

new frontiers

A York City Fanzine

Issue 23 - April 2014 - Free To Download



Goals Win Titles
Defences Win Promotion

Nigel Worthington Interview

Money, money, money.
Balance sheets, agent fees and FFP

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new frontiers – Established 1992.

Thought For The Day: Farewell David McGurk. Thanks for Luton; Thanks for everything. Legend. Let's hope we're saying this about Keith Lowe and John McCombe in 10 years time.

Welcome to Issue 23, the last of the season.

Rarely have we experienced such a season.

Day 1 doom spread across the rest of 2013.

An outstanding win over table toppers Scunthorpe suggested we were better the relegation fodder.

An injection of experience lead to organisation and that lead to our run of success.

Do Lowe / McCombe compare favourably with Swallow / Topping or

MacPhail / Sbragia or Stancliffe / Atkin?

Is Russell Penn the new Sean Haslegrave? Pity we don't have a Keith Walwyn or Paul Barnes upfront.

Next season: Wes Fletcher, your time to shine.

All views expressed are those solely of the editor or article's author and in no way should be taken to represent the views of York City South or York City Football Club (or any body or person slagged off herein). Correspondence and articles (hint, hint) for the next issue can be emailed to c_m_forth@hotmail.com

This download is free: Please consider making a donation to YCFC in lieu of paying for it. At the next home game, an extra pint in the social club or a lottery ticket in the car park. Remember, this is free, do you want City to recruit free transfer players or splash the cash on decent players? Russell Penn or Craig Clay, the choice is yours.

During our original run in the 1990s, we raised over £2,000 and every penny was donated to City's Youth Development Fund.

Back Issues: All digital and most paper based issues are available on <http://www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk/>

Further reading: Like this, then take a look at the [York City South web site](#)

Thanks: To all those who contributed or paid for this issue.

Next Issue: Depends on interest, commitment, articles and on the pitch performance. Articles / ideas / input / criticism always very welcome.

Bury (away)

Cast your mind back to the last game of 2013. Bury (away), 2 down after an abject first 20 minutes, a Michael Coulson goal topped an improved second half. January continued in much the same vein, it started with 3 successive wins and ended with 2 defeats.

Our last issue lead with a false dawns theme.

At the time, I'm sure no one expected (we certainly didn't) our upturn in form, no one would have envisaged a play off charge and many would have thought Easter would see another relegation dogfight.

What happened? A busy January in the transfer market, Keith Lowe made his loan deal permanent and was joined by John McCombe and Russell Penn in adding lower league experience to the team's spine.

Between them they brought organisation and bite to the team.

Today's debate centres around play offs, whether they'd be a good thing or not.

Nigel Worthington spoke to YCS about the hangover effect from an unsuccessful play off campaign. If such an effect really exists, Northampton have suffered from it this season.

After Bury (away), no one was talking about the play offs for City. The second half of the season has been a success, reaching the play offs would only demonstrate just how far we've come since Bury (away).

No one connected with City should feel failure if we were to fail in the play offs. After Bury (away), success would've been League survival, beating last season's 17th position if you were optimistic. A top 7 finish wasn't in anyone's wildest dreams.

We've a solid side, full of players comfortable at this level. Like every team, we can always do better and the manager will know where he needs to strengthen. He already has next season's core team in place and just needs a few additions to it. I'll be happy when Lanre Oyebanjo and Michael Coulson sign new contracts, but don't expect too many newcomers, no matter which division we are in.

A solid, organised team will be hard to beat, whichever division we're in. The question is, can City's infrastructure support a Division 1 club?

Nigel Worthington

On Friday March 7, York City South were invited to meet the manager, Nigel Worthington in the team's hotel on the evening prior to the AFC Wimbledon game. Nigel and his assistant, Steve Torpey, spent over 90 minutes chatting to 11 YCS members. Nigel noticing how many of us had turned up, had a word at reception and arranged a meeting room. Personally, I found it much more convivial than previous meetings when we'd all huddle in a corner of the bar, straining to hear the manager above the general noise of the bar.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

On arrival, Nigel Worthington found a club still adapting to league football and needed to bring in more league experience. He found a half decent team with good morale and never felt City would be relegated.

His priorities were to learn names, faces and abilities. He drew heavily on Steve's experience.

He did not panic at City's lowly position / relegation fears, but set about turning the mentality of lots of draws into wins and to make the players believe in themselves. Drip feeding them chosen words and incremental improvements were subjects he came back to during the evening.

The managerial duo felt that during the first month, the turning points were the goalless draw with Rochdale and the second half at Torquay.

"I walked out and saw 500 at Wimbledon, 700 at Torquay and 1,200 at Dagenham. To have that away support is phenomenal, a great credit to the supporters".

NOW & NEXT SEASON

The February win over Exeter pleased NW. He felt we showed resilience to hold on against a good footballing side, something that might not have happened a few months earlier. Southend was a tough game but a good measure of how much we've improved.

A few months earlier, the Bristol Rovers FA Cup defeat in November and Bury at Christmas were possibly his low points.

NW suggested clubs now have respect for City and come to Bootham Crescent and knowing they're going to get a game.

NW is looking for a group of players who can complete both physically and mentally. Steve Torpey noted how the training schedule has been enhanced this season so that all the players do a twice weekly weights session which has resulted in improved physicality and upper body strength.



NW felt he inherited too many players (around 31 or 32) and has sought to run with a leaner squad this season to avoid having disillusioned, disappointed players around the club. This season, his more streamlined squad has meant there is

a place for the vast majority of his fit players in every match day squad.

NW believes he has a “great spine of the team, solid keepers, good experience and solid at centre half, good league experience, a bit of bite in midfield and would like another forward to go with what we’ve got. Solid down the middle”. Both full backs also got a positive mention.

NW gave the impression that he doesn’t expect to make too many changes to the squad over the summer.

RESERVE / YOUTH SQUAD

NW believes youth policy is a massive thing in any club and pointed to Cameron Murray recently earning his first professional contract.

