

A York City Fanzine

#36 August 2022 £2

new

COYR

YORK CITY

Its Our Club

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Welcome

Welcome. It has been longer than expected since the last issue. New owner, new ground, new team, new division and a global pandemic included.

After 5 years in the wilderness of regional football, City returned to the big time of the National League. For City, it means much more travelling, Halifax at 49 miles is our shortest trip whilst Torquay at 319 miles is the longest. For York City South, there are 3 “home” games (Barnet, Dagenham & Redbridge and Wealdstone) within LUL’s zone 5 on the tube and half the division is the south east, bounded by Southend, Maidenhead and Eastleigh. Further south and west are Yeovil and Torquay.

For City, there are 3 new opponents, Dorking, Maidenhead and Wealdstone.

With City, there are 15 ex Football League clubs in the league. Just Dorking played at such a high level for the first time.

Details of the 2022/3 squad were slow to emerge. But by the time pre-season training started on July 1, City had an almost complete squad.

The disappointment from City's viewpoint was that Pete Jameson and Akil Wright turned down new contract offers in favour of moving into The Football League. Surely every player wants to play as high up the pyramid as possible (and probably make as much money as possible), but when it is Harrogate, traditionally City's little brother, it hurts. That said, it probably underlines the gulf in wages when lesser FL sides can readily pluck off the better non league players.

Maz Kouhyar (I still don’t understand how we could sign a highly rated player on a short term contract in March with no extension clause that we could invoke) and the rest all accepted their new contracts. They included loanees Sanders, John-Lewis, Hancox and Greaves, surely a new business model, “try before you buy”.

Of the newcomers, 7 were released by Grimsby, Chesterfield and Boreham Wood, all clubs who’d finished high up in the National League last season. 2 of those (Burgess and Whittle) returning for a second spell.

Of the rest, Alex Hurst arrived for an undisclosed fee from Port Vale, the first time we’ve paid a fee since Martin Gray signed David Ferguson and Adam Bartlett assuming you discount Jack McKay (who City said arrived on a free whilst Curzon said we’d paid a fee). Upfront, Luke James appeared destined for big things as a youngster, he was plucked by Peterborough from Hartlepool, but in this case, Posh’s own version of “moneyball strikers”

failed. Equally, Manny Duku has blown hot and cold. Its fair to say that none of the new strikers arrive as prolific scorers.

If AJ Greaves can curb his energies in the right direction, he could be the star of midfield, behind him, in defence, Sam Sanders could shine. It must be hoped that they can display their talents and do enough to earn a return to The Football League, preferably with City. Early season has seen Dan Pybus impress in the defensive midfield role whilst Sam Sanders awaits his chance.

By the first league game, City had 27 contracted professionals, including one loanee and 5 Under 19 former academy players. An unprecedented 4 (out 5) year 2 scholars (Under 18) signed pro contracts in the summer, only Josh Knowles was released. Conversely, all four of last season's Under 19 professionals (Maison Campbell, Lewis Cunningham, Jack Degruchy and Luke Jones) had been released in May. I can't help thinking the same fate will befall this season's intake come next May.

Until teams like City can sustain an Under 21 / 23 (or reserve) side, there is no real pathway from scholar to first team. That said, clubs such as Maidstone and Kidderminster are amongst the club's that run Under 23 sides. Young players get a chance of regular football under the watchful eye of their own club whilst fringe players get a regular game to both maintain their match fitness and hopefully impress the management. That said, I'm sure the Under 23a are not the nearest crocodile to the canoe for the new regime.

CHECK www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk for the latest branch news and lots of City related content and history. Our usual venue is [The Sheephaven Bay](#) (2-3 Mornington Street, Camden, NW1 7QD), a 5 minute walk from Mornington Crescent tube. All welcome, upcoming events should include televised matches, darts night, guest speakers, quiz night and AGM.

EASYFUNDRAISING: 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/ycs1/>, make "York City South" your cause. PS Select "Donation Reminder" and install the app and never miss a chance to donate. With 7,000+ 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 the 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. If the momentum can be maintained and built upon, let us hope that YCFC and YCST can work together for the benefit of YCFC.

Last Chance Saloon?

