

# IPSWICH TOWN

## *Miscellany*



*Blues Trivia,  
History, Facts & Stats*

**DAN BOTTEN**

**UPDATED 2024**

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## **CORINTHIAN SPIRIT PREVAILS**

At a special meeting of Ipswich Town Football Club in April 1895, the chance to move into professional football was turned down due to costs and the fact that football was to be “played for fun and not become a business”. R. D. Hendry, a local businessman, was the lone voice to propose Town employ a professional team but was not successful.

## **INAUGURAL HALL OF FAMERS**

Before the Blues drubbed Sheffield Wednesday 4-1 on the opening game of the season at Portman Road in 2007, the newly created Ipswich Town Hall of Fame welcomed its first four inductees. What legends they were! Ray Crawford – Town’s top goalscorer of all time with 227 goals in 353 appearances – was first. He was followed by strike partner Ted Phillips. Phillips scored 46 goals when Town won the championship in 1956/1957 – the highest goalscorer in a single season for the club. Glaswegian John Wark, Town’s top-scoring midfielder and proud owner of 678 appearances in three Suffolk spells was followed by Mick Mills, who sits top of the Portman Road appearance charts with 741 appearances. Between them, these four players had scored 615 goals – including 21 hat-tricks – made over 2,000 Blues outings, won ten medals and represented their countries on 73 occasions.

## **MAN UNITED MAULED**

On a famous Saturday in March 1980, gangly striker Paul Mariner scored a hat-trick as Town walloped second-placed Manchester United 6-0 at Portman Road. United keeper Gary Bailey, son of Portman Road legend Roy, was his team’s hero, saving three penalties on a dramatic afternoon in Suffolk.

## **THE THIEF OF BAGHDAD**

In March 1986, Bobby Ferguson took his troops away from the cold winter weather, and on a questionable 15-hour trip to Baghdad to play an Iraq National XI. Trevor Putney’s strike won the game for Town in front of just 3,000 fans.

## **HE'S ELECTRIC...**

Sam Morsy

Position.....	Midfielder
Born.....	Wolverhampton, September 10th 1991
Town Hello.....	(H) West Ham, 14/9/21,PJT, L1-2
Town Farewell.....	n/a
Town/Intl Appearances.....	130/1
Town/Intl Goals.....	10/0

A magnificent leader in the centre of the park, Morsy's no-nonsense style has made him a Town legend after sealing consecutive promotions for the club as they returned to the top table of English football after 22 years. He was struggling to break into the Middlesbrough side when Paul Cook signed him to Portman Road and reunited a relationship that began at Chesterfield and Wigan Athletic, where they achieved promotion together. His all-action style, iron-will determination and will to win saw him chosen in the PFA League One 2022/23 Team of the Year and he was crowned Ipswich Town Player of the Year In 2023/24.

## **WE'VE GOT A SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL...**

Alan Brazil

Position.....	Striker
Born.....	Glasgow, June 15th 1959
Town Hello.....	(H) Manchester United, 14/1/78, D1, L 1-2
Town Farewell.....	(A) WBA, 12/3/83, D1, L 1-4
Town/Intl Appearances.....	210/11
Town/Intl Goals.....	80/0

The ebullient Brazil won eleven full Scottish caps whilst an Ipswich player and two more after his transfer to Tottenham Hotspur for £470,000 in March 1983. He also gained eight under-21 caps and represented his country at youth level. Town snapped up Brazil under the gaze of Celtic in 1977 and he turned into a consistent goalscorer at the club – his best season being 1981-1982 when he finished top of the charts with 28 goals in 44 games. Since hanging up his boots, Brazil has enjoyed a successful media career, and hosts Talksport's breakfast show.

EGYPTIAN SKIPPER SAM MORSY LED TOWN TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE IN MAY 2024



## **WE'RE ALL GOING ON A EUROPEAN TOUR**

At the end of the 1910-11 season Ipswich – then competing in the Southern Amateur League – made their first visit to the Continent at the invitation of Czech side SK Slavia. Departing on Wednesday 3rd May they travelled by boat and train across Holland, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia to Prague, arriving on the Friday. They played two matches against SK Slavia that weekend, losing the first game 4-0 and drawing the second 1-1. William 'Billy' F. Garnham, club captain at the time, was in charge of the tour party, which included several guest players from Bury United, and numbered fifteen in all. Today, SK Slavia play at the 21,000 capacity Eden Stadium, but at the time of Town's visit 'The Sewns' played at the Letna Stadium – their home from the 1890s until 1953 – and the two games against Ipswich drew respectable crowds of 3,000 and 4,500. The Czechs were coached by former Scotland player John Madden. Madden presided over team matters from 1905 to 1930 – a highly successful era for the club – during which they won the Czechoslovak title four times, the Bohemian title twice, the CSF title twice and the Bohemia Cup on five occasions.

