

ABOUT OUR VISITORS

WHILE things have not gone quite as well as expected this winter, Leicester City have maintained a respectable place in the table, despite being without their skipper and left-half Colin Appleton for two months. Appleton, one of their most consistent players in recent years, was injured early in November, and there is little doubt that his influence has been missed.

Another notable absentee was centre-forward Ken Keyworth, who was transferred to Coventry City at the beginning of December. He had only recently recovered from injuries received in a car crash, and Leicester released him without fee in recognition of his great service to them.

As usual Leicester's last line of defence is in the capable hands of England goalkeeper Gordon Banks. Now in his sixth season at Filbert Street, Banks, previously with Chesterfield has made more than 200 League appearances for Leicester, and has rarely lapsed from his high standard.

John Sjoberg comes from Aberdeen, and has been a professional since 1960. He made his debut at centre-half in October that year, but most of his appearances have been at right-back — until Monday, when he was preferred to Ian King at centre-half.

Sjoberg's partner is Richie Norman, from Heaton, near Newcastle, who was signed from a colliery club in 1958, and first played in the senior side in January, 1960. He has been an ever-present in three of the past four seasons.

The transfer of Frank McLintock to Arsenal in October has given Bobby Roberts the chance to settle down at right-half in Leicester's team. Signed from Hibernian in September, 1963, he has also played at centre-forward and inside-forward.

In the absence of Appleton, Bill McDerment has been filling the left-half position. Born at Paisley, he is another product of Scottish junior football, and made his debut for Leicester, at centre-half, towards the end of season 1962-63.

Willie Hodgson began his career with St. Johnstone, from whom he was signed by Sheffield United in 1957, and joined Leicester in September 1963. For the Sheffield club he played most frequently at inside-forward, but recently Leicester have been playing him on the right-wing.

England Under-23 international Graham Cross also plays county cricket for Leicestershire. He joined City's professional staff in 1960, and has given excellent service in several positions. This season, for example, he has played right-back, left-back, left-half and inside-left and inside-right.

Successor to Ken Keyworth at centre-forward is Jim Goodfellow, a native of Edinburgh who was signed from Third Lanark in the summer of 1963. He made five First Division appearances last winter, and was recalled this season at the beginning of October.

David Gibson joined Leicester from Hibernian in January 1962, while still in the Army. He has since won Scotland honours and gained a reputation as one of the best ball-playing inside-forwards in the country.

Tall outside-left Mike Stringfellow will also shortly celebrate the third anniversary of his transfer to Filbert Street. He was signed from Mansfield on January 17th, 1962, and has subsequently been an automatic first-team choice.

Another versatile member of the staff is Tom Sweenie, who this season has played in every forward position except outside-right. He is yet another of the many Scots manager Matt Gillies has brought to Leicester.