

MCFC Official Programme — Pre-season Friendly £3.00

city



v Celtic
Saturday 8th August 2009, 3pm
Pre-season Friendly

ETIHAD
AIRWAYS



BARCLAYS
PREMIER LEAGUE



Proud to be sky blue.



As the new Official Club Sponsor of Manchester City Football Club,
we're here to support you come rain or shine.

etihadfootball.com

FROM ABU DHABI TO THE WORLD

الإتihad
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS

NATIONAL AIRLINE OF THE UAE



Manchester City Football Club

Honours

Premier League /
Football League

'Old' Division One
Champions: 1936-37,
1967-68.

Runners-up: 1903-04,
1920-21, 1976-77.

'New' First Division /
'Old' Second Division
Champions: 1898-99,
1902-03, 1909-10, 1927-28,
1946-47, 1965-66, 2001-02.
Runners-up: 1895-96,
1950-51, 1988-89,
1999-2000.

'New' Division Two Play-Off
Winners: 1998-99.

FA Cup Winners: 1904,
1934, 1956, 1969.

Runners-up: 1926, 1933,
1955, 1981.

Football League Cup
Winners: 1970, 1976.
Runners-up: 1974.

European Cup-Winners'
Cup Winners: 1970.

FA Charity Shield Winners:
1937, 1968, 1972.

Full Members' Cup Runners
Up: 1985-86.

FA Youth Cup Winners:
1986, 2008.

Reserve League
Champions: 1977-78,
1986-87, 1999-2000.

Official Programme

Editor Trevor Hartley

Production Editor Neil Jeffries

Contributors Chris Bailey, Rosie
Bass, Mike Beedow, Stephanie
Beswick, Richard Bott, David
Clayton, Tom Flower, Derek
Hammond, Gary James, Katy
Jones, Tim Oscrift

Photos Ed Garvey, Kevin
Cummins, Fabio De Paola, Roland
Cooke, Action Images, PA Photos

Design Music

Production Ignition Publications

Print Linneys

City of Manchester Stadium, SportCity, Manchester M11 3FF
Telephone 0870 062 1894 email mcfcc@mcfcc.co.uk

Chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak Chief Executive Officer Garry Cook Chief Operating Officer Paul Aldridge
Life President Sidney Rose
Honorary Presidents Eric Alexander, Sir Howard Bernstein, Tony Book, Raymond Donn, Ian Niven mbe,
Keith Pinner, Tudor Thomas
General Secretary Bernard Halford Stadium & Safety Manager Peter Fletcher
Team Manager Mark Hughes Assistant Manager Mark Bowen First Team Coach Eddie Niedzwiecki
Reserve Team Coach Glyn Hodges Goalkeeping Coach Kevin Hitchcock
Technical Director Mike Rigg Head of Sport Science Damian Roden Academy Manager Jim Cassell



- 05 Mark Hughes
- 07 News on Blues
- 18 New Website
- 20 Blues in Dubai
- 23 Pre-Season Action
- 30 City's New Umbro Kit
- 33 We've Met Before
- 35 Ian Cheeseman
- 37 Treasure Trove
- 40 What Katy Says
- 43 CITC
- 47 Fan City
- 50 Blues Away
- 52 All About Celtic
- 58 North of the Border
- 60 Them & Us
- 62 Billy McNeill
- 68 The Buzz
- 70 Away We Go
- 71 Ticket News
- 73 Blue Zone
- 82 Squads

THE NEW BLUES

- 08 & 22 Carlos Tevez
- 09 & 34 Emmanuel Adebayor
- 10 & 32 Gareth Barry
- 12 & 81 Kolo Toure
- 14 & 72 Stuart Taylor
- 16 & 67 Roque Santa Cruz

© All editorial in this programme is the copyright of Manchester City Football Club and shall not be reproduced without permission. The views of the individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the club.

Mark Hughes with
Kolo Toure, his sixth big
signing of the summer.



