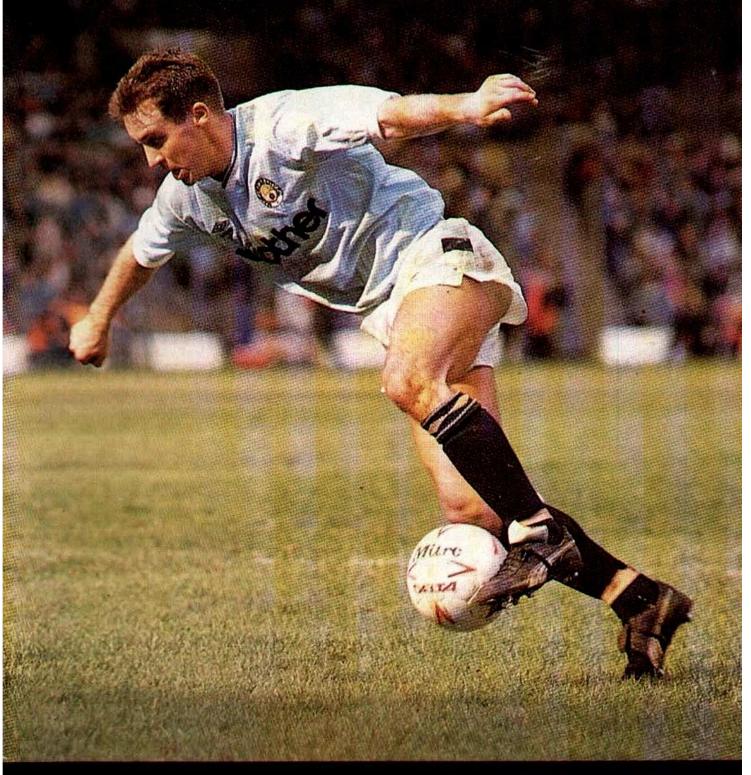
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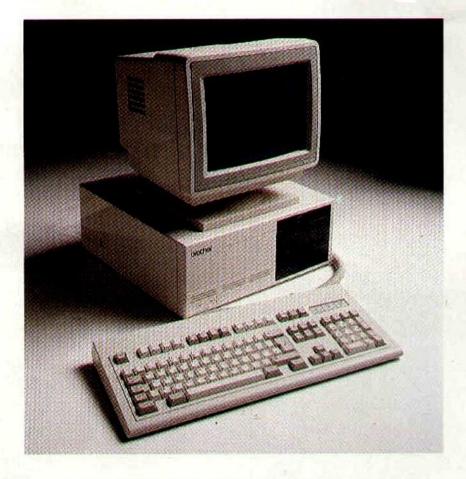
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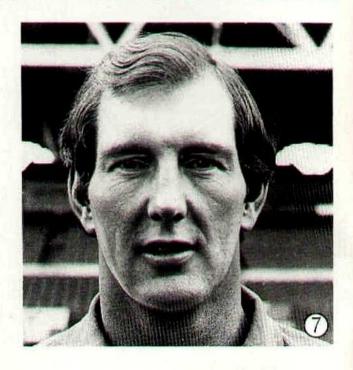
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WE'RE CITY'S GREATEST SUPPORTER

TEAM TALK



SEVEN games left and if we win four of them we'll be on our way back to the First Division. We may not need to win as many as four, if other results go our way. But that has to be the target because promotion is in our own hands.

And since we have four games left at Maine Road, starting with today's match against Swindon Town, it's within our power to do the job at home.

Everything looks easy on paper. We all know how different things can be in reality. There will be no easy games until we have made sure of promotion.

At this stage of the season, it doesn't matter so much how we play as long as we win. Sometimes you have to scrape a result as we did with a late goal from Trevor Morley at Shrewsbury on Tuesday night—although we had so much of the game that no one can say we didn't deserve our win.

It was a very important match for us after the defeat at Brighton and the manner of it. Shrewsbury were every bit as desperate for the points as we were and they made it very difficult for us by playing with a 'sweeper' and getting every player behind the ball at every opportunity.

The conditions didn't help and Shrewsbury raised their game because they were playing in front of their biggest home crowd of the season and also they had the confidence given them by two good results.

On the other hand, we had to show some character and bounce back after the Brighton defeat when there was nothing about our performance to give us any consolation.

We had one of those days at Brighton when we lapsed into making the kind of schoolboy mistakes I thought we had got out of our system a long time ago. Thankfully, that kind of performance doesn't rear its ugly head too often.

We should have been well capable of getting a result at Brighton, even without the suspended Neil McNab and Brian Gayle. It goes without saying that we missed both of them but there was no excuse for the way we gave Brighton their two goals.

I'm afraid it was down to lack of experience on the part of a couple of players who made silly mistakes. Brighton's first goal came from a penalty which was conceded needlessly because the Brighton player was going towards the corner flag and there was absolutely no need to make contact.

Then, to make matters worse, one of our players encroached into the penalty area just before Paul Cooper saved the penalty kick. You don't give a team a second opportunity in a game of such importance!

We got back on terms with a goal from Trevor Morley and then threw away the points by conceding an 'own goal', so you can understand why I was far from happy.

The encouraging feature is that we have shown a capacity to bounce back from a bad defeat or a disappointing performance. And there is no question that there was a tremendous improvement all round at Shrewsbury. If there hadn't been, we wouldn't have got the result we deserved and needed.

Brian Gayle's return to the side was reflected in the fact that we didn't concede a goal. That's how vital I feel he is to us now.

It is important at this time for you all to get behind the players and not to put extra pressure on them. You have such a big part to play. Our away support this season, in terms of numbers, has been brilliant. And when you get behind the team it has to be worth a goal start.

The same applies at home and I'm sure you'll get behind the players this afternoon. I'm expecting another difficult game because Swindon still have a chance of qualifying for the play-offs and will be giving it everything.

But a win for us would send us to Blackburn next Saturday in a confident frame of mind and, at the very least, maintain our position nine points ahead of the pack. We need four wins ... but I know we're good enough to win all seven of our remaining matches!



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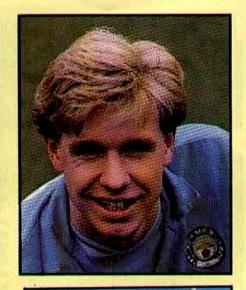
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"I was surprised when City came in for me" says DAVID OLDFIELD



THIS season's promotion and relegation struggles could have a bitter-sweet ending for City striker David Oldfield.

For, while the Blues remain on course for a place in the top flight, his old club Luton face an uphill struggle to stay up.

"It would be ironic if I go back into the First Division with City and Luton come down in the Second," said David.

"Of course, I'm excited about the prospects of promotion but I would be very sad indeed if Luton had to drop into the Second. I had some happy years there and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they escape relegation."

One of the highlights of David's career was being in the squad for Luton's Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal at Wembley

"I didn't quite make it into the final 13 for the game but just being involved with the build-up and the atmosphere on the day itself made it a memorable occasion for me," he said.

"I'll always remember the penalty save that Andy Dibble made. That was the turning point and we went on to win. Funny that Andy and I should now be at Maine Road.

"I had been at Luton since the age of 16 and was happy there although I didn't play a lot of First Division football. At the start of this season I was in the team, playing in a three man attack with Mick Harford and Roy Wegerle, but then it was decided to change things and Roy was scoring regularly so I dropped out.

