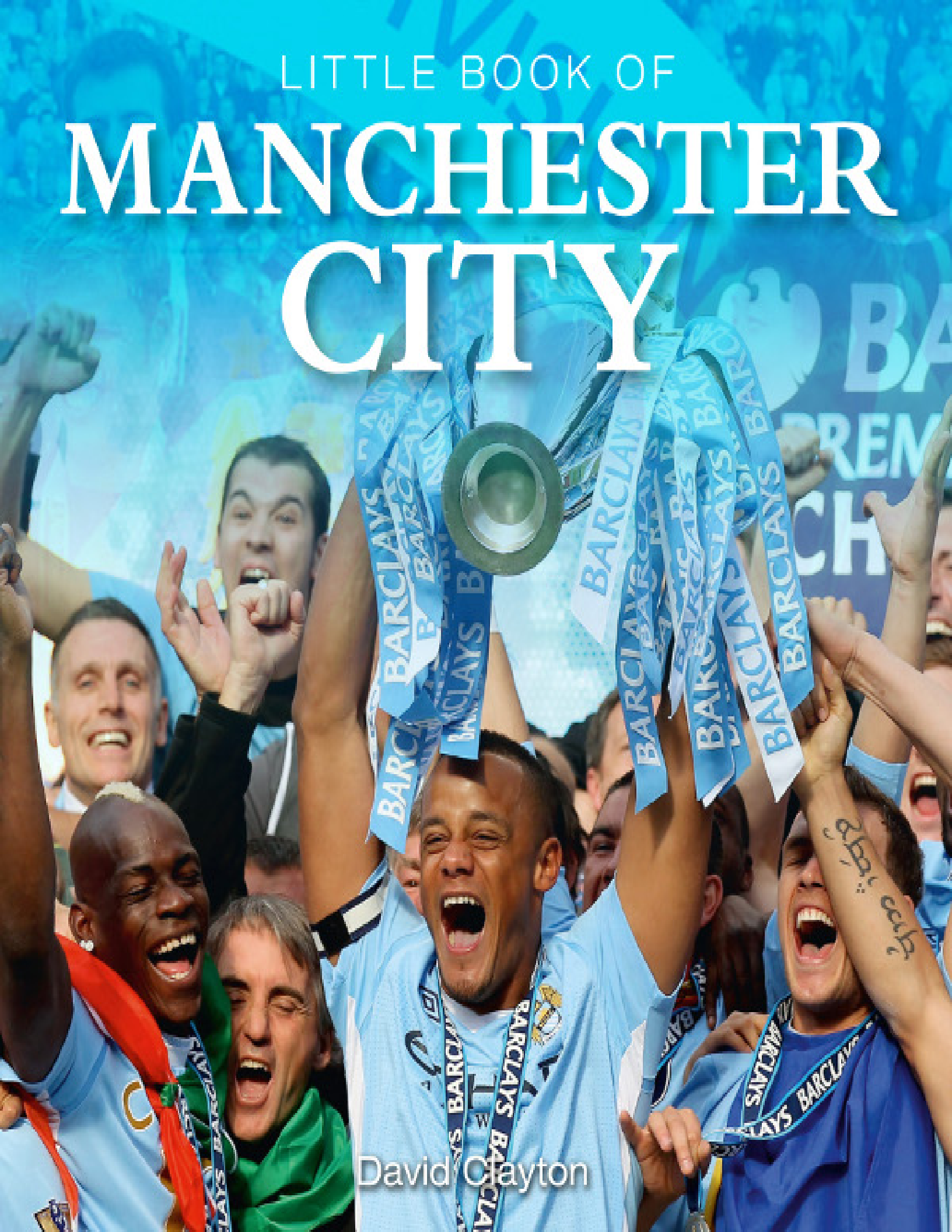
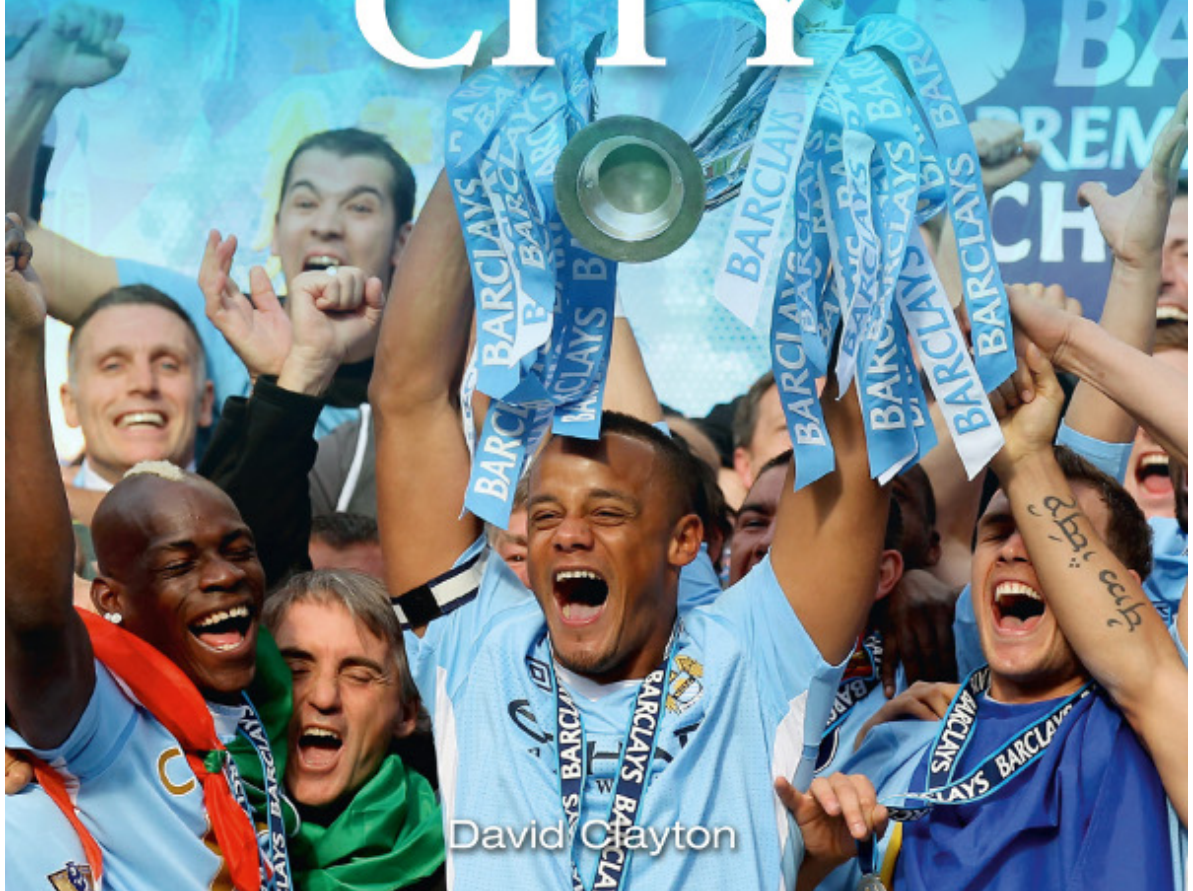


