



Baggie



Shorts



ISSUE 14

WEST BROMWICH ALBION  
LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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## GET IN TOUCH!

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We always appreciate submissions, from match reports and photos to op-eds and think pieces.

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 West Bromwich Albion Supporters Club London Branch

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### The Baggies cannot afford to go off the boil Brexit Dave was Right: we hope Big Dave is the Right Man

After the first league game under Tony Pulis in January 2015 Dave said, "We've got two and a half years of this to look forward to". It turned out to be nearly three years until he got the boot following his worst win percentage (29.75%) in his so-called managerial career. So, onwards and downwards. Pardew managed a win rate of 14.3% which, it has to be said, is magnificent compared to the 0.0% he achieved when taking care of Reading in March 1998. Taxigate, the worst season since the years of Saunders and Gould, we all know the story.

So, enter stage left Big Dave. A man that fills a room in every respect. He played 104 games for The Albion and is a club legend. Witness the standing ovation he received from all four sides of the ground when he was substituted playing his last game at The Hawthorns for Barnsley. London Baggies remember Darren coming to London to chat with us last year. Top man, failure as a manager was something we could not contemplate.

Darren put smiles our faces, he had players looking like they enjoyed play-

ing football. A win at Old Trafford, another at St James' Park and a home victory against Spurs just made us feel so much better. My favourite moment was looking at the tourist Mancs watching their team getting beaten by a team languishing at the bottom of the league. Their sense of unmet entitlement was a pleasure to watch.

So, to this season. This is rock and roll football. We are scoring goals - more than anyone else bar Man City and good ones to boot. But our defence is dodgy - just look at the goals conceded figures. As John Wile pointed out recently, it is not afforded the protection that Mulumbu and Claudio gave them for a decade. The bookies said we were 2-1 favourites to win The Championship. To meet that expectation, we need to get the defence sorted and hopefully keep a footballer called Harvey for the rest of the season.

If that is the case, Big Dave will take us up and next season take The Albion back into Europe.

Aidan Rose

# View from the Chair

I'd like to start my regular message by wishing my fellow Baggies a very merry festive period and a happy new year.

Let's hope 2019 brings with it a successful and entertaining season culminating in promotion (and a cup run would be nice but maybe I'm now just being a little greedy).

The downside to our entertaining football is that it seems like we will be "enjoying" more Monday and Friday night football.

Disappointingly these TV changes meant a rethink on our (intended) subsidised game at Sheffield United - so we are currently reviewing

what we might do later in the season.

Since I last wrote in our award-winning Baggie Shorts, our football team has had a little bit of a rollercoaster ride, hitting a depressing run of results before starting to turn it around over the last half-a-dozen games.

As I write we sit in third looking up at Leeds and Norwich but that means we are placed nicely for a reasonable set of forthcoming fixtures (on paper!) over the festive period and into January.

If we get some decent results over the next few weeks I firmly believe that we can be sitting in the top two come

the end of January, ready for a final promotion push.

In terms of the London Branch, we have seen an increased membership this year and I welcome all our new members.

Membership has increased from numbering in the 80s a

couple of years ago to 130 now and rising. I truly believe that we have further untapped support in London and

the south east so if you meet potential members at games please encourage them to join us.

As part of our continued efforts to provide events that our members enjoy, we had a fantastic evening with Brendon Batson.

Brendon was his usual engaging self and on behalf of the branch I thank him for attending and giving us such an enjoyable and illuminating evening.

We are now working hard to get other Albion legends to attend in the new year.

**“Let's hope 2019 brings with it a successful and entertaining season”**

Please come along to these events if you can as they really help the profile of the London Baggies.

Big thanks go out to Max Davies, Lana Moseby, Nick Grant and Paul Monney for their contributions to the event and thanks to George at O'Meara for hosting it gratis.

Good health and happiness to you all!