"Even so, I was ready to stay and fight for my place and I was surprised when City came in for me."

David, a £600,000 signing, joined City a month ago, just too late to play in the Maine Road game against Leicester City. Instead he watched from the stands and saw Trevor Morley grab a superb hat-trick. It was an immediate message that competition for places was red hot in a team powering towards the First Division.

But three days later he made his City debut in a difficult game at Sunderland and played his part in an emphatic 4-2 win. It was a great way to start his City career and since then he has grabbed the chance to show he is a striker with goalscoring quality, who can be a real asset to the Blues for many years.

David opened his account with City at Walsall, claiming the first goal in a see-saw game which ended 3-3.

"Just a tap-in really after a Paul Moulden shot had rebounded off the keeper," was his modest description. And he notched a second goal in the win over Stoke City at Maine Road on Easter Monday, pouncing onto a Moulden cross and steering it into the corner.

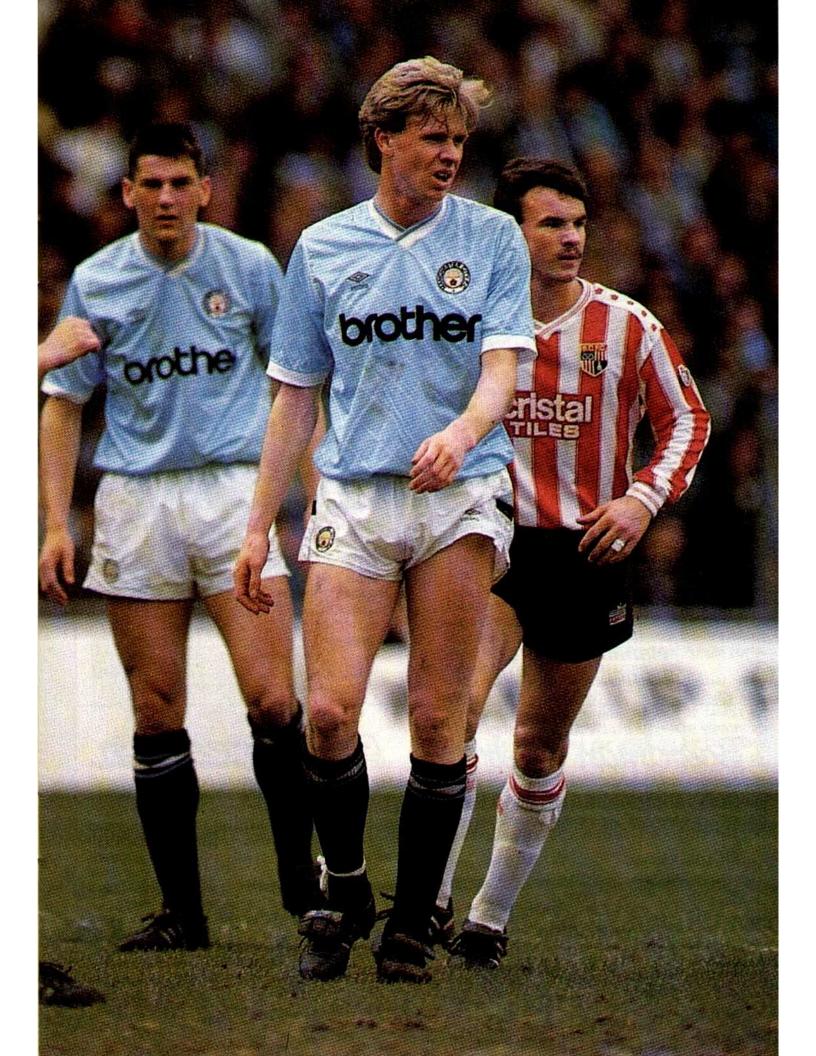
"I enjoyed that one, my first at home. A striker has to be looking for those chances and I just managed to get to the ball first—it was as simple as that—but, yes, one to remember. I hope there is a lot more to come."

David admits that his earlier performances were affected by lack of peak match fitness.

"I had been on the subs bench a lot at Luton and, in the week of the transfer talks, I hadn't managed to do any real training. It meant I needed a few games under my belt but now I feel much better.

"Tve been very impressed by the rest of the lads. They play some good football even though there have been a few dodgy games recently. Hopefully it's just the sort of patchy spell that most teams go through at some stage of the season.

"As for the First Division, I think this team could do well. Maybe I'm not the best judge because I haven't played a great deal of First Division soccer but, at the moment, I've not been aware of any difference in standards between Luton and here."



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SECOND GLANCE

The marathon is nearing its end. The Second Division season, with its 46 games, is an endurance test which closely examines a team's quality, character, strength in depth and powers of recovery over 8½ months of triumph and disaster, highs and lows.

The analogy with the athletic marathon is plain to see. The race is won not in its early stages but by the competitor who has the strength and resilience to last the distance and can maintain the same punishing pace while others are falling away.

Such a description applies to Chelsea, of course, whose promotion back to Division One is all but guaranteed. After a slow beginning to the season, when Bobby Campbell's men took just three points from the first six games, they have overtaken all their rivals, with their unbeaten run of 26 League matches giving them a cushion of 10 points from second placed City.

Chelsea are also the Division's leading scorers,



Kerry
Dixon—
five goals
in the past
week.

with 83 goals and they have taken maximum points from their last seven fixtures, a 21 points haul which has carried them away from the rest of the field, like a runner putting in a sprint finish. Bournemouth (2-0), Ipswich Town (1-0), Barnsley (5-3), and Birmingham City (3-1) are the latest sides to be vanguished by the Londoners, with Kerry Dixon notching four goals in last Saturday's remarkable encounter with Barnsley. After Dixon gave the home side a third minute lead, Chelsea found themselves trailing twice, at 1-2 midway through the first half and then 2-3 just after the interval, but three more goals from Dixon in the second half restored some semblance of normality to the proceedings. Gordon Durie joined Dixon on the scoresheet, while Dobbin, Agnew and McLaughlin (own goal) were Barnsley's scorers.

Last Tuesday, the visitors to Stamford Bridge were

Birmingham City but the first half was a curious, listless affair which only came to life with Kevin Wilson's goal after 39 minutes. Carl Richards headed an equaliser just after the break, but Graham Roberts restored the lead after 54 minutes and Kerry Dixon wrapped up the points ten minutes later with his 25th goal of the season.

West Brom and Blackburn are tied on 64 points, with the Albion's inability to score costing them dear. Three of their last four games have finished 0-0 (versus Swindon Town, Walsall and Stoke City) with their only success being a 3-1 home win over Oldham Athletic. Blackburn have a similar record of three draws and one victory since Easter, but at least they are still finding the net, with Howard Gayle on target in the last three games. On Tuesday, Mark Atkins and Gayle gave Rovers a two goal lead at Watford within nine minutes of the start of the second half, but Hornets' substitute Garry Thompson put the home side back in the game after 67 minutes and in a dramatic finale, talented youngster Rod Thomas grabbed the equaliser four minutes from time, to keep Watford's hopes of a play-off place alive.

