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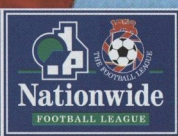
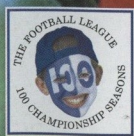
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WREXHAM

v. Luton Town



Nationwide League Division Two
Tuesday 8th September 1998
Kick-off 7.30pm



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Wrexham Evening Leader

The views expressed in this programme are not
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PRINTED BY:

Engraving Services Ltd., Manchester

Tel: 0161-226 1197

Fax: 0161-227 9554



Dean Spink shields the ball during Saturday's victory over new boys Macclesfield Town.

Lets see if we can get a run going



Following our midweek turn around at Gillingham, it was always going to be important that we bounced back with a win against Macclesfield Town. This we achieved, but at a price.

With a few players already out through injury, including Phil Hardy, we then lost Ian Rush with a reaction to his knee injury after the trip to Kent and to cap it all, Karl Connolly reported in with flu on the morning of the match.

Just when you thought that was bad enough, Peter Ward felt a groin strain, Dean Spink goes over on his ankle and finally Brian Carey damages his knee, which initially looks like it might be cartilage problems.

We really are down to the bare bones, so it was good to have Neil Roberts available once again after his international duty with Wales. In one respect, we should be grateful that he only came on as a late substitute against the Italians, but for the player's sake it would have been nicer for him to have seen more of the action. Whichever way you look at it, we offer our congratulations to Neil on gaining his first cap and it was appropriate that he should be honoured on his home ground.

Up against Macclesfield defender Efe Sodje, Neil had as many problems as he could have envisaged from any of the Italian players and it was keenly fought contest all afternoon.

They passed the ball well, caused us a few problems and certainly did not looking like a side that had failed to score in its opening five games of the season. But I was pleased that we didn't buckle under pressure and held on with discipline at the back.

Gareth Owen's opening goal seemed to catch Ryan Price in two minds, but it's good to see the midfield contributing important goals to the cause.

Macc were obviously delighted to find an equaliser and the relief of scoring after 506 minutes was obvious, but you have to congratulate our players for bouncing straight back and it was a lovely move to set-up Dean for his winner.

Steve Rishworth has grabbed all the headlines this week after making his debut at Gillingham, but it was good to see that he concentrated on his football when getting a second chance on Saturday. He has earned his chance and looks fit, we will all wish him the best of luck when he finally leaves for college.

With our game against Macclesfield managing to produce 11 minutes of added time in the second-half, it delayed everyone's departure for the big European Championship qualifier at Anfield.

Whether that game was deemed a financial success or not, with a crowd of 23,000 being announced on the night, I was pleasantly surprised by the vast numbers of Wrexham supporters who were present. Together with a large contingent of

buses from all over North Wales, I think this just shows the basis of support the national team can draw upon at this end of the country. Hopefully, it will also strengthen our case for playing a number of future internationals at the Racecourse, once rebuilding work is completed as planned.

Obviously it was disappointing that Wales slipped up on the night, especially when we gave the visitors the opportunity to take the lead. Mind you, there was class written all over their second goal.

Italy were always going to be the favourites for this group, but hopefully, we will have given ourselves grounds for confidence against the other countries in our section.

This evening we entertain Lennie Lawrence's Luton Town, who have enjoyed a great start to the new season. Stuart Douglas' goal, early in the second-half on Saturday, gave them a home victory over Burnley and took them to second place in the table.

Any hopes we might have had for any easier match following Saturday's injury problems, have been well and truly dashed. All we can look forward to is another hard fought encounter with in-form opponents, but then, would we really want it any other way!

Next Saturday we travel to York City and a return visit against a side that helped spike our play-off ambitions at the end of last season. I hope we will have another good turn out to cheer us on at Bootham Crescent and lets see if we can go one better than usual in that part of Yorkshire.

Thanks for your support tonight and enjoy the game.





Returning Hero

Deryn Brace made a welcome return to action at the Racecourse on the weekend, following a week's absence with a dead leg.

No stranger to the treatment room, he has actually been quite up beat about his injury free start to the new season.

"I was driving to the ground on the morning of the Northampton match and in the car we were talking about me having a clear run, while Phil Hardy was unlucky enough to be sitting on the sidelines.

"Then what goes and happens! In I go for a tackle and get a kick on the leg. I had been hoping it might have cleared up by the Tuesday night before we travelled to Gillingham, but it took a little longer than I had expected, although thankfully it was quicker than the one Dean Spink suffered.

"I was still a little bit off full fitness against Macclesfield, but despite being a bit sore, I seem to have come through okay. Now lets see if we can build on that win, by getting a good result against Luton, although it will be a difficult game, especially with the start they have made."

Another Step On The Ladder

Another name was added to the list of Wrexham players gaining international honours with Wales, when Neil Roberts stepped onto the pitch for the final five minutes of last Friday night's Under-21 international against Italy.

The young Dragons went down 2-1, after a creditable performance, which early on looked like running away from them. In no small part was that due to some marvellous goalkeeping by Blackburn Rovers' Anthony Williams, who also saved two penalties. Not that we have any doubt that his deputy David Walsh, would have done the same thing.

There were encouraging displays by a number of the Welsh players, in what was probably one of our strongest line-ups for many a year. If John Oster could just learn to control his 'enthusiasm', then there might be another full international in the making.

Congratulations to Neil, but his most pressing concern following the match, was to track down his club boss Brian Flynn and make sure he was included in the squad for the following day's league encounter with Macclesfield Town!

Golf Tournament

As part of Wrexham AFC's 125th Anniversary celebrations, a Golf Tournament has been arranged at Wrexham Golf Club for Thursday, 24th September. Tee-off times 11.30am to 2.30pm approximately.

Teams will consist of four players, three guests and one Wrexham AFC player or member of staff. The cost per team will be £125 with each team dining as soon as their game is complete. There will be a

presentation of prizes at about 8.00pm and the winning team will collect The Pryce Griffiths Trophy.

Entry forms are available from Malcolm Davies c/o Adlink, 86 The Highway, Hawarden, Flintshire. CH5 3DJ or call 01244 531706.

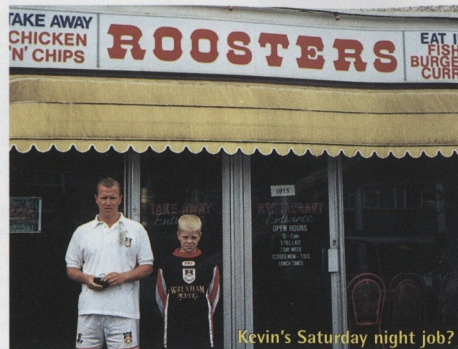
Treasure Hunt

The Shropshire Reds have organised a Treasure Hunt around the village of Whittington for Thursday, 10th September. Anyone interested in joining them should arrange to be at the White Lion pub in the village, in time for a 6.30pm start. Entrance fee is £2.00 per person and there will be cash prizes for the winner(s). The evening will be rounded off with a barbecue back at the White Lion. All enquiries to Neil (01691) 671047.

Reds Get Roasted

Pictured on holiday in Jersey this year are Max and Richard Wiecko from Rhosrobin, who are standing in front of the "world famous" Roosters Chip Shop in downtown St. Brelades.

Young master Wiecko reckons he has now



Kevin's Saturday night job?

gwir, roedd 1997/98 yn dymor i'w anghofio i bawb sy'n ymwneud a Tref Luton: fodd bynnag, ddaru Lennie Lawrence lywio nhw allan o'r pedwar isaf o drwch blewyn, mewn tymor oedd yn frith o annafiadau. Tymor yma, fe fydd Lennie a chefnogwyr yr 'Hatters' yn disgwyl lot, lot gwell oddi wrth dim a oedd yn y brif adran ddechrau'r degawd. Efallai bod rhai ohonoch yn disgwyl buddugoliaeth ddidramgwydd i'r Cochion heno, ond, does yr un gem hawdd yn yr Ail

the



G

discovered the reason why Kevin Russell has missed a couple of penalties this season, "he's too busy eating chips!"

Schoolboy International

International football is back at the Racecourse on Friday, 2nd October, when Wales Under-15 Schoolboys take on England in the Adidas Victory Shield.

We assume SKY will be showing these games live, as they have in the past, but why not come along and see if you can spot the next Neil Roberts or Michael Owen, coming through the ranks.

Admission is only £3.00 for Adults and £1.00 for Children.

Croeso Tref Luton

Dyn ni'n croesawu tim Lennie Lawrence i'r Cae ras heno gan gofio i ni gyflawni'r dwbl drostynt tymor diwethaf. Roedd hi'n gem glos yma ar y cae Ras gyda'r Cochion yn ennill 2-1, diolch i goliau gan Dave Brammer a Neil Roberts. Ond, ar Ffordd Kennilworth, ddechrau'r tymor, ennillodd y Cochion 5-2 eu buddugoliaeth fwyaf o'r tymor. I ddweud y

Adra, rhywbeth y bydd Brian, Kevin a Joey yn siwr o'i bwysleisio i'r tim yn yr ystafell newid cyn y gem. Ond, os ydyn ni am wneud cais am orffen yn y chwech uchaf, rhaid i ni ennill y gemau yr oedden ni yn cael

canlyniadau ynddynt tymor diwethaf. Felly, does ond gobeithio am drifhwynt am hanner awr wedi naw heno - a phum gol efallai! Mwynhewch y gem!

Supporters News

The Wrexham AFC Supporters Association are holding their next club night at the Centenary Club a week tomorrow, Wednesday, 16th September. Commencing at 8.00pm there will be a general sports fun quiz to include questions on World Cup '98, Cricket, Horse Racing, Athletics, Golf and much more, plus a picture round and question on Wrexham AFC. There will be team prizes and individual spot prizes. Entry is £5.00 per team of four and open to members of the Association, but you are more than welcome to join on the night.

Entry forms are available from the Centenary Club, Wrexham AFC Club Shop or by calling (01978) 266602.

Stoke City Ticket Arrangements

Will supporters please note that after talks with officials, there has been a change to the arrangements for our next home game with Stoke City.

Home supporters wishing to use the Yale side of the ground, that includes both Stand and Paddock, will be required to purchase a ticket before the day of the game.

Season ticket holders will just present their season ticket books at the turnstiles as normal.

Fans who do not buy a ticket before the day of the game, will still be able to pay cash at the turnstile, but for the Kop only.

To recap, if you wish to sit or stand on the Yale side of the ground, you must buy a ticket in advance of the game, but the Kop will remain available to everyone who wants to pay at the turnstiles on the day. No tickets will be required for the Kop.

The Marston's Stand, which is reserved for Stoke City fans, will be all-ticket.

Please note that the kick-off for this game remains at 3.00pm, our normal start time for

Postal applications will be accepted, providing the correct remittance and an SAE are enclosed. Normal league prices apply. Family tickets will also have to be bought in advance. We apologise for the inconvenience this will cause, but it has saved making everyone buy a ticket in advance.

Reds On The Road

Next Monday the Reserves travel to Newcastle United for their Pontin's League Division Two clash. This game will now take place at Newcastle Rugby Club, Kingston Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, with a 7.00pm kick-off.

The route to the ground is as follows: approach Newcastle from the south on the A1(M), leaving the motorway to rejoin the A1 western bypass, probably signposted Gateshead. Stay on the A1 over the River Tyne and then for



Fred & Rosemary Thellwell, with Alison Davis & Derek Holmes from Top House Farm Fitness & Leisure, present Gareth Owen the Macclesfield matchball

a starring role as United beat Everton at Goodison Park and he even managed to hit the woodwork from 30 yards.

Funny Shaped Balls

Following on from the success of the Wales v. Romania rugby international staged on the Racecourse a little over a year ago. The Welsh Rugby-Union are now looking to hold another game here next April, when Wales 'A' will face England 'A'. It looks likely to be on the weekend of April 10th, with our Nationwide League clash against Wycombe Wanderers being brought

GROUND

a Saturday match.

Tickets for the Yale Stand and Yale Paddock are on sale tonight, before and after the game, and then during normal office hours in the week.

a further three exits, looking out for the A696. At the exit roundabout take the second left B6918, continue for about 0.5 miles and then turn right into Brunton Road and the rugby club is on the left in another 0.5 miles.

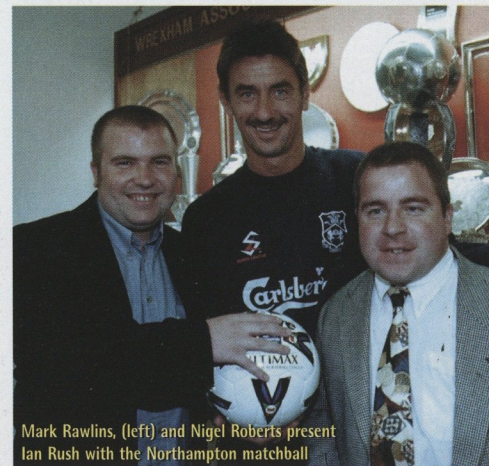
Remember Newcastle attract large crowds for their reserve team matches, so please do make sure you arrive in plenty of time. Parking is bound to be a problem.

A Star Is Born

Our loan signing from Manchester United last season, Mark Wilson, is making a name for himself at Old Trafford this year.

First he scored a spectacular goal for Eric Cantona's XI in the Munich match and now has added a few more goals in the Pontin's League. Including a double against Aston Villa last Wednesday night, stealing some of the limelight in front of a large crowd who had come to watch Jasper Blomqvist.

Mark then followed this up with



Mark Rawlins, (left) and Nigel Roberts present Ian Rush with the Northampton matchball

forward to the Friday night.

Supporters AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Wrexham AFC Supporters Association will be held on Monday, 21st September, in the Centenary Club at 7.30pm.

Nomination forms for the positions of committee members to serve for a period of two years, can be obtained from the secretary Miss Ena Williams, 29 Hampshire Drive, Wrexham. Tel: 357520. They should be submitted by first post on Saturday, 19th September or handed in at the Club Shop.

A Special Thanks

If you are actually able to buy a copy of the programme tonight, please spare a thought for the excellent work done by our printers in getting this issue out. Due to a number of reasons, they did not start getting any articles until Monday morning, with the last of the copy only arriving during the afternoon. When you consider some of the really early deadlines other clubs have to observe, we are very fortunate indeed, even if most of the lads are supporters of the mighty Manchester City!

It's nice to be nice

Saturday, 5th September, 1998
Nationwide League Division Two
WREXHAM 2 MACCLESFIELD 1



Wrexham returned to the Racecourse looking to rediscover the winning form that deserted them in Kent on Tuesday night. Following on from that loss and the counter attraction of Wales playing up in Liverpool later in the evening, the attendance dropped yet again, although swelled by some 500+ travelling supporters.

Those who did stay away, can count themselves unlucky to miss, what was on the whole, an entertaining clash between two teams who did their best to get forward at every opportunity.

Sammy Mellroy's side may not have scored for over 400 minutes going into this clash, but it makes you wonder why, especially if they had played so well in previous matches. Although it should be remembered they still managed to put three cup goals past a Stoke side, which has only conceded four in six league games!

After letting an early goal at the Priestfield Stadium, the advantages of scoring as quickly as possible became very clear, when Gareth Owen popped up to open his account in the fifth

minute. Dave Brammer and Craig Skinner swapped passes on the right wing and when the resulting cross was knocked clear by a Macclesfield defender, up strode Owen to fire in a looping effort that seemed to wrong foot Ryan Price in the visitor's goal.



Gareth Owen chips for goal

That was just the start Wrexham and their supporters were looking for, but was not long before the Silkmen hit back, with a familiar face in Kieron Durkan involved in a move that put former Manchester United junior Graeme Tomlinson into the danger area. Dave Ridler reacted quickly to clear, while John Askey also had a great chance to equalise.

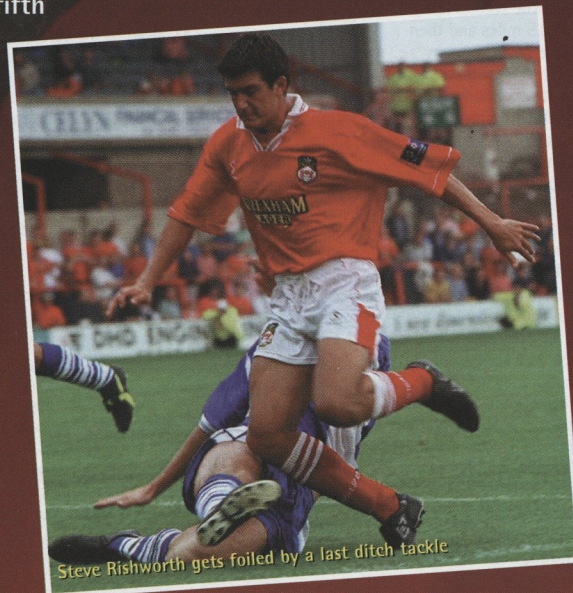
Skinner soon followed up with an angled drive that crashed against the far upright and just rebound back into play, with most of the crowd expecting the ball to end up in the net.

The first casualty of the day was Peter Ward, limping off after 25 minutes to be replaced by Kevin Russell. It upset the flow for a short period, but soon normal service was resumed and Russell went on to have a good afternoon.

Home appeals for a penalty were ignored just before the break, although Macclesfield 7-2 on the corner count at this stage.

The warning signs began to flash again after the restart, with Macc going close on a couple of occasions. Then we finally succumbed and the visiting contingent certainly enjoyed the moment.

A Durkan cross was headed on by Tomlinson and the late arriving Steve Wood had time to steady himself, before scoring with a late drive



Steve Rishworth gets foiled by a last ditch tackle



Dave Brammer leaves two Macclesfield players in his wake

from eight yards.

The celebrations were still continuing in the away stand, when Owen swept the ball out wide to the left wing. Roberts, made a little ground before pulling a square ball along the edge of the penalty area. Dean Spink created space for himself and took his time in despatching the winner passed Price.

The joy was short lived for Spink, as he appeared to twist his ankle soon afterwards and was replaced by Steve Rishworth, the Mold forward making his home debut.

Further chances were created at either end, but the most notable event after that was the injury to Brian Carey, which looked to be the most serious of the afternoon. After receiving lengthy treatment, he was carried from the pitch, to be replaced by Tony Humes.

The defence held solid and Mark Cartwright was comfortable in dealing with anything else the visitor's were able to throw at him. If anything, Price was the harder worked, with saves from Brammer and Russell denying the Reds further goals.

Due to the long delays because of injury problems, the referee ended up playing nearly 12 minutes of time added, making the final whistle all the more welcome.

Teams -

Wrexham: Cartwright, McGregor, Brace, Brammer, Ridler, Carey (Humes 83), Skinner, Owen, Spink (Rishworth 67), Roberts, Ward (Russell 25).

Macclesfield Town: Price, Tinson, Ingram, Payne (Howarth 71), McDonald, Sodje, Askey, Wood, Tomlinson (Bradley 67), Sorvel (Whittaker 67), Durkan.

