

# SEAGULL



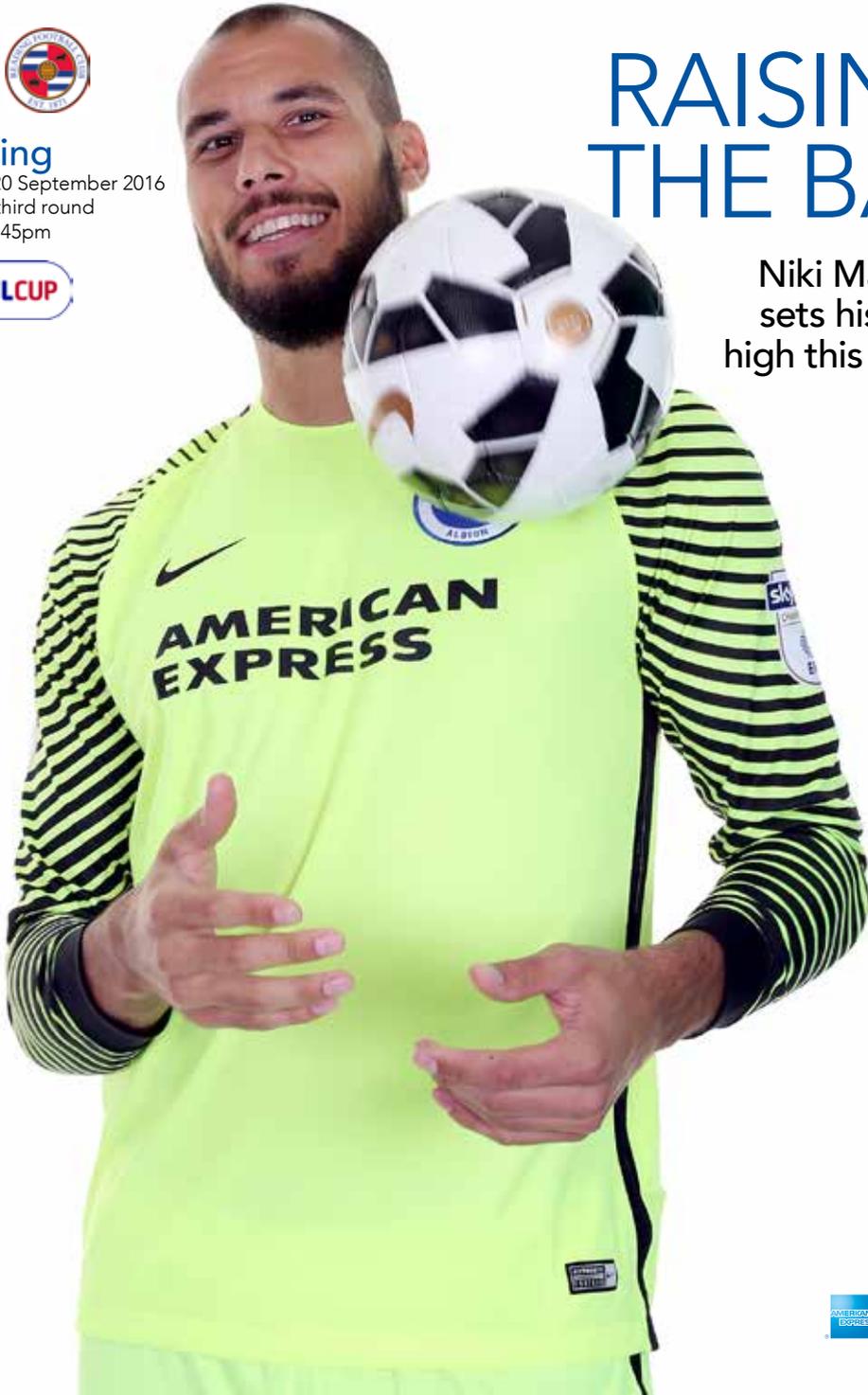
## Reading

Tuesday 20 September 2016  
EFL Cup third round  
Kick-off 7.45pm



## RAISING THE BAR

Niki Maenpaa  
sets his sights  
high this season



£2.00





# CHRIS HUGHTON

A warm welcome to Jaap Stam, the players, officials and supporters of Reading for tonight's EFL Cup third round tie

The opening two rounds of the competition enabled us to utilise our squad fully and tonight will be no different. We have a very competitive squad at the moment and with players returning from injury, we have good strength in depth.

