



# OXFORD UNITED



v SWINDON TOWN

10.09.16 | KO 3pm | Sky Bet League One



LIONTRUST

Official matchday programme | Price £3 | Vol 68 | Issue 08

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## TODAY'S MASCOTS



**Fraser Mowat**  
AGE: Nine years old  
Last Tuesday - Happy Birthday Fraser  
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Chris Maguire  
HOBBIES: Playing football, running, karate and basketball



**Poppy Cant**  
AGE: Three years old  
FAVOURITE PLAYER: John Lundstram  
HOBBIES: Karate, swimming and playing soccer back home in Texas, singing Beach Boys and Adele songs, and doing as much art as she can



**Seth Allen**  
AGE: Eight years old  
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Simon Eastwood and Chris Maguire  
HOBBIES: Football and Xbox



**Jake Smith**  
AGE: 12 years old  
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Chris Maguire  
HOBBIES: Football



**Ryan Donovan**  
AGE: Nine years old  
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Simon Eastwood  
HOBBIES: Watching Oxford United and WWE wrestling



**Tyler Donovan**  
AGE: Five years old  
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Liam Sercombe  
HOBBIES: Watching Oxford United and playing football

## OXFORD UNITED FC

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If you have any comments, complaints or praise regarding the club then please write to the Supporter Liaison Officer at the above address or email [sgooding@oufc.co.uk](mailto:sgooding@oufc.co.uk)

• The views and opinions of the contributors to this programme are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Oxford United Football Club.

## GUEST OF HONOUR



## Stuart Massey

We are pleased to welcome back Stuart Massey as this afternoon's guest of honour. Winger Massey was a key player during United's 1995/96 promotion-winning season, scoring a total of 13 goals in his 128 United appearances over three-and-a-half years at the Manor.

## TODAY'S REFEREE



## Stuart Attwell

Stuart Attwell makes his first visit to Oxford this afternoon, although he has taken charge of a small number of United away games. Most recently, he refereed Oxford's 2-0 win at Millwall in last season's Football League Trophy area final at the Den. That was Mr Attwell's first United game since taking charge of the club's 4-2 win at Cheltenham in the same competition in October 2012.



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## THE CHAIRMAN: DARRYL EALES

# The Transfer Window and the Whole Game Solution

Welcome to our long-awaited League One meeting with Swindon Town.

**M**y first taste of the rivalry between the two sides was in last season's JPT game and I am sure today the atmosphere will be just as electric. Accordingly, it is a great pleasure to welcome fans, players and officials from Swindon. Let's hope the game justifies the occasion and is a great advert for football in general, and local derbies in particular.

Local rivalry in football and achieving 'bragging rights' is part of the fabric of football. It is this partisanship which makes football the fantastic game it is but let's remember, we all have a responsibility to support our team, respect the opposition, and most of all, ensure that all our energies are channelled positively and without excess. We aspire to be a 'Community Club' - let's put that into practice today!

I discuss below two main themes which are uppermost in my thinking - our squad and our activity in the transfer windows - and some initial thoughts on the 'Whole Game Solution' which is currently in the consultation stage.

We are now six games into the season. Our performances may best be described as a 'curate's egg' - good in parts! I think it is clear that there is a perceptible increase in quality in League 1 but at the same time, we have nothing to fear and can look forward to an exciting season.

#### Disrupted

Without doubt, defensively, our plans have been disrupted by injury, which has meant that, so far, Michael has been unable to play an unchanged side - a vital ingredient, in my view, in achieving the consistency required to consolidate first and foremost, and then see where we are at around the half-way stage of the season.

What I can say is that I am delighted with our squad and, indeed, our overall success in the transfer window. We have a robust, structured and planned approach to recruitment and we managed to secure virtually all of our key targets identified at the beginning of the window, albeit somewhat later than we had anticipated, but, as is often the case, timing is not always within our control.

As well as Michael and Faz, I would like to mention the roles of Craig Dean and Mark Thomas in identifying, analysing and performing due diligence on players. It really is a labour of love and both deserve great credit.

#### Strengthened

In my view, we have strengthened both the quality and depth of the squad, as well as having excellent balance once we are injury free! It is overall a young squad, with highly talented group of players, many of whom can go onto play at higher levels - hopefully at Oxford United!

We believe we have built wisely, both in terms of investment through transfer fees and a significant but judicious increase in the playing budget. We are very fortunate to have a manager who understands the realities of football and who seeks to build for the future through investment in talent, while also recognising the need to try and balance the books.

I have always said, whether it is business or sport, it is 'people

before plans'. If you get the people right, and the culture right, and focus on the how and a consistently high level of performance, both on and off the pitch, then the results will come. This, in my view, is the only way to build sustainable long-term success.

Under Michael's stewardship and with Greig now settled into his new role, I believe we are developing a highly capable, increasingly professional set up, based on a community-orientated team-based ethic and putting the interests of Oxford United Football Club first.

#### Proposals

Turning next to the very outline proposals for a 'Whole Game Solution'.

First of all, I would stress that this is a complex issue with many conflicting perspectives. Resolution will be achieved only by open and transparent debate and full engagement with all key stakeholders, especially fans.

All of us, myself included, need to ensure we don't adopt a slightly self-righteous, superior position, as I believe we are all fans who love the game of football and want to do our best to ensure the sport prospers over the long term, while also protecting the traditions which have served the game so well and ensure the game stays true to its heritage.

Based on the above, it is premature, at this stage, to make any detailed response to the 'Whole Game Solution' proposals

because there is simply not enough substance to the proposals at this stage, especially in terms of what is the issue we are solving, what are the real benefits, what alternatives have been considered and, of course, what are the financial implications.

Many fans believe that there is a hidden agenda and, as part of the proposals, there is an intention to introduce 'B' teams into the League structure. This is not my view - I may be wrong! But I do not doubt the honourable intentions of the Football League.

However, I do think the process of publication of the 'Whole Game Solution' proposals so far have created a climate of suspicion. There has been inadequate consultation, a seeming lack of transparency and poor communication, and this must change if any proposals are to have legitimacy. This must include appropriate engagement with fans!

#### Attention

At this stage, I have focused my attention on considering what issue we are seeking to resolve, especially from the point of view of a League 1 professional club:

- Is there really fixture congestion outside the Premier League necessitating a change to league structure, including a 5th division and additional teams?

- If the answer above is yes, is the answer a wholesale reorganisation of the League structure?

- If the answer again to this is yes, and there are additional teams, it must be clear from the outset that any new League teams earn the right to be in league structure, which means promotion from the National League, subject, of course, to the National League being happy with this.

On other important issues such as a winter break or regionalisation, I speak as a fan and am wholly against both for Football League clubs.

#### Consultation

What I can say, unequivocally, is that we will form a structured OUFC response to the fully formed 'Whole Game Proposal' and this will be done after full consultation with our fans. We have already had a preliminary meeting with OxVox and, in the interests of expediency and efficiency, I would recommend that all fans views are diverted to OxVox so that they can get a fairer picture of the overall 'fan' perspective.

I hope I do not come across as against change. For me, change is essential and perpetual, but there is no point in change for the sake of change.

I welcome the commitment by the FA, Premier League and Football League to look at better solutions and I look forward to a constructive and lively discussion over the ensuing months and, ultimately, large-scale agreement to a solution which safeguards the game at all levels.

Best wishes and COYY!  
Darryl





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GRUNDON

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HEAD COACH'S NOTES

HEAD COACH: MICHAEL APPLETON

# A day to savour

Good afternoon everyone and welcome for a game I am sure you have all been looking forward to ever since the fixtures came out.

**T**here is nothing quite like a local derby in terms of passion and atmosphere and we know we are going to be roared on by a near capacity crowd this afternoon.

Your support will play a key part of course, but we also go into the match in good form at home following an important win against Rochdale last Saturday. It wasn't the prettiest first half, with neither side playing that well. We talked about it at half time and tried to get the players to be positive and get a bit more tempo into the game after the break.

I thought we did that and to be honest I could only see one team winning it in the second half. OK, Easty has made a save or two so there were chances at both ends but on the balance of play I felt we deserved to win the game. Marvin Johnson came on at the break and did ever so well and it was through him being on the front foot and getting at defenders that we forced the win. Ryan Taylor got across his man at the near post and that allowed Liam Sercombe to win the game for us.

#### Positive

Credit to the players. Nobody settled for a point, they stayed nice and positive and kept going forward. Credit also to the fans because you sang and got behind us right from the very first minute and once again I thought you helped get us over the line as winners.

We were without Ryan Ledson, Benji Büchel and Tyler Roberts last week because they were off on international

duty, which is clearly something that will be of enormous benefit to them. All three are back again today and that gives me plenty of options all over the park. The transfer window has closed and we feel we have assembled a strong squad where everyone is fighting for places, especially when players like Curtis Nelson and Rob Hall come back from injuries.

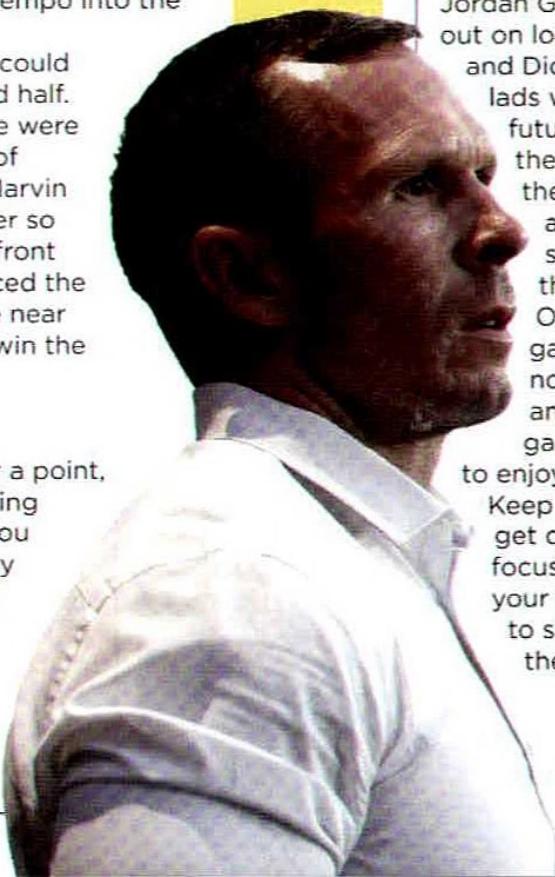
#### Progress

That has allowed us to send James Roberts, Josh Ashby and Jonny Giles over to Oxford City on loan, where they will be in the same side as Robbie Cundy and Jack Stevens. It's unusual to have so many players at the same club but it will be very interesting to see how they get on together. It's definitely easy to keep tabs on their progress at such close distance!

Most of those players, plus George Jeacock and Jordan Graham who are out on loan at Brackley and Didcot, are local lads with bright futures ahead of them. Being local, they will certainly appreciate the special occasion that happens at Oxford - Swindon games. There is nothing quite like it and these are the games for players to enjoy and savour.

Keep your head, don't get carried away, stay focussed and give your fans something to shout about until the next encounter.

*Enjoy the game,  
Michael*





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MANAGING DIRECTOR: GREIG BOX TURNBULL

# The depth of passion

Good afternoon and welcome to Oxford United for our eagerly awaited Sky Bet League 1 match versus Swindon Town.

**T**he derby match is always the first one most of us look for when the fixtures are released and at the time of writing today is likely to be a sell-out game.

The depth of passion that there is within the Oxford United fanbase, not just for this fixture, but for the club as a whole, is massive and it drives everyone on at the club to achieve on a daily basis.

Our rivalry with Swindon Town always brings passion to the fore and I am sure that today's game will be no different and having a large supportive home crowd will give the team a boost as we strive for another three points. The September fixtures are very attractive and every game should be a fantastic occasion - let's ensure that we build on today's big crowd and passion and take it into every match across the season to help the team and the club be as successful as possible.

#### Highlights

One of the highlights off the pitch this week has been the scoreboard being replaced. The new scoreboard is another small step forward in improving the look and feel of the stadium. We have moved the location so that, should we be in a position to proceed with the fourth stand at a later date, the corner between the North Stand and the Fence End is clear to accommodate turnstiles, catering and toilets.

A big thank you goes to James Dunn Roofing for sponsoring the scoreboard. The significant partnership provides vital support to the club. James is a big United fan and kindly stepped forward to pledge his support. Additionally, I'd like to thank a number of United supporters who helped with the project: CWBS Clive Woodward Building Services, Haysham Limited Electrical Contractors, Alternative Communication Systems, Oxford & District Building Services and H Tuckwell & Sons. Each business supplied materials and



labour for free, or at cost, to remove the old scoreboard and erect the new one. It has been fantastic to see supporters and the club working closely together on another project; it makes such a difference.

#### Delighted

Everyone at the club was delighted this week by the England international call up for our Women's goalkeeper Demi Lambourne for the Women's NTC Invitational Tournament in LA later this month. It is a magnificent achievement and is reflective of both Demi's ability and the excellent progress our Women's team has made under the stewardship of Richard Blackmore and Les Taylor.

Demi was present with a number of the Women's team for our sister clubs' tournament at the training ground last weekend, which saw more than 140 girls from 18 local teams take part. The tournament was the final part of a roadshow that saw the club provide free coaching sessions for girls aged 5 to 12 at numerous sister clubs. Ruth Senior, our Female Development Manager, deserves a special mention for organising such a fantastic event. The tournament showed how much girls' football is growing in popularity in Oxfordshire.

Back to today. The Time is Now. Come on you Yellows!

Greig



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## News from around Grenoble Road...

### New contract for youngster Jordan Graham

**Oxford United are delighted to have offered another of their promising young players their first professional contract.**

Jordan Graham, 18, is a winger or striker who has impressed for the youth side for the last three seasons after stepping up from the Academy's education programme. Having again started this season strongly Jordan was this week offered a professional contract and the opportunity to step up and be part of the first team squad.

Head Coach Michael Appleton said:

"Jordan has a great attitude and plenty of ability. He is quick and a decent finisher and he has been on the fringe of the first team for a while now. He deserves his chance and we look forward to seeing him continue to develop."

"It's another fantastic example of the great work that Leon Blackmore Such and Andy Whing are doing with the under 18 side."

### Trio go out on loan

**Three of Oxford United's youngsters have gone out on loan to Oxford City to gain experience and match sharpness.**

James Roberts and Josh Ashby have joined city on youth loans, while Jonny Giles joins on a three-month loan - he is slightly older at 22 and ineligible for the same youth loan that also sees Robbie Cundy and Jack Stevens currently playing at Court Place Farm.

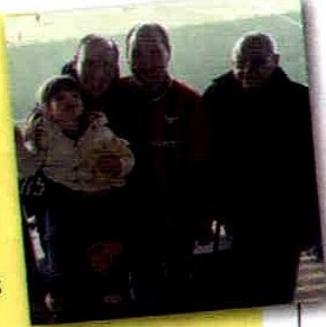
With newest pro Jordan Graham at Didcot and George Jeacock at Brackley, it takes the total to seven players playing locally and Head Coach Michael Appleton said:

"It is all part of the learning curve for all of them to play senior, men's football which is properly competitive. Robbo, Josh and Jonny have all benefited from loans last season and went straight into City's side last night against Bath so they will gain match sharpness and get game time while continuing to train with us during the week."

Giles scored a superb goal in City's 3-1 win at Bath on Tuesday.

### Birthday U

Happy Birthday to Brian Freeman, who celebrates his 80th birthday on Thursday. Brian has been supporting United since the 1950s, and now comes to games with four generations of his family. Here is a photo of Brian with his son Paul, grandson Daniel and great-granddaughter Ellie here at the stadium.



