

A York City Fanzine

#35 December 2020 £2

new



Walwyn Or Maradona

Up The Youngsters

MX – An Apology

Peter Lorimer

Headcase

What's Wrong With Watto?

BC – A Second Home

Where Are They Now

Hurry Up

Bootham Cheers

Quiz + More

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York City South & Other Groups

Merry Christmas and many thanks everyone who bought issue #34 of *new frontiers* (especially the 3 gents who gave a fiver and said to keep the change) and the positive feedback arising from it. From the sales, we were able to donate over £200 to York City South which formed a small part of the £1,000 that YCS donated to York City in March following the first lockdown.

The last issue went on sale on January 1st, naively, we thought let's get into Monks Cross in spring, see the lay of the land and have this issue out in August. How wrong could we be? The first MX delay was announced within a fortnight and subsequent shenanigans means that it was only completed last week, a story lasting 19 years..

Down at YCS, we had a bit of a committee re-shuffle in the summer. With Chairman Derek Feasby moving back to Yorkshire, ex chair Alastair Smith answered the call, flying all the way back from the USA to commence a second term as Chairman. Ray Goodearl becomes Vice Chairman and Andy Naylor is our new Treasurer, the pair swapping roles. Our thanks go to Derek for his time as Chairman, no doubt we'll see him at games (lockdown restrictions permitting), don't where, don't know when, but hopefully it won't be too long. Equally, thanks go out to all the committee members who continue to play a part in ensuring the ongoing success of our branch which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2021.

CHECK www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk for the latest branch news. Our usual venue is [The Sheephaven Bay](#) (2-3 Mornington Street, Camden, NW1 7QD), a 5 minute walk from Mornington Crescent tube. All welcome, hopefully in early 2021 events will include:

- Spring: Annual Darts Night
- Spring: Guest Speaker
- May: AGM & Quiz

CHECK www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk for a lot more City related content and history.

EASY FUND RAISING: YCS have an Easy Fund Raising account. IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY to donate to YCS / YCFC when shopping online. Sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/y/cs1/>, make "York City South" your cause. PS Select "Donation Reminder" and install the app and never miss a chance to donate. With 4,400+ online retailers, including Amazon, Argos, Tesco, John Lewis, Next, Gap, PC World, Expedia, and lastminute.com, whether you want to do your weekly shop, upgrade your phone, book a holiday or buy a coat to keep you warm on the terraces, Easy Fund Raising is a most. York City South will get a commission on every purchase which we will put back into our club. IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY.

YCST: Good to see the efforts of YCST and their fundraising events, both big and small, keep it up and MX promptness. If the momentum can be maintained and built upon, let us hope that YCFC and YCST can work together for the benefit of YCFC.

Bootham Crescent: A Second Home

Like the move to Monks Cross, the second volume of Paul Bowser's "Bootham Crescent: A Second Home" is delayed. However, it is for entirely different reasons.

Whilst Book 1 dealt with City's history up to 1960 and was largely a case of digging out archive records, of which there were believed to be few in existence, the second book has covered the last 60 years where there is so much more information available. During his Book 1 research, Paul came across a whole new set of archives including



one concerning the pre 1932 ownership of Bootham Crescent. All the archive records were fairly clear cut in what they said.

For Book 2, many more sources, not to mention the City supporters who have supported City for more than 60 years, are available. Together, these offer much information and some conflicting views whilst the might of the York City supporters struggle to accurately some questions. I won't start the debate about the exact date when the ability to use the Pop Stand tunnel to change ends ceased. Even the date of the switch of the home end from Grosvenor Road to Shipton

Street end is shrouded in some mystery as it happened in stages and for a long time, for most games, City supporters were able to select their end, even if the tunnel was closed.

The glory seasons, count all the promotion seasons, Wembley and cup runs as well, are all covered in great deal as are the darkest days in City's history.

Lovingly and painstakingly, Paul Bowser hasn't tried to replicate former club historian Dave Batters' definitive books about the Minstermen. He writes from a different perspective, that of Bootham Crescent.

Given the 273 pages of Book 1, Book2 is likely to top that, the 2 books combined might even beat the 728 pages of a 1995 Southport FC history, believed to be the biggest club history ever written.

Like Book 1, expect it to be filled with many previously unseen and rare pictures and artefacts. Watch out for publication details in 2021, it'll be worth every penny.

Contact Paul (via email minstermanbooks@outlook.com) or buy Book 1 (**just a few copies remain**) (<http://www.ypdbooks.com/sport/1952-bootham-crescent-a-second-home-YPD02131.html>).

Covid-19 – Think About The Youngsters

When Covid19 first struck, no one could have envisaged and no one could have predicted what might happen. That said, it took the footballing authorities an age to determine how the end the 2019/20 season. From City's perspective, at least we got a shot at promotion. Come lockdown, City weren't in the best of form, but Kings Lynn were struggling badly. Some teams beneath City in the table could have argued that they were the form teams and potential title winners.

At least we got to play out the season and have a shot at promotion.

Looking back, we were badly prepared. We went into the Alty game not fully match fit, Alty had won their play off qualifier a week earlier, but more importantly with a squad who were largely out of contract after the play offs. With many City players out of contract, I wonder how much motivation some of the team that played against Alty had. Indeed, some had announced new clubs within days of the defeat.

Post Alty, I wasn't too disappointed with Steve Watson's immediate comments, he remarked about a new beginning and giving the younger players a chance to flourish. There were plenty of older players who would have little, if any, improvement in them, but I felt some of the younger players, Ferguson, Green, Kempster and Maguire were possibly a basis for a new team. Equally, Spratt, King and Dyer rarely let themselves (or the team) down when called upon.

Expectations started to temper with the first tranche of new signings, but some of the later signings offered more hope.

In the season far, Southport especially, there is something about the team, but youngsters like Guilfoyle, Gamble, Wollerton and Potts have struggled for game time, as have City's own home grown youngsters. 5 of the 25 man squad are eligible to play for our Under 19 side in league games, so at least they'll can get game time (coronavirus permitting). I'm increasingly pessimistic about the route from youth to first team football. It is becoming an almost impossible leap forward. Which might beg the question, is an Under 19 side worth it?

Ben Godfrey I'll hear you shout. I can't possibly disagree, but that's 5 years ago and subsequent EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) changes and our finances suggest such a move might not happen again in the foreseeable future. At the time of his transfer, we were entitled to arrange whatever deal we wanted. I recall City turning down 2 or more Norwich bids before a deal was agreed. When will we see such a deal again? Not whilst we're outside EPPP and in NLN (even the National League).

Vinnie Steels is a case in point. He was in a similar situation to Godfrey, being under 17 and without a professional contract. The crucial difference was that in 2016 City were a part of EPPP and could negotiate a transfer deal (on our terms). When Burnley came along, with City being outside EPPP, all Burnley had to do was to make a "7day" approach and Steels was able to leave City for nothing. City's EPPP funding (initially £260,000) had ceased 2 years after we lost our Football League status.

Whilst City do a tremendous amount with the York City Foundation with football all the way down to primary school age level and provide a pathway to our first team, the reality is that the ladder ends at 19.

Given City's status, youngsters can be cherry picked at any age. Rob Guilfoyle was playing for City sides up to the age of 16. On leaving school, when Hull City came along, there was really nothing City could do to stop him moving on.

Solihull Moors run 23 junior teams. Surely a lucrative earner for them with Mums and Dads and siblings buying drinks and burgers. Not to mention, a committed supporter base for the first team.

Whilst it is a common perception that home grown players show more loyalty and commitment to their club and engender a bond between club and player, in City's recent history, few have made a successful transition from boy to man with City.

