



SENIOR TIGERS

www.seniortigers.org.uk

*Chair & Newsletter Editor: Rev'd Allen Bagshawe
allen@bagshawe.karoo.co.uk*

NEWSLETTER no. 28 JANUARY, 2023

Welcome

Greetings to all our Senior Tigers and, of course, to all their loved ones. The committee would like to extend to you all the very best wishes for this New Year. Since our last Newsletter, there has been so much happening. Some of our members enjoyed that fabulous holiday in Turkiye, most of us enjoyed our superb Christmas Luncheon, some were even entertained in the KCOM Hospitality Box for the Boxing Day fixture and, of course, City has gone on to win back-back Away Matches. A memorable month.

In this issue there are photographs to enjoy from these events and Tony, our Memorabilia Man has shared his story from the Turkiye experience – probably to make us all even more envious!

Changes on the Committee:

First, to reflect on the announcements made at the Christmas Luncheon. You will recall that David Jackson had stood down as our Chairman early in the current season. He had led us brilliantly since the new committee took over in 2015. Rather than rush into a new appointment the committee decided to take 2/3 months to consider the next move, asking me to take the chair for the interim. I was happy on that basis but had no intention of carving out a 'throne' for the long term!

Of course, I failed in that intention, and the committee have asked me to succeed David as your new Chair. One advantage of the delay was that it allowed Shirley Cormack to step up as our Minute

Taker for the meetings. Shirley took to the task like a 'duck to water', she was been brilliant. I am so delighted that Shirley has agreed to be our new Hon. Secretary. Both these new appointments were announced at the Christmas Luncheon.

KCOM Hospitality treat:

In the build-up to Christmas, KCOM made an unexpected but wonderful donation to us. They offered the Senior Tigers the use of their Hospitality Box for the Boxing Day fixture against Blackpool. A treat for ten members including a meal and drinks. We really were overwhelmed by their generosity which grows from the blossoming partnership we enjoy with them. As there would be no representatives of KCOM present the committee decided that two of us would 'host' the afternoon and that a further 8 members of the Senior Tigers would be invited to join us. With Barbara and myself called to host the other places were offered as a bonus raffle at the Luncheon. Forty members applied and the lucky 8 were then drawn.

It was a wonderful treat, the food was great and too much! The photo shows the group as we prepared for the match.



THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Tony Conway

I feel privileged, honoured and lucky to have won a ticket in Acun Ilcali's 'Turkiye Lottery'. For a City fan, it was the trip of a lifetime and it was all-inclusive, at no cost for the flight, room, food and drinks. I will briefly tell you what we did on each day of this remarkable holiday.

We departed from Humberside Airport on Sunday 27 November 2022. Two Boeing 737's flew the 150 lucky winners with their plus one, Acun's guests, the club

management, players, the media team and local press to Antalya Airport. My wife, Diane and I were allocated the second flight which luckily meant we travelled on the plane in the club's colours and with the players etc. Humberside was cloudy, cold and wet when we left but Antalya was much warmer when we arrived in the evening. Eight coaches were waiting to transport us to the **Grand Park Lara Hotel**. We were allocated a coach number and had to use this coach for all trips and journeys.

Monday morning was free to acclimatise, in the afternoon we were taken to the club's training facility to watch a training session. Liam Rosenior addressed the crowd before the session. We witnessed the drills, small sided games and the effort put in by the players was an insight into the way players train.

Tuesday morning was again free time and many enjoyed the pool or walked to the beach, which had a facility for drinks and snacks. After lunch, we were transported to the **Land of Legends Theme Park**. From the entrance, we found ourselves in a fantastic shopping complex, with a canal and fountains and the most ornate buildings and expensive shops. The Theme Park entrance was amongst the shops and we were soon in a different land which would have made my grandchildren's eyes pop out. The 300 people from Hull enjoyed the rides, dolphin show, etc. and about doubled the number of people in the Park and all enjoyed another free experience. There was time for shopping before we left for the hotel, dinner and a change of shirts from the black and amber to the white of England. We were on the coaches again to get to the **Red & White Beach Club** to watch the Wales versus England game. We were greeted by a Turkish brass band, a large room, 3 large screens, free EFES beer and a constant supply of food. The atmosphere was fantastic and grew to a fever pitch as England scored 2 goals. A night never to be forgotten.