At this stage, he was reluctant to run a reserve team, citing the additional players and cost involved, and / or the possibility of having to play players 3 times a week, both pros and youth team players, to make up numbers for a midweek reserve team. In his experience, reserve teams were often full of youth team players, essentially becoming more youth games. He’d rather invest the money saved from a reserve team in either the first team or academy team.

THE NEAR FUTURE

NW believes City are still in a transitional phase personality, mentality and club wise between non league and Football League, something he's addressed on the field by bringing in players with good league experience.

He noted on the way down to Wimbledon, the team stopped off at the Fulham training ground for a light training session. They'd done the same exactly a year earlier. This time, NW told the squad they'd been there before and knew where to go before realising just one of his squad had been there a year earlier.

He suggested we needed to get properly re-established in the league and that promotion / play offs this season might be a step too quick. The experience of Northampton this season and our 2 unsuccessful conference play off seasons were noted and how the hangover carried over into the next season.

Looking back to his days as Norwich manager, he wouldn't want to lose again in the play off final, "horrible" being the word he used to describe a penalty shoot out defeat against Birmingham in 2002 which denied Norwich a place in The Premiership. To help to get over it, he took the squad to Spain for a holiday (minimal training involved) at the start of the next pre season.

NORWICH

When asked about his best signings, the first name mentioned was Gary Holt, a Scottish midfielder he signed for Norwich in 2001, who gave him great service over 4 years. He holds Darren Huckerby in great affection, "very unselfish, very kind" and mentioned Dean Ashton, a player he signed for £2.5m and sold for 3 times that amount just a year later.

He has a family home in Norfolk and generally spends about 4 nights a week in York and the other 3 in Norfolk.

THE MCGILL FAMILY

NW spoke highly of the McGill family. He felt the club is run like a business, in the same way they run their successful family business. Since being approached by the McGill family, he has found them to be true to their word, to be "very honest, very loyal and committed to the club". He knows his budget and is allowed to get on with it. Effectively a

budget is a budget, no matter how much it is, its something to manage within and suggested the size of the budget not being too important.

BUDGETS

NW suggested City have about 16th / 17th biggest budget in D2 and budget is a good indicator of whereabouts a club should finish. He looks forward to when City can generate income from the new stadium.

NI MANAGER

He gave the impression that since leaving the Northern Ireland job in October 2011, he had other approaches to return to club management, but had resisted the temptation as the opportunities didn't feel right.

With Northern Ireland, he missed the day to day involvement, the club banter and sought to try to fill his time by working with the Under 19 and 21 sides, it also helped to provide continuity in the sides but ultimately he was a little frustrated by the lack of quality players at his disposal.

PHILOSOPHY

“No manager ever wants to get beat; no player ever wants to get beat” – Nigel Worthington

“Know what you can do, know what you can't do, just do what you can do” – Nigel Worthington

“Make sure we do what we're good at” – Nigel Worthington

Throughout the evening, NW returned to familiar themes, getting players to do what they're good at, drip feeding them with information and ideas, he used the phrase, “steady, sustainable growth”, something which he'd apply to his players, the team and the club.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Maybe a slightly different style to some of the previous managers we've met, but Nigel came across as a manager who knows the limitations of the club and players and will address them one small step at a time. He has lots of managerial experience and will go about building City up bit by bit, nothing too ambitious, just “steady, sustainable growth”.

Nigel closed by thanking York City South on behalf of the whole club, for their continued support, both vocally at games and financially, both through the turnstiles and in other ways, noting that the branch was occupying a hospitality box at the home game a week later.

Drinking “York” Dry

We re-join YCS members Ray Goodearl and Dot Brown on a one couple crusade to visit every pub in the country with “York” in its name.

With plenty of new pubs on the horizon, Ray and Dot have had plenty of time, wins and clean sheets to ponder.

The big ponder is, if Norwich are relegated, and with their outstanding fixtures it's about 95% certain they will be, could Nigel Worthington be their next manager?

They've asked the same question the length and breadth of the country and even attempted to follow in Nigel's footsteps by walking on water. Ray takes up the story.

Following Portsmouth match, we stayed overnight and on the Sunday, we got the foot ferry from Southampton to West Cowes, and paid a visit to the Duke of York in Mill Hill Road, Cowes PO317BT. A very nice pint, very busy and quaint interior.

After Rochdale match, we called at the Duke of York in Stockport Road, Romiley, Stockport, SK16 3AN, again busy, good selection of ales, but major argument going on inside between City and Manure fans (or was it 3 City fans and no Manure fans – Ed), so beat a hasty retreat after downing a half.

We spent the next week in Tideswell in the Derbyshire Peaks, and made the following visits.

New York, New York, 94, Bloom Street, Manchester, M1 3LY. It was listed as a 'gay bar', however we sought it out at about 4pm when it had just opened, no one about, only Dot and I, a quick half, and got out. Weird interior (not sure which interior Ray is talking about – Ed), totally alien to me!

The next two proved more difficult, as they only opened when they felt like it really.

Duke of York, Main Street Elton, Derbyshire DE4 2BW, The old lady behind the bar had been there since 1968, doubt she's moved more than 10yds from the bar in that time! Served a decent pint, made us welcome, in a tiny hamlet, hadn't had a coat of paint since 68 I would have thought, looked very run down from the exterior, I hope it survives.

Duke of York Ashbourne Road, Pomeroy, Flagg, Nr Buxton.SK17 9QG. miles from any housing, just the odd farm building, but a keen new manager, one real ale on offer in the week, three at weekends, relies on summer business, trying to open caravan site in the grounds, again I hope he makes a success of it.

Yorkshire Bridge Inn Ashopton Road, Bamford, Hope Valley,S33 0AZ. I think this was our 100th site visit, so we had a meal there, very good, and five real ales on offer, it was very busy too. Hotel attached, and had money spent on it both inside and outside, in good location too.

Wanted to do three more in that area, but run out of time, but impressed with the Peaks, so an excuse to go back.

Check our web site for further information, see <http://www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk> including a full list of all the pubs.

YCS News

You've already missed a host of events this season, Meet The Manager, Hospitality Box at Bootham Crescent, Darts Night, Christmas Party and various other socials included.

