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22.02.2025 | 15:00

THE EASY BUY STADIUM

BARTON TOWN SWANS REVIEW



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Gregory's Greeting

I'm hoping that the predicted overnight rain hasn't resulted in postponement of today's match and today I am able to welcome you all to this afternoon's game where our guests are Penistone Church and can extend a warm greeting to their players, officials and travelling supporters.

After a chilly few weeks we have been promised warmer temperatures today, although I think hopes of sunny skies may be optimistic! Looking at my diary it's somewhat surprising to see that meteorological Spring starts next Saturday so this is our last match official Winter match! I'm going to stick my neck out here and say that we've got away with a fairly easy winter period - certainly compared to last season when at this stage we still had 14 games to play and eight of those were at home. After today we have just two, yes TWO, home games (that's Rossington Main in two weeks and Tadcaster Albion two weeks after that on a Friday evening) and six away matches left to play.

That, rather neatly, brings us back to the ongoing "pitch drainage" saga. The good news is that



we have now heard back from the Football Foundation and our grant application is now being processed and scrutinised to ensure we meet the requirements and that all our paperwork is complete.

So I'm hoping by the time the editor chases me for my next programme notes we'll have great news for you with everything approved and contractors organised so work can commence as soon as possible after our last home game... watch this space!

Speaking of home games, and I'll get this in now so you can update your diary or calendar, on Sunday 9th March - that's the day after the First Team play Rossington Main - our U18 Development Squad play Bottesford Town U18 in the Semi-Final of the Lincolnshire County Boys U18 Cup after their 2-1 defeat of Grimsby Borough U18 two weeks ago. It's sure to be a great match as both teams have been involved in high scoring games in the early rounds of the competition and we'll all be looking forward to supporting the squad that day.

That's about it from me... finally thank you to AP Robinson; not only for being today's match sponsor but also their on-going support of the club through the AP Robinson Sports Bar. We hope you get to enjoy a great game and a win for the Swans today !



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A Shot Across The...

The end of the season is in sight - 29 games played with nine, including this afternoon's match, left to come, and of those just three home matches. When I was appointed manager at the club I was warned that during the winter we lose matches to bad weather, either water-logged or frozen, but this year we appear to have escaped lightly with only a couple of postponements. Of course, both the Handsworth and Thackley games were originally scheduled to be played before Xmas and would have come before the recent change in our home form! Having said that, no team gets an easy game when they come to The Easy Buy Stadium.

Today, of course, we'll be looking to get back to the winning ways we have been enjoying away from home. We have been getting close to being just a win away from the play-off places which is still our target for the campaign.

Recent weeks have seen us bring in new players to bolster the squad where we feel we need to have other options available. You will have noticed that Fraser Papprell has been playing "out of position" in recent matches and has put himself about and has had quite a





A Shot Across The...

few chances. He been proving to be a problem for other teams to deal with. Unfortunately he's away for the next couple of games so it's going to be an opportunity of others to come in and stake a claim for the place. We've tried quite a few players in that position during the season and it's a difficult one to fill.

Injuries? Only Keiran Wressell out at the moment although he's been doing some light training; and despite Jack Bulless going down heavily and needing help to limp off towards the end of Tuesday's match and my fearing it was going to be serious, he was at our training session on Thursday evening. Tyler Edwards has today's match to miss but he should be available for the Pickering match.

The lads have been putting in really good performances, they're working hard and making chances and I couldn't ask any more from them in terms of commitment. If we have everyone available we can give any team a game; we just need to work a little bit more on consistency.

Anyway that's all from me for this week.

Enjoy the game... and let's have another win for the Swans!



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I will make the tea and you bring the biscuits – that was the message from Dean Brennan last week when we asked the Barnet boss if he had time for a cuppa and a chat.

He had more to offer than that, throwing open the Hive's doors for a full day to see their preparations for a big National League clash with Solihull Moors.

It's what we all love about Non-League football. Even at the top table, managers are so affording of their time and generosity.

Last season Barnet missed out in the play-offs – ironically to Solihull – and the previous year their hopes were ended by Boreham Wood.

But the Bees are edging ever closer and that relaxed feeling around the camp was clear to see.

Will they win every game between now and the end of the season? Almost certainly not and there will be bumps in the road. York City and Forest Green Rovers hold the same title ambitions and there are a whole number of clubs determined they hold League Two status next term.

Brennan, of course, has done the hard yards. He's turned down the chance to be an EFL





manager already, staying loyal to Barnet in the hope he can be the manager to take them back into League Two.

