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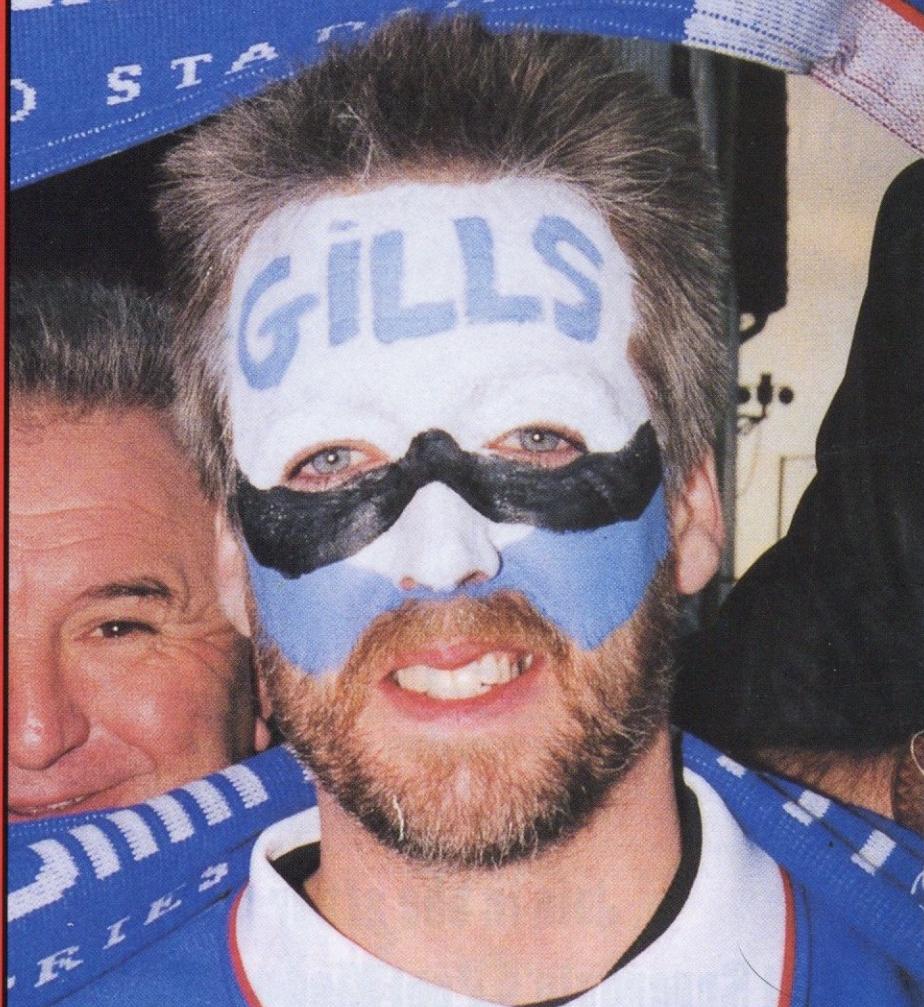
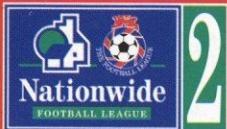
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Front cover photo:
A Gills fan at Portman Road

Photo: Keith Slater

From the Top

Hello and welcome to today's game against Luton Town, a match which should be played in a terrific atmosphere in front of one of our highest attendances of the season. I hope you had a nice Christmas and that you haven't got too sore a head this morning.



Today's match is going to be a tough game against a quality opposition and I'd like to welcome the players, management, directors and supporters of Luton Town here to Priestfield, and hope they have a pleasant stay in the area. Luton have a great tradition in recent years, as many people expected they've made a good start to the season and are challenging for promotion, but we've got nothing to be scared of because we're playing some attractive football ourselves this season and I'm sure sides are coming here knowing they're going to be severely tested.

Despite us having three important games over the Christmas period, you'll have to do a lot to stop our supporters talking about our FA cup tie against Derby County on January 4th. Ticket sales are going extremely well and at the time of writing there were still a handful of tickets left, but you're going to have to be quick. You will be able to purchase a ticket when you go through the turnstiles today and if any remain they'll go on general sale on Monday. I can tell it's going to be a wonderful day, even more than the Coventry game here in October, and I have no doubts that we are capable of pulling off a result. I've caught the bug for these big games and when the fourth round draw is made, let's hope we're given an even bigger one. As I've said before, we're going to play at Wembley this year, maybe twice.

It's been very pleasing how well our club shop has been doing recently and it's nice that many Christmas presents of a Gillingham nature must have changed hands. It's good to walk around the Medway Towns seeing people wearing Gillingham clothing as it increases the profile of the club.

As this is our final home game before the new year, it's a time for reflection, and not only on a professional note, but on a personal one too, 1996 has been a year I won't be forgetting for a very long time. That moment at Fulham when we secured promotion will be etched on my mind for a long time and I know I speak for our supporters here that our win at Coventry was incredible, not only for the result but for the way we won the match. I know we've well and truly put Gillingham on the map these last six months and there's no way we want to be taken off that map because 1997 is going to be even better, and hopefully I'll have a nice belated Christmas present for you before too long. With the quality football we're playing, I've no doubt we'll be challenging for promotion come May.

I'd like to thank you, the supporters, for raising your voices and following the team throughout this terrific year, and I'd like you to take much of the credit for putting us where we are. It makes me immensely proud to hear you all singing, and the memory of you out-chanting both Coventry and Ipswich in the Coca Cola cup ties will stay with me for a long time. Have a Happy New Year, enjoy the game, and we'll see you at the Derby match.

**PAUL SCALLY
CHAIRMAN**

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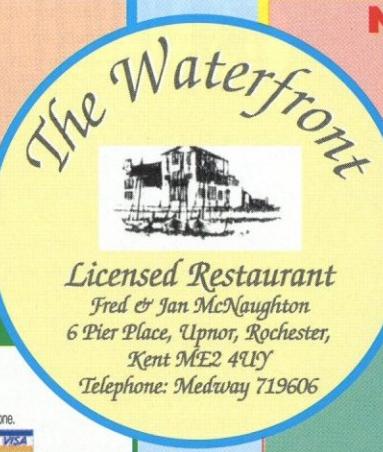
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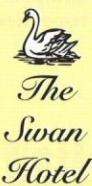
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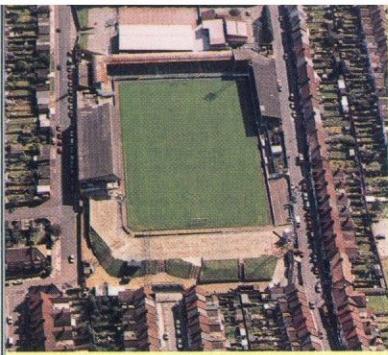
Dec 28th	vs Beckenham Town	Away	WKL	2.15 kick off
Jan 4th	vs Woolwich Town	Home	WKLCup	3.00 kick off
Jan 11th	vs Arlesey Town	Away	FA Vase	3.00 kick off
Jan 18th	vs Hythe United	Away	WKL	3.00 kick off

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Manager Tommy Sampson's 1,300 mile wild trek to spy on West Country opponents Saltash United in the 3rd round of the FA Vase paid off the Saturday before last with the Bay winning 3-0.

The draw for the next round, on January 11th, has paired them with the former Vase winners Arlesey Town of the Minerva South Midlands League.

Tommy Sampson's team have now played an incredible 14 cup ties this season, losing just once at Conference club Welling United in the 3rd qualifying round of the FA cup. In that time they have scored 25 and conceded only 6.



Division Two Review

By Jamie Reid

The Friday the 13th all Lancashire derby certainly lived up to its billing. Preston eventually beat Blackpool 3-0 with three second half goals in seven minutes coming from ex Wrexham man Gary Bennett who scored two and ex Carlisle striker David Reeves.

In the games played on the Saturday the top attendance of the day 10,575 was at Turf Moor to see promotion hopefuls Burnley take on the league leaders Brentford in a game where the Bees came out on top 2-1 with goals from leading scorer Carl Asaba and ex Gill Nicky Forster.

It took Mark Bright just eleven minutes to score on his Millwall debut in the 1-1 draw against Bournemouth at Dean Court with Matt Holland equalising for the Cherries after 25 minutes. The game was full of incident and the visitors had five players booked.

Today's opponents Luton whipped Crewe 6-0 at Kenilworth Road as the visitors finished the game with only nine men. Shaun Smith was sent off in the first half and Ashley Westwood received his marching orders with fifteen minutes to go. Tony Thorpe scored a hat trick and Paul Showler, David Oldfield and Graham Alexander were also on target for the Hatters.

York beat Wrexham with a last minute own goal from Tony Humes which moved them up into twelfth position.

Wycombe continued their winning run with a slender 1-0 defeat of Chesterfield thanks to a Miguel De Souza goal ten minutes from time. Another player to score on his debut was midfield maestro Adrian Randall who moved from York to Bury for a fee in the region of 150,000. Randall came on as a substitute and scored with his first touch in the 2-2 draw against us.

Among the spectators at the Notts County match against Rotherham was Brian Clough. The ex Nottingham Forest manager watched the 0-0 draw with his son Nigel.

In the Bristol derby played on the Sunday there was plenty of controversy in front of a bumper crowd at Ashton Gate. The match finished 1-1 with goals from Paul Agostino for the Robins and ex Gill Peter Beadle who scored in the last minute for the Pirates. Beadle's goal sparked a pitch invasion amongst fans which has caused the F.A. to probe into the match.

Preston winger Mike Brown has joined his former club Shrewsbury on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move. North End have also allowed Finnish keeper Tueva Moitanen to join Scarborough for a month. Other loan deals have seen David Brightwell join Blackpool from Bradford and Louie Donowa join Peterborough from Birmingham.

Notts County midfielder Paul Rogers has joined Wigan on loan for a month. If the player impresses Wigan want to make the move a permanent one.

Watford have put Devon White on the transfer list at his own request. The thirty two year old striker joined the Hornets for £200,000 from Notts County.

Still on the transfer front Chukwuemeke Nwadike has joined Shrewsbury from Wolves.

Leading goalscorers (figures correct to December 15th). Tony Thorpe (Luton) 16 goals, Carl Asaba (Brentford) 15 goals, Ian Stevens (Shrewsbury) 13 goals, Kurt Nogan (Burnley) 13 goals, Brett Angell (Stockport) 12 goals, Mark Carter (Bury) 12 goals and Neil Tolson (York) also 12 goals.

THE MANAGEMENT

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you who have shown your support and kindness to the club over the past year. It's been an exceptional twelve months and the club wouldn't be where it is today without you. As paid staff at the club, we all appreciate that you are as much a part of this club as us, and on behalf of myself, Lindsay, Wayne, the coaching staff and the players, thank you very much.

I was disappointed we didn't get through in the Auto Windscreens shield. Although it was a so called weakened side, we want to win every game we play, and we'd obviously never deliberately go out and lose a game.

As far as the Bury game's concerned, some of our football was very good, particularly in the second half, and it was one of those matches when we weren't rewarded for our commitment, effort and standard of football, but that's happened a lot this season and sometimes the luck just won't go our way.

