

= Birmingham City F.C. =

Birmingham City Football Club (/ ?b??rm???m ?s?ti / , locally / ?b??rm????m /) is a professional association football club based in the city of Birmingham , England . Formed in 1875 as Small Heath Alliance , they became Small Heath in 1888 , then Birmingham in 1905 , finally becoming Birmingham City in 1943 . They compete in the Football League Championship , the second tier of league football in England .

As Small Heath , they played in the Football Alliance before becoming founder members and first ever champions of the Football League Second Division . The most successful period in their history was in the 1950s and early 1960s . They achieved their highest finishing position of sixth in the First Division in the 1955 ? 56 season and reached the 1956 FA Cup Final , progressed to the final of the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup in 1960 and 1961 , and won their first major trophy , the League Cup , in 1963 , beating Aston Villa 3 ? 1 on aggregate . They won the latter competition for the second time in 2011 . They have played in the top tier of English football for the majority of their history . Their longest period spent outside the top division , between 1986 and 2002 , included two brief spells in the third tier of the English League , during which time they twice won the Football League Trophy .

St Andrew 's has been their home ground since 1906 . They have a long @-@ standing and fierce rivalry with Aston Villa , their nearest neighbours , with whom they play the Second City derby . The club 's nickname is Blues , due to the colour of their kit , and their fans are known as Bluenoses .

= = History = =

Birmingham City were founded as Small Heath Alliance in 1875 , and from 1877 played their home games at Muntz Street . The club turned professional in 1885 , and three years later became the first football club to become a limited company with a board of directors , under the name of Small Heath F.C. Ltd . From the 1889 ? 90 season they played in the Football Alliance , which ran alongside the Football League . In 1892 , Small Heath , along with the other Alliance teams , were invited to join the newly formed Football League Second Division . They finished as champions , but failed to win promotion via the test match system ; the following season promotion to the First Division was secured after a second @-@ place finish and test match victory over Darwen . The club adopted the name Birmingham Football Club in 1905 , and moved into their new home , St Andrew 's Ground , the following year . Matters on the field failed to live up to their surroundings . Birmingham were relegated in 1908 , obliged to apply for re @-@ election two years later , and remained in the Second Division until after the First World War .

Frank Womack 's captaincy and the creativity of Scottish international playmaker Johnny Crosbie contributed much to Birmingham winning their second Division Two title in 1920 ? 21 . Womack went on to make 515 appearances , a club record for an outfielder , over a twenty @-@ year career . 1920 also saw the debut of the 19 @-@ year @-@ old Joe Bradford , who went on to score a club record 267 goals in 445 games , and won 12 caps for England . In 1931 , manager Leslie Knighton led the club to their first FA Cup Final , which they lost 2 ? 1 to Second Division club West Bromwich Albion . Though Birmingham remained in the top flight for 18 seasons , they struggled in the league , with much reliance placed on England goalkeeper Harry Hibbs to make up for the lack of goals , Bradford excepted , at the other end . They were finally relegated in 1939 , the last full season before the Football League was abandoned for the duration of the Second World War .

The name Birmingham City F.C. was adopted in 1943 . Under Harry Storer , appointed manager in 1945 , the club won the Football League South wartime league and reached the semifinal of the first post @-@ war FA Cup . Two years later they won their third Second Division title , conceding only 24 goals in the 42 @-@ game season . Storer 's successor Bob Brocklebank , though unable to stave off relegation in 1950 , brought in players who made a major contribution to the club 's successes of the next decade . When Arthur Turner took over as manager in November 1954 , he made them play closer to their potential , and a 5 ? 1 win on the last day of the 1954 ? 55 season confirmed them as champions . In their first season back in the First Division , Birmingham achieved their highest league finish of sixth place . They also reached the FA Cup final , losing 3 ? 1 to

Manchester City in the game notable for City 's goalkeeper Bert Trautmann playing the last 20 minutes with a broken bone in his neck . The following season the club lost in the FA Cup semifinal for the third time since the war , this time beaten 2 ? 0 by Manchester United 's " Busby Babes " .