Steve Watts



3rd October 2018

## IF THIS IS SHEFFIELD IT MUST BE WEDNESDAY

Sheffield Wednesday 2 - 2 West Bromwich Albion

The dedication of your Baggie Shorts editorial team knows no bounds, as Paul Probyn and Anoushka drove 200 tedious miles up the M1 on October 3rd just to bring you this headline.

To be fair, Sheffield was on our list of potential awaydays anyway. While other London Baggies choose their games on the basis of the quality of the local beers, we go to the away games that have serious Instagram potential. Not the game, maybe, but the host city.

So the afternoon was spent on photo shoots around Sheffield's historic centre, eventually focusing on the decor of the Botanist cocktail bar, relocated lock, stock and barrel from Sheffield's botanical gardens.

Finding a table in the city cen-

tre to eat before the game was a challenge. Fully booked! Here cos' it's Albion? Sadly, no, the restaurants were full of OAPs on theatre trips.

After eating an excuse for a pizza we headed to Hillsborough, where we found the Railway Tavern, highly recommended for visiting fans and only five minutes from the ground. Friendly locals, and Farmers Blonde from the local Bradfield Brewery, made for a satisfying prelude to the game.

The superb man of the match performance by Harvey Barnes made it possible to forget just how poor the Albion were. Too many loose passes, always second best in 50/50s, a dodgy defence, and the absence of any meaningful midfield as Brunt and Livermore struggled to make any impression.

Thank heaven we were not playing a Premiership team or it could have been a lot worse as the team went in 2-0 down at half-time, to sporadic booing.

We were not helped by a very poor referee, turning down at least one nailed-on penalty appeal, disallowing two goals and awarding free kicks whenever a Wednesday player went down.

As the second half wore on, Albion showed no signs of turning the game around. But with 25 minutes to go, we saw three substitutes stripped and ready for action. What attacking master-stroke was Big Dave about to unleash? Um..... take off both strikers and Tyrone Mears, and bring on Barry, Hoolahan and Robson-Kanu. And it worked!

It was impossible to tell what formation Albion were playing in now, and Wednesday were so confused that in the 86th minute Pelupessy turned a Brunt cross into his own net under pressure from Barnes.

Within two minutes it was all square, as Barnes raced from the half-way line to the 18-yard box, wrong-footed three defenders, and left the goalie standing as he slotted inside the near post.

Cue extravagant celebrations in the away end, but with seven added minutes a very open game could still have gone either way. It may not have had quite the quality of the Spurs-Barcelona game that the 5 Live pundits were eulogising about as we drove home, but it had been a lot of fun.

**“While other London Baggies choose their games on the basis of the quality of the local beers, we go to the away games that have serious Instagram potential”**

Memories of

# The Albion Pub in Goldsmiths Row

Aidan Rose talks to Dave Chapman

Dave Chapman and his partner Su ran The Albion in Goldsmiths Row from 1998 until 2015. It was the stuff of dreams - a pub in the East End filled with Albion memorabilia, live matches and Good Beer Guide status. But first we will start with a conversation that Aidan Rose had with Dave about his time in the music business.

At the age of 17 Dave was working as a welder and with dreams of stardom. He played drums in a band called the "Which Ones?" in the evenings. The band wasn't too bad and built a good reputation locally in east London.

As a result of this they auditioned for a guy called Norman Sheffield who ran the famous Trident Studios in Soho. Dave admits that he already knew he was no Keith Moon and this was confirmed by Mr Sheffield who officially announced that he was "shit".

The following Monday he walked into EMI Records reception and asked for a job (you could do that in those days) and was asked if he was any good at accounts. Proudly, Dave said

he was at least as good at accounts as he was a drummer. He got a job as a cost accountant.

The job was to liaise with the EMI house producers to establish the costs of producing the album and submit these to the head of A&R to make a decision on whether or not to proceed to release. After a few months in a mundane job he was approached by a producer called Norman Smith who asked him to come and listen to some demos for an album he was submitting.

