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: Lenny Glover

Lenny in August 1971 at a Bradgate Park training session. (Left to right) Kellard, Carlin, Sjoberg, Bloomfield Glover and Shilton.

In November 1968, Matt Gillies paid £80,000 to secure Lenny Glover from Charlton Athletic. This was a British transfer record for a winger. He had speed and class. His ability to bewilder defenders, put in pin point crosses with his left foot, and find the back of the net when chances came his way, made him a fans' favourite. The roar of the crowd when he received the ball became part of the Filbert Street experience as did the terrace songs singing his praises.

Lenny played in City's 1969 FA Cup Final. He played a major part in Leicester winning the Second Division title in 1971. Back in the topflight, he developed an almost telepathic relationship with Frank Worthington who is on record as saying that the understanding he had with Glover on the pitch was the

best he ever had with any player throughout his long career. Certainly, Lenny provided the crosses for many of Frank's goals. He also scored some memorable ones himself, notably the equaliser in the replayed 1974 FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool.

In 1974 and 1975, four Leicester City players (Shilton, Whitworth, Weller and Worthington) were selected for England. Many felt that Glover should have been the fifth, one view at the time being (with perhaps a little exaggeration) that he was "the best uncapped winger in the world". It wasn't to be. Towards the end of the following season, Glover was suffering from injuries and in April 1976 he left Filbert Street for Tampa Bay Rowdies in the United States.

The Pub: The King's Head, Smeeton Westerby

Back in England and following spells at Kettering Town, Earl Shilton Albion and Shepshed Charterhouse, Lenny became landlord of the King's Head in Smeeton Westerby, a picturesque south Leicestershire village with no shops, a village hall, a church and several stables and farms. The pub was, however, handily placed for Kibworth Cricket and Golf Clubs, visitors to Foxton Locks and the Fernie Hunt.

In 1994, Lenny left the pub trade to become player-manager at Harlow Town in the Diadora League. He appointed ex- City teammate, midfielder Bobby Kellard, as his assistant. In 1995, aged 51, Lenny became the oldest player to appear at that level. He resigned soon afterwards.