Birmingham became the first English club side to take part in European competition when they played their first group game in the inaugural Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup competition on 15 May 1956 ; they went on to reach the semifinal where they drew 4 ? 4 on aggregate with Barcelona , losing the replay 2 ? 1 . They were also the first English club side to reach a European final , losing 4 ? 1 on aggregate to Barcelona in the 1960 Fairs Cup final and 4 ? 2 to A.S. Roma the following year . In the 1961 semifinal they beat Internazionale home and away ; no other English club won a competitive game in the San Siro until Arsenal managed it more than 40 years later . Gil Merrick 's side saved their best form for cup competitions . Though opponents in the 1963 League Cup final , local rivals Aston Villa , were pre @-@ match favourites , Birmingham raised their game and won 3 ? 1 on aggregate to lift their first major trophy . In 1965 , after ten years in the top flight , they returned to the Second Division .

Businessman Clifford Coombs took over as chairman in 1965 , luring Stan Cullis out of retirement to manage the club . Cullis 's team played attractive football which took them to the semifinals of the League Cup in 1967 and the FA Cup in 1968 , but league football needed a different approach . Successor Freddie Goodwin produced a team playing skilful , aggressive football that won promotion as well as reaching an FA Cup semifinal . Two years later , the club raised money by selling Bob Latchford to Everton for a British record fee of £ 350 @,@ 000 , but without his goals the team struggled . Sir Alf Ramsey briefly managed the club before Jim Smith took over in 1978 . With relegation a certainty , the club sold Trevor Francis to Nottingham Forest , making him the first player transferred for a fee of £ 1 million ; Francis had scored a total of 133 goals in 329 appearances over his nine years at Birmingham . Smith took Birmingham straight back to the First Division , but a poor start to the 1981 ? 82 season saw him replaced by Ron Saunders , who had just resigned from league champions Aston Villa . Saunders ' team struggled to score goals and in 1984 they were relegated . They bounced back up , but the last home game of the 1984 ? 85 promotion season , against Leeds United , was marred by rioting , culminating in the death of a boy when a wall collapsed on him . This was on the same day as the Bradford City stadium fire , and the events at St Andrew 's formed part of the remit of Mr Justice Popplewell 's inquiry into safety at sports grounds . The club lacked stability both on and off the field . Saunders quit after FA Cup defeat to non @-@ League team Altrincham , staff were laid off , the training ground was sold , and by 1989 Birmingham were in the Third Division for the first time in their history .

In April 1989 the Kumar brothers , owners of a clothing chain , bought the club . A rapid turnover of managers , the absence of promised investment , and a threatened mass refusal of players to renew contracts was relieved only by a victorious trip to Wembley in the Associate Members Cup . Terry Cooper delivered promotion , but the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) put the Kumars ' businesses into receivership ; in November 1992 BCCI 's liquidator put up for sale their 84 % holding in the football club . The club continued in administration for four months , until publisher David Sullivan bought it for £ 700 @,@ 000 , installed the then 23 @-@ year @-@ old Karren Brady as managing director and allowed Cooper money for signings . On the last day of the season , the team avoided relegation back to the third tier , but after a poor start to the 1993 ? 94 season Cooper was replaced by Barry Fry . The change did not prevent relegation , but Fry 's first full season brought promotion back to the second tier as champions , and victory in the Football League Trophy at Wembley , beating Carlisle United with a Paul Tait golden goal , completed the " lower @-@ league Double " . After one more year , Fry was sacked to make way for the return of Trevor Francis .

Francis introduced players with top @-@ level experience such as Manchester United skipper Steve Bruce . In his second season the club narrowly missed out on a play @-@ off position , followed by three years of play @-@ off semifinal defeats . They also reached the 2001 League Cup final against Liverpool at Cardiff 's Millennium Stadium . Birmingham equalised in the last minute of normal time , but the match went to a penalty shootout which Liverpool won . By October 2001 , lack of progress had made Francis 's position untenable . After a 6 ? 0 League Cup defeat to Manchester

City , he left by mutual consent , replaced two months later by Steve Bruce . Bruce shook up a stale team , taking them from mid @-@ table into the play @-@ offs where they beat Norwich City on penalties to win promotion to the Premier League .

