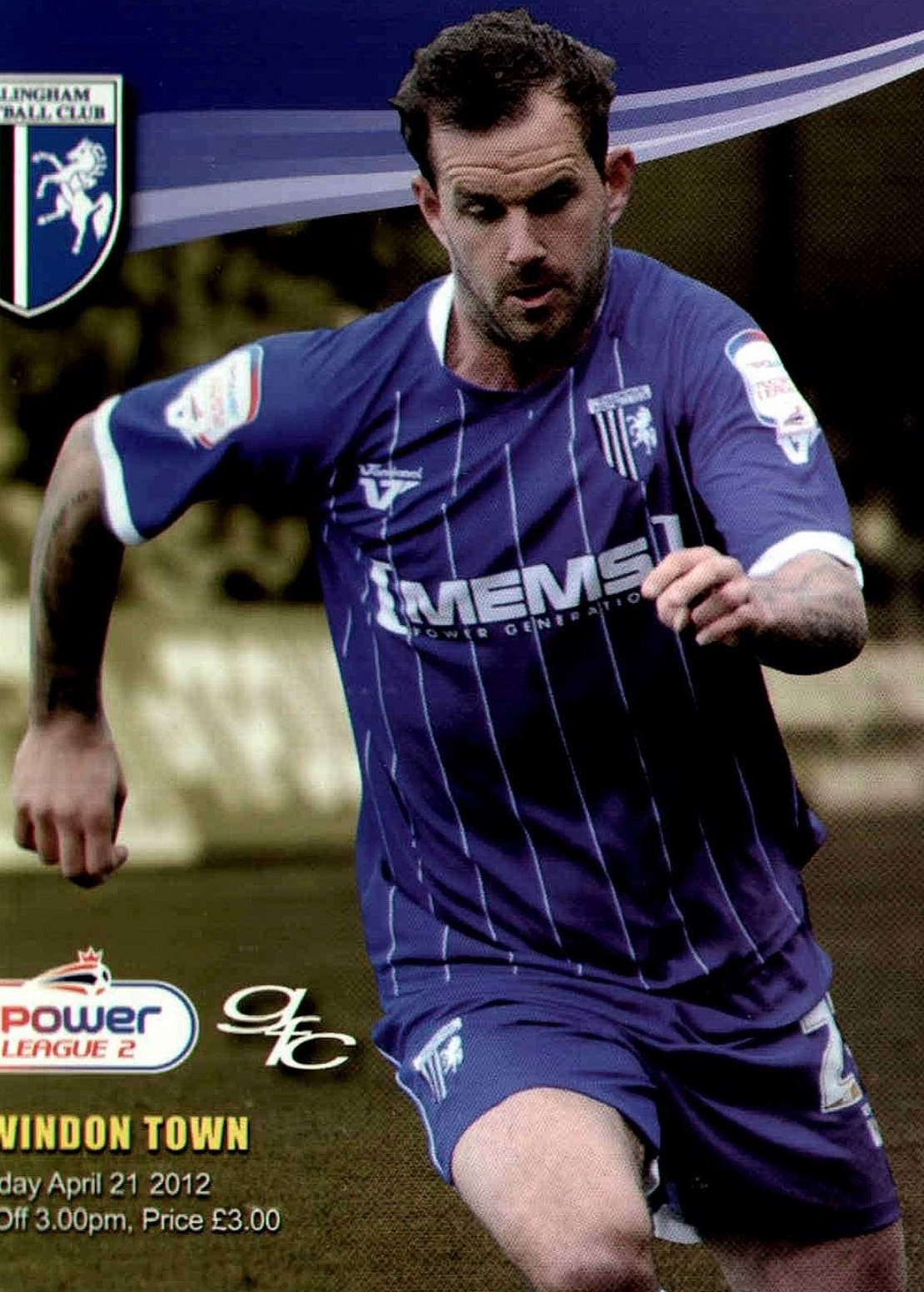


GILLINGHAM FC

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE - SEASON 2011/12



v SWINDON TOWN

Saturday April 21 2012

Kick-Off 3.00pm, Price £3.00



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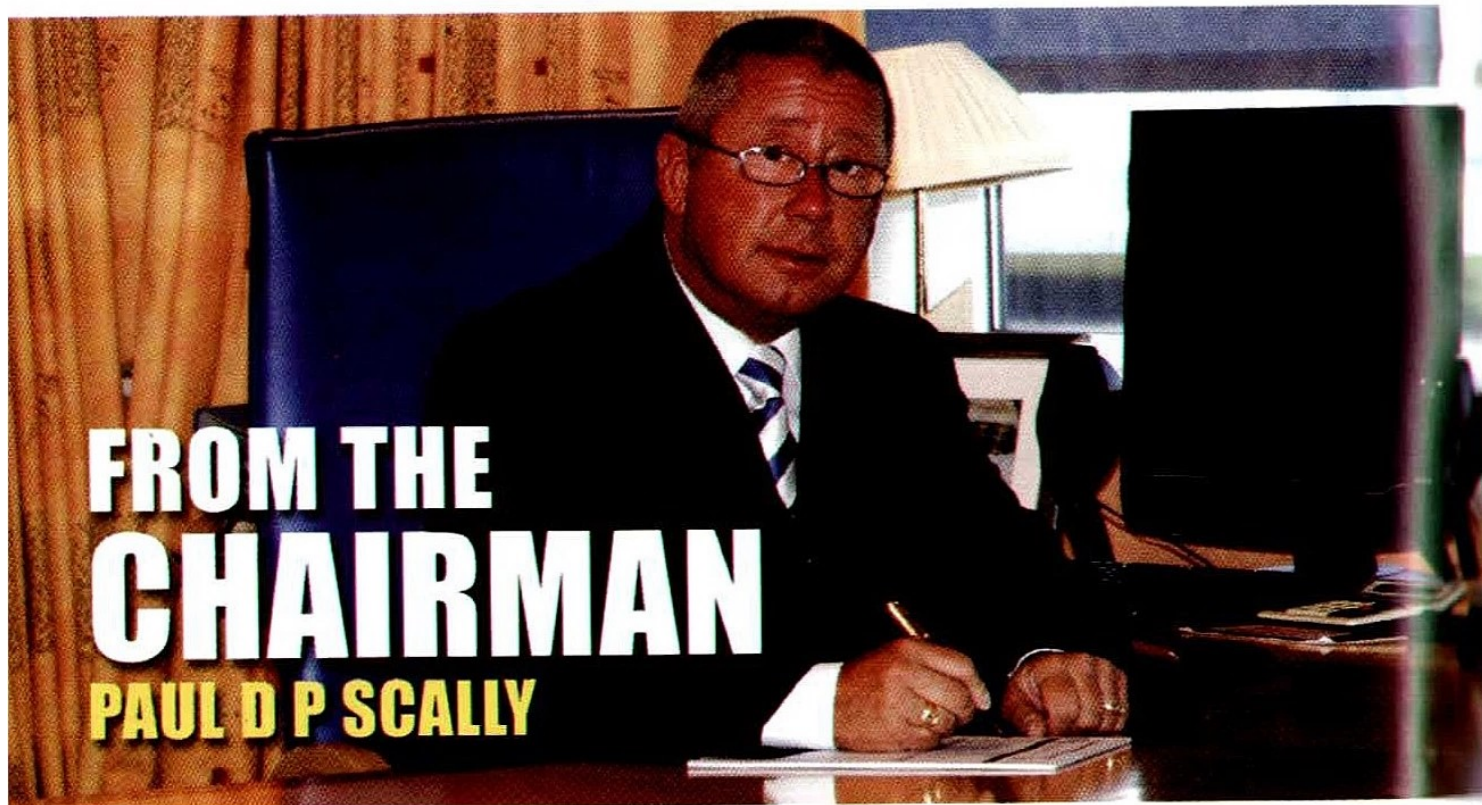


MIDLANDS PROGRAMME CLUB
OVERALL WINNER FOR LEAGUE TWO 2011/12
"In a League of its own"

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

PAUL D P SCALLY

Good afternoon to one and all and welcome back to Priestfield as we prepare for our final run-in to this season with the first of three hugely important games. These are games which we simply have to win if we are to have any chance of getting a rewarding conclusion to what has been a long, exciting, intriguing albeit sometimes frustrating season.

On behalf of everyone connected to Gillingham, I'd like to welcome everyone from Swindon, our visitors today, and as they are certain to be playing League One football next season, I'd like to offer our congratulations to Paolo, the team and supporters for a magnificent effort in this campaign and wish them every success next year. It is of course our intention to win the fixture today, given we have our own ambitions, but if other results go for our visitors this afternoon they will have secured automatic promotion and will have two further games to try to achieve the division's championship.

Unfortunately there have been difficulties leading up to this game due to issues we have had with the Kent police. These issues date back to

the latter part of last year when we were presented out of the blue with a new contract for special police services which moved away from agreements we have enjoyed for the past 17 years, and attempted to implement terms and costs based on a national ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) guideline policy. Apart from increasing our costs by up to 54%, the new proposals included many clauses we simply couldn't agree with, and although a number of those issues have now been resolved, the key issues are still unacceptable and cannot be agreed.

Compromise

This matter had nothing to do with crowd safety, as we have never, and will never compromise safety within the stadium for which we are responsible, so comments from one particular individual - incredibly one in a position of perceived power at Medway Council - were quite outrageous, unhelpful and frankly detrimental to the integrity of our very experienced Club Safety Officer who, along with our team of highly trained safety stewards, have made watching football here at Priestfield a safe and

memorable experience for all supporters for a number of years.

There was never any question in my mind about the game going ahead, nor that supporters would not be allowed in to watch, hence the reason we continued selling tickets both here and in Swindon, but fruitful and amicable discussions were on-going last week and this week with Kent Police and those discussions had to be had first before we could make progress. We clearly don't agree with a number of matters in regard to the Police, some to do with the agreement and some to do with categorisation of fixtures, but what we didn't expect or see coming was the issuing of the Prohibition Notice from Medway Council last Wednesday. Incredibly, this was issued without any notice or discussion with me or our Club Safety Officer, and issued in fact without any further discussions with the Club's Safety Advisory Group, a group made up of a number of stakeholders from the council and other authorities.

I have heard some attempts to justify these actions, but frankly the rhetoric is nothing short of pathetic, in fact embarrassing and naturally I am very

disappointed in certain individuals in Medway Council right now. I am particularly disappointed that, although the senior councillor responsible for the Prohibition Notice did not discuss the matter with me prior to his actions, and my attempts to speak with him since have met with no response, he seems to have been happy to discuss the matter with all and sundry in the media.

I've also heard suggestions this week that the council's high-profile handling of this issue was a rather poor attempt to deflect public attention away from the rather more important issue of the shocking statistics regarding its under-performing primary schools here in Medway, and whilst the council's media department kicked into action very quickly, we decided to continue our business as usual and declined to make any comment until Wednesday morning, once we had concluded our discussions with Kent Police.

Coverage

The issuing of the Prohibition Notice had no positive effect as far as I can see and, apart from attracting substantial national coverage for Medway Council and causing unnecessary anxiety with many football fans, it played no part in resolving any issues. That said, our relationship with Kent Police is excellent, and although we are polarised on the head agreement issue, we continue with normal discussions and hopefully the new proposed agreement will be agreed between the parties soon. Failing that, we will refer the matter to the High Court for clarification and determination in due course. While this matter is involving our club at present, it will become a matter for all clubs in the football pyramid in the period ahead, as I understand all forces throughout the UK will be attempting to implement the ACPO policy guidelines at some stage, which will be a big problem for the football industry as a whole unless the policy is challenged successfully.

On other matters, I would like to offer a big thank-you to all our season ticket holders past and present who have already renewed their season tickets for next season. There is still

everything to play for and anything is still possible, and thanks to all of you who have made such positive comment on the new Centenary kit for next season. The kit will be a fitting tribute to all those who have worn the shirt over the past 100 years, and a real once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Today, in the centre pages of the programme, and as an additional hand-out, our architect Mark Carter has presented his outline schematic proposals for Medway Village at Mill Hill, our view of how we would design a new Community Stadium concept, together with the other enabling facilities on the site available to us. This plan has been sent to all members of Medway Council for their consideration and comment but crucial to this scheme succeeding is the need for major food retail, eg a Morrison's, Waitrose, Asda or similar type of food retailer as they alone would provide the level of enabling funding required to get plans off the ground.

We have had some very interesting meetings with several food retailers so far this month, one last Thursday, and they are all very keen to be part of this scheme on this site, a site owned by a willing and accommodating landowner. We have also met with two substantial national developers who also like the site and see the

merits of such a scheme. The path ahead will not be easy, but as many clubs have demonstrated - Brighton being the most recent - if we keep focused and work hard to achieve the scheme, it will allow the club to develop, prosper and continue to serve the people of Medway and beyond for another centenary ahead, and thereafter.

On commercial matters, Steve Lowe our Commercial Director has left the club by mutual consent. I'd like to thank him for his efforts while with the club and wish him well for the future. I would also like to remind everyone that the Player of the year Dinner/ Dance takes place on Saturday, May 5, so if you haven't already got your tickets, call our sales team as they are selling fast.

Today, however, is all about football. You have been superb in your support all season and we need you all to get behind the team today as we attempt to get a result against probably the divisional champions designate. It won't be easy but we have the quality and commitment within the dressing room to achieve anything this season. Let's make Priestfield rock, and enjoy the game. Thanks for coming.

Up The Gills!
Paul D P Scally
 Chairman





PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tickets are still available for our Player of the Year dinner, which is being held on the evening of our home game with Morecambe on Saturday May 5.

Priced at £50 plus VAT, the black-tie event includes a three-course meal, live music and, of course, the crowning of our Player of the Year, as well as Young Player of the Year and Goal of the Season.

You should have been given a voting form on your way into the stadium today, but they are still available in the Blues Rock Café and Megastore after the game. But be quick – voting forms have to be handed in today.

Our Goal of the Year award is being run on our official website in conjunction with Gills Player, our subscription video service.

There are 10 goals in the running, and you can see them all in our free video on the official website. **The 10 goals are:**

GOAL A - Jack Payne at Barnet, August 16

Payne collected the ball, took a touch and fired in from 25 yards, giving Dean Brill no chance.

GOAL B - Danny Jackman at Hereford, September 16

The best strike in the club's record away League win, Jackman collected a short corner from Luke Rooney and fired into the top corner from 25 yards with his weaker right foot.

GOAL C - Chris Whelpdale at Torquay, October 15

Whelpdale put the gloss on another memorable away day, skinning a defender before lobbing into the far corner.

GOAL D - Lewis Montrose v Oxford, October 22

Montrose scored the only goal against the Us, taking a touch after a cross was cleared before arrowing an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

GOAL E - Jack Payne at Bournemouth, November 12

Payne levelled this thrilling tie at 1-1 in the first half with a fine strike from 35 yards.

GOAL F - Jo Kuffour at Crawley, December 26

Kuffour had not long brought the Gills level before he collected the ball from Rooney, beat his man and finished smartly beyond Scott Shearer for the winner.

GOAL G - Gavin Tomlin v Southend, February 13

Although it proved to be no more than a consolation, it was some consolation as Curtis Weston found Tomlin who burst through the defence before lashing home.

GOAL H - Charlie Lee v Hereford, February 28

The pick of the goals on a memorable night, Lee made it 3-4 after a barnstorming run and a low left-footed shot from the edge of the box.

Continued on page 7.



50/50 WINNERS

The winning numbers from the Gillingham v Dagenham & Redbridge 50/50 Matchday Lottery draw sponsored by DFDS Seaways were:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1st Prize | £500 310823 Michael Garofalo (Rochester) |
| 2nd Prize | Signed Shirt 310836 Joshua Popple (Isle of Sheppey) |
| 3rd Prize | Signed Ball 311177 Unclaimed |
| 4th Prize | Goody Bag 311191 Unclaimed |

To claim your prize contact Main Reception between 9.00am and 5.00pm (weekdays) on 01634 300000

GOAL I - Joe Martin at Plymouth, March 3

Martin's second career goal was a spectacular one, firing in from 35 yards with a strike worthy of winning any game.

GOAL J - Chris Whelpdale v Macclesfield, March 31

Whelpdale's second goal on this list was a real team effort. Rowan Vine found Danny Kedwell, who fed Danny Spiller. Spiller hared down the left before delivering a great cross which Whelpdale dived to head home.

Voting for Goal of the Year closes at 5pm tomorrow (Sunday April 22), so if you have made your choice, email goal@priestfield.com to have your voted counted – and one person who votes will win a football signed by the Gills first-team squad.



FANPOWER STADIUM

Football League sponsors npower are giving the Gills the chance to win £30,000 through the FanPower Stadium.

The competition is split into two stages – firstly fans signing up to take their seats in each team's stadium, and the first team in the division to reach their average attendance will win. Our magic number is 5,544, so we need as many of you here today as possible to sign up and take your seats.

The second stage of the competition is about making 'noise' – talking about the club on Facebook and on Twitter. Once you have registered via Facebook and linked it to your Twitter account, any reference you make to the Gills, MEMS Priestfield Stadium, the manager or any of the players earns us a point. You can even just add #FANPOWERSTADIUM to your Tweets to get them counted.

To register and help the club climb the table, search NPOWER FOOTBALL on Facebook, or click on the link via our official Facebook page.

GOALS CHART

| | GILLINGHAM | | OPPONENTS | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | TOWN END | RAINHAM END | TOWN END | RAINHAM END |
| PLAYED 24 | 16 | 27 | 22 | 12 |

SUPERDRAW

Week 47 Superdraw – April 16 2012

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| £1,000 | Mr Spragg - P3505 |
| £150 | Miss H Wilkes - Z5391 |
| £100 | Mrs B Nock - K7894 |
| £75 | Mrs Pat Rodgers - T9217 |
| £50 | Mr R Porter - B1527 |
| £50 | Mrs V Golder - S0573 |
| £25 | Mrs J Srain - J5499 |
| £25 | Mrs I Davies - K7706 |
| £25 | Mrs M Woollam - C0435 |
| £25 | Mrs Purcell - J3181 |

The birth date drawn today was the 25/10/22, but there were no winners so next weeks' prize will be £600!



NEXT UP

Our next game here at MEMS Priestfield is our final game

of the regular season when Morecambe are the visitors.

It is just the third time the Lancashire outfit have made the trip to Kent, having lost 5-0 on their first in 2008, but claimed a 1-1 draw last season.

The Shrimps, under Jim Bentley, made a fine start to the season and were top in September, but they have faded away to mid-table.

They have fared better away from home this season, winning eight and drawing eight and losing just five of their games on the road.

LIVE UPDATES

If you ever can't make a Gills game – home or away – follow it via the official website's increasingly popular live updates.

Our live, interactive update service gives our fans the chance to give us their opinions during the game, either by using the comments facility on the console we use to bring the updates, or via Twitter, by adding #gillslive to your Tweets. If you're at the game and Tweeting, add #gillslive and your comments may be included.

Updates from our next game at Northampton will start at 2pm, so join us for the build-up followed by live coverage.



TODAY'S MASCOT

Euan Penney will be walking out with the Gills this afternoon.

Euan, who comes from Sittingbourne, will be celebrating his seventh birthday on Friday and lists his favourite Gills players as Danny Kedwell and Andy Frampton.

If you would like your child to have a day they will never forget here at MEMS Priestfield Stadium, call Val Rault on 01634 350131 between 10am and 5pm to find out about our mascot packages.

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FROM THE MANAGER

ANDY HESSENTHALER

Good afternoon everyone for this, our penultimate home league game of the season.

It's been a frustrating few weeks for us, but we still have a chance of getting into the top seven, which is the very minimum we wanted from this season.

All the time you've got a chance you've got to go out there and give everything you can. I thought we did that at Oxford, we went very bold, 4-2-4. I think some people thought we were more negative than we were but we went there and tried to win the game, unfortunately we didn't. On another day in different circumstances, a point at Oxford would be a good result but at this stage of the season it's wins and wins only.

It is do or die now. It's a shame it's come to that because we wanted to be in the top three. There's no hiding from that. We haven't achieved that and we may not achieve the top seven. Last year we missed out on goal difference and it's going to be really disappointing if we miss out this year.

It hasn't been for the lack of trying, it's been very difficult in respect of getting that real consistency in picking the team and I've got to say, I've never known an injury list over the season as bad as we've had. It doesn't help, but we're not going to hide from that. Easter was a frustrating weekend for us as we drew at Bristol Rovers and then lost here to Dagenham.

Bristol Rovers was a tough place to go, the pitch was very difficult. We got ourselves into a great position and it was a shame in the end that we had to fight to get a point

It was disappointing because the

performance wasn't too bad. Away from home – apart from Burton – we haven't been too bad, but at home we haven't done so well and we've got to do better in the last few home games that we've got.

The Dagenham game was frustrating for us. As I said after the game we were lacking a spark, and it's a game that passed us by.

We can't afford to let that happen here today when we face a Swindon side who have done fantastically well this season. I know it's a game that you supporters desperately want to win and we are much the same.

We'd love to finish off with three wins and if we get three wins then we still have a major opportunity to get into the play-offs. That is our aim, to win the last three games, let's hope we can and we can make the play-offs.

Fantastic

I'd like to welcome all the players, officials and staff of Swindon, including of course Paolo Di Canio. Firstly, I'd like to offer my condolences to Paolo after he sadly lost his mum last weekend. He's a fantastic character, great for the game. He was a fantastic player, very gifted, somebody that I'd pay money to watch.

He became a West Ham legend and he's now becoming a Swindon legend too. He's done fantastically well. It took them a bit of time to settle and for them to get used to Paolo and how he wanted to do things, but in the end they've been the best team over the season so all credit to them. He's somebody that I've enjoyed watching over the years.

We also welcome Luke Rooney back after his January move to the County

Ground. We made him an offer to stay, it wasn't right for him and he's decided to go for another challenge. He's gone there and he's done really well. In the time I worked with him, he was a bit frustrating at times but he's got a massive amount of ability and we wish him well for the future – after today, of course.

This week we have seen Olly Lee return to West Ham at the end of his loan spell. Olly himself will tell you he was frustrated as it just didn't work out for him here. I've seen a lot of Olly, but he didn't really get going in his time with us. I thought he did really well at Cheltenham, but was in and out of the team. We wish him well for the future.

On Tuesday, all of the first-team took part in CRY screening here at the club. It's very important, especially in light of what's happened in the past weeks with Fabrice Muamba and then the tragic death of Piermario Morosini in Italy at the weekend.

The players were very happy to have it done because you never know – it gives them peace of mind. The younger players have already been screened, and when it was done my son Jakob had a slight problem with his screening.

