

**DANNY**   
**BERGARA**

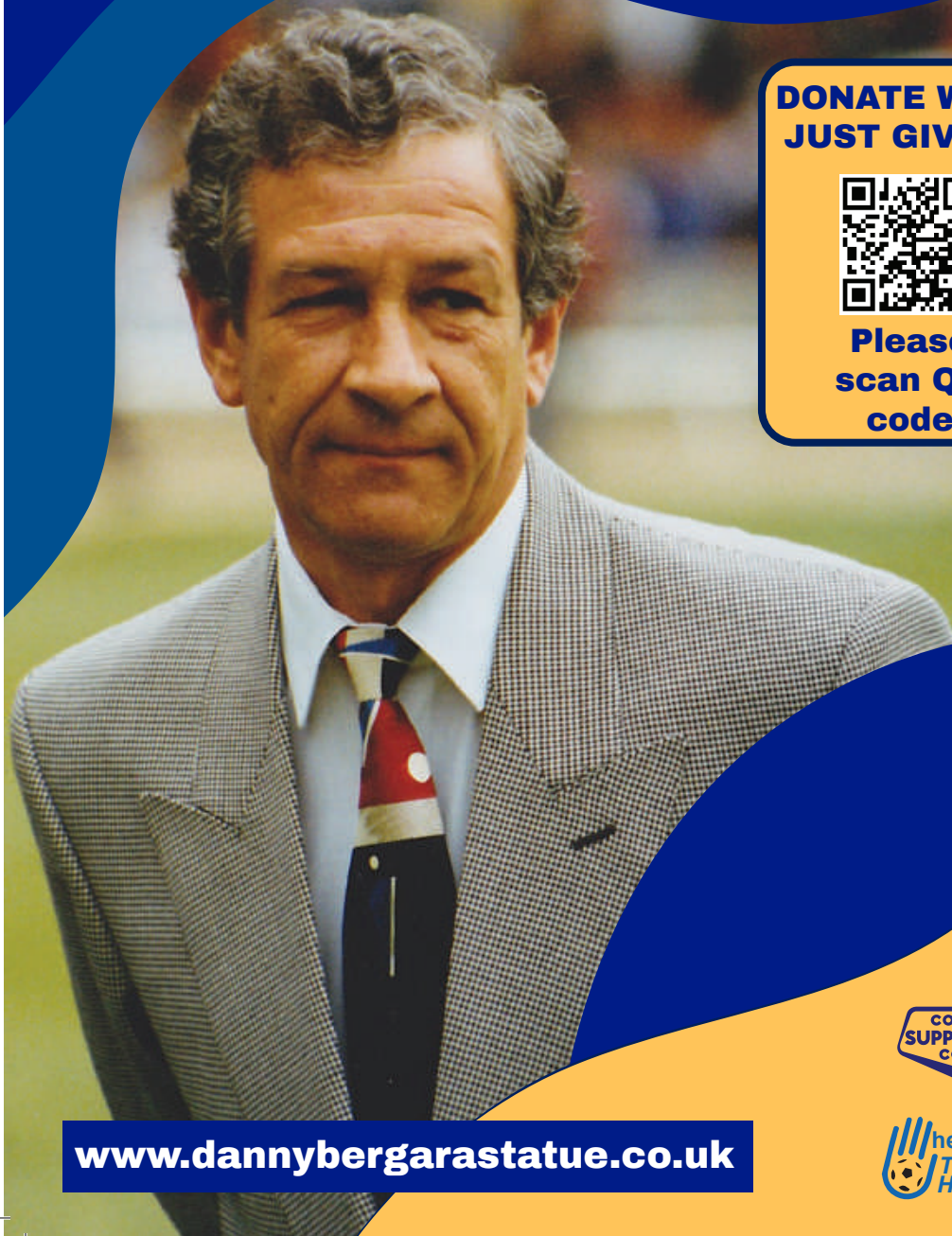
# STATUE APPEAL

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## JOIN THE CO-OP

The larger the membership of the Co-op, the stronger our collective voice as a fans' organisation will be. Furthermore, we can continue to work on fantastic projects like the Community Ticket Initiative, build the Guardian Account and fundraise for a tribute to Danny Bergara.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

- £12** Adult membership for 12 months
- £3** Membership for 16 to 25 year olds, 12 months
- £1** Child (under 16) membership for 12 months

### WHY JOIN THE CO-OP

- ✓ Help safeguard the future of Stockport County Football Club
- ✓ Provide a legal and financial framework for the supporters
- ✓ Facilitate a relationship between the supporters and the Club
- ✓ Help build the fan base through the Community Ticket initiative
- ✓ Support local charities and projects
- ✓ Access to exclusive events for Co-op members only

## JOIN HELP THE HATTERS



If you would like to assist Help the Hatters or join one of our working parties at Edgeley Park, please contact John Gaskin on 07966 130 186

[www.countysupporterscoop.co.uk](http://www.countysupporterscoop.co.uk)



## **A message from Stockport County Supporters Co-operative and Help the Hatters**

In March 1989 a new manager arrived at Edgeley Park, replacing the popular Asa Hartford. Most County fans had never heard of the new boss, who came to us after a brief stint at local rivals Rochdale. We were all curious as to who exactly this new guy was – but we soon found out, and he went on to become arguably County’s most loved manager ever: Danny Bergara.