The players who start the game have the responsibility of helping us reach the next round. This is a competition we are taking seriously and we feel as a club, and as a group of players, that making progress will benefit our season.

We also know not to look too far ahead because we face a very confident Reading side this evening. We know each other reasonably well, having drawn 2-2 at the Madejski Stadium the other week – but not knowing what team they will put out tonight, I'm not sure how much you can read into that result.

What you can predict is that Reading, like us, will want to progress to the next round and they will be feeling confident after the good start they have made under Jaap Stam – highlighted by Saturday's 2-1 win at Barnsley. We also come into the tie in a positive frame of mind following back-to-back league wins, so we are anticipating an exciting game.

Finally, a big thank you to those fans who made the trip up to Burton on Saturday. It's unusual to have such a high percentage of the crowd for an away fixture. At times it felt like a home game and we were delighted to send you home with what was a deserved victory.

Enjoy the game,

## ALBION SHORTLISTED FOR AWARDS

Brighton & Hove Albion and Albion in the Community (AIRC) have both been shortlisted for prizes at the prestigious Football Business Awards.

The Seagulls are finalists in two categories: Best Club Marketing Initiative non Premier League and Best Fan Engagement.

It is the second year in a row that the Albion have been shortlisted in the Best Fan Engagement category, after narrowly losing out to Aston Villa last year.

Albion were also finalists in last year's Best Marketing of a Football Club, Best Non-matchday use of Venue and Best Matchday Experience categories, while they won the Best Football Club to Work For award.

AIRC, the club's official charity, is shortlisted in the Best Football Community Scheme non Premier League – an award it won last year.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Fulham FC Foundation & London United, Hamilton Academical FC and Kew Park Rangers FC make up the shortlist.

Albion and AIRC will find out whether they have won on Thursday 3rd November when the ceremony takes place at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

## 1901 CLUB LOTTERY RESULTS

### v Huddersfield 1901 CLUB LOTTERY

- 1st prize £1,000  
*Darren Winter from Worthing*
- 2nd prize 10355
- 3rd prize 09060
- 4th prize 10619
- 5th prize 09564

### ALBION HAT-TRICK

- 1st £400 3280
- 2nd £50 3865
- 3rd £25 4418



### v Brentford 1901 CLUB LOTTERY

- 1st prize £1,000  
*Zuzana Clark from Horsham*
- 2nd prize 07729
- 3rd prize 06428
- 4th prize 04757
- 5th prize 05239

### ALBION HAT-TRICK

- 1st £400 1967
- 2nd £50 2307
- 3rd £25 4833



## HEMED ON THE SPOT

Tomer Hemed was Albion's hero against Burton Albion on Saturday, netting an 88th minute penalty, and the striker felt the three points were well deserved

Despite Albion dominating possession and chances created, it was looking like a frustrating afternoon at the Pirelli Stadium, but Hemed was on hand to coolly roll home the spot kick after Jiri Skalak had been fouled inside the box.

"It was a great feeling to score the winner in what was a tough game," he told Seagull. "We're happy to get the three points because we were the better side and deserved the victory."

"Burton made it difficult for us; they just defended and sometimes you just need to find a way to win the game."

"We would have preferred to win it earlier with the chances created but if not, then we're happy with the penalty. The most important thing was the three points, but with two wins in a week you can see the team is in good shape and we need to keep it going."

With tonight's cup tie to be decided on the night, both teams will be looking to attack and Hemed is hoping the Seagulls

can now make the most of the opportunities that come their way.

"On Saturday we had enough chances to score early and we need to learn from that," he adds. "If you manage to get that early goal then the other team has to play a more open game, so it's important that we are more clinical."

"The good thing is that we are creating chances. If we hadn't been then I would be more worried. But we know we can get better and stronger – and we have shown our strong mentality by winning these last two games with two late goals. We will take the good things from Saturday and also learn from what we didn't do so good, and we will take that into the next game."

