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# THE BIG PICTURE

**An eye in the sky watches as City players warm up the day before the first leg in Bucharest...**

**PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA HAYDN/PA**







# PEP GUARDIOLA

Good evening everyone. Hopefully by the end of the coming 90 minutes we will be qualified into the group stages of the UEFA Champions League – one of our first targets from the beginning of pre-season.

The 5-0 win in Romania last week was a great performance and what was most pleasing, apart from the result, was the attitude of the players. We played really, really well with and without the ball. The result was fantastic but it was the way we performed which meant I was really satisfied at the end of the 90 minutes. It's a big compliment to these fantastic players that they have listened and adapted their skills to fresh ideas and a new way of playing and we moved the ball much quicker than we did in the Premier League win over Sunderland here in the opening game of the season.

All of the managers in the world want their teams to create chances, score goals and to concede few – of course that's what we all want. We achieved that in Bucharest so everyone should be happy. Qualifying for the UEFA Champions League is obviously a top priority for the club and now we must make sure we finish the job this evening. Despite the advantage that we have, we cannot take anything for granted. That is not the way to keep improving as a group.

I said after the Sunderland win that maybe we should attack a little quicker but that the speed of those attacks was normal given that we are just starting the season and working together as a squad. We still have to learn more about one another. I saw many good things about the spirit of the team on the opening day. I said we had to build something from that and I think everyone could see that we did so both in Romania and at Stoke on Saturday.

This is not a night to let our concentration slip. We must approach this game the same as every other. The preparation has been identical to the way we would get ready if this was a one-off match. We must show the same intensity, the same desire, the same pride in our performance and respect for the opposition as we would in a final.

As a coach and a player you learn something from every game you take part in and tonight I am sure I will discover more about my players. If we do our jobs properly then we will be in the draw that takes place in Monaco tomorrow evening. That is always an exciting time for supporters of all the clubs involved.

I give a warm welcome to Steaua coach Laurentiu Reghecampf and his staff and hope everyone enjoys the game.





# MANCHESTER CITY



“It’s a big compliment to these fantastic players that they have listened and adapted their skills to fresh ideas and a new way of playing”

# GOING FOR GOLD

**Fernandinho is preparing for what he hopes will be his best season yet for City...**

**INTERVIEW: DAVID CLAYTON/CLAUDIA BORGES**

Fernandinho has had what he describes as the “perfect summer” leading into the new campaign.

The Brazilian midfielder, in his fourth year with City, had no international commitments, a good break with his family and didn’t miss a single moment of pre-season training. He has quickly become an integral member of the new-look Blues under Pep Guardiola and he is hoping this will be his best campaign yet in sky blue.

“It’s been really good because for the first time in three years, I was actually able to do a pre-season,” says Ferna. “I trained a lot, including when I was back in Brazil over the summer. I then had full pre-season training with the club, picked up no injuries so it was a great personal victory for me to have had everything run so smoothly. It gave me the best possible platform to start the new season and I’m feeling really good.”  
Guardiola has been keen to see what the Brazil star is capable of in the first weeks of his tenure

as City boss. The Catalan hasn’t hesitated to employ Fernandinho in a number of positions including central defender, full-back, holding and attacking midfielder and even as a striker! It’s added extra strings to Ferna’s bow and he admits playing under the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss has been an education.

“Something I’ve always said is that the most important thing is for me to be part of the starting XI – no matter which position I play in. But it has been a great experience for me to play in so many different positions during pre-season and to be taught by a great coach like Pep Guardiola because I can understand his style and way of playing better by operating in different roles. It also allows us all to explore what we can do in different positions and play to our own strengths.

“Personally, it doesn’t matter to me where I play as I feel I can do a good job in two, three or four roles within the team – just so long as I’m part

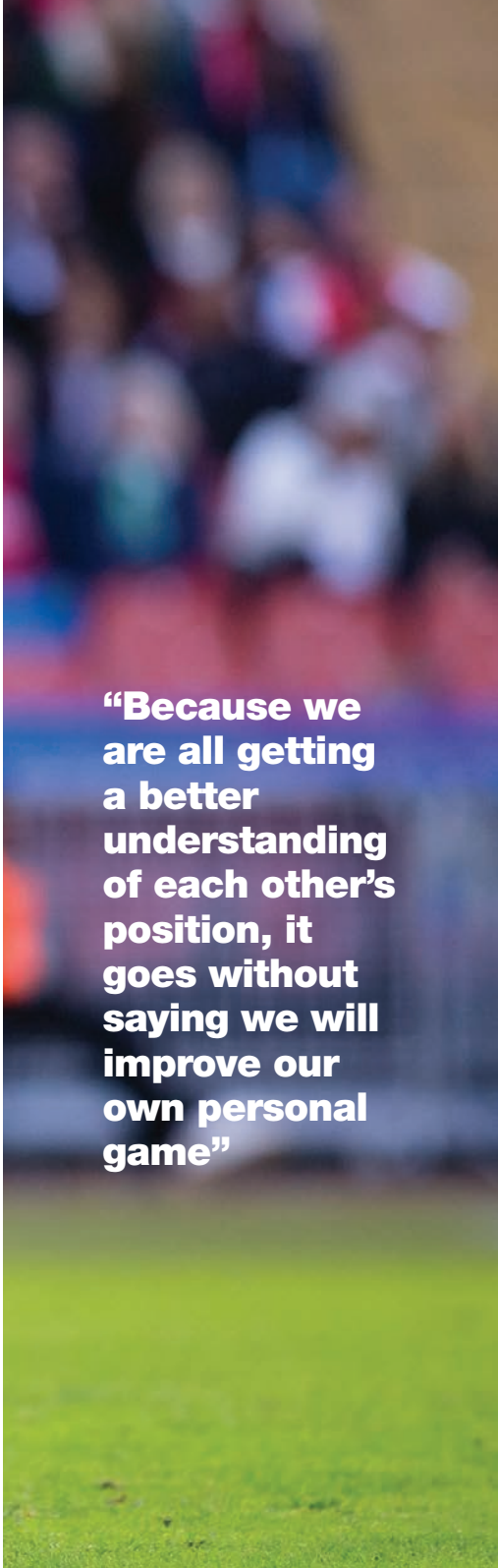
**“Something I’ve always said is that the most important thing is for me to be part of the starting XI – no matter which position I play in”**











**“Because we are all getting a better understanding of each other’s position, it goes without saying we will improve our own personal game”**

of it and able to help us achieve our goals, that’s what matters to me the most. Because we are all getting a better understanding of each other’s position, it goes without saying we will improve our own personal game. It is a concept that helps develop and improve each player’s game and so the whole team benefits as a result.

“We are all excited about this season – not only the supporters but the staff and the players, too. We’ve worked so hard in pre-season to find the best way for us to play and now we’ve actually started playing Premier League and UEFA Champions League football, we are putting that hard work to good use as we did against Sunderland and Steaua in the first leg.

“I think in those games you could see the intensity and flexibility in the way play, particularly against Steaua. We want to keep possession and then fight to get the ball back as quickly as possible when we lose it.”

The early indications are that this will be perhaps the most competitive Premier League season yet with all the major players either investing heavily in new talent or under new management. The press and media have been salivating at the prospect of some of the game’s biggest names going head-to-head this campaign with Messrs Conte, Mourinho, Klopp, Wenger and company all pitting their managerial wits – not to mention the Blues’ new regime.

It’s going to be fascinating and Ferna expects the main challenges to come from numerous angles in the coming months. He smiles as he relishing the tests that lie ahead...

“It sounds like a cliché but it’s true – there really are no easy games in the Premier League. Every match is difficult and brings with it a different challenge and the teams who are near the bottom are capable of beating teams near the top and if you’re not on your game, you can easily stumble against these teams. I think our main rivals for the title this year will be our neighbours across the city, plus Chelsea, Spurs and Arsenal. I’d also include Leicester City because they managed to

# **“We must respect Steaua Bucharest and remember they have won this competition before and have a rich history”**

keep virtually all the players they had last season and the same manager... and also Liverpool.”

The Brazilian also believes the City squad is stronger than ever and has been impressed by what he's seen so far of his new teammates:

“I obviously haven't been able to see much of Leroy Sané and Ilkay Gundogan because they haven't been able to really train yet, but John Stones has settled in quickly and Nolito, too. All the players we've brought in are quality players and we know what they are capable of and bring to the team. Some of the younger players have impressed me during pre-season, too, and if I had to single one of them out it would be Pablo Maffeo for his physical strength and ability.

Aleks Zinchenko is a player I know well from the Ukraine and is one of the country's best young talents so everybody who has come in has added quality to the squad.”

Finally, on to the task in hand where Ferna says there is still hard work ahead, despite the Blues opening up a sizeable advantage in the first leg. To consider the tie over, he believes, would be a huge mistake and disrespectful to Steaua Bucharest.

“We are 5-0 up so of course will start as strong favourites but we still have a job to complete and can't think that it is over as a contest. We must respect Steaua Bucharest and remember they have won this competition before and have a rich history. They have won many trophies in Romania and we respect them and still have to be cautious tonight. We were always treating







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these two games against them as two finals – that is the nature of play-off games – but we imposed our style in the first leg and executed it perfectly.

“We went there to win and did so and we want to win the second leg by playing great football,

too, despite being 5-0 ahead. I played a play-off against Timisoara when I was with Shakhtar Donetsk which we lost, so I know what Romanian teams are capable of. We just need to repeat the performance levels of last week and make sure we do our jobs because we want to be in the group stage draw later this week.”







Premier  
League

# FORWARD AS ONE



v



Sun 28 Aug, 4pm  
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# FIRST LEG ACTION


# STEAUA 0 CITY 5







Sergio Agüero had one penalty saved and hit the bar with a second spot-kick but still managed to bag himself a hat trick in Bucharest last week, much to the delight of skipper Pablo Zabaleta.

A full-page photograph of two Manchester City players, Nolito and David Silva, celebrating a goal. They are both wearing dark blue away kits with maroon accents and yellow socks. Nolito is on the left, wearing white and red boots, while David Silva is on the right, wearing blue and red boots. They are jumping and embracing each other in the air. The background shows a blurred crowd in a stadium.

Jumping for joy  
are Nolito and  
David Silva, City's  
other scorers  
in Bucharest.





