

the saddler

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF
WALSALL FC
PRICE: £3.00

vs. Swindon Town
Sky Bet League One
Friday 26th December 2014
Kick-Off: 3:00pm



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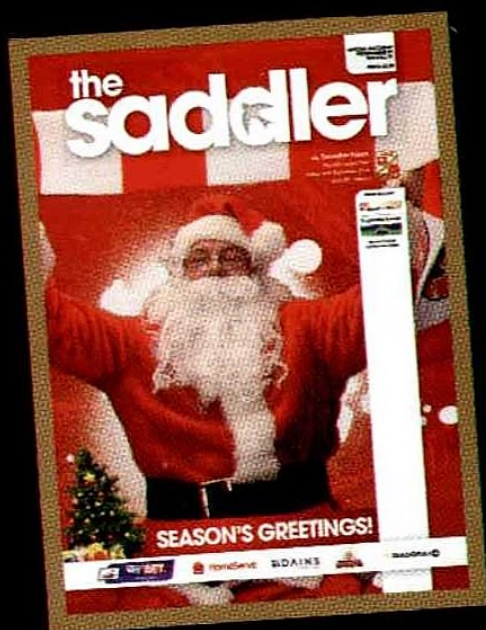
SEASON'S GREETINGS!



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Design: Simon Cooper - Excel Print Ltd.
Cover Design: Berian Lowe
Photography: David Linney, Kevin Grice and Rob Ellis

On This Day

MATCH

ONE OF our most dramatic-ever comebacks during our time at Banks's Stadium was witnessed on Boxing Day 2011 when we beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 against all odds by scoring twice in time added on at the end.

The unfortunate goalkeeper to suffer the late Saddlers' onslaught was none other than Richard O'Donnell who was making his sixth appearance of the season between the posts for The Owls that day.

Walsall were in the lower reaches of League One and we hadn't tasted League success since mid-October, whilst our visitors had suffered only one defeat in their previous 15 and were second in the table.

There were very few chances for either side in a somewhat tense first half but O'Donnell had to be alert to tip over an effort from Mat Sadler.

After the interval, Alex Nicholls curled in a shot from the edge of the area which struck the bar but Wednesday took the lead on the hour-mark when Ryan Lowe headed home a Chris Lines cross.

Chris O'Grady then had a great chance to double our visitors lead but somehow missed from 12 yards.

Just when it seemed Walsall were going to endure another home disappointment, a Christmas cracker was delivered by substitute, Claude Gnakpa, in the first minute of time added on thanks to a deflected shot from 25 yards. Then three minutes later when a draw seemed on the cards, Manny Smith became the unlikely match winner finding the corner of the net from 12 yards to give our fans the perfect Christmas present.



26TH DECEMBER

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS time 1988 was not a merry one for Walsall manager, Tommy Coakley, who was sacked the day after the Boxing Day 5-1 home defeat to Oxford United.

This was the 11th consecutive defeat for his team - ten in the League and one in the Simod Cup - and it was deemed that enough was enough as under his management that season we had only won twice in the second division in 22 outings and were anchored at the bottom of the table with just 14 points.

It was a far cry from just a few short months previously when Coakley became the club's first manager to take us to the dizzy heights of second-tier football for 25 years following our play-off Final replay victory over Bristol City.

After his dismissal, the Scot cited the inevitable departure of star striker, David Kelly to West Ham as the main reason for his team failing to come to terms with life in the higher division.

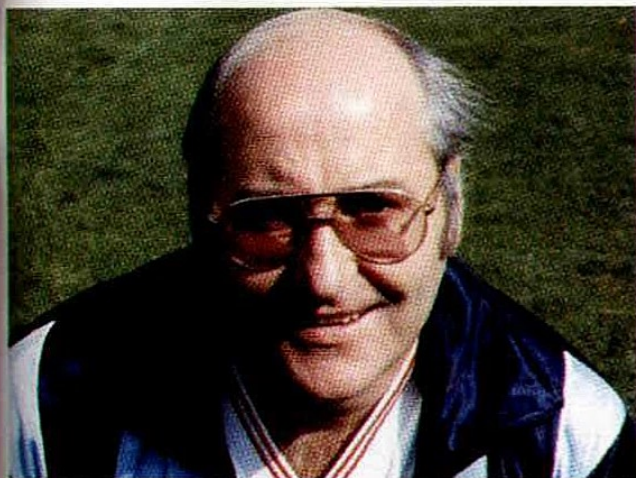
Coakley's two and-a-half years in the Fellows Park hot-seat had been eventful, just as the events behind-the-scenes had been over this period. He and coach, Gerry Sweeney, had been unveiled on Terry Ramsden's takeover day in August 1986, but League form at the start of the adventure had been poor.

Results did improve thereafter that season to the extent that six wins on the bounce by the end of April almost fired the team in the play-offs, whilst in the FA Cup we reached the fifth round before going out in a second replay to then top-flight Watford.

1987-88 saw that remarkable season which culminated in the already-mentioned promotion, but after a steady enough start to the following campaign, it soon emerged that it was to be a season of struggle.

As the defeats piled up, so did the pressure on the manager and at the end of his penultimate game in charge - a 2-1 defeat at Bournemouth - the emotional scenes of manager and players embracing each other suggested he was soon to be on his way.

He received the dreaded vote of confidence following a board meeting, only for his time to be finally up after that Boxing Day debacle.



TODAY

THERE'S always a very special atmosphere at Boxing Day fixtures here at Banks's Stadium and this afternoon is likely to be no different as we welcome a Swindon Town outfit who can be pleased with the progress that they have made during first half of the season.

The Robins are bobbing along nicely, and playing some good football along the way, so it has all the ingredients to be a real Christmas cracker this afternoon.

We look forward to the action unfolding in front of what will be a larger-than-normal crowd.

This is the time of year to really take stock and we can reflect upon some impressive displays during the first half of the campaign, whilst there have also been occasions where we have not quite reached the standards that we know we are capable of.

Injuries to key players hit us hard early on, but since then we have proved that we can be more than a match for anyone at this level.

If we can find that level of consistency then 2015 has the potential to be a memorable year for the club both on and off-the-field. There is plenty for us to look forward to; as well as continuing to push on up the League table, we also have the Area Final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy on the horizon.

Your support is going to be vital throughout this, so let's hear you in good voice!



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"THERE IS MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO BUT FOR NOW, ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE DIRECTORS, PLAYERS AND STAFF AT THE CLUB, I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR..."

from the Chief Executive

The thoughts of Stefan Gamble...



GOOD afternoon and welcome back to Banks's Stadium for our Boxing Day home game against high-flying Swindon Town. We welcome our visitors and wish them a safe journey home afterwards.

As 2014 comes to an end I'd like to focus on a few of the highlights of the calendar year.

January 1st is as good a place to start as any and on that day we faced Sheffield United in an entertaining New Year's Day clash, which was won by a rare James Chambers strike as the team came from behind to get the year off to a flying start.

Unbeaten in January, the month was rounded off with an emphatic 5-1 away win at Notts County on a day when the heavens

opened and, in all honesty, on the pitch it could have been 12 as a rampant forward line created chance after chance, epitomised by a Febian Brandy first half hat-trick.

However, it wasn't all plain sailing as we only showed brief glimpses of brilliance thereafter in the run in to the end of the 2013-14 season - a 2-0 away win at Bradford City and a 1-0 home win against our long-time rivals, Shrewsbury Town probably being the results that stand out.

It took us a little while to get going this season, which was kick-started by a 3-1 home victory over our Johnstone's Paint Trophy Area Final opponents, Preston North End.

Impressive performances against Doncaster Rovers, Notts County (again), Fleetwood Town and, most recently, Barnsley have propelled the team into the top half of the table and within four points of the coveted play-off places with all still to play for in the second half of the season.

The emergence of youngsters Amadou Bakayoko, Liam Kinsella, Rico Henry and Reece Flanagan onto the first-team stage has once again reinforced the pivotal and vital role that the club's Academy plays in our overall success.

The goals of Tom Bradshaw so far this

season have been crucial as has the key contributions from the likes of James and Adam Chambers, Richard O'Donnell, Sam Mantom, Andy Taylor, Paul Downing and Romaine Sawyers amongst others over the calendar year.

The continuation of our football philosophy has also been important and even when we have been through 'sticky' patches the belief and commitment to this has never waned.

The Johnstone's Paint Trophy run has, of course, captured the imagination of Saddlers young and old as we 'dare to dream' of a first-ever Wembley appearance in March. However, there is the not insignificant obstacle in our way in the form of the aforementioned PNE who provide our Area Final opposition over two legs, the first leg live in front of the Sky Sports TV cameras away at Deepdale on Wednesday 7th January and the second leg at home on Wednesday, 4th February.

There is much to look forward to but for now, on behalf of all of the Directors, players and staff at the club, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you once again for your support. Have a great afternoon and enjoy the match...



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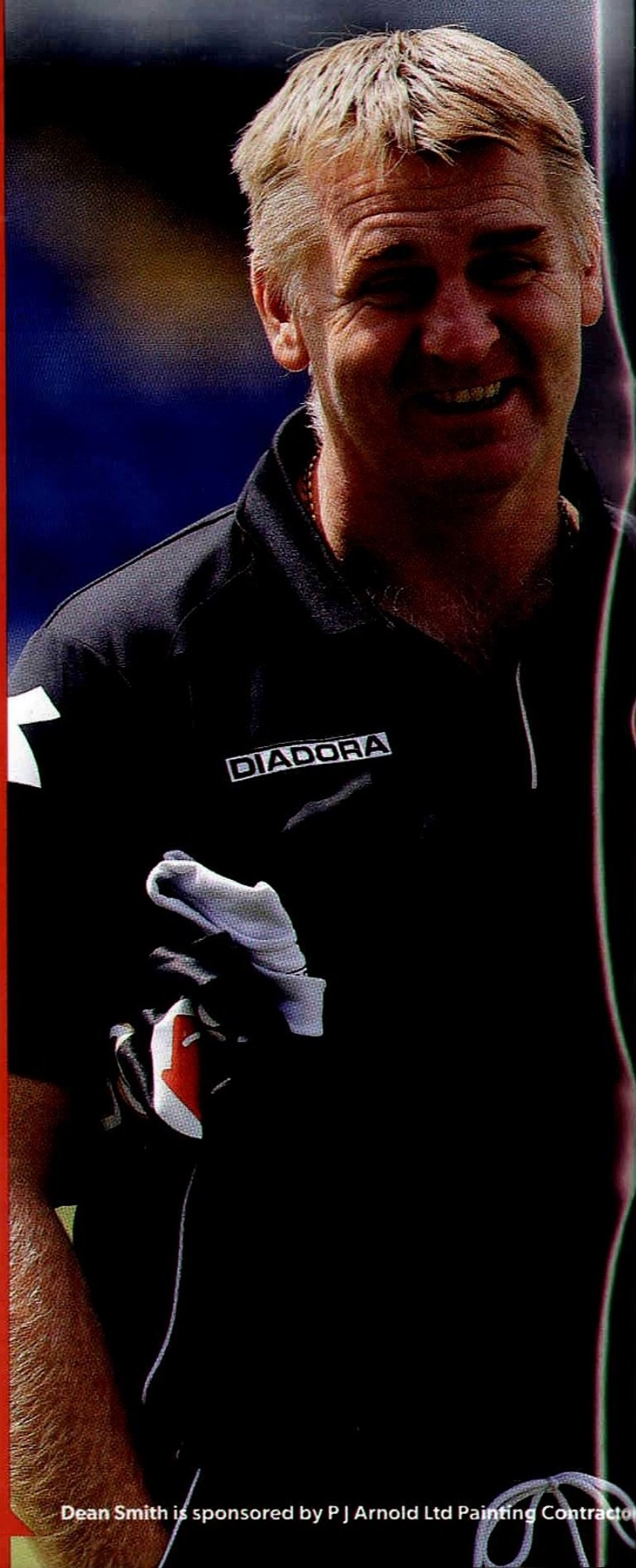
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Today's Matchday Programme is edited by Andrew Poole

Printed & Designed by Excel Print, Aldridge - 01922-715 080 -
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“ This is always a key time of the year with the fixtures coming thick and fast. These next two games see us come up against two of the top three, so it will give us a good gauge of where we're at right now as we look forward to what 2015 holds in store... ”

Smith Says...

WELCOME to Banks's Stadium for this Boxing Day encounter with Swindon Town.

I've always enjoyed Boxing Day fixtures; they have a special atmosphere all of their own and today's game has all the ingredients to be an entertaining and keenly-contested encounter.

Our visitors are flying high in the League One table, a position they have achieved by playing some attractive football. We are well aware of their strengths and we are relishing the challenge that stands before us today as we look to extend our unbeaten League run.

May I extend a warm welcome to Mark Cooper and everyone connected to our visitors before wishing them a safe journey home afterwards.

We go into the game on the back of a 1-1 draw at Sheffield United in our last game.

It's fair to say that on that occasion the result was better than the performance; we were wasteful in possession at times, but displayed a resilient side of our game against a good team with good players and in

front of a large home crowd.

It took them to score to kick-start us, but our goal came as a result of another neat move with Tom Bradshaw adding to his goal tally.

Once again we were defensively outstanding. There's a solidity and confidence about us now, with everyone playing their part and working extremely hard for the cause.

The most pleasing thing is that the lads want to take responsibility and are thriving on it. There's good competition for a shirt and this is bringing the best out of us.

We've got some talented young players here alongside the more established mainstays of the side who are leading by example.

It's a formula that is serving us well and seeing us steadily climb up the table. We've always had that belief in our ability and now we are also getting the consistency.

This is always a key time of the year with the fixtures coming thick and fast.

These next two games see us come up against two of the top three, so it will give us a good gauge of where we're at right now as we look forward to what 2015 holds in store.

There was the added boost of being able to extend Michael Cain's loan just before Christmas. He's a talented young lad who has slotted extremely well into the team and also has a fantastic attitude. He certainly has a bright future ahead of him.

Finally, I hope that everyone had a great day yesterday and you are ready to give us your full backing from the very first whistle this afternoon.

As this is our final game of 2014, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the support you have given us over the past 12 months and look forward to more of the same during the year ahead.

Thank you for your valued support. Enjoy the game...

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SANTA CHAMBERS

The Chambers twins spread some festive cheer with gifts for their team-mates...

ADAM and James Chambers have turned into Santa to deliver their team-mates some rather appropriate gifts...

RICHARD O'DONNELL – For OD we have some Oust odour eliminator, especially for coach journeys - need we say more! We've also got him a signed and framed photo of Andy Butler, his best friend in football.

BEN PURKISS – We had a two for one deal on the Oust, so he gets some too plus a cook book featuring 100 of the best gluten-free recipes... hopefully this will bring some flavour to his gluten-free diet.

ANDY TAYLOR – A feedbag, the kind used by horses, as it will cut down on the mess he makes in the canteen. He's also got a new joke book because he's in desperate need of some new jokes.

JAMES O'CONNOR – Jim will be delighted to receive a Ninja Turtles deluxe stationary set to help him with his studies at Uni.

PAUL DOWNING – PD gets a nice pair of comfy slippers, dressing gown and a pipe... We can't believe that this lad is only 22 years of age!

SAM MANTOM – Our Sambo gets a Tiger Woods PGA Tour golf game for the PS4 because he's really missed his golf – and football – since being laid low with his knee injury.

TOM BRADSHAW – I'm afraid we've bought Bradders some new clothes that actually fit him. He loves clothes, it's just a shame that he can never find any in his size. How he gets into some of his gear, we just don't know, it's as if it is sprayed on!

ROMAINE SAWYERS – A referee's kit with whistle and flag to use during training just so Rom doesn't have to keep shouting to get a decision... all he has to do now is blow his whistle or wave his flag and it's job done!

JAMES BAXENDALE – There's a theme in our gifts to Bax. It's a nice hamper containing Yorkshire tea and Yorkshire Puddings, delivered by a cute little Yorkshire terrier... Eee by gum, the lad will be loving it. Aye Up!

MICHAEL CAIN – A Nandos Gift Card because he's always in there plus a selection of Michael Caine films, just so he knows what people are talking about when they say 'My name is Michael Caine' to him in a cockney accent.

CRAIG MacGILLIVRAY – We are proud to present young Craig with The Great British Bake Off Big Book of Baking because he's a master baker.

MATT PRESTON – He gets The Fast & Furious Box Set plus a spoiler and spinning rims for his car... we're not saying that he is a boy racer or anything like that.

REECE FLANAGAN – We want to help him be on time, so he gets a wrist watch, sun dial, hour glass and pocket watch... don't want to leave anything to chance!

KIERON MORRIS – He's got a lovely Herefordshire farmers' voice and it would go really well with some dungarees, willies, a wax jacket and toy tractor.

JAKE HEATH – Young Heathy has become a real fan of the hot yoga sessions – maybe it could have something to do with his teacher? Anyway, he will get good use out of yoga mat.

AMADOU BAKAYOKO – The new P Square Album. This has been Ama's choice for the matchday play list and in doing so has brought P Square to the attention of the rest of the lads. In fact, the track 'Do Me' has become something of a dressing room anthem.

JORDAN COOK – After his record five-month stay in a hotel recently came to an end – Alan Partridge has nothing on this lad – we've got him some hotel vouchers because he is already missing the room service!

LIAM KINSELLA – We think that he is going for that Justin Bieber look, so to help him with it we've got a Justin Bieber doll and accessories.

LIAM ROBERTS – A bit of a cheeky one this. It was recently pointed out that the big man has 'rocket nipples', so what could be better than some extra large nipple tassels. Go Robbo!

ASHLEY GRIMES – What do you get for such a massive Manchester City fan? How about a replica kit with 'Lampard 18' on the back...

RICO HENRY – This will have to be some fake ID so he can join the lads on our Christmas do!

BILLY CLIFFORD – On the basis that he is adamant that Ronaldo and Real Madrid are better than Messi and Barcelona, he needs a Messi/Barcelona DVD just to prove that he is absolutely wrong.

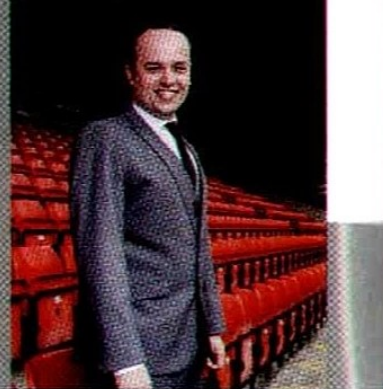
ANTHONY FORDE – We would like to give Fordey a good quality table tennis bat so that he has no excuses when he loses another game of ping-pong!

JORDAN MURPHY – Having made history in the FA Cup with Worcester City this season, the youngster is rewarded with a History of the FA Cup DVD. Let's hope he will go on to create some history in the competition with The Saddlers in the years ahead.

MATHIEU MANSET – The big man gets a Gift Card for Mal's dad's clothes shop as he appears to be their best customer.

WALSALL FC SUPPORTERS NEWS

with
Club
Secretary
**Daniel
Mole**



MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ON BEHALF of everyone here at Walsall Football Club, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas yesterday.

