

The

THE OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME
OF BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

£1

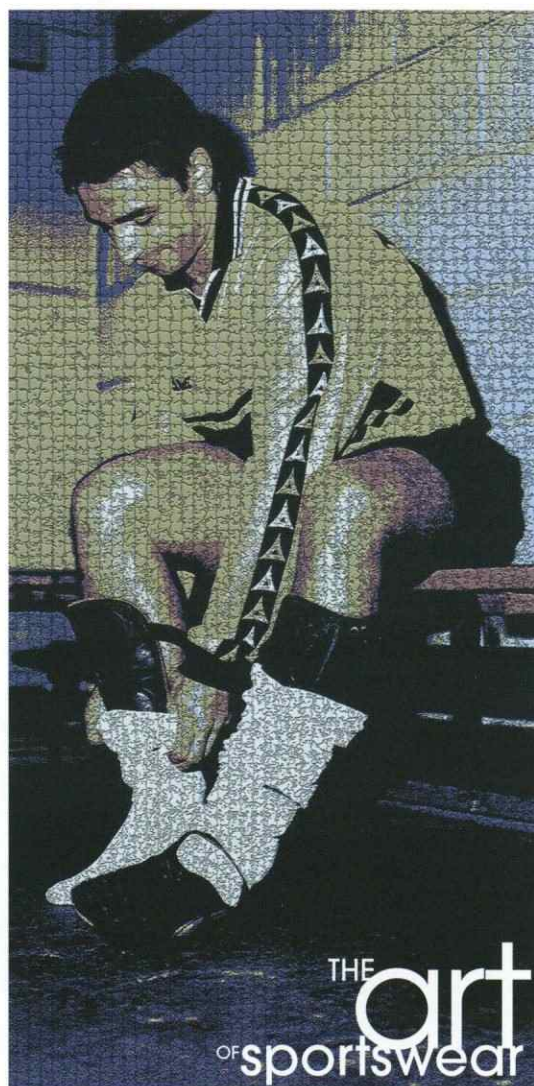
PIRATE



v Luton

Wed 25th Aug 1999
Kick-off 7.45pm





AVEC
rather be without?....

WRITE FROM THE TOP

with Ian Holloway

Last Saturday, against Oxford, my team put in a very commanding performance and did everything I asked of them. All that was missing from our first half performance was a goal and I asked them to show me a little bit more devilment and character in the second half. They did just that and I was very, very pleased for them.

Oxford are a good side and have some very talented players and we did exceptionally well to limit them to so few chances. Jason

Roberts picked up the Man of the Match award, but I'm glad I didn't have to make the choice, because it must have been difficult. I felt

that our midfield trio, and our wing backs, were absolutely phenomenal and won every ball and knockdown that mattered.

David Hillier probably had his best game for us since signing from Portsmouth. There's no doubt that the lads are enjoying themselves at the moment and I'm very pleased for them, because they are seeing some rewards, at the moment, for the hard work they have put in.

Tonight we face a Luton side, holding a two goal advantage from the first leg of our Worthington Cup tie at Kenilworth Road. However, the tie is far from over and we expect a hard match and are not taking it for granted that we are already through to the Second Round. Luton's league form is as impressive as our own and they come here on the back of a 2-1 win at Reading last Saturday, so we will need to be at our best to make further progress in a competition in which we have not been too successful in recent years.

Our reserves began their league campaign last week with an excellent result at Norwich and I'll be looking for young players from Garry Thompson's squad to come through into the first team. We now have a situation where youngsters can learn in the reserve team and if they make mistakes, it is not as vital as it would be in a first team situation. I believe that young players can break into the first team and do well if they are in a strong team, and they will gain confidence from the people around them. Unfortunately, I had to throw many youngsters in at the

deep end last season and I thought they coped magnificently. However, I would like to protect them a little bit by getting together a really strong first team and then if one or two of them have to come into it, as Marcus Andreasson did at Gillingham, they will be helped by those around them.

It is important that the reserves are playing in a competitive league and if they do well, then standards at the club can only improve. It helps the players as well. When you are a footballer, you need to have a game to look forward to and last year, it was very soul destroying for players in the reserves, as we were playing the same teams as many as four times. Playing in the Avon Insurance Combination means we are playing in a higher standard of football.

There are also changes at youth team level as well, with the formation of The Football League Youth Alliance. This is an U-19 competition, which means that Bobby Zamora, Mike Trought, Ray Johnston and Nathan Ellington can all play in that competition, which is good for them, and the club, as it enhances their development.

A number of our youngsters are being integrated into training sessions with the first team on a regular basis, to get them used to coping with the pressures of being a pro and I am delighted with the way they have responded and believe that the future of this club is very promising.

I hope you are all in good voice tonight and that you enjoy the game.

Olly



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Ian Holloway

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Paper Supplied by Howard Smith

VIEW FROM ABOVE

If you were at the Brentford game a couple of weeks ago, give yourself a well-earned pat on the back. You contributed to Bristol Rovers' best attendance for their first home League game of the season since 1974.

That crowd of 8,514 was also the fifth best in the Second Division on the opening day. This continues a very positive trend that is lifting the club out of the doldrums and into the millennium in fine shape.

When Warboys and Banister were in their prime, home crowds were buoyant. An average of over 13,000 clicked through the Eastville turnstiles during the promotion season of 73/74 (the best average gate for 13 years) and a respectable 12,222 for the first campaign in the old Second Division.