Brennan, 44, knows what this part of the season is all about. He took Hemel Hempstead from the bottom of the Southern League into the Conference South in his first job and, after some big learnings at Billericay Town and Kingstonian, then won Step 2 with Wealdstone.

Although an FA Trophy winner with Grays Athletic, Brennan says he didn't live right to maximise his playing career. It's why he's so driven in his management career – one that actually started in Sunday League alongside his Non-League playing days.

"I wanted to get used to speaking in front of a group," Brennan tells The NLP. "Because being a player and saying, 'Oh can we do this, gaffer?' it is totally different to standing up in a changing room and seeing 16 faces staring back at you. Now the squads are even larger.

"You saw me earlier doing video analysis and speaking in front of the players. It's understanding where they're sitting because it's important how you get that communication across. I don't want to be turning around saying, 'Matt, Matt,





where are you Matt?' You look like a right idiot. Rather than knowing where you are and saying, 'Right, Matt, this is what we want you to do'.

"I know where everyone is sitting. All those things I learnt early and it's important because it's hard speaking in front of a group.

"If you're a con man, they will know you're a con man. Footballers know if you're spoofing them and bluffing them.

"I just wanted to get that right. So I did player-assistant at a couple of clubs. Way lower down at Dunstable Town and Aylesbury Vale, then I





started doing my badges and Mr Boggins (Hemel chairman Dave Boggins) gave me a chance.”

The game has changed greatly since his first break. Brennan recalls shouting and screaming back in those days.

“It’s amazing, now I don’t even do team-talks before games,” Brennan says. “When I started out in management and was part-time, we used to do the phases of play in the warm-up so I could get it into the players’ heads. We’d be doing attacking phases, shadow play in the warm-up because we didn’t have enough contact time.

“Now the week is structured, we’ve got time, we’ve got recovery, we’ve got video. When you look at younger people, especially, now they learn a lot off their phones, from video, social media, YouTube. Does anybody watch Eastenders or Coronation Street? My Ma definitely still watches Corrie and Emmerdale! But, that’s what I’m saying, it’s generational so how it’s changed is fascinating.”

Brennan has grown and evolved with the times into one of Non-League’s most talented and respected managers. Even in a busy week, he’s still got time for a cup of tea with The NLP – and a biscuit, of course!



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In Town Today



Penistone and district has a rich footballing heritage. In fact we can trace this footballing line back to 1648 through a diary entry written by a Parliamentary soldier called Captain Eyre who stated that he went to watch a game of foot-ball between Penistone and Thurlstone at Bordhill, which today, is near to the Dog and Partridge Inn on the A628 Manchester Road. Further evidence of this footballing heritage can be found in national newspapers such as 'Bell's Life' in which challenge matches were issued in the 1840s between the men of Penistone and surrounding villages and involved money. One such challenge clearly stated that Penistone would only play foot-ball and not hand-ball! Because money was involved the outcome would have to be fair which suggests both sides played to an agreed format. Football in Penistone had clearly moved forward





In Town Today

and away from the 'Folk' football days to a more recognised established form.

We can trace this change in the game with the arrival of a new Curate to Penistone in 1829. The Reverend Samuel Sunderland had arrived from Clare Hall Cambridge and it is more than likely he brought a Cambridge style of the game he had experienced to Penistone. In 1836 Sunderland became Headmaster of Penistone Grammar School (PGS) and was responsible for the local boys as well as a number of boarders from the surrounding area. The school was located in the middle of Penistone and had open fields on the north side. It is here that Sunderland introduced the Cambridge style of the game to his pupils two of whom would have a major impact on the development of football on a national level.

John Charles Shaw – born in Penistone in 1830. Educated at PGS under the Rev Sunderland becoming a very accomplished footballer. Moved to Sheffield in 1853 taking the Penistone form of football with him. Sheffield Football Club formed in 1857 by Nathaniel Creswick and William Prest with Shaw possibly as the first club Captain. Founder of the Hallam Football Club 1860. Involved in the early development of the Sheffield Rules. Member of the Sheffield side which played the very first representative match against



In Town Today



London at Battersea Park in 1866. Winner of the world's first adult knock-out football tournament – the Youdan Trophy – in 1867. President of the Sheffield Football Association 1869 – 1883. Oversaw the amalgamation of rules between Sheffield and the London FA in 1877 which created a universal code of Association football in England.