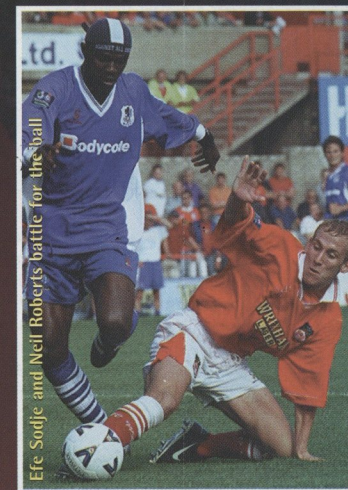
Bookings: None.
Referee: George Cain (Bootle).
Attendance: 3,384.
Away Support: 561.

Quiz Night

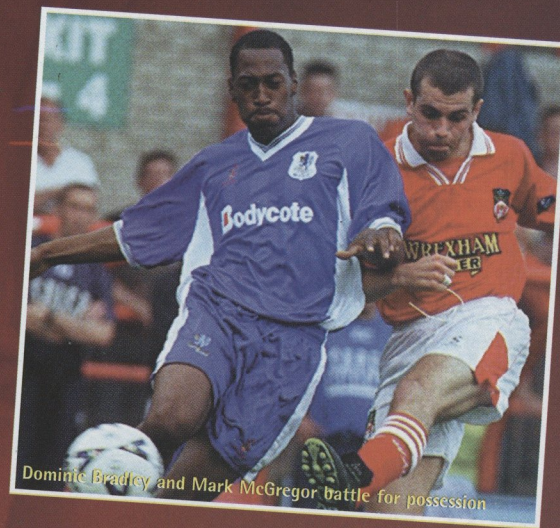
The Shropshire Reds will be holding a Quiz Night at the Red Lion, Ellesmere, on Thursday, 17th September. Entrance fee is just £5.00 per team (maximum of three members), and the fun begins at 8.00pm. All questions are football related and there is one round of Wrexham AFC questions - for you to show just how much you know about your football club.

It is hoped that a team of players will be able to take part, and there are some excellent prizes up for grabs. It promises to be a great night, so why not join in and see for yourself what the Shropshire Reds have been getting up to these past four seasons! A warm welcome awaits all.

For those unfamiliar with Ellesmere, the Red Lion is next to the Parish Church, on the Shrewsbury road out of the town. Parking is limited, so it is recommended that the town centre car park - a short walk away - is used.



Efe Sodje and Neil Roberts battle for the ball



Dominic Bradley and Mark McGregor battle for possession

Two home victories lift the Reds back up the table

Thursday, August 27th

Ian Rush, who has missed the last two matches because of a twisted knee, faces a race against time to be fit to face Northampton Town at the Racecourse on Saturday. "He's still feeling it a bit and we won't really be able to assess the situation until he has a full training session on Friday," assistant manager Kevin Reeves confirmed in the Daily Post. "We know all about Northampton and that they will make it difficult for us to break them down, so we need someone like Ian in the side with the know-how to open them up a bit." Brian Carey and Peter Ward, neither of whom featured in Tuesday's defeat at Barry Town, are both in line for recalls to the starting eleven.

Friday, August 28th

Ian Rush remains doubtful, and Martyn Chalk is definitely out of tomorrow's meeting with the Cobblers. Chalk aggravated an ankle injury at Barry, whilst Rush is still struggling with a troublesome knee. "Ian did a bit yesterday and we'll assess how he is later today," Brian Flynn reported in the Evening Leader. "But, as we speak, I would rate him doubtful. We won't risk it if there's any doubt about him." Flynn is hoping that the Reds will bounce back from the disappointing defeat at Barry and knows what to expect tomorrow. "I wouldn't say Northampton are physical, because they're not a dirty team. But they're certainly powerful and we know we are going to have to match their strengths," he added.

Saturday, August 29th

Ian Rush, as expected, isn't risked against Northampton at the Racecourse, as the Reds restore pride with a battling 1-0 victory, thanks to a well-worked Peter Ward goal in the 52nd minute. The visitors create few openings and seem content to soak up pressure in the hope of securing a point. Their resistance is broken thanks to Karl Connolly's mazy run and a perfect lay off by Craig Skinner into Ward's path. The win lifts the Reds up to seventh place.

Monday, August 31st

Injuries continue to hamper team selection as Deryn Brace is added to the list; after receiving a kick on the leg in Saturday's narrow victory over Northampton. With Phil Hardy still out with a twisted ankle, Brian Flynn faces selection problems for tomorrow's trip to Gillingham. "We could have a problem with both players. We can only hope that their condition improves," he said. If neither improve in time, Tony Humes, who replaced Brace at left-back on Saturday, may start the game in that position. First year professional Steve Hopkins is also added to the squad as cover. However, Ian Rush may make a timely return to the side after his three game absence, especially as in-form Neil Roberts is unavailable through international commitments, having been selected for the Wales under-21 squad to face Italy at the Racecourse on Friday night. Flynn expressed satisfaction with Saturday's victory. "The win was well deserved," he said. "We battled through from first to last. Northampton are a strong and powerful side and you have to match them to get any sort of result. We did that and settled down after scoring a very good goal."

Tuesday, September 1st

The inconsistency that has hampered the Reds' chances in previous seasons continues to be a problem. After holding Manchester City at Maine Road and defeating Northampton in their previous two League outings, they succumb to a 4-0 defeat at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium, despite a return to the fold of Ian Rush. Two down at the break, the Reds start

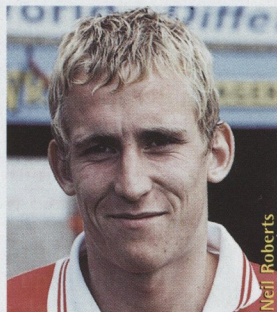


Brian Carey is stretchered off injured

the second-half strongly with both Peter Ward and Karl Connolly going close, but a comical third goal, a clearance rebounding off Andy Henthaller and flying into the net, dispels any thoughts of a comeback. Worse follows when Dave Brammer, arguably the Reds' best player on the night, is sent-off for two bookable offences. The Gills' new signing Carl Asaba rounds off the scoring in injury time. One bright spot, however, is the performance of rookie Steve Rishworth, who makes his League debut as a second-half replacement for Craig Skinner.

Wednesday, September 2nd

Coach Joey Jones felt that the Reds were unlucky to lose 4-0 at Gillingham last night, as he explained in the Evening Leader. "It might sound like I'm making excuses but we were unlucky last night," he said. "I've played in games like that when everything goes against you and that's what happened last night. Gareth Owen hit the woodwork and we had a couple scrambled off the line. It was just one of those nights and hopefully we've had all our bad luck for the season in one game." Press reports link Martyn Chalk as a transfer target of second division rivals Chesterfield. The reserves draw 2-2 with Scarborough in an afternoon game at the Racecourse. Doubts exist as to the scorer of the first goal, with Joey claiming that he got a touch to an Andy Griffiths corner, although many in the ground gave the goal to Griffiths. Steve Rishworth was also on target for



Neil Roberts

Roberts is also named in the squad. Brian Flynn confirms that Chesterfield manager John Duncan had made enquiries about Martyn Chalk several weeks ago, but rules out any transfer activity by stating in the Daily Post: "I'm not planning to sell anyone."

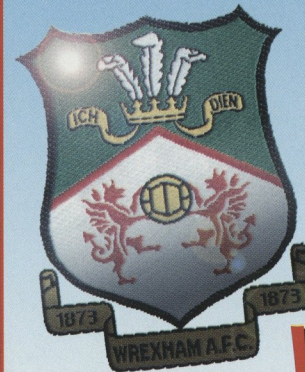
Saturday, September 5th

Victory over Macclesfield Town is claimed at a heavy price. Brian Carey looks to have cartilage problems, Dean Spink twisted an ankle and Peter Ward is felt a groin strain developing. Even so, the three points were very welcome, with the winner coming from Dean, his first goal of the season.

DAVID LOVETT

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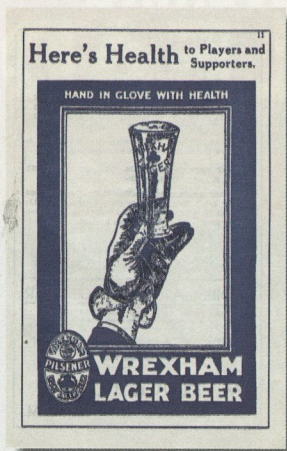




1882/83

The Wrexham Lager Brewery, the first of its type in Britain, is opened.

Wrexham A.F.C. lift the Welsh Cup for the second time.



1938/39

Wrexham Lager finally becomes freely available in Wrexham following the acquisition of 23 established pubs of local brewer Bernie's.

Wrexham A.F.C. change their first team kit from blue to red shirts.

**WREXHAM
LAGER**

Proud supporters of Wrexham Football Club since 1882



1888/89

Lord Kitchener relieves Khartoum and finds stock of Wrexham Lager in General Gordon's palace.

Wrexham A.F.C. reach the first round of the English F.A. Cup for the initial time.

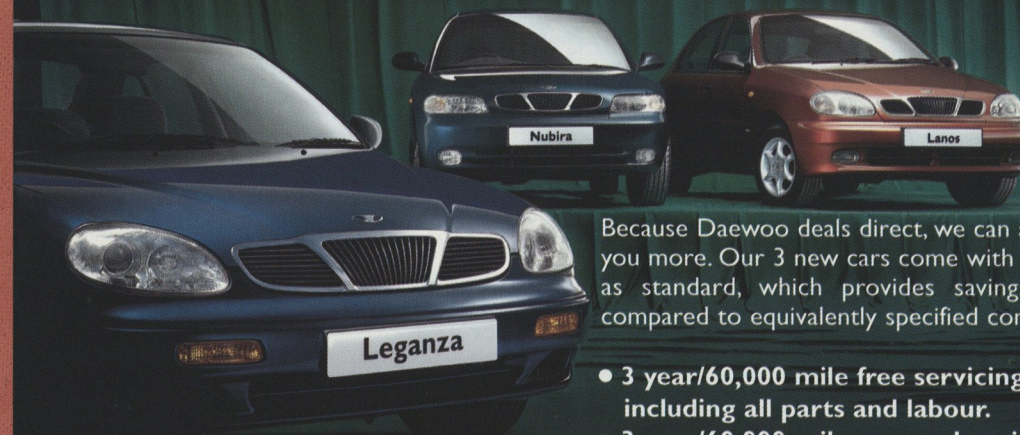


1992/93

Wrexham Lager announce a new shirt sponsorship deal with Wrexham A.F.C.

Wrexham A.F.C. win promotion to the Second Division of the Football League.

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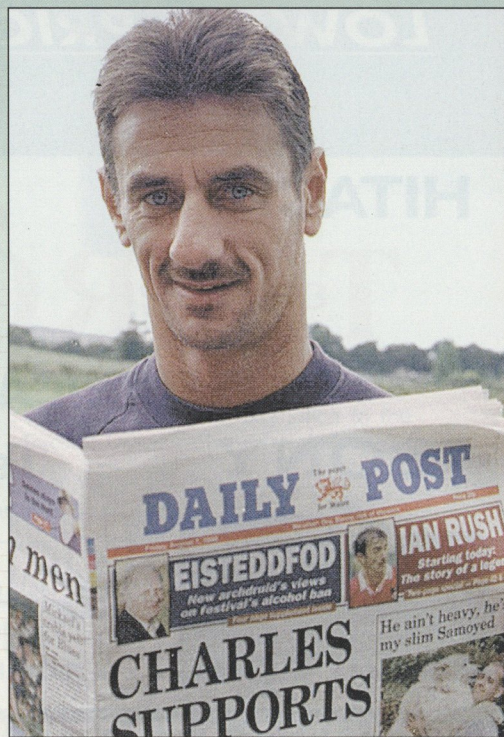
DAILY POST



**THE PAPER
THAT REALLY
GETS BEHIND
WREXHAM**

IAN RUSH

writes **EXCLUSIVELY** for
the **DAILY POST** every Tuesday



In Reserve

Old heads ensure Reds hold on to draw



Wednesday, 2nd September, 1998
Pontins League Division Two
WREXHAM RES.2 SCARBOROUGH RES.2

For this game against last season's Third Division champions Scarborough, the Reds gave a Pontins League debut to young goalkeeper Kristian Rogers, as David Walsh was away on international duty with the Wales Under-21 side. He could feel well pleased with his performance, having little chance with either of Scarborough's strikers as the two sides shared four goals.

Coach Joey Jones once again turned out to add experience to a defence that included three young professionals. Steve Rishworth, soon to take up a place at Oxford University, followed up his Football League baptism at Gillingham the night before with another assured performance, capped with a fine goal, before having to leave the field through injury in the second-half.

The visitors started confidently, forcing two corners in the opening minutes, the second of which led to them taking the lead in the fourth minute. Chris Tate flicked on an out-swinging corner from the right and Michael McNaughton ghosted in at the far post to shoot home from six yards, giving Steve Cooper on the post no chance.

This goal further boosted the visiting side, they penned the Reds back into their own half and from another corner, after six minutes, McNaughton rose above Stephen Roberts to power in a header that just cleared the crossbar.

After 11 minutes, a well worked move led to Scarborough receiving a free-kick just outside the penalty area on the right. The kick was floated in, Rogers did well to get through several bodies to punch away, but the ball landed at the feet of Tate, who failed to find any composure and sliced his chance well wide.

The Reds equalised against the run of play after 13 minutes. Rishworth used his pace to good effect down the right, forcing a corner that Andy Griffiths curled in towards the near post. Joey Jones jumped for the header along with a defender and the ball found its way into the far corner of the net. Joey turned away claiming the goal, a fact that he still vehemently insists upon, although many in the ground credited the effort to Griffiths.

This appeared to galvanise Wrexham into action, and they started to ask a few questions of the 'Boro defence. Within three minutes a slide rule pass by Kevin Russell put Steve Hopkins through, and it took a last ditch tackle by a defender to concede only a corner. From the kick, Stephen Roberts met the ball powerfully with his head, only to see it agonisingly clear the crossbar.

Kristian Rogers saved well from Tate as the visitors reminded the Reds that they were still a potent force, and

then Steve Thomas curled a beauty with his left foot that had Kevin Martin in the Scarborough goal beaten. Unfortunately for the Reds midfielder it also just beat the upright.

After 26 minutes Rishworth was put clean through by Thomas, only to knock the ball too far forward. There followed a collision between Martin and Rishworth that left them both requiring lengthy treatment. Four minutes elapsed before play could resume, but not before substitute 'keeper John Stancliffe replaced Martin, Rishworth being booked for his challenge.

Chances came and went at either end, both sides guilty of wasting several promising opportunities, before the Reds took the lead in the 43rd minute.

Rishworth played a neat one-two with Russell to leave him clear with only Stancliffe to beat and the winger coolly slotted the ball under the advancing 'keeper from the edge of the box.

Still there was time before the interval for both sides to create chances, but the whistle blew with the Reds just about deserving their slender lead.

Within 20 seconds of the restart, Wrexham wasted a great chance to increase their lead when Russell picked out Spink in the box, but the former Shrewsbury man missed the target from ten yards.

Scarborough then seemed to find an extra gear and proceeded to dominate the remainder of the half.

Paddy Atkinson blasted over from long range and then only the width of a post denied Neil Campbell with a well struck free-kick that looked to have Rogers beaten.

Campbell was at the heart of nearly every Scarborough move and he tested Rogers with a curling effort in the 55th minute.

Kevin Hannon, back from injury, replaced Rishworth after 56 minutes, the winger still struggling from the injury picked up in the collision with the goalkeeper in the first-half. This meant a minor reshuffle, with Russell moving up front alongside Spink, and Hannon slotting in to a left-sided berth.

Within six minutes the substitute nearly extended the Reds' lead, heading Steve Cooper's cross just too close to Stancliffe.

The equaliser that had been threatened arrived in the 65th minute. A long ball bounced behind Joey Jones and Tate pounced to send an unstoppable shot beyond Rogers into the top corner.

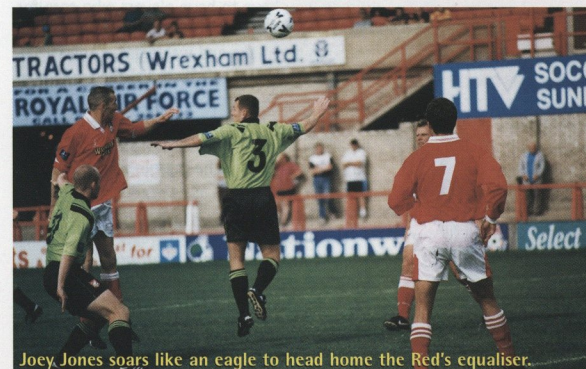
This really did boost the visitors and they threatened to clinch victory on several occasions after this with Tate, Campbell and Neil Radigan all guilty of missing good opportunities.

The best chance fell to Tate on 75 minutes when, with Rogers coming out, he lobbed the ball wide from the edge of the box.

Jake Edwards replaced Paul Mazzarella for the closing 12 minutes, but it was the visitors who came closest to scoring in the closing stages when Tate headed a corner just over the bar.

The Reds failed to build on their interval lead and had to be satisfied with a point against a young and lively, Scarborough side.

Team: Kristian Rogers, Steve Cooper, Steve Hopkins, Stephen Roberts, Joey Jones, Paul Mazzarella (Jake Edwards 78), Steve Rishworth (Kevin Hannon 56), Steve Thomas, Dean Spink, Kevin Russell, Andy Griffiths. Subs: John Whitley, Adam Owen, Jake Fairbrother.



Joey Jones soars like an eagle to head home the Red's equaliser.

**PONTIN'S
LEAGUE**

Division Two Fixtures

Date	V	Opponents	F-A
Aug 12	A	Sheffield United	0-2
Aug 19	H	Rotherham United	2-0
Sep 2	H	Scarborough*	2-2
Sep 14	A	Newcastle United	
Sep 23	H	York City	
Sep 30	H	Stockport County	
Oct 6	H	Notts County*	
Oct 14	A	Lincoln City*	
Oct 28	H	Huddersfield Town	
Nov 4	A	Shrewsbury Town	
Nov 18	A	Blackpool	
Dec 2	H	Bradford City	
Dec 9	H	Sheffield United	
Dec 15	A	Rotherham United	
Jan 6	A	Scarborough*	
Feb 3	A	Stockport County	
Feb 17	A	York City	
Feb 24	H	Newcastle United	
Mar 2	A	Notts County*	
Mar 17	H	Lincoln City*	
Mar 24	H	Shrewsbury Town	
Mar 31	A	Huddersfield Town	
Apr 14	H	Blackpool	
Apr 27	A	Bradford City*	

* Denotes 2.00pm Kick-off

Pontins League Division Two Final Table 1997/98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	24	14	5	5	56	29	47
Barnsley	24	13	7	4	42	20	46
Shrewsbury Town	24	14	4	6	42	32	46
Rotherham United	24	11	6	7	50	28	39
Blackpool	24	10	8	6	40	35	38
Sheffield United	24	11	1	12	46	43	34
York City	24	8	7	9	36	34	31
Stockport County	24	8	6	10	40	46	30
Wrexham	24	8	4	12	41	43	28
Bradford City	24	8	4	12	46	51	28
Lincoln City	24	8	3	13	40	57	27
Carlisle United	24	5	6	13	26	55	21
Rochdale	24	6	3	15	26	58	21

Forthcoming Division Two Fixtures

Wednesday, 9th September
York City v. Bradford City (7.00)
Monday, 14th September
Newcastle United v. Wrexham (7.00)
Tuesday, 15th September
Notts County v. Huddersfield Town (2.00)
Wednesday, 16th September
Lincoln City v. Blackpool (2.00)
Shrewsbury v. Scarborough (7.00)
Stockport County v. Rotherham United (7.00)
York City v. Sheffield United (7.00)
Tuesday, 22nd September
Rotherham United v. Newcastle United (7.00)
Sheffield United v. Stockport County (7.00)



Scene Setter

There can be little doubt that Saturday's 2-1 victory over Macclesfield Town was achieved at considerable cost, with Brian Carey, Peter Ward and Dean Spink all picking up injuries which seem certain to rule them out of tonight's match. It's certainly meant for a busy time for Reds physio Mel Pejic as he tries to patch up the walking wounded.