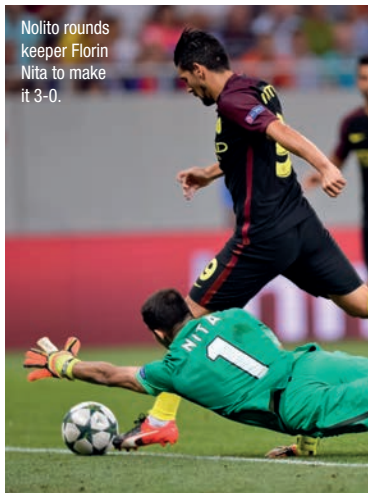
Raheem Sterling tussles with Alin Tosca on the ground (top left) and in the air (above).



David Silva opens the scoring.



Aleks Kolarov joins the celebrations.



Nolito rounds keeper Florin Nita to make it 3-0.



Back to Manchester with a five-goal start.

# KDB = POTS... OK?!

Euro 2016 meant the announcement of last season's Player of the Season was made a little later than usual – but the end result will not surprise many City fans with Kevin De Bruyne taking the honour in his first season at the Etihad.

The brilliant Belgian enjoyed a fantastic campaign, scoring 16 goals in 41 matches as well as being credited with 16 assists. In doing so De Bruyne quickly became a crowd favourite among City fans, with his energy and consistency making him integral to the side as well as being one of Belgium's most important

players. The midfielder beat teammates Sergio Aguero and Fernandinho into second and third, respectively, and was presented with the trophy live on City's official Facebook page.

"I'm a little bit overwhelmed," De Bruyne told his audience. "I came in as a new player and needed to adapt quickly but my teammates helped me and I feel very comfortable – that was all part of the reason that things went so well and it was such a good first season for me – now I hope I can build on it this season and help us win as many titles as possible."







# SEQUENCES & LINKS

**GARY JAMES ON CITY'S RECORD SEQUENCES AND LINKS.  
TONIGHT: CITY'S RECORD GOALSCORERS.**

Last week's 5-0 first leg victory over Steaua Bucharest saw Sergio Aguero score a hat trick which lifted him above Tommy Browell in the list of City's highest ever goalscorers. The 140th goal of Aguero's career placed him seventh in our all-time list, and two more at Stoke City on Saturday moved him closer to Francis Lee, the next man above him, on 148 goals.

City's top eight goalscorers are:

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Eric Brook</b>     | <b>177</b> |
| <b>Tommy Johnson</b>  | <b>166</b> |
| <b>Colin Bell</b>     | <b>153</b> |
| <b>Billy Meredith</b> | <b>152</b> |
| <b>Joe Hayes</b>      | <b>152</b> |
| <b>Francis Lee</b>    | <b>148</b> |
| <b>Sergio Aguero</b>  | <b>142</b> |
| <b>Tommy Browell</b>  | <b>139</b> |

For tonight's article I've decided to track our record goalscorers, showing in sequence how the record evolved. The starting point is the first City player to score 100 goals in all major competitions...

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



**Billy Meredith** (played 1894-1906; 1915-19; 1921-24)

Meredith reached 100 goals when he scored against Grimsby Town on 19 October 1901. He went on to establish the record at 152 goals. His last City goal came on 23 February 1924 when City defeated Brighton & Hove Albion 5-1 in the FA Cup.

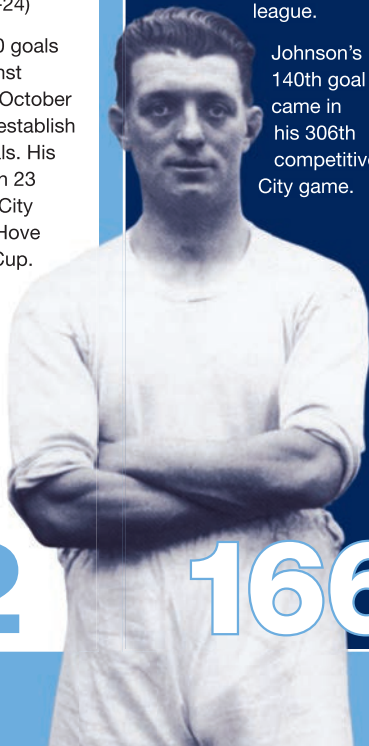
As a comparison with Aguero, Meredith's 140th goal came in his 318th competitive City game. Aguero's has come after 180 games (plus 30 as substitute).

# 152

**Tommy Johnson**  
(1919-1930)

Reached Meredith's record of 152 goals when he scored against Bury on 20 April 1929. City won that game 2-1 and it was Johnson's 36th goal of the season. He actually scored 38 league goals in 1928/29, going on to reach his final record total of 166. His last City goal came on 1 March 1930 when City defeated Liverpool 4-3 in the league.

Johnson's 140th goal came in his 306th competitive City game.



# 166



# 177

## **Eric Brook (1927-1939)**

Brook reached Johnson's record of 166 when he scored his last goal of the 1937/38 season against Leeds United on 30 April 1938. City won that match 6-2 but were relegated, a year after winning the League Championship. Brook went on to end his City career with 177 goals in competitive fixtures. This is sometimes incorrectly reported as 178 but that total includes a goal at the start of the 1939/40 season, one that was abandoned due to the outbreak of World War II. The three league games of that season were subsequently wiped from the records.

Brook's 140th goal came in his 380th competitive City game. His most famous goal, though, was the only one of the 1934 FA Cup tie with Stoke City which was watched by 84,569 (the record crowd for a game on a club ground).

# 142



# 153 148



## Colin Bell, Francis Lee and Joe Hayes

Of the others above Aguero in the chart, Francis Lee was the quickest to reach 140 goals, taking 305 games (plus two substitute appearances). Joe Hayes scored his first 140 goals in 313 competitive games, while Colin Bell managed 140 goals in 432 (plus two) matches. It is worth remembering that in recent seasons Aguero has become City's highest European goalscorer of all time, pushing Francis Lee into second place.

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

# 152



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# SHOWCASE #2

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

As part of our post-season tour to New York in 2013, we got the chance to visit some amazing places and meet the most incredible people. Our player appearance days took us to each of New York City's five boroughs – meaning we were able to interact with children of all ages in soccer schools all across the Big Apple. The “Wow! Factor” on the day I took this particular picture was the roof-top pitch having the most incredible views of the borough of Manhattan. Imagine playing here every day! We were in New York to coincide with the launch of NYCFC and Manchester City played Chelsea at the Yankee Stadium in the Bronx to mark the occasion.







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

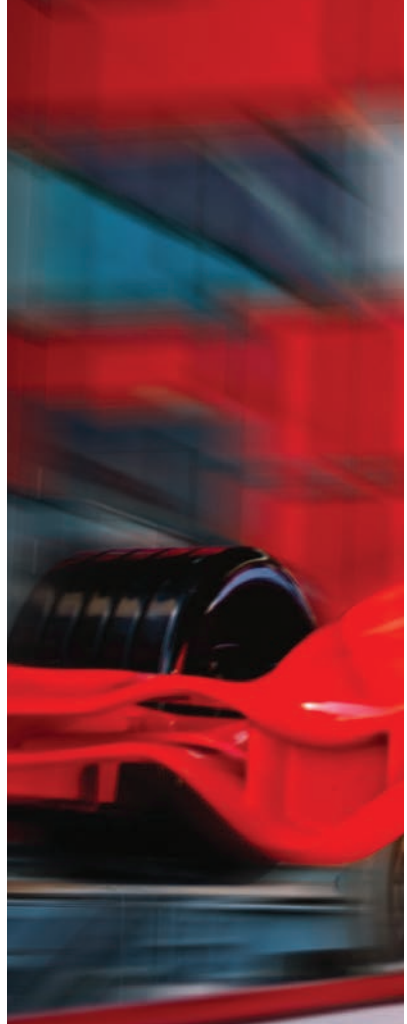
Five nights at St Regis Saadiyat Island start from £775 per person on a half board basis and include return flights with Etihad Airways. Book by 30 September 2016.

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ACCESS ALL AREAS

# BUCHAREST CALLING

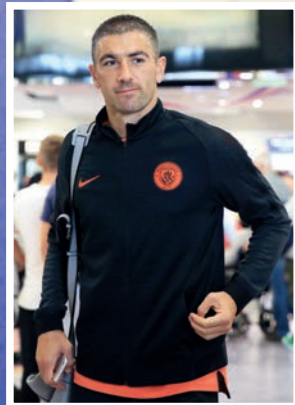
This year's UEFA Champions League adventure began a little earlier with a first leg qualifier against Steaua Bucharest. As the squad flew out to the Romanian capital to prepare for the game, Victoria Haydn was with them...

This year's UEFA Champions League adventure began a little earlier with a first leg qualifier against Steaua Bucharest. As the squad flew out to the Romanian capital to prepare for the game, Victoria Haydn was with them...





Bacary Sagna, Raheem Sterling, Fabian Delph, Sergio Agüero, Aleks Kolarov and Pep Guardiola at Manchester Airport before flying out to Romania.





The City squad training in Bucharest.







Pep Guardiola is pictured at the press conference, celebrating the win and acknowledging the support of the travelling Blues.



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# THE LIFE OF RILEY



BBC 6 Music DJ Marc Riley creates havoc touring with The Fall – and lots of noise on the road with City...

WORDS: MARC RILEY PICTURES: PA/PETER HARDY

Being a footballer or, indeed, a football supporter is a little bit like being in a band. Of course, it's much easier to draw parallel lines between the lives of the stars of the game and the likes of Stung (from The Police) or the one with the comb-over from One Direction than the lives of the common-or-garden football fan like you and me. Although as ticket-buying spectators we find ourselves going to far-flung places we would never have gone to – just as band members do on tour.

I know of the life of a travelling musician. As a member of Manchester noise oiks The Fall I had a well-worn passport come the time of my undignified expulsion some five years after joining. My first “unlikely” place to visit was Belfast. That isn't like the Belfast of today. This was the Belfast of 1979. It was the height of “The Troubles” with soldiers on every corner and streets looking war-torn. My parents were petrified for me.

I didn't make it an easier for myself through my seemingly endless stupidity. We were playing a place called The Harp Bar. Having enjoyed my first pint of real Guinness, myself and a fellow band-mate decided it'd be a good idea to go and play pool in the upstairs bar. Nothing wrong with that, of course... except I forgot to bring my shoulder bag upstairs with me. This

was no ordinary shoulder bag. Oh no. This was a shoulder bag I was very proud of. It had the names of some of my favourite bands drawn on it in Biro. But the most striking thing about this shoulder bag was the fact that it was an ARMY shoulder bag bought from a local ARMY AND NAVY STORE. You can probably fill in the rest yourself... But for those who can't imagine the depth of my idiocy I'll continue. I was as happy as Larry. My first trip “abroad”, drinking stout and playing pool... what could possibly go wrong?

