## Barton Town Swans Review

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THE EASY BUY STADIUM

BARTON TOWN SWANS REVIEW



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### Gregory's Greeting

Good evening once again to everyone and welcome to the EasyBuy Stadium for this NCEL Premier Division match. Today we are pleased to host Handsworth at the third attempt to have the game on, and we extend a warm welcome to their players, officials and supporters that have made the relatively short journey to be here tonight.

We'd like to point out to those from Handsworth that the westbound M180 is scheduled to be closed so you'll have to take an alternative route; perhaps using the A63 / M62 by crossing the Humber Bridge which you can see from the ground with it's red lights!

I think it's fair to say that we've had a bit of an "up and down" season so far. Having had matches postponed had caused us to drop down the NCEL Premier Division table a bit howeyer in recent

weeks we have played some of the "missing" games - and tonight is another of these - and with those an improvement in our league position. A win tonight can see us within touching distance of the promotion play-off positions!



All credit for this must go to Anthony "Bows" Bowsley, his management team and of course the players as we start into the last third of the season. As the saying goes "it's not how you start but how you finish" and with three wins - and a narrow loss - in 2025 I'm looking forward to continuing success over the final weeks and we have a busy schedule in front of us in February and March.

We are still waiting for news on the grant for the pitch drainage project; I'm hoping we'll get the confirmation through shortly. Although we've had a couple of matches postponed due to poor pitch conditions, it doesn't appear to have been as bad recent seasons. It feels like the winter has, so far at least, not been to hard on us, and the hard work put in by the groundsman, Paul Coult, has kept the pitch in as good a condition as possible. After today we only have five NCEL fixtures left to play with Friday 21st March being the last home match, but the Reserves will still be playing home matches until mid-April so work can't commence until late April.

Today we also welcome a new matchday sponsor - JLM Wood Creations. We thank them for their support and hope they and their guests have a good time and enjoy a good match... with a home WIN for the Swans!



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Good evening everyone... here we are again at The EasyBuy Stadium in NCEL Premier Division action. Today we welcome, at the third attempt, Handsworth... the weather forecast is good for the days leading up to this game so there should be no problems with the pitch.

Our last home match was against Knaresborough Town; a team that some have seen as a "bogey" team for us in the past. Certainly the away fixture was disappointing as it was one where had we looked to have secured all three points until the home side were awarded, and scored, a penalty in added time.

The home fixture had us pretty evenly matched and holding on to a 1-1 draw until Tom Waudby was injured in the early part of the second half. Play was delayed for around 15 minutes while Tom received treatment on the pitch before we felt able to stretcher him off arrange further treatment. Fears that he had a broken ankle were somewhat premature, but he

does had some significant ligament damage that is going to stop him from playing for several weeks. He is, however, made of strong "stuff" and made the trip to Frickley on

crutches to support his team-mates just three days later. It looked like we were going to hold onto the draw but just the 90 minutes came the visitors scored a second goal, took the three points and ended our unbeaten home run.

Tuesday we were off to Frickley Athletic for what turned out to be a really good win for us. Scoring four goals away from home is a good achievement at any time, and the recent additions to the squad once again made their mark. Harry Lovick had a great evening scoring a hattrick for us and Oli Baldwin scoring once again. Topped off with a clean sheet we could not have asked for a better, more convincing result.

We made a further addition to the squad towards the end of the week signing Robert Guilfoyle who had been sitting on the Frickley bench during that game. He's scored a few goals for them this season; 10 in the NCEL Premier Division so we were pleased to get him on board.

The Frickley game was followed up on Saturday afternoon by the local derby at Winterton; a scrappy match but the main point was that we came away with the three points.

Ali put us in front after just six minutes only for us to concede an equaliser shortly after. In the second half we had a penalty disallowed as the ball was "double touched" as new signing Rob Guilfoyle slipped and the ball hit his standing foot, which is something I've not seen in a long while. (Editor note: see Law 14: If, after the penalty kick has been taken the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick (or direct free kick for a handball offence) is awarded)

The winning goal came well into added time, the 97th minute, with Harry Lovick "popping" up to score his fourth of the week... although Jack Bulless says he got a touch to it as well! The "dodgy goals committee" did however award the goal to Harry.

