



GILLINGHAM FC

v SWINDON TOWN

Coca-Cola League One, Saturday August 08 2009

Kick-Off 12.30pm, Price £3.00

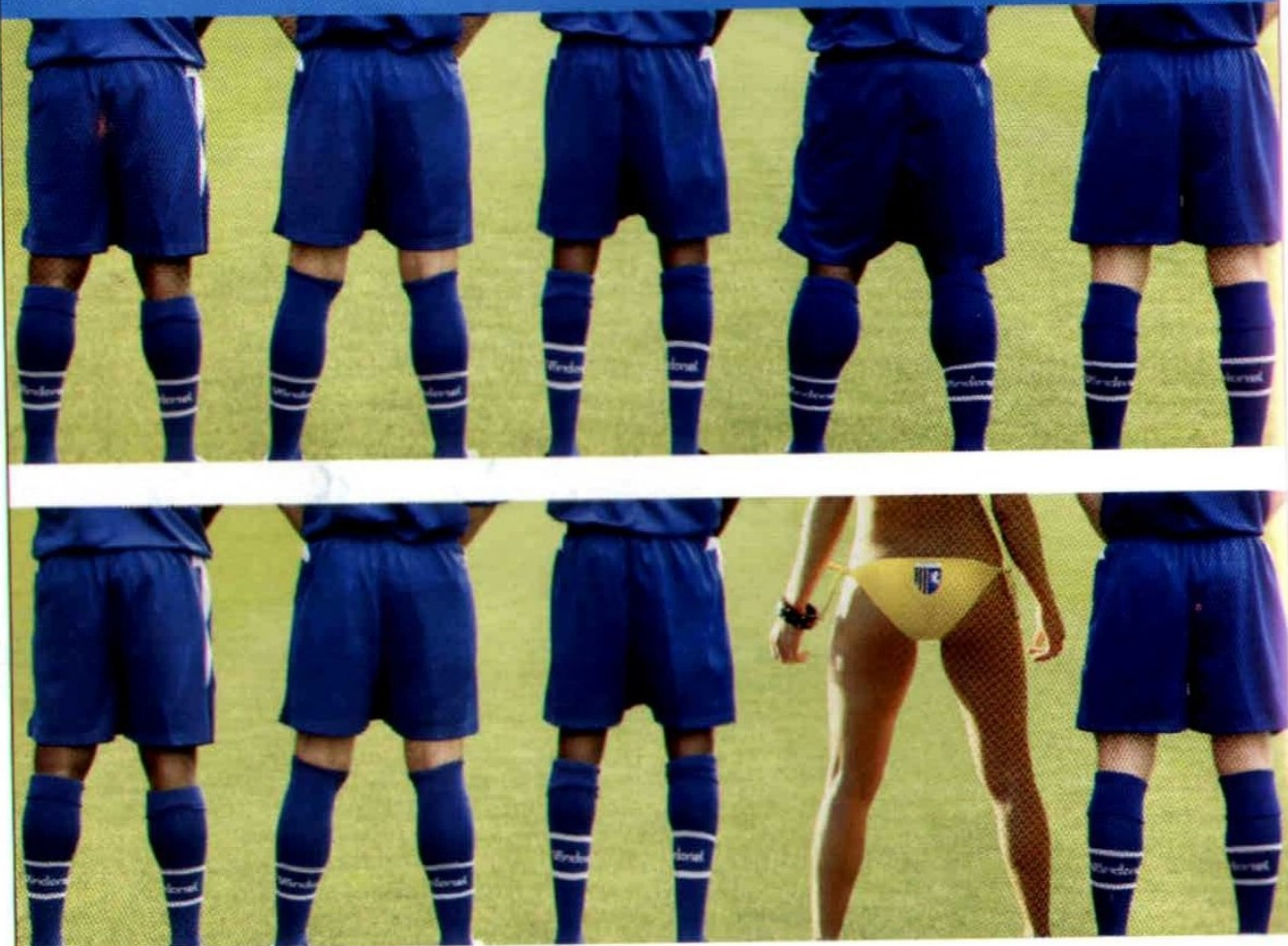
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Cover Image: Barry Fuller raises the League Two Play-Off Winners Trophy at Wembley.

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily the views of Gillingham Football Club.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

PAUL SCALLY



"... There is always an air of excitement and anticipation about the start of a fresh campaign and this year that expectation is as high as ever as we kick-off the new season in a brand new division ..."

Welcome back Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls to the home of football in Kent for this afternoon's first match of the season against Swindon Town.

There is always an air of excitement and anticipation about the start of a fresh campaign and this year that expectation is as high as ever as we kick-off the new season in a brand new division. We certainly have an exciting year in prospect with, what for me is arguably the most impressive collection of teams ever to grace the third tier of the game coming to Priestfield over the next nine months. We will be facing some truly top class opposition in the coming weeks and there will be plenty of opportunity for our young, up and coming players to impress.

All of this was made possible by events on that amazing day in May when Simeon Jackson's stunning last minute goal at Wembley clinched our promotion from League Two at the expense of Shrewsbury Town. The Play-Off Final was a sensational day out for all our supporters who once

again were a credit to the club but has also seen our profile rise which can only be a positive step for the future of the club.

Sadly for me those events are now tinged with personal tragedy as just two weeks to the day after our play-off victory my Mother, who had been at Wembley to join in the celebrations, passed away suddenly. From the moment I first became involved with Gillingham Football Club my Mother has been ever present at every home fixture in the Directors' Box. For my Family, my Father and all the supporters who came to know her over the years she will be very sadly missed and as a mark of respect her seat in the Directors' Box will remain unoccupied for the season ahead.

It has been a source of great personal satisfaction to me, and no doubt our supporters too, to see so many of our star performers, Andy Barcham, Simon King and Curtis Weston commit their futures to the club by signing new or extended contracts over the summer. In my

opinion we now have one of the most exciting young sides that I have ever seen assembled at Gillingham and there is huge potential for these players to develop in the coming years. The fact that these players see their futures with Gillingham is a ringing endorsement of the excellent coaching skills of Mark Stimson and his staff and means that we have cemented solid foundations for our squad for some time to come.

Arrived

There is always room to improve a squad though and I have been working hard throughout the summer to secure the players that Mark ahead of the challenges of League One football. At the time of writing Kevin Maher, Chris Palmer, Rashid Yussuff and Jacob Erskine have all arrived on permanent contracts while centre-half Josh Gowling recently arrived on loan from Carlisle United to boost our defensive options. We are still trying to tie up one or two more signings

before the close of this summer's transfer window, neither deal has been completed yet but we don't give up and will hopefully be successful sooner rather than later.

As you have no doubt seen on our regular weekly features on Sky Sports News the team have been working hard in pre-season and have enjoyed some good workout in their friendly fixtures. Sadly injuries to Stuart Lewis and Adam Miller picked up at Bishops Stortford, combined with Dennis Oli's knee strain and Kevin Maher's shin injury incurred at Calais and Crystal Palace respectively, means that we start the season with our squad significantly depleted. Perhaps the biggest concern is the ankle ligament injury Simon King sustained in the friendly at Bromley, which following a series of scans now seems much worse than we originally expected. Fortunately they all have youth on their sides and with luck we will see them all back in action soon.

I would like to give my grateful

thanks to all of our fans for their continuing support of the club this season. I'm delighted to say that our Season Ticket uptake this season has exceeded our financial expectations and new Season Ticket applications are still arriving at the club as I write.

I would also like to welcome Nick Nicolau and Mike Sullivan back to the club who together with Max Scally will be broadening the scope of our Commercial Team. Their strategy for this season will be to reach more people throughout the county and make all efforts to increase turnover in the commercial department.

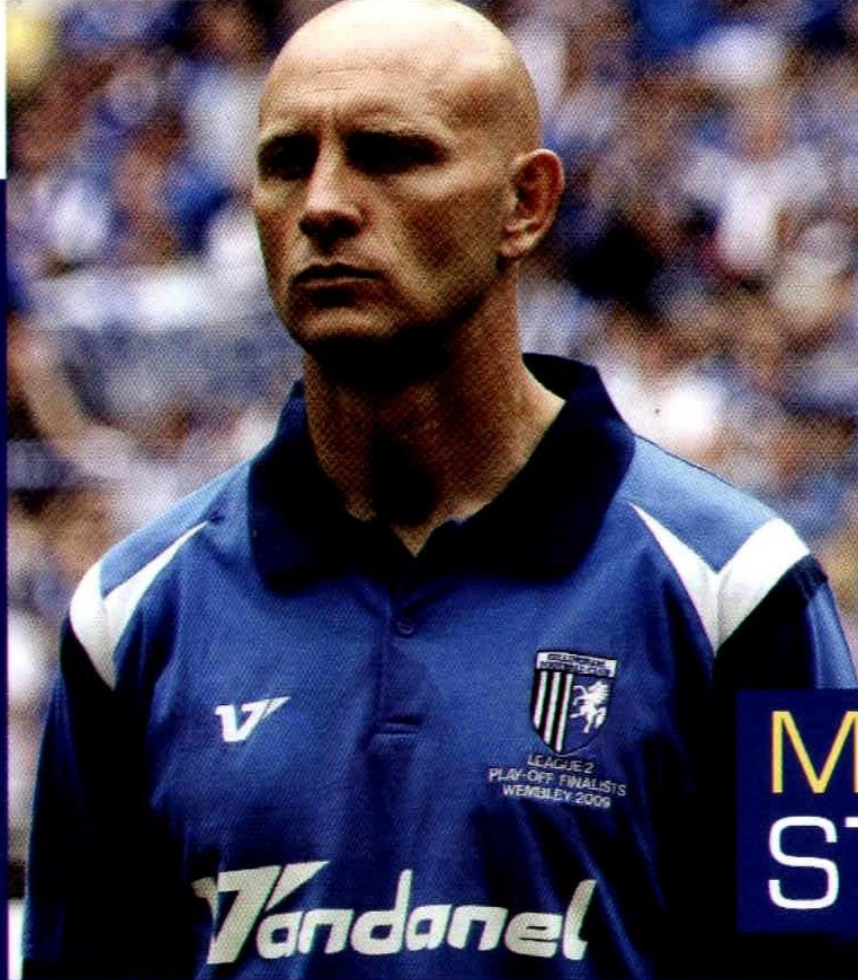
Up The Gills

Paul D.P. Scally
Chairman





72 Clubs. The 'Coca-Cola' Football League.



Mark STIMSON

First of all I would like to start by welcoming Danny Wilson, his Swindon Town team and all their supporters to Krbs Priestfield. I hope they had a good trip here and I wish them a safe journey home and the best of luck for the rest of the season.

Over the summer we have added some new players to last year's squad, namely Chris Palmer, Kevin Maher, Josh Gowling and just recently Rashid Yussuff and Jacob Erskine. They are all additions that I think will help strengthen the team. Chris Palmer can play in three or four positions at full back or on the wing and Kevin, who you all know from his time here before, plays in central midfield and brings bags of experience to the team.

Josh Gowling has joined us on a month's loan from Carlisle to provide options in central defence while Toks (Yussuff) is a young left-sided central midfielder player with an eye for a good forward pass. Young Jacob is a centre forward and someone who impressed me when we played against Bromley in pre-season. After having watched him a couple of times I decided to sign him.

Over the last four or five weeks the boys have been training hard and also playing some pre-season games. Unfortunately this year has probably been my worst as a Manager for picking up injuries in pre-season. We have two serious injuries in Simon King and Stuart Lewis, both with ankle problems. Dennis Oli has a knee problem which is likely to keep him out for a few weeks at the beginning of the season and Kevin Maher picked up a knock at Crystal Palace so is likely to be 50/50 for today's game. Due to his son contracting swine flu, Simon has had to have a week off but should be back in contention for selection today.

Performance

Our pre-season saw a mixture of results and performances as it always does but overall we were pleased with the fitness levels and attitude in the games we have played. We also had a four day trip away to Le Touquet which went very well. There was a good spirit amongst the boys and over the four days we trained in the middle of a racecourse and went on an hours mountain bike ride around Le Touquet. On Sunday

afternoon 10 of the boys played tennis for at least five hours, unfortunately for those boys I still managed to win the competition, beating Alan Julian in the final.

We now look forward to being back in League One, which is a very exciting league with some big clubs and also some very interesting local derbies which I'm sure you supporters are looking forward to. We start today against a Swindon side who finished mid-table last season and I'm sure they will want to improve on that this year. We know we will have to be on our game to get something from today's match but it is a challenge that I, my coaching staff and all the players are looking forward to. I'm sure that all you supporters who haven't seen the boys at home yet this season will get behind the team and try to make as much noise as our last game here, which was that fantastic semi-final win against Rochdale.

Enjoy the game!

Mark



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COMINGS AND GOINGS

Mark Stimson has strengthened his squad this summer with a total of four new faces arriving at the krbs Priestfield. First to sign was experienced midfielder Kevin Maher (above) who ended a year-long pursuit by finally signing on a two year deal from Oldham Athletic.

He was joined for the start of pre-season by Chris Palmer, a two footed winger who spent last season with League One rivals Walsall.

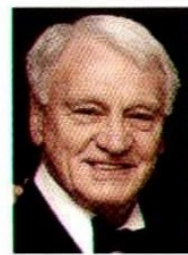
Centre half Josh Gowling joined

the Gills on an initial one month loan from Carlisle United in mid July and is likely to come straight into the side this afternoon in the absence of injury victim Simon King. While our latest arrival is creative midfielder Rashid Yussuff who signed from Charlton Athletic this week after impressing on trial in pre-season.

A whole host of former favourites moved on to pastures new this summer most notably long serving legend Nicky Southall who has linked up with Andy Hessenthaler at Dover Athletic. Ex-Captain Andrew Crofts could well be returning to Priestfield this season with his new outfit Brighton and Hove Albion while Wembley hero Josh Wright has stepped up to the Championship with Scunthorpe United.

Gary Mulligan and Albert Jarrett remain in League Two signing for Northampton Town and Barnet respectively. The duo will come up against another familiar face in 2009/10 as Stuart Thurgood will be starring in Dagenham & Redbridge's midfield this year after joining John Still's side from Grays.

BLUES NEWS



SIR BOBBY ROBSON

As I'm sure you are all aware the football community lost one of its finest ambassadors last week when Sir

Bobby Robson lost his battle with cancer at the age of 76. As a player Robson clocked up a staggering 626 appearances, scoring 141 goals in a 17 year career with Fulham and West Bromwich Albion. After retiring he embarked on a glittering managerial career that would see lowly Ipswich Town rise from relative obscurity to Uefa Cup champions in 1981. He left Portman Road to manage England in 1982 leading his country to the World Cup semi-finals at Italia 90, making Robson the most successful England Manager since Sir Alf Ramsey. One of the few British Managers to enjoy success overseas Sir Bobby enjoyed spells with PSV Eindhoven, FC Porto and Barcelona before returning to the UK to take charge of his beloved Newcastle United. This afternoon's fixture will be preceded by a minute's applause in honour of Sir Bobby and we ask that you join us in helping celebrate the life of one of the games true greats.

CONGRATULATIONS

Gills supporter Lee Patten would like to pass on his congratulations to good friends Phil Chester and Lucy Armstrong on their recent engagement. Congratulations too from everyone at GFC and good luck for the big day.

TODAY'S MASCOTS

Leading out the Gills on their return to League One this afternoon will be local girls Sade Rider and Elly Honour. Eleven year old Elly (top) is from Chatham and is pictured celebrating our play-off victory at Wembley.

Eight year old Sade (bottom) is from Strood and is looking forward to meeting her favourite player Simeon Jackson.

Everyone at Gillingham FC would like to wish the girls a great day out at Priestfield and let's hope you can lead the boys out to victory.



PHILIP TURNER

The Club were also deeply saddened to learn this summer of the passing of Philip Turner a life-long Gillingham supporter who passed away in May. Philip was a Gordon Road Stand season ticket holder and showed tremendously loyalty to the Gills, following the club for 65 years. Everyone at Gillingham Football Club would like to send their condolences to Philip's family and friends.

RAPID FIRE ADAM MILLER

Kent Sports News Editor Steve Wolfe puts Adam Miller under the spotlight.



Q When you were young what did you never want to eat for dinner?

A I was a fat little thing when I was younger so not much, but one thing was spaghetti hoops!

Q Would you ever consider a career in the media and do you think you could do my job?

A I was thinking of this the other day. I think I could do the bizzo. I would one day like to do reverse roles - me and you! I do my blog anyway so I've got a foot in there.

Q If you were stuck on a deserted island and had to eat a team-mate, who would be the first to go?

A I would probably eat Cammo (Mark McCammon) because there is so much meat on him.

Q How often do you cook at home - if at all?

A Never - next question!

Q What ambitions do you have in life?

A To be a millionaire and it ain't through football!

Q Which person from history would you most liked to have met and why?

A Jesus - before anyone says it, it would be like looking in the mirror. Let's be honest, he'd have a few tales to tell!

Q If you had to be a fish, which fish would you be?

A Is a shark classed as a fish? A great white - they rule the ocean - yeah, I'd like to be Jaws.

Q You bump into the Gaffers car in the car park, tell him or not?

A Drive off. Rapid. And laugh!

Q If someone dropped a £50 note on the street, keep it or hand it in?

A I'll keep it and I'll enjoy it.

Q Would you rather spend a day with Pele or Pamela Anderson?

A Pam all day long! She is easier on the eye and let's be honest, I'm a man! I'm not going to pass that up am I?

Q What's your nickname and where did it come from?

A There's a few nicknames. Marmite is the main one - either you love me or hate me! Richards, Lewis and Nutter I think came up with it.

Q Which teammate would you never room with and why?

A Alan Julian. Personal hygiene is an absolute disgrace! Plus I can't stand looking at his barnet.

You can read Adam's popular blog every week at www.kentsportsnews.com



INJURY NEWS

After a bruising pre-season for Gillingham the Physio's room has come to resemble an episode of Casualty in recent weeks. Head Physio Paul Smith brings us all the latest news from the treatment table.

Simon King and **Stuart Lewis** (above) both have similar injuries; Stuart was caught from behind in the friendly at Bishops Stortford while Kingy landed awkwardly at Bromley and went over on his ankle. They have both been for scans, and after I questioned the results of Simon King's original scan, the second confirmed that, like Stuart, Simon has ruptured ankle ligaments. From an injury of that nature we're probably looking at three months before the two lads are back in contention.

According to Stuart's surgeon, if you were to survey players in the football

league as many as 8 out of 10 now play without that ligament so you can continue without it. With rehabilitation, strengthening and balance work it shouldn't be a problem, although they may have to play with strapping. They are both walking, albeit with a bit of a limp, but the fact that they have both suffered the same injury should induce a bit of competitiveness between the two to push each other on.

Adam Miller injured his foot in the 3-1 win at Bishops Stortford, his foot was trodden on as he turned on the ball and he heard a crack. A precautionary x-ray revealed nothing so we suspect it was a partial dislocation and the sharp shooting pain he experienced was the bone touching a nerve. With rest the problem has resolved itself and after a bit of fitness work he's back in action.

Last weekend's win over Crystal Palace saw **Kevin Maher** limp off in the first half but his injury is far less severe than early indications suggested. It's basically like a dead leg but on the front of the shin. We're only looking at a week, he might struggle for today but he should be in contention for Tranmere next week.

Dennis Oli got caught in the Calais match and has injured his medial knee ligament. We thought he'd be out for a month to six weeks but we now expect him to return in time for Colchester or Hartlepool, he's a quick healer.

Andy Pugh should have been back training with the first team on Thursday after picking up a groin strain in the warm up in Calais. Hopefully he'll be ready to play some part in the match this afternoon.

