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THE BIG PICTURE

PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA HAYDN

CITY v STEAUA BUCHAREST

UEFA Champions League
Play-Off Round second leg
24 August 2016



Fabian Delph's goal secures City's place in the group stages.



PEP GUARDIOLA

I warmly welcome Slaven Bilic and his staff and hope that everyone enjoys today's game.

We are back here again quickly after our midweek game against Steaua Bucharest this time looking for three points against West Ham United. We know that this will be a very difficult task because they are a strong side that went away from home last season and got very good results against nearly all the favourites for the Premier League title.

They won here at the Etihad Stadium, they won at Arsenal, they won at Liverpool and drew at Manchester United and Chelsea. That is an excellent away record; one of the best in the league last year. We expect a hard game.

It is important for us to go into the forthcoming international break unbeaten because if we manage that then our fans will have a smile on their faces and, as I have said before, that is the most important thing to me, the staff and the players. Hopefully our supporters were pleased after Wednesday night's UEFA Champions League game against Steaua Bucharest when we progressed to the group stages. That, as I said on the night, was our main early season aim and so important to the club.

The night was also a chance for us to see some of the younger players in a big game on a big stage. Pablo Maffeo, Tosin Adarabioyo, and Angelino all did well against a Steaua team that had 10 men behind the ball for most of the night. It is never easy in such circumstances.

They are all hungry young players, serious about their jobs and good guys. They also have a lot of improvement in them so I was happy to give them some minutes.

Nights like Wednesday give young players invaluable experience. They are part of the group and have been learning and training hard since we reported for pre-season. They will have benefited from being part of the victory. I congratulate them and the rest of the players for a job well done. We were the better team in both the first leg and the second leg and we deserve to go through to the group stages of the competition.

The young players came in because there has to be some rest and rotation through the season. Today is the fifth time we have played a competitive game already this season and soon the EFL Cup – in which we play at Swansea City shortly before we play them in the Premier League – will be added to the competitions so we will be busy. There is a lot to look forward to.



MANCHESTER CITY



“It is important for us to go into the forthcoming international break unbeaten because if we manage that then our fans will have a smile on their faces”

IRON MAN

Season number nine is under way for City's Argentinian warrior...

INTERVIEW: DAVID CLAYTON **PICTURES:** VICTORIA HAYDN/PA

It seems a long time ago that Pablo Zabaleta made his City debut. Four managers have come and gone since he arrived from Espanyol in 2008 and he has played more than 300 games for the club since then. One of the Blues' longest-serving players, Zaba is keen to put a disappointing 2015/16 campaign behind him and maybe enjoy his best season yet for City.

After a summer spent recuperating from ankle surgery, the Argentina defender is looking forward to getting back to his very best in what he believes will be an exciting campaign for the Blues. "It feels great to be going into my ninth season with City because I've been here such a long time now," he says. "I never thought when I first arrived that I would one day be starting my ninth year in a City shirt but it shows if you work hard and keep your place in the squad, you have a chance.

"Of course, new managers come in with new ideas and sometimes that might mean players moving on so I'm just really happy with the way things have gone. I spent the summer concentrating on getting my ankle sorted and getting back to full fitness. I had to turn down the chance to play for my country at the Copa América which was one of the hardest decisions of my career because it will be another four years

before it comes around again and I'll be 34. You never know, of course, but it might have been my last chance."

On last season – his least productive campaign for the Blues yet – he reflects: "I'd been playing for more than a year with my ankle injury and getting by with injections... But looking back, maybe it wasn't the right decision to have injections. I was looking to play every game for City, World Cup qualifiers and the Copa América – I didn't want to stop, so I just kept going! After a while, however, my ankle just told me, 'Enough's enough!'.

"I never thought when I first arrived that I would one day be starting my ninth year in a City shirt but it shows if you work hard and keep your place in the squad, you have a chance"



"It had been causing other issues with my knee and ligaments because I wasn't running properly so I was missing a lot of games. It was frustrating because I wasn't 100 per cent and couldn't get to my best form. I'd been lucky and had been playing for 13 years without any problems so I needed to address the issue and had surgery to remove the calcification that had built up and was restricting my movement. I had to rest after the operation for three months, but I'm feeling much better now and not feeling any pain."

With Pep Guardiola's arrival leading to speculation about who would be staying at City and who wouldn't – plus Zaba entering the final year of his contract – there seemed to be a story linking him with a move away every day through the summer.

"I think I signed for a different Italian club each week throughout the summer according to the media! It's true that a few clubs did express interest because they knew I was in my final year contract-wise, but I was never going to make any decisions until I'd spoken with Pep Guardiola and his staff.

"The reaction when I told a journalist that I was definitely staying was fantastic. I needed to say something because the rumours had gone on for so long and I wanted to put an end to it. It's always been a genuine pleasure to play for City and play for our supporters and we've had a lot of good times together so obviously I hope that can continue for as long as possible, working with one of the greatest managers in the world. So it's a great time for everyone...

"Manchester is a great place for me and has been my home for more than eight years so it will never be an easy decision to leave this club. I was always going to wait and see what the manager's plans were and see how pre-season went – but that applies to every player, so I wasn't alone. That's why I didn't say anything and stayed quiet, enjoying a break back in Barcelona with my family and trying to rest properly. But as soon as I returned to Manchester, I spoke with the manager. He said I was part of his plans and that was all I needed to know.

"As soon as I returned to Manchester, I spoke with the manager. He said I was part of his plans and that was all I needed to know"



"I knew I wouldn't be able to play some of the pre-season matches because I wasn't ready and needed to work hard and find my best form and it was only just before the season began that I was getting near to full fitness. Now I need to keep working and getting game time and back to my best form."

Now the 31-year-old is relishing a new lease of life as part of Guardiola's squad. With the full-backs given numerous roles in the Catalan's intricate formations, he is happy to add more strings to his bow in the months ahead.

"It's fantastic to learn a new way of playing under a manager that has been very successful at Barcelona and Bayern Munich and I hope he can do the same thing here."

"It's true we see full-backs running down the wings, maybe getting to the bye-line and then crossing the ball before tracking back to defend – but we are having a different role this season and sometimes playing more central and being part of the build-up while quickly returning to the right position when we lose the ball. It's fantastic to learn a new way of playing under a manager that has been very successful at Barcelona and Bayern Munich and I hope he can do the same thing here. I played in central midfield under Mark Hughes and Roberto Mancini so it's nothing new to me – even though it wasn't for any great length of time – and I'm happy if I do find myself in more central roles when needed."

Guardiola's rule that the most senior player in the starting line-up takes the captain's armband in Vincent Kompany's absence, has



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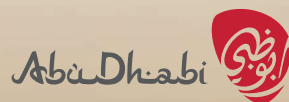
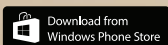


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also gone down well with players and supporters, especially as crowd favourites David Silva and Zaba have already worn it this season.

“For me it’s something special. To wear the captain’s armband means you have more responsibility and know the club, the dressing room and I’m very pleased the manager gave me the armband for the matches I’ve started so far.”

Today, Zaba could start as captain again – and if he does, he knows the Blues are in for a tough 90 minutes. “West Ham have been a hard team for us to be in recent seasons, especially last year when we lost at home and drew at Upton Park. I watched them beat Man United on the last day of 2015/16 and that was an emotional night and obviously a good result for us, too.

“They’re a very good side and this season will be tough for them because they are playing at

a new stadium and they have raised the bar so expectations are higher. They will be playing in front of 60,000 fans at home, which is good because that means a lot more West Ham fans will be able to go and see the games – I’m sure a lot of their fans will think it’s not the same but it’s the only way forward with many teams looking to play in bigger, new stadiums. Slaven Bilic is a great coach and I think they’ll do really well again this season.

“They have some very good players and Dimitri Payet has scored some amazing goals for his club and for France. I think it’s really good that West Ham have kept him because his profile has increased so much over the past year. He returned later to pre-season because of the Euros and he probably isn’t quite fully up to match speed yet – but he’ll still be a big danger and one of the best players in the Premier League at the moment.”





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ARE YOU THE MISSING TYPE?

On 16 August, the NHS Blood and Transplant launched their annual **#MissingType** campaign to encourage people around the world to become blood donors. Twenty-five blood services from 21 countries across the globe joined this year's campaign and Manchester City was delighted to take part in the UK's national ad campaign.

As part of the campaign As, Bs and Os, the letters of the main blood groups, began disappearing from iconic locations around the globe and in the advert you can see the Etihad Stadium's As fizzle out in support of the campaign.

DID YOU KNOW?

■ Every second three people across the world receive a life-changing blood transfusion

■ And every minute, thanks to blood donors, three units of blood are issued to hospitals in England to treat patients...

■ ...But there has been an almost 30 per cent international drop in people becoming blood donors compared to a decade ago

■ In England, the focus is on a particular need for more young blood donors and more black and Asian donors

Mike Stredder, Director of Blood Donation at NHS Blood and Transplant – the service that collects, tests and processes blood for hospitals across England – said: “Blood donation is an amazing gift. Transfusions save lives and transform health for millions across the world. Every donation can help or save up to three patients and last year in England alone 900,000 people gave blood – helping up to 2.7m patients. Whether it is patients receiving treatment for cancer, blood disorders, after accidents or during surgery, or new mums who lost blood in childbirth, blood is an absolutely essential part of modern healthcare.”

You can support the campaign on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag **#MissingType** and to sign up as a donor, just visit **www.blood.co.uk** or call **0300 123 23 23**.





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SHOWCASE #3

Club photographer Victoria Haydn shares
some of her favourite shots and memories...



Having worked with these two brothers a couple of times before this shoot, I knew we were in for a bellyful of laughs! In December 2012, as part of the advent calendar that CityTV produce every year, the unforgettable terrace chants were played to Kolo and he loved them! He and Yaya fooled around for a while and kept the staff entertained all afternoon with Christmas crackers and songs.

Player appearances always make amazing photographs and it's a chance for me to capture the players' personalities and characters away from the football pitch! They partake in lots of different appearances throughout the year and I'm sure I'll be sharing many of them with you in this feature as the season progresses...



BUZZWORD

CLUB AMBASSADOR MIKE SUMMERBEE ON THE ALL-ACTION START, A TEAM GROWING INTO THEIR NEW STYLE, AND THE MEN PUTTING IN SOME MEMORABLE SHIFTS OVER BY THOSE WHITE LINES...

Today I am going to return to a favourite theme of mine and I make no apologies! Wing play, and more specifically Raheem Sterling, is the subject that has put a smile on my face since the start of the season. Everything that I have seen from Raheem in the three games this season, tells me that he is going to have a big season and be influential in everything we do. I know he isn't off the mark for the season in terms of scoring but he has already won a couple of penalties and added some assists to his total and has been a huge part of us scoring 11 times in the three games before Wednesday night's home leg with Steaua Bucharest.

It's great news for City fans and for England, too, that such a potent attacking weapon has rediscovered his confidence under Pep Guardiola a manager who clearly admires him and has freed up the player's thought process.

Quite why opposition fans still see fit to boo Raheem – as Stoke followers did at the weekend – remains a mystery. It's clearly not bothering the lad. Happily, I have noticed that some of the media boys and girls have actually been giving him some praise and that's a positive sign as well. They are sometimes too quick to criticise and write people off.



It's not just Raheem who has been upholding the tradition of the wide player under Pep. Nolito and Jesus Navas have both been productive, stretching sides and playing important roles in the way we have opened up the opposition and created chances. I said in my first notes for this season ahead of the Sunderland game that no one should expect Pep to wave a magic wand and everything be perfect from day one but what a start we have made: Champions League football guaranteed and a bagful of goals, it has been a most encouraging opening to the campaign.

Right from the first kick against the Black Cats you could see what the team had been working on. Everyone knew their jobs and while you could sometimes sense players were thinking about their movements and it was a bit slow at times you could see the fluidity and inter-changing of positions. It really did make you think how good we could be in the future – and we still haven't seen Vincent Kompany, Ilkay Gundogan, or Leroy Sané in Premier League action.

