

RED & WHITE



VS
OXFORD UNITED

Saturday 3 August, 2019

Kick-off 3pm

Issue 01 | £3



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“

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Tamsin, Sam's mum

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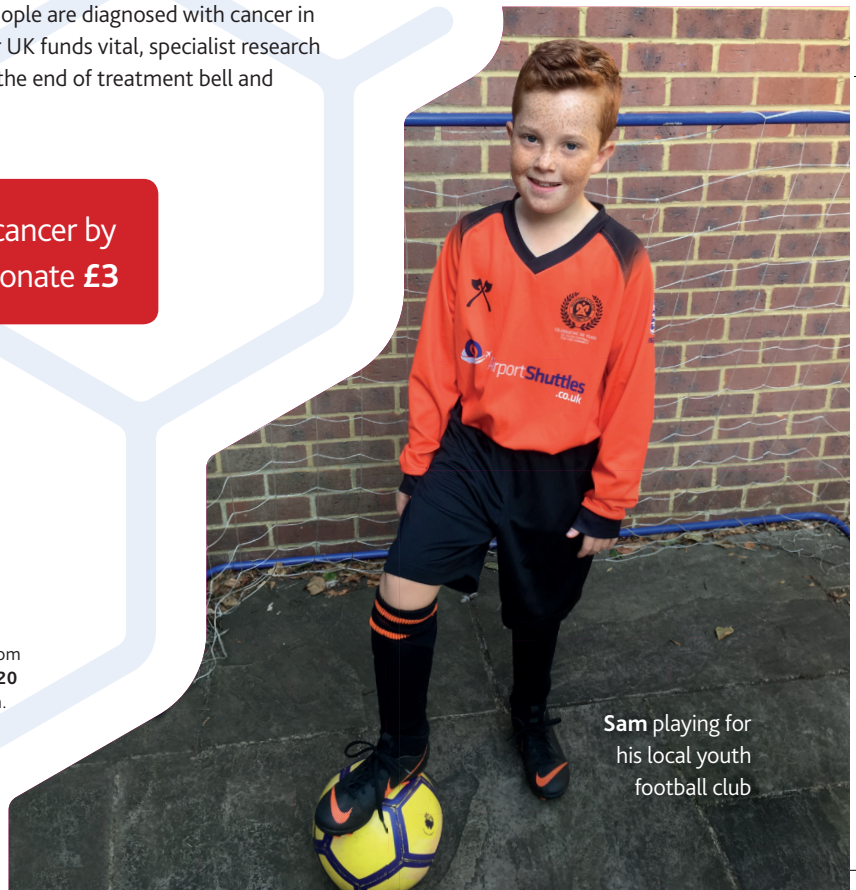
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Registered Charity Number: 298405.
Inaugurated by Diana, Princess of Wales.



Sam playing for
his local youth
football club

SUNDERLAND AFC

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Sunderland, SR5 1SU**

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RED & WHITE

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WELCOME

Welcome back to the Stadium of Light for the opening game of the 2019-20 season. Today, we entertain Oxford United as the Lads look to make a perfect start to the new campaign. Inside issue one, Jack Ross and Stewart Donald review the summer and preview the season ahead, new signing Marc McNulty takes part in the big interview and we have a wealth of new features, including a half-time quiz to keep you entertained!



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JACK ROSS

WELCOME BACK TO THE STADIUM OF LIGHT FOR TODAY'S OPENING GAME OF THE SEASON AGAINST OXFORD UNITED.

would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today, including Karl Robinson and his backroom team, the Oxford players, and the U's supporters that have travelled to the North East.

Pre-season has been tough on the players and they have had to work hard, but that groundwork will provide the foundations that enable us to compete throughout the campaign.

In particular, our final two friendlies will stand us in good stead, as we faced two well-drilled top-tier sides who finished relatively high up their respective divisions.

We were a little frustrated to lose last weekend's game, as we want to develop that winning habit as quickly as we can, but overall, it was a good test ahead of today's League One opener.

The fixture also provided our new signings with a glimpse into the matchday experience here at the Stadium of Light, which will benefit them coming into this afternoon's game.

Overall, I'm pleased with what we've done recruitment-wise. We've been patient and tried to sign the right players, and those who attended last weekend's game hopefully saw that they have settled in well.

They've strengthened and improved us, which is what we wanted to do, and when we've got everybody fit and healthy, we feel we have got a lot of options at our disposal.

We all experienced a special day one year ago on opening day, and we want to replicate the result and atmosphere today to ensure we hit the ground running.

We went on to enjoy a strong home record over the course of the season and we want to improve upon that further, as in doing so we will enable not only a great platform for success but also reward the fantastic support we continue to get within the Stadium of Light.

As a club and as a team, we have come a long way in the past 12 months, learning valuable lessons on and off the pitch. Today, we start a new chapter in that journey, and with your backing, I'm sure it will be a memorable one.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Ross".

Jack Ross





MAX POWER

WELCOME BACK TO THE STADIUM OF LIGHT FOR
OUR OPENING GAME OF THE 2019-20 LEAGUE
ONE SEASON AGAINST OXFORD UNITED.

It was a short summer due to our involvement in the Play-Off Final, and although we endured a heartbreaking end to the last campaign, it feels like we have shaken off the disappointment both as players and staff, and as supporters.

The dressing room is a vibrant and positive place, and it has been since day one of pre-season, and the lads are determined to take the frustrating ending of last year and turn it into a positive.

On a personal note, it was a tough summer in more ways than one, as I've never been injured in the off-season before, and to be forced off at Wembley - in a game I was desperate to make a difference in - was bitterly disappointing.

The training ground is quiet without the rest of the lads, but the hard work paid off, as I didn't expect to be back before the start of the season, and I can't wait to get back out there.

We have brought in a host of new players, adding quality and character to the group, and I'm sure you'll give all our summer signings, as well as the rest of the boys, a warm welcome when we walk out of the tunnel today.

One year ago, the club enjoyed an unforgettable start to the season, as we started in a new era with a massive three points. Today, we need to repeat that result, and start as we mean to go on.

Although I missed that fixture and arrived later in the transfer window, it's clear that we have come a long way in the last 12 months, and both on and off the pitch we are all ready to bring success to the club.

Tough games are on the horizon against sides we expect to be competing with at the top end of the table, so it's up to the boys to lay down a marker and set the tone.

As always, thank you for your support.

Power.

Max Power



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STEWART DONALD

THE NEW SEASON IS FINALLY HERE, AND I'M DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU ALL BACK TO THE STADIUM OF LIGHT.

Today, we host Oxford United and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the U's board, including chairman Sumrith Thanakarnjanasuth, Karl Robinson and his players, and the Oxford supporters that have made the trip to Wearside. Throughout the summer, we had various conversations with multiple parties regarding the club's ownership, but what it ultimately came down to was whether the offers on the table would allow us to kick on.

As a result, we didn't get very far despite vast reports claiming otherwise, as when push came to shove, we didn't feel the club would be any better off than we are today.

Conversations are continuing to take place, and I think we have some wonderfully exciting options to pursue in the coming weeks, but that is merely us being ahead of the game, and planning for a future beyond League One.

On the pitch, we have strengthened by bringing in players with proven quality, but importantly, we have also signed players that can grow with the football club and progress with us up the leagues.

We have had to be patient, as there's not been an awful lot of activity throughout the EFL, but overall, we are pleased with our recruitment to date.

Off the pitch, I would like to say a huge thank you to our supporters on behalf of the players and staff at the football club.

Almost 24,000 of you have already committed to another season of support, all before a ball has been kicked, and I can assure you that as a club, we will never take that support for granted.

We all felt the pain that came with the way our 2018-19 season ended, but speaking to many of you, it's clear that as a club we have dusted ourselves down and we are ready to go once again.

It won't be easy, as we saw last season, but unlike one year ago, we are no longer playing catch up, and we have the manager, players and infrastructure in place to ensure we are at the top of our game from start to finish.

I'm sure there that there will be plenty of twists and turns along the way, but I can't wait to watch them unfold alongside you.

Enjoy the game,

Stewart Donald

drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

HA'WAY THE LADS.



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Source: Nielsen Off Trade MAT Volume, 03.11.18.
CGA On Trade MAT Volume, 08.09.18.

THE RED & WHITE ARMY

IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH RAWA, OR INDEED THE GENERAL IDEA OF ORGANISED SUPPORTER GROUPS, YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN FOR WONDERING 'WHAT'S THE POINT?'



Well, there are some general principles of the values of having an organised voice for fans in order to liaise properly with a football club. Players, owners, CEOs and managers come and go, but the fans are the one constant.

We are always there, passing on our love and traditions to future generations. Sunderland supporters are the one entity with no agenda other than to see our club be the best it can be, and to watch a team to be proud of.

You might think, 'well, that's all well and good, but what does a supporter group do', so, here's a brief summary in numbers of the past 12 months or so...

- 10,000 fans completed our matchday survey
- 350 of you turned up at our first AGM
- Four 'structured dialogue' meetings with SAFC and fellow supporter groups
- 13,000 fans took part in renaming the south stand as the Roker End
- £2,000 of funding was raised to create the giant captain's mural
- 'One Atmosphere Group' created
- £10,000 was raised for flags to create identity, colour and atmosphere
- 300 flags designed and printed
- Four flag displays at home games by 40 volunteers
- 2,000kg of food collected before matches in partnership with Sunderland Foodbanks

And that's just a summary - there's a lot of paddling under the water that goes on to maintain a supporter group and it's all from fans giving up their time for the love of the club.

The club themselves have certainly played their part too, of course. We'd like to thank SAFC for their willingness to meet, to be open to discuss a range of issues and, crucially, to allow us the space for initiatives like the Roker End.

It makes the time spent on RAWA much more enjoyable, rewarding and productive. Many supporter groups have a battle with their club just to secure a meeting - but in a cooperative environment and with mutual respect, we can achieve so much.

Ha'way the Lads
The Red & White Army

RAWA is an independent supporters' group made up of SAFC supporting members with a democratic structure. We have co-opted leads from various different areas of support and our aim is to provide a constant, structured and representative voice for supporters

MATCH ACTION

Thursday 11 July | Mariners Park | Pre-Season Friendly



0

LINE-UP

Connell, Baxter, Adams (Guy 73'), Brown (Wokoma 63'), Morse, Turnbull (Alli 63'), Thurston (Charlton 73'), Lowe (Wright 69'), Foley (Daly 63'), Mason (Triallist 63'), Gillies (Thompson 69').

Sub not used:
Steavens



FIRST-HALF

Jack Ross handed debuts to new signings Lee Burge and Conor McLaughlin as Sunderland started their pre-season schedule at Mariners Park. An impressive first-half performance saw the Lads dominate proceedings and they were rewarded with a goal from Ethan Robson, who finished off a move he started with a stunning finish.



SECOND-HALF

The team picked up from where they left off and continued to put pressure on the Shields' defence. Luke O'Nien got the important goal in the second-half as he finished off a flowing move to put the game out of sight. It was a great test for Ross' men in front of a sold-out crowd, and got their pre-season campaign off to the perfect start.



2

ROBSON (12')
O'NIEN (54')

LINE-UP

Burge, C McLaughlin, Loovens, Bainbridge, Gooch, Honeyman, McGeouch, Robson, Kimpioka, Hackett, Wyke
Second-half: Patterson, Flanagan, Baldwin, Bainbridge (Hunter 69'), O'Nien, Embleton, Leadbitter, Maguire, Watmore, Hume, Grigg



MATCH ACTION

Thursday 18 July | Estádio Sport Lisboa e Benfica | Pre-Season Friendly



LINE-UP

Garrido
Pinheiro
Lystcov
Alvaro
Frimpong
Pinto
Santos
Mendes
Ferreira
Henrique
Conceicao



FIRST-HALF

Jordan Willis made his first appearance for Sunderland after signing from Coventry City prior to the team leaving for Portugal. It was an even affair with both sides creating little in the way of clear-cut chances, but it was a good workout for both sides in searing heat. The best moments came from Lynden Gooch, who set up both Charlie Wyke and Will Grigg.



SECOND-HALF

Ruben Sammut was given the chance to impress in the second-half, as he came on as one of many substitutions. Duncan Watmore came the closest to giving Sunderland the lead, as he hit the crossbar with a speculative chipped effort late on. The Black Cats looked strong defensively and were unfortunate to have not got a winning goal as they pressed their Portuguese opponents.



LINE-UP

Burge, Willis (Loovens 46'), Ozturk (Flanagan 68'), Baldwin, C McLaughlin (Sammut 46'), Leadbitter (O'Nien 46'), Robson (McGeouch 68'), Maguire (Embleton 68'), Gooch (Hume 68'), Wyke (Watmore 68'), Grigg (Kimpicka 46').

Subs not used:

J McLaughlin, Patterson, Diamond



MATCH ACTION

Saturday 20 July | Estádio do Restelo | Pre-Season Friendly



1

CALILA (57')

LINE-UP

Mika
Luis Silva
Lica
Andre Sousa
Kikas
Matija
Nico Velez
Calila
Kiki
Lucca
Nuno Coelho



FIRST-HALF

Sunderland's final game in Portugal came against top division side Belenenses at the Estádio Municipal de Albufeira. The outfits traded chances in what was a quiet first-half, as both sides were experimenting with their starting XI's. Will Grigg came the closest to scoring as he saw an effort roll just past the post early in the first-half.



SECOND-HALF

It was to be Belenenses who scored the game's only goal, as Calia broke the offside trap and finished past a helpless Jon McLaughlin, but the Lads could take positives in seeing Max Power return to the first-team after he went off injured in the Play-Off Final back in May. It was a frustrating way to end the Portugal trip, however, the important thing was to see the squad come out unscathed and get precious minutes on the pitch as they prepare for the new season.