Motivated by the inspirational Christophe Dugarry , Birmingham 's first top @-@ flight season for 16 years finished in mid @-@ table . Loan signing Mikael Forssell 's 17 league goals helped Birmingham to a top @-@ half finish in 2003 ? 04 , though performances and results tailed off badly towards the end of the season . First @-@ team coach Mark Bowen was sacked and replaced by Eric Black , international players were signed , but an injury to Forssell left the 2004 ? 05 team struggling for goals . More transfer window loan signings ensured another mid @-@ table finish . Only two months later , chairman David Gold said it was time to " start talking about being as good as anyone outside the top three or four " with " the best squad of players for 25 years " . Injuries , lack of form , and a lack of investment during the transfer window saw them relegated before the last game of a season whose lowlight was a 0 ? 7 FA Cup defeat to Liverpool . Jermaine Pennant and Emile Heskey left for record fees , many more were released , but Bruce retained the confidence of the board . His amended recruitment strategy , combining young " hungry " players with free @-@ transfer experience and shrewd exploitation of the loan market , brought automatic promotion at the end of a season which had included calls for his head .

In July 2007 , Hong Kong @-@ based businessman Carson Yeung bought 29 @.@ 9 % of shares in the club , making him the biggest single shareholder , with a view to taking full control in the future . Uncertain as to his future under possible new owners , Bruce left in mid @-@ season to become manager of Premier League rivals Wigan Athletic . His successor , Scotland national team manager Alex McLeish , was unable to stave off relegation , but achieved promotion back to the Premier League at the first attempt , and a ninth @-@ place finish , their best for 51 years , the following season . In 2011 , they combined a second victory in the League Cup , defeating favourites Arsenal 2 ? 1 with goals from Nikola ?igi? and Obafemi Martins and securing qualification for the Europa League , with relegation back to the second tier . McLeish resigned in June 2011 to join Aston Villa . Successor Chris Hughton narrowly failed to reach the knockout rounds of the Europa League and the playoff final before , with the club in financial turmoil and under a transfer embargo , leaving for Norwich City in June 2012 . Under Lee Clark , Birmingham twice retained their divisional status , albeit through Paul Caddis 's 93rd @-@ minute goal in the last match of 2013 ? 14 to avoid relegation on goal difference . After a continuation of the poor form from the previous season , Clark was sacked in October 2014 , to be replaced by Burton Albion manager and former Birmingham player Gary Rowett .

= = Colours and badge = =

The Small Heath Alliance members decided among themselves that their colours would be blue ; in the early days , they wore whatever blue shirt they had . Their first uniform kit was a dark blue shirt with a white sash and white shorts . Several variations on a blue theme were tried ; the one that stuck was the royal blue shirt with a white " V " , adopted during the First World War and retained until the late 1920s . Though the design changed , the royal blue remained . In 1971 they adopted the " penguin " strip ? royal blue with a broad white central front panel ? which lasted five years . Since then they have generally worn plain , nominally royal blue shirts , though the actual shade used has varied . Shorts have been either blue or white , and socks usually blue , white or a combination . White , yellow , red and black , on their own or in combination , have been the most frequently used colours for the away kit .

There have been aberrations . The 1992 kit , sponsored by Triton Showers , was made of a blue material covered with multicoloured splashes which resembled a shower curtain . Birmingham have only worn stripes on their home shirt once ; in 1999 they wore a blue shirt with a front central panel in narrow blue and white stripes , a design similar to the Tesco supermarket carrier bag of the time .

When the club changed their name from Small Heath to Birmingham in 1905 they adopted the city 's coat of arms as their crest , although this was not always worn on the shirts . The 1970s " penguin " shirt carried the letters " BCFC " intertwined at the centre of the chest . The Sports Argus

newspaper ran a competition in 1972 to design a new badge for the club . The winning entry , a line @-@ drawn globe and ball , with ribbon carrying the club name and date of foundation , in plain blue and white , was adopted by the club but not worn on playing shirts until 1976 . An experiment was made in the early 1990s with colouring in the globe and ball , but the club soon reverted to the plain version .