Mark Hughes



A warm welcome to the City of Manchester Stadium to the officials, players and fans of today's visitors Celtic, and a warm welcome back to our own fans for what we all hope and believe is going to be a season to remember.

We anticipated a busy summer, but few outside the club could have expected quite so much activity since we kicked that last league ball against Bolton in May – not least the arrival of six new players to the squad.

Both the chairman and myself made it clear at the end of last season that there would be quality additions to the playing staff in order to pursue our ambitions, and our signings have certainly fitted that criteria.

If there was ever any question about the extent of our determination to take this club to the very pinnacle of the game, I would suggest that this summer's hard work and investment has left no room for lingering doubt. The support I have received from the chairman, Garry Cook and Brian Marwood in bringing these often complex deals to fruition, has been fantastic.

We knew the areas that needed to be addressed, and we firmly believe that the make-up of the squad is now of sufficient strength to push on from last season's promise to challenge for a European place next May.

We began by signing the Aston Villa captain Gareth Barry, widely acknowledged as one of the top midfielders in the Barclays Premier League. When players of his quality become available, you have to be in the market for them.

With Gareth we get the experience of an England regular who has played week-in, week-out in the hardest league in the world. He plays at a level that has an impact on the game, and has the flexibility to accommodate a change of tactics during a match if need be.

Roque Santa Cruz, from my former club Blackburn, is a natural goalscorer – if the ball is in the right area, he will score goals. When people see Rocky in a light blue shirt they will soon realise why I wanted him here.

Sometimes our attacking play was exceptional last season, but we didn't have a focal point, a figurehead, if you like. He can carry that role. There were certain games in which he would have made a difference.

It's often said that you can't have enough good strikers, the kind that produce the moment of magic that can turn games. So we're delighted to welcome Carlos Tevez, who had been on loan at Old Trafford, and Emmanuel Adebayor from Arsenal.

Much has been said and written already about Carlos joining, and of course his capture is a great coup for the club and our fans. Let me simply add that he is one of the best strikers in the world. He plays his football from the heart, and his great love of the game inspires his performances.

"If there was any question about the extent of our determination to take this club to the pinnacle, this summer's investment has left no room for lingering doubt"

Emmanuel has been one of the top forwards in our game since he arrived from France, and I've been an admirer of his for a long time. He adds vital balance and power to our attack – he is versatile, quick and agile on the ball, and will add a new dimension to our play.

Nor have we neglected the defensive side of our game. Those of you who went to Barnsley last week witnessed the debut of Kolo Toure, who was outstanding in the Arsenal "Invincibles" defence that went a season without losing a League game. He is comfortable on the ball, and once he starts to understand those in front of him, the qualities they have and the best way to bring out those qualities, the bigger the impact he will have. He has integrated well into the dressing room.

Stuart Taylor is also an important, if relatively unsung, signing. Stuart's role is to push Shay Given as hard as he can but he is a top-class keeper in his own right who has played numerous games at the highest level. He certainly doesn't lack ambition: he views this as an opportunity.

Inevitably, there have to be departures too, and people might not realise that 14 players have either been released, loaned or sold with a more balanced squad in mind. One in particular will be missed by fans, I'm sure. Elano, our Brazilian playmaker, has joined Galatasaray with our best wishes. I couldn't guarantee he would play every game, and if he doesn't figure week-in, week-out then he gets frustrated.

It is a big season for him with the World Cup at the end of it and I think he came to the conclusion that the move was a good one. From our point of view we have other players who can operate in that position such as Stephen Ireland and Shaun Wright-Phillips, and we have a young talent in Vladi Weiss pushing for his turn.

Our young stars remain a vital part of the club, hence a new five-year deal for Nedum Onuoha. Despite his tender years he has already matured into a very good defender with huge potential, another shining example of the kind of quality our Academy can produce for this football club.

