



SENIOR TIGERS

www.seniortigers.org.uk

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

issue  ~ DECEMBER   



Your Committee have donned costume, all 9 of us, to wish every member of the Senior Tigers, and their families, a really meaningful and blessed Christmas.

It will be a very different Christmas but it can still be a very special one. Hopefully we will be allowed to meet up with the ones we love, but even if we are unable to do that, may you know the warmth of love extended. Take care and God bless you all.

Meanwhile, can you identify your committee members above? Our Chairman, David, takes the star role of Joseph, with Babs alongside as his sweet Mary. Why not let us know who you think

are the shepherds, wise men/women! and, of course, our baby Jesus.

To help you, can you find Rob, Paul, Ernie, Helen, Pat, John and myself? Over to you!



Inside your Christmas Newsletter

News of a free
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
with 25 exciting prizes that will be won!

Also inside we have an update on the memorabilia collection, we may be in lockdown but things are still happening. We report on the sad loss of one of our members and share the letter that we sent to Jarrod Bowen when his Player of the Season award was forwarded to him at West Ham United.

Enjoy your Newsletter!

Wishh – an update:



You will recall that the Senior Tigers recently donated a gift to **Wishh** and the following article, which appeared in the Hull Daily Mail, shares how things are progressing.

Staff fighting on the frontline of the **coronavirus pandemic** will be boosted by a new health and wellbeing facility at **Castle Hill Hospital** thanks to a huge number of donations. Money donated by members of the public, as well as businesses and charities, during the pandemic means a designated area for the hard-working staff to relax and unwind can be created.

The £130,000 facility has been part-funded by the charity WISHH (*Working Independently to Support Hull's Hospitals*) which welcomed donations from **Hull Live** and Hull Daily Mail readers. (and, of course, Senior Tigers)

Staff at both Castle Hill and Hull Royal Infirmary showed tremendous dedication and courage

when treating seriously ill patients during the low points of the pandemic and are expected to be called upon again as case numbers begin to rise once more. The aim is for Hull Royal to also have a facility built, following on from the first phase at the Cottingham site.

Jarrold Bowen, Player of the Season:

Our Chairman, Dave, sent this letter on our behalf to Jarrod along with his trophy

Dear Jarrod.

First can I congratulate you on your move to West Ham, although you are sorely missed by the supporters of Hull City. The West Ham style of play suits your game and it was great to see you slotting in your first goals for the Hammers. Can I also take this opportunity to thank you for the pleasure you have given all the fans of Hull City and especially to the members of the Senior Tigers? Watching you play at the KCOM during your time with us will be remembered for a long time. Which brings me to the reason for this contact. If you remember back in the 2018/19 season you were the recipient of the inaugural Senior Tigers Gerry Ashton Hull City Player of the Season Trophy which was presented to you at our end of season May lunch. An award richly deserved for your performances throughout the season.

The 2019/20 season for both you and the Tigers started very well and come Christmas we looked very comfortable in the league and your popularity showed in our monthly voting for the Player of the Season. The least said about the second half of the season for us the better, what with Covid and our demise into League One. But you have earned the right to move, to advance your career which hopefully leads to even greater success. It also gives a boost to the lads in our academy knowing what can be achieved with hard work and dedication.

As I mentioned, your popularity amongst our members showed in the amount of votes you had collected by the end of December, a total that couldn't be bettered in the remaining months of the season by any other player. So it is with great pleasure, Jarrod, to inform you that for the second year running you have won the Senior Tigers Hull City Player of the

Season for 2019/20. Your name has been added to the Trophy and enclosed is your personal memento of your achievement, although it's disappointing that we are unable to present the Trophy to you personally. We also wish you every success both now in your football career and in whatever the future holds for you.

David (Chair)

Gerry Ashton:

We are very sorry to share the news that **Gerry Ashton** recently passed away. He was a keen and active Senior Tiger despite having serious health & mobility issues. Last year, when we were discussing the idea of a Player of the Season Award, it was Gerry who came up with the donation to provide the lovely trophy. This he presented to Jarrod Bowen, as our first winner, for the 18-19 Season.



Jerry (right) with Jarrod & Pat Betts

Back in 2016 Gerry joined us for the Senior Tigers trip to see the iconic Flying Scotsman on the North York's Moors Railway. Gerry was a railwayman and had served on the footplate for many years. Standing on the footplate, that day in March, he was in his absolute element. That is my abiding memory of Gerry.

Others remember the visit to Anfield on his birthday when everyone sang Happy Birthday to him – out on the terraces.



God bless him.

*As we go to press we hear of the loss of another member, **Ron Philips**. Our love to Joan & the family.*

Player of the month:

Please remember to vote now for your **November Player of the Month**. We hope to be trialling our new VOTE BUTTON system. This will be rolled out to you at the end of November and all you have to do is press the Vote Button, select your PotM from the list, click and done!

The alternative of sending an email or telephone to **Pat Betts** remains but please remember to only vote once (we are not in the USA Election!)

Pat: patnor82@yahoo.co.uk or **01482 898715**

Chris Chilton:

Many thanks for all those Senior Tigers who have added to the £1k that we donated to the special fund to help Chillo and his family at this difficult time. At the moment of writing the amount raised has reached £35,000. Incredible but so was Chillo!

