



# It's going to be a Royle Blue Christmas

**Joe Royle has agreed to be our guest at this years Christmas Meal that will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December in the Commonwealth Suite at the Etihad Stadium.**

Joe had two very successful periods with City, first as a player when he was brought in by Tony Book who paid Everton £170,000 to sign him in 1974. He very quickly became a firm favourite with the fans, playing as a striker he made 124 appearances scoring 31 goals and won the League Cup in 1976 despite having his goal that day disallowed.

He was sold to Bristol City in 1977 but returned as Manager in 1998 at a very difficult time for City. We were deep in the relegation zone having only won 7 of the 31 games played before his arrival, despite winning 5 of the remaining 15 including beating Stoke 5-2 on the last day we were relegated to the Second Division. It is widely felt that had he arrived earlier he would have kept us up.

This was the clubs first time in the third tier of English Football so it was vital that we bounced straight back. Royle employed his famous cavalier style which saw us win the first game of the season 3-0 at home against Blackpool, beat Burnley away 6-0 and finish 4-0 winners against York taking us to third place in the league and competing in the play-offs for the last promotion place. After beating Wigan we were at Wembley for an unforgettable game against Gillingham. 2-0 down it looked like we would be playing another season in Division 2, but Joe Royle's team refused to give up. Kevin Horlock scored in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute followed by Paul Dickov's goal in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute of injury time taking us in to extra time. With no further goals it was all down to a penalty shoot out which we won 3-1.

The following season was equally cavalier with high scoring and entertaining football resulting in us finishing second and back where we felt we belonged, promoted to the Premiership. It was perhaps all a bit too soon though as despite Joe's best efforts including beating Sunderland 4-2 and Everton 5-0 the squad just was not strong enough to compete at the top level and we finished third from bottom taking us back down to the First Division ending Joe's time with us.

Joe still holds the respect of the football world for his knowledge of the game, he can often be seen on TV analysing games and has just launched a Football Blog Site <http://directoroffootball.com/> which is a fascinating read.

We are told that, Director Of Football.com identifies player talent for Premier League clubs from the perspective of an expert with over one thousand games of management experience in the game and a top talent ID and transfer track record. Talent identification will be across both tactical, technical and psychological perspectives where Royle recommends players he thinks clubs should be signing as opposed to the signings they already have made or are about to make. The blog will also review relevant news stories in UK football from an expert's viewpoint and experiences during a highly distinguished career in football club management.

Joe can also be followed on twitter [@DirotFootball](https://twitter.com/DirotFootball)



# Christmas Meal 2013



Our Christmas Meal this year will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December in the Commonwealth Suite at the Etihad Stadium, doors open at 7pm with the meal being served at around 7:45pm. We will have Joe Royle as guest speaker, raffle, prize draw and city quiz. Tickets are £18 per person. We will be drawing up a table plan, this is to ensure large groups arriving late can still sit together. If you want to be on the same table as another member you know, please request this in the special requirement areas of the booking form. Please enclose a cheque made payable to MCDSA and a stamped addressed envelope for return of your tickets. Donations towards the raffle will be gratefully received. Last date for sale of tickets is 6<sup>th</sup> December as we need to confirm numbers to City in advance, cancellations after the 6<sup>th</sup> can not be refunded

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### Christmas Meal Booking Form

**Names Of Guests**

**Wheelchair user?**

**Vegetarian?**

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Yes / No

Yes / No

Special Requirements:

Please return booking form to:

Mark Barber  
MCDSA  
13 Burrington Drive  
Leigh  
WN7 5EU

With payment and stamped addressed envelope