

T H E  **PIRATE** VOL. 1/19

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

BRISTOL ROVERS
v
LUTON TOWN

SATURDAY
15th FEBRUARY 1997
KICK OFF 3.00 PM
THE MEMORIAL
GROUND
£1.50

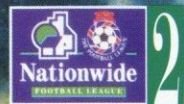


TWENTYMAN TALKS

Geoff's latest
update

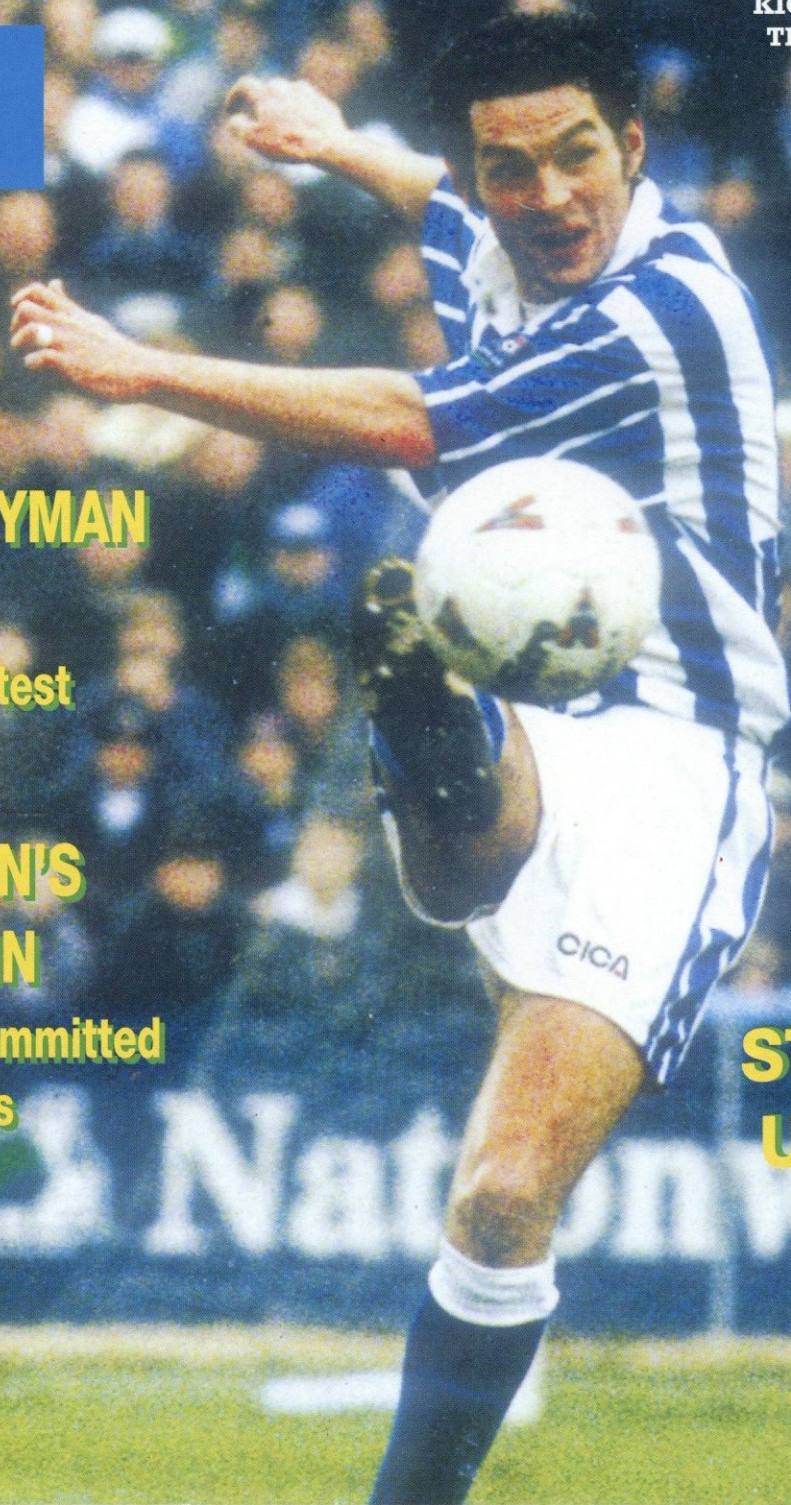
CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

Andy's committed
to the Gas



BRADSHAW'S
**SNACK
BOX**

**WEST
STAND IN
USE FOR
FIRST
TIME
TODAY**





NEW WORLD SATELLITES

219 CHELTENHAM ROAD BRISTOL BS6 5QP
TEL: 0117 924 0082 FAX: 0117 944 4154
E-Mail 100557.2233@compuserve.com

see
Shearer
play in Bristol
only on
Sky sports

don't miss this
season, buy a
satellite system
from **£49.95**

only from NWS

why not upgrade your existing satellite
receiver by part exchanging it with a new
one - contact NWS for further details

SKY
movies

SKY
movies
gold

SKY
the movie
channel

SKY
sports
2

SKY
sports

SKY
one

SKY
sports
gold

SKY
soap

SKY
News

SKY
multi-
channels

SKY
travel

tel: 0117 975 9759



BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB plc

Registered Office:
The Beeches
Broomhill Road
Brislington
Bristol BS4 5BF
Tel: 0117 977 2000
Fax: 0117 977 3888
Training Ground Tel: 0117 977 1888
Community Department: 0117 977 3111

President:

His Grace
the Marquis of Worcester

Vice Presidents:

H. E. L. Brown
Dr W. T. Cussen
A. I. Seager
R. C. Redman

Directors:

D. H. A. Dunford (Chairman)
G. M. H. Dunford (Vice-Chairman)
V. Stokes (Managing/Admin.)

R. Andrews
B. W. Bradshaw
R. Craig
C. Jelf

Secretary:

R. Brinsford

Manager:

Ian Holloway
Club Doctor:
Dr A. Langton
Club Safety Officer:
C. Powell

Club Photographer:
A. Marshall

Programme Editor:

Keith Brookman

Club Chaplain:

Rev. Simon Stevenette

Stadium:

Memorial Ground, Filton Avenue, Horfield,
Bristol BS7 0AQ

Reg No: 51828 England
VAT Reg. No: 137 4967 35
Copyright: Bristol Rovers F. C.

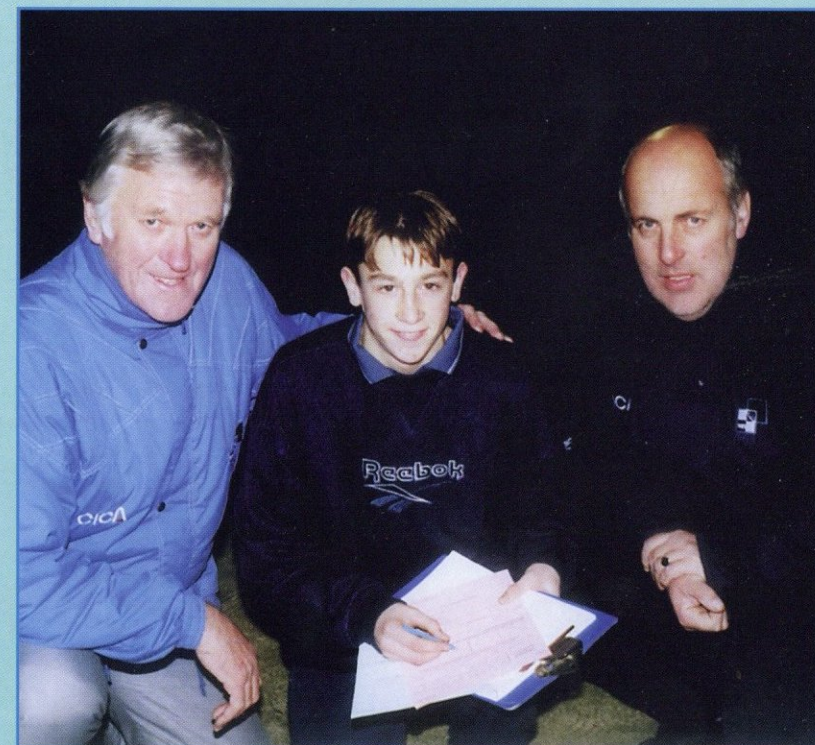


Designed & Produced by
Sports Programme Promotions Ltd.
0117 977 9188

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily
those of the Directors or Management.

C o n t e n t s

- 5 Assistant Manager Geoff Twentyman talks
- 6 Kevan Blackadder tells us about today's visitors
- 10 There's a familiar name in Luton's 1921 lineup
- 11 Stephen Byrne asks where you were on this day
- 17 He's staying in our Manor - and he's still our captain!
- 21 Mike Jay tells us it's a Grandstand Finish
- 22 In conversation with Bill and Phil
- 30 Bubbling under - reserve and youth team news
- 35 It's a fact - Peter Beadle is drop dead sexy!
- 39 Find out more about today's mascot
- 43 The Community coach with the silky skills of Steve McManaman!
- 48 It's the Chairman's turn to speak from the Boardroom
AND THERE'S MORE - Have your reserved your Executive Box,
your seat in the new West Stand, joined Helpline, or rung the
Hotline yet (if not, why not?)



Who is this young star of the future pictured with Roy Dolling and
Richard Everson? Turn to page 45 and all will be revealed!

**COMING SOON ...
ROVER'S GOLD BOND ...**



TOUCHDOWN TRAVEL

THE AZTEC CENTRE | AZTEC WEST | BRISTOL BS12 4TD

TEL 01454 614190 | FAX 01454 614700

THIS WEEKS STAR BARGAINS
FROM YOUR LOCAL AIRPORT

LATE CANCELLATION HOLIDAYS

TENERIFE / LANZAROTE / GRAN CANARIA / SPAIN

PORTUGAL / MAJORCA / MALTA / GREECE / TUNISIA

AVAILABLE NOW

PLUS

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS ON FLIGHT ONLY
FROM YOUR LOCAL AIRPORT

DONT DELAY - PHONE TODAY

Switch, Delta,
Visa, Access,
Amex

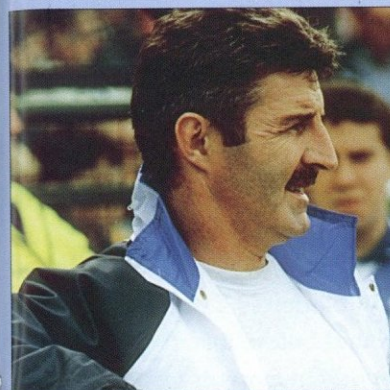
TELEPHONE

01454 614190

Fully
ABTA Bonded
D-7486



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
UNTIL LATE



A very good afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Ground for what should be a thoroughly entertaining game against one of the division's high fliers. Lennie Lawrence's side has done extremely well and except for this afternoon of course I wish them good luck for the rest of the season. It'll be good to see former Rovers captain Gary Waddock again and I'm sure the Gasheads will give him the hos-

Ian Traynar APSMT, MTI, ITEC



Professional Massage Practitioner
Consultant to Bristol Rovers FC

- sports injuries & specialist sports massage
- all muscle related problems eg soreness, strain, spasm
- joint pains, or restrictions, including arthritis
- back and neck pain
- migraine and headaches
- sleep problems
- stress related problems
- massage for general health and relaxation

MASSAGE FOR HEALTH & SPORT

TEL: (0117) 924 3770

Treatment rooms at Redland and Filton

Twentyman Talks

pitiable welcome he deserves. "Wads" is both a great bloke and an excellent professional who always sets a fine example for those around him to follow. With a third of the season to go I firmly believe that teams are where they are in the table on merit. However, I know we are more than capable of beating Luton. Earlier in the season we gave them a real mauling in the second leg of the Coca Cola Cup here in Bristol and we played extremely well at Kenilworth Road only to lose to an injury time penalty kick. All things considered I expect Lennie Lawrence will anticipate a tough ninety minutes this afternoon. With sixteen league games to play I am confident that we can finish the season in a strong fashion and achieve a healthy position in the league table.

The old cliché says it's a "funny old game" and a recent experience with the reserves certainly proved the adage to be true. Perhaps "funny" was rather inappropriate as the Crystal Palace reserve team failed to arrive at Yate because they were unable to put fuel in the coach because the filler cap couldn't be undone!!!! Our lads were just about to get stripped for the game when we got the unwelcome news. In all my years in the game I have never come across such an embarrassing scenario. It will be interesting to see what, if any, action will be taken against the Londoners.

It was hugely disappointing to lose at Gillingham last weekend after a

useful mini revival and it's crucial that we return to winning ways this afternoon. The support at the Priestfield Stadium was brilliant and I assure you it was greatly appreciated by the players and staff alike. We just wish we could have rewarded your dedication with at least a point. On the injury front Frankie Bennett is making excellent progress and it shouldn't be too long before he returns to full training and subsequently the first team squad. Frank has battled hard to regain full fitness and has shown a wonderful attitude, as being the subject of a long term injury really tests an individual's resolve and dedication.

I anticipate two things this afternoon. Firstly partisan support from you Gasheads and secondly a wholehearted, passionate performance from the players. Together we can make it an afternoon to remember.

Enjoy the game.
Best wishes.

20f

The Board of Directors would like to thank Nigel Mogridge for his hard work prior to the game against York on 18th January. Nigel, one of our matchday stewards, was called into emergency action as a plumber that day and was able to repair the burst pipes that caused us such a problem on the day of the match.

For up to date Rovers news telephone the

Pirates Hotline on 0891 66 44 22

Calls cost 50p per minute daytime rate



Welcome to LUTON

WHAT a difference five months has made in the fortunes of Luton Town. When they came to the Memorial Ground for the Coca-Cola Cup tie in September they had a healthy lead from the first leg but were otherwise in turmoil.



They had won just one of their four league games played and had just suffered a 5-0 defeat at Bristol City. When they went 2-0 down in the game here it seemed their season was set to go from bad to worse.

But just as they recovered to go through 4-2 on aggregate in that cup tie, their season has turned round so much they are many people's new favourites for the second division title.

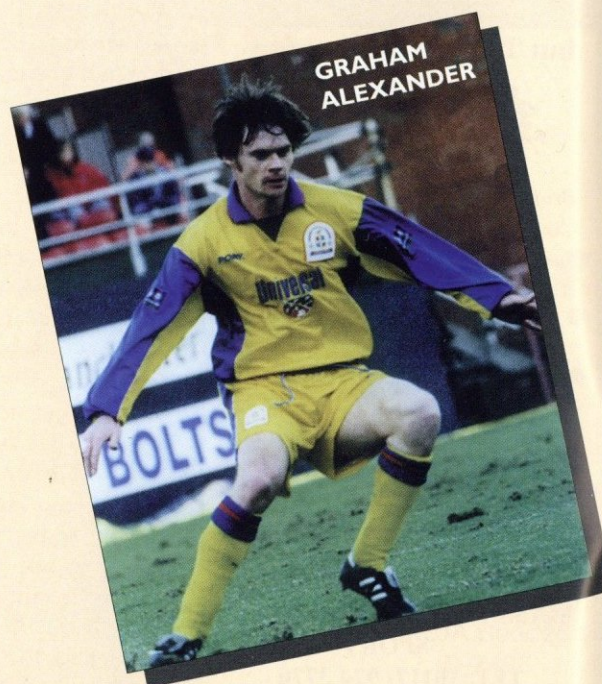
Prior to last weekend's games, they were in a position where they would go top by winning their matches in hand on leaders Brentford.

They followed up the win over Rovers with a fine second round win over Premiership Derby Coun-

ty and then held Wimbledon to a draw away from home in the third round before losing the replay. Their FA Cup run ended in more dramatic fashion – a 6-2 third round replay defeat at first division high-flyers Bolton Wanderers – but they got there by winning tricky ties against Torquay United and non-league Boreham Wood.

Recent league victories have included the away games at Notts County and Gillingham, which followed a sensational 6-0 home win over promotion rivals Crewe Alexandra.

One reason for the turnaround has clearly been the form of the division's top scorer Tony Thorpe, whose goals made him the obvious choice for today's Star Man column.



But otherwise, Lennie Lawrence seems to have benefitted from having a settled side whose results have got steadily better the more they have played together.



LUTON TOWN FC SEASON 1996/97

Back row, l to r: Jamie Woodsford, Bontcho Guentchev, Kim Frant, Paul McLaren, Darren Patterson, Gary Simpson (now Aylesbury), John Taylor (now Cambridge), Ben Chenery

Middle row, l to r: Clive Goodyear (physio), David Oldfield, Des Linton, Marvin Johnston, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Graham Alexander, Aaron Skelton, Trevor Peake (reserve team player/coach)

Front row, l to r: Julian James, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis (captain), Lennie Lawrence (manager), David Kohler (chairman), Wayne Turner (first team coach), Gary Waddock, Dwight Marshall, Richard Harvey

The side has not included two old Rovers favourites, Gary Waddock and John Taylor, with the latter recently departing on a free transfer to Cambridge United, the club which he left to join the Gas.

Thorpe's main partner up front has been Dwight Marshall, the former Plymouth Argyle striker.

He was still recovering from a broken leg for September's cup tie but was fit again by the time Rovers played at Luton in the league and scored the first goal in Town's 2-1 win.

Jamaican-born Marshall has returned to the team at the expense of Ghanaian Kim Grant. He signed from Charlton, for whom he made well over 100 league appearances, just before last season's transfer deadline and scored three goals in ten games as Luton lost their battle against relegation from division one.

Also waiting in the wings for a striker's role is a

player who played in Euro 96, Bulgarian Bontcho Guentchev. He entered British football with Ipswich Town after signing from Sporting Lisbon and left Suffolk for Kenilworth Road on a free transfer in the summer of 1995.

Town's mainline midfielders are Graham Alexander, Ceri Hughes, Paul Showler and David Oldfield.

Alexander, like Showler and Oldfield, scored in the victory against Crewe and is renowned for his shooting. He was signed for Luton by Terry Westley, who had a short spell in charge before Lennie Lawrence took over last season, but has remained a regular under the new manager. He played more than 150 league games for his only previous league club, Scunthorpe United.

Hughes is a one-club man who has won full international honours for Wales. He will shortly celebrate his 26th birthday and has played more than



150 league games for the Hatters, after being linked with bigger clubs several times during his career.

Showler was manager Lawrence's main summer signing. He stayed in the second division as his previous club Bradford City were promoted to the first division. Doncaster-born Showler started his career in the south with Barnet.

Australian Oldfield is in his second spell with Luton, the club with whom he was an apprentice. He left to join Manchester City for £600,000 in 1989, was sold to Leicester City for £150,000 within a year, and also had a loan spell at Millwall before returning to Luton.

The regular full backs are Julian James and Mitchell Thomas and centre backs Steve Davis and Marvin Johnson, although Des Linton has also featured in recent matches.