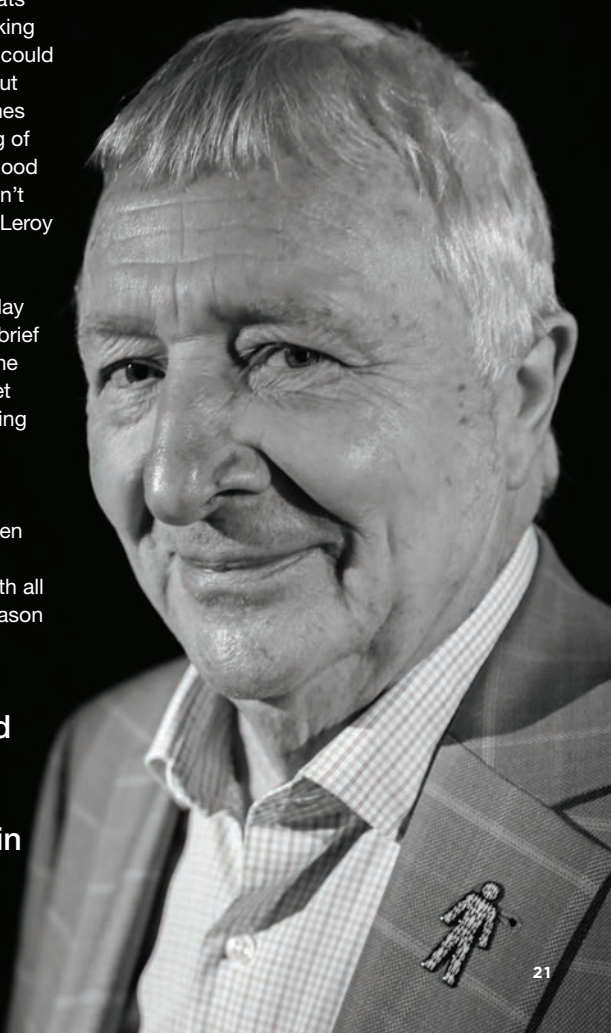
We were much quicker in our transition of play in Romania and again at Stoke – save for a brief spell in the second half – and you can see the players improving game by game as they get used to doing what the new manager is asking of them.

Today's opponents West Ham will be no pushover. They showed that last season when they won here – though they can consider themselves a touch fortunate to have left with all three points. Again they have started the season

reasonably well with a win over Bournemouth in their new stadium and a narrow defeat to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. It would be great for us to go into the international break with nine points behind us and the confidence that brings – there is a pretty big match waiting at the other end of this temporary halt in Premier League play!

Finally, I want to say a quick "get well soon" to one of my dearest friends Denis Law who was taken ill at Manchester Airport earlier this week. Hopefully we will be chatting about all things football again very soon and he will get to have his holiday. Enjoy the game everyone.

"Raheem Sterling, Nolito and Jesus Navas have all been productive, stretching sides and playing important roles in the way we have opened up the opposition"



SEQUENCES & LINKS

**GARY JAMES LOOKS AT CITY'S RECORD SEQUENCES AND LINKS.
TODAY: OFFICIALS LINKING CITY'S HISTORY.**

In the last Premier League programme I linked 15 players from the club's first competitive game to this season, and today I've gone one further by trying to find the fewest number of players, employees and officials I can find linking our first known season as the St Mark's Church team in 1880 with today.

The rules were that every season had to be covered and that each official had to have worked either alongside or for the previous one at the club. Put simply they had to have had discussions, meetings or attended the same games as the men preceding and following them in the list.

Amazingly, it takes a mere four individuals to connect the club from its earliest known game in 1880 as St Mark's Church in West Gorton to the current season. These four individuals include players that became managers, chairmen and presidents.

The City Four are...

Walter Chew – a player in the first season of 1880/81. He was later employed as secretary-manager from 1887-89. Although he remained a City supporter, Chew focused more on regional football from 1890 onwards, becoming a prominent member of the Manchester FA for the rest of his life. He was still a regular attendee at Maine Road at the time of his death in 1948. By then he had been presented with long service awards by the Manchester FA and was allocated shares by the Football Association in 1900 – a major honour at the time.



Lawrence Furniss – a player from 1884 who followed Chew as secretary in 1889. Furniss went on to become a director and chairman of the Blues. Furniss was such an important figure that in 1923 fans suggested naming Maine Road after him. He became the club's first life-president, fulfilling the role until his death in 1941. He also paid off the club's debts and as a result delayed his planned marriage by several years. A true Blue legend.



Albert Alexander junior – a club steward as a boy in the early 1900s, he became a leading figure behind City's youth and reserves in the 1920s to 1960s, running the A team and finding talented players, such as Matt Busby in the 1930s. Albert had been gassed during World War I and was unable to fulfil a playing career, but contributed in every way possible to City's development.

Albert's father, Albert Alexander senior, had been a prominent figure at the club from 1894 through to his death in 1953 and the entire Alexander family were well-respected and renowned figures in football. "Young Albert" fulfilled a number of roles behind the scenes, working for both Furniss and "Old Albert" before becoming a director. He was chairman during the Mercer-Allison years, and became life-president shortly before his death.



Above: Albert Alexander junior behind the League Championship trophy in 1968. His son Eric Alexander is third right of the suited men (in front of Mike Doyle behind Neil Young).

Left: Albert junior with Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison.

➔ **Eric Alexander** – part of the third generation of the family to become a director at City, Eric was actually on City's books for a while, but became more familiar to fans as a City director from the 1960s and into the 1980s. He was chairman from 1971-73, and was responsible for the development of the North Stand at Maine Road and many other initiatives. Today Eric is life vice-president of the Lancashire FA and an Honorary President of City, attending games as often as he can.



It should be stressed that the Alexander family alone have been a constant thread through City's history since the club became established as Manchester City in 1894. No other family at any other prominent club has contributed for so long.



Left: Eric Alexander with Dennis Tueart and Trevor Francis in 1981/82... and at Maine Road during the old stadium's final days.



Above: Eric pictured more recently at the Etihad Stadium.

It is worth highlighting Tony Book's contribution and place here. He joined City in 1966 and, apart from a brief spell away from the club 1980-81 and a later brief spell as Sunderland scout, Book has been a constant presence at City. Today he is a Honorary President, but he has contributed successfully to our history as a player, captain, assistant manager, manager, coach, youth coach and chief scout. Every team from 1966 through to the 1990s felt his direct influence in some way.



If you have any ideas for sequences or links you would like exploring in a future City programme please email: mcfcprog@aol.com

Gary James is a member of International Sport & Leisure History at Manchester Metropolitan University. Follow him on Twitter: [@garyjameswriter](https://twitter.com/garyjameswriter) and facebook.com/garyjames4

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Saadiyat Island boasts long stretches of white beaches, two five-star beachfront hotels, an ocean-side golf course, and the Saadiyat Island Cultural District, where construction of three leading museums, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, is well under way. For a vibrant island destination that offers luxury at your fingertips and brilliant family friendly resorts, this is the place to be.

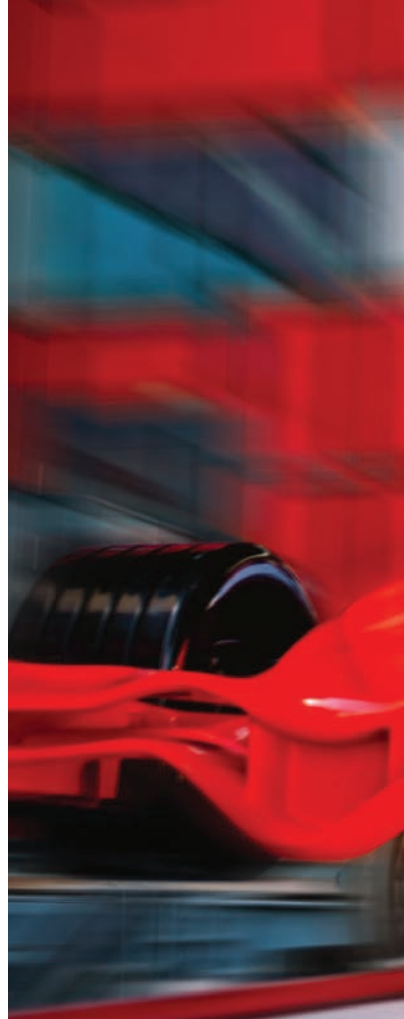
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ACCESS ALL AREAS

HAPPY BLUES!



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

For one frame at least, a squad photo session has to be serious. But for Manchester City Women – top of the league, unbeaten – nothing beats clowning around in front of a camera. Victoria Haydn points, shoots and keeps a straight face...







Below: There were even a few new faces in the team photo this year, as Man City Women and City in the Community invited children from the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital to join in. The youngsters – who had no idea what awaited them on arrival – were presented with their own City kits before meeting the players.



THE LIFE OF RILEY



BBC 6 Music DJ Marc Riley on Pep talk – and having a good sense of hummus...

WORDS: MARC RILEY IMAGES: MR/ST

There's a bloke near me who talks all the way through the match. From the kick-off right through to half-time. Non-stop. I don't know whether he talks incessantly through the mid-match break, but I'd be very surprised if he doesn't. In the second half, as sure as eggs is eggs (what does that mean by the way?)... talk, talk, talk. I'm sure Chas & Dave must've used this fella as inspiration for their big Ibiza club hit "Rabbit". I can't quite hear what he's saying, but he obviously has strong opinions... and is happy to chew them over. This man's name? Pep Guardiola.

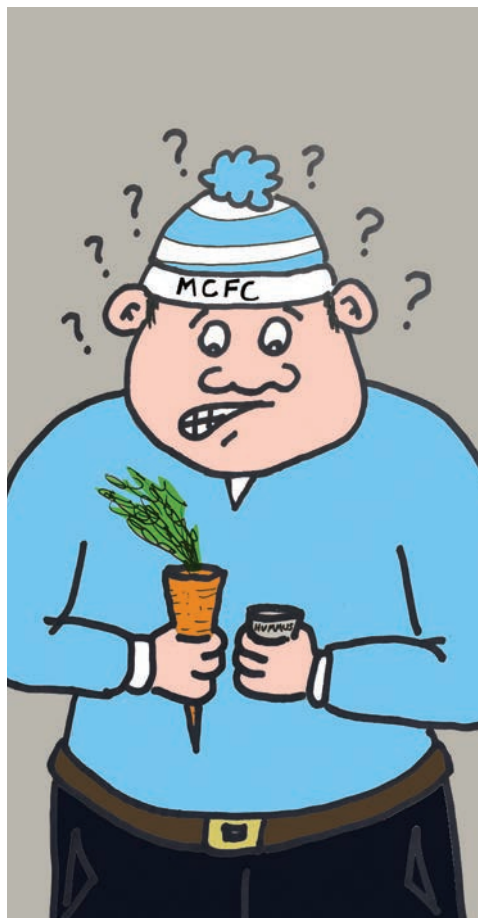
Forgive me, but I'm seriously struggling to find fault with the man. His performance during our matches must burn off as many calories as Jesus Navas at his most excitable. If he's not talking to his colleagues on the bench he's talking to the players – often from 20 to 30 yards away. Steering and guiding. It's a joy to watch. When we scored the much-needed second goal against Sunderland, he threw his fists in the air and then went immediately back to the bench... talking, talking, talking.

Much has been said about Pep's fitness regimes throughout his career. Watching the brilliant *Pep* documentary recently it became clear that he only expects from other players what he was prepared to put in himself. This was evidently 100 per cent, 100 per cent of the time (I'd say 110 per cent like

many columnists... but it doesn't exist). He is a driven soul and already we have seen the great effect it has had on the club and our players. There has also been talk of Pep telling some players they need to lose weight. Again I applaud this... just so long as he doesn't start on the supporters next.

Talking of which. I will once again applaud (my hands are currently red raw from all this blooming clapping) our club's attempt to introduce healthy eating options in an among the usual array of sweets, chips, pies, crisps etc. But, in all honesty, I can't remember seeing one person buy a feta-salad from the now boarded-up "healthy eating" cubicle. It was ill-fated. While the queue for the more traditional matchday fayre snaked around the concourse with no sense of direction, the poor trader in our well intentioned "green" outlet was twiddling his thumbs for three hours. It was never going to catch on, was it? Think about it! When was the last time you heard 5,000 supporters sing in unison "WHO ATE ALL THE HUMMUS LIGHT?"

Today we're joined by West Ham United who now can boast – like City – to be the beneficiaries of a brilliant stadium conceived for an altogether different sport. I'm sure there was great sadness at leaving Upton Park, just as we were sad to wave goodbye to Maine Road... but I think most of us agree it was the right thing to do.



West Ham's celebrity supporters? Steve Harris (Iron Maiden bassist and founder member), actor Richard E Grant, comedians Phill Jupitus and John Cleese, *EastEnders* actor Danny Dyer, someone called Barack Obama and... Her Majesty THE QUEEN!!! (Or so they say.) Oh, and most impressive to me, 1970s pop star David Essex who with a name like that, by rights, should support Colchester United.

Anyway, for those of a certain age the most famous (that should probably be "infamous") supporter is Alf Garnett, the fictional character who starred in the controversial 1960s and '70s sitcom *Till Death Us Do Part*. Alf (played by arch Tottenham fan Warren Mitchell!) personified the antithesis of "politically correct" even in those uneducated times. He didn't like people from other countries – or counties and cities, for that matter! He didn't like other families... He didn't even like his OWN family, come to think of it. But he did love the Hammers. I mention this only because I read last week that *Till Death Us Do Part* is being re-made as a one-off episode starring *The Fast Show*'s Simon Day as the bigoted oaf... and is returning to a TV screen near you soon! For better or for worse!

