

Edghill slams the doom and gloom merchants!

Stand-in skipper
Richard Edghill
believes the Blues can
afford to lose another
three or four games
and still win
promotion to the
Premiership at the end
of the season.

And statistics from recent years back up his argument.

Last season, Division One runners-up Bradford City were automatically promoted, despite losing eleven League games, the same number as play-off winners Watford.

In 1997-98, runnersup Middlesbrough lost nine and play-off victors Charlton ten.

And in 1996-97, second placed Barnsley lost ten while Wembley winners Crystal Palace still went up, despite failing to pick up a point in 13 of their 46 matches!

Going into today's game, City stand second in the table with six defeats, including, of course, the last three.

But Richard, who has deputised for injured captain Andy Morrison for the last seven weeks, remains 100 per cent positive and has a message for the doom and gloom merchants who reckon the Blues are rocking.

"That's absolute rubbish," he boomed. "We know we have played some of the best teams in the League and played well against them.

"Yes we have lost our

last three League games but we should have got something out of both the Huddersfield and Stockport matches.

"Against Huddersfield, we played well enough to get a result but they took the points with the only goal, which was a good one.

"Then against
Stockport bad decisions
by a linesman and the
referee cost us a point.
First the linesman
flagged for their late
penalty and then the
referee accepted his view
when it was clear the
marks were actually
outside the box.

"Watch it again on video and judge for yourself but it is selfevident

"However there is no getting away from the fact that we have lost three in succession but that is not a disaster. To go up in this League, which is so competitive, you can look at maybe losing nine or ten games over the course of a season.

"I'm positive we can still do it. We've just got to knuckle down and get back to the things we were doing at the start of the campaign.

"Again, some have said we have struggled in other games and have been lucky to scrape some results. I would argue that in the majority of those matches maybe we did not play too well in the first half, but we turned things around in the second to justify a

result. A big factor in that is our overall fitness.

"Again, I have heard talk that we raise our game against the top teams but will struggle against the lesser sides.

"All I can say is that we are a lot better side than we were 12 months ago, we are in a lot healthier position than we were this time last year and all the lads are confident we can gain further success."

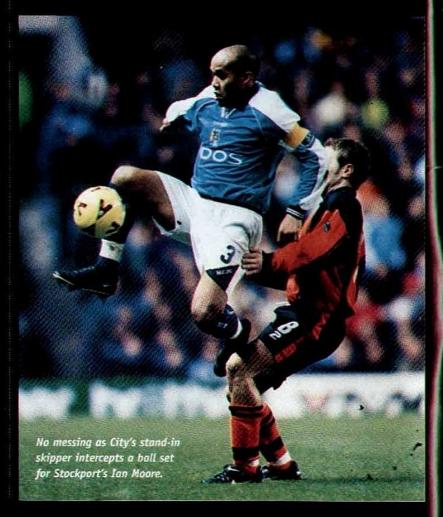
The 25-year-old defender, City's longest serving player, helped put the Blues on the road to cup success at Chester City last Sunday. His delightful cross in the 79th minute was met perfectly by Ian Bishop to put City 2-1 in front.

"We were a little bit tense before that game, which was understandable in the circumstances," he said. "It was a relief when the second goal went in because our fans were starting to get a bit restless and a replay was looking possible.

"The move was something we have worked on in training, Jeff (Whitley) provided the diversion, I swung it in and Bish produced a good header.

"Chester provided us with a good chance to get back to winnings ways, score a few goals and get our confidence up.

"I'm hoping now we can have a cup run. In all my years at Maine Road, I think the furthest we have been in the FA Cup was the sixth round when Tottenham came here. I didn't play in that game and unfortunately it is remembered for all the wrong reasons. It would be nice to have a really good run this season."



Now bring on Leeds!

Jamie Pollock for one is eagerly looking forward to the visit of the Premiership pacesetters next month in arguably the tie of the FA Cup fourth round.

It's a toughie for sure but as the back-to-form midfielder points out, there are no easy ties in the Cup.

"Whoever you get it's going to be a battle and sometimes it is the little clubs who prove to be banana skins," he said.

"Look at my old club Middlesbrough. Who would have thought they would have lost at Wrexham, or that Burnley would have won at Derby?

"After we negotiated Chester all we could hope for was a home tie and we've got it. Whoever it was, they were assured of a difficult game at Maine Road.

"Leeds will test how far we have progressed this season and I think the belief in the changing-room is that we can progress into further rounds and even go all the way.

"Okay, perhaps we have not been as convincing of late as in past games, but as of this morning we are second in the First Division and still in the FA Cup with everything to play for in the second half of this season."

Jamie admitted, however, that there were one or two anxious moments provided by the Nationwide League bottom club at the Deva Stadium.

"The final scoreline possibly flattered us a little bit but it was always going to be a potentially tricky tie," he said.

"With us pushing forward at 1-1 there was always the risk they might sneak up and have a chance or two but we were always confident we could step up a gear.

"We kept passing and probing and obviously once we got the second goal we had a bit of a cushion, things opened up a bit more and they tired.

"And what a goal to put us back in front -Bish with a header! I've never seen him do that in training, in fact, I've never even seen him head a goal on video before.

"But it was a brilliant finish from Richard's (Edghill) cross and it was great for him to score a goal like that. Bish is a great lad and someone the younger lads like myself can learn a lot from!

"Fair play to Chester, though, they kept at it and made it a tough 90 minutes. Sometimes in games like that you can't gauge your own performance. The most important thing is that your name is in the draw for the next round and we had to be satisfied with that on a weekend when several top clubs tripped up.

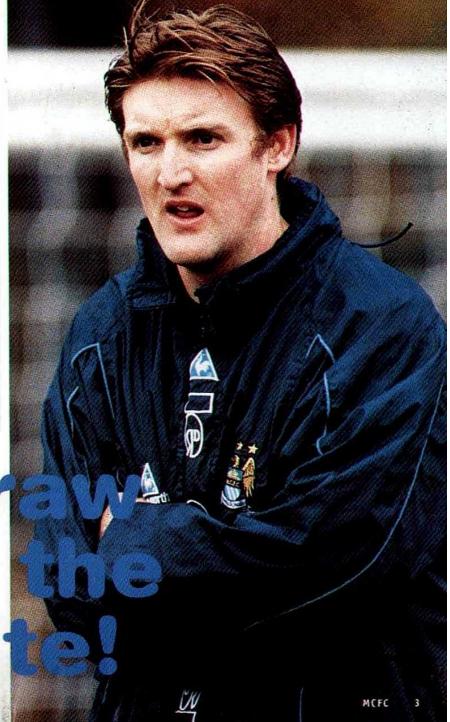
"For my part, I was just pleased to be picked to start the game. As I've said before, the start of the season was a nightmare for me but I was determined to keep my head down, keep working and get back into the team.

"Now I just want to get in a run of games to enable me to get matchfitter and then I'll be able to do more with the ball."

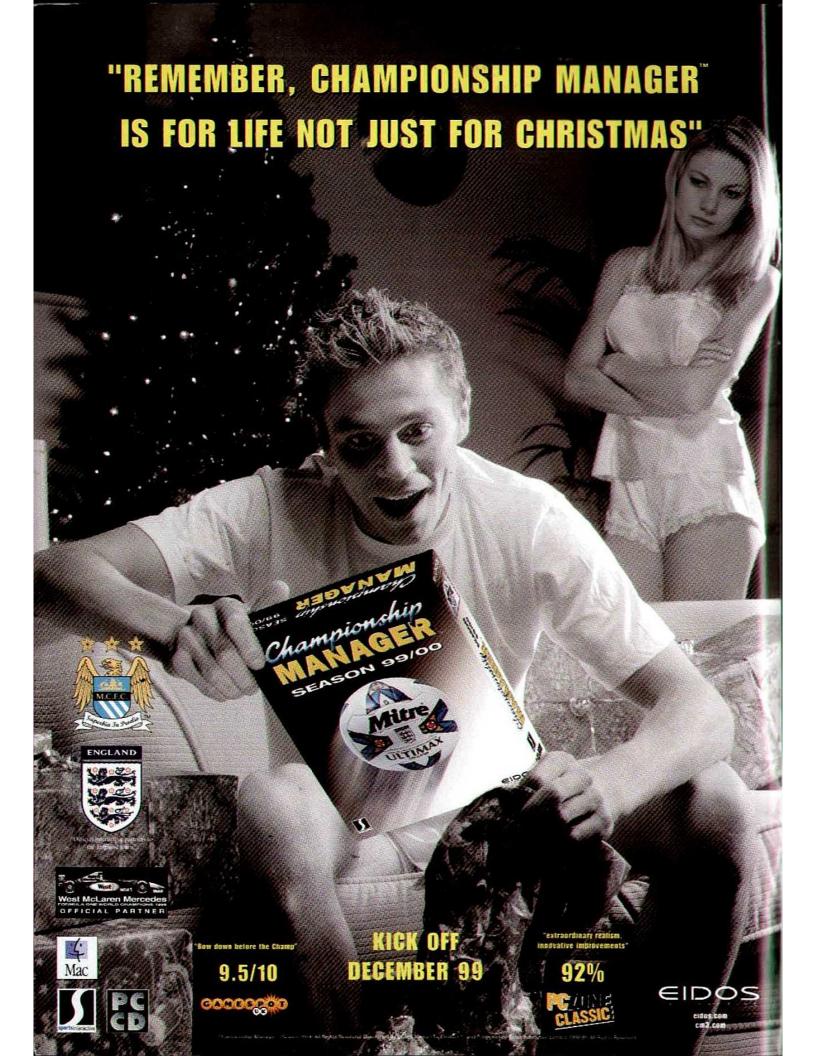
Jamie went on: "It's

good for the club that there is ferocious competition, first to get into this City team and then to stay there.

"The other terrific factor is the desire by everyone to play for the club. The players' spirit is magnificent, even after the recent defeats, and we are all determined to get back to winning ways in the League with the next batch of important matches coming up."



Cup drawhets appetic



Our FA Cup win at Chester and a great home draw against high-flying Leeds in the fourth round was just what we needed after our wobble in the League.

But getting back on track in the First Division is the absolute priority and we could go back to the top today, if results go our way. The most important one, of course, is our own.

I am convinced that our defeats by Wolves, Huddersfield and Stockport represent no more than a wobble. We have had one, I wouldn't deny it. We have to make sure it was no more than that.

Although, collectively, we had a bad day at the office against Wolves, we played well enough to win the two games at Maine Road.

In fact, I would argue we played better in those matches than in winning 4-1 at Chester in the FA Cup.

So it is vital that we don't allow ourselves to be distracted by the FA Cup and that we make sure there are no slip-ups against Swindon this afternoon.

Swindon are a club locked in a battle to avoid the drop. They are fighting for their lives and showed their spirit in the cup game at Charlton last week. We have had a look at that game and Swindon were a bit unlucky to lose by the odd goal in three.

We had to kick-off at one o'clock at Chester and only a limited number of our supporters were able to go to the Deva Stadium. So it is a great fillip to have Leeds coming to Maine Road in the fourth round and to have the tie televised live.

People ask me if an FA Cup run is a pleasant diversion from League football or an unwanted distraction. My answer is that it all depends on whether you pick up injuries or suspension in the cup. If you do, it is a pain in the backside.



I have seen both sides of how a cup run can affect a club. When I was manager at Oldham we had a famous double cup run one season, in the League Cup and the FA Cup, but it side-tracked our promotion campaign.

Conversely, when I was in charge at Everton, our run to Wembley in 1995 actually went hand in hand with our battle against relegation and we won both.

I have always said that the cup is for the fans - especially the FA Cup. There is nothing like it to generate interest and excitement. Everybody is buzzing about the forthcoming tie against Leeds.

In the past twelve months or so we have come up against other Premiership sides in cup ties, like Derby, Wimbledon and Southampton, and have acquitted ourselves well without actually getting the result.

There were some shocks in the FA Cup last weekend which tended to show that there are probably three divisions within the Premiership and if clubs like Derby, Middlesbrough and West Ham are in the second part, Leeds are very definitely right at the top.

So, make no mistake, we will go into the tie very much the underdogs. Win or lose, it will be a great test of the progress we have made.

The third round tie at Chester was always going to be a tricky one. And I admit the final scoreline flattered us. But I won't have it that we deserved anything less than a victory. We had enough chances to kill the tie before half-time.

All credit to Chester for the way they came back at us after they scored and turning in the kind of performance that, if repeated on a regular basis, would soon lift them out of trouble. We are used to teams raising their level of performance against us. Huddersfield and Stockport produced their best displays of the season at Maine Road.

I felt Stockport's winner came from a penalty that never was - on three counts. But refereeing decisions tend to even themselves out over the season.

On the injury front, it looks as though we will have to wait until the new year for Andy Morrison and it is fair to say we are missing his leadership more than anything. Paul Dickov is hoping for a reserve game this week and Jim Whitley is almost there again after his spell on the treatment table.

We have put Gareth Taylor on the transfer list because there are too many strikers in front of him now and his opportunities are going to be limited. He has done well for us at times but the signing of Lee Peacock and Robert Taylor has pushed him further back. Hopefully, he will not have to wait too long for another club to come in for him.

We head for the busy Christmas programme after today, with a visit to West Brom on Boxing Day and Grimsby our next opponents at Maine Road on Tuesday 28th December.

Thanks for your fantastic support. It just remains for us to give you the right result today to send you into the festive season upbeat and ready to party. Have a great Christmas.



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Cho la rem Kevin Horlock is

targeting a personal hat-trick against his old club this afternoon. Swindon Town have

visited Maine Road twice in the League since Kevin left them to join the Blues in a £1.5 million deal in January 1997

And on each occasion, Kevin has scored against Town in comfortable wins for City.

His first goal for the Blues came in only his third game, when City beat Swindon 3-0 at Maine Road in February 1997.

The following season, also in the First Division, Kevin headed the third goal in the 6-0 romp against the Robins here in September 1997.

The clubs were in different divisions last season, of course, delaying his chance of achieving a triumphant treble.

If he does manage to get on the scoresheet today, however, statistics show that City are almost certain not to losel

For, incredibly, the Blues have never lost whenever the Northern Ireland international has scored - and that's a sequence of 25 games, including, of course, last season's Wembley playoff thriller.

"I'm just pleased to have already scored a few goals from open play this season, along with my penalties," said the 27-year-old.

On that score, expect him to step forward again if the Blues are

awarded a spot-kick this afternoon.

He has already scored four penalties this term, against Burnley in the Worthington Cup, two against Sheffield United in the 6-0 rout in August and the valuable point-saver at Tranmere in October.

However, he missed the last one although fortunately it did not matter as the Blues beat Blackburn Rovers 2-0 anyway at Maine Road almost two months ago.

On that day, Rovers 'keeper John Filan correctly guessed which way to go and brilliantly turned aside Kevin's well-struck penalty.

"I changed my mind a little bit at the last minute and the 'keeper also went early," he recalled. "It was a great save but, no problem, I'm certainly happy to take the next one whenever it crops up.

"I always set myself this initial target of 10 goals at the start of every season and so far I've got seven this time. The first four were penalties and while they are all goals I'd still like to get a few more from free play."

Swindon obviously know all about Kevin's scoring capabilities. As well as his goals against them, he was also a regular scorer while he was with the Robins, bagging 22 League goals from midfield in 163 appearances.

"I had some really good times at the County Ground," he recalled.

"Back in season 1992-93 I was a member of the squad which won promotion to the Premiership after a 4-3 thriller against Leicester City at Wembley.

"I was only 20 at the time and did not get to play but that was my only experience of the play-off finals before our great day at Wembley in May this year.

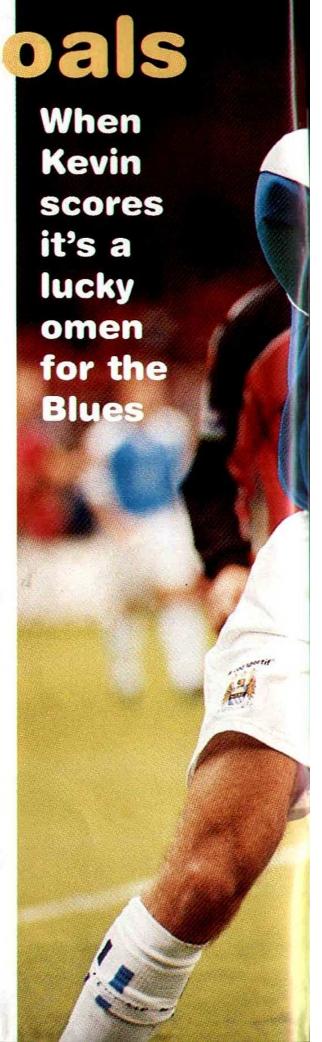
"Also with Swindon, I played in 45 of the 46 matches when they won promotion from the Second Division in 1995-96. In that season I played everywhere on the left flank - at leftback, in midfield and on the wing.