John Marsh – Born in Thurlstone in 1842. Educated at PGS under the Rev Sunderland becoming another very accomplished footballer. Founded the Wednesday Club in 1867 being the first Captain and Secretary. Winner of the Cromwell Cup in 1868. Member of the Sheffield Football Association Committee helping to develop Sheffield rules. Captain of the Association representative side 1871-1874 playing matches against London and Glasgow. Returned to Thurlstone in 1874 to run the family Pub, The Crystal Palace. Formed the Thurlstone Crystal Palace Football Club 1874 the very first football club in the area, affiliated to Sheffield and playing Sheffield Rules. Encouraged other teams to be established including the very first club in Penistone in 1875 ultimately bringing association football into the Penistone area with the further establishing of other clubs.

The Reverend Sunderland was killed in an unfortunate accident in 1855 and was replaced by



In Town Today



the Reverend Canon William Stephenson Turnbull who celebrated his Jubilee in 1905. To commemorate this occasion two representative teams for Penistone were created with

Turnbull the President of both – The Penistone Parish Church Cricket Club in 1905 and then the Penistone Parish Church Football Club in 1906. A new era was born.

The newly formed club played their games on 'Bailey's Field' for three decades until the building of the Park Avenue estate.

In 1906-1907 we were runners-up in the Sheffield Junior League. Winners of the Sheffield Amateur League in 1908-1909. Winners of the Sheffield Junior Challenge Cup 1909-1910 and winners of the Sheffield Amateur League 1910-1911.

Penistone Church won the Sheffield Junior Cup again in the 1936-1937 season.

It was in 1949 that the Hinchliffe farming family donated the present day land to the Penistone community in memory of the dead from the two World Wars. Mr Hinchliffe did stipulate that the ground must be called the Memorial Ground and that it could only be used for the community of Penistone to play sport. Over the last 110 years many sports have been played at the Memorial Ground including Tennis, Archery, Ladies Hockey, Cricket and Football. In 2010 Penistone Footpath





In Town Today

Runners & Athletic Club joined the Club made it their headquarters. In 1998 further land was obtained from Barnsley Council to enable the Club to build an all weather floodlit sport playing area, provide car parking and a further playing area to accommodate a mini junior playing area.

For the 1963/64 season PCFC joined the new Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior league with both their teams being accepted into the league and where our reserves play to this day. Our first team played in this league until 2014/15 season when they were promoted to the Northern Counties East League. In our first season we finished a respectable 9th and in our second season 5th enabling us into the play-off semi final which we narrowly lost to AFC Emley. Our third season in the NCEL (2016/17) was our most successful ever, as we won promotion to the Premier Division by beating AFC Emley in the Play-off Semi Final and Grimsby Borough in the final. We finished the season off by winning the Northern Counties East League Cup against Bridlington Town in the final at Bramall Lane. Our first season at NCEL Premier Division level has been another successful one including finishing 7th in the league and reaching the Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Cup final for the first time in our history where we were narrowly beaten by Shaw Lane.





In Town Today

We also had our best ever run in the FA Cup reaching the first qualifying round where we were knocked out by

Harrogate Town. In our second season in the Premier Division (2018/19) yet again we had another successful season being top of the league for a time before a strong finish from Worksop Town saw them crowned champions and us finishing 2nd. Our highest ever position in our history.

For most of the 2019/20 season we were in the top 3 promotion positions only for the season to be cut short by the unfortunate pandemic. We exited the FA Cup after a replay in the extra preliminary round and despite getting a bye into the first round of the FA Vase we fell at that stage. Sadly the 2020/21 season was also badly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. We again exited the FA Cup in the extra preliminary round narrowly losing 3-2 at Skelmersdale. In the FA Vase we beat Prestwich Heys on penalties after drawing the 1st qualifying round game and went on to beat Wythenshawe Amateurs in the 2nd qualifying round. In the first round proper we beat AFC Liverpool and after drawing our second round game at Longridge Town lost on penalties. With the league again being abandoned the final standings were decided on a points per game average over the past two curtailed seasons. We were not high enough to gain promotion.





In Town Today

In September 2021 long term manager Ian Richards left the club to take up a new position elsewhere and after a reshuffle former first team goalkeeper and reserve team manager

Stephen Lenthall took over with help from another former first team player John Whitehead as assistant. This brought about a transformation of the team's fortunes, after a poor start under Richards, and they rose from 18th in the table to at one point being in the promotion race before eventually finishing 6th. For the 2022/23 season Brett Lovell joined the management team and played his last game during the season scoring an absolute worldy during the game to sign off in style. As for the team, they reached the FA Cup first qualifying round after beating Lower Breck and Brighouse Town bowing out to Shildon. In the FA Vase they beat Maine Road before bowing out to FC St Helens. They went to the Quarter Finals in the Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Cup losing out to Sheffield FC. With a certain amount of long term injuries during the season a fifth place finish in the NCEL was a great achievement. In 2023/24 the team had another successful season finishing in 6th position in the Premier Division, at one stage looking very likely for the play-offs, but narrowly missing out. The team made it to the final of the Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Cup losing to a very good Worksop Town side.

