

Although obviously purple and not claret, the 92–94 away kit was similar in design to the kit the club wore in their FA Cup final success of 1956.



A 1992–93, 1993–94

Design: UMBRO
Sponsor: BROTHER

The City faithful were faced with another uncompromising away kit design in 1992. With nostalgia heavily influencing fashion on the field, Umbro issued a range of kits across almost all of the sides they supplied that was blatantly inspired by another age. The design itself was very striking, with an old-fashioned collar and thin white stripes – it was just the audacious colour scheme of vivid purple that had the fans in two minds.

Worn in: A 1–0 defeat at Spurs in 93–94, but also a good 2–1 win over QPR in the 92–93 FA Cup fifth round. Plus an exciting 3–2 defeat to Leeds the following season.

Worn by: Andy Hill, Michael Hughes, Fitzroy Simpson.



3 1993–94, 1994–95

Design: UMBRO
Sponsor: BROTHER

And so it went on! For the third season running the club sported another unique white third kit. This one followed the retro stylings of the purple away strip, with its large 1940s-style collar and baggy shorts. Coupled with navy blue, it was another popular strip that was worn on the cover of the NME by a certain Liam Gallagher, a confirmed City fan. As with the away shirt, the Brother logo was outlined to make it easier to read against the stripes.

Worn in: The 3–1 defeat away to West Ham at Upton Park in the 93–94 season. Also, the shock 1–0 defeat to Cardiff in the fourth round of the 93–94 FA Cup.

Worn by: Terry Phelan, David Brightwell.



H 1993–94, 1994–95

Design: UMBRO
Sponsor: BROTHER

With standard collars becoming just a little passé, Umbro introduced the next home shirt with a slick new design coupled with a round neck. A dynamic shadow pattern made up of abstract renderings of the Umbro diamond logo and a fine diagonal pinstripe gave the shirt some character. A re-evaluated version of the famous diamond trim appeared on each cuff, which also included a small 'City' ID tag. Brian Horton became manager in 93–94.

Worn in: A solid 4–1 victory over Leicester in the third round of the 93–94 FA Cup. Also that season a great 2–1 win at home to Newcastle. Plus a good 4–0 win over Everton in 94–95.

Worn by: Peter Beagrie, Paul Walsh, Nicky Summerbee.



A 1994–95, 1995–96

Design: UMBRO
Sponsor: BROTHER

With the club spending the last few seasons hovering dangerously around the relegation area of the Premiership, it was obviously felt that a little City heritage was needed to inspire the side back to greatness. So it was the return of the favoured black and red stripes, although they were now much narrower and combined with a curious new chest panel. Topped with a new collar design and stripes on the bottom of the long shorts, it is debatable whether it was a successful contemporary reworking of the traditional City away strip or not.

Worn in: The brilliant 3–2 win over Blackburn in 94–95 and a 2–2 draw vs Coventry in the 95–96 FA Cup fourth round.

Worn by: Garry Flitcroft, Steve Lomas.

Joey Barton was unable to make his debut for City at Middlesbrough in the 02–03 season when he realised that his Le Coq Sportif blue shirt had been stolen from the dug-out during half time.



3 2002–03

Design: LE COQ SPORTIF
Sponsor: FIRST ADVICE

For City's third strip this season, the designers once again looked to the past and produced this gorgeous-looking kit that was almost identical to the club's 1956 FA Cup final-winning outfit. It was a simple design – traditional but at the same time modern – with the light blue and amber Le Coq Sportif logo standing out well against the dark maroon of the strip. It was a good season for the club in their first season back in the top flight, which saw them finishing ninth.

Worn in: The fine 2–1 win over West Brom at The Hawthorns with goals by Anelka and Goater. Also, the 1–0 defeat at Blackburn.

Worn by: Joey Barton, Robbie Fowler, Shaun Wright-Phillips.



H 2003–04

Design: REEBOK
Sponsor: FIRST ADVICE

Reebok arrived at the City of Manchester stadium and, to the surprise of many, they returned to their traditional shade of sky blue. With the addition of shadow stripes, it was very similar to the Umbro kit of the mid-80s – the club even revived sky blue socks. It was a good-looking and contemporary shirt, complete with Reebok's Play Dry moisture-management and body-cooling fabric technology.

Worn in: The FA Cup fourth round amazing 4–3 comeback at Spurs and the even better 4–1 win over Manchester Utd at home!

Worn by: Trevor Sinclair, Richard Dunne, Steve McManaman.



A 2003–04 3 2004–05

Design: REEBOK
Sponsor: FIRST ADVICE

It was like 1984 all over again! Reebok issued a new red and black striped shirt to complete what many consider to be the classic City kit range: sky blue for home, red and black for away. It was a successful updating of the old favourite with red sleeves and underarm panels of mesh fabric, and is a good example of how a traditional kit design can still be made relevant in contemporary times. 03–04 marked the departure of First Advice as shirt sponsors.

Worn in: A 3–2 vital away victory over Blackburn – the club's only away League win in this strip.

Worn by: Jonathan Macken, Sylvain Distin, Danny Tiatto.



H 2004–05, 2005–06

Design: REEBOK
Sponsor: THOMAS COOK

With the arrival of new sponsors, travel firm Thomas Cook, Reebok decided to freshen up the home strip after just one season. It was a wonderful-looking kit (launched at Manchester Airport) with a sleek continental round neck, dynamic reversed stitching for comfort and a delicate shadow pattern. The lightweight shirt also featured small epaulets of navy blue and white on each sleeve, forming quite an intimidating and confident outfit.

Worn in: The 4–0 win over Charlton and the great 7–1 Carling Cup thrashing of Barnsley.

Worn by: Paul Bosvelt, Antoine Sibierski, Stephen Jordan.