"Yes, you could say Mel has had his hands full with all the injuries we've been picking up lately," explained Reds assistant manager Kevin Reeves shortly after Wrexham's third home win in four league games.

"Brian looks to be the worst of the three with a suspected cartilage problem. It's too early to tell yet, so we'll have to re-assess the situation later this week. Peter felt a twinge in his groin and that's why we pulled him off so early, whilst Deano took a nasty knock on his ankle.

"Realistically, it's likely that all three will miss the match with Luton, with Brian likely to be out for several weeks. It's disappointing because he has been such an important player to us over the past couple of seasons and, especially for a centre-half, he has stayed remarkably free from injury."

As for the match itself, Reeves was delighted with the result in the wake of the midweek defeat at Gillingham: "We had to really battle for the points today and it's pleasing that we've secured another home victory. I think the fans recognised the problems we had today and really got behind the side, which was a great help.

"When you look at the three players we lost, it was the entire spine of the side. However, we continually stress to the players that these days it is very much a squad game. Luckily, we had the likes of Tony Humes, Kevin Russell and Steve Rishworth ready to step in and all three contributed to the victory.

"It was also vital that we bounced back after the defeat at Gillingham. Once again the players showed their ability to put such a setback behind them and bounce straight back to winning ways. That takes a lot of character, which we showed in abundance today.

"Macclesfield made life difficult for us but we kept our discipline and took the chances when they came our way. It was great to see Dean Spink on the scoresheet and you could see from his reaction exactly how much it meant to him.

"Neil Roberts worked hard to create the chance but Deano's first-time shot was right into the corner of the net and gave the keeper no chance. Gareth Owen's goal was also a cracking effort and it's nice to see the midfield players getting on the scoresheet."

As for tonight's match with high-flying Luton, Reeves expects another tough game: "Luton have had a good start to the season and you have to respect any side managed by Lennie Lawrence. His teams always try to play good football and it promises to be an entertaining match.

"We've had some good results against them over the past couple of seasons and it would be nice to keep that trend going. A victory would certainly leave us handily placed in the table, especially if we can get a result at York on Saturday - something we are certainly overdue."



Dean Spink



The old cliché that "a week is a long time in football" is seemingly rolled out whenever a manager is dismissed or a team has a catastrophic defeat. Well if a week is a long time, then a year must seem like an eternity to Luton boss Lennie Lawrence.

Last September his side met Wrexham at Kenilworth Road, amidst the worst injury crisis that he had ever had to face in his management career. The result was a 5-2 home defeat, putting pressure on Lawrence himself and the board, who to their credit, stood by their manager conscious of the club's plight and the problems in the treatment room.

The Hatters were next to bottom of Division Two and this after competing in the play-off's just months earlier. Lawrence didn't panic though. He blooded some youngsters, probably more than he would have wished, but having secured survival by May, thanks to just two defeats in the last eleven games, he knew that the experience of such a season would benefit those who had been thrown in at the deep end.

A week in football!

This is all a far cry from the halcyon days at Kenilworth Road, of top flight status enjoyed throughout the late 1980's when Luton mixed it with the country's elite. Manager Lennie Lawrence accepts that times have changed and nowadays Luton must look to youth for its future.

"We've got a side now with no one over 30 in it, we've others in the squad who can play at this level and we have some who could play at a higher level, they just have to find consistency. That is the way forward for clubs like Luton, who must always aim higher.

"With the 'Bosman' ruling now in place, a club like ourselves has to get its policy right, you have to have a nucleus of young talent coming through, then you can add one or two 'Bosman' signings on top to strengthen it with regard to experience. If you have too many 'Bosman's' though, it could go all wrong, you have to have players who care for the club, this comes from those you nurture through the ranks and we've got a good number of what I call 'Luton's' now coming good."

Lawrence's comments came in the wake of a narrow 1-0 victory over Burnley on Saturday, although the margin of victory flattered the visitors as Lawrence was quick to point out.

"It would have been a travesty had we not won," added the former Charlton, Middlesbrough and Bradford City manager. "We were a bit nervous at half-time, but I was confident that if we kept attacking as we did then we'd be okay. Granted that both



Sean Evers scores the goal that made it 4-4 against Oxford

sides hit the woodwork, but we created a lot of chances today and that was our best attacking display for a long time.

"That we scored from a set piece is testimony to the amount of work we're

warned of complacency as he looked forward to tonight's fixture.

"My record against Wrexham is dreadful, so I will be looking to rectify that on Tuesday. If you catch Wrexham on a good

putting in on the training ground, we've got a few variations and it paid off. Then we defended well and just failed to add to the tally. That now gives us our third successive victory and a winning habit."

That result saw Luton climb to second place in the Second Division table, all so different from twelve months previously, when the Hatters looked likely to suffer their second relegation in just three seasons.

Lawrence has now rebuilt the side and with his nucleus of "Luton's", they look set to play a major role in this season's promotion shake up.

Not that the manager will let their current lofty position in the table go to the player's heads. They held a similar placing for a long period in early 1997, and looked certain for promotion before slipping into the play-off positions and going out to Crewe Alexandra in the play-off semi-finals.

He knows that this division contains a lot of strong teams and he has

day they'll give you a hiding, which is what they did at Luton last September. I saw them at Gillingham and although beaten 4-0, it was never a four-nil in the true sense, as they had numerous chances

themselves. With it being a night match and quite a passionate crowd there, it should be a good game, but if we can keep our winning habit going I'll be a happy man."

Lawrence's youngsters have been complemented by the acquisition of Herve Bacque from Monaco and Ray McKinnon from Dundee United. Both have been brought in to add experience and they have helped the side win twice already on their travels this season, at Wigan and

Wycombe. Luton's solitary away defeat came at Reading, a 3-0 reverse which Lawrence described as the team's "worst away performance for many a long day".

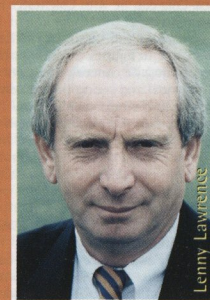
With Wrexham suffering injuries to Brian Carey, Peter Ward and Dean Spink during Saturday's game against Macclesfield, Lawrence could be forgiven for thinking that it's poetic justice. Certainly, victory tonight would confirm that Luton are serious promotion contenders.



Gavin McGowan

In Charge

Born in Brighton in December 1947, Lawrence began his playing career with non-league Croydon. Further spells followed at both Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United, before his



Lennie Lawrence

coaching talents were recognised by Malcolm Allison in 1978. The former Manchester City supremo was then the manager of Plymouth Argyle and despite Lawrence never having played League football, he was appointed assistant-manager in February 1978.

Indeed, Lawrence had a brief spell as caretaker-manager at Home Park following the departure of Allison, before accepting a similar role at Lincoln City in the early 1980's. Having subsequently joined Charlton Athletic as reserve team-manager in December 1982, he was in sole charge of the first team within eleven months following the sacking of Ken Craggs.

His elevation coincided with a revival in the club's fortunes, as Lawrence led them to promotion to the top flight in 1986 where they stayed, against all the odds, for four consecutive seasons, despite not even having a ground of their own.

In the summer of 1991, Lawrence accepted the post of Middlesbrough manager and once again he guided a club to promotion, this time to the newly formed Premier League, at the end of his first season in charge. Despite the experience of his previous rearguard battles, Lennie was unable this time to lead 'Boro to safety and they were relegated just twelve months later. That paved the way for Bryan Robson to take control, with Lawrence returning to club management with Bradford City, where he tried to recapture his former success.

Sacked by the Valley Parade side in October 1995, Lawrence was appointed Luton manager two months later with the team rooted to the bottom of the First Division table. This time the points gap proved insurmountable, with the Hatters relegated the following May. Back in the Second Division, Lawrence looked to have the side heading for automatic promotion only for them to ultimately miss out in the play-offs, at the hands of Crewe Alexandra.

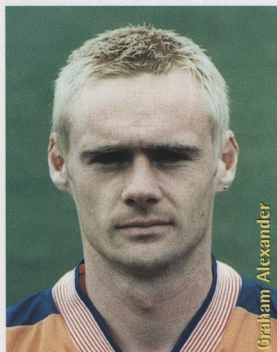
After the traumas of last term, primarily caused by an horrific injury crisis, Lawrence looks to have the club once again heading on the right lines.

NATHANAEAL ABBEY (Goalkeeper)

"Tanny" made his Luton debut in the Coca-Cola cup tie with Colchester last season, when at the tender age of 18 he was a surprise call-up to the first team squad, due to injuries to Luton's other two keepers. Despite conceding just one solitary goal and seeing the Hatters through to the next round, Lenny Lawrence signed replacements and allowed Tanny to develop further in the reserves. He also performed admirably whilst on-loan at Woking towards the end of last season.

GRAHAM ALEXANDER (Midfield)

Frequently asked to cover at full-back last season as Luton experienced a horrendous catalogue of injuries, Graham made the starting line up on 39 occasions. A right-sided midfielder by choice, he started his career at Scunthorpe, signing professional forms in March 1990 at the end of his second year trainee period. Made 199 appearances all told for the club in a five season stint at Glanford Park. 'Mr Consistency' moved to Luton for £100,000 in the summer of 1995. He is now approaching the 150 outing mark with the Hatters, netting eight vital goals last season as the club fought hard against relegation.



Graham Alexander

HERVE BACQUE (Forward)

Monaco agreed to let Herve leave on a free transfer this summer, after he found it hard to break into the French side's first team. Despite being chased by several English clubs, Herve chose Luton as he was impressed by Lennie Lawrence and what he called 'the special feeling for the English way of life'. He eventually signed just a week before the start of the season. Herve started his career in Brittany with L'orient and after two years in their first team and still just 21 years of age, he signed for Monaco. Made the Hatters starting line up for the first three games of this term, before he picked up an injury which kept him out until last weekend, when he returned on the substitutes bench.

SIMON DAVIES (Midfield)

Capped by Wales in 1996 when he made a substitute appearance against Switzerland, Simon was at the time with Manchester United but moved to Luton in the summer of 1997 for a £200,000 fee. A left sided midfielder, he struggled last season making the majority of appearances from the substitutes bench, after an early run in the first team. He signed professional for Manchester United in 1992, having graduated through the youth ranks at the club and made a total of 20 first team appearances at Old Trafford, half of which were as substitute. In his five years as a

professional he also had two loan spells, one at Exeter in December 1993 and the other at Huddersfield in November 1996.

KELVIN DAVIS (Goalkeeper)

An England Under-21 International, Davis's first-team opportunities have been limited in recent seasons due to the consistent form of Americans Jurgan Sommer and Ian Feuer. Having turned professional in 1994, Davis gained valuable first-team experience with loan spells at both Torquay and Hartlepool. An injury to Feuer last term finally gave the talented 'keeper the chance he had been waiting for and he made a total of 32 appearances to confirm his first-choice position. An excellent shot-stopper, he played an important part in the club retaining its Second Division status.

STEVE DAVIS (Defender)

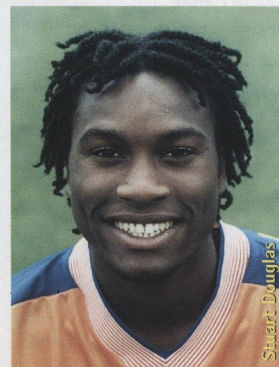
Turns 30 years of age next month, Steve was a regular visitor to the Racecourse during his days at Turf Moor, his previous club. He signed for Luton in the summer of 1995, a tribunal deciding the fee of £750,000 after Burnley had demanded £1.5million. The Clarets had paid just £60,000 for him in 1991 and were unhappy at the tribunal decision, but Luton would go on to benefit from Steve's tremendous talent as a solid and dependable centre-back. He was signed by Terry Westley, in his short spell as manager at Kenilworth Road and has now made over 150 appearances in a Luton shirt. Won the highest number of man-of-the-match awards last season, as well as being voted Players' Player-of-the-Season. Started his career with Southampton in 1985 as a trainee, he struggled to make the first team at the Dell. Was loaned firstly to Burnley in 1989, then to Notts County in 1991, before signing permanently for Burnley in the summer of 1991.

GARY DOHERTY (Defender/Forward)

Gary is a strong and tall striker who was converted from a central defensive position to good effect. Made an impact in defence in the Luton Youth team which reached the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup and won the South East Counties league last season. He took his chance as a striker due to the injury crisis last season, and proved to be an instant success, with a goal assist on his debut enabling Tony Thorpe to score. He made nine bench appearances and one full start last season, and was also called up to the Under-18 squad for the Republic of Ireland. Very much a future prospect.

STUART DOUGLAS (Forward)

Had an awesome reputation as a goalscorer in his teenage years. Now 20



Stuart Douglas

Luton Town Football Club

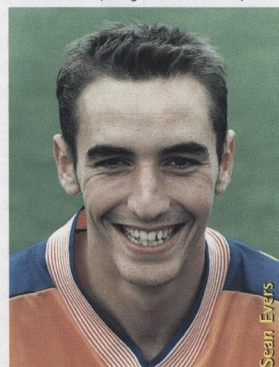


Back Row: Dwight Marshall, Terry Sweeney, Richard Clarke, Mathew Spring, Emerson Boyce, Steve Augustine, Gavin McGowan, Russel Lawes, Stuart Fraser, Stuart Douglas, Jimmy Cox, Michael McIndoe, Andre Scartlett.
Middle Row: Clive Goodyear (Physio), Paul Lowe (Youth Team Coach), Chery Newberry (Club Secretary), Andrew Fotiadis, Simon Davies, Paul Showler, Gary Doherty, Alan White, Kelvin Davis, Nathanael Abbey, Julian James, Chris Willmott, Paul McLaren, Graham Alexander, Lee Lough, Les Shannon (Scout), Mandy Mallins (Fitness Trainer), John Moore (Reserve Coach).
Front Row: Liam George, Phil Gray, Steve Davis, Chris Green (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Nigel Terry (Director), Mitchell Thomas, Marvin Johnson, Sean Evers.

years-old, he will be looking to find the consistency over ninety minutes that in recent seasons has been missing. Injuries hampered his progress last season, limiting him to just seventeen appearances in the league, 12 of which were as a substitute. Douglas has often been at his most effective as a substitute, coming on to score vital goals. He netted his first goal this season in the 2-0 victory over Colchester ten days ago. Came through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road, making his debut at the age of 17 against Oldham in 1995.

SEAN EVERS (Midfield)

Another local youngster, from nearby



Sean Evers

Hitchin, who was thrown in at the deep end last season due to the injury crisis. Sean made his debut the previous term but primarily as a substitute. A tenacious midfielder, Sean was capped by the Republic of Ireland last season at Under-21 level and, after commanding a regular place towards the end of last season's campaign, he has featured in every game

so far this term in the number eight shirt.

ANDREW FOTIADIS (Forward)

Another youngster who hails from Hitchin, Andrew suffered both illness and injury last season finishing with just one goal to show for his efforts. A winner of Under-15 and Under-18 caps at England level, he chose to complete his 'A' Levels rather than to sign professional, before then accepting a contract which expired in the summer. Andrew re-signed hoping that his woes of last season were behind him, when he made just 15 appearances, 10 from the subs bench. With his all action style, he has become a firm favourite with the fans who know an old-fashioned style centre forward when they see one.

STUART FRASER (Defender)

Solid central defender who was instrumental in the South East Counties side's success last season, he made his debut for the club in the last game of the season - a 3-2 victory over Carlisle in May. Reckoned to be an outstanding prospect, Scottish born Stuart signed his first professional contract in April which will keep him at the club for at least two seasons. Turned 18 years-old in January.

LIAM GEORGE (Forward)

Another youngster who was forced to be tried last season, Liam's only league outing came a week after our 5-2 victory at Kenilworth Road, Lennie Lawrence forced to make changes due to injuries. He gave Liam his debut in the 3-0 defeat at Bristol City and, though more appearances in cup competition followed, he remained in the reserves for much of the campaign. Capped by Eire at Under-18 level, he helped the side progress to the European Youth Championships Final. He remained a prolific scorer in the Avon Combination with 12 from just 18 starts.

PHIL GRAY (Forward)

Opened his goal account this season in the 3-1 victory at Oxford in a Worthington Cup tie. Phil was yet another in the treatment room last season, a succession of differing injuries culminating in surgery to alleviate a back problem. Phil returned to Kenilworth Road last September from Fortuna Sittard, for a £400,000 fee, having previously been at the club in the early 1990's before being transferred in 1993 for £800,000 to Sunderland. A Northern Ireland International who has won 20 caps, Phil started his career as a junior at Tottenham Hotspur. He made just ten appearances for the White Hart Lane outfit before being loaned to first Fulham and then Barnsley, before his first move to Luton in 1991. After his three years at Roker Park, he signed for French side Nancy before moving to Holland with Fortuna. He has been a regular in the side at number 10 this season.

JULIAN JAMES (Defender)

An uncompromising right-back who will not feature today, as he is still recovering from a double fracture of his leg sustained against Bristol Rovers last April. Although he will be sidelined for at least eight months, the loyal club-man was granted a testimonial just weeks before the tragedy. Signed as a schoolboy, he turned professional in the summer of 1988 and has now chalked up more than 330 appearances for the club.

MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender)

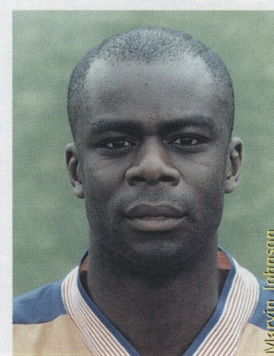
A six-foot defender, Marvin has now made over 300 appearances for the club he joined in 1984 as a YTS Trainee. A versatile player, normally at centre-half, he has often appeared in midfield. He was yet another who had his season ruined by injury last term. After appearing in the first seven games, he was sidelined making only seven further outings all season. A

popular player at the club, he is now in his 12th year as a professional, a loyal one club man.

MICHAEL MCINDOE (Midfield)

Lively midfielder who made his Luton bow this season in the Worthington Cup tie at home to Oxford, his 78th minute appearance came when he replaced Phil Gray. In his second season as a professional, he appeared in both the Avon Combination and South East Counties sides regularly last term. Edinburgh born, he has been on the clubs books since his schooldays ended and will be pushing for a regular first team start soon.

