

THE PIRATE

VOL. 1/2



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF BRISTOL ROVERS F. C. 1996/97

ANDY COLLETT

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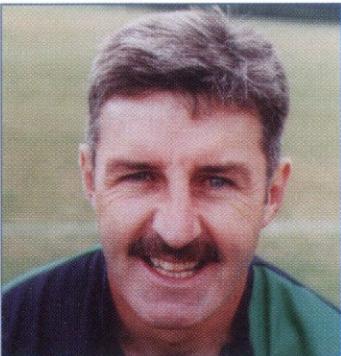




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G

ood evening and welcome to our second game at The Memorial Ground. Although Saturday's result was disappointing I felt the occasion was truly wonderful. As an adopted "Bristolian", I was extremely proud to be involved in the return to Bristol. The scenes of celebration when "Arch" scored will live with me forever. All things considered, I feel we have made a solid start to the League campaign. Consistency of performance and belief in ourselves are two crucial factors we must develop.

The situation going into tonight's game is obviously difficult. A three goal deficit is not irretrievable. I remember Ashton Gate a few years ago when we performed football's version of a "Houdini

Twentyman Talks

Act." Although he won't be playing tonight an extra welcome to Gary Waddock. "Wadds" was an excellent servant of this club and is a model professional footballer. I am thoroughly enjoying my new "life" at Rovers. Working alongside Ollie is everything I expected it to be. Terry Connor and Tony Gill are also invaluable members of the backroom staff. Getting back into the sharp humoured world of pro-football is an equally enjoyable aspect of the job. Let me cite an example of the Youth Trainees, Andy Lloyd, was recently re-stocking the supply of training balls. Asked how many he required Andy said "Give me an even number, I'll have eleven!!!" Talking of the Youth Team, congratulations to Tony Gill and the boys on their 5-0 win in the FA Youth Cup, against Paulton. It was a very impressive performance.

I will finish on the most important people in the game - the fans. I have already experienced many things that have reminded me of

the special type of person who supports Bristol Rovers. Here are two examples, firstly the way back from Preston, the team bus stopped at the Frankley services, on the M5. As I was talking to some 'Gas Heads' a Preston fan came off one of the coaches - Preston North End shirt and all! He had a chat with me about my tragic years at Deepdale before getting back amongst the Rovers fans! By the way he was making an early departure for a game at Plymouth!! Well done the Gas.

Secondly "The Broom Army." For hundreds of fans to rally round and ensure the game against Stockport went ahead was magnificent. It was an enormous act by people who care passionately about our football club. Long may this depth of feeling prevail. Thanks once again to everyone for making Ollie and I as welcome on our return. Enjoy tonight's game and let's make it a night to remember. "Come on you Blues"

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Helpline

A very BIG welcome to all now that we are back in Bristol. There has been much written about Rovers exile in Bath for the last 10 years but who could argue with the fact that the Gas belong in Bristol. We now have a breathing space to sort out our own ground perhaps with our new landlords on Severnside. All true Rovers supporters know that local residents worries will soon disappear just as they did at Twerton and I'm sure we can all look forward to seeing Rovers become THE team in Bristol again. On the subject of residents worries, a season ticket holder at the Memorial Ground was looking forward to Rovers return as he had not ventured to see them at Twerton even though he was a regular at Eastville. What he couldn't understand was that if he comes to see his favourite football team he would not. All Rovers fans will be delighted to be back in Bristol.

We have to keep looking ahead to the day we can move to a purpose-built stadium that will be "OURS." In the meantime Helpline will continue to provide full support to Bristol Rovers.

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Welcome to Luton Town



The Hatters have a history of great success in tonight's competition, but, in recent years, it has been all gloom and despondency. With a three-goal lead from the first leg at Kenilworth Road, the fans may have reason to recall the glory days.

It was while the sponsorship was in the custody of pools giants Littlewoods that Luton enjoyed the ultimate triumph. The underdogs beat Arsenal 3-2 with a last-minute winner at Wembley to lift the 1987/88 trophy, and, would you believe twelve months later, they were there again. This time, Nottingham Forest proved too strong and they went down 1-3.

With the Coca-Cola name on the League Cup, Town's fortunes have plummeted - until two weeks ago!

No-one in the visiting camp will thank me for reminding them of the list of lower division clubs that have dumped them out of the Coca-Cola Cup at the first attempt for as many as five consecutive seasons. It was Bournemouth last year, no surprise to us, then Fulham, Cambridge United, Plymouth and Birmingham City who have conquered over two legs.

After finishing the last campaign with just two wins from their final seventeen fixtures, the Hatters are themselves a lower division outfit now, and with it perhaps a change of Coca-Cola fortunes? Their progress will surely be assured if giant keeper Ian Fever lives up to his "Player of the Year" form from last season.

Ian arrived at Luton in September on loan from West Ham and signed permanently in December. It was a remarkable piece of transfer business by Luton. Within the space of three months, they had sold one huge American keeper, six feet five in. Juergen Sommer to QPR, and replaced him, for a similar fee, with



Mitchell Thomas

Davis, Marvin Johnson and Northern Ireland international Darren Patterson.

Davis was an apprentice at Southampton which provided the opportunity to hone his defensive skills on the training ground against Alan Shearer. He played half-a-dozen games for the Saints and more on loan to Burnley, then Notts County. Burnley were impressed with the sampler and made him an offer in 1991 which immediately resulted in regular first team soccer. The signing was both confusing and successful; confusing because he replaced another Steve Davis at Turf Moor, who had just moved on to

another even taller American. At the final reckoning, they were £20,000 in pocket and had two extra inches of goalkeeper.

At West Ham, Ian failed to play a first team game as understudy to Miklosko but did manage his league debut on loan at Peterborough. He was spotted by West Ham playing in Belgium but was actually signed from Los Angeles Salsa. Teenager Kelvin Davis is an England Under-21 player, who has already made twenty, first team appearances, and will keep the pressure on the big American for the number one jersey.

Full-backs are likely to be Julian James and Mitchell Thomas.

Now in his mid-twenties, James was a trainee who made his debut in 1988 and, over two hundred games later, can claim to be the established right-back. Thomas was also a Luton apprentice, but made his bow five years earlier and, by the time Julian James made the first team, was enjoying his second season at Tottenham. He moved to West Ham in 1991 and returned to his home town two years later.

Centre-back places are likely to be contested between Steve



Luton Town 1996/97

(from left to right) **Back Row:** Jamie Woodsford, Bontcho Guentchev, Kim Grant, Paul McLaren, Darren Patterson, Gary Simpson, John Taylor, Ben Chenery
Middle Row: Clive Goodyear (physio), David Oldfield, Des Linton, Marvin Johnson, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Graham Alexander, Aaron Skelton, Trevor Peake (reserve team player/coach)
Front Row: Julian James, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis (captain), Lannie Lawrence (manager), David Kohler (chairman), Wayne Turner (first team coach), Gary Waddock, Dwight Marshall, Richard Harvey

Barnsley, and successful, because Barnsley were crowned Fourth Division Champions in his first season. By the time Luton showed interest in the commanding centre-half, Steve had played over one-hundred games in the claret and blue and was the club captain.

Johnson is a home grown player able to cover the left-back position and midfield when required. He made his debut in 1988 and has amassed over 200 appearances for the Hatters. Marvin is one day older than Steve Davis so the end of October has a special significance for the Luton defence.

Patterson also shares an October birthday, but he is one year younger than his colleagues. He was a West Brom trainee who moved north to Wigan for three years of League action, before the Crystal Palace cheque book lured him to the Capital. Two years of reserve team football followed then, oddly, promotion to the Premier League opened the door to the first team and Darren made thirty-two appearances before moving to Luton in August, 1995.

Of the two ex-Rovers in the Lennie Lawrence squad, midfielder Gary Waddock is the more likely selection providing his two yellow cards dismissal in the

first leg do not take effect. Striker John Taylor seems to be out of favour. He was close to a move to Lincoln City last month that would have re-united him with his old manager at Cambridge, John Beck, but the deal broke down.

We all know Gary as one of the most whole hearted players in the league and no-one at Rovers would be surprised to learn that he was awarded the Luton Players' Player of the Year Trophy last season. He was transferred from us in December, 1994 after 78 appearances and has passed that total with his new club.

Joining Gary in midfield should be Tony Thorpe, Ceri Hughes and Graham Alexander although David Oldfield may be preferred in a deeper role.