With this game being an early kick off we had to meet at the hotel last night. Christmas is a time for goodwill and spending time with the family, but in our case it's the busiest. We don't see our families and it's never very nice, but it's the price we pay for being in the lucky position of being full-time sportsmen. It's scandalous that straight after the game today we have to set off for Saturday's game at Burnley. Why we can't play someone like Millwall over Christmas is beyond me. The crowds would be better, and apart from the Bristol derby there's rarely any trouble, and this ground hasn't seen any for years. It doesn't only annoy the clubs, it annoys the fans, and I've got every sympathy. I know we've got to play these games, but why now? I hope the people who have made these decisions are sitting down with their families having a nice Christmas.

Craig Armstrong recently had to go back to Forest after he did a smashing job in his loan spell. They've got a few injuries at the moment, but before he resigned Frank Clark was very kind to us.

One thing I hope for in the second half of the season is continuity. I wish I could pick my best eleven more consistently than I've been able to up until now. It's difficult to maintain a pattern, style and continuity when you're chopping and changing your team due to injuries and suspensions, but we feel we're pushing all the time and making progress, and there's plenty of optimism for the coming year.

Enjoy the game.

Tony Pulis.
Manager



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Player Profile



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ADRIAN PENNOCK

Adrian completed his move from Bournemouth in October after Bournemouth basically told him he wasn't fit enough. Already, the 25 year old is proving Bournemouth wrong, playing his first four games in 12 days, and already proving why Tony Pulis rates him so highly. It isn't clear what Adrian's best position is, but he can play right back, central defence or midfield. He scored his first goal for the club in the 2-1 win over Crewe.

First sporting memory?

Ipswich winning the 1978 F.A. cup. I've always been an Ipswich supporter, which made my Gillingham debut there even more special.

But didn't you once play for Norwich?

Yes. I got a lot of stick from my mates, and in particular my dad, who's a huge Ipswich fan. It was just that Norwich wanted me more than anyone else did.

Which other sports do you play?

Fishing.

Why did you decide on a life of sport?

I've always wanted to – most kids have. I'm just one of the lucky ones to have been chosen. It's great to be paid for what hundreds of people do on Sunday morning for nothing.

Did you have a sporting mentor?

The Ipswich central defenders, Kevin Beattie and Terry Butcher.

Most memorable sporting experience?

Staying up with Bournemouth two years ago. We were something like nine points adrift at Christmas and going into the final day of the season we had to beat Shrewsbury, and we did, 3 nil.

What question are you most often asked?

Got any tickets? Or because of my pale complexion they often say "Wasn't it very hot on your holiday?"

What's been the biggest mistake of your career?
I stayed too long at Norwich.

Favourite sporting location?
Highbury.

Which sporting event would you pay the most to see?

The World Cup Final.

...and to miss?

Synchronised swimming. Nice women mind you.

How well is football covered by the media?

There's too much live football on the television. I haven't got Sky. I'd get bored of it.

Whose talent do you most envy?

Gazza. I've got no doubt he should be in the England team.

Who is going to win the premiership this season?

Hopefully, anyone except Manchester United. I did laugh when Southampton and Newcastle thrashed them.

Why have you come to Gillingham?

Because of Tony Pulis, really. Bournemouth told me I wasn't fit enough, but Tony has rescued me by giving me a two year contract.

With whom would you least like to share a drink?

Mel Machin.

How are Gillingham going to get on this season?

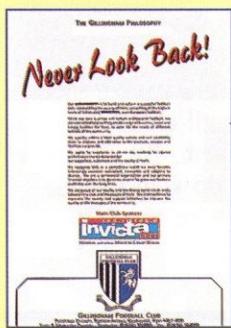
We should do well. Tony Pulis is always looking for new players and if it all clicks I'm sure we'll do OK. For me it's great to be playing at all, and if Gillingham do well in the second half of the season it'll be great to be a part of it.

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Junior Gills



I hope you all had a nice Christmas, and I'd like to wish all fans, not just the Junior Gills members, a very Happy New Year. It should be a good year for us here at the Club because we're looking to expand in a big way both on the Junior side and in terms of improving our presence in the community. It was good to see so many of you the Monday

before last at Centre Sports. Over 200 members turned up with their parents to pick up their Junior Gills bags, it was a very successful evening and I think everyone had a good time. I'm very pleased with the ruck sacks because once they start appearing at schools

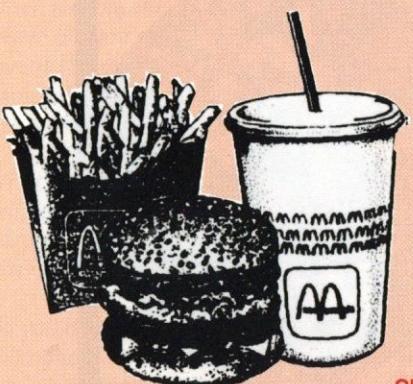
In the Community

and in the community it might give others an incentive to join the junior section of the club. It was also very nice that you had your pictures taken and I hope you all enjoy seeing your faces in the papers and will enjoy seeing yourselves in the Derby programme. Happy New Year, and enjoy today's game.

Peter Aitken

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WAYNE'S WORLD

Fortunately, apart from Leo, the injuries that have been bugging us here at the club over the last few weeks are now all over the worse, with just three major casualties.

Dennis Bailey is having treatment for a medial knee ligament sprain, but we'd lined up today as his comeback and there's every chance he's going to make it.

Matt Bryant should be back in contention about now after his recent injury. He's been seeing a specialist near his home and he's been given the go ahead to continue training.

Although he played up at Cardiff, Jim Stannard only really resumed light training within the last couple of weeks after that torn calf muscle. I'm pleased to report he's been improving every day and we feel he should be ready to fight for the keeper's jersey for the hectic Christmas period.

This busy period of games is always going to be a testing one for the players, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed that come the 2nd January there are less people queuing up outside my room for treatment than there are now.

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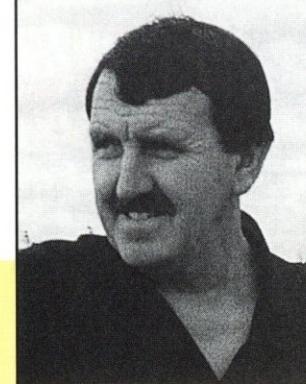


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Past Masters

DAVE HUDDART



What position did you play?
Goalkeeper.

Birthplace and date of birth?
Maryport, Cumbria,
18th November, 1937.

Where do you live now and what's your occupation?

I live in Broadstairs, after 11 years with Ramsgate, I decided to stay in the area, where I have been a garage proprietor for the last 17 years.

What clubs have you played for?
I have played for Workington, Blackpool, Aldershot, Gills, Ramsgate and Tunbridge Wells where I played my last game at the age of 43.

When leaving the Gills in 1966 where did you go?
I went to Southern League Ramsgate where I played a record 622 games.

What were your wages at Gillingham?
I signed for £25 per week plus £4 win bonus in 1962.

Do you have any regrets being at Gillingham?
Yes, being their at the same time as the late great John Simpson, which limited my first team appearances, but I had four very happy years with the Gills.

What is your all time best Gills team?

That very difficult to answer but I think it must be:- 1. Simpson, 2. Hunt, 3. Peach, 4. Bruce, 5. Green, 6. Tydeman, 7. Godfrey, 8. Farrell, 9. Gibbs, 10. Yeo, 11. Pulley, 12. Arnott.

If you had played your football in the 90's what differences do you think there would be?

Well as a goalkeeper it would be nice to use the new sponge gloves which they use today, it must help in handling the ball, but I would not have liked the back pass rule. I think that can be a nightmare for goalkeepers as we've seen on TV.

You were noted for your bravery! Tell us more.

Well it's just part of a goalkeepers job, but I do remember playing a midweek game against Luton Reserves and after a collision I had to have several stitches to hold my ear in place and because they could not find a replacement keeper, I had to play on the Saturday wearing a rugby scrum cap to protect the ear. But this was not too successful and I had to go back to the hospital to have my ear re-stitched, they were not very happy!

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Who is your all time great keeper?
Oh that's easy. It has to be Gordon Banks because he made the job look very easy.

Do you see any of your Gills team mates?
Yes I see Les Riggs, Mick Williamson, John Omara and I have bumped into Dennis Hunt on a couple of occasions.

And finally what is your most memorable match?
It was playing for Ramsgate v Tunbridge Wells in the Kent League, where my son, the opposing keeper with the same name, and apparently this was the first time this had happened at this level of football. To save any embarassement the game ended in a 2-2 draw.

We would like to wish all our Gillingham Past Masters a very Happy Christmas



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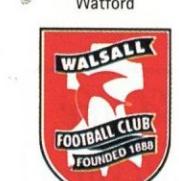
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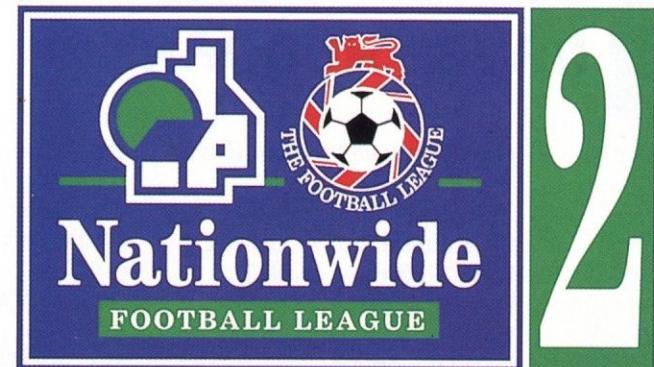
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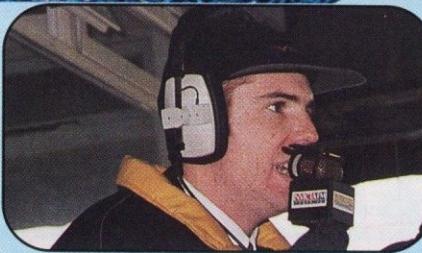
Peterborough United



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SOUND BITE

with Paul King, Sports Editor
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There's no doubt 1996 has been a fantastic football year – promotion for the Gills, Euro 96, a titanic Premiership race, and Wembley given the go ahead to be the new national stadium are just some of the highlights. But what has 97 got in store? Here's a few predictions.....

1. The authorities decide it's time to do something about the state of refereeing. They announce trials of a second official in the stands (Premiership only). He will have 26 different cameras to look at – and a computer link with the referee on the pitch, via a microchip inserted directly into the brain.
2. Brighton are deducted 36 points (suspended) after a fan jumps over the hoardings at the Goldstone to retrieve the ball. Spurs suffer a similar punishment for fielding an ineligible player (Carlos Kickaball), only to have the punishment reversed on appeal.
3. Tahiti becomes the new name in world football. Man United launch a twenty million pound bid for their own striker George Ahula – but AC Milan win the race for his signature.
4. England's 2006 World Cup bid is

made the centrepiece of John Major's general election campaign. But the Tories are split over whether to let the French and Germans in, and Tony Blair romps home.

5. David Ginola turns his back on football and motor racing to take up fishing. The French maestro beats Bob Nudd by 36 carp to 35 to claim the World Angling championship.
6. Football is declared the greatest game on God's earth by the European Commission, and we all enjoy 1997 as much as 96.

Happy New Year.

