

= Billy Bremner =

William John " Billy " Bremner ( 9 December 1942 ? 7 December 1997 ) was a Scottish professional footballer and manager known for his strength , skills and compact constitution .

A midfielder , he played for Leeds United from 1959 to 1976 , and captained the side during this time , which was the most successful period of the club 's history . With the club he won the First Division ( 1968 ? 69 and 1973 ? 74 ) , Second Division ( 1963 ? 64 ) , Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup ( 1968 and 1971 ) , FA Cup ( 1972 ) , League Cup ( 1968 ) , and Charity Shield ( 1969 ) . The club also finished second in numerous competitions , doing so in the league five times and ending as runners @-@ up in seven cup finals , including the 1975 European Cup . He was also named as the FWA Footballer of the Year in 1970 and was listed on the PFA Team of the Year in 1973 ? 74 . He has since been voted Leeds United 's greatest player of all time and has a statue outside the South East corner of Elland Road . He has also been included in the Football League 100 Legends and is a member of both the English Football Hall of Fame and Scottish Football Hall of Fame .

He spent 1976 to 1978 at Hull City , before being appointed player @-@ manager at Doncaster Rovers in November 1978 . He spent seven years at the helm , guiding the club to promotion out of the Fourth Division in 1980 ? 81 and 1983 ? 84 , before he took on the managers job at Leeds United in October 1985 . He could not get the club promoted back into the top @-@ flight and left the club in September 1988 . He returned to Doncaster in July 1989 , ending his second spell in charge in November 1991 .

He is on the Scotland national football team roll of honour due to having won more than 50 caps for Scotland . He captained his country at the 1974 FIFA World Cup , where Scotland left at the Group Stages despite going unbeaten in the competition .

= = Club career = =

= = = Leeds United = = =

Born in Stirling , Stirlingshire , Scotland , to James and Bridget Bremner , he attended St Modan 's High School and represented Scotland Schoolboys . His father forbade him from joining Celtic as he did not want him involved in the religion @-@ based rivalry with Rangers , and Bremner rejected both Arsenal and Chelsea as he did not enjoy his stay in London during trial spells with the two clubs , and was instead convinced to join Bill Lambton 's Leeds United in 1959 . He joined along with his friend Tommy Henderson , who would return to Scotland due to homesickness without making a first team debut . Manager Jack Taylor gave him his debut at outside @-@ right in a 3 ? 1 win against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge , at the age of 17 years and 47 days ; Yorkshire Evening Post reporter Phil Brown noted that Bremner showed " enthusiasm , guts , intelligence , most accurate use of the ball and unselfishness " despite poor weather conditions . A Sunday Times headline later dubbed him as " 10st of barbed wire " due to his tenacity and tough tackling . Regular outside @-@ right Chris Crowe was sold to Blackburn Rovers in March 1960 , allowing Bremner to take his place on a permanent basis . However , Leeds went on to be relegated from the First Division at the end of the 1959 ? 60 season .

Dropped following an opening day defeat to Liverpool at Anfield , Bremner had to win back his first team place later in the 1960 ? 61 season after meeting with Jack Taylor to explain his frustration at being left out of the team . Taylor resigned in March 1961 , and player Don Revie was promoted to manager . Revie rejected an approach of £ 25 @,@ 000 from Hibernian for Bremner , despite the player wanting to return to Scotland to be with his fiancée . Leeds struggled in the 1961 ? 62 campaign , finishing just three points above the Second Division relegation zone , despite 12 goals in 45 appearances from Bremner , who finished as the club 's joint top @-@ scorer alongside centre @-@ half Jack Charlton . One bright spot was the signing of Bobby Collins in March , who helped form the " win @-@ at @-@ all @-@ costs " attitude that defined Leeds and Bremner throughout the rest of Revie 's 13 years as manager .