We're still looking to confirm a date for David Stockdale's visit.

Our next confirmed event is on Thursday May 29: It is our end of season social, incorporating our AGM and quiz at [Old Doctor Butler's Head](#) 2, Masons Avenue, London, EC2V 5BT (upstairs function room). The quiz promises to be a belter featuring "The Hardest York City Quiz Round Ever" and "Higher Or Lower". However, be warned, as in 2012, there is a possibility that the night might turn into a Wembley celebration.

Can't wait that long. Come and say hello to some of us at Lords (April 27 – 30 (assuming we don't win inside 4 days) for the Yorkshire CCC Against Middlesex.

Please regularly check our website <http://www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk/> for further details.

We're now taking membership for this season and next. Branch membership is open to all living south of York, just £10 a year (concessions and life membership available). Email goodearlay@yahoo.com for further details.

Musical City

After Deaf School last issue, it was back to Camden's Jazz Cafe for another band's 40th birthday bash. The Nits, a Dutch trio I'd only ever previously heard of before from a Swedish friend.

With roots in Golden Earring and Gruppo Sportivo, they were not to be missed.



The group played 2 storming sets and were onstage for a touch over 2 hours.

Robert Jan Stips (centre, above), a Compo (Last Of The Summer Wine) lookalike minus the green wooly hat was on keyboards, an early producer of the band, he's spent nearly 25 years in the band in 2 spells.

The other 2 members have been in the band since Day 1. Stage right was Rob Kloet (drums and percussion) and centre stage was Henk Hofstede (lead singer and guitar). For a couple of songs, Hofstede played keys and Stips accordion.

A small but appreciative audience lapped up every song. With a back catalogue of something like 18 studio albums, there were plenty of favorites for the connoisseur and just as many highlights for the first timer.

They're a cross between Crowded House and Man At Work, sometimes resembling XTC and The Talking Heads. Researching this article I came across several comparisons with The Beatles.

Onstage, their songs are infectious, everyone a winner, the band were very keen on tempo changes mid song and false endings. Songs titles

like “In The Dutch Mountains”, “Giant Normal Dwarf” and “Oompah-pah Men” suggest they don’t take themselves too seriously.

Before I went to the gig, I didn’t know a single song, but I believe no covers were played. The regular Nits fans seemed to know every word to virtually every song.

It was 9 years since The Nits last played England, 9 weeks would be too long to wait for their next London gig.

A week later something quite different. John Otway and Attila The Stockbroker. Not quite sure a portly 50 something should be wearing a leather jacket, but Attila was. Admittedly I got there halfway through his set, but it consisted mainly of newish material, often drawn from his latest book (plug, plug, plug, "available after the show!"). In some ways he’s mellowed, but in others, still an angry man picking off the same targets as ever. Didn’t hear any of what I consider to be his prime material, but very enjoyable nevertheless.

John Otway and his big band were on next. Not quite sure a scrawny 60 something should be doing stage acrobatics, but Otway was. This time, the set consisted solely of his greatest songs, nearly said hits. He did in fact play both hits. Acrobatics wise, he now limits himself to a few forward rolls and standing on a small amp. His long standing guitarist Murray Torkildsen came in for plenty of stick from Otway whose patter, as usual, was of the self deprecating kind. For a man who has recently celebrated 40 years of success as a failure, it was exactly what was expected. With a full house of Otway fans (arguably die hards of mixed ages), he could do no wrong.

Back At The Borderline a week later for the return of The Nightingales and Ted Chippington. MC Porky The Poet got the night off to a good start, East London band, Chin Of Britain played a short but invigorating set, unfortunately missing vans and troublesome amps meant it was curtailed, with strong The Stone Roses and Primal Scream influences, they’re definitely worth a another look.

Porky played another set, mainly new material, before giving fulsome praise in his intros for 2 of his own favourites, Ted and The Gales. Enough said. Check out The Gales own [web site](#) for their new limited edition vinyl only album.

Agent Fees

Ever trawled The Football League's web site? If not, give it a go, there's lots of fascinating information to be found. I recently came across their report into agents fees' paid (or committed) for the 2012/3 season. In total £21.5m, down slightly from the £21.7m paid the previous season.

The report shows details, club by club across The Championship, Division 1 and Division 2.

Being City's first season back in The League, we're included. City paid (or committed) £11,500 to agents. Committed money being that agreed during the accounting period but payable outside it.

In total, there were 3,746 transactions (which include transfers, loans, contract updates and contract cancellations). Of these, roughly 20%, 776 involved payments to agents.

Of the £21.5m, Championship clubs paid over £18.57m, Division 1 clubs over £2.229m and Division 2 clubs spent just £674k. 7 clubs paid no fees. 14 clubs paid less than £10,000 to agents and another 24 clubs paid less than £25,000 over the period July 2012 to June 2013.

The clubs paying no agents fees were Blackpool (Championship), Hartlepool and Crewe in Division 1 and 4 (Accrington, AFC Wimbledon, Barnet and Morecambe) in Division 2.

In The Championship, Blackburn's £3.5m was by far the most paid by any club. No other clubs paid over £2m, 5 did spend over £1m. In Division 1, spent £688k, over one quarter of the division's total.

In Division 2, Rotherham spent £106k, Chesterfield £92k and Fleetwood £91k. Of the 1,252 registrations, 124 involved the use of an agent.

For City, the report quotes 59 transactions with us paying £11,500 in agent fees. That made us 14th top spenders in Division 2. Given the 12 months from July 1st 2012, they may include contracts negotiated after our Wembley double win and promotion, new signings for the 2012/3 and even new signings for the 2013/4, players such as Bowman, Clay, Fletcher, Jarvis and Puri, their signings being announced before the 30th June 2013 cut off. Our 59 transactions included 24 new registrations / transfers, 6 updated contracts, 8 contract cancellations and 21 loans.

See <http://www.football-league.co.uk/staticFiles/75/be/0,,10794~179829,00.pdf> .

Quiz Time

Try our quiz. It features 23 questions, 24 answers, each answer is one of the teams that featured in the 2011/2 Blue Square Conference. The season we did our Wembley double.