Gills 2 Bury 2

Nation-wide Division Two

Saturday 14 December

Attendance: 5542

Report by Dave Taylor

This was another thoroughly entertaining game for the neutral supporter, but for the Gills fans and manager Tony Pulis alike it was agonising to see Gills give away two soft goals. At a freezing Priestfield the game started slowly and it was the 15th minute before there was any action of note. A freekick on the edge of the Gills area was taken by Mark Carter who shot around the Gills defensive wall and inches wide. Six minutes later Gills were not so lucky as they gifted high flying Bury the lead. Andy Hesenthaler lost possession on the halfway line. Rob Matthews started the move, and the ball went out on the wing to Dean West whose cross was met by Matthews at the near post sweeping

the ball into the net. The Bury goal seemed to spur Gills into action and Hesenthaler, Butler and Butters all had opportunities to score before Steve Butler equalised after 32 minutes. Hesenthaler made amends for his earlier error by worming his way into the Bury penalty area before putting over a delightful little cross which Butler headed in at the far post.

Gills should have taken the lead just before half time when Ifem Onoura was dispossessed in front of goal by Michael Jackson and they were quickly made to pay the price for this miss when two minutes into the second half Bury regained the lead. Randall, half time substitute for Carter, with his first touch of the game beat Andy Marshall in the Gills goal after David Johnson had cut the ball back across the Gills goal.

It took Gills just four minutes to get back on level terms. Guy Butters getting better each game he plays knocked a long ball forward. Steve Butler laid the ball perfectly for



Simon Ratcliffe to volley home from 15 yards.

Gills should have gone on to win the game but were unable to finish chances that came their way. Craig Armstrong, Ifem Onoura and Richard Green were all guilty and in the end it was Bury that were more satisfied with the point.

Team: Marshall, O' Connor, Butters, Pennock, Green, Thomas, Hesenthaler, Ratcliffe, Onoura, Butler, Armstrong, (Manuel). Subs not used: Harris and Piper.

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BEHIND THE SCENES CELERY, CELERY

Yes, the club's name has been put well and truly on the map. Not because of our stylish performance on the pitch, not because the club is storming through the divisions, but because of a vegetable. For a period recently I became the club's "spokesman" in respect of celery, a phrase I have become suspicious of whenever I've seen it in papers, implying everyone in the know wouldn't comment, yet the person who answered the phone gave a "fob-off" answer to the eager tabloid journo. You'll be pleased to hear the club's name has not only been spread across not only the national papers, but across the waters too, and it's nice, although surely a bit unfair on our Stamford Bridge superiors, that we've taken the credit for it. Surely it's not just me who realises Gillingham fans didn't write the celery song, but I haven't had the heart to tell the media. It's the eleventh commandment that whenever five or more rugby players get together they shall sing the Celery song, and Chelsea fans also give it a bit of a go before us didn't they, so much so that there are

rumours that Chelsea rang the club and asked why we've got all the publicity for their song. However, there's no doubt about it, the club has become famous for its celery, although someone was a bit economical with the truth about chucking boxes of the stuff on the pitch. At a local level I can imagine the news editors. "Oi, sports editor. Go and do the Gillingham-celery story", "But it's all lies. They don't throw boxes of celery.", "Well just pretend they do." However, word got out so much so that the Daily Star thought it just nudged out the government losing its majority as the most important story of the week. Then it all started, Radio One hired in some actor claiming to be a Gillingham celery seller, claiming sales had fallen to an all time low by the "ban", Sue McGregor and John Humphries (not our full-back, the other one) played the song on the Today programme, and eventually ITN, CNN and Reuters followed suit.



In the subsequent days, I was asked to appear on radio stations in Atlanta, Georgia, and Toronto to explain the story. The one in Atlanta even let me sing the song without bleeping out the rude words. But I was very much in demand because I reckon I was the only person with a copy of the song on tape. So what's the truth about celery? Do you get banned if you bring celery into the ground? Well apparently not. It was evidently a publicity stunt. A very good one though. You can bring it as long as you don't throw it. But it was nice to hear at half-time last week, the song played over the tannoy with two bleeps in the relevant places. Maybe next time we could actually sing "If she don't bleep I'll tickle her bleep...." That would set Atlanta Radio WGFC or whatever they were called racing to their phone to have us back on. There's no such thing as bad publicity. (Unless you're George Graham.)

STOP PRESS . . . Celery story now spotted in Australian newspaper.

LUTON TOWN

WELCOME TO LUTON

RICHARD HARVEY – DEFENDER

Richard resurrected his Town career in 1994/95 after two years plagued by injury. The former England youth international missed the entire 1993/94 season after a knee ligament operation, and made his first appearance of the following campaign at Barnsley in January. His appearance at home to Watford in March 1995 was his first at Kenilworth Road for three years, and he held the left-back position for the remainder of the season.

A regular on the left side of defence/midfield for the first half of the season, he lost his place to Mitchell Thomas after the arrival of Lennie Lawrence as manager. Suffered with another knee ligament injury in the 96/97 pre-season campaign.

JULIAN JAMES – DEFENDER

Julian joined Luton as a trainee, and was introduced to First Division football in 1988, but was sent off on his full debut in a Littlewoods Cup win at Leeds in November of that year.

A former England Under-21 international, he was a regular at left-back in the 1993/94 season, but made the right-back position his own in 1994/95 with a string of consistent displays which earned him the Player of the Year award from the Loyal Luton Supporters Club.

Was in and out of the side at the start of the 95/96 campaign, before an extended run at right-back after Christmas. Granted a benefit match in 1996.

MARVIN JOHNSON – DEFENDER

Marvin made his Football League debut against Wimbledon in 1988, and quickly established himself as a versatile defender.

Started the 1994/95 season at left-back, but then switched to the centre of defence to form a reliable partnership with Trevor Peake.

Marvin was one of only three players to play in every first-team match in 95/96 season, and was awarded the Players' Player of the Year trophy. He was again a consistent performer in 95/96 at centre-back, alongside Steve Davis for the most part, and Darren Patterson.

DES LINTON – DEFENDER

Des signed for Luton from Leicester City in October 1991, along

with Scott Oakes, as part of the deal which took midfielder Steve Thompson to Filbert Street.

He was a regular at right-back during the 1993/94 season, but the 1994/95 campaign was dogged by a series of injuries. He played briefly in a midfield role, but returned at right-back in the final matches of the season.

95/96 campaign also disputed by injury.

TREVOR PEAKE – DEFENDER

Trevor started his league career at Lincoln City in 1979, before moving on to Coventry City in 1983.

He enjoyed eight full seasons at Highfield Road, winning an FA Cup winners' medal in 1987 as the Sky Blues beat David Pleat's Tottenham 3-2 at Wembley. Trevor joined Luton for £100,000 in August 1991, and signed a new one-year contract in the summer of 1994.

For the first time in his career he maintained an ever-present record throughout the season, being voted the Supporters' Club Player of the Year, and signed a further one-year deal in the summer of 1995, and was appointed reserve team coach during the 95/96 season.

MICHAEL THOMAS – DEFENDER

The former England Under-21 international made over 100 appearances for Luton before moving to Spurs, shortly after David Pleat, in 1986. He played in the 91/92 FA Cup Final, and later moved to West Ham. He was on loan at Luton in the 1993/94 season before a permanent free transfer move, and after missing the start of the season through suspension was a regular at left-back in the 1994/95 campaign.

Recalled by new manager Lennie Lawrence in December 1995, and responded with an ever-present record until the end of the season.

PAUL MCLAREN – MIDFIELD

Paul made his debut in the Town first-team on the final day of the 1993/94 season, coming on as a substitute at Stoke City. He joined the Hatters from school, and is an England youth international. Started as a centre-half, but spend much of the 1994/95 season in the reserves in centre midfield.

Made his full debut at Tranmere in October 1995, and then played in the Anglo-Italian Cup game in Genoa.

BEN CHENERY – DEFENDER

Youth team right-back who made his first-team debut in the FA Cup third round replay win at Bristol Rovers, in January 1995. With Julia James still suspended, Ben was due to make his league debut three days later at home to Wolves, but the game was postponed just a hour before kick-off due to heavy rain.

Signed a professional contract in the spring of 1995, finally making his league debut at the end of the 95/96 season at home to Port Vale.

DARREN PATTERSON – DEFENDER

Darren signed for the Hatters in August 1995 from Crystal Palace for £150,000, a fee which could rise to over £200,000 based on appearances. The Northern Ireland international started his league career with Wigan, and joined Palace for £250,000 in 1992.

An Achilles injury ruled him out of the first two months of the season, and kept him out of Northern Ireland's final European Championship qualifying matches.

Made his first Luton appearance in the Anglo-Italian Cup defeat in Cesena in November and returned to the Northern Ireland squad at the end of the season. Went on loan to Preston in October 1996.

AARON SKELTON – MIDFIELD

Aaron signed professional forms for the Harriers in December 1992, and was drafted into the first-team squad on a number of occasions in 1992/93. But his progress was halted in 1993/94 with a serious thigh injury, and he had to wait until the opening day of the 1994/95 season to make his full league debut, at home to West Brom.

Injuries again restricted his opportunities, and he started only two more league game that season, although he finished the campaign in the reserves operating at centre-back. His wretched luck with injuries continued in 1995/96.

KIM GRANT – FORWARD

Signed from Charlton, where he had made his debut under Lennie Lawrence, for £250,000 in March 1996, and scored on his debut against Ipswich.

Was selected for the Ghanaian national squad in the summer of 1996, playing against Egypt and Denmark. Also represented his country against South Africa in September and is a regular member of their squad in the African Nations Cup and World Cup qualifying matches.

TONY THORPE – MIDFIELD

Tony made an immediate impact in the Town side when he scored for the Hatters on his full debut at Newcastle United, in the fourth round of the FA Cup in January 1994.

He joined the club at the start of the 1992/93 season, following a spell at Leicester. He was restricted to just five substitute appearances during the 1994/95 campaign. Scored Luton's winning goal at Southend in August 1995 – the Hatters' first win of the season, and their first under Terry Westley. Signed a new contract in the summer of 1996.

GARY WADDOCK – MIDFIELD

Gary completed a free transfer move from Bristol Rovers in December 1994, after a three-month loan spell at Kenilworth Road. Started his career with QPR making over 200 appearances, including an FA Cup Final against Spurs in 1982, and the subsequent replay. That was followed by a spell in Belgium with

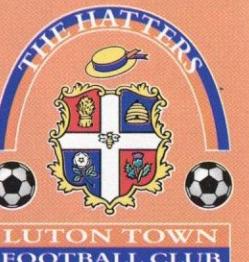


Back Row: - l to r: Stuart Douglas, Jamie Douglas, Jamie Woodsford, Sean Evers, Kim Grant, Paul McLaren, Darren Patterson, Gary Simpson, John Taylor, Ben Chenery, Bontcho Guentchev, Graham Alexander, Matthew Upson, Robert Kean, Chris Willmott.

Third Row: - l to r: Cherry Newbery (Club Secretary), Clive Goodyear (Physio), Wayne Turner (First Team Coach), David Oldfield, Des Linton, Marvin Johnson, Nathan Abbey, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Aaron Skelton, Andrew Fotiadis, John Moore (Youth Team Coach), Trevor Peake (Reserve Team Coach), Les Shannon (Chief Scout).

Seated: - l to r: Julian James, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis (Club Captain), Nigel Terry (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Chris Green (Director), Gary Waddock (Team Captain), Dwight Marshall, Richard Harvey.

