



OFFICIAL
MATCH
MAGAZINE
PRICE £1.70

MANCHESTER CITY V SWINDON TOWN



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday 22nd February 1997

Kick-off 3pm

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More than just features

Inside today...

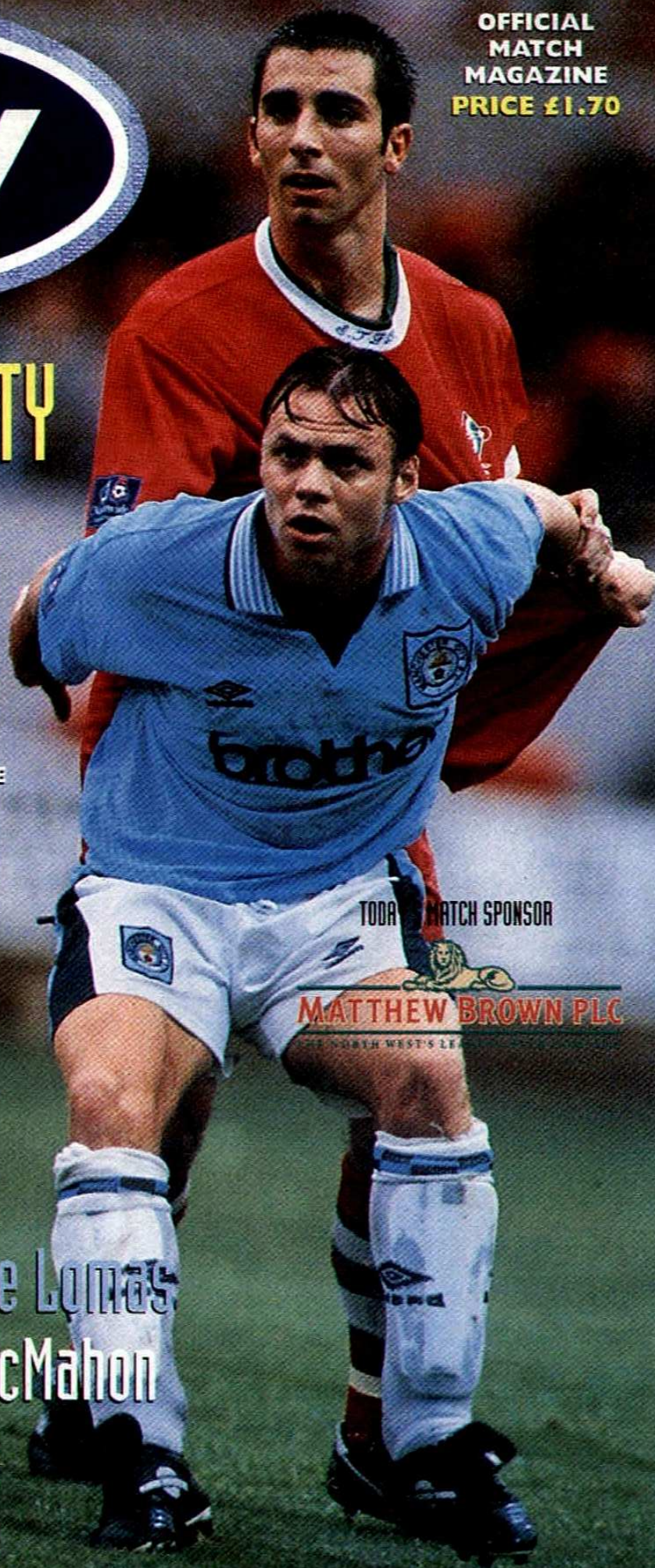
Nicky Summerbee

Michael Brown Steve Lomas

Frank Clark Steve McMahon

Tommy Wright

POSTER



TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

MATTHEW BROWN PLC

THE NORTH WEST'S 22

Frank Clark

This will be our fourth home game in little more than a fortnight and it is back to the League action.

I know how disappointed you all were last Saturday when we went out of the FA Cup. But that is in the past and it will be a test of our resolve to see how we cope with that setback.

I am confident that the players will

concentrate 100 per cent on the task now facing us. Our priority must be to win as many games as possible between now and the end of the season.

If we show the same commitment in the forthcoming matches as we have shown over the time I have been here, I am sure we will soon put all our troubles behind us.

Today we welcome Swindon Town, with their player-manager Steve McMahon. It will be Steve's first return to Maine Road with his side since he left us in November 1994.

I know many of you still have fond memories of Steve's three years with the Blues, and I am sure he has a bright future in management.

His side will provide us with a stern test. We know already what they can do following the way they beat us 2-0 back in November. I am sure we will give a far better account of ourselves this afternoon.

I believe we showed last Saturday how we have progressed. There was little to choose between ourselves and Middlesbrough, and there was much to be learnt from the way we performed.

With so much at stake for both sides I knew the game would be tight. Middlesbrough accorded us a great deal of respect and it was the kind of game where one crucial moment would probably settle it. Unfortunately Boro' got that chance and they won the game.

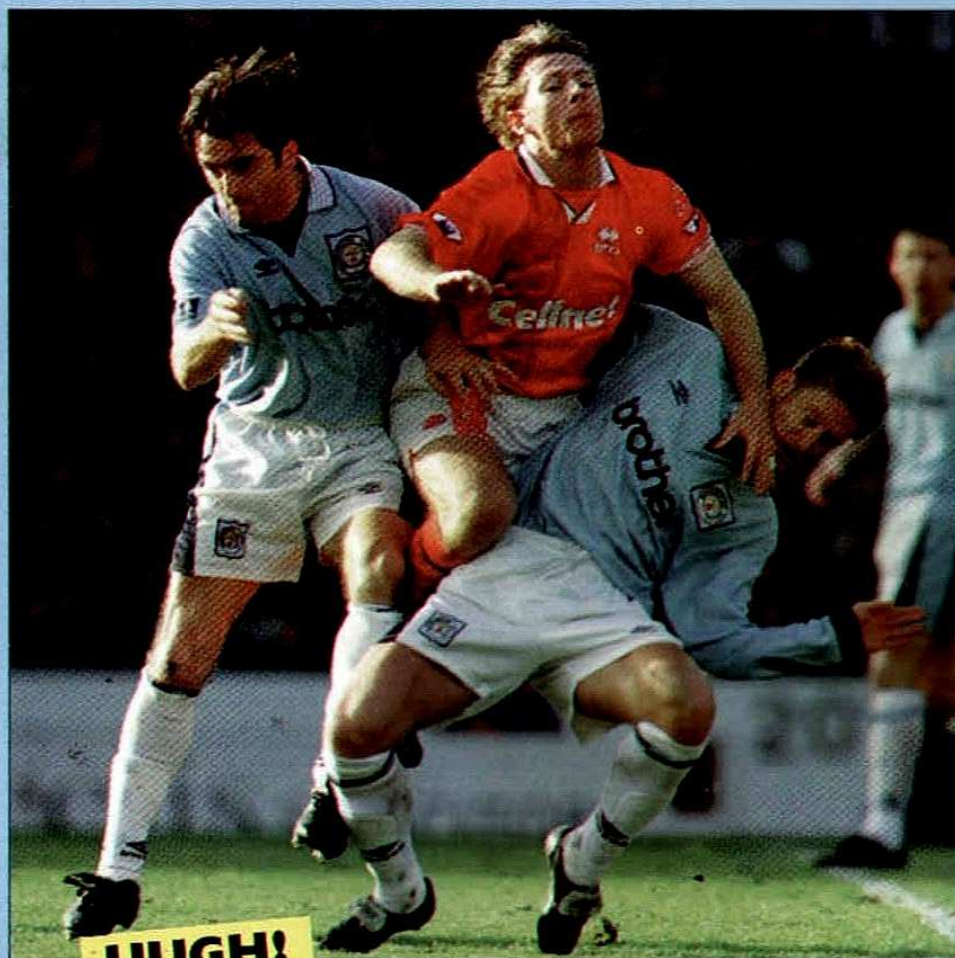
But I was pleased with the way we approached the match. It was a typical cup-tie, with a lot of passion and commitment from both sides and again I only have praise for the backing you gave the players. It was wonderful to see the ground full, which all added to the spectacle of the day.

Much has been said during the week about the linesman's decision to disallow the 'goal' by Ian Brightwell. At the time I thought Ian was a yard offside and I was amazed to see the video show how close the decision was. But the linesman does not have the benefit of slow motion and no matter how long the issue is debated nothing will change the result.

I thought the referee did well. In the heat of the moment there was always the danger the game could get out of hand, but the referee kept matters under control.



**PICTURE
FOCUS
ON THE
THRILLS,
SPILLS
(AND
MORE
SPILLS)
FROM
LAST
WEEK'S
CUP-TIE...**



Craig Hignett is the meat in the sandwich for Eddie McGoldrick and Steve Lomas.

The injury to Georgi Kinkladze obviously upset the balance of the side. We knew that they would not be giving him the freedom of the park and he was man-marked throughout. It was unfortunate that he hurt his thigh but we realised that it would be foolish to keep him on the field and risk making the injury worse.

If I have one complaint about our performance it is that we did not put their goalkeeper under enough pressure for us to go on and win the game. I will want to see us pressurising the Swindon 'keeper today.

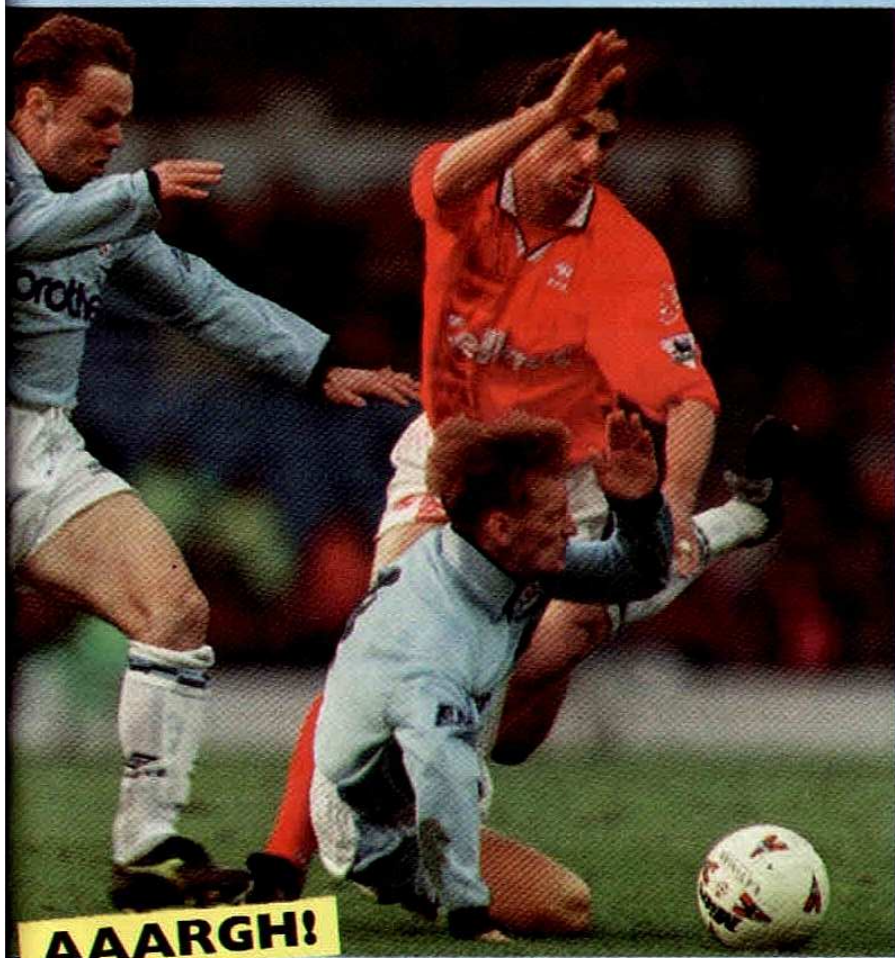
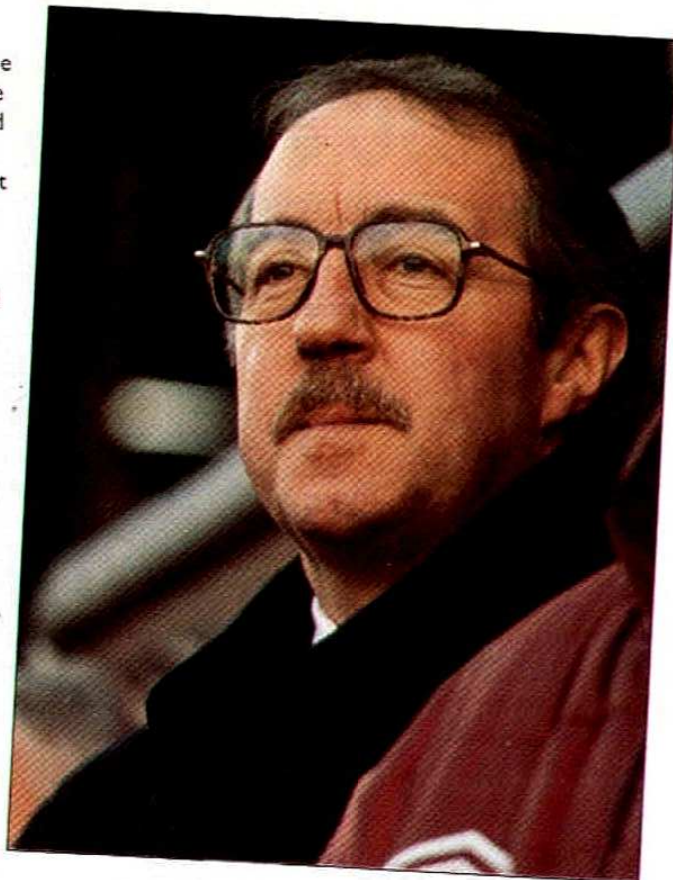
It should be a special occasion for two Swindon old boys, Nicky Summerbee and our new signing Kevin Horlock this afternoon. I know that Kevin enjoyed his time with Swindon but he has settled into life here quickly. They are both relishing the chance to put one over on their old club.

We all enjoyed the excitement and glamour of the cup, and it is important to put the experience to good use. Now we must buckle down and start to gather League points again.

The situation is still tight at the bottom of the Division, but we have the cushion of games in hand over some of our rivals. It is vitally important that we use all our games to give us some breathing space.

The players were told last week not to be downhearted and my staff have noticed a mood of real determination in training this week. Everyone wants to make up for last weekend's disappointment by providing a first-class performance today.


We know we can do it.



Gianluca Festa sends Steve Lomas crashing to the ground.



It's difficult to lip read a still picture, but judging by the eye contact it's unlikely Ravanelli and Eddie McGoldrick are discussing the weather!



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TEAM
NEWS

Forearm smash broke Steve's nose

Steve Lomas has suffered a broken nose for the second time this season.

It was suspected after he was hit in the face in the controversial incident seen by millions of TV viewers on Match of the Day last Saturday.

Italian Gianluca Festa was the guilty party but he escaped with a booking and minutes later played a key part in Middlesbrough's winning goal.

"He should have been sent off," said City's 23-year-old midfield terrier. "There is no question in my mind about that."

"I think everyone who saw it live or on television will be able to make up their own mind but he was lucky to get away with it this time."

"He gave me a forearm, everybody saw it, but the ref said he had not. I said to him 'in that case, why did you book him?' He did not have an answer to that."

"We lost concentration after that and he should have been sent off and not around to figure in the build-up to their goal."

"I knew straightaway it had gone again and this week the doctor has diagnosed a small fracture."

"The first time I did it was at Portsmouth back in November and it was a lot worse then. I lost a lot more blood that time so maybe I am getting used to it now!"

"It is not giving me any breathing problems and will not even require a plaster or anything if I am selected today."

"But when it happened last Saturday it was very painful."

Assessing City's general situation as the season moves towards its final months, Steve said: "The next five games, starting today, will decide if we are to have a say in the end of season play-offs."

"If we can take 12, 13 or even all 15 points then I really believe we can still have a say in the promotion issue."

"One team always comes through with a late surge and it could still be us."

"Mathematically, it is more than possible and we just have to keep going."

"The other aspect is that one of the top sides generally fades in the second half of the season. Look at Millwall last year. They were top in January but ended up being relegated."

"I am delighted that my fellow Northern Ireland international Kevin Horlock has joined us from Swindon."

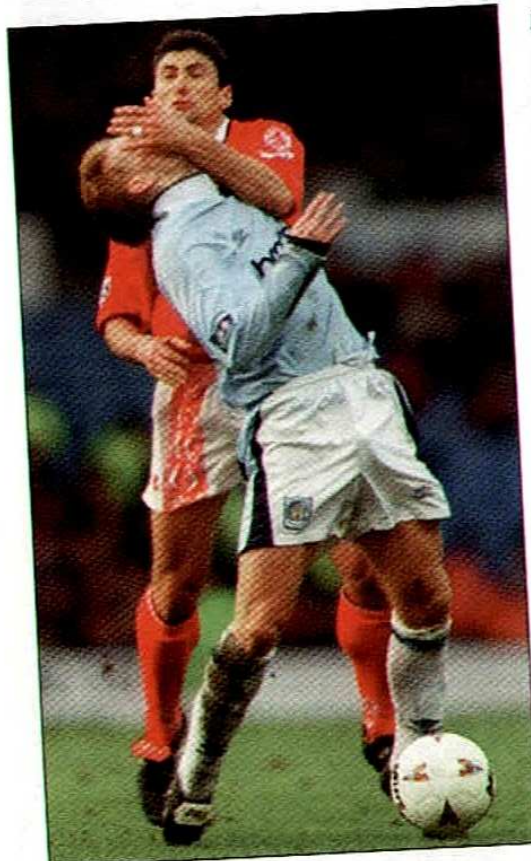
"Kevin has settled in quickly but we have not had too much time for socialising as he has been busy moving house with his family."

"On the international front, I was pleased to supply the through ball which led to our second goal against Belgium in a friendly a week or two back."

"We are now coming up to a crunch period in our World Cup qualifying group and, like City, Northern Ireland have got to put a string of wins together to challenge for a top spot."

"At present we are fourth behind Portugal, Ukraine and Germany but play Portugal next at home on March 29th and then face two long trips in April, to Ukraine on April 2nd and Armenia on April 30th."

"We will know after then if we still have a chance of qualifying for France in '98."



The moment of impact as Festa's forearm connects full-on with Steve's face... RED NOSE FOR LOMAS SHOULD HAVE MEANT A RED CARD FOR THE ITALIAN!

TOTAL SURPRISE RECALL



Recalled Michael Brown has pledged his future to the Blues.

The talented young midfielder wants to stay at Maine Road and is keen to resolve the contractual negotiations which have been left open all season.

His present contract runs out in the summer but he has told Frank Clark he does not want to move anywhere else.

"The manager is now going to talk to the chairman and hopefully the situation can be quickly resolved," said Michael, delighted to be involved with the first team squad again.

He made his first appearance of 1997 against Middlesbrough last Saturday - but admits that call-up caught him unawares.

"I honestly had no idea I would be playing until the manager announced the team at a quarter to two," he said.

"The previous week I had been named in the squad but did not make the 14 and I thought the same thing would happen again.

"The manager gave me no indication during the week. In fact, I was in the reserves team which had lost 2-1 at Wrexham in the Pontin's League Cup in the week and I did not play too well that night.

"I thought that would even rule me out as one of the subs and it came right out of the blue when I heard my name.

"It was great to get a chance with the first team again, especially in the biggest match of the season.

"I was also pleased because I come from the north east and some of my family had come down from Hartlepool for the game."

It was his first appearance at Maine Road since Boxing Day and his first senior outing since he went on for the injured Eddie McGoldrick after 49 minutes at Barnsley on December 28.

"After a few weeks out of contention it was nice to know I had got into the manager's thoughts," added Michael, who celebrated his 20th birthday last month.

"I thought I played okay against the 'Boro and the manager has told me during the week that he was pleased with my performance.

"I came off after 63 minutes because I was getting a bit tired and I had taken a knock on my knee as well."

Michael, whose absence from the first team coincided with a two-game ban at the start of this month after topping 21 disciplinary points, picked up his sixth yellow card of the season just 20 minutes into the game for a foul on defender Neil Cox in the 'Boro area.

"The referee said I had pulled him back but I thought it was a bit harsh," he said. "I had to go for the ball."

Some of the Boro players did their sporting reputation no favours by trying to persuade the referee to flash a second yellow card - and an automatic sending-off - in the second half.

The unsavoury incident happened after Michael had accidentally caught a visitor as he jumped for a ball.

"My arm went up but their player was on my blind spot and I did not even know he was there," said Michael.

"The referee read it right and fortunately was not persuaded by the gestures of one of their players in particular.

"Apart from the defeat, it was good to be back in the first team again and while the manager said nothing in the week about more appearances I hope to get another chance soon, if not today."

This time we'll give them a game!



Buzzer aims to wipe out the only unhappy memory of his old club...

Nicky Summerbee spent seven happy seasons at Swindon Town ... but he would love to put one over on his old club today.