Tony Thorpe has set a cracking pace to his season. On opening day, he ran on to a superb Waddock pass, tricked his way around a Burnley defender and smacked a twenty yarder home. Three days later, he coolly sent Andy Collett the wrong way from the penalty spot to put his side one up just before half-time in the first leg. The left-sided player was recruited from the Leicester City junior set up using David Pleats' knowledge of his previous club's rising stars.

Until the start of this season, Tony has made as many substitute as starting appearances, thirty of each. So, now in the side from the outset, this could be his make, or, break campaign.

Hughes is a full Welsh International, who has been plagued by injuries over recent years, but still attracts the scouts. Naturally two-footed, his aggressive attacking style has reaped the reward of fourteen goals from over one hundred appearances since progressing through the junior ranks.

Alexander was last season's short-lived manager Terry Westley's first signing. He was a Scunthorpe United trainee and had earned quite a reputation for explosive shooting from the right side but, since his move to Luton, the goals seem to have dried up.

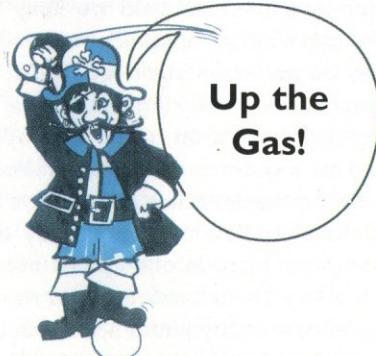
Oldfield has been recycled by the Hatters, having returned to his first club after six years away. He joined Manchester City in 1989 but failed to secure a regular place and moved across country to Leicester City after only ten months. David helped them into the Premiership in 1994 although he did not play in the decisive Wembley play-off. New recruit from Bradford City Paul Showler will also compete for a midfield place.

Ex-Plymouth striker Dwight Marshall is still on the recovery track from a broken leg so the responsibility up front rests heavily on Kim Grant.

Kim was a deadline day signing from Charlton, who raised hopes of survival last season with three goals in four games but it proved too little too late. He made his international debut for Ghana in the summer playing against Egypt and Denmark.

The squad is completed by defender Des Linton signed from Leicester in 1991 and Ben Chenery who made his debut at Twerton in the F. A. Cup last year.

Bob Ford



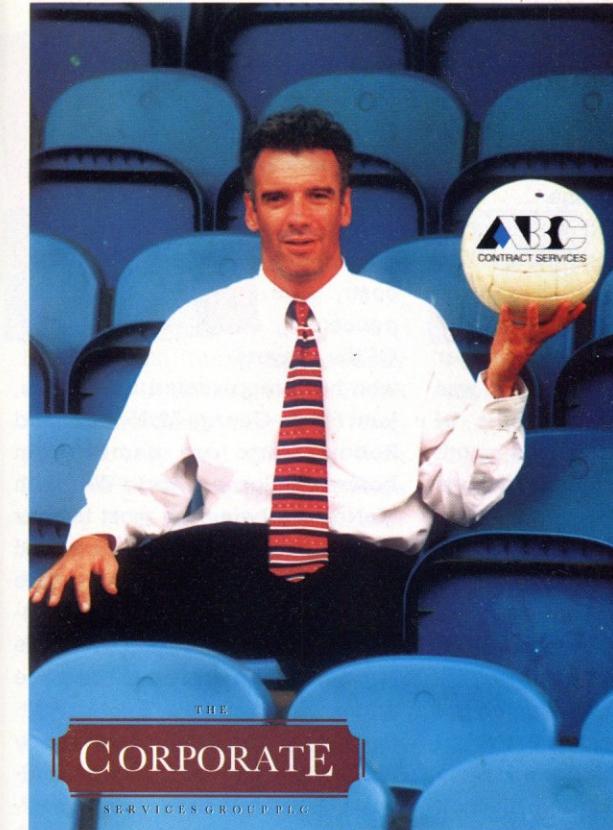
Star Man
Bontcho Guentchev

On July, thirteenth 1994 in New York City, Italy were leading the World Cup semi-final 2-1 with ten minutes remaining. The country, whose players names all end with V, otherwise known as Bulgaria, made a last ditch attempt to save the match. Bontcho Guentchev, scorer of a vital penalty shoot-out goal against Mexico eight days earlier, was dispatched from the bench. Alas it proved too late, but what an experience to relate on his return to Ipswich Town. The striker, who prefers to drift wide rather than take the direct route, was signed from Sporting Lisbon in December, 1992. He could never establish a regular place with the Suffolk side, and was released in the expectation that his limited appearances would not support a work permit extension. However, his wife's employment at the Bulgarian Embassy avoided that problem and he signed for Luton on a free transfer in July last year.

The World Cup striker seemed unable to score from open play until the New Year when he hit a purple patch that hauled the Hatters temporarily out of the relegation places.

First, he swept the ball home from a Thorpe cross against Southend in a 3-1 win, then a penalty at Norwich was enough for another maximum. Luton won five games out of six and Bontcho scored in four of them in a run that made him the seasons joint top league marksman with nine goals.

For Euro '96, he was again in the Bulgarian squad but made only one brief substitute appearance against Romania as his country fell at the group stage relying too heavily for goals from Stoitchkov. In Division Two, our star man must surely be a major threat, although he has already squandered a penalty chance on the opening day, and is usually selected as a substitute.



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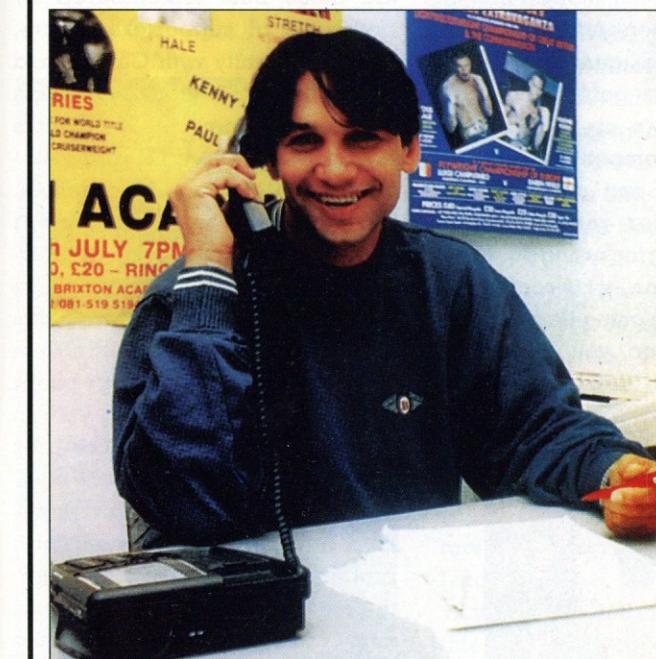
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Back in time

Elsewhere in tonight's programme, Mike Jay reflects on Rovers record in the Football League Cup and refers to the only previous time we have met Luton Town in the competition, a second round tie, on Wednesday, September 11, 1974.

This gives me the opportunity to look back on that evenings match programme and mention a handful of players who have turned out for both clubs.

The end of the 1973/74 campaign had seen Rovers finishing runners up to Third Division champions Oldham Athletic and Luton finishing behind runaway Second Division champions, Middlesbrough. Neither side had begun their season in new surroundings particularly well. Rovers had beaten Plymouth Argyle 1-0 in a first round replay at Home Park after a goalless draw at Eastville. Rovers drew their first two league outings that season against Notts County and Sheffield Wednesday before beating Hull City 2-0. However, the Saturday before the match at Kenilworth Road, Rovers suffered a heavy 5-1 defeat at Sunderland.

Luton, exempt from the first round of the competition, had opened the season with defeats at the hands of Liverpool and West Ham, followed by three consecutive draws against Middlesbrough, West Ham and Queens Park Rangers.

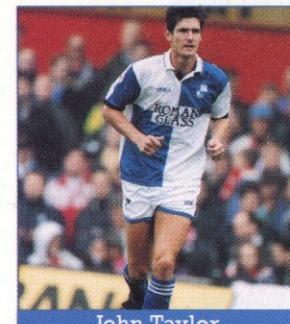
The programme for the cup tie was typical of many of the publications of that era, but, rather disappointing, with little substantial reading matter. The cover is in the club's colours of Orange and Navy, the

print throughout the programme is in blue and even the black and white pictures have a navy hue.

