



# SENIOR TIGERS

[www.seniortigers.org.uk](http://www.seniortigers.org.uk)

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**NEWSLETTER**

**September**

Welcome to your September Newsletter as we celebrate the month when we return to action. We start with our first live meeting in 18 months and welcome **George Honeyman** as our first guest speaker. George was out clear in last season's Player of the Season and we will welcome him to the meeting when he will be presented with his Trophy. Alongside him will be the League One Championship Trophy, something few of us have ever seen! A reminder from the football club, you will be welcome to look and take photos but you must not touch the trophy. Selfies with George may be possible but the club have asked that you must wear a mask for these photo opportunities. If photos leak out with people not wearing a mask the Senior Tigers will be "in trouble", so please oblige.

Watch out for your Vote Button ready to choose your August Player of the Month. For members who cannot vote on the email you can still record your vote by calling **Pat Betts** on **898715**.

A few days ago our 'active' membership stood at 200, that is members who have paid up their subs for the new season + our 'honorary members'. After such a long 'exile' that is brilliant. There are

still some yet to renew their membership so just a gentle hint, send your dues and get renewed.

Payment is now requested by an on-line transfer or a bank transfer. Membership remains at £10 and the payment details you will need are ...

Bank: HSBC                      Sort code 40 18 16  
Account no.      81504932 (Senior Tigers Club)  
Please add your name/membership number.

## Senior Tigers' Outings

We are delighted that Barbara Wilkinson has already arranged a couple of Outings. This month sees a full coach heading for Filey & Thornton le Dale – yes, it's fully booked.

There may be a few seats available for the October Outing to Ripon. This is on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> October and if you are interested please contact Barbara on 876219.

## Silver Sharks are back!

We have news of the popular Silver Sharks afternoons at The Deep are back on. We have booked Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, please register your interest with me asap. There are only limited spaces. We hope to set up a further session in November.

## A Welcome Back Celebration Concert:

It's not just been the Senior Tigers who have been stood down for 18 months but just about every social activity group there is – including Choirs. As there are a number of Senior Tigers who are also members of the Hull Male Voice Choir, I'm sure you won't object to a little plug for a wonderful Welcome Back Choral Celebration Concert. The Concert, "With a Voice of Singing!", takes place in Hull Minster on Saturday evening, 30<sup>th</sup> October (7.00 pm) and brings you 4 choirs! Hull Minster Choir will lead off followed by Hull Male Voice, Opera 17 & Hull Ladies choirs. Tickets are £10 and I have them! It will be great to see many Senior Tigers in the Minster, helping to raise funds for the choirs and the Minster. Contact me to book your tickets.

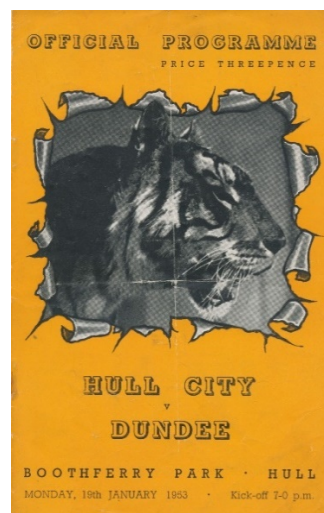
Please turn over for Tony Conway's Memorabilia focus, this month he looks at Floodlights!

## MEMORABILIA CORNER

The new season is now underway and we have had 2 evening games both kicking off at 7.45 pm and involving playing under floodlights. Something we now take for granted as it's part of football and adds to the atmosphere. No one gives it a second thought, however, before 1956 it would not have been possible as football clubs did not have floodlights and if they did they were of poor quality and the FL did not allow league games to be played under such circumstances. This meant games kicking off at 6.00 pm or 6.30 pm. Hardly time to go home after work.

In the 1950s City were very forward-thinking and were one of the first clubs to install lights. Installation took place in 1953 with 96 lamps mounted on the roof of the West and East stands. This was only possible because the "Kempton Terrace " had received a roof. 2 additional small pylons were eventually erected on either side of the covered area on the east side.

The lights were used for the first time on 19 January 1953 when the Tigers entertained Dundee United in a friendly. City lost 1-4 in front of 31,702 fans. This game was quickly followed by games against Hibernian (lost 2-3), Djurgardens of Stockholm (won 4-0) and Wolves (won 3-1).



Wolves themselves were pioneers in floodlit football and enjoyed some special evenings against foreign teams. Floodlit friendlies became a popular attraction as playing and viewing under lights was seen as a special attraction and had an atmosphere of its own. In the 1953/54 season, further games were played against Portsmouth, St Mirren, Falkirk and Arsenal.

On 17 October 1955 City fans were treated to real attraction. City were rooted to the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division but entertained the Hungarian club Vasas. They were a top European side at the time and had defeated some big teams on tours. The national press called it "lambs to the slaughter" and there was pressure for the game to be cancelled. It went ahead and the Tigers were 3-1 winners with Bill Bradbury scoring all 3 goals. City were at a low point and only 13,889 witnessed a great performance and win.

