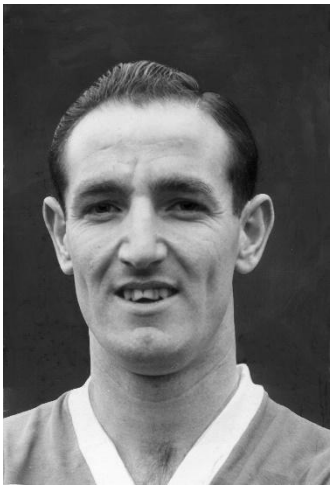
LEICESTER CITY LANDLORDS

Throughout the history of the professional game, players have faced the problem of what to do when they hang up their boots. Many Leicester Fosse and Leicester City players took over pubs, several of which have now disappeared. This season we will be rediscovering and revisiting these 'Players' Pubs' and uncovering the stories about them and about the landlords who ran them.

The Player: Derek Hogg



Outside-left Derek Hogg played over 160 games for Leicester City between 1953 and 1958 and was a key member of the record breaking 1957 side which won the Second Division Title. He was the fastest player at the Club and had the ability to mesmerize defences with his dribbling skills. He could kick with both feet and had in fact had arrived at Filbert Street as a right winger. His performances put him on the verge of the England team and he was selected for the Football League in 1955. The goalscoring feats of Arthur Rowley and Derek Hines owed much to the service provided by Derek. He transferred to West Bromwich Albion in April 1958 before finishing his Football League career at Cardiff City in 1962. He then went on to play over 100 games in the Southern League for Kettering Town. He played over 300 Football League games in his career including a run of 104 consecutive games for Leicester City. Reflecting on his time at Leicester, Derek, who later lived in Sutton-on-Sea said, "I enjoyed my football most at Leicester. They were a good club".

The Pub: The Royal Oak Osgathorpe

In 1971 Derek bought, as a Free House, the Royal Oak in the attractive village of Osgathorpe in North West Leicestershire. There was another pub in the village called the Storey Arms. The Royal Oak was an old building which had uneven floors upstairs. In former times it had been used as a grain mill. In Derek's time there, the cellar still had a chute in for the grain.

Situated on Main Street and surrounded by a stone wall, the Royal Oak was next door to a farm. On the other side of Main Street a brook ran alongside the road.

It was a smallish pub and Derek had a new extension added. The pub was decorated with pictures of Derek's team mates from Leicester City.

In 1983, after twelve years as a landlord, Derek had to have a hip operation. This incapacitated him for about six months and he reluctantly sold the pub and moved to Cromer. Four years after that he bought another pub, the Black Horse in the Lincolnshire Village of Ludford, near Market Rasen . He was landlord there for another twelve years.

The Royal Oak in Osgathorpe is no longer a pub. It closed in 2000. It became a Bed and Breakfast establishment. It is now a private residence.

Pics

01. Derek Hogg.
02. Derek Hogg, middle row, 1st player from right.
03. The Royal Oak as it is today.

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