Prior to Danny’s arrival, County had been through years of misery - hanging on to Football League status by the skin of our teeth and two decades of underachievement, which was relieved only by the odd cup success.

Danny changed all that, winning promotion, making four Wembley appearances (albeit unsuccessful ones!) and building the basis of the team that would eventually, under his successor Dave Jones, gain promotion to what is nowadays the Championship.

To this day, County fans can be heard singing ‘Danny Bergara’s Blue and White Army. We will never forget him. Now is the chance to do something in his memory a permanent memorial for the man who gave us back our pride.

### **We’re launching a fundraising campaign!**

County Supporters’ Co-op and Help the Hatters are jointly launching a campaign to have a statue of Danny erected outside Edgeley Park. The club have approved and we have been in contact with sculptors. What we need now is YOUR help.

We hope to crowd-fund the statue, the cost is likely to be in the region of £50,000, depending on the choice of sculpture. To start the ball rolling, the Co-op and Help the Hatters have both donated £2,000 each.

This campaign will also be supported by a series of events and initiatives, including the Hatters Half marathon, the supporters’ calendar, special Danny merchandise, “Make us an Offer” auctions, a golf day and a special celebration of the 96 – 97 season, organised by SCAN.

Remember what we owe to Danny – dig deep and support us.

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dannybergara](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dannybergara)



## Playing Career

Alberto Daniel 'Danny' Bergara was born in July 1942 in Pocitos, Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. A talented youngster, Danny played for his school in Rocha and even formed his own team with his brothers, called Media Luna (Half Moon) to play against other local teams.

## Racing Club of Montevideo

Bergara's footballing potential as a skilful and prolific inside forward was spotted at an early age and he joined the youth team at Racing Club of Montevideo aged 14. Danny's rise from youth team to first team came rapidly, making his debut against Rampla Juniors, he went on to help Racing Club win the Second Division title in 1958. He made his debut in the Uruguayan First division the following season, aged 16, going on to make 50 appearances. His first goal coming for the club coming against Defensor in the Artigas Cup. Three youth international caps followed, with 2 against Argentina and 1 against Chile. European scouts travelling to South America had noticed Danny's talent, his continued excellent form was brought to the attention of Spanish club Real Mallorca.



Danny & Nacho Bergara, with Di Stefano of Espanyol

Danny's mother Maria Elena believed her son was too young to travel such a distance and was

reluctant for him to sign. Maria offered a compromise and said Danny could sign alongside his brother Ignacio (Nacho), to keep him company. The two Bergara brothers joined Real Mallorca for 800,000 pesetas and moved to Spain in August 1962.

## Real Mallorca

In Mallorca, Danny met his future wife, Janet 'Jan' Turner from Hampstead in London, who had set off on her own adventure, when foreign travel was very much in its infancy.

Bergara needed time to adapt to the pace of the Spanish league, which was much faster than Uruguay and struggled to break into the team, until making his debut as a substitute in a home win against Athletic Bilbao in December. Danny's first goal was against Real Madrid, a side featuring Ferenc Puskas and Jose Santamaria. Heavy defeats saw Mallorca struggle at the wrong end of the table, but despite beating Barcelona on the last day of the campaign, they finished in the bottom four and were relegated.

Mallorca returned to the top flight at their second season, winning the Second Division Championship in 1965. Bergara's scoring exploits was bringing him to the attention of bigger clubs on the mainland, including Barcelona, however Mallorca had set a 5 million peseta asking price!

The following season, Bergara finished as top scorer with 13 goals, but Mallorca were relegated back to the Segunda Division. Fifth top scorer La Liga Primera. He remained with the Club, finishing ninth in the league, notching 10 goals.

## Sevilla Fútbol Club

In the summer of 1967, Sevilla secured the services of the 25 year old, for a club record 2.5m pesetas and the receipts of a game between Sevilla and Athletic Bilbao.



Mallorca vs Real Madrid

Danny made his debut for Sevilla against the eventual champions Real Madrid, before making a mad dash to Malaga for the birth of his first son, Simon who arrived from England. Sevilla struggled in Bergara's first season and manager Antonio Barrios was dismissed and former player Juan Arza appointed to avoid relegation. Under Arza, Bergara's form improved, and he finished as leading scorer on 13 goals, 9th top scorer in La Liga, but Sevilla finished second bottom and were relegated.



Danny at Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán Stadium

The following season saw Sevilla clinch the Second Division title on the last day against CD Mestalla. Bergara finished top scorer with 14 goals and was voted best player in the League in his inside forward position.

Despite winning promotion Arza was replaced by Austrian coach, Maximilian Merkel. Merkel repaid the faith of the board, leading Sevilla to a joint third finish in Primera Division and qualification for the Inter City Fairs Cup. In a great season, Bergara played his part contributing key goals including a vital winner against Real Madrid.

April 1970, saw the birth of Jan and Danny's daughter Elena Jane during the 'Feria of Sevilla', a famous and traditional two week festival.