There's something special about Boxing Day fixtures and, after a couple of years 'on the road', it's nice to be at home today.

After spending yesterday in the house, filling ourselves with food and drink, it's great to be able to make the pilgrimage to Fortress Banks's for today's game.

As this is our last home game before the New Year, can I take this opportunity to wish you a fantastic New Year. Thank you for your support, I hope you and yours have a blessed 2015.

JPT AREA FINALS

AS YOU will now be aware, we face Preston North End in the Northern Area Final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

The first leg will take place on Wednesday, 7th January at Deepdale (kick-off 7.45pm). This game has been selected for live television coverage on Sky Sports.

The second leg will take place here at the Banks's Stadium on Wednesday, 4th February (kick-off 7.45pm).

After the first legs have been played, Sky Sports will make a decision as to which second leg will be broadcast. If, once again, we are selected for television, the game will be moved to Thursday, 29th January.

Admission prices have been set for both legs.

For the game at Deepdale, PNE Ambassadors and Walsall season ticket holders over the age of 16: £5 and those under the age 16: £1. These must be purchased before the day of the game. Walsall 2014/15 season-ticket holders must contact the Walsall FC Ticket Office to purchase. These tickets are now on sale.

For all other supporters in advance, plus season ticket holders /Ambassadors on the day, tickets are priced at £6 (over-16s) and £2 (under-16s).

For the second leg here at Banks's Stadium, admission prices will be £10 (adults) and £5 (seniors over-60 and juniors under-18).

Tickets are now on sale to Walsall FC season ticket holders and supporters with a booking history, until the close of business on 5th January 2015. Season ticket holders have until this time to claim their current seat.



YOUTH TEAM FRIENDLY ARRANGED

OUR UNDER-18s take on Boston United in a behind-closed-doors friendly next week before returning to Football League Youth Alliance action on January 3rd as they host Oldham, at BCFA Headquarters, Ray Hall Lane, Great Barr. Kick-off is 12 noon.

STAFFORD TOWN IN SENIOR CUP

FOLLOWING our 3-0 victory over Pelsall Villa last week, we travel to Stafford Town in the next round on the Walsall Senior Cup. The game will take place at Evans Park on Tuesday, 13th January (kick-off 7.45pm).

RESERVE GAMES

AS A result of our JPT commitments, the reserve fixtures against Tranmere Rovers and Wrexham, scheduled for 7th January and 4th February respectively, have been postponed.

These will now take place as follows:

Walsall v Wrexham
TFTD League
Tuesday, 21st April 2014
2.00pm (at Chasetown)

Walsall v Tranmere Rovers
TFTD League
Tuesday, 28th April 2014
2.00pm (at Chasetown)

Hello and **welcome** back to the **Banks's Stadium** for today's Sky Bet League One encounter with **Swindon Town...**

HOSPITAL VISIT



THE SADDLERS' first-team squad made their annual visit to Walsall Manor Hospital last week.

Thanks to the Walsall FC Supporters' Trust Toy Appeal,

they took a host of gifts to all the children on Ward 21 and on the Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU). It was a lovely afternoon spreading some real Christmas cheer!

FOOTBALL REMEMBERS

TO REMEMBER the remarkable events of Christmas 1914, the fourth Royal British Legion Football Game took place on Pelsall Common earlier today.

We know that a number of the players involved are with us for this afternoon's game, so may we take this opportunity to congratulate them on their efforts for such a worthwhile cause.

THE SADDLERS WALL IS HERE!

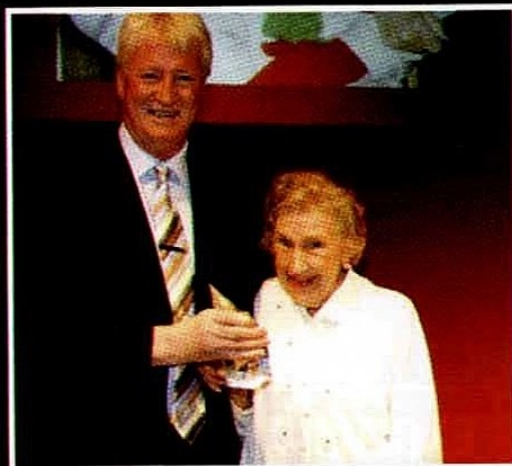
Bringing you all the best news, behind-the-scenes content, photos, video clips, competitions and social media, it's your one-stop shop, live and direct from Banks's Stadium and we encourage you to get involved with us.

There'll be something for everyone on The Saddlers Wall, so why not take a look for yourself by logging on to

wall.saddlers.co.uk/Event/Saddlers_Wall

ELSIE SIDDONS

WE ARE extremely sad to report the passing of much-loved Saddlers' supporter, Elsie Siddons.



A regular at both home and away games for many, many years, ill health may have kept her away from matches in recent times, but her devotion to Walsall FC never waned and she was kept right up-to-date with all the latest goings on at the club right up until her untimely passing on December 17th 2014, just a few weeks short of her 95th Birthday.

Elsie was a remarkable lady who was known by many here at Walsall FC and our thoughts are with her family and friends at this sad time.

NEXT GAME HERE

WE RETURN to home action on Saturday, January 3rd 2015 with the visit of neighbours, Coventry City (kick-off 3.00pm).

Ticket information for this and our forthcoming away games can be found on page 17 of today's Matchday Programme.

HALF SEASON TICKETS NOW ON SALE

HALF season tickets are now on sale, covering the business end of the 2013/14 campaign!

You can confirm your place for our remaining home League games of the season. See pages 54 and 55 of today's Matchday Programme for further details.

Half season tickets can be purchased now from the Banks's Stadium Ticket Office (which will be open after today's game) or by calling 01922-651 414/416, between 9.00am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

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WFC CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2 Wigan Athletic (A) Res Kick-Off 2.00pm	3	4 Jimmy Greaves Sporting Dinner	5	6 Decades Party Night (Stadium Suite) Disco Party Night (Bonser Suite)	7
8	9 Tranmere Rovers (A) JPTASF Kick-Off 7.45pm	10 Matt Le Tissier Sporting Dinner	11 Amateur Boxing Dinner Show	12 Motown v Decades Party Night (Stadium Suite) Disco Party Night (Bonser Suite)	13 Barnsley (H) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Decades Party Night (Stadium Suite) 70s v 80s Party Night (Bonser Suite)	14
15	16 Peisall Villa (A) WSC Kick-Off 7.45pm	17	18 Amateur Boxing Dinner Show	19 Back to the 80s Night (Stadium Suite) Disco Party Night (Bonser Suite)	20 Sheffield United (A) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Blackpool (H) FLYA Kick-Off 12.00pm Motown v Decades Party Night (Stadium Suite) Pop At The Top Party Night (Bonser Suite)	21
22	23	24	25	26 Swindon Town (H) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm	27 Cinderella Pantomime	28 MK Dons (A) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm
29	30	31 Party Through Time (Stadium Suite) Amateur Boxing Dinner Show (Bonser Suite)				

JANUARY 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3 Coventry City (H) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Oldham Athletic (H) FLYA Kick-Off 12.00noon	4
5	6	7 Preston North End (A) JPTAF1 Kick-Off 7.45pm	8	9	10 Scunthorpe United (H) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Burnley (A) FLYA Kick-Off 11.00am	11
12	13 Stafford Town (A) WSC3 Kick-Off 7.45pm	14	15	16	17 Colchester United (A) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Port Vale (H) FLYA Kick-Off 11.00am	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Preston North End (A) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Port Vale (H) FLYA Kick-Off 11.00am	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Gillingham (H) FL1 Kick-Off 3.00pm Tranmere Rovers (A) FLYA Kick-Off 11.00am Party Night with Jason Jones & late disco	

FL1 = Football League One
Res = Final Third Development League (Reserves)
FLYA = Football League Youth Alliance

THE WONDER STUFF

**Remembering
the first concert
on Bescot pitch...**

2015 is going to be a big year for Banks's Stadium. It seems rather appropriate that the 25th Anniversary of the stadium opening will be marked by a summer concert from the legend that is Elton John as he performs here on June 13th.

But whilst there have been a long line of talented footballers grace the turf over the past quarter-of-a-century, there has only ever been one previous outdoor concert take place here and that came back in 1991 when The Wonder Stuff took centre stage.

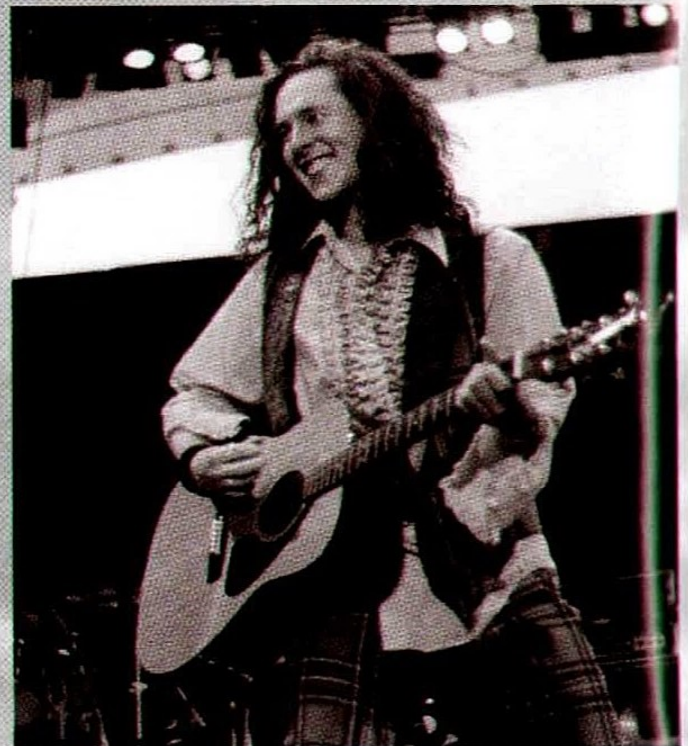
The band, whose roots were here in the West Midlands, were riding the crest of a wave at the time; they had their third album out and the first single from that, 'The Size of a Cow', had reached number five in the charts.

This was the first time that they had headlined a stadium show and 18,000 people came along to see them.

"We had been allowed access to the stadium the day before the gig to set up and I must admit that I had been a little nervous about filling such a huge empty space with an atmosphere of a rock gig," said lead singer, Miles Hunt. "I needn't have worried as our audience poured in and brought with them the best party atmosphere that I had ever encountered.

"I guess the average age of the crowd was around 18 to 22; it was an unusual event to have in the area and I got the sense that they felt the day belonged to them.

"My over-riding memory of the day was the weather! It wasn't just a bit of rain we were in for, but very high winds too. This was a particular annoyance as we had invested in quite a spectacular stage set including a three-storey high inflatable Elvis and a track that ran the whole way around our lighting truss from which there should have been suspended various components of our 'Never Loved Elvis' album cover; a massive cake, an American-



style police car, a jet, dancing girls... But we couldn't use any of it as the winds would have brought it all crashing down!

"Just a couple of weeks prior to the gig I had met Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer who I invited to come to Bescot to host the day's events; it had been a loose arrangement and come the morning of the gig, I had no idea whether they were even going to show up. Thankfully just before we opened the gates to the stadium they showed up on two Triumph motorbikes, somewhat hung-over from a night out in Manchester with the members of New Order!

"The stadium was excellent as a venue and all the staff were incredibly helpful and friendly. At a guess I would imagine that most of them had no idea who The Wonder Stuff were, but simply because it was such a different event to host there meant that everyone was keen to help out in any way that they could and this contributed to making it such a great day.

"After the gig had finished, we were allowed to have an after-show party in the Boardroom – it was a party that went on for some time as I recall!



PHOTOS: *Martyn Goodacre.*

"Even though we had to battle with the weather, we all agreed that it had been a successful day.

"It was the first time that we had done such a gig here in the UK. We had the great pleasure of opening shows for the likes of Faith No More and INXS over in Austria and Germany; we were pretty low on the bill at those shows, so the excitement was in no way compatible to what we experienced at Bescot. Also those European stadiums were bigger than Bescot, so even when the headliners performed the atmosphere didn't match what we had experienced in Walsall.

"Bescot was the perfect size to capture the excitement; there was no need for huge screens for the audience to enjoy the show as it was happening right there in easy reach."

Hunt admits that he was never 'caught by the football bug'. "I've always had my head firmly fixated in music," he added. "The same could be said about the rest of the band, apart, maybe, from guitarist, Malc Treece, who was a Manchester United fan.

"As a result I've never been back to the stadium since, but every time I pass on the M6 motorway, my heart is filled with pride that we once managed to put a gig on your turf. I do have a great sense of pride that we did that, particularly as I lived in Chuckery in 1989.

"Walsall holds a special place in my heart. I had great times there. There were two independent record shops and a couple of pubs that had a great music crowd keeping their bars busy.

"I've always been surprised that no other bands have played at the stadium as our day was such a success, but I suppose secretly I have been proud that we have been the only ones.

"To know that Elton John is now set to play the stadium during the summer, I'm not at all disappointed to know that we will no longer be the only musicians to hold such a high accolade. Elton is one of the biggest stars in the world, I'm thrilled that your stadium has been chosen to host his show and it's a nice feeling to know that only The Wonder Stuff and Elton John have been lucky enough to perform at Bescot - so far..."

Part of the crowd that day was current Saddlers' boss, Dean Smith. He was a key member of the Walsall back-line in those days and also a fan of The Wonder Stuff.

"I was well into my indie music at the time, and still am," he said. "Me and a group of mates at school use to go to various places locally and when we heard that The Wonder Stuff were coming to Bescot Stadium, we snapped up some tickets straight away!

"It was a bit surreal watching them from the pitch that I played on, but it was great fun.

"My over-riding memory was of the rain that lashed down, even though it was supposed to be the summer time... typical British weather!

"It failed to dampen the atmosphere, though, and it was a great gig. I can recall Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer being on stage to introduce the band and that also added to the occasion.

"Now all these years later, I'll be attending the next gig here with my wife in the summer when Elton John takes to the pitch.

"I have to admit that it's not my type of music, but he is such a fantastic entertainer and it will be great to have such a world-renowned artist here at Walsall FC."



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Ticket Office

Contact Details

You can contact the Banks's Stadium Ticket Office in any of the following ways:

T: 01922 651 414 / 416

F: 01922 613 202

E: tickets@walsallfc.co.uk

Opening Hours

The Banks's Stadium Ticket Office is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am until 4.30pm. We are also open from 11.00am on Saturday home matchdays as well as after the game. Please note that we are closed on Saturday away matchdays and also after midweek home games.

AWAY V



MK Dons

Sky Bet League One
Sunday, December 28th 2014
Kick-off 3.00pm

This game is NOT all-ticket. Advance tickets are now on sale from the Banks's Stadium Ticket Office at the following prices: £20 (adults), £16 (lower-65s and ambulant disabled with carer free of charge subject to status) and £6 (Under-18s). Wheelchair disabled please contact 01908-6222900. Tickets will be on advance sale until 3.00pm on Friday, December 26th.

HOME V



Coventry City

Sky Bet League One
Saturday, January 3rd 2015
Kick-off 3.00pm

Tickets for this game are now on sale at the usual Category A advance prices.

AWAY V



Preston North End

Johnstone's Paint Trophy
Northern Area Final first leg
Wednesday, January 7th 2015
Kick-off 7.45pm

Admission prices have been set as follows: PNE Ambassadors and Walsall season ticket holders over the age of 16: £5 and those under the age 16: £1. These must be purchased before the day of the game. Walsall 2014/15 season-ticket holders must contact the Walsall FC Ticket Office to purchase, tickets on sale now. For all other supporters in advance, plus season ticket holders / Ambassadors on the day, tickets are priced at £6 (over-16s) and £2 (under-16s).

MATCHDAY ADMISSION PRICES 2014/15

STAND	CATEGORY	CAT B ADVANCE	CAT B MATCHDAY	CAT A ADVANCE	CAT A MATCHDAY
HOME SERVE	ADULT	£20.50	£22.50	£22	£24
HOME SERVE (J&K)	SENIORS	£15.50	£17.50	£17	£19
HOME SERVE (J&K)	UNACCOMP JR	£15.50	£17.50	£17	£19
HOME SERVE (J&K)	JUNIOR (FAMILY TICKET UPGRADE S/T HOLDERS)	£9.50	£10.50	£11	£12
FAMILY	FAMILY (1 ADULT & 1 JUNIOR)	£22.50	£24.50	£24	£26
FAMILY	EXTRA JR (TO ACCOMP FAMILY TICKET)	£9.50	£10.50	£11	£12
FAMILY	SWIFTY'S SQUAD FAMILY MEMBERSHIP*	£20.50	£22.50	£22	£24
FAMILY	ADULT	£20.50	£22.50	£22	£24
FAMILY	UNACCOMP JR	£12.50	£14.50	£14	£16
FAMILY	SENIORS	£14.50	£16.50	£16	£18
FAMILY	DISABLED ADULT	£20.50	£22.50	£22	£24
FAMILY	DISABLED JR	£12.50	£14.50	£14	£16
FAMILY	CARER	0	0	0	0
FAMILY	JUNIOR (FAM TICKET UPGRADE S/T HOLDERS)	£9.50	£10.50	£11	£12
TILE CHOICE L	SWIFTY'S SQUAD FAMILY MEMBERSHIP*	£16.50	£18.50	£18	£20
TILE CHOICE L	ADULT	£16.50	£18.50	£18	£20
TILE CHOICE L	SENIORS	£12.50	£14.50	£14	£16
TILE CHOICE L	UNACCOMP JR	£10.50	£12.50	£12	£14
TILE CHOICE M&U	FAMILY (1 ADULT & 1 JUNIOR)	£22.50	£24.50	£24	£26
TILE CHOICE M&U	EXTRA JUNIOR (TO ACCOMP FAM TICKET)	£9.50	£10.50	£11	£12
TILE CHOICE M&U	SWIFTY'S SQUAD FAMILY MEMBERSHIP*	£20.50	£22.50	£22	£24
TILE CHOICE M&U	ADULT	£20.50	£22.50	£22	£24
TILE CHOICE M&U	SENIORS	£14.50	£16.50	£16	£18
TILE CHOICE M&U	UNACCOMP JR	£14.50	£16.50	£16	£18
TILE CHOICE M&U	JUNIOR (FAM TICKET UPGRADE S/T HOLDERS)	£9.50	£10.50	£11	£12

* Terms and conditions apply. ** Upgrade is for season-ticket holders only.

Please note that concessionary rates apply to adults over the age of 60 and juniors under the age of 18 at the time of purchase. Proof of age may be required.



BRIT POP & P

20 years on... Leigh Edwards and Andrew Poole recall our 1994/

THE ACTION

Match 21 – 27th December 1994 – Attendance 2,438
ROCHDALE 0 WALSALL 2

Walsall made it a maximum six points from their Christmas matches with this victory at Spotland. Rochdale were reduced to ten men on 38 minutes when Darren Oliver was sent off after handling Stuart Ryder's shot and Kevin Wilson rammed home the resultant penalty. The Dale might have equalised after 58 minutes when Mark Stuart shot across the face of goal. Chris Nicholl's side doubled their lead on 74 minutes when Wilson sent a perfect ball through the middle and Kyle Lightbourne hammered a drive low into the net. The Saddlers were always dangerous on the break and Andy Thackeray cleared Chris Marsh's shot off the line in the final minute.