On 18 April 1956 FK Spartak, another top European side visited East Yorkshire. They were also defeated by 3-1, with goals from Bradbury, Clarke and Fraser. Visiting teams from Europe became popular as did the games under the lights. In March 1957 City hosted SV Werder Bremen from West Germany and won 5-0. To complete the overseas visitors in the 1950's Banik Ostrava from Czechoslovakia came to Hull in September 1959 and lost 3-2.

The first football match under lights in England took place at Bramall Lane, Sheffield on 14 October 1878. The lights were very primitive but 2 local sides played in front of 12,000 paying customers with an estimated 8,000 sneaking in under the cover of darkness. There was no official encouragement and only exhibition games were allowed. It was not until the 1930s that there was any advancement. In February 1930 Mansfield's Field Mill received permission to host a game under lights. Ollerton Forest played Welbeck Athletic in the North Nottingham Senior Cup. Then in August 1930 the FA banned all floodlit football and this remained in place until December 1950.

Clubs could see the future for lights and Swindon Town became the first league side to install lights and played a friendly against Bristol City on 2 April 1951. They were quickly followed by Arsenal and Wolves. The ban was eventually lifted and the first competitive game was played at The Dell, Southampton when their Reserves hosted Spurs in a Football Combination match. The first FA Cup game was a Preliminary Round replay between Kidderminster Harriers and Brierly Hill in September 1955. In June 1955 the League at last allowed matches to be played under lights and the first was at Fratton Park, Portsmouth on 22 February 1956, when Newcastle were the visitors.

The first league game at Boothferry Park was on Tuesday 10 April 1956 when Doncaster Rovers played in a 1-1 draw, with Fraser scoring for City. A disappointing crowd of 8,155 witnessed this historic occasion.

In 1964 City replaced their system with the most modern available. The old lights went off to Scarborough to give many more years of service. City installed 6 high pylons which added to the local skyline and for a time gave City the best floodlights in any British stadium. The first match saw the Tigers defeat Barnsley 7-0. By the end of the century,

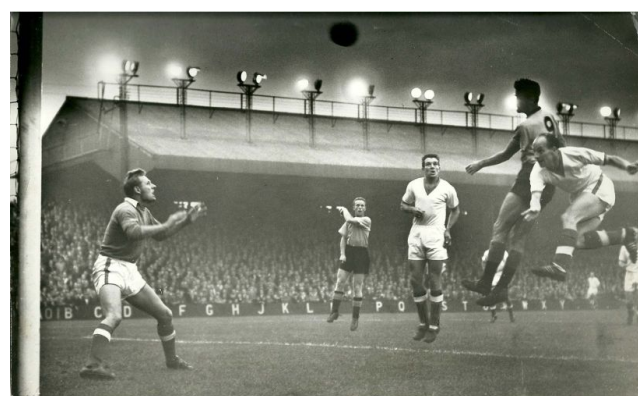
pylons were being replaced by lights on top of the stands. More clubs were developing grounds and covering open terraces. This allowed installation all around the stadium, this is of course what happened in Hull with the building of the KC Stadium.

In the summer of 2015, a further development took place when City became the 2<sup>nd</sup> PL club to install the Philips innovation LED system. The state-of-the-art system was installed to give footballers, fans and TV broadcasters an even more sensational experience. This allowed for a more flexible system which allowed for the now customary pre-match light show. City were once again at the forefront of floodlight development. So, from the 96-lamp installation of 1953, we now have a super system which is one of the best in the UK. So, when you next attend an evening game, give a thought to the development we have seen over the last 68 years of floodlit football in Hull.

Please visit the Memorabilia Site and look up the programmes and the match information of the many games played midweek before and after the installation of floodlights. Plus, the Gallery which has some great pictures of Boothferry Park with both sets of lights.

*Tony Conway*

(S.T. Memorabilia and Heritage Coordinator)



*Original floodlights: v Middlesboro' Sept. 1959*



*Pylons at Boothferry Park: v. Scunthorpe August, 1965*

## **Special Procedures: returning to open meetings**

**If you know you are carrying the Covid-19 virus please do NOT attend the meeting. If you feel symptomatic please take a test before coming and only come if the test is negative.**

All members will be asked to 'sign in' on arrival. For our first meeting(s) this will take place in the foyer at the West Stand reception.

On arrival you will be expected to wear a mask/shield (unless you are unable to do so). To encourage others it would be appreciated if you keep your mask on during the afternoon, certainly when moving around.

You will be welcomed into the Kingston Suite (or whichever room we are allocated)

For the first meeting in September your new membership card will be waiting for collection. The cards will be arranged in alphabetical order and a member of the committee will be present to help you find your card. Please do not touch the remaining cards.

You will then be invited to sit at one of the tables. Please remain at your table, with the exception of 'calls of nature' and the viewing of the raffle table.

Raffle tickets will be available. It helps if you have your £1 coins ready. Each ticket is £1 but for £2 you will receive 3 tickets! The prizes will be displayed but

you are asked not to touch them. Ernie and his team will have tickets ready as you arrive. All the numbers will be drawn by the Chair and members are asked to approach the table to select their prize choice. If you need to ask for advice please ask at the table.

During the player interview you will be able to ask questions. Please indicate by raising your hand and wait for the roving mike to come to your table. Members are requested not take hold of the mic. Sanitisers will be used between each speaker.

At the end of the meeting please leave with patience! We want everyone to feel comfortable during the afternoon.