high points at Forest (H & A) little else has been done this season, which leaves us asking why City cannot get rid of the stigma which hangs over the club. Lennie Lawrence spoke out about how much the club was in a mess, but who's problem was that? The players or the manager? Or both?

Once again City's blatant need for a striker has been illustrated in matches against Stockport and Bristol. I am afraid to say Mark Stallard is not the 30 goals a season man who City need, in fact it is questionable whether Stallard will manage 10 a term. I may come to regret these words, but I personally think that Kamara has a taller and just as able goalscoring replacement in one Ian Ormondroyd. 'Sticks' is out of favour and since Super Ian has been dropped City have managed a poultry 5 goals in 6 matches, whereas when Sticks was playing we had scored 20 goals 11 games at the beginning of the season. Say what you will about the 'skills' of Lawrence's management but at least we were scoring goals. I know that this is a complete U-Turn from my opinion in previous CG's but something drastic must be done to turn the tide if we are to get the illusive 6th place.

A replacement? Our last goal-scoring striker Sean McCarthy is out of favour at Oldham and will cost Kamara about the same as our new 'hero' Mark Stallard. **PLEASE KAMARA, BUY SEAN MCCARTHY IF HE IS AVAILABLE. STALLARD IS ANOTHER GRAFTER, NOT A SCORER. HE MAKES CHANCES BUT NEVER PUT'S THEM IN THE BACK OF THE NET. MCCARTHY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A PLAYMAKER, BUT HE WAS CAPABLE OF AT LEAST 20 GOALS A SEASON. AT £250,000 HE WOULD BE A BARGAIN.** Sorry about that.

Geoffrey Richmond made the bold prediction in the Stockport programme that 70 points would be needed to gain promotion. As much as I admire him for the effort and money he has put into the club, I'm sure he doesn't need reminding that his opinion was that City needed 8 wins 5 draws and were allowed 5 defeats. Since he made this prediction City have lost twice. 8 wins, 5 draws and 3 defeats starting on Tuesday, then?

Will Huddersfield remove their irritating faces from every commercial broadcasting medium in Britain? The day has come when we can't move for a picture of Andy Booth or Ronnie Jepson's moronic face smiling at us and giving a riveting review which can be summed up by the fact that they got promoted because of that 'futuristic' stadium. Talking of local rivals, it appears the Scum are on the verge of winning something. HA. Not wishing to offend any L**ds fans reading The Gent (They can read??) but only your manager would buy a fully fledged international from the team who are currently rated at 3rd in the World, AND NOT PLAY HIM!!!!

Still on the subject of the 'We hate Manchester United because they play better football than we will ever do' United, only the FA could seriously consider employing Howard Wilkinson to pick our national side. Wilkinson is wanted out at L**ds, they're a bit slow at Elland Road, so what will the Tabloids make of him?

It has been announced today that a new £1.5 million Midland Road all-seater 4,500 capacity(phew) stand is to be built for next season. AT LAST!! After reading the developments all over the past five or so CG's I can only say relief is the only option. After listening and reading certain comments which said that the developments were impractical if we could only fill a quarter of the ground now, I could only point towards the TB's and how they now go near to filling their new ground after suffering poor attendances during the end of the Leeds Rd occupancy and also their climb up the league's. Anyway if the money was spent on players we'd end up with more turkeys than we already have. It can only go toward's improving the 'damp' atmosphere at VP.

After the release of NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CITY! I was prompted (with the help of only back issues of the NME and Select) to question the musical connections that City have. Of course flavour of the century at the moment Oasis (Noel Gallagher & Liam Gallagher) support Manchester City and lead singer with Blur, Damon Albarn supports Chelsea. After the tannoy played a demo by a local band (who were they? I didn't hear, but they were very good, R.E.M-y. If they read the Gent maybe they could write in and tell me where to get that demo) who support City I asked myself whether Terrovision (Bradford born) support City or some other local scum.

Today's match could prove the end to a brave campaign which once again promised much, this could lead to another manager grace the doors (is anyone patient with Kamara?) of the esteemed club. Although I would wager Chris to stay, other candidates are starting to appear. George Graham's world-wide suspension is coming to an end, and with the terrible defensive record at City could Graham be the man to win us a few games 1-0 rather than loose them 3-4? Trevor Francis is local but crap, Terry Venable's is off to Spain which leaves us with the Scottish star himself, Stuart McCall. I heard Richmond say that McCall was not today's solution, or tomorrows. Get real! McCall has pledged his future to City and

will end up at City, sooner or later just because the poor unfortunate who precedes him will have the constant thorn in his side of McCall. He's still in the prime of his career, and is jinxing past bewitched Scottish defenders so I predict by the turn of the century he will be the manager. Kamara may be being judged too much on one season, but I see no real upturn in fortunes under Chris. The team remain stuck in the losing pattern and he seems pretty inept strategically as regards taking off vital players at vital times during matches. Well see 'ya next time.

**THIS COLUMN WAS PASSED AT AN "L" RATING, ALL PEOPLE READING IT
MUST BE CERTIFIED LOONIES**

MARK DOUGLAS - CITY GENT'S AWARD WINNING COLUMNIST

CITY GENT BOOK REVIEW



MEMOIRS OF AN OLD YARD DOG

AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF BRADFORD PARK AVENUE 1960-74

The memoirs are a compilation of a series of articles written by Pete Zemoroch in the two Avenue fanzines 'Aye Aye Rhubarb Pie' and 'Wings of a Sparrow', together they offer a very personal view of the twilight years of our erstwhile rivals. If you can ignore the writers Stafford Heginbotham paranoia then you'll enjoy the books evocative account Avenue's sad, self inflicted, demise. Obviously the writers heavy bias clouds the plot: every defeat is unlucky, all Avenue's woes are part of a conspiracy against the club, etc, etc. But the one eyed account is part of the books appeal.

The text is interspersed with photographs, press cuttings, programme covers and bus tickets! The writers obsession with long defunct railway sidings somehow sits nicely with Avenue's slow slide into oblivion, he has captured the spirit of those troubled days but frequently slips into the 'kids nowadays' mode which is an instant cure for insomnia. But this 64 page book deserves a place on any Bradfordians bookshelf; Avenue's 'Fever Pitch'?

All the proceeds from the book will be donated to Avenue's 'Back to Bradford' trust fund, the trust has been set up to finance Avenue's move to Horsfall and further improvements when that aim has been achieved. Copies priced at £4.36 (which includes postage) are available from: Garry Sawyer, 34 Lower George Street, Wibsey, Bradford, BD6 1RE.

DAVID PENDLETON

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WINGS OF A SPARROW (Bradford Park Avenue Fanzine)

is available from us on the Kop or the strange character who walks around with his arm in the air.

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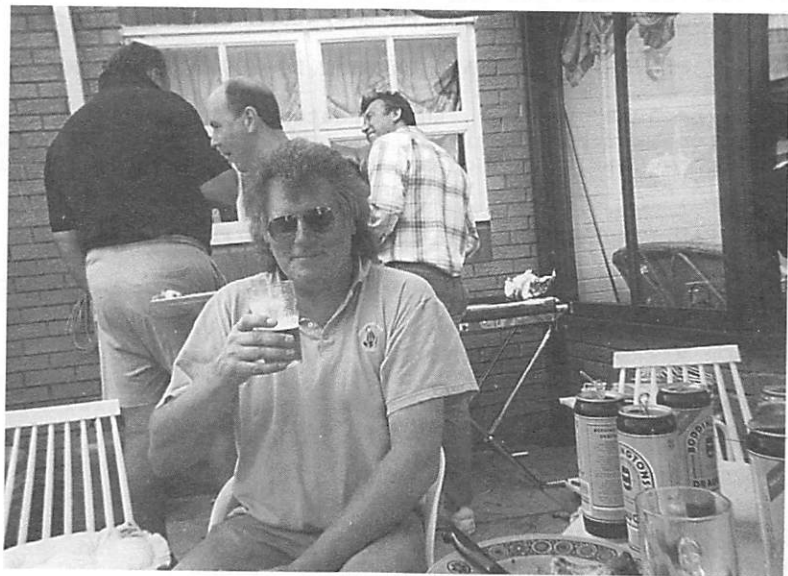
**A.B.R
ROOFING**

**Assure
Alarms**

It is also interesting to note that Motherwell now encourages sponsorship of red and yellow cards (see page 3) - is this a fund raising idea for VP? Given the current state of refereeing it could be a lucrative source of income.

spotted by **GEORGE FYLDE**

THE CITY GENT QUESTIONNAIRE



No. 27

DAVE WELBOURNE

I was born in Burley -in- Wharfedale on January 16th., 1947 and I now live in Otley. From a very early age I have been fanatical about football for which I am indebted to my dad, who began taking me to watch Bradford Park Avenue when I was a small boy. I believe the first ever match I saw was Avenue -v- Sheffield Wednesday on January 12th., 1952. My idol then was Les Horsman who was a mate of my dad and who came from Burley. On his transfer to Halifax Town, we began watching them. I resumed supporting Avenue but during the 1959-60 season I became a City fan. I had seen them play several times but during that season I began going to Valley Parade with a lad from school. The game that really hooked me was City's 3-0 defeat of Everton in the third round of the F.A. Cup on January 9th., 1960, and I have been a fan ever since.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF A PERFECT SATURDAY?

Having a lie in after a good Friday night, listening to Sport On Four. Getting up with that feeling of great expectations as the game looms. Meeting my brother, Chris, and my mate Rolly in the Fleece, Otley, before setting off to Bradford, or starting out earlier for the away trip. Seeing City win in style, having a few pints in the Fighting Cock and a curry in Rawals; or returning to Otley for a few in the Fleece and the Bay Horse. Victory is always sweeter if Leeds and Huddersfield have lost.

WHICH CITY PLAYER(S) PAST AND PRESENT DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Bruce Bannister, Trevor Hockey, John Hall, Jim Lawlor, Stuart McCall, John Hendrie, Bobby Campbell. They were always entertaining and value for money. You felt the club and the supporters mattered to them. I particularly admire Stuart's desire to return to City one day.

WHICH NON-CITY PLAYER(S) PAST AND PRESENT DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

George Best, because he was the greatest player I ever saw. I particularly remember him humiliating Leeds United at Elland Road. Dennis Law, Bobby Charlton, Norman Hunter, Ray Pointer (Burnley and England), Colin Bell, and Les Horsman.

WHAT DO YOU READ (INCLUDING FOOTBALL MATERIAL IF ANY)?

All kinds of books on history, including local history and football. WSC and 4-4-2.

WHAT ANNOYS OR MAKES YOU DEPRESSED?

Racists, pompous twits, right-wingers (of the political kind), selfish, inconsiderate people. The Bradford Fire.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL GROUNDS?

I like travelling to all football grounds, however good or bad. Valley Parade, Turf Moor, Old Trafford, St. James Park, and after this season, the City Ground, Nottingham.

WHAT ARE YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE FOOTBALL GROUNDS?

Elland Road because of the intimidating atmosphere.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MUSICIANS?

I have a wide range of musical tastes from the Everly Brothers, Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, the Jam, R.E.M., to Goats Don't Shave.

WHICH PERSON(S) DO YOU MOST DESPISE?

I don't despise many people, but Thatcher springs to mind immediately.

WHICH WORDS OR PHRASES DO YOU MOST OVERUSE?

Too many to mention seeing as I talk for a living. But at City matches: "I've got the pies." "Oh no." "Look!." "For ***** ****!"

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET IN FOOTBALL?

Not playing professional football. Having to give up playing in my 30's because of a back injury. The Bradford Fire. City missing promotion to Division 1 in 1988. The Munich Air Crash.

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?

Most of the people I would like to meet are from the past. For example, Blind Jack Metcalf, Disraeli, Mary Wollstonecraft, Feargus O'Connor. But I would like to meet Victoria Wood.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE TV/RADIO PROGRAMMES?

Kicking and Screaming, Match of the Day, People's Century, Yes Minister, Victoria Wood, Have I Got News For You?
On radio I enjoy listening to plays and comedy programmes such as Sorry I Haven't A Clue, and Radio 5.

WHAT IS/ARE YOUR FAVOURITE FILMS?

For escapism, Westerns and James Bond. I have a wide taste from Brief Encounter, Billy Liar, to Four Weddings and a Funeral.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SUMMER OF 1995

Page 53 - Toasting the start of the new season in Northumberland with some Newcastle United fans.

Above - Before the 3-2 win at Blackpool on August 22nd

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED FOOTBALL RELATED POSSESSION?

My City scarf (which was bought in 1963) and shirt; my collection of football books and programmes, including the first Manchester United programme after the Munich Air Crash.

WHAT ARE YOUR LIKES?

Family and friends, football, especially City, even though they are frustrating at times, Tetley's Bitter, writing, teaching History, going out with friends for a few pints or for a meal, usually a curry in Bradford, live music, walking in the countryside, women who like football.

WHAT ARE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MATCHES?

CITY 3 EVERTON 0 FA CUP 1960

CITY 2 BURNLEY 2 FA CUP 1960

ENGLAND WINNING THE WORLD CUP IN 1966.

CITY CLINCHING THE THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP AT BOLTON, 2-0, IN 1985.

THE TWO GAMES AGAINST NOTTINGHAM FOR. IN THE LEAGUE CUP THIS SEASON.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST CITY XI SINCE YOU STARTED WATCHING THEM?

Downsborough, Cooper, Podd, Lawlor, Richards, McCall, Bannister, Hendrie, Campbell, McCarthy, Hall.

Subs: Downie, Ward, Stowell, Hockey, Jacobs, Youds.

HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE THE GAME?

I don't like to see bureaucrats tinkering about with what I regard as the greatest game in the world. I worry that it is being taken away from the ordinary fan, as Rugby League seems to be doing.

But I would stop this farce of an injured player having to go off the pitch after receiving treatment, then being waved on again by the referee.

I would like to see more officials using common sense, and being more consistent. I would like to see them awarding free kicks 10 yards further up when players argue.

I would like to see an 'off-side free zone' either side of the half way line.

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HAVING SPENT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ON NEW EXECUTIVE BOXES HARTLEPOOL FOUND THEY COULD NOT AFFORD TO HAVE THEM HEATED.

If that one shock wasn't enough there was another to follow. Amongst the wankers Swain brought to insult our team was a totally useless, injury prone t**t called Mick Kennedy. Well surprise, surprise, who should be sat next to him on the photo, but non other than the aforementioned! Old pals act or what?

And recalling that Kennedy's speciality was the two-footed tackle resulting in a yellow card every time he played for us, it's not surprising that his record for that season was: 8 bookings, 1 sending-off and a £500 fine for bringing the game into disrepute.

ABOVE:- from Latic Fanatic
BELOW:- Mischievous former CG Editor John Dewhurst upto his old tricks again. He obviously wasn't impressed with Mick Kennedy!

BRADFORD CITY 1988/89

CITY COLLECTABLES



Thank you to Matthew Kermode for sending his autographed City team photo from 1988/89. The only players in the photo who were with City at the start of this season were Ian Ormondroyd and Paul Jewell!

For the record the line-up is (left to right): Ellis, Abbott, Donkey, Thomas, Leonard, Litchfield, Ormondroyd, Tomlinson, Oliver, Banks, Evans, Sinnott, (front row) Goddard, Palin, Mitchell and Jewell. The Chairman at the time was Jack Tordoff and the manager, Terry Dolan.

GOING LOCO - LETS HEAR IT FOR THE SPOTTERS!