Mark Bentley damaged his groin whilst working on his fitness ahead of pre-season. A lot of the boys do their own training over the summer and it's a credit to Benno's professionalism that he was putting the extra hours in. He was out for three weeks but came back for the friendly at Aveley. He's lacking a little bit of fitness but he'll make that up in no time.

Finally, I would like to thank **Dermagate**, our new medical room sponsors. Dermagate are a chain of pharmacies operating throughout the Kent region and have kindly agreed to supply all Gillingham FC's medical requirements this season.



Pre-Season Round-Up Part One

By Martin Weller

Folkestone Invicta 0
Gillingham 3

11.07.09 – Buzzlines Stadium
Scorers: Rooney, McCammon, Yussuff

Mark Stimson's side had been scheduled to start their pre-season campaign with a friendly against Tonbridge Angels in memory of former Gillingham youngster Jack Maddams.

Unfortunately the Angels were forced to call off the game due to ongoing work to the pitch at Longmead so Folkestone kindly stepped in at the last minute to fill the void.

The Gills fielded a full strength side with Stimson naming two separate line-ups to contest each half and not surprisingly the visitor's quality showed against their opponents from the Ryman Division One South.

Barcham and Rooney looked particularly dangerous down the two flanks and it was the youngster who finally broke the deadlock in the 26th minute, turning his man on the right hand corner of the box before

clipping a low shot in off the far post.

Summer signing Chris Palmer made his debut appearance in the second half and could not have wished for a better start. Rashid Yussuff played Palmer in behind the Invicta defence in the 46th minute and his low cross was easily converted by Mark McCammon from a yard out. Palmer went one better 20 minutes from time, once again collecting a neat through ball from Yussuff before placing his finish under the keeper to complete the scoring.

Dartford 2
Gillingham 4

14.07.09 – Princes Park
Scorers: Rooney, Barcham, Wynter, Parkes

Three days later The Gills faced a stronger test against north Kent neighbours Dartford of the Ryman Premier League.

The visitors got off to a flying start after just 10 minutes when Andy Barcham's stinging drive was blocked but fell at the feet of Luke Rooney leaving the youngster with a simple tap

in. In the 37th minute Andy Barcham doubled their advantage pouncing on an under hit back pass before slotting home beyond the advancing Sam Mott.

The celebrations had barely died down when Rooney's former youth team strike partner Adam Burchell, on trial with the Darts, beat Royce with a wicked drive into the far corner. Then on the stroke of half time the net bulged again as another ex Gills youngster Adam Flanagan headed home from a corner to level the scores.

After wholesale changes at half time Gillingham struck twice more to seal the win, first Tom Wynter rose above the home defence to nod home Palmer's 51st minute corner. Then, a little over ten minutes from time, on trial Watford full back Jordan Parkes crowned an impressive display by burying the fourth into the bottom left corner after a clever through ball from Stuart Lewis.

Faversham Town 0
Gillingham 5

16.07.09 - Salters Lane
Scorers: Lewis, McCammon 2, Rooney, Yussuff

Mark Stimson's men rattled eight goals past their Kent League opponents without reply last season but were made to work harder against a much improved Faversham side.

It took a moment of magic from



Stuart Lewis to break the deadlock as the midfielder powered home a rare strike from 25 yards to put the visitors 1-0 up at the break.

Two minutes after the restart and with a full change of personnel Gillingham doubled their tally. Luke Rooney cut in behind the home defence and crossed from the right for Mark McCammon to head in at the far post. Soon after Rooney got himself on the scoresheet, ghosting in at the far post to slot home John Nutter's deep cross from the left.

Luis Cumbers played in Rashid Yussuff for the fourth which saw the former Charlton midfielder draw the keeper before planting a clever flick into the far corner. Then, as a violent lightning storm broke over East Kent, Cumbers claimed another assist crossing from the left for McCammon to complete the scoring with his second of the game.

Welling United 2
Gillingham 0

18.07.09 – Park View Road

For the fourth and final time, Mark Stimson fielded separate elevens in either half of this fixture against Blue Square South Welling.

Adam Miller, Curtis Weston and trialist Jordan Parkes all went close for the visitors in the first 45 minutes but each time their best efforts were

thwarted by former Gills keeper Charlie Mitten.

The Wings took the lead midway through the second half when Simon Royce blocked Tony Finn's shot from distance only to see Sanchez Ming sweep the loose ball into the net. The redoubtable Mitten then denied a cheeky lob from Yussuff and another fierce drive from Lewis before Jake Hobbs got the better of Sam Long on the Gills right and finished with a sweet shot into the bottom corner.

Bishops Stortford 1
Gillingham 3

**21.07.09 - Woodside Park
Scorers: Oli, Miller, Rooney**

The Gills faced Blue Square South opposition for the second time in three days as Mark Stimson fielded his strongest eleven for the first time in pre-season.

It took just nine minutes for the visitors to score; Curtis Weston fed Dennis Oli who beat the keeper at his near post with a clever finish from just inside the box. Stortford were back on level terms shortly before the half hour after Mark Wright hit a thunderous free-kick into the roof of the net.

Worryingly In the 33rd minute Stuart Lewis left the field on a stretcher with suspected ankle ligament damage

and Stimson's woes were to increase soon after. On the stroke of half time Adam Miller turned in Barcham's left wing cross to restore the Gills lead but it would be his last action as he was replaced at half time with a similar ankle injury. The one bright spot of an otherwise quiet second half saw Luke Rooney net his fourth goal in five outings with a blistering free-kick into the top right corner.

Aveley 1
Gillingham 0

22.07.09 – Mill Field

Twenty four hours later, Mark Stimson took no chances with his senior squad as a second string XI featuring a mixture of trialists and youngsters took the field in Essex.

Despite their lack of experience Gillingham's youngsters gave a good account of themselves with Andy Pugh, Luis Cumbers and trialists Yussuff, Moses Ahikodi and Rimmel Daniel all spurning chances to open the scoring.

In the second half another trialist Nathan Ashton struck the cross bar while Tom Wynter, Jack Payne and Charlie Stimson all missed the mark from good openings. Their profligacy was punished in the 68th minute as Ellie Kayembe climbed above the visitors defence to head home the only goal of the game.



gfc



CURTAIN RAISERS

By Andrew Ford

This afternoon's visit of Swindon Town means that Gillingham have been given an equal number of home and away starts over the last ten seasons. However, there was a spell during the eighties and nineties when The Gills kicked off with a match at Priestfield Stadium twelve years running.

When the fixtures are compiled, the clubs are split into pairs. In each set of fixtures, if one of the two clubs in each pair has a home game, the other would be away.

The couplings are usually based on geography. This season, for example, West Ham United were paired with Dagenham and Redbridge. One theory as to why we had such a long run of consecutive home starts was based on the possibility of Gillingham being paired with Northampton Town for the majority of this period. Until moving to the Sixfields Stadium during the 1994-5 season, The Cobblers shared their County Ground home with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club and requested away starts so that they didn't interfere too much with the cricket season. Having begun 1981-2 at the County Ground,

Northampton next hosted an opening day fixture in 1995, their first full season at Sixfields. Gillingham couldn't have been paired with Northampton that year as we also began 1995-6 at home. Our run of successive opening days at Priestfield, which had started in 1987-8, continued until 1998-9. So, did Gillingham regularly use the home advantage during that period of a dozen seasons to get off to a good start? The answer, sadly, is no. In twelve matches, we won only four, with four others drawn and the remaining quartet ending in defeats. This is the story of those games, starting with those when we were beaten.

The first loss came in the 1988-9 campaign, our fifteenth successive season in division three, in the days

when the leagues ran from one to four. Swansea, newly promoted from the basement, were our opening day visitors. The match was decided in favour of The Swans by a poor penalty decision seven minutes from time, the referee, despite being well behind play, and with no signal from his linesman, deciding that centre half Alan Walker had brought down a Swansea player in the penalty area. The spot-kick was converted and The Gills, who had twice come from behind, thanks to goals from Gavin Peacock and Steve Lovell, lost 3-2. The penalty was the first of sixteen that we conceded during the season, and all but one resulted in goals. Gillingham lost nineteen games by the odd goal and suffered a record thirteen home league defeats during the season. With a run of ten

successive league defeats between September and November and almost three months between division three victories later in the campaign, it is little wonder that we finished bottom and were relegated. It was a truly treacherous campaign, overseen by three managers; Paul Taylor, who was sacked and replaced with Keith Burkinshaw, and Damien Richardson, who took over when Burkinshaw resigned during the latter stages.

Division

Our next opening day defeat was four years later, on the opening day of 1992-3, also by a 3-2 scoreline. Although we were still in the bottom division, the formation of the Premiership had led to rebranding and Gillingham were now a third division club. Our opponents were Northampton Town, both sides having to cope for the first time in a competitive fixture with the newly-introduced back-pass rule, which was brought in to eliminate time-wasting, whereby goalkeepers were prevented from handling back passes, the penalty for doing so being the award of an indirect free-kick to the opposition, to be taken from where the infringement occurred. Lawrence Osborne, making his debut for The Gills, scored in the first couple of minutes to give us the perfect start against The Cobblers. It was the only goal the injury-prone Osborne, who had joined us from Maidstone United for £30,000 in December 1991, scored for the club. By the time a knee injury forced him to announce his retirement from playing in February 1994, he had made just six appearances in a Gillingham shirt. By the interval we trailed 2-1, Steve Brown, after twenty-two minutes, and Morris Scott, on the stroke of half time, scoring for the visitors. After Mark O'Connor equalised fifteen minutes into the second half, Gillingham put Northampton under considerable pressure, with new signing Trevor Aylott unfortunate not to mark his first appearance with a goal, the striker hitting the post with two efforts and seeing another well saved by visiting goalkeeper Derek

Richardson. A last-minute defensive blunder resulted in Town's player-manager, Phil Chard, cracking home his side's winner.

The following season, our unbeaten home record once again failed to last beyond the opening day. After the traumatic fight against relegation to the Conference in the previous campaign, a battle that was only won with one week of the season remaining, The Gills had endured a summer of upheaval, with manager Glenn Roeder walking out in order to take charge of Watford. He had planned to take his assistant from his time at Priestfield, Mike Flanagan, with him, but the ex-Charlton forward remained at Gillingham and was named as Roeder's successor.

"... One step up from an opening day defeat is surely to kick off with a goalless game. The four drawn matches over the course of the twelve year run of home starts all ended 0-0, beginning with the visit of Blackpool in August 1987..."

The new boss welcomed new signings, Gary Micklewhite and Neil Smillie to the club in his programme notes for his first game in charge, the visit of Chesterfield on the opening day of 1993-4, believing their experience and professionalism would help the team as a whole and the younger players in particular. Despite having 70% of possession and winning the corner count 9-0, The Gills, missing striker Paul Baker, out through injury, failed to turn superiority into goals. The Spireites took an undeserved lead when Andy Morris' shot in the thirty-ninth minute went in off the underside of the bar and, with twenty minutes to go, Mark Jules went through to score a second goal for the visitors. Andy Arnott

went close to reducing the arrears when his seventy-third minute shot hit the underside of the bar as The Gills started their centenary season with a 2-0 home defeat.

The fourth defeat came in 1998-9, the last in our run of home starts, when we faced Walsall. New record buy Robert Taylor, a £500,000 capture from Brentford, was in our line-up but lacked fitness, having missed out on pre-season following an injury. The striker was largely ineffective and those fans hoping for an immediate return on the outlay were disappointed. It was another new signing who scored the only goal of the game, centre half Darren Carr, who had joined from Chesterfield, unfortunately heading into his own net to give the visitors a 1-0 victory in a game attended by 5,712. After the match, Gillingham manager Tony Pulis said that it was probably the worst the team had played since he had become manager, which was three years earlier, describing it as a poor performance and nowhere near acceptable.

One step up from an opening day defeat is surely to kick off with a goalless game. The four drawn matches over the course of the twelve year run of home starts all ended 0-0, beginning with the visit of Blackpool in August 1987.

Competitions

The summer had seen the departure of Tony Cascarino, scorer of thirty goals in all competitions the previous season, to Millwall, for a fee of £225,000. A replacement for Cas was needed, but manager Keith Peacock's summer signings were defender Gary West, a central defender from Lincoln City who cost £50,000, and midfielder George Shipley, a £40,000 capture from Charlton Athletic. Our previous home game, the Play-Off Final first leg against Swindon three months earlier, had attracted a crowd of 16,775 to Priestfield, but the glory hunters had once again disappeared and the division three match against Blackpool was watched by only 4,430. The visitors showed little inclination, after a promising start, to



win the match and The Gills were unable to finish off any of the few chances they created. A further blank in our second league game, a week later, when we lost 2-0 at Grimsby, added evidence to the belief that we were lacking firepower since the departure of Cascarino. However, that notion was thoroughly dispelled on the following two weekends as The Gills notched up eighteen goals, thrashing Southend United 8-1 and Chesterfield 10-0.

In 1989, two years after being eleven minutes away from a coveted place in division two, Gillingham found themselves back in the basement league. The start of the first season back in the fourth division (1989-90) coincided with an injury crisis at the club that resulted in our line-up for the opening day visit of Aldershot featuring six players, including one of the substitutes, who had previously made just nine first team appearances between them. The defence was particularly inexperienced, including two debutants, eighteen-year-old Russell Norris at right back, making the first of only three starts for the club, and centre-half Steve Thompson, seventeen, in his one and only league appearance in a Gillingham side. Thompson's partner in the centre of our defence was Ricky Pearson, the oldest of the trio, who turned nineteen two months later. Towards the end of the previous season Pearson had started two games and come on as a substitute in another. Elsewhere in the side, seventeen-year-old forward Peter Beadle had only

made two previous appearances for the club, one fewer than midfielder Tony Eeles. On the bench was Lee Palmer, whose previous first team experience consisted of one game, the final home fixture of the 1987-8 season, against Rotherham United. In the circumstances, a goalless draw, watched by a crowd of 3,670, against a club that had also been relegated at the end of 1988-9, wasn't a bad start to the campaign. However, three days later, manager Damien Richardson named the same thirteen players (only two substitutes in those days) for the visit of Leyton Orient, newly-promoted from the fourth division, in a Littlewoods (League) Cup first round match, and The Gills lost 4-1, a result that rendered the second leg practically meaningless.

Goalless draw number three came on the opening day of 1994-5, our sixth successive season in the basement, which began with a match against Hartlepool United, who had been relegated at the end of 93-4. Five players were booked, with one, United's Keith Oliver, going on to receive a red card for a second caution, with eight minutes to go. The Gills should have won, new signing Adrian Foster was denied a goal on his Gills debut thanks to an excellent save from visiting goalkeeper Barry Horne, Paul Baker and Paul Watson both hit the woodwork whilst Neil Smith saw his drive cleared off the line. Priestfield's capacity at the time had been reduced to 6,231 due to an insufficient number of barriers, those that were already installed not being in the right configuration and

the pitch perimeter walls and fences failing a loading test, leading to the possible need for them to be rebuilt. However, this was not necessary in the end, an alternative solution, the construction of a continuous protective barrier running parallel with the length of the walls, being adopted. Half the barrier work (which included painting them bright yellow) had been completed during the close season, with the remainder due by the end of October, when the capacity was due to increase to around the 10,000 mark. However, even a capacity of just over six thousand was sufficient for the visit of Hartlepool, the match enticing just 2,956 through the Priestfield turnstiles.

Temporary

Optimism was high at the start of 1997-8, our second season back in the third tier of English football, following a good pre-season for The Gills. With two days to go before the opening day visit of Preston North End, there had been only two additions to the squad, Mick Galloway, whose temporary loan move from Notts County had been made permanent, and Paul Smith, a £195,000 signing from Brentford that was largely funded by the £160,000 brought in from Neil Smith's move to Fulham. On the eve of the new campaign manager Tony Pulis further strengthened his playing staff with the signings of goalkeeper Neil Moss, who joined on a three-month loan from Southampton, and centre-back Barry Ashby, who arrived from Brentford, for £140,000. The transformation of Priestfield had begun, with 1,500 of the 2,500 seats in the brand-new Gordon Road stand licensed for use. Chairman Paul Scally said at the time, "I cannot tell you how relieved I was to see the stand open. Several people bet me that it would not be ready in time and nothing gave me more pleasure than to prove them wrong!" Gillingham and Preston played out a goalless draw, a result that Pulis felt was fair. The Gills then failed to score in their next two games, a 1-0 home defeat

against Birmingham in the Coca-Cola (League) Cup and a 0-0 draw at Burnley.

Saving the best until last, we now come to the four occasions when Gillingham picked up all three opening day points. The first came in August 1990. After gaining promotion at the end of the previous season, one year after being relegated to the Conference, Darlington, managed by Brian Little, faced the long trip down to Kent for their first game back in the Football League. A major change for the new season was a new offside rule, whereby players level with the last defender would now be deemed to be onside. Gills manager Damien Richardson approved of the initiative, believing that linesmen would give the benefit of the doubt to the attacking side. New signing David Crown, bought from Southend in the close season for a £50,000 fee, was missing from our line-up due to injury but right-back Joe Dunne did make his first appearance for the club. Steve Lovell scored the only goal of the game, in front of 3,730, with a fifty-fourth minute penalty, awarded after Les McJannet handled on the line. Both sides were reduced to ten men with fifteen minutes to go, a fight between Billy Manuel and Darlington's Steve Mardenborough resulting in each player being sent off. Darlington recovered from their opening day setback by winning the fourth division title whilst Gillingham finished fifteenth.

At the beginning of the following season (1991-2) Damien Richardson believed his squad had been strengthened by the development of some of the younger players and the summer acquisition of Paul Clark and Karl Eley, the latter returning for his second spell at the club. The manager also stated that The Gills would start the season using the sweeper system, with Clark to be employed in that role. The 4-0 win over The Iron, watched by 3,470, was our best opening day victory at the time. Karl Eley's superb half volley following a ball played to the edge of the area by Clark gave us a 1-0 lead after

twenty-three minutes. By half time the visitors were down to ten men, Mark Hine having been dismissed for a second bookable offence as the red card was brandished on the opening day of the season at Priestfield for the second season running. Five other players were shown a yellow card. Our three second half goals all came from headers, Crown doubling our advantage from a Lovell cross, Tim O'Shea setting up Mark O'Connor and finally Beadle nodding home following a corner.

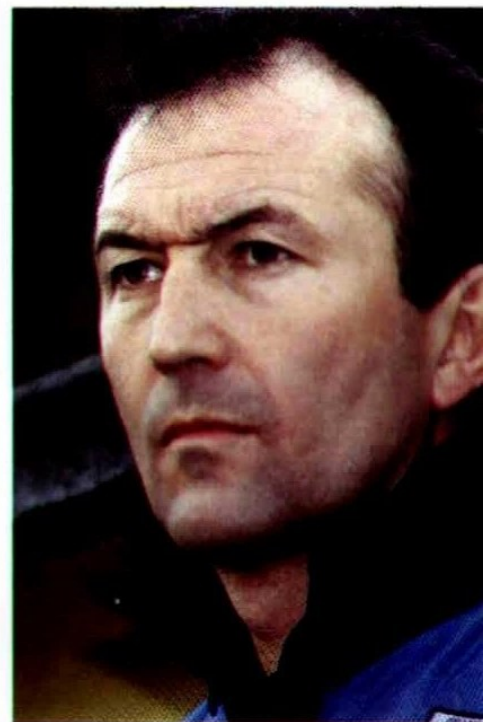
Signed

1995-6 was the start of a new era at Gillingham Football Club, with a new owner, Paul Scally, and new manager, Tony Pulis (below). Opening day visitors Wigan Athletic arrived with their three new Spanish signings, dubbed 'The Three Amigos'. Roberto Martinez and Isidro Diaz had arrived at the club from FC Balaguer, while Jesus Seba had signed from Real Zaragoza. Two of the Spaniards combined to give The Latics a 1-0 half-time lead, Martinez shooting past new Gillingham goalkeeper Jim Stannard, following a pass from Seba. We equalised just after the interval, Adrian Foster scoring from close range. Wigan spurned an opportunity to retake the lead, missing a penalty conceded by new Gills captain Dave Martin, before Leo Fortune-West, whose transfer fee of £5,000 had been provided by our supporters' club, swept home what proved to be the winner, the game ending 2-1 in our favour.

