



Hull City DSA Newsletter



Hello and welcome to the March edition of our newsletter

Welcome to our March newsletter!



Hull City Disabled
Supporters Association

We've got another packed edition for you this month. There's a great Q&A with writer Rich Lusmore and of course Ollie returns with his regular monthly round-up.



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On the pitch, the promotion push continues. Despite a long list of injuries that could easily have derailed the campaign, the team keeps battling on. There was also some welcome news recently with Regan Slater securing a further year at the club, which is a real boost as the season heads towards its crucial stages.



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Away from matchdays, our coffee mornings continue to be a great success. They take place on the first Tuesday of every month at the Tigers Trust, and it's always fantastic to see so many people coming along for a chat and a catch-up.

The DSA board has also agreed to automatically extend memberships until the beginning of August. This will give us time to properly evaluate future plans for the group. Thank you as well to everyone who took part in our recent raffle — your support is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

We raised £195.50
after Raffall.com
deductions

COFFEE MORNINGS

Tuesday 7th April @
Tigers Trust Arena

www.hullcitydsa.com

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Tottenham's struggles this season also brought back a memory from 1977, when the mighty Spurs found themselves down in the old Division Two. Word soon spread around my school that Tottenham had trained at North Ferriby United on the day of their game against City. With Bobby Collins in caretaker charge, the Tigers weren't expected to cause much of a problem.

But football has a habit of producing surprises. City triumphed 2-0 thanks to two goals from Alan Warboys.

That result, however, had longer-term consequences. Collins was never really a manager and the squad became increasingly disenchanted. City were virtually relegated before Collins departed and Ken Houghton attempted to spark a mini-revival.

Later that season City travelled to White Hart Lane and were unlucky to lose 1-0, at least by all accounts. The television cameras were there and a short clip appeared on the late news that night. As an 11-year-old with school the next day I'd already gone to bed, but my dad called me downstairs to watch it.

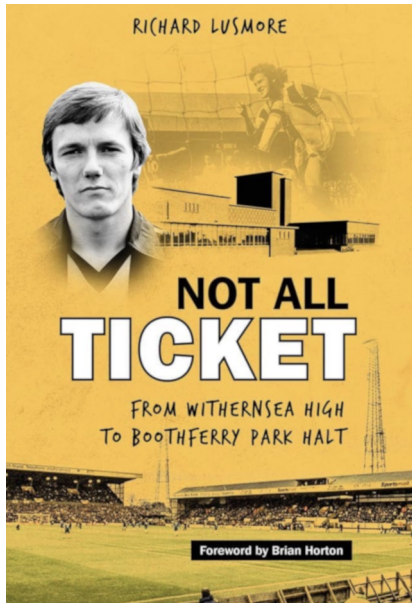
Whether Tottenham will be back in the Championship next season remains to be seen!

See you next time — and as always, Up the Tigers!

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**Our Chair interviews
Rich Lushmore**

What was the inspiration to write your first book 'Not All Ticket'?

The inspiration for 'Not All Ticket' came from several places. I'd always wanted to write a book that 'relived' the times I enjoyed as a teenager, the early- to mid-1980s, which I still regard as a halcyon period in which to have

been the age I was. The fact that those times coincided with (a) one of the most dramatic periods in Hull City history and (b) one of the most exciting eras in the UK music scene was a bonus.

What actually prompted the precise structuring/title of the book was a supposed clear-out of old 'tat' (as my good lady wife would call it), which prompted me to spend several hours looking through old ticket stubs and match programmes. That gave me the angle I needed. (PS: And I never did get rid of them after that).

The book covers the local music scene too, was that always the intention to combine the two?

Yes. I always wanted the book to be more than just a football book. I envisaged it as some sort of social history of the period covered, which for me involved the sights and sounds of Hull in the 1980s. Hence the inclusion not only of the local (& not so local) music scene but also the pubs and clubs of Hull as well as the rival sporting attractions to be enjoyed during the period – speedway, cricket and, of course, rugby league.

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The 1980s were a lively time off the pitch with many skirmishes home and away?

