



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1995
KICK OFF 3.00PM

READING V LUTON TOWN

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STEVE SWALES**
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**HATTERS IN THE
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page 28

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RENAULT TRUCKS READING and READING FOOTBALL CLUB...
THE DRIVING FORCE

WELCOME TO

This afternoon's match promises to be quite a battle with both the Royals and the Hatters looking to boost their positions in the First Division with three vital points.

The Royals will be determined to get back on the scoring trail again following the goalless draw at Southend United, which left them in the recently uncharted territory of 13th place.

But Luton are equally keen to improve on recent results because they haven't won a game since their 1-0 victory, also at Roots Hall, on the second Saturday of the season.

Their 2-1 defeat at home to Derby last weekend left them four places below Reading but, at this early stage of the season, three points can make an enormous difference to league standings.

The Hatters will also be looking for revenge for the Royals' all-important win at Kenilworth Road last April, when Adie Williams' superb header sealed our tenth away victory of the season and effectively clinched a play-off spot.

And it should be a pretty safe bet that we won't be seeing a repeat of the Hatters' visit to Elm Park last Boxing Day when there were no goals and little Christmas cheer for either set of supporters in an 11,600 crowd.

One thing we don't want to see this afternoon is a recurrence of the mindless behaviour witnessed at the Millwall game, when an eight inch socket spanner was thrown at Simon Sheppard from the visitors' terrace.

But, to prove such thuggery will not be accepted at football grounds, the police identified a 15 year old youth from their video film of the night and he has been banned for life from Millwall's New Den.

Our thanks go to this afternoon's match sponsors, Morganprint Ltd, who do such a fine job printing the matchday programme.

And a warm welcome also to match ball sponsors Lloyds Bank Commercial Services. We hope there'll be plenty of action to raise their interest and wish them and their guests a very enjoyable day.

If you turn to the back page of this afternoon's programme you'll notice we've added a Royals Big Match Voucher to the top left hand corner.

These vouchers will appear at regular intervals during the season and will give the holder priority when it comes to getting tickets for big games where, as we've found in the past, demand often exceeds supply.

Of course you'll have to buy a matchday programme to get your voucher but there'll be plenty of warning in the local media before each relevant match. Keep your voucher collection safe and make sure you don't miss out on our next Wembley trip or when we draw Manchester United in one of the cups!

Let's hear plenty of noise this afternoon and we hope to see you all back here on Tuesday night when the Royals go trawling for goals against Grimsby's Mariners.



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Volume 50 Issue No. 5

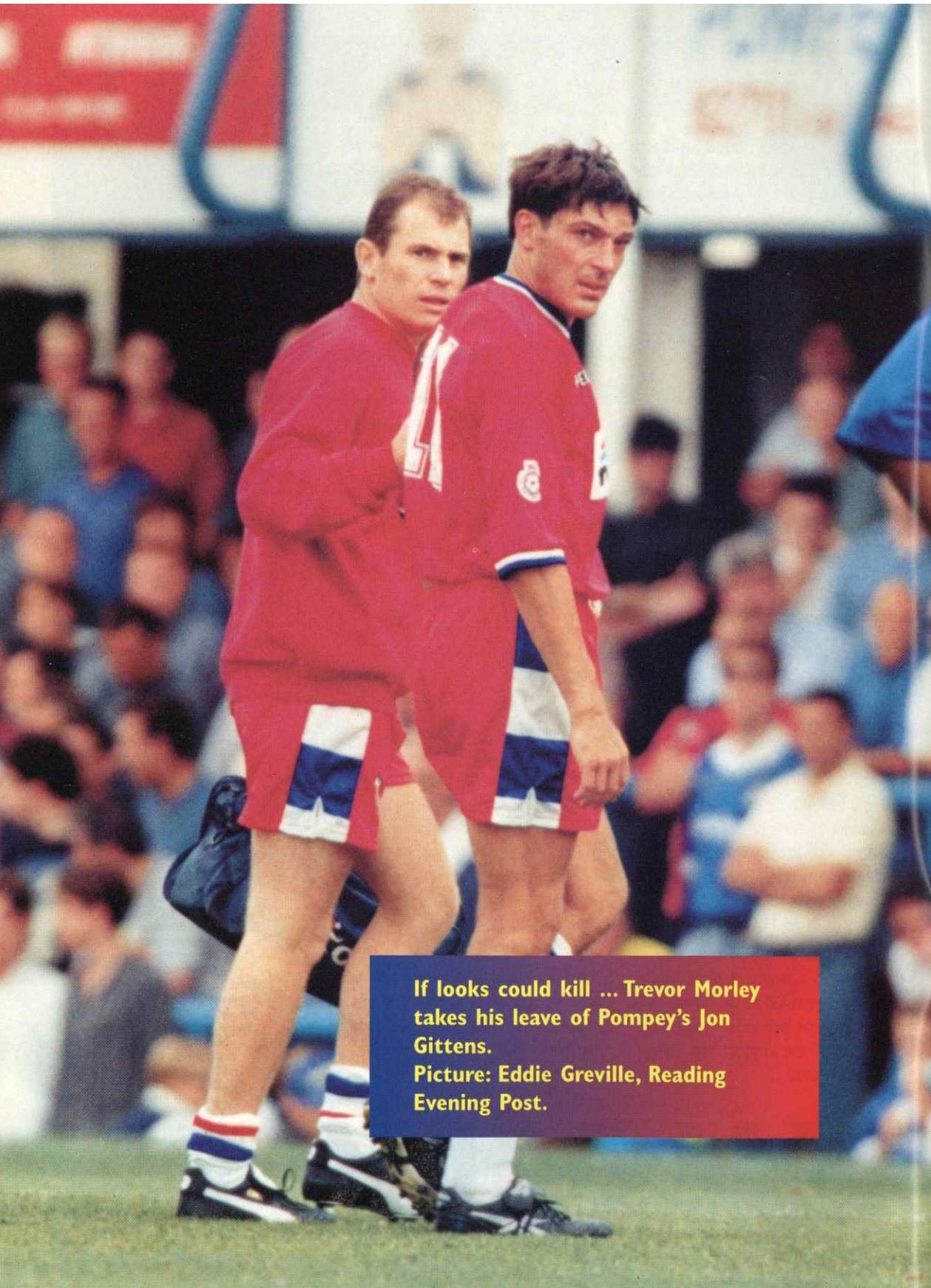
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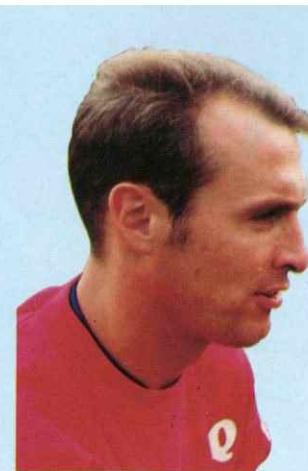
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If looks could kill ... Trevor Morley takes his leave of Pompey's Jon Gittens.
Picture: Eddie Greville, Reading Evening Post.



JOINT Account



The thoughts of Mick Gooding and Jimmy Quinn

The last home game was a great disappointment because we all knew that our excellent first half performance should have carried us to a decisive win in front of a large and appreciative crowd.

Things began going wrong from the moment the penalty decision went against us but, having said that, we certainly can't blame everything on the referee because it's up to us to handle those situations properly.

Instead we lost our shape and discipline and allowed Millwall to get the better of us on the night because we stopped doing the things we do best.

Southend was a different story and, while we were still a little bemused at some of the refereeing decisions, we were the stronger side and made lots of chances near the end of the game.

Parkey can certainly count himself very unlucky, particularly in light of the injury he suffered, but it seemed that the ref felt he needed to even things up after sending the Southend lad off.

passing game

To date we've yet to reach anything like our best form over 90 minutes because teams are going out with the intention of getting close to us and preventing us playing our passing game.

It was obviously going to happen because other teams saw how we achieved our success last season and naturally aren't going to stand back and admire us doing it to them.

We've been playing well in 30 or 40 minute spells and, while it's not possible to control a game for the whole 90 minutes, we've got to be more consistent and certainly dominate for much longer periods.

The players have had that drummed into them this week and they accept that they've got to find something extra themselves to

counter the fact that other teams will be raising their game just because we are the opposition.

You've probably seen that we've been sorting out the international clearance for Bulgarian World Cup keeper Borislav Mikhailov - thankfully he likes to be known as Bobby - who was playing for his country this week and will hopefully be joining us any day now.

extra sweeper

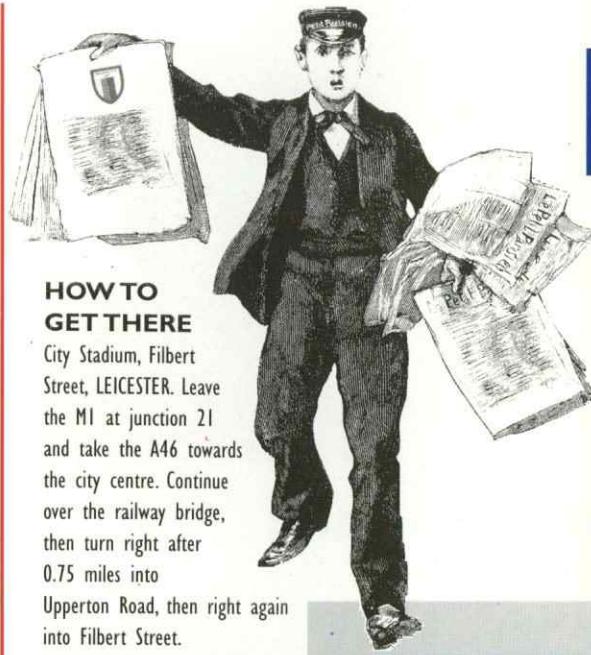
We've broken the club transfer record to get him but we know it will be money well spent because he's very confident, he controls his penalty area like an extra sweeper and is a fine all-round keeper who has that ability to keep everyone around him calm too.

His English is a little basic but he seems to understand everyone and we're sure that when it comes to football there will be no problems on that front at all.

We should also point out that there's no question of Bobby's arrival leaving Simon Sheppard out in the cold. We're thrilled with the way Shep's done his job since the start of the season and we've no doubt that the competition for the keeper's jersey will spur him on even more.

Training regularly with someone who has 80 caps for his country can only do great things for the development of a keeper who's still only 22, and Simon knows that he'll be given every encouragement to prove himself.

Despite the fact that both Luton and ourselves always play in an attacking frame of mind, goals could be hard to come by today if last season's two meetings are anything to go by. But rest assured that with your usual support the players will be looking for a win all the way to the final whistle.