“EVERYBODY OUT... EVERYBODY OUT! SUSPECT DEVICE! SUSPECT DEVICE! EVERYBODY OUT!” Terrified, I (probably) let out a squeal, threw myself down the flight of stairs to the ground-floor main bar and – in a second act of heroic stupidity – DIDN'T get the hell out of there like anyone with a brain would. Oh no. I bravely decided to retrieve my Army shoulder bag from where I left it. Under a stool by the bar. Where it had been declared a “suspect device”. Oh dear. Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear.

As you can imagine, I was instantly given the biggest rollicking of my life... followed by weeks of the worst ribbing you can possibly imagine. I could well have been front-page news all over the UK for having had my Army shoulder bag (containing socks, underpants and a toothbrush) blown up under controlled circumstances.



Another less eventful escapades – in places I would never be were I not in The Fall – include Tuscon, Arizona (where I was appalled not to find a dusty path through the centre of town littered with tethered horses) and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Both were pretty normal towns WITHOUT saloons riddled with fighting cowboys. I also went to Reykjavik before there was a tourist industry there. I felt like a proper explorer!

My life “on the road” as a Man City supporter hasn’t really been as adventurous as any of the above. I’m a lightweight. I’ve done European away games in Madrid and Barcelona while my more gung-ho pals have been to places even the locals can’t pronounce properly. I do hope to add to the pathetic list this season and now that I’ve reached the grand old age of 55 I can genuinely refer to myself as a bona-fide Saga Lout!

For those who don’t know, today’s opponents Steaua Bucharest were founded in 1947 in the Romanian capital. The club boasts the largest number of supporters of any team in Romania. A survey conducted in June 2007 suggested that the club accounts for approximately 42 per cent of all Romanian football lovers, far greater than the teams ranked second and third, Dinamo Bucuresti (with 12 per cent) and Rapid Bucuresti (nine per cent).

I will sadly be “working” while you’re reading

this... so should tonight’s opposing supporters introduce a new celebration to us will someone please show me the moves at the West Ham game so I’m up to speed?

I mean... I wouldn’t want to look stupid, now, would I?



## THE SECRETIVE FOOTBALLER

As you will know by now I am The Secretive Footballer. A man who, because of this secrecy, can tell you some of the most outrageous stories from within the game of football. This week it brings me no pleasure to tell you about “a certain’ manager” of “a certain club” who certainly didn’t expect to be the subject of this explosive column.

Rumour has it that when he recently signed a player he neglected to tell his wife he’d be “popping down the local boozer” for a pint to

celebrate. The story goes that he was seen throwing peanuts in the air and catching (only some of them) in his mouth and was “tiddly” upon leaving a full 90 minutes later. And when he got home his dinner was “in the dog”.

I can’t tell you the name of the manager concerned... or the dog. Because I know how to keep a secret. Because I am THE SECRETIVE FOOTBALLER. Sssshhhhhush!

Lots of love

*The Secretive Footballer*

# MY TURF

## KEVIN DE BRUYNE

**Looking at the home towns/cities  
of the City players... This issue:  
Ghent in Belgium**

**WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD PICTURES: PA**



Kevin De Bruyne's second season as a City player is under way and the attacking midfielder is settled in Manchester – but what about his original Belgian hometown? We take an in-depth look at the city where KDB was born and where his family – parents Herwig and Anne still and sister Stefanie – still reside: Ghent in the Belgian province of East Flanders.

### **Famous residents**

Perhaps the most famous child of Ghent is legendary Olympic cyclist Sir Bradley Wiggins. One of Britain's greatest ever Olympians and our first Tour de France winner was actually born in the city where his father lived as a professional cyclist before moving to London aged two. Other former renowned inhabitants of Ghent include Jacques Rogge (the chairman of the International Olympic

Committee between 2001 and 2013) and Leo Baekeland (the inventor of the world's first mass-produced plastic, Bakelite). Ghent can also boast two Nobel Prize winners: poet, playwright and essayist Maurice Maeterlinck

collected his award in 1911 whereas Corneille Jean François Heymans received the Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1938.

### **Population**

Specifically, De Bruyne was born in Drongen, a tiny submunicipality of Ghent. Drongen has a population of just over 12,000, within Ghent's total of over 250,000. That figure makes it the capital and largest city of the East Flanders province. Ghent is also the second most populous municipality in the nation behind Antwerp.



### Local team

Comfortably the biggest team in Ghent is KAA Gent, who became Belgian champions for the first time in their history in 2015 before reaching the Round of 16 in the last season's UEFA Champions League. Nicknamed The Buffalos, Gent play in the 20,000 capacity Ghelamco Arena under the guidance of a rising star in the managerial world, Hans Vanhaezebrouck. De Bruyne's first team was KVE Drongen, where he played between the ages of six and eight before moving to KAA Gent.

### KDB Cup

The midfielder this summer put his name to an Under-15 tournament held in his hometown. The KDB Cup featured the youth teams of Barcelona, Benfica and Tottenham Hotspur among others and the 25-year-old is naturally very proud of the event. He said: "The level of the KDB Cup is really high thanks to their efforts. Supporting a tournament organised by KVE Drongen, the club where everything started for me, is completing the circle."

### Did you know?

Ghent was the scene of one of Great Britain's biggest sporting successes in 2015 when the

Davis Cup side claimed the World final for the first time in almost 80 years. Andy Murray led the side to the final success at the Flanders Expo venue; a feat which led to him being voted as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year in December... Ghent hosted a football match during the 1920 Antwerp Olympics but was overlooked for Euro 2000 when Holland and Belgium jointly hosted the competition.

### Music in the city

Soulwax, otherwise recognised as 2manydjs, are an alternative rock/electronic band who have their origins in De Bruyne's home city. The band, lead by Dewaele brothers Stephen and David, have been noted for their remixes of songs from the likes of Robbie Williams, Sugababes and Gorillaz combining to create "the perfect party mix" says the *NME*...

### Ghent and the movies

The blockbuster film *The Fifth Estate* telling the story of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange was largely shot in Flanders and Ghent itself. The movie, starring Sherlock protagonist Benedict Cumberbatch, then opened the 40th edition of the Ghent Film Festival in 2013.



# BUCHAREST MEMORIES

**Touring the Romanian capital with a camera...**

**PICTURES & WORDS: KEVIN CUMMINS**

Well, we didn't want to finish fourth in last season's Premier League, and so have had to play a pair of UEFA Champions League qualifying ties, but – judging by the game in Romania – it was worth it in the end. I wouldn't have missed that first leg for anything.

As for Bucharest... what a wonderful city! Steaua have a lovely stadium and very friendly fans. It's not

often you hear the opposition fans applauding one of our goals but that's what happened when Sergio scored his second of the night.

Most City fans spent their time in the old town – well, why not, that's where the bars were. Being diligent, I also had a wander around the city, and the pictures on these four pages show some of what I found...



Into the arena...



The streets by night

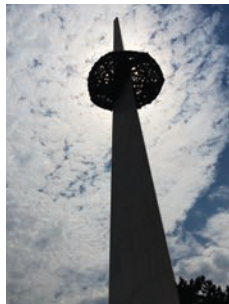


What the paper said.



Inside Steaua's National Arena.

Vlad The Impaler statue.



Right: One of lots of memorials to the 1989 Civil War.

My golden ticket.





A graffiti portrait of playwright Samuel Beckett.



# SHORT STAY

## Players whose star shone only briefly at City...

**WORDS:** JACK WILSON-MUMFORD **PICTURE:** PA

### DANIEL VAN BUYTEN

By January 2004, City's first campaign in the City of Manchester Stadium wasn't exactly going to plan. Despite the early season optimism, Kevin Keegan's men were struggling to make their new home the fortress that the beloved Maine Road had been only the season before.

City had finished ninth in 2003 and had a European challenge to look forward to as they welcomed in the new era, but the Blues stuttered through the Christmas period and it seemed likely that they would be in a relegation battle until the end of the season. That's why when, towards the end of January, the opportunity arose to get Marseille and Belgium defender Daniel Van Buyten on board, Keegan jumped at the chance. The 26-year-old duly arrived on a loan deal from the French club with David Sommeil going in the opposite direction.

In contrast to today's Premier League landscape, a Belgian football star was still a rarity but Keegan believed City had acquired one of the best. "Looking at the whole situation, it's very good for both clubs. Daniel moved to Marseille from Standard Liege for £7.7m. That's a huge fee for a defender, and I believe now that the Premiership will suit him," Keegan said when the defender's move was confirmed.

It didn't take Van Buyten, instantly recognisable with his long brown locks, long to fit in once he arrived. In fact, the defender was in the team only a week later for the visit of Birmingham City and helped his new teammates to their first clean sheet in two months as the sides played out a 0-0 draw. However, the Belgian's effect should not be reduced just to the results that were

achieved once he came into the side. The Belgian was the catalyst for a change from Keegan's usual 4-4-2 formation to a more adventurous and unique 3-5-2 that gave City a more solid footing in every game they played. With Richard Dunne, and Sylvain Distin playing alongside Van Buyten (and keeper David James behind them) the Blues had a defence to rival the best in England.

Unfortunately, Van Buyten's tenure was curtailed when he succumbed to a season-ending groin tear at the end of March. Assistant manager Arthur Cox echoed the thoughts of the City faithful upon hearing the news: "It's very unfortunate for the lad because he has done very well since joining us."

With the premature end to the defender's season, speculation suggested Van Buyten would be signed as a permanent member of the City squad come the start of the 2004/05 season. While Keegan's men fought to preserve their Premier League status, they looked to have the edge against several of the biggest clubs in Europe for the attentions of Van Buyten. Indeed, the Belgian's agent Christophe Henrotay said: "Daniel has really enjoyed his time at Manchester City. He has been really impressed with Kevin Keegan. He's happy to stay."

City avoided the Premier League drop but the signing of Van Buyten proved a bridge too far for the cash-strapped Blues. Instead he moved on to Hamburg before an eight-year stay at Bayern Munich that included four Bundesliga titles and a UEFA Champions League triumph. Meanwhile, City's Premier League survival that season proved to be pivotal for the future...



**The Belgian was the catalyst for a change from Keegan's usual 4-4-2 formation to a more adventurous and unique 3-5-2**







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# MCWFC STAR IZZY MAKES SURPRISE VISIT

City in the Community's Women and Girls Programme received a visit from a very special guest earlier this month. Manchester City Women and England star Izzy Christiansen surprised participants at the City Football Academy at their final weekly training session before the summer break.

