



SENIOR TIGERS

www.seniortigers.org.uk

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NEWSLETTER no. **52**

January, 2025

Welcome, and the Warmest of Greetings for this NEW YEAR!



I hope you have enjoyed a lovely Christmas and made great memories. Our pre-Christmas seems a distant memory, but what a great afternoon. Over 200 gathered, a record! The meal, the entertainment, the interview with **Kasey Palmer** (what a lovely lad) and for the winners, another great Raffle.

Tony Sturdy, Alf, and Shamus were the Blarney Brothers, and they were quite fantastic. Thanks to Barbara for setting it up.

As we were gathering, **Kevin Sinfield** and his support team came through the Stadium as part of their week-long run/cycle on behalf of the late **Rob Burrow**, raising new funds for the MND cause. As they came through, an envelope with £100 from The Senior Tigers was put in the collecting bucket - our little contribution to such a great cause, (see back page).

KCOM IT DROP-IN SESSIONS

Now that Christmas is over and things have started to return to normal, the KCOM IT Drop-In sessions will get underway again in January. The first session of the new year is on **Monday 20th January** from 10 o'clock until noon at the KCOM Offices in Carr Lane, Hull.

So pop along anytime during the session and their Customer Service Champions will be pleased to help you. Refreshments are available.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025.

Shirley

MAVIS BODDY

As we were preparing our special 25th Anniversary Souvenir booklet we received the news that Mavis Boddy had passed away, just before Christmas. Mavis spent many years working for Hull City, especially as the Manager's Secretary. In 1999, when the football club approached some keen City fans, those of a 'certain age', she was instrumental in sharing the vision for what would become our beloved Senior Tigers.

Louise Cheeseman has written to us, saying: *Mavis was a dear friend since I was a young child and she used to let me go into Terry Neil's office when she was his secretary. I know the family hoped the Senior Tigers would mention her passing. Many thanks.*

The Senior Tigers do indeed raise their hats in her beloved memory. God bless Mavis. Allen

2025

Our January Members' Meeting

THURSDAY, 9th JANUARY

(remember .. one week later than usual!)

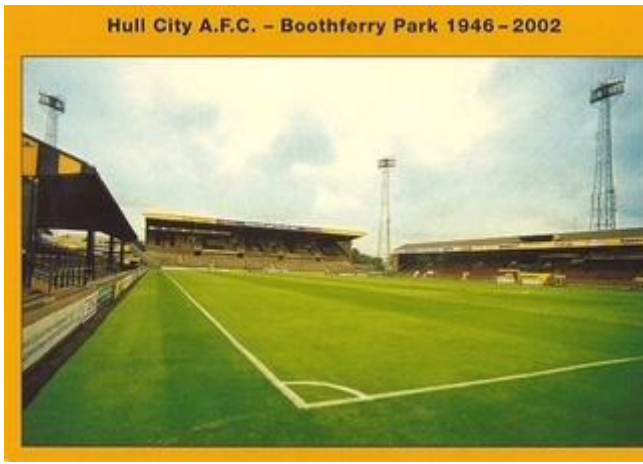
with the deferred visit of

MIKE WHITE

BBC Radio Humberside's Sports Editor

Inside we have a special Memorabilia article from Tony Conway – all about how Boothferry Park came to be.

**MEMORABILIA ARTICLE JANUARY 2025
Boothferry Park.**



Over the last 22 years, I've grown to love the MKM Stadium but sometimes I miss Boothferry Park (BP). It had a unique atmosphere, freedom to move about, change ends at half time, the choice to stand or sit, a great pitch and it was thought of as a second home by hundreds of the faithful City fans. There were good times, great cup matches, 5 promotions, the first penalty shoot-out in Britain, and star players, it was the only ground with 6 floodlight pylons, its railway halt and fantastic results to remember and not seen at the MKM. These included a 9-0, 8-4, and 7-0. However, there were bad times as well. I didn't like the crowd trouble or the rival fans fighting in North Road and Boothferry Road, the dilapidated state the ground was allowed to get into. The closed terracing areas and the North Stand being demolished and replaced by a Supermarket.



It was sadly missed after 2002 but the success of the first decade at the then KC Stadium soon brought new memories and success but I often reflect on the old stadium. BP's history is interesting, particularly how it came to be built. So, I think it is worth recalling as part of my heritage articles. It all started in 1929 when the lease on the Anlaby Road ground was nearing renewal. The board thought that a new stadium would serve the club better. Land was purchased on the corner of Boothferry Road and North Road from Hull Golf Club with the help of a loan of £3000 from the Football

