

# “I’ll be *there*”

THE CARDIFF CITY SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

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Delivered free to members



***Vote today for your players of the year.***

# SUPPORTERS CLUB DIRECTORY



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## CARDIFF CITY EXILES

Website [www.cardiffcityexiles.info](http://www.cardiffcityexiles.info)

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### CCSC Player of the Year

2004/2005	Chris Barker
2003/2004	Tony Vidmar
2002/2003	Robert Earnshaw
2001/2002	Graham Kavanagh
2000/2001	Andy Legg
1999/2000	Andy Legg
1998/1999	Kevin Nugent
1997/1998	Jon Hallworth

### CCSC Most Improved Player of the Year

2004/2005	Chris Barker
2003/2004	James Collins
2002/2003	Rhys Weston
2001/2002	Rhys Weston
2000/2001	Josh Low
1999/2000	Mark Bonner
1998/1999	Graham Mitchell
1997/1998	Craig Middleton

### CCSC Young Player of the Year

2004/2005	Joe Ledley
2003/2004	James Collins
2002/2003	James Collins
2001/2002	Daniel Gabbidon
2000/2001	Robert Earnshaw
1999/2000	Robert Earnshaw
1998/1999	Robert Earnshaw
1997/1998	Christian Roberts

### CCSC Hall of Fame

2004/2005	Ronnie Bird
2003/2004	Dave Bennett
2002/2003	Phil Suarez
2001/2002	Jason Perry
2000/2001	Fred Keenor
1999/2000	Carl Dale
1998/1999	Brian Clark
1997/1998	Phil Dwyer

**CARDIFF CITY 1927 CLUB**  
**LONDON & S. EAST SUPPORTERS CLUB**





## With Cities Play-Off hopes all but extinguished after our defeat at Southampton I just hope that we can pick up sufficient points to finish 7th.

After all the effort and hard work, in difficult circumstances, it would be a shame if we ended up around mid table.

On reflection, when you look back at the results in the '6 pointers', the away fixtures with Crystal Palace, Watford, Preston and Wolves, we came up short. That said, in the final moments of the similarly vital games, at Luton and Sheff. Utd, we were denied 'stone wall' penalties, costing us probable victory.

But wherever we finish this season, I think most fans would agree, it was beyond their expectations back in August that we would have been challenging for the Play-offs in March. A solid base has been put in place by David Jones and his staff, for the team to 'kick on' next season. Obviously, issues such as a decent, permanent, training ground need to be resolved and it will be a massive boost for everyone when the bulldozers finally move onto the Leckwith site.

Away from the pressure of the league, Andy Legg's testimonial, in mid March, attracted a crowd of over 5,500 to Ninian Park. It was great to see a whole host of ex- City players turn up for the evening. Was I the only person who didn't recognise, early 80's legend, Dave Bennett?

Other stories of interest over the last few weeks have included the speculation of a ground share (when we get it) with the Cardiff Blues.

Having chatted about this with a number of City fans I think a lot would oppose such a merger. Personally, I think as long as the financial deal was beneficial, I would support it. The football club remains many millions in debt and with millions to spend on a new stadium. They need every income source possible.

Some fans have raised the issue of 'wear and tear' on the pitch, having checked out this seasons fixture list, the Blues have/will play 14 home games, none were played during February (6 Nations Championships) and 2 are scheduled after our 'home' season has finished. Based on that, I would welcome them as tenants – on a high rent of course!

There were also front-page headlines for Mr Trundle of Swansea, who didn't endear himself to Cardiff City fans, or indeed the people of Cardiff, with his choice of dress, for Swansea's League Trophy Final at the Millennium Stadium. On a day that reportedly went off peacefully and without incident on the streets of the capitol, it was disappointing that the best-known player on the pitch had acted in this way. In the aftermath, many irate readers letters were published in the evening paper, one person suggested as a punishment 'a spot of community service, served on St Mary's Street'.

I will wait for the outcome of that saga with interest!

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Looking ahead to next season, the club need to be applauded with their Season Ticket initiatives. In particular, an adult Ambassador season ticket in the Spar Family Stand can get up to two under 9's season tickets, in the family stand, free. In addition, for the first time ever, the club are offering full time students a season ticket at concession prices.

On that positive note, lets hope the boys can secure 7th position with a couple of wins over the last few games – Keep The Faith.

# LIVING THE DREAM

## Local boy, local hero, homegrown talent – call it what you want.

Like there is always added interest when someone is born and raised in your area breaks through to play in the first team and establishes himself as a regular.

In my time there have been several who have done this and made major contributions to the recent history of Cardiff City Football Club. Phil Dwyer, one of my all time favourites, a hard as nails player who holds the all time record for first team appearances. A record, I believe, will never be beaten.

Jason Perry was another, a 100% player who gave it everything he had, certainly not the most talented of players who has ever worn the blue shirt, but undoubtedly one of the most committed and a member of our 3rd Division Championship winning team. What's more Jason is still a supporter of the club, he traveled to Bristol for the games in our promotion season on the supporters coaches and he was up at the Arsenal for our FA Cup tie this year.

Scott Young was another who gave his all, sadly injury robbed him of a chance to add to his 300 plus appearances for the Bluebirds, but as the player who scored "That Goal" against Leeds he will always have a place in the Clubs folklore.

Being from Caerphilly, I will always remember a few years ago walking through the town and seeing a young kid sat on a wall with a kit bag slung over his shoulder waiting for the bus. He probably 16 or 17 at the time but he was so small he looked about 12.

A couple of years later that boy was smashing in goals by the bucketful, breaking club records and celebrating in trademark acrobatic style. "Earnie", record goal scorer, has a place in City history, his impact on the 2002/03 season was huge, he was almost unstoppable and didn't we love it.

The latest local boy to make the breakthrough is Joe Ledley.

Plunged into a team struggling both on and off the field, his impact on the team for someone so young and inexperienced was significant in maintaining our Championship status.

Its one of those stories football, being the game that it is, sometimes throws up. In a little over 16 months Joe Ledley has gone from promising Academy Player, who cleaned Graham Kavanagh's boots, to first team regular and Welsh International player, who now rubs shoulders with Ryan Giggs.

It must be like living a dream and a fantastic feeling to come so far so quickly. So imagine what it must be like for his parents to see him playing for City and Wales.

Chris and Linda Ledley have become regular travelers with Cardiff City Supporters Club over the last two seasons, so I got the chance to find out what it feels like to see their son run out at places like Highbury and The Millennium Stadium.





**G.L.** How did Joe get involved with City?

**Chris.** Well he was playing for Danescourt in the Cardiff and District League, and one of the guys who helped run the team did abit of scouting for City so Joe got involved down there.

**G.L.** So when he started going down there what did that entail and how old was he?

**Chris.** He was nine. It was a couple of nights a week at Leckwith or over at Cyncoed and then later on they used the Vale of Glamorgan sometimes.

**G.L.** I don't suppose you miss all that standing around on freezing cold nights while Joe trained.

**Chris.** Well I do actually. I've always enjoyed watching Joe train and play games all the way through from Junior teams. You get to know the other boys and their parents and have a chat and a laugh. That's what can make it a bit sad when some of the lads are no longer there or they are not kept on. The next time you go along they might not be there and it means so much to them. You don't see their parents anymore, it can be upsetting but that's the way it is I suppose.

**G.L.** So Joe has been at the City for 10 years nearly?

**Chris.** Yes that's right we were having a joke the other night, Joe reckons he's due for a testimonial this year.

**G.L.** Did Joe play schools football as well?

**Chris.** Yes he played at Fairwater Juniors and Cardiff Schools and for regional teams against West Wales and Merthyr and that sort of thing. Then he went to Cantonian.

**G.L.** That's an "Egg chasing" school isn't it?

**Chris.** Well it was, Joe played Rugby there he had a chance of a Welsh Schools Trial, he use to play on the wing.

**G.L.** So did City allow him to play for them and the school?

**Chris.** Well after about a year he had to decide to play at City or school.

**G.L.** So was he playing games for City every week?

**Chris.** Yes they played friendlies against Swansea, Bristol City, Bristol Rovers and teams in the area.

**G.L.** So by the time Joe got to Academy level you must have traveled thousands of miles watching him?

**Chris.** Oh yes, all over the place, West Wales, Mid Wales. I remember Linda and me driving up to Northampton for an FA Cup game midweek, it was freezing cold and raining, we were the only parents there - we must have been mad - but they won thankfully. We used to share cars a lot and give some of the other boys a lift sometimes.

**G.L.** Was Joe a City fan when he was a kid?

**Chris.** Yes he used to go down with his brother and me. His brother is still a season ticket holder on the Bob Bank. Joe used to like Carl Dale and Nathan Blake. Blakey was his favourite.

**G.L.** Were you there when Blakey scored against Man City?

**Chris.** Yes right behind the goal in the Family Stand (Canton Stand) and we were there for the Leeds game on the Bob bank. We queued up for the tickets for those games.