ROCHDALE: Ian Gray, Andy Thackeray, Darren Oliver, Shaun Reid, Peter Valentine, Paul Butler, Dave Thompson, Jason Peake, Jon Bowden (Alex Russell), Steve Whitehall (Richard Sharpe), Mark Stuart.

WALSALL: Trevor Wood, Wayne Evans, Colin Gibson (Darren Rogers), Stuart Ryder, Chris Marsh, Charlie Palmer, John Keister, Charlie Ntamark, Kyle Lightbourne, Kevin Wilson, Scott Houghton (Dean Peer).



Match 22 – 31st December 1994 – Attendance 4,561
WALSALL 1 DONCASTER ROVERS 0

Walsall secured their fifth successive win at home to promotion rivals Doncaster Rovers. The visitors were reduced to ten men in the 38th minute when Gary Brabin was sent off for a second bookable offence after bearing his belly to the crowd following some light-hearted banter. Kyle Lightbourne was unlucky not to score in the first half when his shot hit the post, then another was brilliantly tipped over by Dean Williams. But Walsall looked like being frustrated by Doncaster until they finally broke the deadlock after 77 minutes. Scott Houghton went past a defender before cutting the ball back across the face of goal where Chris Marsh scored with a header. The narrow victory lifted Walsall up to second place in the table.

WALSALL: Trevor Wood, Wayne Evans, Colin Gibson, Stuart Ryder, Chris Marsh, Charlie Palmer, Martin O'Connor, Charlie Ntamark, Kyle Lightbourne, Kevin Wilson, Scott Houghton.

DONCASTER: Dean Williams, Ryan Kirby, Warren Hackett, Gary Brabin, Russ Wilcox, Sam Kitchen, Jamie Lawrence, Jon Schofield, Marvin Bryan (Darren Finlay), Dave Roche, Lee Thew.



PROMOTION



5 promotion campaign at a time when Britpop was at its peak...

THE BIG NEWS

K-FORCE

ONE OF the key components of this promotion-winning campaign was the strike partnership built up between Kyle Lightbourne and the experienced campaigner, Kevin Wilson.

The duo contributed a total of 49 goals between them with Lightbourne weighing in with 27 in all competitions and Wilson bagging 22 goals.

It really was a marriage made in heaven as Lightbourne, a free transfer capture from Scarborough, saw his game develop in leaps and bounds as he started to attract attention from clubs at the highest level.

"Playing alongside Kevin Wilson helped improve my game beyond recognition," said the Bermudan International without hesitation. "We built up such a good understanding and complemented each others' game so well."

"We ended up scoring almost half-a-century of goals between us in that promotion season alone, which was a real highlight for me and something that I still look back on with great fondness.

"I had some very happy days at the club and still enjoy coming along and seeing some old faces when I am in the UK these days."



THE BRITPOP STORY

THE MAJORITY of the Britpop bands that we all know and love were inspired heavily by the mod and garage rock groups of the 1960s.

Most famously, Oasis were cited with ripping off The Beatles, while Blur credited The Kinks with some of their inspiration.

Additionally, the influence of the post-punk groups could be heard in many of the Britpop groups ranging from Suede to Marion.

The Verve and Lush were originally shoe-gaze bands but as the '90s progressed, they adopted a more pop-friendly sound giving us such Britpop classics as 'Bittersweet Symphony' and 'Single Girl'.

The video for The Verve's Bittersweet Symphony is a timeless classic. It was directed by Walter A. Stern and sees Ashcroft lip-synching the song as he struts down a busy North London street, refusing to change his stride or direction, oblivious to what is going on around him.

There is once instance when he is forced to stop for a moving car, but he repeatedly bumps into passers-by and even jumps onto the bonnet of another car that has to stop for him.

At the end of the video, the rest of the group join him and they are seen walking off into the distance. This then leads into the beginning of the video for The Drugs Don't Work.

The video was nominated for a number of awards before a parody was later released for England's 1998 World Cup song, Vindaloo.





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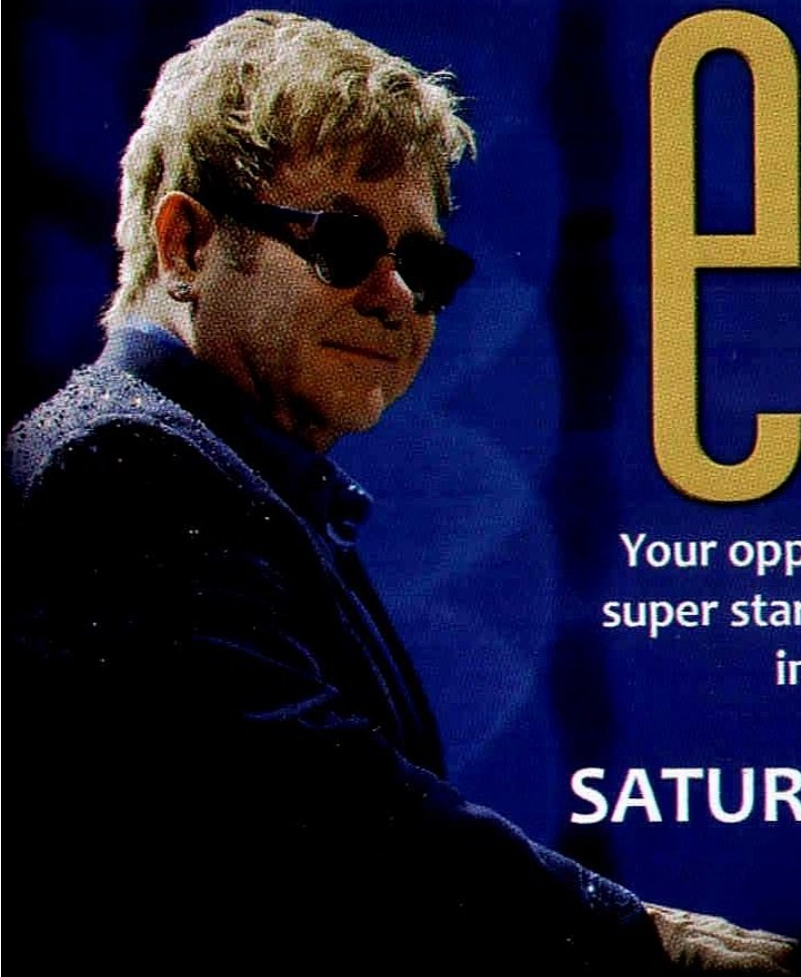
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Walsall Football Club

SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2015

GATES OPEN 5 PM

THIS TIME IS APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE
subject to license

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- Coffee + Petit Fours
- 1/2 Bottle of Wine per person
- Souvenir Event Programme
- Seats in Executive Box and 1888 Club Area
- Bar Service available throughout the evening
- 3 Car Park Passes per Executive Box

£300
per person
based on
8 guests

BONSER SUITE PACKAGE

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- 3 course Summer Bistro Carvery
- Selection of British Cheeses
- Coffee + Petit Fours
- 1/2 Bottle of Wine per person
- Souvenir Event Programme
- Seats in HomeServe Stand or on pitch
- Bar Service available throughout the evening
- 1 Car Park Pass per 4 guests

£225
per person

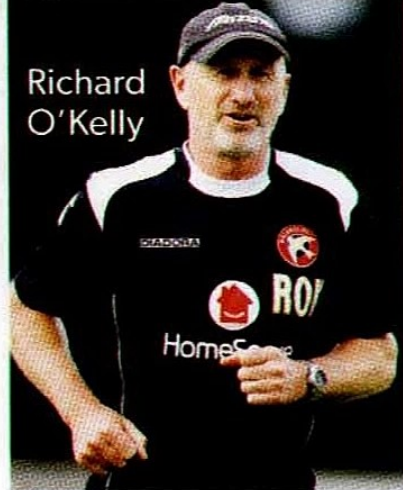


TICKET OFFICE 01922 651 416 EMAIL tickets@walsallfc.co.uk
WEB www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc

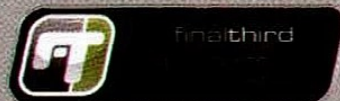
Seats on the pitch are uncovered, once these seats are chosen they cannot be changed irrespective of the weather. Umbrellas are not permitted. Full payment required at the time of booking. Tickets are non transferable and non refundable. For full terms and conditions refer to saddlers.co.uk

Reserves Round-up

THE SADDLERS' second-string slipped to a 1-0 set-back at Wigan Athletic earlier this month. Reserve team manager, Richard O'Kelly, looks back at the action...



Richard O'Kelly



Reserve Fixtures

WEST DIVISION

Tue Sep 9	Tranmere Rovers A	1-2
Wed Sep 24	Port Vale H	1-2
Wed Oct 29	Wrexham A (1.00pm Colliers Park)	2-1
Tue Nov 25	Shrewsbury Town H	3-0
Tue Dec 2	Wigan Athletic A (2.00pm Robin Park)	0-1
Tue Feb 17	Shrewsbury Town A (2.00pm Greenhous Meadow)	
Tue Mar 10	Morecambe H	
Tue Mar 24	Wigan Athletic H	
Wed Apr 1	Port Vale A	
Tue Apr 21	Wrexham H	
Tue Apr 27	Tranmere Rovers H	
Tue Apr 7	Morecambe A	

All home games will kick-off at 2.00pm at The Scholars Ground, home of Chasetown FC, unless otherwise stated. Please note that these fixtures are subject to change.

Final Third Development League

WEST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Port Vale	5	4	0	1	14	5	9	12
2 Wigan Athletic	5	3	1	1	13	11	2	10
3 WALSALL	5	2	0	3	7	6	1	6
4 Wrexham	5	2	0	3	8	8	0	6
5 Tranmere Rovers	4	1	2	1	10	10	0	5
6 Shrewsbury Town	5	1	2	2	7	11	-4	5
7 Morecambe	5	1	1	3	8	16	-8	4

"We had the better of the chances in the first half," said O'Kelly. "We looked well-organised with everyone knowing their roles."

"Mathieu Manset went close whilst Kieron Morris caused our hosts plenty of problems when he got on the ball."

"The team shape was very good in the opening period, but we failed to reach these standards after the break and never really got going."

"Wigan included a lot of experience in their side and they stepped up a gear as we became somewhat disjointed."

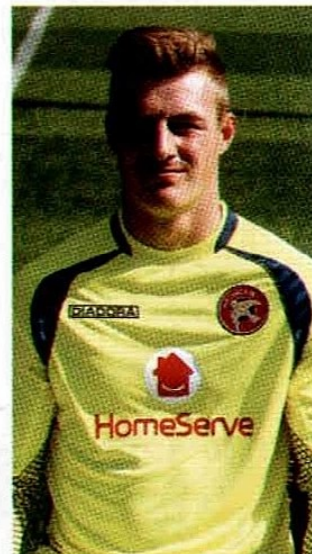
"That said, it was a good lesson for us today and we'll hopefully take things on board from it."

"I felt that Craig MacGillivray did well and made some good saves, particularly in the second half, whilst Rico Henry did well and James O'Connor came through the full 90 minutes showing what a great professional he is."

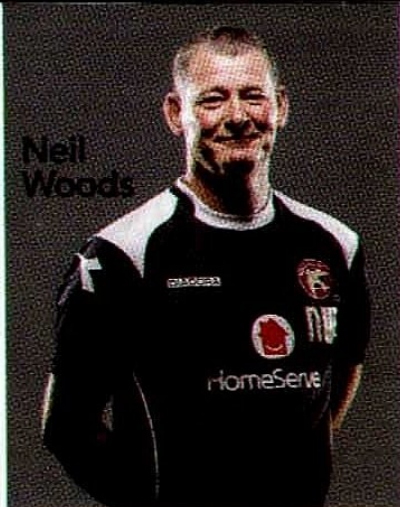
The Saddlers fell to a single goal and had a 'goal' of our own disallowed.

WALSALL: MacGillivray, O'Connor, Henry, K. Rowley (Probert), Preston, Flanagan, Kinsella, Clifford (L. Rowley), Manset, Morris, Benning.

- Highlights from our reserve team games can now be found on the Official Saddlers YouTube Channel.



Craig MacGillivray did well against The Latics...



Youth Matters

THE SADDLERS' youth team completed the first part of our double over Fleetwood Town as we ran out 2-0 winners before the first-team also beat The Cod Army later in the day. Academy Manager, Neil Woods, looks back on the game...

"The performance in the first-half was terrific; we know we've got some good footballers here," said Woods. "I thought that in the first-half we outplayed them and also worked harder than them."

"Our emphasis in the last few weeks of training has been about our reaction when we lose the ball and the tempo of our play.

"With the ball, they are very comfortable; they are Walsall players and everybody knows what Walsall players can do.

"The question mark is: 'what can we do when we haven't got the ball?' and in the first-half we showed that when we put both together, we look a good team.

"I think it's very easy to think you're going to go out and carry on from the first-half, but don't get me wrong, I would rather have been in our dressing room at half-time than Fleetwood's.

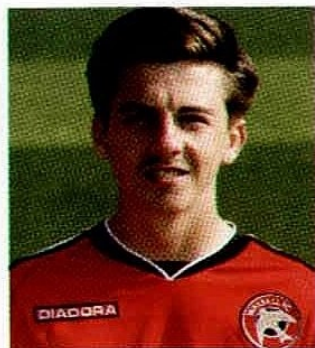
"We got a little bit sloppy at the back end of the second-half but that is to do with tiredness. I can deal with people being tired when they put that sort of work in.

"I think you have to give Fleetwood credit, they got organised and made it harder for us to play.

"But we still created the chances and even when the game was getting into the last 20 minutes and we didn't have as much control, I never really felt we were in trouble."

Goals from Luke Delaney and Levi Rowley ensured that The Saddlers secured three points.

- Highlights of youth team games can now be seen on the Official Saddlers YouTube Channel.



Luke Delaney found the net against Fleetwood Town...



HomeServe

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE FIXTURES 2014/15

NORTH-WEST CONFERENCE

Sat Aug 2	Blackpool	A	12 noon	2-1
Sat Aug 9	Accrington Stanley	H		0-0
Sat Aug 16	Shrewsbury Town	H		1-0
Sat Aug 23	Carlisle United	A	12 noon	6-0
Sat Aug 30	Oldham Athletic (FLYA Cup 1)	H	12 noon	0-3
Sat Sep 6	Wigan Athletic	H		3-1
Sat Sep 13	Morecambe	A	12 noon	1-0
Sat Sep 20	Rochdale	A		2-0
Sat Sep 27	Burnley	H		3-1
Sat Oct 11	Oldham Athletic	A	12 noon	1-3
Sat Oct 18	Tranmere Rovers	H		0-2
Sat Oct 25	Port Vale	A		3-1
Sat Nov 1	Bury	A		0-3
Sat Nov 8	Preston North End	H		1-1
Sat Nov 15	Wrexham	A		3-1
Sat Nov 22	Fleetwood Town	H	12 noon	2-0
Sat Dec 20	Blackpool	H	12 noon	
Sat Jan 3	Oldham Athletic	H	12 noon	
Sat Jan 10	Burnley	A		
Sat Jan 24	Port Vale	H		
Sat Jan 31	Tranmere Rovers	A		
Sat Feb 7	Shrewsbury Town	A		
Sat Feb 14	Carlisle United	H	12 noon	
Sat Feb 21	Wigan Athletic	A	Cup 4	
Sat Feb 28	Morecambe	H	12 noon	
Sat Mar 7	Rochdale	H		
Mon Mar 16	Preston North End	A	1pm	
Sat Mar 21	Bury	H	Cup 5	
Sat Apr 4	Fleetwood Town	A	12 noon	
Sat Apr 11	Wrexham	H		
TBA	Accrington Stanley	A		

All home games are to be played at BCFA Headquarters, Ray Hall Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6JF (kick-off 11.00am) unless otherwise stated. Fixtures are subject to change.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE

NORTH-WEST CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1	Wigan Athletic	16	11	2	3	45	16	29	35
2	Rochdale	15	10	2	3	40	20	20	32
3	Walsall	15	10	2	3	28	14	14	32
4	Bury	15	10	1	4	30	19	11	31
5	Preston North End	15	8	5	2	32	13	19	29
6	Tranmere Rovers	15	8	4	3	28	21	7	28
7	Burnley	14	8	3	3	29	18	11	27
8	Oldham Athletic	13	7	0	6	29	20	9	21
9	Blackpool	15	6	3	6	26	24	2	21
10	Wrexham	15	5	2	8	25	32	-7	17
11	Port Vale	14	5	1	8	19	29	-10	16
12	Carlisle United	14	4	3	7	18	30	-12	15
13	Shrewsbury Town	14	3	4	7	27	32	-5	13
14	Fleetwood Town	14	4	0	10	12	32	-20	12
15	Accrington Stanley	15	1	2	12	16	40	-24	5
16	Morecambe	17	1	0	16	10	54	-44	3

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YOUTH PROFILE

Jamie Smith

BIRTH PLACE & DATE: Birmingham, 25/12/1997

POSITION: Right-back / Centre back

WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU BRING TO THE TEAM? I feel that I am good on the ball and defend well

WHAT TARGETS HAVE YOU SET YOURSELF FOR THE SEASON AHEAD? I just want to play as many games as I can and be as consistent in my performances as possible

WHO HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR AND WHY?
My family have been there for me every step of the way through the ups and the downs

FAVOURITE TELEVISION SHOW(S):
Match of the Day

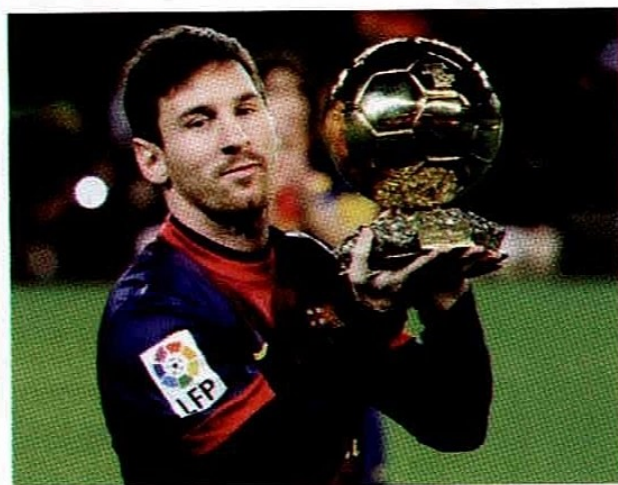
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Pop music and House music

FAVOURITE FOOD: KFC and Spaghetti Bolognaise

FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAM AND WHY: I have been brought up as an Aston Villa fan

FAVOURITE TEAM-MATE AND WHY: We all get along really well and have great banter

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY: Lionel Messi is just an incredibly gifted footballer who was born to play the game. He's the best player in the world right now



ANY HOBBIES AWAY FROM FOOTBALL: Cycling, going out with my friends and also playing FIFA





In The Community



DID SANTA bring you everything that you asked for? I hope so; now let's have one more gift with three points against The Robins of Swindon Town this afternoon... Come on you Saddlers!



