

A Kick Up The 80's



**Reunion Dinner
& Charity Ball**
Souvenir Programme



XXXXXXXXXXXX

The Doncaster Moat House | 22nd November 2003



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RACING IN THE FINEST TRADITION

A message from Steve Lister

Good evening everybody and welcome to tonight's Doncaster Rovers FC reunion dinner/charity ball.

It seems just like yesterday when I was sat with Bev and just happened to mention "wouldn't it be great to get the lads together again for a reunion?" Little did I know how big and popular this would turn out to be! Bev has been my brains behind the organisation of this ball, her imagination has been unbelievable. Her determination in pursuing individuals (most of the time under protest - who know who you are, now members of the elite club "Avoid Bev At All Costs"). Your generous contributions and offers of sponsorship have known no bounds. Thanks Gal for helping me to organise such a wonderful event.

Over the years, I have met a few of the "old boys" passing thoughts of yesteryear begging questions like "I wonder what he's doing now?" Well here we are this evening to ask the question in person to many friends I haven't spoken to for ages, much water will have passed under the bridge, the up's and down's we've all had since our playing days ended. Watch out lads I aim to delve deep to find out what you have been up to.

At first my aims for tonight was to organise an event for all to enjoy and reminisce. However, in my capacity as Chairman of Sincere Support, I would dearly like to raise much needed funds for a worthwhile and honourable charity. My gratitude cannot be put into mere words, and I know the families we support will share my feelings.

My personal thanks must go to John Ryan, Chairman of Doncaster Rovers FC, whose help and encouragement from the conception of this idea has been invaluable. Also give special thanks to my side-kick, John Buckley for his input in helping get the lads together, Steve Uttley, for his time and effort, and patience (with Bev). It gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce everyone to the fabulous Acoustic Angles, who will provide our "Live" entertainment this evening. Our host, Mark Jones also the humourous, John Styles.

And now on to the finale. The twin event to the reunion ball.

THE MATCH

Put the date in your diary for **Sunday July 11th, 2004**, this is when us old boys put the

boots back on at Belle Vue to play a game against the Doncaster Rovers lads of today. We will have many celebrity guests to help us out at what is sure to be an exciting day out for all. A message for Bremners' babes, we have 8 months to lose weight and get fit, we can't let the "wee man" down with a below par performance not even now. God bless Billy.

Please welcome tonight our guests of honour, Mrs. Vicky Bremner, the gaffer's wife who we all miss and hold dear in our hearts. He was and remains I am sure for you as with me, a massive influence on my football days and also now in my coaching career. Also, Mrs. Philomena Lynott, mother of Philip the voice of Thin Lizzy. Philip was an inspiration to me, helping me believe in myself as a person. His drive and commitment was second to none, his ambition epitomised how to succeed. Rest in peace brother.

Philomena

I've been a wild, wild rover
Sailed all over the sea
But this thing that makes me wander,
Has made a fool of me
For it took me from my childhood
Underneath the stars and skies
And I still hear the wind whistling through
The wild wood
Whispering goodbye

It's home boys home
She's home boys home
No matter where I roam
If you see my mother
Please give her all my love
For she has a heart of gold there
As good as God above

If you see my mother
Tell her I'm keeping fine
Tell her that I love her
And I'll try and write some time
Thanks must be said to you all for attending
and contributing tonight. Sponsors, friends,
family and guests, I am sure it will be a night
to remember.

Enjoy, Steve Lister



Ray Lucas of Vintners Choice (Worksop), supplier of the Concha y Toro wines on your table wishes the Doncaster Rovers reunion coupled with Sincere Support best wishes in everything they do.

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Pat Lally

First of all I would like to say thank you to the Professional Footballer's Association for sponsoring my table for what is, I am sure will all agree, a very worth while cause.