This is becoming a familiar theme in new frontiers, but this time, we really can't afford to fail

Every year we are out of the Football League, we sink further down the food chain. Either scrimping and saving to make ends meet or spending the family silverware in the hope of regaining former glories.

I'm no accountant but I recognise the multi million pound sums of potential debt the club built up over the Jason McGill era and can't easily reconcile those numbers to the £4m+ plus assets that were reported in the spring.

I imagine those assets are largely cash, so when its gone, its gone.

I'm not suggesting any wrong doings, certainly Jason McGill lived up to his long term pledge to not claim the interest that he was entitled to whilst the re-valuation of the Bootham Crescent and the sale of Ben Godfrey will have helped considerably.

Now, we find ourselves in rented accommodation and no real assets. Given our place in non league football and outside EPPP, then player valuation will be minimal. Just look at the summer when our best 2 players, on one year contracts, were out of contract and were able to walk out with City receiving nothing.

As a non league club, City receive next to nothing in central funding, nearly all the money we earn, we generate ourselves. An extended (with mainstream TV coverage) FA Cup run being our big hope and has proved to be the salvation for many non league clubs over the years. In comparison, FA Trophy income is chicken feed.

A return to the Football League will unlock the best part of £2m a season in central funding and also makes it far easier for a club to generate sponsorship income. Some clubs have quoted that it unlocks another £1m in sponsorship.

Until then, it should be all hands to the pumps and all pulling together.

With rent already set aside for the next 10 years (about £160,000 a year), its imperative we get back into the Football League as quickly as possible.

Until then, we'll be watching the pennies, trying to make them go as far as possible.

This time, when the money runs out, we've no assets.

During the Jason McGill era, it may have seemed like we often spent money as if it was going out of fashion (note the club record of different 42 players we used during the 2015/6 season, a record we smashed a season later we used 48 players).

Many concerns were raised, but the spending went on.

Now, with no significant assets to fall back on, it is hoped that the new regime can set and work within a realistic budget, one that is sufficient to compete in the upper echelons of our division.

Equally, it is imperative on the Trust to step up and turn on the money taps. I can understand their reluctance to pump money in previously, but in the spirit of collaboration and shared ownership, I hope they step up.

I don't mean bucket collections, there is only so much that can be done before donation fatigue sets in, but more must be done to encourage greater spend, be it the much vaunted Supporters Bar, inside the ground or any other number of opportunities where supporters (and the wider public) can pay for services and products to make York City a sustainable football club and ensure a viable future.

Without wanting to go back to the days of throwing money in and down the drain, it is hard to see City being flush with cash in the near future, something that was alluded to at the Fans' Forum on August 8th.

Dave Penney. Like many, I was unclear on his role, my own opinion is that he wasn't doing what he's best at. As a previously successful manager and player, his strengths probably were better served on the footballing side providing strategic direction and dealing with footballing matters, someone to guide the "non footballing" people, and in that I'd include a young Jason McGill, Glen Henderson and Alastair Smith. People who'd assumed their roles inside football with no insider knowledge. You hear about all the sharks and chancers in the game, I wonder what such people think when they see newcomers like John Batchelor, Michael Knighton et al.

Don't quote me...

City have sold nearly 4,000 replica shirts this season, I can imagine that means profits of say £50-100,000, enough to pay 3 City players about £600 per week for one season.

City have sold over 2,100 season tickets, even if all were sold at the full £300, City would nett about £500,000, take away concessions and that number falls. Barely enough to pay a season's salary for the starting eleven.

City's overnight trip to Swindon for an FA Cup tie in 2018 cost about £2,500. This season, we have 14 games in the deep south.

City's Naughty Boys

STEVE SENIOR March 1985 and City's league game at Millwall is postponed as Millwall have a scheduled FA Cup Round 6 tie that day. Millwall's cup opponents drew a second replay on the Wednesday before the game. Thursday afternoon, the Football League announce City's game at Millwall is back on. City have no supporters' coach laid on (and Denis Smith had already given the players the weekend off). Given the reputation of the old Den, who in their right mind would want to visit? One intrepid lifelong fan did. Just one. Making his way through south London, thrusting his programme money into the seller's hand, paying at the turnstile, he said not a word, fearing his northern accent might give the game away. Pre match, collar up, head down, he took furtive glances to check he hadn't been rumbled whilst vainly hoping to spot a fellow City fan. He was attracting no attention from the home supporters when the teams came out to warm up. City came to his end. He didn't cheer, with his head down, he continued to read his programme. Suddenly, he was rumbled, "Hi Frank, Hi Frank", he could hear, his cover blown. Frank tried to ignore the calls, the more he did, the louder the greetings got, until Frank gave a furtive wave back to the caller. It was City full back, Steve Senior. Cover blown, City lost and Frank survived. The Millwall fans lived to fight another day, the following Wednesday in their delayed FA Cup tie at Luton (older fans will remember it well (and not for the football)).