Front: - l to r: Liam George, Gary Doherty, Jimmy Cox, Steve Augustine, Andrew Barr, Nick Webb, Russell Lawes, Terry Sweeney, Matthew Spring, Andrew Scarlett, Andrew Smith, Ian Jones.



Luton Town Football Club History

Luton Town Football Club was formed in 1885 as a fusion of local sides Wanderers and Excelsior. Early games were played on a friendly basis apart from the annual excursion into the FA Cup. Gradually better players were attracted to the town because of the growth of industry in the area. In 1891, Luton became the first professional club in the south, paying the whole team plus an additional allowance for working time lost travelling to away games.

The town became founder members of the Southern League in 1894, finishing runners-up to Millwall in its first two seasons. The club resigned from the Southern League in 1896 and put up for election to the Football League which failed.

Undeterred, a further attempt was made the following year, which proved successful and Luton entered a Second Division which consisted mainly of northern-based clubs.

The first season was reasonable, but by 1900 with poor results on the field and debts mounting because of the high costs of travel, it was decided not to stand for re-election but instead to rejoin the Southern League, which was now much stronger than when the club had left it.

The club remained in the Southern League until 1920 when that section became Division Three of the Football League before being re-named Division Three South the following year.

The Town narrowly missed promotion during the 1935/36 season, during which Joe Payne scored 10 goals in his first game as a centre-forward in a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers – a record never likely to be beaten.

Luton won the Championship next season in style, as Payne created another record with 55 league goals.

The next landmark came in 1958/59 with the first visit to Wembley in the FA Cup Final. An attendance record of 30,069 was also set at the Sixth Round replay against Blackpool (March 4, 1959). The final against Nottingham

Forest was a disappointment with the Town losing 2-1 and probably marked a turning point in the club's fortunes. The team was now an elderly one and relegation came for the first time within 12 months, and was suffered again with demotion to Division Three at the end of 1962/63.

Relegation to Division Four came two years later, completing a six-year tumble from Wembley finalists and Division One, to Division Four.

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DAVID OLDFIELD – MIDFIELD

David returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 1995, six years after leaving Luton Town.

He started his career with the Hatters, progressing through the junior ranks to a two goal senior debut in a 2-1 home win over Watford in May 1988, and went on to make 29 league appearances for the Hatters, scoring four goals.

Australian born Oldfield, who played for England Under-21's, joined Manchester City for £60,000 in March 1989, before moving on to Leicester City.

BONTHO GUENTCHEV – FORWARD

The Bulgarian international signed for the Hatters after being released by Ipswich. The 31 year old striker, who played in the 1994 World Cup Finals in the USA when Bulgaria reached the semi-finals, had been at Ipswich for three seasons playing 58 games in the Premier League.

He arrived on a free transfer after being released by the Portman Road club, but his wife's employment at the Bulgarian embassy now means he is free to continue playing in the UK.

Scored vital goals for the Hatters in 95/96 and played for Bulgaria in the 1996 European Championships.

LENNIE LAWRENCE – MANAGER

Lennie Lawrence was appointed manager of Luton Town in December 1995, following the departure of Terry Westley. A player with non-league Croydon, Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United, Mr Lawrence was an assistant manager at Plymouth, where he was also caretaker manager, and at Lincoln, before becoming manager of Charlton Athletic in 1982, having initially joined the Addicks as reserve team coach.

Charlton finished as runners-up in Division Two in 1985/86 earning promotion to the top flight after an absence of 29 years. In the following season they were involved in the first promotion/relegation play-offs, overcoming second division Leeds United in extra-time in a dramatic play-off final replay but were relegated in 1990.

Mr Lawrence left Charlton in 1991, after nine years with the club which at the time made him the third longest serving manager in the country behind Nottingham Forest Clough and Oldham's Joe Royle. He headed north to Middlesbrough where he took the Teeside club into the FA Premier League in 1992 in his first season with them. They returned to Division One in 1993, and Mr Lawrence left in 1994, when Bryan Robson took over at Ayresome Park.

He made 263 appearances for the Town between 1965 and 1974, and was a leading figure in the promotion seasons of 1968 and 1970. He returned to Luton as youth coach in 1978 and was promoted to first team manager in 1985, guiding the club to their best-ever league position of seventh in the 1986/87 season. He stood down after one season, but returned to soccer in 1988 as youth coach at Leicester City, where David Pleat was manager.

John rejoined Luton in 1990 as reserve team coach under Jim Ryan, and following a spell as first-team coach under David Pleat, he this season takes charge of the Town's youth side.

provided improved spectator facilities. The stance on 'members only' saw the Town barred from entering the Littlewoods Cup in 1986/87, but a highest-ever league placing of seventh was achieved that season, with the Littlewoods Cup itself being the following year with a thrilling last minute 3-2 win over Arsenal at Wembley.

The club's success in the League Cup was almost repeated in 1988/89 with a final appearance against Nottingham Forest, but this time the Town went down 3-1.

Their place in the top flight was maintained with some memorable escape acts, the most notable being in 1990 with a 3-2 win at Derby on the last day of the season. With the 'members only' and artificial surface banished, the Town entered season 1991/92 with fresh hope under David Pleat, who had re-joined the club during the summer, however they struggled all season and were finally relegated to the new First Division on the final day of the season at Notts County.

It proved to be a struggle for Pleat's young side as they came to terms with their new surroundings, but after finishing in 20th they had the platform for greater heights and in 1993/94 enjoyed a memorable FA Cup run which took them to a Wembley semi-final against Chelsea. In 1994/95 they peaked at fifth place in late November, and after slipping out of play-off contention, without ever being in relegation danger, they slipped to 16th with just one win in the final 10 games, after a season which also marked the club's record transfer when Hartson was sold to Arsenal for £2.5 million.

In the summer of 1995, David Pleat left to join Sheffield Wednesday and youth team coach Terry Westley was promoted to the manager's chair. But despite large investment in new players the team struggled, and Westley left in December with the team bottom of the league. Lennie Lawrence replaced Westley and the team embarked on an unbeaten run of eight matches to move out of the relegation zone. But just two wins from their final 17 games condemned the Hatters to Division Two – the first time they had been out of the top two divisions since the early 1970s.

He then joined Bradford in May 1994, leaving Valley Parade in November of this year. He is the 21st manager in the history of Luton Town.

CLIVE GOODYEAR – PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Clive is back at Kenilworth Road for the second time in his career, having been a member of the Hatters' second division championship winning squad of 1982. Clive moved to Plymouth, and then Wimbledon where he won an FA Cup winners' medal in 1988.

Within three years his career was over through injury and he became a qualified physiotherapist. He joined the Town in 1993/94, as assistant to Andy McDade, and took the full physio post during the summer of 1994.

WAYNE TURNER – FIRST TEAM COACH

Wayne returned to Kenilworth Road in the 1992/93 season, having previously represented the club as a player between 1977 and 1985.

During that period he made 84 league appearances and scored two goals as the Hatters climbed from Division Two to Division One. In 1985 he joined Coventry City before seeing out his playing days with Brentford and Barnet.

He was appointed reserve team coach at Luton in 1992 by David Pleat, following a coaching spell at Barnet. Lennie Lawrence appointed him first team coach in January 1996.

TREVOR PEAKE – PLAYER COACH/RESERVES

JOHN MOORE – YOUTH TEAM COACH

Former Luton manager, John returned to the Hatters coaching staff in 1990, 25 years after his arrival at Kenilworth Road as a player when he signed from Motherwell.

He made 263 appearances for the Town between 1965 and 1974, and was a leading figure in the promotion seasons of 1968 and 1970. He returned to Luton as youth coach in 1978 and was promoted to first team manager in 1985, guiding the club to their best-ever league position of seventh in the 1986/87 season. He stood down after one season, but returned to soccer in 1988 as youth coach at Leicester City, where David Pleat was manager.

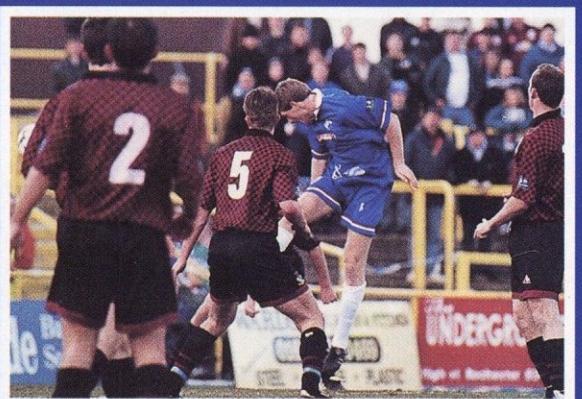
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Gills Action

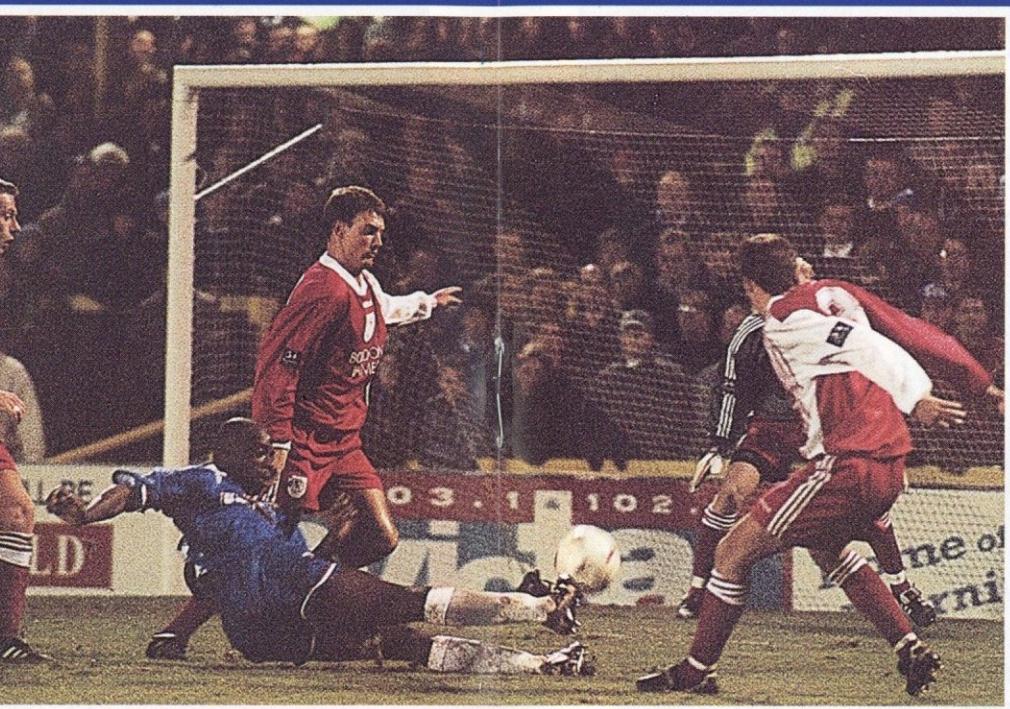
Gills action from the games
against Crewe and Bury



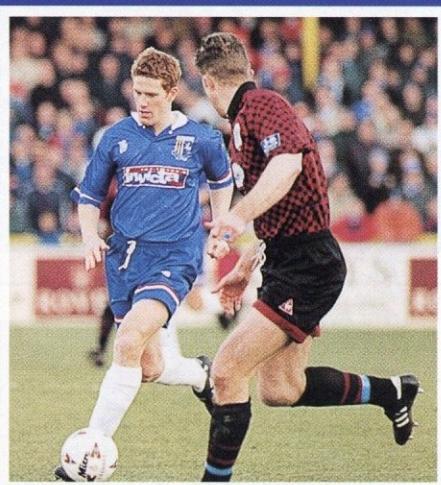
Andy Hessenthaler crosses for
Steve Butler's goal against Bury



Iffy Onuora gets a shot in against Crewe



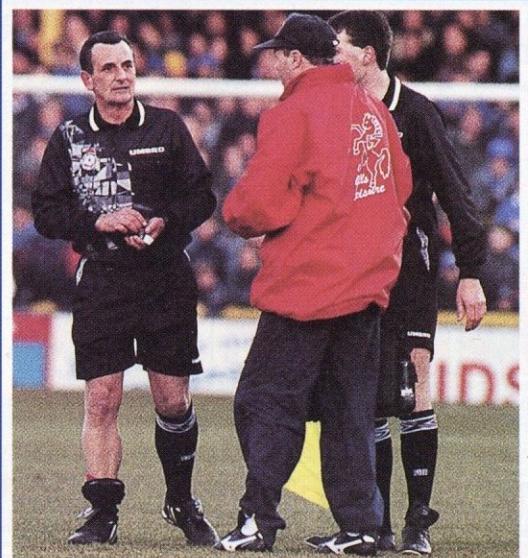
The Gills' wall does its job against Bury



Craig Armstrong in his last game for
the Gills



One of Gillingham's youngest fans, Jordan Towsey with
his father, Mick.