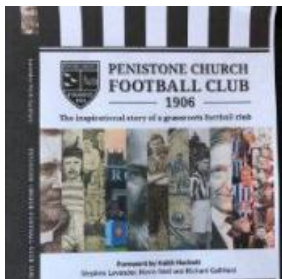
The Club is very proud of the achievements made





over its long history and, as of today has 30 teams playing under the name Penistone Church FC from U7 boys to U18s. Ladies football started at the Club in 2017 and we now have U10 girls to U18s leading to the ladies first team. For men there are first, reserves, over 35, over 45 and walking football teams playing under the name of Penistone Church Football Club in official leagues. In 2021/22 a development team and an U21s team were both formed to compete in their respective leagues to further progression of youngsters into the senior teams.

Compiled with grateful help from Kevin Neill. Penistone Church Football Club 1906 The inspirational story of a grassroots football club book (published 2022) can be purchased at the following website pcfcbook.sumupstore.com



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The Barton Blog

It's always challenging writing this part of the

By Darren Stockdale

blog when your team has lost the last home game, and you wrote about everything else for the blog for that game. So, let's look at the season so far.

Amazingly we only have nine games left to play this season, and only three of those are at home. Despite all the storms and cold weather we have had this winter, everything fell at the right time for us to get most of our games on. If I remember correctly there have only been a couple of home games that needed to be rearranged this season which is quite impressive compared to most seasons.

We are still in with a chance of reaching the playoff places, but realistically that is getting harder after the recent losses at home we have suffered. That said, it is highly unlikely that Goole will win every one of their remaining games to reach a total points total of 44, which is two more than we currently have. Winterton can only gain 24 more points from their remaining games which would put them one short of our total, so we are almost safe from relegation.

So, we need to win as many of our remaining games to get as high as we can in the league this season. It would be nice to beat our finishing





position of 14th from last season and would be even better if we matched our 7th place finish for the two seasons before that.

Trivia


Facts you probably do not know – I thought it would be fun to list some facts you probably do not know, that may be useful in a pub quiz or something similar? This may well spread over a few blogs, but as I never know what order they will be done in it can be a surprise which ones 😊

- Humans have eradicated two diseases. The first disease that has been eradicated is Smallpox, apart from two small quantities kept in America and Russia (hmmm...). The other disease is Rinderpest, which was a disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals.

- It would take 38 minutes and 11 seconds to fall through the entire Earth. This was presuming there was a continuous hole from one point to another at the opposite side of the Earth, ignoring the obvious molten-core issue.

- Mount Everest is not the tallest mountain. If you look at mountains from base to peak, then Mauna Kea Mountain in Hawaii is actually the tallest.





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The Barton Blog

- There were most likely volcanoes on the Moon. Granted, this would have stopped around 1 billion years ago, but there is still probably a significant amount of magma under the lunar surface.
- Your brain is constantly eating itself. This is through phagocytosis, which is a process whereby cells envelop and consume smaller cells in order to remove them from the system. I wonder if that's why we forget things, if it eats your memory cells.
- All the world's bacteria weigh more than all the world's animals. The world contains about 70 gigatonnes of bacteria compared to about 2 gigatonnes of animals. The total mass of Humans is 422.5 billion kilograms. 1 gigatonne equals 1 kilogram with 12 zeros' after it, so you can see just how light we are compared to bacteria.
- Tongue prints may eventually replace fingerprints for security. Everyone's tongue print is unique, and a far better security feature than a fingerprint.
- Flipping a coin is not 50:50. In actual fact a flipped coin has a 50.8 percent chance of landing on the same side up as when it was flipped, so obviously has a 49.2 percent chance of landing on the other side.





The Barton Blog

History

Our away game against Penistone last season saw plenty of goals. Barton took the lead on 20 minutes through Iwan Healey. Penistone then scored three quick goals to lead 3-1 at the break. A goal from Reece Moody on 55 minutes, and Clark Greaves on 85 minutes left the teams locked at three goals each at the end.