On the Luton board of directors was the famous comedian Eric Morecambe and the manager was the popular Harry Haslem. Chief coach was Roy McCrohan, a former Rovers player, whose assistant was David Pleat, now manager of Sheffield Wednesday, and youth team coach Danny Bergara who is better known as Stockport County's manager from 1989 to 1995.

Harry Haslem's opening notes were symptomatic of the problem within the game during the 1970's, hooliganism amongst fans and the need to stamp out violence on the terraces. Two pages of statistical information were followed by a player profile on Gordon Hindson and the centre spread on Rovers, included a team photo and a detailed run-down on our League Cup record, which showed that we had won nineteen and drawn ten of the forty-three games we had played up to that point. Compare it with Mike Jay's up-to-date ourselves in this competition!

Reserve news and club talk followed, together with a double page of photos, including two shots of Adrian Alston, who scored the only goal of the game that evening. In the club shop, you could have brought a club scarf with 'More-



John Taylor
Played at Rovers & Luton

cambe's Marauders' printed on it, for just sixty-five pence. The sixteen page programme cost ten pence.

Of the players who have represented both clubs, John Black, George McNestery and Robert Carte are names from before the Second World War, with McNestery being the most famous of the particular trio, he scored twenty-six goals in sixty-nine League appearances for the Hatters and forty-two goals in one hundred and thirteen League games for Rovers.

Since the War, Doug Baldie, Roy McCrohan and goalkeeper Malcolm Dalrymple have been associated with both clubs, although three other players, Steve White, Gary Waddock and John Taylor, are those best remembered by both sets of supporters. White, who is currently with Cardiff, had two spells with both clubs, though his second stint at Kenilworth Road, on loan from Charlton Athletic, took in only four games. Waddock and Taylor are, at the time of writing still with the Hatters, though Taylor may well have been transferred before this evening, as there was talk of him joining Lincoln City a few weeks back. His goal ratio of forty-four in ninety-five league games for Rovers is good by anyone's standards. Gary Waddock was a popular figure at Rovers, though not a prolific goalscorer, (one in seventy-one league appearances) and many will be disappointed that the red card he received in the first leg means he will be missing tonight.

Keith Brookman



4th September 1899

Bert Young, an exciting outside-left with Rovers in the 1930's, was born on this day in Liverpool. Young had already appeared in League football with Aberdare Athletic, Brentford, Newport County and Queen's Park Rangers before signing for Rovers in July 1930 for the quaint transfer fee of £10. He scored eleven goals for Rovers in seventy-five League games before joining Swindon Town in 1932. After Rovers had adopted their distinctive colours, Bert Young was in fact the first Pirate to score a League goal in a blue-and-white quartered shirt. Young retired to his native Liverpool and died there in May 1976.

4th September 1920

Millwall became the first side to do the double over Rovers, who suffered their first home defeat in the League on this day. There was a crowd of 16,000 at Eastville and, although George Chance scored for Rovers, Jimmy Broad's two second-half goals gave Millwall victory. Broad had also scored Millwall's second goal in their victory over Rovers at The Den seven days earlier. Today's visitors Luton won 2-0 at home to Swindon Town, Hoar and Mathieson scoring, to avenge a 9-1 defeat in Wiltshire seven days earlier.

4th September 1971

A crowd of 8,463 at Eastville saw Rovers record their biggest home win for over seven years. Captain Brian Godfrey put Rovers ahead in the first minute and, after only twenty-five minutes, the Pirates had built up an astonishing 5-0 lead over Bradford City. The visitors pulled a goal back before half-time through Colin Hall, but Rovers eventually won 7-1, with Harold Jarman and Bobby Jones scoring twice each. On the same day, Luton Town played a goalless draw with Orient in a Second Division game at Brisbane Road.



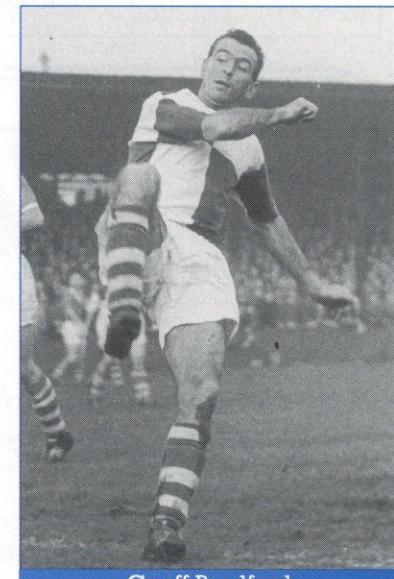
Harold Jarman
Two goals in 1971

On this day



Geoff Bradford's goalscoring feats were well-known in Bristol and feared around the country. In September 1954, he managed to score two League hat-tricks in forty-eight hours. On this day, he scored three goals and Peter Hooper one, in a 4-1 victory over Derby County, whose reply was a penalty from wing-half Jack Parry.

Two days later, a crowd of over 25,000 at Eastville was to see him score all the goals as Rovers defeated Liverpool 3-0 in a Second Division game. Five weeks later, he scored twice against today's visitors Luton Town, but it was to be Luton's season. After a 1-0 home victory over Birmingham City on this day, the Hatters were to finish second in Division Two and earn promotion to the First Division.



Geoff Bradford
Hat-trick in 1954



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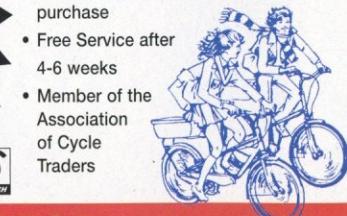
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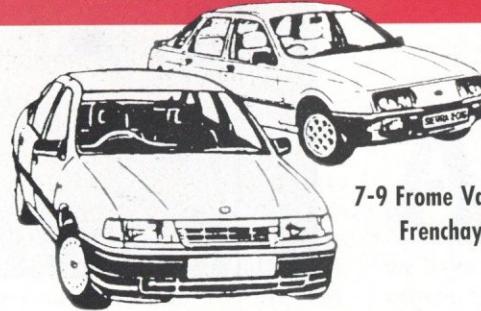
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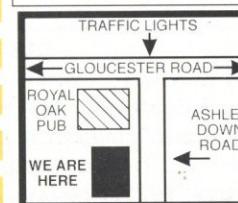
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Captain's Notes

W

e will be going for it when we play Luton tonight because we would love to have another one of those big night that we had last season.

We really enjoyed playing West Ham last year. There was no pressure on us and it was a good game for the supporters and the players, and it was great for us to go to a big ground like Upton Park.

It would be great to play at somewhere like that again, but we have got to do it here first.

At 3-0 down, a lot of people may have written us off and said we were out of it but, if we can keep it tight, knock one in early and put them under pressure, I think we have got every chance.

Luton are not playing well at the moment - and they will be without Gary Waddock as well.

So tonight has got to be all-or-nothing and I can promise you a thriller if we can get back into it.

They are a decent side and, from our point of view, we need a good result.

I suppose the fans would like us to put more on them than Bristol City did last week when they won 5-0.

Playing at the Memorial Ground for the first time on Saturday was fantastic, but it wouldn't have mattered if we had to have our homecoming tonight. If this was the first game, it could have brought that little bit of something we needed.

But we are at home now and we have just got to get at them.



Supporter's News

T

tonight sees the 'Gas' facing a very difficult task if further progress is to be made in the first football cup competition to be played at the Memorial Ground. Three nil down from the first leg, the team will need all your support if the 'Hatters' are to overcome but, if they can score three then I'm sure we can as well so get behind the team on another history-making night and let's see what's possible!

A

s the 1995/96 BRSC presentations were held after the last game of the season, we have been unable up to now to advise you of the winner of the Steve Larkins Memorial Shield for Clubman of the Year. We are pleased therefore to publish below a photo of yours truly handing over the trophy to Viv Vernon. Viv has been involved in the fund-raising side of the club for over thirty years, both by selling our lottery tickets and by acting as a collector covering an area from the Forest of Dean right down to the depths of Somerset! Viv was forced to give

All our members and anyone who has called into one of the Club shops since the start of the season will either have received or at least seen our Forecast Tickets. Steve Burns calls on all 'mystic Gasheads' to predict Rovers' final league position, points total and average home attendance. To play you simply fill in your estimate of these important statistics on a ticket available from the Supporters Club, pay a pound and hand or post the ticket back in to us- it's as easy as that. The tickets must be handed-in by next Saturday week, 14th September. Fifty per cent of the money raised will go into the prize money and the rest of course ends up eventually with the Rovers. So, the more that enter, the greater the prizes will amount to when all has been collected in. It will be an interesting exercise to see what you think of the Club's prospects in our first season back in Bristol!