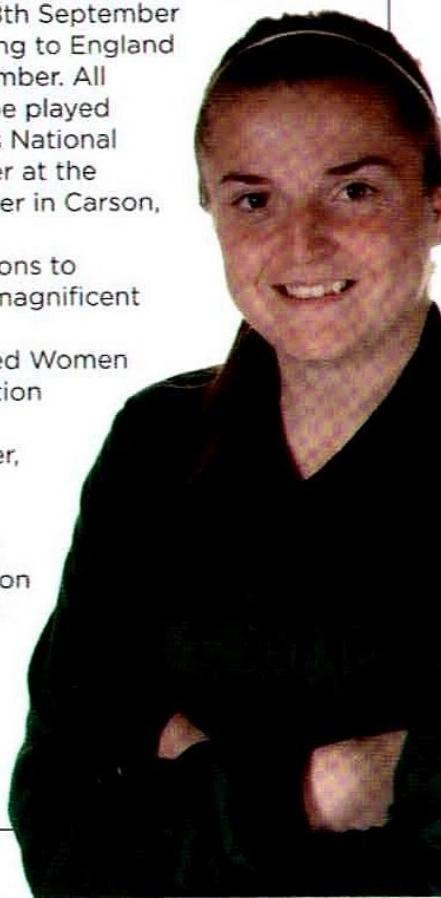
### International Demi called up

**Oxford United Women's goalkeeper Demi Lamourne has been called up for the England under-20 squad for the Women's NTC Invitational Tournament in Los Angeles, USA from 12th-20th September.**

Demi, who has already represented England at under-19 level, flies out on Monday 12th September and will be involved in England's three matches, against Brazil on 14th September, the USA on 16th September, and Korea Republic on 18th September before returning to England on 19th September. All matches will be played at US Soccer's National Training Center at the StubHub Center in Carson, California.

Congratulations to Demi on this magnificent achievement.

Oxford United Women are next in action at Everton on 11th September, followed by a home game at Northcourt Road, Abingdon against Aston Villa on Sunday 25th September (kick-off 2pm).





FOUNDED  
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The Robins

# The Robins come to Grenoble Road

Liam Potter takes a look at this afternoon's opposition

It's derby day as Oxford United host Swindon Town at Grenoble Road.

**S**windon come into the game sitting just one point above the U's and have been boosted by a deadline-day signing. Former Watford midfielder Sean Murray put pen to paper on a one-year deal with the option of a further year. He spent time on loan at Wigan Athletic last season, scoring once in eight appearances in all competitions.

Last time out, Luke Williams' side drew 2-2 away to Peterborough. The Posh found themselves ahead through the prolific Gwion Edwards, notching his fourth goal of the season when he headed home Marcus Maddison's free kick. Swindon levelled, however, through Michael Doughty, who dispatched his penalty after seeing his initial shot handled by Michael Bostwick.

New signing Murray was introduced but endured a nightmare start to his

Town career. Just four minutes into his debut the former Hornet tripped Chris Forrester inside the box to give away a penalty.

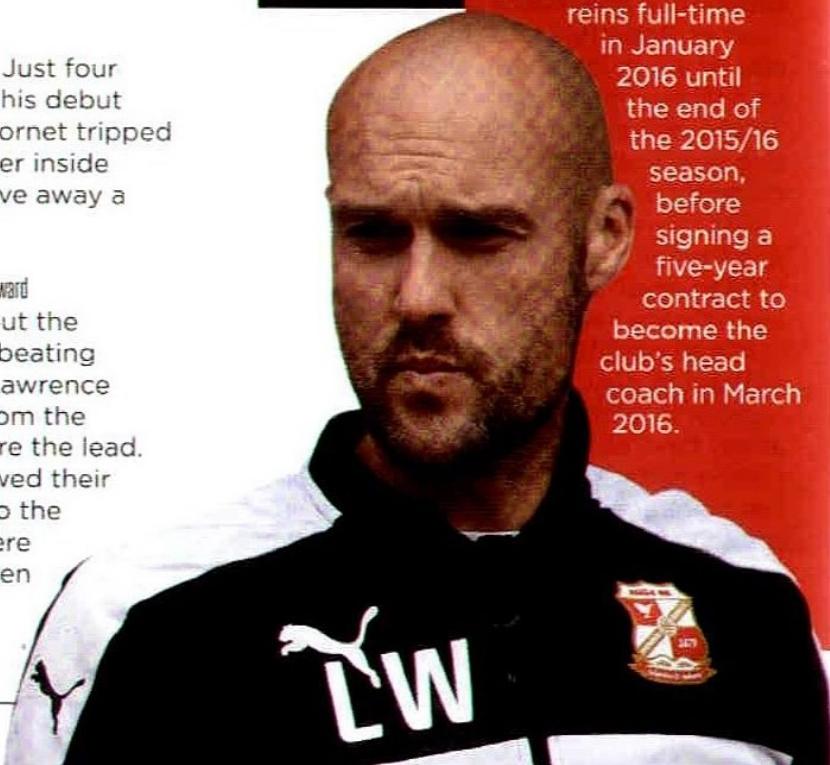
#### Reward

Maddison put the Posh ahead, beating goalkeeper Lawrence Vigouroux from the spot to restore the lead. Swindon clawed their way back into the game and were rewarded when a vicious Michael

## HEAD COACH LUKE WILLIAMS

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

He has also been an FA Skills Coach and has worked at Leyton Orient and at West Ham. After serving as a coach under the previous two incumbents at Swindon, he was handed the reins full-time in January 2016 until the end of the 2015/16 season, before signing a five-year contract to become the club's head coach in March 2016.





Doughty free kick was turned into his own net by Peterborough man Jack Baldwin with 14 minutes to go. Swindon came closest to winning the fixture when substitute Luke Norris prodded an effort wide.

Swindon Town head coach Luke Williams told [swindontown.co.uk](http://swindontown.co.uk): "We looked very comfortable until we conceded and then the game changed a lot because Peterborough gained more confidence and we started to chase the game. There was more

space everywhere. But to come back twice was excellent and it shows that we are capable of digging in and overcoming circumstances.

"We created chances around their box to get a shot on goal but we didn't quite manage that final action, or when we did it was without conviction. I don't think there were huge problems, it was just about executing their jobs slightly better."

## ONE TO WATCH NATHAN THOMPSON

**A product of the Swindon Town academy, Thompson made his breakthrough into the first team during the 2012/13 campaign after signing professionally in 2009.**

**He made his Swindon debut in October 2010.**

The tough-tackling defender was a regular as Swindon made the League One play-offs. One of the first names on the teamsheet and a firm fans' favourite ever since, the two-time Player of the Year winner is the current skipper at the County Ground.

One of only five players to have captained Swindon at Wembley, Thompson has made over 150 appearances for the Robins.



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# Introducing the Robins' last XI

After a score draw against Peterborough last Saturday we profile the main starters...

## GOALKEEPER



### 1. LAWRENCE VIGOUROUX

The goalkeeper put pen to paper on a permanent deal at Swindon Town in the summer of 2016, joining from Liverpool after enjoying a loan stint in Wiltshire during 2015/16. Was previously with Tottenham Hotspur.

## DEFENDERS



### 11. JAMES BROPHY

The defender signed a one-year deal with Swindon following a successful trial period in 2015 before agreeing an extension at the conclusion of the 2015/16 campaign. The left-sided defender joined the Robins from non-league football.



### 27. BRADLEY BARRY

The former Brighton defender signed a deal with Swindon in August 2015 following a successful trial period. Was voted Players' Player of the Season at the end of the 2015/16 campaign.



### 20. DARNELL FURLONG

On loan from Queens Park Rangers, Darnell is the son of former R's striker, Paul. On the books at Loftus Road for nearly a decade, the full-back had a loan at Cambridge United last season.



### 28. LLOYD JONES

The defender joined Town on a season-long loan from Liverpool in August 2016. Plymouth-born Jones moved to Anfield from his hometown club in 2011 and has been a regular in the Liverpool academy sides ever since.

## BEST OF THE REST

- 12. WILL HENRY - GK - Apps: 2 Gls: 0
- 3. BRANDON ORMONDE-OTTEWILL - Def - Apps: 33 Gls: 1
- 15. TOM SMITH - MID - Apps: 4 Gls: 1
- 22. SEAN MURRAY - MID - Apps: 1 Gls: 0
- 14. ELLIS IANDOLI - FWD - Apps: 15 Gls: 0
- 24. JERMAINE HYLTON - FWD - Apps: 33 Gls: 1
- 33. LUKE NORRIS - FWD - Apps: 4 Gls: 0

## MIDFIELDERS



### 5. ANTON RODGERS

The midfielder joined Town in the summer of 2014 after leaving Oldham Athletic. A regular fixture last term, he has now racked up over 50 appearances for Swindon. Anton is the son of Celtic manager, Brendan.



### 10. JOHN GODDARD

A highly rated talent in non-league football, Goddard was plucked from National League side Woking in the summer of 2016, joining for an undisclosed fee. The midfielder netted 20 times for the Cards last term.



### 4. CONOR THOMAS

Formerly with Coventry City, the midfielder came through the ranks at his hometown club and would go on to spend 15 years with the Sky Blues, racking up over 100 appearances for the Midlands side.



### 7. MICHAEL DOUGHTY

A graduate of the youth ranks at Queens Park Rangers, Doughty is back on loan for the whole of the 2016/17 season after spending the latter part of last term at the County Ground.



## FORWARDS

### 23. NATHAN DELFOUNESO

After starting his career as a trainee at Aston Villa, Delfouneso has gone on to play for a number of clubs, including the likes of Leicester City, Coventry City and Blackburn Rovers. Joined Swindon last month.

## HOW THEY LINED UP

vs Peterborough | EFL League 1 | 03.09.16 | D2-2





Last time we met...

# OXFORD UNITED 2 SWINDON TOWN 0

06/10/15 | GRENOBLE ROAD, OXFORD

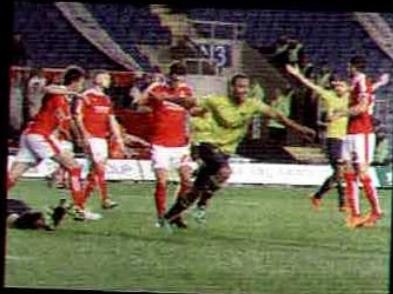
**A**lthough this was a Football League Trophy tie there was a real cup atmosphere in the ground as both teams gave it everything.

United went close on 10 minutes when Callum O'Dowda's shot from the edge of the area came back off the bar and were handed a significant advantage after half an hour when Jordan Turnbull was sent off for kicking out at Jake Wright.

Oxford took full advantage just before half-time when, following good approach play, Ryan Taylor got the ball to Kemar Roofe who

shot home to send the home fans wild. United could have increased their lead before the break as Lawrence Vigouroux made a magnificent save from Jordan Graham, tipping his 20-yard goal-bound shot on to the post.

United laid siege to Swindon's goal in the second half, with debutant goalkeeper Benji Büchel hardly troubled. United doubled their lead from a right-wing cross



from Graham; Taylor got in front of the defender to head on and there was Roofe to bury his second of the night and earn Oxford passage to the next round in a competition that would end with a Wembley final for the U's.

Haven't we seen you before...

## Jim Barron

*We look at a player who played for both Oxford and Swindon*

**J**im Barron started his career as a youth with Newcastle West End, and he played for England Boys Clubs against Ireland. He joined Wolves in 1961, playing eight league games for Wanderers, and also played 20 minutes for Chelsea against Wolves during a tour of the West Indies in 1964.

Barron joined Chelsea in May 1965 but he made just one appearance for them before moving to Oxford at the start of March 1966. He was United's regular goalkeeper for four years, but an impressive display against Nottingham Forest in the League Cup fourth round in October 1969 led to Forest paying Oxford £30,000 for his services, after he'd kept 51 clean sheets in 165 appearances.

Barron made 180 appearances

for Forest before he moved to Swindon in August 1974. He played 93 games for the Robins, leaving for the USA in March 1977 to join the Connecticut Bicentennials, with Swindon agreeing to cancel his contract. Barron played 10 games before joining Peterborough, helping them to a club record of just 33 goals conceded in 1977/78. Twenty-one games later Barron retired from playing.

He became assistant manager



at Wolves, and he was caretaker manager for three games in May 1984. In 1986 Barron was coach with Íþróttabandalag Akraness, winning the Icelandic Cup, and two years later he took charge of Cheltenham Town for one season, while at the same time acting as personal goalkeeping coach to Wales' keeper Neville Southall.

After a succession of coaching positions Barron became a scout.

# SWINDON IN NUMBERS

We take a look at how the numbers stack up for the Robins

## HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP...

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

	W	D	L	F	A
Home	12	12	7	41	31
Away	2	7	17	21	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>81</b>

### CROWDS

	HIGHEST	LOWEST	AVE
OUFC	18,193	4,069	9,700
STFC	21,903	6,026	11,461

### THE CLUB

Swindon Town were formed as Swindon AFC in **1879**

### THE HONOUR

Swindon won the Football League Cup in 1969, beating Arsenal **3-1** at Wembley

### APPEARANCES

Swindon Town's record appearance holder is John Trollope, who played **889** first-team games between 1960 and 1980

### ATTENDANCE

Swindon's record attendance is **32,000** against Arsenal in 1972. The County Ground's current capacity is 15,728

### THE TOWN

At the 2011 census, Swindon was recorded as having a population of **185,609**



### PREVIOUS MEETING

On 24th February 1973 United visited the County Ground for the seventh time. Goals from Dave Roberts, Nigel Cassidy and an injury-time strike from Hugh Curran earned the U's a 3-1 win; this was the club's first victory in Swindon and the last until United won 2-1 there in 2011.

# Oxford United 4

 T Roberts (12), Maguire (36 pen),  
Taylor (68), MacDonald (71)

# Exeter City 2

 Jay (43), McAlinden (61)

30/08/16 Checkatrade Trophy

Att: 1,575 (98) | Grenoble Road

**U**nited earned their first three points in the Checkatrade Trophy group stage with four top quality finishes.

Tyler Roberts put Oxford ahead with a long-range piledriver after John Lundstram nicked the ball in midfield. Chris Maguire made it 2-0 with an unstoppable penalty after Ryan Taylor had been tripped in the area.

Exeter pulled a goal back just before half-time and then equalised on the hour to give United a jolt, but the U's reacted in style.

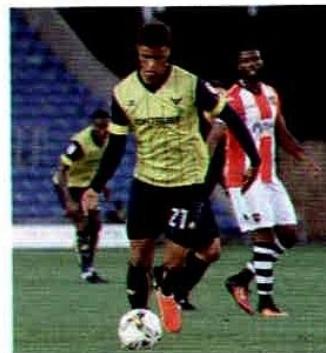
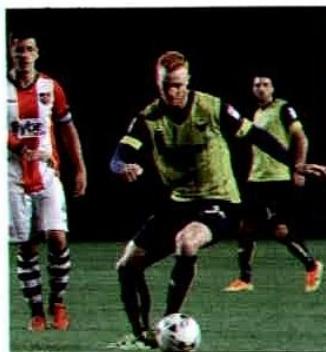
Taylor restored Oxford's lead with a drive from the edge of the area and just three minutes later substitute Alex MacDonald cut in from the left wing to curl a shot beyond the reach of Bobby Olejnik and seal the victory.