However, after Don Megson's dream had been reduced to a grim battle for survival, an alarming almost fatal decline set in. For the next seven seasons, the Eastville crowd diminished year-on-year, so that by 1982 Rovers had lost a terrifying 60% of their 1974 fan base. A similar reduction would see Manchester United's crowds fall from 55,000 to 22,000.

Some of my most enjoyable times as a Rovers supporter came during David Williams' reign from 1983 to 1985, but despite some majestic football at Eastville during that time, the missing thousands never returned. In April 1984, Rovers were poised for promotion. A win at Bournemouth on a lovely spring afternoon would take them into second place. The 'big match' crowd was just 5,032 which would have been the second lowest crowd last season.

But the worst was still to come. The last campaign at Eastville saw crowds plummet to 4,183. Rovers' spiritual home no longer evoked Bradford, Biggs and Jarman. It reeked of poverty, decline and constant failure.

When the Dunfords led Rovers away from Bristol in 1986, they could hardly claim that the club was heading for the Promised Land. They knew the Pirate could soon be walking the plank if the club declined any further. It was a bold gamble that has paid off with spectacular results.

As expected crowds dipped yet again during the first year

at Twerton Park, to a post-war low of 3,242. Then the promise of Gerry Francis's first season added 300 to the gate, but the first real sign that the long haul to recovery had begun came during the play off season of 1988/89. Attendances rose by 50% to 5,259, a bigger average than three of the last five seasons under the shade of the M32. There was life after Eastville; it had simply been a case of taking a step back to go forward.

But Rovers' huge potential remained suffocated at Twerton. The 1989/90 Championship/Wembley campaign was one of the best in the club's history, but the average gate of 6,202 has been smashed in each of the last two seasons. Even the erratic 98/99 campaign drew more fans than Gerry's Invincibles, and all of the last six seasons at Eastville. Some of that increase is the result of football's incredible boom of the late 1990s, but Rovers' return to Bristol and new dynamic image is surely the main factor.

The next big target to aim for must be an average attendance of 7,000. This figure was last surpassed during the free-fall into oblivion, in 1979/80, so it would be wonderful to see this figure on the way up this time.

The increased capacity here is just under 12,000, another huge source of optimism. Just a few years ago, much to our embarrassment, we were struggling to find a club with a lower capacity than Rovers.

Thank heavens for the likes of Crewe and Cambridge, who spared our blushes a little.

Nowadays, we have the 12th biggest ground in Division Two! The prospect of a five-figure gate for big League games, rather than for a one-off visit of David Beckham and his pals, is becoming a reality.

We're still along way from global domination, but when you hear Geoff Dunford's claims that Rovers are set to become the dominant club in Bristol, it no longer seems a pipe dream. After decades of decline, the club is being managed and projected on the right lines, probably for the first time in its history. Spread the Gas Gospel whenever you can, and let's all help to take the club onto a new level.

DAVE ROGERS



Robbie was there, so he gives himself a well-earned pat on the back



Generally speaking, it was a good night for Second Division clubs in the First Leg of this seasons Worthington Cup. Oxford, Gillingham and Rovers (who recorded their first away win in the competition since 1991) will be favourite to progress to Round Two, following 2-0 wins at Southend, Brighton and Luton respectively. Chesterfield, 2-1 winners at Rochdale and Wigan who beat York 1-0 will also hope to progress further. Stoke were held to a 1-1 draw at Macclesfield, whilst Bristol City drew 2-2 at Cambridge. Colchester 'keeper Simon Brown was sent off in the third minute of their match against Crystal Palace, which also finished 2-2. Bournemouth travel to Barnet with a 2-0 lead and Blackpool defend a 2-1 lead at Tranmere, whilst Bury and Preston both won 1-0, against Notts County and Wrexham respectively. Reading were held to a goalless draw at Peterborough, whilst the remaining Second Division sides were all beaten. Cardiff went down 2-1 to Q.P.R and Scunthorpe went down 2-0 at home to Huddersfield, Wycombe also lost at home, where a Keith Curle penalty was enough to give Wolves victory. Brentford were beaten 2-0 by Ipswich at Griffin Park, whilst Oldham (at Stockport) and Millwall (at Swansea) also lost 2-0. Burnley were on the wrong end of a 5-0 hammering by Manchester City and will be playing for their pride only in the Second Leg.

ALAN LACOCK

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

Tonight sees Rovers on the verge of something unusual in recent history - progress in the League Cup, this season sponsored by Worthington of course.

First we have to see off the 'Hatters' and that is never easy even with a two goal lead so we need maximum vocal support. I dare say that everyone here this evening is a 'diehard' supporter, especially those who have travelled from Luton to cheer on their team with the odds stacked against them! This round has been the 'Cinderella' of the League Cup for many years but it has to be played and won if there is to be any chance of floodlit glory in the coming months. Get behind your team tonight and let's hope everyone is rewarded with a good game of football!

I reported virtually all the current Supporters Club news in last Saturday's 'Pirate', everything except the forthcoming travel information. We have two consecutive Saturdays on the road coming up, starting in just three days time with one of our long term 'bogey' trips - a visit to the Racecourse. I suppose we will see Rovers score there one day and there is no time like the present!

Our coaches depart from Kingswood and Horfield at 9.45 and from Eastville at 10.00am. The fare is £10.00. A week later is one of our longest journeys of the season and, for many of you I should think, a new ground to visit. Glanford Park, Scunthorpe, is the venue and judging by the way United have started it might be a while before we go back there so take this chance to see what was the first new ground in the League built after the war. It's a nice venue, (Bescot but without the pillars!), and set the trend for many fine new stadia built since. You can get there easiest of all by joining our coaches leaving Kingswood and Horfield at 8.45am and Eastville at 9.00am.