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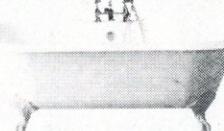
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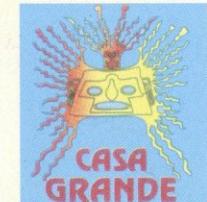
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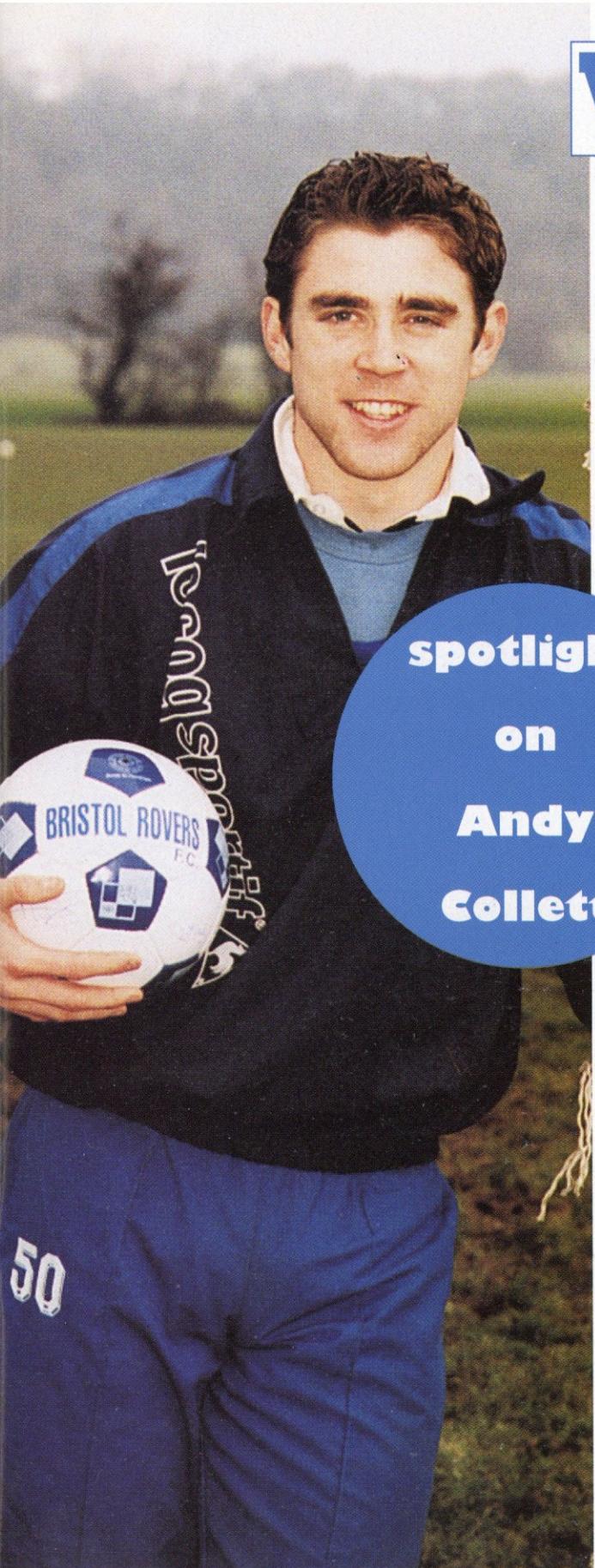
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What an atmosphere!



Watch your back when clown prince Andy Collett is around. The Rovers goalkeeper is part of the club's crazy gang but has now established himself as the main man in possession of the number one jersey, having taken it over from Brian Parkin last season.

Age: 22

Height: Five feet 11 inches

Weight: Twelve stone

Girlfriend: Yes. Kerry

Previous clubs: Middlesbrough

Appearances for Rovers: "Thirty-three games, I think."

When did you join Rovers?: "I joined in March last year on the transfer deadline. That was for £50,000 pounds, which was spread over £20,000 pounds down payment, with £15,000 pounds after so many appearances and another £15,000 pounds after some more. I came on loan for a monthly when I was with Middlesbrough and I enjoyed it down here. It was a lot different to 'Borough

What has been your favourite match with Rovers?: "I can't remember too many games but I do remember the one we played against Peterborough in the Auto Windscreens Shield where we were under a lot of pressure and just held out to win."

Any other favourite moments?:

"Yeah. When we played against Crewe and I pulled off a good save. Somebody in the crowd behind me shouted 'Well done Colly. Robson should never have sold you'."

And what about Rovers at Wembley?: "Going there was a great experience but it would have been better if I had played and we would have won, but it was a great day out and I was lucky because many people don't get the chance to go there."

"How did you enjoy your first Bristol derby? The first match last season, when we won 2-0, I was injured and watched it from the bank. It was brilliant, the atmosphere was fantastic. But I didn't like the other game at Twerton Park. It was a bad game to play in, and I was disappointed with the way I played."

Predictions for this season: "I don't like to make too many predictions but I would hope - expect - us to be in the top half of the table but I wouldn't like to put a position on it. There are a lot of decent teams and it's going to be a hard season."

Gary Baker

We're with 'The Gas'

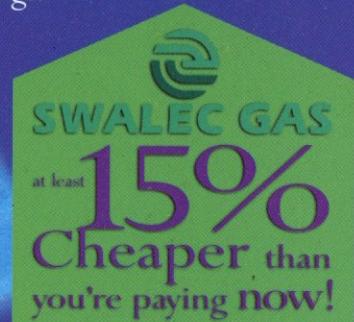
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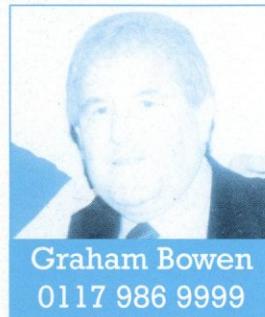
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Jonathan Fidkin at the Commercial Department.

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

A. P. D'Urso (Billericay)

Andrew was appointed to the national list of referees for the 1994-95 season. He refereed the F. A. Trophy quarter final in March 1995. He is interested in all sports particularly football, golf and squash. His other interests include spending time with his family, travel and listening to music

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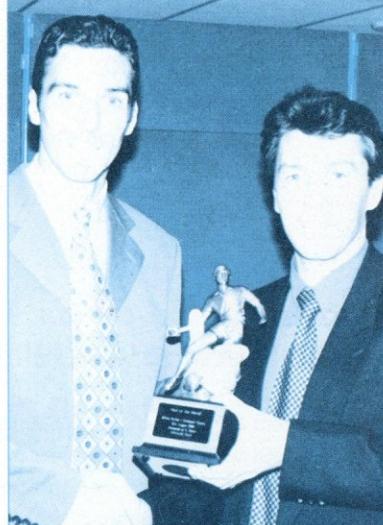
Yellow Flag

B L Baker (Warminster)

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Man of the Match for the Peterborough game on 17th August - Andy Collett, with the match sponsors East Anglian Gas (from left to right) top row: Judy Harris, Mike Harris, Derek Payne, Peter Kelly, Viv Payne, top row: Lilian Payne, Andy Collett, Tom Downes



Andy Tillson receiving the man of the match award from SWALEC Gas manager Graham Parry



ANDY COLLETT



LEE MARTIN



BILLY CLARK



ANDY TILLSON
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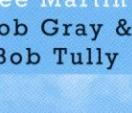

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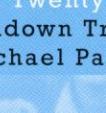

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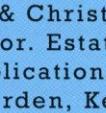

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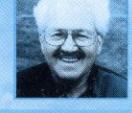

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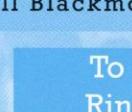

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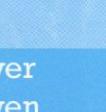

Tony Gill

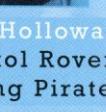

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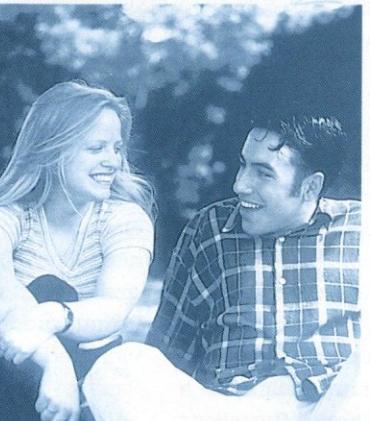
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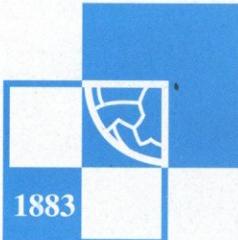
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RESERVE AND YOUTH TEAM NEWS