0

LINE-UP

J McLaughlin,
C McLaughlin, Willis,
Flanagan, O'Nien,
Leadbitter, McGeouch,
Hume, Watmore, Grigg,
Embleton
Subs: Burge, Patterson,
Loovens, Baldwin, Ozturk,
Gooch, Wyke, Maguire,
Robson, Diamond,
Kimpoki, Sammut, Power



MATCH ACTION

Saturday 27 July | Stadium of Light | Pre-Season Friendly



0

LINE-UP

J McLaughlin,
C McLaughlin, Willis (Ozturk
87'), Flanagan, Gooch
(O'Nien 67'), Leadbitter
(Dobson 76'), McGeouch
(Power 83'), Hume,
Kimpioka (McNulty 55'),
Embleton, Crigg.

Subs not used:
Burge, Baldwin



FIRST-HALF

The final pre-season game for Sunderland came at the Stadium of Light last weekend as they hosted Heerenveen. Jack Ross gave the home crowd a chance to see new signings Jordan Willis and Conor McLaughlin from the start, as they made up two thirds of the back-three. There were no real chances in the first-half, though the Black Cats could easily have scored through McLaughlin, who saw one effort cleared off the line and a second magnificently saved by the Heerenveen stopper.



SECOND-HALF

We did see a goal in the second-half, as defender Hitcham Faik let rip from 30-yards out and saw his effort fly into the top corner and even earn a round of applause from the home crowd. Elliot Embleton came closest to getting Sunderland level as he saw a free-kick from the right-side ricochet off the post and away from danger. Fans were able to see new recruits Marc McNulty and George Dobson in the second-half, as they were brought on to get a taste of the SoL.



1

FAIK (69')

LINE-UP

Hahn, Floranus, Hoegh
(Skovgaard 59'), Drešević
(Botman 46'), Woudenberg,
Kongolo (Ajujobi 78'),
Rienstra, Faik, Van Bergen,
Odgaard, Bruijn (Van der
Heide 51).

Subs not used:
Frederiksen, Bednarek,
Doornbusch, Hajal, Ras





BUSINESS

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If you would like to join Sunderland AFC's business club or require any further information about membership benefits, networking opportunities and membership fee please contact sharon.ewart@safc.com or call **0191 5515066**

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HOT TOPIC

HOT TOPIC INVITES A RANGE OF WRITERS TO LOOK AT WIDER FOOTBALLING ISSUES CONCERNING MORE THAN JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING AT SUNDERLAND.

It's not just the playing staff and the kits that will have a new look this afternoon. Tweaks to the laws of the game apply in league games for the first time today. Alterations have been made to 10 of the game's 17 laws, so if something seems a little odd this afternoon then it's just the new approach.

Sunderland suffered from some cringe-worthy time wasting in so many games last season but one step in the right direction is that from now on a player being substituted has to depart from the nearest touchline. Players wandering as far as they can from the dug-outs prior to seeing their number signalled before dawdling off have been rumbled!

The days of contested drop balls have effectively been over for ages but now any dropped ball inside the box has to be dropped for the 'keeper. Dropped balls outside the penalty area are to be dropped for the team who last touched the ball, with opponents at least 4.5 yards away. The ball will be dropped if it hits a match official and possession changes, or if the ball goes into the goal.

You might remember just before 'Richardson's rocket' against Newcastle in 2008, Kieran Richardson had a similarly blistering free-kick disallowed at Fulham because Pascal Chimbonda was ruled to have been interfering with the wall. Now any wall of three or more defenders sees no attackers allowed within a yard of it.

On the subject of free-kicks, from now on a free-kick taken within a defending team's box sees the ball in play once the kick is taken. It no longer has to leave the penalty area before it can be played. The same applies to goal kicks which no longer have to travel outside the penalty area to be live, although opponents must still be outside the box until the ball is in play.

Law 12 regarding handball could become a much more contentious change than some of the ones concerning substitutes and goal kicks. There are more caveats to this law than space permits to comprehensively outline here, but in particular rulings on penalties; if the official decrees that the ball has touched a player's hand or arm if they have made themselves unnaturally bigger, seems likely to me to be something that there will be plenty of arguments about.

Penalty takers can now take spot-kicks even if they need treatment before the kick, so long as any treatment is 'quick'. When facing penalties 'keepers cannot be touching the woodwork or net and they must have at least part of one foot on or in line with the goal-line.

There are a handful of other minor changes too and time will tell how all these tweaks will work. My fear is that as each year there are so many little changes the game that became the world's most popular sport largely due to its simplicity will become unnecessarily complicated, but if the ref does something that seems odd today give him a break, he's probably just applying a new ruling.



THE NEWSROOM

STREAMING PACKAGES ON SALE



Supporters can look forward to a new and improved live streaming service this season, with new packages for 2019-20 now on sale.

The enhanced service will now include a clock, live score, replays of goals and key moments during the game and anyone who purchases a package will be able to access full 90-minute replays of every game from midday the following day.

The international match streaming package returns, costing £110 for the season, allowing fans outside the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands to watch every league game

*International match streaming passes include the live audio package).

live online, except for those selected for domestic or international TV broadcast.

For £45, supporters anywhere in the world can purchase a live audio package* and tune into safc.com to hear live commentary of every game in 2019-20.

Additionally, supporters in the UK will be able to live stream selected games - specifically those which do not take place during the UEFA blocked hours of 2.45pm-5.15pm on a Saturday and are not being broadcast on TV.

For further information, visit safc.com.

BLACK CATS LOOKING SHARP

Mens' designer clothing store Aphrodite will once again be SAFC's official team news sponsor for the 2019-20 campaign.

No strangers to looking sharp, the Sunderland-based company will continue to feature on the club's digital channels each and every matchday when we bring you Jack Ross's line-up.

Aphrodite directors and lifelong Sunderland supporters, Andrew and Duncan McKenzie, are delighted to be partnering with the club for the second successive season.



Founded in 1994, the store is Sunderland's go-to place for leading designer menswear, including Moncler, Canada Goose, Stone Island, Belstaff and Adidas to name just a few.

The store can also boast national acclaim and respect from both press and

suppliers alike through their online store www.aphrodite1994.com.

Sunderland season card holders can enjoy 10 per cent off* in-store with the presentation of their valid card.

*Certain brand exclusions apply

ONE CLUB, OUR CLUB

Last month, SAFC launched **#OneClubOurClub**, a new club-wide campaign focused on showcasing the very best of SAFC.

Passion, pride and togetherness take centre stage when Saturday comes, but that drive fuels our club 24/7, with life-changing work undertaken on a daily basis from the Academy of Light to the Beacon of Light.

Building on the 'One Club, Your Club' ethos introduced one year ago, the campaign provides a unique insight into the first-team, academy, SAFC Ladies and Foundation of Light, while also chronicling the stories of the many fans

who play a central role in our collective success both on and off the pitch.

Last season, academy products old and new continued to flourish, as Jordan Henderson and Lucy Bronze were crowned champions of Europe and three national titles were signed, sealed and delivered by the young Black Cats hoping to follow in their footsteps.

Back on Wearside, supporter and community-led initiatives paved the way, from the award-winning 'Big Seat Change' to the 'Gift of Football' campaign that toppled the first of numerous attendance records.

Promotion is once again the primary

objective for both the Lads and Lasses, and from the terraces to the treatment room, we all have a part to play.

SAFC's executive director, Charlie Methven, said: "A successful football club is not just one that achieves great things on the pitch, but one that makes people feel proud to be part of, and feel an identity with, through their actions off it. Last year was about reconnecting and rebuilding, and with a new season on the horizon, it's vitally important that we continue to build on the foundations established to ensure every aspect of SAFC has a sustainable and successful future."

#ONECLUBOURCLUB

GET KITTED OUT

SAFC's 2019-20 campaign is underway and you can get your hands on the new training wear range, as worn by the Lads, now at www.safcstore.com and in the Stadium of Light club store.

The new adidas range will be worn by club players and staff on the training ground, whilst travelling and during matchday warm-ups.

Items available within the range are the popular polos, t-shirts, shorts and the tracksuits you'll see the players wearing over the course of the season.

Fans can check out the full training wear range, as well as the 2019-20 home and away kits, online at www.safcstore.com now!





SPARKS WILL FLY

FOR SOME, SETTLING INTO A NEW CLUB, NEW SURROUNDINGS AND A NEW WAY OF PLAYING CAN BE DIFFICULT.

However, little over a week into his time in the North East Marc McNulty feels right at home and is ready to mix things up as Sunderland look to concoct a successful promotion bid this time round.

Arriving from Reading on a season-long loan, the sweet talking, cheeky figure of the man dubbed 'Sparky', is one that's certainly got a lot of teeth chattering.

Open and honest as he sits down with Red & White's Sam Lightle at the Academy of Light, McNulty starts off by talking about his nickname and what's needed to get the best out of him.


"I've had the nickname since I was five when I joined a local boys' team in Edinburgh called Hutchison Vale," he smiled.

"The coach at the time called me 'Marc Sparks' and from there came 'Sparky'.

"I've been quite lucky that every club I've been too there's always been one person who has known me as 'Sparky'. It's the same here and it's clicked straight away.

"I'm the sort of player who likes to moan a bit at the ref. I think it's good to be like that because it helps get me up for it. I get the best out of myself when I play with that sort of fire in my belly.

"When that's not there you might not see as good a performance, but the standard fans will get from me is putting myself about and giving everything I have."

Coming to the Stadium of Light on the back of a formidable loan in the Scottish Premier League at Hibernian, the 26-year-old is 

INTERVIEW: SAM LIGHTLE





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raring to go after striking home eight goals in 17 games at Easter Road.

Admittedly, that was in the familiar childhood surroundings of Edinburgh, but McNulty has instantly drawn comparisons to both clubs and he's feeling good about things on Wearside.

"My first week or so at the club has been brilliant and to be honest it feels like I've been here a lot longer than I have," he confessed.

"It's not just the boys in the dressing room either because the staff, the manager, his staff and everyone at the club have been very welcoming and that's helped me settle.

"There are some similarities in Hibs and here. Hibs is a really good club,

"MY FIRST WEEK OR SO AT THE CLUB HAS BEEN BRILLIANT AND TO BE HONEST IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE A LOT LONGER THAN I HAVE"



it's got some good people around it and there are a good set of players there.

"I've felt exactly the same in my first few days here. You get that feeling at some clubs where you just know it's going to click. At others it takes a little longer but here I've got the sense it's going to go well."

And it's been a case of so far so good as we enter today's season opener at the Stadium of Light.

After clocking his first minutes in a Sunderland shirt against Heerenveen last Saturday, McNulty hit a treble a behind-closed-doors friendly at the Academy of Light against Hartlepool United on Monday. ➔



A confidence boost, maybe, but the Scottish striker believes it's just another step in the right direction.

"Goals in pre-season aren't really that important. Of course, it's always nice to get a couple of goals but when it's a little friendly behind-closed-doors it's more about getting some minutes in the legs.

"It's all about fitness and for me it was good. I haven't had that many minutes so far in pre-season due to what was going on at Reading.

"To get some minutes last Saturday against Heerenveen, and then 90 minutes against Hartlepool on Monday, was great."

But game time aside, McNulty is well aware of the need to hit the ground running.

"YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT TO BE CONFIDENT. IF YOU'RE COMING TO A CLUB LIKE SUNDERLAND AND YOU'RE NOT CONFIDENT THEN YOU ARE DEFINITELY GOING TO BE UP AGAINST IT"



Having done that north of the border in January, the forward is now gunning to fire Sunderland towards promotion - just like he did at Coventry City two years ago.

"You've definitely got to be confident. If you're coming to a club like Sunderland and you're not confident then you are definitely going to be up against it," he admitted. "I had other options and it would've been easy for me to go to a different team and be in my comfort zone, but I want to come here and challenge myself.

"I wanted to come to a massive club and that's a no-brainer. I know the expectations of people around the club. That can turn bad sometimes, it happened to me at Coventry City and that's a big club too. I went there when they'd just been relegated as the striker that was going to get them goals and

fire them back up. If I'm honest, I was having a bit of a nightmare at the start, but the manager was good to me and I stayed confident and ended up scoring lots of goals.

"Coming here I expect it to be no different. The fans will expect me to hit the ground running and hopefully that will happen."

Right behind him every step of the way will be his family and friends who will be travelling south in their masses today to back him.

And while McNulty knows how much it means to them, he's aware it's just one game of football - a game that will hopefully count towards something so much greater in 10 months' time.

"It's an occasion I'm relishing but my Mrs, friends and family are probably more excited than me," he added. "The

**"I'VE COME HERE
TO GET PROMOTED.
EVERYONE SHOULD BE
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TO BE A PART OF AT A
CLUB THIS SIZE"**



amount of phone calls and texts I've had is just crazy. I've had a lot of people follow me throughout my career and to be just down the road from home now is great. It means a lot to me.

"That said, coming to this club with the opportunity to play in front of huge crowds is so special. It's a no-brainer, I got a little taste of playing at the Stadium of Light last Saturday but playing in front of a full crowd will be even better.

"I've been part of teams before that have been promoted. You don't get many days in football which are high, a lot of players will tell you that, so when they come a long it's something you cherish.

"I've come here to get promoted. Everyone should be saying the same at this club. We must get promoted this year and that's something I want to be a part of at a club this size." 🇬🇧



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LEAGUE ONE PREVIEW

Football is back! It has been 70 days since Sunderland last kicked a ball and there has been a lot to stew over since the final moment of the 2018-19 campaign resulted in the cruellest of Play-Off Final defeats.

But, let's not open old wounds and instead look ahead at the new season, and more importantly, the games that are taking place this weekend.

Where better to start than Portsmouth, who we battled with all season, and start away at Shrewsbury Town.

Kenny Jackett's man have made a few changes this summer, including the sale of star defender Matt Clarke and the purchase of Marcus Harness from Burton Albion.

Doncaster Rovers were the other play-off side from last season, and they start their campaign against Gillingham at the Keepmoat Stadium.