The biggest
cheer of the
day! Referee
Graham
Pooley calls it
a day v Bury

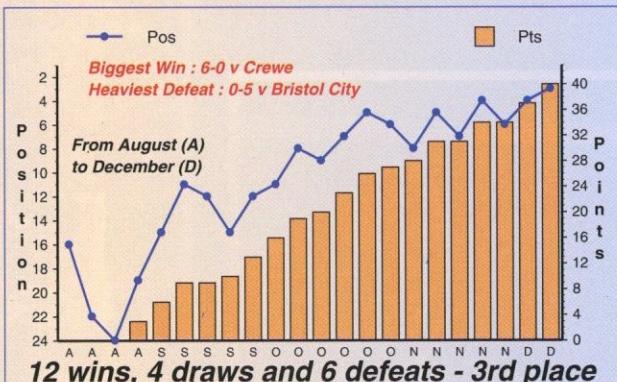
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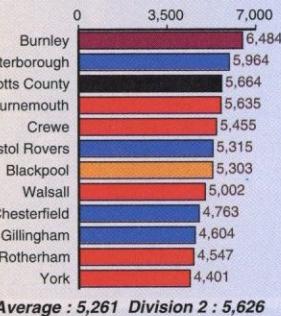
Hatters - The Season so Far

A=Appearances (Sub)
C=Caution (Sent Off)
G=Goals

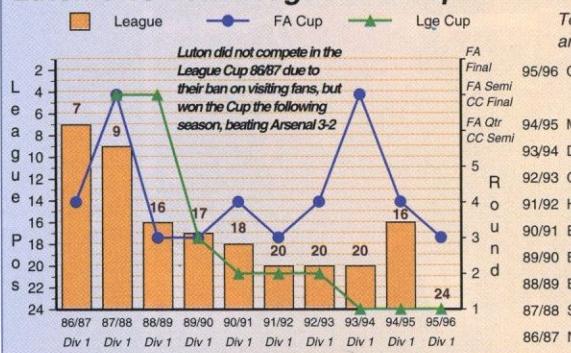
	A	G	C	Previous Clubs
Tony Feuer	22	2	West Ham Peterborough	
20/5/71 USA	8	1	(L) Los Angeles Salsa	
Julian James	22	1	3 Preston (L)	
22/3/70 Eng U21	8	1	Scunthorpe	
Graham Alexander	21(1)	1	2	
10/10/71	8	2		
Marvin Johnson	20	1		
29/10/68	7			
Mitchell Thomas	20	2	2(1) West Ham Tottenham	
2/10/64 Eng B	6	1	Luton	
Ceri Hughes	19	2	3	
26/2/71 Wales	8	2	2	
Gary Waddock	19	* 2	Bristol Rovers Swindon	
17/3/62 Eire	7	(1)	L QPR Millwall Charleroi	
Steve Davis	18(1)	4	3 Burnley Southampton	
26/7/65	8			
Tony Thorpe	16(2)	14	(1) Notts County (L)	
10/4/74	4(1)	2		
Paul Showler	13(2)	6	Bradford Barnet Altrincham Colne	
10/10/66	5(1)		Sunderland Shifl Wed	
David Oldfield	12(2)	3	Leicester Millwall (L)	
30/5/68 Eng U21	5	2	Man City Luton	
Bontcho Guentchev	9(9)	1	Ipswich Sporting Lisbon	
7/7/64 Bulgaria	4(3)		Lokomotiv Etur	
Kim Grant	8(7)	2	Charlton	
25/9/72	4(1)	2		
Fotiadis	5(4)	1		
(2)				
Dwight Marshall	4(1)	3	Plymouth Middlesbrough	
3/10/65	1(1)	2	(L) Grays	
Paul McLaren	3(5)	1		
17/11/76	(1)			
Darren Patterson	3		Palace Wigan West	
15/10/69 N Ire	1(1)		Brom	
Stuart Douglas	2(7)			
9/4/78	1(1)		Football Information Services	
Aaron Skelton	2(1)		Tel. 0151-632-5679	
22/11/74	2			
Kelvin Davis	2		Torquay (L)	
29/9/76 Eng U21				
Mitchell	1			
John Taylor	1		Bradford Bristol Rovers	
24/10/64			Cambridge Colchester	
Des Linton	(2)	1	Sudbury	
5/9/71			Leicester	
Matthew Upson	(1)			
18/4/79				



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Luton's 10 Year League and Cup Record



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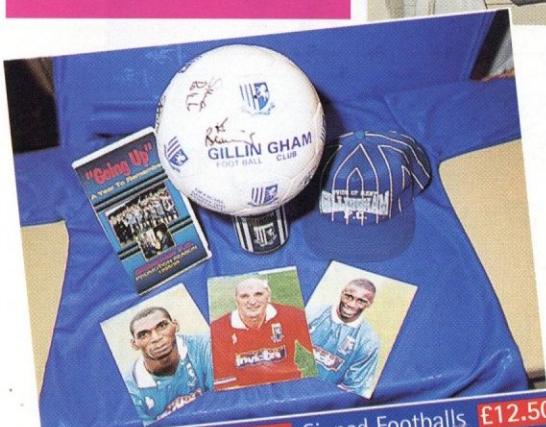
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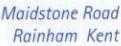
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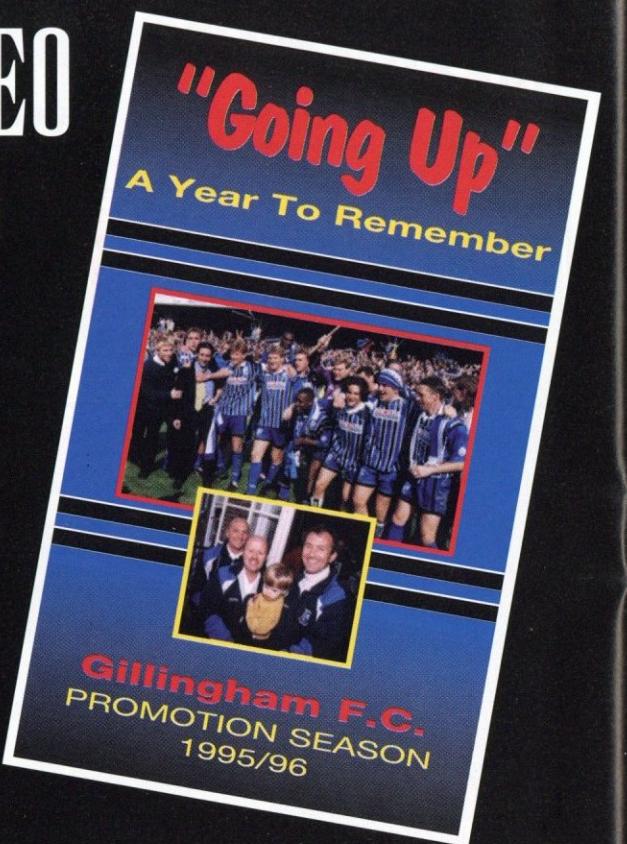
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Supporters club news

A very Happy Christmas to our members and all Gills supporters. Santa will hopefully be delivering three points for us from today's lunchtime match. The Social Club will be open straight after the game and all members and their guests are obviously welcome. Indeed, early this afternoon the Social Club will play host to our Christmas Draw which has attracted large numbers of returns from fans all over the country. Special thanks to Derek Hobden and his colleagues for buying £100 worth of tickets between them, which makes him our top "salesman" this year!

If you can't stay for the draw, a full list of prize winners will be available from our Secretary, Peter Lloyd on (01634) 571003. We would hope to be in touch with winners as quickly as possible. Next Tuesday sees the final day of the year and the chance to see in 1997 at the Social Club with our customary New Year's Eve Disco. This is always a popular evening and will set us all up nicely for the early departure for Rotherham the next morning! If you wish to travel to either Burnley or Rotherham in the next few days please make your booking as quickly as possible as obtaining additional

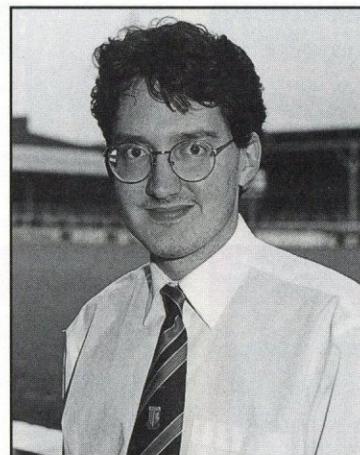
coaches over the holiday period at short notice will be a little difficult. Details of all the forthcoming travel arrangements are included elsewhere in today's programme.

If 1995 was a momentous year for the club, 1996 has not been far behind as we have won away from home against Premiership opposition, bought two players for over £200,000 and achieved the small matter of promotion! 1997 promises to start with a bang when Derby are our first visitors, and who knows....

Editor's Notes

I suppose I should say good morning at this point, or if you're reading this at half-time or at home after the game, good afternoon and welcome to today's game. Boxing Day fixtures are always something to look forward to, but due to policing and what have you, the traditional local derby on Boxing Day has sadly become a thing of the past. I don't remember a midday kick off at Priestfield for a long time, but at least it gives sad people like me the chance to do the anorak thing of going to a midday kick-off, a 3pm kick off and possibly an evening kick off all on the same day. No, it's years since I've done that but I used to. I always found the lack of public transport on Boxing Day a problem, though. Maybe things might quieten down at the club shop now. No doubt

many of you come to the game today wearing your new Gills shirt, scarf, or underpants, having drunk out of your new Gills mug



and slept under your new Gills poster. Since I've been working I have gone down the line of buying my favourite team's replica shirt, and indeed asking for it for Christmas, but I've always

found apart from April, May, August and early September it's too cold to wear it at matches, and I spend a lot of time at games looking at people in Gills shirts thinking "You must be cold."