Terry Connor

Teenage Rovers

What is the Reserve team? If your name is Barry Fry, current supremo at Peterborough United, this is a mega-stupid question. After all, at Barnet, Southend and most recently at Birmingham City the man who signs whole new teams at the drop of a hat realises that the reserve team is simply a place to play last weeks first team. What is the connection between the Youth team and the Reserve team? If you are Terry Connor, coach and reserve team boss at Rovers the answer is simple and plain. They are inextricably linked. Unlike Uncle Barry who ditched the Youth team at



First Year Trainees

Who will be the first 'New Recruit' to break into the Reserve team? Back Row: Chris Edwards, James French, Tony Court, MArk Smith, Rob Claridge

Front Row: Tony Gill, Kevin Coles, Danny White, Luke Basford, Andy Lloyd, Roy Dolling

Birmingham, (after all he had forty-five pros) most sides need the reserves to bring on future players. In the coming season the reserve team will inevitably contain a plentiful opportunity to impress for the current crop of youngsters at the club. The "Old Heads" in the second string will be hard to find. Regular reserves last season included Ian McLean, Ian Wright, Paul Tovey, Martin Paul, Mike Davis and Brian Parkin. The John Ward clearout at the end of the season means it is possible that this year anyone over twenty-one could be considered half-way to their pension.

Can any regular supporter and follower of the reserves predict at this stage the name of the player who will score the most goals this season or the players who will make over twenty full appearances?



Rangers Triumphant

Did you notice that the Avon Insurance Combination league was won last season by Queens Park Rangers? In that team, Steve Parmenter played twenty-two times and scored eight goals, while Matt Lockwood scored once in twenty-three games. Graeme Power appeared nineteen times alongside a certain Steve Yates who, to great surprise, was on the scoresheet once in his nine appearances.

Several other players with Bristol connections also could be seen in this successful team. These include:

Sieb Dykstra 7 games

Greg Goodridge 25 games 5 gls

Ian Holloway 3 games

Gary Penrice 6 games 3 gls

Perhaps the clear out we witnessed at Rovers by John Ward over the Summer was matched by the QPR boss, Ray Wilkins. With good luck the experience gained by Rovers' four quality imports from Loftus Road will prove to be of benefit to both the first and second teams at the club this year.

Vialli, Gullit and the rest

The first fixture of the Reserves season against the Premiership's most cosmopolitan side, Chelsea, is tomorrow night, Thursday 5th September at Twerton Park. Kick Off is 7.30 pm.

Massive and Superb Tottenham Hotspur 2 Bristol Rovers 0

Spurs training ground pitch was described as "immaculate, huge, perfect and ideal for a controlled passing game." Rovers trainees adapted well to the splendid playing surface and matched the home side in many important respects. Justin Brown, in midfield, had his best game for Rovers. Although the trainees began brightly and briskly they had an uphill battle from the third minute onwards when an elementary defensive error presented the Premiership outfit with the lead. With a huge pitch the full-back pairing of Chris Edwards and Luke Basford were able to demonstrate their skill and composure on the ball. Tottenham scored their second goal in the sixty-fifth minute when a forward run by a midfield player and a fortunate ricochet ended the scoring.

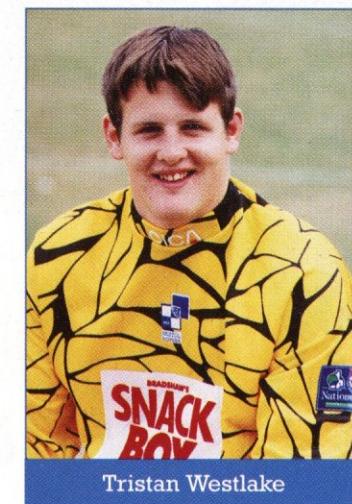
The White Hart Lane side possessed the cutting edge that produces results, while Rovers had several shots, but no clear-cut chances. Tony Gill, Youth Team Coach, brought on all three substitutes for the second consecutive match. Tony said "I was pleased with the way the players adapted their play to suit the wide open spaces but disappointed that an even game ends up with us not threatening their goal enough."

Team: Tony Court, Chris Edwards, Mark Smith, Nick Delong, Luke Basford, Jon Sanderson, Lee Zabek, Justin Brown, Andy Lloyd, James Davey, James French. Subs: Simon Teague for James Davey, Danny White for Andy

Lloyd and Jon White for John Sanderson.

In Profile Tristan Westlake

A fourteen-month spell of fighting injury and recovering from operations is soon to be behind Tristan Westlake, if all goes to plan. Having picked up a training injury in July 1995 the youth team goalkeeper of considerable promise may



Tristan Westlake

finally be on his way back. Two operations on the tendon and kneecap have deprived Bristol Rovers of a match saving expert for all bar a short spell last Autumn. In that short period and previously as a schoolboy one metre ninety-one centimetres tall, Tristan, had shown the potential to suggest he had a rosy future in front of him. At present, he is just simply relishing the prospect of returning to playing after such a long time sidelined.

A former pupil of St. Philips Junior and Ralph Allen School in Bath, Tristan is a Bath born and bred player who used to play for Odd Down AFC. In his career to date, he has been fortunate to receive



Tony Gill

advice and guidance from a range of people which include Paul Glover, Roy Dolling, Mike Wilkins, Tony Gill and most of all, his family. Having spent so long around hospitals, gyms and rehabilitation programmes it comes as no real surprise that his second choice career is as a physio. If his recovery is complete and successful you will hear a great deal more of Tristan Westlake.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO '96-'97 FIXTURES

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT
17 Aug.	Luton Town	H 1-4
24 Aug.	Tottenham	A 0-2
28 Aug.	Paulton Rovers	H
31 Aug.	Oxford	H
7 Sep.	Swindon Town	A
14 Sep.	Chelsea (Cup)	H
21 Sep.	Wimbledon	H
28 Sep.	Wycombe Wanderers	A
5 Oct.	Barnet	H
12 Oct.	AFC Bournemouth	A
26 Oct.	Brighton & Hove	H
2 Nov.	Brentford	A
9 Nov.	Bristol City	H
16 Nov.	Crystal Palace	A
30 Nov.	Reading	A
7 Dec.	Colchester	H
14 Dec.	Southampton	A
21 Dec.	Luton Town	A
4 Jan.	Southampton	H
11 Jan.	Oxford	A
18 Jan.	Swindon Town	H
25 Jan.	Wimbledon	A
1 Feb.	Tottenham	H
8 Feb.	Wycombe Wanderers	H
15 Feb.	Barnet	A
22 Feb.	AFC Bournemouth	H
1 Mar.	Brighton & Hove	A
8 Mar.	Brentford	H
15 Mar.	Crystal Palace	H
22 Mar.	Bristol City	A
5 Apr.	Reading	H
12 Apr.	Colchester	A



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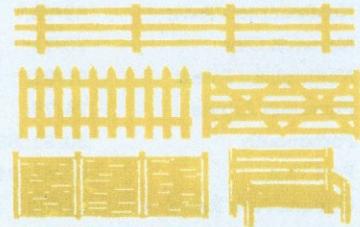
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Bristol Rovers in the League/Milk/ Littlewoods/Rumbelows/Coca-Cola Cup 1960-95

Rovers have competed in the league cup since it commenced thirty-six years ago in the 1960/61 season. Remarkably, Rovers took part in the historic first-ever match in the competition when they kicked-off against Fulham at 7.15pm at Eastville Stadium on Monday September 26, 1961. The competition's first-ever goal was scored by Fulham's Maurice Cook, but he finished on the losing side as Rovers triumphed 2-1 with goals from Geoff Bradford and Harold Jarman. If supporters have retained their copy of the programme for the match it is now much sought after by collectors and would probably fetch around £15.

Rovers have played tonight's opponents Luton Town in the league cup once before during the 1974/75 season. This was in fact Rovers first season back in the second division after an absence of twelve years.

The two teams who played at Kenilworth Road in that second round tie on September 11, 1974 were:-

Rovers: Eadie, Jacobs, Parsons, Aitken, Taylor, Prince, Stephens, Stanton, Warboys, Bannister and Fearnley.