The midfielder ensured it was an afternoon to remember for all the youngsters as she gave them the benefit of her experience and assisted the CITC coaches. Participants gained an exclusive insight into what it takes to be a professional footballer as Izzy shared her journey from grassroots to the top of the women's game.

Izzy was delighted to have the chance to get involved and inspire the next generation of female footballers. She said: "City in the Community do brilliant work throughout the year and it's great to have the opportunity to come



down and support them. Programme's like this do an amazing job of giving girls the opportunity to develop their skills, which is really important for the future of the women's game."

CITC's Women and Girls Programme is delivered as part of the Premier League Girls Football project and gives local youngsters the opportunity to play at the City Football Academy each week. This year the project has delivered 500 sessions and worked with over 1,000 women and girls.

*For more information on the Women and Girls Programme please call Hannah Hipkin-Steele on 0161 438 7844 or email [hannah.hipkin-steele@cityfootball.com](mailto:hannah.hipkin-steele@cityfootball.com)*





WOMEN

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## EDS DUO HELP INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

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

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

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

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

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



# A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



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

**WORDS: DAVID CLAYTON PICTURES: PA**

City and Lincoln City share a surprising amount of history. The first meeting between the clubs was way back in 1892 when Ardwick FC were beaten 2-1 away to Lincoln, though Ardwick won the return fixture 3-1. Those fixtures were the first of 22 meetings to date, 13 of which have won by the Blues, nine by the Imps with no draws.

In 1894/95, the Blues recorded a club record that still stands today with a thumping 11-3 victory –

avenging a 6-0 thrashing at Lincoln the season before. Another notable win for City was a 6-2 Hyde Road win in 1909/10 – thereafter followed an 88-year gap before the teams met again.

When they did, it was the Lincolnshire side who got the better of the Blues who were on a slippery slope downwards at the time. The Blues, relegated from the Premier League the season before, drew the Imps in the 1996/97 League Cup



and were expected to comfortably ease past their third-tier opponents who were 15th in what is today League One.

With Alan Ball sacked a few days before, Asa Hartford was in charge of City in a caretaker capacity and the club were foundering somewhat. The first leg was played at Sincil Bank and the Blues were still a big draw and the home support were hopeful of a decent result, but when Uwe Rösler put City ahead inside the first minute, it looked as though Hartford's injury-hit side would go and win the game.

Known for their long-ball game, the Imps warmed to the task and started playing some decent football – not the sort boss John Beck was renowned for – and the hosts drew level through Terry Fleming on 29 minutes. Goals from Steve Holmes and Gisjbert Bos either side of half-time put Lincoln two goals clear and Jon Whitney rubbed more salt in the wounds 11 minutes from time to seal a 4-1 win – a result that highlighted the problems the Blues had, and would continue to face, in the coming months.

The 1,500 or so City fans at least headed home knowing there was a second leg at Maine Road to come a week later. The Blues had Georgi Kinkladze fit again and hopes were high of turning the tie around, but when some Keystone Cops

defending gifted Bos a goal on 17 minutes, the Blues were as good as out and couldn't even muster an equaliser – so exited from the Coca Cola Cup with a humbling 5-1 aggregate defeat.

A year later, City were in the same division as Lincoln and met on equal terms in what was then Division Two. Joe Royle was now in the hot seat but the Blues again found Sincil Bank a bogey ground, being 2-0 down by half-time after goals by Battersby and Austin. A late own goal by Holmes was City's sole response in yet another embarrassing defeat.

However, by the time City and Lincoln met for the return fixture, the Imps found the Blues a completely transformed side. Royle's side were on the crest of a wave as they powered towards the Play-Offs and this time, Lincoln were on the end of a thrashing as a 14-minute Paul Dickov hat trick either side of the break and a Kevin Horlock strike gave the Blues a 4-0 win.

That was the last time the teams met and to underline how the paths of each have gone in totally different directions since, in 2011/12 when the Blues lifted the Premier League title, the Imps were completing their first season in the Conference Premier, where the club has remained ever since. With our record at Sincil Bank reading seven losses in 11 visits, it's probably just as well!



Sincil Bank: the home of Lincoln City – not a happy hunting ground for the Blues!





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## CREATE YOUR OWN PLAYER PROFILE



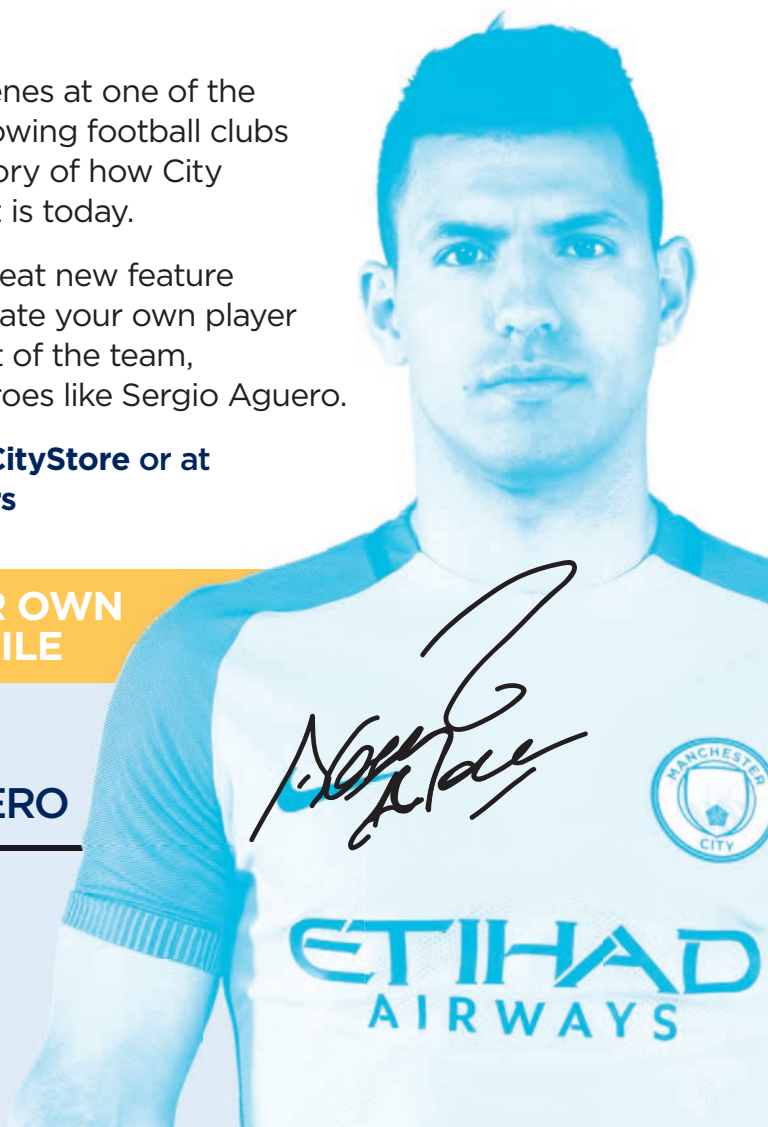
**SERGIO AGUERO**

**Born:**

2 June 1988, Quilma,  
Argentina

**Joined City:**

28 July 2011





9 NOLITO

# FANS

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# YOUR SHOUT

"Happy eighth birthday to **Patrick**, attending his first UEFA Champions League game tonight, with love from Sam and Martyna."

**1** Happy 40th birthday to **Darren McNeil**. "We hope you've had a special day and that your party celebrations are just as amazing! Loads of love from Claire, Jake, Autumn and Aiden x."

**2** "Congratulations to **Gary Bebbington** and **Linda Fleming** on your wedding (13 August) with lots of love and best wishes from Jay, Hayley, Elliot and Lewis xx."

**3** **Noah Cairns** attended his first City match versus Sunderland on 13 August aged just 11 days. He is pictured with his brother Jake and sisters Hannah and Isabelle, who are all Seasoncard holders in the Family Stand.

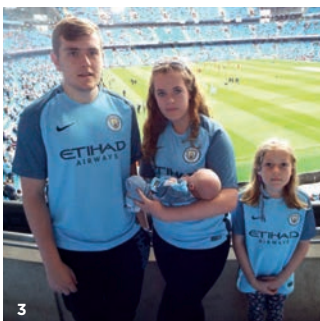
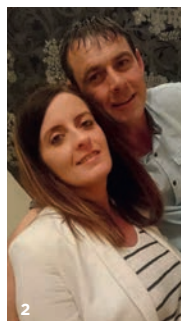
**4** After eight years working for Mitutoyo UK, **Takaji Takayama** will return to the parent company in Japan. Taka has been an avid City supporter during his spell in the UK and travelled from Andover in Hampshire to most home games as well as many away matches. "We will miss you Taka, 'Sayonara' from your Etihad friends David, James, Gerry, Nick and Alex. See you at Yokohama F Marinos!"

**5** **The Happy Valley-Goose Bay Minor Soccer Association** is visiting Manchester City for the sixth time in the last 12 years. Every two years a squad of young boys and girls from Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Labrador, Canada, raises funds to travel to England and enjoy a full week of soccer activities with Chris Hodges

Football Tours, watching lots of world-class games including tonight's UEFA Champions League game at Manchester City. A year and a half of grocery bagging, car washes, ticket sales, sub sandwich sales, chocolate sales and so much more has enabled this group of dedicated 14/15-year-olds to experience a football dream. "Hopefully this year City will be back to winning ways in Europe and the Premier League. Go City!"

**6** A 14-nation football tournament in Germany saw a group from Ireland taking part in a UEFA Champions League City kit sponsored by lifelong Blue Damien Saul.

**7** Here's **Emmanuel Calixto Brendan Davies-Labrador**. "I'm from Wythenshawe in





Messages should be emailed to [mcfcprog@aol.com](mailto: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...

Manchester," dad Michael tells us, "but my girlfriend lives in Colombia where I've been too, on and off, for three years. My son is Colombian-born and he is pictured at only four weeks old and already wearing his 3-6 months City top."

**8 Steve Bradbury** (in City shirt) and **Eggy Newey** are pictured on the Laugavegur Trail in the Icelandic Highlands earlier this summer. "This was a gruelling 36 mile/four day trek through the mountains," writes Steve. "The only time during the four days that I managed to get a phone signal in the mountains (about 3,500ft) I received a text from City telling me that my Seasoncard was being delivered! I didn't keep my coat off for too long – even though it was a balmy 5°C."

**9 City fan Lucy Ryan** is raising money for an expedition and research project. A second-year wildlife conservation student from LJMU, her project will send her to Madagascar for 11 months to gain experience in her chosen field of primate conservation.

