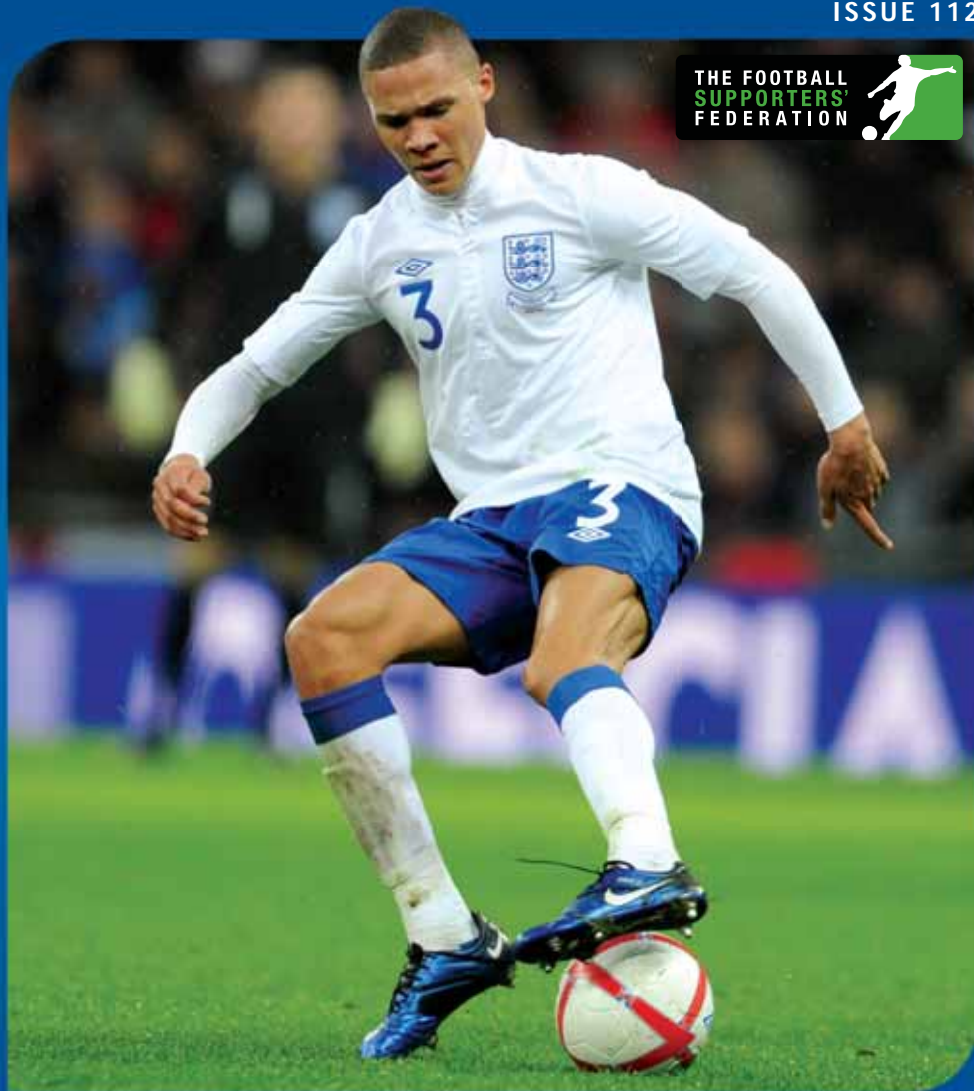


# Free Lions

THE ENGLAND FANZINE FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

ISSUE 112

THE FOOTBALL  
SUPPORTERS'  
FEDERATION



fans' embassy

**DENMARK v ENGLAND**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

THE FOOTBALL  
SUPPORTERS'  
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**FREE LIONS 112**



...the free England fanzine produced and distributed by the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF) as part of our Fans' Embassy service.

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**Denmark v England**  
Parken Stadium, Copenhagen  
Wednesday, 9th February 2011  
Kick-off 8.15pm, local time  
England will play in WHITE



### Useful Phone Numbers

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### IT WASN'T ME

The Free Lions fanzine is produced by the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), the national membership-based organisation for fans. We have tried to ensure the accuracy of all the information provided in this fanzine, but can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience suffered by any one relying

And welcome to Copenhagen, capital city of the Danish nation, and venue of course for the fairly hastily arranged friendly fixture between Denmark and England.

It's hardly been a secret that Denmark weren't exactly first choice as opposition for this date in the international calendar, even if Copenhagen was earmarked as the venue a good while ago. Protracted but ultimately unsuccessful negotiations were held with a view to playing against Argentina here; when that fell through, Paraguay came into the frame, but in the end – and it wasn't until 13th December 2010 that the final confirmation was forthcoming – it's turned out to be the home nation that we're playing.