Both full backs are Luton apprentices, although Thomas fitted in 157 league games for Tottenham Hotspur and 38 for West Ham between his two spells with the club. Both have played well over 200 games for Luton.

Davis established his League career at Burnley after an apprenticeship at Southampton, for whom he played seven full league games at the top level. He won the old fourth division championship during his time with Burnley.

Johnson is another home-grown player who seems to have been turning out for Town for longer than even the 200-plus games he has played for them since making his debut in 1988.

Linton is another former Leicester City player and signed for Luton in 1991. Other defenders on the fringes of the first team are Northern Ireland international Darren Patterson, formerly of West Brom, Wigan Athletic and Crystal Palace, and Paul McLaren, a former trainee.

In goal is 6ft 6in Tony Feuer, who followed fellow American Juergen Sommer in becoming Town's first-choice keeper. His English career started with West Ham United, for whom he failed to play a league game, but he turned out 16 times for Peterborough United while on loan. His under-study is former trainee Kelvin Davis, an England under-21 international.

KEVAN BLACKADDER

Star Man TONY THORPE

Tony Thorpe has finally been handed a regular place in Luton Town's starting line-up and has stormed to the top of the second division scoring charts.

The former Leicester City trainee has often been used as a substitute in previous seasons and often on the left-hand side of mid-field.

But the opening day of the season may have set the seal for what followed. Thorpe scored from 20 yards against Burnley in a 2-1 home defeat. And as he has continued to score, so his team's fortunes have drastically improved.

He has already made his mark against Rovers this season, scoring in the Coca-Cola Cup tie and then from the penalty spot in the final minute of the league game at Kenilworth Road to seal the three points.

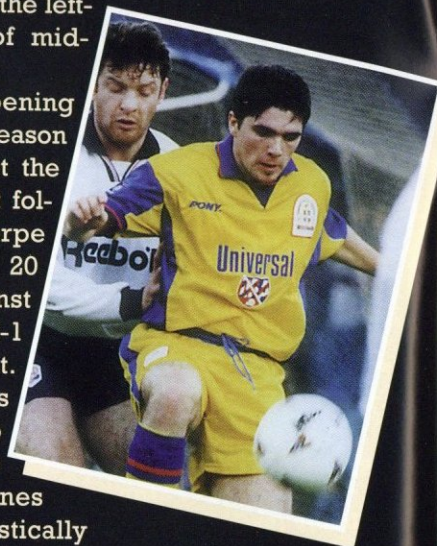
He is also enjoying the experience of hat-tricks this season. He scored all his team's goals in a 3-3 draw at Plymouth Argyle and then grabbed three again during that 6-0 home victory against Crewe.

Even on the few unsuccessful days Luton have had recently, Thorpe's name has appeared on the score sheet. He scored both goals in the 6-2 FA Cup defeat at Bolton.

Prior to last weekend's games he had scored 16 league goals, plus another four in the cup competitions to overhaul Brentford's Carl Asaba and become the divisions top scorer.

The future is now looking very bright for the 5ft 9in player who does not celebrate his 23rd birthday until April.

He is likely to have completed more than 100 games for Town by the end of the season and their supporters will be hoping there are many more to come.



Black Horse Agencies Alder King

Are pleased to support

BRISTOL ROVERS

throughout the 1996 - 97 Season

*Selling, Buying, Renting,
or needing a Survey
call us now!*

Black Horse Agencies

Residential Sales & Lettings and Management

94c Whiteladies Rd., Clifton (Sales) Tel: 0117 973 5071

94c Whiteladies Rd., Clifton (Letting) Tel: 0117 973 8915

83 Gloucester Rd., Bishopston Tel: 0117 942 9131

33 Badminton Rd., Downend Tel: 0117 970 1234

341/343 Two Mile Hill Rd., Kingswood Tel: 0117 960 4164

63 High St., Keynsham Tel: 0117 986 1226

Also at Yate, Thornbury, Nailsea and Bath

Surveying Services: (Bristol Area Centre)

341/343 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood

Tel: 0117 961 5565

To discuss all your survey requirements

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

BACK in time

NEW Years Day 1921 was the date of our first league meeting with Luton, a game which had me delving back into the archives. So,

given that I was not at the game, even though one of my ancestors appears to have played on Luton's left wing. I'll let you read snippets from the original match report which appeared in the local press.

"If Rovers had been offered a draw as the result of the match at Luton before a ball had been kicked off, they would have been well content to accept it, for Luton had not been beaten at home this season and Rovers had only won once away - at Newport.

Leigh had been dropped from Rovers team since the Christmas Day match at Swansea, but came back owing to a shortage through injuries and signalled his gratitude by getting both goals by which the Rovers led at the interval. His first was after half an hour's play when Bailey and Tirrell in the Luton's defence, were both at fault. The second came soon after and was the climax of a wonderful dribble during which he beat several opponents and wound up with a shot which gave Bailey no chance. The

only goal for Luton was scored by Tirrell from a free kick. Whatley having no chance with a really great drive. The Luton players and spectators, once in the second half vigorously claimed that Whatley was beaten by Molyneux

and that the ball went over the line before Panes headed it out, but the point was not allowed. Rovers conceded a penalty for handball, but Whatley saved the kick taken by Sims.

Apparently, Rovers star man was Jesse Whatley, Rovers goalkeeper and our reporter had this to say about his performance. "Apart from the penalty save, he found it impossible to make a mistake, though the ball was slippery and the ground was greasy to a degree. It was the best display of goalkeeping seen at Luton this season".

Rovers went on to finish in 10th position with 43 points at the end of their first season in the Football League whilst the Hatters finished 1 point and 1 place better off on their return to League football since losing their place in 1900.

A crowd of about 6,000 witnessed these teams in action.

ROVERS: Whatley, Hall, Panes, Howes, Sims, Crompton, Walter, Morgan, Boxley, Leigh, Norton.

LUTON: Bailey, Semple, Tirrell, Molyneux, Parker, Cockerill, Hoar, Higginbotham, Sims, Mathieson, Brookman.

The match at Kenilworth Road on the 20th of March 1993 was not only the 64th meeting between the sides, it was Rovers first match under new manager John Ward. Tony Pounder and Lee Maddison were recalled to the side and Brian Parkin returned in goal in place of the injured Gavin Kelly. Both sides were fighting against relegation, though Rovers plight was becoming desperate, anchored as they were to the bottom of the table with 31 points from 35 games.

The first half was described as a grim spectacle in the Evening Post both teams appeared nervous and afraid to make mistakes on the hard surface. Although selected to play out wide, Pounder and David Mehew often found themselves drawn into midfield. The second half was only 13 minutes old when Maddison, playing his first game since October, swung out his boot to clear a cross from Marvin Johnson, but



only succeeded in hitting a spectacular volley past Parkin to put the home side ahead.

However, Rovers scored a deserved equaliser in the 72nd minute, when good work from Carl Saunders set Pounder free and his cross was met by substitute John Taylor whose looping header went over goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain and into the net.

Luton tried to get another goal and David Pearce crashed a shot against the crossbar with 15 minutes remaining, although Rovers could have nicked the three points in the closing stages, as Saunders first of all just failed to get on the end of a cross from Mehew and then shot narrowly wide from the edge of the box.

After the game, John Taylor said he thought he had played his last game for the club, as he hoped to complete a £300,000 move to Portsmouth. As we know that move didn't materialise and he has now rejoined his first club Cambridge, following spells at Bradford City and Luton.

A crowd of 7,717 saw these teams in action.

ROVERS: Parkin, Alexander (sub Clark 85 mins), Tillson, Yates, Maddison, Pounder, Mehew, Browning, Stewart (sub Taylor 57 mins), Saunders, Waddock

LUTON: Chamberlain, Dreyer, James (sub Hughes 45 mins), Johnson, Rees, Peake, Telfer, Dixon, Oakes, Gray, Preece (sub not used Skelton)

Rovers complete record against Luton is as follows:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
HOME	32	14	11	7	61	37
AWAY	33	3	8	22	30	83
TOTAL	65	17	19	29	91	120

KEITH BROOKMAN

15th February 1930

ROVERS played out a dramatic and exciting Third Division (South) game against Watford at Vicarage Road on this day. Bert Densley replaced Jesse Whatley in Rovers' goal, while Wally Gillespie and Mick Cosgrove played in defence and Tom Roberts was recalled at inside-right. Rovers trailed 3-2 at half-time and eventually lost 4-3. Jack Phillips, Ronnie Dix and Watford's left back Joe Davison (own goal) scored for Rovers, Harry Lowe (two), Neil McBain and Billy Chapman for the Hornets. A crowd of 5,000 saw the match. Neil McBain, a Scottish international wing half, was to enter the record books in 1947 as the oldest player to appear in league football, as a stand-in emergency goalkeeper for New Brighton at Hartlepool. Not surprisingly, he is the only player born in the nineteenth century to have appeared in league football since World War Two. On the same day, Bill Birch's goal earned today's visitors Luton Town a 1-1 draw at Fulham, whose scorer was Ralph Allen, a brother of the Rovers centre forward Jack Allen.

15th February 1958

The second and most recent occasion that Rovers reached the FA Cup quarter finals came as a result of an epic fifth round game against Bristol City at Ashton Gate. Alfie Biggs who had flu, was replaced at inside right



DAI WARD - scored against Bristol City on this day in 1958

by Barrie Meyer in Rovers side. Rovers were a goal down in four minutes, but goals from Dai Ward, Norman Sykes and Barrie Meyer put the Pirates 3-1 ahead on 42 minutes. Before half time City were awarded a penalty but John Watkins, who joined Rovers two years later, and who had scored City's goal, missed the spot kick. Undaunted, City

scored through Bobby Etheridge and captain Tommy Burden. Rovers winner, after 83 minutes, was a controversial one from Geoff Bradford but it was enough to earn a 4-3 victory and an ultimately unsuccessful quarter final clash with Fulham. Luton won 2-1 at Burnley in a First Division game.

15th February 1964

A crowd of 9486 at Eastville saw Rovers and Millwall fight out a 2-2 draw in Division Three. Rovers were unchanged after a win at Colchester, while the Lions recalled Tom Wilson and Harry Obeney in place of John Leadham and Elton John's uncle Roy Dwight.

Alfie Biggs put Rovers ahead at half time, but a draw was all Rovers could manage. Harold Jarman was the Pirates' other goalscorer, while David Jones and Joe Haverty, a mercurial Irishman who was to join Rovers ten months later, scored for the visitors. In the same division, Luton Town won 2-0 at home to Shrewsbury Town.

15th February 1985

Les Berry, who played in goal for Rovers in 34 league games, died in Leicestershire on this

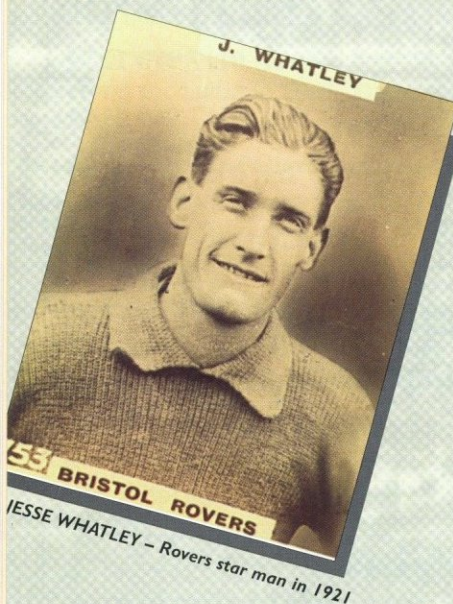
ON THIS DAY



NORMAN SYKES - also scored on this day in 1958

day, at the age of 78. Berry had joined Rovers from Sheffield Wednesday in June 1930 and later experienced league football with Swindon Town. However, he was much better known as a cricketer, captaining his adopted county of Leicestershire and achieving great success as a stylish batsman. Between 1924 and 1951 he scored over 30,000 runs in first-class cricket, top scoring with 232 against Sussex at Leicester in 1930.

STEPHEN BYRNE



JESSE WHATLEY - Rovers star man in 1921



Lack of ball
control?

The Milne Centre, Clinics 1 & 15

Free and confidential
testing and treatment for
sexually related conditions
including HIV/AIDS
0117 9284929



GREENWAY

LEISURE

0117 950 3335

LINE DANCING STARTING
FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY

5-a-side Indoor Football Gym – £6 per
hour

Snooker Tables • Fitness Room

Outside Football Pitches • Aerobics

Function Rooms

Great Facilities at Competitive Prices



Disabled Access

DON'T SCRAP IT –
HAVE IT REPAIRED BY

S. M. GAUGE CO.

COMPREHENSIVE REPAIR & CALIBRATION SERVICE
TRACEABLE TO NATIONAL STANDARDS
PRESSURE GAUGES • DIAL
THERMOMETERS • OXYGEN
REGULATORS • ELECTRO METERS •
DIGITAL THERMOMETERS • FLOW
METERS etc.

SUPPLIES & REPAIRS

Member of B.P.G.M.A. and B.E.M.A.

Our test equipment is traceable to N.A.M.A.S.
certification



308 LODGE CAUSEWAY

FISHPONDS, BRISTOL BS16 3RD

Tel: Bristol 01179 654615 Fax: 01179 5834660

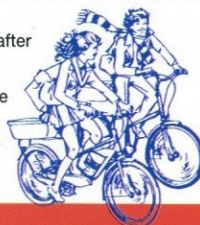
**WEBBS
OF WARMLEY**



RALEIGH

- Excellent selection of cycles for all the family
- Range of accessories, clothes, helmets etc.
- Expert advice at all times
- All bikes sized to allow for growth
- Helmets fitted to specifications
- Serving satisfied customers since 1902
- Free easy parking
- All cycles made up and checked before purchase
- Free Service after 4-6 weeks
- Member of the Association of Cycle Traders

**FULL REPAIR
WORKSHOP
SAME DAY
REPAIRS IF POSS.
LARGE SELECTION
OF PARTS IN
STOCK**



BRISTOL

0117 967 3676

14 HIGH STREET, WARMLEY, BRISTOL

CHRIS SANIGAR

presents

A LADIES & GENTLEMAN'S DINNER, BOXING EVENING

Monday 24th March 1997

Odyssey Discotheque

15 Nelson Street, Bristol

Tickets: Dinner £30 Spectating £15

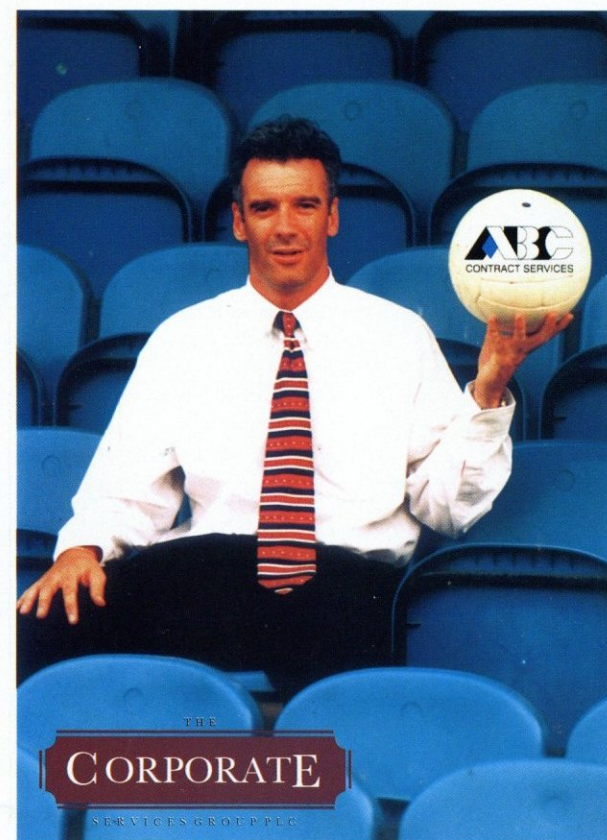
CHRIS SANIGAR

147 TWO MILE HILL ROAD

KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL BS15 1BH

TELEPHONE: 0117 949 6699

FAX: 0117 949 6700



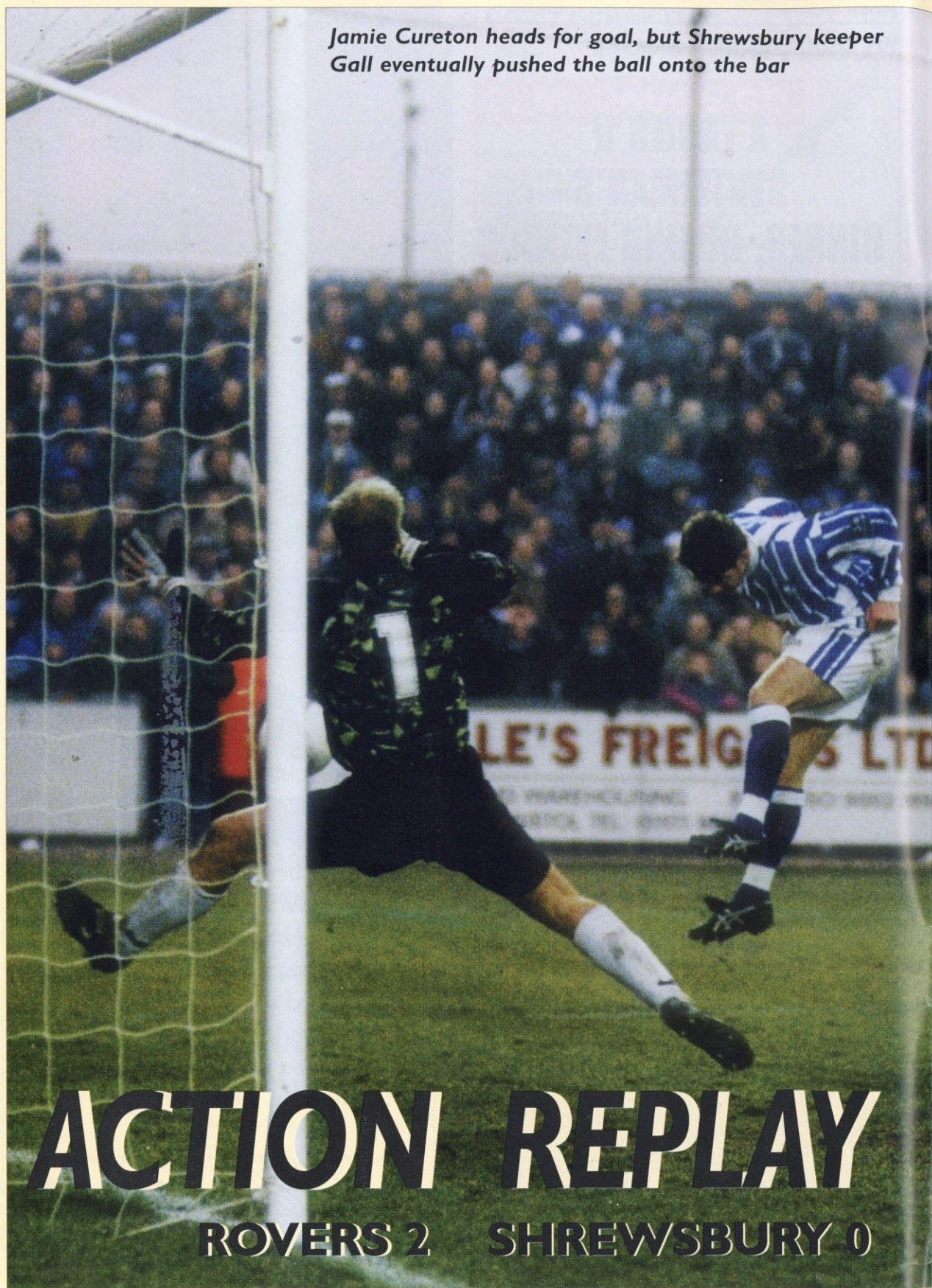
CONTRACT SERVICES

Here at ABC my squad is running at 300, plus per week, but we are always interested in signing on new staff. I want HGV Drivers, Forklift Truck Drivers, Industrial Labourers, Factory Workers, Order Pickers and experienced seven and a half tonne drivers to work on various contracts in and around Bristol. All I ask is for 110%. Nothing more than I gave you.