He went to see the specialist and fortunately there was no problem and they were happy. There was nothing to worry about, but the screening did highlight something, they thought it might be a defect but in the end it was something of nothing. It was a little bit of a worry at the time, but he's fine, so it's pleasing for us.

Get behind the boys today,
Andy



MATCH ACTION

Bristol Rovers 2

Richards 59, Carayol 80

Gillingham 2

Whelpdale 55, Oli 90

Friday April 6 2012

npower League Two, Memorial Stadium

Attendance: 6,160

Rovers: Bevan, Woodards (Smith 54), Bolger, Parkes, Paterson (Gill 43), Carayol, Lund, Stanley, Sawyer (c), Harrold, Zebroski (Richards H/T)

Unused subs: Downes, Dorman

Gills: Gazzangia, Fish, Frampton (c), Essam, Martin, Jackman (Oli 86), Whelpdale, Payne, Montrose (Spiller 72), Kedwell, Vine (Miller 79).

Unused subs: Evans, Lee

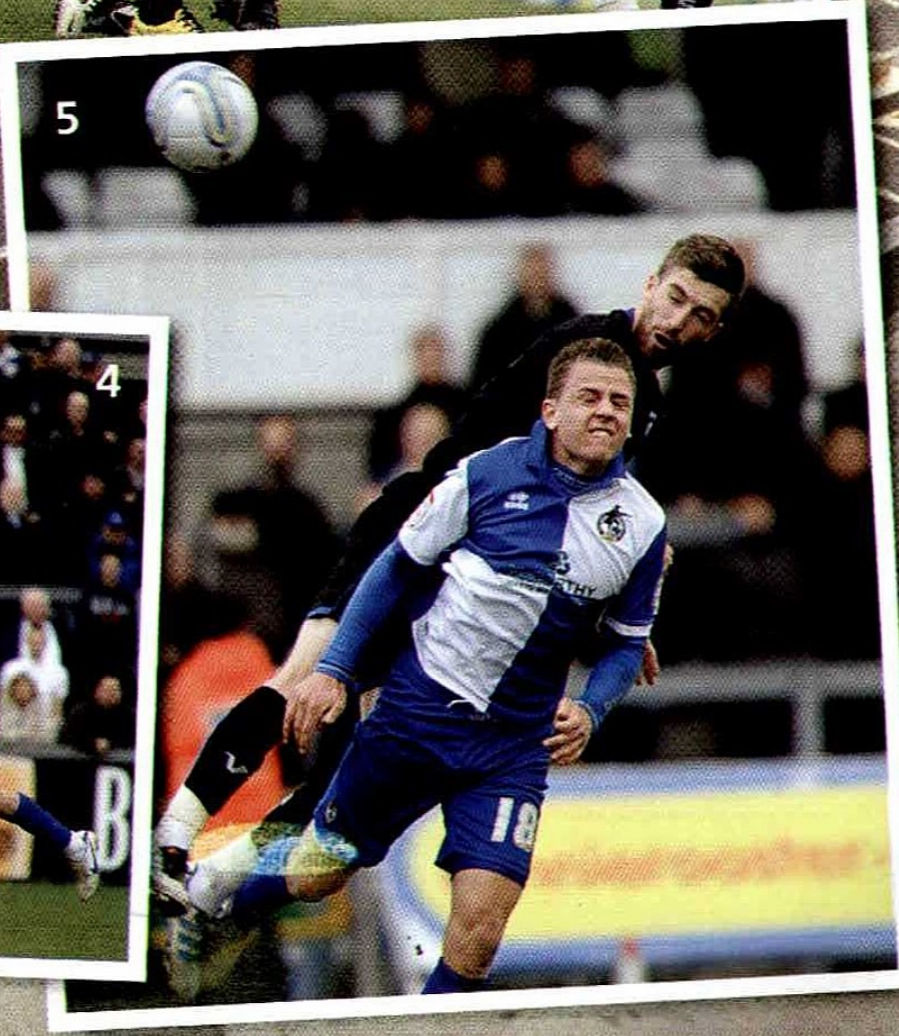
1. Rowan Vine holds off Cian Bolger
2. Chris Whelpdale takes the plaudits for the opener
3. Danny Kedwell and Dennis Oli celebrate the late leveller
4. Danny Kedwell is denied
5. Matt Fish heads goalwards

Pictures courtesy of Medway Messenger



| ROVERS | MATCH STATS | GILLS |
|--------|----------------|-------|
| 2 | Goals | 2 |
| 9 | Total attempts | 13 |
| 6 | On target | 5 |
| 2 | Off target | 6 |
| 1 | Blocked | 2 |
| 0 | Hit woodwork | 0 |
| 3 | Corners | 6 |
| 3 | Caught offside | 1 |
| 11 | Fouls conceded | 15 |
| 0 | Yellow cards | 3 |
| 0 | Red cards | 0 |

Hessy: "The best on our travels for a long time"





JUNIOR GILLS



Hi Junior Gills fans and welcome to the Swindon game, I'm kindly helping out the Community Trust this programme as they've got lots going on so I said I would help and include some of their bits on my page.



Today's sees the second semi-final of our half-time shoot-out between

Ospringe Primary School and St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School.

As with our last semi-final both schools have been very strong throughout the competition and we are expecting another close contest. Please get behind the teams as they look to secure their place in the final against Featherby Junior School at our last home game of the season against Morecambe.



WHAT'S YOUR GOAL! COMMUNITY MANAGER & EVENTS MANAGER

The What's Your Goal scheme continued last week when we welcomed Alana Crayden and George Clements to the club.

Alana shadowed Head of Community Adam Lawrence with the Community Trust for the week, helping out and overseeing our Soccer Schools and also researching future and potential projects.

George assisted Events Manager Paul Rogers with bookings for upcoming events, gathering feedback from events that had recently been held and planning and setting up for our Murder Mystery night held last weekend.

Both Alana and George were very keen and committed to learn as much as they could from the

four days they had at the club and we hope that this experience will be useful and beneficial for their future.



BUILDING LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

During the recent Easter school holidays, the Community Trust teamed up with The Hyde Group to deliver some free sports coaching to children living on the Medway Gate Housing estate, in Strood.



Community coaches Dean Grant and Adam Burchell organised a variety of fun sporting games and activities for the children who turned up on the

days. These largely involved football as you'd expect, but the group also enjoyed dodgeball and football-golf.

We had a number of young people involved over the two days, ranging from ages 5-14 years.

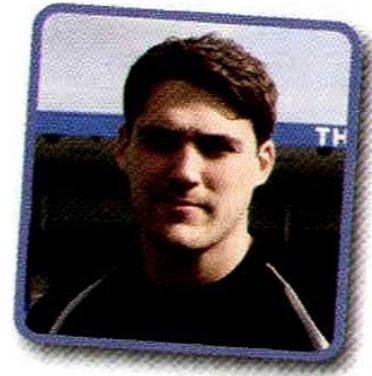
It was a successful few days, despite the unpredictable weather, and the Community Trust are already looking forward to the potential of running similar events in the future in partnership with The Hyde Group.

Up the Gills!!

Tommy T.

tommyt@priestfield.com
www.gillinghamfootballclub.com

IN THE COMMUNITY



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Swindon game.

As the season's end draws ever closer, we are busy preparing for what is usually the most hectic period for the department. Despite first-team affairs coming to an end, the Community Scheme continues to work hard in the area, alongside schools as well as with school holiday clubs.

GIRLS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE TRIALS

Our Girls CofE will be holding trials for the forthcoming 2012-13 season this June. We will be looking to identify players for our U9 (Development Squad) and U11, U13, U15 and U17 teams. The trials will take place at UK PAPER SPORTS GROUND, Gore Court Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 1QN - (on grass)

OPEN TRIALS 2012

Open trials for the 2012-13 season will take place on **Saturday June 9. U9, U11 & U13, 10am to noon U15 & U17, 12:30pm to 2:30pm.** These trials are for girls who currently play their football at a good standard but are not currently at a Centre of Excellence. If selected from this trial girls will be invited to attend our Invite Only trials.

INVITE ONLY TRIALS 2012

Invite only trials will take place on; **Tuesday June 19 for U9, U11 & U13, 6pm to 8pm Wednesday June 20 for U15 & U17 @ 6pm to 8pm**

These trials are for girls who currently play for a Centre of Excellence or have been invited to attend.

Please note all applications are subject to the award of an FA Centre of Excellence Licence for season 2012/2013.

Full details can be found on the GFC Girls page of the official Gills website.

GIRLS CofE U9s CELEBRATION OF FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

After a successful first season with our U9 Development Squad we would like to invite you and your team to a Celebration of Football Festival on Saturday May 5, 10am to noon at UK Paper Sports Ground in Sittingbourne. The festival will be non-competitive but will give players a chance to play against clubs and teams from the around the county.

Games will be played on a round-robin basis giving the chance for plenty of football fun on the day. Teams need to consist of a maximum of 12 players and the games will be 7-a-side. To book your team in please contact: Natalie Curtis at fitc@priestfield.com or **07584 097872.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking for Level 2 & UEFA B coaches, Matchday Officials and a Sports Therapist to join our team at our Girls Centre of Excellence. For full details of all positions please visit the GFC Girls page of the official Gills website.

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOLS

Our last week of Easter Soccer Schools again saw fantastic numbers and the fun continued despite some rain showers. During the week we were also joined by our Second Year Scholars.



WHITSUN SOCCER SCHOOLS

Venues confirmed so far for our Whitsun Soccer Schools are;

Wed June 6, Thurs 7, Fri 8 at Star Meadow Sports Club, Gillingham. ME7 3AN

Full information and application forms can be downloaded via the Gills' official website or contact our Community Department on **01634 350125** or email fitc@priestfield.com and one can be sent, faxed or emailed to you.

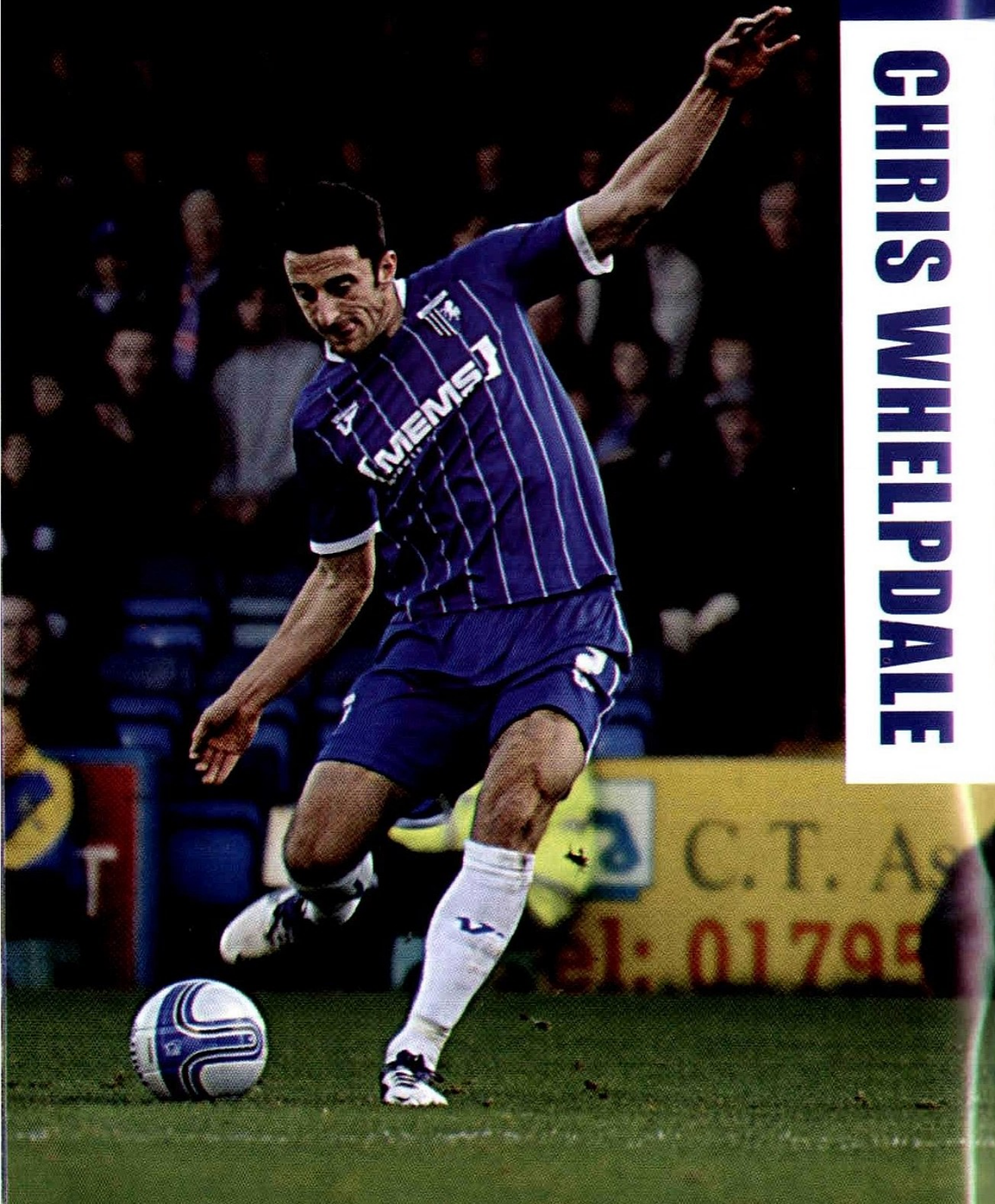
Enjoy the game! **Adam**
Tel: **01634 350125**
Email: fitc@priestfield.com

In the Community in association with





GFC



CHRIS WHELPDALE

THE INTERVIEW BY JON PHIPPS

“... I’ve been in good form recently and hopefully I can take that with me into next year, whether we’re in League Two or League One...”

Spectacular goals, blooming in late season and an eye-watering injury have made the 2011/12 season one that Chris Whelpdale will probably never forget.

The 25-year-old arrived from Peterborough last summer, having impressed during a loan spell here at MEMS Priestfield Stadium the previous November.

By his own admission, it has taken him a while to find his best form, but as the end of the season approaches, Chris is looking every inch the player who did so well in that loan spell.

He has scored six goals in his last 15 games from midfield, rocketing him up to 10 for the season – and meeting his pre-season target.

But he is not planning on stopping there, as he explained.

“Ten was my target,” he said. “It’s my best season so far. Seven was my best – in League One a few years ago.

“I wanted to get 10 so I’m glad that I got there. For a midfielder I think that’s quite a good contribution to the team and I’ve still got a few games left to go on and beat that.

“Maybe I can go on and beat Keds, he’s only on 13, so three games to get three goals!

“I definitely had a slow start to the season. It took me a while to get into the mix of things here but now I’ve started to hit a bit of form and I’ve been enjoying it.

“I think it’s been a matter of coming down and getting used to how we play and how League Two plays. It took me a while to get used to it but I’ve settled now and I’m enjoying my football.

“I’ve been in good form recently and hopefully I can take that with me into next year, whether we’re in League Two or League One.”

Two of those 10 goals have made the shortlist for the club’s Goal of the Season, with two more – long-distance strikes at Crewe and Bristol Rovers – unlucky not to make it.

The best of them was probably the strike at Torquay, which manager Andy Hessenthaler says is his personal choice for the best goal scored by his side in the campaign.

Chances

He skipped past his man on the right flank and then sent a delicious chip into the far corner to make it 5-2 at Plainmoor.

“I definitely meant that one,” he said. “I looked up and I saw him off his line, so I went for it.

“I’ve been working on my long-range shots in training. They don’t all go in like that in training but I’ve been getting a few chances and I’ve been taking a few of them.”

Both Chris and Charlie Lee made a real impression in that loan spell from Peterborough last season, and it was that spell which played a big part in his decision to swap London Road for Kent permanently in the summer.

And a few days after he completed his move, Lee followed him to the Gills, also penning a three-year deal.

The two must get along well then?

“No!” he laughed. “He’s a good lad, I’ve been with him for four or five years now, we get on well and it’s good to have him here with us.

“I really enjoyed the loan spell last year. I hadn’t been playing regularly at Peterborough, I’d been injured and I was feeling fresh and I needed to get games under my belt.

“The gaffer told me to come in here and play with freedom and help them, because they were right near the bottom, so I came in and expressed myself and I really enjoyed it, and I think my performances showed that.

“It was a major reason behind my decision to come here in the summer, all the boys here were great, and the club as a whole is great. It doesn’t deserve to be in League Two and that was another reason I came here, to try and get promotion.”

The Gills currently sit four points outside the play-off zone with three games to go, and although he admits it would be disappointing if the club doesn’t make the top seven, Chris is refusing to give up hope.

He said: “Coming here at the start of the season I would have thought the play-offs would be a minimum, so if we don’t get in then possibly we’ve under-achieved as a team, as a whole, but there’s still three games to go and anything can happen in football.

“If we can go out there today and get three points, then we can definitely go to Northampton and do the same, and then Morecambe back here and get the nine points we need.”

Chris is fairly tall as wingers go, and has made a habit of popping up with headed goals this term, but he believes that a role on the right side is what suits him best.



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"I really enjoy playing on the right," he said. "A lot the time I do tend to come inside more often than take people on down the outside and get a ball into the box.

"I'm not a traditional winger but I'm happiest on the right-hand side of a four or a three, I really enjoy playing there and trying to get in the holes and down the channels."

One night that stands out in this memorable campaign is the 5-4 win over Hereford. Chris scored the Gills' first that night, but was a spectator when the dramatic winner went in – but he admits he's had his fair share of memorable games in his career already.

Games

"It was a mental game," he added. "But to be fair, at Peterborough we had so many high-scoring games, like being 4-0 down at half-time and coming back 4-4, it's kind of the norm!

"It was an absolute epic of a game and it was incredible that we came back to win 5-4. I had to come off in the last 10 minutes and I was jumping up and down on the bench and thinking 'is this really happening?' but because it happened so often at Peterborough, it wasn't as big a deal

as it might have been to others."

But the one moment that Chris will probably always be remembered for came on Boxing Day when he suffered an injury to the most painful of areas.

The split scrotum he suffered saw him trending on Twitter and even now, four months on, the second and third searches offered when you type him into Google are "Chris Whelpdale injury" and "Chris Whelpdale testicles".

But he quickly recovered and didn't even miss a game due to the injury.

"Everyone thinks it was a lot worse than it actually was," he said. "Well, at the time, when I noticed it, it was pretty bad, but when it actually happened, I thought it was just a normal whack to the privates.

"I got on with it and five minutes later I was thinking 'this isn't right' and that's when I saw a bit of blood, which wasn't good.

"I didn't miss any games. It was lucky that our doctor was there at the game and he stitched me straight up, gave me some antibiotics and I was right for the next game.

"I've never experienced anything like that when I was trending on Twitter, so that was quite weird, especially when people from all over the world were mentioning it."



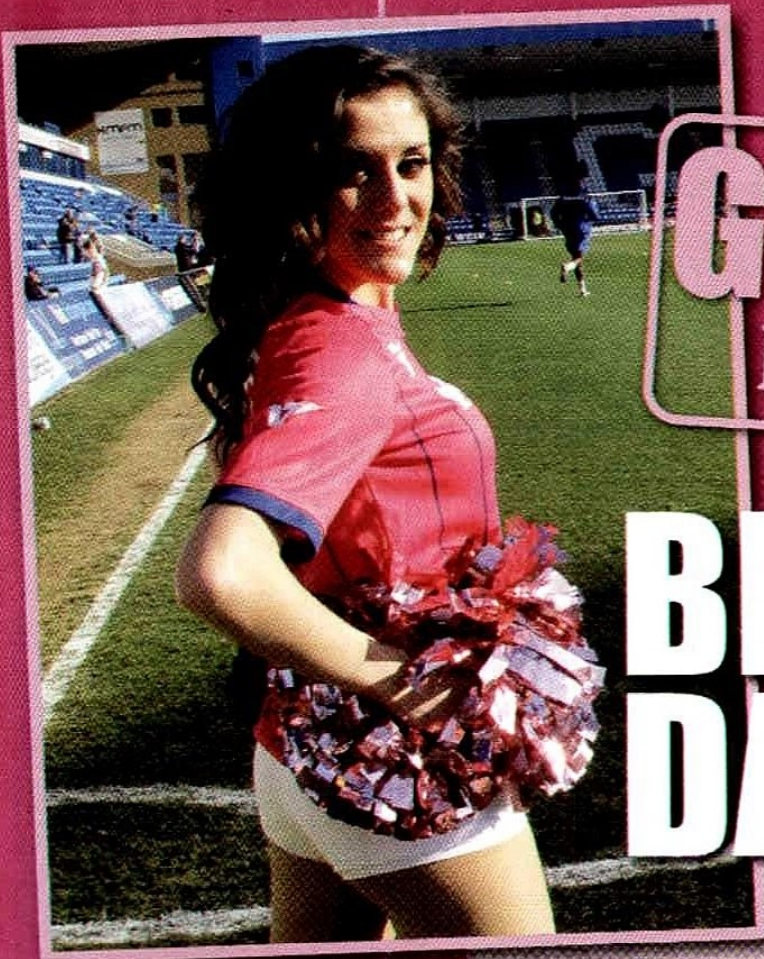
CHRIS WHELPDALE:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Appearances | 42 |
| Minutes Played | 3074 |
| Goals Scored | 10 |
| Assists | 3 |
| Shots On Target | 39 |
| Fouls Conceded | 16 |
| <i>(fewest per minutes played)</i> | |





GFC



GFC GEM FACTFILE

BECKIE DAVIES

AGE: 19 HOME TOWN: Bexley

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A GFC GEM?

I think the best thing about it is performing to such a large and enthusiastic audience and getting the chance to dance with my friends.

DO YOU GET NERVOUS BEFORE PERFORMING?

Yes I do a little bit, but I think we are all used to it now.

HOW MUCH HAVE YOU ENJOYED PERFORMING AT PRIESTFIELD?

I have really enjoyed it, everyone is very supportive. I hope I can carry on performing here for a long time as it's been a great experience.

HOW SERIOUSLY DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE REHEARSALS?

We have to take them very seriously. As we are performing in front of such a big audience we have a number of difficult formations and routines to remember.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE GILLS PLAYER AND WHY?

Curtis Weston is my favourite player as he was the youngest player to play in an FA Cup Final (even if it was for Millwall).

