



SENIOR TIGERS

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NEWSLETTER no. 32
MAY, 2023

Welcome

Here we are, the end of our first season under our new owner. It may not have been a great start but once our Liam returned things moved on. With just one match remaining, we are looking good for the break; the promise of some additional players will soon give us hope that the next season will be one that promises so much. I'm very much looking forwards to the adventure. I'm sure I am not alone in expressing thanks to Acun Ilcali for what he has brought to our club.

Player of the Season:

We are getting towards the final votes and the race for our Senior Tiger 'Player of the Season' is still an open competition. The votes for March brought a new name immediately to the top of the votes – Paul Darlow gaining 36 of your votes. The defensive back line cleared up most of the remaining votes – Sean McLoughlin (28), Alfie Jones (14) and Jacob Greaves level with Regan Slater on 12 votes.

So, the running totals mean that Regan Slater remains out front with 173 votes and Jacob Greaves is next with 153. The third & fourth, as it stands, are Jean-Michael Seri (121) & Oscar Estupinan (112)

So, who will be crowned as our Player of the Season? Whoever does emerge will certainly be a worthy winner.

KCOM tickets:

As we reach the end of the season we would like to give a special thanks to KCOM for their generosity in

providing free matchday tickets. We had the full use of their hospitality box for the Boxing Day fixture against Blackpool, which included excellent food and drinks for 10 people. Barbara & myself hosted this and eight members were selected, by raffle, to join the afternoon.

That was in addition to the four tickets they provided for every home fixture. Looking back over the final ten fixtures and 29 members have enjoyed the hospitality on one or two occasions.

Further, **KCOM** has provided a batch of around 50 tickets on three occasions, these we have used to encourage people who would not normally be able to purchase matchday tickets. This has included young people involved with the Tiger's Trust activities, a local youth organisation based in the Boulevard, Ukrainian refugees and the Warren.



A really happy group of Ukrainians who were able to visit the final home fixture against Swansea. There were 11 altogether, including one family (top picture). Meeting up with the group after the match I can assure you they were really excited. Life is not always easy for them when they see what is happening in their homeland but this opportunity had meant so much to them. Thankyou KCOM.

KCOM's generosity extends further with the special **Coffee Morning** they are hosting at the Stadium on **Thursday, 25th May**. This is for all members of the Senior Tigers and will give KCOM the opportunity to share the changes to our land-line telephones. Further details will follow.



Our April Members' meeting saw the welcome visit of **DEANO** – our beloved Dean Windass. It gave me the opportunity to thank him personally for the holiday we shared in Bulgaria – although it was a surprise to him! In that memorable season, which led to the Tigers being promoted to the Premier League for the very first time in their history, I had booked a holiday for Sue and myself at the end of the season. When we booked it, six months earlier, there was no expectation of the team making it to the End of season Play-off at Wembley, never crossed my mind of possibilities! So, 2 days before the Tiger's first appearance at the National Stadium we had jetted off to Bulgaria. Cancelling the holiday had been an option but it would not have gone down well!! The first day was spent touring the local bars to see where they would be screening our match with Bristol City, but our chosen resort was 'German' rather than British. Eventually, one bar said he would have the match on in his back room. Sue bravely came along with me, watching football is not her favourite interest! On arrival, we were to be joined by a young couple from Bristol, and that was it. The lad was constantly talking to his bookmaker, changing his bets

on the match, his lass was looking at the Wembley crowd, hoping to see her brother! To be fair, I was the only one watching and then came that goal, that Deano goal! My sheer joy reached new heights but who could I share it with? Outside and at my hotel, were German tourists with no appreciation of what history had just happened. So, I spent the next two weeks with Deano, reliving that goal, over and over!

It was great to thank Deano for keeping me company but I wish I'd been there. If only!

May Luncheon:

We are looking forwards to our annual **End of Season Luncheon** at the MKM Stadium. Another packed room is anticipated and with a huge bonus. Not only will be joined by Liam Rosenior but he has agreed to speak to us after lunch. Liam, like Deano, has a very special place in our affections. Of course, we know his 'Nana came from Hull', and that local connection is very precious. He has another connection too. Liam's family roots comes from Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Freetown just happens to be our twin city.



A parishioner who was rather fond of drink came out of the pub and ran smack into the rector.

Rector: "Hello John, you know drink is your greatest enemy."

John: "Yes rector, but you always tell us to love our enemies."

Rector: "Ah yes, but I didn't tell you to swallow them."