LITTLE BOOK OF
**MANCHESTER
CITY**



David Clayton

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Contents

A

[Academy](#)

[Aguero](#)

[Allison](#)

[Anglo-Italian Cup](#)

[Ardwick FC](#)

[Attendances](#)

B

[Ballet on Ice](#)

[Bananas](#)

[Barnes](#)

[Bell](#)

[Benarbia](#)

[Bond](#)

[Book](#)

[Busby](#)

C

[Captains](#)

[Celebrities](#)

[Championships](#)

[Champions League](#)

[City of Manchester Stadium](#)

[Colours](#)

[Coppell](#)

[Corluka](#)

[Corrigan](#)

[Cowan](#)

[Cricketers](#)

[Crossan](#)

D

[Daley](#)

[Derbies](#)

[Deyna](#)

[Dickov](#)

[Distin](#)

[Doherty](#)

[Dunne](#)

E

[Elano](#)

[England](#)

[European Cup Winners' Cup](#)

F

[FA Cup – triumphs](#)

[FA Cup – shocks](#)

[Floodlights](#)

[Foe](#)

[Football League Cup](#)

[Francis](#)

[Full Members' Cup](#)

G

[Gibson](#)

[Goater](#)

[Grounds](#)

H

[Hartford](#)

[Hart](#)

[Heslop](#)

[Horne](#)

[Hutchison](#)
[Hyde Road](#)

I
[Ireland](#)

J
[Johnson](#)
[Johnstone](#)

K
[Keegan](#)
[Kidd](#)
[Kinkladze](#)
[Kippax Stand](#)
[Kompany](#)

L
[Lake](#)
[Law](#)
[Lee](#)

M
[Maine Road](#)
[Mancini](#)
[Marsh](#)
[McDowall](#)
[Mercer](#)
[Meredith](#)
[Morrison](#)