I was pleased with our performance against Rangers at Ibrox on Wednesday night, and performances are more important than results at this stage. The other half of Glasgow's Old Firm will present another formidable hurdle today after their midweek heroics in Europe. Enjoy the game!



Our game your day.

The heart of
the matchday
experience.

Welcome to your club.

This is where you become a privileged member of our passionate support and an important part of our incredible atmosphere.

Expect world-class football, unforgettable memories and the best experience in hospitality and football.

Irresistible menus, splendid views and exceptional service make every match the ultimate City experience.

Make yourself at home and, most of all, enjoy.

For more information
call 0870 062 4141 or email
sales@mcfc.co.uk

mcfc.co.uk/hospitality

cityhospitality

News on Blues

Seasoncard application deadline approaching...

Seasoncard sales are going through the roof with just a week to go until the start of the new Barclays Premier League campaign, and the clock is ticking on a guaranteed seat at the City of Manchester Stadium.

It's not so much a season pass this time around, more a licence for thrills following our summer recruitment campaign to land Gareth Barry, Roque Santa Cruz, Carlos Tevez, Emmanuel Adebayor and Kolo Toure.

And the manager is still on the lookout to further strengthen the squad before the summer transfer deadline on 31st August - which is also the last date to make certain of your own place at the Stadium for this season.

Promoted Wolves, managed by City and Celtic old-boy Mick McCarthy, will be our first league visitors on 22nd August - just a week after the big kick-off at Ewood Park against manager Mark Hughes' former charges Blackburn Rovers.

So as of today there are just over three weeks to make sure of your seat and a part in what promises to be one of the biggest seasons in the club's recent history. Don't be disappointed by leaving it too late.

Seasoncards can be purchased at the Box Office at the City of Manchester Stadium or over the phone at 0870 062 1894 (option 1). Or to buy online, with no booking fee, go to www.mcfc.co.uk/seasoncards

Fixtures, dates and times are subject to change.
Reproduced under copyright/database no. IND/CLUB/030.
Copyright © The FA Premier League 2009.

2009/10 Fixtures

Sat	Aug 15	Blackburn Rovers	A	3pm
Sat	Aug 22	Wolverhampton W	H	3pm
Wed	Aug 26	Carling Cup 2		
Sun	Aug 30	Portsmouth	A	1.30pm
Sat	Sept 12	Arsenal	H	3pm
Sun	Sept 20	Manchester United	A	1.30pm
Wed	Sept 23	Carling Cup 3		
Mon	Sept 28	West Ham United	H	8pm
Mon	Oct 05	Aston Villa	A	8pm
Sun	Oct 18	Wigan Athletic	A	4pm
Sat	Oct 24	Fulham	H	3pm
Wed	Oct 28	Carling Cup 4		
Sun	Nov 01	Birmingham City	A	4pm
Sat	Nov 07	Burnley	H	3pm
Sat	Nov 21	Liverpool	A	12.45pm
Sat	Nov 28	Hull City	H	3pm
Wed	Dec 02	Carling Cup 5		
Sat	Dec 05	Chelsea	H	3pm
Sat	Dec 12	Bolton Wanderers	A	3pm
Tue	Dec 15	Tottenham Hotspur	A	8pm
Sat	Dec 19	Sunderland	H	3pm
Sat	Dec 26	Stoke City	H	3pm
Mon	Dec 28	Wolverhampton W	A	3pm
Sat	Jan 02	FA Cup 3		
Wed	Jan 06	Carling Cup semi-final (1)		
Sat	Jan 09	Blackburn Rovers	H	3pm
Sat	Jan 16	Everton	A	3pm
Wed	Jan 20	Carling Cup semi-final (2)		
Sat	Jan 23	FA Cup 4		
Tue	Jan 26	Stoke City	A	8pm
Sat	Jan 30	Portsmouth	H	3pm
Sat	Feb 06	Hull City	A	3pm
Wed	Feb 10	Bolton Wanderers	H	7.45pm
Sat	Feb 13	FA Cup 5		
Sat	Feb 20	Liverpool	H	3pm
Sat	Feb 27	Chelsea	A	3pm
Sun	Feb 28	Carling Cup final		
Sun	Mar 07	Tottenham Hotspur	H	3pm
		or FA Cup 6		
Sat	Mar 13	Sunderland	A	3pm
Sat	Mar 20	Fulham	A	3pm
Sat	Mar 27	Wigan Athletic	H	3pm
Sat	Apr 03	Burnley	A	3pm
Sat	Apr 10	Birmingham City	H	3pm
		or FA Cup semi-final		
Sat	Apr 17	Manchester United	H	3pm
Sat	Apr 24	Arsenal	A	3pm
Sat	May 01	Aston Villa	H	3pm
Sun	May 09	West Ham United	A	3pm
Sat	May 15	FA Cup final		
TBA		Everton	H	