Mr DORITO Sam Collins reign reached its first nadir when he publicly called out a City player for eating doritos on the coach to an away game. His identity wasn't publicly revealed at time, but with Sam Collins in charge, its surprising it was only doritos. Said player lived to play another day and we all know how much all the players improved under Steve Watson. Later, Daniel Parslow revealed at the Supporters Trust Q&A the player's identity and it wasn't who many thought it was.

YORK CITY FC May 6, 1995 and City's last game of the season, away at Peterborough. The players, in high jinks are bound for Magaluf straight after the game. Before the game, one player, who shall remain nameless, put vodka into his water bottle and topped it up with coke. With Deano guarding it in his net, the players would take a swig and pass it around every time City defended a corner. Somehow we drew 1-1.

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

Scouting At City

Tip-top talent-spotters hover over Bootham Crescent

Premier pack track City duo



STEVIE WONDER: Promising York City midfielder Steve Bushell, whose dynamic form has pricked the interest of big-spending FA Carling Premiership outfit Blackburn Rovers

ENGLAND'S top two FA Carling Premiership clubs are keeping a close watch on York City players Steve Bushell and Steve Tutill.

Champions Manchester United have sent a scout to four recent City games as they check on the form of Tutill, in whom they have shown an interest in the past.

And Blackburn Rovers, the 'Bank of England' big spenders who last night leap-frogged above Leeds United into second place, could be poised to make a bid for Bushell, City's talented young midfielder player.

United wanted to have a look at 24-year-old York-born Tutill in May 1990 and asked John Bird, then manager of City, whether he could go to Old Trafford for a week's trial.

But Bird very firmly refused, saying that United were no different from any other club in that if they had watched Tutill they should know how good he was and then make a proper offer as provided in the rules.

United then switched their attention to Christian Short, the young Scarborough defender and then manager Colin Morris allowed him to go on trial.

Although nothing came of that, Short moved soon after to Notts County for £120,000.

Now United have shown further interest in Tutill, a former Huntington School, York City Boys, Yorkshire Boys and England Schoolboy international, following reports of his consistent form and a scout has followed his progress carefully.

Blackburn manager, Kenny Dalglish, who has spent £22m in 23 months, thanks to the money made available to him by multi-millionaire chairman Jack Walker, has indicated that his spending has not

**By Malcolm Huntington
Chief Sports Writer**

finished as he bids to buy a team capable of challenging the champions and runaway leaders.

Bushell's form has been a revelation since he was brought into the side following the knee injury to Gary Swann early last month and he has played eight games since.

Man of the match against Hull City last Monday, Bushell marked his 21st birthday the following day with another fine display in the historic 5-0 win at Blackpool.

His all-action terrier-like style, snapping at the heels of opponents, will not have gone unnoticed by top clubs and it shouldn't surprise anyone that scouts are now monitoring the progress of the Manchester-born youngster.

Bushell joined City as a Youth Training Scheme player at the start of the 1989-90 season.

City manager Alan Little said today: 'We have not received any offers for our players at the moment but it wouldn't surprise me if we did.'

'We have some good players and it would only surprise me if they were not being watched.'

'These big clubs have a excellent scouting systems and the word soon gets round when players are doing well.'

30/12/93

When will see top clubs scouting City players again? At the time (December 1993), Dean Kiely, Andy McMillan, Wayne Hall, Nigel Pepper, Paul Barnes and Jon McCarthy also had their suitors.

Alastair Smith - Dishing The Dirt

Intended as a Sun exclusive, it quickly became apparent that we were heading for 2 blank pages, so to fill the space, we approached the subject from a different angle.

