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**Division Two Champions:** 1900-01, 1933-34  
**Division Three North Champions:**  
 1925-26, 1955-56  
**Division Three Champions:** 1979-80  
**Division Two Play-Off Winners:** 1998  
**Division Four Champions:** 1971-72  
**FA Cup Semi-Finalists:** 1936, 1939  
**League Group Cup Winners:** 1982  
**Football League Trophy Winners:** 1998  
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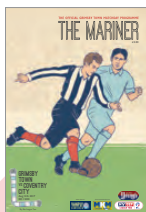
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## THE MARINER

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# IN CHARGE: RUSSELL SLADE

**G**ood afternoon everyone and welcome to today's Sky Bet League Two encounter with Coventry City here at Blundell Park.

A warm welcome goes to Mark Robins and his side, as well as the Sky Blues' supporters – I hope you all have a safe journey home after the game. We started our campaign with a promising 3-1 win at Chesterfield last weekend.

I was pleased with our energy and athleticism going forward and we looked good on the counter.

They had plenty of possession and chances but a lot were from outside the box – we had the better chances overall – indeed we could have scored more on the day.

To go to a team who were in League One and have brought a lot of new players in is a good start.

The level of support was phenomenal, it was like a home game. It didn't feel like we were playing away from home – not at someone else's stadium at all.

Today we welcome Coventry City to Blundell Park for our first home league game. It's hard to win away from home but we have done that and now we have to back it up on our own patch.

This is the second team that has been relegated from the tier above that we have played against. They will be looking to bounce straight back and got off the mark with a comfortable 3-0 win over Notts County.

Stuart Beavon is a player I know well and is a handful up front alongside Marc McNulty and Jodi Jones scored a hat-trick last week, so is in good form. But we have some good attacking options too and I expect us to create plenty of chances of our own.

Of course I want to win against one of my former clubs but the same goes for any game of football I am involved in.

Tuesday night's game against Derby was abandoned after just 19 minutes due to the weather.

I can't think of being involved in a game where it has been called off for rain before.

It's a travesty really because it was shaping up to be a good game.

We were disappointed to go 1-0 down in the early stages but it was turning into a farce quite quickly and the right decision was made in the end.

Thank you again everyone for your brilliant support please keep backing the lads and enjoy the game.

**Best wishes,  
Russell Slade**

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# PARK LIFE

Bringing you all the latest news from in and around the club.

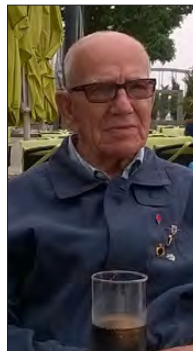
## THOMAS WILLIS

In June the Club were informed of the passing of Thomas Willis, a life-long Mariners fan.

Thomas was a regular at Blundell Park and used to sit on the grass near the corner flag!

He fought in the Second World War and was on the HMS Strathanlan which was torpedoed.

The Club would like to pass on their respects to the rest of the Willis family.



## RONNIE LEE

Ronnie Lee, Wishing you a great 50th birthday.

Thanks for being the best husband and daddy.

We love you lots Josephine and Melody xxx



## IN MEMORY OF PETER NICHOLLS



Grimsby Town Football Club are saddened to have learned of the passing of lifelong fan, Peter Nicholls. Peter passed away suddenly on his 55th birthday. The thoughts of all those associated with the club are with Peter's family and friends at this time.

07



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# INTRODUCING COVENTRY CITY

## NICKNAME

The Sky Blues

## FOUNDED

1883

## GROUND

Ricoh Arena

## CAPACITY

32,609

## MANAGER

Mark Robins

## 2016-17

League One, 23rd

### LAST 10 YEARS

Key: ● Mariners ● Sky Blues

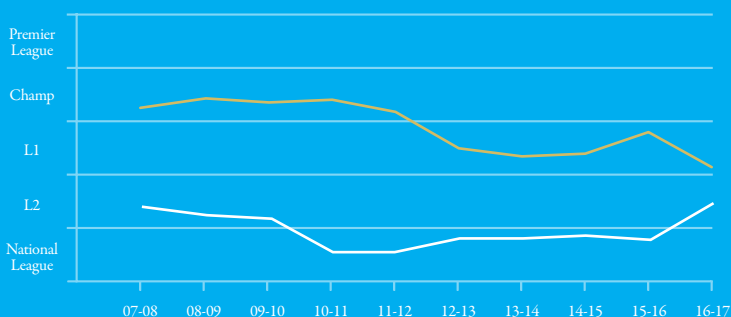


Photo: Birmingham Councils



## THE MANAGER MARK ROBINS



Former Scunthorpe United boss Mark Robins is the man charged with restoring some pride to Coventry City, following their relegation to League Two last term.

The Oldham-born forward enjoyed a 20-year career that took in both Manchester clubs, Norwich, Leicester, Walsall and Rotherham, amongst others.

Robins shot to fame in 1990, starring in Manchester United's FA Cup winning run and famously scoring the goal at Nottingham Forest in the Third Round that was reported to have saved Alex Ferguson's job at Old Trafford.

The striker would go onto star in the Premier League for both Norwich and Leicester, before spells abroad with Copenhagen, Odense and Panionios.

After a successful 1999-00 season at Walsall, Mark moved to Rotherham, whom he helped become a solid Championship outfit, before finishing his playing career with Sheffield Wednesday and Burton Albion.

Having previously shown his passion for coaching at Rotherham, he was named the Millers' boss in 2007 and impressed by having them push for promotion from League Two, despite persistent off-field problems.

A spell at Barnsley saw Robins steer the club clear of relegation from the Championship, before his initial spell at Coventry that saw the Sky Blues move from League One relegation contenders to within a whisker of the play-offs.

Robins then saved Huddersfield from the Championship bottom three and had a short spell in charge at Scunthorpe, before re-joining Coventry in March.

The long road back to the glory days of the 80s and 90s began for Coventry City last Saturday at home to Notts County.

A Jodi Jones hat-trick secured all three points for Mark Robins' side, as the former Manchester United favourite looks to secure promotion from League Two at the first time of asking for the Sky Blues.

Robins has a big squad at his disposal in order to achieve that aim, with ten new signings to boot.

There was something of a clear-out at City at the end of last season, with a number of experienced names departing the club.

Kevin Foley moved onto Billericay Town, Bulgarian international Vladimir Gadzhev moved to Anorthosis Famagusta, whilst Marcus Tudgay is currently without a club.

There have been several exciting arrivals at Coventry during the summer, many of whom have experience of success in League Two.

Rod McDonald joins from Northampton and will be a focal point of the Sky Blues' defence. Liam O'Brien arrives from last

season's League Two champions Portsmouth and will provide solid competition in the goalkeeping ranks.

Another former Pompey favourite is midfielder Michael Doyle, who adds a creative spark in the centre of park, whilst former Rochdale winger Peter Vincenti offers a good range of delivery from out wide.

The Sky Blues also recently announced the loan signing of Wolves' centre forward Duckens Nazon until the New Year.

Barnet defender James Pearson came in on trial during pre-season and did enough to earn a contract with the club.

City enjoyed a fairly successful pre-season campaign, registering wins over Sutton United, MK Dons, Mickleover Sports and Nuneaton Town, whilst also holding a Liverpool XI to a creditable 0-0 draw.

Today's two teams last met at Blundell Park in 2003 when the Sky Blues ran out 2-0 winners thanks to a Simon Ford own goal and a John Eustace penalty. The Mariners were relegated from Division One at the end of the campaign. ■



# THE SQUAD

## LEE BURGE GOALKEEPER

Born: Hereford  
Age: 24  
Signed: 2011 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

## LIAM O'BRIEN GOALKEEPER

Born: Ruislip  
Age: 25  
Signed: 2017 (Portsmouth)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

## REICE CHARLES-COOK GOALKEEPER

Born: Lewisham  
Age: 23  
Signed: 2014 (Bury)  
Coventry Appearances: 52



## JORDAN WILLIS DEFENDER

Born: Coventry  
Age: 22  
Signed: 2011 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 106  
(3 Goals)

## JACK GRIMMER DEFENDER

Born: Aberdeen  
Age: 23  
Signed: 2017 (Fulham)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

## CHRIS STOKES DEFENDER

Born: Frome  
Age: 26  
Signed: 2015 (Forest Green Rovers)  
Coventry Appearances: 37 (2 Goals)

## ROD McDONALD DEFENDER

Born: Liverpool  
Age: 25  
Signed: 2017 (Northampton Town)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

## JAMES PEARSON DEFENDER

Born: Sheffield  
Age: 24  
Signed: 2017 (Barnet)  
Coventry Appearances: 0

## DION KELLY-EVANS DEFENDER

Born: Coventry  
Age: 20  
Signed: 2015 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 26

## RYAN HAYNES DEFENDER

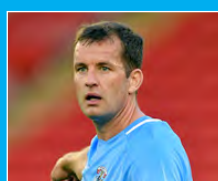
Born: Northampton  
Age: 21  
Signed: 2012 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 57 (1 Goal)

## DOMINIC HYAM DEFENDER

Born: Dundee  
Age: 21  
Signed: 2017 (Reading)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

## LIAM KELLY MIDFIELDER

Born: Milton Keynes  
Age: 27  
Signed: 2017 (Leyton Orient)  
Coventry Appearances: 1



## MICHAEL DOYLE MIDFIELDER

Born: Dublin  
Age: 35  
Signed: 2017 (Portsmouth)  
Coventry Appearances: 1

## PETER VINCENTI MIDFIELDER

Born: Saint Peter, Jersey  
Age: 31  
Signed: 2017 (Rochdale)  
Coventry Appearances: 1



## JODI JONES MIDFIELDER

Born: Bow  
Age: 19  
Signed: 2016 (Dagenham & Redbridge)  
Coventry Appearances: 37  
(7 Goals)

## DEVON KELLY-EVANS MIDFIELDER

Born: Coventry  
Age: 20  
Signed: 2015 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

## BEN STEVENSON MIDFIELDER

Born: Leicester  
Age: 20  
Signed: 2015 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 29 (2 Goals)

## THE ESSENTIAL COVENTRY CITY

### DATES

#### 1883

The club was formed by employees of Singers, a local cycle firm

#### 1987

Won the FA Cup, defeating Spurs at Wembley

#### 2017

Won the Football League Trophy, beating Oxford United at Wembley

### MANAGER JIMMY HILL

After hanging up his boots at the age of 33, Jimmy Hill became manager of Coventry City in 1961.