ROYALS

News Desk

HOW TO GET THERE

City Stadium, Filbert Street, LEICESTER. Leave the M1 at junction 21 and take the A46 towards the city centre. Continue over the railway bridge, then turn right after 0.75 miles into Upperton Road, then right again into Filbert Street.

There is an NCP car park 15 minutes' walking distance from the ground, or street parking nearby. Nearest railway station: Leicester. This match is ALL TICKET. There may be a few £13 seats left on sale today, but supporters are urged NOT to travel if they do not have a ticket.

MASCOT DOUBLE



Shane Huntley



Thomas Palmer

Grandad and brother Brian, but he admits he had to miss a couple of games last season because he was brushing up his acting skills appearing as Tom Thumb in Barnum.

Also warming up with his heroes this afternoon is four year old Thomas Palmer.

Thomas enjoys football, snooker and watching videos, and he says his favourite Royal is winger Michael Gilkes.

BAGGIES IN TOWN

Stand tickets are already on sale for the home leg of our Coca Cola Cup second round tie against West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday, September 20, kick off 7.45 p.m.

Tickets cost £11 and £12, with no concessions, and season ticket holders are advised that they must claim their seats, using voucher A, by this Wednesday, September 13. Any unclaimed seats will go on sale the following day.

YOUNG CANARIES

Another date for your diary is next Thursday, September 14, when the Reading youngsters take on Norwich City here at Elm Park in the first round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. The team would appreciate plenty of support, so why not come along and cheer the Royals stars of the future?

TODAY'S REFEREE

Taking charge of proceedings this afternoon is West Midlands police officer Ken Leach, a married man with twin sons.

Now in his fourth season as a Football League referee, he began refereeing in 1969 and progressed via the Warley Alliance League, Wolverhampton Works League and Sunday Festival League before spending ten years as a Southern League referee.

He took control of the Birmingham Senior Cup Final in 1987 and the Police National Cup Final the following year. Mr Leach keeps fit by running, mountain biking and playing squash, and he also enjoys fishing and caravanning.

SUPERHIGHWAY HATTERS

Calling all Hatters in exile! Luton Town fans who have access to a computer which is connected to the Internet can keep up with all the news from Kenilworth Road just by 'surfing the net'.

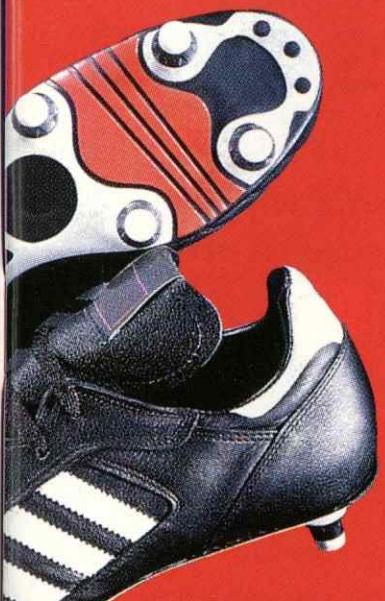
The service is called World-wide Hatters On The SuperHighway (WHOSH) and can be accessed by e-mail to the following address: request-ltfc@robots.ox.ac.uk.

And Royals fans may be interested to know that there is now a similar service providing news and information from Elm Park. The e-mail address is: Readingfc@lentil.demon.co.uk.

BURGER KING HOTSHOTS

The Burger King halftime penalty shootout at the Millwall game was contested by two teams from the South Chiltern Minor League, with Shaw Boys under 12s beating the lads from Purley Jubilee 7-5.

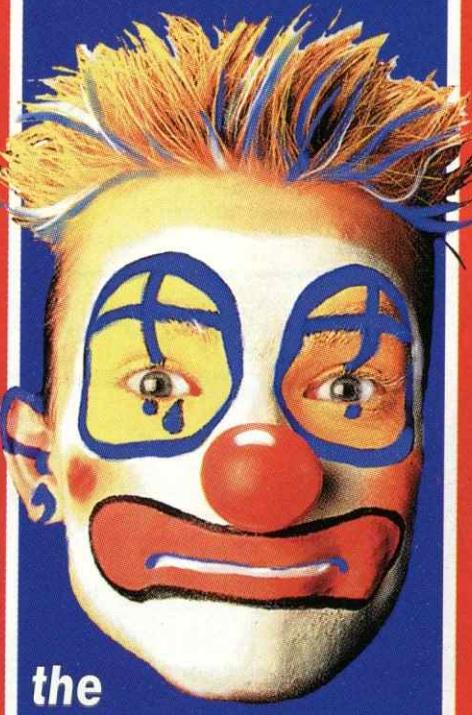
Shaw Boys: Steven Mann, Richard Turrell, Peter Jessett, Darren Palmer, Barry Pullen, Jamie Lynch, Greg Bowman. Purley Jubilee: James Beasley, Tom Greaney, Ben Pocock, Mark Fletcher, Ryan Quinlan, Alasdair Macarthur, Stuart Barnett.



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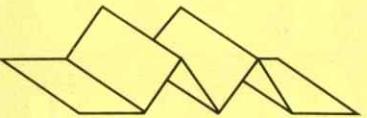
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Skipper ADRIAN WILLIAMS writes for The Royal
... STAKIS HOTEL ... NEWPORT ... GWENT ...
TUESDAY AFTERNOON ...

After a disappointing second half against Millwall, which really turned against us when the referee decided to award that penalty, we travelled to Southend and gave a very positive performance. We must have had at least six good chances in the game and really should have punished them but, having said that, we did ride our luck a little bit in the first half.

After five games we have only lost the one, which isn't bad, but we've also drawn three matches and it's important that we start taking our chances and turning those draws into wins. We haven't really performed to our best yet this season, but we're confident that things are starting to come together and it won't be long before we start showing everyone just what we're capable of.

At the time of writing these notes, Nogs and I are away with the Welsh lads and sitting in the team hotel, having just heard the team selection for the game against Moldova.

real honour

As you know, it was good news for both of us. It's a real honour to play for your country and I was particularly pleased to see Nogs named in the starting line-up for the first time.

If the rest of the Reading lads were here with us, I know they would all join with me in congratulating him on his first full cap. Let's hope there'll be many more.

It's a great tribute to everyone at the club that there are two of us in the Welsh team, particularly since it is the first time in nearly 70 years that two Reading players have appeared together in the same international side.

So we'll be making a bit of history on the night

Adrian Williams
Captain's Chat

and both of us are determined to do the whole club justice and show everyone in the game just how far we've come at Elm Park.

We're staying at the Newport Stakis hotel and have been training at Newport County's new ground, where the surface is absolutely magnificent. We have also used Cardiff Arms Park which, as you would expect, is immaculate.

speedy recovery

Obviously this has been our first meeting with Bobby Gould, the new Welsh manager, and I'm pleased to say he seems to be the sort of guy who wants to be very much involved with the team.

He's definitely a tracksuit manager and he has spent a great deal of time training with us, and we'll all be out to impress him because the next game is against Germany and clearly everyone wants to play in that one.

The boss has also taken the time to have a word with all the younger and less experienced players, like Nogs and myself, which we appreciate, and he has encouraged the more experienced squad members like Rushie and Neville Southall to get involved in running parts of the training sessions. Incidentally, I've just heard that Trevor Morley is having an operation to fit a metal plate in his head after suffering that nasty injury against Portsmouth. It really is a tremendous blow for him and the whole team.

Trevor had just started to settle in and play a really big part in the side, so on behalf of all the lads I'd like to wish him a very speedy recovery. I hope we'll be seeing him back in the thick of the action very soon.



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Passing BACK

ALAN SEDUNARY jogs those memories



As leaders of the Fourth Division the Reading players knew that a win was vital on September 9, 1978 when Newport County were the visitors to Elm Park. Despite our impressive early season form it was the Welsh side who almost went ahead in the first minute when Colin Sinclair's shot clipped the Reading crossbar.

And the visitors continued to have the better of the opening exchanges until Reading took the lead on 16 minutes. Paul Bennett hit a perfect through ball, but as Pat Earles went past County keeper Gary Plumley in the box he was pulled down with a rugby tackle.

Nowadays that would have meant a certain red card but Plumley escaped without even a booking - although Ollie Kearns still made him pay when he scored from the penalty spot.

Despite that boost it was Newport who continued to press forward and they drew level on the half hour when Nigel Vaughan, later to have a spell on loan at Elm Park, headed their equaliser.

Manager Maurice Evans was clearly at his most persuasive during the halftime interval because the Reading side were a totally different proposition in the second half, going close to regaining the lead several times before doing so after 59 minutes with the move of the match.

Kearns, Alan Lewis and Richie Bowman combined sweetly to set up Ollie who scored his second goal of the game with a stooping header which was enough to clinch our 2-1 win.

We couldn't quite take any more of a lion's share of the chances and had to settle for retaining alphabetical leadership of the division, with second-placed Wimbledon having an identical record to us - right down to the number of goals scored and conceded.

Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Hetzke, Kearns, Sanchez, Lewis.

Newport County: Plumley; Walden, Relish, Walker, Oakes, Lowndes, Thompson, Vaughan, Goddard, Woods, Sinclair.

Elsewhere that day Luton Town were dropping to 14th place in the old Division Two after a 2-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers who were still playing at Eastville in those days.

Most remarkable story of the week involved a letter which arrived at Elm Park requesting a back issue of the matchday programme. Nothing too unusual about that except that it came from Derby and had taken EIGHT YEARS to arrive!

DATE LINES.....it happened on September 9

1925: John Robson and Hugh Davey are on target in a 2-1 win over Queens Park Rangers in a game which sees Bill Inglis make his Reading debut.

1944: Our first two games of the wartime season had produced 19 goals - 13 from Reading - so a 9,065 crowd turns up at Elm Park to see us play Spurs in a game which, almost inevitably, ends in a goalless

draw. Our lineup includes future Liverpool boss Joe Fagan, and Wilf Chitty who'd just been released from hospital after a German Doodlebug exploded near his house.

1953: Reading lap up the summer conditions to hammer Watford 4-1 with two goals from Dennis Uphill, one of them a penalty, and one each from Bill Livingstone and Wally Hinshelwood.

1960: The first League game to be televised 'live' is a dull 0-0 draw involving Bolton Wanderers and Blackpool and generates little interest. The BBC announces it's dropping the idea because live football has no place on TV!!!

1972: Tommy Youlden sets up our first win of the season, 2-0 against Peterborough United. He lays on the opening goal for Les Chappell and gets the second himself with a thunderous 30 yard freekick.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to soul singer Otis Redding, born in 1941, and to Captain 'Mutiny on the Bounty' Bligh who would have been 231 years old today! Today's also the birthday of two extremely contrasting sportsmen - former England rugby union star Richard Sharpe, who's 57, and the late Olympic ice skating champion John Curry who was born in 1949.