20 September 1995 After a trip to Old Trafford, Alastair rushes back to the south coast, get a couple of hours' sleep and is back at work by 9am.. His workmate ask, what was the score, "3-0", he replied, "Oh, not bad, I thought you'd would have lost by a lot more" is the retort. Alastair puts him right in no uncertain terms.

27 April 1996 After vigorous pre match promptings to join the newly formed York City South, from Alastair, Woody and others, City's game at Brighton is abandoned after 20 minutes when Brighton fans invade The Goldstone Ground, rushing the length of the pitch to offer their fivers to become founder members. The referee was forced to abandon game in the rush.

July 20 - 21 1996 Weekend debauchery in Edinburgh as City compete in Livingston's 4 team trophy. John Catton drives a car full of City fans up to Scotland. After a day watching City, happy married Alastair retires early to the hotel for a hot chocolate and a browse of the local Sports Pink whilst John "Twinkle Toes" Catton and the rest of the gang woo / terrorise the fair maidens of Edinburgh in their disco outfits, chest wigs and flab included.

September 18 1996 YCS runs their first coach to a game, Everton in The Coca Cola Cup. Alastair proves to be a reliable driver and a massive detour across London sees everyone dropped off outside their front doors before he returns to the south coast. PS Someone told me it was John Catton, but it's the type of thing Alastair would have done.

Spring 1997 Alastair debuts for the YCS football side in our first ever game. Lack of fitness and lack of a goalscorer told as we failed to turn domination into goals in a 1-1 draw. Our opponents, The Household Cavalry hosted us in Kensington Palace's gardens, the grounds of Charles and Di's London pad, kick off being put back to allow Charlie's chopper to launch from the centre circle. Alastair's wayward shooting can probably be put down to hoping to catch a glimpse of the royal couple. Post match canapes and wine were much appreciated. Our next game was in the shadows of Wormwood Scrubs!

April 12 1997 Alastair leads a pre planned YCS pitch invasion before City's away game at Watford. The branch presents its first ever Player Of The

Season award to Andy McMillan pitchside at Vicarage Road before the game. The celebrations must have gone to the player's heads as City crashed to a 4-0 defeat to Watford.

March 1 1999 Alastair's greatest achievement? He invites Douglas Craig to be guest speaker at a YCS meeting. Miraculously, Alastair works his magic and Craig comes across as City's saviour.

Late 1990s Alastair and his best friend, a fellow season ticket holder went to Colchester for City's Friday night game. Friend's wife went, someone more accustomed to the better things in life (no, not Premier League football). Being the gent, Alastair offered to buy her a half time cup of tea. The look on her face when he returned with a tea in a paper cup. "I was expecting in a bone china tea cup" were the last words he heard before said cuppa was hurled in his face. He spent the second half trying to placate her. To this day, she has not been seen at any more City games.

May 2011 After 15 years, Alastair Smith stepped down as branch chairman. "It is not often that somebody like Alastair comes along - a dedicated and enthusiastic individual who works tirelessly for others to ensure that there is a benefit for the greater good" – Joel Stern.

April 2015 Alastair becomes YCS quiz champion for a record breaking 5th time. Pity his darts aren't as good.

August 2020 Alastair re-elected YCS chairman as the previous incumbent returns north.

July 5 2022 The day ends with all City's shares in the hands of Glen Henderson and YCST and a new 2 man board of Henderson and YCS Chairman Alastair Smith. Smith is the third YCS member to serve on the club's board after Steve Beck and Josh Easby.

For Glen Henderson, interpol across Europe, Africa and Americas are on the case. So far, all they've managed to unearth is a story of family intrigue and nepotism. His son once sat on the bench as an unused substitute for City (v Hereford, March 3rd 2020) when we crashed to a 4-1 defeat in the last home game before covid struck. Gabby McGill, son of the previous chairman, made one appearance for City, as a sub in the first ever LNER game, a 3-1 defeat to AFC Fylde (February 16th 2021). Nepotism rules! To date, their City appearances can be considered the pinnacle of their footballing careers. How many clubs can boost successive chairman whose sons have played for the team? For more on Ethan Henderson's City career, read match reports of the youth games he played for City (2018-20) on the History pages of the www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk website.

