

The “Prog” column:

“Y” means that a programme is definitely known to exist. So it is (or has been) in a CFC supporter’s collection, or its existence has been confirmed by a programme collector from the opposition, or it has been offered for sale or auction by a football memorabilia dealer

“N” means that a programme is definitely known NOT to exist. In most circumstances this information has been taken from CFC supporters who were actually at the match in question

“?” means that we simply don’t know whether or not a programme exists

When listing those matches with programmes we have made some general assumptions as follows:

(A) Pre-1918:

Very few programmes are known to have survived from the years before the First World War so we haven’t listed them with the individual season line-ups, as there would simply have been a “Prog” column containing virtually all “?”

The oldest known programme for a CFC match is away at Sheffield United Reserves in 1898-99. In fact, programmes for matches away to Sheffield United Reserves are more common than might be expected and are known to exist for the majority of these matches during that period

The oldest known programme for a CFC home match is that against Manchester City on 27/09/1902. This programme came on the market around 2008 and was bought by the CFC Community Trust. As this was the second home match of the season it is probable that a programme was also issued for the previous home match, on 13/09/1902 v Leicester Fosse, or maybe even for the reserve match on 06/09/1902 v Sheffield United Reserves. No other CFC home programmes are known to exist until after the end of the First World War

The full list of programmes known to exist for CFC away matches prior to the end of the First World War is as follows

Away at Sheffield United

04/03/99 1898-99 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team

11/10/02 1902-03 SUFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
24/12/04 1904-05 SUFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
20/10/06 1906-07 SUFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
11/01/08 1907-08 SUFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
25/12/08 1908-09 SUFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
05/03/10 1909-10 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team (may also have been a benefit match for Billy Bromage)
21/01/11 1910-11 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team
09/03/12 1911-12 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team
09/11/12 1912-13 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team
18/10/13 1913-14 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team
02/04/15 1914-15 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team
05/02/16 1915-16 SUFC Reserves v CFC First team
26/12/16 1916-17 SUFC First Team v CFC First team

Away at Sheffield Wednesday

26/12/02 1902-03 SWFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
04/04/04 1903-04 SWFC Reserves v CFC Reserves
25/03/05 1904-05 SWFC Reserves v CFC Reserves

Away at Chelsea

21/10/05 1905-06 FL Chelsea
06/04/07 1906-07 FL Chelsea
04/02/11 1910-11 FAC Chelsea

Other away matches

15/12/00 1900-01 FL Walsall
19/11/04 1904-05 FL West Bromwich Albion (see below **)
07/01/05 1904-05 FL Liverpool
21/01/05 1904-05 FL Bristol City (not a programme but a Peter Chambers Benefit Fund postcard)
26/09/07 1907-08 FL Hull City
17/10/08 1908-09 FL Tottenham Hotspur
31/10/08 1908-09 FL Derby County

25/12/08 1908-09 FL Fulham
19/01/10 1909-10 FAC Replay Fulham
10/01/14 1913-14 FAC West Ham United

** The magazine "Sport & Play" was classed as the "official organ" of Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion & Small Heath. This programme also covers Small Heath v Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa Reserves v Stourbridge.

(B) From 1918 to the end of WW2:

For this period we have included programme info with the individual season line-ups of all CFC teams. As a general rule of thumb it is highly unlikely that CFC issued any programmes for games involving the 3rd XI as these games were normally not played at Saltergate. Unless, of course, you know different...

(C) CFC First team from 1945-46 to 2019-20:

All games listed as "1st XI" or "First Team" had programmes as a matter of course, so these are not specifically listed, as there would simply have been a "Prog" column containing all "Y"

EXCEPT...

There are 4 (maybe 6) matches which didn't have a programme...

Preston North End in 45-46
Birmingham City in 46-47
Droylsden FA Cup in 08-09 (the one where the floodlights actually worked)
Burton Albion JPT in 09-10

Bourne Town in 58-59 (programme info unknown)
Grimsby Town in 81-82 in the FL Group Cup (was the "programme" just a press sheet?)

And then things started to change...

Programmes for the away matches at Barnet in 2018-19 and 2019-20 were not available in printed format, instead they were produced in digital (PDF) format only

(D) CFC First team from 2020-21 onwards:

The 20-21 season was of course dramatically affected by the COVID pandemic with virtually all matches being played behind closed doors. CFC continued to produce traditional printed programmes, though obviously in much smaller quantities. The “programmes” at away matches varied – some clubs produced a traditional printed programme, some produced a digital issue and some produced nothing at all. This continued into subsequent seasons, when supporters were again allowed in grounds, but a precedent had been set and this gave some clubs the excuse to no longer produce a traditional programme.

(E) CFC Reserves from 1945-46 to 1966-67:

We believe programmes or teamsheets were produced for all CFC home and away reserve matches during the Central League era, which ended in 66-67. But we have listed “?” where no actual programme has ever been located

(F) Other CFC teams from 1945-46 to 1966-67:

Most home games involving the various A Team, Colts or Juniors were played away from Saltergate. CFC generally only issued a programme on the rare occasions when Saltergate was used

(G) CFC Reserves and Junior/Youth from 1967-68 to the mid 1980s:

In 1967-68 the reserves started playing in the North Midlands League (a midweek league using the then–new Saltergate floodlights), and this meant that the Juniors could play home games in the Northern Intermediate League at Saltergate on Saturdays

For both teams CFC produced typed-and-duplicated teamsheets from 67-68 to the mid-70s but this was not always the case for away matches. After the mid-70s teamsheets are much rarer and it is far from certain which games did and did not have teamsheets

The reserves then played in the Central League in 82-83 and 83-84 and again programmes were generally produced

(H) CFC Reserves and Junior/Youth from the mid 1980s onwards

From the mid-1980s onwards the distinction between the reserve and youth teams started to become blurred, and matches were often played on midweek afternoons instead of evenings, occasionally at training grounds and sometimes billed as “private”

(I) CFC Other Matches

Home games played on training grounds, (such as Pitt Street, Eckington), training matches billed as “private” and reserve games played on midweek afternoons are assumed to be programme-less