Eight games and a few weeks later the teams met at Barton. Again, there were plenty of goals. Joel Chapman put Barton ahead on three minutes, with Penistone getting an equaliser on 15 minutes. Reece Moody restored the lead on 25 minutes, and it remained that way to the break. Just after the hour mark Harry Middleton scored a third for Barton. A very late goal for Penistone was not enough to avoid defeat, leaving the final score 3-2 to Barton.

This season Barton fell to defeat in their away game at Penistone by three goals to one, our goal coming from Tom Waudby.

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





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The Untold Game

Back of the Netzer



Football in Germany was a bit of a slow burner. The Bundesliga was founded as late as 1963, and saw the advent of the professional game in

a country that had already won the World Cup, nearly eight full decades after it had happened in England. A new, exciting league to promote in, German football needed a superstar. And with his long flowing hair, his playboy lifestyle, and his rebellious streak, that star was Gunter Netzer. So good that the Bayern Munich website - among articles of all their famous players - has one about how he nearly signed for them. He was Germany's George Best, and he played for Gladbach.

Netzer was born in the city where he would make his career, but it was a very different time. 1944 saw the city in ruins, as the Second World



The Untold Game

War drew to a close, but the young Gunter grew up in a city thriving with industrial rebuilding, and started his career at 1. FC Monchengladbach. He negotiated a five Deutschmark bonus with his father for every goal, and promptly scored so many that his dad begged a renegotiation. He transferred to Borussia Monchengladbach at the age of 19. By 1965, he was a vital cog in a growing power, and helped the side to promotion to the top flight. Netzer was an immediate sensation, wowing crowds with his passing ability, his insouciance and his off the pitch antics. He was a rock star, in a Gladbach shirt.

His free kicks were a particular delight for fans, but as Gladbach's all time top scorer Jupp Heynckes would later say, he was 'a footballing genius'. As well as his ability on the ball, he was a



great midfield strategist whose ability brought his teammates into the game, and made them look better. As his fame grew, so did his lavish tastes. He developed a Ferrari habit, and was such a well known face on the nightclub scene that he actually opened one. He



The Untold Game

was also involved with the bohemian artistic community that was growing up around the city. A multifaceted young man of many contradictions, he was loved by all.

Between 1969 and 1977 Gladbach won five league titles, but they were dogged the entire time by the more traditional powerhouse of German football, Bayern. The Bavarians were seen as ruthlessly efficient (although the statistics don't fully bear that interpretation out) in the way they won games, and exemplified by their talisman, Franz Beckenbauer. Der Kaiser had the genius to win games on his own, but quietly and effectively. His talent came naturally, and as his nickname suggests, he was seen as aloof.

Gladbach, by contrast, were entertainers, and Netzer was the poster boy. Young, exciting and without the feat that experience gives players, they were always finding creative ways to win football matches. While there was never any public animosity between him and Beckenbauer, their perceived differences made West Germany manager Helmut Schon shy away from playing them together. Despite playing an important part in their Euro 1972 win, Netzer ended his career with just 37 caps.

Unfortunately for Gladbach, when a player shines that brightly in Europe, there is only ever one destination. During the 1971/72 season



The Untold Game

Netzer scored 17 goals in 28 games, the most prolific season of his career, and from midfield while dictating play. But the side fell short of their third successive Bundesliga title, which just opened the door for the playboy to start looking elsewhere for a new challenge. As it happened, that challenge would be in Spain.

Over the course of the 1972/73 season, Real Madrid made contact with the star. It was a political move as much as a footballing one - Real's hierarchy needed something to ease the pain of their great rivals in Catalonia signing Johann Cruyff. Bayern would win the league that season, as Gladbach slipped to a disappointing fifth, but Netzer had one more trick left in him.

Having announced his intention to leave at the end of the season, his manager Hennes Weisweiler left him on the bench for the German Cup final against fierce rivals Koln. With the score at 1-1 and the side lacking inspiration, the manager relented and asked his star to warm up. Netzer shrugged and responded 'they don't need me', remaining on the sidelines. The game struggled to full time with no further goals, meaning extra time beckoned.

In the warm up Christian Kulik collapsed with cramp and couldn't continue. Netzer approached his manager. 'I'll go and play now', he said, and not waiting for a response, jogged on to the



The Untold Game



field. Of course, he scored the winner, and finished his Gladbach career by lifting a trophy.

He moved to Real Madrid that summer and stayed for three years, without ever really recreating his Gladbach form, like so many overshadowed by the mercurial Dutchman. He finished his career in Switzerland, before turning briefly to management and the punditry. But he will always be the first true Bundesliga star.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green The Untold Game

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