**G.L.** Now Joe is a regular in the team, does his brother wind him up as brothers do?

**Chris.** Oh Yes, Big style, even when Joes had a good game Lee will tell him he was crap. He's really proud of him though.

**G.L.** I remember you telling me that Joe really broke though from the academy to the first team squad after the game at Arsenal. How was that?

**Chris.** The whole team played well and they beat Arsenal. Joe had a good game and people were impressed. I remember Liam Brady who was in charge of the Arsenal Academy asking about him, I think he even spoke to Sam Hamman. After the game Lennie Lawrence told Joe he wanted a word with him and then he told him to start training with the first team the following week.

**G.L.** Have you ever met Sam Hammam?

**Chris.** No - I don't think he knows who I am, anyway I've passed him a few times. But I've never really needed to meet him.

**G.L.** Met Dave Jones yet?

**Chris.** No I've never met him either.

**G.L.** Before long Joe made his full first team debut at Brighton, you must remember that one?

**Chris.** Yes I do he nearly scored, played okay, had a chance or two and he hit the bar.

**G.L.** What about his first ever goal against West Ham?

**Chris.** Oh Yeah, I remember that and it was with his right foot. Joe can remember everything about that from start to finish; he can talk you through it like it was yesterday.

**G.L.** I think a goal scored in another game was so important for another reason?

**Chris.** I know what you are going to say 'Sheffield Utd'.

**G.L.** Yes we were really struggling, we had just sold Kav, and it was doom and gloom, everybody thought it might be our last game with all the stuff in the press. It was a massive win and Joe got the winner. What do you remember?

**Chris.** I remember Joe scoring and running straight across to the Bob bank where his brother sits. He knew he was there with some of his mates. He knew what it meant to everybody.

**G.L.** What does it feel like when you see him play and scoring like that, you must feel very proud?

**Chris.** Yes it does. It's fantastic when he's playing at places like Highbury against Bergkamp and Pires and that sort of player. It does bring a bit of a lump to my throat sometimes.

**G.L.** There's a bit of a story about the Arsenal game isn't there, Joe wanted to swap shirts after but he couldn't get one at the time, did he get one in the end?

**Chris.** Well he tried to swap with Gilberto as they were coming off the pitch but he couldn't get his because he had promised it to someone. So he waited until later on and went into their changing room but they had all gone.

So he asked the kit man if he could have Reye's but he said he couldn't give the shirts away without permission of the player or the club. So the following week he phoned Arsenal up to see if they could let us have one, then we wrote a letter asking if they could send one.

We didn't hear anything for a week or two, but we got home one night and our next-door neighbour had taken a parcel in, when we opened it up it was Reye's shirt signed to Joe best wishes Jose Antonio Reyes. Joe was well chuffed with that.

**G.L.** Does Joe watch football or doesn't he bother?

**Chris.** He likes to watch teams like Barcelona because he likes to watch Ronaldinho, but he doesn't watch a lot really.

**G.L.** Has he got his first Welsh shirt?

**Chris.** Yes and he's got a Poland Shirt, he managed to get one of those.

**G.L.** It must be unbelievable seeing him playing for Wales?

**Chris.** Oh yeah it's a dream when he was at the Millennium when they played England even though he didn't play.

**G.L.** What did Joe say about that?

**Chris.** Oh he said it was great a real buzz just to be in the tunnel before the game with Beckham and Rooney and players like that.

**G.L.** So he didn't try to kick Beckham then?

**Chris.** No but he was joking after that he thought Beckham looked short.

**G.L.** I panic every time one of our players plays for Wales, I hate it because they might get injured, but I suppose Joe loves playing?

**Chris.** Well yes. To have a chance to play against all these players and to go on the pitch with players like Ryan Giggs, he was Joe's hero as a kid, so he loves it just to be training with him.



**G.L.** In the recent away game at Luton I was standing with you and heard Joe getting some stick. You must have heard it as a parent how do you deal with that?

**Chris.** Yes I heard it. The way I look at it is people traveled all the way up there in midweek, took time off work and paid money to go there, so they must be real City fans. So they've got a right to their opinion so I don't have a problem with that.

**G.L.** I've heard it get pretty abusive with certain players in the past have you ever reacted to someone saying something abusive towards Joe?

**Chris.** No I've never done that.

**G.L.** What about Joe has he ever heard anything like that, how does he react?

**Chris.** Well he probably has done but I don't think that's a bad thing you've got to take the rough with the smooth, he gets praise if he does well so you have to take criticism as well. It keeps his feet on the ground and stops him getting complacent. That's the way I look at it.

**Chris.** Are you critical of him yourself, do you discuss games with him?

**Chris.** Yeah I do. I'll tell him if I think he's played badly or done something wrong.

But I've always tried to be honest with him even when he was playing junior football. There's no point telling him he's played well if he hasn't. He will never improve if you do that.

**G.L.** Now that he's a first team regular and has played for Wales so you think he pays attention to what you say?

**Chris.** Yes, to be fair he does, he lets me have my say but he knows himself when he's made a mistake, the coaches will have told him that anyway.

**G.L.** Have you ever ranted on too much?

**Chris.** Yeah I suppose I have (Laughs) I remember last year after the Preston away game (City lost 3-0) I was going on and on, I was really upset. In the end Linda told me to shut up.

**G.L.** Does Joe read the papers and the Echo and what does he think?

**Chris.** Yes he does read them. But he takes it all with a pinch of salt.

**G.L.** When you watch matches now do you tend to watch Joe or can you watch the game as a whole?

**Chris.** Well I do watch him to see where he's going and the runs he makes but I also keep an eye out for the other players like Coxy and Jeff Whitley when they are telling him to go here or there. That interests me as well.

**G.L.** What about when he plays for Wales, he's never played with Robbie Savage has he?

**Chris.** No. But the one player I wish Joe had played with was Gary Speed. I think he could have really taught Joe a lot, I think he's a really good pro.

**G.L.** Does Joe get on well with all the new players at the City?

**Chris.** Yes. They all get on well. They go out together.

**G.L.** Was Joe worried at all in the summer with players leaving and a new manager coming in?

**Chris.** Well he was abit. Gabbs and Ginge had gone and Jobi McNuff. Joe was friendly with them and then he was injured with his foot pre-season. But things have worked out well, it's been good.

**G.L.** Do you worry about him getting injured in matches?

**Chris.** Well there's always a chance but you tend not to think about it. But he's been pretty lucky with injuries.

**G.L.** Is he a quick healer?

**Chris.** Yeah he's pretty good he comes home black and blue from some games but that's all part of football, you are bound to get knocks.

**G.L.** What about the tackle with Sidibe in the Stoke game that was right in front of where you sit, did you wince when he went in for that one?

**Chris.** Well he's bigger than Joe (laughs) but if you go into tackles half hearted you are more lightly to get hurt.

**G.L.** Joe's done brilliantly to come so far so quickly, was he ambitious as a kid?

**Chris.** He was always very determined, very single minded. He would put his mind to something and he would stick at it.

**G.L.** Now Joe is well known, can he go out in town or is it too much hassle?

**Chris.** Well I don't think he is that well known, not like the really big players are known. You only know him if you are a City fan. If he goes into town in the afternoon sometimes some young kids will ask for an autograph. But yeah he can go in, but it's usually to the pictures with his girlfriend or for something to eat. He went out for his brother's birthday but if the players are out they stick together and go to certain places. So it's no problem.

**G.L.** He's big mates with Cameron now isn't he?

**Chris.** Yes they are mates, they room together.

**G.L.** Have you met Cameron, has he been to your house?



**Chris.** Yes, he spent Christmas Day with us. Because there were games over Christmas and training he couldn't go home and he was on his own so we invited him over. That was good, we had a nice day.

**G.L.** Joe's still living at home any chance of him buying his own place soon?

**Chris.** No, he reckons we won't get rid of him yet. He gets all his washing and ironing done and all the cooking so he says he's not going.

**G.L.** So when he's home the night before a home game has he got a routine for Friday and Saturday morning?

**Chris.** Yeah on Friday night he has Pasta and all that stuff. Then on Saturday morning he gets up and usually has cereal and tea early. Then about twelve o'clock he likes to have beans on toast with scrambled egg. They have to be at the ground by 1.30 pm so I take him in the car, he puts his music on full blast, I let him get away with that as its his

routine but as soon as we get to the ground, its off. I see him after the game then.

**G.L.** Does he get moody if we lose?

**Chris.** Well he doesn't like losing. I can tell the difference when we win to when we loose. When he phones me after an away game from the bus on the way home you can hear it in his voice if we've lost.

But he's not really moody, he gets on with it, once its over its on to the next game.

So there's a brief glimpse of what's its been like over the last sixteen months for Joe and more particularly Chris and Linda. Joe is the latest local boy made good.

We all hope the club can develop fast enough to make it possible for him to stay at the

Club and realise some more dreams with Cardiff City.

