

= Ivan Jones (Emmerdale) =

Ivan Jones is a fictional character in the British soap opera Emmerdale , played by Daniel Brocklebank . He appeared in the series from 5 May 2005 until 2 August 2006 . Ivan was originally introduced to participate in a storyline about the character of Jarvis Skelton (Richard Moore) and only meant to feature in three episodes . The serial 's producers were impressed with Brocklebank and made Ivan a regular character . The character is a Geordie , which required the actor to adopt the accent . Ivan is characterised as a " good @-@ humoured " and " charming " dustman , while Brocklebank described him as having " quite a few " love interests and stated that he has " slept his way around the village " .

It was later announced that the character is bisexual and he starts a sexual relationship with Paul Lambert (Mathew Bose) . Their relationship proved to be an " explosive combination " due to Ivan wanting it to remain a secret . Brocklebank has praised his storyline and spoke of his hopes that it would remove the social stigma attached to bisexuality . His sexuality is accidentally revealed to everyone he knows by Paul . Ivan is later subject to a revenge campaign after he turns down the advances of Paul 's sister , Nicola Blackstock (Nicola Wheeler) . She lies that Ivan has been having an affair with her , ruining his relationship with Paul . In April 2006 , Brocklebank announced his decision to leave the serial to concentrate on other projects . The actor said that he had grown " very attached " to Ivan and enjoyed being a part of Emmerdale . He filmed his final scenes in June and Ivan left in August .

The character caused controversy when 126 viewers complained to television watch dog Ofcom about Ivan and Paul 's intimacy . The company later cleared Emmerdale of any wrongdoing . Brocklebank said that Christian groups wrote to him condemning him to hell because of Ivan 's sexuality . However , he also had letters from young lesbian and gay people who claimed that Ivan gave them the courage to be themselves . Paul Flynn from The Guardian praised his storyline involving Nicola 's affair lies . Kevin O 'Sullivan from the Sunday Mirror opined that Ivan was clearly gay because he was as " camp as a row of tents " .

= = Casting = =

Brocklebank was hired by Emmerdale to play Ivan for a three episode stint . They introduced Ivan as part of the storyline about the character of Jarvis Skelton (Richard Moore) getting too old to be a binman . Brocklebank told Roz Laws of the Sunday Mercury that the serial 's producers did not intend for his character to develop , but they enjoyed his work and kept him on . They later extended his contract to last into mid @-@ 2006 . Brocklebank found that taking the role gave him a " new respect " for soap opera actors because of how hard he had to work . While the actor is from Warwickshire ; Ivan is a Geordie and has the regional accent . Brocklebank had to put the accent on for the role and members of the public were confused when they heard him speak in person .

= = Character development = =

= = = Characterisation and bisexuality = = =

A writer from Emmerdale 's Finnish broadcaster MTV3 described Ivan as being a " good @-@ humoured " , " dark " and " charming dustman " Ivan is revealed to be bisexual and admits his attraction to Paul Lambert (Mathew Bose) . Brocklebank told a writer from So So Gay that Ivan had " quite a few " love interests and " slept his way around the village " . When the actor first started the role , Ivan was straight and married . He said that it was not until eight months after he started that he was informed his character would be bisexual . Brocklebank , who is openly gay , said there was a risk of himself becoming " pigeonholed " playing a bisexual character , but added it was not something that worried him .

Ivan had previously been married to a woman and he enjoys flirting with females . One such

moment is a flirtation with Jasmine Thomas (Jenna @-@ Louise Coleman) ; they bond over her liking of the Brontë novels Wuthering Heights and Shirley . When Nicola Blackstock (Nicola Wheeler) confesses her attraction to Ivan , he tells her that it is her brother , Paul that he is interested in and kisses him on the cheek . Brocklebank told Laws that he had known Bose for six years prior to joining the serial and was also living with him . He said that it would be " embarrassing " if romance developed between their characters because of their friendship . However , the actor did think it was " great " to be given " such a meaty storyline " . Brocklebank told a reporter from The People that he dreaded to think what his grandmother would make of the storyline . He said he was interested to receive the reaction from viewers because " it 's a subject that hasn 't been covered before " . The actor later said that he found Ivan 's bisexuality " really interesting " because he felt that it had not " really been tackled in soaps before " . Brocklebank later spoke of his belief that there was " still a stigma attached to being bisexual " and his hopes that Ivan 's storyline would " break some barriers " around the issue .

