



Legends
& Celebs

V's



Legends
& Celebs

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2026

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

ASHTON GATE STADIUM

WWW.TALKCLUB.ORG

WELCOME TO THE TALK CLUB CUP BRISTOL 2026!



Hello and Thank you.

Thank you for coming tonight.
Thank you for supporting an
idea to unite Bristol. And most of all, thank you for
helping us trying to create a mentally fit society.

Let us introduce ourselves.

We're Ben Akers and Gavin Thorpe. Co-CEO/Co-Founders
of Talk Club.

A male mental health charity, founded in the back of
the Bristol Beer Factory Tap Room in Southville in
2019.

From that single talking group, we have grown to over
150 groups in communities, businesses, and prisons.

We offer Talking & Listening Groups, Exercise Groups,
Therapy Groups (and 1to1 therapy) as well as a HOW ARE
YOU?OUT OF 10? check-in app,all trying to help men get
mentally fit.

It all begins with: "How are you? Out of 10?" And then
trying to explain why.

Find out more at TalkClub.org

Anyway last March we had an idea. We love football, we know it has a power to connect (but also divide) but what if we used it's power for good?

What if we could get the two sides of Bristol together to unite through mental fitness?

A game of hope.

We have talking groups at both City and Rovers, they are both doing fantastic work through Bristol Rovers Community Trust, and the Robins Foundation.

When it comes to mental health, and with the horrible fact that 25 men in Bristol take their lives each year, (which we realised is the same as two football teams and the officials).

The Talk Club Cup was born.

Last year was a massive success. Everyone came together at the Mem and now the return leg at the Gate.

So please enjoy the evening.

Thank you to all the Celebs and Legends. To Shaun, Nancy, Amelia and Michelle and all the team at the Robins Foundation.

To Tutts and Marc and all the team at Bristol Rovers Community Trust.

To Paul, Thad, Christian and James for the design and publicity help.

You are all part of the solution.

Anyone can have an idea, but making that idea happen makes change happen.

So thank you all.

BEN + GAV

PATCH SAYS:

The first Talk Club Cup was a big success and I am very much looking forward to this one.

As the host of a Bristol City podcast (3 Peaps In A Podcast) we talk through each game with other fans and it is always a cathartic experience which often feels like a Talk Club session.

We start with a Check in... How Are You Out of 10?, and then walk through the key moments whilst looking forward to the next game, and usually come away feeling better than when we started.

What is always rewarding is the messages we get, both in person and via social media about how important the podcast is to those who listen on walks and car journeys. Not everyone always has someone to talk to and listening in makes them feel part of a conversation.

On the game itself bringing together two local teams, albeit Legends and local personalities, is a great way to renew a local rivalry dating back to 1896, when Eastville Rovers took on Bristol South End.



Even though the teams share a fierce rivalry, everyone came together for an important cause, which made the event feel special and meaningful. It is great to see former players coming together, you never lose it!!

One of the main reasons I enjoyed the event so much was because I was invited to be the guest stadium announcer. However, trying to keep on top of the substitutions was a real challenge!

The match itself was entertaining and competitive, with both teams determined to win, despite the friendly nature of the event. The fans reacted to every tackle, save, and goal, which made the atmosphere even better.

However, what stood out most was the sportsmanship shown by both teams and supporters. At the end of the game, everyone celebrated together because the event had successfully raised money for charity.

Overall, the experience was memorable because it combined football, community spirit, and personal involvement.

Being the guest stadium announcer made me feel proud to represent my podcast, Talk Club and my football team and gave me an experience I will remember.

It was enjoyable not only because of the football, but because it showed how sport can bring people together for a positive cause.

WELCOME FROM SHAUN DAVEY

MARKETING AND

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

BRISTOL CITY ROBINS FOUNDATION

The Talk Club Cup represents far more than just a football match for Bristol City Robins Foundation. It is a powerful opportunity to bring communities together, break down stigmas surrounding men's mental health and show the positive impact football can have beyond the pitch. Through partnership working and shared purpose, the event helps create conversations that many men still struggle to have, while raising awareness and support for mental health initiatives across Bristol.

At the Robins Foundation, mental health and wellbeing support continues to be a key area of work within the community. Through programmes such as Robins Talk, participants are encouraged to connect, stay active and speak openly in a safe and supportive environment. Sessions combine football and conversation, helping men improve both their physical and mental wellbeing while building friendships and reducing isolation. The Talk Club Cup shines a spotlight on the importance of these sessions and the role they play in supporting local people who may otherwise struggle in silence.