- 1) We beat them in the Blue Square Play Off semi final
- 2) We beat them in the FA Trophy Final
- 3) We beat them in the FA Trophy semi final. We beat them in The Blue Square Play Off Final, We beat them 4 times in the season
- 4) They play at Highbury
- 5) We did the double over this team who we played for the first time ever
- 6) When we visited them, they were league leaders. We beat 3-0 on their own ground
- 7) The first team to beat us in a televised game at Bootham Crescent during the season
- 8) The second team to beat us in a televised game at Bootham Crescent during the season
- 9) Still the closest team to Barnsley
- 10) The first team we beat 3 times during the season
- 11) The team we beat on the opening day of the season
- 12) The team we beat in our first home game of the season
- 13) A former league club, we did the double over them, winning both games 2-1
- 14) The club we did the double over, winning both games 1-0
- 15) Another former league club, we did the double over them, winning both games 2-0
- 16) The team we beat at Woking
- 17) The team who suffered a points deduction over whom we did the double
- 18) The team who suffered a points deduction who drew twice with City
- 19) The team Gary Mills was managing at the time of his appointment as City manager
- 20) They play at Haig Avenue
- 21) The team our former striker Michael Gash was playing for when he scored against City
- 22) The team our former striker Craig Farrell was playing for when he scored against City in August 2011
- 23) The 2 Conference teams Arthur Bottom played for

For more City quizzes try the [YCS web site](#). Answers on back page.

Academies - The Way Forward?

*Are home grown youngsters a dying breed at York City? That's a question **new frontiers** has asked before, but we'll ask it again.*

Look at City's team and you see a team of journeyman of all ages, Tom Platt and Tom Allan might get a look in occasionally, but neither has yet established themselves in our team. Who was City's last home grown youngster to make the grade? My vote goes to David Stockdale. Even he didn't make it until 2 clubs after City.

For someone who made the grade with City, you need to go back to Gary Ford, Richard Cresswell, Graeme Murty or Lee Bullock, players who made a positive impact on the pitch for us over (at least a short) period of time. Exclude Jon Greening, Marco Gabbiadini and Darren Williams, they didn't really make an impact on our first team, although we did very nicely from them when we sold them on, mainly for potential.

Over the last 20 years, think Christian Fox, Scott Jordan, Bryan Stewart, Martin Garratt, Lee Yalcin, Liam Shepherd and Russ Howarth. All graduated from our youth side into our first team, we thought they might go all the way. Guess what, none did. Jordan played well in our 1995 win over Manchester United and was a regular for us before drifting out of league football, Garratt was talked about briefly as a £1m player.

With City, cash constraints haven't help. Throughout the non league years, we suffered a reduction in budget for the intermediates team and then, more significantly, the scrapping of the reserve side. We have no progression path from junior to senior football. 18 years old used to playing against similarly aged youths, find them up against physically stronger, more muscular and certainly more experienced professionals.

This season, first season pros, Chris Dickinson and Mike Atkinson have struggled for game time. They went out on loan to minor non league clubs (Northallerton, Scarborough and Whitby). Subsequently, we've released Mike Atkinson. Slightly older, Tom Platt and Martin Allan don't seem to be making too much progression.

Fast forward to Chelsea and Manchester City. About the only thing we have in common with these 2 is in the use of home grown players.

Both have invested heavily in youth policies, but along with the rest of The Premiership complain that reserve team football isn't fit for purpose

and does not provide a path into the first team. They use this argument when they propose using Football League clubs as their feeder teams.

For 2013/4 The Premier League scrapped reserve team football and replaced it with an Under 21 league, 22 clubs in the top flight, including 16 from The Premiership, each team playing each other club just once, 21 games. There is an allowance for teams to include a limited number of over age players and might provide a means of young players gaining experience of playing against experienced older pros.

Another failing at the top level is the high changeover of managers. Take Chelsea and 3 bright young things (Nathaniel Chalobah, Josh McEachran and Gael Kakuta). Successive managers all loaned them out to gain first team experience. Kakuta joined Lazio in January 2014, his fifth loan club. What happens when they go out on loan? Chelsea change their manager and the young player returns as an unknown to the new manager and has to prove himself all over again.

In The Premiership, many would agree Manchester United & Arsenal have the most successful youth policies of the established sides. What do they have (or had) in common? Long serving managers.

With the manager's average tenure in The Premiership being less than 2 years, he does not have time to reap the benefits of any youth policy he implements. So, why bother? Youth football, not fit for purpose?

I wonder if Nigel Worthington might be asking himself the same question? Before Christmas, our side was packed with loanees, the likes of Luke O'Neill, Ben Davies, Elliott Whitehouse, Ryan Brobbel and George Taft included. Contrast to post Christmas, Russell Penn, John McCombe and Keith Lowe, journeyman, but with lots of league experience have helped to transform the side. Sprinkle a few youngsters in and you've half a chance.

In the good old days, the big teams would field 4 or 5 open age teams plus a junior side. The likes of Paul Aimson and Phil Burrows might have been only "C" team regulars for Manchester City, but they and many others players eventually made long and successful careers in the lower leagues. Indeed, such teams competed in leagues where there were 20 plus teams, so they experienced a full fixture list, nowadays, most youth football runs on mini leagues of about half that number.

Not sure you'd say that for the likes of Erik Tonne, Aaron McCarey or George Taft, some of our more recent loanees who have struggled for

game time since returning to their parent clubs from City, will go onto have long and successful lower league careers a la Aimson or Burrows.

City desperately need to bridge the gap between intermediate (Under 18) and first team and offer competitive football to young professionals.

When Nigel Worthington and Steve Torpey [spoke to York City South](#) in March 2014, they spoke about how they are working to re-build all aspects of the club to be worthy of Football league status. An Under 21 (development) squad was mentioned. (Incidentally, within days of the meeting, City announced the appointment of John McGhee to the new post of General Manager).

Within the confines of current day, premiership thinking, Under 21 football may be our way forward. League football for our youth graduates in a side augmented by players released from bigger clubs. Richard Cresswell spoke about links with Manchester City and tapping into such players on his appointment to his new role in April 2014.