They certainly were and I think I capture that fact in the book, albeit very much from an observer's point of view rather than a participant's! 'I was a writer not a fighter' remains my mantra for the era. What I would add though is that some of those who were closely involved in crowd trouble, hooliganism or whatever you might wish to call it, were some of the most loyal Hull City fans around and there were certainly games when I was more than glad to have them in attendance! Being quizzed about some of the tales recounted in 'Not All Ticket' (and reading some of the reviews online) brought it all back as to just how different the match day experience was from that enjoyed today

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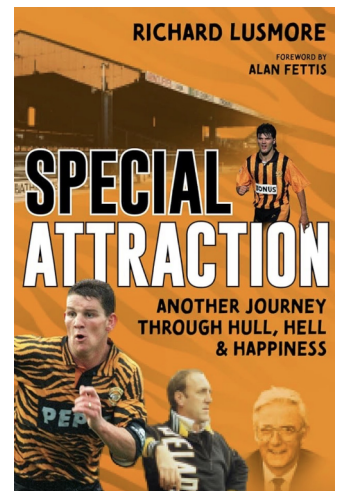


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'Special Attraction' discovers football fanzines; will we ever see a return to a Hull City fanzine? Even a digital one?

Who can say? I think if done well there'll always be a market for fanzines, although admittedly, social media – particularly Facebook, online forums and Twitter/X – has taken over as the means of airing your views and opinions on just about everything, including football. I do think we were blessed in Hull in having some of the best written and produced club fanzines; from the early days of 'Hull, Hell & Happiness' and 'On Cloud 7' right through to 'City Independent' and 'Amber Nectar'.



I also have a real respect for the lads involved with the current North Ferriby fanzine, 'View from the Allotment End', which is home to brilliant writing on football at all levels.

You combine your love for the Tigers with Hull KR and Heart of Midlothian, quite the combination?

Ha ha, and that's only for starters. I did laugh when revisiting one of Dave Roberts' books and his support of many teams, which stemmed from an early age. It is the same for me. As a youngster eager to devour whatever was out there for the young football fan, I would read the likes of 'Shoot!' magazine and the various football annuals, from which I seem to think club kits was the starting point for my early affiliations. The annual wallcharts that came out used to be brilliant for inspiring support of a team, whether that be on account of their colours, their badge or possibly their nickname.

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There were other factors too of course (my early years' affinity to Leeds United is explained in 'Not All Ticket'). If you set aside City, (who along with my village team Easington United are the obvious number one(s) on account of them being my local teams), the reasons for some of my other clubs are as follows:

Heart of Midlothian – one of my early kit choices (although, embarrassingly, so were Hibs!) but my 'support' of Hearts (and I can say that given it's not just from the armchair) was cemented by several factors: (1) the heartbreaking end to their title bid in 1985/86, coming soon after City's similarly deflating 1983/84 promotion challenge; (2) the bond we struck up during the fanzine years with the Manchester Hearts supporters club and (3) the story of McCrae's Battalion, the Hearts team that went to war in 1914. For a lad passionate about his military history, it simply cemented my ties with the club. I got to my first Edinburgh derby in 1988, have been on several European jaunts to watch Hearts and I try to make at least one trip up to Tynecastle per season.

Hull KR – as explained in 'Special Attraction', by 1988 I'd moved on from the 'We all agree, football is better than rugby' mindset of the early 1980s and decided to add the support of my 'local' rugby team (east of the River Hull) to that of my local football team. I did wilt slightly during the mid- to late- 90s (along with many others) but along with my youngest daughter (whose first season ended in relegation) I'm now a paid-up 'Rovers Forever' member and getting to see some of the greatest times in the club's history.

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I could also throw in to the mix: Glentoran (definitely a kit-inspired choice originally but another team rich in 'romantic' history and with a ground I really need to get to before the developers move in!); Vitesse Arnhem (I got to see them live as part of the 75th commemoration of Operation Market Garden ('A Bridge Too Far') in 2019 when Leonid Slutsky and Max Clark were there – such love and respect for the British veterans in the city and a great old historic club who've recently fallen on bad times); and finally Millbrook (Cornwall – due to family history). Oh, and I was also a big armchair 'fan' of Fiorentina during the heyday of Channel 4's 'Football Italia'.

Are there likely to be any future books?

I'd certainly like to think so. Not sure if any will be City-related, though. 'Special Attraction' charts the end of my regular match-going days and to be fair, there have been some brilliant books written about the club's successes of recent times, better efforts than I think I could've done. I've got ideas on a rugby league-related book, while for the past 30 years I've been determined to write a book about grassroots football out here in the back of beyond. Whether any of these plans come to fruition, who knows?! But given that I'm currently between jobs/semi-retired, it won't be down to lack of time.

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What other Pitch Publishing books would you recommend to our avid readers?

