

On the first day of our Christmas build up **Pete Sixsmith** remembers:



Johnny Crossan.

For those of a certain age, Johnny Crossan cemented our life long support of Sunderland AFC. He was a fine player who created as many goals as he scored. He rattled in 22 in the promotion side of 1964, a team that succeeded without an out and out goal scorer, but which had Nicky Sharkey, George Herd and George Mulhall all chipping in.

Crossan ghosted into spaces that nobody else saw and his partnership with the late George Mulhall, aided by Lennie Ashurst and Jimmy McNab, made us the most dangerous attack in Division Two.

I was bitterly disappointed when he went to Manchester City and probably cursed Ian McColl for days afterwards. He skippered City to promotion and taught the likes of Mike Summerbee, Colin Bell and Francis Lee how to be a success. The less said about his time at Middlesbrough the better.

He had style in a team that, as good as it was, was distinctly middle aged. His short haircut, complete with sideboards, wouldn't have seen him out of place as a member of The Who or The Small Faces and he had an admiring coterie of young females who followed him.

He is still in Derry and my mate Pete Horan played 5-a-side with him a few years ago. **He still had it.**



Johnny Crossan