



# SENIOR TIGERS

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

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## Welcome

to one and all, new and old. You are all very welcome.  
Enjoy this, your February Newsletter.

## Tribute to Bill Shirley



Our dear friend and Senior Tiger passed away shortly after Christmas. His presence will be greatly missed. Bill was a member of the original Senior Tiger Committee which formed and ran the club for around 15 years. When they decided it was time to pass on the Baton we had to form a new committee. Bill, bless him, offered to stay with the new committee and became a source of real encouragement and continuity. We were so very grateful. A career policeman, Bill served our city well and was probably for many criminals their favourite "arresting officer!" He had a charm that lingered and a wit that kept everyone in stitches. He was always on call to fill some gap minutes with tales from the beat. We will not forget our Bill. **RIP**

## Player of the Season

The results for **December** are in ... and it sees **Liam Delap** leap forward picking up 80 votes. Behind Liam is **Moreton Tyler** (38 votes) & Captain **Lewie Coyle** (17 votes).

Despite being injured these last weeks, **Jaden Philogene** remains our clear front-runner for the season. He now leads the way with 215 votes, followed by **Liam Delap** (116) and **Lewie Coyle** (86).

## February Members' meeting:

With our February meeting taking place on February 1<sup>st</sup> this Newsletter comes too late to remind you! If you were there earlier, and over 180 were, you would have been thrilled with the interview with **Billy Sharp & Regan Slater**. Regan was also formally presented with his Player of the Season award for 2022-23. This was followed by the club's new Marketing & Commercial Director, **Andrew Clark**. But even more! We had an unexpected visit from former Tiger, **Rob McDonald**. Hull-born Rob played for the Tigers for 2 years before making his name on the Continent. Rob very kindly took questions as we waited for the duo of ex-Blades to arrive.

## Looking ahead to the March Members' meeting:

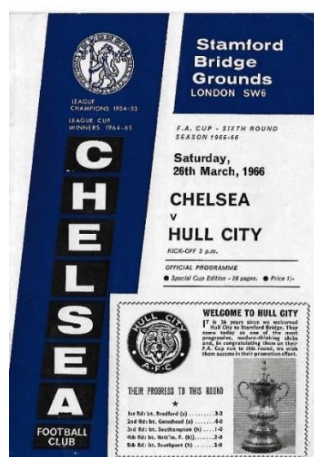
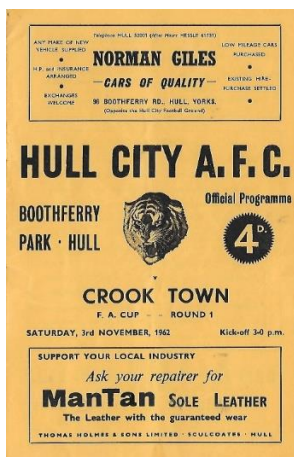
This is a **full-day special**, starting in the Kingston Suite at 10.00 am. A welcome cup of coffee will be served on arrival and during the morning there will be several activities taking place. Former Tiger, **John Hawley**, will be present from 10 am until 12 noon. John, a professional auctioneer, will be offering his advice and/or valuations to members who would like to bring along something from home. It doesn't have to be football related but preferably don't bring along large items of furniture! To be fair to all, no more than one item per member. We cannot, however, be held responsible for keeping it safe so if you decide to bring along a priceless Ming Vase you will need to consider its safety during the event.

The club will be providing a substantial buffet luncheon but you *must* be booked before the event. The Senior Tigers have discounted the meal for all members, just £7.50 per person. Any non-members coming along will be asked to pay the full price of £12.50 pp. Contact Barbara. Well over 100 members have already booked their luncheon place, If you have not yet booked your luncheon, you will need to do so immediately! Call Barbara on 07941 691595

## FEBRUARY MEMORABILIA ARTICLE

In the October 2023 article, I wrote about some of the FA Cup ties the Tigers have been involved in but only reached the 1960-61 season. So, this month, I'll continue with this feature and write about some more games and players you may remember. I finished with the remarkable 5 game tie against Darlington but that season also saw the inaugural games in the newly designed Football League Cup. City were drawn at home to Bolton Wanderers. This competition is still alive today but in the last 60 years there have been other competitions and I will focus on those at a future date.