AND FINALLY....Bradford Park Avenue full back Donald Bell became the only League footballer to be awarded the Victoria Cross 79 years ago today, for "most conspicuous bravery", fighting on the Somme during the Great War. Sadly he paid the ultimate price for it - because the medal was awarded posthumously!

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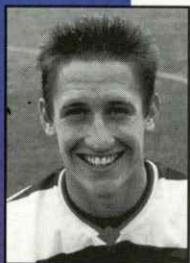




RESERVES

&

YOUTH



James Lambert - exciting runs

Springheath Print Capital League

Reading 0

Wycombe Wanderers 4

A nightmare display saw the Royals' second string concede four first half goals to the League leaders and reigning champions Wycombe and had joint boss Mick Gooding hopping mad.

After seeing Steve McGavin's hatrick settle things, Mick said: "These games should be stepping stones to the first team but, on that display, there won't be many of them pushing for places."

The game was all over as a contest by halftime, and despite some exciting second half runs from James Lambert and the skilful touches of Martin Williams, there was no way back.

Pacy Wycombe winger Tony Hemmings began causing problems from the third minute when he cut inside and was sent crashing in the box by Steve Swales, appearing in an unaccustomed right back berth, and McGavin tucked home the penalty.

The Springheath Print Capital Football League

(N.B. Kick-off times vary)

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|-----|-----------|
| Aug 14: | Sutton Utd | [A] | 1-2 |
| Aug 23: | BRENTFORD | [H] | 0-1 |
| Sep 4: | WYCOMBE W. | [H] | 0-4 |
| Sep 13: | Woking | [A] | (7.45) |
| Sep 18: | CRAWLEY TOWN | [H] | (7.30) |
| Sep 25: | WOKINGHAM T. | [H] | (7.30) |
| Oct 2: | CAMBRIDGE U. | [H] | (2) |
| Oct 18: | Wycombe W. | [A] | (7.45) |
| Oct 23: | Welling Utd. | [A] | (7.45) |
| Oct 30: | Northampton T. | [A] | (2) |
| Nov 6: | LEYTON ORIENT | [H] | (7.30) |
| Nov 14: | Crawley Town | [A] | (7.30) |
| Nov 22: | Barnet | [A] | {PCI} (2) |
| Dec 4: | WEST HAM UTD | [H] | (7.30) |
| Dec 13: | Wokingham T. | [A] | (7.30) |
| Dec 18: | WOKING | [H] | (7.30) |
| Jan 15: | FULHAM | [H] | (7.30) |
| Jan 24: | Cambridge U. | [A] | (2) |
| Jan 29: | PETERBOROUGH U. | [H] | (7.30) |
| Feb 7: | Fulham | [A] | (7) |
| Feb 12: | SOUTHEND U. | [H] | (7.30) |
| Feb 21: | Gillingham | [A] | (7.45) |
| Mar 6: | Colchester U. | [A] | (2) |
| Mar 20: | Brentford | [A] | (2) |
| Apr 15: | BARNET | [H] | (7.30) |
| Apr 29: | NORTHAMPTON T. | [H] | (7.30) |

PCI: President's Cup

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE

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|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Wycombe Wanderers | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 12 |
| Fulham | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 9 |
| Peterborough United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| Colchester United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Brentford | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Sutton United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| West Ham United | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Gillingham | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Barnet | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Southend United | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Northampton Town | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Welling United | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 3 |
| Leyton Orient | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| Crawley Town | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| Woking | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| Cambridge United | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| READING | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Wokingham Town | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 0 |

It wasn't until the second half that Swales got to grips with Hemmings but not before the winger's crosses had set up McGavin's second and, on the stroke of halftime, their side's fourth.

The third goal came when an Alan Carey backpass gave 27 year old keeper Alan Churchward, on temporary assignment from Cirencester Town, no chance and Hemmings himself was waiting to pounce.

Ironically one of the best moves in the first half came from the Royals themselves when Mick Murphy linked up nicely on the left with Lambert whose cross was knocked back by Williams, but keeper Chuck Moussaddik turned Carey's point blank volley over the bar.

Reading tightened things at the back after the break but still found themselves out of luck in attack, with Murphy foiled by a brave save when his pace took him clear of the Wycombe defence and then Lambert dancing past four challenges only to see his stabbed shot saved by Moussaddik at full stretch.

And, with time running out, another fine run from Lambert was followed by a measured cross from Michael Gilkes but Murphy jumped to

head too high when perhaps 16 year old sub Lee Lough was better placed.

On the plus side the game saw left back Dylan Kerr's first public outing since his groin operation and he had a useful run for an hour until making way for sub Derek Simpson.

Reading: Alan Churchward; Steve Swales, Michael Thorp, Matt Stowell, Dylan Kerr (sub Derek Simpson); Michael Gilkes, Alan Carey, James Lambert, Mick Murphy; Gareth Randell (sub Lee Lough), Martin Williams. **Sub not used:** Matt Jones.

South East Counties League

Bristol Rovers 6 Reading 1

Despite the boost of an early lead the young Royals took a hammering from a physical Rovers side which kept them nailed to the bottom of the table.

For the second Saturday in succession the youngsters had their noses in front, this time it was with what team boss Bobby Williams described as "a real quality goal". Gareth Randell held the ball up nicely before rolling it into the path of the overlapping Nicky Bell on the right and he smashed a shot into the far corner of the net.

But the Reading lads couldn't maintain that impetus and they were already trailing 2-1 at the break before being ruthlessly swept aside in the second half.

Reading: Tony Conway; Neil Holloway, Andy Forbes, Luke Dowling, Matt Jones; Nicky Bell (sub Charlie Goodwin), Byron Glasgow, Bradley Ward (sub Lee Rogers), Steven May; Gareth Randell, Lee Lough (sub Neville Roach).

The youngsters had a midweek run out against local side Reading Exiles at Palmer Park when

they came from behind three times, with two goals from Lee Lough and another from Glynn Powditch, before Bradley Ward hit a scorching late volley to seal a 4-3 win.

South East Counties League

Reading 2 Wimbledon 5

The injury-hit Royals produced a fighting second half display after trailing 3-0 at the interval in their first 'home' game on AFC Wallingford's ground.

One of the stars of the show was injured first choice keeper Stuart Jones - his broken hand still in plaster - who had an outstanding game after being pressed into service as an emergency central defender.

Stand-in keeper Tony Conway was left dazed after an early collision but had no chance with the first three goals.

The Royals reduced the arrears on the hour when a Matt Jones corner was helped on at the near post by Gareth Randell and sub Neville Roach darted in behind the defence to volley over the keeper.

The Dons then stretched their lead again from a set-piece corner move but the Royals grabbed their second goal from the penalty spot.

Roach skipped away from his marker on the right to get in a low cross which went beyond the far post, and when Byron Glasgow reached it he was promptly bowled over by the keeper's challenge.

Randell stepped up to send the keeper the wrong way and claim his second goal of the season.

Wimbledon's fifth goal came with a mishit effort from the edge of the box and, to confirm it wasn't Reading's day, Randell then got in behind the defence to meet a Bradley Ward freekick but couldn't get direction on his header and the keeper was able to save at the second attempt.

Reading: Tony Conway; Neil Holloway (sub Bradley Ward), Andy Forbes, Stuart Jones, Matt Jones; Nicky Bell (sub Lee Rogers), Byron Glasgow, Richard Curtis, Steven May (sub Neville Roach); Lee Lough, Gareth Randell.



Neville Roach — scoring volley

South East Counties Youth League Division Two

1995-96

(Kick-off 11 a.m. unless stated)

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----|-------------|
| Aug 12: | Tottenham H. | [A] | 0-4 |
| Aug 19: | BRISTOL CITY | [H] | 1-5 |
| Aug 26: | Bristol R. | [A] | 1-6 |
| Sep 2: | WIMBLEDON | [H] | 2-5 |
| Sep 9: | Crystal Palace | [A] | |
| Sep 14: | NORWICH CITY (SJFC 1) | [H] | (KO 7.30pm) |
| Sep 16: | Chelsea (LC1) | [A] | |
| Sep 23: | BRENTFORD | [H] | |
| Sep 30: | Swindon Town | [A] | |
| Oct 7: | BRIGHTON & HOVE A. | [H] | |
| Oct 14: | Colchester Utd | [A] | |
| Oct 28: | BARNET | [H] | |
| Nov 4: | Wycombe W. | [A] | |
| Nov 11: | LUTON TOWN | [H] | |
| Nov 18: | Oxford United | [A] | |
| Dec 2: | SOUTHAMPTON | [H] | |
| Dec 9: | AFC BOURNEMOUTH | [H] | |
| Dec 16: | AFC Bournemouth | [A] | |
| Dec 30: | TOTTENHAM H. | [H] | |
| Jan 6: | Bristol City | [A] | |
| Jan 13: | BRISTOL ROVERS | [H] | |
| Jan 20: | Wimbledon | [A] | |
| Jan 27: | CRYSTAL PALACE | [H] | |
| Feb 3: | Brentford | [A] | |
| Feb 10: | SWINDON T. | [H] | |
| Feb 17: | Brighton & Hove A. | [A] | |
| Feb 24: | COLCHESTER UTD. | [H] | |
| Mar 2: | Barnet | [A] | |
| Mar 9: | WYCOMBE W. | [H] | |
| Mar 16: | Luton Town | [A] | |
| Mar 23: | OXFORD UNITED | [H] | |
| Mar 30: | Southampton | [A] | |

LC: League Cup
SJFC: Southern Junior Floodlit Cup
FAFC: FA Youth Cup



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terrace talk...

terrace talk...

GERRY McGREEVY'S news - and some personal views - from the Supporters' Club

If I welcome you to this afternoon's game there is an implication that it is being played on Saturday as scheduled.

However, it doesn't always pay to take these things for granted nowadays and, for all I know, it may have been switched to a Monday morning at 5 a.m. since these notes were written.

In the last programme for the Millwall game, I appeared to be the only person who didn't know the Southend match had been switched to the Friday night, but then again, there had been a whole week's notice of this. (Blame the Bank Holiday for bringing your deadline forward. Ed.)

I know it was an international week, but was it such a surprise that a club with four current international players should have at least two of them called up? This late changing of fixtures shouldn't be allowed to happen. UEFA usually get the blame for it, but it is up to the clubs and the Football League to get their acts together.

Given the complete contempt shown by the authorities towards football supporters, I suppose this is too much to expect. But for future reference, it is worth noting that on weekends when there are no Premiership fixtures, the Reading game is likely to be switched to the Friday.