United had a more promising 1962 ? 63 campaign , finishing four points shy of promotion , though Bremner was limited to 24 appearances . He was out of form and dropped from the first team during the end of season run @-@ in , which contained a disproportionately large number of games due to the high level of postponements that occurred during the harsh winter . Revie moved Bremner to central midfield , and bought Manchester United 's Johnny Giles to create what would prove to be one of the most highly effective central midfield partnerships of the next 12 years . With Bremner , Collins and Giles in midfield , Leeds went on to win promotion as champions in the 1963 ? 64 season . The club won no friends in doing so however , and the following summer were labelled by the Football Association 's own FA News as " the dirtiest [ team ] in the Football League . In November of the 1964 ? 65 season Bremner featured heavily in a win at Everton that was marred by violent clashes on the pitch , the game was stopped for a short spell ten minutes before half @-@ time as the referee felt that a spell of cooling down was needed to prevent further violence ; despite the referee only giving 12 Leeds fouls to Everton 's 19 the match helped to cement United 's reputation as a dirty and overly physical team . A run of victories put the club top by the new year , however they lost the title on goal average to Manchester United after drawing the last game of the season with already @-@ relegated Birmingham City . The Manchester club would become a keen rival , one which intensified after Leeds knocked them out of the FA Cup at the semi @-@ finals after two physical encounters . Leeds faced Liverpool in the final at Wembley , and the game went to extra @-@ time after a 0 ? 0 draw ; Bremner scored a half @-@ volley in the 100th minute to cancel out Roger Hunt 's opener , but Ian St John won the game for Liverpool in the 113th minute .

In October 1965 , Leeds skipper Collins was injured in an Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup game against Torino and Revie gave the captaincy to Bremner after initially handing the armband to Charlton for the remainder of the season ; Charlton was keen to give up the captaincy as it prevented his superstitious ritual of coming out of the tunnel last on match days . Revie and Bremner had a strong bond of trust , which was why the manager gave him the captaincy at such a young age . Leeds finished second in the league in the 1965 ? 66 campaign to Liverpool , who had finished six points clear at the top .

A poor start to the 1966 ? 67 season prevented another push for the title , and Leeds eventually finished in fourth place . They made it to the FA Cup semi @-@ finals , before Chelsea knocked them out with a 1 ? 0 win . In Europe they beat DWS ( Netherlands ) , Valencia ( Spain ) , Bologna ( Italy ) and Kilmarnock ( Scotland ) to reach the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup final against Dinamo Zagreb ( Yugoslavia ) ; Zagreb won 2 ? 0 at the Stadion Maksimir and held Leeds to a 0 ? 0 draw at Elland Road to leave Leeds with another second @-@ place finish .

The club had a slow start to the 1967 ? 68 season but soon picked up , particularly so with a 7 ? 0 victory over Chelsea , though for the second successive season they ended up in fourth spot . Success instead came from the cup competitions , as they first knocked out Luton Town , Bury , Sunderland , Stoke City and Derby County en route to the final against Arsenal at Wembley ; Leeds won the game 1 ? 0 in a dour defensive manner but striker Jimmy Greenhoff later said it was the most memorable of the club 's trophies due to it being the first such success . The second soon followed , despite a disappointment of exiting the FA Cup at the semi @-@ final stage with defeat to Everton , as they reached the final of the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup by beating CA Spora ( Luxembourg ) , FK Partizan ( Yugoslavia ) , Hibernian ( Scotland ) , Rangers ( Scotland ) , and Dundee ( Scotland ) . They beat Ferencvárosi ( Hungary ) 1 ? 0 at Elland Road and held them to a 0 ? 0 draw at Népstadion to win the club 's first European trophy .

Revie targeted the title for the 1968 ? 69 campaign and played Bremner in every league game as Leeds finished six points clear at the top to become champions of England for the first time . The title was secured with a 0 ? 0 draw with title rivals Liverpool at Anfield on 28 April , after which Bremner led the players to applaud the Liverpool fans who responded by chanting " Champions , Champions , Champions ... " . Leeds set a number of records : most points ( 67 ) , most wins ( 27 ) , fewest defeats ( 2 ) , and most home points ( 39 ) . A still @-@ unbroken club record is their 34 match unbeaten run that extended into the following season .

The 1969 ? 70 season opened with victory in the 1969 FA Charity Shield , as Bremner captained Leeds to a 2 ? 1 victory over Manchester City . With new arrival Allan Clarke played upfront

alongside Mick Jones and Peter Lorimer Revie had to instruct Bremner and Giles to resist the temptation to get forward and attack . It took the team some time to gel , as only two wins came from the opening eight league games , and Leeds eventually finished a distant second to champions Everton . They chased Everton all season only to give up on the title after a home defeat to Southampton late in the campaign . In the European Cup Leeds recorded a club record 10 ? 0 win over Norwegian side Lyn , with Bremner netting two of the goals . However they exited the competition at the semi @-@ final stage after two defeats to Celtic ; Bremner levelled the aggregate score by putting United 1 ? 0 ahead in front of a competition record 136 @,@ 505 spectators at Hampden Park , but Celtic came back to win the game and the tie with two second half goals . Further disappointment came in the 1970 FA Cup Final , where Leeds were beaten 2 ? 1 in extra @-@ time of the replay at Old Trafford . Bremner was named as FWA Footballer of the Year for the season .