With special thanks to Chris and Linda for giving up their time. It was very much appreciated.

# PROGRAMMES BY CLIVE FRANCIS



Bids are welcome for the following rare and older Cardiff City and Wales programmes. Bids should be made in writing and posted to: **CCSC, PO Box 1927, Cardiff CF11 8HY**

Or handed in at the Supporters Club shop on match days.

Alternatively, if you have access to email why not email any bids to: **clivefr@lineone.net**.

League matches unless otherwise stated.

Date	Fixture	Min Bid	Condition
30/04/55	CCFC v Wolves	£4.00	
22/10/55	Wales v England	£15.00	slight crease where programme has been folded
07/03/56	CCFC v Newcastle	£4.00	t/c centre page
15/11/58	Fulham v CCFC	£2.50	
04/04/59	CCFC v Fulham	£2.50	t/c centre page
03/10/59	Hull City v CCFC	£2.50	
14/01/76	CCFC v Sully (WC)	£3.00	slight mark front cover
16/03/77	Bridgend T v CCFC (WC s/f)	£6.00	
29/07/79	Saltash U v CCFC (friendly)	£7.00	
20/08/03	Serbia v Wales (Euro 04 Qual)	£6.00	
20/08/03	Serbia v Wales (unofficial Euro 04)	£5.00	
06/09/03	Italy v Wales (Euro 04 Qual)	£6.00	
31/03/04	Hungary v Wales (Int friendly)	£3.00	
27/05/04	Norway v Wales (Int friendly)	£3.00	
23/07/04	Haverfordwest v CCFC (friendly)	£2.50	
30/07/04	Barry T v CCFC (friendly)	£3.00	
31/07/04	CCFC v Santander (friendly)	£2.50	
02/08/04	CCFC v Lazio (friendly)	£3.50	
30/03/05	Austria v Wales (W/C Qual)	£2.50	
10/05/05	CCFC v Newport FAWYCF	£1.50	
09/08/05	CCFC v Leeds	£3.50	

Please note the condition of programmes listed is excellent for the age of that particular programme unless otherwise stated. Team changes (t/c) / scores (sc) are not considered to necessarily be detrimental to condition unless badly written. If you will not accept team changes / scores written in please state this when making your offer. If after receipt of the programme you are not satisfied, a full money back guarantee will apply if the item is returned within seven days.

**The closing date for all bids to be received is Saturday 22nd April 2006.**

**You may have seen us lot at Ninian Park or more probably at Away Games. Officially we are called the "DKBA" which stands for Davey K's Barmy Army!**

We are the products of Vince Alm's Pop and Crisp Army and have been asked to do an article for this magazine. We thought we'd start by telling you about how a few of us got into the City, what our found memories are and of course how 'Uncle' Gary Western has helped guide us through our teenage years!

## Phil Williams

Like a large percentage of City fans I got into following the City through my father. At the tender age of 6 it seemed like the natural thing to do go down to Ninian on the weekend with my dad. I can remember my first game vividly, was Hull City at home in the 93/94 season, we lost 4-3 with Gary Thompson and King Nathan (Blake) on the score sheet. Just surviving relegation that season but the next one we sunk the depths of Division 3 but it was to late - I was already hooked.

My memories since my early City stages include that dandruff Lotto home shirt, Tony Philiskirk and losing Northampton in the Play Offs where there were tears before bedtime. Last season I did my first full season not missing one home or away in the league, cups and even Bangor (along with the other 12 on the coach). Cardiff City is defiantly a way of life and I love it.

## Sean Dwyer

Like Philip I got hooked on City by my Dad taking me down every week until I started to like it. This was quite some achievement when your four years old in a freezing cold Ninian Park thinking 'Oh, what a good side Scarborough have got this season' But I was powerless to stop falling in love with the City and haven't looked back since.

There have been happiness and tears in just about equal amounts. Mostly tears in my early years form clambering to the top of a barrier at the back of the terrace at Elm Park only to see Craig Middleton miss a tamily hit penalty and crying myself to sleep after Jeff Eckhardt got sent off at Northampton and City's play-off dream died.

In more recent years there have been some great moments like Leeds and Q.P.R in the playoff

final but also a lot of tears most of which were shed after that infamous game against Stoke at Ninian. I started to do every game home and away as soon as my dad would let me go on my own. Aged 14 I started going on the CCSC coach every week during our first season in division one and at the start of last season, one Phil Williams sat next to me on the way to Ipswich and so started a great friendship at every game since. I've missed only a handful of games in the last two and a half years most notably Arsenal away due to being Best Man at my Dad's wedding, but I got over it and from what I'm told Carmarthen Town the next Tuesday was much more fun. Well, at least it was for me!

I love all things Cardiff City and couldn't live without all the good times we have at games and all the fun and frolics on the coach particularly when Vivian Grandfield is on our bus.

I'll end by saying: **"You've gotta have a dream lads" BLUEBIRDS!**





## THE SEASON SO FAR - BY JAMES RICHES

The team this term has obviously surpassed all expectations, regardless of whether or not we reach the playoffs. We've had many a memorable away trip with the Supporters Club, including the 3-0 thrashing of Stoke and the highly entertaining 3-3 draw at Kenilworth Road, where the away end was quite literally in someone's back garden and we witnessed one of the worst refereeing decisions ever. Travelling to these games with the Supporters Club is always

enjoyable, the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, as are the people who join you on the trip.

A group of us this season have tried to attend as many away games as possible; a select few have managed the whole season so far. We call ourselves Davey K's Barmy Army, in honour of our friend and long time City fan David Kelleher, and have kept track of our progress this season on our website (address below). With some of the away results this season, writing up the match reports has been a happier task than we might have

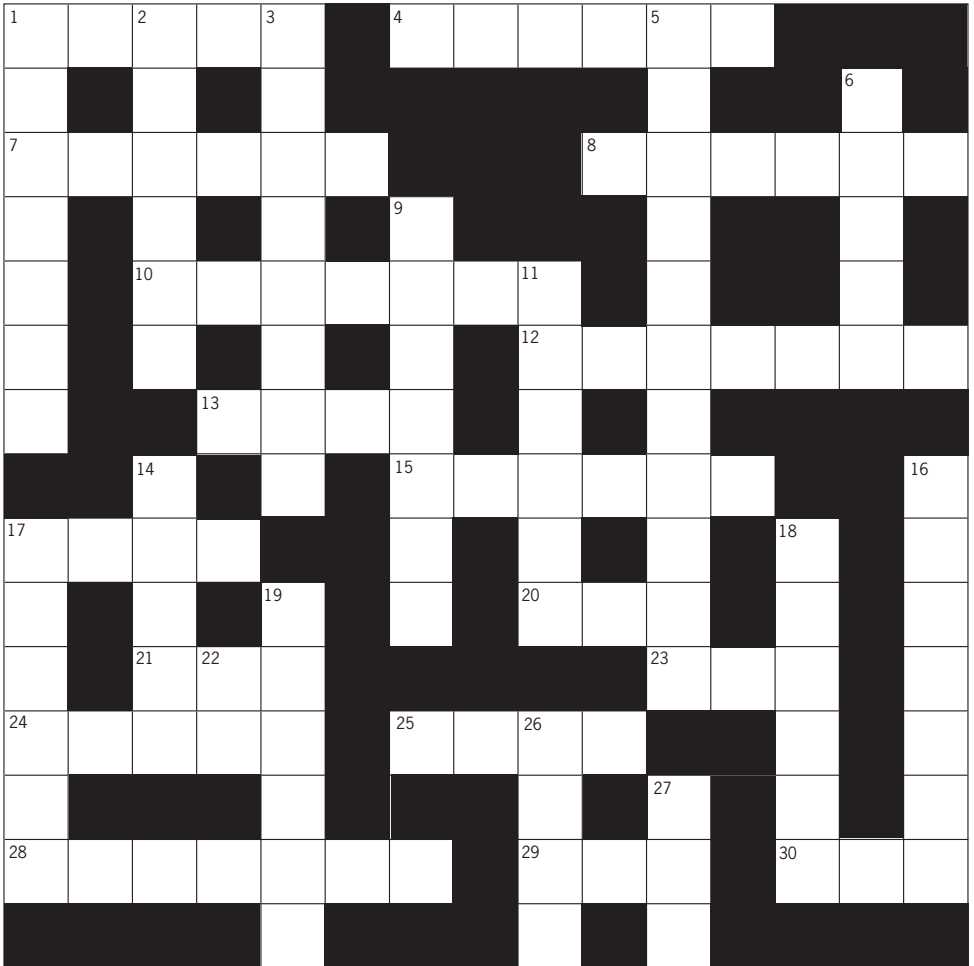
been expecting. Over the course of the season our happy band has increased to include many new friends, such as Daniel Clarke, who set us all a target of 67 league grounds to aspire to, Dudders, the man with the massive flag, and Gary Western, whose antics (which include agreeing to be interviewed by us and wearing a 'Girls On Tour' sash) keep us entertained throughout.