HOSPITAL VISIT

THE PLAYERS went along to Walsall Manor Hospital just before Christmas for our annual visit to the Children's Ward.

They were armed with gifts that were donated at our Toy Collection ahead of our last home game.

Thank you to the Walsall Football Supporters Trust for organising the Toy Collection and a big show of appreciation to everyone who made a contribution.

Here is a gallery of images from the Hospital visit...



LOG-ON TO OUR WEBSITE for more details
Follow **Walsall FC Community**



COMMUNITY SELFIE

WELCOME to a new feature in which we turn the spotlight on the Community Team...



NAME: ALEX MOORE

INVOLVEMENT:

SECOND-YEAR APPRENTICE

YEARS AT CLUB: 1

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE

WORDS: BEST LEFTY ABOUT

BEST MOMENT IN THE JOB: GETTING A

SECOND-YEAR APPRENTICE

HOBBIES: SOCCER

GUILTY PLEASURE: TRAINERS

LIFE QUOTE: IF YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW

FAVOURITE FILM: TOY STORY 2

FAVOURITE SONG/ARTIST/ALBUM:

INTERNATIONAL - CHASE AND STATUS

DREAM HOLIDAY: SCOTLAND (SO I

DON'T GET BURNT)

DREAM JOB: FOOTBALL MANGER

DREAM CAR: CORSA

HIDDEN TALENT: MOPPING

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND 24

HOURS WITH? MYSELF

WORLD CUP WINNERS 2018: USA

TODAY'S BALL BOYS

THE BALL Boys and Girls for today's game, sponsored by WTI Fasteners, are provided by Salisbury Rangers Under-15s FC.

The club was founded in 2007 and is based at Salisbury Primary School, Salisbury Street, Darlston, which is where the club gets its name from.

The current team was established in 2010 with the amalgamation of two under-10 teams from Prestwood Rangers and Salisbury Rangers. Ten of the squad now playing are from this original team.

Salisbury Rangers is a one-team club which plays in the Under-15 Premier Division of the Bilston Partnership Youth Football League. Last season was their most successful to date, winning promotion, the Charity Shield Final and reaching the semi-final of the League Cup.

The squad for this season consists of Paul Leighton, Luke Baker, Lewis Collins, Vinny Hull, Paul Johnson, Thomas Weaver, Luke Aherne, Jack Plant, Niall Leddington, Kane Bateman, Callum Price, Adam Timmins, Callum Roberts, Taylor Galt, Jake Garner, Thomas Smart, Joshua Carter and Jake Whitehouse.

The club would like to thank sponsors, Midland Building Products and Fire Glass, for their continued support.

We hope that everyone involved enjoys their afternoon with us and keeps the game flowing freely.



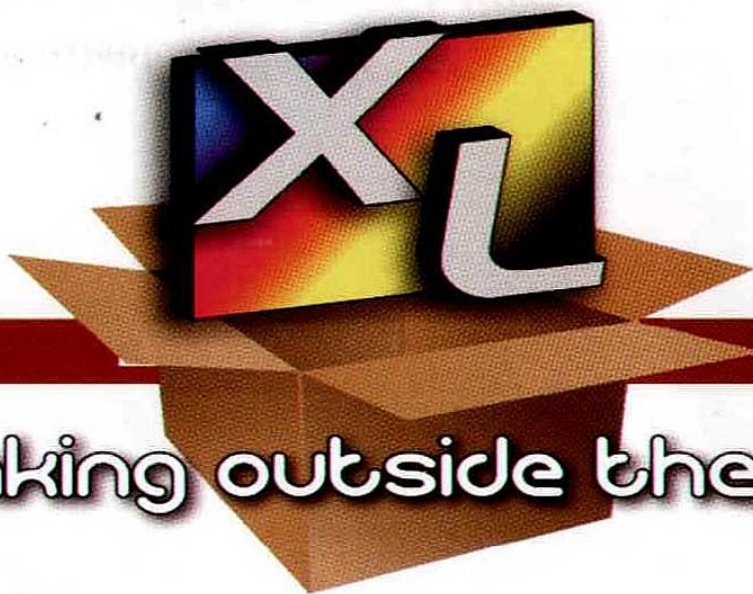
Salisbury Rangers FC
Est. 2007

TEAM OF MASCOTS

WE ARE delighted to have a team of mascots on duty for today's game.

The youngsters are profiled on page 53 of today's Matchday Programme. We hope that everyone involved has a memorable afternoon with us.

all of our activities visit www.walsallfccp.co.uk
ogramme on Twitter: @WFCCP



thinking outside the box

5

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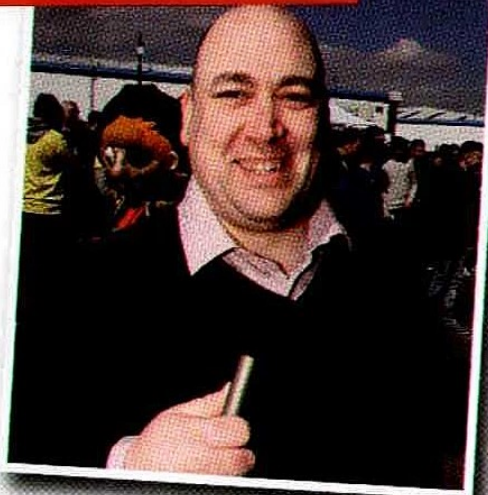
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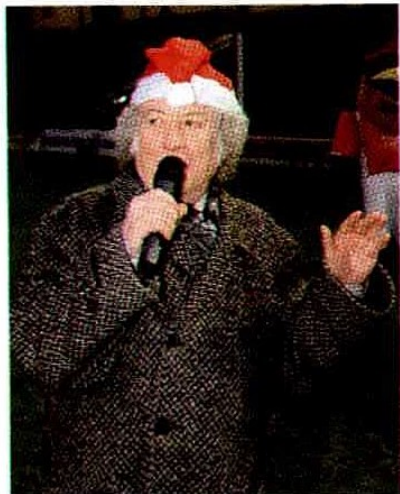
Unit 23, Empire Industrial Park, Empire Close, Aldridge WS9 8UQ.



GAVIN DRAKE'S WIDE WORLD OF SPORT



IT'S CHRISTMAS! as my mate, Noddy Holder, once said. So, for today's match, I thought I'd deliver a bit of a festive offering for you that is almost completely plagiarised from my fellow stadium-announcers around the country.



I've trawled through BBC Sport Online's archive of 'Stadium Announcements of the Week' to find my favourites in this now-defunct Fun and Games column.

A bane of announcers everywhere is car park announcements; lights left on, windows left open, fire exits blocked, or – such as during our game against Barnsley earlier this month – an engine left running!

The Wycombe Wanderers announcer had an unusual car park-related announcement to deal with: "Would the owner of the Vauxhall, registration number xxx, please report to the nearest steward as you have left the hand brake off and it has rolled into the car behind you."

This was swiftly followed by: "Would the owner of the Ford Fiesta, registration number xxx, please also report to the nearest steward as yours is the one that has been hit."

Car park-related announcements are often ignored – especially if the announcement is about a vehicle parked where it shouldn't be. This Gillingham announcement had an unusual

twist on this theme: "This is for the owner of the Land Rover that moved his car from Chicago Avenue earlier because it was blocking a drive; it is now causing an obstruction in Sunnymead Avenue, so MOVE IT. Now. For the second time today. Thanks."

Smoking has been banned in public buildings since 2007; but some people still don't get the message so it is necessary to spell out the obvious. The Bristol Rovers announcer had some fun with this one: "Smoking is banned in the stadium but if you are desperate ask a steward for a nicotine patch."

If you're looking for real humour in non-smoking announcements, you have to go to the old home of Colchester United where the announcer was becoming increasingly dangerous with his threats to wrongdoers: "There is a no-smoking policy at Layer Road. Anyone caught smoking will be taken to a darkened room, where they will be imprisoned for 27 hours and forced to listen to Will Young records for all of that time. Thank you."

In similar announcements around that time, he threatened smokers with being hung from the floodlights, being electrocuted, and being buried up to their necks in the centre circle during half-time where they'd remain for the second half.

Floodlights, of course, are of no help when it comes to fog; and the Radcliffe Borough announcer certainly needed help during one foggy spell: "In the event of the second half being played, if you hear cheers down the other side of the pitch or near the dugouts, could the manager please ring my mobile. The fog is stopping me from doing my job."

The Galway announcer couldn't use the weather as an excuse when he fogged up this announcement: "Please could all the players get into position five minutes before the end of the game... er, sorry, I meant the stewards."

Talking of players' positions, the Crawley announcer was pushing his luck with this cheeky jibe: "It finishes Crawley Town 2, Woking 2. Be sure to tune in to the Blue Square Premier Review on Setanta next week to see

how far offside Woking's first goal was!"

We're all used to David Bathurst's infamous 'now, now' whenever we cheer a particularly bad result for our orange and black neighbours; but some announcers take great delight in pointing out their rivals' scores.

Take this moment of glee from the Chelsea announcer: "And a big round of applause for Hull City. Tottenham nil, Hull City one. Tottenham nil, Hull City one. Tottenham nil, Hull City one. Thank you very much."

Sometimes the announcements don't even excite the announcers. The Yeovil Town announcer wasn't impressed with this set of half-time results: "Man United 1, Blackburn 0; Sunderland 0, Arsenal 0; West Brom 0, Fulham 0; Wigan 0, Middlesbrough 0. That'll make for interesting watching on Match of the Day tonight."

I finish with some from here at the Banks's. A number of my quips made it onto the BBC's Stadium Announcements of the Week list. Amongst them, in a match against Leyton Orient: "I'm a big fan of the Orient; but I prefer Pye Green Cantonese because they do a bostin' Singapore Fried Rice".

I couldn't resist announcing that "Elvis has left the building" as Cheltenham Town replaced Elvis Hammond; or that it was "All change at Crewe" as the Alex made all three subs in one go.

But my favourite is one delivered, I think, two seasons in a row by my colleague, David Bathurst, who, at this time of year, announced that "The next match here at the Banks's Stadium is on New Year's Day, which this year falls on January 1st."

Except, of course, it doesn't! Our 'New Year's Day match' this year is on 3rd January as we welcome Coventry City here to the Banks's!

Have a great Christmas (there's still 11 days left of the festival) and a Happy New Year.

If you'd like to take part in our half time Crossbar Challenge, male or female, young or old, please email me: saddlers@gavindrake.co.uk.

Andy Smith & Neil Morris

Chew the Fat

NM: Well, good afternoon Andy, and a very Merry Christmas to you. I trust that you had a pleasant day yesterday in the bosom of your family, and are ready for a spot of Boxing Day football to blow away the festive cobwebs.

AS: Err, yes, Merry Christmas.

NM: You don't seem very full of the joys of the season to me. The last time I saw you was at the final whistle following the Barnsley game, where you seemed pretty pleased with life to me.

AS: Yes, well, that was the start of my Christmas problems...

NM: I am bound to regret asking this question, but what has happened since then?

AS: Well, our last home performance was superb, and was capped off with that tremendous strike by Jordan Cook, which has to be included in the top ten of goals that I have seen scored in 40-odd years of watching The Saddlers. In fact, I was so happy that I celebrated a little unwisely in the pubs around Hampton when I got home.

NM: Oh dear...

AS: Well, I realised that I had spent quite a lot of my money in the local hostels,

and had promised Margaret to sort out a Christmas tree, crackers and stuff before she got back from her work placement.

NM: And?

AS: Well, the tree was no problem. I saved a lot of cash by slicing off a large chunk of Norwegian spruce from a huge old tree that someone had left in the middle of Trafalgar Square. I didn't think anyone would notice...

NM: That 'old tree' as you call it is a gift to the people of Britain from Norway as a mark of respect and solidarity following World War II.

AS: So the local constabulary, Special Branch and the Norwegian Embassy told me at my court appearance. I thought that it was a cast off from the Homebase on The Strand. Anyway, my fine left me with even less cash to splash out, so I decided to make my own crackers, and put my own jokes in them.

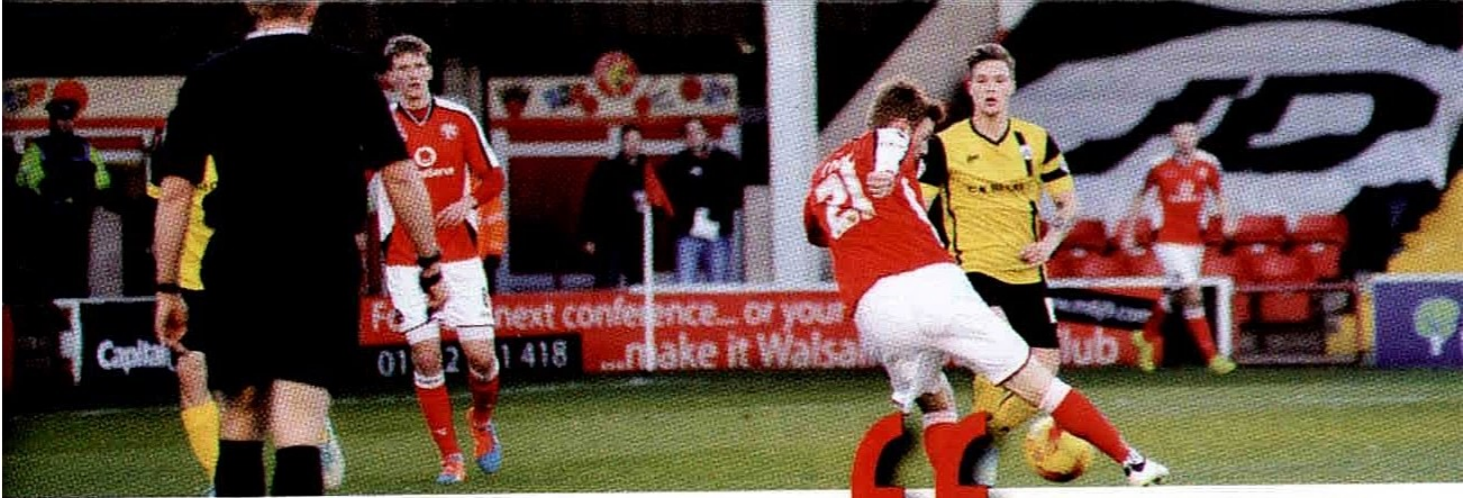
NM: Oh dear, you didn't use some of the ones that we were told by that comedian who supported my 'Disappearing Snakes' act at Bloxwich Town Hall?

AS: Yes...

NM: Not the one about the Cabinet Minister, the Nun and the bicycle repair kit!

AS: Yes, and they didn't go down very well at yesterday's Christmas lunch with Auntie Ada and Uncle Norman! So I thought that I would rescue the situation





This is a great Christmas gift for supporters of both sides. The Robins are doing tremendously well, and are looking good for an automatic promotion place at the moment, and will be very, very difficult to beat. However, we are in a good run of form ourselves, and we are probably the last side anyone wants to meet at the moment...



before our next clash at MK Dons on Sunday.

AS: Very wise. See you there, and a Happy New Year to all!



by everyone enjoying the Christmas Pantomime DVD I had bought from Big Reg in the 'Thrust & Socket' on Christmas Eve. He told me it was cheap because of the typographical error in the Title.

NM: What do you mean?

AS: Well, it was called 'Sinderella', with an 'S' instead of a 'C'...

NM: Ah.

AS: The plot was easy to follow mind you, although I should have guessed something was up when the character of 'Buttons' was replaced by a large gentleman called 'Quick Release Velcro'.

NM: Idiot!

AS: Yes, that was broadly what the relatives from Dudley and Great Barr said as they ordered a taxi home...

NM: Could it get any worse?

AS: Yes.

NM: Okay, let's hear the worst...

AS: Well, I thought a teatime game of charades would help the situation.

NM: Well nothing can go wrong there surely!

AS: It wasn't totally my fault!

NM: Go on.

AS: Well, I had had a couple of sherries and my charade was the musical 'Daisy Pulls It Off'...

NM: Oh dear...

AS: All our guests had gone by 6pm. Even Margaret booked an evening in a hotel. So I am very keen to put Christmas behind me and enjoy a mouth-watering clash against Swindon this afternoon.

NM: This is a great Christmas gift for supporters of both sides. The Robins are doing tremendously well, and are looking good for an automatic promotion place at the moment, and will be very, very difficult to beat. However, we are in a good run of form ourselves, and we are probably the last side anyone wants to meet at the moment. This afternoon could be a very special game. Remember how good the Bristol City game was earlier in the season when we hadn't fully got into our stride.

AS: Things are certainly exciting at the moment. Don't forget that we have a JPT Area Final coming up in the New Year, with a Wembley place at the end of it for the winners.

NM: Enough of such talk! Today, if we are not 100% on our game, we will not be celebrating this evening. And I am looking forward to the evening's entertainment that you have promised me tonight at your local pub.

AS: Ah, yes. Well, the cabaret is called 'Strictly Come Dancing', and having seen some rehearsals, I don't think that Brucie, Tess or Claudia are appearing...

NM: Hmm. I think in that case that I shall take a leaf out of The Saddlers book, enjoy this afternoon's game and then have a couple of quiet days

Marriages Mo

Ian Crichton looks into some of the most successful part

ALAN BUCKLEY & BERNIE WRIGHT

The Buckley-Wright Partnership (duration: 1973-1977 – 156 games, 119 goals)

ALAN Buckley and Bernie Wright were paired together for the first time in the opening game of the 1973-74 season, which ended with defeat at Wrexham, but four days later the Alan Buckley legend was born with the 6-1 demolition of Shrewsbury in the league Cup and Bernie Wright was certainly instrumental in 'Buck' scoring his hat trick.

The two players were the classic combination with the little poacher feeding off the tall, robust centre forward and in their first season together they scored 19 goals between them in 34 games and did even better during 1974-75 by scoring 35 times in 48 matches.

The latter was one of our most successful seasons since the war and Doug Fraser's side reached the fifth round of the FA Cup with Buckley and Wright outstanding in those thrilling victories over Manchester United and Newcastle.

There were no Cup runs during the 1975-76 campaign to excite the fans, but with a forward line that contained not only Buckley and Wright but also George Andrews and Miah Denehy, Walsall missed out on promotion by just six points.

Alan Buckley and Bernie Wright were at times unplayable, netting 46 goals between them in 47 appearances and they continued in the same goalscoring vein during the first half of the 1976-77 season until Wright moved to Bradford City less than a month after we had come close to beating Manchester United in an FA Cup third round tie at Old Trafford.

Alan Buckley (born 1951) Apps: 483. Goals: 202

Alan Buckley was born in Mansfield in 1951 and from the moment he announced his arrival with a hat-trick against Shrewsbury Town in a League Cup tie in 1973, he won a host of admirers.