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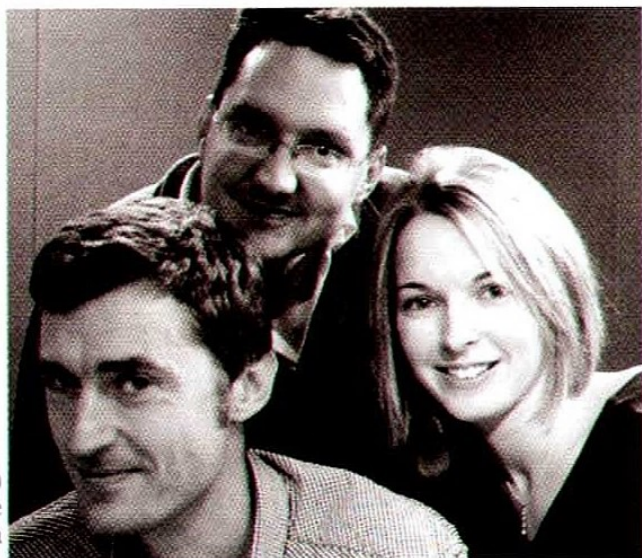
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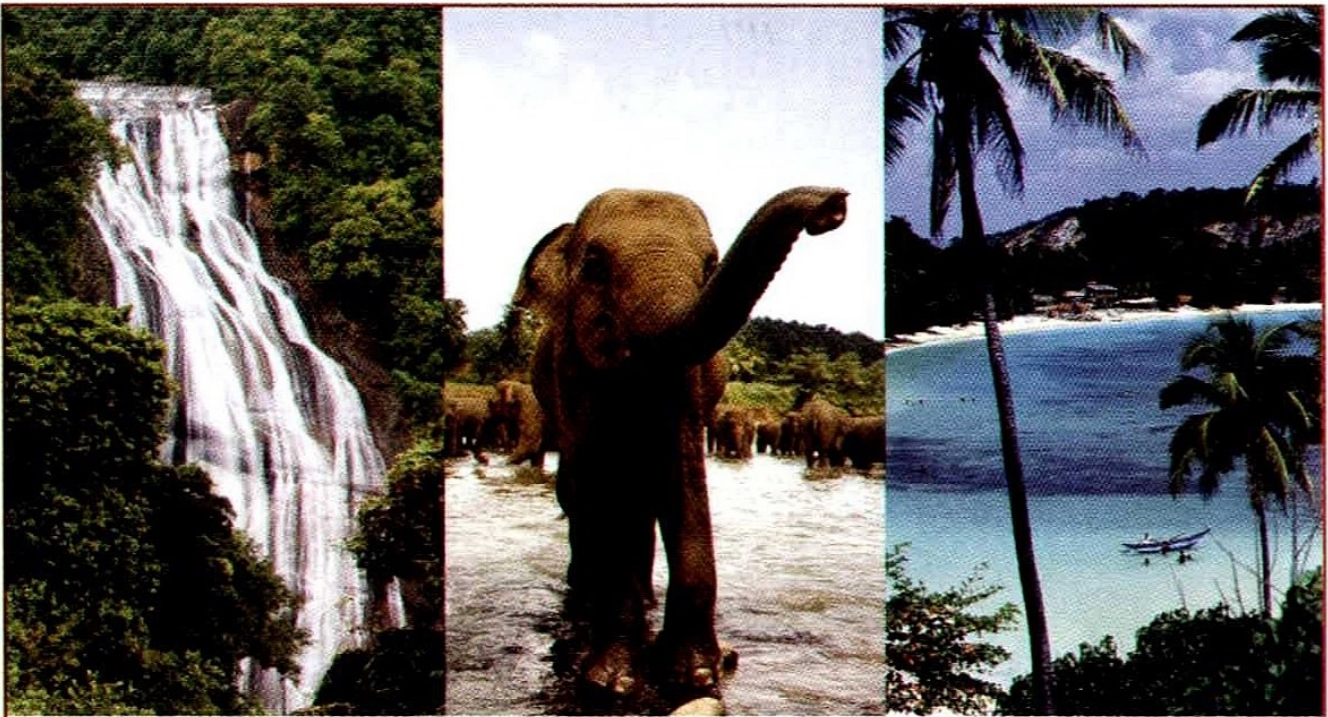


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GILLS TRIVIA

FOR THIS WEEK'S GILLS TRIVIA WE ARE GOING BACK 25 YEARS FOR THE 1987 PLAY-OFF FINAL, WHEN THE GILLS FACED SWINDON.

The Gills had beaten Sunderland in an epic semi-final to reach the two-legged final against the Robins. This game – the first leg here at Priestfield – took place on May 22 1987, and was won 1-0 by the Gills. The Robins won the second leg 2-1 to force a replay, played at Selhurst Park and won 2-0 by the men from Wiltshire. To help you out, we've given you their initials.

CLUES:

- Among the team is the current Bristol Rovers physio, and a striker who won 88 caps for the Republic of Ireland... But shouldn't have won any!
- One was a Milk Cup winner with Norwich, while another played in an FA Cup Final for Brighton.
- The left-winger was the goalscorer, while in the away game, a fellow midfielder 'rocketed' one in.

Answers will be in the programme for the game against Morecambe.

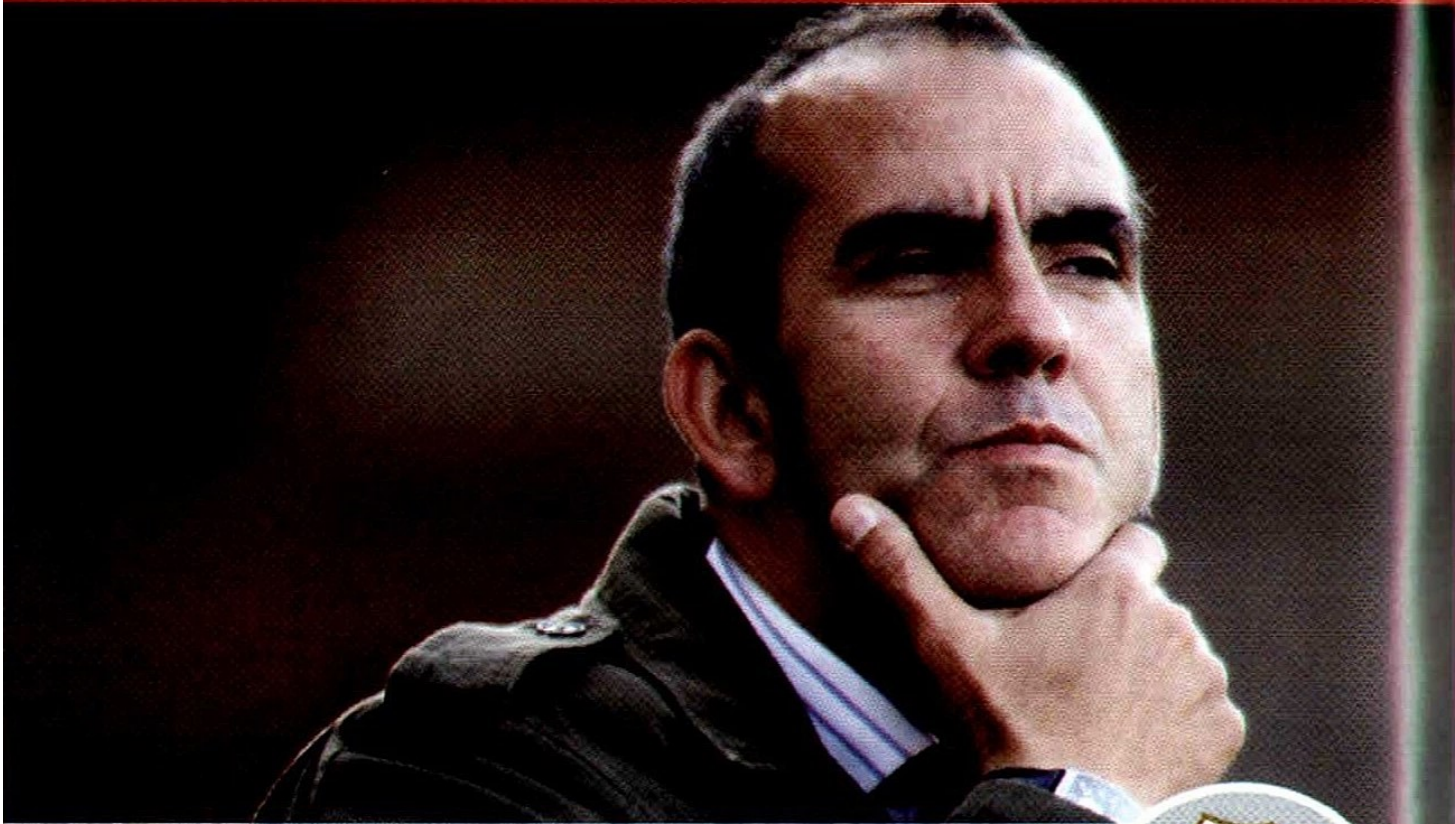


ANSWERS FROM THE DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE PROGRAMME: Romain LARRIEU, Nicky SOUTHALL, Ben CHORLEY, Ian COX, Danny JACKMAN (left), Mark BENTLEY, Michael FLYNN, Andrew CROFTS, Felix BASTIANS, Danny SPILLER, Guylain NDUMBU-NSUNGU





gfc



TODAY'S VISITORS SWINDON TOWN



THIS AFTERNOON WE WELCOME PAOLO DI CANIO, THE PLAYERS, STAFF, AND TRAVELLING SUPPORTERS OF THE ROBINS WHO HAVE MADE THE JOURNEY FROM WILTSHIRE TO THE MEMS PRIESTFIELD STADIUM FOR THIS NPOWER LEAGUE TWO MEETING...

THE SEASON SO FAR...

Swindon remain top of the League Two table despite Tuesday's 2-1 defeat at Aldershot and they still require a point for promotion back to League One.

Coming into this afternoon's game they are five points clear of second-placed Shrewsbury Town, having picked up 89 points (28 wins and five draws) from their 43 games.

At the EBB Stadium in midweek Guy Madjo and Danny Hylton were

on target for the Shots either side of a penalty from Town skipper Paul Caddis which left boss Di Canio questioning his player's professionalism.

Speaking afterwards the Italian said: "At least eight of my players were blurry and I'd like to know why. My team lacked professionalism and their attitude was very bad. We were poor in our previous two matches and yet won them."

"Tonight we were poor again and we lost. I don't know why they're playing like this so near to promotion. It is crazy."

Despite winning their opening game of the season, beating Crewe 3-0 at home, the Wiltshire outfit then lost their next four league

Above: Swindon Manager Paolo Di Canio

“... I didn't see a group of men I want to see on the field - we went three steps back. I can improve some professionalism, but I can't give heart...”

games and finished August languishing down in 21st place.

After losing at Shrewsbury boss Di Canio said: “I didn't see a group of men I want to see on the field - we went three steps back. I can improve some professionalism, but I can't give heart.”

They recovered somewhat to record three straight wins early in September but ended the month in 11th place following two defeats in their last three games. Then they went unbeaten in October with three wins and two draws, their 2-0 win over the Gills taking them up into the play-off places for the first time.

An unbeaten run of 15 games came to an end when losing 1-0 at Torquay United on Boxing Day but then they embarked on another run of 10 straight wins – this one

ending in a 2-0 loss at local rivals Oxford United who completed the double over Town.

The win at Hereford in February had taken them into the automatic promotion places for the first time and three days later they beat Shrewsbury 2-1 at the County Ground to go top – a position they haven't relinquished since.

Tuesday's loss was their first in seven games, five of which had ended in victory.

On their travels Di Canio's side have won 10 and drawn two of their 21 games. Those wins came at Accrington (2-0), Barnet (2-0), Crawley (3-0), Hereford (2-1), Morecambe (1-0), Northampton (2-1), Plymouth (1-0), Port Vale (2-0), Rotherham (2-1) and Southend (4-1). Further points were gained from the two draws, at AFC Wimbledon and Bristol Rovers.

LEADING SCORERS...

Former Grimsby Town striker Alan Connell leads the Robins goalscoring chart with a dozen goals with the experienced Paul Benson and highly-rated Matt Ritchie both on 10.

Mehdi Kerrouche, previously with UAE outfit Al-Oruba, has netted eight and Raffaele De Vita has six to his name. Skipper Paul Caddis and Jake Jervis, who was on loan from Birmingham City earlier in the season, both have five while Ronan Murray and Oliver Risser are on four goals apiece.

COSMOPOLITAN...

Without a doubt Di Canio has assembled the most cosmopolitan squad ever seen in League Two. In amongst the usual English, Welsh, Scots and Irishmen there are three Italians, goalkeeper Mattia Lanzano, defender Alessandro Cibocchi and striker De Vita, there are midfielders Etienne Esajas from Holland, Oliver Risser (Namibia) and Spaniard Lander Gabilondo while forward Kerrouche is an Algerian.

FAMILIAR FACES...

While everyone knows that Luke Rooney moved to the County Ground in January, two other former Gills loanee's featured in the Town squad at Aldershot. Callum Kennedy made three appearances for the Gills last season, arriving on loan around the same time as Charlie Lee and Chris Whelpdale came on loan from Peterborough United.

Going back a bit further Jay McEveley, then of Blackburn Rovers but who is currently on loan with Swindon from Championship Barnsley, scored one goal in 10 games under Stan Ternent as the Gills were relegated at the end of the 2004/05 campaign.

EARLIER IN THE SEASON...

Back in October at the County Ground the Gills more than held their own before Ritchie and Jonathan Smith struck terrific late goals to seal an undeserved defeat.

Gillingham certainly had their chances, Luke Rooney struck a post, Wes Foderingham denied Chris Whelpdale twice, Jo Kuffour had an effort blocked on the line while I doubt whether Danny Kedwell will want reminding of his horror miss late on.

Following the game Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler said: “It was very disappointing. The performance was terrific. I couldn't have asked for more from the boys.”

Town: Foderingham, Flint, Caddis, Ferry, Ritchie, McCormack (Cibocchi 41), De Vita, Smith, Jervis (Risser 85), Montano (Connell 63), Ridehalgh.

Unused subs: Magera, Abdulla

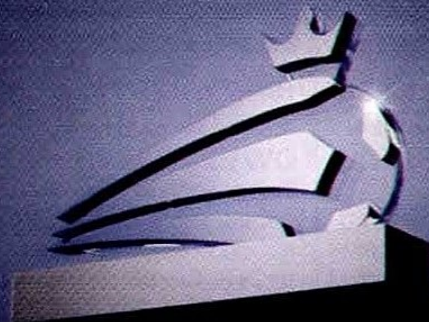
Gills: Flitney, Fish, Richards, Lawrence, Jackman, Whelpdale, Lee, Weston (S Payne 86), Rooney, Nouble, Kuffour (Kedwell 76).

Unused subs: Gazzaniga, Frampton, Rance

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Championship - Rickie Lambert
 (Southampton)
 League 1 - Jordan Rhodes
 (Huddersfield Town)
 League 2 - Matt Ritchie
 (Swindon Town)

**NPOWER FOOTBALL LEAGUE
 YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Wilfred Zaha (Crystal Palace)

CONTRIBUTION TO LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Graham Turner (Shrewsbury Town)

MITRE GOAL OF THE YEAR

Peter Whittingham (Cardiff City)

**FOOTBALL MANAGER OUTSTANDING
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Gus Poyet (Brighton & Hove Albion)

NPOWER FAN OF THE YEAR

Sue Pollard (Plymouth Argyle)
 Championship - Paddy Chriesberry
 (Middlesbrough)
 League 1 - Lynn Noon
 (Preston North End)

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 APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

Championship - Gael Bigirimana
 (Coventry City)
 League 1 - Jordan Cousins
 (Charlton Athletic)
 League 2 - Nick Powell
 (Crewe Alexandra)

**TOKIO MARINE
 FAMILY CLUB OF THE YEAR**

Portsmouth
 League 1 - Huddersfield Town
 League 2 - Swindon Town

BLUEFIN SPORT UNSUNG HERO

Paul Bradley (Preston North End)
Highly Commended:
 Norman Rimmington (Barnsley)
 Warwick Rimmer (Tranmere Rovers)

**COCA-COLA
 COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR**

Rotherham United (North East)
Regional Winners:
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 Milton Keynes Dons (South East)
 Notts County (Midlands)
 Portsmouth (South West)

PFA PLAYER IN THE COMMUNITY

Tamika Mkanawire (Millwall)

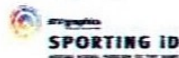
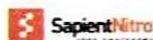
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Highly Commended:
 Burnley - 'Claret & You'
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 League 1 - Notts County - 'The Mag'
 League 2 - Swindon Town - 'Swindon'

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TODAY'S VISITORS SWINDON TOWN



PAOLO DI CANIO

THE GAFFER: PAOLO DI CANIO

Di Canio's first job in management has seen him lead the Robins to the top of League Two, with plenty of headlines coming his way during the ride. The former Lazio, Celtic, Sheffield Wednesday and West Ham – among many others – star had a reputation for the unusual during his playing days, both good and bad. Among his escapades were pushing over referee Paul Alcock while with Wednesday, before winning the FIFA Fair Play Award in 2001 for catching the ball rather than score past stricken Everton goalkeeper Paul Gerrard. He was appointed at the County Ground last summer and after a slow start, the Robins have blossomed into the team to beat in League Two.

ONE TO WATCH

DANGER MAN: PAUL BENSON

PREVIOUS CLUBS: White Ensign, Dagenham & Redbridge, Charlton Athletic

A January signing from Charlton, Benson has been a key part of the Robins' phenomenal post-Christmas form, scoring 10 goals already, including one in the FA Cup victory over Premier League Wigan in January, which was just his second appearance for the club. A run of seven goals in eight games in February and March saw him named as npower League Two player of the month and earned him strong praise from his manager. He shot to prominence with Dagenham, top scoring in their promotion campaign into the Football League, and scored 10 times for Charlton last season, only to lose his place for this season, paving the way for his move to the County Ground.



PAUL BENSON
STRIKER / AGE 32

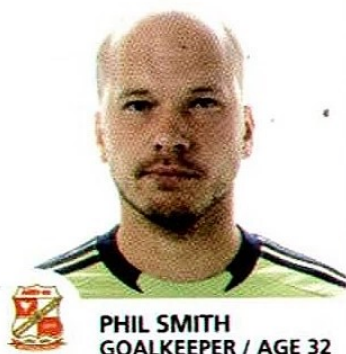


PAUL CADDIS
DEFENDER / AGE 23

THE SKIPPER: PAUL CADDIS

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Celtic, Dundee United (loan)

Caddis made his home debut for Celtic against Barcelona in a Champions League last-16 tie, but the full-back – who can also play wide on the right – would go on to make just 10 starts for the Glasgow giants, gaining more SPL experience during a loan spell with Dundee United in 2009. He moved south of the border alongside team-mate Simon Ferry in the summer of 2010, and has become a key man for the Robins, and was named captain in place of Oliver Risser earlier this season. The winner of 13 Scotland Under-21 caps, he has been out injured recently but is now back in contention.



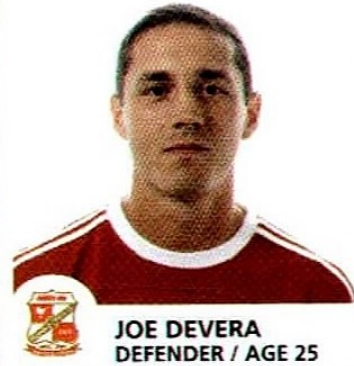
PHIL SMITH
GOALKEEPER / AGE 32

Previous clubs: Millwall, Folkestone Invicta, Dover Athletic, Margate, Crawley Town
Smith made his first-team debut with the Lions here at Priestfield in 1998, and is the Robins' longest-serving player, having been with the club since 2006, arriving to play under his former Lions team-mate Dennis Wise.



WES FODERINGHAM
GOALKEEPER / AGE 21

Previous clubs: Fulham, Bromley (loan), Crystal Palace, Bromley (loan), Boreham Wood (loan), Histon (loan), Swindon Town (loan)
The keeper arrived on loan from Crystal Palace in October and made an instant impression, and has been the club's first-choice ever since, making his move to Wiltshire permanent in the January transfer window.



JOE DEVERA
DEFENDER / AGE 25

Previous clubs: Barnet, Northwood (loan)
Devera made 202 appearances in his six years with Barnet, coming through the youth system to become a key player at Underhill before swapping the Bees for the Robins in the summer of 2011.



ADEN FLINT
DEFENDER / AGE 22

Previous clubs: Alfreton Town, Matlock Town (loan), Alfreton Town (loan)
The former England C international opted for the Robins over Colchester in January 2011 and has been a big part - at 6ft 5in in more than one way - in their success this term.



CALLUM KENNEDY
DEFENDER / AGE 23

Previous clubs: Gillingham (loan), Rotherham United (loan)
The left-back made three appearances on loan here at MEMS Priestfield Stadium last season, arriving in the same week as Charlie Lee and Chris Whelpdale in November and debuting against Crewe.



ALAN McCORMACK
DEFENDER / AGE 28

Previous clubs: Preston North End, Leyton Orient (loan), Southend United (loan), Motherwell (loan), Southend United, Charlton
After two loan spells at Roots Hall, McCormack's career took off when he moved to Southend permanently in 2007. After a solitary year with Charlton joined the Robins last summer, where he has been converted to a defender from a midfielder.



JAY McEVELEY
DEFENDER / AGE 27

Previous clubs: Blackburn Rovers, Burnley (loan), Gillingham (loan), Ipswich Town (loan), Derby County, Preston North End (loan), Charlton Athletic (loan), Barnsley
The left-back made 10 appearances for the Gills in 2005, scoring once, and arrived on loan at the County Ground last month.



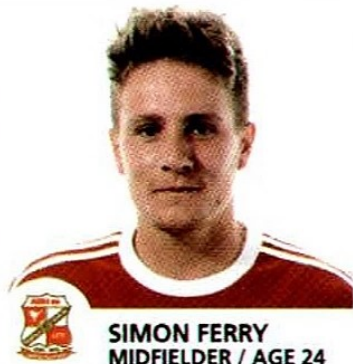
NATHAN THOMPSON
DEFENDER / AGE 20

Previous clubs: N/A
A product of the Robins' youth system, Thompson has been a regular in the squad in recent weeks and is tipped as one for the future at the County Ground.



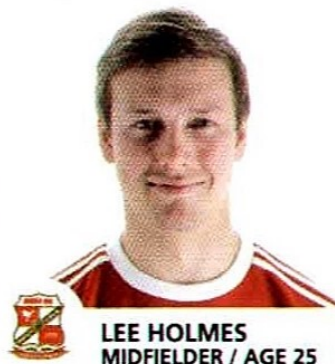
JOHN BOSTOCK
MIDFIELDER / AGE 20

Previous clubs: Crystal Palace, Tottenham Hotspur, Brentford (loan), Hull City (loan), Sheffield Wednesday (loan)
Made his debut for Crystal Palace as a 15-year-old, and then became Spurs' youngest-ever player as well after moving to White Hart Lane, but he is still waiting to make his League debut at White Hart Lane.