It has been five and a half years since we were here last, and it's likely to be a very different experience this time – not so much because of the facelift that the stadium's undergone, more because of the time of year. No sitting in

### Cover Story

A February friendly usually means a run-out for some of the up-and-coming youngsters hoping to cement a regular place in the squad – and this could well mean a third cap for **Kieran Gibbs**, Arsenal's pacy and promising left back.



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### THANK YOU

We are grateful to the FAOPL for images; copyright of the cover photo belongs to them.

the sun this time, it's likely to be freezing: at the time of going to press, the forecast for the weekend before the game promises snow.

This edition of Free Lions contains all the usual types of useful information, and it's as up-to-date as print and freight schedules allow it to be. Some details were still not available at the time of going to press, so if there's anything not contained within these pages that you need to know, just ask one of your Fans' Embassy team (or call the helpline), and we'll do our level best to find out for you.

While we're here in Copenhagen, you may spot an unfamiliar face or two with our Fans' Embassy team. This is because we're playing host to some Polish observers, one from each of the Euro 2012 host cities, here to see what we do with an eye to providing a Fans' Embassy service in their home towns during the tournament finals. So be nice to them, you never know when you might need their help in Poland. Assuming we qualify, of course...

As ever, this fanzine has been a team effort. This edition was edited by Kevin Miles, and thanks are due to Phil Rowley, Brian McNally, Peter Daykin, Dave Rose, Lone Mohr Hansen, Leif Bjorn, Lars Ruby, Bettina Kajander, Anne-Marie Mockridge, Jamie Craig, DB, Lawrence Canning, Paul Palmer and Kevin Gibson.



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# THIRD TIME LUCKY

BY BRIAN McNALLY OF THE SUNDAY MIRROR



ENGLAND will be striving to avoid an unwanted hat-trick of defeats against Denmark when the sides meet in Copenhagen's Parken Stadium.

The Three Lions were unbeaten against the Danes in their first eight meetings - winning six and drawing two - before suffering their first defeat to the Scandinavian outfit in a vital European Championship qualifier at Wembley in September 1983, courtesy of a spot kick winner from former Charlton striker Allan Simonsen.

The Danes won that qualifying group to dump Bobby Robson's England out of the 1984 European Finals in France and were only beaten in the semi-finals by Spain in a penalty shoot-out.

England then went on another unbeaten run - six games this time - against the Danes that included a draw in the 1992 European Championships (which Denmark sensationally won against all the odds) and a comfortable 3-0 victory in the 2002 World Cup finals in Niigata.

But Denmark go into the Parken Stadium friendly on a high looking to make it three-in-a-row after a 3-2 win at Old Trafford in 2003 and a thumping 4-1 victory in Copenhagen two years later.

The match against Denmark is a warm-up for Fabio Capello's side before the European Championship



qualifier against Wales in the Millennium Stadium in March.

And by a strange twist of fate that 2005 drubbing by Denmark was also a preparatory friendly for a competitive trip to Cardiff.

Fabio Capello, like Sven-Goran Eriksson before him, believes that the Parken Stadium simulates the sort of conditions England will face in the Millennium Stadium.

The multi-purpose Parken arena has a capacity of 38,000 and boasts a retractable roof which is also a feature at the Millennium.

But, at least the omens are good for the Danish dress-rehearsal, as England later beat Wales 1-0 in that World Cup qualifier six years ago, despite the Copenhagen hammering.

Denmark hit three goals in seven second-half minutes as England were left stunned in their final

game before that World Cup qualifier in Wales.

Charlton's Dennis Rommedahl scored from close range after keeper David James had unwisely charged from his goal.

Rommedahl then set up former Newcastle flop Jon Dahl Tomasson to score, while Michael Gravgaard headed a corner against Steven Gerrard and into the England net for a third.

Wayne Rooney managed a late consolation before Soren Larsen completed the 4-1 rout.

It was England's worst reverse defeat since Wales won by the same scoreline in May 1980 - so it is worth recalling the England side on that last visit to Copenhagen.

The side with substitutes was: Robinson (James 46), Gary Neville (Johnson 46), Ashley Cole, Terry (Carragher 46), Ferdinand, Gerrard

(Jenas 84), Lampard (Hargreaves 64), Beckham, Joe Cole, Rooney, Defoe (Owen 46).

Two years earlier Denmark had come from behind to surprise Eriksson's side in Manchester.

Denmark took advantage of typical Eriksson experimentation to win a five-goal thriller.

The Danes came from behind twice as England's defensive frailties were exposed - and Tomasson's late winner was fully deserved for an adventurous display.

Rooney, then a teenager with Everton, and Chelsea's Joe Cole gave England an early advantage, but Martin Jorgensen was twice on target as Denmark punished England's shaky rearguard.

And after the usual splurge of Eriksson substitutions, Denmark took charge and Tomasson's winner gave them a measure of revenge for their 2002 World Cup defeat.

