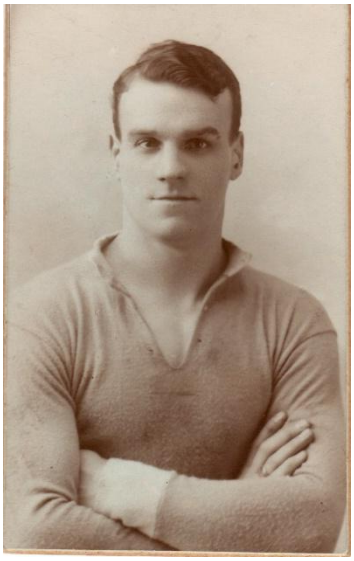
Leicester City Landlords

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: George Carr

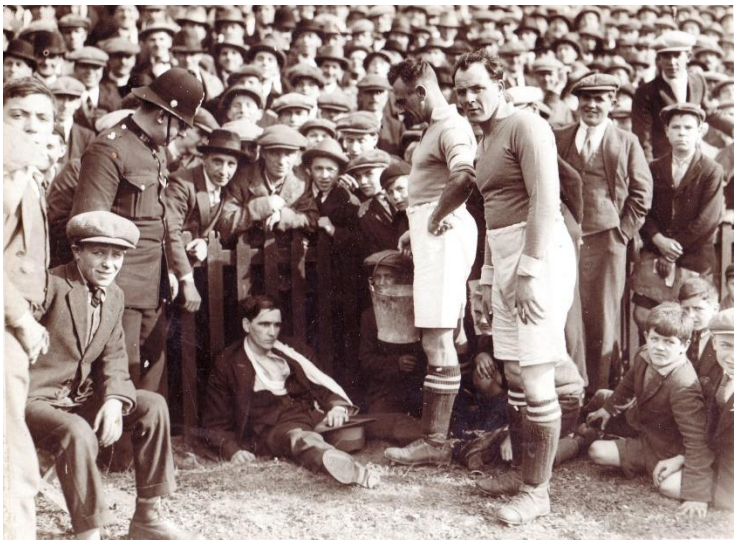


George Carr was born near Middlesbrough in 1899. He was one of four brothers who played for Middlesbrough , for whom he signed in 1919 on condition that the Club granted two of his brothers a benefit match.

He transferred to Leicester City for £2300 in February 1924. He then established himself as an absolutely key player in the Club's first golden era.

He played at inside-forward in the Leicester City side which won the 1925 Second Division title. Early into the next season, in a game against Leeds United, he broke his leg so badly that members of the crowd fainted (pictured below) and had to be helped by City players Arthur Chandler (left) and Johnny Duncan (right).

George took about a year to recover after which he became a vitual ever-present , as a centre-half, in the Leicester City sides which finished third in the old First Division in 1928 and Runners-up in 1929.



He spent eight years as a player at Leicester, a period which included a spell as captain. After a final League season at Stockport County he returned to the area by becoming player-manager at Nuneaton Town, whose star player was the future Leicester City player and coach George Dewis who, thirty years later, played a great part in nurturing the talents of such young players as David Nish, Peter Shilton and others.

Even after he left the area for the third time to manage Cheltenham Town in the mid 1930s, George's association with Leicester City did not end. He returned to the North-East, and was

the guiding force behind Leicester City adopting Middlesbrough Swifts as a feeder club. This resulted in future England star and manager Don Revie coming to Filbert Street in the 1940s. After the War, George's association with Filbert Street continued as he became the Club's North-East scout.

The Pub: The Zetland Hotel, Marske

On his return to the North-East, George not only coached two local sides, Stockton and South Bank, he also became landlord in the area of his birth. He took over the impressive Zetland Hotel in Marske, a village near to Middlesbrough. This Hotel and pub was built in the 1860s on a large a large corner site on Marske's High Street. The parents of Captain Cook are buried close by. The Zetland Hotel later functioned as a traditional Bed and Breakfast establishment. George went on to become the landlord of the Black Swan in nearby North Ormesby.