For the 2016 ? 17 season , the home kit is all blue , apart from white trim on the sleeves and three white stripes down the sides and round the sock tops . The away kit is all red , apart from white trim at the neck and under the sleeve and three white stripes on the shoulders , shorts and sock tops . The kits , supplied by Adidas in this first season of a four @-@ year deal , bear the logo of online bookmaker 888sport , the club 's principal sponsor .

Sponsors ' names or logos have appeared on the shirts since 1982 . Tables of shirt sponsors and kit suppliers appear below .

= = Stadiums = =

Small Heath Alliance played their first home games on waste ground off Arthur Street , Bordesley Green . As interest grew , they moved to a fenced @-@ off field in Ladypool Road , Sparkbrook , where admission could be charged . A year later , they moved again , to a field adjoining Muntz Street , Small Heath , near the main Coventry Road , with a capacity of about 10 @,@ 000 . The Muntz Street ground was adequate for 1880s friendly matches , and the capacity was gradually raised to around 30 @,@ 000 , but when several thousand spectators scaled walls and broke down turnstiles to get into a First Division match against Aston Villa , it became clear that it could no longer cope with the demand .

Director Harry Morris identified a site for a new ground in Bordesley Green , some three @-@ quarters of a mile (1 km) from Muntz Street towards the city centre . The site was where a brickworks once operated ; the land sloped steeply down to stagnant pools , yet the stadium was constructed in under twelve months from land clearance to opening ceremony on Boxing Day 1906 . Heavy snow nearly prevented the opening ; volunteers had to clear pitch and terraces before the match , a goalless draw against Middlesbrough , could go ahead . The ground is reputed to have been cursed by gypsies evicted from the site ; although gypsies are known to have camped nearby , there is no contemporary evidence for their eviction by the club .

The original capacity of St Andrew 's was reported as 75 @,@ 000 , with 4 @,@ 000 seats in the Main Stand and space for 22 @,@ 000 under cover . By 1938 the official capacity was 68 @,@ 000 , and February 1939 saw the attendance record set at the fifth round FA Cup tie against Everton , variously recorded as 66 @,@ 844 or 67 @,@ 341 . On the outbreak of the Second World War , the Chief Constable ordered the ground 's closure because of the danger from air raids ; it was the only ground to be thus closed , and was only re @-@ opened after the matter was raised in Parliament . It was badly damaged during the Birmingham Blitz : the Railway End and the Kop as a result of bombing , while the Main Stand burnt down when a fireman mistook petrol for water .

The replacement Main Stand used a propped cantilever roof design , which meant fewer pillars to block spectators ' view of the pitch . Floodlights were installed in 1956 , and officially switched on for a friendly match against Borussia Dortmund in 1957 . By the early 1960s a stand had been built at the Railway End to the same design as the Main Stand , roofs had been put on the Kop and Tilton Road End , and the ground capacity was down to about 55 @,@ 000 .

Resulting from the 1986 Popplewell Report into the safety of sports grounds and the later Taylor Report , the capacity of St Andrew 's was set at 28 @,@ 235 for safety reasons , but it was accepted that the stadium had to be brought up to modern all @-@ seated standards . After the last home game of the 1993 ? 94 season , the Kop and Tilton Road terraces were demolished ? fans took home a significant proportion as souvenirs ? to be replaced at the start of the new season by a 7 @,@ 000 @-@ seat Tilton Road Stand , continuing round the corner into the 9 @,@ 500 @-@ seat Kop which opened two months later . The 8 @,@ 000 @-@ seat Railway Stand followed in 1999 ; ten years later , this was renamed the Gil Merrick Stand , in honour of the club 's appearance record @-@ holder and former manager ? but the Main Stand has still to be modernised . In 2013 ,

the club website listed the stadium capacity as 30 @, @ 016 .