PS I did some research into where exactly the phrase "As sure as eggs is eggs" came from. To no avail. I did, however, find out where the phrases "egg on" and "teach your grandmother to suck eggs" and "egg on your face" originated... but I'm saving that for another time!

~~THE SECRETIVE FOOTBALLER~~

There's no insider-trading from The Secretive Footballer this week. He's gone on holiday with his wife and nine kids. I don't know where he's gone. True to form... he wouldn't tell me.



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MY TURF

LEROY SANÉ

Looking at the home towns/cities of the City players... This issue: Essen, Germany

WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD PICTURES: PA



Leroy Sané is currently settling in to his life in Manchester after moving from Gelsenkirchen-based FC Schalke 04, but what about the winger's original home? We take an in-depth look at the city where our new signing was born, Essen.

Famous residents

Actor and director **Heinz Rühmann** is perhaps Essen's most famous export. In 1995, the year after his death, Rühmann was awarded the Goldene Kamera and named the best German actor of the 20th century for a career that spanned European and American cinema... Prolific silent movie actor **John Stepping** was also born in Essen before he moved to Hollywood to star in over 200 films and begin his family that would lead to his namesake playwright grandson...

Carl Humann was the Essen-born 19th century explorer and archaeologist who discovered the monumental Ancient Greek construction the

Pergamon Altar... Travel guide publisher **Karl Baedeker**, whose company is still a popular brand all around the world, was born in Essen...

Wilhelm Busch, the leader of the Confessing Church movement that opposed the influence of Adolf Hitler's politics on the life of the Church, was not born in Essen but it was where he first became a pastor... And among Essen's most famous footballers currently involved in the game; Borussia Mönchengladbach defender **Julian Korb** (who scored against City last season) and 1860 Munich striker **Sascha Molders** are the biggest names – other than our very own Leroy!

Local team

Football dominates the sporting landscape of the North Rhine-Westphalia region. **Borussia Dortmund**, **Borussia Mönchengladbach**, **FC Köln** and Sané's old employers FC Schalke 04 are the biggest clubs in the state and some of

the biggest in all of Germany. However, perhaps due to the competition in the area, Essen lacks a major Bundesliga club. **Rot-Weiss Essen** (literally translated as Red-White Essen and perhaps most famous for their development of a teenage Mesut Ozil) and **Schwarz-Weiss Essen** (Black-White) play in the fourth and fifth tiers respectively. Having been born in Essen, Sané was raised in nearby town Wattenscheid, where he would go to watch his dad, Souleymane, play in the Bundesliga before he joined the club himself in 2001.

Population

Essen is the sixth-largest city in Germany by population, with an estimated 589,000 residents. That makes it the second largest in the North Rhine-Westphalia state behind Cologne.

Did you know?

Essen is regarded as the industrial centre of the Ruhr district; famous for being the seat of the

historic Krupp steelworks that built Germany's railways in the 19th century... Other important industries that have a base in Essen include electricity, retail, glass and textiles... The city has since worked on its image and its shops, parks and Zeche Zollverein – a former coalmine that is now a UNESCO World Heritage site – these days appeals to a range of tourists... The city was even chosen as the European Capital of Culture in 2010; a title that has only ever been held by Liverpool and Glasgow in Britain... Essen has been twinned with Sunderland since 1949. Other towns in partnership with Essen include Grenoble in France and Nizhny Novgorod in Russia.

Music

The city's **Folkwang University** has been an important part of Germany's classical music scene since its opening in 1927... Germany is famous for its rock music and Essen has produced one of the most loved thrash metal bands, **Kreator** – still in action 34 years after their formation in 1982.



RICHARD DUNNE

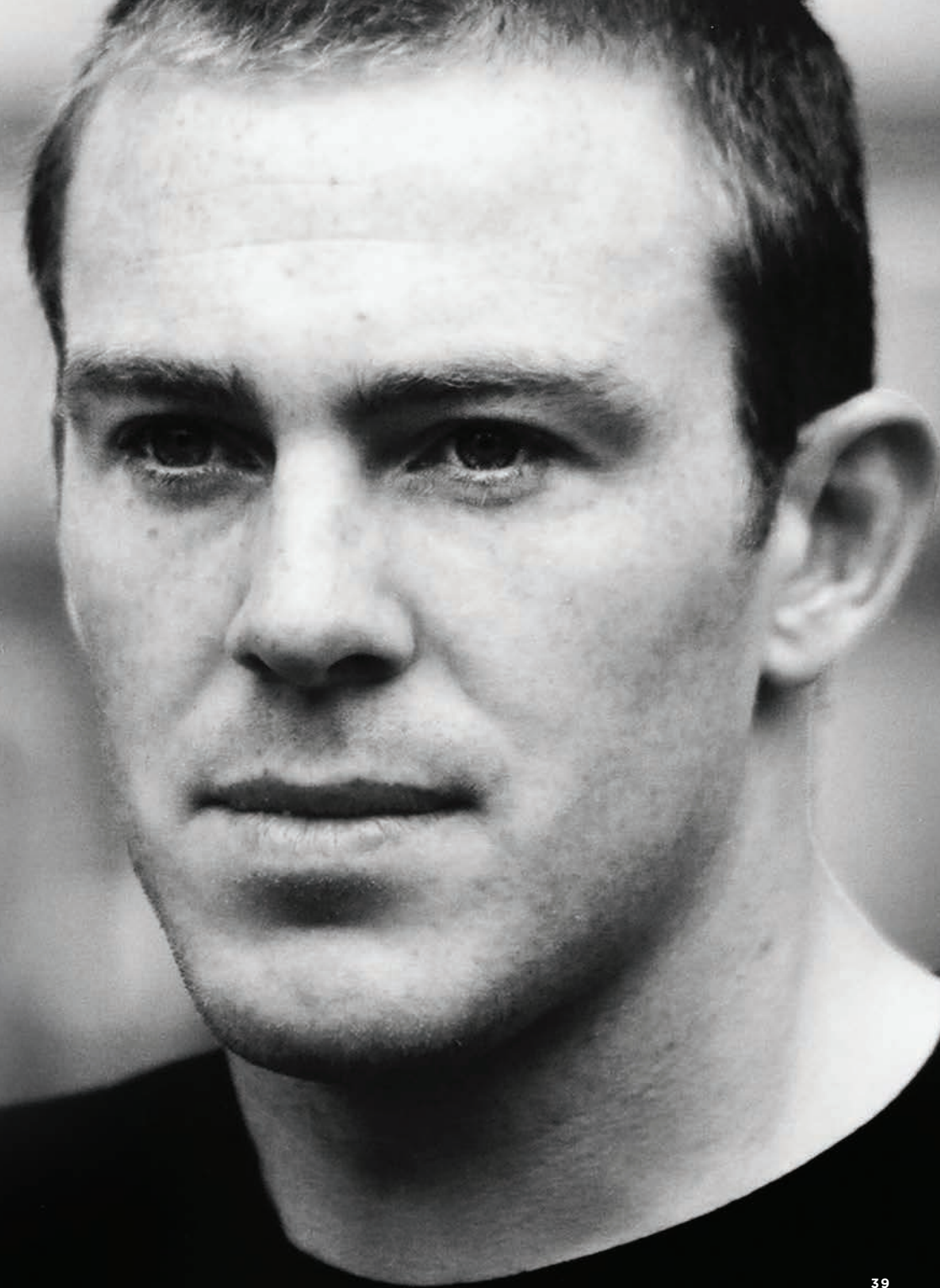
Putting the former centre-back and City legend into focus...

PICTURES & WORDS: KEVIN CUMMINS

When Joe Royle signed Richard Dunne from Everton for £3.5m, I don't think many of us envisaged him going on to become a four-time MCFC Player of the Year winner.

Richard told me that when he joined City, Joe Royle would weigh him on Friday after training then weigh him again first thing Monday morning and would fine him for every ounce gained over the weekend. Laughing, he said he probably lost more money than he earned in that first season.

When Kevin Keegan arrived prior to the 2001/02 promotion-winning season, Dunne was told he had to up his game. The new manager warned Dunne a couple of times during that campaign, but after





winning the former First Division both Keegan and Dunne knew that in 2002/03 the Premier League would be more unforgiving.

Within weeks, Keegan gave Dunne a final warning and he was banished to an unused pitch at Carrington where he spent every training session running lap after lap after lap. This seemed to give Richard a new focus and from then on his career really took off...

He went on to make more than 350 appearances for City, but had the unenviable record of scoring a record number of own goals for the club! His quality and reliability, however, was never far from the surface and he was voted best player for four years in a row – while also winning 80 caps for Ireland. Clearly most of this was down to his own resolve, but I think Keegan can maybe also take some credit for ensuring Dunney became something of a City legend.

Dunne's quality and reliability was never far from the surface and he was voted best player for four years in a row...



A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



**HALIFAX
TOWN**

Our record against clubs currently outside the top four divisions...

WORDS: DAVID CLAYTON PICTURES: PA

Halifax Town and City have never met in a Football League fixture as the clubs' paths have never crossed in the 90 years or so when it was a possibility. Indeed, the West Yorkshire side spent much of their existence fighting to avoid dropping out of the league altogether. It is perhaps odd, then, that arguably their greatest result ever came against the Blues in 1980 – but more of that later.

The two clubs' first meeting came in February 1924 just 13 years after The Shaymen were founded as City hosted an FA Cup Second Round tie at Maine

Road. With a crowd of 30,970 in attendance, top-flight City were strong favourites to see off the Third Division North minnows. But despite goals from Hamill and Roberts, Halifax earned a 2-2 draw.

In the replay at The Shay the Blues were still expected to progress. With 21,590 packed into a stadium that – ironically – had a main stand covered with the roof that had once kept City fans dry at Hyde Road, the Blues were again fortunate and travelled back home over the Pennines with a 0-0 draw awaiting a third attempt to progress.



Old Trafford was chosen as the neutral venue for the second replay, and finally the tie went to form as Roberts (two) and Browell scored the goals that gave City a 3-0 victory. It would be 56 years before the teams met again and it would be a clash no Halifax – or City – supporters would ever forget.

On 5 January 1980, City – now under the tutelage of Malcolm Allison who had initially returned to the club as coach and assistant to Tony Book – were again a top-flight side. Halifax, meanwhile, were battling to avoid re-election near the foot of the Fourth Division. The Blues, although struggling in the old First Division, had British record signing Steve Daley in their ranks – a man worth more than the combined Halifax starting XI.

The Shay was once more packed to the rafters, but by then was a largely dilapidated ground with a pitch that was little more than a mud-bath. Around 5,000 thousand City supporters shivered in the dank, freezing conditions and the game kicked off early at 2pm, 60 minutes before the other matches.

Halifax striker John Smith recalled: "It had snowed all week and by Thursday the pitch was ankle-deep in water, thawing out slowly. The gaffer got the fire hoses on the pitch, and poured hundreds of gallons of extra water on. By kick-off, the pitch was just about playable, but it looked like a soggy, peat bog."

The Blues looked set to hang on for a replay and gain the chance to finish the job on a more playable surface, but 10 minutes from time the ball was played into the path of Paul Hendrie – father of future Villa midfielder Lee – and he tucked the ball past Joe Corrigan from close range. There was enough time for Allison's side to respond, but they failed to and the hosts held on for a famous 1-0 victory.

The Blues would have to wait 18 years to avenge that embarrassing loss, but this time – on 13 November 1988 – only one division separated the teams with City having slipped into the third tier and The Shaymen in the division below. The lowly status meant the Blues had entered the FA Cup at the First Round stage, but this time two goals from Craig Russell and a Shaun Goater strike had the match as good as wrapped up just past the hour-mark and it ended 3-0.

In 1993, Halifax lost their league status and were relegated to the Conference, though returned in 1998 for three seasons before once again being demoted to non-league football. In 2007/08 the club were wound-up and reformed as FC Halifax Town and currently play in the Northern Premier League Division One North.



The Shay – these days home to Halifax Town and Halifax Rugby League FC – undergoing redevelopment circa 2008.

SHORT STAY

Players whose star shone only briefly at City...

WORDS: DAVID CLAYTON **PICTURE:** PA

KIKI MUSAMPA: 2005-06

APPS: 41 GOALS: 3

Congolese-born Dutch national Kiki Musampa swapped La Liga for the Premier League when he agreed to join City on loan from Atletico Madrid in January 2005. The midfielder had lost his way somewhat at Atletico where his first-team opportunities were becoming rare.

With his dreadlocks and busy style, City fans soon took to the former Ajax, Malaga and Bordeaux star who Kevin Keegan believed could bolster his midfield. Within a few weeks, however, Keegan had left the Blues and Stuart Pearce was installed as caretaker boss. Musampa, though, retained his place.