One thing's for sure, if you travel with the Supporters Club, win, lose or draw; you will have a good time and will have fond memories of the day.

[www.dkba-on-tour.com](http://www.dkba-on-tour.com)



# CROSSWORD BY MARTIN, NIA AND LUCY STOCKWELL





### Across

1. Squaddie striker (5)
4. Going there pre-season (6)
7. Was Bluebird now seagull (6)
8. Telford \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
10. Readings old ground (3 and 4)
12. The magic hat is worn here now (7)
13. Echo cartoonist (4)
15. Hoel (6)
17. Snooty Club – nickname (4)
20. \_\_\_ Pentre (3)
21. Spanish cheer (3)
23. On the head son! (3)
24. Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ ex of 28 across (5)
25. Nsungu's nickname (4)
28. The Ironsides (7)
29. Horoscope striker (3)
30. Australian Bushwhacker (3)

### Down

1. Hard Manager (7)
2. Brian \_\_\_\_\_ ex-defender (6)
3. They play at Prenton Park (8)
5. Where Andy Campbell is now (11)
6. Mel \_\_\_\_\_ old Stoke defender (5)
9. P.O. \_\_\_\_\_ Cypriot ECWC opponents (7)
11. Forward, was a seagull now a swan (6)
14. Precedes a Spanish holiday home (5)
16. Freddie \_\_\_\_\_ defender (7)
17. Holiday camp defender (6)
18. Captain's rum – make a stand! (6)
19. Previous owners, \_\_\_\_\_ Utilities (6)
22. City of angels (2)
26. Port or Ebbw (4)
27. What you get on the bus \_\_\_ with crisps! (3)

Answers on back cover.

# MALCOLM ALLISON AND HIS PREDICTION

**A couple of weeks ago I came across a programme from the game against Hereford United played way back on 14th April 1976. I found it hard to believe that that this game took place almost 30 years ago. Seeing the programme rekindled memories of a great night in the club's history.**

As most of us older supporters will remember the evening became memorable for more than just the 2 - 0 scoreline. Hereford United were top of Division 3, City were second and heading for a return to Division 2 after relegation the previous year. The attendance that evening surpassed everyone's expectations, including the then Manager of Crystal Palace, the flamboyant Malcolm Alison. But why the connection between Malcolm Allison and this top of the table fixture.

The story started four days earlier after City had beaten his Palace team 1 - 0 at Selhurst Park in front of a large crowd of 25,603. Australian World Cup star Adrian Alston, born in Preston had signed for Cardiff from Luton in late October 1975. Alston had scored the goal at Selhurst Park which had given us second spot behind Hereford and left Palace in fifth place, two points off the three promotion positions.

Malcolm Alison was a real character well known for his fedora hat, large cigars, after match champagne and, of

course, ambitious predictions. Allison had been Joe Mercers assistant at Manchester City in the late sixties. One of his less accurate predictions was made prior to the City game at Selhurst Park, when he forecast that we would not only lose but would also fail to gain promotion. During a post match interview when asked about City's forthcoming game against Hereford four days later, he said that Ninian Park would not see a 25,000 attendance such as that seen at Selhurst Park. Based on the three previous league games it was, on the face of it, a safe prediction. The club had attracted 12,511 for the March 27th game against Millwall, 9,645 for the visit of Grimsby on April 3rd and 12,447 to see Preston on April 7th. As it turned out a massive 35,549 turned out to witness City beat Hereford United 2 - 0 to maintain second spot and close the gap between ourselves and Hereford to just three points.

Our manager at the time was former Tottenham coach Jimmy Andrews, once a winger with Dundee, West Ham, Orient and

Crystal Palace. Andrews had been appointed by Frank O'Farrell as the city coach in late November 1973, shortly after O'Farrell had succeeded Jimmy Scouler as Manager. In April 1974 the Irishman announced that he would be leaving at the end of the season in order to take up a coaching position in Iran and Andrews became acting-manager before the position was made permanent on 1st May 1974. City had just saved their second division status that season thanks to an outstanding equaliser from Tony Villars against Allison's Crystal Palace for a 1 -1 draw at Ninian Park in our final game, a result which relegated Palace. That night saw 26,781 fans ecstatic with delight. Unfortunately, this was only a temporary reprieve as the Bluebirds suffered relegation 12 months later, the first time that City had been out of the Football Leagues' top two divisions since 1947.

Andrews made some astute signings and was soon able to turn things around. In August 1975 he persuaded the former Wales and Tottenham captain Mike England to come to Ninian Park. England had been an outstanding player and had been playing in America during that summer but had announced his intention to retire from the game.



Andrews was able to persuade England to give it one more season. Brian Clark returned following spells with both Bournemouth and Millwall and fellow forward Tony Evans was signed from Blackpool, both on free transfers. Doug Livermore came from Norwich in August for £20,000 and Adrian Alston from Luton in October for £25,000. Allan Campbell signed from Birmingham for £20,000 in early March slotted into Midfield.

These players joined the likes of Bill Irwin, Phil Dwyer, Freddie Pethard, Richie Morgan, Clive Charles, Peter Sayer and John Buchanan amongst others to create an attractive side capable of promotion.

The atmosphere at Ninian Park on that Mid April evening for the visit of Hereford United was unbelievable. Hereford, managed by John Sillett, were on their way to their second promotion in three years, having only been elected to the old Fourth Division in 1972. During the evening there were three huge explosions of noise, two being for our two second half goals and the third in between the goals after the announcement of the attendance. The 35,549 fans who turned out that evening made it City's biggest crowd for fifteen years since 45,463 spectators had seen them beat

Tottenham 3 -2 in March 1961 on a Saturday night after a Wales v Ireland rugby international at the Arms Park.

And what of Malcolm Allison prediction?. After the win over Hereford, it is said that a special package was sent to Selhurst Park - six bottles of champagne, together with a card saying 'with love from Cardiff City'. City duly went up in second place, six points behind Hereford, and promotion was sealed with a 1 - 0 victory at Bury in our final game of the season, a close range winner coming from Adrian Alston. The third promotion spot went to Millwall, whilst Palace finished in fifth place, three points adrift of the top three. City's victory at Selhurst Park had indeed proved costly to the London Club.

# A LEEDS EXILE AWAY TALES

**Over the past 20 years I have spent many miles trawling up and down the motorway networks of the UK following the City.**

Not for me the luxury of coach travel - being picked up in Cardiff, taken to the ground, maybe via an allocated pub, before watching the game, and then straight onto the coach for the trip back to South Wales.

No, being based in Leeds now, it's always by car, more often or not with the Mancs (Two Manchester based blues), as we seek the best routes in and out of the town that the City is playing in. Where are the safe pubs for a pre match pint, or trying to link up with the lads on one of the official coaches at a designated pub? Before we have that continual problem - where do we park? And are we close to the away end!

This has resulted in several episodes / incidents over the years that have provided a laugh or two.

**Plymouth 2005** - having left Leeds at 7am - clear motorways saw us down in Devon by early lunchtime, in fact ahead of the coaches whom we had arranged to meet at a designated pub just outside Plymouth. Then I get a call saying we would not be allowed at that pub, but as we were in front, could we try another, that Gwil knew. We found the said pub, the Woodpecker at South Brent, very nice, with an empty

car park and some couples having a quiet Saturday lunch. Not for long! Tony and myself had a curry and a pint and I rang Gwil back to say the pub was great but only had a small bar and three staff on. Great he said, get me in four pints, we should be there shortly. This I did, with the barman giving me a very strange look, he then looked out of the window to see three coaches squeezing down a tiny country lane the wildlife probably weren't aware of. Moment's later hoards of thirsty City supporters piled in. With this he gave me a very dirty look, and prepared for the onslaught. All the staff were brought on to the bar, and its fair to say that the fridges were soon being emptied - Nice touch at the end though as a whip round was organised to give to the staff.

The bar man had the last word at the end though, as I was leaving I deposited my glass back on the bar, he saw me, and shaking his head, said "I'll remember your face for the future", with a very pained expression.

**Crewe 2004** - another pre-arranged pub, (you all know the one, The Cotton Arms), this time the coaches were there, and I was trying to get there.

My I add, being directed by a man in the pub who had had about 5 pints, and whose mobile kept cutting in and out. The weather that day was stormy to say the least, and I did not believe the directions I had been given, as I drove around single track country lanes, full of debris from the trees, driving through flooded roads, and generally thinking that there was no way a coach could make it out here.

At one point, only a scream from Tony prevented me from driving straight into a tree that had fallen across the lane! Boy was I cursing Gwil! Before coming through a small village rounding a corner, and almost driving in to a 'Thomas of Barry' coach, incredible, and a great pub, welcoming landlord and staff, and a pint awaiting me! It seems that I had come in 'The Back Way'. Ed - no you hadn't Phil.