A renowned forward-thinker, Hill led what's become known as 'The Sky Blue Revolution' at the club. He changed the kit to sky blue, wrote 'The Sky Blue Song' and introduced pre-match entertainment to encourage fans to arrive early.

On the pitch things also went extremely well for the innovative manager. He led the Sky Blues to the Third Division title in 1963-64 and the Second Division title in 1966-67.

Shortly before the start of the 1967-68 season (which would be Coventry's first in the top-flight of English football), Hill left football management in exchange for a career in broadcasting.

For a generation Hill became synonymous with football on television, fronting the coverage of World Cups and Match of the Day, as well as football-themed shows with popular pundits of the day.

In 1975, Hill returned to Coventry to be Managing Director before later being chairman.



**MAXIME BIAMOU**  
FORWARD

Born: Creteil, France  
Age: 26  
Signed: 2017 (Sutton United)  
Coventry Appearances: 2



**MARC McNULTY**  
FORWARD

Born: Edinburgh  
Age: 24  
Signed: 2017 (Sheffield United)  
Coventry Appearances: 2

**KWAME THOMAS**  
FORWARD

Born: Nottingham  
Age: 21  
Signed: 2016 (Derby County)  
Coventry Appearances: 14 (3 Goals)

**DUCKENS NAZON**  
FORWARD

Born: Paris, France  
Age: 23  
Signed: 2017 (Wolves - loan)  
Coventry Appearances: 2 (1 Goal)



**STUART BEAVON**  
FORWARD

Born: Reading  
Age: 33  
Signed: 2017 (Burton Albion)  
Coventry Appearances: 11 (2 Goals)

**GEORGE THOMAS**  
FORWARD

Born: Leicester  
Age: 20  
Signed: 2013 (Youth Graduate)  
Coventry Appearances: 42 (5 Goals)



# ONE TO WATCH

## MICHAEL DOYLE



**Position:**  
Midfielder

**DOB:**  
08.08.81 | Dublin

- Career:**
- Celtic
  - AGF Aarhus (L)
  - Coventry City (2)
  - Leeds United (L)
  - Sheffield United
  - Portsmouth

Experienced midfielder Michael Doyle returned to the club where he made his name this summer and hopes for a second successive promotion from League Two.

The Irish international captained Portsmouth to the League Two title last season, before leaving Fratton Park after 90 league games over two campaigns during June.

Doyle came through the ranks at Celtic and made his senior bow with AGF Aarhus during a loan spell at the Danish Premier League club in 2001-02.

After a successful loan spell at Coventry in 2003, Doyle signed a permanent deal with the club that eventually saw him spend eight seasons with the Sky Blues, racking up over 250 league appearances in the process.

The Dubliner spent a season on loan at Leeds in 2009-10 and then joined Sheffield United for a four-year spell between 2011 and 2015, where he made over 200 appearances in all competitions.

He made his only appearance for Eire as a sub against Holland in 2004 – the Irish winning 1-0 in Amsterdam.

# SEASON

## 1986-87

Despite a mid-table finish in the First Division, the 1986-87 campaign will forever be remembered as a vintage season for the Sky Blues because of the FA Cup success.

Early round wins against Bolton Wanderers (3-0), Manchester United at Old Trafford (1-0) and Stoke City (1-0) got Coventry into the last eight of the competition.

In the Quarter Final, Sheffield Wednesday were beaten 3-1 and, a month later, Coventry were back at Hillsborough to face Leeds United in the Semi Final. An extra-time winner from Dave Bennett booked The Sky Blues a place in their first ever domestic Final against Tottenham Hotspur.

In the final, after an exhilarating initial 90 minutes, the scores were 2-2. However, early in extra time, Gary Mabbutt's own goal proved to be decisive and Sillett and Curtis' team went on to lift the famous trophy.

# PLAYER

## STEVE OGRIZOVIC

Steve 'Oggy' Ogrizovic was a regular figure between the sticks at the Highfield Road club between 1984 and 2000.

During his 16-year stay, he made 601 appearances for the Sky Blues, a club record that remains intact to this day.

Ogrizovic was widely acknowledged to be the best English keeper of his generation not to be selected for the national team. He was, however, called up by Yugoslavia, due to his parentage, but declined the opportunity to play international football.

Oggy was in goal for the Sky Blues when they lifted the FA Cup in 1987 and, 10 years later, he was still Coventry's number one at 40-years old.

After his playing days came to an end, the Mansfield lad remained at Coventry, managing the Reserve side under Iain Dowie and Chris Coleman and acting as caretaker boss on a couple of occasions.

Today he's the Sky Blues' Goalkeeper Coach, continuing his association with the club to a 33rd year.





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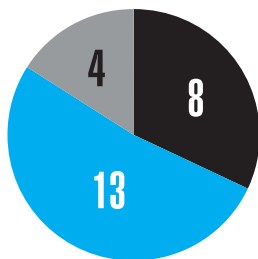
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# FACTS & FIGURES

## Mariners v Sky Blues

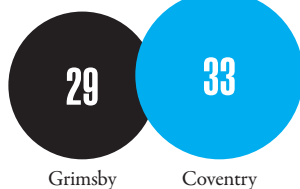


### HEAD TO HEAD

Played 25  
 ● Grimsby 8  
 ● Coventry 13  
 ● Draws 4

### GOALS SCORED

Includes league, FA and League Cup games



## FIRST COMPETITIVE MEETING



Thursday 1st January 1920 | Division Two | Town 0-1 Coventry



### LAST FOUR GAMES

Saturday 1st March 2003  
 Grimsby 0 Coventry 2, Simon Ford og, John Eustace pen

Saturday 14th September 2002  
 Coventry 3 Grimsby 2, Lee Mills, Gary McAllister and Jay Bothroyd, Steve Kabba, Alan Pouton

Wednesday 26th December 2001  
 Grimsby 0 Coventry 1, Lee Hughes

Saturday 8th September 2001  
 Coventry 0 Grimsby 1, Phil Jevons

### PREVIOUS NINE MEETINGS AT BLUNDELL PARK

Result	Count
Grimsby	4
Coventry	4
Draw	1

### LAST TIME OUT

Saturday 1st March 2003  
 Grimsby 0 Coventry 2  
 Division One

Grimsby faced Coventry in their first home game since they beat Stoke 2-0 back on 8th February. The visitors attacking the Pontoon started the brighter and in the 17th minute took the lead. Ritchie Partridge on loan from Liverpool curled a delightful ball into the box which caught Simon Ford unawares who headed the ball past Danny Coyne to stun the fans behind the goal. The home fans tried to encourage the team but Coventry continued to dominate proceedings for the remainder of the first half. However it wasn't until the 63rd minute in which the Sky Blues would seal the victory. Ford again was at fault this time whose challenge on Julian Joachim resulted in a penalty. Up stepped John Eustace who hit his shot down the middle and off the underside of the bar. Another defeat after a limp performance left Grimsby in dire straits in their relegation fight.



### TRANSFERS BETWEEN THE TWO CLUBS

#### GRIMSBY TO COVENTRY

Morten Hyldgaard (2001 - loan return)

#### COVENTRY TO GRIMSBY

Nathan Clarke (2017 - free)  
 Dean Gordon (2004 - free)



### PLAYED FOR BOTH: DAVID SMITH

Coventry Appearances: 177  
 Coventry Goals: 18  
 From: 1986 - 1993

Town Appearances: 112  
 Town Goals: 9  
 From: 1998 - 2002



#### MARINERS

Coyne, McDermott, Ford, Santos, Gallimore, Campbell, Coldicott (Groves), Hughes, Oster, Pouton (Mansaram), Boulding (Livingstone)  
 Subs Not Used Allaway, Chertle



#### SKY BLUES

Debec, Konjic, Davenport, Whing, Pead (Engonga), Caldwell, Chippo, Eustace, Partridge, Jansen, Joachim  
 Subs Not Used Montgomery, McSheffrey, Quinn, Holdsworth



# DEFINING MOMENT

On 16th May 1987, Coventry City lifted the FA Cup at Wembley in their first domestic final. The unfancied Sky Blues beat Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 in extra time in a game described by John Motson as "the finest Cup Final I've had the pleasure of commentating on". Clive Allen gave Spurs the lead in the second minute, only for Dave Bennett to equalise minutes later. Just before half-time,

Gary Mabbutt put Tottenham ahead but after the break Keith Houchen drew the scores level again with a diving header. It remained 2-2 until the final whistle but Gary Mabbutt's unfortunate own-goal proved to be enough to see The Sky Blues home. Future Mariner Graham Rodger (pictured) came off the bench in the 89th minute to help Coventry in the final minutes.