GAVIN MCGOWAN



Marvin Johnson

(Defender)

Capped at Schoolboy and youth level by England, this former Arsenal right back found it tough to break into the first team set up at Highbury. He made just one appearance for the Gunners last season as a substitute against Crystal Palace in February. He had previously made six first

team appearances for the club he signed professional forms for in the summer of 1994. However, he is now in his third spell at Luton, having been at Kenilworth Road twice previously on loan. He had a two game spell in March 1997, and followed this up with an eight game spell at the start of last season, but Luton were unable to meet Arsenal's asking price for the 22 year-old, Lennie Lawrence finally got his man in the summer after Arsenal released him on a free transfer. McGowan made his 'third' debut for the club in the home draw with Preston in August.

RAY MCKINNON (Midfield)

His move to Luton in the summer gave Ray the second chance to make the grade in English football having had a previously unhappy spell at Nottingham Forest. Originally with Dundee United as a YTS trainee, he was recommended to Forest who paid £750,000 for him in 1992. Shortly after his arrival Brian Clough resigned and, once Frank Clark had taken over, he was to make just eight appearances in 20 months for the first team. He was then transferred to Aberdeen, spending two seasons at Pittodrie before moving back to Dundee United. The 'Bosman' ruling made him a free agent in the summer and, wishing to move south of the border once more, he chose Luton despite several offers from other clubs. Made his Luton bow in the opening day victory at Wycombe Wanderers, wearing the number seven shirt.

PAUL McLAREN (Midfield)

Apart from David Oldfield who has since moved to Stoke, Paul was certainly the most consistent player at the club last season, avoiding the injury plague and making 43 league appearances in the middle of the park. After establishing himself so well, he slotted into the role vacated by Ceri Hughes who left for Wimbledon. Born in High Wycombe, Paul was offered terms after just one year of his YTS period and has added aggression to his play, making him a very effective ball winner as well as excellent distributor. His one weakness may be his finishing, he has just one goal to his credit, something he will be looking to add to this term.

DWIGHT MARSHALL (Forward)

Missed out on a call up to the Jamaican Squad due to an injury in the early part of last season, Dwight recovered to become a key member of the Luton squad which battled to avoid relegation. A late starter in football, he began his career at Grays Athletic before moving to Plymouth Argyle at the age of 24 in 1991. He made over 100 appearances for the Pilgrims, scoring 37 goals, which persuaded Luton to pay £150,000 for him in the summer of 1994. Used either as a striker or a wide front man, he has averaged a goal every three games. He had a year out with a broken leg in 1996, and started this season in the number eleven shirt.

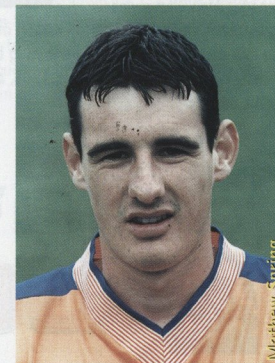
PAUL SHOWLER (Midfield)

Played under Lennie Lawrence when he managed Bradford City, he rejoined his previous boss in the summer of 1996 at Luton. Had a dreadful campaign last term making just one substitute appearance due to a catalogue of injuries carried over from the previous season. Doncaster born, he started his career with Altrincham, before he was picked up by Barnet in 1991 after they had won the Conference. He moved on a free transfer to Bradford City in 1993, making his mark as a powerhouse in Lawrence's

team. Cost Luton just £50,000 when he moved to Kenilworth Road, making 34 appearances in his first season for the club.

MATTHEW SPRING (Midfield)

Yet another youngster in the impressive list of talent making his way through the ranks at Luton, Harlow born Matthew made his full debut for the club in a 3-0 home victory over Plymouth Argyle last October, after a substitute appearance at Bristol City a week earlier. This was even more welcome as it ended an 11 game spell without a victory. However, he then blotted his copybook by getting himself sent off for an impetuous tackle, which was not lost on boss Lawrence who used him sparingly thereafter, despite him describing Spring's debut as the "best I've seen in a long while". Having played well in the club's youth team, he was instrumental in their FA Youth Cup semi-final run, and now looks to have the appetite for first team football. Has been ever present so far this season in the number four shirt, and is a real find amongst the Luton youngsters. He is still only 18 years-old.



Matthew Spring

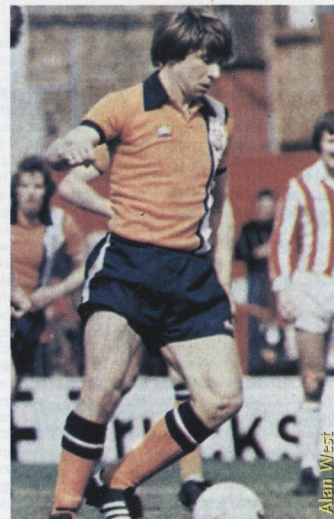
MITCHELL THOMAS (Defender)

Appointed Player Coach at the start of the season, Mitchell has now accepted that his playing days may be drawing to a close. No less committed, he has quality in abundance, having played in the top flight. He started as a junior at Luton back in 1980. After 130 games Tottenham took him to White Hart Lane for £233,000 in the summer of 1986 and in five seasons he made over 150 appearances at the heart of the Spurs defence. West Ham then paid over a £500,000 in 1991 to take him to Upton Park, his awkward ungainly approach to the game a constant menace to opposition attackers. After two seasons at West Ham he returned "home" to become a real stalwart of the side with a further 160 appearances to his name. Now with over 450 senior outings behind him, he will be keeping Luton's youngsters on their toes as he strives to top the 500 mark.

ALAN WHITE (Defender)

Signed for just £40,000 back in September last season from Middlesbrough, Alan's arrival was most welcome given the fact that injuries had deprived Lennie Lawrence of three of his back four. Indeed, White slotted in well into central defence. Having signed Alan as a youngster, Lawrence knew his pedigree and moved to capture his signature after he had struggled to make his way into the first team with 'Boro'. White made his first start this season in the 3-0 defeat at Reading.

A is for ALAN West
Midfield player Alan West joined Luton from Burnley in 1973 and went on to make 314 league and cup appearances for the Hatters. When he left the club in 1980, West moved to Millwall and later became manager of non-league Hendon Town. He returned to live in Luton where he became a Pastor, as well as being actively involved with the Christians in Sport Organisation.



B is for Steve BUCKLEY
The brother of Grimsby Town manager Alan, Steve was signed from non-league Burton Albion in 1974. In all, he played 135 league and cup games for Luton before joining Derby County in 1978 for £165,000. Buckley retired from the game in 1986, although he still does some scouting for his brother.

G is for GROUNDS
Since their formation in 1885 Luton have played on three different grounds. The first at Dallow Lane was so close to the Dunstable to Luton railway line that it is claimed that one player missed an open goal after being blinded by smoke from a passing train. On entering the football league in 1897, they moved to Dunstable Road. The new ground was opened by The Duke of Bedford, who himself had donated £50 towards the £800 needed to buy the ground. Dunstable Road remained the home of the Hatters until they moved to Kenilworth Road in 1905.

H is for HOOLIGANISM
In the mid 1980's Kenilworth Road witnessed one of the worst scenes of football hooliganism ever seen in this country. The match was an F.A.Cup quarter-final with Millwall the visitors and the trouble that followed was described by F.A.Chairman Bert Millichip as "the worst in the long catalogue of trouble which has blighted the English game". In a bid to prevent further trouble, Luton introduced a controversial ban on all visiting supporters. All fans of the club had to become members and were issued with a card that allowed access to the ground. This was taken away if the owner became involved in any act of trouble.

I is for INTERNATIONALS
In season 1901/02 Robert (Bob) Hawkes joined the club and he was to play a major part in the Luton team for the next 20 years. In 1906/07 he was capped at full international level by England, becoming the first Luton player to appear for his country. In October 1921, three Luton players appeared in the same international fixture, Ernie Simms for England with Alan Mathieson and Louis Bookman playing for Ireland.

activities to be played there and this was well supported by the local council. In the six years it was in use, some 120,000 sports men and women had used it, paying Luton £300,000 for the privilege.

L is for LITTLEWOODS Cup
The Littlewoods Cup Final of 1988 saw Luton come up against the mighty Arsenal, who were out and out favourites to lift the trophy. With the score 2-1 to the Gunners, the inspirational Andy Dibble (now at Altrincham) saved a crucial penalty from Nigel Winterburn. This inspired his team-mates and with just 14 seconds left on the clock, Brian Stein scored the winner, giving Luton their first major trophy in their 98-year history.

M is for Sir Stanley MATTHEWS
The 18th May 1963, saw Luton travel to the Victoria Ground to play Stoke in a match that was important to both sides. The great Stanley Matthews, who was 48 years of age at the time, scored his first goal of the season despite having played more than 30 games that year. The win for Stoke saw them promoted to the First Division, the defeat for Luton seeing them relegated.

N is for NOTTINGHAM Forest
The Wembley Cup Final jinx which had struck down so many players in the past happened again in the 1959 F.A.Cup Final, when Nottingham Forest right-winger Roy Dwight was carried off with a broken leg after 32 minutes. Although Forest were leading 2-0 at the time, it was felt that 11-man Luton would go on to win. In the Hatters side were experienced big match players like Billy Bingham, Allan Brown and Syd Owen. Despite Luton pulling a goal back through David Pacey, it was Forest who went on to lift the cup, winning 2-1.

was settled in the 86th minute, when Luton substitute Raddy Antic scored the winning goal.

S is for SOUTHERN League
The success of the Football League led to the formation of the Southern League on the 12th January 1894. Luton's first game in this new league was on the 6th October 1894, when they entertained Millwall, losing 4-3. The first two seasons of the league saw Luton finish as runners-up to Millwall, with Southampton in third place.

T is for TWO Tremendous Seasons
Originally a full-back until Fulham converted him into a centre-forward, Malcolm McDonald had a sensational two year spell at Luton. He joined the club in 1969 and in 88 league games went on to score 49 goals. His performances persuaded Newcastle to part with £185,000 for his services and he became a firm favourite with the north-east fans before later joining Arsenal.

U is for Cup UPSET
Season 1965/66 saw Luton come up against Corby Town in the second round of the F.A.Cup. In the match at Corby, Luton scrambled a 2-2 draw thanks to a controversial penalty five minutes from time. In front of a 13,000 crowd in the replay, Corby were determined not to make a second mistake. A solitary goal from Charlie McGlinchey was enough to secure a 1-0 win and see them into the third round for the first time in their history.

Magic moments in the history of Luton Town Football Club

C is for CHAMPIONS
The 1936/37 season saw Luton finish champions of the old Third Division (South), with Notts County as runners-up. In the process, they scored 103 league goals; which included an 8-1 thrashing of Cardiff with both Joe Payne and George Stephenson scoring hat-tricks. During the season they scored five goals on six separate occasions and Payne finished the season with 55 league goals to his name.

D is for Mal DONAGHY
In 1978 Luton signed central defender Mal Donaghy from Irish club Larne Town and the stylish defender went on to become a magnificent servant of the club over the next ten seasons. When he left to join Manchester United, the Northern Ireland international had played 415 league games, scoring 16 goals and winning a club record 58 caps in the process.

E is for ELECTED
Luton were elected to the Second Division of the Football League in 1897 taking the place of Burton Wanderers. The voting for acceptance to the League saw Luton receive 13 votes, with Lincoln having 21 and Burton Swifts 15. The Hatters first League game was on the 4th September, when they visited Leicester Fosse and drew 1-1. Their first home game saw them beat Gainsborough Trinity 4-0.

F is for FULL-Back
Full-back Tim Breacker signed as a youngster for Luton in 1983 and in the following seasons went on to make 210 league and 45 cup appearances. In 1990 he joined West Ham and has been almost an ever present in the Hammers side. At the beginning of this season he had played 237 games scoring eight goals for West Ham.



J is for JOE Payne
On the 13th April 1936 Joe Payne, a reserve wing-half, was given the job as a makeshift centre-forward in the match against Bristol Rovers. It took 20 year-old Payne just 20 minutes to settle into his new role and once he had done he could not stop scoring. Four goals up at half-time, three of them being scored by the newcomer, Luton took Rovers apart in the second-half. By the time the 90 minutes were up, he had scored 10 goals, breaking the record of Robert "Bunny" Bell, who only four months earlier had scored nine for Tranmere in a 13-4 win against Oldham.

K is for KENIL-WORTH Road
Luton moved into their current home in 1905 and ever since have been in an urban straightjacket. The ground was previously known as Ivy Road and is surrounded by terraced housing thus preventing major development. In 1985 Luton installed an artificial pitch, which allowed many different sports

O is for Syd OWEN
In 1947, Luton signed 25 year-old defender, Syd Owen from Birmingham City. He made 388 appearances for the Hatters in a 13 year spell with the club, most of them in his favourite position of centre-half. After hanging up his boots in 1959, he became Luton manager but only stayed in the job for one season, being replaced by Sam Bartram in 1960.

P is for David PLEAT
One of the most successful managers in the history of the club, David Pleat had two spells in charge. He took over in 1978 and remained at the club until 1986, when he left to manage Spurs. In that time he took Luton into the First Division (now the Premier Division) by finishing as Division Two champions in 1981/82. He returned to Kenilworth Road in 1991 and this time remained as manager until 1995.

Q is for QUEUES
During Luton's magnificent run to the F.A.Cup Final in 1959, they played Blackpool in a replay at home on a Wednesday afternoon and had their highest ever attendance - 30,069. The game was played so early in the day, because Blackpool had exercised their right under F.A. rules, of not having to play under floodlights.

R is for RADDY Antic
Season 1982/83 saw Manchester City sitting second in the First Division table by November, with their supporters dreaming of winning the title or at the very least qualifying for Europe. It was a shock for them, therefore, to go into the final game of the season at home to Luton fighting for survival. The match was equally important to both sides, as victory secured another season in the top flight for the victors, whereas defeat meant relegation. The game

V is for Record VICTORIES
Luton's record league victory was achieved on the 13th April 1936, when they beat Bristol Rovers 12-0 in that famous game, with Joe Payne scoring 10 times. In the F.A.Cup, their record victory came in 1927 when they beat Clapton 9-0 in an F.A.Cup first round match. Four of the goals in this game were scored by Jimmy Yardley, who finally managed 94 goals in his 188 league and cup appearances for the club.

W is for Harry WHITEBY
Although not recorded in any history books, it is almost certain that the first player to turn professional in the south of England was Luton player Harry Whiteby. It was December 1890 when Luton decided to pay three of their players, Tom Read and brothers Frank and Harry Whiteby, received five shillings a week. The following August, it was decided to pay all of the team half a crown a week, making Luton the first professional club in the south.

X is for eXCEPTIONAL Talent
In the 1980's, Luton had the exceptional talents of the Stein brothers, Mark and Brian. Brian joined the club from Edgeware Town and in his two spells scored 130 goals in 427 games. His brother Mark was at the club for a shorter time, playing just 54 games. He left Luton to join QPR and is now scoring for Bournemouth, after spells at Stoke, Chelsea, Oxford and Ipswich (loan).

Y is for YOUTH Player
Mark Aizlewood played over 500 football league games for Newport County, Charlton, Leeds, Bradford City, Bristol City and Luton, whom he joined in 1978 as a 19 year-old. He also won 38 caps for Wales. When his Football League career finished in 1995, he became manager of Merthyr Tydfil where he remained for just one season before becoming a player with Aberystwyth Town. He is currently player-manager at Cwmbran Town.

The World Cup, a celebration of the 'beautiful game', and possibly the greatest show on earth. With this summer's tournament taking place in France, it was just too close not to go and,



The Racecourse Ground, no sorry, the Stade De France!

despite scare stories regarding the availability of tickets, an application was made to the Welsh F.A. and the three of us ended up each receiving the six tickets which we had been requested.

Leaving Wrexham early on the Monday morning, to connect with the lunchtime Eurostar from Waterloo to Gare Du Nord in Paris, we were in the French capital by 5pm and at our hotel, close to the centre of the city, some 15 minutes later. That evening was spent in a bar watching England play Romania and Petrescu's late goal led to minor celebrating, much to the amusement of the locals who had presumed us to be from the other side of the border. After explaining that we were Welsh, a warm welcome was received every time that we used that particular establishment during the week.

The following morning arrived far too soon and we opted for a visit to Notre-Dame, which unfortunately is in the middle of restoration work, and the Georges Pompidou Centre, which does not open on Tuesday's! Not exactly our most successful morning.

That afternoon we were off to see Italy versus Austria at the Stade De France, but we were surprised by the lack of football fans around



The entrance to the "French Dream"

Paris. We did come across a number of Austrians, but very few Italians during the morning.

We left the centre of Paris at around 1.30pm to make our way out to Saint Denis, approximately six miles north of the capital, where the stadium was situated, in time for the 4pm kick-off. We

travelled on the excellent Metro system and were amazed when all these football fans suddenly appeared. We arrived at Saint-Denis Porte De Paris Metro station with two hours to spare before kick-off and were greeted by an amazing sight as the stadium appeared on the horizon. It is a most futuristic design, looking to be loosely based around the shape of a spaceship and actually took your breath away when you

first saw it.

Saint Denis was once a barren industrial area, but has been transformed by the building of the stadium and the pre-match party was well under way in the surrounding area, with so many things to take in. We took our seats about an hour before kick-off, finding ourselves sitting at the end reserved for the Austrian supporters area, at the very back of the lower tier. The Austrians had built a reputation for dour play during their opening two games of the tournament and did nothing to dispel this during the opening half of our match, while the Italians seemed unable to break down their opponents resolve.

The game needed Italy to score first and thankfully they did four minutes after the break. Christian Vieri of Atletico Madrid gave veteran goalkeeper Michael Konsel no chance with a smartly struck effort and this forced Austria out on the attack, to the extent that they actually had a couple of chances to equalise before Roberto Baggio sealed victory in the last minute. Austria kept up their record of scoring in injury time of all their three group games when Andreas Hertzog netted, but it was too little too late.

The following day we were heading around a hundred miles north to the former coal-mining

city of Lens, to take in the Group D game between Spain, many people's pre-tournament favourites, and Bulgaria at the Stade Felix Bollaert. Before setting off we made the pilgrimage to the world famous Sacre-Coeur and also to Montmartre, where all the street artists hang out. The train left and arrived on time, a far cry from British Rail, and we disembarked in Lens at 2 o'clock, to find a large police presence, possibly a throwback to the problems with the German fans some three days earlier. We wandered around the small town, which definitely had a very British feel to it and there was already a large number of England fans there some two days before their crunch clash with Columbia, but the atmosphere in general was jovial and friendly. The capacity of the stadium, just over 41,000, is actually larger than the population of the town itself and it was packed to the rafters, as probably 20,000 Spaniards poured in for the match. We were sat in the lower tier behind one goal, not far from the small but noisy Bulgarian contingent. The match saw Spain prove what a good side they really are, but earlier disappointments saw them heading home, despite beating the former Eastern-block country 6-1 on



Belgian fans go crazy when the 50/50 winner is announced

the night in a scintillating display, as Paraguay had defeated Nigeria to claim second spot in the group. We rushed back to the station for the last train to Paris and arrived at our hotel, tired and weary, soon after 1.30am.