Still, what am I complaining for? There's nothing like a three hour assault on the M25 on a Friday night, followed by the realisation that Southend lock their gates at kick off time. It was only when a crowd of around 15 Reading fans had gathered outside that they decided it might be an idea to let us in.

There was another good turnout of away supporters, especially given the circumstances. Sitting in the oddly-named, but compact, Universal Bicycles Stand, quite an atmosphere was generated.

I'm still trying to work out how The Sun described Reading as having only one shot on target, when the Southend keeper pulled off a series of fine saves in the

second half. Perhaps the reporter went home at half time, or became over-refreshed during the interval. Once again, it comes back to supporters being treated with contempt. Why bother telling us the truth when some half-baked rubbish will do instead? But I suppose it might be better if the media keeps writing Reading off - look what happened last season.

Luton Depleted

A warm welcome to today's visitors from Luton Town. Their exploits in recent decades are a fine example of what can be achieved by a provincial club and, fortunately, since the departure of one D.Evans as chairman, they have lost their tag as the most unpopular club in England.

This was always an unfair slur on them, but it is an inevitable consequence of mixing football with politics (particularly one's personal political ambitions).

As with last week's opponents, Southend, they have remained at their traditional ground, although I'm told there are now plans for them to move to something called a Kollerdom, whatever that is!

Attempts to move grounds in recent years have been met with considerable resistance by supporters - I don't know whether this is because clubs are seeking to move too far out of town, or because of an undying passion for their current home. Given the grounds at Kenilworth Road, Roots Hall and Elm Park, I would have some doubts about the latter.

Southend, having abandoned their plans to move, have decided to make do with what they've got.

Presumably locking visiting supporters out at kick off time is part of some crowd control policy, rather like clubs who don't allow season ticket holders admission. Once again, contempt for the supporter.

The Leicester of Two Evils

Next Saturday (one assumes) Reading will be playing at Leicester City. I would imagine that, by now, the paltry allocation of tickets given to Reading will have sold out.

If you are going, the coaches will depart from Elm Park at 10.30 a.m. and the fare is £10. You can book your place at the Royals Rendezvous today.

The only other away game in September is at Sunderland, and details of coaches to that game will appear at a later date, although you can book your place today.

The planned North Hants Branch coach to Leicester has been cancelled due to uncertainty over the ticket allocation, but the branch still intends to run coaches from Basingstoke to future away games.

Pirates Ahoy!

You may recently have seen an advert in the Evening Post for a new Lee Nogan T-shirt. This has nothing to do with the Football or Supporters' Clubs and is just a rip-off designed to part you from your money in the belief that you are helping Reading.

The players' T-shirts designed by the club have been held up while we await copyright clearance from the photographers whose work has been used. Unlike the cowboys (or is it pirates?), the club has to do this the proper way, hence the delay. It's just like Wembley again, with the parasites ready to live off the club.

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ELM PARK EYE

Kerry Dixon forfeited many of the Brownie points he collected for those 51 goals he got in Reading colours back in the eighties when he sidefooted the winner for League leaders Millwall eleven days ago.

It almost took the gloss off Micky Gooding's brilliant 25 yard goal on 34 minutes - his first since the equaliser at Stockport in April 1994 - which flew

into the roof of the net after proving too hot to handle for Lions keeper Kasey Keller.

The Royals sparkling first half display turned sour when Millwall, and their fans, began to take gamesmanship to its limits. Referee Paul Rejter took a hand in the 64th minute, when he somehow came to the decision that Dariusz had fouled the abrasive Alex Rae in the box, and the Scotsman tucked away the spotkick himself.

Kerry's winner followed four minutes later and on 72 minutes Rae felled Geordie in the area with a forearm smash - although the Royals would certainly have swapped a rightful penalty for the Millwall man's red card!

There were nine bookings - mysteriously only three for the Lions - and there was also a red card for poor Phil Parkinson during the goalless draw at Southend's Roots Hall three nights later. Parky was booked for alleged use of the



Geordie - brilliant strike

elbows in the first half - after an incident in which he was the one left with an ugly bruise on his right cheekbone. His brush with Julian Hails on the hour looked pretty innocuous, but Oxford ref Rob Harris thought otherwise and brandished a second yellow card.

Mr Harris' decision could have had something to do with the fact that he'd also sent off Southend's Micky Bodley two minutes earlier. Seeing that Bodley's first offence was for chopping Andy Bernal to the ground, and the second for a bodycheck on Lee Nogan, it seemed another case of one punishment fitting different crimes!

Southend keeper Simon Royce defied Dariusz, Archie and sub Martin Williams with some great work near the end but Simon Sheppard surely earned the save-of-the-night award for his amazing scissor-kick clearance to clear a ball which flew over his head when he was caught off his line.

Congratulations to Adie Williams and Lee Nogan who were in the first side selected by new Welsh boss Bobby Gould for the European Championship qualifying game against Moldova in midweek.

It was Adie's sixth cap and the second for Lee whose only previous outing was as a second half substitute against Austria in Vienna in April 1992.

The double call-up was an even greater achievement because it was the first time

two Reading players have appeared together in an international side since the 1927-28 season, when Billy McConnell and Hugh Davey represented Northern Ireland against the English.

Best wishes from everyone at Elm Park to groundsman Gordon 'Fred' Neate, who has been laid low for the past two weeks with a bad back.



Fred's presence, and that inimitable sense of humour, is sorely missed by all at the club, but congratulations to deputy Steve Kean who's been doing a fine job in his absence.

The Royals are awaiting clearance from the Department of Employment to complete the £300,000 transfer of World Cup keeper Borislav 'Bobby' Mikhailov from Bulgarian side FC Botev Plovdiv.

The 32 year old, who has also played for French side Mulhouse and Belenenses of Portugal, initially made the headlines in last year's World Cup finals because of his new hairpiece but he went on to captivate everyone with his keeping skills as Bulgaria reached the semi-final.

Bobby, who is planning to settle his wife and two children in Berkshire, added to his 80 caps when he played against Albania in a European qualifier in midweek.

All those day dreamers who've ever yearned to be summoned to the dressing room by tannoy minutes from kickoff time and handed a Royals playing strip would have been envious of summer signing Steve Swales.

When Tom Jones tore a calf muscle warming up for the game at Portsmouth a fortnight ago, and Andy Bernal was called into the starting lineup, 22 year old Steve was needed for the subs' bench. But he'd wandered off when he learned he wasn't in the side.

Steve said: "I was walking around outside the ground when they put a call over the public address system to tell me I was needed." Mere mortals would have suspected a wind-up but, happily, not our Steve.

Former Royals striker Craig Maskell, who moved to Swindon Town in the deal which brought Tom Jones to Elm Park, has been put up for sale by Southampton.

If you were wondering why Gerry McGreevy seems in bilious mood in his Supporters' Club notes on today's Terrace Talk page we can solve the mystery for you.

When he faxed his notes to the editor he included a cover sheet which read: "Sorry about the vitriolic nature of the contents - I'm trying to give up smoking!" Good luck Gerry, and we hope the page doesn't prove too much of a drag in future!

There was more than a little confusion last weekend when callers to Jimmy Quinn's mobile phone were greeted, extremely breathlessly, by a woman's voice. But never fear, it was Quinny's wife Jackie who borrowed the phone to keep in touch while doing a three day sponsored bicycle ride along the Ridgeway to raise money for the children's ward at Swindon's Princess Margaret Hospital.



The Quinns together - with children Lewis and Samantha

She successfully completed the 86 mile trip from Marlborough to Aylesbury and hopefully negotiated a couple of major transfer deals en route. Still, at least she didn't take his passport!

The curse on the youth team keeper's jersey claimed its third scalp of the season last Saturday when 16 year old Tony Conway cracked a couple of ribs playing against Wimbledon.

Clive Lytle tore a cartilage in training last month, and has since undergone surgery, while first choice Stuart Jones broke a bone in his hand a week later - although he did turn out at centre back against the young Dons.

But bemused youth team boss Bobby Williams was just casting around for keeper number four when he had a phone call from young Conway. Said Bob: "He told me not to worry because he'd be fit for the weekend if we needed him." Watch this space!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to defender Keith McPherson (right), who'll be 32 on Monday.



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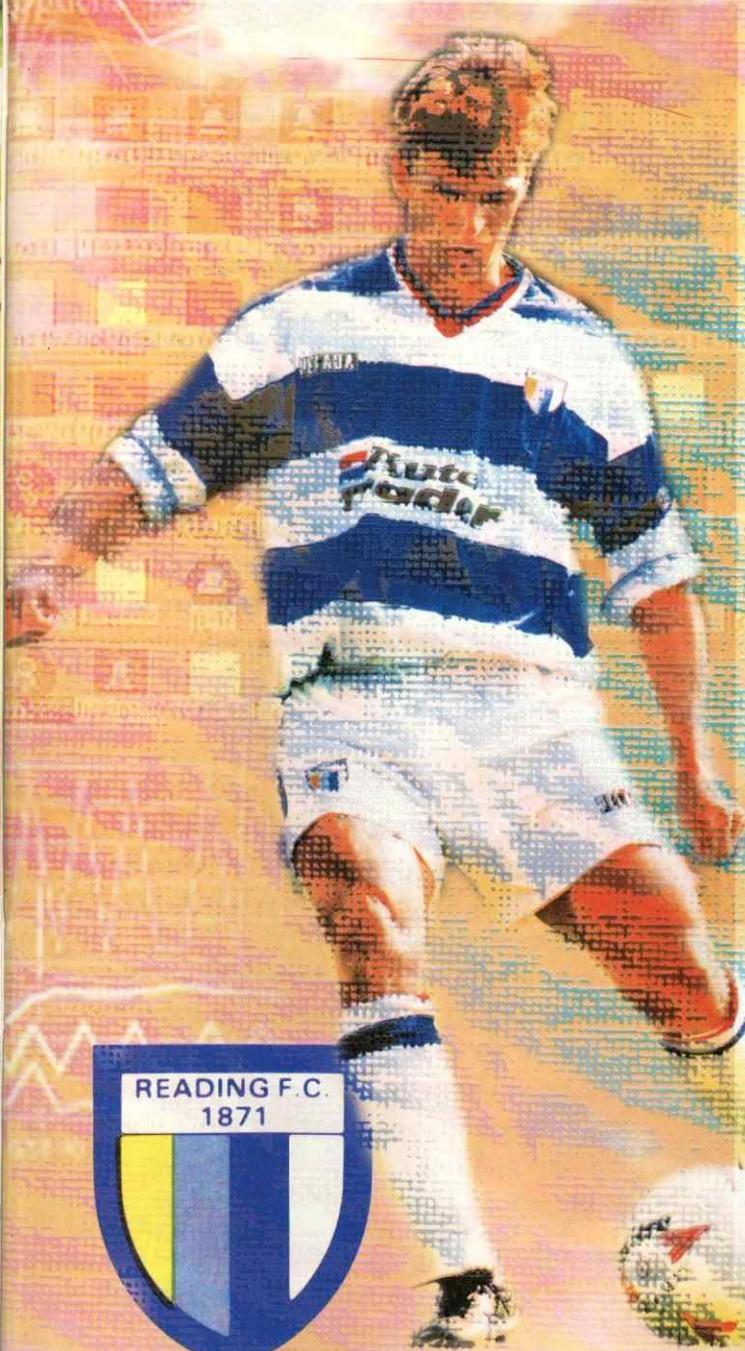
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ROYAL SPOTLIGHT

Whitby's favourite son maps out his Reading future

Steve Swales admits that currently his main claim to fame is that he's the first League footballer ever to emerge from the north Yorkshire town of Whitby. But don't think that the former Scarborough defender was overawed to be swapping Whitby - which has a population of just under 14,500 - for the 'bright lights' of greater Reading. Far from it.