Such a team also provides competitive games for some senior players not in the squad or returning from injury. This season, someone like Shaq McDonald, or before him, a promising talent such as Michael Potts might have been able to show their worth to the manager if they'd been playing regularly in an Under 21 development squad, rather than floundering on the training pitch. Under 21 football would provide young players with up to 3 more seasons development, both for footballing skills and physicality whilst regulations allow up to 3 over players, ones who might be recovering from injury or out of the first team.

Its termed development football for a reason and sounds a better option than reserve team football, when you have a team mainly consisting of stiffes, many of whom may never get a sniff of first team football.

Whilst the big boys continue to bleat on about the need for feeder clubs, that option doesn't appeal. Would we become Leeds United Reserves or even Doncaster Rovers Reserves. Not sure how turning York City into Hull City "B" will solve anyone's problems. We'll lose our identity. Not an appealing thought.

In all of the above, one question nags away. What have Southampton done to see them develop a conveyor belt of young talent who have gone on to become top players? Bale, Walcott and Oxlade-Camberlain included. Some might even suggest the current Southampton side could form the backbone for 2014 England's World Cup squad.

Just About Managing (and more)

The words and wit of some of the managers in our game. Plus, for your added delectation and delight, the words of some others as well.

“We can’t deny that we are the favourites any more because we are the only Premier League team”. Arsene Wenger weighing up Arsenal’s FA Cup prospects on March 12th 2014, conveniently relegating Hull City from the Premiership and hours after he selected Ryo Miyaichi for the subs bench in The Champions League only to be told he was ineligible.

“Class Of 92 In Talks Over Old Trafford Takeover Bid”, Daily Telegraph headline on March 27th 2014 picking up on a story from The Sun that Beckham, Giggs, Scholes, Butt and the Neville brothers were part of a consortium bidding to buy Manchester United from the Glazier family. Hours later, minus Beckham, the Class of 92 buy Salford City.

“Hong Kong, no, Tokyo”, Lewis Montrose on BBC’s Late Kick Off in April 2014 when asked to name the capital city of China.

“That’s unique to Liverpool. Its unique to a few other teams as well”, Andrew Mills, former Chief Exec of Charlton, Brentford and Aldershot on Talksport in April 2014

“Who’ll win the league? It’s a coin toss between the 3 of them”, Matt Le Tissier.

“If that had gone in, it would have been a goal”, David Coleman

“I never comment on referees and I’m not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat”, Ron Atkinson

“In the last year, 46 of the 92 managers have lost their job, that’s over half”, David Pleat

“Sandro’s holding his face, from that you can tell it’s a knee injury”, Dion Dublin

“For me Loic Remy is the key to this goal”, Jamie Redknapp (after Remy had scored)

“For legal reasons, there’s very little I can say other than on Thursday there was an incident between two players. The training ground incident resulted in one of the players, who I might add is an innocent party to this, receiving a facial injury that has consequently ruled him out for the rest of the season”, Micky Adams, Port Vale manager (April 14, 2014), saying very little after they sacked defender Daniel Jones following a training ground incident that left captain Doug Loft with a facial injury.

'Zine Scene

*The original of this article first appeared in issue 6 of **new frontiers** in December 1993.*

The first of the modern football fanzines appeared in the early 1980s, one sheet of paper, typed and folded over. Spelling corrections scribbled on.

Things have progressed a lot since. Personal computer, bubble jet (even laser) printing and desk top publishing became the pre requisites for aspiring fanzine editor.

Days of sneaking a few photocopies at work up and down the country gave way to professional printing companies who offered a high quality service. In Sheffield, Juma printed a wide range of titles. In South Wales, Blue Print printed over 60 titles including **new frontiers**.

Many would cite the Frank Ormston / Mick Kettlewell lead York City **Terrace Talk** as the forefather of all fanzines.

Since **Terrace Talk** first appeared in 1981 things have certainly progressed. Indeed, **Terrace Talk** can take a lot of credit for what happened since. It helped *When Saturday Comes* and its contemporary *Off The Ball* to get established and then provided start up guides and help to countless other club based fanzines around the country.

While *When Saturday Comes* has flourished, sadly, *Off The Ball* fell by the wayside. However, its editorial staff went onto other things, important roles in the Football Supporters Association and Radio 5 journalism included.

Terrace Talk gave City fans a real voice for the first time and across the country, supporters of other clubs produced their own fanzines.

At York, **Terrace Talk** wasn't afraid to criticise where criticism was due. It and similar fanzines gave the The Football Supporters Association a link with committed supporters, both in York and across the country, a

Foul appeared between 1972 and 1976. The name was chosen as parody on titles such as *Goal* and *Shoot!* the glossy top selling weekly titles of the era. Produced by 2 Cambridge university graduates, issue one was produced on the student union typewriter. It cost £54 to produce 1,000 copies. Later, Tim Rice provided financial backing that helped circulation figures reach 12,000. Libel suits and lack of interest saw the final issue produced in October 1976.

nationwide united voice in an era where football supporters were viewed with suspicion, if not far worse, by the government.

Back in York, **Terrace Talk** also launched the "Roof The Shippo" appeal putting the idea into the public domain.

After **Terrace Talk**, later City fanzines including, "In The City, *new frontiers*", "Johnny Ward's Eyes" and "Ginner's Left Foot", all offered their own unique take on events at City and beyond. All have helped to shape City over the last 35 years and have probably had a more permanent impact on City than many of the more mainstream offerings.

All these fanzines offered an independent viewpoint, often contrary views to those held by the club, but even today, you will still see many of the people behind those fanzines on the terraces still supporting City. Take a bow Frank, Mike, Dave, Chris, Andrew and all those others who had always had the well being of City at the forefront of their actions.

In their heyday, there were about 200 fanzine titles regularly published in Britain. Club fanzines sold anything from 50 to 10,000 copies per issue. Celtic's *Not The View* is probably the top selling club based fanzine. Size of club in no way can be a pointer to fanzine quality. Probably a lot more than 200 other titles have fallen by the wayside. *When Saturday Comes*, with its nationwide distribution into virtually every high street newsagent sells many more.