In the 1961-62 season City were drawn at home to a non-league Welsh side, **Rhyl**. They overcame this potential banana skin 5-0 with goals from Chilton (2), McSeveney, Henderson and McMillan. City lost at home to Bradford City in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round 0-2. The following season saw us drawn at home to another non-league side in Amateur Cup holders **Crook Town**. In those days the FA made a clear distinction between the amateur and the professional game in which players received payment. The Amateur game had its own leagues and cup competitions but both codes could enter the FA Cup. However, in 1973-74, the FA abolished the distinction and all clubs competed at the same level. Crook Town won the Amateur Cup 5 times and also took their place in football history when in 1976 they were the first English club to tour India.



### Programmes for 2 cup ties in this feature

The tie against Crook was a very memorable game and I can still remember the shock they imposed on the crowd, the drama that developed, the goals they scored and the fight City had on their hands. The Northern Echo reporter considered the tie to be probably the most exciting cup tie Boothferry Park ever witnessed. At one stage Crook led 4-1 but City fought back in the second half and won 5-4. The City goals

came from McSeveney (2), Henderson (2) and Chilton. I remember Crook Town just running out of steam after their fantastic performance and the Tigers could have added more goals in the last 10 minutes.



*Chris Chilton scores against Crook Town*

The 1963-64 season also had a memorable tie when after winning rounds 1 and 2 against **Crewe Alexandra** and **Wrexham** they were drawn at home to high flyers **Everton** from the First Division. The draw caused quite a stir and the game was declared an all-ticket affair. 36,478 attended in what was the largest attendance at Boothferry Park for a few years. That season many crowds at league games didn't reach 10,000. The crowd witnessed a close game with the Tigers earning a creditable 1-1 draw. The City goal coming from Billy Wilkinson. The replay in Liverpool was also close with City putting up a great fight in front of 56,613 spectators. City lost 2-1, McSeveney scoring the goal.

The next interesting season was the never-to-be-forgotten 1965-66 season when the Tigers won the Third Division and reached the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the FA Cup. Wins over **Bradford**, **Gateshead**, **Southampton**, **Nottingham Forest** and **Southport** resulted in an away draw at **Chelsea**. A procession of trains, coaches and cars left Hull for London. I like many others got carried away with the euphoria and prospect of a cup semi-final appearance. I recall a few weeks earlier a clairvoyant being on the TV and predicting a team wearing a yellow kit would win the FA Cup. City was the only team left with a kit anything like in a yellow colour.

It was a great game at the Bridge against a Chelsea team full of household names. Bonetti, Boyle, Bridges, Graham, Harris, Hinton, Hollins, Kirkup, Tambling and Venables. Even the referee was England's number one, a certain Jack Taylor. City played well but went 2 goals down but never gave up and on 85 minutes their endeavours were rewarded when Waggy scored with his head. The 8,000 City fans went wild and 4 minutes later the fans hero rounded Bonetti and scored the equaliser. City was in dreamland and the fans travelled home in the hope of further success. The replay was on a Thursday night because Chelsea needed extra time to

recover from a European game. The date also coincided with the General Election which resulted in Harold Wilson becoming Prime Minister.

Fans arrived at Boothferry Park from 1.00 pm for a 7.30 kick-off and eventually 45,328 packed into the ground.

But the game didn't go to plan and goals from Graham and Tambling (2) secured the Pensioners a place in the semi-final against Sheffield Wednesday. However, Chris Simpkin's goal on 37 minutes was the best of the tie, a real screamer which is remembered to this day and helped overcome the disappointment. If you want to read more about the game in London go to the Senior Tigers website, click on "Memories" and read Rob Milner's account of his day in London.