25 YEARS OF CITY AND TRAINS

Trainspotters have never received a good press. Over the past couple years, though, the scorn and ridicule heaped upon these perfectly normal individuals who just happen to like trains seems to have reached a still greater intensity. It appears to be the 'in' thing to deride ordinary folk who are interested in railways and trains - they are branded 'anoraks'. What I wish to point out is that many football supporters also like trains and many railway enthusiasts follow football. It is true that some railway afficiandos find the much maligned, and it has to be said in some cases dreaded, train-spotter an embarrassment to their hobby. From my experiences as a train-spotter I can confirm that there are some complete and utter idiots at large. It is only fair to point out, however, that football too has it's fair share of nutcases and supporters who are afflicted with almost permanent daftness. Incidentally, football also has its outcasts who are subjected to derision and ridicule; these 'spotters' are known as 'Groundhoppers'. Loving both railways and football I find it grossly unfair that the many thousands of railway enthusiasts who actively pursue their hobby are regarded by many as somehow odd or eccentric. I present the following scenario and ask the question which could be considered the most stupid? To travel a couple of hundred miles to an away game in winter, stand on a cold, wet, open terrace and watch twenty two "footballers" kick a ball about aimlessly for ninety minutes. Or, travel a couple of hundred miles in winter to stand on a cold, wet open railway platform and wait ninety minutes, because the special is late, for a steam engine to go thundering past? Well? Well I've been there and I can appreciate - difficult sometimes - the attractions of both pastimes. Imagine though the sheer pleasure if both hobbies can be combined!

Let's hear it for the old DMUs

For the old DMUs still have a number of advantages over their replacements. To begin with, I prefer the lower seats, which give a less claustrophobic atmosphere. Then there's the more sensible window arrangement, along of course with a greater number of doors, making it quicker for passengers to get on/off during busy times.

Personally, I love the opportunity to get a front seat, and enjoy the best view one can get anywhere on our rail network. I also like putting my head out of the window from time to time - never mind the safety factor, I'm sure this is something most of us have done from time to time.

The above strikes a chord with me! Cuttings from
RAILWAY MAGAZINE

Sick and tired of false loco numbers

THE application of spurious loco numbers is something which seems to be becoming more prevalent.

Is it asking too much when a railway is holding a gala, that all the locos present are carrying their correct numbers, even if they masquerade as something else on other occasions?

A point in mind was a recent diesel gala on the East Lancs Railway. I travelled to Bury specifically for this, only to find a 'Hymek' there with the number D7029 on it. I thought this loco was on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, and an enquiry produced the information that it was in reality D7076.

Personally, I'm somewhat sick and tired of seeing locos with spurious numbers.

When I first started watching City I had to travel by train. That was an added attraction, of course, and all part of the experience. Knaresborough (sometimes changing at Harrogate) to Leeds City and then catching another train to Bradford Exchange. What a privilege it is to say I stood in and passed through the old Exchange Station on many occasions, with its huge domed canopy and echoing activity. Then it was off for some greasy fish 'n' chips, before walking upto Valley Parade. After the match it was decision time. Either to run back and catch a train just after five or walk back to Exchange for a train at five-thirty. One of these was loco hauled, but I can't remember which. I recall that City striker Gerry Ingram once caught the five-thirty train. I remember too seeing a bloke from work on the platform. He was a gay activist and had been on a march through Bradford. He was stood with a number of the marchers when he spotted me. "Ooooh, so you come here for your football!" I also recall sharing the train with elements of away support. I particularly remember Barnsley and Rotherham "supporters". I quickly realised it was advisable to hide ones scarf! (an injured Rotherham supporter was on one train and his mates were threatening to take it out on some Wednesday supporters!) After a home game I was usually back in Knaresborough for six-thirty and so able to purchase 'Yorkshire Sports' from Hetheringtons newsagents. There was often a shop full of folk waiting for the sports papers. Just about everyone wanted the 'Green Un' and I was often the only person left waiting for the 'Sports' van to arrive.

Just imagine if Manningham Shed (55F) was still open! Driving to every home game I pass within a few hundred yards of the old loco shed. I can still picture the sight now, steam engines gently simmering outside. Unfortunately, by the time I started watching City BR steam was no more, but there was still opportunity to sample the thrill of railway travelling when I discovered that 'specials' ran to certain City away games. I had seen a T&A photo of supporters about to board a train to Darlington (the train was chartered by the T&A I believe) for the last game of 1968-69 when City clinched promotion. On Saturday 31st October 1970 I decided to take the plunge by travelling the short distance to Halifax on the football special laid on by BR. It was a completely new and exciting experience, travelling on a train with hundreds of City fans. The diesel growled its way up the long incline from Exchange, echoing through tunnels and then past the site of Low Moor shed (56F). Supporters were then held back on the large enclosed wooden footbridge at Halifax station by the police, before being allowed to charge en masse on the Shay. To use a phrase popular with Mr. Lawrence. "In all my years I'd never seen nuffin like it!" This was the way to travel to City's away games.

A couple of weeks later I was on the train to Bury. A diesel multiple-unit this time I think, no doubt passing Milneroyd Box on the outskirts of Halifax where David Pendleton is one of the signalmen (its also great listening to the workings of one of the old type lever boxes on the phone. You can hear the levers, the "ding, dings" of the bell and the heavy freights trundling past). Then it was Lincoln away in the FA Cup pulling into St. Marks station, I believe, going past the huge level-crossing gates in the town centre. I remember seeing Patsy for the first time on this train and also a young female City fan being injured by flying glass when a window was broken by stone throwing locals. Then it was the first of several trains over the years to Barnsley - THE

no.1 away trip for City fans during the seventies. Past Horbury wagon works then a noisy entrance and march through the Saturday afternoon shoppers in Barnsley town centre. Another trip was to Rotherham, on leaving Exchange we took the Leeds line, climbing past Hammerton St. Depot (56G) before by-passing Leeds via Wortley Junction and then heading down past the site of Normanton shed (55E). I was always disappointed that I never travelled on a special that actually went through Leeds station, to let the locals know who was Yorkshires premier team, or past Holbeck shed (55A). We then arrived at Rotherham's Masborough station, now sadly closed, which was very handy for Millmoor. On the return we began the long decent into Bradford passing the deep cutting where Laisterdyke station was situated and passing through several tunnels. I heard one supporter exclaim, as we clattered slowly towards Exchange station in the pouring rain, "We're back in good old bloody Bradford!"

More BR specials followed, though I missed out on a few - Luton in the FA Cup, for example, when I had flu - and the trip to Arsenal when I had the chance of a cheap ticket on a service train. I did travel to Chesterfield, Doncaster, Shrewsbury - supporters were allowed to leave the platform via a footpath adjacent to the track which then led directly to Gay Meadow - and of course Norwich. The train went past formerly important railway towns of March and Ely, before failing in the darkened countryside some 20 miles from Norwich. Thankfully after a fretful wait we began to move and we were able to witness one of City's finest hours. By the mid-seventies I had become involved with CTC '73 and that time it was possible to charter trains at reasonable prices. A number of epic trips to Stockport followed - one of the trains may have been run by BR - especially interesting for me as it meant travelling "under the wires" from Stalybridge onwards and the chance to observe some Electric locos. We then ran a train to Colchester for the last match of the 1976-77 season. City had already clinched promotion with a 1-1 draw v Bournemouth the Saturday before. A football train first for me, as we departed from the old Forster Square station at approx. 8.00am. This journey just went on and on. We were almost six hours on the train, going via Lincoln and Ipswich.



British Railways Eastern Region

Dear Mr. Mosejko,

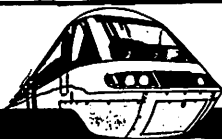
21st April 1977

Colchester v. Bradford City.

Sat. 14th May 1977.

Centre corridor saloon coaches are not available on this date but it should be possible to provide a train of side corridor coaches. The charter charge for a train of 7 side corridor coaches - 336 seats - will be £990.00 which is the minimum which is required to run a special train. For an additional coach with 48 seats the extra charge would be £100.00.

Kindly let me know if you wish me to make arrangements for a train.



Inter-City 125



British Railways Eastern Region

Dear Mr. Mosejko,

5 May 1977

Colchester v. Bradford City. Sat. 14 May 1977.

The following times have been arranged for your charter train to Colchester on Saturday, 14 May 1977:-

Bradford Forster Square	dep. 08.00
Colchester	arr. 13.15

Colchester	dep. 18.25
Bradford Exchange	arr. 23.48

The train is booked to arrive at Bradford Forster Square at 07.25.

Thank you for your cheque and completed application form.

I saw Sgt. Clarke of the B.T.C. Police this morning and he informed me that he had had a word with you yesterday and discussed the points on which you required assurance.

I hope you have a good outing and that City will be in the Third Division next season and that I will be arranging more trains for you in the future.

There were more trains to other destinations; Sheffield (v Wednesday) - can't remember which small station we went to, it definitely wasn't Midland; Burnley - the loco running round its train near the site of Rose Grove shed (10F) so it could pull us into Burnley; Oldham - where (I think) we arrived at Oldham Werneth, but departed after the game from Oldham Mumps. Buses were laid on, but the police escort went to great pains to remind other City fans to make sure they made their way to the correct station when the match was over; Carlisle - another departure from Forster Square. It was a miserable day (3.1.80) for our trip over the Settle and Carlisle with low cloud, mist and rain obscuring the landscape. We went past the old Skipton loco shed (10G) and Hellifield shed (24H - old code) Also Hellifield South Junction box, where Assist. Editor David Pendleton used to work. Walsall - travelling via Sheffield and Derby, passengers at both stations being left in no doubt as to which team we were going to see. Our



British Railways Eastern Region

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

Date 30 November 1977

Shrewsbury v. Bradford City.
Tuesday, 27th December 1977.

Further to our conversation this morning; the following charter charges will apply in connection with your proposed special train from Bradford to Shrewsbury on Tuesday, 27th December 1977:-

<u>No. of Seats.</u>	<u>Charter Charge.</u>
384	£1,152.00
448	£1,300.00
512	£1,430.00

In addition to the above charges you would also be required to pay an insurance premium of £45.00.

Kindly let me know as quickly as possible if you wish me to arrange a special train for you and the number of seats required.



'Loony' Les Allinson, Ricky Holden and 'Sir' Alan Wood break their journey from Plymouth v City (9.5.84.) to Bournemouth v City (12.5.84.) - lost 3-0 & 4-1 respectively - so they can travel to Colyton via the Seaton Tramway. No doubt the village contained an inn serving fine ale for these intrepid travellers.



**Fare
deals**



Soccerail

actual destination was Bescot station (the huge yard beyond) and not Walsall station. Fans had been warned, but I remember one supporter jumping off the moving train onto Walsall station. We weren't going too fast and everyone who witnessed the event laughed as we left the lone figure on an empty platform. Portsmouth - I did not go to this game. Nor should the 800 seater train. Someone advised that more tickets had been sold than actually had been. So the train departed with about 200 fans on board and CTC '73 lost hundreds of pounds. Nonetheless it is part the CTC's history and many a tale was told about the long journey. Finally, there was the train to Liverpool for the League Cup game on 2nd September 1980. Another trip where we were bused to the ground, but faced a two mile walk back to Lime Street station after the 4-0 defeat.



**CTC'73
Complete
Outings**



*The Award Winning
Cruise Line*

CITY TRAVEL CLUB '73 - FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

All members who travelled with us to Stockport on the train were subsidised from the club funds to the tune of 70p and non-members 20p, unfortunately as we have to play that game again and we do not want to charge a higher price, we shall be booking a train with just 512 seats, at a loss of up to £200. There will be no extra carriages and any further passengers who wish to travel will have to do so by coach.

CITY TRAVEL 73

City Travel 73 are running a 600 seat-train for our second leg tie at Liverpool on Tuesday, September 2nd. Prices are £3 for members and £4 for non-members. Listen for broadcast details of departure times. City Travel, who have moved from the Star Hotel, Westgate, to the Crescent Hotel, Little Horton Lane, are also running a coach to Peterborough on August 30th, leaving the Interchange at 11am., price £3 for members and £3.50 for non-members. Tickets can be obtained from the Crescent or the Duchess of Kent, Sackville Street, for both games.

From the early eighties onwards the price of hiring trains increased substantially, making coach and bus travel much more attractive financially - even when hiring upto a dozen or so coaches. Also certain BR regions or districts had policies of not allowing football supporters to charter trains. There was some justification for this action as invariably there were outbreaks of vandalism on the trains, especially when boredom was a factor on the long journeys. Of course, this was something which did not affect me! I was quite happy to look out of the window and even happier when leaning out of the door window when one could really take in the atmosphere. Perhaps, sometime in the future, the football special may have its day again when hundreds of City fans can travel to a game in convivial togetherness.

TWO-WATS-TOUGH

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Former Barnsley and Huddersfield Town midfielder Ian Banks turned on the style at the Welfare Ground last night to help Unibond League side Emley to a deserved 3-1 win over Conference club Morecambe in their FA Umbro Trophy first round replay.

It was from three set plays by Banks that Paul David (2) and Charlie McLean scored. John McCluskie pulled one back.

Barnsley, Huddersfield, but no mention of City. Was Banks' VP sojourn so insignificant?

It would seem so!

Aston Villa 3, Leeds United 0

Brolin out with the washing

Having paid Parma £4.5 million for Tomas Brolin and despite having only 15 fit men on Saturday, Howard Wilkinson amazingly did not even have the Swedish international on the bench and preferred an untried 17-year-old.

Brolin and his manager of three months are mutually disenchanted: Wilkinson wants Brolin to track back; Brolin does not do that sort of thing. Brolin was then seen loading the skip on to the team coach after the game, laundry piled upon ignominy.

Tomas must be the countries highest paid kit man

FAMOUS FOOTBALL PHRASES - no.1:

"Empty Vessels Make the Most Noise"

● Leeds United's supporters have been awarded the title of the noisiest football crowd in the country.

Fangs fan's copped it

COPS nicked drunken soccer fan Steve Dean as he searched on his hands and knees for his missing false teeth.

They fell out as Huddersfield fan Steve, 28, was ejected from Barnsley's ground. He crept back to look for them — and was collared.

He was fined £60 by JPs for being drunk in a stadium. Steve, who paid £80 for new gnashers, said: "I had five pints but I'm no hooligan."

Thanks to Nigel Hall

A JOGGER wearing only a pair of trainers has been seen five times in Coleford, Gloucestershire. Police believe that he is an eccentric trying to keep cool. — *The Daily Telegraph*.

Biker's own goal wrecks match

A Spen Valley Cup match was called off minutes before kick off when a motorbike raced between the posts — and crashed into the back of the net!

Both rider and machine had to be cut free and referee David Cheetham was forced to postpone the game because no spare net could be found.

Officials of home club White Rose Leisure Centre, whose reserves were due to play Shoulder of Mutton Hightown at Ossett, intend to report the incident to police.

Referee Cheetham, from Cleckheaton, said: "The players were just about to come on the field when this lad roared straight down the pitch and went like a rocket into the back of the net.

"He obviously had no idea the net was there and was very fortunate he was not seriously hurt.

"He had to be helped free by players who were not too happy at having their game called off in this way." from the Telegraph & Argus

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

RICH IN FLAVOUR

RICHMOND'S CRISPS

CHEESE AND ONION FLAVOUR

NO ADDED PRESERVATIVES OR COLOURS

GR's ever expanding empire.

