

Premierslips

It's the beautiful game like



Lonely hearts Club

- Fiery Iberian, 43, small, dark and handsome, intelligent, snappy dresser, with GSOH (Good Sense of Himself) and an interest in 43-year-old Iberians, seeking special one. And found him ...
I've got me — do I need anyone else? No way. XOXO, Jose.
- Portly Spaniard seeks not-so-portly senorita looking to Kop off for English tuition and maybe more. I can rotate your world! Merseyside area.
- Ukrainian spy, firing blanks at moment, WLTM fellow hitman for on-field chemistry. Can you make the right pass at me to get this Shevvy motoring? Love, AS.
- Self-employed Russian, \$18.2bn, in the middle of messy breakup with a Mediterranean firebrand, looking for refined yet submissive caretaker for expensive football toys. Let me splash the cash. B&B included.
- Eastern European goalkeeper, fond of skull caps WLTM Irish winger. Allow me to return the favour.
- Dwarfish American, 54, WLTM Satan again. I think I have a wrong number for you. Call 'Florida Malc'.
- Cuddly Waterford utility player, 20 (stone), would like to eat Big Mac, fries, chicken nuggets and sundae drive-ins! Let me go large. Sincere callers only.
- Northern English club, 128, seeks modern espionage unit to fire off a surface to air missile.
- Scouse seeks older woman or women for shooting practice in Manchester area. Let me be forward in the box.
- Ex-Blackburn defender, IQ of 28, (and 60k p/w!), seeks discreet second employer, to elope when current marriage of convenience with ends.
- England full-back with literary interests, 26, WLTM fine physical specimen with intricate knowledge of mobile telephone communications for long phone chats and throwing money into the air aged 18-30. Phone me ... Ashley.
- Genuine Scottish gent, 66, WLTM transatlantic midfielder with interest in a long-term holding role. Bwoody hell, don't leave me on hold!
- Cheeky chappie Eastender, 61 years a-grafting, shopping around for that basement bargain, seeks partner for transfer dealings and intimate financial transactions. You scratch my bung I'll scratch yours!
- Balding Swedish Casanova with interest in 451, WLTM his long-lost wingman to roll back years
- Urbane Frenchman, passes for anything from 50 to 80, WLTM strong personality to lead 10 to 11 youngsters to silverware and maybe more. North London area.
- Mayfield man, 35, WLTM no one, got that?!
I've got my Triggs and my job, so I've no for pussyfooting around with any fancy socialising. So sling it, pal.
by Darragh Murphy

York: Mighty, mighty Minster

AT THE start of the football season last August we had a brainstorming session on the sports desk to come up with original ideas for our coverage of the game cross-channel.

By **ROBERT O'SHEA**
The rant

I purported a single idea: That we should follow one of the teams from the lower divisions for the entirety of a season; chart their ups, their downs and quarantine at least a small corner of the paper from Premiership saturation.

"Who should we follow?" they asked.
"York City," I answered.
"Why York?" they asked.
"Because it's only a letter away from Cork City," I said, with a flourish.

A silence greeted this.
A lot of tears have been shed and careers sacrificed these past six months to get York City updates included as a weekly feature, so please, if only to save my face, start taking an interest in their weekly accomplishments and misfortunes. The next time someone starts talking ball on your coffee break, instead of shooting the breeze about the latest fathead at Chelsea or ManYoo, say, "What about York, then?"

And if someone says this to you, rather than shunning them, say something like, "Yes, what about York, then? I wonder how they are doing. Let's buy an *Evening Echo*."

So, to get the ball rolling, I have a bit of background info on the Min-

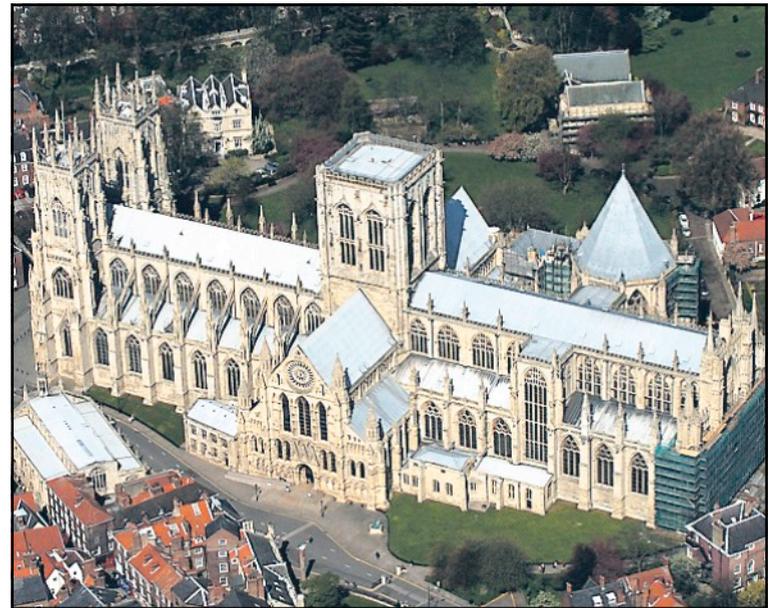
stermen (Minstermen! Hey, that's only a letter away from... forget it).