Since Steve Lister first made me aware that a reunion dinner was imminent I have been looking forward to it with great expectations and some trepidation. It was a privilege to play with such fit, muscular, lithe, agile good looking young athletes who not only trained and played hard on the pitch, but also new how to enjoy themselves off it. Would the years have taken their toll on players such as goalkeeper Willie (THE CAT) Boyd? who I had the pleasure of sharing digs with. Willie was from Scotland and had a very strong accent, I couldn't understand what he was saying then and I probably won't be able to understand him tonight either, especially after he's had a drink or two. Have those hands that had the ability to pluck balls out of the air from every angle, become coated with teflon. However, I never did see Willie drop a glass of beer and I probably won't tonight.

Is Alan Little (Marra) still tacking everything that gets in his way? Will Hugh Dowd (Dowdy) give us one of his famous renditions from his usual platform, which tended to be standing on the table he was sat at? For those on Dowdy's table, you've been warned, and how could I forget to mention the Scarlet Pimpernel himself, of course you've got it, Ian Snodin. They seek him here, they seek him there, but he was always very difficult to locate and track down, I understand Steve has had the same problem with him over the dinner, and I mustn't forget his sidekick Harley (David Harle) they were like siamese twins inseparable. Is the Harley of today still the best at every sport there is from boxing to tiddleywinks, as he was (in his own mind) back then?

Whatever the passing of time has brought to us, whether it be balding heads, grey hair, increased waistlines due to inactivity or arthritic limbs, I have always been proud and privileged to have been one of their team-mates and a friend, and I looked forward to seeing you all tonight on such an auspicious occasion.

May I wish you all players, supporters and friends alike, all the very best for the future and have a fantastic evening. May I also wish Alan Warboys a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank Steve and Beverley Lister, John Buckley and everyone else who assisted in organising this event many thanks on behalf of everyone here for the time and effort you have all put into arranging this event.



List of Reunion Players and Sponsors

- | | |
|---|---|
|  1. Willie Boyd - Vinters Choice |  15. Alan Little - Boots (Meadowhall) |
|  2. Billy Russell - Lakeside Village |  16. John Buckley - Rug 'n' Cane |
|  3. Glyn Snodin - Halifax Building Society |  17. David Harle - Balloons away |
|  4. Steve Lister - Star Newspapers |  18. Jim Dobbin - John Smiths |
|  5. Hugh Dowd - SlaterPrintGroup |  19. John Dowie - Shooters (Scotland) |
|  6. Bill Green - Funaholics |  20. Des Bennett - Radio Sheffield |
|  7. John Philliben - Pukka Pies | 21. Laurie Sheffield - DC Training |
|  8. Dave Bentley - George Mudford & Sons Ltd |  22. Daral Pugh - Coca Cola |
|  9. Pat Lally - The PFA | 23. Tommy Graham - Meadowhall Leisure Shopping |
|  10. Dave Cork - Tickhill Florist |  24. Colin Douglas - Discount Company Cars |
|  11. Ian Snodin - Nick Johnson |  25. Ian Nimmo - Doncaster Race Course |
|  12. Tommy Meagan - Bluebell Florest |  26. Alan Warboys - Yorkie (Its not for girls) |
| 13. Peter Bowden - Asda |  27. John Ryan - Streetwise Sports |
|  14. Andy Kowalski - Doncaster Moathouse | 27. Kevin Olney - Westfield Health Scheme |
| | 28. Graham Cawthorne - Bank of Scotland |

Message from the Chairman

It gives me great pleasure on such a wonderful occasion to write a few lines about what it is all about. Tonight is a celebration of what was probably before the current side, the best years that Rovers had enjoyed at Belle Vue for many years with wonderful players such as Steve Lister, John Buckley, Alan Warboys, the Snodins and many others gracing the League in the name of Rovers. They were exciting times under Managers such as the late great Billy Bremner and I can remember sitting there watching these lads with never a thought that one day I would rescue Rovers and bring back the great days once again. After the era we are celebrating tonight the Club went into decline and almost into oblivion but today we are once again a team to be admired with a set up envied by many. Tonight reminds me of many of the great memories I have of this time when we beat QPR in the FA Cup then went on to a great day at Everton. Tonight I can at last salute you for your endeavours representing Doncaster Rovers.



