

On this the third day of advent we open the door where Deputy Editor **Malcolm Dawson** recalls a snowy night in West Yorkshire.

Bradford City v Sunderland 9/3/99

This game lives on in the memory for many reasons. Firstly it was a freezing cold Tuesday evening and I got picked up from my home in Leicestershire by tee total Tim, a fellow member of the Heart of England Branch of the Supporters' Association. He'd offered to drive and to keep out the cold I'd made a thermos of coffee, but knowing Tim didn't touch alcohol, put the medicinal vintage Armagnac in a separate hip flask.



The stewards at Valley Parade didn't take kindly to that as they frisked me by the away turnstiles and showed no sense of humour when I offered to drink it, stating they'd then refuse me entry for being drunk and disorderly. I wept as I poured it down the drain but at least we had the coffee.

Secondly, we won. These were the days when we were winning a lot and indeed

we would go on to win promotion as Champions with a record points haul into the bargain.

That night we won 1-0 thanks to a goal from Niall Quinn and a couple of saves from the big Irishman after an injury to Tommy Sorensen saw him take the gloves and go between the posts.

As we left the ground the snow started to fall and we eventually got home in the early hours but my night wasn't over. This was the early days of the internet and I'd promised my sister whose company had sent her off to India for a few weeks, that I would let her know the result. So once home I walked the short distance from my house to the village school where I was working at the time, unlocked, switched off the alarm, booted up the school computer and e-mailed her the score.



Niall Quinn's Disco Gloves

When I arrived at work next morning I could hear the caretaker talking to the Head about some mysterious footprints in the snow she had seen when she turned up for work. Had someone tried to break into the school in the night? She never knew for sure but she might now if she reads this!

Valley Parade to the away end courtesy of www.jimmysirrelslopechild.co.uk

Niall Quinn courtesy of www.rokerreport.sbnation.com