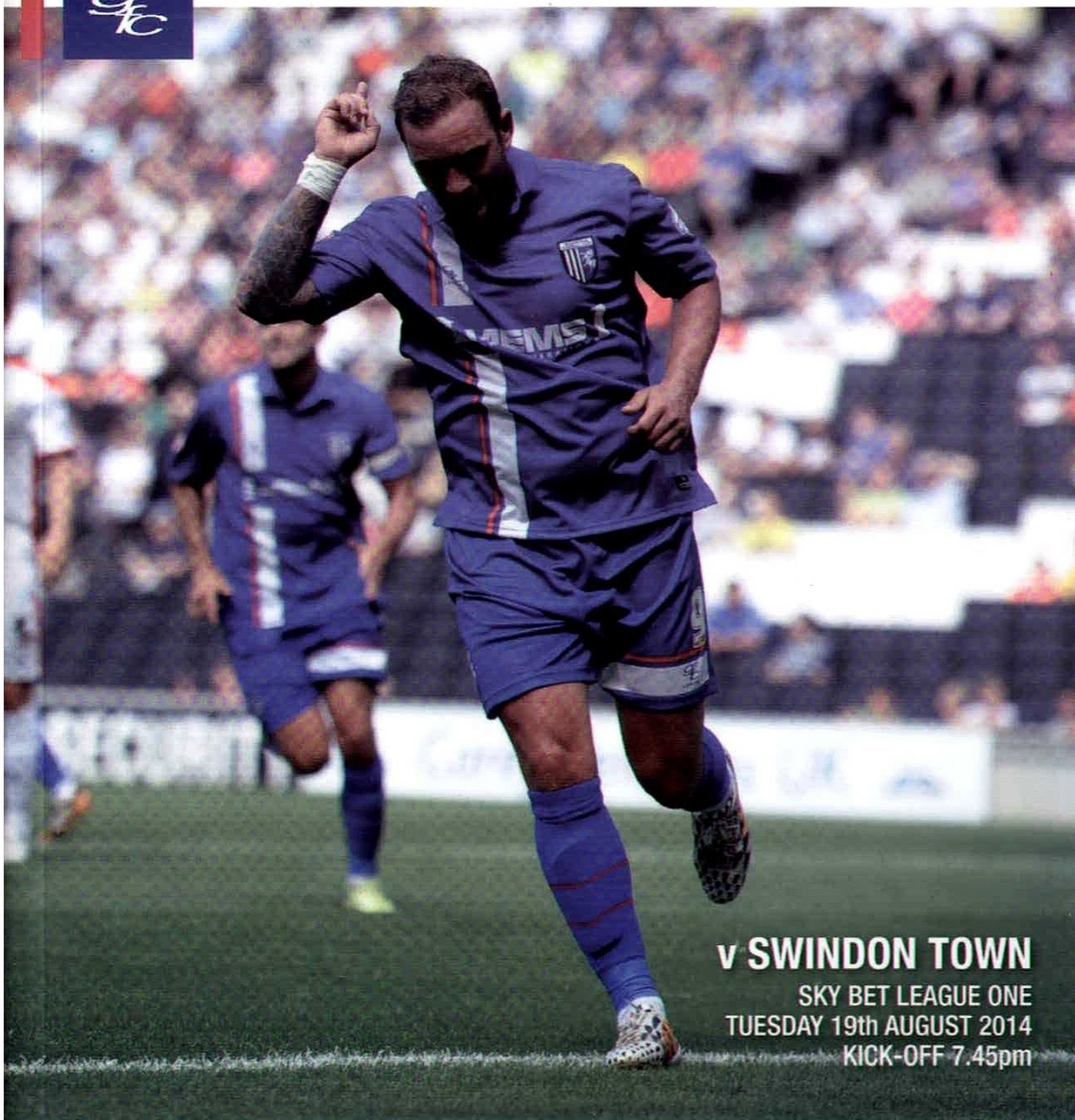




gfc

GILLINGHAM

SEASON 2014/15 – OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3



v SWINDON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE
TUESDAY 19th AUGUST 2014
KICK-OFF 7.45pm

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Vice Chairman:	Michael Anderson
Non Executive Director:	Mike Quarrington
Associate Directors:	Yvonne Paulley
	John Anderson
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Director of Sales & Marketing:	Paulo Kingston-Corriea
Club Secretary:	Gwen Poynter
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MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

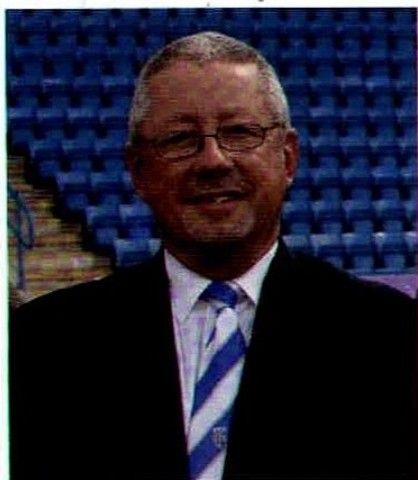
Editor: Phill Catterick
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CLUB HONOURS

League Two champions 2013
 League Two Play-off winners 2009
 Division Two Play-off winners 2000
 Division Two Play-off finalists 1999
 Division Three runners-up 1996
 Division Three Play-off finalists 1987
 Division Four champions 1964
 Division Four runners-up 1974
 Southern League champions 1947 & 1949
 Southern League runners-up 1948
 Southern League Cup winners 1947
 Southern League Division Two champions 1895
 Kent League champions 1945 & 1946
 Kent Senior Cup winners 1946 & 1948

GILLINGHAM FOOTBALL CLUB Ltd
 MEMS Priestfield Stadium, Redfern Avenue,
 Gillingham, Kent ME7 4DD

Tel: 01634 300000 Fax: 01634 850986



FROM THE CHAIRMAN **PAUL D.P. SCALLY**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, Girls and Boys and welcome back to Priestfield for our second home game in four days against Swindon Town. On behalf of all connected to the Club, I'd like to welcome the Directors', Management, Players and supporters of our friends from along the M4 to Priestfield, and result apart hope you all enjoy your stay and have a safe journey home.

As we begin my 20th year as your Chairman, a period that has seen just about every twist and turn in football and life possible, I still look forward to

the first home game of every season, seeing old friends return for another challenge, watching the invariably rebuilt team get their legs into gear after an intense pre season schedule, seeing the hallowed turf at its best and of course hoping the game produces a positive result and performance such that it sets a positive feel about the Club in general for the long and challenging season ahead. That was certainly the case on Saturday when we hosted Yeovil Town, who were of course relegated from the Championship in May, in a game that perhaps

gave us an early glimpse of the great spirit, character, work ethic and desire in our players, and a wish to play decent football when possible which Peter and his team are trying to create on the training ground. I certainly left Priestfield with a warm sense of satisfaction, firstly of course with the three points safely in the bag, but maybe more so because I know this season we have a strong dressing room, with decent characters and a good mix of players all of whom have great qualities and are capable of doing a good job for the team when called upon.

I think given the injuries we have picked up already this season, to put on a performance such as we did on Saturday, to get a result which was as much a product of organised hard graft and determination as it was footballing finesse, to see two more players leave the field on stretchers as a result of their bravery and will to put their bodies on the line, shows that we have that special inner desire to go that one step further, which will over the course of the season be the difference between good and very good sides. I saw both Josh Hare and Joe Martin in the medical room after the game, Josh was still looking very shaky after being knocked unconscious when he blocked a hard driven cross, an injury that protocol rightly insists carries a 7 day 'no





play' rest period and Joe took a nasty knock to his knee, the result of which we won't know for 24 or 48 hours. Whilst injuries are frustrating, they do challenge the Management in reorganising the team and tactics, and I think Peter did a great job in bringing in Stephen Bywater so quickly as cover for our injured keeper Stuart Nelson, and of course every injury gives a chance to another player in the squad to come in and show what they have in their locker.

On other matters it was very touching and emotional to witness the minute's applause you graciously gave before the game on Saturday in memory of Aidan, the son of Nigel and Sue Hidson, who was tragically murdered along with his friend and fellow student Neil Dalton in Malaysia on August 6th. It was clearly a touching and difficult moment for the family who bravely came to the game and watched from pitch side and were very grateful for the dignity and support you all showed, but

what was ironic was that Nigel told me at half time that whilst Aidan was a massive Gills fan, he had also supported Newcastle United from a young age and given he was studying medicine at Newcastle University, he had been going to their games during his time up north. Is it therefore coincidence that we should be drawn against the mighty Newcastle United, for the first time in some 30+ years in the Capital One Cup, or was Aidan pulling some strings for us from above, to give a fine draw to the team he really loved? Whichever it is, we are all very excited at the prospect of facing my good friend Alan Pardew's Premiership boys next Tuesday night, and I hope we get a big house and create an exciting atmosphere for what will be a very interesting evening, and a game that both sides will be going full out to win, especially with a place in Europe up for grabs for the eventual Cup winners, GFC in Europe..... anything is possible in life !!! Tickets are on sale now, at the

ticket office or online, so be sure to get your family and friends down to Priestfield next week and enjoy a night of what will certainly be fine entertainment. Back to tonight, we all have a role to play in creating the atmosphere which helps the players, who in turn will give their all for the cause. There are never going to be easy games in this division, each has its own challenges, but Priestfield has always been a difficult place for visiting teams, and that in most part is down to the theatre you all create.

Let's make Priestfield rock tonight and hopefully the rest will follow.

Enjoy the game and many thanks for your support

Up the Gills

Paul D P Scally
Chairman



GILLS CLINCH FIRST WIN OF LEAGUE SEASON

Gillingham registered their first points of the new season following a 2-0 win over Yeovil Town at MEMS Priestfield Stadium on Saturday.

A superb free kick by Joe Martin in the first half was followed up by a Danny Kedwell effort just before the hour mark which proved enough to clinch

"A superb free kick by Joe Martin in the first half was followed up by a Danny Kedwell effort just before the hour mark"

victory. This ensured a second win over Gary Johnson's side in five days having already beaten Town in the first round of the Capital One Cup.

THIS WEEK'S SUPERDRAW NUMBERS

The winning SuperDraw numbers for week commencing August 11 are as follows:

£1,000	Mrs A Bakewell	X3139	£50	Mrs A Osmond	AF6886
£150	Mrs A Howell	AF5964	£25	Mr M Craddock	Y7534
£100	Mrs D Blakeway	L1827	£25	Mrs A Humphries	AG8074
£75	Mr G Maxwell	AB6434	£25	Ms A Hogan	Q8978
£50	Mrs Hayes	AH9763	£25	Mr N Richards	AG6006

The birth date drawn today was 28/12/15, but there were no winners, so this weeks' prize will be £400! All numbers which were drawn over the summer break can be found on the club's official website.



50/50 LOTTERY WINNERS

Here are the winners for the Yeovil Town 50/50 Lottery Draw sponsored by DFDS Seaways.

1st Prize	394159	£500	S. Brown (Walderslade)
2nd prize	393344	Signed Shirt	Mr McKenzie (Lordswood)
3rd prize	393638	Signed Football	Unclaimed
4th prize	391656	Goody Bag	A. Elliott (Sheerness)

To claim your prize contact main reception between 9am and 5pm on weekdays or phone 01634 300000.

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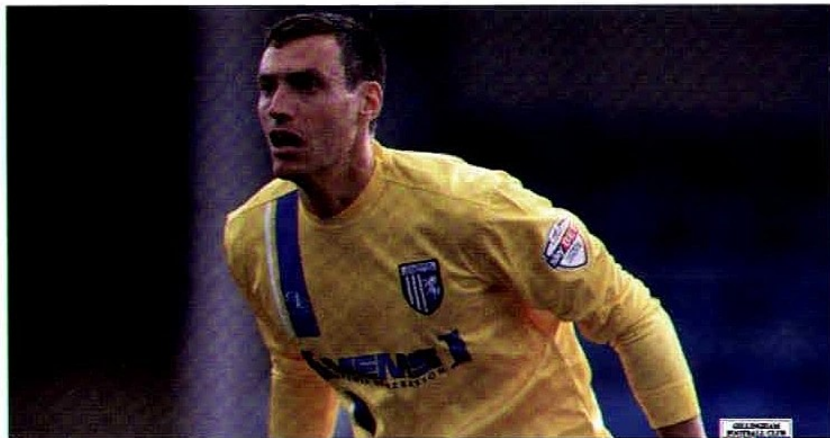
Hidsons is a family run business based in Rainham and Northfleet Kent. Founded by Bill Hidson in 1954, Hidsons is now run by Nigel and Sue Hidson and employs over 100 employees. Hidsons represents four key brands including Citroen, Kia, Vauxhall and SEAT as well as having a comprehensive stock of over 300 used cars across the group.

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FORMER PREMIER LEAGUE KEEPER SIGNS ON LOAN

Former West Ham United and Derby County Goalkeeper Stephen Bywater joined the club on Friday on a loan deal until January 3 from Championship side Millwall, and was immediately thrust into action after getting the nod between the sticks against Yeovil on Saturday.

Bywater, 33, kept a clean sheet on his debut for Gillingham and is eligible to play in Capital One Cup and JPT ties.

You can see a full interview with Bywater on Gills Player. For more information turn to page 51.

JPT DRAW



Gillingham have been handed an away tie in the first round of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

The Gills will travel to League Two side Stevenage, where they will be up against former midfield duo Charlie Lee and Chris Whelpdale, who both joined the club on free transfers in the summer.

The tie is expected to be played on Tuesday September 2, kick-off 7.45pm. However this is to be confirmed, with ticket information expected to be announced very shortly.



TODAY'S MASCOTS

This evening we have two mascots joining us at MEMS Priestfield Stadium.

Firstly we have Kieron Crofts - he is six years old and from Parkwood in Rainham. He is the nephew of former Gills midfielder Andrew Crofts.

Secondly we have Jake Fasham - he is eight years old and a keen footballer who plays for Hartley de Sales.