This was highly unusual, but he couldn't resist. They listened in a small studio at EMI's now demolished Manchester Square headquarters in Marylebone and Dave was blown away.

He tells that "I'd never heard anything like it in my short life". The figures for the album were huge for that time when the average break-even figure was 1500 copies. He submitted the costs and gave a break-even point of 20,000 copies. A couple of days passed and he was summoned to

Dave outside the Albion Pub



see Ron White, EMI's head of A&R, without explanation.

He duly attended and was asked what he thought he was doing submitting an album with such a ludicrous break-even figure. He explained his enthusiasm and Ron said "well you'd better be right or you'll be passing my office on your way out".

The album was Pink Floyd's "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn", their only album under the leadership of the legendary Syd Barrett.

A few weeks later he was summoned again and was asked if he would like to join the A&R department as a Label Manager. His music career had begun.

From there he became MD of ABC/Dunhill based in Los Angeles looking after acts such as The Mamas and Papas, The James Gang, Joe Walsh and Steppenwolf, whom he later managed. Thence to marketing manager of Polydor before going out on his own in management and concessions at major outdoor events such as F1, Monsters of Rock, and the Reading Festival.

## We asked Dave about the best visitors to The Albion in Goldsmiths Row

"Wow. That's a hard one. When I retired from the music business and Su and I opened The Albion in Goldsmiths Row we didn't dream it would become the place that it did, most intelligent people thought we'd lost our minds.

It grew into something wonderful that we will forever be grateful for and are

imensely

proud of.

There were so

many great

visitors over

the years. Ce-

lebrity wise

we had Lily

Allen, Katy

Perry, Bob-

by George,

actor Jack

O'Connell

(manic Rams

fan), Alex

Turner from the Arctic Monkeys and

Alexa Chung.

During the early days when we started (illegally) to show every Baggies game live one of the barmaids came up and said "There's two comedians off the telly down the bar", I wandered along to find Adrian Chiles and Frank Skinner - two comedians? We had Dean Kiely, Keith Downing, Neil Clement and many more come along plus players and managers from many other clubs.

The most important one was undoubtedly Richard Thompson, the Albion Chairman.

We had, prior to opening, asked permission of Alun Evans from the club to use the Albion crest as the pub sign (something they would not allow in the West Midlands) and he agreed on a probationary basis provided

there was no trouble at the pub.

One day I received a call from Richard who asked if he could visit us. He came along and spent half a day with us chatting to Arsenal,

Spurs, West Ham supporters and regular customers about the place and when he left said he was amazed and delighted and gave the go ahead with the club's blessing.

That was the real birth of The Albion in Goldsmiths Row and he very definitely became our most important visitor, with the exception, of course, of the thousands of Albion fans from across the globe that we have been privileged enough to meet."

**"One day I received a call from Richard {Thompson} who asked if he could visit us. He came along and spent half a day with us chatting"**

# The London Baggies Brendan Batson Night

by Glenn Hess

What an evening!!!!

One of my all time heroes, Brendan turned out to be charming, intriguing, and amazingly frank to the point of not holding back at all.

Nick Grant bravely took on the mantle of interviewer at short notice and was marvellous, asking lots of pertinent questions which were all answered by our guest.

He spoke to us about his history covering his Gunners and Cambridge career where his manager was Big Ron who made him captain before he was lured to become the third degree by the new Albion manager - Big Ron. He of course shared his fight against racism, which continues today in his PFA role. He recollected the Blacks v Whites match and recalled how the Black players enjoyed the match and were determined to win.

He told us of his admiration for Graham Taylor and how hard he works with Brendan on racism in football and trying to conquer it, and on players' rights.

Surprisingly he was not a fan of Ronnie Allen-----calling him a twat.

As for Big Ron, he expressed his huge sadness and surprise when Ron made his "stupid lazy N word" comments about Marcel Desailly on TV, believing the microphones were switched off. He told us that Big Ron had never apologised to him.

