



SENIOR TIGERS

www.seniortigers.org.uk

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NEWSLETTER

February, 2022

Welcome

Huge thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets at our Christmas Lunch. At our 2019 event we took £520, which we all thought was amazing, but for 2021 an incredible £653.00 was taken!

Our winners included Stuart Tomlinson, Sandra Thorpe, Dave Gibson, Pat Fuller, Mike Thompson, David Corp, Graham Jackson and Brenda Beck who all won vouchers obtained by Peter Wilson.

Hampers went to Paul Reville, David Rose, Alan Dowling and Judith Fletcher whilst the Tassimo Coffee Machine was won by Colin Cracknell who managed to win a box of chocolates as well! Pat Fuller won a Selection Box to go with the £20 Meat Voucher she won earlier.

Other winners included David Crossland, Muriel Hunter, Margaret Ware, Roy Bly, Josephine Beaumont, Ellie Tanser, Pete Lincoln, Glen Harman, Brian Nickson, Peter Wilson, Colin Basley, David Herd, Terry Lynn, Jean Carter, Eileen Stout and last but not least Bill Shirley who won a bottle of Baileys and a Mary Berry Cook Book, (great to see you there Bill)

Huge thanks to Peter for obtaining some terrific prizes; Hampers; Vouchers; Christmas Cake and the Panatone.

January Raffle winners:

£20-00 vouchers for Tesco (OPE) & Ginger's of Willerby were won by Barbara Cross and Doug Ombler, whilst other winners included Dave Jackson & Barbara Wilkinson along with Colin Hill, Wally Jude, Chris Coates, Alan Dalton, Ken Franks, Steve Graham, Phil Hare and Malcolm Franks plus, of course, Ken Baker who won the star prize, a trip to Middleham and Simon West's stables.

The photo below shows Ken (left) and his son Martin (behind) at the stables. Paul is in the centre with his famous horse, Sugarpiehoneybunch, Simon West, the Trainer is on the right, holding Jess the Stable cat, and his fiancée, Olivia on the horse.



Player of the Month:

December saw George Honeyman lead the way with 34 votes. Behind him came KLP (31) followed by Nathan Baxter (23) and Shaun McLoughlin (13).

The overall positions for the Player of the Season sees Matt Ingram holding on to the lead position with 110 votes. Gathering ground is George Honeyman (90) followed by Nathan Baxter (67) & Jacob Greaves (63).



There was a full coach when we left the MKM early on January 20th for our trip to see the wonderful 'Chocolate Story'. It was a truly fascinating experience that gave us the whole story and not just the local story. We had the fascinating story of the chocolate moguls who created Terry's, Rowntree's, Cadbury's & Fry's and the reason why Belgium chocolate may reign supreme and American chocolate could be worth avoiding!

A great visit followed by a late lunch at the Percy Arms in Airmyn (near Goole) which was 'fab'.

This month Barbara is leading us over the Bridge to visit the **Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre** at Spilsby where we can "re-live a World War 2 Bomber Airfield and experience the sights & sounds, the smells & atmosphere". To add to the visit we can enjoy a visit to **Louth** and it's magnificent church sporting a 287 foot tall steeple. This makes it the tallest medieval parish church in the UK. One interesting story tells of how the Lincolnshire Rising in 1536 started in the church as they rebelled in hope of preventing the Crown from raiding their Treasury. For this act of 'treason' the Vicar, Rev'd Thomas Kendall, would be 'Hanged, Drawn and Quartered' at Tyburn the following Spring. Tough days!



A report on our January meeting and the visit of Catherine Bishop (CEO Tiger's Trust) can be read on our website. Click on dates and then 2021-22 and scroll down.



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MEMORABILIA Article

The 2nd World War Years

Tony Conway

Senior Tigers Memorabilia & Heritage Coordinator.

Last month I wrote about football during WW1 so where better to visit this month than WW2. War was on the horizon in the late 1930s and football continued to be an outlet for the sporting public. However, 3 games into the 1939/40 season saw war declared on Germany and a halt was declared on domestic football. The last games were played on Saturday 2 September and the war was declared on the following day. The government immediately imposed a ban on the assembly of

crowds so the Football League (FL) competition was halted.

On 14 September the government permitted clubs to play friendlies but in the interest of public safety, crowds were limited to 8,000. This was later revised to 15,000 but with a travelling limit of 50 miles. The FL divided the clubs into 7 regional areas and competition resumed in late October. In what became known as the "Phoney War", Britain experienced no action at home, so a further competition, **The FL War Cup** was arranged. Wembley hosted the final on 8 June 1940 between West Ham United and Blackburn Rovers. 42,300 witnessed a 1-0 win for the Hammers.

A month later on 10 July, the Luftwaffe carried out its first bombing raid on London and the Battle of Britain had begun. Football continued and on 19 September 1940, the FA relaxed their ban on Sunday football to provide recreation for war workers. Winston Churchill took the view that the continuation of football was good for the morale of the Nation.

Many players had joined up and some joined the Territorials, others found occupations in support services, such as the police, fire service or in the mines as Bevin Boys of which Nat Lofthouse and Len Shackleton are two. Some of the best players became Physical Training Instructors (PTI).

Players who became well known to City fans later made valuable contributions. **Wilf Mannion** was somewhat of a hero, serving in France in 1940. It was reported he had been killed but was later evacuated from Dunkirk. Before being posted to South Africa he played for England against Scotland. He was later involved in the invasion of Sicily and then at Anzio on the way to Rome and followed this with time in Cairo.



