# Leicester City Locations

**There are many locations in Leicester and Leicestershire which have been very significant in the history of Leicester Fosse and Leicester City.**

**Some of the buildings have long gone, some have changed and some are still with us.**

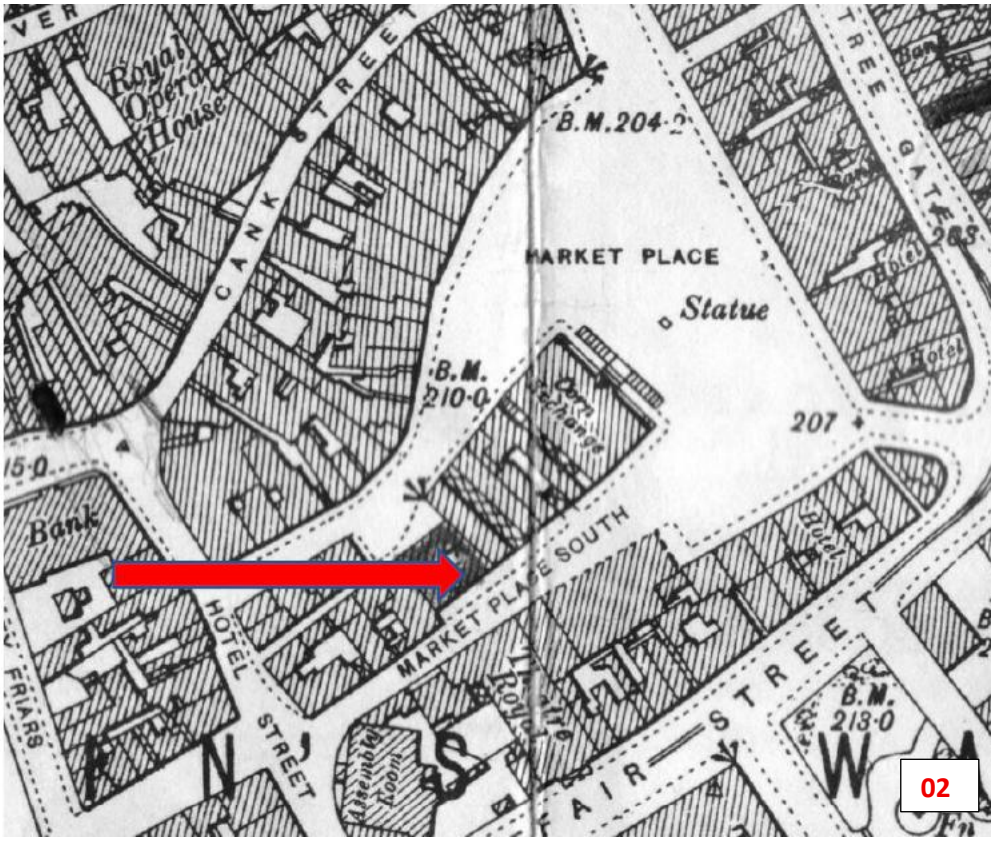
**Club Historian John Hutchinson's new series revisits each of these sites and tells the story behind them.**

## The Club Office at 17 Market Place

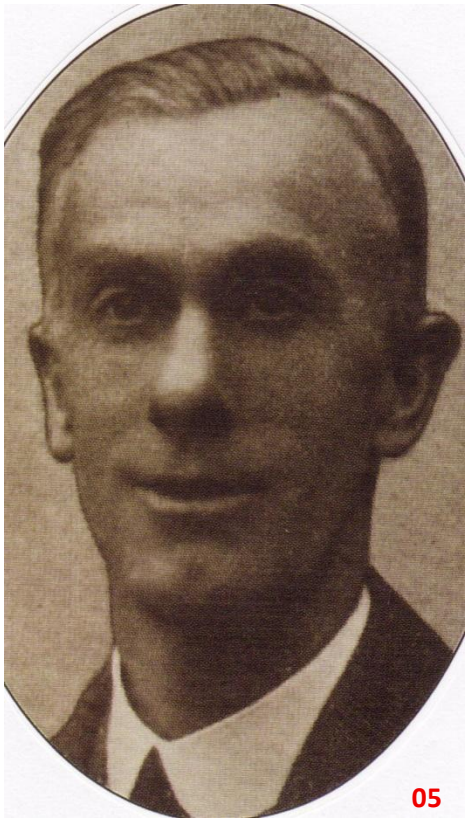
When Leicester Fosse was reconstructed as Leicester City in July 1919, one of the first things the new Board of Directors did was to establish the Club's office in a building behind the White Swan Hotel **(Picture 01)** at 17 Market Place.

The Club rented this office as its headquarters for one season only.

In the 1920 close season, the Club finally established its headquarters at Filbert Street, 29 years after it had first moved to the ground in 1891.