Since 2004 (and our first relegation from The Football League), just 6 home grown players have graduated to play 30 or more City first team games. Step forward Tom Platt, Andy McWilliams, Adam Boyes, Lev Yalcin, Bryan Stewart and Graeme Law. Unfortunately, to many eyes, not the calibre of player for a successful City side. Others like David Stockdale and Byron Webster didn't make 30 City appearances and were released by City, considered not good enough to make the grade.

Previously Championship clubs, Brentford and Huddersfield scrapped their academy systems in favour of an Under 23 (or "B") team. Birmingham did likewise in December 2020 (despite netting a reported for £30,000,000 for academy product Jude Bellingham in the summer). Presumably with regular games, "B" or Under 23 players are closer to (and better prepared) for first team football. With our age profile of our 25 man squad, we could field both over and under 23 sides (injuries permitting). Elsewhere, some Under 23 leagues have an option to field a small number of overage players (Chelsea's Under 23s fielded Peter Cech last week), a perfect opportunity for senior players returning from injury (or out of the first team) to get some football.

With 5 of our 25 man squad eligible to play Under 19 football, they deserve a higher level to have the best possible chance of success. 3 of them (Charlie Jebson-King, Reiss Harrison and Archie Whitfield) played for our Under19s last season and did enough to earn professional contracts for season, so it might feel to them that it is treading water and they deserve a chance to play at a higher level. Equally, Rob Guilfoyle scored a reputed 50+ goals for Hull's junior sides last season, so doesn't really need to repeat the process again, presumably against lesser sides than last season. Ditto Harry Flatters, dropping down from Middlesbrough to York.

Some of our first team squad have had little game time. Alex Wollerton's virtues were extolled by Watto after the Notts County win, so far, no game time. Reon Potts, Josh King and Harry Spratt are youngsters who might benefit from Under 23 football. In spite of disrupted season (Covid and injuries included) we've a healthy number of players unable to kick on with their careers. Released at the end of the season?.

2020/1 – What's In A Formation

This is Steve Watson's 3rd (2nd full) season with City. So it comes as some surprise that so many still criticise his favoured formation. He has always selected a defensively solid formation based on 3 centre backs.

City, have generally looked a more solid defensively than in recent seasons.

It is sometimes fine margins between 352, 532, 433 and 442 formations. We saw at Southport how Robbie Tinkler was pushed in front the defence, effectively doing a very similar role but in front of, rather than alongside the centre backs.. Equally wing backs and full backs do a similar role, but maybe from a slightly different starting position.

Olly Dyson at right wing back. A defensive player he is not.

Tinkler can easily move between defence and midfield (and central and right). Likewise Dyson out wide or in the hole, whilst Harry Bunn is another who can play in a number of positions. Across midfield, we've seen players take on different roles. All players who've had decent football educations and are capable of playing in different positions, maybe not Holland's "total football", but all dependable players at this level.

Sean Newton: Great to see him doing so well this season. With some of the newcomers touted for captaincy, I was a little surprised to see him made captain. Got to say, he's flourished in the role, vocal on the pitch, star player and top scorer. What more could you ask for? 10 more like him.

It has been good to see Watto swap formation, he has the players who can cope with different formations, play in different positions, even switch formation during a game.

Equally, any competent manager needs to be able to change his formation to deal with particular opponents, or particular match situations.

The squad seems stronger and deeper than recent seasons and the players seem mentally stronger (certainly pre Ashton) which bodes well for a good season.

All that and we're barely a quarter of the way into the season, some players haven't had the chance to impress and given the number of newcomers this season, no one can say we're the finished article. Let's hope there are still better things to come.

It just remains to be seen what other position Jake Cassidy can play. He missed the Spennymoor game and we had our most lack league performance for several weeks.

I'll make no apologies for saying that a club of City's stature and infrastructure should be playing at a higher level than NLN, we should be beating the teams we come up against week in, week out. That said, we are where we are for a reason, results on the pitch, and we have no divine right to be playing at a higher level. We need to earn the right on the pitch to be playing at a higher level.

For any successful side., you look around the team for players who are capable of playing at a division (or 2) higher. We've a sprinkling of players that might apply to, a lot of our players maybe on their way down the divisions, whether they can move back up again remains to be seen, but look around the team and there is a core of National League standard players.

This season has been of a stop / start nature. We finished July with play off defeat and 8 contracted players for this season. With recruitment ongoing throughout pre season and beyond (10 players joined us in September), it is understandable that City were slow into their stride, especially so when Bunn and Redshaw weren't fit for the big kick off. Our early season was further disrupted by twice suffering from 2 week coronavirus lockdowns.

The value of a large squad soon proved its worth given a good number of early season injuries (we've had at least 4 occupants of the right (wing) back slot).

That said, there have been some encouraging performances (along with a couple or so slip ups).

Certainly, the team looks more solid than recent seasons, upfront, the likes of Dyson, Bunn and Redshaw could prove to be a handful for defences at this level.

Post our second coronavirus stoppage, we've comeback strongly, showing a lot more resilience than in recent seasons. The Blyth win was comfortable and we went into the following week with 3 home games.

How many times in recent seasons have we had an away win and gone into back to back home games expecting a couple of wins will do wonders for our league position only for the good work to be undone with no wins, maybe just a couple of draws. This time, we showed determination to beat perennial rivals Chester, a different performance to beat niggledy Kettering and then not quite up to our best, we were leading Spennymoor until the last few minutes of the game. Both Kettering and Spennymoor are games we might well have lost last season. 3 wins and we moved from 17th to 4th.

All we need now is for a forward to step up to the mark and score on a regular basis. With Sean Newton being our top scorer and goals across midfield, if only we had a prolific scorer.

The perils of success? We saw how quickly Chesterfield jumped in for Gloucester's manager James Rowe after their flying start. Rumours abounded that Steve Watson was also in the running for the job. What would it take for a club to make a formal approach for him with City well up the table?

Given the wider circumstances, it is good to we've still got a team to support and that City appear to be riding out any lack of income crisis. Macclesfield have fallen by the wayside, whilst at least 2 teams City were due to play this season at Under 19 level appear to have withdrawn their sides from our youth league.

Monks Cross – An Apology

Good day, this is Stevie Mac, captain of today's train crew. On behalf of The City Of York Council (CoYC), we are pleased to announce we will be shortly arriving at the Delayed Stadium, brought to you by our sponsors, experts in delayed trains, LNER. How shortly, I cannot yet confirm.

We apologise for the delayed departure from Bootham Crescent and would like to further apologise if some of the amenities that you would expect to find at a top class amenity are unavailable. Also, I've just been informed the toilets are closed due to drainage issues.

I'm unable to confirm the exact reasons for the delays as no one at CoYC HQ can help.

Please note, kick off may be delayed, or cancelled due to the wrong type of snow in winter, leaves falling on terraces in autumn and excessive summer heat causing a hard and dangerous pitch and buckled pitch markings.

However, I am pleased to say that at the moment, no delays and cancellations are expected in springtime, although the risk of incompetence, our council stewards and operatives going sick or otherwise being unavailable are ever present risks.

Furthermore, CoYC take no responsibility for any delays or any failure to publish an expected arrival time. You must seek redress from another party such as GLL, Buckingham, LNER, York City or York City Knights, in fact anyone but us. CoYC and LNER are unable to help.

Please ensure you have bought a ticket for your journey before you enter the ground. Failure to purchase a ticket may lead to a penalty fine, in extreme cases you may be subject to extra time. Due to covid restrictions, you must sit in your allocated seat and any noise or protests in the quiet zone around the Directors Box will result in immediate expulsion at any time of discontent.

A whole host of tickets are available, none with early booking discounts, although those who buy their tickets early should get the best seats. However, failure to sit in your own reserved seat may lead to you being asked to leave.

