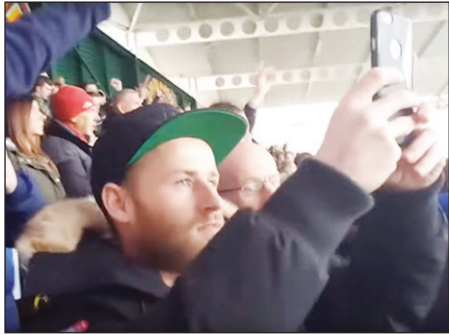


Barry is fan-tastic for the Owls!



MIXING IN: Barry Bannan with the supporters

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY fans were a man down at Bristol City yesterday – midfielder Barry Bannan was back in the squad!

The Scottish dynamo has been in inspired form for the Owls since joining in the summer and has been a big part in their quest for promotion to the Premier League.

And if the Wednesdayites hadn't already taken to the 26-year-old, they did even more when he joined them in the away end at Huddersfield last weekend.

Bannan was caught up in the celebra-

tions of Fernando Forestieri's late winner while he served a three-match suspension.

But boss Carlos Carvalhal was more than happy to have his midfielder back available for the busy run-in – despite losing his vocal support from the stands.

"I think the fans are not happy because they have lost a good guy to scream from the stands – he was very good," Carvalhal told the club's website.

"But we are happy because we have a very good player back. We lose a very enthusiastic fan and we win a footballer so we are happy!"

EVERYONE likes to receive presents but Hartlepool United admitted they were left baffled by one they received in midweek.

On their twitter account, @Official_HUFC, the club said: "Ok, this is random. Someone has sent us an ironing board which doubles up as a step ladder. We aren't sure why yet!"

At *The FLP*, our guess is that the ladder is because Pools have been climbing the league table in recent weeks and the iron for all their clean sheets...



Final third



Off-beat stories from around the leagues

JON'S SO KEEN TO TELL STORY

By John Lyons

STALWART Reading fan Jon Keen was so impressed with his club's record-breaking season in the Championship a decade ago that he's written a book about it.

The 53-year-old had been thinking about the book for a long time, but finally put pen to paper last June. In the intervening ten months, he's investigated the factors that made Steve Coppell's Royals so impressive in the 2005-06 season.

In that incredible campaign, the Royals notched up 106 points with 31 wins and just two defeats, they went 33 matches unbeaten and scored 99 goals to roar into the Premier League as champions.

The book also covers how Reading finished an impressive eighth the following season, their first in the Premier League, and how they were relegated the following year.

Keen, an IT project manager, said: "It was a once in a lifetime couple of years and the team was so good that I wanted to get the story down before people forget it."



Jon Keen

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT: Reading manager Steve Coppell, Kevin Doyle and skipper Graeme Murty celebrate winning the Championship

PICTURE: Action Images



"Reading had been around a long time but their record was fairly undistinguished, but this was success with a capital S."

"It was the earliest promotion to the Premier League (March 25) and it was done in such style."

"The only target they didn't break was to score 100 goals."

"I'd been thinking about writing the book for years and, with the tenth

anniversary approaching, it prompted me to do it."

The Sum of the Parts is now out in hardback. The book has been self-published and its publication was supported by crowd-funding by Reading fans.

It includes interviews with those involved at the club at the time and also the fans.

"The people I spoke to were really helpful, though there were some I couldn't get."

"I decided to concentrate much more on the people



behind the scenes, the people with an interesting perspective," he said.
"I'm really glad I've done it, I've learned a lot about self-publishing and I feel like I've achieved something."
For more details about the book, priced £17.99, check out <http://micklepress.com>

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