" Leeds , like Sisyphus , have pushed three boulders almost to the top of three mountains and are now left to see them all back in the dark of the valley . "

The league title in the 1970 ? 71 season was decided in mid @-@ April in front of the Match of the Day cameras at Elland Road , when Leeds lost their lead at the top with defeat to West Bromwich Albion . The Leeds players blamed the referee for costing them the title as offside was not given for Colin Suggett 's winner , and despite Bremner saying " But we fight on . Make no mistake about that , it is not over yet " Leeds could not overtake Arsenal , who went on to win the Double . Success instead came in the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup , as Leeds knocked out Sarpsborg ( Norway ) , Dynamo Dresden ( East Germany ) , Sparta Prague ( Czechoslovakia ) , Vitória ( Portugal ) and Liverpool to reach the final with Juventus ( Italy ) . Bremner recovered from an ankle injury just in time to face Liverpool in the semi @-@ finals , and scored the only goal of the two @-@ legged tie with a header at Anfield . Leeds won the final on the away goals rule after recording a 2 ? 2 draw at the Stadio Olimpico di Torino and then a 1 ? 1 draw at Elland Road .

Leeds finished second in the league for the third successive season in the 1971 ? 72 campaign , despite playing some of the best football in the club 's history . They knocked out Bristol Rovers , Liverpool , Cardiff City , Tottenham Hotspur and Birmingham City to reach the 1972 FA Cup Final with Arsenal ; they then won the trophy for the first time in the club 's history with Allan Clarke scoring the final 's only goal . Two days after the final Leeds could have secured the Double by winning a point against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux , but a 3 ? 2 defeat handed the title to Derby County . On 3 February 1982 , Bremner won £ 100 @,@ 000 libel damages , along with legal costs , after he sued the Sunday People newspaper for publishing an article on 11 September 1977 that alleged he tried to fix football matches , including the May 1972 game at Wolves .

The title was nowhere near as close in the 1972 ? 73 season , which saw Leeds finished third , seven points behind Liverpool . However more runners @-@ up medals came from the FA Cup and the European Cup Winners ' Cup . After Bremner scored the only goal of the semi @-@ final clash with Wolves , Leeds went on to lose the FA Cup final 1 ? 0 to Second Division Sunderland . They were then beaten 1 ? 0 by Italian side A.C. Milan at the Kaftanzoglio Stadium in the European Cup Winners ' Cup Final , though Bremner missed the final due to suspension .

Revie instructed Bremner to be more attacking in the 1973 ? 74 campaign , and the result was 11 goals in 52 appearances , his biggest goal tally in 12 years . The manager focused entirely on the league and told his team the aim was to go the season unbeaten , and although they lost three games they secured a second league title by a five @-@ point margin on second @-@ place Liverpool . Bremner was named on the PFA Team of the Year and finished second in the FWA Footballer of the Year voting to Ian Callaghan . At the end of the season he was given a testimonial match against Sunderland which raised him £ 32 @,@ 500 ; he had chosen the opponents in an attempt to avenge defeat in the previous year 's FA Cup final .

Manager Don Revie took the England management job in July 1974 . Bremner applied for the vacant Leeds job after Johnny Giles had been named by Revie as his successor , but instead the board surprised everyone by appointing Brian Clough , who went on to a disastrous 44 day spell in charge of Leeds at the start of the 1974 ? 75 season . Revie 's departure was tough for Bremner , who had a strong bond with his manager . Leeds lost the 1974 FA Charity Shield in a penalty shoot