The corner shop on Cornwall Terrace stocks them (@ 60% per unit?) The crisps were quite tasty, though maybe not as good as Jack Walkers!

Macca comes across as a modest, polite man, with respect for his team-mates and manager. The only interesting aspect readers learn is that he still feels some resentment at having been spurned by Manchester United in his teens.

The fact that he refers to the denizens of Old Trafford as 'United', when he plays for a team with the same moniker, throughout this slender tome is telling.

Captain's Log is the literary equivalent of Tony Gubba interviewing a non-league manager on *Match Of The Day*. **3/10**

The deep thinking Macca has been spotted in Wetherby CO-OP reading product info on tubes of toothpaste and wandering round the local shoeshop.

Pleasure filled afternoons indeed for our top fottballers.

"You never say never in football," said Jewell. "I never wanted to leave City. I have been working hard in training and for the reserves, and I hope this hard work has paid off for the time being. Now my goal is to earn a regular place in the first team."

"Now I just want to put the past behind me. I never wanted to leave Bradford City. I consider Bradford to be my adopted home -- it is my home and my family's home.

Paul Jewell learning never to say "never"

Bloody fickle football fans. From that moment we capitulated quite alarmingly. Leicester reject Ian Ormondroyd - anyone else remember seeing that banner at Villa park a few seasons back when he was 'turning it on' for Villa that read Ian Haemorrhoids piles on the agony? - began to cause problems in the air (suuurrprise) and we were somewhat lucky to go in level.

From Forest fanzine
the 'Tricky Tree'

**TICKETS
XX**

X Certificate games at Elland Road. 'We knew it for years; now they have admitted it'

LEEDS UNITED PLAYGROUP

MON - FRI 9.30 UNTIL 12.00
TERM TIME ONLY

ENOUGH SAID!
PLAYERS ENTRANCE SIGN AT ELLAND ROAD

OBJETS D'EXCREMENT

No. 10

A fleeting return to a series of old thanks to John Hudson (not he of Matchdocs, but another Corn Dolly regular with a penchant for smelly cigars), his seventies sew on patch was a mass production model, every club in the land were apparently on the 'up'. The patches were inevitably sewn on the rear pocket of your flared wranglers - a most suitable place! Given City's standing throughout the seventies the wording was optimistic in the extreme, in fact bearing in mind the 'welcome' given the visiting supporters in that era the patch would have been more appropriate reversed!

Has anybody still got a 'Billy McGinley' silk scarf from the 1976 FA Cup run? Better still a 'Bradford City Giantkillers' silk flag? Dig them out and photograph yourself holding one or both aloft, inclusion is guaranteed, perhaps even on the cover.

David Pendleton



Grimsby Town	7
Luton Town	1

Luton and former Bradford City chief Lennie Lawrence described the game as "highly illuminating" as he realised the size of his task to keep Luton in the First Division.

"Grimsby are a very good First Division side said Lawrence. We made them look like AC Milan."

Lennie's analysis ...
succinct as ever.

A sign that reads "AWAY GAMES MEMBERS ONLY". The sign is white with black text and is mounted on a dark background.

A sign that reads "NO DOGS ALLOWED IN STAND". The sign is white with black text and is mounted on a dark background.

Signs on a gate to the East Stand at Elland Road would suggest that the stand remains empty.

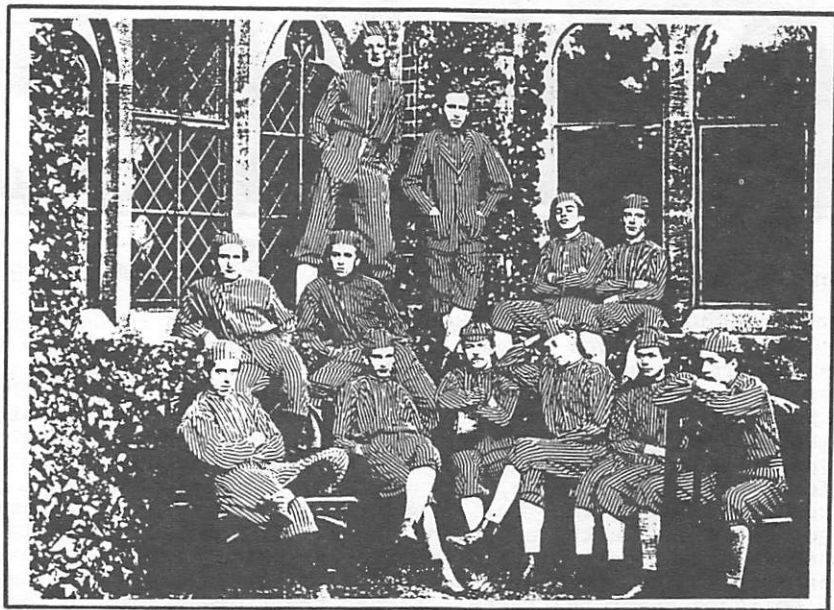
THIS GLORIOUS GAME

PART 3: THE ORIGINS OF FOOTBALL CLUBS

by DAVE WELBOURNE

The formation of the Football Association in 1863 signalled the expansion of organised football clubs. By 1871 the number affiliated to the F.A. was fifty; by 1888 there were a thousand and in 1905, ten thousand. The Sheffield Association alone had forty clubs in 1880. Many of these early clubs owed a great deal to the public schools, or former public school pupils and teachers, but by the 1880's this dominance had given way to teams established through churches and chapels, workplaces and public houses.

The Forest Club in Epping Forest had been founded by some Old Harrovians in 1859-60, out of which came the Wanderers. They won the first F.A. Cup Final in 1872 and went on to win it a further four times by 1878. The Old Etonians appeared in six finals, winning the Cup twice, in 1879 and 1882; the Old Carthusians won it in 1881. Oxford University were in four finals, winning the one in 1874. The defeat of the Old Etonians by Blackburn Olympic in 1883 ended the era of public school domination: the artisans had beaten the aristocrats. But they had helped to establish the game and though they tended to be exclusive clubs of respectable gentlemen, such as the Sheffield Club, formed in 1857 from former pupils of Sheffield Collegiate, they did stimulate the foundation of other clubs in their locality.



Harrow School XI, 1867

from a 'Pictorial History of Soccer' by Dennis Signay, pub. Hamlyn 1969

It should not be underestimated how important school teachers were in expanding the game in the 1870's and 1880's. The most Northern English team represented in the first F.A. Cup competition in 1871 was Donington Grammar School, near Spalding in Lincolnshire. They became

involved through the enthusiasm of teachers and former pupils. However, their contribution was unspectacular. After a bye in the first round, they were drawn away to Queens Park in Glasgow but never fulfilled the fixture because of the long travelling distance. (The school still exists and so do the Old Doningtonians. I began my teaching career there and played for the team. To mark the Centenary of the F.A. Cup, I was involved in organising the "replay" of the Donington-v-Queens Park game at Hampden. A team made up of "old boys" were beaten on May 13th., 1972, 6-0, but what a memorable experience it was for all of us. We had television, radio and national newspaper coverage, and the Queens Park club, which kindly invited us to their annual dinner and dance that evening, treated us as if we were Celtic or Rangers, such was their hospitality.)

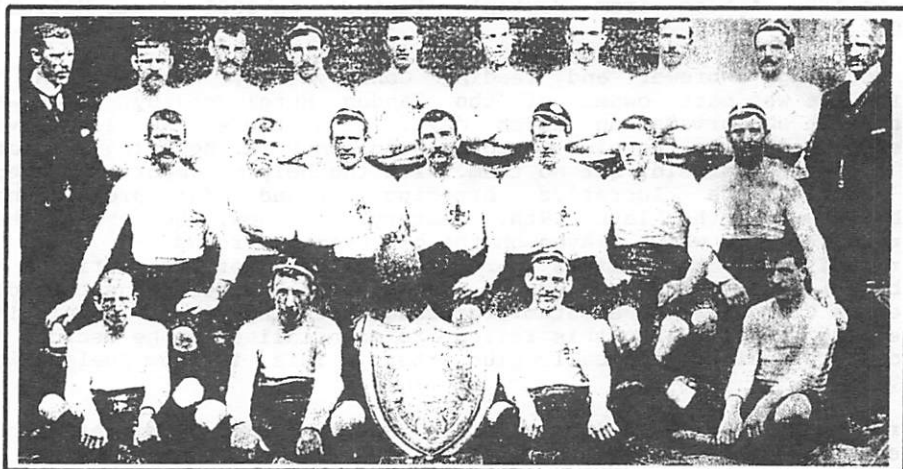


The Cup-winning Blackburn Rovers side of 1884
from 'The peoples game' by James Walvin, pub. Mainstream pub. co. 1994

Other grammar schools were instrumental in starting football clubs. Former pupils at Blackburn Grammar School formed a club in 1874 which became Blackburn Rovers. Old boys of Wyggston School established Leicester Fosse in 1884 and this became Leicester City in 1919. Chester Football Club came out of King's School in 1884. Droop Street School, London, (1885) was responsible for Queens Park Rangers. The setting up of the first national system of education, due to the work of Bradford M.P., W.E. Forster, and the 1870 Education Act, not only led to compulsory schooling, but also to a concern for the physical welfare of children. In the expanding number of schools, football was seen as an important part of this and teachers also saw it as a way of developing boy's loyalty to the school. The increase in Teacher Training Colleges meant that they started their own teams. Sunderland A.F.C. was initiated by the Sunderland and District Teachers' Association A.F.C. (1879). In 1897 teachers in Northampton formed the Elementary Schools Athletic Association which became Northampton Town. One of the results of all this was to encourage the playing and watching of football amongst the working classes.

It has been estimated that up to the First World War, probably 25% of

organised football clubs playing regularly were from churches, chapels and Sunday Schools. Football was seen as having moral as well as physical value, and it was one way of attracting the younger generation into church. Aston Villa began life in Aston Villa Wesleyan Chapel at Lozells in Birmingham (1874). Birmingham City was formed from Small Heath Alliance, organised by Trinity Church (1875). Everton began as St. Domingo's Church Sunday School in 1878, and Blackpool came out of an earlier team at St. John's Church. St. Andrews Sunday School, West Kennington, organised a team in 1880 which became Fulham. Burnley Y.M.C.A. started playing football in 1882 out of which the Football League side originated. The Young Men's Association at St. Mary's Church, Southampton, formed a team in 1885 and became Southampton A.F.C. in 1897. Boys from St. Luke's Church, Blackenhall, started a team in 1877 and this became Wolverhampton Wanderers. Both Swindon and Barnsley were connected with religious institutions. Scholars and teachers at Christ Church Schools, Bolton, founded a club with the vicar as President and one of the school masters as captain. But when the vicar objected to them holding their meetings in Christ Church schools when he wasn't there, they changed their name to Bolton Wanderers. These professional clubs are only a very small minority of the thousands of teams founded in the 1870's and 1880's from church organisations, especially in the North West and Midlands.



The very first Northern Union Championship in the season 1895-6 was won by the Bradford club Manningham (above); but within a few years falling attendances had caused it to abandon rugby for association football which it henceforth played as Bradford City F.C. (from 'The Peoples Game: The Official History of Rugby League, 1895-1995, by Geoffrey Moorhouse, pub. Hodder & Stoughton, 1995.

As is the case today, many football clubs were linked with public houses. They were ideal because some had fields at the back and they could provide facilities for changing and refreshments afterwards. Heeley F.C. had its headquarters at the Wagon and Horses, Sheffield, in the 1860's and 1870's; Everton's first few seasons were at the Queen's Head in Everton village; Newton Heath, later Manchester United, changed at the Three Crowns in Oldham Road in the 1880's, and then moved to the Shears Hotel; Blackburn Rovers used the Bay Horse Hotel as its headquarters. Publicans encouraged the development of football because it brought in trade. During the 1880's results were often telegraphed to pubs and posted on a board for locals to see. When Blackburn Olympic were in the F.A. Cup Final of 1883, telegrams giving the latest score were displayed every few minutes in the Cotton Tree Inn. With the growth of professionalism and the founding of the Football League in the 1880's, some leading players were appointed as landlords.

It was in the workplaces that many teams originated. In the 1870's, works' teams were playing regularly in Sheffield and Birmingham. They provided facilities and playing fields. With the formation of the Football League in 1888, players were found jobs in local industries. If a particular firm was linked with a football club, it brought valuable publicity and helped forge an identity in the local community. Some of the clubs were set up and run by the workforce themselves. Arsenal came about through workmen at the Woolwich Arsenal in 1886, and the present name was adopted in 1914. West Ham began as Thames Ironworks in 1895 as part of several social activities provided for the employees. The management also had an ulterior motive because there had been serious industrial problems in the Thames shipyards and it was thought that a football team might lead to improved industrial relations. In 1863 workmen on the North Staffordshire Railway organised a team which became Stoke City. Railway workers in Crewe formed a football team in 1877 which met at the Alexandra Hotel: hence Crewe Alexandra. It was workmen on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway who started Newton Heath, which became Manchester United in 1902. They played in a green and yellow strip which was readopted as one of their many shirts last season. Singer's cycle factory established Singer's F.C. in 1883 and this went on to become Coventry City in 1898. A team from Morton's factory in 1885 became Millwall A.F.C.

John Houlding, a brewer and leading Conservative, was President of Everton. He was part owner of the Sandon Hotel nearby, which was packed with supporters on match days. Then there was a row over increased rents, so the club moved to Goodison Park. Houlding was left with a ground, Anfield, but no team. With the help of imported players from Scotland, a lucrative breeding ground for professional footballers in the late 19th. century, as now, he established Liverpool A.F.C., which played on the old Everton ground. Other individual capitalists were responsible for the origin of Football League clubs. H.A. Mears, a London builder, bought London Athletics Club's ground at Stamford Bridge with the view to developing or selling the site, but this failed to materialise, so he decided to build a professional football club there. This is how Chelsea was born.

Several clubs originated from existing sporting clubs. Cricket clubs, for example, wanted something to do in winter so they turned to football. Derby County was an offshoot of the County Cricket Club in 1884; Sheffield United was formed from members of Yorkshire County Cricket Club in 1889; Preston Cricket Club started a football team in 1881 which became Preston North End; Sheffield Wednesday came out of the Sheffield Wednesday Cricket Club in 1867; and Tottenham developed from Hotspur Cricket Club in 1882.

Bradford City came into existence from a rugby league club, Manningham R.F.C., in 1903. They had won the first Northern Union Championship in the 1895-6 season, but the Committee argued they were losing too much money as the game was waning in popularity. There was no League soccer club in West Yorkshire, yet the game was popular in Bradford schools. There was a promise of Second Division status if a team could be formed and the Committee was eager to get in before Leeds could come forward with a rival scheme. Despite a good deal of opposition at the Manningham Club's Annual General Meeting, a resolution that football, not rugby, should be played at Valley Parade for the next twelve months, was carried by 73 votes to 34. This turned out to be a profitable move for the club. Bradford City took their place in the Second Division, alongside such teams as Manchester United, Woolwich Arsenal, Preston, Burnley and Bolton. Their first game was a 2-0

defeat at Grimsby, on September 1st. The following Saturday they played their first fixture at Valley Parade against Gainsborough Trinity, which they also lost, 3-1. The first player to score a goal at Valley Parade in that match was Guy. They notched up their first home victory the week after against Burton United, 2-0, with the goals coming from McMillan and Forrest. In their first season in the Football League, 1903-4, they finished tenth. At the end of the 1907-8 season, they had won the Second Division Championship, and then went on to win the F.A. Cup in 1911.