We hope you both have a fantastic time with us tonight, and let's see if you can help guide the team to a second win in the space of four days.

For more information regarding a mascot package please call our sales team on 01634 350350 or email sales@priestfield.com



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FROM THE MANAGER **PETER TAYLOR**

... Last Tuesday we beat Yeovil away in the Capital One Cup and were rewarded with a home draw against Newcastle United who are one of the biggest teams in the Premier League so we are delighted with that and look forward to it ...

Good evening to everyone for tonight's Sky Bet League One game versus Swindon Town.

Welcome to manager Mark Cooper and his staff who have now built a very decent football team so we know it's another test for us, but as you saw Saturday, we are ready for that.

On Saturday against Yeovil we deserved to win, Yeovil started better than us but we finished stronger and worked very hard as a unit to deserve the result. In the first half we had four players that were well below their standard and mistakes were made by poor decisions but they all came in at half time and held their hands up and more importantly rolled their sleeves up and got so much better, as a group they helped each other and that's the character we want. We did have that bit of luck

needed when they missed their penalty but there was no luck with our win. I was pleased to welcome goalkeeper Steven Bywater on loan from Millwall, he showed his experience, saved a penalty but looked in control of the box and back line.

Delighted

Glenn Morris was very unlucky to lose his place as he did nothing wrong against Yeovil in the Capital One Cup but because of the long term injury to Stuart Nelson I have had to bring another Goalkeeper in and when I found out Steven was available I was delighted to get him.

He was desperate to play and was looking forward to working with Tony Burns, our Goalkeeping Coach, who all the Millwall goalkeepers talk about so highly. I want to thank the Chairman for

allowing us to bring in players that weren't planned, but needed because of the unlucky injuries we have picked up.

Last Tuesday we beat Yeovil away in the Capital One Cup and were rewarded with a home draw against Newcastle United who are one of the biggest teams in the Premier League so we are delighted with that and look forward to it, but we have two more important league games before that.

Many thanks for your support and thanks for welcoming our new boys, they are a younger, hungrier group that will make mistakes, learn from them and be better players for it, but most importantly they will run around and give their all for the team.

Same again
PT

take Heart



mercy mission

Every year, a group of doctors, surgeons and nurses from the Evelina London Children's Hospital travel to Sri Lanka, to perform lifesaving operations on young children with heart disease.

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- ♥ Teach local medical staff how to perform similar operations in the future
- ♥ Procure and fund essential cardiac scanning and theatre equipment
- ♥ PROMOTE HEALTHY HEART EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN UK SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES

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jermaine McGLASHAN

autograph:

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GFC Community Trust sponsor The West Kent Schools U13s GFC Community Trust Shield and U15s GFC Community Trust Cup



Griffingham Ladies join the Griffs in a new partnership



Evie Kenna from our Girls Centre of Excellence joins up with the England U17s squad.



Community coaches team up with the FA Development Team for a CPD event





Girls Centre of Excellence hold their end of season celebrations at the First Team Training Ground



GFC Community Trust support A Better Medway's Quit Smoking initiative



Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament for Gillingham and Rainham, shows his support for the club's community trust



John Egan and Brennan Dickinson drop in and join in the tournaments at our Summer Soccer Schools

For more information on any of the Community activities visit us at www.gillinghamfootballclub.com or contact us on 01634 350125 or fitc@priestfield.com
Follow the Community on Twitter: @GillsCommunity



MATCH ACTION



Tuesday 12 August 2014 / Huish Park
Capital One Cup First Round / Attendance: 2283



GILLINGHAM
Gillett 56

Yeovil: Krysiak, Sokolik, Martin, Nugent, Twumasi Edwards, Berrett (Leitch-Smith 52), Gillett, Smith, Hayter (Ralph 68), Moore (Hoskins 77). Unused subs: Weale, Moloney, Foley, Lanzoni.



1 GILLINGHAM
Dickenson 23, A Morris 59

Gillingham: G Morris, Hare, Egan, Legge, Hause, Martin, Dack, Loft, A Morris, Norris, Dickenson.
Unused subs: Hadler, McKain, Davies, Hessenthaler, Pritchard.

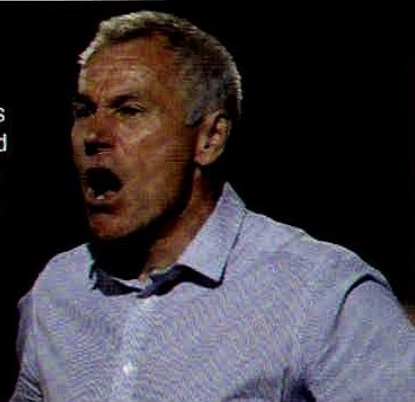
1. Brennan Dickenson holds up the ball 2. Josh Hare looks on as he makes his first start for Gills 3. Peter Taylor shouts some instructions from the dugout 4. Skipper Doug Loft begins a run

Pictures courtesy of KM Group

Yeovil	Match Stats	Gills
1	Goals	2
11	Total Attempts	7
6	On Target	3
5	Off Target	4
2	Blocked	1
0	Hit Woodwork	0
7	Corners	4
2	Caught Offside	2
10	Fouls conceded	9
0	Yellow Cards	0
1	Red Cards	0

3

... I thought our shape was decent and when we played it simple we did it well but, like Saturday [at MK Dons], there were good stages and bad stages ...



4



TONIGHT'S OPPOSITION



SWINDON TOWN

... Mark Cooper's men got off to a perfect start in the league campaign with a 3-1 victory at home to newly promoted Scunthorpe, before defeating John Still's Luton 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in the first round of the Cup this time last week ...

This evening we welcome Swindon Town to MEMS Priestfield Stadium who, like Gillingham, have claimed one victory in their opening two league outings to start the 2014/15 season and advanced to the second round of the Capital One Cup.

Mark Cooper's men got off to a perfect start in the league campaign with a 3-1 victory at home to newly promoted Scunthorpe, before defeating John Still's Luton 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in the first round of the Cup this time last week.

However on Saturday they were denied at least a point by Crawley due to a hotly contested penalty decision, which saw defender Louis Thompson sent off before Izale McLeod netted the spot kick

to give the Red Devils all three points at Broadfield Stadium.

Tonight's visitors will be looking to build on a relatively successful 2013/14 season where they finished just eight points shy of Peterborough United who secured the final play-off place in the division.

Season

In order to achieve at least a top six placing this time around Swindon may look to Michael Smith who scored eight goals last season for the club, having joined from Charlton Athletic in January for an initial fee of £100,000.

He had previously had a loan spell at AFC Wimbledon where he netted 10 times in 24 appearances, and he's begun this season very well having scored four goals in Swindon's opening three matches.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Swindon haven't defeated Gills since October 2011 when goals from Matt Ritchie and Jonathan Smith in the last ten minutes secured a 2-0 win at the County Ground.

Last season however Gillingham registered four points against Town over our two league meetings. The first game finishing 2-2 with Cody McDonald coming off the bench to score a late equaliser, and in January a goal either side of half time from Leon Legge and Michael Harriman secured an impressive 2-0 victory at MEMS Priestfield Stadium.

In total the two clubs have met on 92 separate occasions - of those Swindon have the better record with 35 victories. Gills have won 30 times and the other 27 games have resulted in a draw.

Michael Smith

In order to achieve at least a top six placing this time around Swindon may look to Michael Smith who scored eight goals last season for the club

IMAGINE
CRUISING



GILLINGHAM

V

SWINDON TOWN



MATCH FACTS

Gillingham have only lost one of their last 33 home league meetings with Swindon Town, winning 23 and drawing nine.



MATCH FACTS

Indeed the Robins have failed to score on six of their last nine trips to Priestfield.



GOALS



AV. GOALS PER GAME



SHOTS (EX. BLOCKED)



% SHOTS ON TARGET



CLEAN SHEETS



% GOALS TO SHOTS



CORNER KICKS



GOALS CONCEDED

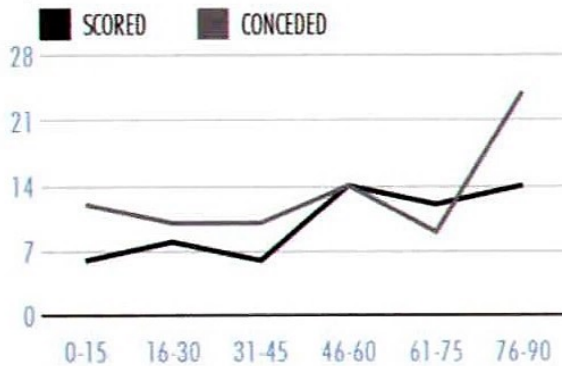


AV. GOALS CONCEDED PER GAME

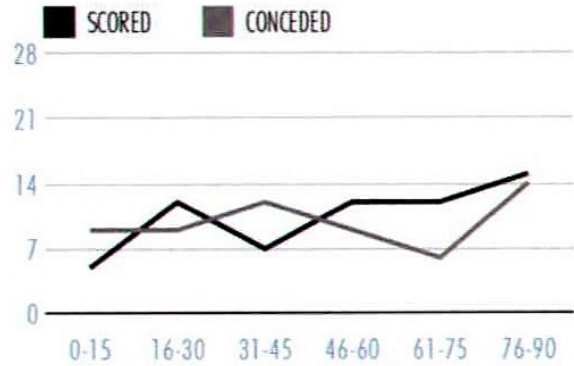


FOULS

GOAL TIMES



GOAL TIMES



*Data comes from the 2013/14 league season.

MEET THE TEAM

Image credit: Action Images



SWINDON TOWN

MANAGER



MARK COOPER

Cooper took the reins at the County Ground in August 2013 following a spell as Assistant boss under Kevin MacDonald.

His first year proved successful, with the Robins finishing eighth in the Sky Bet League One table – eight points shy of Peterborough United who occupied the final play-off position.

As a player Cooper played for a host of clubs, most notably for Exeter City and Tamworth, the latter he went on to manage between 2004 and 2007 before joining Kettering.

After clinching the Conference North title he guided the club to eighth place in the Conference National, alerting the attentions of the Posh who offered Mark a three-and-a-half year deal in November 2009.

His tenure would only last 13 games however prior to a stint at Darlington, a second spell at Kettering and then Telford.

ASSISTANT MANAGER



LUKE WILLIAMS

Williams spent three seasons at Brighton and Hove Albion where he was in charge of the Under 21s and was a coach with the reserve team, before joining Swindon ahead of the 2013/14 campaign.

He has also been an FA Skills Coach and has worked at both Leyton Orient and West Ham.

HEAD OF GOALKEEPING



STEVE HALE

Steve was appointed Head of Goalkeeping at Swindon in the summer of 2014.

Hale looks after all the goalkeepers at Swindon Town and has also overseen the development of young keepers from his own private school through to Swindon Town and other clubs.

Steve is an FA B Licence Goalkeeper Coach & Uefa B Licence Outfield Coach.

MEET THE TEAM



MASSIMO LUONGO MIDFIELDER

Luongo joined Swindon from Tottenham on a season-long loan last summer before completing a permanent move just before transfer deadline day. The midfielder spent time on loan at the club at the end of the 2012/13 season.

The stylish midfielder has won many fans during his time in Wiltshire so far, including Australian national team coach, Ange Postecoglou. Luongo was part of the Socceroos squad at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the third player in Swindon history to represent his country on the biggest stage.

GOALKEEPER

TYRELL BELFORD

Belford signed a deal with Town in the summer of 2013 following his release from Liverpool's Academy and provides cover for Wes Foderingham. The highly-rated youngster was at Coventry before he was snapped up by the Anfield outfit.

DEFENDERS

NATHAN THOMPSON

A product of the STFC Academy, Thompson made his breakthrough into the first team during the 2012/13 campaign. The two-time Player of the Year winner ended last term with the captain's armband and will skipper Town this season.

NATHAN BYRNE

Byrne penned a two-year deal with Swindon in the summer of 2013 after a successful loan spell the previous campaign. Back on a permanent deal, the defender has proved a versatile member of Mark Cooper's squad.

DARREN WARD

After joining initially on loan from Millwall in the summer of 2012, the centre back made his Town debut against local rivals Oxford before penning a permanent deal in January 2012. He started his career as a youngster at Watford making 67 appearances, including a number of Premiership games before joining Millwall, Crystal Palace and then Wolves.

JACK BARTHAM

The versatile youngster, who can play in defence or in midfield, penned a one-year deal with Swindon at the start of the 2013/14 campaign. Barthram had

previously played with Tottenham Hotspur's youth team before his release in the summer.

RAPHAEL BRANCO

Formerly with the academy at Brighton and Hove Albion, the Brazilian centre-half penned a deal with Town in the summer after a successful trial period. Made his debut against Plymouth Argyle in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. He stepped off the bench to make his league debut in a 1-1 draw at Bradford City.

MATHEW JONES

The left full back is a graduate of the youth Academy at Swindon, penning his first professional deal in the summer of 2014. Mathew is the son of former Swindon player, Tom.

CURTIS DA COSTA

Another graduate from the STFC Academy, the defender put pen to paper on his first professional forms with the club in the summer.

JOSH LELAN

The mobile defender is currently on an initial one-month loan from Derby County. A graduate of the youth academy at Pride Park, Lelan spent time on loan with Gateshead last term.

JORDAN TURNBULL

The 19-year-old central defender initially began his career in the youth team at the County Ground prior to joining the academy setup at Southampton.

He is contracted for another year at St. Mary's Stadium but re-joined Town on a season long loan two weeks ago.

BRAD SMITH

The 20-year-old left back is on loan from Premier League

giants Liverpool having made one professional appearance for the Reds – that coming against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in December last year.

He has signed a season long deal and made his debut on the opening day of the season.

MIDFIELDERS

RYAN HARLEY

The experienced midfielder joined Town in July 2013 after his release from Brighton and Hove Albion. He made his name with Exeter City before securing a move to Swansea. From there he moved east to Brighton and had a spell on loan at MK Dons in the latter part of the 2012/13 campaign.