Of course any game is the result of a team effort and Tom Nicholson was kept busy and kept us in the match with a second half penalty save. Anyway we'll take that win despite it probably adding a few more grey hairs! But two wins away from home in a week, scoring six and conceding just one is something I'd take that all day long.

Of course we'll be looking to continue that form today. Handsworth are just below us in the league table and it's important to keep up the momentum as we aim to progress up towards the play-off positions.

#### Enjoy the Game!



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WALKING out onto the hallowed turf at Wembley is every young football fan's childhood dream. Dave Jones remembers it better than most.

When Atherton Laburnum Rovers chairman Shaun Lynch appointed a new manager 18 months ago, there were raised eyebrows among some observers given his chosen one was only 23 at the time.

"Sometimes you have to give a lad a chance," he said. And it's fair to say he has no regrets.

This afternoon, Jones will lead out his side at home to Bourne Town in the FA Vase last 16 in a game billed as LR's biggest knockout game since they reached the competition's semi-finals stage in 1994 – before Jones wasn't even born. His side, the only Step 6 club still standing, hailing from North West Counties League's First Division North, have eliminated four teams from a higher level to get this far – including a thrilling 3-2 success against Hallam in the previous round secured by Ryan Talbot's last-gasp penalty.

"That moment is a perfect example of what this young group is about," he told The NLP this week. "They're fearless, and they back each other. When they needed to show character, they did."





The same could be said for a club that has rallied from the brink of financial ruin five years ago when they were reprieved from relegation to a regional feeder league.

Jones, still just 25, has had a galvanising impact since taking charge and steered LR to second spot in the table last season. They missed out on promotion through the play-offs, and occupied the same position entering this weekend – four points behind Nelson with four games in hand.

"When I came in, I wanted to reconnect the team with the town and give it an identity," said Jones, who prepares the pitch for National League high-fliers Altrincham as the Robins' head groundsman in his day job.

"You can feel the positive energy around the club as a result of this cup run, and those supporters who have been here through those tough times are really savouring the moment."

He plans to relay a similar message to his players before kick-off against a Bourne Town side currently leading the way in the United Counties League Premier Division North and involved at this stage for the first time ever in their 45th Vase campaign.



The LR boss added: "We didn't expect to do this well in the FA Vase, which is why it's important to enjoy the experience. Most lads in our dressing room won't probably won't get this far again, and I want us all to look back in 10 years' time and be able to say; 'they were good times, weren't they?"

But Atherton LR and Bourne are not the only clubs looking to make history in this year's FA Vase. Half of the 16 clubs still standing are appearing in the fifth round for the first ever time – and there's also still a former winner looking to return to Wembley ten years after their last visit.

Northern League side North Shields host Whitchurch Alport for whom victory would match their best run to the quarter-finals from three years ago.

All 50 previous FA Vase finals have included a first time finalist – and this year looks to be no different.

Another former quarter-finalist is Crook Town, looking to repeat the feat from 19 years ago with a victory at Heanor Town – one of the eight clubs appearing in the fifth round for the first time.

VCD Athletic are in the fifth round for the first time in 18 years and they host Hellenic



League leaders Hartpury University, while Whitstable Town have had a 28-year wait for the chance to reach the quarter-finals for the first time. They entertain a Fleet Town side who had never been beyond the second round before this season.

Egham Town travel to AFC Whyteleafe with the winner being a quarter-finalist for the very first time, while Erith & Belvedere are looking to match their best run to the quarter-finals from 10 years ago with victory over Daventry Town.

The Deres have won through six rounds already, via four penalty shoot-outs, having scored just four goals in normal time.

Conversely, Andover New Street, reinstated last week at the expense of Roman Glass St George, and their fellow Wessex League visitors, AFC Stoneham, have scored 28 goals between them in this season's Vase so far.

In the Trophy, all eyes are on Step 4 flag-flyers Sittingbourne, appearing at this stage of the competition for the first time in the club's 50th Trophy campaign – a competition record for the most campaigns before reaching the last 16.

The Step 4 Brickies travel to National League





side Southend United in one of two ties that will see the winner setting their best Trophy run.

Worthing are into the last 16 for the first time in 39 years, and take on National League Rochdale, while Oxford City, of National League North, last went beyond the Last 16 four years ago. They take on twice beaten finalists National League side Forest Green Rovers.

