



# SENIOR TIGERS

[www.seniortigers.org.uk](http://www.seniortigers.org.uk)

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**Welcome to one and all.**

## Player of the Month/Season

For the second month running **Jean-Michel Seri** has taken the votes from the Senior Tigers. Indeed, he was way out in front for your January votes with 51. New boy, **Aaron Connolly**, was second, but a long way behind on 18 votes with **Regan Slater** on 13.

Regan continues to lead the way for the season with a tally of 157 votes, so far. That gives him a clear lead, Jacob Greaves is laying 2<sup>nd</sup> on 126 with Oscar on 109 & Seri on 107.

## An important message from Senior Tiger, Rob Milner

Around the middle of last year my wonderful daughter, Samantha, was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. In September she had surgery which successfully removed the tumour, although she is having to undergo six sessions of chemotherapy, which will be followed by extensive radiotherapy. Throughout this process, and despite the disappointment of surgery not fully eradicating the cancer, Samantha, her family and friends, have maintained a positive outlook throughout, in the full expectation of an ultimately successful outcome.

One of the side effects of chemotherapy can be hair loss. To support Samantha and to assist cancer research treatment, I wondered if I could raise awareness and funds, as I have discovered over the last

8 months how many families are affected by this disease. Despite the great progress made in the last couple of decades, much more still needs to be done to assist this ongoing work.

At 71 there is no way I can climb Kilimanjaro barefoot, swim the English Channel or cycle from John O' Groats to Land's End in my underpants!! So, what could I do to achieve these objectives? Well, I know many people in Hull and the surrounding area, and I reckon many of my friends and associates would contribute a few quid to watch me having a "buzz-cut", in support of Samantha and others (women in particular) who have lost their hair as they continue their cancer fight.

So, I have set up an account to receive any contributions, and I promise that every single penny will be shared between cancer - research and treatment. Causes such as Macmillan Nurses and Castle Hill Hospital (The Queen's Centre). I have set up a "Go Fund Me" page entitled "Samantha's Cancer Research & Support Fund" or you can make a direct donation as follows:

HSBC Sort Code 40-24-36 Account no. 81373005

Or get in touch with me direct at 07309 723982  
or [milner52@milner52.karoo.co.uk](mailto:milner52@milner52.karoo.co.uk)

**Rob will be offering his hair to the shredder at our special Senior Tiger Day, Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This event will take place at 11.15 am in the Kingston Suite at the MKM.**

Following that excitement, we will enjoy the **Buffet Lunch** – as long as you are one of the 130 members to have booked and paid in advance.



**We are delighted that our Guest Speaker for the afternoon session will be NICK BARMBY.**  
**Please note, the afternoon session begins at 1.30 pm.**

## MEMORABILIA TEAM ARTICLE for MARCH 2023

This month I am going to continue from the October 2022 article on overseas players who have played in the Tigers' first team. There are far too many players in this category to go into too much detail so, I will concentrate on those that I think stood out or contributed something special.

We finished in 2009/10 with relegation back to the Championship. The first overseas player signed in 2010/11 season was **NOLBERT SOLANO** (933), a Peruvian defender brought to City by Nigel Pearson, after a distinguished 8 years at Newcastle. This signing was quickly followed by that of **ROBERT KOREN** (935). Robert (pictured below) became a real driving force in his 3 years at City. Considered by many to be the finest midfielder in England outside the Premier League (PL) at the time. He made 151 appearances and scored 29 goals and became a much-liked player in Hull.



In August 2012 City signed **AHMED ELOHAMADY** (969), best known as “Almo”. A right-back full of attacking energy who quickly became a fan favourite for 5 seasons. He made 217 appearances and scored 11 goals, becoming City’s record appearance maker in the PL with 104 appearances and 5 substitute appearances.

The next player of note was Yugoslavian goalkeeper **ELDIN JAKUPOVIC** (973). Signed by Nick Barmby in March 2012, but made his debut in December of the same year. Eldin only made 54 appearances in the 5 years with the club but at times he was outstanding.

In January 2013 the Tigers signed 2 Egyptians **MOHAMED NAGY** (976) and **AHMED FATHI** (977). Although the signings might have pleased the Allam

family they failed to impress but gave the Fez trade a boost.

You may not remember the name **YANNICK SAGBO** (983) but in 2013/14 he played in all 5 FA Cup ties, scoring twice as the Tigers marched to the FA Cup Final. Disappointingly for him, he was an unused sub in the Final. In all, he played in 43 games and scored 4 goals.

Another to shine at times was Croatian **NIKICA JELAVIC** (990). Signed from Everton in January 2014 to play alongside Shane Long and to keep the Tigers in the PL. He scored 4 goals in the successful cause and overall scored 13 goals in 50 appearances. He is City’s highest scorer in the PL.