Another side still very much in contention are Crystal Palace, with four wins from the last five matches. On Easter Monday, Palace were involved in a bizarre clash with Brighton which saw five bookings, one man sent off, five penalties awarded and three missed! Mark Bright converted one spot kick for Palace and Alan Curbishley did likewise for Brighton, but Bright, Wright and Pemberton all missed from twelve yards. Amid all the controversy, Brighton's Mike Trusson received his marching orders, but thanks to a goal from Ian Wright (not a penalty!), Palace's good run continued.

A 1-2 reverse at Shrewsbury dented their prospects last Saturday, but Steve Coppell's side bounced back with a fine 2-1 win at Leeds on Wednesday evening. Wright gave the visitors an early lead which was cancelled out by Carl Shutt after 18 minutes and then David Madden kept his nerve to slot home a penalty a few minutes before half time. The victory put Palace in the top six and with three games in hand on most of their rivals, they may yet emerge from the pack to pose a real threat in the final weeks of the season.

EXTRA CAR PARKING FACILITIES

Car parking is now available at Wilbraham School on Platt Lane (next to Police Station).

£1.00 per car (no Minivans etc.)
Attendant on duty during match.

LOOKING BACK

IOHN MADDOCKS recalls events at City 5, 10 and 20 years ago.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

It seemed that promotion hopes had finally vanished when Carlisle United took an 8th minute lead at Maine Road, Williams beaten all ends up as Hill headed in a Haigh cross, but the Blues rolled up their sleeves and emerged as 3-1 winners to close

the points gap on Newcastle.

City needed a lucky break to get level. Unchanged from the recent win at Swansea, they put the United goal under pressure and after 13 minutes a somewhat optimistic shot by May cannoned off a Carlisle defender leaving 'keeper McKellar stranded. The visitors almost regained the lead before half-time when Shoulder got up to a Poskett centre only to see his header fly off the bar, but City were looking comfortably in command at the break.

Ex-Blue Russell Coughlin was deemed to have handled a fierce Parlane effort after 65 minutes, an extremely harsh decision, and McKellar was lucky not to get his marching orders in the vigorous United protests which followed. Justice was done in the event, though, Tolmie's penalty providing McKellar

with a comparatively easy save.

Nine minutes later Tolmie was withdrawn, Johnson taking his place, and it was an inspired substitution by manager McNeill. The former Everton player almost scored with his first touch, forcing McKellar into making a brilliant save, and indeed Johnson had only been on the pitch two minutes when he diverted a ball to Smith who scored from close in. A third goal for City was always on the cards and it came through Parlane, who created space for himself before shooting past McKellar.

TEN YEARS AGO ...

City travelled to the Hawthorns with a muchchanged team from the one defeated at Ipswich, but the new faces and different positions counted for nothing in the face of an intense Albion onslaught.

A goal down in 7 minutes when Trewick was given the freedom of City's defence after persistent work from Regis, they went further behind before the break to an unlucky own goal by Power as he tried to dispossess Regis on the edge of the area. Mills and Summerfield added to City's misery in the second half as Albion coasted to a 4-0 win.

At last came a Maine Road fixture, on 7th April. Wolves were the visitors, City no doubt taking some encouragement from the fact that they had drawn at

Molineux 10 days earlier.

Midway through the first half no-one would have bet a penny on a City victory. The defence regularly gave the ball away and Wolves only had themselves to blame for not establishing a lead. But a City goal came out of the blue, Booth heading Reid's cross into Channon's path to make it 1-0.

It was now Wolves' defence that creaked ominously and Silkman marked his home debut by setting up Palmer early in the second half, his venomous 20 yard shot giving 'keeper Bradshaw not an earthly. Wolves then snapped back, Hibbitt netting a rebound that had hit a post from Richards'

Hartford and Owen were now setting the game alight and 8 minutes from the end came the final goal. Ron Futcher, who had replaced Channon, fed Henry who provided the cross for Silkman's header.

GOLDEN GOAL—WIN £50 FOR TODAY'S FIRST GOAL

WINNING TIMES:-Monday, 27th March, 1989 v. STOKE CITY FIRST CORNER: 0669 seconds FIRST GOAL: 1344 seconds

Congratulations to Mr. S. Keaney of Church Street, Dukinfield and Ian Armitage of Heap Bridge, Bury, who both won £50 in our Golden Goal competition against Stoke City. Remember, if you've got the correct time of the FIRST GOAL you will win £50, and if you have the identical time of the FIRST CORNER you can claim £5.

This afternoon you have another chance to win more cash prizes and all you need to participate is a copy of today's Match Magazine. The number below is your Golden Goal time and if it corresponds with the time

of the First Goal or First Corner kick, then you should make a claim with this page.

The only time to count will be announced by the Club's official time-keeper. It will be displayed on the Electronic Scoreboard at the Platt Lane end of the ground and it will also be published in the next edition of the Match Magazine to enable fans to make a late claim.

If the game ends in a 0-0 draw, then the First Goal winners will be those Match Magazine holders with

0000 showing as their time.

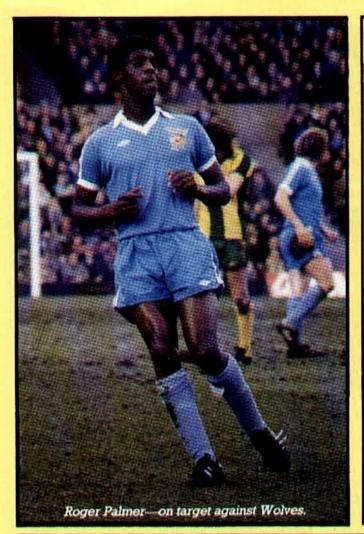
All claims should be sent immediately to GOLDEN GOAL No. 23, Manchester City F.C., Maine Road, Moss Side, Manchester M14 TWN or call with this page at the Club Offices.

(No correspondence will be entered into on the Golden Goal competition).

CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THIS PAGE.

YOUR TIME:

Golden Goal No. 23 v. SWINDON TOWN, Saturday, 8th April, 1989.



TWENTY YEARS AGO ...

Three games in five days was City's Easter programme in 1969. On Good Friday, Leicester came here and were beaten 2-0—the only points the Blues were to obtain from the trio of fixtures.

The game was a triumph for Summerbee who scored a rare brace of goals to deepen Leicester's relegation worries. His first after 12 minutes followed a neat Lee-Young build-up; his second rounded off a good move by Young and Bell well into the second half. Both Dowd and Shilton were on top form between their respective sticks, and Bowyer again showed his promise when coming on for Doyle.

Another 40,000-plus gate was announced at Leeds the next day, with the large crowd seeing an entertaining game. The emerging United were trying to shake off their defensive image and put Dowd's deputy Corrigan under great pressure to which he responded magnificently with a string of splendid saves.

The Blues didn't play badly, surviving two penalty appeals (one of which looked justified!) and finally went down 0-1 to a 63rd minute goal from Giles, who latched onto Cooper's shot which flew to him off Corrigan.

It was a mauled City that returned from Molineux on 8th April. Maybe they had underestimated a Wolves team that included 4 reserves. Or had Lee's goal after only 15 SECONDS induced thoughts that the game would be a doddle? Whatever, Wolves tore into them and could have been 4-1 up at the break. The second-half goals from Knowles (47 mins), Dougan (59 mins) and Munro (84 mins) were no more than they deserved, thoroughly humbling City's prospective Cup Final team.