Moving back to the present day, isn't wonderful we at DRFC are the team capable of emulating that great side of the 1980's. DRFC has been to hell and back in the last 5 years, but finally the phoenix has risen from the ashes and I am sure the great names of the illustrious past with look down and recognise the likes of Peter Doherty, Alick Jeffrey, Billy Bremner and many more too numerous to mention. Lets hope we can crown this year with yet another promotion back to Division 2. Ideally an historic 3rd Championship at this level would fit the bill

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by Peter Catt

WHERE do you start when it comes to summing up a special period in the history of Doncaster Rovers which will live long in the memories of those fortunate to be around at the time? It was a spell when Rovers sprang to life again following a decade in the doldrums. When there emerged a bunch of talented young players to compare with any at Belle Vue before or since. And when they were led by a manager of unique qualities who commanded the respect, not only of those who played under him, but of virtually everyone he met. Rovers made an inauspicious start to 1980 with a 2-2 draw at Hereford. In fact it was to be seven games before they recorded a win but the fact that it came with a 5-0 thrashing of old rivals Scunthorpe ensured the fans were happy. Earlier in the season they had won six league games in a row - part of a run which saw them record eight victories in nine matches - an indication of what was to come the following season. The year was also significant for a game in which two players made their debuts for the club in a 1-0 victory over Bournemouth. One was 37-year-old manager Billy Bremner - the other was a raw 16-year-old called Ian Snodin. Another youngster 18-year-old Steve Lister finished top scorer that season with 12 goals from midfield. Around that time he was being watched by Liverpool who eventually decided to sign Ian Rush from Chester instead. The following season Rovers were promoted with a remarkably young side. Of the 11 players who made the most league appearances in 1980-81 seven were aged 21 or under. Daral Pugh and Steve Lister, both 19, missed only a handful of games while Ian Snodin and David Harle, both 17, made 66 appearances between them. Bremner had blended the youngsters with experienced professionals like Alan Warboys, Hugh Dowd, Pat Lally, Alan Little and Ian Nimmo. It proved an irresistible winning formula as Rovers enjoyed a six-match winning streak in September followed by a run in which they lost only once in 16 games. And it was all achieved on a shoestring budget with just two signings made during the course of the campaign - one a free transfer and the other for a small fee. The following season proved tough with the purse strings still tight but they reached the fourth round of the FA Cup giving Norwich a run for their money before going down 2-1 away. It was also notable for the signing of a young Scot called Colin Douglas

who went on to make a post-war record number of appearances for the club. In the 1982-83 season a series of injuries to key players took their toll and Rovers were relegated. But they still managed to entertain with four consecutive home games producing the biggest goal bonanza in Belle Vue's history - 36 in total. They beat Exeter 6-1 and Reading 7-5, lost 6-3 to Wigan and then drew 4-4 with Brentford. Relegation was a big blow to all concerned but Bremner worked the oracle again when Rovers went straight back up. He still had six of the seven youngsters who had helped win promotion three years previously and again he drafted in seasoned campaigners to assist them in the shape of Ernie Moss, Bill Green, Andy Kowalski and John Breckin. There was tremendous self-belief in the side at that time and they went 25 matches between October and March with only one league defeat. Promotion was also achieved with style and attacking flair as they scored 82 goals - their highest tally for 18 years. Around that time finances improved with the arrival of Peter Wetzel and towards the end of the season there were a rare number of cash signings. John Philliben, Jim Dobbin and Alan Brown came to Belle Vue followed later by John Buckley, Ray Deans, Brian Caswell and Dave Cusack. But there was still a strong emphasis on the youth policy with Glenn Humphries, Neil Woods, Brian Deane, Paul Holmes and Micky Nesbitt coming through the junior ranks. In those days the production line seemed endless. Rovers consolidated the following season with a mid-table place and enjoyed an epic FA Cup victory over QPR. It earned them a fourth round trip to Everton where they were far from disgraced losing 2-0 to the cup-holders - cheered on by over 8,000 travelling fans. It looked as if the stage was set for yet another promotion push but it all came to an end in 1985-86 when Billy Bremner left to take charge at Leeds following a promising start in which they had taken 19 points from the first 12 games. The Snodin brothers, Steve Lister and Billy Russell had already departed by then and the side that grew up together was no longer. It had been a remarkable six years in which lasting friendships were formed and a special camaraderie and bond forged between the players and the supporters. But the era was over and it was to be almost 20 years before Rovers enjoyed promotion success again.