Bradford Park Avenue also originated out of a rugby club in 1907. Inspired by the success of Bradford City, and the interest shown in Leeds City, Bradford Rugby Club decided to switch to soccer. They were admitted into the Football League, after playing in the Southern League, in 1908, despite opposition from various quarters, including Bradford City.



Bradford City receiving the FA Cup 1911
(pub. unknown)

By the outbreak of World War I in 1914, football was flourishing as a working class sport, with teams throughout the country. There was nowhere keener than the North of England where teams had originated for a variety of reasons. (Doncaster Rovers had been formed specifically to play a game against the Yorkshire Institute for the Deaf in 1879; Middlesbrough began following a tripe supper at the Corporation Hotel in 1876.) Most of our professional sides have long histories and throughout this century they have provided millions of fans with pleasure and despair. Unfortunately, some of these teams no longer exist as Football League sides, though their places have been taken by relatively new clubs. Perhaps we can say that, as we approach the 21st. century, football is at the cross roads and there are those clubs which will struggle to survive. Commercialisation and media domination may take the game away from the people, but, hopefully, in the future, we shall still be able to talk about football as "this glorious game".

RICHMOND IN SECRET IRISH FRANCHISE DEAL ?

Following his continued concern regarding home attendances, is the following trans-Atlantic cutting, evidence of Sir Geoffrey gazumping Sam Hamman & the Wombles to a Dublin base?

or

STAPLETON SOLVES COMMUTING PROBLEMS !

Nice to see Frank finally putting a Cheshire Cat smile on 'er indoors, following his problems travelling to and from the Closet Terriers Stadium at Valley Parade and most recently Loftus Road, Shepherds Bush!

Wonder if he'll still go home for his dinner?

USA TODAY • THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1996 • 9C

Soccer: Frank Stapleton, a former Ireland national team center forward who played with Arsenal and Manchester United in the 1970s and '80s, today will be named coach of the New England Revolution, the 10th and final coach to be announced for Major League Soccer. He was coach for Bradford City (Ireland) in the early 1990s.

Michael Forrest (Kendal)



Hull City's new mascot was proving somewhat troublesome.

CLUB AND GROUND FACTS BURNLEY F.C. COMPILED BY JIM PARK

Ground Capacity Pre development 21,000; if the Longside comes down a projected 15,000 has been guaranteed by the Board

Home seating/terracing Pre D 7,000/ 12,000. Reduced to 7,000/7,000 in development phase.

Away Seating/terracing Pre D 180/3,000 but the terracing accommodation will be lost for away fans when developments are in progress.

Seating/standing prices £9.50/£7

Location Take junction 18 off the M62 and travel north up the M66 for 12 miles. Take the A682 into Rawtenstall (for easier route through Burnley) and follow 'o'er t' tops'. After 5 miles you'll find yourself descending a steep hill (Manchester Road) into Burnley. Take the third road off the roundabout 3/4 of the way downhill (you can see the ground quite clearly at this point). Again take the third road off the roundabout at the bottom of the hill and in two shakes you'll be on Brunshaw Road.

Car Parking Parking is available, £1, on the Fulledege rec. Turn right at the first set of lights on Brunshaw Road then left at the first lights you come to. Go 100-200 yards then turn right for Fulledege rec.

Ground Development The Boards plans and communications over ground developments are about as clear as mud. At the time of writing no decision has been made over whether to go ahead with the developments. One bit of gossip says the Longside is going to come down in September, another bit of gossip says it will be November. Meanwhile one Burnley fanzine has produced a Longsider commemorative special issue but the others cancelled their effort. £2million is sitting in the Clubs coffers wondering if it will be called off the subs bench to influence the outcome of events. If the Longside does come down then it's bad news for away fans planning to bring a travelling army of more than 200 'cos you won't get tickets. Well not unless you know someone locally who's prepared to get you into the uncovered Bee Hole End.

Programme £1.50, 48 pages, and last seasons efforts attracted quite a bit of critical acclaim from match day mag aficionados. Just hope they finally stop printing that dreadful ^{Burnley} Are Back .

Refreshments Usual unimaginative fare but the meatless potato pies (90p) does have its admirers.

Boozers The pubs along the Yorkshire Street/ Brunshaw Road stretch are a bit dodgy and you're likely to be refused admission in away colours. On Manchester Road the Mechanics Bar does a range of real ales, and 3 of the Church Street pubs: Waggon and Horses, Sparrow Hawk and Talbot Hotel are quite friendly. Alternatively stop on the outskirts of town.

The Home Crowd Loves to hate Blackburn Rovers, sometimes the game is of secondary importance to seeing how quickly they can get through their anthology of anti Bastard Rovers chants. No Nay Never is by far the most popular and the only chant that regularly gets the whole hearted tuneeful treatment, most others sound a shade embarrassing to listen to. The Um Bah Bah celebrations after scoring are good fun though.

Players To Watch Steve Davis if he's still here and providing he doesn't score another o.g. Adrian Randall when he's on song is a revelation.

Young Prospects Wayne Dowell and Chris Brass broke into the first team but refused to sign contracts, so they could be at Torquay this season. John Mullin has been knocking on the first team door for a couple of seasons and is also subject of transfer speculation.

Fanzines Well there's us who in a previous incarnation were known as **Marlon's Gloves**, but now re born as **For Ever And A Day** price £1, we'll be doing 6 issues of 40+ pages this season (give or take). **No Nay Never** price £1 is the longest running Burnley fanzine 32/36 pages but it's become a bit irregular. The **Claret Flag** at 60p is the smallest of fanzines on offer, whilst **Who Ate All The Pies?** is the most regular managing an issue every 3 weeks (and it also costs £1)

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AVENUE'S RETURN TO BOROUGH PARK RAISES THE QUESTION:

WORKINGTON AFC - A JOKE OR AN ACHIEVEMENT?

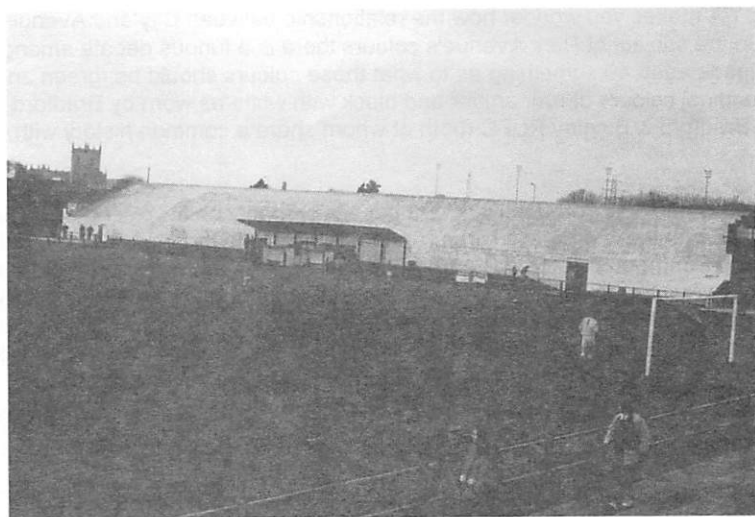
The promotion of the reformed Bradford Park Avenue AFC to the First Division of the Unibond (Northern Premier) League has brought the return of a once common fixture - for this season at least. In only their 8th campaign since reforming Avenue now find themselves at the same competitive level as a former League club. Although Avenue have met Accrington Stanley on two recent occasions in the FA Cup the visit to Workington was the first made by Avenue to the original ground of an (original) former League club since reforming in 1988.

Workington AFC failed to gain re-election to the 4th Division at the same time as City were celebrating promotion under Bobby Kennedy to the Third. That season City achieved a double over the 'Reds' and it came as no real surprise when they were thrown out of the League on their fourth successive re-election attempt. In 1976 and 1977 Workington finished bottom of the League and in 1977 managed only 4 League wins. Quite frankly Workington were regarded as a joke. However it was only when I visited Borough Park for the first time on 20 January, 1996 that I realised how that assessment 20 years earlier was possibly a little unfair.

In 1991 the population of Workington was 27,581. Compare this to the population of Bradford (280,691), Batley (42,572) or even Keighley (57,451) and you begin to appreciate that Workington survived 26 seasons in the League against all the odds. In fact Workington is the smallest town in England to have hosted League football and arguably, the most remote town also. Average crowds of around 1,000 during the Reds final years in the League were in actual fact more respectable than the support at Valley Parade. Consider also that Workington's League record between 1951 and 1977 was not much worse than that of City or Avenue!

Since becoming a non-league club Workington have sunk. They originally declined membership of the Vauxhall Conference on the basis of travel costs and have subsequently been relegated from the Premier Division of the Northern Premier League. Whereas professional players would move to Workington there has been no money to attract decent players to the club and team choice has therefore been limited to the local talent. Gates have plummeted to around 200 and the cycle of decline has become almost inevitable. Needless to say Workington languish in the lower reaches of what is effectively a third division of non-League football. Compare the fortunes of Workington since 1977 with those of Wimbledon, the club elected to the League in their place...

It is now difficult to believe that there were League fixtures at Borough Park. The old grandstand was dismantled in 1987 although the changing and bar facilities remain. The height of the floodlights which once graced Old Trafford has been drastically reduced. Impressive however is the condition of the terraces - far better than those at the Valley Parade of 1985 for example. Around 30 seats have been installed on the covered popular terrace and the covered terrace behind the town end goal remains. The pitch is in decent condition but the ground is a ghost of its former status. Next door to Borough Park is a decrepid greyhound stadium although I understand that the nearby RL ground at Derwent Park has enjoyed some degree of refurbishment to its own modest facilities. Workington Town RLFC were originally based at Borough Park before they moved across the road to a home of their own. The obvious question is why the Reds could not pool their own meagre resources and move to Derwent Park (the stadium that was also once home to the Workington Comets speedway team).



I drove to Workington via Barrow (and the Sellafield Visitors Centre!). Holker Street, home of Barrow AFC is another former Football League and speedway stadium. Barrow lost their League status in 1972, making way for the then FA Cup giant killers Hereford United. The

ground is shabby and Guiseley supporters will tell you about the squash courts / sports 'block' that stands behind one of the goals. At least the supermarkets that were built on other English football terraces in the 1980's were more pleasing to the eye. However the former wooden grandstand is currently being replaced with a new imposing grandstand. For the record Barrow are one level above Workington in the Unibond Premier and can boast of a successful visit to Wembley and spells in the Vauxhall Conference. Although Barrow have not enjoyed recent success they attract gates of around 1,000 + and managed to reach the First Round of the FA Cup in November last year.

The study of Workington's demise leads one to draw parallels with the experience of Bradford City and Park Avenue, despite the fact that as urban centres Workington and Bradford are poles apart. The recent publication of Pete Zemroch's alternative history of Bradford PA AFC, 1960 - 1974 entitled *Memoirs of an Old Yard Dog* (£5 + postage from the publishers of the *Wings of a Sparrow* Avenue fanzine) provides a very readable supporter's version of how things turned sour at Park Avenue. Page 6 includes reference to Avenue's friendly with the Czechoslovakia national side in October, 1961 - can you name any other fixture between a defunct football club and a now defunct state? Zemroch is hardly the most open-minded Avenue fan and he doesn't let the reader forget his bitterness towards Bradford City. It is not surprising to learn that he earns his pay as a statistician; the attention to detail that he displays about beer, buses, trains and Park Avenue is without precedent. Notwithstanding the fact, this tome (Bradford PA's own '*Fever Pitch*') should be added to the library of anyone interested in the history of professional sport in Bradford.

Let it be hoped that the small-minded rivalry that existed between City and Avenue supporters is now a thing of the past. At Valley Parade there is genuine goodwill among City fans towards the new Bradford Park Avenue AFC and more than a few follow the results of the other Bradford team. Indeed the number of former City players in the colours of Bradford PA makes you wonder how the relationship between City and Avenue will develop. On the subject of Park Avenue's colours there is a furious debate among the Avenue brigade aged 40 something as to what those colours should be: green and white or the club's original colours of red, amber and black with white as worn by Bradford Northern RLFC and Bradford & Bingley RUFC (both of whom share a common history with Bradford (PA) AFC).

Avenue lost the game at Borough Park, 2-3 but are probably better placed as a club than Workington to eventually progress higher up the non-League pyramid. Visits to old haunts at Barrow and Southport beckon if Bradford PA can achieve further promotions but whether it is realistic for Avenue to aspire to League status is another matter. At least they will be based in Bradford and will shortly move from Batley's RL ground to the Horsfall Stadium near Odsal. Only time will tell whether Bradford Park Avenue can realise the potential of being based in Bradford - it has to be better than being based beyond the hills in Workington!

John Dewhirst

A match report on the game can be accessed on the world wide web:

<http://www.legend.co.uk/citygent/avenue.html>

FOLLOWING on from Blackburn Rovers' mints, Geoff Evans of Darwen suggests that the champions should now market Blackburn Oxo cubes. "To make that perfect laughing stock."

APPARENTLY Reading's abewigged Bulgarian goalkeeper Boris Mikhailov got quite worried when the club told him they were signing Chris Woods as cover.



THE VOICE OF THE SOCCER

FAN IN THE STREET

Hello, and welcome once again to what must surely be the most enthusiastically sought out column in your little 'Seedy Gent' magazine. What topics to cover in my usual insightful and articulate contribution though?

Let us start with the stupidity and/or perversity of certain kit manufacturers. I draw, your attention to the current Arsenal kit. Now, along with their many other attributes, the Arsenal players are turned out in smart fashion with their shirts firmly tucked in their shorts, as indeed they should be. Why then have their kit suppliers decided to put the clubs name along the bottom few inches at the back of the shirt? One can only presume it is to encourage the scruffy adolescents one normally sees sporting Arsenal replica kits to adopt an even scruffier appearance by wearing their shirts un-tucked so passersby can see from behind that they are supporters of Arsenal. Not a desirable fashion I fear.

As regular readers will know I am a frequent viewer of the Italian Serie A football programme on Channel Four. (Not a channel I view regularly due to their insidious left wing bias.) I do so to see how far the Italians are progressing their aim of developing a more English style of play. I am always, as well, keen to see what footballing lessons the English who have condescended to move to Serie A are teaching their Italian hosts. (I do, however, fear that even the silky skills and flair of Paul Ince will be insufficient to save those perennial strugglers Inter Milan. I have, indeed, written to Roy Hodgson advising him to swoop upon the Premiership for English players of the calibre of Batty, Hughes and Stone to strengthen his side before it is too late.) However, I must say, my enjoyment of a recent match was seriously marred by the commentary, if such is the right word, of Don Howe. Now I am sure we all can admire his England football achievements but as a commentator he leaves a lot to be desired. During the particular match of which I speak he spent considerable time discussing the benefit of hats after first spending even longer commenting on how often footballers change their hairstyle and what strange hairstyles were chosen. He went as far as to suggest that a football manager's biggest worry was what strange new tenuous delight was going to be sported by their stars when they turn up for training in the morning. This sort of nonsense is clearly not acceptable and Channel Four must replace him with someone of a more articulate and insightful nature. Someone with lengthy journalistic experience as well would be the ideal candidate.

What a lot of unperceptive rubbish has been written about the effects of the so called 'Bosman Ruling', particularly the bleeding hearts wailing about the detriment to our little clubs. The effects can be only good for our top clubs and their endeavours to regain their rightful place as European top dogs. I am sure the average football fan would happily see the likes of Hull, Hartlepool and Halifax go to wall in exchange for the joy of seeing the likes of Manchester United, Arsenal or even Rangers conquer Europe.

