

= Ken Barnes ( footballer ) =

Kenneth Herbert Barnes ( 16 March 1929 ? 13 July 2010 ) was an English footballer . He played as a half back for Manchester City and Wrexham . On the books of Birmingham City as a youth , Barnes began his football career at amateur level . Upon completion of his national service in 1947 he joined semi @-@ pro Stafford Rangers .

A transfer to Manchester City in 1950 meant Barnes turned professional , but his pro career had a slow start , making only one first team appearance in four years . He broke into the first team in 1954 , flourishing as part of the tactical system known as the Revie Plan . During this period he played in two consecutive FA Cup finals , as a loser in 1955 and a winner in 1956 . After making 283 appearances for Manchester City he joined Wrexham as player @-@ manager in 1961 , guiding them to promotion in his first season . Barnes returned to Manchester City in 1970 , and over more than two decades filled a variety of coaching roles , including overseeing the development of the youth team which won the 1986 FA Youth Cup .

He died on 13 July 2010 .

= = Early career = =

Barnes was born in the Small Heath area of Birmingham , in the shadow of St Andrew 's , the home stadium of Birmingham City . Support for Birmingham City ran in the family ; his uncle played for the club in the 1920s . In 1943 , aged 14 , he began work at the Post Office . He played football for the works team , and quickly received an invitation to play for Moor Green , one of the strongest amateur teams in the area . His performances for Moor Green resulted in interest from Birmingham City , and Barnes became part of their junior team , Birmingham City Colts . Barnes worked at the Post Office during the day , trained with Moor Green in the evening , and played for Birmingham City Colts at the weekend . However , the Colts stopped selecting Barnes after a clash of matches , in which Barnes chose to play for a local team instead of the Colts . Barnes then resumed playing for Moor Green .

After a few months Barnes gained a second opportunity with a professional club , joining the youth ranks at Bolton Wanderers . As with when he played for Birmingham , he trained with Moor Green and played for Bolton 's youth team at the weekend . Upon turning 18 , Barnes was called up for national service , and was based with the RAF at Stafford . He continued to play for Bolton when circumstances permitted it , but when the club made a formal request for his services the RAF refused . Upon completion of his national service Barnes joined semi @-@ pro Stafford Rangers . He made his debut against Newport County on 14 June 1947 , and continued to play for the club for the next three years .

= = Manchester City = =

Barnes joined Manchester City after a £ 750 move from non @-@ League Stafford Rangers on 6 May 1950 . He did not feature in the first team on a regular basis for several years ? his debut , against Derby County on 5 January 1952 was the only appearance he made in his first four years at the club .

In the 1953 ? 54 season Barnes was playing for the Manchester City reserve team . Inspired by the Hungary team which had beaten England 6 ? 3 the previous year , the reserves began using a tactical system in which Johnny Williamson was used as a deep @-@ lying centre @-@ forward . Barnes played as an attacking half @-@ back in a similar vein to József Bozsik . Using the system the reserves achieved a lengthy unbeaten run . At the start of the following season Manchester City manager Les McDowall decided to try the system at first team level , using Don Revie in the centre @-@ forward role . Henceforth the system became known as The Revie Plan . The opening match of the season resulted in a 5 ? 0 defeat at the hands of Preston North End . Revie opined that the system required attacking half @-@ backs to be successful , and that City 's half backs , John McTavish in particular , were too defensive . To that end Barnes was picked for the following match

in place of McTavish . City beat Sheffield United 5 ? 2 , and Barnes became an integral part of the team , playing all but one of the matches in the remainder of the season . However , he was not enamoured by the attention given to the Revie Plan by the press , describing it as " bollocks " .

During Barnes ' first full season in the first team Manchester City enjoyed a successful run in the FA Cup . As a top @-@ flight team Manchester City entered the competition in the third round , facing Derby County . Barnes scored the opening goal in a 3 ? 1 win , his first goal in professional football . A derby victory against Manchester United and a win against Luton Town followed , setting up a quarter @-@ final against his boyhood heroes Birmingham City . Single goal victories against Birmingham and Sunderland gave City a place in the final , where they faced Newcastle United . However , hampered by the loss of Jimmy Meadows to injury after 18 minutes , City were beaten 3 ? 1 .