YASER KASIM

A former player with Brighton's Academy side, Kasim penned a permanent deal with Town ahead of the 2013/14 campaign. In his time at the Amex Stadium, the classy holding midfielder spent time on loan at Luton and Macclesfield Town. Yaser has also represented Iraq at international level.

LOUIS THOMPSON

The youngster came up through the ranks at the STFC Academy and made his debut for the first team whilst still a first year scholar at Leicester City in the FA Cup fourth round in January 2012.

BEN GLADWIN

Formerly with the Academy at Reading, Gladwin penned a professional contract with Swindon at the end of November. Signed from Marlow FC, the central midfielder had plied his trade in the non-leagues before moving to Wiltshire after impressing on trial.

ANTON RODGERS

The midfielder joined the Town in the summer of 2014 after leaving Oldham Athletic. Having started his career at Chelsea, Rodgers broke into the professional game with Brighton and Hove Albion. Anton is the son of Liverpool manager, Brendan.

FORWARDS

CONNOR WALDON

Swindon-born Waldon is a product of the club's Academy system, signing professional forms in the summer of 2013. He made his Town debut as a substitute against Stevenage at the end of the 2012/13 season.

MICHAEL SMITH

A January 2014 signing from Charlton Athletic, the striker made the perfect start to his Swindon career when he netted twice on his debut against Shrewsbury at The County Ground.

GEORGE BARKER

Barker is a product of the youth system at Brighton and Hove Albion and made his Seagulls debut in March 2013, coming on as a substitute at Barnsley. Has spent time on loan at clubs in the lower leagues and was most recently with Newport County.

ANDY WILLIAMS

The 28-year-old can play either as a striker or a winger and joined Swindon in the summer of 2012 on a two-year deal from Yeovil.

He has scored 11 times in 45 league outings for Town but last season returned to Yeovil on a short term loan deal, however this was cut short due to a serious cruciate injury picked up in training.

WES FODERINGHAM GOALKEEPER

The shot-stopper came through the ranks with Fulham's Academy before moving to Crystal Palace.

He initially joined Swindon on loan in 2012 and enjoyed a prolific start to his Town career where he didn't concede a goal in his first five games.



PAST PROGRAMMES SWINDON TOWN

When Swindon Town visited Priestfield on 8 August 2009 they found a club in celebratory mood and this is reflected in the programme, no fewer than 16 of the 68 B5 pages containing an image from either our League Two play-off Final against Shrewsbury or the celebrations in the days after.

Paul Scally opened his programme notes by referring to, 'an exciting season in prospect with, what for me is the most impressive collection of teams ever to grace the third tier of the game coming to Priestfield over the next nine months'. Those teams included Southampton and Norwich City who have since played in the Premier League, Leeds United, who we would be meeting as equals for the third season in six having never previously met in the league before, and Charlton Athletic,

who we would be playing in the league for the first time since 1982. Scally also expressed his satisfaction that Andy Barcham, Simon King and Curtis Weston had committed to the club by signing new or extended contracts during the summer.

Additions

Blues News listed the new additions to the squad. Kevin Maher had signed a two year deal from Oldham while Chris Palmer had spent the previous season at Walsall, Josh Gowling had joined on a one month loan from Carlisle and Rashid Yussuff had signed from Charlton after impressing in pre-season.

Gowling's loan move, which later became a permanent deal, was necessary due to the injuries the squad had picked up in pre-season as Mark Stimson outlined in his

notes. Simon King and Stuart Lewis both had ankle problems while Dennis Oli had a knee injury and Kevin Maher had picked up a knock in a friendly against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park. To add to these problems Simon King had required a week off when his son contracted swine flu.

Stimson also mentions a fifth and more recent new signing, Jacob Erskine. He had initially impressed playing against us in pre-season for Bromley and made one of four first team appearances when he came on as a substitute against Swindon.

The programme's main article was Curtain Raisers by Andy Ford, which covered four pages and looked back on the run of twelve consecutive seasons, from 1987/88 to 1998/99, when the Gills were handed a home game on the opening day.

Always one for forensic detail Andy's other article, *Away Days*, looked at the season ahead in terms of our opponents and their distance from Priestfield. We would be travelling 6,910 miles compared to 8,316 miles in League Two, had lost our nearest possible away game (Dagenham) and replaced it with the furthest (Carlisle) and would be visiting three grounds for the first time (Colchester, Southampton and MK Dons).

Magic Moments was a new feature in which a former Gills player talked about one of the greatest moments in the club's history. The first player was Ty Gooden and the opening paragraph quoted John Motson's commentary when he scored our equaliser at Highbury against Arsenal in the FA Cup fifth round in 2002. "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".

Opponents

Gooden reflected on the warm welcome that he and Paul Shaw, another former Arsenal junior, received from the backroom staff at Highbury when they returned for that game and the "nerve wracking" delayed fourth round tie against Bristol Rovers by which time our potential fifth round opponents were known. Of his goal he said, "I can remember the goal as if it was yesterday... perhaps one of those things that was just meant to be". Of the way the game changed when Robert Pires and Thierry Henry came on (we went on to lose 5-2) he recalled that, "the injection of pace and ability was something that will live with me forever. The game changed almost instantly".

The Swindon game was a 12:30 kick-off on police advice and only a neutral reading this will need reminding of the

final score, a 5-0 romp in the August sunshine watched by 6,852 that put the Gills top of League One. We had hoped that we would stay there for at least a week but Paul Lambert's Colchester United had other ideas, winning 7-1 at Norwich City a couple of hours later.

Our goal scorers that afternoon were Mark Bentley, Adam Miller and hat-trick hero Simeon Jackson. The latter two featured in the programme as did John Nutter who set up the second and third goals.

Performances

Jackson had spent part of the summer on international duty for Canada, marking his full debut against Cyprus with a goal and then appearing in all four games in the CONCACAF Gold Cup in the US. He told the programme, "that's out of the way now and it's all about this season" but his performances for his national side weren't forgotten and a few months later he was named Canadian Player of the Year for 2009.

Nutter talked about the 2008/09 season, in which he missed just one game and was part of a back four that kept nineteen clean sheets,

and compared his Wembley experience with that two years earlier for Stevenage in the FA Trophy. He explained, "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".

Adam Miller took part in *Rapid Fire*, a less than serious Q&A piece, during which he said that the person from history he'd most like to meet was Jesus because, "Let's be honest he'd have a few tales to tell".

Despite our most memorable start to a season it was Swindon who went on to have the better campaign, recovering from their heavy defeat to finish fifth in League One and reach the Play-off Final where they lost to Millwall. Meanwhile we were relegated on the final day of the season at Wycombe Wanderers with the worst away record in the division, picking up just six points from six draws on the road. By contrast we had the best home record outside the top eight, collecting twelve wins and a total of forty four points at Priestfield.



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ONE 2 ONE

DAVIES V HARE

WE CONTINUE OUR NEWEST FEATURE TO THE 2014/15 MATCH DAY PROGRAMME WITH OUR 'ONE 2 ONE' CHALLENGE.

Tonight Callum Davies takes on Josh Hare, who made his first team debut against Yeovil last week in the Capital One Cup.

Words: Phill Catterick

1. Who is older - Bradley Dack or Jake Hessenthaler

ANSWER: BRADLEY DACK

Callum's Answer: Bradley Dack (Correct)

Josh's Answer: Bradley Dack (Correct)

2. We will play Newcastle in the next round of the Capital One Cup - who won the competition last season?

ANSWER: MANCHESTER CITY

Callum's Answer: Whoever it was beat Bradford I think. I'll go for Swansea (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: Manchester City (Correct)

3. England were knocked out of the World Cup in the group stages - which teams went through in our group?

ANSWER: COSTA RICA & URUGUAY

Callum's Answer: Italy and Uruguay (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: Costa Rica and Uruguay (Correct)

4. Who is the current Manager of Preston North End?

ANSWER: SIMON GRAYSON

Callum's Answer: I don't know - Kevin Davies? (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: I don't know (Incorrect)

- 5 Which three teams were relegated from the Premier League last season?

ANSWER: CARDIFF, FULHAM & NORWICH

Callum's Answer: Cardiff and Fulham were two. I can't remember the other one (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: Fulham and Norwich definitely, but can't remember the third (Incorrect)

- 6 Where do Saturday's opponents Barnsley play their home games?

ANSWER: OAKWELL

Callum's Answer: I don't know (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: Oakwell (Correct)

- 7 Brennan Dickenson joined the club in the summer from which team?

ANSWER: BRIGHTON

Callum's Answer: Brighton (Correct)

Josh's Answer: Brighton (Correct)

- 8 Which Premiership team used to play their home games at Roker Park?

ANSWER: SUNDERLAND

Callum's Answer: I don't know (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: I don't know (Incorrect)

- 9 Who scored the winner in the FIFA World Cup Final for Germany?

ANSWER: MARIO GOTZE

Callum's Answer: Mario Gotze (Correct)

Josh's Answer: Mario Gotze (Correct)

- 10 We beat Swindon 2-0 here last season - Leon Legge got one of the goals but who got the other?

ANSWER: MICHAEL HARRIMAN

Callum's Answer: Cody McDonald (Incorrect)

Josh's Answer: Danny Kedwell (Incorrect)

FINAL SCORES:
CALLUM DAVIES: 3/10
JOSH HARE: 6/10

U18 YOUTH

Steve Lovell delivers his first set of match reports from the youth side's opening two league fixtures of the season against Southend and Barnet.



SOUTHEND v GILLINGHAM (A) - August 2

After a good break in the summer our players came back in good condition after the fitness programmes we gave them and have worked hard in pre-season.

Our first league game against Southend was a very good contest with Southend being one of the favourites for the title. We started very brightly and had seven corners in the first 20 minutes with Mitchell Dickenson and Harry Stannard going close on two occasions.

Southend took the lead against the run of play in the 30th minute with a well worked goal, but we responded well and were awarded a penalty when Danny Adams was fouled. Dan picked himself up but unfortunately the spot kick was well saved.

The second half was all us and we got our rewards in the 60th minute when Ryan Crandley

finished off a goal flowing move. We went down to ten men for the last 15 minutes when we lost Chris Haigh, Danny Leonard and Mitchell Welch to injury, but we hung on well for a 1-1 draw.

Gills Team: Chris Haigh, Callum Emptage, Mitchell Welch, Joe Nougbele, Riccardo Thompson, Mitchell Dickenson, Danny Adams, Ryan Crandley, Harry Stannard, Bradley Stevenson, Ross Ibbertson.

Subs: Sam Stewart, Henry Newcombe, Danny Leonard

GILLINGHAM v BARNET (H) - August 9

A good game for the neutral supporter, but not for us coaches. Barnet started brightly and went 1-0 up after Henry Newcombe had earlier saved a penalty after Callum Emptage had fouled one of their forwards.

We responded well and scored four goals in the last 25 minutes

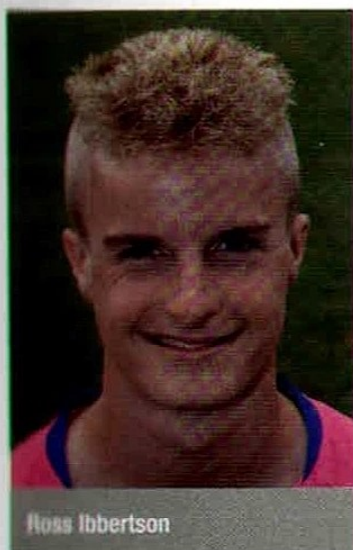
of the half. Ryan Crandley scoring two and Mitchell Dickenson the other two - the pleasing points that we scored two from good build ups and two from set plays.

The second half started well for us as we created two good chances but unfortunately we couldn't hit the target on both occasions. This was a turning point in the game where Barnet turned the screw and really took all the chances they created and ran out 5-4 winners.

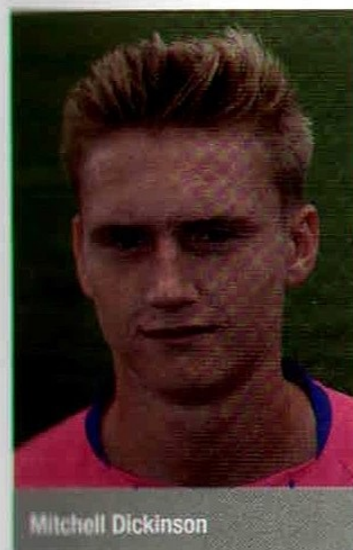
It was a disappointing second half but the boys have had a decent start to the season and are working very hard towards improving their game.

Gills Team: Henry Newcombe, Callum Emptage, Sam Stewart, Joe Nougbele, Riccardo Thompson, Mitchell Dickenson, Dan Adams, Ryan Crandley, Harry Stannard, Bradley Stevenson, Ross Ibbertson.

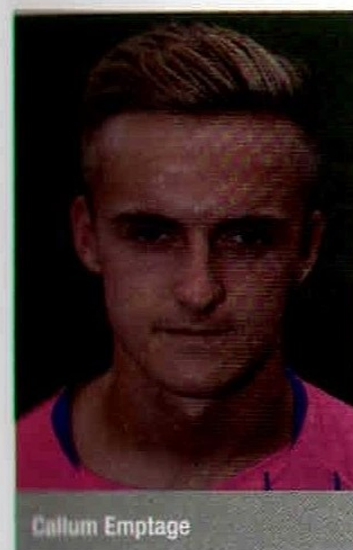
Subs: Ben Chapman, Max Kilman.



