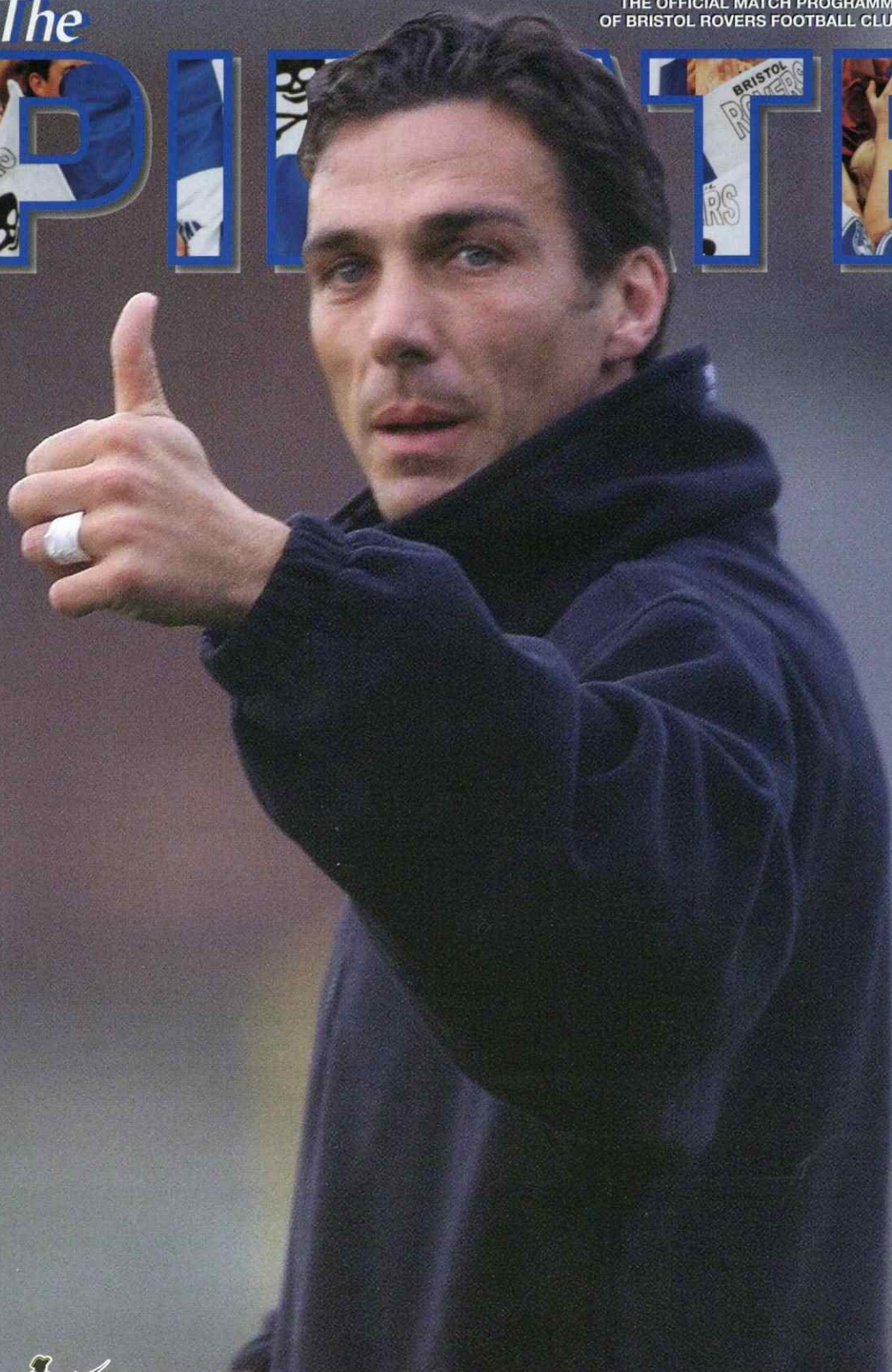


The

THE OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME
OF BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

£2

PRINTS



v Luton

Sat 27 November 1999

Kick-off 3.00pm



WRITE FROM THE TOP

with Ian Holloway

We achieved a good result at Chesterfield last Saturday, following our enforced two week break.