Women's Euros

I enjoyed the Women's Euros but can't get too hung up about the debate on the quality of the competition. I'll worry about that when we have a 120 professional team pyramid across 6 tiers of the women's game with the top earners on £500,000 per week. Until then, I'll enjoy it for what it is.

Physically, a women's team will never be able to compete against men. With an average 6 inches and 4 stone advantage, Harry Kane would always dominate Millie Bright whilst the lack of inches can always make a women's keeper more susceptible to the lob or well placed effort.

Watching the competition, especially some of the earlier games, it was noticeable how some teams struggled to play out from the back (although nowhere near as bad as Manchester United at Brentford recently), the better team being too strong in the press whilst throughout the competition some of the players' first touches weren't what you might expect from the men's game. Both arguments could be said about the men's game

On the positive side it was a joy to see clean games and very little play acting. How many times did players go down and stay down? How often did the physio come onto the pitch? I bet far fewer times than in a Premier League game.

Do you remember back to a hot mid May weekend when the men and women's FA Cup Finals both went to extra time. In the men's game, players were falling over like flies in extra time suffering from cramp, the physios were the busiest men in the stadium. A day later, you never saw a physio. So much for the fairer sex being weaker than men, their fitness levels coped admirably with 120 minutes and the heat.

That's not to say it always sweetness and light in the women's game.

England gave a master class in the final when in the last 7 minutes of extra time, they expertly kept the ball near the corner flag without resorting to falling over at any little touch as England lifted the trophy. It was a masterclass in running down the clock.

Whilst it is the same game, let's never compare a women's match to a men's match. Let's hope the momentum can be sustained.

Locally, well done to City for getting the City Ladies team down to LNER for a game in October. It is hopefully the first of many. Given their recent promotion they deserve a decent crowd.

York City's 500 Club

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



Martin Foyle: Starting at Southampton, he had a long career as a successful lower league striker, once forming Port Vale’s strike force alongside Keith Houchen. In November 2008, he was appointed City manager succeeding Colin Walker. That season saw him steer City away from the relegation zone and to a first trip to the new Wembley and defeat to Stevenage in the FA Trophy. A return visit followed a season later and defeat to Oxford in the Conference play off final. That season, he got the best out of Richard Brodie who scored 34 goals. Seemingly on the way out of City under Walker, Brodie returned from a loan spell at Barrow and became the feared striker that had been previously only rarely seen. Onome Sodje was another striker who flourished under Foyle.

After a slow start to the 2010/1 season, a deflated Martin Foyle offered his resignation in September 2010.

Post City, he enjoyed various managerial and backroom roles becoming St Mirren’s head of recruitment in June 2022.

He returned to Bootham Crescent in 2019 when he coached one of the sides in Daniel Parslow’s testimonial, Gary Mills coached the other side. 9 years earlier, Foyle had recommended Mills to the McGills as his successor.

One of his City innovations was the club house. It housed up to 5 players, it allowed him to attract players from further afield, their accommodation sorted out on arrival. Not only did it provide relatively cheap accommodation, but also instilled a sense of camaraderie between the players new to York.

Foyle got stick for his stand offish approach, the dour style of his side, his apparent lack of motivation of the team when sat in his dugout and for most things that went wrong. However, many of his players rated him as the best City manager they played under, noting his organisational abilities. David McGurk named him as the best City manager he played under whilst Daniel Parslow asked him to manage one of the sides in his 2019 testimonial game.

Shareholders – Are City Massive?

Big business generally runs at a profit, the money it generates is used to pay the bills and fund investment. Any surplus is either banked or passed to shareholders by means of a shareholder dividend.

One option that many have used is to raise money from their shareholders via a share issue whereby every shareholder is able to buy extra shares, usually at a discounted rate. Any shareholder who doesn't take up their option effectively sees their shareholding diluted. The total sale value of the issue is underwritten by someone, an investment bank or majority shareholder, who picks up the cost of any unsold shares, increasing their own shareholding in percentage terms. A major PLC may have upwards of 200,000,000 shares in circulation.

For a business worth £100 with 100 shares that makes the assets behind each share worth £1. The share price would reflect this (give or take a few pence to reflect market sentiment).

A 1 for 1 share issue would see another 100 shares issued, effectively making each share's valuation just 50p (the assets are the same, but there are twice as many shares). The share price would drop to reflect this dilution.