The 1995-6 season saw us end our seven successive seasons in the basement by gaining promotion. In August 1996, Bristol City made the trip to Priestfield for our first game back in the third tier since May 1989. On a hot and humid afternoon, our line-up included seven debutants; Andy Hessenthaler, Iffy Onuora, Matt Bryant, Jon Ford, Ian Chapman, Lenny Piper and John Humphrey. It was one of the new boys, Ford, making only one of two starts for the club, who set up our opener in the thirteenth minute, crossing to the back post for Fortune-West to head powerfully past

Stuart Naylor, in goal for City. The visitors ended the first half well and continued in the same vein at the start of the second period, Shaun Goater equalising with a turn and shot past Gills goalkeeper Jim Stannard. With eleven minutes left, defeat looked on the cards when Junior Bent's shot beat Stannard, after substitute Dennis Bailey had lost possession on the edge of our penalty area, but we only trailed for three minutes, substitute Dave Puttnam crashing a free-kick against the upright, with defender Mark Harris on hand to stab home the rebound. With the game into stoppage time, Lenny Piper, who had only been on the pitch for seven minutes, having replaced Steve Butler, collected the ball from Bailey just inside the box and volleyed past goalkeeper Naylor to mark his debut with the winning goal as we ran out 3-2 victors.

The sequence of successive home starts ended when we made the trip to Bury on the opening day of the 1999-2000 and lost 2-1. It was the first time we'd started a campaign away since 1986-7, when we won 2-1 at Newport County, Mark Weatherly and Dave Shearer scoring our goals.





FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MARK JONES

Good afternoon everybody and a very warm welcome back to krb's Priestfield as we look forward to starting the new season in our new division, League One.

In footballing terms it's been a comparatively short summer this year but it feels like a very long time since we were celebrating promotion on that magical day at Wembley in May. The response from our Medway and indeed our loyal supporters throughout Kent was absolutely tremendous and once again illustrates the outstanding potential our club has within the county. Over 30,000

Gillingham fans packed out the blue half of Wembley Stadium that day my only concern is how we will get you all in here this afternoon.

As you may have noticed there are one or two references to Wembley in this afternoon's programme and it seems the club has a real feel good factor about it this summer. Our profile has risen sharply and we were honoured this summer as Sky Sports News joined the team for a series of highly entertaining packages covering the first three weeks of pre-season training.

It was certainly a welcome change

“ . . . The response from our Medway and indeed our loyal supporters throughout Kent was absolutely tremendous and once again illustrates the outstanding potential our club has within the county . . . ”

to see our players featured in the headlines alongside the big summer stories of Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester City and the ongoing saga at Newcastle United. Our lads are even featured in the photo on the front cover of this season's Football League Handbook, let's hope we can keep the upward momentum on track this season.

I would also like to start the season by saying a huge thank you to all the supporters who turned out in force to congratulate the team at Rochester Castle and throughout the Medway Towns on our victory bus Parade. The council did a very special job in organizing the open top bus and the reception in record time. The thousands of you who lined the route made it a very special occasion for all the players and staff and I know the memories from the day will be cherished for many years to come.

Ready

As usual it's been a busy time behind the scenes at Priestfield this summer and while the Manager has been busy enhancing his squad our ground staff led by John Plummer have worked hard to get the pitch ready for the big kick-off. Straight after the play-off semi final the pitch was scarified, a process which resulted in the removal of 50 tons of rubbish from the top surface. We then injected 80 tons of sand to help water drain away more quickly, seeded with rye grass, fertilized and finally laid down a further 60 tons of top dressing. Fingers crossed the pitch should be in top class condition this afternoon.

You will also notice that we have resurfaced the front of the Brian Moore Stand and have replaced perimeter boards and hoardings

throughout the ground and I would like to thank all our ground staff for their tireless efforts across the summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our corporate sponsors who have renewed and a special thank you to our season ticket holders who stayed faithful with us last year and we hope will enjoy this very special season.

The gate for this first home fixture of the season is expected to be very high despite the lunch time kick off. In my view there has never been a stronger line-up of sides competing at

this level before and the calibre of teams visiting Priestfield in the coming months is very exciting. The presence of Leeds, Norwich, Southampton and Charlton has turned this division into a mini Championship and we all look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

As ever I am always pleased to receive your views so please e mail me at mjones@priestfield.com. Your thoughts, opinions and comments can make a real difference to the way we run the club.

Enjoy the match. **Mark**



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The opening day of the new football season is always a day that is looked forward to by many. It is the start of a fresh new season, which for every supporter up and down the country, is going to be 'our season'.

For any Gills fan, this season promises to be the next step forward, after the very successful season we had last season, which finished with a 'never to be forgotten' day out at the new Wembley Stadium last May.

The League One division this season is a really exciting one, with some very high profile games to be played here at Priestfield over the next nine months. We have some mouth watering 'derbies' to look forward to, including home games against Millwall, Charlton, and Brighton to name a few. In addition to these, we also have some superb quality games with Leeds United, Southampton, and Norwich to play.

So what an exciting nine months we all have to look forward to. On the Sales and Marketing side, we have been working hard on

restructuring the County of Kent, into four new sales areas. These areas will incorporate the whole of the ME postcodes plus all the other coastal and outlying areas of Kent. The Sales team of Sue, Max, Nick and myself will be working hard in all of these areas, trying to continue the good relationships we already have built up with Companies, and at the same time, looking to develop new business as well.

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On a personal note, I would like to welcome the guests and supporters of Swindon Town. I spent seven very happy years there and made lots of

friends during that time. I also experienced many highs and lows, notably the play-off games v Brighton, right up to my plane crash (ironically three years ago today) there in August 2006. I would like to make a special mention to Roger Bunce, Derrick Johnson and Chris Tanner and wish them well for the rest of the season. It would be great to see both the Gills and The Robins feature in next season's Championship League.

Enjoy the game!
Mike Sullivan, Sales Manager

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AWAY DAYS

by Andrew Ford

Winning promotion at the end of last season has meant that Gillingham have lost their nearest away match, the 62-mile round trip to Essex to take on Dagenham and Redbridge, and regained the longest possible, the 696 miles to Carlisle and back.

Despite this, the current northern bias to League Two and the plethora of southern-based clubs in League One will result in The Gills having a greatly reduced amount of travelling to and from away games during 2009-10, compared with 2008-9.

However, last season we actually did better at the games that involved more travelling. The Gills won five out of the six away League Two fixtures that involved there and back trips exceeding 500 miles, returning with all three points from Accrington Stanley, Darlington, Chester, Morecambe and Rochdale, the only exception being the 4-0 defeat against Bury at Gigg Lane, a venue where we had won a fortnight earlier in the FA Cup. The nearest away game where we picked up all three points was the 3-1 midweek victory at Notts County, a round trip of 336 miles.

The presence of larger Gillingham followings at the away matches closer to Priestfield didn't seem to spur the side on in those fixtures. There were six games that were less than 80

miles away from Priestfield and we failed to win any of these, drawing at Barnet, Brentford and Luton, and losing at Aldershot, Dagenham and Redbridge and Wycombe Wanderers.

Using distances calculated by Multimap, last season's League Two tour worked out at a total of 8,316 miles (an average of 362 miles per round trip), whilst this year the number has reduced to 6,910 (average 300). The Gills now have nine matches at venues less than one hundred miles away, compared to six last season. Eight fixtures will be played at grounds two hundred miles or more from Priestfield, compared to thirteen last season. Five other venues are within fifty miles of our home ground, the nearest being Charlton Athletic, then Millwall, Leyton Orient, Brentford and Southend United.

This season's fixtures include three at stadia where Gillingham have not previously played. The first of these is Tuesday week's short hop to Essex to take on Colchester United at the ground they moved into at the beginning of 2008-9. Usually known as the Colchester Community Stadium, it is officially called, as a result of a sponsorship deal, the Weston Homes Community Stadium.

On the first Saturday of October The Gills are scheduled to head down to the south coast to take on Southampton for the first time at their St Mary's Stadium, which has been the club's home since 2001. Our last appearance at the club's former ground, The Dell, came in October 1992, when we lost 3-0 in a Coca-Cola (League) Cup second round second leg tie, in what was manager Damien Richardson's final

match in charge of The Gills before his sacking.

Two weeks later we are due to make our first appearance at stadium.mk, home of the MK Dons since the start of the 2007-8 campaign. The MK Dons were playing their home matches at the National Hockey Stadium when The Gills last visited, in April 2006.

“ . . . This season's fixtures include three at stadia where Gillingham have not previously played. The first of these is Tuesday week's short hop to Essex to take on Colchester United at the ground they moved into at the beginning of 2008-9 . . . ”

The fact that Gillingham only spent one season in League Two before bouncing straight back has resulted in the return of fourteen clubs to our fixture list that we faced in league action as recently as the 2007-8 season. Add to those the three sides that went up with The Gills last season and you are left with just six that we last played in the league prior to 2007-8. Colchester and MK Dons were most recently in the same division as ourselves in 2005-6, whilst our latest league clashes against

Norwich City were back in the 2003-4 season, when both clubs were in the Championship. There have been no league fixtures between Gillingham and Stockport since 2001-2, however, we have visited County's Edgeley Park ground in both the League and FA Cup competitions since then, with The Gills knocking the hosts out on each occasion. We last visited The Valley to take on Charlton Athletic in our final game of the 1980-1 season, when we lost 2-1, Trevor Lee scoring our goal, whilst league matches between Gillingham and Southampton haven't been on the fixture list since 1957-8.

Although postponements could come into play, the way the fixture list currently stands shows February as the month when there are most miles (1,132) to be covered travelling to and from away games, although that month's three fixtures away from Gillingham include the marathon 696 mile round-trip to Carlisle, with Multimap advising a total travelling time of just over twelve hours for the journey to Brunton Park and back.

The next highest monthly totals are December, when the 1,030 miles includes a Bank Holiday Monday evening kick-off at Exeter (249 miles from Gillingham) and August, with three trips totalling 992 miles.

This season's travelling starts with next Saturday's excursion north to Tranmere. By the time we next play a league match at krrbs Priestfield, in two weeks time, when Hartlepool United are our visitors, we should have ticked off two out of the twenty-three away games and covered 662 miles out of the campaign's league total of 6,910.



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WELCOME TO . . .

SWINDON TOWN

This afternoon we welcome Danny Wilson and everyone connected with the Wiltshire club for the opening League One fixture of the 2009-10 campaign.



David Lucas

SQUAD CHANGES AT THE COUNTY GROUND.....

Manager Danny Wilson's side only avoided relegation to League Two by four points last season and he immediately began his rebuilding of the Robins by showing 13 of his squad the door. He offered new deals to just four players and that quartet were goalkeeper Phil Smith, midfielder Craig Easton and defensive duo Lescinel Jean-Francois and Patrick Kanyuka.

Another departure was top scorer Simon Cox, who'd scored 47 goals in 88 appearances for Town including

32 last season, when West Bromwich Albion finally had an offer, reportedly £2m, accepted. Both Leicester City and Celtic were believed to have had previous bids turned down.

Not surprisingly Robins chairman Andrew Fitton told BBC Points West the offer was "full and fair". Arriving at the County Ground are centre-back Gordon Greer following his release by Doncaster Rovers, goalkeeper's David Lucas from Leeds United and Jakub Sionkowski from Zaglebie Lubin, Hibernian winger Alan O'Brien, the versatile Jonathan Douglas also from Leeds and Celtic

defender Scott Cuthbert.

It was also reported last weekend that the Robins had taken Senegalese striker Mouhamadou Seye on trial.

PRE-SEASON ROUND-UP.....

Town returned for pre-season training on June 29 before travelling out to Austria for a week where they were based in Kaprun. They played three games while there, the first two were against Romanian sides CFR Cluj and Universitate Craiova. Anthony McNamee was on target in the 1-1 draw against CFR Cluj while a single goal from Lescinel Jean-Francois was enough to earn the Robins victory against Universitate Craiova.

Next up was local side TSV St Johann where the two sides shared six goals, Town's scorers were Billy Paynter (2) and Sean Morrisson.

On their return they faced three games in the space of three days. The first at Hungerford Town ended in a 3-0 win thanks to goals from Stephen Morrison, Billy Bodin and Scott Spencer, a single Jonathon Douglas goal saw off Luton Town before a young side were beaten 2-0 at Chippenham Town.

Their first home friendly ended goalless against Championship side Cardiff City then a header from Gordon Greer proved enough to beat W.B.A at the County Ground. Town then beat local side Swindon Supermarine by the odd goal in five with Yan Klukowski (2) and Jon-Paul McGovern finding the net for the League One side.

Our Carling Cup opponents



Gordon Greer, Captain

Plymouth visited the County Ground last Saturday and ran out 2-0 winners and they were due to wrap up their pre-season games at Cirencester Town on Tuesday night.

WILSON HAPPY.....

Speaking before last weekend's defeat against Argyle, boss Danny Wilson stated that he'd been happy with his team's pre-season preparations to date.

They had managed four clean sheets in the last five matches and Wilson told BBC Wiltshire: "It's great to get an unbeaten run, we'd like to go into Gillingham unbeaten as it breeds good habits. We're doing ok, that's all we're saying, we've done nothing yet."

The Wiltshire side conceded far too many goals in League One last season (71) and Wilson has worked hard to improve his defence.

He added "I think the lads are getting the bit between their teeth now, they quite like these clean sheets."

CHIEF EXEC CONFIDENT.....

Town's chief executive Nick Watkins is confident that his side won't get left behind in what looks to be a competitive League One.

He told BBC Wiltshire that the league table will look "remarkably

like the Championship" with Southampton, Norwich and Charlton dropping to join Leeds, all of whom have played in the Premier League within the last six years.

But while he is adamant that the Robins will struggle to match the playing budgets of those sides, they will compete on a level playing field with the remaining teams.

He said "In terms of the Walsall's, Oldham's and Tranmere's, we can compete. We are more than capable of competing with them, but I was looking at the annual reporting accounts of Charlton and their wage bill is staggering."

CHAIRMAN'S EXPECTATIONS.....

Swindon chairman Andrew Fitton has told his manager he wants the team to be challenging for a League One play-off place this season.

After a disappointing 2008/09 campaign, the Town supremo is expecting more. He told BBC Wiltshire that he thinks his targets are stretching but realistic, he said "I want to be in and around the play-off positions and then I want some good cup performances because people like the excitement of cups."

Of course he appreciates that competition at the top of League One is likely to be stiff next season with certain clubs expected to spend big

money to earn promotion but he added "There's no lack of ambition. It's all about achieving continuous progress and sustainability."

INJURIES.....

Lee Peacock and Hasney Aljofree are both likely to be out of action for months to come, according to Swindon manager Danny Wilson. Aljofree injured his knee ligaments last December while Peacock has had two operations this summer to try to solve a long standing back complaint. Wilson told BBC Wiltshire it could be some time before either plays again. "I couldn't even put a date on it for you because we just don't know at the moment, it's disappointing. We'll just keep working with them the best that we can."

There was better news of new signing Scott Cuthbert, who had a hernia operation this summer. He said "Cuthbert will be up and running by the first week of the season, there's no doubt about that. Hopefully we'll see him in one or two pre season games before that."

BACKROOM RESHUFFLE.....

Not all the changes have been to the playing staff as boss Wilson has drafted in both Peter Shirtliff and George Wood.

Former Mansfield manager Shirtliff, 48, played with the Town boss at Sheffield Wednesday, and has more recently been assistant to Ronnie Moore at Tranmere, he comes in as assistant manager.

Former Arsenal and Everton player Wood has meanwhile agreed to become the Town's new goalkeeping coach.

Shirtliff told BBC Wiltshire: "The last time we worked together was at Barnsley and that was very successful. Whilst we are friends we're still professional and we've both got our own opinions and that is healthy."

He added "I've not come down here to mess around and Danny's the same. We want to do the job right and get the club going in the right direction." We both like to play the game the same way and I'm optimistic we can do well."

Another change see's ex-Gillingham winger David Byrne, the former assistant manager, named the club's new head of player development.

NEW SKIPPER.....

Former Kilmarnock centre-half Gordon Greer, who spent three months on loan at the County Ground last season, making 19 appearances, takes over from Hasney Aljofree.

The 28-year-old Scot who joined the club permanently during the summer from Doncaster Rovers told the Swindon Advertiser "It's a massive honour. When I came here on loan last season I captained the team for a few games. The manager has given me the captaincy and I'm delighted - it's a big honour and a great feeling. He added "At the tail end of last year we showed some really good form and if we can keep that going then we can get better. We've got a good base to the squad at the moment, but the manager wants to bring in a few more and I'm sure there will be quality players who can bolster the squad and push us up the league."

DEVELOPING FROM WITHIN.....

Swindon announced during the summer that they are prepared to start paying fees to sign youth-team players from other clubs in an attempt to improve their own junior set-up.

David Byrne told BBC Wiltshire: "We can now go and identify players we've never been able to before." He also revealed that the club are looking to extend their scouting network into mainland Europe.

He added "We're going to try to build a foundation where we're looking for home-grown talent. But if we can't get that home-grown talent then we need to broaden our horizons and see if we can get into the European market and bring in some good kids."

Chairman Andrew Fitton also believes the club's future is very much tied to the success of developing their own players.

He said "We see a much closer association between the youth, the

reserves and progression into the first team. We've been generating about one player a year over recent years, so, on my principle that you've got to improve in small steps, two would be a good start."

LOOKS FAMILIAR.....

One player in the Swindon squad that may look familiar to Gillingham fans, Jonathan Douglas. Both Douglas and Jay McEveley made ten appearances on loan from Blackburn Rovers during Stan Ternent's short reign which ultimately ended with the last day relegation from the Championship at Nottingham Forest on the final day of the 2004-05 campaign.

After leaving Ewood Park he joined Leeds United and went on to make 166 appearances in four seasons at Elland Road. He has also been capped eight times by the Republic of Ireland and despite playing at full-back for Leeds last term he will revert to his old central midfield role for Swindon.

On signing for the Robins he said "I've played in the division for a few years, played a lot of games so hopefully can add some experience." Manager Danny Wilson's top priority this summer was to strengthen the spine of his Swindon team, and Douglas's signing will undoubtedly help that and the admiration appears to be mutual as the Irishman added "He's one of the main reasons why I

signed here. He seems a good man to work for."

THE LAST TIME WE MET.....

The last meeting between the Gills and Swindon was late April in the 2007-08 campaign when a goal at each end of the 90 minutes saw the game end all square.

It was not the result that the majority of the 6334 crowd were hoping for against their great rivals as it left them on the brink of relegation. The game started well for the home side when Nicky Southall's free-kick was headed home at the far post by Garry Richards, the ball going in via Petr Brezovan's left-hand post.

Unfortunately despite dominating for long periods the Gills were made to pay by Hasney Aljofree's 88th-minute equaliser. The home defence failed to clear Jon-Paul McGovern's corner which allowed Aljofree to bundle the ball home from close range.

Gills: Stillie, Richards, Cullip, King, Southall, Crofts, Maher, Lewis (Ba 89), Nutter, Mulligan (Oli 67), Jackson. **Unused Subs:** Kiely, Bentley, Griffiths.