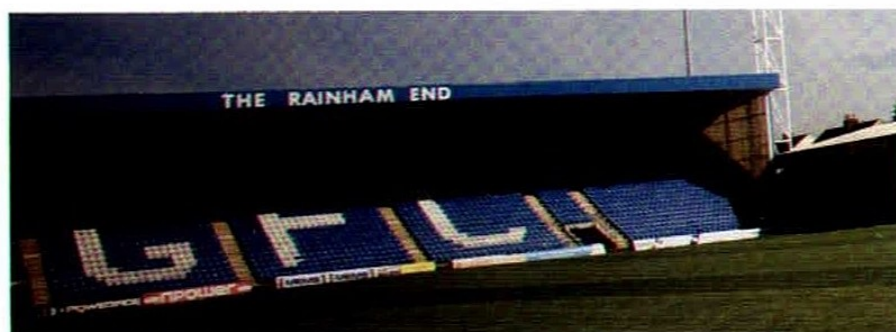
Ross Ibbertson



Mitchell Dickinson



Callum Emptage



South East		Pld	W	D	L	For	Agt	GD	Pts
1	Leyton Orient	2	1	1	0	5	3	2	4
2	Barnet	2	1	1	0	8	7	1	4
3	Peterborough United	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
4	Milton Keynes Dons	2	1	0	1	6	4	2	3
5	Luton Town	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
6	Stevenage	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
7	Dagenham & Redbridge	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
8	Northampton Town	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3
9	Gillingham	2	0	1	1	5	6	-1	1
10	AFC Wimbledon	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
11	Southend United	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
12	Cambridge United	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
13	Watford	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT / KO
July 23	Oxford	H (PSF) 2-2
August 2	Southend	A 1-1
August 9	Barnet	H 4-5
August 12	Cambridge (Cup)	A (won on pens)
August 16	Cambridge	A 11am
August 19	Stevenage	A 2pm
August 30	Peterborough	A 11am
September 6	AFC Wimbledon	H 11am
September 13	MK Dons	A 11am
September 20	Leyton Orient	H 11am
September 27	Watford	A 10.30am
October 4	Northampton	H 11am
October 11	Dagenham & Red	H 11am
October 18	Luton	A 11am
November 1	Stevenage	H 11am
November 8	AFC Wimbledon	A 10.30am
November 15	Peterborough	H 11am
November 22	Leyton Orient	A 10.30am
November 29	MK Dons	H 11am
December 6	Northampton	A 11am
December 13	Watford	H 11am
December 20	Luton	H 11am
January 3	Dagenham & Red	A 10.30am
January 10	Southend	H 11am
January 17	Barnet	A 11am
January 24	Cambridge	H 11am

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A LOAD OF CRYSTAL BALLS...



Football fans often tick off the years by season 2011-12, 12-13, 13-14 rather than the more conventional calendar. Many also mark the passage of time with the passing of the World Cup every four years. Often they'll be able to tell you exactly when they were and what they were up to during each competition, whether it be doing their exams at school, watching at home or down the pub with mates in England, on holiday somewhere or even at the actual tournament.

If you watch your first "proper" World Cup aged ten and live to be eighty you'll experience 18 World Cups, it isn't many really. On the day of the confirmation of England's somewhat premature exit from Brazil 2014 I watched Costa Rica's fateful 1-0 win over Italy in the Bat and Ball

pub opposite the St Lawrence cricket ground in Canterbury. The pub was thronged with Kent fans gearing up for the one-day T20 game against Sussex and keeping an eye on the vital group game.

A chap in his early 70's sat down opposite me and we got talking, it soon transpired that as a young man he had actually attended the 1966 World Cup Final. Wow, only the third person I've ever met who was there that day. His eyes twinkled as he thought back to that summer day at Wembley more than half a lifetime ago. It was quite a poignant moment to think that time is catching up on both the surviving players and spectators present that day and I wondered whether such a victory will ever be repeated. Quite by coincidence a group of lads at

the bar in their 30's and 40's were also discussing the World Cup, one of them then said "I was born in 1968, after we won the World Cup, I'm now 46, and I don't think England will very win the World Cup in my lifetime..." his mates paused, took a thoughtful sip of their beer, did a few mental calculations and then all agreed, "yeah, no chance". It was all rather matter of fact, no gnashing of teeth or wailing, just a quiet acceptance that after 48 years of trying and one semi-final to show for it, a fatalistic realism has settled upon many England fans.

Excitable

A few weeks later and I was getting excitable messages from my niece who happens to live in Frankfurt in Germany. It might not be the liveliest city in the country but at two o'clock in the morning there were tens of thousands of ecstatic people on the streets. They were hanging out of windows tooting their car horns, climbing up monuments, sitting up lampposts going absolutely mental. They'd won the world cup... again. Quite innocently my niece then suggested "it would be quite fun if England won the World Cup soon", all I could do was smile.

Now much has been made of the German model of how they run and organise their football. From modern facilities and well qualified coaches even at youth and grassroots level to how they govern their professional game with a "50+1" rule giving supporters (a bit like county

cricket members) the final say on any fundamental decisions at their club. Not the day to day running, but it does prevent clubs becoming the plaything of eccentric billionaires that seek to change their name, colours or even location on a whim.

Strict controls over financial decisions limiting spending on transfers and wages might have stopped the Bundesliga from attracting the sort of "galacticos" Real Madrid and Barcelona hoover up on a regular basis, but it has also saved them from clubs getting themselves into huge debt and ending up in administration. It has also deterred some of the more greedy potential chairmen from getting their claws into their top clubs. The German philosophy is very different from England, the free market extremes are at least regulated with the result that tickets are a fraction of the cost of those in England.

Dominated

The fact that the German clubs have recently succeeded in European competition despite not simply spending their way to the top has caught the eye of many fans yearning for a game less dominated by money and greed. The fact that the leadership of the German Football Association is strong enough to enforce financial probity, encourage clubs to actually feature plenty of young home grown talent in their starting elevens and were able to order a root and branch revolution in their coaching ten years ago after their relatively poor showing at Euro 2004 makes the leadership of our own game look rather pathetic in comparison. Our elite clubs are fundamentally selfish and greedy and none care one jot for the health of the national team.

So what can be done in England? What is possible? What might professional football in England look like in 2024? The



Germans (or Turks) are set to host the Euros then, will England have a team that can genuinely challenge by then? Would our own 10 year plan ever be taken seriously or implemented? There has been some improvement in the coaching set up nationally and some of the England age group teams have done well recently, but there is always a time lag with these things and the nagging fear that there isn't the will to follow things through.

Internationally

Perhaps though it isn't all doom and gloom. The administrators and guardians of the game nationally and internationally are gradually introducing financial fair play which should reduce the hoarding of so many young players by big clubs and

encourage them to nurture more of their own talent. Increasingly stringent "fit and proper" tests for owners might help weed out the real charlatans and should England introduce the sort of financial controls that they have in Germany and France where binding seasonal budgets are presented and rigorously enforced (no licence to play without one), then clubs might be protected from themselves!

Quota

Whether any English clubs would adopt a quota system of English players in squads or teams is unlikely any time soon, but perhaps within the decade if the proportion has fallen significantly lower then even the FA might act! Obviously the quality of the raw material would have to improve and whether the coaching philosophy and general level of competence can be improved and turned into a coherent programme churning out quality players for the elite end of things is difficult to say.

Many supporters would also like to see the clubs adopting the "German model" in terms of ticketing prices and access for ordinary fans, an increasingly middle class and aging set of season ticket holders in the Premier League does not help the vibrancy or atmosphere. Neither does overbearing policing and stewarding and of course the debate over the reintroduction of terracing will ebb and flow over the next decade. Calls for trials at interested clubs and the clamour for the authorities to at least engage in meaningful dialogue grows by the month. Whether it be "rail" seating or just properly managed terraces many point to the fact that in Germany fans are given the choice whether to sit or stand. They have the highest attendances in their top division in the world and the vibrancy in the grounds now puts the Premier League to shame.



**Thank you for supporting your team
and best of luck for the season.**



SPECIAL GUEST



ADRIAN PENNOCK

This evening's special guest at MEMS Priestfield Stadium is a player who will not need much of an introduction to the majority of Gills supporters.

Adrian Pennock returns to Priestfield tonight having enjoyed a seven year stint with Gillingham between 1996 and 2003, having started his career at Norwich City before joining Bournemouth in 1992.

Tony Pulis, who managed Pennock at Dean Court, brought the centre-back with him shortly after taking the reins at Priestfield and the defender would go on to make 200 professional appearances for the club, captaining the side that clinched promotion to the Championship in May 2000 against Wigan at Wembley - then under the management of Peter Taylor.

However an ongoing knee issue eventually took its toll

and Adrian was forced to retire from League Football in 2003, his final appearance in a Gills shirt coming on September 29 2002 during a 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

Favourite

During his stint in Kent he became a firm fans favourite, to the point where supporters gave him his own infamous chant which went 'He only scores own goals.' However Pennock's sense of humour endeared him even further to the Gills faithful and as a result remains one of the most popular Gillingham players in recent history.

On retiring he remained in the game, firstly as Assistant Manager at Gravesend & Northfleet where he also acted as Assistant Manager. He went onto manage Welling between 2005 and 2007 and guided the

team to their highest league position in six years.

However he left his position at Park View Road to take up a coaching position at Stoke City under former boss Pulis.

He was initially named as Youth Coach but was promoted to the role of First Team Coach in the summer of 2011 where he would remain for two years before departing the Britannia Stadium.

In November last year he was announced the new Manager of Forest Green Rovers and ensured a top half finish as the team finished 10th in the Conference Premier.

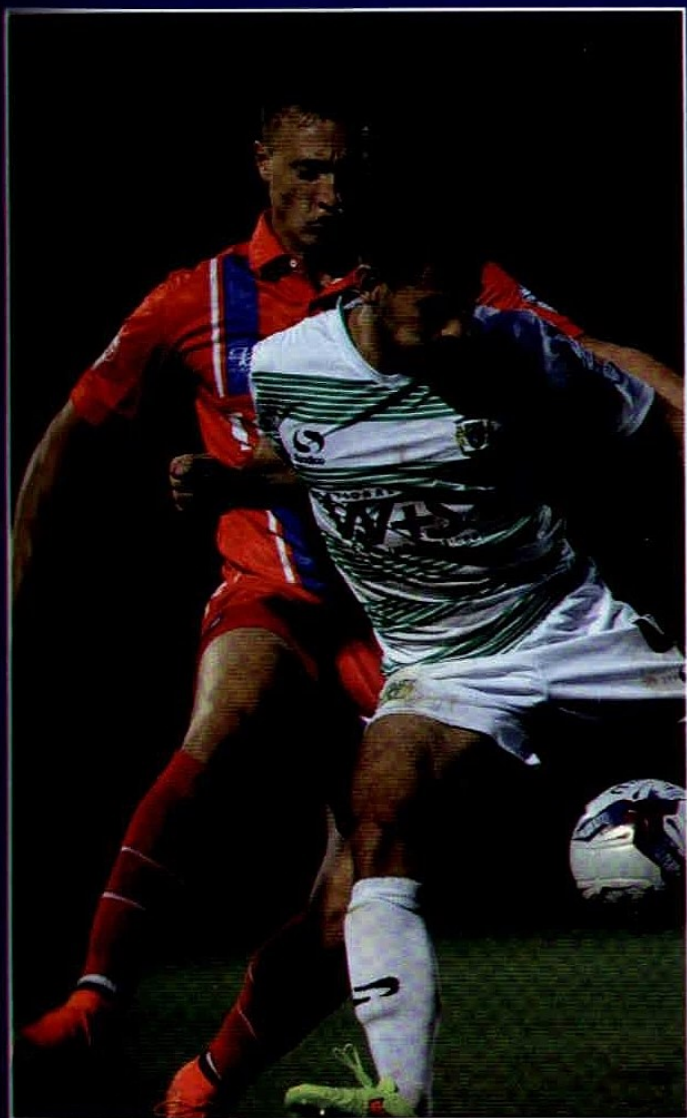
Please join us in welcoming Adrian back to MEMS Priestfield Stadium - for more information on our Legends Lounge hospitality package please contact our sales team on 01634 350350 or email sales@priestfield.com

14
15



LUKE NORRIS

Gills new striker got his first taste of first team football for the club last Tuesday when he started against Yeovil in the Capital One Cup. The 21-year-old signed a two year contract at MEMS Priestfield Stadium during the summer and is now eager to show his potential following loan spells at Northampton Town and Dagenham & Redbridge.



INTERVIEW by Phil Catterick

Q: You spent three years at Brentford, you went out on loan and got some goals to your name at various league clubs but did you feel you needed a permanent move in order to settle down?

A: Yes, Brentford offered me a new deal but they said I'd be going straight out on loan so I thought I may as well go somewhere permanent - I think it was the right thing to do at the right time.

Q: I'm sure loan spells help in terms of getting experience and scoring goals, but in the back of your mind you don't know where you will be in a few weeks' time so there is always an element of uncertainty?

A: Yes exactly, it was coming to the end of the season so it was almost like I was in the shop window. I had to play every game as if I was being watched - it's definitely better to sign somewhere so you know where you will be for a season or two.

Q: I'm sure players weigh up their options with the help of agents and advisors, but what was the specific appeal with Gillingham?

A: It's a big club - it was good to know they were interested, we've got a good



“... the league is the most important thing. It's always nice to get a cup run but we want to improve on last season and finish as high up as we can ...”

Manager, I knew a few of the boys and it was close to home so everything seemed right and at the end of the day it proved to be a no brainer.

Q: Which of the boys did you know?

A: I knew Leggy, Antonio and Westy, he has moved on of course but as soon as I knew an offer was there I knew it was where I was going to end up.

Q: You got a few pre-season games under your belt and got your first taste of first team action away at Yeovil last week. It seemed a classic example of a complete team performance?

A: It was - we needed to bounce back after MK Dons, I thought we were good in the first half. It didn't quite happen for us in the second half but we needed to win and it was a good performance.

The team was changed around and it worked, we now have the reward of a nice home tie against Newcastle so things are looking up.

Q: Did you watch the draw?

A: Yes, I did. As I was sitting there I was aware Man Utd were still in the draw so I was kind of hoping we would get them away, but Newcastle at home is still a massive fixture and a great draw for us.

Q: Until that time comes though full focus must turn to our league games?

A: Of course, the league is the most important thing. It's always nice to get a cup run but we want to improve on last season and finish as high up as we can.