It's been a great year for the club, as no doubt Paul or the management have reflected in their columns, and I've got a sneaking feeling January 4th is going to start 1997 the way 1996 has been for us.

Finally the question. The biggest attendance we played in front of last season was at Preston (10,669), and today's question is who are the three men to captain Gillingham this season? Answer at Derby. Happy New Year.

MATT DAVISON

**Tony Pulis**

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**Lennie Piper**

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Pulis all smile

Thanks for the memories



AHEAD OF THE FIELD: Gillingham midfielder Simon Ratcliffe ploughs a lone furrow through the Bury defence in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Priestfield. Picture: MICK GELL

PRESS CUTTINGS

from Kent Today

Up to the Mark

Rush for Derby tickets

SUPPORTERS clamouring to see Gillingham's FA Cup third round home tie with Derby on January 4 snapped up more than 5,000 tickets within hours of them going on sale on Saturday.

Long queues formed well before the ticket office and turnstiles opened. Some fans were still queuing when Saturday's match with Bury kicked off.

Non-season ticket-holders were able to buy one ticket for the Derby tie through the cash turnstiles.

Season ticket-holders have until 4pm on Christmas Eve to buy their own seat plus two terrace tickets. Terrace season ticket-holders are entitled to their ticket plus one other.

Tickets will again be on sale at the turnstiles for the Boxing

CRAIG Armstrong's appearance in Gillingham's 2-2 home draw with Bury on Saturday was his last for the club, writes Tony Hudd.

The wing-half, Stuart Pearce's understudy at Nottingham Forest, returned to the City Ground at the weekend on completion of a two-month loan in which he made 13 appearances.

But manager Tony Pulis was today attempting to extend England under-21 goalkeeper Andy Marshall's loan from Norwich for a second month.

Pulis said: "Craig has given us good service but with Neil Smith free from suspension for Saturday's match at Watford, I shall probably switch Mark Connor to the left."

He added: "It's by no means certain that Norwich manager Mike Walker will allow us to keep Andy Walker, but we are trying to make him available for another month because clubs are reluctant to loan players at this time of year because fixture congestions."

Pulis also revealed that the club has come within a whisker of signing long-time target Ade Akinbiyi from Norwich on Thursday.

"We thought we had a deal but Norwich were let down in another deal so ours was called off," he added.

Links between Gillingham and Brighton strengthened by last week's appointment of Priestfield chief scout Steve Gritt as manager of the Seagulls, could continue with the loaning of players.

Pulis said that any request by Gritt to take Gillingham players on loan would be treated sympathetically.

Gritt, an integral part of

Pulis's backroom team, made a

winning start on Saturday with a 3-0 home success against Hull. Gillingham have signed a £250,000 three-year deal with Brighton who want to lodge at Priestfield starting next season — providing the Football League sanction the move, which, to date, they have refused.

It is in Gillingham's best interests that Brighton, eight points adrift at the foot of Division 3, avoid relegation to the Vauxhall Conference.

Pulis added: "Should Steve come in for any of our players who are not in the side, then I would consider the request for a loan."

The Gills' boss expect to announce Gritt's successor as chief scout later this week.

TALKING POINT

with Neil Bell of BBC Radio Kent

Compliments of the season to one and all — and I hope you received all you deserved! Boxing Day games have a special atmosphere — they often kick off early, normally against relatively local opponents and attract good crowds. One of the chief attractions is the chance to spot all the new woolies, scarfs and hats which everyone felt duty bound to wear even though after today they will probably be dispatched to the back of the wardrobe or be used in tug of war competitions with the dog.

For most of us the chance to get out of the house after a day (or several) of over indulgence is a bonus. In fact however much you stuffed yourself yesterday, by the time you get back this afternoon you'll probably be looking forward to another go at the turkey and the chance to finish

off the brussel sprouts. For footballers this must be a tricky couple of weeks. The temptation to join in with the rest of the family must be a highly attractive one, but that second helping of Christmas pud and brandy butter would almost certainly take the edge of anyones performance. Football managers probably come closer to modern day scrooges than almost any other boss. Training on Christmas Day may not be as common as it once was but there are one or two "gaffers" who still seem to get an inordinate amount of pleasure from dragging their players away from the arms of their loved ones and the mince pies. Having said that it's difficult to imagine that every player turning out today stuck to the pasta and vegetables diet yesterday, that modern day footballers are expected to follow. It

would be nice to think that in this season of goodwill to all men, referees might try to do their bit. But on the other hand they too had to be abstemious yesterday, probably got up earlier than anyone and know that any dubious decisions will be greeted by a stream of advice not likely to be found in a Christmas Carol. Win lose or draw a Boxing Day game at least stops us from having to watch "The Great Escape" or "Butch Cassidy" yet again and rest assured someone within a few feet of you now will argue that however disastrous your Christmas has been, theirs has been worse. Happy Holidays!

Many thanks to Steve Butler for stepping in for his Club Captain Andy Hessenthaler for the Radio Kent Question of Sport. He did a sterling job, and you can hear the results after the game at 2.00pm this afternoon, repeated 6.00pm New Years Day.

MAN OF THE MATCH

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August 31st v Chesterfield
- MATT BRYANT
September 3rd v Swansea
- STEVE BUTLER
September 7th v Burnley
- ANDY HESSENTHALER
September 21st v Rotherham
- IFEM ONUORA
September 24th v Barnsley
- JIM STANNARD
October 1st v Notts County
- MATT BRYANT
October 5th v Bournemouth
- SIMON RATCLIFFE
October 19th v Millwall
- IFEM ONUORA
October 22nd v Coventry
- ANDY HESSENTHALER
October 26th v Preston North End
- GUY BUTTERS
November 11th v Wrexham
- NEIL SMITH

November 16th v Hereford
- STEVE BUTLER
November 23rd v York
- MARK O'CONNOR
December 3rd v Crewe Alexandra
- ADRIAN PENNOCK
December 10th v Cardiff
- BILLY MANUEL
December 14th v Bury
- GUY BUTTERS

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HALF TIME QUIZ

1. Who were the last league champions to lose in the Charity Shield?
2. Who was the first non-European to be voted European player of the year?
3. Who did Gillingham play in their final game of last season?
4. Other than Peter Shilton, which player has made the most league appearances?
5. Which player has won the most championship medals?
6. Which former Gillingham player scored on live television the Sunday before last?
7. Which current third division club have played in Europe 15 different seasons?
8. Which former Gillingham player is currently with Lincoln City?

WHO ARE WE?

We are one of the original members of the football league, in fact

we were the very first opponents of that year's champions, but although we've taken the title twice ourselves, and won the FA cup once, we've been in the bottom division all but one of the last 14 years. The last time we won the title we didn't go top until May, and of the eleven men in our side that year we paid for just two. Our current manager was in the great Everton side of the mid-eighties, but who are we?

WHO AM I?

I am a premiership striker known for the quality of my goals as much as the quantity. I've won two championship winners medals, three FA cup winners medals and European honours too. I've played for four clubs, two in this country and two abroad, and I have also won 60 caps for my country, although I have never played in a major international competition. Who am I?

Answers on page 39

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Q. Which makes of new cars do Hidsons sell in Rainham?
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Q. Which Gillingham player has also played for England?
A. _____

Q. Name the Citroen models offering two years FREE insurance before 31st January?
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Capital League Fixtures for Season 1996/97

GILLINGHAM F.C.

1996								
21 August	Southend United	1-1						
28 August	Welling United	2-0						
4 September	Peterborough United	1-3						
11 September	Wycombe Wanderers	3-2						
18 September	Leyton Orient	0-3						
25 September	Colchester United	2-0						
2 October	Colchester United	3-0						
9 October	Fulham	1-0						
16 October	Brentford	2-2						
30 October	Cambridge United	5-7						
4 November	Southend United (PC)	1-7						
11 November	Northampton Town	1-3						
2 December	Southend United	1-2						
18 December	Stevenage Borough	1-1						
1997								
29 January	Rushden & Diamonds	HOME						
17 February	Reading	Away						
26 February	Peterborough United	HOME						
12 March	Barnet	Away						
2 April	Sutton United	Away						
9 April	Welling United	HOME						
16 April	Barnet	HOME						
23 April	Sutton United	HOME						
TBA	Crawley Town	HOME						
TBA	Crawley Town	Away						
TBA	Leyton Orient	HOME						

Goalscorers: Piper 5, Bailey 4, Pinnock 4, Bremner 2, Saunders 2, Carpenter 1 (pen), Ford 1, Jonas 1, Norman 1, Onoura 1, Thomas 1.

FA Youth Cup

MILLWALL 1 GILLINGHAM 0

As we reflected in the last programme, Gillingham's hopes in the F.A. Youth Cup are over thanks to a goal midway through the second half. Republic of Ireland Under 18 International Stephen Roche, the wing back, beat two men and smashed it into the corner with his weak foot. Immediately before the goal Jim Corbett so nearly put us ahead, and Steve Norman came close in the first half.

Team: Smith, Saunders, Roser, Sambrook, Edge, Halls (sub. J. Cole), Bovis, Tydeman, Pinnock, Corbett, Norman.

South-East Counties League

IPSWICH 5 GILLINGHAM 2

An unusual game in which we were the better side for most of the match, and played some nice football up until the turning point of the game. Roland Edge gave away a penalty which was converted, but Sam Tydeman was brought down and got himself up to convert the spot kick to make it 1-1. For the first half-hour of the second half we were the better side until the moment that turned the game. Keeper Darren Smith brought his man down and was duly sent-off. Jay Saunders went in goal and couldn't keep the ball out from the resulting penalty, and then Saunders conceded another, substitute Richard Radbourne took over between the sticks, leaving Jay Saunders free to resume his natural position. Radbourne couldn't keep the fourth out, and in the final minute Wayne Phillips reduced the lead to 4-2 with a penalty only to see Ipswich go up the other end and score from the kick off.

Team: Smith, Saunders, Roser, Cella, Edge, Halls (sub. Radbourne), J. Cole (sub. Osborne), Tydeman, Pinnock, Phillips, Norman.

Scorers: Tydeman, Phillips.

Optimum Interiors Capital League

(Up to and including Saturday 14th December 1996)

			Goals					
			P	W	D	L	F	A
Peterborough United			12	11	0	1	31	8
Brentford			11	8	2	1	25	6
Southend United			14	7	3	4	29	22
Fulham			13	7	0	6	30	18
Rushden & Diamonds			11	6	3	2	27	19
Wycombe Wanderers			12	6	2	4	26	18
Northampton Town			11	6	1	4	22	14
Reading			11	5	3	3	24	16
Gillingham			12	5	2	5	22	23
Colchester United			11	4	1	6	13	18
Stevenage Borough			11	3	2	6	10	24
Cambridge United			9	3	2	4	17	24
Barnet			7	3	1	3	10	14
Woking			11	3	1	7	13	33
Crawley Town			10	2	2	6	12	17
Leyton Orient			9	1	3	5	14	17
Sutton United			11	1	3	7	10	24
Welling United			10	1	1	8	5	25

Goalscorers: Piper 5, Bailey 4, Pinnock 4, Bremner 2, Saunders 2, Carpenter 1 (pen), Ford 1, Jonas 1, Norman 1, Onoura 1, Thomas 1.

