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 HONOURS
 Premier League/Football League (First Tier)
 Champions 1936/37, 1967/68, 2011/12, 2013/14

 1898/99, 1902/03, 1909/10, 1927/28, 1946/47, 1965/66, 2001/02
 Runners-up 1903/04, 1920/21, 1976/77, 2012/13, 2014/15 | Division One/Two (Second Tier)
 Champions

 1898/99, 1902/03, 1909/10, 1927/28, 1946/47, 1965/66, 2001/02
 Runners-up 1895/96, 1950/51, 1988/89, 1999/00 | Division Two (Third

 Tier)
 Play-Off Winners 1998/99 | European Cup-Winners' Cup Winners 1970 | FA Cup Winners 1904, 1934, 1956, 1969, 2011
 Runners-up 1974 | FA Charity/Community Shield Winners 1937, 1968, 1972, 2012 | FA Youth Cup Winners 1986, 2008

THE BIG PICTURE

Kelechi Iheanacho came off the bench to net the fifth goal against Huddersfield last Wednesday and Blues' 13th in the FA Cup so far. He is the eighth City player to score in the competition this season.

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PEP GUARDIOLA

Firstly, I would like to welcome Stoke City manager Mark Hughes and all his staff to the Etihad Stadium.

Mark needs no introduction from me. He was the manager here and has been back on several occasions since then. Stoke have won two of their last three games so I am sure that this is going to be a challenging game.

Last time we were here we played a good game against Huddersfield Town to reach this weekend's FA Cup quarterfinal at Middlesbrough. It was a clinical performance after going a goal behind.

Then we were so happy after Sunday afternoon's 2-0 win at the Stadium of Light. It was tough in the first few minutes, we expected Sunderland to be aggressive in terms of intensity and play and they were.

Our goal from Sergio Aguero just before half-time changed the tone of the game. It is a completely different feeling when you go into the dressing room in the lead instead of being held at 0-0.

In the second half, we played very well and got our reward with a beautiful second goal from Leroy Sané. In the last half-hour, we controlled the tempo but I wish we had been more positive in looking for the third goal.

That is my only small complaint. We played for control, which is good, but

when the game is in the last five or 10 minutes, I don't like to be in our box. Always the best way of defending is passing the ball around and keeping possession; 2-0 is a risky score because anything can happen if the other team get a goal.

The three points on Sunday were vital for us because the gap to Chelsea is so big. Now we just must try to keep winning every game and see if it is enough. I feel we are improving all the time. That is normal after seven or eight months together, as we know each other better. I know the players better, they know me, that's why we are getting results.

We now play every three or four days for the next few weeks which is the way things are when you are a top team still competing hard for three trophies. All the players will be needed in this time when rest and recuperation will be vital.

The club's young players also have an important date coming up this Friday night when they, too, play Stoke City – for them in the FA Youth Cup semi-final at the CFA Stadium.

As I have said in previous notes, I am a big admirer of the work being done with the young players here. There are some very good prospects coming through. I wish them good luck.

Enjoy today's game everyone.

"Stoke have won two of their last three games so I am sure that this is going to be a challenging game"

ANCHESAM



SHARE BRIGHT BRI

INTERVIEW: DAVID CLAYTON PICTURES: VICTORIA HAYDN/PA

It took a little while to adjust to life in England, but once he found his feet, it's fair to say Leroy Sané has been sprinting ever since.

In fact, his potential is almost frightening given that he's only just turned 21 and still has a lot of learning to do. Fortunately, he is in excellent hands with Pep Guardiola as his manager and a squad of talented team-mates who have quickly understood his strengths and are now playing to them on a regular basis.

Niggling injuries – one that was sustained while with Schalke that delayed his start to life at City – meant he appeared in fits and starts and so found it difficult to find any rhythm or consistency. He was eager and wanted to impress, so his early appearances were a mixture of nervousness and perhaps trying too hard. He needed to find his place in the team, get a run of games under his belt and build his confidence up. But, by mid-December, little had progressed for the young winger.

Then, in his 13th game for City, everything changed.

Racing on to a David Silva pass, he slotted scored a crucial equaliser against Arsenal in a game that City went on to win 2-1 and he was finally on his game. He was unfortunate to collect a muscle injury that sidelined for the next four games but returned for the visit of Tottenham Hotspur, again scoring a goal just moments after the re-start in a 2-2 draw with the north Londoners.

Another strike, in the FA Cup, away to Crystal Palace made it three goals in three games and the confidence was suddenly oozing out of every pore. Pacey, powerful with great technique, Sané was establishing himself as a firm favourite among the City fans and his blossoming partnership with opposite wingman Raheem Sterling is the stuff of nightmares for defenders up and down the land – Sterling and Sané – the new SAS partnership, perhaps? "The Premier League is much more physical and there are more games here," says Sané. "Every game you play can be like a final with the smaller teams taking points off the bigger teams as well. It isn't that it has always been a dream of mine to come and play in England, but as time moved on, my thoughts moved to considering coming over here to the Premier League. Obviously, being born in Germany and growing up there, the dream was always to experience playing in the Bundesliga first.

"I'm still only 21 years old and I've got a lot to learn, particularly from the coach. I'm really



"I'm still only 21 years old and I've got a lot to learn, particularly from the coach. I'm really enjoying my game at the moment"

11

enjoying my game at the moment, but there's certainly room for improvement. We have a very talented squad and it's difficult because every position is well covered which means you have to put the effort in and perform in training as well. You've got to show the confidence you've got and build on that. This a club that wants to go places, and hopefully I'll be part of that both now and in years to come.

"Working with Pep Guardiola is helping me improve my game. In every training session, every situation, he'll study that and seek to improve every player. With me, he'll make

"Working with Pep Guardiola is helping me improve my game. In every training session, every situation, he'll study that and seek to improve every player"

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suggestions... It could be situations or particular parts of training. He'll pick out things to improve on, and make us better.

"That's his idea – to go forward and make us better as a team and maybe we are starting to see the results of this as the season progresses." Recalling his move to City, Leroy revealed the chance to work with Pep Guardiola was one of the main incentives to move to Manchester: "He watched me when I was at Schalke but we didn't speak at the time. That came later. But when he did, that was one of the main reasons behind deciding to move to City. In the meetings and



training sessions when we're talking tactics it's very intense. But also it's great fun at the same time. He's very ambitious."

With an attack that includes two rapid, livewire wingers plus the predatory talents of Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Jesus, plus the creative genius of David Silva and Kevin De Bruyne behind them, Sané admits the Blues are an attacking force to be reckoned with.

"It's great to be part of that line-up. All three of them Raheem Sterling, Gabriel Jesus and Sergio Aguero are great players and also big names so I'm really enjoying playing with them and we've hit some really good form since we lost to Everton. We're still in three competitions and we have the ambition to win all three. I wouldn't exclude the Premier League from this.

"We still have dreams and won't stop believing it is possible so will carry on as we are. It could be that Chelsea drop a few points. We'll have to see what happens and just keep trying to win.

"The victory at Sunderland was really good and they made it tough for most of the first half because they're fighting for points. But every game in the Premier League is tough. Stoke City won't be any different – they had a good win at the

"We're still in three competitions and we have the ambition to win all three. I wouldn't exclude the Premier League from this"

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"It's unlikely we won't be in with a chance of winning something. We just have to keep winning games, play attacking football and see where that takes us over the next few months"

weekend and will come here feeling confident, but if we continue the way we've been playing in the last few games, then I think we're capable of getting a result."

Sané looks like he will end the season in scintillating form – the kind that saw team-mate Gael Clichy to draw comparisons with an early version of Real Madrid's Gareth Bale after the Sunderland game. With six goals in his last nine games, this could just be the beginning for a very special player who has made nutmegging an opponent something of an art form! But he wants winners' medals, and the sooner the better as far as the Germany international is concerned.

"Obviously it would be disappointing to not win any silverware this season, but we want to win titles, we have a very good team and we're having a good season. It's unlikely we won't be in with a chance of winning something. We just have to keep winning games, play attacking football and see where that takes us over the next few months."

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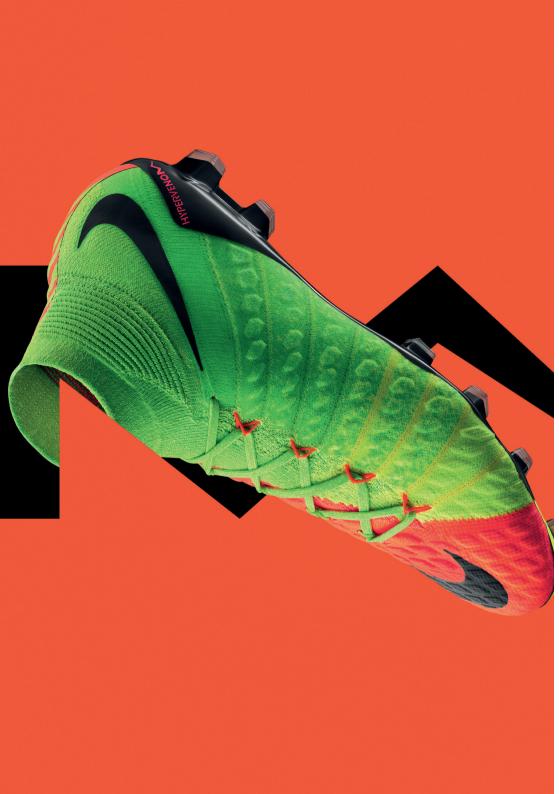
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BUZZWORD

CLUB AMBASSADOR MIKE SUMMERBEE TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE UNDER-18s' RUN IN THE FA YOUTH CUP – AND THE TWO YOUNG MEN ON THE FIRST-TEAM FLANKS...

Good evening everyone. It's great to be back in the Etihad under the floodlights. I don't want to worry our friends and visitors from the Potteries but we have scored 10 in our last pair of nighttime outings here!

However, it is not this Premier League encounter that I want to talk about first but rather another game against Stoke City this Friday night when we entertain them in the first leg of the semi-final in this season's FA Youth Cup.

Pep Guardiola has already spoken about how good the youth set-up is here at City and stated that four or five youngsters could join his senior squad on tour this summer. I would urge all City fans reading this – and Stoke fans, too – to get along to the CFA Stadium to cheer on the youngsters. Both sides have worked hard to get to the last four and deserve your backing.

We here at Manchester City have a bit of a fraught relationship with the FA Youth Cup. We



have, of course, won it twice – the last time in 2008 – but we have also been beaten finalists six times which, I believe, is more than any other club in the competition.

In fact, in 2015 and 2016 we lost the two-legged final to Chelsea who are in this season's other semi-final against Spurs. There is no doubt that after lifting the trophy five times in the last seven years, Chelsea are the team to beat at youth level. There is, however, a growing belief that this year's crop of boy Blues can gain some revenge for the last couple of final losses.

There is an abundance of attacking talent in Brahim Diaz, Phil Foden and Jadon Sancho; and understandably those three, who have spent some time around Pep's senior squad already, attract much of the media attention. However, three players don't make a team and there are high-class performers from front to back in a squad that – at Premier League Under-18 level – has tasted defeat just once all season and that in the last match of the regular season last weekend at Liverpool.

Coach Lee Carsley has made a big impact since he took over the side and can be very proud of his charges. I am sure they will put on a show for everyone this Friday. They play a really attractive brand of football. They keep the ball on the ground, play from the back and like to get the ball wide. I am extremely hopeful that this group will end up providing two or three first-team regulars over the next two or three years.

The great thing for all Manchester City fans is that there is another wave, just as talented, coming up behind this group. When Sheikh Mansour first invested in the club, the thought of

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producing players for the first team through the Academy was one of the things that excited him most. I know that is something that Chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak is also very keen to do.

Everyone in the hierarchy knows how much fans love to see kids coming through the ranks who have a great affinity for the badge, are grateful for all the club has done for them, and understand exactly what being a City player means. Anyway, please do all you can to support them 48 hours from now.

This evening's match should be a decent appetiser! The last two home games in midweek have seen us win 5-3 and 5-1 and that second game could have been 10-4!

We've quietly played our way into very good form and although the title would still seem a long shot all we can do is keep winning, try to reduce the gap to Chelsea and then beat them at Stamford Bridge and see what happens – although obviously easier written here than done!

The great thing is that we have reached March safely in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup, ahead in our last 16 UEFA Champions League tie with Monaco, and in the top four in the Premier League. Not bad for a team that is labelled as inconsistent by outsiders.