Please note, today's journey to Division 1 will be delayed as the express line is closed for maintenance and we will take a scenic detour along the local line stopping at all stations along the National League and Division 2. We are currently unable to confirm our arrival time. Our driver Steve and his fireman, Micky expect a smooth journey (but can't discount a few bumps on the way) and promise they'll get us to our destination as quickly as possible but can't discount delays caused by signing the wrong type of player and strikers being in the wrong place.

However, given the nature of the delays, refunds are available in the form of advanced season tickets at a reduced early bird price. Also, to help compensate for the delays, we will be offering tickets to York City Knights games for the foolhardy. Have a nice delay.

25 Years Ago This Month

Vision of 10,000 all-seater stadium

Building for the future

by Tony Kelly
Chief Sports Writer

CASH-LADEN York City are gearing up for an all-seater stadium to match a drive towards Division One and a football future in the next century.

Ambitious plans to re-develop Bootham Crescent, including a new 3,000-seat stand at the Grosvenor Road end for 'visiting' fans were outlined at last night's annual meeting.

Shareholders were told by club chairman Douglas Craig that of the cash raked in this season - estimates put City's revenue at more than £800,000 from the sales of Jon McCarthy and Nick Culkin, the lucrative Coca-Cola Cup run and the FA Cup appearance on Sky Television - as much as half may have to be set aside for ground improvements.

A planning application was likely to be submitted in January as well as an application for grant aid for the new Grosvenor Road development.

That would likely cost £1 million with City expected to find at least £250,000, the rest to come from bodies such as the Football Grounds Improvements Trust.

Improving the 'away' end was an integral stage in establishing a 10,000 all-seater stadium at Bootham Crescent to comply with the Taylor Report and with the

club's goal to reach the First Division.

Declared Craig: "We have had a significant amount of money in the club this season. We have to keep a significant amount, if not more than half of that money, for doing ground improvements.

"The ambition is we have to have a 10,000 all-seater ground within a reasonable period of time, cer-

Another world

THE cash gulf that separates York City from the Premiership elite was starkly illustrated by Douglas Craig.

He revealed that City's total gate receipts from their memorable home Coca-Cola Cup showdown with Manchester United was £65,000, the same amount as Manchester United's VAT bill from their first-leg duel against City at Old Trafford.

tainly within three years to get into the First Division.

"Despite what people might say, our ambition is to be in the First Division."

Asked whether that amount of seats for the 'away' end was disproportionate to the average number of visiting fans, Craig replied: "The Football Licensing Authority is still hell-bent on having all-seater stadia.

"The Football League has also laid down certain criteria on the minimum number of seats and facilities. If we are to get to the First Division then it will be a requirement in the next

year or two that we have to have a stadium capable of 10,000 seats for spectators."

The chairman reiterated the board's determination to maintain the club within stringent cash limits, refusing to bow to "suicidal wages" and adding that City's philosophy was to cultivate young players.

If youngsters then progressed and a decent price was offered to give them a higher grade of football, players would be given the chance to do so, he explained.

"The club must stand or fall by its own efforts and the efforts of people within the club," said Craig.

"Let's not beat about the bush. The board's policies are that we operate within the financial constraints that a football club has to work under. There's no point in a club getting into a state where banks are prepared to pull the plug."

Meanwhile, Craig also promised to take note of a suggestion from the floor that the board hold other meetings with shareholders other than just the annual meeting.

That initiative was prompted by a shareholder claiming there was a wealth of experience and wisdom among the club's shareholders that could be tapped should the board feel it necessary.

Retiring directors Colin Webb and Barry Swallow were re-elected unopposed.

● Despite the virus currently plaguing the club City's FA Youth Cup tie at Oldham Athletic was to go ahead tonight, kick-off 7pm. The only likely absentee was striker Chris Tate.

Part Time Football

Should clubs at our level splash the cash on full time or part time players? Should clubs go for full time players (possibly dredging the lowest reaches of professional footballers) or pay the top end part time rates to attract the best part time players.

Part time might be a cheaper option and we've seen in recent seasons that part time doesn't necessarily mean inferior players and results when playing against City.

With the proliferation of gyms and personal trainers, many part time players will have access to gyms and fitness facilities during their working day. Many more will be employed in more "traditional" jobs, teachers, bricklayers, and other labouring jobs included. The argument goes that you can attract the best of the part time players on lesser money than professionals.

They prefer to combine part time football with a day job, in many cases it is more financially beneficial. Some even argue part timers enjoy the game more as they consider it a hobby, not a job. That said, other players would always give up a day job for a full time footballing career. Nowadays, there is little difference between part time and full time footballers.

I seem to recall Peter Jameson stating he was financially worse off a professional than he was playing part time when his working wage supplemented his football earnings. However, as with many, the lure of being a professional footballer outweighed the money.

At City's level, we have seen a good number of players that started their professional career with City in recent years. Some have done well, others not so well, as is to be expected of any player.

Factor in that York is largely a footballing island, any part time player needs to travel to York to train and play. In recent years, how many players have come down from the North East, for a part time player, a 90 minute car journey down to York to train and play, that is after a full day's hard graft. Hardly conducive to an intensive training session and then another 90 minute drive home and up early for work the next day.

For City, part time might be the best players from the York & District League. Part time football might be better suited to the larger, more industrial conurbation.

In recent years, even in National League North, we've increasingly seen teams favour full time football. Salford and Harrogate spring to mind. Just look where they are now. Teams are even turning pro at Northern Premier League level.

A mixed squad would be the worst of both worlds. Imagine half the squad unable to train during the day whilst the professionals are left kicking their heels waiting for the part timers to arrive in the evening. No thank you.

Whilst City's finances must be stretched to the limit to support a large professional squad, I believe it offers our best hope of promotion. Any team that goes part time is taking a backwards step, the start of a slippery road into oblivion.

Monks Cross – Hurry Up

It was December 2001 when the future of York City FC and Bootham Crescent were thrown into doubt. A 19 year (and counting) odyssey and downwards spiral began. Thanks to the York City Supporters Trust and the wider support base, the club's future was secured within a few turbulent months. The supporters alone saved the club. Bootham Crescent's future wasn't so easy, a way forward was found, after much hard work from our supporters who worked tirelessly with the City Of York Council and the footballing authorities. Over to the council and the fun and games started.

All the time, City's hands were tied. Whilst waiting for the council, the club has faded and gradually sunk. Relegation from The Football League in 2004, continued financial hardship, opening the purse strings saw 2012 and the Wembley Double Week, but the struggles continued. Was 2016 the nadir? Another relegation from The Football League. We all thought so but worse was to follow a year later. Even an FA Trophy success at Wembley was no consolation for relegation to regional football.

This is our 5th non league season, all the time we've seen cutbacks as central funding fell from a million pounds a year to near nothing. Bootham Crescent has been allowed to crumble, why spend money when the ground is to be bulldozed. December 2020 and it wasn't fit to host supporters for 2 games post lockdown such was the neglect. All the time, we endured multiple delays to MX amid much silence from the council.

City is a big game for many NLN clubs, a game, Bootham Crescent is their Wembley. Any illusions of grandeur are shattered as soon as a team arrives at Bootham Crescent. The team coach navigates a laborious reverse into the car park, any players driving are refused entry to the car park, told to find street parking by the steward, the start of a blind drive to find a spot and rush back for the usual 1:30 arrival deadline. Once inside, illusions are further shattered by the decrepit dressing rooms, especially the showers, and the decay evident around the ground (this season, even the pitch).

Like many, I'll be disappointed to leave Bootham Crescent for final time, but the sooner it happens, the sooner City will have a future in a modern stadium. A plush training ground might attract players, how much better will it be to be able to offer prospective signings a state of the art stadium.

MX will have proper catering facilities. The Fanzone will serve beer inside the ground and if you want a meal, there is catering for 500. Contrast that to Bootham Crescent where the Vice Presidents, who do a sterling fundraising job, host pre match luncheons, once they reach 30 people, its cramped, elbow to elbow eating. MX will offer City much greater non match day opportunities. Today, a sportsmans' dinner, is held at the racecourse who rake off a good proportion of the ticket price leaving City with a pittance. The day we are in our new ground can't come soon enough.