N
[Nil](#)

O
[Oakes](#)

[Oasis](#)

P

[Pardoe](#)

[Paul](#)

[Penalties](#)

[Player of the Year](#)

[Power](#)

Q

[Quinn](#)

R

[Reid](#)

[Richards](#)

[Rosler](#)

[Royle](#)

S

[Silva](#)

[Summerbee](#)

[Swift](#)

T

[Tevez](#)

[Toseland](#)

[Toure](#)

[Trautmann](#)

[Tueart](#)

U

[UEFA Cup](#)

V

[Varadi](#)

W

[Watson](#)

[Weaver](#)

[White](#)

[Woosnam](#)

X

[X-tra Time](#)

Y

[Young](#)

[Youth Cup](#)

Z

[Zenith Data Cup](#)

Academy.

IN 1998, THE BLUES LAUNCHED THE Manchester City Academy, based close to the club's former Maine Road stadium at Platt Lane. A more professional set-up with strict criteria set by various official organisations, the main focus was to coach as many young hopefuls through to the first-team as possible. In 2008, Sam Williamson became the 26th graduate from the Academy to play first-team football – an incredible achievement by former Academy Director Jim Cassell and his coaches. Five of the youngsters have gone on to win full caps for their country, too, with Shaun Wright-Phillips - the first player to go from the Academy into the senior side – Micah Richards and Joey Barton all playing for England, and Stephen Ireland and Stephen Elliot playing for Ireland. Mark Allen became academy director in 2010. Amongst the list of graduates who've played for the first-team at City are:

Barton, Joey

Croft, Lee

D'Laryea, Jon

Dunfield, Terry

Elliott, Stephen

Etuhu, Dickson

Etuhu, Kelvin

Evans, Ched

Flood, Willo

Ireland, Stephen

Logan, Shaleum

Mears, Tyrone

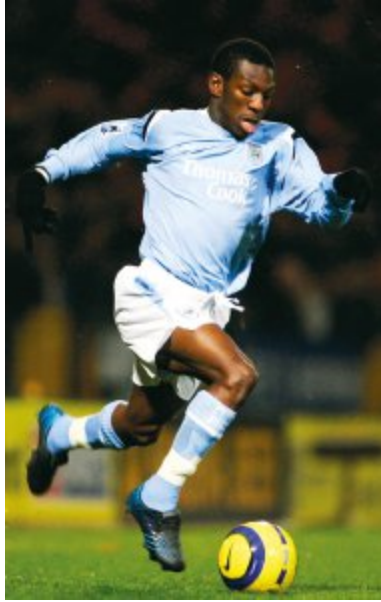
Johnson, Michael

Jordan, Stephen

Killen, Chris
Mike, Leon
Miller, Ishmael
Onuoha, Nedum
Richards, Micah
Schmeichel, Kasper
Shuker, Chris
Sturridge, Danny
Whelan, Glenn
Williamson, Sam
Wright-Phillips, Bradley
Wright-Phillips, Shaun



ABOVE Joey Barton, 2007



ABOVE Shaun Wright-Phillips was one of the first graduates to break through into the first team squad

Aguero

SERGIO AGUERO SIGNED FOR CITY in July 2011, but though the football world was well aware of his talents, few could have predicted the historical significance his signing would mean for the Blues.

The Argentine striker had made his name with Atletico Madrid as an exciting, skilful talent and had become perhaps the best player not playing for Barcelona or Real Madrid in La Liga. The son-in-law of Diego Maradona had been linked with a move to England for several seasons but it was the Blues who finally stumped up the cash to bring him to the Premier League.

He made his debut against Swansea City as a second-half substitute and within a few minutes he had opened his account with a stunning 30-yard goal and added another before full-time to complete a comprehensive 4-0 victory.

He would later win the supporters' Player of the Year award and Goal of the Season, all presented before the final game of the campaign when Aguero wrote his name into the history books with a 94th-minute winner against QPR to seal a first Premier League title for City and the first top-flight championship for 44 years.

He ended his first campaign with 30 goals - the man nicknamed 'Kun' has well and truly arrived.



ABOVE Aguero in action for Argentina.



ABOVE Aguero during the 2012 Manchester City Premier League title victory parade

Allison

BRASH, LOUD-MOUTHED, ARROGANT but brilliant. Malcolm Allison was a one of a kind football coach who, it is widely acknowledged, was many years ahead of his field. Innovative and tactically brilliant, Allison was the perfect foil for the more steady, fatherly figure of manager Joe Mercer. In July 1965, Mercer approached upcoming Plymouth Argyle boss Allison and offered him the position of head coach at Maine Road. With a desire to work at a higher level, he accepted and so began one of the most successful management teams English football has ever seen. Though the pair were like chalk and cheese, together they were a dream team, steering the Blues to the Second Division Champions in their first season and within two years, City were crowned First Division Champions for only the second time in the club's history.