@-@ out to Liverpool , but more significantly Bremner and Kevin Keegan were sent off for fighting and received eleven game suspensions . By the time Bremner was allowed to play again Jimmy Armfield was the manager , though he refuted the accusation that he had attempted to undermine Clough as " ridiculous " . Teammate Peter Lorimer insisted that the only criticism he had of Bremner was in applying for the management job against Giles , which had caused the board to look elsewhere for fear of dividing the dressing room by choosing between Bremner and Giles . Results improved with Bremner back in the side , and though they ended the season in ninth place , they were only eight points behind champions Derby . The club 's biggest aim would be success in the European Cup , and they made it to the final after knocking out FC Zürich ( Switzerland ) , Újpest FC ( Hungary ) , Anderlecht ( Belgium ) , and Barcelona ( Spain ) . Their final opponents at Parc des Princes were defending champions Bayern Munich ( Germany ) , who beat Leeds 2 ? 0 ; United had a goal controversially ruled out for offside and the tie ended in rioting by United fans .

With most of the Revie built team retiring or moving on to other clubs , Armfield had to rebuild the squad , though Bremner would still play 38 games in the 1975 ? 76 campaign . However he missed a lengthy spell in the new year due to injury and results dipped during this time and ultimately ended the club 's title hopes ; they went on to end the campaign in fifth spot .

= = = Hull City = = =

Bremner signed with Hull City for a £ 25 @, @ 000 fee on 23 September 1976 , manager John Kaye feeling that Bremner 's experience would benefit his youthful Second Division side . His debut at Boothferry Park came against Brian Clough 's Nottingham Forest , and Bremner was credited with scoring the winning goal of the game with a free @-@ kick , though it seemed to have gone in with a significant deflection . Despite the good start results dipped midway through the 1976 ? 77 season and the " Tigers " ended the season in 14th place . Despite suffering with a back injury Bremner was appointed as captain and played 32 games .

He missed the 1977 ? 78 pre @-@ season with a knee injury , but recovered well enough to make 36 appearances throughout the campaign . Kaye was sacked after a poor start to the season , and was replaced by Bremner 's former Leeds teammate Bobby Collins , who had joined the club as assistant manager in the summer ; as at Leeds , Bremner had applied for the vacant managerial role , but was rejected . After being turned down for the job he announced his intention to retire as a player at the end of his contract in summer 1978 . The season was a disaster , and though Collins was sacked and replaced by youth coach Ken Houghton in February , results did not improve and Hull were relegated in last place , ten points from safety .

= = International career = =

Bremner was well established in the Scotland set @-@ up , winning three under @-@ 23 caps , before he made his debut for Scotland in a 0 ? 0 draw with Spain at Hampden Park . He went on to feature in qualifying games for the 1966 FIFA World Cup , but defeats to Poland and Italy left Scotland second in the Group , which was not enough to qualify . He also played in friendlies against Brazil and Portugal , and received a black eye from Pelé 's elbow in a clash during a high ball ; despite this being an accident it still demonstrated to Bremner how he had failed to intimidate Pelé as he had done to many other great players of the day .

The England ? Scotland football rivalry was intense throughout his playing career , and so great media attention came upon Bremner and the rest of the Scottish players after they beat World Cup winners England 3 @-@ 2 at Wembley to become " Unofficial World Champions " on 15 April 1967 . Many teammates said that Bremner held this match as one of the proudest moments of his career .

Placed in a tough group for qualification to the 1970 FIFA World Cup , Scotland failed to qualify after finishing in second place . Bremner captained his country throughout the process , having first taken up the armband in a friendly defeat to Denmark in Copenhagen . He scored his first international goal in a 2 ? 1 qualifying victory over Austria at Hampden Park , his first game as captain . This game was followed by two victories over Cyprus and a 1 ? 1 draw with West Germany

, however a 3 ? 2 defeat to West Germany in Hamburg ended their hopes of making it to the World Cup . Bremner 's second international goal came in a 3 ? 2 win over Wales in a British Home Championship game at the Racecourse Ground .

Scotland were the only home nation to qualify for the 1974 FIFA World Cup after finishing ahead of Czechoslovakia and Denmark in their group . However , Bremner was nearly not selected by manager Willie Ormond after Ormond found him drunk in a bar not long after Jimmy Johnstone had to be rescued by the Coast guard having gotten stranded in a rowing boat during a night out following a Home Internationals match with Northern Ireland . Having been selected , Bremner captained Scotland to a 2 ? 0 win over Zaire at the Westfalenstadion . A highly creditable 0 ? 0 draw with World Champions Brazil left Scotland with high hopes of qualifying to the Second Round . Yet a 1 ? 1 draw with Yugoslavia sent Scotland out of the competition unbeaten due to Brazil and Yugoslavia finishing level on points but with superior goal difference .