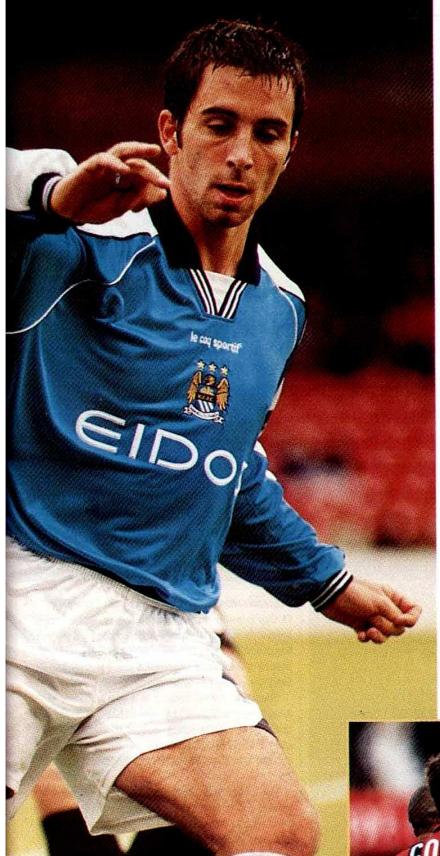
"They were good times but it didn't take me long to make up my mind when I knew City were interested in me and obviously it has been a brilliant move."

Kevin joined the Blues on a four-and-a-half year contract for an initial fee of £1,250,000. Swindon received another £250,000 once he had made 50 first team appearances for City.

And talking of milestones, Kevin recently clocked up his 100th League game for the Blues but it was one he will not remember with much fondness the 4-1 defeat at Wolves.

The manager has been delighted with his overall contribution however: "Kevin is one of our unsung heroes but he's been consistently terrific all season," summed up Joe Royle.



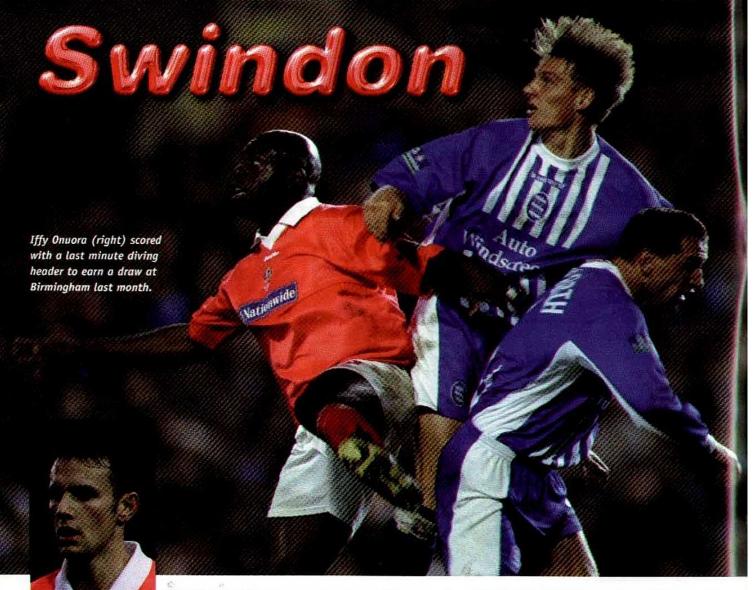


Call it the luck of the Irish, but whenever Kevin Horlock has scored a first team goal the Blues have never lost - a statistic stretching back 25 games! Here's the breakdown:

Date	Opposition	h/a	Сотр	Result	Gls
1997					
Feb 22	Swindon Town	n h	D1	w 3-0	1
Mar 1	Bradford City	a	D1	w 3-1	1
Mar 5	Portsmouth	h	D1	d 1-1	1
Apr 12	West Brom	а	D1	w 3-1	1
Aug 22	Tranmere	h	D1	d 1-1	1
Aug 26	Blackpool	h	CCC	w 1-0	1
Sep 27	Swindon	h	D1	w 6-0	1
Nov 15	Sheffield Utd	a	D1	d 1-1	1
1998					
Apr 11	Wolves	а	D1	d 2-2	1
May 3	Stoke City	а	D1	w 5-2	1
Oct 31	Colchester	h	D2	w 2-1	1
Nov 7	Oldham	a	D2	w 2-0	2
1999					
Jan 16	Fulham	h	D2	w 3-0	1
Feb 6	Millwall	h	D2	w 3-0	1
Mar 9	Burnley	а	D2	w 6-0	1
Apr 10	Lincoln City	h	D2	w 4-0	1
Apr 17	Gillingham	a	D2	w 2-0	1
May 8	York City	h	D2	w 4-0	1
May 30	Gillingham	Wembley	P/0	d 2-2	*1
Aug 11	Burnley	h	WC	w 5-0	1
Aug 21	Sheff Utd	h	D1	w 6-0	2
Oct 16	Tranmere	а	D1	d 1-1	1
Oct 27	Ipswich	h	D1	w 1-0	1
Nov 6	QPR	a	D1	d 1-1	1
Nov 24	Barnsley	h	D1	w 3-1	1

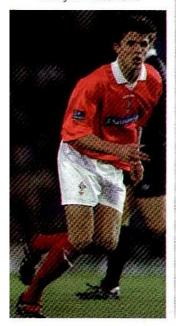
Key: CCC = Coca-Cola Cup WC = Worthington Cup P/O = Play-off Final * Also scored in a shoot-out as Blues won 3-1 on penalties





Above: Andy Williams.

Below: Young England starlet Michael Carrick, on loan from West Ham.



The Premiership experience - a memorable year in which attendances rose by more than 40 per cent in the company of England's elite in 1993-94 - did not leave a legacy of riches for Swindon Town.

In the next five seasons, they dropped again into Division Two, rebounded with a championship triumph, and then settled in the void between midtable comfort and sleepless nights.

The safety margin dwindled with each year - eight points in 1997 but only three last season - and now the Robins are facing their most difficult situation since relegation in 1995.

Anchored in the danger zone almost from the outset, they first hit the bottom of the table in October, shortly before selling major asset George Ndah to Wolves, and then became back-markers again during November.

With injuries piling up and goals in short supply, manager JIMMY QUINN resumed as a player at the age of 40, and some 14 months since scoring his 210th League goal during a record League victory for Peterborough United. Four weeks later he succeeded Steve McMahon as Swindon's manager and in the summer, he re-established a link with the Peterborough milestone by signing the striker who scored five goals in the 9-1 rout of Barnet.

GIULIANO GRAZIOLI stepped out of the pages of FA Cup folk-lore with a debt to re-pay. While best known for his goal in Stevenage Borough's draw with Newcastle in 1998, Wiltshire fans painfully recalled that he claimed the Conference side's winner at Swindon in the previous round.

Grazioli endeared himself to a new audience in August by scoring on his home debut and again in a first win at Crystal Palace. But he was then out for several weeks with hamstring trouble before striking a last-minute winner as substitute against Port Vale.

The 24-year-old Londoner was then laid up by a broken toe, and Swindon reverted to a partnership between two players who created favourable first impressions at the County Ground.

Former Celtic player CHRIS HAY top-scored with 14 League goals in 1997-98 and IFFY ONUORA was fifth in the divisional list with 20 last season - his first full campaign since a £120,000 move from Gillingham.

The former British Universities striker has not been as prolific this term, but he was on the scoresheet in the wins against Palace and Port Vale, then crowned battling performances by the team in draws at Wolverhampton and Birmingham last month. By then, Swindon were benefiting from a re-fit in the crucial midfield department. Skipper SCOTT LEITCH, a £15,000 bargain from Hearts in 1996, returned after an 11-week lay-off with a hamstring injury and 18-year-old MICHAEL CARRICK arrived on loan from West Ham.

A member of the Hammers' FA Youth Cup-winning team last season, Carrick slotted in with previous signings with upbringings in the Premiership.

BOBBY HOWE moved from Nottingham Forest for £30,000 in 1998 and Welsh international ANDY WILLIAMS, who played in a friendly against Brazil two years ago, was recruited from Southampton earlier this season.

Swindon also used the loan system for a twomonth stint by Sunderland midfielder Paul Thirlwell, who returned to Wearside shortly before former England winger Mark Walters was released to Bristol Rovers.

The defence was reasonably settled behind either of the two goalkeepers - Australian FRANK TALIA, now in his fourth year since moving from Blackburn, and JIMMY GLASS, who achieved fame last May when on loan to Carlisle. It was his goal which kept the Brunton Park club in the Football League.

Then, for the last League match, their third 'keeper, **STEVE MILDENHALL**, was called up for his first senior appearance in 22 months.

Right back MARK ROBINSON built his reputation at Barnsley before making two big-money moves in quick succession. He went to promotion-bound Newcastle for £450,000 and in 1994 joined Swindon for £600,000, a club record at the time.

GARETH HALL also appeared in a promoted team in the North-East. A Welsh international with nine caps at Chelsea, he went into the Premiership with Sunderland in 1996 and moved to Wiltshire last season.

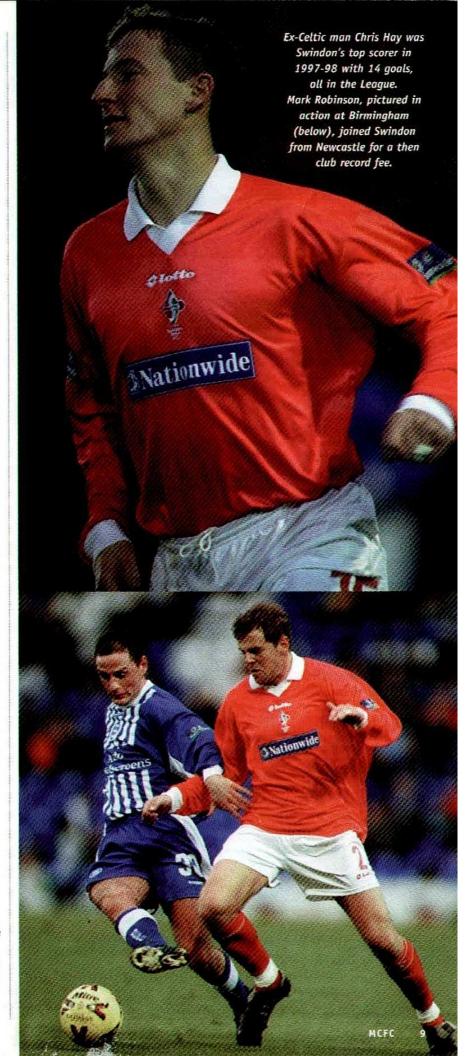
ALAN REEVES is another defender with top-flight experience, making more than 50 appearances for Wimbledon, whereas 20-year-old SOL DAVIS emerged from the junior ranks at the end of the 1997-98 season.

TY GOODEN, a free signing from Wycombe Wanderers, was introduced shortly before the Robins left the Premiership and is now among a handful of survivors from the Division Two championship squad in 1996.

LEE COLLINS, a midfielder from Albion Rovers, and STEVE COWE, a forward from Aston Villa, were brought in during that campaign.

Newcomers last season were ADAM WILLIS, a defender from Coventry City, GARETH DAVIES, a former Wales Under-21 cap from Reading, and CHARLIE GRIFFIN, a 20-year-old striker from Western League side Chippenham Town.

Meanwhile, a number of players came up from the YTS staff. Youth international ROBIN HULBERT made further progress in the last year, JAMES WILLIAMS was still 16 when brought into the first-team in April and FRAZER McHUGH made his League bow at 17 in the last match of the season.



SWINDON TOWN ROLL CALL

		0.72	water 1
Player/ Birthdate/place	League Apps	Cup Apps	Total Gls
LEE COLLINS	2(1)	1	
3.2.74 Bellshill	2(1)	J. S. N	markin.
MICHAEL CARRICK	5		2
Wallsend, 28.7.81			
STEVE COWE	-(1)		
29.9.74 Gloucester	1-1		
GARETH DAVIES	9	2	
Hereford, 11.12.73			
SOL DAVIS	13	- 2(1)	
4.9.79 Cheltenham			
JIMMY GLASS	8		* V
1.8.73 Swindon			
TY GOODEN	7(2)	1	1
23.10.72 Canvey Island			122
GIULIANO GRAZIOLI	4(5)	2	3
23.3.75 Marylebone CHARLIE GRIFFIN	(7)	(2)	
25.6.79 Bath	-(7)	-(2)	
GARETH HALL	20	3	
12.3.69 Croydon	20	,	
CHRIS HAY	11(3)	-(2)	3
28.8.74 Glasgow	(-)	(-)	
BOBBY HOWE	19(2)	1(1)	1
6.11.73 Annitsford			
ROBIN HULBERT	2(3)	1	-
14.3.80 Plymouth			
SCOTT LEITCH	6(1)	2	0 0 2
6.10.69 Motherwell			
FRAZER McHUGH	6(2)	-(1)	
14.7.81 Nottingham			
STEVE MILDENHALL	1	1	-
13.5.78 Swindon IFFY ONUORA	16(6)	3	4
28.7.67 Glasgow	10(0)	,	4
JIMMY QUINN	1(4)	1	
18.11.59 Belfast	- 1(7)		
ALAN REEVES	19	1	
19.11.67 Birkenhead	17,000		
MARK ROBINSON	18(2)	3	-
21.11.68 Rochdale			
FRANK TALIA	13	2	-
20.7.72 Melbourne			
ANDY WILLIAMS	15	1	
8.10.77 Bristol	2		
JAMES WILLIAMS	7(4)	1(1)	3
15.7.82 Liverpool	· ·		
ADAM WILLIS	4(4)	1	

ALSO PLAYED: George Ndah (to Wolves) 12 Lge, 2 Cup, 1 goal; Craig Taylor (to Plymouth) 1(1) Lge, 1 sub Cup; Paul Thirlwell (loan from Sunderland) 12 Lge; Mark Walters (to Bristol Rovers) 11(2) Lge, 2 Cup, 3 goals.

(Up to and including Saturday 11th December)

21.9.76 Nuneaton

SWINDON'S TEN YEAR RECORD

		-	_	_			-	_	-	
	Div	Pos	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Av. Att
1989-90	2	4th	46	20	14	12	79	59	74	9,394
1990-91	2	21st	46	12	14	20	65	73	50	9,805
1991-92	2	.8th	46	18	15	13	69	55	69	10,009
1992-93	+*1	5th	46	21	13	12	74	59	76	10,715
1993-94	P	22nd	42	5	15	22	47	100	30	15,274
1994-95	1	21st	46	12	12	22	54	73	48	9,744
1995-96	2	1st	46	25	17	4	71	34	92	10,502
1996-97	1	19th	46	15	9	22	52	71	54	9,917
1997-98	1	18th	46	14	10	22	42	73	52	10,298
1998-99	1	17th	46	13	11	22	59	81	50	8,651

⁺ Renamed Division One when Premier League formed



Kevin Horlock scored his first goal for City against Swindon in a 3-0 win at Maine Road in February 1997 and again netted against his former club in a 6-0 home win later that year.

CITY DEBUTANTS

Debuts against Swindon

Name	Date	h/a_Pos	Gls
*Briscoe, L	21.2.98	a 3	-
Conlon, B.	27.9.97	h sub	-
Greenacre, C.	22.2.97	h sub	-

^{*} Briscoe on loan from Sheffield Wednesday

TOWN FORM GUIDE

The last five league games, goal by goal.

HEAD TO HEAD

Our League record against Swindon:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	7	4	2	1	15	5
Away	7	5	0	2	13	11
TOTAL	14	9	2	3	28	16

First met in League: 1963-64
Doubles achieved: 3
Doubles conceded: None

Biggest wins:

Home: 6-0, 1997-98

Away: 3-1, 1993-94 & 1997-98

Heaviest defeats:

Home: 1-2, 1964-65 Away: 0-3, 1963-64

Last home win: 6-0, 1997-98
Last away win: 3-1, 1997-98
Last home draw: 1-1, 1987-88
Last away draw: None
Last home defeat: 1-2, 1964-65
Last away defeat: 0-2, 1996-97

LAST HOME LEAGUE MEETING

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE - DIVISION ONE Saturday 21st September 1997

CITY 6 SWINDON TOWN 0

Scorers: Kinkladze, Casper o.g., Horlock, Dickov 2, Bradbury CITY: Margetson, Brightwell, Beesley, Wiekens, Symons, Edghill, Dickov (Scully), Horlock, Bradbury, Kinkladze (Conlon), Brannan.

SWINDON: Digby, Darras (Hay), Borrows, Bullock, Casper, McDonald, Smith, Leitch (Drysdale), Cowe (Walters), Allison, Gooden.