He joined the Wiltshire outfit as an apprentice and enjoyed some golden moments, making 112 league appearances before joining the Blues for £1.5 million in 1994.

"I have a lot of good memories of my time at the County Ground, although they do not include my last visit there," he ruefully recalled.

That was in November when the Blues lost 2-0 during the spell when little

was going right. "Like a lot of teams we met around that time, we did not really give Swindon a game that day," he said.

Only Andy Dibble stood between the Blues and a rout that afternoon. His saves included a brilliant one from the penalty spot to deny new Blue Kevin Horlock.

"Kevin and goalkeeper Fraser Digby are the last players I know from my days at Swindon," added Nicky. "Almost all of the others have since left the club so there is no one in particular that I will be looking for to have a reunion this afternoon.

"I had some very happy days at the club, however, and we enjoyed a lot of success for its size.

"Lou Macari was the manager when I joined as an apprentice and he signed my professional forms.

"We won promotion under Lou - although I was not in the first team then - and after he left Ossie Ardiles came in.

"Their approach to the game really was chalk and cheese with Lou tending to concentrate on fitness and Ossie encouraging the technical side of the game.

"Ossie gave me my first team debut and when he moved on, the management team was Glenn Hoddle and John Gorman, who now run the England set-up, of course.

"Glenn was player-manager and it

really was a pleasure to be in a team with a player like that.

"He played sweeper and could keep amazingly cool in tight situation before making a 50-yard pass.

"I was playing in the right wing back position and he was always looking to send me on a run.

"Team-mates at that time included Colin Calderwood, now with Spurs, and John Moncur, now at West Ham.

"One season I think we finished about six points behind Kit Symons' Portsmouth in the play-off zone.

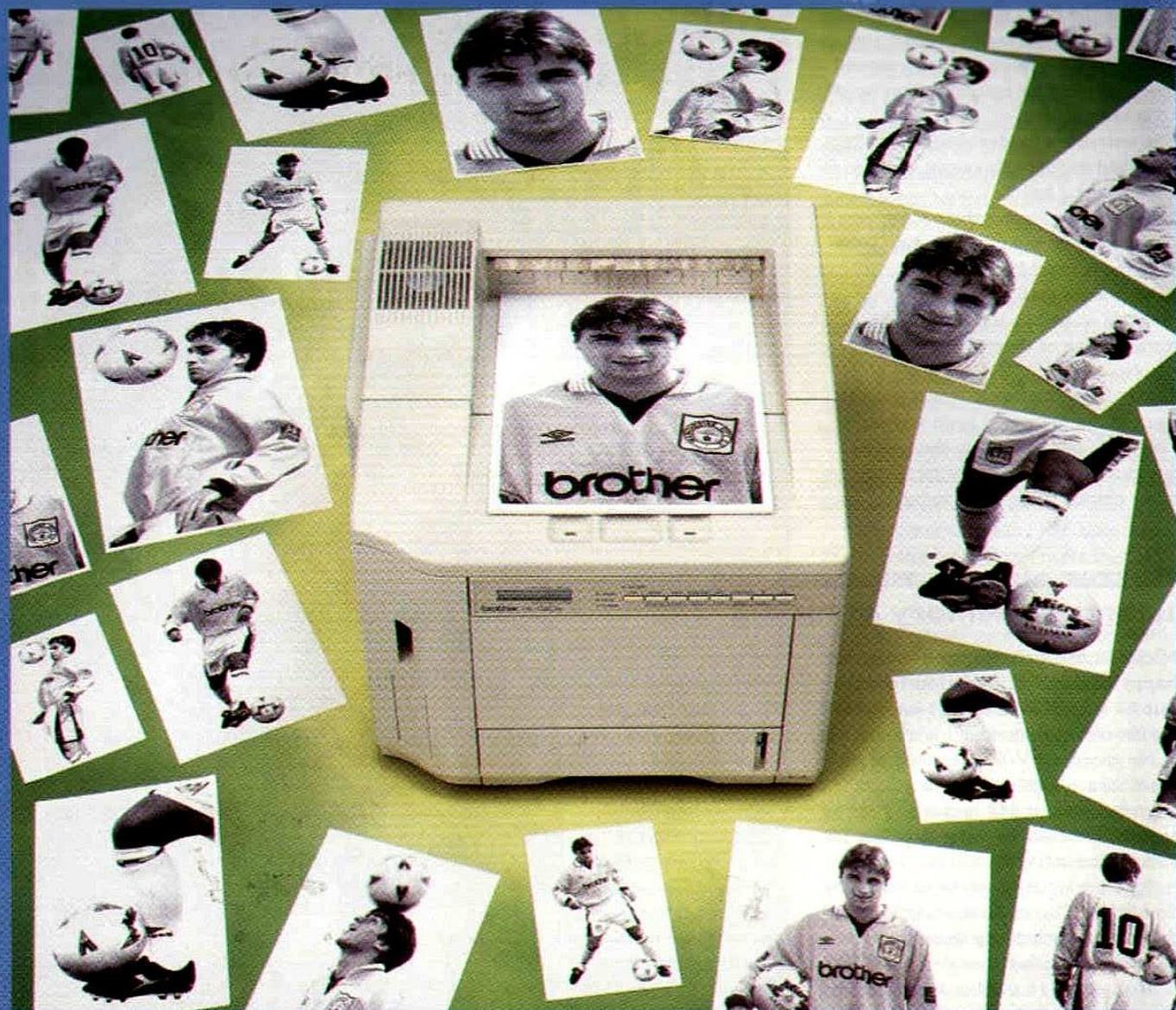
"But while Portsmouth were knocked out in the first play-off match we went to Wembley and won promotion - the only time I have done that as a player.

"Today will be only the second time I have faced Swindon - selection permitting - and I am really looking forward to this one. I want to help even the score after our poor performance and defeat down there."

Today, incidentally, will be young Buzzer's 100th League start for the Blues, not counting substitute appearances.



Kevin Horlock saw is penalty saved by Andy Dibble.



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Going out of the FA Cup is always a bitter pill to swallow and it used to be regarded, by clubs adrift in mid-table, as effectively the cue for that unwanted 'end of season' party. Not any more. The introduction of the play-offs, ten years ago, has changed all that.

For all its faults and the greatest criticism of the play-off system is that it contradicts the whole idea of rewarding consistency - a club can win promotion at the expense of another that has finished ten points better off - it has transformed the last third of the season.

Why else would City fans, cheered by what new manager Frank Clark has achieved in a few short weeks, have swapped one Wembley dream for another after the disappointment of last Saturday's narrow FA Cup fifth round defeat by Middlesbrough?

The doom and gloom brigade will argue that relegation is the more likely option and the First Division table provides some pretty damning evidence.

But in this day and age, with three points for a win, it doesn't take much of a run to shoot up the table and challenge for one of those play-off spots.

Crystal Palace made it to Wembley in the First Division play-offs last season and were seconds away from a penalty shoot-out against Leicester until Steve Claridge floored them with a stunning winner.

Palace had been lying in 16th place at the beginning of February before an inspired run hoisted them into third place overall and, but for a late blip, they might have pipped Derby for the second automatic spot behind champions Sunderland.

Sheffield United, a good bet for relegation on February 20th when they were 23rd, just one place off the bottom, climbed to ninth at the finish.

In the Second Division, Blackpool looked certain for the championship, never mind automatic promotion. Then Oxford came with a storming 17-game run from the bottom half of the table and snatched second place.

Blackpool had to go into the play-offs and were beaten by Bradford City who had gone into the New Year in 19th place. Bradford completed the fairy-tale by winning at Wembley against Notts County.

Blackpool had completed their League programme nine points better off than Bradford but it meant nothing when it came to a knock-out phase and soon afterwards they sacked their manager. And most managers will argue that championships and promotion should be all about grafting for nine months and being consistent rather than chancing everything in the lottery of the play-offs.

The argument in favour of the play-offs is the interest generated throughout the League in the last few months of the season, increased attendances and the carrot of a trip to Wembley and one big win.

Looking at the First Division table as it

What's the Story?

stands now, Bolton and Barnsley are in the envied automatic spots with Wolves, Sheffield United, Crystal Palace and Norwich in the play-off places. Norwich have 49 points from 32 games, City 35 from 30.

Swindon, our opponents this afternoon, are seven points better off than us but have also played two games more. Only five points separate Stoke (7th) and Huddersfield (16th). Ten clubs bunched together. Huddersfield may be six points better off than us but they have played THREE more matches.

So, with 16 League games left, City's first priority is to banish the threat of relegation and then to aim for the stars. The first test is to bounce back from the disappointment of the Middlesbrough defeat with a resounding victory over Swindon today and revenge for our 2-0 defeat at the County Ground in November.

Hopefully, Frank Clark will have new recruits Tommy Wright, Kevin Horlock and Paul Beesley available for selection today.

The FA Cup has been quite extraordinary this season with so many glamour clubs biting the dust. Chesterfield and Wrexham, two Second Division sides, meet in the quarter-finals to guarantee one of the 'minnows' a high-profile, money-spinning 'semi'. And who is to say one of them won't go all the way to Wembley?

Daily Telegraph soccer writer Henry Winter was at Maine Road last week and provided an interesting slant on the 'year of the underdog'.

Winter wrote: "For those concerned about the identity and health of the smaller teams, it seems strange that the feeder club debate has arisen during a season when elite clubs are being consumed by the type of team they want to control. On this weekend's evidence, Nottingham Forest and Leeds should have become nurseries for Chesterfield and Portsmouth, respectively.

"Manchester City, assembled for less than the £7 million Fabrizio Ravanelli cost Boro, did not appear

inferior to the visiting Croesus from the north east. Frank Clark's defence, including three of City's six home-grown starters, impressed, particularly Ian Brightwell who largely coped well with Ravanelli.

"Only when Georgi Kinkladze departed injured and the creative focus shifted to Juninho, did Middlesbrough reveal their expensive pedigree.

"Boro, their road to Wembley now a dual carriageway, will be relieved to have progressed, particularly on a day when some of the country's top-of-the-range models were left on the hard shoulder. A myriad reasons exist for this reversal of fortunes but the most significant revolve around Sky's satellites.

"As is Sky's right and avowed intent, following their mass injection of money, the dish-masters constantly beam images about the premier clubs to subscribers; entertainment for punters and invaluable information for opponents.

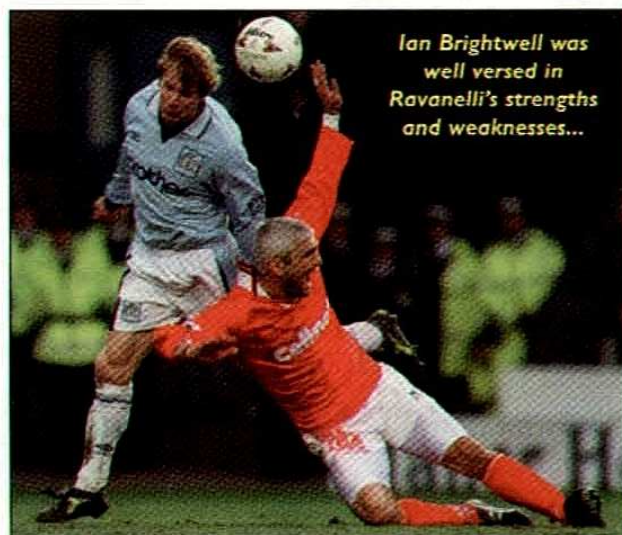
"Frank Clark said: 'Everybody knows everything about Premier League players. You don't have to go to a game almost'. A spy in the Sky, indeed.

"Come cup day, the smaller clubs have done their homework simply by watching television. Brightwell was well versed in Ravanelli's strengths and weaknesses but it is unlikely Ravanelli knew much about Brightwell's game.

"... Clark, once of Forest, is proving that good managers thrive whatever the level. Clark treats players as adults - not always the case at Maine Road - and they have responded (although a finisher is required). So much more than under Alan Ball, the transformation embodied by Nicky Summerbee's more purposeful movement, City took the game to their well-heeled opponents for an hour.

"Boro march on, but not before everyone was reminded of the quality of life, managerial, supporting and playing, downstairs."

Let's hope City march on up the First Division table and postpone that end-of-season party.



Ian Brightwell was well versed in Ravanelli's strengths and weaknesses...

Cup Final Souvenir

City's public relations officer is on the receiving end of a bit of local generosity, courtesy of City fan Chris Nield. Chris and his Dad Ian were cleaning out their loft recently and came across an old copy of the Manchester Evening Chronicle which contained a special preview for the 1934 FA Cup Final between City and Portsmouth. The two avid Blues decided to present the piece to the Club and when Chris brought it down he was met by a delighted PR Officer John Clay and former player Roy Clark who have promised that it will be given pride of place amidst the corridors of power.



Lakey in London

The London branch of the Supporters Club would like to inform Supporters that the evening at the Cafe Royal in London (Saturday 5th April) for Paul Lake's testimonial is a completely separate event to their Annual 'do' which is scheduled to take place the night before (Friday the 4th April). Apparently there's been a bit of confusion, and we're happy to set the record straight!

Luncheon Club

The next meeting of the Manchester City Luncheon Club (guest speaker Jim Watt) is to take place a week earlier than scheduled, i.e. on Thursday 13th March instead of Thursday 20th March.

25 up for Higher Openshaw!

The Higher Openshaw Branch of the Manchester City Supporters Club are celebrating their 25th year as a branch. As part of these anniversary celebrations, the Branch has booked the Silver Suite for today's game, with over 120 members and guests attending the 'party'. The branch hold their meetings on alternate Mondays at the Royal British Legion, Concorde Suite, Droylsden, so if there are any City fans in the area (Openshaw, Beswick, Newton Heath, Abbey Hey or Audenshaw) who wish to get involved, please feel free to come along to one of our meetings.



mascots Abigail was also the youngest ever Junior Blue to attend a meeting at just 7 days old. Aunt Kirsty attends Waterloo Primary School in Ashton-U-Lyne and as well as watching City, loves pop music and shopping for clothes. Her favourite players are Ian Brightwell and Jeff Whitley, whilst Abigail's favourite is captain Kit (apparently Mum thinks he's a bit of a dish).

Generation Game

Running out with the Blues for today's game are (pictured left) 8-year-old Kirsty Leigh Whitehead and her 22-month-old niece Abigail Lawlor. As well as being one of our youngest ever

Robin Redbreast

What a day it'll be for young Alex Davies of Eldene in Swindon, not only is he the Town's mascot today, but he's also celebrating his 11th birthday and is apparently delighted to be spending it at Maine Road. He tells us that he's hoping for a win to top off his day, but unfortunately we may have to put paid to that request. A pupil at Eldene Junior School, Alex (right) enjoys playing football as well as watching Swindon and is apparently a bit of a whizz with a snooker cue. He's a life long member of the Junior Robins and his favourite player is Fraser Digby.



Last but not least!

Pictured here with Ian Brightwell is football-mad Glenn Saunders, who has spent the past few years visiting every single one of the 92 football grounds in the Premiership and the Nationwide League.

He wanted to save one of the best stadiums in the country until last, so naturally chose Maine Road as the finale to his country-wide travels. "I spoke to so many people who told me that I'd get the best welcome at Manchester City," says Glenn, who travelled all the way up from Bristol. "I'm really pleased to have finally notched up my 92nd club, and I'd like to thank everyone at City for being so hospitable."

No problem, Glenn. You deserve a bit of tender loving care after some of the places you will have had to endure in your travels...

Birthday Blues

It'll be the big Five-0 on Monday for Mike Gibbons of Blackpool, but apparently he doesn't look a day over 40. "It's down to many happy years of supporting the Blues" says his wife Sandra, who asked us to send him her love and birthday wishes. You never know, Three points today and he might end up looking even younger! Many happy returns also to twins Hugh and Douglas Miller who are both celebrating their 40th birthdays



in the Centenary Suite. The whole family are coming down to join in the fun, so we all hope they have a great day. Also in the Centenary Suite is young Gemma Catchpole (pictured left), who is 13 years old on February 16th. Her favourite player is Georgi Kinkladze, and she's hoping to see him score today! May we also wish a

very happy birthday to Emma Roberts, who is a season ticket holder in the Kippax Stand, from Mum, Dad, Si, Auntie Jan, Uncle Steve and all the kids. Terri Broadbent will be celebrating her 40th birthday in the Millennium Suite; love and best wishes from husband Colin and sons Ted and Jack

City Social Club

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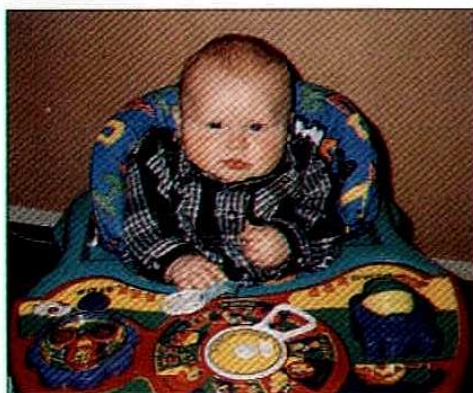
Blue Peaks

Shivering (below) on top of a mountain in the Italian Alps are City fans Stuart Thompson (left) and Steve Lee from Audenshaw. Stuart's Mum tells us that they had a great time over there claiming more than one summit in the name of their beloved Blues. Apparently it is Stuart's 18th Birthday today and we'd like to join his Mum, Dad and brother Carl in wishing him a very happy birthday.



Baby Blue

Today's Cutie of the Week is Thomas Samuel Haskins (right) from Denton, who's being brought up in all the right City traditions by mum Karen and dad Neil. In fact, the little Blue looks as though he's just been informed of last week's Middlesbrough result.....



Not a cloud in the sky

According to these chirpy youngsters (above), there's hardly a cloud on the horizon for the sky Blues - now that Frank Clark is at the reigns, that is. "We'll be back up to the Premier League like greased lightning now!" says Junior Blue Dominic Collard, and his brother James couldn't agree more. "We were delighted when Frank's appointment was announced," he told us. "We were on holiday on the island of Kefalonia at the time, but we couldn't help putting on a bit of a show of support to celebrate." We managed to capture the moment that the pair heard the news, and by all accounts the celebrations went on into the night.

Gore Blimey!

Lucky Jake Gore from Derby fulfilled the dream of a lifetime at the recent game versus Southend when he met up with his idol, Georgi Kinkladze. Ten-year-old Jake was the guest of City MD Colin Barlow and was delighted to be able to have his picture taken (top right) with the Georgian maestro himself.



Cup Quiz winner

The winner of our FA Cup Challenge Quiz printed in the Watford programme was Mr H A Melville, of Stockport who managed to answer all of the questions correctly and also came up with this little slogan in our caption competition for the picture reproduced below:

"Niall Quinn is saying 'Times must be hard! Did you see Franny run on the pitch and pinch me cigar?'"

Honestly, we're still in stitches over it and I've had to help that Joanne Parker up off the floor a couple of times already!

Lucky Mr Melville will be our guest for an executive day out when City play Oldham on 8th March.

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159 J Platt
238 C Duffy



A meeting with Swindon Town inevitably brings to mind the Summerbee connection between the two clubs. This was founded with Mike's move to Maine Road in 1965 and, of course, it is continued today by Nicky.

When the Wiltshire side last appeared at Maine Road, Nicky was in the visiting side prior to his transfer to Manchester the following summer. And that was not the only "swap" since City's 2-1 win in February 1994.

Later that year Steve McMahon was appointed player-manager at the County Ground, and only last month the new Blue, Kevin Horlock, made the journey in the opposite direction.

The meeting three years ago was under the Premiership banner in what proved to be Swindon's only season at the highest level. To add to this disappointment, their relegation was followed by a further drop into the Second Division by 1995.

Happily, the downward trend was corrected last year when a memorable first full season for Mr McMahon delivered a championship trophy. The Robins lost only four matches and romped home with nine points to spare after registering 13 away wins - the best travelling record among the 92 senior clubs.

Further links with Maine Road were established with two signings for the promotion-winning campaign. Defender **MARK SEAGRAVES** spent three years with City after a £100,000 move from Liverpool in 1987 and striker **STEVE FINNEY** scored 20 goals in two seasons for our Reserves.

Finney notched a dozen in the Second Division last term until breaking an ankle, and since then, Swindon have rung the changes - partly because of injuries - among the partners for **WAYNE ALLISON**, their top scorer for two seasons since his £475,000 move from Bristol City.

Former Blackburn player **PETER THORNE**, who made his only senior appearance for Rovers in the FA Charity Shield, scored 19 league goals in his first 15 months at the club, and this season he registered a hat-trick in a 6-0 win against Huddersfield.

When Finney was sidelined last March, **STEVE COWE** was signed on loan from Aston Villa and completed a full transfer before scoring a first league goal on his full debut in the title-clinching victory at Chesterfield.