**OXFORD UNITED:** Eastwood, Lundstram (Sercombe), Crowley, Maguire (MacDonald), Ruffels, Edwards, Rothwell, Taylor, T Roberts (J Roberts), Long, Dunkley

**EXETER:** Olejnik, James (Down), Grant, Oakley (Ampadu), McAlinden, Jay, Riley-Lowe, Byrne, Sweeney (Storey), Egan, Smallcombe



	OUFC	ECFC
Possession %	64	36
Corners	4	6
Offsides	3	0
Shots on target	10	3
Shots off target	11	8
Fouls	9	10
Yellow cards	0	0
Red cards	0	0



#### TIMELINE

	OUFC	ECFC
12	Goal.....	T Roberts
36	Goal.....	Maguire
43	Goal.....	Jay
46	Sub.....	Sercombe on for Lundstram
46	Sub.....	Ampadu on for Oakley
61	Goal.....	McAlinden
62	Sub.....	MacDonald on for Maguire
62	Sub.....	Storey on for Sweeney
62	Sub.....	Down on for James
68	Goal.....	Taylor
71	Goal.....	MacDonald
79	Sub.....	J Roberts on for T Roberts

28

MARVIN JOHNSON

# Marvin Wings In

*Winger Marvin Johnson talks to the match programme*

**I**think it's fair to say that Marvin Johnson made quite an impression on his Oxford United debut last week. The 25-year-old forward came on at half time against Rochdale and his pace and energy impressed everyone as the U's grabbed a last-minute winner when Liam Sercombe put the finishing touches to one of his crosses.

"I thought Rochdale started well but we were a bit below our best," he says. "It wasn't so much what Rochdale were doing, as us not doing great ourselves. But we came out in the second half after the gaffer had a word and we came back out determined to step the tempo up and work harder off the ball, not just on it.

"We knew the result was there for us, and scoring in the 88th minute just shows that we weren't going to give up, or wait, see it out and settle for a boring 0-0 draw. We wanted all three points. We kept going, kept digging in and I thought we deserved the win."

|&gt;



Marvin began his career with Solihull Moors before joining Romulus and then Kidderminster Harriers, where he attracted interest from a number of clubs. He moved to Motherwell before joining the U's on deadline day.

"I'm very pleased to be at a club like Oxford, which is obviously on the up and ambitious. The Manager has a great reputation for working with players and helping them develop their game."

"It was hard to leave in the end because Motherwell fans were great with me. From the moment I got there I had a great feeling about the club," he said, "and every single day, anything I've needed they were there to help me. I was never once unhappy at the place and I gave 100 per cent in every single game and tried to work hard for the team. I feel like I gave my all to Motherwell and to the fans and so it was a big decision to leave."

#### Gutted

The Motherwell fans were gutted to see Marvin leave, but their loss is very much United's gain, with the Oxford fans getting right behind him from the moment he first got the ball last week and tried to take his man on.

"The fans' reaction was a good bonus because you don't want them being unsure of you, you want them behind you straight away," he says. "If fans get on any player's back then they start doubting themselves but I thought the fans were brilliant last week, really positive. All you hear out there is the noise and the reaction when you

**"You want the respect of the gaffer, the players and the fans. You need their support and if you know they've got your back then it helps your confidence and makes you perform that little bit better."**

do things on the pitch.

"I just tried to work hard and hopefully help my teammates out first and foremost. If I made a good impression with the fans then that's great as well. You want the respect of the gaffer, the players and the fans. You need their support and if you know they've got your back then it helps

your confidence and makes you perform that little bit better."

#### Impressive

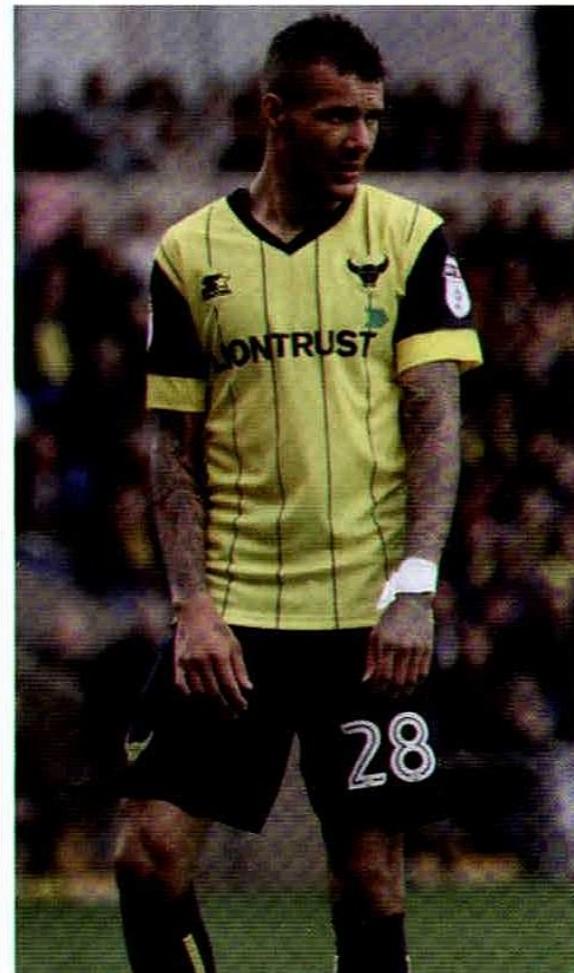
Marvin's performance, along with fellow debutant Charlie Raglan, was even more impressive when you consider that they barely had time to settle in. Deadline day saw Marvin fly down from Scotland to complete the paperwork late on Wednesday night.

"You never know if you're coming or going on a day like that," he laughs. "Anything can happen and I'm just glad that we got it over the line. I don't want to go through all this again anytime soon."

Marvin teams up with a familiar face at the U's. It was while United were watching Chey Dunkley that they first became aware of the winger playing in the same Kidderminster side.

"I spoke to Chey and he only had good things to say about the set up here and the fans," Marvin says. "It's good to have people you know at a club. It's not too far from home for me and with my son starting school for the first time this week it is good to be close to him and settled here."

Marvin remains ambitious and looking to make progress this season as

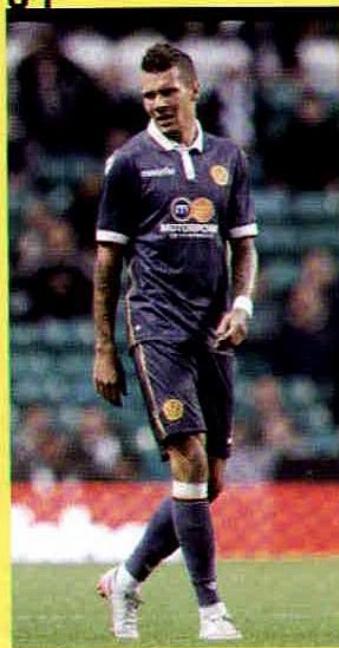


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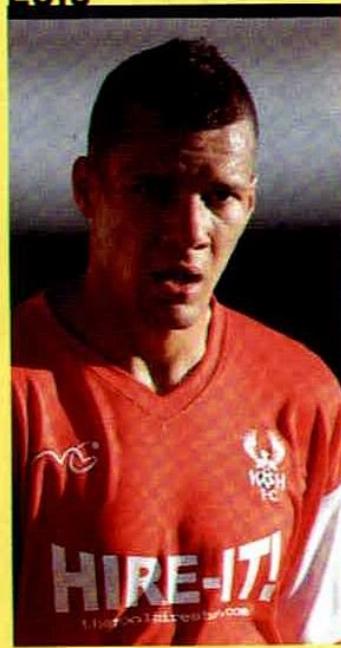
Marvin has been given squad number 28 for his first season with Oxford United

64



Before his move to Oxford, Marvin had played 64 games for Motherwell, scoring 11 goals

2015



Oxford isn't the only club that Marvin has joined on transfer deadline day. He joined Kidderminster from Romulus on transfer deadline day in January 2012 and then moved from the Harriers to Motherwell on transfer deadline day in January 2015

25

Marvin was born in Birmingham on 1st December 1990, making him 25 years old

0

In his career to date, Marvin has yet to be shown a red card, although he has picked up 13 yellows while with Kidderminster and then Motherwell



United try to build from last season's promotion.

"I want to come here and keep improving as a player; the club has a great reputation for doing that. I'm not happy just to come here; I want to kick on again, help the team out and make sure we continue to go in the right direction."

#### Disappointed

Mind you, Marvin should really have scored on his debut...

"I should have done," he says of an injury time chance. "It was probably easier to score than not! I was disappointed at the

time and then all weekend but you just have to pick yourself up and get over it. We won, which was the main thing so you move on and focus on the next game."

And so we move on to the little matter of Oxford United v Swindon Town, a derby like no others. Marvin has played in local derbies before:

"Motherwell and Hamilton are only five minutes apart," he smiles, trying to downplay the significance of today. "All derbies are different but the rivalry is always the same. We know what it means to people but

as players you have got to go out there and win it for the fans."

So, has anyone around here mentioned to you the passion and rivalry that you are likely to encounter today, the first A420 derby of the season?

"Everyone," he grins. "It's obviously massive for the fans but as players we just have to try and view it as another game, and one we need to get three points from. We have to be level-headed and try and do things right and if we do that then we can definitely get another win under our belts."

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# A typical day for Rob Hall

As I mentioned last week, Rob Hall continues to make progress every week as we look to bring him back after his ACL reconstruction.

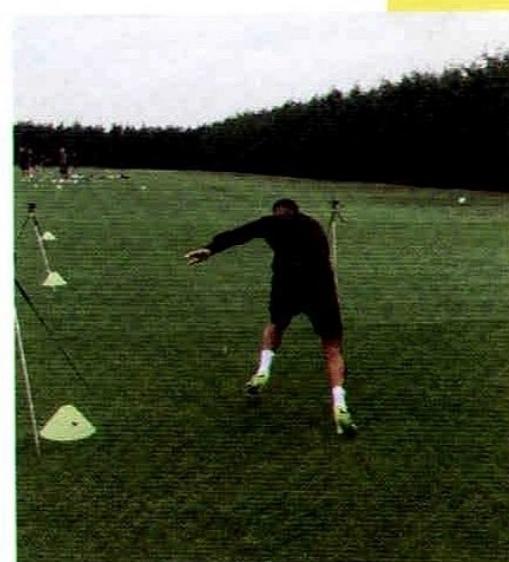
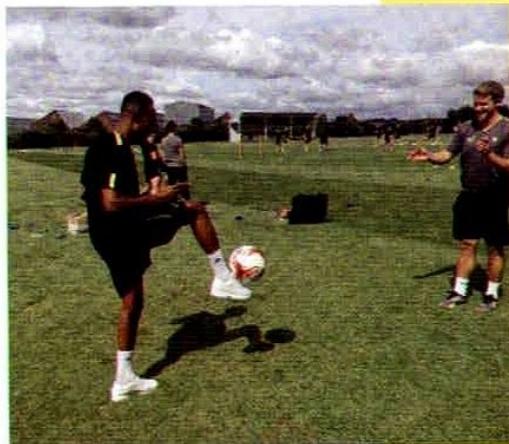
The first few weeks of his rehab were a little slow as I began to establish where Hally was with his rehab, and also work out what he would and wouldn't respond to. We now have a solid rehab plan in place and we are working through this to get him strong, fit and ready to play.

Hally's typical day will involve some treatment first thing in the morning, where we might complete some joint mobilisations to reduce any stiffness, or he might get a massage to help with any muscle soreness from the day before. He then completes his daily control, balance, stability and glute-control programme. We have assessed Rob and think this may have been the reason for his injury, so these exercises (as boring as they can be) are vital and we have already seen improvements in his landing mechanics and control.

## Drills

After this, we complete pitch-based drills working on position-specific and football-based skills. This may be running, turning, landing and football exercises, where we are building Rob towards

• Rob being put through his paces



a return to training. Through these drills, Liam McWhirter will assess the GPS data and give us indications on how hard Rob is working and how close to actual training loads we are. This is all to get him ready for a return and be prepared for the physical components of training when fit. Hally is stepping up this conditioning work this week with Scott Daly, and will continue to work with us both over the next period of his rehab. We are building towards his review in October, where we hope the surgeon is happy and gives him the all clear.

## Forces

Finally, in the afternoon Rob will be in the gym completing his strength work for both lower and upper body. He is certainly lifting some heavy weights now as we make him as strong as possible in his legs to withstand the forces of a return to training. Rob will definitely tell you that being injured often means working a lot harder than when you are fit!

On another note, I'd like to wish Will Holliday (academy therapist) all the best as he leaves us for new ventures. Thanks for all your hard work and assistance over my time here.

Today is a massive game and I know you will be in full voice for the lads.

Cheers, Procs.

Andrew Proctor  
Head of Sports Science &  
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THE GAFFERS

# Gerry Summers

Continuing our series looking at past managers

**F**ollowing the brief reign of disciplinarian manager Ron Saunders, the United board turned to rookie Gerry Summers to take charge of team affairs.

Summers' first professional club was West Bromwich Albion, making his debut as a wing-half in 1955, playing 20 games in his debut season for the First Division side. He played just twice the following season, after which he joined Second Division Sheffield United.

At the end of his fourth season with the Blades they won promotion to the top flight, finishing fifth in the First Division the following year. In April 1964 Summers moved to Hull City of Division Three, before moving to Walsall in October 1965. He left Fellows Park in 1967, after which he did some coaching at Wolves and was a coach on the staff of the FA before being appointed manager at the Manor in July 1969.

During Summers' first season he managed to consolidate the side in Division Two and also reached the quarter-finals of the League Cup, losing 1-0 at Carlisle United in a replay after a 0-0 draw at the Manor. In September 1970, Summers took United to the top of the Second Division, the highest the club had ever been. However, they fell away from the top and ended the season in 14th place. United finished 15th the following season, but in 1973 they had their highest finish yet: eighth in the Second Division.

#### Tougher

The following season was much tougher for United, who looked like they could go down until the final match of the season; a 0-0 draw at Millwall left Oxford in 18th place, just two points above relegated Crystal Palace. In 1974/75 United had another relatively successful season, finishing in 11th place, but for much of the season they were higher than that.

Summers' big signing in the close season was Peter Houseman from Chelsea, but United made a poor start and were bottom by the end of September. As a result attendances fell, and because of the club's precarious financial situation Summers was dismissed. Three weeks later he was appointed manager of Third Division Gillingham. His final game was a 3-2 home defeat by Charlton Athletic on 29 September 1975.

Summers had six seasons with the Gills before being sacked at the end of the 1980/81 season. He went on to coach at West Bromwich Albion, Leicester City, and Derby County, becoming Youth Development Officer with the Rams until his retirement in October 1998.

## Managerial Record

### FIRST GAME

9th August 1969  
Huddersfield (h) - L 1-2

### LAST GAME

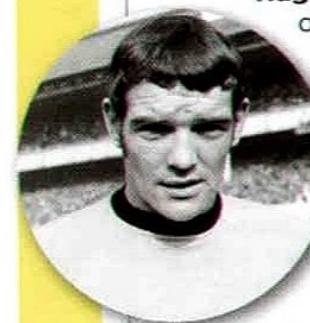
29th September 1975  
Charlton Ath (h) - L 2-3

Won .....	95
Drawn .....	91
Lost .....	111

**Total games .....** 297



**Ken Skeen:** "I got on alright with Gerry. He was a good cricketer as well! In fact, he let me play in all the rounds leading up to Lords in the National Village cup final in 1970 but then he wouldn't let me play in the final. I'd have loved to have played at Lords but then I did get two goals at Ayresome Park to make up for it."



**Hugh Curran:** "I started of playing with Nigel Cassidy and we had a good understanding. We were both good in the air but I don't think Gerry Summers had a plan as such to play long-ball football or anything like that. "We were a good side

and it was very hard for anyone to beat us at the Manor at that time. But we just couldn't seem to win away. I often had an argument with Gerry Summers about it, asking why we couldn't win away from home. It wasn't planned that way, obviously, and the training didn't go that way. We just seemed to go into our shells away from home.