And of course the infamous **Berwick** pre season friendly in 2003. Having lived up North for a few years (Newcastle area), I had believed that Berwick was - just North of Newcastle. Yes I was right it is. 60 odd miles North on a road that is mostly single carriageway, with speed cameras, and frequented by lorries that are impassable on most sections of the road! And of course I set off from York (where I was working at the time), with as I thought, plenty of time.



Mean while in Berwick was Gwil and Gareth, whom I'd arranged to meet about 5 to have a beer and a meal, 5 came and I was passing Newcastle, that was the first of many phone calls, as to how long will I be. Gwil and Gareth were stood in a deserted part of Berwick, no pub seemingly nearby.

Well to cut a long story short, I arrived in Berwick at 7, what a place, no people around, no pubs open and almost drove onto the beach looking for Gwil (hopeless directions). I eventually found him and Gareth, who had met up with 'Bob Banker' aka Martin, all who were gasping for a beer, they jumped in the car, and I drove 30 yards around a corner where low and behold there was a pub, to the indignation of Gwil / Martin and Gareth. Anyway, we won 1-0, about 50 other city supporters they're all as crazy as us. My wife said I was mad to go, but it had to be done.

PS: Gwil went on to Ayr races the following day and won a bloody fortune, me having had three hours sleep, was back into work!

Those are only two of the car traveling stories of recent years, I have however, having now clocked up visits with the City to over 60+ grounds put together my top 5 favourite grounds to visit. And my 5 least favourite places to visit!

#### FAVOURITES:

**1. Cardiff** – Has to be of course, a 460 mile round trip, but easy parking, great pubs and beer – and every time I walk into Ninian Park and smell the grass, I know precisely just why I have to do it.

**2. Stoke** – Nothing to do with us scoring three past them on the last three visits. But a nice distance to travel, always visit a great country pub just off the M6 for a meal and a pint, easy ground to find, (didn't a CCSC coach get lost recently) and parking now is easy as well. And getting away is not a problem. Plus the atmosphere around the ground has improved. I thought we gave them a good rendition of Delilah this season!!

**3. Brentford** – straight motorway trip from the North, and parking is easy, several pubs right by the ground. Always a friendly atmosphere in the pubs and on the walk to the ground. And getting away is straightforward and simple. Plus last time there we won!

**4. Northampton** – easy trip and place to get to, with 'The Turnpike' pub just off the M1, nice meals and good beer. Parking right by the ground – although it is a nightmare to get out of. Nice small compact stadium and we normally win.

**5. Burnley** – used to quite a problem ground, but in the last few years has become a very pleasant place to visit. Parking by the cricket club, we go into their clubhouse where both sets of fans mix, and the beer is good (and cheap), plus the pie and chips are excellent.

Then a 5 min. walk to the away end – note, the lager in this ground has to be the worst I have ever tasted! Getting away can be a pain, but once on the motorway, only an hour back to Leeds.

Honorable mentions should go to **Crewe**, for the reasons as mentioned previously, **Norwich** for its fantastic friendly atmosphere around the ground and easy parking (let down by waiting ? hour in the multi story at the end).

**Rotherham**, always give us plenty of pubs – the police are friendly and parking is easy, but ground refreshments are poor. **Coventry**, **Ipswich** and **Macclesfield**, for their supporter's friendliness – always great to have a chat after the game with like opposition supporters on the way back to the car.

And **Nottingham, County** and the **Forest**, simply for the variety of bars and entertainment venues, close to the grounds.

## **BOTTOM 5.**

**1. Blackpool** – argg!! I dislike this visit, from not being allowed into a pub (with friends already in there) by an over zealous doorman last time there, the car park looking as

if it's a 2 min walk from the ground, but actually being at least 20. No beer in the ground, Temperatures normally -2 or lower, we never win. And at the end, I have always been made to walk miles out of my way to get back to the car by Lancs finest. Plus on my last visit I got a parking ticket because I didn't get the correct car park ticket!!

**2. Hull** – do they actually want independent traveling away supporters here? Only one word, go by coach unless you want to experience the following – paying a fortune to park, not being allowed into the pubs by the ground (all home only – even to us with no City colours on, and non Welsh accents), and at the end of the game Hull's finest trying to improve my fitness levels, by encouraging a two mile walk away from the ground, in order to get back to the car park. Plus last visit, we had to wait another 30 mins in the car park, while the coaches were escorted away. They have a nice new ground though!

**3. Carlisle** – first went there in the mid 70's. The 4-3 defeat game. Actually went by supporters coach on that occasion, all was great until that 'Rafferty' scored the hat trick in the last 5 mins.

From 3-1 up to 4-3 down! Last time there was 6 years ago, mid week, and a pain of a trip from Leeds, went the back route, and got stuck behind tractors, trucks, and careful drivers. Only got to the game as we kicked off. No meal or a pint before hand, driving rain, and 2 down within 20 mins. And I had left my glasses in the car, so every thing was a blur. Drew 2-2 in the end, poured it down and stormy winds blew the car all over the roads all the way back, decided, never again.

**4. Millwall** – bubble trips. Went there two seasons ago, pick up point Heston services, by Heathrow. Easy trip in by escorted coach, a pint in the ground, but what was the problem at the end. All coaches taken via the A2, I couldn't believe it when we finally got back on to the M25 and saw a sign Heathrow 75 miles. It was gone midnight before us exiles were dropped off back at the services, and then I had a 200 mile drive back to Leeds. I can see the reason for certain bubble trips but why the detour, it takes the mick.

**5. Reading** – probably a surprise for coach travelers, but for me it's a pain to get to – M1, A43, M40 and M4. Getting away from the ground area a nightmare, then lots of motorway traffic, and this year the nice pub that had been found the previous year (the one just off the M4) was closed, so no pre match pie chips and a pint.

And if truth were told, I'm jealous of the ground, their success, and their team performances this season! I could live with Wigan last season, but this lot are Southern softies who all talk with a Cockney accent. Ed - bit harsh Phil!!

Coming very close are – **Ipswich, Boston** and **QPR**, simply for being pains to drive to, although Ipswich are a friendly club to visit, and Boston were simply overwhelmed by the City supporters (seemed to think we were very unusual) and were very suspicious of us. Chesterfield for the 2-2 draw and pouring rain occasion, plus the normal South York's finest insistence on sending me miles away from where I have parked my car at the end of the game.

Walsall, for the traffic on the M6 (yes Tony next time, we will go off a junction earlier and find a pub). Last but not least, Port Vale, simply because the game was called off as I parked up by the ground.

So there you have it, a personal view on some on the best and worst away trips / grounds, that I have encountered over the years.

But no matter what, I will always make that effort to follow the Bluebirds, for the laughs and the ups and downs that I have encountered over the years. The small and the big grounds, the friendly and the un-friendly, the easy to get to and the down right difficult, I'll be there!

# CITY QUIZ



1. Which player made the most league appearances for City in the 1998/99 promotion year. Playing in 45 of the 46 league games?
2. Name the five substitutes named by City for the Millennium Stadium final against QPR.
3. Who succeeded Len Ashurst as City Manager in 1994?
4. From which club did City sign Carl Dale?
5. Which Cardiff City goalkeeper became the first city keeper to ever be sent off receiving his marching orders in a Welsh Cup match in 1974?
6. Who wears squad No 15 during the current season?
7. Who scored City's first league goal this season?
8. Who scored City's goal in the 1-3 pre-season defeat against Udinese?
9. Which City player won his first full welsh cap in a 4-1 win over England at Wrexham in May 1980?
10. George Wood originally signed on loan in January 1988 from which club?
11. What was significant or unusual about City 2nd round league Cup tie against Luton in 1986.
12. This player came on trial in early September 1982 from Middlesborough, scored on his debut in a 3-2 win over Wigan, fell out with manager Len Ashurst and left after just one game. Name the player.
13. Who scored City's first away goal this season.
14. City's biggest league win of the season to date is 6-1 over Crewe. Name the City scorers.
15. From which Club did city sign Cohen Griffith.

Answers on back cover.

# PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2005/6

## If you haven't already voted during 'away travel' on the Supporters Club coaches you have a chance to do so by e-mail.

All the awards promise to be close run affairs, particularly 'Player Of The Year'. Among the contenders will be Jason Koumas, who's skill, balance and shooting skills have provided some great entertainment this season.

Against that, there is the leadership, grit and determination of Darren Purse. Alongside Darren, Glen Loovens has had a fine first season with his own style of no nonsense defending, but he has only recently returned to the team after an injury he picked up at Arsenal early in January.

At the other end of the pitch Cameron Jerome has put his hand up with his goal scoring exploits. In fact, Cameron, having secured his England Under 21 Cap this season, is a leading contender for our other awards as well, 'The Young Player of the Year' and the 'Most Improved Player' award.