Senior Tiger's CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

Your Committee decided that to help everyone at this difficult time there would be a very special *and free* Christmas Raffle.

Every member has the same opportunity to win one of the 25 prizes – but no member will win more than one prize!

The prizes are ...

- 1st Hamper 1 (incl. a bottle of Baileys),
- 2nd /3rd Hampers 2 & 3 (with a bottle of wine),
- 10 Sainsbury's vouchers for £25,
- 10 M&S vouchers for £25,
- 1 butcher's voucher for £20
- 1 butcher's voucher for £10

*A special appreciation from all the committee to **Pete Wilson** who sourced the hamper contents and both the meat vouchers. We are so grateful to him.*

The draw will be made on December 10th during a Committee Zoom. The winning members will be published via email (or telephone) and on our website. Vouchers will be mailed directly whilst Paul Bryan will make contact in order to Covid-friendly deliver the winning hampers.

Memorabilia:

Tony Conway writes ... As we approach the year end the **Memorabilia Team** thought it time to update you on what we have been doing and give you a flavour of what hopefully will develop in 2021. It has not been easy to progress the project during the lockdowns and the various restrictions imposed on the population. We have not been able meet with collectors to gather information or meet as a team. However, the team has been active but has not achieved as much as hoped.

The year started really well with the recruitment of 2 new members to the team in **Brian and Brenda Beck**, plus the offer to take photographs from 3 Senior Tigers members who are members of a local Photographic Society. This would give us a real professional look to our images. Unfortunately to date we have not been able to use the photographic services.

However, we have made steady progress with the items we had on hand but have not been able to start on any new collections. We are gathering a long list of jobs to do so we will be really busy when life returns to normal, whatever normal turns out to be.

Rob Wilson has been our busiest member as we plan to amalgamate the Hull City Gallery and the Hull City Memorabilia into one section. Some cleaning up has to be done and, as with a lot of

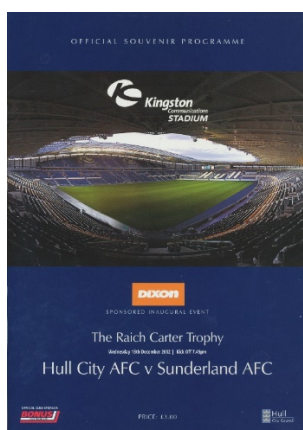
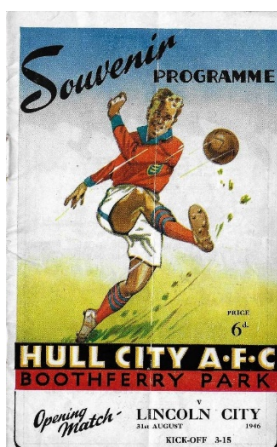
technology, time and learning moves on, so Rob has been ensuring we have updated the site and procedures. We are also hoping to have links to Hull City player biographies, a ticket section and detail of stats from hundreds of Reserve team games.

Links with the Tigers Trust have continued to grow and we are currently using the time when our Walking Football sessions took place on a Monday morning to have Zoom meetings focused on memorabilia. If you are interested in joining in please contact the Secretary.

We hope to relaunch the site early next year with the above new items and once completed we believe it will be the most comprehensive web site of Hull City memorabilia, heritage and history there is. Not that we believe our task will ever be completed as items will keep popping up and history continues to be made.

Lastly, whilst lockdown and restrictions continue and you carry on clearing out the attics and garages please be aware, we are still looking for those interesting Tiger items you stored away years ago or when you were young.

The attached photographs are of the programmes from the first match at Boothferry Park and the first match at the KC Stadium.



Membership exercise:

Paul, our Wellbeing Coordinator, last month asked all our members whether they were pass holders or had given up. He identified that over recent seasons the main reasons members had surrendered their seats were either the closure of

the Upper Stand or the removal of the Senior Citizens concessions.

Here were Paul's findings.

Current Passholders:	51%
No longer passholders:	24%
Gave up this season:	11%
Others:	14%

Finally, something for CHRISTMAS!

I stumbled across a little story that some of you will remember and others might enjoy. It is the story of

Nestor, the Long-eared Christmas Donkey

This sweet, charming story is credited to Gene Awtry and friends and tells of a baby donkey that was born with incredibly long ears, so long that as he grew up, he couldn't walk or work because he kept tripping over his ears. All the animals just laughed and mocked him making him a very unhappy little donkey, just his caring mother stood by to share her love. Well the long and the short of the story is that fate or chance came by and when Joseph was desperately seeking a donkey to carry the heavily pregnant Mary to Bethlehem he was, of course, the only available donkey – always available you might add.



Could he possibly carry out this great challenge? No one expected him to do it but with a guardian angel in support he rose to the task and brought Mary with Joseph to Bethlehem and the stable. In the song from the story Autry sings ...

*Nestor was a donkey who seldom laughed or played,
'Cause no one ever used him in the stable
where he stayed,
All the camels teased him and the other donkeys too,
They said "Look at little Nestor,
there's nothing he can do!"*

But Nestor carried the first gift of Christmas, a gift more precious than diamonds or gold. A simple story to share with your grandchildren but one which carries an abiding message. To do

something special does not require great skills & talents but simply a heart bursting with love.



Nestor with his guardian angel

**God bless you all for this coming
Christmas season.**

**We hope to see our loved ones but
better still to know that we are loved.**