



BRISTOL ROVERS V IPSWICH TOWN

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020, KICK OFF 15:00

Information in this guide is correct as at 2 March 2020. Any updated information on this fixture will be published on the club website (www.itfc.co.uk), twitter (@IpswichTown and @ITFC_Tickets) and facebook (www.facebook.com/officialitfc).

INFORMATION FOR TOWN FANS

We travel to Bristol Rovers on 14 March 2020 in League One. The following guide has been produced for Town fans making the trip to The Memorial Ground. This is based on information on the Rovers website plus additional information specific to this game.

For any further information, please contact Elizabeth Edwards, Supporter Liaison Officer on slo@itfc.co.uk or (+44) (0) 7968 876504 or on Twitter at @ITFC_SLO.

Bristol Rovers information for visiting fans

Address: Bristol Rovers Football Club, The Memorial Stadium, Filton Avenue, Bristol, BS7 0BF

Website: <https://www.bristolrovers.co.uk/>

Phone number: 0117 9096648

Email (ticket office): clare@bristolrovers.co.uk

Matchday Ticket Office: Tel: 0117 9098848.

Facebook: @officialbristolrovers

Twitter: @Official_BRFC

Supporter Liaison Officer and Bristol Rovers Accessibility lead: Clare McDonagh, phone 01179524001 or email clare@bristolrovers.co.uk

The Bristol Rovers website includes various bits of information including:

Visiting fans information on directions and parking:

<https://www.bristolrovers.co.uk/fans/visiting-fans/>

Travel and parking:

<https://www.bristolrovers.co.uk/fans/travel-and-parking/>

Disabled fans:

<https://www.bristolrovers.co.uk/fans/disabledsupporterspage/>

www.footballgroundguide.com provides some information here:

<https://www.footballgroundguide.com/leagues/england/league-one/memorial-ground-bristol-rovers.html>

We have picked out the key information for Town fans below and added other material based on our own experience of visiting The Memorial Stadium and information that is specific to our fans.

Specific information for Town fans:

Ticket news

Tickets for this match are sold out.

Disabled fans with ticket enquiries should contact ITFC's Disability Liaison Officer Lee Smith on 01473 400556 or by email on disability@itfc.co.uk.

Travelling to Bristol Rovers

Supporters Coach

For those travelling from Ipswich the official coaches are leaving Portman Road promptly at 08:35 (please be at Portman Road at least 15 minutes before this) at a cost of £33 for adults (with concession prices for U23s, U19s and 65+ Seniors). Coaches are estimated to arrive back at Portman Road at 22:15.

Subject to availability, coach travel can be purchased online at www.itfcdirect.com. Coach travel (subject to availability) can also be purchased in Planet Blue on a non-matchday or at the Ticket Office on Constantine Road on a mid-week matchday from 5:30pm and a Saturday matchday from 9am.

There is a planned stop on both the outward and return journey.

Pick-ups at Marks Tey can be arranged for this game. If you want to organise a pick-up please call the Ticket Enquiries Team on 03330 050503 or email mainticketoffice@itfc.co.uk. The cut-off point to request a pickup is midday on Wednesday 11 March. Your details will then be passed onto the coach company, Suffolk Norse.

Note that all official coaches are non-smoking and the consumption of alcohol on board is strictly forbidden. ITFC recommend that all supporters under 16 are accompanied by an adult.

Car

The Sat Nav postcode for The Memorial Stadium is BS7 0BF.

From Ipswich, the most direct route is via the A12 / M25 / M4. The Bristol Rovers website provides the following instructions from the M4: 'Exit the M4 at junction 19 and join the M32. Travel along the M32 for 3.1 miles until you reach junction 2. Here, exit the motorway and take the third exit signposted Horfield and Southmead and follow the road through a division and a roundabout both of which have clear signs reading "The Memorial Stadium". Once through this area you join Muller Road and you should continue to drive along it for 1.4 miles until you come to signal-controlled crossroads. Signposted right is Horfield Health Centre and Library. At this junction ignore the sign and turn left into Filton Avenue where the ground is located almost immediately on the left.'

An alternative route is via the A12 / M25 / M40 / A14 / A420 / M4. From the M4 follow the instructions as above.