Joe Ledley, having won his full Welsh Cap this season, will challenge Cameron strongly for the Young Player Trophy. A player I expect to emerge in this category in the future is left sided player Joe Jacobson,

currently on the verge of the first team squad he looked promising when I saw him in the Welsh Under 21's.

The 'Most Improved Player' will be interesting, Neil Alexander, another to win his first full cap, has had his best season at the club. At the time of writing, he had kept 14 clean sheets in the league.

How about Neil Cox, after a slow start at the club, his form improved beyond recognition and when he has been required, has been a rock at the back.

Those are my thoughts, what are yours? Vote by e-mail, the deadline is close

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Please note, all votes received **must** include your full name and membership number or they will be declared null and void. All CCSC members are entitled to vote. Send your votes for the categories listed below by E-mail only to: **ccsc2006@ntlworld.com**

All votes received by e-mail must contain full name(s) of member(s) and membership number(s).

**The closing date for all votes to be received is Saturday 15th April 2006.**

This season we are asking you to nominate a 1st, 2nd and 3rd for our main award – Cardiff City Supporters Club Player of the Year. Your three choices will receive 5 points, 3 points and 1 point respectively. Each member is entitled to vote – family members please attach a separate piece of paper with the votes of each member included.

You must quote your membership number(s) or the vote(s) will not be valid.

Members Name:

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Membership Number:

---

Player of the Year:

1st

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2nd

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3rd

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Young Player of the Year:

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Most Improved Player of the Year:

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**As another season draws to a close, one thing that springs to mind year in year out is that no two seasons are the same and predicting what might happen at the start of the season is impossible unless you are a Chelsea fan.**



The start of this season was no exception, how many people predicted we would be still in a hunt for a play off spot with only 6 games to go? I like many last July/August was hoping for 21st spot but could see us struggling to achieve that when our own Viv Grandfield, bought a new pair of boots and was being tipped as our next midfield dynamo, with Greg Davies from Barry as the back up keeper and Gary Western up front as the lone striker!

Worrying times not so, Dave Jones with his experience and contact knitted together a squad on what can be best described as morsels, it wasn't even as flush as a shoe string budget. He put together a team of battlers and winners, it was never going to be fancy Dan football with a small splattering of wingers in the squad but they have continued to grind out

results all season and occasionally playing champagne football mainly on the road e.g. Burnley, Stoke, Brighton etc. and with more than the odd touch of class from the one and only Jason Koumas.

This was all achieved, in my opinion, under a barrage of negativity from all sides including some of our own die hard supporters. But to top it off, I don't want to speak too soon, but it also looks very good for the stadium to finally start.

Right, onto an overview of the away travel this year. It has been to date a very successful year for C.C.S.C., running coaches to every league and cup match including another trip following our National team to Belfast, although we stayed in Dublin and of course that F.A. Cup tie at Highbury, (I like to get in first; Q: Who was the last player to score at Highbury in the F.A. Cup?). It all began on a hot day in Ipswich, we took 4 coaches with a small group of us staying overnight, we were very unlucky to lose that game 1-0 with us failing to convert several chances to equalise. The Police were their usual unhelpful selves, but not quite as bad as previous years.

**Derby County**, only good thing about the day, we arrived at the pub early near the ground, had a good laugh with everyone, friendly banter, then got battered on the pitch, decided the poor start to the season was due to me wearing the new kit top not that I'm superstitious of course! But I decided not to wear it again.

Next couple of games were **Colchester** and **Burnley** away, this is when we started to see what Jason Koumas was capable of and Dave Jones stopped experimenting with Parry up front with Jerome. Burnley was a cracking game but the defence was still leaking goals, this was soon to change, the next four league games they kept clean sheets. Told you it was my shirt!

Next away game: **Millwall**, trouble free bubble, they even only had us wait at the lay-by for 5 minutes this year and then took us straight to the ground, another point on the road, although not a good spectacle to watch. Next game against **Stoke**, total opposite, good quality football and a drink in the Cotton Arms in Wrenbury before the game. Here is a prime example of how by communicating and working together you can change things, no longer a bubble fixture it is now Policed and stewarded in the correct manner and we respond in the correct manner. The last two seasons the Police presence has been just right from 25 P.S.U.,s down to 1 P.S.U. (take note Wolves).

On the pitch what a performance, we took them apart again, since they beat us in the play offs they have only beaten us once, let's hope it continues. Brighton were our next opponents and for once it didn't rain! In fact, it was so warm some of our more Adonis looking types took their tops off, hoping to get a tan (I think a few need tummy tucks). Very comfortable on the pitch although we did let them back in the game briefly, another 3 points.

Next up, **Sheffield United**, without doubt the most improved Police force allowed us to mingle this year, with many of our members drinking in the local pubs, what a great result 0-0 but we all felt we were robbed! Stonewall penalty in the dying seconds with even Neil Warnock conceding he would have felt aggrieved if the boot was on the other foot, saying that he is always hard done by, still, good point, good day.

**Norwich** midweek, what a laugh, talking about making the fixture difficult to travel to, understatement! Anyway, those of us who have understanding bosses off we trekked, a pub had been arranged with food for us and the Valley Rams, we arrived there first beating the Valley Rams for a change, however where was Garry Lee and the Ponty bus? I think they went sight seeing around Norwich first before arriving at the pub, sat nav for Christmas next year Garry!

We were well beaten for 80 minutes of this game, but could have equalised late on with several spurned chances, lucky to come away losing 1-0.

**Sheffield Wednesday** were our next away opponents, and the match was to be televised live on Sky, about 600 made the journey, but unfortunately we were met by aggressive Policing, pubs had been organised to house us in when we arrived, but upon arrival the Police took us straight to the ground and forced us in, no chance to wander around the ground, they even put a dog on one of the Rams coaches.

Anyway, Cameron Jerome was on fire on the pitch getting a brace to help us sprint into a 3-0 lead going in at half time, effectively the game was over, another 3 points. Thoughts turned to the weekend trip.

The next trip was tough fixture at **Preston**, always struggle up there although the last six years we have managed two draws. We had a group of us staying the weekend in the Norbeck Castle, very upmarket for Blackpool, many of us for a change actually spent time at the hotel, using the gym, sauna, swimming pool and Jacuzzi etc. loads of bars and different entertainment, in fact, it's the cleanest I've seen my son Matthew, Danny Summers, Neil Lewis, Carl and Gareth Davenport. Myself and Andre Weaver kept a close eye on them.

Anyway, back to the football (not for long) as usual, tough game, got beaten 2-1, not to worry, back to the sauna and evening meal before going to the gay nightclub with a very tough prominent Cardiff City fan, so no jibes otherwise I will give him your names, by the way, it was a mistake, honest!

To **Hull** and back; long trek to the East Coast of the country. Another new stadium for a lot of people so a good following to Humberside of over 1200 Bluebird fans. We arrived at the R.V. point below the Humber Bridge and were escorted straight away to the ground, I thought the Police were very helpful on the day which was refreshing from the last time I went. On the pitch it was a game to forget, lost 2-0 with Darren Purse sent off, long trip home, discussing promotion or relegation.

**Leeds United** away just before Christmas, Oasis live at the Millennium Stadium (many tickets bought before fixture list in June). Let's boycott the game because we don't like being messed around by the Police and football club, sorry I don't agree, in my opinion it was the wrong match, due to the past history between the two clubs this fixture must remain a bubble match and in fairness I have found their Police more than helpful on the last two occasions we've visited Elland Road.



Personally, I think it was more to do with the first two excuses rather than making a protest against bubble matches, on to the trip 163 on four coaches all C.C.S.C. run made the journey and it will be a game I will remember for the rest of my life for two reasons, i) the grit, determination and will to win provided by the team on the pitch, ii) the camaraderie amongst 163 supporters, players, relatives and Darren Purse on the terraces. The Dave Kelleher Barmy Army (D.K.B.A) did not stop singing for the whole match and credit must go to them and the boys from the back of the Bridgend/Barry bus.

We got three points, Police were great, player's fantastic, bar open before the game and half time and to top it all off Sam allowed everyone who went to the game to purchase 1 extra Arsenal ticket, brilliant, a day to remember, automatic promotion now.

Next match on the road was to Shepherds Bush, evening kick off over the Christmas break always well attended by Cardiff fans, even though not one of our most successful grounds supporters enjoy it up there, I think it must be the queue to get through the four turnstiles they have got at the away end or the escort from Walkabout to the ground, or even the foreign stewards who don't know a word

of English, or maybe it,s the attempted ambushes walking back to the coaches by the QPR hooligan element? Never ceases to amaze me, we turn up in large numbers. On the pitch pretty dismal performance, never really got going lost 1-0 relegation problems again, are we fickle or what? Still I think I pulled a Police horse because it had me pinned against a wall, coach and lamppost after the game for about 10 minutes.

First game of the New Year was at the Madjeski against **Reading**. All the talk before the game was of the reduced ticket allocation due to the amount of half season tickets sold by Reading; 2,400 tickets allocated but because we stand and don't sit in our designated seats we had that reduced to about 1,800.