Lee Gillett, Health and Wellbeing Officer at the Robins Foundation, said:

"THERE'S STILL A MISCONCEPTION THAT MEN EITHER CAN'T OR WON'T TALK ABOUT HOW THEY'RE FEELING. ROBINS TALK CHALLENGES THAT. FOOTBALL GIVES PEOPLE A REASON TO COME ALONG, BUT THE REAL IMPACT COMES FROM THE CONVERSATIONS AFTERWARDS. SEEING MEN CHECK IN WITH EACH OTHER, SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND REALISE THEY'RE NOT ALONE IS INCREDIBLY POWERFUL. THE TALK CLUB CUP HELPS US CONTINUE CREATING THOSE SAFE SPACES AND ENCOURAGES MORE PEOPLE TO TAKE THAT FIRST STEP."

By using the power and reach of Bristol City Football Club, the Robins Foundation continues to show how football can be used as a force for good which includes opening minds, changing perceptions and improving lives across the community.

Please visit the 'Robins Talk' section of the Bristol City website to find more details on how to sign-up.



WELCOME FROM ADAM TUTTON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BRISTOL ROVERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Last year's inaugural Talk Club Cup at the Memorial Stadium showed exactly what can happen when Bristol puts rivalry aside and comes together for something bigger than football. What began as a brilliant idea between Talk Club, Bristol Rovers Community Trust and Bristol City Robins Foundation became an unforgettable evening of football, community and purpose, with legends, local personalities and supporters helping raise awareness and funds for men's mental health across our city. Bristol Rovers edged a memorable 3-2 victory on the night, but the real winners were the people and programmes this event continues to support.

This year, we take the next step, moving the Talk Club Cup to Ashton Gate Stadium, proving that this event belongs to the whole city, not one postcode.

As CEO of Bristol Rovers Community Trust, I could not be prouder of what this event represents.

"FOOTBALL IN BRISTOL HAS ALWAYS INSPIRED PASSION, IDENTITY AND FIERCE LOYALTY - BUT THE TALK CLUB CUP REMINDS US THAT SOME CAUSES ARE BIGGER THAN RIVALRY. IF THIS EVENT HELPS JUST ONE MAN REALISE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO STRUGGLE IN SILENCE, THEN IT HAS ALREADY BEEN A SUCCESS."



Men's mental health remains one of the most urgent challenges facing our communities. Too many men still feel unable to talk, ask for help, or admit when they are struggling. The beauty of the Talk Club Cup is that it uses football—our city's shared language—to start conversations that might otherwise never happen.

Bristol is a city of proud differences, but also extraordinary compassion. Seeing former players, celebrities, families, supporters and partner organisations unite behind one cause sends a powerful message: we are stronger when we look after each other.

Whether you wear blue and white or red and white, tonight is about something far greater than the scoreline. It is about connection, hope, and showing every man in Bristol that talking is strength.