# DEADLY DUOS

## RAY STRAW & GEORGE STEWART

Centre-forward Ray Straw was Coventry City's leading marksman in four consecutive seasons, including their 1958-59 promotion success. Initially with hometown Ilkeston, he joined Derby County in October 1951 and was top scorer in their 1956-57 Third Division (North) title triumph. He moved to Highfield Road in November 1957 and netted 79 goals in 143 League outings for Coventry prior to joining Mansfield Town in August 1961. Helping them win promotion in 1962-63, he later played for Lockheed Leamington. Settling in Ilkeston, he spent 26 years as a coal sampler at local power stations and died in May 2001.

Scottish centre-forward George Stewart helped Coventry City to clinch promotion in 1958-59. He played for Buckie Thistle, Dundee, St Mirren and Worcester City before moving to Accrington Stanley in October 1954, netting five goals in their 6-2 win at home to Gateshead the following month. Top scorer four times, he twice represented the Third Division (North) and set Accrington's goalscoring record prior to joining Coventry in November 1958. Scoring 23 goals in 40 League games, he joined Carlisle United in June 1960, then Buckie Thistle again. He was later a ship's chandler in his native Buckie and died in June 2011.



## GEORGE HUDSON & KEN HALE

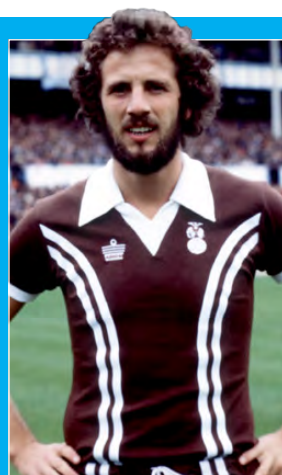
Popular centre-forward George Hudson was top scorer in Coventry City's 1963-64 Third Division title triumph. Starting with Blackburn Rovers, he joined Accrington Stanley in July 1960 and equalled their goalscoring record in 1960-61. He moved to Peterborough United in October 1961, then Jimmy Hill paid a club record £22,000 for him in April 1963. Grabbing a hat-trick on his Coventry debut, he netted 62 goals in 113 League games before sold to Northampton Town for £22,000 in March 1966. He later played for Tranmere Rovers and Altrincham, then worked on the Daily Mirror printing presses in Manchester.

Inside-forward Ken Hale featured prominently as Coventry City won the Third Division title in 1963-64. Initially with Newcastle United, gaining top-flight experience, he joined Coventry in December 1962 and appeared in their 1962-63 FA Cup run, netting 27 goals in 99 League outings prior to joining Oxford United in March 1966. He featured in their 1967-68 Third Division title campaign and moved to Darlington in May 1968, having a spell as their player-boss before becoming Halifax Town's player-coach in January 1973. Later Hartlepool's manager, he became a newsagent in Sunderland and died in January 2015.

## IAN WALLACE & MICK FERGUSON

Scotland international striker Ian Wallace was Coventry City's leading marksman in three successive seasons. He impressed with Dumbarton before moving to Highfield Road for £60,000 in August 1976, forming a notable partnership with Mick Ferguson. Voted 'Player of the Year' in 1977-78, he netted 57 goals in 130 First Division games for Sky Blues prior to joining Nottingham Forest for £1,250,000 in July 1980. Following a spell with Brest, he moved to Sunderland in January 1985 and appeared in that year's League Cup final. He later played for CS Maritimo, Melbourne Croatia and became Dumbarton's YDO.

Striker Mick Ferguson was Coventry City's top scorer in 1976-77. Signing professional at Highfield Road in December 1971, he made his League debut in Coventry's 0-0 draw at Leeds United in January 1975 and netted 51 goals in 127 First Division games before sold to Everton for £280,000 in August 1991. Moving to Birmingham City in November 1982, he had a loan spell back at Coventry and helped to preserve top-flight status at Birmingham's expense in 1983-84. He joined Brighton in September 1984, then had spells with Colchester United and Wealdstone, becoming community officer at Sunderland, then Leeds United.



## Football historian Leigh Edwards profiles five notable post-war Coventry City goalscoring partnerships



### MARK HATELEY & GARRY THOMPSON

England U-21 striker Mark Hateley was Coventry City's leading marksman in 1981-82. The son of Tony Hateley, he turned professional at Highfield Road in December 1978 and starred alongside Garry Thompson as Coventry reached the League Cup semi-finals in 1980-81. He netted 25 goals in 92 First Division outings for Sky Blues prior to joining Portsmouth for £190,000 in June 1983. Gaining the first of 32 England caps shortly before his £915,000 move to AC Milan in June 1984, he joined Monaco in June 1987, then played for Glasgow Rangers, QPR, Rangers again and had a spell as Hull City's player-manager.

England U-21 striker Garry Thompson was top scorer as Coventry City reached the League Cup semi-finals in 1980-81. Signing professional at Highfield Road in June 1977, he was given his League debut in Coventry's 3-2 defeat at home to Aston Villa in March 1978 and netted 38 goals in 134 First Division games before following Ron Wylie to West Brom for £225,000 in February 1983. 'Thommo' joined Sheffield Wednesday for £425,000 in August 1985, then played for Aston Villa, Watford, Crystal Palace, QPR, Cardiff City and Northampton Town. He later had a brief spell as Bristol Rovers' manager.



### CYRILLE REGIS & DAVID SPEEDIE

England international striker Cyrille Regis was an important figure in Coventry City's 1987 FA Cup final triumph. Initially with Hayes, he moved to West Brom in May 1977 and was leading marksman in three successive seasons prior to joining Coventry for £250,000 in October 1984. He gained his fifth England cap in October 1987 and helped Sky Blues reach the League Cup semi-finals in 1989-90. Twice top scorer, he netted 46 goals in 236 First Division games before moving to Aston Villa in June 1991. He later played for Wolves, Wycombe Wanderers and Chester prior to rejoining West Brom as a coach and is now an agent.

Fiery Scotland international favourite David Speedie was capped five times while at Coventry City. Initially with Barnsley, he moved to Darlington in June 1980 and was leading marksman in 1981-82. He joined Chelsea in June 1982, starring in their 1983-84 Second Division title and 1986 Full Members Cup triumphs. Moving to Highfield Road for £780,000 in July 1987, he was twice 'Player of the Year' and netted 31 goals in 122 First Division games for Coventry prior to joining Liverpool for £675,000 in January 1991. He later played for Blackburn Rovers, Southampton and Leicester City, becoming a players' agent.



# KITS OF COVENTRY CITY

Coventry City have always been at the cutting edge. No, really.

It's all to do with that man Jimmy Hill. Both during his time as manager and as chairman, Hill made big changes and introduced things we now take for granted. The first all seater stadium? That was Highfield Road. Electronic scoreboards? Yep, also a first for Coventry.

I've always thought of Coventry as the Sky Blues but I didn't realise until a couple of years ago that these colours, and the nickname too, were a relatively recent thing, introduced in the early sixties by Hill when he set about transforming the club. He even wrote a song to go with the new colours!

But which shirts stand out? When have Coventry looked the business and when have their shirts let them down?



18



## BEST HOME SHIRT

I'm going to be open with you; I love old Admiral shirts. I love old Admiral shirts so much that I wish I was Welsh, just so I would have an excuse to buy the classic 1976-79 home shirt. The basic design of that shirt was also used for the first shirt I'm picking.

Introduced in 1975 and worn for four seasons with only minor changes such as sock colours and a sponsor's logo in 1978-79, this shirt is a classic. Worn by Terry Yorath, Ian Wallace and Mick Coop.

## WORST HOME SHIRT

The early nineties kits by Ribero were pretty ugly but it's another Jimmy Hill innovation which leads us to what I believe is the Sky Blues' worst home shirt.

In the early eighties, Hill – then chairman – looked into cementing the partnership between the team and their sponsor by renaming the club Coventry



Talbot. On one hand a nod to club's origins as Singers FC, the works side for the local Singer Factory, but on the other a step too far in the over commercialisation of the game.



The 1981-83 shirt, integrated car manufacturer Talbot's T logo into the design of the shirt and shorts and was quite frankly hideous. It even spread onto the shorts. At the time, TV broadcasters still had quite strict rules on advertising and while most clubs complied by wearing shirts without the sponsor's name for televised games, Coventry had to come up with another kit entirely. They couldn't even wear the away shirt as that too was of the same design, but red rather than blue.

Worn by Mark Hateley and Gerry Francis, but not on the telly!

## WORST AWAY SHIRT

**T**here's no escaping it – the Sky Blues have had quite a few hideous away shirts. So many in fact that it's hard to pick just one. French manufacturer Le Coq Sportif were guilty of a few of these, including chequerboard designs in both red and green, and a quite remarkable purple and yellow striped affair for the 1998-99 season which almost hurts to look at.