Sub: Rudge for Parsons.

Luton: Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Garner, Ryan John, Hindson, Husband, Butlin, West and Alston.

Luton's Australian international forward Adrian Alston scored the games only goal before an attendance of 10,073.

Rovers have to date played forty-four different clubs in the league cup competition. Their best seasons in the competition were in 1970/71 and 1971/72, when they reached the fifth round against Aston Villa and Stoke City, both respective finalists those years.

Rovers have played Cardiff City the most times (5) followed by Bournemouth (4). The complete list is as follows:-

Club	Seasons		Newport County	85/86;
Arsenal	84/85;		Northampton Town	81/82;
Aston Villa	70/71;		Norwich City	70/71;
Birmingham City	70/71;		Nottingham Forest	91/92;
Blackburn Rovers	61/62;		Plymouth Argyle	74/75;
Bournemouth	69/70, 73/74, 83/94, 88/89;		Portsmouth	80/81; 89/90;
Brighton & Hove Albion	70/71, 72/73, 82/83;		Port Vale	62/63, 94/95;
Bristol City	91/92;		Queens Park Rangers	71/72;
Bury	62/63;		Reading	60/61, 67/68; 86/87;
Cardiff City	62/63, 66/67, 72/73, 75/76, 76/77;		Rotherham United	60/61;
Charlton Athletic	71/72		Shrewsbury Town	63/64;
Chesterfield	64/65;		Southampton	75/76;
Crewe Alexandra	81/82;		Stoke City	71/72;
Crystal Palace	63/64;		Sunderland	71/72;
Exeter City	71/72; 80/81;		Swansea City	68/69, 82/83;
Fulham	60/61;		Swindon Town	84/85;
Gillingham	63/64, 95/96;		Torquay United	79/80, 82/83, 90/91;
Hartlepool United	61/62;		Walsall	77/78;
Hereford United	78/79;		West Ham United	65/66, 95/96;
Luton Town	74/75;		West Bromwich Albion	93/94;
Manchester City	92/93;		Wolverhampton	
Manchester United	72/73;		Wanderers	72/73;
Newcastle United	70/71, 75/76;		York City	80/81;

Rovers complete playing record in the competition is:-

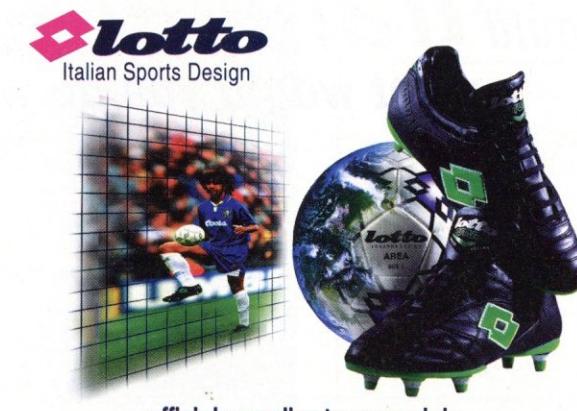
	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against
Home	54	24	15	15	85	68
Away	52	11	11	30	51	93
Total	106	35	26	45	136	161

Mike Jay

Letters Page

From the next Pirate onwards we would like to run a letters page. All letters expressing views you feel would be of interest to Pirate readers can be addressed to:

The Editor, The Pirate, 151 Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4HH



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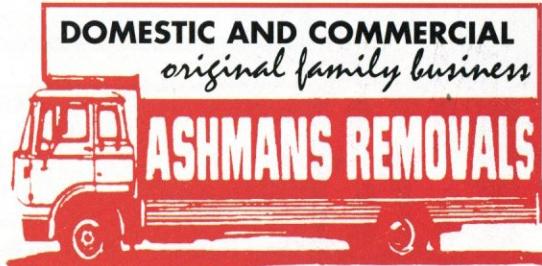
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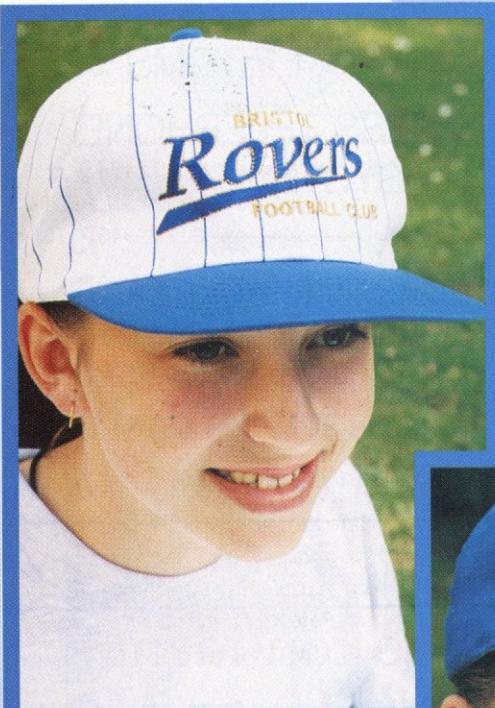
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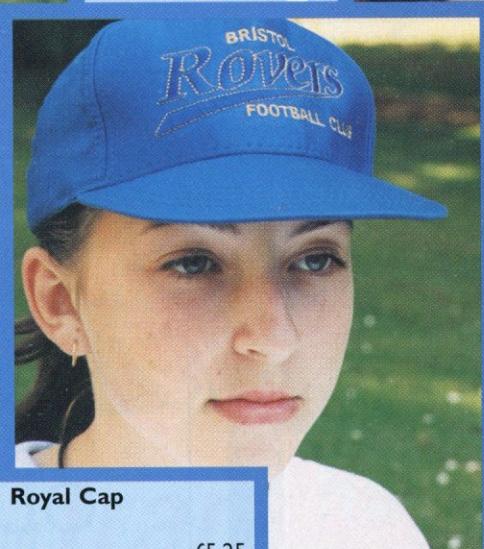
Club Shop

Attention all those on the terracing! Is the sun getting in your eyes? If it hasn't already, it soon will. So this evening (so you won't want a hat tonight) we feature three designs of hats.

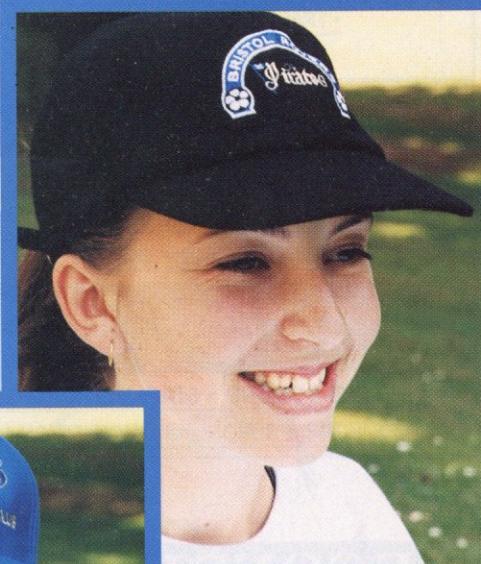


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Young Pirates

It's Cup action tonight and we are (as they say) up against it. If the players ever needed your support it's tonight. We have managed it before so why not here again. An early goal will really set up an exciting night. Two legged ties are not over after the first game because your 3-0 down, but it makes it difficult so let's get right behind them tonight.

Luton Town come here tonight with a three goal cushion, but have not started the league campaign very well. One of our old favourites may not be playing tonight because he was sent off in the first leg, we would all like to say a fond welcome to Gary Waddock and all connected with Luton Town Football Club.



David Pegler

way Travel.

Anight's mascot is David Pegler, who lives an Downend and attends his local school. He is twelve years old and takes his education seriously as he names Science, Geography and P.E. as his favourite subjects. David is very sport-minded when it comes to hobbies as he had named football at the top of his list, followed by swimming and then computers. It seems as though David has an eye for goal or goal scorers as he has named Peter Beadle as his favourite player. Get ready for a late night David and let's see if you can be a lucky mascot.

Souvenirs.

You can only receive Young Pirate discounts from our club room during home fixtures, so if you wish to purchase shirts (full kits), scarves e.t.c. You can see Pete and Sue and buy or order all your souvenirs there. If you wish to pre-order any souvenirs and pick them up at the next home game you can call Pete Brommage on 0117 9495673 to place your order.

Ballboy's wanted for next season.

You must be a Young Pirate and attend home matches on a regular basis. Please register your name and telephone number with Pete Brommage or Paul Skinner in the Young Pirates room.