In fact, Musampa's best run of form came as a rejuvenated City hit form under Pearce and his first goal was a last-minute winner against Liverpool at the City of Manchester Stadium (as then was!) – Lee Croft's right-wing cross was sweetly met on the volley by Musampa to secure a 1-0 win. The Blues were the Premier League's form team in the remaining matches and Musampa was included in the provisional squad for Holland's World Cup qualifiers by national coach Marco Van Basten as a reward for his fine form – although he never did win a full cap for the *Oranje*.

In City colours he added further goals against Aston Villa and Middlesbrough – the latter in a dramatic encounter on the final day of the 2004/05 campaign with City knowing a win would over the team one place above them in the table

secure a UEFA Cup spot. Boro took the lead through Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink but Musampa equalised immediately after the break. Sadly, Robbie Fowler missed an injury-time penalty and so the Teessiders clung on to the European berth.

With Pearce by then handed the managerial reins on a permanent basis, he'd seen enough of Musampa to extend his six-month loan deal and secure another 12 months service from the Dutchman who had scored three goals in his 14 appearances.

City began Pearce's first full season in impressive fashion, winning three and drawing two of the first five games before losing 1-0 at home to Bolton Wanderers. The form was solid up until December with Musampa a regular feature of the side, but after Christmas – and no, the rumours he had a brother called Chris were not true – Musampa lost his way somewhat and drifted out of the side.

By the end of the season, it was obvious that Pearce was not going to either extend the loan again or make the transfer permanent and with 41 games and just the three goals he managed in his first season, Musampa returned to Atletico. There he was also surplus to requirements and so joined Trabzonspor on a three-year permanent deal. Things, though, didn't go well in Turkey for Kiki and after a succession of unsuccessful spells with several clubs he announced his retirement from the game in 2009, aged only 32.

Musampa's best run of form came as a rejuvenated City hit form under Pearce and his first goal was a last-minute winner against Liverpool





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CANAL STREET BLUES KICKSTART PRIDE WEEKEND

As Manchester Pride takes over the city centre this Bank Holiday weekend, Manchester City's official LGBT supporters' group, Canal Street Blues, kickstarted celebrations by hoisting a rainbow flag over the Etihad Stadium. Formed in January 2014, Canal Street Blues was one of first supporters clubs established for LGBT fans.

This is the third year that the club will be flying the rainbow flag as part of the many initiatives it undertakes to include Manchester's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community throughout the year. Members from Canal Street Blues, Football v Homophobia and Manchester Pride were present at the celebratory event. Yesterday, Canal Street Blues led the Manchester Pride Parade festivities, alongside other LGBT+ football fan groups through the streets of Manchester in the annual parade, under the "Pride in Football" fan group alliance.

John Browne, chair of Canal Street Blues has nothing but praise for the work undertaken by Manchester City to include the LGBT+ community: "Being a gay fan of Manchester City is such a positive experience. We're once more raising a flag for Manchester Pride at the Etihad stadium, and in February this year the club let us use the Etihad stadium to launch the Football v Homophobia month of action campaign, among other initiatives. At Canal Street Blues, we're

looking forward to a great season of football from a club we know really values its LGBT+ supporters."

Mike Green, head of City in the Community, the club's Community Foundation explains: "With Manchester Pride and both our men's and women's team in action this weekend, it's certainly a weekend to celebrate. Manchester City is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, diversity and respect across all its activity. From the programmes we deliver every day in the community to the way the club operates, we continue to ensure equality is embedded within the heart of the club."

Canal Street Blues (www.canalstreetblues.co.uk and @CanalStBlues) also work with Manchester's gay/bi football team Village Manchester FC. Find out more on how you can get involved at www.vmfc.co.uk





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EDS DUO HELP INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

EDS players Billy O'Brien and Marcus Wood led the celebrations for the United Nations' International Youth Day on 12 August, as City's community projects around the world joined together to mark this significant day.

The young duo jumped straight into a football match against young participants taking part in City in the Community's Free Soccer Schools at City Football Academy on the day that aims to

celebrate the contribution young people make to society.

Our network of Young Leaders from nine Cityzens Giving projects around the world will also be reaching out to more than 3,100 young people by hosting dedicated community events with the simple aim of using football to make a difference to young people in their community.

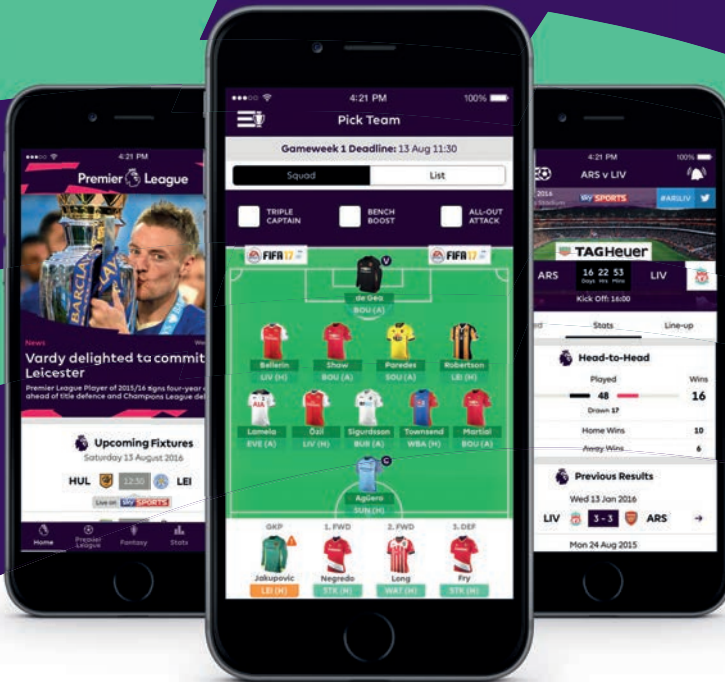
EDS keeper Billy said: "I love getting out in the community and I've been lucky enough to see the club's community work here in Manchester but also around the world. I'm always impressed with the young leaders delivering the projects – they are so passionate about what they do and want to tackle issues affecting their local area."

You can find out what our young leaders are getting up to by joining the conversation with #CityzensGiving.



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FANS

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YOUR SHOUT

To **Alan Hill**... "Happy 75th birthday, dad. We hope you have a great day with a win as the icing on the cake! Here's to another great season from the Blues – love from all the family."

1 To **Tom Salvin** – 70 years old on 23 September. "He is a massive City fan and a brilliant grandad to Daisy and Scarlett."

2 Happy 21st, **Josh**! Have a great time, love from mum and dad x.

3 To **Andy Wilde** from Sydney: "It's a long way to come so let's please have a winning result!"

4 "Congratulations, **Callum**, on your 21st birthday. We're really proud that you are our son. You truly are a fine young man, ready to begin the next journey through manhood. Lots of love from mum and dad xx."

5 "Happy 75th birthday to **Frank Halligan**."

6 "**Jacob Harper** (aged six) is very excited and proud to be watching City for the first time. He is a massive fan and his favourite City player is Aguero."

7 "Happy birthday to **John Palin** – 50 years old today."

8 To **Oliver Wright-Eirew** (pictured with Mike Summerbee). "Enjoy the match – love from mum and dad x."

9 Congratulations to **Paul Eyre** on his 50th birthday from all the family. "Love ya all the world and 20p!"

10 "Happy 50th birthday to **Peter Lakie** for 26 August. We love you lots – from Joan, Hana and Andy xxx."

11/12 Congratulations to **Mr and Mrs Curzon**, who had a Man City-themed wedding in France on 27 May. The bridesmaids were in sky blue, the table plan was on a City shirt – signed by Kun and Joe, each table was named after a player of past and present, and the happy couple had Mr and Mrs City shirts at the end of the ceremony.

13 "**Scott Craig** celebrates his 18th birthday today in the Legends Suite – here he is at his first City match: Newcastle United on 1 May 2004. What a difference 12 years makes!"

14 "Happy 13th birthday to **Ben Stopford**, Block 318. Lots of love from mum and dad."

15 "Happy 12th birthday **Macy Lloyd**. Love you loads! Hugs and



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Messages should be emailed to mcfprog@aol.com at least 10 days before the required game. Please note that we cannot guarantee inclusion and due to the quantity of messages received we are unable to reply to confirm receipt...

kisses from mum, dad and Immy xx."

16 Happy birthday to **Glyn Edwards** who is 50 today! He is a Seasoncard holder in the Colin Bell Stand with his dad Ifor and sons Calum and James.

17 "Happy 16th birthday to **Millie Cobby**. Lots of love from mum, dad, Lucas and Poppy."

18 "Happy 11th birthday, **Fionn**! Lots of love from dad, Sarah, Anna, Noah and Ophelia xxx."

19 CLS would like to congratulate **Joe** and **Becki** on their wedding day.

"Happy eighth birthday to **Macey Moo**. Love from dad, nanna Julie and Tasha xx."

SADLY MISSED

20 In loving memory of **Guy Stafford** who passed away on 22 March. Guy was a lifelong City fan and season ticket holder, Colin Bell Stand Level 1. He is very sadly missed by all his family and friends. Once a Blue, always a Blue.

21 The City world lost one of its biggest fans in July. **Gerard James Hay** followed the Blues throughout his life enjoying the City roller coaster, and was able to enjoy the recent glory days with his daughter Debbie and son Leigh. He was very much looking forward to the Pep era. The trips to the Etihad won't be the same again for his family. Gerard's positive ways and inspiration will be missed very much by family

and close friends. RIP Gerard, you will be sadly missed.

22 **Stuart "Gilly" Gill**, a lifelong City fan, sadly passed suddenly on 7 August. "Gilly (front, second from right) started going to City in the 1970s on the back of his dad's motorbike and was the most optimistic man you could ever meet. Taken too early; a great friend and wonderful company, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

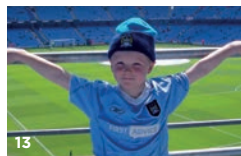
23 **Florence Wild** passed away on 20 August, the day before her 81st birthday. A season ticket holder since the late 1970s who resided in Level 2, Block 228 of the Colin Bell Stand, Florence will be sadly missed by her husband Norman, son Richard, daughter Pauline and the rest of her family and friends.



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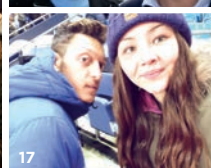
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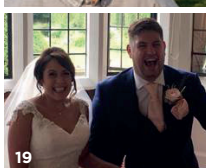
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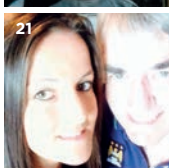
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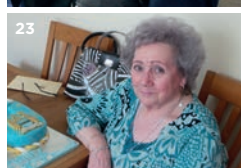
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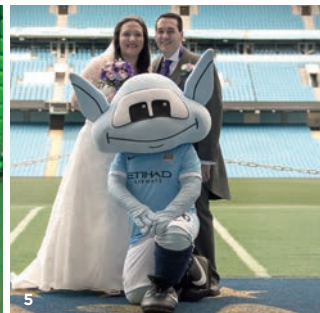


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23

MCFC SUPPORTERS CLUB (1969)



MCWFC SUPPORTERS

1 The MCWFC Branch would like to wish a very happy birthday to David Sheel. We would also like to thank him for all the hard work he puts in and his dedication to the branch.

CYPRUS BRANCH

2 Good news from the Cyprus Blues for a change! Many congratulations to members Stino and Haiyan Li Castelli on the birth of their baby boy Leo on 29 July. All are doing well and Leo is already registered as a member of the Cyprus Citizens. Best wishes for a bright, Blue future!

LIMERICK BRANCH

3 Two young West Limerick Blues, cousins Jake Keane and Kian O'Keeffe. Kian is celebrating

his seventh birthday with his first visit to the Etihad with his dad Seamie for today's game. Enjoy the game Kian and Seamie from all at MCFC.

ORRELL & DISTRICT BANNER LAUNCH

4 Pictured are members of Orrell & District Supporters Club branch, proudly displaying their new banner. The banner will be on show hanging from Level 3 of the South Stand for home games and will travel to away games with branch members. Orrell & District meet at the Delph Tavern, Tontine, Orrell, Wigan WN5 8UJ. Find them on the Supporters Club website (mcfcsupportersclub.co.uk/orrellanddistrict) or follow them on Facebook (MCFC Orrell and District Supporters

Club) or Twitter (@mcfcorrell). New members are always most welcome.

WESSEX BLUES

5 The Wessex Blues are pleased to announce that their general secretary Dr Richard Wild, who is a Platinum Seasoncard holder and sits in the Colin Bell Stand, and treasurer Miss Claire Wooten got married on Saturday 16 April in the Chairman's Club at the Etihad Stadium.

