

Long Serving

In all walks of football, it's often the club-hopping stars who grab the headlines but loyalty and dedication to a cause are well worthy of tribute. Leeanne Campbell of recently re-crowned Scottish Premier League Champions Glasgow City, has just passed a milestone and is game for a laugh, so SheKicks tried to wipe the smile off her face* by making her answer these questions...

The club have just followed last season's treble with more trophies - is it not boring doing it again?

We won a League and League Cup double this year, and we're on a 33 game unbeaten run. It's not boring at all, as we work very hard, train five nights a week and deserve our success. We thrive on setting the standards and raising the bar each season, as this keeps us motivated and focused to continue to improve.

It's a great journey the club have been on for the last decade, what have been the key reasons behind the club's successes?

I think a lot of hard work on and off the park, and a great team spirit between the girls, has paid dividends and taken us to heights we never thought possible. It just goes to show that although we all work full-time and train part-time, without getting paid, if you have the right attitude and commitment then you can achieve anything.

The final game of the season, against Boroughmuir, was your 200th appearance for City. It's some achievement: what have been the highlights and the low points?

It was a very proud day for me, as everyone who knows me knows what the club means to me. I've been with the club eight years and have won four league titles, three Scottish Cup and two League Cup medals and have reached the last 16 of the Champions League, so I haven't done too badly. The highlight was definitely reaching the last 16 of the Champions League - we are the only Scottish team ever to manage that. The Scottish Cup Final defeat to Hibs a few years ago was the low point, really disappointing, as we let ourselves down and didn't show what we are capable of.

However, we regrouped and learnt a lot from that day and used that as



Leeanne Campbell (left) and Leanne Ross with the League Trophy.

motivation to push ourselves on. We got our revenge this season, in the League Cup Final, when we beat them 3-1.

You aren't even the club's longest serving player - a word for the skipper?

Yeah, "When are you retiring??" No seriously, Laura Montgomery has played nearly 250 games for City and does a lot of work behind the scenes at the Club, which the girls appreciate but don't always show. She is living proof that if you look after yourself and work hard you can play and compete at the highest level, well into your forties....sorry, I mean thirties!

How will the team celebrate another great season?

The official answer to this is with a 'Recovery bar and sports drink'. The truthful answer is that we have a night out arranged with all the players and staff from



"...if you have the right attitude and commitment then you can achieve anything."

the Club and we will go out, have a few drinks and enjoy another successful season.

Do you feel you are making progress in Europe, can you go further next year?

Yes, definitely. I see no reason why we can't build on our last 16 success and progress further. We have everything in place to enable us to do that, except we simply don't have the financial backing we should. We are playing at the top of our sport and representing Scotland at club level in Europe, yet we still have to pay for our flights and accommodation.

I feel that this is something that needs to be addressed, to enable the clubs in our country to have any chance of taking the game to the next level.

Your season starts up again in March, do you think the switch of timing for the league is a good idea?

Yes, I think that as the league will run

from March - October each year, this will hopefully encourage more people to come along and watch women's football, as the men's league finishes in May. Women's football in this country is improving each year and I think that people should give it a chance, before forming an opinion.

You can play in defence or midfield, which do you prefer?

I've played defence for a few years now and I think right back is the position that suits my game best. I enjoy the physical side of defending, tackling and heading are probably my strong points.

Although, as we play a 4-3-3, it does allow the full backs to almost play as wing backs and support the midfield and strikers and join in with the attacking play.

Who is the jock of the team and who is the joker?

The 'jock' of the team is Kat Lindner, her fitness and work rate is unbelievable and she never stops running. As for the 'joker' that is definitely me! Suzanne Lappin is a very close second but she still has a lot to learn, to be on a par with me!

The club has brought through some great young players, who should we watch out for next season?

That's a tough question, as we have five of the City girls at the Academy in Stirling, who are all very



Kat Lindner

talented and have big futures in the game, if they continue to work hard. To pick just one, I'd have to say Lauren McMurchie has impressed me the most. Lauren came away to Europe with us last year and was a credit to herself. At just 17, she didn't look out of place and was excellent in the games she played. She has been injured all of this season but is returning to full fitness and will be back for the start of the new season and will be pushing the girls in midfield, all the way, for a place. In saying that, Suzanne Lappin, who is only 23, is the best player in our team and in the country, in my

opinion. Her goal scoring record is phenomenal - 135 goals in 173 games. She's the best header of the ball I've ever seen and her touch, passing and vision is excellent. To think she's not part of the Scotland set-up is detrimental to our national team. Although, like I said, her banter isn't up to scratch...but you can't have it all, eh Sue?

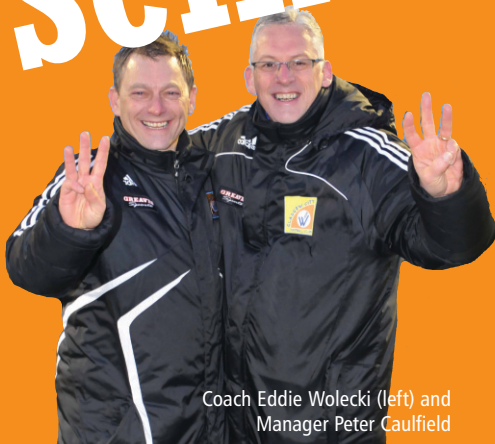
*** I think you can see we failed. Ha ha.**

Scintillating City



Glasgow City beat off the challenge of Edinburgh rivals Hibs, to lift the Premier League Cup 3-1 on 7 Nov and two weeks later, produced a 4-1 win over the same opposition to earn them the Scottish Women's Premier League title for a third successive season.

It's worth noting that much of their success and particularly their European exploits would not be possible without the support of proud sponsors Greaves Sports. Their communications director, Stephen McCranor, offered these words: "Our warmest congratulations go to Glasgow City on their third league title in a row - it's a tremendous achievement. We're proud to support such a successful side and look forward to seeing them represent Scotland in next summer's UEFA Women's Champions League."



Coach Eddie Wolecki (left) and Manager Peter Caulfield



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