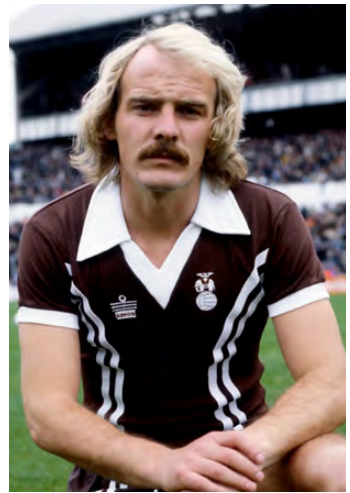
After some thorough research though, I've managed to narrow it down to one shirt and that is the Ribero for the 1992-94



seasons. The nineties were full of ludicrous shirt designs but this one is so bad that it looks like something Scunthorpe might have worn. It really is that bad. How would you even begin to describe it? A red shirt tied in knots then washed with a splash of bleach? And why did it have a strips of the pattern on the shorts? Truly awful.

Worn by Phil Babb, Peter Ndlovu and Micky Quinn but none of them could make it look good. None of them.

## BEST AWAY SHIRT



**I**'m afraid that my pick for best away shirt will divide opinion; indeed, many Coventry fans will nominate the following shirt as the worst of all time.

As well as admiring Admiral shirts, I also have a soft spot for brown kits and therefore I'm choosing the infamous brown Admiral shirt of the mid to late seventies.

Philistines regularly vote it the worst kit of all time but the good folk of Coventry have revised their opinion of it and even launched a tribute brown away kit to mark the 125th anniversary in 2008-09. Retro reissues of the shirt have also been popular and the only real option for shirt collectors given the scarcity of original kits. ■



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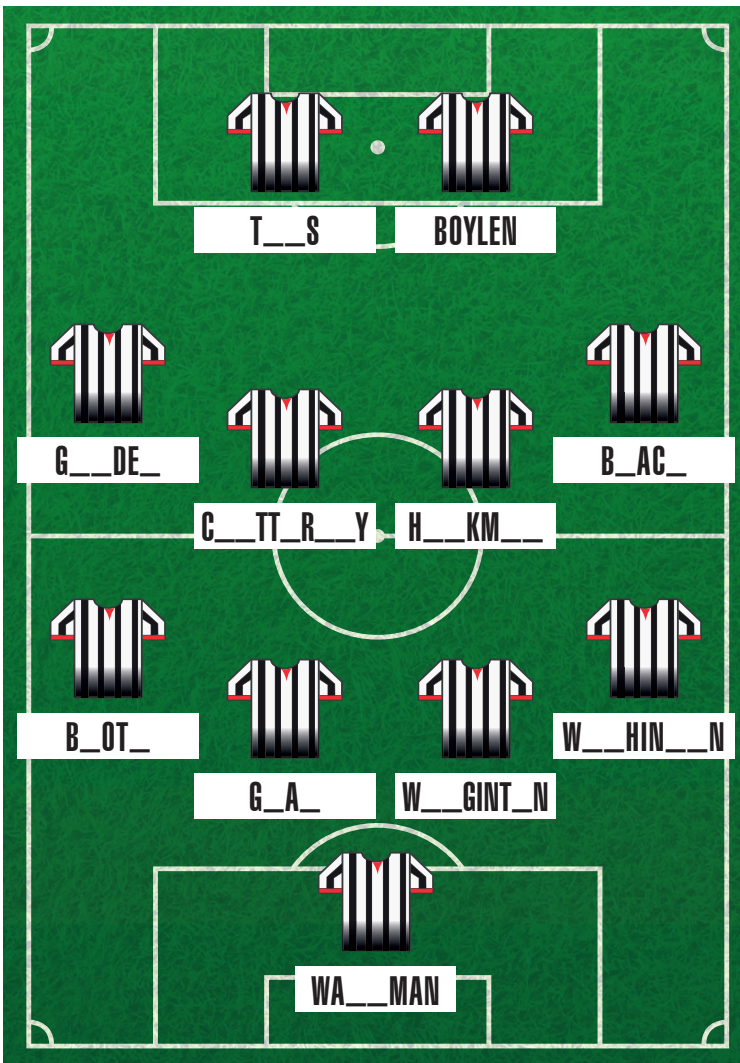


\*IRI data MAT 26.03.16



# MISSING MARINERS

After overcoming Wigan Athletic, Chesterfield and Preston North End in the FA Cup, Lawrie McMenemy's men travelled to First Division Coventry City in the Fourth Round in 1973. The Sky Blues won 1-0, thanks to a dubious penalty decision towards the end of the game, but can you name the missing players from Town's starting XI that day?



**DATE:**

3rd February 1973

**COMPETITION:**

FA Cup

**VENUE:**

Highfield Road

**ATTENDANCE:**

38,104

**SCORE:**

Coventry City 1-0 Town



Dave Boylen featured - can you name the rest?

FEATURE INTERVIEW:

# NATHAN CLARKE

22



**D**efender Nathan Clarke started his Grimsby Town career with a rare goal, his first in over three years, during last Saturday's 3-1 win at Chesterfield.

The 34-year-old reunites with manager Russell Slade, who oversaw his career at both Leyton Orient and today's opponents Coventry City.

"It's nice to know that the manager has that much faith in me," declared Clarke,

"He made me captain at Leyton Orient and we had a successful spell, coming very close to winning promotion to the Championship, which would have been a magnificent achievement.

"Then he was quick to take me to Coventry last season – it was just a shame that things didn't quite work out for either of us.







“So when he called me in the summer about coming to Grimsby, I had no hesitation.

“It’s a good club with a good history and I think we have a talented squad here that can go places.”

After the abandonment of last Tuesday’s Carabao Cup tie against Derby County, Clarke will be hoping that his first home league game will go the full distance against one of his former clubs.

He said: “Obviously I left there (Coventry) during the summer and the fixture list throws it up as my first home league fixture.

“There are still plenty of lads there from last season, so it will be good to catch up with them after the game.

**“THE BACKING AT CHESTERFIELD WAS PHENOMENAL AND THE LADS WHO WERE HERE LAST SEASON TELL ME THAT IT IS A REGULAR THING”**



## NATHAN CLARKE

**Position:**  
Defender

**DOB:**  
30.07.83 | Halifax

**Career:**  
Huddersfield Town,  
Colchester United (L),  
Oldham Athletic (L), Bury  
(L), Leyton Orient, Bradford  
City, Coventry City,  
Grimsby Town

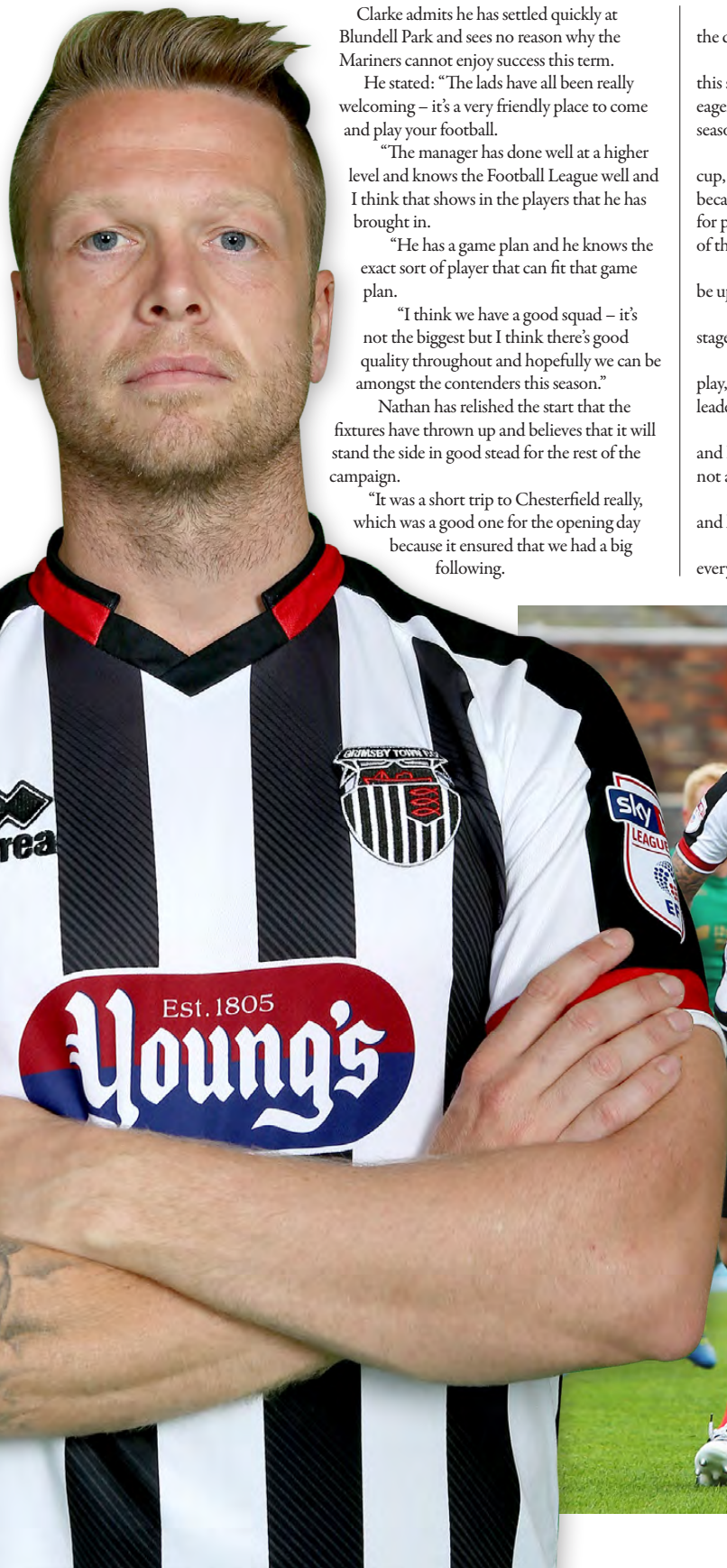
**GTFC Apps:** 1  
**Goals:** 1

“I think it will be a good game, Coventry will be looking to bounce back and want to be around the top three and no doubt they will bring a big following with them.