TTFN Frank.

What was your funniest moment at Latics?

Ian Griffiths kicking the corner-flag instead of the ball whilst attempting to take a corner. Play was stopped whilst all the players and officials picked themselves up off the floor. Also hearing Bobby Campbell's voice for the first time.

**THE TEAM THAT BROUGHT YOU ALL THE OTHER GORN DOLLY QUOTES BRINGS YOU:
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Well, if they keep on producing dreadful film advertising posters we'll keep on mutilating them. Anyway on to the quotes:

"Wigan have got undersoil central heating."

"Brighton Bill, bugger off home, your cafe's on fire !"
'Or rather it will be at about nine o'clock tonight."

"Viv Richards didn't do much when he was manager at Barnsley."

"If we'd have used our caravan numbers we'd have won last weeks roll-over lottery."

"I was going to ring you up but I couldn't find your number."
"You wouldn't, I'm not on the phone."

"He's Richards' age, only younger."

"A hundred and ten thousand bloody pounds, he was rubbish right from the off."

"He didn't come on until the second half."
"Oh, well he was bloody rubbish as well."

"I've got a tenner on City to get promoted; I haven't said what year though."

.....AND FROM THE COMMENTATORS AND PUNDITS

"We keep kicking ourselves in the foot." Ray Wilkins

"An offside flag stops Collymore in his tracks."
Barry Davis as Collymore runs on past the goalkeeper.

"As Liverpool go looking for goal number three."
Barry Davis at a time when Liverpool are 2-1 down.

"A simple goal which he did to end a stylish move in style."
Barry Davis

"You know what they say - If you want to get away get a hat."
Don Howe

"They've got a get out of jail sign with Les Ferdinand."
Fat Ron

"The facts of reality are...." Terry Venables

"He stabs it to the second post...." Fat Ron

Don't Forget! SELF CONTAINED MALE/VOCALIST
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* CHRIS KAMARA: GREAT TO LISTEN TO, GREAT TO DANCE TO *

WES REID

Wesley Reid, spluttering over his coffee in McDonald's in Peckham, is in exactly the same boat. He too is 27, and is lucky to be in work, though his job with the employment service pays much less than when he played with Honor at Airdrieonians, which was then in the Scottish Premier Division.

This is the funny bit: both men are free agents, according to George Peat, Airdrie chairman, who in his defence refers to freedom of movement rules, whereby a player can join another club when his contract expires.

And if no other club is willing to meet Airdrie's valuation or risk a ruling in arbitration, binding in Scotland, unlike England, the player is powerless to play for anyone else. So much for being a free agent.

Reid, a strong-willed man, packed his bags and headed back to his mother's flat in south London. Millwall, one of his former clubs, wanted to take him on loan. Airdrie refused. Other non-league clubs, including Chesham and Fisher Athletic, enquired about Reid, whom they could have signed on a free transfer if he had left an English club. Dulwich Hamlet were told Airdrie wanted £100,000, although the figure Airdrie put on his head, now he's been more than a year out of the game, is £65,000.

A Scottish club which offers a player the same basic contract, as Airdrie did, and then pays them at that rate for 31 days after the existing contract elapses, retains the right to a transfer fee for that player even if he has refused to sign a new contract and even when, and this is the important bit, they stop paying him. Neat, eh?

Reid, signed from Bradford for £95,000, had been on approximately £33,000 a year, including signing-on fees. His basic, though, was £250 a week, plus bonuses, and it was this which he was offered if he would sign again. Reid could hardly believe it.

A couple of points to add (1) Airdrie felt they had a very good reason for their stand against Reid and Honor. (2) I believe City spent a considerable amount of money resurrecting Reid's injury shattered career. As soon as Reid re-established himself he 'jumped ship' after saying he'd stay at City. cutting from The Guardian, thanks to TEZ BURKE

He had a choice of joining either Rotherham or Bradford City — and chose City, for a fee of £20,000 in 1978, and was made captain. Despite linking up with ex-United colleagues David McNiven, Paul Reaney and Rod Johnson, Mick describes his time at City as "a nightmare." He nevertheless made 62 appearances for the club. He moved to Doncaster in 1980, Mick Bates sharing our recurring nightmare for a couple of years from the Yorkshire Evening Post

Other than that, other players in the Second Division that we would like to see here are few and far between. Paul Showler impressed twice for Bradford as did Steve Jones at Bournemouth, but Showler is one of the better players seen in a decidedly crap division. At least someone rates Paul Showler - from the Peterborough Effect fanzine



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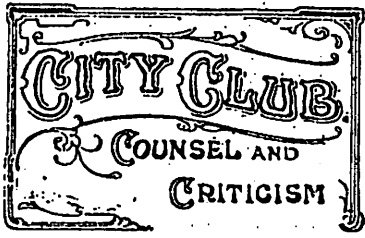
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COUNSEL AND CRITICISM

WARNING - Please remember the opinions and views expressed below are my own and unlikely to be held by anyone else.

BOLTON

We were well and truly dumped out of the FA Cup in this match. The omens were not good when Roy McFarland was sacked the Monday before the game. Another ex-City man did have the pleasure of returning to VP and, along with his 'shout and bawl' sidekick Ian Porterfield, has given Wanderers at least a temporary boost. Bolton are a Premiership side with fine footballers and they comprehensively beat City. It has to be said, however, that City displayed none of the form or cohesion that defeated Notts Forest. 'Informed' sources please note; City were not on Match of the Day. In fact none of the goals from City's three FA Cup ties this season featured on MOTD. Considering our opponents (and not forgetting ourselves as worthy of a mention) in the three ties, I find it absolutely scandalous that we were ignored by the BBC. The BBC makes great play over the 'history and traditions' of the FA Cup, whilst screening, it seems, the 'safest' and most unimaginative match it can. Their live match for the 3rd Round should have been Everton v Stockport.

BBC's glossy hard sell tarnishes Cup's lustre

Television does not care about sport, but sport cares too much about television. Perhaps we should have a campaign for real televised sport: for sport naked and unashamed.

There was one part of the FA Cup show that was good: the actual draw. The prospect of Cinderford Town v Aston Villa needs no recourse to Belgian Garage.

from The Times (thanks to Derek Pickles)

But look here, BBC person, I already like the FA Cup, and so does everybody else who likes football. Every time you mention the Magic of the Cup, the Cup loses a little more magic. So please have the goodness to shut up.

Thus the great error. Sport gets dressed up again and again in the tawdry finery of showbusiness. Sport is entertainment, we are told, and so it is. But sport is entertaining because the struggle is real. Sport, unlike show-business, does not depend on illusion.

MORE ON THE BBC AND THE FA CUP

My tirade against the BBC's FA Cup coverage continues. Match of the Day on 6th January showed highlights from the Plymouth v Coventry game and then insulted the Home Park club by displaying the Sky Blues line-up first. What an insult! Mind you Coventry are a Premiership club. Then idiot commentator Tony Gubba comes out with this gem. "... the weather we've been warned about comes absolutely sweeping across this little ground." Home Park little? In fact Plymouth's ground capacity is only 4,000 below Highfield Roads. And why ever did the

BBC allow (ha, ha) John Motson back on our screens? Didn't he (ha, ha) crack-up or something? The pressure (ha, ha) was getting too much. Why not loosen the reigns on Radio Five-Live's Jon Champion? Lets see if he still wears those old sports jackets and corduroy trousers he used to wear when he worked at for employers (British Library) He's done a few commentaries and interviews for MOTD, but we still haven't seen Jon's chubby face. (Jon did a short article for us when he was still a lowly Radio York reporter - see CG #6) I suggest the faceless individuals behind the scenes at MOTD etc. get their collective fingers out and give football supporters some decent and informed coverage instead of the garbage they've been serving this season. The BBC should raise its standards before it starts moaning about SKY taking over our sports coverage. After missing it the first time I have, however, thoroughly enjoyed watching the repeats of 'Knowing Me, Knowing You ... With Alan Partridge'. This character is so amusingly spot-on and accurate - well done the BBC!

BRIGHTON

City gubbed once again. Whilst City did exert tremendous pressure in the second-half, I thought CK's analysis of the game, talking to the Pulse, was somewhat misleading. The fact is that Brighton had by far the most clearcut chances in this game and had they taken the three 'one-on-ones' with Gavin Ward they would have easily rattled-up six goals. The breakaway goals they scored reminded me of the Bristol Rovers game. Once again the linesman was on the receiving end of the N&P's wrath. This was hard on the linesman, as he could not be faulted for the way City's defence was carved open with a couple of neat passes and nimble Brighton forwards prepared to run with the ball. This kind of counter-attack is very difficult for a home side to defend against and central-defenders are often left floundering as we've seen many time at VP over the years.

THE 20+ GOALSCORER QUESTION

"Never in all my years ..." Sorry, I'll start again. As mentioned before, the "20+ goalscorer" issue is proving a contentious one. It is THE talking point of the season. I offer a few points. Paul Barnes had a quiet game against us on Boxing Day. He didn't really get a kick, and was the subject of derision from the City support. A month later and Shaun Goater failed to find the net against City at Millmoor. Again a couple of his efforts on goal were mockingly acknowledged by the travelling fans. OK, they both might score hat-tricks in the return games, but how much patience would City fans have with these two players if either arrived at VP billed as '20+ goalscorer'? Expectations would be high and they play numerous matches without scoring.

I've heard one supporter say that we will never get promoted as long as Neil Tolson is in the side. I do not agree. He has not let the side down and has played well when given the chance. He cannot be expected to score every game and there is absolutely no chance of a striking 'partnership' forming when there are five or six players being continually rotated for the striking position(s). Tolly's in the team for a couple of games, then dropped, misses a game and then he's on as a sub., then is on at the start and subbed, misses a game and so on. I believe a Stallard-Tolson striking partnership should be given more than just one game to develop. How about an extended run together for these two strikers?

PLEASE NOTE - The letter concerning Greenfield Stadium which appeared on page 14 of CITY GENT #61 was submitted by Derek Pickles. Apologies to Derek for omitting his name - JLW.

STICKS

Ian Ormondroyd as attracted his usual 'stick', but when he was dropped in January the Pulse was buzzing with callers demanding his reinstatement. I bet Ian didn't know he had so many fans! I hope these people were arguing their case in November and December, for example. I have always rated Ian as a player and defended his ability via this column in his first spell at City. After he left us to join Villa the much maligned Graham Taylor played Ian on the left-wing with considerable success. On Ian's return to VP there was discussion amongst supporters as to where he would play. To date, as we know, Ian has been used as a central striker. To move to, possibly, his best role would mean dropping Paul Showler, a player who's totally justified, in my opinion, his inclusion in the team this season. It should be remembered, also, that Paul was not a first choice player at the start of the season. I must also add that during the pre-season I stated on several occasions that Showls would figure prominently this season provided he stayed clear of injury and to date this has proved to be the case. Had Paul not been a regular I would have no hesitation in handing Sticks the no.11 shirt.

CREWE

The Railwaymen arrived at VP and displayed the pure football for which they have become well known. It was only in the last few minutes, 2-1 down, there was any hint of a boot upfield. There's numerous errors, especially being caught in possession, but they just pick up the ball and start all over again. The emphasis is on trying to keep the ball and if it means working it backwards, forwards and across the back-four it doesn't matter. If you have possession there's always the opportunity to create an opening. Whatever is said about City's fighting second-half performance, Crewe should have won this match. Only poor finishing and good keeping by Wardy prevented them winning. It can be frustrating watching a team play the way Crewe do. In fact the support at VP would not allow City to play like that. Should City even bother to try and play football based on possession and passing? I definitely do believe this is the way forward, but I feel I may be in the minority amongst City's support.

The fact that City did beat Crewe with an improved performance in the second-half is all credit to the players. I did not think the players got any help from the small VP crowd in the first-half. When the team were trying to defend, they should have been upfield. When Crewe launched an attacking move, where were the defenders? Well perhaps they'd ventured upfield and were trying to "get some men up." Why are our players being continually urged to chase lost causes? If other supporters want a team who run around the field at top speed like headless chickens that's OK for them, but I don't. I'm fed up with listening to supporters urging City's midfield players to charge upto the oppositions corner-flag just to 'tackle' a full-back who has received a throw from his keeper. This kind reckless charging around simply wastes energy and disrupts the team. Everyone should know how important it is for a team to perform as a team and is there one manager in the League who doesn't talk about his team keeping its 'shape'? Some supporters just don't seem to be able to see beyond 'tackling'. Players are screamed at by hysterical fans when they don't 'tackle', even though the opposing player is being forced wide or simply allowed to run across the field, causing no danger to our goal. At least a player on his feet has the chance to make the important tackle or interception. I can see the sense in the way the managers and players think on this subject - as this seems to include just about every manager in the Premiership and Endsleigh League.

ENGLAND INTERNATIONALS

Why are the FA obsessed with playing all England's internationals at Wembley? The FA has now started fretting because Wembley will be receiving a facelift and they may not be able to play certain games there. It seems Wembley Stadium PLC has the FA round it's little finger. All it has to do is ask for money and our friends at Lancaster Gate duly oblige. In my opinion England games staged at the decrepit Wembley Stadium should be kept to a minimum. Most of the internationals should do the rounds of Old Trafford; St James Park; Villa Park; Goodison Park; Anfield and LS11. If we can have a stadium capable of staging international matches in Bradford, so much the better.

QUICK SHOTS

After hearing that a Scottish linesman is considering taking the Scottish FA to court after being demoted, I wonder if Barnsley ever thought of suing referee George Cain following their FA Cup defeat at Oldham? The Oakwell club were very unhappy and after watching the 'penalty' that Cain awarded, when Halle went down after no contact

SOCCER: 'Scandalous decision' dashes Barnsley's hopes

Wilson fumes over penalty knockout

and within three yards of the ref, I think they would be quite justified. One cannot question Cain's integrity as he doesn't have any.

Next time you're shouting slogans like "We are playing at HOME Kamara!" when City are failing to attack at VP stop and think. Just remember how lucky we are to have CK as manager. After all he did turn down the chance to become a manager of a national team (Sierra Leone) and we should be grateful he pledged his immediate future with City.

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Bill and Chris Arnold

I occasionally obtain away programmes from the Shop or Ken to post on to Phil Jenkinson in Oz. I bought the Stockport v City programme and was quite surprised with the size, content and information it contained. Apparently the programme won a couple of awards last season and one can see why. It's very good value at £1.50 - and yes I did notice it contained a review of CITY GENT.

It should be no surprise that the football pundits and media are drooling over that "new" defender they've discovered. City fans knew that Dean Richards was a brilliant player eighteen months ago and a player with his ability was almost certain to succeed.

I also notice that Phil Babb has become one of the new breed of sophisticated football 'trendies'. The mission in life for these super-rich young men is to portray to their adoring public that they are 'thinking' footballers. They like the usual trappings - several fast cars, stately home, super model(s) etc. - but are keen to let us know they like attending the theatre, art galleries, specialised cinema, country pursuits, serious reading, french cuisine and so on. In fact anything which helps divorce them from the image of the average footballer.