Thursday dawned bright and sunny yet again, and we took the opportunity for a trip to the Eiffel Tower. Having been before, I chose not to pay the 70 francs (around £7.50) for a trip to the top and only one of the party bothered. This was followed up with a brisk walk down the Champs-Elysees and a quick look around the World Cup shop, before it was time to set off for the Parc De Princes to watch Belgium take on South Korea. We arrived at Porte Saint Cloud metro station to be met with the sight of thousands of red, black and yellow clad Belgians. The game itself was a disappointment, with Belgium needing a win to give them a chance of qualification and Luc Nilis giving them the best of starts with a goal after only seven minutes. They failed to capitalise though and in the second-half the Koreans looked likely to snatch something long before Yoo Sang-Chul levelled the scores, much to the delight of their colourful contingent of

supporters. Korea could have registered their first ever Finals win late on, but wasteful finishing denied them their little bit of history. The end of the game saw the Belgians out of the competition despite remaining unbeaten and the team left the field to howls of derision from their own supporters.

Friday dawned with the realisation that we were almost halfway through our holiday, yet we had barely seemed to have arrived. The morning was spent on the Avenue de Champs Elysees as we went to the top of the Arc de Triomphe, up what seemed like a never ending spiral staircase, to witness a wonderful view over the whole city and its suburbs. We then decided to walk the length of the avenue, stopping in the World Cup store to buy some mementoes on the way, and we also had a look around the chic Paris St Germain F.C. shop further down. A visit to the world famous Louvre museum/gallery was also in order, to ensure we had our fill of culture for the trip. The place is massive, so we only saw about half of it, including the Mona Lisa of course, before giving up and deciding to head off to watch Argentina playing Croatia on television.

That evening we were scheduled to take in



The closest Wales will get to the World Cup Finals?

another game at the awe-inspiring Stade de France with Romania taking on Tunisia. This Group G clash was the one when the Romanians all become blonde bombshells for the evening, but they failed to explode and it was the Africans who snatched an early lead on 10 minutes, when Skander Souayah scored from the penalty spot, sending the 5,000 or so Tunisians to our immediate right into a frenzy. They had already been partying in the streets around the ground for a number of hours before the kick-off and as soon as they got into the stadium, they had to be seen to be believed. A lacklustre Romanian side, which included a number of changes from the England game to avoid picking up any suspensions for the second round, finally drew level mid-way through the second-half courtesy of then Coventry striker Viorel Moldovan.

Saturday was the day that we had all been waiting for, a date with Brazil. Unfortunately, this was the day that we did not have bright sunshine, as it started off dull and ended with heavy rain in the hours leading up to the 9pm kick-off. After spending the morning buying presents for those back-home, we watched the opening second

round game between Norway and Italy on the television, with Vieri yet again on the mark for the Italians to ensure a tie with France later that week. Brazil, as always, have a great deal of support wherever they play and a large number of people in Paris that day were sporting their colours, whether from the country or not. Unfortunately, a lot of the carnival atmosphere which usually precedes Brazil games were cancelled due to the rain. However, there were still many strange sights to take-in on the streets around the stadium.

We found our seats, which were right in the back row of the top tier, and were amazed at the sea of yellow that greeted us. There was a good following of Chileans to our left and they were in good voice throughout, even when their South American rivals were clocking up the goals. If there was an award for support at one game, the marvellous men from Santiago would have won it on that performance. Carlos Sampaio put the favourites two up and the exciting talent of Ronaldo tied things up for Brazil. Marcelo Salas

consolation was the least that the cheeky Chileans deserved for their endeavour and spirit.

Sunday, our last full day, was spent visiting the Grande Arche de la Defence, a futuristic design which can be seen from any vantage point in the city. We decided to seek out the local English pub and enjoyed the all-day breakfast on offer, which reminded us what we had been missing.

The afternoon's game saw hosts France take on Paraguay in Lens, and we decided to view this on the big screen in the square outside the Hotel De Ville (Town Hall). We arrived some 20 minutes before kick-off to find a large and expectant crowd had already gathered, with space in the square at a premium.

The game itself was a major disappointment, but typically, as soon as we had left the square defender Lauren Blanc headed the golden goal winner, which prompted the locals to throw open their windows and all shout out into the streets, with car drivers were also sounding their horns in celebration. If that was anything to go by, it must have been an amazing night on the streets of Paris after they had won the Final.

That evening saw a final excursion for us to the

Stade De France, to witness the emerging talent of Nigeria against our Euro 2000 group opponents Denmark. Yet another full house saw the Nigerians swept aside by a ruthless display



SAINT-DENIS

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from the Danes, Peter Moeller and Michael Laudrup putting the former European champions 2-0 up in less than 15 minutes, and further goals ensured a 4-1 victory.

Far too soon, it was Monday and time to return home. A journey of seven hours from Paris to Wrexham seemed to take a lifetime and then it was back to reality!

It had, however, been a truly great experience to actually be there to take in the sights and sounds that many would have missed by watching on television. It must be brilliant to actually go to a World Cup to support your own country, even if they do badly, as the Koreans and Tunisians all seemed to be having a marvellous time despite their results. Perhaps one day! But personally, we couldn't complain too much; 24 goals in six games, not a single red card and some great entertainment along the way. Anyone for



A group of happy Tunisians before the Romania match

Holland/Belgium in 2000?
Paul (Kizza) Davies

1998-99	Blackpool	Bournemouth	Bristol Rovers	Burnley	Chesterfield	Colchester	Fulham	Gillingham	Lincoln	Luton	Macclesfield	Man City	Millwall	Northampton	Notts County	Oldham	Preston	Reading	Stoke	Walsall	Wigan	Wrexham	Wycombe	York
Blackpool		23.01	24.04	13.04	24.10	8.05	31.10	2-2	20.02	19.09	30.01	23.01	10.10	2-1	08.09	3-0	21.11	10.04	06.03	03.04	26.12	13.03	12.12	03.10
Bournemouth	1-1		09.03	21.11	24.04	27.03	02.01	20.10	2-0	28.12	06.04	13.02	3-0	17.10	16.01	26.09	31.10	13.03	06.02	13.04	12.09	08.05	27.02	12.12
Bristol Rovers	10.11	03.10		09.01	08.09	30.01	12.03	28.12	19.09	20.02	18.12	01.05	17.04	05.04	27.03	28.11	2-2	4-1	20.10	31.10	3-2	17.10	23.01	06.03
Burnley	28.11	17.04	2-1		16.01	05.04	01.05	27.02	28.12	06.02	27.03	09.03	2-1	19.12	17.10	20.10	13.03	13.02	10.11	02.01	26.09	31.10	12.09	0-1
Chesterfield	27.03	10.11	13.02	1-0		09.01	17.04	1-0	07.11	20.03	28.11	27.02	09.03	01.05	20.10	26.12	23.01	1-0	05.04	12.09	19.12	26.09	30.01	17.10
Colchester	18.12	24.10	28.12	09.10	1-0		0-1	12.09	01.05	02.01	06.11	20.03	28.11	10.11	16.04	09.03	02.04	27.02	0-1	10.04	12.02	15.01	26.09	05.02
Fulham	20.03	0-0	07.11	12.12	21.11	26.12		13.04	06.03	03.10	09.01	3-0	03.04	30.01	20.02	23.01	08.05	10.10	08.09	24.10	10.04	24.04	TBA	19.09
Gillingham	02.01	10.04	0-0	19.09	06.02	20.02	28.11		20.03	24.10	03.10	17.04	29.12	08.09	19.12	10.11	06.03	03.04	01.05	0-1	07.11	4-0	10.10	16.01
Lincoln	12.09	09.01	27.02	30.01	13.03	12.12	26.09	31.10		21.11	26.12	20.10	13.02	23.01	05.04	1-3	3-4	13.04	17.10	24.04	1-0	09.03	08.05	27.03
Luton	27.02	30.01	12.09	1-0	31.10	2-0	09.03	27.03	17.04		01.05	28.11	19.12	20.10	10.11	17.10	1-1	26.12	13.03	26.09	23.01	13.02	09.01	06.04
Macclesfield	28.12	10.10	08.05	24.10	13.04	13.03	0-1	09.03	0-0	12.12		12.09	02.01	31.10	0-1	13.02	10.04	26.09	16.01	21.11	27.02	06.02	03.04	24.04
Man City	3-0	08.09	12.12	03.10	19.09	31.10	16.01	21.11	10.04	14.04	20.02		06.02	06.03	02.01	13.03	10.10	24.10	28.12	3-1	03.04	0-0	24.04	08.05
Millwall	05.04	26.12	21.11	23.01	03.10	14.04	17.10	30.01	09.09	08.05	0-0	29.09		19.09	06.03	31.10	24.04	12.12	20.02	13.03	09.01	27.03	2-1	21.10
Northampton	06.02	02.04	10.10	08.05	12.12	24.04	28.12	13.02	0-0	10.04	20.03	26.09	27.02		1-1	12.09	24.10	21.11	1-3	16.01	09.03	02.01	07.11	13.04
Notts County	13.02	1-2	24.10	03.04	10.04	21.11	12.09	06.05	10.10	24.04	23.01	1-1	26.09	26.12		09.01	12.12	30.01	31.10	27.02	0-1	13.04	09.03	13.03
Oldham	16.01	06.03	13.04	10.04	2-0	03.10	1-1	24.04	06.02	02.04	08.09	07.11	20.03	20.02	1-3		19.09	08.05	02.01	12.12	10.10	21.11	24.10	28.12
Preston	17.04	20.03	06.02	07.11	2-0	17.10	19.12	26.09	02.01	16.01	20.10	05.04	10.11	27.03	01.05	27.02		12.09	3-4	09.03	28.11	28.12	13.02	3-0
Reading	21.10	07.11	16.01	09.09	02.01	19.09	05.04	17.10	28.11	3-0	06.03	27.03	01.05	17.04	28.12	19.12	20.02		03.10	06.02	11.11	09.08	20.03	TBA
Stoke	26.09	2-0	10.04	24.04	12.10	23.01	13.02	12.12	03.04	07.11	2-0	30.01	12.09	09.01	20.03	2-0	26.12	10.03		08.05	24.10	27.02	14.04	21.11
Walsall	17.10	28.11	20.03	3-1	20.02	20.10	27.03	09.01	10.11	06.03	17.04	23.01	07.11	0-0	18.09	01.05	03.10	TBA	19.12		30.01	06.04	26.12	08.09
Wigan	3-0	20.02	02.01	06.03	08.05	08.09	20.10	13.03	16.01	1-3	19.09	17.10	0-1	03.10	08.02	05.04	13.04	24.04	27.03	28.12		12.12	21.11	31.10
Wrexham	07.11	19.12	03.04	20.03	06.03	2-4	10.11	23.10	03.10	08.09	2-1	26.12	24.10	1-0	28.11	17.04	30.01	3-0	19.09	10.10	01.05		10.04	20.02
Wycombe	01.05	19.09	1-1	20.02	26.12	06.03	06.02	05.04	19.12	0-1	17.10	10.11	16.01	13.03	03.10	27.03	08.09	31.10	28.11	1-2	17.04	20.10		02.01
York	09.03	01.05	26.09	26.12	03.04	1-2	27.02	1-1	24.10	10.10	10.11	19.12	10.04	28.11	07.11	30.01	09.01	23.01	17.04	13.02	20.03	12.09	3-0	

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Gills splash out on long term target



GILLINGHAM: Ambitious chairman Paul Scally has sanctioned a move for Reading's former Brentford forward Carl Asaba. The 25 year-old London born forward cost the Royals £800,000 when he moved from Griffin Park in the summer of 1997, but switched to the Kent outfit for £200,000 less last week. He scored just eight times for the Royals last season, despite making 32 appearances for the club. Initially joining Gillingham on loan, to enable him to play against Blackpool, but was then signed on a permanent basis before our unsuccessful visit to the Priestfield Stadium last Tuesday, when the former Dulwich Hamlet favourite registered his first goal for his new club. He will link-up once again with £500,000 summer signing Robert Taylor, whom he partnered in a successful strike-force while at Brentford. The Gills had tried to sign him at the start of the season, but despite the clubs agreeing a fee, personal terms proved to be a stumbling block at that time.

Manager Tony Pulis is also looking to strengthen his defence and West Brom's Tony Dobson appears to be his number one target. The clubs have agreed a fee of £25,000 for the 30 year-old former Coventry and Blackburn defender, who has been in Kent discussing personal terms, but he has only joined on loan at this stage.

Fellow defenceman Richard Green looks set to make his move to Walsall permanent with the Gills receiving a £40,000 fee in exchange for his services, but the Saddlers face stiff competition from Division Two compatriots Wycombe for his signature. Walsall manager Ray Graydon has been very impressed with him during his spell at the Bescot, but would like the situation sorted out quickly as his month's loan spell ends after tonight's game against York.



WALSALL: The Saddlers will have been disappointed to have lost the services of skilful French midfielder Jeff Peron, who has joined Portsmouth after the two clubs agreed a fee of £150,000, following a trial spell at Fratton Park. The 32 year-old, who has previously represented Lens, Caen and Le Havre in his native France, rejected a move to divisional rivals Fulham last month, but has now left the Saddlers as the pull of First Division football proved too much. During last season, he scored just once in 38 League outings for the West Midlands side. However, this sale will give manager Ray Graydon the opportunity to strengthen his first team pool, whilst still remaining within the financial framework laid down by the club and he has a number of players on trial at the Bescot at the moment who may fit the bill.

STOKE CITY: Manager Brian Little has been rewarded for his team's excellent start to the new campaign, by being announced as the Manager of the Month for August and will receive a specially commissioned magnum of champagne to mark the achievement. The Potters had a 100% record during the month, as they registered five Nationwide League victories over Northampton, Preston, Macclesfield, Oldham and Colchester, to leave them four points clear of second placed Fulham, as well as scoring an impressive 12 goals in the process.

Little hopes that history will repeat itself, as in August 1997, Graham Taylor won the award and his Watford side went on to be Second Division champions. The Potteries club continued their unblemished start with a two-goal success over Bournemouth on Saturday, but tonight face a tough game against Fulham.

Sunderland boss Peter Reid was the recipient of the First Division accolade while Brentford's Ron Noades claimed the Third Division award.



NOTTS COUNTY: The Magpies have signed experienced former Rangers and Scotland goalkeeper Andy Goram on a short-term contract, to cover for the one game absence of regular custodian Darren Ward, who was in the Wales squad for Saturday's European Championship qualifier with Italy in Liverpool. With the Meadow Lane side short of cover, manager Sam Allardyce turned to Goram, the proud owner of 43 full Scottish caps during a distinguished career, to play in last Saturday's 1-0 defeat against Wigan at Meadow Lane. The 35 year-old is current without a club after being released by the Ibrox giants at the end of last season and the arrangement did both County and Goram a favour, as Allardyce explained: "Andy is looking for a way to get himself back into the shop window, so the

arrangement suits both him and us."



MANCHESTER CITY: The club have confirmed that they are looking to move to the city's new stadium in Eastlands, which has a capacity of around 50,000, after the 2002 Commonwealth Games have been staged there. The state-of-the-art venue is projected to cost £90 million, with £77 million coming from Lottery grants and the balance from Manchester City Council. The complex will include the existing velodrome, but will also incorporate an indoor tennis centre and it is expected that the running track will be taken out after the Games have been staged there.

The Blues plan to consult their supporters before finalising the move, with 50,000 leaflets being distributed to Supporters Clubs and at tonight's Nationwide League game against Bournemouth at Maine Road. Chairman David Bernstein explained the situation: "We could only move to the stadium if it's an exciting and proper long-term home for our club, with facilities that can take Manchester City into the new century. The model is very exciting and when our supporters see it they will be very excited by it. But I must stress that we haven't made a final decision and it is dependent on us consulting our supporters and getting their approval."



BLACKPOOL: Young defender Phil Thompson has been rewarded with a professional contract. The 17 year-old was on the Youth Training scheme, but has already broken into the first eleven this season and impressed manager Nigel Worthington sufficiently to earn a full contract. The youngster certainly celebrated in the best way, as he notched the Tangerines winner against Northampton at the weekend.



BURNLEY: The Clarets have rejected a bid, rumoured to be in the region of £600,000, from the First Division's bottom club Port Vale for former Newtown striker Andy Cooke. Burnley are believed to be looking for a fee close to £1 million for the 24 year-old, who was born in Stoke-on-Trent. A Stuart Douglas goal gave this evening's visitors Luton, a 1-0 win over Burnley at Kenilworth Road last Saturday.



CHESTERFIELD: A club record fee of £250,000 was splashed out to bring Watford striker Jason Lee to the Recreation Ground. He did not have the best of starts to his Spireites career though, as he was sent-off during his full debut against Preston on Bank Holiday Monday. The 28 year-old's next game was more enjoyable, with his new club registering a 1-0 triumph over Gillingham, courtesy of a Paul Holland strike.



FULHAM: Boss Kevin Keegan continued to rotate his squad, with former Queens Park Rangers left-back Matthew Brazier going out on loan to Third Division Cardiff City. The 22 year-old only moved across London to join the Cottagers in March of this year, for a fee of £65,000.



MILLWALL: The Lions have allowed experienced goalkeeper Nigel Spink to combine his playing duties at the New Den, with a coaching role at Birmingham City. He will spend three days a week with City's goalkeepers Ian Bennett and Kevin Poole.



WIGAN ATHLETIC: Manager Ray Matthias has turned to Stockport County to borrow experienced former Tranmere goalkeeper Eric Nixon for a month, to act as cover for regular number one Roy Carroll.



YORK CITY: Defender John Sharples has been forced to admit defeat in his fight against a knee injury. The commanding former Hearts and Airdrie central defender, has been forced to announce his retirement just two years after moving to Bootham Crescent. To add to the Minstermen's woes, their inconsistent start to the season continued on Saturday, when Colchester plundered all three points with a later winner for a 2-1 victory.

Derby blues as Wrexham fail to beat Chester



With a vast support following the Reds over the border, boosted by the signings of Dixie McNeil and Dai Davies, and the previous weekend's victory against Swindon Town, most people were in for a disappointing night at Sealand Road as Wrexham took on their old rivals Chester.

Both sides made enough mistakes and gave away enough loose passes to last the entire season, and apart from the two goals, which both came in the first-half, there was precious little excitement for Chester's biggest gate of the season. If anything, Chester had the better of the goalless second period, but when either side got within striking distance of goal the move broke down.

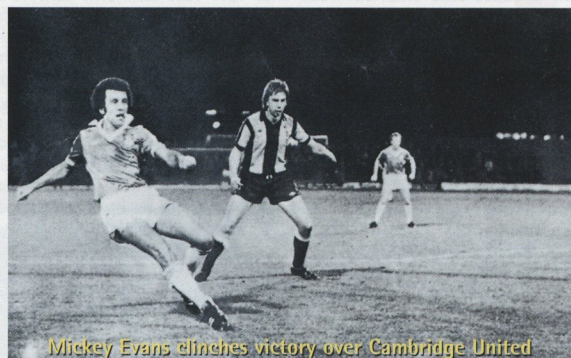
Wrexham had the advantage of an 18th minute lead, when a lob from Les Cartwright found Graham Whittle in the Chester penalty area. The forward, surprised to find no defensive cover, turned leisurely to shoot just inside the post.