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Reserve Reports

Saturday, 25th February, 1989
Everton Reserves 1 . . . City Reserves 2

The Reserves won at Goodison Park for the second year running with a fine all-round team performance. Two more debutants lined up for City—goalkeeper Ron Green, signed from Wimbledon on loan, and young full-back Mark Peters was promoted, following very good 'A' team

displays.

The game was always comfortably within City's grasp, Green rarely being tested during the 90 minutes despite Everton's table-topping position. Jason Beckford and Carl Bradshaw were in a lively mood to make sure that ex-City loan 'keeper Mike Stowell was kept extremely busy. Beckford tested Stowell early on and then his fine run set up Bradshaw whose shot Stowell blocked.

Bradshaw missed another chance before he opened the scoring after 31 minutes. Ashley Ward chased a long ball down the right, his cross was headed on by Andy Milner, and Bradshaw volleyed a

splendid goal.

After the break Beckford again caused problems, beating Stowell only to see ex-City skipper Paul Power clear off the line. At the back the Blues' defence played with calm authority, and there were more than a few raised eyebrows when the referee awarded a penalty against Green in the 67th minute for "bringing down" Carberry in the area. Carberry himself scored.

Undeterred, City pressed on for a winner with a Ward effort being blocked from only two yards out. Justice was finally done with two minutes remaining and it was new boy Peters who set the action going with a beautifully accurate ball through the middle for Beckford to run on to and slip into the net.

City: Green; Peters, Lennon; Burns, Barnes, Quigley; Beckford, Bradshaw, Ward, Milner,

Hughes. Subs: Small and Sheron.

Thursday, 2nd March, 1989 City Res. 0 . . . Liverpool Res. 0

After a delayed start due to a hitch with the floodlights, the game opened in a fairly lively fashion, on-loan 'keeper Ron Green saving well at the foot of a post from John Jeffers after a sweeping left-side raid involving Jim Beglin and Mike Marsh. Neil Lennon and Robert Barnes mopped up further Liverpool forays in fine style, and the Blues moved forward to win a fruitless corner.

Four minutes before the break Mike Quigley was involved in a nasty accidental collision with Marsh and was led off to have attention to a facial injury. He was replaced by Andy Hinchcliffe, who marked his arrival by handling the ball just inside the City penalty area a minute later—his first touch—but the charitable Beglin hit the penalty at the angle of the woodwork.

Paul Moulden replaced Ashley Ward for the second half and City became far more positive.

Having a fine game was young Mike Wallace, who twice put John Deehan through the Liverpool defence, the second raid resulting in a spate of City corners after sterling work by Mike Hooper in the Reds' goal.

After 76 minutes City's best move of the night, involving Moulden, Deehan and Willie Burns saw the young Scot clear through, but he put his shot too near Hooper who got down well. Green then saved briskly from Charlie Boyd and the game ended goalless with the Blues still winning corners but to no avail.

City: Green; Barnes, Lennon; Burns, Taggart, Quigley (Hinchcliffe); Milner, Deehan, Ward (Moulden), Beckford, Wallace.

Thursday, 7th March, 1989 Coventry City Res. 1 . . . City Res. 1

A draw was a satisfactory result from the Reserves' visit to Highfield Road, when you consider Coventry's good League position and also the fact that no less than SIX of our players on the pitch were in action 24 hours earlier in the Lancashire Youth Cup semi-final on a heavy Bolton pitch.

Ironically, whereas Coventry were the better footballing side in the first half, it was our Blues who created the better scoring chances—and contrived

to miss the lot.



John Deehanhis header extended the Reserves' unbeaten run.

After Gary Bannister had scored for home team, our lads gave the Coventry defence some hectic moments. An excellent Jason Beckford corner was met by John Deehan who was only inches too high with his flicked header. Again it was Deehan who was unlucky when a Mike Wallace free-kick saw a repeat performance with the Deehan brow.

After the break it was our City who served up the more entertaining stuff—and managed an equaliser. Jason Beckford took a free-kick on the left and defender Robert Barnes in turn found Deehan. It was third time lucky as John's downward header beat

Dean Kiely in the home goal (59 mins.).

At the other end Ron Green saved well from Hurst, but after 87 minutes he was powerless to get to a header from ex-Maine Road star Dave Bennett, who, no doubt full of happy memories of his former club, obligingly missed!

City: Green; Peters, Barnes; Burns (Small), Taggart, Deehan; Thompstone, Moulden, Ward,

Beckford, Wallace. Other sub: Hasford.

Great cash savings to be made SEASON TICKET OFFER

As expected, there was the usual late rush to beat the March 31st discount deadline with more than 4,000 fans now having booked their places at Maine Road next season.

Those supporters who have already purchased their tickets have taken maximum advantage of the Discount Scheme to obtain their soccer at cut-price rates, but savings—and substantial ones—are still available.

If you buy your Season Tickets before May 31st, you qualify for reduced prices in all sections of the stadium, so look below to check the savings on offer. Existing seat season ticket holders, in particular, should book now, for unless they renew their booking before the end of May, their seats could be allocated to other purchasers.

The message is clear there are still some great savings to be made—don't miss out!

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What the Government's Identity Card Scheme will mean to you

The Government plans to introduce a compulsory ID card scheme for football supporters in England and Wales. You, the fans, will have to buy an ID card if you wish to attend football matches. You will have to fill in an appropriate form and provide a photograph before you can be issued with a card. Your personal details will be stored on a computer and monitored. Football supporters will be the only people in the country who are made to have ID cards.

monitored. Football supporters will be the only people in the country who are made to have ID cards.

On match days you will have to join a queue of people waiting to have their ID cards checked before you enter the ground. If the computer breaks down there will be chaos. Even if the computers are working normally there is a good chance that somebody in the queue in front of you will have a card that will cause you delay.

If you are opposed to this scheme, please write to your local MP at:-

The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

and ask him or her to oppose the Government's proposals. These are some of the points that you may like to make:

- The ID card will not stop hooliganism (away from grounds).
- The scheme could cause serious delays at turnstiles.
- The bureaucracy and cost of the scheme will deter thousands from going to matches and could ruin some smaller clubs.
- Millions of law-abiding citizens including pensioners and season ticket holders are going to be inconvenienced by a scheme which will not benefit them, just to deal with a tiny minority of hooligans.