Q: We've been a bit unlucky with injuries but on the flip side that enables other players to impress

in the first team and a number of players did that at Yeovil?

A: Yes, I think both injuries we picked up at MK Dons weren't what we needed, especially at the start of the season because you work so hard to get fit and then have to do it all again.

However it gives other people the chance to play and make the Manager want to play them every week if they play well. Injuries are part of Football but it does open doors for others.

Q: As a striker you are judged on goals ultimately, but judging by pre-season and at Yeovil it appears you like to come a bit deeper, play others in as well as score yourself. Is that a fair assessment of your game?

A: I would say it is. I would have liked to have scored more in pre-season, I think I'm a bit behind in what I feel I should have got so I'm just waiting to get a league

goal or cup goal so I can get started for the season.

However the most important thing is the results - if I'm playing and other people are scoring then that's fine because the team are winning. I'll get my fair share for the season I'm sure.

Q: It's a very young squad but the one thing you all seem to have in common is hunger and a determination to impress?

A: Well I think that's why the gaffer went for a few young players - everyone who has come in are hungry and wants to play and perform to their best at all times. We've got the right balance with the experience with Keds, Leggy and Lofty so if we can find that balance we can be a very good side.

Q: Lofty has the armband but the Manager has said he wants 11 captains, is that leadership type quality something you work on during the week?

A: Definitely. We know Lofty is the skipper but even when we have meetings he says he wants everyone to speak up, everyone has their own opinion and if we can all work together and help each other the team will start playing good Football.

Q: Support was fantastic at MK Dons and then again at Yeovil, have you been surprised with how many people supported Gillingham?

A: I was very surprised, when I first moved down here and sorting everything out I couldn't believe how many supported Gillingham. Of course it's the only professional club in Kent so it has a big following which is a huge positive as they get behind us every single week which is a huge plus in games.

Q: We had quite a long pre-season and it seems to take ages for the action to begin, but now we've begun you have a lot of

games in a short space of time, so once it starts it gathers pace?

A: Definitely, everyone wants it to start and then all of a sudden it's on you but that's why we train every day because we sometimes have three games in a week and we are looking forward to it.

Q: So who's got the best banter in the squad?

A: Dacky is quite funny but it's probably stupid funny. Keds is good too but in general it's a great dressing room.

Q: On a person note are you all settled now in terms of your move?

A: Yes. My partner moved with me so it was quite enjoyable and it was the first time in properly moving out. It was stressful at the start but we are settling now and everything is falling into place.



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SKYDIVE FOR TAKE HEART

On October 1st 2014, 12-20 people will be skydiving for GFC's official club charity, and you could be one of them! Have you ever wanted to experience something different? Have a once in a lifetime opportunity or just do something that promises to be incredible fun?

This year Take Heart Mercy Mission is trying to encourage events and activities that will inspire and encourage fellow supporters to want to support their club's charity. The jump will take place on Wednesday the 1st of October and any participants that wish to take part simply have to raise £300 as a donation to Take Heart, and there are no extra fees to pay. The price of the jump is included in this amount. It will be a tandem jump, meaning you will skydive attached to a trained professional.

There is no age limit over the age of 16, but anyone over the age of 40 has to have a declaration of fitness signed or stamped by a doctor. Men over 14 stone can't jump in tandem and women over 13 stone cannot participate. The jump is weather dependant and although Headcorn has advised we can jump on that day, if the weather is unsafe it will be reorganised for the nearest convenient time for everyone. Participants can bring spectators, but there is no indoor seating for them, and outdoor seating is very limited! No alcohol or drugs to be taken before the jump or you will lose your money and right to skydive. The money raised by our participants will be well spent on resources and educational staff to come and teach local children from primary and secondary schools how



to keep their hearts healthy and the negative effects of narcotics, excessive weight gain and lack of exercise on their cardiac health. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise money for a local cause and have a lot of fun while doing it! Any interested parties please email tcourtley@priestfield.com for more information and a sponsor form.

I look forward to seeing some of you there, and making a lot of noise for the boys in blue today.

Come on you Gills!

Thomas Courtley,
Take Heart Fundraising Manager.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

17th September: Take Heart Mercy Mission to Sri Lanka - The Heart Surgeons and Nurses will be travelling to Sri Lanka to perform lifesaving surgery on children with Heart problems that would otherwise have to go unaddressed.

1st October: Take Heart Skydive £300 sponsorship raised per person, more information on the website with a MAXIMUM OF 20 SPACES ONLY - contact tcourtley@priestfield.com for more information.

14th November: Take Heart Autumn Ball - £55 per person/ £500 per table of 10 including a 3 course meal, auction and entertainment - LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

takeheartmercymission.com



Left to right:
Matt Pillen and Chris Paine



PAINE & PILL'S

AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE



CHRIS PAINE AND MATT PILLEN ARE LIFELONG GILLINGHAM SUPPORTERS, BUT THIS SUMMER THEY SWAPPED TRIPS TO OLDHAM AND CREWE WITH ONE OF A LIFETIME TO BRAZIL FOR THE 2014 WORLD CUP...

Q1. It must have been a dream to get to go to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Is it true a long shot football accumulator bet came through for you last season and you decided to spend the winnings on your trip?

Chris: Yes it is true! It was a mad idea I had with my mate Matt a few years back. I said I would "bet our way to Brazil". We both laughed, we never thought it would actually happen...

Q2. How did you come to the decision to blow your winnings on watching England? Did you hesitate?

Chris: No, we didn't hesitate for one second. It was the reason I was doing it. I had always wanted to go Brazil just for the country anyway. There are so many fantastic places and amazing things to see plus the chance of seeing a World Cup there is a once in a lifetime trip.

Q3. So you headed for Brazil, how did you get to Manaus in the middle of the Amazonian rainforest?

Chris: Our first stop from London was Rio de Janeiro. We had a day there and then a four hour flight to Manaus.

Q4. What did you make of the jungle and what did the locals make of the England fans and two Gills fans from deepest darkest Medway?

Chris: The jungle was fantastic, but I've never known heat like it though. The heat at around two in the afternoon was unbelievable. The stadium and the feeling on match day was fantastic. We felt very proud and thought England were so unlucky. The next day we did a tour of the jungle - via a boat ride that took us right into the jungle an hour or so upstream. We got to swim with river

dolphins, held alligators and snakes and were entertained by the monkeys. (It sounds just like Strood and the Medway then!). We also got to meet a tribe who live there. Fantastic.

Q5. England lost their first game to Italy, but it must still have been an amazing experience. What were your memories of it?

Chris: Being in the ground and hearing the FIFA music as the teams entered the pitch made the hair on the back of your neck stand up. England fans were on form too. I thought we were so unlucky against Italy. We will never forget that sense of achievement and excitement watching our country in a World Cup.

Q6. You then headed on to Sao Paulo for the crunch game with Uruguay, what was that like?

Chris: It was winter time in Brazil, not that you would have

thought it in Rio or Manaus but Sao Paulo was a lot colder and it even rained. Sao Paulo was a still good experience though, despite the actual stadium and surroundings still resembling a building site. The game itself had a real sense of "do or die", the celebrations when we equalised through Rooney were totally crazy. After a poor first thirty minutes I thought England grew into the game and on the second half performance could and perhaps should have got at least a draw or maybe even won it.

Q7. You must have been gutted when England lost to leave them on the cusp of elimination, did it ruin your trip?

Chris: No, Matt and I had both agreed at the start that if the football didn't go well we wouldn't let it ruin the whole trip. We were gutted and the feeling was awful, much like being relegated, but we still had so many things to see and enjoy. We headed back to Rio for four

more days which were fantastic - our favourite place.

Q8. Your final stop was Belo Horizonte for the Costa Rica game, with little to play for except pride what was the atmosphere like amongst the travelling England fans?

Chris: It was the best atmosphere at an England game that I have ever experienced. The fans were unreal and backed the team loud and proud. I think the majority appreciated we were a young team and quite easily could have had four points rather than none from the first two games. That's football sometimes...

Q9. What was it like being in Brazil for the World Cup? It looked fantastic, were the locals friendly?

Chris: Everything that was written about Brazil and the locals before the competition could not have been further from the truth. The country

was beautiful, the people were friendly, helpful and loved having us there. For the Brazil games there was a carnival atmosphere. The opener against Croatia was crazy, buses would just pull over on the side of the road, order the passengers off, lock up and they would just watch the game.

Q10. What were the best and strangest things you did on the trip?

Chris: Impossible to say really, some of the views from Sugarloaf mountain and the mountain of the Christ Redeemer were stunning as were the Falls at Iguaza. Views that will live with me forever. The trip into the Amazon forest was probably the strangest, holding snakes and alligators isn't your everyday activity! My other favourite memory was playing football on Copacabana beach with Matt. We expected a kick about just between the two of us, but got involved in a match with proper goals on the sand. It ended up the Rest of the World vs. Russia, two Englishmen, two Brazilians, two Mexicans and a Colombian. We won 9-5 and I scored a hat-trick - what an experience!

Q11. Did anything go wrong, if so what?

Chris: Not really apart from the results, ha ha! Everything else was plain sailing really and we achieved and saw so much. Matt picked up a stomach bug for a few days which left him feeling rough but it didn't really spoil anything.

Q12. What was your abiding memory of your rather remarkable trip round South America?

Chris: Everything exceeded expectations. Some of the views and sights were just breathtaking. The feeling of watching my country in the World Cup was unforgettable. I felt like a child again going to see my first Gills game under the lights again.





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CUP JOY

Gillingham FC set up a Capital One Cup second round home tie against Newcastle United last week following a 2-1 win over Yeovil at Huish Park. Brennan Dickenson and Aaron Morris got the goals either side of half time, with Josh Hare making his full debut for the club at right wing back.



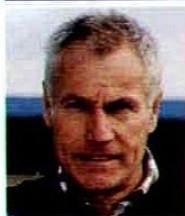
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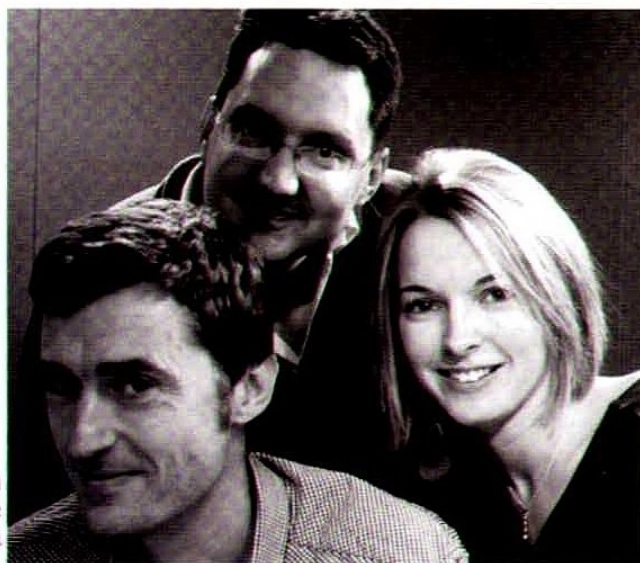


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"... I'm here to help the team and do well for the club; I'm prepared to play and do whatever I can for Gillingham ..."



STEPHEN BYWATER



Gillingham FC were delighted to seal the signing of Stephen Bywater on loan from Championship side Millwall on Friday.

The 33-year-old former West Ham and Derby County goalkeeper was put straight into the starting line-up for Saturday's Sky Bet League One match against Yeovil and saved a penalty on course to keeping a clean sheet in his first full start.

Bywater will remain at MEMS Priestfield Stadium until January 3 and is eligible to play in the Capital One Cup and Johnstone's Paint Trophy competitions; however he is not permitted to play in the FA Cup.

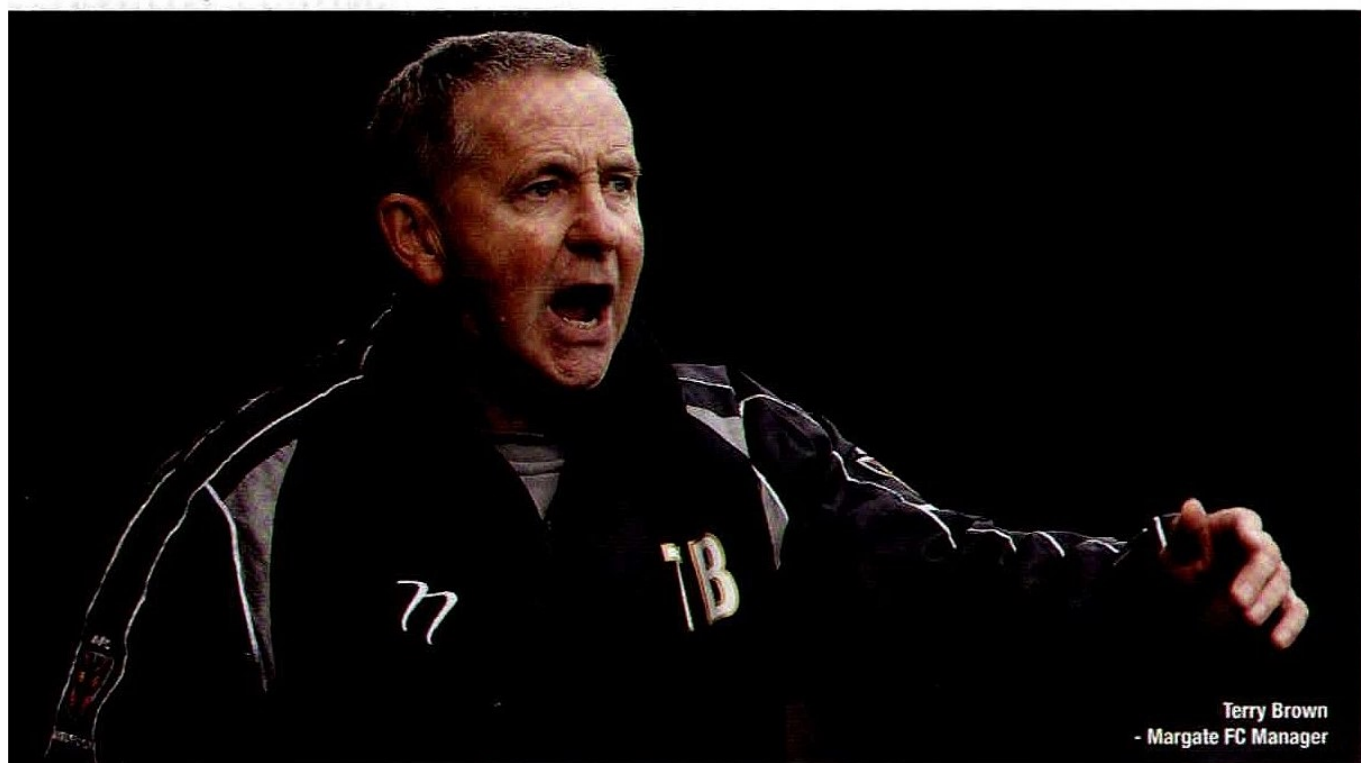
Stephen has been handed squad number 30.