Tevez transfer sealed by Zabaleta

City pulled off a major coup in the transfer market when they swooped for Carlos Tevez in mid-July.

Blues fans had last seen the Argentinean scoring against City at Old Trafford two months earlier, but they acclaimed his move to the Blue half of Manchester in their hundreds when the 25-year-old was mobbed at the City of Manchester Stadium on the day he signed.

The club followed this up with the eye-catching "Welcome to Manchester" poster, depicting Tevez in sky blue, and he had already admitted, "...it is a bit of a strange sensation for me to be back again in Manchester."

Carlos also admitted that he grilled fellow countryman Pablo Zabaleta about life at new-look City and was happy with what he heard – and that the opinion that matters most to a patriotic Argentine was also favourable when it came to the crunch.

Carlos said: "This will be a very challenging season for me – I have no assurances about my place and must win the respect of my team-mates as I fight to be first choice. Then it is the World Cup next summer. I will work hard to achieve these goals.

"It was important to speak to Pablo, and he talked in a wonderful way about City – it was good to be able to get his input. And my national coach Diego Maradona is very happy and very supportive of my move. He wants his players to be happy at their club."



Left: Pablo Zabaleta with Carlos Tevez.

Above: Emmanuel Adebayor waves to fans who welcomed him to City.



Adebayor driven by ambition, moved by welcome

Mark Hughes further boosted his forward line when he signed Emmanuel Adebayor from Arsenal towards the end of July.

City had already left for their pre-season tour of South Africa when the Togolese striker put pen to paper on a five-year deal. Hundreds of Blues fans turned out at the City of Manchester Stadium to give Emmanuel a pop-star welcome, one that he clearly appreciated.

He said: "I am happy and pleased to be here. When you sign for a new club you just want to feel at home as quickly as possible and I do. The fans were amazing to me when I arrived."

The 25 year old's move to City drew criticism from some quarters in the media, to which the player was quick to respond:

"People who think that I have joined City for the money are wrong," he asserted. "If I had made a move for that reason then I would have been playing for Barcelona or Milan last season. They gave me bigger offers than Arsenal did for me to stay.

"I am here because I was impressed by the way the chairman at City spoke to me about the ambition of

this club. I want to be part of a club that is aiming to be one of the biggest in the world."

Adebayor is adamant that he and the Blues can break into the top four sooner rather than later.

"Why can't we do that this season?" he asked. "We have everything we need. Now is better than in two or three years.

"The chairman and everyone at City want this club to be one of the best in the world. We will fight to be that. I want to win silverware and trophies. That is my ambition. The team has got quality and a manager who knows what he wants and is a nice guy.

"I want to show how I can help. Everyone at the club has shown me great respect and how they want to build something. I have a lot of ambition and want to be part of the City family. I know I have a lot to offer the team and I will work hard to make sure I help them."

The striker was out in South Africa with his new team-mates within a couple of days, making his debut in sky blue against the Kaizer Chiefs in Pretoria.