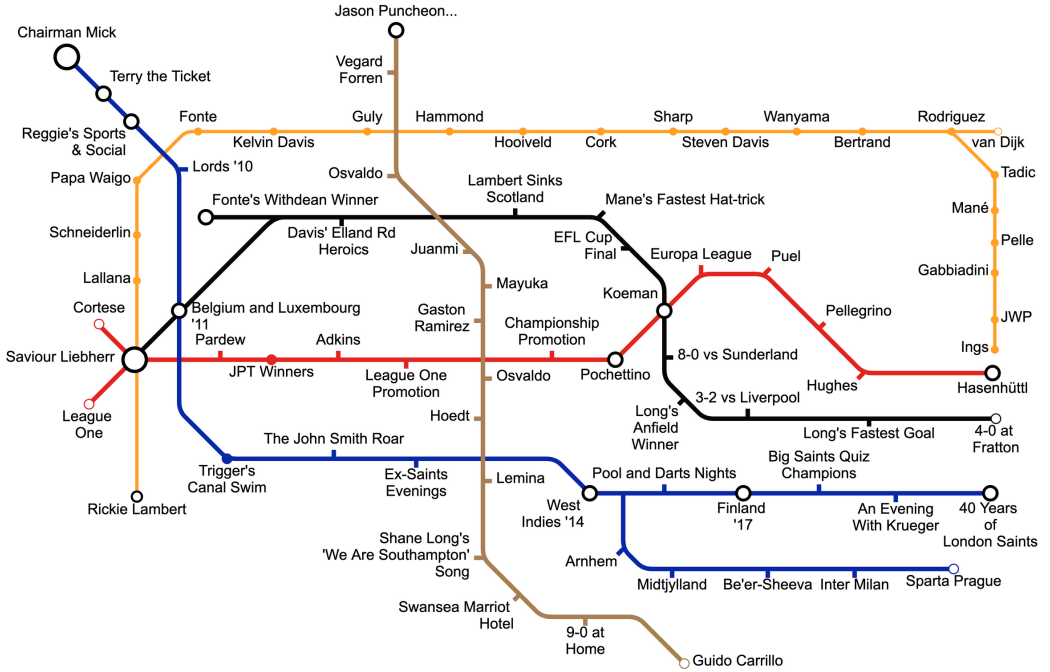


WATERLOO SUNSET



THE 2010'S

- ONE HELL OF A JOURNEY!

OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB

AFFILIATED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF PROVINCIAL FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUBS IN LONDON



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EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to Issue 158 of the London Saints Newsletter.

What a decade the 2010's has been for Saints! From minus 10 points in League One to Europe with plenty of ups and downs in between. Hopefully our front cover map just about sums it all up! Us fans, of course, have been there through thick and thin.

This season hasn't started as well as we'd have liked but I'm glad we have stuck with Ralph. Highlights have been the recent win at Chelsea and the 4-0 at Fratton, with the low of a 9-0 home loss being one that'll take a while to get over. I'm hopeful we can add to our squad in January!

In this issue of Waterloo Sunset we look back on the successful Christmas do trip at Aston Villa, hear from numerous members about their London Saints exploits past and present, and have a chat to a new member of the Saints family- The Athletic's Carl Anka.

I hope everyone enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let's hope 2020 is a good year for the Saints.

Jonny

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Languishing in the lower echelons of the league is not where I expected Saints to be at Christmas following another home defeat, this time to West Ham. I hope that between now and when this newsletter hits the streets that Gao Jisheng has not done something silly. Ralph Hasenhuttl must stay as manager. If Ralph was good enough a year ago, he is good enough now.

His style of play is right for the Saints. Having said that it is becoming clear that Mr. Jisheng needs to release some money in the January window because we have been found wanting in a few positions.

Finding the right combination of players is easier said than done of course, but give Ralph the chance to do it. The middle of the league is so log jammed that a couple of wins can shoot you up a number of places. Famous last words, but Saints will be in the Premier League next season.

HUMBLE PIE TIME

I have to eat humble pie. I thought that Danny Ings would not be prolific enough in the Premier League. I was wrong. Danny has already scored nine Premier league goals and in a struggling side that is an impressive feat. Saints still struggle with scoring goals and hopefully some new buys in January will see a more potent attack.

WINTER BREAK

The Premier League's first winter break is nearly upon us but in typical fashion we never seem to do it properly. The TV companies still seem to be ruling the roost as the plan is to split the Premier games over the winter break weeks. I guess we cannot have the armchair viewers going without their fix.