Brendan also charmingly revealed his beginnings after his family came to London from the Caribbean, and his connections to Grenfell Tower.

A fantastic evening enjoyed by nearly forty London Baggies.

# The London Baggies Mickey Lewis Night

By Paul Probyn

Mickey Lewis may not be the best known player from the Albion's great days of the late 70s and early 80s, but he is certainly one of the most engaging.

Throughout another successful London Baggies evening at Flat Iron Square, Mickey had his audience hanging on every word, as he regaled us with tales from his life in the professional game.

Mickey came up through the youth ranks when giants like Wile, Robson, Robertson and the Three Degrees were fixtures at the Hawthorns.

At the time, with squads much smaller than they are now, young reserves could go straight into the first team if a player was injured. So Mickey Lewis was given his debut by Ronnie Allen in December 1981 at the age of 16, in a League Cup tie against Crystal Palace, when Ally Robertson went off injured - and got booked within ten minutes!

Quite an achievement in the days when "robust" tackling was part and parcel of the game. He is still Albion's youngest ever League Cup player. His first start came the

following February in a 2-1 victory over the, then, mighty Nottingham Forest.

Mickey was popular in an Albion dressing room where his aggressive style went down well with the likes of Ally Robertson and Martyn Bennett. But it wasn't all a stroll in the park - one of Mickey's jobs as a young professional was to clean the first team players' bath after training.

Mickey inherited Bomber Brown's number four shirt, and as a central midfielder he found himself pitched against some of the giants of the time - people like Graeme Souness, Glenn Hoddle, John Wark - but Mickey was never overawed and gave as good as he got. He felt the best player he ever faced was Bryan

Robson, by this time at Manchester United.

Mickey shared some of those anecdotes you wouldn't believe if you didn't hear them from someone who was there at the time - like Cyrille Regis and Derek Statham



downing shots of whisky shortly before kick-off, or Gary Owen pinning him against a wall after a particularly strong challenge on the training ground.

When Johnny Giles returned to the Hawthorns for his second stint as manager in 1984, Mickey's career stalled. He didn't get much of a look-in under the new manager, and recounted the bizarre tale of Giles "lending" him to Irish side Finn Harps for a pre-season friendly against Celtic, a match that Harps lost 3-0.

The club owner asked Mickey to stay on for the next pre-season game, against Southampton, on the understanding that he would square it with Johnny Giles.

Unfortunately the owner forgot to speak to Giles, who was understandably unhappy with Mickey when he finally returned to the Hawthorns. Before long he was on his way to Derby, still aged only 19. He thinks West Brom should have kept him (and, let's face it, the way the club nosedived in the following years it



could have used him) but he had no regrets about his time at Derby.

From there he moved on to Oxford, as Manor Ground favourite Trevor Hebbard moved in the opposite direction, but quickly established himself and was voted fans' player of the season in his first two years there.

After 20 years at Oxford and spells in the USA with Des Moines Menace, and on the staff at Doncaster, Mickey is now semi-retired but is still heavily involved in the game he loves - his biggest current role being coach to the Oxford University men's team. He says they always understand what he asks them to do - even if they lack the skill to do it.

The evening ended with Ian Tinsley having the honour of presenting Mickey with his Albion cap, celebrating his status as the 541st player to play for the club in the League.

Thanks to Max Davies for his excellent work in arranging another hugely enjoyable evening for branch members.

# Harveys

## the cream of the crop

By Paul Probyn

Harvey Barnes has burst onto the Albion scene to devastating effect this season. His fearless play, running at defenders and shooting at every opportunity, have made him a firm favourite with fans.

Becoming an ever-present in the team, before the end of November he had scored seven goals and provided three assists. His total of 40 shots was bettered by only two players in the whole of the Championship.

Barnes is the first-ever Harvey to wear the famous blue and white stripes. But is he the only Harvey plying his trade as a professional footballer? We had to find out.