"I would urge all City fans – and Stoke fans, too – to get along to the CFA Stadium this Friday night to cheer on the youngsters in the first leg of the semi-final in this season's FA Youth Cup" As a paid-up member of the "Wingers' Club" what is pleasing me the most at the moment is the improvement and involvement of both Leroy Sané and Raheem Sterling. Those two scare defenders witless with their pace – and both are still so young and capable of improving further. I am pleased for both as Leroy had a slow start to life here and Raheem comes in for ludicrous stick for no reason. Long may their reign of terror on the flanks continue.

Enjoy the game everyone.



SEQUENCES & LINKS

GARY JAMES ON CITY'S RECORD SEQUENCES AND LINKS.

Sergio Aguero celebrating his 159th City goal in the win at Sunderland on Sunday.

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SERGIO AGUERO'S GOALSCORING RECORDS

Since the season started, Sergio Aguero has smashed some goalscoring records and risen significantly in our all-time goalscorers chart. For this reason, I've decided to highlight how significant his contribution to City's history is.

For the record here are City's top four goalscorers followed by their total

appearances (including all domestic and European first-team games) and the goals per game ratio:

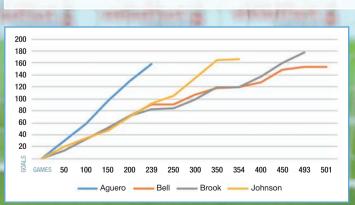
AIRWAYS

Eric Brook 177 (Games 493; Ratio 0.359 goals per game)

Tommy Johnson 166 (354; 0.469) Sergio Aguero 159 (239; 0.665) Colin Bell 153 (501; 0.305) Although most football statisticians focus on seasonal goalscoring records, I decided to take a different approach and compare the four leading strikers' records based on 50-game intervals. By doing this a greater comparison can be made and used to demonstrate how remarkable Aguero's surge towards the record has been. Both Brook and Johnson remain ahead, of course, but Aguero's goals per game ratio is significantly more impressive than the others as the table below demonstrates. While the other three players tend to have a similar pattern, certainly in the main period of their careers, Aguero has scored at a rate that at times has been double the others.

The chart also shows how Colin Bell's ratio slowed following his injury in 1975. Notice how Tommy Johnson's ratio increased significantly after his 250th appearance. This corresponded with rule changes to the offside law, which Johnson took advantage of. In 1928/29 he scored 38 league goals, our current record. During an interview a few years back Tommy's son, Alan Johnson, commented that his dad was very proud of that record but longed for a day when a new striker would arrive who could eclipse his goalscoring feats. No doubt Tommy would have enjoyed watching Sergio get closer to his record.

Please note that Brook is often incorrectly recorded as scoring 178 goals for City. That total includes a goal that was scored against Leicester on 26 August 1939 which was wiped from the records when the 1939/40 season was abandoned. The three Football League games from that season are equivalent to abandoned matches in that they do not count in any official record as all three games were replayed at the start of the 1946/47 season. Brook's actual total is 177.



Aguero's records

While Aguero appears to be closing in on the all-time goalscoring chart, there are other records he has already established. Already he is City's highest scorer in Europe with 29 goals from 44 games with a ratio of 0.66 (next best: Francis Lee, 10 from 22 games, ratio = 0.45). He is also our highest post-war FA Cup scorer with 12 from 13 games, ratio of 0.92 (next best: Mike Summerbee, 11 from 34 games, ratio = 0.32).

In terms of our all-time record scorer in league fixtures, Aguero is 10th with 114 goals (the record is 158 goals shared by Eric Brook and Tommy Johnson). Our post-war top four are:

- 142 Joe Hayes
- 117 Colin Bell
- 114 Sergio Aguero
- 112 Francis Lee



Comparisons

While Aguero has a much more significant goalscoring rate to the players in our most goals chart, it's worth highlighting how his record compares to other high-scoring players associated with English clubs. Listed below are some of the most recent record-breakers for Premier League teams, plus the record for today's opponents Stoke City and Newcastle United's Alan Shearer. These are listed based on the highest goals-per-game ratio:

Ratio	Club	Goals	Games
0.67	City	159	239
0.61	Arsenal	228	376
0.52	Liverpool	346	660
0.51	Newcastle	206	405
0.50	Stoke	176	351
0.46	United	250	549
0.36	City	177	493
0.33	Chelsea	211	648
	0.67 0.61 0.52 0.51 0.50 0.46 0.36	0.67 City 0.61 Arsenal 0.52 Liverpool 0.51 Newcastle 0.50 Stoke 0.46 United 0.36 City	National Other State Other State 0.67 City 159 0.61 Arsenal 228 0.52 Liverpool 346 0.51 Newcastle 206 0.50 Stoke 176 0.46 United 250 0.36 City 177

Another area to compare is, of course, Aguero's goalscoring ratio against the current leading strikers in the Premier League and so I've taken this season's prominent strikers to see how their goals-per-games ratio at their current clubs compare:

Player	Ratio	Club	Goals	Games
Sergio Aguero	0.67	City	159	239
Zlatan Ibrahimovic	0.67	United	26	39
Harry Kane	0.57	Tottenham	88	155
Romelu Lukaku	0.52	Everton	80	155
Diego Costa	0.51	Chelsea	54	106
Alexis Sanchez	0.48	Arsenal	62	128
Jermain Defoe	0.45	Sunderland	36	80
Dele Alli	0.29	Tottenham	24	82
Theo Walcott	0.27	Arsenal	100	370

Although it is true that statistics can be utilised in many different ways, it is abundantly clear that Aguero's goalscoring record is not only outstanding from a City perspective, but compares highly with all his current playing colleagues in the Premier League and with some of the game's legendary figures and leading forces.

Gary James' latest research article "The origins debate – how soccer triumphed over other forms of team sports in Manchester" is free to download for a limited period. See **@garyjameswriter** or **facebook.com/garyjames4** for details. Gary is a member of International Sport & Leisure History at Manchester Metropolitan University.



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SHORT STAY

Players whose stay with the Blues was brief...

WORDS: DAVID CLAYTON PICTURE: PA

SAMMY MCILROY 1985-87 APPS: 14 GOALS: 1

Sammy McIlroy was undoubtedly a Manchester United great, spending 11 years at Old Trafford and playing almost 350 times for the Reds before moving on to Stoke City in 1982.

The Potters, desperate to avoid relegation, paid a club record £350,000 for the then 28-year-old midfielder. It proved to be money well spent with Stoke avoiding the drop by a couple of points with McIlroy playing a crucial role in the 18 Stoke matches he featured in that season.

During the following campaign, McIlroy's experience worked well alongside the likes of Mark Chamberlain, Mickey Thomas and Paul Bracewell and he helped the Potters to a respectable mid-table finish. His third season at the Victoria Ground (the 1984/85 campaign) saw him again play a vital role even as Stoke flirted with relegation throughout before narrowly avoiding the drop by two points.

The 88-times capped Northern Ireland star's final season in Stoke saw the club finally succumb to the drop with a record low of just 17 points, but McIlroy's contribution was recognised as he was voted the club's Player of the Year.

To say his next move caused shockwaves around Manchester would be an understatement as McIlroy joined City on a free transfer in time for the 1985/86 season. For City fans, it was an uncomfortable marriage – his long association with United meant he needed to start his career with the Blues well. Fortunately for McIlroy, he did, as he scored on his debut at home to Coventry City in a 1-1 draw.

Having played in the first games for Billy McNeill's men, during which the Blues won just two league fixtures, McIlroy was then ruled out with injury – only returning for the final two matches of a largely insipid campaign for a struggling City side.

In contrast, McIlroy captained Northern Ireland during the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, playing in all three games against Spain, Brazil and Algeria.

When McNeill quit to join Aston Villa, his assistant Jimmy Frizzell presided over the rest of what would be a relegation campaign for the Blues. McIlroy would feature just once – in a 2-1 win over Coventry just before Christmas – and the following March the now 32-year-old was allowed to join Swedish side Örgryte IS on a free transfer.

He would return to England and continue playing for several years with Bury, Preston North End and Northwich Victoria before retiring in 1993 and moving into management.

Up to 2011 he was Morecambe boss but has been out of football since, with his brief stint at City largely forgotten.

"To say McIlroy's move to City caused shockwaves around Manchester would be an understatement"

CAPTAI



Our record against clubs currently outside the top four divisions... This time we travel towards the Pennines to near neighbours Glossop North End.

WORDS: DAVID CLAYTON PICTURE: PA

Glossop North End's claim to fame is to have at one time being the smallest town in England to have a team in the Football League. While they were members, they faced the Blues 10 times over a 12-year period. From 1898 until 1919, Glossop enjoyed Football League status and their first season in Division Two saw them lock horns with City in a bid to earn promotion at the very first attempt. A crowd of 6,000 or so packed into North Road, Glossop,



for the first meeting between the clubs and it was City who made the short journey back to Hyde Road, Manchester in high spirits following a 2-1 win courtesy of goals from Billy Meredith and Billy Gillespie.

North End, however, exacted revenge in the return fixture. They won 2-0 and became only the second team that season to stop the Blues scoring. Defeat, though, didn't stop City going on to win the title, with Glossop promoted as runners-up.

While City adapted well to life in the top flight the following season, The Hillmen (what else could their nickname be?!) struggled and would finish bottom of Division One, losing 4-1 to City at Hyde Road and 2-0 at North Road.

A season later and the Blues were also relegated with the teams meeting again during the 1902/03 campaign. City ran away with the title that season, winning 25 of the 34 league matches played – and beating Glossop 5-2 at Hyde Road and 1-0 at Surrey Street. The next meeting would come in the FA Cup. The Blues travelled to the Peak District and were fortunate to come away with a 0-0 draw and a Hyde Road replay. In a wretched campaign for Harry Newbould's men that would end in relegation, City won the return 6-0 in front of approximately 20,000 fans.

Once again in the same division – the last time this would happen – City would again win promotion and the Division Two title at the first attempt. Glossop held the Blues to an entertaining 3-3 draw at Hyde Road, but the return at North Road ended in a comfortable 3-0 away win for Newbould's rejuvenated side.

Some 107 years have passed since that last meeting and today Glossop are in the Northern Premier League having spent close to a century outside the Football League. Today, they play at Surrey Street having moved from their old stadium in 1955. In 2015 The Hillmen played North Shields at Wembley in the FA Vase final, losing 2-1 in front of a crowd nudging 10,000. Perhaps our paths will cross again someday...



ACCESS ALL AREAS

CUTTING EDGE

A fashion shoot with a difference – one where the "models" are Manchester City first-team superstars and their manager Pep Guardiola. When Dsquared2, the Official Fashionwear Partner of Manchester City, took new suits and casual wear to the CFA Tom Flathers put on his Sunday best to record the scene...

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MY TURF SERGIO AGUERO Looking at the home towns/cities of the City players... This issue: Buenos Aires, Argentina

WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD PICTURES: PA/VICTORIA HAYDN



Sergio Aguero's career has reached dizzy heights in Manchester since arriving from Atletico Madrid in 2011 but how does his current home compare with his first? We take a look at where Aguero was born and raised: Buenos Aires, Argentina. One of the biggest and most populous cities in the world, Buenos Aires has become famous for beautiful colours, music and parties but it's a totally different world to the European countries Aguero has called home for more than a decade.

Street kid

Sergio certainly had to battle his way to the top having originally come from the inner city area of the vast metropolis. Speaking to the *Daily Telegraph* in 2011, he said: "It was an area called Villa Los Eucaliptus in Quilmes. It was the sort of place where there would be a shot, you'd be sitting there and you'd have to run. It was tough. You could also say that when you have been there and you now play football in Europe, you are determined to enjoy it more. I now remember when I used to play in that environment and it makes me enjoy what I am doing more. I'm in a good place now and can experience a lot of things that I was not able to when I was a kid."

Local teams

Often cited in the list of greatest matches in world football, the "Superclasico" between Boca Juniors and River Plate is an event that consumes the city at least twice a year. Whether played at Boca's La Bombonera or River Plate's El Monumental, expectation reaches a peak in the minutes leading up to kick-off and ends in a party on the city's streets for the victors. The two clubs are Argentina's most successful. Boca Juniors have lifted the domestic title 31 times but that's still five short of River Plate's record of 36 triumphs. Aguero never actually appeared for either side, though, as he instead began his career at Independiente. Having risen through the ranks, the Argentinian spent three years with the first team between 2003 and 2006 before moving to Atletico Madrid.

Other footballing stars

Alongside a number of Argentina's current stars, two of the biggest names in the game across the 20th century were also born in Buenos Aires. Alfredo Di Stefano, the Real Madrid legend, and Diego Maradona, the star of the 1986 World Cup, both hail from the city. The nation's proud footballing standards were met in 2014 when the national team reached the World Cup final in Brazil. Of the 14 players involved on that day Marcos Rojo, Lucas Biglia, Rodrigo Palacio, Fernando Gago were all born in Buenos Aires as well as fellow City stars Pablo Zabaleta and Nicolas Otamendi.