“But no one wants to lose their first home league game either and I am sure our fans will come out in numbers too.

“The backing at Chesterfield was phenomenal and the lads who were here last season tell me that it is a regular thing, so that is something to really look forward to.”





Clarke admits he has settled quickly at Blundell Park and sees no reason why the Mariners cannot enjoy success this term.

He stated: "The lads have all been really welcoming – it's a very friendly place to come and play your football.

"The manager has done well at a higher level and knows the Football League well and I think that shows in the players that he has brought in.

"He has a game plan and he knows the exact sort of player that can fit that game plan.

"I think we have a good squad – it's not the biggest but I think there's good quality throughout and hopefully we can be amongst the contenders this season."

Nathan has relished the start that the fixtures have thrown up and believes that it will stand the side in good stead for the rest of the campaign.

"It was a short trip to Chesterfield really, which was a good one for the opening day because it ensured that we had a big following.

"And we turned in a good performance on the day to send everyone home happy.

"Chesterfield will be a difficult place to go this season – they are another team who will be eager to bounce back from disappointment last season."

He continued: "Then you had Derby in the cup, which is one of the tougher sides in the draw because you would expect them to be in the mix for promotion to the Premier League at the end of the season.

"And, as I said, Coventry will be looking to be up there in our division too.

"But you have to play these teams at some stage in the season, so it may as well be early on."

For those unfamiliar with Nathan's style of play, he is hoping to show his organisational and leadership skills at the back for the Mariners.

"I have played centre-half my whole career and I like to make important clearances and I am not afraid to get my head in where it hurts either.

"I am quite vocal on the field and like to try and keep things organised and lead by example.

"I just hope I can show the Grimsby fans everything I am capable of." ■





# GRIMSBY TOWN DERBY COUNTY

A  
A

**TUESDAY 8TH AUGUST 2017**  
**BLUNDELL PARK**

A torrential downpour prematurely ended the Mariners' Carabao Cup First Round tie against Derby County after just 19 minutes at Blundell Park.

The Rams had taken an early lead through Richard Keogh's header but referee Trevor Kettle ordered both sets of teams off the pitch just before the 20-minute mark with the increasingly heavy rain creating large puddles of standing water on the Blundell Park pitch.

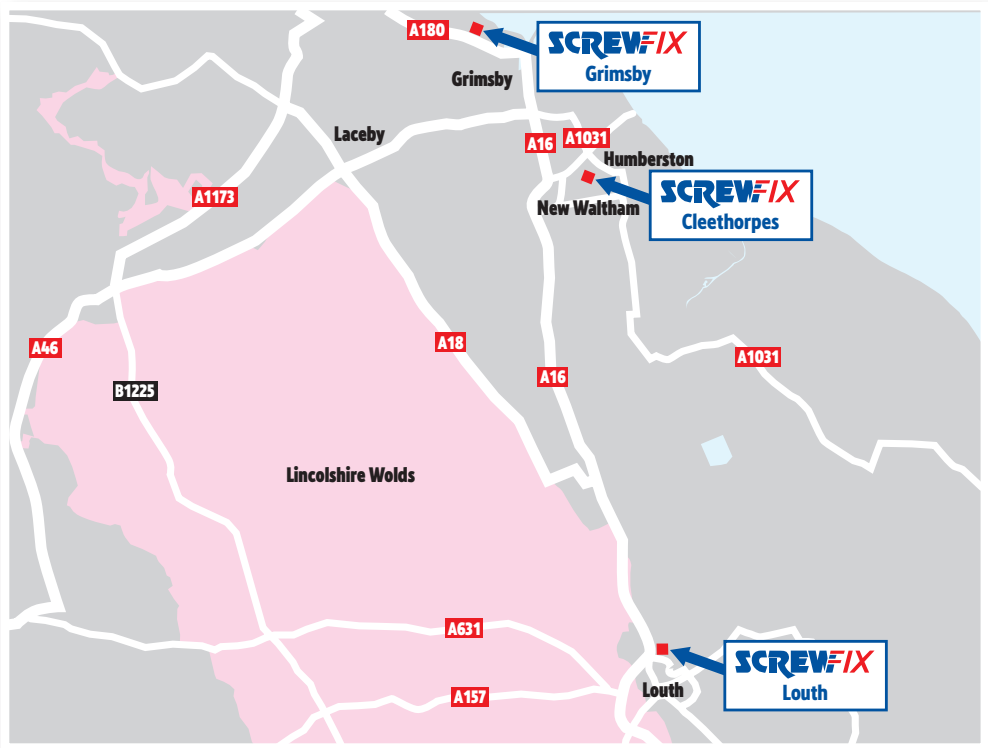
After a short period of deliberation, the referee ruled that the game could not continue and the two teams will reconvene in Cleethorpes on Tuesday 22 August at 7.45pm. ■





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# INSIDE THE MIND

## SCOTT VERNON

Sure, we know loads about Scott's career already, but in this feature, we attempt to delve deeper into his psyche as well.

### First Club

Oldham Athletic



### Debut

At the time it was the LDV Vans Trophy, it was against Carlisle at home. I was 18 and I remember the day before the game and the manager came and got me out of the Youth team dressing room and told me to check the team sheet and my name was down. It was a massive plus for me and he told me I was going to start the game which was incredible.

### First Goal

On that night! It was a really close game. My first goal - I got the ball on the edge of the 18 yard box on my left foot and I just side footed it into the bottom corner. My second came from a cross from Michael Clegg, he was playing down the right



and he stood a ball up to me and I headed it into the bottom corner.

### First Game

I would probably have to say it would have been Macclesfield Town, they were my local team. I can't actually remember the game but it would have definitely been one of those with my Dad when I was a young lad.

### Favourite Player Growing Up

Definitely Eric Cantona. I was a Man United fan, he was unbelievable for them and I was lucky enough to be at that game where he scored that chip against Sunderland that is always shown. He was my hero at the time so it made the game even better.



### First Football Shirt

It would have been a United one when I was younger. I can't remember which one you're going back years now!

## QUICK FIRE



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Instagram

Shower or Bath  
Shower

Beer or Wine  
Beer



Chinese or Indian  
Chinese



TV or Book  
TV

Daily Mail or The Guardian  
Daily Mail

Messi or Ronaldo  
Messi



Beiber or Radiohead  
I'm going to have say Beiber!

Game of Thrones or Love Island  
Love Island

Grimsby or Cleethorpes  
Cleethorpes



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# MINI MARINERS



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GUESS THE BADGE



MIXED UP MARINERS



ANSWERS:

Spot the Difference: Referee's EFL badge is missing the detail  
Guess the Badge: Leeds United  
Mixed Up Mariners: Harry Cardwell, Ben Davies, Sam Kelly

## TODAY'S MASCOTS



**RONNIE EGGLESTON**

Age: 4

School: East Ravendale

Fav Subject: PE

First Game: Wembley 2016 Play-

Off Final vs Forest Green

Fav Player: James McKeown

Fav Goal: Nathan Arnold at Wembley

Hobbies: Lego, cars and go-karting

Other Sport: Tennis



**OAKLEY TURGOOSE**

Age: 4

School: Laceby Acres

Fav Subject: Drawing and playing

Fav Player: All of them!

Hobbies: Motorbikes, riding my

bike, football and playing outside

Fascinating Fact: I'm a cheeky monkey!



**CAMERON TURGOOSE**

Age: 8

School: Laceby Acres

Fav Subject: Science

Fav Player: James McKeown

Hobbies: Football and biking

Other Sport: WWE wrestling

Fascinating Fact: I love Eddie Stobart trucks



**MAISY FENWICK**

Age: 5

School: Signhills Infants

Fav Subject: Maths

Fav Players: Jamey Osborne and

Sam Jones

Fav Goal: Adi Yussuf vs

Hartlepool

Hobbies: Swimming, arcades, reading and gymnastics

Other Sport: Cricket

Fascinating Fact: I like animals

05

AUTOGRAPH:





**NATHAN  
CLARKE**

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**W**e hope everybody enjoyed the Mariners Trust Community Open Day supported by GTSET.

The rain conveniently held off until after the great GTFC shirt picture with Grimsby Town Football Club management team and players, Trust Board members and fans wearing their colours with pride.

As many of you will know, we managed to get a fantastic team photograph in the stand with fans standing shoulder to shoulder with the playing squad.

The finished photos look great and are available to purchase.

Big thanks to Russell Slade, Paul Wilkinson and all the playing staff for their training session and then meeting and greeting fans.

Special mention to Akwasi Asante and Sean McAllister who interviewed fans - footage will be uploaded soon!