by Peter Catt

THE man that made it all possible in those days was the most charismatic person I ever met. He was also the best manager Doncaster Rovers have had in the 37 years I have been reporting on the club. When Billy took over the hot seat at Belle Vue in November, 1978 the club was neither flush with money nor success, and a decade had elapsed since they had last won promotion. Within six years of his arrival they were promoted twice, relegated once, reached the fourth round of the FA Cup a couple of times and created a youth policy that was to be envied by much higher status clubs. It was a magical rollercoaster ride that was a privilege to report - and as the years went by I came to know the man who led the club with an extraordinary enthusiasm and passion for the game. As a journalist you come across all sorts of famous people and 'big names' in the course of the job but there was something extra special about Billy Bremner. He had a presence that is difficult to describe but he always seemed to have a magnetic effect on those around him. Former club secretary Roger Reade once said "when Billy walked in the room it was as if someone had switched a light on" and it summed up the way he was able to inspire players to run through the proverbial brick wall. His will to win as a player was legendary and he hated losing whether it was at football, carpet bowls, dominoes or playing cards.

Through Billy I met several of the Leeds United stars he had played alongside in the past.

What struck about all of them was their strength of character - particularly men like Jack Charlton, Norman Hunter and Allan Clarke. The fact that Billy remained the undisputed captain of Leeds United when there were so many forceful personalities in the team spoke volumes for his leadership qualities. His enthusiasm was infectious and, soon after arriving at Belle Vue, he had everybody believing success was just around the corner despite operating on a shoestring budget. Although his love for Scotland remained undiminished he settled in South Yorkshire and grew to have a special regard for Rovers and the club's supporters. Very few people know just how much he agonised over leaving Belle Vue to take charge at Leeds United in 1985, and how close he was to staying to try and take Rovers into what is now the First Division. Billy returned to Rovers in 1989 after coming within a whisker of taking Leeds back into the top flight - again with little money to spend - and just missing out on a Wembley appearance when they were beaten in the FA Cup semi-final.