City had share issues in the 1970s and 1980s, increasing the share capital from £4,000 to £100,000 and then £200,000. The initial 4,000 shares were widely spread about, many supporters (or non fans who inherited them from earlier supporter generations) held one or two. With the directors underwriting the issues, their holding increased in proportion (buying up the new shares which people didn't take up) meaning the supporters shareholding became a smaller minority holding. Michael Sinclair underwrote one issue and by agreement, bought up the unsold shares, making him by far the majority shareholder. Money raised in the 1978 share issue paid off debts and kept City afloat.

Shareholders own the company and hope to reap the rewards, including dividends and increased share price. They appoint a chairman and directors to run the company and at the AGM can have a say on how it is run, those with a small shareholding, a voice but not power. The law means shareholders, big and small, have no obligation to invest in a company beyond the price they paid for their shares.

Football is a bit different. Generally shares are privately held and not publicly traded. Most clubs run at a loss and are beholden to their wealthy

owners to pump in money to keep them afloat. They fund the multi million pound losses the big clubs regularly post. Chelsea lost over £153m during the 2020/1 season, one of several big losses reported. Few football clubs make a profit and pay dividends to their shareholders.

When a club can't make ends meet, pick your favourite from Bury, Scarborough or Macclesfield, see what happens. All 3 folded and rose again as lower level community funded clubs. The Derby saga has gone on for years, spending more than it had in the hope of Premier League status, living hand to mouth and being reliant on owner generosity, loans and various handouts to pay the bills. Hopefully, the recent takeover will see things improve.

After many years of losses, the latter years of the Jason McGill regime saw City move toward a financial break even model.

The new board has taken a more cautious approach and forecast a small loss for this season and believe "the finance package the shareholders have put in place (is) more than enough to cover this".

Losses are something we cannot afford, but given the new regime, then a small loss is maybe acceptable as long as their plans to increase income come to fruition.

The cash flow over the next few months will inform the 2023/4 budget. If additional revenue generation is quickly unlocked, then we can look forward to a bright future, if not, can we expect a reduced budget next season?

For many years, many have said ongoing losses are not sustainable, today is no different.

Just A Thought (1): We lost our best 2 players, out of contract in the summer. Of this season's squad, only 4 are known to be contracted for 2 seasons. Assuming the rest are on one year contracts with no extension option, then hopefully, finances permitting, City will be looking to sign the better payers on extended contracts well before the season ends.

Just A Thought (2): The new ownership are very approachable, Glen, Alastair and The Trust, so if you have any fundraising ideas, get in touch with them, in person or via social media. Its our club. An idea not shared is potential lost revenue.

Odds & Sods

Maidstone. I thought we might have left true non league football behind with our return to the National League, but the Maidstone ticketing left a lot to be desired although I understand a part of the confusion was caused by National League regulations. No news until about 4 days before the game and then purchasing only in York with a pick up option in Maidstone. Given the online options we enjoyed on several occasions last season, it seemed a big step backwards. One consolation, more than 2,100 season ticket holders had a day to fight over the 500 allocated tickets before they went on general sale.

“The Sky’s The Limit”. David Ward’s words when announcing the Chorley play off final crowd. It made me chuckle, 8,500, not the sky, is the limit. Long term, increasing ground capacity might be an expensive option; short term, getting more spend per supporter must be the way forward via more selling, be it replica shirts, more in ground spend (drink quickly springs to mind) or more unpalatable options.

Safe Standing (1). An estimate of £250,000 was quoted to convert the South Stand to safe standing, subject to the relevant covenants being removed. What a pity that Jason McGill’s earlier efforts (and offer to fund it) ran out of time.

Safe Standing (2). Across the country, I’m not seeing safe standing increasing ground capacity or standing being offered at a cheaper price than the seats it replaced.

Cyril Nutbrown. I was saddened to hear about the death of Cyril Nutbrown. I first got to know Cyril when we launched the Roof Appeal in the late 1980s. He was always encouraging and supportive, be it at the ground or around town with his late wife when out shopping. We’d often chat about football, cricket and life in general. Invariably he’d buy a copy of *new frontiers*.