In Germany the last Bundesliga match is on 22nd. December and they have a complete break until the middle of January. That's the way to do it and I apologise again to the Boxing Day traditionalists, but no major sporting events should be held when there is no public transport.

CARABOU CUP AND THE CLUB WORLD CUP

Liverpool were wrong to put out two different sides for the Carabou Cup and the World Club Cup within a day of each other. The fans (remember them) deserved to be able to watch both of these games and while Liverpool's schedule is busier than most I cannot believe that a space in the calendar could not be found to accommodate both games. Money trumps all and the £4million first prize will ease any guilt.

FIFA also want to upgrade this competition to a 24-team competition. This could be the start of the ever threatening European league where there is a proposal to start a 32-team Champions league completion.

At least Saints do not have to worry about these competitions just yet.

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Editor: *Wise words as always Mick and I was another one that thought £20million for Ings was too steep. Let's hope he continues to prove us wrong! On behalf of all London Saints members, thanks again for all of your work for the club this year.*



TERRY'S TICKET REPORT



Away Sales 2018/19 season

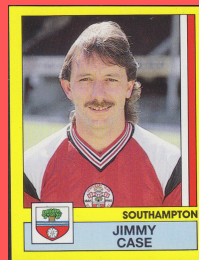
Despite our league position, demand for tickets for away games has been good, helped (I would suggest) that up until Newcastle away, all league games have been Saturday 3PM, and also that we are generally playing much better away from home than at St Mary's .

2019/2020 Tickets sold

Aug 10th Burnley	26
Aug 24th Brighton	33
Aug 27th Fulham (cup)	21
Sept 14th Sheffield Utd.	38
Sept 24th Pompey (cup)	30
Sept 28th Spurs	52
Oct 19th Wolves	32
Oct 30th Man City (cup)	9
Nov 2nd Man City	20
Nov 23rd Arsenal	49
Dec 7th Newcastle	16
Dec 21st Aston Villa	36
Dec 26th Chelsea	25

*Editor: As always, a huge thanks for all of your hard work this year Terry!
Everyone at the club really appreciates the great job you do.*

Legends' Corner: Jimmy Case



Pete Berkeley takes a look back at a Saints Legend

Jimmy Case was Lawrie McMenemy's final signing for Saints when bought from Brighton in March 1985. Despite a pedigree that meant that he had won virtually every domestic and European honour on offer during his Liverpool days, his signing was met with an amount of criticism given his age and the fact that he was signed as a replacement for the departing Steve Williams who was 4 years younger. However, the following six years saw Case emerge as the backbone of Chris Nicholl's side with some stunning performances that would not only prove the doubters wrong but leave him remembered as one of the finest midfielders seen at The Dell. He went on to make over 200 appearances (more than he did for Liverpool) making the £30,000 paid by McMenemy arguably his finest pieces of business (although perhaps bettered by the £500 that Liverpool paid for him)!

During his time at Anfield, Jimmy had built a reputation as a tough tackling, all-action player with a ferocious shot. His days at Southampton saw him with slower pace but with broadening vision and a fine range of passing skills. Incredibly, Jimmy's only international honour was in playing for the Football League against the Irish League in December 1990.

Legends' Corner: Jimmy Case

In 1989-90 season he was voted Saints player of the year. Jimmy played in midfield alongside Glenn Cockerill and Barry Horne and helped to bring on the careers of exciting young players such as Matt Le Tissier, Alan Shearer, Rodney Wallace and Jason Dodd. Ian Branfoot succeeded Nicholl as manager in June 1991, and considered that the club could dispense with Case's services and he was transferred to Bournemouth within a few days of Branfoot's appointment, a decision that proved very unpopular with Saints fans.

After a season at Bournemouth, he moved to Halifax Town, managed by John McGrath and assisted by Frank Worthington. He played there for 6 months, before moving on to Wrexham, where he helped them gain promotion from Division Three at the end of the 1992-93 season. He then turned out for non-league side Sittingbourne until returning to Brighton in December 1993, firstly as a player/coach before taking over from Laim Brady's manager in November 1995. He was still playing that season, and at the age of 41 was the oldest outfield player registered with any Premier League or Football League club at the time. He had an unsuccessful time in managing Brighton and had a spell in charge of non-league Bashley. For several years Jimmy was summariser on Radio Hampshire covering Saints game and now performs a similar role for Radio Merseyside covering Liverpool games. Jimmy was a footballer for the love of the game rather than the fame and when doing his media work comes across as much as a supporter as an expert. To those ends, he has never lost the human touch. One shudders to think what he would be worth in the modern era.