We also saw great performances from Chinese lion dancers and an Indian band as well as new activities like the climbing wall and football cage.

Thanks must also go to Humberside Police for coming along and getting into the full spirit of the day. We're sure children enjoyed getting involved with various pieces of equipment they brought along. We hope too that visitors had the chance to visit the Friendship at Home and LIVES stand during the visit.

This was certainly the biggest Open Day yet and we'd love to hear your feedback and see your photos. You can share them with us on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/marinerstrust](http://www.facebook.com/marinerstrust) ■





JIM CONNOR 2017

**TOMMY READ**

# THE LAST LINE

In this new series, Club Historian Rob Briggs looks back at the careers of the most significant keepers in Grimsby Town's history.

**T**ommy Read - like that other great custodian before him, Jimmy Whitehouse - was to spend most of his career as a Mariner. During eight years at Blundell Park, he made over 250 senior outings, helping Grimsby reach the top-flight on two occasions.

Also like Whitehouse a native of the Midlands, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Read's soccer days was that he had made just 11 FL appearances prior to joining GTFC despite then being in his late twenties. An impressive display for Stockport County Reserves in Cleethorpes led to his arrival in May 1927; eight months later, after a forgettable 0-6 home loss to WBA, Read replaced Bill Cowell in goal, soon becoming the club's recognised number one.

Nicknamed 'Rocket' for his alertness and speed off the line, Tommy helped ensure Second Division survival that term before an unexpected promotion in 1928-29. With the lethal Joe Robson supreme in attack Town were always likely to score more than they conceded and, apart from a mini-crisis in December when three successive 1-4 defeats were sustained, the final fixture at Middlesbrough became a Championship title decider. Sadly Read was absent for the first time that term through injury, and the inexperienced Tom Poskett could not prevent a 0-3 loss and promotion as runners-up.

In September 1929 Tommy was beaten by a wind-assisted corner-kick here against Middlesbrough, before indirectly making the headlines in January 1930 regarding his jersey. The struggling Mariners faced relegation when a writer to the local press suggested that 'Rocket's' unlucky green jersey should be changed; the keeper duly opted for a white one v Blackburn, and Grimsby welcomed a 5-3 win!

Tommy was to be absent just once during Town's three-season stay in Division One, during which time he took part in two notable games. In November 1930 Leicester City were beaten 8-2 to record Grimsby's best win in top-flight soccer, while three months later, he was in goal for the club's biggest-ever FL defeat - 1-9 at Arsenal. Actually he conceded ten goals, but one was disallowed!

Two years later the custodian earned £534 from a Benefit game v West Ham (2-1) before his most prominent season as a Mariner - the 1933-34 Second Division Championship term. By now challenged by the emerging George Tweedy, Tommy's 30 games included April's 7-0 hammering of Blackpool - ironically his last senior appearance at Blundell Park.

Manager Frank Womack thereafter opted for the younger talent of Tweedy, and Tommy spent all of 1934-35 in the Reserves. A short spell at Crystal Palace then followed, Grimsby giving him the undisclosed transfer fee in lieu of a second Benefit. He died in 1977. ■

soccer saturday

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# PAST ENCOUNTERS



## WITH COVENTRY CITY

Jody Williams writes about the day the Mariners defeated the Sky Blues at Highfield Road almost 16 years ago.



As away games go, this was in fact the shortest distance I'd ever travelled to an away fixture. Fate and fortune had taken me away from Lincolnshire and I'd found myself working in Royal Leamington Spa. The Sky Blues were naturally the local team of interest so as a Mariners fan the opportunity to see my team so close was an opportunity not to miss.

As an early season fixture the Sky Blues found themselves in an unenviable position. After been relegated from the Premier League after an unbroken 34-year stint the natives were already pretty restless. City had started the season with a poor run of results before the match with the Mariners. Gordon Strachan was under increasing pressure and the match had taken on even more significance as it was already been rumoured that one more bad result could result in the Scot losing his job.

In steps a confident Grimsby Town, a team with a growing reputation for being the straw that broke the camels back. A bad result against the Mariners has often been enough for the Chairman of a club to decide enough is enough so there was a lot more at stake than three points.

After a promising start to the season a game against a big fish was always going to cause some excitement and as I took my seat in the compact and characterful Highfield Road a vocal following who could smell an upset in the Midlands air had travelled over from Lincolnshire. The team featured a formidable midfield of Stuart Campbell, the experience and vision of Paul Groves and the engine of Alan Pouton, a player whose boundless energy more than made up for his nonsense approach. To not be out done on the imported talent front town boasted amongst their ranks, the Dutch midfielder Meno Williams.



The defence was made up of Town legend John McDermott, Danny Butterfield, Tony Gallimore and the on loan David Beherall in front of Danny Coyne.

The Coventry team still had an air of Premier League quality around it and amongst the team they had representatives from Sweden, Morocco and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as highly thought of Jay Bothroyd and former Aston Villa striker Julian Joachim.

To the game itself, town were playing with a genuine confidence and were far from overawed by their loftier opponents, in fact after a relatively even first half Town took a deserved lead when the ball fell kindly to Phil Jevons after a mix up from the Coventry keeper and he gleefully hit the ball into the unguarded net in the 59th minute.

This caused an immediate response

from both the Sky Blues and their supporters. Almost immediately there was a noticeable change in the mood with the frustration that the supporters were feeling becoming noticeably louder.

The team though responded and created a multitude of guilt edged chances and what followed seemed an almost constant succession of goal line clearances and last ditch tackles.

It seemed the pressure would become too much and Town would buckle but the frustration from the stands seemed to heap more pressure on Coventry and chance after chance went begging. Unbelievably Town resisted this constant tide of pressure and the final whistle was greeted with relief from the town support.

The result was obviously too much for the Coventry board and Strachan was dismissed. ■



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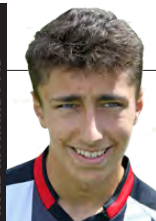
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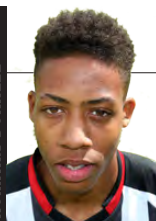
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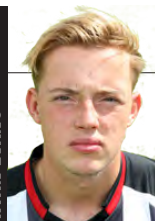
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# CLASSIC SHIRTS

## THE SCORELINE RED AWAY SHIRT

by Pete Anderson

**Sponsor: Food Town**  
**Worn: 1988-90**



46

This Scoreline beauty is often overshadowed by its much-loved black and white 'Food Town' counterpart. It's a classic in its own right though, mainly through the simplicity of its design and use of the favoured GTFC change strip colour of red.

Contemporary attempts at distinctive designs make use of patterning within the base colours, our current Errea shirts being good examples. 1980s football fashions relied on a less fussy approach. Straight lines and block colours ruled and Scoreline used these to fine effect on similar templates for our kits in 1988.

The away shirt uses thin black pinstripes to define a very subtle gloss on alternating red stripes. The pinstripes are neatly topped by black piping across the shoulders. This creates a pleasing continuity with the home kit, which features similar piping as well as the same white/black/red V-neck collar and cuffs. Another contrast with modern shirt design, where standalone designs for home, away and third kits are commonplace.

The red shorts maintain the consistency with a black panel and white trim, the reverse of the home

knicks. The shorts did not have a badge as they do today, instead white GTFC lettering was used. The harmony of design between home and away lent itself to mixing of the kits. An example was at York when the red shorts were matched with our home shirt in consecutive seasons. Both instances resulted in victories with the combination proving luckier than when we employed similar at Morecambe last season. Red socks with a black and white band on the tops completed the kit, although the home kit's white socks were also regularly used.



The famous 'Europe's Food Town' sponsor was a sewn panel, a feature that has disappeared from kits. Unusually, Scoreline chose to position their logo on the upper arm, not on the chest. The player shirt had embroidered logos and crests and this leads to the only thing that lets the shirt down; the replicas sold in the club shop had poorer quality badges that tended to peel off. Also sewn on the player version was the Football League badge, the 1988-89 season being the first time it had been displayed on shirts.

The final detail of note is the black numbering. It was sewn straight onto the shirt without a panel thus maintaining the dominant red/black theme. The kit's finest hour? It must be the FA Cup fourth round replay victory at Reading in 1989, Kevin Jobling's match winner sending us through to face Wimbledon.

The kit was replaced when we switched suppliers to Ribeiro in March 1990, such a mid-season change being a rarity in itself. The kit contains many great design elements that are overdue a renaissance. Being an away kit at the dawn of the replica shirt boom makes the shirt very rare. If you have one, treasure it. ■



Do you think the 1988-90 away shirt is a classic? We put an appeal out on Twitter inviting fans to come forward with their unique stories about the red kit. **Jill Askam** shared a brilliant story with us.

**Hi Jill, thanks for contacting us about the red Scoreline kit we worn between 1988-90. Why will it always have a special place in your heart?**

Well when I heard you were asking about that kit, it brought back some great memories for me as I was working in London for Scoreline who produced it!

**Wow, you worked for Scoreline - that's cool! Were you involved with making Scoreline Town's kit supplier?**

Yes, it was so easy in those days! I arranged a meeting at Blundell Park with Peter Furneaux who said Grimsby Town needed a new supplier for the 1988-89 season. He seemed impressed with what we were doing for West Ham and Norwich city in the (then) First Division, and teams like Leicester and Bournemouth. As I recall, he agreed more or less on the spot to sign Scoreline up so I took my boss for some proper Cleethorpes fish and chips to celebrate!