It's not easy to get back into the swing of things after a break like that and we held a practice match two days before

things we need to work on, because we did look a little bit rusty last week, but we've now added Mark Walters to the squad and we need to crack on and get on with what we were doing before.

I feel we've endured a lot of unfair publicity since our game against Bristol City and perhaps the fact that we've now scored a goal from midfield will mean we can now move on from there. I'm very proud of how we have started this season. Yes, there are times when I need to be able to change what's happening, particularly during our home matches because when teams go deep against us, we need to be able to unlock the door and with Mark here

There are times when I need to be able to change what's happening, particularly during our home matches because when teams go deep against us, we need to be able to unlock the door.

the game, to focus everyone's mind on what we expected of them.

Prior to that, the players had done an awful lot of hard, physical work, which would have made them tired. Hopefully, they will feel the benefit of that during the course of the next few weeks.

I have to admit I felt sorry for Chesterfield manager John Duncan, given the situation at his club at present. However, it's never an easy game against them and that proved to be the case again last week.

Nevertheless, I am very pleased with my team and all we will do now is go back to work. There are one or two

now, it's something we might need to look at. However, we have beaten teams here at The Memorial Stadium very comfortably, albeit only by the odd goal at times. Wigan are at the top of the league and are setting the pace, but they have one player who has scored 19 goals, which is exceptional, but it's about the overall picture and we'll use these next few weeks to show Mark what we want him to do and how he has to do things our way and re-imprint on all of our players what I want them to do, because it's easy for them to forget.

I have to say, though, that Mark is a player I've always admired and no matter what stage of his career he's at, I'm delighted that I've been able to bring him here, because he's a player I would pay money to go and watch

myself. He can go both ways, has got some fantastic tricks and ability and he has already shown me that he's the type of person we want here. He gives me a number of options, but I need to work with him a bit longer to see what he can do for us and see what I feel his biggest strengths are - he's got so many, as he can play in a number of positions. I just want to let him see what we do, teach him our throw-ins and set pieces, which is a huge part of what we've done this year and show him how we organise and actually do things. He has to become part of that and he wants to, that's the main thing.

I'm delighted with the progress of a number of our young players. They are a massive part of this Club, because we are giving them their opportunity, something which many clubs are not prepared to do. Leeds are doing it exceptionally well at the moment and are benefiting from the quality of players they actually have there. David O'Leary is prepared to give youth a chance, just as Manchester United, did a few years ago and their youngsters grasped their opportunity, just as our own lads seem to be doing, which is great. However, with the position we are in the league, I have to be very careful and sometimes I need to protect them. Obviously, our fans desperately want us to keep things going, and so do we. Unfortunately, if we don't get the

right results, fans can become frustrated with the players and if those players are young, it can be damaging for them.

I have had the difficult task of telling Mike Trought and Mark Smith they are free to go. It's not nice, but at the moment they are not doing the job I need them to do and haven't progressed in the way I want. If I feel I can't pick someone for my bench or my team to do the job I want, for whatever reason, then I have to do something about it. Hopefully, they will see what I'm talking about and want to stay here and if they do want to stay, they have to show me that they are willing to take on board what we are doing. I certainly rate them, otherwise I wouldn't have given them contracts last year.

Today we entertain Luton, who are a team that always strives to play good football. I'm a great admirer of their manager Lennie Lawrence. What he has had to do at Luton shows how the fortunes of a football club can change. One minute he had money to spend and a number of good players, then he had to sell everyone. However, he's still producing quality youngsters and in George and Taylor. He has unearthed two exceptional players. Hopefully, it will be a good game, though it will be a tough one for us.

Naturally, I want us to come out on top and, with your support, I'm sure we can.

Oliver

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It is now three and a half weeks since our last home match and, since my report on the Notts Co. match in the Bury programme, we have played at Wycombe and Chesterfield as well as against Bury.

Due to the re-arranged match against Reading scheduled to be played this Tuesday having to be postponed due to Readings involvement in the Cup the Colchester match on the 11th December will be the only home fixture between now and Christmas. In that programme I will bring you press comments on today's match and on our visit to Brentford next Saturday but will concentrate today on bringing you up to date on our recent games.