Q&A


I caught up with Carl Anka, Southampton correspondent for The Athletic, to ask about his experiences covering Saints so far this season.

Q:For those readers who are unaware of The Athletic, could you just explain who you are and what you do?

Starting in the United States in 2016, The Athletic looks to bring in depth, high quality analysis at both a national and local level on 47 cities in North America (and their major sporting leagues (ie. NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, NCAA FB, NCAA BB, MMA, NASCAR) and now, on every Premier League football club.

There is a dedicated embedded journalist at every Premier League club this season looking to talk about each team's past, present and future. No adverts, no clickbait; just stories as best as possible.

Prior to joining The Athletic I have written for the BBC, and The Player's Tribune featured on CNN and on the Totally Football Show podcast, and also covered entertainment for VICE, BuzzFeed UK, the Guardian and NME.



Q: I understand that you moved to Southampton when you took on your new role. How much did you know about the city and the club before you moved?

I had some friends who went to Southampton University and I watched Southampton games on Match of the Day, but my real homework on the club started this summer. I spent what time I did before moving to the city talking to fans and getting a potted history of the club. After moving I played a few seasons of FIFA 19 in charge of Southampton and then spent time in the city library, meeting club historians and really learning everything I can.

Q: How have you found living here for your first few months?

The way I describe it is I've gone back to University. I'm in a new city, trying to get a degree. Just my degree is Southampton FC.

Q: What has been the reception from fans?

They've been great. Always friendly, asking questions and answering any questions I have on the club too. I think we've helped each other out.

Q: Have you found the club to be helpful and receptive to your work?

I'm a frequent fixture at press conferences now and I think Ralph Hasenhuttl remembers my name. I think.

Q: What's the stand out thing that you didn't know about Southampton that you do now?

The city has an awful lot of escape rooms. And coffee shops. And hairdressers. And no beach.

Q: What were you expecting from Saints at the beginning of the season? Have you been surprised at what you've seen so far?

Like many fans I was predicting a 9th-14th place finish for Southampton this season. The club play with a very pronounced style which means when things go wrong, you can see why, like a flat note when someone is playing piano. There's been a fair few more flat notes than I anticipated.

That 9-0 came out of nowhere.

Q: What do you think is the primary issue at Southampton at the moment?

There are weakness at centre back and central midfield that make it hard for the team to put together a comprehensive performance over 90 minutes.

The team are also goal shy. They create chances at an ok rate, but like they have had for many season, can't finish them well.

Q: Have you seen anything that suggests we will stay up this season?

Moussa Djenepo is a genuine talent: great on the dribble, not afraid to get a shot off. His confidence can turbocharge Southampton's attack.

Ralph Hasenhuttl is genuinely good manager with a strong idea of what he wants Southampton to do. Whether he can do that is another question.

Q: Do you believe that Hasenhuttl is the long term solution for Saints?

I think he's one of the best tacticians in the bottom half of the Premier League. So much so that you wonder why he is managing a team in the Bottom Half. If he can convince the players to play his style of football again like his did at the start of 2019, then Southampton can come good. The off-field situation seems to be a mess at the moment.



Carl (right) and other journalists at St James' Park

Q: Do you think Saints fans are right to be concerned about our owner?

I think the concern comes information flow. Sometimes it can be hard to gauge who is in charge and who takes care of what, but in 2019, Mr Gao said in a rare interview in Shanghai. "I am not treating Southampton as a pig to be fattened and sold. I am treating it as a child. But my children must believe they cannot depend on the boss. I have said to Southampton: 'I am now your father. But I am putting you on the right track: you need to feed yourself.'

I think that's the main thing. Southampton are hoping to be self sustaining, which can be difficult in the cut throat nature of the Premier League.

Q: And should we be concerned that there are no 'football people' above board room level?

There's an interesting make up to Southampton at the moment, but I will say things can be subject to change. The club are said to be looking for a new Director of Football and I imagine the person who comes in will do a lot to change the club's future direction. Ralph Hasenhuttl has been smart leaning on his Red Bull football clubs links also. Sounding boards can be found.

Q: Finally, are there any fringe players that you feel should be given more of an opportunity?