As a striker he had few equals and it is not surprising that he is one of a handful of players to have won the Player of the Season Award twice, doing so in 1973-74 and 1975-76.

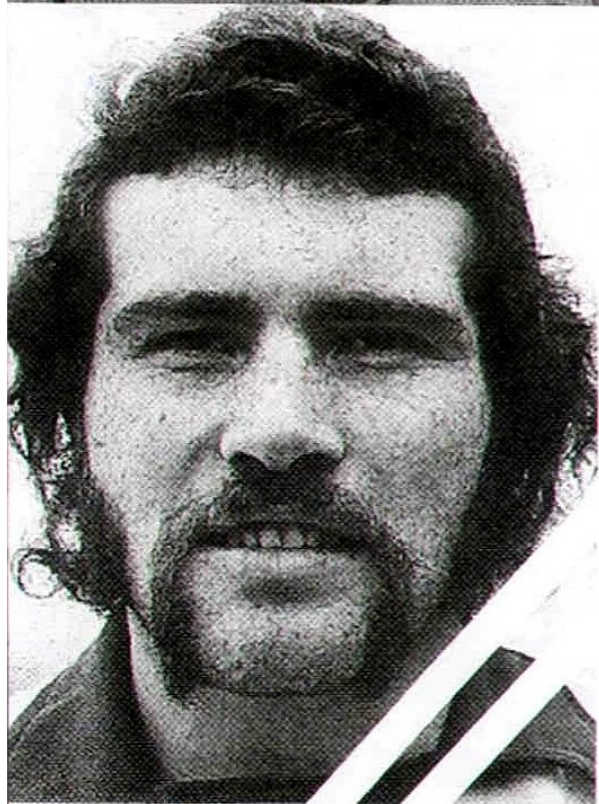
He was pivotal in the FA Cup runs of 1975 and 1978, which saw Doug Fraser's team beat sides of the quality of Manchester United, Newcastle United and Leicester City, and his contribution to The Saddlers during the 1970s was immense.

202 goals in almost 500 first-team appearances, 20-plus League goals in five successive seasons, hat-tricks in all three major competitions and four goals in a 5-1 victory over Rotherham are statistics which require no embellishment.

That this diminutive goalscorer should become such a capable football manager took most people by surprise, however, but in a managerial career which spanned 30 years and over 1,000 matches, he experienced far more highs than lows.

He enjoyed no fewer than four separate spells as manager of Walsall FC between 1978 and 1986 and achieved instant promotion back to Division Three in 1980.

Buckley then worked in tandem with Neil Martin for a time before regaining full control in May 1982 and attracting many plaudits for his commitment to attacking football.



ide in Heaven

erships in the history of Walsall Football Club...

In the course of the next four years The Saddlers won many friends but we were unable to achieve promotion to the second-tier and despite the kudos of an incredible League Cup run to the semi-final in 1983-84, Buckley found himself unceremoniously sacked by Terry Ramsden in June 1986.

He drifted into non-League football but he revived his reputation at Kettering and returned to The Football league with Grimsby Town, leading The Mariners as they rose from Division Four to Division Two with successive promotions between 1988 and 1990.

His love affair with the Grimsby public even exceeded his cult status at Walsall and he managed Grimsby on two further occasions.

Buckley also achieved moderate success with Lincoln City and Rochdale and whilst he was less successful in a three-year spell at The Hawthorns, which ended in 1997, he has the distinction of being one of only 14 managers to reach 1,000 matches in charge of a Football League club.

Unfortunately he is the only one never to be given the opportunity to manage a team in the top-flight.

Bernie Wright (born 1952)

Apps: 196. Goals: 48

Bernie Wright was born in Birmingham in 1952 and played his early football with Paget Rangers before signing for Walsall FC in 1971.

He impressed the home crowd by scoring on his debut against Port Vale in the October, but no-one could have predicted that less than six months later he would be playing for one of the biggest football clubs in England.

Everton took a gamble and paid £50,000 for the burly striker who had made just 15 starts in the League for The Saddlers, purely on the basis of his spirited performance against them in an FA Cup fourth round tie at Goodison Park.

The young man appeared to have the world at his feet and it seemed only a matter of time before he would follow Allan Clarke along the path to stardom, but after being with The Toffees for only 11 months, and having made just 11 appearances, he had his contract terminated for 'serious misconduct'.

The rags to riches story was over but Bernie 'The Bolt' Wright returned to Fellows Park and went on to have four great seasons in his second spell, scoring a further 38 goals in 152 games.

Wright was an uncomplicated striker of the old school, but despite his brash demeanour, and somewhat dishevelled appearance (he usually sported a full beard and wild mane of hair), he was a much

better footballer than many people gave him credit for.

He certainly justified his move to Bradford City in 1976 by helping The Bantams win promotion from Division Four and his final move to Vale Park two years later was equally successful.

Port Vale paid £9,000 for his services in 1978 and he went on to terrorise opposition defences. After scoring on his debut, he rapidly became a firm terrace favourite, endearing himself to the home crowd with a hat-trick against local rivals, Crewe Alexandra.

He finished the season as the club's Player of the Year and top scorer and started the next season where he had left off before falling out with new manager, John McGrath.

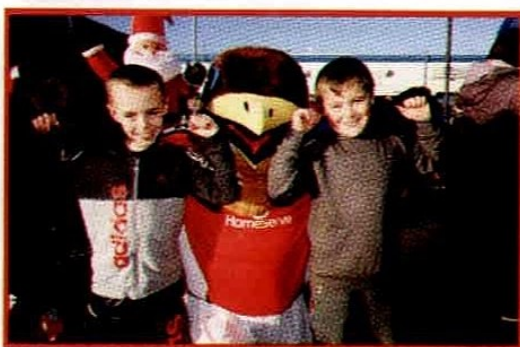
Wright left the club in May 1980 after scoring 23 goals in 76 appearances and subsequently drifted into non-League football, playing for Kidderminster Harriers, Trowbridge Town, Cheltenham Town, Worcester City and Gloucester City.

After retiring from playing he worked as a forklift operator earning his licence at the same company his dad worked for. The one-time legendary hard man in football maintained his interest in the game by qualifying as a referee and once again surprised his critics by officiating successfully in the Central Warwickshire Sunday Leagues.

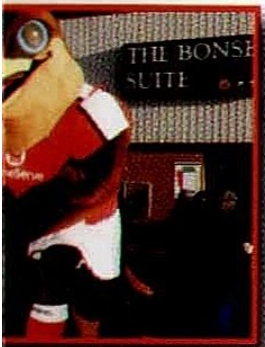
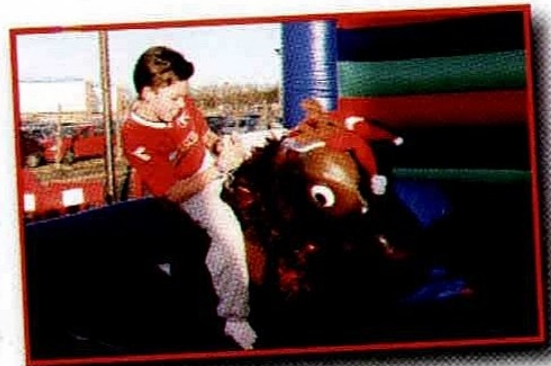




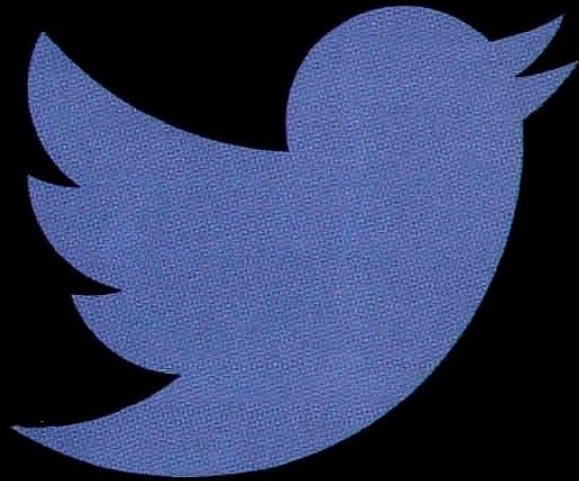
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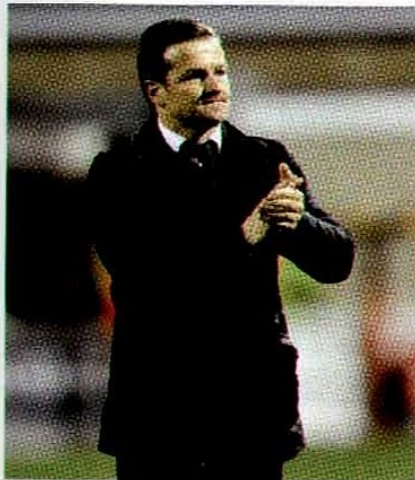
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Robins bobbing along nicely...

WE WELCOME everyone connected to Swindon Town to Banks's Stadium afternoon.



Founded in 1879, the club became professional in 1894 and joined the newly-formed Southern League. The 1910-11 season saw Swindon Town win the Southern League Championship, earning them a Charity Shield match with Football League Champions, Manchester United. That game was played at Stamford Bridge with United winning 8-4.

Swindon entered The Football League in 1920 as a founding member of Division Three and defeated Luton Town 9-1 in their first game of the season, a result that still stands as a club record in League matches.

The club was almost disbanded after World War II and made little impression in the League before gaining promotion into the second division, as runners-up to Northampton Town in 1963.

The club was relegated back into Division Three in 1965 but better times were just around the corner.

The 1968-69 season saw Swindon defeat Arsenal at Wembley Stadium to win the League Cup before securing promotion to the second division.

League Cup success earned the club its first invitations to European competitions, but they were not eligible to participate because they played in the then third division, so, as compensation, they were entered into the 1969 Anglo-Italian League Cup and the 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup, winning both.

Swindon were relegated to the fourth division in 1982 before recovering to gain promotion as Champions in 1986, achieving a Football League record of 102 points in a season. A year later they won the third division play-offs to achieve a second

successive promotion.

The Robins were second division play-off winners in the 1989-90 season, but later admitted 36 charges of breaching League rules and were denied promotion.

They beat Leicester City 4-3 in the 1992-93 Division One Play-Off Final to achieve promotion to the Premier League. They were relegated the following season, after recording only five wins and conceding 100 goals, in their only season in the top-flight to date.

A year later Swindon were relegated for the second consecutive time and slipped into Division Two. They got back into Division One at their first attempt, winning the Division Two Championship in 1995-96.

They were again relegated into Division Two after finishing bottom of Division One in the 1999-2000 season as their yo-yo existence continued.

The club has been beset by financial difficulties throughout its recent history, having been placed into administration twice and twice fighting off winding-up orders over unpaid tax. Swindon became the first-ever former Premier League team to be relegated to the lowest Football League division after being relegated from League One in 2006.

Paul Sturrock guided Swindon back to League One in his first season with the club, earning the third automatic promotion place in a 1-1 draw with The Saddlers in the last game of the 2006-07 season as we celebrated taking the League Two title at the same time.

The 2010-11 season ended with Swindon being relegated to League Two but they bounced back as Champions the following season and have played in League One for the last few years.

This term they have secured some impressive results as they find themselves in amongst the leading pack.

RECENT FORM

Three wins from four League games in September lifted Swindon to third place in the table going into October.

League Two Cheltenham Town thrashed a ten-man Swindon in the FA Cup first round last month but they quickly put that upset behind them with victory over table-toppers Bristol City a week later.

They followed that up with a victory at Peterborough to move within one point of League leaders, Bristol City.

The Robins ended November with a late winner against Fleetwood Town to record their fourth straight League win and a fifth consecutive League One victory was to

follow a couple of weeks ago with a 3-0 win over ten-man Notts County.

Andy Williams gave the visitors an early lead with a low driven shot following good work by Massimo Luongo. Williams doubled Swindon's advantage after half-time from close range, converting a magnificent cross from Ben Gladwin for his 11th League goal of the season. Notts County midfielder, Liam Noble, was then sent off for an elbow on Nathan Thompson before Luongo completed their sixth away league victory of the season with a neat finish from six yards out.

AT THE HELM

Mark Cooper followed his father Terry into football, starting his career with Bristol City in 1987.

During a 22-year playing career he was at 17 clubs, including three on loan and two spells at Exeter City. He played 457 League games, during which time he scored 115 goals, with his five-year spell at non-League, Tamworth, being his longest at any club.

Cooper joined Tamworth as a player in May 2002 and at the start of the 2003-04 season he was appointed player/assistant manager, moving up to manager for the 2004-05 season.

During his time as Tamworth manager, Cooper managed to get them into the third round of the FA Cup in two consecutive seasons. Tamworth's League form did not, however, match their cup exploits. Cooper left Tamworth by mutual consent in January 2007 with the club bottom of the Conference table.

The following season he guided Kettering Town to the Conference North title with a margin of 17 points, the in the 2008-09 season Kettering reached the FA Cup fourth round and finished eighth in the Conference.

In November 2009 Cooper became Darren Ferguson's successor as manager of then Championship side, Peterborough United, but was sacked in February 2010 after only one win in 13 games.

Cooper was named Darlington manager in June 2010, finishing the season seventh in the League and beating Mansfield Town 1-0 at Wembley to win the 2011 FA Trophy Final. He was sacked in October 2011 and was appointed manager at AFC Telford United in January 2013.

After just five games in charge he was appointed assistant to new Swindon Town manager and former Saddlers' midfielder, Kevin Macdonald, taking over as manager when Macdonald resigned in the summer of 2013.

WILL KILPATRICK

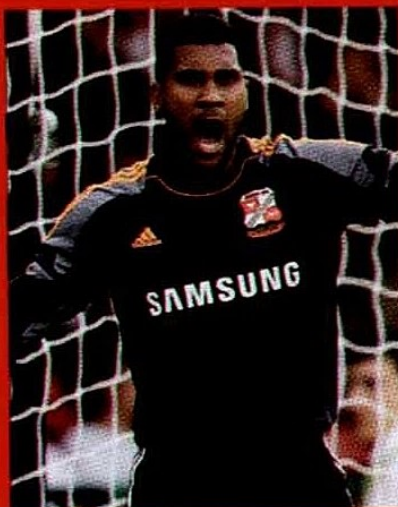


KEY FIVE

Lee Clarke looks at the ones to watch amongst the **Swindon Town** squad...

THE IMPOSING 'KEEPER

Wes Foderingham
Goalkeeper



Commanding stopper
Foderingham came through the youth academy with Fulham before securing a move to Crystal Palace.

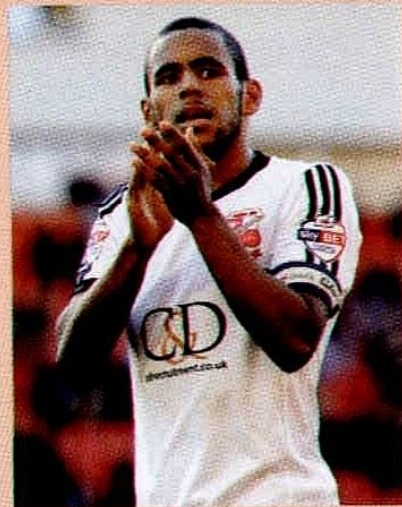
He initially joined the Robins on loan in 2012 and made an emphatic start to his temporary spell where he didn't concede a goal in five games.

In January of 2012 and after a series of sparkling performance the club signed him permanently. He went on to help the club secure the League Two title and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in his first season at the County Ground producing several top class performances along the way.

He was then ever-present at the Robins secured a place in the League One play-offs during the 2012/13 season and he was subsequently rewarded with a new contract with the club.

THE BURLY CENTRE HALF

Nathan Thompson
Defender



Right-back Thompson is now a first-team regular having come through the youth academy at the County Ground.

He made his debut during the 2012/13 season, and the tough-tackling defender was a regular in the starting XI as the club made the League One play-offs.

Since that point he has been a permanent fixture in the Robins back four and he has won the Player of the Year award on no fewer than two occasions.

The 23 year-old ended last season with the captain's armband and will skipper the club again during the 2014/15 season.

He is the older brother of Louis who is now back at the club on a loan spell having been transferred to Norwich on transfer deadline day.

THE FLAMBOYANT AUSSIE

Massimo Luongo
Midfielder



Australian midfielder Luongo initially joined the Robins on a season-long loan last summer before making the move permanent.

He spent time on loan at the club during the 2012/13 season and his performances earned him rave reviews and established him as a firm fan favourite.

One of the stylish midfielder many fans is Australian International coach, Ange Postecoglou who decided to include Luongo in his 2014 World Cup Squad in Brazil.

In doing so he became the third Swindon Town player in history to represent his country on the biggest stage.

The 21 year-old, who is predicted to have a bright future in the game, also had a loan spell with Ipswich Town earlier on in his career where he played nine times for the Portman Road outfit.

THE TARGET MAN

Michael Smith
Striker



Smith signed for the Robins from Charlton Athletic in January 2014 and made an instant impact by scoring twice on his debut against Shrewsbury Town.

The powerful front man started his career at the renowned Wallsend Boys Club before signing professional terms at nearby Darlington.

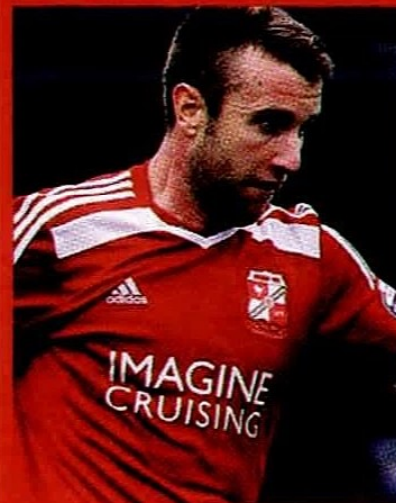
At the Quakers he scored six goals in 37 appearances before moving to the Valley in 2011, failing to make a first team appearance.

He was subject to several loan spells whilst on the Addicks' books, most notably at AFC Wimbledon where he netted nine times in 23 appearances.

Smith has been in scintillating form this campaign and has netted 11 goals as the club lie second in the league.

THE EXPERIENCED GOAL-GETTER

Andy Williams
Striker



The former Bristol Rovers and Hereford United striker is currently productively rebuilding his career with the Robins after a series of injuries.

He signed on at the County Ground in 2012 after an impressive season in front of goal for Yeovil Town during the 2011/12 season.

In his first season with the Robins he netted 11 times before the first injury struck and he is now in the process of rebuilding a glowing reputation at League One level.

He went on loan to Yeovil at the back end of last season to regain some match fitness and made nine appearances for the club.

Williams has looked sharp in front of goal this season and is level with Michael Smith at the top of the goal-scoring charts with 11 goals.

Fab Four

1962-63 PROMOTION WINNERS

MIKE TURNER: Ex-England Youth goalkeeper who played 75 League games prior to joining Torquay United in July 1964, then hometown Bridport. He spent over 20 years with Plessey, settling in Poole.

MAURICE OWEN: Long-serving favourite, previously top scorer, who netted 150 goals in 555 League games before joining the coaching staff. He later settled back in Abingdon and died in July 2000.

