

Joanna Hersey***Punter and childhood memories***

Born 1969. Railshaw Estate between Croydon and Wallington. Dad was a purchasing manager for Metropole Hotels and mother worked to Phillips Service (PYE TVs). Back in 1977 when she was 7 or 8 her Dad took her and her older brother to Wimbledon; loved the atmosphere. Her Dad paid for her bets while she picked the dogs. He'd collect her winnings and when he said, "what about paying for the bet?" she would refuse. She thought the rabbit was real. When they went to the stadium the man on the gate would tell her to go under the turnstile and she was young but she would fold her arms and refuse; always wanted to be paid for. Odd occasion Mum would come.

Those were the glory days. She went when she was older but enjoyed it more when she was with her parents. Also went for Xmas parties from 1999 through to 2001; meal and disco with ladies behind the counter who would take your bets. Tote by the track. Now she works at the AFC Stadium and she and her brother try to work out where everything was in the old days – no trace!