The first of those reports comes from Paul Forrest of the Manchester Evening News who was more than happy with the Shakers performance in our last home match.

"Bury's much maligned defence responded to their critics, and manager, in the best possible way...by keeping a clean sheet against one of the divisions' high flying sides. It is no bad reflection on young keeper Pat Kenny that this was only the third time he has been able to keep the ball out of his net, and it was with

much more determination than of late that his defence showed some grit to enable The Shakers to keep the home side at bay during a second half of one way traffic."

Wycombe's Paul Emblen involved in a spot of aerial ballet, with Andy Tillson at Adams Park.



His last comments would support the arguments of many Gasheads that we deserved to win on the night but as he summed up Bury will have travelled home happy with a point and in a much improved frame of mind with plenty of self esteem restored.

I know from speaking to Neil Warnock after the match that he was delighted to have earned a point from the visit to one of his favourite clubs!

The following weekend we travelled to Wycombe Wanderers in the hope of getting back on the winning track. As we all now know we had to settle for a point once again. This time our hosts were grateful to share the spoils with us. I was unable to attend the match myself but it seems that, according to the Press Association, I did not miss much:

"Wycombe and Bristol Rovers fought out a dire 1-1 draw in awkward conditions at Adams Park with second-half goals from Rovers' Nathan Ellington and Wycombe's Sean Devine earning the points."

Wycombe were apparently guilty of missing a number of chances but "just before the hour Ellington made Wycombe pay for their misses, volleying home from 20 yards. Wycombe, though, would not lie down and they equalised 10 minutes later. Substitute Jermaine McSparran made space on the right before delivering a difficult cross that Jones failed to hold. Chairboys midfielder Michael Simpson's snap shot from the loose ball was blocked on the line by Rovers substitute Frankie Bennett, but Devine stuck out a foot to drill home his 10th of the season."

Finally our visit to Chesterfield last Saturday was reported thus:

"David Pritchard's first goal in more than 150 appearances for Bristol Rovers put Ian Holloway's side back on the promotion trail and left Chesterfield at the foot of the table. The home side had edged a hard-fought first half and were unfortunate to go behind after a costly mistake by Chris Perkins just before the interval. Perkins, who earlier made a terrific block to deny Jason Roberts, mis-hit his attempted clearance straight to Pritchard who lashed the loose ball high into the net. Brave Chesterfield gave it everything in the second half as David Reeves and Mike Galloway went close before substitute Tony Carrs struck the crossbar three minutes from time."

I, for one, would not argue with that assessment but travelled home happily following our first 3 point haul since our visit to Bournemouth a month beforehand.

TONY MILLS

“... Dave Pritchard's first goal in more than 150 appearances for Rovers put Ian Holloway's side back on the promotion trail ...”

For Luton fans even the fact that they are here today is an achievement. During the past year or so they've suffered the increasingly common - and distinctly unappetising - fate of seeing their club come close to going under and like Palace, Oxford and Chester were unable to say with any confidence in May that they'd be watching their club come August. Also in common with other clubs in crisis was the support that the fans mustered; in Luton's case FLAG (Friends of Luton Action Group) was set up to co-ordinate the campaign to save the club.

Luton have since seen the departure of unpopular chairman David Kohler whose ill-fated plans for a Kohlerdome seemed at times to be merely an extension of an already inflated ego and the club are getting back onto their feet. However, the uncertainty over the summer and a receivership order hanging over them meant that boss, Lennie Lawrence, was unable to do a great deal of rebuilding. He has brought in some new faces - notably for Gasheads Julian Watts and Adam Locke from Bristol City - but, for the most part, Lawrence has had to concentrate on the development of youngsters. This almost enforced policy has had pretty good results and the younger players, such as Taylor and Spring, have won plaudits around the country. Indeed, Luton had a flying start to the season, and though their away form has seen them slip down the table of late they remain unbeaten at home (in all competitions except the Worthington Cup when Rovers won 2-0). It remains to be seen whether Lawrence's kids will last the pace of a long season but, suffice to say, they have already done him proud and proven a lot of people wrong.

