



SENIOR TIGERS

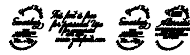
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NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER



Welcome, and warm Christmas Greetings as we approach the Festive Season. Given the disappointments of last Christmas we must all be looking forward, in hope, for a very much more open festival this year. Last year we missed being with loved ones so, hopefully, this time we can share this special time with those we love the dearest. Bless you all.

In this December issue Tony Conway takes a look back to when football was played on Christmas Day – how many still remember those days! The usual thing was to send the men and the boys to the match whilst mother and the girls set to on preparing the Christmas meal! Times have changed!



RAFFLE Winners:

The following people won a prize in our **October Raffle**; Carol Winter, Alan Jopling, Barbara Vincent, Malcolm Franks, Ron Betts, Ken Gofton, Stuart Tomlinson, Colin Peers, June Codd, Stanley Cowan, Lewis Pickering, Martin Convery, John Mackay, Eileen Stout and Paul Bryan

The **November Raffle** winners were ... David Corp, Doug Ombler, Malcolm Franks, Jean Skinner, Carol Winter, Judith Fletcher, Steve Graham, Shirley Cormack, Glen Harman, Keith Hammond, George Dykes and Richard Beachell. The total takings were a magnificent £233.

Player of the Month/Season:

Your October votes saw Matt Ingram extend his comfortable lead in the Player of the Season. In October he polled 41 votes, ahead of DiShon Bernard (23) & Jacob Greaves (20). Overall, our goalie has 109 votes, well ahead of the rest. Currently in second place we have Lewie Coyle on 49 and DiShon, with that good poll in October, in 3rd place on 37.

You will soon be asked to name your November PoM which might see a challenge to Matt's lead.

Outings:

Many thanks to our Barbara for organising some wonderful outings. Now who says we can't organise a xxxxx in a brewery? Here is our Ernie giving the trip to Wold Top Brewery a *dodgy* thumbs up!



There are more pictures later.

Memorabilia Corner

by Tony Conway

our Memorabilia & Heritage Co-ordinator

CHRISTMAS DAY FOOTBALL

When you are tucking into your Christmas Dinner this year, I doubt you will give a thought to Hull City, unless you have received and are wearing an item of clothing bought by a loved one from Tiger Leisure for Christmas. Boxing Day will be totally different as you plan your journey to the MKM Stadium to watch the Tigers play Blackburn Rovers.

This was not always the case, Christmas morning watching the Tigers was part of Christmas for many thousands of supporters. In fact, Christmas Day 1948 witnessed Hull City's largest home league attendance of 49,655 and I understand 55,000 tickets were sold. City beat Rotherham United 3-2 with goals from Willie Buchan (2) and Alex Bloxham.



Until the 1950's Christmas Day was a rare public holiday with public transport run as usual. This made travel easy and with no TV to entertain the family many people looked for something to do with the family and attendance were therefore high. Of course, there were no floodlights so games had to be crammed into daylight hours so public holidays were ideal for fixtures and teams often played 3 times over the festive season as they also did at Easter.

The first Football League game played on Christmas Day was in 1889 when Preston North End entertained Aston Villa and won 3-2. The crowd was recorded as 9,000, which was one of the highest for the then-fledgling league. In the year before Everton played 2 games on Christmas Day. A Lancashire Cup tie against Blackburn Park Road in the morning and an exhibition game against Ulster FC in the afternoon. As the Football League expanded and the game became more popular it became customary to play return matches on Christmas Day and Boxing Day against the same opponent.

The most famous Christmas Day game was in 1914 when a Christmas truce was called for a few hours on the Western Front. Troops exchanged gifts, carols were sung and an impromptu football match started between British and German troops. The game attained mythical status but a letter recently uncovered, written by Staff Sergeant Clement Baker of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards confirmed a game actually took place.

The suspension of league football and the absence of players led to the emergence of women's teams. The most popular at the time was Dick Kerr's Ladies who

played their first match on Christmas Day 1917. Ladies football became very popular and on Boxing Day 1920, 53,000 attended Dick Kerr's Ladies versus St Helen's Ladies at Goodison Park, with thousands more locked out. However unbelievably by 1921, the FA banned women's games from being played on Football League grounds, stating, "the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged". It took until 1969 for the woman's game to re-establish itself.

Playing games on religious holidays was a contentious issue for many players. Sunday football was unheard of and FA rules at the time stated "no club shall be compelled to play a match on Good Friday or Christmas Day". Arsenal's Highbury ground was built on land owned by St John's College of Divinity and games were not allowed on religious holidays. Arsenal bought the land in 1925 and they were able to play their first Christmas Day game that year.