**You mentioned that Alan Buckley and Peter Furneaux were involved in the kit**

**design, I'm sure the fans would like to know how exactly.**

The deal was agreed before Alan's appointment so we had already started on the kit designs which were approved by Mr Furneaux and, but if I remember rightly Alan was quite specific about wanting black, white and red coloured trim on both the home and away shirts, so of course we obliged and it looked really good.

**Tell us about the day you were invited to the club's photocall. I bet that was special as a Town fan?**

Oh yes it was. I delivered the team kit to Blundell Park myself and was asked to come along to the shoot so I was really excited. It wasn't plain sailing though. At the last minute our factory told me the red Town away socks were delayed! In a panic, the only solution was to steal some from another team who had ordered the exact same style. Luckily socks weren't required to have the team name on or we'd have been in real trouble! When Alan Buckley and a couple of the coaches walked out for the shoot wearing the red away kit, I thought "If only you knew...."

**As a Town fan and someone who worked for Scoreline, did you manage to get some free shirts?**

I did have a couple of shirts and gave a home one to my dad Glyn who has supported town for over 70 years. Unfortunately he hasn't got it now, and confessed to me today he never actually wore it to a Town match! I was lucky enough to get tickets for some Town matches. One that sticks in my mind is the FA Cup 4th round replay away at Reading on a Tuesday night in February 1989. The Scoreline gang were in the directors' box pretending to be neutral but I couldn't contain myself when Town won 2-1. What a night!

**Red away one is still pretty popular with fans. Do you think Scoreline would consider re-releasing the shirt one day?**

Unfortunately Scoreline doesn't exist these days. After I left, I believe it was eventually taken over by Admiral. Maybe someone should have a chat with the guys at Errea and see what they can do? ■





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# WHEN 12,000 TOWN FANS WENT TO COVENTRY



**Neville Butt** remembers the FA Cup Fourth Round tie which captured the imagination of almost the whole town.

**I**t's January '73 and Town had not won an FA Cup tie since succeeding at Portsmouth in January '66. Other than reaching the quarters in 62-63, Coventry's record was similarly uninspiring. Coventry were mid-table in the old First Division with no chance of reaching Europe and already out of relegation danger. Sky Blues supporters felt they had a real chance of making FA Cup headway, especially after easing past Orient 4-1 in the Third Round, but Town had already shown their Cup fighting qualities.

After a somewhat lucky victory against non-league Wigan, they drew at Blundell Park against both Chesterfield and Preston North End before winning the replays. Playing at a First Division ground, against a team Town felt they could defeat, captured the imagination of the Town fans. The week before the tie Town won at Blundell Park against Walsall 6-2 with the headlines "And now for Coventry".

There have been few Mariners' games that had attracted such pre-match attention. The cooperation between the local authorities, the Police, the clubs and the transport providers was exemplary with what was thought to be 10,000 fans finding their way to Highfield Road. In the end it was 12,000 who deserted Grimsby that Saturday morning.

There were two special trains carrying 2,000 spectators between them, more than 150 coaches and hundreds of cars that formed a 10 mile long stream of traffic heading down the A46 to the Midlands with the details of the A46 route and the map of the streets around the ground, provided by a Grimsby Evening Telegraph, bulging with helpful Cup Tie information including confirmation of a link up between Coventry and Grimsby hospitals.

The eve of the match plea from Lawrie McMenemy underlined it was up to Grimsby supporters "to show the rest of the country that you in Grimsby and Cleethorpes know how to

conduct yourselves in a civilised manner". Town fans grasped the nettle and drew the plaudits of Superintendent Garry Whittaker in charge of policing that day. The Sky Blues general manager, one time Everton and England favourite Joe Mercer emphasised: "They (Town Supporters) were absolutely fabulous and a credit to their team. It was a great match where you had healthy participation and razor edge excitement."

The fascination with the game did not end there. The Grimsby paper compared the price paid for the players of the respective teams. Town paid £49,000 in fees for their players. Coventry shelled out £455,000 for five players with the remainder locally produced.

Coventry did not take the game lightly. Team Manager Gordon Milne made a specific trip to Preston to see Town's Third Round Replay. "Grimsby played open football," declared the Sky Blues manager, "They were a credit to their Manager Lawrie McMenemy, who has done a wonderful job. We have to treat Grimsby as a top class side. Mr McMenemy added his thoughts. "The difference in the Divisions is the skill factor. I have skilful players working hard. You can have players working hard but you cannot put the skill there."

To say we were in tightly packed crowd was an understatement. Indeed our brother Bernard never found us in the massive Grimsby contingent. There was a real cup tie atmosphere with the Coventry secretary commenting on the chanting and counter chanting.

Town were under the cosh in the first half, and a run by Brian Alderson was checked by Lew Chatterley but the ensuing rejected penalty appeal did not go down well with the Coventry fans. Town had an uphill struggle. The teams battled in mid-field and Town won a couple of fruitless corners but the Coventry keeper could have taken a book to read during the first half. Coventry began to panic and this panic turned to hysteria as they failed to breakdown our excellent back four. Scotland international Tom

Hutchinson was expected to run rings round skipper Dave Worthington, and to see Dave win the second half battle with Hutchinson was one of the highlights of the game. Coventry deteriorated. Their supporters understood that Town were getting on top and how they were doing this with tactics masterminded for the occasion. The game was evenly poised with the back four of both teams winning the plaudits.

With everyone at Highfield Road expecting a replay at Blundell Park, suddenly the game stopped in the 86th minute and the referee appeared to award a free kick on the edge of the penalty area to the hosts. Nobody knew what for but I felt there may have been some shirt pulling. Wrong again! It would seem that McGuire had taken a tumble but nobody knew how. Those in the know informed us that it was Dave Booth who had forced the Coventry player to ground although Dave Booth denied he ever touched McGrath.

Coventry appealed for a penalty and persuaded the referee Mr Hart to have a word with his linesman who had already lined up level with the penalty spot. After a discussion that seemed to last a lifetime, the referee somewhat sheepishly pointed to the spot. Town protested loud and clear but to no avail. In particular Lew Chatterley and Harry Wainman made their feelings known passionately and Dave Boylen was booked for kicking the ball away from the spot. Mick Coop approached the ball for the defining moment of the match as he despatched his penalty to the left of Harry Wainman.

Town did well after adapting to the comparatively fast tempo of their First Division opponents as the Town long term revival continued. Coventry went on to the Sixth Round but lost at Wolves 2-0. Town only won five of their remaining 18 games and they lost their place in the promotion battle. Coventry won but three of their last 15 games and were nearly dragged into a relegation skirmish. ■

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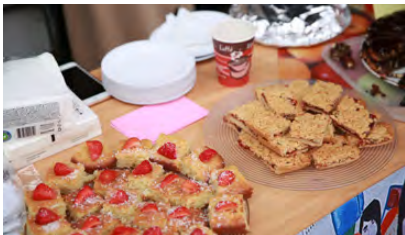


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# GRIMSBY TOWN SPORTS & EDUCATION TRUST



**H**ello and welcome to today's game against Coventry City. Our best wishes go out to the Directors, management, players, staff and all our magnificent fans, lets get behind the team from minute one!

Common Ground officially launched here at Blundell Park on Sunday 23rd July at the Mariners Trust Community Fun Day.

Many Thanks to the Mariners Trust for allowing us to piggy-back their day, and what a day it was!

From 10 am until 4pm the ground was buzzing with people who had come to meet the GTFC's new team and its manager.

Very importantly, it included people who had never been here before, never supported a match, never walked our ground and who had never mingled with GTFC's fans, came and saw and enjoyed our welcome.

On the day we enjoyed the Bollywood Brass Band who had flown in from a gig in Poland. They played in the new team as they met the fans and signed autographs. The Chinese Lion Dance and the Traditional Chinese Dancers came over from Hull and shared their cultural dances with us. We also played over the big screen, Respect films made by Focus 7, with the help of Fusion Youth Theatre, members of the YMCA and local community members. We also arranged for Indian food to be available, as well as cakes. Ladies from the Muslim community

baked and came along and sold cakes, all of which added to the atmosphere to celebrate the value of difference. It was most definitely new for Blundell Park and was well received.

We have been told by members of the Asian and LGBT community that they didn't really know that GTFC was a club for them. However the message we send out now, is that everyone, most definitely everyone, no matter of colour, religion, race or sexuality, are all members of the North East Lincolnshire community and all are welcome here at our club to enjoy a match and support GTFC.

This message was received loud and clear. It was said by one fans, "Never in 26 years of supporting this club have I ever seen a local Asian family sat in one of our stands. This is brilliant!"

We are also pleased to report that a lady from the transgender community, on her journey from man to lady, who helped out at our Common Ground stall, was graciously and politely spoken to all day by everyone, men, women and children who had stopped at the stall. This was her first public appearance as a lady and the welcome at the club gave her great hope and confidence.

The Common Ground message is one of welcome and value. Here at GTFC we want all to know that this is an inclusive club where tolerance and respect towards each other are practiced.

Thank you to everyone. ■

## OUR PARTNERS





## THE BOYS OF '98

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of our famous double-winning campaign back in 1997-98, this season we're going to feature a different player in every edition of *The Mariner*.