Swindon: Brezovan, Smith (Joyce 86), Ifil (Morrison 34), Aljofree, Vincent, McGovern, Easton, Timlin, McNamee (Paynter 68), Cox, Peacock. **Unused Subs:** Smith (P), Allen.



Hasney Aljofree



TODAY'S VISITORS

SWINDON TOWN

Profiles of today's visitors to the krbs Priestfield Stadium.



PAST PLAYER 4. JONATHAN DOUGLAS

An industrious midfielder, Douglas was signed on loan from Blackburn Rovers in 2005 by Stan Ternent as the Gills Manager rebuilt his squad in a bid to stave off relegation from the Championship. He added much needed steel and composure to the midfield and it's no coincidence that his arrival resulted in a seven match unbeaten run for Ternent's men. In all Gillingham lost just one of the ten games in which Douglas appeared though ultimately Eugene Bopp's late equaliser in the final day 2-2 draw at Nottingham Forest would end the clubs hopes of survival.

That summer the Republic of Ireland international transferred to Leeds United on a season long loan which he made permanent the following season. He was appointed team captain by Manager Dennis Wise and clocked up over 150 appearances during his time at Elland Road. He was released by Simon Grayson at the end of the 2008/09 season and joined Swindon on a free transfer in July.

1. DAVID LUCAS

Keeper Lucas progressed through the ranks at Preston North End, making well over 100 appearances for the Lancashire club in a ten year spell. After leaving Deepdale he spent time with Sheffield Wednesday, Barnsley and Leeds before signing on at the County Ground this summer.

2. SCOTT CUTHBERT

Scottish defender Cuthbert is another new arrival for Swindon joining on a free transfer from Glasgow giants Celtic. Capped at Youth and Scotland B level he failed to make a senior appearance for the Bhoys but enjoyed a successful loan spell at St Mirren last season.

5. JEREL IFIL

Ifil graduated through the youth academy at Watford making a hand full of appearances for the Hornets. After three loan stints at the County Ground he signed a permanent deal with the Robins in June 2004 and has since made nearly 200 league appearances for the club.

6. GORDON GREER

Another Scotland B International, Greer joined Swindon from Doncaster Rovers on a two year contract this summer after completing a loan at the County Ground last season. The defender was on the books of Blackburn Rovers as a youngster and has also turned out for Clyde and Kilmarnock.

7. JON-PAUL MCGOVERN

Scottish midfielder McGovern began his career with Celtic but made his league bow during a loan spell with Sheffield United. He enjoyed success at Livingston, Sheffield Wednesday

and the MK Dons before following his former Manager Paul Sturrock to Swindon in 2007.

8. CRAIG EASTON

Like McGovern, central midfielder Easton arrived at the club during the tenure of Paul Sturrock in 2007. A Scotland Under-21 international, he made well over 200 appearances for Dundee United and includes Livingston and Leyton Orient among his former clubs.

10. MICHAEL TIMLIN

A graduate of Fulham's youth academy, Timlin failed to break into the first team at Craven Cottage but gained valuable first team experience on loan at Scunthorpe and Doncaster Rovers. After enjoying two loan spells at the County Ground he moved for good in 2008 and was a near ever present for the Robins last season.

11. ANTHONY McNAMEE

Diminutive left-sided midfielder McNamee spent six seasons with Watford making nearly 100 league appearances for the Vicarage Road outfit. He joined the Robins in January 2008 and has rarely missed a match for Swindon since.

12. PHIL SMITH

London born Keeper Smith was a youngster at Millwall before enjoying spells with Kent non-league sides Folkestone, Dover and Margate. He was spotted by Swindon whilst playing with Crawley Town and signed permanently after completing a successful trial.

14. SEAN MORRISON

After starting his apprenticeship with Plymouth Argyle, highly rated defender Morrison moved to the County Ground in the summer of 2007. He made his league debut in the 1-1 draw with Gillingham at Priestfield in April 2008 and is set for a bright future in the game.

15. KEVIN AMANKWAAH

Right back Amankwaah joined Swindon in June 2008 from Swansea City ending an injury plagued two

year spell with the Swans. He began his career at Bristol City and has also featured for Torquay, Cheltenham and Yeovil Town.

16. HASNEY ALJOFREE

An experienced defender, Aljofree was on the books of Manchester United as a youngster before completing his apprenticeship at Bolton Wanderers. After a handful of appearances for the Trotters he joined Paul Sturrock's Dundee United and later followed his Manager to Plymouth, Sheffield Wednesday and finally Swindon.

18. ALAN O'BRIEN

Republic of Ireland winger O'Brien is another summer recruit for the Robins, arriving on a free transfer from Hibernian in July. He began his career with Newcastle United and made five appearances for the St James Park side before trying his luck north of the border.

19. JEAN-FRANCOIS LESCINEL

Lescinel was born in French Guyana and played his youth football with Paris Saint Germain. Short spells with Sedan B, Falkirk and Guingamp followed before he joined the Robins in January on a short term deal. He is

a full international for Haiti and recently signed a new deal to keep him at the County Ground.

20. BILLY PAYNTER

Striker Paynter began his career with a successful six year spell at Port Vale with whom he made nearly 150 appearances. Moves to Hull City and Southend followed before he transferred to Swindon in 2007, although predominantly a striker he can also operate on the right wing.

21. LEE PEACOCK

A vastly experienced striker, Peacock joined the Robins in 2006 from Sheffield Wednesday and has now made over 120 league appearances. Impressive spells at Carlisle and Mansfield earned him a move to Manchester City in 1999 but his most prolific spell came with Bristol City where he found the net 54 times in 144 outings.

SQUAD PLAYERS

The Robins first team squad also includes young defenders Callum Kennedy, Nathan Thompson and Kasali Casal, Wingers Lloyd Macklin and Mark Marshall, reserve Keeper Mark Scott and midfielder Kurt Hammonds



DANNY WILSON



MANAGER:

As a player Wilson was a combative midfielder and enjoyed successful spells in the top flight with Luton Town and Sheffield Wednesday as well as earning international honours with Northern Ireland. He became player/manager at Barnsley in 1994 and led the Tykes to the Premiership in 1997. After a return to Hillsborough he took the reins at Bristol City, MK Dons and Hartlepool before replacing Maurice Malpas at the County Ground in December 2008.



GILLS STAT CENTRE compiled by Gary Wade



| GILLS | FACTS (all competitions 2008/09) | OPP |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----|
| 24 | First half goals scored | 31 |
| 41 | Second half goals scored | 30 |
| 4 | Goals in the first 10 minutes | 4 |
| 13 | Goals in the last 10 minutes | 6 |
| 5 | Injury time / Last minute goals | 3 |
| 22 | Clean / Blank sheets | 17 |
| 0 | Consolation goals | 2 |
| 33 | Number of leads taken | 29 |
| 27 | First goal of the game scored | 24 |
| 11 | Points dropped from lead (inc cup) | 20 |
| 23 | Win from the first goal scored | 15 |
| 1 | Defeat from the first goal scored | 2 |
| 13 | Win from a half time lead | 13 |
| 1 | Win from a half time deficit | 1 |
| 3 | Draw from a half time lead | 5 |
| 273 | Shots On Target | 264 |
| 243 | Shots Off Target | 250 |
| 12 | Woodwork Hit | 19 |
| 154 | Offsides | 192 |
| 291 | Corners | 266 |
| 651 | Fouls | 755 |
| 73 | Players Booked | 82 |
| 3 | Players Sent Off | 2 |
| 6 | Penalties Scored | 6 |
| 2 | Penalties Missed or Saved | 0 |
| 2 | Own Goals Scored | 2 |
| 0 | Goals Disallowed | 0 |

GILLS TRIVIA – SEASON 2008/09

- Gillingham were slow starters in 2008/09 of the 65 goals scored last season 41 goals arrived in the second half of matches compared to just 24 in the first.
- The midweek defeat to Lincoln City at Priestfield in late January was the only time the Gills were beaten after scoring the first goal in a game throughout the entire 2008/09 season.
- Mark Stimson's men may have been slow off the blocks but they finished games in style with a fifth of all goals scored coming in the final 10 minutes of the match
- They also received more than their fair share of abuse in League Two with the Gills conceding 651 fouls, while 755 were committed against them.

FOULS (FL2 data from the Football League website):

| | | |
|--------------|----|---------------|
| Adam Miller | 76 | 1.90 per game |
| Simon King | 64 | 1.30 per game |
| Mark Bentley | 55 | 1.22 per game |

TOP

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|
| Holt (Shrewsbury) | 136 | 2.83 per game |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|

APPEARANCES (all competitions):

| | | |
|---------------|----|--------------|
| John Nutter | 54 | 98% of games |
| Curtis Weston | 53 | 96% of games |
| Simon King | 52 | 94% of games |

GOALSCORERS (all competitions):

| | | |
|----------------|----|-----------------|
| Simeon Jackson | 21 | 43% (0.4 gl/gm) |
| Andy Barcham | 9 | 22% (0.2 gl/gm) |
| Adam Miller | 6 | 15% (0.2 gl/gm) |
| Mark McCammon | 5 | 14% (0.2 gl/gm) |
| Curtis Weston | 5 | 9% (0.1gl/gm) |

TOP

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| Holt (Shrewsbury) | 28 | 58% (0.6 gl/gm) |
|-------------------|----|-----------------|

SHOTS ON TARGET (FL2 data from the Football League website):

| | | |
|----------------|----|---------------|
| Simeon Jackson | 63 | 1.37 per game |
| Andy Barcham | 31 | 0.82 per game |
| Mark McCammon | 30 | 0.91 per game |

TOP

| | | |
|---------------|----|---------------|
| Bishop (Bury) | 77 | 1.75 per game |
|---------------|----|---------------|

SHOTS OFF TARGET (FL2 data from the Football League website):

| | | |
|----------------|----|---------------|
| Simeon Jackson | 56 | 1.22 per game |
| Adam Miller | 29 | 0.73 per game |
| Nicky Southall | 25 | 0.66 per game |

TOP

| | | |
|-------------------|----|---------------|
| Holt (Shrewsbury) | 75 | 1.66 per game |
|-------------------|----|---------------|

ASSISTS (FL2 data from the Football League website):

| | | |
|----------------|----|----------------|
| John Nutter | 10 | 16.1% of goals |
| Nicky Southall | 9 | 14.5% of goals |
| Andy Barcham | 5 | 8.1% of goals |
| Adam Miller | 5 | 8.1% of goals |
| Curtis Weston | 4 | 6.5% of goals |

TOP

| | | |
|----------------------|----|----------------|
| Saunders (Dag & Red) | 14 | 18.2% of goals |
|----------------------|----|----------------|



Gillingham 2-1 Rochdale

Play-off Semi-Final Second Leg

Just three days after the first leg stalemate at Spotland the Gills faced Rochdale for the right to play Shrewsbury in the League Two play-off final.

Roared on by a near capacity crowd at krbs Priestfield, Mark Stimson's men tore out of the blocks and were rewarded with a vital goal after just 13 minutes. Dennis Oli sent Andy Barcham careering down the left wing and he crossed back from the byline for Simeon Jackson to sweep home his 19th goal of the season.

Dale hadn't come to make up the numbers though and after regaining their composure they pressed hard for an equaliser. It arrived in the 36th minute after Gillingham's defence failed to clear what seemed a harmless cross, the loose ball fell to Chris Dagnall who lashed it into the far corner to level the scores.

The Gills restored their advantage early in the second half after McArdle felled John Nutter in the box for a penalty. As tension built around the

stadium Simeon Jackson held his nerve to bury his spot kick and send Priestfield into rapture.

Rochdale piled on the pressure as Jones, Toner, McArdle and Buckley all came within a whisker of equalising but the Gills clung on to secure a return to Wembley.

Attendance: 9585

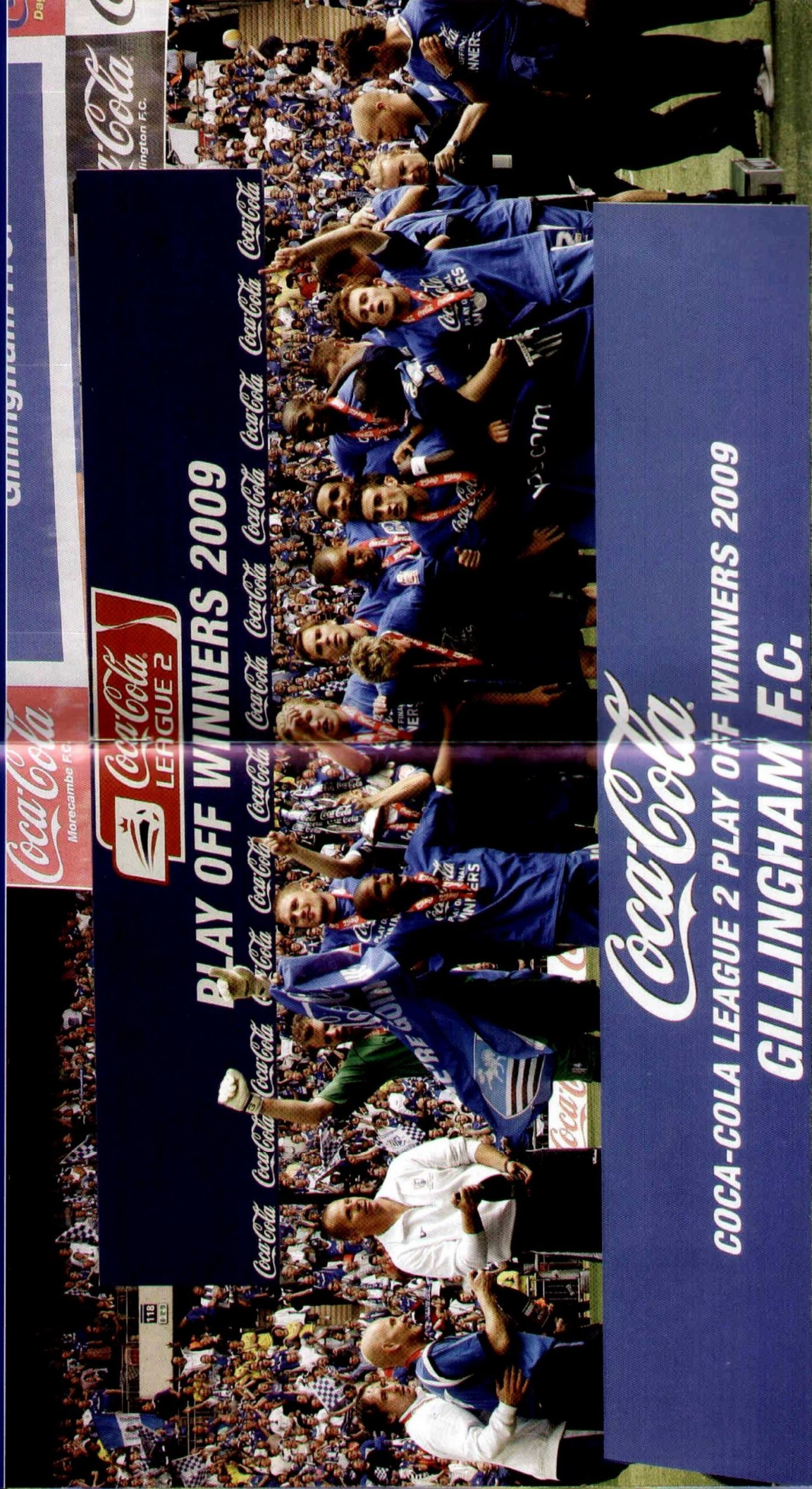
Gillingham: Simon Royce, Barry Fuller, Gary Richards, Simon King, John Nutter, Stuart Lewis, Josh Wright (Mark Bentley 70), Curtis Weston, Dennis Oli (Nicky Southall 83), Simeon Jackson (Mark McCammon (90+3), Andy Barcham **Subs not used:** Alan Julian, Albert Jarrett

Rochdale: Frank Fielding, Simon Ramsden, Tom Kennedy, Nathan Stanton, Rory McArdle, Adam Rundle (Adam Le Fondre 67), Joe Thompson (Will Buckley 62), Gary Jones, Ciaran Toner, Chris Dagnall, Lee Thorpe (Jon Shaw 67) **Subs not used:** Mark Jones, Marcus Holness.





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LEAGUE TWO PLAY OFF WINNERS 2008/09



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Gillingham 1-0 Shrewsbury

Play-off Final

After an agonising two week break the Gills date with destiny finally arrived and over 30,000 of Kent's finest were on hand to witness the Wembley spectacle.

From the intensity of Gillingham's opening 45 minutes, it was hard to imagine that just eight months earlier seven goals had separated the two sides as the Shrews ran out comfortable winners at the New Meadow.

Barcham, Weston, Oli, Wright and Nutter all had great chances to score in the first half but time and again their efforts were snuffed out by the Shropshire sides outstanding young keeper, Luke Daniels.

After the restart events unfolded in much the same vein as Daniels denied first Barcham then Jackson with excellent saves.

As the half wore on the tide of the game changed and with the prospect of extra time looming it was Shrewsbury's turn to enjoy the balance of play.

Then in the final minute Gillingham were awarded a corner, Josh Wright

swung a wicked ball into the near post and one of the shortest men on the pitch, Simeon Jackson, appeared unnoticed to glance the cross off the back post and into the net.

The blue half of Wembley erupted and, at the first time of asking, The Gills had secured their return to League One.

Attendance: 53,706

Gillingham: Simon Royce, Barry Fuller, Garry Richards, Simon King, John Nutter, Stuart Lewis, Josh Wright, Curtis Weston, Dennis Oli, Simeon Jackson, Andy Barcham

Subs not used: Mark Bentley, Adam Miller, Alan Julian, Mark McCammon, Albert Jarrett

Shrewsbury Town: Luke Daniels, Darren Moss, Neil Ashton, Graham Coughlin, Kelvin Langmead, Ben Davies, Paul Murray (David Worrall 74), Grant Holt, Chris Humphrey (Moses Ashikodi 90+2), Nick Chadwick (Omer Riza 79), Kevin McIntyre **Subs not used:** Glynn Garner, Shane Cansdell-Sheriff.