JOHN TROLLOPE: Record appearance holder who became Swindon's coach, then manager from November 1980 until March 1983. Awarded the MBE, he had a spell as the Robins' youth team boss.

KEITH MORGAN: Right-half who netted six goals in 325 League games while at the County Ground, moving to hometown Trowbridge in July 1967. He has since been a builder and decorator in Swindon.

KEN McPHERSON: Versatile centre-half who scored three times in 107 League games for the Robins. He later ran a grocery business, then was a porter at Walgrave Hospital and now lives in Nottingham.

BOBBY WOODRUFF: Moved to Wolves in March 1964, then Crystal Palace, Cardiff City, Newport County and Gloucester City. He was a sales rep for a sports firm before working with young offenders.

MIKE SUMMERBEE: Young winger who joined Manchester City in August 1965, then Burnley, Blackpool and was Stockport's player-boss. The England international became a successful businessman.

ERNIE HUNT: Leading scorer who moved to Wolves in September 1965, then played for Everton, Coventry City and Bristol City. He became a publican in Ledbury, then a window cleaner in Gloucester.

JACK SMITH: Centre-forward who moved to Brighton in January 1964, then Notts County and Margate. He managed Ramsgate and Bath City, then was Portsmouth's youth coach and died in May 2008.

CLIFF JACKSON: Ex-England Schoolboy who joined Plymouth in June 1963, then Bert Head's Crystal Palace, Torquay and Cambridge City. He worked in community sports projects and lives in Devizes.

ARNOLD D'ARCY: Winger who moved to Cheltenham in July 1964, then Gravesend & Northfleet. He was a painter and decorator with Peter Chamberlain in Swindon for 36 years, settling in Southmoor.



1969 LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

PETER DOWNSBOROUGH: Ever-present goalkeeper who made 274 League appearances before joining Bradford City in November 1973. Later working at a power station, he has settled in Elland.

ROD THOMAS: Welsh international right-back who followed Dave Mackay to Derby County in November 1973. Later with Cardiff, Gloucester and Newport County, he became a publican in Stroud.

JOHN TROLLOPE: Record appearance holder who became Swindon's coach, then manager from November 1980 until March 1983. Awarded the MBE, he had a spell as the Robins' youth team boss.

JOE BUTLER: Versatile midfielder who netted 18 goals in 362 League games prior to joining Aldershot in August 1976, then played for Witney Town. He has since run his own taxi firm in Swindon.

FRANK BURROWS: Central defender who became Swindon's assistant-boss. He has held various coaching and management posts, including spells in charge of Cardiff City, Portsmouth and Swansea.

STAN HARLAND: Ever-present captain who joined Birmingham in December 1971. He managed Yeovil and Gravesend & Northfleet, then ran a delicatessen in Yeovil until his death in September 2001.

DON HEATH: Winger who moved to Oldham Athletic in July 1970, then Peterborough United, Hartlepool, Crook Town and Gateshead. Settling back in his native Stockton, he became a buyer for ICI.

ROGER SMART: Striker who netted 43 goals in 349 League games before joining Charlton Athletic in May 1973, then Bath City, Melksham and Trowbridge. He was licensee of The Plough in Swindon.

JOHN SMITH: Ex-England U-23 international who joined Walsall in June 1971. Briefly their manager, then Dundalk's player-boss, he managed a social club in Harlesden until his death in February 1988.

PETER NOBLE: Ever-present striker who netted 62 goals in 216 League games before joining Burnley in June 1973, then had a spell with Blackpool. He has since run his own sportswear business in Burnley.

DON ROGERS: England U-23 winger who reunited with Bert Head at Crystal Palace in November 1972. Later with QPR, Swindon again and Yeovil Town, he has since run his own sports shop in Swindon.



Football historian, Leigh Edwards, traces what happened to four of Swindon Town's greatest post-war teams...



1985-86 FOURTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS

KENNY ALLEN: Experienced goalkeeper who made 45 League appearances before rejoining Torquay United in December 1986. Settling in Newton Abbot, he was a postman, then a driver for a hospital.

CHRIS RAMSEY: Right-back who joined Southend United in August 1987. He later coached football in Malta and the United States, since becoming Leyton Orient's YDO and managing Newham Ladies.

DAVE HOCKADAY: Left-back who moved to Hull City in September 1990, then Shrewsbury. He coached at clubs including Watford and MK Dons before managing Forest Green Rovers and Leeds United.

LEIGH BARNARD: Midfielder who joined Cardiff City in October 1989. He rejoined Swindon as community officer, then coached in the United States and now teaches at Abbotsfield School in Hillingdon.

DAVE COLE: Central defender who netted three goals in 69 League games, moving to Torquay in November 1986, then Rochdale and Exeter. He then worked at a jeweller in Cheltenham, settling in Wales.

COLIN CALDERWOOD: Scotland international who later played for Spurs, Villa and Forest, then managed Northampton, Forest and Hibernian. He has since assisted Chris Hughton at various clubs.

DAVE BAMBER: Striker who netted 31 goals in 106 League games before joining Watford in June 1988, then Stoke City, Hull City and Blackpool again, where he now runs his own damp proofing company.

CHARLIE HENRY: Midfielder who moved to Aldershot in August 1989, then Cheltenham and Fairford Town. He worked locally for Rover and now for his brother-in-law, making stainless steel urinals.

COLIN GORDON: Striker who moved to Wimbledon in June 1986, then Reading, Fulham, Birmingham and Leicester. He later managed Stourbridge and now has several sports-related business interests.

BRYAN WADE: Striker who netted 18 goals in 60 League games before joining Swansea City in August 1988, then played for Brighton, Frome and Trowbridge again. He is now a builder in his native Bath.

CHRIS KAMARA: Much-travelled midfielder who later played for Stoke City, Leeds United, Luton Town and Sheffield United, then managed Bradford City and Stoke. He is now a summariser for Sky TV.



1992-93 PLAY-OFF WINNERS

FRASER DIGBY: England U-21 goalkeeper who joined Crystal Palace in August 1998, then Barry, QPR and Kidderminster. Later Swindon's commercial manager, he now works for Sports Solutions GB.

NICKY SUMMERBEE: England U-21 international who later played for Manchester City, Sunderland, Bolton, Leicester City, Bradford City, Swindon again and Tranmere. He is now involved in property.

PAUL BODIN: Welsh international left-back who netted 37 goals in 239 League games in two spells, moving to Reading in June 1996. Later Bath City's player-boss, he is now coaching back at Swindon.

GLENN HODDLE: Ex-England international midfielder who was player-boss until June 1993, then managed Chelsea, England, Southampton, Spurs and Wolves. He has recently been coaching at QPR.

COLIN CALDERWOOD: Scotland international who later played for Spurs, Villa and Forest, then managed Northampton, Forest and Hibernian. He has since assisted Chris Hughton at various clubs.

SHAUN TAYLOR: Ever-present central defender who moved to Bristol City in September 1996. Later Forest Green Rovers' assistant-boss, he has held coaching posts at Exeter City and Torquay United.

JOHN MONCUR: Hard-tackling midfielder who joined West Ham in June 1994. Since hanging up his boots in May 2003, he has become a born-again Christian and was briefly chairman of Grays Athletic.

ROSS MacLAREN: Scottish favourite who became reserve team boss. Later Aston Villa's chief scout and Notts County's assistant-manager, he now owns the Blue Bell Inn in Kirk Langley, Derbys.

DAVE MITCHELL: Australia international striker who moved to Millwall in October 1993. He has since coached Sydney Olympic, Sydney United, Parramatta Power and now manages Perth Glory.

MARTIN LING: Midfielder who netted ten goals in 152 League games before joining Leyton Orient in July 1996, becoming their manager. He has since managed Cambridge United and Torquay United. Scouting for The Saddlers, he also coaches youngsters in London.

CRAIG MASKELL: Striker who joined Southampton in February 1994, then Brighton, Happy Valley, Leyton Orient. He has since assisted Steve Corderly at Hampton & Richmond, Aylesbury and Staines.





BIG BLACK COUNTRY BUSINESS KICK OFF

Walsall FC Business Conference of the Year

Hosted by TV's Nick Hancock, this is the Big Kick Off to 2015
and the perfect way to inspire you to success

Thursday 15 January 2015 8.45am-3.30pm
Tickets just £25



A power-packed day delivered by
nine of the UK's top business and
motivational speakers
guaranteed to provide ideas, tips
& tools to make an impact on
your business and personal
performance in 2015.



TO BOOK CALL 01922 651 403
OR EMAIL liz.allsopp@walsallfc.co.uk

Commercial

WELCOME to today's game as we entertain Swindon Town for this Boxing Day encounter.

We've got plenty of ways in which to make your matchday extra special – take a look at some of these Hospitality Packages...

MATCHDAY HOSPITALITY – BE PART OF THE PASSION

WALSALL Football Club really comes to life on a matchday!

It's not only on the pitch where the magic happens, behind-the-scenes we have a variety of packages to make that matchday experience even more special...

EXECUTIVE MATCHDAY PACKAGE

Do matchday in fine style...

Prices start from £47.50 per person

- Car parking
- Three-course matchday restaurant meal
- Matchday Programme and Team Sheet
- Centre stand match tickets
- Half-time refreshments
- Lounge pass into The Bonser Suite

MATCHDAY CARVERY MEAL

Got your ticket? Why not treat yourself to a meal...

Price is £14.99 per person

- Two-course carvery meal in the restaurant (starter and main course).
- Access to bar and lounge facilities prior to kick-off.

To take advantage of this, you must have already purchased a match ticket in the HomeServe Stand.

1888 CLUB

A brand new, unique lounge for business contact and luxury matchday experience brought together by a passion for football...

The price is £1,000 per season

- Served by a friendly and dedicated host
- Exclusive use of the lounge and bar facilities
- Complimentary newspapers, matchday programme and wifi access
- BT Sports and Sky Sports
- Order from the 1888 Club Menu
- Team Sheets hot off the press
- A premium, padded seat within a dedicated section of the Main Stand
- Hot soup and bread rolls at half-time
- Exclusive 1888 Club competitions and guest appearances from former players
- Man of the Match vote and presentation
- Car parking



For those keen to try out the 1888 Club, we have a Six of the Best package that will include six home games of your choice at £330.

MATCHDAY EXECUTIVE BOX HIRE

Want to impress your clients or just watch the game in style? This is the package for you...

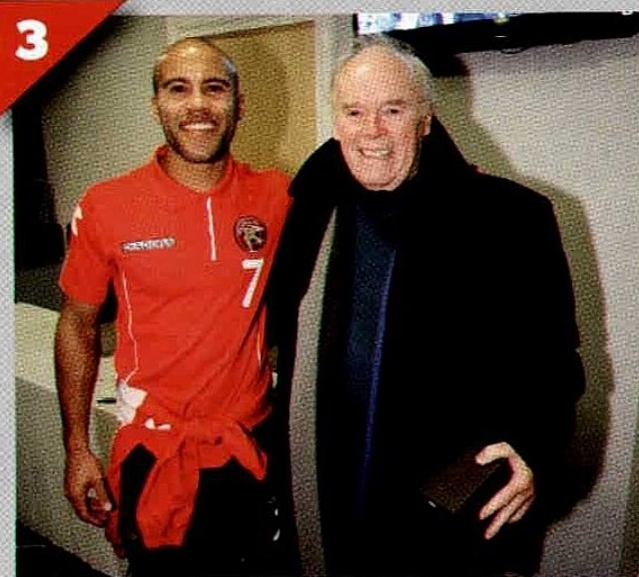
Price per season is £8,000 + VAT

Price per game starts from £500 + VAT

- 10 Executive Box tickets
- Car parking
- Matchday Programme and Team Sheet for all guests
- BT Sport & Sky Sports TV
- Bar and waitress service
- Half-time refreshments
- Panoramic views of the pitch
- Snack menu available



**CONTACT THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT ON 01922 651 403
COMMERCIAL@WALSALLFC.CO.UK**

1**4****2****5****3****6**

Commercial Presentations

- 1** For our Johnstone's Paint Trophy clash with Sheffield United, Stuart Dunn was on Matchball Sponsorship and here we see him alongside Adam Chambers after the game.
- 2** We were delighted to have Midland Food Group on Saddlers Player Sponsorship duty and their guests met with Man of the Match Adam Chambers after the game.
- 3** The skipper also claimed the Man of the Match honours in the 1888 Club.
- 4** The Crossbar Challenge contestants line up before doing battle.
- 5** The Johnstone's Paint Trophy was here in all its sparkling glory!
- 6** The live Sky Sports cameras were also in attendance.



THE 1888 CLUB IS HERE!

Be part of it...

THE 1888 Club is open for business again this afternoon!

The feedback from the opening couple of months of the season has been both positive and productive and we are constantly looking at ways in which to improve the experience.

Members of the 1888 Club will be guaranteed a premium, padded seat for all home League and Cup fixtures within a dedicated section of the Main Stand.

The 1888 Club will be served by a friendly host who will be on hand to offer personal attention and first-class hospitality.

Your Personal Account Manager from our Commercial Team will ensure that you benefit from networking and introductions to fellow members.

1888 Club members will enjoy exclusive use of the lounge and bar facilities from 1.00pm on a Saturday matchday, where they can relax with complimentary newspapers, the Matchday Programme, free tea and coffee and wi-fi access.

There will also be special visits and Q&A sessions with past and present Saddlers' players throughout the season.

The live action from the day's Sky Sports or BT Sports game will also be beamed on the LED television screens and you will be able to order from the Matchday Snack Menu, making this THE place to be in the build-up to the big kick-off.

There will also be the option to upgrade to our 1888 Club Diner Membership Package and enjoy a sumptuous two-course Matchday Carvery Meal in The Bonser Suite.

During the half-time interval, refreshments will be available and then, once the full-time whistle has sounded, you will be able to discuss the action over a post-match drink.

We will also be inviting 1888 Club members to other events at Banks's Stadium, such as Cabaret Nights and Sporting Dinners, and there will be favourable rates on hiring the room out on non-matchdays.

The dress code for the 1888 Club is smart, casual and it will be open to adults only as we strive to create an unrivalled and exclusive atmosphere.

For further details, or to request a brochure, please contact the Walsall FC Commercial Department on 01922-651 403 or email commercial@walsallfc.co.uk



OVER THE MOON

I'D FIRSTLY like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas ahead of today's game!

Boxing Day fixtures always have a magical feel about them but I know this one will be fiercely contested against a high-flying Swindon Town side.

This time of year is often a good opportunity for a poignant period of reflection. Nearly 100 years ago to the day, football played its part in an event that truly changed the International landscape.



The Christmas Day truce marked a widespread ceasefire across the Western front between German and British troops.

Young men who had been fighting for months on end dared to venture into no man's land to exchange food and souvenirs. There were joint burial ceremonies and prisoner swaps, while several meetings ended in carol-singing.

But the most iconic image of the truce is one of which is still being debated today.

The football game. Two warring factions swapped their bayonets for balls to engage in a common fondness for the beautiful game.

Dozens of men openly congregating in daylight to have a kick about is regarded today as the most symbolic moment of peace and humanity amidst one of the most violent events of human history.

As you might imagine, the sporadic fixtures were a far cry from what we will witness today. In one instance members of the Lancashire Fusiliers had a game where the ball was a tin of bully beef! And I'm not sure playing surface would have been perfect either!

It's an incredible story, some say too incredible to be true but a century on and football still unites people across the world.

It provides a common ground for strangers. An ice-breaker for conversation.

People of all ethnicities, ages, backgrounds and classes come together to do battle in the right way, through a good old game of football.

In an extended time of austerity, people continue to struggle. To pay bills, to put food on the table, to provide and to survive.

And through all this, football remains their release valve. A temporary escape from the harsh realities of daily life.

Each and every player you see out there today and for the rest of the season, started out as a boy with a love of playing the game.

I implore the young supporters amongst you to continue to play. Not because you want to be a footballer, but because you love football.

You will make more friends than you could imagine. You'll learn the elation of winning and the disappointment of losing - both valuable in equal measure. Keep playing and who knows where it might take you.

Have a fantastic final few days of 2014 and a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year!

DALE MOON



Conference & Events

with Vicki Chambers

LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT 2015 HOLDS IN STORE

It's been a successful year for the Conference & Events department and we're looking forward to an even better 2015!

We have also secured a range of new acts for the New Year, including; Jacki Graham, Roy Orbison and Friends, solo artist, Jason Jones, a local band featuring Walsall supporter, Steve Edis and Phil Fryer as Frank Sinatra celebrating 100 years of Frank!

There are plenty more great acts on the horizon too, so look out for that.



MEET THE TEAM

Name: Sharna Patel

Position: Conference & Events Co-Orinator

Age: 39

Time at the club: Eight months

Job Role: Collating final information for all events that take place in the various functions suits at the stadium as well as taking inbound sales calls and conducting viewings around the function rooms for potential customers.

Favourite part of the Job: I enjoy dealing with an array of different people from different backgrounds and helping them plan their events. I joined the team back in April after working for Midcounties Co-Op for 19 years. I have settled into the department very well and am looking forward to a very busy 2015!

PRIVATE PARTIES

Are you planning a Party? We offer free room hire* for private parties whether it's a birthday celebration, anniversary or a general family get-together, we have several rooms for you to choose from.

As we are a leading events venue, please do not delay when enquiring as we are now taking bookings for as far as 2017!

Call 01922-651 418 and speak to myself or Sharna for more information.

**terms and conditions apply.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS!

CALL THE CONFERENCE & EVENTS TEAM ON 01922-651 418 OR EMAIL events@walsallfc.co.uk



Party with

JASON JONES

*Kicking off 2015 in style
with Late Disco*

*Friday 30th
January 2015*

Tickets £5 Snack Menu Available

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

Ultimate Soul & Motown

JAKI GRAHAM

Saturday 14th February

£32.50 to include a 3 course meal

'Ain't Nobody'
'Bund Of Gold'
'Could it Be I'm Falling in Love'

To book these fantastic events:
Website M6J9.com Call 01922 651 416
Visit Banks's Stadium



The Supporters Club

with Royston Randle

WELCOME TO THE GAME

BOXING Day games always have a special atmosphere and today will be no different as we welcome a Swindon Town side who are flying high in the League One table. There's sure to be a large crowd and we welcome our visitors...

Forthcoming Attractions

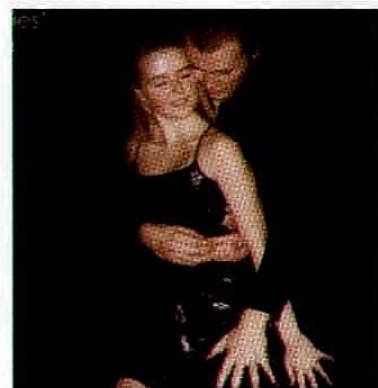
Saturday, December 27th

80s covers band THE RETROMANTICS, supported by Saddlers Disco. Advance tickets are £4 (members), £6 (visitors) and £3 (kids). These ticket prices will then rise by £2 on the evening.

