

IPSWICH TOWN

On This Day



*History, Facts & Figures
from Every Day of the Year*

DAN BOTTEN

UPDATED 2024

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MARCH

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 1980

Paul Mariner scored a hat-trick as Town walloped second-placed Manchester United 6-0 at Portman Road. United keeper Gary Bailey was his team's hero as he also saved three penalties.

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2008

All-action midfielder David Norris – signed from Plymouth Argyle for £2m – scored a fine goal in a 1-1 draw at Southampton in the Championship.

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 1986

Bobby Ferguson took his troops away from the cold winter weather back home with a questionable 15-hour trip to Baghdad to play an Iraq National XI. Trevor Putney's strike on 60 minutes won the game for Ipswich in front of just 3,000 fans.

TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 1964

Jackie Milburn's Town lost 3-2 at Lowestoft Town in a friendly which witnessed the official turning on of the floodlights at Crown Meadow.

SATURDAY 3RD MARCH 1956

A Wilf Grant hat-trick inspired the Blues to a 5-0 pasting of Millwall at The Den in Division Three (South).

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 1981

On one of the great European nights, Ipswich demolished St Etienne 4-1 at the Geoffry-Guichard stadium in front of 40,000 expectant Frenchmen in the UEFA Cup quarter-final, first leg. Les Verts, boasting Michel Platini in their ranks, were picked apart despite scoring first through Dutchman Johnny Rep's header. Withstanding heavy early pressure, Paul Mariner's bullet header at the back post levelled the scores. Arnold Muhren's fierce 25-yarder edged the Blues ahead four minutes later and subsequent swift counter attacks saw Mariner score his second before John Wark headed home his 30th goal of the season and 11th in the competition.

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 1995

From the sublime to the ridiculous. Andy Cole scored five times as Ipswich suffered their joint worst away defeat – and Manchester United their biggest win for a century – in a 9-0 Premiership whitewash at Old Trafford.

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 1949

Bill Jennings scored twice as Ipswich beat Northampton Town 4-2 in a Division Three (South) encounter. Jennings, the son of a Norwich City player, netted 23 goals in 37 outings that season.

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 1977

Bobby Robson's men won 4-1 at Arsenal in Division One thanks to goals from Brian Talbot, John Wark, Keith Bertschin and Paul Mariner.

SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 1976

Stocky goalkeeper Laurie Sivell suffered a bad facial injury when diving at the feet of future Sky Sports pundit Andy Gray in the 89th minute. The Blues picked up a 0-0 draw after Trevor Whymark replaced Sivell.

TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2007

Ipswich achieved their first away win in thirteen attempts, and first away goal in seven games, by thumping Hull City 5-2 at the KC Stadium. The goals were shared between Francis Jeffers, Jaime Peters, Alan Lee, Jason De Vos and Danny Haynes.

TUESDAY 7TH MARCH 1961

On a bleak evening, Town turned in a magnificent performance to beat Sheffield United 3-1 at Bramall Lane – packed with 35,057 fans – to march to the top of the Second Division.

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 1981

The Blues' new £65,000 Volvo executive coach was vandalised during a creditable 3-3 draw at the City Ground against Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup quarter-final.

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020

Paul Lambert's men fell to Matt Godden's 16th-minute strike as League leaders Coventry City won 1-0 at Portman Road in front of 18,825 fans. It was the Blues' seventh defeat in nine games as they slumped to tenth. More significantly, it was the last game in front of spectators in Suffolk for nine months as COVID-19 was just around the corner.

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 1975

A record Portman Road crowd of 38,010 saw Ipswich and Leeds United slug out a drab goalless draw in the FA Cup quarter-final. The Portman Stand extensions were in use for the first time.

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 1995

Liverpool-born defender Eddie Youds played his 59th and final Town game in a 3-0 thrashing at Tottenham Hotspur in the Premiership.

THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 1950

Roger Osborne, the Blues' FA Cup-winning goalscorer in 1978, was born in Otley. During his eight seasons at Ipswich he showed his versatility by usually being asked to mark the opposition's most dangerous player. He joined Colchester United after 148 outings.

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 1963

Keeper Wilf Hall was carried off after ten minutes in a 6-1 thrashing at West Bromwich Albion. Striker Ted Phillips took over in goal as Town were down to nine men for the last 25 minutes after Doug Moran suffered an injury.

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 1956

Jimmy Leadbetter scored the first of his 49 Ipswich goals in a 3-3 draw at home to Reading. The Edinburgh-born left-winger was signed by Alf Ramsey and is one of a handful of players to win championship medals in three divisions with the same club.

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 2001

Right-back Chris Makin made his Blues debut in a 2-1 defeat at Aston Villa. Signed from Sunderland for £1.4m, Makin made over 90 appearances in three years.