With a slightly embarrassed smile the 21 year old admits: "When Jimmy and Mick rang me to ask if I'd be interested in the move I had to ask them where Reading was because I hadn't got a clue!"

"I hadn't even seen the playoff final on the telly because I was already away on holiday, but I didn't have to think too long about making the move.

"I couldn't be happier. From being in the Scarborough side which finished second to bottom in the League I've jumped two divisions to a club which could be in the Premier next season."

Steve adds: "I was holding out for a new contract when Reading came in for me. There had been talk about Arsenal and other clubs being interested, but nobody ever said anything to me and I'm delighted to be with a great bunch of lads here."

The £70,000 left back was actually a 14 year old forward when he joined Scarborough on schoolboy forms and the switch came in his youth team days when he stepped in to help out in a defensive injury crisis.

Steve duly stepped up to YTS status and made his League debut as an 18 year old at Wrexham in March 1992 - ensuring a place in Whitby's hall of fame.

However he found himself on the losing side in his first

"I had to ask them where Reading was... I hadn't got a clue!"

two games before featuring in a home win over Chesterfield and a hard-earned 2-2 draw at Carlisle United.

This four game run in the first team ended his League activity for that season and he added another three appearances during the next campaign, but in 1993-94 he clocked up 26 outings to help steer Scarborough into a position of mid-table security.

Despite being in a struggling side last season - managers coming and going from the McCain Stadium at a bewildering rate - Steve made sure he got noticed and won himself a permanent place for the last 14 games.

When Steve signed on the dotted line for the Royals in July, joint boss Mick Gooding described him as "one for the future", adding: "He's got two good feet, plenty of pace and stamina and we think he'll have no problem bridging the gap in class between the divisions."

Indeed Steve came off the bench to join in the victory over Derby County last month and has featured in the starting lineups for the last two games, and he says: "I certainly didn't expect to get in the side so soon but I'm loving it. "There's quite a difference between the Third Division and this level but the most noticeable thing is that your brain has to be sharper. You need to be able to think that little bit quicker and anticipate situations."

Bachelor boy Steve, who won't be celebrating his 22nd birthday until Boxing Day, is certainly not short of female admirers but says he has no plans to settle down just yet. He says: "Like everyone my ambition is to play at the highest level and be successful, and I think I can do that here. But it's still early days in my career and I've just got to keep working hard to see what happens."

Picture: John Hawken

**ON THE SPOT WITH
STEVE SWALES**



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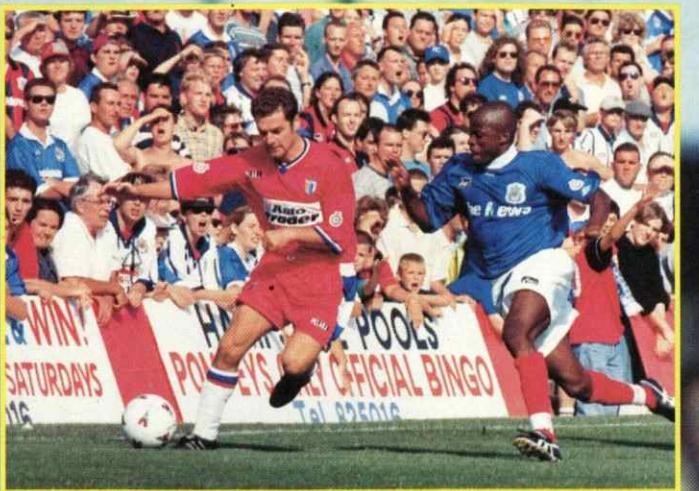
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ACTION**
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MAIN PICTURE: Andy Bernal
manages to shake off his tail.

TOP LEFT: Life's perfectly
balanced for Mick Gooding.

TOP RIGHT: Michael Meaker's the
meat in a Pompey sandwich.

PICTURES: Eddie Greville,
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MEET THE BOSS



The usual list of unemployed or disaffected managers was regurgitated by the national papers in the summer to help in the search for a man to replace departing boss David Pleat.

But the Luton Town board certainly caught the hicks on the hop when they named Terry Westley - the Kenilworth Road youth coach since 1991 - as the club's 20th manager.

As a player Westley never made it further than Ipswich Town's youth ranks in League football, but his reputation is second to none at the grassroots of the game and in recent years he's been responsible for bringing through a string of youngsters of the calibre of Arsenal's John Hartson and current keeper Kevin Davis.

He played non-league football with Bury St Edmunds and Diss Town, where he was player boss, before returning to Portman Road in 1988 to take over their School of Excellence.

When he moved into the Hatters' hotseat in July, Westley wasted no time in naming former Ipswich Town boss Mick McGivern as his assistant.

The one-time England Under 23 international began his playing career at Sunderland before moving on to West Ham United, where he was appointed number two to John Lyall in 1977.

After leaving Upton Park the pair continued their successful partnership at Ipswich in 1990, taking the Suffolk side into the Premiership two years later, before McGivern was given sole control of team affairs.

The other members of their management team are all very much part of the Luton family - reserve team coach Wayne Turner, youth team boss John Moore and physio Clive Goodyear.

Turner played for the club for eight years from 1977, Moore made nearly 300 appearances in the sixties and seventies and managed Luton for a season in 1986, while Goodyear was in the 1982 Second Division championship squad before going on to win an FA Cup medal with Wimbledon.

Universal Salvage Auctions



Luton Town at last seem to have shaken off their eighties claims to be the club everyone loved to hate - a label which went with the artificial pitch and Kenilworth Road's 'members only' scheme. They certainly had the sympathy of the majority when - for the second time in less than 10 years - they had to stand and watch as their manager was poached by a club with more status and financial clout. And the fact that it was the same manager each time - David Pleat decamped to Spurs in 1986 and Sheffield Wednesday this summer - certainly didn't make it any easier. Chairman David Kohler made a valiant, if inevitably fruitless, bid to ensure that Pleat saw out his contract. But his attempt to retain Pleat's services came a little too early for the new, squeaky clean Premier League code of conduct, and once Wednesday's new boss had posed for pictures at Hillsborough with the sponsor's logo over his shoulder the cause was probably already lost. And any other Football League chairman who were secretly hoping that Mr Kohler might come and poach their managers were to end the summer disappointed because, of course, he turned to his own highly respected youth team coach Terry Westley.

Not only did he know all his new charges but, over the last four years, Westley had schooled many of them through the early days of their fledgling careers. But that didn't stop him going outside the club to bring in the fresh blood he felt was required to ensure that the Hatters improve on their 16th place finish in the First Division last May. His first £100,000 signing was 24 year old Graham Alexander from Coventry City, whose ability to perform in defence or midfield was apparently surplus to requirements at Highfield Road, while Northern Ireland international defender Darren Patterson



£750,000 Steve Davis



Rising star Oakes

Today's

Opposition

arrived from Crystal Palace for a fee which could eventually rise to £200,000.

He certainly didn't need too many reports on Ipswich midfielder Gavin Johnson, because he coached the 24 year old as a Portman Road youngster, and he got him on a free transfer as the East Anglians offloaded in the aftermath of relegation.

Accompanying Johnson on a free trip west was 31 year old Bulgarian international striker Bontcho Guentchev who went to last year's World Cup during a three season stay with Ipswich.

Likely work permit problems sparked by the change of club have been overcome because Guentchev's wife is now employed at the Bulgarian embassy in London.

The Hatters' transfer record still stands at the £850,000 they paid Odense for Lars Elstrup back in 1989 but they ran that pretty close when 26 year old central defender Steve Davis arrived from Burnley in July.

But the former Southampton trainee looks something of a bargain at current prices,

DID YOU KNOW?

- * From January to April 1968 Luton Town went 19 matches unbeaten in Division 3 - they achieved exactly the same feat between April and October 1969 in the Fourth Division.
- * In 1891 Luton became the first club in the south of the country to turn professional.
- * They had been formed six years earlier with the amalgamation of two leading local clubs - Wanderers and Excelsior - at a meeting in Luton Town Hall.
- * On April 13, 1936 Joe Payne set a Football League record by scoring 10 goals against Bristol Rovers in a 12-0 Division Three South clash - his first game as a centre forward.
- * Luton were excluded from the League Cup in 1986-87 because of the introduction of their controversial 'members only' scheme which barred away fans from Kenilworth Road.

saw the Royals victorious. Although the arguments still rage over the scorer of the game's only goal - our Adie or £200,000 from Bradford City striker John Taylor.

LUTON'S LAST DOZEN

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Sep 5 | PERUGIA (Anglo-Italian) | [h] |
| Sep 2 | DERBY COUNTY | [h] |
| Aug 29 | GRIMSBY TOWN | [a] |
| Aug 26 | LEICESTER CITY | [h] |
| Aug 22 | AFC BOURNEMOUTH (Coca Cola) | [a] |
| Aug 19 | SOUTHEND UNITED | [a] |
| Aug 15 | AFC BOURNEMOUTH (Coca Cola) | [h] |
| Aug 13 | NORWICH CITY | [h] |
| May 7 | STOKE CITY | [h] |
| Apr 30 | MIDDLESBROUGH | [a] |
| Apr 22 | CHARLTON ATHLETIC | [a] |
| Apr 15 | READING | [h] |

STAR HATTER

SCOTT OAKES was born in Leicester on August 1972 and moved from his home-town club in October 1991, making his debut against Norwich City later the same month.

