



SENIOR TIGERS

www.seniortigers.org.uk

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Welcome

Warm greetings as approach the Festive Season. We have our Luncheon this week (7th December) which will, I'm sure, convince you that Christmas is near! Then comes the panic as we think about what has to be done before we get there – presents, food, drink, parties, Carol Services, even football. A very busy few weeks but I sincerely hope you will be looking forward to the special treats that make it so wonderful.



October's Player of the month

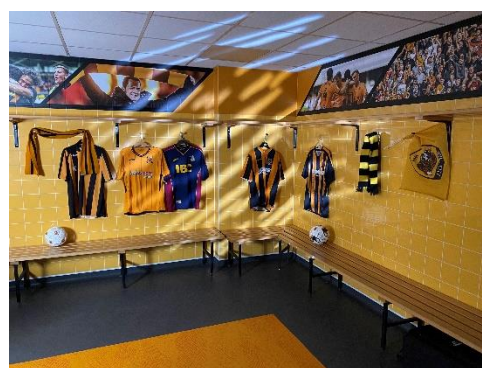
Things have suddenly changed. A new name has not only arrived but completely left everyone standing. **Jaden Philogene** collected 103 votes as your runaway October PoM. The only other players to get into double figures were **Jean Michael Seri** (22) & **Ryan Allsop** (15).

Jaden not only took the votes for the month but has shot far ahead in the quest for our Senior Tiger Player of the Season! He now leads with 115 votes. **Ozan Tufan** trails in second place with 69 followed by Club Captain, **Lewie Coyle** with 60 votes.

DECEMBER MEMORABILIA ARTICLE

The Memorabilia Team has for the last few years worked hard to capture images of City fans' memorabilia before they are lost, or disposed of by family, etc. Not every football fan is interested in buying a programme or collecting items related to their team. However, I bet you all have memories about certain games attended, your favourite player, your first home and away game, making friends, meeting players, officials or even your favourite shirt.

To capture some of these memories several Senior Tigers (ST) members have been involved in making a film. This film is being sponsored by our good friends at KCOM and made by Nova Studios and will form part of Hull City's 120th Anniversary next year.



Some of the shirts which were displayed when the interviews took place in the 1st Team Changing Room.

Our ST website already includes a "Memories" section inviting you to contribute your memories and stories. It would be great if all of you could write at least one memory about your time watching the Tigers. Just like the memorabilia we need to capture your memories before it's too late and we are not here or able to do it. I note below brief details of the memories the film participants could recall.

Pat and Ron Betts who have travelled extensively around the country recalled the 2 occasions they were left stranded by the coach companies and were lucky enough to travel back to Hull on the team coach. Ron also tells of the time he felt unwell whilst standing on Bunkers Hill and was passed to the front over the heads of the crowd. He also remembered sitting on a plank to watch the 1949 6th round FA Cup Tie against Manchester United but his first visit to Boothferry Park (BP) was in 1947 to watch the ERCFA Cup Final.

Peter Lincoln has also travelled extensively around the country watching the Tigers and recalls as a teenager he and his friend Graham Kellington arranged coach travel to many away games. They called themselves

"Kellincs Tiger Tours". Their first trip was to Shrewsbury and they became very popular after a leaflet drop at other games. When numbers were low they hired a minibus and Peter drove it and fondly recounts a trip to Carlisle. He was also not afraid to hitchhike to away games, leaving Hull on a Friday evening for a Saturday match. Like the Betts, Peter has also travelled back to Hull on the team coach and on another occasion at an unfriendly Leyton Orient he asked Chairman Harold Needler for a lift from the ground to central London. He and his mate Ian enjoyed the ride in the back of Harold's Rolls Royce! In the 1960s Peter was often seen at the players' entrance at away stadiums and became friendly with Cliff Britton who on many occasions supplied free tickets.

Pat Ellis also has memories of the 1940s and recalls queueing all night for tickets for the 1949 Cup game against Manchester United. Luckily, she lived near BP at the time and her father kept her supplied with hot drinks. She also remembers fondly helping to clear snow from the BP pitch on a Saturday morning to help ensure the afternoon game took place. Pat was introduced to football and Hull City when her elder brother played for the Juniors in the late 1940s. Her love for City has continued to this day and the family join her on match days at the MKM keeping the tradition alive.

Gordon Towse has different memories as he worked for many years as a Steward at BP, gaining promotion to Chief Steward and in later years being a Stadium Tour Guide. He also remembers receiving free tickets from school to watch his favourite players including Raich Carter and Billy Bly. He has a great story about being a linesman at the Brian Bulless Testimonial game. Two other vivid memories are of Don Robinson riding around the BP pitch on a horse and of the Rev Allen Bagshawe's carol singing at Christmas. Gordon was also the Senior Tigers Chairman for 20 years and met and interviewed many famous guests.