Matt Davison
Matt Cole
Gemma Sterba



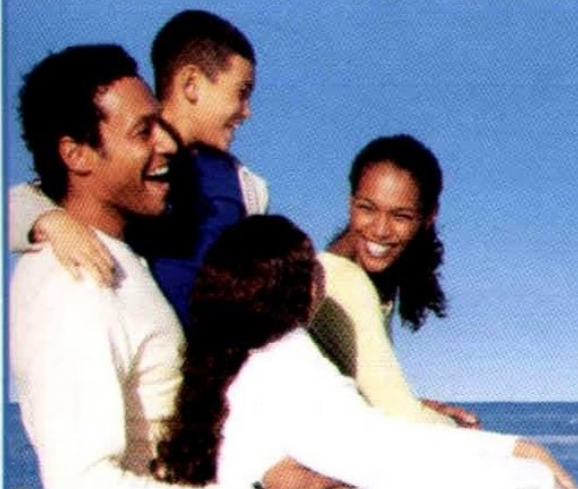
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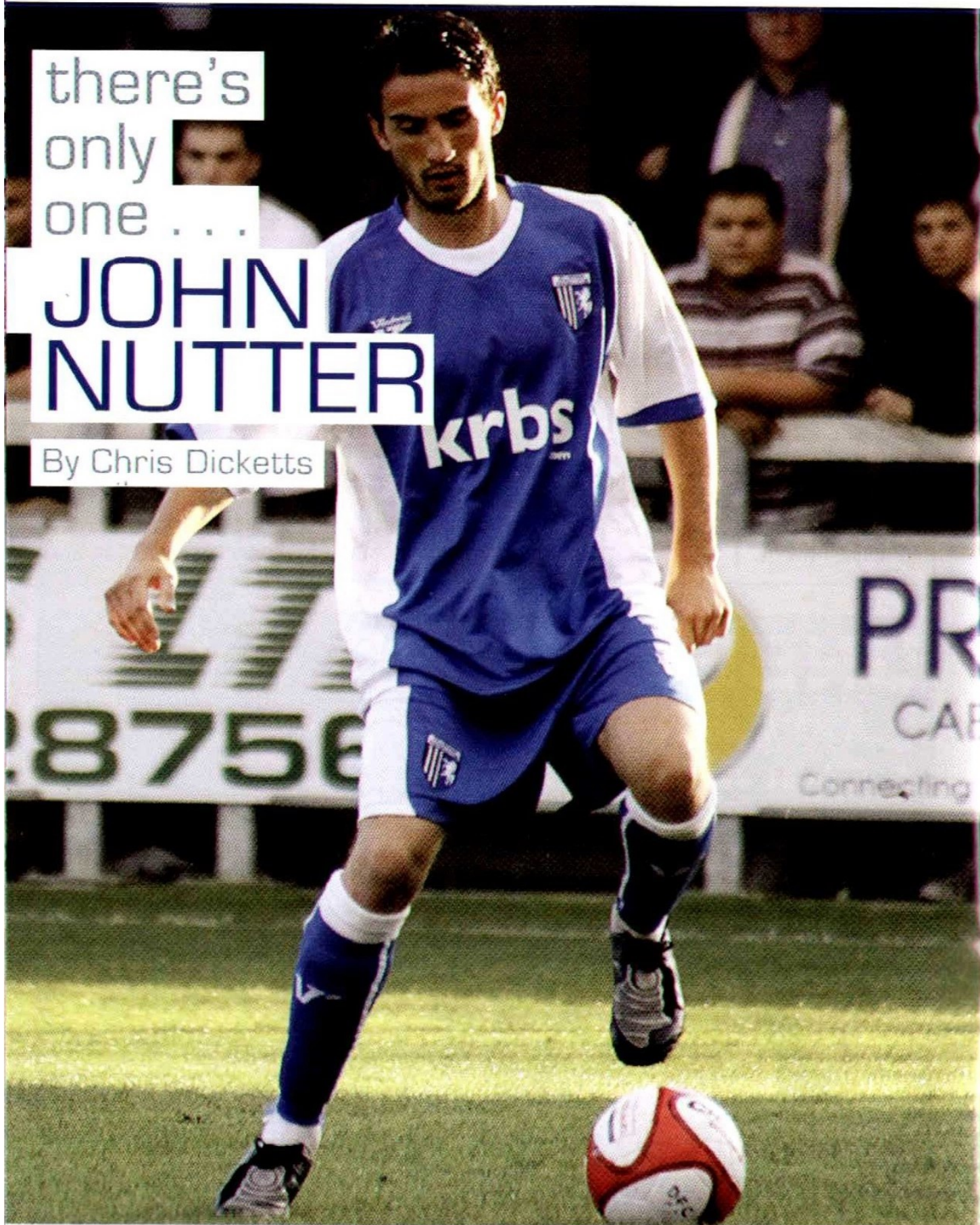


gfc

there's
only
one . . .

JOHN NUTTER

By Chris Dicketts





John Nutter is one of the hardest working players in the Gillingham squad and just last season, fans saw why Mark Stimson rates him so highly.

For last season the accolade of Mr Assist went to our tireless left back, an accolade he is more than happy with.

Talking about the ten assists he contributed during 2008/09 Nutter said: "I managed to get into double figures last season which is nice. I took quite a lot of set pieces so that accounts for most of them.

"Hopefully I can get a few more from open play this year and continue to provide the assists in the coming season."

The Gills star left back only missed one game through injury in the clubs successful promotion campaign and that comes despite the fact he was carrying a hernia injury from January onwards.

It is a credit to his commitment that he could still make those runs down the left wing to provide the ammunition for Simeon Jackson and his fellow goal scorers.

Discussing his style of play he added: "I do like to get forward as much as I can and set opportunities up and help develop the play. My first job is to defend though, so hopefully I can do that side of things just as well."

Nutter played as part of a fairly settled back four last season that saw

Simon Royce keep nineteen clean sheets, something the Gills haven't managed for many a year.

The charismatic defender believes that is part of the reason that the Gills secured promotion via the play-offs, on that fantastic day in May.

He said: "The last twelve to fifteen games I think it was pretty much the same back four for

every game. I think you could see that there was a good understanding and we kept a lot of clean sheets as well last season.

"Throughout the play-off final I don't remember Shrewsbury having much chance to score particularly. We were a decent unit and hopefully we can continue that in League One next time out."

The play-off final was not John Nutter's first experience of Wembley, like several of his Gillingham team mates he played there for Stevenage in the FA Trophy.

Season

Talking about Wembley he confessed it was a totally different experience playing there with the Gills.

He added: "It was a quite a hard road to begin with at Gillingham, we had such a devastating season with relegation in 2007. It was a big relief and a big sense of achievement to go back up.

"With Stevenage it was a great day out but with Gillingham it was more about business and it was such a great feeling to take Gillingham back to where they should be."

Despite being a virtual ever present last season, Nutter is taking nothing for granted for the 2009/10 campaign.

Revealing his main target is to be in the team for today's game against Swindon, he said: "I want to do things differently this season as we

are in the League above. My main focus has to be, being in the team for Swindon and then to try and stay in it throughout the season.

"The aim is really for the boys to play well and enjoy it, as if we have no pressure on us I think we can have a good year."

Like all of the players I have spoken to during the pre-season build up, John Nutter is another who believes the team can hold their own. He added: "I feel like there is less pressure on us next season, so we can go and play with a lot of freedom, which is the way the Gaffer likes us to play.

"If we do that we will upset a few teams and we will have a chance of getting quite a few points, our main aim has to be to get as many points as possible."

With no contract offer on the table as the season came to a close John took the bold step of having a hernia operation.

Business

Revealing why he did it this way, he said: "The gaffer was very open and honest with me and has been since I have worked with him. I sort of knew that as long as I came back fit and the operation was a success I knew I would be ok.

"Luckily for me it has turned out that way, I feel fit and I am ready to go for the coming season, as we take on League One.

The team may have done the business on the field last season but the players know the supporters played a huge part in Gillingham's success. Their support will be vital again this year and Nutter was full of praise for the Gills faithful who back their team home and away.

The 27-year-old said: "You only have to see all those people who turned out at Wembley they are fantastic, it speaks volumes for the club.

"They helped us out massively on the day and I am sure they will play a massive part this coming season. As long as they stay loud and keep with us I am sure we will all be successful together."



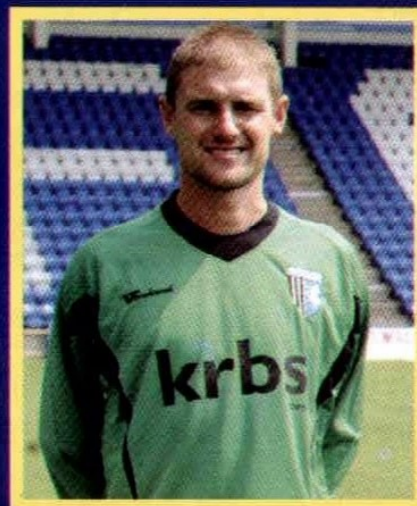
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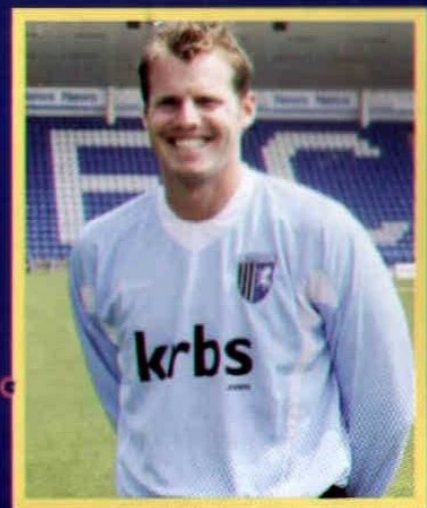
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Action Images



COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE TRANSFERS

Richard Day takes a look at what has been happening elsewhere in League One.....

BRENTFORD

Strikers Ben Strevens and Sam Saunders, along with defender Danny Foster all made the move from East to West London having signed from Dagenham and Redbridge.

The only other new players to arrive at Griffin Park are Notts County winger Myles Weston and goalkeeper Lewis Price who has agreed to join the Bee's on a season-long loan from Derby County.

Manager Andy Scott has however stated that he is still planning further moves in the transfer market.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

Nottingham Forest have signed left-back Joel Lynch for £200,000 in a move that also saw Matt Thornhill move to the Withdean on loan. New manager Russell Slade (above) has also brought in a number of other new faces. Milton Keynes Dons

winger Mark Wright was first and he was followed by the signing of Stockport duo Gary Dicker and James Tunnicliffe. Former Gillingham captain Andrew Crofts then joined on a two-year deal along with 26-year-old former Motherwell goalkeeper Graeme Smith.

Derby County striker Liam Dickinson arrived for a fee believed to be around £100,000 while Jake Wright has moved down to the coast from Blue Square Premier Crawley Town.

BRISTOL ROVERS

There hasn't been too much happening at the Memorial Ground this summer, the only new arrivals being Carl Regan (MK Dons), Dominic Blizzard (Stockport) and Fraser Forster, a young keeper on loan from Newcastle United. Rovers boosted their scouting network by bringing in former player

John Anderson who will track potential targets in the north joining former Pirate Giuliano Grazioli who has agreed to look at players in the London area.

The club have also appointed former Oxford United boss Darren Patterson as their new head of youth.

CARLISLE UNITED

United are still waiting to find out how much Danny Graham will boost the coffers after the striker joined Championship side Watford, a fee will be set by tribunal. They have also lost the services of fellow forwards Michael Bridges and Danny Carlton. Boss Greg Abbott probably spoke for numerous managers when he said "We need to find an exciting player who scores goals, but its not easy." The only new faces at Brunton Park so far are winger Matty Robson from League One rivals Hartlepool United

and keeper Lenny Pidgeley who was released by Millwall. Josh Gowling has of course joined the Gills on an initial one month loan from the Cumbrians.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Departures from the Valley include Darren Ambrose (Crystal Palace), Mark Hudson (Cardiff City), Zheng Zi and Nicky Weaver. If the rumour mill is true Ipswich Town are said to be interested in Jonjo Shelvey, Reading are supposedly looking at Nicky Bailey while Chris Dickson is on Mark Stimson's shopping list.

Spanish centre-back Miguel Angel Llera (MK Dons), former Leeds full-back Frazer Richardson and Scottish veteran Christian Dailly (Rangers) have joined the Addicks while Wade Small has been on trial.

Boss Phil Parkinson spoke ahead of the new season, he said "It's going to be difficult but everyone is up for it."

COLCHESTER UNITED

Winger Mark Yeates joined Middlesbrough and Bristol City signed keeper Dean Gerken both moving for undisclosed fee's.

Blackpool midfielder David Fox, winger Ashley Vincent from Cheltenham and defender's Lee Beevers and Magnus Okuonghae have signed from Lincoln City and Dagenham and Redbridge respectively. Also arriving at the Weston Homes Community Stadium are Carlisle United goalkeeper Ben Williams and Joel Thomas from Scottish side Hamilton Academicals.

Rumours have it that the U's are interested in re-signing striker Kevin Lisbie, a former Gills loanee, from Ipswich Town with boss Paul Lambert saying "I'll bring in a striker and then I'll be happy we can mount a challenge."

Other news has seen former Ipswich Town defender Tony Humes appointed as head of youth while Gary Holt, previously at Wycombe, has joined as player-coach.

EXETER CITY

Midfielder Dean Moxey has joined Derby County on a three-year deal

for an undisclosed fee.

Joe Burnell (Oxford Utd), Barry Corr (Swindon), Richard Duffy (Millwall), James Dunne (Arsenal), Scott Golbourne (Reading) and James Norwood (Eastbourne Town) have all moved to St James Park.

City appointed Andy Tillson as their first-team coach to work alongside manager Paul Tisdale but assistant boss John Yems left the club.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

New faces at Victoria Park are ex-Gillingham keeper Scott Flinders (Crystal Palace), Stockport winger Leon McSweeney, striker Adam Boyd from Leyton Orient, defenders Neil Austin and Peter Hartley from Darlington and Sunderland respectively, Denis Behan (Cork City) and Jon-Andre Fredriksen (Sarpsborg). Hartlepool boss Chris Turner has brought in former Manchester United and Middlesbrough keeper Gary Walsh as the new goalkeeping coach.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

Town have been quite busy in the transfer market during the summer. Midfielder Antony Kay (Tranmere Rovers), central defender Peter Clarke (Southend United), fellow defender Lee Peltier from Yeovil and strikers Robbie Simpson (Coventry City), Jordan Rhodes (Ipswich) and Theo Robinson (Watford) have all arrived at the Galpharm.

LEEDS UNITED

Leeds have signed Northampton Town right-back Jason Crowe, Cheltenham keeper Shane Higgs and Leicester City defender Patrick Kisnorbo.

Star striker Jermaine Beckford has recently come off the transfer list after initially rejecting a new three-year contract at Elland Road. Captain Richard Naylor will not be rushed back for the start of the season after having a back operation.

LEYTON ORIENT

Two former Gills, Ben Chorley (Tranmere Rovers) and Scott McGleish (Wycombe Wanderers), have joined the O's along with Adrian Patulea

(Lincoln City) and James Scowcroft (Crystal Palace).

MILLWALL

Goalkeeper John Sullivan arrived from Brighton while Stevenage skipper Steve Morison was signed for a fee believed to be around £130,000. Fellow striker Jason Price, who spent the latter part of the 2008-09 campaign on loan at the New Den from Doncaster Rovers, has made the move permanent.

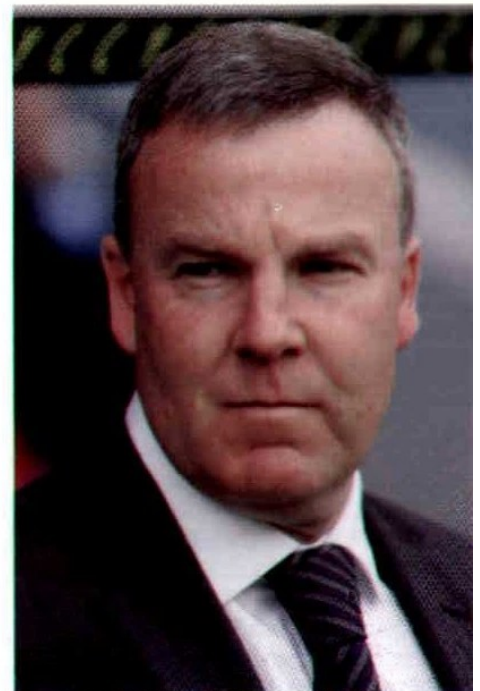
Lions boss Kenny Jackett (below) has signed a new three-year contract.

MILTON KEYNES DONS

Paul Ince has returned as manager replacing Roberto Di Matteo who left to take the job at W.B.A.

The new signings are Mark Carrington (Crewe), Jermaine Easter (Plymouth), Jabo Ibehre (Walsall), David McCracken (Wycombe), Richie Partridge (Chester), Stuart Searle (Watford) and Danny Woodards (Crewe) while Jemal Johnson has re-signed for the club.

Ince spoke ahead of the season saying "This is as tough a league as it has ever been. If things go well we will challenge but overall we are building for the next two or three years."





NORWICH CITY

New Canaries boss Bryan Gunn (above) has brought in no fewer than 11 new signings as City prepare for life in League One. They are Ben Alnwick (Spurs), Danish defender Jens Berthel Askou, Matthew Gill (Exeter City), Grant Holt (Shrewsbury), Stephen Hughes (Motherwell), Owain Tudor-Jones (Swansea), Goran Maric (Celta Vigo), Michael Nelson (Hartlepool), Michael Theoklitos (Melbourne Victory), Simon Whaley (Preston) and Rhys Wiggins (Crystal Palace).

Norwich have agreed a deal with insurance firm Aviva to extend their sponsorship deal for a further year.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

There have been plenty of new arrivals at Boundary Park under new boss Dave Penney. Joe Jacobson (Bristol Rovers), Darlington duo Pawel Abbott and Rob Purdie, Andy Holdsworth and Jon Worthington (both Huddersfield Town), Dean

Furman (Rangers), Keigan Parker (Huddersfield), Phillip Ojapah (AFC Liverpool) have all signed along with former Gillingham loanee's Dean Brill (Luton) and Rene Steer (Arsenal).

SOUTHAMPTON

Winger Nathan Dyer (Swansea City - £400,000), striker David McGoldrick (Nottingham Forest - undisclosed fee) and Andrew Surman (Wolves - around £1.2m) have all departed St Mary's during the summer. Following month's of turmoil a takeover by Markus Liebherr was finally completed and Alan Pardew has been named as the new manager. The Saints will of course begin the season with minus 10 points after the club went into administration under the previous owners. At the time of writing the only new face added to the squad is Dan Harding from Ipswich.

SOUTHEND UNITED

The only incoming transfer activity has seen three players joining on loan. Lee Sawyer has arrived from Chelsea while defensive duo Matt Hearn and John White have signed temporarily from Essex rivals Colchester.

STOCKPORT COUNTY

The club were sold by the administrators to a consortium fronted by former Leicester and Manchester City player Jim Melrose and ex-Everton and Liverpool defender Gary Ablett has been named as the new manager. County received a boost when young defender Josh Thompson was sold to Celtic for a reported £500,000. The only arrival so far has been keeper Paul Gerrard as player coach although former England striker Michael Ricketts has been on trial.

SWINDON TOWN

For all the news regarding the Wiltshire club, see the visitor's pages elsewhere in this programme.

TRANMERE ROVERS

Rovers surprisingly sacked manager Ronnie Moore after the Birkenhead

side failed to reach the League One play-off's last season. Ex-England winger John Barnes was named as the club's new manager with his former Liverpool team-mate Jason McAteer coming in as his assistant. New signing Mark Allott has already left for Chesterfield while other newcomers are Luke Daniels and Shaleum Logan on loan from W.B.A and Manchester City respectively, Alan Mahon (Burnley), Paul McLaren (Bradford City) and John Welsh (Hull City).