Not quite. Even as the Baggie Shorts editorial team were pondering this important question, Harvey Elliott made his first team debut for Fulham as a 15 year old in the EFL Cup on 25 September against Millwall, becoming the club's youngest ever first-team player and the youngest to ever feature in the League Cup.

Youth is clearly something that the Harvey clan have on their side. Harvey St Clair joined Chelsea at the age of 8, but left them last summer, aged 18, to join the growing number of frustrated young English prospects plying their trade abroad - in his case with Venezia in Serie B.

But being named Harvey does not guarantee a contract with a Premiership club like Leicester, Fulham or Chelsea.

19-year-old forward Harvey Bradbury made his professional debut for Oxford United this November. Meanwhile, Bristol City's 20-year-old Harvey Smith is on loan at Hereford, where he has played just once in the Conference North this season.

Harvey Rodgers is currently trying to make a name for himself at Accrington Stanley. Last season he made an impact at Fleetwood, but of the wrong kind, being sent off on his debut.



Photo by Laurie Rampling

Even younger is Harvey Sayer at Colchester. At 15 he is still an academy player, but he has already been called up to the England under-15 squad so we could be hearing more of him in a few years time as England's youth teams continue to sweep all before them.

Harvey United FC obviously needs a goalkeeper, so who better than Harvey Randle, recently signed by Derby County and, in keeping with the cult of youth, only 13.

Looking for a full 11, we had to call on Harvey Read, a 20-year-old defender at Eastleigh who spent

last season on an undistinguished loan at Hungerford Town, and Bognor Regis FC's Harvey White, grandfather of our team at 27 whose "great ball control and a blistering pace makes him very popular with the Rocks faithful." He even has a column in the local paper.

That leaves us one short - so we'll give a debut to 16-year-old Harvey Neville. He recently signed his first contract for a fading Premiership team based at Old Trafford and has yet to make his senior debut, but if he has the genes of Dad Phil and Uncle Gary, he must have some potential. Go Harvey!

# Book Review.

## Campbell Orr: Pioneer of Association Football, Football's Forgotten Founder

by Douglas Gorman and Martin Shirley (2017)  
ISBN 978-1-5272-0472-0

John Campbell Orr (1850-1921) was a Scotsman from Fife. Educated at St Andrews University, his original sport was rugby.

He brought Association Football to Birmingham, playing football, refereeing (or umpiring as it was then known), as well as being a journalist and serving as secretary of the Birmingham County Football Association.

As the book records, in an obituary the much-lamented Birmingham Sports Argus described him as "the greatest of all football pioneers".

Campbell Orr played centre forward for Birmingham Clerks Football Club before becoming what was then known as an umpire.

Gorman and Shirley document his contribution to the development of the game in the late 19th century.

Amongst his many achievements was to formalise the rules of the game for the Birmingham FA which had 1,200 affiliated clubs and organising for gate receipts of matches played during the war to be given to charity.

Of particular interest to Albion fans is a photograph in the book which the authors have kindly given us permission to reproduce. It was taken at the first game at The Hawthorns on Monday 3 September 1900 when The Albion drew with Derby County through an equaliser by Chippy Simmons (att. 20,104). Campbell Orr is the



Source; "The Hawthorns Golden Jubilee - the story of West Bromwich Albion football ground 1900-1950" by W. Ellery Jephcott 1950

bowler-hatted man on the left. Note that there are eleven players in blue and white stripes, no Ideal Boiler sponsorship and no identifiable goalkeeper.

I asked the authors about this. They told me "The reason why the goalkeeper is not easily identifiable is that until after the First World War in England (slightly earlier in Scotland) the goalkeeper wore the same shirt as his team mates and his only distinguishable feature was that he wore a cap. The goalkeeper is Josiah "Joe" Reader who is sit-

ting in the front row with the ball in front of him. In many team photographs from that time the goalkeeper would be wearing his cap. However, as this photograph was a formal one he may have decided to remove it, taking his cue from the director sitting to his right. Joe Reader was a one-club man who made 315 league appearances and played in 39 FA Cup ties for the Baggies".

