

BARMY DERBY

Andrew Beardmore

Barmy Derby will make Rams fans chortle away, and frequently state: "well, I never knew that!" A blend of fact and fun, the book offers a multitude of conventional statistics and stories, but which appear alongside different views on the club that you won't have seen before. Guaranteed!

The main core of the book is a chronology of Derby County's 134-year history. The ebb and flow of each season is built up, step-by-step, via succinct, one-sentence facts alongside exact dates, thus allowing the reader to feel the ecstasy and the agony (mainly the agony) of their counterpart fans, back in the day. Within the chronology though, seasons and decades are punctuated with a host of quirky facts, strange events, bizarre coincidences and striking statistics, while "Perspective" snippets demonstrate that football is just a game, but life is a whole lot tougher.

However, if it's plain "barmy" that you want, then check out the Barmy Yarn, a short piece of fiction about Derby County that is sure to have you laughing out loud, while the story is accompanied by conventional and quirky facts relating to the 154 Rams players who appear in the yarn!

So if you're up for it, go ahead, prime the Ramometer and take your seat at Pride Park. Or given the offbeat nature of parts of this book, perhaps you'd prefer an away trip... perhaps to St Flanneldrews, The Guffawthorns or The Stadium of Tripe...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

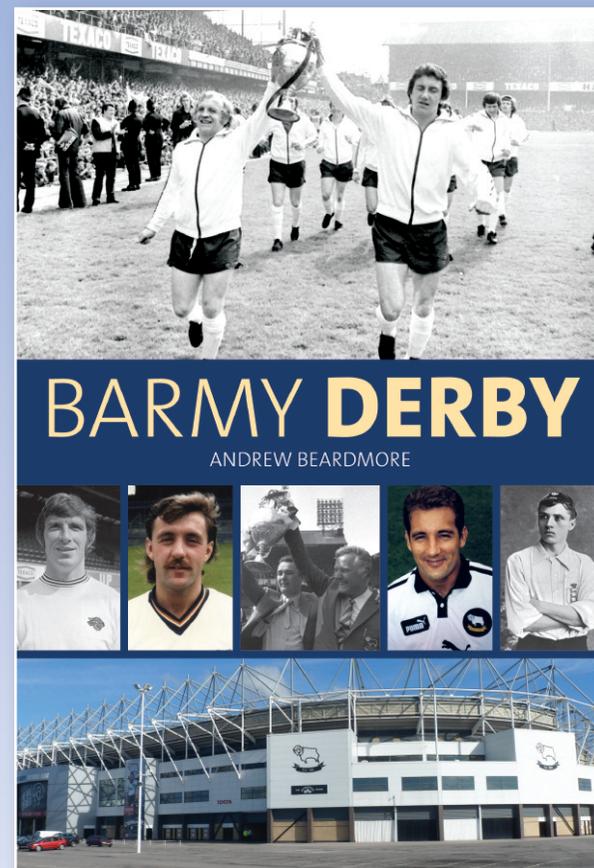
Derby-born Andrew Beardmore has been a lifelong supporter of his home-town club. In his first match as a young boy, he saw Derby County lift the Texaco Cup after beating Airdrieonians 2-1. That was on 26 April 1972 – the last time that Derby won a significant cup competition! By the time his family took him to see Derby win 2-5 at Burnley in a crucial game on Easter Monday 1975, he was obsessed. Thirty three years later, and his mood on a Saturday evening is still totally dictated by Rams results. Thankfully, summer offers a three-month hiatus, as Derbyshire CCC results are handled with a greater degree of pragmatism; not so DCFC, though, where hope springs eternal!

In other interests, Andrew plays multiple musical instruments, and once supported the likes of Victor Sylvester and Joe Loss as a member of his father's dance band. Andrew also writes and travels in his spare time (he works full-time in IT), and is the author of six books (so far) in the *Unusual & Quirky* series of county history books, also published by Halsgrove.

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BARMY DERBY

DERBY COUNTY: Facts & Figures

TEAM and GROUNDS:	
Founded:	1884
Nickname:	The Rams
Nickname Origin:	Named after the club's links with the First Regiment of Derby Militia, which also had a ram as its mascot, while the song "The Derby Ram" was its regimental song.
Modern Anthem:	Steve Bloomer's Watching
First Ground:	The Racecourse (also known as The County Ground)
Incumbent:	1884 to 1895
Highest Attendance:	c.15,500 vs. Blackburn Rovers on 24/02/1894
First Full International Hosted:	09/03/1885: England 9 Ireland 0
Second Ground:	The Baseball Ground
Incumbent:	1895 to 1997
Highest Attendance:	41,826 vs. Tottenham Hotspur on 20/09/1969
First Full International Hosted:	11/02/1911: England 2 Ireland 1
Current Ground:	Pride Park Stadium
Capacity:	33,597
Incumbent Since:	1997
Highest Attendance:	33,758 vs. Liverpool on 18/03/2000
First Full International Hosted:	23/05/2001: England 4 Mexico 0
Highest Attendance Anywhere:	120,000 vs. Real Madrid, Bernabéu Stadium, 05/11/1975
Highest League Attendance:	75,725 vs. Manchester United, Old Trafford, 08/12/2007
Highest FA Cup Attendance:	98,215 vs. Charlton Athletic, Wembley, 27/04/1946
Highest League Cup Att:	73,374 vs. Manchester United, Old Trafford, 20/01/2009
Lowest League Attendance:	500 vs. Grimsby Town, Baseball Ground, 22/04/1963
Lowest FA Cup Attendance:	1,500 vs. Watford Town, The Racecourse, 08/11/1884
Lowest League Cup Att:	1,611 vs. Hartlepool United, Baseball Ground, 04/09/1985