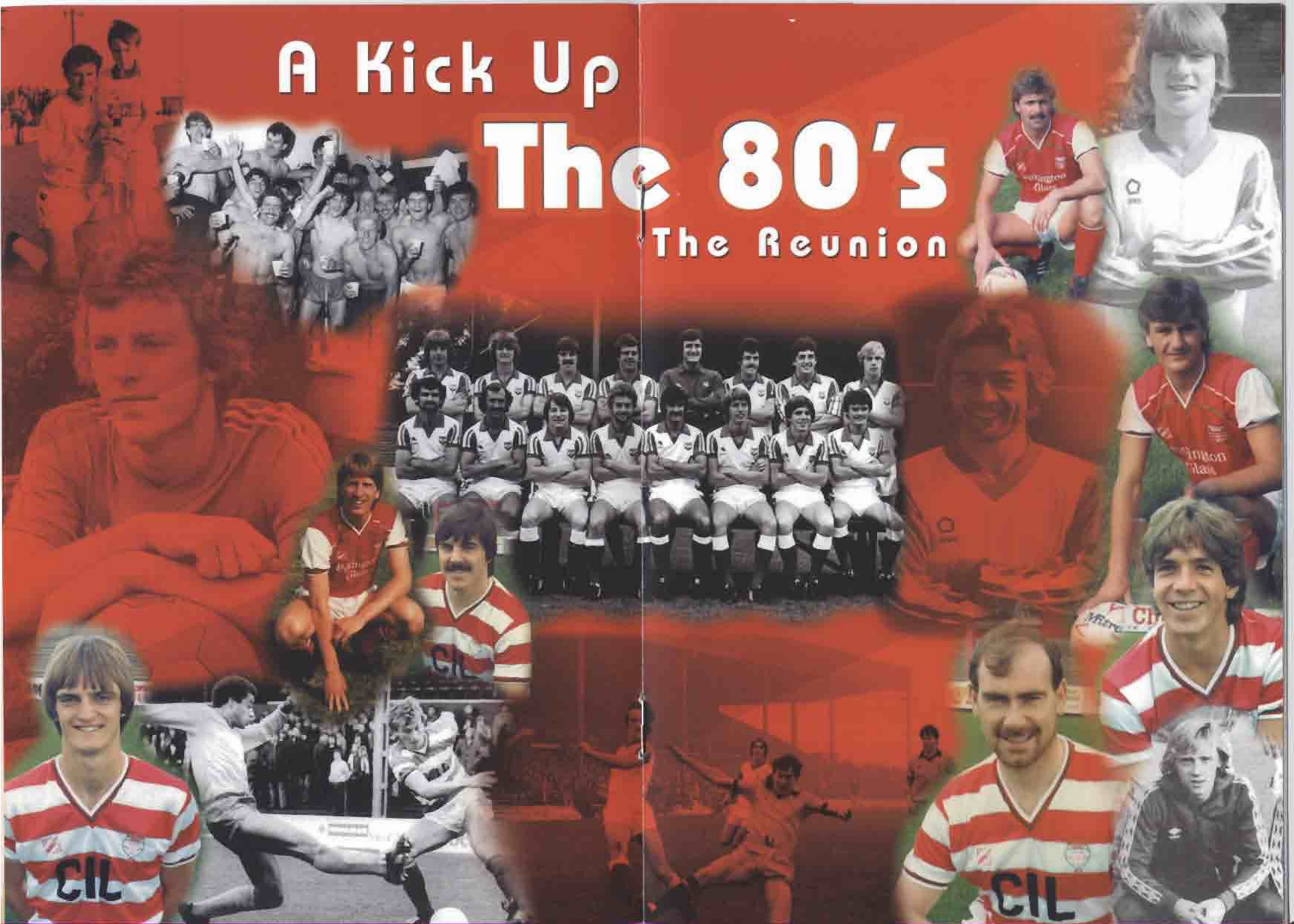
Remarkably he almost achieved a unique promotion hat trick with Rovers when he steered them to the top of the table by the half way mark in 1990-91 before injuries led to a collapse which put them out of the reckoning. They were also one step away from Wembley in his second spell when they reached the Northern Final of what is now the LDV Vans Trophy. But he left in November, 1991 after the club had again been beset by financial problems. The last time he came to Belle Vue was to commentate on a match in October, 1997 in the dark days of Ken Richardson and he was shocked by what had happened to the club. It saddened him to see the despair of the supporters and he told me: "I'd give anything to be able to put a smile back on their faces again." Just two months later he died tragically following a massive heart attack at the age of 54. Hundreds of people lined the streets for his funeral in Edlington to pay tribute to a man who served Rovers, Leeds United and Scotland the only way he knew how - by giving 100 per cent.

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A Kick Up

The 80's

The Reunion





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We meet again.... John Buckley

For me the season 1984-86 was a memorable one with Doncaster Rovers. Special moments and the start of many friendships which still remain today. I will always have great memories of the games we played when we were managed by Billy Bremner. I then moved on to play for several other clubs, but my time at Doncaster will always hold special memories for me this is where my career really kicked off.

I have been married to Dianne for 15 years and have two great kids, Aimee (12) and Asa (5). I am the Manager of the Doncaster Rovers Belles ladies football club (everyone thought I was like a big girls blouse, so I suppose its only appropriate that I manage a girls team)!!

A big thank you goes to Steve and Bev Lister for organising this long awaited reunion. I am sure we will all have a fantastic night with lots of catching up to do, but most of all please lets try and raise as much as we can for such a worthy cause because as we all know we don't always know what is round the next corner.