The England side that day was: James (Robinson 45), Gary Neville (Johnson 16), Terry, Upson, Ashley Cole (Bridge 45), Beckham (Jenas 65), Butt (Phil Neville 45), Lampard, Joe Cole (Murphy 75), Heskey (Beattie 45), Rooney (Parker 65).

England fans still retain fond memories of the devastating first-half display against Denmark that booked a place in the quarter final of the 2002 World Cup.

The 3-0 thrashing of the Danes never really received the acclaim it deserved largely because of a nervy display by then Sunderland keeper Thomas Sorensen and some shoddy play from the over-run Danish rearguard.

But England, firing on all cylinders, were at the peak of their game as they raced into a 3-0 interval lead thanks to Rio Ferdinand and the Liverpool duo of Michael Owen and Emile Heskey.

The Three Lions had the game well and truly won by the half-time interval and eased up after the break when they brought on substitutes Robbie Fowler, Kieron Dyer and Teddy Sheringham.

England's progress was halted by a 2-1 defeat by eventual winners Brazil in the quarter final, but there was no doubting that England's victory over Denmark was a better result than most observers believed at the time.

It is often forgotten that the Danes qualified for the first Asian World Cup by going through their 10-game qualifying group unbeaten.

England's last winning side against Denmark was: David Seaman, Danny Mills, Rio Ferdinand, Sol Campbell, Ashley Cole, David Beckham, Paul Scholes (Kieron Dyer 48), Nicky Butt, Trevor Sinclair, Emile Heskey (Teddy Sheringham 69), Michael Owen (Robbie Fowler 46).

Long-serving Danish manager Morten Olsen was in charge for all three of those games against England after completing a decade as national manager.

His solid if unspectacular side are third in Group H of the Euro qualifiers after three games. They are three points behind leaders Norway and are a point behind second-placed Portugal with a game in hand.

Their qualifying campaign resumes in Norway on March 26th and they will be anxious to go there with a good result against England behind them.

## >> THE McNALLY VERDICT

Survivors from the 2003 and 2005 defeats against Denmark - who could include Glenn Johnson, Ashley Cole, John Terry, Frank Lampard and Wayne Rooney - will be anxious to avoid an unwelcome hat-trick. Much will depend on what sort of line-up Capello decides to field in Copenhagen, but I believe England should be capable of at least earning a draw before the more important business in Wales.

Certainly those with England at heart will be looking for a repeat of the scintillating form in Japan nine years ago rather than the languid displays at Old Trafford and the Parken Stadium last time out.

Follow Brian McNally on Twitter at @McNallyMirror



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# SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS DENMARK MUSIC QUIZ

Yes, Scouse Phil's given us a Denmark-themed music quiz. Which means that in every case, the question, or answer, or maybe even both, contains some reference to today's host country, however obliquely. And in theory, to music.

- 1 Denmark's fairy tale genius, Hans Christian Andersen, wrote a story about which item of footwear that David Bowie told us to put on in his 1983 hit "Let's Dance"?
- 2 Which Danish band had a worldwide hit with "Barbie Girl" in 1997?
- 3 Hailing from Gentofte in Denmark, drummer Lars Ulrich formed which mega heavy metal band in 1981, whose last album was called Death Magnetic?

- 4 Bach's "Air on a G string" was used in an advert for which cigar that shares its name with a Shakespeare play about the Prince of Denmark?

- 5 The Danish rock band Kliche hail from which Danish city: Arhus, Ars or Middelfart?

- 6 "Under the Sea" and "Daughters of Triton" are two of the songs featured in which Disney film that shares its name with a famous Copenhagen landmark?

- 7 Which rock legend performed the classics "Voodoo Chile" and "Catfish Blues" on his album "Live in Denmark"?

- 8 Copenhagen was the name of the Duke of Wellington's horse at the battle of Waterloo, but



Question 10: Pixie Lott

in which year did Scandinavian band Abba win the Eurovision Song Contest with "Waterloo"?

- 9 Dane Ole Kirk Christiansen invented Lego, but which band featuring Meg and Jack White used Lego animation in the video for their hit "Fell in Love with a Girl"?

- 10 Pixie Lott's songs "Mama Do" and "Cry Me Out" were both Top Ten hits in Denmark in 2009, but how old is Miss Lott: 20, 22 or 24?

Answers on page 15

## RESTRICTED VIEWS

Modern football stadiums are great, aren't they? Cathedrals to the game, every sightline and seat pitch the result of careful architectural scrutiny and meticulous planning. As fans we've have never had it so good. Or so you might think.

You see when clubs redevelop grounds there's always that odd seat that doesn't quite fit into the plan that they shoehorn

in anyway, all in the name of greater capacity. More matchday bums on seats, more money in the coffers and all that. Ladies and gentleman, we give you the restricted view.

The overhanging roof that gets in the way, the seat so low down you can only see players from the knees-up in the front row... we've all had one. Few, though, could be much worse than this pic from the away end of Loftus Road, surely?