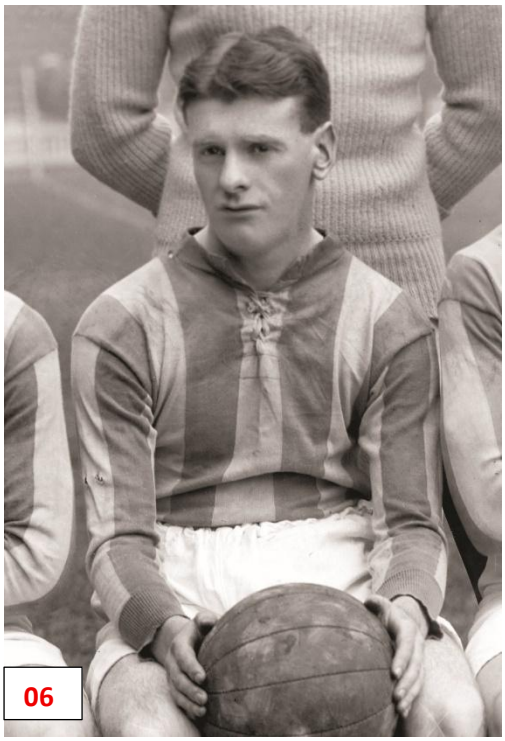

The office at 17 Market Place was one of several offices behind the two buildings that contained the White Swan Hotel. **(Picture 02).**




The offices, together with the White Swan, were demolished in the 1970s to make way for the Market Centre **(Picture 03**). This was demolished in turn to make way for the recently established Green Dragon Square **(Picture 04)** behind the Corn Exchange in the Leicester Market area. During the year at 17 Market Place the Club made some very important decisions The Directors were determined to put the Club on a much more professional footing than that which existed under the old Fosse regime. Their first key decision was to appoint Peter Hodge **(Picture 05)** as the Club's new secretary -manager. He'd had an extremely experienced career in football administration which began with Dunfermline Athletic. As Raith Rovers' secretary-manager between 1907 and 1912 he took the club into the Scottish First Division. In his only season at Stoke (1914/15), he won the Southern League's Second Division. He also managed Raith Rovers again from 1916 to 1919, where one of his players was the future Leicester City legend Johnny Duncan.

The Directors gave Hodge unprecedented authority over all team matters. It turned out to be an inspired appointment.

Working from the Market Place office, Hodge made two key signings soon after taking up the post.



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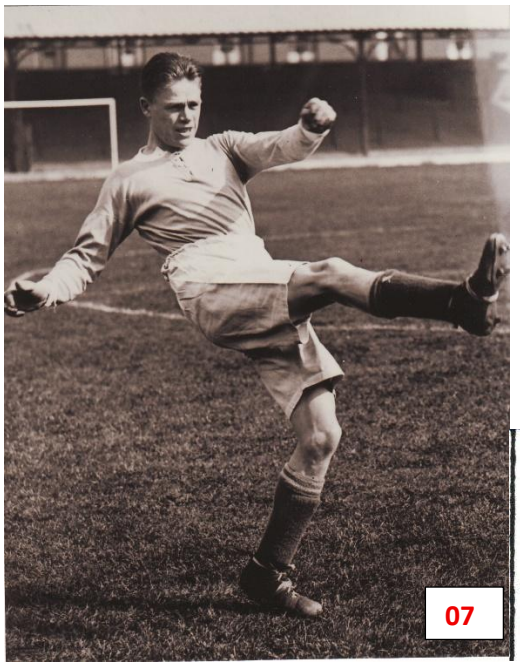
In December 1919, he signed centre-forward Jock Paterson **(Picture 06)** from Dundee. He soon set two records for the newly named Leicester City. He scored the reconstructed Club's first hat trick in March 1920. He also became Leicester City's first international player when he played for Scotland against England in April 1920.



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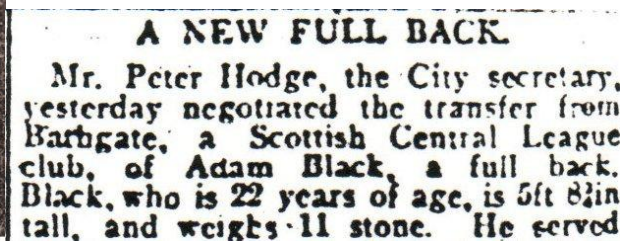

A NEW FULL BACK.

Mr. Peter Hodge, the City secretary, yesterday negotiated the transfer from Barbgate, a Scottish Central League club, of Adam Black, a full back. Black, who is 22 years of age, is 5ft 8½in tall, and weighs 11 stone. He served

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Hodge's second key signing came a month later. In January 1920, he signed a Scottish full-back called Adam Black **(Picture 07)** who went on to play a record 528 league games for the Club. This less than prominent extract from the Leicester Mercury dated 7 January 1920 **(Picture 08)** is the first local reference to 22 year-old Black's arrival in Leicester from Bathgate, a Scottish Central League Club. The report went onto point out that Black was a young war hero who had won the DCM in the First World War.

Working from his desk at 17 Market Place, Hodge also signed Dave Gardner **(Picture 09)** as the Club's trainer. This was a key appointment. An ex-Scotland international fullback Gardner was a central figure at Filbert Street for 12 years, helping establish Leicester City as one of the best sides in England. Sadly he died suddenly playing golf at Longcliffe Golf Course in 1931.

During the only season that the Club was run from 17, Market Place, Leicester City, playing in their wartime strip of blue and white vertically striped shirts, finished a modest 14th in the Second Division

However, the decisions taken by the Board of Directors and by Peter Hodge laid very sound foundations for the future. Within six seasons the newly reconstructed Leicester City won the Second Division title and four years after that finished as runners-up in the First Division.