Ivan starts to pursue Paul and they start sleeping together . However , Ivan 's lax and secretive attitude to their relationship soon annoys Paul . Bose told a writer from Inside Soap that his character is a " serial monogamist " and " has a lot of love to give " . Ivan is the opposite and he has " been cracking on to all the girls in the village and Paul can 't relate to that " . His bisexuality and secretive nature becomes an issue for Paul ; Ivan cannot offer Paul " 100 per cent ? physically , emotionally or spiritually , no matter how much they like each other " . Paul attempts to come to terms with the situation and tries to dump him . The next time they are around each other they struggle to keep their flirtation hidden . Bose added that Ivan still " wants to do everything on the quiet " , which is a " real hardship " for Paul . The dynamic of their relationship proves to be an " explosive combination " . Ivan later has to decide if he is ready for a gay relationship , while Paul weighs up the risks of getting hurt by Ivan . Bose told Laura Davidson from the Sunday Mail that " whether or not Ivan is the one for Paul , I 'd like to see him with someone who makes him happy . "

When Paul is tormented by a group of homophobic men , Ivan steps in to rescue him . Brocklebank told Kris Green of Digital Spy that Ivan tells the men that if they have a problem they should take it out on him , not his boyfriend . This is the first time Ivan " actually vocalises it " and he is shocked because " he has ever considered anyone to be his boyfriend before " . Paul then invites Ivan out for dinner with his father , but Ivan is not ready to come out . The actor said that Ivan needs more time until he feels comfortable with the situation . Ivan 's ex @-@ wife Jordan (Erin Shanagher) caught him with another man , outed him and which resulted in a " horrendous " reaction from those he knew . Brocklebank said that this causes his reluctance to come out again because " he 's become scared about opening himself up to a new community of people and is worried about the villagers ' reaction . "

Brocklebank explained the dynamic between the two characters : Paul finds it " extremely difficult " to be in a secretive relationship because he wants different things in a relationship . When Paul does his drag act " Thelma Louise " in the local pub , he mentions that he is in a secret relationship . This annoys Ivan and an argument ensues in the toilets . However , Paul has accidentally left his microphone on and Ivan is outed to the whole pub . Brocklebank said that Ivan feels " upset and betrayed " and " deep down he knows he 's bisexual but isn 't sure if a relationship is going to work with Paul " as he cannot conform to Paul 's ideas about relationships .

= = = Nicola Blackstock 's lies = = =

Ivan and Paul 's relationship is tested when " scheming " Nicola attempts to seduce Ivan , despite the fact he is in a relationship with her brother . Ivan is not impressed and rebuffs Nicola 's advances . Wheeler told the Sunday Mail 's Davidson that Nicola trying to seduce Ivan is a " long shot " but she is not ready to give in because she has a " huge crush " on him . She added that the storyline was " hilarious " and " madness " because he is " having sex with her brother and she 's still entertaining the idea of being with him " . Once Nicola sees something she wants , " nothing will stop her " .

Nicola sets out to seduce Ivan after an argument with her boyfriend Simon Meredith (Dale Meeks)

. Wheeler told Allison Maund from Inside Soap that Nicola calls Ivan for " some comfort " and they get drunk and " very cosy " ; but Ivan presumes they are just good friends . Ivan gets out of the shower wearing a towel and is confronted with Nicola " dressed in her sexiest underwear " . Ivan tells Nicola to stop because he loves Paul , but Simon 's mother Lesley Meredith (Sherrie Hewson) walks in on them and assumes that they are having an affair . Nicola does not correct Lesley and tells her to believe what she likes and then Paul learns of the situation . Wheeler said that Nicola realises she cannot " get out of the lie now " and even tells her father , Rodney Blackstock (Patrick Mower) that she has slept with Ivan . The actress added that " Nicola 's just quite pleased with the fact that she 's got her own back on Ivan " . He confronts her in public and asks her to tell the truth , but she " turns on the waterworks " to get everyone to turn against Ivan . Later Nicola argues with Paul and she tells him that she and Ivan have slept together many times . Wheeler said that Nicola just thinks " Sod it , I 'm going to leave them all stewing " . Her lies ruin Ivan 's relationship with Paul , who believes Nicola 's lies .