"It wasn't very enjoyable apart from going to Swindon and beating them away from home. That was a great day!"


**Oxford United 1**

Sercombe (88)


**Rochdale 0**

 03/09/16 EFL Sky Bet League One  
 Att: 6,939 (232) Grenoble Road

**A** late winner from Liam Sercombe earned Oxford a second-successive home win in a hard-fought game against Rochdale.

The first half saw few chances for either side but after the break the game opened up, with the introduction of deadline-day signing Marvin Johnson giving United a much-needed outlet.

Both sides went close, with Niall Canavan hitting the bar with a header from a corner for Dale. Substitute Peter Vincenti shot narrowly wide when he should have done better and was made to regret the miss when Oxford went straight up the other end to win the match.

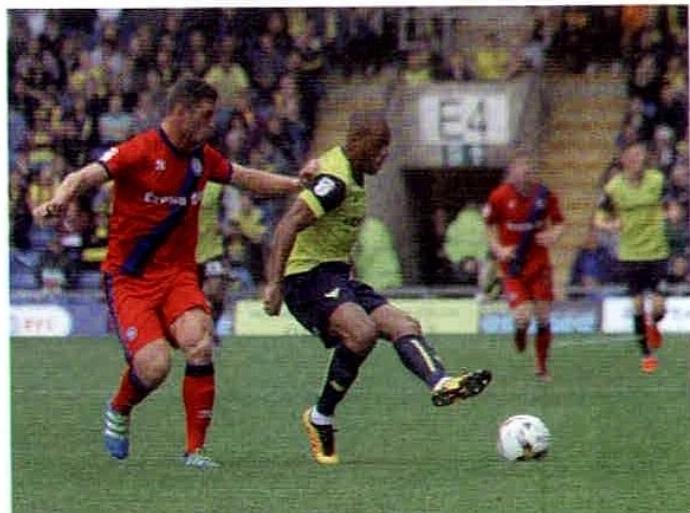
Johnson's low cross fell for Ryan Taylor who couldn't get a clean contact but the ball ran through for Sercombe who shot gleefully home from close range.

**UNITED:** Eastwood, Skarz, Lundstram, Sercombe, Thomas (Taylor), Maguire, Hemmings (Johnson), Edwards, Rothwell (MacDonald), Raglan, Dunkley

**ROCHDALE:** Logan, Rafferty, McNulty, Canavan, McGahey, Mendez-Laing, Davies (Vincenti), Allen, Cannon (McDermott), Odelusi (Bunney), Henderson

	<b>OUFC</b>	<b>DALE</b>
Possession %	52	48
Corners	4	5
Offsides	3	2
Shots on target	6	2
Shots off target	6	11
Fouls	12	12
Yellow cards	2	1
Red cards	0	0





#### TIMELINE

OUFC	DALE
27.....yellow.....	Maguire
42.....yellow.....	Raglan
46.....sub.....	Johnson on for Hemmings
49.....yellow.....	Mendez-Laing
67.....sub.....	McDermott on for Cannon
70.....sub.....	Taylor on for Thomas
70.....sub.....	Bunney on for Odelusi
76.....sub.....	Vincenti on for Davies
86.....sub.....	MacDonald on for Rothwell
88.....goal.....	Sercombe



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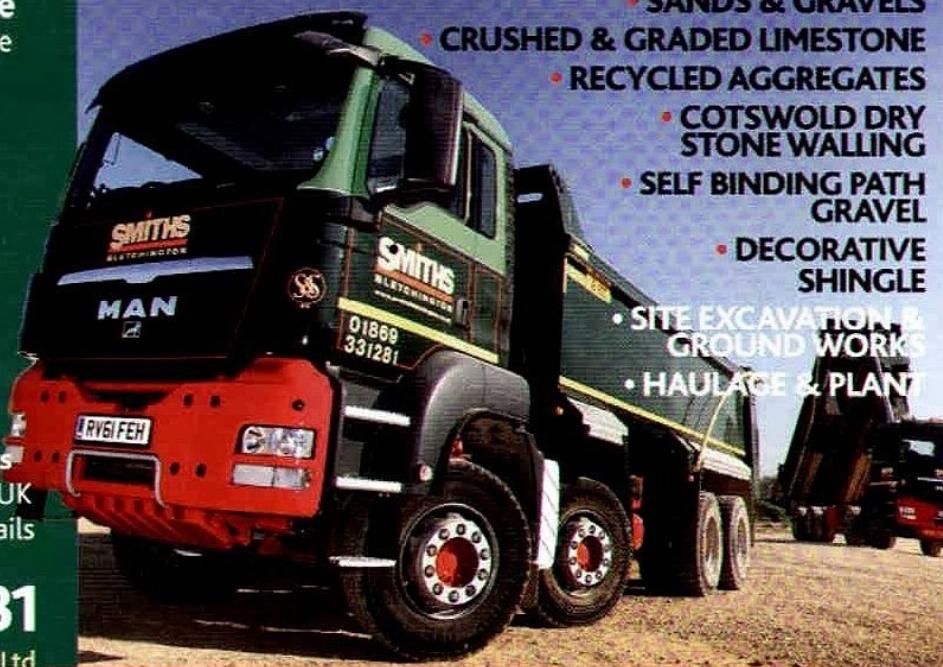
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# Youth team take on Bristol Rovers

**Oxford United 1**

Noel-Williams

**Bristol Rovers 2**

**L**eon Blackmore Such, who coaches the Under-18s alongside Andy Whing, writes:



"After the Plymouth game the message was to try and be more solid and not give away cheap early goals. We started brightly and in the first ten minutes got at them quite well but then we gave away a poor goal defensively after a couple of mistakes led to a shot that Manny made a good save from but their lad reacted quickest to the rebound."

"Then we went into our shell a little bit and didn't show enough character to get going again; we had been on top when they scored and that threw us back a little bit. We made a few poor decisions and weren't as solid as we'd have liked and then from a whipped-in set-piece the ref gave handball when the ball bounced up. Manny saved the penalty but it bounced straight back to the lad who



headed into an empty net to make it 2-0 after 20 minutes.

"It took us a good ten minutes to get going again but then we had a lot of ball and got into good areas but the final pass wasn't quite right or the shot wasn't quite there."

"We made a couple of changes and were on top again, with Shandon Baptiste distributing well in the middle and Joe Hartley beating his full back a lot and with our full backs overlapping well, and we got a goal back from Dijon Noel-Williams, who won

## EFL YOUTH ALLIANCE SOUTH WEST TABLE

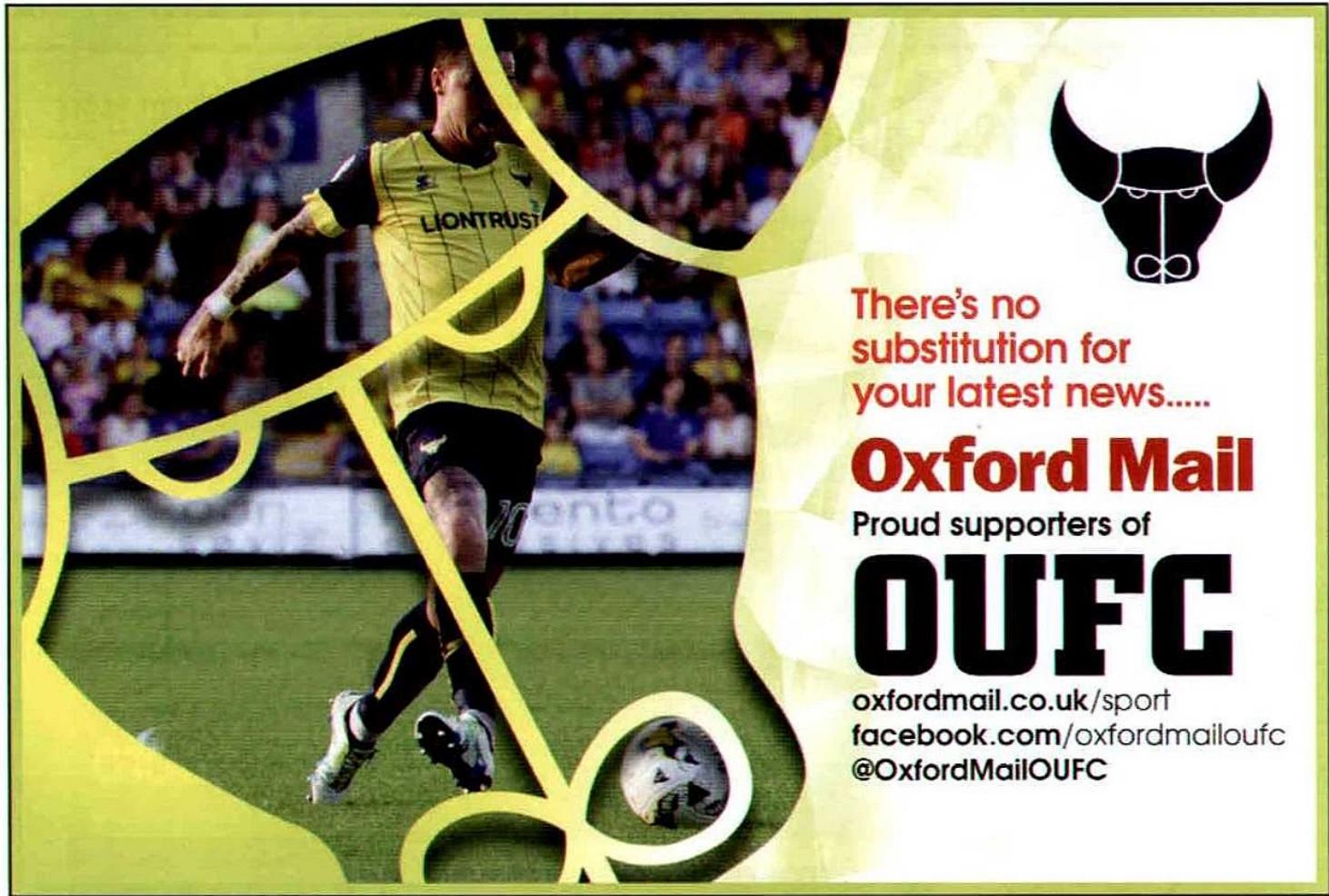
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Portsmouth	5	3	2	0	13	8	5	11
2 Exeter City	5	3	1	1	13	7	6	10
3 Bristol Rovers	5	2	2	1	11	9	2	8
4 Swindon Town	5	2	2	1	8	6	2	8
5 Newport County	5	1	3	1	10	9	1	6
6 Cheltenham Town	5	1	3	1	6	8	-2	6
<b>7 Oxford United</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
8 Plymouth Argyle	5	0	5	0	10	10	0	5
9 Yeovil Town	5	1	0	4	3	10	-7	3
10 AFC Bournemouth	5	0	2	3	0	9	-9	2

himself a penalty when he went past a defender and was brought down. He scored from the spot and we dominated from then on, created a few good chances, but ultimately we were punished for going 2-0 down so early.



"So we've lost two tough games in a row but they have highlighted what we need to work on. There are a lot of first years in there who are learning all the time. It's frustrating right now but the message is that we want to see constant progress. We don't have a game this Saturday so we can train longer and then our next game is Newport away."

**UNITED:** Agboola, Carr, Berry-Hargreaves, Chilcott, Bryan, Hartley, Baptiste, McReady (Heap 46), Hopkins (Mannings 46), Noel-Williams, Napa



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# Pizza, Swimming, Tea and more with Simon Eastwood ...



ANIMALS ..... Do you prefer dogs or cats?  
Dogs

BOOKS ..... What was the last book you read?  
A property book that's doing the rounds with a couple of lads at the moment

COOKING ..... Are you a good cook?  
No

DIET ..... Do you prefer Indian or Chinese food (or pizza)?  
Ham and pineapple pizza and chips

EXERCISE ..... Do you prefer a gym workout or going for a run?  
Gym workout

FOOTBALL ..... Which team do you support?  
I don't really support a team but if I did it would be my home-town club, Halifax

GAMES ..... What's your favourite board game?  
Monopoly maybe at Christmas

HOBBIES ..... Do you have any interests outside of football?  
Spending time with my family and I like watching golf

INDOORS ..... DIY - yes or no?  
No

JOBs ..... What would you be if you weren't a footballer?  
Probably a life-guard - I'm a good swimmer

KEYBOARDS ..... Can you play a musical instrument?  
No

LANGUAGES ..... Can you speak a foreign language? Would you like to learn any?  
I don't but I'd like to learn although I imagine it would be hard work

MUSIC ..... What's your favourite music act?  
(Long conversation follows with Wes Thomas) Years and Years? No?

NIGHT-TIME ..... I'll go with Drake then

OXFORD ..... Are you a party animal or do you prefer a quiet night in?  
I used to be but now I like a quiet night in with my family

PICTURES ..... How do you like the city?  
I've been once since I've been down but there's a lot of building going on at the moment

QUALITY/QUANTITY ..... What was the last film you saw?  
Wolf of Wall Street, brilliant film

RAIN ..... Is it better to have a small squad of excellent players or a large squad of good players?  
Small squad

RUNNING ..... Do you like the hot weather or do you prefer it cooler?  
Hot

SUPERPOWER ..... What superpower would you like?  
To be invincible

TEA OR COFFEE? ..... Tea

UNIVERSITY ..... Do you have any qualifications or coaching badges?  
No

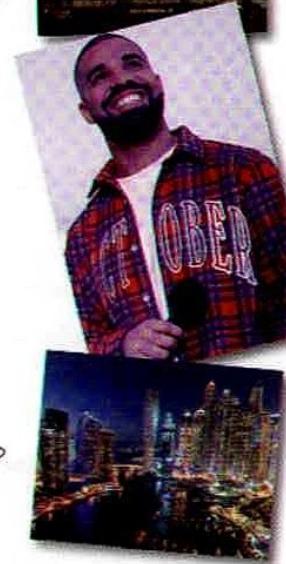
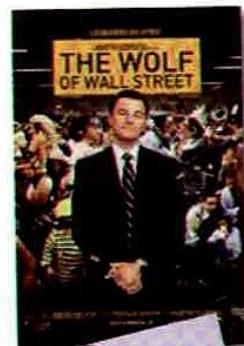
VACATION ..... What's your favourite holiday location?  
Dubai

WINNER ..... Do you have any trophies/medals in your cabinet?  
No

X-RAY ..... Have you ever suffered a serious injury?  
Just my metatarsal when I was younger

YEARNING ..... What is your ultimate ambition?  
To play as high as possible

ZODIAC ..... Does your star sign matter to you (and what is it)?  
Doesn't matter. Is it Cancer? Don't know.