The project is on an endangered lemur species and could provide essential conservation information. Writes Lucy: "I have had a lot of set-backs with this project because of my disability and the university pulled the plug due to insurance issues with six weeks to go. As a result this is now considered a gap year rather than a university placement year. This means I have lost the student finance funding which would have previously been available. I am due to leave on 1 September so

funding is now urgent to ensure the success of this project. If anyone can help please visit my justgiving page. Thank you." For more about Lucy and the project look here: <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/lucy-ryan-lemurs>

## SADLY MISSED

"In memory of a lifelong City fan **Paul Mains**. In his words 'There's only one team in Manchester'."

"RIP **John Forrest** 23.07.1923 - 06.08.2016. John was a lifelong Blue and was proud that he was born the same year we moved into Maine Road. In his younger days he would travel home and away with his friend Neil to watch the Blues every week."



# MCFC SUPPORTERS CLUB (1969)



## BRANCH PLAQUE PRESENTATIONS

In early July City held the Cityzen's Weekend at the City Football Academy. As part of the event the football club recognised the hard work and commitment of the Supporters Clubs by presenting the four oldest branches with their own, special acrylic plaque.

The plaques were presented by Supporters Club president and City legend Tony Book, former Blues player and England international Trevor Sinclair, BBC Manchester's Ian Cheeseman and our own City Square fan zone pundit Danny Jackson.

Pictured are the branches who received the plaques in the

ceremony. The being: Brooks Bar, the oldest (1), Middleton (2), London (3) and Dukinfield (4).

Eventually every Supporters Club branch will be presented with a plaque from the football club.

## SUPPORTERS CLUB CHEQUES

At this year's Supporters Club AGM held in the Legends Lounge the Supporters Club presented cheques to City in the Community, the Former Players' Association and Maine Road FC.

President Tony Book, chairman Alan Galley and secretary Kevin Parker made the presentations...

5 Colin Broadbent and Dave Miller were on hand and presented

with the cheque on behalf of Maine Road FC.

6 Alex Williams received the cheque on behalf of City in the Community.

7 Johnny Williamson and Fred Eyre received the cheque on behalf of the Former Players' Association.

## ASHTON BRANCH

8 This is Brenda Holt, Mary Roberts and Michelle Cantrill at the last game of season at the Alex Ashton.

## DENTON BRANCH

9 Happy birthday to Colin Bell Stand Seasoncard holder Kathryn Clayton. Love from all your family and friends at Mid Cheshire Blues.





5



6



8



9



## WIN A SIGNED AGUERO SHIRT!

### #ManCitySummer

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

For your chance to win, all you need to do is follow @mcfcsupportersc on Twitter and tweet us a photo of you and/or your family with a piece of Manchester City merch with the hashtag #ManCitySummer

For more information and terms and conditions, go to [www.mcfsc.com](http://www.mcfsc.com)

Competition closes 31 August 2106. GOOD LUCK!

### HAZEL GROVE BRANCH

10 The Capital One Cup was recently in Hazel Grove as special guest at their June branch meeting and AGM. All the members had plenty

of opportunities to have their photograph taken with the trophy. Pictured here are the committee of the Hazel Grove Blues Branch: Gaz, Mike, Sheryl, Roger, Barbara, Craig and Geoff.



7



10



# SOCIAL WRAP

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

COMPILED BY: NAT BLACK-HEAVEN



@sterling7

Who remembers Braydon Bent in Pep's Taxi? Well, John Stones was a very lucky man on this day.



@w.bony

If you follow our players on social media, you would know that Wilfried Bony is probably one of our best dressed players in the squad. And here is no different, his style is immaculate!



@w.bony

Who takes these photos? Again, another one proving that Wilf knows about style!



@w.bony

This is Bony's mother and yes, she is this cool!



@zinchenko\_96

Not sure who drew this or if it actually looks like him but Zinchenko gives it the approval so we do too!





**@fernandinho**

It was Father's Day in Brazil last week and Fernandinho delivered this message: *"Happy Father's Day! God bless and protect you today and ever. Love you!!!"*



**@VincentKompany**

Our captain took some time out to play footie with some kids, check out the awesome video on his Twitter account!



**@sterling7**

Two of our England boys post for a pic after our first game and first win of the season!



**@Guendogan8**

Guendogan enjoys our win at the Etihad against Sunderland... Can't wait to see you on the pitch, Ilkay!



**@sterling7**

Raheem Sterling shows off his Man of the Match trophy from the Sunderland game.



**@Guendogan8**

Three of our new signings share a happy selfie after the 2-1 win. Future looks bright!



**@therealbac**

Kelechi and Sagna on the way to Bucharest, donning the orange and black to perfection and look seriously cool!



**@nicolasotamendi30**

We call this the superstar City selfie. Nico and Raheem pose for pic!







## IAN CHEESEMAN TRAVELLING WITH THE BLUES

Football is about players – of course it is – and Manchester City have some of the best in the world. Football is also about coaches, and with Pep Guardiola and his backroom team at the top of the tree – Manchester City again have some of the best in the world. Finally, football is about supporters – and in my opinion Manchester City have the best, most loyal, funny, passionate fans in the world – but then, perhaps I would say that.

I have a lifetime of experiences mixing with City fans to back this up, and tonight I'm going to use one specific example to back up my argument. The City fan in question is from Bucharest in Romania, and his name is Valentin Cudric. Val wrote a letter to the City Supporters Club in the 1980s asking if there were any fans who would become penpals – this was well before email and Skype. I was one of three supporters who replied, and soon there were letters going backwards and forwards between us.

When I first wrote to Val, he lived in a communist country, led by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania was a poor country, and contact between their citizens and the West was not encouraged. Val had chosen to support City because of their fantastic, vocal support, even during tougher times than the club are currently enjoying. He heard commentaries here and there from the BBC World Service. He was questioned by the authorities when he entered football competitions run by the BBC, or when he sent or received letters from fellow supporters in England. He was brave to continue his support.

Following the collapse of the regime, and with support from his father, he bought a return air ticket to England that cost half his annual salary. I picked him up from Heathrow Airport and we attended two City games together and he also spent time with his other penpals and fellow Blues. Since then Val has visited Manchester,



Val in front of the old communist HQ and the balcony where Ceausescu gave his last speech before being overthrown.



Val on the Kippax at Maine Road in 1991 and at our house with my son Steven.





The "Peoples Palace" – claimed to be the second biggest building in the world after The Pentagon.

Wembley and other stadiums where City have played and we also met each other when City played in Romania against Timisoara – but until last Tuesday he'd never seen City in his home city of Bucharest, nor had I had the chance to visit him at home.

The chances came with the first leg of this qualifier and so, as I commentated on the game for BBC Radio Manchester and the club website, I was able to enjoy the performance and the scoreline even more than usual knowing that Val and his son and friend were there too, proudly wearing their City shirts. I'm sure there are many more stories of fan devotion among the ranks of City fans out there, and I have many more stories to tell, but for this tie against Steaua Bucharest I'm proud to share the story of Val Cudric, who I'm sure you'd agree, has shown the passion and loyalty so often shown by so many City supporters.

The game was, of course, an absolute joy to describe to those who couldn't be there, despite two very stressful hours ahead of kick-off when technical issues meant I didn't know until two minutes before kick-off that I could do the commentary. But it was certainly worth the stress. Tonight the players must remain focused and complete the job, and then we can look forward to the group stage of the UEFA Champions League again, and the new adventures that may lay ahead.

Don't forget you can listen to my commentaries on BBC Radio Manchester 95.1FM, or DAB or via [mancity.com](http://mancity.com) and the matchday centre. If you can't get to a game, for any reason, I'm proud to be your eyes at the game.

Up the Blues,  
**Ian Cheeseman**  
 @iancheeseman



City fans at the Drunken Lord Pub in Bucharest.



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# VALUED EXPERIENCE

## JAMES HORSFIELD HOPING TO BE A SHINING EXAMPLE FOR EDS TEAMMATES

James Horsfield believes he is adapting well to his new senior role within the Elite Development Squad. With the likes of Manu Garcia and Brandon Barker out on loan for the season, and several of last year's cast working more closely with the first team, Horsfield is one of the most seasoned professionals in Simon Davies' EDS squad.

For the 20-year-old right-back, who was part of the first-team pre-season tours to Munich and China, the experience of football at this level is something every player has to adapt to: "We've got a lot of young lads. It took them 10 minutes or so in to the Derby game to settle down but after that they realised they deserve to be at this level and we played really well from then.

"Two years ago I was coming in as one of the youngsters and now I'm one of the oldest. I'm looking to use some of my experience to help the younger lads in any way I can throughout the season. This group are really hungry to succeed. Obviously they're a young set of lads but they're good enough to be at this level and it's about showing that as often as possible. We're all hungry for success and everyone's willing to work hard for each other."

Horsfield and his teammates are taking part in a new competition this season. The Premier League 2 is a slight variation on last season's Under-21 Premier League as the age limit for outfielders has been raised to 23. The Hazel Grove-born defender is embracing the challenge that this bigger age range will provide.

"I think it will be an advantage. To prepare for men's football you want to be playing against men and having some experience in that through the likes of this competition before you go out on loan can only benefit us as players. We expect a lot of sides to be physical and press us quite high but if we get going and stick to our philosophy we're going to play around them."

In terms of targets for the season, Horsfield wants the side to be ambitious: "We want to win every competition that we're in while keeping an eye on producing top players. When you're at a club like City that's got to be the aim. My main goal is to get in the first team. How I go about doing that is by playing consistently well throughout the season so that's my short-term goal. It's going to be difficult but we all need to aspire to get into the first team. When and if the opportunity comes you have to make sure you're ready."

*City's Elite Development Squad travel to Reading on Friday night in the next round of Premier League 2 fixtures.*

WORDS: JACK WILSON-MUMFORD  
PICTURE: VICTORIA HAYDN





# HEAD START

## DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER COLIN RÖSLER ALREADY KNOWS WHAT CITY FANS EXPECT...

As the son of one of City's most loved ex-players, Colin Rösler believes he understands the club's philosophies as well as any 16-year-old can. Colin's father Uwe was a cult hero during his playing days in Manchester between 1994 and 1998 and the striker, now manager at Fleetwood Town, has passed his knowledge of the club on to his son.

"He's had a huge influence," says Colin. "He's helped me a lot in terms of what I should be doing as a footballer. He's experienced in football and he knows a lot about this club. He's told me what the club's about and what the fans like to see in the players like passion and determination. That's what I try to bring out every game.

