

FullerFlavour



Blues fan **KARL FULLER** with his weekly take on Town from the terraces

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■ The brilliant Ted Phillips

Wrong date but happy memories

In last week's Fuller Flavour, I wrote about Town beating AC Milan in the European Cup.

I wrote that it happened 34 years ago but of course knew really that it was 54 years ago!

I blame the excitement of beating QPR for my fingers not engaging with my brain and writing correctly what I was thinking.

Thank you all the same to those of you who pointed out my error and hands up from me for getting it wrong.

Thank you too to those of you who recalled your own memories to me of being at the game. That's one of the best things about writing this column when folk get in touch with memories of such great days.

One such fan who contacted me was Barry Cooper who recalled:

"I attended Town's match against AC Milan and I still remember it well as a 12 year-old standing in the 'Chicken Run'.

"It was the first time that we had witnessed Italian rather cynical tactics and gamesmanship which in those days we saw as cheating.

"The Green 'Un paper had a great caricaturist in the 60's who if I remember correctly portrayed Town players bursting a blanket held in front of the Milan goal.

"My boyhood heroes, whose scoring feats will never be seen again, were the formidable strike force of Ted Phillips and Ray Crawford. Fantastic memories indeed but still annoyed about that result."

Thank you Barry and to other fans who also got in touch about that game and it is shame indeed that those days are long gone – but at least we had them!

Ah yes... A visit from Ipswich was just what Bristol needed

Groundhog Day again for Ipswich Town fans as we have most definitely been here this season haven't we? Monday morning and another weekend passes by where our mood is once more deflated by yet another Town defeat and a weekend which started with us wondering if this could be the moment that we could finally celebrate victory two weekends in a row.

It's also become something of a Groundhog Day writing this column as yet again I moan about how the charitable side of ITFC showed itself once more.

Lee Tomlin's penalty was the first first-half goal that Bristol City have scored at home all season, and remember a couple of weeks ago when I said about us being the side to help sides out of a rut? Well City had not won in five games in the league and cup and had lost three league games in a row.

We were just what they needed to help them change their fortunes.

When was the last time anyone appeared so charitable to us?

Bristol City will probably win their next two games as well and be on a similar run to the one with which we helped Nottingham Forest turn their season around.

I suppose you cannot overly blame Mick for keeping faith with the side that beat QPR, especially going away from home. But for me, the odd win with Cole Skuse and Jonathan Douglas playing together in the middle of the park does not merit going long-term with this partnership.

But hey ho, what do I know?

Ian Holloway was the latest in a string of those either still in the game or once involved to tell us



■ Town fans at Bristol City on Saturday, not sure whether to laugh or cry!

Photos: PAGE/PIX

Ipswich fans to be careful what we wish for.

Just because these are people with pro-game experience, until they watch us on a very regular basis, I don't think that they should be telling us what we should be careful about in our wishes.

I wish for Mick to turn things

around if he is to be in charge for the rest of the season and beyond.

Should I be careful about wishing for that?

I wish to see back-to-back wins at least once this season, should I be careful wishing for that too?

I don't think I'm asking for too much.

Rovers thrashed - and it's 50 up for Warky!

FULLER FLASHBACK

IPSWICH TOWN 4
TRANMERE ROVERS 0
November 30, 1991

This season celebrates the 25th anniversary of Town winning the Second Division Championship in 1991/92 and today I recall back-to-back wins.... (remember those days?)

Following on from last week's recall of a 2-1 win at Wolves to get our season back on track, Town followed this result up in style

with a 4-0 thrashing of Tranmere Rovers at Portman Road in a game that was a first-ever meeting between the two sides.

It was our most ruthless performance of the season to date, yet the visitors had come into this game with the best away defensive record in the division.

On the day, it was made very fragile with goals from Neil Thompson, John Wark, Simon Milton and David Linighan being too much for the Merseysiders.

Wark's goal came from the penalty spot and was his 50th successful spot-kick for the club

from 58 attempts. Tranmere were simply outplayed in all departments and with Wark and Linighan imperious at the back, Steve Palmer tenacious in midfield, the fact that Town scored four without a striker getting on the scoresheet showed what a quality, all-round performance this was to move us up to fifth place.

John Lyall was enthused with the performance saying, "We were nicely motivated today, and we have to be pleased with a performance like that, it was the best of the season."

As I've said previously, we are a very patient bunch and in the main, a loyal bunch too (well done to more than 1,000 fans travelling to Bristol on the back of many turgid performances this season).

Those outside of our fan base forget that we've put up with 15 years of Championship football, most of which has been fairly dire stuff to say the least.

We know that we've no given right to be in the Premier League, we know that fans of Bolton, Charlton, Sheffield United and Coventry among many others would swap places with us, and we know that there are many other clubs in the Championship all fighting for the same prizes with the same goal.

But please don't say that we should be careful for wishing for better times.

If asking for improved performances, more consistency, a little bit more entertainment and back-to-back wins is too much for some of these know-it-alls, then I'm not going to be sorry for forming a constructed opinion of why I want better times for my club.

And what more must the likes of Jonny Williams need to do to get a start in the side or Andre Dozzell a place on the bench.

We're lacking goals from a lack of clear-cut chances created. Can Mick really not see what is going wrong or has he really taken us as far as he can?

Finally, tonight is the FA Cup third round draw.

I used to look forward to this but nowadays it is painful to see us get drawn away to someone like Rochdale or Wycombe in the knowledge that we'll get beaten again by lower-league opposition.

Happy Monday everyone!



■ John Wark, 50 successful spot kicks for Town