Jack Degruchy. Released by City after a year as a professional, he’d never come close to first team football with City, one can only assume as not first team ready / first team material. He spent July on trial with Doncaster before signing a contract with them, 2 years with a further one year option, essentially to join their development squad, effectively a reserve side. He was on the bench for Rovers’ first game of the season and called into action after 15 minutes. Not sure what it says about City and Rovers, but it indicates a massive gap between non league and Football League. Rovers can give him a 2 year contract to develop into a player whilst City need players first team ready. It demonstrates the gulf between City and the Football League.



Bootham Cheers

August 2022 – free with *new frontiers* # 36

Something different this time, some personal Crescent memories.

Gentlemen,
time please

Gillingham 7-1. Torrential rain and a crowd of under 3,000 witnessed City win 7-1. Keith Walwyn was completely unplayable that day, somehow, he seemed just about the only player able to keep his feet on the sodden pitch. Keith Houchen scored a hat trick.

Godfrey Ingham. A livewire Northampton winger (on loan from Luton), he gave probably the best ever wing displays I saw at Bootham Crescent as City lost 4-1 in October 1976. Amazingly, he soon drifted out of the English game before a long career in American indoor soccer.

Bournemouth. A 4-1 win over moneybags promotion rivals set us up for a good March 1973 that saw us win all 3 home games as we brushed aside most of our main rivals to firm up our promotion spot.

Ray Wilkins. The last game of the 1975/6 relegation season and the 19 year old Chelsea captain ran the show. On one occasion, picking up the ball on his own goal line, just wide of the goal, he dribbled along the goal line and turned up field before playing a through ball towards the half way line. Such composure for one so young.

Rochdale 0-0. September 1968, a 0-0 draw, my first game, I was hooked.

Phil Burrows. Diminutive and wholehearted at left back, he starred in both our 1971 and 1974 promotion sides.

Gary Howlett / Phil Wilson. A non descript late 80s game was lit up when Gary Howlett chased back, tackled his opponent from behind on the halfway line, turned, dribbled forward, played a superb swerving through ball outside the full back, Phil Wilson ran onto it only for his first time shot to go narrowly wide. It would have been a candidate for goal of the season and as Howlett told me much later, tackling back didn't come naturally to him but was something that Dave Sexton had drilled into him as a youngster.

Shrewsbury. The 1992/3 season's opening game. A solid defence, controlling midfield, crisp passing and 4 men attack boded well for the season.

Alan Little. Maybe not an obvious choice, but he managed City for over 6 years, won promotion, won at Old Trafford and developed the team that John Ward had built. Promoted in 1993, his team didn't look out of place in a higher division. Many of his players rated him the best City manager they played under, several went onto higher league success after City.

Forest Green. April 2017, a 2-2 draw and eerie silence as the final whistle blew. How could City have sunk so low? One of many such new lows.

Hold The Back Page

Maidstone: Disappointing result after largely controlling the game. Apart from the penalty, Ethan Ross barely had a shot to save before Maidstone scored. It shows we need to take our chances when they came. Missed chances count more at this level. Defeats sap confidence and morale, both the players and supporters. Equally, successive wins would have built momentum. A win would have put us 2 points clear at the top of the table, how good would that have been? Can't agree with the RY match summary that suggested City wouldn't be too down hearted with a defeat against a side who are not expected to challenge at the top. If City want to challenge at the top, it's a game like this we need to win. Given Maidstone were promoted, it might suggest they're one of the lesser teams in the league.

Like this issue? www.yorkcitysouth.co.uk, especially "City History", has more City content, including all digital and many paper based back issues of *new frontiers*.

EASY FUND RAISING: Sign up to YCS' Easy Fund Raising account and donate to YCS / YCFC when you online shopping. IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY. See <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ycs1/>, select "York City South" as your cause, select "Donation Reminder" and install the app to never miss a donation.

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

- DNA of a successful City side
- Bootham Cheers
- 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 ***

Please email correspondence (and articles (hint, hint) for the next issue) to c.m.forth@hotmail.com

Due to pressure on space, regulars including Readers Write, Quiz Time, Billy Plutch and In For A Million (Or More) have been held over.

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.

Every penny raised from this issue goes to YCS for the benefit of our club.

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.

Happy reading. Enjoy the game.