Youth Team (Half Term Report)

with Kevin Bremner

As you can see below, our league position makes very happy reading, and I've been delighted at the football we've been playing. I've only been involved with the team for two seasons but people are already saying this is the best youth side we've had for many years. The league position isn't that important. What's important is what we're doing for the future of the club, and at the rate things are going two or three of this side may well come through. It was sad to go out of the F.A. Youth Cup with our defeat to Millwall earlier this month. This was our best chance of going a long way in the competition for some time, and it would have been nice to have a chance to test ourselves against more of the country's best. Our next game is home to Ipswich on January 4th, while our next reserve fixture is January 29th at Rushden.

South East Counties League Fixtures for Season 1996/97

	August	17	Queens Park Rangers	1-1
September	24		West Ham United	0-0
	31		Norwich City	3-2
	7		Leyton Orient	1-1
October	14		Wimbledon (LC1)	1-3
	19		Arsenal (SJFC1)	0-3
	21		CAMBRIDGE UNITED	1-1
	28		Chelsea	4-2
November	5		FULHAM	2-1
	12		Watford	1-2
	19		Arsenal	2-1
	26		PORTSMOUTH	1-1
December	2		Millwall	2-1
	9		TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	1-1
	16		Charlton Athletic	3-0
	20		Fulham (FAYC1)	3-0
	23		Fulham	0-2
	30		ARSENAL	2-0
January	7		Southend United	4-1
	9		Millwall (FAYC1)	0-1
	14		Ipswich Town	2-5
February	21		QUEENS PARK RANGERS	
	4		IPSWICH TOWN	
	11		NORWICH CITY	
	18		LEYTON ORIENT	
	25		Cambridge United	
	1		WEST HAM UNITED	
March	8		CHELSEA	
	22		WATFORD	
	1		Portsmouth	
	8		MILLWALL	
	15		CHARLTON ATHLETIC	
	22		Tottenham Hotspur	
April	12		SOUTHEND UNITED	
	19			
	26			
May	3			

Goalscorers: Norman 8, Pinnock 6, Phillips 5 (1 pen), J. Cole 3, Corbett 3, Halls 2, Tydeman 2 (2 pens), Edge 1, Nedimovic 1, Osborne 1, Roser 1, Saunders 1.

MEET THE YOUTH TEAM PLAYERS

JAY SAUNDERS



WHERE WERE YOU
BORN?
Bethnal Green.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
Maidstone.

WHICH SCHOOL DID
YOU GO TO?
Swadlincote.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS
DO YOU HAVE?
Not a lot.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WEREN'T A
FOOTBALLER?
Never thought about it.

WHO IS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO?
Tony Adams or Ian Wright.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION 1

(Up to and including Saturday 14th December, 1996)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich City	14	11	1	2	39	16	23
Gillingham	17	8	6	3	30	22	22
West Ham United	15	8	5	2	34	11	21
Chelsea	15	8	3	4	27	23	19
Ipswich Town	17	7	4	6	36	35	18
Tottenham Hotspur	14	5	5	4	22	15	15
Arsenal	15	5	5	5	21	18	15
Millwall	16	6	3	7	27	31	15
Cambridge United	16	5	5	6	23	27	15
Fulham	17	6	2	9	23	31	14
Watford	12	6	1	5	23	21	13
Queens Park Rangers	15	5	2	8	24	30	12
Leyton Orient	15	2	8	5	22	33	12
Charlton Athletic	17	4	4	9	25	39	12
Portsmouth	16	4	3	9	22	32	11
Southend United	17	3	5	9	27	41	11

RESERVES AND JUNIORS



Score with Kent Racing & Sport Ltd

The best value bookmakers in Kent
**TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR
FOOTBALL BETTING**
All football bets tax free

Special bets for Gillingham games
i.e. the first scorer, half-time/full-time odds, time of the
first goal, correct score etc.

FIRST PAST THE POST FOR HORSE RACING

- Stakes refunded on fallers in hurdle races *
- Stakes refunded on horses beaten less than half a length in a chase *
- We pay on disqualified horses in addition to the official result *
- Early prices on all horse races

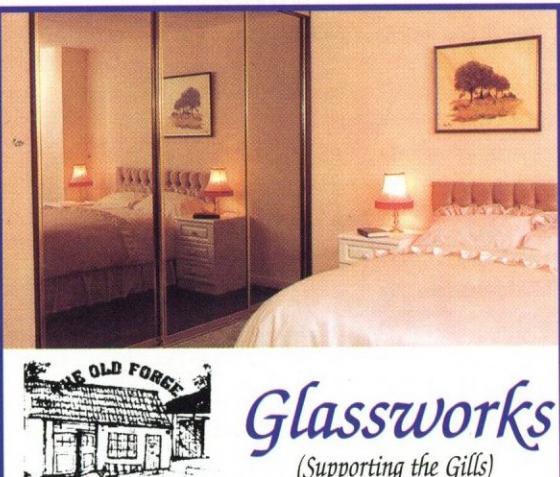
Many other concessions on sport, horse and dog racing bets

* on single & single each way bets only

Kent Racing and Sport First - the rest nowhere

Open a deposit or credit account now

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Open 6 Days a Week 9 until 5

Dcroblast, The Old Forge, 167 Capstone Road,
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PRIORITY TICKET VOUCHER - HOW IT WORKS...

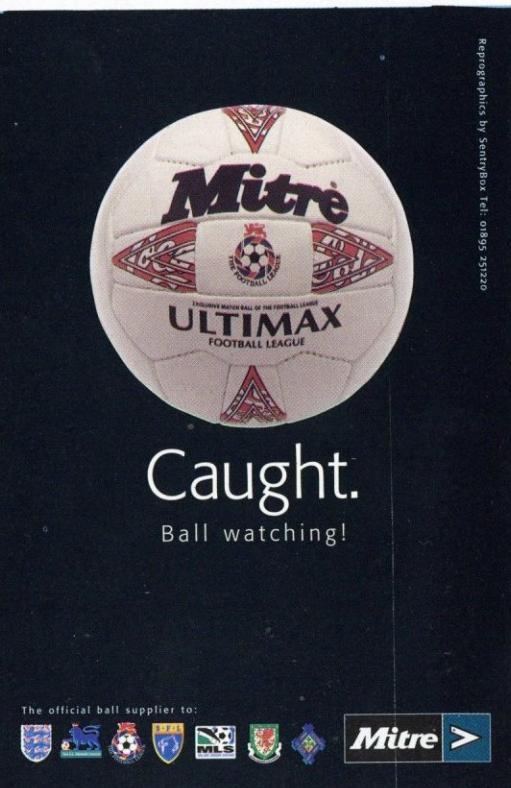
When building work takes place the capacity at Priestfield Stadium will fall to 8,000. We may therefore have to make some matches here all ticket. To ensure that true Gills fans get first refusal please keep these priority vouchers. We will ask

**GILLINGHAM v
LUTON**

**No. 16
Voucher**

you to produce your programmes (don't worry-we will not want to cut them out) when a match becomes all ticket.

Look out for further details in your match day magazine and the county media.



Mitre



Noticeboard

**YOUR LETTERS • INFORMATION • CLUB UPDATE
FORTHCOMING EVENTS • TICKET HOTLINE • TRAVEL**



with club
secretary
Gwen Poynter

BURNLEY V GILLINGHAM

Saturday 28th December 1996 -
Kick-off 3.00pm

COACH - Gills Supporters Club Coaches depart
Priestfield Stadium at 8.00am.

MEMBERS - Adults £15, Juniors £8, Non-Members: £16
TRAIN - Gillingham - Victoria 07.58 - 08.47. Euston -
Preston 09.30 - 12.35. Preston - Burnley 12.47 - 13.41.
Burnley - Preston 18.23 - 19.17. Preston - Euston 19.27 -
20.35. Charing Cross - Gillingham 23.27 - 00.40
Adults Saver Return Fare £59

CAR - A2/M2 to M25. Through Dartford Tunnel and join M1. Onto M6. Leave M6 at junction 31 and join A59 and then A677 towards Blackburn. Follow A6119 (Blackburn Ring Road) to join M65. Leave M65 at junction 10 and follow signs for Burnley Town Centre. At "Ritz" Nightclub roundabout take third exit into Yorkshire Street. Follow signal into Brunshaw Road.

ROtherham v Gillingham

Wednesday 1 January 1997 - Kick-off 3.00pm
ADMISSION PRICES - Millmoor Lane Stand (Seats) £10
Adults, £6.50 Concessions Railway End (Terrace) £7.50
Adults, £5 Concessions

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £1.50

COACH - Gills Supporters Club Coaches depart Priestfield Stadium at 9.00am

MEMBERS
Adults £12, Juniors £6; Non-members: £13
TRAIN - Gillingham - Victoria 00.31 - 10.20. Kings Cross -
Doncaster 11.00 - 12.32. Doncaster - Rotherham 12.49 -
1.10. Rotherham - Doncaster 18.01 - 18.26. Doncaster -
Kings Cross 18.53 - 20.38. London Bridge - Gillingham
21.31 - 22.32.
Adult Saver Return Fare: £55

CAR - A2/M2 to M25. Through Dartford Tunnel, Join M1. Leave M1 at junction 33, turn right, following signs for Rotherham. Turn left at roundabout and right at next roundabout. Follow dual carriageway over first roundabout then left at next roundabout and the ground is 400 yards on the left.

To book your seat for the Gills Supporters Club Coaches travelling to each of these games please ring Julie on: (01634) 375919 (10.00 am - 4.00 pm), or (01634) 301899 (6.00pm - 10.00pm).

LATEST SUPERLOT WINNERS

£250 - 222	R Sayer, Severn Road, Lordswood
£100 - 1106	Mr Crook, Sidney Road, Borstal
5993	Mr Lewin, Pickwick House, Northfleet
4284	Mrs Moffett, Longley Road, Rochester
1890	A Moran, London Road, West Malling
£50 -	11149 Mrs A Farrow, Hamilton Road, Gillingham
568	L Gardiner, Bradfields Ave, Chatham
1167	Mrs N Heaven, Sanders Court, Minster
376	E Chapman, Solomon Road, Rainham
1885	Mr Swan, Grange Road, Strood

PARKING AT DERBY

Due to police requirements at the Gordon Road side of the ground, car parks will be closed, and no spaces will be available to supporters.

ROtherham v Gillingham

Hospitality Wednesday 1 January 1997
1. Match ticket in Sponsors box. 2. Match Programme. 3. Welcoming glass of Buck Fizz. 4. Hot/cold buffet before game. 5. Tea/soup/coffee at half time. 6. Sponsors lounge facilities including licensed bar with Draught beer/lager & satellite TV - £30.00 per head.

OR

1. Match ticket in Executive Box. 2 Match Programme. 3 Tea/coffee at half time. 4 Use of Executive lounge licensed bar draught beer/larger satellite TV - £20 per head.
Please contact Dave Nicholls on 01709 512760 for bookings and further details

Gillingham v Derby County

Saturday 4th January 1997
FA Cup 3rd Round - kick off 3.00pm

Those vital ticket details for the big Derby Day
Season Ticket Holders:

Please produce voucher "F" from your book. Seat Season Ticket holders are entitled to their own seat plus two terrace tickets.
Terrace Season Ticket holders are entitled to their own seat plus one other terrace ticket.

Non-Season Ticket Holders:

Tickets are available through each cash turnstile today.

Subject to availability.