HAZEL GROVE BRANCH

6 The Hazel Grove Branch would like to congratulate member Hayley Prince on her wedding! The date was set a long time ago but has fallen on the same day as today's rescheduled match against West Ham - so many





branch members and City friends will be missing from the Etihad to be guests at the wedding. Hayley has, though, organised for the match to be shown at the reception – let's hope the Blues put on a performance to help with the celebrations! Hayley is pictured with her new husband Roni – let's raise a glass for Mr and Mrs Barber and to a win today! Special congratulations from all at Hazel Grove Blues.

7 Deputy chair Sheryl would like to wish her husband Chris Roden a happy first wedding anniversary. They met through their love of City at Hazel Grove Blues and got married last August with Blue Moon as the entrance music. "Love you to the Blue Moon and back Chris x."

DUKINFIELD BRANCH

8 The Dukinfield Branch enjoyed having photos taken alongside the Capital One Cup at a recent meeting and a great night was had by all.

9 This one shows Simon Currier and daughter Ava with the cup.

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

10 The North East Scotland Branch are delighted to announce their newest baby Blue, William Dawson Skene, who was born on 20 July. The bets are on within the branch committee as to whether his first word will be "Papa" or "Pep"!

DENTON BRANCH

11 Happy 50th birthday to Graeme Wilks, with love from all your family and friends.

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MCFC Supporters Club are giving fans the chance to win a 2011/12 City shirt signed by the man who scored That Goal... Sergio Aguero!

For your chance to win, all you need to do is follow

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Twitter and tweet us a photo of you and/or your family with a piece of Manchester City merch with the hashtag

#ManCitySummer

For more information and terms and conditions, go to www.mcfcsc.com

Competition closes 31 August 2016.

GOOD LUCK!



SOCIAL WRAP

Welcome to Social Wrap – your place to see what our players have been getting up to on social media in the past week or so. We have sieved through their Twitter and Instagram feeds to bring you family fun, swagger and, of course... selfies!

COMPILED BY: CHRIS PARKES-NIELD



@mcfcshaz

Former City snapper Sharon Latham paid tribute to Vincent Kompany who celebrated eight years at the club this week with this muscular photo!



@pablomaffeo

All smiles from Pablo Maffeo on Instagram.



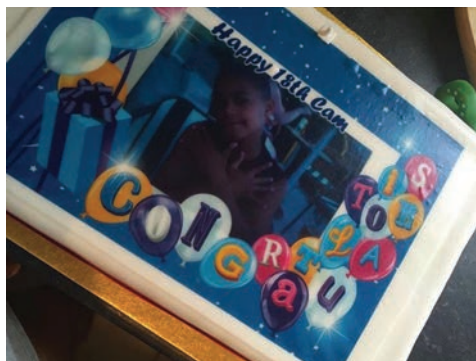
@camhumphreys7

Happy 18th birthday to Cameron Humphreys this week!



@fernandinho

Nice to see in the days of *Pokemon GO* and Snapchat, Fernandinho's little ones are enjoying a good old fashioned Scalextric.



@johnstonesofficial

John Stones posing with his Man of the Match trophy from Stoke last weekend – well deserved, too!



@asllani9

Olympic silver medalist Kosovare Asllani and the Swedish national team received a rapturous reception upon returning home.



@dejesusoficial

Golden boy Gabriel Jesus played his part as Brazil were triumphant in Rio.



Here's how some of the lads not at the Olympics reacted to an exciting football tournament in Rio.



Fernandinho @fernandinho
Brazil Olympic champion.
Well done 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆



Sergio Kun Aguero @aguerosergiokun 20h
My pride and admiration go to Argentina's olympians these games. 🏆🏆🏆🏆 C'mon, Argentina 🏆🏆🏆🏆!!



Kelechi Iheanacho @67Kelechi 1d
Huge congratulations to the #DreamTeam for winning the Bronze medal in the men's football event #Rio2016. 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆





JUNIOR CITYZENS

How spoilt are we City fans? The team are unbeaten and riding high in the Premier League with goals flying in from all angles and so much more to look forward to.

If you would like to feel part of "Team City" then becoming a Junior Cityzen is one of the best ways to do it.

For this season we plan to offer lots more player-attended events. These will include yet another Junior Cityzens Sleepover, which will be even bigger and better than the last one!

Not only that, once again we can boast that only Junior Cityzens get to be Mascots! (Just ask anyone who has been lucky enough to win this experience and they will confirm that it's the best day ever.)

Competitions that are currently available on the Junior Cityzens website offer the chance to:

- Represent City as Mascot at the forthcoming derby at Old Trafford
- Represent City v United at the Under-23s derby at the City Football Academy
- Become a Mascot v AFC Bournemouth
- Be a Player Escort v AFC Bournemouth
- Win match tickets and take part in the Blue Carpet Experience v AFC Bournemouth
- Invite Moonchester and Moonbeam to your birthday party

If becoming member seems a good idea to you, simply log on at <https://juniorcityzens.mcfc.co.uk/> and follow the instructions.



WELCOME TO TODAY'S GROUPS:

- Leith Athletic
- Episcopal Academy, USA
- Cotswolds Wind Academy
- Sweden Ice Hockey Team

MASCOTS AND PLAYER ESCORTS



Byrony Prior

Age: 6
Likes: Football, cats and *Star Wars*
Favourite: Agüero



Jack Hull

Likes: Playing football for Juno United and cricket for Bramhall CC
Favourites: Sterling and Silva



Leo Hall

Likes: Judo, cycling, playing the drums, rugby, and watching City
Favourite: Agüero



Adam Quest

Age: 10
Likes: Playing football for Denton Youth
Favourites: Agüero, Silva and De Bruyne



Joseph Windall

Age: 9
Likes: Football, kick-boxing, Cubs and reading
Favourites: Hart, De Bruyne, Agüero, Sterling and Silva

WELL DONE TO TODAY'S MATCH TICKET WINNERS:

**Alex Davies
Leon Gibbs
Sammy Symonds
Alex Macfarlane
Thomas Harvey**

Not only have they won tickets to the hottest game in town they have also high-fived their heroes as they entered the stadium – how good is that?!

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REALITY BITES

LUKAS NMECHA EMBRACES THE CHALLENGE OF THE NEW PL2 STRUCTURE

The inaugural Premier League 2 season is under way and despite a flying start for the Blues, Lukas Nmecha still feels the team are adapting to the “real world”. A season-opening comeback at Derby County was followed by a victory over Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium to give Simon Davies’ young side the best possible start.

With Premier League 2 rules extending the age limit of outfielders to 23, City’s collection of last season’s FA Youth Cup finalists in the EDS squad are facing sides with greater experience – but 17-year-old Nmecha is welcoming the challenge.

The England Under-19s striker said: “We’re heading into the real world of football now. A lot of teams are quite physical but we’re getting used to that. If we keep progressing and end up playing in the Premier League or Championship then we’ve got to be able to deal with it.

“Playing Derby was our first game at Under-23 level. Most of us were playing Under-18s last season so coming up against a team that’s much bigger than we’ve faced before meant that it took a bit of time to get into the game. After a while we figured out that if we passed it around like we know we can then they wouldn’t be as good as us and now we’re hoping to carry that confidence on as we go through the season.”

Nmecha’s pre-season could not have gone much better as he finished top scorer at the Ruhr Cup as the Blues lifted the trophy in Germany. He has already started to take advantage of that excellent preparation: his brace at Derby proving pivotal in turning the game around. “I want to work as hard as possible when City don’t have the ball as well as when we have it. Last season I wasn’t quite as fit as I had been the season before but after a really good pre-season I’m feeling fit and looking to push on this year.

“Looking up to Aguero and Iheanacho is good because they’re great strikers but it’s about how the team works together. If everyone does their job then the team works better and we have a much better chance of getting a good result.”

Having already beaten Arsenal at the Etihad, Nmecha and his teammates will get another chance to emulate the first-team stars when Manchester United’s Premier League 2 side visit City’s home on September 9: “It was nice to play in the Etihad Stadium in front of more fans than we get regularly, and I think it’s given us all the hunger for more. When we play in a big stadium like the Etihad, especially against teams like United, it feels like it’s the real thing because we’re so focused on making sure we put our training on to the pitch and showing fans what we’ve been working on.”



WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD
PICTURES: PA



LOOKING UPWARDS

UNDER-18s MIDFIELDER MATT SMITH TAKES INSPIRATION FROM WALES AT THE EUROS

It's been an impressive start to life at Under-18s level for Welsh youth international Matt Smith but he believes it's only the start of bigger things to come. The 16-year-old is just one of many first-year scholars to be taking his initial steps at this level and he's already looking like an integral part of manager Lee Carsley's plans for the season.

The midfielder has started in the excellent start to the season including the dominant 3-1 win at Everton and he insists that the team's performances are only going to get better as they continue to learn: "We've got a young squad and we're not a massive group physically so when we're playing big teams we have to find a different way to beat them.

"The City philosophy is about being on the ball and controlling the play. If we keep the ball then the opposition can't score and we trust all our players to keep the ball well. We all know our jobs and if everyone focuses on their role then it should make attacking and creating chances easier.

"The first day I joined City I knew what the philosophy was and what my role was as a midfielder. This season is exciting because we don't know when we're beaten. At City we're looking to win the league and the FA Youth Cup is a major one. Last season the side got to the final but I think we've got a great chance to win it this year if we stick together."

Smith, who joined the club from West Bromwich Albion as a 14-year-old, feels that Carsley has already had a big impact on the team since arriving as head coach in the summer. "He loves developing players and creating professionals. He can see us improving already. He's been there and done it. He won so many caps for Ireland and played in midfield for Everton for a long time so he knows what's best for us. Every day we learn something new with him. We get feedback off Lee, Mark Allen and Jason Wilcox and they keep reminding us of the philosophy as much as possible. They expect the best because they give us the best with their work off the pitch."

The former Wales Under-16s and Under-17s captain will again be making a step up during the upcoming international break, as he meets up with his nation's Under-19s. "Internationals are really important, even at this stage. It gets me away and in to a new group of players to learn different ways of playing. Playing internationally means that I'm thought of as some of the best Wales have to offer which gives me a big confidence boost and inspires me to keep working hard."

Smith even cites Wales' run to the semi-finals of Euro 2016 as extra motivation to work hard for both City and Wales. "It's made the standards higher. We're not a smaller country now. We got to the semi-finals of the European Championships so it's up to us in the next generation to stand up and keep improving on that."



WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD PICTURE: VICTORIA HAYDN

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IN OPPOSITION

WEST HAM UNITED

OLYMPIC VISION

This was always going to be a huge season for the Hammers, perhaps the most significant in 121 years since shipyard workers founded the club as Thames Ironworks FC.

No matter that last month saw the 50th anniversary of the huge contribution (by Messrs Moore, Hurst and Peters) to England's World Cup triumph.

No matter that an exciting team is aiming to build on the club's best season in the Premier League on several counts – most points, most goals and fewest defeats.

One event has towered above all else: The Olympic Stadium. From E13 to E20, from the Boleyn Ground to Queen Elizabeth Park, from a capacity of 35,000 to 52,000 season ticket

holders, the move to the renamed London Stadium has the potential to put West Ham United in the big league.

Of course it has been a wrench to leave their home of 112 years, but for the sake of a couple of miles, it is a game-changer, a platform from which the club hopes, expects even, to be challenging for the top six every season.

Michail Antonio (centre) scored the London Stadium's first league goal against Bournemouth last week. Ashley Fletcher and Sam Byram joined the celebration.



WORDS:
MIKE BEDDOW
PICTURES: PA /
ACTION IMAGES



MILESTONES

Already the Hammers' new stadium has clicked off the "firsts" as a headquarters for a football club.

■ The first competitive match: a Europa League third qualifying round meeting with NK Domzale of Slovenia. Result: 3-0 (agg: 4-2). Scorers: Cheikhou Kouyate 2, Sofiane Feghouli. Attendance: 53,914.

■ The official opening fixture: against Juventus, Italy's Serie A champions for the last five seasons. Result: 2-3. Scorer: Andy Carroll 2. Attendance: 53,966.

■ The first Premier League match: against AFC Bournemouth. Result: 1-0. Scorer: Antonio. Attendance: 56,977

On the opening night, the mood was summed up by Karen Brady. "It is the home our fans deserve," said the vice-chairman. "They shared our vision and their input helped us to design this stunning arena."



Adrian



Arthur Masuaku

MAN OF STYLE

Much is said of “the West Ham way.” The general interpretation is a club of some style (in the way its teams are expected to play) and a club with values (in its links with the local community).

Given these ideals, it is essential to have a manager who fits the profile. In appointing Slaven Bilic last year, they secured a man who knows the club inside out. A former player, albeit for a relatively short time, he has a connection with supporters, having been voted runner-up for the Hammer of the Year award in his one full season, 1996/97.