San Alexander

Tel: 0117 929 7146

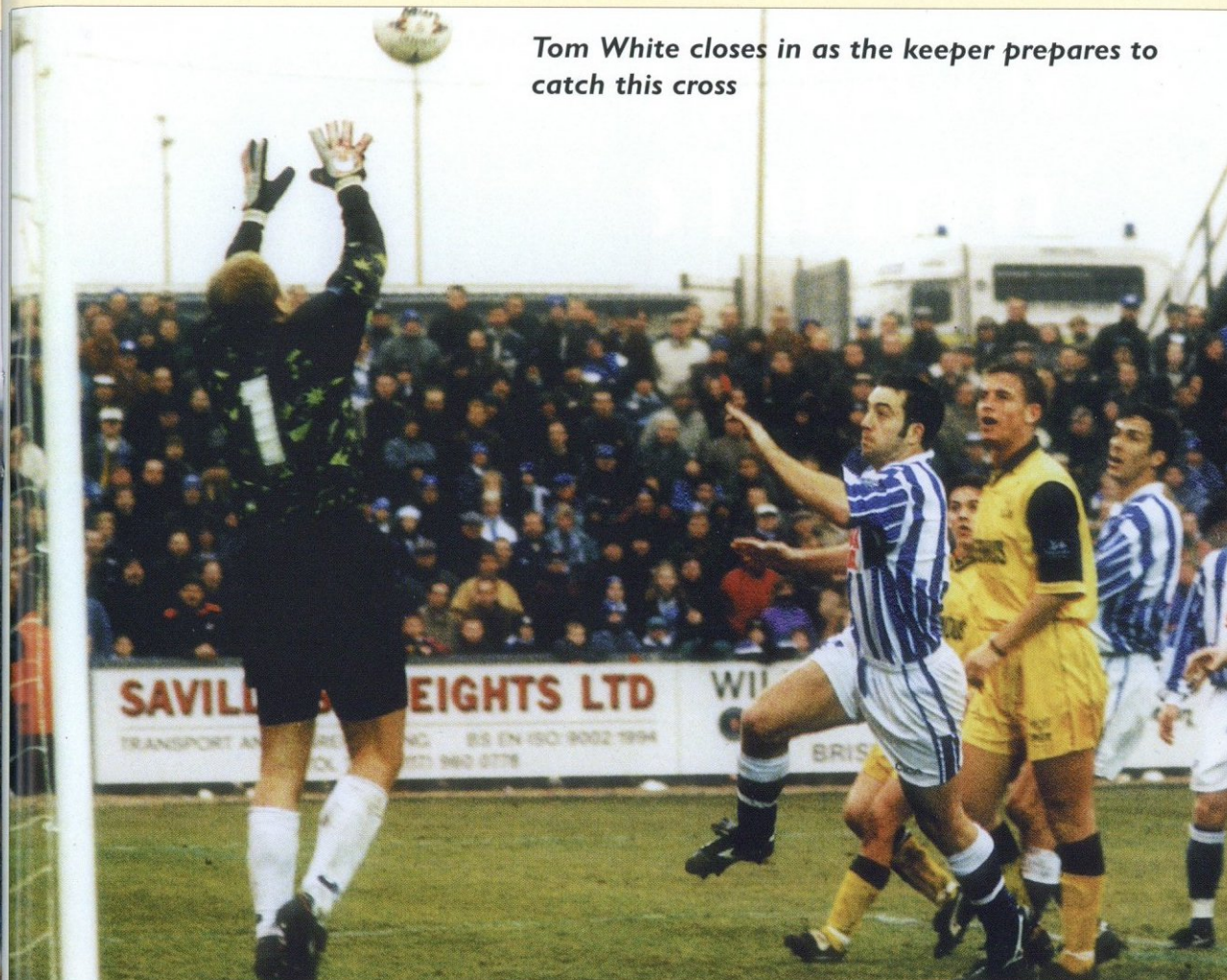
Jamie Cureton heads for goal, but Shrewsbury keeper Gall eventually pushed the ball onto the bar



ACTION REPLAY

ROVERS 2 SHREWSBURY 0

Tom White closes in as the keeper prepares to catch this cross



Marcus Browning is beaten to the ball in this aerial challenge





Whatever your
travelling needs

eagle coaches

The easier way to travel



"Fireclay House", Netham Road, St George, Bristol BS5 9PJ
Tel: (0117) 955 7130 & 955 6784 Fax: (0117) 955 1814

The Parkside Hotel

470 Bath Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4HH



Restaurant & Bar ... at the Parkside

is the only choice for a superb meal in an unusual setting. See what else is new at the Parkside
— we have excellent meeting and function facilities too.

Now licenced to perform Wedding Ceremonies.

Call 0117 971 1461 for further information

Farrow's
THE COLOUR PRINTERS

When it comes to choosing
a printer... choose one who's
always **ON THE BALL!**

When Quality counts, you won't catch
us off-side! Colour printing at its best,
with 1 to 6 colour presses and in-line
Direct Mailing machine.

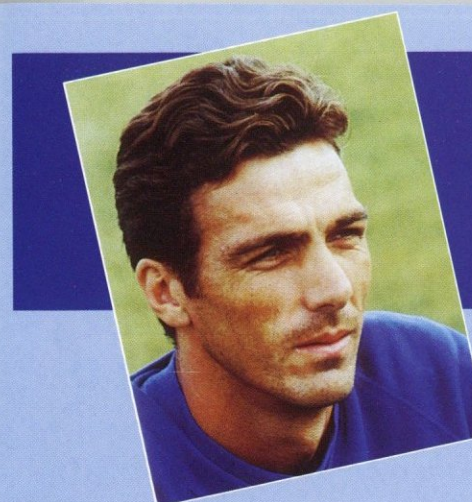


FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION
CALL THE PROFESSIONALS NOW

CLIVE FARROW (PRINTERS) LTD
TEL: 0117 986 1202

or FAX: 0117 986 1722

CAXTON WORKS, ASHMEAD ROAD
KEYNSHAM, BRISTOL BS18 1SX



Captain's Column

to leave and, having signed an extension to my contract last summer, I'm happy to stay here.

NEW STAND

We are all hoping that the New West Stand will be open for the first time today. There's no doubt that there has been a lack of atmosphere at many of our home games, due to the fact that our supporters have only been able to use two sides of the ground. I hope that, with you now being able to use three sides, it will make a big difference. Hopefully, we'll know the answer to that one at 4.45pm this afternoon!

YOUNG GUNS

A number of our younger players have had their first taste of league football this season and it has been difficult for them coming into the side when we have not been doing so well. Most of them have coped very well under difficult circumstances and recent games have seen excellent performances from Tom White and Matt Lockwood.

LUTON

Luton are one of the top sides in our division and, as we have played well against a number of the other top sides, we hope to do well again today. They are a good footballing side and, consequently, should allow us a bit more space this afternoon. We lost 0-3 at Kenilworth Road in the First Leg of the Coca Cola Cup earlier this season, when I thought we at least deserved a draw. In the Second Leg, we went 2-0 up early on and if we had managed a third goal before half-time, I feel we could have won the tie, but it wasn't to be. I sat out the league game at Luton, which we lost 1-2, but watched the game from the stand and, again, I felt we were very unfortunate to lose that one. My old friend Gary Waddock could well be playing against us today. Personally, I think Luton miss him when he's not in the side and that his experience is vital for them. He has done well at Luton since leaving Rovers and it will be good to see him again today.

Speaking of old friends, I met up with Brian Parkin last weekend. A red card and a change of manager at Wycombe has limited his first team opportunities and he's a bit disappointed about that, but I'm sure he'll bounce back.

In closing, I would like to thank you, once again, for your magnificent support. I hope we can give you something to shout about this afternoon and that you all enjoy the game.

Andy



OUR mini revival which included a run of three unbeaten games, came to an end at Gillingham last weekend and coming after an encouraging performance here at The Memorial Ground against Shrewsbury, it was a huge disappointment. What made it worse was the fact that some of the clubs around us picked up points and we dropped two places in the league.

SHREWSBURY

It was a relief to gain three points, though it wasn't an outstanding performance. It took us most of the first half to settle, though we always believed we could make the breakthrough. The first goal took the pressure off and was a just reward for Marcus Browning, who gets forward well and whose work rate is tremendous. Another spectacular strike from Peter Beadle clinched our win and enabled to pass the ball around with a confidence we have lacked in many of our games this season. The result made for a good week in training and gave us a platform for extending our unbeaten run.

GILLINGHAM

Unfortunately, all the good work of the previous four weeks went out of the window at Gillingham. We came up against a very big and physical side and though defensively, we played it very tight and worked hard to contain their strike force, we were unable to create any real clear cut scoring chances. However, we didn't let Gillingham settle on the ball and they never really looked like scoring either. Their goal was the result of a scrappy clearance from a long throw and the ball fell to Andy Hessenthaler who struck it well and gave Andy Collett no chance of saving. I suppose you could describe it as a typical away performance. We knew Gillingham would come at us, so planned not to wait for them to attack and try not to concede an early goal. The longer a game goes on without the home side scoring gives you a better chance of 'nicking' a goal, but it didn't quite work out that way for us last Saturday.

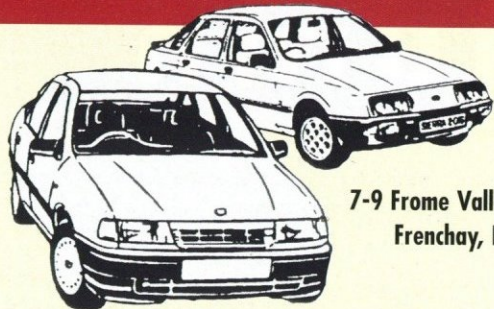
NOT TO THE MANOR BORN

The speculation about a bid from Oxford for me has been going on for a while now and the longer it goes on, the more you think about it and it can be a little bit unsettling. However, it has been made clear that Rovers don't want me



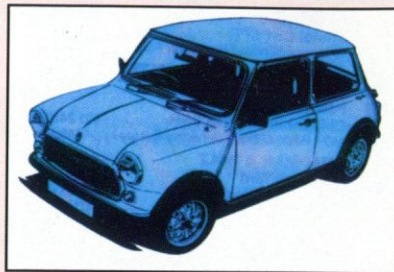
TOP GEAR CARS

Quality Used Cars • Part exchange welcome
• Cars bought for cash



7-9 Frome Valley Rd,
Frenchay, Bristol

0117 965 6500



MINI CENTRE LTD.

The Garage, Hepburn Road
Stoke Croft, Bristol BS2 8UD

0117 942 0555

THULE

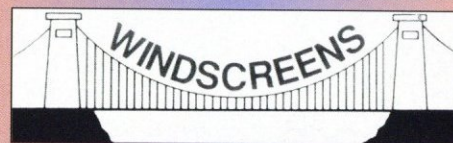
SWEDEN

VEHICLE ROOF SYSTEMS
AND ACCESSORIES

Roof Racks ♦ Ski Racks
Cycle Carriers ♦ Windsurf Holders
Roof Boxes ♦ Ski Boxes

Units 4 & 5, Concorde Drive
5C Business Centre, Clevedon Bristol. BS21 6UH
Telephone: (01275) 340404 Fax: (01275) 340686

BRISTOL & WEST



YOUR LOCAL WINDSCREEN REPLACEMENT CENTRE

24 HOURS - 7 DAYS A WEEK

SPECIALIST IN ALL GLASS REPLACEMENT, CAR ALARM
SECURITY, SUN ROOFS AND PLANT GLAZING

FREEPHONE
0500 585500

OVER 50,000 PARTS

FOR BRITISH & FOREIGN CARS & LIGHT COMMERCIALS

■ ACCESSORIES

■ BRAKES

■ COOLING

■ ELECTRICS

■ ENGINE PARTS

■ FUEL SYSTEM

■ OILS

■ STEERING/SUSPENSION

■ TOOLS & TOOL HIRE

■ TRANSMISSION

TOP QUALITY GUARANTEED PARTS -
MANY FITTED BY LEADING MANUFACTURERS
AS ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT

WORKSHOP FACILITIES

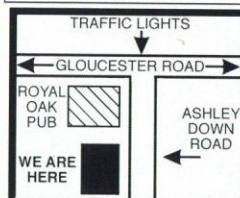
• Head Skimming • Crank Grinding • Reboring etc

TO INDUSTRY STANDARD

FREE ADVICE

from
Experienced Staff

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 6.30pm
Sat 8.30am - 6.00pm
Sun 9.30am - 1.30pm



ASHLEY

AUTOPARTS & ACCESSORIES

TEL: BRISTOL 0117 924 3560

3-5 ASHLEY DOWN ROAD, HORFIELD. FAX: 0117 942 4283

Supporter's News

WITH Jim Chappell recovering from a minor operation "a nose job!" it's my turn to pen the supporters club programme notes. We are all disappointed after our 1-0 defeat at Gillingham. Even more depressing after our excellent second half display against Shrewsbury. Even the game against Shrewsbury was a typical "game of two halves", with the half time team talk working a treat! As to the Man of the Match award, the Evening Post gave it to Peter Beadle, the Match magazine to Jamie Cureton, but the Supporters Club bar decided on Tom White who had a "steady" 90 minutes.

TICKET ALLOCATION

I expect you will all read how the football club plan to distribute tickets for our game against City next month. This is the first time that I can remember no tickets going on general sale, making sure that no tickets get into the 'wrong hands'. However, season ticket holders have the rare chance of extra tickets for family and friends and regular supporters should have the opportunity of buying tickets with a choice of three vouchers. There are bound to be true supporters who aren't season ticket holders or have lost their vouchers so we urge them to ask those standing next to them today if they can buy them a ticket. Hopefully the great majority of Rovers fans will be able to get to the game. Bristol City have made it very differ-

ent for their fans for obvious reasons. I must admit to be a little amused when a friend of mine who is a City fan and lives within 75 yards of the Memorial Ground will have a drive down to Ashton Gate to catch a coach if he's lucky enough to obtain a ticket!

FOOTBALL TRUST

It's just typical of Rovers luck that after spending very little of the Football Trust money at Twerton Park, that now they have the opportunity to spend a lot, the Football Trust has run out of money! It obviously puts question marks over future development of the Memorial Ground and it is essential that this matter is looked at soon.

Obviously, the National Lottery has had a detrimental affect on the Pools Companies when National Lottery funding is available to other sports and the arts, but not to professional football.

Shadow Sports Minister Tom Pendry has already pledged Labour support should they be elected. This could be just a political move but whatever your thoughts on the matter a letter to your local MP may be a positive step to take.

RAGE REPORT

Whatever happened to Horfield Rage? Remember them? They were shaking in their boots at the thought of Rovers fans walking their streets. I spoke to a student last week, a Rovers fan of course, who has written a thesis, for her degree, on Rovers return to Bristol. She has spoken to many residents including shopkeep-

ers close to the Memorial Ground. The vast majority were pleasantly surprised that all their concerns were unfounded. Traffic congestion was a problem, but vandalism, litter and noise levels had not increased since our arrival. All we can say is keep up the good work Gasheads! Finally, today we hope that, for the first time we will see Gasheads on three sides of the ground and that this in turn will generate a better atmosphere, so let's roar the lads on to three vital points.

STEVE BURNS



BLACKPOOL WEEKEND

Depart approx 10pm

FRIDAY 25th APRIL

2 nights stay at the
Royal Oakwell/Belgrave Hotel
Full Board, en suite facilities

Arrive back in Bristol at approx
7.00pm Sunday 27th April

ADULTS £80.00

CHILD (under 14) £60.00

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Telephone:
0117 9611772
or call in at '199'

JOIN GOLD BOND AND WIN £5,000!

THE BIRD IN HAND

HIGH STREET, SALT FORD BETWEEN BRISTOL & BATH

mine hosts MAUREEN & RALPH

EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL

COME ON DOWN AND ENJOY OUR • DELICIOUS FOOD

• FINE ALES • SELECTION OF WINES & SPIRITS

SUPERB VIEWS FROM THE GARDEN, PLENTY OF PARKING

TEL: SALT FORD 873335



LOWEST PRICES

IF YOU CAN BUY CHEAPER, TELL US

BAUER STOCKISTS

LADIES TENNIS WEAR

SWIMWEAR

TENNIS, SQUASH & BADMINTON

SAME DAY RE-STRINGING

BRISTOL ROVERS STOCKIST

SPORTSCENE

0117 986 7171

44 TEMPLE STREET, KEYNSHAM, BRISTOL

AB FLUID POWER LTD

HYDRAULIC & PNEUMATIC COMPONENTS & SYSTEMS

OFFICIAL



BOSCH

DISTRIBUTORS

TEL (0117) 986 6169

FAX (0117) 986 6170

UNITS 6 & 7, PIXASH BUSINESS CENTRE

PIXASH LANE, KEYNSHAM

BRISTOL BS18 1TP

Terry Sim

CARPENTER, JOINER AND
GENERAL BUILDING
CONTRACTOR

Specialist in Maintenance and
General House Repairs, Estimates and
Emergency Service

1 Belle Vue Terrace, Brislington
Bristol BS4 4JP

Tel: 0117 977 6240

Fax: 0585 334412



GOODCHILD SAFETY

DISTRIBUTORS OF
PERSONAL SAFETY
EQUIPMENT TO INDUSTRY

The Elms, Shorthill Road, Westerleigh,
Bristol BS17 4QN

TEL: CHIPPING SODBURY 313078

FAX: CHIPPING SODBURY 310473



THE HOUSE OF PINE

5%
OFF
YOUR ORDER
WHEN YOU
BRING IN THIS
PROGRAMME

QUALITY PINE FURNITURE

15 SOUTH PARADE, YATE SHOPPING
CENTRE, YATE, BRISTOL BS17 4BB

TEL: (01454) 313110

ALSO AT CRISCO CARPETS

TWO MILE HILL ROAD, KINGSWOOD

BRISTOL BS17 4BB

TEL: 0117 947 8566

PHONE
US FOR
YOUR
FREE
CATALOGUE

Grandstand Finish

T

HIS afternoon should see the opening of the new West Stand here at The Memorial Ground.