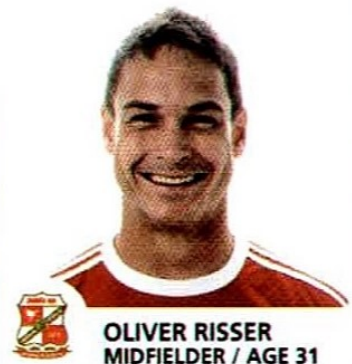
SIMON FERRY
MIDFIELDER / AGE 24

Previous clubs: Celtic, Swindon Town (loan)
The midfielder arrived on loan alongside Ben Hutchinson, and impressed enough to make it a permanent move at the end of that 2009/10 season. The former Scotland Under-19 international has continued to impress since his permanent move.



LEE HOLMES
MIDFIELDER / AGE 25

Previous clubs: Derby County, Swindon Town (loan), Bradford City (loan), Walsall (loan), Southampton, Oxford United (loan)
In his second loan spell with the Robins, Holmes became the youngest player to play in the FA Cup in 2003, a record he held for four years until it was broken by Luke Freeman with his appearance for the Gills at Barnet.



OLIVER RISER
MIDFIELDER / AGE 31

Previous clubs: SpVgg EGC Wirges, Borussia Dortmund II, SV Sandhausen, Breidablik, Bonner SC, Hannover 96 II, Manglerud Star, Lyn, KuPS
The Namibian has spent most of his career in Germany, but arrived at the County Ground this summer and was initially named captain until injury, but he is still stand-in skipper when Paul Caddis is absent.



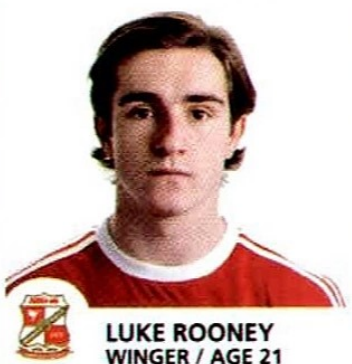
JONATHAN SMITH
MIDFIELDER / AGE 25

Previous clubs: Morecambe, Fleetwood Town (loan), Bamber Bridge (loan), Forest Green Rovers, York City
Released by Morecambe after their promotion to the Football League in 2007, Smith has grabbed his chance in the Football League after joining the Robins for an undisclosed fee from York last summer.



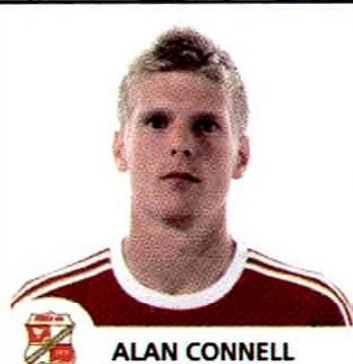
MATT RITCHIE
WINGER / AGE 22

Previous clubs: Portsmouth, Dagenham & Redbridge (loan), Notts County (loan), Swindon Town (loan)
After two loan spells with the Robins, he arrived on a permanent basis in January 2011 for an undisclosed fee, and has shone at the County Ground, culminating in being named as League Two player of the year at the Football League Awards.



LUKE ROONEY
WINGER / AGE 21

Previous clubs: Gillingham, Lewes (loan), Eastbourne Borough (loan)
A product of the Gills youth system, Rooney scored six goals in 61 games for the Gills before his move to the Robins in January, where he has scored twice in 16 appearances – four as a sub – since.



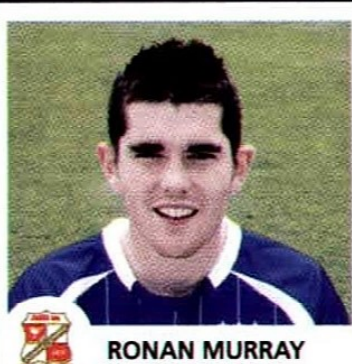
ALAN CONNELL
STRIKER / AGE 29

Previous clubs: Ipswich Town, AFC Bournemouth, Torquay United, Hereford United, Brentford, AFC Bournemouth, Grimsby Town
The striker's most prolific season saw him net 12 in his one campaign at Brentford, until last year when he smashed a total of 29 for Grimsby in all competitions, earning him a move to the Robins where he has 12 goals so far.



RAFFAELE DE VITA
STRIKER / AGE 24

Previous clubs: Blackburn Rovers, Livingston
After failing to make a breakthrough at Blackburn, the Rome-born forward – who can also play in midfield – had a prolific spell north of the border with Livingston, and penned a two-year deal with the Robins last summer.



RONAN MURRAY
STRIKER / AGE 20

Previous clubs: Ipswich Town, Torquay United (loan)
Capped by the Republic of Ireland and Under-16, Under-18, Under-19 and Under-21 level, the striker has been on loan with the Robins since November and was linked with a move to MEMS Priestfield earlier this season.



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HEAD 2 HEAD

RICHARD DAY LOOKS BACK AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH THE ROBINS...

Right: Ken Price and Simeon Jackson



| | Gills wins | Draws | Town wins |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| League | 28 | 26 | 34 |
| Southern League | 19 | 7 | 19 |
| FA Cup | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 48 | 33 | 56 |

THE FIRST...

The first two meetings between the teams were actually friendlies in 1893/94 but the first meaningful game was a Test Match played at Caversham in April 1895 which saw Southern League Division Two champions New Brompton beating Swindon, who had finished bottom of Division One, 5-1 thanks to goals from Arthur Rule (4) and Harry Buckland to gain promotion.

HIGH SCORING...

Since that meeting there have been 133 games and while a fair number have been high-scoring encounters, just 13 of them have ended in goalless draws. There have been a number of other big scores in both the Southern League and Football League days, including the Kent side winning 5-1 thanks to a Jack Frettingham hat-trick and John MacDonald double in October 1898 and 5-0 as Frettingham added two more while Tom Leigh and Alf Milward got on the scoresheet in April 1902.

The Robins have also enjoyed big wins, such as a 6-1 in September 1908, 5-0 in both October 1910 and 1911, 5-1 in March 1914 and February 1915 as well as a 5-2 in October 1919.

Moving into the Football League encounters on April 9 1927 the sides shared eight goals in a 4-4 draw in front of a crowd of 3,724 here. Patrick Bradley (2), Albert Fairclough and Bill Arblaster got the Gillingham goals while Jerry Bailey, Joe Eddleston, Tober Weston (pen) and Harry Morris found the net for the visitors.

The teams that day were -

Gillingham: Kelly, Bartley, Pickering, Rogers, Nichol, Hillier, Meston, Brown, Fairclough, Arblaster, Bradley.

Swindon: Bourne, Brooke, Weston, Furniss, Bew, Archer, Denyer, Jeffries, Morris, Eddleston, Bailey

On Easter Monday 1928 the Wiltshire side ran out 6-1 winners as Morris, Eddleston (2-1 pen), Bertie Denyer, John Walker and Les Roberts scored for the home side with Jimmy Poxton getting the Gillingham consolation and they have also enjoyed 5-2 and 4-0 wins at home.

In February 1937 the Gills won 4-1 thanks to a hat-trick from Jimmy Watson which was added to by Jim Dodds, Joe Musgrave replying and they have also recorded two 4-0 home triumphs, Derek Lewis (2), Jackie Briggs and Dave Thomas netting in October 1951 while in November 1955 Ernie Morgan (2), Errol Crossan and Billy Millar were the scorers.

More recently both sides have enjoyed 5-0 wins, Swindon netting through Jon-Paul McGovern, Simon Cox (2) and Billy Paynter to earn the League One points at the County Ground in October 2007.

Then on the opening day of the 2009/10 campaign the Gills got their season off to a flyer thanks to Simeon Jackson who grabbed a hat-trick which was added to by Mark Bentley and Adam Miller here at Priestfield Stadium.

DOUBLES...

Swindon hold a slight edge overall in previous games, see the statistics above, and also hold the advantage in doubles and they have the opportunity to increase that this afternoon following their 2-0 victory at the County Ground back in October.

The Robins have previously done the double six times, in 1905/06, 1907/08,

1913/14, 1925/26, 1927/28 and 1930/31 although the Gills, who have done it a little more recently, have five to their name which came in 1900/01, 1955/56, 1956/57, 1965/66 and 1981/82.

THE GAMES OF 1979/80...

This was the season that saw the two Third Division promotion clashes between the two sides turn ugly, both here at Priestfield Stadium on March 31 and the return at the County Ground on May 5.

In the first game the Gills netted through Dean White and Danny Westwood but Bobby Smith's side hit back through Alan Mayes and Roy Carter to take a point from a 2-2 draw.

It was alleged by many people that Town skipper Ray McHale influenced many of the referee David Hutchinson's strange decisions throughout the game and even asked the official if he had heard what Westwood had said before the bemused Gills striker was sent off for foul and abusive language just before the break.

Despite no more goals in the second-half, things boiled over when a Gillingham 'supporter' invaded the pitch and felled the Harrogate official with a punch before being led away by the police.

The angry confrontations continued into the Wiltshire return which saw Terry Nicholl sent off for a foul on McHale as Tony Funnell hit the consolation in a 3-1 defeat, Mayes double being added to by Andy Rowland.

Altercations are believed to have taken place in the tunnel after the game which made news headlines later that night and led to Ken Price and Dean White appearing at Winchester Crown Court eight months later having been charged with actual bodily harm to Robins trainer Wilf Tranter. Both were given conditional discharges for one year following a five-day trial.

EDDIE ALLCORN.....

WE NEED YOU... BUT YOU NEED US

I think that this afternoon this place will be absolutely rocking as a vibrant crowd consisting of Swindon fans seeking automatic promotion and perhaps even the title in the Town End cheering on their team whilst three quarters of Priestfield remains resolute, determined to see the Swindon party postponed if not well and truly pooped and to continue the pursuit of the seventh and final play-off spot, prolonging the chase into the penultimate week if nothing else.

Of course, that almost wasn't the case over the past weekend as the club and police were locked in talks after a prohibition order was made against the club.

One fundamental truth does seem to have been generally ignored in all the debate, namely that without football supporters, professional football could not exist.

Obviously the players could still kick a ball about at three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon but without a crowd giving it meaning or context, without fans caring deeply about the outcome all you have is some supposedly highly skilled fit young men engaging in a kickabout game of no consequence.

Without paying spectators the professional clubs could not exist, without the millions that are willing to pay their subscriptions to Sky or simply generate massive audiences on terrestrial television then broadcasters would not be fighting over the rights and willing to pay ever higher fees to secure them. The same goes for sponsors, without a captive audience what would be the point?

It is hard to see some of the billionaires currently lauding it in the Premier League coughing up much dosh to finance anything without the potential to either make money via fans (directly or indirectly) or bask in the reflected glory from adoring supporters if their chequebook proves to be the biggest and most effective in the land.

Back in the mid 1980's Luton Town brought in an ID card scheme under the auspices of their then Chairman the odious David Evans (local Conservative MP), not only did all home fans have to get an ID card to attend home games, but for the first and thankfully last time in England away fans were banned.

Opposition

The experiment lasted from 1986 until 1990 and made the Hatters by far the most hated club in the country... ever. It is one thing hoping your local rivals fall flat on their faces or that one of the "big boys" gets an overdue dose of reality but banning opposition fans simply because they were, ahem, away fans cut to the very fundamental principle of football fandom.

It is preposterous that millions of law abiding football fans that are part of wider society and have all the same rights, freedoms and responsibilities somehow suddenly stop having civil rights or being a fully paid up citizen simply for being a self-confessed "football fan" and one that shock horror, wishes to watch first hand their chosen football team play an away game within the borders of your own country!

Thankfully the era whereby the police were free to treat all fans as potential hooligans is long gone but that doesn't mean that they don't sometimes fail to



grasp the crucial concept that even at its height hooliganism saw not much more than one arrest per 10,000 spectators.

Yes there are still a few numpties out there, some old enough to know better, so do your job and deal with them! For supporters of clubs with an, ahem, more robust reputation than the Gills, derby games still see totally inconvenient Sunday lunchtime kick-offs and ultimately clubs have to abide by what the police demand.

Fair enough most of the time, but occasionally you do get the nagging feeling that ultimately power has gone to the heads of some of the boys in blue. The same could be said for some safety officers in local authorities who appear either stuck in a 1980s time warp or rather too enthusiastically willing to use and abuse their position, particularly when it comes to "persistent standing". The one group never apparently consulted as ever being the fans...

Sadly clubs are little better, too many pay lip service to the "fans" - essential to their very existence but treated with casual cynicism far too often. If supporters were able to at least influence policy they could easily formulate a set of "please do's" and "please don't" that clubs could at least



consider before making crucial decisions.

Obviously for many fans the cost of tickets would be high on the agenda. English football is the most expensive in the world. Some countries are catching up rapidly, most notably Spain, but in a time of austerity it is perhaps unrealistic to ask people to pay £20 or more for League Two football. £25 for the away seats at the County Ground Swindon is absurd, so too is £15 to stand on the open terrace at Ebbsfleet in the Conference or £12 at Dover in the Conference South or £8 at Faversham in the Ryman South.

There are hundreds of thousands of potential football fans out there unable or unwilling to pay some of the modern prices. Fans are increasingly price conscious as shown by the 7,000+ crowds at Priestfield for the Bradford and Bristol Rovers games with budget ticket offers when no other home game has seen more than 5,500 home fans through the turnstiles.

Less of an issue in League Two but absolutely crucial further up the pyramid is the issue of scheduling. Television may play God and contributes millions for the privilege but there has to be a degree of realism, some of the kick-off times are absurd. Gills fans haven't had

to contend with that this season but the Bristol Rovers game was switched from a Saturday to a Friday at very short notice meaning all fans planning to travel by train were left severely out of pocket with non-refundable train tickets (at least £28 each) purchased in advance in good faith.

Biggest

Sadly just another case of football clubs being blithely oblivious to the hoops fans jump through on a weekly basis just to get to away games. One lucky set of League Two away fans will face a 12.00 kick off on Sunday 13th May in the play-offs, a shameful piece of planning that might see Southend fans trying to get to Cheltenham... good luck to them but utterly bonkers for potentially their biggest game of the season.

There are many more issues fans could raise with their clubs, from the design of new kits to the quality of the half-time pies, but ultimately clubs will have to be more responsive to the requirements of their supporters.

The era of simply milking their insatiable passion for their club is over, the age of austerity has seen to that, clubs will need to be cuter and perhaps more in touch with their supporters.

Obviously those that are owned or run by Trusts are the exception to the rule, but if football is continue to be a defining presence in the lives of millions of people clubs will need to appreciate that we are all indeed "in this together." Fans don't tend to be unrealistic after years of being totally ignored but their commitment and adoration is perhaps no longer unconditional, it now needs to be nurtured and encouraged.

It doesn't take much to win over those wanting to be won over, football is blessed with fans that are both loyal and pretty darn forgiving, however they don't much appreciate being treated like potential hooligans or locked out of games. They would also appreciate not being taken for granted, but few will be expecting a significant change any time soon... more fool the "powers that be" - but that doesn't mean some supporters won't be continuing to raise various important issues whenever and wherever they see fit.

Ultimately without "us" the fans, professional football would be impossible... perhaps worth remembering in times of global recession in boardrooms up and down the country! I won't be holding my breath though!



MATCH ACTION

Gillingham 1

Vine 58

Dagenham & Redbridge 2

Woodall 38, Green 73

Monday April 9 2012

npower League Two, MEMS Priestfield Stadium

Attendance: 5,773

Gillingham: Gazzaniga, Fish, Essam, Frampton, Martin (Kuffour 69), Whelpdale, J Payne, Montrose (Spiller 66), Jackman, Kedwell, Vine (Oli 82). **Unused subs:** Evans, O Lee.

Dagenham: Lewington, McCrory, Doe, Arber, Elito (Akinde 90+), Parker (Green 62), Ogogo, Woodall (Scott 88), Bingham, Baudry, Spillane.

Unused subs: Hogan, Wassmer.

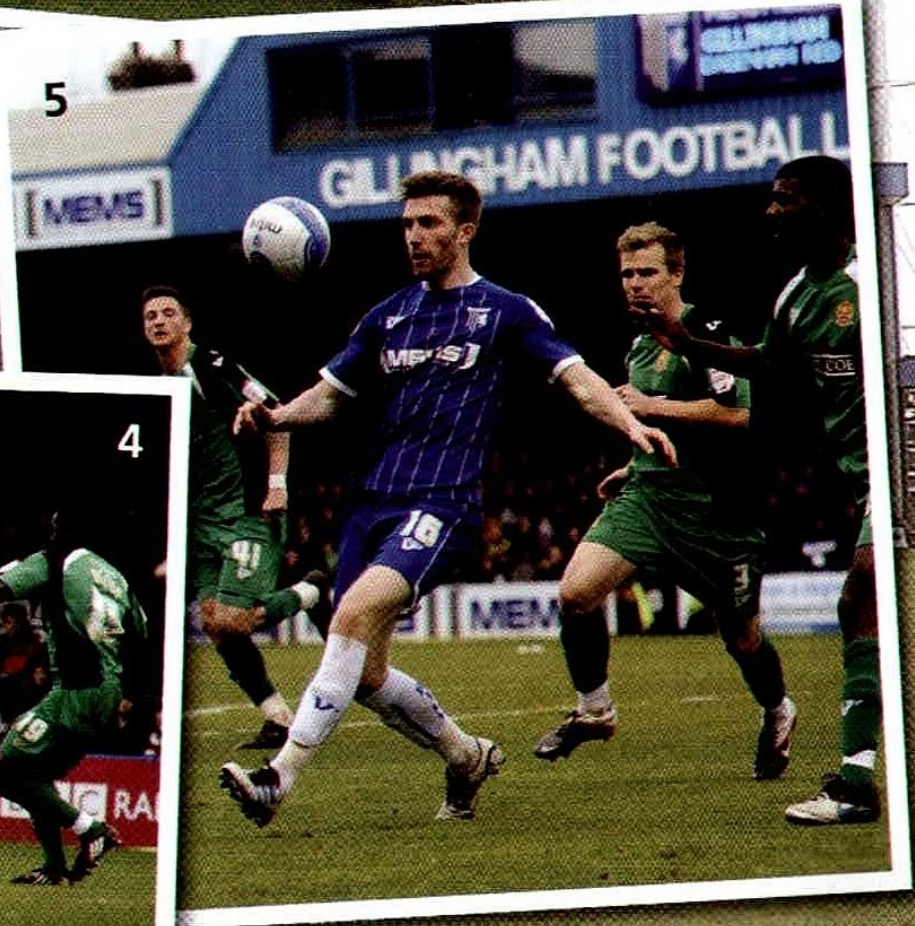
1. Rowan Vine is mobbed after scoring
2. Connor Essam slides in
3. Danny Jackman in aerial combat
4. Chris Whelpdale prepares to shoot
5. All eyes are on the ball

GILLS MATCH STATS DAGGERS

| GILLS | MATCH STATS | DAGGERS |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| 1 | Goals | 2 |
| 10 | Total attempts | 8 |
| 3 | On target | 5 |
| 5 | Off target | 2 |
| 2 | Blocked | 1 |
| 0 | Hit woodwork | 0 |
| 3 | Corners | 2 |
| 9 | Caught offside | 3 |
| 5 | Fouls conceded | 9 |
| 0 | Yellow cards | 0 |
| 0 | Red cards | 0 |

Hessy: "We weren't good enough today"







GILLS



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APRIL 28 1979

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

The picture of a celebrating Ken Price (number nine) in front of a jubilant Rainham End was taken 33 years ago next weekend.

A crowd of 14,902 were packed into Priestfield Stadium on April 28 1979 for a top of the table Division Three clash with Shrewsbury Town which centre-forward Price decided with two cracking efforts to send the home fans home dreaming of promotion as Gerry Summers' side moved above the Shrews into third place in the table.

Just seven days later it was all change again as today's opponents Swindon beat the Gills 3-1 at the County Ground, a result which took the Robins above Gillingham who dropped to fifth.

However, come the end of the season neither side went up. Despite the Gills winning two and drawing one of their last three games it wasn't enough as a great finish from the Shrews saw them take the title by one point from both Watford in second and Swansea City third while the Gills were a further point behind in fourth, one place ahead of the Wiltshire side who had lost two of their last three fixtures.