Two late goals also says a lot for the team spirit in the camp, which Hemed reveals is as good as ever.

"The mood in the squad is very good and all the new players are saying it is something special. We have a very good group; nobody is thinking about himself, everyone gives their all for the team and there are no egos. That will again help us this season when we need to fight for every game and for each other."



## WORLD DARTS BLOCKBUSTER AT THE AMEX

Albion are proud to announce that the Amex Stadium will host the World Darts Blockbuster on Thursday 20th October

The upcoming event still has a limited number of tickets available and sees the 16-time world champion, Phil 'The Power' Taylor go head-to-head with the current reigning 2016 PDC world champion, Gary 'The Flying Scotsman' Anderson.

The action will unfold from 7pm, with Taylor relishing the prospect of battling Anderson.

He said, "I am really looking forward to coming to the Amex Stadium to play in the World Darts Blockbuster against Gary. We rarely get to play each other outside of the PDC tour – so this will be a terrific event and I'm sure the home of the Seagulls will create a cracking atmosphere."

The following tickets and hospitality packages are available to purchase:

### VIP HOSPITALITY PACKAGE

- (£65 per person)
- Singha beer on arrival
- Hot buffet
- Exclusive photo opportunity with Gary and Phil
- Reserved seating at the front of the room to watch the darts

### STANDARD TICKET

- (£29 per person):
- Singha beer on arrival
- Fully licensed bar and food available to purchase on the evening
- Unreserved seating

Fans are also advised that all guests must be over the age of 18 in order to attend the event. Buy your tickets now at [www.seagullstickets.com](http://www.seagullstickets.com)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A happy birthday to Finlay Batchelor, who was 13 on Saturday. He is a season-ticket holder in the Family Stand and his favourite player is Anthony Knockaert.



## TONIGHT'S OTHER EFL CUP THIRD ROUND FIXTURES

- Bournemouth v Preston North End
- Derby County v Liverpool
- Everton v Norwich City
- Nottingham Forest v Arsenal
- Leeds United v Blackburn Rovers
- Leicester City v Chelsea
- Newcastle United v Wolverhampton Wanderers

**"I DON'T FEEL THE GAP IS BIG BETWEEN US AT ALL AND THAT MOTIVATES ME TO KEEP PUSHING, AND I KNOW THAT STOCKO APPRECIATES THE COMPETITION TOO"**

# MIND THE GAP!



Niki Maenpaa has impressed when called into action for the first team this season and he is enjoying the healthy competition between himself and David Stockdale

**Niki, it's EFL Cup time again, but it says a lot about the strength in depth of the squad that we can field a strong team tonight...**

Yes, I am sure we will have a really competitive team for this game. If you look at the defence, we have the likes of Connor (Goldson) and Uwe (Huenemeier) who will be looking for more game time; we have a lot of options in midfield to choose from and the same in the wide positions. I certainly feel this is a stronger squad than this time last year and the players who are selected will want to make a good impression and show what they can do. We played Reading recently in the league so we know they are a good team. We will have to be at our best to progress to the next round.

**There's a chance the winners could draw one of the 'big boys' in the next round, so does that act as an incentive?**

That is the cherry on top of the cake, as the saying goes, but it's at the back of my mind to be honest. Hopefully we'll get through and then we'll see where the draw takes us, but all I am focused on is this game and personally, to keep playing well. It's been a good start to the season for me and I need to keep it going.

**You made your Championship debut in the 3-0 win against Rotherham last month. How did that feel?**

I felt comfortable. We started really well as a team, which made it easier for me, and I made important saves when I needed to. We scored two early goals, then finished the game well and as a keeper it's always nice to keep a clean sheet. To play in the first team at the Amex for the first time, in front of our supporters, was a really nice experience for me.

**You looked pretty calm out there, given the importance of the occasion...**

I'm a calm person anyway, but I played a lot of first-team football during pre-season, which also helped. Before I came to Brighton last year, I had played regularly for three seasons so it's not like I've now been thrown in at the deep end. I've got plenty of experience, and playing in the cup games this season also helped. I didn't think too much about it being my league debut for the club anyway; I just went out and played the game, where the three points was the most important thing.