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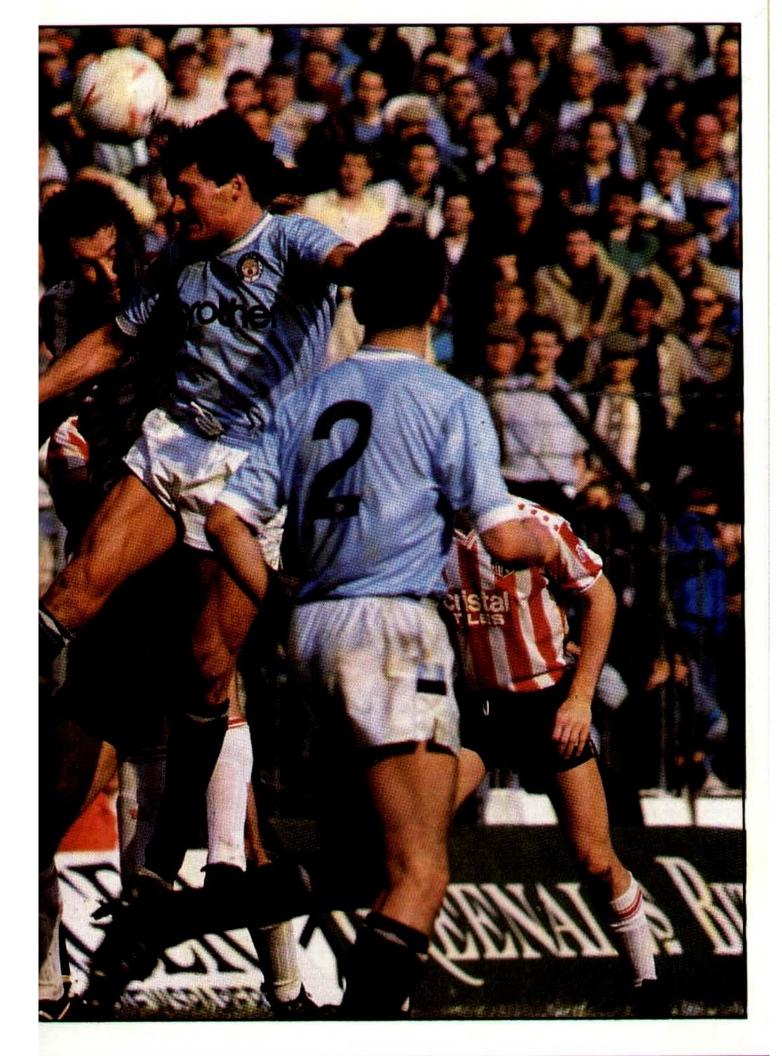
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Manchester, Blackley, Ken Eastham (L)

Eccles, Miss Joan Lestor (L)





Barclays League Division Two Av. Home League Av. Home League L F A Pts Leading League Scorer attendance '87/88 attendance '88/89 5 2 39 18 83 Dixon (21) 39 12 6 2 44 23 12 15,187 20,395 Chelsea 6 24 18 73 Moulden(11) 2 41 21 10 4 19,468 22,765 Manchester City 39 11 6 West Bromwich Albion ... 12 2 36 13 11 5 20 64 Goodman (15) 12,588 10,103 64 Gayle (17) 41 22 5 7 Blackburn Rovers 39 13 3 3 8,526 9,503 5 6 8 24 29 3 31 14 58 Wilkinson (15) Watford 37 12,727 11 14,536 8 23 28 58 Wright (17) Crystal Palace 36 10 6 2 32 16 6 4 9,795 10,040 5 7 31 58 Shearer, White (10) 7 2 29 14 8,434 Swindon Town 37 10 9,957 57 Blissett (17) incl. 1 with Watford 4 10 17 33 5 29 16 5 8,157 Bournemouth 38 12 7,538 32 20 9 6 19 23 56 Davison (13) 20,284 Leeds United 39 10 5 6 22,847 7 33 21 7 3 10 25 36 56 Dozzell (11) Ipswich Town 39 10 2 11,757 12,972 2 29 17 4 5 8 18 35 55 Bamber (7) incl. 3 with Watford Stoke City 37 10 8 9,603 10,214 Barnsley 37 9 7 3 34 21 4 6 8 19 31 52 Currie (13) 7,683 7,514 Sunderland 39 10 7 3 35 20 3 5 11 17 33 51 Gabbiadini(17) 15,207 17,425 4 26 15 2 8 9 21 37 49 McAllister, Newell (10) Leicester City 38 10 10,645 10,677 4 27 14 3 6 11 20 35 48 Quinn (15) Portsmouth 39 9 10,640 15,905 Oxford United 39 9 6 4 32 23 3 5 12 19 30 47 Foyle(14) 6,350 8,288 6,899 7,450 Brighton & Hove Albion .. 39 11 4 5 35 20 2 3 14 17 37 46 Bremner (15) 8,434 9,174 Bradford City 39 6 9 4 21 17 45 Quinn (10) incl. 6 with Leicester City 4 6 10 20 32 12,910 10,653 Plymouth Argyle 38 9 4 5 30 16 3 5 12 16 40 45 Tynan (24) 9,091 10,264 4 2 13 18 39 43 Edwards (23) 8 4 30 19 Hull City 38 6,902 8,146 8 18 25 6 9 14 32 35 Kelly, Irvine (5) Shrewsbury Town 38 4,854 4,947 Walsall 38 3 8 9 23 36 6 11 10 26 26 Naughton (6) 6,365 5,607 6,708 8,495 (Positions prior to today's fixtures).

CITY QUIZ BOOK WINNERS

Judging by the response to our recent competition, there are a lot of Blues fans out there who are well versed on the subject of Manchester City!

Jimmy Frizzell drew six postcards out of the hat and the lucky winners will each receive a copy of the "Manchester City Quiz Book", compiled by John Maddocks, which contains over 1,000 questions to test their knowledge still further.

For those of you who were not quite sure of the answers (and perhaps to settle some disputes!) they are revealed below:-

Question 1: The only City player to make maximum League appearances in season 1965/66 was Mike Summerbee.

Question 2: It is TRUE that the Blues were unbeaten at home in the 1965/66 promotion season.

Ouestion 3: The captain for City in this important season was Johnny Crossan.

The six winners are as follows:

Paul McKay from Hyde, Joe Richardson who lives in Bury, Gary Field of Withington, G.A. McConniff from Hathershaw, Tim Kelly from Ancoats and Alistair Wade of Tarporley.

Before you get involved in after-match discussions, read what Peter Gardner has to say in the PINK FINAL

Full reports on City's matches every Saturday.

TRAVELLING BLUES

Barclays League Division Two Saturday, 15th April, 1989 v. BLACKBURN ROVERS at Ewood Park (kick-off: 3.00 p.m.)

Admission: The limited number of seat tickets which were allocated to City for this match have been sold. A very limited number of standing tickets, price £3.50, are now on open sale. Tickets will be available while stocks last, until 11.30 a.m. on the day of the game.

Route: Take M63/M62 or more convenient route to join the M61. Follow M61, then A666 via Bolton (Inner Relief Road By-Pass) to Blackburn. Ewood Park is on the right-hand side, off the A666, approximately 11/2 miles before the town centre.

Programme Price: 70p.

Your route to Blackburn is courtesy of the R.A.C.

FANFARE



As the season reaches its climax, we welcome the Swindon supporters for the match this afternoon. Although we hope they enjoy the visit, let's keep our fingers crossed that their team doesn't go "Robin" the

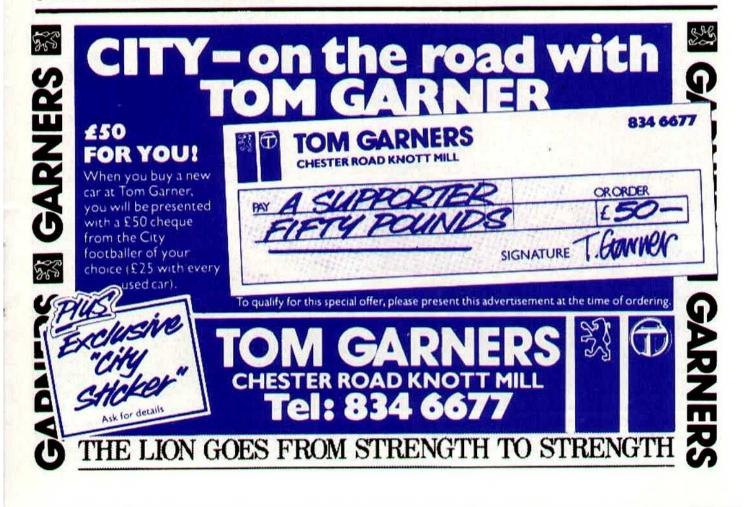
Blues of much needed points.