Bremner 's last cap came against Denmark on 3 September 1975 , an incident in Copenhagen after the game where several players were ejected from a nightclub for an alleged fight led to a lifetime ban from international football by the Scottish Football Association ; four other players , Willie Young , Joe Harper , Pat McCluskey and Arthur Graham also were banned for life ( Graham and Harper later had their bans overturned ) . Bremner maintained his innocence , stating that the incident had been blown out of proportion by the SFA .

= = Management career = =

= = = Doncaster Rovers = = =

Bremner was appointed manager of struggling Fourth Division side Doncaster Rovers in November 1978 . He oversaw a 1 ? 0 win over Rochdale at Belle Vue in his first match in charge . Results fluctuated during the 1978 ? 79 season , demonstrated by a 7 ? 1 defeat to struggling Bournemouth punctuating a run of five wins in six games . Rovers ended the season in 22nd place , though 11 points ahead of Halifax Town and Crewe Alexandra , and successfully applied to the Football League for re @-@ election .

He introduced massages and changed the canteen and team kit for the 1979 ? 80 campaign . With no money available for transfers he was forced to turn to the youth team for new players , though he could afford to take on Ian Nimmo , Hugh Dowd , John Dowie and Billy Russell on free transfers . He appointed former Leeds coach Les Cocker as his assistant . The season started poorly , but the squad bonded following Cocker 's death on 4 October and went on a run of six straight wins , for which Bremner was credited with the Fourth Division Manager of the Month award . However a run of just one win in 15 games followed , for which Bremner blamed his small squad and lack of training facilities . A mounting injury crisis caused him to make a return to playing on 29 March for the visit of Bournemouth , a game in which 16 @-@ year @-@ old Ian Snodin was named on the bench . Rovers ended the season in 12th place .

A disappointing opening sequence of the 1980 ? 81 season was followed by six wins in six games in September , and Bremner won his second Manager of the Month award . The good results continued for the rest of the campaign , and Rovers were promoted in third place . He signed Celtic 's Colin Douglas for the challenge of Third Division football , but otherwise remained loyal to his promotion squad for the approaching 1981 ? 82 season . Another strong September , six wins seeing the club rise to second in the table , won Bremner the Third Division Manager of the Month award . However a lean spell would follow , and from November to February Doncaster failed to win in the league . Results again picked up with only two defeats in the last 14 games , and they ended the campaign in 19th spot , three points above the relegation zone .

Strong competition promoted from the Fourth Division ? Wigan Athletic , Sheffield United and Bradford City ? made the 1982 ? 83 campaign a tough prospect . A weak defence saw an unusual sequence of high @-@ scoring matches early in the season : 6 ? 1 win over Exeter City , 7 ? 5 win over Reading , 6 ? 3 defeat to Wigan , and a 4 ? 4 draw with Brentford . Only seven wins from the

last 36 games of the season left Doncaster relegated in 23rd place , 16 points behind 20th @-@ place Orient .

To try and win immediate promotion during the 1983 ? 84 season Bremner signed veteran forward Ernie Moss ( who had won three promotions out of the division ) , Andy Kowalski , left @-@ back John Breckin , experienced defender Bill Green , and young midfielder Mark Miller . Investment by new director Peter Wetzal allowed Bremner to spend £ 120 @,@ 000 on three players in March : £ 60 @,@ 000 on Stirling Albion defender John Philliben , £ 25 @,@ 000 on young Celtic midfielder Jim Dobbin , and £ 35 @,@ 000 on Shrewsbury Town defender Alan Brown . Promotion was secured in comfortable fashion , as they finished as runners @-@ up to runaway champions York City , ten points above fifth @-@ place Aldershot .

Building for the 1984 ? 85 campaign , Bremner signed former Leeds striker Aiden Butterworth and winger John Buckley ( £ 25 @,@ 000 from Partick Thistle ) . Doncaster won five of their opening seven games , and though they were unable to sustain a promotion push they showed their ability with a 1 ? 0 win over eventual champions Bradford at Valley Parade on Boxing Day and a 1 ? 0 FA Cup win over First Division side Queens Park Rangers on 5 January . Rovers finished the season in 14th place , some distance from the promotion and the relegation places .

