



Thomas with City legend, the other bloke's Shaun Goater



Thomas Johnson - February 2007

Thomas was born 17 years ago and has Cerebral Palsy. He was 8 weeks premature and spent 5 weeks in the *Special Care Baby Unit* at Withington Hospital. His destiny was sealed when the first song that was played on the radio in the unit was "Mr Blue" and the fact that his Dad is a life-long City fan!

He has always loved football but has never felt confident or competent enough to compete. He loves nothing more than a kick around with his mates at home.

He was able to go to a couple of games at Maine Road with his Dad, but was really impressed with the new stadium at Eastlands but never dreamt that he would become a season card holder. Thanks to the National Association of Disabled Supporters who kick-started the process and helped guide us along the way he now has his very own season card and attends all City's home games with his Dad.



Thomas feels that this has given him fun in his life and something to look forward to. He loves the ritual of match days – the walk to the ground, the buying of his programme and sitting in his seat with a brilliant view of the match. It has also given him confidence and something to talk about and discuss with his mates and fellow students at college.

Being involved with football as part of Manchester City's Disabled Supporters group has given Thomas a focus in his life and offers social opportunities and, through City's Disabled Community Training scheme, the chance to train with people of similar abilities.