

= Bryan Gunn =

Bryan James Gunn ( born 22 December 1963 ) is a Scottish former professional goalkeeper and football manager . After learning his trade with Aberdeen in the early 1980s , he spent most of his playing career at Norwich City , the club with which he came to be most closely associated . This was followed by a brief spell back in Scotland with Hibernian before his retirement as a player in 1998 .

Gunn feels the peak of his playing career was making what he calls the save of his life in the UEFA Cup match against Bayern Munich in 1993 . This event was called the summit of Norwich City 's history by The Independent . He is one of only nine Norwich players to win the club 's Player of the Year award twice . He was made an inaugural member of Norwich City 's Hall of Fame . He was a member of the Scotland national football team , making six appearances for his country in the early 1990s .

Gunn worked for years behind the scenes at Norwich in a variety of roles , from matchday hosting to coaching . He was appointed temporary manager towards the end of the 2008 ? 09 season and then confirmed as permanent manager during the summer . However , after a 7 ? 1 home defeat in the opening game to local rivals Colchester United , he lost his job a week into the 2009 ? 10 Football League One season .

Since the death of his young daughter from leukaemia in 1992 , Gunn has been extensively involved in fundraising to combat the disease and its effects . As of 2011 he has raised more than £ 1 million for research into childhood leukaemia . The money has been used to fund projects to improve the lives of children with leukaemia and their families , notably a national telephone support line . The city of Norwich recognised Gunn 's charity work and his long association with the city 's football club by naming him Sheriff for 2002 . Published in 2006 , his autobiography , *In Where it Hurts : My Autobiography* , includes a foreword by his former manager Alex Ferguson .

= = Early life = =

Gunn was born on 22 December 1963 in Thurso , Scotland , " twenty miles from John o ? Groats " . His parents were James Gunn , a long @-@ distance lorry driver , and Jessie Sinclair , a canteen worker at the Dounreay nuclear power plant ; the pair had married despite being on opposite sides of a family feud stretching back to the 16th century . James was an amateur sportsman , playing football on the right wing for local team Invergordon F.C. and winning medals at highland games events .

The Gunn family home in Thurso was a farm , and the young Bryan would often pester the farmhands to play football with him . They would use a turnip if no ball was available . By the age of four he was keen on goalkeeping ; he was fearless of injury and enjoyed diving on the ball . When Bryan was four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half , the family moved to Invergordon , 20 miles from Inverness . He attended Park Primary School in the town and joined the school football team . Future professional Bobby Geddes was favoured over him as first @-@ choice goalkeeper for the team ; Gunn played as an outfield player until Geddes moved on to secondary school .

Gunn attended secondary school at Invergordon Academy from 1975 to 1980 , and gained O Levels in a variety of subjects , including English , maths , history and chemistry . He failed his French exam after taking it while " on the road " with Scotland under @-@ 15s . At the age of 13 , he was invited to play for the under @-@ 15 Invergordon F.C. team by one of his school teachers , who managed the team . The team was beaten 9 ? 0 in Gunn 's debut , but his subsequent performances attracted the attention of national selectors , and he joined the Scotland under @-@ 15 squad around the same time he signed for Aberdeen at age 14 .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Aberdeen = = =

Gunn commenced his professional career with Aberdeen in 1980 , and forged a good relationship with then @-@ Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson ? evidenced by the fact that in 1997 Ferguson brought Manchester United to Carrow Road for Gunn 's testimonial match . While an apprentice at Aberdeen , Gunn was a frequent babysitter for Ferguson 's children . He later said , " I probably babysat more than I played " . Gunn portrays the relationship as warm , but businesslike :

I 'd stay over and we 'd read the Sunday papers together . He was good to me . I was struggling for cash once and went in and told him I was going on holiday and was there any chance of an advance . He got on the phone and said : " Big Bryan Gunn 's coming down to sign a new contract . " It wasn 't what I meant . I got my holiday money but he got another year out of me , too .