You must be a Club member to travel but you can join and book your seat with Geoff and Ralph in the Bristol Room before and after tonight's game. See you there!

One player who won't be making either trip is Jamie Shore who this week became the first professional footballer to undergo a knee cartilage transplant. This expensive groundbreaking operation was partly funded by the Supporters Club and we wish Jamie all the very best for what will be a very long recovery. Let's hope it is longlasting also and successful enough to save a very talented career!

Enjoy the match, get up for the Cup and cheer the 'Gas' into Round 2!

JIM CHAPPELL

YOUNG PIRATES



YOUNG PIRATE

Thirteen year old Matthew Comley lives in Fishponds and attends Downend School, where his favourite subject is P.E. His hobbies are football, karate and swimming and his favourite players are Jason Roberts and Trevor Challis

Membership No.
Signature



MASCOT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Thomas Crooks, who is six today, and to all Young Pirates who have birthdays between now and our game against Burnley next Monday afternoon.

Action from LUTON

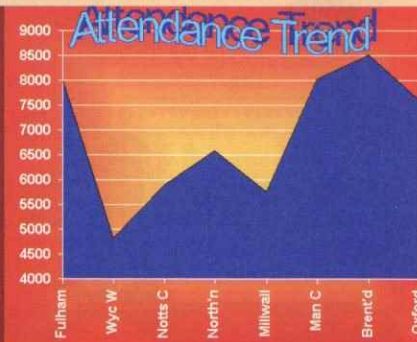
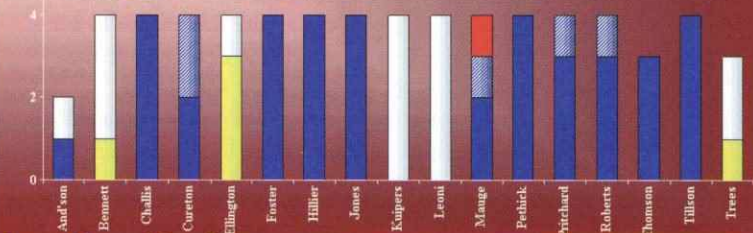


Liam George finds himself surrounded by Rovers players in the first leg at Kenilworth Road

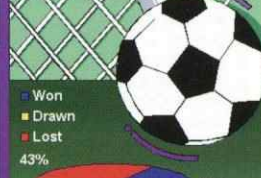
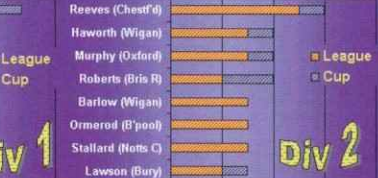
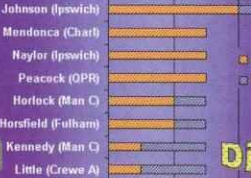
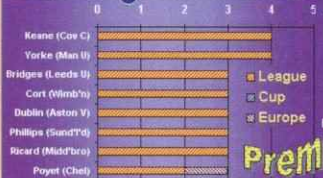
SPENCER'S STATS

Appearances

■ Full Game ■ Substituted
■ Substitute ■ Unused Sub
■ Sent Off



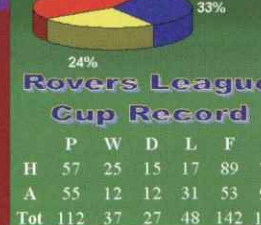
Leading Marksmen



Last 8 Results featuring The Hatters

21-Aug-99	Reading	1	2	Luton Town	Div II
14-Aug-99	Luton Town	3	2	Blackpool	Div II
10-Aug-99	Luton Town	0	2	Bristol Rovers	WC1(1)
07-Aug-99	Notts County	0	0	Luton Town	Div II
01-May-99	Luton Town	1	2	Macclesfield Utd	Div II
27-Apr-99	Luton Town	1	0	Chesterfield	Div II
24-Apr-99	Notts County	1	2	Luton Town	Div II
17-Apr-99	Luton Town	0	1	Lincoln City	Div II