On signing the goalkeeper, Manager Peter Taylor said: "I'm very pleased, Stephen wanted to play and I really appreciate the help that Ian Holloway has given us.

"He's got great experience, has a great presence and because it's a long term injury to Stuart I had to do something."

Stephen added: "I'm here to help the team and do well for the club; I'm prepared to play and do whatever I can for Gillingham.

"I'm match fit and raring to go. I love playing Football and I'm excited for every game and will give my all."



Terry Brown
- Margate FC Manager

KENT SCENE

by Nigel Clark

RYMAN LEAGUE

All fourteen sides from the county are in action tonight as the Ryman League continues with its busy opening schedule that sees all teams play six matches in the opening sixteen days. In Ryman Premier Margate and Maidstone will be expected to gain three points from their home games against East Thurrock and Harrow, while Tonbridge have a harder looking task against big spending Lewes whose squad includes a number of former Angels players. VCD travel to Enfield Town who like the Vickers lost their opening two games.

In Ryman One South Whitstable Town were unbeaten in their opening two matches. The following two games will test their promotion credentials as they were due to travel to Guernsey on Saturday and host Merstham tonight. The latter, managed by former Bromley boss Hayden Bird, had a superb second half to last season picking up 48 points from 23 matches. Last Tuesday they beat

Three Bridges 6-0 and their performance prompted Three Bridges boss Paul Falli to claim it was the best from any club his team had played in the Ryman League.

Chatham Town host Ryman League newcomers Brightlingsea Regent in Division One North, the first ever meeting between the two sides, while Cray Wanderers also host new opposition when Barkingside are the visitors to Hayes Lane.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES EAST

A full programme of fixtures has been scheduled for tonight and tomorrow but some of those games may be postponed because of FA Cup replays, the extra preliminary round having been played at the weekend. Nineteen of the twenty SECFL sides were involved, the exception being Rochester United who have not entered.

The league has tried to ensure that no club has to travel too far for this round of fixtures so there's a meeting of the two Eriths at Park View Road, the

two Surrey sides as Croydon host Lingfield and the two West Kent sides as Sevenoaks welcome Tunbridge Wells.

Those who believe that the finest things in life are football, beer and curry could do worse than consider a visit to Greatness Park. Sevenoaks are sponsored by the local Raj Bari Indian restaurant and it's not unknown for their chef to turn up and prepare some of the best food in non-league football for spectators.

It's the start of a new era for Sevenoaks Town who have finished third from last, last and second from last in the SCEFL in the past three seasons, winning just thirteen games. In May they appointed Micky Collins as manager, the former Erith & Belvedere boss who guided the Dere's to a Kent League and Cup double in 2012/13. Sevenoaks got off to the perfect start to the season, beating Erith Town and Beckenham without conceding a goal, before East Preston visited in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Another relatively short trip

sees Lordswood travel to Woodstock Sports tomorrow. Former Gills striker Jason Lillis has returned to Lordswood as manager after admitting that he left them a year too early when he resigned in 2013. Woodstock finished bottom of the SCEFL last season but were reprieved from relegation because the ground of Kent Invicta League champions Hollands & Blair was not up to the required standard by the FA deadline.

KENT SENIOR CUP

This season the competition has a new sponsor, Kent Reliance. The company is of course a former shirt and stadium sponsor of the Gills, while one of the companies that it incorporated in 1986, Chatham Reliance, sponsored the competition the 1980s. There is £3,000 in prize money up for grabs with £2,000 going to the winners and £1,000 to the runners-up.

The Kent Senior Trophy winners usually receive a place in the Senior Cup as a reward. However last season's winners Beckenham Town have been banned from the both the Cup and Trophy following crowd trouble at the end of last season's final with Ashford Town. Instead they'll compete in the Surrey Senior Cup.

Last season the quarter-finals

were completed before Christmas. That is unlikely this season will most leagues scheduling their midweek fixtures for the first half of the season in an attempt to avoid the fixture pile ups of recent years.

First Round

Welling v Tonbridge
Bromley v Maidstone
Dover v Faversham
Thamesmead v VCD
Chatham v Margate

Second Round

Dover/Faversham v Folkestone
Gillingham v Dartford
Sittingbourne v Welling/Tonbridge
Chatham/Margate v Herne Bay
Cray v Ramsgate
Bromley/Maidstone v Hythe
Ebbsfleet v Charlton
Thamesmead/VCD v Whitstable

KENT SENIOR TROPHY

Ashford Town have also been banned from the Kent Senior Trophy following the trouble at the end of last season's final, which means that Orpington were given a bye into the second round when the draw was made last week.

The second round draw sees the prospect of Kent Invicta League side Rusthall hosting Tunbridge Wells. Rusthall play at Jockey Farm on the outskirts of the village just two miles from Tunbridge Wells and although the two sides meet regularly in pre-season they

have never met competitively. Their ground is notable for the small section of covered standing along one side of the pitch through which cars need to pass in order to reach the car park.

This season ties will go straight to penalties if the scores are level after 90 minutes.

First Round

Holmesdale v Erith Town
Fisher v Eltham Palace
Deal Town v Sutton Athletic
Tunbridge Wells v Woodstock Sports
Lordswood v Erith & Belvedere
Meridian VP v Lewisham Borough
Crockenhill v Phoenix Sports
Seven Acre & Sidcup v Lydd Town
Rochester United v Corinthian
Canterbury City v Bearsted
Kent Football United v Cray Valley PM
Greenwich Borough v West Wickham
Glebe v Hollands & Blair
Sheppey United v Sevenoaks Town
Rusthall v Gravesham Borough

Second Round

Sheppey/Sevenoaks
v Greenwich/West Wickham
Seven Acre/Lydd
v Rochester/Corinthian
Fisher/Eltham Palace
v Glebe/Hollands & Blair
Meridian/Lewisham
v Kent Football/Cray Valley
Lordswood/Erith & B
v Crockenhill/Phoenix Sports
Holmesdale/Erith
v Deal/Sutton Athletic
Orpington v Canterbury/Bearsted
Rusthall/Gravesham
v Tunbridge Wells/Woodstock



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CHRIS LYNHAM WRITES



WORLD CUP REVIEW PART 2

After the searing heat and conviviality of Fortaleza, Sao Paulo at dawn was a sombre contrast.

Stumbling from our overnight TAM flight on which the crew were not troubled beyond closing the door, performing their take-off safety mime and turning off the lights, the largest city in the Americas greeted us wearily with slate grey skies and a chill in the air which had sent the residents scurrying for their woolly hats. If you ignored the parakeets and humming birds, it was not dissimilar to an away day in the West Midlands.

I'd visited the city once before for a single day. It's a vast urban sprawl with no defined centre, concrete tower blocks in shades of brown and grey stretching to the horizon. Sao Paulo is impossible to embrace without some local knowledge. Our supremely amiable pre-booked taxi driver, who stood grinning holding a printed picture of us that had been texted to him

the day before, greeted us in the Arrivals Hall. The language barrier prevented any in depth discussion beyond learning that he was an avid Corinthians fan (he proudly pointed out their training ground on route to our hotel).

Ponderous

We had several hours to kill, which added to our unease around England's prospects. A fabulous tournament was unfolding and at the start of June we would all have settled for England returning home after Spain, but the ponderous Champions were sent packing the day before, undone by the vibrant attacking flair of Chile. We didn't want to follow just yet.

We caught the metro to the cathedral district, a drab, damp and depressing precinct. The Fanfest was deserted so we found an acceptable bar where my friend Matt decided to indulge in his first caipirinha, the signature drink of Brazil. Far from

the exquisite cocktail sampled on the beach in Fortaleza, it appeared to be a glass of rocket fuel with a lemon ice-lolly melting in it. We departed swiftly for the stadium.

The Arena Corinthians is set on a hill in the east of the city, easily reached by train. Beset by tragedy and incomplete, it was the least inspiring venue in the country. The approach roads were unfinished, necessitating a long and winding walk, the local vendors struggling to flog cold beer in autumnal temperatures. The two ends were temporary – literally the equivalent of a two tier Brian Moore Stand with 52 rows in the upper section. An irrelevant roof spanned each end, serving only to cast an irritating shadow across the pitch in sunnier conditions. The ground's lack of character wasn't helped by FIFA's insistence that no banner or flag, the customary colourful and inventive backdrop that brightens and personalises every tournament, should dare

obscure their bland "All in One Rhythm" branding.

We took our position behind the goal early and gazed anxiously at the filling stands. I was wearing a light blue shirt, a decision I should perhaps have thought through more carefully for a game against Uruguay. Around 10,000 raucous England fans clumped together, intent on standing throughout and paying lip service to seat numbering. It made for a terrific atmosphere, even with the noise drifting into the sullen skies, but it was still an enormous effort to compete with the screeching antics of the more numerous Uruguayans.

Attendance

As is often the case following England, lower division supporters proliferated. We knew of half a dozen other Gills fans in attendance, and we were sitting behind Bristol Rovers followers. After their side's relegation from the league, their football fortunes were not about to get any better. You've all seen what followed and the 2014 World Cup will go down in history as one of England's tamest. Nevertheless it was a thrilling experience, a niggly, enthralling, exasperating contest that ended in the worst kind of doom. The central figure was inevitably Luis Suarez, the only game he turned up for. I've always liked Suarez, and if he could just temper the urge to sink his teeth into opponents he could become an all-time great. His on-field antics are outrageous, ranging from feigning injury in an attempt to get Liverpool teammates into trouble to disrupting play by kicking the ball away and deliberately throwing second balls on to the pitch to destroy the flow created by the multi-ball system. In previous, less lenient World Cups he would undoubtedly have been sent off.

A disjointed first half England display left us 45 minutes from near certain elimination following Suarez's heart-wrenchingly

clever header, yet still we created chances. Rooney hit the bar and had gilt edged chances to equalise before finally scooping home Johnson's precise cross. The moment is meaningless now, but in the instant we cavorted insanely, an emphatic release of joy doused by the shower of thousand flung beers. For the first time in my life I danced with a Leeds fan.

Common sense suggests we should have held on to our point and prolonged our involvement, but we were in the ascendancy and pushed for a winner. Staggeringly, for the second time in four years, we were undone by a failure to deal with a hoof down the middle, a wholly preventable farce. The cacophonous screech that greeted the sobbing Suarez's winner was simply intolerable. For a split second we clutched at straws in hoping it would somehow be disallowed, our expressions aghast that an International team could not possibly concede such a dumb goal. There was no way back, and we slumped dejectedly into our seats for the first time all night. The atmosphere was resigned rather than ugly, and the only boos were in response to the lack of acknowledgement from the players as they traipsed off (Joe Hart the exception).

The dark trudge back to the station was depressing, supporters mixing happily enough despite borderline goading from the Uruguayans. Exhausted and unable to contact friends, we returned to the hotel where the second half of Japan v Greece was somewhat unappetising. I used my pidgin Portuguese to buy some street food on the way back, while Matt opted for peanuts from the mini bar and an early night.

There was little spare time in the morning before heading back to the airport. We met some despondent England fans who were damning in their verdict of the impersonal city, bemoaning a



lack of celebration for the World Cup, no flags, no welcoming bars, no merchandise even. Suarez's giant head beaming from every news stand didn't help.

With a guide Sao Paulo would offer a wonderful cosmopolitan experience but if this was the only game you attended you would undoubtedly be left underwhelmed, and we were glad to be returning to the more uplifting environment of Fortaleza. The Italy game in Manaus by all accounts had been a lot more fun. We bumped into some fellow Rainham Enders who told of the sorry tale of a friend who was flying in especially for the Costa Rica game.

On the final approach to Fortaleza Airport, when he should probably have been concentrating on where he was going, our pilot muttered darkly of the Italy v Costa Rica result - I have no idea what he said but many in the plane cheered. A text message on landing confirmed the inevitable, England were out. Our naively optimistic hope at the outset was that we would return home before our country's finest footballers, which would have meant at least a quarter-final appearance. Our holiday was two weeks, England had lasted barely 60 hours. Nevertheless we kept the moping to a minimum. We had three more games to see live and wealth of drama to enjoy.