If you think you can top it, email your pics to [freelions@fsf.org.uk](mailto:freelions@fsf.org.uk)



# WELCOME TO COPENHAGEN

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE



Welcome to Copenhagen, home to Hans Christian Andersen, the Tivoli Gardens and the Little Mermaid – and of course to Parken, Denmark's national stadium and base of FC Copenhagen.

In the grand scheme of things, it's not that long since we were here – August 17th 2005, in fact, for that eminently forgettable performance in a 4-1 defeat. Copenhagen itself seems a very different place in February from how we experienced it at the height of that summer: chances are that while we're here this time, it's going to be freezing. It's been a cold winter here and like back home, it started early, with the crucial difference that right through until very recently, it never really warmed up and thawed here, with the rivers,

harbours and lakes frozen over for weeks.

Copenhagen is not only Denmark's but Scandinavia's largest city, and yet it still maintains a relaxed atmosphere more in keeping with a provincial small town. While the city consists of a number of different areas each with their own character, they all share common features of water, parks and cycle paths.

Thanks to its location, Copenhagen has historically been a strategic centre, and now has important business, media and cultural functions. It is also a tourist destination, with an estimated 1.3 million international visitors every year. Considered one of the world's most environmentally friendly cities, it is also rated as one with the best quality of life; on the other hand, it's reckoned to be the seventh most expensive

city in the world, and the third most expensive in Europe.

### FANS' EMBASSY

The FSF Fans' Embassy will be based in **Axeltorv**, a small square in the town centre opposite the entrance to the Tivoli Gardens. We'll be operating on Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 5.30pm, and on Wednesday from 10am until 5pm.

### THE BRITISH EMBASSY

The British Embassy in Copenhagen is located at **Kastelsvej 36-40**, 2100 Copenhagen, and their opening hours are 9.00 – 12.30, and 13.30 – 15.00, Mondays to Fridays. Their contact number is **+45 35 44 52 00**.



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## THE STADIUM



The Parken stadium has undergone a facelift since we were last here five and a half years ago, and now has an all-seated capacity of 38,065. It's still a UEFA four-star stadium, a ranking it won not long after it opened in 1992 and which enabled it to host the 1994 Cup Win-

ners' Cup final (Arsenal 1 Parma 0) and the 2000 UEFA Cup final (Arsenal again, this time losing 4-1 on penalties to Galatasary after a 0-0 draw).

Since 1998, the stadium has belonged to the club FC Copenhagen, who naturally play all their home games here, as do the national team. The biggest crowd ever gathered here however wasn't even for a football match: it was the 55,000 to see Justin Timberlake's FutureSex/LoveShow tour in June 2007 (but that was cheating a bit, because some of them were allowed onto the pitch, which football fans generally aren't).

To increase opportunities for hosting concerts and other events, a retractable roof was added to the stadium after the Eurovision Song Contest was held here in 2001, and we're told that the roof will be closed for our game, which barring extreme cold outside should enable those in the ground to enjoy a temperature of a balmy 15 degrees Celsius.

The pitch has been freshly re-laid for our game, which is being held during the Danish domestic season's winter break - as indeed is Chelsea's Champions League tie here against FC Copenhagen a fortnight later.

## GETTING TO THE GROUND

The Parken stadium is located to the north of the city in the Osterbro district, and can be reached on foot, although it's a good 45 minutes walk. A better bet for those among us who are a bit on the lazy side, or who don't fancy three-quarters of an hour walking in the cold (which if we're honest, is probably most of us) is to take an S-train from the main station opposite the Tivoli Gardens, or from Vesterport. The fare for a one-way trip is DKK23 (about £2.50). Marginally the nearest station to get off at for the England end of the ground is at Nordhavn; alternatively get

off one stop earlier at Osterport. Whichever of the two you choose, it's about a 15 minute walk up to the ground.

As well as the S-trains, it's also possible to take one of the regional trains, but note that these don't stop at either Vesterport or Nordhavn, so the only option would be the main Copenhagen station to Osterport.

For those who want to make the journey up towards the ground early, there are a few small bars and restaurants between Osterport station and the stadium itself, around the "Trianglen" junction.

There are also buses towards the ground: number 15 from the station stops beside the stadium, while the numbers 1A and 3A stop at Trianglen. Note though that traffic congestion around the ground can make the later stages of the bus journey very slow, and some of the roads in the immediate vicinity of the ground may be closed.

The same problems obviously affect taxis, but in normal circumstances a taxi from town out to the ground should take about 15 minutes and cost up to £15.



## GROUND RULES



The England sector in the ground has been located in Stand D, behind the goal at the north end of the ground. Although the FA has sold only around 2,500 tickets for the game (every member who wanted one, got one), all three blocks (D1, D2 and D3) are to be used, which means that we'll have the use of all three sets of turnstiles, and all three sets of toilets and concession stands inside the ground. The front few rows of the stand across its width will not be in use.