"I went to as many of my dad's training sessions as I could while I was a kid so I've always been around football, playing football or talking about football. When you're around the game that much you work hard to be as good as you can."

Colin, a defensive midfielder, settled in Manchester at the age of 10 as his dad began to look for managerial work in English football. He was quickly picked up by City and has spent the last few years learning the club's philosophy. "In the last two or three years we've been learning to play the City way and now we know a lot

of it but there's always new things to learn to stay ahead of the game. It's very strict in the movements that we should make with and without the ball and we've been taught that from a very young age."

Lee Carsley joined the club as Under-18s lead coach this summer and Rösler is delighted with the impact the former Everton midfielder has had on his football already. "He's been very good so far. He has got to know all the players well and I think everybody is responding well to his thoughts and the way he wants to play. He's given me personally more confidence and I think I've improved quite a lot in just the first few weeks since his arrival."

In terms of expectations for this season's crop of youngsters, Rösler expects the group to challenge for as many trophies as possible. "We're looking to replicate last year's Under-18s by winning the Premier League – and hopefully go one better and win the FA Youth Cup. Every week will be a physical test because most teams will be bigger than us so they'll be looking to get stuck into us.

"By May I'd like to have had a strong season starting for the Under-18s and be pushing to get into the EDS. All the lads in the squad want to reach the next level as quickly as possible so we're working together to try and reach it."



IN OPPOSITION

# STEUA BUCHAREST

## ROMANIA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB

In each of the past five seasons, City have been pitched against at least one former European Cup winner in the group stages of this competition – five different teams in total. Now we can add a sixth name to the list.

In 1986, Steaua Bucharest were crowned European champions with a penalty shoot-out win over Barcelona at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan in Seville. The first ever final to finish 0-0 after 120 minutes, it was also remarkable for the fact that Helmuth Duckadath, the Steaua goalkeeper, saved all four Barca spot-kicks.

The success wasn't a flash in the pan, it heralded a golden era for Romania's premier club and Romanian football in general. Manager Emerich Jenei would take the Romanian national team job, leading the country to only its second post-war World Cup finals appearance at Italia 90, while successor Anghel Iordanescu would lead the Red And Blues to a semi-final in 1988 and another final in 1989.

This time, Barcelona was the venue but it wasn't quite the omen it first appeared as Steaua ran into Arrigo Sacchi's rampant Milan side featuring Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten, losing 4-0 at Camp Nou. Nonetheless, it was a remarkable





WORDS: MIKE HOLDEN  
PICTURES: VICTORIA HAYDN / PA / ACTION IMAGES

**Left:** Steaua's penalty shoot-out hero in the 1986 final against Barcelona, Helmuth Duckadath.

**Below:** Steaua's starting XI in Bucharest last week (left to right): Nicolae Stanciu, Florin Nita, Alin Tosca, Bojan Golubovic, Marko Momcilovic, Gabriel Tamas, Jugurtha Hamroun, Vlad Achim, Muniru Sulley, Gabriel Enache and Adrian Popa.

period considering the low-profile of Romanian football prior to that. The Steaua side for both finals was entirely made up of Romanian players, the most famous of whom, Gheorghe Hagi, shot to prominence with Steaua between 1987 and 1990.

Throughout most of the 1990s, Steaua were group stage regulars in the newly-reformatted UEFA Champions League, but their impact in the competition has gradually waned since through a combination of diminishing standards and an unforgiving seeding system. There was, though, a bit of a renaissance in the mid-2000s when Steaua qualified for the group stages three seasons running, having failed in their previous four attempts to

negotiate their way through the qualifying rounds. Their last appearance at the group stages was in 2013/14, when they edged out Legia Warsaw on away goals at this stage to join Chelsea, Schalke and Basel in Group E, where they finished bottom on three points with three draws and three defeats.

Domestically, they remain comfortably the nation's most successful club with 26 league titles, eight more than city rivals Dinamo, a level of superiority recently replenished by lifting three successive titles between 2013 and 2015, the first two of which were achieved under current boss Laurentiu Reghecampf who returned to the club last December.





## THE SQUAD

### GOALKEEPERS

#### 1 Florin Nita

The former Concordia stopper broke through as a first-team regular last season following the departure of Lithuanian international Giedrius Arlauskis to Watford. He remains uncapped by the national team but an excellent display against City – despite conceding five goals – will have done his cause no harm.

#### 12 Valentin Cojocaru

Nita's young understudy made his debut as a 17-year-old in a 1-0 away win against Gloria Bistrita in May 2013. Now 20, he impressed in the regular first-choice for Romania Under-21s. The son of a former referee, he played both legs of last season's UEFA Champions League exit against Partizan Belgrade.

#### 21 Ionut Poiana

This Bucharest-born academy product has yet to make his senior debut for Steaua. Only 18, he is considered one of the most talented players of the emerging generation having been a constant presence in the Romanian national team at schoolboy level.

### DEFENDERS

#### 3 Bogdan Mitrea

A left-sided defender who operates at either full-back or centre-back.



Gabriel Tamas blocking a shot from David Silva.

The 28-year-old was also prolific in front of goal during the 2014/15 season, scoring 14 times in 30 starts for Viitorul. That earned him a move to Ascoli but he was loaned out to Steaua in the summer.

#### 4 Gabriel Tamas

The former West Brom, Doncaster Rovers, Watford and Cardiff City centre-back counts Paul Dickov among his former managers, England being just one of seven different countries in which he has plied his trade. Now 32, his arrival at Steaua was mildly controversial after three previous stints playing for city rivals Dynamo.

#### 13 Alin Tosca

A product of the Steaua academy, Tosca made his Liga 1 debut against Steaua while on loan at

Unirea Urziceni, keeping a clean sheet against his parent club in a 1-0 win. Capped twice for Romania, he was a late substitute in friendlies against Lithuania and DR Congo played earlier this year.

#### 15 Marko Momcilovic

A Serbian left-back who was snapped up 18 months ago from Liga 1 rivals Panduril, having impressed in his first two seasons with the Targu Jiu club. He played 12 times in the Europa League for Panduril, scoring once in a 1-1 group stage encounter with Portuguese side Pacos de Ferreira.

#### 24 Dan Popescu

This Galati-born left back represented both of his hometown clubs over a nine-year period before moving to Poli Timisoara last summer.

Having scored against Steaua in a 3-1 defeat last December he had impressed enough for them to throw him a Liga 1 lifeline after relegation at the end of last term.

#### 44 Gabriel Enache

A former Astra Giurgiu winger who has been utilised as a right-back during his 18-month spell at Steaua. The 26-year-old made his senior debut for Romania in a Euro 2016 qualifying win over Greece, coming on as a substitute for Stuttgart's Alexandru Maxim.

### MIDFIELDERS

#### 5 Jugurtha Hamroun

Algerian winger who missed Steaua's best chance in the first leg, denied by a fine Willy Caballero reaction save. The 27-year-old started out with Guingamp in

France before spells in Bulgaria and Turkey. Otetul Galati eventually brought him to Liga 1 as a free agent in January 2015.

#### **6 Mihai Pintilii**

Combative midfielder now in his second spell at Steaua. One of three Romanians who played against Bacary Sagna in the opening game of Euro 2016, he was also a crucial member of the Al-Hilal side that reached the Asian

Champions League final in 2014, losing 1-0 on aggregate to Western Sydney Wanderers.

#### **8 Lucian Filip**

Fringe player respected for his versatility. Primarily a defensive midfielder, the 26-year-old can also play at centre-back or left-back but hasn't featured much since the return of Laurentiu Reghecampf, having been a regular under predecessor Constantin Galca.

#### **10 Nicolae Stanciu**

The 23-year-old playmaker is the jewel in the crown – not only for Steaua, but also the Romanian national team. After rumours of a £5m move to Southampton earlier this summer, he scored all three goals in Steaua's 3-1 aggregate win over Sparta Prague in the last round.

#### **11 Muniru Sulley**

The younger brother of former Milan midfielder Sulley Muntari, he

conceded the first penalty missed by Sergio Aguero last Tuesday with a rash tackle on Raheem Sterling. Signed from CFR Cluj in June 2015, he netted his first UEFA Champions League goal against Partizan Belgrade last season.

#### **16 Robert Valceanu**

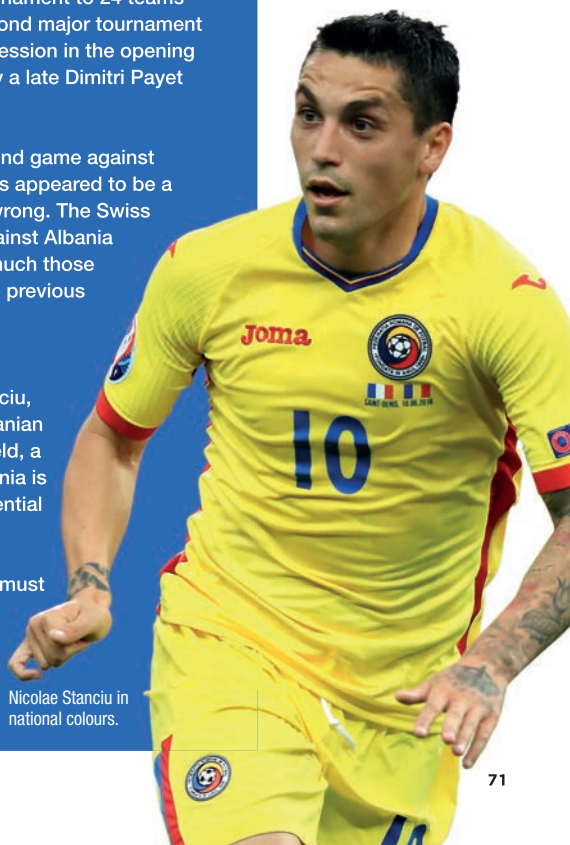
This 19-year-old attacking midfielder can play either centrally or down the left flank. A regular in the Romanian Under-19 side, he returned to Steaua in the summer having impressed in a short loan spell with Liga 1 rivals FC Voluntari.

## STANCIU LIGHTS UP THE NATIONAL SCENE

In the end, the mood was one of bitter disappointment, an opportunity squandered. But, on the whole, Euro 2016 was a step in the right direction for Romanian football. The expansion of the tournament to 24 teams enabled the *Tricolorii* to qualify for only their second major tournament since 2000 and they certainly left a positive impression in the opening game against host nation France, beaten only by a late Dimitri Payet thunderbolt.