I'd like to see a run with Kevin Danso paired with Jan Bednarek in central defense, possibly with Maya Yoshida if you want to play a back three



London Saints Christmas Drinks



On 21st December 2019,
London Saints headed to The
Barton Arms in Birmingham for
our Christmas Drinks.



London Saints Christmas Drinks



A LIFETIME OBSESSION LOVE? OR JUST MADNESS ?



When Jonny emailed around last week asking if anyone had any articles for the next Newsletter, I thought it's about time I updated (bored) everyone on my quest for my missing Saints away FA Cup programme from 1946.

As my last article which must have been over 10 years ago now (sure Chairman Mick could check as he keeps all past copies?) was met with some indifference and indeed some pee taking from certain quarters I thought I'd widen this article to discuss some of the wide variety of teams Saints have played over the years. It could have been worse as I almost have told you about my old matchbox collection (chucked away many years ago as my mum thought that the thousands of unused live matches were a fire hazard!) or my beermat collection which covered all 4 walls of my bedroom (taken down as my mum thought my room smelt like a brewery!) or my old newspaper cutting scrapbooks from the early 70's onwards (which stopped firstly due to something called the internet where apparently these things are now available at the click of a button and secondly because my wife questioned my sanity and referred to the above potential fire hazard!).

The Missing Programme

So, before I start, a recap for those who don't know the story of my missing programme. I started collecting programmes like many kids used to do in the 60's and 70's of games that I went to as in those days kids (before websites, fans forums etc.) it was one of the few ways that you could get information about the club.

When it became apparent that collecting a programme from every game would soon take up too much space, I decided to concentrate on just collecting certain games, for example cup games or games against certain teams.

Since the 2nd world war Saints have played a total of 432 (206 at home and 226 away) FA and League cup ties and I have programmes for 431 of them. The one missing programme was for the game held on Jan 10th 1946 when Saints travelled to Newport County for the FA Cup 3rd round 2nd leg tie (all cup games were held over 2 legs in the first season after the war) and Saints won 2-1 and 6-4 on aggregate and so progressing to round 4 where we lost 5-3 on aggregate to QPR.

Despite much searching and begging I have been unable to get my hands on the missing programme. I have located two copies, one in the hands of the guy who runs the Saints programme shop and another from the guy who runs the Newport County programme shop and despite offering what I thought were substantial sums they refuse to sell. At least the Newport County guy was kind enough to email me a scanned copy but that doesn't count so the search goes on and on.....

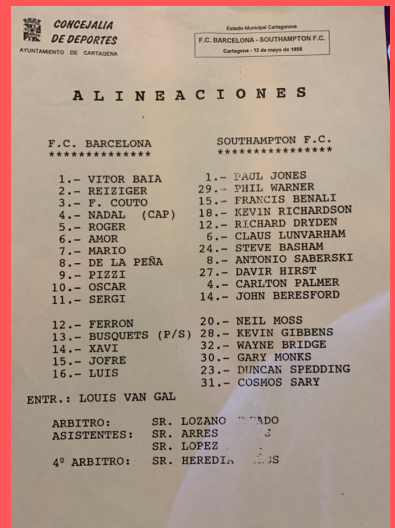


The Categories

Those of you who know my love of cricket statistics will not be surprised to learn that all the details of my 2,300+ football programmes are meticulously catalogued and stored in individual folders which at least allows for the following analysis and valuation purposes. Despite me trying to drum up enthusiasm to my kids saying that I'll be leaving them an important legacy in my will, they've not shown much enthusiasm about them having to look after boxes and boxes of programmes when I go. They showed some interest when I said that they're valued at over £12,000 but less so when I said that they'd probably have to sell them all individually on ebay to get that value !

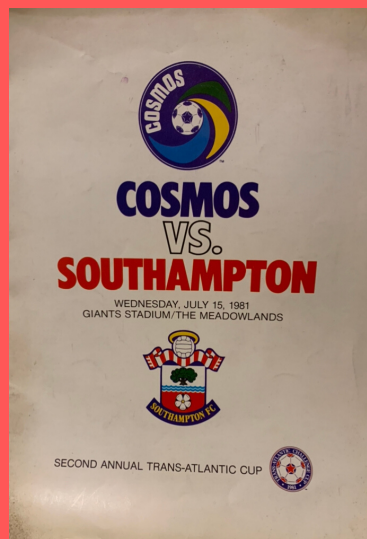
Of the total collection, 500 are Aldershot (the first team I watched) programmes, another 230 are cup finals - every FA and most League Cup Final programmes since WW2 (which are the most valuable at over £3,000) with the majority of over 1,500 are Saints programmes.