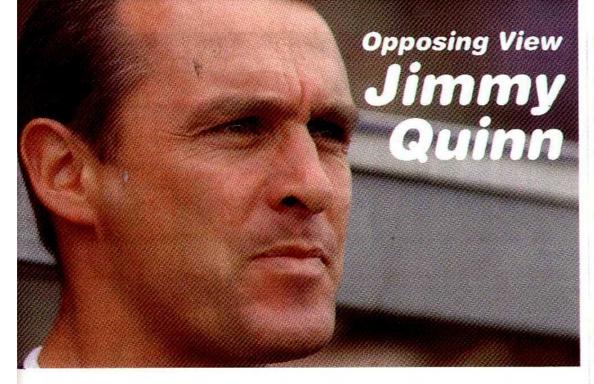
Goals scored from...

▲ = Inside the penalty area ★ = Outside the area

A header P = Penalty OG = Own Goal
Sendings off are also indicated

Goals			4.4		
Swindon Goals		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4		
S		25 mins 1-0 P ONUORA	42 mins 1-2 ▲ CARRICK	90 mins 1-1 • ONUORA	38 mins 1-1 • CARRICK
. z		82 mins 1-1 ▲ FLO	24 mins 0-1 * ROBINSON	26 mins 0-1 GRAINGER	34 mins 0-1 • WRACK
Opposition Goals			39 mins 0-2 ▲ NEWTON	Name of the last	
Opposi					*
	Nov 12 Norwich (h) Drew 0-0	Nov 20 Wolves(a) Drew 1-1	Nev 23 Charlton(h) Lost 1-2	Nov 27 Bham(a) Drew 1-1	Dec 4 Walsall(h) Drew 1-1

^{*} Promoted after play-offs



During the season of goodwill Jimmy Quinn is hoping that a fairy godmother will smile on the Robins as the birdtable has been virtually bare for most of the campaign.

Quinn has himself been forced by the circumstances prevailing at the County Ground to return to the playing stage in an attempt to rejuvenate Swindon's indifferent fortunes which have seen the club plunge to the foot of the First Division.

It is not difficult to understand why Quinn, who is now 40, has taken this seemingly drastic course of action. Swindon have scored precisely five times in their eleven away games this season to highlight the reason for their predicament. But the former Northern Ireland international striker now has a back injury and his come-back has been cut short.

Admittedly lacking a striker following the departure of the unfortunate George Ndah to Wolves and the recent side-lining of Giuliano Grazioli, Quinn felt that he could make a bigger impact on the field than in the duq-out.

He claims: "It hasn't been too bad. I know that I can't get around as much as in my younger days but I have been able to give a bit of experience to what is a young side. There is no money in the club to bolster the team and in fact the cash we received from the George Ndah transfer was very welcome to meet our current commitments.

"Fortunately Chris Hay and Charlie Griffin are available for the City game which is obviously going to be a very tough game for us.

"What we do need is the rub of the green. When you are down everything appears to go against you. But we are not one of the worst teams in the division and hopefully our luck will change as we have only lost one of our last five League games."

Meanwhile, he is enjoying a third spell at the County Ground despite the battle for First Division survival - the first time he has been at the bottom end of the table in his managerial experience.

"It is frustrating in as much that we have not been playing badly as a team," said Quinn. "The spirit is first class and the quality of play deserves better results than we have been getting of late.

"In these circumstances it is important for me not to allow heads to drop. But all credit to the lads, they have battled really hard and we have been very close to some much needed wins."

Ominously the campaign is fraught with stress and tension and the problem of a trip to Maine Road is yet another difficult challenge.

He said: "I'm looking forward to meeting old friends such as Ian Bishop and Tommy "rubber face" Wright. Tommy is a good friend of mine. All the Irish lads call him 'rubber face' and I know he will laugh his head off when he reads what I've said!"

Typically, Quinn is hoping that the big occasion will enable his players to raise their game. "We have picked up good draws at Wolves and Birmingham City," he said.

"It would be a bonus to obtain another point at City where we will have to defend and hope for a few chances at the other end."

IN CHARGE

JIMMY QUINN

Born: Belfast, 18.11.59

LEAGUE PLAYING

CAREER	Games	GLs
Swindon Town	49	10
Blackburn Rov	ers 71	17
Swindon Town	64	30
Leicester City	31	6
Bradford City	35	14
West Ham Unit	ted 47	18
Bournemouth	43	19
Reading	182	71
Peterborough	U. 49	25
Swindon Town	5	5.5
TOTAL	576	210

Honours:

With Swindon Town:
Promotion from Division
Three (1986-87)
With West Ham United:
Promotion from Division
Two (1990-91)
With Reading:
Division Two
Championship (1993-94)
International caps:
Northern Ireland, 46 Full
(12 goals)

LEAGUE MANAGEMENT CAREER

Reading (joint-manager, Dec. 1994-May 1997) Swindon Town (Oct. 1998)

He wears number 40 and here Jimmy Quinn celebrates his team's late equaliser at Birmingham just after his 40th birthday.



Ten questions on some of the connections between City and today's visitors, Swindon.



- Swindon's record transfer fee received is £1.5m, but for which player was it?
- Apart from Blues and Swindon, which other League clubs did Steve McMahon play for?
 - Who scored twice when Swindon last played here?
 - Who came off the bench to replace Georgi Kinkladze for his City debut in that game?
- Which 'on loan' player made his debut for City in the game at Swindon in February 1998?
 - Who joined City from Swindon in August 1965? 6
 - Who netted twice for the Blues on our last visit 7 to the County Ground?
- Which ex-City and Swindon player won a First Division championship medal last season?
- Who won three League championship medals before playing for Blues and Swindon?
- 10 An FA Cup game between these clubs in January 1930 produced eleven goals - what was the score?

See page 46 for the answers...

THE FOOTBALL (OFFENCES) ACT 1991

This legislation creates the following arrestable offences:

- 1. To throw anything at the playing area or any spectator.
- 2. To chant indecent or racist remarks which are threatening, abusive or insulting by reason of race or colour.
- 3. To go onto the playing area.

THE SPORTING EVENTS (CONTROL OF ALCOHOL) ACT 1985

This legislation deals with the possession of alcohol and containers at sports grounds:

- Possessing alcohol while entering the ground.
- 2. Drunk attempting to enter the ground.
- 3. Drunk whilst inside the ground.
- 4. Within viewing area in possession of intoxicating liquor, or bottles or cans for holding drink.
- 5. Possessing a container capable of causing injury.
- 6. Possessing fireworks etc. whilst in or entering the ground.

FLAGS, BANNERS, FLAG POLES, BOTTLES, CONTAINERS and other similar articles could be used as weapons or to cause annoyance are NOT permitted in the ground. This means that you cannot bring any type of BOTTLE or CAN into the ground!



Shaun Goater v Town's Iffy Onuora

	Goater	Onuora
Minutes on pitch	1,413	1,576
Goal attempts		
Goals	7	4
Shots on target (inc goa	ls) 24	15
Shots off target	15	15
Blocked shots	3	4
Passing		
Goals assists	20	2
Total passes	461	461
Pass completion %	60%	56%
Crossing	-4	
Total crosses	6	14
Cross completion %	17%	0%
Dribbling		
Dribbles & Runs	23	36
Dribble completion %	91%	64%
Defending		
Tackles made	138	15
Tackles won	67%	73%
Blocks	4	1
Clearances	20	14
Interceptions	4	1
Discipline		
Fouls	18	31
Offside	25	13
Yellow cards	0	2
Red cards	0	0



Shaun Goater has an excellent shotson-target ratio.



Iffy Onuora wins a high percentage of his tackles.

The contrasting season for the two clubs is reflected in these players' stats, with Shaun Goater consistently better in virtually every department.

His shooting accuracy ranks alongside the best in Division One, with 62 per cent of his shots hitting the target. He may be a little disappointed to have bagged only seven league goals when his earlyseason form suggested he may be looking for a much higher target.

Former Gillingham frontman Iffy Onuora has struggled to find the net, missing several good chances in Town's 2-1 defeat at Charlton last weekend. But he has grabbed four goals from 34 attempts.

Both players have made exactly the same number of passes, although again Goater boasts the better accuracy. Onuora has failed to find a team-mate with a single cross, but his tackling has been more effective, those telescopic legs winning back possession 73 per cent of the time.

Goater has been particularly effective when running with the ball, with a 91 per cent completion rate - and despite a high number of offsides, he has yet to have a run-in with a ref in the League, avoiding a yellow

card so far.

Academy Games Update

➤ Following our recent third round FA Youth Cup victory over Bristol City, our Under-17 & Under-19 teams were involved again a couple of days later against their counterparts from Leeds United.

Not surprisingly, after such a tough week, the boys could not raise their game a second time and lost the U-19 fixture 1-0. However, the U-17 team continued their good form with a 5-2 victory.

Playing under extremely difficult conditions of wind and hail, Frank Bunn was delighted with his young charges as they overpowered the Leeds team.

Andrew Tunnicliffe (pictured below) was in great goalscoring form and completed his

second hattrick of the season with Rico Richards and Patrick McCarthy completing the scoring.



Jim Cassell

Terry heads for Le Manga

Congratulations to Terry Dunfield who has been called up into the

> national Under-16/17 squad. Terry was capped last term for the U-16 team and consistent performances this season have



again brought him national recognition.

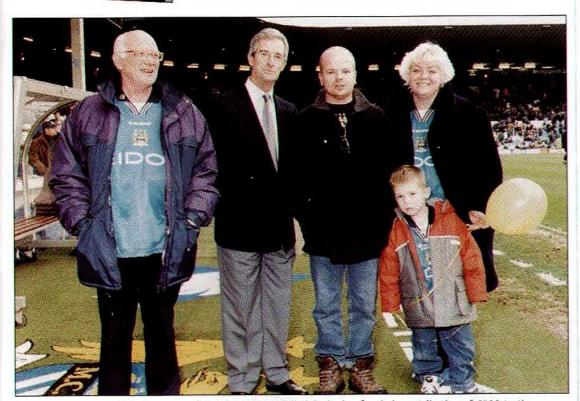
As part of the F.A.'s new initiative regarding squad training, Terry has been invited to a winter training get-together in Le Manga, Spain, between 4th and 11th January 2000.

Christmas break

As we come into December, the game programme for the Academy teams takes a break and, although we will have little spare time, we intend to utilise much of this period on in-house training days.

All of our coaches will be working together looking at new ideas for the development of both themselves and, of course, their players. As usual Alex Gibson will lead the sessions, supported by Paul Power and Frank Bunn, and it is probably a most appropriate time to congratulate our three senior youth coaches on the excellent work they have put in during the last twelve months, which has without doubt taken our coaching levels to a new high.

Jim Cassell



Thanks to the Levenshulme Supporters' Club branch and Tribal Gathering for their contribution of £500 to the Youth Academy fund.

RESERVE.



Stephen Jordan coped admirably at centre-back.

Reserves venue

City's home reserve fixtures up to the end of March will be played at Hyde United's ground. The next visitors are Preston North End on Tuesday January 18th.

Leon Mike's double saw Blues Youth Cup side pass their first test.



FA Youth Cup - Round Three Tuesday 30th November 1999

City Youth 2 Bristol City Youth 1

It was in 1986-87 when City last won the FA Youth Cup and many feel that this season's squad represents the best chance of regaining such glory.

The Blues fielded a first-choice eleven against a Bristol club which was one of the pioneers of the FA Academy system.

As early as the second minute, the boys stamped their authority on the game when Irish youngster and first-year scholar, Paddy McCarthy, headed against a post.

Bristol looked a competent side, well-marshalled in defence, but failed to prevent England Under-18 international Leon Mike bursting through to finish clinically.

The West Country team's main tactic in searching for an equaliser was the long-ball route to the powerfully-built Damien Spencer, and this proved to be successful shortly before half-time.

When City 'keeper Stephen Hodgson misjudged the bounce of one such clearance, Marvin Brown was presented with the easiest of chances to find the unmarked Spencer, who headed into an empty net.

The Young Blues dominated much of the second half and the centre back pairing of Rhys Day and Stephen Jordan coped admirably with the pace of the Bristol forwards, in particular, Tommy Jordan, who had an outstanding game.

The lead was restored when a goalkeeping error by

Marc Palmer allowed a Mike shot to squirm through this legs.

Further opportunities then fell to Mike and Shaun Wright-Phillips, who, after his promotion to the first-team squad, was brought in to bolster the side.

The result was a fair one, though it's probably fair to say that some individual performances were not quite up to fraximum potential. There again, it's always a big test for youngsters when they first go under the microscope in this competition.

This was a difficult tie and it was successfully negotiated with a place in the fourth round - and hopes of that elusive silverware.

YOUNG BLUE

No 3 BARRY HOGAN

It was no handicap to 16-year-old Barry Hogan that his soccer team at Parr Community High School was, in his own words, "not very successful at football."

His natural
ability was given
a shop window in
the St Helens
Boys team and
with his Sunday
club, Penlake, who
won their league
and cup for three
years on the trot.

By then, City's recruitment officer, Barry Poynton, was on the trail with an



invitation for the young centre midfield player to join the club's School of Excellence and, in turn, this was followed by a place as an Academy scholar this season.

Barry's parents are Jean and Billy, and he has an older sister, Kerry (19), as well as three younger brothers, Ashley (3), Ryan (5) and Craig (8).

The family's main sporting connection up to now is that one of Barry's cousins represented England in a Rugby Union international Twickenham.

The roar of the crowd is something that he hopes to experience for himself in City's first team. Certainly the passionate support at Maine Road was one of the reasons that influenced his decision to sign for the Blues.

"I liked the way they played and the big crowds they get," he told the programme desk.

But he admits that he didn't always look in the direction of Manchester. Born in St Helens, he was swayed towards Liverpool when it came to supporting a League club and the first senior match he attended was an international between England and Holland.

His first game as a City schoolboy was a 3-2 win against Manchester United and his choice of Ian Bishop as his favourite player at the club reflects his ambitions as a midfielder.

Tackling and passing are what he likes best, though he concedes there is room for improvement in his distribution.

Rugby, cricket and snooker are his main interests outside football, and having enjoyed woodwork at school, he has chosen joinery for his GNVQ course.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE FIXTURES Aug 18 A **Birmingham City** 0-3 4-1 Aug 31 H Burnley Sep W.B. Albion 0-4 **Huddersfield Town** 0-0 Oct 5 H Wolverhampton W. 2-0 Oct 20 A **Grimsby Town** 2 H 5-3 Nov 16 A Oldham Athletic 2-2 Dec 1 A Port Vale 1-1 Dec 14 H Stoke City 3-1 Jan 5 A Huddersfield Town Preston N.E. Jan 18 H Jan 26 A Burnley 1 H **Birmingham City** Feb Feb 15 H **Tranmere Rovers** Tranmere Rovers Feb 23 A W.B. Albion Feb 29 H Mar 13 A Stoke City Port Vale Mar 28 H Apr 11 H Wolverhampton W. Apr 18 A **Grimsby Town** Oldham Athletic Apr 25 H Preston N.E.

MA	MANCHESTER SENIOR CUP				
Aug	25	H	Oldham Athletic	1-2	
Sep	23	H	Bury (lost 2-4 on pens)	1-1	
0ct	28	A	Man Utd (lost 4-5 on pens)	1-1	
Nov	10	A	Bury	1-2	
Dec	21	A	Oldham Athletic		
Feb	8	H	Manchester United		

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Vale	10	5	3	2	18	12	18
Oldham Athletic	10	5	3	2	18	13	18
Huddersfield Town	10	5	2	3	11	7	17
Wolverhampton W.	10	5	2	3	12	11	17
Birmingham City	9	4	4	1	12	5	16
Manchester City	9	4	3	2	17	15	15
Tranmere Rovers	9	4	2	3	12	10	14
Burnley	10	2	6	2	15	17	12
W.B. Albion	9	2	1	6	9	13	7
Grimsby Town	9	1	3	5	11	15	6
Stoke City	9	1	3	5	7	17	6
Preston N.E.	8	0	4	4	9	16	4

Birthday Boy

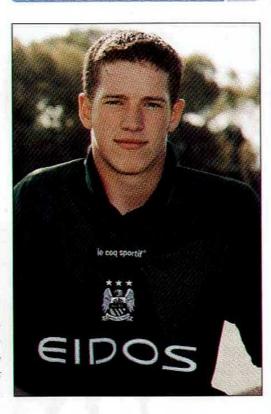
(Up to and including Tuesday 14 December)

Young goalkeeper Stephen Hodgson celebrates his 18th birthday two days before Christmas. Best wishes from all your friends and colleagues at Maine Road Stephen.