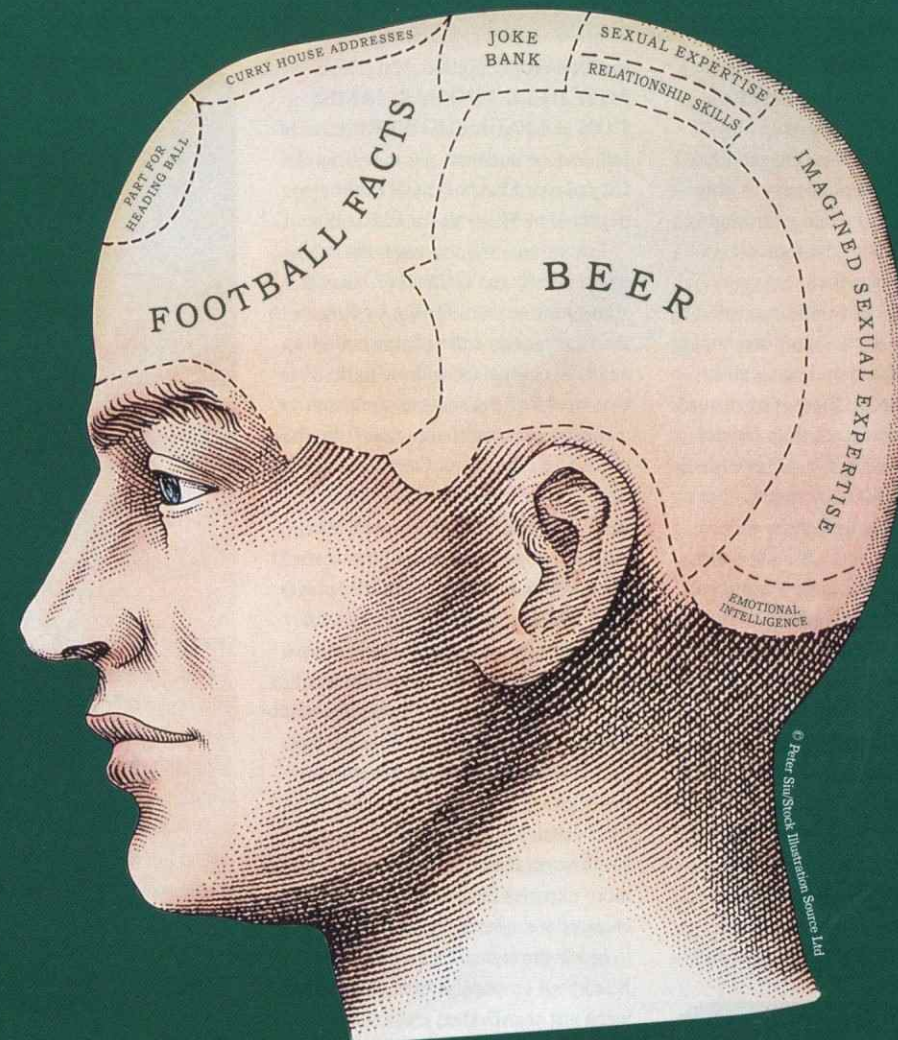
Visitors on Target



Rovers League Cup Record

	P	W	D	L	F	A
H	57	25	15	17	89	73
A	55	12	12	31	53	97
Tot	112	37	27	48	142	170

THE WORTHINGTON CUP SERIES. Fig.1 The brain of a man.



FOOTBALL AND BEER. The Cup and Worthington Creamflow. It could just be the most perfect match ever. And the good news is Worthington is putting as much effort into supporting fans as the Cup by giving away lots of free tickets as prizes, so that more fans get to see great football. Has there ever been a more perfect match?

50p OFF



4 CANS OF WORTHINGTON CREAMFLOW BITTER FROM VICTORIA WINE & THRESHER

Dear Customer, This coupon entitles you to 50p off a pack (4 x 400ml) of Worthington Creamflow Bitter. Only one coupon may be used towards your purchase, it may not be used to gain a saving on any other product. No change will be given. Coupon only valid to those aged 18 or over. Coupon value .001p, promoter Bass Brewers Ltd, 137 High Street, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1JZ. VALID UNTIL 31st DECEMBER 1999. Coupon redeemable at: THRESHER WINE SHOP, VICTORIA WINE, WINE RACK, VICTORIA WINE CELLARS, BOTTOMS UP, MARTHA'S VINEYARD, FIRKIN OFF LICENCE & PARTICIPATING DRINKS CABINS, AND HUTTON'S.

Dear Retailer, Thank you for honouring this coupon. Bass Take Home will refund you the 50p plus the normal handling allowance provided you have accepted it against a 4 pack (4 x 400ml) of Worthington Creamflow Bitter. Bass Take Home reserve the right to refuse redemption of defaced or damaged coupons those which have not been validly redeemed.

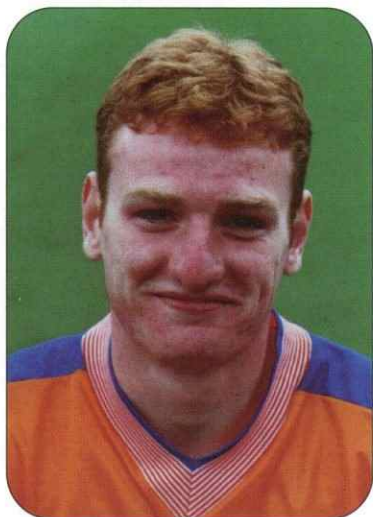
Coupons should be sent to: Bass Take Home, Dept. 860 NC, Corby, Northants NN17 1NN. VALID UNTIL 31st DECEMBER 1999. NCH CODE: 025220748. BAR CODE: 9905023951007.

Worthington cup
IT'S A FAN THING

IN TOWN TONIGHT...

You could excuse Luton Town players and supporters for being a little distracted by events off the field in recent months. Their 1999-2000 campaign was only given the go-ahead when a midnight deal was struck with the football league because of a financial crisis. Now, with a new consortium headed by director Cliff Bassett, Luton are hoping they can look ahead and concentrate on affairs on the pitch. There is even some money to spend at last - with Bristol City striker Tony Thorpe believed to be weighing-up a £300,000 transfer back to his former club, though he scored for City last weekend. Of course the ongoing cash crisis has inevitably had an effect on the team's performance. Lennie Lawrence has been unable to sort out short-term contracts for his players, and pre-season departures have heavily outweighed arrivals at Kennilworth Road.