But the Welshmen failed to cash in on their good fortune and allowed Chester to get back into the game. The equaliser came in the 27th minute and new goalkeeper Davies must take most of the blame. He committed himself to a cross from Ian Edwards and when Mike Kearney outjumped John Roberts, he was in no position to stop Bob Delgado from nodding a simple goal.

Kearney went through from a Delgado pass in the 70th minute, only to shoot wide and then the Chester striker was foiled by a save from Davies.

Wrexham could rarely make an impression on the home defence, but with eight minutes left they almost snatched a winner. A corner from Mickey Thomas was header across the goalmouth by Shinton and Whittle rattled the Chester bar with his header.

Edwards had always



Mickey Evans clinches victory over Cambridge United

looked the pick of the local forwards and a late solo effort was one of the highlights of the game, Davies just managed to stop his close range shot.

The referee, who did little to enhance the game, booked Chester's Storton and Walker, along with Sutton from Wrexham.

First Victims

Wrexham were now to begin a hat-trick of league victories with Lincoln City the first to be beaten, but before their visit to North Wales, Reds' manager Arfon Griffiths aired his views on the debuts of new players Dixie McNeil and Dai Davies a week earlier: "I was very pleased with their

performances, especially when you think that Dixie and Dai only had a couple of training sessions with the rest of the team. Dixie is now playing alongside Graham Whittle and Bobby Shinton, both 'off the cuff' players, so he will take a few games to get to know their play - but when he does!

"It was good for him to score on his debut, but the main thing was that we beat Swindon. Although we have had an indifferent

start to the season, we are still only a few points away from the top sides. Usually by this time there is one team that is pulling away, but this term even the leading clubs have dropped several points. Another good thing about the Swindon game was the crowd of over 8,000 even with the rain - and support like that is vital if we are to be successful."

The Lincoln game itself was spoiled as a spectacle by three factors, namely the high wins that ruined any fluid play, Lincoln's ultra defensive tactics and inconsistent refereeing. After an hour of almost relentless pressure, the Reds had still not found a way

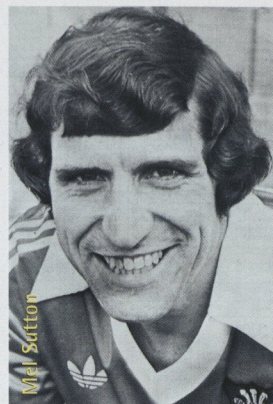
through City's iron curtain defence. Then Griffiths put himself on as a substitute in place of Les Cartwright, to try to give more width to our attacks and within six minutes the switch paid off. Griffiths sent over his third corner kick and Wayne Cegielski out jumped the defence at the far post, heading the ball down for Bobby Shinton to scramble it over the line via a post.

Even after the goal, Lincoln, the most unadventurous outfit seen this season, still did not show any attacking enterprise and Dai Davies did not have a real effort to save throughout. Griffiths was somewhat critical of the visitors: "If I had to play like that every week, I'd pack the game up."

On the other hand, Lincoln's tactics were also a compliment to Wrexham's footballing ability and, at the end of the day, the Reds must have been satisfied with two points from the 1-0 victory.

But they should have had at least two more goals. In the opening minutes Graham Whittle collected Cartwright's pass and made enough space for a shot, but his effort from 12 yards was just too high and early in the second-half a long ball from Alan Dwyer sent Shinton racing clear, only to see his lobbed shot hit the bar, before City 'keeper Peter Grotier saved brilliantly from a 24 yarder by Whittle.

Near the end McNeil had a 'goal' disallowed - a decision which left Griffiths somewhat frustrated: "There was nothing wrong with Dixie's goal. As the



goalkeeper caught my header he fell on his elbow and lost possession. Dixie didn't touch him and just followed up to put the ball in the net - I'm just pleased that the decision was not a vital one in the end."

Dixie's Double

Our next guests were Cambridge United, last season's Fourth Division Champions and the team from the university city were in for an education in the arts of football. Before the game Reds' boss Griffiths talked about the transfer of goalkeeper Brian Lloyd to local rivals Chester, for a fee of about £6,000: "I must wish Brian all the best with his new club. I am pleased the transfer went through quickly for him. He obviously had no future here once I had signed Dai Davies and also with young Eddie Niedzwiecki being an outstanding prospect. Brian has been an excellent servant and a model profession, but I must stress that contrary to some talk, there was never a clash of personalities."

Lloyd himself commented: "I really enjoyed myself at Wrexham, especially our European game and the runs in the League and F.A. cups."

Into the match and Wrexham's 4-1 victory was orchestrated by the midfielders Les Cartwright, Mel Sutton and manager Griffiths, as United were fortunate to escape so lightly. The visitors somehow survived relentless pressure until the 15th minute, when their left-back Jamie Murray slice an attempted clearance into his own net. However, United hit a shock equaliser on 41 minutes, as Alan Biley netted from close range following a free-kick by Brendan Batson.

But after the break, Cambridge were destroyed by a three goal blast in 15 minutes. Wrexham regained the lead on 51 minutes, as Bobby Shinton chested down a long ball from Gareth Davis and Dixie McNeil thumped the ball home from 20 yards. Another unstoppable shot, this time from right-back Mickey Evans, made it 3-1 on the hour - following a flowing move by Shinton, Griffiths and Sutton. McNeil completed the scoring with a powerful header from the manager's corner and the Reds left the field to a standing ovation. This performance was to be put into perspective come the end of the season, as Cambridge ended the year as runners-up!

Naturally Griffiths was delighted with his team's display: "That's the best we have played in the League this season. When we turn it on like that, not many teams in the division can live with us, we had plenty of width and our passing was superb - and passing is what the game is all about. There were so many players on song that goals had to come and we scored three great ones."

Topically speaking



Newcastle's Ruud Awakening

Ruud Guiltt's first game in charge of Newcastle will have left him in non doubt as to the size of the task ahead of him. The Magpies 4-1 hammering at the hands of a rampant Liverpool in front of a glum 'Toon Army' faithful, will have highlighted the chronic lack of pace in the home defence. In that game, Michael Owen helped himself to a hat-trick and could, in fact, have secured a further two or three, were it not for the fine form of custodian Shay Given. That the defence leaked so badly would have been an indictment of Guiltt's predecessor, Dalglish, as he had turned Kevin Keegan's all-out attacking entertainers into something akin to a perineurial struggler. In the process he did, however, take then to second place in the Premiership and to the F.A.Cup Final in successive seasons. However, in football, and especially in the trophy hungry North-East, winning is everything and second is nothing. Dalglish is currently in dispute with Newcastle as to whether he resigned or was sacked, and, further confusion will no doubt have been planted in the minds of the 'Toon Army' as to the timing of Dalglish's departure. If the Newcastle board had decided to get rid of him, why did the let him go on a spending spree in the summer? Equally, if Dalglish resigned, why the strange timing, only two games into the Premiership.

The one advantage that Guiltt seems to have over Dalglish is that he is 'media-friendly'. This could give him some leeway in the time that is given to turn Newcastle around. The fact that he was, as a player and Chelsea manager, always willing to be interviewed, even after heavy defeats, made him popular with the media. Dalglish, while he was winning trophies for Liverpool and Blackburn was barely tolerant of the news hounds. When things started going wrong at Newcastle last season, some sections could hardly wait to put the knife in. This might have had a hand in forcing the board's (or Dalglish's) hand.

When Guiltt took over from Glen Hoddle in 1996, he wheeled and dealt to bring in established foreign stars to Stamford Bridge e.g. Vialli, Zola and Petrescu, signed less well-known ones in Le Beouf and Poyet, and then welded them into a team that already included established stars such as Le Saux, Wise and Hughes. In his first season in charge, as well as winning the F.A.Cup with his 'sexy football', he also took Chelsea to sixth place in the Premiership. Many 'Toon Army' fans will be hoping for the same kind of return in his first season at St.James' Park. However, the style of play he inherited from Hoddle at Chelsea was conducive to 'sexy football'. The shot-shy, dysfunctional collection of talented individuals at Newcastle will be a far tougher challenge. Expect a lot of comings and goings at St.James' Park in the next few months as Guiltt tries to mould Newcastle in his own image. I have no doubt that, given time, Guiltt will bring the Geordies long wait for silverware (Fairs Cup Winners 1969!) to an end and will bring attractive football back to Tyneside. But sacrifices will have to be made. Big names (perhaps the biggest?) may have to make way in Ruud Guiltt's quest for success for the 'Toon Army'.

We shall see.
Cheerful Eddie.

It's a long way home after a 4-0 defeat!

Tuesday, 1st September, 1998
Nationwide League Division Two
GILLINGHAM 4 WREXHAM 0

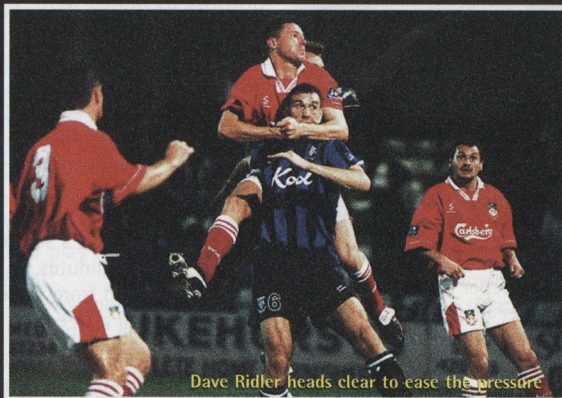


Memo to the fixtures computer at the Football League headquarters. It reads: "Many thanks for an away fixture at Gillingham on a Tuesday night following a Bank Holiday!"

With the motorways safely negotiated, Wrexham fans arrived at the Priestfield Stadium to find two changes from the line-up that started against Northampton. Tony Humes replaced the injured Deryn Brace, with Ian Rush coming in for the unavailable Neil Roberts, away on international duty.

For Gillingham, Carl Asaba was making his home debut following his club record breaking move from Reading, as he partnered former record signing Robert Taylor in attack.

From the kick-off the home side made their attacking intentions clear, with the first chance falling to Mark Saunders. He benefitted from a Mark Cartwright punch, which fell to Paul Smith. As the midfielder's shot



Dave Ridler heads clear to ease the pressure

was blocked, it was Saunders who fired the rebound wide. Moments later Saunders forced the Gills' first corner, when Mark McGregor deflected a goal-bound effort to safety.

This early pressure told, and in the eighth minute Gillingham went ahead. Mark Saunders' throw finding Andy Hessenthaler in space on the right-wing, his cross was perfectly placed for Smith to head home at the far post, giving Cartwright no chance. Six minutes later Wrexham should have levelled the scores, as a moments hesitation between Vince Bartram and centre-half Darren Carr enabled Rush a chance to steal possession. He laid the ball into Owen's path and the midfielder's right foot shot struck the underside of the bar with Bartram struggling to regain his position.

Asaba was having a lively debut for the Gills, he broke through a Tony Humes tackle to raid down the right-wing, with Cartwright holding on to his near post cross. Striking partner Taylor went close on 20 minutes, with his close control and turn giving him the chance of a shot on goal, thankfully it failed to reach its target.

John Hodge, a close season target of Brian Flynn, almost set up a second goal for the home side. His pin point free-kick finding Carr, who met the ball a fraction of a second before Mark Cartwright to head over. Wrexham struggled to find any attacking rhythm and as the half wore on another goal for the home side looked a distinct possibility. Ten minutes before the break, a clever turn from Asaba left Carey grounded, but his shot failed to trouble the Reds' 'keeper.

On the stroke of half time Wrexham's plight worsened. Hodge crossed from the left and Asaba's touch took the ball away from Tony Humes. It fell to Andy Hessenthaler to drive the ball in off a post with his right foot volley, giving Cartwright no chance, as he scored his first goal in over 60



Dave Brammer shares a joke in a rare break in the proceedings



Gareth Owen slides in with a match-saving tackle

games.

Faced with an uphill struggle, Wrexham started the second-half brightly. A mazy run from Karl Connolly earned a corner, Peter Ward played the kick short to David Brammer, whose low driven cross was just missed by Tony Humes at the near post. Normal service was soon resumed however, poor kick from 'keeper Bartram still managed to reach Hodge, his intended target. Given time and space, the winger curled in a shot destined for the top corner until Cartwright got a finger tip to the ball, sending it on to the crossbar and relative safety.

A minute later Wrexham were three down. A long throw from Mark Saunders caused panic in the visitor's defence, then as Dave Ridler tried to clear the ball it struck the head of home skipper Hessenthaler, for the Gillingham man to double his season's tally of goals, again Cartwright standing no chance whatsoever.

With this cushion, Gillingham afforded Wrexham more of the possession. Brammer ran unnoticed on to a Ward cross, but put his header wide. Ward went even closer moments later, his free-kick being tipped away for a corner by the previously under worked Bartram. Brammer swung over the resulting kick and Ward saw his header clip the crossbar with the 'keeper well beaten.

Just past the hour mark and Wrexham made a double substitution, Dean Spink and Stephen Rishworth replacing Craig Skinner and Gareth Owen.

Rishworth, on his debut, made an immediate impact, forcing a corner with his first real taste of the action. Despite their efforts the Reds could not find a way back into the game, as 'Lady Luck' appeared to desert them. This was highlighted when Bartram miskicked a back pass, the ball falling to a grateful Adrian Pennock to clear any danger.

With the match entering the final quarter of an hour, Wrexham were reduced to ten men, Brammer being sent-off for a second yellow card. It was the bitterest of ironies, as his first yellow card was so

needlessly earned for a kick on a Gillingham defender running the ball out of play. His resulting foul on John Hodge ten minutes later, saw him heading for an early bath.

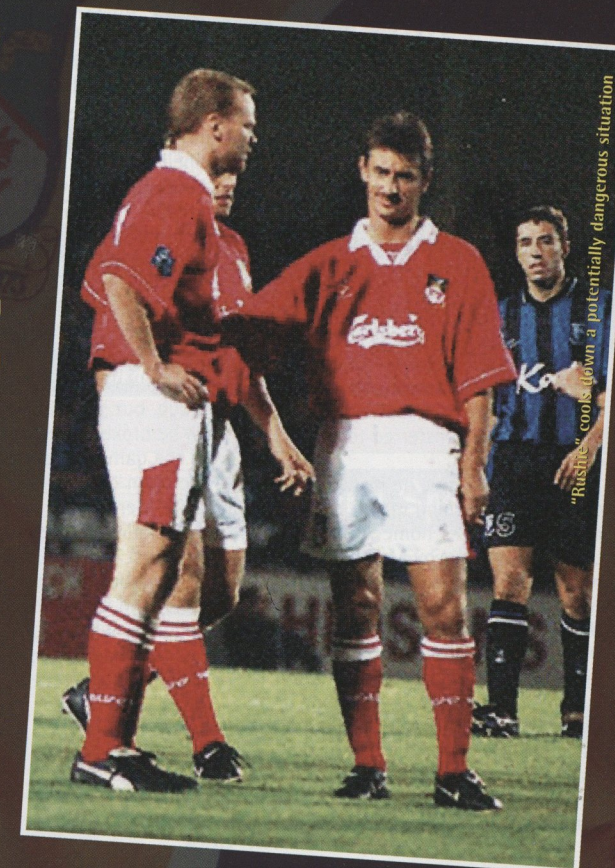
Even the heroics of man-of-the-match Cartwright, who had earlier denied Taylor twice in as many minutes, could not stop Gillingham adding a fourth right on time. A lucky ricochet sending Asaba clear to shoot past the stranded 'keeper, leaving the hardy away following with nothing more than a four hour journey home to look forward to.

Teams -

Gillingham: Bartram, Patterson, Pennock, Smith, Ashby, Carr, Saunders (Williams 66), Hessenthaler, Asaba, Hodge (Galloway 78), Taylor (Bryant 84).

Wrexham: Cartwright, McGregor, Humes, Brammer, Ridler, Carey, Skinner (Rishworth 61), Owen (Spink 61), Connolly, Rush, Ward. Sub: Russell.

Bookings: Carr - Humes, Carey
Sending Off: Brammer (76)
Referee: Clive Wilkes (Gloucestershire)
Attendance: 5,349



Tony Humes cools down a potentially dangerous situation

A Tribute to Les Samuals Wrexham A.F.C. 1954



We recently received sad news concerning the death of former Wrexham player Les Samuals, who passed in Burnley General Hospital after a heart attack, on 3rd May 1998. Les, who had been admitted to the hospital four days earlier with heart failure, was due to be moved back onto a general ward when he suffered another attack.

The youngest of four brothers, Les had served in the Royal Navy following the end of World War Two and it was during his service time, that he was spotted playing in a representative match by a scout of Tottenham Hotspur. He was invited for trials by the London club and later played for the Spurs 'A' team, alongside Tommy Harmer, who went onto become a White Hart Lane legend. Remaining in the Navy, Les was unimpressed by life in the capital and instead contacted his local club Burnley, who invited him to become a part-time professional with them in 1948.

He would turn professional for the Turf Moor club in December 1949, making his Clarets' debut in a 1-1 home draw with Portsmouth in September 1950. It was to replace Billy Morris in the side at inside-forward, a player who was to manage Wrexham later in his career.

Les made just one more League appearance with Burnley, in April 1951, a 2-0 home defeat by Fulham, before he was transferred to Exeter City in July 1953.

With the Grecians, he made his debut in the opening match of the new season, a 2-1 home win over Leyton Orient, but by March 1954 Les was on the move again, after scoring twice in 14 League and Cup games. He came back north, signing for Third Division North side Wrexham, making his debut at the Racecourse in a 3-1 win over Scunthorpe United and scoring one of the goals. Keeping his place in the side for the rest of the season, he had a remarkable record of scoring eight goals in just 13 games.

The following season started with Les scoring three goals in 13 matches, but by November 1954 he was allowed to leave the Racecourse and join Crewe Alexandra.

At Gresty Road, Les went on to score 13 goals in 42 League games, but once again his stay was only brief and in a little over a year he was transferred Bradford City. Over the next two seasons, his record was 38 goals in 84 League games for the Bantams, but after losing his first team place in March 1958, he switched to Stockport County. At Edgeley Park he played in a number of position's, both on defence and attack, making 20 League



appearances and scoring four times. At the end of the 1958/59 season, Les was released by Stockport, and drifted into non-league football with Cheshire County League side Buxton, with whom he won a Derbyshire Senior Cup winners' medal. He later played for Stalybridge Celtic in the same league, before joining Welsh League (North) side Pwllheli & District in the close season of 1960. Pwllheli, who were then led by Freddie Pye, won the League championship that season, whilst Les also played against Wrexham in a Welsh Cup match in February 1961, a game which Wrexham won 1-0.

In 1962, Les took up an appointment nearer home, when he became player/manager of Bacup Borough, but shortly after joining them he broke his leg and retired from the game. He later settled back in the town of Burnley, along with his wife Meriel, who told us: "Les had been a victim of Alzheimers disease for the past 10 years, but he could still remember his colleagues names and his time from playing football, although he was unable to remember things that had happened only hours or even minutes earlier."