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Nick Johnson

As a fan - first and foremost - it made me very proud to hear from Stevie and Bev Lister regarding this Re-union Evening and well done to both of them for organising what promises to be a great event! Ever since my late father took me to Belle Vue (league cup versus Burnley) I've seen my heroes come and go... in the 60's Alick-TC-Laurie Sheffield and Pancho Regan... in the 70's Kitch, Big Brendon, Windy and Brooksy and then having the privilege to work with and see the progress of the Bremner Babes in the early 80's what memories! My role was to create a sponsorship formula to encourage businesses to get 'involved' in what was happening at Belle Vue. It was the beginning of the age of sponsorship and Rovers soon announced their first sponsors CIL (Conveyor Improvements Ltd) At the same time, as we had no less than 3 England under 18 Internationals - Ian Snodin David Harle and Glen Humphries - the Rovers youth team also had their own shirt sponsor in The Arndale Centre. Mr Barker - owner of Barker & Wigfall - agreed to sponsor the Toen End stand thus becoming The Barker & Wigfall Family Stand. We launched a new Executive Club - the first member being a certain John Ryan! The foundations were being laid for what promised to be an exciting future for the Rovers! Its going to be good to see the guys again after all this - Warby - Shirley Douglas - Harley - Marra - Pughy - the Owls old brigade Nimms and Hughie D and all the others who have made the effort to support this excellent evening. Well done Stevie and Bev!

Nick Johnson
Rovers Commercial Manager 1981-1983



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History

In November 1978 Stan Anderson resigned as manager of Doncaster Rovers and was succeeded by Billy Bremner, who was in the twilight of his playing career at Hull City. This would be his first taste of management and he espoused the creed of starting at the bottom. This is where that first season saw the Rovers finish in Division 4, well, third from bottom actually but it still meant asking the other clubs to vote them back into the League. In the summer of 1979, Bremner began his revolution at the Rovers. Out went a number of players to make way for some new blood. In came Alan Warboys, Ian Nimmo, Hugh Dowd, John Dowie, Billy Russell and Keith Ripley. New professionals were Steve Lister and Shaun Flanagan from the Juniors and among the apprentices signed on were Gary Hatto, Ian Snodin, Steve Daniels and Dave Harle. Other youngsters, who had already played in the first team, were Daral Pugh and Glynn Snodin. This was to be Bremner's trademark, bringing in the young players through the Youth system and giving them first team opportunities. In that season of 1979-80, the Rovers finished mid-table with young players like Russell, Lister, Pugh, Flanagan and Glynn Snodin being regulars and during the course of the season Ian Snodin, Willie Boyd, Steve Daniels, Stewart Mell, Les Packer and Dave Harle being introduced to the team. Season 1980-81 started disappointingly with only 2 points from the first 4 games. Then a run of 6 successive wins in September, for which Bremner received the accolade of 4th Division Manager of the Month, was followed by 2 losses. Fielding the youngest team in the history of the club up to that point and one of the youngest in the League, October and November were poor months. But from December, consistency of results saw them into 3rd place towards the end of the season and win promotion to Division 3. Ian Snodin and Dave Harle were now regulars in the team and Carl Swan and Richard Dawson were the only players signed during the season. In the summer of 1981, a young man destined to go into the Rovers record books as the player who made the most League appearances for them, came down from Scotland and signed for the club. This, of course, was the omnipotent Colin Douglas. A good start in the 3rd Division with 5 successive wins in September saw them topping the table but November saw them begin a slide down the table that ensnared them in the relegation dogfight. But an unbeaten run of 8 games at the end of the season pulled them up into 18th place. In September 1982, spectators at 4 successive home games saw a glut of goals. First a win by 6-1 over Exeter City, then an amazing 7-5 win against Reading, a loss to Wigan Athletic by 6-3 and finally a 4-4 draw with Brentford. Nevertheless, they were relegated to Division 4 at the end of the season. John Breckin, Ernie Moss, Bill Green and Andy Kowalski were signed before the start of 1983-84, a season that saw the club bounce straight back to the 3rd Division, after finishing 2nd behind York City. In March, money was spent on signing John Philliben, Jim Dobbin and Alan Brown. Other regulars were Denis Peacock, Billy Russell, Ian Snodin, Steve Lister, Glen Humphries, Mark Miller, Colin Douglas, Glynn Snodin, Dave Harle and Steve Yates with two more youngsters, Ashley Tomlinson and Neil Woods being introduced to League football. Sadly, Willie Boyd was forced into retirement through injury. The close season of 1984 added another Scot to the clansmen already at the club. This was John Buckley, still much in evidence at Belle Vue on a match day in his journalistic role. Season 1984-85 saw the club consolidate their place in the 3rd Division by finishing in 14th place and have a good run in the F.A. Cup, where they reached the 4th Round before going out to Everton, at Goodison Park, in front of a crowd of 37,535, having beaten 1st Division Q.P.R. in the 3rd Round at Belle Vue with a goal by Dave Harle. The end of that season saw Steve Yates, Andy Kowalski, Paul Gregory, Steve Lister, Billy Russell, Ian Snodin and Glynn Snodin leave the club.