Gates will open at 6.45pm: that's just an hour and a half before kick-off. There are no plans to hold

England fans back in the ground at the end of the game.

There will be the usual range of cordons and ticket checks on the approach to the ground, and searches on entry. Those of us who were here back in 2005 may recall that there were some congestion problems on entry, which resulted in a bit of a crush at the gates, and quite a few people missing the kick-off. It might therefore be a good idea to make sure you get up to the ground in good time.

In 2005 the game took place in August, whereas this time round it's in February, so we can expect quite a difference in terms of the weather. When your Free Lions team visited Copenhagen a few weeks ago in preparation for this game, the area around the ground (apart from the main roads and walkways) was extremely icy, so if it's the same on the day, watch your step. The match itself will be played with the stadium roof

closed; the management here tell us that as long as the weather conditions outside aren't too extreme, then the temperature inside the ground should be around 15 degrees Celsius.

This game takes place within the period designated in Denmark as their "winter break"; FC Copenhagen have taken advantage of this gap in their fixture schedule to relay the pitch, so ours will be the first game to be played on a new surface just a couple of weeks old.

As it's a friendly, UEFA rules banning alcohol in the ground don't apply, so there will be beer served; however, while it won't be alcohol-free, it is likely to be less strong than that served in the city centre bars.



## FLAGS

We've been in touch with the stadium security people to see if it's possible to allow early access to the stadium for those wanting to hang their flag. At the time of going to press, we'd had no definitive answer: ask at the Fans' Embassy for the latest update.

## ENGLANDFANS

Englandfans representatives will be available for signing-in and the collection of tickets on Wednesday, February 9th. Between 11am and 5pm they will be based in the Scandic Palace hotel on Vester Voldgade

(the side of the town hall square); between 7pm and 8pm they will be located beside the entrance to the England sector, by gate D1, at the stadium. They are also contactable by phone on +44 7970 146250.



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# WELCOME TO COPENHAGEN

## YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE



### >> HANDY HINTS

- It's a legal requirement to be able to produce your ID, so carry your passport at all times. Don't lose it though.
- In the event that you do lose your passport, your first step should be to report it to the police and get a written police report. You'll need this before you can get a replacement or emergency passport, or before you can try to persuade your airline to take you home.
- If you do need an emergency passport, it's a lot cheaper to get it issued during normal British Embassy opening hours.
- Beer is a lot cheaper from supermarkets, and it's not an offence to drink in public places (though in February the weather may act as a bit of a deterrent). Being drunk in public is a different matter though.
- Almost 40% of Copenhagen

residents commute to work by bicycle, with 1.1million km being covered by bike each day. Cycle paths are all over the place, and especially when there's a covering of snow, it's not always easy to know which they are. Take care not to be run over, as they seem to sneak up behind you unheard.

- Generally, restaurant bills and taxi fares already include any service charge – tips are not expected.

### ✂ WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



reverts in the colder months to being a collection of mostly very expensive restaurants and a few over-priced bars.

It would be no surprise in the chillier temperatures forecast for this February a fixture if most visitors headed for the warm and welcoming shelter of the pubs nearest the station (they're nearest to most of the hotels too).

Nearest to the station – so near in fact that's in it – is **O'Leary's**, a big sports bar and restaurant. Turn to the left as you come out of the station main entrance, and there it is.

On leaving the station, if you keep going past O'Leary's you'll reach the junction with **Vesterbrogade**: turn right and you'll be facing towards the town hall square. On your right hand-side you'll see the main

Last time we were here, there were two areas of town that proved most popular with England fans to congregate – the area around the station, and the picturesque waterside area known as **Nynhavn**. That however was in the warm August sunshine, when many of the

**Nynhavn establishments supplemented their relatively small indoor capacity with seats and tables outside.**

It will be very different this time though, with almost all of the outdoor seating cleared away for the winter; in effect Nynhavn

entrance to the **Tivoli Gardens** (not particularly useful on this trip – the gardens are closed for the winter and won't re-open until April 14th), and you'll pass a nice, though expensive, microbrewery called **Bryggeriet**, and an equally nice and even more expensive **Hereford Beefstouw steakhouse**.

Across the road though are two establishments which experience suggests may turn out to be the main congregating points for England fans. **Rosie McGee's** is big, with four bars over two floors, and when we were there, there was talk of a possible promotion with Carlsberg...

Despite the name, Rosie McGee's described themselves to us as a "very large English-style pub", and said (and we quote): "Our aim is to provided a base for the travelling fans in the comfortable surroundings of an English pub. We have 3 large projection screens and many large screens that can be used for the viewing of football matches. We can organise food and live entertainment on request and all of our staff are fluent English speakers." Perhaps even more importantly, they told us they'll be open from 10am until "late".

A couple of doors away from Rosie McGee's is the "**Old English Pub**", which also promised all the things



you're likely to be looking for in a pub. That is, they welcome English visitors, they sell beer, and they're open from early to late - from 10:00am through to 02:30am on match day. The Old English Pub doesn't do food, though.