As a youngster , Gunn did not always play in goal and he was viewed as a handy outfield player in his early years at Aberdeen . Ferguson recalls , " He could strike a ball as well as anyone , so well in fact that I once played him at centre @-@ forward in a reserve match ... He scored a brilliant goal ... It was a marvellous moment . " However , as a professional , and at his adult height of 6 ft 2 in ( 1 @. @ 88 m ) , Gunn settled into playing in goal .

Gunn ascribes much of his goalkeeping success to the support of Belgian Marc De Clerck , a specialist goalkeeping coach at Aberdeen . At a time when few British teams provided such training , De Clerck introduced Gunn and Scottish international keeper Jim Leighton to what were then innovative training techniques . The goalkeepers would participate in special drills whilst training with the rest of the squad . Gunn also notes the influence of Aberdeen coach Teddy Scott , who taught the value of hard work and dedication ; Gunn also served as a boot boy for Alex McLeish . Leighton 's presence meant that Gunn played only 21 games for Aberdeen . He made his debut against Hibernian at Pittodrie on 30 October 1982 , and went on to keep four clean sheets for the club . Despite being rivals for a first @-@ team place , Gunn had an excellent relationship with Leighton that included joining Leighton 's family for a meal once a week .

Gunn 's training and performances for the reserve team and occasional first @-@ team appearances paid dividends : he was called up for the Scotland under @-@ 21 team , and made his debut in November 1983 against East Germany . He also received Scottish League Cup and European Cup Winners Cup winner 's medals while with Aberdeen , although he was an unused substitute in both finals . He made an unexpected appearance in the 1986 European Cup quarter final , against Gothenburg . " Jim and I were warming up and he lost [ his ] contact lenses [ so ] I ended up being included in the starting line up , " Gunn recalls . Gunn had an excellent match : The Glasgow Herald 's match report stated , " Only outstanding work by Willie Miller and Bryan Gunn kept the Swedes at bay " . As well as making several key saves , he was credited with playing a part in Aberdeen 's second goal following a long kick upfield .

As Leighton was unlikely to be dislodged , Ferguson promised to find Gunn another club , and fulfilled his pledge when he sold him for £ 100 @, @ 000 to Norwich City in October 1986 . The transfer nearly went through in the summer of 1986 , but Ferguson delayed the move until October to allow time for Leighton to recover from an injury .

= = = Norwich City = = =

Gunn says of the move south : " Norwich was easy to settle into , a bit like Aberdeen in many ways ? a city surrounded by lovely countryside and lots of farms . " However , since he joined the club partway into the new season , he initially found it difficult to take over as first @-@ choice goalkeeper . Gunn had been bought as a replacement for England international goalkeeper Chris Woods , who had moved to Rangers F.C. Meanwhile , reserve team keeper Graham Benstead made a series of good performances and Norwich were top of the league . Ken Brown wanted to be fair to Benstead and made Gunn wait . A 6 ? 2 defeat at Anfield proved to be the catalyst for Gunn 's promotion to the first team . He made his debut in a Full Members Cup win against Coventry City , conceding a penalty , and made his league debut in a 2 ? 1 victory against Tottenham Hotspur at Carrow Road on 8 November 1986 .

Norwich went on to finish fifth in the First Division in his first season , their highest @-@ ever

league finish at the time . By May 1988 Gunn 's consistency meant his value had risen considerably , and the club reportedly declined a £ 500 @ , @ 000 offer from Ian Porterfield to take the goalkeeper back to Aberdeen . The purpose of the proposed transfer was to replace Leighton , who by then had moved to Manchester United , where he was reunited with Alex Ferguson .

Norwich reached the semi @ - @ final of the FA Cup in 1989 with Gunn in goal , but he missed the semi @ - @ final in 1992 through injury . What has been described as his ? and Norwich 's ? greatest moment came in their upset victory over European giants Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup in 1993 . The Independent described the match as " the pinnacle of Norwich City 's history " . Gunn made several saves that kept the Canaries in the match . He describes the save he made from Bayern striker Adolfo Valencia as the finest of his career ; it has also been described as " one of the most outstanding saves by a City goalkeeper " . However , he was involved in an own @ - @ goal incident in an East Anglian derby match in the 1995 ? 96 season , when a backpass from Robert Ullathorne bounced awkwardly off the pitch and over Gunn 's attempted clearance kick .

