



Hull City DSA Newsletter



Hello and welcome to the October edition of the HCDSA newsletter!

Notes from our Chair, David Batte

Welcome to our October newsletter!

I'd like to begin with a special thank you to Ollie Harsley, whose monthly contributions have become a real highlight of this newsletter. His thoughtful observations always give us plenty to reflect on, and I know many of you enjoy them as much as I do.

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting via Zoom, and I'd like to thank everyone who logged in and took part. I'm honoured to have been re-elected as Chairperson of the DSA, and I'm delighted to continue working alongside Dan Little, who remains Vice Chair, and Jackie Smith, who was re-elected as Secretary.

We also welcome back Mike Johnston to our committee.



Hull City Disabled Supporters Association



@HullCityDSA



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**COFFEE
MORNINGS
RETURNING IN
NOVEMBER**

**11TH NOVEMBER
2ND DECEMBER
6TH JANUARY
TIGERS TRUST
ARENA**

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Chairs notes continued...

Mike brings a wealth of experience from his work in the disabled sector, and I know his knowledge and enthusiasm will be a huge asset as we continue to grow and develop as a group.

On the pitch, it's certainly been entertaining! Our new manager has brought an exciting, attacking style of football that has made the Tigers a joy to watch. It's refreshing to see so many chances being created, and I think we all feel the buzz of optimism that comes with that.

Our Player of the Match votes are well underway again this season, and it's been fantastic to see so many of you joining in via our Facebook group. At the time of writing, Ryan Giles has made a strong start, picking up several votes already. Make sure to have your say after every game—it's a great way to get involved.

I'm also pleased to confirm that DSA membership is now open again. You can sign up easily via our website, and we'd love to welcome both new and returning members. We remain an affiliate member of the Football Supporters' Association, and their ongoing support and guidance continues to be invaluable in helping us take the group forward.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we're making the DSA stronger than ever.

Until next time—Up the Tigers!

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Olly Harsley sums up the month of September for us.

Hull City started their September with a trip to South Wales as they faced Swansea City. Sergej Jakirović's side were aiming to move forward from their last two league defeats and get at least a point on the board.

City fell behind in the 40th minute when Žan Vipotnik fired the ball home. Just before the break, the Tigers were back level as Oli McBurnie met Ryan Giles' low cross and struck against his former club.

Swansea later retook their lead when Ronald had the freedom of City's penalty area to slot home. However, Jakirović's men deservedly grabbed a 97th minute equaliser courtesy of John Egan's first goal for the club.

Next up was the visit of recently relegated Southampton to the MKM Stadium. It turned out to be a wonderful occasion as Jakirović tactically outclassed Will Still and his possession heavy football. Kyle Joseph, John Lundstram and McBurnie grabbed City's three goals which completely blew the Saints away. Sadly, the clean sheet wasn't kept in tact as Adam Armstrong scored a late consolation for Still's side. There was some very sad news for all associated with the club as former City player and manager Ken Houghton passed away at the age of 85. Very well respected and regarded by everyone that knew him, this is an absolute testament to how he was such a wonderful person and the positive impact he had during the time he spent at the club. Ken's legacy will always live on and he'll forever remain in the thoughts of every single City fan. Future generations will be taught about how he scored 91 goals in 304 appearances and cemented his status as a club legend.

In the penultimate game of the month, City ventured to Watford. Jakirović's team put in an excellent first half display in which they went ahead through yet another McBurnie goal and should've gone in at half-time with a more comfortable lead. They were made to pay for this by the Hornets as they came from behind and took all three points. It was such an inconsistent performance and maybe indicative of where the Tigers may find themselves in the league table this season.

The Tigers' final September fixture saw them welcome Preston North End to East Yorkshire. In a dreadful first half performance, the visitors went 2-0 up inside the opening ten minutes after being gifted their goals by absolutely terrible defensive play yet again. Jakirović made a triple change at the beginning of the second half and it led to a vastly improved display. The Giles/McBurnie partnership paid dividends once again as the latter grabbed two more goals and secured a point for City.

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10 Questions for Rob Palmer – The Voice of La Liga and Hull City fan.

5. Can it be true that Rob Palmer has a credit for an appearance in the 90s tv show Cracker ?

True. When working at Granada TV, one of the production team needed a voice for a 'horse-racing' commentary. I had no idea it was the opening scene for Cracker, setting up the opening sequence of Robbie Coltrane's character as a compulsive gambler. My credit was between Coltrane and Christopher Ecclestone, who later became Dr. Who.

6. Who is the greatest Palmer of all time at the DSA headquarters we are thinking Charlie?

It would have to be Charlie, who also played for Derby. Kasey has a chance. Maybe one day we'll sign Cole?