**What's the goalkeepers' union like at the club?**

We are a really good unit with Stocko (David Stockdale), Casper (Ankergrén) and Ben Roberts (goalkeeping coach). We have really good banter on the training pitch and we bounce off each other. While I haven't played as much first-team football as I would have liked, I still feel that under Ben's guidance and being pushed by the other keepers, I have developed as a goalkeeper since I've been here. I feel like I'm getting better and better, definitely.

**If you're not first-choice keeper, you're unlikely to play at the weekend, so does that affect the way you train?**

No, I train every day as if it's me who's playing on the Saturday – whether I'm selected or not. If I don't do that then I don't feel like I'm ready to do myself justice on the pitch. I do exactly the same things and prepare exactly the same way as if I'm playing. I work hard every single day to make sure I am ready should the manager need me.

**Stocko is the club's number one, but do you feel you are closer to him now?**

I feel very close to Stocko. I don't feel the gap is big between us at all and that motivates me to keep pushing, and I know that Stocko appreciates the competition too. We are pushing each other, which can only be good for the team. It was really good to get the chance to play against Rotherham when Stocko unfortunately picked up his injury against Forest, but he was fit for the next game and, quite rightly, came back into the team. I completely understand that, so now I have to just keep working hard and make the most of the opportunities that come my way again.

**You've recently returned from international duty with Finland – good to meet up with the group?**

We have a new coach now and have not started very well under him. We are still looking to find our identity and it has been quite hard. I also have the target of winning back my place in the Finland team but I also appreciate that Lukas Hradecky has been playing very well for Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga and in the national team. It's always good to meet up with my team-mates, who are good friends, and it's always an honour to be selected for international duty.



## In Opposition

### Reading are looking for an improved season following the arrival of Jaap Stam as boss this summer

The Royals laboured to 17th place in the Sky Bet Championship last season – form which cost Brian McDermott his position as first-team boss.

The arrival of former Manchester United and AC Milan centre-back Stam soon after surprised many and despite losing the experienced heads of Anton Ferdinand, Hal Robson-Kanu and Simon Cox, he has made some canny signings, including Tyler Blackett from former club United, Callum Harriott from Charlton and Anil Capkin (FC Koln).

Making an immediate impression in the first team has been Joey van den Berg, a midfielder signed from Dutch club Heerenveen, compatriot Roy

Beerens (Hertha BSC) and one-time Chelsea prospect John Swift – with all three featuring regularly in a side that has won four of their opening eight league games this season.

“Some of them have done very well and have gone straight into the team. In training sessions they have been very impressive,” says Stam.

“They are more mature and more experienced than some of the other players that we brought in. It was easier for them to adjust to the style of the play and the Championship level.

“It’s a bit harder for some of the younger players. They need to get used to the way of training, and the quality and aggression they need to

bring because the Championship is a very tough, hard league. There’s a lot of physicality.

“But there’s a lot of quality in the players we brought in and eventually they will get there.”

Reading are enjoying a six-game unbeaten run, which has included back-to-back victories at Cardiff (1-0) and at home to Ipswich (2-1), likewise a 2-1 win at Barnsley on Saturday. In the EFL Cup, Plymouth were beaten 2-0 in round one, while it took penalties to overcome MK Dons after the game finished 2-2 at the Madejski Stadium.

Tonight’s game brings a re-run of the 2-2 draw with the Seagulls in the Championship last month, but

Stam remains confident his side can continue their good form.

“We’ve put together a couple of good results, and the energy that we put into those games was very good, so I don’t think we should be afraid of any team,” he adds. “We need to focus on our own team, the squad that we have and the quality that we can bring into games.

“I know that it’s a totally new way of playing here. The last couple of seasons has been 4-4-2 with a flat midfield or a diamond in midfield – and that’s not the way we’re playing now. But this is our style of play and we will try to do it better and better, time and time again.

“If we can bring in that quality that we know we have, and everyone is focused the full 100 per cent, then we can get a good result.”