The Baseball Ground in September 1967 shown during a 1-0 victory over Plymouth Argyle. The Clifflers also advert had gazed the roof of the Vulcan Street terrace for over twenty years by this stage. PHOTO: Andy Ellis.

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DERBY COUNTY: FACTS & FIGURES



Looking towards the Osaston End at the BBC in August 1969. It is Derby's first match back in Division One (0-0 vs. Burnley), and the scaffolding is still visible around an unfinished Ley Stand. PHOTO: Andy Ellis

PLAYERS (APPEARANCES):	
Most Appearances:	Kevin Hector 589, 1966-1978; 1980-1982 Ron Webster 535, 1962-1977 Roy McFarland 530, 1967-1981; 1983-84 Kevin Hector 486, 1966-1978; 1980-1982
Most League Appearances:	Jack Pary 483, 1950-1962 Geoff Barrowcliffe 475, 1951-1965
Most FA Cup Appearances:	Jimmy Methven 52, 1891-1906 Steve Bloomer 50, 1892-1905; 1910-1914
Most League Cup Appearances:	Kevin Hector 42, 1966-1978; 1980-1982 Roy McFarland 37, 1967-1981; 1983-84
Most European Appearances:	Colin Todd 21, 1972-1976 Archie Gemmill 21, 1972-1976
Most Consecutive Apps (All):	Archie Goodall 167, October 1892 to October 1897
(League):	Archie Goodall 151, October 1892 to October 1897
(FA Cup):	Colin Todd 30, 1972-1978
(League Cup):	Kevin Hector 36, 1966-1978; 1980-1982
Most Games in a Season:	Marco Gabbiadini 62, 1992-1993 Paul Kitson 61, 1992-1993
Longest Serving Player:	Sammy Crooks 19 years, 10 days (445 apps; 111 goals)



Left: Tommy Powell played 406 games for Derby County between 1948 and 1961. Meanwhile, his son, Steve (Right), played 430 games for Derby between 1971 and 1985; a combined total of 836 games. Remarkably, they are also ranked side-by-side, 10th and 11th in Derby County's all-time list of player appearances. PHOTOS: Andy Ellis

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Left: Derby County, Football League Champions 1974/75. Here the Rams parade the Championship trophy around the Baseball Ground before their final match of the season against Carlisle. PHOTO: Andy Ellis



Below: Heady Days! It is 25 October 1972, and here we see Roy McFarland (partly obscured) heading Derby into the lead against the mighty Benfica in the Second Round of the European Cup. PHOTO: Andy Ellis



Example pages

BARMY DERBY

Year	Event	Pos
1986	19/03: In fact, Rams now only 13 pts behind Reading with 3 GH, and a Goal Diff of +38 vs. Reading's +16... but as games come thick & fast, victories harder to buy... and it doesn't help that Plymouth come from nowhere, winning 13 out of 15	3
1986	22/03: Plymouth vs. Derby (W 4-1) - Christie - Rams 1 pt above Plymouth; 4 GH	3
1986	19/04: Derby vs. Brentford (D 1-1) - Mick White - 4 w/o win fans down to 5th	5
1986	07/04: Derby (SH) vs. Gillingham (2nd) (W 2-0) - Davison, Nicklewhite - up to 4th	4
1986	12/04: Lincoln vs. Derby (W 0-1) - Davison - up to 3rd but only 2 GH now	3
1986	19/04: Derby vs. Bolton (W 2-1) - Buckley, Williams - same pts as W/D/P/S; 3 GH	2
1986	03/05: Derby vs. Doncaster (D 1-1) - Hindmarsh - no win in 4 (D 3, 1) - down to 5th	5
1986	Most teams have finished their season; can the exhausted Rams prevail...	5

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Reading	45	28	7	10	65	51	14	31
2	Plymouth Argyle	46	26	9	11	88	53	35	87
3	Wigan Athletic	46	23	14	9	82	48	34	83
4	Gillingham	46	22	13	11	81	54	27	79
5	Derby County	43	21	15	7	74	38	36	78
6	Watford	46	22	9	15	90	64	26	75