Wilf Mannion

After the war, Wilf continued his football career with distinction and became the "Golden Boy" of football. He signed for the Tigers in 1954 making 17 appearances and scoring once.

Raich Carter was employed by the Auxiliary Fire Service and continued to play for Sunderland. Crowds often booed him because they thought he was avoiding National Service. This caused him great stress so he joined the RAF and became a PTI.

Major Frank Buckley had been a Senior Officer in the Football Battalion during WW1 (see last month's article). He attempted to rejoin the army but at 56 he was considered too old. He was the Wolves manager at the time and encouraged his players to join the armed forces. It was reported that 91 men from Wolves joined during the 6 years.

Cliff Britton became a PTI at Aldershot along with **Joe Mercer** and **Stan Cullis** and all 3 played for Aldershot AFC during the war.

Stan Mortensen was a Wellington Bomber wireless operator.

Billy Bly played for City in 38/39, 39/40 and 40/41 seasons and served in France and Germany with the Royal Artillery. He returned to Hull in 1946 and played for a further 14 seasons making 456 appearances in goal. He guested for many clubs during the war as well as few appearances for

City. Billy represented the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) Combined Services alongside many well know internationals. He also played for the England Professional X1, a combined British Army & RAF team in Paris against a France Select X1 and the Combined Services X1 in Germany. He represented The 86th Heavy AA Regiment 206 times, winning 197, drawing 3 and losing only 6 games. The Commanding Officer of the 86th was Edward Heath, who later became Prime Minister. Billy remained friends with Edward and exchanged Christmas Cards for many years. It should be noted that many other City players also joined the forces.



Billy Bly

As far as the football club was concerned the war years were dark. In the late 1930s, the club was in financial difficulties, plus a new stadium had been planned for a site on Boothferry Road but they were struggling to raise funds to start development. The approaching war hindered the club's progress and plans. In 38/39 they finished 7th in Division Three North and played 2 games in 39/40 before the outbreak of war, drawing both games.

From October they were entered into the North East Regional League, finishing 7th. They also played 5 games in the FL War Cup. 40/41 season saw them in North Regional League, finishing 33rd out of 36 teams. Plus 4 games were played in the FL War Cup. Positions in the league were decided on goal average, not wins and draws. Clubs struggled to put out teams and often relied on

guest players. The Tigers used 38 different players and the constant chopping and changing affected the results. City lost 8-0 to Middlesbrough, 8-2 to Grimsby (both at home) and 5-0 at Barnsley. Some games must have been exciting though as the records show we had 2 x 5-4 wins. Home games continued at Anlaby Road but unfortunately, Mr Hitler had other ideas and the ground suffered bomb damage. With the ground being unfit, difficulties in getting a team together each week and the continuing financial problems it was decided to close the club down at the end of this season. Public interest was also at a low point and a crowd of only 1,500 was attracted to the home game against Leeds United.

The Tigers re-emerged in 1944 for the 44/45 season. Playing in 3 different competitions as the FL struggled to organise meaningful competitions. A home venue was a problem as Anlaby Road was unfit due to the bomb damage and the new site at Boothferry Road had been requisitioned by the military. City was able to use Hull FC's ground at the Boulevard, except on 11 November when they played Newcastle United at Bootham Crescent, York. Putting a team out was again a problem and City used 85 players. This was reflected in some horrendous score lines in defeat, losing 8-1, 8-2, 7-1, 7-0, 6-3 and 6-1 twice.

This was a difficult time and it was decided not to participate in the 45/46 season. It was thought by many that with such poor results, continuing financial problems and no ground the end of the Tigers was close. However, working away in the background, a group of local businessmen led by **Harold Needler** were working on a plan. The ambitious group took on the building of a new ground on the Boothferry Road site and as we know now a near sporting tragedy turned out to be a sporting success.

You will be able to read more about the players and study extensive stats on the games mentioned above on the new website which is coming shortly.

BARNSELY FOOTBALL CLUB
LIMITED.

BARNSELY v. HULL CITY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 1945

CUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS

BARNSELY (Red Shirts, White Knickers) Kick-off 3-15

R		1 BINNS		L
	2 HARSTON		3 PALLISTER	
	4 LOGAN	5 BIRKINSHAW	6 ASQUITH	
	7 SMITH	8 FLEETWOOD	9 ROBLED	10 COOLING
			11 MCGARRY	

Referee: W. MURDOCK, Manchester.
Linesman: J. L. DAVIES, Doncaster, F. H. LANVENDER, Sheffield.

11		9		8		7
	10 FLINTON	MILLER	RICHARDSON	HOWE	BELL	
	6 ARMESON	5 JOHNSON	4 HARRIS			
	3 STOKES	2 HOLLIS				
L		1 CURNOW				R

HULL CITY (Black and Amber Shirts)

NEXT MATCHES AT OAKWELL

Saturday, March 3rd—Reserves v. Sheffield Wednesday Res.
Sheffield Senior Cup — Second Round Replay Kick-off 3-15

Saturday, March 10th—BARNSELY v. BURNLEY
FOOTBALL LEAGUE—NORTH KICK-OFF 3-15

Programmes 1d. each.

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(footnote from Allen – that's my actual Birthday!)