Goalkeeper **FRASER DIGBY** is now the only survivor from the previous promoted side who won the 1993 Wembley play-off against Leicester. In ten years since leaving Manchester

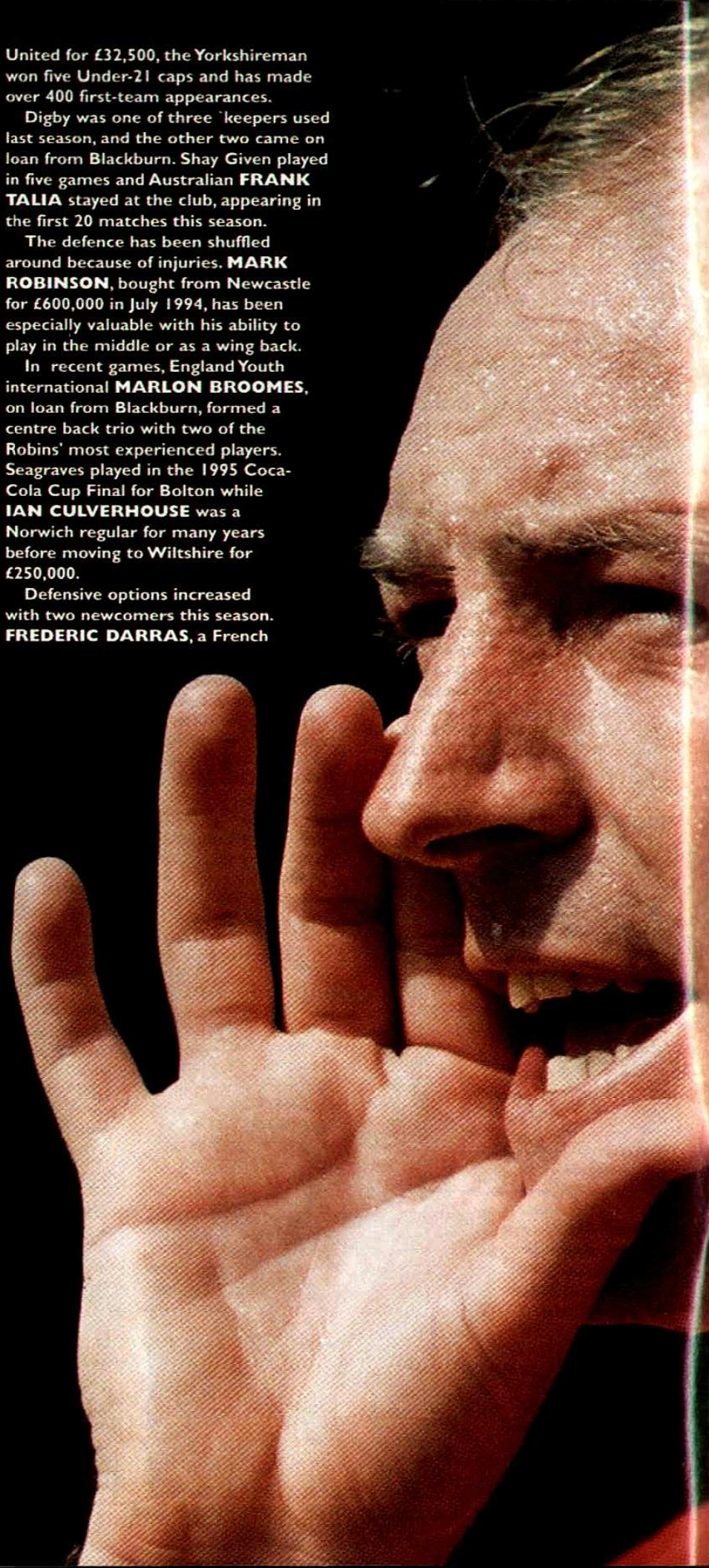
United for £32,500, the Yorkshireman won five Under-21 caps and has made over 400 first-team appearances.

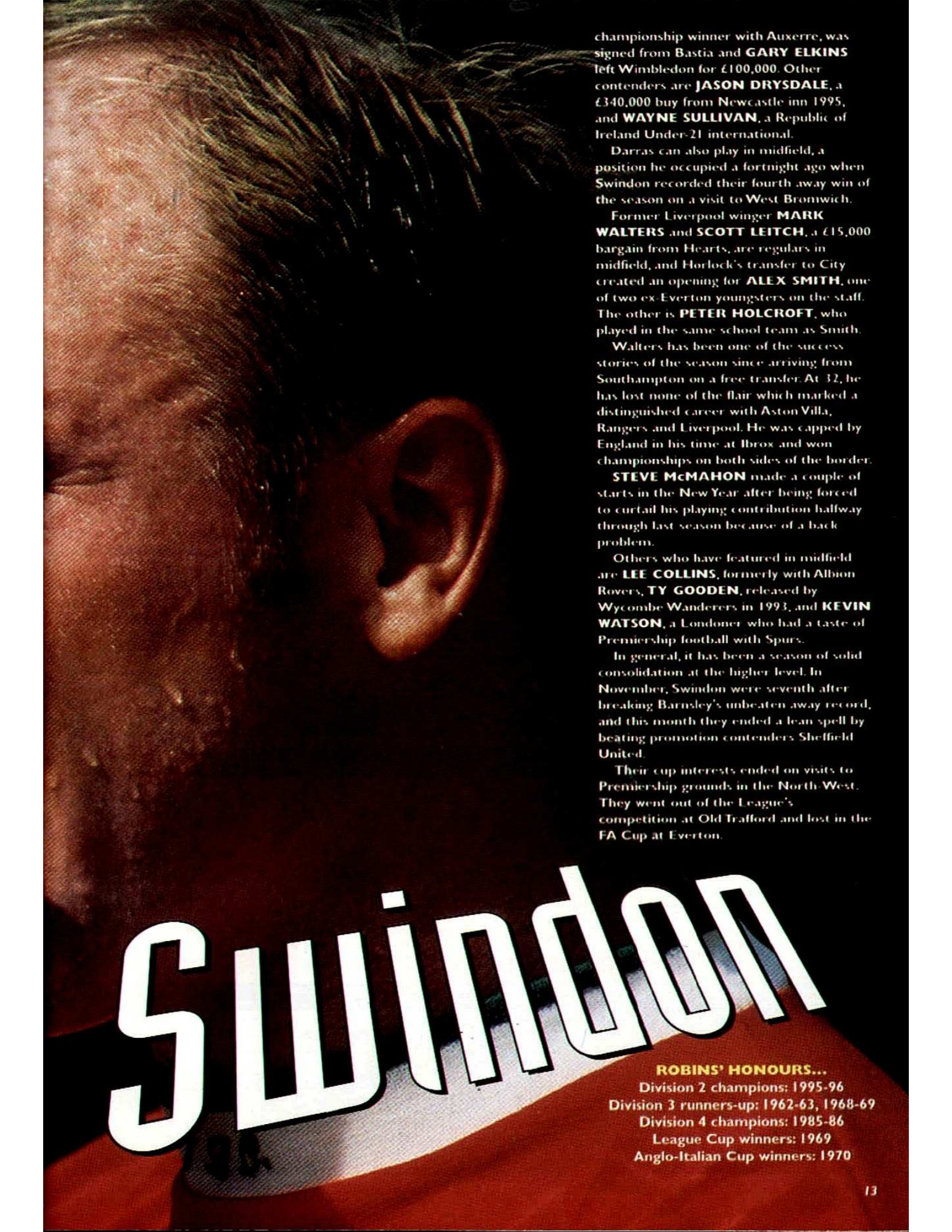
Digby was one of three keepers used last season, and the other two came on loan from Blackburn. Shay Given played in five games and Australian **FRANK TALIA** stayed at the club, appearing in the first 20 matches this season.

The defence has been shuffled around because of injuries. **MARK ROBINSON**, bought from Newcastle for £600,000 in July 1994, has been especially valuable with his ability to play in the middle or as a wing back.

In recent games, England Youth international **MARLON BROOMES**, on loan from Blackburn, formed a centre back trio with two of the Robins' most experienced players. Seagraves played in the 1995 Coca-Cola Cup Final for Bolton while **IAN CULVERHOUSE** was a Norwich regular for many years before moving to Wiltshire for £250,000.

Defensive options increased with two newcomers this season. **FREDERIC DARRAS**, a French





championship winner with Auxerre, was signed from Bastia and **GARY ELKINS** left Wimbledon for £100,000. Other contenders are **JASON DRYSDALE**, a £340,000 buy from Newcastle in 1995, and **WAYNE SULLIVAN**, a Republic of Ireland Under-21 international.

Darras can also play in midfield, a position he occupied a fortnight ago when Swindon recorded their fourth away win of the season on a visit to West Bromwich.

Former Liverpool winger **MARK WALTERS** and **SCOTT LEITCH**, a £15,000 bargain from Hearts, are regulars in midfield, and Horlock's transfer to City created an opening for **ALEX SMITH**, one of two ex-Everton youngsters on the staff. The other is **PETER HOLCROFT**, who played in the same school team as Smith.

Walters has been one of the success stories of the season since arriving from Southampton on a free transfer. At 32, he has lost none of the flair which marked a distinguished career with Aston Villa, Rangers and Liverpool. He was capped by England in his time at Ibrox and won championships on both sides of the border.

STEVE McMAHON made a couple of starts in the New Year after being forced to curtail his playing contribution halfway through last season because of a back problem.

Others who have featured in midfield are **LEE COLLINS**, formerly with Albion Rovers, **TY GOODEN**, released by Wycombe Wanderers in 1993, and **KEVIN WATSON**, a Londoner who had a taste of Premiership football with Spurs.

In general, it has been a season of solid consolidation at the higher level. In November, Swindon were seventh after breaking Barnsley's unbeaten away record, and this month they ended a lean spell by beating promotion contenders Sheffield United.

Their cup interests ended on visits to Premiership grounds in the North-West. They went out of the League's competition at Old Trafford and lost in the FA Cup at Everton.

Swindon

ROBINS' HONOURS...

Division 2 champions: 1995-96
Division 3 runners-up: 1962-63, 1968-69
Division 4 champions: 1985-86
League Cup winners: 1969
Anglo-Italian Cup winners: 1970

SWINDON'S TEN YEAR LEAGUE RECORD & AVERAGE HOME LEAGUE ATTENDANCES

Green area indicates league positions (see left), red rule denotes average attendances (right)



Last away defeat: 0-2, 1996-97

P = Penalty **OG** = Own Goal

14

OPPOSING VIEW...

Steve McMahon

It was something of a culture shock for Steve McMahon to take over the reins at the County Ground following an illustrious playing career with Everton, Aston Villa, Liverpool and Manchester City.

But his previous experience has stood him in good stead and he has not yet finished imparting some of that wisdom with the occasional playing appearance as he demonstrated quite recently despite a back injury.

Another adept side of managerial make-up seen this season is his ability to wheel and deal as he rebuilds his team. But due to obvious financial restraints, he has to shop at the bottom end of the market.

He has proved himself to be successful in this area with such astute signings as his skipper Mark Seagraves, who is looking forward to making a return to Maine Road, Ian Culverhouse and Mark Walters, who have all played leading roles in Swindon's somewhat erratic season that is at last beginning to level out.

Up to the end of January they had lost ten of their eleven away games but at the same time had won nine of their home matches. This month they have hit a more consistent vein and in their last three games have beaten Sheffield United, made a draw at Queen's Park Rangers and taken three points from their trip to West Bromwich Albion.

McMahon, winner of 17 England caps, said: "At one stage of the season we had no less than twelve players injured and for a club of Swindon's size it was a major problem. But I can't explain why our form has been so contrasting.

"We've only had one home defeat in this period yet have struggled to get the points on our travels. But to

be fair to the lads, no team has exactly slammed us.

"After gaining promotion last season our target was to reach the safety zone. We are nudging our way to that point but no one can get complacent when you have to play the likes of Manchester City.

"I've had to make plenty of changes to the side compared to last season and I've had to buy at the bottom end of the market.

"Although I've recently done a good deal with the transfer of Kevin Horlock to City, most of the money has been swallowed up meeting other

commitments.



Midfielder Mark Walters (above) was a teammate of Steve McMahon's at Aston Villa. Wayne Allison (right) is Town's leading scorer with 12 goals so far this season.



"If you took everyone in Manchester and told them they could only go to one game, more would watch City than United."

STEVE McMAHON

STEVE McMAHON

Born: Liverpool, 20th August 1961

LEAGUE PLAYING CAREER

	Games	Goals
Everton	99(1)	11
Aston Villa	74(1)	7
Liverpool	202(2)	29
Manchester City	83(4)	1
*Swindon Town	38(3)	-
TOTAL	496(11)	48

*Up to 15.2.97

Honours:

With Liverpool:

Division One Championship (1985-86, 1987-88, 1989-90) FA Cup (1989)

International caps:

England, 17 (Full), 6 (U-21)

LEAGUE MANAGEMENT CAREER

Swindon Town (Nov. 1994)

Honours:

Division Two Championship (1995-96)

"There is a little money left over for me and that is why I've always got to look carefully at the market.

"I've got to give credit to the players as they've worked their socks off for me as everyone realises that team spirit is of the highest importance.

"What we really need at Swindon is to steady the ship. It's been a bit of a roller-coaster ride in many respects.

"We are settling down but everyone must be patient and allow the club and team to grow together."

A trip back to Maine Road is always a pleasure for the hard working McMahon, who firmly believes it is only a matter of time before the club moves back to the higher division.

He relates: "Obviously playing for City was different from being at Liverpool. I was always struck by their fanatical support as they were living in the shadow of Manchester United.

"But it proved to me that they had tremendous support. If you took everyone in Manchester and told them they could only go to one game, more would watch City than United."

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brothers

More than just **Sun** features

The Whitleys opened Britain's top-selling morning newspaper last Saturday to find themselves the stars of the show.

Virtually the whole of the centre spread in The Sun's 'Kick Off' section was dedicated to a feature about brothers Jeff and Jim.

Under a four-deck headline which proclaimed "Clark's got his Whits about him!", City's siblings talked at length about their family life, careers and ambitions under Frank Clark's management.

And if they were not household names beforehand, they should have been afterwards!

Jim's remarkable artistic talent was revealed as he was pictured with some of his stunning life-like portraits of fellow players, including Richard Edgill.

He said: "The portraits have really taken off. I've done several big-name stars at other clubs and I'm really enjoying it.

"I was always determined to have an education to fall back on and, with my A levels in Sports Studies and Art, I could go on to college or into physiotherapy or something similar.

"But, like Jeff, what I want to do most is play football for Manchester City."

The artistic talent runs in the family with Jeff also a dab hand at the canvas while half-sister Diane is an actress who also writes scripts for TV's Grange Hill and has had a play called Girls Night Out staged in London.

Jim, 21, and Jeff, who has just turned 18, admit they would love to play in the same City team one day.

"Jim is really chuffed that I have made the breakthrough into the first team and at international level this season," said Jeff. "I think it would be great if we could both be in the City team together.

"We play in different positions so it would be hard to compare us. I would say I'm a better midfielder and he is a better defender."

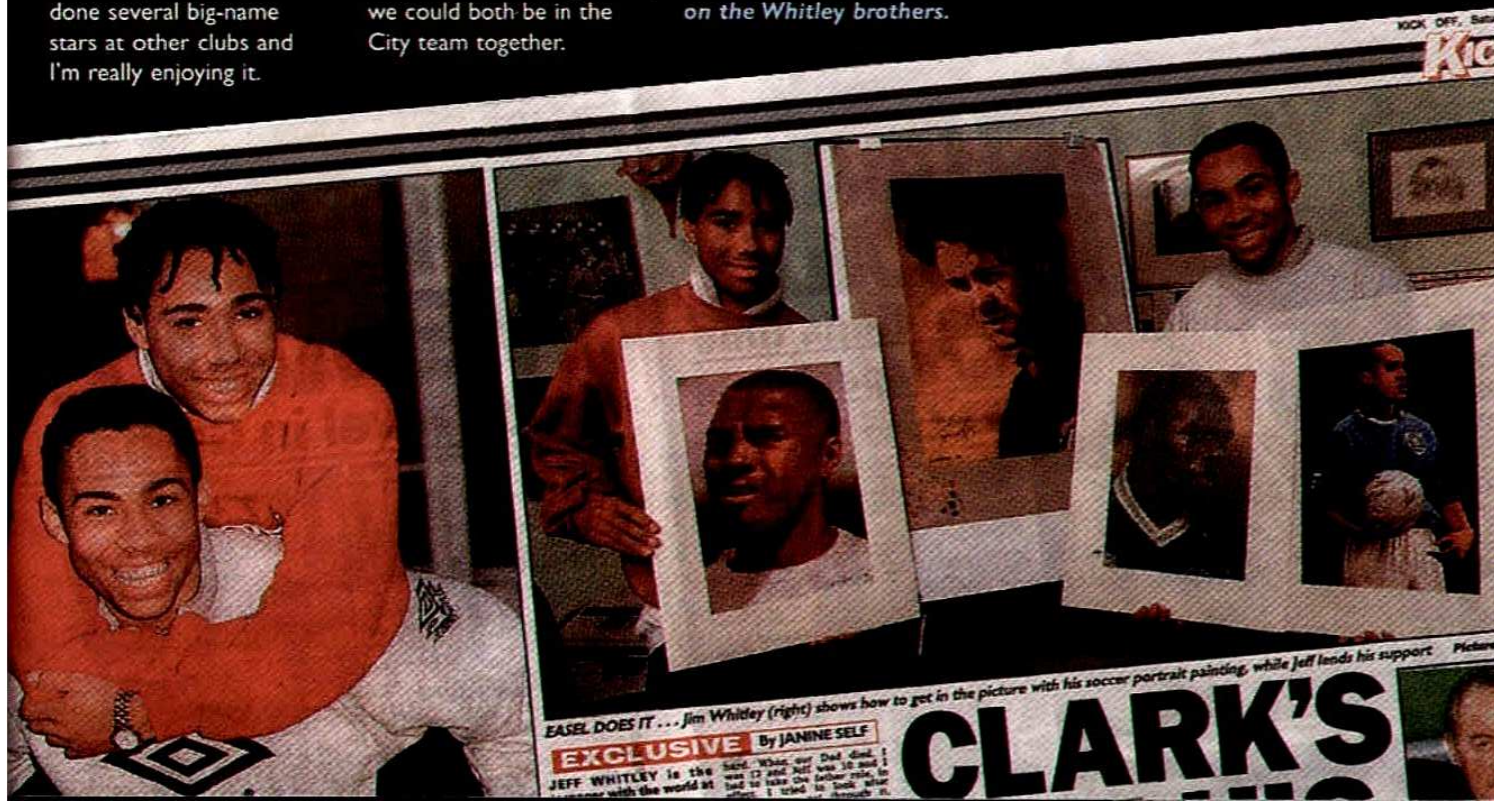
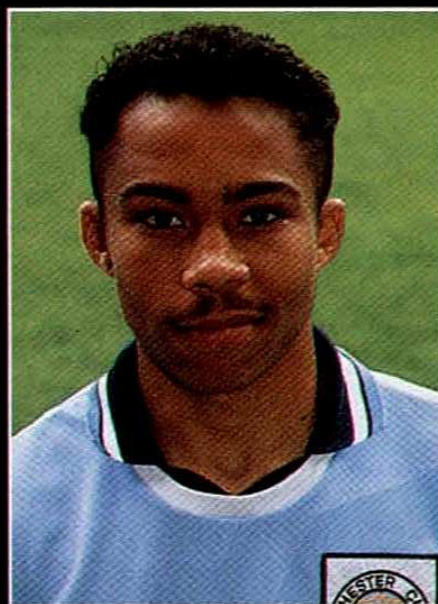
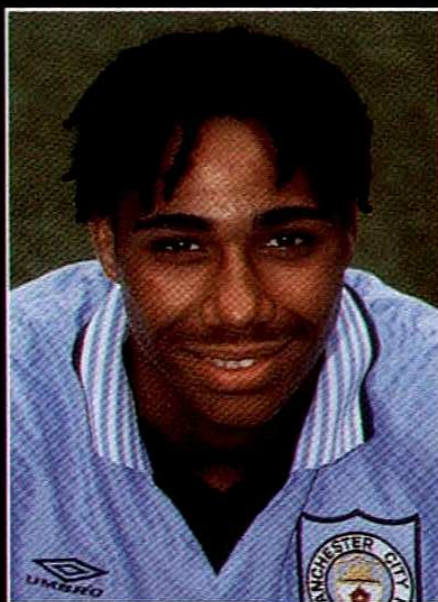
Jeff looks certain to retain his place in the Northern Ireland squad for next month's World Cup qualifying match against Portugal after making his senior international debut as a sub against Belgium earlier this month.

He said: "I never thought that would happen when I joined City from Flixton Juniors when I was 11."

Jim said: "Jeff has done brilliantly this season and I'm very proud of him.

"I'd love to catch up with him but it looks a hard job..."

Below: A section of the Sun's excellent feature on the Whitley brothers.