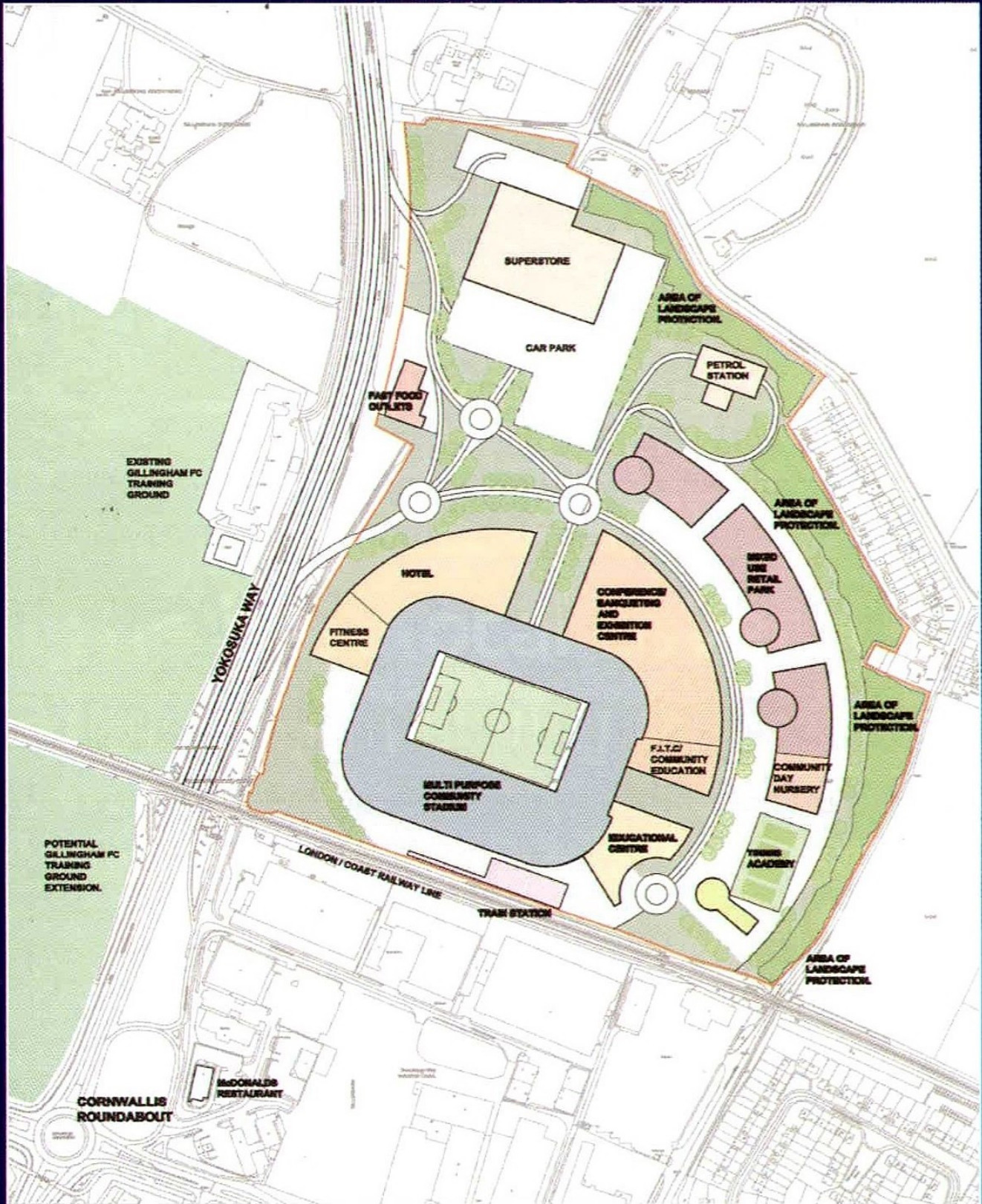
DIVISION THREE 1978/79

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Shrewsbury Town | 46 | 21 | 19 | 6 | 61 | 41 | 61 |
| Watford | 46 | 24 | 12 | 10 | 83 | 52 | 60 |
| Swansea City | 46 | 24 | 12 | 10 | 83 | 61 | 60 |
| GILLINGHAM | 46 | 21 | 17 | 8 | 65 | 42 | 59 |
| Swindon Town | 46 | 25 | 7 | 14 | 74 | 52 | 57 |





gfc



STRATEGIC SITE PLAN

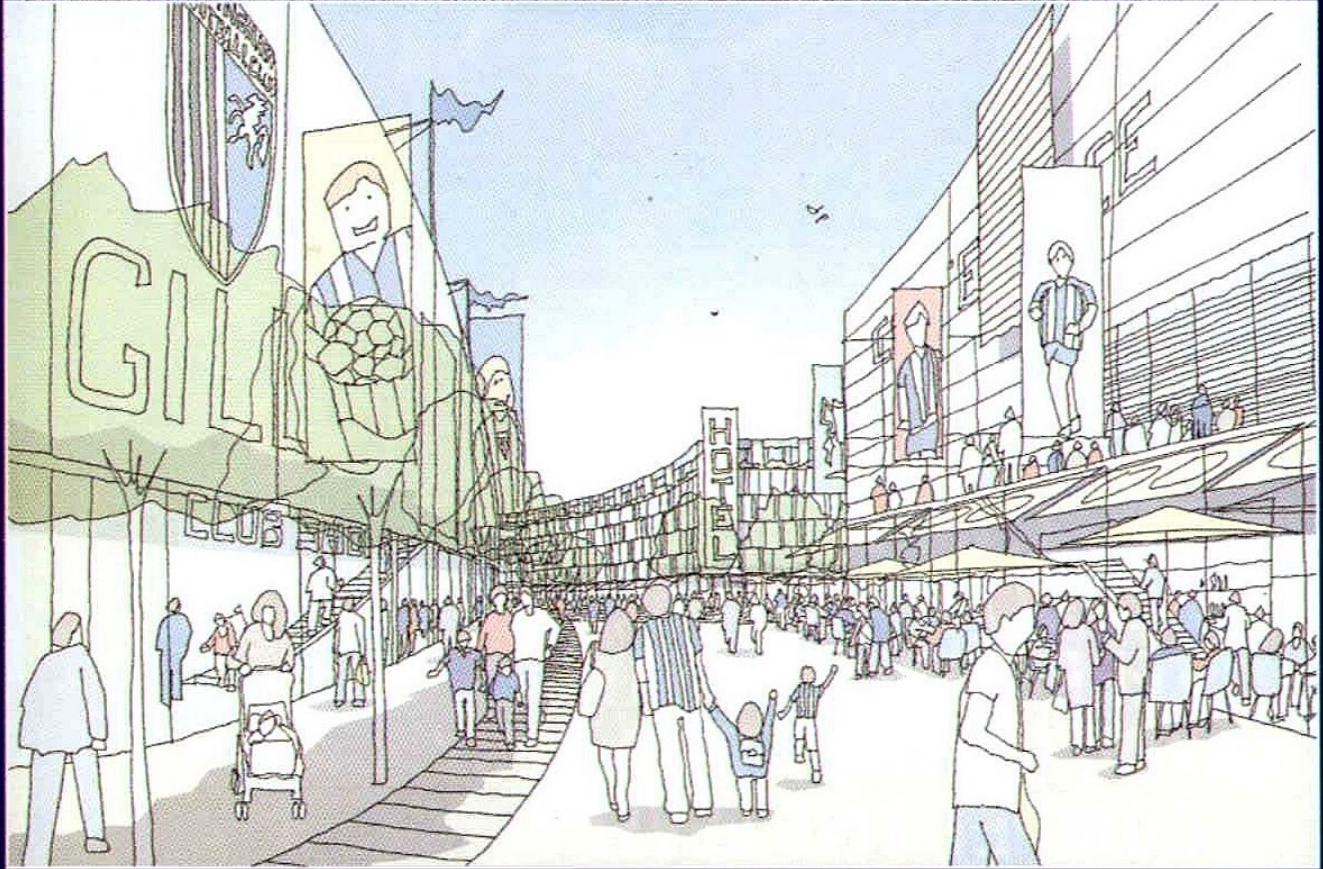
MEDWAY VILLAGE AT MILL HILL
GILLINGHAM
KENT.



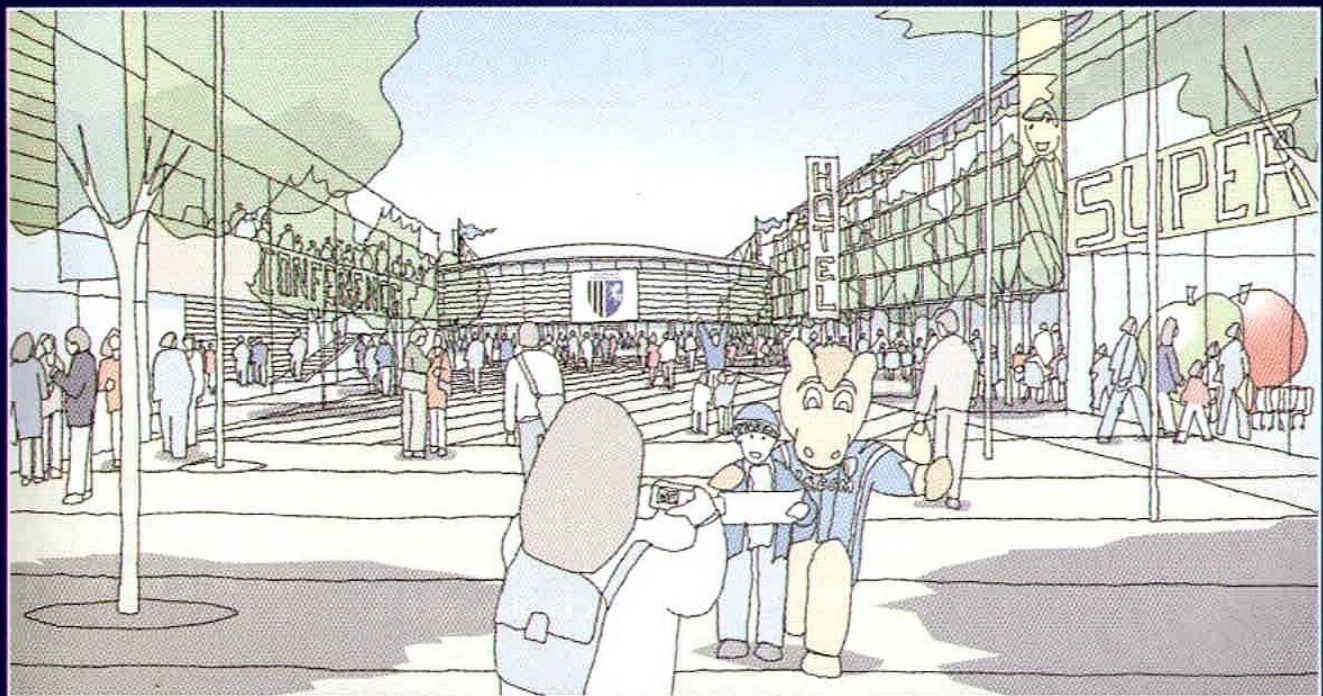
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ASSOCIATES

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interiors

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100000 sq ft (approx) over 1000 sq ft
100000 sq ft (approx) over 1000 sq ft



Pictured here are artists' impressions and (opposite) a schematic design for the land at Mill Hill, Gillingham, where the football club would like to build a new community stadium, with hotel, conference/banqueting and exhibition facilities, educational, leisure and sporting facilities, plus food and general retail outlets.





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Ahead of the visit of the London Broncos for a Stobart Super League clash with Hull FC on May 20, last week 50

Gills fans were invited to the Twickenham Stoop to watch the Broncos take on Dewsbury Rams in the Challenge Cup.

It was a good day for the club as they romped to a 72-4 victory, and one of the fans who went, **Bradley Hewitt**, gave us this review of his day out with the Broncos.

"The journey to Twickenham to see my first rugby league match was entertaining to say the least, with a man contriving to get his head stuck in between the closing doors as he attempted to get on the train, causing considerable amusement for those on the carriage and sheer embarrassment from the unfortunate man.

"The game took place at Twickenham Stoop; a ground the Broncos share with the Premiership's Harlequins RFC, only a stone's throw away from the actual Twickenham Stadium and it was quite an entertaining encounter.

"Dewsbury Rams started brightly with London Broncos forced on the defence early on, with one of their wingers bearing considerable resemblance to Lewis Montrose.

"The early pressure from the Rams however did not pay off as Broncos scored six tries without reply before the interval, with Dan Sarginson's being the pick of the bunch after a mazy run from inside his own half. Half time and the Broncos led 32-0.

"The half-time burger was a bit pricey, but with fans able to drink beer while watching the game, it was a different experience from watching the Gills.

"The second half was much like the first with Broncos on the attack for the majority, adding a further seven tries, while the Rams managed to get one try to their name to add a bit of respect to the scoreline, with the final result being 72-4 to London Broncos after a storming performance to take them into the fifth round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup.

"The game itself was enjoyable and if you have never seen a rugby league match before I would certainly recommend going to Priestfield to see the Broncos take on Hull next month."

Tickets for the game are available from the club now, priced at £10 for adults and £1 for Under-16s, although from May 13 the price will rise to £15 for adults and £5 for Under-16s, with concessions £10.

Call the club's ticket office on 01634 300000 or buy online at www.gillinghamfc.talent-sport.co.uk.

BASIC GUIDE TO RUGBY LEAGUE

THE BASICS

The aim of the game is simple: score more points than the other team.

A team is made up of 13 players and 4 substitutes. Each team is given six tackles or chances to score. If, after six tackles, they have not scored, the ball is handed over to the other team.

TIME: The game is split into two 40-minute halves.

STARTING THE GAME

The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the half way line towards the opposing team. It is always a place kick to start the game.

SCORING

Try – 4 points for touching the ball down on the ground behind the opposition try line.

Conversation/Penalty – 2 points for kicking the ball between the posts and over the cross bar.

Drop Goal – 1 point for drop kicking the ball between the posts and over the cross bar.

PLAY THE BALL

Once a player has been tackled he must return to his feet and 'play the ball' by rolling it between his legs to a team mate. He must make an attempt to play the ball with his foot (he'll be penalised for just rolling it back!)

KICKING

A team may choose to kick at any time and often do so on the fifth tackle to gain field position.

PASSING

The ball must be passed backwards at all times otherwise a scrum is awarded to the opposition.

SCRUM

A scrum is made up of six players from each team.

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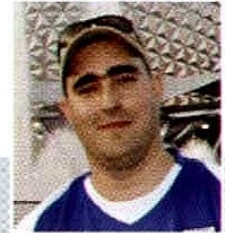
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PREDICTION LEAGUE

First Team Coach Nicky Southall has brought the backroom and coaching staff back into contention for this season's prediction league competition after collating 11 points during the last round of fixtures.

It appeared last time out that it was either the players or fans that would be victorious, but Southall has really livened things up with just two rounds left to play.



| FIXTURES | FINAL SCORE | OLLY LEE | NICKY SOUTHALL | W. LIGHTFOOT |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|--------------|
| Fulham v Chelsea | 1-1 | 1-3 | 1-3 | 0-2 |
| Newcastle v Bolton | 2-0 | 2-0 | 3-1 | 2-1 |
| Everton v Sunderland | 4-0 | 1-1 | 2-0 | 2-0 |
| Cardiff v Watford | 1-1 | 2-1 | 2-0 | 0-1 |
| C Palace v Southampton | 0-2 | 0-2 | 1-1 | 1-3 |
| Hull v Middlesbrough | 2-1 | 1-1 | 2-1 | 0-0 |
| Ipswich v Leicester | 1-2 | 2-1 | 1-2 | 1-1 |
| West Ham v Birmingham | 3-3 | 1-1 | 2-2 | 2-1 |
| Charlton v Walsall | 1-0 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 1-0 |
| Crawley v Crewe | 1-1 | 0-1 | 2-1 | 1-2 |
| Bradford v Southend | 2-0 | 1-0 | 2-1 | 1-3 |
| Weekly Points Total | | 9 | 11 | 6 |

TOTAL POINTS SO FAR:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Players | 143 |
| Fans | 136 |
| Coaches | 134 |

TOP SCORERS SO FAR:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Nicholas Arnold | 18 |
| Philip Obray | 13 |
| Javed Mughal | 13 |

Just nine points separate all three teams now with two rounds left to play.

This week **James Barker** has a third and final go at the predictions competition. His aim is to bring the coaching staff further in to the equation with just one round left to play.

He is up against midfielder **Jack Payne**, who is taking part for the second time and hopes to keep the players on top.

Fans representative **Jack Essen** will hope to spoil their aspirations though as he looks to give the league win to the supporters. Premier League, Championship and League Two scores are being asked for this time around.

| FIXTURES | JACK PAYNE | JAMES BARKER | JACK ESSEN |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Arsenal v Chelsea | 2-1 | 2-1 | 1-0 |
| Aston Villa v Sunderland | 1-1 | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Blackburn v Norwich | 2-1 | 2-2 | 2-2 |
| Bolton v Swansea | 1-2 | 0-2 | 1-0 |
| Fulham v Wigan | 2-2 | 1-2 | 2-0 |
| Newcastle v Stoke | 3-1 | 2-1 | 2-0 |
| QPR v Tottenham | 1-3 | 0-3 | 0-2 |
| Cardiff v Leeds | 2-0 | 2-0 | 3-1 |
| Brighton v Birmingham | 1-2 | 1-2 | 1-2 |
| Middlesbrough v Soton | 0-1 | 1-0 | 1-3 |
| Crewe v Cheltenham | 1-1 | 2-1 | 1-0 |



For your chance to take on Priestfield's finest and represent the fans in this season's Prediction League, simply email your details to media@priestfield.com



MATCH ACTION

Oxford United 0

Gillingham 0

Saturday April 14 2012
npower League Two, Kassam Stadium
Attendance: 7,322

Oxford: Brown, Batt, Duberry, Wright, Davis, Chapman (Constable 70), Whing, Hall, Montano (Johnson 60), Rendell, Morgan (Tonkin 82).

Unused subs: Wilson, Crocombe.

Gillingham: Gazzaniga, Fish, Essam, Frampton, Martin, Whelpdale, Montrose, Vine (Oli 73), Kuffour, Kedwell, Tomlin (Spiller 15, O Lee 89).

Unused subs: Evans, King.

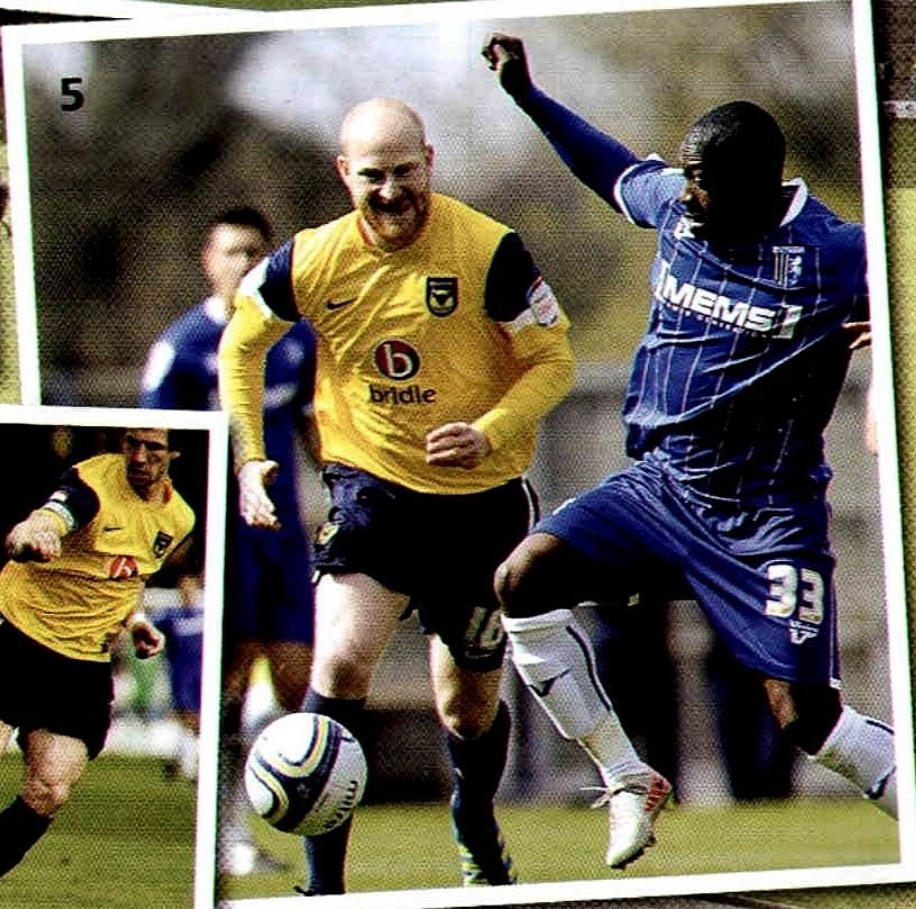
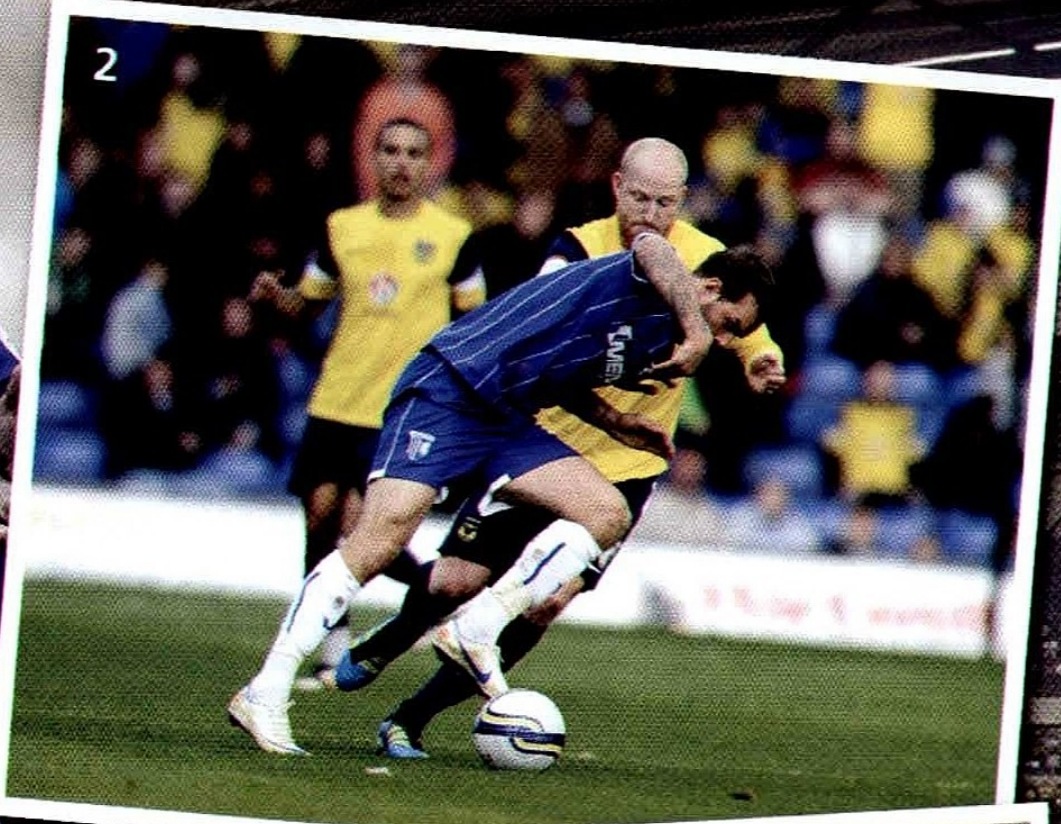
1. Danny Kedwell puts Dean Morgan under pressure
2. Rowan Vine gets on the ball
3. Gavin Tomlin tries to get through the home defence
4. Jo Kuffour takes on Jake Wright
5. Kuffour looks to make something happen

Pictures courtesy of Medway Messenger

| OXFORD | MATCH STATS | GILLS |
|--------|----------------|-------|
| 0 | Goals | 0 |
| 11 | Total Attempts | 7 |
| 7 | On Target | 4 |
| 4 | Off Target | 3 |
| 4 | Blocked | 1 |
| 0 | Hit Woodwork | 0 |
| 8 | Corners | 6 |
| 3 | Caught Offside | 1 |
| 8 | Fouls conceded | 9 |
| 2 | Yellow Cards | 3 |
| 0 | Red Cards | 0 |



Hessy: "They worked their socks off"





KENT SCENE

Nigel Clark takes a look at the non-league scene around Kent...