## **TOWN GAFFERS**

As of 1 August 2024, the most successful managers of Ipswich Town based on percentage of league and cup games won – excluding caretaker managers and since the club entered the Football League in 1938 – are:

	P	W	%
Kieran McKenna	131	75	57%
Sir Alf Ramsey	369	176	48%
George Burley	413	188	46%
Sir Bobby Robson	709	316	45%
John Duncan	161	73	45%
Joe Royle	189	81	43%
Scott Duncan	505	205	41%
Bill McGarry	196	80	41%
Mick McCarthy	279	105	38%
Jim Magilton	148	56	38%
Bobby Ferguson	258	97	38%

Roy Keane	81	28	35%
Paul Jewell	85	29	34%
John Lyall	231	77	33%
Paul Lambert	113	37	33%
Jackie Milburn	56	11	20%
Paul Hurst	15	1	20%

## **PORTMAN ROAD LEGENDS**

Doug Rees

Position	Centre-half
Born	Neath, February 12th 1923
Town Hello	(A) Leyton Orient, 9/4/49, D3 (S), D 1-1
Town Farewell	(H) Grimsby Town, 11/4/59, D2, W 2-1
Appearances	386
Goals	1

Doug 'Dai' Rees was already a Welsh international amateur centre-half when he joined The Town from Troedyhiw in 1949. The Blues made a donation of £350 to the Welsh club and it proved to be money well spent as over exactly ten years' magnificent service Rees helped the club to win the Division Three (South) title in the 1953/1954 season. The popular defender only scored one goal in his Town career which came in a 2-2 draw at Shrewsbury Town in 1952/1953 after he was pressed into emergency service as a centre-forward. Like John Elsworth, Rees narrowly missed out on a place in the Welsh squad for the 1958 World Cup Finals and after leaving the club enjoyed spells at local non-league clubs before working at William Brown's timber merchants for many years.

## **THE FRANK & ALLAN SHOW**

A thrilling 2-2 Division One draw at Leeds United in 1972 was a day for the Clarke family to remember. England striker Allan Clarke scored the equaliser for the hosts after his elder brother Frank had opened the scoring for the Blues. Frank Clarke scored 17 goals for Ipswich over four seasons after signing from Queens Park Rangers for £40,000. He was the only one of the footballing Clarke siblings not to play for Walsall – Allan, Derek and Wayne all played for the Midlands side.

## **WARK'S WOE**

In March 1995, John Wark became the first ever Blues player to be sent off against Norwich City in a 3-0 Premier League defeat at Carrow Road minutes before the break. In another notable first, it was George Burley's first game against City as Town manager.

## **COBBOLD CALAMITIES**

Captain John 'Ivan' Murray Cobbold was Town chairman from 1936 to 1944. A former Eton schoolboy and Scots Guard, 'Ivan' became president of the old amateur club in June 1935, having served in a similar role at the Suffolk County FA during the preceding two years. He first became chairman of the newly formed Ipswich Town Football Club Ltd as the club embraced professionalism in May 1936. As a result of his drive and determination – just two years after turning professional – Town were elected to the Football League in 1938. Sadly, having witnessed just one season of league football at Portman Road, before the outbreak of WWII, he was killed by a German flying bomb whilst attending a private service at The Royal Guards Chapel in London in June 1944. His second son, Patrick, joined the board in June 1964 and became the fifth Cobbold family member to become chairman when he was appointed in 1976. During his reign he enjoyed Town's 1978 FA Cup and 1981 UEFA Cup victories. Incredibly, he narrowly avoided serious injury, even death, when he was in the foyer of the London Hilton ten minutes before it was bombed by the IRA in September 1975 when two people were killed and 63 injured. The next day he watched Town draw 0-0 at Coventry City.