Bergara's last goal for Sevilla came in the home win over Malaga, as the team finished seventh in the table, as he moved to CD Tenerife aged 29 in the Second Division.

## Club Deportivo Tenerife

Tenerife had been promoted from the Third Division, but were struggling at a higher level. They brought in fellow Uruguayan Hector Nunez as head coach, as Danny joined.

The first match saw Bergara score two goals in a comfortable victory over Hercules. Tenerife went on to record another nine home victories, as they finished a respectable ninth place in the league Bergara's second season at Tenerife saw him pick up a calf injury, which sadly was to end his career as a player.

*Text and photos courtesy of The Man From Uruguay – Phil Brennan*



## Peter Ward (Stockport County)

Danny might have been a striker when he played but I remember him displaying a different kind of marksmanship.

It was back in 1991 when I arrived at Edgeley Park to complete my move from Rochdale. I'd spoken to him on the phone, and everything was agreed so I came to the ground ready to join. At the time, the ground wasn't as developed as it is now, and the offices were where the players' entrance is. One of the receptionists asked the kit man, John Bishop, to take me through to see the gaffer.

We knocked on his door and there was no-one in; Bish was running around trying to find him, so we walked out to where the dugouts were. There we found a man lying on top of the dugouts with an air rifle – it was the gaffer, and he was shooting pigeons in the Vernon Stand!

Bish said 'Gaffer, this is Peter Ward' and he said 'Hello, how are you?' Then he said 'I've got to get them; they're vermin and I don't want their mess in the stand or on the pitch' – and this was the first time I've met him!

I had my medical and came away wondering what I'd done and who I'd signed for – a guy with broken English who was trying to shoot pigeons the first time I met him! It was the most bizarre thing I'd seen but I had four great years with him; he was a real character who would make you smile, not least with some of the things he used to say.

Behind the comedy though was a deep thinker who had clear ideas of what he expected from his players. The proof was in the pudding with promotion and Wembley finals in the play-offs and Autoglass Trophy.

Although he used to do some bizarre things he was very strict on the training ground and made players better themselves, we had good players all over the pitch who all improved themselves working under Danny; he never wanted us to just kick the ball, he wanted us to clip it or caress it instead.

He used to drum that into us but, with him coming from Uruguay and playing in Spain, that was his background. He'd keep people on their toes, but we had Dave Jones and John Sainty in the background who were steadying influences and were a big help.

Sadly, a decade later, I was assistant manager to Jim Gannon when Danny passed away in July 2007. It was a really sad time when he passed away, a really upsetting time for a lot of us ex-players who were brought to the club by Danny. The club gets in your blood; I'm from the North East as are people like Lee Todd and Tony Barras but we all still live in the area and it's the first result we look for.



## Kevin Francis (Stockport County)

The day I met Danny Bergara was in his office for a discussion regarding the possibility of signing for Stockport County. It was a shock to actually be sitting there as the call to travel to Stockport only came the night before. The journey took me 3 hours from Derby to Stockport due to bad weather. I had no idea who or even where Stockport was. Late the previous night my wife Sharon and I looked at tele-text to see where Stockport was in the league table. We scrolled down each division, and they were nowhere to be found. We thought it was too big a drop from Derby County (in the old First Division) to Division Four.

I left home with the impression it would be good experience to talk to another club but had no intention of dropping down so many divisions so early in my career. Little did I know that dropping down would have elevated me to such heights?

Danny helped mould me into the player that I became and the man I am today. My honest first impression of Danny was 'this guy is crazy' but after being in his company for about 4 hours I realised he was not crazy just infected. By the love of the beautiful game. His love and passion for football and Stockport County was contagious.

I am sure the players already at Stockport were already infected but once I signed it soon became apparent Danny had spread the infection to everyone at Stockport County. Resisting Danny was futile.... when I got home and told Sharon I had agreed to sign for Stockport that took some explaining. I took Sharon with me to sign the contract a few days later so she could also see the magic of Danny Bergara.

I can honestly say that in the four years at Stockport County I had some of the most memorable times of my entire football career. They were filled with every range of emotion from elation to despair. During those years anything Danny asked of me I would have done and then did without question. He instilled a belief that spread throughout the whole club and not just on the pitch. Danny had a personal touch to his man management that seems to be lacking in football today. He believed in every one of us and made us feel like we could beat anyone and achieve everything. Alas a Wembley victory still eluded us.



As I look back on some of the videos it's not just the goals, crazy celebrations and hairstyles that bring back happy memories. For me it is the look of sheer joy on my team mates faces and one occasion that stands out the most to me would be the first Wembley appearance. As Danny led us out onto the pitch he had the biggest grin on his face. The pride on his face was priceless and we wanted to win for him that day.

Even after leaving Stockport Danny and I maintained contact. If you have ever spoken to Danny on the phone you would understand it was never too long before he would have you rolling around in laughter with his unique grasp of the English language.

All of my memories of Danny are fond. The world is a sadder place without him but when his name is brought up and I reminisce it's an excuse to use one of Danny's catch phrases as he would say 'Get the whisky out' - Cheers boss.

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