Notable people from Buenos Aires

Pope Francis, the 266th and current leader of the Roman Catholic Church, was born in Buenos Aires in 1936 as Jorge Mario Bergoglio. The 79-year-old's ordainment was major news across the world as he became the first Pope from the Americas and the Southern Hemisphere. Other famous people from the city include Bernardo Alberto Houssay was an Argentinian doctor whose research on the role of pituitary hormones regulating blood sugar won him a Nobel Prize. Jorge Luis Borges was a poet and writer whose works have become classics of 20th-century world literature. Borges was born in 1899 and died in 1986 having lived most of his life in the vibrant city. Another prominent figure in the arts, Carlos Gardel, was born in Buenos Aires. Gardel was a crucial figure in the history of the tango dance which began in the neighbourhoods at the start of the 20th century.

Population

The current official population of Buenos Aires stands at slightly under three million at 2,891,000. This makes it comfortably the biggest city in Argentina, with almost two million residents more than Cordoba and Rosario who are the next most populous areas in the country. Extending the boundary to the Greater Buenos Aires province – including 30 separate *partidos* – the official population rises to over 14 million. This makes it South America's second most expansive city, behind only the enormous Sao Paulo in Brazil which has a population of around 20 million.



BBC 6 Music DJ Marc Riley gives Crouchy some (naturally) Blue-hued dues...

WORDS: MARC RILEY PICTURE: PA

RILF

In welcoming Stoke City today I have to begrudgingly admit that it was while watching the Blues versus The Potters at their place that I saw one of the best goals I've witnessed in my entire life.

You might well remember it. It was 24 March 2012. A Peter Crouch wondergoal which saw him leather the ball from the wing and take an unsuspecting Joe Hart out of the frame with one deft dexterous wallop. It was painful and great at the same time. A bit like putting a dislocated shoulder back in place.

Ask any of my mates and they'll tell you. I'm not very forthcoming with compliments or kind thoughts to an unusually high percentage of both players or managers for any club in the Premier League other than Man City. Some see it as a weakness, but I see it as a suit-of-armour.

One player who I've always enjoyed watching, though, is Peter Crouch. His physique makes him stand out form the crowd to begin with but his lack of play-acting and theatrics make him one of the more agreeable players in today's game. Put it this way... He is probably best remembered (by me at least) for two things. One: THAT goal. Two: his England goal CELEBRATION aka The Robot Dance. I haven't got a great memory, it's true, but I can't remember ever getting out of my chair on any weekend to give my TV a right mouthful aimed at an unsuspecting (and completely unbothered) Mr Crouch. So I already salute him. And then – like a bolt out of the (sky) blue – I remembered another Crouch addition to the annals of footballing history which, to me, makes him almost HEROIC!

To wit, a question-and-answer piece he did for some magazine (at this point I'm hoping it was for a serious footballing publication and not *Hello!*) he was asked the question: "If you weren't a professional footballer, what would you be"? To which he replied:

"Single"

At this point I need to fess up and tell you that his answer was not actually the word "single". It was actually a two-word answer that relates to his... How can I put this? Erm... to put it clumsily: HE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD A GIRLFRIEND! Yeah, I think you get my drift.

It was a great self-deprecating answer that still tickles me to this day. So once again – well done Peter Crouch!

While thinking of this world-beating quote I got to wondering what other "crackers" footballers have come up with in the past. So here's a few of them... Brace yourself!

NEVILLE SOUTHALL (EVERTON)

"If you don't believe you can win, there is no point in getting out of bed at the end of the day."

IAN RUSH (LIVERPOOL)

"I couldn't settle in Italy – it was like living in a foreign country."

STUART PEARCE (LEGEND)

"I can see the carrot at the end of the tunnel."

LES FERDINAND (SPURS) "I was surprised, but I always say nothing surprises me in football."

BARRY VENISON (LIVERPOOL) "I always used to put my right boot on first, and then obviously my right sock."

GARY LINEKER (SPURS)

"There's no in between - you're either good or bad. We were in between."

> STEVE LOMAS (LEGEND) "Germany are a very difficult team to play... They had 11 internationals out there today."

STAN COLLYMORE (LIVERPOOL) "I faxed a transfer request to the club at the beginning of the week, but let me state that I don't want to leave Leicester."

CHRISTIANO RONALDO (CAN'T REMEMBER)

(After a Euro 2012 qualifying match against Cyprus, the Portuguese winger was asked why the fans jeered him): "It's surely because I'm good-looking, rich and a great footballer. They're jealous of me. I don't have any other explanation."

Naturally I can't argue with any of the above – so I won't!

To finish, and despite all my admiration for Peter Crouch, I would simply like to add that with all due respect I hope that on this particular occasion he has a proper stinker of a game.



UP THE BLUES!

TROUBLE SHOOTERS

Back in 1998, David Bernstein and Dennis Tueart were at the helm of a club that was struggling...

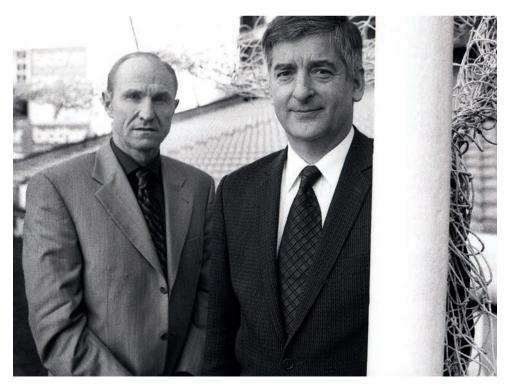
PICTURES & WORDS: KEVIN CUMMINS

In December 1998 *Esquire* magazine commissioned an extensive piece about Manchester City. I was asked to take the photographs to accompany an in-depth profile by journalist David Conn.

It's fair to say the club was struggling enormously at the time. We were mid-table in the third tier

of English football and we'd just been knocked out of the Auto Windscreens Shield by Mansfield Town in front of 3,007 fans – our lowest ever home crowd for a competitive game.

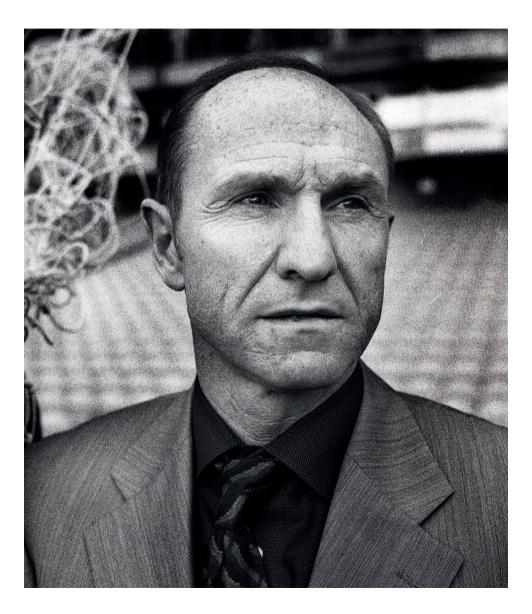
The following day we met up with chairman David Bernstein and Dennis Tueart, by then a director. I wanted to photograph them in the





streets around the stadium but I think they felt it'd be safer to stay within the confines of Maine Road. Neither David (Conn) nor I wanted to put the boot into the football club we loved and, although there were plenty of questions we both wanted to ask, I'm not sure *Esquire* readers would have been as interested. Consequently, I don't think Conn even wrote the piece and the photos have stayed unseen in my archive until now.

I've still got a few questions I'd like to put to both Bernstein and Tueart but maybe it'd be more prudent now to do that over a pint.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR THE OTHER 22.5 HOURS?



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SHOWCASE #18

0---

Cityzens

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

Being present at training every morning allows me to photograph the hard work that the players put into every day. Although before the sessions begin, the players get chance to catch up with each other – as we see happening here with these three Argentinians. They always have a joke or two up their sleeves and are among the individuals who just *love* the camera!



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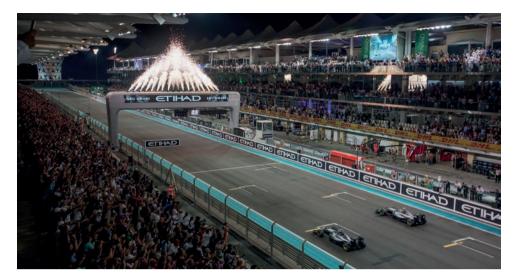
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City in the Community is pleased to announce the expansion of its primary school programme, in partnership with the Premier League.

Under the new Premier League Primary Stars initiative, the appeal of football and the Manchester City badge is used to inspire local children to develop their skills and ambitions, both on and off the field.

City in the Community is offering the programme to every primary school in Manchester, providing national curriculum linked key stages 1 and 2 resources in maths, English and other subjects. Our qualified coaches are also supporting teaching staff and providing them with the skills and confidence they need to be able to deliver high quality PE education.

So far, the delivery of this programme has been well received, with pupils and teachers alike singing its praises.

"City in the Community have raised the standard of school sport and PE delivery," said Faik Kordemir, head of Newall Green Primary School. "It's refreshing to have high quality professional coaches deliver in our schools all year around. To have well-rounded coaches who provide both curricular PE, extra-curricular sport and staff training across both key stages is phenomenal.

"We are really pleased with the work they are doing in our schools and are proud to be a City in the Community partner school!"

The programme will be delivered in over 100 primary schools across Manchester by September 2017.

For more information, please email City in the Community schools manager Sam Waterhouse at Sam. waterhouse@cityfootball.com



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YOUR SHOUT

Happy 50th birthday to **Matthew Tetreault** – love from Rory.

1 "Wishing John Redfern a very happy 70th birthday on Saturday from all his family. A lifelong Blue, he is pictured here with his grandchildren supporting City at Wembley."

2 Happy 70th birthday on Saturday to **Geoff Clarke**, who is at the game tonight with daughter Tracy and grandson Seth.

3 "Alan Clarke, a long term season ticket holder and lifelong Blue, turns 70 on Sunday to his family's utter amazement given how near he comes each match to bursting a blood vessel! An avid ranter, you can admire his regular outbursts via Twitter @footymad47. His wife Gill, daughters Emma, Jenni and Rachel and his beloved grandchild Trevor the Norfolk Terrier wish him many happy returns and send him all their love and best wishes on his birthday. COYB!"

4 Happy birthday to **Andrew Speed**, celebrating his 50th on March 11 and pictured his with his sister Gillian Houghton who says: "I love you very much and hope you enjoy your his special day."

5 "To **Joe**... Happy 17th birthday today. Lots of love from mum, dad and Jack xxx."

6 "Happy birthday Bill Taylor!"

7 To **Emma Spain**: "Happy birthday, pal – from your best mate Megan." 8 **"Ollie** is here tonight celebrating his 14th birthday. He loves everything football, especially MCFC, and he believes that David Silva is the best player in the world EVER! We hope you have a great day – love from mum and dad xx."

9 "Happy birthday **Sue Marsh**. Lots of love from all of the family xxx."

10 "Happy 60th birthday to **Roy Kellett** – the best dad in the world. We hope you enjoy your birthday surprise today in the Legends Lounge! Love you lots – from Gem, Shelagh, Martyn and William xxx."

11 "Happy 12th birthday to **Samuel Aston**. Love from mum, dad and James x."



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Messages should be emailed to mcfcprog@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...

12 "Wishing Finlay Smith a

happy 11th birthday – lots of love from mum, dad, Will and your matchday family xx."

13 "Happy 83rd birthday on Friday to **Keith Jones** who has watched City since for 75 years. This is him with daughter Lesley and son Martin, nephew Cavan and friends. Lots of love from all the family."

14/15 "Happy birthday to twins Ollie and Elliott Barnett – have a great day – lots of love from mum."

16 "Happy birthday and retirement **John Gorman**. Love from Madeline and family x."

17 "Happy birthday **Jamie** from dad, Jack, Harry and all the family."

18 "Happy birthday **Karen Mirfin**. Love from Allan, Bex, Beth, Jess and Alfie xxx."

19 Welcome to a Blue world **Billy**, whose mum Sheree, uncle Daniel and great grandad Joe are all Seasoncard holders!

20 This is **Ollie Price**, born in December to Nick and Debbie. Dad had his own season ticket when he was little and can't wait to bring Ollie to his first game. Nick's dad was introduced to City in the 1960s by Ollie's greatgrandad and was a season ticket holder from his Kippax days until recently and also patrolled Maine Road as a policeman in the '80s!

21 Welcome Sloane Stapleton: the youngest Cityzen in Boston, USA. Eleven months old today.

SADLY MISSED



Loyal City fan Edna Mills sadly passed away on 9 February, aged 73. A real character and

member of the Etihad Stadium Facilities team for over 12 years. Everyone at the club offers condolences to the family.