You may remember from this column a few weeks ago that I drew attention to the fact that this year sees the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the reformation of the Supporters' Club. There will be a special event later in the year to mark the occasion but, at the Presidents' Dinner on Maundy Thursday, there was a cake on display, commemorating 40 years, from Roberts Bakery which John Casey of the Northwich Branch had arranged to be prepared. Alan Entwistle, the Supporters' Club Games Secretary, later took the cake to St. Mary's Hospital in Hathersage Road and with his family presented the cake to Sister Jill Edwards, the Senior Nursing Officer of the Children's Ward. Sister Edwards was delighted to receive the gift which was shared amongst the younger patients—although she insisted that Alan's children had a share of the cake as well!

And the Player of the Year concert this year could be even more enjoyable than usual if promotion is gained. The date set aside is Monday 15th May at the City Social Club. Tickets are usually in short supply so don't waste any time in asking your Branch officials to put one aside if you want to go. Should you want any more information about how to join the Supporters' Club write to our General Secretary Frank Horrocks at Maine Road. In the last few weeks, the Australia Branch has been formally recognised and proposals to set up off-shoots in Sheffield, Crewe, Warrington/Leigh as well as restarting a Branch in Telford, Shropshire are well advanced. If you want more details of these Branches or have any suggestions for this corner of the magazine please contact me at 32 Brook Lane, Newton, Chester CH2 2AP (Telephone No. Chester 379259 during the week or Llanwnda 830897 at weekends).

If you enjoy exchanging views about the Blues, a supporter of BV Borussia 09 Dortmund, a team in the West German First Division is looking for a pen pal. Oliver Barthl of Berchmallee 736, 5820 Gevelsberg, West Germany is an 18-year-old follower of both the West German club and City and if you can help please make direct contact.

And finally a couple of birthdays to celebrate. First, City's versatile Ian Brightwell, the President of the Chester and District Branch is 21 tomorrow and all the members congratulate him on his traditional coming of age. Secondly, Christine Wardle from Higher Openshaw Branch is 30 today according to her sister Carol and we send her best wishes on reaching this great age!



Today's Visitors

SWINDON TOWN



by PETER GARDNER of the Manchester Evening News.

Swindon Town are among a host of clubs anxiously challenging for a place in the lucrative end of season play-off competition.

And they know all about the demands that entails, having survived to win the Third Division tournament two years ago when striking out on a promotion course for the second successive campaign.

Before the mid-week home victory against Bradford City, Swindon had not won for three successive outings with home draws against Blackburn Rovers and West Bromwich Albion either side of a shock 4-1 defeat at the hands of Plymouth Argyle at Home Park.

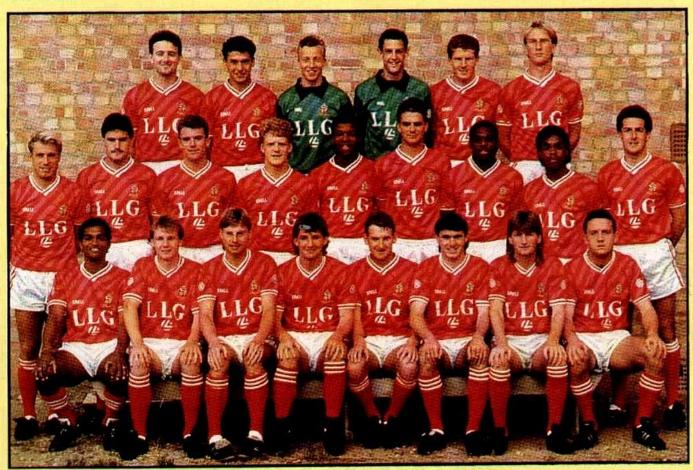
Yet prior to that, Swindon had won five of the previous six matches in their well timed bid to qualify for the play-offs. A draw against Leeds United at Elland Road, in fact, enabled them to string together an impressive unbeaten sequence of seven matches in staking their claim as the countdown to the season continues.

But then Swindon have been getting it right since late November when, after three successive defeats that saw them lose at Stoke and Hull plus a home setback at Ipswich in between, they beat Walsall to spark off an earlier unbeaten run of five matches before Manchester City went to the County Ground and

won 2-1 on New Year's Eve.

In 14 league fixtures since, Swindon have lost on only three further occasions . . . at Crystal Palace 1-2, at Chelsea 2-3 and at Plymouth 1-4, a consistent streak that has left them well in contention to finish among the four clubs who will play off behind the top two who are automatically promoted.

Swindon returned to the Second Division last season following a 13-year absence and completed that campaign in a mid-table position. However, in the last close-season, freedom of contract saw them lose several key players, including prolific scoring Jimmy Quinn who was Second Division top marksman last term.



Back row (1-r): Charlie Henry, Colin Calderwood, Nicky Hammond, Fraser Digby, Duncan Shearer, Tim Parkin. Middle row (1-r): Leigh Barnard, Ross Maclaren, Dave Hockaday, Phil King, Jon Gittens, Adrian Viveash, Neil Tomlinson, Fitzroy Simpson, Steve White. Front row (1-r): Bobby Barnes (now Bournemouth), Dave Barnett, Paul Bodin, Steve Foley, Gary Marshall, Alan McLoughlin, Peter Coyne, Dean Casserly.

Lou Macari is becoming one of the most sought after managers in the Second Division.

The future of Swindon's highly successful boss was again a matter of conjecture last summer when he was linked with a possible move to Chelsea, currently running away with the Division Two championship.

However, he finally committed his immediate future to the Wiltshire club with whom he enjoys the unique distinction of having been sacked and then re-appointed within the space of a few days.

Swindon dismissed the former Scotland, Celtic and Manchester United star in April three years ago following a bust-up with then coach Harry Gregg. But a players' deputation approached the board and Macari was instantly restored.

Macari's glittering playing



LOU MACARI

career began at Celtic Park where he won League and Scottish F.A. Cup winners medals before a major move south to Old Trafford.

He won an F.A. Cup medal with United in 1977 when the Reds beat Liverpool and also won runners-up awards in the same competition in 1976 and 1979. Macari also played in United's 1983 losing Milk Cup final side and was a member of the team that pulled off the Second Division championship in 1975.

A 24-times capped Scottish international, Macari joined Swindon in July, 1984 and two years later steered the club out of the Fourth Division as champions. Then Swindon went on to further promotion to the Second Division when they won the end of term play-off competition the season before last

To replace Northern Ireland international Quinn, Town manager Lou Macari signed Duncan Shearer from Huddersfield Town for a fee of £250,000 which was a record for both clubs. Other players to leave the County Ground during the summer were Dave Bamber, to Watford, Chris Kamara (Stoke City), Bryan Wade (Swansea City) and Keiran O'Regan (Huddersfield Town).