What Comes Next? JMP have always committed to ensure good funding for City whilst at Bootham Crescent, it remains to be seen if the situation changes at MX. One of the main factors in the MX move has been that it offers much greater non matchday income streams than Bootham Crescent.

Odds And Sods

ASHTON UNITED. Any defeat is disappointing, especially from 2-0 and 3-1 up. At least, now we can concentrate on the league. Given the compressed season, that might not be a bad thing.
PG TIPS have reported big sales of their long brew tea in York in the past few days, fans believe it stays in the cup for more than 5 minutes.
BEN GODFREY MONEY. Don't expect City to spend the money on transfer fees and big money contracts. Not only do the accounts show how much money we owe, but more importantly, we don't need any fancy Dan footballers thinking a move to City is a nest egg to put aside for a rainy day. Give me solid, hard working players who want to play for City, not the money, every day.
MX1. ... A little surprised to hear Councilor Nigel Ayre stating that all the MX test events have already been held. Now when did those 2,000 invisible supporters slip inside the ground and who tested the turnstiles and the evacuation procedures?
MX2. ... or maybe the council won't let in spectators.
MX3. ... and will the council cap capacity at 400, what a coincidence, the exact car park capacity.
ALEX SABELLA. It has been a bad few weeks for Argentinean football. Not only did they lose Maradona. but Alex Sabella as well. In 1978, Harry Haslam, Sheffield United's manager went to sign Maradona, his club couldn't afford him, so they signed a young Sabella. His silky skills lit up football for a couple of seasons. One obituary noted, "It soon became apparent that he was too good for the Blades, Sabella became used to seeing his expertly placed passes arriving into empty space that should have been filled by a teammate". Didn't realise City have had so many world class players who couldn't find a teammate with a pass, I always thought they were useless players.
GEOFF PRYCE. Sad to read about the death of Geoff Pryce. To 80s Wasps fans, he was as important and just as much a fans' favourite as Keith Walwyn was to City.
YORK CITY KNIGHTS. Unfortunately; given Toronto's demise, the RL authorities stuck close to RL heartland when deciding the new Super League club. At least it gives the Knights a full season to bed into MX and prepare a proper top flight challenge.
SUMMER 2020. At least the out of contract City players didn't act like Ryan Fraser and Lyle Taylor and refuse to play in the play off game.
RETRO CITY. For a wide range of City kit (1922 to date available, including several items linked to the iconic 74 maroon Y front and matching rain jacket) see https://world-retro.com/product-tag/y/?filter_club=york-city
BEST SELLER in the Arsenal club shop. The Mesut Ozil doll, it is just like the real thing, doesn't do anything in the box, is overpriced and cries when dropped.
WINTER BREAK? Sheffield United have already stopped playing football
STREAMING: Well done to the clubs for their streaming services, even if due to outside contractors they didn't always work as hoped. A long term revenue stream?

1974 First Day Cover





Bootham Cheers

December 2020 – free with new frontiers # 35

Last Orders

Up until the capitulation at Ashton, I'd been reasonably satisfied with the team's performances. I don't fall into the category of those believing that every game without a win is a disaster nor that we should be able to "*just turn up*" to gather three points or passage to the later rounds.

Clearly, if we want to get promoted, games in the "L" column need to be in a single figure minority. In the last full seasons of NLN and National League South - the champions lost only 8 league games. In the abridged 2019/20 season, we'd lost 3 home and 3 away matches with 8 games remaining.

So we cannot afford a losing streak at any time, nor sequences without wins. Early season performances didn't leave me with the feeling that we'd have such runs. Indeed I believe that despite the larger than expected turnaround in personnel we have better players in almost every position.

However better players, in themselves don't necessarily lead to better outcomes. It is for the management to develop a playing style that makes the most effective use of the talent at their disposal.

It is here that the second half at Ashton raises and reinforces concerns.

Coming back out, two goals to the good we should have been on the front foot and eager to put the game to bed. Instead it seems that we were intent on hanging on to the scoreline, rather than building to allow subs to come on without any great pressure.

We must have foregone the half time cuppa for a mug of Horlicks such was the lethargy on display. We duly got a rude awakening.

I was more disappointed by losing our place in the FA Cup, as the FA Trophy isn't a competition that is high on my priorities (been there, done that).

Consequently, I would have been quite prepared for an under strength team to take game time benefits; without necessarily being upset over a defeat. When the team was announced it became apparent that the club places greater store in the competition.

I'm afraid the cupboard of ambition was bare in the second period and it was an embarrassing night's fare. Senior players showed a lack of hunger and determination and ultimately we reaped what our passive approach sowed.

The free Saturday hopefully means soul searching and recovery leading to a better approach come Boxing Day. For me, it should start with Watson and Cummins.

Apart from our (long held) inability to put two decent halves together in the same match; lately we have been getting in front and then inviting teams onto us rather than trying to add to our advantage.

Our midfield, which has much more experience and presence than last, should be owning the middle of the park. Rather, we seem to surrender possession too easily

and we allow the opposition to dictate play and sense a comeback. With our squad we shouldn't need to go all Worthington and Foyle in our approach.

Redshaw and Bunn are looking like a more than decent combination in the making. Cassidy looks like a competent target man and links play better than his predecessor. He's missed a couple of decent chances when through on the keeper so it remains to be seen whether he can match the goal scoring record of Burrow.

We haven't really seen the same frequency of quality delivery from our wing backs. This means that Cassidy's opportunities to attack space and improve his career ratio have been rationed. As the season progresses, I would expect a developing Rob Guilfoyle to become more of a threat. Unless Reon Potts gets a goal to give him greater confidence and aggression, I can see him being replaced in the pecking order.

Watson talked about getting goals throughout the team and this looks a possibility.

I'm concerned about the defensive mistakes from Newton but you cannot argue with his free kicks.

Dyson has shown that he is prepared to buy the ticket of a shot from the edge of the box with a couple of prizes already. Woods has popped up with a couple and Akil Wright looks able to get on the end of set piece crosses. Barrow seems able to cut inside and shoot with his right which is a pleasing change.

Apart from an assist from a corner, I'm afraid Paddy hasn't influenced games and he may find he becomes a squad player rather than a first pick.

Defensively our keeper is amongst the better in the league. Brown looks to be a mobile version of Steve McNulty and with Tinkler should be able to get the best out of Barrow, Newton, Kennedy and youngsters like King, Spratt and Gamble. Hopefully we'll have the bonus of Michael Duckworth in the new year.

So with less than a quarter of the season gone, I'm not too despondent but hope that there is a change in approach.

We don't have the pace to become a counter attacking team, but we do have the potential to boss possession in the right areas of the pitch.

Watson needs to remove the shackles or if there are already none, needs to back the team to play more offensively.

Cross Town Up Ranking

Rumour has it that we will soon be playing at Monks Cross.

The almost (?) embarrassing pictures of turnstile gates that adorn the "give what you can" Virtual Turnstile pages for the streaming service show that we need to leave our beloved Bootham Crescent sooner rather than later.

It will be a real shame if the coronavirus restrictions mean that large groups of supporters are ineligible to attend historic games at either venue. Unfortunately with or without past season tickets it is looking like **Tiers for Souvenirs**.

WD

Bootham Cheers has been an integral and long running feature throughout new frontiers.

City's Biggest Naughty Boy?

Ex-City director recalls scandal

by Malcolm Huntington

UNHAPPY memories came flooding back for former York City director Arthur Brown, when the current alleged bribery scandal hit the national headlines.