"Remembering Barry Goodier who passed away in September and would have been 75 on 21 February.

A lifelong Blue, we are sure he is fondly watching from his 'Blue Moon' in the sky. Gone but never forgotten."





OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB







ASHTON BRANCH

Ashton Branch has a few birthdays to celebrate at the start of March...

1 Happy birthday to Dave Delaney from everyone at the branch.

2 Wishing Tina a happy birthday from all your family and friends.
3 John celebrates his 60th and his family, friends and branch members all wish him a happy birthday.

FLIXTON BRANCH

4 When Flixton members Eddie and Christine Dean paid a visit to New York they could not resist a trip to the famous Mad Hatter bar, the favourite hangout for Blues in the Big Apple. They are pictured showing the Flixton banner with pride.

DENTON BRANCH

5 Ex-Denton Blue Robert Nelson, who now lives in Australia,

watched the City-Spurs game with nephews James, Austin and Lucas and then enjoyed the rest of the day on Bronte Beach.

DUKINFIELD BLUES

6 Dukinfield Branch members, along with family and friends, wish Paul Galley a happy birthday. Paul is pictured with dad Terry and uncle Alan, chairman of the Supporters Club. Get the beers in at half-time, Paul!





SUPPORTERS CLUB DINNER

The Supporters Club dinner was well attended by branches from both the UK and around the world with former City players and celebrities also enjoying the night...

7 Charlie Hadfield from Brook Bar Branch giving his approval with TV darts and cricket expert and commentator John Gwynne.

8 Mike Bowden and Hazel Grove Blues with City's matchday compare and model Natalie Pike.

9 Reddish Blues with Mike Summerbee and former kit man and City TV pundit Les Chapman.

10 Dukinfield Blues' Matt and Les Woolfenden with City legend Tony Vaughan.

11 The top table and a view across the room.











For more information visit: https://supportersclubs.mancity.com

JUNIOR CITYZENS

A day in the life of a Home Mascot...

My name is Samuel Hornby and I'm nine years old. On 14 December I was lucky enough to be a Mascot for City-Watford. Lots of people have been asking me how I became a Mascot, the answer is I won a competition on the Junior Cityzens website.

I went home early from school and travelled to the Etihad in my dad's car with my dad, my grandma and my grandpa. When we arrived, we had to meet Liz (a person who works at Man City) in the Home building at 5.15pm. I also met another mascot called Zayed. He had come all the way from Abu Dhabi just for this.

We were taken to a room where we met some ex-City players including Tommy Booth, Fred Eyre, Richard Edghill and Ian Brightwell (my dad was very excited to meet these auvs). I thought that was it BUT NO -BRACE YOURSELVES - WE MET THE ONE. THE ONLY, COLIN BELL! At that time, we were on our way to the stadium to start a tour when my dad wanted me to have a picture with Colin Bell, so I did. Of all the things I could have said to Colin Bell - like "You're a legend!" or "You're my favourite









player, I said, "You smell nice". He said, "What?". I said, "You smell nice". He said, "Thank you". I said, "Where do you get that stuff from?". He said, "I don't know, my wife buys it all". Finally I said, "That could be a problem!" (In case his wife buys girl perfume.)

When we arrived at the stadium we went into the players changing room and I sat on Aguero's chair because there wasn't any kit on there. (Aguero wasn't playing, he was banned for four games).

Next, we went into the players



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S JUNIOR CITYZEN TICKETS WINNERS:

Olivia Taylor. Caitlin Dawson. Lewis Maude, Zak Parr and Lewis Senior

Hopefully you managed to get a high five from the team as they entered the stadium!

GROUP BOOKINGS:

- Ohio University
- University of Mary, Washington
- Chinese Students and Scholars Association

gvm and my dad took a hilarious picture of me on an exercise bike pulling a funny face. Then, I interviewed my grandpa in the interview corner (it looks much bigger on TV but actually it's just a little corner of a room). I asked my grandpa how old he was but he refused to answer. After that, I sat on Pep's chair in the dugout. I also held up the scoreboard and put my date of birth on it. We went back inside to the press room and I made the other mascot laugh because I breathed down the microphone and it vibrated around the whole room. I also met a press officer who knew every single answer to the questions I asked.

After being given some wonderful food and a brand new kit I put the kit on and waited on the blue carpet for the players to arrive in the coach. Then, I went inside for the best bit. The players walked past and signed our kits, some even gueued to sign my shirt. I had a laugh with John Stones, Raheem Sterling and David Silva. Next, we went pitchside, had photos with Moonchester and Moonbeam and watched some of the players warming.

In the players tunnel I had a choice of who to go out on the pitch with. I chose Kevin De Bruyne. On the pitch I had a kickabout.

I was a great mascot, City won 2-0! Thank you to Liz and everybody at City who made this one of the best days of my life.

TONIGHT'S MASCOTS AND PLAYER ESCORTS



Anna Keelina Age: 12 Likes: Plaving football for Chadderton Park Under-12s airls rock climbing and hockey Favourite: De Bruyne



Alfie Turlev Likes: Plaving football for Citv and his local team Monton Sports Club. Favourites: De Bruvne and Silva



Kayden Price Age: 7 Likes: Playing for City's Under-7s and collecting football boots. Favourites: Aquero and Sterling



Kane Houghton Age: 7 Likes: Plaving for Radcliffe Juniors Under-7s. swimmina. cycling and FIFA Favourites: Aquero and De Bruvne



Daniel Higgins Likes: Plaving football, plaving his quitar – and is sports car mad Favourites: Aquero, Touré. Silva and Kompany



Jacob Bridgehouse Age: 7 Likes: Plaving and watching football. Plays for Woodlev Albion and CS Citv Favourite: Gabriel Jesus



Archie Thornton Likes: Plaving football for Citv Under-7s and playing Xbox with friends Favourites: De Bruyne, Silva and Aquero



Edson Deionge-Seiros Likes: Space, playing football, piano, watching Goosebumps and making paper aeroplanes



Lucas Alvarado Likes: Plaving football. colouring and reading, FIFA, and plaving with friends Favourites: Caballero, Bravo and De Bruyne





Lennon Chadwick Age: 7 Likes: Playing football, watching football and Xbox Favourites: De Bruyne and Aguero



James Lewis (Stoke) Age: 7 Likes: Football Favourite: Erik Pieters

SOCIAL WRAP

In this issue's Social Wrap: coming home happy from a trip to Wearside... The joy of young children... Shopping deliveries, and... hanging out with friends old and new.

COMPILED BY: NAT BLACK-HEAVEN



Twitter: @21lva Twitter: @ApoyoNolito

David Silva and Nolito celebrate three points won against Sunderland.



Instagram: Fernandinho Fernandinho's son Davi celebrated his seventh birthday on Sunday.



Fernandinho and his son way back when.





Instagram: ilkayguendogan Twitter: @IlkayGuendogan

Ilkay Gundogan posts a Throwback Thursday image featuring he and Carlos Puyol

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Twitter: @gabrieljesus33 Gabriel Jesus walking around Manchester and showing off his crutches...





...and chilling out with his mates in Manchester, playing the guitar.



Twitter: @ApoyoNolito

Fun and games from Nolito and his daughter.



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THE ONLY PLACE TO FOLLOW CITY ON MATCHDAYS



Instagram: nicolasotamendi30 Twitter: @Notamendi30

Nicolas Otamendi showing off his swag.



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Join anytime, it's a 12 month rolling membership beacityzen.com





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ELITE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

THIRD TIME LUCKY?

STRIKER THIERRY AMBROSE IS BACK IN THE TEAM AND BACK IN THE GOALS. NOW HE HOPES HIS INJURY CONCERNS ARE BEHIND HIM...

Having marked both of his returns to fitness at the Academy Stadium this season with a goal, Thierry Ambrose is hoping to make this one last.

The French striker found the net in City's draw with Chelsea back in November following a lengthy lay-off but before he could get back to full sharpness, he was on the treatment table once more. Then, after a cameo in the Premier League Cup draw at Hull City last Monday, Ambrose was called upon to make the difference for City with an hour gone in Friday's top-of-the-table clash with leaders Everton.

It had been a cagey, tactical battle up until that point but the introduction of the 19-year-old opened up the pitch and City were soon 1-0 to the good when Ambrose collected the ball in the box before shifting inside and firing into the corner. City went on to win 3-0, closing their deficit from Everton to three points, and Ambrose was delighted to have played his part.

"It feels really good after a long time injured again. It wasn't easy for me because you think a lot when you're injured – but all my teammates and the staff have helped me to make sure I'm ready. I'm really happy to score this goal because it was important for the team and in the league as well.

"Simon Davies told me to play behind because I'm quite fast so he wanted me to stretch the game a little bit. He told me I was going to score the winner, or a crucial goal, and that's what I did so I'm happy! I want to stay fit until the end of the season, play games and try to score as many goals as I can."

With only four matches left to play in the league campaign, City have left it late in their attempts to catch the Toffees. Ambrose insists he and his team-mates are capable of winning all four matches and taking the title from under Everton's nose.

"We're going to try to be first and that means winning every point we can. We know we are three points behind and it will not be easy for us but we're going to try to be first. We had to beat Everton to make sure they were still close to us and now we have four matches to do everything we can to catch them."

The first of those four matches comes on Monday when City will travel to Arsenal's Emirates Stadium looking to shoot down the Gunners – and it's a game that Ambrose can't wait for.

"It's going to be a great experience, especially for me. When you're out and watching your team-mates playing well it's frustrating. To play in a big stadium like that and get the chance against such a good team, I will be happy to do my best. I'm just delighted to be involved and I want to enjoy every moment I can before the end of the season."

After Arsenal, Ambrose and his Premier League 2 team-mates will welcome Derby County to the Academy Stadium on Friday 7 April.

WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD PICTURE: TOM FLATHERS



WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD PICTURE: TOM FLATHERS

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

UNDER-18s

STEPPING UP

CENTRE-BACK JOE COVENEY TELLS HOW THE YOUNG BLUES AIM TO GO ONE STEP FURTHER IN 2017.

Having completed the 22-fixture regional Premier League season as North Division champions, City's Under-18s are already looking to the future. They will now join their fellow North, and the best from the South Division qualifiers including Chelsea and Arsenal, in a league of one-off matches that will crown the country's finest.

Centre-back Joe Coveney missed a large chunk of the Blues' incredible run to the first title of the season but having returned to see Lee Carsley's side over the line, the 18-yearold is part of the furniture once more.

As one of the few second-year scholars involved in this year's group, Coveney understands the pressure involved when facing the best in the country but also the joy that comes from lifting the national title at the end of the season. City won the Premier League last season before succumbing to Chelsea in the two-legged FA Youth Cup final – and Coveney can't wait to renew the rivalry.

"They (and Arsenal) are the teams that have long been heralded as the best in the country with excellent Academies and now City are definitely in that category. We need to play to our maximum in the national stage to show that we are the best in the country.

"There's pressure, but that brings a lot of motivation. You always want to go one step further than the year before and it was unbelievable achievement last season – but our side this season are using that as a driving force to go even better. It's the kind of pressure you need. "This team is a special team and I think we've got a chance to do a lot more this season. We've won the northern division but we're still in the FA Youth Cup and the national stage is coming. We're confident that we have the quality to win all three trophies if we stick to the game that has seen us come this far."

Having put his injury behind him, Coveney now believes his biggest challenge is to force his way into a defence that has become so settled with Ed Francis and captain Joel Latibeaudiere in the central roles.

"The team have been unbelievable so far but of course I want to get my place back in the team. Now I need to get back to the way I was playing at the start of the season and hopefully that will lead to more minutes on the pitch. During my period out, I kept motivated by remembering how well I was playing and knowing that if I can get back to that level then I'll be alright."

Injury is something every footballer is desperate to avoid but Coveney believes his experience has taught him a lot about himself.

"Staying positive is crucial because it means you have that edge and you will work hard to get back. It's also important to stay around the team as much as you can so that you feel part of the team, then when you're back the transition is easier."

Coveney and his team-mates will face Stoke City in the first leg of the FA Youth Cup semi-final at the CFA on 10 March. Head to mancity.com for the latest information.



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IN OPPOSITION

STOKE CITY

TEN OF THE BEST

Ten seasons in a row in the Premier League is more than a worthy achievement. So much so that if Stoke City are on the starting line in August – and the signs are good – they will be joining a minority.

Among today's 20 member clubs, only eight are in the 10-ormore seasons group. This is made up by the ever-presents from 1992 (Arsenal, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur) plus Manchester City, promoted in 2002, and Sunderland, who came up in 2007.