A former multiple winner is Woking, who travel to the only Step 3 club still involved this season, Gainsborough Trinity, semi-finalists in 2013, while Spennymoor Town host Boston United 32 years after the Lincolnshire club knocked Spennymoor United out of the Trophy.

National League North side Kidderminster Harriers lifted the Trophy 38 years ago and they host Sutton United of the National League, while two-time winners Altrincham, face league rivals Eastleigh, who last reached the quarter-finals 11 years ago.

The final tie of the round sees two former semifinalists face each other as National League Aldershot Town host Boreham Wood, from National League South, although it's 17 years or more since either side reached the last four.



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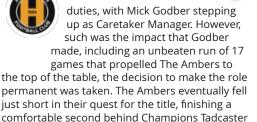
#### Handsworth FC – A brief history

Handsworth Parramore FC were formed at the start of the 2014/2015 season after the merger of two highly successful clubs, Handsworth FC of the S&H County Senior League Premier Division and Worksop Parramore of the NCEL Premier Division. The NCEL and the FA allowed the new club to take over the position of Worksop Parramore, who had just finished in 4th place in the Premier Division, whilst the S&H CFA allowed their reigning Champions to continue under the name of Handsworth Parramore Reserves.

The new club could not have begun life better as in their first game, under Manager Russ Eagle, they crushed Glasshoughton Welfare 6-0 and followed this up with a 5-1 victory over Oadby Town in their first ever FA Cup tie. After leading the table for a number of weeks, a downturn in fortunes led to a change at the top and the installation of the ex Belper Town management team of Peter Duffield and Mick Godber. The duo rebuilt the squad who ended their inaugural season in 7th place and with the clubs first piece of silverware, the NCEL League Cup, secured after a thrilling 4-3 victory over Cleethorpes Town.

Our second season started in positive fashion but halfway through the campaign, the difficult decision was made to relieve Duffield of his





The following season, and despite a best ever run in the FA Cup, halted only at the 3rd Qualifying Round stage, inconsistent league form resulted in Godber stepping down as Manager in April, with striker Jon Froggatt being put in temporary charge until the end of the season, and a creditable 4th placed finish was achieved.

Albion.

In April 2017, the Club announced that former player James 'Jas' Colliver was to return to take over as the new Manager, and with another rebuilt squad, another 4th placed finish was secured in his first season in charge, with promotion missed by just one place for the second time, alongside a run to the Semi-Finals of the League Cup.

Unfortunately, the 2018-19 season was really one to forget with The Ambers finishing in their lowest ever position of 8th and with poor showings in the Cup competitions. Colliver departed the club



in the Autumn and, despite their best efforts, the interim management team of Steve Istead and Jon Froggatt were unable to lift the general malaise that had set in around

the club.

At the end of the campaign, the decision was made for the club to continue on a much-reduced budget and to return to Olivers Mount. Russ Eagle was invited back to the club as Manager alongside Aiden Spowage, and to strengthen ties with the Junior Sporting Club, the new Management Board sought and gained approval from the NCEL to change the clubs name to Handsworth FC.

The 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 campaigns saw the club suffer some highs and lows as was to be expected with such a young and changing squad, and after a hit and miss start to the 2021-22 season, The Ambers parted company with Eagle in October, with Aiden Spowage and Jason Dodsworth named as Joint Managers, with Louis Axcell strengthening the management team later.

An excellent run to the 3rd Qualifying Round of the FA Cup underpinned a highly respectable 8th placed finish, but despite the efforts of everyone involved, we were unable to build on this and a disappointing 2022-2023 campaign saw The Ambers finish in their lowest ever position of 16th, leading to the inevitable departure of the



management team. Ambers legend
Jon Froggatt was handed the reins
alongside Mark Ward ahead of the
2023-2024 season, and an excellent
start saw The Ambers within touching
distance of top spot, before a desperate run of

distance of top spot, before a desperate run of form through the Winter saw the team drop alarmingly before a late resurgence claimed an improved 13th placed finish. With some slight tweaking during the Summer, The Ambers are looking forward to, once again, improve their final position.