In November 1989 , Gunn was involved in a controversial incident that attracted significant media attention . Norwich played Arsenal at Highbury and with five minutes remaining , Arsenal 's David O 'Leary scored an equaliser that brought the scores to 3 ? 3 . Then , in the dying seconds of the match , the referee awarded Arsenal a penalty kick ? and the chance to seal the match . The Norwich players were already annoyed by the match situation , and their perception was that the decision was " really dodgy " . Gunn saved Lee Dixon 's shot , but the ball was not cleared . In the resulting melee , Mark Bowen and Ian Culverhouse for Norwich and Alan Smith for Arsenal challenged for the ball . " The three of them got in an almighty tangle and the ball , along with all of them , was bundled over the line , " Gunn remembers . The goal was awarded , but the situation rapidly deteriorated : the three players in the goal had " a little skirmish " . Separately , Arsenal 's Nigel Winterburn gave " a gloat to Dale Gordon , who promptly pushed him " . The result was mayhem :

All of a sudden it was kicking off , big time . Everyone started piling in , right in front of me ... The only people not involved were [ Arsenal players ] John Lukic , Tony Adams , David O 'Leary and me ... I went over to break things up ... and spotted the cavalry coming over the half @ - @ way line , in the shape of O 'Leary and Adams . I felt it was my job to head them off at the pass and moved in , instinctively grabbing Adams with one hand and thumping him with the other . "

All but one of the 22 players on the pitch were involved in the fracas , but no one was sent off . The next day , the newspapers carried headlines and photos of what they called ' The Highbury Brawl ' . That afternoon , Gunn received a phone call from a Today journalist , who told him that the Arsenal players had said Gunn had instigated the fight . Enraged , the Norwich keeper retorted that it was the other way around . Monday 's headline read " Gunn blames Arsenal " . Gunn was censured by The Football Association and warned about his future conduct . Both clubs were fined , and Gunn was docked a fortnight 's wages ( about £ 800 ) by Norwich City .

Under the management of Gary Megson , Norwich were seventh in the Premier League in the 1994 ? 95 season when Gunn broke and dislocated his ankle whilst playing against Nottingham Forest . His importance to the team was underlined when they subsequently plummeted down the table , winning just one of their remaining 17 games as Gunn recovered . The team was ultimately relegated . Gunn retained a regular first team place for the 1995 ? 96 season and , beginning with the match against Wolverhampton Wanderers on 17 February 1996 , began to captain the side , initially in the absence of regular captain Jon Newsome then on a permanent basis after Newsome left the club . However , when Mike Walker took over as manager for the following 1996 ? 97 season , he appointed Ian Crook as captain instead .

Gunn 's final first @ - @ team game for the club was a 1 ? 0 defeat at Crewe on 31 January 1998 . According to the Sunday Mirror , he produced " a sparkling display " , which proved his abilities had " not been dulled by time " . Gunn made 478 first team appearances for Norwich in all competitions . He was voted Norwich City Player of the Year in 1988 and 1993 . The latter award came at the end of the 1992 ? 93 FA Premier League season , in which Norwich finished third in the Premier League , their best @ - @ ever performance . The club awarded Gunn a testimonial match in 1996 , and Alex Ferguson brought Manchester United to Carrow Road .

== = Hibernian == =

In the 1997 ? 98 season , Gunn was forced out of the Norwich team by the emergence of Andy Marshall . With his first @-@ team opportunities at Norwich now limited , he signed a deal with Hibernian in February 1998 , for a three @-@ month loan . According to Scottish transfer regulations the loan deal was invalid , so instead he was swiftly transferred on a permanent basis for an undisclosed fee , later revealed by Gunn to have been £ 25 @,@ 000 .