As mentioned above, 431 are cup ties and there are some tales amongst them (perhaps for another time). The rest are split between 51 different programmes v Aldershot (as above my first team), 112 different programmes v Portsmouth first team and reserves (every first team game bar the 1951-52 Hampshire cup final programme), 122 v Man Utd (purely to maximize resale value) with the other 1,200+ a miscellaneous mixture of games I've attended or were of interest.



Different opponents

To collect every Saints programme would just fill my house so, as above, I've concentrated on cup games, matches v certain teams and finally one programme for each new team that Saints have played against. Amazingly for me, I hadn't realized until I started to write this how many programmes I have against different teams. It worked out that I now have programmes against 411 different teams that Saints first team, reserves or academy sides have played against.



101 of these are against every League opponent that we have met since WW2 (though many are now non-league), 113 are v non-league (mostly pre-season friendlies as we've only played 4 cup games v non-league teams in the 74 years since WW2), 137 v European teams (as we've only met 18 teams in European cup games these are mainly pre-season tours many of which Chairman Mick will have seen), 22 against some teams from wider afield in the world with the rest a hotch pot of Scottish, Irish and Misc teams.

411 different teams is an awful lot, my favourites are some of the programmes against smaller non-league teams such as Bodmin Town, Cornwall County, Fordinbridge Turks, Merthyr Tydfil, Newton Abbot and Thew Engineering. We used to regularly turn up and play smaller non-league teams in testimonials, pre-season friendlies or to celebrates club's centenaries or for example the opening of a new grandstand or set of floodlights – oh how times have changed and sadly these fixtures have bitten the dust.

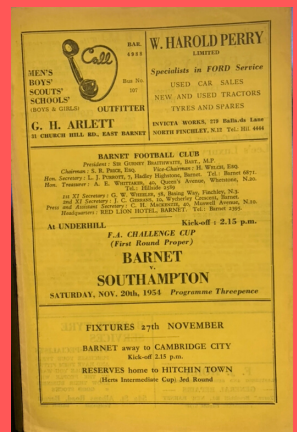
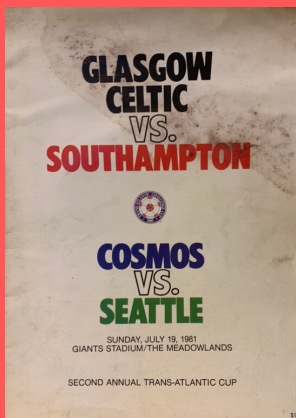
In the 50's and early 60's before the League Cup took off, and floodlights enabled evening kick offs, the free midweek slots were taken up with games against representative teams such as the All Stars XI, All Stars Managers XI, The Army and Navy and various Select or All Stars XI's and even the British Olympic Association – again these fixtures are no more. We've even played many national teams, when these countries were developing such as Japan, South Africa, Denmark, Singapore and Malaysia some at home and some away whilst on tour.



When Kevin Keegan signed for Saints we all of a sudden became a big draw around the world and in his time we were invited to play in big international tournaments (mainly in the U.S.) which included British teams such as Rangers and Celtic and up and coming US teams such as the New York Cosmos and Seattle – and when Keegan left the invitations dried up. Some people complain that Saints don't have any interesting pre-season tours these days (well apart from Mick's recent trip to China), - but we used to travel to Brazil (50's), Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Ceylon (60's), the West Indies, El Salvador and North Africa and the Middle East (70's) and those in days when travel and accommodation would be nowhere near the standard that the current players enjoy.

Over recent years Saints have started to play some big teams at home in pre-season friendlies such as Ajax, Bayern Munich and Celtic but I expect many are unaware that, apart from Real Madrid, over the years we've played most of the European elite mainly away from home. The 137 programmes against European teams are mostly away games from 25 different countries (as well as a further 10 worldwide) against big teams such as Barcelona, Juventus, Benfica and smaller teams mainly from Ireland, Holland and Sweden which are the three countries where we've toured the most.

So a rambling article covering the wide variety of programmes that I have acquired over the years, some of interest, some not so, some of value, many not so but perhaps in a way trying to justify to myself why I've spent many years, time and expense doing this but as Magnus Magnusson used to say "I've started so I'll finish " so guess I've got to continue and if anyone out there has a 1946 Newport County away programme.....



LONDON SAINTS

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