ACTION CITY

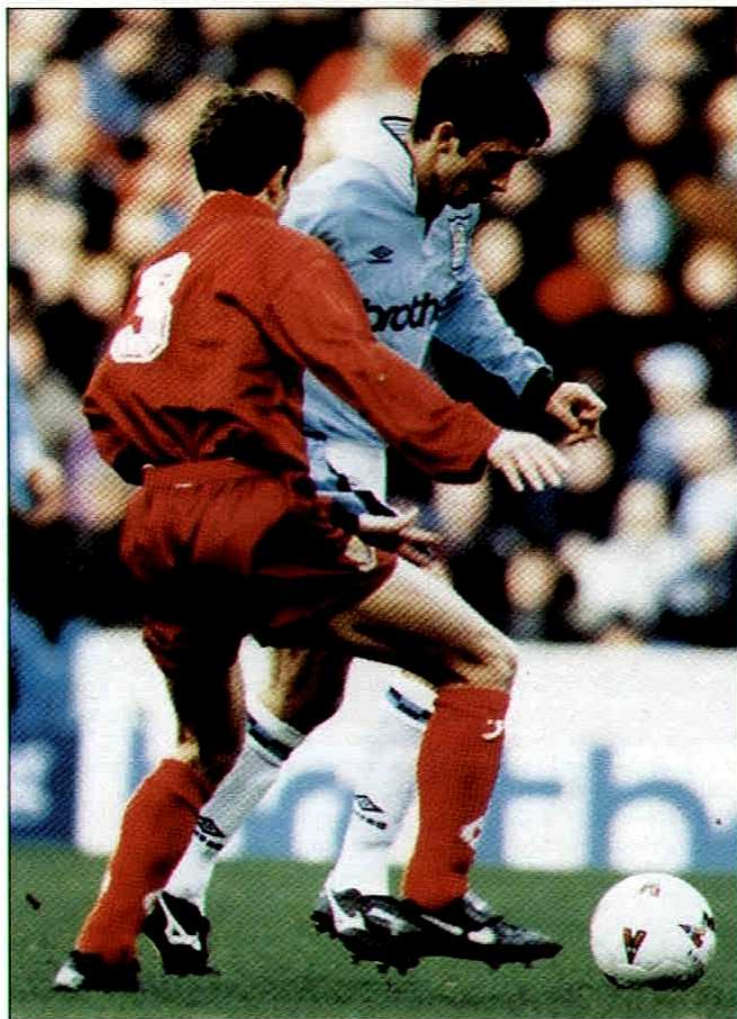
OXFORD 1 CITY 4

Georgi Kinkladze slots home the first of his two goals in City's live TV spectacular at The Manor Ground and receives a big Irish hug from Steve Lomas.



CITY 3 SOUTHEND 0

Uwe Rösler took his tally to four goals in six days with a brace against Southend... the first of which is shown here. The Shrimpers game was the first at home for Kevin Horlock (below left) and saw a Blues debut for Paul Beesley (below right).



30 YEARS AGO... 1966-67

In dreadful weather conditions, more than 41,000 fans turned up at Maine Road to see the Blues progress into the fifth round of the FA Cup at the expense of Cardiff City.

They saw a game full of commitment and good football from both teams, with five-star performances by Colin Bell, Stan Horne and Tony Book for Manchester City, and by George Johnston for the visitors.

Our Blues put pressure on the Cardiff goalmouth straight from the kick-off as Mike Doyle went close with a rasping drive, and the Cardiff keeper, Bob Wilson, saved well from Doyle, Mike Summerbee, Alan Oakes and Neil Young.

There was a scare when a Book back-pass went awry and Bobby Brown got in a shot which Alan Ogley turned over the bar.

Against the run of play, Cardiff took the lead after 24 minutes. A linesman declared that he had seen George Heslop handle the ball, and Johnston fired home the penalty.

The Blues continued to pound away at the visitors' goal and Wilson had something of a torrid evening. It was inevitable that an equaliser would arrive, and it did after 66 minutes. Young put in a left-foot shot

which was deflected by a Cardiff player, and Wilson let the ball drift into the net.

Two minutes later, we were in front, this time courtesy of a penalty taken by Johnny Crossan after Young had been brought down.

The goal that clinched matters came after 82 minutes. Glyn Pardoe spotted Bell - who had missed seven minutes of the first half receiving treatment - racing into space and put through a perfect pass for "The King" to run on to. He made no mistake.

Right at the end, Ogley made a brilliant save from a Johnston penalty.

CITY: Ogley, Book, Pardoe, Horne, Heslop, Oakes, Summerbee, Bell, Doyle, Crossan, Young. **Sub:** Connor. **CARDIFF:** Wilson, Coldrick, Ferguson, Williams, Murray, Harris, Farrell, Johnston, Brown, King, Bird. **Attendance:** 41,616.

■ Stan Bowles and Jimmy Murray were the scorers in the Reserves' 2-0 win over Burnley, and the other sides both beat Blackpool teams. The 'A' won 3-0, Chris Glennon, David Hoare (penalty) and sub Peter Denham on the scoresheet, and the 'B' won 2-0 with goals from John Roberts and Tony Jackson.

20 YEARS AGO... 1976-77

All good things come to an end, and the Blues' excellent unbeaten run of 17 League and cup games petered out on a visit to Bristol City.

Manager Tony Book accepted the defeat gracefully, but he was far from pleased with the lacklustre performance. For the West Country hosts, the points were valuable as they had won only one of their last seven League games.

The Blues were somewhat lethargic in defence and allowed former Liverpool star Peter Cormack far too much room for his late runs. The Ashton Gate side played some good football and, in contrast to their opponents, were well-organised in defence.



Blue to be Gerry Gow was in fine form for Bristol City.

Bristol's biggest downfall, as it had been all season, was in their finishing. In only three games out of 26 in all competitions had they managed to score more than once.

One was sufficient on this occasion, and it came after 51 minutes, the result of a quickly-taken free kick by Norman Hunter, the former Leeds United stalwart. Dave Watson was utterly unprepared as Chris Garland seemingly popped up from nowhere to place the ball out of Joe Corrigan's reach.

As well as Hunter's fine performance, other Bristol players to shine on the day were Garland and later-Blue Gerry Gow. Recalling Gerry's somewhat abrasive style of play at times, it seems appropriate that the home team should have included a player called Fear.

BRISTOL CITY: Shaw, Gillies, Merrick (Tainton), Sweeney, Collier, Hunter, Gow, Fear, Garland, Cormack, Whitehead. **MANCHESTER CITY:** Corrigan, Clements, Donachie, Doyle, Watson, Power, Owen, Kidd, Royle, Hartford, Tueart. **Sub:** Booth. **Attendance:** 27,601.

■ None of the club's other three sides had a game.

Steve McMahon - a 'Man of the Match' display against Villa.



Player-manager Peter Reid was pleased with the way Blues bounced back to beat Aston Villa after the previous week's defeat at Wimbledon.

"We scored two super goals - both created brilliantly by Steve McMahon - and Mike Sheron was unlucky not to get his name on the scoresheet," he said afterwards.

The match saw debuts for two players. Dave Brightwell was making his full one after being substitute at Wimbledon, while Villa introduced their new signing, former-Blue Earl Barrett.

Man-of-the-match for City was the recent recruit, McMahon, who leaned heavily on his vast experience to govern the middle of the park.

It was his chip into Niall Quinn's path that led to the

5 YEARS AGO... 1991-92

Irishman putting City in front as early as the third minute.

Dwight Yorke was guilty of a glaring miss during the first half, and the Villa manager, Ron Atkinson, was adamant that his side should have had a penalty when Dave Brightwell got into a tangle with Cyrille Regis. The officials thought otherwise.

The result was sealed with 15 minutes left. Again McMahon was the architect with a pass which split the Villa defence and landed at the feet of David White, who scored his 18th goal of the campaign.

Reid was also pleased with the performance of the younger Brightwell, who turned in another excellent display, as he had at Wimbledon the week before.

CITY: Coton, Hill, Poynton, Reid, Curle, D. Brightwell, White, Sheron, Quinn, McMahon, Hughes (I. Brightwell).

Blues go bananas!

As Manchester City achieved a first League double of the season a fortnight ago against Southend United, today would be an appropriate time to look at another double, one which ultimately helped towards promotion.

It was the Time of the Inflatables, and didn't those City bananas do some bobbing about in excitement as the Blues stayed the pace to finish second in the table for a guaranteed place back in the top flight!

City had sampled a mixed festive season when they paid their New Year's Eve visit to Swindon, and had dropped from third to fifth. Swindon, on the other hand were in 12th place.

Jason Beckford - younger brother of Darren - had been pestering City coach John Deehan to convince manager Mel Machin he was good enough for a first-team place. He had made five substitute appearances up to that point in the season, and was pleased to find himself named in the squad to travel to Wiltshire, but

what he didn't know was that Machin had already chosen him to play.

The City boss explained: "Swindon were operating with a sweeper so I brought Jason in from the start to get more width. He played well until the last ten minutes or so when he got cramp and had to come off."

Jason worked incessantly that afternoon, making the first goal and scoring our second. "We were only five minutes gone," recalled the winger, "when I got the ball out on the left. I crossed it and Brian Gayle was on the spot to head past Fraser Digby."

Andy Dibble was in top form in that game, making a string of fine saves in the first half, but a shot from Steve White rebounded from his crossbar.

White was compensated after 57 minutes when he scored an equaliser from a corner taken by Tom Jones.

But Beckford hadn't finished yet. Many people thought it was David White's header that gave us maximum points after 70 minutes, but it was Jason who got the last touch. "I smashed it home from all of two inches," he grinned.

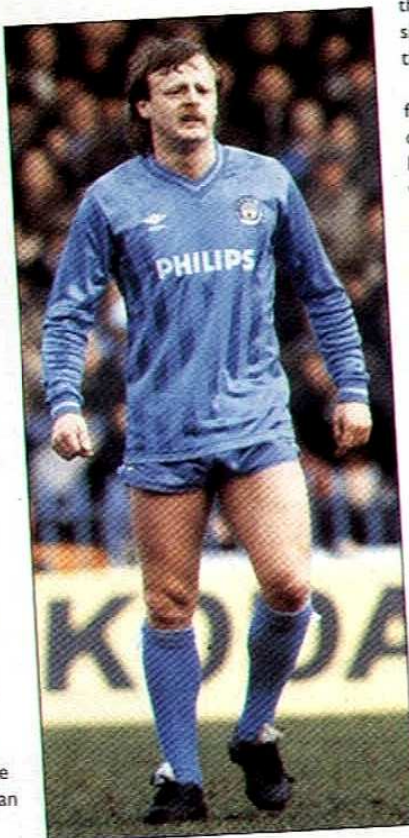
The bananas waved and, near to your historian, an inflatable gorilla seemed to laugh his appreciation.

Swindon's Phil King was sent off towards the end for bringing down Ian Brightwell.

The return game fell in April with the Blues in second place, having been teetered between there and top spot since early February. Swindon were seventh, having won only one of their last four League games.

There were several new faces in the City team. Beckford was back in the Reserves, and in goal was the highly-experienced Paul Cooper, who had joined us in March from Leicester.

In midfield was Gary Megson, signed from Sheffield Wednesday in January, and scorer of the solitary goal in a win at Oldham on his City debut. And last but by



VILLA: Sealey, Barrett, Staunton, Teale, McGrath, Richardson, Daley, Yorke (Carruthers), Regis, Parker, Froggatt. Sub: Blake. Attendance: 28,288.

The Reserves went down 0-2 at Nottingham Forest, but the junior sides had spanking wins around this time.

The 'A' team beat Preston 6-1 at home, the scorers being Adie Mike (2), Mickey Beirne (2), Nicky Limber and John Sharpe. The 'B' side won 4-0 at Stockport with goals from David Kerr, Sean Harkin, Darren McHugh and, again, Adie Mike.

Saturday 31st December 1988

SWINDON TOWN 1 (White)
MANCHESTER CITY 2 (Gayle Beckford)

SWINDON: Digby, Hockaday, King, Jones, Parkin, Gittens (Cornwell), Foley, White, Henry, McLaren, Shearer.

Sub: Barnes.

CITY: Seagraves, Hinchcliffe, Gayle, I. Brightwell, Redmond, White, Lake, J. Beckford (Gleghorn), McNab, Biggins.

Sub: Morley.

Attendance: 10,776.

Saturday 8th April 1989

MANCHESTER CITY 2
(Hinchcliffe pen Oldfield)
SWINDON TOWN 1 (Shearer)

CITY: Cooper, Lake (Oldfield), Hinchcliffe, Gayle, Megson, Redmond, White, Moulden, Morley, McNab, Biggins.

Sub: Gleghorn.

SWINDON: Digby, Hockaday, King, Jones, Calderwood, Gittens, Foley, Shearer, McLoughlin, McLaren, White.

Subs: Geddis, Viveash.

Attendance: 28,303.

no means least there was Australian-born substitute David Oldfield.

Again Swindon manager Lou Macari decided to play with a sweeper to make life as hard as possible for the promotion contenders, and with an eye on the possibility that his side could still make the play-offs.

As in the first fixture, the guv'nor on the park was Neil McNab, a tireless worker who had lost none of his fitness during a recent two-match suspension. "It is more than coincidence that we start playing better football when he is in the side," praised Machin.

Town surprised everyone - except themselves, of course - when they took the lead after 35 minutes through Duncan Shearer; their £250,000 signing from Huddersfield Town. It was the

50th League goal of his career.

It took a penalty to bring the Blues level five minutes later after a foul on Wayne Biggins. Regular taker McNab had passed the job on to Andy Hinchcliffe and the full back obliged with his third success since taking over. Afterwards, Andy confessed: "I didn't hit it properly, but it went in and that's what mattered."

Half-time arrived and Mel Machin decided to throw caution to the winds. He brought on Oldfield, the £600,000 striker from Luton Town, in place of full back Paul Lake.

And the move paid off as Paul Moulden - the man who lost possession to give Town the lead - redeemed himself by threading the ball through the defence for Oldfield to hammer home.

So we completed a more-than-useful double, which was worth remembering at the end of the season when the draw at Bradford City ensured that the Blues would go into the First Division.

Neil McNab (left) - an inspiration in both games against Swindon.



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DAY BY DAY Diary

■ Wednesday 5th February

Neil Heaney scores his first goal for City after returning to the starting line-up along with Martyn Margetson and Lee Crooks. They replace the ineligible Tommy Wright, the cup-tied Kevin Horlock and the injured Ian Brightwell.

Second Division Watford equalise after a sending-off for Steve Palmer but Nicky Summerbee restores the Blues' advantage with his second Cup goal of the season.

FA CUP - ROUND FOUR

CITY 3 (Heaney 24 Summerbee 61 Rösler 71) **WATFORD 1** (Noel-Williams 58)
HT 1-0. Att: 24,031.

CITY: Margetson, Crooks, Ingram, Lomas, Symons, Kernaghan, Summerbee, McGoldrick, Heaney, Kinkladze, Rösler (Creaney 82).

Unused subs: Jeff Whitley, Dibble. **WATFORD:** Miller, Gibbs, Page, Ward, Ludden, Bazeley, Palmer, Johnson, Easton (Andrews 63), Slater, Noel-Williams (Robinson 75). Unused sub: Chamberlain.

■ Friday 7th February

Paul Beesley is signed from Leeds United for £500,000 after making 13 starts this season for the new Elland Road manager, George Graham. The former Wigan and Leyton Orient defender first appeared in the Premiership with Sheffield United.

■ Saturday 8th February

City, showing three changes from the mid-week Cup-tie, make it ten goals and three wins in a week. With Alan Kernaghan on the injured list, Paul Beesley comes in for an immediate debut. Eddie



Steve Lomas fends off a challenge from Middlesbrough's Gianluca Festa in last Saturday's FA Cup clash at Maine Road.

McGoldrick is also ruled out, his place going to Kevin Horlock, and Tommy Wright resumes as goalkeeper.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

- DIVISION ONE

CITY 3 (Rösler 49 & 70 Kinkladze 57)

SOUTHEND UNITED 0

HT 0-0 Att: 26,261

CITY: Wright, Crooks, Ingram, Lomas, Symons, Beesley, Summerbee, Heaney (Jeff Whitley 71), Horlock, Kinkladze, Rösler. Unused subs: Creaney, Dickov. **SOUTHEND:** Royce, Harris, Hails, Dublin, Roget, Poric, Grیدهlet, Byrne, Rammell (Boere 58), Thomson, Nielsen. Unused subs: Henrikson, Hanlon.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

- DIVISION TWO

MARINE YOUTH 1

CITY 'A' 4

Scorers: Rimmer, Maddocks, N. Fenton, Bailey. CITY: Brown, N. Fenton, Gallagher (Sailesman), N. Morley, A. Fenton, Rimmer, Wills (N. McNab jnr), Mason, Maddocks (Pridham), Burrows, Bailey. Unused subs: Acton, Laycock.

■ Tuesday 11th February

Jeff Whitley makes his full international debut for Northern Ireland with an appearance as substitute in a 3-0 win against Belgium. The City teenager replaces Kevin Horlock - the latter winning his first cap as a Blues player - and the Irish side also includes Steve Lomas and Tommy Wright.

Meanwhile, in Cardiff, Kit Symons plays for Wales in their 0-0 draw with the Republic of Ireland.

■ Wednesday 12th February

PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP

- GROUP THREE

WREXHAM RES 2 CITY RES 1

Scorer: Dickov.

CITY: Dibble, Foster, McGlinchey, Creaney, D. Morley, Bentley, Greenacre, Brown, Dickov (Kelly), Kavelashvili (Phillips), Beagrie. Unused sub: Jim Whitley.

■ Saturday 15th February

City return to Cup action without Neil Heaney and the ineligible trio, Tommy Wright, Kevin Horlock and Paul Beesley. Their places go to Michael Brown, Martyn Margetson, Eddie McGoldrick and Ian Brightwell.

FA CUP - ROUND FIVE

CITY 0

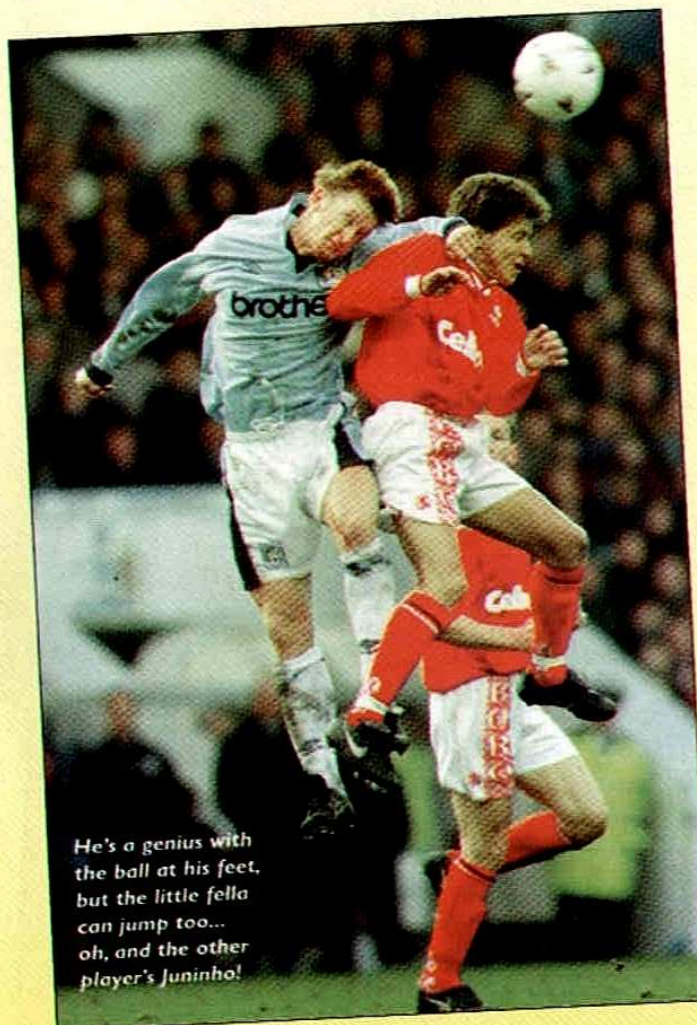
MIDDLESBROUGH 1

(Juninho 77)

HT 0-0. Att: 30,462.

CITY: Margetson, McGoldrick, Ingram, Lomas, Symons, Brightwell, Summerbee, Brown (Beagrie 63), Crooks, Kinkladze (Dickov 65), Rösler. Unused sub: Dibble. **MIDDLESBROUGH:** Roberts, Cox, Fleming, Festa, Vickers, Mustoe, Stamp, Whyte, Juninho, Hignett, Ravenelli. Unused subs: Beck, Blackmore, Miller.

The 'A' team's local derby fixture is postponed because of Manchester United's involvement in the FA Youth Cup.



He's a genius with the ball at his feet, but the little fella can jump too... oh, and the other player's Juninho!



TOMMY VITTO



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World Cup call-ups hit West Brom and Ipswich... Reward for Wolves... Mixed fortunes for emergency keepers...

THE prospect of further disruption to the English club programme became apparent when the USA and Canada reached a cumbersome final round in the World Cup qualification process.

Each country will be required to play ten matches, from March to November, in a group which also embraces Costa Rica, El Salvador, Jamaica and Mexico.

America are likely to call on QPR goalkeeper Juergen Sommer and Canada's squad will almost certainly include West Brom striker Paul Peschisolido and Ipswich keeper Craig Forrest.