ACADEM	Y FIXTURES	U17	U19
Aug 28 A	Sunderland	0-1	1-4
Sep 4 H	Huddersfield Town		6-2
A	Barnsley	5-2	
Sep 11 A	Middlesbrough	0-0	3-0
Sep 18 H	Sheffield Wed		2-1
A	Sheffield Wed	0-2	
Sep 25 H	Barnsley	9-1	3-1
Oct 2 H	Bolton Wanderers	6-0	5-3
Oct 16 A	Leeds United	0-3	4-3
Oct 23 H	Everton :		0-0
Oct 30 A	Liverpool	1-3	2-0
Nov 6 H	Blackburn Rovers	2-0	1-3
Nov 13 A	Manchester United	2-1	2-1
Nov 17 H	Crewe Alexandra	0-1	
Nov 20 H	Crewe Alexandra		5-1
Nov 26 A	Bolton Wanderers		0-1
Nov 27 A	Bolton Wanderers	2-0	
Dec 4 H	Leeds United	5-2	0-1
Dec 11 A	Everton		1-0
A	Newcastle United	0-2	
Jan 22 A	Blackburn Rovers	編集	
Jan 29 H	Liverpool		
Feb 5 H	Manchester United		
Feb 12 A	Crewe Alexandra		
Feb 19 H	Newcastle United		
Feb 26 A	Birmingham City		
	Birmingham City		
Mar 4 A	Coventry City		

FA YOUTH CUP

Round 3 Nov 30 H Bristol City 2-1



FIRST AID

Supporters should note that there are first aid points at each side of the ground in the event of medical attention being required during the game.

KIPPAX - At the back of the Stand in the corner next to the North Stand.

MAIN STAND - Go to the bottom of the Stand and then up the Players' Tunnel where a medical room is located immediately on the left near the dressing-room area.

NORTH STAND - On the lower floor level at end next to the Kippax Stand.

PLATT LANE STAND - On the corner of the Stand on the lower level at end next to the Main Stand.

There is a Crowd Doctor and 12 Crowd Nurses on duty within the stadium and St. John Ambulance personnel are available in case of emergency, at each corner of the pitch perimeter.

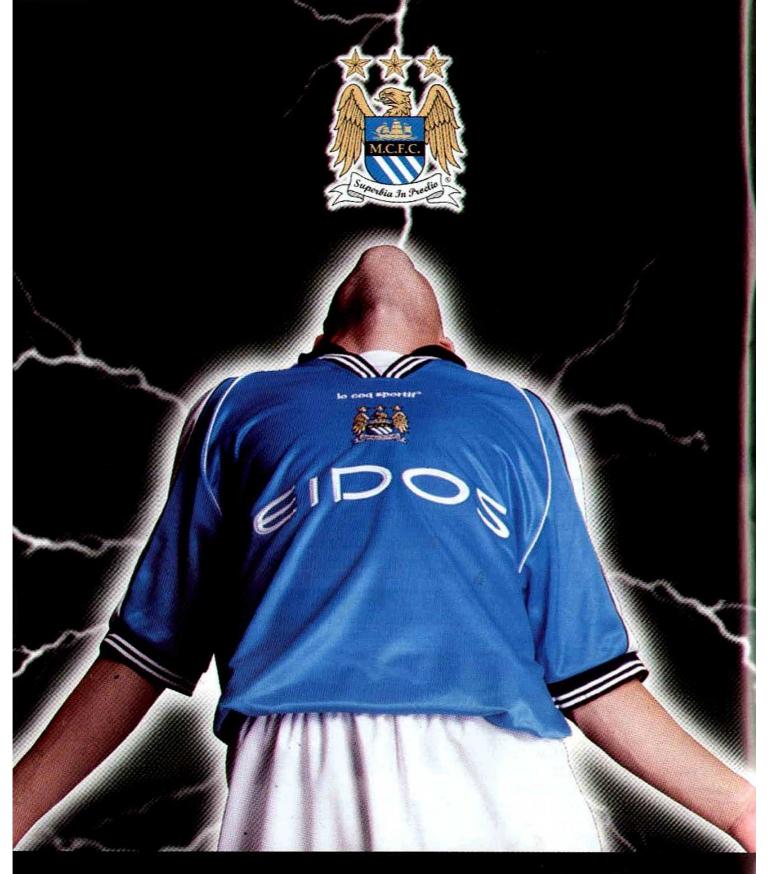
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency occurring at the Stadium, the Public Address System will be used to broadcast information and directions to spectators.

Such broadcasts will be preceded by a two-toned chime which will be repeated. When the chimes are heard, please be silent, pay attention to what is said and obey any instructions. From time to time it will be necessary to test the equipment, however, on these occasions it will be clearly stated that an equipment test is to follow.

Please will those supporters who wish to leave their seats early co-operate with your stewards by keeping exits, gangways and staircases clear. Any failure to do so will render your club to be in breach of the Safety Certificate.

This ground is equipped with CCTV installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust.



ecoqsportif 6. Official Team Kit

Saturday 20th November

> ACADEMY UNDER-19 CITY 5 CREWE A. 1

Scorers: Etuhu, Killen 2, Day, Shuker. CITY: S.Hodgson (Murphy), McCarthy, Paisley, Jordan, Day, Hogan (Parkhouse), Etuhu, Dunfield, Mike, Killen, Shuker. Unused: Browne, Richards, Mears.

Sunday 21st November

> City will carry the Manchester banner into the FA Cup with a thirdround visit to Chester - a first meeting since the Blues won 6-1 on aggregate in a League Cup-tie in 1991-92.

Wednesday 24th November

The unchanged leaders end Barnsley's four-match winning run and go four points clear by taking advantage of the previous night's slip-up by Huddersfield. Shaun Goater and Kevin Horlock, the club's top scorers in League football this season, move up to six apiece



and Gareth Taylor takes his tally to five. Lee Peacock is given a home debut as substitute for the last ten minutes.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE -DIVISION ONE CITY 3 (Taylor 6 Goater 10 Horlock 73) BARNSLEY 1

(Thomas 64) HT 2-0 Att: 32,692 CITY: Weaver, Edghill, Wiekens, Jobson, Granville, Jeff Whitley, Pollock, Horlock, Tiatto (Crooks 80), Taylor, Goater (Peacock 80). Unused: Cooke, Wright-Phillips, Wright. BARNSLEY: Miller, Eaden, Morgan, Curtis, Barker, Appleby (Barnard 80), Tinkler, Hignett, Thomas (McClare 76), Sheron, Shipperley (Dyer 77). Unused: Hristov, Bengtsson.

Friday 26th November

- Eighteen goals to the good this season,
 Gillingham striker Robert Taylor could be on the brink of retrieving what he lost with a play-off final defeat by City at Wembley in May. Joe Royle is closing in on the former Leyton Orient and Brentford player after agreeing a seven-figure fee with his Kent club.
- The Under-19 fixture is brought forward a day and seven members of the FA Youth Cup team are included ahead of next-week's appearance in the national competition.

ACADEMY UNDER-19 BOLTON WAN. 1 CITY 0

CITY: S.Hodgson, McCarthy, Paisley, Jordan, Day, Hogan, Etuhu, Dunfield, EIDOS

Gareth Taylor - early goal against Barnsley.

Parkhouse (Mears), Browne (Richards), Shuker. Unused: Murphy, Furnival, Joyce.

Saturday 27th November

> It's "same again" for the team line-up - but not the scoreline. Huddersfield end a sequence of eight consecutive home wins and move into second place, two points behind the Blues.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE - * DIVISION ONE

CITY 0 HUDDERSFIELD T. 1

(Beech 51) HT 0-0 Att: 32,936 CITY: Weaver, Edghill, Wiekens, Jobson, Granville, Horlock, Pollock, Jeff Whitley, Tiatto (Cooke 45), Goater, Taylor (Peacock 60). Unused: Crooks, Bishop, Wright. HUDDERSFIELD: Vaesen, Jenkins, Vincent, Gray, Monkou, Beech, Thornley, Irons, Gorre (Sellars 90), Stewart, Wijnhard. Unused: Armstrong, Edwards, Schofield, Margetson.

ACADEMY UNDER-17 BOLTON WAN. 0 CITY 2

Scorers: Mears, Richards. CITY: Murphy, Gilder, Furnival, Ashton, Mears, Joyce, Tunnicliffe (Croft), Barton, Richards, Browne, Hughes (Tickle). Unused: Maquire. Chris Greenacre scores his fourth goal in four appearances on loan to Mansfield Town.

Tuesday 30th November

The Young Blues take to the big stage at Maine Road, progressing to the last 32 in the Youth Cup thanks to a couple of goals from England Under-18 international Leon Mike.

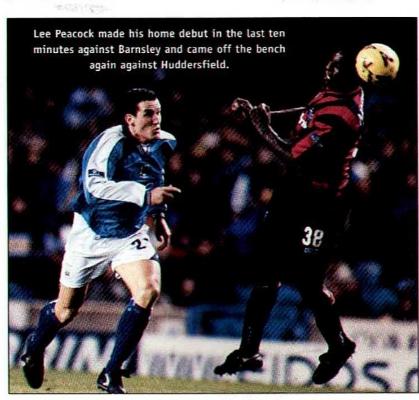
FA YOUTH CUP - ROUND THREE

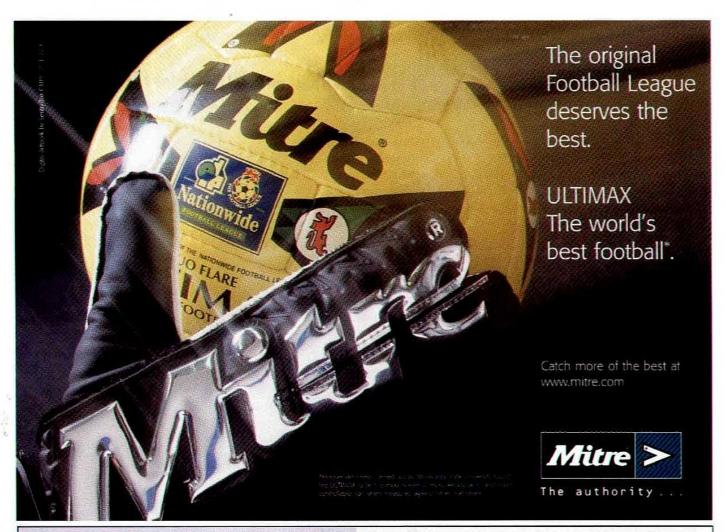
CITY YOUTH 2 BRISTOL CITY YTH 1

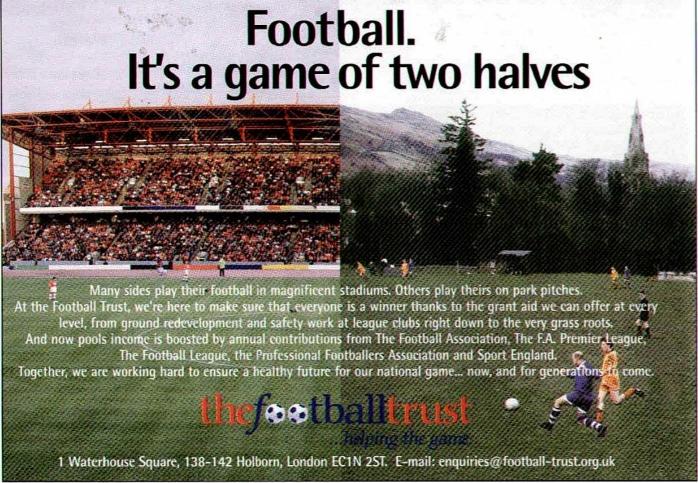
Scorer: Mike 2.
CITY: S.Hodgson,
McCarthy, Paisley,
Jordan, Day, WrightPhillips, Etuhu, Dunfield,
Mike, Killen, Shuker.
Unused: Parkhouse,
Murphy, Hogan, Browne,

➤ Robert Taylor has completed his transfer from Gillingham after passing a medical yesterday, and will be available for Friday's Sky TV game against Wolves at Molineux.