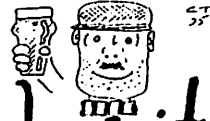
WARNING (I'm not talking about City here - someone always takes it the wrong way) Beware of stewards with headphones! There is increasing evidence that football stewards who wear these high-tech contraptions about their head are in fact aliens from a distant planet. Their function on earth is to remove fans from inside football stadia or accost them outside a ground on the pretext of infringing some obscure bye-law. eg. loitering for more than two seconds on the edge of a pavement. Obviously there is a more sinister reason for the actions of these beings who, outwardly at least, still appear human. A small band of scientists, dedicated to saving the human race, are working tirelessly to discover and counter their evil intentions. In the meantime, creatures wearing headphones should be treated with the same caution as, say, a body snatcher - seen the film?

Liburds doing alright now isn't he? I thought he was playing well. No, he's not playing well ... he's doing alright. You mean he can never play well? He might, I suppose, play well at some time in the future. So you would acknowledge that he was playing well? Erm, well, I'd probably say he was doing alright. So, in effect, you saying he's doing "alright" means Liburd is playing well? Erm, well maybe, but y'know ... can't really say he's playing well can I? Why? Well ... got to go in the pub haven't I ... and stand on the Kop. "He's doing alright" must mean Richard Liburd is playing well! (18.2.96.)

You can tell Mark Stallard is new to the club. If he screws a shot hopelessly wide of the goal, it's greeted with cries of "Hard luck son!" from the VP faithful. CK's view that Stockport played Dick Turpin and committed highway robbery when they won at City was way off target. He made similar comments after the Brighton game - were we at the same matches? Once again I would appeal to Stuart McCall to stay clear of City - except as a welcome and honoured guest. After listening to Pulse Talkcrap on 24th February it's obvious that the Gilberts, Freds, Toms and Bobs of the airwaves are sharpening their knives anticipating the arrival of our much loved hero. Stuart should beware of their patronage. Whats happened to the T&A's 'showpiece' City v Liverpool game? No date yet.

JOHN WATMOUGH

'E' BLOCK



Ernie Blockelthwaite

BLETHERS ON...

Aye oup, did tha miss us last issue like ? (Or wor tha 'opin' Ah'd buggedged off fo' good, eh ?) It wor fault o' yon editor tha knaws. Theeare Ah wor wi umpteen 'undred words o' wisdom on t' reign o' Lennie Lawrence an' Ah rings 'im as ter when 'e wants copy (as we in t' trade knaws it). "Sorry, Ernie." 'e says, "This issue is full and to be honest all this debate about Lawrence will probably be old hat by the next one." Ah weean't offend tha bi repeatin' ear bashin' Ah gi'e 'im but as tha can guess Ah wor rey't stalled an' telled 'im so.

Oonyroad, what does tha think o' headin' thing like ? Editor asks us fo' a photo (as t' other owd lad 'ad) but Ah says Ah take nowt o' a likeness so 'e's not getten' owt o' t' socart. Oonyroad next thing Ah knaws is some young un 'as done a quick sketch o' us an' it's stuck on wi mi last column.

One o' t' young lads that's allus yammerin' away near mi seat in E Block takes a look in their copy o' t' Gent an' shouts across:

"Hey Ernie he's made tha look 10 years younger. 'Ow much did tha pay 'im, hey ?" Then rest all gi'e wi laughin'.

"Less o' tha lip," Ah telled 'im, "Or Ah come across an' claht tha proper wi mi stick."

Place is full o' young ruffians these days an' no mistake.

It wor same ones what tried ter be humourous wi' me at oam ter Norwich. Ah wor just commentin' t' owd Norman as 'ow we allus seem ter be playin' bleedin' Norwich an' one 'o t' cheeky buggers 'ollers across: "Aye, I bet you were sick after you saw City lose to 'em during World War One." Ha, ha. "Tak thi' 'ook !", Ah gi'es 'im back but then bleedin' budgies scores which dampened banter some.

Ah'll 'ave all tha know Ah can remember first trip ter Valley Parade clear as day. Settrda afooare Christmas, 1926, agen Manchester City. Some poor lass 'ad just jumped off Thornton Viaduct, Chinese wer attackin' British troops an' miners wer mostly back a'ter strike.

Ah wor sat at 'oam readin' Yorkshire Observer Budget Christmas Special which ahr Aunie Betty 'ad brung rahnd ter keep us quiet while 'er an' mi Mother yammered in t' parlour. Ah'd just got ter t' Dumpy Dwarves an' Father sticks 'is 'ead rahnd dooar an' says as 'ow 'e's off ter Fred's ter 'elp 'im wi' 'is buildin' a model steam engine (made o' owd Ogden's Navy Shag tins) as allus o' a Settrda. Mother says as 'ow 'e can take me an' all. Father says nay lass, or summat, an' a big 'ow dayado breaks out which mi Father loses due ter mi auntie Betty joinin' in on mi Mother's side. Father goes ter sulk in t' yard an' as Ah wor gettin' ready Ah 'ears mi Mother says as 'ow Fred's Ethel says as 'ow 'e aint been rahd fo' weeks an' this'll stop 'is gi'en it one wi' fliberty-gibbet widow Rickman at nummer ten.

When we're in t' gimmel at end o' t' rooad Ah asks Father what all this means like. 'E goes a funny colour an' says as 'ow we're goin' ter share a secret, especially from Mother. 'E aint been bahn Fred's, 'e's been bahn Valley Parade ter support t' Paraders (as they wer allus knawn in them days). Mother mustn't find aht or 'e'll be skinned alive fo' wastin' brass.

'E goes on ter say as 'ow 'e won t' brass in T&A Football Skill Competition (predict t' outcome o' 12 local football an' rugby matches fo' 15 quid prize), an' 'e aint told Mother or she 'ave 'ad it off 'im ter buy summat new fo' t' 'ahse.

Oonyrooad, it wor reyt excitin' stridin' along Mannigham Lane wi rest o' City supporters, queuin' ter get in ter grund an' makin' ahr way dahn front so as 'ow Ah could see. (None o' that passin' kids ovver 'eeads bollocks on t' City kop, plenty o' room ter walk abaht, though Father said it wor biggest throng fo' months.)

'E were a bit afeared afooare match as City 'adn't won in ten games an' we 'ad three players makin' a debut, includin' goalie Lennie Boot. ("Boot it aht Boot !", they kept shoutin' at 'im durin' match. Tha dooant get terrace wit like that these days does tha !) But match wor a reyt ding-dong affair wi City's spirit, skill an' persistence (tha dooant write that much) more than a' match fo' fancy footwork an' drivin' forrard o' Manchester lot. In t' end it wor 4-3 ter City. We could 'ave won bi more but Boot made a mullock o' things a couple o' times which let them score. City fans wer so chuffed at t' end o' match some ran on ter t' pitch an' carried Richardson, t' captain, off shoulder high ter dressin' rooms. Father wor pretty suited an' all an' went off t' some slotchin' 'oil on t' end o' Cornwall Terrace ter celebrate.

Ah wor left outside wi some sasperella alongside a few other kids an' we 'ad a kick abaht wi a can 'til fathers stegged aht an' took us off 'oam. It 'ad gotten a bit thin an' a reyt parky wind 'ad blown up an' Ah wor fair nithered bi time we got 'oam. Fortunate fo' Father mi Mother wor aht workin' but left us some jock on t' range, which cheered 'im up even more. He then says 'as 'ow Ah wor City's lucky charm an' that Ah wor goin' ter next match agen Wolverhampton Wanderers. Then ter cap day 'e lets us sleep in t' plate warmer ovver t' range, snug as a bug in a rug Ah wor. (An' tha dooant get treats like that these days !) So theeare, mi first trip t' Valley Parade.

In case tha's interested City lost away t' Wolverhampton 7-2 on Christmas day an' 2-1 at 'oam Munda a'ter. (City wer bloody dismal, Father said words Ah 'adn't 'eard afooare an' then bruised 'is 'and punchin' side o' a numner 42 tram.) At end o' season City wer relegated from Division Two ter Division Three North. (They lost last match at Manchester City 8 bloody 0.) Despite this Ah wor 'ooked an' Ah've been comin' 'ivver since. Strange i'n't it ?

Mind 'avin' said all this Ah'll be buggered if Ah dooant 'ave mi twopennyworth on Lawrence an' all that so 'ere goes.

All Ah'll say on Lawrence is that 'is sackin' wor a reyt queer do. According ter ahr Elsie's Robert's girlfriend (Tricia or summat modern same as that), what goes aht suppin wi one o' t' players misses, Lawrence wor actually at t' press conference ter announce Kamara takin' ovver 'is job. An' 'e wor 'angin' aroound grund fo' days a'terwards. In t' old days City knawed 'ow ter sack a Manager proper. All 'is belongin's in t' ash can rahnd back o' t' Burlington Terrace an' a couple o' big 'alf backs ter chuck 'im on t' first tram aht o' town along Mannigham Lane. As Ah says, summat strange goin' on theeare.

All else Ah'll say on Lawrence is that Ah'm still a bit evvy-seyvey abaht whether sahtern softie should 'ave bin gi'en boit at all. 'E'd got a side together that laiked football in a way that gi'e all us summat t' chunter abaht; an' that's 'alf o' t' point o' comin' dahn t' Valley Parade. (An' they can go t' blazes wi' that poncey Pulse Stadium bollocks !)

On t' otherhand that bloody stoopid grin o' 'is wor reyt narking an' as fo' 'is excuses fo' defeat, Ah've nivver 'eard such gaumless jubberin' in all mi days. Still tha mun seeuit thissen as ter 'ow tha takes it all.

But what, tha'll be askin' thissens, does Ah think o' t' new manager, young Kamara. Well, Ah nivver judge blade bi t' haft so Ah've gi'en it up ter Shrewsbury away ter make comment. (Talking abaht Shrewsbury, what a bloody daft name fo' a football ground, Gay Meadow. Typical o' t' Welsh borders. Tha' dooan't get proper northern football clubs wi' silly ground names: Real uns not bloody sponsors. Tha couldn't see Liverpool playin' at Jollyfield or Newcastle at St Cheerful's Park could tha.) Oonyroad, after careful consideration Ah'm afeared all Ah can say is 'es not worth a band's end. 'Avin' seen 'im laik Ah bethowt missen as 'ow side wer bahn ter laik in same fashion: Like a proper old City style: Plenty o' robust tacklin' and takin' no prisoners in t' midfield, defenders who'd kick any bugger that looked like gettin' past 'em inter t' stand an' forrards in t' Bronco Layne an' Johnny McCole style. An' what 'ave we got. 'Alf o' t' midfield are cahh-'earted when faced wi' opposition others traipse around pitch lookin' as though theys jiggered thersens dahn dance 'all previous night. Forrards are a reyt slack-set-up in front o' t' goal but defence is t' warst o' t' lot, bloody feckless. Sam Barkas could do a better job bi 'issen !

Well that's tha lot from me. See tha anon like.

One more for the Maine Road



OASIS has added another date at Manchester City's Maine Road ground on April 27, with

tickets going on sale in Manchester on February 26. There was some doubt over

the gig because Manchester City's reserve side had a game against Bradford City on Monday, April 22, the day that unloading the stage equipment was due to begin. Because Maine Road is a residential area, preparation work can only take place between 10am and 4pm and it was uncertain whether all the gear could be set up in time. It takes several days for all equipment to be put in place.

Bradford at first refused to move the fixture but, according to Maine Road's secretary Bernard Halford, the side has relented and will now play the fixture in March, giving Oasis a clear run on the two dates.

Tickets are £17.50 plus booking fee. The Oasis Freephone line is 0800 614595. Tickets are also available from the Maine Road ground, Manchester Piccadilly box office and Virgin Megastore. There is a limit of four tickets per applicant.

OI ! Bollocks to the so-called "Best British Group" ! I had tickets for that important reserve team match, and so have all those other devout City fans in the queue !

CITY GENT BRADFORD CITY PLAYER PROFILE



NAME Mark Stallard

PREVIOUS CAREER Derby County 1990-96.

POSITION WITH THE CLUB ? Striker.

ANY OTHER POSITIONS PLAYED OR WOULD LIKE TO PLAY ? Not really.

HIGHLIGHT OF CAREER SO FAR ? England Youth cap and scoring first goal (V Middlesborough ZDS Cup when I was 16, becoming youngest player to score for Derby).

AMBITION WITH BRADFORD CITY ? To get promotion into the First Division and then Premier League and to score a sackful of goals.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF TRAINING ? Shooting - being a striker.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAM OF ALL TIME & WHY ? Derby's team in the '80s because they were who I used to go and watch all the time.

PLAYER MOST ADMIRED & WHY ? Glenn Hoddle. He was so relaxed and skilful on the ball, his passing was superb and he scored spectacular goals.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE LAW OF THE GAME WHICH WOULD IT BE ? I wouldn't be against them making the goals bigger !

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE GAME IN GENERAL ? Change the people running the game ie FA and have younger ex-players to rule the game and make the changes.

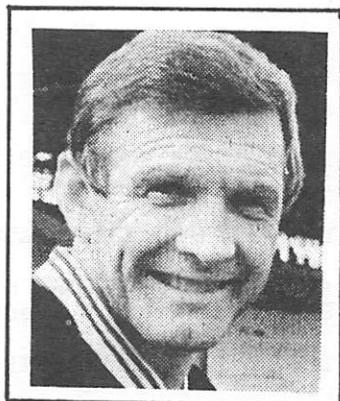
DO YOU STILL GO TO FOOTBALL MATCHES, IF SO WHICH ? Not really - like most players I don't enjoy watching as much.

AS A SPECTATOR, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL MATCH OF ALL TIME ? When Derby beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 in the 3rd round of the FA Cup in the early eighties.

DO YOU EVER BUY OR READ FOOTBALL FANZINES, 'WHEN SATURDAY COMES' OR ANY GENERAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE, IF SO WHICH ? I prefer reading other peoples after they've bought them !!

AND A 'SHOOT' SPECIAL, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL ? Lasagne and jacket potatoes.

CITY GENT
BRADFORD CITY
EX-
PLAYER PROFILE



NAME Alan Gilliver

CLUBS DURING PLAYING CAREER Huddersfield Town, Blackburn Rovers, Rotherham United, Brighton & Hove Albion, Lincoln City, Bradford City, Stockport County, Baltimore Comets (USA), Boston United, Gainsborough Trinity and Buxton.

CAREER SINCE RETIRING FROM PLAYING Brighouse Sports & Social Club and Bradford City FC.

WHICH POSITIONS HAVE YOU PLAYED WITH THE CLUB & WHICH WAS YOUR FAVOURITE ? Centre Forward. All the clubs were good.

WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR PLAYING CAREER ? Scoring hat-trick v Middlesborough in the first half while at Huddersfield Town.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UN-FULFILLED AMBITIONS FROM YOUR PLAYING DAYS ? No.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF TRAINING ? Shooting and heading practice. Five a side.

WHICH GOALS DO YOU REMEMBER SCORING FOR BRADFORD CITY AND WHICH GAVE YOU MOST PLEASURE ? I remember all of them and everyone gave pleasure.

WHICH FORMER TEAM MATE AT BRADFORD CITY DID YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE IN THE SIDE WHEN YOU WERE PLAYING AND WHY ? Gerry Ingram and Bobby Ham, both good pros.

WHO HAS BEEN THE OPPONENT YOU WOULD LEAST LIKED TO PLAY AGAINST AGAIN & WHY ? George Curtis (Hard man).

WHICH FOOTBALL GROUNDS DID YOU LEAST LIKE TO VISIT AS A PLAYER AND WHY ? Millwall, very hostile.

DID YOU HAVE YOU ANY PRE-MATCH SUPERSTITIONS OR ROUTINES ? Had a bath.