Fraser Digby remains the current first choice goalkeeper although last season was a disappointing one for the former Manchester United man who joined Swindon in December, 1986, for a fee of £32,000. A thumb injury received in late October restricted his senior appearances to 31 and also cost him his place as England Under 21 goalkeeper although he was later named in several of the end of season squads by Young England boss Dave Sexton.

Dave Hockaday signed a new two-year contract with Town last summer and the former Blackpool player who joined Swindon in August, 1983, has been enjoying a new lease of life following his switch to full-back. Colin Calderwood joined the club from Mansfield for a fee of £27,500 and has been a stalwart defender at the heart of the Town defence since arriving in Wiltshire, skippering the team in their two successive promotion seasons of 1985-86 and 1986-87.

Former Southampton defender Jon Gittens has also proved a firm favourite at the County Ground following his £45,000 move from the Den in July, 1987. It was a

The record so far

City v. Swindon—a fixture which holds the unwanted distinction of attracting the lowest ever League crowd to Maine Road when the teams met in January 1965. Just 8,015 fans turned out to witness Swindon's 2-1 win and it marked a watershed for City with the glories of the late Sixties just around the corner.

City's League record against the Robins is as follows:

Home Away 1963-64 0-0 0-3 1964-65 1-2 1-0 1987-88 1-1 4-3 commanding performance for the Saints against Liverpool's Ian Rush that brought him initially to Macari's attention.

Ross Maclaren, one time
Glasgow Rangers defender, came
south to join Shrewsbury on a free
transfer and after five seasons at
Gay Meadow went to Derby
County for £67,500 where he spent
a further three seasons before a
£150,000 transfer to Swindon last
July.

Midfield men in the Town ranks include Steve Foley, Alan McLoughlin and Tom Jones. Formerly with Sheffield United, Foley was signed by Swindon for £37,000 in July, 1987 while McLoughlin was a free-transfer signing from Manchester United in August, 1986. Jones, signed from Aberdeen last September for £80,000, scored on his League debut against Watford the following month and is a former Chelsea apprentice.

Shearer's front running partner is Steve White, who must represent one of Swindon's best free transfer signings in history if the evidence of 35 goals in 61 full first team appearances prior to the start of this season is to be accepted.





JUNIOR BLUES NEWS

Our April meeting is on Sunday, 16th April at the City Social Club at 10.15 a.m.

Amanda and Elizabeth would like Junior Blues to draw a picture of their favourite City player and bring it along to the meeting, where the best will win a special prize.

We will also be having a "Best Dressed Banana" competition, so dress up your bananas and bring them along!! There's lots of entertainment in store so come and join in the fun and games.

Junior Blues who took part in our Sponsored Trot last month and have collected their sponsorship money can send it to Mrs. Jessie Ward in the Junior Blues office, or bring it to our meeting on April 16th.

JUNIOR BLUES OF THE YEAR

Junior Blues Chairman Mr. Ian L.G. Niven appreciates the nominations received for "Junior Blues of the Year" and an announcement of the winners will be made shortly.

Sponsored by HYDE GROUP LTD, the complete PRECISION ENGINEERED package DRIVEN by PROJECT MANAGEMENT

F.A. Youth Cup Semi-Final (first leg)—Wednesday, 5th April, 1989 City Youth 2... Newcastle United Youth 1

A splendid crowd of 2,760 turned out on a bitterly cold evening and were treated to a feast of fine football, a game in which the City youngsters enhanced their growing reputations with some excellent individual performances.

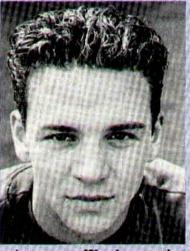
The visitors opened briskly, swarming around the City penalty area, the diminutive David Cleary looking particularly dangerous, but the Blues soon clicked into action and forced two quick corners, Ashley Ward heading just over from the second. Michael Hughes made some incisive runs in from the right wing to give the massed Newcastle defence a busy time, and Mike Wallace also provided some telling balls from the left.

Ward nearly gave us the lead after 26 minutes, his strong drive almost taking 'keeper Dean Ferguson into the net as he got his hands to it. A goal seemed likely at any time, but when it arrived after 36 minutes it was United who got it. Lee Clark made a powerful run forward and slipped the ball to Tony Lormor whose shot clipped the foot of a post as it beat Martyn Margetson—the first goal the young Blues have conceded in this season's competition. Jason Hasford headed just over a minute before the break, and Newcastle were more than a little fortunate to be in front when the whistle went.

In the second half the City lads really came into their own. It took only three minutes for the equaliser to arrive, and it stemmed from Margetson whose powerful clearance found Ward. The head-on reached Hesford who slipped his marker cleverly to put the ball away in the bottom corner. It was inevitable really, the way Ward and Hasford had been linking during the evening.

Two minutes later Newcastle full-back Craig Chapman was stretchered off having injured himself in a tackle on Hughes and was taken to hospital with a suspected fractured leg. Tommy Heron substituted.

After 58 minutes Ferguson brought off a flying save



Jason Hasford hit City's equaliser.

to intercept a Ward cross-shot and five minutes later the City player headed a Wallace centre over the Newcastle bar. Hughes then just failed to get to a Hasford centre, and it was merely a question of when the Blues would take the lead.

There wasn't long to wait. After 69 minutes, a deep Hughes corner was chased by Taggart who turned to feed Colin Small and he scored from 10 yards.

A crafty Hasford lob under pressure was well caught by Ferguson after yet another tremendously long run upfield with the ball by Taggart had led to another City corner. Then Clark had a rare shot on target which gave Margetson no trouble.

Other important factors in the City success were the quick tackling and ball-winning of Mike Quigley and the artistry of Wallace which on occasion almost turned his full-back inside-out.

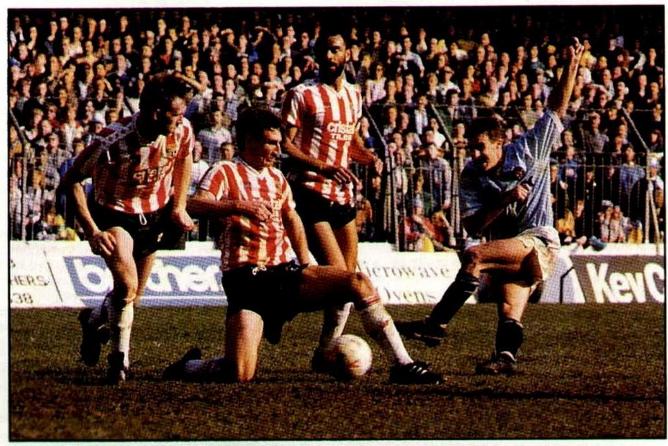
Maybe another goal would have been handy for the second leg on April 17, but April 5th certainly belonged to City.

City: Margetson; Lennon, Wills; Peters, Taggart, Small; Hughes (Thompstone), Hasford, Ward, Quigley, Wallace. Other sub: Sheron.

ACTION REPLAY



First home goal from David Oldfield as he beats Stoke's John Butler to a Moulden cross.



Three against one as Butler, Higgins and Berry combine to thwart Paul Moulden.

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO CHOOSE THE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

This is the last occasion that a voting form for the "Player of the Year" poll will appear in the Match Magazine, so City fans are urged to make their minds up as soon as possible and cast their votes without delay.