A third route takes you via the A12 / M25 / M40. From the M40 join the A40 and then the A436. From the A436 join the M5. From the M5, the Bristol Rovers website provides the following instructions to the stadium: 'Exit the M5 at junction 16 signposted A38 Thornbury and Filton. At the roundabout head right signposted A38 Filton and join the A38. Travel along the A38 (Gloucester Road) for 4.3 miles as you enter the outer suburbs of Bristol. On your trip you'll pass Filton Airport on your right, the Royal Mail sorting office and the Royal George and Wellington pubs. At a set of traffic lights immediately past a small shop called Satellite Warehouse and before a timber outlet take an unsignposted left turn into Filton Avenue where you'll see the ground is on your right after just a couple of dozen yards.'

Beware of a couple of stretches on the A12 of average speed cameras (that are not all that well signposted), roughly halfway between Ipswich and Colchester and around Kelvedon / Witham.

The journey time for each route is at least 3 hours 30 minutes and anything up to an hour more depending on road conditions. We would recommend that, whichever route you choose, you allow at least an hour beyond the AA / Google / Sat Nav suggested journey time.

Parking

There is no car parking at the stadium.

The Bristol Rovers website provides the following information re parking:

'You'll be extremely lucky if you can find a space on Filton Avenue unless you arrive a couple of days in advance. All of the areas around the ground are residential and you'll have to battle for spaces with the locals as well as other home and away fans and police cones. With very few exceptions, finding a space within a five to ten-minute walk is relatively easy - parking on Muller Road is a popular choice as is Gloucester Road although this is often more difficult. If Muller Road and Gloucester Road are busy then there are many other roads across the other side of Gloucester Road - travel past the Wellington pub along Kellaway Avenue and you'll find another area of roads often used for matchday parking. Although there is plenty of on-street parking available, please be reminded that it is a predominately residential area so please ensure that private driveways are not obstructed.'

Disabled Supporters Parking

Bristol Rovers has a handful of parking spaces for disabled visiting fans which can be booked via Dave Sams (dave@bristolrovers.co.uk). Note that the available numbers do vary between matches depending on anticipated crowd sizes.

Petrol

If you need petrol for your return journey there are many petrol stations along Gloucester Road. The Bristol Rovers website states: 'If you looking for fuel near to the ground there's only really one - a garage that lies a few hundred yards down Gloucester Road. There are other ESSO, BP and TEXACO stations further down the road in either direction. If you're looking for a good value fill for a long journey home then your best bet is one of the major supermarkets. If you're heading back down Muller Road, the Tesco store near the M32 junction offers petrol at a low price (24 hour) and for those heading back along Gloucester Road, the Walmart ASDA store in Patchway (24 hour) - clearly visible from the M5 - is probably the best value fuel stop you'll find.'

Train

Note 1: There are engineering works on the Ipswich to London line with buses replacing trains between Ingatestone and Newbury Park. This adds about an hour to the journey time between Ipswich and London.

The main station for Bristol is Bristol Temple Meads which is around three miles from the stadium. Trains run from Temple Meads to Montpelier which is about 1.6 miles from the stadium. Bristol Parkway is also around three miles from the stadium.

Trains to Bristol Temple Meads go regularly from London Paddington. With the engineering works from Ipswich you will take a train to Ingatestone and pick up a bus to Newbury Park. If you have a through ticket to Bristol then from Newbury Park take the Central Line to Oxford Circus and the Bakerloo Line to Paddington. If you have a ticket to London Liverpool Street and then a separate ticket from Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads you will need to take the Central Line to Liverpool Street, exit the underground and re-enter to take the Central Line to Oxford Circus – this will avoid an additional cost on your Oyster card. The overall journey time from Ipswich to Bristol Temple Meads is around 4 hours 45 minutes. For example, the 07:20 from Ipswich, following the above route, will get you to Bristol Temple Meads at 12:04.

For the return journey make sure you allow plenty of time to get from The Memorial Stadium back into Bristol. There are trains from Bristol Temple Meads to Paddington on a fairly regular basis which connect to the journey from Newbury Park. These leave Bristol Temple Meads at 17:57, 18:21, 18:30, 19:00, 19:57 and 20:57 and are scheduled to get you to Ipswich at 22:44, 23:09, 23:30, 23:44, 00:53 and 01:59 respectively.

Note that if you are travelling from and to London there may be other train options than those listed above as these are based on connections to Newbury Park and the Ipswich.

Whatever your travel plans, it's worth checking www.greateranglia.co.uk for updated times and any late changes to engineering works.

Getting to the ground from Bristol Temple Meads

Train to Montpelier

Trains run from Temple Meads to Montpelier which is about 1.6 miles from the stadium. The journey time is between 8 and 13 minutes. Note that the timetable indicates that these don't run that regularly – it's a local branch line, running to Avonmouth / Severn Beach, roughly the equivalent of the Ipswich – Felixstowe line; for example, times are shown at 12:02, 12:38, 13:12 and 14:02 from Temple Meads and at 17:30, 18:19 and 19:19 after the game.