The Premiership clubs were like moths round a lamp after Oakes' starring role in the Hatters' run to the FA Cup semi-final in 1994 but he signed a new contract and pledged his future to the club.

He won an England Under 21 cap against Bulgaria in 1993 and two seasons ago he was Luton's top scorer with 13 goals - including a hat-trick in an FA Cup sixth round replay against West Ham United. Oakes was on target 10 times last season.

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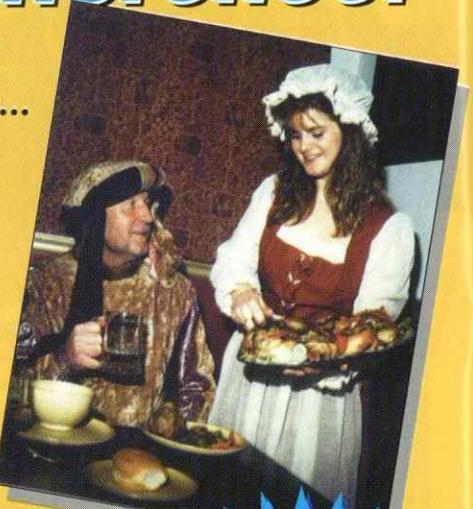
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CROSS E F E R E N C E

ALAN SEDUNARY examines
the Luton connection

When Adie Williams (or was it John Taylor?) headed our winner at Kenilworth Road last Easter it was the first time we had beaten Luton Town in a League game in 13 attempts.

The sides have played 17 League games here at Elm Park and we can boast nine victories and four draws from those meetings. However that record is slightly blemished by the fact that the last of those home wins was on September 28, 1935!

Our best wins came in the 1932-33 and 1933-34 seasons when we threw our hats in the air to celebrate back-to-back 4-1 triumphs. Jack Palethorpe and Frank McPherson shared the goals in the first of those games, but a year later Frank Newton took the glory, and the matchball, with a hattrick, while Joe McGough got the other.

In contrast all Luton's four wins here have been by the odd goal, including our first meeting back in February 1921. That may not have pleased the Elm Park faithful but it was a whole lot better than our first League visit to Luton a week after that...when we lost 6-0!

ROYAL HATTERS...Paul Holsgrove and Martin Williams are only the latest in a succession of ex-Hatters to have signed for Reading.

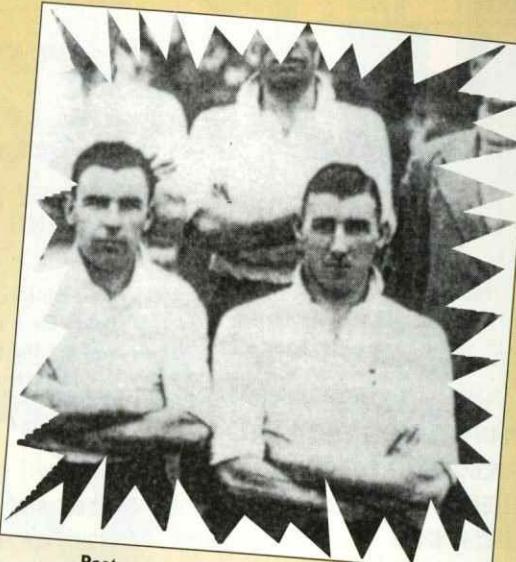
One colourful character was Gary Heale who cost us a club record £40,000 in 1979 but, after scoring 12 goals in 50 games, deserted us to follow his American wife home and join up with the Seattle Sounders.

Winger Mick Fairchild's career started and finished with Lowestoft but, in between, he had spells with both Luton and Reading in the early sixties. Between the wars the quaintly named Henry Higginbottom and Stanley Coote both moved from Beds to Berks without setting the world alight, even though the latter was described as "a dashing defender" when he joined us in 1935.

The one real star we sold to Luton was tricky forward John Collins, who moved to Kenilworth Road in August 1969. The former QPR and Oldham man scored 30 goals in 94 games for Reading before joining Luton and, by the time his League career ended at Cambridge United he'd clocked up 109 goals in 409 matches.

Prior to Martin Williams our last signing from Luton was keeper Alan Judge in 1983, after he'd set a record by playing 33 games for us on loan. Subsequently Judge played for several other clubs, most notably Oxford United for whom he kept a clean sheet in their 1986 Milk Cup Final victory.

PAST MASTER...Albert Hayhurst lived on Barnsley's doorstep but was somehow missed by his local club and was playing for



Past master Albert Hayhurst (right)

Frickley Colliery when spotted and signed up by Luton. They converted him from full back to centre half and he moved to Elm Park in 1933 to begin a spell when he became skipper and was a virtual ever-present for five seasons. The signing of Jimmy Wallbanks in 1938 saw him revert to full back and, by the time Hayhurst was given a free transfer a year later, he'd scored nine goals in 220 League matches.

His best game for Reading was undoubtedly our FA Cup fifth round tie against the then 'mighty' Arsenal in 1935 when, despite a 1-0 defeat, he outplayed the legendary Ted Drake.

And nobody could ever accuse Hayhurst of being lazy because, as well as being a fine footballer, he used to spend his summers playing county cricket for Warwickshire!

FANCY THAT...Reading may have created history last May when Jimmy and Geordie became the first joint managers to lead their team out at Wembley, but Luton went to the other extreme for the 1959 FA Cup Final.

Without a manager during their entire cup run that year, director Tom Hodgson was at their head when they emerged from the tunnel to face eventual 2-1 defeat at the hands of Nottingham Forest. Mind you the sides provided the best argument against having a manager at all - both fielded unchanged lineups all the way to Wembley.

FORMGUIDE...If, sorry, when, we win today we should all thank Adie Williams. He doesn't have to score or even make a vital interception this afternoon - because his crucial contribution to today's result was made five months ago.

By scoring our winner at Kenilworth Road on April 17 Adie ensured victory today...every time we've won at Luton over the years we've always celebrated by winning the next home game against them!

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The TURNER TREATMENT

With Royals physio PAUL TURNER

If there's sufficient interest I'm hoping to run a basic emergency aid course during the coming months aimed at people involved in local football. It's obviously essential these days, at all levels of the game, to have someone on hand who is trained at least in the basic skills to deal urgently with injuries and I'm only too happy to help out if I can.

The Community Office here at Elm Park will be making all the arrangements so if you're interested please give them a call on Reading 560898 as soon as you can to enable them to make plans.

My treatment room is still pretty crowded but there was good news for David Bass this week when he came back from his break and scored a goal in training.

You might think that's no big deal, but when you've been out as long as Bassy has with his cruciate ligament reconstruction then it's quite an achievement.

While we've had him back in training, until this week there was no question of him doing anything that involved contact or making tackles. Taking part

in a practice match was the next step to recovery and so far he seems to be doing fine.

The calf strain which Tom Jones picked up at Portsmouth responded well to treatment and I would expect him to have been available for selection this afternoon. Jeff Hopkins and Paul Holsgrave, who both have Achilles tendon injuries, are progressing well and have begun doing some light jogging.

Trevor Morley has a fracture of the frontal sinus and, after a CT scan this week to assess the full extent of the damage, he had an operation on Wednesday to insert a metal plate. He was due to leave hospital this weekend but is likely to be out for four to six weeks, and it will be a question of maintaining his general fitness as we wait for the injury to heal.

It's now nearly three weeks since YTS keeper Clive Lytle had surgery to take care of a nasty tear in the cartilage, but he's moved on to intermediate rehab and it's looking good so far. Fortunately there's no problem about keeping Stuart Jones fit because, even though he can't use his hands, he was used as an outfield player in the youth team last Saturday morning.

Phil Parkinson got a nasty knock at Southend which burst a blood vessel just below the right eye socket and left him with a huge lump under the skin surface. Happily it looked a lot worse than it was and an X-ray on Monday confirmed that there was no fracture so it's just a case of letting the bruising heal.

And the latest addition to the sicklist was Jimmy Quinn himself who sprained his ankle on Monday, an injury which kept him out of that night's Capital League game.





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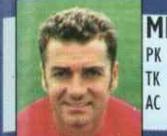


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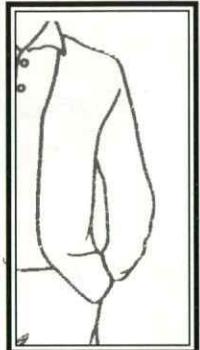
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Royals in the COMMUNITY

BACK TO SCHOOL

The kids are back in the classroom and that heralds the launch of our new schools package. Information has now been sent to primary schools in and around Reading offering visits from the community department and talks from Royals players.



These visits will also include coaching, small-sided games and competitions and a return trip to Elm Park as part of the Learning Through Football scheme.

The scheme offers an educational visit to your local football club, ground tours, match day packages and an after-school coaching programme, as well as F.A. teachers' courses in coaching and first aid.

The scheme is sponsored and supported by the Reading Evening Post and targets boys and girls of all standards, primarily aged five to seven.

Pictured are the youngsters from Geoffrey Field Primary School enjoying a visit from our community department. If you'd like us to pay a visit to your school, contact us for more details.

RUNAROUND CLUB

The Runaround Club will continue on Monday afternoons from 4.30 to 6 p.m. throughout September (weather permitting).

New members, aged five to 12, are always welcome – just turn up at Prospect Park with your kit to play. It costs £1 for Junior Royals and £1.50 for non-members.

The Club is an ideal way for younger players, both boys and girls, to get involved in football by playing small-sided games with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment for all.

ROYALS ROVERS

The away trip to Leicester City next Saturday is proving very popular (I wonder why!) so you'll have to hurry if you want to book a place on the Community Scheme coach. If you're interested in joining us next week, or on any of our Junior Royals away day packages, contact Andy French-Simonds at the community office.

WELCOME TO PAUL

All of us at the Community Scheme would like to extend a very warm welcome to Junior Royal Paul Maddock and his friends, who are joining us this afternoon as part of his birthday treat.

Paul's big day out includes a tour of the ground and a chance to meet his favourite players, a party, quiz and tickets to watch the match.

We'd also like to welcome all the Junior Hatters, and their mums and dads, from Luton Town. And don't forget we're still taking bookings for our Saturday Match Day Club, contact us at the office for details.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all the youngsters from Emmer Green Playgroup for their cards and kind messages of support for the team prior to last month's match against Derby County. The



Emmer Green boys and girls are pictured here enjoying a recent visit to Elm Park.

ROADSHOW QUIZ

The winners of our Royals Roadshow Quiz will be notified shortly and will receive tickets for a first team match at Elm Park.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday wishes go to the following Junior Royals who will all be blowing out the candles shortly: Anthony Dunn, who's ten today, Liam O'Brien, Craig Bunyan, Jake Atkinson, David Mackay, David Ferris, Jack Collins, Andrew Dillaway and Evan Foley.