There are of course other bars in the area – there's the **Shamrock**, and if you're prepared to go far enough down the FIFA rankings, there's even the **Scottish Pub** on **Hans Christian Andersen's Boulevard** (the street that runs down the side of the town hall square).

Across the opposite side of the town hall square is the entrance to the pedestrianised shopping area, known as **Stroget** or the "**walking street**". A great place for expensive shopping, but there are also some places to eat down there, and another couple of Irish pubs – the **Irish Rover** on the left as you walk from the town hall square, and the **Dubliner** a bit further down on the right.

We also promised one Martin Popplewell who contacted us that we'd mention the real ale pub he

runs, **Charlie's Bar**. His "completely Carlsberg Empire-resistant, proudly independent, Cask Marque-accredited free ale house" is on **Pilestraede**, at number 33, and Martin is offering a 10% discount to travelling England fans on pints (that's proper-sized pints) of English ales. Be warned though – as generous an offer as that is, and as lovely as Charlie's Bar may be, it's not huge, so we won't all get in.



### >> ACCOMMODATION

There is plenty of accommodation available in Copenhagen, and February's not exactly the height of the tourist season. If you've arrived without anything booked, then an easy alternative to going from hotel to hotel looking for somewhere is to call in at the Copenhagen Tourist office at **Vesterbrogade 4A** (about a minute away from **Rosie McGee's** or the station). Or you can ring them on **+45 70 222 442**. They run a centralised booking system, and have a register of what's still available.

### >> GOING TO MONTENEGRO?

Our friends at England Fans Travel are running a day trip, flying from Birmingham on the morning of the 7th October, and straight back after the game. ATOL protected, the cost is £399 per person, including transfers. For details, see their website at [www.englishfanstravel.co.uk](http://www.englishfanstravel.co.uk)



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# GREAT DANES

BY BRIAN MCNALLY OF THE SUNDAY MIRROR

A HOST of dazzling Danish stars from Allan Simonsen in the early 1980s to Nicklas Bendtner in the current Premier League have graced English football.

But probably no player from Denmark has quite captured the affection of the English public like the Great Dane himself, Peter Schmeichel - voted the greatest keeper in the world in 1992 and 1993.

The 129-times capped Schmeichel captained Manchester United to their famous Champions League Final triumph over Bayern Munich as part of a memorable Treble that also included the Premier League title and FA Cup successes.

And he also had impressive short spells in the Premier League with both Aston Villa and Manchester City.

But in his native land he will always be remembered as the last line of defence in the sensational European Championship triumph of 1992 in nearby Sweden when the no-hopers Denmark were recalled from their summer holidays and overcame the might of Europe.

And now Schmeichel's son Kasper, not quite in the same class as his dad, is earning his corn with Leeds United in the Championship.

Schmeichel senior is a member of the Danish Hall of Fame as are the legendary Simonsen and fellow striker Jon Dahl Tomasson - who spectacularly



Peter Schmeichel

bombed at Newcastle - and former Chelsea winger Brian Laudrup.

Simonsen is without doubt the greatest Danish outfield player to have graced the English game even if his powers were on the wane by the time he moved to Second Division Charlton Athletic in 1982.

Simonsen was just shy of 30 when he moved from Barcelona to the Valley in a shock £300,000 move that stunned European football.

A host of top European clubs wanted this mighty atom of a striker, including Real Madrid and Spurs. But Simonsen wanted to wind down out of the spotlight and incredibly chose Charlton.

But the money problems that would eventually force Charlton to quit the Valley were surfacing and they were forced to sell him to his hometown

club Vejle BK after an exciting three-month spell in which he scored nine goals in 16 games for the Londoners. I recall seeing him score for Charlton in a 2-0 win over Newcastle United in December 1982 and his intelligent forward play was a joy to watch.

50-times capped Simonsen's greatest day were at Borussia Mönchengladbach where he inspired them to triumphs in the 1975 and 1979 UEFA Cups. He also won a winner's medal with Barcelona in the 1982 Cup Winners' Cup.

And Simonsen is the only player in history to have scored in the finals of European Cup, UEFA Cup, and Cup Winners' Cup.

One of the first Danish internationals to play in England was Newcastle midfielder Preben Arentoft - known as Benny to the

Geordies - who scored in their 1969 Fairs Cup Final triumph over Ujpesti Dozsa.

And another Danish cap to make his way to the North-East was Mikkel Beck. He was neither the most elegant nor the most famous Dane to play his trade in England. But after appearing for his homeland in Euro '96 in England he went on to make a reasonable impact at Middlesbrough as a striker with 24 goals in 91 appearances for the Teessiders.

Striker Tomasson was signed by Kenny Dalglish for Newcastle in 1997 and was quickly dismissed as a flop. But his career later blossomed with AC Milan where he won a Champions League winner's medal in 2003.