The Albion man has already spoken to the national manager in the hope that he might be able to restrict his trips across the Atlantic to three or four days for each match. "The main problem," says Peschisolido, "is the jet-lag. That really gets to you."

A further complication for English clubs reared its head with reports that Jamaica may want to call up several First Division players. Among those mentioned were Danny Maddix and Rufus Brevett (QPR) and the Portsmouth pair, Paul Hall and ex-City midfielder Fitzroy Simpson.

HOWARD KENDALL could hardly believe his bad luck when goalkeeper Alan Kelly was injured on one of the few occasions he had not selected a deputy on the bench.

The Sheffield United manager sighed: "It's sod's law. It's only the third time I've done that since I've been at the club."

Norway's international defender, Roger Nilsen, went in goal and was beaten twice

The Brazilian trademark is not the sole property of Middlesbrough. Bradford City imported the samba style by paying £250,000 to sign Edinho from the Portuguese club, Vitoria Guimaraes.

in the second half as Norwich City snatched a 3-2 win at Bramall Lane.

Kelly's groin injury cost him his place in the Republic of Ireland team, but his misfortune became a boost for Keith Branagan, who stepped up from Bolton's reserve team to make his full international debut.

LDHAM ATHLETIC became the fifth club in the First Division to have a change of management this season with the departure of Graeme Sharp after a little over two years at Boundary Park.

The Latics, a Premiership side and FA Cup semi-finalists three seasons ago, were bottom of the table when the former Scotland striker left the club along with his assistant, Colin Harvey.



READING's Jimmy Quinn (pictured) is used to spreading the work-load as joint-manager, regular first-team substitute and striker for Northern Ireland. Now he can add a fourth job to his c.v. - emergency goalkeeper! The 37-year-old Ulsterman donned the gloves against Bolton and finished on the winning side thanks to a hat-trick by former City striker Trevor Morley. The bad news was that keeper Bobby Mikhailov will miss the rest of the season through injury.

Meanwhile, Bolton's Colin Todd became the latest manager to see his side take a downturn following a manager-of-the-month nomination. After Mr Todd's third award of the season, the Burnden club lost in the FA Cup to Chesterfield and came to the end of seven-match winning run in the First Division.

WOLVES' players were rewarded with a four-day break at Spain's famous La Manga Golf & Country club after putting together their best run since September 1994. They won four matches in a row and kept three clean sheets in succession.

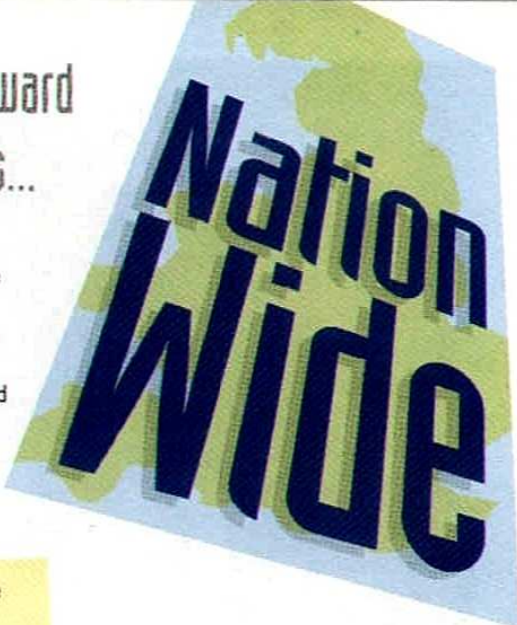
Needless to say, Steve Bull planted his name amongst the statistical milestones, scoring at Huddersfield on his 500th senior appearance.

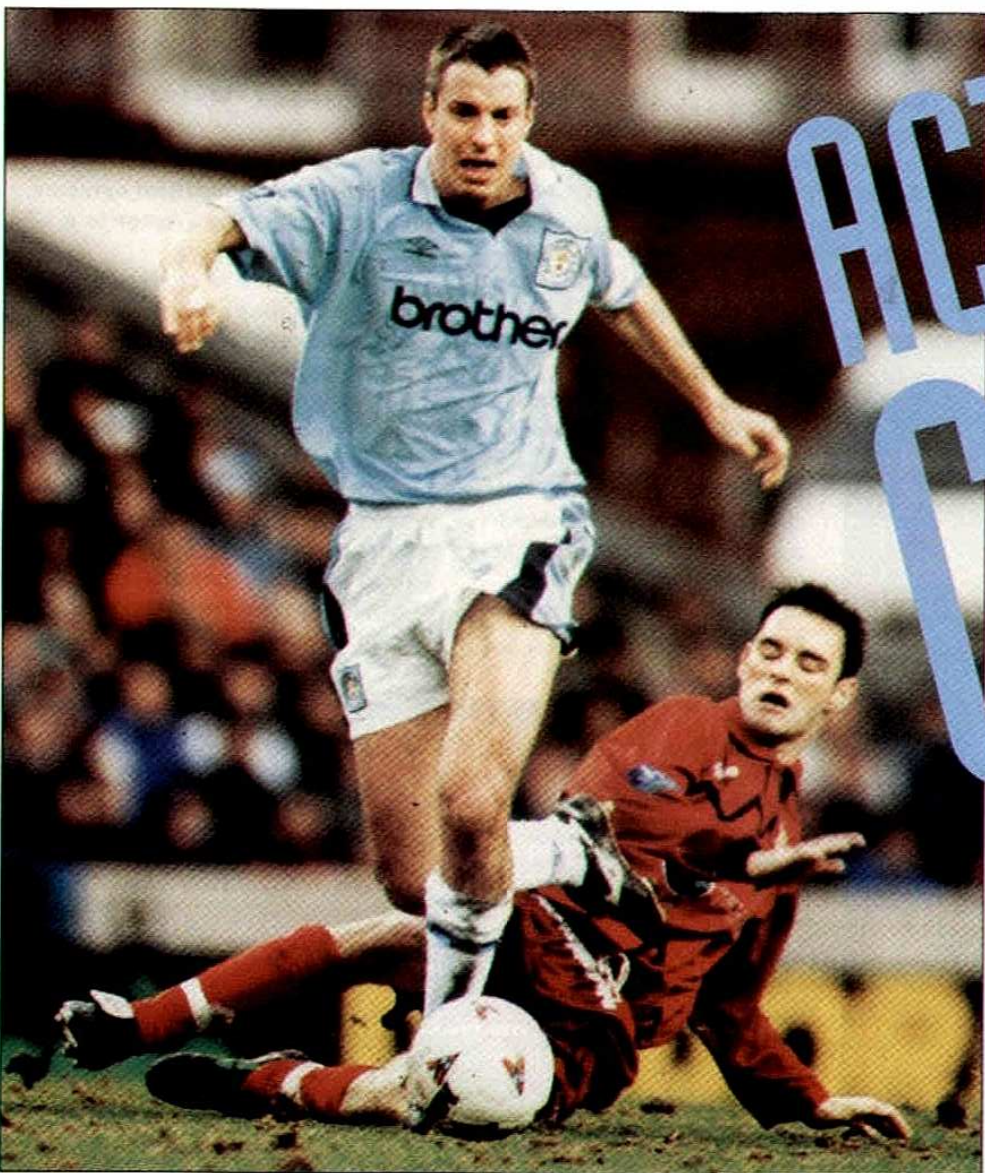
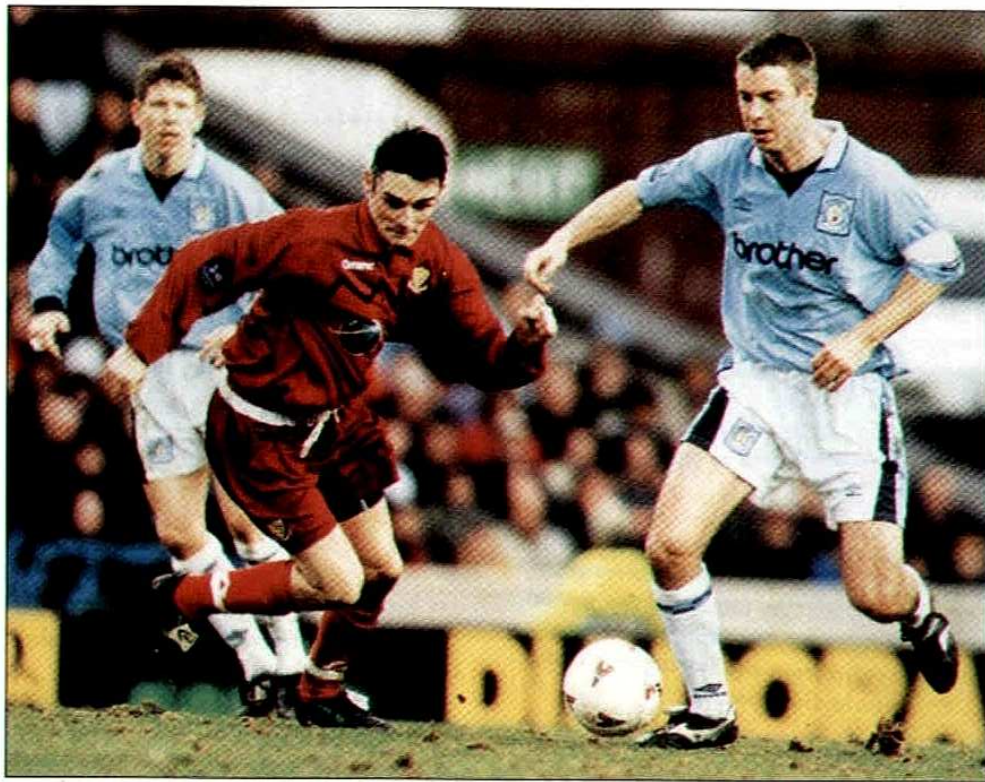
A re-run of the 1983 FA Youth Cup produced an identical outcome, Norwich City beating Everton in a replay at Goodison Park.

The Canaries have an excellent record in the competition, twice reaching the quarter-finals and also appearing in a semi-final during the last five seasons.

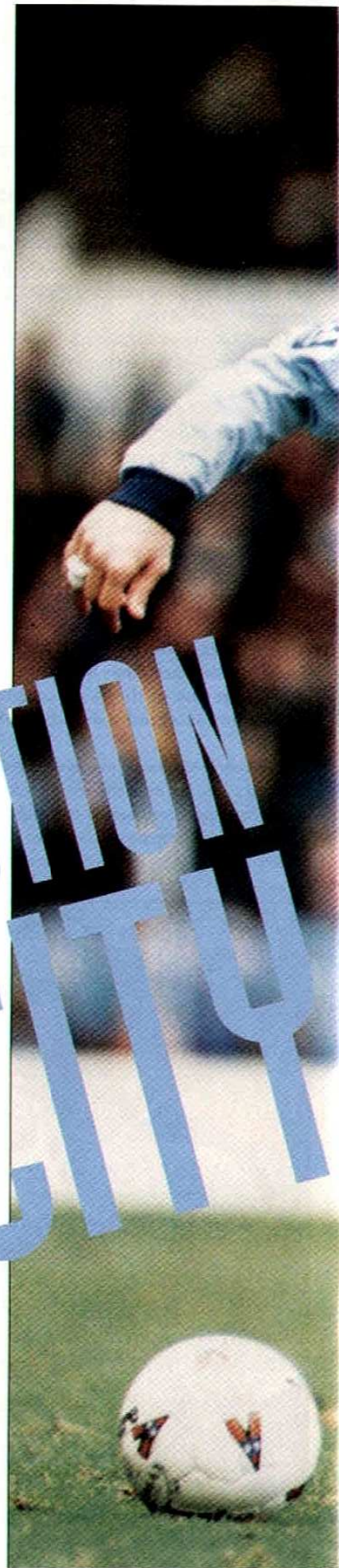
The production line brought through Andy Marshall and Darren Eadie, both in last week's England Under-21 team against Italy, and Keith O'Neill, who has played for the Republic of Ireland in the World Cup this season.

The current youth team includes Craig Bellamy, the youngest-ever Under-21 cap for Wales at the age of 17.

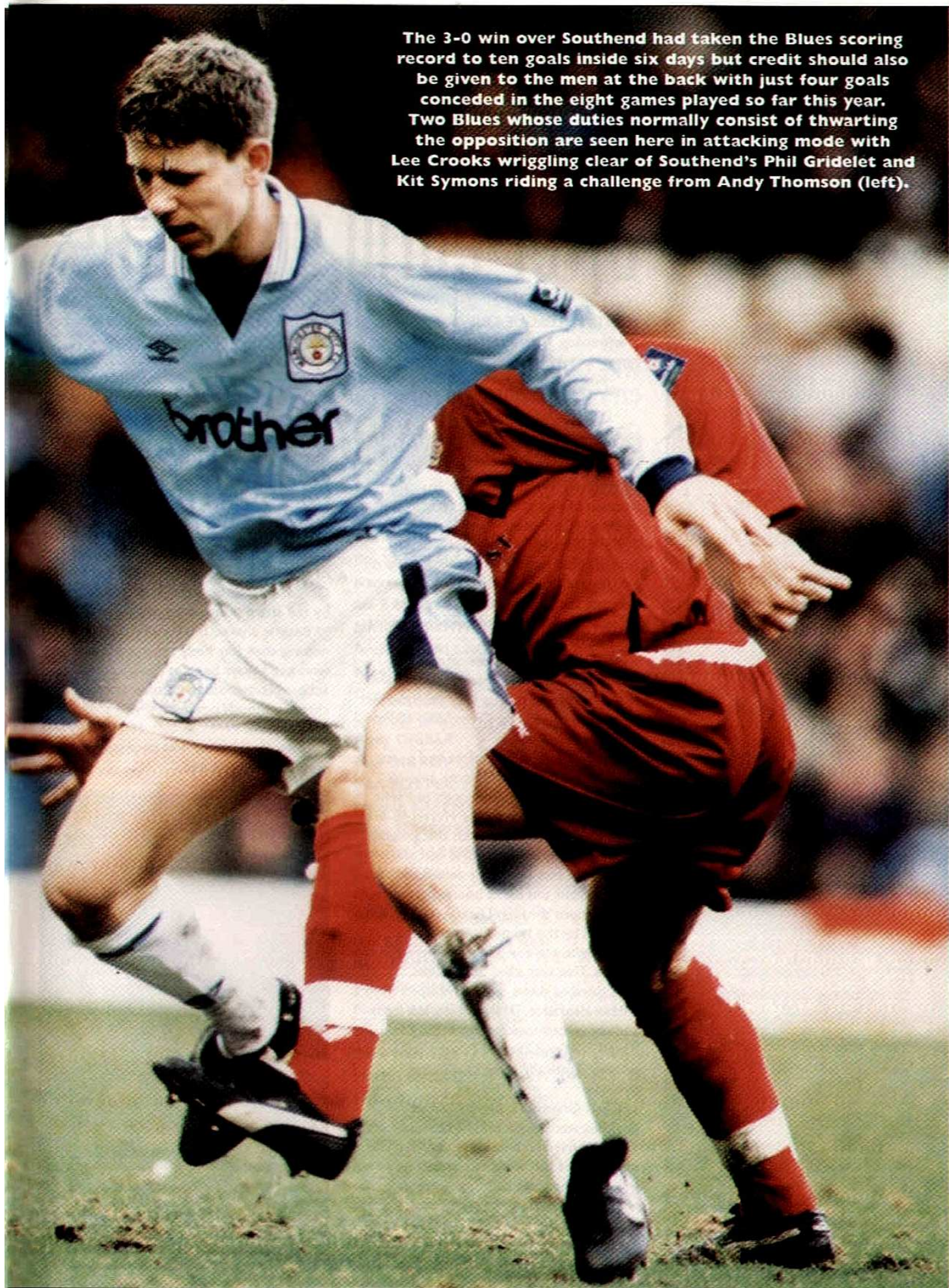




ACTION
CITY



The 3-0 win over Southend had taken the Blues scoring record to ten goals inside six days but credit should also be given to the men at the back with just four goals conceded in the eight games played so far this year. Two Blues whose duties normally consist of thwarting the opposition are seen here in attacking mode with Lee Crooks wriggling clear of Southend's Phil Gridelet and Kit Symons riding a challenge from Andy Thomson (left).



PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE FIXTURES

Aug 28	H	Wrexham	1-1
Sept 4	A	Burnley	2-3
Sept 11	H	Rotherham United	1-0
Sept 18	A	Shrewsbury Town	2-1
Sept 25	H	Barnsley	2-1
Oct 8	H	Grimsby Town	0-2
Oct 22	H	Hull City	1-1
Nov 5	A	Bradford City	1-0
Nov 14	H	Carlisle United*	3-1
Nov 28	H	York City*	1-1
Dec 4	A	Stockport County	3-1
Dec 11	A	Rotherham United	1-2
Dec 23	H	Tranmere R.* (LC)	1-0
Jan 14	H	Stockport C.* (LC)	0-1
Jan 19	A	Stoke City (LC)	1-0
Jan 23	H	Shrewsbury Town*	0-0
Jan 27	A	Mansfield Town	2-0
Feb 4	A	Hull City	3-0
Feb 12	A	Wrexham (LC)	1-2
Feb 18	H	Bradford City*	
Feb 26	A	Carlisle United	
Mar 4	H	Mansfield Town*	
Mar 19	A	York City	
Mar 25	H	Burnley*	
Apr 2	A	Wrexham	
Apr 15	A	Grimsby Town	
Apr 29	H	Stockport County	
TBA	A	Barnsley	

* Home games November to March to be played at
Witton Albion FC. LC = Pontin's League Cup

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE FIXTURES

Aug 17	A	Blackburn Rovers 'B'	1-0
Aug 24	H	Burnley 'B'	1-1
Aug 31	A	Burnley 'B'	0-2
Sept 7	H	Blackpool 'A'	2-1
Sept 14	H	Marine Youth	5-1
Sept 21	A	Wigan Athletic	2-0
Oct 5	A	Chester City 'A'	2-2
Oct 7	A	Rochdale (Lancs FAYC 1)	2-0
Oct 12	H	Rochdale 'A'	1-0
Oct 19	A	Carlisle United 'A'	3-1
Oct 26	A	Manchester United 'B'	0-2
Nov 2	H	Bury 'B'	1-0
Nov 5	A	Blackpool (Lancs FAYC 2)	1-2
Nov 9	A	Tranmere Rovers 'B'	3-1
Nov 16	H	Crewe Alexandra 'A'	2-0
Nov 30	A	Everton 'B'	3-4
Dec 7	H	Tranmere Rovers 'B'	3-1
Dec 11	H	Walsall (FAYC 2)	2-2
Dec 16	A	Walsall (FAYC 2 Replay)	4-2
Dec 21	A	Oldham Athletic 'B'	1-0
Jan 7	H	Leeds United (FAYC 3)	1-2
Jan 18	H	Everton 'B'	1-0
Jan 25	A	Crewe Alexandra 'A'	1-1
Feb 1	H	Oldham Athletic 'B'	1-1
Feb 8	A	Marine Youth	4-1
Feb 22	A	Blackpool 'A'	
Feb 25	H	Carlisle United 'A'	
Mar 1	H	Blackburn Rovers 'B'	
Mar 15	A	Bury 'B'	
Mar 22	A	Liverpool 'B'	
Mar 29	H	Chester City 'A'	
Apr 5	A	Stockport County 'A'	
Apr 12	H	Stockport County 'A'	
Apr 19	H	Wigan Athletic 'A'	
Apr 22	A	Rochdale 'A'	
Apr 26	H	Liverpool 'B'	
TBA	H	Manchester United 'B'	

IN RESERVE

Blues left chasing after early setbacks

PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP
Wednesday 12th February 1997

WREXHAM RESERVES 2 CITY RESERVES 1

On a blustery and drizzly night in North Wales, Kevin Bond's battling reserve side made similarly heavy weather of coping with a lively Wrexham outfit, basically because of two goals given away in the opening 15 minutes.

Both 'keepers were in early action, Andy Dibble making an excellent save on the ground from Jonathan Cross after nine minutes, then, from a Gerry Creaney cross, Mikhail Kavelashvili headed against the bar.

The opening goal came after 12 minutes, though Wrexham's Steve Morris had appeared to push a City defender as he slipped the ball to Cross, who slid it home under Dibble.

After a Paul Dickov effort had been blocked, back came the home side to make the score 2-0. A through ball split the defence and there was Morris to beat Dibble with a cross-shot on the ground.

Half-way through the first half, the Welsh side had seemingly seized the initiative, but the Blues bounced back and raised hopes through Dickov. A shot was dropped by the home 'keeper, Mark Cartwright, and the Scot hammered in the chance. That was after 28 minutes.

A glorious move later developed from a Dibble clearance. This involved the lively and dangerous-looking Peter Beagrie, Kavelashvili and Dickov, but the ball was booted frantically away by a home defender.

Chris Greenacre, playing out of position, went close on the half-hour, and when he tried to break the net after 37 minutes, the ball went into orbit.

In building their half-time advantage, Wrexham had two players booked - Gareth Stone and Wayne Phillips.