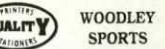
COMING SOON....

Half Term Hot Shots, soccer activity days at a school or park near you. Watch this space for details.

HOW TO REACH US

If you'd like details on any of our activities then please call Community Officer Chris Whalley, or assistants Bob Hussain and Tony Russell, on Reading 560898, or drop a line to Reading FC Community Scheme, Elm Park, Norfolk Road, Reading RG3 2EF.

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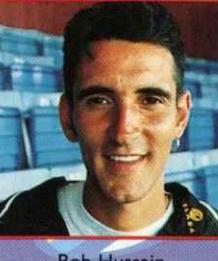
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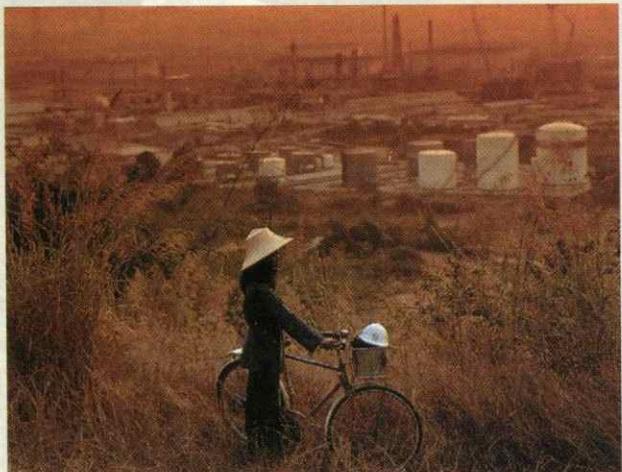
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| Leicester City | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 17,110 | 18,441 v Wolverhampton Wdrs |
| Ipswich Town | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 11,973 | 12,681 v Crystal Palace | |
| Charlton Athletic | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 9,235 | 9,692 v Birmingham City | |
| Norwich City | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 15,154 | 16,739 v Sunderland | |
| Birmingham City | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 19,088 | 19,267 v Norwich City |
| Barnsley | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 9,878 | 11,129 v Birmingham City | |
| Oldham Athletic | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9,555 | 10,259 v Huddersfield Town | |
| West Bromwich Albion | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 14,512 | 14,688 v Charlton Athletic |
| Tranmere Rovers | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 10,476 | 11,880 v Wolverhampton Wdrs |
| Crystal Palace | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13,095 | 14,124 v Charlton Athletic |
| Huddersfield Town | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 11,430 | 12,305 v Birmingham City |
| READING | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9,711 | 10,143 v Millwall |
| Grimsby Town | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4,266 | 4,515 v Portsmouth |
| Wolverhampton Wdrs | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 26,191 | 26,329 v West Bromwich Albion |
| Derby County | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 10,716 | 10,869 v Port Vale |
| LUTON TOWN | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7,296 | 7,848 v Norwich City |
| Southend United | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4,738 | 4,962 v READING |
| Sunderland | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 17,704 | 18,593 v Leicester City |
| Port Vale | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7,947 | 8,202 v Millwall |
| Portsmouth | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9,523 | 10,630 v Southend United |
| Watford | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8,358 | 8,667 v Sheffield United |
| Stoke City | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11,626 | 14,283 v Port Vale |
| Sheffield United | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10,812 | 11,247 v Tranmere Rovers |

READING APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

Up to and including 01.09.95

| LGE | FA | CCLC | GOALS | CAREER | |
|------|----|------|-------|------------------|----------|
| | | | | APPS | GOALS |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | DAVID BASS | 7 (1) |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ANDY BERNAL | 44 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ALAN CAREY | 0 (3) |
| 3(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | MICHAEL GILKES | 342 (40) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | MICK GOODING | 259 (6) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NEVILLE GORDON | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | PAUL HOLSGROVE | 26 (3) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | JEFF HOPKINS | 108 (7) |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | TOM JONES | 56 (8) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | DYLAN KERR | 90 (1) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | JAMES LAMBERT | 17 (31) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | STUART LOVELL | 144 (32) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | KEITH MCPHERSON | 199 (7) |
| 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | MICHAEL MEAKER | 2 (2) |
| 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 1 | TREVOR MORLEY | 2 (1) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | MICK MURPHY | 0 (1) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | LEE NOGAN | 26 (2) |
| 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | PHIL PARKINSON | 124 (6) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | JIMMY QUINN | 135 (7) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | SIMON SHEPPARD | 5 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | DEREK SIMPSON | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | MATTHEW STOWELL | 0 |
| 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | STEVE SWALES | 2 (2) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | MICHAEL THORP | 0 |
| 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | DARIUSZ WDOWCZYK | 47 (2) |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ADRIAN WILLIAMS | 196 (5) |
| 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | MARTIN WILLIAMS | 1 (2) |

*CAREER TOTALS FOR READING INCLUDE LEAGUE, FA CUP, LEAGUE CUP, PLAY-OFFS ONLY.

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Reading Fixtures & Results 1995/96

Division One

| Date | Opponents | Res | Pos | Att |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Sat Aug 12 | Stoke City | 1-1 | — | 11,932 |
| Sat Aug 19 | DERBY COUNTY | 3-2 | 3 | 9,280 |
| Sat Aug 26 | Portsmouth | 0-0 | 6 | 9,917 |
| Tues Aug 29 | MILLWALL | 1-2 | 8 | 10,143 |
| Fri Sept 1 | Southend United | 0-0 | 12 | 4,962 |
| Sat Sept 9 | LUTON TOWN | | | |
| Tues Sept 12 | GRIMSBY TOWN★ | | | |
| Sat Sept 16 | Leicester City | | | |
| Wed Sept 20 | WEST BROMWICH ALBION (CCC2-1) | | | |
| Sat Sept 23 | PORT VALE | | | |
| Sat Sept 30 | Sunderland | | | |
| Tue Oct 3 | West Bromwich Albion (CCC2-2) | | | |
| Sat Oct 7 | West Bromwich Albion | | | |
| Sat Oct 14 | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN★ | | | |
| Sat Oct 21 | Oldham Athletic | | | |
| Wed Oct 25 | Coca-Cola Cup 3 | | | |
| Sat Oct 28 | IPSWICH TOWN | | | |
| Sat Nov 4 | Crystal Palace | | | |
| Sat Nov 11 | BIRMINGHAM CITY | | | |
| Sat Nov 18 | BARNSLEY★ | | | |
| Tue Nov 21 | Charlton Athletic | | | |
| Sat Nov 25 | Sheffield United | | | |
| Wed Nov 29 | Coca-Cola Cup 4 | | | |
| Sat Dec 2 | WEST BROMWICH ALBION | | | |
| Sat Dec 9 | Port Vale | | | |
| Sat Dec 16 | SUNDERLAND | | | |
| Sat Dec 23 | WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS | | | |
| Tue Dec 26 | Watford | | | |
| Sat Dec 30 | Norwich City | | | |
| Mon Jan 1 | TRANMERE ROVERS★ | | | |
| Sat Jan 6 | FA Cup 3 | | | |
| Sat Jan 13 | Derby County | | | |
| Sat Jan 20 | STOKE CITY | | | |
| Sat Jan 27 | FA Cup 4 | | | |
| Sat Feb 3 | PORTSMOUTH | | | |
| Sat Feb 10 | Millwall | | | |
| Sat Feb 17 | Grimsby Town (FAC 5) | | | |
| Tue Feb 20 | SOUTHEND UNITED★ | | | |
| Sat Feb. 24 | LEICESTER CITY | | | |
| Tue Feb 27 | Luton Town | | | |
| Sat Mar 2 | WATFORD | | | |
| Sat Mar 9 | Wolverhampton Wanderers (FAC 6) | | | |
| Sat Mar 16 | NORWICH CITY | | | |
| Sat Mar 23 | Tranmere Rovers | | | |
| Sun Mar 24 | Coca-Cola Cup Final | | | |
| Sat Mar 30 | OLDHAM ATHLETIC★ | | | |
| Tue Apr 2 | Huddersfield Town | | | |
| Sat Apr 6 | Ipswich Town | | | |
| Mon Apr 8 | CRYSTAL PALACE | | | |
| Sat Apr 13 | Barnsley | | | |
| Sat Apr 20 | CHARLTON ATHLETIC | | | |
| Sat Apr 27 | SHEFFIELD UNITED | | | |
| Sat May 4 | Birmingham City | | | |
| Sat May 11 | FA CUP FINAL | | | |



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FIRST Impressions

Editor MAURICE O'BRIEN checks out the rest of Division One

Wolves boss Graham Taylor appears to be under a bit of strain after helping to spend some £30 million of Sir Jack Hayward's readies on players and ground improvements without any tangible return to date. With his critics circling Molineux like peckish vultures, the former England boss came out with some odd quotes recently which appeared to suggest that if he doesn't get Wolves into the Premiership at last then he'll have to go it alone.

He said: "Every year that I remain outside the Premiership is a wasted year out of my career. "I am not a 28 year old who is just starting out again in management at Lincoln City. I have spent the best part of the last decade at the top either in club management with Aston Villa and Watford or in charge of the England team.

"I know what it is all about and the only place for me to really operate is in the Premiership, and that is why I want to get back there."

Meanwhile his side's somewhat tired start to the season has been boosted by the news that Goodyear have extended their sponsorship deal for another three years to the tune of £1 million.

R elegated Norwich City came in for some real stick when it emerged that they've been charging youngsters £2 each - and £1 for reserve games - for the privilege of working as ballboys (or girls) at Carrow Road.

The Canaries say the £900 the scheme will raise covers the cost of cleaning the kids' kit, and buying them club

souvenirs to mark their big moment, but Marcus Armes of the Football Supporters' Association exploded: "It's an outrage and the chairman, Robert Chase, is being a skinflint."

After this latest public display of City's dirty washing a local Norwich newspaper stepped in and agreed to foot the bill. There are surely less controversial ways of finding sponsors aren't there?

Injured Norwich midfield man Ian Crook isn't all that fond of newspapers at the moment after one reported that he'd been sent off - for violent conduct no less - on a day when he wasn't even playing.

Crook was nursing a calf strain and watching from the wings when his side got beaten 3-1 at Birmingham City last month. But when he picked up an evening sports paper on the way home he discovered from the stop press that he'd been red carded after 74 minutes.

Confident in the knowledge that his early bath that day hadn't come at St Andrews he checked it out and discovered that someone, presumably an Ipswich Town fan, had managed to confuse him with an Ian Cooke who plays for Conference side Northwich.