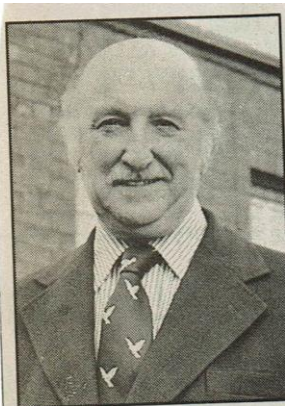
Brown was City's players' director when the 1964 bribery sensation was revealed by the Sunday People and it was discovered that Jack Fountain, a City player at the time, was involved.

"I can recall it as if it was yesterday," said Brown, who is still a keen supporter of the club and is often a guest of the directors at home matches.

"My first reaction was one of complete shock. The board of directors just couldn't believe that it could happen to our club and it was certainly a very unhappy time for us.

"I was one of the directors who interviewed Jack Fountain and I can remember what a sad affair it all was.

"While he was the only one of our players found guilty, we were fairly certain that others had been involved, but it was never proved.



Arthur Brown

"It was a hell of a time for York City Football Club and it was all brought back to mind by this latest news.

"It was terrible to think it could happen and the scars and damage of it took a long time to heal.

"I didn't think anything about it at the time, but once the scandal had been revealed, my mind went back to one particular game. One of our players had the ball and instead of passing it as he would normally do, he went back towards his own goal and then gave a silly pass back which was intercepted and a goal was scored.

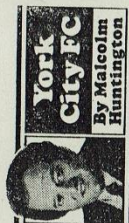
"It's all very sad when this kind of thing happens because so many people work so hard for football and they feel very let down.

"But I honestly can't see how one player can influence a match to any great extent if the other ten don't know about it."

More Naughty Boys: <http://www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk/xdb-naughty.htm>

Byrne set to go for £100,000

YORK CITY striker John Byrne is expected to sign for Queen's Park Rangers later today for £100,000



Many clubs have watched Byrne, City's leading scorer last season with 27 goals, over the past few days and have been few definite inquiries.

Smith revealed today that he had turned down bids approaching six figures for Byrne recently and only last week told Rangers that he was not available.

"It daresay I won't be popular among some supporters for allowing him to leave, but the decision is mine. After all, it is my job that is on the line, not my back."

The City manager was called to an office during the game to accept a phone call from Mulhery and Busby and it was then that the transfer talks began.

Byrne caught the 3.19 train to London last night and agreed his terms with the London First Division club about 10pm after talks.

Byrne, who is 23, joined City as an apprentice professional in 1977 and became a full-time professional on February 1, 1979. He made a quarter-season with City and a quarter-season with Queens Park Rangers in League appearances, scoring 35 goals. In 10 Milk Cup games he scored five times, while in 11 FA Cup ties he was on target three times.

Byrne's great skill has made him a popular player among City supporters in addition to winning him the Fourth Division prize of the Year award presented by the Sunday newspaper last season.

His displays against Queen's Park Rangers in the Milk Cup recently persuaded Mulhery to move in with an offer for him. Mulhery said: "I was very impressed with Byrne against our Omniturf pitch."

John Byrne, producing a shot for City at Loftus Road



YORK CITY'S manager, Denis Smith, yesterday ended a five-week quest for a striker when he signed Aldershot's Dale Banton.

Banton had travelled hundreds of miles to York for a replacement for Byrne, who was sold to Queens Park Rangers on October 17 for £100,000.

The £50,000 fee which York have paid for the 23-year-old Banton shattered the club record.

York's previous highest outlay was £18,000 paid to Banton in August 1974, for the midfield

player, Cave, who recently died suddenly at his United States home.

After Byrne's move to London, Smith tried to sign Baird from Southampton but could not agree a fee but turned his attention to Banton after the move fell through.

Smith's first offer for Banton was turned down by the then Aldershot manager, Len Walker, but following a board takeover, Aldershot's new manager, Ron Harris agreed to the move this week.

Smith completed the deal for a watching Banton score four goals in the Milk cup against Newport on Tuesday.

Banton has chalked up 39 goals for Aldershot since moving from West Ham and an average of almost one every two games.

At Bootham Crescent he will link up with Waiwyn, who has scored 84 goals in 165 appearances.

One Out, One In

Walwyn Or Maradona - The Best Ever?

Watching City for so many years probably doesn't make me qualified to nominate a best footballer of all time. In Maradona's case, I still haven't forgiven him his "hand of god" goal in 1986 or the subsequent total lack of any sort of apology (even acknowledgement that he was wrong).

I accept that the vast of majority of players will seek to bend the rules to gain an advantage for their team. Sometimes, it is whatever it takes to win. You only have to take a look at the Premier League to see countless instances of players trying to get an advantage. Some players get away with it, some don't. Maradona did.

Maybe if the England players had been similarly inclined to win at all costs, we wouldn't still be talking about Maradona's world class second goal, it deserves all the accolades it has ever garnered.



However, I will not give Maradona the plaudit of the world's best ever player. That is an impossible accolade to bestow on any player, but I will accept that he was probably the best of his generation.

Bottom or Aimson or Walwyn or Barnes, we have the same arguments closer to home. Players from different eras, all playing the same game but all playing a different game. It is impossible to judge across eras.

For Maradona, a hugely successful career in Argentina was followed by a spell at Barcelona before becoming a Napoli legend. Add in 4 successive World Cups (controversy included) and you see the impact of the man.

However, without naming any defenders, Puskas, Pele, Best, Maradona, Ronaldo and Messi have all been touted as "the best in the world", a new one comes along about once a decade, 2 this decade and we can't even agree which of the 2 is the better.

Equally those who claim the pitches Maradona played on and the fouls conceded against him make him the world's greatest might not remember the Matthews / di Stefano era when pitches were mud baths and anything went.

If fouls committed on a player makes the world's greatest, then take your pick from Allan Clarke and Peter Osgood.

In the case of Maradona, his stature may be judged by the sense of grieving across Argentina and in Naples, how many players have had such an impact across 2 countries, 2 continents? On his day, he was unstoppable, by fair or foul means and for many years he was a joy to watch.

Suggest when we all get into Monks Cross, we go to the Fan Zone and debate the best ever. By the time we've agreed, City will be the richest club in the world.

After City: Where Are They Now?

Chris Hogg: Retired in 2013 after a serious knee injury after 165 appearances in The Scottish Premier League for Hibs and Inverness Caledonian Thistle. Starting in City's youth system, he captained England's Under 15 side. At 16, he joined Ipswich for £150,000 where he progressed through the England age sides up to Under 19s but failed to make the grade. Maybe lacking in height for a centre back, he was a solid, sturdy defender who could more than hold his own in the air. He started his coaching career with Ipswich. In February 2020, he joined Newcastle as an Under 23 coach.

Joey Hutchinson: Severed his spinal cord injuries and confined to a wheelchair, requiring round the clock care, after a swimming pool incident in Ibiza in June 2016. In January 2020, at a High Court, Mrs Justice Andrews concluded that the case, an £8.5m claim for damages, could proceed in the English courts.

Gabby McGill: After 2 seasons at Middlesbrough, he joined Scottish Championship Dunfermline (May 2019) on a 2 year contract after they agreed compensation with Middlesbrough where in his second season he scored 16 goals in 19 games, including 4 goals against Manchester United. His fourth appearance for The Pars was as sub in a League Cup game at Celtic Park (August 2019) having scored 5 goals in a pre season friendly. He made his first Pars start on 7th September 2019 against Alloa in the Scottish (League) Challenge Cup, known as the Tunnock's Caramel Wafer Challenge Cup. On 1st Feb 2020, he scored his first senior goal in Dunfermline's 3-2 win at Queen Of The South. He joined Edinburgh City on loan in October 2020.

Paul Harsley: Ex 2010 loanee, in February 2018, he had a spell as Barnsley's caretaker manager. In June 2018, he was appointed Manchester City's Elite Development Squad (i.e. Under 23) manager.