The stand is a culmination of many years of concerted effort by Bristol Rugby Club who deserve great credit for improving the facilities at the ground. Planning permission for the stand was granted well before Rovers were contemplated as ground sharers and restrictions were placed on the height of the structure. The original building lines from the previous stand

able in each box and supporters will be able to enjoy the excellent catering facilities on offer. Below the boxes there is seating accommodation for over 400 and two bars. The terraced area in front of the seats has a capacity of approximately 1,000 and the area underneath the stand houses the dressing rooms, a Physio room and a room for match officials.

The clubs Directors, who will now view matches from the West Stand will use a room on the same level as the executive boxes to entertain visiting Directors on matchdays.

At the top of the stand, there is a television gantry and room for the video crew. Current Centenary Stand and Terrace season ticket holders have had the opportunity to swap seats or terrace places for the new facilities over the past two weeks and the stand was officially opened on Thursday when a Bristol Rugby XV played Auckland Blues. I'm certain that the new stand will provide an improved atmosphere at future matches and be a valuable asset for both the rugby and football clubs.

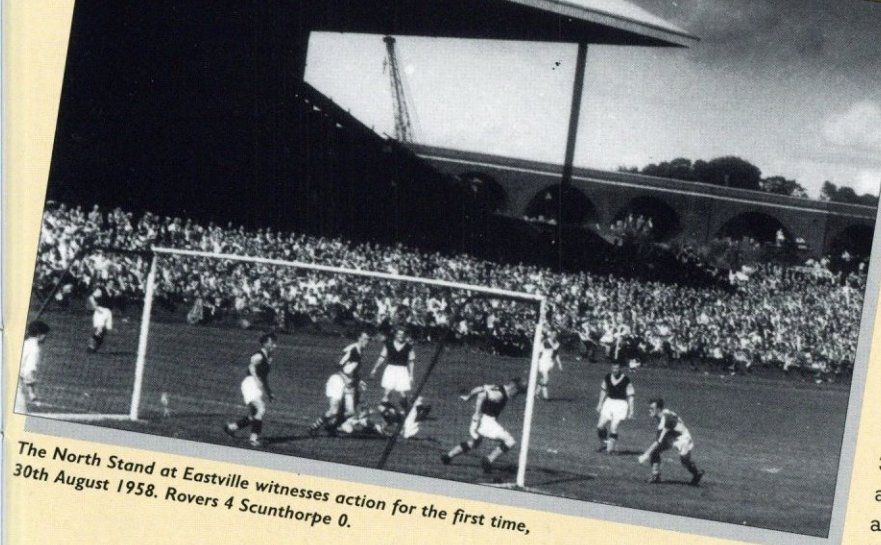
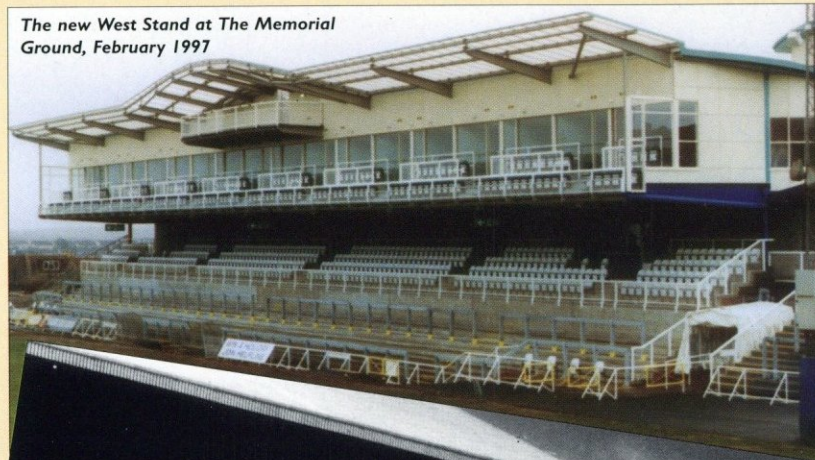
Many older Rovers supporters will, I'm sure, recall the opening of the North Stand, at Eastville, back in 1958. As far as I can tell, that structure cost just £76,000, with £10,000 of that figure being donated by the Supporters Club and it was described as "a well appointed stand with the accent on comfort throughout, fronted by a spacious covered-in enclosure of extra deep terracing, which will give the club's headquarters an impressive new look".

The North Stand had a capacity of 3,000 (no executive boxes!) and was, apparently, constructed in "100 days and nights, thanks to the skills of the British workforce". It was in use for the

first home game of the 1958/59 season, when Rovers beat Scunthorpe 4-0, and it would be nice to think we could mark the use of the West Stand for the first time with a similarly emphatic victory.

MIKE JAY

The new West Stand at The Memorial Ground, February 1997



The North Stand at Eastville witnesses action for the first time, 30th August 1958. Rovers 4 Scunthorpe 0.

had to be followed and could not, unfortunately, be extended to cover the full width of the west side of the ground. The £2m contract for building the stand and associated terracing was awarded to Ernest Ireland Construction of Bath. The stand includes 18 executive boxes, each of which can accommodate up to 15 people and offers excellent views of the pitch. Bar facilities are avail-



JURYS

BRISTOL HOTEL
Formerly the Unicorn Hotel

Situated on Bristol's Historic Harbour

Newly Refurbished Conference Centre

The Ideal Location, Whatever the Occasion

- ☐ Weddings ☐ Conferences ☐ Banquets
- ☐ Meetings ☐ Christmas Parties
- ☐ Training Sessions

For a Brochure and/or a Showround
Call Tara or Patricia on

Tel: 0117 923 0333 Fax: 0117 923 0300

Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4QF

In Conversation with ... Billy Clark

Come October, Billy Clark will have been with the club 10 years, a time during which he has experienced many highs and lows. "That's right", says Bill "and to be honest, I didn't know what to expect when I first arrived. I had been a reserve team player at Bournemouth and was surprised to get into Rovers first team so soon after I came here. The 1989/90 season, though, was the lowest point in my career. We won the Third Division title and reached Wembley in the Leyland Daf Cup, yet I didn't play at all that season and whilst everyone around me were enjoying themselves, I was wondering if I would ever play again, as it took so long to diagnose exactly what was wrong with my injured knee, so it's not difficult naming the 1995 play off final against Huddersfield as the highlight of my Rovers career, as it more than made up for missing out in 1990." He's also been on the transfer list a couple of times. "Yes, the first time was when Martin Dobson was manager and the second time was when Dennis Rofe brought Kevin Moore into the side and made it clear I wasn't part of his plans. Times like that can be worrying, as all through the week, training is geared towards Saturdays game and when you know that you're unlikely to be playing, it's difficult to motivate yourself."

It was under John Ward that Bill's career blossomed, as he developed a fine understanding with Andy Tillson at the heart of Rovers defence, a partnership that has, until recently, continued to flourish under Ian Holloway. "I played more games under John Ward than I had for any other manager and he showed faith and belief in my ability which, in turn, made me feel more relaxed and enabled me to play well. As for my partnership with Andy, it's no different to having a good striking partnership. We developed a good understanding right from the start and things improved from there".

Until he received a red card at Chesterfield, in the first game of 1997, Bill had missed only one game this season. That sending off, though, paved the way for Tom White to take his place alongside Tillson. "It was disappointing to be sent off that day. The pitch was icy and although I caught my opponents heel, there was no deliberate intent, on my part, to

bring him down and I thought the referee could have made allowances for the conditions. However, match officials have a difficult job to do. As a result, though, Tom is now in the side in my place and I want him and the team to do well. Its frustrating being out of the side, though. I don't enjoy watching games and I know I'll have to battle to get back in the side. Still, I've had to do it before, so I know exactly what's expected of me."

Having been a team mate of Ian Holloway not so long ago, I wondered if Bill had found it difficult getting used to playing under Ian Holloway the manager. It's been a little bit strange, I must admit, not just for me, but for many of the players.

You're always taught to look up to and listen to your manager, but when he's playing alongside you as just another player, it's difficult to forget he's also the manager and it has been a little bit confusing. Still, I think all the problems have now been ironed out and we have all adjusted to the situation. There have been many other changes that we have had to get used to, this season. We've had to adjust our style of play and get used to new surroundings. Twerton Park was a compact ground and there was always a good atmosphere there, whereas The Memorial Ground pitch is heavier and with the crowd on only two sides, the atmosphere has been different. There have been changes in personnel, too, with many young players coming into the side, which means that as well as concentrating on your own game, the onus has been on the more experienced members of the side to help the youngsters as much as possible."

So, what of the future? "Making your league debut is a big step. Its happened for a number of our players this season and they will continue to make progress with every game they play, so I think the future of the club is in safe hands. As for myself, thinking about what I do after I finish playing can be a worrying scenario at times. I hope to play on for another 4/5 years and would eventually like to remain in the game as a coach, though I think its a case of being in the right place at the right time for that to happen."

It's good to have competition for places in the side and I wouldn't bet against Bill returning to the side and going on to become a member of the elite group of players who have made 300 + appearances for Rovers.



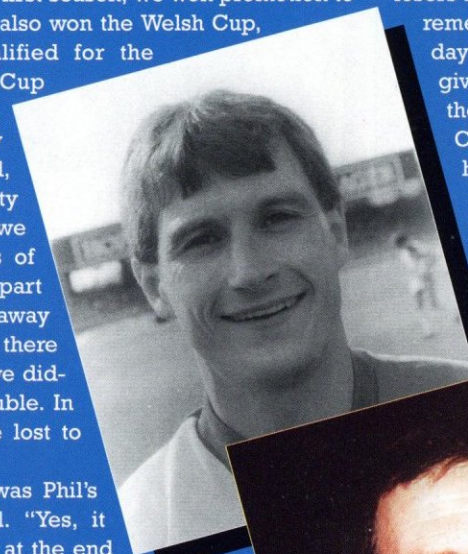
... Phil Bater

Phil Bater, who, in two separate spells as a player with Rovers chalked up over 300 league appearances, has recently returned to the club for a third time, as manager of the U-16 youngsters who attend the Centre of Excellence. So what, I wondered had he been up to since leaving the club back in 1986. "My first move was to Brentford, where I teamed up again with Ian Holloway. He had a nightmare time at Griffin Park and I always remind him about it. After a year in London, I played for my hometown club Cardiff for two years and had an enjoyable time with them. At the end of my first season, we won promotion to the Third Division and also won the Welsh Cup, which meant we qualified for the

1988/89 European Cup Winners Cup. We played, and beat Derry in the First Round and, because of the security situation in Ireland, we had to have members of the Special Branch as part of our group, for the away leg. The people over there were marvellous and we didn't experience any trouble. In the Second Round, we lost to Danish side Aarhus."

That season, though, was Phil's last in league football. "Yes, it was. I went on holiday at the end of that campaign and that's when I decided to quit. I was offered a new two year deal, but I had lost my enthusiasm and enjoyment for the game. Steve Millard and Brian Godfrey persuaded me to play a few pre-season friendlies at Gloucester, but I honestly couldn't face the prospect of playing competitive football again at that time."

So, are there any regrets? "No, not really. I didn't miss playing, though I did miss training and keeping fit. I had always had an interest in gardening though, and had taken a degree in horticulture whilst I was playing. Even in the early days at Rovers, I trained in the mornings and undertook gardening jobs in the afternoon. Anyone who had a lift to training with me would find themselves surrounded by gardening implements. When I left Cardiff, I secured a contract for undertaking maintenance work for one of the country's leading landscape garden companies and after 2 1/2 years I set up my own landscape gardening business. We are now based at Bitton and formed a limited company in 1992".



There are special memories of Eastville, though. "It's sad that it's going to be demolished, as I have so many memories of playing there. The big crowds we drew created a unique atmosphere. I always got on well with the crowd and there were so many great games." Strangely, though, it's an FA Cup Tie at Ashton Gate that Phil remembers particularly well. "We won 3-1. I think it was in 1984/85 and Paul Randall scored twice with Mark O'Connor getting the other. Earlier in my career, I had played in five Gloucestershire Cup Finals against City and ended up with five losers medals, so it was a very satisfying win that day. I remember Ollie being the last player off the pitch that

day, which typifies his attitude to the game. I used to give him a lift to training and we learned all about the game from Don Megson, Bill Dodgin and Bobby Campbell, who instilled the will to win in us. Ollie hates losing and during his last two years at QPR, I felt he improved as a player beyond all recognition. We always kept in touch and I was delighted when he asked me back to the club. Over the last few years, I have been involved in local football and obtained my Preliminary Coaching Badge. I think my time out of the game helped me recharge my batteries and I hope to stay involved with the Centre of Excellence. I'm working closely with Tony Gill, as next years YTS intake will come from the U-16 group and I'm thoroughly enjoying it."

In closing, I asked Phil about this season's first game at The Memorial Ground. "It was a brilliant day, and to see so many ex-players return for the occasion demonstrates the affection they still have for the

club.

I've been to a number of games since that day and I'm sure that Ollie will be successful as the club's manager. The crowd deserve a mention as well. Their attitude hasn't changed at all. As long as they can see that the players are giving everything, they will remain loyal and patient. There's no doubt that Rovers are a great club and I'm so pleased they are back in Bristol."

Good to have you back, as well Phil - keep up the good work at The Centre of Excellence.





James Dyson

"And I got the backing in the UK. Hallelujah!"

The Dyson Dual Cyclone™ was nearly never made in this country because James Dyson was unable to find a backer. That was until he spoke to Mike Page at Lloyds Bank Commercial Service. It was clear to Mike that James Dyson's new technology had the potential to take on the multinational giants because James had researched and planned everything carefully from manufacturing to marketing. All he needed was the right financial support and advice. A week later LBCS provided Dyson Appliances with funding to begin production. That was three years ago. Now Dyson is one of the fastest-growing manufacturers in Britain, producing the country's two best-selling vacuum cleaners. Along the way there have been many setbacks and problems to overcome, but LBCS has always supported Dyson with additional help and assistance when it's been needed.

dyson +  **Lloyds Bank Commercial Service**

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LBCS MANAGERS, MIKE PAGE AND ROB ORMOND, TELEPHONE 0117 943 4565



Commercial Page

MATCH SPONSORS
LLOYDS BANK
COMMERCIAL SERVICE

MATCHBALL SPONSORS
GLOUCESTER ROAD
GEARBOXES

A warm welcome to Mike Page and David Milne (Lloyds Bank) and Geoff Cave (Gloucester Road Gearboxes) and their respective parties to this afternoon's fixture at The Memorial Ground. The Commercial Department of Bristol Rovers Hope you all have an enjoyable afternoon with the Rovers and look forward to a continued and successful business relationship.



THE BIRD IN HAND
MATCHBALL SPONSORS vs SHREWSBURY



HOSPITALITY GUESTS vs SHREWSBURY
M & B ENGINEERING

WELCOME

We would also like to welcome the following parties enjoying an afternoon of Rovers hospitality.

★ **SNACKBOX** ★ **FARROWS COLOUR PRINTERS** ★
★ **COWIE HONDA** ★ **DANISCO FLEXIBLE**
★ **ALET PACKAGING** ★ **Mr WHYBREW**
★ **ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND** ★ **NATIONWIDE**

GROUND ADVERTISING AT THE MEMORIAL GROUND

Numerous prime advertising sites on the perimeter of the ground are still available with the West Stand advertising sites now also available Hoardings range in size from 15' x 3' to 20' x 3'. For more information contact the Commercial Team

SCOREBOARD END

HB G7 F6 E5 D4 C3 B2 A1 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N

MAIN STAND

At Bristol Rovers home match against Preston North End on Sunday 23rd March
FAMILY HOSPITALITY DAY

Hospitality includes

- Roast Luncheon with Wine
- Tea and biscuits at half time
- Grandstand seats
- Match programme
- Private Bar facility

Rovers v Preston Menu

Tomato Soup
* * *
Roast Rib of Beef
(with Yorkshire Pudding & Horseradish Sauce)
* * *
Belgium Apple Pie (with Single Cream)
* * *
Fresh Coffee & Mints

(£35 for Adults & £15 for Children plus VAT)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR FAMILY HOSPITALITY PACKAGES, MATCH & MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP, ADVERTISING AND CORPORATE HOSPITALITY, CONTACT JONATHAN FIDKIN OR GRAHAM BOWEN AT:

BRISTOL ROVERS COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT ON 0117 977 2000





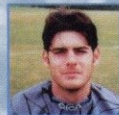
Jamie Cureton
Stan & The Boys,
The Swan Hotel,
Almondsbury



Paul Miller
Paul, Mark, Ben, Daniel
Newman & Brian Keating



Matthew Lockwood
Alisa, Michaela,
Sandra & Lizzie
The Hospital Girls



Shane Higgs
Bristol Blue
Glass Ltd.



Billy Clark
In memory of
Matthew Jennings



Andy Tillson
Montrose Techni-
cal Recruitment



Andrew Gurney
In memory of
Molly Lowther



David Pritchard
Internet Gas



Andy Collett
Ilse Temple



Graeme Power
Louis Turner



Tom White
Universal Knives



Marcus Browning
Earthquake
Roadshow Disco
01453 756795



Lee Martin
Bob Gray &
Bob Tully



Geoff Twentyman
Touchdown Travel
Michael Paul



Matt Hayfield
Bob & Christl
Taylor. Estate
Publications
Tenterden, Kent



Justin Skinner
Anglo Welsh
Timber



Stuart Harte
Steven & Lesley Brown
The Ferry Boat Inn
Cornwall



Lee Archer
Sam Longden
Compleat Cookshop
Thornbury



Steven Parmenter
Internet Gas



Peter Beadle
mma Salter, Mark
& Judy Adams,
Stuart Chaplin,
Frank Gwatkin



Phil Kite
Mark & Andrew
Williams
Gardens of Stone



Tony Gill
Bristol Rovers
Supporters
Club



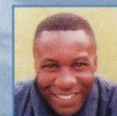
Jonathan French
Roberts, Maggs &
Sharman families,
Chew Stoke



Frankie Bennett
Paul, Mark, Ben,
Daniel Newman &
Brian Keating



Ray Kendall
In memory of
Bill Blackmore



Terry Connor
Den, Boo & June
The Horton Gas



Ian Holloway
Bristol Rovers
Young Pirates

To sponsor a player Ring Graham Bowen 0117 977 2000

Rovers vs Luton Town 2



ANDY COLLETT



DAVID PRITCHARD



MATTHEW LOCKWOOD



MARCUS BROWNING



TOM WHITE



ANDY TILLSON



PAUL MILLER



JUSTIN SKINNER



JAMIE CURETON



LEE ARCHER



PETER BEADLE



IAN HOLLOWAY



MATTHEW HAYFIELD



LEE MARTIN



TONY FEUER



JULIAN JAMES



MITCHELL THOMAS



SEAN EVERS



STEVE DAVIS



MARVIN JOHNSON



BONTCHO GUENTCHEV



GRAHAM ALEXANDER



DAVID OLDFIELD



TONY THORPE



DWIGHT MARSHALL



GARY WADDECK
-DESJONIN-



ANDREW FOTIADIS



DARREN PATTERSON

Referee

FRASER STRETTON

Nottingham

Fraser is a 36-year-old
businessman in the haulage
trade. Joined the league list
in 1995. This is the first time
he has taken control of a

Rovers match



Assistant Referee

N. COCKWILL

(Barnstaple, Devon)

Assistant Referee

D. DOWNS

(Hook, Hampshire)

About our Sponsor

BRADSHAW

GROUP

T

he Bradshaw Group is a major private company, with prestigious new offices and a food factory in Clevedon. Its broad range of activities are based around catering, both commercial and domestic, throughout the UK and on the continent.