Former West Brom and England striker Jeff Astle - still a familiar face at The Hawthorns - is releasing a record after finding unexpected success as a singer on BBC 2's Fantasy Football programme.

Sheffield United defender Brian Gayle might have thought he'd escape with the minimum of fuss



when he was shown the red card for kicking out at striker Sean McCarthy's head during his side's defeat at Oldham.

The 30 year old issued profuse apologies to McCarthy, the fans and his manager and was cleared of blame by the Oldham players. But a furious Dave Bassett roared: "That won't get him off the hook with me." He promptly fined Gayle £1,500 to go with his three-match ban!

Another name was added to Port Vale's lengthening injury list when manager John Rudge found himself on crutches after snapping the Achilles tendon which ended his own playing career some 20 years back. Rudge has already lost striker Martin Foyle and defender Neil Aspin, replaced by Manchester City full back Andy Hill, to long term injuries and is understandably totally unamused by this latest development.

And just when folk thought everything was going swimmingly at Birmingham City...someone nicked managing director Karren Brady's £50,000 set of wheels. The Porsche 911 vanished from outside her home at Solihull but the Blues' boss wasn't totally out of luck because the boys in blue recovered it later the same day in a nearby garage - unscathed apart from having had the door locks and ignition drilled out.

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Commercial

SUPER ROYALS

There are still a few copies of the fabulous Super Royals magazine available from the club shops, now priced at a bargain £1.

The 64 page magazine features a full record of the 1994-95 season, including that memorable trip to Wembley, as well as player profiles, interviews and colour action pictures. If you haven't yet bought a copy, now's the time to take advantage of the discounted price and look back on the Royals' best-ever year.

LUNCH IS A BOOST

The next Booster Lunch takes place at the Royals Rendezvous on Thursday, September 21 when Thames Valley Enterprise will be joining us to make a short presentation.

The popularity of these lunches continues to grow and of course, apart from getting the chance to make business contacts in different surroundings, there's the opportunity

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to listen to all the behind-the-scenes soccer chat from Elm Park.

IT MIGHT BE YOU!

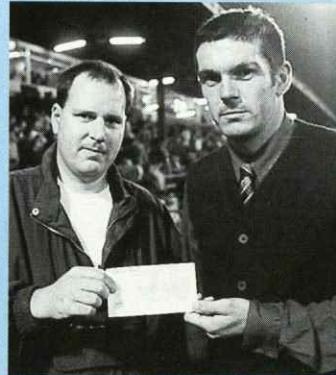
The chances of winning the National Lottery jackpot might be somewhat remote but the odds on winning the top prize in the Royals' own money spinner are considerably more inviting. Remember we increased our jackpot to £5,000 during the summer and that means the agent who sells the big winning ticket collects a £500 nest egg of their own, which makes the effort well worthwhile.

But you can't win if you haven't got a ticket so if you'd like to know how and where to buy yours or you fancy being an agent - a job which helps bring in much needed cash to help support the players' efforts on the pitch - then make a call on Monday.

SMART GAMBLE

Jon Smart was the lucky Golden Gamble winner at the Millwall game and stepped down from his spot on the West Terrace to receive a bumper £390 cheque from Jeff Hopkins.

Don't forget to have your Golden Gamble this afternoon. Just buy a ticket before kick off and, if you're the winner of the half-time draw, you can go onto the pitch and collect your cheque straight away from one of the Royals players.



Ring Promotions Manager Dawn Denton on Reading 464008 and she'll fill you in on all the details. We're always on the lookout for part-time assistance in various areas, so why not find out how you could help the Royals!

JIMMY DINES

Looking for a good nosh with plenty of laughs? Book your place now for our Sportsmen's Dinner at the Berkshire Masonic Centre on Thursday, November 2 when Jimmy Greaves will be the guest speaker. Apart from Greavie's own store of anecdotes and one-liners he'll be backed up by award winning comic Ian "Sludge" Lees. Contact Kevin Girdler or Sue Reid on Reading 507878 to find out how to reserve your table.

Break



SPONSOR A GOAL

Last season's Sponsor a Goal scheme was a great success and we'd like to thank all the fans who participated, particularly Angelo Colao who received a special award for donating the most sponsorship money.

Angelo backed shirt numbers nine and ten, and the sparkling form of Lee and Archie ensured he had to hand over a tidy sum at the end of the season. He received his trophy, with a little help from son Anthony, from chairman John Madejski before the kick off against Millwall.

BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

There is still a chance for companies to put themselves in the spotlight by taking advantage of pitch-side advertising at Elm Park with regular television exposure throughout the season.

Don't miss this fabulous opportunity to link your company's name to the Royals' success story. Call Commercial Manager Kevin Girdler on Reading 507878 and he'll make sure that you get noticed.



MICKY'S BUBBLY DOUBLE

Mick Gooding's tireless display and spectacular 30 yard goal weren't enough to tame Millwall's Lions, but they did ensure he completed his second man-of-the-match 'double' of the season.

Simon Darvall of match sponsors Business Moves presented Micky with the customary champagne in the sponsors' lounge after the game.

And former Elm Park favourite Kevin Bremner, Business Moves' guest for the evening, was only too happy to hand over a second bottle of bubbly on behalf of executive boxholders Pearmain's.

FINAL THOUGHTS

READING F.C.
1871

Supporter BARRY GREENAWAY reveals his post-Wembley therapy

Monday, May 29, 1995. Wembley. Four minutes to go and De Freitas bobbles one past Shaka into the bottom corner. 2-2. The heart was willing but the head was saying it's all over, 40 minutes later it was. They had given everything but were ultimately denied their 'Day in the Sun' at 'The Show' as the American baseballing cognoscenti might say about the Premier League. The 'Big Adventure' - which is how I think most Royals supporters regarded the 1994-95 season - was over and the close-season would seem longer than ever this year.

The close-season. Seventy five days! For most avid supporters a barren desert without even the oasis of a World Cup or a European Championship to slake the thirst. How did you get through it? Especially this year of all years when your heart was broken.

How did you handle it? One part of you said, "I can't wait" but another would say, "I don't think I could face a season ending like that again".

Feelings and emotions were compounded by the nagging doubt that the side would break up - no more Oz, Shaka, Adie,

Archie. Began to feel worse when Oz went. When would the agony end? First step back was watching the play-off final on video. How many of you took that video out when you got back from Wembley and tried to flush it down the toilet? I surprised myself by actually enjoying it - well, most of it. The first half was wonderful to behold but, by the end of the tape, seeing Archie in tears made me feel even worse.

Next step was to find some other ersatz pursuit involving watching eleven players with a ball. For a lot of supporters this means watching Test cricket. A poor substitute, but an added bonus is that you can be bent double with the weight of copious supplies of lager in your ice box as you take your (very expensive) seat by the third-man boundary. But during the lulls your mind goes back...

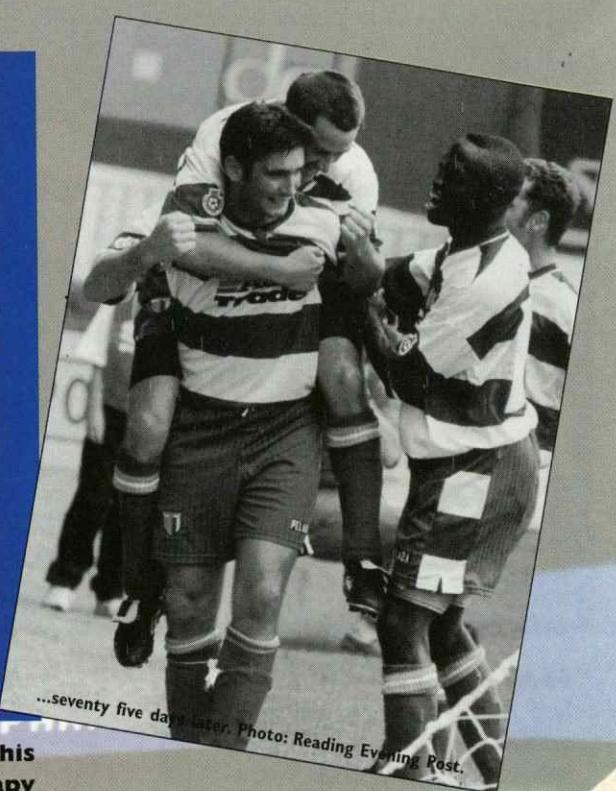
The obligatory holiday came next. Trying to dodge Hurricane Erin as it ripped through Florida can easily focus the mind on other matters, but it was here that the 1995-96 season's juices began to flow.

What was happening back home? Have we signed anybody? Has Archie gone? Will Shaka stay?

Two weeks in an environment devoid of British tabloids and the fact that I was missing the pre-season friendlies for the first time in years all helped to me get back on track. That feeling of something new and wonderful about to start, the anticipation that you had as a kid when Christmas was nearing, was becoming tangible. I couldn't wait for it all to start again.

Saturday, August 12, 1995. Victoria Ground, Stoke. Six minutes to go. Adie stoops to steer a Dariusz cross past keeper Muggleton. 1-1. I go mad. I feel a huge weight fall from my shoulders. The play-offs again? I can't wait.

* Have you any Final Thoughts? Why not have a crack at writing for this page? If you've got something to say and it's legal, decent, relevant and around 450 words in length then send it to The Editor here at Elm Park. The club reserves the right to edit, correct or amend any contribution.



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- 3** MICK GOODING
- 4** DARIUSZ WDOWCZYK
- 5** ADRIAN WILLIAMS
- 6** KEITH MCPHERSON
- 7** MICHAEL GILKES
- 8** MARTIN WILLIAMS
- 9** LEE NOGAN
- 10** STUART LOVELL
- 11** MICHAEL MEAKER
- 12**
- 13**
- 14**



- 1** KELVIN DAVIS
- 2** JULIAN JAMES
- 3** MARVIN JOHNSON
- 4** STEVE DAVIS
- 5** GRAHAM ALEXANDER
- 6** DAVID OLDFIELD
- 7** DWIGHT MARSHALL
- 8** BONTCHO GUENTCHEV
- 9** JOHN TAYLOR
- 10** GAVIN JOHNSON
- 11** RICHARD HARVEY
- 12**
- 13**
- 14**



LUTON Town

NEXT HOME GAMES

Endsleigh League Division One
Tuesday, September 12, 1995

GRIMSBY TOWN

Kick off 7.45 p.m.

Southern Junior Floodlit Cup
(Round One)

Thursday, September 14, 1995

NORWICH CITY

Kick off 7.30 pm

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B.L. Baker
(Yellow)



M.J. North
(Red & Yellow)

Reserve official: M. Hopson

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