Gunn 's reflections on joining Hibernian are tinged with regret : " [ leaving Norwich was ] very difficult indeed . I had spent 12 great years at Norwich and suddenly I was not regarded as the number 1 ( by Mike Walker ) anymore . " He joined Hibernian when they were bottom of the Scottish Premier Division ; Alex McLeish had recently been appointed manager .

Gunn was unable to save the club from relegation to the First Division , but signed a two @-@ year contract in July 1998 . However , a hairline fracture to his leg , sustained during the 1998 close season , effectively ended his playing career . On his doctors ' advice , Gunn formally retired in March 1999 .

Despite his mixed feelings on joining the club , Gunn 's overall impression of his time in Edinburgh is upbeat : " I only played 12 games for the Hibeers but it was great . We beat Hearts in my only derby game 2 ? 1 ( John Robertson scored his 50th goal for Hearts in derbies but I told him it was worth nothing as we had won ) and had a clean sheet at Celtic Park ( stopping them from winning the SPL that day ) . " He received what he described as a " wonderful reception " from Aberdeen fans when playing for Hibernian against his former club .

== = Internationals == =

Gunn represented Scotland at the youth international level . He was part of the squad that won the 1982 UEFA European Under @-@ 18 Football Championship , but was unavailable to play in the final because Aberdeen had reached the 1982 Scottish Cup Final . He was replaced by Robin Rae for the final , in which the Scots beat Czechoslovakia 3 ? 1 .

In 1983 , Gunn travelled with the Scotland Under @-@ 19s to Mexico for the 1983 FIFA World Youth Championship . Gunn played in all four of Scotland 's matches and it was a formative experience , as he faced a variety of challenges in the tournament . The adidas ball in use " really zipped through the air " , which encouraged long @-@ range shots at the high altitude . In the first match , against South Korea , an element of the 26 @,@ 000 crowd " clearly didn 't like us at all ... I got absolutely pelted with coins ... and rotten fruit " . The final insult was when he was hit on the back of the neck by a rancid @-@ smelling plastic bag containing rotten fish . Gunn found it " intimidation ... a nightmare " but adopted the strategy of patrolling the edge of his area to stay out of range and had " one of the best games of my life " : he kept a clean sheet as Scotland won 2 ? 0 . Scotland 's coach and future manager of the full international team Andy Roxburgh told Gunn " it was the best performance he 'd ever seen from a Scottish goalkeeper , at any level . " The final group match , which Scotland needed to win in order to progress , was against the home side , Mexico . The official attendance at the Azteca Stadium was 86 @,@ 582 , although Gunn believes the true figure was over 100 @,@ 000 . Once more , Gunn was targeted with a variety of missiles , including a bottle of Johnnie Walker , but as Scotland held on to their early 1 ? 0 lead , the fans became disillusioned with their own team and switched to sending a " hail of bottles and coins " on the Mexican players . Scotland lost 1 ? 0 in the quarter final against Poland .

Gunn made six full international appearances for Scotland , conceding 10 goals . He was a member of the squad for the 1990 FIFA World Cup , but played in none of Scotland 's three matches at the tournament , as he was third @-@ choice goalkeeper behind Jim Leighton and Andy Goram . He made his Scotland debut in a pre @-@ tournament friendly match against Egypt , but was at fault for two Egyptian goals , resulting in a 3 ? 1 defeat for Scotland . The embarrassment was made worse by the fact that his parents were watching . Gunn made four appearances for Scotland in 1994 FIFA World Cup qualification matches . His last cap was as a second @-@ half substitute in a

3 ? 1 friendly defeat by the Netherlands in May 1994 .

= = = Honours = = =

UEFA European Under @-@ 18 Football Championship winner , 1982

European Cup Winners ' Cup winner , 1983

Scottish League Cup winner , 1985

Norwich City player of the year ( Barry Butler trophy ) winner , 1988 , 1993

Norwich City F.C. Hall of Fame inaugural member , 2002

= = Coaching career and other activities = =

Gunn obtained his coaching certification while still with Aberdeen , in 1983 , at Largs . After his retirement from playing professional football in 1999 , Gunn initially worked on the hospitality staff at Carrow Road , particularly in " The Gunn Club " , a catering outlet named in his honour .