Donny have changed their manager this summer, as Grant McCann left for Hull City, and they replaced him with former West Bromwich Albion boss Darren Moore.

The three relegated sides from the Championship have had very different summers, with Rotherham United and



Ipswich Town having a more settled off-season than troubled Bolton Wanderers.

Bolton will start the season on -12 points because of financial trouble, as will promoted side Bury.

Rotherham get underway at AFC Wimbledon, while Ipswich are away at Burton Albion and Bolton face Wycombe in the battle of the Wanderers.

Elsewhere, the promoted League Two sides are all in action. Bury face fellow newcomers MK Dons at home, Tranmere Rovers host Rochdale and

Lincoln City face Accrington Stanley at Sincil Bank.

Former Sunderland boss Simon Grayson has returned to management and his first game back at Blackpool comes at home against Bristol Rovers.

Peterborough United have splashed the cash this summer, and they start their season at home to Joey Barton's Fleetwood Town.

And finally, Coventry City will play their first game at St. Andrew's against Southend United.

TODAY'S OTHER LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES (KICK-OFF 3PM UNLESS STATED)

AFC Wimbledon vs Rotherham United, Blackpool vs Bristol Rovers, Burton Albion vs Ipswich Town, Coventry City vs Southend United, Doncaster Rovers vs Gillingham, Lincoln City vs Accrington Stanley, Peterborough United vs Fleetwood Town, Shrewsbury Town vs Portsmouth, Tranmere Rovers vs Rochdale, Wycombe Wanderers vs Bolton Wanderers.



OXFORD UNITED

AHEAD OF THIS AFTERNOON'S FIXTURE, WE ASSESS THE DANGERS POSED BY KARL ROBINSON'S OXFORD UNITED

Oxford ended last season in great form. Six wins and three draws came in their last 10 games, the only defeat being a final-day loss at champions Luton.

The U's drew both games against Sunderland and will be doubly determined to earn another result against the Weariders in order to get this season off to a brighter start than last year, when they lost their first four league games, conceding eight goals in their first two away trips to Barnsley and Portsmouth.

In readiness for an opening day at the Stadium of Light, manager Karl Robinson used his Liverpool connections to start pre-season with a visit to Steven Gerrard's Rangers at Ibrox. The Oxford gaffer compared playing at Rangers with Sunderland, stating: "It will replicate that for us and we know that both of those grounds can become cauldrons."

"IT WILL REPLICATE THAT FOR US AND WE KNOW THAT BOTH OF THOSE GROUNDS CAN BECOME CAULDRONS"
[KARL ROBINSON]

Oxford's preparations have come a long way since the 5-0 reverse they suffered with Jermain Defoe dedicating his goal to Bradley Lowery on the second anniversary of Bradley's death.

A training camp in Portugal steadied the ship before the last of nine friendlies last weekend at Solihull Moors. Their penultimate match saw Oxford hold Fulham a few days after only narrowly losing to QPR.

Since last season a team's worth of departures include captain Curtis Nelson, who has joined Cardiff after being ever-present last term. Incoming men include the ex-Motherwell pair, Scotland international Chris Cadden and ex-Sunderland academy prospect Alex Gorriin, while Rotherham wideman Anthony Forde arrived in midweek on a two-year deal.

Pre-season outings have centred around a 4-2-3-1 shape with Gorriin and ex-Liverpool man Cameron Brannagan anchoring the midfield and the energetic Malachi Napa or more experienced Jamie Mackie up front.

Twenty years have elapsed since Oxford's last season at Championship level - in the season they lost 7-0 at the Stadium of Light - but having ended last season so strongly they could well be contenders to be amongst the leading pack this term.

HEAD-TO-HEAD v SUNDERLAND



W6 D7 L15

LAST FIVE MEETINGS





THE BOSS



KARL ROBINSON

BORN: LIVERPOOL
13 SEPTEMBER 1980
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
 CHARLTON (2016-18)
 MK DONS (2010-16)
GAMES: 69

At Oxford since March 2018, Karl Robinson has almost a decade's worth of experience as a manager and yet is still only 38. All but one of his seasons as a boss have been in League One, so he knows the division inside out, and he is looking for the 200th win of his career today.

A Merseysider, Robinson commenced with Everton as a nine-year-old, joined Swindon at 15 but after injury found himself at Liverpool by the age of 19 - as a coach! He combined working with the LFC Academy with a well-travelled career as a player in non-league until 2007, when he took up a coaching position at MK Dons under Paul Ince who he had impressed at Liverpool.

Ince subsequently took Robinson to Blackburn, where he later worked under

Sam Allardyce, whose grandson he has just signed. Ince and Robinson were re-united at MK Dons in 2009, with Robinson becoming manager the following year.

A series of cup wins over Premier League sides, including a 4-0 hammering of Manchester United, followed by promotion to the Championship in 2015 attracted attention to the youthful boss. Simultaneously Robinson built on a reputation for trying to get his sides to play good football and a developer of young talent, most notably giving a debut to 16-year-old Dele Alli.

Leaving MK Dons late in 2016, he soon took over at Charlton where he had 18 months before coming to Oxford.

STAR MAN


**CHRIS
CADDEN**
DEFENDER/
MIDFIELDER

Scottish international recently signed on a season-long loan from Columbus Crew, who he had just joined having ended his contract at Motherwell last season. A forceful right-back who gets forward, Cadden can also operate as an attack-minded midfielder. Debuting for Motherwell in 2014, he went on loan a year later to Albion Rovers, a club his father Steve had won a league title with - a feat Chris equalled, scoring in the game that sealed the Second Division title. The Caddens are a footballing family, Chris' twin Nicky plays for Morton. The season before last he played in the Scottish Cup and League Cup Finals alongside ex-Sunderland men Trevor Carson and Peter Hartley.


**SAM
ALLARDYCE**
DEFENDER

No, not that one. But nearly, Sam is Big Sam's grandson. Newly signed from Bury and described as an 'old-school defender' by his new manager Karl Robinson. 19 next month Allardyce junior is yet to make a senior debut, but having started in the academy at Manchester United and with his new manager's reputation for developing young talent, this could be the breakthrough season for 'Little Big Sam.'


**CAMERON
BRANNAGAN**
MIDFIELDER

Has the pedigree of nine Liverpool appearances five seasons ago and playing for England up to Under 20 level. Joined Oxford in 2018 after being a team-mate of Conor McLaughlin on 13 occasions for Fleetwood, the last of these in a Play-off meeting with Bradford. Once scored against Sunderland at Under 23 level for Liverpool and found the back of the net six times in 53 games last season.


**ROB
DICKIE**
DEFENDER

Former England youth cap who joined from Reading and made 49 appearances for the U's last season. Spent 13 years, from the age of eight, with The Royals but played just once for the club from which he had three loans before moving to Oxford. Has only ever scored 11 goals but two of those have come in his first game of the season. The 23-year-old penned a new two-year deal with the club earlier this week.


**SIMON
EASTWOOD**
GOALKEEPER

Now in his second spell with the club, Eastwood turned 30 during the summer and needs just 11 more league appearances to reach a career double century. Luton born Eastwood has also played for Huddersfield, Woking, Bradford, Portsmouth and Blackburn. He played in last season's draw with the Lads at Oxford but not in the game at the Stadium of Light.


**ROB
HALL**
FORWARD

This season is a big one for Hall, who missed almost all of the previous campaign with a knee injury, returning shortly before the end of the term. He burst onto the scene with a debut goal, one of five in his first nine games, for Oxford in 2011 when on loan from West Ham. He went on to sign for Bolton and has twice scored on his first appearance of the season.


**TARIQE
FOSU**
MIDFIELDER

Wideman newly signed from Charlton but he did not play for the Addicks in last season's Play-Off Final or their opening day visit to the SoL. A team-mate of Conor McLaughlin during a loan with Fleetwood in 2015-16, Fosu did play against the Lads in January's draw at The Valley. A debutant for Reading in May 2015, he reached his 100th league appearance in March.



**JAMES
HENRY**
MIDFIELDER

Well-travelled winger who like goalkeeper Eastwood turned 30 during the close-season. Top scorer last term with 15 goals in total, including an autumn run of eight in nine games. A League One winner with Wolverhampton Wanderers in 2014, he needs three more league appearances to reach 400, almost a quarter of which have been off the bench. Has 66 league goals to his name and 77 in total.



**SAM
LONG**
DEFENDER

Oxford's longest-serving player at the age of 24, Long can operate in either full-back berth but is primarily a centre-back. Came through the club's youth system and debuted back in 2013. Although he didn't play in either meeting with Sunderland he played 26 times last season, reaching a career half century with the U's in April, shortly after signing a new contract with the club.



**JAMIE
MACKIE**
FORWARD

Experienced Scotland international who debuted way back on Boxing Day 2003 for Wimbledon. Had three seasons in non-league football with Exeter, doing so well he commanded a £145,000 fee to move back into the EFL with Plymouth. After stepping up to QPR, Nottingham Forest were sufficiently impressed to pay £1million for him in 2013, an indicator of the quality he has always possessed.



**JOHN
MOUSINHO**
DEFENDER

A team-mate of Tom Flanagan at Stevenage and Burton, Mousinho made his debut against Oxford for Brentford almost 14 years ago. Once a Play-Off Final hero with a goal for Stevenage in 2011, he has subsequently twice been a promotion winner with Burton. A former captain of Preston North End, the 33-year-old Londoner is two games short of 500 senior appearances.



**MALACHI
NAPA**
MIDFIELDER

Speedy winger who could be an important figure this year after a strong pre-season, in particular against Rangers where he responded to playing at Ibrox. He gained experience on loan to Macclesfield last term. Now 20-years-old, the Londoner is a product of the U's Academy, although he played his first football as part of the youth set-up at Reading.



**JOSH
RUFFLES**
MIDFIELDER

Oxford born 25-year-old who came to his hometown club after beginning with Coventry, who he made his solitary league appearance for eight years ago this month. Almost exactly two years later Ruffles made his Oxford debut, since when he has developed as a club stalwart, with well over 200 games under his belt, over 50 of those coming last season.

STAR MAN



**BEN
WOODBURN**
FORWARD

Oxford signed Ben Woodburn on a season-long loan from Liverpool last Tuesday. Woodburn burst onto the scene when he became the Anfield giant's youngest ever scorer just 45 days beyond his 17th birthday, breaking Michael Owen's record in the process. Debuting for Wales when just 17, he already has ten caps and of course his former international manager Chris Coleman was keen to bring him on loan to Sunderland. He has played in red and white stripes, spending last season on loan to Sheffield United, although he started just one league game for the Blades and didn't score in his eight appearances for them. He did however find the back of the net on his most recent senior appearance - in an international for Wales.



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PLAYED FOR BOTH

ROB MASON TURNED THE SPOTLIGHT ON A PAIR OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE SERVED BOTH OF TODAY'S CLUBS



ALEX GORRIN

SAFC APPS: **YOUTH** / OXFORD APPS: -

Looking for a competitive debut for Oxford today is Alejandro Rodriguez Gorrin. Born in Tenerife, he is a player who came through the Sunderland Academy and could finally get a chance to play in a first-team game at the Stadium of Light, having turned 26 on Thursday.

Dubbed 'Alex' when he played for Kevin Ball at Sunderland, Gorrin is a stylish midfielder who has a goal in him, as U's fans have already seen when he drove home in a pre-season meeting with QPR.

At Sunderland from 2009 to 2014, since leaving Wearside Gorrin has played all around the world: in New Zealand (in the Australian A league), Portugal, Romania and last season in Scotland, where he made 25 appearances for Motherwell.

Having come to Sunderland due to a contact of Carlton Fairweather, Gorrin became Sunderland's Premier League Scholar of the Year in his first campaign in England. He went on to play alongside the likes of George Honeyman, Duncan Watmore and Jordan Pickford. Prior to his release by Gus Poyet, Gorrin made 10 Under-21 appearances in his last season of 2013-14, scoring twice.



MARCO GABBIADINI

SAFC APPS: **185** / OXFORD APPS: **5**

Arguably the most exciting forward to play for Sunderland in the final decade of Roker Park, 'Marco Goalo' had a spell on loan to Oxford while on Birmingham's books.

Still a pundit offering his views on the BBC's Total Sport nightly 'phone-in, Marco can be as direct on the microphone as he was on the pitch. Partnered with the exquisite talents of veteran Eric Gates, Gabbiadini became one half of the 'G-Force' as he blasted Sunderland straight out of this division.

Arriving from York in September 1987, Gabbiadini hit 21 goals in 35 league games as the division was won. Two seasons later promotion was achieved again, Gabbiadini's most famous goal coming in the play-off win at Newcastle.

During that season he had scored the only goal of both games against Oxford, who he joined in January 1997. Debuting in a Championship level game against Manchester City, 'Gabbas' made five appearances for the U's, the last against Crystal Palace who he had joined from Sunderland. The only one of his 222 English league goals for Oxford came against Ipswich. At no club did he score as many as his 74 for Sunderland.

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

RED & WHITE HEAD BEHIND ENEMY LINES TO GET THE LOWDOWN ON THIS AFTERNOON'S OPPONENTS, OXFORD UNITED. TODAY, **GEORGE ELEK** OF THE 'NOT THE TOP 20 POD' PROVIDES ALL WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE U'S...



Tariqe Fosu

HI GEORGE, THANKS FOR JOINING US. WHAT HAS THE SUMMER BEEN LIKE FOR OXFORD UNITED?

GE: "At this moment in time, it has been incredibly frustrating. We ended the season brilliantly and there was a real sense of optimism about kicking on over the summer, but we have only brought in three players so far and there are massive holes in the squad. Loanees that we wanted to keep in Marcus Browne and Jerome Sinclair turned us down, and to make matters worse, it now looks like our best player, Gavin Whyte, will be moving on. With only one recognised striker in Jamie Mackie, and a worrying hole in the

middle of the defence, it's fair to say everyone involved in the club would like to go back to May and start again."