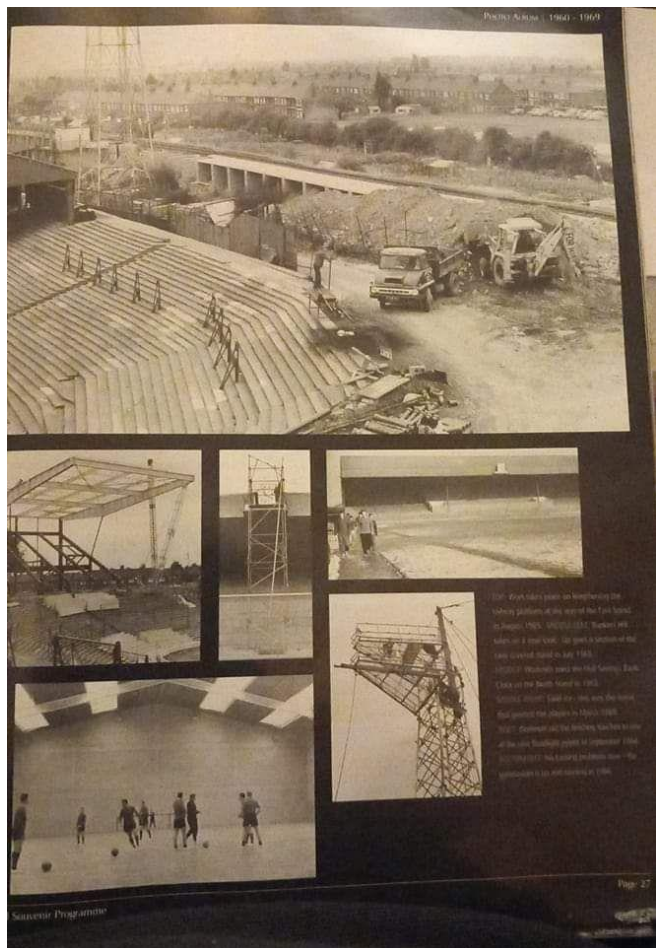
Association (FA). Work on the terracing and pitch started in the early 1930s, but by 1933 financial troubles prevented further work. A further loan of £6000 was taken from the FA to have the stadium ready by 1940. The outbreak of WW2 again saw work halted. By 1943 the lease on Anlaby Road had expired and the club closed down. The military commandeered the site and it became a workshop for repairing tanks and a Home Guard base. These activities had an adverse effect and waterlogging became a problem.

Towards the end of the war, a businessman, **Harold Needler**, had plans to form a new football club and build a new stadium. Needler had wanted to establish a new club in Sutton Park to rival the Tigers. As the war came to an end he had plans to help rebuild Hull after the terrible damage of the war. This included a housing estate and a skyscraper on Alfred Gelder Street. The stadium would have been at the heart of his dream of a "Garden City". It would have been established on the site where Ennerdale Sports Centre now stands.

The new club and stadium got no further than a dream as the Football League turned the proposal down. It was rare to have a club admitted directly to the league without having success as a non-League club. In 1945 Needler was asked to get involved in the Hull City club and he persuaded the directors to put the company into voluntary liquidation. He then set up a new firm with the same name. He set up a share issue with the aim of raising £35,000, but it raised £60,000! This enabled work on the stadium to be restarted. The newly formed club only had permission for a stand along the west side but Harold had plans to build a 80,000 capacity arena as shown in the centre pages of the first match day programme in August 1946.



The Memorabilia Team wish all Senior Tigers members and City fans a Happy New Year and hope for improved performances and success in 2025.



Memories were mourned with the end of Boothferry Park, soon the ground was left to fate before the housing development followed.

The building was hampered by the shortage of building materials because of a more pressing need to rebuild the bombed city. There was also an upper-cost limit of £17,000 (£1.3m in today's value). This meant the 1945-46 season of friendly games had to be played at the Boulevard. However, as the first competitive season of 1946-47 drew near there was a race against time to get the stadium ready for Division 3 North football. By August it was ready and on 31 August the Tigers entertained Lincoln City in the first game at BP. The team was managed by Major Frank Buckley and a crowd of 25,586 witnessed a 0-0 draw. The team was *Billy Bly, Harold Meens, Arthur Watson, Jimmy Greenhalgh, Harry Brown, John Sheen, Ernie Bell, Dennis Smith, Bert Knott, Frank McGorrihan and Jack Koffman.*

This game was the first of many between 1946 and 2002 that housed thousands of fans and provided great entertainment. In a future article, I will write about how the stadium developed and the milestones as the Tigers enjoyed their new home for the following 56 seasons.

Tony Conway.

Senior Tigers Memorabilia and Heritage Coordinator



Nov. '24: Player of the Month/Season

November saw a new name rise to the top in our members' opinions. **CHARLIE HUGHES.**



Well done to Charlie for his performances which are catching the eye. In November he gained 25 points closely followed by 2 others. In second position came our captain, Lewie Coyle (18) followed by Ivor Pandor (15) - the three well ahead of any others in the voting. The running totals for the season see Lewie clear out front on 93 points. Pandor on 60 and Hughes on 43 are the challengers.

MND Association - Certificate of Appreciation



awarded to
Hull City Senior Tigers Club

**for helping to ensure no one faces
motor neurone disease alone**

For donating £100 to Kevin Sinfield & the team's Running Home for Christmas Challenge as they ran from Beverley to Hull on Thursday 5th December.

18/12/2024

**Thank you
for your support**

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