This week we catch up with **Kevin Donovan**, the man who scored the all-important goal in the play-off final.

by Jonathan Byrne



**C**ast your mind back to that glorious season of 1997-98 and the Mariners and Northampton crossed swords in three tight encounters.

And who was the scourge of the Cobblers in all three of those games?

It was none other than Wembley hero Kevin Donovan, who struck all three of the Mariners' goals against the Cobblers in that memorable campaign.

Everyone remembers Donovan's contribution at Wembley, the goal that won Town promotion and the subsequent celebrations but there was a lot more to Kevin's season than just that one goal.

Take for example his Goal of the Season contender in the home League fixture with Northampton in October 1997 (Donovan would eventually scoop the Goal of the Season Award, but for his scintillating volley at Burnley in the Auto Windscreens Shield Northern Area Final).

Astonishingly the Mariners had only recorded one home League victory when the Cobblers rolled into Cleethorpes on 11 October 1997.

"It was a tight game, as they were all season against Northampton," he said.

"The gaffer (Alan Buckley) said afterwards that it was going to take something special to win the game and fortunately we were able to produce it."

Northampton had the meanest defence in Division Two and for 44 minutes their five-man wall stood firm against intricate Town attacks.

On the stroke of half time, with the fans probably settling for a stalemate at the interval, Donovan had other ideas – picking the ball up on the right wing he immediately looked up for support and played the ball into Jack Lester.

Lester used his strength well and flicked the ball back into the onrushing Donovan's path.

Kevin chipped the ball over an advancing defender, breezed into the box, jinked past Andy Woodman in the goal and slotted home from the acutest of angles – it was a goal that seems to have got lost in the annals of time.



"It was probably one of our best goals of that season," admitted Kevin, "but with how the season panned out people tend to forget about it.

"We were just starting to pick up a few points in the League and by the time we went to their place we were in the thick of the promotion picture."

Town made their first visit to the Sixfields on 28 February – a tremendous run in the League had seen them surge to the top of the Play-Off pack but the Cobblers were hot on their heels – the pressure was on.

"Northampton were there or thereabouts all season," recalled Kevin, "we went there full of confidence though, on the back of a good run.

"I gave us the lead but we made a few uncharacteristic mistakes at the back to let them have two goals.

"They went above us that day but we weren't downhearted about it and were determined to bounce back."

Town had to wait until the end of May to settle the score and it was in the cauldron of Wembley for the Division Two Play-Off Final.

Kevin was one of the stars of the show, giving the Mariners an 18th minute lead:

"Everyone seems to remember the goalkeeper," he said, "Wayne (Burnett) played

the ball through and I ran onto and looked to send the 'keeper to the ground before putting the ball in.

"Andy Woodman wouldn't go down though, he kept forcing me to nudge it wider and wider.

"When he lost his balance I decided to shoot because any further and I would have gone down, thankfully I managed to squeeze into the gap."

He continued: "In the second half I recall having a chance but the defender stood up well against me and perhaps I chose the wrong option – my legs also went towards the end of the run as well!"

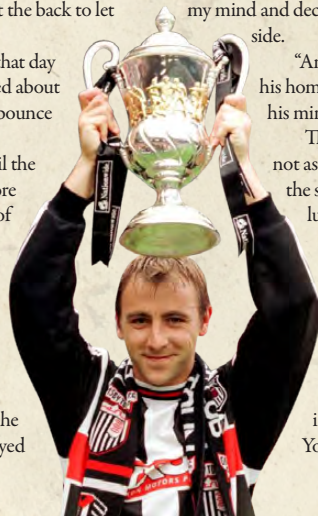
"Then of course there is the penalty miss – that was entirely my fault.

"Livvo picked the ball up and told me to pick my spot but in my run-up I changed my mind and decided to put it the other side.

"Andy didn't have to do his homework because I made his mind up for him."

Thankfully it mattered not as Town triumphed by the solitary goal, despite a ludicrous six minutes of injury time – "it felt like another 90", he wistfully declared.

Kevin still keeps tabs on the Mariners from afar, in between running a soccer school in Brighouse, West Yorkshire. ■





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# 2017-18 STATISTICS

AUGUST			ATT	AWAY	POS							
Sat 5	Chesterfield	A	3-1	7,925	2,650	3	McKeown	Mills	Dixon	Collins	Clarke	Berrett
Sat 12	Coventry City	H	15:00									
Sat 19	Stevenage	A	15:00									
Tue 22	Derby County	H	19:45									
Sat 26	Wycombe Wanderers	H	15:00									
Tue 29	Doncaster Rovers	H	19:45									
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>												
Sat 2	Crewe Alexandra	H	15:00									
Sat 9	Mansfield Town	A	13:00									
Tue 12	Accrington Stanley	A	19:45									
Sat 16	Yeovil Town	H	15:00									
Sat 23	Newport County	A	15:00									
Tue 26	Colchester United	H	19:45									
Sat 30	Lincoln City	H	13:00									
<b>OCTOBER</b>												
Tue 3	Scunthorpe United	A	19:45									
Sat 7	Port Vale	A	15:00									
Sat 14	Crawley Town	H	15:00									
Tue 17	Cheltenham Town	A	19:45									
Sat 21	Morecambe	A	15:00									
Sat 28	Cambridge United	H	15:00									
<b>NOVEMBER</b>												
Wed 8	Sunderland U21s	H	19:45									
Sat 11	Exeter City	A	15:00									
Sat 18	Carlisle United	H	15:00									
Tue 21	Swindon Town	H	19:45									
Sat 25	Barnet	A	15:00									
<b>DECEMBER</b>												
Sat 9	Forest Green Rovers	H	15:00									
Sat 16	Notts County	A	15:00									
Sat 23	Luton Town	A	15:00									
Tue 26	Mansfield Town	H	15:00									
Sat 30	Accrington Stanley	H	15:00									
<b>JANUARY 2018</b>												
Mon 1	Crewe Alexandra	A	15:00									
Sat 6	Yeovil Town	A	15:00									
Sat 13	Newport County	H	15:00									
Sat 20	Colchester United	A	15:00									
Sat 27	Luton Town	H	15:00									
<b>FEBRUARY</b>												
Sat 3	Cheltenham Town	H	15:00									
Sat 10	Crawley Town	A	15:00									
Tue 13	Morecambe	H	19:45									
Sat 17	Cambridge United	A	15:00									
Sat 24	Exeter City	H	15:00									
<b>MARCH</b>												
Sat 3	Carlisle United	A	15:00									
Sat 10	Port Vale	H	15:00									
Sat 17	Lincoln City	A	13:00									
Sat 24	Coventry City	A	15:00									
Fri 30	Stevenage	H	15:00									
<b>APRIL</b>												
Mon 2	Wycombe Wanderers	A	15:00									
Sat 7	Chesterfield	H	15:00									
Sat 14	Barnet	H	15:00									
Sat 21	Swindon Town	A	15:00									
Sat 28	Notts County	H	15:00									
<b>MAY</b>												
Sat 5	Forest Green Rovers	A	15:00									



It was all smiles for Town on the opening day this season!





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# TODAY'S TEAMS



## GRIMSBY TOWN

Manager: Russell Slade

James McKEOWN (GK) 1  
Ben DAVIES 2  
Paul DIXON 3  
Sean McALLISTER 4  
Nathan CLARKE 5  
Danny COLLINS 6  
James BERRETT 7  
Mitch ROSE 8  
J.J. HOOPER 9  
Sam JONES 10  
Sam KELLY 11  
Zak MILLS 12  
Karleigh OSBORNE 14  
Harry CLIFTON 15  
Jamey OSBORNE 16  
Harry CARDWELL 17  
Tom BOLARINWA 18  
Luke SUMMERFIELD 19  
Diallang JAIYESIMI 20  
Scott VERNON 21  
Chris CLEMENTS 22  
Akwasi ASANTE 23  
Jack KEEBLE 24  
Tom SAWYER 26  
Siriki DEMBELE 27  
Ahkeem ROSE 28  
Ben KILLIP (GK) 30



## COVENTRY CITY

Manager: Mark Robins

1 Lee BURGE (GK)  
2 Jack GRIMMER  
3 Chris STOKES  
4 Jordan WILLIS  
5 Rod McDONALD  
6 Liam KELLY  
7 Peter VINCENTI  
8 Michael DOYLE  
9 Max BIAMOU  
10 Marc McNULTY  
11 Jodi JONES  
13 Liam O'BRIEN (GK)  
14 Kwame THOMAS  
15 Dominic HYAM  
16 Stuart BEAVON  
20 Dion KELLY-EVANS  
22 Devon KELLY-EVANS  
23 Reice CHARLES-COOK (GK)  
24 Ryan HAYNES  
25 Jordan TURNBULL  
26 Jordan SHIPLEY  
27 Darragh LEAHY  
28 Callum MAYCOCK  
29 Bilal SAYOUD  
30 Tom BAYLISS  
31 Ben STEVENSON  
32 Kyel REID  
33 Corey ADDAI  
34 Chris CAMWELL  
35 Kyle FINN  
36 Reece FORD  
37 Jack HICKMAN  
38 Jordan PONTICELLI  
39 Jordan THOMPSON

### Officials

Referee: **Richard Clark**

First Assistant Referee: **Ken Haycock**

Second Assistant Referee: **David Plowright**

Fourth Official: **Matthew Mcgrath**

Observer: **Jeff Ward**