**Come
on you
Blues!**



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Compiled by Mike Jay and Stephen Byrne

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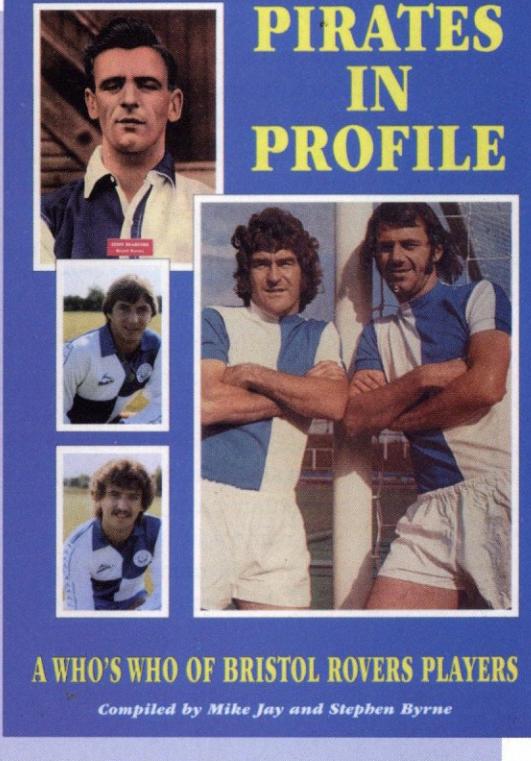
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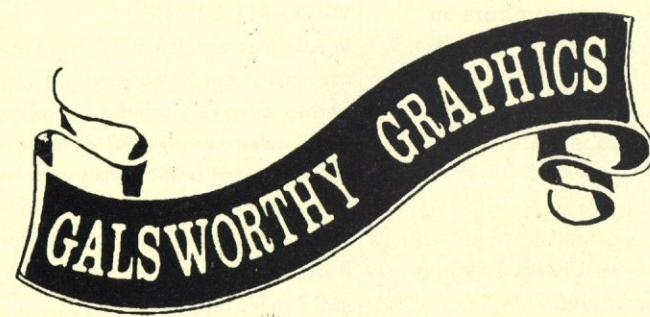
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Rovers News

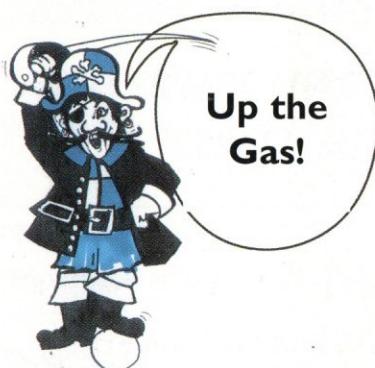
Marcus Browning's international future looks rosey after another encouraging display for Wales in their 6-0 win over San Marino in Cardiff on Saturday.

Browning should now have booked his place in the ex-Rovers manager Bobby Gould's squad for Wales' next World Cup qualifier against Holland in October.

He impressed by hitting the bar with a rifling shot during the San Marino clash. The midfielder was winning his third full cap.

The only unfortunate thing is that Bobby Gould's delight is Ian Holloway's problem.

Browning may miss the December 15 clash with Bristol City if he is called-up again, plus the clash with Walsall in March.



Helpline
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Ticket Office Opening Times

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Supporters Club: 0117 961 1773
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All of the staff throughout the Bristol Rovers' club would like to thank all those people who helped us by clearing up the rubble at The Memorial Ground last week.

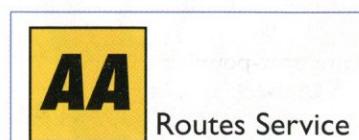
Your help was the difference between us getting our first game back in the city on or having it called off.

There was a lot to be done before the city council inspectors came around last Friday to look the stadium over.

We had to clear out a large amount of rubble from the site before we could get the go-ahead.

It was an urgent SOS to Save Our Soccer for Saturday, but you responded in great numbers on Friday morning, causing one fan to say that, given a bit more time, they would have completed the new stand which is currently being built.

Once again, a great big thank-you to everyone who turned up when we made our appeal - well done for getting us back into Bristol.



To Millwall Saturday 7th Sep.

Follow signs to Chipping Sodbury, Bath by Muller Road B4469 (not shown).

In 1.6 miles at roundabout take first exit (signposted South Wales, London M32, M4) and take right-hand lane to M32.

In 3.3 miles keep forward under road bridge then bear left to join M4 to END OF MOTORWAY

Keep forward to join A4.

In 3.9 miles turn right at traffic signals to A3220 (one-way).

Travel 1.5 miles along Chelsea Embankment A3212, 2.1 miles farther turn right A202 (signposted Folkestone) to cross

VAUXHALL BRIDGE

In 2.8 miles turn left B215 into Peckham Hill Street (signposted Bermondsey, Rotherhithe Tunnel)

In 0.2 miles turn right B216, half a mile farther at traffic signals turn left and immediately turn right A2208.

In half a mile turn right into Ilderton Road, unclassified.

In 0.3 miles turn left into Zampa Road.

MILLWALL FOOTBALL CLUB
(on right)

Total Mileage: 125 miles

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FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

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Saturday Team Club

Rovers ever-popular Saturday Team Club kicks-off again soon and children of all ages can come along.



Boys and girls will be given an hour-and-a-half coaching session during the morning of a Saturday home game and, after a packed lunch supplied by Rovers, they will be given a guided tour around Rovers new Memorial Ground headquarters.

The club also includes a visit to the changing rooms to meet the players and a ticket for the match. The all-in cost of the day is under review but anyone interested should contact community officer Alan Walsh or his staff on (0117) 986 9999. And the people have been advised to book early for this.

Training for Work

If there are five people aged over 18 in the Bristol community who have previously been unemployed, then Rovers is just the place for you.

The club are offering a fantastic chance to join them on a Training For Work scheme. The places are sure to go quickly as this is a great chance to really mix with the club on a daily basis. For further details, ring (0117) 986 9999 and ask for the community department.



Ruth Belcher, Gary Low and Daniel Cockram receiving their awards

Alan Walsh said: "It was a very successful six weeks and around 500 kids took part in training. The players helped out by signing autographs and making presentations."

Stars of the Future

Rovers' stars of the future were on show last Saturday when the club held a penalty-shoot out before the Stockport match.

Ruth Belcher won the under-15 competition, with Gary Low the victor at the under-nine level.

The other winners were Daniel Cockram in the under-11 section, William Punxhard took the under-15 boys event while Emma Cox was victorious in the under-ten girls shoot-out.

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Stats - Nationwide Football League Division Two

Nationwide Football League

DIVISION TWO 1996-97

	Home				Away							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	4	2	0	0	4	2	1	1	0	6	4	10
Brentford	4	2	0	0	5	2	1	1	0	4	1	10
Bury	4	1	1	0	5	1	2	0	0	3	1	10
Chesterfield	4	1	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	9
Millwall	4	1	1	0	3	*2	1	0	1	4	3	7
Shrewsbury	4	0	1	1	1	4	2	0	0	5	2	7
Blackpool	4	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	1	7
York	4	1	0	1	4	4	1	0	1	2	2	6
Burnley	4	1	0	1	3	4	1	0	1	3	3	6
Bournemouth	4	0	0	2	2	4	2	0	0	3	1	6
Watford	4	0	0	2	0	4	2	0	0	4	1	6
BRISTOL ROVERS	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Peterborough	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	4
Preston	4	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	2	4	4
Crewe	4	1	0	1	1	2	9	1	1	3	4	4
Gillingham	4	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	1	3	4
Notts County	3	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
Bristol City	4	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	2	2	7	3
Luton Town	4	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	8	3
Wycombe	4	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	3
Wrexham	2	0	1	0	4	4	0	1	0	1	1	2
Stockport	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2
Rotherham	4	0	0	2	2	4	0	1	1	1	2	1
Walsall	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	1