Straight from the kick-off "Kav" went close with a hook shot, and the Blues

enjoyed no luck after 53 minutes when a Beagrie cross found Greenacre, whose shot was headed off the line by a full back ... straight into the goalkeeper's hands!

Former Blue David Gardner received treatment, then a shot from Kavelashvili brought a flying save from Cartwright. Martin Phillips replaced the Georgian on the hour, with Greenacre moving inside. Wrexham's Robert Williams came on for Morris.

Another City chance unluckily went begging when Phillips beat the 'keeper out of the penalty area and crossed to Greenacre, but his drive was beaten away by the sharp home defence.

Beagrie shaved the Wrexham side-netting, then Ray Kelly replaced Dickov, who had always been in the thick of the action. Neither side was now creating real chances, though possession was shared fairly equally.

Brian McGlinchey was booked 12 minutes from the end.



Chris Greenacre - found space!!!

PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP - GROUP 3 TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke City	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Wrexham	4	2	0	2	11	9	6
Manchester City	4	2	0	2	3	3	6
Tranmere Rovers	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Stockport County	3	1	0	2	2	6	3

*Two teams to go through to the quarter-final

*Remaining fixture: Stockport County v Tranmere Rovers (Monday 24th February).

(Up to and including Monday 17th February)

YOUTH TEAM APPEARANCES 1996-97

	League Apps	Gls	Cups Apps	Gls
Richard ACTON	10	-	-	-
Alan BAILEY	8(2)	10	2	-
Jim BENTLEY	2	-	-	-
Michael BROWN (gk)	10(1)	-	4	-
Ben BURROWS	2(1)	-	-(2)	-
Anthony CALLAGHAN	10	3	-	-
George DOHERTY	10(4)	6	3(2)	4
Anthony FENTON	20	-	5	-
Nick FENTON	18	3	5	-
Benn GALLAGHER	16(1)	-	5	-
Chris GREENACRE	7	4	-	-
Sammy HARRIS	7	1	-	-
Ray KELLY	3	1	-	-
Marc MADDOCKS	1(3)	1	-	-
Gary MASON	15	-	4	-
Dave MORLEY	1	-	-	-
Neil MORLEY	20	2	5	-
Chris PRIDHAM	5(7)	-	2(2)	-
Alan REILLY	-(6)	-	2(2)	1
Steve RIMMER	19	2	5	-
Aled ROWLANDS	1	-	-	-
Neil SAILESMAN	7(8)	1	2(3)	2
Ged TARPEY	3	-	-	-
Jeff WHITLEY	2	1	5	2
Jim WHITLEY	2	-	-	-
David WILLS	18(1)	1	5	1

ALSO PLAYED: Daly 1 Cup; Garfield 1 sub (Lge); Kneen 1 sub (Cup); Laycock 1(2) (Lge); 1 sub (Cup); N. McNab 4 subs, 1 goal (Lge); O'Keefe 1 sub (Lge); Rishworth 2(1) (Lge).

(Up to and including Saturday 15th February)

DERBY DELAY...

A new date has to be found for the youth team's local derby fixture with Manchester United. The Lancashire League game was scheduled to be played last Saturday but United were involved in the FA Youth Cup.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE DIVISION TWO TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grimsby Town	15	12	1	2	36	16	37
York City	16	9	4	3	28	21	31
Manchester City	15	8	4	3	23	14	28
Wrexham	14	7	5	2	32	16	26
Barnsley	16	7	4	5	34	25	25
Rotherham United	15	6	3	6	14	15	21
Shrewsbury Town	12	5	3	4	22	23	18
Bradford City	13	5	2	6	20	22	17
Carlisle United	13	5	1	7	21	22	16
Burnley	14	4	4	6	20	23	16
Hull City	15	4	3	8	16	25	15
Stockport County	14	3	4	7	22	27	13
Mansfield Town	16	0	0	16	21	60	0

(Up to and including Saturday 15th February)

RESERVE TEAM APPEARANCES 1996-97

	League Apps	Gls	Lge Cup Apps	Gls
Peter BEAGRIE	1	-	2	-
Chris BEECH	11	-	2	-
Jim BENTLEY	3(2)	-	1(1)	-
Darren BLORE	3(1)	-	-(1)	-
Ian BRIGHTWELL	1	-	-	-
Michael BROWN	6	2	4	2
Anthony CALLAGHAN	11(1)	-	1	-
Nigel CLOUGH	1	-	-	-
Gerry CREANEY	8	2	2	-
Lee CROOKS	7	1	1	-
Andy DIBBLE	4	-	2	-
Paul DICKOV	-	-	3	1
John FOSTER	2	1	2	-
Nathan FREEMAN	4	-	1	-
Chris GREENACRE	13(1)	5	2(1)	-
Sammy HARRIS	-(4)	-	-	-
Scott HILEY	1	-	-	-
Rae INGRAM	7	-	-	-
Mikhail KAVELASHVILI	5	2	2	-
Ray KELLY	10(4)	7	2(1)	-
Alan KERNAGHAN	1	-	2	-
Brian McGLINCHEY	2(3)	-	1	-
Martyn MARGETSON	6	-	1	-
Gary MASON	7	-	1	-
Dave MORLEY	10(1)	-	4	-
Martin PHILLIPS	11	1	3(1)	-
Steve RIMMER	5(1)	-	-	-
Aled ROWLANDS	-(2)	-	-	-
Ged TARPEY	5	1	1	-
Jeff WHITLEY	5	1	1	-
Jim WHITLEY	9(1)	-	2(1)	-

ALSO PLAYED (League): Flatts 2; Frontzeck 1; Grady 1; Schwarzer 1; Weiser 1.

(Up to and including Wednesday 12th February)

NOTICEBOARD

FIRST AID

Supporters should note that there are first aid points at each side of the ground in the event of medical attention being required during the game.

KIPPAX - At the back of the Stand in the corner next to the North Stand.

MAIN STAND - Go to the bottom of the Stand and then up the Players' Tunnel where a medical room is located immediately on the left near the dressing-room area.

NORTH STAND - On the lower floor level at end next to the Kippax Stand.

UMBRO STAND - On the corner of the Stand on the lower level at end next to the Main Stand.

There is a Crowd Doctor and 12 Crowd Nurses on duty within the stadium and St John Ambulance personnel are available in case of emergency, at each corner of the pitch perimeter.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency occurring at the Stadium, the Public Address System will be used to broadcast information and directions to spectators.

Such broadcasts will be preceded by a two-toned chime which will be repeated. When the chimes are heard, please be silent, pay attention to what is said and obey any instructions. From time to time it will be necessary to test the equipment, however, on these occasions it will be clearly stated that an equipment test is to follow.

Please will those supporters who wish to leave their seats early co-operate with your stewards by keeping exits, gangways and staircases clear. Any failure to do so will render your club to be in breach of the Safety Certificate.

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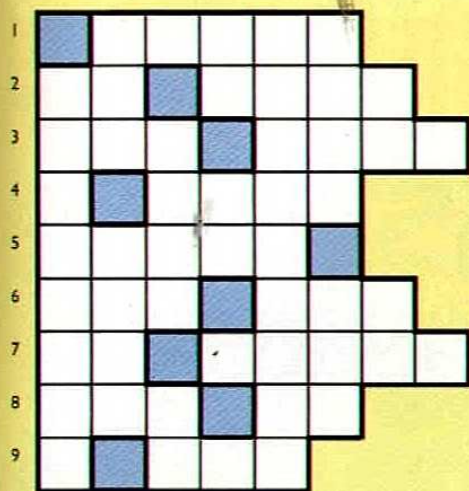
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Prize Puzzle

With the help of the clues below, complete the grid with the surnames of nine City goalkeepers since the War and the blue shaded squares will form an anagram of another ex-City 'keeper.

Write this player's name on the back of a postcard or sealed down envelope and send to Joanne Parker (Swindon Puzzle), c/o MCFC.

Two home match tickets will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn out on Thursday 13th March.

1. Saved a penalty at Wembley in 1988.
2. Loaned from Stoke in 1986.
3. Signed from Stockport in September 1967.
4. Northern Ireland cap.
5. Conceded five in a 1994 Old Trafford derby.
6. Loaned from Everton in 1988.
7. Kept a club record 22 clean sheets in 1976-77 League fixtures.
8. Played in the 1956-57 Charity Shield.
9. Saved a penalty on his League debut!

Visitor's View

A regular feature focussing on a fan of our opponents...



Name: Nick Prescott

Age: 24

Town of residence: Swindon

How many years have you been a

Swindon fan? 9 years

What was your first game?

Swindon v Chelsea in 1988

What's the best moment you've had as

a Swindon fan? Winning the Second

Division championship!

What's the worst moment you've had

as a Swindon fan? That awful time when

we were demoted after having got

ourselves into the Premiership.

Who is the best player that you've

ever seen play in a Swindon shirt, and

why? Glenn Hoddle; his skill and

presence was second-to-none.

Who's your favourite Swindon player

at the moment, and why?

Ian Culverhouse - a class act at the back

for us.

If you won £10m on the National

Lottery, which player would you buy

for Swindon? Les Ferdinand from

Newcastle - the best example of a striker

in England.

Which other football team do you

dislike the most? Our local (ish) rivals,

Oxford United

Who are your second favourite

football team (apart from Swindon

reserves!): Newcastle United

Which away trip do you

most look forward to?

Oxford, so we can do a bit of baiting the

natives.

What's the funniest/best Swindon

chant that you've ever heard? You

might as well go home (sung to opponents

last season)

Which would be the ideal song for

your team to run onto the pitch to?

Eye of the Tiger by Survivor.

If you could go out on a night on the

town with one Swindon player and

one Manchester City player, who

would you choose and why?

Scott Leitch from Swindon and Kevin

Horlock from City. They're both great

characters and I could ask Kevin about

the good ol' days he had at Swindon.

Which five words best describe a

Swindon fan? Forever loyal to the end

What's the worst thing about being a

Swindon fan? The sheer inconsistency of

the team.

What's the best thing about being a

Swindon fan? All the entertaining

football and the chance of always being

able to win something....

Your best Swindon XI of all time is:

Digby, Kerslake, Taylor, Culverhouse,

Bodin, Moncur, Hoddle, Horlock, Leitch,

Shearer, Allison.

Blue Pets

Visiting Blue Pets today is Robin the bat, City's most nocturnal follower. Robin first visited Maine Road

with his pal **Bruce Wayne**, when apparently they were both bitten by the

atmosphere. Nowadays their **ears prick up** at the mere suggestion of

seeing a game. "Obviously I prefer night games", says the **bloodthirsty**

Blue. "I'd never miss one now, **Nos fer a tun of money**." As well as the

Blues, Robin is a big fang of the Beatles and can often be found

hanging out in the Cavern bar where he enjoys the odd glass of

fullbodied Rh+. "Not that I ever drink during the day of course," says

the Transylvanian terror. "If I do I can get a terrible **coffin fit**."

"Back to business though, I'm delighted with the new management

team, who've really turned our **scary league form upside-down**

since arriving. Admittedly I never got in a **flap** about it, but I'll be glad

to see us **flying** back up the table just the same." Let's hope that

Robin's judgement matches the team he's picked

Bite Trautmann, **Rae** Wing-gram, **Scary** Phelan, **Barrie** Batts, **Steve**

Redmouth, **Mikhail** Cave-I-live-ini, **Denis** Claw, **Steve** No-mouse,

Fangs Lee, **Cavern** Bond and **Billy** NightMaredith.

Send your Blue Pets to **Dave 'I've Completely Lost It' McLaughlin**,
Publications Office, Maine Road, Manchester M14 7WN



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Saturday 22nd February

Live broadcast 10am - 1pm SIMON FANSHAWE
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From 12 noon JONNY GOULD
Church Square Shopping Centre, St Helens

Sunday 23rd February

From 12 noon Knutsford Services, M6

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Monday 24th February

Live Broadcast 9am - 12 noon SCOTT CHISHOLM
House of Commons set,
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From 12 noon JAMES WHALE
Rochdale Exchange Shopping Centre

Live Broadcast 10pm - 1am JAMES WHALE
Everyman Bistro, Liverpool

Tuesday 25th February

From 12 noon JAMES WHALE
Manchester Arndale Centre

Live Broadcast 10pm - 1am JAMES WHALE
The Mill at the Pier, Wigan Pier

Wednesday 26th February

From 12 noon JAMES WHALE
Clarendon Square Shopping Centre, Hyde

Live Broadcast 2pm - 4pm TOMMY BOYD
The replica 'Rover's Return'
Granada Studios, Manchester

Live Broadcast 10pm - 1am JAMES WHALE
Bernard Manning's World Famous Embassy
Club, Manchester

Thursday 27th February

From 12 noon JAMES WHALE
The Market Place Shopping Centre, Bolton

Live Broadcast 10pm - 1am JAMES WHALE
from a listener's house, Warrington



JAMES WHALE



JONNY GOULD



MOZ DEE



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Supporting Blues



OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS with Tommy 'Magnum' Muir

■ A warm welcome to the **Isle of Man and Dublin** branches of the Official Supporters Club who are over for today's game. As always, have a great day and a safe journey home.

■ We had the pleasure of meeting Bob Young last Friday. Bob runs the Internet for the Supporters Club from his home in Jersey, and if anyone has access to the Internet there is a really good interview he did with the Chairman, Francis Lee. Bob - you're doing a great job! The website number for the Supporters Club is:

<http://user.itl.net/~dylan/mcfsc2/>

■ The **Macclesfield branch** are organising a trip to Bernard Manning's on Friday 7th March, costing £5.00 per person. Anyone interested should contact Iain on 01625-265-436. Still with the Macc branch, Gary Owen has accepted the Presidency and Neil Young will be taking the Junior section under his wing for football training.

■ It's not that often that three generations of City fans in one family get to go to the match together, so Alf Crompton of the **Brooks Bar branch** will be a very proud man today. He will be at today's game with his son Stephen and grandson Richard, who both live in Bristol. Have a smashing day out, lads!

■ *There will be collection boxes all around the ground today in aid of the Rainbow Trust, the Supporters Club sponsored charity this year. Please give generously.*

■ The **Coleraine branch** travel over to Maine Road as often as possible using air mile vouchers and are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain them. So, if there is anyone out there with any to donate, please give Geoff McAuley a ring on 01265-320-954.

■ The **Gloucester and Cheltenham branch** run coach trips to all home games picking up at Cheltenham, Gloucester, Tewkesley, Junction 7 M5, Franklin Services M5 and Junction 11 M6. For more information contact Pat on 01242-575-827.

Anyone wishing to join the Supporters Club or form a branch can contact myself, Tommy Muir, on 0161-428-2857 or can write to Frank Horrocks c/o Manchester City Football Club, Maine Road, Manchester M14 7WN.



Above: Special thanks to Francis Lee, his son Gary and the icon Georgi Kinkladze for coming along to the George and Dragon (the Cheadle branch HQ). Georgi is seen here doing a great job behind the bar named in his honour!

Left: Kit Symons and some of City's youth team players are pictured here with some Junior members of the Supporters Club.

THE FOOTBALL (OFFENCES) ACT 1991

This legislation creates the following arrestable offences:

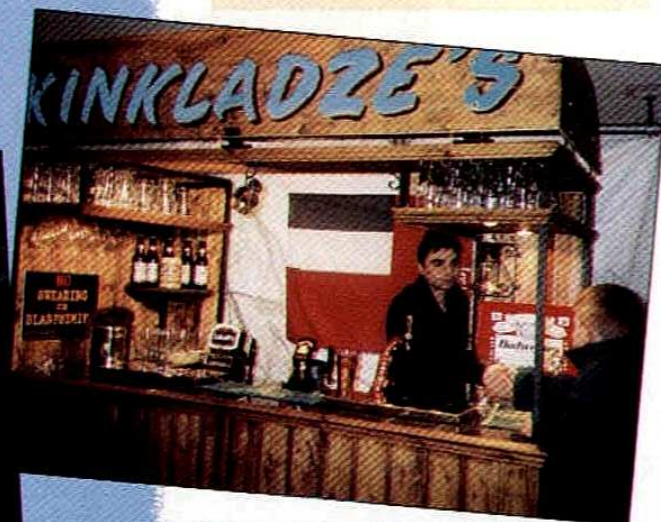
1. To throw anything at the playing area or any spectator.
2. To chant indecent or racist remarks which are threatening, abusive or insulting by reason of race or colour.
3. To go onto the playing area.

THE SPORTING EVENTS (CONTROL OF ALCOHOL) ACT 1985

This legislation deals with the possession of alcohol and containers at sports grounds:

1. Possessing alcohol while entering the ground.
2. Drunk attempting to enter the ground.
3. Drunk whilst inside the ground.
4. Within viewing area in possession of intoxicating liquor, or bottles or cans for holding drink.
5. Possessing a container capable of causing injury.
6. Possessing fireworks etc. whilst in or entering the ground.

FLAGS, BANNERS, FLAG POLES, BOTTLES, CONTAINERS and other similar articles could be used as weapons or to cause annoyance are NOT permitted in the ground. **This means that you cannot bring any type of BOTTLE or CAN into the ground!**





away kit sale

adult shirts

only £20

kids shirts £15

(N.B. The shirts are available
in short sleeve only)

adult shorts

only £10

kids shorts £8

all socks

only £3

city stores

★ Maine Road, Moss Side
Manchester M14 7WN
Tel: 0161 232 1111

★ 120 Market Way, Arndale
Centre, Manchester M4
2EB. Tel: 0161 834 4609

**merchandise credit
card hotline**

0161 226 6000
mon-fri 9.30am-5.00pm

NYNEX CableComms Ltd is proud to be associated with Manchester City Football Club's award-winning Community Scheme

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Football in the Community

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER
Tel: 0161 226 1782

After the half-term break, and our busy soccer schools, we are now back working in schools with our coaching programme. For this half-term period we are working with schools in the Moston area including Holy Trinity, New Moston, Moston Lane and Victoria Avenue. We are also working closely with Moston Brook High School with coaching sessions and visits to the ground.



Left to right: Steve Eyre, Alison Vaughan, Alex Williams, Barbara Williams & Anthony Barratt.

To help with all of this work we have just taken on two new trainees, Jackie Walton and John Brotherton, as part of the government's Training for Work

programme. The pair will be with us for the next six months, hopefully gaining their N.V.Q. Level 2 qualification in Recreation and Leisure. We hope

that they enjoy their time at Manchester City Football Club and then go on to gain full time employment.

During the next few weeks we are also taking on a number of Manchester pupils on work experience, including Andrew Richardson from Roundwood Upper School, Chris Heslop from Parris Wood High School and Chris Swaine from Brookway High School.

Good luck to the three of them, although a nasty rumour has it that they are all REDS! This might have an influence on the jobs that we give them; if the rumour is true, we might get them to spend their time making coffee!

Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the guests of TLS Vehicle Rentals who are guests of the Community Scheme up in the Centenary Restaurant in the Kippax for today's match. TLS Vehicle Rentals provide a lot of help for the Community Scheme in the provision of transport.

Transport is a necessary requirement in terms of mini-buses and cars to transport our coaches around to all the schools we visit. We would there like to take this opportunity to thanks TLS Vehicle Rentals, and Clive Miller in particular, for their continued support.

Out to Africa

The Junior Blues have many friends and members who live in Africa, and particularly in a town called Berekum in Ghana. Many of the people who live there get to see some of our games on satellite TV, and some have become very keen supporters of Manchester City.

Football is a very popular sport in Ghana, and many of the children like to play the game in their free time. However, many of them come from poor families who find it difficult to buy kits and boots.

So, the Junior Blues, supported by the Football in the Community team, are launching an appeal to help them, via the Headmaster at one of the schools in Berekum, a Mr Richardson Kwadwo.

Basically, we want you to send us your old FOOTBALL BOOTS.

We know that children's feet grow very quickly, and that boots are often discarded because of this. So if you have any old football boots lying around, we'd like you to send them in as soon as possible so that they can be sent over to Ghana. Our friends at Manchester Airport have

offered their assistance, so all we need now is your help.

All boots can be dropped in or sent to the Junior Blues office at 195 Hart Road, Fallowfield, or can be delivered to the JB's shop in Block K of the North Stand on match days.

IMPORTANT: Please clearly mark the shoe size inside each boot.

■ For further details please telephone 0161-224-5000 (ext 261).

You never now ... the next Kinkladze could come out of Africa!!