AFTER A NICE MID-TABLE FINISH LAST SEASON, WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS HEADING INTO THIS CAMPAIGN?

GE: "Now, to ensure we don't get embroiled in a relegation battle. A couple of additions up top and at the back will see that shift towards a top-half finish at least. There is quality in the squad and those brought in look of a good standard, but with the lack of depth it is impossible to be optimistic."

WHICH PLAYERS ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE SUNDERLAND THE MOST PROBLEMS TODAY, AND WHY?

GE: "Cameron Brannagan is set for a big season in the centre of midfield with bundles of energy and fantastic technical ability, and he should thrive alongside new signing Alex Gorin. Tariqe Fosu signed this summer and looks like he will cause many full-backs issues this campaign. This game may come a bit soon for them, but Mark Sykes and Shandon Baptiste will have huge futures. You may remember Baptiste from last season when he enjoyed himself at the Stadium of Light, but he is returning from a long injury so may not feature. I hope this will be the best time to play us all season."



Cameron Brannagan

Jamie Mackie



WHICH PLAYERS ARE YOU MOST WORRIED ABOUT IN THE SUNDERLAND SIDE AND WHY?

GE: "I'm a huge fan of Elliot Embleton, and we often said on the podcast last year that the answer to Sunderland's problems was a Sunderland player loaned out to Grimsby. Aiden McGeedy is clearly a class above at this level, and Chris Maguire is one of my favourite Oxford players ever, so I'm always worried about seeing him perform well. Thankfully, so far, he doesn't seem to enjoy playing against us. Maybe it's something about having his name sung by opposition fans rather than booed!"

WHERE DO YOU EXPECT OXFORD AND SUNDERLAND TO FINISH THIS CAMPAIGN?

"WE DESERVED TO BEAT YOU TWICE LAST SEASON AND ENDED UP WITH TWO DRAWS, SO IT'S YOUR TURN TO COME AWAY UNLUCKY"

GE: "I think Sunderland will be close to the top end of the table. There were clear issues last season and it wasn't appreciated when I pointed them out back in October. I'm not convinced that they have been addressed, but this looks a poorer league than last year, so a top-three finish in my opinion. Oxford could finish anywhere between sixth and 24th, but it will be a struggle if quality, rather than just bodies, aren't brought in soon."

HOW DO YOU EXPECT OXFORD TO LINE UP AHEAD OF TODAY'S GAME?

GE: "It'll be a 4-2-3-1, with an onus on getting the ball to the wide men. We like to keep the ball and I can't see us dropping deep, although a lack of strikers will make it hard to get the ball to stick up top. Personnel-wise it depends on the business conducted this week."

FINALLY, WHAT IS YOUR SCORE PREDICTION FOR TODAY?

GE: "We deserved to beat you twice last season and ended up with two draws, so it's your turn to come away unlucky. An undeserved point in a 1-1 draw for the away team, although no denying that Sunderland are the likely winners."

ROLL BACK

CLUB HISTORIAN ROB MASON DISSECTS A PROGRAMME FROM THE PAST

The programme we kick off this series with is from the first ever meeting between today's clubs in 1970. Oxford were in only their ninth season as a Football League club when they travelled to Roker Park to meet Sunderland, who had just been relegated for only the second time in their history.

COVER

The great Billy Hughes - later a key figure as Sunderland won the FA Cup two and a half years later - was the cover star of the programme. With the use of red on some of the page headings being the only colour used in the programme, the cover shot from the training ground was a black and white image.

At the time the teams were printed on the front cover and you can see from my copy I have committed the cardinal sin (for collectors) of writing the team changes on the programme. In my defence I was only 12 at the time.

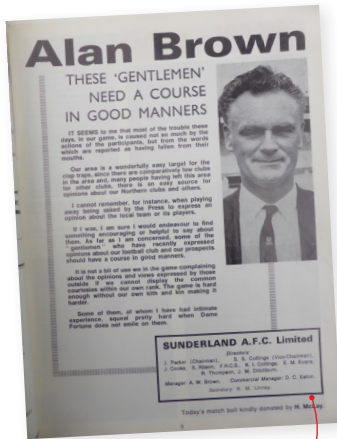
PRICE & PAGINATION

The programme cost one shilling in old money. The UK was four months away from the switch from the traditional pounds, shillings and pence to the decimal system we have today. In preparation the price was also given in 'new money', which in this case meant that the programme cost five new pence.

For this you got a 16-page programme plus a separate magazine called the Football League Review. This was a small format publication that covered the whole league and usually didn't have anything in it about Sunderland.



“YOU CAN SEE FROM MY COPY I HAVE COMMITTED THE CARDINAL SIN (FOR COLLECTORS) OF WRITING THE TEAM CHANGES ON THE PROGRAMME”



HIGHLIGHTS

Although there were only 16 pages in the actual programme there was plenty to read. Manager Alan Brown used his column to criticise unnamed people at other clubs who he describes as ‘claptraps’, going on to point out that: “Some of them, of whom I have intimate experience, squeal pretty hard when ‘Dame Fortune’ doesn’t smile on them.”

Elsewhere in the programme there are welcomes to the newly-signed Dick Malone and new club secretary Ron Linney. Both went on to give lengthy and valuable service to the club. Another newcomer that day (but not in the programme) was my six-year-old brother Gordon who was attending his first match.

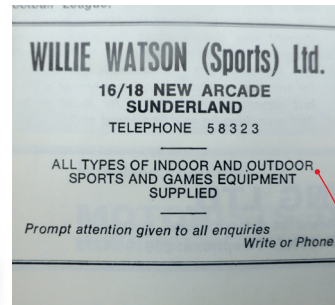
VISITORS

The centre pages of the Roker Review were devoted to Oxford. This consisted of a little bit of club history, a team photo, a feature on the U’s new signing Derek Clarke - of the famous Clarke footballing family - and pen pictures of the squad.



BY GEORGE

Managers, chairman and players come and go but supporters are with the club for life. Modern day Supporters’ Association chairman George Forster is still going strong well into his nineties and is now something of a legend. There can’t be many Sunderland supporters who haven’t been sold something by George over the decades and here he is pictured back in 1970 with star player Colin Todd - who 14 years later would play for Oxford.



ADVERTS

Former Sunderland star Willie Watson advertised his sports shop in the town centre. A double-international who played for England at football and cricket, Willie’s sports shop in the long gone ‘New Arcade’ was a local institution. North Bridge Street cars is just around the corner from where the Stadium of Light now stands. The most expensive car in their programme ad was a year-old E Type jag - yours for £2,045!



MATCH FACTS

Saturday 24 October 1970 | Attendance: 16,376

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DUG-OUT DEPUTIES

CLUB HISTORIAN **ROB MASON** TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON FORMER ASSISTANT MANAGERS AND COACHES.

We start this series with Ian MacFarlane who passed away during the summer. He had two spells at Sunderland, firstly as a coach under Alan Brown in the late Sixties and later under Bob Stokoe, becoming caretaker-manager after Stokoe resigned in 1976.

MacFarlane's career was littered with Sunderland connections. Twenties striker Dave Halliday signed him for Aberdeen and Leicester, he was a team-mate of Fifties forward Charlie 'Cannonball' Fleming at Bath, he coached Dennis Tueart at Manchester City and Dave Buchanan at Leicester, worked alongside Lawrie McMenemy at Sheffield Wednesday and for Howard Wilkinson at Leeds.

Born in Lanark in January 1933, Ian started his professional career with Aberdeen, signing for them in May 1954 after beginning with Douglas Water Thistle. He made 16 competitive appearances for the Dons, catching the eye of Chelsea who signed him in August 1956.

MacFarlane played 43 times for the Stamford Bridge outfit, the last against Blackpool in March 1958. At the end of that season he moved to Leicester City for £9,000. There would be just a single league appearance for the Foxes in an

injury-hit spell. Dropping into non-league with Bath City he played 330 times, some of those under the management of Malcolm Allison. During the 1966-67 season MacFarlane became part of the management team at Bath, where he attracted the attention of Alan Brown at Sheffield Wednesday. Brown took on MacFarlane and Bishop Auckland manager McMenemy as joint assistants at Hillsborough. As the pair progressed, on one occasion they travelled together to be interviewed for the manager's job at Carlisle, only to lose out to Bob Stokoe.

When Brown returned to Sunderland, MacFarlane followed him for a spell as coach between July and October 1969. Ian eventually got the chance to be number one in his own right when he became boss at Carlisle in 1970. After leaving Brunton Park in June 1972, next stop for MacFarlane was Middlesbrough where as assistant he helped Jack Charlton's side to win the Second

Division in 1974. He then linked up with his old Bath City full-back partner Tony Book who was manager of Manchester City.

Just 11 days after seeing Sunderland old boy Tueart spectacularly score the winner against Newcastle in the League Cup Final,

MacFarlane swapped City for Sunderland where he came to assist Stokoe.

Champions of Division Two a couple of months after he arrived at Roker, MacFarlane found himself in charge from 18 October 1976 as Stokoe's immediate successor. Ian oversaw seven games, a quartet of defeats, a draw at Manchester United and wins over Coventry and Tottenham, but he was discarded after Jimmy Adamson was appointed as manager.

MacFarlane returned to his former club Leicester (working with a young Gary Lineker) where he also had a stint in caretaker charge in 1978 and in the summer of 1984 became manager of non-league Yeovil. His last job in football was at Leeds as chief scout for Wilkinson.



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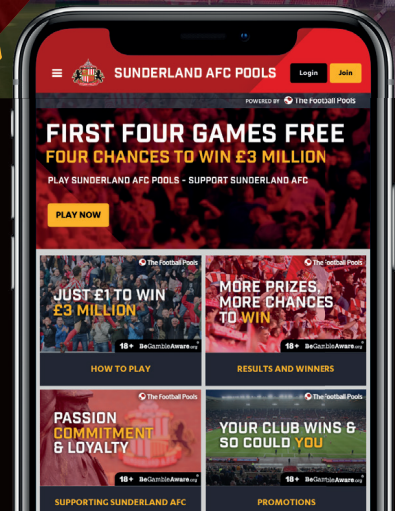
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HALL OF FAME

ROB MASON PAYS HOMAGE TO THE GREAT AND THE GOOD OF SUNDERLAND AS THE CLUB'S HALL OF FAME IS LAUNCHED

During the summer Sunderland AFC held a hugely successful inaugural Hall of Fame dinner at the Stadium of Light. You may well have seen one of the three buses in the area decorated in photo's of the 11 Sunderland legends who were the initial inductees in an event sponsored by Stagecoach.

Niall Quinn, Jim Montgomery and 1973 FA Cup-winning skipper Bobby Kerr were in attendance, while direct descendants of some of the greatest names in the club's entire history travelled from around the country to receive the awards of an inscribed salver in the name of their famous family member.

First to be inducted was club founder James Allan. His Great Great Grandson Brendan O'Donnell accepted the award. Robin Auld, the nonagenarian grandson of the first captain of the 'Team of All The Talents' Johnny Auld, was also on hand to accept an award on behalf of his relation. As well as captaining the first title-winning team of 1892, Johnny Auld was later a key figure in keeping the club financially afloat during the Great War.

Sunderland's all-time top two scorers Bobby Gurney and Charlie Buchan were represented by their granddaughters, Jill Barton and Frances Klepp who travelled from Humberside and Torquay respectively.



Raich Carter's son - also called Raich Carter - and Roger Shackleton, the son of the 'Clown Prince of Soccer' Len received accolades on behalf of their fathers.

Player of the Century Charlie Hurley and record outfield appearance holder Len Ashurst both hoped to attend only for ill-health to prevent them, but Charlie's grandson Matt Tichen accepted the award on 'The King's' behalf with Jim Montgomery accepting the recognition on behalf of Ashurst.

Hosted by the BBC's Jeff Brown, who expertly drew wonderful tales from each of the guests, the audience were fascinated by so many stories, almost all of which had never been told in public before.

A Hall of Fame is being created in what was formerly known as the Magic Moments Bar. Photographs of inductees will be added to the new display in the Hall of Fame after every dinner, the next one being scheduled for the end of this season when we hope Kevin Phillips and Dave Halliday will be amongst the new inductees.

'Superkev' was eager to come to the inaugural event but unfortunately was out of the country. Phillips holds the record for most goals in a season. Halliday holds the overall record of 43 goals in 1928-29. Indeed Halliday holds a host of records which I will discuss in the next programme as Sunderland support attempts to have him inducted into the Scottish Football Hall of Fame too.

A-Z: WILL GRIGG

FROM FAVOURITE CAREER MOMENTS AND GREATEST FEARS TO CELEBRITY MATES AND MUSICAL TASTES, **RED & WHITE** GETS AN ALPHABETICAL INSIGHT INTO THE SUNDERLAND SQUAD

A APPEARANCE

Against which team did you make your Sunderland debut?
Oxford



D DESTINATION

What's your favourite place to go on holiday?
Barbados



H HOBBIES

What do you do when you're not playing football?
Spend time with my family

B BANTER

Who's the biggest joker in the dressing room?
Me



E EAT

What's your favourite food?
Nandos



I IDOL

Who did you look up to when you were a kid?
Zidane



F FANS

Describe the Sunderland fans in one word?
Passionate

J JAM

What's your favourite song?
The Foals, 'Spanish Sahara'

C CELEBRITY

Who's the most famous person in your phonebook?
Steven Davis

G GOAL

What's been your best strike to date for Sunderland?
Bristol Rovers away



K **KEY**
Who's Sunderland's key man?
McGeady



L **LOVE**
What made you fall in love with football?
That winning feeling

M **MOMENT**
If you could relive one moment from your career, what would it be?
My goal against Manchester City



N **NICKNAME**
What's the best nickname you've heard in football?
'Crackers', Michael Jacobs



O **OPTIMISM**
What do you want to do when you retire?
Stay in the game in some way

P **PETS**
Do you prefer cats or dogs?
Dogs



Q **QUALITY**
Who are the best players you've played with and against?
Steven Davis and Kevin De Bruyne



R **RAPID**
Who's the fastest player in the squad?
Benji Kimpioka

S **SUPPORT**
Growing up, which club did you support?
Birmingham City



T **TV**
What series are you currently watching?
'Stranger Things'



U **UNKNOWN**
Tell us something we might not know about you?
I had two goldfish called Ronaldo and Del Piero



V **VIDEO GAMES**
Do you have a favourite?
Call of Duty



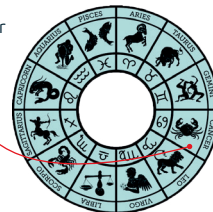
W **WIN**
Your favourite win in football?
Manchester City in the FA Cup

X **XYLOPHONE**
Can you play a musical instrument?
Triangle



Y **YIKES**
What's your biggest fear?
The sea

Z **ZODIAC**
What's your star sign?
Cancer





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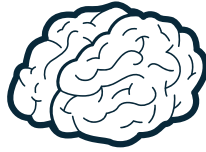


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IN THE KNOW?