At the beginning of last season, fans everywhere saw what he was capable of achieving. West Ham won at Arsenal, then at Liverpool (for the first

time since 1963) and completed a treble at The Etihad, a result that ended City’s five-in-a-row start.

If results at home had been better – the Hammers successively lost to Leicester City and Bournemouth – it truly would have become a flying start.

Nevertheless, a buoyant team held third place to the end of October and after that, mostly settled in sixth until a last-day defeat at Stoke dropped them to seventh (a costly shift which allowed Southampton to go straight into the group stage in the Europa League).

It was in the summer that football-lovers saw another side to West Ham’s manager. Informative, astute and enthusiastic, he was instantly at ease as an ITV studio pundit for Euro 2016.

The Mirror said he was “the people’s favourite”, *The Guardian* wrote of his “mix of authoritative analysis and barnstorming passion” and the *Radio Times* observed that he had “come from nowhere to become arguably the TV signing of the tournament”.

Millions would have agreed with *The Mirror*’s summary... “Slaven Bilic: we salute you.”

RECORD SIGNING

To improve on the club’s most productive season in 30 years would be to move closer to UEFA Champions League qualification.

To this end, the Hammers completed a set of signings, ranging from a loan conversion for one of last season’s influential players to a club record fee for a striker who came into the Premier League last

year and won the first Player of the Month award.

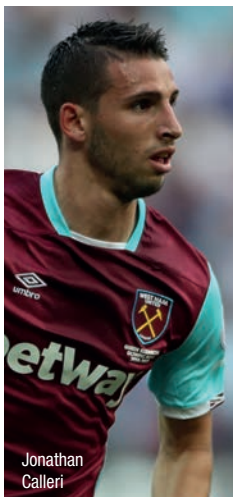
The early cash deal for Michael Lanzini, after a successful season on loan from Al-Jazira, was as important as any of the incoming transfers, although there was a setback here when the Argentine midfielder missed the start of the season after an injury in training with his country’s Olympic squad.

The transfer record was pushed up to £20.5m a few days before the new Premier League season got under way. Andre Ayew more than proved himself at this level with Swansea City last season. He was the Welsh club’s top scorer in the league with 12 goals, the last of these in a draw with City in the closing fixture in May.

However, after one start with the Hammers, he,



Sofiane
Feghouli



Jonathan
Calleri

too, was injured – and more seriously than Lanzini. To make matters worse, Andy Carroll is also out for a month.

INTERNATIONAL SET

The Hammers were quick in the field in the summer when bringing in three international players – Norway midfielder Havard Nordtveit, Algeria wide player Sofiane Feghouli and Turkey winger Gokan Tore, the latter on a season's loan after previously playing for Slaven Bilic at Besiktas.

The summer recruitment programme also targeted young players. Ashley Fletcher arrived with some pedigree from last season, having landed a Play-Off final and Johnstone's Paint Trophy double at Wembley when on loan to Barnsley.

The Hammers also

invested in teenage talent when signing Toni Martinez, a prolific goalscorer in Valencia's junior teams, and Domingos Quina, who won a UEFA Under-17 Championship medal with Portugal in May.

Jonathan Calleri is a little older at 22 and more experienced, having scored for Argentina in the Rio Olympics before making his West Ham debut in a Europa League qualifier.

A later deal for a specialist left-back became a priority when it was learned that Aaron Cresswell could miss up to four months a knee ligament injury in pre-season.

The gap was filled by Arthur Masuaku, a Frenchman who won back-to-back titles in two seasons with Olympiacos.

PAYET PAYS OFF

It's rare that a new signing matches the impact made by Dimitri Payet. A player who not only took his own career to a higher level but became instrumental in improving his new club.

Born on the Pacific island of Reunion, he had been playing in France for 10 seasons, moving between Nantes, Saint-Etienne, Lille and Marseille, when West Ham paid a fee in the region of £10m.

In making their pitch, the Hammers would have noted that he was joint-top of the French Ligue 1 assists in 2013 and top in his last season with Marseille.

On settling in London, he made an impact as a free-kick specialist, his trademark in becoming Hammer of the Year and topping the poll in the London football awards.

More than that, his contribution re-opened his international career. Although capped 15 times, he had been out of the French team for nine months until his recall in March. Selected in the Euro 2016 squad, he scored three times in his country's run to the final and was named in the official Team of the Tournament.



Dimitri
Payet



THAT WAS THE DAY...

Was it really only two-and-a-bit-years ago? West Ham were in town, it was the last game of the season and City had to win to secure a second Premier League title.

The way the day unfolded – a quietly assured performance followed by perfectly stage-managed presentation and celebration – was totally different to the events of 2012.

The difference was neatly packaged in Sam Wallace in his opening paragraph in *The Independent*: “Some triumphs are experienced in the white heat of a last-minute goal, like the one scored by Sergio Aguero two years ago, and others, like this final step to winning the league title, can be savoured like the proverbial bottle of fine wine, safe in the knowledge that the outcome is assured.”

Henry Winter, writing for *The Daily Telegraph*, said it was “the season when City held their nerve”. A month earlier, after a defeat at Anfield, Liverpool were seven points ahead (albeit having played two more games), but ultimately City were to be rewarded for “patience and intelligence”.

On the final day, perhaps the party was longer in the making than anyone wanted. Six minutes before half-time was a bit of wait for the first goal, tucked away by Samir Nasri, but four minutes after the break was comfortably early for the second, finished by Vincent Kompany.

At the final whistle inflatable blue moons, emblazoned by one word, CHAMPIONS, fluttered around the stands, but it was not always like that in late-season games with the Hammers.

In 1987 City headed off to Division Two after a last-day defeat in London and in 2001 (City) and 2003 (West Ham) the two clubs were relegated from the Premier League soon after fixtures in April.

LAST VISIT...

Barclays Premier League
Saturday 19 September 2015

MANCHESTER CITY 1

De Bruyne 45

WEST HAM UNITED 2

Moses 6 Sakho 31

HT 1-2 Att: 53,545

City: Hart, Sagna, Otamendi, Mangala (Demichelis 46), Kolarov (Iheanacho 84), Fernandinho, Yaya Toure, Jesus Navas, Sterling (Bony 66), De Bruyne, Aguero. Unused: Caballero, Maffeo, Fernando, Roberts.

West Ham: Adrian, Jenkinson (Collins 85), Tomkins, Reid, Cresswell, Obiang, Noble, Lanzini (Jelavic 60), Payet, Moses (Antonio 60), Sakho. Unused: Randolph, Oxford, Carroll, Zarate.



HEAD TO HEAD...

OUR LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST THE HAMMERS:

| | P | W | D | L | F | A |
|-------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| HOME | 47 | 32 | 5 | 11 | 99 | 60 |
| AWAY | 47 | 12 | 10 | 24 | 52 | 81 |
| TOTAL | 94 | 44 | 15 | 35 | 151 | 141 |

First met in league: 1923/24

Doubles achieved: 9

Doubles conceded: 2

Biggest wins:

Home: 4-0, 1974/75

Away: 4-0, 1961/62 and 1969/70

Heaviest defeats:

Home: 1-6, 1962/63

Away: 1-6, 1962/63

Last home win: 2-0, 2014/15

Last away win: 3-1, 2013/14

Last home draw: 1-1, 2007/08

Last away draw: 2-2, 2015/16

Last home defeat: 1-2, 2015/16

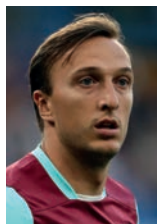
Last away defeat: 1-2, 2014/15

LEAGUE MEETINGS AT THE ETIHAD | CITY 8 WEST HAM 1 DRAWS 1

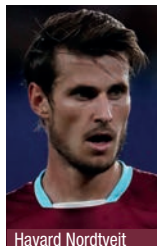
| 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2-1 | 2-0 | 1-1 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 2-1 | 2-1 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 1-2 |
| A Cole 2 Zamora | Samaras 2 | Vassell C Cole | Sturridge Elano 2 | Tevez 2 Petrov C Cole | De Jong Zabaleta Ba | Aguero Yaya Toure Carroll | Nasri Kompany | Collins og Aguero | De Bruyne Moses Sakho |



WEST HAM UNITED ROLL CALL



Mark Noble



Havard Nordtveit

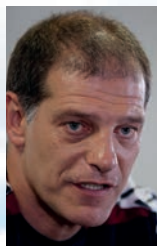


Gokhan Tore

| | Birthplace | Age | Signed from | International | 2016/17 League Apps | Cups Apps | Total Goals |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Adrian | Seville | 29 | Real Betis | - | 2 | 1 | - |
| Michail Antonio | Wandsworth | 26 | Nottingham Forest | - | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Andre Ayew | Secin | 26 | Swansea City | Ghana | 1 | - | - |
| Marcus Browne | London | 18 | Academy | - | - | -(1) | - |
| Sam Byram | Thurrock | 22 | Leeds United | - | 1(1) | 3 | - |
| Reece Burke | Newham | 19 | Academy | England U-20 | - | 1 | - |
| Jonathan Calleri | Buenos Aires | 22 | Dep. Maldonado (loan) | Argentina U-23 | -(1) | 1 | - |
| Andy Carroll | Gateshead | 27 | Liverpool | England | 1 | 2(1) | - |
| James Collins | Newport | 33 | Aston Villa | Wales | 2 | -(1) | 1 |
| Aaron Cresswell | Liverpool | 26 | Ipswich Town | - | - | - | - |
| Sofiane Feghouli | Levallois-Perret | 26 | Valencia | Algeria | - | 2 | - |
| Ashley Fletcher | Keighley | 20 | Manchester United | England U-20 | -(1) | -(1) | - |
| Doneil Henry | Brampton | 23 | Toronto FC | Canada | - | - | - |
| Cheikhou Kouyate | Dakar | 26 | Anderlecht | Senegal | 2 | 2 | - |
| Manuel Lanzini | Ituzaingo | 23 | Al-Jazira | Argentina U-20 | - | - | - |
| Toni Martinez | Murcia | 19 | Valencia | Spain U-19 | - | - | - |
| Arthur Masuaku | Lille | 22 | Olympiacos | France U-19 | 2 | - | - |
| Mark Noble | West Ham | 29 | Academy | England U-21 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Havard Nordtveit | Vats | 26 | Mönchengladbach | Norway | 2 | 2 | - |
| Pedro Obiang | Alcala de Henares | 24 | Sampdoria | Spain U-21 | -(1) | 2(1) | - |
| Angelo Ogbonna | Cassino | 28 | Juventus | Italy | - | 1 | - |
| Reece Oxford | Edmonton | 17 | Academy | England U-19 | - | 2 | - |
| Dimitri Payet | Reunion | 29 | Marseille | France | -(1) | - | - |
| Domingos Quina | Guinea-Bissau | 16 | Benfica | Portugal U-17/18 | - | -(2) | - |
| Darren Randolph | Dublin | 29 | Birmingham City | Rep of Ireland | - | 2 | - |
| Winston Reid | North Shore | 28 | Midtjylland | New Zealand | 2 | 2 | - |
| Diafra Sakho | Guediawaye | 26 | Metz | Senegal | - | - | - |
| Martin Samuelsen | Haugesund | 19 | Manchester City U-18 | Norway | - | - | - |
| Raphael Spiegel | Zurich | 23 | Grasshopper-Club | Switzerland U-21 | - | - | - |
| Gokhan Tore | Cologne | 24 | Besiktas (loan) | Turkey | 1(1) | 1 | - |
| Enner Valencia | San Lorenzo | 26 | Pachuca | Ecuador | 2 | 3 | - |

Not including Thursday's UEFA Europa League home leg versus Astra.

(Figures in brackets are substitute appearances).



MANAGER...