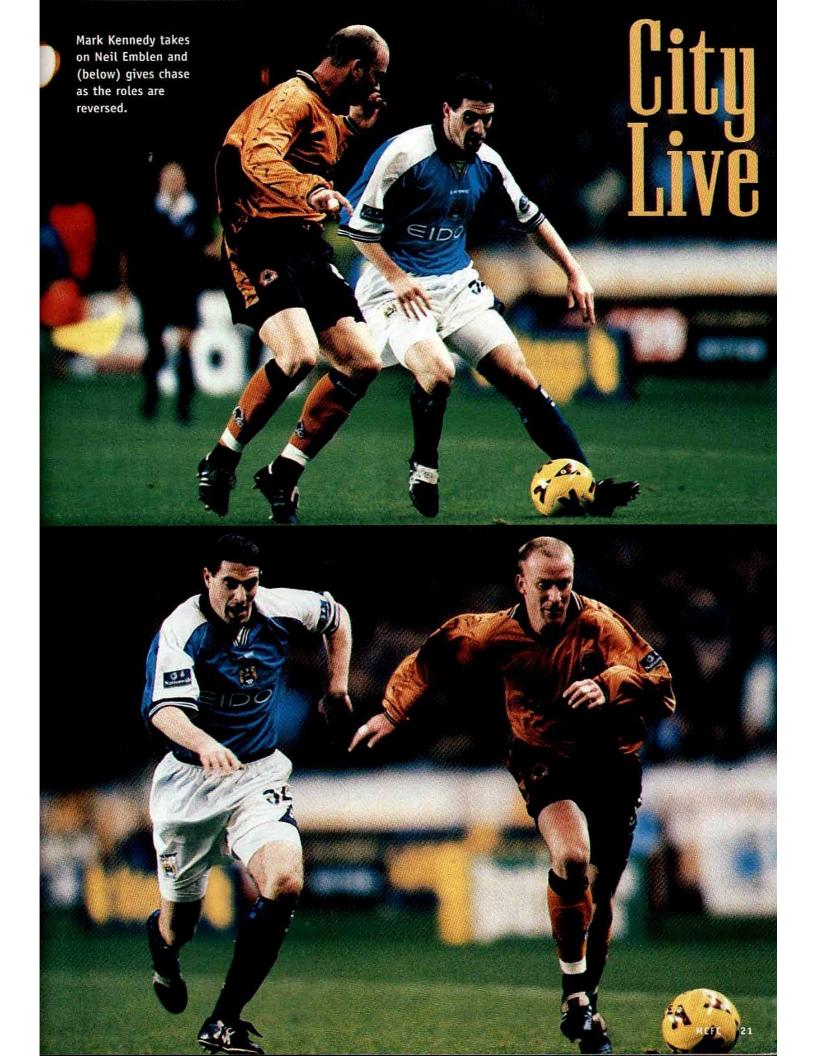


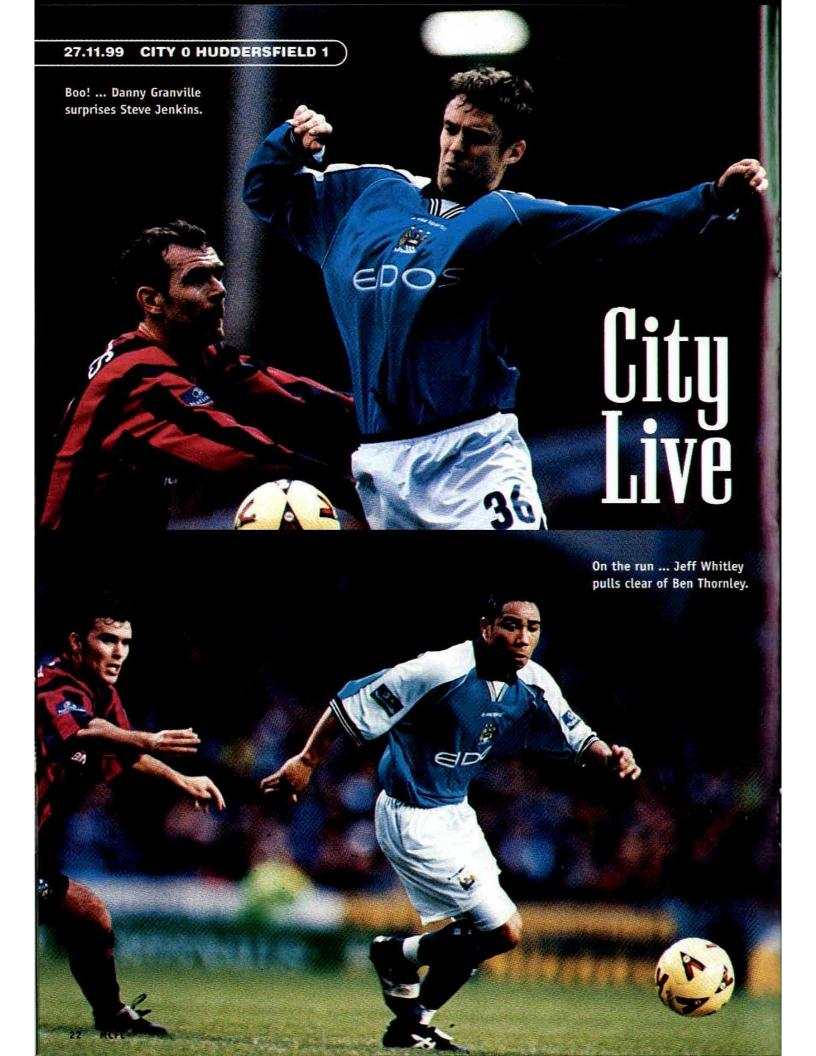


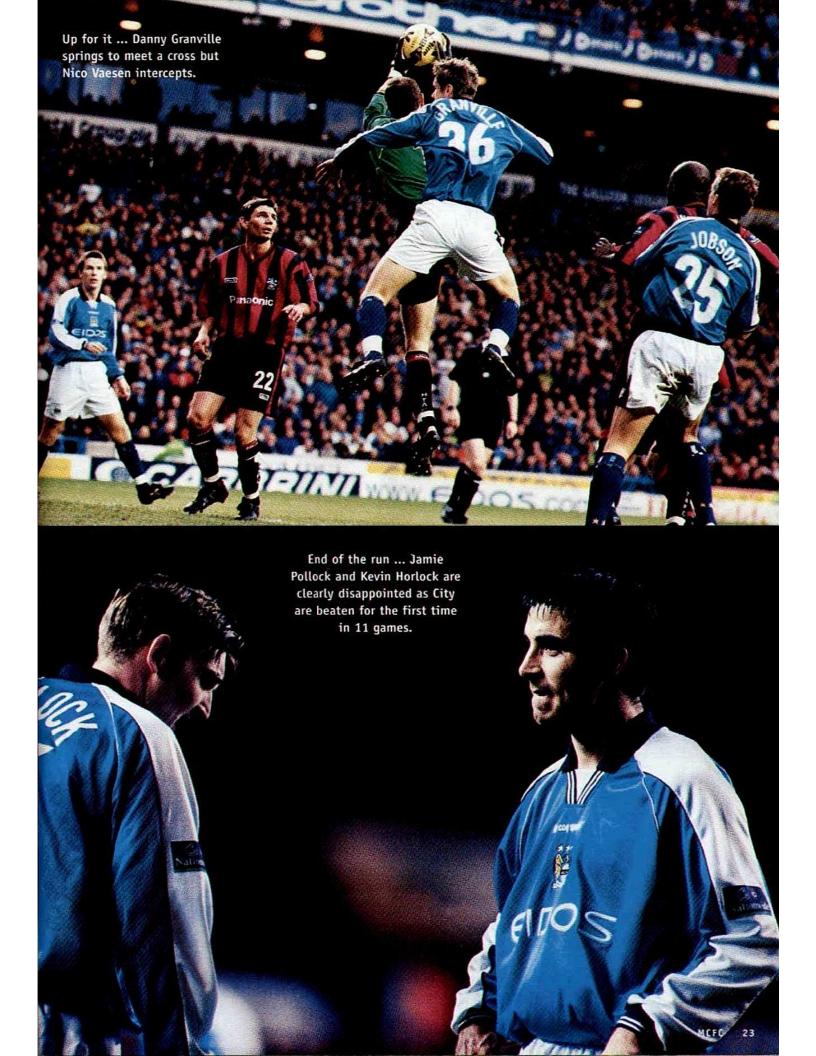


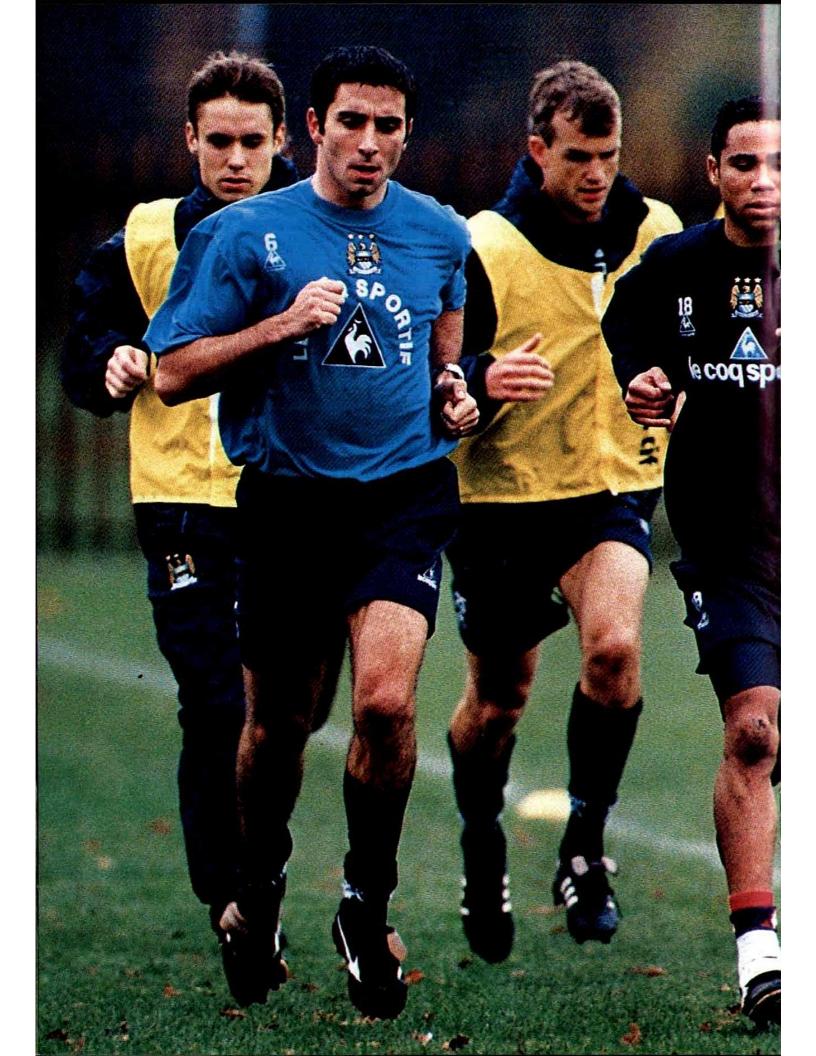


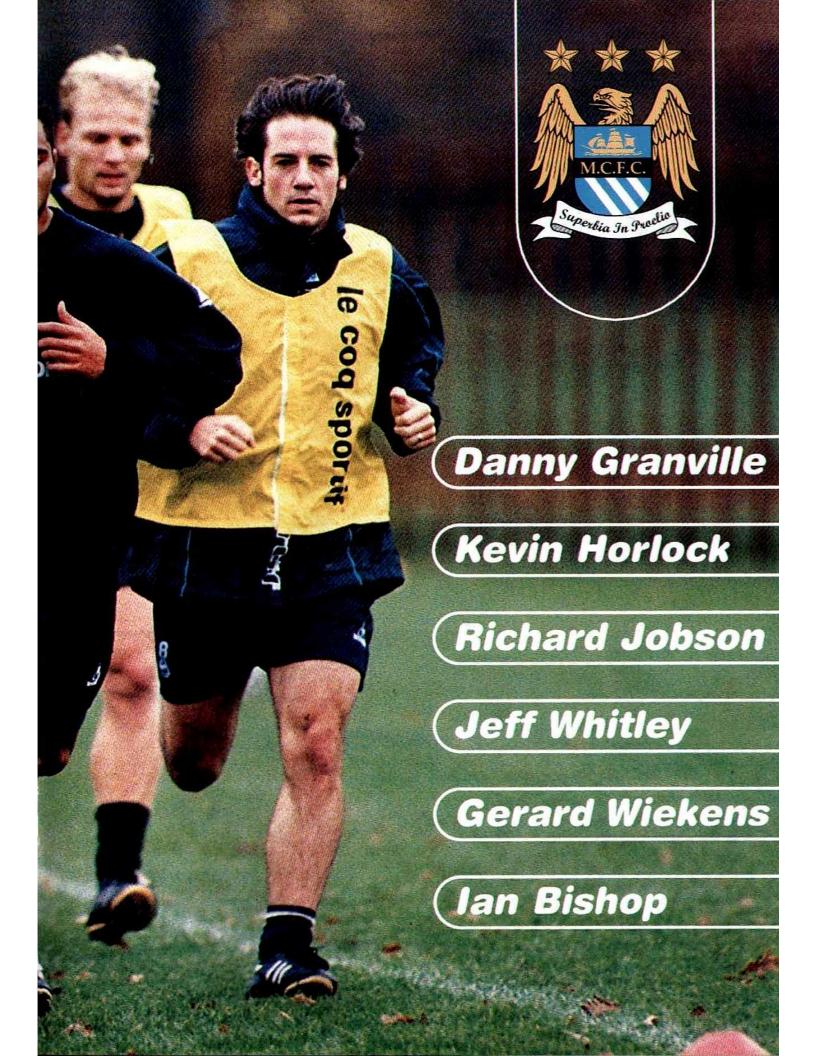




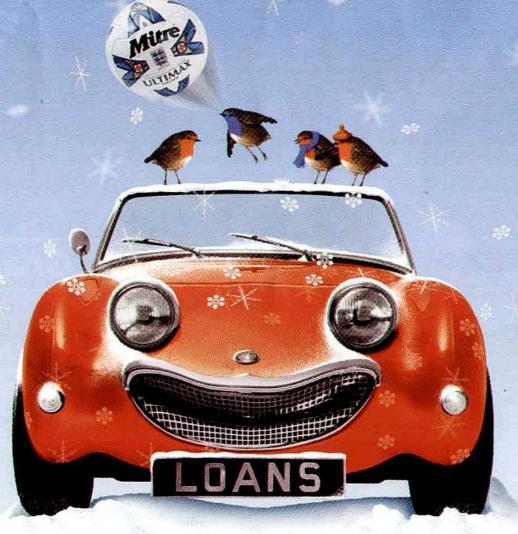








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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

In more 30 years in professional football, the closest Neil Warnock came to his beloved Bramall Lane was when he ran a chiropodist's practice in Sheffield.

The lifelong Blades fan - with a boyhood memory of shedding tears when Sheffield United were knocked out of the FA Cup - never got the chance to play for his hometown team.

And until a couple of weeks ago, he may not have given a lot for his chances of adding United to a list of six clubs as a Football League manager.

Then he received the call of his dreams in the week of his 51st birthday . . . and he needed no second invitation to take up a troubleshooting role with the club he had supported when Joe Mercer was at the helm in the 1950s.

"For me this is the greatest club in the world," he announced on becoming the fifth manager since Dave Bassett's side was relegated from the Premier League in 1994.

In many ways, the present situation is similar to that which Mr Bassett inherited in January 1988. United went into the old Third Division that year, but within two seasons, they were in the top-flight.

Mr Warnock's immediate mission is to avoid repeating the first part of that scenario and then to build up a solid base after "a lot of mistakes" in recent years.

Even as a manager of promotion-winning teams at Scarborough, Notts County, Huddersfield and Plymouth, he always kept a place in his heart for the Blades. And some things hurt him as much as any supporter. . .

"I remember the day when they sold Brian Deane and Jan Aage Fjortoft. It was like when President Kennedy got shot - that's how deeply I felt."

➤ Nottingham Forest moved closer to severing the last links with the Brian Clough

Though Mark Crossley continued as goalkeeper under new manager David Platt, the only other survivors appeared to be nearing the end of the road at the City Ground.

After 13 years as a professional, Steve Chettle went on loan to Barnsley, and after nearly ten years' service, midfielder Ian Woan was made available on a free transfer.

In past seasons,
Forest won promotion on
the rebound from
relegation, but this time,
an indifferent start has
been reflected by
disenchantment among
supporters.

The November turnout of 13,841 against Portsmouth was the lowest attendance for 12 years, prompting the club into a mail-shot to supporters who had not renewed season-tickets.

➤ Arthur Cox might have been lost to football when he broke a leg as an 18-year-old junior with Coventry City.

The accident denied him a League career as a player but gave him a head start in creating a dossier of management





and coaching knowledge.

He is now in his fourth decade on this side of the business and looking for another crack at the top-flight after expanding his experience this year.

Appointed chief scout at Fulham by Kevin Keegan, he followed the Cottagers' boss into the England set-up on a part-time basis, and now he has taken up a new post as director of football at Craven Cottage.

In turn, this could lead him back to the Premiership after previously managing promoted teams at Newcastle United and Derby County, then working with Mr Keegan in a second spell at St James' Park.

More than a decade after leaving Maine Road, former City goalkeeper Eric Nixon returned to first-team football as substitute for Tranmere Rovers in their progress to the last eight in the Worthington Cup.

Now 37, and last on senior duty at Wigan in March, he is a member of John Aldridge's coaching staff at Prenton Park.

> One of the safest bets in football is that Blackburn Rovers' results will improve as soon as they turn to a club loyalist now in his 30th year at Ewood Park.

Fourteen managers have left the club since Tony Parkes arrived from Buxton as a player in May 1970 and this season he became caretaker-manager for the fifth time.

It was a familiar situation, with Rovers struggling after seven games without a win, but this time in Division One rather than in the Premiership, where he twice took over a side at the bottom of the table.

In a long haul of 28 games in 1996-97, he guided them to safety but last year he was able to make only a minimal impact in two fixtures before Brian Kidd stepped in for what was to become a relegation season.

The latest changeover delivered instant success. From only two points above the bottom three, Blackburn climbed to within four of the play-off area during an undefeated run into December.

Mr Parkes' overall record as a caretaker - the first stint way back in 1987 - then offered a glowing testimony. . .

P W D L F A Pts 49 21 17 11 65 44 80

In First Division terminology, that sort of form is close to play-off standards - and, in fact, more than half of those games were in the Premiership.

by Gary James

TO THE STATE OF	EAGUE RESULTS 1989-	90
Home	Opponents	Away
1-1	ARSENAL	0-4
0-2	ASTON VILLA	2-1
1-2	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	1-1
1-1	CHELSEA	1-1
1-0	COVENTRY CITY	1-2
3-0	CRYSTAL PALACE	2-2
0-1	DERBY COUNTY	0-6
1-0	EVERTON	0-0
1-4	LIVERPOOL	1-3
3-1	LUTON TOWN	1-1
5-1	MANCHESTER UNITED	1-1
2-0	MILLWALL	1-1
0-3	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	0-1
1-0	QPR	3-1
1-0	NORWICH CITY	1-0
2-1	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	0-2
1-2	SOUTHAMPTON .	1-2
1-1	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	1-1
1-1	WIMBLEDON	0-1

Pos	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
14th	38	12	12	14	43	52	48

★ In 1989-90 EIGHT of the 20 First Division clubs were from London and City never had to head north!

SEASON 1989-90

THE MATCHES

After achieving promotion the previous season City embarked on the 1989-90 First Division campaign with a view to consolidate rather than set the world alight.

The relatively low-key City manager, Mel Machin, seemed determined to play down expectations, especially as other clubs - in particular Manchester United - were spending millions on strengthening their squad. City could not afford to spend wildly, although they did increase their overdraft by signing Clive Allen and Ian Bishop during the close season for a combined fee of around

The opening day fixture - an away game against the team of the 80s, Liverpool - would be a major test for the Blues. Despite good debuts from Allen and Bishop the game ended

in a 3-1 defeat. As the City fans waited to leave Anfield a couple of melancholic Blues started to sing "Blue Moon". It was the first time the song had been heard at a City match and, as the season progressed, it started to be adopted as the club's anthem. It typified feelings during what became an eventful season.

Another defeat followed (2-1 at home to Southampton), before the first point was gained in a 1-1 draw with a Tottenham side that included Garv Lineker. Two games later Clive Allen netted a solitary goal against QPR to bring the first victory, but City's celebrations were short-lived as a 1-0 defeat at Wimbledon left the Blues joint bottom of the division. A bad feeling at any time but City feared the worst in their next match - the 111th League Manchester derby against Alex Ferguson's

multi-million pound United.

Not only were the United players worth many millions more than City but the Blues were already aware they would be missing a few of their own first choice men - Clive Allen, Neil McNab, and regular 'keeper Andy Dibble. A massacre was predicted, and sure enough one came. Except it was United who were humiliated not City. The game ended 5-1 with goals from Oldfield (2), Hinchcliffe, Bishop, and Morley. Chants of 'easy, easy' rang out from the City faithful, while the few United fans left in the old Platt Lane stand chanted 'Fergie out'. It was a great feeling.

A week later Luton were beaten 3-1 - with City 'keeper Paul Cooper saving the 56th penalty of his long career - but sadly form deteriorated. Arsenal beat City 4-0 at Highbury with Machin choosing to blame the peculiar yellow kit City







After the derby massacre Alex Ferguson's future was in doubt, but it was City boss Mel Machin who failed to last the season. The Reds kept faith in Fergie who has apparently turned things around!