FOOTBALL KNOWLEDGE:

1. Where did Sunderland sign Darren Bent from?

2. Which player scored Sunderland's first hat-trick at the Stadium of Light?

3. Who were the opponents when England played their first full international at the Stadium of Light in 1999?

4. Wayne Rooney was sent-off in England's 2006 World Cup quarter-final fixture against which team?

5. Which Premier League team did Michael Owen join after leaving Manchester United?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- A. Into which sea does the Nile flow?

- B. In American currency 10 cents make a what?

- C. What poisonous oily liquid occurs naturally in tobacco leaves?

- D. What is the gemstone for September?

- E. What is the common name of the 'Aurora Borealis'?

SCORE:

ANSWERS: 1. Tottenham Hotspur, 2. Niall Quinn (Sunderland 4-1 Stockport, 7th March 1998), 3. Belgium, 4. Portugal, 5. Stoke City, A. Mediterranean, B. Dime, C. Nicotine, D. Sapphirer, E. Northern Lights



RARING TO GO

CONOR McLAUGHLIN WAS THE FIRST SUMMER ADDITION THROUGH THE DOOR AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT, AND HIS TIMELY ARRIVAL HAS ENSURED HE'S BEEN ABLE TO SETTLE INTO HIS SURROUNDINGS AHEAD OF THE NEW CAMPAIGN.

Last weekend was his first taste of the Stadium of Light, and the supporters would have been impressed with his contribution, as he looked strong in the tackle and offered plenty going forward.

The Northern Ireland international has enjoyed a successful career, playing consistently for his country and impressing while playing for Millwall and Fleetwood Town.

His versatility will be a key factor, as he is comfortable at right-back and as the right-sided centre-back if the manager chooses to play with three central defenders.

The game against Heerenveen was the perfect test for McLaughlin, and indeed the whole squad, as they got back to the Stadium of Light and back into the regular matchday routine.

While the game acted as a dress rehearsal, the playing squad were treating it as the real deal.

"Pre-season friendlies are really important for the whole team, as it gives us the chance to get some minutes under our belt and get that match fitness back," McLaughlin explained.

"YOU CAN'T GET THAT REAL PRE-GAME HYPE LIKE YOU DO WITH A LEAGUE FIXTURE, BUT THE OUTING AGAINST HEERENVEEN WAS A GREAT WAY FOR US TO PREPARE FOR THE REAL DEAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT"

"Of course, you can't get that real pre-game hype like you do with a league fixture, but the outing against Heerenveen was a great way for us to prepare for the real deal, especially since it was at the Stadium of Light."

The atmosphere at Sunderland is often discussed by new players, with the sheer number of supporters who come to watch the team being a deciding factor in them wanting to come to the club.

Even though the stadium had just over 6,000 people in attendance, McLaughlin felt he got a nice feel of what a home game will be like.

"I really enjoyed the game against Heerenveen and even though the ground only had one section open, you could still hear the fans and get a taste of what a home game will be like.



"It was a great experience and even though we didn't manage to get a win, we were happy with the performance and we got plenty out of the game."

The winner for Heerenveen was one that no defender or goalkeeper could have stopped, as Hitcham Faik drilled a magnificent 30-yard effort into the top corner.

But it is fair to say that the Sunderland back three were strong and never really looked threatened throughout the 90 minutes.

"We were happy with our efforts defensively, especially since we are playing in a new system," he added.

"When we were able to get it right in the second-half you saw that we were creating chances and putting pressure on the opposition.

"WE HAVE SPENT ALL PRE-SEASON BUILDING UP TO THIS MOMENT AND I REALLY WANT TO FEEL THE EXPERIENCE OF A PROPER MATCH AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT"

"We are getting there and are looking forward to the Oxford game."

Last season Sunderland largely deployed a 4-2-3-1 formation, but the manager has changed his plans over the summer and the team have played with three at the back since the first pre-season game at South Shields.

"We played with a 3-5-2, though I feel comfortable at right-back so often I

would drift across and it would turn into a four at the back," he explained.

"Naturally, I like to get forward a bit and join in with the attack when I can, and I thought I did okay when I was getting forward last week."

Today is the first real test for Sunderland and McLaughlin, with our first League One fixture coming against an Oxford side who stubbornly managed to get two draws from the Lads last season.

And to say that McLaughlin is excited to get the season underway would be an understatement.

"I can't wait for the Oxford game and to finally get the season up and running," he added. "We have spent all pre-season building up to this moment and I really want to feel the experience of a proper match at the Stadium of Light."



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MY FAVOURITE GAME

Year 11 District Cup Final - we won 3-0 in extra-time



2

MY FAVOURITE GOAL

Goal against Shrewsbury Town

3

MY FAVOURITE STADIUM

Stadium of Light



4

MY FAVOURITE FOOD

Thai Curry

5

MY FAVOURITE FILM

Shawshank Redemption



6

MY FAVOURITE SONG

Ed Sheeran - 'I don't care'

7

MY FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Thailand





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THE COMMENTATOR'S ~~CURSE~~ COLUMN

BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE'S SAGE **NICK BARNES** LOOKS FORWARD TO FOLLOWING THE LADS UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY

The middle of June heralds the publication of the season's fixtures, and while of course we had been hoping, daresay dreaming, of trips to the likes of Swansea City, Nottingham Forest and Derby County, we will instead be revisiting the dreaming spires of Oxford United, Accrington Stanley and New York... albeit the stadium rather than the city.

At least this season we know what is in store, and while the appeals of Blackpool and Coventry City may not hold the same currency as last - with Blackpool scheduled for March and Coventry playing at Birmingham City - this campaign feels more workaday than play-away.

That's not to say Sunderland fans won't travel in the numbers they did last season. While some may feel one trip to AFC Wimbledon or Wycombe Wanderers was enough, there are plenty more I am certain who will roam the country from Portsmouth to Fleetwood, from Bristol Rovers to Ipswich, and relish the adventure again.

I am not quite sure Gary Bennett is looking forward to the season as much

as some after tackling challenging press facilities, leaving him in bemusement as he shared caretakers' cupboards, broken sofas and tea urns, a far cry from the commodious press lounges of the Premier League, and even the Championship.



“I AM NOT AVERSE TO A GREGG'S BREAKFAST BAGUETTE AND LAST SEASON LEARNED TO MAKE SURE WE STOPPED EN ROUTE BEFORE 11AM”

Here we need some perspective. Colleagues of mine across the country spend not one season, or even two, but sometimes decades floundering about the lower leagues following the likes of Exeter City and Morecambe, clubs whose ambitions realistically extend no higher than reaching League One and surviving there. Their hopes of enjoying the lavish hospitality offered at the likes of Chelsea and Manchester City resting with the cups.

We have been blessed over the past few decades to have been able to sup at the top tables and while we are hoping to return in the not too distant future, there is certainly no harm in eating humble pie this and last season, and hopefully our dietary requirements and desires will be catered for next with promotion this.

That said, I am not averse to a Gregg's breakfast baguette and last season learned to make sure we stopped en route before 11am, and we will do so again on our way to the likes of Shrewsbury and Lincoln this season.

Buckle in, and enjoy the ride.

Nick Barnes
BBC Radio Newcastle



ROKER REPORT

THE POPULAR FANZINE TAKES A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE IN CATCHING UP WITH RIGHT-BACK **GRAHAM 'THE TRACTOR' FALK**

RR: Who was your best mate at Sunderland, and why?

JK: I had a few to be honest, I couldn't pick just one. 'Bally'. I'd class 'Bally' as one of my best mates there definitely. Great lad. Gary Bennett was a really good lad too. I was really close mates with a lad called Micky Heathcote if you remember him. Gordon Armstrong was another fella I knew and got on with well. I roomed with Timmy (Tim Carter) for a while. He was a brilliant as well to be honest.

RR: Is it true he used to kiss people after he'd had a couple?

JK: (laughs) Who? Timmy? He was some character. I was really good mates with about four or five of the lads in the squad. We had a really good set of people and some huge characters. 'Bally' and 'Benno' were my best two mates if I had to choose. Don Goodman and Anton Rogan were good lads too.

RR: Let's rewind back to when you first joined the club. You'd been part of 'The Crazy Gang' at Wimbledon during the mid-80s and Denis Smith comes in for you as Sunderland drop down to Division Three. How did Smith sell Sunderland to you?

JK: Denis didn't have to sell the club to me, I'm from Lumley and I know all about Sunderland. They'd just got relegated to Division Three. I had played loads of school football with Barry Venison and Mark Prudhoe as well



“THE 'CRAZY GANG' DEFINITELY HELPED! THAT MENTALITY WE HAD AT WIMBLEDON DID HELP. WIN AT ALL COSTS - THAT SORT OF STUFF”

when I was younger. I think I even had a trial with Sunderland when I was a kid. But you didn't have to sell Sunderland to me at all. It's Sunderland. What happened was I was at Wimbledon and I think Denis got in touch with Harry Bassett and then I was told of the interest in me by Denis. I'd been offered a new contract at Wimbledon, but I didn't sign it. I do remember getting a call off Denis and he told me they were able to agree a fee, but it ended up going to tribunal. It was a good move for me though. I was married, and my wife lived up in Lumley, so I was commuting all the time from Wimbledon. I was up and down from the North East.

RR: How much did you love that side of the game? Did you learn how to wind players up while part of the 'Crazy Gang' or has that cheeky side always been in your DNA?

JK: It was part of my DNA. I mean, the 'Crazy Gang' definitely helped! That mentality we had at Wimbledon did help. Win at all costs - that sort of stuff. That sort of attitude was built into me anyway, but it would be fair to say it was the 'Crazy Gang' that brought it out of me.

RR: Did Denis Smith ever try to curtail that nasty, cheeky side to you?

JK: He encouraged it. Absolutely.

RR: A particular tackle against Peter Haddock earned you a particular nickname when you, and I quote Howard Wilkinson, made his leg look like "it had been ran over by a tractor". Did Howard say anything to you?

JK: No, he said absolutely nothing. None of them did. It still follows me about now though, because whenever I walk into a pub there's always lads that will shout "here's the tractor".

RR: So, what went through your head when you went in for the tackle? Nail him?

JK: Aye. Absolutely. Win the ball.

RR: ...and get the man?

JK: Aye. I suppose. Didn't we go down

"IN THOSE DAYS YOU'D SEE THE SUPPORTERS ON THE STREETS MILES AND MILES BEFORE WE GOT INTO NEWCASTLE, THROWING STUFF AT THE BUS AND THAT. IT WAS A LAUGH"

to Elland Road for a cup game a few weeks later after that? Nothing was ever said then either. Never came up to me and said a thing. Nowt.

RR: What are your memories of the play-off semi-final win over Newcastle in 1990?

JK: It was one of the best games I have ever played in. I don't know if it's different now, but in those days you'd see the supporters on the streets miles

and miles before we got into Newcastle, throwing stuff at the bus and that. It was a laugh. Us though, as a team, knew we were going to win it. It felt like people thought Newcastle just had to turn up - but it meant all the pressure was on them. We had been playing well away from home, I think we won away at Wolves a few weeks before. Our away form that season was really good and it was an extra incentive to win with Paul Hardyman being suspended.

RR: Is it true you originally played in midfield, and if so, did playing in midfield help you as a full-back?

JK: If you look at a lot of full-backs, there have been midfielders previously and they seem to be able to convert themselves into that position well. I'm not sure how it came about that I reverted from central midfield to right-back, but once I went there it just became my position. I preferred right-back, absolutely.

RR: You went to Wembley with Sunderland twice, what is it like coming out to a sea of red and white?

JK: Well I was injured for the FA Cup Final. I was injured in the league game at Brighton on the Tuesday - I did my calf; I think it was about ten days before the final. Malcolm Crosby gave me every chance to be fit, but I could hardly walk on my calf, so I missed it. It was unbelievable though seeing all that red and white at Wembley. But forget about Wembley, I used to love running out at Roker Park because the reception I got was always brilliant. I used to love running out to the fans. They are the best memories I had. That quarter-final against Chelsea was class. It was my best memory of Roker Park. Winning the Third Division trophy, beating the Mags and just Roker Park in general are my best memories. Real moments in time. ➔





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RR: Who was your toughest opponent?

JK: Probably John Barnes. I didn't mind playing against a fast winger or a tricky winger to be honest. They were both good to play against, but people like Paul Simpson, who played for Manchester City, were hard to play against because it was just having one touch of the ball and you could get nowhere near them. The fast ones and the tricky ones would always give you a chance to get at them.

**“I WISH THEY'D
TOOK ME DOWN THE
HALFWAY LINE SO I
COULD HAVE WAVED TO
THE FANS”**

RR: In your final game for Sunderland you broke your leg and, as we all remember fondly, hilariously rowed yourself off the field. How were you not writhing in agony?!

