



SENIOR TIGERS

www.seniortigers.org.uk

Hon. Secretary: Rev'd Allen Bagshawe
334 Southcoates Lane, Hull. HU9 3TR
01482 702220 or 07813 430429
allen@bagshawe.karoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER 
JANUARY, 2022

Welcome to 2022! I do hope that you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas with loved ones around you – well that would have to be better than the previous Christmas! Sue & I were able to spend 4 days with our daughter in Sevenoaks and that was simply a fabulous family time.

So now to a New Year – with genuine hopes that we find something more like the way things were before Covid-19.

It also promises to be an exciting year for our football club. The change of ownership seems to be very near and the Senior Tigers will give their full support to the incoming owners. The Allam family have served us well yet without ever winning the hearts and affections. Let it not be forgotten that they rescued us at a very difficult time and saw us into the Premiership too. They now hand over a club which is not mired in debt and ready to go forwards. I do hope that history will be kinder to the Allams than it has been so far. Now we look forwards to a new leadership and hope for hopes to be fulfilled.

New Year blessings,
Allen



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

(Minnie Louise Haskins)

Player of the Month (November)

George Honeyman	(54)
Nathan Baxter	(43)
Jacob Greaves	(17)

So we have serious changes, George, who had previously only had 2 votes, suddenly rockets to 2nd place in the season’s ranking, whilst Matt Ingram remains well clear at the top on 110.

Our first Members’ meeting for 2022

We meet in The Sport’s Bar at the MKM
on THURSDAY, 6th January
at 1.45 pm

We have a theme of Partnerships -
with the Tigers’ Trust & KCOM
and our guests Catherine Bishop & James Fairbank

Usual brilliant raffle to anticipate.

—

Our first outing

Our first outing for this New Year takes us to
the delights of **Chocolate**
as we visit **York** on Thursday, 20th January.
Too late to book – other than to request Barbara
to place you on a waiting list,
should someone have to drop out.

MEMORABELIA ARTICLE

The 1st World War Years

Tony Conway.

Senior Tigers Memorabilia and Heritage Coordinator.

Last month's article on Christmas Day football recalled the now-famous game played in "No Man's Land" on Christmas Day 1914 between British and German troops during an unofficial truce. It made me think about what happened to domestic football in the UK during the 1st World War. My research revealed many interesting facts. However, not all are good reading as the war was such a horrific event. Here are a few of those facts.

One of the newest members of the Football League, **Harrogate Town** were actually formed in 1914 and were due to play their first game on 5 September. This didn't happen as their opponents, Bishop Auckland informed them 2 hours before kick-off that most of the team had joined up. The club was eventually reformed in the 1919/20 season and the first match was played on 30 August 1919, some 5 years later.

On the 6th of September 1914, the author Arthur Conan Doyle made a direct appeal to footballers to volunteer for the services. As a result, a special **Football Battalion** was formed as part of the Middlesex Regiment and was named the 17th Middlesex. It included players, staff and supporters. The Battalion was led by **Frank Buckley** who had been in the army but was a player with Bradford City in 1914. We remember him in Hull as he managed City from 1946 to 1948 before departing to Leeds United. It was estimated that 500 of the 600 members died or were seriously wounded during the war. A second Battalion, the 23rd Middlesex was formed a year later.

Another Battalion was raised in Scotland, it became part of the 16th Royal Scots and included players and supporters from Hearts, Hibernian, Falkirk and Raith Rovers.

On 21st October 2010, the **Footballer's Battalion Memorial** was unveiled at Longueval, France, near Delville Wood on the Somme. There is also a Roll of Honour of footballers killed in WW1. It is

updated regularly as information is received, it currently lists over 300 names. There are also many stories of heroism amongst players and some also received the highest decorations including Victoria Crosses (VC) and Military Medals (MM).



The Footballer's Memorial at Longueval

Football was used behind the lines, in all theatres of war as a way of keeping men fit and to relieve boredom. It was also used in prisoner of war camps to help keep up morale. Furthermore, it was seen and used as a method of recruiting men for the forces. Posters were headed "An Appeal to Good Sportsmen". It encouraged men to enlist and help other good sportsmen who were already bravely fighting. Most munitions factories formed their own teams. These were Women's teams, the most famous of these was Dick Kerr's Ladies FC in Preston. They drew large crowds and enjoyed success as the number of teams grew until the FA banned women from playing on Football League (FL) grounds in 1921. Yes, they really did!

Despite much opposition, the FL continued with its fixtures throughout the 1914/15 season and the FA Cup was played as normal. For the remainder of the war, the FL was suspended but

clubs were allowed to organise regional competitions. **Hull City** was in the Second Division and finished 7th. City finished as follows in the rest of the war years-

1915/16 Midland Section Principal Competition – 11th out of 14.

Midland Section Subsidiary Cup – 4th.

1916/17 Midland Section Principal Competition – 11th out of 16.

Midland Section Subsidiary Cup – 9th

1917/18 Midland Section Principal Competition – 4th out of 15.

Midland Section Subsidiary Cup – 4th

1918/19 Midland Section Principal Competition – 7th out of 16.

Midland Section Subsidiary Cup – 1st

The one problem with keeping these competitions running was that they attracted small attendances, City's usually being 2000 to 3000 and sometimes less. This also led to the club suffering financial losses. This followed a difficult time as the Best Stand had burnt down in April 1914. The new stand was being built as the 1914/15 season started. It had 3500 seats, including 800 tip-up seats, plus room for 1500 standing spectators.

The following players served in the war, **James Cleland, James McIntosh, Billy Mercer, James Middlehurst, Jack Lyon and Douglas Morgan**. Mercer, Middlehurst and Lyon all returned to play in the 1919/20 season. Sadly, **Douglas Morgan** a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery died of wounds on 31st December 1916. He is buried in the Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, west of Ypres.

In the recent Tiger Matchday Programme for the game against Coventry City on 30 October 2021, it had a 3-page article remembering and honouring 9 former City players who served in the war. It made interesting reading. You can also find out more of these difficult times in Nicholas Turner's books, *Now Tigers!*, *The early Years of Hull City & Hull City in the 1920s*. The new Senior Tigers website will also have access to the match information for these years and biographies of

most of the players. Look out for news of the new website early next year.

We too are currently suffering difficult times and for some just as horrific as in wartime. Let's hope that things improve dramatically and we can all enjoy a much better 2022. Happy New Year.



Jack Lyon



James McIntosh



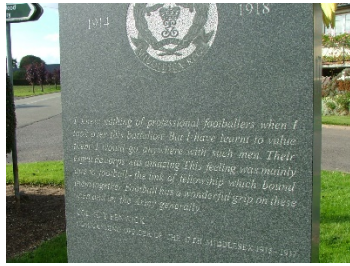
Billy Mercer



James Middlehurst



Douglas Morgan



*On the reverse of the Longueval Memorial
– a quote from their Commanding Officer*