SLAVEN BILIC

Born: Split, 11 September 1968

PLAYER

Clubs: Hajduk Split (1988-93), Primorac (loan, 1988), Sibenik (loan, 1988-89), Karlsruher SC (1993-96), West Ham (1996-97), Everton (1997-00), Hajduk Split (2000)

League Career: 294 games, 28 goals

International: Croatia, 44 full (3 goals)

Honours: Hajduk Split (Yugoslav Cup, 1990/91 Croatian League, 1992; Croatian Cup, 1992/93 and 1999/00)

MANAGEMENT

Clubs: Hajduk Split (2001-03), Lokomotiv Moscow (2012-13), Besiktas (2013-15), West Ham (June 2015 to date)

International: Croatia U-21 (2004-06), Croatia (2006-12)

League Record

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Hajduk Split | 17 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 37 |
| Lokomotiv Moscow | 30 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 43 |
| Besiktas | 68 | 38 | 17 | 13 | 131 |
| West Ham United | 40 | 17 | 14 | 9 | 65 |
| TOTAL | 155 | 78 | 42 | 35 | 276 |

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FIXTURES

EDS, UNDER-18s & WOMEN

ELITE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

| Premier League 2 | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|-----|
| Aug 15 | A | Derby County | 3-2 |
| Aug 19 | H | Arsenal* | 1-0 |
| Aug 26 | A | Reading | |
| Sep 9 | H | Man United | |
| Sep 18 | A | Sunderland | |
| Sep 23 | H | Leicester City | |
| Oct 14 | A | Tottenham Hotspur | |
| Oct 24 | A | Southampton | |
| Oct 29 | H | Liverpool | |
| Nov 21 | A | Everton | |
| Nov 26 | H | Chelsea | |
| Dec 10 | H | Reading | |
| Jan 9 | A | Manchester United | |
| Jan 13 | H | Tottenham Hotspur | |
| Jan 30 | A | Leicester City | |
| Feb 3 | H | Sunderland | |
| Feb 17 | A | Chelsea | |
| Mar 3 | H | Everton | |
| Mar 13 | A | Arsenal | |
| Apr 7 | H | Derby County | |
| Apr 23 | A | Liverpool | |
| May 5 | H | Southampton * | |

EDS APPEARANCES

| | Apps | Goals |
|------------------------|------|-------|
| Isaac Buckley-Ricketts | 1(1) | - |
| Jacob Davenport | 2 | - |
| Sadou Diallo | -(2) | - |
| Javairo Dilrosun | 2 | - |
| Demeaco Duhaney | -(2) | - |
| Paolo Fernandes | 2 | - |
| Daniel Grimshaw | - | - |
| James Horsfield | 2 | - |
| Cameron Humphreys | 2 | - |
| Ash Igibu | - | - |
| Rodney Kongolo | 2 | 1 |
| Aaron Nemane | 2 | 1 |
| Lukas Nmecha | 1(1) | 2 |
| Billy O'Brien | 2 | - |
| Charlie Oliver | 2 | - |
| Marcus Wood | 2 | - |

FORMAT FOR PREMIER 2

- The age limit for players has risen from Under-21 to Under-23.
- There are two divisions, each with home-and-away fixtures
- Division One winners to be champions and bottom two clubs to be relegated.

ACADEMY

| Under-18 Premier League | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----|
| Aug 13 | H | West Bromwich A | 3-2 |
| Aug 20 | A | Everton | 3-1 |
| Aug 27 | H | Liverpool | |
| Sep 10 | A | Blackburn | |
| Sep 17 | H | Man United | |
| Sep 24 | A | Sunderland | |
| Oct 1 | H | Wolves | |
| Oct 15 | H | Derby County | |
| Oct 22 | A | Newcastle United | |
| Oct 29 | H | Stoke City | |
| Nov 5 | A | Middlesbrough | |
| Nov 19 | H | Everton | |
| Nov 26 | A | West Bromwich Albion | |
| Dec 3 | A | Manchester United | |
| Dec 10 | H | Blackburn Rovers | |
| Jan 7 | A | Liverpool | |
| Jan 14 | H | Sunderland | |
| Jan 21 | A | Wolves | |
| Jan 28 | H | Newcastle United | |
| Feb 4 | A | Derby County | |
| Feb 11 | A | Stoke City | |
| Feb 18 | H | Middlesbrough | |

UNDER-18s APPEARANCES

| | Apps | Goals |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| Curtis Anderson | - | - |
| Myles Beerman | -(1) | - |
| Lewis Blackshaw | - | - |
| Luke Bolton | 2 | - |
| Joe Coveney | 2 | - |
| Phil Foden | 2 | - |
| Ed Francis | 2 | - |
| Joe Hardy | 2 | 1 |
| Joel Latibeaudiere | 2 | - |
| Arijanet Muric | 2 | - |
| Ian Carlo Poveda | -(1) | 1 |
| Iker Pozo | -(2) | - |
| Colin Rosler | 2 | - |
| Jadon Sancho | 2 | 2 |
| Matthew Smith | 2 | - |
| Tyreke Wilson | 2 | - |

FORMAT FOR UNDER-18s LEAGUE

- Clubs will play each opposing team in their regional group twice – home and away.
- For the final stage, all the teams will be separated into three groups, each club playing one game against others in the group.

MCFC WOMEN

| FA Women's Super League | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----|
| Mar 23 | H | Notts County | 1-0 |
| Mar 28 | H | Arsenal | 2-0 |
| Apr 24 | A | Birmingham City | 2-0 |
| Apr 29 | A | Sunderland | 2-0 |
| May 2 | H | Doncaster Rovers | 6-0 |
| May 19 | A | Chelsea | 2-0 |
| May 25 | A | Liverpool | 0-0 |
| Jun 26 | H | Liverpool | 1-1 |
| Jul 24 | A | Notts County | 5-1 |
| Jul 31 | H | Sunderland | 3-0 |
| Aug 3 | A | Reading | 2-1 |
| Aug 11 | A | Doncaster Rovers | 4-0 |
| Aug 28 | H | Reading | |
| Sep 11 | A | Arsenal | |
| Sep 25 | H | Chelsea | |
| Oct 30 | H | Birmingham City | |

SSE FA Women's Cup

| | | | |
|--------|---|-----------------------------|-----|
| Mar 19 | A | Liverpool | 2-0 |
| Apr 3 | H | Sporting Club Albion | 2-0 |
| Apr 17 | A | Chelsea (SF) | 1-2 |

Continental Tyres Cup

| | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|-----|
| Jul 2 | A | Aston Villa | 8-0 |
| Aug 7 | H | Doncaster Rovers | 4-1 |
| Sep 4 | H | Arsenal (SF) | |

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Manchester City | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 3 | 32 |
| Chelsea | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 11 | 22 |
| Arsenal | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 10 | 20 |
| Birmingham City | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 20 |
| Liverpool | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 16 |
| Notts County | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 9 |
| Reading | 10 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 6 |
| Sunderland | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 30 | 6 |
| Doncaster Rovers | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 27 | 0 |

All EDS, Academy and MCFC Women home games at City Football Academy unless otherwise stated.

*at the Etihad Stadium

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FOR THE RECORD

FIRST TEAM, EDS & UNDER-18s MATCH DIARY

FIRST TEAM

Wednesday 24 August

UEFA Champions League
Play-Off Round, second leg
Etihad Stadium

MANCHESTER CITY 1 Delph 56

STEUAU BUCHAREST 0

HT 0-0 Att: 40,064

Agg: City 6 Steaua 0

City: Hart, Maffeo, Stones (Adarabioyo 60), Kolarov, Clichy, Yaya Toure, Fernando, Jesus Navas, Delph, Nolito (Angelino 60), Iheanacho (Fernandinho 76). Unused: Gunn, Silva, Sterling, Aguero

Steaua: Cojocaru, Aganovic (Stanciu 53), Tamas, Mitrea, Momcilovic, Bourceanu, Enache, Muniru (Achim 62), O Popescu (Popa 53), Hamroun, Tudorie. Unused: Nita, D Popescu, Simion, Valceanu.

Referee: Pawel Gil (Poland).

Fabian Delph heads the winner against Steaua and celebrates with Nolito.



CITY ROLL CALL

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

| Name | Birthdate | SEASON 2016/17 | | | | CITY CAREER | | | | International |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----|-------|-----|-------------|-----|---------|-----|----------------|
| | | League | | Cups | | League | | Cups | | |
| | | Apps | Gls | Apps | Gls | Apps | Gls | Apps | Gls | |
| Tosin Adarabioyo | 24.09.97 | - | - | - (1) | - | - | - | 1 (1) | - | England U-19 |
| Sergio Aguero | 02.06.88 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 134 (18) | 105 | 47 (12) | 37 | Argentina |
| Angelino (Jose Tasende) | 04.01.97 | - | - | - (1) | - | - | - | - (2) | - | Spain U-17 |
| *Brandon Barker | 04.10.96 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - (1) | - | England U-20 |
| Wilfried Bony | 10.12.88 | - | - | - | - | 15 (21) | 6 | 5 (5) | 4 | Ivory Coast |
| Willy Caballero | 28.09.81 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 7 (1) | - | 15 (1) | - | Argentina |
| Bersant Celina | 09.09.96 | - | - | - | - | - (1) | - | 1 (2) | - | Kosovo |
| Gael Clichy | 26.07.85 | 1 | - | 1 (1) | - | 108 (6) | 1 | 45 (8) | - | France |
| Kevin De Bruyne | 28.06.91 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 24 (3) | 7 | 13 (4) | 9 | Belgium |
| Fabian Delph | 21.11.89 | - (2) | - | 1 | 1 | 8 (11) | 2 | 7 (4) | 1 | England |
| Jason Denayer | 28.06.95 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Belgium |
| *David Faupala | 11.02.97 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | France U-18 |
| Fernandinho | 04.05.85 | 2 | - | 1 (1) | - | 87 (14) | 10 | 37 (5) | 4 | Brazil |
| Fernando | 25.07.87 | - | - | 1 (1) | - | 39 (10) | 4 | 23 (5) | - | Brazil U-20 |
| Aleix Garcia | 28.06.97 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | Spain U-19 |
| *Manu Garcia | 02.01.98 | - | - | - | - | - (1) | - | 1 (2) | 1 | Spain U-16 |
| *George Glendon | 03.05.95 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Wales U-21 |
| Ilkay Gundogan | 24.10.90 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Germany |
| Angus Gunn | 22.01.96 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | England U-17 |
| Joe Hart | 19.04.87 | - | - | 1 | - | 266 | - | 82 | - | England |
| James Horsfield | 30.11.95 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Cameron Humphreys | 22.08.98 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - (2) | - | England U-18 |
| Kelechi Iheanacho | 03.10.96 | - (2) | - | 1 | - | 7 (21) | 8 | 5 (5) | 6 | Nigeria |
| *Gabriel Jesus | 03.04.97 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Brazil U-23 |
| Aleksandar Kolarov | 10.11.85 | 2 | - | 2 | - | 104 (34) | 10 | 55 (18) | 10 | Serbia |
| Vincent Kompany | 10.04.86 | - | - | - | - | 213 (7) | 13 | 72 (6) | 1 | Belgium |
| Pablo Maffeo | 12.07.97 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | Spain U-19 |
| Eliaquim Mangala | 13.02.91 | - | - | - | - | 47 (1) | - | 14 (2) | - | France |
| *Marlos Moreno | 20.09.96 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Colombia |
| Samir Nasri | 26.06.87 | - | - | - | - | 99 (29) | 18 | 36 (11) | 9 | France |
| Jesus Navas | 21.11.85 | 1 (1) | - | 1 | - | 66 (35) | 4 | 34 (15) | 4 | Spain |
| Nolito | 15.10.86 | 1 (1) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 (1) | 2 | 2 | 1 | Spain |
| Nicolas Otamendi | 12.02.88 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 31 | 1 | 19 (1) | - | Argentina |
| *Patrick Roberts | 05.02.97 | - | - | - | - | - (1) | - | - (2) | - | England U-19 |
| Bacary Sagna | 14.02.83 | 1 | - | - (1) | - | 36 (2) | - | 21 (4) | - | France |
| Leroy Sané | 11.01.96 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Germany |
| David Silva | 08.01.86 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 174 (14) | 35 | 65 (11) | 9 | Spain |
| Raheem Sterling | 08.12.94 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 25 (8) | 6 | 12 (5) | 5 | England |
| John Stones | 28.05.94 | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | England |
| Yaya Toure | 13.05.83 | - | - | 1 | - | 188 (7) | 57 | 69 (5) | 18 | Ivory Coast |
| Pablo Zabaleta | 16.01.85 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 193 (18) | 8 | 74 (18) | 2 | Argentina |
| Bruno Zuculini | 02.04.93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - (1) | - | Argentina U-20 |
| Own goals | | - | - | - | - | | | | | |

(Figures in brackets are substitute appearances). Cup figures include FA Cup, League Cup, FA Community Shield and Europe.
 * = Players out on loan. Barker and Faupala (NAC Breda), Manu Garcia (Alaves), Glendon (Fleetwood Town), Gabriel Jesus (Palmeiras), Moreno (Deportivo La Coruna), Roberts (Celtic).