WALSALL

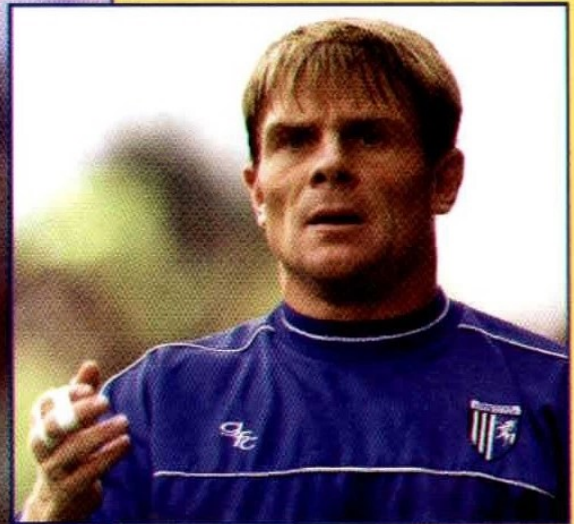
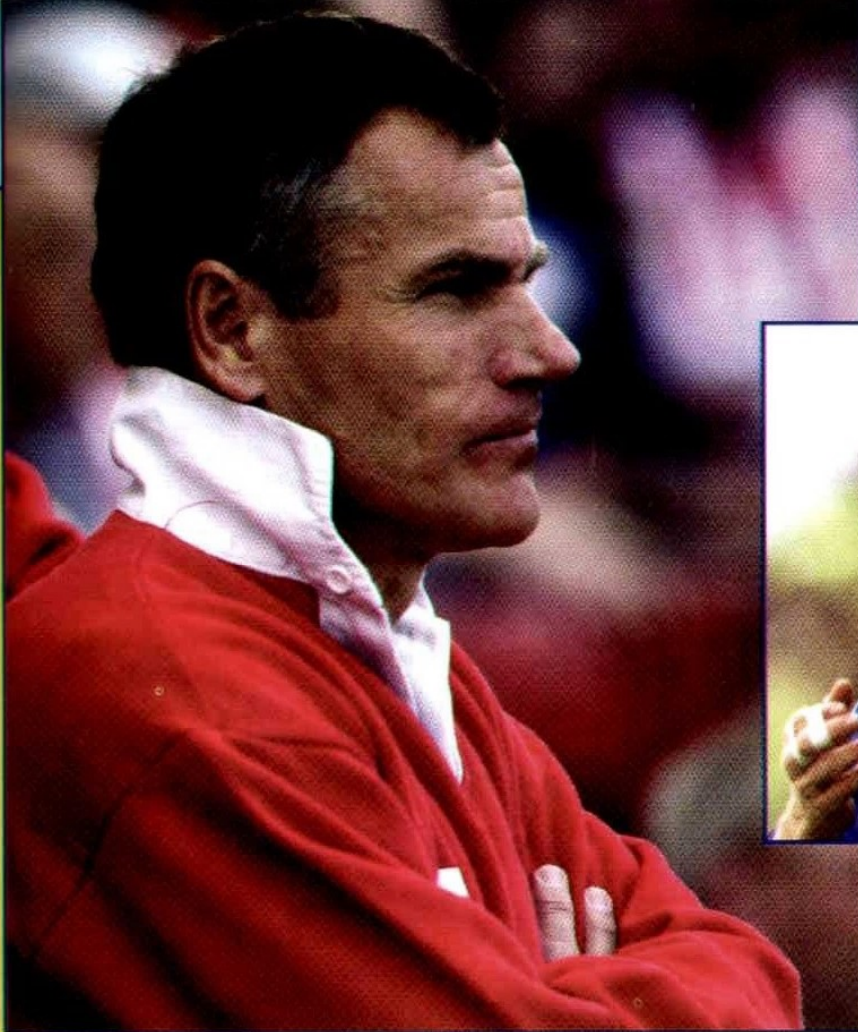
New arrivals at the Bank's Stadium are Mark Hughes (Northampton), Josh O'Keefe (Blackburn), Sam Parkin (Luton) and Jamie Vincent (Swindon). Boss Chris Hutchings realises his side probably won't be among the front runners, he said "You should always have an attainable target and people should be in no doubt that we won't be lacking in effort."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Wanderers have signed Joe Cobb from Leicester City, Michael Duberry (Reading), Stuart Green (Blackpool), Lewis Montrose (Wigan Athletic) and Ian Westlake (Cheltenham).

YEOVIL TOWN

The new faces at Huish Park this season are Dean Bowditch, Danny Hutchins (Tottenham Hotspur), Scott Murray (Bristol City), Stefan Stam (Oldham) and Sam Williams (Aston Villa). They have been joined by the loan signings of Reading's Alex McCarthy and Spurs duo Mason Caulker and Ryan Steven. Town manager Terry Skiverton has made changes to his backroom staff during the summer. Following the departures of physio Wayne Jones and Hannah Manton, he has appointed a new goalkeeping coach and club physio. Former Middlesbrough and Brighton keeper Ben Roberts joins the staff, he will also act as chief scout while former reserve player Simon Baker, who works at Yeovil General Hospital, is the new physiotherapist.



Main picture: Peter Taylor
Inset: Andy Hessenthaler

SCRAPBOOK OF 10 YEARS AGO

Andy Bradley reflects on Gillingham's progress during the 1999/2000 campaign.

A new management team and a brand new stand were both in place as the Gills prepared for the start of another season in Division 2.

England Under-21 boss Peter Taylor had succeeded Tony Pulis as team manager with Andy Hessenthaler promoted to the position of player/coach and Steve Butler returning to the club, also as a coach.

Having just failed to gain promotion the previous season – after losing to Manchester City on penalties at Wembley – hopes were high that Gillingham would go up this time round.

"I am delighted to be here and am 100 per cent up for the challenge," said Taylor. "We will be working to improve everything connected with the club."

The new chief inherited a good, relatively successful team and therefore saw little value in making wholesale changes.

Instead he concentrated on strengthening the depth and balance of his squad with a bit of fine-tuning thrown in.

But he did sign half-a-dozen new players during the close season without dipping heavily into club funds.

Arrived

Defenders Brian McGlinchey (Port Vale) and Barry Miller (Farnborough) both arrived on free transfers. So did midfielder Junior Lewis while 21-year-old goalkeeper Anthony Williams was brought in on loan from Blackburn Rovers.

The only money spent amounted to a combined outlay of £60,000 for

strikers Christian Lee (Northampton) and Andy Thomson (Oxford United).

As we all know now some were do better than others. Mind you, that's nearly always the case anyway, isn't it?

Thomson definitely proved a sound investment and gave an early indication of his predatory instinct by scoring Gillingham's opening goal of the new campaign.

Unfortunately, it was nothing more than a late consolation in a 2-1 defeat at Bury on Saturday, 7 August, 1999. "It wasn't the result we wanted," Taylor admitted. "However, as far as I'm concerned, there were more positives than negatives to emerge from the game.

"We had more of the ball than Bury and created more chances than they did. Yet we still got beaten."



gfc

TY GOODEN



magic MOMENTS

Chris Ray meets the men behind some of the Magic Moments in Gillingham History.

'Ty Gooden for Gillingham. That's a brilliant effort... OH WHAT A GOAL! You won't see a better one than that in the FA Cup!' – John Motson.

Winger Ty Gooden has just equalised for the second time to make the score an improbable Arsenal 2-2 Gillingham. His dipping volley has sent players and travelling fans alike into raptures, and provided him with a career moment he will never forget.

"I can remember the goal as if it were yesterday," he said. "Without doubt a magical moment in my career

and perhaps one of those things that was just meant to be, it was easily the most memorable goal of my career.

"Of course it was extra special as it was against my former club, the club where I was from 10 years old until I was 18."

Despite never being given the chance to make a first-team impact during his time in North London, Gooden has nothing but good memories of his time with Arsenal, and the FA Cup Fifth Round tie gave him the chance to catch up with some old friends.

"My time at Arsenal was fantastic,

I spent two years as an apprentice there and they were the two most exciting years of my life; to rub shoulders with some of the best players in the country on a daily basis was incredible.

"Arsenal is a special club and a lot of the backroom staff - including my old coach Pat Rice - were still there; the welcome that myself and Paul Shaw received on that day was remarkable.

"Working under Pat Rice had a big impact on my life; I became a man working under him.

"He was a hard but very fair man,



"... without doubt a magical moment in my career and perhaps one of those things that was just meant to be, it was easily the most memorable goal of my career ..."

An own goal from defender Scott Jones gave Gillingham a narrow 1-0 win and set up the money-spinner against the Premier League giants.

With over an hour of the resulting match gone, Andy Hessenthaler's side were continuing to frustrate 'The Gunners'.

Manager Arsène Wenger was then able to call on both Thierry Henry and Robert Pires from the bench, a move which inevitably altered the encounter in their favour.

The final score of 5-2 left Gooden and his team mates dwelling on what might have been.

"My memories of the game as a whole were that we had worked our socks off to keep the score level for an hour.

"Suddenly Henry and Pires came on and the injection of pace and ability was something that will live with me forever.

"The game changed almost instantly, but it remained a special day for everyone connected with the club, despite the result in the end."

History

Gooden signed for Gillingham from today's opponents Swindon Town on January 1st 2000, and in doing so, made history.

"I remember shortly after I arrived at Gillingham someone pointed out that my transfer was the first of the new millennium.

"Myself and Iffy (Onuora) signed on the same day, so it was just chance that I signed my contract before him.

"You know what strikers are like; he was probably haggling over his goal bonus, which is why mine was sorted

before his!"

Though his time at Priestfield was constantly hampered by injuries, Gillingham fans were able to see the quality that Gooden possessed. He looks back on his years in Kent with much fondness.

"I had a great time at Gillingham, making some special friends along the way, both at the club, and where we lived at that time.

"For a small club, they had a terrific set of supporters; the highlights were of course the dramatic play-off final versus Wigan and the Arsenal game."

In supplying the cross for Andy Thomson's Wembley winner, Gooden was involved in another piece of memorable commentary, this time from Sky Sports' Rob Hawthorne.

'Gooden, and that is a good 'un. OH IT'S A HEADER IN, FROM ANDY THOMSON!'

After helping to establish the club in what was Division One, Gooden left Gillingham to sign for Canvey Island - his hometown club - in 2003, before hanging up his boots for good two years later.

He recently left Championship club Reading, where he had been working as a scout in France for the last three-and-a-half years.

"Unfortunately, due to our failure by the narrowest of margins to reach the Premier League, my contract has not been renewed this season due to financial constraints, something that a lot of clubs are suffering with in the current economic climate.

"Hopefully by the time this goes to print, I will be back working for another club in the same post. Fingers crossed!"

providing me with the perfect introduction to life as a pro-footballer.

"It was the worst day of my life the day I left Arsenal, but I managed to stay strong mentally and fight my way back and make a career for myself.

"Ray Parlour was my best pal for three years as a youngster so it was great to play against each other and swap shirts at the end.

"I remember very well the draw being made for the game; because we still hadn't played our previous round versus Bristol Rovers, both teams had the massive incentive of knowing if they won the tie, they would be playing away to Arsenal.

"For me it was the best possible tie I could have wished for, giving me the chance of playing against my first club.

"It made for a very nerve wracking fixture versus Bristol Rovers because of the prize at stake; thankfully, we made it through."

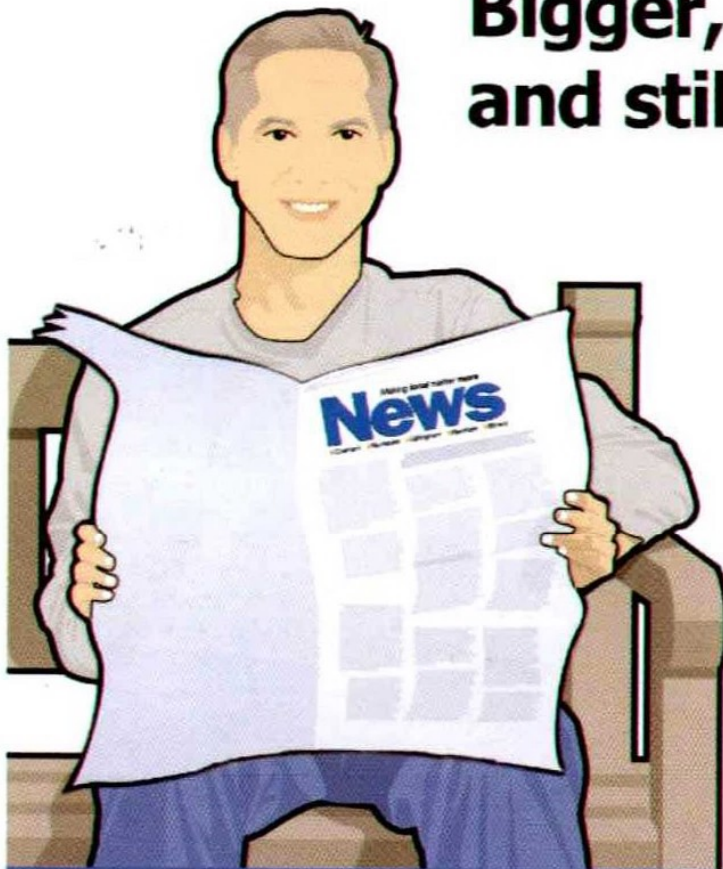
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SUPERDRAW

LOTTERY



"... As a football club we like to put something back into the local community which is where Superdraw can help ..."

WELCOME BACK

With another season just beginning, welcome back to Krbs Priestfield for the 2009/2010 campaign in League One.

During the summer we have been increasing the membership to our lottery Superdraw. I would like to welcome the new newsagents who have helped through their customers to add to our Superdraw membership.

Our new newsagents are, Lanes Newsagents in Luton, Butchers Newsagents and Frindsbury News in Frindsbury, Cliffe Woods Post Office, Crescent Stores and Smith & Rice Newsagents in Hoo and last but not least Rochester Social Club, thank you to all these outlets and their customers for their support which has yielded over 150 members to Superdraw with more still joining as we go to press.

If you would like to join Superdraw and you are a customer of one of these outlets then please ask for details on your next visit.

SUPERDRAW

SUPPORTS HELP A KENT CHILD

As a football club we like to put something back into the local community which is where Superdraw can help. In Whitstable we have agreed that three local newsagents will recruit members

to Superdraw with the lottery donating to Heart FM's charity Help a Kent Child. On Week 9 a customer Mrs Edwards, from one of these newsagents, Seasalter Post Office won the £1,000 top prize. The members who have joined through these newsagents were happy to join Superdraw knowing that some of the money raised would be donated to Heart FM's Help a Kent Child and to date we have raised over £500 to the Radio Station's charity.

CAN YOU COMMIT £1 PER WEEK TO HELP THE GILLS

We are still looking to increase our membership of Superdraw even further so if you could commit just £1 per week to help the Gills Youth Development and Community Projects then please give me a call on my mobile 07868 564563 and I

will arrange for an application to be sent out to you with a pre paid envelope for your completed form.

You can pay by Standing Order at just £4.34 per month or you can pay by cheque for 13 weeks (£13), Half Yearly (£26), or annually (£52). If you pay by cheque we will write to you to inform you when your subscriptions are next due.

You will be entered into each Monday's Draw for Cash Prizes of £1,000, £150, £100, £75, 2x £50, 4x £25, 10x £10, 30x £5

Your selected Birth Date will also be entered into the Birthday Accumulator Jackpot which on week 11 will be a massive £700, so you get two draws for the price of one with Superdraw.

Good luck to Mark and the boys today on their return to League One. Enjoy your day at the Krbs Priestfield.





Connections



Richard Day looks at some of the players who wore the shirts of both of today's sides....

Over the years there have been a number of players who have appeared for both of today's sides with current players Mark McCammon and Curtis Weston both having previously played for the Robins and Jonathon Douglas having previously appeared for the Gills.

Centre-forward **David Skea** appears to have been the first who was signed from Town in July 1897. He made his debut in the opening Southern League Division One game that season, scoring in a 2-1 win against Chatham and the following week scored again against his former club as New Brompton enjoyed a 3-0

victory down in Wiltshire. Ironically the last of his 14 appearances for the club was in the return fixture with Swindon in February.

Other players in the early years were **Arthur Beardsworth**, who arrived from Town in October 1905 scoring four goals in 24 games, **Samuel Simms** (June 1921), **Dave Rogers** (August 1926), **Alan Scott** (June 1933), **Fred Fisher** and **Alan Fowler** (both summer of 1935) and **Bill Armstrong** the following year.

Pat Terry was a battling centre-forward, who excelled in his heading ability, and he certainly knew where the goal was. Having previously played for Charlton Athletic, Newport County and Swansea Town he joined the Gills in October 1958 for £4,000. In all, he scored 62 goals in 109 appearances for the club before a £5,500 move to Northampton Town in July 1961. Spells at both Millwall and Reading followed before a £8,500 deal took him to Swindon in February 1967. While at the County Ground he added another 23 goals to his tally in 61 games.

On leaving the Robins he joined Brentford before continuing his career in non-league football with Hillingdon Borough, Wimbledon, Folkestone and Greenwich Borough who he played for during the 1975-76 season.

Left-back **Dave Peach** had a tremendous goal-scoring record from left-back which inevitably included a number of finely struck penalties. The former Chelsea schoolboy was with local side Bedford Town before signing apprentice forms for

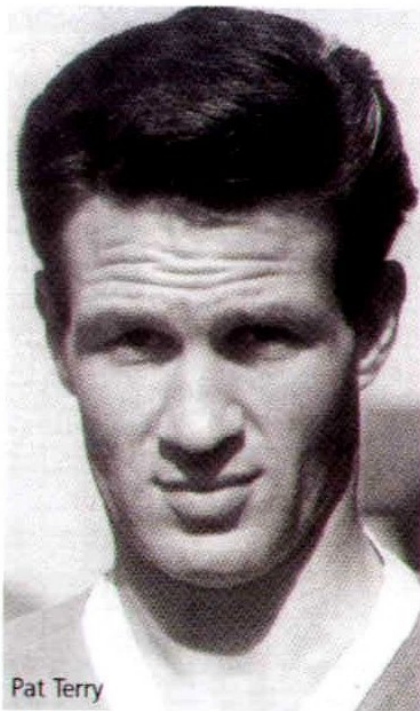
Gillingham in May 1966 just shortly before being a ball-boy at Wembley for the 1966 World Cup Final.

His goal-scoring prowess started as a member of the youth team here at Priestfield Stadium when he was second top scorer, behind striker Geoff Bray, two seasons running 1967-68 and 1968-69 in the South East Counties League, netting 12 and 15 goals respectively. He also notched a hat-trick of penalties during the second-half of an emphatic 6-1 Southern Junior Floodlit Cup 1st Round tie at home to Bexley during the 1967-68 season.

Professional

September 1969 turned out to be a great month for the full-back. He not only signed his first professional contract but then scored on his Gillingham debut in a 3-1 home loss against Barnsley. He also scored on the last of his 205 appearances (12th January 1974) but this time the Gills were 3-1 winners away at Darlington. In all he had scored 31 goals for the Gills of which 15 came from the spot.

Days later he was on the move joining then top flight Southampton for £50,000, which was at the time a club record fee received for a player. Just over two years later, Peach scored a penalty in Saints F.A Cup semi-final victory over Crystal Palace, who included Peter Taylor in their side, at Stamford Bridge that put them into the 1976 F.A Cup Final. Of course the South Coast side famously beat Manchester United thanks to a solitary goal from Bobby Stokes.



Pat Terry

His penalty in a 1–1 draw with Manchester United at the Dell in August 1979 made him the highest scoring full-back in Football League history. While he was at the Dell, Peach also won England honours at both Under-21 and B level. Swindon boss Bobby Smith paid £150,000 for his services in March 1980 but Peach never really hit it off with Town fans because he'd replaced County Ground legend John Trollope. It probably didn't help when they lost 6–2 at Millwall on his debut. Remarkably, that was a better result than his debut for the Saints, a 7–0 hammering at Ipswich.

After two goals in 53 appearances for Town he signed for Leyton Orient where he became one of the few players to have played on every Football League ground in the country.

Debut

Another left-back **Andy Ford**, was signed by Bournemouth from his home-town club Minehead but after 10 months at Dean Court he moved to Southend United where he made his Football League debut.

In the summer of 1977 he joined Swindon and went on to make 98 league appearances for the Wiltshire side. Then Gills boss Gerry Summers splashed out £30,000 which brought him to Priestfield Stadium in July 1980 and after making a goalscoring debut in a 2–1 defeat at Exeter City on the opening day of the season, a string of fine performances saw him named player of the year.

Unfortunately a knee injury sustained the following season eventually forced him into retirement from playing but he has managed Gravesend & Northfleet, Stevenage and currently is boss at Blue Square South Welling United.

Iffy Onuora had two spells as a player here at Priestfield Stadium either side of 22 months down at the County Ground. The former Huddersfield and Mansfield Town striker initially cost the Gills £12,500 when he joined in August 1996 and he went on to become the top scorer in his first campaign with 23 goals.