The serial later played out another chance for Ivan and Paul to be together . While interviewed by Claire Brand from Inside Soap , Bose said that Paul visits Ivan to give him back a CD he left over his house and " both of them realise that they don 't have anything left to say to each other . " Bose opined that Ivan and Paul were " doomed from the start " because he needed Ivan to commit . Rodney thinks that he can reunite Paul and Ivan and sets the pair up . He explained that the two had " just about got over their awkwardness with one another " and Rodney tells the whole pub that it is obvious that Paul and Ivan love each other and need to reconcile . The whole situation is " embarrassing for both of them " and Ivan is furious with Rodney 's intervention . After some " soul searching " , Ivan calms down and " stuns " Paul when he asks him to get back with him . Paul rejects Ivan 's advances , Bose said that Paul normally likes " the big love affair " but this time gives him his " marching orders " . Ivan is left heartbroken once again and decides to take some time away from the village . Bose stated that his character goes to see him off and there is a " terrible silent moment " between the two . He concluded that the audience could clearly see that Ivan and Paul were " kicking themselves " for not saying how they really feel .

= = = Departure = = =

In April 2006 , Brocklebank revealed that he had quit the role and would film his final scenes in June . He told a reporter from Inside Soap that the fact he was originally employed for a guest role ; then staying for a year @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half had been " great " . He added that he was pleased to see Ivan depart the series on a " high note " because he had enjoyed the experience . An Emmerdale spokesperson added that the character would become " a pawn in the rivalry " between his former employer King & Sons and Matthew King (Matt Healy) and Sadie King 's (Patsy Kensit) new business . In addition they planned a " romantic liaison " for Ivan which would be a " big shock to viewers and villagers alike " . Ivan departed the series in August 2006 when he left to work in Costa Rica alongside fellow character Simon . Brocklebank later told a columnist from the Peterborough Evening Telegraph that he would not rule out a future return because there was " room for the character to go back " . He found leaving " liberating in a way " because he wanted to pursue other projects .

= = Storylines = =

Ivan arrives in the village working as a binman for " King & Sons " just after he has separated from his wife . He starts to outperform Jarvis in his new job role and has a fling with Toni Daggert (Kerry Stacey) . Ivan takes an interest in Jasmine 's liking of literature . He gives her a copy of the Bronte novel Shirley and she lets him buy her a drink . Laurel Thomas (Charlotte Bellamy) becomes concerned and warns Jasmine away from Ivan because of their age difference . When Nicola reveals that she is attracted to Ivan , he reveals that he likes Paul by kissing him on the cheek . Ivan and Paul soon start a sexual relationship ; but Ivan does not want anyone else to know about the relationship , which Paul finds difficult . Paul grows tired of being secretive and dumps Ivan .

However , when Nicola arranges a meal that they both attend , Ivan and Paul get drunk and flirt . Ivan moves in with Simon and Nicola .

Ivan goes to collect some things that he left behind at Jordan 's house . Paul goes with him and takes Rodney 's van . When he returns , Ivan finds the van with graffiti reading " ladyboys " and Paul surrounded by men . Ivan threatens the homophobic group with a cricket bat and tells them that he is Paul 's boyfriend . Ivan is shocked that he finally admitted it to someone but still insists that they remain quiet upon returning to the village . Nicola thinks that Paul is seeing someone and attempts to find out who it is . She tells Laurel that she still likes Ivan . When Paul does his drag queen act " Thelma Louise " at The Woolpack , he makes jibes about having a secret boyfriend and drops hints . Ivan gets angry and the pair argue in the toilets , unaware that the whole pub can still hear them because Paul forgets to switch off his microphone . Ivan accuses Paul of doing it on purpose , but he eventually deals with being outed .