Ben Wilkinson: In 2013, Youth Development Phase coach at Sheffield Wednesday. In July 2018, he joined Manchester City, initially as the Elite Development Squad (Under 23) assistant coach and in August 2020 as Under 16 Lead Coach.

Bobby Hoy: In the early 80s, a Country & Western singer on Yorkshire's Club circuit.

Richard Cooper: Appointed Mansfield caretaker manager (30/10/20), **Sam Collins** was a part of his 5 man team. Unbeaten in 3 games before Nigel Clough took office.

Darryn Stamp: Completed a PhD and become a programme leader in sport, exercise and coaching science at University Campus North Lincolnshire (Scunthorpe).

Justin Walker: Believed to be unique in playing for clubs that were relegated from The Football League in successive seasons (Exeter (2003), City (2004) and Cambridge (2005)). Later a long career as an academy coach at Derby, leading Derby's Under-18s to the Under-18 Premier League title in the 2019 which resulted in the club appearing in the illustrious UEFA Youth League in 2019/20. Appointed as part of Wayne Rooney's caretaker management team at Derby in November 2020.

Sam Fielding: City youth player, made his debut under McNamara in 2016, left for Barnsley at the end of that season. After 3 years, he joined Salford and made his first team debut for them in November 2020).

Headcase

Wouldn't it be nice if The PFA asked all their big money earners to forego 10% of the salary for the rest of this season and put the monies raised towards dementia, both research and funding former players who are now suffering. At a conservative estimate, a £2,000,000 fighting fund could be raised by next summer.

On New Years Day 1972, very early in the City v Bolton game, Phil Burrows and Bolton's Paul Hallows clashed heads near the half way line. After what seemed like a short delay (protocols were different in those days), Hallows was carried off. He spent 2 weeks in hospital with a fractured skull. Never a Bolton regular, he stayed with the club until 1974 when he joined Rochdale for whom he was a regular for 6 seasons.

It seems to me that the union is very keen to rally members when it doesn't involve money, but as soon as money is involved it is a case of "Why us", in this instance the "us" is "the players" helping themselves.

We've had recent high profile head injury cases, the Jimenez / Luiz incident probably received the most attention. Whilst Jimenez was obviously unfit to carry on, Luiz did so, albeit with a massive bandage covering a deep cut, it didn't prevent blood from seeping through. Maybe there is an argument for any player who suffers a head injury and needs a head bandage or head

stitches being forced to be substituted. In Luiz's case, from the match highlights, I wasn't sure if his positional sense was subsequently affected (it could have been his normal self). Even last week, Harry Kane got blamed for losing his opponent for Liverpool's late winner just minutes after he'd suffered a clash of heads, deemed fit to play on, was his judgement impaired?

Another Rule Change? Any player who goes to ground clutching his head or suffers a head impact has to leave the pitch for a head injury assessment. Any potentially concussed player gets an immediate check over. Bonus? It might stop players from play acting, clutching their heads at the slightest contact.

Meanwhile, although I'm not scientist (and wasn't much of a footballer either), the science seems to be coming down on the affects / impact of delayed concussion and the impact of a subsequent collisions when already concussed players make an immediate return to action.

Have you ever heard of a player wanting to be substituted. Often players and supporters alike, perceive it as a sign of weakness when any player wants to come

off the pitch. That is always the challenge a doctor / physio will have, how to convince a player to come off the pitch.

I recall in August 2014 that the Premier League announced they were going to introduce tunnel doctors to assess head injuries following several high profiles incidents during the previous season, to date, I've never seen such a person, so suggest

that it was never taken forward. Perhaps that is a first step to addressing the issue, a neutral, non biased assessment of whether a player should continue or be substituted.

Rugby Union has independent pitch side doctors and a concussion protocol that lets players be subbed for a 10 minute assessment before being allowed to return to play if they pass the assessment.

Even rugby has loosened its protocol so that a player only has to sit out 6 days before being allowed to play, effectively, nothing as anyone concussed one weekend is almost certainly eligible to play during the next weekend.

Does American Football headgear and other protective equipment work or does it just give players a false sense of security? The more that protective gear, the more the player needs protecting from himself.

A couple of weeks ago, 8 former RU internationals, all under 45 and suffering from the early stages of dementia launched a law suit against rugby's authorities. Potentially, it could bankrupt the game. A defence of there being no evidence of links between head impact and dementia might wash once, but it is not a defence that can be relied upon time and time again.

To eliminate head impact injuries in rugby would completely change the game. 7 a side tag rugby anyone?

Imagine football without heading. Lots of ticky tacky play , not a long ball in sight. The ball is not allowed to go above head height, alternatively, players commit a foul if they head a ball. No more corners played into the 6 yard box. Without the cut and throat of football, England would never win The World Cup again.

Headguards for boxing? Head blows softened potentially leading to longer fights and more head blows than now. Headguards might soften every blow but the brain is still jarred.

Neither the increased professionalism in all sports (I wonder whether Liverpool's high press / high intensity game has contributed to their heavy injury toll) nor the bigger, stronger, fitter mentality lend themselves to a reduction in head injuries.

The introduction of concussion substitutes is a step in the right direction, but it is only one small step in fully addressing the concussion issue. To fully address the situation, we might end up with a very different game to the one we know and love today.

Despite the increased focus on head injuries and their long term impact, the danger is not what happens and what is not visible today. Today's impact is a problem for tomorrow and a lifetime.

Whilst sport is incredibly important to its participants and its followers, everyone must address its inherent dangers today, tomorrow will be too late for some. I'm afraid there are no easy answers. Perhaps one day, the only football we'll be playing is FIFA and the only football we are watching is Esports.

Brighton

How the Goldstone Ground fury erupted

- 2.20pm: Tannoy announcement to Brighton fans declaring: "All Brighton directors, including David Bellotti, will not be attending today's game"
- 2.56pm: Tony Millard repeats his earlier announcement bringing forth jeers and cries of 'cowards' from home fans
- 3.00pm: Game kicks off
- 3.15pm and 36 seconds: Around seven or eight fans jig on to the pitch down to the right of the main stand. It's like a cue. Within seconds as many as 1,000 fans swarm down off the terraces
- 3.17pm: Fans start to swing on crossbar at the Goldstone Road end of ground. Bar is bent down to the turf at the middle. The process is repeated at the other end, where the bar is snapped in two
- 3.18pm: Rioters jump on to dug-outs. Some start tearing at the plastic roof of players' tunnel
- 3.19pm: Tannoy appeal that 'this was doing no-one any good' drowned out by chants and boos. First missiles, including substitutes' numbers, hurled into main stand
- 3.21pm: First charge by around a dozen fans down the players' tunnel. Holes punched in plastic sides
- 3.22pm: Wooden stave tossed towards policemen in paddock area hits woman spectator
- 3.23pm: Second charge down the tunnel. More wreckage
- 3.24pm: Police close in to form a cordon in front of the dug-outs
- 3.25pm: Riot police wearing crash helmets and carrying batons come rushing out of tunnel. Fans retreat to middle of the pitch
- 3.32pm and 58sec: Announcement is made that referee Ian Hemley has abandoned the match. "We would be grateful if you vacate the pitch." It is a good half hour before the fans finally start to clear the pitch on which large holes of have been gouged out of the turf

Brighton's

City caught up in fan fury

by Tony Kelly
Chief Sports Writer

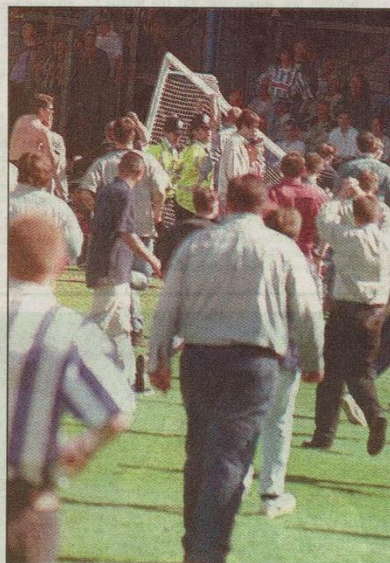
THERE was an air of inevitability about the battle of Brighton.