LEGENDS & CELEBS

JACOB DYER



DEF **BRISTOL CITY
MANAGER** ATT

LOUIS CAREY



adidas



BLACKTHORN

DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

SCOTT MURRAY



BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

DEF

ATT

JAMIE MCALLISTER



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

AARON BROWN



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

ALEX MEECHAN



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

CRAIG WOODMAN



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

CLAYTON FORTUNE



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

COLE SKUSE



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

COLIN CRAMB



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

FRANKIE ARTUS



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

JOE BURNELL



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

RYAN HARLEY



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

SCOTT RODGERS

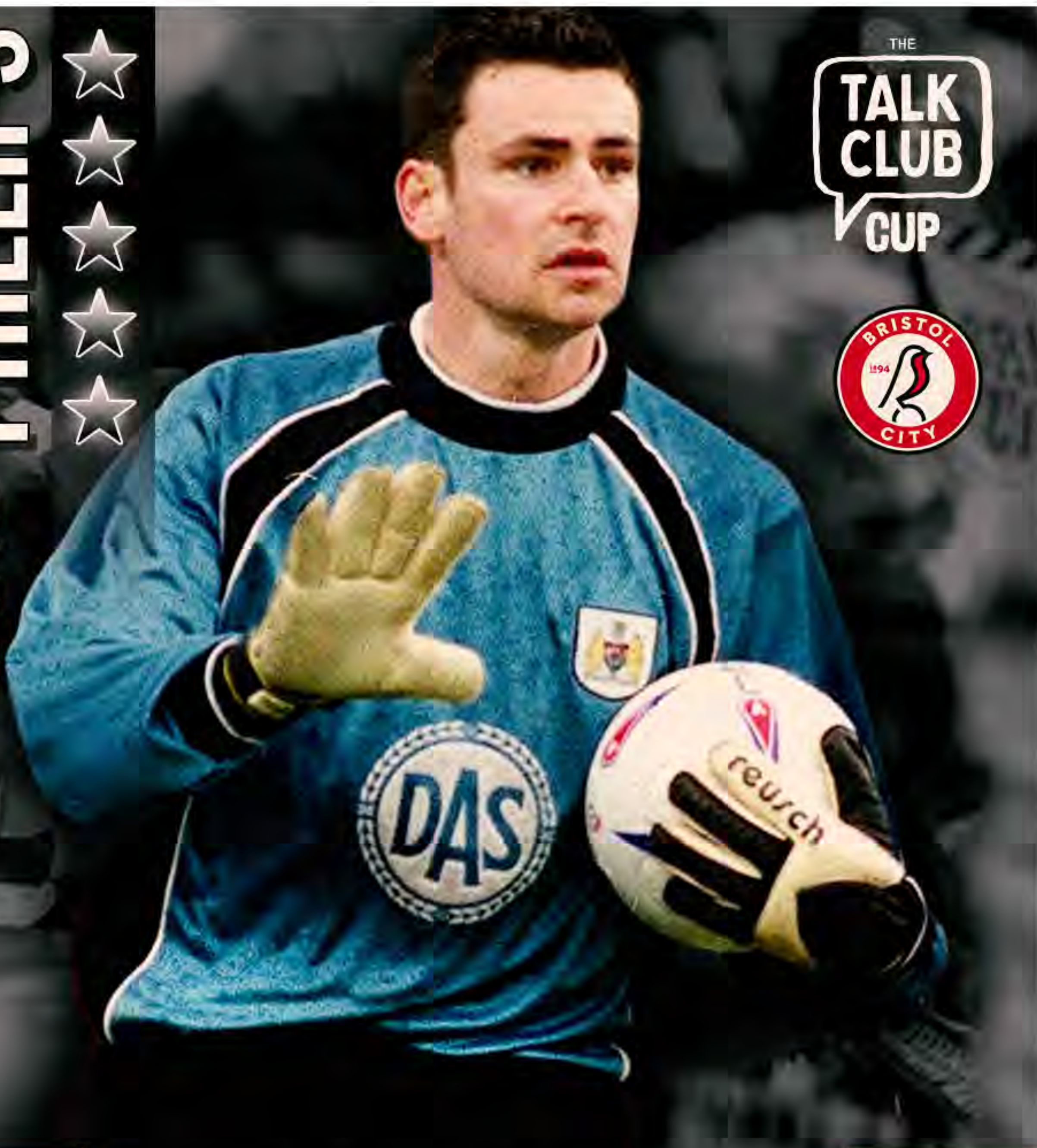


DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

STEVE PHILLIPS

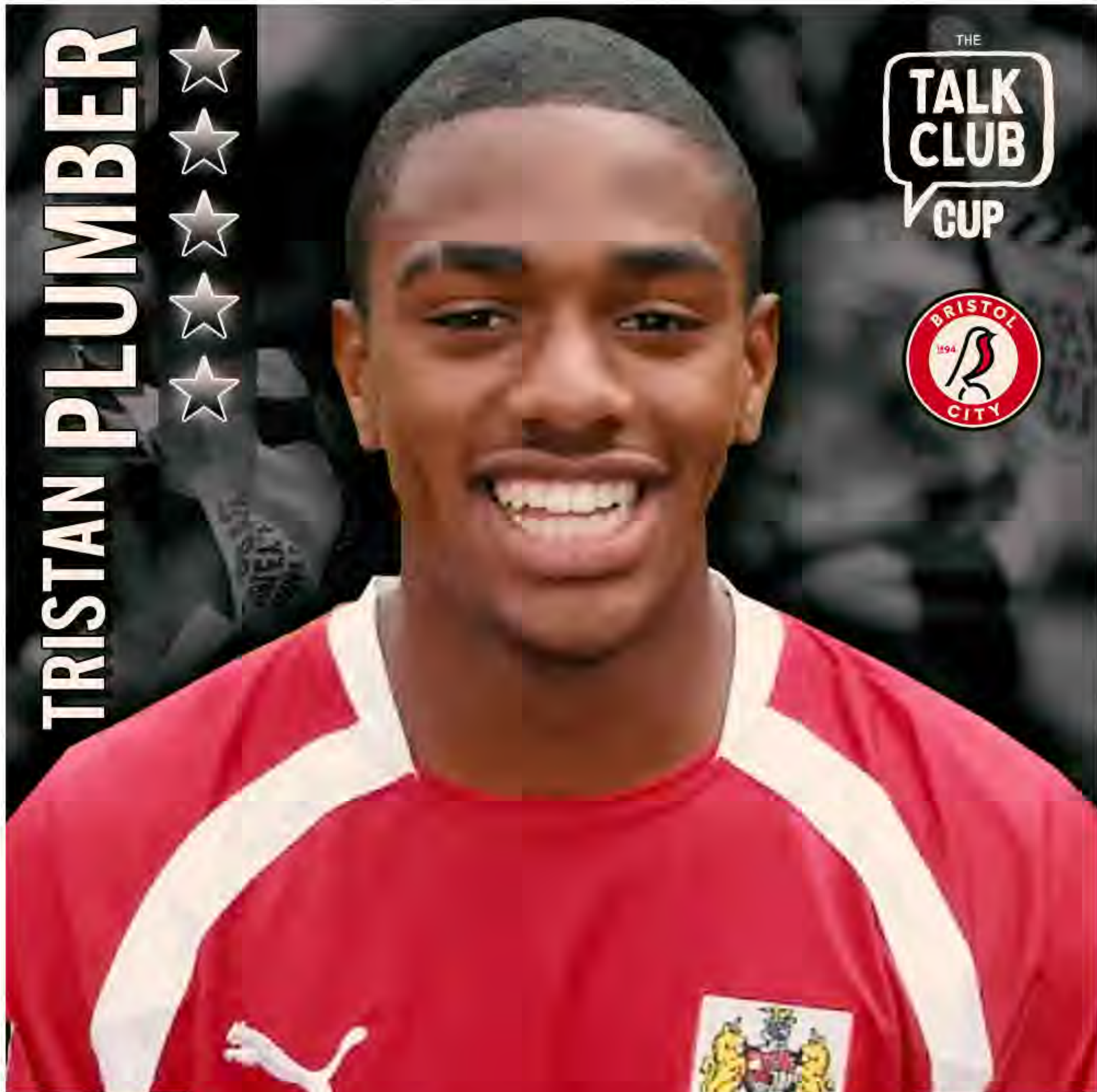


DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

TRISTAN PLUMBER



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

WADE ELLIOTT



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
LEGEND

ATT

BOS FINESSE



BRISTOL CITY
DEF-CELEBRITY-ATT

JACK EATS EVERYTHING



DEF **BRISTOL CITY** **CELEBRITY** **ATT**

JEMEL ONE FIVE



DEF **BRISTOL CITY** **CELEBRITY** **ATT**

JOE SIMS



BRISTOL CITY

DEF

CELEBRITY

ATT

JON BEAVIS



DEF

BRISTOL CITY
CELEBRITY

ATT

MIKEY FC



BRISTOL CITY

DEF

CELEBRITY

ATT

ROBINS NEST



DEF **BRISTOL CITY** CELEBRITY ATT

SHEA MANNINGS



WESTERN LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS
2025/2026

DEF **BRISTOL CITY** **CELEBRITY** ATT

TWAIN PLUMBER



DEF **BRISTOL CITY** CELEBRITY ATT

UNKNOWN R



DEF **BRISTOL CITY** **CELEBRITY** **ATT**

WOODY COOK



DEF **BRISTOL CITY** CELEBRITY ATT



LEGENDS & CELEBS

SIMON BRACEY



BRISTOL ROVERS
MANAGER

DEF

ATT

ADAM TUTTTON



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

JAMIE CURETON



DEF

BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

ATT

CHRIS LINES



DEF

BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

ATT

DARREN MULLINS



BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