Tomasson also scored a total of 52 goals in 112 internationals making him Denmark's all-time record scorer.



Jon Dahl Tomasson

Another Danish legend Brian Laudrup only briefly featured in England with Chelsea, but did earn hero status north of the border with Rangers. And even though he didn't ever play club football in England, Brian's more talented brother, Michael, once of Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus, must be mentioned after being voted Denmark's greatest player of all time.

Amazingly, another former Charlton Dane, Dennis Rommedahl, has won more than twice as many caps as the great Simonsen. The 32-year-old winger, now with Greek club Olympiakos, is still part of the Danish set-up and boasts 104 caps and 18 international goals.

Also in the squad for their last international against the Czech Republic in the autumn were Manchester United back-up keeper Anders Lindegaard, who has four caps and Liverpool midfielder Christian Poulsen, a veteran of 81 Danish matches.

But veteran coach Morten Olsen used that 0-0 draw with the Czechs largely for experimental purposes and several seasoned internationals such as vastly-experienced Stoke keeper Thomas Sorensen, who has 91 caps, West Ham right back Lars Jacobsen, Liverpool central defender Daniel Agger and Arsenal striker Bendtner are all candidates to return against England.

The Danes don't have a lot of goals in their squad and Bendtner, while

not exactly setting the Emirates on fire, is easily their best bet to hit the target. The former Birmingham City loanee has scored 12 in 35 outings for the Danes giving him an average of one every three matches.

The only other player in double figures for the present Denmark set up is Rommedahl with a goal every six games or so.

But no one can quite match Arsenal's famous Dane John Jensen's lack of goals. The man who scored a spectacular first goal for Denmark in their 1992 European Championship final triumph over Germany managed just one solitary goal in more than 130 games for the Gunners.

But through the "I saw John Jensen score" T-shirt rage that followed his lone strike against QPR his cult status was assured. He even bought one himself!

Now Jensen is back in the Premier League spotlight with Blackburn Rovers as right-hand man to Ewood boss Steve Kean.

The population of Denmark may be just over five and half million souls but from Simonsen to Schmeichel and Jensen to Bendtner they have certainly given English fans plenty to talk about on the terraces and appreciate on the football field.

Follow Brian McNally at Twitter on @McNallyMirror

# PLAY THE GAME

## FREE LIONS NOSTALGIA

These days its all Playstations and Xboxes offering impressively realistic simulations of football. In fact if you squint a bit when watching Fifa 11 it's hard to tell the difference between the game and the real thing. There was a time however when young fans were content with a few bits of plastic and a space on the dining room table. Most indoor incarnations of football in the 70's and early 80's couldn't be played alone but that didn't matter – kids had friends who weren't virtual then and best of all we had our arch nemesis to regularly humiliate – our fiercely competitive dad.

Free Lions takes a misty eyed flick down memory lane with a selection of games that amused and frustrated us on those rainy afternoons when our choppers and space hoppers were left muddled under the stairs.



**SUBBUTEO** – More fully-fledged cultural movement than mere

football game, the range of teams alone was mind-boggling. Then there were the floodlights, the stands and tiny people populating them, dug-outs, stretcher-bearers, scoreboards and even trophies. Everyone knew someone who had the complete World Cup edition with working floodlights, a pitch tacked onto a sheet of hardboard and stands full of tiny plastic supporters. Few of us had ever seen such a thing, though - our fantasy fixtures were generally played out on gently undulating pitches which wouldn't lie flat on carpets.



**STRIKER** – Largely thanks to Subbuteo's iconic, retro-chic status, it sometimes seems the true story of Striker has never really been told. It may not be fashionable to 'fess up to these days, but many found this six-a-side 70s creation much more fun than it's "flick to kick" rival. Players heads were pressed to make them

kick a ball, and accomplished operators could actually achieve chipped passes and shots into the top corner. Over-head kicks could be achieved by lying a player down on his back with the ball balanced on his kicking foot.



**CASDON SOCCER** – Featuring a particularly scary picture of that incredible comb-over on a box lid which promised "Bobby Charlton says it is the nearest thing to English soccer it is possible to experience in one's own home, and has spent many hours playing with his own family", this odd little game was a steady seller throughout the 70s, and had many ardent devotees. A ball bearing was at the heart of the action, and was moved round by players that utilised a flipper at their base to drive it along a series of grooves and gullies which could make playing the game an infuriating experience.

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# SEEN SOMETHING FUNNY?

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!



Regular readers of Free Lions will be familiar with our Daft Pics feature that crops up on an occasional basis in these pages. It's founded on a fairly simple premise – on our travels around Europe and indeed the world watching football, we often come across things that amuse us. Usually because they appeal to the naughty schoolkid in all of us, and we can't help chuckling at rude words.