Correct to 2nd September

Date	Opponents	V	F-A	Att
Aug. 17th	Peterborough Utd.	H	1-0	6,232
20th	Luton Town (C. C. C. 1 (1))	A	0-3	2,643
24th	Preston North End	A	0-0	9,752
27th	Wrexham	A	Postponed	
31st	Stockport County	H	1-1	6,380
Sep. 4th	Luton Town (C. C. C. 1(2))	H		
7th	Millwall	A		
10th	A. F. C. Bournemouth	H		
14th	Watford	H		
21st	Plymouth Argyle	A		
28th	Chesterfield	H		
Oct. 1st	York City	A		
5th	Crewe Alexandra	H		
12th	Notts County	A		
15th	Rotherham Utd.	A		
19th	Blackpool	H		
26th	Bury	A		
29th	Brentford	H		
Nov. 2nd	Gillingham	H		
9th	Shrewsbury Town	A		
19th	Burnley	H		
23rd	Luton Town	A		
30th	Bury	H		
Dec. 3rd	Walsall	A		
15th	Bristol City	A		
21st	Wycombe Wanderers	H		
26th	A. F. C. Bournemouth	A		
28th	Millwall	H		
Jan. 1st	Plymouth Argyle	H		
4th	Watford	A		
11th	Chesterfield	A		
18th	York City	H		
25th	Brentford	A		
Feb. 1st	Shrewsbury Town	H		
8th	Gillingham	A		
15th	Luton Town	H		
22nd	Burnley	A		
Mar. 1st	Walsall	H		
8th	Wycombe Wanderers	A		
15th	Bristol City	H		
23rd	Preston North End	H		
29th	Peterborough Utd.	A		
31st	Wrexham	H		
Apr. 5th	Stockport County	A		
12th	Crewe Alexandra	A		
20th	Notts County	H		
26th	Blackpool	A		
May 3rd	Rotherham Utd.	H		

APPEARANCE RECORD 1995/96

Lge.	Lge.	Cups	Cup	Rovers	Total
Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Career	Lge.
96-97		95/96		Lge. Apps.	Goals
Lee Archer	3	1	1	0	89 + 19
Peter Beadle	3	0	1	0	29 + 1
Steve Bowey	0	0	0	0	0
Marcus Browning	2	0	1	0	130 + 20
Billy Clark	3	0	1	0	211 + 12
Andy Collett	3	0	1	0	33
Jon French	0	0	0	0	3 + 7
Andy Gurney	3	1	1	0	82 + 5
Stuart Harte	0	0	0	0	0
Matt Hayfield	0	0	0	0	3 + 3
Shane Higgs	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Holloway	3	0	1	0	286 + 7
Matthew Lockwood	3	0	1	0	3
Josh Low	0	0	0	0 + 1	0
Lee Martin	3	0	1	0	3
Paul Miller	3	0	1	0	82 + 2
Steve Parmenter	0	0	0	0 + 1	0
Graeme Power	0	0	0	0	0
David Pritchard	0	0	0	0	66
Justin Skinner	0	0	0	0	141 + 8
Andy Tillson	3	0	1	0	122 + 1
Tom White	0	0	0	0	4 + 2



Pos.	Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	(1)Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	French
6	Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	(1)Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	French
10	Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	French
11														Higgs
12	Collett	Martin	Lockwood	French	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	Higgs

Match Facts in Opposition

Preston North End Team:

Moilanen; Kay; Barrick; Atkinson; Wilcox; Moyes; Davey; Bryson; Saville; Wilkinson and Kilbane

Subs: Brown for Kilbane (81mins); McDonald for Atkinson (86 mins) and Holt (not used)

Rovers subs: Parmenter, French & Higgs (not used)

Match Facts: return to former club for assistant manager Geoff Twentyman. Rovers and Third Division Champions, Preston share the points in a hard working team performance

Stockport County Team:

Jones; Connelly; Searle; Bennet; Flynn; Bound; Gannon; Ware; Mutch; Cavaco; Angell

Subs: Jeffers & Armstrong, Todd (not used)

Rovers subs: Parmenter for Miller & Low for Gurney, Higgs (not used)

Goalscorers: Archer (12 mins) & Jeffers (73 mins)

Match Facts:

Chairman's Notes

A

So now we are back home and we have completed our first match at the Rugby Club.

The atmosphere were great and so was our supporters. To those who gave their time in doing a marvellous job in the last two days prior to kick off day may I on behalf of the board offer you all our very sincere thanks.

May I also say how nice it was to see some of our players from previous seasons on the park before the game. Bringing back happy memories of our time at our old stadium at Eastville. Including one of our ex-manager Bobby Campbell who is also very welcome whenever we attend as are those others who were in attendance on the day.

Everything went off without any problems which we all hope will cement good relationships with the

nearby residents, and we all hope that will alleviate some of the anxieties they may have had in the weeks prior to our return. I did hear that some of them even made tea for some of our stewards and police, so that in itself augers well for the future. As we ourselves know the same fears were felt at Twerton when we went to Bath; but most of these were dispelled very quickly. I know that you our supporters will help in creating an atmosphere of well being over the next few weeks of our initial return and that a good relationship of trust between everyone concerned can be maintained.

Lastly there are some people who have worked many long hours over the last few months to make our move possible.

Our Vice Chairman Geoff Dunford who has given up most of his work in the family business to ensure our

return, he has worked day and night in preparation with surveyors, Football League, Rugby Club, Official and Solicitors in getting the completion of the lease etc., our thanks to him.

Also to Simon Arnold, who oversaw the construction of the work on the stadium and Sandy Powell who did all the safety work on neccessary stewarding and interviews with safety committees, trading standards, police, fire brigades etc., without these people we would not now be at The Memorial Ground. Our thanks to all concerned with Bristol Rugby Club, Directors and Staff, for their unstinted help.

Enjoy tonights game

VERNON STOKES

Director/ Admin.



Alfie Biggs

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Division Two Round-Up

With the five English representatives in European competition being granted a bye to the third round of this season's League Cup, sixty-six clubs set out on the road to Wembley a fortnight ago.

Burnley with a 3-0 win at Mansfield look to have booked their passage to the next round as do Luton, who had a similar victory over Rovers at Kenilworth Road.

Three players grabbed hat-tricks in the opening leg, Steve Wilkinson at Wigan where Preston won by the odd goal in five, Torquay's Paul Baker grabbed his as Bristol City recovered a two goal deficit in sharing six goals at Plainmoor. Marcus Stewart, for the second year running, was on the mark three times, after denting Gillingham's defence last term, he repeated the act for his new club Huddersfield in their 3-0 home win over Wrexham.

In all Second Division ties, Gillingham carry a goal advantage into the second leg by courtesy of a Steve Torpey own goal at the Vetch, Kyle Lightbourne proved to be the match winner as Walsall overcame Watford at Bescot while a Chris Malkin strike for Millwall was too good for Peterborough. Robert Taylor scored the only goal as Brentford overcame Plymouth at Griffin Park. Andy Mutch was on target twice as Stockport best Chesterfield 2-1 at home while Notts County and Bury shared a 1-1 draw at Meadow Lane.

Rotherham and Blackpool lost at Third Division clubs, the Millers went down to an early Robbie Blake goal at Darlington, the Seasiders despite taking the lead at Scunthorpe were put back on their heels by David Moss and Phil Clarkson. Neil Tolson opened his York account as they came away from Doncaster with a 1-1 draw.

Of the four clubs pitted against higher grade opposition only Wycombe came away with a draw. John Williams grabbing an equaliser after Reading's joint

manager Jimmy Quinn had opened the scoring. Unusual happenings at Portman Road where Bournemouth were beaten 2-1, the game being held up after an electrical fault set off the sprinkler system.

Port Vale's Tony Naylor scored the only goal against his former club, Crewe. Shrewsbury lost at home 2-0 to Tranmere with John Aldridge amongst the scorers.

In other ties, Barnet 4-0 winners at Exeter were the leading scores on the night. Third Division, Rochdale and Fulham both beat Barnsley while the Cottagers were 2-0 winners over Southend at Roots Hall. Colchester came close to holding West Bromwich conceding a late goal in their 3-2 home defeat. The Baggies near neighbours, Birmingham had to rely on a Paul Devlin penalty for reward at Brighton. Leyton Orient went down 2-0 at Portsmouth.

In all First Division ties, Swindon beat Wolves in the televised game at the County Ground, Sheffield United won the Yorkshire derby beating Bradford City 3-0 at Bramall Lane. Clive Mendonca netted the only goal as Grimsby won at Oldham, Andy Johnson and Nigel Jemson were on target as Norwich drew at Oxford.

In all Third Division, games a Carl Dale goal was too good for Northampton, while Owen Archdean was on target for his new club Carlisle as they beat Chester. Lincoln drew 2-2 at Hartlepool as did Scarborough at Hull. Hereford completed an easy 3-0 home win over Cambridge.

Alan Lacock

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