Those leaving the club include promising young goalkeeper **KELVIN DAVIS**, a signing for Wimbledon which will eventually bring in £800,000 to the Bedfordshire club. **CHRIS WILMOTT** also signed for

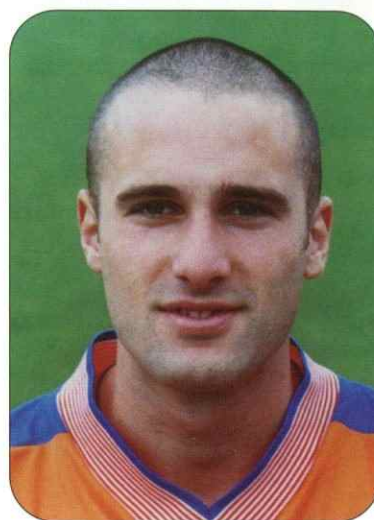


Gary Docherty

the Dons for £350,000, and **MITCHELL THOMAS**, **JAMES COX** and **PAUL SHOWLER** have all left on free transfers. Former Bristol City player **SEAN DYCHE** has also departed to Millwall for £150,000.

Luton fans will, however, be heartened by the Hatters' promising start to the season. Defeat by Rovers in the first round of the Littlewoods Cup apart, two wins and a draw in the first two weeks of the season gives hope of a constructive campaign free from the spectre of relegation. One new face at Luton is the charismatic defender **EFETOBOR SODJE**. Rovers' fans will remember him as the Macclesfield man with the bandana - and the player sent off as he struggled to cope with the attentions of Jason Roberts in the final game of last season. He arrived as a free transfer from the Lancashire club pre-season and is likely to play a full part in this campaign after serving a ban for that dismissal. Lawrence has, by necessity, a very young team at Kennilworth Road. The movement of more experienced players has brought chances for several youth team players to break through. The victory over Blackpool emphasised the point - there were just two Hatters players over the age of 22. One player to grab his chance is winger **MATTHEW TAYLOR**. The 17-year-old former youth team player was promoted to the first team this year and has already become a firm favourite with the supporters. **MATTHEW SPRING** was a driving force in the side that reached the FA Youth Cup Final in 1997, and was called up to the full side as a 17-year-old. He and Taylor were probably the pick of the Luton players in the first leg defeat by Rovers, and Spring, now 19, has since picked up a goal against Blackpool.

Centre-half **GARY DOCHERTY** is



Andrew Fotiadis

another youth team product, who at the age of 19 also offers the option of moving into the front line. Another 19-year-old, **STUART FRASER** is a stylish defender who starred in Luton's youth team in 1998/9. He made just one appearance until this year but has taken his chance and featured in every game so far this season. They are joined in defence by youngster **EMERSON BOYCE**, who has also started to push his way into the first team. One player who has taken full advantage of departures at Kennilworth Road is **NATHAN 'TANNY' ABBEY**. The goalkeeper had his taste of the big time last season and has now become a regular member of the first team following the departure of Kelvin Davis. His new understudy **DANIEL TATE** is yet another product of Luton's youth team.

Providing much-needed experience to the Luton defence are **MARVIN JOHNSON** and **GAVIN MCGOWAN**. At the age of 30, Johnson has become one of the team's veteran players and that is reflected by his role as skipper. A versatile defender he prefers centre-half but can also fill in on the flanks or

THE BOSS



Luton Town supporters will be pleased to keep Lennie Lawrence at the helm.

Ordered to keep the wage bill low, it was to Lawrence's credit that he managed to achieve mid-table respectability last season - one place above Rovers in 12th. manager knows all about running clubs on shoestring budgets, having taken impoverished Charlton to the old First Division and keeping them there for four years against all odds. His predecessor at Kennilworth Road, former Hatters' youth coach Terry Westley, spent £2 million in four months but won only four matches out of 22. Lawrence steadied the ship but was also forced to stop the big spending. After relegation to Division Two, Luton failed by the narrowest of margins to bounce straight back. Last year in contrast was a struggle until the team picked up in the last couple of months. Lawrence started his football career as a non-league player with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton United. He later became an assistant manager at Plymouth and then Lincoln before his association with Charlton started in the early 1980s, first at reserve level and later as manager. He moved to Middlesbrough in 1991 and enjoyed success with promotion to the Premiership a year later, but after relegation the following season he was replaced by Bryan Robson.

He returned south to Luton after an 18 month spell at Bradford City.

in midfield. He is celebrating a full decade as a first-team regular with the Hatters. McGowan struggled to get recognised at Arsenal and eventually signed for Luton for the third time in June last year when the Premiership side offered him a free transfer.

ALAN WHITE is another defender trusted by Lawrence to bring stability to the Luton side. The centre-half was at Middlesbrough, where the Luton boss had taken him on as a 17-year-old. He joined the Hatters as a 21-year-old in 1997 during an injury crisis at Kenilworth Road and has proved good value at £40,000. Rovers fans will be familiar, of course, with Bristol City defender **JULIAN WATTS**, who has also added his experience during his loan spell at Luton Town and played in the first leg Worthington Cup game two weeks ago. Former Scottish under-21 international midfielder **RAY MCKINNON** was signed under the Bosman ruling after spells with Nottingham Forest, Aberdeen and Dundee United. Fellow Scott **MICHAEL MCINDOE**, a left-sided midfielder has in contrast played only for Luton, working his way up from YTS school leaver. He made his first team debut in the Worthington Cup against Oxford United.