Up in Scotland, *The Web*, a Queens Park fanzine goes as far back as **Terrace Talk**. Bradford's *City Gent* is probably the best known (and one of the best) of all club fanzines and is still published on paper to this day.

Similar style fanzines have occasionally appeared over the last 40 years, these tended to be much smaller, generally club based, affairs that never sold outside their immediate publication area.

Alongside the soccer fanzine has been the music fanzine. These can be dated to 1976 and the punk rock revolution. In 1976 it was a case of if you wanted to read about punk rock then you had to write it yourself.

The father figure being *Sniffin' Glue* which first appeared in July 1976. Photocopied at work and sold outside gigs and the more trendy London markets it soon established a big reputation. However, it was not until issue 4 in October 1976 that the circulation figures reached 3 figures.

Taking its title from The Ramones song, the earliest issues featured the likes of The Ramones, The Flamin' Groovies, Television and Patti Smith. This was pre British punk. The autumn of 1976 saw the pages of *Sniffin' Glue* devoted to the likes of The Clash, The Sex Pistols, The Damned and their ilk. This was before any of them got a mention in the national

music press. As well as the bands, many contributors got their break on *Sniffin' Glue* before moving on to the national press.

The most well known *Sniffin' Glue* contributor was probably Danny Baker before joining the NME and going onto greater things.

In its heyday *Sniffin' Glue* sold 20,000 copies per issue and was read around the world. Founder Mark Perry put his editorial duties alongside his band Alternative TV until *Sniffin' Glue* ceased publication in August 1977 with issue 12. Perry was faced with a choice, go glossy or pack it up.

He packed it up. The final issue coming complete with a free flexi single of "Love Lies Limp" by Alternative TV.

Alternative TV continued after *Sniffin' Glue* finished. I remember them playing York's Pop Club in 1979. The band had a highly acclaimed career but without selling the amount of records they deserved to sell.

Perry ran his own record label, "Step Forward" which released early recordings by The Fall, Sham 69 and Chelsea. He continued to perform for many years.

As with the football fanzines, *Sniffin' Glue* gave birth to a whole range of other music fanzines. Today, they some still flourish, but on a smaller scale than football fanzines. Probably due to the fact that they are much more insular, largely band based, and without the figure head that *When Saturday Comes* and *Sportspages* provided for football's fanzines.

Sportspages, the specialist sports' book shop became a mecca for fanzines. Stocking many titles it provided a shop front for the fanzine world. The original London shop was joined by a Manchester branch and together they provided an excellent choice of reading for the dedicated fanzine reader. Sadly, neither no longer exist.

The rise of the internet and radio phone in directly lead to the demise of the printed fanzine. *new frontiers* is remembered as City's second longest fanzine and the recent demise of *Ginner's Left Foot* leaves a gap for some entrepreneur to fill the gap.

Check the internet and many still exist in electronic format. It beats haggling with printers, deadlines and rainy afternoons before the game selling the latest issue when you could be down the pub having a pre match pint or three.

To this day, the young fanzine editor goes on to be tomorrow's super hero. Pete Doherty started his artistic career as a QPR fanzine editor before music took over. His back copies now sell on the internet at £60 a copy.

1970/1 Revisited

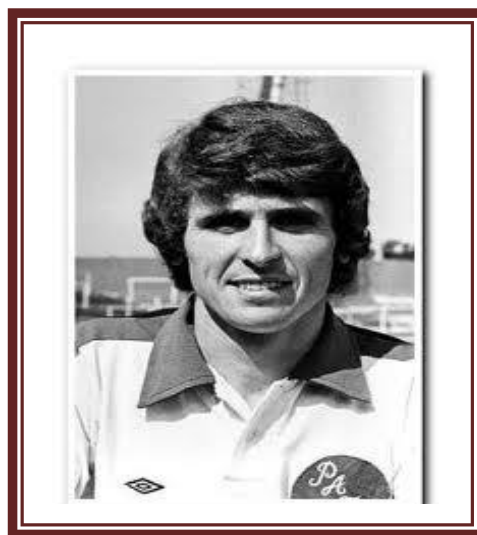
The 2013/4 season has followed 1970/1 in many ways.

Starting with little optimism we reached the turn of the year in mid table. 4 successive wins before Christmas but just one more in the next 7 suggested our season was over. A memorable 3-3 FA Cup draw with Southampton, then as now in the upper echelons of the top flight proved a welcome diversion.



City's win over Newport at the end of February saw the start of a run of 10 wins in 11 games (the other was a draw) and concluded in a club record 16 league games with defeat.

Based on a solid back four, Barry Swallow, Chris Topping, Phil Burrows (below) and John Mackin, who missed just 6 games between them, City ground out a series of wins. 3 of the back four were ever present 3 seasons later when City equalled a long standing Football League record of going 11 games without conceding a goal.



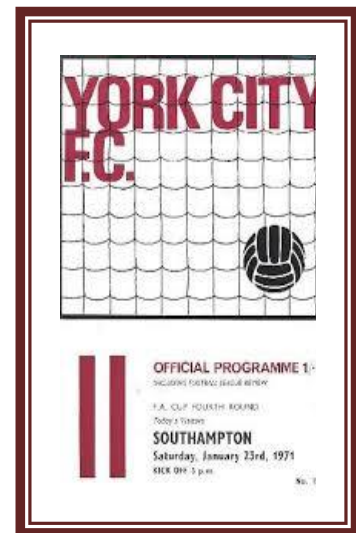
Paul Aimson proved to be an outstanding striker, apart from Phil Boyer before Christmas, he largely carried the attack by himself.

As City's promotion position was assured, home attendances rose. Good Friday saw 10,623 see City beat Darlington 2-0 and 10 days later, 14,321 packed in to Bootham Crescent to see us play promotion rivals Oldham. How different to this season, when we topped 5,000 at home for the first time against Bury on Easter Monday. For the 1970/1 season, we averaged 4,962.

Another difference was the make up of the side. In 1970/1, 9 players played over 30 league games and another 3 made over 20. Compare

that to 2013/4 when our team underwent a transformation early in the New Year when several young loanees were replaced by experienced professionals.