To be associated with this level of competition (a set containing nine of the last 10 Premier League champions and eight of the last 10 FA Cup winners) would be the ultimate recognition of Stoke's development. Up to 2002, they were a third-tier club and in 2006, when Peter Coates became chairman for a second time, they were mid-table in the Championship. To go from there to three consecutive ninth-place finishes in the Premier League is progress with a capital P.

Consistency in performance has gone hand in hand with continuity. In their 11 years in office, the Coates family have had only two managers: Tony Pulis, from promotion to five seasons in the Premier League, and Mark Hughes, now in his fourth term in the Potteries.

RAISING STANDARDS

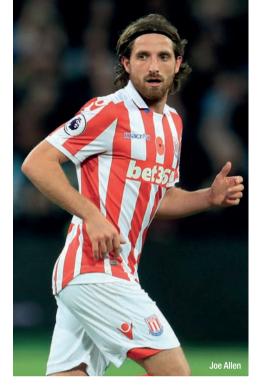
Throughout the process there has been a desire to raise the bar. Nowhere is this more evident than in the quality of players brought into the squad.

Some of the earlier signings now look like "steals" when set against today's market. Ryan Shawcross has spanned the full period, a young player at Manchester United who converted a loan into a £2m transfer in the Championship and won an England cap in the Premier League.

Other deals also gave remarkable value for money. Former City player Glenn Whelan



macr_{9n}



arrived in the first Premier League season for £500.000 and fellow international Jon Walters was a £2.75m signing who has scored more than 50 goals in seven seasons.

Marko Arnautovic. last season's top scorer. cost £2m in 2013 and Geoff Cameron £1.6m in 2012. For slightly higher sums, Charlie Adam and Frik Pieters contributed to the club's success.

Then there were the out-of-contract signings: Phil Bardsley, Mame Biram Diouf. Glen Johnson, Ibrahim Afellay, Stephen Ireland and Shay Given, each one an international and as a group not far short of 300 caps.

Marc Muniesa is another player in this category and in addition the squad includes two loan players, the City striker, Wilfried Bony, and international defender Bruno Martins Indi.

KEEPING COMPANY

There is a history of international goalkeepers in the Potteries. From Gordon Banks, a World Cup winner prior to his move from Leicester. to Peter Shilton, the most capped England player.

In 2008 Stoke came into the Premier League with Thomas



Sorensen (101 caps for Denmark) as their number 1 and now they have a full hand: a veteran of more than 130 internationals (Given), an up-andcoming England international (Jack Butland) and Lee Grant. a £1.3m signing in Januarv.

Butland has been out for a year since a fractured ankle (when playing for England in Germany) resulted in three operations.

> In his absence. Given re-appeared in the Premier League at the age of 40 and

> > Lee Grant

Grant took over in September, initially on loan from Derby County.

Butland was not the only long-term casualty. Ireland has not played since his double leg break in a training ground mishap at the end of last season.

Afellay, meanwhile, was out for eight months, a knee injury in training delaying his first appearance of this season until December.

Full-backs Bardsley and Johnson, as well as Xherdan Shaqiri, had spells on the sidelines. Walters had a knee operation in January and Cameron was absent for more than four months because of a knee injury.

CROUCH'S MILESTONE

This season became notable for a resurgence by Peter Crouch - six years after scoring his 22nd England goal in the last of his

69

42 internationals and 19 months since his previous goal in the Premier League.

On the last day of 2016 – a month before his 36th birthday – he not only ended his own barren spell but drew a line through a quirky stat.

A goal in a 4-2 defeat at Chelsea was the first for Stoke by an Englandqualified player in 57 games since he scored against Liverpool in May 2015.

Once in the groove, he was on target for three games in succession and made it four in five when claiming his 100th goal in the Premier League.

During this sequence, the club made a move to extend his service to a seven years with a new contract to the end of next season.

YOUNG GUNS

With former Blues schoolboy Tyrese Campbell scoring seven goals in wins against West Ham, Nottingham Forest, Brighton and Preston, Stoke's youngsters are through to an FA Youth Cup semi-final with City.

RECORD TRANSFERS

When Crouch arrived at the club from Tottenham in August 2011, he became the first Stoke signing to break the £10m barrier.

The record has now been pushed up to £18.3m, the sum required to bring in Giannelli Imbula in February last year.



Earlier last season, Stoke paid £12m for Switzerland's Euro 2016 midfielder, Shaqiri, and the current campaign has seen two more transfers in this range, £13m for Wales midfielder Joe Allen and £12m in January for West Brom striker Saido Berahino.

In another sizeable deal this season, a reported sum of £5m was invested in Egypt international Ramadan Sobhi. In January he spent his 20th birthday at the Africa Cup of Nations, going on to appear in the final as a sub in his country's 2-1 defeat by Cameroon.

STRENGTHS AND SETBACKS

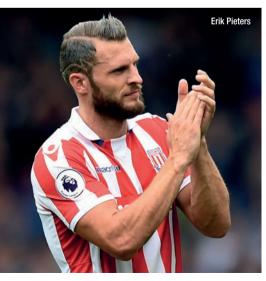
It has not always been a comfortable journey this season. If the early weeks were marked by uncertainty, and a period in the bottom three, the middle section was much stronger, a rise from 19th in October to ninth in January.

Where Stoke were good was in registering nine wins against lower-placed teams. In meetings with higherranked clubs, their best results were two draws with Manchester United and single points from meetings with West Brom and Everton.

For the most part, the team conformed to one of their strengths, yielding no more than one goal in 18 of 26 fixtures, but there was another side to the story. In six games – five of these against clubs from the leading group – they conceded four goals.

Tottenham, in particular, caused problems in becoming only the third club in Stoke's entire history to inflict defeats by four or more goals in three consecutive meetings. In less than a year, April to February, Spurs won 4-0, 4-0 and 4-0 – all but two of the goals shared by Harry Kane and Dele Alli.

The latest setback, at White Hart Lane, was especially frustrating for Hughes. The manager told the *Stoke Sentinel*: "I feel that when we are playing well, we can come to these places and give anyone a game, but that thought was misplaced. Spurs are a good side but we are better than we showed."



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

THAT WAS THE DAY

To set the scene for a memorable match against Stoke it is necessary to go back nearly 19 years. On 3 May 1998 both sets of supporters shed tears after City's 5-2 win in the Potteries. Both teams were relegated to the equivalent of the old Third Division.

On 28 December the clubs reconvened at Maine Road, their ambitions tailored to meet a new challenge and both doing well.

While City, in seventh place, were ready to strike out for the Play-Offs, Stoke had won 14 of the first 20 matches, heading the division until slipping back to third with a couple of defeats.

This was to become three in a row.

Although leading at half-time after a goal by Larus Sigurdsson. City boss Joe Royle was able to play his ace card by sending on Shaun Goater to play alongside Paul Dickov and Gareth Taylor.

The change seemed to electrify the crowd, the City section in a near full house of 30.478 galvanised by goal early in the second half. Suddenly the Blues were being pulled towards victory. Dickov levelled on 47 minutes and Taylor scored the winner on 85 minutes.

In his programme notes for the next match (and another victory over a promotion rival in Fulham), Royle stressed the value of City's support. The average for the season was 28,261.



The manager said: "When a big Maine Road crowd get behind the behind the team it is a fantastic asset."

City: Weaver, Crooks, Edghill, Wiekens, Vaughan, Horlock, Brown, Pollock, Taylor, Bishop (Goater), Dickov.

The season went into reverse in the second half, City the stronger side, going on to finish third after winning 14 of the last 23 matches. Stoke fell back to eighth.

In the Play-Offs, Royle's side overcame Wigan Athletic and famously won a penalty shootout at Wembley after goals by Kevin Horlock and Dickov in the dying minutes against Gillingham.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT...

Barclavs Premier League Saturday 23 April 2016

MANCHESTER CITY 4

Fernando 35, Aguero pen 43, Iheanacho 64, 74 STOKE CITY 0 HT 2-0 Att: 53.974

City: Hart, Zabaleta, Otamendi, Mangala, Kolarov, Yaya Touré, Fernando (Demichelis 72), Jesus Navas, Silva (Delph 56), Iheanacho, Aguero (Bony 64). Unused: Caballero, Clichy, De Bruyne, Sterling, Stoke: Given (Haugaard 46), Bardsley, Shawcross, Wollscheid, Muniesa, Cameron, Whelan, Imbula, Diouf, Arnautovic (Adam 75), Joselu, Unused: Teixeira, Crouch, Bojan Krkic, Choulay, Shenton.



HEAD TO HEAD...

OUB LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST STOKE CITY:

	Р	W	D	L	F	А
HOME	47	29	11	7	84	33
AWAY	48	12	11	25	49	74
TOTAL	95	41	22	32	133	107

First met in league: 1899/1900 Doubles achieved: Δ Doubles conceded: 4

Biggest wins:

Home: 4-0, 1927/28 and 2015/16 Away: 5-2, 1997/98

Heaviest defeats: Home: 1-2, 1935/36, 1971/72 and 1980/81 Away: 1-5, 1972/73

Last home win: 4-0.2015/16 4-1.2016/17 Last away win: Last home draw: 1-1. 1981/82 0-0.2013/14 Last away draw: Last home defeat: 0-1, 2014/15 Last away defeat: 0-2, 2015/16

LEAGUE MEETINGS AT THE ETIHAD | CITY 7 STOKE 1 DRAWS 0



2 - 0Petrov Tevez

09/10

3-0Tevez 2 Lescott

10/11



11/12

12/133-0 Zabaleta Dzeko

Aguero pen



0 - 1

Diouf



Aquero pen Iheanacho 2



STOKE CITY ROLL CALL







					2016/17 League Cups		Total
	Birthplace	Age	Signed from	International	Apps	Apps	Goals
Charlie Adam	Dundee	31	Liverpool	Scotland	15(4)	1(2)	1
Ibrahim Afellay	Utrecht	30	Barcelona	Netherlands	3(7)	1	-
Joe Allen	Carmarthen	26	Liverpool	Wales	24(2)	2(1)	6
Marko Arnautovic	Vienna	27	Werder Bremen	Austria	23	3	6
Daniel Bachmann	Vienna	22	FK Austria Wien	Austria U-21	-	-	-
Phil Bardsley	Salford	31	Sunderland	Scotland	12(1)	1	1
Saido Berahino	Bujumbura	23	WB Albion	England U-21	-(4)	-	-
Wilfried Bony	Bingerville	28	Man City (loan)	Ivory Coast	9(1)	1	2
Jack Butland	Clevedon	23	Birmingham City	England	-	-	-
Geoff Cameron	Attleboro	31	Houston Dynamo	USA	8(1)	2	-
Peter Crouch	Macclesfield	36	Tottenham Hotspur	England	11(8)	2	7
Mame Biram Diouf	Dakar	29	Hannover 96	Senegal	10(8)	-(1)	-
Tom Edwards	Stafford	18	Academy	-	-	-	-
Shay Given	Lifford	40	Aston Villa	Rep of Ireland	5	1	-
Lee Grant	Hemel Hempstead	34	Derby County	England U-21	22	2	-
Giannelli Imbula	Vilvoorde	24	FC Porto	France U-21	9(2)	2	-
Stephen Ireland	Cork	30	Aston Villa	Rep of Ireland	-	-	-
Glen Johnson	Greenwich	32	Liverpool	England	14(2)	2	-
Bruno Martins Indi	Barreiro	25	FC Porto (loan)	Netherlands	24	2	1
Marc Muniesa	Lloret de Mar	24	Barcelona	Spain U-21	3(2)	1	1
Julien Ngoy	Antwerp	19	Club Brugge	Belgium U-17	-(5)	-(1)	-
Erik Pieters	Tiel	28	PSV Eindhoven	Netherlands	26	2(1)	-
Xherdan Shaqiri	Gjilan	25	Inter Milan	Switzerland	14	1	3
Ryan Shawcross	Buckley	29	Manchester United	England	24	3	1
Ramadan Sobhi	Cairo	20	Al-Ahly	Egypt	4(6)	1(1)	-
Thibaud Verlinden	Bruges	17	Standard Liege	Belgium U-19	-	-	-
Jon Walters	Moreton	33	Ipswich Town	Rep of Ireland	9(7)	1	2
Glenn Whelan	Dublin	33	Sheffield Wed	Rep of Ireland	21(2)	1	-
Own goals					-	-	3

(Figures in brackets are substitute appearances).



MANAGER...