## **PLAY-OFF PARTICULARS**

Town's play-off record and goalscorers – 1987 to 2024:

Played . . . . .	17
Won . . . . .	4
Drawn . . . . .	6
Lost . . . . .	7
Scored . . . . .	24
Conceded . . . . .	28



Goalscorers : Jim Magilton (3), Marcus Stewart (3), Kieron Dyer (2), Martijn Reuser (2), Matt Holland (2), Darren Bent (1), James Scowcroft (1), Jamie Clapham (1), Mick Stockwell (1), Niklas Gudmundsson (1), Richard Naylor (1), Shefki Kuqi (1), Steve McCall (1), Tony Mowbray (1), Tommy Smith (1), Paul Anderson (1), og (1).

## **WE'VE GOT A BULGARIAN INTERNATIONAL...**

Bontcho Guentchev

Position. . . . . Striker  
Born . . . . . Bulgaria, July 7th 1964  
Town Hello . . . . . (H) Manchester City, 12/12/92, PL, W 3-1  
Town Farewell . . . . . (A) Leeds United, 5/4/95, PL, L 0-4  
Town/Intl Appearances . . . . . 75/7  
Town/Intl Goals. . . . . 11/0

Signed from Sporting Lisbon in 1992 alongside Vlado Bozinowski, who acted at his interpreter, Bulgarian Guentchev burst on to the Portman Road scene with a marvellous hat-trick against Grimsby Town in the FA Cup. Although lightweight, Guentchev possessed excellent technical ability which he displayed as his country reached the 1994 World Cup finals thanks to Guentchev scoring a vital penalty in the second round shoot-out against Mexico. After leaving Ipswich he joined Luton Town before running a bar called 'Strikers' in West London which now has sadly closed.

## **HOME SWEET HOME**

In April 1981, goals from Charlie Nicholas and Kenny Sansom led Arsenal to a 2-0 victory at Portman Road in Division One and ended an incredible run of 46 Portman Road games undefeated for Town.

## **DEFENSIVE DISASTERS**

In a woeful 1963-64 season, which saw the Town relegated and manager Jackie Milburn dismissed, the Blues went down 9-1 at Stoke City in Division One. Dennis Viollet, who survived the Munich air disaster, scored a hat-trick which was a fortnight after Ipswich were crushed 6-0 at Liverpool.

## **THE FIRST POT OF MANY**

In 1887, Ipswich landed their first ever trophy when Ipswich Association beat Ipswich School 2-1 in the Suffolk Challenge Cup Final at Portman Road. In snowy conditions, Sherrington and Peacock scored the goals in front of 1,000 spectators.

## **FROM CARDIFF TO WEMBLEY**

Ipswich began their 1978 FA Cup-winning campaign with a comfortable 2-0 victory against Cardiff City at Ninian Park. Mick Mills marked a club appearance record at the time of 494 Town games with an excellent display while Paul Mariner struck both goals in front of 13,584 fans – Ninian Park's biggest gate of the season.

## **PORTMAN ROAD LEGENDS**

Mick Mills

Position. . . . .	Full-back
Born . . . . .	Godalming, January 4th 1949
Town Hello . . . . .	(H) Wolverhampton W, 7/5/66, D2, W 5-2
Town Farewell . . . . .	(A) Liverpool, 26/10/82, LC, L 0-2
Appearances . . . . .	741
Goals . . . . .	30

Signed from Portsmouth in February 1966, Mills won 42 caps for England during his 16 years at Portman Road before leaving for Southampton in November 1982 after captaining his country at the World Cup finals in Spain the previous summer. As Town skipper he lifted the FA Cup in 1978 and the UEFA Cup in 1981. Ever present in four successive seasons from 1972/1973, appearing in 198 consecutive league games, Mick Mills was also capped by England at youth and under-23 levels, and represented the Football League before managing Stoke City and Colchester United.

SUPER MICK: FULL-BACK MICK MILLS KEEPS HIS EYE ON THE BALL



## **CREWE DERAILED**

Under manager Joe Royle, Town inherited a Jekyll and Hyde personality which saw them score goals by the bucketload but concede in almost equal measures. Against Crewe Alexandra at Portman Road in January 2004, the Railwaymen were pipped 6-4 in a titanic battle. Midfielder Tommy Miller and Finn Shefki Kuqi scored twice while half of Crewe's tally came from own goals by Matt Richards and John McGreal. Spaniard Pablo Counago and flying Dutchman Martijn Reuser goals sealed a breathless affair.