In 1971, City were runners up in a Ford sponsored season long competition open to all 92 league clubs designed to encourage attacking football where double points were awarded for away goals. A 5-4 win at Lincoln and 6-4 defeat at Brentford saw us rack up big points alongside 5 home wins when we scored 4 goals. That season we scored 78 league goals, with 2 to play this season, we are down on 49.



Both sides were managed by experienced managers, one Scottish, one Irish. After 1971, Tom Johnston spent almost 4 more years with City, becoming our only manager (to date) to take us to 2 promotion campaigns.

Recently, as part of The 125th Anniversary of The Football League, supporters voted Johnston as City's best ever manager.

He left in January 1975 having guided us to a draw at Arsenal in The FA Cup. The disappointment was that he moved to Huddersfield, a league lower than us.

His successor? Wilf McGuinness. Wonder whether David Moyes will one day succeed Nigel Worthington at City?

Johnston was a dour Scot and strong disciplinarian. He built 2 promotion sides at City, the first featured Ted MacDougall and Phil Boyer. Next time around, he signed Graeme Crawford, and Ian Holmes on free transfers, veterans Barry Lyons and Ian Butler and workmanlike strikers Jimmy Seal and Chris Jones to make City a hard team to beat as we gained a place in the second tier for the first time in our history. Behind the scenes, the players rebelled against Johnston, effectively giving him a vote of no confidence during the 1972/3 season. Phil Burrows would nominate one of his lows with City as being the end of the 1974 promotion season when he tried to negotiate a contract extension with Johnston who refused to give an inch (or penny more) resulting in our first ever player of the season being sold.

Billy Plutch

*Having successfully transferred from the terraces to the York City South web site, Billy Plutch now brings his half formed opinions and incoherence to **new frontiers**.*

April 5. **Fit & Proper Persons** An independent QC concludes Massimo Cellino's recent conviction in the Sardinian court did not involve conduct that would "reasonably be considered to be dishonest", so go to court, get found guilty and be deemed not to be dishonest. F&PP Test, is it worth it?

March 29. **Self Fulfilling Prophecy** After Chelsea's defeat at Palace, are Mourinho's players starting believe the manager when he says they're not going to win the title. Man for man, Chelsea are far superior to Palace, but maybe they listen too much to Mourinho.

March 28. **City On FLS** We're featured on The Football League Show tomorrow, there goes our winning run.

March 26. **Premier League Expansion** Hope Celtic's latest title doesn't re-open the debate for their inclusion in The English Premiership. Scotland refused to participate in the British Olympics football tournament, why one but not the other? Incidentally, listened to Devo's first album again last night. As good, if not better, than it was when first released way back when.

March 25. **Bayern Clinch The Bundesliga** A day later, Celtic the Scottish SPL. For years, we've heard top Scottish clubs say they need more competitive league football to be competitive in Europe, wonder what Bayern think?

March 22. **Chelsea. Premiership Favourites?** Really, supposedly because of their easier run in against teams towards the bottom. Remember Stoke, Sunderland and Aston Villa. 3 easier away games, 3 defeats.

February 18. **Demichelis** His red card is being appealed by Barcelona. They're desperate that he can play in the return leg.

February 12. **Safe Standing** Lots of recent talk about safe standing rail seats, a row of seats with a rail in front, so the seat occupant can stand if desired. With the rail in front, anyone seated will have their view blocked, either by the rail or the bloke in front standing up. Solution? No seat.

February 6. **Russell Penn** His transfer fee was £20,000 according to The Western Daily News today. Why do we continually say the fee is undisclosed only for the actual fee to be revealed in the papers a few weeks later?

February 4. **Horses** Mourinho talks about horses. Not sure about big horses and little ones, but over the years, City have had more than our fair share of cart horses, shire horses and donkeys whilst the team has been liberally sprinkled with Shergars who go missing after a few games and show ponies who flatter only to deceive. As for mares, we've had far too many of them. Many of our players fade into oblivion (at or after City), never making the grade. At least they don't suffer the same fate as most racehorses, castration. Finally, I like my team to play with a skilful little front man, say Wilfried Pony.

February 1. **Chico Flores** Apparently, after having his hair ruffled by Andy Carroll, Flores was rushed to hospital after the game where he spent 2 hours in the intensive hair unit.

January 22. **Capital One Cup Woes?** What is worse for Man U, humiliation in the semi final at home to Sunderland or possible humiliation in the final against Man City in front of a world wide audience?

January 12. **John McCombe** 2+ year contracts for McCombe, Lowe and Penn. Stability yes, none were more than Div 2 squad players at their last club. Let's hope we don't have to pay them off after 6 months in our stiff's a la Craig Clay (or heaven forbid, if we get promoted and seek a better class of player).

January 9. **Ashley Chambers** Farewell Ashley, following Adriano Moke, Simon Russell and Michael Gash down the well trodden path to Cambridge. Notice anything familiar? They all flattered to deceive at York and despite arriving at Cambridge with high hopes, they never really kicked on. Thanks for all the Wembley double season memories.

Read more Billy Plutch at <http://www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk/plutch.htm>

Financial Fair Play. We've had our first season (2012/3) of Financial Fair Play. City were indebted to the McGill family who pumped £95k into the club to meet the criteria to ensure City did not fall foul of the regulations and incur a penalty, which might have been a transfer ban, fine or points deduction.

However, I've not seen a single word from the powers that be about whether all the 72 Football League clubs complied with the regulations. Having touted FFP, it would be good to know how well it's worked and that all clubs complied.

PS. Now we're hearing that UEFA's own FFP interpretation might be deemed to be against European competition and employment laws.

YCFC Balance Sheet 2012/3

- Operating Losses: Halved
- £95k McGills' donation ensures salary cap not breached
- £1.8m total McGill family contribution to finances
- Losses forecast every year until move to the new stadium
- Gate receipts - one third of total income

Where to start? Losses halved, but still at £271k, so Football League football hasn't yet been our saviour. The club is already forecasting an annual loss for each of the next 3 years whilst we remain at Bootham Crescent. Given that this year, the McGill family donated £95k to ensure we remained within the 55% salary cap limit, it suggests that, in terms of financial outlay, and assuming Division 2 football, our squad will be no stronger next season than this time around.