In 2004 a proposal was put forward to build a " sports village " comprising a new 55 @, @ 000 capacity stadium for the club , to be known as the City of Birmingham Stadium , other sports and leisure facilities , and a super casino . The project would be jointly financed by Birmingham City Council , Birmingham City F.C. (via the proceeds of the sale of St Andrew 's) and the casino group Las Vegas Sands . The feasibility of the plan depended on the government issuing a licence for a super casino , and Birmingham being chosen as the venue , but this did not happen . The club have planning permission to redevelop the Main Stand , but club and council have continued to seek alternative sources of funding for the City of Birmingham Stadium project .

In 2013 , the Birmingham City Supporters ' Trust 's application for listing St Andrew 's as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) ? a building or other land whose main use " furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community " and where it is realistic to believe it could do so in the future . ? under the Localism Act 2011 was approved by Birmingham City Council . This requires any proposed sale to be notified to the Council , and provides for a six @-@ month moratorium on that sale to allow the Trust and other community groups to submit their own bid .

= = Supporters = =

Birmingham fans consider their main rivals to be Aston Villa , their nearest neighbours geographically , with whom they contest the Second City derby . Lesser rivalries exist with fellow West Midlands clubs Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion . According to a 2003 Football Fans Census survey , Aston Villa fans thought of Birmingham City as their main rivals , though this was not always the case .

Birmingham 's supporters are generally referred to as " Bluenoses " in the media and by the fans themselves ; the name is also used in a derogatory manner by fans of other clubs . A piece of public sculpture in the form of a ten @-@ times @-@ life @-@ size head lying on a mound near the St Andrew 's ground , Ondré Nowakowski 's Sleeping Iron Giant , has been repeatedly defaced with blue paint on its nose . Between 1994 and 1997 the club mascot took the form of a blue nose , though it is now a dog called Beau Brummie , a play on the name Beau Brummell and Brummie , the slang word for a person from Birmingham .

A number of supporters ' clubs are affiliated to the football club , both in England and abroad . An action group was formed in 1991 to protest against chairman Samesh Kumar , the club blamed an internet petition for the collapse of the purchase of player Lee Bowyer in 2005 , and antipathy towards the board provoked hostile chanting and a pitch invasion after the last match of the 2007 ? 08 season , but when the club was in financial difficulties , supporters contributed to schemes which funded the purchase of players Brian Roberts in 1984 and Paul Peschisolido in 1992 . A supporters ' trust was formed under the auspices of Supporters Direct in 2012 .

There have been several fanzines published by supporters . Made in Brum , first issued in 2000 , was the only one regularly on sale in 2013 . The Zulu began some years earlier and ran for at least 16 seasons . The hooligan firm associated with the club , the Zulus , were unusual in that they had multi @-@ racial membership at a time when many such firms had associations with racist or right @-@ wing groups .

The fans ' anthem , an adaptation of Harry Lauder 's Keep right on to the end of the road , was adopted during the 1956 FA Cup campaign . The Times ' football correspondent described in his Cup Final preview how

the Birmingham clans swept their side along to Wembley ? the first side ever to reach a final without once playing at home ? on the wings of the song " Keep right on to the end of the road " .

Player Alex Govan is credited with popularising the song , by singing it on the coach on the way to the quarter final and when he revealed in an interview that it was his favourite .

In the build @-@ up to the 1956 FA Cup semi @-@ final with Sunderland I was interviewed by the press and happened to let slip that my favourite song was Harry Lauder 's old music hall number " Keep Right on to the End of the Road " . I thought no more about it , but when the third goal went in at Hillsborough the Blues fans all started singing it . It was the proudest moment of my life .

= = Ownership = =

Small Heath F.C. became a limited company in 1888 ; its first share issue was to the value of £ 650 . The board was made up of local businessmen and dignitaries until 1965 , when the club was sold to Clifford Coombs . By the mid @-@ 1980s the club was in financial trouble . Control passed from the Coombs family to former Walsall F.C. chairman Ken Wheldon , who cut costs , made redundancies , and sold off assets , including the club 's training ground . Still unable to make the club pay , Wheldon sold it to the Kumar brothers , owners of a clothing chain . Debt was still increasing when matters came to a head ; the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) put the Kumars ' businesses into receivership . The club continued in administration for four months until Sport Newspapers ' proprietor David Sullivan bought the Kumars ' 84 % holding for £ 700 @, @ 000 from BCCI 's liquidator in March 1993 . Birmingham City plc , of which the football club was a wholly owned subsidiary , was floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in 1997 with an issue of 15 million new shares , raising £ 7 @. @ 5 million of new investment . It made a pre @-@ tax profit of £ 4.3M in the year ending 31 August 2008 .