This again, is a popular fixture: also a bit of a 'derby' being only 2 hours down the M4, so never enough tickets. Still, good vocal following as usual and for once, Police at this fixture were superb. We got battered on the pitch 5-1, Reading are by far the best team in this division, but give our team credit, they didn't stop battling until the end, and looked on top for short periods of this game, so it was not as one sided as the scoreline suggests. Chant of the day went to us with 'are you watching Arsenal'.

**Arsenal** was our next away game in the third round of the F.A. Cup. I thought the way the club distributed the ticket allocation was spot on, although initially they got it wrong, but they were big enough to listen to fans and change. C.C.S.C. took over 1,200 supporters on 24 coaches to Highbury and a big thanks must go to Garry Lee and Steve Evans from the committee for working hard taking bookings in the shop and the following people who stewarded the coaches: Paul Hillman, Bethan Evans, Phil Williams, Debbie Edwards, Tracey Shepherd, Chris Martin, Alan Wright, Andy Williams, Mike Hartland, Neil Lewis, Daniel Summers, Matthew and Rebecca Alm, Garry Lee, Viv Grandfield, Gerwyn Robinson, Matthew Robinson, Steve Evans, Howard Morris, Gary and David Morris, Gwilym Rees, Clive Francis, Toni Jones, Kevin Spear, Phil Lathey and Steve Bradley.

Without these volunteers it would have been impossible to cope, we had very few hick-ups during the day and largely went to plan, although Tracey Shepherds, brand new bus broke down at Ninian Park and they had to endure an old coach all the way up, but Thomas of Barry managed to get it fixed so they could come home in comfort.

Also if you need a wheel changed, Howard Morris is your man, the coach he was on had a puncture on the way to Highbury, Howard and the driver changed the wheel in 30 minutes, well done! Once we arrived at Highbury I thought the atmosphere was electric amongst our fans before the game, Police and stewards were very helpful. Once in the ground not the best of views from the 'clock end' but the ground is steeped in history and it was good to see our football club playing the last F.A. Cup tie ever to be held there.

On the pitch, the first 20 minutes we were taught a football lesson, after that our players got in amongst them and caused no end of problems, we were very unlucky to come away without a replay, in fact if it wasn't for the idiot who ran on the pitch and broke the momentum whilst we were on top, who knows we might have got an equaliser, anyway, a good day out with no pressure, plenty of atmosphere from our fans but not from the Highbury library home fans.

Our next journey was a short jaunt down to **Carmarthen** in the F.A.W. Mickey Mouse Cup and for once we had a full coach to one of these fixtures. The supporters who travelled to this midweek game on the coach were treated to Sam Hamman travelling with us to

and from the game. He spoke to fans all the way up and back giving us an insight on how the stadium was progressing and the transfer market including offers received for Cameron Jerome. I'd rather not talk about the performance on the pitch just to say we were knocked out of the cup. Only bright spot Leigh Sanders from the D.K.B.A. won the half time draw (two free tickets for the next round of the cup against Swansea).

**Leicester** next up, one thing I can not get my head around is the way they escort under tight supervision from miles away to the ground, but when we get there they allow us to go in the pubs with their own fans? Strange one that. Anyway not a bad stadium the Walkers but there is nothing much around it, not much in it either including an atmosphere! But in fairness they have had a tough time of it over recent years and we didn't help by sneaking a 2-1 victory with them spurning a golden opportunity to level the scores near the end. We were poor first half, outstanding second half still 3 points promotion back on the agenda.

**Crystal Palace** must have the most difficult ground in the country to get to due to poor road and rail links, for a change we used satellite navigation and ended up getting lost, after the final whistle I wish we had stayed lost, defeat 1-0 only

'play-offs' now was the talk on the way back.

Midweek jaunt to **Luton** awaited us next, not a lot to talk about off the pitch, not one of my favourite grounds, impossible to sit down in your seat due to lack of leg room.

What a game of two halves 2-0 down half time, looking dead and buried, came out second half a Koumas wonder strike peg it back to 2-1, Luton got another to restore two goal lead, back we came with a bullet header from Scimeca, and another good strike from Koumas to level. A couple of sitters missed by us and two Stonewall penalty claims turned down. It felt as if we had been robbed, must have been a cracker for the neutral observer.

**Watford**, always enjoy my day here before the game, but I've never enjoyed one match there involving us, bit of a jinx ground, although my last two visits we managed to draw both, I missed the last two goals, including ours, because of an incident involving one of our members but thanks to P.C. Simon Insole, the incident was cleared up.

The talk was now of mid table obscurity, I personally was not too upset, we already had 52 points staying up first being the most important hurdle to cross and with 12 games to go.



**Wolves:** this fixture turned out to be a nightmare on and off the pitch, much has been written about the events of the day, so I will not repeat what's already been written only to add, the last time we had anyone struck by a Police Officer was at Huddersfield in 2002, every coach had at least 10 - 15% of the passengers struck by a Police Officer at Wolves and many more verbally abused. If you have a grievance make a complaint it will help with us pushing for an enquiry in the manner of which West Midlands Police control football matches. Unfortunately, we have got the same force at Coventry.

Following week, **Plymouth:** another disaster. I was given personal guarantees that we would have a better day than last year, this didn't turn out to be the case with the coaches searched, escorted from coach to the turnstiles over zealous stewarding, escorted from the ground to the Severn Bridge again in a dangerous manner, this is now two years on the trot, we must consider whether we organise coaches to this fixture next year if in the same division, because the supporters who made their own way had a better day, please let me have your thoughts. On the pitch we did well, won easily 1-0 should have been 3-1, but play off place back on track.

I write this with seven games left, a play off spot still a possibility, as I said earlier we have had a good season and

will continue the party right up to the Coventry game where we will be holding a fancy dress competition again.

I would like to thank you all for travelling with us again this season and wish the D.K.B.A. all the best in university next year, although some of them will still be able to travel with us. Big thanks to everyone on the Ponty bus again, fantastic loyal support, but do something about Viv on the karaoke, well done to Gareth Meier, again hasn't missed a game and turned up at all our open meetings. And to the following Ponty bus die hards, Deborah and Kate Murphy, Laura Morse, Jamie Leigh Francis, Matt Robinson, Steve, Bethan, David Evans, Dave Morgan, Nigel & Marcus Evans, Mike Jenkins, David and Pauline Howells, Gareth and Carl Davenport, Brian Maliphant, Mike Barnett, Dilwyn Ward, Steve Gurner, I know there are a lot more regulars not mentioned here but I haven't found space to fit you all in. The Bridgend bus still has the die hard regulars of Greg Davies, Rhys Dancy, David and Liam Stone, Matt Twine, David Tzmenakis, Andy Williams, Mike Hartland, Peter and Kayleigh O'Connell, big thanks to them although they do give Andy a bit of stick from time to time. Unfortunately Paul Hillman has turned into a bit of a tart and has put himself about travelling with us and the Rams. Also the High Cross, Gabalfa and Malpas regulars a big thanks, Eric Botchett, Nathan Hathway,

James Noakes, Steve the T Perry, Julian Thomas, Geoff Phillips, Terry Baker, Phil Lathey, Jonathan Postians, Gwilym Rees and the Cardiff High School boys Matthew Louibond, Peter Morgan (has not been late once this season), finally the famous coach No. 3, Ian Allaway, Ian Mitchard, D.K.B.A. Paul and Shirley Jenkins, Martin Nott, Gary Western (your round next), Dale Price, Chris and Lynda Ledley, Gleyne Jenkins, The Port Talbot Posse, Martin Thomas, Ian Ferrell, Chris Jones, Keith Evans and back of the bus Daniel Summers, Neil Lewis, Rebecca Alm, Matthew Alm, Iain Thomas and many more including Phil Williams, Leigh Sanders, Sean Dwyer (missed Arsenal) Luke James from the D.K.B.A. they have not missed a game.

Finally, we lost Graham Coultis during this season, a regular on C.C.S.C. coaches, hardly missed a game during the last 5, 6 seasons, he sadly passed away last October, a great sense of humour and was part of the more senior regulars with ourselves, including my father (who hasn't won the raffle this year), John Thomas, John Lancey, and the younger Jeff Davies (where does he get those sweets from?). Graham will be sadly missed by us all, it's nice to see his son Jason, bringing Graham's grandson Kieran to watch Cardiff and keeping the family tradition going.