APPEARANCES & SCORERS

• City's top scorer was Clive Allen with 10 (yes 10!!) League goals from 23 (plus 7 as sub) games. Only one player managed to appear in all 38 games and that was former Youth Cup winning captain Steve Redmond.

Mel Machin's last signing, Colin Hendry, was voted Player of the Year. He'd been an ever-present in the 25 games from his signing in November through to the end of the season, and had impressed many with his never say die approach.

wore for that match. A few weeks later Derby defeated City 6-0 - their biggest League defeat in 27 years - even though the yellow kit had been destroyed. Rumours circulated that Machin was for the chop and, after a 1-1 draw with Charlton, Peter Swales dismissed his quiet, unassuming manager claiming he had no 'repartee' with the fans. He meant rapport but by this stage in the Chairman's career any reason seemed possible.

The following Friday
the Chairman announced
on Granada's Kick Off
programme that he
wanted Oldham's Joe
Royle to replace Machin.
As Oldham were due to
play Blackburn that
night at Boundary Park

ATTENDANCES

The highest
League crowd was
43,246 for the
Maine Road
massacre of United
on 23rd September
1989. 40,274
watched the return
derby. The highest
away attendance
was 40,414 at
Arsenal on 14th
Octobex.

The average home attendance was 27,975.

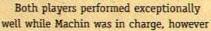
it seemed a rather silly comment to make, and actually did more to persuade the Oldham fans to make their feelings known to Royle. After a great deal of soul-searching Royle chose to stay at Boundary Park - "The timing was all wrong" he later said - and Swales eventually managed to persuade Howard Kendall to take on the job.

Immediately, Kendall stamped his own authority on the team. Out went Bishop and Morley, and in came Peter Reid and Alan Harper, Clive Allen was suddenly used sparingly while a whole series of players arrived at Maine Road to help preserve City's Division One status. The bulk of these had connections with Everton, although the player who went on to prove the best of all Kendall's purchases was former Arsenal man Niall Quinn.

Under Kendall City
moved up the table and
the star man for many
was £800,000 Quinn
who, with four goals in
nine games, proved to be
a great buy. He helped
lift the Blues to 14th
place in what had been
a season of incredible
highs and depressing
lows. A typical 1980s/
early 90s City season!

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

The arrival of Clive Allen (pictured right) and Ian Bishop (below) did much to lift supporters during the 1989 close season. Allen, City's first £1m signing since Trevor Francis in 1981, was a proven goalscorer who many Blues felt possessed real class, while Bishop had impressed during the previous season when he played for Bournemouth against City.



his departure in November led to a change in playing style and ultimately caused both men some pain. Allen proved to be the player sacrificed whenever Kendall wanted to grind out a result, while Bishop never really stood a chance of staying under the former Evertonian.

Much to the regret of the vast majority of supporters Kendall sold Bishop, along with the promotion hero Trevor Morley, to West Ham. In the weeks that followed supporters made Kendall aware of how well-liked



Bishop was. It surprised City's manager who, years later, admitted: "I couldn't believe anybody could be that popular in a team which was not performing well and struggling at the foot of the table. I was astonished by the reaction his departure prompted but I was staggered by the length of time it went on. In fact, it is still going on because every time I meet a Manchester City supporter, that is the first topic raised."

THE CUPS

6 Kendall's City were defeated 3-1 in the second replay of their F.A. Cup third round match with Millwall, while Machin's Blues progressed to the fourth round of the League Cup.

A 1-0 defeat by Coventry had followed victories over Norwich and Steve Perryman's Brentford. During the 4-1 defeat of Brentford at Maine Road, Perryman received a little ridicule from the City fans in the Main Stand, especially when he mimicked lifting the F.A. Cup.

He was, of course referring to the 1981 final, but most supporters assumed the pressure of defeat had been far too much for the former Spurs man to take.

ELSEWHERE

Liverpool won the title by nine points over Aston Villa.

Alex Ferguson
overcame the pressure
and abuse of 1989-90 to
win the F.A. Cup after
United had defeated Joe
Royle's Oldham Athletic
in the semi-final at
Maine Road. Oh, and
Niall Quinn became a
hero with Ireland in the
World Cup Finals.



at Platt Lane Complex Yew Tree Road, Fallowfield, Manchester

Christmas Special



Are you between 18 & 85 and can't think what to get for Christmas?

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- Plus FREE induction.
- ★ Total cost £125

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RESTAURANTE LAS BRISAS DE JAVEA



Montgo, Javea, Costa Blanca, Spain

A NEW DINING EXPERIENCE -

WE TOO HAVE MOVED UP A DIVISION

Mark and Milagros Bittner have moved to sunny Spain but our warm welcome to City fans still remains the same Reservations (00 34) 96 579 4709

Winter Park Hotel

29-31 Albert Road Blackpool

01253 620708

Home or away, we're with City all the way

DON'T TAKE A CHANCE ON YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE NO DRIVING, NO **QUEUING FOR TAXIS**

STAY THE NIGHT FROM ONLY ... £40.00 per room for 2 people

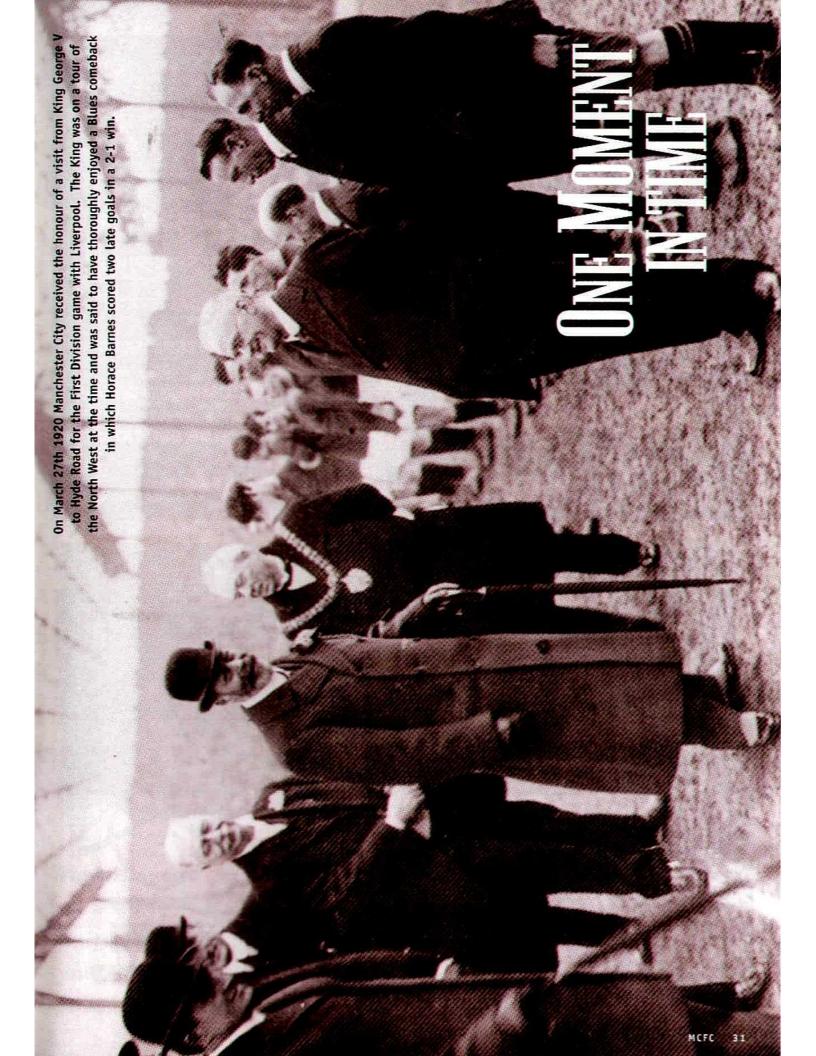
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LOOK WHAT'S INCLUDED!...

Full English breakfast plus en-suite accommodation, complimentary newspaper and full Gold Card use of the Leisure Club for the duration of your stay











How will you make your mark this season?

Teletext on ITV page 108 www.itv.yearofpromise.co.uk



YEAR OF PROMISE









Christmas competition winners

➤ We are pleased to announce, after great deliberations, the winners of our Christmas drawing competition: the 5-8-year-old category was won by James Crossland from Glossop, 9-12-year-olds was won by Alex Miller of Stockport and the final category, 13-15-year-olds, was won by 13-year-old Claire Brent. All three children won tickets for this afternoon's game as well as the chance to participate in the pre-match penalty shoot-out. The overall competition was won by Claire who also wins a word processor, courtesy of Football in the Community scheme sponsors, Brother.

We hope all three children enjoy their afternoon at Maine Road and manage to score a penalty against Moonchester. We would also like to thank all of you who took the time to draw a picture and send it in.



St John Bosco emerged as worthy winners. They will now go on to represent Manchester City Football Club in the next round against teams from all over the North-West. The winners will eventually go to Wembley where they will play the winners of the southern region before the final of the Auto Windscreens Shield Trophy.

Kick for cash

After a slow start to the new half-time competition, Manchester Evening News Kick for Cash (with rumours abounding the ball wouldn't even fit the hoop!), the last three games have seen the ball kicked into the hoop four times. Our first winner was Nigel Wilson at the Portsmouth game, followed by Lee Shuell (pictured with Tony Tiger and Steve Mapp from Football in the Community) at the Huddersfield match. We then had two winners at the Stockport game, Martin Donohue and Stuart Thompson, and we are now looking at ways to make the competition more difficult. However, we are still hoping for more female contestants. If any females fancy having a go then contact Alison on the above telephone number. Today the prize money stays at £50, should anyone manage to score into the hoop.



Claire's winning picture.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Millennium!

Six-a-side winners

This year the annual Predator Schools Six-A-Side competition was won by St John Bosco Primary School in Blackley. Last year's winners, King David School in Crumpsall, were unable to retain the trophy in a hard-fought competition where





Send your stories to: The Programme Desk, c/o MCFC.



Programme & Memorabilia Fair

The Conference Hall
Manchester Town
Hall
Albert Square
Manchester
Thursday 30th
December
11am - 4pm
ADMISSION_FREE

Angel of the north!

Merry Christmas to all City supporters everywhere and may we introduce our very own Blue Angel - JACK JAMES KIPPAX, grandson of CSA member Alex Channon.

City teams bowled over!

➤ During a recent fun night out at Mega-Bowl in Manchester, the Accounts Team were well and truly bowled over by Claire Marsden's side (Claire is holding the trophy, below).

Despite Alistair
Mackintosh attaining the
highest score, June
Hampson and Julia
McCrindle were the
jokers in the pack,

rolling up with the lowest scores on the night. We think Mr Royle should be told and transfers could well be in order for the rematch!



Irish mascot

➤ Welcome to 9-year-old Andrew Cooke (pictured above) who's come all the way from from Co. Down in Northern Ireland to lead out the team today. Andrew is the winner of a mascot competition which appeared in the October edition of Junior Blues News.

Happy birthday to...

➤ Al Ward, who was 90 yesterday. A City supporter for 80 years - he used to get into Hyde Road for free at 'three-quarter' time - he started a dynasty of Blues: son Tony has



Looking for a last minute stocking filler for Christmas?

City 'til I Die is the story of Wembley '99, an afternoon that encapsulated an entire lifetime of supporting the Blues. For the first time, football's most loyal supporters explain through words and pictures why 'City 'til I Die' is not just a terrace anthem, but a way of life.

➤ 'City 'til I die' is available from the City Store and all good book shops for just £9.99 followed City for 54 years, grandson Duncan for 27 years and greatgrandson 8-year-old Jacob began coming to Maine Road five years ago. Congratulations, Al, you've definitely done your bit for City!

➤ Main Stand season ticket holder Sarah Gregory who is 30 today. Sarah has been working with VSO in Tanzania and love comes from Mum, Dad & Clare.

> Chloe Jones (pictured below with her friend Luke Duckett) who was 4 on 13th December.

➤ Leanne Ingle (pictured right with mum, Sue) celebrated her 15th on 16th December. Love Mum, Dad & Nan.





➤ Milan Tinant, who will be 7 on 19th. Love Mum & Dad.

➤ Abbie Wilson (pictured below with brother James), who will be also be 7 on Christmas Eve. And last but not least, Junior Blue Christopher Chantler, who was 9 on 16th.

Not to be missed!

There's an 8-page special feature on 'City's Century' in the programme for Grimsby Town's visit!



Grand Prize Draw... are you among the winners?

➤ At the recently held prize draw for a coveted Wigan play-off shirt, organised by MCFC Development Association, the following were lucky winners:

A.Lawrence, Dorset 09895; T.Keohane,
Worsley 05442; J.W.Rackham, Hr Blackley
20535; G.Sutcliffe, Kent 07758; P.Birchenough,
Macclesfield 17865; A.D.Walker, Heywood
12302; S.Richardson, Wilmslow 17654;
M.Birtles, Preston 15136; D.Cocker, Blackburn
19700; S.Bowes, Dorset 10442; T.Kellett, Ashton
28760; F.Turner, Stretford 06571; A.Williams,
Timperley 26151.

Our grateful thanks to all those who participated.

tuho ateallthe fries?





INTO THE MILLENNIUM WITH

Calling all Junior Blues

It's party time tomorrow!!!

Who can boogie like Shaun?



... the winners of our Songster Competition who will be performing their song LIVE on the pitch this afternoon.

Unclaimed prize

> We are still awaiting the winner of the signed City shirt which was raffled at the last JB meeting, the winning ticket is Blue No. 124. If YOU are the ticket holder please contact the Junior Blues office with proof of purchase.

YOU are invited to the

MCFC Junior Blues **Christmas Party**

Sunday 19th December Top Floor of Kippax

Doors open 2.40pm ◆ Party 3pm - 5pm Fun & Games .. Disco .. Fancy Dress Millennium Babe/Millennium Man .. gifts from Father Christmas ... Big Name Stars in attendance

> N.B. We have a small number of tickets left which will be available on the door. Free to Junior Blues, £2 non-members.

We would like to wish a very **Merry Christmas** to all MCFC **Junior Blues** everywhere







EveningNews



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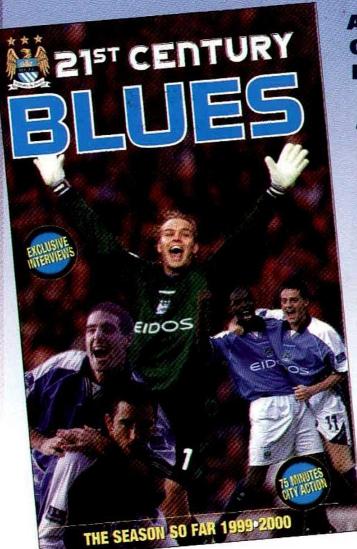


Why watch another Bond repeat on Boxing Day when you could be watching 21st Century Blues?

The sensational highlights of City's table-topping start to the first half of the season, including all the action and goals up to and including Port Vale away.

This is a video not to be missed!

- * Exclusive interviews
- ★ 75 minutes of City action



Available now from the City Superstore or on the Maine Line 0161 226 6000

Also still available: City Are Back - the story of last season's roller-coaster campaign, with extended Wembley highlights!

Fans are also reminded that the Superstore is now open every Thursday night and on Sundays until Christmas.

> OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE



MANCHESTER CITY FC SUPPCIUD (1949)

- ➤ The disabled branch of the Supporters' Club will be holding their Christmas Party on Monday 20th Dec at the G.M.P. Club on Mauldeth Road West at 7.30pm. Guests include Jim Cassell and former players, now coach, Paul Power. All Blues are welcome. For further info contact John Kenny on 0161 718 7603.
- > David, Mandy and Abbie Skidmore are back in Manchester. They emigrated 12 years ago to Australia and are former season ticket holders. They will be attending today's game as quests of the Failsworth branch. Family, friends and branch members will be talking over times past in the M.E.N. Suite in the Kippax Stand. Have a great time!
- > The next meeting for the Levenshulme branch is Wednesday 22nd Dec. At the moment no quests are scheduled to appear, but they are hoping to get a club official to attend to enlighten them as to the long-term implications of the recent investment by BSkyB and to answer any questions members may have concerning ticket sales and other non-team related matters, etc. Anyone interested in joining the Levenshulme branch can contact Bill Black on 0161 442 4801 or e-mail wjb44@cwcom.net.
- ➤ A fantastic night was had by all those who attended the Christmas Draw at St Crispins. Many thanks to Andy Morrison, King Colin Bell, Bernard Halford and latecomer Ian

along to help out with the event. The first three winners

Cheeseman for coming

were: 1st: £500 - Steve of the

Baguley & Brooklands branch.

2nd: Wine & spirit hamper - Pat.

3rd: Food hamper -

B. Artingstall of Denton. A full list of winners can be obtained from your branch secretaries or the Supporters' Club office.