MARK HUGHES

Born: Wrexham, 1 November 1963 PLAYER

Clubs: Manchester United (1984-86), Barcelona (1986-88), Bayern Munich (loan, 1987-88), Manchester United (1988-95), Chelsea (1995-98), Southampton (1998-00), Everton (2000), Blackburn Rovers (2000-02)

League Record: 606 games, 163 goals Honours: Man United (Premier League, 1992/93 and 1993/94; FA Cup, 1985, 1990 and 1994; League Cup, 1991/92; European Cup-Winners' Cup, 1991/92; European Super Cup, 1991/, Chelsea (FA Cup, 1997; League Cup, 1997/98; European Cup-Winners' Cup, 1997/98), Blackburn Rovers (Promotion from Division One, 2000/01; League Cup, 2002) International: Wales, 72 Full (16 goals), 5 Under-21

MANAGER

Clubs: Blackburn Rovers (2004-08), Manchester City (2008-09), Fulham (2010-11), Queens Park Rangers (2012), Stoke City (May 2013 to date) International: Wales (1999-04)

2016/17

League Record	Ρ	W	D	L	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	147	58	39	50	213
Manchester City	55	22	13	20	79
Fulham	38	11	16	11	49
QPR	30	6	6	18	24
Stoke City	141	51	37	53	190
TOTAL	411	148	111	152	555

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FIXTURES EDS, UNDER-18s & WOMEN

ELITE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Aug 15	А	Derby County	3-2
Aug 19	H *	Arsenal	1-0
Aug 26	А	Reading	2-3
Sep 9	H *	Manchester United	1-1
Sep 18	А	Sunderland	4-2
Sep 23	н	Leicester City	1-1
Oct 14	А	Tottenham Hotspur	2-1
Oct 24	А	Southampton	3-0
Oct 28	н	Liverpool	1-0
Nov 20	А	Everton	0-1
Nov 26	н	Chelsea	2-2
Dec 10	н	Reading	2-1
Jan 9	А	Manchester United	3-1
Jan 13	н	Tottenham Hotspur	2-2
Jan 30	А	Leicester City	3-3
Feb 3	н	Sunderland	4-1
Feb 18	А	Chelsea	4-3
Mar 3	н	Everton	3-0
Mar 13	А	Arsenal	
Apr 7	н	Derby County	
Apr 23	А	Liverpool	
May 5	н	Southampton	

UEFA Youth League

Sep	13	н	Mönchengladbach	4-1
Sep	28	А	Celtic	4-0
Oct	19	А	Barcelona	0-1
Nov	1	н	Barcelona	0-2
Nov	23	А	Mönchengladbach	2-1
Dec	6	н	Celtic	3-2
Feb	8	А	Salzburg (play-off)	1-1
			(lost 3-4 on	pens

Premier League Cup

Dec	2	н	Hull City	1-2
Dec	19	А	Derby County	5-1
Jan	19	А	Colchester United	1-2
Jan	22	н	Derby County	1-3
Feb	12	н	Colchester United	3-0
Feb	27	А	Hull City	2-2

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

Division One	Р	W	D	L	F	ΑP	ts
Everton	18	13	2	З	38	14 4	1
Manchester City	18	11	5	2	41	24 3	8
Arsenal	18	9	1	8	29	23 2	8
Liverpool	16	8	З	5	30	20 2	7
Chelsea	17	6	7	4	34	26 2	5
Sunderland	17	5	6	6	20	25 2	1
Tottenham H	18	5	4	9	25	33 1	9
Southampton	17	5	З	9	21	30 1	8
Reading	17	5	3	9	28	38 1	8
Derby County	17	4	5	8	25	34 1	7
Manchester Utd	17	4	5	8	18	30 1	7
Leicester City	16	4	4	8	22	34 1	6

ACADEMY

Unde	Under-18 Premier League					
Aug	13	н	West Bromwich A	1-1		
Aug 2	20	А	Everton	3-1		
Aug 2	27	н	Liverpool	7-0		
Sep	10	А	Blackburn Rovers	1-1		
Sep	17	н	Manchester United	2-0		
Sep 2	24	А	Sunderland	4-0		
Oct ·	15	н	Derby County	3-1		
Oct 2	22	А	Newcastle United	2-1		
Nov	5	А	Middlesbrough	4-0		
Nov	11	н	Wolves	6-1		
Nov	19	н	Everton	4-4		
Nov 2	26	А	West Bromwich A	2-0		
Dec	3	А	Manchester United	2-2		
Dec ·	10	н	Blackburn Rovers	4-1		
Dec 2	21	н	Stoke City	5-2		
Jan	14	н	Sunderland	2-0		
Jan 2	21	А	Wolves	5-2		
Jan 2	28	н	Newcastle United	4-0		
Feb	4	А	Derby County	2-1		
Feb	11	А	Stoke City	4-2		
Feb	18	н	Middlesbrough	3-0		
Mar	4	А	Liverpool	0-2		

FA Youth Cup

Dec	15	А	Reading	4-0
Jan	18	н	Liverpool	3-1
Jan	26	н	Southampton	4-0
Feb	22	А	Aston Villa	2-1
Mar	10	н	Stoke City (SF1)	
Apr	3	А	Stoke City (SF2)	

PREMIER LEAGUE U-18

North Division	Р	W	D	L	F	А	Pts
Manchester City	22	17	4	1	70	22	55
Manchester Utd	22	14	4	4	63	31	46
Liverpool	22	14	4	4	50	33	46
Blackburn R	22	13	5	4	40	27	44
Everton	22	11	6	5	49	35	39
Derby County	22	10	2	10	38	45	32
Middlesbrough	22	7	З	12	33	40	24
Stoke City	22	7	2	13	34	49	23
Newcastle Utd	22	6	4	12	25	43	22
WB Albion	22	4	6	12	29	42	18
Sunderland	22	3	4	15	23	55	13
Wolves	22	2	4	16	30	62	10

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP

Group C	Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	Pts
Hull City	6	3	1	2	10	7	10
Colchester Utd	6	З	1	2	8	9	10
Manchester City	6	2	1	З	13	10	7
Derby County	6	2	1	З	9	14	7

MCFC WOMEN

FA Women's Super League Spring Series

Apr 23	н	Chelsea
Apr 29	А	Bristol City
May 3	н	Birmingham City
May 7	А	Reading
May 18	А	Notts County
May 21	н	Yeovil Town
May 28	н	Arsenal
May 31	А	Sunderland
Jun 3	А	Liverpool

UEFA Women's Champions League

			-
Oct 6	Н	Zvezda-2005	2-0
Oct 12	А	Zvezda-2005	4-0
Nov 9	н	Brondby IF	1-0
Nov 16	А	Brondby IF	1-1
Mar 23	А	Fortuna Hjorring (QF)	
Mar 30	Н	Fortuna Hjorring (QF)	

FA Women's Cup

Mar 18 H Reading



Above: Thierry Ambrose celebrates scoring in the EDS side's 3-0 win over Everton.

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

*EDS game played at the Etihad Stadium. All other EDS home fixtures played at CFA.

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

FOR THE RECORD

FIRST TEAM, EDS & UNDER-18s MATCH DIARY

FIRST TEAM

Wednesday 1 March

Emirates FA Cup Fifth Round Replay Etihad Stadium

MANCHESTER CITY 5 Sané 30, Aguero pen 35, 73, Zabaleta 38, Iheanacho 90+1

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 1 Bunn 7 HT 3-1 Att: 42,425

City: Bravo, Zabaleta, Stones, Otamendi, Clichy, Fernandinho, Sterling, De Bruyne (Delph 75), Aleix Garcia, Sané (Jesus Navas 81), Aguero (Iheanacho 79). Unused: Caballero, Sagna, Fernando, Silva.

Huddersfield: Coleman, Cranie, Hudson, Stankovic, Holmes-Dennis, Whitehead, Billing (Hogg 67), Lolley (Smith 61), Payne, Bunn (Van La Parra 54), Quaner. Unused: Ward, Hefele, Wells, Kachunga. Referee: Paul Tierney.

Sunday 5 March

Premier League Stadium of Light

SUNDERLAND 0 MANCHESTER CITY 2 Aguero 42, Sané 59

HT 0-1 Att: 41,107

Sunderland: Pickford, Jones, O'Shea, Kone, Oviedo, Januzaj (Khazri 82), Ndong, Gibson (Rodwell 69), Larsson, Borini, Defoe. Unused: Mannone, Djilobodji, Love, Manquillo, Honeyman. City: Caballero, Sagna, Stones, Kolarov, Clichy, Fernandinho, Yaya Touré (De Bruyne 78), Silva, Sterling (Nolito 82), Aguero, Sané (Delph 89). Unused: Bravo, Otamendi, Fernando, Iheanacho. Referee: Martin Atkinson.

EDS

Monday 27 February Premier League Cup – Group C North Ferriby United FC

HULL CITY 2 Ter Horst 32, 72 MANCHESTER CITY 2 Nmecha 3, Boadu 24 HT 1-2

Hull: Saltmer, Barkworth, Fleming, Batty, Ritson, Maslen-Jones (Lofts 46), Ter Horst, McKenzie, Annan, Chadwick, Salam. Unused; Croudson, Thacker, Lewis-Potter, Taylor.

City: Haug, Duhaney (Brahim Diaz 84), Oliver, Humphreys, Francis, Patching, Boadu, Diallo, Nemane, Nmecha, Buckley-Ricketts (Ambrose 63). Unused: Grimshaw, Coveney, Fernandes.

Friday 3 March

Premier League 2 – Division One City Football Academy

MANCHESTER CITY 3 Ambrose 66, Brahim Diaz 70, Sancho 77 EVERTON 0 HT 0-0

City: Gunn, Latibeaudiere, Humphreys, Adarabioyo, Smith, Kongolo, Fernandes (Duhaney 73), Boadu (Ambrose 60), Nemane, Brahim Diaz, Sancho (Nmecha 81). Unused: Grimshaw, Oliver. Everton: Hewelt, Kenny, Robinson, Baningime, Feeney, Pennington, Dowell, Walsh, Duffus, Williams (Sambou 75), Charsley. Unused: Hunt, Foulds, Broadhead, Henen.



UNDER-18s

Saturday 4 March

Premier League Under-18 – North Liverpool Academy

LIVERPOOL 2 Millar 14, McAuley 79 MANCHESTER CITY 0 HT 1-0

Liverpool: Kelleher, N Williams, Masterson, Johnston, Driscoll-Glennon, Sharif, Coyle, Lewis, Simmonds Adekanye 67), McAuley, Millar. Unused: B Williams, R Williams, Blair. City: Muric, Frimpong, Coveney, Francis, Wilson, Pozo (Davenport 68), Foden, Dele-Bashiru, Bolton, Gonzalez, Poveda (Hardy 54). Unused: Scott, Rösler, Blackshaw.

U-18s APPEARANCES AND GOALS

	U18	3 Lge	F/	FAYC		
	Apps	GIs	Apps	Gls		
Curtis Anderson	-	-	-	-		
Myles Beerman	-(2)	-	-	-		
Lewis Blackshaw	-	-	-	-		
Luke Bolton	16(2)	3	2(2)	-		
Joe Coveney	5(1)	-	-	-		
Jacob Davenport	2(1)	-	-	-		
Tom Dele-Bashiru	10(3)	2	3(1)	1		
Sadoiu Diallo	2	1	2	1		
Brahim Diaz	1	1	4	1		
Demeaco Duhaney	4	1	3	1		
Bobby Duncan	-(1)	-	-	-		
Edward Elewa-Ikpakw	u -	-	-	-		
Phil Foden	20	11	4	2		
Ed Francis	17(1)	-	4	-		
Jeremie Frimpong	11(1)	-	2	-		
Lorenzo Gonzalez	13(3)	13	-(1)	-		
Joe Hardy	10(9)	11	-(1)	-		
Ash Kigbu	5	-	-	-		
Joel Latibeaudiere	18	-	4	-		
Rabbi Matondo	-	-	-	-		
Arijanet Muric	14	-	3	-		
Lukas Nmecha	2	1	3(1)	4		
Nathaniel Ogbeta	1(1)	-	-	-		
Henri Ogunby	1(4)	1	-	-		
Will Patching	6	1	-(1)	-		
lan Carlo Poveda	12(6)	8	-	-		
Iker Pozo	14(6)	-	-	-		
Taylor Richards	1(8)	-	-(1)	-		
Colin Rösler	16(1)	-	-	-		
Jadon Sancho	11(3)	12	4	2		
Tom Scott	1	-	-	-		
Matthew Smith	14(2)	2	4	1		
Pavel Sokol	7(1)	-	1	-		
Tyreke Wilson	8(1)	-	1	-		
Own Goals	-	2	-	-		

Left: Leroy Sané scoring the second goal at Sunderland.