York fans, who went for a pre-match pint were 'politely' informed by Brighton supporters that there was going to be an incident during the game. No offence, they were told, it had nothing to do with York.

En route to the Goldstone Ground from Brighton to Hove railway stations there were Brighton shirts sporting not the names of team favourites on the back, but the appeal "Sack the Board".

Similarly bitter sentiments were chalked on the pavements leading up to the ground, the theme continued in chants and in a non-to-c subtle message hacked out of the pitch near the halfway-line, close to the players' tunnel.

The chief target for the Seagulls' spite was Chief Executive David Bellotti. Tannoy declarations, broadcast several times, that neither he, nor any other Brighton board member were present, plainly failed to placate the home anger. It



LAST POST: Brighton fans flood on to the

rather had the opposite effect as fans railed at not having a visible target at which to direct their fury.

The opening 15 minutes of the game passed without trouble. City began brightly, Glenn Naylor having two half-chances and the recalled Adrian Randall free-running and direct down the right flank.

In contrast Brighton's start was nervy almost as if the wearers of the blue and white

striped shirts were looking over their shoulders at any possible incursion.

Once a posse of seven or eight stragglers lolloped on to the pitch 15 minutes into the game chaos broke out pre-empting some of the nastiest scenes I have witnessed in more than 16 years of football coverage.

While there was no shortage of anger the near 1,000-strong invasion force initially seemed content at

York City's 500 Club

Continuing “York City’s 500 Club”, it celebrates the careers of City personalities, mainly players, who played over 500 Football (and Premier) League games. None played that number for City, Barry Jackson, with 482 league (+ 57 cup games) has the most. Over 400 players have achieved that landmark, 27 with City connections.



Peter Lorimer: With Lorimer not in first team contention (and after a summer with Toronto Blizzard in NASL), he dropped down from the top flight to the bottom tier to join City in September 1979.

He spent 6 months with us before returning to Toronto. In 1983, he rejoined Leeds, now relegated from Division 1, being a regular for 2 seasons and in the process becoming their all time top scorer.

Best remembered as a right winger with a powerful shot, he was integral to Don Revie’s Leeds side. I vividly recall his 1974 World Cup performances for Scotland when his powerful shots from free kicks caused

confusion to the mighty Brazil, Yugoslavia and minnows Zaire as Scotland came home undefeated.

For City, 3 games stand out for me. In his second game at Wigan, we won 5-2 coupled with 2 short strikers, Gordon Staniforth and Barry Wellings, our forward play was a joy to watch. A few weeks later, he showed another side to him when during an evening game, possibly Scunthorpe, he gave young right back Alan Kamara a right ear bashing, he indicated he didn’t like the pass Kamara played through to him. His City career ended with a sending off against Tranmere for a petulant act, a solid right hook as City went down to another defeat.



Mike Walker: Signed in 1966, he was something of a catch as he was a Welsh Under 23 international.

His 2 City seasons both ended in re-election to The Football League and he moved on to tier 2 Watford in September 1968. His playing high spot came in 1970 as Watford reached The FA Cup semi final. In 1973, he moved onto Colchester where he was to play the bulk of his 656 games. Given City’s form, he ranks a lowly 37th place on the list of the all time best City keepers (see the York City South web site). With Gary Sprake around, he

never earned a full Welsh cap (anyone around at the time might find that surprising). After his playing career, he moved onto Colchester’s coaching staff and in 1986 was promoted to manager. Sacked in 1987 when top of the league (boardroom shenanigans were to blame), he later had spells as manager of Norwich (twice). His son, Ian is the former Spurs and England keeper.

VAR: Big Boys' Misery

I can't believe we still haven't got VAR right, but one thing I'm sure about is that officials are losing their believe in themselves.

Take the phantom no goal for Sheffield United at Aston Villa in the summer, the ref was so infatuated by his technology that when his watch didn't bleep a goal, he wouldn't trust his own instincts and eyes and allowed play to go on.

Meanwhile, we're having constant changes to the rules and the interpretation of the rules, we've probably had more rule changes in the last 5 years than the previous 50.

Even Kevin De Bruyne recently admitted he doesn't know the rules anymore. A sad state of affairs when top players can't keep up with the rules and their interpretation. In Kevin De Bruyne's case, its possibly understandable in that from the

end of the November international break, it was conceivable that in his next 7 games, each game was played under different interpretations than in the previous game given that he was flipping between FA / Premier League and UEFA / Champions League rule interpretations.

As for referees, if my VAR official intervened, my first question to him would be, "Did I make a clear and obvious mistake?", in many cases, VAR could only reply, "No" and I would resume the game. For offside, there is nothing clear and obvious about many decisions that are being overturned.

This season, from virtually no use of the pitchside monitor, it is now being used frequently, almost invariably, the referee's decision is changed. If it is so clear and obvious, VAR just needs to overrule the referee, no messing around with mnitors.

Who says VAR doesn't help?. Or maybe we need an "Assistant VAR", someone to support / overturn the VAR's decision. After all, it is just a matter of opinion and with 2 contrasting opinions, one official is right every time. Equally, if it is that clear and obvious, then surely the VAR official should just say, "Ref, you're wrong, change your decision, no need to look at the monitor".

Outcome by committee might be the way forward. Rather than endless replays and wavy lines, just get 5 fans to review every contentious decision in slow motion or real time, it doesn't really matter, give them 30 seconds to make a decision by electronic means. A quick and non contentious decision where a simple 3-2 majority vote rules.

Project Big Picture: Any idea how something can go through 18 drafts and then get voted out by every Premier League club, including the 2 clubs behind the document? No, me neither. But it just shows how the big boys think. I'm inclined to suggest they go and play in a European Super League. Add in the cream of Europe and some of the English Top 6 would struggle to be contenders. Wonder how long their supporters would stick around if they weren't winning every week?

Don't get me started on "clear and obvious". You could say if it takes so long to make a decision, then it is not clear and obvious, but I have another solution.

Previously I advocated automation as one a possible solution, it might do away with disputes and Stockley Park.

Every contentious decision is analysed, digitized and stored in a database. When a similar incident occurs, past incidents are immediately reviewed by the technology and a decision is made based on those previous decisions. Consistency would reign. What could go wrong?

It seems that the time taken to reach a decision is increasing and every week a new dimension is added to the rulings. It is becoming farcical, you couldn't make it up if you tried.

Thankfully, with City being in NLN, we are a long way from the days of VAR (hopefully, a good FA Cup run excepted), but even so it makes me sort of want to stay in the lower echelons of football's pyramid well away from VAR.

Next Rule Change? How often do we see players go down (and stay down) injured, only for the referee to stop the game (or one team to kick the ball out of play)? The "injured" player gingerly returns to his feet, often without needing the physio. So, if that happens, my rule change would be that the player has to leave the pitch and return at the referee's discretion just as if the physio had been called on. One Step Beyond? Implement the same system as rugby whereby a physio can treat a stricken player on the pitch as the game continues.