“... Hollands & Blair hung on to claim a deserved victory and also a place in the Kent Senior Cup next season where potentially they could face the Gills in a rare, perhaps unique, all-Gillingham tie...”

Below: Hollands & Blair celebrate their cup win. Picture credit: Alan Coomes

Kent Invicta league side Hollands & Blair lifted the Kent Senior Trophy last Sunday as they continued their tremendous progress since leaving the Rochester & District League in 2004.

The Gillingham-based side, whose home ground is at the Star Meadow Sports Club in Darland Avenue, were surprise finalists as they had lost to Erith & Belvedere in the semi-final.

However the Deres faced an FA hearing at Wembley Stadium on April 2, charged with fielding a player without international clearance in January, and were found guilty. That player was former Crystal Palace

youngster Michael Abnett, who spent 2011 with Icelandic second division side BI Bolungarvik. His appearances for Erith included their quarter-final victory against Cray Valley so they were removed from the competition.

The Kent FA moved quickly to arrange another semi-final between Hollands & Blair and Cray Valley, which the home side won 2-0 to send them to the final.

On Sunday they faced Sevenoaks at Park View Road and won 2-1 in front of a crowd of 350.

Deserved

Two first-half goals from Nick Smith gave them a half-time lead but Sevenoaks pulled a goal back with just six minutes of the match remaining to set up a nervous finale.

But Hollands hung on to claim a deserved victory and also a place in the Kent Senior Cup next season where potentially they could face the Gills in a rare, perhaps unique, all-Gillingham tie.

Their victory was also good news for the Kent Invicta League whose inaugural season has proved to be a great success, right from the point that saw 300 attend the league's opening fixture between Erith & Dartford and Phoenix Sports back in August.

With just two rounds of matches remaining the championship race is still wide open with Bly Spartans and Phoenix Sports neck and neck on 55



points and Bridon Ropes just behind on 52 points.

The latter only remain in contention thanks to two shock results in the last fortnight which have seen bottom side Orpington, just four wins all season going into April, beat Bly and Phoenix on consecutive weeks.

On the league's final day next Saturday, Phoenix Sports play Bridon Ropes while long-time leaders Bly entertain Crockenhill.

Ashford United were expected to be the team to beat this season but sit in sixth place and can finish no higher than fourth.

They got off to a sluggish start, winning just four of their opening 12 matches, but they've only lost two of their 16 matches since then and will again be one of the title favourites next season.

In Blue Square South Woking secured the championship last weekend, consigning Dartford to the play-offs where they'll be joined by Welling United and Sutton United. The last spot should be between Chelmsford and Dover but both sides have poor home form.

Dover won 1-0 away to Havant & Waterlooville last weekend, their tenth consecutive away game without defeat. In contrast they've lost five of their last six home games and this afternoon host lowly Maidenhead.

Chelmsford, in fifth place and two points ahead of Dover, have lost three of their last four home games and won just two of their last nine matches home and away. Both are in danger of being overtaken by Basingstoke who have taken 15 points from their last six games, drew level

with Dover after a 1-0 win at Havant on Monday and have a game in hand.

Cray's promotion hopes were dented last weekend with a 1-0 home defeat to Lewes in Ryman Premier, which meant the Sussex side leapfrogged the Wands to take fifth spot in the table. Wins for Canvey Island and Hendon saw Cray drop down to eighth.

They do however have a game in hand, but they have a difficult few days ahead of them, playing fourth-placed Bury Town today and third-placed Lowestoft on Tuesday before finishing the campaign with an easy-looking home game against bottom side Horsham next weekend.

Guarantee

In Ryman One North Chatham Town's poor away form continued with a 1-0 defeat at Waltham Abbey.

The Chats have won just five games on the road this season and their 14 goals scored away from home is the worst total in the division.

In Ryman One South Folkestone beat Sittingbourne 4-1 and need just a point this afternoon away to Chipstead to guarantee a play-off spot. Due to Croydon Athletic's demise that's their last scheduled game this season.

Even if they lose both Maidstone and Godalming will have to win their remaining games by healthy margins to draw level with Invicta and better their goal difference.

Maidstone are in fifth place and travel to 18th-place Walton Casuals this afternoon. They will need all three points as they have a huge game at home to Bognor Regis next weekend.

The West Sussex side are top of the

table, have scored a hundred goals and lost just four matches this season, but they'll probably need to beat the Stones to take the title and automatic promotion.

Ramsgate beat Worthing 4-3 in the first game since Jim Ward stepped down as manager. It's been a disappointing season for the Rams who sit in mid-table. Assistant manager Tim Dixon has stepped up to become manager with Jim Ward joining the board and becoming general manager.

The 60-year-old Scot had been team manager for eight years and oversaw two promotions and an FA Cup first round appearance.

"Quite simply, Jim Ward is the most successful manager in the history of our club and we owe him a great debt," chairman Richard Lawson told the Isle of Thanet Gazette. "The funny thing was he told me I should have sacked him a year ago and I found myself justifying to Jim why I'd kept him!"

Hythe Town cantered to a routine 2-0 win away to Burgess Hill. They sit level on points with Ramsgate but unlike the Rams have been delighted with the way the season has gone. On Easter Monday they lost 2-0 at home to local rivals Folkestone but there was a season's best crowd of 804 at Reachfields.

Next Tuesday they travel to Princes Park to meet Dartford in the final of the Kent Senior Cup and will be taking two coaches of supporters for their second ever Senior Cup final, the first of which was a defeat to Bromley here at Priestfield 20 years ago.



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Above: Dean White

DEAN'S ALL WHITE FOR GILLS

BY CHRIS LYNHAM

Gillingham's rivalry with today's visitors is well documented.

It originally ignited over 30 years ago when two feisty late-season encounters were blighted (or enhanced, depending on your viewpoint) by sendings off, scuffles in the tunnel, accusations, counter-accusations, visits to police stations and an elderly spectator swinging punches at referee David Hutchison in the Priestfield fixture.

More importantly, Gillingham secured just the one point from the games, many feeling that Swindon cost the club promotion.

The rivalry was reignited in the 1987 play-offs which were played out in an equally unpleasant atmosphere, and this time there was no doubt that Lou Macari's side deprived us our place in the second tier for the first time, winning a replay 2-0 at Selhurst Park after an epic three weeks of frenzied action.

Football supporters never forget, and are prepared to harbour a grudge to the grave, but in truth Swindon are more concerned with local neighbours and you have to be a bitter Gills fan in your 40s to still bristle at the mention of Ray McHale. Or Alan Mayes, Andy Rowland, Chris Kamara, Steve White or Dave Bamber.

I count myself in that bitter category, and well remember the sorry sight of McHale trudging across the pitch to a backdrop of fearsome abuse when he was manager of Scarborough. Only he knows if he truly deserved such a response, but it's fair to say that he was involved in all the controversy at the end of the 78/79 season.

By October 1981 tensions had calmed a little, mostly because both sides had sapped the spirit out of their supporters during their respective lamentable 1980/81 campaigns. The two goalless draws raised very few talking points, and didn't even provoke a flurry of coloured cards.

Stalemates

In the summer of 1981 Keith Peacock breezed into his first managerial position and a dead weight was lifted from the club. Not only did he reinstate a belief that Gillingham could finally achieve promotion, but he did it with a style that made watching the side a joy again - a sharp contrast to the stupefying succession of 0-0 stalemates that had seen us scrape together sufficient points to cling to our Third Division status the previous season.

He used his Charlton connections to bring Dick Tydeman back to Kent, accompanied by winger Colin Powell

and tireless midfielder Richie Bowman, the combined fee being £67,000. With the popular and experienced Damien Richardson, Terry Nicholl and John Crabbe being released by previous manager Gerry Summers before he himself was shown the door, and Danny Westwood transferring to non-league Barnet, it was a much changed squad which started the season against Burnley.

We enjoyed a steady rather than spectacular opening, but everything suddenly clicked in October when we recorded six straight wins, including four on the road. We even won 2-1 at Plymouth and Millwall, both venues where Gillingham had historically suffered a horrific record.

The run lifted the club into the top three in time for top of the table clash with Swindon, who had set the early pace but were smarting from a 5-0 drubbing at Walsall the previous midweek.

There were some notable survivors from the battles three years earlier - Hillyard, Weatherly, Price and White in blue, with Allan, Rowland and Williams retaining their places in the Swindon line-up. Andy Ford had moved from Swindon to Kent, and his left back berth was now taken by ex-Gill Dave Peach.



It was the uncompromising midfield trio of Dean White, Richie Bowman and Colin Duncan which provided the momentum for the charge up the table. The former two had contributed 10 goals between them, and with the Ken Price - Trevor Lee partnership up front showing promise it meant that for the first time since I'd started watching the club we looked capable of outscoring opponents rather than relying on grinding out clean sheets.

A crowd of 8,410, the highest for a year and 3,000 above the season's previous best, gathered to see what the fuss was about, although the simmering attraction of the visitors undoubtedly added a few to the gate.

There was little in it during the opening half, as a crackling atmosphere provided a nervous edge to both sides' performances.

But straight from the restart Gillingham tore into their opponents. A flurry of corners produced a wonder stop by Allan from a Lee header, and Ken Price saw a flick kneed off the line.

On 50 minutes Duncan picked the ball up inside his own half and set off on a trademark dash for goal, head down and fists pumping. He unleashed a powerful drive from fully 30 yards that clipped Allan's diving hand and the bar.

The packed Rainham End surged forward as another Tydeman corner was delivered into the box. The fearsome set-piece weapon that was Steve Bruce got there first and headed powerfully against the crossbar.

I distinctly remember my Dad turning to me in anguish, his tatty scarf whipped up over his head as another chance went begging, but in doing so he missed Dean White launch himself at the rebound and head the ball high into the Rainham End net.

The moment had built beautifully

with a spell of concerted pressure, two near misses and then a proper scrambled net bulger. The place went mad, many clinging to the new perimeter fences which had been installed following the encroachment of the afore-mentioned spectator whose right hook had felled the referee in 1979.

Performance

Gillingham clung on for a treasured victory, our first over Swindon in 11 attempts. We lost the next two away fixtures as we entered November, but the performance of the season in the 3-0 demolition of high-flying Doncaster sent us to the top of the table, a fitting celebration for Peacock's first Manager of the Month award.

Unfortunately it wasn't to last, as long-term serious knee injuries to both Bowman and Duncan not only ended our interest in the promotion race, but effectively ended their careers. Both made heartbreaking comebacks but

neither reached the heights of the autumn of 1981.

Nevertheless, a sixth-place finish, the fourth round of the FA Cup and the emerging talents of Steve Bruce, Micky Adams and Tony Cascarino left everyone well satisfied. As did a double over Swindon, Adams getting an early winner at the County Ground.

It was a costly result, as Swindon were relegated by just one point alongside Chester, Bristol City and Wimbledon. They floundered for three seasons in the basement before winning the championship in 1986, where the two clubs renewed acquaintances.

Over 70,000 watched the five clashes that season, and Swindon's play-off triumph meant the two clubs didn't meet again for 20 years, which has served to diffuse some of the tension between the supporters, a whole generation not really understanding what the fuss is all about.

Keith Peacock signing Colin Powell and Dick Tydeman



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YOUNGSTERS TRIUMPHANT IN FRANCE...

Frankie Beale kept his nerve to fire home the all-important penalty as the Gills overcame holders Dinamo Minsk, for the second time in the weekend, to lift the 36th Easter international tournament trophy in Le Portel, Boulogne.

Eight teams, three from France – hosts Stade Portelois, USBCO and FC Dieppe – Dinamo Minsk from Belarus, Dimension Foot (Benin), Romanians FC Craiova and FC Karpaty Lviv from the Ukraine joined Gillingham in the competition that was held over the Easter weekend (April 7-9).

Having already beaten the Belarusians 1-0 in a physical encounter during the group stages on Saturday, the Gills were held to a goalless draw in Monday's final before winning 3-1 on penalties. Bradley Dack converted the first and Jake Hessenthaler added number two before Minsk missed their second which allowed Beale to become the hero by hitting the winner.

It meant that the Gills had impressively gone through all five of the 20 minute each way games in the competition without conceding a goal in open play.

Darren Hare's side opened the tournament with successive 1-0 wins followed by a goalless draw to top their group in the opening fixtures. On Saturday a late penalty from skipper Dack was enough to see off Minsk first time round

at the Stade Amor Sergent and that was followed with a win over French hosts Stade Portelois on Sunday morning, Dylan Ford finding the net late on in this one. Then in the afternoon they recorded a goalless draw against Dimension Foot from Benin.

| GROUP A | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|-----|
| Gillingham | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Dinamo Minsk | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 6 |
| Dimension Foot | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Stade Portelois | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 |

| GROUP B | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Karpaty Lviv | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| USBCO | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| FC Dieppe | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| FC Craiova | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

On Monday morning long range efforts from Dack and Kane Haysman saw locals USBCO beaten 2-0 in their semi-final but despite Darren Hare's small squad being severely tested as Ford, Jake Mackenzie and Nathan Nyafli were all struggling with injuries, they had enough in them to take the trophy.

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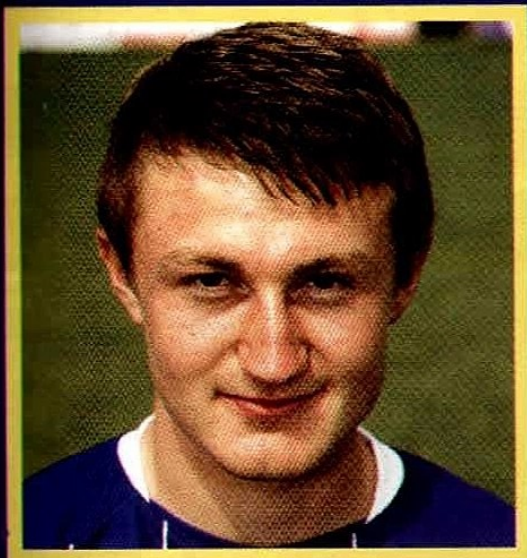
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ON THE SPOT

with Callum Davies

CHRIS DICKETTS PUTS YOUNG DEFENDER CALLUM DAVIES ON THE SPOT TO FIND OUT WHO HE WOULD LEAST LIKE TO BE TRAPPED IN A LIFT WITH AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

APPEARANCES: 3 MINUTES PLAYED: 137 GOALS CONCEDED: 2 FOULS CONCEDED: 1

Everyone has a nickname what is yours and why?

I have a few, Cal is the obvious one. I am also called Doug because I look like Doug from a kids program, Jacko calls me Paul O'Grady and Robert Huth has been chucked in there as well.

Who thinks they have the best taste in music but really it's the worst?
Jacko's iPod is a bit dodgy as it has a bit of Reggae on there that is about it really.

Is there anyone who is always late to training?

Connor Essam is always late to pick me up for training, Roscoe in pre-season was pretty bad but I don't think anyone is really that late any more.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

I think coming through the youth system, then I made my first start and was back out of the team again. At Plymouth helping us getting that win was pretty special and playing such a big part in that game.

What has been the low point of your career so far?

I would say getting sent off on my debut but it is all part of football I guess.

Who is your best friend in football?
I don't want to say Connor so I will go with Jack Evans, we have come through the youth system together and I get on well with him.

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

I would say my parents because of the amount they have done for me, with all the travelling around for about 10 years taking me to games.

What do you do away from football to relax?

I used to play Call of Duty but now I am one handed at the moment I am a bit limited. Now my mates are back from university I am alright.

What is the best thing about being a professional footballer?

It has to be doing something that you love, obviously coming through the youth system I don't really know anything different.

What is the worst thing about being a professional footballer?

I don't think there is much that you can say to be fair that is bad about being a professional footballer.

What is the best stadium that you have ever played in?

I would say Vicarage Road.

What car do you drive?

I drive a Seat Ibiza – obviously when I can drive that is.

Who is the biggest joker in the dressing room?

Charlie reckons he is, Gal is a bit of a joker and Kingy and Jacko are a bit sly.

What music gets you pumped up before a game?

I don't really listen to music I just get on with it.

Which of your team-mates would you least like to be trapped in a lift with and why?

It would probably be Connor because he would be on his phone all the time texting.

What is the worst injury you have had so far in your career?

It is probably the one now actually I haven't ever really been injury prone. In the youth team I missed two games with a broken nose. So I have only ever had two bad injuries and they have been a broken nose and a broken hand.

What do you remember about your first team debut at Gillingham?

Walking from the furthest part of the pitch to the tunnel is about all I can remember of that game.

Who has the worst tattoo in the Gills dressing room?

A lot of people don't know this but Connor has his ex-girlfriend's name tattooed by his tricep, I am not sure the boys have seen it as it is quite small.

Finally, tell us something that might surprise us about you?

I am not really that interesting! I used to play cricket quite a bit, we play a bit of indoor cricket in the gym, I used to play cricket for the county when I was younger. I didn't really like it as I used to find fielding really boring as I have a short attention span.

SERIE A'S SOBERING WEEK

BY TOMMY GEORGE

The story of Piermario Morosini is one of intense tragedy and cruel luck.

It ended on Saturday April 14 2012 on the pitch at Pescara, a picturesque Italian city on the Adriatic coast.

After the loss of his parents before he reached adulthood, followed by the lonely suicide of his disabled brother shortly afterwards, it was always a somewhat unlikely tale that the midfielder managed to carve out a good career for himself in the second tier of Italian football, Serie B.

This career was ended cruelly during his club, Livorno's, game at the weekend. Similar to the harrowing scenes at White Hart Lane, where Fabrice Muamba lay stricken on the turf, Morosini collapsed. While earlier this week Muamba was released from hospital in London, Morosini was not so lucky; his heart never restarted and he died where he fell, leaving behind another disabled sibling, his sister, in the most heartbreaking circumstances imaginable.

The name of Piermario Morosini will go down alongside Marc Vivien-Foe, Phil O'Donnell and Antonio Puerta as a player who has died on the field while representing his team.

Also on this tragic list are the lesser known names of Bobsam Elejiko, Goran Tunjić, Bartholomew Opuku and Ivan Karacić, who met the same terrible fate; the latter pair aged just 19.

While in the wake of the Fabrice Muamba incident it was mooted by

Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini that the regular cardiac screening of players in Italy made it less likely that such an event could occur on the peninsula, it appears that he has been proved wrong. While in the wake of any sort of disaster it is easy to point the finger at the perceived inadequacies of a system, sometimes there is little to be done other than to grieve and mourn.

In circumstances such as these, football takes something of a back seat. It puts many things into perspective and with many players deeply affected by Morosini's death, it was decided by the Italian Football Association to postpone all matches planned after that date to another time, in order to leave those affected to their reflections in peace. Games will resume as planned next weekend.

Hallmark

It has distracted somewhat from what has been an excellent season in Italian football; fresh coaches, new players and resurgent old names have been the hallmark of the season so far and with just a handful of games remaining, very few issues have been decided in either the first or second tier.

After years of Milanese dominance in Serie A, from both the red and blue sides, the Old Lady of Juventus look to have her best chance for many years to reassert herself as the Queen of Italy. After the disaster of match-fixing



scandals, relegation to the second division and a long recovery process, they are finally back at the summit.

The scars of the Claudio Ranieri and Ciro Ferrara regimes are now partially healed and under Antonio Conte, a notable stalwart from those famous Juventus sides of the mid-nineties, they remain the only unbeaten team in any of Europe's major leagues.

While usually a resurgence of this description will usually come about due to the introduction of a fresh group of players, at Juve this has only been partially true. While the likes of Arturo Vidal, brought in during the summer from Bayer Leverkusen, and Marco Estigarribia, a Paraguayan on loan from Deportivo Maldonado have provided a much needed spark, a trio of old warhorses have provided the base for the title charge. In goal,



Gianluigi Buffon, aged 34, has once more impressed while the seemingly eternal Alessandro Del Piero has chipped in with some vital goals in his 38th year.

However, the real turning point was the summer acquisition of the midfield genius and set piece artist Andrea Pirlo. His wizened appearance deceives his 32 years, but his influence upon the 2012 vintage of Turin has been undeniable.

After almost a decade at Milan, Pirlo was allowed to join Juventus for free. His deep lying playmaker role has added a new dimension to Juventus' play; while they have hardly been dynamite going forward this season, top scorer Alessandro Matri has just 10 goals in the league and the team has just 53 from 32 in total, defensively they have been rock solid

with just 18 conceded owing to the change of shape that accommodates a player such as Pirlo.

Pirlo's old club, AC Milan, are just a point behind his new one despite having lost five more games and are still in the race, but have stuttered after their exploits in the Champions League this season, while Juventus, with no distractions, have roared on from strength to strength.

With just six games to go, it will surely be a nail-biting finish. Slightly below them, with just one Champions League spot left to play for, Lazio have recovered from a shaky spell to steal the march on Udinese, for whom Antonio Di Natale is still banging in the goals, another 20 this time round.

However, the death of Piermario Morosini, who was at loan from

Udinese to Livorno, may prove too much of an emotional burden for the club to carry on their push for another Champions League spot.

At the other end of the table; Cesena and Novara are as good as gone and will have to make preparations for another assault at Serie B after brief spells at the top table. Above them, Lecce are propping up a trio of fallen giants, Genoa, Parma and Fiorentina. Separated by just three points and crippled (as with many Italian clubs) by financial crisis and internal squabbling, just how any of the clubs would respond to the drop is something of an unknown quantity.

Dominant

Looking to partake in the Serie A 2012/13 season are two clubs rich in history, but with recent success distinctly thin on the ground. Torino, who were the dominant team of the 1940s before the Superga disaster destroyed the side completely, hold the record for consecutive Serie A titles, but perhaps the Serie B crown this year would be their most significant of recent times.

A return to the big time could lighten the sourness of city rivals Juventus picking up the title one league up, as well as setting up a tasty derby fixture next term.

Looking to stop this will be Hellas Verona, who were crowned Italian Champions in the mid-80s, but are more notable recently for the excellent Tim Parks novel *A Season* with Verona, alongside some particularly unsavoury hooligan incidents.

After a drop through the divisions it will be interesting to see if they too can bounce back to the highest table and set up another city rivalry against Serie A's Chievo, with whom they share a stadium.

However, any successes this season will be somewhat tinged with sadness after the events in Pescara on Saturday, which have brought the excitement of an excellent campaign to a shuddering halt. The football community, in Europe as a whole as well as Italy, is united in its thoughts and condolences to the family and friends of the Livorno number 25.

Piermario Morosini, riposa in pace.

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ON THIS DAY

APRIL 21

RICHARD DAY LOOKS BACK ON ALL NEWS RELEVANT TO GILLINGHAM FC THAT'S OCCURRED ON THIS DATE PREVIOUSLY...