AWARD-WINNING SNACKBOX

SnackBox, the name on the team's shirts this year, is a range of microwavable fast food, from burgers and pizza to chicken nuggets, chips and doner kebabs. After its launch in 1994 it was voted Best Microwave Food by a panel of experts at the Catering Fast Food Fair. Since then more and more outlets, especially convenience stores and garage forecourt shops, have been installing the eye-catching SnackBox units.

**BRADSHAW'S
SNACK
BOX**

Bradshaw Fine Foods, which produces SnackBox, also produces Baguette Express, a delicious selection of six French style filled baguettes, perfect for reheating in a microwave combination oven, and sold through pubs and clubs.

BRADSHAW MICROWAVE

Microwave ovens are still at the heart of the business, and Bradshaw is the UK's largest distributor of commercial models, from inexpensive light commercial ovens to heavy duty 1700 watt models able to cope with the most demanding commercial kitchens.



ADVANCED DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

Most recently Bradshaw has established a domestic appliance company to bring the latest cooking technology into the home. Viking is the ultimate in range cookers from America's deep south. With its two ovens and barbecue it's aimed at people with large kitchens, who like to do a lot of entertaining. The Bradshaw Minihob, on the other hand, revolutionises cooking where there is little space - small kitchens, bedsits, caravans and boats. Brought in from the Far East, it uses the most efficient method of cooking - induction heat - and it's clean, safe and easy to use.

FLAVIA BEVERAGE SYSTEM

The Flavia tea and coffee dispensing system is well established in offices and other places of work, chosen because it makes "proper" tea and coffee using sachets, rather than the insipid hot drinks that some systems seem to serve up. For further information on any of these products call 01275 343000.

Bradshaw Group, Kenn Road, Clevedon,
Bristol BS21 6LH. Tel 01275343000. Fax
01275 343454.

Here to There

Saturday 22nd February 1997

Coach £10.50 Kingswood 8.45am Eastville 9.00am

Seats £12.00 Adults. £6.00 Juveniles/OAP Covered End Wing

A fearsome place for away fans. Inbred hatred for Blackburn and Man. Utd. Very impressive redeveloped ground. Away view excellent. Famed for horizontal sleet that no no stand roof can give protection from. Stange sights no.1: at precisely 2.30pm all doors open onto pavements and occupants walk en masse to the ground. Stange sights no.2: John Ward (would he hand out flowers to this lot!).

**Travel bookings are taken at '99' and in the Social Club before and after every game
SHOW YOUR 1996/97 SUPPORTERS CLUBCARD WHEN BOOKING**

versus Burnley League Division 2
Kick Off 3.00pm

AA

Routes Service

To Burnley FC

Burnley, Lancs

Saturday 22nd February 1997

From Eastville join Muller Road heading north to junction with Gloucester Road A38. Continue north and in 4.3 miles at roundabout take 3rd exit (signposted The Midlands) to join Motorway M5 to:

JUNCTION 1 (A41/A4252)

In 0.5 miles branch left (signposted Leeds) to join M62 to:

JUNCTION 18 (M66)

Branch left (signposted Burnley) then at roundabout take 1st exit to join Motorway M66. In 8.6 miles forward on A56. In 9.2 miles at roundabout take 3rd exit to join Motorway M65 to: JUNCTION 10 (A671)

Leave Motorway and at roundabout take 5th exit A671 then at ensuing roundabout take 1st exit (signposted Town Centre) then keep to right-hand lane. In 0.5 miles at roundabout take 2nd exit. In 0.5 miles at roundabout take 3rd exit. 0.2 miles farther at crossroads forward into Brunshaw Road unclassified.

BURNLEY FC (on left)

Total Mileage: 199 miles

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this publication, the Automobile Association and its associated companies, servants or agents, Bristol Rovers F.C., accept no liability for any consequences that may arise from errors or omissions in this publication.

BRISTOL HOSPITAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

The service broadcasts live commentaries on Rovers games to 17 hospitals throughout the region and would like to thank the following sponsors:

The Bird in Hand
The Bold Brass Sound
Bristol Rovers Supporters Club
Bath & West Security
Brunel College of Technology
Construction Department
Redrim Computer Supplies
Universal Components Ltd
E.G. Brown Ltd - Printers
Gingells - Butchers
The Handyman Shop -
Keynsham
Ware New Homes
Solomon Hare -
Chartered Accountants
Bristol Rovers Presidents Club
Dunfords Dairies

Ticket Office Opening Times
The Beeches, Brislington:
Mon.-Fri 9am - 5pm 0117 977 2000
Supporters Club: 0117 961 1772
Mon.-Fri 9am - 5pm & 7.30 - 8.30pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm
and at the ground after the match

MILLWALL (to be arranged) and **PLYMOUTH** (25th Feb.) matches remain "All Ticket". The original tickets for these games are valid. Tickets now on sale for supporters who did not purchase for the original games.

BRISTOL ROVERS vs BRISTOL CITY

Sunday 16 March 1977 KO: 1.00pm

Bristol Rovers supporters will be able to purchase tickets for this match from Monday 24th February from the Supporters Club and The Beeches (usual opening times); after the home games v Plymouth and Walsall OR from Rovers matchday portakabin at The Memorial Ground (2pm-6pm Mon-Fri) as follows:

(A) VOUCHER HOLDERS

Supporters who have vouchers from Bristol Rovers previous home fixtures which were "all ticket" will be able to purchase ONE ticket on production of any ONE of the following three vouchers, WHILST STOCKS LAST. The vouchers formed part of the match ticket.

Watford 14th Sept. (Voucher 4)
Crewe 5th Oct. (Voucher 6)
Blackpool 19th Oct. (Voucher 7)

(B) SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Season ticket holders will have the option of purchasing TWO additional tickets on production of voucher number 15 from the back of their season ticket book. The additional tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis for any home area of the ground, while there are tickets still available.

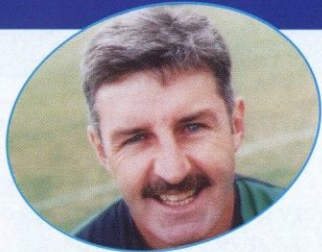
WEST STAND SEAT SEASON TICKETS HOLDERS - please contact The Beeches if you require additional tickets.

(C) GENERAL SALE

There will be NO tickets on general sale.

WIN £2,000 PER WEEK WITH ROVERS GOLD BOND

Reserve and Youth Team News



Geoff Twentyman

in the right areas to win the game, but what pleased me most was the way the players applied themselves for most of the game. Simon Teague scored twice when he came on as substitute. We do encourage our strikers to move into the six yard box and he looked quite lively when the ball was played behind people and did very well, although at that stage of the game the likes of Matt Hayfield, Ian Holloway, Steve Parmenter and Jon French had done the work needed to get us on top, which paved the way for Simon to score his goals.

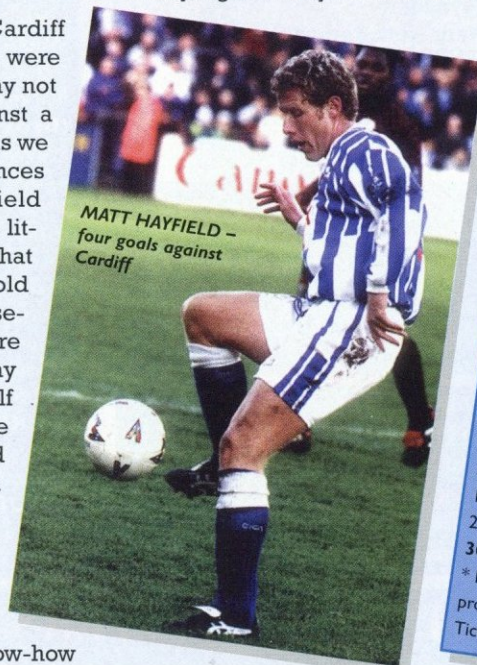
Team: Higgs, Harte, Bowey, Zabek, Martin (sub Sanderson), French, Holloway, Gurney, Parmenter (sub Pritchard J.), Hayfield, Ramasut (sub Teague).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Terry Connor was back in charge for this game, as Geoff Twentyman was suffering from flu. Geoff was due to take charge of the reserves the first time at home, on 5th February, against Crystal Palace. However, the game never took place, as the coach bringing the Palace side to Yate ran into problems at Bracknell Service Station. According to Palace reserve team manager Steve Kember, the fuel cap jammed solid and they were unable to fill up in order to continue their journey, though they did have enough left in the tank to get back home, so stories that they ran out of GAS are not strictly true!

ROVERS 6 CARDIFF 0
As in our previous home game, against Luton, we were able to field a strong side against a young opposing side, on a tricky surface. However, on this occasion, I was very pleased with the way we applied ourselves and gained a 2-0 advantage at half-time. We were a little bit slack for the first 20 minutes of the second half, but we came back, stuck to our task and scored four more goals. My only grievance is that, had we applied ourselves for the whole 90 minutes, we could have scored more goals, but it was nice for the lads to keep a clean sheet and to put into practice the things we had worked on in training.

Admittedly, because Cardiff fielded a young side, we were able to do things which may not have been possible against a stronger side, but the fact is we were able to put our chances away. With Matt Hayfield playing up front we had a little bit more strength in that area and he was able to hold the ball up for us. Consequently, we got in more crosses, were able to play more in our opponents half and exploited the space behind their defence and Matt scored four goals as a result. With Ian Holloway in the side, we had a little bit more assurance in midfield and Lee Martin's experience at the back gave us enough know-how



MATT HAYFIELD - four goals against Cardiff



ever, the game never took place, as the coach bringing the Palace side to Yate ran into problems at Bracknell Service Station. According to Palace reserve team manager Steve Kember, the fuel cap jammed solid and they were unable to fill up in order to continue their journey, though they did have enough left in the tank to get back home, so stories that they ran out of GAS are not strictly true!

THE AVON INSURANCE FOOTBALL COMBINATION DIVISION ONE '96-'97 FIXTURES

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT
5 Sep.	Chelsea	H 1-2
11 Sep.	Bristol City (Cup)	A 1-3
17 Sep.	Millwall	A 0-7
25 Sep.	West Ham	A 0-7
2 Oct.	Swansea City (Cup)	H 1-1
7 Oct.	QPR	H 1-2
23 Oct.	Watford	A 0-3
6 Nov.	Wimbledon	H 1-1
13 Nov.	Portsmouth	H 1-3
20 Nov.	Swindon Town (Cup)	A 0-2
27 Nov.	Bristol City	A 0-0
9 Dec.	Swindon Town	H 1-1
18 Dec.	Tottenham	A 3-1
8 Jan.	Charlton	H 0-2
15 Jan.	Luton Town	A 2-1
22 Jan.	Oxford	H 1-2
29 Jan.	Cardiff (Cup)	A 1-1
5 Feb.	Crystal Palace	H 6-0
12 Feb.	Swansea	H P-P
5 Mar.	Oxford (Cup)	A
12 Mar.	Cardiff	A
19 Mar.	Ipswich	H
26 Mar.	Brighton & Hove	A
3 Apr.	Arsenal	H *
16 Apr.	AFC Bournemouth	A
23 Apr.	Southampton	H *
30 Apr.	Norwich	A

* Free admission to Season Ticket Holders on production of Appropriate Voucher from Season Ticket Booklet

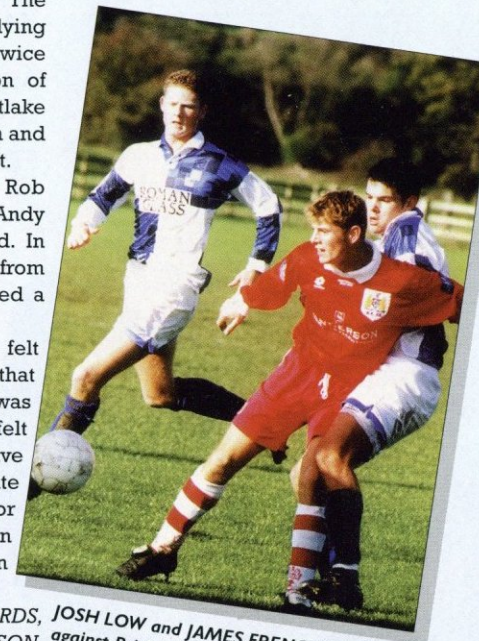


RISTOL ROVERS 0 SPURS 0

An uninspiring game with very few chances created produced a fair result. Six corners in total and only two on target efforts suggest the nature of the contest. Cancelling each other out the two sides were unable to create many openings. Rovers best chances came to Jon Sanderson who was often in the right place but unable to finish. The nearest to a goal came in the dying minutes when Spurs best player twice broke through but a combination of good positioning by Tristan Westlake and desperate work by Mark Smith and Chris Edwards kept the visitors out. Rovers did hit the bar from Rob Claridge in the 69th minute and Andy Lloyd nearly converted the rebound. In addition the splendid free kicks from Lee Zabek ought to have produced a goal.

Tony Gill, Youth Team Manager felt that "this was a very even game that could have gone either way. I was pleased with the clean sheet but felt that we could be a bit more creative when in possession. Our work rate was good and we made it hard for Spurs to play. Overall, there was an improvement from the Wimbledon game the previous week."

Team: WESTLAKE, WHITE, D, EDWARDS, ZABEK, SMITH, BASFORD, SANDERSON, COLES, LLOYD, TEAGUE, FRENCH. SUBS: WHITE, J, HOPE and CLARIDGE for TEAGUE.



JOSH LOW and JAMES FRENCH in action against Bristol City

September. After a rugged first 15 minutes Rovers took the game to the visitors and both Rob Claridge and Kevin Coles carved openings which they would have hoped to convert. Further good efforts came from Lee Zabek and Luke Basford. The winner came in the 55th minute when poor defending allowed the ball to be scrambled in from a corner. Guy Jones and Mike Trought who came on as late substitutes both threatened to score in



Tony Gill

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 R. (FAYCEPR)	H 5-0
31 Aug.	Oxford	H 1-5
7 Sep.	Swindon Town	A 0-8
12 Sep.	Odd Down (FAYCPR)	H 8-0
14 Sep.	Chelsea (SECLCI)	H 3-2
21 Sep.	Wimbledon	H 2-1
28 Sep.	Wycombe Wanderers	A 5-0
5 Oct.	Barnet	H 4-1
9 Oct.	Worcester City (FAYCRI)	H 6-0
12 Oct.	AFC Bournemouth	A 0-1
19 Oct.	AFC Bournemouth (SECLC2)	A 1-2
26 Oct.	Brighton & Hove Albion	H 6-1
30 Oct.	Cirencester Town (FAYCC2Q)	A 1-1
2 Nov.	Brentford	A 5-3
9 Nov.	Bristol City	H 3-4
11 Nov.	Cirencester Tn (FAYC2QR)	H 2-1
16 Nov.	Crystal Palace	A 0-2
26 Nov.	Woking (FAYCI)	H 4-1
30 Nov.	Reading	A 2-0
7 Dec.	Colchester	H 1-0
10 Dec.	QPR (FAYC2R)	H 0-0
14 Dec.	Southampton	A 1-3
18 Dec.	QPR (FAYC2R)	A 0-1
21 Dec.	Luton Town	A 1-2
4 Jan.	Southampton	H P
11 Jan.	Oxford	A P
18 Jan.	Swindon Town	H 1-2
25 Jan.	Wimbledon	A 0-0
1 Feb.	Tottenham	H 0-0
8 Feb.	Wycombe Wanderers	H 0-1
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
TBA	Southampton	H
TBA	Oxford United	A

the last few minutes on their debuts. Youth Team Manager, Tony Gill, said, "this was a close game. The players decision making was good and we showed good quality and approach work. We just could not show the cold calculating frame of mind in front of goal. Apart from the one lapse the defence was very sound and we deserved something out of the game. We have lost despite playing well for the third game running."

Team: WESTLAKE, WHITE, D, EDWARDS, ZABEK, WHITE, J, COLES, SMITH, BASFORD, CLARIDGE, SANDERSON, DAVEY. SUBS: HOPE, JONES for CLARIDGE and TROUGHT for COLES.