If Luton fans are celebrating their existence then Gasheads on the Clubhouse/Blackthorn End will today have their own reason to party - the long awaited roof! It's testament to the Supporters' Club and the work that many of their number have put in selling Raise The Roof tickets that the long-suffering fans at the Blackthorn End will finally be covered and, hopefully, will generate a whole lot more noise than we have had until now. With the roof and the South Stand (albeit temporary) the Mem is finally starting to resemble a proper ground and if a better atmosphere at home can start to improve our form then I'm sure that all the investment will have been worth it. It's certainly not been the best few weeks recently with Rovers' unbeaten

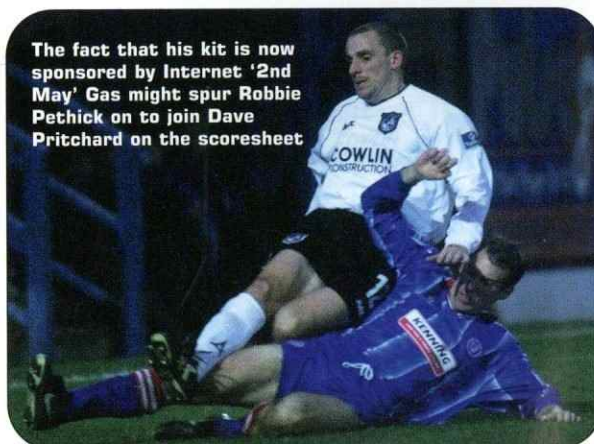
home league record finally being broken by Notts County and then the Cup defeat by Preston sandwiched between a succession of draws. Thankfully the win at Chesterfield last week gave Rovers a very welcome three points (our first for a month) and though it wasn't pretty it could be the confidence boost that is needed.

Of course any mention of last week is not complete without paying homage to Pritch's goal. Over the past few months Gasheads have seen Pritch, in his new midfield role, go tantalisingly close to breaking his Rovers' duck on numerous occasions but somehow the ball never quite found its way into the net. Now, after over half a decade of trying he's finally managed to score for Rovers and not only that but he can also boast the further achievement of being the first Gas midfielder to score this season! Whether Pritch's goal will be the first of many remains to be seen but even if he can net a few more this season then it will help take some of the pressure off the front two.

One thing that was surprising about last Saturday's goal was not even that it went in but the celebration - or lack of it - afterwards. In these days where footballers create ever increasing numbers of complex routines to celebrate goals, Pritch didn't seem to know what to do and to say his reaction was a bit 'lame' (in complete contrast to the shot) is not an understatement. On the other hand, Ollie's reaction was the complete opposite as he went berserk on the touchline!

Unfortunately, as mentioned above, the chance for Ollie - or the fans - to go berserk at home is long overdue so it can only be hoped that Pritch's goal, the roof on the Blackthorn End and the (potential) home debut of Mark Walters provide the inspiration for a more positive performance today. Three points is not so much a desire but a necessity if Rovers are to maintain pressure on the leaders and get our season back on track after recent wobbles and, with a tricky trip to Brentford next Saturday, today is the ideal time to start regaining our early-season form.

The fact that his kit is now sponsored by Internet '2nd May' Gas might spur Robbie Pethick on to join Dave Pritchard on the scoresheet



ROVERS IN THE COMMUNITY

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We would like to thank Bob Gray and Mike Kirsten of Bristol Rovers Chairman's Committee for their efforts in obtaining a sponsored vehicle for the Community Department. Chris Stone and his company, GRG Vehicle Leasing, have kindly donated a van which will enable us to transport all of our equipment to schools and sports centres for our Fun Days and Coaching Sessions. Chris is pictured handing over the keys for the new van to Community Coach Alan Walsh, watched by director Ron Craig and our Community Coaches.



Christmas Soccer Fun Days

We have just completed a very successful week of Half-Term Soccer Fun Days and already we are turning our thoughts to the Christmas Holidays. There's bound to be a Fun Day near you, so check out the following dates and venues and give us a call if you would like to attend.