First off, they have no famous players. Or Irish players. In fact, nearly all their players are North Yorkshiremen.

Their less than illustrious squad probably has something to do with their being in the Nationwide Conference, where they have played their football for the past two seasons, relegated to the Conference after 75 years of league membership.

The Kidderminster Harriers side that defeated them 2-1 last weekend, however, included former Ireland international Jeff Kenna.

It was in this game that top scorer Clayton Donaldson was sent off and he subsequently missed



The York Minster yesterday: Significantly larger than Cork's St Fin Barre's Cathedral, but they don't have tripe and drisheen.

YORK CITY FC

Nickname: The Minstermen (After York Minster Cathedral) or Yorkies after the chocolate bar.
Founded: 1922.
Ground: KitKat Crescent.
Manager: Billy McEwan.
Main stand ticket: £16 (Season ticket holders are given the benefits of an incentive scheme where local companies offer up to 25% discounts on products and services).
Best and most amusingly named player: Club captain, Manny Panther.
Jersey: Red with white shorts.
Moment in the sun: Reaching FA Cup semi-final in 1955 (A campaign in which Art Bottom scored eight goals for the club). Also, beating Man Yoo 3-0 in the League Cup in 1995/96 season.

Famous football men from York: Marco Gabbiadini and Steve McClaren.
Average gate: 2,800.

Population of York: 186,800 (the population of Cork if the immediate suburbs of the city in the Cork County Council area are included is 186,239 (2002 figure).

Town founded: AD 87 (York was the capital city of the country before London).

Stories from the local paper, The Press: Former Lord Mayor, 87, asked for ID at supermarket when trying to buy bottle of sherry, woman who kept naked sister-in-law as slave to appeal sentence of seven years, heifer injures man trying to jump out of ring at cattle market.

Tuesday night's 1-1 draw away to Halifax. Whether he will pull on a York jersey again is the question on all York fans' lips in the run-up to next Wednesday's transfer deadline. The Board have slapped a £500,000 price tag on him, which has so far been too much for interested League One promotion chasers, Scunthorpe.

York are pushing for promotion this year (positions two to five meet in an end-of season play-off) and find themselves eight points from the top going into this weekend's game against Grays Athletic.

That they are in this position at all is squarely down to their fervent supporters, who can lay claim to fan clubs as far afield as Scandinavia and Iceland.

Five years ago the club was in a precarious position, something Cork City fans can empathise with.

In January 2002 the York City Supporters Trust was formed and its membership grew so rapidly that it has since become one of the most successful trusts in the UK.

The club was battling a myriad of financial issues and faced bankruptcy, when in March 2003 the Trust completed a rescue package and its new company, The York City Football Club Limited, acquired the football business.

As part of the Trust's rescue package, over £500,000 worth of funding was raised by supporters to secure survival.

With the lease on their ground, Bootham Crescent, expiring in May 2004 the club then obtained a £2m loan from the Football Stadium Investment Fund to acquire it from the previous directors, thus ensuring the long-term survival of the club.

In 2005 the club offered the naming rights to the town's biggest employer, Nestle, hence the break with tradition, and they now play home games at KitKat Crescent.

Last June the club voted for a change in the structure of the ownership and today the club is 75%-owned by local company J&M Pacakaging Ltd and 25% by York Supporters Trust. So, York City appears now to be a club on the up.

Watch this space.

Got something you need to get off your chest? text us@ 087 0697883

Langer of the week

WHAT are Tottenham Hotspur up to? Not satisfied with their death wish in the league, they now are trying their best to sabotage their chances in the Carling Cup. 2-0 up against the Arsenal youths they managed to grab a draw from the jaws of victory.

Stats of the week

Premiership Top scorer

- Drogba:** Chelsea, 14
- Ronaldo:** Man Utd, 13
- Van Persie:** Arsenal, 11
- Doyle:** Reading, 10
- McCarthy:** Blackburn, 10
- Yakubu:** Middlesbrough, 10
- Henry:** Arsenal, 9
- Kanu:** Portsmouth, 9

Where York City stand

Conference League

Dag & Red	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	28	17	7	4	55	27	58
York City	28	14	10	4	43	20	52
Gravesend	28	14	6	8	40	32	48
	28	14	6	8	38	32	48

Legend of the week

THE Arsenal youngsters do it again. Facing into their Waterloo against North London rivals Spurs, 2-0 down and with 20 minutes to go, they played their way out of trouble to save the day. Don't you just hate smart ass kids.