It should be remembered, of course, in coming to your decision that the conduct and general demeanour of the player off the field should also be taken into consideration, for the Supporters' Club, who organise this annual award, have always maintained that this was equally as important as events on the pitch throughout the season.

Will a forward be chosen for the first time since 1973, when Mike Summerbee landed the award for the second successive season, the only player ever to top the poll in consecutive years? Paul Moulden, with 11 League and 4 Cup goals to his credit this campaign, will undoubtedly attract some votes while Wayne Biggins (10 League and Cup goals) and Trevor Morley (11 League and Cup goals) will also have their admirers.

And what of the crop of young players who have already added to their reputations this season? Andy Hinchcliffe, Paul Lake, Ian Brightwell and David White have all played their parts, along with the other players already mentioned in this feature in the past month, but now a decision must be made.

Complete the voting form on this page and return it to the Supporters' Club before the end of April. Vote now and make this year's poll the biggest yet and, therefore, truly representative of the feelings of the majority of City supporters.

FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES

Central League Tuesday, 11th April

CITY RES. v. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN RES.

Kick-off 6.45 p.m.

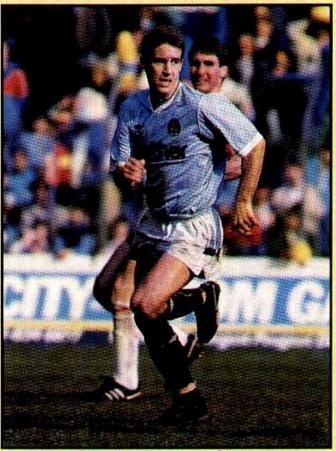
Barclays League Division Two
Saturday, 22nd April
CITY v. BARNSLEY
Kick-off: 3.00 pm.

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Paul Moulden—City's top scorer this season.

CITY SUPPORTERS' CLUB PLAYER OF THE YEAR 1988/89—OFFICIAL VOTING FORM

My choice	
for 'Player	
of the Year' is	
of the rear is	
My name	
My address	
Send the complete	ed form to:-
THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	on. General Secretary,
	.C. Supporters' Club,

Maine Road, Moss Side,

Manchester M14 TWN.

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CITY SUPPORTERS TRAVEL CLUB

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18 CHELSEA

4 Shrewsbury Town

8 SWINDON TOWN
15 Blackburn Rovers
22 BARNSLEY
29 Oxford United
1 CRYSTAL PALACE

6 AFC BOURNEMOUTH

20 F.A. Cup Final 13—Bradford City

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Barclays League Division Two—Saturday, 15th April, 1989 v. BLACKBURN ROVERS (dck-off: 3.00 p.m.)

Coaches: Depart Travel Club 12.30 p.m. Picking up in Manchester and Stockport. Price £3.00.

Train: Departs Victoria 1.00 p.m. Price: £4.00.

F.A. Youth Cup Semi-Final (second leg)—Monday, 17th April, 1989 v. NEWCASTLE UNITED YOUTH (dck-off: 7.30 p.m.)

Coaches: Depart Travel Club 3.15 p.m. Price £5.00.

The Travel Club is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 12 noon-5.30 p.m., prior to all First Team Saturday away games. Also any weekday prior to mid-week away games. We are also open before and after First Team home games and before all Reserve home matches. Please note that when booking a Membership Card must be produced.

TICKET OFFICE NEWS

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Dial-a-Seat: 227-9229
(Credit card bookings only)

Main and North Stand tickets are now on sale for our forthcoming home Barclays League Division Two game against Barnsley on Saturday, 22nd April (kickoff 3.00 p.m.). Prices in the Main Stand are £7, £6 and £5 and in the North Stand £4. Family Stand tickets (Adults £4, juniors £2) will be available until 5 p.m. on Friday, 21st April.

Barclays League Division Two Saturday, 15th April 1989 BLACKBURN ROVERS v. CITY Kick-off 3.00 p.m. THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

The very limited number of seat tickets allocated to City for this match have been sold. A small number of standing tickets, price £3.00, are now on open sale. Tickets will be available until 11.30 a.m. on the day of the game, if tickets remain.

Barclays League Division Two Saturday, 29th April, 1989 OXFORD UNITED v. CITY Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

A very limited number of seat tickets, price £7.00, will be available from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon next Saturday (15th April) to Regular Seat Season Ticket holders on presentation of **Application Form No.13**. A small quantity of 'restricted view' seat tickets will also be available to Regular Seat Season Ticket holders, price £5.50, on presentation of the same application form. Only two applications forms per person will be accepted.

Unfortunately due to the small seating allocation given to City for this match, postal applications cannot be accepted and we are unable to sell seat tickets via the Dial-a-Seat credit card service (061-227 9229).

N.B. With regard to standing accommodation, a decision has not yet been taken if this will be on an all ticket basis. Supporters are advised to watch out for further annoucements in the local press or phone City Ticketcall on 0898 12 15 91 for details.

Barclays League Division Two Saturday, 13th May, 1989 BRADFORD CITY v. CITY Kick-off 3.00 p.m. THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

Manchester City have not received any seat tickets for this match. A very limited number of standing tickets, price £4.50, will be available to Regular Seat Season Ticket holders only on presentation of Application Form No.14. Only two application forms per person will be accepted. These tickets will go on sale from 9.30 a.m.-12 noon on Saturday 22nd April from windows 10-6 only. Please queue from window 10 towards the Platt Lane Stand.

Unfortunately, due to the very limited number of standing tickets for this match, we are unable to accept postal or Dial-a-Seat credit card applications.

THE CARING FACE OF FOOTBALL



Strenuous efforts are being made to provide modern facilities for the safety and comfort of all football spectators.

This year, more than £1.25 million will be spent on improvements projects at Football League grounds and areas for people with disabilities form a major part of this programme. 1989 will see further initiatives including new and better toilet facilities and additional enclosures for family support.

The Football Grounds Improvement Trust is responsible for all these measures. Each year it receives £4.5 million from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters and spends it on schemes to improve standards at British football stadia.

MANCHESTER CITY

Sky blue shirts, white shorts, dark blue socks.

- 1. PAUL COOPER
- PAUL LAKE
- 3. ANDY HINCHCLIFFE
- 4. BRIAN GAYLE
- 5. GARY MEGSON
- 6. STEVE REDMOND (Capt)
- 7. DAVID WHITE
- 8. TREVOR MORLEY
- 9. NIGEL GLEGHORN
- 10. DAVID OLDFIELD
- III. WAYNE BIGGINS
- 12.
- 14.

Match Officials:

Referee: JOHN KEY (Rotherham)—Began his refereeing career in 1970 and progressed via the Sheffield County Senior League, the Yorkshire League and the Northern Premier League to the Football League Referees' List in 1981.

Linesmen: G. Cain (Bootle) Red trim. J.S. Cowley (St. Helens) Yellow flag.

SWINDON TOWN

Red shirts, red shorts, red socks.

- I FRASER DIGBY
- 2. DAVE HOCKADAY
- 3. PHIL KING
- 4. TOM JONES
- 5. COLIN CALDERWOOD (Capt)
- 6. JON GITTENS
- 7. STEVE FOLEY
- 8 DUNCAN SHEARER
- 9. ALAN McLOUGHLIN
- 10. ROSS MACLAREN
- 11. STEVE WHITE
- 12.
- 14.



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