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7. You covered the 1994 World Cup in the USA for ITV that must have been an amazing experience?

Yes, a career highlight. I wasn't in the original ITV team but happened to be coaching kids in America when they found themselves one short. I'd spent a lot of time playing and coaching in the States, so it was special to work on the World Cup. I commentated on many matches and even went to Washington DC to interview the Switzerland manager, Roy Hodgson. The experience was cut dramatically short when my wife gave birth three months early!

8. Some years ago the Yongge consortium was negotiating to buy Hull City and you advised fans to be careful what they wished for. The subsequent events at Reading suggest you were right all along?

It was a tricky time. It was clear that many people wanted a change of ownership. I wasn't just concerned about Yongge. There were several vultures who wanted to dip into the riches of the Premier League pot. One group sounded me out about the value of the players at the club. The plan was clearly to cash in by selling the stars. They thought the current owners had overvalued the squad. Mohamed Diame was one player cited. They didn't take over, he stayed and scored the goal that won promotion. He was eventually sold to Newcastle for a decent profit. I knew that several of the potential buyers didn't have the fans interest at heart, hence the #becarefulwhatyouwishfor hashtag. Some detractors felt I was siding with the custodians, but I was warning that there was far worse out there!

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9. You are known as the voice of La Liga but City fans have heard you on Sky with red button games too ?

I've commented on La Liga for thirty years now. I've been fortunate to cover the Messi/Ronaldo years for Sky Sports. Now I work for ESPN who show all the Spanish games in the USA. We're also showing the Saturday Night La Liga match on Disney+ in the UK and Ireland this season.

Occasionally, I do get invited to commentate on the midweek EFL games for Sky which are broadcast on the red button. It made sense for me to be assigned Hull City matches. Although, I can be neutral when I'm working.

10. If you could spend an evening with 3 football personalities alive or dead who would they be ? What would be on the menu ? and who would be providing the entertainment/music ?

That's a challenging question. I did once enjoy an evening on a table with Sir Alex Ferguson, George Graham and my TV mentor Paul Doherty in South Africa. Paul was a frightening old school TV executive who even scared Fergie. 'The Doc' ordered the biggest prawns I have ever seen, and the finest of wines, at the most exclusive of restaurants. I was more an East Park fish and chips guy! I don't think that night could ever be topped. I can't remember the music, although Fergie's pal did sing some Scottish folk song in an impromptu karaoke.

My job was to usher the Manchester United and Arsenal managers into the back of a people carrier at the end of the night before anyone could see them partying together. The next day they were to meet Nelson Mandela and we needed them in a sober state.

It sounds like an odd dream but did happen!

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FSA FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS'
ASSOCIATION

Spotlight on the Football Supporters' Association

The Football Supporters' Association (FSA) is the national, democratic, and independent voice of football fans across England and Wales. With members ranging from individual supporters to grassroots groups, and from disabled supporters' associations to national campaigns, the FSA plays a vital role in ensuring that fans' voices are heard loud and clear at every level of the game.

What does the FSA stand for?

At its heart, the FSA believes football should be a sport for everyone. It campaigns on issues that matter most to fans, such as:

Affordable football – tackling rising ticket prices and making sure matchdays remain accessible to all.

Equality and inclusion – ensuring supporters from every background, including disabled fans, feel welcome and valued at their clubs.

Safe standing and matchday experience – working with clubs and governing bodies to improve stadium facilities and the overall experience of attending games.

Fair governance – pressing for reforms to the way football is run, so that the voices of fans are respected alongside those of clubs, leagues, and governing bodies.

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FSA FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

Spotlight on the Football Supporters' Association

How does the FSA help supporters' groups?

For groups like ours, being affiliated with the FSA brings a number of benefits:

Practical advice and support – whether it's guidance on setting up a supporters' group, organising events, or running accessible initiatives, the FSA offers expertise and resources.

Campaigning power – the FSA represents supporters at the highest levels, including the FA, Premier League, EFL, and even government. When issues arise, we know our concerns are being voiced nationally.

Networking and community – the FSA brings together supporters' groups from across the country. This means we can share ideas, learn from each other, and be part of a much bigger movement.

Disabled Supporters' Work – the FSA has a dedicated team focused on accessibility and inclusion. They help DSAs like ours make sure disabled fans have the best possible matchday experience.

Why it matters

Football belongs to the fans. By working with the FSA, groups like ours can make sure that our voices—your voices—are not only heard locally at Hull City but also nationally across the game.

We're proud to be affiliated with the FSA, and we look forward to working closely with them to keep improving things for our members and for supporters everywhere.

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