Things didn't go so well the following season and eventually after 62 games he left for Swindon in March 1998 for £120,000. While with the Robins he scored 25 goals in 73 league appearances before Peter Taylor re-signed him in a £100,000 deal that included midfielder **Ty Gooden**.

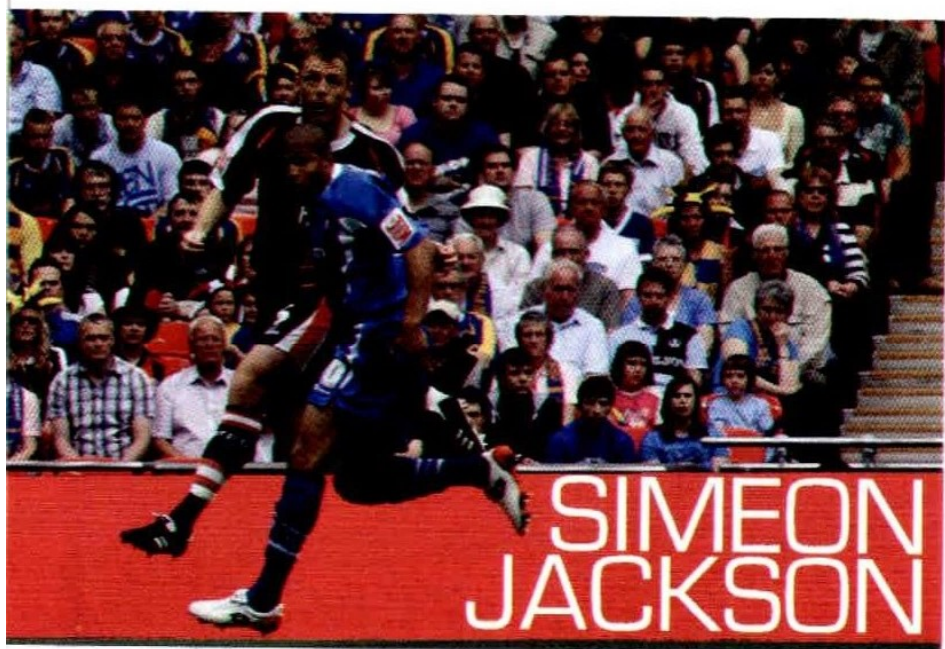
During his second spell here he helped Gillingham gain promotion to the Championship via the Play-Off victory over Wigan Athletic at Wembley, and was to add another 26 goals to his tally in 86 games. After that spell ended he returned as a regular Radio Kent summariser before eventually getting a coaching role under the Ronnie Jepson regime

leaving soon after Mark Stimson arrived.

Ironically former Arsenal trainee Gooden will probably be remembered by many Gillingham supporters for his cracking 54th minute equaliser against the Gunners in the FA Cup 5th Round defeat at Highbury in February 2002.

Ty had previously made 169 appearances for Swindon, scoring a dozen goals, before arriving at Priestfield in what was the first transfer of the new millennium.

He scored a total of seven goals for the Gills in 69 games but his time here was hampered by injuries and was later to have a spell at Canvey Island.



While his team-mates were busy - or not so busy - on their summer holidays, Wembley hero Simeon Jackson was extending his season even further by turning out for Canada.

Having started pre-season training with the rest at the start of June last year and then smashed 21 goals to bring the Gills back to League One at the first attempt, the 22-year-old forced his way into coach Stephen Hart's senior Canada squad.

Simeon marked his full international debut against Cyprus with a goal, and was then in the squad for the CONCACAF Gold Cup, where Canada reached the quarter-finals before losing 1-0 to Honduras - and it is an experience he thoroughly enjoyed, even though he was restricted to a substitute role in three of the four games in the finals.

"It's been really good," he said. "It's a good experience for myself to play on that stage and now I'm back and looking forward to the start of the season.

"I got on and worked hard. Unluckily I didn't get a goal but it was a good overall experience.

"It's been on and off. Whenever I had the chance to get a rest I did but I'm still feeling fresh, and now I'm looking forward to getting started."

2009 is already shaping up to be a

very special year for the man who joined the Gills from Rushden & Diamonds in January 2008.

It started with a bang and that wonderful goal against Aston Villa in the FA Cup, and then Simeon took centre stage in the play-offs with both goals in the semi-final win over Rochdale, before the last-gasp header against Shrewsbury at Wembley in May.

League

His international exertions are the icing on the cake, but Simeon is determined to keep his feet on the ground and keep working hard. He added: "It looks like my best year so far but the most important thing now is to not get caught up in all that and get my head down and concentrate on what happens this season.

"It was a definitely a great season but that's out of the way now and it's all about this season."

And this season is a chance to test himself against the likes of Leeds, Norwich, Southampton and Charlton - and that is a challenge Simeon is relishing - starting today against Swindon.

"It's a big test, they're a good side and for us, taking that step back up, we have to prove our worth," he added.

"It's going to be a tough league but we know what we've got in our locker and we've got all the belief that we can do well and push on again.

"Some people would say we've got something to prove but it's a chance to go out there and show what we can do. In the camp we're not really looking at it that way, we're just trying to go out there and play good football and win some games." Manager Mark Stimson makes little secret of his admiration for Simeon's ability and determination to improve, and the Gills star admits that is a big boost to him.

"He's done a magnificent job with us," he said. "He's built something now and we've had success under him and we're looking to push on now. He's been magnificent with me, he's showed that belief and confidence in me and it's just rubs off and he's done that with some of the other players."

But a summer away from the camp has led to Simeon having to make up time on his fitness by doing work with Danny Ellis - the Gills' fitness guru. And is he enjoying that?

"I don't even want to hear his name," he prickles. "Sometimes I don't even think he knows what he's doing but he's been good for the boys. I've been lucky enough to miss most of it, so I can't really complain."

Simeon marked his return from international duty with a goal at Bromley, and he hopes for many more goals throughout the season - although he intends to keep his goal tally a secret.

"I do have a little target in mind but I keep that to myself," he said. "I just get my head down and try and get as many goals as I can when the opportunity's there."

And if the chances are going to fall to anyone, all Gills fans should hope it is in the direction of Simeon.

Jon Phipps

IN THE COMMUNITY



Welcome back to the start of what will hopefully be as exciting a season as the last one with a number of 'big'

games to look forward to in a very strong league.

The team was obviously buzzing after the end of season win at Wembley and are looking to carry our end of season form into the start of this campaign. There has been a renewed interest about the club recently and so lets make sure we give the lads our full support throughout the year ahead.

In the community department we are starting our Girls Centre of Excellence pre-season training sessions before the start in September when we host Oxford on the 5th.

The trials held during May were a huge success and we were able to form strong squads at all four age groups for the upcoming season. With a selection of last year's Under 16s moving onto the Gillingham Ladies team we were able to attract players from around the county to our trials and subsequently signed a number of new players who will



team up with existing Gillingham C of E players. Good luck for the new season to everyone involved!

Our work within schools has finished for the summer break and will continue in September so in the mean time our Soccer Schools are running throughout the holiday period. We are running at a number of venues across the county and

would love to see as many of you budding young players of the future there as possible. The courses are designed to teach the kids new skills, practices and games in a safe, fun, relaxed environment and are staffed by FA / UEFA qualified, CRB enhanced coaches. See below for the table of dates and venues for the remainder of the summer period.

| DATE | VENUE 1 | VENUE 2 |
|------------------|--|---|
| 10th-14th August | Borden Grammar, Sittingbourne (M) (T) (W) (T) (F) | Whitstable Community College (M) (T) (W) (T) (F) |
| 17th-21st August | Rochester Maths School (M) (T) (W) (T) (F) | |
| 24th-28th August | Borden Grammar, Sittingbourne (M) (T) (W) (T) (F) | Aylesford Sport College (M) (T) (W) (T) (F) |

ALL COURSES RUN 10AM - 3PM £10 per day. FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL 01634 350125 OR EMAIL gfcfitc@yahoo.co.uk OR VISIT www.gillinghamfootballclub.com

In the Community in association with





gfc



STARTING XI

Summer Transfers

1. Name the duo who switched from Arsenal to Manchester City?
2. Which England striker moved from Portsmouth to Tottenham?
3. From which club did the Gills sign Chris Palmer?
4. Name the player who left left Man United for Man City?
5. From which club did United sign Luis Antonio Valencia?
6. Ex-Gill Andrew Crofts signed for which south coast club?
7. What was the fee for Cristiano Ronaldo's move to Real Madrid?
8. Which England full back signed for Liverpool this summer?
9. Which club signed Brazilian star Kaka in June?
10. Where will former Gill Gary Mulligan (above) be playing next season?
11. Barcelona and Inter Milan traded which international striking duo?

Turn to page 65 for the answers.





the WHISTLE BLOWER!

Ex-Referee Graham Dorkins gives us his perspective on the Men in the Middle.

There will be those, particularly if they inhabit a certain town in Shropshire, who are setting out for today's start to the season under the impression that Gillingham are only back in League One because the referee awarded them a last minute corner in the play-off final.

A last minute corner which T.V. replays later showed should have been a goal kick, and from which, as we all know, an unmarked Simeon Jackson headed the game's only goal.

It is true that the slow motion replay showed that the ball actually rebounded back onto the leg of Andy Barcham rather than going directly out of the defender as the referee had deemed. However it was only when the pictures were slowed that anybody actually became aware that the ref had misread one of the most difficult situations that exist in football and highlights the fickle nature of both the game and particularly its pundits, who only seconds beforehand were eulogising over Clive Oliver's performance.

The fact is that the referee handled the whole game very well and the fact that he made the decision that he did should not be allowed to cloud the overall judgement of his performance, though of course the fact that the decision led to the game's only goal, meant that inevitably, in many people's eyes it did.

In this sense I've often likened the referee's situation as being similar to that of a goalkeeper, who plays an absolute blinder for 89 minutes, but then in the final minute makes his only error, which results in a goal and

costs his team dearly, and for which he is then castigated.

Although constantly assessed, as a referee from outside of the Elite Premiership Panel, Oliver will not have been as used to the T.V. scrutiny of those more exalted officials, who have their decisions analysed and regularly mocked by pundits on a constant basis, including their one time ally and colleague Graham Poll who like myself, is now gamekeeper turned poacher, and loves to offer his two pennyworth in The Daily Mail.

Decision

To the credit of Shrewsbury manager Paul Simpson when he was baited to blame the referee in the after match news conference, he refused to be drawn, pointing out that it was a tight decision, that his team did not defend the corner well, and were overall the inferior side on the day, and deserved to lose.

Controversy is part and parcel of the match just consider that Gillingham's three play-off finals have all hinged to some degree on controversial incidents.

1999 featured Mark Halsey's elongated stoppage time, in 2000 Nicky Southall apparently blocked a goal bound shot on the line which newspaper photographs the following day showed had actually crossed the line and of course the aforementioned "corner".

The season starts today and we can guarantee there will be numerous contentious decisions by the end of the day.

Who'd want to be a referee? Well at least they'll keep us talking all season.



RESERVE FIXTURES

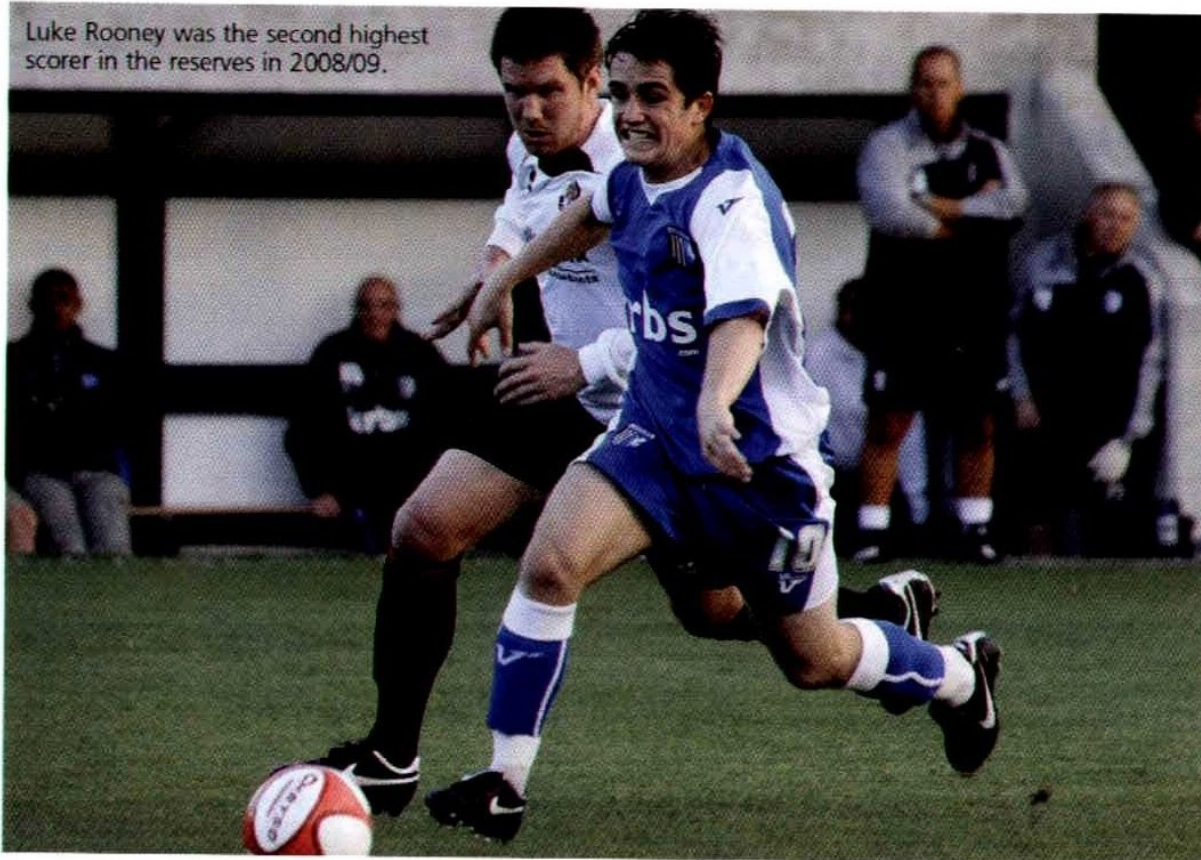
Football Combination Central Division Fixtures – 2009/10

| DATE | OPPONENTS | Kick Off | HOME/AWAY | RESULT | GOALSCORERS |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| 2009 | | | | | |
| Sept 9 Wed | Brighton & Hove Albion | 19.00 | Away | | |
| Sept 16 Wed | Leyton Orient | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Sept 22 Tue | Queens Park Rangers | 14.00 | Away | | |
| Oct 14 Wed | Aldershot Town | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Oct 20 Tue | Millwall | 19.00 | Away | | |
| Oct 28 Wed | Crystal Palace | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Nov 4 Wed | Crystal Palace | 19.00 | Away | | |
| Dec 16 Wed | Eastbourne Borough | 19.30 | Away | | |
| 2010 | | | | | |
| Jan 6 Wed | Crawley Town | 19.00 | Away | | |
| Jan 11 Mon | Brentford | 14.00 | Away | | |
| Jan 20 Wed | Millwall | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Jan 26 Tue | Aldershot Town | 14.00 | Away | | |
| Feb 3 Wed | Eastbourne Borough | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Feb 17 Wed | Brentford | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Mar 3 Wed | Crawley Town | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Mar 10 Wed | Brighton & Hove Albion | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Mar 24 Wed | Queens Park Rangers | 14.00 | Home | | |
| Apr 20 Tue | Leyton Orient | 14.00 | Away | | |

Final Reserve Table Season 2008/09

| POS | | P | W | D | L | GD | PTS |
|-----|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Reading | 18 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 52 | 42 |
| 2 | Millwall | 18 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 23 | 34 |
| 3 | Crystal Palace | 18 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 32 |
| 4 | Southampton | 18 | 9 | 3 | 6 | -2 | 30 |
| 5 | Brighton & HA | 18 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 29 |
| 6 | QPR | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 28 |
| 7 | Charlton Athletic | 18 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 23 |
| 8 | Aldershot Town | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | -2 | 17 |
| 9 | Gillingham | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | -15 | 15 |
| 10 | Lewes | 18 | 1 | 2 | 15 | -63 | 5 |

Luke Rooney was the second highest scorer in the reserves in 2008/09.



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YOUTH REPORT

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| WHITSTABLE TOWN | 3 | Vahid 2, Gooding |
| GILLINGHAM | 3 | Stimson 2, Fisher |

Gills win 5-3 on Penalties

Date: 04/08/09
krbs Belmont Stadium

Gillingham's youngsters warmed up in style for the new season by defeating Kent League Whitstable's senior squad in the krbs Cup.

It was the home side that took a first half lead in the 18th minute when set piece specialist Gareth Cornhill swung an inviting free kick towards the near post and Stuart Vahid buried his header into the back of the net.

Gillingham levelled the scores five minutes into the second half, Alex Brown was brought down inside the area and Charlie Stimson slotted home from the penalty spot.

The home side retook the lead as a cross from the left found

Vahid who made no mistake, heading in his second of the match. But Whitstable's lead was short-lived as the Gills struck back in the 61st minute, Tom Murphy weaving his way into the box before threading a cute pass through for Stimson to equalise again.

Strike

Alex Brown's blocked shot presented Sam Fisher with a routine finish to put Gillingham in front in the 74th minute but a neat strike from sub Clint Gooding forced the tie to a shoot-out.

Jack Evans, Alex Brown, Sam Fisher, Tom Murphy and Charlie Stimson (right) were all on target from the spot to secure the silverware for the Gills.