Over the years , Gunn progressed from hospitality into other corporate positions at Norwich ; he acted as sponsorship manager from 1999 to 2006 . Manager Peter Grant moved Gunn to the " backroom " sports management side of the business in 2007 . Gunn worked in a liaison role in negotiations of possible transfers and loan signings , tasks where he could make use of contacts gained during his playing career .

When Glenn Roeder was appointed manager in November 2007 , goalkeeping coach James Hollman parted company with the club , and Gunn replaced him for the rest of the season ? his first formal coaching role . Later in the season , Gunn was promoted to head of player recruitment , while retaining his goalkeeping coach role .

= = = Manager of Norwich City = = =

Following the sacking of Roeder as Norwich manager in January 2009 , Gunn was asked to take temporary charge of the first team . In an interview with BBC Radio Norfolk , he revealed that he " told the players that they 've let people down . " In his first match as caretaker manager , he received " a euphoric reception " from the fans , and Norwich beat Barnsley 4 ? 0 . The players were equally supportive : according to Scotland on Sunday , " in the dressing room afterwards , [ Norwich ] midfielder , Darel Russell , dragged the chairman , Roger Munby , into the shower , and demanded that Gunn be appointed permanently . " Momentum gathered , and a Facebook group called " Bryan Gunn for manager " , created by his then 17 @-@ year @-@ old daughter , Melissa , soon attracted about 3 @,@ 000 members . Gunn considered applying for the role on a longer @-@ term basis ; he had previously applied without success to be Norwich manager in 1998 . On 19 January 2009 he phoned the directors and requested to be considered . He was interviewed that afternoon and " by 10 @.@ 30 am the next day had been appointed manager until the end of the season " .

Gunn appointed a backroom staff of former Norwich colleagues , making Ian Crook first @-@ team coach and John Deehan chief scout . However , the initial turnaround in form could not be maintained ; having lost their last three games of the season , Norwich were relegated from the Championship . Gunn labelled his players as an " embarrassment " after the 4 ? 2 defeat to Charlton Athletic that sealed relegation to League One . Despite relegation to the third tier of English football for the first time in nearly 50 years , Writing in Tales from the City , Gunn said of the match " Even going to Charlton on the last day , I thought we could survive ? We lost 4 @-@ 2 and were relegated to the third tier . I was shell @-@ shocked ; the emptiest I have ever felt in a sporting or professional context . The directors went on the field to face the fans and to thank them for their support and I had tears in my eyes when I saw Delia and Michael doing that . I told them how sorry I was . "

Relegation changed Gunn 's mind about taking the Norwich job . He had decided not to continue in the role if Norwich had remained in The Championship , and would have tried to land a job with Norwich that would have allowed more time to be spent with his family . However , " Relegation was a failure and I felt I couldn ' t quit then . I felt I had to do everything I could to put things right , if I

was given the chance . And I was . "

Norwich re @-@ appointed Gunn as manager for the 2009 ? 10 season . Crook , as first team coach , and former Canary Ian Butterworth , as assistant manager , completed the management team . Over the summer , Gunn signed 12 players , most of those on free transfers , including Australian Michael Theoklitos , a goalkeeper from Melbourne Victory . He then steered the club through a programme of pre @-@ season friendly matches , in which Norwich was unbeaten .

Just under a month after Gunn 's reappointment , Norwich appointed a new managing director , David McNally . With the disappointment of relegation , Gunn 's reappointment was controversial , and more was to follow . For the opening game of the new season , Norwich were to play at home against Colchester United , rivals for the Pride of Anglia . Gunn 's team suffered a 7 ? 1 defeat , and Theoklitos , signed by Gunn on a free transfer , was particularly blamed by the press for the scale of the defeat . Theoklitos later admitted it was " the worst performance of my career " . Despite this , he retained Gunn 's support , although in the eventuality , Theoklitos never played for Norwich again .