City's financial management consultant Peter Rookes revealed that he expects the club to carry on making **annual losses until the move to a new stadium,**

currently anticipated to be 2016. Based on our most recent accounts, we could be looking at losses approaching one million pounds over the next 3 years.

How much longer can such losses be maintained?

Longer term, when 82% of our expenditure is on wages, our balance sheet doesn't leave much room for manoeuvre. Increase income (how?) or reduced wages, the choice is yours.

The Accounts - One Big Caveat:

As a private company, YCFC do not have to publish a detailed set of accounts which makes it difficult to compare year on year performance and introduces doubt when comparing year on year figures. For example, the accounts state a loss position only (personally, I have not yet seen any details of income / expenditure since the 2010) – *Ed's note, go to Companies House web site and buy them, if you're that interested.)*

History Rewritten? This year's press report states we lost £598k last season, whilst at the time of publication, last year's losses were stated as £467k. Which is right, they could both be right if they are not strict like for like comparison.

Other large expenses (say £500k) were on matchday costs (possibly largely policing costs), general overheads and stadium repairs. Prior years suggest ground repairs are probably under £50k pa. These should remain fairly constant whilst we remain at Bootham Crescent. Hopefully the interest payment to The Football Foundation for Bootham Crescent will cease.

Looking to the future, I struggle to see how we can wipe out the losses presumably, there will be nothing more to pay to The Football Foundation and hopefully a reduction in ground maintenance fees.

The McGill family donation of £95k brings their overall contribution on up to a whopping £1.8m. We are indeed indebted to the family for ensuring we remain a viable club.

Whilst there may be a room for more match day hospitality, I don't see a great increase in revenue considering sometimes we struggle to sell out Bootham Crescent hospitality packages. An extra hospitality box per match will bring in around only £10k per year.

History suggests a new ground might see a short lived surge in attendances.

But, given the proposed stadium capacity of 6,000 or 8,000, we are probably going to be unable to generate a massive increase in matchday receipts over a long period of time.

New Ground: This isn't the place to debate the pros and cons of attendance figures at new grounds. Yes, teams can increase attendances, think Hull or Doncaster, but its usually linked to a big increase in league status, think Hull or Doncaster. The example closet to home is probably York RLFC and their 1989 move from Clarence Street / Wiggington Road to Monks Cross. Always well supported in the city, crowds quickly and dramatically fell away at their new ground (whoops, nearly called it a stadium).

So it means, non match day revenue will be the key to turning losses into midfield.

Looking ahead, when Nigel Worthington addressed YCS in March 2014, he inferred that the club was still coming to terms with being back in the league. Subsequently, 2 new roles, General Manager (John McGhee) and Development Consultant (Richard Cresswell) have been created, suggesting finances are on an even keel and strong enough to support such growth.

JM Packaging and the McGill family

- Previously confirmed that they would waive the interest, which would now amount to approximately £700,000, the company were entitled to receive as part of the takeover deal agreed with the Supporters' Trust eight years ago.
- Announced that the club will not be in debt to JM Packaging should equity from the sale of Bootham Crescent prove insufficient to repay the company fully for the money they have ploughed in during their tenure and if this position was to change and the value of the site decreased, JM Packaging has confirmed they would write off any shortfall in the debt owed to them by the club.
- No salaries or expenses were taken by City's board of directors during the season.

Members Interests

One of the successes of the [yorkcitysouth](#) website had been the ability to promote our [members' own interests](#).

Pride of place goes to Andy Naylor and his comprehensive set of City stats. Every stat you might ever want to know about City are all in one place, all our results, players and goalscorers plus manager records and transfer fees are just some of the many highlights.

Pete Beasley match stats surprisingly reveal, given our current league position, that across the season, we've had less possession and less shots than our opposition.

Read the latest real life exploits of Ray and Dot as they visit every pub in the land with "York "in its name. Gay bars, pubs which have stood still for 40 years, boarded up pubs and gastro pubs are just some of their recent visits.

You'll also find a page dedicated to the *new frontiers* fanzine.

Hold The Back Page

West Ham. They have just made a trademark application on HMG's Intellectual Property Office's website under the Upton Park name for razors, penknives and whips. Just what the average Hammer takes to a game with him (or her)

David Stockdale. Sorry, but the promised David Stockdale interview has not appeared. David was due to come along to a YCS meeting in February but had to cancel at the last minute, fearing with the tube strike, he wouldn't be able to get home in time to beat the Fulham curfew. His late cancellation coincided with his performance in goal in Fulham's home defeat to Sheffield United in The FA Cup, I'm saying nothing.

Nick Pope. If you were Charlton would you let him spend the 2014/5 season on long loan at York? If I were Charlton I'd be thinking he's proved himself in Division 2 and needs to show what he can do in Division 1, someone like Gillingham, Swindon or MK Dons

Sorry (1). The intended article, "Can Promotion Come Too Soon" has been withdrawn for fear of tempting faith.

Sorry (2). There was so much more we intended to put in this issue, but for one reason or another time and space ran out and all our best laid plans went awry. PS equally, don't want to say too much in case it jinxes the end of season games.

Next Issue:

- DNA of a successful City side
- City's best ever keeper
- David Stockdale interview
- City's best ever season – You decide
- Financial Fair Play update

Please: Send your comments, thoughts and ideas for the next issue to c_m_forth@hotmail.com

Quiz Answers 1) Mansfield 2) Newport 3) Luton 4) Fleetwood 5) Braintree 6) Wrexham 7) Kidderminster 8) Gateshead 9) Forest Green 10) Grimsby 11) Ebbsfleet 12) Barrow 13) Stockport 14) Bath 15) Lincoln 16) Hayes & Yeading 17) Kettering 18) Darlington 19) Tamworth 20) Southport 21) Cambridge 22) Telford 23) York and Alfreton

Happy reading. Enjoy the game.