In July 2007 , Hong Kong businessman Carson Yeung , via the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (SEHK) -listed company Grandtop International Holdings Limited (GIH) , bought 29 @. @ 9 % of the plc from its directors . Although his intention to take full control of the club initially came to nothing . GIH completed the purchase in October 2009 at a total cost of £ 81.5M , re @-@ registered the club as a private company , and renamed the holding company Birmingham International Holdings (BIH) .

Trading in BIH shares was suspended in June 2011 after Yeung 's arrest on charges of money @-@ laundering . Publication of financial results was repeatedly delayed , which led the Football League to impose a transfer embargo , and offers for the club were entertained from 2012 onwards . After Yeung resigned his positions with both club and company in early 2014 , share trading resumed , and following his conviction , efforts intensified to dispose of the club , which had to be done piecemeal in order to retain BIH 's share listing .

Going into 2015 , the Football League made public their concerns over Yeung 's attempts to impose his choice of directors on the BIHL board despite his conviction disqualifying him from exerting influence over a club . Relationships became increasingly factional , as illustrated by the failure of three directors , including the club 's de facto chief executive Panos Pavlakis , to gain re @-@ election , followed the next day by their reinstatement . On 17 February , the board voluntarily appointed receivers from accountants Ernst & Young to take over management of the company . Their statement stressed that no winding @-@ up petition had been issued and the company was not in liquidation .

In June 2015 , the receivers granted a two @-@ year exclusivity period to their preferred bidder , the British Virgin Islands @-@ registered investment vehicle Trillion Trophy Asia (TTA) , wholly owned by Chinese businessman Paul Suen Cho Hung . After striking deals with the previous major shareholders such that legal action against them would be dropped in return for their agreement not to obstruct any transfer of ownership , the receivers released a document in June 2016 setting out a timescale for the company restructure , share relisting and takeover , to be completed by the end of October . It confirmed that Suen would hold 60 @. @ 78 % of BIH shares and the Yeung faction no more than 14 % , and that the company would not be sold on within two years .

= = Honours = =

Birmingham City 's honours include the following :

Second Division / Division One / The Championship (level 2)

Champions : 1892 ? 93 , 1920 ? 21 , 1947 ? 48 , 1954 ? 55

Runners @-@ up : 1893 ? 94 , 1900 ? 01 , 1902 ? 03 , 1971 ? 72 , 1984 ? 85 , 2006 ? 07 , 2008 ? 09

Play @-@ off winners : 2001 ? 02

Third Division / Division Two (level 3)

Champions : 1994 ? 95

Runners @-@ up : 1991 ? 92

FA Cup

Runners @-@ up : 1931 , 1956

League Cup

Winners : 1963 , 2011

Runners @-@ up : 2001

Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup

Runners @-@ up : 1960 , 1961

Associate Members Cup / Football League Trophy

Winners : 1991 , 1995

Birmingham Senior Cup

Winners : 1905

In pre @-@ league days , County Cups were second only to the FA Cup in importance as first @-@ team competitions . Small Heath first entered the Birmingham Senior Cup in 1878 ? 79 ? ten years before the foundation of the Football League ? and won for the first time in 1905 , defeating West Bromwich Albion 7 ? 2 in the final . Its importance declined with the increase in League fixtures , and from 1905 ? 06 onwards , Birmingham fielded teams containing reserve @-@ team players .