To pay for stadium upgrades necessitated by the aftermath of the Bradford City stadium fire Doncaster were forced to sell Ian and Glynn Snodin , who went to Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday and respectively for a total of £ 315 @,@ 000 . To replace then he bought Dave Rushbury from Gillingham for £ 10 @,@ 000 and spent £ 60 @,@ 000 on Millwall defender Dave Cusack .

= = = Leeds United = = =

Bremner was appointed as Leeds United manager in October 1985 , having impressed the boardroom with his work at Doncaster , particularly his negotiation skills during the sale of Ian Snodin ; Leeds paid Doncaster £ 45 @,@ 000 in compensation . The club had declined during his absence ; Leeds had dropped down into the Second Division , sold Elland Road to the council to raise money , and club supporters picked up a reputation for violence after regular hooligan riots in the stands . He quickly reinstated Don Revie 's philosophy and his little traditions , for example he reinstated the sessions of carpet bowls on Friday evenings . Despite this he appointed Ian Snodin as club captain , and dropped former captain and teammate Peter Lorimer from the starting line eleven . He also moved on the young players signed by former manager and teammate Eddie Gray , choosing to sign experienced players in their place . Five key young players to leave the club were Scott Sellars ( £ 20 @,@ 000 to Blackburn Rovers ) , Terry Phelan ( free transfer to Swansea City ) , Denis Irwin , Tommy Wright and Andy Linighan ( all to Oldham Athletic for £ 60 @,@ 000 , £ 55 @,@ 000 and £ 80 @,@ 000 respectively ) . The money raised allowed him to buy central defender Brendan Ormsby ( £ 65 @,@ 000 from Aston Villa ) , and also sign David Rennie , Brian Caswell and Ronnie Robinson . Leeds struggled in the 1985 ? 86 season , but managed to steer away from the relegation zone to finish in 14th place .

In summer 1986 , Bremner spent £ 125 @,@ 000 on 29 @-@ year @-@ old Sheffield United striker Keith Edwards , and a further £ 80 @,@ 000 to bring in 31 @-@ year @-@ old Carlisle United defender Jack Ashurst and Newcastle United defender Peter Haddock . Other new arrivals were winger Russell Doig ( £ 15 @,@ 000 from East Stirlingshire ) , goalkeeper Ronnie Sinclair ( free transfer from Nottingham Forest ) and midfielder John Buckley ( £ 35 @,@ 000 from Doncaster Rovers ) . Aiming for a promotion push in the 1986 ? 87 campaign , Leeds were stuck in mid @-@ table by February after selling Snodin to Everton for £ 840 @,@ 000 . This sale though allowed Bremner money for further signings and he took left @-@ back Bobby McDonald from Oxford United , full @-@ back Micky Adams from Coventry City for £ 110 @,@ 000 , and striker John Pearson and defender Mark Aizlewood from Charlton Athletic for £ 72 @,@ 000 and £ 200 @,@ 000 respectively . A 2 ? 1 FA Cup Fifth Round victory over First Division side Queens Park Rangers then raised belief in the players , and they qualified for the play @-@ offs by the end of the campaign . The FA Cup run continued into the semi @-@ finals , where they were knocked out 3 ? 2 by Coventry City at Hillsborough in a close @-@ run game that ran into extra @-@ time . After

overcoming Oldham in the play @-@ off semi @-@ final their opponents in the play @-@ off final were Charlton Athletic , and after 1 ? 0 home wins in both legs the tie went to a replay at St Andrew 's . John Sheridan put Leeds ahead in extra @-@ time of the replay , but two late goals from Peter Shirliff changed the game and denied Leeds promotion .

Bremner signed a new three @-@ year contract in summer 1987 . New arrivals at the club were Glynn Snodin ( £ 150 @,@ 000 from Sheffield Wednesday ) , winger Gary Williams ( £ 230 @,@ 000 from Aston Villa ) and Bobby Davison ( £ 350 @,@ 000 from Derby County ) , as well as Jim Melrose and Ken DeMange . A more significant new face was David Batty , a key player of the future who was given his debut from the youth team . United started the season inconsistently , but five straight wins in December won Bremner the Second Division Manager of the Month award . The inconsistent results returned however , and Leeds finished the 1987 ? 88 season in seventh place , eight points outside the play @-@ offs . Bremner did not enjoy a good relationship with the club 's board , who felt him to be uncommunicative with them , and after a poor start to the 1988 ? 89 season he was sacked in September 1988 . His successor , Howard Wilkinson , was given money to spend by the board and Leeds went on to win promotion in 1990 .