# SIMON EASTWOOD

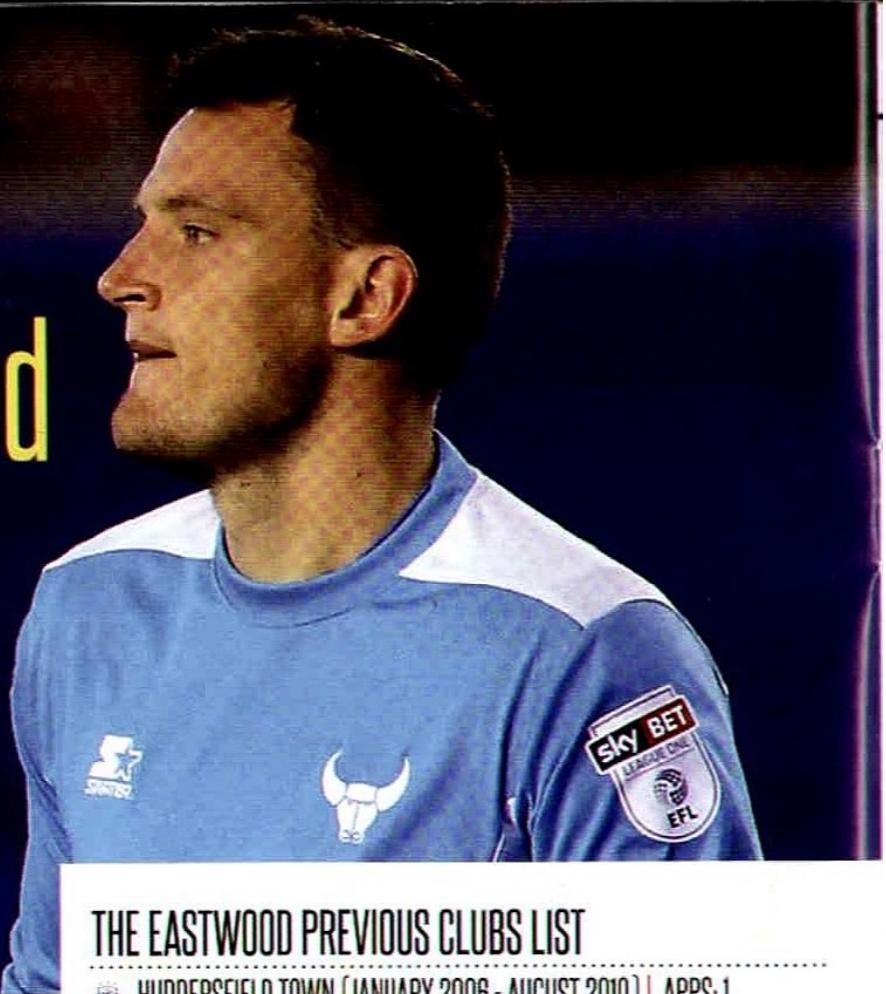
OXFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



# Simon Eastwood

## FACTS AND FIGURES

BORN: 26TH JUNE 1989 | Luton



### DID YOU KNOW:

EASTWOOD SIGNED HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT IN 2007 WITH HUDDERSFIELD. IN JANUARY 2008 IT WAS EXTENDED FOR A YEAR, ALONG WITH DEFENDER SHANE KILLOCK, WHO ALSO WENT ON TO PLAY FOR OXFORD

### THE EASTWOOD PREVIOUS CLUBS LIST

- HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (JANUARY 2006 - AUGUST 2010) | APPS: 1
- WOKING (LOAN NOVEMBER 2008 - MAY 2009) | APPS: 13
- BRADFORD CITY (LOAN JULY 2009 - JUNE 2010) | APPS: 28
- OXFORD UNITED (AUGUST 2010 - JUNE 2011) | APPS: 0
- FC HALIFAX TOWN (AUGUST 2011 - JULY 2012) | APPS: 43
- PORTSMOUTH (JULY 2012 - MAY 2013) | APPS: 30
- BLACKBURN ROVERS (MAY 2013 - JUNE 2016) | APPS: 20
- OXFORD UNITED (JUNE 2013 - PRESENT) | APPS: 9

### THE EASTWOOD HONOURS LIST

1 CAP FOR ENGLAND UNDER 18S

1 CAP FOR ENGLAND UNDER 19S



### TEN YEARS OF OXFORD UNITED GOALKEEPERS

BILLY TURLEY | RYAN CLARKE

GEORGE LONG | LUKE McCORMICK

JAMIE ASHDOWN | SAM SLOCOMBE

BENJI BÜCHEL



### DID YOU KNOW:

EASTWOOD WAS SIGNED PREVIOUSLY BY MICHAEL APPLETON, WHEN HE WAS MANAGER OF PORTSMOUTH, IN AUGUST 2012.

# Sister Club Workshops

United launch an exciting programme for Sister Clubs

**O**xford United are delighted to be hosting a series of workshops for our Sister Clubs over the coming weeks.

Launched earlier this year, the FA WSL Sister Club scheme aims to drive girls' participation at grassroots level by allowing clubs to partner with their local WSL side, gaining access to hundreds of match tickets, player appearances, coaching sessions, camps and mascot places.

One of the ways in which we will be assisting our Sister Clubs is with a series of four workshops over the next few months. Aimed at coaches, parents and older players involved with our Sister Clubs, the workshops will offer a valuable insight into various aspects of Oxford United Women and how those practices can be applied to your own club.

Please see below the dates and a brief description about each workshop.

#### **4th October: Performance Management and Psychology**

- How we manage player performance and use sport psychology.
- How you can apply our practice and processes to your own teams.

#### **8th November: Video Analysis**

- How we use video analysis.
- How you can apply our practice and processes to your own teams.

#### **6th December: Injury Prevention**

- How we prevent injuries in our players.
- How you can apply our practice and processes to your own teams.

If you would like to attend, please indicate your interest by filling in the form at  
[www.oxfordunitedwfc.co.uk](http://www.oxfordunitedwfc.co.uk)

## FA WSL2 TABLE 2015/16

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Yeovil Ladies FC	14	9	3	2	33	13	20	30
2 Bristol City Women	14	8	3	3	24	13	11	27
3 Everton Ladies FC	13	7	4	2	23	10	13	25
4 Durham Women FC	13	7	3	3	20	13	7	24
5 Aston Villa FC	14	5	2	7	18	23	-5	17
6 Sheffield FC Ladies	12	4	4	4	17	10	7	16
7 London Bees	14	4	4	6	21	31	-10	16
<b>8 United Women</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>13</b>
9 Millwall Lionesses	13	2	5	6	18	24	-6	11
10 Watford Ladies FC	13	2	1	10	9	34	-25	7

## FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2016

DATE	OPPO	RES	ATT
24/03/16	Millwall Lionesses (H)	L 3-5	304
27/03/16	Aston Villa (A)	L 1-2	306
24/04/16	Durham (H)	L 1-5	485
22/04/16	Yeovil Town (A)	L 0-2	329
01/05/16	Sheffield (H)	W 1-0	389
08/05/16	Millwall Lionesses (H) CC	W 1-0	405
22/05/16	Watford	W 2-0	579
25/06/16	Bristol City (A)	L 1-4	475
30/06/16	Yeovil Town (H)	D 2-2	276
03/07/16	Birmingham City (H) CC	L 0-2	454
10/07/16	London Bees (A)	L 1-3	161
17/07/16	Watford (A)	L 2-3	309
24/07/16	Everton (H)	L 0-1	479
31/07/16	London Bees (H)	W 4-2	1,211
28/08/16	Durham (A)	L 1-2	297
11/09/16	Everton (A)	2pm	
25/09/16	Aston Villa (H)	2pm	
30/10/16	Sheffield (A)	2pm	
06/11/16	Bristol City (H)	2pm	

## OUWFC APPEARANCES 2016

NO	PLAYER	APPS (SUB)	GLS
1.	Hannah Cox	8 (1)	0
2.	Chloe Bruce	1	0
3.	Jess Frimpton	15	0
4.	Lauren Haynes	13	0
5.	Riva Esley	9 (2)	0
6.	Rosie Lane	13	0
7.	Ini Umotong	15	12
8.	Kat Nutman	6 (1)	3
9.	Lauren Allison	10 (1)	2
10.	Ella Franklin-Fraiture	15	2
11.	Holly Pickett	11 (2)	0
12.	Laura Nichol	10	1
15.	Katja Hakala	6 (1)	2
16.	Laura Rafferty	8	0
18.	Jenna Legg	0	0
19.	Madi Lee	10	0
21.	Sophie Baker	0 (6)	0
26.	Georgia Timms	1 (8)	1
31.	Charlie Deeley	0 (5)	0
32.	Molly Dyer	0 (1)	0
33.	Demi Lambourne	7	0
37.	Steph Weston	0 (3)	0
38.	Ellie Noble	5 (2)	1



# Good Luck Charlie

*We speak to United's recent defensive acquisition*

**I**t was a relatively busy transfer deadline day for Oxford United this season. First through the door was central defender Charlie Raglan, arriving on loan from Chesterfield until January.

Charlie made his debut in last week's win over Rochdale and we spoke with him at the training ground earlier in the week to ask him if it was all a bit of a whirlwind.

"It was a bit of a surprise," he confirms. "I played 90 minutes against Wolves under 23s on the Tuesday night in the Checkatrade Trophy and we had the day off on the Wednesday. I had a phone call saying there was a possibility of a move to Oxford and there were a few texts exchanged and a few rumours on social media, so I was just spending the whole day waiting for something a bit more concrete. Then it was a case of getting down to Oxford from Manchester, which I did about 6.30 or seven o'clock, to sign the papers and then it was straight into training the next day.

|>

**G**Everybody's been top drawer from the players, staff and fans. Everybody's made me feel really welcome.

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• Charlie lining up for Chesterfield in pre-season

"It was good to come in to the club and train the next day and everyone welcomed me with open arms; they were great with me and showed me the ropes pretty quickly. I stayed down here for a couple of nights and just got ready for the game and was just looking forward to that. Everybody's been top drawer from the players, staff and fans. Everybody's made me feel really welcome. I didn't know anyone here before, although I knew of a couple of people. I played against Oxford on the opening day of the season and luckily I didn't fall out with too many people!"

#### Start

After just two days of training with his new team mates, Charlie was chosen to start against Rochdale for his Oxford debut. We wondered if that came as a surprise to him.

"The manager told me that there was a chance I'd be involved in some capacity," he says, "so I

prepared myself to play, as you do, whether I was going to be playing or not. It was just important to win the game. I came off thinking I did okay personally but as a team we should have done better and by all accounts in previous games we probably played better and lost the games, so in that situation it's important to win. We spoke about it after the game and we said it's important to be consistent in your performances because that brings the right results.

Charlie may not have known anyone at Oxford, but he did acquaint himself with United players earlier, having played for Chesterfield against United here on the opening day of the season.

"It was a tough game from the point of view that we came off the pitch patting each other on the back and thinking it was a good point away from home," he tells us. "After speaking to a few of the lads here, they came off quite

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disappointed that they didn't win the game. I definitely thought it was a tough game and there were some good players here and I loved playing at the ground and in front of the fans and the pitch was top drawer as well."

After making his debut against Rochdale, today's game is on quite a different scale. We asked Charlie if he's aware of the rivalry between Oxford and Swindon.

"It's been mentioned quite a few times and I've not even been here a week so I get the idea. I heard about the game last season and there are quite a few local lads who have told me about it. I've not really got any experience playing in a derby but what I can offer is that I played against Swindon earlier in the season so I know a bit about them."

#### Competition

Charlie joins a United defence that, when everyone is fully fit, has a lot of competition for places. How difficult is it for a short-term loan signing to get games in these circumstances?

"I've come in and I did look at that but it was a chance to join a club that's definitely on the up and to be a part of this environment, it's a great place to come and play football. I'm here until January and I want to play as many games as I can and the only way to do that is by winning games, keeping clean sheets and playing well."

We asked Charlie if there are challenges making a debut with

a new team with only a couple of training sessions under your belt.

#### Characters

"It can be difficult coming in to a new set up, but it's just personalities and characters that you don't really know and there are different ways of speaking to people but Chey was pretty firm with me that we were there to keep a clean sheet and that's what we wanted and we achieved that."

"I spent a bit of time with Phil Edwards because he's away from home as well so there was communication all around the back four and in front of us as well and we did okay defensively. You can see that Easty's a decent keeper. He was struggling with his ankle actually and did well to come through the game and he definitely helped us out a lot; he made some big calls, some big punches and a couple of decent saves as well. You always need your keeper to play well."

"I want to spend as much time down here as I can to give myself the best chance of playing for Oxford. How that happens I'm not sure yet. Obviously I'll go home when I get the opportunity but the timing has to be right. It's a short-term contract and I'm here to put everything into Oxford."



• In action against Wigan Athletic last season



**I'm here until January and I want to play as many games as I can and the only way to do that is by winning games, keeping clean sheets and playing well.**

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# Sister Clubs tournament

Last Saturday Oxford United Women held a tournament for its Sister Clubs at the training ground in Roman Way.



**O**UWFC players Demi Lambourne, Riva Casley, Ellie Noble and Lauren Allison visited for the day and answered questions, signed autographs, and handed out medals.

The Sister Club teams involved in the day were Thatcham Town Ladies and Girls FC, Kidlington Youth FC, Tower Hill FC, Harwell and Hendred FC, Crendon Corinthians FC and Quarry Rovers FC, with special guests Summertown Stars FC and Cumnor Minors.

In total 18 teams participated, which included over 140 girls.

Finalists for the under-8/under-9 age group were Thatcham Town Ladies and Girls U9 and Cumnor Minors U9; in the U10/U11 age group Quarry Rovers U11 and Kidlington U11 were the finalists, while Tower Hill U12 and Kidlington Youth U12 were the finalists in the under-12/under-13 group.

Everyone involved had a great time playing football in the sun.

## Future Talent Hubs:

We are introducing a new programme focusing on improving the ability of each player through coaching a combination of fundamental skills, such as ball mastery, passing, dribbling, turning and shooting, as well as the key principals of attacking, defending and game understanding through 1v1s, 2v2 and small-sided games.

Our aim is to provide a fun, player-centred environment in which children will be encouraged to be creative and inventive in their football development.

The programme serves as a great way to improve technical skills alongside playing for grassroots clubs, as well as introducing young beginners to football.

The sessions will be run by FA-qualified coaches.

Sessions cater for Boys and Girls from ages 4 - 12 of mixed abilities.

All sessions are one hour in length.

### Session venues:

#### TUESDAYS:

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Oxford. 5pm-6pm (Ages 4-8) 6pm-7pm (Ages 9-12) (Both indoor sports hall). Start date: 13th September

#### FRIDAYS:

Bicester Leisure Centre - 5pm-6pm (Ages 4-8, indoor sports hall) 6.15pm-7.15pm (Ages 9-12, outdoor 3G pitch). Start date: 16th September

#### Saturdays:

The Oxford Academy - 9am-10am (Ages 3-6) (Indoor 3G dome). Start date: 17th September

A 12-week block of sessions will cost £54 (£4.50 per session).

Players progressing well may be given the opportunity to trial for the Emerging Talent programme.

Every child will receive a progress report after completing the 12-week programme.

**Contact Development Centre Coordinator Joe Long by emailing [edev@oufc.co.uk](mailto:edev@oufc.co.uk) to enquire.**

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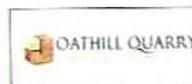
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# Knowing the score

Out with the old and in with the new: welcome to our new scoreboard!

JAMES DUNN  ROOFING



It is finally here and we would like to thank our sponsor, James Dunn Roofing, for their sponsorship of the new addition to the ground. I hope you agree, it is a huge improvement to what was there previously.

The new scoreboard brings with it some great new opportunities for fans and sponsors, in the form of digital messages that will be run throughout all of the Oxford United league and cup games. With packages

starting as little as £45 per match for businesses, you can bring the scoreboard to life with your own messages. We are also really pleased to be able to offer fans the opportunity to have their own celebratory messages on the scoreboard, free of charge.

We would also like to thank those businesses who have gone out of their way this week to help the club install the new scoreboard. We are extremely grateful to CWBS Clive Woodward

Building Services, Haysham Limited Electrical Contractors, Alternative Communication Systems, Oxford & District Building Services and H Tuckwell & Sons Ltd, who have all given the club their time, at very short notice, to get the scoreboard in place for today's game.