WHO OR WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REMEMBER MOST IN CONNECTION WITH BRADFORD CITY ? Spending many happy years here.

PLAYER MOST ADMIRER & WHY ? Bobby Charlton, oozed class.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAM OF ALL TIME AND WHY ?
Real Madrid in the sixties.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE LAW OF THE GAME WHICH WOULD IT BE ?
Offside.

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE GAME IN GENERAL ?
Full time referees.

DO YOU WATCH FOOTBALL MATCHES, IF SO WHICH ?
Bradford City.

AS A SPECTATOR, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL MATCH OF ALL TIME ?
Manchester United winning the European Cup.

WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN INTERESTS OUTSIDE FOOTBALL ?
Golf, all sport.

WHAT EVENTS ARE PLANNED FOR YOUR TESTIMONIAL YEAR ?
Golf Day, Race Night, Sportsman's Dinner, match v Blackburn Rovers.

DO YOU EVER BUY OR READ FOOTBALL FANZINES, 'WHEN SATURDAY COMES' OR ANY GENERAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE, IF SO WHICH ?
Read City Gent - don't buy it.

AND A 'SHOOT' SPECIAL, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL ?
Chicken.

Best wishes to Alan for a successful Testimonial Year from all here at City Gent Towers.

GILLIVER'S BACK — SCORING GOALS

FIVE years ago Alan Gilliver thought his soccer career was over.

Although he'd just been transferred from Huddersfield to Blackburn Rovers for £30,000, Alan's future looked bleak when he was told by a specialist that he ought to pack up the game.

He slipped a disc in his back and the injury was such that the Football League ordered Huddersfield to repay £12,000 of the fee received from Blackburn.

Says Gilliver: "I was out of the game for a good 18 months and I suppose at that stage I thought my days as a player were numbered.

"Nothing went right for a long time, but fortunately I never lost hope."

Now, at the age of 28, Alan Gilliver is still in the game and looking forward to another four or five years as a professional ... and going on to complete a century of goals.

He took only four minutes of this season to score for Bradford City — his sixth professional club — against Barnsley.

From SHOOT

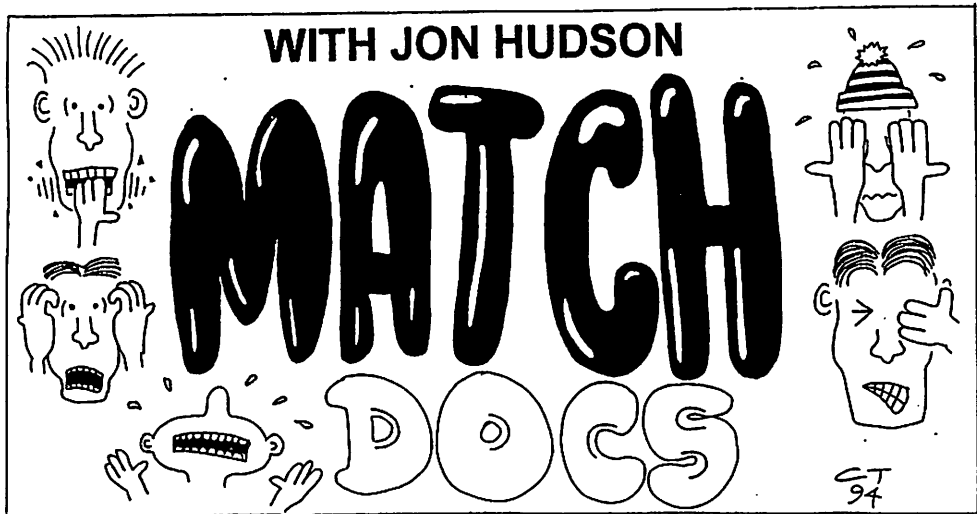
The ground, known to fans as Eden, is badly in need of renovation and the main stand, a red-painted wooden affair, would never pass Premiership safety regulations. The strict 'no smoking' signs at the back of the stand are accompanied by the eerie message, 'nezapomen na Bradford' — 'don't forget what happened at Bradford'. Wise words indeed.

The home of Czech side Slavia based in Prague. Lets hope they heed the message. spotted by Mark Neale. from GOAL

19th...

After eight years, fan Thomas Leleux finally completes his scarf collection. Thomas, 26, has travelled 18,000 miles and spent £5,000 collecting scarves from all 92 clubs in the English league. His favourite is Bradford City's brown and yellow striped number and he keeps them all pinned up in his bedroom "I've never had a girlfriend who complained about them," says Thomas. Never had a girlfriend more like..

a decent curry on the way home, an unmarked Ormondroyd headed Bradford's third. Yes, he is crap on the deck and he bears a striking resemblance to Rodney Trotter BUT he can head a ball so, pray tell lads, where was the marking?
3-1 down and the words 'oh' and 'shit' obviously entered a few heads because we started playing again. The Dreadlocked Destroyer blotted his copybook and made sure that sales of his TT t-shirt weren't going to soar with two poor misses before Frank obviously made a call to Karma Sutra solicitors (you had to be there but apparently they defend you in difficult positions!). from Forest fanzine The Tricky Tree



BRADFORD CITY 4 BURTON ALBION 3 (H) FA CUP 1ST ROUND
Saturday 11th November

With City getting drawn against a non-league side for the first time in ten years it was a better chance of progressing through to the second round for the first time in three. But as we know in football it is never as straight forward as that and City were given the fright of their lives as Burton came close to pulling off an FA Cup shock. The game started well enough and after a spirited start from the visitors City were soon in front after fifteen minutes when Paul Showler arrived at the far post to finish off Neil Tolson's cross. Showler doubled City's lead ten minutes later from a corner and City looked to be in firm control.

Two minutes later though, Burton were back in the game when the referee gave them a penalty which only he himself saw. The two goal lead was soon restored, fortunately. A hurried clearance from the Burton keeper saw the ball cannon off Gary Robson's arse and into the net. The goal should have put City back in control but, again, this is Bradford City we are talking about and it's never as simple as that, as we all know.

Two more Burton goals before half time changed the outlook of the game. The first a header from Darren Stride after a great cross from the right. The second, a tap in, when Gavin Ward failed to hold a shot from distance. Half time couldn't have come quickly enough for City. The second half started angrily with a few bad tackles that saw three Burton players booked. City never got on top of their game and at times were in danger of going behind; none more so than on the hour when Gavin Ward's mis-clearance left the goal empty and the snap shot on goal came back off the bar to save Ward's blushes.

The game looked to be grinding out to a draw and Burton at least deserved a replay. But, just when the plans were being made for a return trip (via the breweries) City got the winner. Two minutes were left when Paul Showler's corner was stabbed home by Ormondroyd much to the joy of the majority in the paltry 4,920 crowd.

The goal saved an embarrassment for City and maybe Lennie Lawrence's job. City are in the next round, but they were lucky. A friend asked at three o'clock if Burton had any famous players. I replied, "No, but they will have tomorrow". I was nearly right.

BRADFORD CITY 1 HULL CITY 1 (H) Saturday 18th November

Yet another dour performance at Valley Parade. Most sides who are at the bottom of the league who go away from home to sides near the top usually go home pointless. Not at Bradford. In fact even though Hull went home with a point they deserved three as they were the best of a bad pair.

It's hard to believe that it is the same team that started the season so well because on the strength of this display, August seems a long time ago. From a side who were attractive to watch they have gone to a dour, dull and lacklustre shambles.

The first half passed slowly. Both sides struggled to put more than two passes together, but, is anyone looked likely to score it was the away side. They did, five minutes before the break and it was a case of 'here we go again'.

The second half wasn't much better. City almost equalised after fifty five minutes when Ormondroyd hit the bar from close range. Soon after that the game started to turn nasty with a string of bookings, mainly Hull players; it was only a matter of time before someone was sent off. Hull should have increased their lead. They had a shot cleared off the line and then they hit the bar with the keeper stranded on the floor.

It looked like City were never going to score but ten minutes from time Neil Grayston's cross found substitute Craig Midgely in the box who headed home his first senior goal.

There was still time for more controversy. Two minutes from time, following an incident with Gary Robson after the ball had gone Chris Lee was sent off; hence more arguments, mainly from former City thug, sorry, player Greg Abbott, until John Fords hands had a word with his throat. Then a brawl in the Hull goalmouth involving most of the players ended a bad tempered second half.

Yet again City left the field to boos and calls for the Managers head. The game was poor and without incident, until the final quarter. If the game had started as it ended then maybe the atmosphere would have been better. City should have won and it seems the majority of supporters would like to see the manager go.

Although at the time of writing City are only two points off the play-off positions, they are not playing like a side who are looking for promotion. At the moment they are playing like a run of the mill side who finish in mid-table and class this as an achievement. Lawrence has had over £2m spent since he arrived. Is he buying the wrong players or are his tactics wrong? The money has been spent and it will be difficult to get it back. If it is the latter can it be sorted out please Mr Lawrence, before it is too late.

Man Of The Match Gary Robson

BRADFORD CITY 1 BRENTFORD 2 (A) Saturday 25th November

At last he has gone, finally. It's no surprise after this awful performance. The only surprise is it hasn't come sooner. City's last two games have been against sides in the bottom four. One point has been taken and that wasn't deserved.

Again it was a tale of wasted chances as City wasted four in the first five minutes. Then in the sixth minute Brentford scored with their first attempt on goal, as usual. Ten minutes later Brentford got their second. Defensive suicide again. City managed to hold out to half time which started the chants of 'Lawrence Out' and other things along that line. The only people who seemed to be on Lawrence's side were the London Branch of the supporters club. I'm not saying their opinion is wrong but if they had to put up with this sort of shite week in week out then maybe they would share the opinion of the majority.

The second half wasn't much better. City created a few chances but

never really threatened anything and Brentford looked comfortable with their two goal lead. Five minutes from the end and City got a goal back from a Shaun Murray free kick which sparked them to life and, like at Carlisle last month, they laid siege on Brentford's goal, but this time it was to no avail. City had lost to another poor side and the fans went home wondering how much longer did Lawrence have. Thankfully it wasn't much.

BRADFORD CITY 2 PRESTON NORTH END 1 (H) FA Cup 2nd Round 2nd December

Chris Kamara gets his management career off with a win, a close one in the end, but with better finishing it would have been easier than it was. City started brightly and could have scored twice in the first ten minutes through Carl Shutt, in his first game back from injury but he shot high both times.

City controlled the opening quarter and looked stronger going forward but it was Preston who came close to scoring first when Andy Saville grazed the crossbar on the half hour. City were starting to lose their way after their bright start and just when Preston looked like they were going to threaten further City took the lead. A Tommy Wright cross from the right was flicked back on the by-line by Showler to Wayne Jacobs who scored his first goal of the season with a low drive into the corner to give City a 1-0 lead at half time.

The second half started like the first with City searching for another goal. Carl Shutt again went close when his twenty yard drive was well saved. Again just when Preston started to press forward City doubled their lead and again it was from the unlikely source of full back Wayne Jacobs. When Ian Ormondroyd beat the goalkeeper in the air for the ball Jacobs pounced on the loose ball before it had time to hit the floor as he hooked out a leg to flip the ball over his head into the top corner.

This should have put the result beyond doubt but just because we have a new manager it doesn't mean that things will be different. The second goal spurred Preston on more than it did City and only when they were two goals down did they start to play. They put pressure on the back line for most of the remainder of the match and although City didn't sit back they didn't really surge forward to put the game beyond doubt.

Preston got a goal back with fifteen minutes to go but apart from a disallowed goal two minutes from time they never looked like getting a replay out of the game. City won the game by taking their chances better and if Eddie Youds and Paul Showler had made better contact inside the box during the second half the game could have been easier for them.

Preston did have the majority of the pressure during the second half but it wasn't enough and City are in the third round for the first time in six seasons.

The display of the team was encouraging but it is going to take a few wins strung together and a bit of consistency going if Chris Kamara really is the man to lead us promotion. Let's wait and see.

Man Of The Match Wayne Jacobs.

BRADFORD CITY 1 BLACKPOOL 4 (A) Saturday 16th December

Chris Kamara has certainly got his work cut out if he is going to revive City's season. After two successive, if not jittery, wins City came back to earth with a bump. It's hard to believe that this is the side that has been beaten three times by City already this season. City never really competed and in the end were thoroughly beaten.

The writing was on the wall early on when Blackpool scored after fifteen minutes. With the defence static, Ellis's header across goal came off the bar and the ball fell loose to the un-marked Andy Watson on the far post who headed the ball between defence and post.

Although City tried to get back in the game they never troubled the Blackpool back four with only Paul Jewell up front, and not much service to him, they ever looked likely to. The second half got worse as it went on. Blackpool doubled their lead on the hour when Ellis broke clear of the offside trap, beat off the challenge of Nicky Mohan, and put the ball into the empty goal. Soon after they went further in front with Andy Watson's second of the game which killed City off. Ian Ormondroyd and Neil Tolson were thrown on to try and salvage something. In a way they did when Paul Showler stabbed home Ormondroyd's cross on eighty three minutes but just in case you were wondering if City could stage a comeback Blackpool finished them off with a fourth goal a minute later which completed the rout. In the end City were beaten by a better side and they got what they deserved. If things don't get better soon this season could turn out to be a bigger disaster than last.

BRADFORD CITY 3 YORK CITY 0 (A) Tuesday 26th December

The performances may not be absolutely brilliant but the results of the last few weeks since Chris Kamara took over are a great improvement over the last few months. With four wins from the last five games City are now beginning to show the sort of consistency that saw them briefly at the top of the table in the early season.

There is still a lot of hard work to be done if City are going to push for promotion but if the attitude and determination are carried into the new year then the season might not be over just yet. There is still half a season to go but a lot of points have been dropped against sides which we should have beaten. So, for City to make a go for promotion victories are going to be needed against sides where a draw would seem a good result.

With York struggling in the lower half of the table nothing short of a victory would be enough. It was never going to be an easy game on a frozen hard pitch that was lucky not to fall to the weather and it was no surprise to see passes going astray from both sides as they struggled to find their feet.

City got their noses in front on twenty minutes when, from Paul Jewell being tripped in the box, Paul Showler stepped up to put his penalty high into the corner to score his fourteenth goal of the season. York weren't without their chances and Ward was called on twice to make saves from Barnes and Matthews before City's next chance, when Lee Duxbury saw his chip hit the bar.

With only one goal in the game it was going to take a second to calm the nerves as York were always a danger going forward. No more so than when, on fifty five minutes, Matthews shot over the bar with only Gavin Ward to beat. City got their second on seventy minutes when Jewell fed the ball into Lee Duxbury's path who prodded the ball into the far corner.

York never threatened after that and City were left to play out time. They weren't finished though and on ninety minutes Neil Tolson got the ball out wide to Showler whose pinpoint cross found Paul Jewell in the box to give City a comprehensive victory.

Overall City played well in difficult circumstances and, for the time being at least, the morale amongst supporters has been lifted but what the season is to bring is yet to be seen. City have been promising before and have failed to deliver so I suppose we are going to have to take one game at a time.

Man Of The Match Lee Duxbury

BRADFORD CITY 0 BOLTON WANDERERS 3 (H) Saturday 6th January FA Cup Third Round

Well, that's the FA Cup over with for another season. It's a shame

though, because if City had played with a bit of self-belief they may still have more than the league to concentrate on. Bolton weren't brilliant, with the exception of Serbian midfielder Sasa Curcic, and if City had played with more confidence Bolton could have had a more difficult afternoon than they did.