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Manchester Leisure
ML

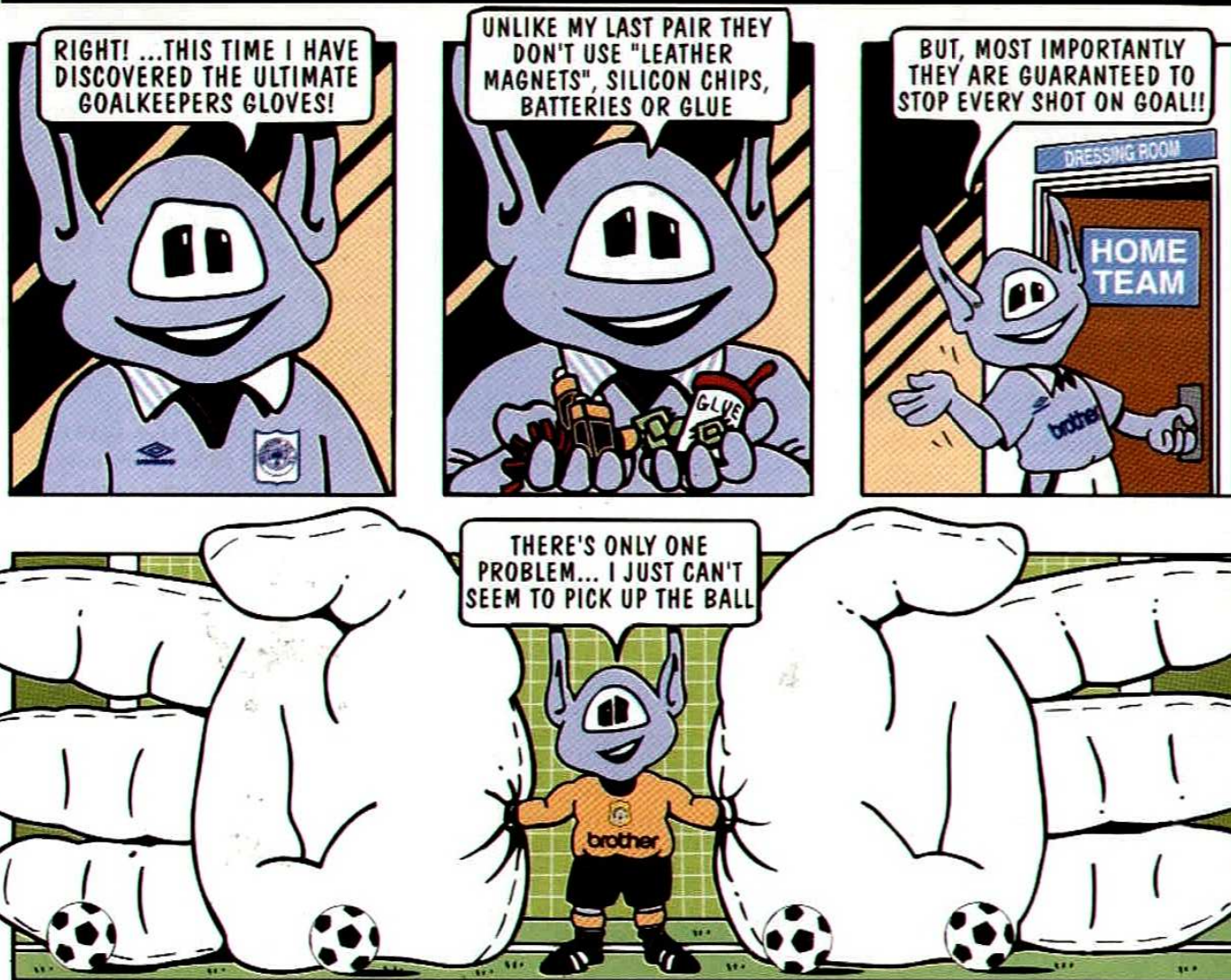
SPORTS
£ £
MATCH

NYNEX

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE MANCHESTER CITY FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY SCHEME

MOONCHESTER

FROM THE BLUE MOON



Script: W.Osborne & Gino. Artwork: W.Osborne & M.PEEK © Manchester City F.C.



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Your Local
McDONALD'S RESTAURANTS:
 Chorlton Drive Thru',
 Princess Parkway Drive Thru' Only
 and Fallowfield Drive Thru'

Junior Blues



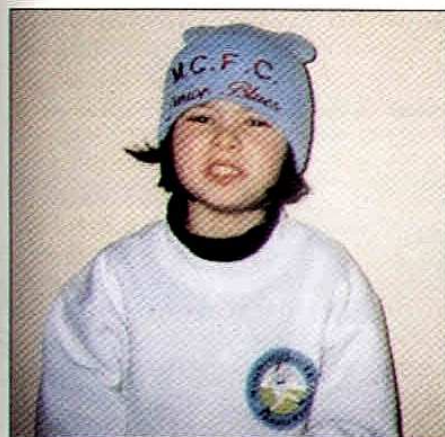
JB's Dinner

The Junior Blues 17th Annual Dinner last Monday (sponsored by the Palace Nightclub and Rockliff Printing Group) was voted a major success.

A healthy profit was recorded to boost Junior Blues funds and amongst those we must thank are our new management team of Frank Clark, Alan Hill and Richard Money, Managing Director Colin Barlow and City captain Kit Symons who all gave up their time to support the JB's. Thanks also to Vince Miller for hosting the proceedings, to Nikki and her staff at the Platt Lane Complex and all other friends of the Junior Blues who booked tables for the evening.

Palace
NIGHTCLUB
LEVENSHULME
MANCHESTER 0161 257 2484

Rockliff



▲ Today's JB's spotlight focuses on Eleanor Hampson (above), aged five, who is a big City supporter. She tells us that she's delighted that City have got a great new manager and thinks that M.C.F.C. should stand for Manchester City Frank Clark! -

Competition

Our Scoreboard people are looking for some help from the Junior Blues. They would like you to draw some designs that they can display on the Scoreboard every time that City...

- score a goal
- have a near miss
- make a good save, and
- win a corner.

There are 4 tickets up for grabs for a forthcoming match to the sender of the best pictures, so get drawing! Please send all entries to Junior Blues Office, Maine Road, Moss Side, Manchester M14 7WN (to reach us by Monday 10th March)

Next Meeting

The next Junior Blues meeting is to take place in the Millennium Suite (Kippax Stand) **tomorrow morning**. Doors will open at 9.45am for a 10.30 start and we'll have all the usual fun and games hosted by GMR's Alan Keegan. **JB's please note that the first team will not be attending as they are away.** However, there will be plenty of our promising younger players as well as our friend Moonchester. (Forms for the forthcoming Sponsored Trot will also be available).

Scoreboard Announcements

All details must be in the JB Office two days before the relevant game. A donation of £10.00 to Junior Blues is required.

Sportsman's Dinner

Tickets for the forthcoming Sportsman's Dinner in aid of Paul Lake at the Village Hotel, Prestwich (Thursday 6th March, £25.00) are available by contacting Gary in the JB's Office on 0161-224-5000 (ext 261).

Junior Blues Magazine

The next issue (No.5) will be out during the first week in March.

Junior Blues Souvenir Shop

(behind Blocks K & L in the North Stand)

This new souvenir shop is exclusive to Junior Blues and will open from 1.30pm until 5pm on matchdays. The shop carries a limited range of the goods available from JB's Mail Order ...

JB's MAIL ORDER
0161-224-5000 (ext 264)

Brochures and order forms are available from the Junior Blues shop on a match day or from the JB's Office.

JUNIOR BLUES APPLICATION FORM

Please complete and return the coupon to Gary Lewis, Junior Blues, Manchester City FC, Maine Road, Moss Side, Manchester M14 7WN.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Tel. no _____

Date of Birth _____

Please tick relevant membership:

Mighty Tots (0-6 yrs)

Annual (£10) ☐ Full term (£25) ☐
Life (£40) ☐

Blues 711 (7-11 yrs)

Annual (£10) ☐ Full term (£25) ☐
Life (£30) ☐

City Slickers (12-16 yrs)

Annual (£10) ☐ Full term (£25) ☐

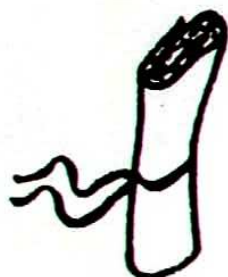
I enclose a cheque/cash/PO (delete where applicable) for £ _____

The Junior Blues Office now accepts payments by Access/ Mastercard and Visa for new memberships and Mail Order.

Telephone numbers: **0161-224-5000 (ext 261)** for memberships
0161-224-5000 (ext 264) for Mail Order.

Clifford Chapman & Co.

Solicitors



**326 Platt Lane
Rusholme
Manchester M14 7DA**

Tel: 0161-225-0251

Fax: 0161-257-2869

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Trust us to help football

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping their grounds in line with the Taylor Report.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has received and distributed £250m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers Pools and Littlewoods Spot the Ball competition for the benefit of football.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game



LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS
*Making sure football wins
the Pools each week*

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

FUTURE BLUES



Associate Schoolboys

■ Fourteen-year-old Neil Creasy, pictured here with City manager Frank Clark, is the latest young talent to sign Associate Schoolboy forms for the Club. The young midfielder, from Barrow-in-Furness, was spotted by City's Blackpool-based scout Peter Shelton and will now embark on an exciting two-year spell at the club with the aim of signing YTS trainee forms in 1999.

Signing Associate Schoolboy forms is a significant stage in any young footballer's career, as City's assistant manager Alan Hill explains: "It is just the start of a fresh new challenge, and a lot of hard work now lies ahead."

"All boys who sign schoolboy forms for City will link up with the club until the age of 16. They'll all remain attached with us through their schooldays and will play for our sides 'conference' league every Sunday, as well as attending Platt Lane for assessments during the school holidays."

"This entails specialist coaching sessions organised by City staff like Neil McNab, Dave Wills, Terry Farrell and Colin Bell, in which our boys will be given a full grounding in the fundamentals of being a footballer."

But, according to Hill, life as an associate schoolboy is not just about the way you conduct yourself on the pitch. "We instill a certain amount of discipline in the lads at a young age," he explains. "The game is littered with stories of very skilful players who have drifted away from the footballing scene because they were not willing to work hard enough and we don't want that to happen at Maine Road."

"When young players arrive at the club they will be told that they will only get out of the game what they are willing to put in it, and if they are not willing to take in the advice offered to them then more often than not they will fall by the wayside."

As well as being assessed at Maine Road, the youngsters will be monitored playing for their local teams. "It's very important for our scouts and Youth Development staff to be keeping a keen eye on the progress of these lads while playing for their school and regional sides too," says Alan, "because all this monitoring forms the basis of our final selection process. There comes a day when we have to make the big decision on who is offered the chance to join the club as a young professional."

Many tough decisions are made at this time and it's a fact of footballing life that not all schoolboy footballers make this grade. "Unfortunately we can't take everyone on, and it is for this reason that we attach great importance to the education that a boy receives whilst he's on our books," says Hill.

"By continuing his academic education in the best possible way, he's not limiting his prospects in the event of his footballing career not coming to fruition."

"However, the main aim of management here at City is that a successful associate schoolboy is taken on every year."

"Many of the City stars who are with us now signed schoolboy forms at Maine Road - Ian Brightwell, Steve Lomas, Jeff Whitley and Lee Crooks to name a few - and look how they have progressed since then", says Alan, "and hopefully we'll be able to carry on nurturing many more young players of that ilk."

■ May we welcome back from Lillleshall City schoolboys Stephen Hodgson and Leon Mike. Leon recently played for the England U-15 side against Wales at Ninian Park and managed to score on his debut as England won 3-2!



Youth Development Fund

■ From now until the end of the season you, our loyal supporters, will have the chance to win one of our first team squad's shirts personally signed by the players. To win one of these coveted, much sought after items, an entry form will appear in every programme from now on, and all you have to do is send us your name and address, together with a donation of £1, to Terry Farrell, c/o MCFC Youth Development Fund (You can also pick up an entry form from the Platt Lane Complex and can hand in the completed form plus your £1 to our Reception Staff). You will then be entered to take part in the draw for one of the shirts; this will take place before our last home game of the season against Reading and the 18 lucky winners will be invited to Platt Lane to have their shirt presented to them by the players whose shirt they have won, as well as having their photos taken with them!

All monies raised will go to our new Youth Development Fund and used for all aspects of developing our future stars.

ENTRY FORM (Photocopies accepted)

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

I enclose a donation of £1 ☐ (tick box)

Please send to Terry Farrell, Youth Development Officer, MCFC,
Maine Road, Manchester M14 7WN

Youth Development Sponsorship

■ Alan Hill would also like to hear from anyone who would be interested in sponsorship or would be willing to help with fund raising for our Youth Development Fund. This fund will be administered by a committee selected to ensure that the future of our youngsters is well catered for. If you're interested, please contact Alan at the following address: Alan Hill, Platt Lane Complex, Yew Tree Road, Moss Side Manchester M14 7UU.

HOME AND AWAY

Home League matches...

❑ For the remainder of the season the Club are categorising Home League Matches into two price bands.

❑ The membership scheme will remain suspended unless instructed by the Police and Local Authorities to be implemented.

PLEASE NOTE: This may occur at short notice.

	Category A	Category B
Main Stand Blocks B & C	£16	£17
Main Stand Blocks A, D, E, F, HC, HL, HR & I	£15	£16
Main Stand Block G - OAPs ONLY	£5	£5
Kippax Stand Upper Tier	£14	£15
Kippax Stand Lower Tier	£11	£12
Umbro Stand	£11	£12
JD Sports Family Stand Adult	£8	£9
JD Sports Family Stand Junior/OAP	£6	£6
North Stand Adult	£10	£11
North Stand Jun/OAP	£7*	£7
North Stand Blocks K & L Junior/OAP	£5	£5

Bradford City v Manchester City

Saturday 1st March, k.o. 3pm

❑ THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET. TICKETS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

A limited number of seat tickets priced £13 Adults, £8 Juniors/OAP's in the HSG Stand & £13 (no concessions) in the Allied Colloids Stand on Midland Road are on OPEN sale. Whilst tickets remain personal, postal and Dial-A-Seat & Fax-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings will be accepted.

Manchester City v Oldham Athletic

Saturday 8th March, k.o. 3pm

❑ This is a Category 'B' game. Seat tickets for this fixture are now on sale in all areas of the ground and are available from all the usual selling outlets.

Birmingham City v Manchester City

Tuesday 11th March, k.o. 7.45pm

❑ Tickets purchased for the original date of 1st January are still valid. Supporters wanting to obtain a refund are advised to return their tickets together with their receipts to the Ticket Office as soon as possible. This match is all ticket. Tickets cannot be guaranteed. A limited number of seat tickets in the City Stand Upper Tier priced £13 (no concessions) are still available on open sale.

Grimsby Town v Manchester City

Saturday 15th March, k.o. 3pm

❑ THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET. TICKETS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

❑ A very limited number of seat tickets priced £12 (no concessions) are available to ALL season ticket holders on production of application form 'X'.

❑ As long as tickets remain, postal, Dial-A-Seat & Fax-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings will be accepted.

❑ Further to this if tickets remain they will be available on open sale from 9.30am on Tues. 25th February.

Next at Maine Road...

FA Cup quarter-finalists Portsmouth are probably the hottest form team in the division, having climbed into contention for the play-offs since setting out on the Wembley trail.

After registering only two away victories up to Christmas, they registered five in their next six attempts. In the League, they won at Port Vale, Crystal Palace and Birmingham, and in the Cup, they triumphed at Wolves and Leeds.

Ex-City player Fitzroy Simpson is a key man in midfield and the side has benefited from two signings, former Arsenal midfielder David Hillier and Swedish striker Mathias Svensson (pictured right).

Manchester City v Portsmouth

Wednesday 5th March, kick-off 7.45pm

❑ This is a Category 'A' game. Seat tickets for this fixture are now on sale in all areas of the ground and are available from all the usual selling outlets.



BLUES ON THE ROAD

Directions to Bradford City FC

❑ From M62 exit junction 26 and take the M606 towards Bradford. At the end of the motorway take the last exit onto Rooley Lane (signs Airport). McDonald's is now on your left. At second roundabout turn left into Wakefield Road - Stay in the middle lane. Follow signs for Shipley & Skipton through two roundabouts on to Shipley Airedale Road which then becomes Canal Road. Just after Staples Office Equipment showroom (on left) turn left into Station Road and left again into Queens Road. Uphill to traffic lights into Manningham Lane. After Save Petrol Station (on left) turn left into Valley Parade for Stadium.

Manchester City v Stoke City

Saturday 22nd March, k.o. 3pm

❑ This is a Category 'B' game. Please note the Membership Scheme may be brought into effect for this game at short notice. Seat tickets for this fixture will be available, from 9.30am on Monday 3rd March, in all areas of the ground and will be available from all the usual selling outlets.

MCFC Home Cup Tie Direct Debit Scheme

ATTENTION ALL SEASON TICKET HOLDERS... Now you can really save yourself time and trouble when obtaining City home cup tie match tickets.

We are pleased to inform you of a new convenient way of obtaining your match ticket(s) for all City home Coca-Cola or Littlewoods FA Cup tie. We are offering, uniquely to our season ticket holders, the ability for tickets to be mailed directly to you once the cup draw is known for each round. The ticket price will be as advertised, with the added benefit of no cheques to write, no paperwork and there's no queueing, as the payment will be made for you by your bank or building society. If accepted onto the scheme, tickets will be issued automatically for each home cup tie with no exceptions. North Stand season ticket holders would then have an alternative seat chosen for them and they should indicate which stand they wish to be in when forwarding their application.

There will be a once-only joining fee of £4 per instruction, payable as your first cup tie ticket is printed.

IMPORTANT: To ensure accurate records, season ticket holder are advised to confirm in writing to the Ticket Office any change of name or address quoting their patron code number.

So, how do I enter the Direct Debit Scheme?

Simply complete the direct debit instructions (on the reverse of the season ticket leaflet handed to you today) and return it to the Ticket Office no later than 30th June 1996. It will be necessary to complete a separate instruction for each season ticket holder i.e. father & son. The Club will then forward the instruction to your bank/building society and register your details on the scheme. We aim to have the new scheme in place for the 1997/98 season.

Thank you for your continued support; we do hope you find our new initiative is of benefit to you and the Club looks forward to receiving your completed form in due course.

Tranmere Rovers v Manchester City

Tuesday 15th April, k.o. 7.45pm

☐ This match was postponed due to the Club's involvement in the FA Cup. Tickets purchased for the original date (15/2/97) are still valid. This match is all ticket. Tickets cannot be guaranteed. A limited number of unreserved seat tickets priced £10 Adults, £7 Juniors/OAP's are on open sale. Postal and Dial-A-Seat & Fax-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings will be accepted whilst tickets remain.

Manchester City v Grimsby Town

☐ No new date has yet been set for this fixture. Tickets purchased for the original date of 14/12/96 are still valid. This is a **Category 'A'** game and tickets are available from all the usual selling outlets.

TICKET OFFICE TELEPHONES/FAX

General Enquiries
- 0161-226-2224

Dial-A-Seat 0161-227-9229
Dial-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings
Fax-A-Seat 0161-226-1037
Fax-A-Seat credit/debit card bookings

Ticketcall 0891-12-15-91
Calls cost 50p/minute at all times

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

- Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5pm
 - 1st Team Home Matchday
9.30am - kick-off
 - Non-Home Matchday Saturday
9.30am - 12 noon
 - Reserve/Youth Team Home Matches
at Maine Road 9.30am - kick-off
- For ticket enquiries please telephone 0161-226-2224*

TICKET SALES OUTLETS

In addition to purchasing tickets direct from the Ticket Office, 'HOME' match tickets will also be available from The City Store, 120 Market Way, Arndale, Manchester (0161-834-4609) & The Piccadilly Box Office, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, Market Street, Manchester M1 1PW (0161-832-1111).

Dial-A-Seat Credit/debit Card Bookings

Tel 0161-227-9229

Due to the popularity of payment by credit/debit cards, the Ticket Office Dial-A-Seat service will now be available on HOME matchdays between 9.30am and 12 noon on AFTERNOON kick-offs and 9.30am to 5pm on EVENING kick-offs.

You may book tickets and have them posted up to three working days before the date of the game. After this time tickets must be booked by the cardholder and collected in person, by the cardholder.

IMPORTANT: Supporters are advised that when booking tickets by telephone and collecting tickets, it is advisable to collect your tickets at least one and a half hours before kick-off. The cardholder **MUST** be present with his/her card to **SIGN YOUR RECEIPT BEFORE TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED.**

Supporters are advised when sending membership cards or application forms into the Ticket Office please address your envelope as follows: Manchester City F.C., Ticket Office, Dial-A-Seat Service, Maine Road, Manchester M14 7WN.

Postal Applications

Please note: When booking tickets by post please enclose a daytime telephone number in case of queries. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to Manchester City Football Club with applications addressed to the Ticket Office.

FAX-A-SEAT CREDIT/DEBIT CARD BOOKINGS

Supporters who use the Fax-A-Seat service are requested to set out their fax requests as per this example.

Fax-A-Seat ticket order. Fax no: 0161-226-1037

■ Please send separate faxes for different matches and **DO NOT** duplicate fax or your credit/debit card may be charged twice.

Name: _____ Cardholder's signature _____
Cardholder's address: _____
Tel: Day _____ Evening _____
Your fax number - for return of acknowledgement _____
Season ticket/Patron number _____

■ Please process tickets for the match versus _____
Date _____
No. Adults _____ No. concessions _____
Block _____ Row _____ Seat/s _____ (We will allocate as near as possible)
Credit/Debit card no. _____
Expiry date _____ Switch issue no. _____
(Transactions subject to a £1 booking fee)

Delete as applicable

- I am posting the relevant vouchers, please post out my tickets when they are received
- I will collect the tickets and produce my credit/debit card at the Ticket Office and bring the vouchers with me

Manchester City FC Acknowledgement of fax order

Name _____ Ref. _____
Tickets for _____ game.