DEF

ATT

CRAIG HINTON



BRISTOL ROVERS
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DEF

ATT

CHRIS ZEBROSKI



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ATT

STEVE ELLIOTT



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SCOTT WALKER



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ATT

DANIEL LEADBETTER



BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

DEF

ATT

JAMES CLARKE



DEF

BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

ATT

WILL HOSKINS



smart
Computers



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BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

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LEE MANSELL



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BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

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BARRY HAYLES



COWLIN
BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND

DEF

ATT

BRYON ANTHONY



**BRISTOL ROVERS
LEGEND**

DEF

ATT

AARON SUTTON



BRISTOL ROVERS
CELEBRITY

DEF

ATT

BEN HARVEY



SERVING
SOCIAL
CHANGE

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BLACKSMITH MUSIC



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

DIMPSON



BRISTOL ROVERS

DEF

CELEBRITY

ATT

DIGY



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** **ATT**

ED KEAR



DEF

BRISTOL ROVERS
CELEBRITY

ATT

GAMBA COLE



BRISTOL ROVERS

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CELEBRITY

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GEOFF BARROW



BRISTOL ROVERS

DEF

CELEBRITY

ATT

JAY 0117



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** **ATT**

MARVIN REES



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

MATT STARBOY



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

ROSS ARNOTT



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

GARDNA



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

ADAM DEVONSHIRE



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

SABET CHOUDHURY



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

RONI SIZE



DEF **BRISTOL ROVERS** **CELEBRITY** ATT

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that we do within our
communities, please donate
via the link below.**



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YOUR SUPPORT**