**Hopefully see you all next year in the Premiership!**

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# CARDIFF CITY FIXTURES SEASON 2005/6



## JULY 2005

Sat 16	Accrington	A	F	W 3-1	
Mon 18	Hamilton	A	F	W 2-1	100
Wed 20	Kilmarnock	A	F	W 2-1	100
Sat 23	Falkirk	A	F	D 1-1	
Wed 27	Udinese	H	F	L 1-3	
Sun 31	West Brom	H	F	L 0-2	

## AUGUST

Sat 6	Ipswich Town	A	FLC	L 0-1	1,100
Tue 9	Leeds Utd	H	FLC	W 2-1	900
Fri 12	Watford	H	FLC	L 1-3	145
Sat 20	Derby County	A	FLC	L 1-2	1,115
Wed 24	Colchester Utd	A	CC1	W 2-0	250
Sat 27	Wolverhampton	H	FLC	D 2-2	1,500

## SEPTEMBER

Sat 10	Burnley	A	FLC	D 3-3	650
Tue 13	Leicester City	H	FLC	W 1-0	450
Sat 17	Crystal Palace	H	FLC	W 1-0	750
Tue 20	Macclesfield	H	CC2	W 2-1	24
Sat 24	Millwall	A	FLC	D 0-0	600
Tue 27	Stoke City	A	FLC	W 3-0	439

## OCTOBER

Sat 1	Luton Town	H	FLC	L 1-2	586
Sat 15	Brighton & HA	A	FLC	W 2-1	714
Tue 18	Preston NE	H	FLC	D 2-2	140
Sat 22	Crewe	H	FLC	W 6-1	215
Wed 26	Leicester City	H	CC3	L 0-1	430
Sat 29	Sheffield Utd	A	FLC	D 0-0	1,136

## NOVEMBER

Tues 1	Norwich	A	FLC	L 0-1	421
Sun 6	Coventry	H	FLC	D 0-0	431
Wed 9	Sheffield Wed	A	FLC	W 3-1	590
Sat 19	Preston	A	FLC	L 1-2	850
Tue 22	Brighton & Hove	H	FLC	D 1-1	125
Sun 27	Ipswich Town	H	FLC	W 2-1	180

## DECEMBER

Sat 3	Hull City	A	FLC	L 0-2	1,226
Sat 10	Leeds Utd	A	FLC	W 1-0	163
Sat 17	Derby County	H	FLC	D 0-0	450
Mon 26	Plymouth Argyle	H	FLC	L 0-2	750
Wed 28	QPR	A	FLC	L 0-1	1,100
Sat 31	Southampton	H	FLC	W 2-1	1,142

## AS

## JANUARY 2005

Mon 2	Reading	A	FLC	L 1-5	1,896
Sat 7	Arsenal	A	FAC3	L 1-2	6,269
Tue 10	Carmarthen	A	FAWQF	L 1-2	72
Sat 14	Burnley	H	FLC	W 3-0	354
Sat 21	Leicester City	A	FLC	W 2-1	1,233
Tue 31	Millwall	H	FLC	D 1-1	143

## FEBRUARY

Sat 4	Crystal Palace	A	FLC	L 0-1	921
Sat 11	Stoke City	H	FLC	W 3-0	350
Tue 14	Luton Town	A	FLC	D 3-3	447
Sat 18	Hull City	H	FLC	W 1-0	534
Sat 25	Watford	A	FLC	L 1-2	914

## MARCH

Sat 4	Sheffield W	H	FLC	W 1-0	310
Sat 11	Wolverhampton	A	FLC	L 0-2	1,373
Sat 18	Plymouth Argyle	A	FLC	W 1-0	820
Sat 25	QPR	H	FLC	D 0-0	516

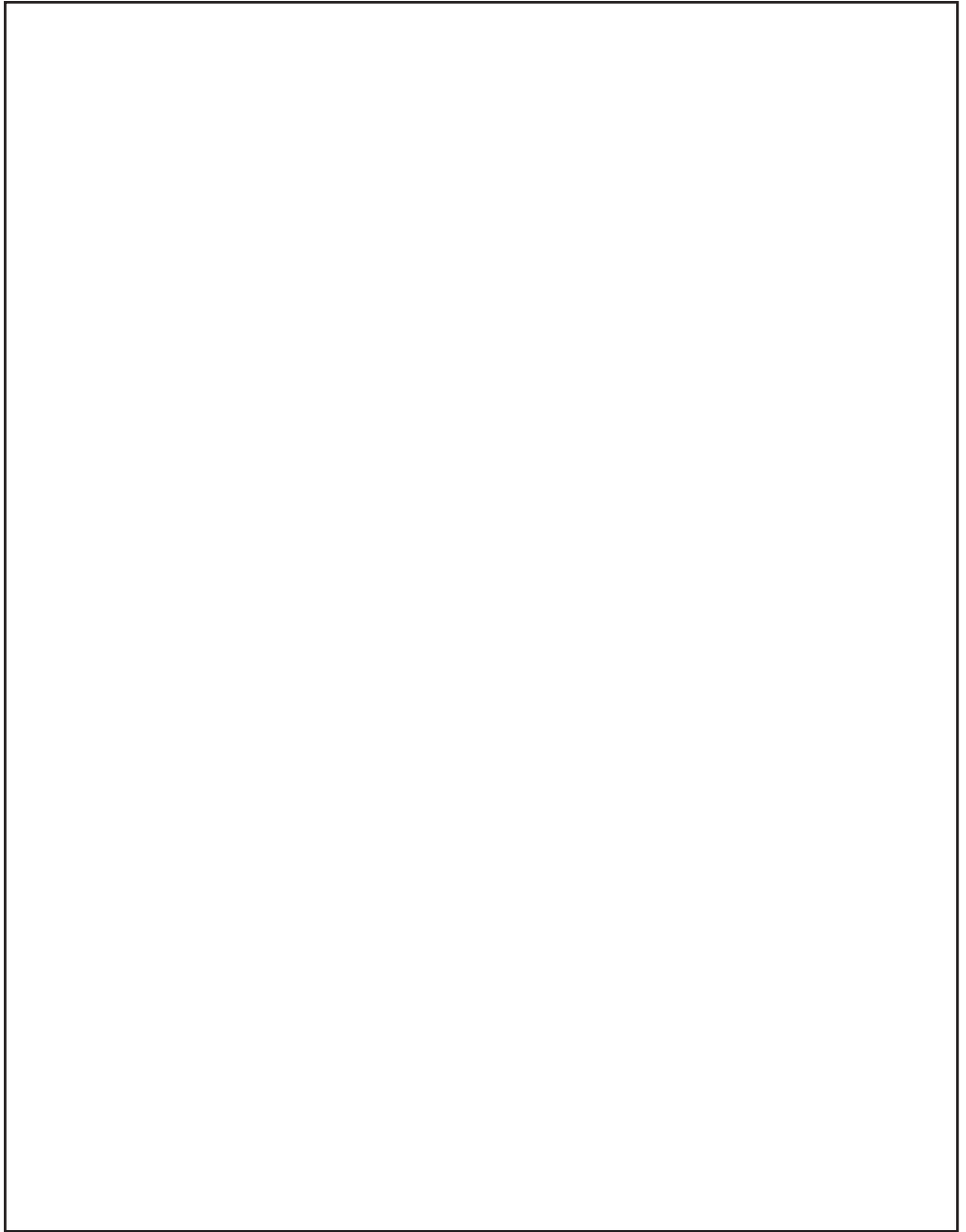
## APRIL

Sat 1	Southampton	A	FLC	L 2-3	2,503
Sat 8	Reading	H	FLC		
Fri 14	Sheffield United	H	FLC		
Mon 17	Crewe Alexandra	A	FLC		
Sat 22	Norwich City	H	FLC		
Sun 30	Coventry City	A	FLC		

## MAY

Sat 6	Play-Off Semi				
	Final 1st leg		FLC		
Wed 10	Play-off Semi				
	Final 2nd leg		FLC		
Sun 21	Play-off Final		FLC		

AS: Away support



#### CITY CROSSWORD – ANSWERS

**Across:** 1. Stant. 4. Canada. 7. Oatway. 8. United.  
10. Elm Park. 12. Norwich. 13. Gren. 15. Argyle. 17. Posh.  
20. Ton. 21. Ole. 23. Ear. 24. Tynan. 25. Dave. 28. Newport.  
29. Leo. 30. Ned.

**Down:** 1. Scoular. 2. Attley. 3. Tranmere. 5. Dunfermline.  
6. Pejic. 9. Larnaca. 11. Knight. 14. Aston. 16. Pethard. 17.  
Pontin. 18. Morgan. 19. Kenton. 22. LA. 26. Vale. 27. Pop.

#### CITY QUIZ – ANSWERS

1. Graham Mitchell. 2. Margetson, Bonner, Croft, Bowen, Campbell.  
3. Jimmy Goodfellow. 4. Chester. 5. Bill Irwin. 6. Glenn Loovens.  
7. Jason Koumas. 8. Phil Mulryne. 9. Keith Pontin. 10. Crystal  
Palace. 11. Luton were thrown out of the competition after refusing  
entry to visiting fans so City had a walkover into round 3. 12. Billy  
Woof. 13. Cameron Jerome. 14. Ricketts, Ledley, Cooper, Purse,  
Jerome, Koumas. 15. Kettering