The nearest City came all afternoon was early on when Lee Duxbury's drive went just wide and after that a goal never looked like coming. They paid Bolton too much respect and accepted they were second best and played with an attitude of "let's see how it goes". Bolton finally got their goal on forty minutes when a corner wasn't cleared and John McGinley found enough space to smash the ball past Gavin Ward. Carl Shutt was brought on for Neil Tolson at half-time to try and change things up front but five minutes in and Bolton got their second through the inspirational Curcic. The game was put beyond doubt fifteen minutes later when Curcic got his second and Bolton's third. Ian Ormondroyd was thrown up front but he too failed to make an impression and in the end it was a case of too many players having a bad day. They did look interested but were lacking self belief. Why I don't know, because on their day City have proved that they are a match for the best. Today wasn't their day. As expected a large crowd turned out, 10,265, the best of the season. Obviously a lot of part-timers turned up and as usual a lot left the ground when the third goal went in, with twenty five minutes left. See you at the next big game tossers.

BRADFORD CITY 2 STOCKPORT COUNTY 1 (A) Wednesday 10th January

There is a wave of optimism going round Valley Parade at the moment. City are playing their best football for some time and although performances are not exactly 100% the results over the last six weeks speak for themselves. With the exception of the 4-1 defeat at Blackpool before Christmas, which manager Chris Kamara accepted full responsibility for instead of making excuses like his predecessor, the results since he took over have now put City into the top six. If, come May, City are not there then they will only have themselves to blame. They have the players and resources to be the best in the league.

Stockport is never an easy place to go to get a result but if you are aiming for promotion you need results at places like Edgely Park. After letting themselves down against Bolton on Saturday City needed to bounce back quickly and confidently and they did themselves no harm at all when Paul Jewell put them one up after five minutes. Wayne Jacob's long ball forward was knocked down into Jewell's path and he gave City the lead from the edge of the box.

City didn't sit on their lead and continued to attack. A second goal would make it easier and they were rewarded on twenty minutes when Carl Shutt intercepted a back pass and, as he had taken the ball too wide, Richard Huxford was available at the far post to put the ball into the empty goal.

Stockport started to get back into the game and pulled a goal back before half-time. City were fortunate not to go in at half-time on level terms. Gavin Ward had to push a header onto the post and then Alun Armstrong shot wide with only Gavin Ward to beat.

The second half saw a more rugged display from City and Stockport were left to shoot from distance. Gavin Ward had to push two efforts over in two minutes early on but that was as close as they got, until the final few minutes when Ward was called on again to save from close range.

City were under a lot of pressure in the second half but the defence never really struggled. David Brightwell had a good game as did Lee Duxbury who was all over the field but Gavin Ward won my man of the match vote with a string of great saves that kept the points for City. Overall the result is encouraging and things at the moment are looking

promising. Too many times we have seen complacent performances after results like this and if Brighton are not beaten on Saturday then this result will count for nothing. Surely we can't bollocks things up every time, can we ?

BRADFORD CITY 0 ROTHERHAM UNITED 2 (A) Tuesday 23rd January

I would like to thank all the playing staff at Bradford City for making me look a complete and total prat. Since my last report two weeks ago, an away win at Stockport which put City in the top six, things haven't been exactly as rosy as I was predicting them to be. Just when it looked as though the corner had been turned City go and lose three consecutive games to sides which they should have beaten. But, as usual, the consistency isn't kept and all the progress made from the three wins now count for nothing.

This game was certainly a game of two halves. The first half City played Rotherham off the park and did everything but score. Mark Stallard had two chances in the first five minutes. The second forced a great save from the Rotherham keeper but maybe he should have done better with the first which fell straight into the keeper's hands. He wasn't the only one who was guilty of missing chances. Shaun Murray and Eddie Youds could also have done better and too often City were trying to walk the ball over the line instead of shooting when they had the chance.

For all their pressure City deserved a goal and if a couple of chances had been taken the points would have been theirs. But as half-time was nil-nil Rotherham had a hope for the second half.

In the end Rotherham had more than a hope as City came out for the second half a shadow of what they had been in the first. They couldn't get into any rhythm and the more silly mistakes City made the more Rotherham started to get a grip on the game. The loss of Lee Duxbury with a recurrence of his groin injury didn't help and Rotherham took the lead soon after.

A needless foul from David Brightwell gave Rotherham a free kick and from the resulting cross Ian Breckin rose above the defence to head past Gavin Ward. Soon after Rotherham doubled their lead: Again through a free kick after Andy Kiwomya lunged in on the touch line and although he won the ball a foul was given for the lunge. The cross found Ward off his line and the ball flew over his head and in.

It was no more than City deserved after missing all their chances in the first half. Rotherham did have their keeper to thank for retaining their two goal lead after he saved from Carl Shutt and Neil Tolson near the end.

More hard work has to be done now to get the ball rolling again. Hopefully one day City will learn their lesson and kill games off early on when they have the chance. If not we probably haven't seen the last of this frustrating inconsistency.

BRADFORD CITY 2 CREWE ALEXANDRIA 1 (H) Wednesday 31st January

Whatever the outcome of this season the only thing that will be able to be said is that City were consistent at being inconsistent. After losing the last three games, two of them to relegation threatened sides, what right have City got to beat a side challenging at the top of the table ?

For the majority of the first half City were overrun by a confident Crewe side who, at times, had City chasing shadows as they passed the ball around quickly and efficiently. Even when City won possession their concentration was lacking and too many times the ball was either given away or passed into touch.

City began to get into it towards the end of the half. First Graham Mitchell rose to meet a corner and the resulting header beat the Crewe keeper but not the bar. Then Lee Duxbury did something that isn't seen

too often at Valley Parade: He shot from distance, which the keeper had to make two attempts to save. City had been lucky to go in at half-time on level terms because until the last ten minutes it had been backs to the wall as Crewe had threatened to walk away with it as City had done the previous week at Rotherham.

Just as the previous week the team who were under the cosh in the first half came out for the second half and reversed the roles. City could have had a goal in the first five minutes when Lee Duxbury got his head to a cross but couldn't make contact properly and the ball skimmed away past a post. Five minutes later Duxbury saw his close range volley from Showler's cross come back off the bar and for the first time in the game the Crewe defence looked shakey.

The goal when it came on sixty five minutes gave City their reward for all their possession and creativity as Nicky Mohan, who had almost gone off the field two minutes earlier, rose to meet Shaun Murray's free kick to head City into the lead.

City gave themselves a cushion ten minutes later as Carl Shutt got a deserved goal to double the lead. Paul Showler's cross went across the goal, the ball fell to Tommy Wright, on for Brightwell, whose perfect cross picked out Shutt in the middle.

Now most teams who go two up with ten minutes left shut up shop and hold on to their lead but for some reason, which has been a problem with City down the years, this isn't the case at Valley Parade. With six minutes left Crewe got a goal back through the big burly forward Adebola, who had been a constant threat all night, especially in the first half.

In the end Shutt's goal proved to be the winner and the victory puts City back into the play-off places. City cannot afford to lose many more games between now and the end of the season if they hope to stay there, maybe four or five more, that's all.

In a way it was more important to beat Crewe than Rotherham (although we should have beaten them). If the results had been reversed we would still be on forty points but ten points behind Crewe and not seven. We need to beat the teams around us especially as most have two or three games in hand.

Many players had a good game tonight: Gavin Ward in goal, Richard Liburd again! Nicky Mohan, Lee Duxbury and Shaun Murray battled well in midfield with Carl Shutt and Mark Stallard running all night up front. When all injuries and suspensions are considered it proves that City are capable of beating anyone in this division, whatever the personnel on the field.

Man Of The Match Shaun Murray

BRADFORD CITY 1 SHREWSBURY 1 (A) Saturday 3rd February

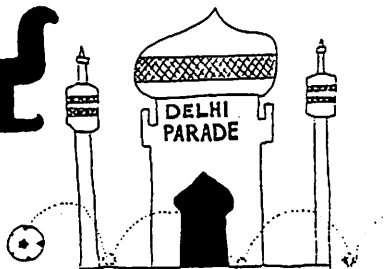
I suppose at the end of the day a point away at your play-off rivals isn't a bad result but when you consider how many points City have dropped this season, home and away, to sides who are not play-off rivals then it could be the case of two points dropped instead of one gained. City had their bright spells but, as is the story of the whole season, they didn't play consistently enough over the ninety minutes to take the three points. At times in the first half their defence was stretched but Alan Kernaghan slotted in well alongside Graham Mitchell and Shrewsbury never created a serious goalscoring chance.

City's best chance of the half came near the end when Liburd got forward to help the attack and received the ball on the edge of the box but his shot had too much lift and the ball flew over the top to keep the game goalless.

The second half saw Shrewsbury draw first blood and they took the lead just before the hour when a cross from the left was flicked onto Berkley on the edge of the box and his shot beat Gavin Ward to the post and they were one up. City were almost back in it five minutes

THE CITY GENT

CURRY GUIDE



THE EVERSHINE, MORLEY STREET

We'd lost at home to Stockport County and it was absolutely siling it down so it was a none to festive party arrived at the Evershine on Morley Street that night. The place was brightly lit and had a burger bar style of decor, which may attract some customers but wouldn't have dragged our band in off the street had we not already agreed to visit the place for this review.

Being early evening the place was relatively quiet and the waiter was with us in a matter of moments to hand out the menus. These disclosed a fairly average selection with the usual bhounas, dopiazas, biryanis and the like. We made our selection adding a round of poppadoms as an after thought. These arrived very quickly (and without cost we were advised by the waiter) along with the salads. The poppadoms were fine but I think overall we weren't too impressed with the salads.

Next in came the starters which for me was a pleasant surprise: my potato bhaji was not in the usual batter but just plain cooked with onions and chillis, just like my cook book by Attia Hosain and Sita Pasricha (sorry if I'm showing off). The two mushroom were the same but the onion did come in the usual batter. All came on rather pretty plates and all were described under the general term of nice. The portions for starters could not be described as small but neither could they be described as huge.

The main course portions, however, were definitely tending towards the large in all cases: Views as to their acceptability were not so uniform. Paul and Dave had meat and chicken masala respectively, in both cases they thought the meat was tender but the dish a bit too dry, overall fair. Melissa had a special gohsht which she thought too slaty, so not so good. (We told the waiter, who told the cook, who told the waiter to tell us it wasn't too much salt it was the powder he put in. What this was we didn't find out and I'm bugged if I can think what it could be, unless it was perhaps asafoetida.) I thought my keema and peas madras was fine, not brilliant but better than average, particularly as I love big marrowfat type peas. In terms of how hot madras curry's can be this was mild but I guessed as much when I was ordering so it was about as hot as I wanted. We all thought the chapattis (very hot and fluffy variety) were good though.

As I said before the portions were of a good size and I was the only one there greedy enough to finish my dish. I, therefore, had a taste of everyone else's and would agree with their comments. The cost, about £4 per head.

Overall I think had I found a restaurant of this quality on away trips to places like Hartlepool, Hull or Hereford I would have been pretty pleased. Unfortunately, probably for the owners as well, this is Bradford and we have the likes of the Karachi, Amir, Chand Balti House, Nawaabs and Sabraaj (to name but some) from which to chose so the Evershine probably won't be featuring in any of our future plans for dining out. I certainly

wouldn't advise you not to try the place if you feel so inclined and if the waiter you get was anything like as attentive as ours you'll be treated very well; just don't expect the food to be anything extraordinary.

Mr & Mrs Patak's Head of Sales Brother-in-Law

JON HUDSONS MATCHDOCS (continued)



CARL SHUTT TUSSLES FOR THE BALL AT GAY MEADOW

later when Graham Mitchell's header from Shaun Murray's corner was cleared off the line.

Thankfully Shrewsbury's defence has as many lapses in concentration as City have and when Showler broke down the left his cross found it's way to Shaun Murray at the far post and he equalised with a low shot into the corner. Both sides still had chances to win it. Gavin Ward was called on to save a header from substitute Lynch and then on the final whistle Paul Showler was inches away from connecting onto Jewell's cross to give City the points but in the end a draw was a fair result.

The game wasn't a classic but there have been worse. Kernaghan played well and could be a useful addition to the squad if the loan signing is made. Liburd's run of form is continuing and Lee Duxbury played well in midfield despite being unfit and welcome back Tommy Wright playing his first full game since injury. His runs down the wing have been missed. The Man Of The Match was Shaun Murray who worked hard at the back and created a lot up front and he fully deserved his first league goal of the season.

City are still in the play-off places after this result but with teams around us having games in hand City need to win the majority of the games we have left. It looks as if our old friend consistency is going to have to play a big part in the remainder of the season if the elusive play-off or even promotion position is to be achieved.

Thanks to Julian Toothill for providing the programme for the back cover

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — ONE PENNY

DARLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Councillor J. Banks.

DIRECTORS:

Chairman: Mr. J. B. Smith; Messrs. E. Black, R. H. Black, J. B. Haw, D. Jordan, J. Neasham, W. Nevett, T. Rodgers, J.P., J. L. Shepherd.

Team Manager: Mr. J. Surtees.

Hon. Secretary (pro tem): Mr. J. B. Smith.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NORTH SECTION).

SATURDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER, 1943

Darlington v. Bradford City

Referee: Mr. A. Meadows, Redcar.

Linesmen: Messrs. J. South and R. N. Porter.

TEAMS:

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

DARLINGTON

1—N. TAPKEN
(Manchester U.)

2—DOWEN
(Hull City)

3—TAYLOR
(Wolverhampton W.)

4—WHARTON
(Portsmouth)

5—KELLY

6—WRIGHT
(Manchester City)

7—SIMPSON

8—BROWN
(Brentford)

9—STOBBART
(Middlesbrough)

10—J. TOWERS

11—CHRISTIE
(Aberdeen)

11—CONROY
(Fulham)

10—SCRIMSHAW

9—STONE
(Sheffield United)

8—HARVEY

7—WALKER
(Doncaster R.)

6—LEWIN

5—BEARDSHAW

4—LINDLEY
(Everton)

3—WESTLAKE
(Sheffield Wed.)

2—GIBBONS
(Tranmere Rovers)

1—TEASDALE

BRADFORD CITY

Any change in the teams will be announced by board.

DARLINGTON'S FIXTURES.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NORTH).

AUGUST.		
28—Gateshead	.....away	3-4
SEPTEMBER.		
4—Gateshead	.....home	2-2
11—Middlesbrough	.....away	6-2
18—Middlesbrough	.....home	3-3
25—Bradford City	.....home	
OCTOBER.		
2—Bradford City	.....away	
9—Sunderland	.....home	
16—Sunderland	.....away	
23—York City	.....home	
30—York City	.....away	
NOVEMBER.		
6—Hartlepoons United	.....away	
13—Hartlepoons United	.....home	
20—Newcastle United	.....home	
27—Newcastle United	.....away	

DECEMBER.

4—Gateshead	.....away
11—Gateshead	.....home
18—Hartlepoons United	.....away
25—Hartlepoons United	.....home

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP (NORTH QUALIFYING COMPETITION).

DECEMBER.

27—Gateshead	.....home
JANUARY, 1944.	
1—Gateshead	.....away
8—Sunderland	.....home
14—Sunderland	.....away
22—Middlesbrough	.....away
29—Middlesbrough	.....home

FEBRUARY.

5—Hartlepoons United	.....away
12—Hartlepoons United	.....home
19—Newcastle United	.....away
26—Newcastle United	.....home