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Meanwhile, a shout out to the many City fans keeping the game alive during difficult times, including (and in no particular order):

- *Dan Tait and everyone at York Hospital Ball whose podcasts have been insightful recollections from many ex City players and managers, Martin Foyle and Nigel Pepper particularly interesting considering we don't often hear them these days*
 - *Michael Miles has been prolific with his Y-Front fanzine since lockdown. I live in fear that he'll soon overtake new frontiers in terms of the number of issues. His constant twitter feed of epic pics and podcasts also deserves a mention*
 - *Tony Cole, more wonderful photos*
 - *Shooting Towards The Shippo, more podcasts*
 - *Phil Howden, a plethora of City in action videos, topped by the long awaited "Canham Tapes", check it out if you haven't already*
 - *Dan Simmonite and the social media team at City, Banksy was a work of art*
 - *All (make that most) of the social media posters, including those who run the York City Supporters Facebook page*
 - *Andrew Leathley and a fine GLF/ Memoirs Of Bootham Crescent issue.*
- Long may it continue.*

45 That Got Away

Despite our lowly league status, I count 45 ex players (loanees and trialists included) who have played for City and are still playing in the top 4 divisions, including 9 who are contracted to Premier League clubs. Pride of place must go to Ben Godfrey.

The other 8 ex City players contracted to Premier League clubs date back to Stephen Henderson, our 2007 young loanee keeper from Bristol City, now 3rd choice at Crystal Palace. Burnley have 4 ex City players (Nick Pope, Charlie Taylor, Bailey Peacock – Farrell and Ben Gibson) whilst Championship Wycombe is home to 3 ex City players (David Stockdale, Alex Pattison and Darius Charles (if you count him as ex City as he only spent 3 days with us before announcing his girlfriend didn't like it up north)).

Around the lower leagues there is wide array of talent who didn't really make a positive impression at Bootham Crescent.

In that category, pride of place must go to Burnley pair, Bailey Peacock-Farrell and Charlie Taylor, neither of whom fully showed their potential as young Leeds loanees.

Equally, the likes of Alex Rodman, Vadaine Oliver, Carlton Morris, Connor Brown, David Tutonda, Ryan Bowman, Eddie Nolan and Joe Ironside all had spells with City (4 contracted, 4 loanees) and left City to mixed (or worse) opinions.

Not much good was said about Eddie Nolan during his 6 months with City, but since he has played for Blackpool and been a near regular for 3 years at Crewe playing over 100 games for them. Fellow full back Connor Brown who was a stalwart in Barrow's 2020 Conference championship winning side. David Tutonda excelled on loan at Newport before joining City. A flop at City, he was a regular for most of his 3 years at Barnet and now finds himself playing for Division 1 games for Bristol Rovers.

Ryan Bowman barely ever scored during his 2013/4 season with City but has flourished since. Allowed to leave for free halfway through his City contract, his 3 subsequent moves have all seen fees involved, now into a 3rd Division 2 season at Exeter where his regular goals make him a first team regular.

Joe Ironside, out of favour at Kidderminster, he was another to arrive with a decent scoring record, guess what?, no goals in 9 games on loan for us last season, but others had seen enough for him to earn Division 2 contracts with Macclesfield (last season) and now Cambridge.

In the case of Vadaine Oliver, he really divided opinion, but his bad spell coincided with one particular manager, re-integrated under Gary Mills, he led the line well and was a real threat from set pieces. He's now scoring (and assisting) from Gillingham, 3 divisions above City.

Just how much impact did our rapid turnover of managers have on the lack of success of many City players? Players signed by one manager who quickly moved on, the players jettisoned as the new manager brought in his own players. It is easy to understand why so many players failed to show their true potential with York City.

Read More: www.yorkcitysouth.xdb-fl.htm

Quiz

With so many new faces in City's 2020/1 squad, test your knowledge about who is who. Each question relates to a different member of our 25 man squad. The answers are on the next page.

1. Name last season's Gateshead captain who joined City in the summer
2. Name our keeper currently on loan at Scarborough
3. Name the defender who can number FC Halifax, Chesterfield, Chester and Southport
4. Name the forward who played Championship football for Wolves early in his career
5. Name the midfielder who can name Wrexham, Fleetwood and Barrow amongst his former clubs
6. Name the midfielder who joined City from Barnsley, his home town club in September
7. Name the midfielder, the 3rd generation of his family to play for City
8. Name the young player signed from Middlesbrough in September
9. Name the player who was granted a Manchester City squad number in 2012 where he won 7 England Under 19 caps. His grandfather was a Busby Babe
10. Name the shortest member of our squad
11. Name the striker who joined City in the summer from Scunthorpe after starting his career with Sheffield United
12. Originating from the north east, name the versatile defensive player whose father enjoyed a successful career with Hartlepool and Preston
13. Name the young defender City signed in 2019 after a youth career with Manchester United and Huddersfield Town
14. Name the young defender City signed in 2019 after he'd played for Carlisle United Park View Academy against our youth team during the previous season
15. Which "home grown" player was born in Germany
16. Who appeared in the first team squad for the first (and only time to date) as unused substitute in an FA Cup tie at Swindon in November 2018
17. Who appeared twice for City at Wembley in 2012
18. Who is the oldest member of our squad
19. Who is the youngest member of our squad
20. Who made his City debut against Irlam in 2019
21. Who attack minded played for Barrow last season
22. Who played for Sunderland last season
23. Who signed his first professional contract in September 2020
24. Who turned pro with City in 2019 joining us from Blyth
25. Whose father once scored 6 goals in a game for Oldham against Scarborough

Hold The Back Page

<p>Like this issue? If so, may I suggest you make a donation at City's virtual turnstile https://ycfestore.co.uk/products/virtual-turnstile. Our normal cover price is £2.</p>
<p>Like this issue? www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk, especially "City History", has more City content and background reading, including all digital and many paper based back issues of <i>new frontiers</i>.</p>
<p>QUIZ (Page 27): 1) Scott Barrow, 2) Ryan Whitley, 3) Matty Brown, 4) Jake Cassidy, 5) Akil Wright, 6) Alex Wollerton, 7) Michael Woods, 8) Harry Flatters, 9) Kieran Kennedy, 10) Jack Redshaw, 11) Reon Potts, 12) Robbie Tinkler, 13) Harry Spratt, 14) Josh King, 15) Michael Duckworth, 16) Reiss Harrison, 17) Paddy McLaughlin, 18) Sean Newton, 19) Rob Guilfoyle, 20) Charlie Jebson-King, 21) Olly Dyson, 22) Owen Gamble, 23) Archie Whitfield, 24) Peter Jameson, 25) Harry Bunn</p>
<p>EASY FUND RAISING: Sign up to YCS' Easy Fund Raising account and donate to YCS / YCFC every time you online shopping. See https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ycs1/, select "York City South" as your cause. We recommend you select "Donation Reminder" and install the app to never miss a donation. IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY.</p>
<p>Next Issue: <i>Depends on interest, commitment, articles and on the pitch performance. Articles / ideas / input / criticism always welcome.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA of a successful City side • Bootham Cheers / Monk On • City's best ever season – You decide • City Chants • Quiz, all the usual features and more. • Not A Hobby and Johanna Konta – new balls please • *** Free Gift *** <p><i>Please email correspondence (and articles (hint, hint) for the next issue) to c_m_forth@hotmail.com</i></p>
<p>Due to pressure on space, regulars including Readers Write, What's Wrong With Watto, Billy Plutch and In For A Million (Or More) have been held over.</p>
<p>new frontiers: Launched in November 1992, it ran for 14 issues before it expired in the spring of 1995. Sales varied between 500 and 1,000 copies per issue. All profits, over £2,100, were donated to York City's Youth Development Fund and benefited initiatives which supported the youth system and the junior supporter. We re-launched as a digital download in 2009 and in August 2018 returned to print. The 4 2019/20 issues have raised over £1,000 for York City South for the benefit of YCFC. <i>Every penny raised from this issue goes to YCS for the benefit of our club.</i></p> <p><i>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. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this issue, including contributors Dave K, Kev, WD, John C and AG. Finally, many thanks to all who bought this issue.</i></p>

Merry Christmas. Happy reading. Enjoy the game.