Season	League	F.A.Cup	Welsh Cup	Total
	apps	gls	apps	gls
1953/54	13	8	-	13
1954/55	13	3	-	13
	26	11	-	26

Twenty to tackle



PRIZE QUIZ: Send in your answers to questions 6 and 19 and the first correct entry drawn out will win a £5 Gift Voucher to spend in the Club Shop, courtesy of the Shropshire Reds.

- Which player made his Wrexham debut in the corresponding fixture last season?
- Luton's record victory is 12-0 against Bristol Rovers in 1936, but who created a Football League record by scoring 10 of those goals?
- Which Welsh international holds the record for Luton's highest transfer fee received?
- Luton have reached the F.A.Cup Final once in 1959, which team defeated them?
- Who scored Wrexham's goals in their 5-2 victory at Luton last season?
- Where was the 1998 Super Cup Final between Chelsea and Real Madrid played?
- Who scored Celtic's only goal in their Champions Cup clash with Croatia Zagreb?
- Name the other three sides in Arsenal's Champions League group?
- Who replaced Lincoln City to become the first non-league side automatically promoted to the Football League in 1986/87?
- Which two players scored for Wrexham in their recent 3-2 defeat at Barry Town?
- Who did Chelsea beat in the Final of last season's European Cup Winners' Cup competition?
- Who were the league champions in Germany last season?
- Who is Luton's most capped player?
- Can you name the youngster who was released by Luton and who subsequently came to Wrexham in the 1980's?
- Which former Wrexham player broke his leg playing for Rhydymwyn in a Cymru Alliance game recently?
- Who is George Graham's assistant manager at Leeds?
- Which side have Newcastle United drawn in the First Round of this season's Cup Winners' Cup...?
- ...and who have Chelsea drawn in the same competition?

19. From which club did Chelsea sign Italian midfielder Roberto Di Matteo?

20. Name the eleven men who started for Luton in their 1988 League Cup Final clash with Arsenal?

ANSWERS:
1. Steve Basham, 2. Joe Paine, 3. John Hartson, 4. Darren Jackson, 5. Lennox, 6. Neil Roberts and Connolly, 7. Stuart Pearce, 8. Neil Roberts and Connolly, 9. Stuart Pearce, 10. Neil Roberts and Connolly, 11. Stuart Pearce, 12. Stuart Pearce, 13. Stuart Pearce, 14. Stuart Pearce, 15. Stuart Pearce, 16. Stuart Pearce, 17. Stuart Pearce, 18. Stuart Pearce, 19. Stuart Pearce, 20. Stuart Pearce.

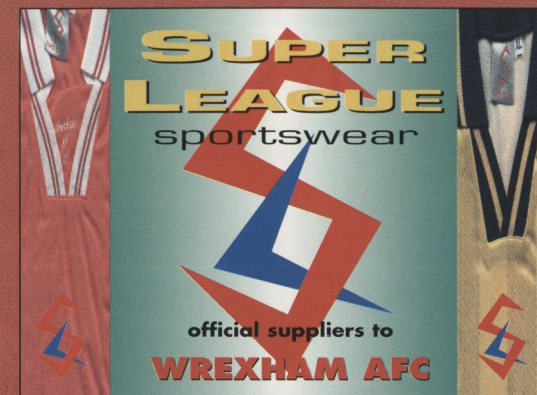
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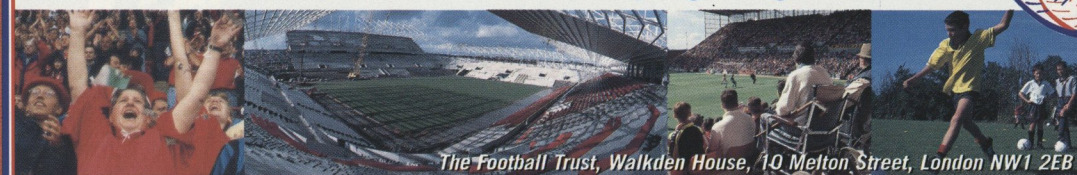
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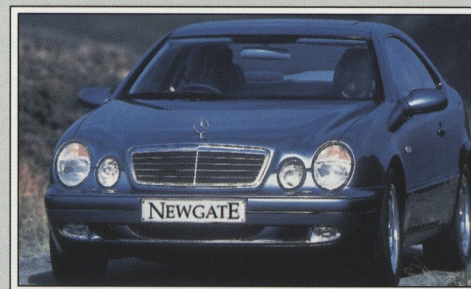
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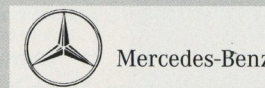
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Young Reds

Goals, Goals and more Goals!



Friday, 28th August, 1998
Football League Youth Alliance
WREXHAM 3 OLDHAM ATHLETIC 3

A late switch of dates, saw this fixture brought forward a day to save a clash with the scheduled Lancashire League game against Bury.

Wrexham opened the match in aggressive mood and took the play to the visitors, but in the seventh minute Oldham mounted a swift break down our left flank, found plenty of space and it ended with goalkeeper Paul Whitfield being lobbed from the edge of the box.

This shook the Reds and Oldham enjoyed more control, but they slowly recovered and it was on 24 minutes when Ian Cocks claimed the equaliser. Breaking through the middle from the halfway line, they beat the offside with a 30 yard pass from Gareth Hughes to David Sweet, he slipped the ball to Cocks, who in turn finished with aplomb.

Sweet did well to claim a ball that appeared to be heading for a goal kick and his cross to the back post saw Carl Andrews still get in a decent header, despite being sandwiched by two defenders.

Wrexham were growing in confidence, but continually falling foul to the offside trap. Andrews was nicely set-up when Sweet produced a penetrating run and found the striker in space, but he hesitated a moment and the 'keeper was out quickly to smother the danger. The Oldham number one was also alert to Cocks breaking clear and ran from his box to despatch the ball to safety.

Five minutes into the second-half and a foul on Mark Entwistle produced a Wrexham penalty. Up stepped Andrews to give the 'keeper no chance with a powerfully hit spot-kick.

Just three minutes later, Oldham equalised direct from a free-kick, straight in front of the home goal. As the wall was still being organised, the visitors spotted a big gap on our left and easily curled the ball into the net.

But worse was to follow in the 56th minute, with the Wrexham defence still suffering a hang over from that second Oldham goal. A deep cross from the right-wing, saw the opposite winger rise unchallenged at the back post to head downwards and give Whitfield no chance.

Wrexham settled again and took up the challenge of levelling matters, despite them having the better of the play. While they did not have all the possession in the final 30 minutes, they did have the better chances. When Kevin Hannon's run down the left finished with a great cross, Andrew's first effort came back off the cross bar and Cocks got his head to the rebound, but the 'keeper saved. Hannon again cause problems in the box, setting up Entwistle who's shot was cleared off the line, as was the follow up by Darren Johnson.

Finally, and four minutes into added time, a handball gave Wrexham their second penalty of the morning. This time it was Adam Owen who finished well to salvage a deserved point.

Team: Paul Whitfield, Gareth Hughes, Kenny Lee, George Horan, John Whitley, Mark Entwistle, David Sweet, Kevin Hannon, Carl Andrews (Darren Johnson 77), Ian Cocks, Adam Owen. Sub: Andy Jones.

Saturday, 5th September, 1998

Lancashire League

ACCRINGTON STANLEY RES.2 WREXHAM 'A'S

After the previous games against professional sides, it was our first taste of action against the reserve teams of the non-league clubs recently admitted to the Lancashire League.

Accrington's fairly new home at the Crown Ground, was the setting for this fixture and it was a pleasant change for our players to be performing in a proper stadium, rather than the usual training grounds at this level.

With a decent crowd on hand to watch, the young Reds took the game to their hosts scoring two goals in the first 17 minutes and adding a third not long afterwards.

Our opening strike came when Paul Mazzarella scored, what one on looker described as: "the best goal I have ever seen." Steve Thomas had crossed the ball into the area, only for a defender to put in a clearing header. The ball came out to Mazz and with his left leg peg he fizzed it back into the top corner of the net.

Moments later Jake Edwards capitalised on a muddle in the home defence and pounced on the loose ball to tap home our second. Mazzarella ensured the victory with another long distance goal, this time not quite as spectacular as his first, but still a volley from the edge of the box.

By this stage the young Reds were totally in control and at the interval, all coach George McGowan could tell his troops was: "Don't change the way your playing and make sure you keep this standard up for the rest of the 90 minutes."

Only a couple of minutes into the second-half and goal number four arrived. Edwards was again alert to a scramble in the home defence and stepped in to tuck the ball into the back of the net.

Inevitably, it was going to be hard to maintain this high level of control on the hour mark, John Whitley conceded a penalty kick to allow Accrington a goal back.

Not that the Reds were easing up too much as Gareth Hughes whipped in a great cross from the right, trialist Chico Odudu flicked the ball on and Edwards was on hand to crash home our fifth with a header.

The final goal fell to Stanley and it was disappointing for American trialist 'Keeper John Sexton. He produced a great save as the home team sent in a fierce free-kick from the edge of the penalty box, but none of his team mates reacted quickly enough to the rebound and in stepped a home striker to knock the loose ball into the net.

Team: John Sexton, Steve Cooper, Steve Hopkins, John Whitley, Jake Fairbrother, Paul Mazzarella, Steve Thomas, Andy Griffiths, Gareth Hughes, Jake Edwards, Chico Odudu. Subs: Darren Johnson, Carl Andrews, Andy Jones.



Oldham's second goal beats the Wrexham wall

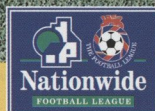
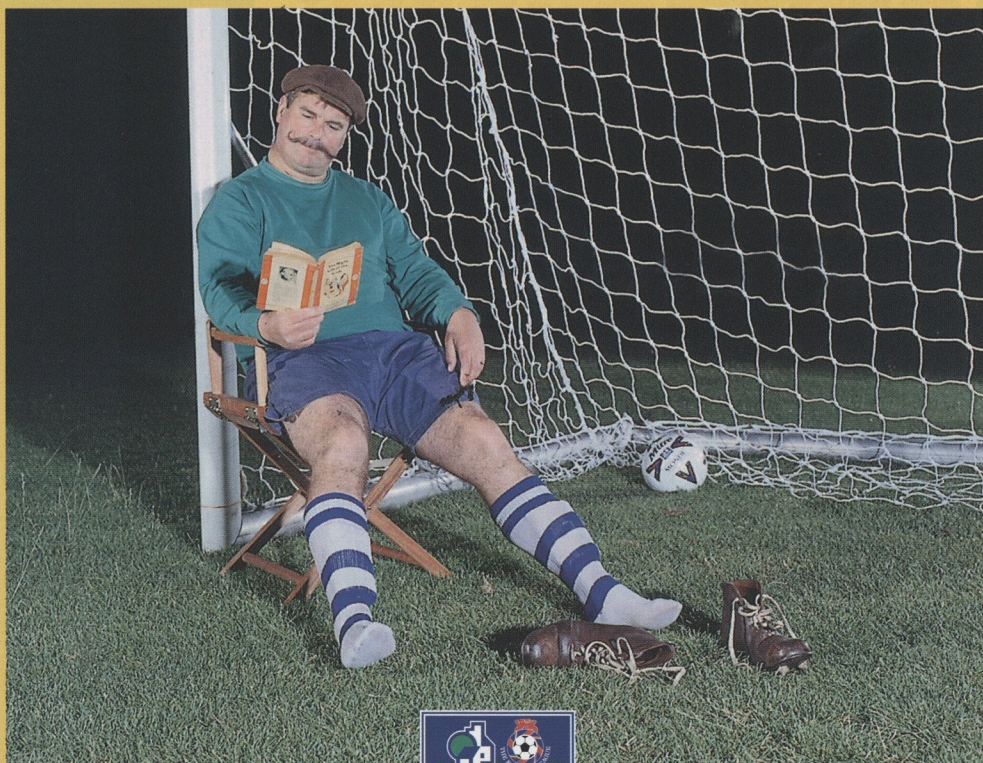
Lancashire League Division One

Date	V	Opponents	F-A
Aug 15	A	Oldham Athletic	4-3
Aug 22	H	Macclesfield Town Res.	1-3
Aug 29	H	Bury	3-3
Sep 5	A	Accrington Stanley Res.	5-2
Sep 12	H	Tranmere Rovers	
Sep 19	A	Leek Town Res.	
Sep 26	H	Oldham Athletic 'A'	
Oct 3	H	Lincoln City*	
Oct 10	H	Leek Town Res.	
Oct 17	H	Leek Town Res. (Cup)	
Oct 30	A	Southport Res.	
Nov 7	A	Accrington Stanley Res. (Cup)	
Nov 14	A	Tranmere Rovers 'A'	
Nov 21	H	Tranmere Rovers 'A' (Cup)	
Nov 28	A	Macclesfield Town Res.	
Dec 5	A	Morecambe Res.	
Dec 12	A	Marine Res.	
Dec 19	A	Tranmere Rovers 'A' (Cup)	
Jan 9	H	Burnley 'A'	
Jan 16	A	Marine Res.	
Jan 23	A	Leek Town Res. (Cup)	
Jan 30	A	Bury 'A'	
Feb 6	H	Burnley 'A'	
Feb 13	H	Accrington Stanley Res. (Cup)	
Feb 20	A	Burnley 'A'	
Mar 6	A	Burnley 'A'	
Mar 13	H	Southport Res.	
Mar 20	H	Marine Res.	
Mar 27	H	Morecambe Res.	
Apr 10	H	Accrington Stanley Res.	

Football League Youth Alliance

Date	V	Opponents	F-A
Aug 15	H	Burnley	2-3
Aug 22	A	Blackpool	1-3
Aug 29	H	Oldham Athletic	3-3
Sep 12	A	Stockport County	
Sep 19	H	Wigan Athletic	
Sep 26	A	Tranmere Rovers	
Oct 3	H	Bury	
Oct 10	A	Chester City	
Oct 17	H	Preston North End	
Oct 24	H	Rochdale	
Oct 31	A	Carlisle United	
Nov 7	H	Blackpool	
Nov 14	A	Burnley	
Nov 21	A	Oldham Athletic	
Nov 28	H	Stockport County	
Dec 5	A	Wigan Athletic	
Dec 19	H	Tranmere Rovers	
Jan 2	A	Bury	
Jan 9	H	Chester City	
Jan 23	A	Preston North End	
Jan 30	H	Carlisle United	
Feb 13	A	Rochdale	

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Hello and welcome to this evening's game. The big news from the Community Office is that we have now overtaken last year's

Junior Reds Club membership total. The popularity of this year's package has surprised even us. There are also a number of new members that have joined this year, many of them taking up membership on the recommendation of some of last season's Junior Reds.

Ball Boys/Girls

If you have ever thought of being a ball boy/girl at the Racecourse for a Wrexham AFC first team game, then read on. All you have to do to have a chance is join the Junior Reds Club, then you may be lucky enough to be chosen to fill this roll on a matchday. Details of how to join the Junior Reds are covered later on this page. Don't delay, join today!

We offered a signed Wrexham AFC football as a prize to one lucky person that joined the Junior Reds Club during August and the winner is Christopher Nadin (7) from Wrexham. Your prize will be with you shortly. Look out for more exciting competitions coming up in the near future.

Junior Reds Club

The club is now up and running for the new season and this year's membership numbers have already surpassed previous years. We have a new sponsor for 1998/99 and I would like to welcome KFC of Wrexham to our organisation.



There are many benefits to joining the Junior Reds, such as discounts on Soccer Schools and the Saturday Club and, of course, free admission to a limited number of Wrexham AFC league games in the coming months.

Membership costs just £10.00 for the season and you can save over £45.00 throughout the year. To join, simply pick up an application form from the Club Shop or our office, fill it in and return with your payment to the address on the form. We'll do the rest.

Birthday List

The following Junior Reds Members will be having their birthday during September. So many happy returns from all at Wrexham AFC to:

- 5th - Jonathan Cross
- 7th - Jason Wynn
- 9th - Matthew Green
- 9th - Jordan Hayes
- 10th - Robert Moore
- 12th - Benjamin Stritch

- 13th - Adam Davies
- 16th - Jamie Evans
- 17th - Ryan Jones
- 18th - Jamie Bennion
- 18th - Cloie Moulton
- 21st - Sam Watson
- 22nd - David Boote
- 23rd - Matthew Lewis
- 23rd - Liam Buckle
- 24th - Andrew Peagram
- 24th - Stephanie Jones
- 24th - James Davies
- 25th - Tarron Sturman
- 25th - Matthew Carroll
- 27th - Rhys Ryder
- 29th - Matthew Roberts
- 29th - Gareth Fox

Mascot

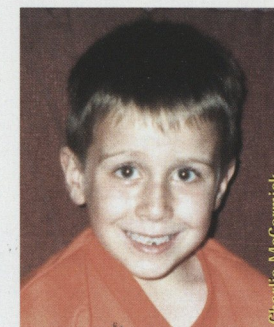
Today's Wrexham AFC mascot is 7 year-old Charlie McCormick from Hope near Wrexham. A pupil at Derwyn School in Kinnerton, he tells us Ian Rush and Dean Spink are his favourite players.

Would you like to follow Charlie by leading the team out onto the Racecourse? If so, then all you have to do is become a member of

the Junior Reds.

Also, all mascots who represent the club at home games this season will be able to keep their kit as a lasting souvenir of a memorable day. This is due to a generous sponsorship deal arranged by J.R.Boyle (Wrexham) Ltd, who already do much good work for the club, including their backing of our management team.

Full details are available from Steve Hughes or Tony Thomas at the Community Office on 01978 358545.



Charlie McCormick

Free Gifts!

For one lucky person who joins the Junior Reds Club during September, there will be a draw to win a framed picture of the whole team! To be in with a chance of collecting this coveted souvenir, all you have to do is pick up an application form from either the Community Office, Club Shop or KFC in Wrexham, fill it in and send it back to us. The Junior Reds Club is more popular than ever this year, so don't miss out, join today!

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George Warburton



One of many local players to have come through the ranks at the Racecourse, George Warburton went on to play in the Football League for the club. However, he did not actually make his debut until he was 24 years-old, in a home game with Bournemouth which the Robins won 1-0. George went on to make a further 21 first team appearances before joining Barrow, still a Football League side at the time, in the close season of 1960, having turned down moves to both Southport and Peterborough United.

Brought up in the Brymbo area, he first went to school at Black Lane in Pentre Broughton: "The only football that I played there was on a sloping yard with a tennis ball!"

He then went on to Brymbo School, where he played for the school team: "Again we had no playing field, so all our games were away. There was no transport, so we had to walk or run to the other schools. At this time I also played for Pentre Broughton Youth Club."

In 1950, George left school at the age of 15 and took up work at the nearby Brymbo Steelworks.

However, he continued to turn out for local clubs: "I played for the Old Hearth Furness team in the inter-departmental games and after play well in those matches I was invited to sign for the Steelworks' football team. I initially played for their reserve side for the first 12 months, but when I stepped up to the



George Warburton

Birthplace: Lodge, Nr.Wrexham
Date of Birth: 13th September, 1934
Position: Right-Back

Career in Football:

Brymbo Steelworks 1950; WREXHAM (Amt) 26th Mar 1956, (Pro) 19th Nov 1957; Barrow Aug 1960, 14 apps 0 goals; Netherfield Jul 1961; Holywell Town 26th Jan 1963; Blaenau Ffestiniog 26th Oct 1963.