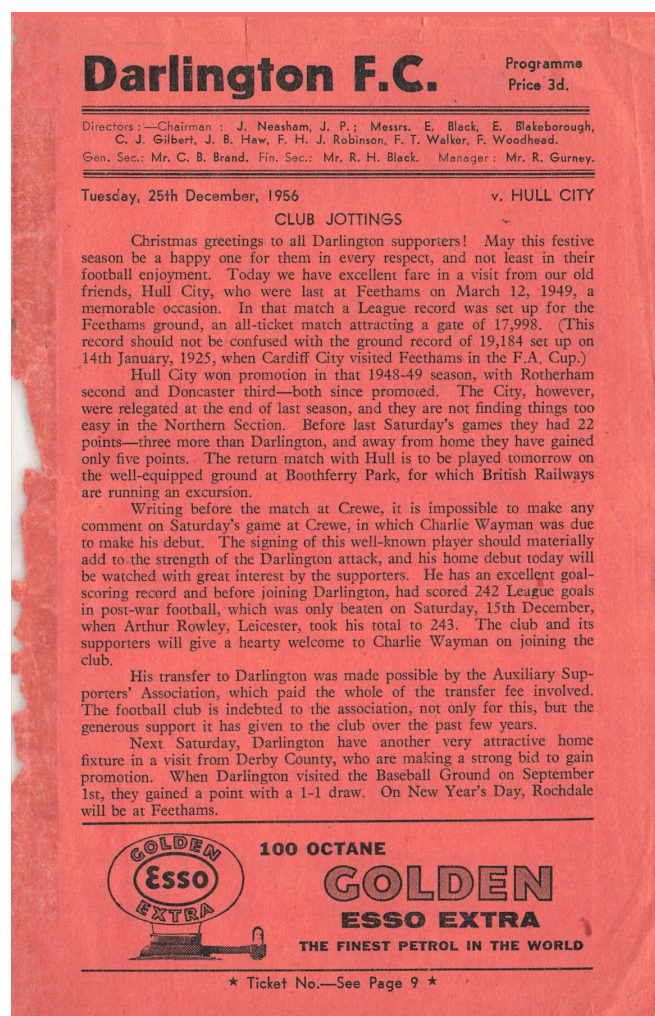
Another issue in the early days was players liked a drink and there were reports of players turning up for games drunk. In fact, in 1931 the entire Clapton Orient team turned up drunk to play a Christmas Day fixture against Bournemouth.

Christmas Day football continued into WW2 and on December 25th 1940, 210 goals were scored in 40 games. Notable results were Southend 9 Clapton Orient 3, Bournemouth 7 Bristol City 1, Mansfield Town 7 Stoke City 2 and Bury 5 Halifax Town 5. It should be noted that teams often had many guest players as regular players had been called up for military service.

1949 saw football at its post-war peak and almost 3.5 million fans attended the Christmas programme of 3 matches in 4 days. Many fans worked a 6-day week and could only attend games on this day, so boosting attendances.

Hull City's first Christmas Day game was a visit to Port Vale in 1905, which was followed by the visit of Chelsea to Hull in 1906. 1919 witnessed a spectacular festive season with the Tigers losing 4-0 at Spurs on the 25th in front of 40,000. The return game was played at Anlaby Road on Boxing Day in front of 28,000, again losing by 3-1. On the 27th City entertained Wolves with only 10,000 bothering to revisit Anlaby Road. However, they missed a

Christmas cracker with City winning 10-3. Our current manager moans at Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday fixtures, what would he have said in 1919?



Worth reading this programme note from 1956

16 of the next 20 Christmas's saw City in action on Christmas Day before WW2 interrupted the planned football. One notable event was in 1936 when Wrexham visited Anlaby Road and the Welsh team forward Ambrose Brown was sent off after 20 seconds. City could only manage a 1-0 win with Dai Davies scoring in front of 9,448.

The last Christmas Day fixture for the Tigers was in 1957 when 8,950 attended Boothferry Park and witnessed a 1-1 draw with Gateshead, David Fraser scoring for City.



Our Babs behind the bar!



I hope that gives you a flavour of what football was like in Christmases gone by. So all that remains is for me to wish you all a Happy 2021 Christmas and wish for 3 points and a goal-fest against Blackburn.

PHOTO MEMORIES



Our happy visit to Wold Top Brewery

... and a Christmas Poem

**written some years ago by the late Jack Reynolds
who was a committed Tiger fan and ditty composer!**

Every year it comes around, a date to remember,
We all know the twenty fifth day of December,
When we British folk, each and every member,
In fact the whole Christian community,
Just pause for a while as we all celebrate:
Every year it occurs, always on this date,
Must be an event quite unique – something great –
producing a show of such unity.

And whilst I'm airing my views in this sonnet,
Just let me release a bee from my bonnet,
In fact, I'd say, I'm emphatic upon it,
This day's NOT Xmas Day!
It's a day for contentment, don't be forlorn,
When Jesus Christ, our Saviour, this day was born.
Ring out the glad tidings and herald the dawn,
This day is CHRISTmas Day.

So on this special day, get down on your knees,
To acknowledge the birth of Christ, if you please,
Before you enjoy your roast turkey and peas,
And eat everything on the plate.
For on Christmas Day, above all other things,
Goodwill to ALL Men is the message it brings;
The birth of our Saviour, the King of all Kings,
THAT IS WHY WE CELEBRATE!

A lovely reminisce of a dear old friend. Allen

**To every single Senior Tiger have a wonderful
Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



**Senior Tigers will be back at the MKM
Stadium on Thursday, 6th January, 2022**