ABOVE Malcolm Allison holds the Football League Cup in the air, 1970

Allison was often in trouble with the authorities for his touch-line outbursts and was banned time and time again by the FA – if Big Mal had something to say, he said it and to hell with the consequences.

Coveted by a host of other top clubs – Leeds and Juventus among their number – he felt he needed to be his own man and in 1972 was given the chance to prove himself by City. Just nine months later, the flamboyant champagne-drinking, cigar-smoking manager had left for Crystal Palace, believing he could no longer motivate the City players. In fact, his managing skills could never match his ability on the training ground and in July 1979 he returned for a second spell at the club, but it proved nothing short of disastrous and he was sacked in October 1980. He would manage Crystal Palace, Sporting Lisbon, Yeovil Town, Middlesbrough and Bristol Rovers before retiring. In his later years, he was never far from his beloved Blues. Malcolm died on October 14, 2010 at the aged of 83. He once said: ‘I used to shout that I was the greatest coach in the world.’ Few, especially the players and fans who were around in the late 1960s, would disagree.



ABOVE Malcolm Allison emerges into the stadium, 1973

Anglo-Italian Cup

INITIATED IN 1969 AS A CONTEST for English and Italian league teams, the primary objective was to reward Swindon Town, who were the English League Cup winners in 1969. However, as a Third Division club they were not allowed to enter the Fairs' Cup (Later UEFA Cup). Not a trophy fondly remembered by City fans, the Blues played in this odd competition on only one occasion in September 1970. The criteria for the competition was the English winners of the League Cup meeting the winners of the Italian Cup over a two-legged basis, but the fate of the tournament looked bleak from the word go. City played Bologna away in the first leg, losing 1-0 in front of a 28,000 crowd. The return leg at Maine Road ended in a 2-2 draw with City's goals scored by George Heslop and Francis Lee in front of a respectable 25,843 fans. Bologna took the glory and that was the sum total of the Blues' involvement. Travel costs, poor crowds and disciplinary problems eventually saw the demise of the competition, but it did make a brief reappearance in the 1990s, only to encounter the same difficulties as before.



ABOVE The team that won the League Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup, 1970

Ardwick FC



ABOVE One of the groundstaff watches a training session, 1951

WHEN THE SKIPPER OF GORTON Football Club discovered an ideal patch of ground for his team to make their home on, the club upped sticks and moved the short distance to Ardwick. With a new home and new neighbourhood, it was agreed that it made sense to change the name from Gorton FC to Ardwick FC and a new club was formed. Under manager Lawrence Furniss, the profile of the team began to rise and Ardwick twice won the Manchester Cup, beating Newton Heath 1-0 in 1891, who were later to become cross-town rivals Manchester United. However, beset by financial problems, in 1893-94 the club was forced into bankruptcy and in 1894 the phoenix that arose from the ashes of Ardwick FC was Manchester City Football Club, thanks in no small way to secretary Joshua Parlby. City would at least continue to play in Ardwick at their dilapidated Hyde Road ground, until 1923 when the club relocated to Maine Road.

Attendances

THE 1934 FA CUP TIE BETWEEN Manchester City and Stoke City still holds the record for the biggest crowd in a competitive English match outside games played at Wembley Stadium. Some 84,569 people crammed into Maine Road that day to see Eric Brook's solitary goal send City through to the next round. A decade earlier, 76,166 fans packed Maine Road to watch City draw 0-0 with Cardiff City. As late as 1956, two crowds of 76,129 and 70,640 watched the Blues take on Everton and Liverpool respectively in the FA Cup. City would win the trophy that season having no doubt been buoyed by the tremendous support they had been receiving. The Blues' record League crowd was set on February 23, 1935 when 79,491 fans watched City and Arsenal slug out a 1-1 draw.



ABOVE Manchester City fans serenade their team with a chorus of Blue Moon

The lowest crowd on record is 3,000 in 1924 when Nottingham Forest were the visitors and they took full advantage of the sparse surrounds by

beating City 3-1. A poor City side attracted just 8,015 people in January, 1964 for a Second Division clash with Swindon Town, the post-war record low.



ABOVE Part of the crowd of supporters at a match between Clapton Orient and Manchester City, 1926