**“IF WE CAN BRING IN THAT QUALITY THAT WE KNOW WE HAVE, AND EVERYONE IS FOCUSED THE FULL 100 PER CENT, THEN WE CAN GET A GOOD RESULT”**

Jaap Stam



#### ROYALS STATS...

**2**  
goals scored in the last round by new signing Callum Harriott (above) against MK Dons

**2**  
Dutchmen were on the scoresheet in the first round at home to Plymouth – Joey van den Berg and Roy Beerens

**4**  
games were needed for Reading to beat the Albion the last time the sides met in the League Cup in 1974. In the days before two-legged games and penalty shoot-outs, the Royals won a third replay 3-2 at the Goldstone Ground!

**2**  
occasions Reading have reached the quarter-finals of the League Cup, against Leeds in 1996 and Middlesbrough in 1998



#### LAST TIME OUT...

### Reading 2 Albion 2

Albion dropped to second in the Sky Bet Championship table and Reading to 21st place as both sides played out an entertaining draw at the Madejski Stadium on August 20.

John Swift’s inswinging free-kick evaded everyone to give the Royals a second-minute lead but Albion levelled when Joey van den Berg headed a corner towards his own net which Sam Baldock got a touch on.

Anthony Knockaert’s low drive put the Seagulls ahead straight after the break but former Seagulls loanee Paul McShane made it 2-2 in the 59th minute by converting Garath McCleary’s pull-back.

Albion keeper David Stockdale pulled off a fine reflex save to keep out a Yann Kermorgant overhead kick, but honours were even despite Reading finishing with ten men when van den Berg was sent off late on for a second bookable offence.

#### THE GAFFER...

## Jaap Stam

**A decorated player with PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United, Lazio, AC Milan and Ajax, Stam’s first foray into coaching came at the club where he started his playing career – FC Zwolle – where he became assistant coach in 2011.**

The former Netherlands international held the position for two seasons before moving to Ajax for the 2013/14 season, where he was appointed assistant coach and defensive trainer with the first team.

He then had a spell working with the youth players at the Ajax academy before joining Reading this summer, becoming the club’s first non-British or Irish manager. He has been joined by Dutch duo Andries Ulderink and Said Bakkati, who he worked with at his former club.





## Albion

**Manager:** Chris Hughton



## Royals

**Manager:** Jaap Stam

Niki Maenpaa	1	○	○	1	Jonathan Bond
Bruno	2	○	○	2	Chris Gunter
Gaetan Bong	3	○	○	3	Jake Cooper
Uwe Huenemeier	4	○	○	4	Joey van den Berg
Lewis Dunk	5	○	○	5	Paul McShane
Dale Stephens	6	○	○	6	George Evans
Beram Kayal	7	○	○	7	Roy Beerens
Jiri Skalak	8	○	○	8	John Swift
Sam Baldock	9	○	○	9	Joseph Mendes
Tomer Hemed	10	○	○	10	Deniss Rakels
Anthony Knockaert	11	○	○	11	Jordan Obita
Sebastien Pocognoli	12	○	○	12	Garath McCleary
David Stockdale	13	○	○	14	Dominic Samuel
Steve Sidwell	14	○	○	15	Callum Harriott
Jamie Murphy	15	○	○	18	Yann Kermorgant
Casper Ankergrén	16	○	○	19	Yakou Meite
Glenn Murray	17	○	○	21	Stephen Quinn
Connor Goldson	18	○	○	22	Zak Jules
Elvis Manu	19	○	○	23	Danny Williams
Solly March	20	○	○	26	Ali Al Habsi
Oliver Norwood	21	○	○	27	Craig Tanner
Shane Duffy	22	○	○	28	Danzell Gravenberch
Liam Rosenior	23	○	○	29	Josh Barrett
Rohan Ince	24	○	○	30	Tennai Watson
Richie Towell	29	○	○	31	Anssi Jaakkola
Kazenga LuaLua	30	○	○	38	Liam Kelly
Rob Hunt	42	○			

### Next at the Amex

## Barnsley

Sky Bet Championship • Saturday 24th September • Kick-off 3.00pm

### Match Officials

Referee: Lee Probert

Assistant Referees: Edward Smart and Dan Cook

Fourth Official: Brendan Malone

Tonight's Match Sponsor



AMERICAN EXPRESS COMMUNITY STADIUM