Manchester City reached the cup final again the following season , Barnes playing every match of the cup run . Manchester City beat Birmingham City 3 ? 1 , Barnes having a hand in the second goal . The final is most well known for being the match where goalkeeper Bert Trautmann continued play after breaking his neck .

By the late 1950s Barnes was one of the senior players in the side , and succeeded Roy Paul as captain when Paul retired in 1957 . During the 1957 ? 58 season Barnes became the third player to score a hat @-@ trick of penalties in an English top @-@ flight match , as part of a 6 ? 2 defeat of Everton . At this time Barnes was the club 's primary penalty taker , helping him to score 11 goals over the course of the season . In his later years at Manchester City , Barnes role as captain meant he had become a strong influence on younger players . A particularly notable example was Denis Law , who joined the club in 1960 , the pair becoming lifelong friends .

Barnes never played international football , but was described by Denis Law as " the best uncapped wing @-@ half ever to have played in English football " . The closest he came to an international cap was being named as a reserve for a match against Wales in October 1957 .

In the dressing room Barnes had a reputation as a practical joker , with Bert Trautmann a particular target for teasing . Known as " Beaky " to his teammates , Barnes was one of the chief organisers of social activities on away trips , along with Roy Paul . In eleven years at Manchester City Barnes made 283 appearances in all competitions , scoring 19 goals .

= = Management and coaching = =

By 1961 , age meant Barnes was no longer an automatic first team selection , so he sought a move into management . An opportunity arose at Wrexham in May 1961 , and Barnes was appointed player @-@ manager . In his first season the club gained promotion to the Third Division . During his tenure he oversaw the club 's record victory , a 10 ? 1 defeat of Hartlepool United . The club finished ninth in 1962 ? 63 , but were relegated to the Fourth Division the following season . Barnes remained at the club until 1965 , when he resigned his post . By the time of his departure from the club he had made 132 appearances , scoring 24 goals .

After leaving Wrexham Barnes took a job outside football , working in sales for WalkerSteel Owened by future Blackburn Rovers Benefactor Jack Walker . However , before long he received an offer to become manager of Witton Albion on a part @-@ time basis . At Witton he created a team from a mixture of promising youngsters and ageing veterans . Players he signed included future European Cup winner Chris Nicholl and former greats Dennis Viollet and Bobby Johnstone .

On 27 August 1970 , Barnes curtailed a brief spell as manager of Bangor City to return to Manchester City as a member of the coaching staff . When Malcolm Allison departed the club in 1973 , Barnes was offered the role of caretaker manager , but , soured by his experiences at Wrexham , he turned it down . Instead he became assistant to the eventual managerial appointee Johnny Hart . Seven months later ill health forced Hart to step down . In the reorganisation that followed the appointment of Hart 's replacement Ron Saunders , Barnes became chief scout , a role he retained for two decades until he was sacked by Peter Reid in 1991 . In his role he oversaw the development of a large number of successful young players , including Paul Lake , David White and Steve Redmond , the stars of the Manchester City youth team which won the 1986 FA Youth Cup .

In 1994 he returned to the club at the invitation of Francis Lee , who had recently become chairman . Barnes served in a part @-@ time scouting position for a further six years .

Since 2000 , Barnes had been involved in a youth football initiative in Malaysia ; Ken Barnes Soccer Skills . In 2004 , Barnes was elected to Manchester City 's Hall of Fame , and in 2005 to Wrexham Supporters ' Association 's Hall of Fame . Married with six children , he died in July 2010 from pneumonia aged 81 . One of his sons , Peter Barnes , was also a professional footballer , who played for England , both Manchester clubs , West Bromwich Albion and Leeds United .

= = Honours = =

Manchester City  
FA Cup : 1955 ? 56

= = Managerial statistics = =