PAUL MCLAREN stepped into the shoes of Welsh international Ceri Hughes when he left for Wimbledon. Another YTS trainee, the midfielder is now one of Luton's most established first team players. Lawrence promoted striker **LIAM GEORGE** from the bench for Luton's second league match against Blackpool and rewarded his manager with a goal.

The Irishman has become a regular member of the Republic's squad that progressed to the European Youth Championships final. At 20 he is

another player who has come through the ranks at Luton.

Northern Ireland player **PHIL GRAY** signed for Luton for a second time in September 1997 but his return has been dogged by a back injury. The £400,000 signing has valuable experience, with spells at Spurs, Sunderland, Nancy in France and Dutch side Fortuna Sittard.

Pacey striker **STUART DOUGLAS** was a hot shot in Luton's youth side and reserves and was still a trainee when he made his debut. He has taken on the number nine shirt again this year after problems with injury last season.

Another local discovery is **ANDREW FOTIADIS**. An old-fashioned centre-forward, he has England schoolboy caps at under 15 and 18 level and has the physique and power to worry opposition defences. Winger **ANDRE SCARLETT** will hope to gain more opportunities in the first team this season. He made an immediate impact on his debut last October, drawing an Oldham player into a tackle which earned a red card before netting the winner.



Stewart Dopuglas

WIN WORTHINGTON CUP TICKETS
or a Worthington Gift Pack



The Next Round's... ...On Us

Q Who said before his 1998/99 Worthington Cup Quarter Final match "The only time we normally reach Europe is by ferry to get some duty free."

A. Harry Redknapp B. Joe Kinnear C. Sir Alex Ferguson

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

CALL NOW ON 0171- 898 3376
THE PRIZES

One pair of tickets is available for BOTH legs of ALL 25 Second Round Worthington Cup fixtures - that's 50 fans winning a total of 100 tickets.

Prize winners who'd prefer a beer can claim a case of Worthington Creamflow.

(Calls should cost no more than 25p). Please give us your name, age, address, daytime telephone number and the team you support.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1.) All entrants must be over 18 2.) All competition entries must be received by 31/08/99 3.) A total of 100 winners will be drawn at random 4.) Each winner can only claim one prize 5.) The first randomly drawn name will get the first choice of prize and so on until the 100th winner 6.) Choice of prize depends on availability 7.) Editor's decision is final.

To celebrate the launch of this season's Worthington Cup, Worthington want to be sure everyone's a winner. So, even if your team doesn't make it through the First Round of the competition, you can still be a winner with Worthington. Simply answer the question below and you could either win tickets for the next round of the Worthington Cup or a case of Worthington Creamflow.



IT'S A FAN THING



For this seasons series of articles I anticipated sourcing match reports from our opponent's local papers and, failing that, from the national papers. I could, so I thought, always fall back on the Internet where, after all, there is a complete list of all national and local publications.

Having successfully produced my article for the Oxford programme in this way I confidently surfed my way through umpteen web pages including the Luton Town sites, official and unofficial, but without a great deal of success. Undeterred I called the Luton Herald who kindly agreed to forward me a copy of their match report. Sadly, because of my own holiday, which I will be enjoying as you read this, it didn't arrive in time for inclusion in this column.

So, for tonight only, these comments are exclusively mine. Well almost!

Delighted as we all were with a 2-0 victory from the first leg, it was only to be expected that Ian Holloway warned against complacency for tonight's return. As he said a fortnight ago "The jobs only half-done"

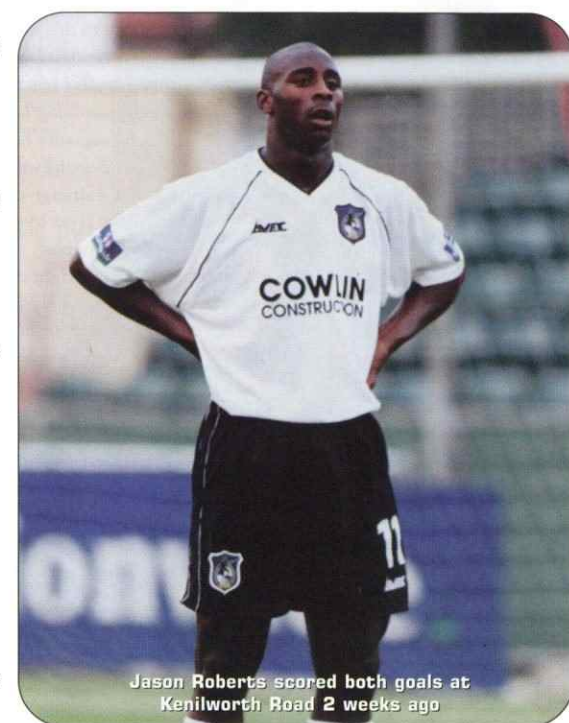
Without wishing to be unkind to Luton there was not a great deal of

information about the Kenilworth Road clash, either reviewing or pre-viewing the fixture. Most column inches were taken up by the very fact they had managed to survive as a club until the commencement of the new season. This is perhaps not surprising considering how close they came to going out of business. According to reports from extremely reliable sources they were only two minutes away from forfeiting their place in the Football League. It

would appear that the fax detailing the basis on which they would compete in that competition this season, bearing in mind their precarious financial position for a long period of time, did not trouble the fax machine at the Football League until two minutes before midnight. Given that it did not complete its transmission until after this deadline it can be seen how close the Hatters were to not playing at this level this season.

However, survive they did and should not be underestimated as opposition tonight. We can all remember the last time we led by two goals going into the second leg of a crucial match. Whilst the circumstances are somewhat different this evening complacency will certainly not be in evidence come kick-off time.