Football League South (wartime)

Champions : 1945 ? 46

Preparatory to the Football League resuming in 1946 ? 47 , the First and Second Division clubs from the last pre @-@ war season were divided geographically between the Leagues North and South for 1945 ? 46 . Going into the last day of the season , Aston Villa were top of League South but had finished their programme two points (one win) ahead of the chasers but with a worse goal average . Charlton Athletic were second , above Birmingham by 0 @.@ 002 of a goal . While Charlton could only draw at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers , Birmingham won away at Luton Town , so claimed the title by 0 @.@ 3 of a goal .

= = Statistics and records = =

Frank Womack holds the record for Birmingham league appearances , having played 491 matches between 1908 and 1928 , closely followed by Gil Merrick with 485 between 1946 and 1959 . If all senior competitions are included , Merrick has 551 , less closely followed by Womack 's 515 which is the record for an outfield player . The player who won most international caps while at the club is Maik Taylor with 58 for Northern Ireland .

The goalscoring record is held by Joe Bradford , with 249 league goals , 267 altogether , scored between 1920 and 1935 ; no other player comes close . Walter Abbott holds the records for the most goals scored in a season , in 1898 ? 99 , with 34 league goals in the Second Division and 42 goals in total .

The club 's widest victory margin in the league was 12 ? 0 , a scoreline which they achieved once in the Football Alliance , against Nottingham Forest in 1899 , and twice in the Second Division , against Walsall Town Swifts in 1892 and Doncaster Rovers in 1903 . They have lost a league match by an eight @-@ goal margin on eight occasions : twice in the Football Alliance and five times in the First Division , all away from home , and once at home , beaten 8 ? 0 by AFC Bournemouth in the Championship in 2014 . Their record FA Cup win was 10 ? 0 against Druids in the fourth qualifying round of the 1899 competition ; their record FA Cup defeat was 7 ? 0 at home to Liverpool in the 2006 quarter final .

Birmingham 's home attendance record was set at the fifth @-@ round FA Cup tie against Everton on 11 February 1939 . It is variously recorded as 66 @,@ 844 or 67 @,@ 341 . According to the club website , the highest transfer fee received for a Birmingham player is £ 6 @.@ 5 million from Liverpool for Jermaine Pennant in August 2006 , while the most expensive player bought was Emile Heskey , who joined from Liverpool in May 2004 for a fee of £ 6.25m.

= = Players = =

= = = Current squad = = =

Where a player has not declared an international allegiance , nation is determined by place of birth .
Squad correct as of 26 July 2016 .

Squad numbers apply to the 2015 ? 16 season .

= = = Reserves and Academy = = =

= = = Birmingham City Ladies = = =

Birmingham City Ladies Football Club was formed in 1968 . The first team worked their way through the leagues until promoted to the FA Women 's Premier League in 2002 . After Birmingham City F.C. withdrew financial support in 2005 , the club were only able to continue because of a personal donation . They re @-@ affiliated with Birmingham City in 2010 , were founder members of the FA WSL the following year , and won the FA Women 's Cup in 2012 .

= = Club officials = =

Owner : Birmingham International Holdings Ltd

Birmingham City F.C. board of directors

As of 11 August 2015

Director : Panos Pavlakis

Director : Shui Cheong Ma

Coaching staff

As of 15 May 2015

Manager : Gary Rowett

Assistant manager : Kevin Summerfield

First team coach : Mark Sale

Goalkeeping coach : Kevin Poole

Senior professional development coach : Richard Beale

Head of performance : Darren Robinson

Head of sports science : Dave Carolan

Head of analysis : Joe Carnall

= = Notable managers = =

Gil Merrick was the first Birmingham manager to win a major trophy , the League Cup in 1963 . Merrick also led the club to the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup final in 1961 , following Pat Beasley who had done the same in 1960 . Leslie Knighton took the club to the final of the FA Cup in 1931 ; Arthur Turner did likewise in 1956 , as well as taking charge of the club 's highest league finish , sixth place in the 1955 ? 56 First Division . Birmingham reached the 2001 Football League Cup Final under Trevor Francis , whose successor as permanent manager , Steve Bruce , twice achieved promotion to the Premier League . Birmingham won the League Cup for the second time under Alex McLeish in 2011 . The 1966 World Cup @-@ winning manager , Sir Alf Ramsey , took charge of the club briefly in 1977 .