**Aidan Rose (proud great grandson of Campbell Orr)**

# Aidan Rose interviews Alex Horton

*Welcome to our new London Baggie who tells us how, despite being Bristol born and Manchester educated, he was forced into the fold.*

## Why The Baggies?

One of my earliest items of clothes was a babygro stating 'I support the Albion because my Daddy said so!' That's pretty much the reason that I follow the Albion. Cheers Dad!

## First ever game?

Bristol City 1-3 Albion, 13 September 1998. Lee Hughes scored two and James Quinn got the other. Shortly after, I was treated to an Albion shirt with 'Hughes' on the back; somewhat unfortunately in hindsight.

## Best away ground?

I always love visiting new grounds and particularly enjoyed Exeter in

the cup; great place, friendly fans and a stadium with a lot of character. However, my favourite ground is still Old Trafford. Despite being a modern stadium, it has kept its character (unlike some of the soulless new ones) and in recent years (and times gone by) it has been a happy hunting ground!

## Favourite away trip?

I always love a trip up north; particularly to either of the Manchester clubs; great city and great people (you can tell I went to university up there!)

## Best ever game away game?

Our 2011-12 win at Villa Park - our first since 1979 with Paul Scharner scoring the winner. I'm still the

proud owner of Scharner's match day t-shirt he wore underneath the kit with the Albion badge on - you know the one!

## Best ever Albion chant?

To the tune of The Entertainer: "We've got the best Midfield in the World. Brunt and Teixeira, Zoltan Gera, Robert Koren and Jonno" I remember whistling this a lot at school!

## Best visitors to The Hawthorns?

I'm always very impressed with the numbers Newcastle bring down and their fans are always quite loud despite many on and off the field problems.

## All-time Albion low?

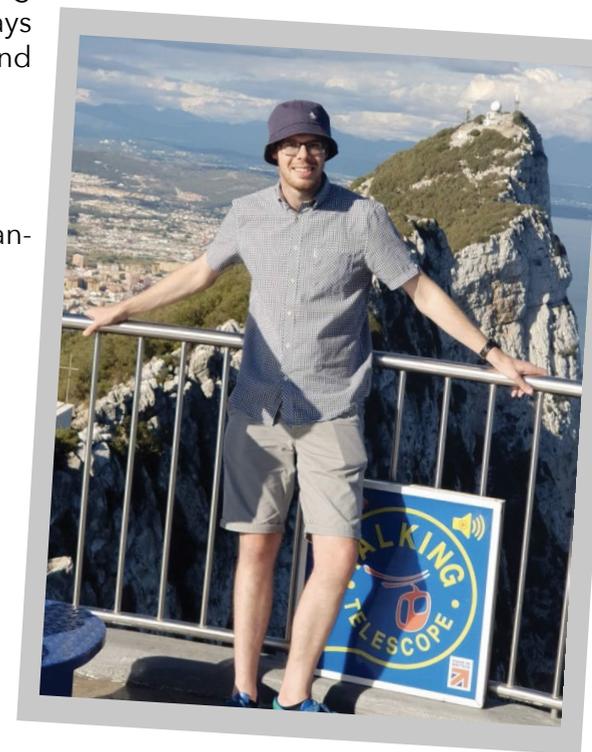
Losing at home to Crewe Alexandra 5-1 on Easter Monday, 1999; still being very young I went back to my grandparents and cried for most of the evening!

## Rondón, Gale or Burke?

Currently, Gayle. I am very impressed with how he has fitted into the team. I would like to see a lot more of Burke as he deserves the chance to prove himself.

## How will you celebrate promotion this season?

With a nice pint of real ale and a smile on my face!





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