Wrexham Record:

Football League Debut: v.Bournemouth (h) 18th October, 1958
Last Match: v.Abergavenny Thursdays (a) 4th April 1960 (Welsh Cup)
League: 22 apps 0 goals
F.A.Cup: 1 app 0 goals
Welsh Cup: 1 app 0 goals

Honours:

Two Welsh Amateur International caps.

first team I began to get invitations for trials with the Welsh Amateur international squad. Meanwhile, both Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield Wednesday showed interest in me."

By this time George had left the steelworks to take up a five year apprenticeship as a mechanic with Kirbys Ford Garage in Wrexham "I only worked at the steelworks for about six months, but continued playing football with the works team for a total of almost five years. Although I did play a few games for Blaenau Ffestiniog during the 1954/55 season, when I came against the former Welsh international Tommy Jones, who was player/manager of Pwllheli.

"It was around this time that I was spotted by the Wrexham manager Mr.Peter Jackson, who called at the garage and asked me to sign as a part-time professional. I turned him down, as I wanted to remain on amateur terms, to try and win a Welsh Amateur International cap."

In September 1955, with George having completed his apprenticeship he was called up for his National Service This was served with the No.1 Infantry Workshop, R.E.M.E.: "During my first 12 months, I played football for the regiment and the Army Amateurs. Then I was also finally called up to play for the Welsh Amateur side against Scotland at Hampden Park, in a 2-2 draw.

"With the Army, I initially served at Tidworth in Devon, from where our unit was on standby to go to the

Suez Canal. We actually set sail from Liverpool to go to Egypt, but we were diverted to land in Cyprus. So during my time on the island, I turned out for our regimental team which won the Minor Units Cup, playing most of those matches with armed guards around the pitch in case we were shot at!"

Upon finishing his National Service in September 1957, George arrived home to find out that he had been called on again to play in a Welsh Amateur trial match the following day: "The trial match was played between the North and the South, from which I was chosen to play a second time for Wales in an Amateur international, this time against England at Bangor. The English had Warren Bradley playing against me at outside-right, who went on to play for Manchester United."

In November 1957, George signed part-time professional terms with Wrexham: "I was hoping to further my career with Kirbys, but my father died and I then decided to sign full-time."

As for playing for Wrexham, George was initially to act as full-back cover for Albert Parker and Aly McGowan, but the consistency of this pair, meant his dream of playing in the first team was not realised until October 1958. Then he replaced the injured Aly McGowan for eight matches, with his debut coming in a 1-0 home win over Bournemouth: "I enjoyed that game, because when I was in school, we would get on our bikes and go down to watch Wrexham training.

I remembered watching Ferguson, Spruce, Wynn, Speed, Tunnicliffe, Wilson, Capper, Tapscott, Bellis, George Jones & Co, they were all my heroes then, so just to play in the first team was something I had always dreamed about. Money never came into it."

The following season, with Albert Parker having left Wrexham, George began the campaign as the club's regular right-back for the opening 14 games, which included playing in another memorable match: "That was against Swindon Town, when I was involved in the

Stanniforth, a former Sheffield Wednesday and England full-back, was their manager and following pre-season trial matches he gave me the chance to continue in professional football. That was after I had turned down the chance to join both Southport and Football League newcomers, Peterborough United".

George was to spend just one season with Barrow: "I enjoyed my stay with them, although I only made 14 League appearances, but their reserve team football was of a good standard, as

around 10,000 people at that time. In my first season with them we finished runners-up, but after two years with them, my wife Janice and I decided to move back to Wrexham in December 1962.

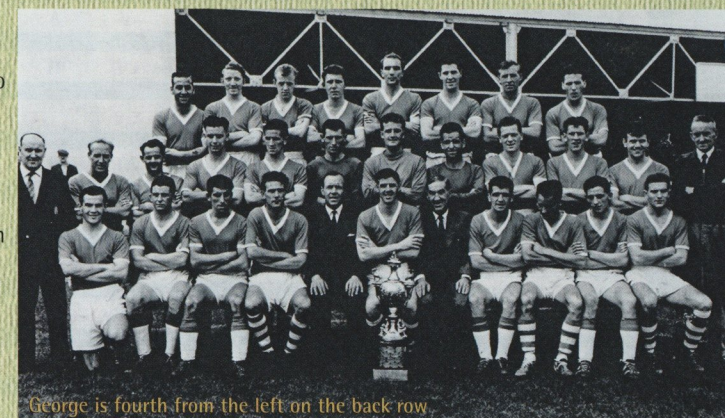
"I went back to work at Brymbo, as an overhead crane driver and began playing for Welsh League side Holywell Town. I then joined Blaenau Ffestiniog for a short spell, before having to pack the game in altogether because of my knee, which by then had had the cartilage taken out."

George continued to work at Brymbo for a couple of years, before he took up an opportunity to move Vauxhall Motors, from where he went on to have a number of different jobs before he retiring and settling in the Wrexham area: "I had previously bought a chapel-factory in the Moss, near Wrexham. We pulled it down and

built a house for my wife and me. My two sons, Nicholas and Stephen built on the land as well."

Today, George still keeps himself very active: "Our daughter Kim and her husband have a house in Pentre Broughton, so my grand children Jo and Jonathan, give me plenty of things to do to keep me occupied. I still take an interest in most sports, especially football in Wrexham."

Reflecting on his footballing career, George said: "Thinking back, I'm glad that I had a go, it's no good thinking I could have done this or that. My advice to youngsters is 'Have a Go.'"



George is fourth from the left on the back row

first ever match to be played under floodlights at the Racecourse".

George remained in the side until the end of October, when the strong running full-back lost his place to Barry Wright. He then suffered an injury in a reserve team game at Buxton: "I twisted my knee badly in a pile up and it was never the same again. After that I only played one more first team game for Wrexham, a Welsh Cup match against Abergavenny at Hereford in April 1960."

He was released by the Racecourse club at the end of the season, but despite this set-back was soon snapped up by Fourth Division side Barrow: "Ron

we played teams like Sunderland and Middlesbrough. Towards the end of my time at Holker Street, my knee was beginning to give me a lot of bother. Although the final nail came when a certain well known player at that time, who went by the name of Jimmy Hill, was going to call a strike over players contracts. So Barrow, like many other clubs at that time, just cut the playing staff down by half."

He then drifted into non-league football, taking up an offer to join Lancashire League side Netherfield: "They were really the K-Shoe factory team, a business which employed



Facts & Figures 1998-99

(League games only)

● **Highest Attendance**
32,134 Manchester City v. Blackpool 8.8.98

● **Lowest Attendance**
2,634 York City v. Gillingham 15.8.98

● **Highest Home Wins**
4-0 Gillingham v. Wrexham 1.9.98
4-1 Bristol Rovers v. Reading 15.8.98
3-0 Manchester City v. Blackpool 8.8.98
3-0 Preston v. York 8.8.98
3-0 Wrexham v. Reading 8.8.98
3-0 Blackpool v. Oldham 15.8.98
3-1 Manchester City v. Walsall 2.9.98

● **Highest Away Wins**
4-2 Colchester at Wrexham 15.8.98
4-3 Stoke at Preston 22.8.98
4-3 Preston at Lincoln 29.8.98

● **Highest Aggregate Score**
3-4 Preston v. Stoke City 22.8.98
3-4 Lincoln v. Preston 29.8.98

● **Most Consecutive Wins**
6 Stoke City

● **Most Games Unbeaten**
6 Stoke City, Bournemouth, Fulham

● **Most Consecutive Defeats**
4 Wycombe Wanderers

● **Most Games Without A Win**
6 Macclesfield, Northampton

● **Leading Scorers**
5 Stuart Barlow (Wigan)
5 Dean Crowe (Stoke City)
5 Barry Hayles (Bristol Rovers)
4 Graham Kavanagh (Stoke City)
4 Kurt Nogan (Preston)

Robins Rollcall

Name	League App	League Gls	Cup App	Cup Gls
Brace	4	0	2	0
Brammer	4(2)	0	2(1)	0
Carey	6	0	2	0
Cartwright	6	0	3	0
Chalk	2	0	2	0
Connolly	5	2	2(1)	2
Cooper				
Gibson				
Griffiths				
Hardy	1	0	2	0
Hopkins				
Humes	3(2)	0	2	0
Marriott				
Mazzarella				
McGregor	6	0	2	0
Owen	6	1	3	0
Ridler	4	0	2	0
N. Roberts	3(2)	1	2	2
S. Roberts				
Rishworth	0(2)	0		
Rush	3	0	2	0
Russell	2(2)	0	2(1)	0
Skinner	4	0	0(3)	0
Spink	1(2)	1	1(1)	0
Thomas				
Ward	6	2	2	0
Own Goals		1		
Totals	66(12)	8	33(7)	4

Nationwide League Division Two Table 1998/99

	Home						Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke City	6	3	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	8	4	18	
Luton	6	2	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	4	4	13	
Preston	6	2	0	1	8	4	1	2	0	7	6	11	
Bournemouth	6	2	1	0	6	1	1	1	1	2	3	11	
Fulham	5	1	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	3	1	11	
Wrexham	6	3	0	1	8	5	0	1	1	0	4	10	
Walsall	5	1	1	0	3	1	2	0	1	3	4	10	
Bristol Rovers	6	2	1	0	9	5	0	2	1	2	3	9	
Colchester	6	1	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	6	5	9	
Chesterfield	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	5	9	
Blackpool	6	2	1	0	7	3	0	1	2	1	7	8	
Man City	5	2	1	0	6	0	0	1	1	1	4	8	
Notts County	5	0	1	1	2	3	2	1	0	5	2	8	
Oldham	6	1	1	1	4	4	1	0	2	3	6	7	
York City	5	1	1	1	5	3	1	0	1	1	3	7	
Millwall	5	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	2	5	7	
Gillingham	6	1	1	1	4	1	0	2	1	3	4	6	
Wigan	6	1	0	2	4	4	1	0	2	3	4	6	
Burnley	6	2	0	1	4	3	0	0	3	1	5	6	
Lincoln City	6	1	0	2	5	7	0	2	1	0	2	5	
Reading	4	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	8	3	
Northampton	6	0	2	1	2	4	0	1	2	1	3	3	
Macclesfield	6	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	2	1	4	2	
Wycombe	5	0	1	2	2	4	0	0	2	1	5	1	

DATE	OPPONENTS	v	RES	ATT	POS.	1	2
Aug 8	Reading	H	3-0*	6,671	3	Cartwright	McGregor
Aug 11	Halifax Town WC1/1	H	0-2	2,655	-	Cartwright	McGregor
Aug 15	Colchester Utd	H	2-4	4,157	10	Cartwright	McGregor
Aug 18	Halifax Town WC1/2	A	2-0	2,692	-	Cartwright	McGregor
Aug 22	Manchester City	A	0-0	27,677	10	Cartwright	McGregor
Aug 25	Barry Town WPC	A	2-3	900	-	Cartwright	Brace
Aug 29	Northampton Town	H	1-0	3,534	7	Cartwright	McGregor
Sept 1	Gillingham	A	0-4	5,349	9	Cartwright	McGregor
Sept 5	Macclesfield Town	H	2-1	3,384	6	Cartwright	McGregor
Sept 8	Luton Town	H					
Sept 12	York City	A					
Sept 19	Stoke City	H					
Sept 26	Chesterfield	A					
Oct 3	Lincoln City	H					
Oct 7	Caernarfon T. WPC	A					
Oct 10	Walsall	H					
Oct 17	Bristol Rovers	A					
Oct 20	Wycombe Wanderers	A					
Oct 24	Millwall	H					
Oct 27	Swansea City WPC	H					
Oct 31	Burnley	A					
Nov 7	Blackpool	H					
Nov 10	Fulham	H					
Nov 17	Caernarfon T. WPC	H					
Nov 14	FAC1						
Nov 21	Oldham Athletic	A					
Nov 24	Barry Town WPC	H					
Nov 28	Notts County	H					
Dec 1	Swansea City WPC	A					
Dec 5	FAC2						
Dec 12	Wigan Athletic	A					
Dec 19	Bournemouth	H					
Dec 26	Manchester City	H					
Dec 28	Preston North End	A					
Jan 2	Northampton Town	A					
Jan 9	Reading	A					
Jan 15	Colchester United	A					
Jan 23	Gillingham	H					
Jan 30	Preston North End	H					
Feb 6	Macclesfield Town	A					
Feb 13	Luton Town	A					
Feb 20	York City	H					
Feb 27	Stoke City	A					
Mar 6	Chesterfield	H					
Mar 9	Lincoln City	A					
Mar 13	Blackpool	A					
Mar 20	Burnley	H					
Mar 27	Millwall	A					
Apr 3	Bristol Rovers	H					
Apr 6	Walsall	A					
Apr 9	Wycombe Wanderers	H					
Apr 13	Notts County	A					
Apr 17	Oldham Athletic	H					
Apr 24	Fulham	A					
May 1	Wigan Athletic	H					
May 8	Bournemouth	A					

Key: Home Games in Bold Goal Scorers in Bold ▲ Substitute No. 12 on ▼ Substituted by No. 12 ▲ Substitute No. 13 ▼ Substituted by No. 13 ▲ Substitute No. 14 ▼ Substituted by No. 14 *Denotes Own Goals

THIS WEEK'S SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES



Tuesday

Blackpool v. Notts County
Bristol Rovers v. Chesterfield
Fulham v. Stoke City
Gillingham v. Northampton Town
Manchester City v. Bournemouth
Oldham Athletic v. Macclesfield Town
Walsall v. York City
Wigan Athletic v. Colchester United
Wrexham v. Luton Town
Wycombe Wanderers v. Preston North End

Wednesday

Millwall v. Lincoln City
Reading v. Burnley

Hitchiker's Guide To

YORK CITY

Competition:
Nationwide League Division Two
Date/line:
Saturday, 12th September 1998
Kick-off: 3.00pm
Ground: Bootham Crescent,
York, YO3 7AD.
Telephone Number:
(01904) 624447

Away Supporters: Wrexham fans wishing to use the open Grosvenor Road End terrace will gain admittance at a cost of £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for under-18's and OAP's. Supporters preferring to sit, can pay an extra pound for a place in the Popular Stand, after first entering the away terraces; while seat in the visitor's section of the Main Stand costs £11.00 for adults and £7.00 for concessions.

Route: Leave Wrexham heading north on the A483, joining the A55 at Chester and follow signs for M53, M56 and M6. Join the M6 heading north and after the bridge pick up signs for (M62 Leeds). Cross the Pennines and on approaching Leeds, take signs for M621 into Leeds, passing Leeds United. Follow signs for (A64 North, York) through Leeds, which while being busy is mostly dual carriageway and saves a fair bit of mileage. On leaving Leeds, you now stay on the A64 under the A1(M) and pass Tadcaster. On approaching York, but still in the countryside, look out for the signs to (York North A1237, Harrogate A59). Continue on this northern ring road for about five miles, before crossing the River Ouse. At the next roundabout, turn right for (York Centre A19) onto the Shipton Road. Go through lights by a village green and in 0.5 miles, by the Burton Stone pub, the ground is on your left, but just about out of sight from the main road. Avoid going through York city centre like the plague, even though it looks a shorter route on the map.

Car Parking: Street parking only around Bootham Crescent, but be sure to park where you can get a quick exit after the final whistle, as the streets around the ground tend to get clogged up. It is just as well to park on the opposite side of the main road and walk the five minutes down to the ground.

Programme: Costs £1.80.

Social Club: The excellent social club at Bootham Crescent is always popular with visiting supporters and day membership can be obtained for 50p.

Away Travel Club: Coaches will depart the Racecourse at 11.00am, the cost being £10.00 for adults, £9.00 for Conc's. For further information and to book your place, please contact the Club Shop.

Wrexham

Red Shirts, White Shorts, Red Socks



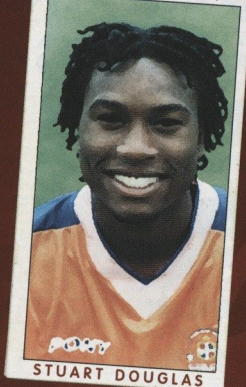
Mark Cartwright	1
Mark McGregor	2
Deryn Brace	3
Dave Brammer	4
Dave Ridler	5
Tony Humes	6
Craig Skinner	7
Gareth Owen	8
Karl Connolly	9
Neil Roberts	10
Peter Ward	11
	12
	13
	14

WREXHAM A.F.C.



DEAN SPINK

LUTON TOWN



STUART DOUGLAS



Luton Town

White Shirts, Blue Shorts, Blue Socks

1	Kelvin Davis
2	Graham Alexander
3	Gavin McGowan
4	Mathew Spring
5	Steve Davis
6	Marvin Johnson
7	Ray McKinnon
8	Sean Evers
9	Stuart Douglas
10	Phil Gray
11	Michael McIndoe
12	
13	
14	

OFFICIALS

Today's Referee
ANDREW HALL
(Birmingham)

A refrigeration and air conditioning engineer by trade, Andrew is a 29 year-old married man from the midlands, with three children. Now in his second season as a Football League referee, he took charge of our game against Southend United last October, following in the footsteps of his father. First took up the whistle as a teenager and passed his exams with Birmingham in 1987, obtaining his class one with the West Midlands League in 1991 and moving to the middle with the Midland Football Alliance in 1993. Only a year later, Andrew was appointed as a Football League Assistant Referee and onto the Panel League Referees list in 1995. Promotion to the Football League's Referees List followed quickly in 1997. As well as his refereeing duties, he still finds time to play waterpolo for Sutton Coldfield in the Midland League and is the assistant secretary of the Birmingham Referees Association.

Assistant Referees:
P. EASTWOOD
A. R. WOOD
Fourth Official:
R. MULLOCK

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NEXT AT HOME

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

Saturday, 19th September 1998, Racecourse Ground 3.00pm.
Wrexham v. Stoke City
PONTIN'S LEAGUE DIVISION 2
Wednesday, 23rd September 1998, Racecourse Ground 7.00pm.
Wrexham Res. v. York City Res.

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GROUND REGULATIONS

In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at the Racecourse Ground and will be enforced by the Club's stewards, with the full support of North Wales Police: REMEMBER

- (1) The club has the right to refuse entry or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a steward or police officer.
 - (2) Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground.
 - (3) Any person whose behaviour could reasonably be construed as consisting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators may be ejected. ALSO It is a criminal offence, for which you may be arrested to:-
 - (1) Throw anything on to the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters.
 - (2) Take part in any indecent or racist chanting.
 - (3) Go on to the playing surface at any time.
 - (4) To try to enter the ground with intoxicating liquor.
 - (5) To try to enter the ground whilst drunk.
 - (6) To possess any article, such as knives, bottles, fireworks, smoke canisters, cans and flagpoles which might be used as offensive weapons.
 - (7) Use behaviour which is threatening, abusive or insulting towards another.
- Persons convicted of criminal offences will become subject of Exclusion Orders banning them from all Football League grounds.

WREXHAM LAGER

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