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE, FACTS & FIGURES

| Home Attendances | | HOME | | | | | | | | | | AWAY | | | | | GD | PTS |
|------------------|---------|------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|----|---|----|-----|
| Highest | Average | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | | | | | | |
| 54,362 | 54,362 | 1 | Manchester City | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | +4 | 6 | | |
| 75,326 | 75,326 | 2 | Manchester United | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | +4 | 6 | | |
| 21,037 | 21,037 | 3 | Hull City | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | +3 | 6 | | |
| 41,542 | 41,542 | 4 | Chelsea | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | +2 | 6 | | |
| 39,494 | 39,494 | 5 | Everton | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | +1 | 4 | | |
| 32,110 | 32,110 | 6 | Middlesbrough | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | +1 | 4 | | |
| 31,447 | 31,447 | 7 | Tottenham Hotspur | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | +1 | 4 | | |
| 21,313 | 21,313 | 8 | Burnley | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 3 | | |
| 23,654 | 23,654 | 9 | West Bromwich A | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | |
| 56,977 | 56,977 | 10 | West Ham United | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | | |
| - | - | 11 | Liverpool | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | -1 | 3 | | |
| 20,024 | 20,024 | 12 | Swansea City | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | -1 | 3 | | |
| 60,033 | 60,033 | 13 | Arsenal | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | | |
| 20,772 | 20,772 | 14 | Watford | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -1 | 1 | | |
| 32,008 | 32,008 | 15 | Leicester City | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | 1 | | |
| 31,488 | 31,488 | 16 | Southampton | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 1 | | |
| 27,455 | 27,455 | 17 | Stoke City | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -3 | 1 | | |
| 43,515 | 43,515 | 18 | Sunderland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -2 | 0 | | |
| 24,490 | 24,490 | 19 | Crystal Palace | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -2 | 0 | | |
| 11,355 | 11,355 | 20 | AFC Bournemouth | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -3 | 0 | | |

23

Sergio Aguero is 23rd in the list of top scorers in Premier League history with 105 goals. The only current Premier League players above him are Wayne Rooney (second with 194) and Jermain Defoe (10th with 144).

FACTS & FIGURES

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE

75,326 Manchester United v Southampton, 19.8.16

LOWEST ATTENDANCE

11,355 AFC Bournemouth v Man United, 14.8.16

HIGHEST SCORING HOME WINS

2-0 Manchester United v Southampton, 19.8.16

2-0 Burnley v Liverpool, 20.8.16

HIGHEST SCORING AWAY WIN

4-1 Manchester City at Stoke, 20.8.16

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH

- 2 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool) at Arsenal
- 2 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Man United) v Southampton
- 2 Sergio Aguero (Man City) at Stoke
- 2 Nolito (Man City) at Stoke
- 2 Cristhian Stuani (Middlesbrough) at Sunderland

Table and statistics do not include yesterday's games.

TOP SCORERS

(PREMIER LEAGUE ONLY)

- Sergio Aguero (Manchester City) 3
- Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United)
- Etienne Capoue (Watford) 2
- Diego Costa (Chelsea)
- Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool)
- Nolito (Manchester City)
- Cristhian Stuani (Middlesbrough)



Right: Aleks Kolarov holds off a challenge from Bojan in the win at Stoke last week.

MATCH DETAILS



Key: SUB Started SUB Unused sub DEBUT City debut
DSRS Sub used – with initials of player replaced/minute of substitution
1 Goals scored X Replaced Yellow card Red card Suspended
UCL = UEFA Champions League FAC = Emirates FA Cup EFL = EFL Cup

| | | | F-A | Att | Pos | Away fans | City scorers and goal times |
|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|--|
| AUGUST 2016 | | | | | | | |
| Sat | 13 | H Sunderland | 2-1 | 54,362 | - | tbc | Aguero pen 4, McNair og 87 |
| Tue | 16 | A Steaua Bucharest (UCL PO1) | 5-0 | 45,327 | - | tbc | Silva 13, Aguero 41, 78, 89, Nolito 49 |
| Sat | 20 | A Stoke City | 4-1 | 27,455 | - | tbc | Aguero pen 27, 36, Nolito 86, 90+5 |
| Wed | 24 | H Steaua Bucharest (UCL PO2) | 1-0 | 40,064 | - | tbc | Delph 56 |
| Sun | 28 | H West Ham United | | 4pm | | | |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | |
| Sat | 10 | A Manchester United | | 12.30pm | | | |
| | 13/14 | UCL Matchday 1 | | | | | |
| Sat | 17 | H Bournemouth | | 3pm | | | |
| | 20/21 | A Swansea City (EFL 3) | | tba | | | |
| Sat | 24 | A Swansea City | | 3pm | | | |
| | 27/28 | UCL Matchday 2 | | | | | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | | | |
| Sun | 2 | A Tottenham Hotspur | | 2.15pm | | | |
| Sat | 15 | H Everton | | 3pm | | | |
| | 18/19 | UCL Matchday 3 | | | | | |
| Sat | 22 | H Southampton | | 3pm | | | |
| | 25/26 | EFL Cup 4 | | | | | |
| Sat | 29 | A West Bromwich Albion | | 3pm | | | |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | | | |
| | 1/2 | UCL Matchday 4 | | | | | |
| Sat | 5 | H Middlesbrough | | 3pm | | | |
| Sat | 19 | A Crystal Palace | | 3pm | | | |
| | 22/23 | UCL Matchday 5 | | | | | |
| Sat | 26 | A Burnley | | 12.30pm | | | |
| | 29/30 | EFL Cup 5 | | | | | |
| DECEMBER | | | | | | | |
| Sat | 3 | H Chelsea | | 3pm | | | |
| | 6/7 | UCL Matchday 6 | | | | | |
| Sat | 10 | A Leicester City | | 3pm | | | |
| Wed | 14 | H Watford | | 8pm | | | |
| Sat | 17 | H Arsenal | | 3pm | | | |
| Mon | 26 | A Hull City | | 3pm | | | |



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MATCH DETAILS



JANUARY 2017

| | | | |
|-----|-------|---------------------|--------|
| Mon | 2 | H Burnley | 3pm |
| Sat | 7 | Emirates FA Cup 3 | |
| | 10/11 | EFL Cup SF1 | |
| Sat | 14 | A Everton | 3pm |
| Sat | 21 | H Tottenham Hotspur | 3pm |
| | 24/25 | EFL Cup SF2 | |
| Sat | 28 | Emirates FA Cup 4 | |
| Tue | 31 | A West Ham United | 7.45pm |

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|-----|----|---------------------|-----|
| Sat | 4 | H Swansea City | 3pm |
| Sat | 11 | A AFC Bournemouth | 3pm |
| Sat | 18 | Emirates FA Cup 5 | |
| Sat | 25 | H Manchester United | 3pm |
| Sun | 26 | EFL Cup Final | |

MARCH

| | | | |
|-----|----|------------------------|-----|
| Sat | 4 | A Sunderland | 3pm |
| Sat | 11 | H Stoke City (or FAC6) | 3pm |
| Sat | 18 | H Liverpool | 3pm |

APRIL

| | | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Sat | 1 | A Arsenal | 3pm |
| Wed | 5 | A Chelsea | 7.45pm |
| Sat | 8 | H Hull City | 3pm |
| Sat | 15 | A Southampton | 3pm |
| Sat | 22 | H West Bromwich Albion (or FACSF) | 3pm |
| Sat | 29 | A Middlesbrough | 3pm |

MAY

| | | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------|-----|
| Sat | 6 | H Crystal Palace | 3pm |
| Sat | 13 | H Leicester City | 3pm |
| Sun | 21 | A Watford | 3pm |
| Sat | 27 | Emirates FA Cup Final | |



GROUND REGULATIONS & FIRST AID

First Aid There are a number of First Aid facilities throughout the stadium with a medical centre housed in the basement of the West Stand. Anyone needing medical attention should seek a steward who will direct them to the nearest first aid post.

Smoking Smoking is not permitted in the Etihad Stadium and all areas of the Etihad Campus. This includes roadways, car parks, towers, toilets and concourses. The use of electronic cigarettes is also prohibited. Manchester City Football Club has a zero tolerance policy in regards to this matter. Anyone who does smoke in the stadium faces ejection and a possible ban.

Alcohol The club have a licence to sell alcohol within the stadium on matchdays with the proviso that drinking is confined to the concourse areas, but is also prohibited in the blue hatched areas on level one. Alcohol is not permitted within the stands.

Emergency Procedures In the event of an emergency occurring at the stadium, the Public Address System will be used to broadcast information and directions to spectators. Such broadcasts will be repeated. If there is a requirement to evacuate the stadium that message will be broadcast to all areas, and spectators will need to follow the instructions provided. They will also need to listen to the directions of club stewards who will be there to assist.

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Head of Content Chris Bailey

Editor David Clayton

Production Neil Jeffries

Art Direction Ian Watson

Design Simon Thorley

Layout/Design Trevor Hartley

Contributors Mike Beddow, Kevin Cummins, Mike Holden,

Gary James, Jack Wilson-Mumford, Marc Riley

Photos Victoria Haydn (MCFC), PA Photos, Action Images

Production Ignition Publications

Print Buxton Press

OTHER DATES

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16 – Feb 14/15/21/22, Mar 7/8/14/15; QF – Apr 11/12, 18/19; SF – May 2/3, May 9/10; Final (Cardiff) – June 3.

International weekends: Sep 3/4; Oct 8/9; Nov 12/13; Mar 25/26, June 10/11.

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



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TEAMSHEET

MANCHESTER CITY

| Played | | Goals | ■ | ■ |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|---|---|
| 1 | Joe Hart | | | |
| 3 | Bacary Sagna | | | |
| 4 | Vincent Kompany | | | |
| 5 | Pablo Zabaleta | | | |
| 6 | Fernando | | | |
| 7 | Raheem Sterling | | | |
| 8 | Samir Nasri | | | |
| 9 | Nolito | | | |
| 10 | Sergio Aguero | | | |
| 11 | Aleksandar Kolarov | | | |
| 13 | Willy Caballero | | | |
| 14 | Wilfried Bony | | | |
| 15 | Jesus Navas | | | |
| 17 | Kevin De Bruyne | | | |
| 18 | Fabian Delph | | | |
| 19 | Leroy Sané | | | |
| 20 | Elaquim Mangala | | | |
| 21 | David Silva | | | |
| 22 | Gael Clichy | | | |
| 23 | retired in honour of Marc Vivien-Foe | | | |
| 24 | John Stones | | | |
| 25 | Fernandinho | | | |
| 28 | Jason Denayer | | | |
| 30 | Nicolas Otamendi | | | |
| 35 | Oleksandr Zinchenko | | | |
| 36 | Bruno Zuculini | | | |
| 42 | Yaya Toure | | | |
| 53 | Tosin Adarabioyo | | | |
| 54 | Angus Gunn | | | |
| 59 | Bersant Celina | | | |
| 69 | Angelino | | | |
| 72 | Kelechi Iheanacho | | | |
| 75 | Alexi Garcia | | | |
| 77 | Cameron Humphreys-Grant | | | |
| | Ilkay Gundogan | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

WEST HAM UNITED

| Played | | Goals | ■ | ■ |
|--------|------------------|-------|---|---|
| 1 | Darren Randolph | | | |
| 2 | Winston Reid | | | |
| 3 | Aaron Cresswell | | | |
| 4 | Havard Nordtveit | | | |
| 7 | Sofiane Feghouli | | | |
| 8 | Cheikhou Kouyate | | | |
| 9 | Andy Carroll | | | |
| 10 | Manuel Lanzini | | | |
| 11 | Enner Valencia | | | |
| 13 | Adrian | | | |
| 14 | Pedro Obiang | | | |
| 15 | Diafra Sakho | | | |
| 16 | Mark Noble | | | |
| 17 | Gokhan Tore | | | |
| 19 | James Collins | | | |
| 20 | Andre Ayew | | | |
| 21 | Angelo Ogbonna | | | |
| 22 | Sam Byram | | | |
| 23 | Diego Poyet | | | |
| 24 | Ashley Fletcher | | | |
| 25 | Doneil Henry | | | |
| 26 | Arthur Masuaku | | | |
| 27 | Dimitri Payet | | | |
| 28 | Jonathan Calleri | | | |
| 29 | Antonio Martínez | | | |
| 30 | Michail Antonio | | | |
| 32 | Reece Burke | | | |
| 34 | Raphael Spiegel | | | |
| 35 | Reece Oxford | | | |
| 36 | Domingos Quina | | | |
| 42 | Martin Samuelsen | | | |
| 52 | Marcus Browne | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

OFFICIALS

Referee: Andre Marriner

A Select Group referee for 11 years and FIFA-listed since 2009, the West Midlands official came into the new season from a major international tournament. He was an additional assistant in the English team who took charge of the Euro 2016 final.

Assistants:

■ Simon Beck
■ Scott Ledger

Fourth Official:
Mike Jones

MASCOTS AND PLAYER ESCORTS

Byrony Prior
Jack Hull
Leo Hall
Adam Quest
Joseph Windall

"Why just improve on what's been done before,
when you can totally reimagine it."

First Apartment

Leather armchair.
Separate 81 inch bed.
Personal vanity unit.
Dedicated Chef.
Flying Reimagined.

etihad.com #Reimagined

Etihad Airways' new A380 - now flying London to Abu Dhabi.

ON OUR SIDE



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