## **FORTRESS PORTMAN ROAD**

Town's biggest home victories since turning professional in 1936 (by 7 goals or more):

31/10/1936.. Cromer .....	11-0 .....	FA Cup
25/9/1962... Floriana.....	10-0 .	European Cup
3/10/1936... Stowmarket Town.....	8-0 .....	FA Cup
19/9/1936... Eastern Counties United..	7-0 .....	FA Cup
30/4/1938... Aldershot Reserves .....	7-0	Southern League
26/11/1938.. Street.....	7-0 .....	FA Cup
7/11/1964... Portsmouth .....	7-0 ...	Division Two
2/2/1974... Southampton.....	7-0 ...	Division One
6/11/1976... West Brom .....	7-0 ...	Division One
3/10/1979... Skied Oslo.....	7-0 .....	UEFA Cup
29/8/2002... Avenir Beggen.....	8-1 .....	UEFA Cup

## **PORTMAN ROAD LEGENDS**

John Wark

Position.....	Midfield
Born .....	Glasgow, August 4th 1949
Town Hello .....	(N) Leeds United, 27/3/75, FAC, W 3-2
Town Farewell . . . . .	(A) Tranmere Rovers, 30/11/96, D1, L 0-3
Appearances .....	678
Goals .....	179

One of the finest players to have graced the Portman Road turf, Wark bestrode opposition midfields throughout the 1970s and

1980s as a colossus. He scored 14 goals in 12 games from midfield during the 1981 UEFA Cup and was awarded PFA Player of the Year at the end of the season – he also won the European Young Footballer of the Year that term. Wark collected 29 caps for Scotland and scored seven international goals as well as enjoying spells at Liverpool and Middlesbrough. A magnificent servant who enjoyed three spells at Portman Road, John acted as joint caretaker-manager with Paul Goddard before George Burley was appointed.

## **THE MEN WHO MANAGED THE TOWN**

Mick O'Brien

Spell: May 1936 to August 1937

Honours: Southern League Champions 1936/1937

Overall record: P 39; W 25 D 9 L 5 F 107 A 42

O'Brien became Town's first manager as a professional club in May, 1936. He had previously been assistant manager at Brentford and managed Queens Park Rangers. An Irish-born strapping centre-half he served in both the Royal Navy and Royal Flying Corps during World War I. The death of his wife and resulting personal problems led to his departure just over 14 months later from Portman Road after bringing the club the Southern League title (the club's first professional honour).

## **LIVE FROM PORTMAN ROAD**

The *Match of the Day* cameras were at Portman Road for the first ever 'live' transmission of a home game in January 1988 as Town crashed to a 2-1 defeat to Manchester United in the FA Cup third round. Stalwart defender Tony Humes scored with a crunching header as United were held at the break before England international Viv Anderson scored the winner for the visitors late on.

## **TEN'S UP**

There have been seven instances of Town games which have seen ten goals scored or more since turning professional. Two of these were trouncings at Fulham and Stoke City which came within three months in the grim 1963/1964 season under Jackie Milburn.

11 . . .31/10/1936.. Cromer (H) . . . . .	FAC . 11-0
11 . . .9/9/1948. . . . .	Notts County (A) . . . . . D3(S) . . 2-9
11 . . .26/12/1963.. Fulham (A) . . . . .	D1 . 1-10
10 . . .16/10/1937.. Newport County Reserves (H) SL . .	8-2
10 . . .25/9/1962. . . . .	Floriana (H) . . . . . EC . 10-0
10 . . .21/3/1964. . . . .	Stoke City (A) . . . . . D1 . . 1-9
10 . . .17/1/2004. . . . .	Crewe Alexandra (H) . . . . . D1 . . 6-4