> The Baguley & Brooklands branch would like to congratulate their chairman Roy Lewis on the birth of grandson Rhys Wolencroft and to branch member Colin Moore on the birth of daughter Lucy. A big thank you to Halifax manager and former player Mark Lillis who attended a recent meeting. The branch are also holding their Christmas Party after

today's game at The Wendover, Wendover Road, Brooklands.
Admission is £2 members, £3 nonmembers. Next meeting is at the usual place (The Wendover) on 27th Dec. Anyone wanting to join the branch should contact secretary Tony Welsh on 0161 998 4528 or chairman Roy Lewis on 998 8879.

- ➤ The **Denton** branch have brought forward their next meeting to Monday 20th Dec (Denton Conservative Club, 8.45pm) from the 21st Dec. Bookings will • be taken for WBA, Crewe & Sheffield Utd.
- ➤ If you haven't booked your place for the 50th Anniversary 'do', then I'm afraid it's too late! It's a complete sell-out. Sorry!

the M.E.N. Suite in Morrison, King Colin Bell, Bernard Halford and latecomer Ian

Supporters Club website: www.mancity.net/osc.

e-mail: mcfcsc@ic24.net



The Fleetwood branch.

Branches

Aberystwyth Australia Ballymena Barrow-in-Furness Belfast Blackpool Bolton **Brooks Bar** Brooklands/Baguley Buxton Carlisle Cheadle Chester Chorley Cookstown N.I. Clayton Coleraine Cork **County Mayo** Dane Bank Denton Dublin Dukinfield Failsworth Fleetwood Forth Valley Galway Gilford (N.I.) Glossop Gloucester/Cheltenham Handforth/Wilmslow Hazel Grove Higher Openshaw High Peak Isle of Man Kings Lynn Leicester & Rugby Levenshulme Limerick London Macclesfield Mansfield Middleton Middlewich Nantwich New Zealand North Staffs North Wales Norway Piccadilly Prestwich South Africa South Wales South West (England) Thames Valley Warrington Wicklow Woodside W.M.C. (Langley)

Anyone who wishes
to join the
Supporters' Club,
start a branch or
indeed has some
interesting
photographs which
they'd like including
on this page should
contact Tommy Muir
on 0161 428 2857
or write to
Frank Horrocks
c/o M.C.F.C.

MANCHESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB AND FANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 1999

Attended for MCFC: Chris Bird, John Wardle, Barry Pollen, Peter Fletcher

Attended for Fans: Ian Barton, Dave Wallace, Dave Beddard, Les Saul, Graham Brine, Stephen Knott

1. NEW STADIUM

- The Club are having weekly meetings with the designers (ARUP) and the Council. The main structure of the stadium is set with the 'internals' almost decided. Eighty percent of the stadium has been put to tender and set.
- > There are no firm plans as yet as to how fans can pick their 'new' seat. Season ticket holders will get first choice but the Club are looking into giving priority to the longest standing season ticket holders. The Club are exploring various ways of allocating the seats and are liaising with other clubs who have experienced similar moves. Because the new stadium will be larger than Maine Road there should not be a problem letting fans take up similar seat positions when we move.
- ➤ There is a possibility of having singing sections in the ground. Do you think this would be a popular option?
- ➤ Some seating could be unreserved to enable fans to take friends to some games and still sit together.
- Smoking could be prohibited in the new stadium. A good idea?
- ➤ The concourse under the stand on the lower level will be 12m wide. This will give extra space for fans near the bar areas and also leave room to have some seating in these areas.
- ➤ The stadium has been sited to get the maximum amount of sunlight onto the playing surface.
- 2,700 of the total

- 48,000 seats will be for 'corporate' fans. This is pro-rata to Maine Road now.
- ➤ Many corporate seats will be sited in the centre of the two sides, but will not take up all the seats in these positions.
- There will be 64 private boxes around the stadium and 6 hospitality suites which will have the capacity to hold 300 people.
- ➤ There will be 300 seats available for disabled fans and their helpers.
- ➤ At the north end of the stadium there will be a social club, superstore, heritage centre and many other attractions to promote City.
- Away supporters will be located at the south end of the stadium. They will have their own parking area. The number of tickets available to away fans is flexible but will still only be the same percentage of the gate as per league regulations.
- You will be able to walk all the way around the inside of the stadium on the lower level concourse unless the away section is cordoned off.
- The Council will have the big say in any naming of the stands but the Club will probably ask fans for their suggestions on the topic nearer the time.
- ➤ The Club also would like to have a new road outside the stadium named Maine Road.
- ➤ The pitch will be 'state of the art'. It will have a 'sub-air system' underneath it to remove excess moisture from the playing surface and to also prevent the pitch

from freezing. This system is the best available at the present time.

➤ The Club are to hold more open days on this topic and are looking to produce a newsletter which will be posted periodically to fans.

Please send in your ideas/comments on New Stadium issues.

2. TELEVISIONS IN THE BAR AREAS

All the TV's should now be turned back on before the end of each game. This is to assist in keeping all the exits clear. If this does not happen please let me know.

3. TICKET OFFICE/ TRACKING SYSTEM

- A focus group has recently been formed and this group met with the Ticket Office management. Many concerns were raised and discussed with the feedback taken away and acted upon. This group is to meet the ticket office staff on a regular basis. All concerns and ideas are welcome.
- The tracking system for away games is still being tested. The Club plan to remove the need to produce an away ticket stub by the New Year with the tracked attendance taking over. If you are unsure of your 'tracked attendance' and wish to clarify your position the Ticket Office welcome any window enquiries.

Contact Nothan Gould at the Ticket Office if you require further information on these subjects.

4. SEASON TICKET PRICES

The Board of Directors are to discuss next season's prices at the December Board meeting. They are also considering introducing a reduced price for season ticket holders who are 16/17 years old.

5. RED AND BLACK SHIRT

The red and black (as worn versus OPR and Chester) will be available as a leisure item next Easter. This means the shirt only, not shorts or socks. This is so that the Club does not have three kits on sale in one season. Leaque regulations state the Club must have a third kit. The Club and Le Cog Sportif will produce a new kit for next season but it has not been decided if the home or away shirt will be changed.

6. KAPPA UK DEAL

City are in litigation with Kappa UK. City were unhappy with the late delivery of stock experienced with Kappa UK, which lost City considerable sales. Kappa UK are unhappy with lost royalties when the deal was ended early. This situation is ongoing. (NB. The Club are delighted with Le Coq Sportif.).

7. OPEN DAY

There are plans to stage another open day next summer. This event will be based in the Kippax Stand and held over three days. The open day will have exhibitions of City memorabilia and personalities from the



Club staging other City related displays. The Club are looking to involve a professional exhibition company to help stage this event.

8. BSkvB

BSkyB will get 30% of any increased revenue generated through their agency deal with City. This extra revenue could be generated through sponsorship, advertising, stand sponsorship, video screen advertising, video sales, Internet sales etc. The 30% will not include any of our current income which includes TV money, shirt sponsorship, merchandise sales etc. The Club feel this 'deal' with BSkyB will encourage them to be pro-active in generating extra and new revenue for City.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 17th January 2000, 7.30pm, Oasis Suite, Platt Lane Complex. Any City fan can attend and have their say. All points raised will be discussed with the Club the following week. This facility is unique in the football world. Come along and have an active say in how your football club is run.

Any correspondence to: Fans Committee, c/o Maine Road, Moss Side, Manchester, M14 7WN.

If you're not already a member, why not contact your local CSA branch?

Branch Chairman/Secretary Tel No. A34 (Winchester) Steve Holt 01962 881331 Aerospace Tony Spears 6812020 x2455(w) Blackley Carl Heald 0161 720 7916 Bredbury & S.Manchester Ian Arnfield 0161 285 5102 Cambridge & District Colin Naylor 01223 520605 Colwyn Bay David Vickers 01492 548769 Czech Republic Steven Brierley 00 4206 03211 513 **Dorset & District** Janet Head 01747 854526 Gibraltar Peter North 00 35 0474 40 Holland Bob Price 00 31 2066 30940 & Dave Lyons 00 31 78 6191970 Hollinwood Andy Webb 0161 682 8692 Holyhead Colin Bell 01407 769648 Hyde Graham Caswell 0161 882 9139 **Knutsford & District** Paul Garner 01565 872550 Middleton John Sapseid 0161 626 7710 Nigel Collins 01926 741797 Midlands Morecambe Bay Lance Thomson 01524 851259 Dave Bamborough 0191 548 6140 North Fast Prestwich & Whitefield Aide Dickson 0161 795 5380 Radcliffe Andy Peers 0161 725 8384 Reddish Howard Burr 0161 480 1013 Rochale Phill Gatenby 0161 684 8907 Rossendale Chris Northover 01706 231121 Shrewsbury Sean Williams 01743 741621 South Yorks Garry Brough 01709 548634 Stalybridge Paul Lomas 0161 338 4179 Stretford & Urmston Cheryl Hamilton 0161 746 7638 Sweden Olle Svedlund 00 468 760 2150 **Swinton & District** Alex Channon 0161 281 7517 Tbilisi & Georgia Mike Doherty 01663 766702 West Yorks Ian Barton 01904 488347 **West Yorks** Simon Clegg 01484 658258 Wirral/Merseyside Wendy Martindale 0151 678 6799

SUPPOPULATE SUPPLATED ASSOCIATION

- The recently-formed Middleton Junction branch are holding their Christmas Party tonight, at the Old Cock, Oldham Road. It begins at 6pm and goes on 'til-late. For a 50p donation, members and children can enjoy a duo, raffle, buffet & auction. Both Moonchester & Santa will be there. Ring Kerry Kushner on 0161 653 2061.
- > Rossendale hold their Christmas Party tomorrow, Sun 19th, at Rossendale United FC, Off Dark Lane. Newchurch. Activities include a Stars in their Eyes' contest with the appearance of a special quest, a drop-in by Santa, plus music and lots of fun. Everyone's welcome so come along and party with us. If you want to take part in Stars in their Eyes contact Kay on 07930 560 735.
- ➤ Colwyn Bay's Christmas Party will be also be held TOMORROW Sunday 19th December,



Pictured with Hakan Erdogan - the only Turkish Blue in Icmelar - are North Stand season ticket holders Rob, Kate and Dave Kidd from Catforth, Preston.

at Winkies Cabaret Club, Towyn Road, Towyn, with Charlie Hale and Feminine Touch as the cabaret and Mike Summerbee as guest speaker. Details 01745 342453.

Many thanks to John

Wardle and Steve Sayer who attended Mobberley & Knutsford's last meeting. Our next gettogether is on Thursday 20th January, 8pm start at the Railway Inn, Mobberley when GMR's Jimmy Wagg will be our guest. The branch would like to wish everyone at City a Merry Christmas and a Happy Year 2000.

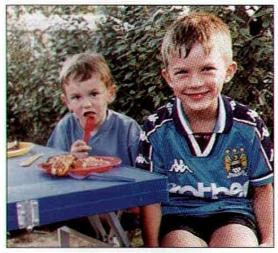
➤ It's a big thanks to Moonchester and Fred Eyre for attending Higher Blackley's last meeting. Our next gettogether is not until February but Ged Coyne will have details on 0161

- ➤ Gorton Trades & Labour Club are still drumming up support to get a branch going in Gorton once a month on Wednesday evenings. If you're interested please ring Ged or Paul Musgrave on 0161 223 0252.
- > Prestwich & Whitefield are organising a weekend in Swindon for the away match versus the Robins in April next year. We shall be staying at a top hotel swimming-pool, sauna, breakfast etc the Full Monty! Details from Gary on 0161 794 3076.



Wrexham

If you have information you would like including here please contact Clive Hamilton on 0161 746 7638 and at 22 Entwisle Avenue, Davyhulme, Manchester M41 5TW.
E-mail Clive on: MCFCSuppAs@aol.com



Geoff Williams 01978 780727

A Top of the Table smile from 7-year-old City fan Thomas Barlow who lives in Rochdale.

NEXT AT MAINE ROAD

Manchester City v Grimsby Town

Tuesday 28th December, k.o. 3pm - This is a Category C game

Three weeks after turning out for Grimsby Town's second team at Hyde United, striker Lee Ashcroft revived the Mariners' season following four successive defeats.

The striker tuned up early in November with a double against City Reserves, and then slotted four penalties among his five senior goals in the remainder of the month. The first went unrewarded in a 5-2 home defeat by Charlton Athletic, but the others wrapped up successive wins against QPR and Norwich City at Blundell Park.

Alan Buckley's team held a mid-table berth in the early part of the season, when new striker Bradley Allen was among the goals, and they reached the third round in the Worthington Cup before going out at Leicester City.

Previous ties against Carlisle United and Leyton Orient brought ten

goals, including a hat-trick by highly-rated Jack Lester against the Cumbrians.

Ticket Office

Telephones/Fax

General Enquiries 0161-226-2224

Dial-A-Seat 0161-227-9229

Dial-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings

Fax-A-Seat 0161-226-1037

Fax-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings (NOT available on home Cup games)

Ticketcall 09068-12-15-91

Calls cost 60p/minute at all times

Email address tickets@mancity. bdx.co.uk

Address for postal applications MCFC, PO Box 178, Manchester M14 7TA.

Opening Times Monday - Friday

9am to 5pm

1st team home matchday 9am to kick-off

> Non-home match Saturday 9am to 12 noon

Reserve/youth team home matches at Maine Road 9am to kick-off

FA Cup 4th Round, sponsored by AXA Manchester City v Leeds United Sunday 9th January, k.o. 2pm

* Remember, there are no fax facilities for home cup ties.

This is a Category C game and tickets are now available to season ticket holders. Leeds United have been allocated North Stand blocks K to R incl. North Stand Regular to 2nd Year incl s/t/holders may apply for North Stand blocks S, T & U. North Stand 1st Year s/t holders may apply for alternative stand seats or from Tue 21st Dec for remaining North Stand tickets.

Season ticket holders, including those who wish to obtain a concessionary price must present application form 'V' & will have up to and incl. Wed 29th Dec to do so. Concessionary priced tickets are £7 (except Family Stand £6 & Block G £5).

To ease queuing for s/t/ holders please note the following additional opening hours: Thur 23rd Dec, 8am-7pm. WINDOW ONLY.

If tickets remain, Citycard holders may apply from 9am on Thur 30th December.

Forthcoming Home Fixtures

	Grimsby	rutnam
Date	28.12.99	16.1.00
k.o. time	3pm	1pm
Category (see table on facing page for prices)	C	В
Citycard holders by post from		20.12.99
Open sale by post		23.12.99
Open sale, no stub	NOW	29.12.99

* SEE FACING
PAGE FOR THE
TICKET OFFICE
OPENING
HOURS OVER
THE HOLIDAY
PERIOD >

Forthcoming Away Fixtures

	West Brom	Crewe	Sheffield United
Date , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	26.12.99	3.1.00	22.01.00
k.o. time	12 noon	3pm	3pm
Allocation received	5,000	1,630	Upper 2,750, Lower 2,700
Application form	N	1	X
Initial away ticket stub required	n/a	N/A	Tranmere
Adult *	£14	£14	Upper £15, Lower £14
OAP	£8	£11	£8
Juniors	£8	£6.50	£8
Regular s/ts by post with stub from			29.12.99
Regular s/ts by post without stub			05.01.00
Regular s/ts, usual outlets			07.01.00
4th year, usual outlets			08.01.00
3rd year, usual outlets			10.01.00
2nd year, usual outlets			11.01.00
1st year, usual outlets			12.01.00
Citycard holders			13.01.00
Open sale	NOW	SOLD OUT	14.01.00

Important - Please Read Carefully

Following consultation with members of the Fans' Committee and supporters we would like to clarify priorities and sales procedures for the season and outline the selling rules which supporters are advised to adhere to.

TICKET SALE RULES 1999-2000

1. Season Ticket Holders:

- The Club reserves the right, on occasions, to sell tickets in the following order for all major away
 League and cup matches: Regular, 4th Year, 3rd Year, 2nd Year, 1st Year.
- Season Ticket holders must present a relevant, fully completed application form to claim one ticket per form. (Season Ticket holders may be limited to 2 application forms per individual application to the Ticket Office)
- The Club may, on occasions for away matches, when the allocation received is very limited, introduce the additional system of giving preference to supporters who have attended a larger number of away fixtures by means of attendance tracking or presentation of ticket stubs.
- Tickets cannot always be guaranteed for away
 League and cup matches, including Cup Finals.

2. Citycard

- As part of Manchester City's ongoing Customer Service Programme we are pleased to announce the arrival of Citycard.
- From 1st October 1999 all previous membership cards became invalid, so supporters are encouraged to join the new scheme.
- Citycard will entitle fans to one ticket only, subject to the full terms and conditions of membership, that are available on request and are also printed on the reverse of the Citycard application form. Supporters may be limited to the number of cards which they can produce per individual application at the Ticket Office.
- Membership does not guarantee a ticket and the club reserve the right to make the allocation of tickets subject to match attendance.
- The club reserves the right to make any game Citycard holders only.
- To join, pick up an application form from the Ticket Office or contact the Enquiry Line on 0161 232 9009 (lines open Mon - Fri 9am-5pm).