When Nicola feels down about Simon moving on , she decides to seduce Ivan . He rebuffs her advances but she tells Lesley , Rodney and Laurel that she slept with Ivan . When Ivan tries to get the truth , she convinces everyone else that he lying . Paul refuses to speak to Ivan and makes his father throw Nicola out of her home . She then tells Laurel that she lied about the whole thing . Laurel then tells everyone inside the pub that Nicola has lied and Ivan refuses to accept everyone 's apologies . Rodney thinks that Ivan and Paul should get back together and lets the whole pub know . Ivan is annoyed but then realises he is right . When Ivan asks Paul for another chance , he turns him down and Ivan leaves the village . When he returns , Simon is annoyed with him for leaving him to pay the rent on Mulberry Cottage . He forgives him when Ivan reveals that he is just back for his job . He is made haulage manager for Matthew and Sadie 's new business after they poach him . However , the job soon ends and along with Simon they leave Emmerdale for a new life in Costa Rica .

= = Reception = =

A scene in which Ivan and Paul shared a kiss on a sofa sparked some controversy with viewers . 126 people complained to media watch dog Ofcom deeming the scenes to be explicit . The company later cleared Emmerdale of any wrongdoing , and a spokesperson said that " Ivan and Paul 's behaviour was no more explicit than that previously exhibited by other characters in the soap . Given the inexplicit portrayal of this relationship , we consider that these scenes were acceptable . " While Andy Green of the Liverpool Echo said " Paul and Ivan 's fumble on the sofa was probably the steamiest pre @-@ watershed gay scene ever shown on mainstream TV . " Brocklebank told So So Gay 's reporter that Ivan 's bisexuality storyline had a " huge effect " on the viewers . He revealed that he had received " a lot " of letters from Christian groups telling him that he would go to hell for kissing another male on pre @-@ watershed television . However , he also received many from young gay and lesbian teenagers who had thanked him for " making it easier to come out " because they had someone to relate to . He added that " the majority was very positive " feedback and felt happy to know that his portrayal had helped people face their sexuality .

On Ivan and Paul intimacy , Imogen Ridgway of the Evening Standard said that " Emmerdale was never this racy when my gran used to watch it " . She mocked Ivan 's plan to keep his relationship a secret because the village is full of gossips . Suzanne Kerins of the Sunday Mirror reported that viewers were " not impressed " when the " bisexual binman " shared a kiss with Paul . Ivan was labelled as a " hunky binman " by Jane Simon from the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mercury 's Laws , the latter branded his relationship with Paul a " surprising Emmerdale storyline " . Kevin O 'Sullivan from the Sunday Mirror opined that " Paul 's reluctant bisexual binman lover Ivan the Terrible Queen is as camp as a row of tents " . He added that Nicola was a " numbskull " with a " useless " gaydar for not realising Ivan liked men . Fiona Wynne of the Daily Mirror said that Paul tried hard to get Ivan out of the closet but " he 's hanging on so tightly by his fingertips he 's going to get splinters " .

A writer from the Yorkshire Evening Post opined that Ivan and Paul being confronted by homophobic thugs was a " dramatic moment " that made for a " gripping start to 2006 " in Emmerdale . Paul Lang from Lowculture said that he was enjoying the serial because of Ivan 's

outing . He added that everyone wanted the two men to get together , " even if Paul is a fucking nightmare and Ivan is very much the wrong side of shifty . " Paul Flynn from The Guardian said that Ivan was a " hot bisexual " and felt that his storyline with Paul and Nicola was " played without resorting to cheap laughter " . Terry Ramsey of the Evening Standard questioned why Ivan even returned to the village after his break . The writer concluded that it was because " Emmerdale is probably the only bisexual @-@ friendly village in Yorkshire " . Upon learning that Brocklebank was leaving the series , the Daily Mail 's Carrie Fitton said that as " the only bisexual binman in the village he had staying power " .