**A
CICA**

CICA
SPORTS
SHOES
ARE PROUD
TO SUPPORT
BRISTOL ROVERS
FOOTBALL CLUB

FOR STOCKIST INFORMATION CALL
0990 785781



**Club
Shop**



Today we are offering more Sales Bargains and they will be available at the Rugby Club Shop or weather permitting on tables outside our Sales Point in the car park. So come and see other items available including last season's away kit at £10.00 Adults and £8.00 Children

LE COQ SPORTIF
SWEATSHIRT



LE COQ SPORTIF
SWEAT SHIRT
(Small only) £10.00

DRESS SHIRT



DRESS SHIRT in White or
Blue. Short Sleeve £7.00
Long Sleeve £8.00

BLUE DENIM SHIRT



DENIM SHIRT
Small only £10.00



Personal Shoppers welcome at: **Bristol Rovers Supporters Club Shop**
199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AZ
Shop Hours Mon. to Fri. 9am to 5pm and 7.30 to 8.30pm (except matchdays) Sat. 9am to 1pm
Or phone our Credit Card Hotline 0117 961 1772 Or fax your order 0117 961 1773
Write or phone now for our mail order price list
ALSO

Our Caravan in the carpark opens one and a half hours before Kick Off on Matchdays and the Rugby Club shop opens for leisurewear only one and a half hours before Kick Off, at Half Time, and for 15 minutes after the game

GOLD BOND IS COMING TO BRISTOL

BLUELINE EXPRESS COURIERS

EXPRESS DELIVERIES NATIONWIDE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
UNIFORMED DRIVERS
CONTRACT SPECIALISTS
BS 5750 APPLIED FOR
TELEPHONE IN ALL VEHICLES

24 HOUR CONTROL CENTRE:
01454 618226

BLUELINE EXPRESS COURIERS
2B, AZTEC CENTRE, AZTEC WEST
BRISTOL BS12 4TD

For the best choice of bathrooms and tiles

Over 50 suites on display and over 1 million tiles in stock



54 REDCLIFFE STREET, BRISTOL
TEL: BRISTOL 9299227

Open Monday to Saturday 8.30am-5.00pm

PRINT — PAPER — PACKAGING — DESIGN

E. G. BROWN (Bristol) LTD.

63 Quarrington Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PJ.

Multi-part sets * Trade Printing * Colour Work
Letterheadings * Leaflets * Labels * Wedding Stationery
THE COMPLETE PRINT SERVICE

Tel: 0117 951 3215

WELCOME BACK HOME
TO HORFIELD
TO OUR
NEW NEIGHBOURS

Fax: 0117 935 4250

BBC RADIO
BRISTOL

SOMERSET
SOUND

95.5 FM & 1548 MW ACROSS THE WEST
94.9 FM IN BRISTOL 104.6 FM IN BATH

1323 MW IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH SOMERSET

Follow the Rovers on Radio Bristol and
Somerset Sound

join Will Shindler, Russell Osman and Denis Rofe
on TEAMTALK every Friday at 7.05pm

'The Fans Phone In'

Bristol 923 8877 Taunton 323001

In off the Post

Just three letters today, one long, one short
and one average in length. Come on Gasheads,
PLEASE put pen to paper!

Thanks to Ms, Miss or Mrs Jenkins for our first
offering today.

Dear Sir,

I have supported Bristol Rovers for 23 years now and
have seen many ups and downs in that time. This
season, as in 1986, I wasn't expecting miracles,
reasons being: (1) new ground; (2) new manager, with
no previous managerial experience; and (3) new kit!
With reference to the new ground, I know it's great to
be back in Bristol after ten years, but the situation is
similar to Twerton. Inadequate ground facilities, dodgy
pitch and with only two parts of the ground open, it's
not the best place for atmosphere is it? (also, very
difficult to get a 'Mexican wave going!').

However, we survived Twerton, with quite a lot of
success as well, so we'll survive this and anything else
thrown in our path. After all, we are some of the most
loyal and best behaved supporters in the country (more
than I can say for some not too far away!).

With reference to reason no. 2, Ian Holloway. I wanted
Ollie back as much as anybody, but perhaps as a player
for a year or two, after all, I didn't think John Ward
was doing a bad job. Perhaps his passion for the club
wasn't as strong as Ollie's, but I will always defend
him for a good track record with Rovers (let's see if
Ollie can get us to Wembley or the play-offs!).
However, that's past and this is present. I wish Ollie
the 'very best of luck' at this club, I know his heart's
in it and I think he will eventually do well. You see, I
didn't expect promotion this season, perhaps mid-
table; anything above would be a bonus and although
things aren't going our way at the moment, I still think
we'll finish half-way, which brings me to the reason
why I wrote this letter in the first place.

Things aren't going right for us right now, but I have
to agree with Ollie, please, no booing! I don't think the
players like losing, they don't do it to annoy the
supporters and they most probably feel a lot worse
than us at the end of a game, so why boo? OK, so it
may have been a poor game, but does everyone have a
good day at work every day? And when they mess up,
did they do it on purpose? I don't think so. So come on
Rovers fans, give our lads some encouragement. Don't
boo at certain players when the team is read out, give
them a big cheer and get behind our team, they need
us! So if you're reading this before the kickoff, let's
get singing, let's cheer on our team and when the game
gets going, don't moan if we shoot and miss, applaud
the effort. Have faith in our lads and they'll have faith
in themselves. Stop booing and ridiculing individuals,
give them your support, suffer in silence if you have to
(although my family suffer when I get home if we've
lost!) but I don't and won't do it to the players, they
feel bad enough without us reminding them, after all,
it's only a game!

Oh! nearly forgot, reason no.3; the kit! I like it, but
sometimes when I've been watching the tele and
they've shown snippets of games, I haven't realised it
was Rovers until it was over, so for traditional reasons,
bring back quarters.

Oh and while I'm having my say, I think I'll just
squeeze in, that I think Peter Beadle is 'drop dead
sexy' and that they should sell Beadle nightshirts for
women to wear in bed (yes, I am female, don't get
worried Peter!).

M. JENKINS

So there you have it. Peter Beadle is drop dead sexy -
but he takes some stick for that one! - Ed.



Moving on to one for you programme collectors -

Dear Sir,

Please could you print this request in your forthcoming
home programme. I have a collection of 50 Bristol
Rovers programmes for sale from the 1970's to the
1990's. (34 Hhomes and 16 Aways), for £30 + £3 p&p.
Anyone interested please send a cheque for £33
payable to John Holden. My address is 15 Devonshire
Street, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 1DL.
JOHN HOLDEN

And finally, today, another letter regarding Bristol
City. No comments from me, you already know
my views!

Dear Sir,

So we now know what the punishment is.
Middlesbrough and Brighton must wonder where they
went wrong. Having three points deducted for failing
to fulfill a fixture, and the punishment City have
received does not quite make sense to me. I know I am
biased but they really have come up smelling of roses
this time.

As the fanzine printed in last weeks issue did we go
onto the pitch when they beat us 4-2 in March? NO.
Did we attack the City players after the final whistle?
NO. Did we attack their supporters? NO. I dread to
think what would have happened had fences been in
place.

They cannot be allowed to get away with this kind of
behaviour and I urge the Rovers board not to issue any
tickets to the City fans for the return in March. I know
we will lose money as a football club but the safety of
true Bristol Rovers fans must be the main concern.

RICHARD LAVINGTON

Lack of letters enables us to do our bit to track
down two wanted men -



At the top, is a young man sporting a Pirate hat
at Wembley. If you can identify him, please
contact us as soon as possible. On the lower pic, a
lonely lad on a railway station. If you're reading
this and have lost your camera, drop us a line.

FINALLY, TODAY, WE GIVE YOU -

HOTLINE QUOTES

These are just a few snippets you've missed if you haven't phoned The Hotline lately:

On the game against Shrewsbury -

"In the first half, we were a bit lack lustre and needed a bit of a kick up the backside at
half-time." - Lee Archer.

"Beads is dangerous like that, he does them sort of things once every four or five years in
training." - Andy Collett.

"I told them at half-time that I wanted a bit more urgency and a bit more effort and they
put it in and couple that with a bit of belief and I'd just like to see them do it without me
having to shout and bawl. They must think I'm a miserable pig." - Ian Holloway.

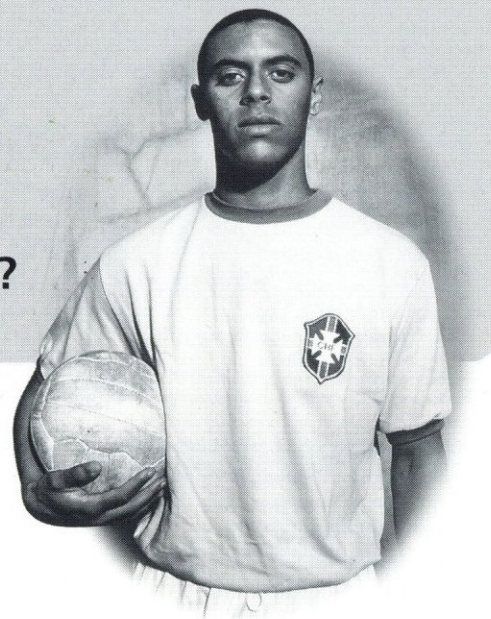
And on the Gillingham game -

"In the final analysis, I don't really think we deserved any more than what we got, and we
didn't get anything." - Geoff Twentyman

"I'm looking forward to every game I play in. It's just disappointing we're not winning." -
Jamie Cureton.

See what you're missing is you don't ring PIRATES HOTLINE on 0891 66 44 22. Calls cost 50p
per minute.

What if
a young Brazilian
forward wanted to sign
for your team, but the
club couldn't afford him ?




Nationwide Savings :

So you stepped forward with a brown envelope stuffed with cash and secured the transfer. You'd be branded a hero, the fans would carry you shoulder high to the Kebab van and they'd probably even name the home stand after you. All because you had a flexible savings account that gave you instant access to your money. To find out more about Nationwide savings accounts just give us a call. All the best for the season!

Call free on: **0800 30 20 10** quoting ref: FB014

or visit our football site on
<http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

 **In tune with people**

 **Nationwide**
THE BUILDING SOCIETY.

Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Please note that for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements your call will be recorded. Nationwide Building Society, Head Office, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, SN38 1NW.

LIGHTING & SOUND

available for

DISCOS

Private Parties • Weddings
Birthdays • Surprise Parties

CORPORATE ENTERTAINMENT

Staging • Promotion • Publicity
Exhibitions/Open Days

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Face Painting • Fun & Games
Balloon Modelling & much more

SOUND SYSTEMS

Conferences • Public Address
Car PA Systems • Outdoors/Indoors
Delivery • Set-Up • Collection

For a day to remember call Derek West on

01399 700256

Pager: 01426 319851 • 453 Speedwell Road, Kingswood, Bristol



**PROFESSIONAL CHEMICAL
ENGRAVERS
& ETCHING SPECIALISTS**



TEL: BATH 336922

FAX: 446253

Wessex of Bristol

Your Local Coach Travel Experts - premiership Quality at Third Division Prices.
What ever your need - We will supply - Book with us and score every time.



Tel: Bristol (0117) 955 9129
Sussex Street, St Philips, Bristol.
BS2 0RB

Simply Bristol's Best, Just like
the Rovers !



THE WINNING POST

*Bristol's Biggest
Independent Bookmakers*

702b Filton Avenue
Filton
Bristol BS12 7JX
Tel: 0117 9872086

14a Gainsborough Square
Lockleaze
Bristol BS7 9XA
Tel: 0117 9760588

249 Redcatch Road
Knowle
Bristol BS4 2HQ
Tel: 0117 9494886

48 Stockwood Road
Stockwood
Bristol BS14 8PL
Tel: 01275 836913

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS WELCOME



SOMERLAP FOREST PRODUCTS

An attractive range of fencing,
teak garden furniture
and wooden buildings from
carefully selected timber - and
all with a full, 10 year -
guarantee.

Special designs to order.
Full delivery and installation
service if required.

Best quality products at affordable prices when you buy direct from the maker.

SOMERLAP FOREST PRODUCTS

Head Office: Ubley Sawmill Ltd, Cleeve Hill, Ubley,
Near Compton Martin, Bristol BS18 6PE

Tel: (01761) 462446 Fax: (01761) 462688

also at: Wells Road, Mark, Somerset. TA9 4NR. Tel: 01278 641671



*Everything for the
Sporting Enthusiast...*

Racquets, Boots,
Bats and Balls
Nike • Adidas • Puma
Reebok • CICA

DISCOUNTS FOR
ALL CLUBS

DOUG HILLARD SPORTS

647 FISHPONDS ROAD
BS16 3BQ
Tel: 0117 965 2473

BRISTOL ROPE & TWINE CO.

NATURAL & SYNTHETIC ROPES, CORDS & TWINES

STRAPPING DISTRIBUTORS



WIRE ROPES
AND
LIFTING
EQUIPMENT

80 FEEDER ROAD
ST. PHILIPS MARSH
BRISTOL BS2 0TQ

Tel:
(0117) 977 7033
(3 lines)

Fax:
(0117)
971 7621



Est. 1959

Packaging & Hardware Sundries

CVV RACE NIGHTS



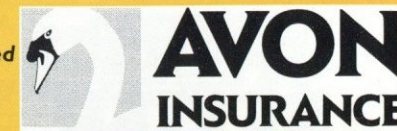
- ★ HORSE RACE NIGHTS
- ★ THE RACING ELEPHANTS
- ★ ON-BOARD ROLLERCOASTER RIDES



For Great Entertainment Call
0117-955 4531

YOUNG PIRATES

Sponsored
by:



AFTER an encouraging run of results, we slipped up last week against Gillingham, which was a big disappointment. We must put that result behind us and give the team all the support we can today, as we look to gain three valuable points. Our opponents are chasing hard for promotion, so our task will be extremely difficult. However, we have already beaten other teams near the top of the league, like Brentford and Crewe, so let's hope we can earn another good result against one of the top teams in the league this afternoon.

Gary Waddock, who joined Rovers along with our captain Andy Tillson, could well be in the Luton squad today and it would be nice to see him here. He did travel with the team for our Coca Cola Cup tie earlier this season, though he was unable to play in that one, because of the red card he received in the first leg of that tie.

As I'm sure you remember, we beat Luton 2-1 back in September and it would be nice if we could repeat that scoreline today. We would like to welcome all connected with Luton Town Football Club and hope you have a safe journey home.

Our mascot today is 15 year old Daniel Bell, who has been selected at the last moment, so I'm afraid we don't have his photo available. Daniel lives at Willsbridge and attends Sir Bernard Lovell School, where his favourite subjects are Technology and PE. Out of school, he enjoys meeting his friends, playing football and model making. We all hope you enjoy your day Daniel, and that you see a Rovers victory.

We are still waiting for news of a meeting room for matchdays and will keep you informed of any developments. It has been difficult this season and we appreciate your support. We should also thank all of our voluntary helpers, who have stood out in the car park in all winds and weathers to sell Rovers souvenirs and keep in touch with you. A reminder today that we are only seven weeks away from our annual meet the players day which we all know you enjoy. We are speaking to Ian and Geoff to arrange and date and will announce this as soon as possible.

Featured in today's photo, with Andy Tillson, are James Poliss and Mark Hamilton, who were mascots at our last home game.



ble. Last year, over 200 of you turned out for the day, which was enjoyed by Young Pirates and players alike.

Finally, today, thanks to David Myring for his proposed design for next season's kit.

Hope you all enjoy the game - Let's hear you really get behind the lads today.



Dear Editor,
Here is what next seasons home kit should look like. I am 15 and a young pirate.
Yours faithfully
D Myring
DAVID MYRING

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY

- 15th Matthew Broad (8)
- Andrew Mallett (10)
- Emma Garland (12)
- Jack Reid (10)
- 17th Laura Bradford (2)
- Damien Missen (10)
- Oliver Parsons (12)
- 18th Simon Bone (8)
- Jason Brown (11)
- Seth Lavington (1)
- Gareth Nichols (7)
- Michael Short (9)
- 19th James Blake (11)
- Kim Spencer (16)
- 20th Samantha Bryan (16)
- Matthew Davis (8)
- 21st Liam Ball (11)
- David Mills (11)
- Chloe Snee (1)
- 23rd Samuel Wooles (7)
- 24th Christopher Bone (9)
- Stephen Hallett (11)

Casa Sudaca Real Mexican Cuisine



Bristol's only Genuine
South American Restaurants
Chilean Family owned and run

25 Zetland Road, Redland
0117 944 6304



What links
BETTER
training,
BETTER
& **BETTER**
employees
YOU!
results?

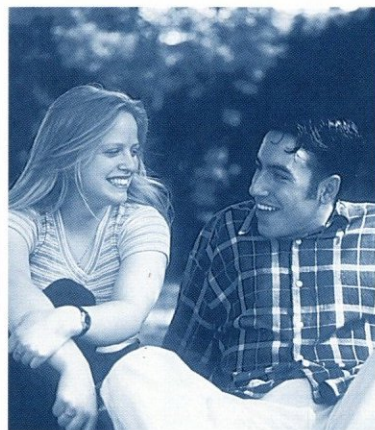
- Modern Apprenticeships
- NVQ levels 2 & 3
- Retail - I.T. - Customer Service - Warehousing - Business Administration
- All training placement based
- National training Company Recognised.

We invest in your future do you want to invest in yours?

LINK
TRAINING

Centre Gate
Colston Avenue
Bristol
BS1 4TR
Telephone:
(0117) 929 0980

REACH YOUR GOALS WITH US



BRUNEL COLLEGE
OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY
Ashley Down, Bristol BS7 9BU
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO LEARN

Brunel College at Ashley Down offers you the widest range of courses and opportunities to help you reach your goals. Whether you are employed, unemployed or a school leaver we have a course for you.

For further information contact our Advice and Guidance Centre on

0117 924 1241
Providing Quality Education

• PLYWOOD • PLASTERBOARD • CHIPBOARD • HARDWOOD • SOFTWOOD

TIMBER SUPPLIES
The good Timber Merchant that's hard to find

• DISCOUNTS ON BULK ORDERS • DELIVERY WITHIN 24 HOURS
• TRADE & RETAIL • EXPERT ADVICE
• MACHINING SERVICE

The Timber Yard, R/O 60/62 Pretoria Road
Patchway, Bristol
Tel: (0117) 969 1356 Fax: (0117) 969 4519

• PLYWOOD • PLASTERBOARD • CHIPBOARD • HARDWOOD • SOFTWOOD

40A Downend Road, Kingswood, Bristol
Tel: (0117) 960 8594 Fax: (0117) 983 1120

• WINDOWS & DOORS • STAIR PARTS & MOULDINGS
• FENCING & SHEDS and MUCH, MUCH MORE

TELEQUIP

AUDIO/VIDEO DOOR ENTRY
DIGITAL/CARD ACCESS CONTROL
CCTV INTERCOMS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

TELEQUIP COMMUNICATIONS and SECURITY SYSTEMS LTD.
92 Filton Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 0PD
Telephone 0117 923 6523
Fax 0117 923 6983

Rephotographs by SentyBox Tel: 01895 251220

Mitre
ULTIMAX
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Caught.
Ball watching!