#### **Player Profiles**

#### Dylan Parkin

Dylan re-joined The Ambers after departing at the back end of last season and playing for Liversedge in the NPL East. The ex Goole and Maltby keeper has waited patiently for his opportunity and has now re-gained his place between the sticks.

#### **Tom Crosby**

Experienced keeper Tom joined The Ambers last season from Retford United in a joint goalkeeping coach role and proved invaluable during the run in at the end of the campaign. Also gained NCEL experience with AFC Mansfield and is a great asset to the club.



#### **Tom Cropper**

TC came through the ranks at Handsworth but left to join Swallownest without making a first team appearance. The versatile

defender earned a move to AFC Mansfield where he was skipper before moving to Ossett United, from whom he joined us two seasons ago. Finally opened his scoring account for The Ambers at Campion recently.

#### **Tyler Williams**

28 year old attacking left sided full back Tyler came on board with The Ambers in the Summer after having had spells with Frickley Athletic and Hallam as well as in the NPL with Stocksbridge Park Steels and Brighouse Town. A player who we originally tried to sign around six years ago.

#### **Henry Carne**

Henry originally joined us on a dual registration from Hyde United two years ago and soon found a starting berth here. Last season, his reading of the game served The Ambers well at the heart of the defence and he deservedly won the Player of The Season award. Can fit in comfortably anywhere along the back line or in midfield.

#### **Owen Haigh**

Ball playing centre half Owen arrived last season from Swallownest and made a big impact. Has also appeared for Worsborough Bridge Athletic



after spending time in the youth set ups at Sheffield United and Doncaster Rovers, Is also a more than competent midfielder when called upon.

#### Johno Williams

Dead ball specialist Johno has played at a higher level with Belper Town, Lincoln United, Gainsborough Trinity and Frickley Athletic from whom he had a short but successful loan spell with us back in 2018. Joined us two seasons ago from Maltby Main and adds a calming influence at the back or in the middle of the park.

#### Oscar Radford

Vastly experienced centre half Ozzie missed almost the whole of last season with an injury and after re-gaining fitness is now unfortunately injured again. In his third spell with The Ambers, he has also appeared for Shaw Lane, Matlock Town and Worksop Town amongst others.

#### **loe Parkin**

Box to box midfielder Joe re-joined The Ambers for a third spell in the Summer, after being an integral part of both Shirebrook Town and Rossington Main's successful squads last season. With an eye for a goal, Parks will undoubtedly prove to be a dangerous operator in the middle of the park.



Experienced centre half Luds is a welcome addition at the back and is no stranger to Ambers fans following his previous spells with us. Has been plying his trade recently with the likes of Retford United and Hallam and has good leadership credentials.

#### **Ben Harriott**

A recent addition to the squad, 23 year old Ben certainly adds height to the back line, so should be a major asset in the opposition box at set pieces too. Spent time last season with Maltby Main and Goole and has also been part of Sheffield FC's set up.

#### Sam Fewkes

Hard working, holding midfielder Fewkey always impacts the game through either his non-stop ratting or his ability to pick out a pass and put the team quickly onto the front foot. Sam finally scored his first Ambers goal against Armthorpe, in his 80th game recently.

#### **Fernando Tavares**

Energetic and mobile Portuguese midfielder Nando was a member of the Chesterfield Under 23's squad last season and joined us on loan towards the end of the campaign, where his performances made him one of our top targets in the Summer. He may well become one of the hottest properties in the NCEL this season.



18 year old midfielder or winger Kian is another product of the Chesterfield Under 23's squad and joined us recently, making an assured debut off at Campion. Is proving to be a reliable

the bench at Campion. Is proving to be a reliable squad member while he awaits his chance of a run in the team.

#### Tom Bishop

Bish joined us last season from Rugby Borough after relocating to Sheffield, and his ability to run with the ball coupled with his low centre of gravity makes him a compelling watch. Can play centrally or out wide and has just returned from a short spell at Worsborough Bridge.

#### **Brandon Bagley**

Pace and power are the main assets of wide man Brandon who has previously appeared for Parkgate and Maltby Main. He showed last season that his dribbling ability causes problems for defenders, and, once free from injury, he will be looking to increase his scoring ratio.

#### Scott Ruthven

Experienced 34 year old centre forward Scott joined from Hallam in the Summer but he is probably best known for his lengthy spell with Stocksbridge Park Steels. He hit the ground running for The Ambers, netting nineteen goals so far this season.





change a game in the blink of an eye.