JK: I tried to stand up on it, but I couldn't. I knew it was broke, because my leg was sort of just hanging there. I couldn't walk on it. I was a bit more concerned about them wanting to carry me off on a stretcher because I thought it would have been easier to just get some of the lads to carry me off, but they made me go off on a stretcher. I don't know what it was, but it didn't really hurt when I did it, so much so I don't remember all that much about it. They did eventually give me some gas and air, and I remember going to hospital and they put a bit of wood in my mouth because they had to try and realign my leg - imagine them doing that nowadays?! I don't mind pain to be honest, what bothers me most about it is that I wish they'd took me down the halfway line so I could have waved to the fans. I wish I had done that. ☹️



NEXT UP AT SOL...

PORTSMOUTH - SATURDAY 17 AUGUST
12.30PM - SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

Sunderland will be back in Stadium of Light action on **Saturday 17 August**, as Portsmouth travel to Wearside for a **12.30pm** kick-off.

The Lads and Pompey faced each other five times during the 2018-19 campaign, with Kenny Jackett's side winning the first two, including a dramatic penalty shootout at Wembley, before the Black Cats struck back in the play-off semi-finals.

All heated affairs, sparks are once again expected to fly when Pompey come to town, with both sides hopeful of battling it out at the top throughout the campaign.

Supporters are advised that they must have a previous purchase history to buy tickets for this fixture.

Tickets are priced from **£22** for adults, **£17** for over-65s, **£12** for under-22s and **£7** for under-16s.

ON THE ROAD

Tickets are on sale for next weekend's trip to Portman Road, with Ipswich Town next on the agenda.

Paul Lambert's side suffered relegation from the second tier last term, and if they hope to earn an immediate comeback to the Championship, a good start will be vital.

Tickets went on general sale on **Thursday 1 August at 9am**, and supporters are advised to visit safc.com for the latest availability.

NOT TOO LATE

Season cards for the 2019-20 campaign are still available.

Supporters can guarantee their seat for every game of the new season and save money against buying individual match tickets.

Adult seats are available from **£370** and under 16s just **£70** - that's less than **£3.50 per game**. Over 65s can buy their season card from just **£270**, with under 22s from only **£190** and under 18s from **£90**.

The popular Family Zone offers an adult and child under-16 season card package for a combined price of only **£395**.

Season cards can be bought online through Ticketmaster or by calling the Stadium of Light ticket office on **0371 911 1973**.

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Ticket Hotline (0371 911 1973) is available during ticket office opening hours.

In person the Stadium of Light Ticket Office is open as listed below:

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Matchday Saturdays:
10am- kick-off

Closed non-matchday Saturdays,
Sundays and Bank Holidays*

*To buy tickets for any available home games, please visit the Stadium of Light Club Store, located in the West Stand (open Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm).

Away ticket purchases and all other enquires must be directed to the ticket office during the listed opening hours above.



WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO...

IPSWICH TOWN - SATURDAY 10 AUGUST - 3PM
PORTMAN ROAD STADIUM - SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

It's good to be back on the road again -and with a bit of a tester to newly-relegated Ipswich, a mere 276 miles by road from Sunderland. Our last visit, on an evening in the autumn of 2017, saw old boy Martyn Waghorn bag an inevitable goal as we went down 2-5 in a very bad day at the office, which was pretty much summed up our season. Prior to that, we had a 3-1 cup win, with Julio Arca scoring twice, and a few decent league results before the two clubs parted company for a decade or so.

We should be sitting upstairs in the corner of the Cobbold stand (equivalent of the Sol's North West Corner), from where the views are generally good, although the seating, while comfortable enough, is starting to show its age. With room for 1,900 of us, there's a chance to really make some noise in this corner, as it's a fairly enclosed space - a bit reminiscent of our area at Goodison. The ground itself is a 10-minute walk from the town centre, with the railway station five minutes in the opposite direction - off the train, over the bridge, and there's Portman Road. There are several trains

that'll get you there in time, and back in Sunderland before midnight, but be prepared to pay for the privilege. Street parking around the ground is very limited, but there are several car parks nearby and in the town itself.

Refreshment-wise, next to the bridge over the road from the station is the Station, formerly the Riverside, which welcomes away fans, but they seemed fairly unprepared for matchday crowds on our last visit, managing to run out of beer. It does have lots of space, and an outdoor area overlooking the river. Over the bridge turn right, and in five minutes you'll get to the recently redeveloped Waterside area, which has several food and drink outlets.

The town itself is probably a better idea, with options from fast food to "proper" restaurants and cafes, and pubs of every shape and size in a relatively small area. Mannings, behind the Corn Exchange, the Lord Nelson and the Dove Street Inn (on St Helen's Street) come well recommended. There are a few that don't allow away fans, so take heed of

any notices on the doors. There are bars in the ground, but no beer for visiting fans at half-time.

It's a long trip, but a nice town, especially in the summer - and an early chance to show that we fans mean business whatever the distance.

Ha'way the Lads.

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UPGRADE YOUR MATCHDAY AND GET YOUR BRAND NOTICED

Today marks the start of the new campaign in what is already shaping up to be a busy opening month at the Stadium of Light.

There's no better time for you to secure your matchday hospitality or sponsorship packages for the two remaining home games in August.

We've got a fantastic range of hospitality options available to you, whether you're entertaining clients, rewarding staff or simply

enjoying a day out with friends and family. Our prices start from just £75 per person, representing great value for money too, and packages can also be tailored to make sure you're getting exactly what you want.

Portsmouth are the next visitors and with this big game live on Sky Sports, there's the opportunity for you to showcase your company name or brand to a huge nationwide TV audience.

Our LED pitch perimeter advertising packages afford a fantastic way to ensure that your company stands out from the crowd. Prices start from just £500.

The final home game of August sees AFC Wimbledon visit the Stadium of Light. Whilst our match sponsorship package has already been reserved for this game, there's still match ball, Man of the Match and programme sponsorship options available.



THE AUGUST DOUBLE

Saturday 17 August,
SAFC v Portsmouth

Saturday 24 August,
SAFC v AFC Wimbledon

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SPONSORED BY:



MAX POWER

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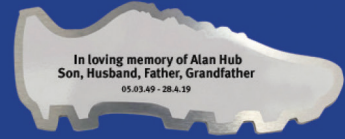
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



For just £250 + VAT become a Friend of the Foundation and help us make a difference to local lives. As part of the membership you will receive one of our boot tiles which takes prominent position on the Street area of the Beacon of Light.

The boot tiles are the perfect present for any Black Cats fan to show their support, as a memorial to remember loved ones, or to celebrate a birthday or special moment.

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THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET

BEACON OF LIGHT



FOUNDATION OF LIGHT

NEWS FROM SAFC'S AWARD-WINNING CHARITY

SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES

The Beacon of Light is the place to be this summer as it hosts an action-packed calendar of events throughout the school holidays.

Sponsored by gentoo, 'Summer @ Beacon of Light' has something for everyone, from toddlers, children and teenagers through to families, adults and programmes for people aged over 55.

As well as a fun-packed range of football and multi-sport courses, new activities are available including:

- Fortneet - a Mackem take on a global phenomenon, youngsters battle their friends with Nerf guns in the Beacon's indoor arena
- Family Fit - parent and child fitness sessions led by former SAFC Strength and Conditioning ace Scott Pearce
- Family Fakeaway - parents and children learn how



to cook healthy takeaway classics including pizza, burgers and chicken curry in the Beacon's state-of-the-art teaching kitchen

- Toddler Tales - each week children will read a book before baking a special treat in the Beacon Teaching Kitchen

Speaking about the 'Summer @ Beacon of Light' campaign, General Manager Phil King said: "Summer @ Beacon of Light' showcases

just how versatile this brilliant building can be. All proceeds from the Beacon of Light are donated back to the Foundation, so anyone who visits us this summer will not only feel great because they are doing something fun, but because they are helping to make a real difference to lives across the region."

In addition, our weekly Extra Time Hub which provides a range of activities for over 55s, including table tennis,

pilates and walking netball is running Wednesday's 10am-12 noon.

If that's not enough, the Beacon of Light will be turned red, white and blue on Saturday 24 August when it hosts Team GB as one of the flagship events in the Nation's Biggest Sports Day.

For a full list of courses and to book visit beaconoflight.co.uk.





IT'S GAME TIME!



**JUNIOR BLACK CATS TRIVIA,
GAMES AND PUZZLES...**

GUESS THE NATIONALITY

Can you match up the players with their correct nationalities?



1 2 3 4
A B C D



GUESS THE GROUND

Can you name the stadium below and the team who play there?



SAFC ANAGRAMS

Can you unscramble the words below to reveal the Sunderland players?

CURRISH IMAGE

CHAIN JUNG MOLL

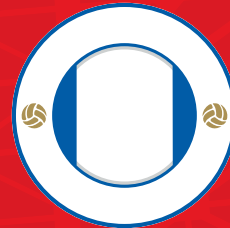
GUESS THE PLAYER

Can you name the Sunderland player we have blurred out below?



GUESS THE CREST

Can you correctly identify this club crest?



MAKE YOUR PREDICTION

HALF-TIME:

<input type="text"/>	v	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	---	----------------------

FULL TIME:

<input type="text"/>	v	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	---	----------------------

SCORERS:

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE...



ANSWERS: Guess The Nationality: 1-A, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C; Guess The Ground: Deepdale, Preston North End; SAFC Anagrams: Chris Maguire, Jon McLaughlin; Guess The Player: Glenn Loovens; Guess The Crest: Wigan Athletic; Spot The Difference:



Good afternoon and welcome to our League One opener against Oxford United.

It feels like a long time since we last played competitive football at the Stadium of Light, but now League One action has returned and the Lads are looking to bounce back after the events of the last campaign.

Some 69 days have passed since we sadly lost the League One Play-Off Final against Charlton in agonising fashion, but the team are looking to write a new chapter and learn from the mistakes of the last campaign.

Our opponents today, Oxford, finished mid-table in the 2018-19 season after a positive final few months, and they could have top-six aspirations in the new campaign.

Jamie Mackie scored six goals last season and could prove a handful for our defence.

Two of the 24 teams will gain automatic promotion to the Championship this season and Sunderland will want to be one of them. If that's to be the case, they have to start strongly!

Ha'way the Lads!

Finlay Anderson

GET THEM SIGNED!

GET YOUR SUNDERLAND HEROES' AUTOGRAPHS...



TODAY'S MASCOTS



DIEGO

Hobbies: Football and playing in the Kitchee Acadmey in Hong Kong
Favourite player: Chris Maguire



CORA

Hobbies: Gymnastics, dancing, drama, swimming, adventures and colouring in
Favourite player: Aiden McGeady



EWAN

Hobbies: Football, swimming, PS4, Xbox, reading and playing pool
Favourite players: Aiden McGeady and Lynden Gooch



KAI

Hobbies: Football and playing Fortnite
Favourite players: Lynden Gooch and Luke O'Nien



LILY-ELLA

Hobbies: Football and dancing
Favourite players: Aiden McGeady and Luke O'Nien



OLLY

Hobbies: Playing football
Favourite player: Lynden Gooch



BLAIR

Hobbies: Football and golf
Favourite player: Jon McLaughlin



MAX

Hobbies: Football and golf
Favourite player: Max Power



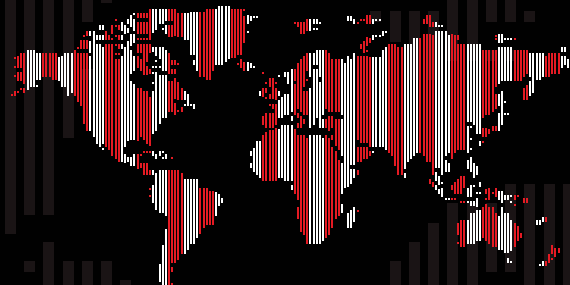
GABRIEL

Hobbies: Football
Favourite player: Will Grigg and Jon McLaughlin



ETHAN

Hobbies: Playing football and swimming
Favourite players: Cameron Brannagan and Gavin Whyte



INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Sunderland AFC has launched a brand-new membership scheme exclusively for overseas supporters to connect with the club.

The international membership offers a range of benefits including digital programmes, ticket promotions and weekly e-newsletters and is currently available in two categories: International Plus Membership - £50 a year, International Membership - £25 a year.

We would like to thank the following who have already signed up:

International Plus Membership

Geoff Stokoe	Ian Humble	Joerg Steger	James Rankin	Charles Allan
Peter Forster	John Ambler	Jonathan Lynn	John Hymers	Malcolm Clark
Steven Wisniewski	Daniel Elliott	Callum Fisher	Havar Bue	Jeffrey Baker
Macarena Delgado	Jill Lennox	Gordon Logan	Ann Nilsen	William Kilgallon
Clare McKean	Chris Arnold	Chris Fordon	Aidan O'Brien	Jeffrey Hydari
Michael Peart	Elliott Coates	Allyson Beardmore	Paul Bergene	Michael Gregg
Richard Whalley	Charlie Anderson	Robert Bell	Bryan Thompson	Matt Austin
Daniel Hunt-Vincent	Ivan Sandoval	Johan Grundberg	Patrick Eyre	Lukas Butz

International Membership

Radoslav Karaasenov	Dave Miller	Aske Scott Graulend	Michael Anderer	John Barrow
Ian Hamilton	Tom Watkins	Darrell Wise	Panagiotis Potiloudis	Lisa Emonds
Simon Ames	John Ainsworth	Raymond Leonard	Chris Talarek	Dave Ward
Brian Le Blanc	Brun Alan Vaz	Ian Sproates	Justin Warner	Bernhard Antoniusen
Henrik Smeds	Bjorn Tore Kristiansen	Jeramie Westbay	Richard Sharp	Peter Bell
Jo Sayers	Robert Jones	Miles Hunt	John Mann	Josh Barton
Marius Lydka	Jonathan Laverick	John Bretz	Robin Heppell	Evan Boyle
Raymond Smith	Christopher Andrews	Mark Taylor	Yunseog Ryu	David Frankenthal
Dominik Sinzinger	Filippo Nozzoli	Matt Stilwell	Simon Quigley	Andreas Glatter
Simon Walker	Dean Birkett	Liam Dudley	Mike Lackaye	Shannah Calamar

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES AND TO SIGN UP PLEASE VISIT SAFC.COM OR SAFCSTORE.COM

UNDER-23s

RED & WHITE SPEAK TO THE CLUB'S FINAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE LEAD COACH, ELLIOTT DICKMAN, AS HE DRAWS UP HIS HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SEASON, WHILE LENDING AN INSIGHT INTO A NEW TRIO.