When they were 1-0 up at the break in their second game against Switzerland, qualification for the knockout stages appeared to be a formality. But that was when it all started to go wrong. The Swiss fought back to rescue a point and the climax against Albania was an accident waiting to happen, given how much those three points had been taken for granted over the previous six months.

Perhaps more than anything, though, it was an introduction to tournament play for Nicolae Stanciu, the one great hope for the next decade for Romanian football. Some countries need a leader on the field, a go-to superstar, in order to be successful. Romania is one of them, and the Steaua number 10 is a potential heir to Gheorghe Hagi's throne. This 23-year-old playmaker can only benefit from the experience. Now attention turns to Russia 2018 and Stanciu must channel the hurt of coming up short in Lyon into driving Romania forward as they negotiate a reasonably favourable qualifying group containing Denmark, Poland, Montenegro, Armenia and Kazakhstan.



Nicolae Stanciu in national colours.

### 18 Vlad Mihalcea

Youngster who can play anywhere along the forward line, the 17-year-old signed a six-year deal from FC Brasov last summer and made a decent impression in pre-season, scoring once and providing two assists in five outings. Has yet to make his full senior debut.

### 19 Adnan Aganovic

A Croatian playmaker who spent six seasons playing his trade in his homeland with Trogir, Medjimurje and Varazdin before trying his luck abroad with stints in Slovenia, Romania and Cyprus. Joined AEL Limassol midway through last season, where he sparked Steaua's interest with four goals in 15 appearances.



Alexandru Tudorie

### 20 Vlad Achim

The defensive midfielder substituted after 45 minutes at the National Arena last Tuesday, in just his fifth appearance following a summer move from FC Voluntari. He scored in first Liga 1 outing for Steaua at the start of the month, netting a late winner against Concordia.

### 23 Ovidiu Popescu

Aged 22, this all-action midfielder isn't quite the finished article but he made a big enough splash in his debut season at UTA Arad to stay on Steaua's radar during an ill-fated spell at Poli Timisoara. A Romanian Under-21 international, his first call-up was against Armenia in June 2015.

### 55 Alexandru Bourceanu

Tenacious sitting midfielder returned to Steaua in the last winter transfer window, having failed to establish himself as a regular with Turkish side Trabzonspor during an injury-plagued couple of seasons. He has completed 90 minutes just seven times in the last two years.

## FORWARDS

### 9 Alexandru Tudorie

A 20-year-old striker came through the ranks at Otelul Galati and had a trial at Borussia Mönchengladbach in 2014, when he also attracted interest from

## MANAGER

### Laurentiu Reghecampf

Born: Targoviste, Romania, 19 September 1975

A former Steaua midfielder from the early UEFA Champions League era, Reghecampf spent the biggest chunk of his playing career in the Bundesliga with Energie Cottbus and Alemannia Aachen in the 2000s before starting his first managerial role



with Gloria Bistrita in 2010. Now 40, he openly rates himself as the best coach in Romanian football, a claim he's arguably entitled to make after building the team that led Steaua to three successive league titles between 2013 and 2015, the first of which arrived under his tutelage. A short stint with Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal followed, whom he led to the Asian Champions League final in 2014, although a 1-0 aggregate defeat to A-League side Western Sydney Wanderers contributed to his eventual dismissal in early 2015. With Steaua languishing in fourth position last December, Reghecampf was persuaded to return and he soon sparked an upsurge in fortunes, leading the club back up to second spot and a UEFA Champions League qualifying berth.

Sampdoria and Malaga. He eventually signed for Steaua but spent much of last season getting minutes on loan at FC Voluntari.

### 14 Bojan Golubovic

Veteran striker has settled in Romanian football over the past five years after spells in Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia and Denmark. Now 32, he played in both legs of the 3-1 aggregate win over Sparta Prague but had to settle for a place

on the bench for last Tuesday's first leg at the National Arena.

### 77 Adrian Popa

Fleet-footed right-winger. The 28-year-old arrived from Concordia four years ago and has been a mainstay of the Steaua starting line-up ever since. A key member of Romania's Euro 2016 squad, he has 16 caps and netted his first international goal in a 5-1 win over Georgia last June.





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# FIXTURES

## EDS, UNDER-18s & WOMEN

### ELITE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

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

### EDS APPEARANCES

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

#### FORMAT FOR PREMIER 2

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

### ACADEMY

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

### UNDER-18s APPEARANCES

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

#### FORMAT FOR UNDER-18s LEAGUE

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

### MCFC WOMEN

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

#### SSE FA Women's Cup

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

#### Continental Tyres Cup

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

### FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

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

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

\*at the Etihad Stadium

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# FOR THE RECORD

## FIRST TEAM, EDS AND UNDER-18s MATCH DIARY

### FIRST TEAM

#### Saturday 13 August

Premier League  
Etihad Stadium

**MANCHESTER CITY 2** Aguero pen 4,  
McNair og 87

**SUNDERLAND 1** Defoe 71  
HT 1-0 Att: 54,262

**City:** Caballero, Sagna, Stones, Kolarov, Clichy (Iheanacho 80), Fernandinho, Silva (Delph 64), Sterling, De Bruyne, Nolito (Jesus Navas 59), Aguero. Unused: Hart, Zabaleta, Fernando, Otamendi.

**Sunderland:** Mannone, Love, Kone, Kaboul, Van Aanholt, O'Shea, Watmore (Januzaj 64), Rodwell, Gooch (Khazri 65), Borini, Defoe (McNair 83). Unused: Pickford, Djilobodji, Asoro, Lens.

**Referee:** Bobby Madley.

#### Tuesday 16 August

UEFA Champions League  
Play-Off Round, first leg  
Arena Nationala

#### STEUAU BUCHAREST 0

**MANCHESTER CITY 5** Silva 13

Aguero 41, 78, 89 Nolito 49  
HT 0-2 Att: 45,327

**Steaua:** Nita, Enache, Tamas, Tosca, Momcilovic, Achim (Borceanu 46), Sulley (Ovidiu Popescu 67), Popa, Stanciu, Hamroun, Golubovic (Tudorie 46). Unused: Cojocaru, Mitea, Aganovic, Dan Popescu.

**City:** Caballero, Zabaleta (Sagna 70), Stones, Otamendi, Kolarov (Clichy 75), Fernandinho, Silva, Sterling, De Bruyne (Fernando 80), Nolito, Aguero. Unused: Hart, Jesus Navas, Delph, Iheanacho.

**Referee:** Daniele Orsato (Italy).

#### Saturday 20 August

Premier League  
Bet 365 Stadium

**STOKE CITY 1** Bojan Krkic pen 49  
**MANCHESTER CITY 4**

Aguero pen 27, 6 Nolito 86, 90+5  
HT 0-2 Att: 27,455

**Stoke:** Given, Bardsley, Shawcross, Wollscheid, Pieters, Allen, Whelan, Imbula (Walters 72), Bojan Krkic, Diouf, Arnavtic (Ramadan Sobhi 88). Unused: Haugaard, Muniesa, Adam, Cameron, Crouch.

**City:** Caballero, Zabaleta, Stones, Otamendi, Kolarov, Fernandinho, Silva, Jesus Navas (Nolito 69), De Bruyne (Delph 88), Sterling, Aguero (Iheanacho 83). Unused: Hart, Maffeo, Clichy, Fernando.

**Referee:** Mike Dean.

### EDS

#### Monday 15 August

Premier League 2  
St George's Park, National Football Centre

**DERBY COUNTY 2** Vernam 10, 45

**MANCHESTER CITY 3**

Nmecha 64, 77, Nemanie 70  
HT 2-0 Att: 376

**Derby:** Mitchell, Santos (Wassall 76), Olsson (MacDonald 61), Guy, Rawson, Hanson, Gordon, Elsnik, Jakobsen, Vernam, Babos (Walker 82). Unused: Barnes, Cresswell.

**City:** O'Brien, Horsfield, Humphreys, Oliver, Wood, Davenport (Diallo 63), Kongolo, Fernandes (Dunhaney 75), Nemanie, Dilrosun (Buckley-Ricketts 84), Nmecha. Unused: Grimshaw, Kigbu.

#### Friday 19 August

Premier League 2  
Etihad Stadium

**MANCHESTER CITY 1** Kongolo 32

**ARSENAL 0**

HT 1-0

**City:** O'Brien, Horsfield, Humphreys, Oliver, Wood, Davenport (Dunhaney 46), Kongolo, Fernandes (Diallo 71), Nemanie, Dilrosun, Buckley-Ricketts (Nmecha 55). Unused: Grimshaw, Sarmiento.

**Arsenal:** Macey, Johnson (Guane 75), Pilius, Kamara, Da Graca, Sheaf, Nelson, Bennacer, Mavididi, Maitland-Niles, Willock (Malen 75). Unused: Keto, Bola, Mourgos.



**Above:** Kevin De Bruyne on the attack away to Stoke City.

**Below left:** Aleks Kolarov against Sunderland.

### UNDER-18s

#### Saturday 13 August

Under-18 Premier League  
City Football Academy

**MANCHESTER CITY 1** Sancho 26

**WEST BROMWICH ALBION 1**

Harper 3  
HT 1-1

**City:** Muric, Latibeaudiere, Coveney, Francis, Wilson, Rösler, Foden, Smith (Pozo 36), Bolton, Hardy (Beerman 65), Sancho. Unused: Blackshaw, Anderson, Poveda.

**Albion:** House, Meredith, Melbourne, Wilding, Piggott, Artymatas, Bradley, Dool, Forss (Walker 90), Harper, Morrison. Unused: Keranovic, Pierce, Holsgrave, Solanke.

#### Saturday 20 August

Under-18 Premier League  
Finch Farm

**EVERTON 1** Hornby 89

**MANCHESTER CITY 3**

Hardy 55, Poveda 84, Sancho 87  
HT 0-0

**Everton:** Renshaw, Duke-McKenna, Harrington, Ouzoundis, Lees, Scully (Virtanen 68), Withe (Mampala 59), Denny, Lavery, Bramall, Hornby. Unused: Pierce, Moore, John.

**City:** Muric, Rösler (Pozo 88), Latibeaudiere, Coveney, Wilson, Francis, Bolton, Smith, Hardy (Poveda 64), Foden, Sancho. Unused: Blackshaw, Anderson, Beerman.