On **Wednesday** we again were allowed a leisurely morning, to get over the great night before! Then after lunch, it was back on the coaches to the team's training complex and the first of the 2 friendlies. We were all surprised at the level of security, baggage checks, searches, police presence, TV vehicles and media attention before we entered a small stadium including a grandstand with seating for about 400. The game was against Turkish Super Lig club, **Istanbul Basaksehir FK**. A typical friendly in which City competed well for an hour before all 11 players were replaced by another 11. The game continued in the same way and the Tigers emerged with a well-deserved 1-1 draw.

We all expected to be ushered to the Conference Centre for the Q & A session with Liam, Acun, Tan Kessler and Lewis Coyle. What developed was the only blip on the whole week. Unbeknown to most of us was that Acun had planned his own game, with a team of internationals and friends against what looked like a team from the City back-room staff! We had to wait in what was developing to be a cold evening. Eventually arrangements were made to transport the 300 to the Conference Centre where snacks had been laid on whilst we waited for the Q & A session. We were then seated in a large room, again accompanied by great numbers of media including people from ITV Calendar. The next problem was that a Cuban Evening was planned at another venue for later and it became increasingly obvious we would not be back in time.

Eventually, Liam limped into the room and took his seat on the stage. Apparently, he had taken a knock in Acun's game. He gave us his vision and thoughts and answered questions from the fans. After half an hour Acun arrived to applause and took his seat. He told us about his family and about his career before telling us why he chose Hull to develop his football dreams. He informed us of his wish to build a hotel near the stadium, strengthen links between Türkiye and Yorkshire, enhance the stadium and buy a second football club to enhance the development of the academy players. He mentioned that Financial Fair Play Regulations must be observed and asked that we spend more money in Tiger Leisure and bring friends to the games to reach capacity attendance and increase income. I wondered if this was a warning for the future! There was only time for 4 questions from the floor before he departed followed by a large entourage of media, security and others.

On the coach back to the hotel we were informed the hotel's main restaurant would remain open for us to get an evening meal and the Cuban Night had been cancelled.

The main event for **Thursday** was a Supporters Football Tournament at the training centre. Teams from each coach were requested but there was an age limit of 55 and the event did not include Walking Football. So only a limited number of people took part, resulting in many having a leisurely day.

Friday had been designated a free day, so for Diane and I, it was a shopping trip, a walk on the beach and time by the swimming pool. Most did similarly and others took the time to go on excursions around the local area or go on Jeep Safaris, etc. at their own expense, I should add.

On **Saturday** morning, we booked an excursion to **Antalya City**. This included a brief guided tour and a talk on the history of the area. It was indeed an interesting area, being on the old trading routes from Asia and the East. It was invaded by the Romans and then for 5 centuries, it was part of the Ottoman Empire. Post WW1 it was under Italian rule for 3 years until the Turkish War of Independence.

After lunch, we were again on our way to the training centre for the second friendly. This game was against the Turkish champions, **Trabzonspor**, who were expected to give the Tigers a greater test. Once again Liam sent out an 11 for an hour and replaced all players for the last 30 minutes. City gave a good account of themselves and one could see the way Liam wants to play. A creditable 1-1 draw resulted. As for the first game, security was high, the media attendance was unbelievable and the crowd was larger as more Turkish fans and VIPs were in attendance. After the game, it was back to the hotel for dinner and the last chance for drinks with friends and new friends.

An early start on **Sunday**, to enable us to get to the airport for the 2 flights back to Humberside. We left a warm and sunny Turkiye and landed in a cold damp and cloudy North Lincolnshire. However, we had all enjoyed a fantastic experience and learnt more about our new owner and manager. I expect many are of the same view as me. The future now looks much brighter for the club and I can't wait to see how their plans unfold.

Thank you Acun and UTT.



The Shopping Centre with Tony's wife, Dianne

below, the Hotel pool and Christmas Tree



Pictures from our Christmas Luncheon





Allen presenting Dave Jackson with his retirement gift



A very
HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all
our SENIOR TIGERS



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)