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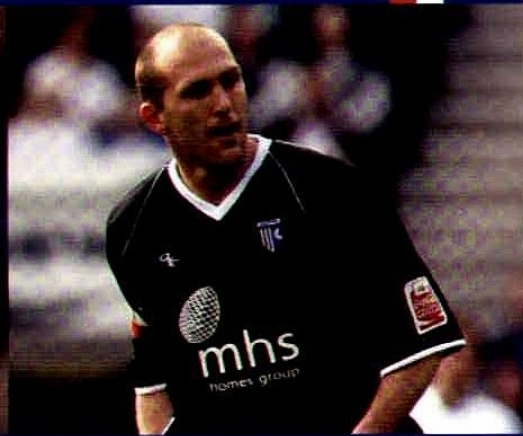
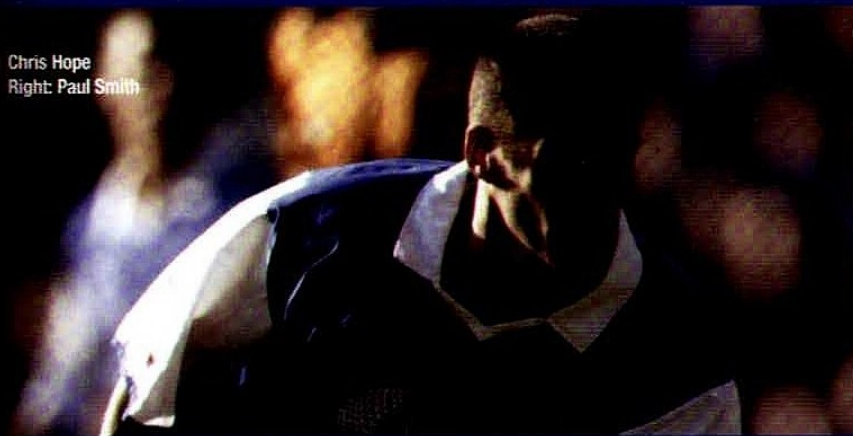
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SCRAPBOOK OF TEN YEARS AGO

Chris Hope
Right: Paul Smith



ANDY BRADLEY CHARTS THE HIGHLIGHTS AND LOW POINTS OF GILLINGHAM'S PROGRESS DURING THE 2004/05 SEASON

What a memorable night it was when Leeds United came to town a decade ago!

Apart from anything else it was a special occasion for two players, Paul Smith and Chris Hope.

The former made his 350th first-team appearance for the club and the latter clocked up his double century.

And both played a big part in an enthralling midweek scrap that was witnessed by a bumper crowd of 10,739.

Most of them went home on a high because Gillingham outplayed the visitors to secure a deserved 2-1 victory.

Goals at the start and end of opening half put them in a strong position (2-0) and left the fallen Yorkshire giants with too much to do in the second session.

All this left player/manager Andy Hessenthaler as pleased as punch.

"I have to express total satisfaction," he gushed afterwards. "It was just what we needed after the disappointing defeat at Ipswich on Saturday.

"We did particularly well to cope with the early loss of Nyron Nosworthy (groin strain) with Mark Saunders doing a superb job after switching to right back.

"Nyron's injury also gave me the chance to come on from the subs'

bench or, more accurately, the row behind the subs' bench.

"I had to sit there because of my touchline ban!"

Iwan Roberts played a key part in the early goal scored by fellow newcomer Darren Byfield.

Then, eight minutes after Byfield had lobbed against the bar, Patrick Agyemang pulled the ball back for Roberts to net another bang on half-time.

Spectator

Former Leeds legend Norman Hunter, an interested spectator, summed up the situation by saying to a colleague: "Welcome to the real world."

By this I guess he meant that if Leeds expected an easy ride it definitely wasn't.

Although Danny Pugh pulled one back with 10 minutes to go, the Gills held out without too many scares to take all three points.

And it was pretty much a repeat performance the following Saturday when Preston visited Priestfield. Once more Gillingham won 2-1 with Byfield and Roberts both stretching the net again.

Sadly, though, victory was achieved at a price as Mark Saunders suffered a broken right leg just five minutes into the contest.

"Our victory was certainly overshadowed by his injury," admitted Hessy.

"Mark's a great lad and a great professional. We will miss him for sure, especially as he can play in a number of positions and never lets you down.

"Sadly, we will probably not see him in action again this season but you never know for sure.

"That apart I was pleased with our performance.

"We had to play at a high tempo to prevent Preston from having time and space on the ball and I thought we did that effectively.

"The only blot from my point of view was conceding a sloppy goal towards half-time.

"Last season we would probably have conceded again but this time we didn't and that's a massive plus."

Paul Smith's astute pass put in Byfield to break the deadlock and then, after Ricardo Fuller had levelled, Danny Spiller provided the cross from which Roberts headed the winner.






Victory took Gillingham up to the heady heights of second in the Championship table.

Magic! But, as we all know, getting there is one thing, staying there is much harder.






Especially with 43 games still to go!

LEAGUE ONE TOP FIVES

GOALS

1	 ASSOMBALONGA	24
2	 BALDOCK	24
3	 AGARD	22
4	 WILSON	21
5	 GARNER	19





ASSISTS

1	 PRINGLE	16
2	 SAKO	15
3	 COX	13
4	 EMMANUEL-TH...	11
5	 GALLAGHER	10






SHOTS ON TARGET

1	 DONALDSON	59
2	 MOONEY	56
3	 WILSON	56
4	 BALDOCK	55
5	 ASSOMBALONGA	54






MINUTES PER GOAL

1	 COULTHIRST	6
2	 FOLEY	53
3	 STOCKLEY	54
4	 MAGUIRE	59
5	 LASIMANT	76

% OF GOALS INVOLVED IN

1	 BALDOCK	43
2	 WESTCARR	41
3	 LOWE	40
4	 ANEKE	39
5	 EMMANUEL-TH...	37






MINUTES PER CHANCE CREATED

1	 MIKE WEST	24
2	 MCLAUGHLIN	63
3	 MCFADZEAN	71
4	 WESTLAKE	72
5	 JONES	90

FOULS

1	 HANSON	91
2	 FRECKLINGTON	76
3	 DONALDSON	72
4	 GARNER	72
5	 GRIFFITH	72

MINUTES PER GOAL CONCEDED

1	 BONHAM	16
2	 BURNS	28
3	 FLEMING	33
4	 MCLAUGHLIN	35
5	 JALAL	36

LEAGUE ONE SPOTLIGHT

MK Dons lost five of their eight Tuesday league games in 2013/14 (W2 D1).

LEAGUE ONE SPOTLIGHT

Doncaster Rovers lost five of their nine league games on a Tuesday last term (W2 D2).

*Data comes from the 2013/14 league season.



LADIES FOOTBALL AT PRIESTFIELD

“... Gillingham Football Club are very proud to announce that there will be senior Women’s football gracing the Priestfield turf for this season...”

Following some long but productive talks over the summer, Gillingham Football Club are very proud to announce that there will be senior Women’s football gracing the Priestfield turf for this season as a deal has been struck to take over the management and day to day running of the very successful Gillingham Ladies Team, who finished very highly in the Women’s Premier League last season.

Officially embracing the ladies team under the club’s guidance is a great new challenge for the club but one that is met with real

enthusiasm from all concerned.

The Chairman, Paul Scally, is delighted the club has decided to proceed with this amalgamation and is very positive about the prospects for progressing the Ladies team forwards.

Quality

He said: “I was invited to watch their match vs. Coventry in May and I have to say I was very pleasantly surprised by the quality of the game and the players’ technical ability, and despite the result, I could see there has been a huge improvement in the standard of

football in the Womens’ game overall.

“I had in my mind that I wanted to provide our own Ladies team out of the Club, but after being approached by the Gillingham Ladies FC management about working closer together, it soon became clear that this is the most sensible option for both parties.

“I would like to gain entrance to the WSL II (FA Womens’ Super League) at some stage in the future but we will take one step at a time and enjoy the journey – I’m looking forward to seeing some games.”

Tommy Reynolds

Photography

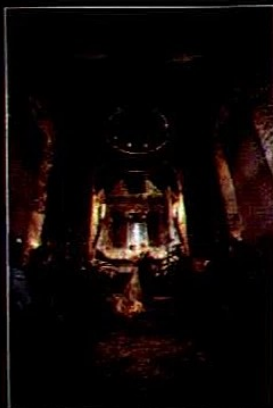


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HERVE FROM FRANCE

Q1. Back in France you're a huge fan of Racing Club de Lens who are newly promoted back to Ligue 1. What are your highlights watching "Les Sang et Or"?

Our first ever title at Auxerre in May 1998. It was magic, amazing. We had never won anything before except the pre-season League Cup, which wasn't as important as it is today. More than 4000 Lens fans travelled to Auxerre that day despite an allocation of only 1500 tickets. Many of us went down to Auxerre a few weeks earlier to buy tickets in the home stands from their ticket office because they didn't want to sell and post any back to northern France. That is what we did to "be there". I was back at home Sunday morning at 6.00, buying the newspapers and enjoying the front pages.

Q2. When and where did you first come over to see football in England?

My first ever game in England, with my usual travelling companion Francois, was Arsenal v Wimbledon in 1995 at Highbury and it finished 1-3 - Vinnie Jones was already a star in France, known for his explosive temperament. My second was at Chelsea a few months later versus Aston Villa. A year after that I went to Elland Road, Anfield and Old Trafford to support France at Euro 96.

Q3. What attracts you to English football?

The passion, the atmosphere, the songs, the high attendance in grounds. Football is a Religion, a way (or away!) of life in England. You can chat with any loyal fan

of any club and they all know the history and who played for them almost every season. It's very different with France, where we don't really have a sport culture and moreover a football culture. Maybe it's why we have only won two European Cups.

Q4. What was your first Gills game? The 2003 friendly in Le Touquet?

Yes, the friendly game at Le Touquet was the first I saw the Gills, RC Lens won 3-0. It rained hard but I was impressed by the 500 drunk travelling fans singing in the rain!

Q5. What made you choose to follow the Gills more often on your trips over to England?

To be honest, our first game at Priestfield was Ipswich in



the Championship in 2004. After the Le Touquet match we decided to investigate a ground in Kent, not too far, that should be easier to get tickets for. At that time it was getting more and more difficult to get tickets for the PL, especially at Chelsea or Arsenal (the best known London teams in France at the time) and my English friend who helped me to book my tickets moved to Lorient and back then my English was not really good enough to do it all myself.

That day against Ipswich the away end was sold out so it was "database only" so we could not buy our tickets ourselves. However we met a Gills fans selling the fanzine outside who offered to buy them for us.

Since that day we have tended to come to Priestfield two or three times a season, and now we go to away games too. The atmosphere at Priestfield reminds me of Bollaert (Lens) - a very friendly atmosphere.

Q6. What is your favourite moment watching the Gills?

Wembley in 2009 with Simeon Jackson's goal in front of the Gills end. I don't remember a crowd making so much noise! Seeing more than 53,000 people for a play-off final between two teams from the fourth level would be simply unbelievable in France. The atmosphere that day was a little strange, lots of tension and drama, many fans tense and the

tight score didn't help but when Jackson scored it was amazing.

The final game of the season when the Gills won the title against Wimbledon was special too. I brought my son Alex and he took a photo with Charlie Lee on the pitch with Francois at the final whistle.

Q7. What is your worst moment watching the Gills?

On the field it was the game against Cardiff in the Championship in 2005 - 1-1, because it felt like the Gills would be relegated a few weeks later even though I hoped to be wrong. That day and a win would have made the Gills virtually safe but instead it felt like hell.

"... I'm a "new" Gills fan, I have only been going to Priestfield for ten years and maybe we only saw a maximum of three games a season at the start because of the language barrier..."

Q8. How long does it take you to get to Priestfield from Douai?

Around three hours including crossing via the Shuttle or four hours via ferry.

Q9. How do English and French football fans compare?

There is no comparison between English and French fans. Just look at how many French and English fans there were in Brazil for the last World Cup or in Ukraine for the last Euros. See how many French fans follow their team in Europe in the Champions League and Europa League compared with England - it's a shame. We don't have your football culture, your culture of "following" except perhaps at Paris SG, Saint Etienne and RC Lens which are the three clubs with the most loyal fans in France. Even in the away end of Marseille in France you'll find 80% are actually local fans who have never visited

Stade Velodrome in their life but speaking with a Marseille accent even if they live in Normandy.

Q10. How many different grounds have you done in England?

MK Dons was my 25th, my son Alexandre has done ten already!

Q11. How many Gills games have you now attended?

I'm not sure, perhaps about 35. I'm a "new" Gills fan, I have only been going to Priestfield for ten years and maybe we only saw a maximum of three games a season at the start because of the language barrier.

Q12. What are your hopes for the new season?

To stay up. It is hard to judge just on the MK Dons game, the Gills played very well for the first 30 minutes. I do hope the Gills will achieve their goal and

stay up, it could be a long road and a tough task at times, but they can do it.

Q13. If some Gills fans fancied visiting France for a football weekend where would you suggest they went in terms of entertainment, atmosphere and warm welcome?

Lens of course! But you'll have to wait until the new Bollaert is finished for Euro 2016. Bordeaux is a good trip, a very friendly atmosphere at Chaban Delmas and some seasons you can combine very good football with some very fine wine. To be honest though, for me the best place to enjoy French football is at Geoffroy Guichard, home of "Les Verts" St Etienne. Their fans are amazing, singing, and cheering their team and loyal to their club. They are also the most popular club for people of my age due to what they achieved in the 1970's in Europe.