Year	Event	Pos
1986	06/05: Swansea vs. Derby (W 0-3) - Christie 2, Chandler - vital victory - up to 4th	4

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Reading	46	29	7	10	67	51	16	94
2	Plymouth Argyle	46	26	9	11	88	53	35	87
3	Wigan Athletic	46	23	14	9	82	48	34	83
4	Derby County	44	22	15	7	77	38	39	81

Year	Event	Pos
1986	09/05: Derby vs. Rotherham (W 2-1) - Gee, Christie - Rams crawl over finish line	3
1986	Derby finish season 3rd (3-2-4) on 84 pts; DERBY ARE PROMOTED TO DIV TWO	3
1986	Steve Buckley, Ross McLaren and Gary Mickelwhite play all 60 games of season	
1986	Bobby Davison is leading scorer again with 17 league goals; 23 in all competitions	
1986	Ross McLaren is Derby's Player of the Season	

Stats Blast: Lucky 13
When Derby won their fifth game on the bounce at Gillingham on 22 October 1985, the Rams moved up to 2nd, on 25 points from 13 games. However, they won FOURTEEN POINTS behind Reading - as the Royals had won all 13 of their first 13 league games!

Quirk Alert: All In Hand
When Derby beat York City on 8 Feb 1986, they were 3rd in Div Two, but had only played 25 games, and had as SEVEN games in hand on some teams. They somehow had to fit 21 league games into 3 months, and eventually crawled over the finish line in mid-May.

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RAMS CHRONOLOGY: ARTHUR AND ROY: THE 1980s

Stats Blast: Pools Win
In the back-to-back Division Three seasons of 1984/85 and 1985/86, Derby actually played Hartlepool United FIVE times in the League Cup and FA Cup, winning three and losing one.

Stats Blast: Central Control
Derby County won the Central League again during interim 1985/86, and became the first (and only) Third Division club to achieve this.

Stats Blast: Staying Power
When Derby completed their marathon 1985/86 season, 32-year-old left back Steve Buckley played in all 60 games. In fact, his last game for Derby was his 366th and also his 122nd consecutive game. Having completed an earlier century of consecutive Rams appearances, Buck became the only player in Derby's history to complete two separate centuries of league appearances. Small surprise, therefore, that Buck had also been an ever-present on FIVE other occasions, and won Derby's Player of the Season award twice.



Steve (Bucko) Buckley

Stats Blast: Bucks and Bruce
Steve Buckley had also been Derby's regular left back for eight and a half seasons when he left Derby at the end of the 1985/86 season. However, his immediate successor, Michael Forsyth (right), also played for Derby for NINE seasons and won the pair shared 17.5 seasons, from 1978 to 1995, making 748 appearances between them and averaging in with a useful 34 goals from the left back position, too! Like Buckley, Forsyth also had long unbroken stints in the side, his longest being 124 consecutive appearances between April 1988 and January 1991.



Bruace!

Year	Event	Pos
Season	1988/87 (Division Two)	
1986	Summer: Derby sign right-back Mel Sage from Gillingham for £60,000	
1986	Summer: Derby sign striker Mark Lillis from Manchester City for £200,000	
1986	23/08: Derby kick off the season with a home defeat to Colham Athletic (1-0-1)	18
1986	23/08: Little do they know that they won't lose at home again all season!	18
1986	30/08: Birmingham vs. Derby (D 1-1) - Gregory grabs Derby's first goal and point	17
1986	08/09: Derby vs. Crystal Palace (W 1-0) - Gregory again, snags Derby's first win	15
1986	13/09: Mark Lillis' knee injury sees Phil Gee promoted to number 9	11
1986	13/09: Grimsby vs. Derby (W 0-1) - Davison secures first away win	11
1986	27/09: West Brom vs. Derby (L 2-0) - Rams are 9 points behind leaders, Oldham	16
1986	01/10: Derby vs. Sunderland (W 3-0) - Forsyth, Davison, Sage - from 0-2 down	8
1986	11/10: Derby vs. Hull (D 1-1) - Phil Gee's first goal of the season - (W3, D3, L3)	13
1986	25/10: Derby vs. Brighton (W 4-1) - Gee 2, Gregory, Sage	8
1986	01/11: Stoke City vs. Derby (W 0-2) - Williams, Gee - (W6, D3, L4)	7
1986	08/11: Derby vs. Ipswich (W 2-1) - Mickelwhite, Davison - 3 wins on the spin	6

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Above: Brian Clough (right) and Peter Taylor (left) signing new contracts under the watchful eye of chairman Sam Longson and secretary, Stuart Webb. PHOTO: Andy Ellis

Left: Derby County celebrate promotion to Division One on 2 May 1987 after goals from Phil Gee and Bobby Davison secure a 2-1 win over Leeds United. PHOTO: Andy Ellis