CITY ROLL CALL FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

		S Leag		N 2016/17 Cu		Leag		CAREER Cups	
Name	Birthdate	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls	Apps Gls	International
Tosin Adarabioyo	24.09.97	-	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	3 (1) -	England U-19
Sergio Aguero	02.06.88	15 (5)	12	9 (2)	11	147 (23)	114	55 (14) 45	Argentina
Claudio Bravo	13.04.83	19	-	6	-	19	-	6 -	Chile
Willy Caballero	28.09.81	7	-	8 (1)	-	12 (1)	-	22 (2) -	Argentina
Gael Clichy	26.07.85	14 (1)	1	8 (3)	1	121 (7)	2	52 (10) 1	France
Kevin De Bruyne	28.06.91	22 (3)	4	9 (1)	1	44 (6)	11	21 (5) 10	Belgium
Brahim Diaz	03.08.99	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-	- (1) -	Spain U-17
Fabian Delph	21.11.89	- (5)	-	3 (2)	1	8 (14)	2	9 (6) 1	England
Fernandinho	04.05.85	20 (1)	1	9 (1)	1	105 (15)	11	45 (5) 5	Brazil
Fernando	25.07.87	5 (7)	-	6 (5)	-	44 (17)	4	28 (9) -	Brazil U-20
Aleix Garcia	28.06.97	- (3)	-	3 (1)	1	- (3)	-	4 (1) 1	Spain U-19
Ilkay Gundogan	24.10.90	9 (1)	3	6	2	9 (1)	3	6 2	Germany
Angus Gunn	22.01.96	-	-	-	-	-	-		England U-21
Cameron Humphreys	22.08.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (2) -	England U-19
Gabriel Jesus	03.04.97	3 (1)	3	1	-	3 (1)	3	1 -	Brazil
Kelechi Iheanacho	03.10.96	5 (10)	4	4 (2)	3	12 (29)	12	8 (7) 9	Nigeria
Aleksandar Kolarov	10.11.85	22 (2)	1	9 (1)	-	124 (36)	11	62 (19) 10	Serbia
Vincent Kompany	10.04.86	2 (1)	-	3	-	215 (8)	13	75 (6) 1	Belgium
Jesus Navas	21.11.85	6 (8)	_	6 (5)	-	71 (42)	4	39 (20) 4	Spain
Nolito	15,10,86	9 (7)	4	7 (3)	2	9 (7)	4	7 (3) 2	Spain
Nicolas Otamendi	12.02.88	19 (1)	-	11	-	49 (1)	1	29 (1) -	Argentina
Bacary Sagna	14.02.83	13 (1)	_	4 (3)	_	48 (3)	-	25 (6) -	France
Lerov Sané	11.01.96	9 (5)	3	6 (2)	3	40 (S) 9 (S)	3	6 (2) 3	Germany
David Silva	08.01.86	22 (2)	2	8	3	194 (16)	37	72 (11) 11	Spain
Raheem Sterling	08.12.94	22 (2)	6	10 (1)	3	46 (9)	12		England
John Stones	28.05.94	. ,	-	11 (1)	2	· · /	12	(-) -	0
Yava Touré	13.05.83	19 (3)	-	4	2	19 (3)	61	()	England
Pablo Zabaleta		13 (2)				201 (9)		()	Ivory Coast
	16.01.85	10 (4)	1 3	10 (1)	1	202 (22)	9	83 (19) 3	Argentina
Own goals		-	3	-	1				
OUT ON LOAN									
Angelino (Jose Tasende) 04.0		-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (2) -	Spain U-17
Brandon Barker 04.10.96		-	-	-	-	-	6	- (1) - 5 (5) 4	England U-20
Wilfried Bony 10.12.88 (Sto Bersant Celina 09.09.96 (F		-	-	-	-	15 (21) - (1)	0	5 (5) 4 1 (2) -	lvory Coast Kosovo
Jason Denayer 28.06.95 (_	_	_	_	- (1)	_		Belgium
David Faupala 11.02.97 (C		-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	France U-18
Manu Garcia 02.01.98 (NA		-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	1 (2) 1	Spain U-16
George Glendon 03.05.95	i (Fleetwood)	-	-	-	-	-	-		Wales U-21
Joe Hart 19.04.87 (Torino)		-	-	1	-	266	-	82 -	England
James Horsfield 30.11.95 Pablo Maffeo 12.07.97 (Gir		-	-	- 3	-	-	-	3 -	Spain U-19
Eliaquim Mangala 13.02.9		-	-	-	-	47 (1)	-		France
Marlos Moreno 20.09.96 (. ,	-	-	-	-	- (1)	_		Colombia
Samir Nasri 26.06.87 (Sevil		- (1)	-	-	-	99 (30)	18	36 (11) 9	France
Patrick Roberts 05.02.97		-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	- (2) -	England U-20
Oleksandr Zinchenko 15.		-	-	-	-	-	-		Ukraine
Bruno Zuculini 02.04.93 (H	Hellas Veronas)	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (1) -	Argentina U-20

(Figures in brackets are substitute appearances). Cup figures include FA Cup, League Cup, FA Community Shield and Europe.

Also out on Ioan: Kean Bryan (Bury), Callum Bullock (Crewe Alexandra), Sinan Bytyqi (Go Ahead Eagles), Shay Facey (Heerenveen), Zackarias Faour (FC Midtiylland), Billy O'Brien (St Mirren), Ashley Smith-Brown (NAC Breda).

STATS PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE, FACTS & FIGURES

Home Att	endances					F	IOM	-				AWAY	/			
Highest	Average			Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	W	D	L	F	А	GD	PTS
41,622	41,530	1	Chelsea	26	12	0	1	36	8	8	3	2	19	11	+36	63
31,962	31,581	2	Tottenham Hotspur	27	12	2	0	33	7	4	6	3	20	13	+33	56
54,512	54,047	3	Manchester City	26	7	4	1	23	13	10	0	4	30	16	+24	55
53,218	53,105	4	Liverpool	27	9	3	1	34	12	6	4	4	24	22	+24	52
60,039	59,987	5	Arsenal	26	9	2	2	26	13	6	3	4	29	18	+24	50
75,326	75,288	6	Manchester United	26	6	7	1	20	10	7	3	2	19	12	+17	49
39,595	39,308	7	Everton	27	8	4	1	27	10	4	4	6	17	20	+14	44
26,308	23,517	8	West Bromwich A	27	8	2	4	24	17	3	5	5	12	17	+2	40
27,815	27,376	9	Stoke City	27	6	5	3	18	15	3	3	7	14	25	-8	35
31,891	30,735	10	Southampton	26	5	3	4	14	14	4	3	7	18	20	-2	33
56,996	56,968	11	West Ham United	26	5	3	5	14	22	4	3	6	21	22	-9	33
21,794	20,337	12	Burnley	27	9	2	3	22	12	0	2	11	8	28	-10	31
21,118	20,564	13	Watford	27	5	4	5	21	23	3	3	7	12	24	-14	31
11,355	11,173	14	AFC Bournemouth	27	5	3	5	21	21	2	3	9	16	31	-15	27
32,072	31,948	15	Leicester City	27	7	3	4	22	18	0	3	10	8	27	-15	27
20,938	20,591	16	Swansea City	27	5	2	7	21	30	3	1	9	14	29	-24	27
25,643	25,077	17	Crystal Palace	27	3	1	9	14	20	4	3	7	21	26	-11	25
32,704	30,484	18	Middlesbrough	27	З	4	6	11	14	1	6	7	8	16	-11	22
24,822	20,566	19	Hull City	27	4	4	5	17	22	1	2	11	7	31	-29	21
46,494	41,558	20	Sunderland	27	3	3	8	14	26	2	1	10	10	24	-26	19

10

City's win at Sunderland on Sunday equalled the club's record for away wins in a Premier League season, having also won 10 in 2011/12. 2013/14 and 2014/15. The Blues would have to win all five remaining away games, though, to equal Chelsea's record of 15 Premier League away wins in 2004/05.

FACTS & FIGURES

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE

75,326 Manchester United v Southampton, 19.8.16

LOWEST ATTENDANCE

11,029 AFC Bournemouth v Hull City, 15.10.16

HIGHEST SCORING HOME WINS

6-1 AFC Bournemouth v Hull City, 15.10.166-1 Liverpool v Watford, 6.11.166-3 Everton v AFC Bournemouth, 4.2.17

HIGHEST SCORING AWAY WIN

5-1 Arsenal at West Ham, 3.12.16

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH

- 3 Romelu Lukaku (Everton) at Sunderland
- 3 Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal) at West Ham
- 3 Jamie Vardy (Leicester) v Man City
- 3 Salomon Rondon (WB Albion) v Swansea
- 3 Andre Gray (Burnley) v Sunderland
- 3 Harry Kane (Tottenham) v WB Albion
- 3 Harry Kane (Tottenham) v Stoke

Right: Sergio Aguero became the 21st player to score 50 Premier League away goals with this finish at Sunderland.



TOP SCORERS (PREMIER LEAGUE ONLY)

Harry Kane (Tottenham) Romelu Lukaku (Everton) Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal) Diego Costa (Chelsea) Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester Utd) Jermain Defoe (Sunderland) Dele Alli (Tottenham) Sergio Aguero (Manchester City) Sadio Mané (Liverpool)



League table and statistics do not include Monday's West Ham v Chelsea game.



Key: Started SUB Unused sub DEBUT City debut

Premier League

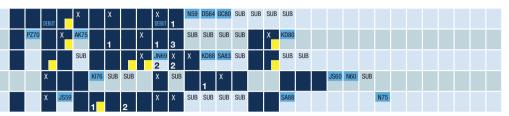
DS65 Sub used - with initials of player replaced/minute of substitution 1 Goals scored X Replaced Yellow card Red card Suspended

UCL = UEFA Champions League FAC = Emirates FA Cup EFL = EFL Cup

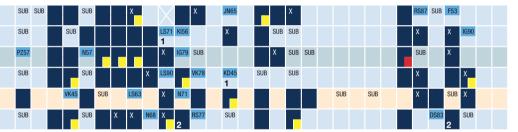
12	' Le	aá	gue				A	
AUG	UST	20	16	F-A	Att	Pos	Away fans	City scorers and goal times
Sat	13	н	Sunderland	2-1	54,362	5	2,936	Aguero pen 4, McNair og 87
Tue	16	А	Steaua Bucharest (UCL PO1)	5-0	45,327	-	341	Silva 13, Aguero 41, 78, 89, Nolito 49
Sat	20	А	Stoke City	4-1	27,455	1	2,788	Aguero pen 27, 36, Nolito 86, 90+5
Wed	24	н	Steaua Bucharest (UCL PO2)	1-0	40,064	-	119	Delph 56
Sun				3-1	54,008	1	2,733	Sterling 7, 90+2, Fernandinho 18
SEP Sat	10		R Manchester United	2-1	75,272	1	3,065	De Bruyne 15, lheanacho 36
Wed	14	н	Mönchengladbach (UCL)	4-0	30,270	-	-	Aguero 9, pen 29, 77, lheanacho 90+1
Sat	17	н	Bournemouth	4-0	54,335	1	1,515	De Bruyne 15, lheanacho 25, Sterling 48, Gundogan 66
Wed	21	А	Swansea City (EFL 3)	2-1	18,237	-	1,110	Clichy 49, Garcia 67
Sat	24	А	Swansea City	3-1	20,786	1	1,964	Aguero 9, pen 65, Sterling 77
Wed		А	Celtic (UCL)	3-3	57,592	-	2,699	Fernandinho 12, Sterling 28, Nolito 55
ост								
Sun	2	A	Tottenham Hotspur	0-2	31,793	1	2,421	-
Sat	15	н	Everton	1-1	54,512	1	3,004	Nolito 72
Wed	19	А	Barcelona (UCL)	0-4	96,290	-	1,739	-
Sun	23	н	Southampton	1-1	53,731	1	1,266	Iheanacho 55
Wed	26	А	Manchester United (EFL 4)	0-1	75,196	-	7,875	-
Sat	29	А	West Bromwich Albion	4-0	22,470	1	2,697	Aguero 19,28, Gundogan 79, 90
NOV	EME	BEF	2					
Tue	1	н	Barcelona (UCL)	3-1	53,340	-	1,140	Gundogan 39, 75, De Bruyne 51
Sat	5	н	Middlesbrough	1-1	54,294	3	2,995	Aguero 43
Sat	19	А	Crystal Palace	2-1	25,529	3	2,750	Yaya Touré 39, 83
Wed	23	А	Mönchengladbach (UCL)	1-1	45,921	-	2,204	Silva 45+1
Sat		А	Burnley	2-1	21,794	3	2,370	Aguero 37, 60
DEC	EME	BEF						
Sat	3	н	Chelsea	1-3	54,457	4	3,004	Cahill og 45
Tue	6	Η	Celtic (UCL)	1-1	51,297	-	2,924	lheanacho 8
Sat	10	А	Leicester City	2-4	31,966	4	3,232	Kolarov 82, Nolito 90
Wed	14	н	Watford	2-0	51,527	4	738	Zabaleta 33, Silva 86
Sun	18	н	Arsenal	2-1	54,409	2	2,968	Sane 47, Sterling 71
Mon	26	А	Hull City	3-0	23,134	2	2,484	Yaya Touré pen 72, lheanacho 78, Davies og 90+4
Sat	31	А	Liverpool	0-1	53,120	3	2,908	- Copyright © The FA Premier League 2016.