THE WORK NEVER STOPS

Sunderland's academy has been a hotbed of talent in recent years as the production wheel has churned out player after player.

Elliott Dickman has outlined his plans for the new season as Sunderland Under-23s look to bed-in three signings.

The Black Cats' development squad will kick off their season at Leek Town on Monday 12 August against Stoke City in the Premier League 2.

After enduring a challenging campaign last time out, Dickman is aware of the obstacles likely to face his side this time round, but knows the additions of Ruben Sammut, Michael Collins and Ahmed Abdelkader will help their cause.

Speaking in today's edition of Red & White, the Under-23 boss set his stall

out for the 2019-20 campaign while also shedding light on how the trio have settled at the Academy of Light.

"We have trained quite hard over pre-season and most of the lads have come back in a good condition as they always do," he said.

"We have been pleased with what we've seen out on the grass from a football point of view. Last season we made some really good individual improvements as the lads developed their technical and tactical ability because that's how we see the programme.

"Results might have taken a bit of a hit and we know we need to do better. Of course, we want to win games, but we need to make sure the lads progress so they can go into either our first-team or continue to have a career in the game at a senior level."

He continued: "Ahmed has trained a lot with the first-team, so he has spent a lot of time with Craig Samson which is fantastic for his experience.

"When he's been with us, he's been fine too. There are obviously areas of his game that he needs to develop but the majority of what we've seen has been very positive so far.

"Ruben has been with the first-team out in Portugal. He's got an old head on young shoulders and he's settled in well. There are areas we've identified that we need improving but so far, he's done smashing.

"Michael is the other player we've signed during this summer. He came from Everton and is improving well. We're looking forward to seeing him play this season."



Ahmed Abdelkader (left)



Ruben Sammut



Michael Collins

PUTTING THE SPARK
INTO MATCHDAY
PROGRAMMES...



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UNDER-18s

IT'S BEEN A SUMMER OF CHANGE
FOR SUNDERLAND UNDER-18s.

Preparations for the 2019-20 campaign are well underway for the youth team, with Paul Bryson being joined by former Huddersfield Town and Scunthorpe United midfielder, Michael Collins, as his number two.

Thirteen players have also put pen to paper on scholarship deals, and you can get to know a little about the lads by checking out our bitesize guide...

OLIVER BASEY

AGE: 16 / GOALKEEPER

Providing Jack Newman with competition between the sticks, Basey is a first-year scholar who is physically developing well as he looks to make a mark in the youth team this year.

PATRICK ALMOND

AGE: 16 / DEFENDER

Almond joined Sunderland as an Under-12 and has risen through the system to become a first-year scholar this season. Physically well developed, Almond has experience at Under-18 level, having featured regularly during the 2018-19 season.

JACK ARMSTRONG

AGE: 16 / DEFENDER

A first-year scholar, Armstrong fought his way back from injury during the younger age groups and earned his opportunity in the Under-18s through hard work.

JOSHUA BAGGS

AGE: 16 / DEFENDER

Slight in build, Baggs is an attack-minded defender who operates as a full-back.



JONATHAN KRAKUE

AGE: 16 / DEFENDER

Released from Middlesbrough last year, Krakue, who can play in midfield too, joins the Black Cats after impressing on trial.

RYAN GOOCH

AGE: 16 / MIDFIELDER

Very quick, tricky and creative, Gooch is used to the Under-18 set-up having featured in Bryson's youth team a lot last year.

DAN JONES

AGE: 16 / MIDFIELDER

Jones, who is a defensive midfielder, came to Sunderland as an Under-15 and has since been offered a scholarship after impressing the coaching staff.

ELLIS TAYLOR

AGE: 16 / MIDFIELDER

Previously at England youth camps, Taylor is a wideman who can play in defence as well.

RYAN WOMBWELL

AGE: 17 / MIDFIELDER

Joining as a second-year scholar this summer, Wombwell signed from Park View Academy after a successful trial last season.

RYAN BRUCE

AGE: 16 / STRIKER

First-year scholar Bruce is stocky in build and comfortable operating anywhere across the front line.

MCKENZIE DICICCO

AGE: 16 / STRIKER

Previously a striker at Middlesbrough, Diccico joined Sunderland after being released as an Under-16.

JAMES FOSTER

AGE: 16 / STRIKER

Foster joined Sunderland from Hartlepool United as an Under-15. Slight in build, Foster possesses quick feet and bags of creativity.

LOUIS WATTS

AGE: 16 / STRIKER

A dynamic youngster, Watts has penned a scholarship at Sunderland after showing his versatile nature. A striker by trade, Watts is also able to operate out wide.

(For a full list of U18s Fixtures see page 75.)

Christmas Karaoke Nights

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Friday 13th December

Friday 20th December

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STADIUMOFLIGHT



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SAFC LADIES

SAFC LADIES HAVE ENJOYED A FRUITFUL PRE-SEASON SO FAR, HAVING WON ALL THREE OF THEIR GAMES.



The Lassies defeated Redcar Town Ladies 5-0 in their first game of pre-season, as Bridget Galloway netted a hat-trick.

Their second outing was equally as emphatic as they hammered Norton & Stockton Ancients 6-0 at the Academy of Light.



Galloway netted her second hat-trick of pre-season, making it six goals in just two games.

Sunderland fans will also be aware of the England Ladies team that got to the World Cup semi-final with a team built up with many Wearside academy products. Jill Scott, Steph Houghton, Lucy Bronze, Demi Stokes, Carly Telford, Lucy Staniforth and Beth Mead all played for Sunderland at one stage and were integral to Phil Neville's World Cup squad.

Looking ahead, the Lassies have three more pre-season games left to play before their campaign starts at home to West Brom. They welcome Hartlepool United to the Academy of Light on Sunday and Lee University Flames on Thursday evening, before wrapping up their schedule with the visit of Sheffield United Ladies.

The performances so far are sure to impress the Lassies' boss Melanie Copeland, as she will try to build on last season's second-place finish that meant the team narrowly missed out on promotion due to the dominance of Blackburn Rovers.

Copeland has managed to keep her squad largely intact from last season, with star player Keira Ramshaw remaining at the club.



Looking ahead, the team have some notable fixtures on the horizon, with a local derby against Middlesbrough coming on Wednesday 4 September at Epleton CW.

But the main game fans will be looking out for is the FAWNL League Cup clash against Newcastle United on Sunday 25 August.

That match is sure to be a fascinating encounter, and will hopefully attract a large crowd to Epleton!



19-20 AWAY KIT

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ACADEMY & LADIES

SEASON STATS

UNDER-23s

PREMIER LEAGUE TWO
DIVISION 2



Date	Opposition	H/A	KO/FA
AUGUST			
Mon 12	Stoke City	A	7pm
Sun 18	Norwich City	H	12pm
Fri 23	West Bromwich Albion	A	7pm
Fri 30	Aston Villa	H	7pm
SEPTEMBER			
Mon 16	Middlesbrough	H	7pm
Sun 22	Swansea City	A	12pm
Sun 29	West Ham United	A	12pm
OCTOBER			
Mon 21	Newcastle United	H	7pm
Fri 25	Fulham	A	2pm
NOVEMBER			
Sun 3	Reading	H	12pm
Fri 22	Manchester United	A	7pm
DECEMBER			
Mon 9	Stoke City	H	7pm
Sun 15	Norwich City	A	1pm
JANUARY			
Mon 6	Aston Villa	A	7pm
Mon 13	West Bromwich Albion	H	7pm
FEBRUARY			
Sun 2	West Ham United	H	12pm
Fri 14	Newcastle United	A	7pm
MARCH			
Sun 1	Fulham	H	12pm
Mon 16	Reading	A	1pm
APRIL			
Mon 6	Manchester United	H	7pm
Mon 20	Middlesbrough	A	7pm
MAY			
Sun 3	Swansea City	H	12pm

UNDER-18s

PREMIER LEAGUE TWO
NORTH DIVISION



Date	Opposition	H/A	KO/FA
AUGUST			
Sat 10	Manchester United	A	12.30pm
Sat 17	Blackburn Rovers	H	12.30pm
Sat 24	Stoke city	H	11am
Sat 31	Wolves	H	11am
SEPTEMBER			
Sat 14	Everton	A	12.30pm
Sat 21	Newcastle	H	11am
OCTOBER			
Fri 4	West Bromwich Albion	A	1pm
Sat 19	Derby County	H	1pm
NOVEMBER			
Sat 2	Middlesbrough	A	11am
Sat 30	Liverpool	A	12.30pm
DECEMBER			
Sat 7	Manchester City	H	11am
JANUARY			
Sat 4	Manchester United	H	12.30pm
Sat 11	Blackburn Rovers	A	12.30pm
FEBRUARY			
Sat 1	Stoke City	A	1pm
Sat 15	Wolves	A	1pm
Sat 22	Everton	H	12.30pm
Fri 28	Newcastle United	A	7pm
MARCH			
Sat 14	West Bromwich Albion	H	11am
Sat 21	Derby County	A	1pm
APRIL			
Sat 4	Middlesbrough	H	11am
Sat 18	Liverpool	H	11am
Sat 25	Manchester City	A	12.30pm

SAFC LADIES

FA WOMEN'S NATIONAL
LEAGUE NORTHERN DIVISION



Date	Opposition	H/A	KO/FA
AUGUST			
Sun 18	West Bromwich Albion	H	2pm
SEPTEMBER			
Sun 1	Fylde	A	2pm
Wed 4	Middlesbrough	H	7:45pm
Sun 8	Hull City	H	
Sun 15	Huddersfield Town	A	2pm
Sun 22	Sheffield FC	H	2pm
Sun 29	Nottingham Forest	A	2pm
OCTOBER			
Sun 27	Derby County	A	2pm
NOVEMBER			
Sun 10	Loughborough Foxes	H	2pm
Sun 17	Stoke City	H	2pm
DECEMBER			
Sun 8	Burnley	A	2pm
JANUARY			
Sun 12	West Bromwich Albion	A	2pm
FEBRUARY			
Sun 2	Fylde	H	2pm
Sun 9	Hull City	A	2pm
Wed 19	Middlesbrough	A	7:45pm
Sun 23	Huddersfield Town	H	2pm
MARCH			
Sun 8	Sheffield FC	A	2pm
Sun 15	Stoke City	A	2pm
Sun 22	Nottingham Forest	H	2pm
Sun 29	Derby County	H	2pm
APRIL			
Sun 26	Loughborough Foxes	A	2pm
MAY			
Sun 10	Burnley	H	2pm



STAT ATTACK

2019-20

#	Name	DOB	League			Cup			2019-20 Total			SAFC Career		
			St	Sb	Gls	St	Sb	Gls	St	Sb	Gls	St	Sb	Gls
01	Jon McLaughlin	09.09.1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	0
02	Conor McLaughlin	26.07.1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04	Jordan Willis	24.08.1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05	Alim Ozturk	17.11.1992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	3	0
06	Max Power	27.07.1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	8	4
07	Chris Maguire	16.01.1989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	10	9
08	Dylan McGeouch	15.01.1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	9	0
09	Charlie Wyke	06.12.1992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	11	5
10	George Honeyman	08.09.1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	14	15
11	Lynden Gooch	24.12.1995	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	35	9
12	Tom Flanagan	17.01.1992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	2	2
13	Luke O'Nien	21.11.1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	15	5
14	Duncan Watmore	08.03.1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	33	6
15	Jack Baldwin	30.06.1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	3
16	Lee Burge	09.01.1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Elliot Embleton	02.04.1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
18	George Dobson	15.11.1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Aiden McGeady	04.04.1986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	14	21
21	Ethan Robson	25.10.1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	1
22	Will Grigg	03.07.1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	5	5
24	Grant Leadbitter	07.01.1986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	56	11
29	Marc McNulty	14.09.1992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Benji Kimpioka	21.02.2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	2
33	Denver Hume	11.08.1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	0
43	Anthony Patterson	10.05.2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

STAT SNIPPETS



JON MCLAUGHLIN

The Scotland international gloveman was Sunderland's only ever-present last season, playing in all 46 League One fixtures in addition to a further nine outings in other competitions. In his first campaign on Wearside, the 31-year-old kept an impressive 15 clean-sheets.



CHRIS MAGUIRE

The Sunderland hot-shot endeared himself to the red and white faithful with nine goals in his maiden campaign at the Stadium of Light after arriving from Bury in July 2018. However, the Scot is no stranger to Oxford having top scored for the U's with 13 goals during 2016-17.