3. Open Sale Tickets:

 Supporters may be asked to produce ticket stubs and may be limited to the number of tickets per individual application at the Ticket Office.

Ticket Allocation Priorities - 1999-2000 Season Home League

- First 3 days of sale post only, valid Citycard holders.
- Next 3 days of sale post only, non Citycard holders



HOME LEAGUE MATCH PRICES 1999/2000

uniors for match tickets need to be under 14 years of	age.	Categorie B	s C
Main Stand Blocks B & C	£16	£17	£18
Main Stand Blocks A,D,E,F,HC,HL,HR & I	£15	£16	£17
Main Stand Block G - OAP's only	£5	£5	£5
Kippax Stand Upper Tier	£15	£16	£17
Kippax Stand Lower Tier	£13	£14	£15
Uncovered Seating Block HH	£11	£12	£13
Platt Lane Stand	£12	£13	£14
JD Sports Family Stand Adult	£10	£11	£12
JD Sports Family Stand Jnr/OAP's	£6	£6	£6
North Stand Adult	£11	£12	£13
North Stand Jnr/OAP	£7	£7	£7
North Stand Blocks K & L Jnr/OAP	£6	£6	£6
Uncovered Seating Block UU Adult	£10	£11	£12
Uncovered Seating Block UU Jnr/OAP's	£6	£6	£6

 Second week of sale - window or Dial/Fax-A-Seat service, Piccadilly Box Office (allocations cannot be guaranteed)

Home Cup Ties/Away Matches

- Season Ticket holders (one ticket per season ticket)
- 2. Valid Citycard holders (one ticket per valid card)
- 3. Non Citycard holders (one ticket per applicant)

Attendance Tracking

Ticket sales to individuals known to the Ticket Office database (Season Ticket holders or valid *Citycard* holders) will be recorded to identify priority attendance for high-profile matches. Please note that only sales from the MCFC Ticket Office will be recorded. Cash ticket sales at turnstiles cannot be registered.

We reserve the right to make certain matches Citycard card-holders only.

Ticket Office Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Date	Open-Close
Dec 23	8am**-7pm**
Dec 24	9am-1pm
Dec 25/	/26/27 Closed
Dec 28	9am-3pm*
Dec 29	9am-5pm
Dec 30	8am**-7pm**
Dec 31	Closed
Jan 1/2	2/3 Closed
** Exte	nded times are

- for window sales only
- * Open after the home

Manchester City Football Club Luncheon Club

in aid of the Youth Academy

Thursday 20th January 2000

in the Boardroom Suite, Maine Road at 12 noon

Tickets £35 (+ vat) for four-course meal

Question & Answer session with Joe Royle

For further information please telephone Louise Tyldesley at the MCFC Academy on 0161 225 2144 or the Commercial Dept on 0161 232 3000

Be sure to follow 'City in the Nineties' on BBC GMR

The last decade has provided one of the most colourful chapters in City's history with the managerial upheaval and changes in the boardroom.

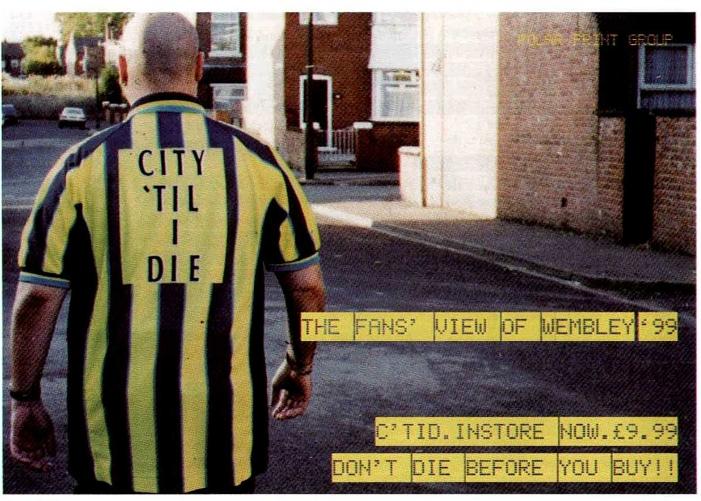
At least 1999 has been a year to remember, with the unforgettable triumph at Wembley in May, as the Club starts to prosper again.

The story of 'Manchester City in the Nineties' will be told in an hour-long special compiled by Andy Buckley on BBC GMR, to be broadcast at 8pm on Wednesday, 29th December and repeated at 7pm on Wednesday 5th January.

"What has happened to the club is an amazing story but the happiest memories are the most recent and the play-off win over Gillingham.

"I've concentrated on the day out at Wembley quite a lot in the programme because that's what the fans want to hear," said Andy, who has covered City throughout the decade.

BBC GMR is on 95.1 & 104.6 FM.









ADOPT A PLAYER 1999/2000



Shaun Wright Phillips





Mark Kennedy





eden utility services ltd

Danny www.edenutilities.co.uk Granville





Robert Taylor



 Manchester ews Royle

For more details on Adopt a Player contact: The Marketing Department on

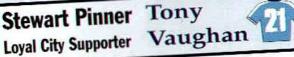
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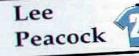




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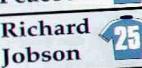
MIDLAND ENGINEERING (GB) LTD













NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE F Pts W F W D A D A L Huddersfield Town Manchester City Charlton Athletic Ipswich Town Barnsley Stockport County б **Fulham** Birmingham City OPR **Bolton Wanderers** Blackburn Rovers Wolverhampton W. Tranmere Rovers Norwich City West Bromwich A. Crewe Alexandra Grimsby Town Crystal Palace Port Vale Nottingham Forest Portsmouth Sheffield United Walsall

FIRST DIVISION FACT FILE SEASON 1999-2000

LEAGUE ATTENDANCES

Swindon Town

LEAGUE ATTENDA	Best	Average
Barnsley	17,765	14,464
Birmingham City	25,495	21,709
Blackburn Rovers	21.046	18,434
Bolton Wanderers	*21,671	14,219
Charlton Athletic	*20,043	19,387
Crewe Alexandra	6,495	5,518
Crystal Palace	18,649	14,140
Fulham	19,623	13,628
Grimsby Town	6,849	5,697
Huddersfield Town	15,764	13,059
Ipswich Town	20,830	17,571
Manchester City	33,027	32,061
Norwich City	19,948	15,559
Nottingham Forest	20,694	16,275
Portsmouth	17,667	13,226
Port Vale	*10,250	5,966
Queens Park Rangers	*19,002	12,207
Sheffield United	15,687	12,421
Stockport County	7,632	6,694
Swindon Town	8,203	6,423
Tranmere Rovers	*13,208	7,007
Walsall	*7,260	6,298
West Bromwich A.	21,097	14,557
Wolverhampton W.	25,500	21,549
moti si nompton in		

Highest attendance was for City's visit.

Highest League attendance:

33,027 Man City v B'burn, 23.10.99

Lowest League attendance:

3,737 Port Vale v Grimsby, 5.9.99

FACTS & FIGURES

(League games only)

Highest scoring home wins:

7-1 Huddersfield v C.Palace, 28.8.99

Highest scoring away win:

5-2 Charlton at Grimsby T., 12.11.99

Most goals in a match:

3 Mendonca (Charlton), Wijnhard (Huddersfield), Hunt (Charlton), Akinbiyi (Wolves)

LEADING SCORERS

(Including Cup games)

- 18 +Robert Taylor (Manchester City)
- 13 David Johnson (Ipswich Town)
- 13 Martin Smith (Sheffield United)
- 12 Shaun Goater (Manchester City)
- * 12 Geoff Horsfield (Fulham)
- 12 Clyde Wijnhard (Huddersfield T.)
- 11 +Ade Akinbiyi (Wolverhampton W.)
- 11 Lee Hughes (West Bromwich A.)
- 10 Eldur Gudjohnsen (Bolton W.)
- 10 Marcus Stewart (Huddersfield T.)
- Lee Ashcroft (Grimsby Town)
- Dougie Freedman (Nottingham F.)
- Andy Hunt (Charlton Athletic)
- Clive Mendonca (Charlton Athletic)
- + includes goals for other clubs

(Up to and including Tuesday 14th December).

Blue shaded areas denote which players appeared. Half blue/half white areas denote player appeared as substitute.

1 - goals scored ?/?? = Initials of player replaced/time of substitution. = booked 📕 = sent-off † = Opponents own goal * = player replaced p = scored from penalty Unused subs & debutants are also indicated

p	= 500	ored fr	om penalty Unused subs & debuta	nts are	also indicat	ed	
Date		H/A	Opposition	F-A	Att.	Pas.	Andy !
Aug	8	н	Wolverhampton W.	0-1	31,755	-	2,311
Aug	100	Н	Burnley (WC 1.1)	5-0	11,074	-	1,256
STATE OF THE PARTY NAMED IN	14	A	Fulham	0-0	16,754	21	2,466
	21	Н	Sheffield United	6-0	30,110	8	1,179
-	24	A	Burnley (WC 1.1)	1-0	3,647		1,57
Aug	28	A	Bolton Wanderers	1-0	21,671	4	3,117
-	30	H	Nottingham Forest	1-0	31,857	3	1,694
Aug	11	Н	Crystal Palace	2-1	31,541	2	624
Sep		Н	Southampton (WC 2.1)	0-0	17,476	-	390
Sep	15			1-0	7,260	1	1,89
Sep	18	A	Walsall Southampton (WC 2.2)	3-4	10,960	-	1,300
Sep	22	A		1-2	19,406	3	1,50
Sep	26	A	Ipswich Town	-			
	28	A	Norwich City	0-1	15,130	-	1,86
0ct	2	H	Port Vale	2-1	31,608	2	784
	16	A	Tranmere Rovers	1-1	13,208	4	5,47
0ct	19	Α	Birmingham City	1-0	22,126	1	1,88
0ct	23	Н	Blackburn Rovers	2-0	33,027	1	2,25
0ct	27	H	Ipswich Town	1-0	32,799	1	1,00
0ct	30	Α	Port Vale †	2-1	10,250	1	4,50
Nov	3	H	Portsmouth	4-2	31,660	1	53
Nov	6	Α	Queens Park Rangers	1-1	19,002	1	3,58
Nov	20	A	Charlton Athletic	1-0	20,043	_	2,00
Nov	24	H	Barnsley	3-1	32,692	Section 1	2,26
Nov	27	H	Huddersfield Town	0-1	32,936	-	2,25
Dec	3	Α	Wolverhampton W.	1-4	21,635		2,65
Dec	7	Н	Stockport County	1-2	32,686	2	
Dec	12	A	Chester City (FA Cup 3) †	4-1	5,469		2,37
Dec	18	H	Swindon Town		11270		
Dec	26	A	West Bromwich Albion				
Dec	28	H	Grimsby Town		100	July 1	
Jan	3	Α	Crewe Alexandra				
Jan	9	H	Leeds United (FA Cup 4)	Paris	1	P.U	
Jan	16	H	Fulham .		100	100	
Jan	22	A	Sheffield United				
Jan	29	Н	Bolton Wan. (or FAC 5)	23	1000	100	B.
Feb	5	A	Nottingham Forest				
Feb	12	H	Norwich City		100000000	1000	
Feb	19	A	Huddersfield T. (or FAC 6)				
Feb		100	Walsall	1724	TO STATE OF	and	
Mar		100,00	Crystal Palace				
Mar				Jak		1	
Mar		A	Barnsley				
Mar			Charlton Athletic		31/2/38	div.	1
Mar	-		Stockport County				
Mar			West Bromwich Albion	0.770	113110	188	
Apr			Swindon Town				
Apr	_	-	Crewe Alexandra	188	CANAG	Và	
Apr		1400	FA Cup s/f		1		
Apr	1000		Grimsby Town				1
Apr			Tranmere Rovers		10000	100	1
Apr	_	-	Portsmouth		1		
Apr	_	-	Birmingham City	1	150	Vev	
May			Blackburn Rovers	-			1
	1 13	100	Play-off s/f 1		-	+	-
			Play-off s/f 2	+-	-	-	
	17			-	-	+	
	20		FA Cup Final Play-off Final		-	+	+
may	29		ridy-un filidi		1	1	1

Quiz Answers See page 12

- 1. Kevin Horlock; 2. Everton, Aston Villa & Liverpool; 3. Paul Dickov;
- 4. Brian Conton; 5. Lee Briscoe; 6. Mike Summerbee; 7. Uwe Rösler;
- 8. Nicky Summerbee; 9. Steve McMahon; 10. City 10 Swindon 1.

Lee	CROOKS	EDGHILL	Gerard	Andy	Kevin	Michael	Ian BISHOP	Paul	Shaun GOATER	Terry COOKE	Danny	Tommy	Gareth	Craig RUSSELL	Затіе Роціоск	Jim WHITLEY	Jeff WHITLEY	Danny	Gary	Tony	Nick	Kakhaber TSKHADADZE	Lee	Richard JOBSON	Mark KENNEDY	Chris	Danny GRANVILLE	Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	Stephen	Richard	Robert		Own Goals 2
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BLUES ON THE ROAD...

➤ To West Bromwich Albion

Access M6 south and follow signs Birmingham to J8 (M5). Follow signs The South West to join M5 Junction 1 (A41/A4252). Leave Motorway (signposted Birmingham NW) & at roundabout take 1st exit A41. West Bromwich Albion FC is on the right.

SUPPORTERS CLUB TRAVEL

➤ WBA

Coach £7, departs Maine Road 9am, usual pick-ups

➤ Crewe

Coach £6, departs Maine Road 12.15pm. Pickups at Moston Lane, Chorlton St, and Maine Road ONLY.

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MATCH PROGRAMME

Editor: Mike Beddow Contributors: Richard Bott, Geoff Durbin, John Maddocks,

John Turner.

Photos: Action Images, Empics, Roland Cooke, Design & Print: Polar Print Group Saturday 18th December 1999 Nationwide League Division One

REFEREE: Bill Burns (Scarborough)

A Football League linesman from 1985 and moved up to the referees' list in 1988. Refereed the Division Three play-off final in 1996 and the FA Vase final last season. Occupation: Civil Servant.

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Andy Nicholson (Halifax) Red Flag Andrew Smith (Castleford) Yellow Flag FOURTH OFFICIAL: J. Waring

MANCHESTER CITY

SWINDON TOWN

-	OPPOSE .		1995		· various il				-	1			
Played	Sub	Goals	Yellow	Red	Result			Attendance	Played	Sub	Goals Y	other I	Red
					Nick Weaver	1	1	Frank Talia					
					Lee Crooks	2	2	Mark Robinson					
					Richard Edghill	3	3	Gareth Hall					
					Gerard Wiekens	4	4	Scott Leitch	4				
					Andy Morrison	5	5	Gareth Davies					
					Kevin Horlock	6	6						
					Michael Brown	7	7	Bobby Howe					
					lan Bishop	8	8						
					Paul Dickov	9	9	Iffy Onuora					
					Shaun Goater	10	10	Giuliano Grazioli					
					Terry Cooke	11	111	Ty Gooden					
					Danny Allsopp	12	12	Alan Reeves					
					Tommy Wright	13	13	Jimmy Glass					
					Gareth Taylor	14	14						
					Craig Russell	15	15	Chris Hay					
					Jamie Pollock	16	16	Lee Collins					
					Jim Whitley	17	17	Steve Cowe					
					Jeff Whitley	18		Steve Mildenhall					
					Danny Tiatto	19	19	Adam Willis					
					Gary Mason	20	20	Charlie Griffin					
				FIRE	Tony Vaughan	21	21	Sol Davis					
					Nick Fenton	22	22	Robin Hulbert					
					Kakhaber Tskhadadze	23	23	Philippe Cuervo					
					Lee Peacock	24	24	Sam Campagna					
					Richard Jobson	25	25	Frazer McHugh					
					Richard McKinney	26	26	Nicky Burke					
					Shaun Holmes	27	27	Jamie Mills					
					Alan Reilly	28	28	Ricky Cuthbertson					
					Shaun Wright-Phillips	29	29	Alan Flanagan					
					Stephen Hodgson	30	30	Paul McAreavey					
					David Laycock	31	31						
411					Leon Mike	32	32	James Williams					
					Christopher Killen	33	33	Andy Williams					
					Mark Kennedy	34	40	Jimmy Quinn					
					Chris Greenacre	35							
					Danny Granville	36		The second secon					
					Robert Taylor	37		The second second second				1	
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				No.			-	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE			V	LEWIS	0.0

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GRIMSBY TOWN

Nationwide League Division One Tuesday 28th December 1999, Kick-off 3pm