Wednesday, December 31st

Party the night away into the New Year with THE BUSBY BABES, supported by Saddlers Disco. Tickets are on sale now at £14 (members), £17 (visitors) and £12 (kids).

Sunday Night Out



We have plenty of Sunday evening entertainment coming up in The Saddlers Club. Admission is free for members and just £1 for guests.

December 28th – BEVERLEY

January 4th – BRIN

January 11th – AMY LOU

January 18th – SHERIDAN LEIGH

January 25th – ROBERT KEEL

OTHER NEWS

ELSIE SIDDONS

WE LOST a dear friend just before Christmas with the passing of Elsie Siddons at the age of 94.

A loyal Saddlers' supporter and regular on our coaches to away games, she will be much missed by us all.

Walsall FC has lost a very special supporter. May she rest in peace.

WRESTLING AT THE SADDLERS CLUB

WE'VE got wrestling action coming up in The Saddlers Club on Sunday, December 28th, including a Steel Cage Match between Kris Navarro and Mad Dog Maxx.

Tickets are £5 (general seating) or £17.50 for a family of four. The doors open from 7.00pm, with the action getting underway at 7.30pm.

CHARITY FUND-RAISER FOR TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

COMING up in The Saddlers Club on Saturday, January 10th 2015 we have a Teenage Cancer Trust Fund-Raiser featuring a Bruno Mars tribute (Brian Mazz) and six-piece band, THE MB.

Tickets are £5 (members and kids under-16) or £7.50 (general sale). The doors will open from 7.00pm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THIS is our final home game of 2014, so we would like to take this opportunity to wish all Saddlers' supporters and their families a very Happy New Year...

Supporters Club Coaches to Away Matches

Sunday, December 28th

MK DONS – The fare is £14.25 each, departing Banks's Stadium at 11.55am.

Wednesday, January 7th

PRESTON NORTH END (Johnstone's Paint Trophy Northern Area Final First Leg) – The fare is £17 each, departing Banks's Stadium at a provision time of 3.00pm.

Saturday, January 17th

COLCHESTER UNITED – The fare is £19.75 each, departing Banks's Stadium at 10.10am.

Book today at the Supporters Club Travel Office, which is situated at the rear corner of The Saddlers Club, between 1.00pm and 2.45pm and also after the match.

You can also book in The Saddlers Club Reception Foyer on Tuesday (except match nights) and Thursday evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm – PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SADDLERS CLUB TO BOOK OUT OF THESE HOURS AS THE STEWARD DOES NOT TAKE TRAVEL BOOKINGS.

Cash is required with bookings and NO telephone bookings can be taken. The coach will also pick up at Bloxwich, Rosum, North Walsall and Delves.





**SUPPORTING
FANS WITH
OUR MOST
POPULAR
CARD.**

Our Capital One Classic credit card
already has over 4.4 million fans.
Find out more at capitalone.co.uk

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**PROUD SPONSORS OF
THE CAPITAL ONE CUP.**



Supporters Trust

FESTIVE GREETINGS FROM THE GAMBIA

BOXING Day is always a wonderful day for football as families come together to watch the match and there is always a larger-than-normal attendance.

Today is tinged with sadness as I was due to be boarding a flight to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to visit our lads over there and deliver some new kit to them.

We know that they are very disappointed not to be welcoming us today, but fully understand the situation regarding the Ebola virus and the difficulties that it presents. My special thoughts are with the Walsall Sierra Leone lads today.

CONGRATULATIONS LADS!

WE DO not tend to comment on the matches through this column, but feel that we should congratulate the team on making it through to the Area Final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

It was a dramatic game at Tranmere recently, but our boys showed the character and desire needed to make it through.

Dare to dream?

TOY COLLECTION A SUCCESS



ONCE again our Annual Toy Collection brought the best out of Saddlers' supporters ahead of the last home game.

We collected a wide range of new toys that were then taken to the Children's Ward of the Walsall Manor Hospital by the players last week.

Other deserving causes such as Kidz Klub Walsall and the Black Country Food Bank also benefitted from your generosity.

We would like to thank Dave Roe, a former Trust Treasurer, for offering to take a bucket round The Saddlers Club, where both Saddlers and Barnsley fans kindly donated. With the bucket on the table, we now have £216.97.

Later this week we will be speaking to our good friend, Angela Kelly from the Children's

Ward to see if there is anything we can buy that will help the kids during their stay in hospital. Last year we purchased two portable DVD players and a CD/radio for the ward.

It is now four years since we started doing the Christmas Collection and the response every year has been brilliant, we even got Evo into an elf costume this year! Thanks to Mags and Evo for their sterling work again this year.

WALSALL FC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THIS was held just before Christmas and the Trust, being a shareholder with over 200 shares, was represented on the day by Steve Davies.

We received no questions from the membership, but it is important for us to keep attending these events. We are always looking to expand our share base in the club so if you wish to sell any shares please get in touch and we will be happy to take them off your hands.

WORKING PARTY MEETING

UNFORTUNATELY work got in the way of me attending this meeting but Colin Bromley, Stefan Gamble and Dan Mole met in my absence, although I sent through a few items for discussion.

BLANK DAY FOR TRUST FC

SADLY after weeks of being unable to raise a team themselves before the last home game, our visitors, Barnsley, were unable to raise a team ahead of our last home game, so the lads had another blank day.

Hopefully the situation will sort itself out and games will start up in the New Year.

WALSALL FC DONATE PANTOMINE TICKETS

WE WOULD like to thank Dan Mole for once again arranging a donation of tickets for tomorrow's pantomime here at Banks's Stadium.

It means that our friends in the Walsall Council Family Support team will be able to give a great day out to some youngsters who would not normally be able to attend such an event.

Far too often gestures like this go unnoticed or are not commented upon because the club do not shout about what they are doing, so it slips under the radar. Make no mistake about it, this club of ours is very much a family club and their work via Adam Davy, Sue Lane and many others within our community is ongoing all year round. They do a great job,

We have a great set-up here and, as I know only too well, you cannot please everyone all the time, but so much hard work goes on behind-the-scenes here and it is only fair to give them the praise they deserve.

Former Players Association

1974-75 FA CUP TEAM REUNION

IT HAS been decided that, despite disappointing attendances at the last two Trust events, we still need to recognise the achievements of our 1974/75 team for their FA Cup exploits to mark the 40th Anniversary.

We have decided that, subject to the approval of the club and The Saddlers Club, we will invite the players to attend the Gillingham game on January 31st, where they will have a bite to eat in The Bonser Suite, go on the pitch at half-time and then meet the fans in The Saddlers Club afterwards.

Sadly, Doug Fraser, the Manager of the team, is away on a cruise so will be unable to attend but Doug has asked me to pass on his very best wishes to all the players and Saddlers' fans alike.

Two other players are not well and may not be able to attend due to illness but we have received confirmations from Roger Fry, who will be travelling up from Southampton, Stan Bennett, who's coming from his Wiltshire base, plus more local lads like Nick Atthey, Colin Harrison, Terry Spinner, who we recently located living in Wythall, Mick Tuhoj, who was an apprentice that season, and Alan Birch, who we have made contact with again. He is another looking forward to seeing some old friends. Mick Kearns will, of course, be there but has his Match day host duties to carry out.

Other players have received invitations to attend including Keith Brown, George Andrews, Alan Buckley, Bernie Wright, Dave Robinson and others will be sent out in the New Year.

There are some players we have not got contact details for, so please if you can help us locate ANY former players please let us know. Email walsall1888@aol.com



KICK IT OUT


TACKLING RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

REPORT IT!

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GUESS THE SANTA!

Hopefully Santa brought you everything that you asked for yesterday! Can you work out who we've cunningly disguised as Santa here?



WINTER WORDSEARCH

Find the following winter-related words in the grid below...

SNOW
FROST
ICE
ROBIN
HOLLY

A	F	T	S	R	M	M	L	E	T
D	I	G	T	N	Y	Q	J	L	S
R	O	B	I	N	O	B	X	V	O
L	M	X	I	X	T	W	A	H	R
O	T	H	Q	P	O	U	M	R	F
D	A	N	S	A	H	O	L	L	Y
H	D	E	N	I	C	E	L	O	J
B	A	M	A	C	A	P	T	M	O

ANSWER: Richard O'Kelly

The Saddlers Learning Centre

OAKWOOD School of Walsall Wood, visit the club every couple of weeks as part of curriculum enhancement.

Thanks to Dean Smith and all staff for another great visit.



Tom Bradshaw has a table tennis lesson!



Autograph hunting!



Meeting the manager and players at the training ground



For further information regarding **The Saddlers Learning Centre**, please contact Sue Lane on **01922-629 238**. Visit our website - www.saddlerslearningcentre.co.uk

TEAM OF MASCOTS

Introducing the youngsters who will be leading the team out this afternoon...

WE ARE delighted to have a team of mascots on duty this afternoon. We hope that everyone involved has a memorable afternoon with us. Here's a profile on each of today's mascots...

KELSEY EVANS AGE: 8



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Romaine Sawyers

HOBBIES:

Football, swimming, playing computer games and fishing

EMMA EVANS AGE: 10



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Richard O'Donnell

HOBBIES:

Playing football, swimming and computer games

HARRY COCKAYNE AGE: 6



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Tom Bradshaw

HOBBIES:

Playing football for Bloxwich Rangers

JACK MORRIS AGE: 8



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Tom Bradshaw

HOBBIES:

Watching football and playing for Sheffield United

SAMMY DARNELL AGE: 6



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Sam Mantom

HOBBIES:

Riding his bike and playing football

HARRY EDIS AGE: 11



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Tom Bradshaw

HOBBIES:

Playing drums and football

ARCHIE RICHARDS AGE: 8



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Romaine Sawyers

HOBBIES:

Football, swimming, playing computer games and fishing

SHANLEY RICHARDS AGE: 10



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Richard O'Donnell

HOBBIES:

Supporting The Saddlers!

ABBIE BLACKMORE AGE: 10

AND LEADING OUT
THE VISITORS...



FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Nathan Thompson and

Wes Foderingham

HOBBIES:

Football



HALF SEASON TICKET 2014 2015
SECURE YOUR SEAT FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON

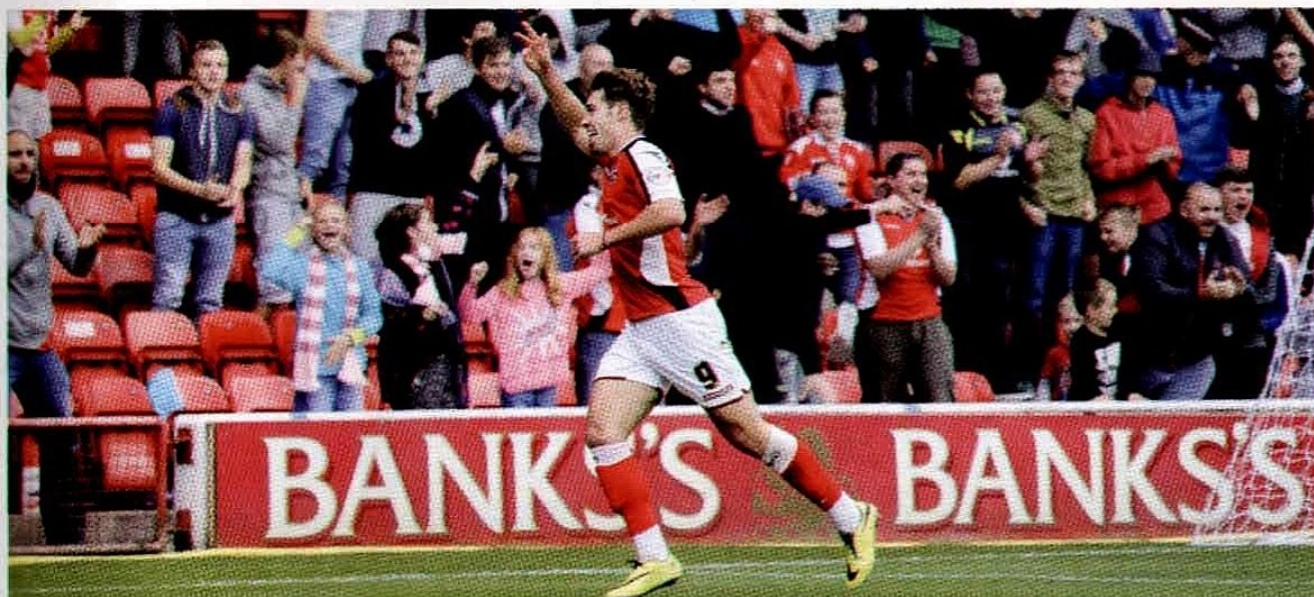
PRICES START FROM
ADULTS £182
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13 Unmissable games included

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SECURE YOUR SEAT FOR THE BUSINESS END OF THE SEASON

Half season tickets now on sale at extra special prices...



YOU CAN secure your seat for the thrills and spills that await during the second half of the season with a Half Season Ticket.

Take your place at our unmissable matches during the business end of the campaign, and with prices starting from just £182 (adults) and £110 (kids), it represents great value.

There are some mouth-watering fixtures to look forward to with the likes of Coventry City, Port Vale, MK Dons, Sheffield United and Notts County all Banks's Stadium-bound.

Half Season Tickets are now on sale from the Banks's Stadium Ticket Office or by telephone on 01922-651 414/416.

The full list of prices are, as follows:

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NOVEMBER FAN OF THE MONTH

LESLEY BRETNALL

Chesterfield fan Lesley Brentnall has been named the Sky Bet League 1 Fan of the Month for November.

Lesley hasn't missed a Chesterfield game, home or away, for 17 years.

The last game she missed was back in 1997, when her mum grounded her for a home fixture against Bristol City.

Lesley said: "I have lived in Chesterfield all my life and both my mum and dad are Chesterfield fans.

"I am a firm believer in supporting your local club. There is something special about watching your home-town club through the good and the bad times.

"The highlight of my time as a Chesterfield fan was the promotion in 2001. A Hull draw gave us promotion 15 minutes after Brighton had won the league at our ground.

"What a party we had on the South Coast!"

Chesterfield chief executive Chris Turner said: "The award is deserved recognition of Lesley's loyal support.

"To not miss a game in 17 years is a tremendous record.

"Lesley's help with the True Blue Travel service is also appreciated by the staff who run it as she ensures that everyone boards the coaches for away matches."

To Nominate a Mate for December's Sky Bet Fan of the Month visit - www.SkyBet.com/Fan

If Lesley won the £250,000 Sky Bet Transfer Fund, she would buy Kieran Agard or Andy Williams!



Lesley's score predictions:

- GILLINGHAM 0
- CHESTERFIELD 2
- WITH ROBERTS TO SCORE FIRST
- CHESTERFIELD 3
- PETERBOROUGH UTD..... 1
- WITH DOYLE TO SCORE FIRST
- COVENTRY CITY 1
- CHESTERFIELD 1
- WITH MORSY TO SCORE FIRST



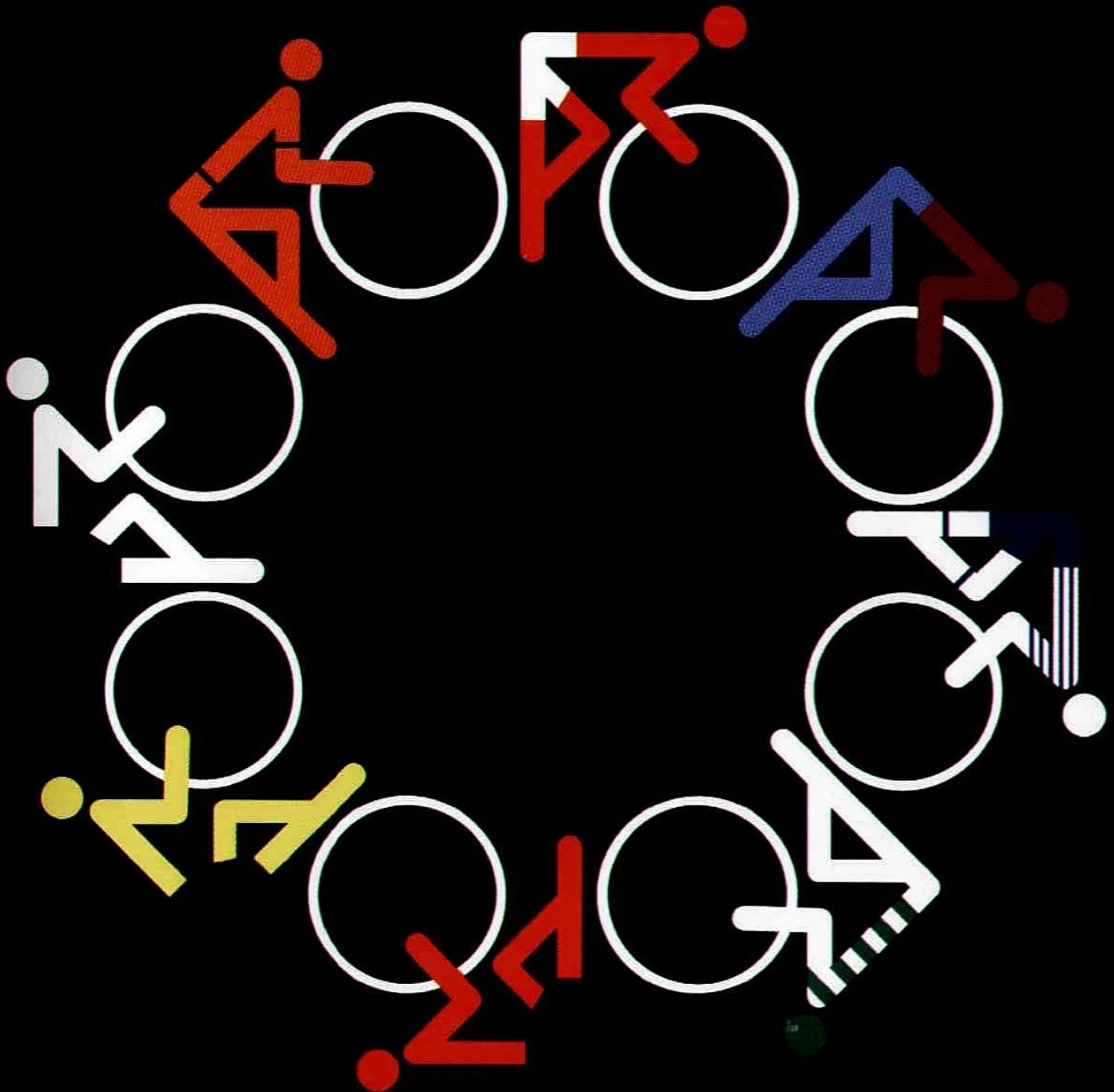
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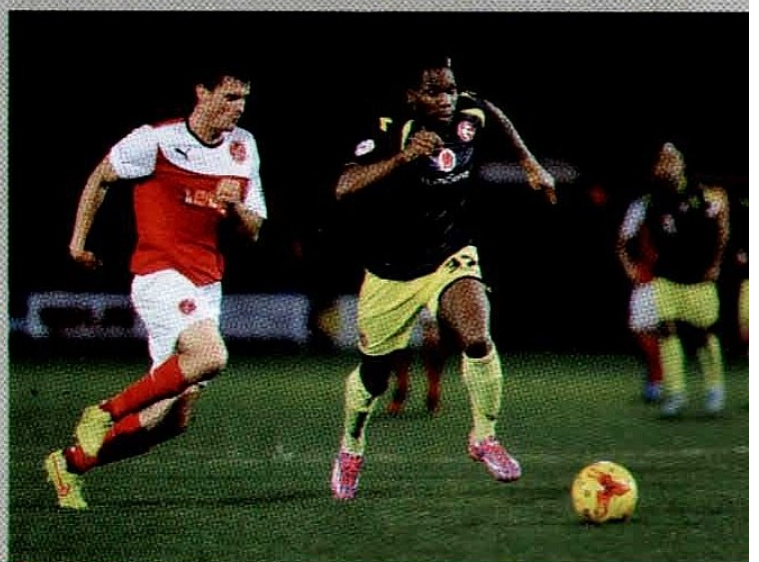
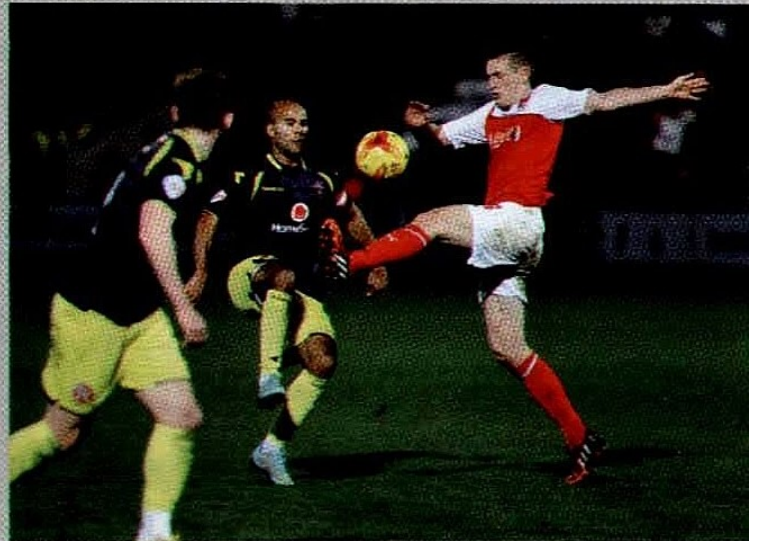
#MenUnited
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amsterdam](http://prostatecanceruk.org/amsterdam)



Match Action



A round-up of the action from our recent away assignments at Fleetwood Town and Coventry City...