Main Picture: Michael Flynn scores against Port Vale. Inset: John Hills takes a penalty against Ipswich Town

FIXTURES

| | | | |
|------|--|------|-------------|
| 1894 | New Brompton 1-0 Ashford Utd | Fr | |
| 1900 | New Brompton 1-0 Bristol C | SLD1 | |
| | Former Lincoln City forward Andrew Swan scored the only goal of the game | | |
| 1906 | New Brompton 0-0 West Ham UJ | SLD1 | |
| 1923 | Gillingham 2-0 Merthyr Town | D3S | |
| | Goals from Charlie Freeman and Jack Henderson, a penalty, in either half proved suffice | | |
| 1924 | Swindon T 4-1 Gillingham | D3S | |
| | Tom Williams netted the second-half consolation | | |
| 1928 | Millwall 6-0 Gillingham | D3S | Att: 5,994 |
| 1930 | Southend Utd 0-0 Gillingham | D3S | Att: 9,036 |
| 1934 | Northampton T 1-0 Gillingham | D3S | Att: 3,702 |
| 1948 | Guildford City 0-1 Gillingham | SLD1 | |
| | Jackie Briggs scored the only goal of the game in Surrey | | |
| 1951 | Gillingham 3-0 Aldershot | D3S | Att: 10,492 |
| | Goals from Bill Burtenshaw, Bill Hales and Dave Thomas ensured a comfortable Gills win | | |
| 1956 | Crystal Palace 1-3 Gillingham | D3S | Att: 10,495 |
| | Arthur Hughes hit his one and only goal for the club while both Errol Crossan and Dave Hawkins also found the net in a win against the struggling Glaziers | | |
| 1967 | Doncaster R 2-3 Gillingham | D3 | Att: 3,364 |
| | Brian Gibbs, Gordon Riddick and Charlie Crickmore were the marksmen at Belle Vue | | |
| 1973 | Gillingham 2-0 Southport | D4 | Att: 3,895 |
| | Brian Yeo scored one and a Chris Dunleavy own goal ensured the points stayed at Priestfield | | |
| 1979 | Plymouth Arg 2-1 Gillingham | D3 | Att: 5,868 |
| | Tony Funnell scored for the Gills at Home Park | | |
| 1990 | Gillingham 1-1 Exeter C | D4 | Att: 3,469 |
| | A Peter Beadle goal secured a point against the Grecians | | |
| 2001 | Gillingham 1-2 West Brom | C | Att: 9,920 |
| | Albion took the points despite an Iffy Onuora effort | | |

| | | | |
|------|--|----|-------------|
| 2002 | Watford 2-3 Gillingham | C | Att: 15,674 |
| | Goals from Chris Hope, Paul Shaw and Onuora again secured victory at Vicarage Road | | |
| 2003 | Gillingham 1-0 Bradford C | C | Att: 6,281 |
| | Paul Shaw was the match-winner against the Bantams | | |
| 2007 | Gillingham 3-2 Port Vale | L1 | Att: 5,928 |
| | Ian Cox and Michael Flynn (2) were the scorers as the Gills edged past Vale | | |

DEBUTS...

The following player made his Gillingham debut in the above game.

1951 JACK DAY versus Aldershot at home

BIRTHS

1978 JOHN HILLS

John's career started at Blackpool, signing YTS forms at 16, and in August 2011 his career turned full cycle when he returned to Bloomfield Road once again, this time as Head of Youth at the Championship outfit. During his Football League days he scored 23 goals in 324 appearances in his spells at Everton, Swansea City, Sheffield Wednesday and of course Gillingham. He came to Gillingham in the summer of 2003 and made his debut in a goalless draw against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on the opening day of the 2003/04 season. After making 57 appearances, and scoring three goals, during his two years at Priestfield, he joined Wednesday in June 2005 but his time at Hillsborough was plagued by injuries. After returning to the north-west he joined Fleetwood Town, where he also coached both the youth team and under 16s, and later Evo-Stik League Division One North side AFC Fylde, where he was player-coach.



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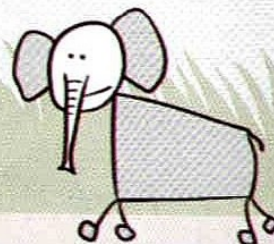
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GOOD afternoon and welcome to MEMS Priestfield Stadium, especially the army of fans who have travelled from Swindon for a game which could prove to be vitally important to both teams.



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Their English Produce Section - managed by Andy Warner, a Priestfield disciple for more than 30 seasons - promotes a number of Independent Kent growers, offering the best of the county's fruit to their customers. Andy says DG Fruit are proud to support Kent's farmers and the Gills.



Jack Payne, our man-of-the-match for the game against Dagenham and Redbridge, receives his champagne from Adrian Flack and Tony Merrell, from match sponsors APMS.

It's your last chance today to cast your vote for the Gills' Player of the Year. Voting forms are available from turnstiles, or you can collect one from the cheerleaders as you leave. Please deposit them in one of the bins provided or hand them to one of the cheerleaders or you can take them to the Megastore immediately after the game. However, they must be received by 5pm today to qualify.

Plans are in full swing for our **Player of the Year dinner** following our last home match, against Morecambe, on **May 5**. Come and see who wins trophies for the Young Player, Away Player and Goal of the Season, as well as

the main award – the Supporters' Player of the Year. These are preceded by a three-course dinner and followed by dancing with a live band. The price is £50 per person plus VAT.

Tickets are now on sale for our rugby **Super League match** between the London Broncos and Hull FC. The big match takes place on **Sunday, May 20** (kick off 2pm). Until a week before the game, tickets are priced at just £10 for adults and £1 for juniors accompanied by an adult. After May 13, prices will be £15 and £5. Please call our ticket office (01634 300000, option 1) to book your places. A fantastic weekend of rugby league also includes junior, masters and wheelchair matches at the Army's Garrison Stadium and at Medway Park (Black Lion).

Our next tribute night is **Stevie Wonder** next **Saturday, April 28**, with a night dedicated to the sounds of Motown. But it's not just Stevie – the line-up also includes the Motown Sisters with songs from the Ronettes, the Supremes and many more. Then comes our fantastic Beatles night, featuring one of the country's top tribute bands, Like **The Beatles**, on **Saturday, May 19**. Tickets for both these nights are £29.95, including a three-course meal.

Following the success of our first two "trial" comedy nights, we have decided to continue the season, with further dates on **May 3, June 7, September 6** and **October 4**. Tickets cost £15 to include a basket meal.

Check the website, priestfield.com, for more details. To book your places for any of our events, call Medway 300000.

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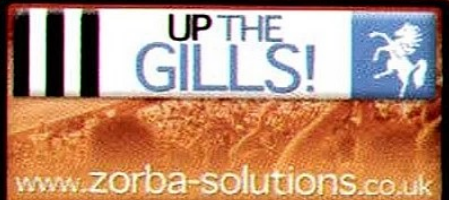


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I'm glad that everything has been sorted out and the game today is now going ahead as normal.

I was worried when I started writing this that it might have been a case that the only people reading this page would be those who had snuck in secretly disguised as Tommy Trewblu or a member of the GFC Gems.

Either that, or it might have been sometime in the not too distant future and you have bought a copy of this programme on eBay for a 'buy it now' price of 3p because it's now a much sought after piece of Gillingham merchandise as its the official programme of the game that nobody went to.

When I first heard about the proposed ban, I started to wonder about all the things I could do with my Saturday instead - if the 'fan ban' did actually go ahead. The following things flashed through my mind, but not necessarily in this order -

- a) Mowing the lawn (front and back).
- b) Clearing out the garage and/or cleaning out the fish tank.
- c) Shopping at Bluewater.
- d) Finally getting around to watching the box set of 'The Wire' that was given to me for the xmas before last.

Then I realised that these were exactly the sort of things I was trying to avoid by buying a season ticket in the first place, so I eventually settled on the fact that I would treat it as a normal Saturday as if the Gills were away and just sit at home watching Soccer Saturday with a Pot Noodle surround by two screaming kids who constantly keep telling me their hungry.

Seriously though, playing the team top of the league is never easy and the pressure will be on the Gills players today in what is a must win for us if we are to give ourselves just the smallest chance of promotion this season.

Of course part of me still hopes we can reach the play-offs, so I'll be keeping my diary free for the next few weeks - just in case.

I would like to welcome back Luke Rooney even though there is a possibility he will score the goal to end our play-off hopes.

Whatever happens, let's get behind the boys today and at least make sure Swindon have to wait another week to celebrate promotion.

UP THE GILLS!

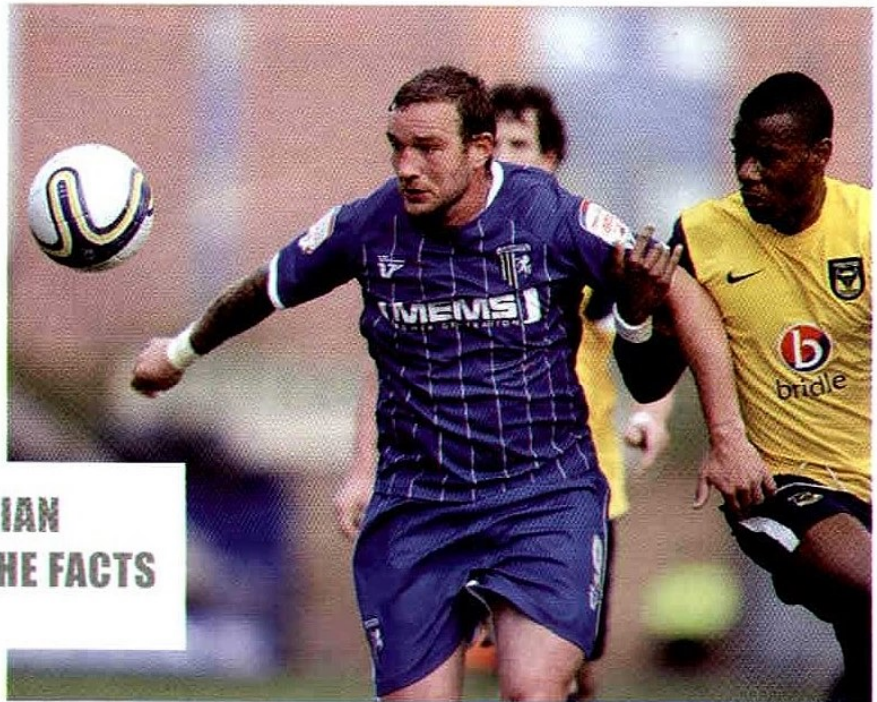
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Without a doubt it is make or break for our season today if any faint hopes of promotion are to be realised, so the visit of league leaders and champions-elect Swindon must make the task that much more difficult.

It has felt in the past that perhaps sometimes we fare better against the sides doing well and not so with the sides many would perceive us likely to win against so I suppose it would be the Gills' way if we were to beat the current table toppers and then lose in the subsequent game to Northampton, currently in 20th.

So our penultimate look at how results have differed down the seasons for the Gills inevitably takes us to results against teams top and bottom of the table since reintroduction to the Football League in 1950.

The first few seasons on our travels against the side ultimately finishing top were not kind with the Gills losing all six games from the first three seasons.

Worst still, Nottingham Forest showed just how ruthless the league could be recording a 9-2 victory and Ipswich three seasons later earning a 6-1 win. Travelling to top sides looked perilous but in the 1954/55 season the Gills came home with a 4-1 win against Bristol City to give us the only victory in the first nine seasons, coming just before recording the first of three doubles (Walsall) over the league champions.

The early 80s saw 14 games where seven wins were secured including back-to-back doubles over Reading and Bournemouth in the 1985/86 and 1986/87 seasons. The next three seasons however would then see

them without any and 48 games have passed since, securing a less than impressive six wins.

If today's visitors are to become the league champions then beating them would secure our first home victory over a team to finish top since a 1-0 win over Fulham in the 1998/99 season, although the Gills have beaten a side finishing top far more recently as the 2005/06 season when we returned from Southend with a 1-0 win at Roots Hall.

Percentage

If beating the top side has been far more difficult than it first appears, then the side finishing runner-up has been a little better. Also achieving three win doubles but only suffering 13 loss doubles (six less than against the top sides) the home win percentage increases dramatically but strangely fared significantly worse over the results of the top sides on our travels.

Although it took a little longer to register the first win, they came a bit more regularly and the first win double was achieved in 1964/65 against Bristol City. In the late seventies only two wins came in 27 matches but eight extra victories over the same period against the champions were earned, those seasons in the mid-eighties unbeaten

GILLINGHAM SEASON FACTS:

- 18 games have seen 23 penalty incidents so far this season. Nine games included 12 penalties last season. The most over the last four seasons has seen 14 games involving 14 penalties.
- Rowan Vine's goal against Macclesfield made him the 21st different Gillingham goal-scorer this season, the most since 20 players scored in the 2003/4 season.
- After Oxford, League Two had seen 385 wins so far, one more than the whole of last season. Averaged out it is on course to end with 30 more wins and 30 less draws but with 52 less goals.

in six against the top sides were much worse against the side below with only two draws and four defeats.

Recent results against the side finishing second have been in stark contrast. The last time we avoided defeat away was back in the 2000/01 season when a 2-1 victory at Blackburn preceded a run of 10 straight losses and the side looking most likely to finish as runner-up this season have also beaten us on our travels.

That side is Shrewsbury who, if they achieve it, would record the first losing double over us since we succumbed to West Brom eight seasons ago – however eight out the remaining nine seasons all saw home wins sit alongside those away defeats. Unsurprisingly our record isn't as good as we imagine against the top two so their must surely be a vast improvement over the bottom two.

With 12 win doubles over the sides finishing last and only three losing doubles, it is a mirror image of the opposite end of the table.

Repeated

The first win double came after only the third season and another three seasons passed before it would be repeated with today's visitors losing 4-0 and 1-0 (another win double over them came the season after when they finished second from bottom). After 32 games in which only four away defeats were endured then came the Gills' first losing double against the side finishing last.

Stockport ran out 2-0 winners at Priestfield and 1-0 winners at their place to record three out of four defeats against the bottom side - a run that would be halted the following season but only as the Gills themselves finished in last place!

In all, 85 wins in a 119 from 1950 to the present day against the bottom two at Priestfield helps dispel the theory we suffer against these sides and even the away win percentages are not far off that of the average throughout many seasons as a whole.

A win at Aldershot in the 1988/89 season and another against Halifax four seasons later (both seasons in which the Gills finished second to last) were the only successes in 10 matches

and included the second losing double (Wrexham).

Results picked up once more but in 2007/08 Luton finished bottom and were relegated alongside us. With the Gills being promoted the following season, Luton finished bottom once more to fall out of the Football League but still managed to win at Priestfield (the last time we had lost to a bottom-placed side) giving the Gills just one win in the four against them.

The season after, Stockport came down with the Gills also from League 1 before suffering the same fate as Luton as they too left the Football League but this time the Gills won three out of the four against them. With Hereford looking most likely to

finish bottom, the win double over them would be similar to the narrow home win and large away win we enjoyed last season against Stockport.

And with only one win double against the side second from bottom in the last seven seasons, the current side Macclesfield would also continue that trend. But for now, the attentions are with the side at the top.

Having lost every game in the past 10 seasons away to the second top side that trend too continues in the form of currently placed Shrewsbury. So to keep the season alive we must break the final trend, that previously mentioned issue of no home wins against the top side in 12 seasons! It's going to be a fascinating afternoon.

| GILLINGHAM | | | LGE & CUP FACTS/STATS | | OPPOSITION | |
|------------|-------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------|------|
| 37.8 | % of goals | 31 | First half goals scored | 25 | % of goals | 34.7 |
| 62.2 | % of goals | 51 | Second half goals scored | 47 | % of goals | 65 |
| 9.8 | % of goals | 8 | Goals in the first 10 mins | 6 | % of goals | 8.3 |
| 22.0 | % of goals | 18 | Goals in the last 10 mins | 15 | % of goals | 20.8 |
| 8.5 | % of goals | 7 | Injury time / Last min goals | 6 | % of goals | 8.3 |
| 26.5 | % of games | 13 | Clean / Blank sheets | 12 | % of games | 24.5 |
| 4.9 | % of goals | 4 | Consolation goals | 5 | % of goals | 6.9 |
| 26.8 | % of goals | 22 | Goals from a set piece | 17 | % of goals | 23.6 |
| 0.7 | per game | 33 | Number of leads taken | 32 | per game | 0.7 |
| 51.0 | % of games | 25 | First goal of the game scored | 20 | % of games | 40.8 |
| | | 23 | Points dropped from lead ex 0-0 | 21 | | |
| 68.0 | % of games | 17 | Win from the first goal scored | 14 | % of games | 70 |
| 20.0 | % of games | 5 | Defeat from the first goal scored | 3 | % of games | 15.0 |
| | | 12 | Win from a half time lead | 8 | | |
| | | 2 | Draw from a half time lead | 1 | | |
| | | 2 | Defeat from a half time lead | 3 | | |
| 5.5 | per game | 268 | Shots On Target | 274 | per game | 5.6 |
| 4.4 | per game | 214 | Shots Off Target | 250 | per game | 5.1 |
| 4.2 | per game | 9 | Woodwork Hit | 9 | per game | 3.6 |
| 1.7 | per game | 85 | Offsides | 148 | per game | 3.0 |
| 5.9 | per game | 289 | Corners | 247 | per game | 5.0 |
| 11.6 | per game | 569 | Fouls | 504 | per game | 10.3 |
| 1.8 | per game | 89 | Players Booked | 78 | per game | 1.6 |
| 7.9% | of bookings | 7 | Players Sent Off | 7 | of bookings | 9.0% |
| 84.6 | % of pens | 11 | Penalties Scored | 7 | % of pens | 70.0 |
| 15.4 | % of pens | 2 | Penalties Missed or Saved | 3 | % of pens | 30.0 |
| | | 4 | Own Goals Scored | 2 | | |
| | | 6 | Goals Disallowed | 10 | | |

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TABLE, FIXTURES & ROLL CALL



npower LEAGUE TWO TABLE

| Team | P | Home | | | | | Away | | | | | GD | PTS |
|-------------------|----|------|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| | | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | | |
| 1 Swindon | 43 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 44 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 25 | 21 | 40 | 89 |
| 2 Shrewsbury | 43 | 17 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 84 |
| 3 Crawley | 43 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 47 | 22 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 27 | 28 | 24 | 80 |
| 4 Torquay | 43 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 35 | 22 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 22 | 16 | 80 |
| 5 Southend | 43 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 18 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 39 | 30 | 22 | 74 |
| 6 Cheltenham | 43 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 29 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 32 | 32 | 14 | 71 |
| 7 Oxford Utd | 43 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 36 | 22 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 22 | 20 | 16 | 67 |
| 8 Crewe | 43 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 35 | 26 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 28 | 30 | 7 | 67 |
| 9 Gillingham | 43 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 39 | 26 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 34 | 34 | 13 | 63 |
| 10 Rotherham | 43 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 27 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 34 | 39 | 3 | 62 |
| 11 Aldershot | 43 | 11 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 17 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 22 | 31 | -2 | 61 |
| 12 Accrington | 43 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 33 | 31 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 19 | 28 | -7 | 56 |
| 13 Morecambe | 43 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 29 | 27 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 30 | 23 | 9 | 55 |
| 14 Bristol Rovers | 43 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 32 | 28 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 36 | -9 | 54 |
| 15 Port Vale | 43 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 34 | 26 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 30 | 29 | 9 | 53 |
| 16 Burton Albion | 43 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 23 | 26 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 28 | 49 | -24 | 51 |
| 17 Wimbledon | 43 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 34 | 39 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 34 | -16 | 48 |
| 18 Bradford | 43 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 33 | 27 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 19 | 29 | -4 | 46 |
| 19 Dag & Red | 43 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 26 | 34 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 36 | -25 | 46 |
| 20 Northampton | 43 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 29 | 42 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 25 | 35 | -23 | 45 |
| 21 Plymouth | 43 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 21 | 23 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 22 | 36 | -16 | 44 |
| 22 Barnet | 43 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 25 | 39 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 21 | 36 | -29 | 40 |
| 23 Macclesfield | 43 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 25 | 24 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 14 | 35 | -20 | 37 |
| 24 Hereford | 43 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 20 | 39 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 24 | 29 | -24 | 37 |

PLAYING TODAY

Accrington v Shrewsbury
 AFC Wimbledon v Torquay
 Bradford v Macclesfield
 Burton v Aldershot
 Crewe v Cheltenham
 Dagenham & Redbridge v Crawley
 Hereford v Northampton
 Plymouth v Oxford
 Port Vale v Bristol Rovers
 Rotherham v Morecambe