Bus

From the city centre a number of buses run up Gloucester Road and along Filton Avenue directly past the Memorial Stadium. Detailed timetables and bus numbers can be found at the First Group website www.firstgroup.com. These include the number 73 which goes from Bristol Temple Meads station approach.

Taxi

www.footballgroundguide.com indicates a cost of around £6 for a taxi from the city centre.

Pubs

Re pubs, the Bristol Rovers website states: 'There are many, many pubs along Gloucester Road and its surrounding areas that declare themselves as "football friendly zones" on Saturday afternoons. The Wellington is always very busy and often sees crowds of supporters standing outside drinking when the weather isn't too bad. Other pubs include The Anchor, The Foresters and The Ashley Arms. As an area of the city that is popular with students, there is no shortage of pubs in all directions.' www.footballgroundguide.com also mentions the Wellington, which is owned by Bath Ales and also serves food. This website also mentions the Drapers Arms, 447 Gloucester Road which is a micropub and the Annexe Inn on Seymour Road which is a CAMRA good beer guide pub, along with the Drapers Arms.

There is also a large choice of pubs in Bristol city centre. Those of you who have met up with the South West branch of the Supporters Club before Bristol games will be familiar with the King Street Brew House, Welsh Back, Bristol, BS1 4RR. There are many other pubs and bars in that area, which includes the famous King Street quarter. To feel properly local, a visit to the amazing cider barge (it doesn't serve beer of any description), called Apple, on Welsh Back is a must.

Food outlets

Re food outlets that Bristol Rovers website states: 'As with pubs, food outlets around the ground are plentiful and varied. There is a strong theme on Indian cuisine as is there on other Asian foods and continental snacks. You'll also find a fair number of traditional fish and chip bars and cafes for those who like the more old-fashioned British feel to food. Recommended food stops include the Bristol Fryer near the Quarington Road junction and the Big Bite Cafe on Ashley Down Road. There's also a fantastic freshly made sandwich and baguette outlet just opposite the petrol station near the stadium on Gloucester Road.'

At the ground

Tickets on the day

This game is sold out for Town fans. No tickets will be available on the day.

Away end

Those fans with tickets in the seated area will be in the Brunel South Stand behind the goal. The stand is covered but note it does have a number of supporting pillars running across the front of it, that may impede the view. Those with terrace tickets will be in the Popular Insulation East Stand which is a side view. Note that this area is uncovered.

Please note that our fans will include older fans, families, those unable to stand for long periods of time and ambulant disabled fans. If you are in the seated area please respect this as we want everyone to enjoy the day safely.

Disabled Supporters

The Memorial Stadium is accessible to disabled supporters and has 6 spaces for away fans. Wheelchair supporters are able to be accompanied by a carer/companion free of charge.

There is an area within the South Stand set aside for home and away ambulant disabled fans. The South Stand is under cover and sheltered plus it has easy access to nearby disabled toilets.

On a match day all the stewards and club officials will be more than happy to offer guidance and support to all disabled fans and on non match days queries can be posed to Clare McDonagh (01179524001 clare@bristolrovers.co.uk) the Bristol Rovers Accessibility lead or the Safety Officer Dave Parker (07557443343 daveparker@bristolrovers.co.uk).

Security

As at all grounds, expect to be searched before entering the ground.

Pyrotechnics

As with all grounds and to comply with legislation, the use of pyrotechnics or even trying to get them into the stadium is a criminal offence and will not be tolerated.

Programmes

The matchday programme, The Pirate, can be purchased for £3. It is based on a theme of celebrating Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. The programme for this game includes an article by Tim Edwards, ITFC Heritage Society, written at the invitation of the Rovers History Group.

Food and Drink facilities

A range of food and drink options are available inside the stadium.

Smoking

The Memorial Stadium is a no smoking facility.

Anti Social Behaviour – Matchday Text Line



Racism or discrimination of any form is not OK, 'Not Today or Any Day' and supporters are reminded that instances of discriminatory or prejudiced behaviour will not be tolerated at any EFL game.

If you encounter any form of discrimination please approach your nearest steward to report any incident you are involved in or witness.

You can also report any discrimination or anti-social behaviour to Kick it Out using the Kick It Out app which is available to download from the App Store or Google Play, or via: Facebook /kickitoutofficial; Twitter @kickitout; email info@kickitout.org; phone 0800 169 9414.