

Johnny working hard at Molineux

MY LIFE IN FOOTBALL

THE MAN WHO

PRESENTS THE

JOHNNY PHILLIPS

Sky Sports presenter
Team Wolverhampton Wanderers

As you watch the scores come in on Sky's Soccer Saturday, keep an eye out for Johnny Phillips, whose job is to report from the stadiums as games are happening!

My earliest football memories are watching cup finals on television, but my first live memory was an FA Cup match between Tranmere Rovers and Wolves. I remember the noise and the crowd vividly, and sitting up in the main stand and looking at the pitch. It was January, and it was an absolute mudbath.

I support Wolves because my dad does. He came over to London from Ireland and the first match he went to was Tottenham v Wolves. He liked the Wolves kit, and they had a really good team in the 1950s, so whenever Wolves came to London he ended up going to watch them. He moved to Liverpool and met my mum, that's how I'm from Liverpool.

I loved playing football when I was a kid. I remember playing at Jericho Lane down near the River Mersey in Liverpool when I was maybe nine or ten, representing my school wearing the number 8 shirt, and scoring two goals in my first ever game.

I always wanted to work in sport. I did hospital radio when I was younger. When I did my media degree at university we had work placements and I covered rugby matches for a local newspaper in Leeds. You just pick up anything to try and get experience.



Jürgen Klopp talks to Johnny



Watford's goalie saves Leicester's penalty!



Watford break and Troy Deeney smashes home

E FOOTBALL



Asking the tough questions!

Little Johnny in his Wolves kit!

The title-winning 1958 Wolves team



Interviewing Rúben Neves

JOHNNY'S 3 TIPS TO BE A GREAT TV REPORTER

- 1 **Be prepared**, so that when you go into an interview or match you're fully aware of everything you need. Don't be caught out by something that you haven't revised.
- 2 **On live television**, stay calm and articulate. It's easy once you make a mistake or speak quickly to stumble over things, and that can often spiral into making more mistakes.
- 3 **It's a hard industry to get into**, so just be ready for an opportunity to open up at any time and then take that chance.

The first game I ever reported on live on TV was at Sunderland. Another reporter fell ill and couldn't make the game, and they came to me to replace him. I remember being very nervous.

The best thing about my job is that it doesn't feel like work. I'm a football fan, so to be able to combine my passion with my employment, I feel very lucky. I'm doing something I'm enjoying.

The most amazing moment I've ever reported on was in the 2013 Championship play-offs, when Leicester had a last-minute penalty saved and Watford went straight up the other end and scored the winning goal. I had to watch it on a tiny monitor television and I couldn't really identify players, but you sensed that something was happening, there was a move

breaking and Leicester had been caught out at the back. It was just pandemonium in the stadium when Watford scored, I remember it getting crazier and crazier. It's such a shame I couldn't turn around and actually watch it unfold, I had to watch on a screen!

It's easy for me to stay calm and neutral if I'm reporting on a Wolves game. As a kid living in Liverpool I often used to watch them at their away games in the north-west from the home end, where my dad told me never to cheer if Wolves scored!

It's a great time to follow Wolves. In my lifetime the club have mainly been down in the doldrums, so it does feel like a special time that will go down in history. Everyone's riding the crest of a wave.



Vicarage Road goes crazy!

Heartbreak for Leicester as Johnny tries to keep up!