As early as during the match itself , fans and the media began to react strongly to the shock of Norwich 's worst @-@ ever home defeat . During the first half , after the side had gone 4 ? 0 down , two supporters approached the Norwich bench , appearing to throw their season tickets at Gunn . Many fans walked out before the match ended , and around 300 people protested outside the ground afterwards . Media coverage of the match was unsurprisingly negative : the BBC used terms such as " calamitous defending " , " Colchester run riot " , " dismal " , and a " disastrous start " ; journalists also speculated about Gunn 's competence as a manager . Matters seemed to stabilise a little with a 4 ? 0 League Cup win at Yeovil the following Tuesday . However , Gunn was sacked by McNally on 14 August 2009 , six days after the defeat by Colchester .

Gunn was influenced in his management philosophy by former Norwich manager Mike Walker . Himself a former goalkeeper , Walker believed ? contrary to popular opinion ? that goalkeepers can make good managers because their excellent view of the game enables them to develop a good tactical awareness . Gunn 's short time at Norwich remains his only experience of professional football management . He says of the time spent as manager that his only regret is that " there must be a generation of fans who only know me as the manager who lost 7 @-@ 1 against Colchester ? My own memories are different . "

= = Managerial statistics = =

As of 14 August 2009 .

= = After football = =

Gunn began work in November 2009 as director of business development for OneStream , part of the Digital Phone Company , based in Great Yarmouth . His role was to " promote their communication and mobile working solutions " .

In 2011 , Gunn announced he was leaving OneStream for a new job as a sports agent . In his new role as director of talent recruitment at a sports agency , he is responsible for recruiting young footballers .

= = Family and personal life = =

Gunn 's wife , Susan Gunn , is a painter . She won the inaugural Sovereign Art Prize in 2008 , which included a cash award of ? 25 @,@ 000 . According to The Daily Telegraph , before her marriage , Susan was " a beauty queen turned lingerie model " who " launched a fashion business " . The couple met in Spain , where Susan had a bridal wear company , when Gunn was there on holiday . She told the Telegraph , " When I first met Bryan , I knew nothing about football and had no idea who he was because he told me he was a joiner . " Gunn explained that he was unsure what her attitude would be to footballers ; he later confessed his calling to her . He proposed within three days of their meeting , and they were married the following year . They lived in Framingham Pigot ,

near Norwich , until moving to Cheshire in May 2011 . The Gunns have had three children : Francesca , Melissa and Angus . Melissa is a model , while their son , Angus , is a footballer and plays in goal , like his father . On the books as a youth player at Norwich City , in October 2010 he was selected for England under @-@ 16s , a full year ahead of the age group . In July 2011 , Angus joined Manchester City ; he has " sharp reflexes and strong wrists " and an " ambitious streak " .

According to Scotland on Sunday , Gunn suffers from ankylosing spondylitis , " a rheumatic spinal condition " , diagnosed in about 1995 , " which he controls with medication " . He appeared in an ITV2 celebrity football quiz called " Taking the Pitch " in 1998 , alongside singer Fish . Gunn 's autobiography ? In Where it Hurts ? was published in 2006 , and includes a foreword by his former manager Alex Ferguson . He said of writing the book , " it brought up a lot of good memories and a lot of awkward memories " . The book was described by The Times as " shot through with sharp humour and astute observation " . The publishers agreed to donate £ 1 to Gunn 's Leukaemia appeal fund for every book sold .

= = = Leukaemia appeal = = =

In 1992 , Gunn 's two @-@ year @-@ old daughter , Francesca , was diagnosed with leukaemia . Norwich City fans were at first astonished by the sight of the goalkeeper running out with a completely shaven head . In the words of author and Norwich supporter , Kevin Baldwin , " Occasionally , the gap between the crowd and the players can cause unfortunate misunderstandings . A few months ago , Gunn shaved his head and we all laughed at him ... I was especially keen ... to shout " Baldy ! " ... It now turns out that his daughter was undergoing chemotherapy at the time , which made her hair fall out . He shaved his head to show her that this was nothing to be ashamed of . Sorry , Bryan . " When news spread of the reason for Gunn 's shaven head , he received " support from the whole of the sporting world and the people of Norfolk " .