With a similar background, **Wally Jude** worked for the club for 46 years. He recalls the time he was a steward at BP with responsibility for a particular staircase and the many characters he met. He has a great story about Billy Whitehurst, the Player's Bar and a tot of whiskey.

Gordon mentions the **Rev Allen Bagshawe** and his carol singing. Allen was the club chaplain for many years and got to know most of the players and management, often in a confidential way. He tells of how some players tried to control the bad language when he was present in the dressing rooms. He was even asked to

occasionally run the line for training matches, a very dangerous task! He often travelled on the team coach and recalls being stranded in a snowstorm on the M62 which resulted in the game at Burnley being postponed. One of his biggest disappointments was that he arranged a holiday in Bulgaria for May 2008 and ended up missing one of the most memorable days in the club's history. However, after much searching he did manage to find a bar that was showing the game on TV.

Peter Smurthwaite has fond memories of his first City game in August 1959. His Uncle took him to BP in the back of a van and he recalls driving along Anlaby Road and being amazed at so many people walking in the same direction, then being in awe of the large crowd inside the stadium. City beat Plymouth Argyle 3-1 with Vic Metcalfe scoring twice and the 3rd being an OG. He says from that day he was hooked on supporting the Tigers. He too went to many away games in his younger days and met many players. He had a great time travelling on a Youth Club coach to watch City at Chelsea in 1966. In 1969 he went to Carlisle with friends, they spent so much money they couldn't pay the hotel bill but luckily Chris Chilton helped him out. Like others, families have played an important part in being a football supporter. His uncle took him to his first game and now he enjoys taking his grandsons to games.

It was interesting to see **Richard Beachell** being interviewed rather than him doing the interview. Richard recalls he had a late introduction to supporting City but has never looked back. He has made many friends through football including players. One such is Mark Greaves and Richard is now the proud shirt sponsor for Jacob.



Richard Beachell

Whilst a director of the Official Supporters Club, Richard helped arrange a reunion dinner for the "Great Escape Team". He has also built up a great collection of worn shirts and boots from memorable players and games. He brought to the filming session the boots worn by Stuart Green and Ian Ashbee. The 2 goal scorers from the never-to-be-forgotten game at Yeovil that City won 2-1 and secured promotion to the Championship in 2004.

Roy Bly comes from a footballing family and his memories are of his famous father Billy. He recalls what it was like growing up as the son of a footballer. Roy's first visit to BP was as a young boy accompanying his Dad who needed to get some treatment for an injury. They were met by the daunting figure of a man in a white coat with a cigarette hanging out of his mouth. That man was the legendary Jimmy Lodge and Roy admits to being a little frightened. Roy has childhood memories but admits not appreciating who his father was or what he had achieved. A few years ago he assisted David Bond in writing a biography called "The Indian Rubber Man". Roy says he learned more about his Dad and is now so proud.



Lastly, I like Pat, remember standing on a stool on Bunkers Hill to see the game when I was 8. I also recall my Dad lifting me over the turnstile to avoid paying! Prompted by the operator I might add. I further remember seeing John Charles score 3 goals to secure Leeds' promotion in April 1956 in front of 31,123 fans, many from Leeds. My first away game was in April 1959 at Doncaster. It was a Thursday night and City won 2-0 to secure promotion to Division 2 with my hero Bill Bradbury scoring the second goal. My Dad was not a drinker but like many others he and his friends needed to celebrate and we stopped in Thorne for them to have a drink. They left me outside with a bag of crisps and Dad said "Don't tell your Mother". More recently in December 2007 I was the Regional Supporters Director

of the Official Supporters Club and hosted a fans meeting in Tadcaster. Paul Duffin was the guest and it was the Wednesday evening after the Tigers had lost 3-0 at PNE and 4-0 at Southampton the previous week. Paul as usual was good value for money but he made the 40-plus attendees laugh when he stated we would gain promotion to the Premier League at the end of the season. On the Sunday after the victory over Bristol City at Wembley, my family and I stopped at Leicester Forrest East Services and whilst having a cup of tea someone tapped me on the shoulder. It was Paul, who in front of a packed restaurant pointed his figure and loudly said "I told you what would happen way back in December". It was a joyous moment for us all on a never-to-be-forgotten weekend.

One thing that emerged from the filming was that supporting the Tigers is often a deep-seated family tradition. My Grandfather was a season ticket holder, my Dad took me to most games for many years, I took my son and we now take 2 grandsons. A similar story came from many of the participants. There has been so much family bonding achieved through football and when asked by the film interviewer "Why do you support Hull City" most paused before answering, "It's in the blood, or "It's a habit" or "It's just part of me".

I hope this is the same for many of you, please write down your memories before they are lost to your family, friends or the Tiger Nation. Write your memory on the form provided on the "Share Your Memories" page of the Senior Tigers website - www.seniortigers.org.uk/share-your-memories.

Tony Conway.

Senior Tigers Memorabilia and Heritage Coordinator