**For more information about scoreboard advertising please contact the Commercial Team on 01865 337505 or email [commercial@oufc.co.uk](mailto:commercial@oufc.co.uk)**

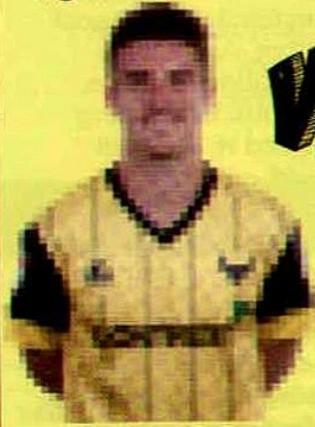
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# TEN TO TACKLE

- 1) Which road leads from Oxford to Swindon
- 2) Who is Swindon's manager
- 3) What was the score the last time Oxford met Swindon?
- 4) Who scored Oxford's goals?
- 5) From where did United sign Marvin Johnson?
- 6) Which former Oxford player scored for Leyton Orient last Saturday?
- 7) Who scored a hat-trick for Luton Town last weekend?
- 8) United loanee Tyler Roberts scored for which country last week?
- 9) Who scored England's late winner against Slovakia last week?
- 10) And who scored a hat-trick for Scotland the same night?



**WHO AM I**  
WHICH OXFORD UNITED  
PLAYER IS PICTURED

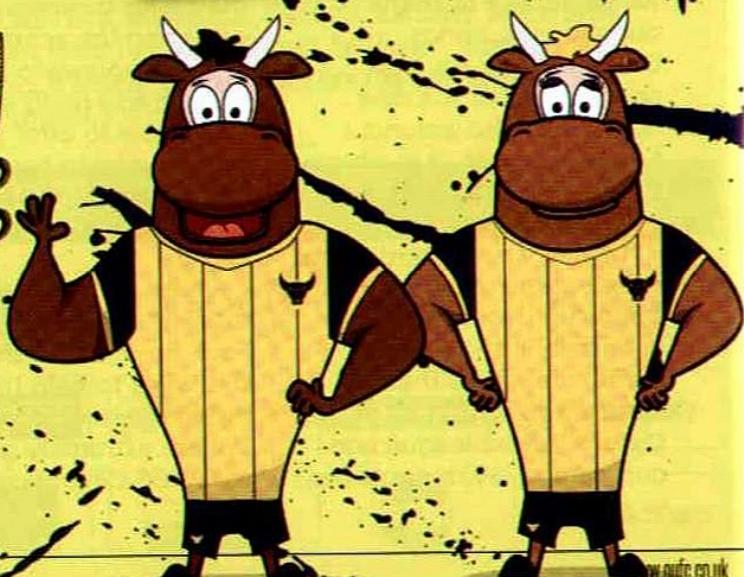


# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find the five differences between these two pictures?



KIDS ANSWERS: 1) The A420 2) Luton 3) Oxford United 2 Swindon 4) Wales 5) Adam Lallana 6) Robert Snodgrass 7) Danny Hylton 8) Adam Royle 9) Jordan Bowery 10) Darren Bent. CROWD: 1) Rochdale badge missing, extra ball, number 2 on shorts reversed 2) The difference: Ox head badge missing - Guess the Player: Darren Bent 3) Swindon badge missing - Guess the Player: Darren Bent 4) Robert Snodgrass - Guess the Player: Darren Bent 5) Adam Lallana - Guess the Player: Darren Bent 6) Jordan Bowery - Guess the Player: Darren Bent 7) Danny Hylton - Guess the Player: Darren Bent 8) Wales 9) Adam Royle 10) Darren Bent



**I**t goes without saying that today's game is a special one in the Oxford United fixture list.

This is the sixth time that United have met Swindon since the club moved to its new ground and, just in case you had forgotten, the U's have won the previous five. So although over the years the Robins have by far the better record in meetings between the sides, the newest generation of fans have known nothing but success for the Yellows, and long may it continue.

My first derby game was certainly a stark contrast to this millennium's matches. It was my first experience of following Oxford to an away game and, as a youngster, it wasn't a particularly pleasant experience. For some reason my next-door neighbour's sister decided to take me and her brother on the football special, changing at Didcot.

#### Scrap

By the time the train reached Swindon there wasn't a fixture or fitting remaining and the smell of alcohol permeated everything. We were herded from the station to the ground by the police, who didn't care to differentiate between a naïve 11-year-old and a die-hard beered-up hooly spoiling for a scrap.

The game itself was a miserable experience; United went down 3-0 with barely a fight and certainly no heart. And the slog back to the railway station was, if anything,

# The Editor Writes

## A cat among the Robins



even more terrifying than the march to the stadium. Thankfully, my mate's sister managed to persuade a guard to let us on to the regular service so at least the train ride home passed off somewhat more peacefully but the whole experience was an eye opener and makes more recent encounters seem like tame affairs indeed.

#### Passion

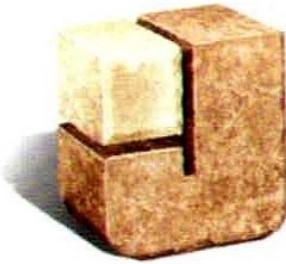
Don't get me wrong. The passion among both sets of fans remains the

• These days the derby seems a calmer affair

same but these days it appears, from my more distanced vantage in the press box, to be channelled more into supporting the team than goading the opposition. Nowadays, thankfully, common sense seems to have prevailed and the violence restricted to cat kicking by fans of the losing side.

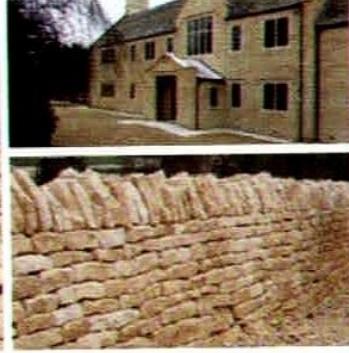
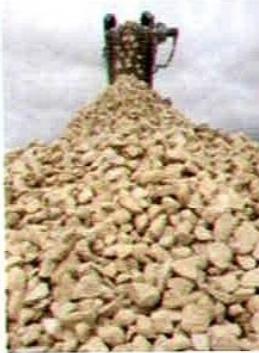
There are precious few unbruised felines in the Swindon area recently.

*Martin Brodetsky  
Editor*



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OFF THE BALL

# Left Flagging

Chris Williams waves the U's on

**I**t's Monday evening and my front room looks like a flag factory. Thankfully Mrs W is out for the evening because I'm not sure she would approve. All around me are white plastic poles, yellow and blue flags, and roll after roll of electrical tape. Has my family take up semaphore or rhythmic gymnastics? No, it is all in the cause of the U's, so no flagging.

I think there are some truly iconic moments from Oxford United against Swindon Town. Jefferson Louis joyfully baring his buttocks at the TV cameras after a win here remains an all-too vivid image. Paolo Di Canio crouching like a frog with his head between his ankles. James Constable's goal at the County Ground...

#### Imagination

All of these are great moments but the one image that seems to have captured the imagination is of THAT flag last time the teams played here. I would like to set the record straight. I knew there was a flag and got wind that it might be controversial, but A) I often get wind, and B) I didn't actually know there was an image of a bull's horn impaling a poor little Robin. Honest. This was the work of the Ultras and that flag may well be their defining moment.

This time around they have decided to go for something less dramatic but just as impressive. Those of you in the East Stand will find a large yellow and blue flag by your seats. Please wave it proudly as the teams come out. But spare a thought for how it got there.

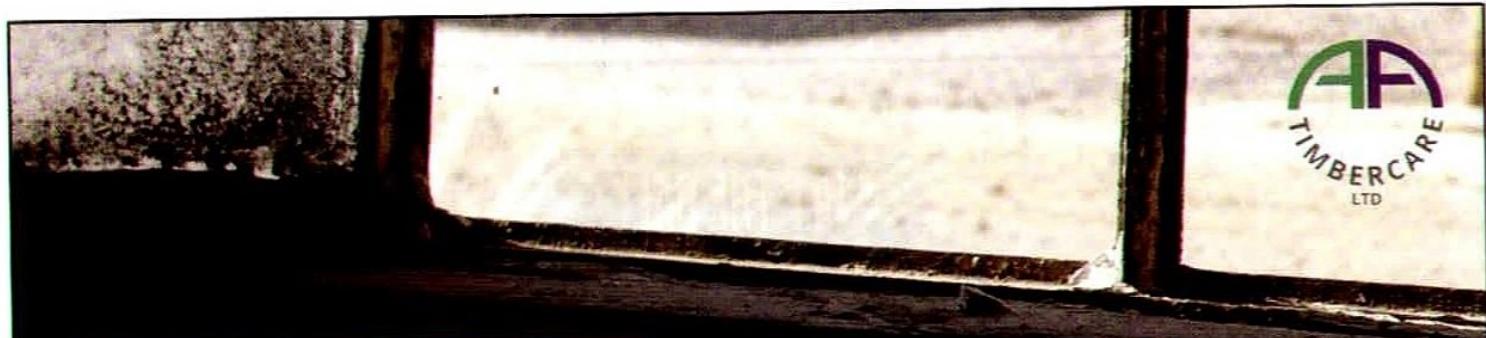
Typically, the Ultras are at the ground five or six hours ahead of every match. Whatever display they have arranged takes weeks of planning and then hours of setting up. It also costs them a lot of money. You are allowed to take your flag home today but each has been paid for by the fans, not by the club. Trust me, these are not rich young men; they are a rag-tag rabble of students, young men setting out in industry or offices, all united by just one single cause: Oxford United.

#### Welcome

Ten of them have taken home 300 self-assembly flags and will meet this morning, place them under the seats, hang banners and flags elsewhere and then wait to welcome the teams with a sea of yellow and blue. It costs them a small fortune, although they do get donations from the likes of Farr's catering and others; I can't name check them all because I don't know who they are. It's done for the spectacle not for gratitude.

Top work gentlemen and I salute you. The atmosphere at these games is always intense and passionate. You can't come along today just to watch football, you are here to be part of it, fully involved, fully immersed. Fly those flags proudly, enjoy the game, and come back next time prepared to be just as passionate in your support of the U's.





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# More in common than you might think.

Much has been written in recent years about the origins (other than geographical) of the rivalry between Oxford and Swindon. Cultural, industrial and economic differences are cited. And a smoke bomb thrown in 1982 and all that followed on that evening in early April.

**F**or Oxford, after that date, the sight of a red shirt became harder to stomach simply because Swindon, by and large, kept winning.

The same is probably true now in reverse after a good run of results for Oxford.

As mentioned in these notes in last season's derby, these are matches to be thankful for. Unlike any other match completed in League One by either side so far this season, this one has every chance of being remembered in many years to come.

#### Passionate

On BBC Radio Oxford and at BBC Wiltshire there are reporters who'll be working on this game that passionately care about

the result of it. We will have shared interview material in the build up to this game. We will also both have been buoyed up by the buzz there is around these fixtures in a way that no other can replicate.

This is a match that matters and even for reporters it means we will all have woken up this morning with a greater spring in our step than most weekends. We may be covering different teams, but no one knows better quite how BBC Oxford's commentators are feeling right now than the team from BBC Wiltshire.

There is a paradox that Oxford fans hope Swindon lose every week - and vice versa - because that also helps the other feel like they matter. I know supporters of both teams who love nothing more than beating their neighbours from the other end of the A420 but also appreciate that fans of their rivals at least follow their home-town club rather than some Premier League team from miles away.

#### Rivalry

The beauty of these derbies is that both sides care. Reading maybe in the league above, but they would love to have a rivalry (with either Oxford or Swindon) like the one on display today.

Oxford and Swindon: it is yin and yang.

So whoever you support today, enjoy the atmosphere and the occasion. But be grateful for your local rivals. It takes two to have a rivalry this good.

Vive la difference!

Jerome Sale





# Blades of Glory

Chris Williams heads for the Steel Town...

**T**here's a brilliant scene right at the start of the *Full Monty* where a vintage newsreel vividly describes how splendid it is to live and work in Sheffield.

As the announcers extol the virtues of life in England's steel capital the camera pans to Robert Carlisle ambling along by the side of a grubby canal, hand in pockets and with the weight of the world on his shoulders as he walks past derelict unloved factories from a bygone era.

Twenty years ago Sheffield wasn't in a very good place at all. The death of the mines and the factories had left the town as far from its stainless shining industrial past as it was possible to be. Now, as we crawl across a hill top through the pre-match traffic towards Sheffield United's Bramall Lane, we look down on a city rejuvenated. New opportunities have sprung up, new businesses have given new life to the streets that, although still lined by compact terraces, are no longer served by boarded up shops and closed-down mills.

#### Change

Bramall Lane embodies the change that you can see here. When I first came, many years ago, it was a vast anachronism, all grey steps and rusty pylons. The location is still the same, tight among the houses and pubs in the heart of the city but as we approach

between statues of Derek Dooley and Joe Shaw, we walk towards a proud, glass-fronted stand that boasts a fine mix of past glories and current redevelopment.

Bramall Lane is unique. Built as a cricket ground, it has hosted test matches and FA Cup finals. The history of the club is obvious. Down in the tunnel area there are life-size posters of great stars of the past such as Len Badger, Tony Currie and, above them all, Alan Hodgkinson. I hear the word legend a lot in football but nobody deserves that title more than Hodgy, who spent over 50 years in football, all the time looking only to help others and rarely looking for any sort of personal recognition. Almost a year has gone by since his death but I still miss our chats and laughs. Not the handshake so much. That was bone crushing.

#### Great man

His poster is directly outside the away dressing room and I nod silently towards the great man as we pass on a mini-tour of the inner workings of the modern day Blades. The pitch is a Desso version, state of the art and slick and ready for action. It is surrounded by giant red and white stands that hold in the noise and hint at what might happen here. Somehow neither United nor Wednesday have quite captured the heights this century. They remain massive clubs with diehard, unstinting support, but these days you need a



Russian oligarch just to make it to the Premier League it seems.

Up in the press room I am bewildered when a local upturns my pie, stabs it repeatedly with a fork and pours Henderson's relish into it. Must be a northern thing. I wouldn't dream of pouring my relish into another man's steak and kidney, but each to their own I think as I discreetly tip it into a plant pot.

From the top of the main stand I get a bird's eye view of the action. Blades boss Chris Wilder has been under pressure and pulls the least surprising surprise in the history of surprises by handing Jake Wright a debut at centre half. There are a few raised eyebrows among the locals but not among the Oxford fans, who know that Jake will be fired up and as determined as any player ever to pull on that red-and-white striped shirt. When the teams emerge the former United skipper gets a magnificent reception from the superb travelling army, who recognise his contribution over the last six-and-a-half years.

#### Powerless

He is powerless in the 16th minute though when Kane Hemmings fires United into the lead. A long-range effort from Liam Sercombe is pushed into the striker's path and he smacks it home to make it 0-1 and ensure that Wilder endures an uneasy first half. The fans are restless and if United could get a second goal then you sense the air could turn mutinous.

Seven minutes into the second half and John Lundstram, Wright's successor, almost makes it two but is denied by home keeper Simon Moore,



right in front of the travelling Yellow Army. That moment becomes pivotal.

This division is packed full with proven performers; Ched Evans and Matty Taylor have already scored against us and this time it is Billy Sharp who beats Simon Eastwood from close range to make it 1-1 and lift the mood.

Now the home fans are roaring and the whole place seems totally different. The U's look to counter but with 17 minutes left Mark Duffy swings in a free kick and centre-back James Wilson powers his header past the helpless Eastwood to win the game.

#### Conspicuous

It is Sheffield's first win of the season and they have to hang on a bit towards the end but they have edged a close 90 minutes and deserve the points. Mr Wilder is conspicuous by his absence afterwards, leaving assistant Alan Knill to deal with press duties, but Jake is magnanimous in his comments. He confesses to me that it's as fired up as he's been since we went back to his first club Bradford in the Football League; you remember, he got sent off.