PLAYED LAST NIGHT

Southend v Barnet



SEASON 2011/12 ROLL CALL

| PLAYER | D.O.B. | LEAGUE | | CUPS | | TOTAL | | CARDS | | GFC CAREER | |
|-----------------|------------|--------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---|------------|-------|
| | | APPS | GOALS | APPS | GOALS | APPS | GOALS | | | APPS | GOALS |
| Adam Birchall | 02/12/1984 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alex Brown | 30/09/1992 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tom Brunt | 13/01/1993 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Callum Davies | 08/02/1993 | (2) | | (1) | | (3) | | | | 1(3) | |
| Connor Essam | 09/07/1992 | 14(1) | | | | 14(1) | | 1 | | 14(1) | |
| Jack Evans | 19/03/1993 | 4(3) | | | | 4(3) | | | | 4(3) | |
| Matt Fish | 05/01/1989 | 16(4) | 1 | 2(2) | | 18(6) | 1 | 2 | | 18(6) | 1 |
| Ross Flitney | 01/06/1984 | 27 | | 4 | | 31 | | | | 31 | |
| Andy Frampton | 03/09/1979 | 24(1) | | 6 | | 30(1) | | 7 | | 30(1) | |
| Barry Fuller | 25/08/1984 | 9 | | 1 | | 10 | | 3 | | 147(4) | |
| Paulo Gazzaniga | 02/01/1992 | 16(1) | | 2 | | 18(1) | | 3 | | 18(1) | |
| Daren Hawkes | 24/06/1993 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Danny Jackman | 03/01/1983 | 33(4) | 4 | 4 | 1 | 37(4) | 5 | 3 | | 142(19) | 8 |
| Danny Kedwell | 03/08/1983 | 34(3) | 11 | 5(1) | 2 | 39(4) | 13 | 3 | | 39(4) | 13 |
| Simon King | 11/04/1983 | 8(1) | 1 | | | 8(1) | 1 | 1 | | 107(5) | 3 |
| Jo Kuffour | 17/11/1981 | 23(4) | 8 | 1 | | 24(4) | 8 | 1 | | 24(4) | 8 |
| Matt Lawrence | 19/06/1974 | 24(2) | | 3 | | 27(2) | | 6 | | 69(4) | |
| Charlie Lee | 05/01/1987 | 25(5) | 4 | 5 | | 30(5) | 4 | 15 | | 34(5) | 5 |
| Oliver Lee | 11/07/1991 | 5(3) | | | | 5(3) | | | | 5(3) | |
| Joe Martin | 29/11/1989 | 29(3) | 1 | 4 | | 33(3) | 1 | 5 | 3 | 45(8) | 2 |
| Ashley Miller | 08/06/1994 | 2(3) | 1 | | | 2(3) | 1 | | | 2(4) | 1 |
| Lewis Montrose | 17/11/1988 | 25(9) | 4 | 5(1) | | 30(10) | 4 | 11 | 1 | 30(10) | 3 |
| Frank Nouble | 24/09/1991 | 12(1) | 5 | 1 | | 13(1) | 5 | 1 | | 13(1) | 5 |
| Jordan Obita | 08/12/1993 | 5(1) | 3 | | | 5(1) | 3 | 1 | | 5(1) | 3 |
| Dennis Oli | 28/01/1984 | 4(17) | 2 | 1(3) | | 5(20) | 2 | | | 75(70) | 15 |
| Jack Payne | 05/12/1991 | 28(1) | 2 | 5 | 1 | 33(1) | 3 | 5 | | 76(15) | 4 |
| Stefan Payne | 10/08/1991 | (12) | 1 | 2(4) | 1 | 2(16) | 2 | 3 | | 4(33) | 2 |
| Dean Rance | 24/09/1991 | | | (1) | | (1) | | | | (1) | |
| Garry Richards | 11/06/1986 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 3 | 5 | | 107(15) | 6 |
| Luke Rooney | 28/12/1990 | 10(6) | 3 | 2(1) | | 12(7) | 3 | 3 | 2 | 20(41) | 6 |
| Danny Spiller | 10/10/1981 | 6(7) | 2 | 1 | | 7(7) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 129(58) | 10 |
| Gavin Tomlin | 13/01/1983 | 9(1) | 6 | | | 9(1) | 6 | 1 | | 9(1) | 6 |
| Rowan Vine | 21/09/1982 | 3(3) | 1 | | | 3(3) | 1 | | | 3(3) | 1 |
| Curtis Weston | 24/01/1987 | 21(7) | | 4(1) | 2 | 25(8) | 2 | 3 | | 147(18) | 19 |
| Chris Whelpdale | 27/01/1987 | 31(5) | 10 | 4(1) | | 35(6) | 10 | 1 | | 39(6) | 13 |



Fixtures & Results 2011/12



| | | Referee | F | A | Att | Pos | Goalscorers |  |  |
|------------------------|------------|------------|---|---|--------|-----|---|---|---|
| CHELTENHAM TOWN | Sat Aug 6 | Collins | 1 | 0 | 5,360 | 5 | Montrose | Flitney | Fuller |
| Brighton (Lge Cup 1) | Tue Aug 9 | Maloney | 0 | 1 | 16,295 | - | - | Flitney | Fuller |
| Crewe Alexandra | Sat Aug 13 | Gibbs | 2 | 1 | 3,401 | 2 | Whelpdale, Spiller | Flitney | Fuller |
| Barnet | Tue Aug 16 | Linington | 2 | 2 | 2,466 | 3 | Spiller, J Payne | Flitney | Fuller |
| PLYMOUTH ARGYLE | Sat Aug 20 | Lewis | 3 | 0 | 5,053 | 3 | Kedwell 2, Rooney | Flitney | Fuller |
| Rotherham United | Sat Aug 27 | Adcock | 0 | 3 | 3,740 | 4 | - | Flitney | Fuller |
| SHREWSBURY TOWN | Sat Sep 3 | Graham | 0 | 1 | 4,869 | 6 | - | Flitney | Fuller |
| ACCRINGTON STANLEY | Sat Sep 10 | Sheldrake | 1 | 1 | 4,619 | 8 | Rooney | Flitney | Fuller |
| Southend United | Tue Sep 13 | Phillips | 0 | 1 | 4,598 | 13 | - | Flitney | Fuller |
| Hereford United | Sat Sep 17 | Tierney | 6 | 1 | 1,848 | 9 | Nouble, Richards, OG, Jackman, Whelpdale, S Payne | Flitney | Fuller |
| BURTON ALBION | Sat Sep 24 | Sutton | 3 | 1 | 4,946 | 6 | Kedwell 2, Nouble | Flitney | Fish |
| AFC Wimbledon | Sat Oct 1 | Naylor | 1 | 3 | 4,606 | 9 | Lee | Flitney | Fish |
| BARNET (JPT2) | Tue Oct 4 | Scott | 1 | 3 | 1,278 | - | Richards | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| PORT VALE | Sat Oct 8 | Hooper | 1 | 1 | 4,676 | 10 | Kedwell | Flitney | Fish |
| Torquay United | Sat Oct 15 | Langford | 5 | 2 | 2,582 | 9 | Kuffour 2, Rooney, Nouble, Whelpdale | Flitney | Fish |
| OXFORD UNITED | Sat Oct 22 | Ward | 1 | 0 | 5,819 | 5 | Montrose | Flitney | Fish |
| Swindon Town | Tue Oct 25 | Coote | 0 | 2 | 7,787 | 9 | - | Flitney | Fish |
| Morecambe | Sat Oct 29 | Boyeson | 1 | 2 | 2,067 | 10 | Nouble | Flitney | Fish |
| NORTHAMPTON TOWN | Sat Nov 5 | Berry | 4 | 3 | 4,704 | 9 | Kuffour 3, Kedwell | Flitney | Lawrence |
| AFC Bournemouth (FAC1) | Sat Nov 12 | Phillips | 3 | 3 | 4,282 | - | J Payne, Jackman, Kedwell | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| Aldershot Town | Sat Nov 19 | Mohareb | 2 | 1 | 3,449 | 8 | Nouble, Whelpdale | Flitney | Lee |
| AFC BOURNEMOUTH (FAC1) | Tue Nov 22 | Graham | 3 | 2 | 4,033 | - | Weston, Richards, S.Payne | Flitney | Lee |
| BRADFORD CITY | Sat Nov 26 | Williamson | 0 | 0 | 7,074 | 7 | - | Flitney | Lawrence |
| Leyton Orient (FAC2) | Sat Dec 3 | Gibbs | 1 | 0 | 3,763 | - | Weston | Flitney | Lee |
| Macclesfield Town | Sat Dec 10 | Salisbury | 0 | 0 | 1,724 | 7 | - | Flitney | Lee |
| BRISTOL ROVERS | Sat Dec 17 | Langford | 4 | 1 | 7,750 | 7 | Montrose, Kedwell 2, Jackman | Flitney | Lee |
| Crawley Town | Mon Dec 26 | Sheldrake | 2 | 1 | 4,255 | 6 | Kuffour 2 | Flitney | Fish |
| Dagenham & Redbridge | Fri Dec 30 | Miller | 1 | 2 | 3,120 | 7 | Kedwell | Flitney | Lawrence |
| ALDERSHOT TOWN | Sat Jan 2 | Sarginson | 1 | 0 | 5,432 | 6 | Jackman | Flitney | Lawrence |
| STOKE CITY (FAC3) | Sat Jan 7 | Halsey | 1 | 3 | 10,360 | - | Kedwell | Flitney | Lawrence |
| Shrewsbury Town | Sat Jan 14 | Boyeson | 0 | 2 | 4,940 | 7 | - | Flitney | Lawrence |
| AFC WIMBLEDON | Sat Jan 21 | Malone | 3 | 4 | 6,236 | 7 | Tomlin 2, Kuffour | Flitney | Lee |
| Accrington Stanley | Sat Jan 28 | Rushton | 3 | 4 | 1,734 | 10 | Jackman, Tomlin 2 | Flitney | Lee |
| SOUTHEND UNITED | Mon Feb 13 | East | 1 | 2 | 4,441 | 10 | Tomlin | Gazzaniga | Lawrence |
| Port Vale | Sat Feb 18 | Drysdale | 1 | 2 | 4,027 | 13 | Whelpdale | Gazzaniga | Evans |
| ROTHERHAM UNITED | Tue Feb 21 | Woolmer | 0 | 0 | 3,248 | 13 | - | Gazzaniga | Evans |
| TORQUAY UNITED | Sat Feb 25 | Waugh | 2 | 0 | 4,865 | 10 | King, Kedwell | Gazzaniga | Evans |
| HEREFORD UNITED | Tue Feb 28 | Phillips | 5 | 4 | 3,784 | 9 | Whelpdale, Kedwell, C Lee 2, Tomlin | Gazzaniga | Evans |
| Plymouth Argyle | Sat Mar 3 | Brown | 1 | 0 | 6,382 | 8 | Martin | Gazzaniga | Lee |
| BARNET | Tue Mar 6 | Berry | 3 | 1 | 3,751 | 8 | Oli, Obita, C Lee | Gazzaniga | Lee |
| CREWE ALEXANDRA | Sat Mar 10 | Stroud | 3 | 4 | 5,428 | 8 | Payne, Whelpdale, Miller | Gazzaniga | Lee |
| Cheltenham Town | Sat Mar 17 | Madley | 3 | 0 | 3,137 | 8 | Obita 2, Whelpdale | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| CRAWLEY TOWN | Tue Mar 20 | Heywood | 0 | 1 | 5,204 | 9 | - | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| Bradford City | Sat Mar 24 | Mathieson | 2 | 2 | 9,858 | 9 | Montrose, Ramsden og | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| Burton Albion | Tue Mar 27 | Webb | 0 | 1 | 1,714 | 9 | - | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| MACCLESFIELD TOWN | Sat Mar 31 | McDermid | 2 | 0 | 4,562 | 9 | Fish, Whelpdale | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| Bristol Rovers | Fri Apr 6 | Whitstone | 2 | 2 | 6,160 | 9 | Whelpdale, Oli | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE | Mon Apr 9 | Williamson | 1 | 2 | 5,773 | 9 | Vine | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| Oxford United | Sat Apr 14 | Coote | 0 | 0 | 7,322 | 9 | - | Gazzaniga | Fish |
| SWINDON TOWN | Sat Apr 21 | | | | 3.00pm | | | | |
| Northampton Town | Sat Apr 28 | | | | 3.00pm | | | | |
| MORECAMBE | Sat May 5 | | | | 3.00pm | | | | |

Gillingham Goals Sponsor - Season 2011/12



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Lawrence | Frampton | Martin | J Payne | Whelpdale | Montrose | Lee | Spiller | Kedwell | Rooney | Weston | Richards | Jackman | Gazzaniga | |
| Lawrence | Frampton | Martin | J Payne | Whelpdale | Montrose | Lee | Spiller | Kedwell | Weston | S.Payne | Fish | King/Gazzaniga/Richards/Rance | | |
| Lawrence | Frampton | Martin | J Payne | Whelpdale | Montrose | Lee | Spiller | Kedwell | Weston | S.Payne | Fish | Richards | Gazzaniga | |
| Lawrence | Frampton | Martin | J Payne | Weston | Montrose | Lee | Spiller | Kedwell | Oli | Jackman | Fish | Richards | Gazzaniga | |
| Lawrence | Frampton | Martin | J Payne | Weston | Montrose | Lee | Spiller | Kedwell | Oli | Rooney | Jackman | Richards | Gazzaniga | |
| Lawrence | Frampton | Martin | J Payne | Weston | Montrose | Lee | Spiller | Kedwell | Oli | Rooney | Jackman | Richards | Gazzaniga | |
| Lawrence | Frampton | Jackman | J Payne | Weston | Montrose | Lee | Rooney | Kedwell | Oli | Whelpdale | Martin | Richards | Gazzaniga | |
| Lawrence | Richards | Martin | Jackman | Whelpdale | Montrose | Lee | Rooney | Kedwell | S Payne | Spiller | Oli | Weston | Fish | |
| Lawrence | Richards | Martin | Jackman | Whelpdale | Spiller | Lee | Rooney | Kedwell | Oli | Montrose | S Payne | Essam | Fish | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | Lee | Jackman | Rooney | Nouble | Kedwell | Montrose | S Payne | Oli | Essam | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Frampton | Whelpdale | Lee | Jackman | Rooney | Nouble | Kedwell | Montrose | S Payne | Oli | Weston | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Frampton | Whelpdale | Lee | Jackman | Rooney | Nouble | Kedwell | Weston | Kuffour | Montrose | S.Payne | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Jackman | Nouble | Montrose | Weston | Rooney | Kuffour | S.Payne | Whelpdale | Davies | Kedwell | Oli | Flitney | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Martin | Nouble | Lee | Weston | Rooney | Kuffour | Kedwell | Whelpdale | S Payne | Oli | Davies | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Martin | Whelpdale | Montrose | Weston | Rooney | Kuffour | Nouble | S Payne | Evans | Davies | Essam | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Martin | Whelpdale | Montrose | Weston | Rooney | Kuffour | Nouble | Jackman | Lee | Frampton | S.Payne | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Jackman | Whelpdale | Lee | Weston | Rooney | Kuffour | Nouble | Kedwell | S.Payne | Frampton | Rance | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Jackman | Whelpdale | Lee | Weston | Rooney | Kuffour | Nouble | Kedwell | S.Payne | Frampton | Martin | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | Lee | Jackman | Kedwell | Kuffour | Nouble | Fish | Rooney | Weston | S.Payne | Gazzaniga | |
| Frampton | Lawrence | Martin | Whelpdale | Lee | Jackman | J.Payne | Rooney | Kedwell | Oli | S.Payne | Montrose | King | Essam | Rance |
| Richards | Lawrence | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Jackman | Nouble | Kuffour | Kedwell | Montrose | Weston | Oli | King | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Montrose | Oli | Kedwell | S.Payne | Fish | Rance | King/Gazzaniga/Evans/Miller | | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Lee | J.Payne | Weston | Nouble | Kuffour | Kedwell | Montrose | S.Payne | Oli | Fish | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Montrose | J.Payne | Weston | Jackman | S.Payne | Kedwell | Oli | Fish | Davies/Rance/Gazzaniga/Essam/Evans | | | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Montrose | J.Payne | Weston | Jackman | Kuffour | Kedwell | Lawrence | Nouble | Whelpdale | S.Payne | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Montrose | J.Payne | Weston | Jackman | Nouble | Kedwell | Lawrence | Fish | Whelpdale | S.Payne | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Jackman | Kuffour | Kedwell | Rooney | Oli | King | S.Payne | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Jackman | Kuffour | Kedwell | Montrose | S.Payne | Oli | Rance | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Jackman | Montrose | Kedwell | Lee | S.Payne | Rance | Miller | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Lee | Montrose | Kedwell | Oli | Rooney | S.Payne | Fish/Gazzaniga/Rance/Davies | | |
| Richards | Frampton | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Lee | Montrose | Oli | Tromlin | Rooney | S.Payne | Fish | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Lawrence | Martin | Jackman | J.Payne | Montrose | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | Weston | Whelpdale | Oli | King | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Jackman | J.Payne | Montrose | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | Weston | King | Rance | Miller | Gazzaniga | |
| Richards | Frampton | Martin | Jackman | Weston | Montrose | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | Evans | J.Payne | Essam | Whelpdale | Hawkes | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | Martin | Richards | O.Lee | Miller | Montrose | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | O.Lee | Richards | Martin | Montrose | Hawkes | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | Lee | Montrose | Martin | Richards | O.Lee | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Weston | Tomlin | Kuffour | Kedwell | Lee | Montrose | O.Lee | Davies | Hawkes | |
| Richards | King | Martin | Whelpdale | Montrose | O.Lee | Jackman | Kuffour | Tomlin | Davies | Obita | Miller | Spiller | Hawkes | |
| Richards | Essam | Jackman | Whelpdale | Montrose | O.Lee | Obita | Miller | Kedwell | Davies | Oli | Spiller | Brown | Hawkes | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | O.Lee | Montrose | Miller | Oli | Kedwell | Spiller | Evans | Davies | Hawkes | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | O.Lee | Obita | Oli | Kedwell | Kuffour | Frampton | Evans | Miller | Hawkes | |
| Essam | King | Jackman | Whelpdale | J.Payne | O.Lee | Obita | Oli | Kedwell | Kuffour | Miller | Martin | Frampton | Hawkes | |
| Essam | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Jackman | Obita | Montrose | Kuffour | Oli | Vine | King | Miller | O.Lee | |
| Essam | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Jackman | Obita | Montrose | Kuffour | Oli | Lee* | Vine* | King | Spiller | |
| Essam | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Jackman | Montrose | Kuffour | Kedwell | Vine | Spiller | King | Obita | Miller | |
| Essam | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Jackman | Montrose | Vine | Kedwell | Spiller | Miller | Oli | Evans | O.Lee | |
| Essam | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | J.Payne | Jackman | Montrose | Vine | Kedwell | Spiller | Kuffour | Oli | Evans | O.Lee | |
| Essam | Frampton | Martin | Whelpdale | Montrose | Tomlin | Kuffour | Vine | Kedwell | Spiller* | Oli | O.Lee* | King | Evans | |



SCRAPBOOK OF 10 YEARS AGO

The season was fast drawing to its finale when the Gills journeyed north to engage promotion-chasing Burnley on Saturday April 6 2002.

Fast drawing to end because the campaign was to finish much earlier than usual due to the World Cup finals. They were being contested in South Korea and Japan this year and were due to start at the end of May.

And by coincidence there was a former World Cup star in Burnley's squad, the one and only Paul Gascoigne.

The ex-England, Newcastle and Tottenham midfield maestro was still a big name even though now in the twilight of his playing career.

On the day Burnley boss Stan Ternent named Gazza as one of his team's substitutes.

Most Gillingham fans probably hoped to catch a glimpse of him (Gazza, not Stan) in action at some stage but it didn't happen.

There must have been a strong possibility of him being sent on during the second half while the encounter remained goalless but two unanswered goals around the hour mark put Burnley in the driving seat and Gascoigne wasn't needed.

Despite losing 2-0, Gills player-manager Andy Hessenthaler wasn't unduly perturbed.

He said: "It was a tough game for us as they are in the play-off positions and doing well.

"We have been a bogey team to them over recent years but it wasn't to be this time. That said it might have been different had we not missed two great chances before half-time.

"We had to make changes as Nyron [Nosworthy] and Marlon [King] were both out while David Perpetuini had to be replaced early on by young Richard Rose.

"For me the turning point came when

ANDY BRADLEY CHRONICLES GILLINGHAM'S UP AND DOWNS DURING THE 2001/02 SEASON



STAN TERNENT

Burnley scored a scrappy goal. That definitely seemed to lift them."

Changing tack to a more personal angle, Hussy added: "It was nice of Stan Ternent to say that I deserve to be manager of the year.

"I have a lot of respect for Stan and I'd like to see Burnley get promotion through the play-offs.

Pressure

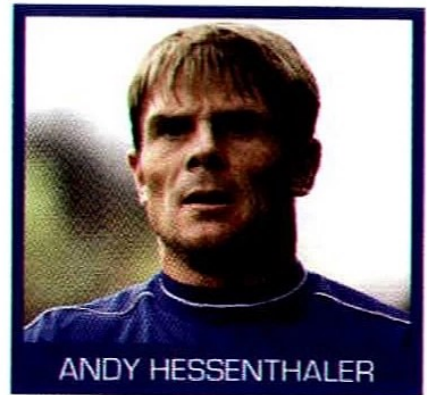
"If they do that then he should be named manager of the year."

The Clarets largely dominated the clash and their pressure paid off when Ian Moore poked them into the lead.

A few minutes later and the impressive David Johnson fired home another to seal the result.

Burnley stayed fourth and Gillingham 12th in the First Division table.

Next up the Gills welcomed runaway leaders Manchester City to Priestfield for their last home fixture of the season.



ANDY HESSENTHALER

City were managed by another former England star – Kevin Keegan – and had nothing left to prove as they had already clinched the title and promotion to the Premier League.

Even though the match was televised live, it still attracted an above average attendance of 9,494.

And most enjoyed what they saw. There was no doubting City's pedigree. They were simply a class above anybody else in the division and proved it by strolling to a 3-1 win.

Iffy Onuora provided Gillingham fans with hope when he headed home to cancel out Kevin Horlock's early lob.

But Shaun Goater shot the visitors back in front before half-time and it stayed that close until Darren Huckerby added another in the closing minutes.

Consequently City remained 10 points clear of West Brom and 11 ahead of third-placed Wolves with just one game to go.

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GILLINGHAM

SWINDON TOWN

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Ross Flitney | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Mattia Lanzano |
| Barry Fuller | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Jay McEveley |
| Andy Frampton | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Callum Kennedy |
| Charlie Lee | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Aden Flint |
| Simon King | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | Joe Devera |
| Garry Richards | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | Paul Caddis |
| Chris Whelpdale | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | Simon Ferry |
| Jack Payne | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | Paul Benson |
| Danny Kedwell | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | Matt Ritchie |
| Curtis Weston | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | Etienne Esajas |
| Dennis Oli | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | Alan McCormack |
| Joe Martin | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | Oliver Risser |
| Matt Lawrence | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | John Bostock |
| Matt Fish | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | Nathan Thompson |
| Danny Spiller | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | Lee Cox |
| Danny Jackman | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | Alan Connell |
| Lewis Montrose | 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | Mark Scott |
| Callum Davies | 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | Luke Rooney |
| Dean Rance | 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | Abdul Said |
| Connor Essam | 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | Lander Gabilondo |
| Rowan Vine | 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | Lee Holmes |
| Jack Evans | 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | Raffaele De Vita |
| Alex Brown | 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | Jonathan Smith |
| Daren Hawkes | 26 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | Phil Smith |
| Tom Brunt | 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | Alessandro Cibocchi |
| Paulo Gazzaniga | 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | Lukas Magera |
| Adam Birchall | 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | Leigh Bedwell |
| Ashley Miller | 31 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | Billy Bodin |
| Joe Carter | 32 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 32 | Chris Smith |
| Jo Kuffour | 33 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 34 | Ronan Murray |
| Gavin Tomlin | 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 35 | Wes Foderingham |
| | | | | 37 | Louis Thompson |
| | | | | 39 | Mehdi Kerrouche |

THE RAINHAM END

NEXT HERE AT PRIESTFIELD

MORECAMBE



Saturday May 05 2012

npower League Two, Kick-off: 3.00pm

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www.gillinghamfootballclub.com

Referee: Steven Rushton

Assistants:  Ian Rathbone  Nigel Lugg

Fourth Official: Michael Webb