Talismanic striker Mitch has once again committed his future to The Ambers despite a feeding frenzy amongst a number of clubs desperate to obtain his signature. Dunny now sits 5th in our 'appearances made' and 4th in the 'goals scored' charts and hopefully he will climb both tables this season. Has proved time and again that he can

#### **Harry Jessop**

22 year old attacking midfielder / striker Harry is a recent signing from Pickering Town. The former Scunthorpe United man has also had spells with Farsley Celtic, Gainsborough Trinity, Curzon Ashton and Tadcaster Albion and increases our striking options.

#### Alfie Dodsworth

Exciting winger Alfie topped the Ambers scoring charts last season with 18 goals and was much coveted by many other clubs. Happily, the former Worsborough Bridge Athletic, AFC Mansfield, Ollerton Town and Maltby Main man decided to stay with The Ambers and will be looking to increase his goal tally this season.

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## Knaresborough!

By Darren Stockdale

What can be said about our last home game that can be published? Barton lost 2-1, but if you were at the game you would already know that. Knaresborough probably only had two shots at goal, and scored both. Barton had many shots, and scored one. Knaresborough also seemed to be going for the record of how many players could be booked in a game (plus having one sent off for a horror tackle on Tom Waudby).

Before writing this I checked to see where they stood in the Fair Play League (as of the Friday prior to the game). They were 12th, which surprised me as I expected them to be lower. I checked again before this match and somehow they have risen to 11th? That does make me wonder just what that league is representing.

Next came our away game at Frickley Athletic. That was a much better performance, with Harry Lovick scoring his first goal for the club, then his second, and then his third from the penalty spot. Oliver Baldwin also scored for Barton which saw us leave with four goals, three points, and we also took their top scorer for the season too when Robert Guilfoyle joined us later in the week.

Our next match saw a local derby at Winterton. Ali Aydemir put Barton in front early on but











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Winterton equalised not long after. Winterton were awarded a penalty which was brilliantly saved by Nicholson. Barton were also awarded a penalty which was scored, but then disallowed by the ref. Then, in the last few minutes, Harry Lovick scored his fourth in two games to give all three points to Barton.

Hopefully today's game will finally go ahead. It was originally due to be played on the 7th December, but Storm Darragh hit. It was then due to be played on the 14th January, but the weather intervened again. Hopefully it will be third time lucky.

#### Trivia

Vegetarians Can Eat Meat – Ok, so the title of this trivia section may sound wrong but hear me out as we delve into the original meaning of the word meat.

Our word meat comes from the Middle-English word mete, which itself came from the Old-English word mete or mett, both meaning "food". It wasn't solely to do with animals but meant any solid food in general. It wasn't until the 14th century that it became to mean the edible flesh of animals.



So how did the early speakers distinguish between flesh, fish and fruit (or veg)? Well, they used the terms "flesh mete" for animals, "fish mete" for fish, and "green mete" for fruit and veg.

From this we can also see where some of our modern terms for the traders of these items come from. A "monger" is an Old-English term for a trader or dealer, so a fleshmonger was a dealer in animal flesh, a fishmonger was a dealer in fish, and a greenmonger was a dealer in fruit and veg. Eventually we took the French word "bochier" which eventually became our word butcher in place of the fleshmonger, and the greenmonger became the greengrocer, again after taking the French word "groser" in place of monger.

Now we are on the subject of fleshmeat have you ever wondered why we have two words for cow and beef, pig and pork, sheep and mutton, deer and venison, but not chicken?

The answer to that lies in the origins of the words. The names of domesticated animals mainly come from Anglo-Saxon language, so from that we get cow, pig, sheep and deer from the native farmers who raised the animals. However, after the Norman Conquest the English language underwent big changes due to the influence of the Norman French language spoken by the elite.



So, from them we get beef, pork, mutton and venison. However, the poor humble chicken was not really of interest to the elite class, so they never bothered giving it another name.

So, to justify the title of this small article, technically speaking as meat can mean any food in general vegetarians can indeed eat meat, providing it is green-meat.