Another player to remember is **MOHAMED DIAME** (997). A Senegalese midfield powerhouse born in Paris. Injuries prevented Mo from being a real star in Hull but he did make 57 appearances scoring 14 goals. He will be best remembered for the fantastic strike in the 1-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley in May 2016. Unfortunately, he left City for Championship Newcastle despite City’s promotion to the PL. Perhaps Steve Bruce’s departure played a part?

Uruguayan forward **ABEL HERNANDEZ** (998) was another favourite. In 4 seasons from 2014/15 he made 110 appearances and scored 39 goals. Notably, in the promotion season of 2015/16 he scored 20 goals. Back in the Championship in 2017/18 he started by scoring a hat trick in the first game. He scored 8 goals in 8 appearances in what was an injury-blighted season. If ever there was a “What might have been” player, it was Abel.



**Abel Hernandez**

One of the outstanding players of the 2012/13 promotion team was all action **ABDOULAYE FAYE** (965). The Senegalese defender arrived, in Hull, late in his career from West Ham United. He made a great contribution to the team in his 31 games and contributed 4 valuable goals.

Another player who was on the bench for the 2014 FA Cup Final was Honduran full-back **MAYNOR FIGUEROA** (980). Maynor had a good first season (2013/14) at City making 32 league appearances and 6 FA Cup appearances but, like Sagbo, missed out on the final, being an unused sub. His second season was hindered by a family bereavement and he moved to America.

A player who took some time to establish himself in the team, because he was not selected by Mike Phelan. That changed under Marco Silva and Grant McCann, until he fell out with the latter in 2019/20. He was **MARKUS HENRIKSON** (1020) a Norwegian attacking midfielder. He continued to have his doubters but was quite an influential player, appearing in 92 games and scoring 5 goals. He had a spell on loan at Bristol City before returning to Norway in 2020.

One of many overseas players, who promising much, but often didn't reach the heights expected was Brazilian **EVANDRO GOEBEL** (1023). Evandro was Marco Silva's first signing and was a grafter but often lacked the extras, especially required in the PL. He made 46 appearances and contributed 5 goals before returning to Brazil to play for top team Santos in May 2019.

Marco Silva paid £9M for **KAMIL GROSICKI** (1028), a Polish international winger with fantastic pace, a great delivery, an eye for goal and a could take a special free kick. Probably not always easy to manage, he arrived back late from the 2018 World Cup and was out of favour for a while. When he secured his place in the team again, he became a favourite amongst many supporters. In 123 appearances he scored 25 goals.

A player who played 90 times for Sweden and came to Hull in August 2017 was **SEBASTIAN LARSSON** (1034). He only stayed with the Tigers for one season before the lure of a move back to Sweden prevented us from seeing more of this good player. In the one season, 2017/18 he made 40 appearances and scored 2 goals.

Australian international **JACKSON IRVINE** (1048) was signed from Burton Albion in August 2017, for a reported £2M after scoring against City and being red-carded only 4 weeks previously. Like Grosicki he also

played in the 2018 World Cup in Russia. His best position was as a midfielder supporting the strikers.



A tireless performer he played in 112 games and scored 10 goals before being unable to secure a contract extension in June 2020. He signed for the Scottish club Hibernian and then moved to St Pauli in Germany.

One of the 3 players who came on loan from Chelsea in 2017/18 season was **FIKAYO TOMORI** (1049). Brought to City by Leonid Slutsky and was a regular under his managership but did not find it so easy to get into Nigel Adkins' team. In the one season with the Tigers, he played in 26 games. Surprisingly he has ended up at AC Milan and has gained one cap for England.

A player signed from Nottingham Forest by Nigel Adkins who performed well and became club captain was American **ERIC LICHAJ** (1055). A versatile and hard-working right back he played 70 times in 2 seasons. He gained 1 of his 18 full USA caps whilst with the Tigers and it was somewhat of a surprise that he did not get a contract extension after 2 years and 70 appearances. He moved to Turkiye in September 2020 and is now coaching in the USA.

City currently has 10 overseas registered players, with Australian **CALUM ELDER** (1073) being the longest serving and having played 127 games. Just how many will become real stars or heroes remains to be seen. It's fair to say we have had many overseas players who have failed to really impress, been on loan for a short period or just found it difficult to settle in the UK. With Foreign owners, I expect we will see more from overseas in the next few years.

Most of the information about former players has been taken from the <https://www.oncloudseven.com/> website. This is a fantastic site dedicated to all players who have represented the Tigers' first team. Please have a look you will be amazed at the information available.



## **Tony Conway.**

Senior Tigers Heritage and Memorabilia Coordinator.

### **Our February meeting**



**Tan Kesler with Pat Ellis**



**Pete Smurthwaite (Bridlington Town owner)**



**and happy members.**

**Memories of our visit to the Bomber Command Memorial  
in Lincoln – Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February**





**This Memorial celebrates the Lancaster not as a bomber but for dropping bread/rations for the relief of people in Holland.**