Gunn describes the period of Francesca 's illness and death and how it caused him to reflect on his career :

" We had a charmed life ... then Francesca became ill . There was a game in the autumn of ' 92 ... that we lost 7 ? 1 at Blackburn . The team stayed in a bleak hotel and it rained endlessly . I just wanted to get back home . With hindsight you think , ' Why the bloody hell was I playing ? ' Very soon afterwards , Francesca died . She was sleeping between us . I realised what was happening and woke Susan . We cradled Francesca and cried . "

Francesca died in 1992 , aged two . Gunn played a match for Norwich against Queens Park Rangers at Carrow Road just days after his daughter died ; he said of it , " When I ran out , I thought , wow , I could feel the whole stadium was with me . I never thought about packing it in . " At the end of the season , Gunn won Norwich 's Player of the Year award , as the club finished third in the Premiership , its highest ever league position .

Following Francesca 's death , Gunn established " Bryan Gunn 's Leukaemia Appeal " , a fund to raise money to combat the disease . He initially set a target of £ 10 @,@ 000 , but by 2011 he has raised £ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 , under the auspices of The Dove Trust . The fund aims to address three issues :

" Equipping local hospitals to be better able to deal with children suffering from the disease on both in @-@ patient and out @-@ patient bases . Providing training for nurses and other staff involved in the care of children with leukaemia over and above that which is available from their employers . To support further research into the causes and cures of leukaemia . "

The third of these ambitions has prompted the funding of research into leukaemia at the Norwich @-@ based University of East Anglia . Gunn says :

" The ultimate aim is to find a cure and if that can be done in the laboratory at the University of East Anglia bearing Francesca 's name , then it would be the biggest testimony of all . Norwich is now one of the leading centres for leukaemia research and , with links to computer systems around the world , hopefully we 'll get there . "

In addition to the research , Gunn set up a telephone support line that offers advice and assistance

for parents of children who have leukaemia or other forms of cancer . Known as gaps : line ( an acronym for Gunn Appeal Parent Support ) , the service quickly grew . From its initial pilot launch in Norfolk in early 2004 , it expanded to cover the " eastern region " by the end of the year , and launched nationally in early 2006 . The appeal has also funded other research and support work .

= = Playing style , personality , achievements and legacy = =

As a player , Gunn was described as " a leader with a big presence " by his manager at Hibernian , Alex McLeish . Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson recalls , " the first thing that hit me was his personality . It was abundantly clear ... that he was a warm , outgoing and endearing character " , adding " He was a tremendous young keeper ... always totally professional and I could never fault his discipline , effort or commitment . "

Gunn had a " fantastic rapport with the Norwich supporters " . As a player , he liked " to tease the crowd during the game " . Before each half of a match , Gunn would run toward his goal and pretend to attempt to headbutt the crossbar . Gunn says this is a habit he began as a youngster , and cannot remember how or why he began to do it . Norwich fans noticed it soon after his arrival at the club and , in Gunn 's words , " would wait until I got to about the 18 @-@ yard line and then start a small " Wooo ... " which would build into a full @-@ blown " WOOOO ... AH ! " ... I loved it and came close to smacking my head against the woodwork a couple of times " . During play , he would cup his ear , which would prompt shouts of " Bryan , Bryan , give us a wave " .

Gunn is described as " a legend in Norwich " , the result of his long years of service as player and official for the club . In 2002 , he was made one of 25 inaugural members of the Norwich City Hall of Fame . A 2005 Football Focus fan poll for " Norwich 's cult heroes " saw Gunn finish in first place . He polled 37 % of votes , ahead of Robert Fleck and Iwan Roberts . Gunn is one of just nine players to have twice won Norwich City Player of the Year , in 1988 and 1993 , and the only goalkeeper to do so . In 2003 , as part of the Premier League 10 Seasons Awards , he was one of 10 players to be recognised by the Premier League with an " Outstanding Contribution to the Community " award . In response to his achievements with Norwich City and his charitable work , which has benefited the local university , in 2002 Gunn was made Sheriff of Norwich for the year by the City Council .