Promotion to Division 2 meant City entered the competition at the 3<sup>rd</sup> round stage. Tigers fans looked forward to the cup in the 1966-67 season hoping for a repeat of the previous season or more. It was not to be as they went out of the cup to **Portsmouth** after a second replay at Coventry. The following season also saw us knocked out in a third game against **Middlesbrough**, this time at a packed-out Bootham Crescent in York. A 1-1 draw away was followed by a 2-2 draw at home and a 1-0 defeat aet in the third game.

**Wolves** and **Manchester City** knocked us out in the next 2 seasons at the 3<sup>rd</sup> round stage but in 1970-71 we had a little more success. Wins against **Charlton Athletic**, **Blackpool** and **Brentford** resulted in a 6<sup>th</sup> round tie at home to **Stoke City**. A crowd of 41,452 witnessed City going into a 2-0 lead with goals from Wagstaff. However, they couldn't hold on to the lead and lost 2-3. Strangely Stoke knocked us out the following season (1971-72) at Stoke 4-1. City's goal coming again from Waggy. On the way to the Stoke game City won away at Norwich 3-0 and Coventry 1-0, a game that is also remembered because Chris Chilton played for the Sky Blues. In the following season, we returned to **Coventry** in the 5<sup>th</sup> round but lost 3-0.

There was not a lot to be excited about between 1973 and the 1980-81 season. City was now in Division 3 and started the Wembley journey in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. The Tigers were also in a relegation battle against dropping to Division 4, which they lost. However, in the cup, a home win over **Halifax Town** resulted in a home draw against non-league **Blyth Spartans** from the Northern League at home. The game ended 1-1 with Keith Edwards scoring for the Tigers. The replay ended 2-2 and a third game was played at Elland Road, Leeds and City won 2-1 aet. The 3<sup>rd</sup> round was a home game against **Doncaster Rovers** which City won 1-0 and

moved on to the 4<sup>th</sup> round. They were drawn away at White Hart Lane against **Spurs**. Although the Tigers were a team in relegation trouble, they put up a great fight, losing 2-0 in front of 37,432 spectators.

The Blyth Spartans game had another twist as City signed their energetic striker Les Mutrie for £30,000 a few days after the third cup game. Les had impressed in the 3 games, scoring in each and missing a penalty in the second which would have won the tie for the Spartans. Les went on to make 132 appearances and scored 50 goals.

Two replays were becoming a bit of a habit as again in 1981-82 the 1<sup>st</sup> round tie against **Rochdale** went to 3 games. City won and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round overcame **Hartlepool** 2-0 at Boothferry Park. The reward was another trip to Stamford Bridge to play **Chelsea**. A creditable 0-0 draw was followed by a 2-0 defeat at home.

More uninspiring cup games followed but City did well in the league and regained their place in Division 2 in 1984-85. The next cup tie of note, one that captured the imagination of the fans, was the 3<sup>rd</sup> round tie at home to high-flying **Liverpool** in the 1988-89 season. The game received a lot of media attention and the fans were rewarded as City led 2-1 at halftime, with goals from Billy Whitehurst and Keith Edwards. The spirited performance continued but class overcame effort and Liverpool ran out winners 3-2. The City team that day was Hesford, Brown, Jacobs, DeMange, Jobson, Buckley, Payton, Roberts, Whitehurst, Askew, Edwards and the sub was Saville. Some well-remembered names but the opposition of Grobbelar, Ablett, Burrows, Nicol, Gillespie, Molby, Beardsley, Aldridge, Houghton, Barnes, McMahon and the subs were Watson and Staunton. Some really good players played on the Boothferry Park turf that day. The euphoria died down but was replaced with a little pride and for a few days *Tigers, Tigers were burning bright!*

More on some memorable cup games at a later date.

**Tony Conway.**

Senior Tigers Memorabilia and Heritage Coordinator.



## Our January meeting:



Our guest, IAN ASHBEE, with Pat Ellis



Three pictures of Senior Tigers present at our January 2024 Members' meeting.



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