2018-19 SKY BET LEAGUE ONE TABLE



#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Luton Town	46	16	7	0	57	19	11	6	6	33	23	+48	94 (C)
2	Barnsley	46	15	8	0	40	16	11	5	7	40	23	+41	91 (P)
3	Charlton Athletic	46	16	5	2	41	15	10	5	8	32	25	+33	88 (P)
4	Portsmouth	46	12	7	4	42	22	13	6	4	41	29	+32	88
5	Sunderland	46	12	10	1	46	25	10	9	4	34	22	+33	85
6	Doncaster Rovers	46	13	7	3	45	21	7	6	10	31	37	+18	73
7	Peterborough United	46	9	7	7	31	28	11	5	7	40	34	+9	72
8	Coventry City	46	9	7	7	24	20	9	4	10	30	34	0	65
9	Burton Albion	46	11	5	7	35	23	6	7	10	31	34	+9	63
10	Blackpool	46	8	8	7	28	26	7	9	7	22	26	-2	62
11	Fleetwood Town	46	9	9	5	33	27	7	4	12	25	25	+6	61
12	Oxford United	46	11	4	8	34	27	4	11	8	24	37	-6	60
13	Gillingham	46	7	4	12	27	36	8	6	9	34	36	-11	55
14	Accrington Stanley	46	7	6	10	26	33	7	7	9	25	34	-16	55
15	Bristol Rovers	46	6	6	11	24	28	7	9	7	23	22	-3	54
16	Rochdale	46	8	4	11	25	37	7	5	11	29	50	-33	54
17	Wycombe Wanderers	46	10	5	8	28	26	4	6	13	27	41	-12	53
18	Shrewsbury Town	46	8	9	6	25	25	4	7	12	26	34	-8	52
19	Southend United	46	8	2	13	32	34	6	6	11	23	34	-13	50
20	AFC Wimbledon	46	6	5	12	24	37	7	6	10	18	26	-21	50
21	Plymouth Argyle	46	9	6	8	36	38	4	5	14	20	42	-24	50 (R)
22	Walsall	46	7	5	11	30	37	5	6	12	19	34	-22	47 (R)
23	Scunthorpe United	46	6	7	10	31	42	6	3	14	22	41	-30	46 (R)
24	Bradford City	46	7	4	12	25	31	4	4	15	24	46	-28	41 (R)

2018-19 SKY BET LEAGUE ONE TOP TENS

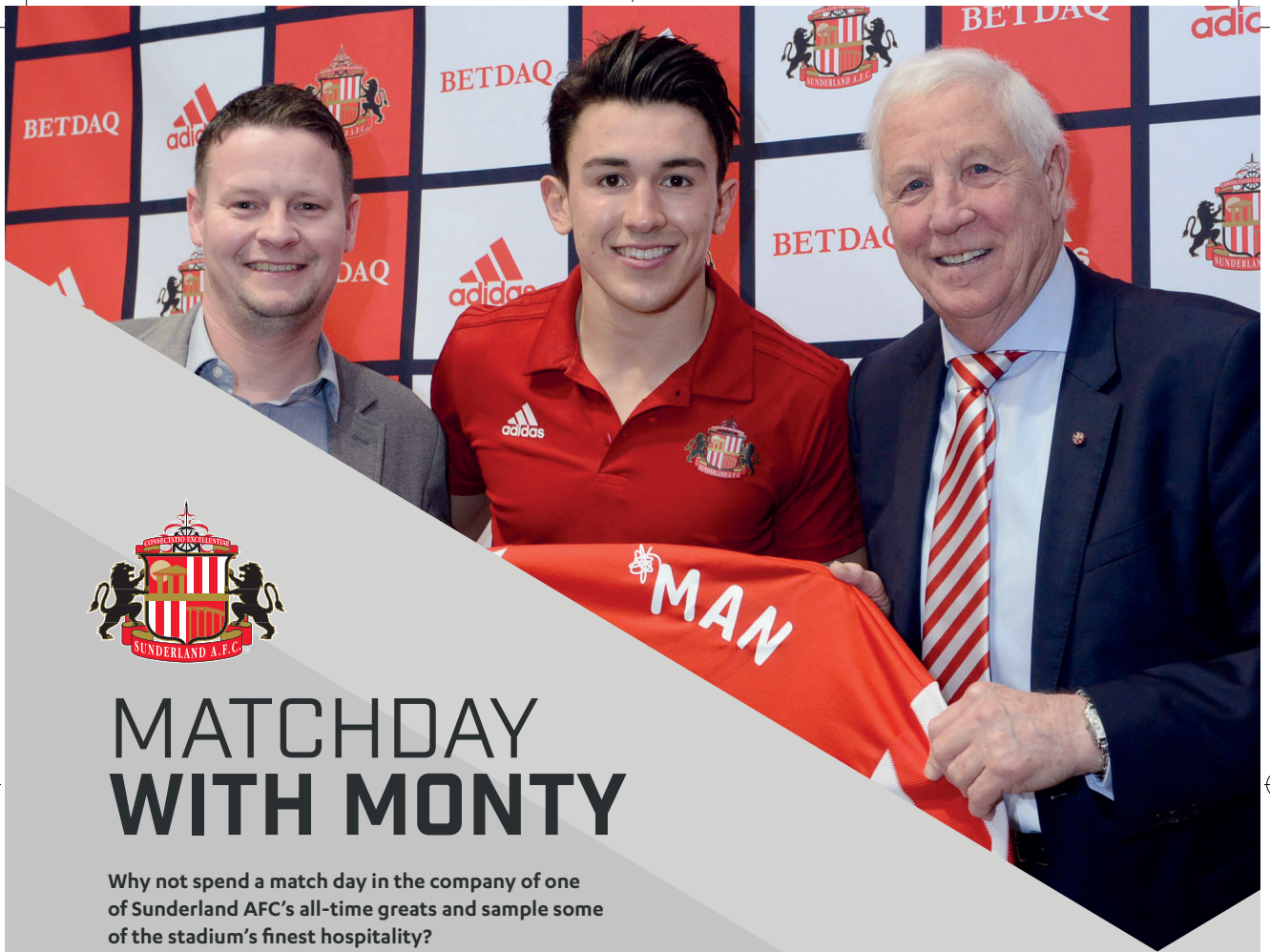


TOP SCORERS

		P	G
James Collins	Luton Town	44	25
John Marquis	Doncaster Rovers	46	22
Lyle Taylor	Charlton Athletic	44	22
Tom Eaves	Gillingham	43	21
Ian Henderson	Rochdale	45	20
Freddie Ladapo	Plymouth Argyle	45	18
Ched Evans	Fleetwood Town	39	17
Kieffer Moore	Barnsley	32	17
Ivan Toney	Peterborough United	44	16
Jonson Clarke-Harris	Bristol Rovers	43	16

TOP ASSISTS

		P	A
Marcus Maddison	Peterborough United	40	15
James Coppinger	Doncaster Rovers	45	12
Graham Carey	Plymouth Argyle	44	11
Lyle Taylor	Charlton Athletic	44	11
Ashley Hunter	Fleetwood Town	43	10
Mallik Wilks	Doncaster Rovers	48	8
Jamal Lowe	Portsmouth	47	8
Lucas Akins	Burton Albion	46	8
Jack Stacey	Luton Town	45	8
Sean McConville	Accrington Stanley	45	8



MATCHDAY WITH MONTY

Why not spend a match day in the company of one of Sunderland AFC's all-time greats and sample some of the stadium's finest hospitality?

A matchday in our Montgomery Suite includes:

- a pre-match tour of the dressing room
- a three-course meal, bar facilities and complimentary tea and coffee
- a prime west stand padded seat to watch the game in comfort
- joining us for the post-match 'man of the match' presentations

So, whether it's business or pleasure – or a combination of both, our executive club in the Montgomery Suite offers the perfect solution and all from only £118 (+vat) per person.

Call us on 0371 911 1555 or email hospitality@safc.com. We currently have availability for all games, however prompt booking for this popular suite is advised.

#ONECLUBOURCLUB

WHAT'S ON IN SUNDERLAND

Sunderland is being invited to step up to a 10-month challenge that aims to get people moving more.

Last week saw the launch of 'Step Up Sunderland', a city-wide push to get residents and people who work here to get up, get out and get moving.

'Step Up Sunderland' is being backed by businesses and organisations across the city and will see the launch of a new app - available on Android and from the Apple Store - where people can add their steps to a city-wide counter that charts progress towards a more active Sunderland.

Those who sign up will also be alerted to events and activities they can take part in to boost their steps and will be rewarded for getting involved with a number of incentives to encourage people to get on board with the challenge.

"Sunderland has some great places to enjoy - from our abundance of open spaces, riverside and award-winning parks and beaches. What better excuse to get out and make the most of them, than to take part in 'Step Up Sunderland'," said Patrick Melia, chief executive of Sunderland City Council.

"This is not only about health and wellbeing, but about helping people rediscover the fantastic places they have available to them, and the world-class events that they can engage with in Sunderland across the next 10 months."



Sunderland City Council will also be placing new signage around the city, which will remain until the challenge ends at the Sunderland Run weekend (3k, 5k, 10k and Half Marathon) in May 2020, to help people see how far they are, in steps from places across Sunderland.

"'Step Up Sunderland' is a fantastic opportunity to encourage people to get out and explore more of the city, as well as to reward them for their efforts, and we hope this will be a step in the right direction to making Sunderland a healthier, happier city for years to come," added Councillor Graeme Miller, leader of Sunderland City Council.

"I'll be downloading the app and look forward to seeing how many people who live and work in Sunderland come on board to step up their activity levels, something that is as good for the mind as it is for physical fitness."

The 'Step Up Sunderland' campaign aims to encourage healthy competition between people from right across the city, with the five localities of Sunderland North, Sunderland East, Sunderland West, Coalfields and Washington, battling it out to boost their step-count.

Those who commute in the city every day can also compete, and will be able to use the leaderboard in the app to see which area of Sunderland is stepping up most.



The app can be downloaded from the Apple store and Android, and the website is www.stepupsunderland.com.

COMING SOON

IPSWICH TOWN - SATURDAY 10 AUGUST - 3PM
PORTMAN ROAD - SKY BET LEAGUE ONE



Following the conclusion of today's Sky Bet League One opener, Sunderland will travel to Suffolk to face recently relegated **Ipswich Town** in seven days' time.

Boss Paul Lambert, who succeeded Paul Hurst in the Portman Road hotseat in October 2018, was unable to save the Tractor Boys from dropping down to the third tier of English football.

However, the former Norwich City manager will be hoping to draw on experience from his time in nearby Norfolk when he masterminded back-to-back promotions to take the Canaries from League One to the Premier League.

Kicking their season off at Burton Albion, the Black Cats provide Ipswich with their first home game of the season - a place

where they recorded just three wins last season.

Tickets are priced from **£27** for adults, **£20** for over-65s, **£14** for under-23s and **£7** for under-19s.

Following that, Jack Ross' side will remain on the road as they make the slightly shorter trip to **Accrington Stanley** in the first round of the **Carabao Cup**.

Taking on Stanley for the first of two visits in four weeks, the Black Cats head to the Wham Stadium on **Tuesday 13 August** for a **7:45pm** kick-off.

Ticket details will be confirmed shortly so keep an eye on the club's website and social channels over the coming days.

Sunderland will return home following the outcome of that game, swiftly

turning their attention to face an all too familiar foe in **Portsmouth**.

The Lads played out some memorable encounters last term against Kenny Jackett's side, with both teams experiencing mixed emotions.

While Pompey enjoyed celebrations in the league fixture at Fratton Park and in the Checkatrade Trophy Final at Wembley, Sunderland came up trumps in the play-off semi-final to move within a whisker of promotion back to the Championship.

This game, kicking off at **12:30pm** on **Saturday 17 August**, is set to be yet another mouth-watering match-up so make sure you secure your seat now!

Tickets are priced from **£22** for adults, **£17** for over-65s, **£12** for under-22s and **£7** for under-16s.

DARE TO
CREATE





SUNDERLAND

MANAGER: **JACK ROSS**

JON McLAUGHLIN	1	○○○
CONDOR McLAUGHLIN	2	○○○
JORDAN WILLIS	4	○○○
ALIM OZTURK	5	○○○
MAX POWER	6	○○○
CHRIS MAGUIRE	7	○○○
DYLAN McGEUICH	8	○○○
CHARLIE WYKE	9	○○○
GEORGE HONEYMAN	10	○○○
LYNDEN GOOCH	11	○○○
TOM FLANAGAN	12	○○○
LUKE O'NIEN	13	○○○
DUNCAN WATMORE	14	○○○
JACK BALDWIN	15	○○○
LEE BURGE	16	○○○
ELLIOT EMBLETON	17	○○○
GEORGE DOBSON	18	○○○
AIDEN McGEADY	19	○○○
ETHAN ROBSON	21	○○○
WILL GRIGG	22	○○○
GRANT LEADBITTER	23	○○○
GLENN LOOVENS	24	○○○
MARC McNULTY	29	○○○
BENJI KIMPIOKA	31	○○○
DENVER HUME	33	○○○
ANTHONY PATTERSON	43	○○○



OXFORD UNITED

HEAD COACH: **KARL ROBINSON**

○○○	1	SIMON EASTWOOD
○○○	2	CHRIS CADDEN
○○○	3	JOSH RUFFLES
○○○	4	ROB DICKIE
○○○	6	ALEX RODRIGUEZ GORRIN
○○○	7	ROB HALL
○○○	8	CAMERON BRANNAGAN
○○○	10	BEN WOODBURN
○○○	11	TARIQE FOSU
○○○	12	SAM LONG
○○○	13	JACK STEPHENS
○○○	15	JOHN MOUSINHO
○○○	16	SHANDON BAPTISTE
○○○	17	JAMES HENRY
○○○	18	MARK SYKES
○○○	19	JAMIE MACKIE
○○○	20	JAMIE HANSON
○○○	21	MALACHI NAPA
○○○	29	TONY McMAHON
○○○	31	MAX HARRIS
○○○	32	YOAV SADE
○○○	33	KEVIN BERKOE
○○○	34	AARON HEAP
○○○	35	SAM ALLARDYCE
○○○	36	KYRAN LOFTHOUSE
○○○	38	RYAN CROOKS
○○○	39	DWEN JAMES
○○○	46	NICO JONES
○○○	47	FABIO LOPES

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: **PETER WRIGHT**

ASSISTANT REFEREES: **STEPHEN WADE & DAVID BENTON**

FOURTH OFFICIAL: **DEAN HULME**