# CITY ROLL CALL

## FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

| Name               | Birthdate | SEASON 2016/17 |      |       |     | CITY CAREER |      |         |     | International  |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|------|-------|-----|-------------|------|---------|-----|----------------|
|                    |           | League         | Cups | Apps  | Gls | League      | Cups | Apps    | Gls |                |
| Tosin Adarabioyo   | 24.09.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | 1       | -   | England U-19   |
| Sergio Agüero      | 02.06.88  | 2              | 3    | 1     | 3   | 134 (18)    | 105  | 47 (12) | 37  | Argentina      |
| *Brandon Barker    | 04.10.96  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | - (1)   | -   | England U-20   |
| Wilfried Bony      | 10.12.88  | -              | -    | -     | -   | 15 (21)     | 6    | 5 (5)   | 4   | Ivory Coast    |
| Willy Caballero    | 28.09.81  | 2              | -    | 1     | -   | 7 (1)       | -    | 15 (1)  | -   | Argentina      |
| Bersant Celina     | 09.09.96  | -              | -    | -     | -   | - (1)       | -    | 1 (2)   | -   | Kosovo         |
| Gael Clichy        | 26.07.85  | 1              | -    | - (1) | -   | 108 (6)     | 1    | 44 (8)  | -   | France         |
| Kevin De Bruyne    | 28.06.91  | 2              | -    | 1     | -   | 24 (3)      | 7    | 13 (4)  | 9   | Belgium        |
| Fabian Delph       | 21.11.89  | - (2)          | -    | -     | -   | 8 (11)      | 2    | 6 (4)   | -   | England        |
| Jason Denayer      | 28.06.95  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Belgium        |
| *David Faupala     | 11.02.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | 1       | 1   | France U-18    |
| Fernandinho        | 04.05.85  | 2              | -    | 1     | -   | 87 (14)     | 10   | 37 (4)  | 4   | Brazil         |
| Fernando           | 25.07.87  | -              | -    | - (1) | -   | 39 (10)     | 4    | 22 (5)  | -   | Brazil U-20    |
| Alex Garcia        | 28.06.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | 1       | -   | Spain U-19     |
| *Manu Garcia       | 02.01.98  | -              | -    | -     | -   | - (1)       | -    | 1 (2)   | 1   | Spain U-16     |
| *George Glendon    | 03.05.95  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Wales U-21     |
| Ilkay Gundogan     | 24.10.90  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Germany        |
| Joe Hart           | 19.04.87  | -              | -    | -     | -   | 266         | -    | 81      | -   | England        |
| James Horsfield    | 30.11.95  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   |                |
| Cameron Humphreys  | 22.08.98  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | - (2)   | -   | England U-18   |
| Kelechi Iheanacho  | 03.10.96  | - (2)          | -    | -     | -   | 7 (21)      | 8    | 4 (5)   | 6   | Nigeria        |
| *Gabriel Jesus     | 03.04.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Brazil U-23    |
| Aleksandar Kolarov | 10.11.85  | 2              | -    | 1     | -   | 104 (34)    | 10   | 54 (18) | 10  | Serbia         |
| Vincent Kompany    | 10.04.86  | -              | -    | -     | -   | 213 (7)     | 13   | 72 (6)  | 1   | Belgium        |
| Pablo Maffeo       | 12.07.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Spain U-19     |
| Eliaquim Mangala   | 13.02.91  | -              | -    | -     | -   | 47 (1)      | -    | 14 (2)  | -   | France         |
| *Marlos Moreno     | 20.09.96  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Colombia       |
| Samir Nasri        | 26.06.87  | -              | -    | -     | -   | 99 (29)     | 18   | 36 (11) | 9   | France         |
| Jesus Navas        | 21.11.85  | 1 (1)          | -    | -     | -   | 66 (35)     | 4    | 33 (15) | 4   | Spain          |
| Nolito             | 15.10.86  | 1 (1)          | 2    | 1     | 1   | 1 (1)       | 2    | 1       | 1   | Spain          |
| Nicolas Otamendi   | 12.02.88  | 1              | -    | 1     | -   | 31          | 1    | 19 (1)  | -   | Argentina      |
| *Patrick Roberts   | 05.02.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | - (1)       | -    | - (2)   | -   | England U-19   |
| Bacary Sagna       | 14.02.83  | 1              | -    | - (1) | -   | 36 (2)      | -    | 21 (4)  | -   | France         |
| Leroy Sané         | 11.01.96  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | -       | -   | Germany        |
| David Silva        | 08.01.86  | 2              | -    | 1     | 1   | 174 (14)    | 35   | 65 (11) | 9   | Spain          |
| Raheem Sterling    | 08.12.94  | 2              | -    | 1     | -   | 25 (8)      | 6    | 12 (5)  | 5   | England        |
| John Stones        | 28.05.94  | 2              | -    | 1     | -   | 2           | -    | 1       | -   | England        |
| Jose Angel Tasende | 04.01.97  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | - (1)   | -   | Spain U-17     |
| Yaya Toure         | 13.05.83  | -              | -    | -     | -   | 188 (7)     | 57   | 68 (5)  | 18  | Ivory Coast    |
| Pablo Zabaleta     | 16.01.85  | 1              | -    | 1     | -   | 193 (18)    | 8    | 74 (18) | 2   | Argentina      |
| Bruno Zuculini     | 02.04.93  | -              | -    | -     | -   | -           | -    | - (1)   | -   | Argentina U-20 |
| Own goals          |           | -              | -    | -     | -   |             |      |         |     |                |

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

# STATS

## PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE, FACTS & FIGURES

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

## FACTS & FIGURES

### HIGHEST ATTENDANCE

75,326 Manchester United v Southampton, 19.8.16

### LOWEST ATTENDANCE

11,355 AFC Bournemouth v Man United, 14.8.16

### HIGHEST SCORING HOME WINS

2-0 Manchester United v Southampton, 19.8.16

2-0 Burnley v Liverpool, 20.8.16

### HIGHEST SCORING AWAY WIN

4-1 Manchester City at Stoke, 20.8.16

### MOST GOALS IN A MATCH

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

### TOP SCORERS

(PREMIER LEAGUE, CUP COMPETITIONS, EUROPE AND FA COMMUNITY SHIELD)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)        | 6 |
| Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United) | 4 |
| Nolito (Manchester City)               | 3 |
| Etienne Capoue (Watford)               | 2 |
| Diego Costa (Chelsea)                  |   |
| Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool)          |   |
| Mark Noble (West Ham)                  |   |
| Cristhian Stuani (Middlesbrough)       |   |

**2** Nolito was one of four players to score twice in the weekend's games, even though he didn't come on until late in the game at Stoke.



**2**  
Steaua Bucharest are currently second in the Romanian league, one point behind leaders and local rivals Dinamo who they drew 1-1 with at home on Saturday. Steaua, with 10 points from four games, have a game in hand.

# MATCH DETAILS



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

|             |       | F-A                          | Att | Pos     | Away fans | City scorers and goal times |  |
|-------------|-------|------------------------------|-----|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| AUGUST 2016 |       |                              |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 13    | H Sunderland                 | 2-1 | 54,362  | -         | tbc                         | Aguero pen 4, McNair og 87             |
| Tue         | 16    | A Steaua Bucharest (UCL PO1) | 5-0 | 45,327  | -         | tbc                         | Silva 13, Aguero 41, 78, 89, Nolito 49 |
| Sat         | 20    | A Stoke City                 | 4-1 | 27,455  | -         | tbc                         | Aguero pen 27, 36, Nolito 86, 90+5     |
| Wed         | 24    | H Steaua Bucharest (UCL PO2) |     | 7.45pm  |           |                             |  |
| Sun         | 28    | H West Ham United            |     | 4pm     |           |                             |  |
| SEPTEMBER   |       |                              |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 10    | A Manchester United          |     | 12.30pm |           |                             |  |
|             | 13/14 | UCL Matchday 1               |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 17    | H Bournemouth                |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
|             | 20/21 | EFL Cup 3                    |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 24    | A Swansea City               |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
|             | 27/28 | UCL Matchday 2               |     |         |           |                             |  |
| OCTOBER     |       |                              |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sun         | 2     | A Tottenham Hotspur          |     | 2.15pm  |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 15    | H Everton                    |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
|             | 18/19 | UCL Matchday 3               |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 22    | H Southampton                |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
|             | 25/26 | EFL Cup 4                    |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 29    | A West Bromwich Albion       |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
| NOVEMBER    |       |                              |     |         |           |                             |  |
|             | 1/2   | UCL Matchday 4               |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 5     | H Middlesbrough              |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 19    | A Crystal Palace             |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
|             | 22/23 | UCL Matchday 5               |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 26    | A Burnley                    |     | 12.30pm |           |                             |  |
|             | 29/30 | EFL Cup 5                    |     |         |           |                             |  |
| DECEMBER    |       |                              |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 3     | H Chelsea                    |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
|             | 6/7   | UCL Matchday 6               |     |         |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 10    | A Leicester City             |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
| Wed         | 14    | H Watford                    |     | 8pm     |           |                             |  |
| Sat         | 17    | H Arsenal                    |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |
| Mon         | 26    | A Hull City                  |     | 3pm     |           |                             |  |

Sergio Aguero took his tally to six for the season with two goals at Stoke on Saturday.

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Sergio Aguero took his tally to six for the season with two goals at Stoke on Saturday.



Insights from  
**SAP**

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# MATCH DETAILS



## JANUARY 2017

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

## FEBRUARY

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

## MARCH

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

## APRIL

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

## MAY

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



## GROUND REGULATIONS & FIRST AID

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

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

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

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

## OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Head of Content Chris Bailey

Editor David Clayton

Production Neil Jeffries

Art Direction Ian Watson

Design Simon Thorley

Layout/Design Trevor Hartley

Contributors Mike Beddow, Kevin Cummins, Mike Holden,

Gary James, Jack Mumford, Marc Riley

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

Production Ignition Publications

Print Buxton Press

## OTHER DATES

**UEFA Champions League:** Round of 16 – Feb 14/15/21/22, Mar 7/8/14/15; QF – Apr 11/12, 18/19; SF – May 2/3, May 9/10; Final (Cardiff) – June 3.  
**International weekends:** Sep 3/4; Oct 8/9; Nov 12/13; Mar 25/26, June 10/11.

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## OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME





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# TEAMSHEET

**MANCHESTER CITY**

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

## STEUAU BUCHAREST

[illegible]

## OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Pawel Gil  
**Assistants:** Piotr Sadczuk and Marcin Borkowski  
**Fourth Official:** Konrad Sapela  
**Additional assistants:** Bartosz Frankowski and Krzysztof Jakubik  
 (all from Poland)

“Why just improve on what’s  
been done before, when you  
can totally reimagine it.”



### The Residence

Three-room retreat. Separate living room.  
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Personal butler.



#Reimagined | [etihad.com](http://etihad.com) |



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