These tickets have been posted to you today/are for collection from the Ticket Office. When collecting the credit/debit card holder must attend in person, with their credit/debit card and sign the receipt.

Season Tickets... Book Early to Obtain Discounts

No price increase for reservations prior to 31st March 1997

■ The Club is pleased to announce from today our season ticket prices for next season and confirms that supporters who take advantage of the discounts, prior to March 31st, will only pay the same amount as last season. That's right - no increase on 1996/97 prices.

The Club will again have a two-tier pricing structure for matchday prices requiring extra security. This saving is a benefit to season ticket holders who do not pay those extra charges.

North Stand season ticket holders are asked to note that it may be necessary for them to choose an alternative seat for cup ties if the Club has to allocate the Stand to the visiting club in accordance with cup regulations.

Family Stand season ticket holders should note that strict conditions of renewal/application will be in force for the 1997/98 season as last year. If you have any queries relating to these conditions please write direct to the Ticket Office manager stating your query and enclosing a daytime telephone number where you may be contacted.

Season ticket holders should note that the Club is continuing to play a number of Pontin's League fixtures away from Maine Rod next season. Full information regarding this will be furnished to supporters through the press in due course and when determined.

The Club is also launching a new scheme for season ticket holders for the purchase of Cup Tickets for matches played at Maine Road. This being the method of paying by direct debit.

Supporters are now advised that reservations are being taken for season tickets for the 1997/98 season and the prices are listed below. The message is: **DON'T DELAY - BOOK NOW!**

Limited availability for car parking spaces in local schools with the following arrangements. Existing permit holders will be given preference and should apply directly to the school where they park. Otherwise arrangements are as follows:

Claremont School	Front £90 Rear £65
St Edwards School	£75
Heald Place School	£65
Whalley Range High School	£45
Wilbraham Schools	£45

Please indicate in order of preference. If a refund is applicable, this will be made. You are reminded that you should renew by 31st May to ensure you retain your car park space.

Season Tickets 1997/98

Block	Price to March 31
B & C	£280
B & C Jnrs/OAPs	£200
A,D,E,F,I,H Centre/Outer	£260
A,D,E,F,I,H Centre/Outer Jnrs/OAPs	£190
G - OAPs ONLY	£95
Kippax Stand Upper Tier	£250
Kippax Stand Upper Tie Jnrs/OAPs	£175
Kippax Stand Lower Tier	£200
Kippax Stand Lower Tier Jnrs/OAPs	£140
Umbro Stand	£220
Umbro Stand Jnrs/OAPs	£170
Family Stand Adult	£150
Family Stand Jnrs/OAP	£100
North Stand	£200
North Stand Jnrs/OAP	£145
Junior Blues North Stand Adult	£175
Junior Blues North Stand Jnrs/OAP	£115
Platt Lane Complex Car Park (Training Ground)	£60

■ Junior season ticket holders become adult season ticket holders for the 1997/98 season if they are aged 16 before 1st August 1997.

■ Existing 1st year season ticket holders will now become 2nd year season ticket holders.

■ Existing 2nd year season ticket holders will now become 3rd year season ticket holders.

■ Existing 3rd year season ticket holders will now become 4th year season ticket holders.

■ Existing 4th year season ticket holders will now become regular year season ticket holders.

Season ticket holders are advised to watch advertisements closely in connection with all additional matches with particular reference to BIG matches played AWAY from Maine Road when regular season ticket holders will get first consideration before 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st year season ticket holders to obtain tickets for these fixtures. The

availability of tickets can be obtained via the Club's Ticketcall line **0891 12 15 91**, Matchday Magazine, through the press and on local radio for these respective matches.

Applications should be made by post except for new applicants who may apply by calling at the Ticket Office to choose their seat. Payments by post are to be made by crossed cheque, postal order or by completing credit/debit card details on the reverse of the renewal form. Please mark S/T in the top left corner and address your envelope to the Ticket office. Credit/debit card bookings are accepted for season ticket holders with a £2 administration charge being made for each individual season ticket/car park reservation. The Dial-A-Seat credit/debit card line is 0161-227-9229.

■ **First year season ticket applicants** should complete the form below to assist the Ticket Office staff before visiting the ground to choose their position.

■ **Existing season ticket holders** should renew by completing the renewal form from their current ticket book and marking their application envelope S/T in the top left corner and should address it to the Ticket Office.

It is important that a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed with all applications. Current season ticket holders are reminded they have until 31st May to reserve their usual seat for next season.

Season ticket holders who wish to transfer their position after 31 May can contact the Ticket Office on Saturday 14 June to complete their transfer.

It is of the utmost importance that the correct application form and block, row and seat numbers are filled in from your season ticket book in order for you to claim tickets for cup ties at Maine Road. You will assist the Ticket Office greatly by having forms completed prior to your attendance at the office to collect your tickets.

Season ticket holders are reminded that when claiming their tickets for cup ties and extra matches they must bring their season ticket book with them for presentation at the Ticket Office window and they should also produce their season ticket book at the turnstiles when gaining admission at League matches at Maine Road.

1st Year season ticket application - 1997/98

Name _____
Address _____

Stand _____

Remittance £ _____

Jnrs date of birth _____

Block _____ Row _____ Seat _____

Patron Code _____

Sen. Cit Pension Book No. _____

CENTENARY SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

WITH MICK THOMPSON

■ Prestwich and Whitefield Branch

A crowd of over 400 Blues turned up at Heaton Park Social Club as the Prestwich and Whitefield branch of the Centenary Supporters Association bid their farewells to Tony Book. Amongst the well wishers were ex-players Paul Lake, Paul Walsh, Paul Power, Roy Clark and Stan Horne as well as Andy Dibble, Asa Hartford, Freddie Pye and GMR presenters Andy Buckley and Jimmy Wagg. The Maine Road staff were also there in force, represented by Merchandise Manager Mick Peek, Gary Lewis of the Junior Blues and Ticket Office manager Duncan Thomas. "It was an emotional evening," said branch chairman Don Price, "but I think Tony really enjoyed the night. Everyone appreciates what he's done for the club and it was great for us all to get together in his honour." Supporters were literally queuing up to pay their tributes to Tony, whose arrival was met by a five minute standing ovation. It was a fitting send off for someone who is held in the highest respects by the fans and, as he left, the chants of "Tony Book's Blue N' White Army," could be heard for miles.

OTHER NEWS.....

■ Rochdale Branch

Paul Lake and guests were due to attend the branch meeting on 24th February 1997. Unfortunately, Paul is unavailable that evening as he is attending a professional Boxing/Dinner function at the Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester, in aid of his testimonial fund. However, the branch meeting has been re-arranged and put back 24 hours, and will now take place the following day, Tuesday 25 February, instead. The starting time and venue remain the same, around 8.15pm at the Springers Pub, Acker Street, Rochdale (by the bus station).

■ Higher Blackley Branch

The next meeting is to take place on Thursday 6th March at the Red Lion pub on Rochdale Road, Blackley, starting at 8.00pm. Speakers to be announced, and everyone is welcome (free admission).

■ Swinton Branch

The forthcoming meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm in the Folly Lane Social Club, Station Road, Swinton. We're hoping that Kit Symons will be coming along, but call Alex Channon on 0161-281-7517 for more details.

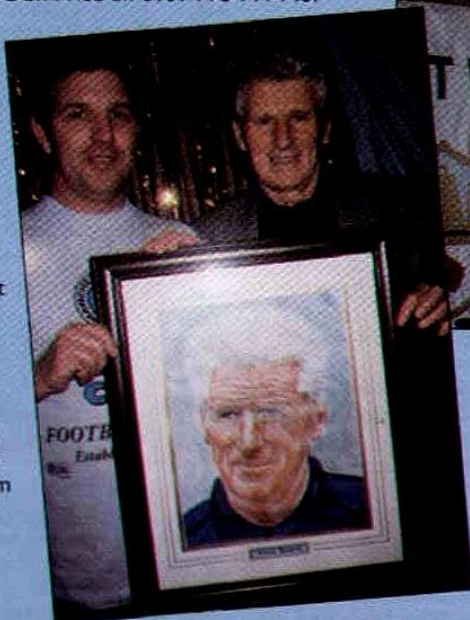
■ Prestwich and Whitefield Branch

The branch are organising a coach for the Bradford game, costing just £2.00 to members. Please contact Don Price on 0161-798-9994 for more details.

Reminder.....

■ TEN PIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

A joint Dale/City bowling challenge is to be organised in aid of Rochdale Hospice. Teams of 6 are being sought to battle it out for the Leach Distribution shield. The event will take place at the Mega-Bowl, Bury, on **Sunday 6th April - 4pm start**. The entry fee is £5 per person including shoe hire (for 2 games). This year we have been limited to 20 lanes, so book early! All teams wishing to take part will need team sheets and sponsorship forms. For further details contact Mick Thompson on 01706-341-765.



Our pictures from the Tony Book Farewell Evening at the Heaton Park Social Club show...

Top: Don Price and Tony Book.

Centre: Don Price and Stan Horne.

Above: Tony Book, Paul Power, the ubiquitous Don Price, and Asa Hartford.

Left: Swinton branch Chairman Alex Channon who bid the highest amount for a superb framed portrait of 'Skip'.

STATISTICS

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE TABLE & ATTENDANCES

	Home					Away					Pts		Attendances	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Best	Average
Bolton W.	33	12	4	1	38	16	6	7	3	31	28	65	18,980	15,611
Barnsley	31	9	3	3	29	14	6	7	3	24	23	55	17,159	9,879
Wolves	32	7	3	7	20	17	9	4	2	24	14	55	27,408	24,281
Sheffield United	32	7	5	4	30	19	7	4	5	24	19	51	24,384	16,190
Crystal Palace	31	7	3	4	28	14	6	7	4	31	19	49	20,655	15,270
Norwich City	32	7	7	3	22	15	7	0	8	24	33	49	20,256	14,666
Stoke City	31	10	1	4	23	17	3	6	7	17	26	46	21,116	12,225
Ipswich Town	32	7	6	2	28	17	4	6	7	17	24	45	16,020	10,574
Portsmouth	32	8	3	5	21	16	5	3	8	17	21	45	12,841	7,940
Port Vale	33	4	9	4	26	23	6	5	5	14	15	44	14,396	7,244
Oxford United	32	10	3	3	30	14	2	4	10	15	27	43	9,223	7,431
QPR	32	6	4	6	22	19	5	6	5	22	26	43	16,467	12,180
Tranmere R.	31	8	4	4	31	22	4	3	8	12	20	43	10,134	7,437
Swindon Town	32	8	5	3	31	17	4	1	11	14	25	42	14,374	9,469
West Bromwich	33	3	7	6	26	26	6	7	4	28	32	41	20,711	15,091
Huddersfield	33	8	4	4	23	14	2	7	8	16	32	41	18,358	11,858
Charlton Ath.	31	7	5	4	23	19	4	1	10	12	24	39	12,259	10,406
Reading	31	8	6	2	26	18	1	4	10	14	30	37	12,847	8,940
Birmingham C.	29	7	4	3	20	12	2	6	7	12	21	37	25,157	18,513
Manchester C.	30	7	3	5	20	16	3	2	10	16	27	35	30,344	26,439
Southend Utd.	32	6	6	4	24	22	1	5	10	6	34	32	8,707	5,168
Grimsby Town	31	4	5	8	21	30	3	5	6	19	25	31	8,185	5,496
Bradford City	32	6	5	5	18	22	1	5	10	12	27	31	17,475	11,868
Oldham Ath.	30	3	5	6	14	19	3	5	8	17	22	28	12,992	7,112

APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

	LEAGUE		CUPS		TOTAL	
	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls
Beagrie	(1)	-	(1)	-	(2)	-
Beesley	1	-	-	-	1	-
Brightwell	20(1)	2	2	-	22(1)	2
Brown	7(3)	-	2(1)	-	9(4)	-
Clough	16(3)	2	2	-	18(3)	2
Creaney	1(4)	1	(1)	-	1(5)	1
Crooks	5(4)	-	2(1)	-	7(5)	-
Dibble	12(1)	-	2	-	14(1)	-
Dickov	19(3)	4	2(1)	-	21(4)	4
Edghill	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foster	3	-	-	-	3	-
Heaney	7(1)	-	2	1	9(1)	1
Hiley	2(1)	-	-	-	2(1)	-
Horlock	2	-	-	-	2	-
Immel	4	-	-	-	4	-
Ingram	8(3)	-	4	-	12(3)	-
Kavelashvili	5(13)	1	(1)	-	5(14)	1
Kernaghan	3(1)	-	2	-	5(1)	-
Kinkladze	30	11	4	-	34	11
Lomas	27	2	5	-	32	2
McGoldrick	18	-	4	-	22	-
Margetson	10	-	3	-	13	-
Phillips	1(3)	-	(1)	-	1(4)	-
Rösler	29(1)	8	5	2	34(1)	10
Summerbee	27(1)	1	5	2	32(1)	3
Symons	29	-	5	-	34	-
Jeff Whitley	10(11)	1	1	-	11(11)	1
Wright	4	-	-	-	4	-
Own Goals	-	2	-	-	-	2

ALSO PLAYED: Frontzeck 8(3) Lge, 1 Cup;
Rodger 8 Lge, 1 goal; Wassall 14(1) Lge, 2 Cup.

FACTS & FIGURES 1996-97

(League games only)

Highest attendance:
30,344, Man. City v Port Vale, 26.12.96

Lowest attendance:
3,305, Southend v Grimsby, 16.10.96

Highest scoring home win:
6-0, Swindon v Huddersfield, 16.10.96

Highest scoring away win:
6-1, Crystal Palace at Reading, 21.9.96

Most goals in a match:
3 Steve Bull (Wolves) v Grimsby, 17.8.96
3 Andy Hunt (WBA) v Reading, 10.9.96
3 Iwan Roberts (Wolves) v WBA, 15.9.96
3 Peter Thorne (Swindon) v H'field, 16.10.96
3 Stuart Barlow (Oldham) v Bradford, 2.11.96
3 Martin Aldridge (Oxford) v Sheff U., 14.12.96
3 Tony Naylor (Port Vale) v Charlton, 14.12.96
3 John Spencer (QPR) v Barnsley, 11.1.97
3 John Hendrie (Barnsley) v Grimsby, 28.1.97
3 Trevor Morley (Reading) v Bolton, 8.2.97
3 Paul Peschisolidi (WBA) v Norwich, 15.2.97

LEADING SCORERS

(Including Cup games)
24 John McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers)
21 Mike Sheron (Stoke City)
20 Nathan Blake (Bolton Wanderers)
19 Nigel Jemson (Oxford United)
19 Trevor Morley (Reading)
17 John Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers)
17 Steve Bull (Wolves)
17 Andy Payton (Huddersfield Town)
15 Paul Devlin (Birmingham City)
15 Tony Naylor (Port Vale)
14 Clive Mendonca (Grimsby Town)
14 Paul Peschisolidi (West Bromwich A.)

1996-97 CITY FIXTURES & MATCH DETAILS

KEY: Blue shaded areas denote which players appeared.
Half blue/half white areas denote player appeared as substitute.
● = goals scored /?? = Initials of player replaced/time of substitution.
= booked = sent-off † = Opponents own goal * = player replaced
p = scored from penalty Unused subs & debutants are also indicated

Date	H/A	Opposition	F-A	Att.	Pos.
Aug 16	H	Ipswich Town	1-0	29,126	1
Aug 20	A	Bolton Wanderers	0-1	18,257	11
Aug 24	A	Stoke City	1-2	21,116	15
Sept 3	H	Charlton Athletic	2-1	25,963	10
Sept 7	H	Barnsley	1-2	26,464	13
Sept 10	A	Port Vale	2-0	10,770	7
Sept 14	A	Crystal Palace	1-3	17,638	13
Sept 17	A	Lincoln City (CCC2-1L)	1-4	7,599	-
Sept 21	H	Birmingham City	1-0	26,757	9
Sept 24	H	Lincoln City (CCC2-2L)	0-1	14,242	-
Sept 28	A	Sheffield United	0-2	20,867	14
Oct 12	A	Queens Park Rangers	2-2	16,265	12
Oct 15	A	Reading	0-2	11,724	18
Oct 19	H	Norwich City	2-1	28,269	13
Oct 27	H	Wolves	0-1	27,296	17
Oct 29	A	Southend United	3-2	8,707	12
Nov 2	A	Swindon Town	0-2	14,374	17
Nov 13	H	Oxford United	2-3	23,079	19
Nov 16	A	Portsmouth	1-2	12,841	21
Nov 19	H	Huddersfield Town	0-0	23,314	20
Nov 23	H	Tranmere Rovers	1-2	26,531	21
Nov 27	H	West Bromwich Albion	3-2	24,200	17
Dec 1	A	Wolves	0-3	23,911	21
Dec 7	H	Bradford City	3-2	25,035	17
Dec 21	A	Oldham Athletic	1-2	12,992	20
Dec 26	H	Port Vale	0-1	30,344	20
Dec 28	A	Barnsley	0-2	17,159	21
Jan 11	H	Crystal Palace	†1-1	27,395	21
Jan 18	A	Huddersfield Town	1-1	18,358	21
Jan 25	A	Brentford (FAC 3)	1-0	12,019	-
Jan 29	H	Sheffield United	0-0	26,551	21
Feb 2	A	Oxford United	†4-1	8,824	20
Feb 5	H	Watford (FAC 4)	3-1	24,031	-
Feb 8	H	Southend United	3-0	26,261	20
Feb 15	H	Middlesbrough (FAC 5)	0-1	30,462	-
Feb 22	H	Swindon Town			
Mar 1	A	Bradford City			
Mar 5	H	Portsmouth			
Mar 8	H	Oldham Ath.			
Mar 11	A	Birmingham City			
Mar 15	A	Grimsby Town			
Mar 22	H	Stoke City			
Mar 28	A	Ipswich Town			
Apr 5	A	Charlton Athletic			
Apr 9	H	Bolton Wanderers			
Apr 12	A	West Brom. A.			
Apr 15	A	Tranmere Rovers			
Apr 19	H	Queens Park Rangers			
Apr 26	A	Norwich City			
May 4	H	Reading			
TBA	H	Grimsby Town			

For the best coverage of Manchester City home and away, tune into Manchester's two premier radio stations:

- **Piccadilly Gold (1152am)** with City match commentator **Brian Clarke**.
- **BBC GMR (95.1FM)** with City match commentator **Andy Buckley**.

All statistics up to and including Sunday 16th February 1997.

Manchester City v Swindon Town

1 Tommy WRIGHT

2 Lee CROOKS

3 Rae INGRAM

4 Steve LOMAS

5 Kit SYMONS

6 Paul BEESLEY

7 Nick SUMMERBEE

8 Eddie McGOLDRICK

9 Kevin HORLOCK

10 Georgi KINKLADZE

11 Uwe RÖSLER

Substitutes from:

Paul DICKOV

Jeff WHITLEY

Peter BEAGRIE

Neil HEANEY

Martyn MARGETSON

Michael BROWN

1 Fraser DIBBY

2 Mark ROBINSON

3 Frederic DARRAS

4 Steve McMAHON

5 Mark SEAGRAVES

6 Marlon BROOMES

7 Ian CULVERHOUSE

8 Kevin WATSON

9 Steve COWE

10 Wayne ALLISON

11 Steve FINNEY

Substitutes:

Wayne O'SULLIVAN

Jason DRYSDALE

Peter THORNE

MATCH FACTS

	Corners	
	Free-kicks	
	Offsides	
	Yellow cards	
	Red cards	
Half-time score	Full-time score	Attendance
	Scorers	

NEXT AT HOME

Nationwide League Division One - Wednesday 5th March, k.o. 7.45pm

CITY v PORTSMOUTH

Lancashire League - Tuesday 25th February, k.o. 12 noon (Platt Lane)

CITY v CARLISLE UNITED

THIS AFTERNOON'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Mick Fletcher (Warley, W. Midlands)
Began refereeing in 1981, reached the Football League line after nine years and was promoted to the referees' list in 1995. Linesman for Coca-Cola Cup and FA Cup semi-finals in 1993.
occupation: Waste Disposal Officer.

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

B.D. Priest (Halesowen) *Red Flag*
D.R. Wood (Liverpool) *Yellow Flag*

MITRE MATCHBALL SPONSOR



Cellnet wish MCFC all the best for today's game and the remainder of the season.

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TODAY'S OTHER FIRST DIVISION GAMES

Barnsley v Wolves
Charlton Athletic v Norwich City
Crystal Palace v Tranmere Rovers
Huddersfield Town v Bolton Wan.
Ipswich Town v Oxford United
Oldham Athletic v Bradford City
Reading v Southend United
Sheffield United v Grimsby Town
Stoke City v Queens Park Rangers
West Bromwich Albion v Portsmouth

Playing tomorrow...

Birmingham City v Port Vale