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 1978

A sublime performance saw tempestuous hosts Millwall smashed 6-1 at Cold Blow Lane and Ipswich reach the FA Cup semi-finals for the second time in their history. The performance was overshadowed by scenes off the pitch as referee Bill Gow had to order the players off for 20 minutes after George Burley's long-range cracker. Running battles on the terraces between Millwall fans and the police saw a number of spectators spill on to the pitch and individual Town fans attacked in an intimidating atmosphere. When play finally resumed a Paul Mariner hat-trick and goals from John Wark and Brian Talbot made it a day Town fans wouldn't forget for varying reasons.

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 1987

Crestfallen Ipswich missed out on a Wembley appearance as they lost 3-0 at Blackburn Rovers in the now defunct Full Members' Cup semi-final.

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 1887

The Blues won 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 fans.

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2005

Nottingham Forest were demolished 6-0 in Suffolk as the Tractor Boys recorded their biggest victory under Joe Royle. Five different players got on the score sheet.

SATURDAY 13TH MARCH 1937

Inside-forward Jock Sowerby played for England in a 1-0 defeat to Scotland at Dulwich. He was described as 'the best forward on show' in front of a 16,000 crowd.

SATURDAY 13TH MARCH 1993

A seven-goal thriller saw Ipswich go down at The Dell despite goals from David Linighan, Paul Goddard and Chris Kiwomya. Ex-England striker Goddard's strike was his last for Ipswich before joining the coaching staff.

WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 1962

A packed White Hart Lane saw Alf Ramsey's side continue their march to the Division One title with a 3-1 victory in their first game at Spurs. Dynamic partnership Ray Crawford and Ted Phillips (2) scored the goals.

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 1959

Clive Baker was born in North Walsham, Norfolk. Baker, an agile and consistent keeper, was the first Town stopper to keep a clean sheet at Liverpool before knee injuries forced him to retire after 58 games.

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 1975

A pulsating Division One clash saw the Blues defeat visitors Newcastle United 5-4. Bryan Hamilton's hat-trick kept Bobby Robson's boys on course for a third-placed finish.

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2003

Captain fantastic Matt Holland scored an early goal in a 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday which cemented Ipswich's Division One play-off credentials.

WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH 1977

Town crashed 4-0 at West Bromwich Albion who were inspired by a Bryan Robson hat-trick. Laurie Sivell, groggy after being kicked in the head by Baggies striker Dave Cross, conceded every goal in the last 20 minutes.

TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 2004

Darren Bent scored his one and only hat-trick for promotion-chasing Town as Walsall were beaten 3-1 at the Bescot Stadium.

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2024

Ipswich smashed Sheffield Wednesday 6-0 at Portman Road in front of 29,325 fans with an incredible display as they marched towards second-tier promotion. A wondrous individual performance from Chelsea loanee Omari Hutchinson, who scored twice, was backed by an Ali Al-Hamadi brace and kept up the pressure on Leeds United and Leicester City. Scottish giant Cameron Burgess and Welsh wizard Nathan Broadhead completed the scoreline.

SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 1956

A 2-0 win at Watford kept the Blues breathing hard down leaders Leyton Orient's necks in Division Three (South).

SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 2001

The Blues won their first game at West Ham United in 25 years thanks to a wonderful free-kick from flying Dutchman Martijn Reuser which kept Ipswich third in the Premiership.

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 1981

Town moved comfortably into the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup at Portman Road with a 7-2 aggregate win over St Etienne. Second-half goals by Terry Butcher, John Wark and Paul Mariner saw them home with the French consolation coming from Jacques Zimako.

TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 1987

Zambian-born striker Neil Gregory scored a 37-minute hat-trick as the Blues brushed aside Sheffield United 3-1 at Portman Road. He plundered his first goal after only 19 seconds.

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 1949

Belfast-born winger Jackie Brown plundered a hat-trick as Port Vale were battered 4-1 at Portman Road in Division Three (South).

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH 1961

Versatile defender Kevin Steggles was born in Ditchingham, Suffolk. Never an automatic choice, he only scored 2 goals in 61 games before joining West Bromwich Albion in 1987.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 1974

Ipswich crashed out of the UEFA Cup quarter-finals after losing 4-3 on penalties to East German outfit Lokomotiv Leipzig in Germany. Town hung on despite Mick Mills' dismissal in the first half and finally exited when Irishman Allan Hunter missed the crucial penalty.

MONDAY 20TH MARCH 1995

Midfield legend 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. It was George Burley's first game against the Canaries as manager.

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH 2004

Teenager Dean Bowditch scored a hat-trick live on Sky TV as the Tractor Boys beat Watford 4-1 at Portman Road. Jermaine Wright scored the other.

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH 1953

Millwall won 6-1 to inflict a record home defeat which would stand for 49 years. A paltry crowd of 9,373 saw Tommy Parker score Town's goal.

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 1964

A fortnight after being crushed 6-0 at Liverpool, Jackie Milburn's men went down 9-1 at Stoke City in Division One. Dennis Viollet, who survived the Munich air disaster, scored a hat-trick.

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 1970

Trevor Whymark scored the first of his 104 Blues goals in a 2-0 Portman Road stroll over Sunderland. Whymark, who scored four goals in a match three times for Town, also won an England cap against Luxembourg and joined Vancouver Whitecaps after 335 games.