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Wishing you all a successful evening and are pleased to sponsor **Kevin Olney**

A Message from Bev Lister

Sincere Support

It has been a privilege to have been involved with the organisation of this evening, both personally and professionally. It is a great testament to the people of Doncaster for their generosity in the town. I have had so much fun and many laughs with the stories I have heard from the past, some of which I have promised not to repeat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who through this event will be able to change the course of so many families' lives. I am sure we all know there is no greater love than that of a parent for a child, therefore we cannot comprehend the strain families endure when they have a sick child in Hospital or who have sadly been bereaved, however we can help, and to give this help IT IS PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO COUNT!! It is through the loss of my precious son Jody that I started this charity. He's always on my mind and it is his memory that drives Sincere Support. With the love of Stephen, Daniel & Laura, a devoted family, and the help of special friends, I have been able to take Sincere Support from strength to strength, (thanks mum for helping me to get through on the saddest days). Today seems much brighter and our future more secure, which we owe thanks to many dedicated sponsors and friends who have continued to support our work.



Many new friends have been gained on the journey to this reunion, most of which know my husband or have watched the many games he played (scoring a record number of own goals and who smashed the clock on the Town end stand with a penalty) during his special time at Doncaster Rovers. His determination to meet the "old boys" from the 80's has been clearly visible and extremely emotional. The out-pouring of support and kind words about Stephen and his team mates attending this reunion have been very gratifying, I am extremely proud of him, and of you all for making the organisation of this event such a success. Without sounding like a broken record I have to mention a few people who have helped me enormously in steering me in the right direction in the organisation of this reunion. First of all, John Ryan for his warm welcome and generosity and everyone at Doncaster Rovers FC, Aik Jeffrey for his way with words and brilliant style of approaching sponsors, Steve Uttley for his time and input into this event, he has had to go the long way round in doing things (so I didn't get lost). Bucky, for his time, efforts and dedication, also his friendship, which always comes through. British Telecom must love us all!!



My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Vicky Bremner for her encouraging words and my dear friend Philomena Lynott for flying in from Dublin to join us for this special occasion.

All good things
Bev xx
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Westfield Health Scheme
Funaholics Meadowhall
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Our host for the evening
Speaker
Raffle Donation
SlaterPrintGroup (Souvenir programme)
Westfield Health Scheme Ltd



Sincere Thanks

Jazz Piano
Acoustic Angels

Guests of honour - Vicky Bremner & Philomena Lynott

The Doncaster Moat house for their cooperation

Thanks go to anyone we may have missed and all family & special friends

Donations to Sincere Support are welcomed, please send cheque made payable to Sincere Support
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Registered Charity Number: 1100487

Founder and coordinator - Beverley Lister

Sincere Support, C/o Meadowhall Centre Ltd, The Management Suite,
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