Mitre >
The official ball supplier to:

Trust us to help football

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping their grounds in line with the Taylor Report.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has received and distributed £250m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers Pools and Littlewoods Spot The Ball competitions for the benefit of football.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game



LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS
Making sure football wins the Pools each week

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

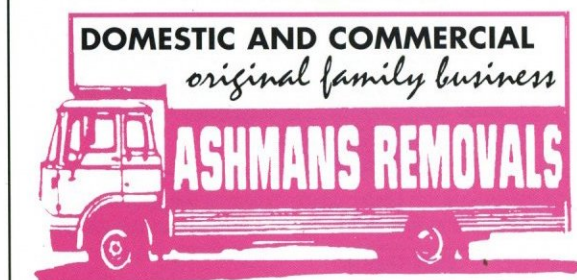
RECONDITIONED GEARBOXES AXLES, DIFFS CLUTCH REPAIR SERVICE

**GLOUCESTER
ROAD
GEARBOXES**

THE WAREHOUSE, BARTON MANOR
MIDLAND ROAD, ST. PHILIPS
BRISTOL

Freephone: 0500 595 905
Telephone: 0117 954 1424

RETURN TO BRISTOL WITH
ASHMANS REMOVALS
(We've Never Been Away)
LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF ROVERS



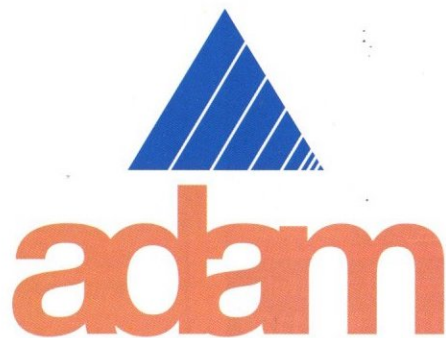
Established since Horse & Carts and the Pirates
FREE ESTIMATES DHS WELCOME

Now at:
UNIT 2, BANEURY HOUSE
ALEXANDRA PARK, FISHPONDS
BRISTOL BS16 2BG

Tel/Fax:
0117 9584477

STORE AND SHOPFITTING

a complete service

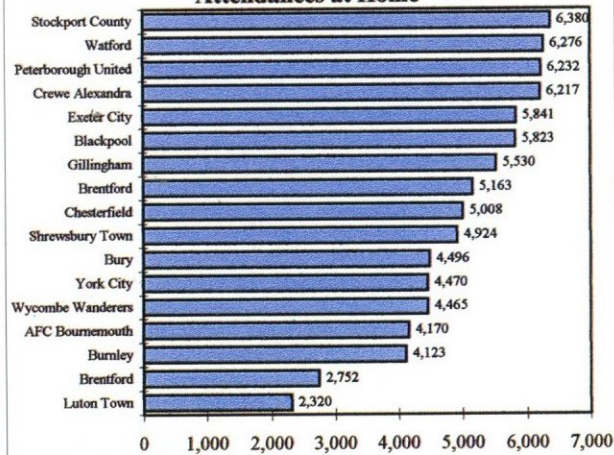


SERVICES LIMITED

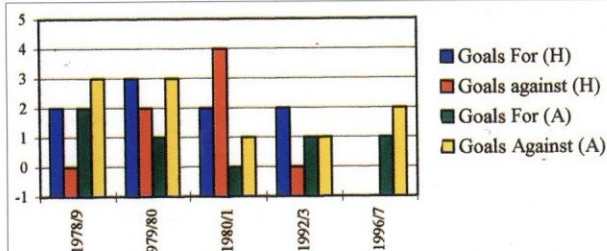
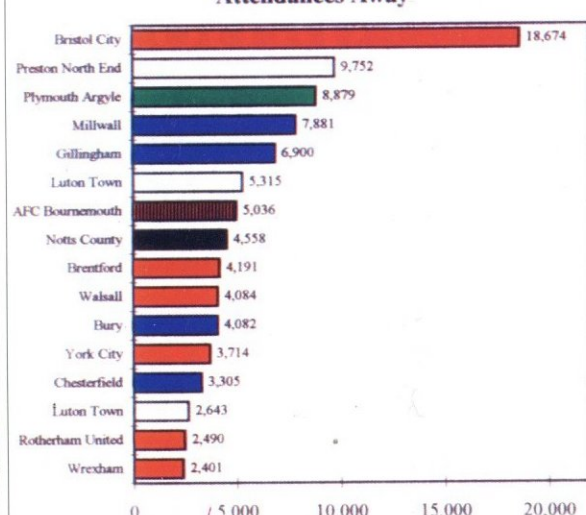
6 Marsh Lane, Ashton, Bristol BS3 2NR. Tel: (0117) 963 1790 (2 lines) Fax: (0117) 963 1830

STATS BY CHRIS SPENCER

Attendances at Home



Attendances Away



Last 10 League Results against LUTON TOWN



ROVERS versus LUTON

BEST HOME RESULT:	5	0	in	1920 /21	Season
WORST HOME RESULT:	2	4	in	1980 /81	Season
BEST AWAY RESULT:	2	0	in	1964 /65	Season
WORST AWAY RESULT:	0	12	in	1935 /36	Season

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

Sole Sponsor
KINGS

KINGS HEAVY HAULAGE (Bristol) LTD

PROFILE - DARREN PRIEST

Community coach Darren Priest is almost 23 and can best be described as single, tall and skinny! Comedian Jack Dee figures high on his list of favourites, as do Only Fools and Horses, Emmerdale, Oasis, McDonalds, Majorca and Lager. Darren has played football since he was six and is currently player/manager of Whitchurch Seymours and also turns out for The Baccy Jar. A centre forward, who would love to play at Anfield (but NOT Old Trafford), his biggest sporting achievement was appearing on the front page of *Bristol Sport Weekly*. His sporting honours also include being the most improved player and top goalscorer for his cub pack. A modest bloke, he says that people often mistake him for Steve McManaman on the pitch, he has a sharp sense of humour and his boss Alan Walsh has him in stitches when he tries to run! His ambition is to lead his Whitchurch Seymours side to the league title.

HOLIDAY CLUB PONTIN'S

Enjoy a weekend at Pontin's, Brean Sands Holiday Centre, near Weston-super-Mare from 11-13 April and take advantage of the coaching provided by Bristol Rovers Community Coaches. This exclusive weekend, where you can also take advantage of the superb leisure facilities at Pontin's, is available for parents and children at bargain prices, so call now on 0990 331199 quoting reference XBR1 and join in the fun. Parents please note - book your Summer 1997 seven night holiday at any location and pay the deposit at the same time as booking the Coaching Weekend and receive a £40 discount per booking. Just quote XBR2 for this superb double offer.

everyone involved.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD

The Community Department recently held four tournaments for Under 13s. The winner of each tournament was Ridings High School (Winterbourne), Norton Hill (Bath), Downend School and Sir Bernard Lovell (Oldland Common). These four winners will compete next week in a Champion of Champions knockout to establish who will represent Bristol Rovers in the final stages, and maybe reach the



SANTA'S GROTTO

In December, one of the Community Coaches, Matthew Skidmore dressed up as Santa Claus and distributed presents to children at Burnbush Primary School, Stockwood. It was a great day and the kids had a whale of a time. Many thanks to



finals at Wembley Stadium.

SATURDAY TEAM CLUB

Richard Mower brought his team to the game against Wycombe in December and his letter of thanks is reproduced here. Today we welcome Gary Coomer and his friends from Bamfield Sports and we hope they all have an enjoyable time.

WELCOME

To our new member of staff, BARRY WALSH, who brings our numbers up to



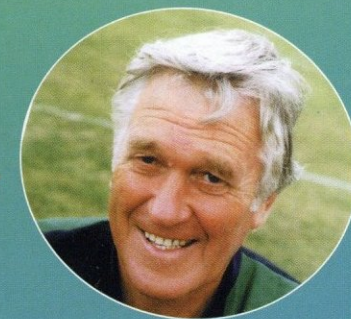


MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EVENING



EVERY DAY SPORT EVENING POST

★ Stars of the Future ★



Roy Dolling

THE latest addition to the Schoolboy ranks at the club is David Gilroy, a 14-year-old striker who hails from Langport, in Somerset. It's only a few months since David was invited along to the Centre of Excellence, so the fact that he has signed schoolboy forms so quickly is an indication of how highly he is rated by Roy Dolling, Tony Gill and Chief Youth Scout Richard Everson.

"Yes," says David, "it's true that I only recently joined Rovers. Richard Everson saw me playing for the Yeovil and District Schools side at Preston School and he asked my parents if I would be interested in joining the club's Centre of Excellence. They wanted me to sign schoolboy forms straight away, but it was eventually agreed that I would travel to Bristol for a trial spell. I had previously attended the Southampton Centre of Excellence in Bath for a short time, but I didn't feel comfortable when I was there. Although I didn't know anyone at Rovers when I first went there, it seemed very relaxed and I seem to have settled in well, thanks to the other lads there and my coach, Tony Gill. I scored 4 goals in my first three games and feel very comfortable at the club."

Enter Mum and Dad, John and Sue, "David had previously played for Ilminster, but when the team folded, we contacted Southampton, who invited David up to Bath. As he says, he didn't play well when he was there. He then began playing for Yeovil Town's U-14 side and this season he has represented the Yeovil and District U-15 side and played for them at Home Park, Plymouth and in a Fuji Cup competition in Cornwall." Naturally enough, David's ambition is to be a professional footballer. "Yes I've always wanted to play professionally, but I realise that I have to keep up my education, something that Roy Dolling has made very clear, both to myself and my parents."

The commitment, both to his football and his schoolwork are not lost on John and Sue. "We were not certain that David should sign schoolboy forms, as it is quite a commitment for ourselves as well as David, as he has to travel to Bristol for

training on Mondays and Fridays, as well as travel to play a match on Sundays, although we recognised that, in order to improve his game, he needed to receive the coaching that a professional club can offer. The club put no pressure on us for David to sign and Richard Everson talked to us and explained all of the pitfalls whilst Roy Dolling emphasised the need for David to concentrate on his education, pointing out that very few youngsters actually achieve their ambition of making it as a professional footballer. Roy has seen David's headmaster, at Huish Episcopie School and the school has been very supportive. We are pleased for David, but his plans are to remain at school until he is 18 and we are keen that his schoolwork should not suffer because of his footballing ambitions. The club have been very good, in that they have agreed that David does not attend the Centre of Excellence every Friday, as it's quite a way to travel." Meanwhile David has noticed quite a difference in the standard of football since attending the Centre of Excellence.

"Yes, I think that the game is a little bit quicker, in terms of pace and thought and my parents noticed a difference in my game even after my first training sessions in Bristol." It should be added that David enjoys many other sports and, unlike many other youngsters, doesn't mind his parents watching him play. "I've played bas-

ketball and rugby for my school and also enjoy swimming, crosscountry and tennis. My parents are very supportive and have always encouraged me to do well at football and I think they enjoy watching me play."

I know that Mum and Dad are pleased for David and will be happy if he can play football at the highest level and having travelled down to Langport on a cold, winter's evening, I admire their commitment to furthering David's career and don't envy them the thousands of miles they will travel over the next few years. I was more than grateful for the refreshments provided by David's sister Laura, but can't help wondering where the team at the Centre of Excellence will send me for my next interview!

KEITH BROOKMAN



ROVERSTATS - Nationwide Football League Division Two 1996/97

Nationwide Football League

DIVISION TWO 1996-97

	Home						Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Brentford	30	6	9	0	24	14	9	2	4	24	15	56	
Luton	28	10	3	2	27	8	5	4	4	20	21	52	
Bristol City	30	9	4	3	32	13	4	5	5	16	18	48	
Bury	27	9	4	0	23	6	4	5	5	18	21	48	
Crewe	29	11	1	2	29	8	4	1	10	12	25	47	
Chesterfield	28	7	4	2	14	9	6	3	6	11	11	46	
Burnley	31	11	1	5	33	19	2	5	7	12	17	45	
Stockport	28	7	4	3	18	10	5	5	4	21	21	45	
Watford	28	5	7	2	13	10	5	8	1	16	11	45	
Millwall	30	9	2	4	21	16	3	6	6	17	24	44	
Wrexham	27	7	5	1	24	17	3	7	4	11	14	42	
Walsall	28	9	4	2	23	11	3	2	8	11	20	42	
Shrewsbury	31	7	5	5	22	22	3	4	7	19	26	39	
Blackpool	29	6	6	2	25	13	3	5	7	12	18	38	
Bournemouth	32	5	4	6	14	16	5	4	8	15	20	38	
Preston	30	7	4	4	19	15	3	2	10	11	20	36	
Gillingham	30	7	3	5	23	18	2	5	8	9	21	35	
BRISTOL ROVERS	30	7	4	3	22	15	1	6	9	7	17	34	
Plymouth	30	4	8	3	14	16	3	4	8	19	28	33	
York	29	5	3	5	16	17	4	3	9	14	28	33	
Wycombe	29	7	2	6	15	13	1	4	9	13	28	30	
Peterborough	29	3	6	5	26	24	3	5	7	14	27	29	
Notts County	30	3	5	6	13	15	2	4	10	9	24	24	
Rotherham	29	4	5	7	13	17	0	4	9	11	28	21	

APPEARANCE RECORD 1996/97

	Lge.	Lge.	Cups	Cup	Rovers	Total
	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Career	Lge.
	96-97		96/97		Lge. Apps.	Goals
Lee Archer	17+2	2	3	1	103+21	15
Peter Beadle	25+3	10	2	0	51+4	22
Frankie Bennett	2	0	0	0	2	0
Steve Bowey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marcus Browning	24+2	2	4	0	152+22	13
Billy Clark	26	1	3	0	234+12	13
Andy Collett	29	0	3	0	59	0
Jamie Cureton	17+5	6	2	0	17+5	6
Jon French	3+1	0	0+2	0	6+8	1
Andy Gurney	20+2	2	3	1	99+7	8
Jason Harris*	6	2	1	1	6	2
Stuart Harte	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matt Hayfield	6	0	1	0	9+3	0
Shane Higgs	1	0	0	0	1	0
Ian Holloway	19+2	0	3	0	302+9	40
Matthew Lockwood	22+3	1	3+1	0	22+3	1
Josh Low	0+1	0	0+2	0	0+2	0
Lee Martin	18	0	3	0	18	0
Paul Miller	17+3	1	3	0	96+5	21
Steve Parmenter	2+4	1	1+3	1	2+4	1
Graeme Power	14	0	2	0	14	0
David Pritchard	12	0	1	0	78	0
Tom Ramasut	4+2	0	1	0	4+2	0
Justin Skinner	15+5	0	0+2	0	156+13	9
Andy Tillson	27	1	4	0	146+1	4
Tom White	5+2	0	0	0	9+4	0

* On loan from Crystal Palace from 22 Nov until 22 Jan

Date	Opponents	V	F-A	Att	Pts
Aug. 17th	Peterborough Utd.	H	1-0	6232	6
20th	Luton Town (C. C. I (1))	A	0-3	2643	
24th	Preston North End	A	0-0	9752	10
31st	Stockport County	H	1-1	6380	12
Sep. 4th	Luton Town (C. C. I (2))	H	2-1	2320	
7th	Millwall	A	0-2	7881	18
10th	A. F. C. Bournemouth	H	3-2	4170	12
14th	Watford	H	0-1	6276	14
17th	Wrexham	A	0-1	2401	15
21st	Plymouth Argyle	A	1-0	8879	12
28th	Chesterfield	H	2-0	5008	9
Oct. 1st	York City	A	2-2	3714	9
5th	Crewe Alexandra	H	2-0	6217	6
12th	Notts County	A	1-1	4558	9
15th	Rotherham Utd.	A	0-0	2490	10
19th	Blackpool	H	0-0	5823	11
26th	Bury	A	1-2	4082	12
29th	Brentford	H	2-1	5163	12
Nov. 2nd	Gillingham	H	0-0	5530	11
12th	Shrewsbury Town	A	0-2	2331	12
16th	Exeter City (F.A. Cup 1)	H	1-2	5841	12
19th	Burnley	H	1-2	4123	12
23rd	Luton Town	A	1-2	5313	14
30th	Bury	H	4-3	4496	12
Dec. 3rd	Walsall	A	0-1	4084	12
10th	Brentford (A/W)	H	1-2	2752	12
15th	Bristol City	A	1-1	18,674	13
21st	Wycombe Wanderers	H	3-4	4465	13
26th	A. F. C. Bournemouth	A	0-1	5036	15
Jan. 11th	Chesterfield	A	0-1	3305	17
18th	York City	H	1-1	4470	16
21st	Brentford	A	0-0	4191	16
Feb. 1st	Shrewsbury Town	H	2-0	4924	16
8th	Gillingham	A	0-1	6900	18
15th	Luton Town	H			
22nd	Burnley	A			
25th	Plymouth	H			
Mar. 1st	Walsall	H			
8th	Wycombe Wanderers	A			
16th (Sun)	Bristol City	H			
18th	Watford	A			
23rd (Sun)	Preston North End	H			
29th	Peterborough Utd.	A			
31st (Mon)	Wrexham	H			
Apr. 5th	Stockport County	A			
12th	Crewe Alexandra	A			
20th (Sun)	Notts County	H			
26th	Blackpool	A			
May 3rd	Rotherham Utd	H			

To be re-arranged Millwall (Home)



Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney (1)	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	French	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer (1)	Beadle	Parmenter	Low	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney (1)	Miller	Archer (1)	Parmenter	French	Low	Bowey
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Parmenter	Skinner	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Miller	Archer	Beadle	Miller	Skinner	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Parmenter	Archer	Beadle	Skinner	French	Power
Collett	Martin	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Power	Holloway	Gurney	Cureton	Archer (1)	Skinner	Beadle	Miller	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Power	Skinner	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Cureton (2)	Archer	Beadle	Miller	Lockwood	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Power	Skinner	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Cureton (1)	Lockwood	Beadle	Miller	Bowey	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Power	Skinner	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney (1)	Cureton (1)	Archer	Miller	Lockwood	Parmenter	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Power	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Skinner	Gurney	Cureton	Archer	Miller	Beadle (1)	Holloway	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Power	Skinner	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Cureton (1)	Lockwood	Beadle	Miller	Browning	Higgs
Collett	Martin	Power	Skinner	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Cureton	Lockwood	Miller	Browning	French	Higgs
Collett	Browning	Power	Skinner	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Gurney	Cureton	Lockwood	Miller (1)	Beadle	Ramasut	French
Collett	Gurney	Power	Browning (1)	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Miller	Cureton	Ramasut	Beadle	Lockwood	Skinner	French
Collett	Gurney	Power	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Miller	Cureton	Ramasut	Beadle	Lockwood	Skinner	Higgs
Collett	Gurney	Power	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Miller	French	Ramasut	Beadle	Parmenter	Lockwood	Skinner
Collett	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning	Power	Tillson	Holloway	Miller	Cureton	Ramasut	Beadle	French	Skinner	Parmenter (1)
Higgs	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Power	Holloway	French	Cureton	Ramasut	Beadle	Skinner	Parmenter	White
Collett	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Power	Hayfield	Gurney	Cureton	Archer	Beadle	Harris (1)	White	Higgs
Collett	Pritchard	Martin	Browning	Clark (1)	Tillson	Hayfield	Bennett	Harris	Archer	Beadle (3)	Cureton	Power	Lockwood
Collett	Pritchard	Martin	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Hayfield	Bennett	Harris	Archer	Beadle	Cureton	Power	Lockwood
Collett	Martin	Power	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Hayfield	Gurney	Harris (1)	Archer	Cureton	Parmenter	Skinner	Lockwood
Collett	Pritchard	Martin	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Holloway	Hayfield	Harris	Lockwood	Beadle (1)	Skinner	Archer	Cureton
Collett	Pritchard	L'kwood (1)	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Hayfield	Skinner	Harris	Cureton	Beadle	White	Gurney	Ramasut
Collett	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Hayfield	Skinner	Harris (1)	Cureton (1)	Beadle	Martin	Gurney	Ramasut
Collett	Pritchard	Martin	Browning	Clark	Tillson	Gurney	Skinner	Miller	Lockwood	Beadle	Cureton	Higgs	White
Collett	Pritchard	Power	Browning	White	Tillson	Gurney	Skinner	Miller	Lockwood	Beadle (1)	Cureton	Higgs	Archer
Collett	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning	White	Tillson	Miller	Skinner	Cureton	Archer	Beadle	Martin	Higgs	Harris
Collett	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning (1)	White	Tillson	Miller	Skinner	Cureton	Archer	Beadle (1)	Hayfield	Holloway	Martin
Collett	Pritchard	Lockwood	Browning	White	Tillson	Miller	Skinner	Cureton	Archer	Beadle	Holloway	Higgs	Martin

Match Facts in Opposition - compiled by Mike Jay

Shrewsbury Town Team:

Gall, Seabury, Dempsey, Currie, Taylor, Walton, Brown, Stevens, Ward, Evans & Cope

Subs: Briscoe for Ward (78 mins), Nwadike for Dempsey (86 mins) & Summerfield (not used)

Rovers subs: Hayfield, Holloway and Martin (not used)

Goalscorers: Browning (60 mins) and Beadle (75 mins)

Match Facts: Rovers win for the first time since 30 November against a depleted Shrewsbury side. Transfer listed Paul Miller makes his 100th league appearance for Rovers.