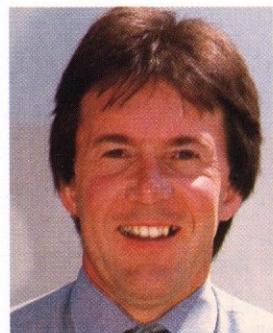
Any remaining tickets will go on sale from Monday 30th December.



**SUPERLOOT
COLLECTORS
REQUIRED IN
ALL AREAS.**

**Support the
club and
earn some
cash**

Please phone
PETER DIPPER
on
01634 851854

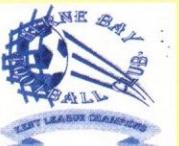


Mike Ling
Sales & Marketing
Manager

SALES & MARKETING

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

**ABIK
Leisure**



A big thanks today to a regular sponsor ADRIAN KEARNEY. Adrian is well known locally for the sponsorship he gives to Anchorians hockey and cricket but today we have as his guests the Herne Bay Football Team who he now looks after. Hope you have a great afternoon with us and best of luck in the FA Vase.

TODAY'S BALL SPONSOR

**A. OSBORNE
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

Another regular today in TONY OSBORNE. He and his son Mark are season ticket holders and their other guests today are Michael, Rod, Charlie and Marion. Have an enjoyable day with us.



GIVE PIERS A CHANCE APPEAL

Our photograph below shows Chairman Paul Scally, and Ken Perrin (MK Ltd) presenting cheques from the club and MK Ltd's customers totally £1,300 from our auction at the recent sportsman dinner.

We appreciate a lot of you have already given to our 1996-97 Charity appeal but today is their big day. We do think long and hard about having collections around the ground - we get inundated with requests, but we feel especially at this time of the year this cause is well worth supporting. Please donate whatever you feel you can afford. I assure you every penny will go towards helping Piers.

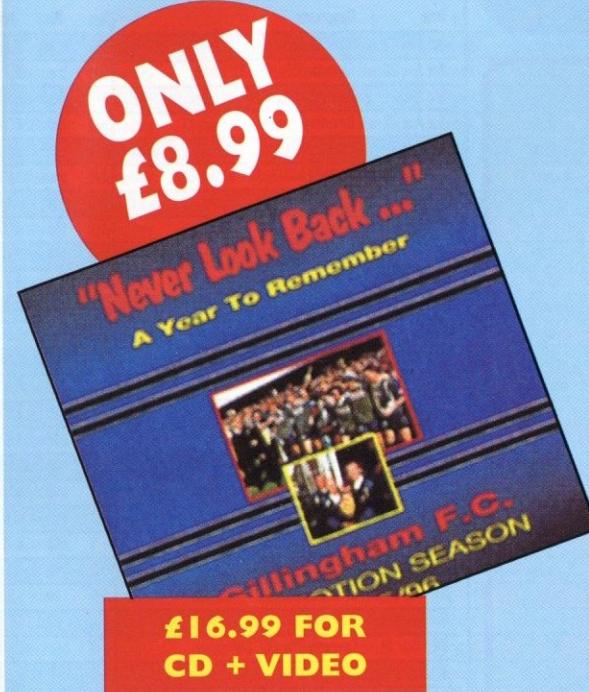
COMMERCIAL UPDATE

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE SHOP

Includes the song composed especially to relaunch the Gills in 95/96

Win, Win, Win you Gills.

The C.D. tells the story of the 17 months that took the Gills from receivership to promotion with the help of all the local media.



**£16.99 FOR
CD + VIDEO**

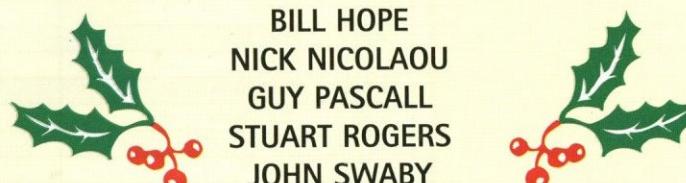
**SPECIAL
OFFER**
only £16.99

for the CD and Video
(Video priced at £9.99)

**A Big Thank You to all our
Sponsors and Advertisers this year**

*Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year*

from the Gills Sales Team



BILL HOPE

NICK NICOLAOU

GUY PASCALL

STUART ROGERS

JOHN SWABY

HARRY TOBIN

from the Lottery Team

PETER DIPPER

GLORIA LIPTROTT

MALCOLM LOFT

JOANNE RADBOURNE

and of course myself

FAIRWAYS 50/50



MATCHDAY WINNERS

GILLINGHAM V BURY

14.12.96

1ST PRIZE

£550

FAIRWAYS 36890

MR. W. WOODS

2ND PRIZE

GILLS GOODIE BAG

FAIRWAYS 35211

MR. S. PENNINGTON, OTTERBOURNE PLACE,
MAIDSTONE

3RD PRIZE

GILLS T-SHIRT

FAIRWAYS 34167

K. DILLON, LOWER ROAD, FAVERSHAM

GILLINGHAM V CREWE

3.12.96

1ST PRIZE

£400

P. PONMAN, ALMA ROAD, SHEERNESS

Buy your ticket now -
only £1.00

All todays (and our game
v Derby) prizes will be

CASH



Nationwide Division Two Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	23	13	4	6	41	25	43
Brentford	23	12	7	4	37	24	43
Millwall	24	11	8	5	33	24	41
Bury	22	11	7	4	35	22	40
Burnley	23	11	4	8	31	24	37
Stockport	23	10	7	6	29	25	37
Watford	22	9	10	3	25	19	37
Chesterfield	22	11	4	7	22	17	37
Wrexham	21	9	8	4	27	23	35
Bristol City	22	9	7	6	37	24	34
Crewe	22	11	1	10	29	27	34
York	22	8	5	9	24	29	29
Bristol Rovers	23	7	8	8	23	24	29
Shrewsbury	23	7	7	9	28	35	28
Preston	23	8	4	11	24	27	28
Gillingham	23	7	5	11	23	29	26
Walsall	22	7	5	10	22	26	26
Bournemouth	23	7	5	11	21	28	26
Blackpool	23	5	10	8	22	27	25
Plymouth	23	5	9	9	26	33	24
Peterborough	23	4	9	10	32	41	21
Notts County	22	5	6	11	15	23	21
Wycombe	23	5	5	13	18	33	20
Rotherham	22	3	7	12	18	33	16

Appearances 1996-97

(Up to and including November 30th 1996)

	DIV2	CCC	FAC	AWS	KSC	TOTAL	AGG
Craig Armstrong	10	2	-	1	-	13	13
Dennis Bailey	12(9)	5(2)	-(1)	1	-	18(12)	64(17)
Matt Bryant	19	6	1	-	-	26	26
Steve Butler	15(3)	4(1)	2	-	-	21(4)	35(10)
Guy Butters	9	-	2	-	-	11	11
Richard Carpenter	1	-	-	-	-	1	128(18)
Ian Chapman	12(2)	5	1(1)	1	-	19(3)	19(3)
Jon Ford	2(2)	3	-(1)	1	-	6(3)	6(3)
Leo Fortune-West	7	1	-	-	-	8	49(4)
Jonathan Gould	3	-	-	-	-	3	3
Richard Green	9	2	2	-	-	13	204(2)
Mark Harris	16(1)	6	1(1)	-(1)	-	23(3)	73(3)
Andy Hessenthaler	17	7	2	-	-	26	26
John Humphrey	9	3	-	1	-	13	13
Billy Manuel	3(5)	-	1	1	-	5(5)	101(22)
Andy Marshall	4	1	-	1	-	6	6
Mark Morris	6	2	-	-	-	8	8
Mark O' Connor	7(1)	1	2	-	-	10(1)	163(12)
Ifen Onuora	19(1)	6	2	-	-	27(1)	27(1)
Adrian Pennock	3	1	1	1	-	6	6
James Pinnock	-	-	-	-(1)	-	-(1)	-(1)
Lennie Piper	3(11)	2(2)	1	1	-	7(13)	7(13)
Dave Putnam	5(6)	1(5)	-(1)	1	7(12)	18(31)	
Simon Ratcliffe	22	7	1	-	-	30	76
Neil Smith	21	6(1)	1	-	-	28(1)	226(10)
Jim Stannard	16	6	2	-	-	24	77
Glen Thomas	3(2)	-	-	1	-	4(2)	18(3)

Goalscorers 1996-97

DIVISION 2: Onuora 9, Butler 3 (2 pens), Ratcliffe 3, Fortune-West 2, Bailey 1, Chapman 1, Harris 1, Pennock 1, Piper 1, Smith 1. COCA-COLA CUP: Ratcliffe 2, Butler 1, Fortune-West 1, Onuora 1, Putnam 1, Smith 1, Torpey (Swansea City) 1. FA CUP: Butler 1, Hessenthaler 1, Onuora 1. AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Piper 1. TOTAL: Onuora 11, Butler 5 (2 pens), Ratcliffe 5, Fortune-West 3, Piper 2, Smith 2, Bailey 1, Chapman 1, Harris 1, Hessenthaler 1, Pennock 1, Putnam 1, Torpey (Swansea City) 1. Average home attendance (Div. 2): 5,888.

KEY TO SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GOALSCORERS (CAPITALS) PENALTY (P)

*OG

▲◆▼ - Substitutions

The Fixtures pages are sponsored by Ian and Cheryl Boorman of
THE RIFLEMAN SPORTS BAR (under new management)

155 Thorold Road, Chatham. Phone: 01634-814853

HALF TIME QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Blackburn (1995). 2. George Weah. 3. Scarborough. 4. Terry Paine. 5. Phil Neal. 6. Peter Beadle. 7. Cardiff City. 8. Steve Brown. WHO AM I? - Burnley. WHO AM I? - Mark Hughes (Chelsea).

TEAM LINE UPS

Gillingham

Blue shirts, blue shorts

JIM STANNARD
NEIL SMITH
GUY BUTTERS
ADRIAN PENNOCK
RICHARD GREEN
MATT BRYANT
ANDY HESSENTHALER
SIMON RATCLIFFE
IFFY ONUORA
STEVE BUTLER
IAN CHAPMAN
BILLY MANUEL
MARK HARRIS
LENNIE PIPER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
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9
10
11
12
13
14

LUTON TOWN

Orange and Black

IAN FEUER
JULIAN JAMES
MITCHELL THOMAS
GARY WADDOCK
STEVE DAVIS
MARVIN JOHNSON
CERI HUGHES
GRAHAM ALEXANDER
PAUL SHOWLER
TONY THORPE 2
DWIGHT MARSHALL
KIM GRANT
DAVID OLDFIELD
PAUL McLAREN

Kent Today

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF
GILLINGHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

TODAY'S MATCH

OFFICIALS

Referee:

Mr. Paul Rejer (Tipton)

Assistant referees:

Mr. D. R. Crick (Worcester Park)

Mr. P. J. Griffin (Romchurch)

Reserve Official:

Mr. M. Bishop (Southfleet)

MATCH MASCOT

**Anthony Kent**

Eight year old Anthony lives in Tonbridge and plays for Tonbridge Invicta. He also likes swimming, is a member of the Woodlands School Cross Country Team and his favourite Gills player is Neil Smith.

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

ABIK
Leisure



Next at
Priestfield
DERBY COUNTY
FA Cup
Round 3
Saturday,
January 4th, 1997
Kick-off 3.00 pm