= = = Return to Doncaster Rovers = = =

In July 1989 Bremner went back to Doncaster as manager , who had fallen back into the Fourth Division during his absence . He signed Lincoln City winger John McGinley and Leeds midfielder John Stiles , and led the club to a 20th @-@ place finish in 1989 ? 90 , which represented a small improvement on the previous season . Greater success came in the Football League Trophy , Rovers reaching the area finals , where they were beaten by Third Division leaders Tranmere Rovers .

New additions for the 1990 ? 91 campaign were Peterborough United goalkeeper Paul Crichton , Stoke City defender Andy Holmes and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Eddie Gormley , as well as his former Leeds captain Brendan Ormsby . Rovers were top of the table at the turn of the year , but injuries and lack of form caused results to fall away , as did hopes of promotion , and Doncaster finished the campaign in 11th place . Rovers started the 1991 ? 92 season badly and Bremner tendered his resignation on 2 November , with the club sitting bottom of the Football League .

= = Personal life = =

He married Vicky Dick in November 1961 . He had a ghost @-@ written column in Shoot throughout the 1970s . After retiring from football in November 1991 he took up work as an after dinner speaker .

At the beginning of December 1997 , Bremner was rushed to hospital after suffering from pneumonia , but suffered a suspected heart attack at his Doncaster home in the small village of Clifton and died two days before his 55th birthday .

= = Legacy = =

A statue by sculptor Frances Segelman of Bremner in celebratory pose was erected outside Elland Road in tribute in 1999 . In 1988 , the Football League , as part of its centenary season celebrations , included Bremner on its list of 100 League Legends . He was inducted into both the English Football Hall of Fame and the Scottish Football Hall of Fame . In 2006 he was voted Leeds United 's greatest player of all time . In September 2013 he was voted as the greatest captain in the Football League 's history .

" Billy Bremner was one of Britain 's most fiery , skilful and industrious footballers of the post @-@ war years . An essential cog in the pragmatic , often over @-@ robust yet frequently wonderfully entertaining Leeds United team of the Sixties and Seventies , he was also the red @-@ haired dynamo in Scotland 's international side , winning 54 caps . "

Bremner was portrayed by British actor Stephen Graham in the 2009 biographical drama film The

Damned United , directed by Tom Hooper and starring Michael Sheen as former Leeds United manager Brian Clough .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Playing statistics = = =

a . ^ Includes matches in Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup , European Cup , European Cup Winners ' Cup , and UEFA Cup competitions .

b . ^ Includes two FA Charity Shield appearances ( 1969 ? 70 and 1974 ? 75 ) .

= = = Managerial statistics = = =

= = Honours = =

= = = As a player = = =

Leeds United

Football League Second Division champion : 1963 ? 64

Football League First Division champion : 1968 ? 69 , 1973 ? 74

Football League First Division runner @-@ up : 1964 ? 65 , 1965 ? 66 , 1969 ? 70 , 1970 ? 71 , 1971 ? 72

FA Cup winner : 1972

FA Cup runner @-@ up : 1965 , 1970 , 1973

FA Charity Shield winner : 1969

FA Charity Shield runner @-@ up : 1974

Football League Cup winner : 1968

Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup runner @-@ up : 1967

Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup champion : 1968 , 1971

Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup play @-@ off runner @-@ up : 1971

European Cup Winners ' Cup runner @-@ up : 1973

European Cup runner @-@ up : 1975

Individual

FWA Footballer of the Year : 1970

PFA Team of the Year ( First Division ) : 1973 ? 74

Scotland national football team roll of honour : 1974

= = = As a manager = = =

Doncaster Rovers

Football League Fourth Division third @-@ place promotion : 1980 ? 81

Football League Fourth Division runner @-@ up : 1983 ? 84

Individual

Football League Fourth Division Manager of the Month : October 1979 , September 1980

Football League Third Division Manager of the Month : September 1981

Football League Second Division Manager of the Month : December 1987