Whilst I won't be here to witness our progress into the second round



Jason Roberts scored both goals at Kenilworth Road 2 weeks ago

should all of our expectations be realised, I would be delighted if we could put together a Worthington Cup run of note. It would bring back many happy memories of our League cup escapades in the early 70's when we took on and beat many higher division clubs. The highlight, of course, had to be the clashes with Aston Villa.

In more recent times I recall being appointed as fourth official to the second leg of an early round clash with Bristol City. I was supposed to be neutral but I recall sitting between the benches at Ashton Gate in the pouring rain as Rovers went into the match 3-1 down (I think!) from the Twerton Park opener. It was difficult to disguise my joy as Rovers went on to dominate the match and eventually progress into the next round. Looking back it was fortunate that none of the match officials had to leave the field otherwise I could have been accused of having some bearing on the result!

"... According to reports from extremely reliable sources they were only two minutes away from forfeiting their place in the Football League ..."

Rovers and the League (Milk, Coca-Cola, Worthington?) Cup holds few happy memories for me as a Gashead in recent times. Both on the terraces originally, then in the PA box and latterly on the pitch with the mike, there's not been much to shout about.

There is one glaring exception in my memory to this, of course. Ashton Gate on Wednesday October 9th, 1991. At that time I hadn't reached the dizzy heights of having anything to do with the club in an official capacity but, having watched City beat us 3-1 at Twerton in the first leg, I felt a strange obligation to go South of the river to show the lads my support.

Right decision Nick! I took a lady friend and colleague from work who shall remain nameless as my (now) ex-girlfriend still thinks we were up to no good. (Honestly Clare, it was only a football game!).

What a night! (Honestly Clare, I mean the game!) We were in the then uncovered away end and it rained like it had never rained before. I had gone straight

from work and was wearing a rather dodgy rain coat thing over my suit. After about ten minutes, despite the vain efforts of my friends umbrella, we were absolutely soaked to the skin. This didn't

'dampen' the spirits, however, and we set about 'drowning' out the noise that the home fans were making in the now customary fashion.

All the usual pre-match taunts from City fans at work, and in the pub in the run up to the match, AND at the match about how we shouldn't even bother to turn up didn't matter. I was very cold and very wet but four things happened that night which transported me mentally onto a sun-soaked beach in the Seychelles. Devon White produced two of those things and David Mehew produced the other two. We won, at Ashton Gate, we beat them 4-2 (could've been more) and we won the tie on the away goals rule. I never really agreed with the away goals rule before, but in October 1991, I was instantly converted!

Rovers progressed to the next round in the best way possible and Clare and I split up. Never mind eh!

The moral of the story, for me, is never give up, never stop fighting and never stop making as much noise as is humanly possible to get behind The Gas. Enjoy tonight's game and get behind the lads. If you want to contact me and have a message read out, a song played on match days, or just to say hello, then you can get in touch by mail at Nick Day, Bristol Rovers Football Club, The Memorial Stadium, Filton Avenue, Bristol, BS7 0AQ. My e-mail is

NickDay@bristolrovers.co.uk or post your request on his page, 'From the Touchline' at [HYPERLINK](http://www.bristolrovers.co.uk) <http://www.bristolrovers.co.uk>

PRESIDENTS CLUB



Next week-end Somerset and Gloucestershire Cricketers in the final of a cup competition. Wouldn't it be nice to think that one day 'Rovers and City could meet in the final of a cup competition? Unfortunately, apart from the FA cup, football cup competitions are regional affairs and the most we could hope for is a semi-final match.

Also, it seems to me that many clubs do not take these competitions too seriously, particularly in the earlier rounds.

I believe that we should take these competitions very seriously, for an appearance at Wembley Stadium in the final of any cup competition reaps tremendous financial rewards for the club and its players. And for the supporters it's a great day out, win or lose.

Tonight, Rovers take an advantage into this second leg match which should see us through to the next round of the Worthington Cup and a step nearer to an appearance at Wembley.

If all concerned take it seriously there is no reason why we could not be booking coaches for a trip to London next year to support Rovers in the final of The Worthington Cup.

Enjoy tonight's match.

ROY COWELL



Brief were my instructions from our programme editor we're not producing a full programme for the Luton game, and you haven't got as much space as you normally have.

How could he say that, after such a busy weekend at the Memorial Stadium, when Oxford United and Cardiff Rugby Club have graced the hallowed turf? Seriously, we were, indeed very busy in all of our bars last weekend and it was good to see so many people at the Stadium. The sports teams in the area are

certainly doing us proud at the moment and on behalf of everyone here, I would like to wish Gloucestershire Cricket Club every success for their Nat West Trophy Final against Somerset next Sunday. They will certainly enjoy the support of many Gasheads who will be travelling up to Lords to see the match.