Gillingham FC Youth Alliance Fixtures 2009/10

| DATE | OPPONENTS | HOME/AWAY | Kick Off | RESULT | GOALSCORERS |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|-------------|
| August 15th | Colchester United | Away | 11.00am | | |
| August 22nd | Brighton & Hove Albion | Home | 11.00am | | |
| August 29th | Southend United | Home | 11.00am | | |
| September 5th | Peterborough United (YAC 1 Game 1) | Home | 11.00am | | |
| September 12th | Leyton Orient (YAC 1 Game 2) | Away | 11.00am | | |
| September 26th | Northampton Town (YAC 1 Game 3) | Home | 11.00am | | |
| October 3rd | Luton Town (YAC 1 Game 4) | Away | 11.00am | | |
| October 10th | Millwall | Away | 11.00am | | |
| October 17th | Aldershot Town | Away | 11.00am | | |
| October 24th | Leyton Orient | Home | 11.00am | | |
| October 31st | Brighton & Hove Albion | Away | 11.00am | | |
| November 14th | Dagenham & Redbridge | Home | 11.00am | | |
| November 21st | Millwall | Home | 11.00am | | |
| December 5th | Southend United | Away | 11.00am | | |
| December 12th | Leyton Orient | Away | 11.00am | | |
| January 9th | Aldershot Town | Home | 11.00am | | |
| January 23rd | Dagenham & Redbridge | Away | 11.00am | | |
| February 6th | Colchester United | Home | 11.00am | | |
| February 27th | Peterborough United | Away | 11.00am | | |
| March 6th | Northampton Town | Home | 11.00am | | |
| March 13th | Luton Town | Away | 11.00am | | |
| March 27th | Barnet | Away | 11.00am | | |
| April 3rd | Queens Park Rangers | Home | 11.00am | | |
| April 10th | Brentford | Home | 11.00am | | |
| April 17th | Wycombe Wanderers | Away | 11.00am | | |

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| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
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| <p>4. STUART LEWIS</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>Euro Training Services Ltd</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR UP THE GILLS - JAMES BARNES</p> | <p>5. SIMON KING</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>MARK McALLISTER & FAMILY</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR MS. DONNA NUTT</p> | <p>6. GARRY RICHARDS</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>THE PREMIER CLUBS at P FALFIELD TENNIS</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR</p> | <p>7. KEVIN MAHER</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>DUE DILLIGENCE</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR</p> |
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| <p>21. DENNIS OLI</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>OLI STALKER WISHES SIMON ALL THE BEST THIS SEASON</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR MERRELL FAMILY</p> | <p>26. CURTIS WESTON</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>MARSLAND DOMESTIC WINDOWS LTD</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR</p> | <p>28. JACK PAYNE</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>ROYAL AIR FORCE rafbarrows.com 0845 606 1599</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR</p> | <p>MARK ROBSON</p> <p>PLAYER SPONSOR</p>  <p>BEST WISHES FROM DAVE & ADAM SHEEPWASH AND VALLEY COLTS FC</p> <p>KIT SPONSOR</p> |

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FIXTURES & CLUB STATS



PLAYING TODAY

Brighton v Walsall
 Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient
 Carlisle v Brentford
 Charlton v Wycombe
 Leeds United v Exeter
 MK Dons v Hartlepool
 Norwich v Colchester
 Oldham v Stockport
 Southampton v Millwall
 Southend v Huddersfield
 Yeovil v Tranmere

SEASON 2008/09 FINAL ROLL CALL

| PLAYER | D.O.B | APPEARANCES | | GOALS | | CARDS | | GFC CAREER RECORD | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------|--------|------|-------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| | | League | Cups | League | Cups | Red | Yellow | Apps | Goals |
| Andrew Barcham | 16/12/1986 | 33(2) | 5 | 6 | 3 | | 3 | 38(2) | 9 |
| Mark Bentley | 07/01/1978 | 34(6) | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 9 | 120(8) | 10 |
| Tyrone Berry | 11/03/1987 | 2(3) | (1) | | | | | 2(4) | |
| Andrew Crofts | 20/05/1984 | 7(2) | 1(1) | | | | | 173(18) | 19 |
| Luis Cumbers | 06/09/1988 | (7) | | 1 | | | | 2(13) | 1 |
| Charlie Daniels | 07/09/1986 | 5 | | 1 | | | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Barry Fuller | 25/08/1984 | 39 | 5 | | | 1 | 10 | 53(1) | |
| Simeon Jackson | 28/03/1987 | 39(4) | 5 | 20 | 1 | | 5 | 58(9) | 25 |
| Albert Jarrett | 23/10/1984 | 11(5) | 4 | | | | 2 | 15(5) | |
| Alan Julian | 11/03/1983 | 4 | 2 | | | | | 6 | |
| Simon King | 11/04/1983 | 45 | 6 | 2 | | | 7 | 95(3) | 2 |
| Stuart Lewis | 15/10/1987 | 15(8) | 1(1) | | | | 3 | 22(13) | |
| Mark McCammon | 07/08/1978 | 21(11) | 1(1) | 5 | | 1 | 4 | 22(12) | 5 |
| Adam Miller | 19/02/1982 | 32(3) | 5 | 6 | | | 10 | 63(5) | 8 |
| Leigh Mills | 08/02/1988 | 6(1) | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 7(1) | 1 |
| Gary Mulligan | 23/04/1985 | 12(14) | 2(3) | 2 | | | 1 | 81(39) | 17 |
| Tom Murphy | 19/12/1991 | | (1) | | | | | (1) | |
| John Nutter | 13/06/1982 | 45(2) | 6 | | | | 4 | 74(3) | 1 |
| Dennis Oli | 28/01/1984 | 22(11) | 1(1) | 4 | | | | 40(18) | 9 |
| Jaime Peters | 04/05/1987 | 1(2) | | | | | | 1(2) | |
| Jack Payne | 05/12/1991 | (2) | | | | | | (2) | |
| Andy Pugh | 28/01/1989 | (1) | (2) | | | | | (9) | |
| Garry Richards | 11/06/1986 | 28(10) | 4(1) | 2 | | | 2 | 44(13) | 3 |
| Simon Royce | 09/09/1971 | 44 | 4 | | | | | 87 | |
| Nicky Southall | 28/01/1972 | 28(9) | 2 | 4 | | | 3 | 342(31) | 28 |
| Rene Steer | 31/01/1990 | 3(2) | | | | | | 3(2) | |
| Curtis Weston | 24/01/1987 | 45(2) | 5 | 5 | | | 7 | 50(2) | 5 |
| Josh Wright | 06/11/1989 | 7 | | | | | | 7 | |

TICKET NEWS

TICKETS FOR THE FOLLOWING HOME MATCHES ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE –

Tuesday 11 August 2009
Kick-Off 7.45pm

v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Carling Cup Round One. Cat B

Saturday 22 August 2009
Kick-Off 3.00pm

v HARTLEPOOL UNITED

Coca-Cola League One. Cat B

UPCOMING ON-SALE DATES

Saturday 5 September 2009
Kick-Off 3.00pm

v EXETER CITY

Coca-Cola League One

Tickets available from

Monday 10 August 2009. Cat B

Saturday 12 September 2009
Kick-Off 3.00pm

v MILLWALL

Coca-Cola League One

Tickets available from

Monday 17 August 2009. Cat A

Saturday 26 September 2009
Kick-Off 3.00pm

v NORWICH CITY

Coca-Cola League One

Tickets available from

Monday 31 August 2009. Cat A

CATEGORY A PRICES

Pre-matchday

Medway Stand Lower Tier

Blocks D, E and F

All seats (no concessions) £26

All other areas -

Adults (22-64) £23

Senior citizens (65+) £19

Young adults (16-21) £16

Juniors (12-15) £11

Juniors 11 and under £7

Matchday

Medway Stand Lower Tier

Blocks D, E and F

All seats (no concessions) £29

All other areas -

Adults (22-64) £25

Senior citizens (65+) £21

Young adults (16-21) £18

Juniors (12-15) £12

Juniors (11 and under) £8

CATEGORY B PRICES

Pre-matchday

Medway Stand Lower Tier

Blocks D, E and F

All seats (no concessions) £23

All other areas -

Adults (22-64) £20

Senior citizens (65+) £16

Young adults (16-21) £13

Juniors 12-15 years £9

Juniors 11 and under £6

Matchday

Medway Stand Lower Tier

Blocks D, E and F

All seats (no concessions) £26

All other areas -

Adults (22-64) £23

Senior citizens (65+) £19

Young adults (16-21) £16

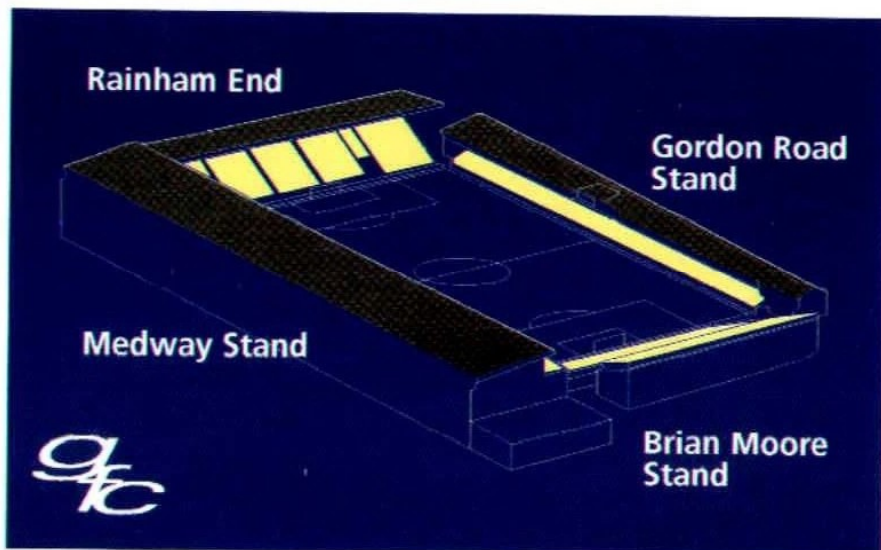
Juniors (12-15) £11

Juniors (11 and under) £7

HOW TO PURCHASE HOME TICKETS

1. By using the online ticket site at <https://eticketing.co.uk/gillinghamfc>. Tickets can be booked up to three days before the fixture for which they are being bought. Tickets booked online will incur an additional charge of £1 per ticket but will be sent to the recipient free of charge.
2. By telephoning Gillingham Football Club on (01634) 300000 choosing option 3. Tickets booked over the phone will be subject to a booking fee of £1 per transaction (50p for season ticket holders).
3. By visiting the ticket office in Redfern Avenue in person. Opening hours – Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
Matchday Saturdays 9.00am until 20 minutes after kick-off
Non-matchday Saturdays 9.00am to 1.00pm

Please note that visually impaired supporters can enjoy live commentary at home matches. These radios can be booked by contacting the ticket office either in person, via the phone on (01634) 300000 choosing option 3, or by emailing the club's Disability Liaison Officer David Burgon at dburgon@priestfield.com.





AWAY INFORMATION

**TRANMERE ROVERS
v GILLINGHAM**

Coca-Cola League One
Saturday 15 August 2009
Kick-Off 3.00pm

Tickets for our match at Prenton Park are only available at the turnstiles on the day of the game.

Gillingham supporters will be situated in the Cowshed Stand behind the goal, which can house up to 2,500 fans, is fairly new, covered, all-seated, has good facilities and offers an unhindered view of the action.

Admission prices are-

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Adults | £17.50 |
| Young adults (17-22) | £9.50 |
| Senior citizens (60+) | £9.50 |
| Juniors (16 and under) | £5 |

Supporters wishing to purchase young adult or senior citizen tickets must do so at the ticket office on the day of the game and proof of age will be required.

For those supporters wanting a pre-match drink, 'The Prenton Park Hotel', situated about 20 yards from the away turnstiles, 'The Mersey Clipper', behind the Main Stand, and 'The Sportsmans Arms' on Prenton Road East are recommended for away fans. Please note that it is a criminal offence to drink alcohol on the streets of Birkenhead. Alcohol will also be available in the away end.

There are several takeaways and restaurants near to the ground. For those fans travelling by car, there is a very large car park at the ground,

with parking priced at £4 per car. Car park tickets can be purchased in advance from the ticket office on 0871 221 2001. Please note that there is a residents parking scheme in operation on many roads around the ground.

Tranmere's matchday programme is priced at £3 for 64 pages and will be available in the club shop and in the away end.

CLUB CLASS TRAVEL

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Adults | £28 |
| Juniors (under 16) | £23 |

Coach departure times and pick-up points are-

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 7.15am | Sittingbourne Railway Station |
| 7.30am | Rainham Cricketers |
| 8.00am | krbs Priestfield Stadium |
| 8.10am | The Coach and Horses |

**COLCHESTER UNITED
v GILLINGHAM**

Coca-Cola League One
Tuesday 18 August 2009
Kick-Off 7.45pm

We have been allocated just over 1,000 tickets for the South Stand behind the goal. Included in the allocation are Family Stand tickets, which include prices for under 7s and under 11s.

Admission prices are-

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Adults | £18 |
| Senior citizens (65+) | £13 |
| Young adults (17 to 21) | £13 |
| Juniors (16 and under) | £10 |
| Juniors (under 11) | £5 |
| (Family Stand) | |
| Juniors (Under 7) | £3 |
| (Family Stand) | |

With the stadium being on the edge of town there is very little choice of pubs, with the nearest, 'The Dog and Pheasant', on Neyland Road, which is next to a fish and chip shop, three quarters of a mile from the ground, for home fans only. For supporters travelling by train, there are a few pubs within five minutes walking distance of Colchester North station. A shuttle bus costing £1 runs from Bluff Close, near the station, to the ground.

It is around two miles from Colchester North station to the ground.

The stadium has 700 car parking spaces, with parking priced at £5 per car. Please pre-book by phoning the ticket office on 0845 437 9089. There are a number of local businesses in the area offering parking for the same price, whilst

parking at the Lubina Kitchen Company in the industrial estate near the ground costs £3. Please note that there is an extensive residents only parking scheme in operation around the stadium.

CLUB CLASS TRAVEL

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Adults | £15 |
| Juniors (under 16) | £12 |

Coach departure times and pick-up points are-

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 3.45pm | Sittingbourne Railway Station |
| 4.00pm | Rainham Cricketers |
| 4.30pm | krbs Priestfield Stadium |
| 4.40pm | The Coach and Horses |

How to book coach travel-

1. By ringing Dave or Julie Taylor on (01634) 375919, or Trevor or Julie Loveridge on (01634) 301899 (evenings before 10.00). From time to time there will be an answer phone message. Please leave your name and number and your call will be returned.
2. By visiting the ticket office in Redfern Avenue (for opening hours, refer to the 'How to purchase home tickets' section).
3. By telephoning Gillingham Football Club on (01634) 300000 choosing option 3.



| | | | | F | A | Att | Pos | Goalscorers |
|---------------------|------------|---|------------|---|---|-----|-----|-------------|
| Swindon Town | Sat Aug 8 | H | K.O. 12.30 | | | | | |
| Plymouth Argyle CC1 | Tue Aug 11 | H | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Tranmere Rovers | Sat Aug 15 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Colchester United | Tue Aug 18 | A | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Hartlepool United | Sat Aug 22 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Walsall | Sat Aug 29 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Exeter City | Sat Sep 5 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Millwall | Sat Sep 12 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Leeds United | Sat Sep 19 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Norwich City | Sat Sep 26 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Southampton | Sat Oct 3 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Wycombe Wanderers | Sat Oct 10 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Brighton & HA | Tue Oct 13 | A | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| MK Dons | Sat Oct 17 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Charlton Athletic | Sat Oct 24 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Southend United | Fri Oct 30 | A | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Oldham Athletic | Sat Nov 14 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Bristol Rovers | Sat Nov 21 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Yeovil Town | Tue Nov 24 | H | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Leyton Orient | Tue Dec 1 | A | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Carlisle United | Sat Dec 5 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Huddersfield Town | Sat Dec 12 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Stockport County | Sat Dec 19 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Brentford | Sat Dec 26 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Exeter City | Mon Dec 28 | A | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Hartlepool United | Sat Jan 2 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Tranmere Rovers | Sat Jan 9 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Swindon Town | Sat Jan 16 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Colchester United | Sat Jan 23 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Walsall | Sat Jan 30 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Brentford | Sat Feb 6 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Yeovil Town | Sat Feb 13 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Bristol Rovers | Sat Feb 20 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Leyton Orient | Tue Feb 23 | H | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Carlisle United | Sat Feb 27 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Huddersfield Town | Sat Mar 6 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Stockport County | Sat Mar 13 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Charlton Athletic | Sat Mar 20 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| MK Dons | Sat Mar 27 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Oldham Athletic | Sat Apr 3 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Southend United | Mon Apr 5 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Millwall | Sat Apr 10 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Brighton & HA | Tue Apr 13 | H | K.O. 7.45 | | | | | |
| Leeds United | Sat Apr 17 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Norwich City | Sat Apr 24 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Southampton | Sat May 1 | H | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |
| Wycombe Wanderers | Sat May 8 | A | K.O. 3.00 | | | | | |



KEY Starting 11 (**BOLD**)

1 Substitute that played & who he replaced

* Substitute that didn't play

PARKING: Visitors to The KRBS Priestfield Stadium are respectfully reminded to use care and consideration for local residents when parking their vehicles in the local roads surrounding the ground.



STARTING XI

Summer Transfers - answers from page 54

1. Emmanuel Adebayor and Kolo Toure
2. Peter Crouch
3. Walsall
4. Carlos Tevez
5. Wigan Athletic
6. Crofts (pictured) signed for Brighton
7. 80 million
8. Glen Johnson
9. Real Madrid
10. Northampton Town
11. Samuel Eto'o and Zlatan Ibrahimovic



gfc



COMING UP NEXT . . .

GILLINGHAM v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Carling Cup Round One, Tuesday 11 August 2009, Kick-Off 7.45pm

On Tuesday evening Gillingham will be trying to put a stop to the Pilgrims progress in the Carling Cup, when Plymouth Argyle visit kbrs Priestfield for a first round tie that will be decided on the night, with extra time and penalties available if required.

This is the second successive campaign that The Gills have been given a home match against a club from the division above in round one of the competition. Last season we hosted Colchester United and lost by the only goal, Matt Heath scoring after only ten minutes of a fairly low-key encounter played in front of a sparse crowd of 2,566 dotted around the stadium.

The last time we progressed further than the first round was back in the 2005-6 season, when we defeated Oxford United 1-0 here, Matt Jarvis scoring the goal. In round two The Gills knocked out Premiership side

Portsmouth at Priestfield, 3-2 after extra-time. After Gary O'Neill had opened the scoring for the visitors after twenty-four minutes, Darren Byfield equalised three minutes before the break. A minute after half-time Pompey regained the lead, Matthew Taylor scoring with a penalty after Brent Sancho had been adjudged to have fouled O'Neill. After fifty-five minutes, Byfield's long-range shot rebounded off the post and went in off visiting goalkeeper Jamie Ashdown to level the score at 2-2.

Cross

Portsmouth could have won the tie with just four minutes left, Svetoslav Todorov slicing his spot-kick wide after he had been brought down by Sancho. Gillingham won the tie four minutes into the additional half-hour, Andrew Crofts scoring, following a cross from Danny Jackman. The Gills went out of the competition in round

three, 2-0 at Doncaster Rovers. Although Gillingham have been paired with Plymouth three times in the FA Cup, Tuesday's meeting will be the first-ever between the two sides in the League Cup. The last time we faced The Pilgrims was a Championship match here in January 2005, when a crowd of 8,451 saw Crofts score the only goal in a 1-0 victory.

Last season Argyle finished one place above the relegation zone in the Championship, with their safety from the drop only guaranteed in the last week of the campaign. Manager Paul Sturrock saw his side struggle to score on their travels, Argyle managing just thirteen away league goals in twenty-three matches, the lowest in the division.

Plymouth's first choice goalkeeper is Romain Larrieu (above), who made fourteen appearances during a loan spell with The Gills during the 2006-7 season.

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- 1 Simon Royce
- 2 Barry Fuller
- 3 John Nutter
- 4 Stuart Lewis
- 5 Simon King
- 6 Garry Richards
- 7 Kevin Maher
- 8 Mark Bentley
- 9 Chris Palmer
- 10 Simeon Jackson
- 11 Andy Barcham
- 12 Connor Essam
- 14 Adam Miller
- 16 Josh Gowling
- 17 Andrew Pugh
- 19 Jacob Erskine
- 21 Dennis Oli
- 22 Tom Wynter
- 23 Alan Julian
- 24 Rashid Yussuff
- 25 Luis Cumbers
- 26 Curtis Weston
- 27 Luke Rooney
- 28 Jack Payne
- 30 Mark McCammon



SWINDON TOWN

- 1 David Lucas
- 2 Scott Cuthbert
- 4 Jonathon Douglas
- 5 Jerel Ifil
- 6 Gordon Greer
- 7 Jon-Paul McGovern
- 8 Craig Easton
- 10 Michael Timlin
- 11 Anthony McNamee
- 12 Phil Smith
- 14 Sean Morrisson
- 15 Kevin Amankwaah
- 16 Hasney Aljofree
- 17 Callum Kennedy
- 18 Alan O'Brien
- 19 Lescinel Jean- Francois
- 20 Billy Paynter
- 21 Lee Peacock
- 22 Lloyd Macklin
- 23 Nathan Thompson
- 25 Mark Marshall
- 27 Kasali Casal
- 28 Mark Scott
- 29 Kurt Hammonds
- Jakub Jesionkowski

Referee: G D Horwood

Assistants:  W Atkinand  G R Young

Fourth Official: D K Rock

NEXT HERE: PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Tuesday 11th August 2009, Carling Cup First Round, Kick-Off: 7.45pm

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GILLINGHAM FC