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 <p>06 Paul Downing</p> <p>QUALITY SOLICITORS CMHT</p>	 <p>07 Adam Chambers</p> <p>MARRION & CO.</p>	 <p>08 Sam Mantom</p> <p>HAYCOCK & GRICE FINANCIAL PLANNING 01922-692 804</p>	 <p>09 Tom Bradshaw</p> <p>STREETLY GAS & PLUMBING</p>	 <p>10 Romaine Sawyers</p> <p>WFC COMMUNITY PROGRAMME</p>	 <p>11 James Baxendale</p> <p>IN MEMORY OF WALSALL FC DIRECTOR, CLIVE WELCH</p>
 <p>13 Craig MacGillivray</p> <p>TO SPONSOR, CALL 01922-651 403</p>	 <p>14 Malvind Benning</p> <p>TO SPONSOR, CALL 01922-651 403</p>	 <p>15 James Chambers</p> <p>ALAN MILES</p>	 <p>16 Matt Preston</p> <p>ALAN MILES</p>	 <p>17 Reece Flanagan</p> <p>BARCLAYS</p>	 <p>18 Kieron Morris</p> <p>DAVROY</p>
 <p>19 Jake Heath</p> <p>SMPS</p>	 <p>20 Amadou Bakayoko</p> <p>WALSALL FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB AWAY TRAVEL SECTION</p>	 <p>21 Jordan Cook</p> <p>THE POMLETT FAMILY</p>	 <p>22 Liam Kinsella</p> <p>WALSALL CARPETS</p>	 <p>23 Liam Roberts</p> <p>TO SPONSOR, CALL 01922-651 403</p>	 <p>24 Ashley Grimes</p> <p>WG KITCHENS & BEDROOMS LTD.</p>
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SADDLERS PROGRESS

2014/15



- 1 Richard O'Donnell
- 2 Ben Purkiss
- 3 Andy Taylor
- 4 James O'Connor
- 5 Dean Holden

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	F-A	ATT (AWAY)	POS	REFEREE	COMP	KIT
AUGUST								
Sat Aug 9	Port Vale	A	1-1	7,050 (1,145)	-	D. Bond	FL1	
Tue Aug 12	Southend United	A	2-1	3,146 (153)	-	G. Ward	CC1	
Sat Aug 16	Bradford City	H	0-0	4,520 (927)	-	D. Whitestone	FL1	
Tue Aug 19	Yeovil Town	H	1-2	3,758 (186)	20	J. Simpson	FL1	
Sat Aug 23	Leyton Orient	A	0-0	4,400 (225)	20	D. Webb	FL1	
Tue Aug 26	Crystal Palace	H	0-3	3,987 (879)	-	D. Drysdale	CC2	
Sat Aug 30	Scunthorpe United	A	1-2	3,098 (301)	22	A. Davies	FL1	
SEPTEMBER								
Sat Sep 6	Colchester United	H	0-0	4,009 (147)	21	P. Miller	FL1	
Sat Sep 13	Preston North End	H	3-1	4,776 (1,122)	18	G. Eltringham	FL1	
Tue Sep 16	Rochdale	A	0-4	2,082 (230)	20	A. Madley	FL1	
Sat Sep 20	Gillingham	A	0-0	5,344 (130)	20	J. Adcock	FL1	
Sat Sep 27	Doncaster Rovers	H	3-0	3,741 (479)	17	S. Mathieson	FL1	
OCTOBER								
Sat Oct 4	Bristol City	H	1-1	5,574 (1,979)	16	K. Hill	FL1	
Tue Oct 7	Rochdale	A	1-0	1,156 (99)	-	M. Heywood	JPT2	
Sat Oct 11	Oldham Athletic	A	1-2	4,178 (363)	18	C. Boyeson	FL1	
Sat Oct 18	Crewe Alexandra	H	0-1	4,127 (438)	21	D. Handley	FL1	
Tue Oct 21	Crawley Town	A	0-1	2,204 (101)	23	K. Stroud	FL1	
Sat Oct 25	Chesterfield	H	1-0	4,230 (938)	19	K. Wright	FL1	
NOVEMBER								
Sat Nov 1	Notts. County	A	2-1 (+OG)	5,884 (490)	16	S. Hooper	FL1	
Sat Nov 8	Shrewsbury Town	H	2-2	3,546 (1,217)	-	D. Deadman	FAC1	
Wed Nov 12	Sheffield United	H	1-0	2,127 (342)	-	D. Coote	JPTAQF	
Sat Nov 15	Peterborough United	H	0-0	5,495 (579)	16	A. Woolmer	FL1	
Tue Nov 18	Shrewsbury Town	A	0-1	4,222 (711)	-	G. Ward	FAC1R	
Sat Nov 22	Fleetwood Town	A	1-0	3,224 (440)	13	M. Haywood	FL1	
Sat Nov 29	Coventry City	A	0-0	8,076 (900)	13	R. Clark	FL1	
DECEMBER								
Tue Dec 9	Tranmere Rovers	A	2-2 (54 on pens)	2,355 (TBA)	-	G. Eltringham	JPTASF	
Sat Dec 13	Barnsley	H	3-1	4,433 (503)	12	T. Kettle	FL1	
Sat Dec 20	Sheffield United	A	1-1	20,209 (462)	13	G. Horwood	FL1	
Fri Dec 26	Swindon Town	H						
Sun Dec 28	Milton Keynes Dons	A						
JANUARY								
Sat Jan 3	Coventry City	H						
Sat Jan 10	Scunthorpe United	H						
Sat Jan 17	Colchester United	A						
Sat Jan 24	Preston North End	A						
Sat Jan 31	Gillingham	H						
FEBRUARY								
Sat Feb 7	Doncaster Rovers	A						
Tue Feb 10	Rochdale	H						
Sat Feb 14	Port Vale	H						
Sat Feb 21	Bradford City	A						
Sat Feb 28	Leyton Orient	H						
MARCH								
Tue Mar 3	Yeovil Town	A						
Sat Mar 7	Barnsley	A						
Sat Mar 14	Milton Keynes Dons	H						
Tue Mar 17	Sheffield United	H						
Sat Mar 21	Swindon Town	A						
Sat Mar 28	Chesterfield	A						
APRIL								
Fri Apr 3	Notts. County	H						
Mon Apr 6	Peterborough United	A						
Sat Apr 11	Fleetwood Town	H						
Tue Apr 14	Crawley Town	H						
Sat Apr 18	Crewe Alexandra	A						
Sat Apr 25	Oldham Athletic	H						
MAY								
Sat May 2	Bristol City	A						

KEY

- Denotes started game
- Denotes starting goalkeeper
- Denotes substitution time
- Yellow Card
- Denotes substitute
- Denotes goalkeeping substitute
- Denotes substitution time
- Red Card
- Denotes substitute not used
- Denotes number of goals scored

§ Own goal Unless otherwise stated all Saturday matches kick-off at 3pm and midweek matches at 7.45pm

MATCHDAY MUSIC

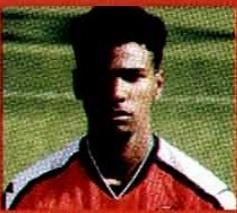


If you have any comments, suggestions or queries regarding the Matchday Music here at **Banks's Stadium**, please contact **Mike Day** at music@walsallfc.co.uk. Mike will pen an occasional column here in the Matchday Programme and on the Official Website www.saddlers.co.uk, so look out for that...


Rank	Player Name	Goals	Assists	Appearances	Minutes
7	Adam Chambers	1	1	1	90
8	Sam Mantom	1	0	1	90
9	Tom Bradshaw	1	0	1	90
10	Romaine Sawyers	1	0	1	90
11	James Baxendale	1	0	1	90
13	Craig MacGillivray	1	0	1	90
14	Malvind Benning	1	0	1	90
15	James Chambers	1	0	1	90
16	Matt Preston	1	0	1	90
17	Reece Flanagan	1	0	1	90
18	Kieron Morris	1	0	1	90
19	Jake Heath	1	0	1	90
20	Amadou Bakayoko	1	0	1	90
21	Jordan Cook	1	0	1	90
22	Liam Kinsella	1	0	1	90
23	Liam Roberts	1	0	1	90
24	Ashley Grimes	1	0	1	90
25	Rico Henry	1	0	1	90
26	Billy Clifford	1	0	1	90
27	Anthony Forde	1	0	1	90
28	Kyle Rowley	1	0	1	90
29	Jordan Murphy	1	0	1	90
37	Mathieu Manset	1	0	1	90
44	Andy Butler	1	0	1	90
12	Michael Cain	1	0	1	90




Jordan Cook scored a stunner as part of a brace against Barnsley



Rico Henry made his senior home debut against The Tykes



Tom Bradshaw has been amongst the goals in the last two games



Adam Chambers led by example in the draw at Sheffield United in our last game

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MATCH OFFICIALS
REFEREE: David Webb
ASSISTANT REFEREE: Thomas Bramall
ASSISTANT REFEREE: Robert Jones
FOURTH OFFICIAL: Nigel Smith

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Statistics

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE As at 25/12/2014

Pos	Name	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bristol City	21	7	2	1	17	8	5	4	2	20	12	+17	42
2	Milton Keynes Dons	20	8	2	1	33	9	4	3	2	14	10	+28	41
3	Swindon	21	6	3	2	20	12	6	2	2	19	9	+18	41
4	Preston North End	21	5	4	1	19	12	7	1	3	15	8	+14	41
5	Sheff Utd	21	4	4	3	12	10	5	2	3	15	14	+3	33
6	Rochdale	21	3	3	5	13	14	6	1	3	25	13	+11	31
7	Notts County	20	3	2	5	12	15	5	5	0	15	7	+5	31
8	Peterborough	21	4	2	5	14	16	5	1	4	14	10	+2	30
9	Bradford	21	3	3	5	14	16	5	3	2	14	10	+2	30
10	Oldham	21	5	3	2	15	14	2	6	3	13	17	-3	30
11	Chesterfield FC	21	4	3	3	13	12	3	4	4	16	17	0	28
12	Fleetwood Town	21	4	5	1	12	8	3	1	7	9	12	+1	27
13	Walsall	21	4	4	2	12	6	2	5	4	7	12	+1	27
14	Barnsley	21	4	2	5	21	21	3	3	4	11	13	-2	26
15	Port Vale	21	4	2	4	14	14	3	3	5	13	16	-3	26
16	Doncaster	20	1	3	5	6	13	6	2	3	15	14	-6	26
17	Coventry	21	4	4	3	13	14	2	3	5	11	15	-5	25
18	Scunthorpe	20	3	1	5	9	15	3	4	4	17	20	-9	23
19	Gillingham	21	4	4	3	16	15	1	3	6	8	16	-7	22
20	Crawley Town	21	4	3	4	12	17	1	4	5	8	15	-12	22
21	Colchester	21	2	2	6	11	18	3	3	5	15	20	-12	20
22	Yeovil	21	1	4	6	5	16	4	1	5	13	15	-13	20
23	Leyton Orient	21	1	3	6	11	16	3	4	4	14	17	-8	19
24	Crewe	21	4	2	5	10	17	1	2	7	7	22	-22	19

UP NEXT...

**Coventry City**

Sky Bet League One
Saturday, January 3rd 2015
Kick-off 3.00pm

WE GET 2015 underway with a home game against local rivals, Coventry City.

It was only a few weeks ago that we played out a goalless draw at the Ricoh Arena against a Sky Blues side who are just below us in the League One table at the time of writing.

Their last visit to Banks's Stadium came in October 2013 and saw them take all three points home courtesy of a second half goal from Franck Moussa.

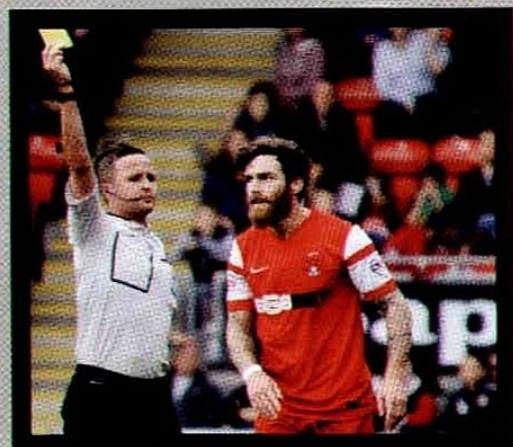
We will, of course, be looking to redress the balance and get the New Year off to a winning start.

Come and cheer us on! Tickets are now on advance sale Category A prices from the Banks's Stadium Ticket Office, open Monday to Friday, 9.00am until 4.30pm, or by calling 01922-651 414/416.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Bristol City v Yeovil Town
 Chesterfield v Peterborough United
 Colchester United v Gillingham
 Doncaster Rovers v Coventry City
 Fleetwood Town v Bradford City
 Leyton Orient v Crawley Town
 Notts County v MK Dons
 Oldham Athletic v Crewe Alexandra
 Port Vale v Sheffield United
 Preston North End v Barnsley
 Scunthorpe United v Rochdale

Leyton Orient host Crawley Town today...



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WALSALL

Manager: Dean Smith

1	Richard O'Donnell
2	Ben Purkiss
3	Andy Taylor
4	James O'Connor
6	Paul Downing
7	Adam Chambers
8	Sam Mantom
9	Tom Bradshaw
10	Romaine Sawyers
11	James Baxendale
12	Michael Cain
13	Craig MacGillivray
14	Malvind Benning
15	James Chambers
16	Matt Preston
17	Reece Flanagan
18	Kieron Morris
19	Jake Heath
20	Amadou Bakayoko
21	Jordan Cook
22	Liam Kinsella
23	Liam Roberts
24	Ashley Grimes
25	Rico Henry
26	Billy Clifford
27	Anthony Forde
28	Kyle Rowley
29	Jordan Murphy
37	Mathieu Manset



SWINDON TOWN

Manager: Mark Cooper

1	Wes Foderingham	Former Crystal Palace shot-stopper who is in his third season with the Wiltshire Side.
2	Nathan Thompson	A product of the STEC Academy, made his breakthrough into the first team in 2012/13.
3	Nathan Byrne	Penned a two-year deal with Swindon in summer 2013 after a successful loan spell.
4	Massimo Luongo	Signed permanently on deadline day following his loan from Tottenham last season.
5	Jack Stephens	Defender who is currently in his second loan spell from Southampton.
6	Jordan Turnbull	Another defender on a youth loan from premier league side Southampton.
7	Ben Gladwin	Reading youngster who penned a contract with Swindon at the end of November 2013.
8	Yaser Kasim	Penned a permanent deal with the Town ahead of the 2013/14 campaign.
9	Michael Smith	Signed for the Robins in January, and netted twice in his debut against Shrewsbury.
10	Andy Williams	Joined Town on a two-year deal in the summer of 2012 after an impressive campaign with Yeovil.
12	Amar'i Bell	Birmingham City left back who joins on-loan until January 2015.
14	Jake Reeves	Former Brentford midfielder who signed for Swindon during the summer.
15	Harry Toffolo	Defender who joins the Robins on-loan from Championship side Norwich City.
16	Connor Waldon	Centre forward who is currently on-loan at Brackley Town.
17	Ryan Harley	Bristol born midfielder who is on-loan at League Two's Exeter City.
18	George Barker	Youngster who put pen to paper for Swindon back in January 2014.
19	Louis Thompson	Promising young midfielder who signed his first professional contract last summer.
20	Jonathan Obika	Back in Wiltshire on a permanent deal from Spurs having spent time on-loan in 2011.
21	Mathew Jones	Defender who is a graduate of the Swindon Town Youth Academy.
22	Darren Ward	Former Watford, Millwall & Crystal Palace defender who signed for the Town back in January 2012.
23	Jack Barthram	Versatile youngster, penned a deal with Swindon at the start of the 2013/14 campaign.
24	Curtis Da Costa	Defender who put pen to paper on his first professional forms in the summer.
25	Tyrell Belford	Goalkeeper who signed as cover for Foderingham following his release from Liverpool's academy.
26	Anton Rodgers	Midfielder who joined the Town in the summer of 2014 after leaving Oldham Athletic.
27	Josue Antonio	Signed a one-year contract having won the 'Samsung Win a Pro Contract' competition.
29	Raphael Branco	Brazilian defender who signed for the Robins in the summer of 2013.
30	Harry Agombar	Former Macclesfield Town midfielder who joined the Town in the summer of 2013.

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS



Referee:
TBC



Assistants:
TBC



Fourth Official:
TBC