Gillingham Team:

Stannard, Smith, O'Connor, Pennock, Harris, Bryant, Hesselthaler, Ratcliffe, Onuora, Akinbiyi and Bailey

Subs: Thomas for O'Connor (74 mins), Puttnam and Chapman (not used)

Rovers subs: Holloway for Archer (65 mins), Martin and Higgs (not used)

Goalscorers: Hesselthaler (57 mins)

Match Facts: This latest defeat sends Rovers down to 18th position, their lowest league position of the season and worst position since 21st August 1993.

From The Boardroom

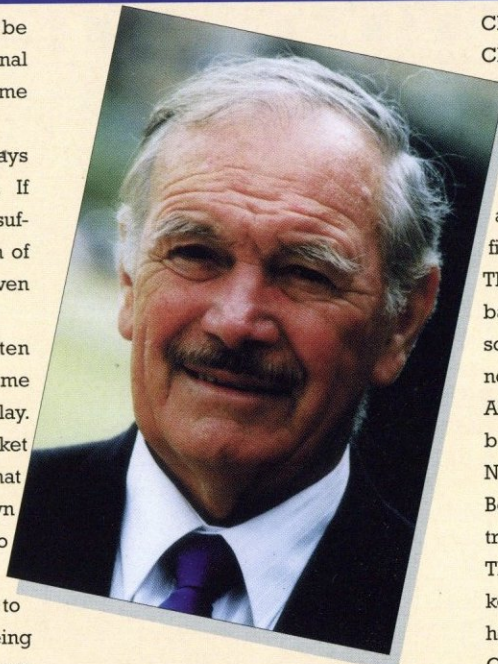
IN any aspect today, whether it be on the amateur or the professional scene, a participant may at some time suffer from loss of form.

When that happens, it is always difficult for the individual concerned. If he or she is part of a team which has suffered a loss of confidence after a run of poor results then recovery becomes even more difficult.

Skill, flair, creative ability is often destroyed by fear. Fear of making some unfortunate mistake on the field of play. In every sport, Athletics, Rugby, Cricket or Football and others, we are told that self belief, the confidence in one's own ability is needed to produce the will to win.

If these comments have a familiar ring to you this season I must admit to being defensive. Whilst it is sensible to improve the quality of the playing staff when finance is available, at the moment we must get the best out of the talented players we have here on contracts.

There is no magic formula to restore confidence but continual encouragement



from supporters can inspire commitment and instil the will to win.

To move on to a different sphere, you may already know that this Nationwide Football League is in a process of change.

We have elected David Sheepshanks,

Chairman of Ipswich Town as our new Chairman over a new Board of Directors.

Consultants have been appointed to prepare an in depth report on the operations and regulations of the League. It is important that every avenue is explored to provide more financial help to member clubs.

The cost of running a professional football club is dramatically increasing season by season, and the income to clubs is not keeping pace. We have already lost Aldershot, Maidenhead, and near neighbours Newport County to name a few. Now we hear that Brighton, Exeter, Bournemouth and Millwall are in serious trouble.

The lesson of their sad plight must be to keep Bristol Rovers in business. The heart must not rule the cheque book.

Our most valuable asset is the support and encouragement of you, the fans who care about Bristol Rovers.

God bless you, keep on coming, keep on cheering. We need every one of you.

DENIS DUNFORD

Chairman

NATIONWIDE MANAGER OF THE MONTH

The Second Division Manager of the Month award for January went to Stockport manager David Jones, who also took the December award. Although County played only one league game in January (a 5-1 win over Millwall) they disposed of Southampton in the Coca Cola Cup, to reach the semi-final of the competition for the first time.

HELPLINE

What a change there has been in the fortunes of our visitors today. Earlier in the season they had five goals put past them when they visited a near neighbour of ours, yet now a promotion place beckons. Football, as someone once said, is a funny old game but who would have thought that such a change was likely last August. Our own season has not given us too much to shout about so far but there are still sixteen games to go. If we can have the same sort of change in fortunes as Luton perhaps we could yet upset one or two!! One thing is absolutely clear, we must get behind the team and ensure that home advantage brings maximum points. Hopefully we will be enjoying a game today with three sides of the ground occupied. That should help with the atmosphere so let's give the team full vocal support and start the charge up the table. Helpline also needs your support so that we can keep raising money for the club. If you are not a member why not give Kate a ring on Monday and join up. Her number is

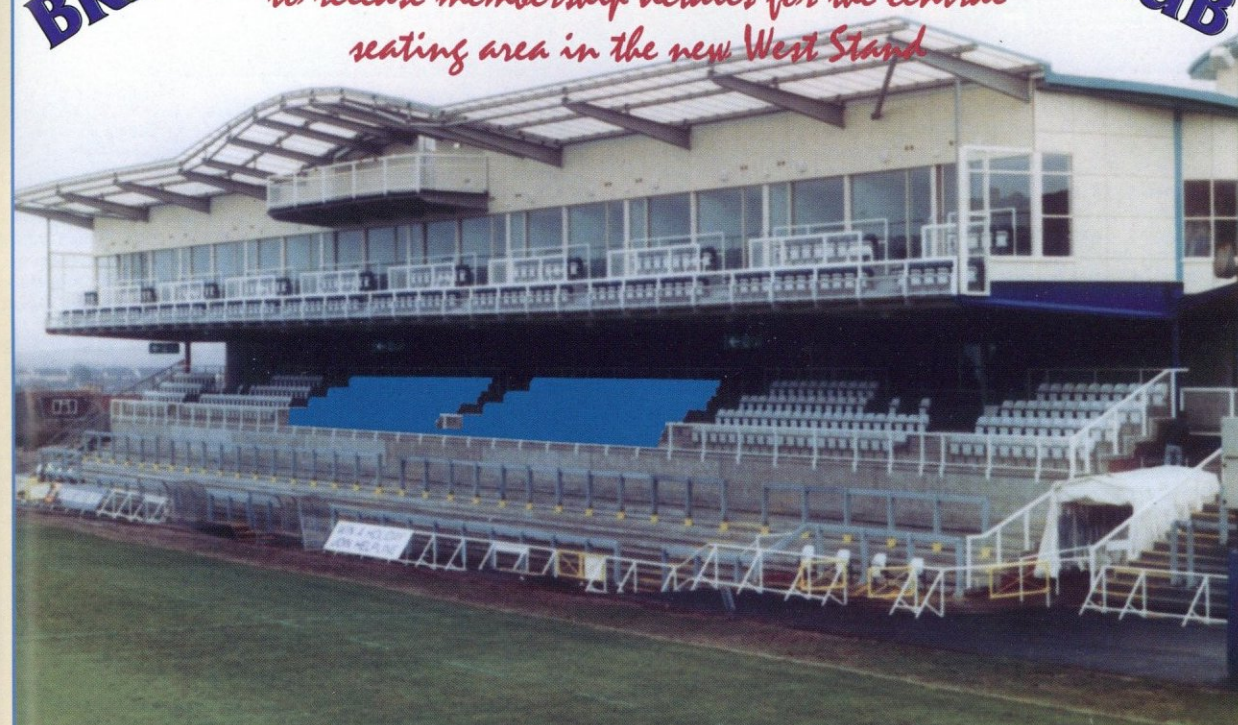
0117 977 2000

GIVE HER A RING - IT'S GREAT TO TALK



BRISTOL ROVERS EXECUTIVE CLUB

*We are proud
to release membership details for the central
seating area in the new West Stand*



Seats cost £18 per match (with no concessions). You will be able to purchase tickets on a match by match basis, but after today's match, there are eight remaining home fixtures, so why not treat yourself to a season ticket for the rest of the campaign at the discounted price of £123.

To reserve your seat(s), phone 0117 977 2000.
EXECUTIVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO:

- ★ A free matchday programme
- ★ Half-time refreshments
- ★ Access to pay-bar facilities
- ★ An excellent view of the match

This page is kindly sponsored by
THE JELF INSURANCE GROUP

TELEPHONE: 0117 960 6060

for all your Insurance and Financial needs



Division Two Round-Up



The two league fixtures played during the week commencing the 27th January both finished in goalless draws. Watford extended their unbeaten run to 21 as they gained a point on their short journey to Luton. Burnley were held at home by Chesterfield. Stockport lined themselves up with a League Cup semi final meeting with Middlesbrough after a surprise 2-1 win at Southampton in a quarter final replay. Andy Mutch, with his first touch after coming on as substitute, grabbing the winner after Brett Angell had levelled a Matthew Le Tissier opener. Troubled Bournemouth are given the go ahead to play their weekend fixture against Blackpool. Leaders Brentford sell Nicky Forster to Birmingham.

The league fixtures the Saturday before last saw Brentford maintain their four point lead at the top with a 2-1 win at Stockport. David McGhee and Robert Taylor were both on the mark after Luis Cavaco had put the home side in the lead. Luton in second place also recovered a goal deficit on their visit to troubled Notts County. Ceri Hughes and Graham Alexander scoring to give the Hatters their third consecutive victory at Meadow Lane. Shaun Goater scored twice as Bristol City reclaimed third place with a 2-0 win at Millwall. The south London cub could well be in trouble with the FA after a pitch invasion near the end. Crewe dropped to fourth after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Burnley. Steve MacAuley gave the Railwaymen the lead only for Paul Barnes to snatch a late equaliser. Bury kept in touch after a 2-0 win at York. Michael Jackson and Ronnie Jepson both on target. At the bottom Rotherham fell deeper into trouble after suffering a 2-0 reverse at Watford. Darren Bazeley and Stuart Slater on target as the Hornets kept up play-off ambitions. Wycombe gained a useful point in a goalless affair at Plymouth. Peterborough remained in the bottom four after going down by the only goal at home to Walsall after a last minute strike from Andy Watson. The Saddlers are now unbeaten on their last nine visits to London Road.

Substitute Andy Morris gave Chesterfield the points at Preston with the only goal two minutes after entering the fray. Ade Akinbiyi cancelled out an earlier Karl Connelly goal as Gillingham gained their first point at the Racecourse since January 1978. In other games 8200 turn out to see Bournemouth play out a goalless affair with Blackpool at Dean Court while here at the Memorial Ground Marcus Browning and Peter Beadle find the net as Rovers beat Shrewsbury 2-0, our first win since November.

In midweek the week before last, in the delayed fourth round FA Cup ties, two of the four division's survivors reached the fifth round. Chesterfield took pride of place with a 3-2 win at Bolton, the runaway First Division leaders. Teenage striker Kevin Davies was the hero, notching a hat trick as the Derbyshire club reach the last 16 for the first time since 1938. Kevin Russell scored twice as Wrexham twice came from behind to beat Peterborough 4-2 at London Road. Watford who had Steve Palmer sent off went down 3-1 at Manchester City. In the only league game, Ian Cox and David Town were both on target as Bournemouth put Notts County further in trouble with a 2-0 win at Meadow Lane, their first there since October 1972. Plymouth dispensed with the services of manager Neil Warnock, assistant Mick Jones taking over team affairs.

Last weekend saw Brentford keep their four point advantage over the chasing pack after being held to a 1-1 home draw by Watford. Carl Asaba putting the Bees ahead only for debutant Keith Scott on loan from Norwich to grab a point for the Hornets. Luton were also held to a draw at home after Tony Thorpe twice put them ahead only for Adrian Littlejohn and Mike Evans to salvage a point for Plymouth. Third placed Bristol City were also held at home but recovered after Alun Armstrong had put Stockport ahead. Shaun Goater struck to claim a point. City have not been beaten by the Cheshire club since

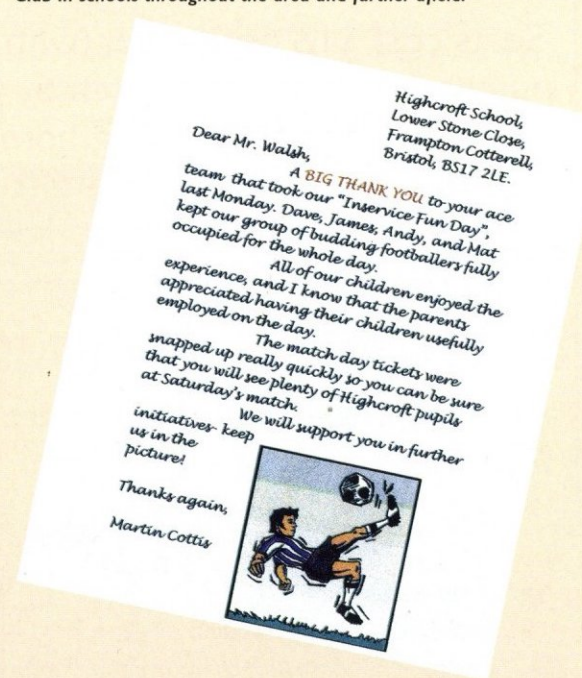
March 1915. Bury moved to fourth after a 2-1 home win over Bournemouth, Rob Matthews scoring the winner. Crewe dropped to fifth place after a 2-0 defeat at Wycombe, Paul Read and Miguel DeSouza grabbing the goals to lift the Buckinghamshire club to fourth from bottom.

The three clubs below them all suffered defeats. Peterborough 5-1 at Blackpool for whom Tony Ellis grabbed a hat trick, Notts County went down 2-1 at Shrewsbury after David Regis had given them the lead, only for Dean Spink and Ian Stevens to give the Shropshire club the points. Rotherham went down at home to Preston, David Reeves scoring the only goal.

In other games Burnley's promotion aspirations took a knock back after a 2-1 home defeat by lowly York, Scott Jordan scoring a last minute winner to give the Minstermen their first ever victory at Turf Moor. Millwall took the lead at Walsall but their wretched form continued as the home side hit back with strikes from Andy Watson and Adrian Vivesh. Andy Hensenthaler with this first goal for Gillingham was enough to beat the Rovers at Priestfield, while the division's last two survivors in the FA Cup Chesterfield and Wrexham played out a goalless affair at Saltergate where the Welshmen have been beaten on their last five visits.

ALAN LACOCK

We end today with a letter received by our Community Department, from Highcroft School. It's typical of many of the letters and cards received following the many Fun Days and Coaching Courses held by the Department and, in spite of the humorous pen pic which appears on page 43 today all of the Community Coaches are doing an excellent job in promoting the name of Bristol Rovers Football Club in schools throughout the area and further afield.



David Jones –
Director of Williams Automobiles Ltd.
Presenting Ian Holloway with his SAAB car

WILLIAMS AUTOMOBILES LTD

BRISTOL

0117 971 9191/951 2121



75 APPROVED USED CARS
ALWAYS IN STOCK
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

COWIE
BRISTOL
TOYOTA

(formerly Runway Motors)
186 Gloucester Road
Patchway
Bristol
Tel: 0117 969 3704

NEW VEHICLES The Full TOYOTA range – demonstrators always available.

USED VEHICLES Over 80 cars always on display, with Autocracker to locate exactly the vehicle you want, from our nationwide group stock of over 3,000 vehicles.

SERVICING Full facilities staffed by Toyota trained technicians.

MOT's Testing and speedy repairs.

PARTS Extensive stock with Toyota trained staff, for efficient service.

ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE FREE estimates while you wait, loan cars available. We are approved by MAJOR insurance companies.

Nokia Orange



- ★ INCLUSIVE CALLS
- ★ SINGLE SECOND BILLING
- ★ CALLER IDENTIFICATION
- ★ 12 MONTHS INSURANCE FREE
- ★ 3 YEAR WARRANTY
- ★ TARIFFS FROM £15 pm

£69.99 ~~£99.99~~ RRP

ONLY AT THE PHONE BOX 0117-9555155



FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
The Phone Box, 290 Church Road,
St George, Bristol BS5 8AH

HONDA

ALL MAKES SERVICING
BODYSHOP & MOT

GENUINE HONDA PARTS
& ACCESSORIES

COWIE **HONDA**
FORMERLY Parkway Honda

EASTGATE CENTRE,
JUNC 2, M32, BRISTOL **0117 9520000**

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8am-8pm. SATURDAY 8am-8pm. SUNDAY 10am-4pm.

INDUSTRIAL
STRETCH WRAP
FILMS



alet packaging

PALLET
STRETCH WRAP
MACHINES

TEL: (0117) 960 6998

FAX: (0117) 935 3212

ISO 9002
REGISTERED COMPANY

YOU COULD WIN A CAR BY JOINING GOLD BOND



BRADSHAW THE WINNING TEAM

SNACKBOX

Amana



VIKING

brother®

MENUMASTER

MINIHOB

COMBI-~~COOK~~

**BRITISH
MEAT**

Baguette Express

**Snack
Attack**

The Bradshaw Group has been winning titles for almost 25 years, from The UK's number 1 distributor of commercial microwave ovens to Producer of the award - winning SnackBox fast food range.

Bradshaw intends to go on winning, with the help of our recent star signings. We've brought in the superb Viking range cookers from America, the ultimate in domestic cooking; the revolutionary Minihob induction hob from the Far East; the famous Flavia hot beverage dispensing system; and the exciting French style Baguette Express.

For information on these big names, and on all domestic and commercial microwave oven sales and service, or our food production facilities, **call 01275 343000.**

BRADSHAW
GROUP

Bristol Rovers Football Club Main Sponsor