Outside, the rain comes down on a cold steel town as they carry me away towards the distant car park. We have picked up a passenger, a soaked and stranded fan with no way home, so there are five of us crammed into our little MG. Cosy. I usually sulk all the way home after an away defeat, but this time it's only until the services. We lost, but it felt like a proper game of football between two proper clubs at a proper football stadium. I look at the fixture list. Next up MK Dons...

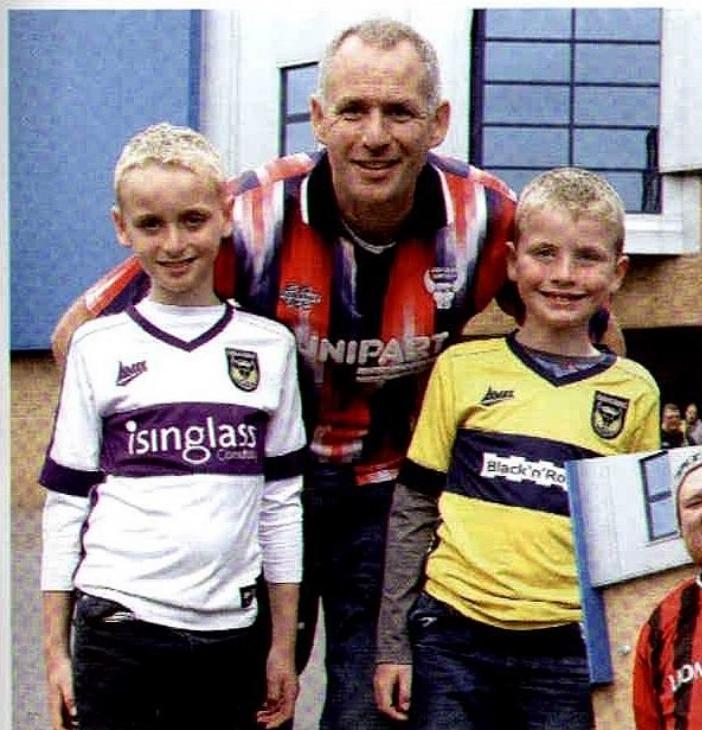
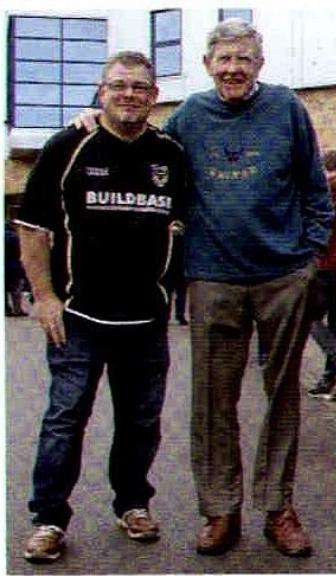
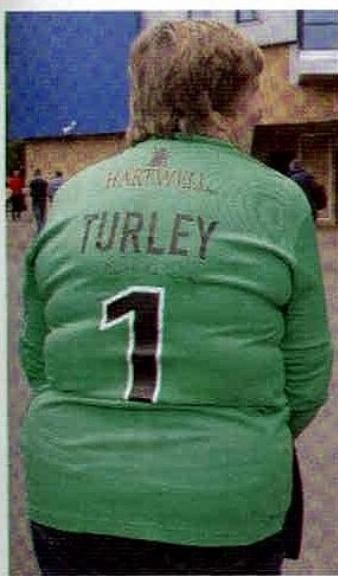
**"Must be a northern thing. I wouldn't dream of pouring my relish into another man's steak and kidney, but each to their own I think as I discreetly tip it into a plant pot."**

# Retro day

Last Saturday, United played Rochdale and we chose the game as our annual Retro Day. Fans dug out their old kits and memorabilia and came along with one eye on the past.

Here is a selection of photos from the day - can you spot yourself?





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# Shop till you drop

BEHIND THE SCENES

Continuing our series looking into every aspect of Oxford United



**I**f you look around you this afternoon you'll see many Oxford fans wearing replica shirts or sporting club hats and scarfs, maybe with official pin badges. All of these items have been bought from the Oxford United club shop, either in the store adjacent to the DW gym or from the website: [www.oufcshop.co.uk](http://www.oufcshop.co.uk).

We spoke to shop manager Lee Barton and asked him where the shop sources all the various merchandise it has on offer.

"That's really down to three individuals," Lee says. "There's me, Claire Theobald (Head of Retail) and Peter Lee (Retail Director). We have an established group of suppliers who the club would have dealt with for a period of time and they're our first point of call. We would go to them



first to see what they have on offer in terms of the product; for example, if we want to introduce a new polo shirt, if we know there's a company we deal with and who we've got a relationship with, we would go to them to see what they produce; if that isn't quite what we want, then there are plenty of other people out there.

#### Showcase

"In November we are going to the Sports Merchandising and Licensing Show at Stamford Bridge, which is

where every supplier to football and sports clubs up and down the country will showcase what they're going to be doing for 2017. That will be an opportunity for us to take a few ideas of things that we want to pick, but we might see things that we haven't thought of to bring in.

"In terms of other products, there's a 1980s retro shirt that we've got in; that was one of the first things that I wanted us to do because clubs all over the country do them and it's a really cool thing. For example, the Retro Day that we did for the Rochdale game: fans love all that. It's great to be able to look back on previous eras and retro shirts are a massive thing at the moment: hugely popular, both the originals and the replicas. The originals are very difficult to source and for the replicas there are maybe two or three established companies in the country. This is where an idea came up and I put it to Peter and he has a fantastic contacts book and he says 'oh well, I know the chap who runs that particular company and he's able to start that relationship'.

#### Influence

"Peter is a really big influence on the store here. Certainly his many years of retail experience is one of the reasons why I came back to the club to work under him to learn as much as I possibly can. And then the refitting project that we had here in the summer was another reason why."

We wonder if it's possible to know beforehand roughly what sales you can expect from particular items.

"To be perfectly honest, no! You have an idea; you know what you think these particular items will do but often it's a case of going with your gut. Retro shirts are a perfect example; I strongly felt that if we got a good design it would do well and we've had them in for less than a week and already people are talking about them and buying them. We've trialled one shirt, one design, and we've got years and years of designs to go back on with some really iconic shirts. So if this one goes well then next time we'll maybe have two or three for sale."

Unlike a Premier League outfit, which

can offer pretty much anything and guarantee that enough people will buy it, United doesn't have that luxury, as Lee explains:

"We have to be really particular about what we get; the comparison with a Premier League club is fantastic because we're shown all sorts of obscure, peculiar products and they might be able to take a punt on pretty much anything, whereas we have to be very focussed on what we bring in here; it has to be something that people want and that there's a genuine desire for."

#### Popular

"The flip side to that is that we also have to be able to bring in things that people don't expect, something different like maybe the gnomes that we've got in. They're not something that every club shop would stock but they've been massively popular, something quirky and a bit different and people have enjoyed being able to buy them."

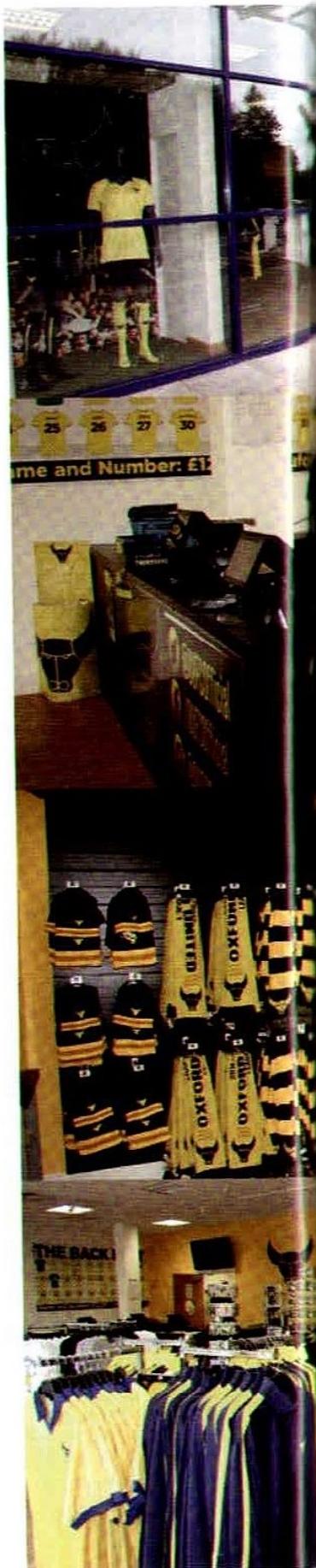
"I guess we base what people want on what they have already bought and on feedback. One thing about working in this environment is that people aren't shy about telling you what they want. There's nothing that I enjoy more than being in here on a match day and if someone wants to tell me 'I think you should get that in', I want to hear it. The new system that we've got in now is fantastic and it has a query section so on more than a few occasions this season people have said 'I think the shop should stock X, Y or Z' and that's a great opportunity for people to tell us what they think we should stock."

What new products are in the pipeline over the next couple of months?

"We have the baby and infant range, which is something that is really strongly sought after and it's something that last season we maybe didn't cater for. This year we've tried very carefully to stock a wide range of bits for the younger fan and this extensive range will be coming in throughout October. I'm looking forward to those getting here."

#### Selection

"We're also going to have probably





the biggest-ever selection of winter coats and jackets and that sort of thing; we've stocked them in the past with maybe one or two different designs but this year we're going to have a complete range so people are going to be able to wear all sorts of different tops throughout the winter and be nice and warm."

In terms of finance, does the retail team have a budget or how do they operate?

"It's more based on the risk factor of a particular item," Lee says. "There are certain staples that you know you're going to sell but with other things, if the minimum order is say 1,000 items and it's something that maybe just a few people would buy then it's unrealistic. We look at things on an individual product basis so if we can get in some stock in to trial and it may be a risky product, then let's get it in and if it sells well then maybe next time 1,000 pieces isn't so out of the question."

#### Aims

And, of course, the ultimate aim of the retail operation is to make money for Oxford United FC.

"That's what this summer has all been about," Lee agrees. "That's why we closed for a month to completely redevelop in here and so far it seems to have worked. We've been able to get more people in here on a match day and to service them quicker and more efficiently and to be able to stock more to maximise what we've got, whereas although the size of the club shop hasn't changed the way we've laid things out is completely different and made a significant difference."

"This year we ordered twice as much replica kit for the club shop to try to judge demand and it sold out, which is fantastic but it is a double-edged sword because there is an interim period where we have to get more kit in, so people will be disappointed because maybe their size isn't in stock. That should be an issue only for the start of the season because during the season we should have enough kit to cater for demand."

## Match Day

**We have seven members of staff. On a match day we will have anything up to seven working, usually it's between three and four in the shop and Charlotte, the assistant manager, will be in for half the week to enable me to get out and about and do other stuff.**

We get in at 10 o'clock on a Saturday morning and pack the shelves, making sure there's as much stock as possible out there ready for the rush. Two people will also take stock for the mobile shop for Sue Trafford to get ready.

We open the doors at 11 although the real rush starts at about 1. Sometimes the period between one o'clock and three feels like 30 seconds, it's so manic. For a big game we often have queues out the door because not everyone can fit inside and we'll hopefully have a steward inside to keep it orderly. With the new system in place we can process customers a lot quicker, which is really helpful.

Then we close the doors at three o'clock and get the shop ready for when we re-open after the final whistle. That's fairly straightforward and it means that we can get across to watch most of the game. It's a lot quieter after the game, which enables those who don't want to endure the queues to come in and buy stuff a bit more leisurely.

The revamped web site also helps in that regard. With the new sleeker site it's a lot easier to order and pay online and it does take some of the strain on a match day. It's noticeably busier if we have a good result, for example on Monday we had over 50 orders ready to process after the weekend and we can now just about guarantee a 48-hour turn around between order and delivery. We also get orders from all over the world; I've personally sent out packages to the US, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and many other places.



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- Disabled supporters charge according to applicable age group with personal assistant free of charge
- Limited parking is available at stadiummk at a fee of £7. Pre-booking via mdkdons.com is highly recommended. They also offer a park and walk option priced at £5, with pre-booking again recommended.
- Matchday spaces for blue badge holders are limited and must be pre-booked by emailing [customer.services@mkdons.com](mailto:customer.services@mkdons.com).
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Depart stadium **12.15pm prompt**

Adult member ..... £12

Adult non-member ..... £14

Under-18 member ..... £10

Under-18 non-member ... £12

*\*Juniors under 14 are not permitted without an adult*

## SOUTHEND UNITED

Sky Bet League 1 | Tuesday 27th September | 7.45pm

*Away fans are in the North Stand, which is unreserved covered seating.*

*Please note that on the day prices are increased and that on-the-day sales will be cash only.*

### Advance pricing      Match-day pricing

	Advance pricing	Match-day pricing
Adult	£22	£25
Over 60	£15	£18
Student (with valid ID)	£14	£17
17-20 years old	£14	£17
Disabled (with free carer)	£14	£17
Under 16	£10	£12
Under 8	£4	£5

### LONDON ROAD COACHES\*

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Adult non-member ..... £17

Under-18 member ..... £13

Under-18 non-member ... £15

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**\*LONDON ROAD COACHES: Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult**

### HOME GAMES



CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Sky Bet League 1 | Saturday 24th September | 3pm

DATE	OPPONENT	KO	RES	ATT	AWAY	REFEREE	THE STARTING XI							
06.08.16	Chesterfield	15:00	D 1-1	8,679	872	G. Ward	Eastwood	Long	Nelson	Dunkley	Skarz	MacDonald	Sercombe	Lundström
09.08.16	Birmingham (EFLC)	19:45	W 1-0	7,202	1,155	D. Handley	Eastwood	Long	Nelson	Martin	Skarz	MacDonald	SERCOMBE	Lundström
14.08.16	Bristol Rovers	15:00	L 1-2	10,053	1,283	C. Breakspear	Eastwood	Long	Nelson	Martin	Skarz	MacDonald	Sercombe	Lundström
17.08.16	Fleetwood Town	19:45	L 0-2	2,614	395	D. Webb	Eastwood	Welch-Hayes	Martin	Dunkley	Skarz	MacDonald	Sercombe	Lundström
20.08.16	Peterborough Utd	15:00	W 2-1	7,500	798	S. Stockbridge	Eastwood	Edwards	Dunkley	Skarz	Ruffels	MacDonald	Sercombe	Lundström
23.08.16	Brighton (EFLC2)	15:00	L 2-4	3,189	677	A. Davies	Eastwood	Long	Dunkley	Skarz	Ruffels	T. Roberts	Sercombe	Lundström
27.08.16	Sheffield United	15:00	L 1-2	19,313	1,278	N. Kinseley	Eastwood	Edwards	Dunkley	Skarz	Ruffels	MacDonald	Sercombe	Lundström
30.08.16	Exeter City (CT)	19:45	W 4-2	1,575	98	J. Adcock	Eastwood	Edwards	Long	Dunkley	Ruffels	T. ROBERTS	Rothwell	Lundström
03.09.16	Rochdale	15:00	W 1-0	6,939	232	B. Malone	Eastwood	Edwards	Raglan	Dunkley	Skarz	Maguire	SERCOMBE	Lundström
10.09.16	Swindon Town	15:00	ALL TICKET											
17.09.16	MK Dons	15:00												
24.09.16	Charlton Athletic	15:00												
27.09.16	Southend United	19:45												
01.10.16	Bolton Wanderers	15:00												
04.10.16	Swindon (CT)	19:45												
09.10.16	AFC Wimbledon	12:15												
15.10.16	Bradford City	15:00												
18.10.16	Coventry City	19:45												
22.10.16	Port Vale	15:00												
29.10.16	Millwall	13:00												
08.11.16	Chelsea (CT)	19:30												
12.11.16	Shrewsbury Town	15:00												
19.11.16	Coventry City	15:00												
22.11.16	Gillingham	19:45												
26.11.16	Scunthorpe United	15:00												
10.12.16	Oldham Athletic	15:00												
17.12.16	Bury	15:00												
26.12.16	Northampton	15:00												
31.12.16	Walsall	15:00												
02.01.17	Gillingham	15:00												
07.01.17	Bolton Wanderers	15:00												
14.01.17	AFC Wimbledon	15:00												
21.01.17	Rochdale	15:00												
28.01.17	Sheffield United	15:00												
05.02.17	Swindon Town	12:00												
11.02.17	MK Dons	15:00												
14.02.17	Southend United	19:45												
18.02.17	Charlton Athletic	15:00												
25.02.17	Chesterfield	15:00												
28.02.17	Fleetwood Town	19:45												
04.03.17	Bristol Rovers	15:00												
11.03.17	Peterborough Utd	15:00												
14.03.17	Oldham Athletic	19:45												
18.03.17	Scunthorpe United	15:00												
25.03.17	Northampton	15:00												
01.04.17	Bury	15:00												
08.04.17	Walsall	15:00												
14.04.17	Bradford City	15:00												
17.04.17	Port Vale	15:00												
22.04.17	Millwall	15:00												
30.04.17	Shrewsbury Town	12:00												



**EXPERIENCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR?  
LET YOUR THUMB POINT THE FINGER,  
TEXT ANONYMOUSLY**

Oxford United is a family friendly club. Help us keep it that way by anonymously reporting any incidents of anti social or unacceptable behaviour when they happen.