Wow! Along with the next question, I reckon my answer to this might differ on a daily basis! Setting aside an honorary mention for Greg Whitaker's City offering, three that spring to mind immediately are:

Mark Hodkinson's 'The Longest Winter: A Season with England's Worst Ever Football Team', which charts Rochdale AFC's 'catastrophic' 1973/74 season;

'71/72: Football's Greatest Season?' by Daniel Abrahams, the subject matter for which is in the title;

Ben Dobson's 'Something Changed', which I've just finished and was a superb look at sport and popular culture in the UK in the early-1980s.

I enjoyed all three books immensely but ask me this same question in a week's time and I'd probably give you a different answer(s).

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Finally what would be your favourite football book of all time and favourite all time Hull City player?

Ditto my previous answer inasmuch as this could easily change but, at the moment, I'd still lean towards Pete Davies' Italia 90 book, 'All Played Out', which is a classic. I also love 'The Bromley Boys' and '32 Programmes' by the late Dave Roberts, while for something slightly different, Andrew Vaughan's 'Faded Lois Dreams' and 'Awaydays' by Kevin Sampson are another two I really enjoyed. Again, I think it's because these books are as much social history as just about football - there's almost a soundtrack playing in my head when I read them!

Believe it or not, I can't say I have a favourite Hull City player. If asked, I usually point to the team of the early 1980s that went through receivership and on to better things. Brian Marwood was something of a favourite of mine I suppose (I was devastated when he left in the wake of Turf Moor '84). But then I also tended to lean towards the 'Boo Boy' targets such as Bobby McNeil, and I'd be desperate for them to do well and prove the doubters wrong. I was lucky enough to see some excellent keepers at City, most notably Tony Norman, and I don't think I'll ever see a better natural goalscorer than 'King' Keith Edwards, a silkier player than Les Mutrie or a harder b____d than 'Big' Billy Whitehurst! Then in the 90s I feel privileged to have seen the early promise of the young Deano and also get to count the likes of Alan Fettis as a personal friend, as well as a terrific player. But it's always been about the collective for me - if they're wearing a City shirt they'll get my support.

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Ollie Harsley sums up the month of February for us:

Hull City's February started with the re-arranged visit of Watford to the MKM Stadium. Javi Gracia sadly decided he wasn't up to the task of taking the Hornets back to East Yorkshire by handing in his resignation a couple of days before. It led to them putting in a good performance against the Tigers which

saw them share a point each in a 0-0 draw. Watford could well have won the game had Imrân Louza buried his guilt-edged chance.

Sergej Jakirović's team then hosted Bristol City a few days later. After going 1-0 up against the run of play through Oli McBurnie's 12th league goal of the season, the Tigers fell apart defensively as their opponents carved them open to score three times. Jakirović's side later got themselves back in the game thanks to Kieran Dowell's first goal for the club, but they never looked like getting anything from it. That was despite the best efforts of the MKM Stadium squirrel in getting ten minutes of added time through their pitch invasion antics.

Next up was the return of former City player and manager Liam Rosenior as he brought his Chelsea team to the MKM for a fourth round FA Cup tie. The Tigers held out well for around the first 40 minutes before going on to concede four times and exiting the competition with a 4-0 loss. However, there wasn't anything to be ashamed or embarrassed about from a City perspective as Chelsea's obvious quality was too much to deal with.

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Ollie Harsley sums up the month of February for us:

Back in the league, it was another afternoon to forget against Queens Park Rangers. City started well in the first few minutes with Liam Millar firing wide, but they handed QPR the lead after Ivor Pandur flapped at ex-Tiger Harvey Vale's corner delivery and it went in off Paddy McNair.

Some brilliant wing play from Yū Hirakawa led to Joe Gelhardt getting his 11th league goal of the campaign before half-time to equalise. However, a defensive disaster class in the second half allowed the visitors to waltz to a 3-1 win. It really should've been by a bigger margin, but Richard Kone was very generous as he exhibited some poor finishing.

In their penultimate game of the month, the Tigers faced fellow play-off challengers Derby County. Jakirović's side took the lead twice in the first half through an own goal from ex-Tiger Callum Elder and Oli McBurnie's 13th league effort. They were pegged back on both occasions courtesy of yet more calamitous defensive exploits along with an obvious offside for Derby's first goal which wasn't spotted by the officials. It didn't matter in the end as second half strikes by John Egan and Lewis Koumas sealed a 4-2 victory.

City ended February with a trek down to the South Coast as they took on Portsmouth at Fratton Park. After McBurnie had an early goal ruled out for offside, the hosts completely dominated proceedings and looked the much better side in stark contrast to the lacklustre Tigers. However, the eagerly awaited return of Matt Crooks off the bench in the second half proved crucial as he slotted home to give Jakirović's team another massive three points.