Daft Pics is an occasional feature that we feel has become a bit too occasional, and it's something we'd like to revive. That needs your input though: we need you to help us breathe new life into it by sending us stuff you see that makes you

laugh. Share your amusement with your fellow England fans, by sending your photos to us. There's no money in it, but you'll get a warm glow of satisfaction knowing that you've brightened up the lives of others, while they appreciate how observant you are.

Send your photos, either by MMS (that's like a text message, but with a picture) to +44 7876 353957, or email them to [freelions@fsf.org.uk](mailto:freelions@fsf.org.uk), putting Daft Pic in the subject line.

Here's a few to get you in the mood. The first is one we took ourselves, on our trip here a few weeks ago in preparation for the game. (1) It's a genuine sign from a Copenhagen shop window – we know that "UDSALG" means

"Sale", but we genuinely have no idea exactly what they're offering at half price...

(2) Then there's one which obviously amused Alex Simpson when he was in Milan watching Spurs...

(3) And (we suspect there may be a theme emerging here) one sent by Adrian Biggs from the qualifier in Basel...



## Quiz Answers

1. Brentford's Griffin Park 2. There were no corners in the Denmark Music Quiz
3. COPR in 1981 4. Kilmarnock 5. Hartlepool United
6. Cardiff City 7. Carrow Road, City Ground, City of Manchester Stadium, County Ground and Craven Cottage
8. An orange ball 9. Robert Earnshaw 10. Colin Todd

1. The Red Shoes 2. Aqua 3. Metallica 4. Hamlet
5. Arhus 6. "The Little Mermaid" 7. Jimi Hendrix
8. 1974 9. The White Stripes 10. 20



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## DENMARK SQUAD WORDSEARCH

**A**mong the pieces of information that weren't available at the time of this edition of Free Lions going to press was the line-up of the Danish squad. Ever ready to improvise though, we've devised a Wordsearch anyway – based on the Denmark squad for last summer's World Cup, including the clubs they played for at that time. So, extra historical interest – you still have to find their surnames in the grid though.

Jesper	<b>CHRISTIANSEN</b>	FC Copenhagen
Stephan	<b>ANDERSEN</b>	Brøndby IF
Thomas	<b>SORENSEN</b>	Stoke City
Daniel	<b>AGGER</b>	Liverpool
Lars	<b>JACOBSEN</b>	Blackburn Rovers
Patrick	<b>MTILIGA</b>	Malaga
Per	<b>KROLDROP</b>	Florentina
Simon	<b>POULSEN</b>	AZ Alkmaar
Simon	<b>KJAER</b>	Palermo
William	<b>JORGENSEN</b>	FC Copenhagen
Christian	<b>POULSEN</b>	Juventus
Christian	<b>ERIKSEN</b>	Ajax
Daniel	<b>JENSEN</b>	Werder Bremen
Jakob	<b>POULSEN</b>	Århus
Mikkel	<b>BECKMANN</b>	Randers FC
Thomas	<b>ENEVOLDSEN</b>	Groningen
Thomas	<b>KAHLENBERG</b>	Wolfsburg
Dennis	<b>ROMMEDAHL</b>	Ajax
Jesper	<b>GRONKJAER</b>	FC Copenhagen
Jon Dahl	<b>TOMASSON</b>	Feyenoord
Martin	<b>JORGENSEN</b>	Århus
Nicklas	<b>BENDTNER</b>	Arsenal
Søren	<b>LARSEN</b>	Duisburg

N E S L U O P K A H L E N R G  
 N E S N E G R O J J E N S E N  
 E J E N E S R A L A N F K N T  
 S O R E N S E N R N E G A T I  
 N R I O N W N M D U V R H D L  
 E G K I M E Y A V F O M L N I  
 G E S F O M S T I C L T E E G  
 R N E S M K E R R T D I N B R  
 O N N P O U L D E I S L B I E  
 J A C O B S E N A D E I E T G  
 E M P O U L S E N H N G R C G  
 N K R O L D R U P O L A G H A  
 S C N E S L U O P X O Z Q Y C  
 R E A J K N O R G V B T J D A  
 N B N O S S A M O T T Y S M B

## Scouse Phil's Free Lions Football Quiz (answers on page 15)

- Which English league ground has a pub on each of its four corners?
- Which Premier League first happened when Wigan played Chelsea at the DW Stadium earlier this season?
- Which was the first English club to have a plastic pitch?
- Which Scottish team plays its home games at Rugby Park?
- H'Angus the Monkey is the mascot for which Football League team?
- Who were the first Welsh side to win the FA Cup?
- Since 1992 when the Premier League started, there have been five grounds beginning with the letter C that have hosted top flight football. Which are they?
- What was used in the 1973 FA Cup Final and never used again?
- Who is the only player to score a hat-trick in all four English leagues, the League Cup, the FA Cup and for his country?
- I was born in Chester-le-Street in 1945 and played in defence for various clubs including Sunderland, Derby, Everton, Birmingham and Nottingham Forest, winning all of my 27 England caps between 1972 and 1977 whilst at Derby. Who am I



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