Many Rovers fans who travelled to Gillingham tell me that parts of the Priestfield Stadium resembled a building site due to the re-development going on there. Believe me, I can sympathise with them and understand the problems they are bound to have encountered in staging the game. When building work is being undertaken during the season, it can be a nightmare for all staff, particularly the Stadium Manager! This evening we welcome a number of guests to our executive suites. They have come, not only to watch the game, but to see our facilities at first hand and I hope that many of

FIXTURES TILL END JANUARY 2000

DATE	TEAM		F-A	ATT	AWAY SUPPORT	POS
Sat 7 Aug	Brentford	H	0-0	8514	752	14
Tue 10 Aug	Luton Town	A (WC1/1)	2-0	2984	240	14
Sat 14 Aug	Gillingham	A	1-0	6234	439	9
Sat 21 Aug	Oxford Utd	H	1-0	7617	656	6
Wed 25 Aug	Luton Town	H (WC1/2)				
Sat 28 Aug	Wrexham	A				
Mon 30 Aug	Burnley	H				
Sat 4 Sep	Scunthorpe U	A				
Sat 11 Sep	Wigan Ath.	A				
Sat 18 Sep	Oldham Ath	H				
Sat 25 Sep	Notts County	A				
Sat 2 Oct	Blackpool	H				
Sat 9 Oct	Cardiff City	H				
Sun 17 Oct	Bristol City	A (1.00)				
Tue 19 Oct	Bournemouth	A				
Sat 23 Oct	Notts County	H				
Sat 30 Oct	FA Cup 1st Round					
Tue 2 Nov	Bury	H				
Sat 6 Nov	Wycombe W	A				
Sat 13 Nov	Reading	H				
Sat 20 Nov	FA Cup 2nd Round					
Tue 23 Nov	Chesterfield	A				
Sat 27 Nov	Luton Town	H				
Sat 4 Dec	Brentford	A				
Sat 11 Dec	Colchester	H				
Sat 18 Dec	Stoke City	A				
Sun 26 Dec	Millwall	H				
Tue 28 Dec	Preston NE	A)				
Mon 3 Jan	Cambridge U	H				
Sat 8 Jan	Colchester	A				
Sat 15 Jan	Gillingham	H				
Sat 22 Jan	Oxford Utd	A				
Sat 29 Jan	Wrexham	H				

them will return, in the future, to take advantage of our hospitality packages.

As I mentioned last week, we now have a number of prime advertising spots in elevated positions on the new South Stand and many companies have taken the opportunity to advertise with us, so if you would like one of the remaining spots, please contact Sue Jones or Graham Bowen as soon as possible. Finally, a date for your diaries. Our game at Ashton Gate on 17th October is being shown live on Sky T.V. and we will be showing it live on the Big Screen. In addition, Bristol Rovers Women's Football Club will be taking on Oxford Ladies out on the pitch, so why not come along and have lunch with us and enjoy a great sporting Sunday afternoon. Hopefully, these notes have been brief enough for the editor- normal service will be resumed next Monday!!

IAN HOLTBY

THE PIRATE 13

HELPLINE

Rovers fans are not used to going into the second leg of a cup tie as favourites to get into the next round but tonight that seems to be the case. A 2 goal lead from the first match will certainly set things up for a good game and if Jason can continue his early season form who knows where we might be going. What has helped this season has been the strength in defence and Brentford showed how difficult it can be to break down a strong team.

Our run in the cup last year gave supporters a taste for even more after so long without any success so let's hope tonight can be the springboard.

The addition of the new stand at the Alton Road end certainly helps to improve the atmosphere and it would be excellent to see it full for the season and a few cup ties to add to the excitement.

All these ground improvements have to be paid for so why not join HELPLINE and help the Club.

Ring Kate on 0117 9232277 for details.

BRISTOL ROVERS



LUTON TOWN

1	LEE JONES
2	DAVID PRITCHARD
3	TREVOR CHALLIS
4	STEPHEN FOSTER
5	ANDY THOMSON
6	ANDY TILLSON
7	RONNIE MAUGE
8	DAVID HILLIER
9	MICHAEL MEAKER
10	JAMIE CURETON
11	JASON ROBERTS
12	ROBBIE PETHICK
14	MARK SMITH
15	MARCUS ANDREASSON
16	MIKE TROUGHT
17	STEPHANE LEONI
18	NATHAN ELLINGTON
19	FRANKIE BENNETT
20	MICHEL KUIPERS
21	JAMIE SHORE
22	LEE ZABEK
23	TOM WHITE
24	BOBBY ZAMORA
25	RAY JOHNSTON
26	ROBERT TREES
27	IAN HOLLOWAY
28	GARY PENRICE

REFEREE

BARRY KNIGHT

(Orpington)

Barry, a 38-year-old Chartered Surveyor, first took up refereeing in 1978 and is now in his fifth season on the national panel of referees. He is one of five newcomers to the Premier League list this season and tonight takes charge of a Rovers fixture for the seventh time, the last being our victory at Reading last last season.

ASSISTANTS

S. D. HABGOOD
(Chippenham)

I. R. HARRIS
(Torpoint)

FOURTH OFFICIAL

M. MAZONOWICZ
(Swindon)

1	NATHAN ABBEY
2	GAVIN McGOWAN
3	EFETOBORE SODJE
4	MATTHEW SPRING
5	ALAN WHITE
6	MARVIN JOHNSON
7	PHIL GRAY
8	PAUL McLAREN
9	STUART DOUGLAS
10	MICHAEL McINDOE
11	LIAM GEORGE
12	GARY DOHERTY
13	STUART FRASER
14	ANDREW FOTIADIS
15	MATTHEW TAYLOR
16	LANDRY ZAHANA-ONI
17	EMMERSON BOYCE
18	TRESOR KANDOL
19	JAMES AYRES
20	JERRY MOSES
21	ANDRE SCARLETT
22	DANIEL TATE
23	JUDE STIRLING
24	SCOTT WARD
25	RYAN DAVIS
26	DAVID PEARSON
27	RAY McKINNON
40	JULIAN WATTS

