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TEARAWAYS'

GRIM TRAIL

Crook back in yellow & green on Wednesday

IAN Crook will start pre-season training next Wednesday as a Norwich City player once more. And today he told of his relief that a judge had granted City the right to re-sign him by overturning an injunction slapped on the Canaries by Ipswich Town.

"I'm just glad that the first step is done and dusted and the writ has been lifted," Crook said.

"All I want to do is to get back to playing, and I will be going back to start training with Norwich on the 10th."

The turn of events was made possible after City yesterday won their East Anglian courtroom "derby" confrontation at Ipswich County Court.

The ruling, delivered after almost four hours of legal argument, ended 13 days of hurt for City fans when it appeared that the 33-year-old player was to become a true Blue after signing for Town on a free transfer.

And, while an anxious wait lies ahead until the Football League decides whether to give club and player the all-clear to complete the move, Crook will be back in action with his old team-mates next week. The transfer U-turn should see Crook joining City's coaching staff after his playing days end.

Norwich City manager Mike Walker said this afternoon: "It was very important to win the case, which we thought we would do because we know we have done nothing wrong."

Walker added "Ian is much more than just a player. He has got a lot more to offer, and I would anticipate him eventually moving into a coaching position."

City latest — turn to the back page



Photo: KEITH WHITMORE



Her lad's got a lotta brains...

CILLA Black was in Norwich today — a proud mum watching her son collecting his degree.

The singer and TV star arrived by car in the nick of time to see her son Ben Willis collect his 2:1 degree from the School of English and American Studies at

the University of East Anglia.

Cilla arrived with her husband Bobby, seen with her here, and mingled among other proud parents.

And she had her camera at hand to capture the scene as Ben collected his certificate on the stage.

PARENTS who have lost control of their primary school-age children are leaving them to rampage through communities around Norwich causing a £20,000-plus trail of destruction.

Children as young as eight have vandalised playgrounds and parks in areas such as Thorpe St Andrew, Costessey, Hellesdon and Taverham, it emerged today.

But now, village guardians have told their parents: "Keep them in your own back garden — we don't want them."

Parish councils have been left to count the cost of mindless orgies of wreckage.

And they say it is preventing them from getting on with the vital

improvement work they want to do.

At Thorpe alone, parish councillors have spent £15,000 this year repairing damage and trying to protect property from further thuggery.

Parish clerk Gillian Ringer said repair bills meant that plans for extra facilities for the 12,000 villagers had had to be put on hold.

"It's very frustrating when you know who they are and you can't do anything about it," she added.

The 1996 roll of shame in Thorpe includes:

- £8500 worth of damage to children's playground surfaces on a recreation ground in Laundry Lane.
- £1000 of damage at the Morse Pavilion.
- £500 of repairs to swings.
- £200 of repairs to cricket sightcreens after they were deliberately rolled into woods.
- £200 of repairs to a youth shelter built specially for youngsters.

The fear of further vandalism has prompted councillors to invest in £5000 of security fencing around a bowling green.

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It's frustrating when you know who they are and you can't do anything about it.

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