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH 1979

A mammoth crowd of 100,000 at the Nou Camp – the joint biggest crowd Ipswich have played before – saw Barcelona win 1-0 and go through to the European Cup Winners' Cup fourth round.

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 1981

Town's 2-1 defeat at Manchester United was their first defeat in twenty games. Terry Butcher grabbed Ipswich's goal in front of 46,685 fans.

DEAN BOWDITCH CLAIMED A HAT-TRICK AS TOWN BEAT WATFORD 4-1 IN MARCH 2004



WEDNESDAY 22ND MARCH 1939

Wing-half George Dougan was born in Glasgow. Signed from non-league Yiewsley Town, Dougan made only 17 league appearances before leaving to ply his trade in South Africa.

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2008

Right-sided schemer Danny Simpson, signed on loan from Manchester United, made his debut in a 2-1 victory at Scunthorpe United which saw Pablo Counago score and later dismissed for fighting.

MONDAY 23RD MARCH 1914

Livewire winger John Roy was born in Southampton. Roy started his career at Town's rivals Norwich City and later made 17 outings for the Blues over two seasons.

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 1963

Jimmy Leadbetter's goal saw Ipswich climb out of the First Division relegation places with a win in their first-ever game at Old Trafford in front of 32,798 supporters.

THURSDAY 24TH MARCH 1892

Preston North End were the first professional club to play at Portman Road. A Suffolk County side, including three Town men in Notcutt, Haward and Kent, were defeated 3-0.

SATURDAY 24TH MARCH 2001

Icelandic defender Hermann Hreidarsson scored but his side went down 2-1 to Bulgaria in a World Cup qualifier.

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 1953

A 1-0 home defeat to Leyton Orient in Division Three (South) was watched by 3,116 fans; the lowest ever League crowd at Portman Road.

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 1967

South-African born Colin Viljoen marked his debut in some style with a home hat-trick as Ipswich pipped Portsmouth 4-2. Outrageously skillful but injury-plagued, Viljoen scored 54 goals in 372 appearances and won two caps for England in an eleven-year career.

TUESDAY 25TH MARCH 1969

Exciting right-winger John Miller became the first West Indian to be signed as a professional by the Blues. He made his debut in a 0-0 draw at Coventry City and made 60 appearances.

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 1972

Bobby Robson's electric razor was stolen from the Town coach as they went down 1-0 at Leicester City.

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 1986

A home crowd of only 4,476 saw goalkeeper Paul Cooper's testimonial: a 1-0 defeat to Norwich City. Cooper lasted only nine minutes before succumbing to a hamstring injury.

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 2008

Macedonian midfield general Veliche Shumulikoski – signed for £500,000 from Turkish outfit Bursaspor – was booked in a 2-2 friendly draw in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 1969

Wiry left-winger Stuart Slater was born in Sudbury. Never a prolific scorer, the £750,000 signing from Celtic was best running at defenders in a free role behind the strikers. An injury-ridden stay at Portman Road saw him play 88 games before leaving for Watford.

MONDAY 27TH MARCH 1978

A full house at Portman Road witnessed a Division One demolition job as local rivals Norwich City came a cropper 4-0 thanks to strikes from Brian Talbot (2), David Geddis and Mick Mills.

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 1992

A brace from Jason Dozzell saw Town continue their bid to become Division Two champions as Derby County were seen off 2-1 at Portman Road.

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 1998

The Blues stayed in the play-off frame with a 1-0 home win over Reading. Future loanee Andy Legg, and ex-Town hardman Andy Bernal, were both sent off for the visitors thanks to second yellow cards.

TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2005

Darren Bent was replaced by Darren Ambrose as England under-21s beat their Azerbaijan counterparts 2-0 at Middlesbrough.

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2008

Town inched back into the Championship play-off spaces despite squandering a host of opportunities in a goalless draw with Queens Park Rangers at Portman Road. Owen Garvan and Danny Haynes both hit the woodwork.

WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH 1960

Town forward Dermot Curtis scored as Ireland beat Chile 2-0 in a friendly at Dalymount Park, Dublin.

WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH 1977

Paul Mariner made his England debut as a second-half replacement for Joe Royle as England thrashed Luxembourg 5-0 in front of 81,000 fans at Wembley in a World Cup qualifier.

SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 1951

Stirling-born winger Jimmy Roberts scored in a 1-1 draw at Bristol Rovers. It was the first time Town had drawn in 28 games.

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 1968

Cambridge University educated Steve Palmer was born in Brighton. A reliable and hard-working midfielder, Palmer was a useful squad player for Town before departing to Watford for £135,000 after making 131 appearances and scoring 3 goals.

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 1970

A marvellous fight back saw Arsenal defeated 2-1 at Portman Road as Division One relegation fears subsided. Billy Baxter and Frank Clarke plundered the all-important goals.

PAUL MARINER REPLACED JOE ROYLE FOR HIS ENGLAND DEBUT IN MARCH 1977