## **SUPPORTERS' PLAYER OF THE SEASON**

Kevin Beattie . . . . .	1972-73
Kevin Beattie . . . . .	1973-74
Colin Viljoen . . . . .	1974-75
Allan Hunter . . . . .	1975-76
George Burley . . . . .	1976-77
Mick Mills . . . . .	1977-78
Arnold Muhren . . . . .	1978-79
Frans Thijssen . . . . .	1979-80
Paul Cooper . . . . .	1980-81
Alan Brazil . . . . .	1981-82
Paul Mariner . . . . .	1982-83
Trevor Putney . . . . .	1983-84
Terry Butcher . . . . .	1984-85
Terry Butcher . . . . .	1985-86
Romeo Zondervan . . . . .	1986-87
Frank Yallop . . . . .	1987-88
John Wark . . . . .	1988-89
John Wark . . . . .	1989-90
David Linighan . . . . .	1990-91
John Wark . . . . .	1991-92
Mick Stockwell . . . . .	1992-93
John Wark . . . . .	1993-94
Craig Forrest . . . . .	1994-95
Simon Milton . . . . .	1995-96
Mauricio Taricco . . . . .	1996-97
Matt Holland . . . . .	1997-98
Jamie Clapham . . . . .	1998-99
Jamie Scowcroft . . . . .	1999-00

Marcus Stewart . . . . .	2000-01
Mark Venus . . . . .	2001-02
Matt Holland. . . . .	2002-03
Ian Westlake . . . . .	2003-04
Shefki Kuqi . . . . .	2004-05
Fabian Wilnis . . . . .	2005-06
Sylvain Legwinski . . . . .	2006-07
Jon Walters. . . . .	2007-08
Richard Wright . . . . .	2008-09
Gareth McAuley . . . . .	2009-10
Jimmy Bullard . . . . .	2010-11
Aaron Creswell . . . . .	2011-12
Tommy Smith . . . . .	2012-13
Christophe Berra . . . . .	2013-14
Daryl Murphy . . . . .	2014-15
Bartosz Bialkowski. . . . .	2015-16
Bartosz Bialkowski. . . . .	2016-17
Bartosz Bialkowski. . . . .	2017-18
Luke Chambers . . . . .	2018-19
<i>Not awarded (due to Covid-19)</i>	2019-20
James Wilson. . . . .	2020-21
Wes Burns . . . . .	2021-22
Conor Chaplin. . . . .	2022-23
Sam Morsy. . . . .	2023-24

## **OSBORNE'S AMAZING FIVE MONTHS**

When Ipswich travelled to Highbury to take on Arsenal on Monday January 2nd 1978, little did they know that the two teams would meet at Wembley only five months later in the FA Cup final. Town's miserable away record that season continued with a shot-shy 1-0 defeat against The Gunners in front of 43,705 fans. Roger Osborne came on as a second-half substitute to little impact. Osborne's fortunes would change significantly on that balmy day at Wembley when he would have to be replaced due to exhaustion after scoring the winning goal to earn Town a famous triumph.

## **WE'VE GOT A CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL...**

Craig Forrest

Position.....	Goalkeeper
Born.....	Vancouver, September 20th 1967
Town Hello.....	(A) Stoke City, 27/8/88, D2, D 1-1
Town Farewell.....	(H) Oxford United, 22/2/97, D1, W 2-1
Town/Intl Appearances.....	312/42
Town/Intl Goals.....	0/0

Gangling Craig Forrest earned 57 caps in the Canadian goalkeeper jersey, 42 of them while at Portman Road. He starred in Canada's World Cup qualifying campaign for USA 1994, in which his side narrowly missed out on a play-off decider with Argentina for a place in the finals, drawing over two legs with Australia but going out on a penalty shoot-out. Forrest arrived in the UK after paying his own air fare, so confident was he that he would earn a professional contract. An excellent shot-stopper, Forrest became a firm favourite with the Suffolk faithful.

## **PORTMAN ROAD LEGENDS**

Eric Gates

Position.....	Forward
Born.....	Ferryhill, June 28th 1955
Town Hello.....	(H) Wolves, 27/10/73, D1, W 2-0
Town Farewell.....	(H) West Ham, 17/5/85, D1, L 0-1
Appearances.....	384
Goals.....	96

One of many players to graduate from the youth team, the diminutive striker made his Town debut in 1973 but would have to wait until the 1977/78 season, though, before he became a regular face in the first-team line-up. Gates won two full caps, under then England manager Ron Greenwood, during the 1980/81 season and played in all but one of the Town's UEFA Cup-winning games, collecting a winners' medal in Amsterdam. He also scored a vital away goal for Town against Aris Salonika of Greece. His final appearance in a Town shirt was alongside Russell Osman against West Ham in May 1985. After spells at Sunderland and Carlisle United, Gates found his way into the world of broadcasting.



CANADA'S NO. 1: CRAIG FORREST CLEARS HIS RANKS IN THE 1992/1993 SEASON