	Bacary SAGNA	John STONES	Aleksandar KOLAROV	Gael CLICHY	FERNANDINHO	David SILVA	Raheem STERLING	Kevin DE BRUYNE	LITO	Sergio AGUERO	Jesus NAVAS	Fabian DELPH	Kelechi IHEANACHO	e HART	Nicolas OTAMENDI	Pablo ZABALETA	FERNANDO	Pablo MAFFEO	Yaya Touré	Tosin ADARABIOYO	ANGELINO	ngus GUNN	Samir NASRI	udio BRAVO	Leroy SANÉ	Aleix GARCIA	iikay gundogan	Vincent KOMPANY	shim DIAZ	Phil Foden	
	Baca	hhol	Aleks	Gael	FERN	David	Rahe	Kevin	NOLITO	Sergi	Jesus	Fabia	Kelec	Joe H	Nicol	Pablo	FERN	Pablo	Yaya	Tosin	ANGE	Angu	Sami	Claudi	Leroy	Aleix	llkay	Vince	Brahim	Phil F	



SUE	8		SUB		Х	Х 1			SUB	X 1		KD90	KI53					D	EBUT DEBU					
SUE	B SU	3	IG81		Х		SUB	Х 3		SA83 1						SUB			RS7)	X Debut			
SUE	8	N052			1	х 1			SUB	1	X	SUB							IG72	KD75	Х 1	SUB		
	SU	3	1	SUB		A58				х				SUB	AGS	0 X	SUB			X 1			KI80 Debut	
SUE	B X		SUB		1	х		2	KD81	SUB		BS78	IG68						SUB		Х			
SUE	B SU	GC73	х	1	1		Х 1		SUB	SUB			N76						SUB					



				SUB	х		X	Х 1	KD89		RS71	SUB		F60			SUB			2		SUB	
ę	SUB								IG75	X 1	Х	SA90			SUB			S	JB J	N86)	X	SUB	
ę	SUB					N67			x	Х	SUB	SUB	VK37	SA86		2		S	JB			K	
ę	SUB	RS68		SUB		1	Х		SUB			SUB		SUB				S	JB				
ę	SUB					SUB	Х	N78	X	X 2	SA89	SUB	SUB					R	57				

SUB	SUB	х		LS69						F	JS78		SUB	SUB		IG76					Х		Х		
		SUB							SUB	PM62	1	SUB			х			SUB	SUB						SUB
SUB			1	SUB		JN58		IG68 1		Х	x					KI58	SUB				SUB		Х		
SUB	SUB	SUB			1		Х	Х		N81	SUB		1	IG44							KD89		Х		
SUB	PZ45	SUB				1	x	SUB		LS76	KD84		Х								Х 1	SUB			
SUB		х	JS18		х			Х		SUB	N57 1		SUB	DS87		1						SUB			
SUB	SUB			SUB						PZ86	YT89		Х	SUB		Х						SUB			

MATCH DETAILS

Premier League

Key:		Started	SUB	Unused	sub	DEBUT	City debut			
	DS65	Sub used -	- with	initials c	of player	replac	ed/minute of	su	bstitution	
	1 Go	cals scored	X Re	placed	Yellow	card	Red card		Suspended	
		= UEFA Cha = Emirates F				up				

JAN	FinAWest Ham United (FAC 3)5-056.975-4.415Yaya Touré pen 33, Nordiveit og 41, Silva 43, Aguero 50, Stones 84Sun 15AEverton0-439,58852,888-Sat 21HTottenham Hotspur2-254.40252,933Saré 49, De Bruyne 54Sat 28ACrystal Palace (FAC 4)3-013,979-3.643Sterling 43, Sané 71, Yaya Touré 90+2FEBRUARYVest Ham United4-056,98042,508De Bruyne 17, Silva, 21, Gabriel Jesus 39, Yaya Touré pen 67Sun 5HSwansea City2-154,06531.089Gabriel Jesus 11, 90+2Aon 13AAFC Bournemouth2-011,12921.239Sterling 29, Mings og 69Sat 18AHuddersfield Town (FAC 5)0-024,129-3,868-Ved 1HMonaco (UCL R16/1)5-353,351-1.048Sterling 26, Aguero 58, 71, Stones 77, Sané 82VARCHHHuddersfield T (FAC 5 rep)5-142,425-7,225Sané 30, Aguero pen 35, 73, Zabaleta 38, Iheanacho 90+1San 5ASun 6Sunderland2-041,10732,448Aguero 42, Sané 59Ved 15AMonaco (UCL R16/2)17.45pmGrout Associated atterition should seek a steward who will direct them to the nearest first Aid There are a number of First Aid facilities throughout the stadium with a medical carter boused in the basement of the West Stand, Anyone meding medical attertion should seek a steward													
Mon				2-1	54,463	3	2,986	Clichy 58, Aguero 62						
Fri	5	А	West Ham United (FAC 3)	5-0	56,975	-	4,415	Yaya Touré pen 33, Nordtveit og 41, Silva 43, Aguero 50, Stones 84						
Sun	15	А	Everton	0-4	39,588	5	2,888	-						
Sat	21	н	Tottenham Hotspur	2-2	54,402	5	2,933	Sané 49, De Bruyne 54						
Sat			Crystal Palace (FAC 4)	3-0	13,979	-	3,643	Sterling 43, Sané 71, Yaya Touré 90+2						
Wed	1	A	West Ham United	4-0	56,980	4	2,508	De Bruyne 17, Silva, 21, Gabriel Jesus 39, Yaya Touré pen 67						
Sun	5	н	Swansea City	2-1	54,065	3	1,089	Gabriel Jesus 11, 90+2						
Mon	13	А	AFC Bournemouth	2-0	11,129	2	1,239	Sterling 29, Mings og 69						
Sat	18	А	Huddersfield Town (FAC 5)	0-0	24,129	-	3,868	-						
Tue	21	н	Monaco (UCL R16/1)	5-3	53,351	-	1,048	Sterling 26, Aguero 58, 71, Stones 77, Sané 82						
MAR	СН													
Wed	1	н	Huddersfield T (FAC 5 rep)	5-1	42,425	-	7,225	Sané 30, Aguero pen 35, 73, Zabaleta 38, Iheanacho 90+1						
Sun	5	А	Sunderland	2-0	41,107	3	2,448	Aguero 42, Sané 59						
Wed	8	н	Stoke City		8pm									
Sat	11	А	Middlesbrough (FAC 6)		12.15pm									
Wed	15	А	Monaco (UCL R16/2)		7.45pm		GROU	ND REGULATIONS & FIRST AID						
Sun		н	Liverpool		4.30pm			•						
APR														
Sun	2	A	Arsenal		4pm			•						
Wed	5	А	Chelsea		8pm		-							
Sat	8	н	Hull City		3pm			- · ·						
Sat	15	А	Southampton		5.30pm			who does smoke in the stadium faces ejection and a possible ban. The club have a licence to sell alcohol within the stadium on						
Sat	22	н	West Bromwich Albion (or FACSF)		12.30pm		matchda	ys with the proviso that drinking is confined to the concourse						
Sat		А	Middlesbrough		3pm			tt is also prohibited in the blue hatched areas on level one. Alcohol rmitted within the stands.						
MAY			Crustel Deless		0.000			rcy Procedures In the event of an emergency occurring at the the Public Address System will be used to broadcast information						
Sat		н	Crystal Palace		3pm			tions to spectators. Such broadcasts will be repeated. If there is						
Sat	13	н	Leicester City		3pm		•	ment to evacuate the stadium that message will be broadcast to and spectators will need to follow the instructions provided. They						
Sun	21	А	Watford		3pm		will also	need to listen to the directions of club stewards who will be there						
Sat	27	А	Emirates FA Cup Final				to assist.							
tba		н	Manchester United					DATES						

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

OTHER DATES

UEFA Champions League: 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.

Willy CABALLERO	Bacary SAGNA	John STONES	Aleksandar KOLAROV	Gael CLICHY	FERNANDINHO	David SILVA	Raheem STERLING	Kevin DE BRUYNE	NOLITO	Sergio AGUERO	Jesus NAVAS	Fabian DELPH	Kelechi IHEANACHO	Nicolas OTAMENDI	Pablo ZABALETA	FERNANDO	Yaya Touré	Tosin ADARABIOYO	Angus GUNN	Claudio BRAVO	Leroy SANÉ	Aleix GARCIA	IIkay GUNDOGAN	Vincent KOMPANY	Gabriel JESUS	Insi	ghts	; fror	m
SUB	-	RS89		1		JN45	Х		SUB	KI45 1	х		Х		SUB							SUB							
		1	SUB		\times	Х 1		Х	DS58	1	SUB	YT78	SUB				Х 1			SUB		KD68							
SUB			SUB								SUB	SUB	PZ62		х						SUB	SUB							
SUB		GC84		х		х	х	1	SUB			DS90				SUB					1			SUB	RS82 DEBUT				
		SUB			\times	х	X 1	SUB	LS84		RS66				SUB	DS79	1			SUB	Х 1								
					KD67	х 1	X	X 1		RS73	SUB	DS80			SUB					SUB				SUB					
						1 X	X	1 X		RS83	SUB	SUB			KD78	DS95	1			SUB				SUB	1				
							x		RS92	GJ15		SUB		YT70		SUB	х			SUB					<u>2</u> Х				
SUB	AK78		X				1 SUB	FD69	х			х	SUB								N69	SUB							
					Х				SUB	X	RS89	SUB	SUB	X	F62	SA87				SUB									
		1					1			2											1								
SUB	SUB					SUB		Х		х 2	LS81	KD75	SA79 1		1	SUB					Х 1								
							х	YT78	RS82	1		LS89	SUB	SUB		SUB	х				Х 1								



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), Tom Flathers (MCFC), PA Photos, Action Images Production Ignition Publications Print Buxton Press Above: Leroy Sané levels the scores in the FA Cup replay win over Huddersfield last Wednesday.

TEAMSHEET

MANCHESTER CITY

Played		Goals	
	Claudio Bravo		
	Bacary Sagna		
	Vincent Kompany		
	Pablo Zabaleta		
	Fernando		
	Raheem Sterling		
	Ilkay Gundogan		
	Nolito		
	Sergio Aguero		
	Aleksandar Kolarov		
	Willy Caballero		
	Jesus Navas		
	Kevin De Bruyne		
	Fabian Delph		
	Leroy Sané		
	David Silva		
	Gael Clichy		
	retired in honour of Marc Vivien-Foe		
	John Stones		
	Fernandinho		
	Nicolas Otamendi		
	Gabriel Jesus		
	Yaya Toure		
_	Tosin Adarabioyo		
	Angus Gunn		
	Brahim Diaz		
	Kelechi Iheanacho		
_	Aleix Garcia		
	Cameron Humphreys-Grant		

STOKE CITY

1 2	Jack Butland		
2			
	Phil Bardsley		
3	Erik Pieters		
4	Joe Allen		
5	Marc Muniesa		
6	Glenn Whelan		
7	Stephen Ireland		
8	Glen Johnson		
9	Saido Berahino		
10	Marko Arnautovic		
12	Wilfried Bony		
14	Ibrahim Afellay		
15	Bruno Martins Indi		
16	Charlie Adam		
17	Ryan Shawcross		
18	Mame Biram Diouf		
19	Jon Walters		
20	Geoff Cameron		
21	Giannelli Imbula		
22	Xherdan Shaqiri		
24	Shay Given		
25	Peter Crouch		
32	Ramadan Sobhi		
33	Lee Grant		
35	Daniel Bachmann		
45	Julien Ngoy		
55	Thibaud Verlinden		
72	Tom Edwards		

OFFICIALS

Referee: Neil Swarbrick

Appointed to the Select Group from 2011, he refereed a Play-Off semi-final last May and an EFL Cup semi-final first leg (Southampton versus Liverpool) earlier this season.

Assistants:

Peter KirkupMarc Perry

Fourth Official: Stuart Atwell

MASCOTS AND PLAYER ESCORTS

City: Anna Keeling, Kane Houghton, Daniel Higgins, Jacob Bridgehouse, Alfie Turley, Archie Thornton, Edson Dejonge-Seiros, Lucas Alvarado, Kayden Price and Lennon Chadwick.

Stoke: James Lewis

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