### History

Our away game against Handsworth last season saw all the goals in the last few minutes of the game. Handsworth took the lead on 84 minutes, only to see Tom Waudby score the equaliser for Barton right at the end of the game. Our home game against Handsworth saw no goals whatsoever, again ending in a draw.

This season our away game against Handsworth ended in a draw again, with Handsworth taking a 2-0 lead into the break but then seeing a goal from Ali Spencer Aydemir and Tom Waudby share the spoils.

Let's hope for a good game today and up the





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#### **Local Legend**

Everyone loves a home-grown hero. Someone who comes from the area of the club, who understands its unique place within its community, who identifies with the fans. It adds a little spice for a derby day, and makes their commitment to the cause seem all the more authentic. And there are few clubs in world football who can boast more home-grown heroes than Athletic Bilbao. The Basque club only signs Basque players, probably costing them significant periods of success, but keeping the identity of the team fiercely local. And there is no Basque legend who stands out more than the incomparable Telmo Zarra.

Zarro was born in 1921, in the northern Basque town of Erandio just south of the Bay of Biscay. His father, Telmo Zarronandia, was an engineer and the manager of the station at Asua, where Telmo Junior was born, and football was part of the family. His brothers Tomas and Domingo, both a decade his senior, were regulars in La Liga

for Basque side Arenas de Getxo. Tomas provided young Telmo with a football from the club, and despite his father's disapproval and his own shyness of his incredible ability, his talent shone through.

After impressing with junior sides around the town, at 16 Zarra was signed by Second Division side S.D. Erandio, where he was slowly shepherded into the first team. In his first season, he played a handful of times, but in his second he made twenty appearances, scoring twelve goals, and catching the eye of bigger suitors. At the end of that season, aged just 18, he moved to Bilbao.



His time at Athletic would define Spanish football for decades.

The Spanish Civil War had finished just a year earlier, with victory for the Fascist Franco and the death of Telmo's brother Domingo, but the fallout of that conflict curtailed a promising opening season for the younger Zarra at Bilbao. After six goals in his first eight games, he was called up for national service and sent to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on the African coast. He would be gone for a year, but when he returned his legend began.

The 1941-42 season saw Zarra rediscover his goalscoring form, smashing in 26 goals in 28 games and finishing as the club's top scorer. The following season he got a goal per game over 25 appearances, as Bilbao won a league and cup double. He was top scorer once again, something he achieved in 10 of his 15 seasons with Athletic.

The club failed to capitalise on that success, and over the following decade won just one more league title, and four Copa del Generalisimo (now the Copa del Rey). But the lack of consistent success didn't blunt Zarra's consistent goalscoring. He topped the league goalscoring charts between 1944 and 1947, and in the final season of that run equalled the highest ever number of goals in a single La Liga season. In 1950-51, he smashed that record with 38



goals in just 30 games. His new record stood for seventy years, eventually being beaten by Cristiano Ronaldo in 2011.

Sadly for Zarra, he suffered a broken leg in the offseason after breaking that record, meaning he missed the whole of the 1951-52 season, but he returned to formidably form in 1952-53, scoring 24 more goals and winning the inaugural Pichichi award, given to the league's top goalscorer by the sports newspaper Marca. It was particularly fitting, as the award was named after the nickname of another Bilbao legend, Rafael Moreno.

Zarra continued to score goals for the club as his legend grew, playing two more seasons in Bilbao before finally moving on in 1955. He made a handful of appearances for other Basque clubs until 1957, but his status was secured in Bilbao.



His record of 251 goals in 257 appearances stood for nearly six decades, until Lionel Messi overtook him in 2014. He matches the Argentinian's goals per game ratio, although Cristiano Ronaldo bettered it, and also overtook him in total goals scored in 2015. But in the Copa del Rey, his record looks unassailable. 81 goals across 18 years stormed past the record set by Josep Samitier, and where Zarra played for a middling side, Samitier played for both Real Madrid and Barcelona. Since Zarra set his record, Messi is the player who has come closest to it, but he fell a full 25 goals short. No current La Liga player has even 50.

Telmo Zarra might not be as recognisable a name as his contemporaries Alfredo di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas, but his goalscoring was far higher than both of those genuine global superstars. So when the history of Spanish football is written, in one corner of northeastern Spain at least, there is one name that stands out above them all.

Telmo Zarra.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame



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