**Text your stand, block and seat number, with a brief description, to:**

**07342 274 742**

**SUBSTITUTES**

THOMAS	Taylor	Ruffels, T Roberts, Hemmings, Büchel, Crowley, Rothwell, Welch-Hayes
Thomas	Taylor	T Roberts, Hemmings, Crowley, Büchel, Ruffels, Rothwell, Welch-Hayes
<b>HEMMINGS</b>	Taylor	Crowley, Rothwell, T Roberts, Büchel, Ruffels, Rothwell, J Roberts, Welch-Hayes
Hemmings	Taylor	Thomas, T Roberts, Rothwell, Büchel, Ruffels, Ashby, J Roberts
<b>THOMAS</b>	Hemmings	T Roberts, Taylor, Crowley, Büchel, Martin, Rothwell, Long
Thomas	<b>HEMMINGS</b>	MacDonald, Taylor, CROWLEY, Büchel, Martin, Maguire, Welch-Hayes
Crowley	<b>TAYLOR</b>	Martin, Rothwell, Taylor, Büchel, Crowley, T Roberts, Ledson
Thomas	Hemmings	Sercombe, MacDonald, J Roberts, Brown, Thomas, Hemmings, Welch-Hayes

**SKY BET LEAGUE 1 TABLE 2016/17**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bolton	6	4	2	0	9	5	4	14
2 Bradford	6	3	3	0	8	4	4	12
3 Fleetwood	6	3	2	1	10	5	5	11
4 Millwall	6	3	2	1	12	10	2	11
5 Scunthorpe	5	3	1	1	13	7	6	10
6 Peterborough	6	3	1	2	13	8	5	10
7 Port Vale	6	3	1	2	7	6	1	10
8 Gillingham	6	3	1	2	10	12	-2	10
9 Bury	6	2	2	2	10	7	3	8
10 Charlton	5	2	2	1	7	5	2	8
11 Northampton	6	1	5	0	6	5	1	8
<b>12 Swindon</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
13 Chesterfield	6	2	1	3	9	9	0	7
14 MK Dons	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	7
<b>15 Oxford Utd</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>7</b>
16 Shrewsbury	6	2	1	3	7	10	-3	7
17 Sheff Utd	6	2	1	3	6	9	-3	7
18 Oldham	6	1	3	2	4	7	-3	6
19 Walsall	5	1	2	2	7	8	1	5
20 Wimbledon	6	1	2	3	6	9	-3	5
21 Southend	6	1	2	3	6	9	-3	5
22 Bristol Rovers	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
23 Coventry	6	0	3	3	2	7	-5	3
24 Rochdale	6	0	2	4	4	8	-4	2

**APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS**

	2016-17		ALL-TIME OUFc	
	Starts(sub)	Gls	Starts(sub)	Gls
1 Eastwood, Simon	9	0	9	0
2 Ribeiro, Christian	0	0	0	0
3 Skarz, Joe	8	0	77	0
4 Lundstram, John	9	0	51 (5)	3
5 Nelson, Curtis	3	0	3	0
6 Martin, Aaron	3 (0)	0	3 (1)	0
7 Crowley, Dan	1 (4)	1	1 (4)	1
8 Sercombe, Liam	8 (0)	2	57 (4)	19
9 Thomas, Wes	6 (0)	3	6 (1)	3
10 Maguire, Chris	8	2	32 (1)	7
11 MacDonald, Alex	6 (3)	1	65 (10)	11
12 Büchel, Benjamin	0	0	31	0
14 Ruffels, Josh	4 (0)	0	74 (26)	1
15 Hemmings, Kane	6 (2)	2	6 (2)	2
16 Edwards, Phil	4	0	4	0
17 Giles, Jonny*	0	0	0	0
18 Rothwell, Joe	3 (3)	0	3 (3)	0
19 Hall, Rob	0	0	12 (2)	6
20 Taylor, Ryan	5 (4)	1	25 (10)	5
21 Roberts, Tyler	2 (5)	1	2 (5)	1
22 Long, Sam	5	0	18 (6)	1
23 Ledson, Ryan	0	0	0	0
24 Ashby, Josh*	0	0	2 (4)	0
25 Rajan, Charlie	1	0	1	0
26 Lundy, Robbie*	0	0	1	0
28 Johnson, Marvin	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
30 Roberts, James*	0 (0)	0	7 (24)	5
33 Bonkley, Cheyenne	7	0	45 (5)	4
35 Stevens, Jack*	0	0	0	0
36 Miers, Welch-Hayes	1	0	1	0
39 Brown, Wayne	0	0	3	0
*On loan to Oxford City				

LAST WORD: CAPTAIN JOHN LUNDSTRAM

# We know what it means to you

**I**t's OK. Today we get to play Swindon so you can all stop telling us wherever we go how big this game is!

There isn't a player in the squad who hasn't been reminded on a daily basis that this game means a lot to the fans, which is great to hear and really helps set the scene for us. We certainly know what it means to you and will do our best to get you the win, as ever.

I'd like to think we are well motivated whoever the opposition but the way the fans have talked this match up just adds an extra bit of spice to the day. You can't let the occasion change a thing about your pre-match routine and if you go out there with too much adrenaline in a highly charged atmosphere it is going to lead to problems. I think the approach needs to remain the same as it has been for every other game. It is only the same three points available as any other match this season so we need to stay calm, stay professional and try and build from where we left off last week. We have won some pretty big games with that approach over the last two years so why change anything?

#### Reward

We left it a little bit late to beat Rochdale last Saturday but got our reward for staying patient. We created chances and saw a lot of the ball but Rochdale defended well and were hanging on for a good point away from home. When Sercs scored



the winner with a minute left there was relief all around the ground but having watched it back I think we were full value for those three points.

A win is always welcome but so is a clean sheet and that was down to a decent defensive effort from the whole team. We were very aware that we hadn't kept one in the league this season and, although defenders love a clean sheet, you also need the forwards to close people down, wide men and midfielders to track back and everyone to concentrate for the full 90 minutes.

#### Settle down

We worked really hard for those three points last Saturday and I think the league table starts to take shape over the next couple of weeks. Things start to settle down, everyone has done their bit of business before the transfer deadline day and now you get into a proper routine. We have a good squad who are totally together, we have adjusted quickly to the higher division and I think we have put down a solid enough foundation to build on over the next few games.

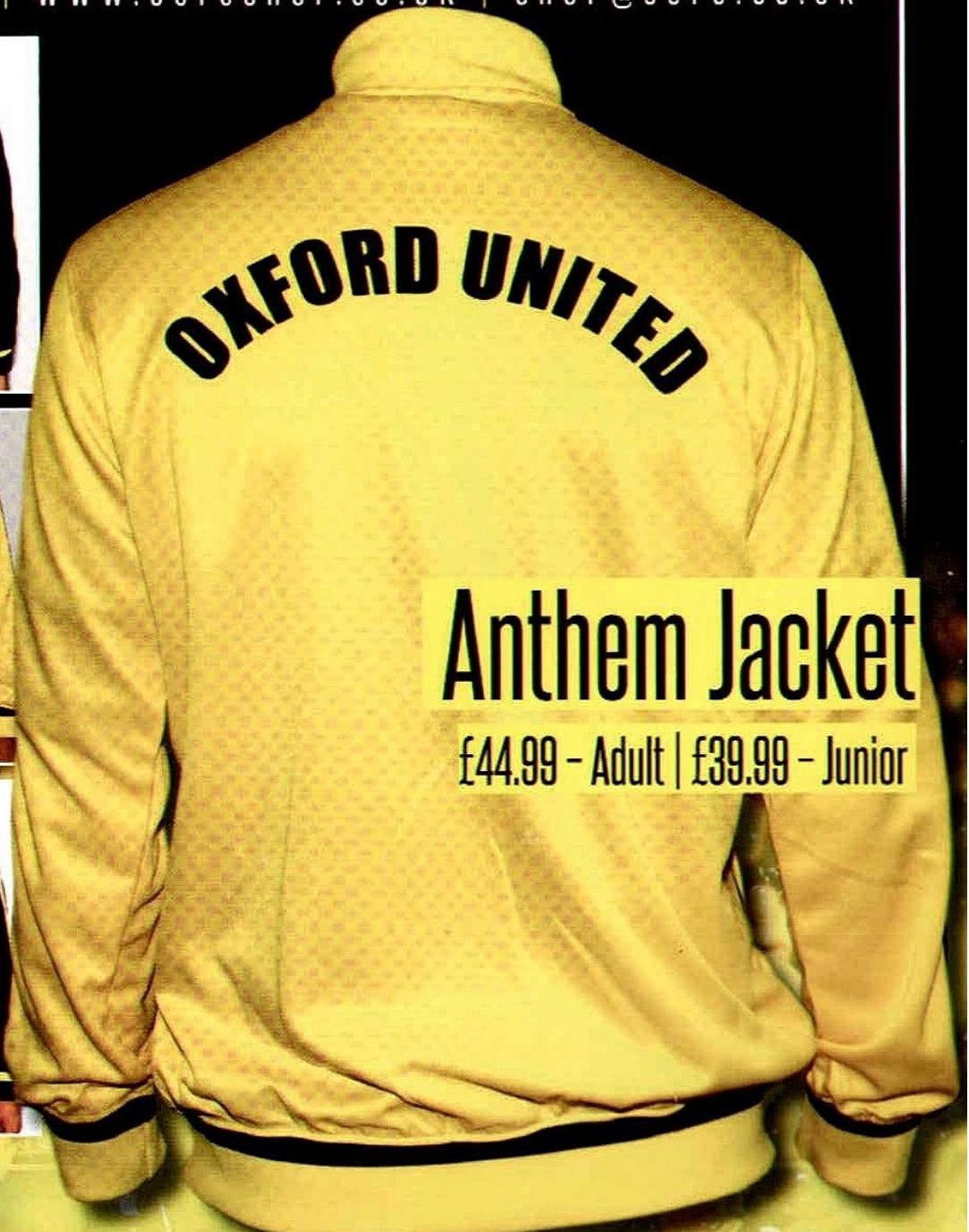
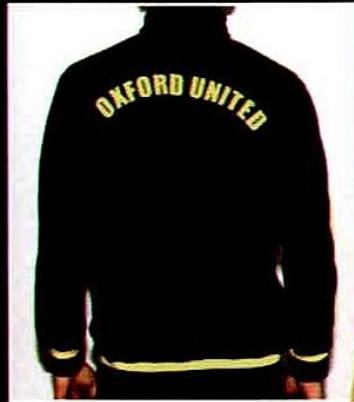
Hopefully starting with three points against our local rivals...

*Get behind us,  
Lunny*

# OXFORD UNITED

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# OXFORD UNITED

**Head Coach:** Michael Appleton

1	Simon <b>EASTWOOD</b>	○
2	Christian <b>RIBEIRO</b>	○
3	Joe <b>SKARZ</b>	○
4	John <b>LUNDSTRAM</b>	○
5	Curtis <b>NELSON</b>	○
6	Aaron <b>MARTIN</b>	○
7	Dan <b>CROWLEY</b>	○
8	Liam <b>SERCOMBE</b>	○
9	Wes <b>THOMAS</b>	○
10	Chris <b>MAGUIRE</b>	○
11	Alex <b>MACDONALD</b>	○
13	Benjamin <b>BÜCHEL</b>	○
14	Josh <b>RUFFELS</b>	○
15	Kane <b>HEMMINGS</b>	○
16	Phil <b>EDWARDS</b>	○
18	Joe <b>ROTHWELL</b>	○
19	Rob <b>HALL</b>	○
20	Ryan <b>TAYLOR</b>	○
21	Tyler <b>ROBERTS</b>	○
22	Sam <b>LONG</b>	○
23	Ryan <b>LEDSON</b>	○
25	Charlie <b>RAGLAN</b>	○
28	Marvin <b>JOHNSON</b>	○
33	Cheyenne <b>DUNKLEY</b>	○
36	Miles <b>WELCH-HAYES</b>	○



# SWINDON TOWN

**Head Coach:** Luke Williams

1	Lawrence <b>VIGOUROUX</b>	○
2	Nathan <b>THOMPSON</b>	○
3	Brandon <b>ORMONDE-OTTEWILL</b>	○
4	Conor <b>THOMAS</b>	○
5	Anton <b>RODGERS</b>	○
6	Jamie <b>SENDLES-WHITE</b>	○
7	Michael <b>DOUGHTY</b>	○
8	Yaser <b>KASIM</b>	○
9	Jonathan <b>OBIBA</b>	○
10	John <b>GODDARD</b>	○
11	James <b>BROPHY</b>	○
12	Will <b>HENRY</b>	○
14	Ellis <b>IANDOLO</b>	○
15	Tom <b>SMITH</b>	○
16	Jordan <b>STEWART</b>	○
18	Jake <b>EVANS</b>	○
20	Darnell <b>FURLONG</b>	○
23	Nathan <b>DELFOUNESO</b>	○
24	Jermaine <b>HYLTON</b>	○
27	Bradley <b>BARRY</b>	○
28	Lloyd <b>JONES</b>	○
29	Raphael <b>ROSSI-BRANCO</b>	○
33	Luke <b>NORRIS</b>	○
35	Jordan <b>YOUNG</b>	○



## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Stuart Attwell

**Asst Refs:** Dan Cook & Andrew Fox

**Fourth Official:** Steven Rushton



## NEXT AT GRENOBLE ROAD

### CHARLTON ATHLETIC

24.09.16 | KO 3.00pm

Sky Bet League One

MATCH SPONSOR

**Sue Lynn**

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

**NEVILLE TAYLOR**

HEAD COACH SPONSOR

**GRUNDON**

**DISCRIMINATION:** Oxford United does not tolerate any form of discrimination. If you encounter any form of discriminatory behaviour please report

it to your nearest steward and help make this stadium a safe and welcome environment for everybody. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**SMOKING:** We would like to remind supporters that no smoking is permitted anywhere within the stadium.

**STANDING:** Please could supporters remain seated during the game in order to ensure that other spectators do not have their views obstructed.