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AVERAGE ATTENDANCES 2014/15 STATS

	Visiting Fans	Gills Fans Away	2014-15 Av	Highest	Lowest
Sheffield United			19,889	19,889 vs Bristol City 09/08/14	
Bradford City			14,621	14,621 vs Coventry City 09/08/14	
Preston North End			12,857	12,857 vs Notts County 09/08/14	
Barnsley			10,105	10,105 vs Crawley Town 09/08/14	
Milton Keynes Dons		1,048	7,595	7,595 vs Gills 09/08/14	
Swindon Town			7,060	7,060 vs Scunthorpe United 09/08/14	
Port Vale			7,050	7,050 vs Walsall 09/08/14	
Leyton Orient			5,619	5,619 vs Chesterfield 09/08/14	
Yeovil Town			5,235	5,235 vs Doncaster Rovers 09/08/14	
Colchester United			4,023	4,023 vs Oldham Athletic 09/08/14	
Fleetwood Town			3,774	3,774 vs Crewe Alexandra 09/08/14	
Rochdale			3,613	3,613 vs Peterborough United 09/08/14	
Bristol City			#DIV/0!		
Chesterfield			#DIV/0!		
Coventry City			#DIV/0!		
Crawley Town			#DIV/0!		
Crewe Alexandra			#DIV/0!		
Doncaster Rovers			#DIV/0!		
Gillingham			#DIV/0!		
Notts County			#DIV/0!		
Oldham Athletic			#DIV/0!		
Peterborough United			#DIV/0!		
Scunthorpe United			#DIV/0!		
Walsall			#DIV/0!		
Yeovil Town		191			

League One 2014-15

Total 101,441 (12)	Highest 19,889 Sheffield U vs Bristol C 09/08/14
Average 8,453	Lowest 3,613 Rochdale vs Peterborough 09/08/14





FORTHCOMING HOME MATCHES



Tuesday 26 August, Kick-Off 7.45pm
Capital One Cup Second Round

v NEWCASTLE UNITED

Tickets now on sale



Saturday 30 August, Kick-Off 3.00pm
Sky Bet League 1

v CREWE ALEXANDRA

Tickets now on sale



Tuesday 16 September, Kick-Off 7.45pm
Sky Bet League 1

v PETERBOROUGH UNITED

Check website for further details

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

1. By using the online service at: www.gillsshop.co.uk
Tickets can be booked up to three days before the fixture for which they are being booked. Online ticket bookings 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 1. Telephone ticket bookings will incur a booking fee of £1 (50p for season ticket holders).
3. By visiting the club's ticket office in Redfern Avenue.

Opening hours are; Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm,
Matchday Saturdays 9am until 20 minutes after
kick-off. Non-matchday Saturdays 9am - 1pm

GORDON ROAD STAND

RAINHAM END STAND

7
6
5
4
3
2
1

A B C D E F G H
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PRE-MATCH DAY TICKET PRICES

Rainham End, Medway Stand
& Gordon Road Blocks A, G, B, C, F

Adult £21 Senior £18
Under-18 £10 Under-12 £7

Medway Stand Lower Blocks D, E, F
Adults (no concessions) £24

Gordon Road Blocks D, E

Adult £24 Senior £18
Under-18 £10 Under-12 £7

Brian Moore Stand

Adult £17 Senior £15
Under-18 £10 Under-12 £5

MATCH DAY TICKET PRICES

Rainham End, Medway Stand
& Gordon Road Blocks A, G, B, C, F

Adult £24 Senior £20
Under-18 £12 Under-12 £8

Medway Stand Lower Blocks D, E, F
Adults (no concessions) £28

Gordon Road Blocks D, E

Adult £28 Senior £21
Under-18 £12 Under-12 £8

Brian Moore Stand

Adult £21 Senior £20
Under-18 £12 Under-12 £7

BRIAN MOORE STAND

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

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AWAY TICKETS



BARNSELEY v GILLINGHAM

Sky Bet League 1
Saturday 23 August 2014
Kick-Off 3.00pm

We have been allocated 500 unreserved seating tickets situated behind the goal in the North Stand.

Tickets went on sale to Season Ticket Holders on Wednesday 6th August, and general sale on Wednesday 13th August.

Ticket Prices:

Adult	£23
Senior Citizen (65+)	
/Young Adult (17-21yrs)	£16
Under 17	£10
Under 12	£5

Wheelchair/Ambulant Disabled -
Relevant price band applies (+ Carer free)

If tickets are available on the day of the game, the Under 17 and Under 12 prices do not apply, and therefore must be purchased in advance.

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HOW TO BOOK COACH TRAVEL

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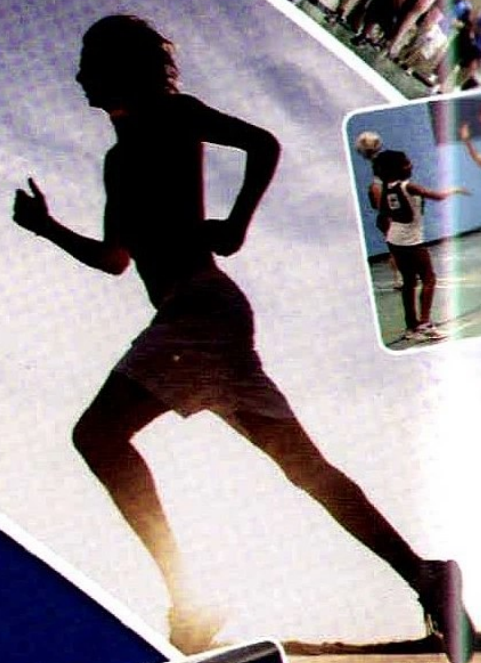
Dave or Julie Taylor on (01634) 375919
Trevor or Julie Loveridge on (01634) 301899
(evenings before 10pm)
Gillingham Football Club on (01634) 300000
choosing option 1

If you get an answerphone message, please leave your name and number and your call will be returned.

2. By visiting the ticket office in Redfern Avenue.
Opening hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 20 minutes after kick-off matchday Saturdays and 9am to 1pm non-matchday Saturdays.

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table



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Bristol City	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
2 Chesterfield	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
3 Peterborough	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
4 Fleetwood	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
5 Crawley	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	6
6 Preston	2	1	1	0	5	1	4	4
7 Port Vale	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
8 Bradford	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
9 MK Dons	2	1	0	1	6	5	1	3
10 Doncaster	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
11 Leyton Orient	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
12 Swindon	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
13 Gillingham	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
14 Coventry	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
15 Barnsley	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
16 Walsall	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
17 Colchester	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
18 Notts County	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
19 Oldham	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1
20 Crewe	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
21 Rochdale	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
22 Sheff Utd	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
23 Yeovil	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0
24 Scunthorpe	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0

fixtures

Peterborough v Sheff Utd (7.30pm)

Bristol City v Leyton Orient

Chesterfield v MK Dons

Coventry v Barnsley

Crawley v Bradford

Crewe v Rochdale

Doncaster v Preston

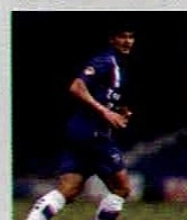
Notts County v Colchester

Oldham v Port Vale

Scunthorpe v Fleetwood

Walsall v Yeovil

All fixtures are 7.45pm KOs unless otherwise stated.




rollcall



PLAYER	D.O.B.	LEAGUE		CUPS		TOTAL		CARDS		GFC CAREER	
		APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS			APPS	GOALS
Adam Barrett	29/11/1979					1				95	3
Stephen Bywater	07/06/1981	1				1				1	
Bradley Dack	31/12/1993			1		1				29(24)	7
Callum Davies	08/02/1993									22(8)	
Brennan Dickenson	26/02/1993	0 (2)		1	1	1 (2)	1			1 (2)	1
John Egan	20/10/1992	2		1		3				3	
Matt Fish	05/01/1989	(1)				(1)				70(10)	4
Antonio German	26/12/1991	1 (1)		(1)		1 (2)				8(14)	1
Josh Hare	12/08/1994	1		1		2				2	
Kortney Hause	16/07/1995	2		1		3				3	
Jake Hensenthaler	20/04/1994	2				2				20(1)	1
Danny Kedwell	03/08/1983	2	2	(1)		2 (1)	2	1		97(24)	42
Leon Legge	01/07/1985	2		1		3				64(1)	4
Amine Linganzi	16/11/1989									16(4)	1
Doug Loft	26/12/1986	2		1		3				3	
Joe Martin	29/11/1989	2	1	1		3	1			142(8)	7
Cody McDonald	30/05/1986	1	1			1	1			87(11)	47
Jermaine McGlashan	14/04/1988	1				1				1	
Devante McKain	26/06/1994									(2)	
Aaron Millbank	04/02/1995									(1)	
Aaron Morris	30/12/1989	2		1	1	3	1			3	1
Glenn Morris	20/12/1983	(1)		1		1 (1)				1 (1)	
Stuart Nelson	17/09/1981	1				1				99	
Luke Norris	03/06/1993			1		1				1	
Josh Pritchard	23/09/1992	(1)				(1)				(1)	

fixtures and results

Key: (1) Goalscorer in brackets / * Sent off

		Referee	F	A	Att	Pos						
Milton Keynes Dons	Sat Aug 9	Robinson	2	4	7,595	22	Nelson	Egan	Hause	Legge	Martin	A Morris
Yeovil Town (CC1)	Tue Aug 12	Sheldrake	2	1	2,283	-	G Morris	Hare	Egan	Hause	Legge	Martin
YEOVIL TOWN	Sat Aug 16	Sheldrake	2	0	5,173	13	Bywater	Hessenthaler	Martin 1	Hause	Legge	Egan
SWINDON TOWN	Tue Aug 19	7.45pm										
Barnsley	Sat Aug 23	3.00pm										
NEWCASTLE UNITED (CC2)	Tue Aug 26	7.45pm										
CREWE ALEXANDRA	Sat Aug 30	3.00pm										
Stevenage (JPT1)	Tue Sep 2	7.45pm										
Coventry City	Sat Sep 6	3.00pm										
Oldham Athletic	Sat Sep 13	3.00pm										
PETERBOROUGH UNITED	Tue Sep 16	7.45pm										
WALSALL	Sat Sep 20	3.00pm										
Sheffield United	Sat Sep 27	3.00pm										
Notts. County	Sat Oct 4	3.00pm										
SCUNTHORPE UNITED	Sat Oct 11	3.00pm										
Rochdale	Sat Oct 18	3.00pm										
PRESTON NORTH END	Tue Oct 21	7.45pm										
CRAWLEY TOWN	Sat Oct 25	3.00pm										
Fleetwood Town	Sat Nov 1	3.00pm										
LEYTON ORIENT	Sat Nov 15	3.00pm										
Bradford City	Sat Nov 22	3.00pm										
PORT VALE	Sat Nov 29	3.00pm										
Doncaster Rovers	Sat Dec 13	3.00pm										
CHESTERFIELD	Sat Dec 20	3.00pm										
Colchester United	Fri Dec 26	3.00pm										
BRISTOL CITY	Sun Dec 28	3.00pm										
Port Vale	Sat Jan 3	3.00pm										
Crewe Alexandra	Sat Jan 10	3.00pm										
COVENTRY CITY	Sat Jan 17	3.00pm										
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	Sat Jan 24	3.00pm										
Walsall	Sat Jan 31	3.00pm										
SHEFFIELD UNITED	Sat Feb 7	3.00pm										
Peterborough United	Tue Feb 10	7.45pm										
MILTON KEYNES DONS	Sat Feb 14	3.00pm										
Yeovil Town	Sat Feb 21	3.00pm										
BARNSELEY	Sat Feb 28	3.00pm										
Swindon Town	Tue Mar 3	7.45pm										
DONCASTER ROVERS	Sat Mar 7	3.00pm										
Bristol City	Sat Mar 14	3.00pm										
Chesterfield	Tue Mar 17	7.45pm										
COLCHESTER UNITED	Sat Mar 21	3.00pm										
Crawley Town	Sat Mar 28	3.00pm										
FLEETWOOD TOWN	Fri Apr 3	3.00pm										
Leyton Orient	Mon Apr 6	3.00pm										
BRADFORD CITY	Sat Apr 11	3.00pm										
Preston North End	Tue Apr 14	7.45pm										
ROCHDALE	Sat Apr 18	3.00pm										
Scunthorpe United	Sat Apr 25	3.00pm										
NOTTS. COUNTY	Sat May 2	3.00pm										



SUBSTITUTES - Subs that came on are colour coded: Red, Blue and Green

Loft	Hessenthaler	McGlashan	Kedwell 1	McDonald 1	G Morris	German	Dickenson	Davies	Hare	Dack	Norris
Dack	Loft	A Morris 1	Dickenson 1	Norris	German	Kedwell	Hadler	McKain	Davies	Pritchard	Hessenthaler
Hare	Loft	German	Kedwell 1	A Morris	Fish	Dickenson	Pritchard	G Morris	Norris	Davies	Dack



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

BRIAN YEO

The most prolific goal-scorer in Gillingham's 121 year history, Brian netted 149 times in all competitions in a 12 year career at Priestfield, playing a part in both our 1963/64 Division Four Championship side and the team that clinched promotion to Division Three a decade later.



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GILLINGHAM

Manager: Peter Taylor

- 1 Stuart Nelson
- 2 Matt Fish
- 3 Joe Martin
- 4 John Egan
- 5 Kortney Hause
- 6 Leon Legge
- 7 Doug Loft
- 8 Jake Hessenthaler
- 9 Danny Kedwell
- 10 Cody McDonald
- 11 Jermaine McGlashan
- 12 Glenn Morris
- 14 Antonio German
- 15 Aaron Morris
- 16 Amine Linganzi
- 17 Aaron Millbank
- 18 Josh Pritchard
- 19 Luke Norris
- 20 Callum Davies
- 22 Josh Hare
- 23 Bradley Dack
- 24 Brennan Dickenson
- 25 Devante McKain
- 26 Adam Barrett
- 27 Tom Hadler
- 30 Stephen Bywater

SWINDON TOWN

Manager: Mark Cooper

- 1 Wes Foderingham
- 2 Nathan Thompson
- 3 Nathan Byrne
- 4 Massimo Luongo
- 6 Jordan Turnbull
- 7 Ben Gladwin
- 8 Yaser Kasim
- 9 Michael Smith
- 10 Andy Williams
- 15 Josh Lelan
- 16 Connor Waldon
- 17 Ryan Harley
- 18 George Barker
- 19 Louis Thompson
- 21 Mathew Jones
- 22 Darren Ward
- 23 Jack Barthram
- 24 Curtis Da Costa
- 25 Tyrell Belford
- 26 Anton Rodgers
- 27 Josue Antonio
- 29 Raphael Branco
- 30 Harry Agombar

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Charles Breakspear

Assistants: David Bushell ■ Alan Dale ■

Fourth Official: John Norbury

NEXT HERE AT PRIESTFIELD NEWCASTLE UNITED

Tuesday 26th August 2014 (tbc)

Capital One Cup Second Round - Kick-off: 7.45pm



www.gillinghamfootballclub.com