MONDAY 20th DECEMBER

Wells Leisure Centre
Whitchurch Sports Centre
Grange School, Warmley

TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER

Wells Leisure Centre
Whitchurch Sports Centre
Grange School, Warmley

WEDNESDAY 22nd DECEMBER

Gordano Sports Centre
Churchill Sports Centre
Downend Sports Centre

THURSDAY 23rd DECEMBER

County Cricket Ground, Horfield

Churchill Sports Centre
Downend Sports Centre

WEDNESDAY 29th DECEMBER

County Cricket Ground, Horfield
Rednock Sports Centre, Dursley
Hot Shots, Brislington

THURSDAY 30th DECEMBER

Wyvern Sports Centre
Rednock Sports Centre, Dursley
King Edmunds School, Yate

TUESDAY 4th JANUARY 2000

Gordano Sports Centre
King Edwards School, Bath
King Edmund School, Yate

As you can see, we are holding a number of fun days at the same venue on two different dates. Each course costs £10, or £18 if you attend two different courses.

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with
Nick Day

Busy old day here at The Mem today after what seems like ages without any home football to enjoy. Today sees the official opening of the roof at the newly named Blackthorn End of the ground and, although things have been quiet on the pitch here at The Stadium, lots of people have been very busy behind the scenes to help get you covered in time for winter.

In the build up to today's match we're going to have the official roof opening ceremony performed by the suitably named Sue Dry. Sue has sold the most amount of 'Raise the Roof' draw tickets and everyone involved with the Supporters Club should be congratulated on their efforts over the past couple of years. Fantastic idea, well organised and very well supported.

From our point of view, we're going to be playing roof and weather related tunes over the PA to keep you entertained before the match. I asked for suggestions for songs on the Rovers Gaslist and was reading e-mails for day! Amongst some of the more obscure suggested were Tin Roof Blues by Louis Armstrong and 1000 Umbrellas by XTC. I sent a list of 40 songs to Kevin and the guys at HMV and, as ever, they have come up trumps for us.

The social diary is beginning to fill up in the run up to Christmas. Yesterday at The Mem we held another of our Sporting lunches, with Ron 'Chopper' Harris as our guest speaker this time around. These lunches are always excellent events and I'm sure that yesterday's was as successful as ever. Next Friday evening The Blue Flames are holding their Christmas party and the Helpline Christmas Party is the following Sunday – if you haven't got a ticket make sure you get one today from 'Helpline Martin' or 'Blue Flame Martine'.

Since the last game we have had the usual number of requests and dedications over the Internet and by post. Loyal Gashead Lily wrote me a letter to wish Cathryn Farmer a very happy birthday from all her classmates and teachers at Welton County Primary School in Midsomer Norton and I had another letter last week from Bosnia. Gashead Simon Smith is serving with 1 Armoured Field Ambulance Division and wrote to ask if we could say hello to his Dad, Les Smith. Thanks for your letter Simon we look forward to seeing you here at the Colchester game and hello to Les!

On to today and a warm welcome to Luton Town this afternoon. Three more league points on offer today to help us (hopefully) continue our climb back up the division. Your support can make all the difference and the roof will help keep the noise coming in the right direction! Come on you Blues!

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

Web site at <http://come.to/brsc>

It seems like an age since we last gathered here for a first team home game and indeed it is almost four weeks. Then we were suffering the disappointment of our first home league defeat, followed by the earliest possible exit from the F.A Cup and another couple of dropped home points at the hands of Bury.

In all those three games we failed to score and the team got some "stick" from a minority of supporters so it was perhaps surprising that two strikers lifted our "Man-of-the-Match" awards in the last two! Substitute Nathan Ellington made a big impression after coming on against Preston and Jason Roberts took the bottle for his battling performance against uncompromising

Bury.

Fortunately our away form, for which the current team formation seems much better suited than breaking-down packed defences at home, remains impressive with a draw well-earned at Wycombe followed by another win on our travels last Saturday at Chesterfield. Things must be on the up if Dave Pritchard can score after only a five-year wait to break his duck and a more popular strike there could not have been. Today we welcome a new signing in the shape of ex international Mark Walters and we all look forward to "Wally" helping to open-up those stubborn visiting teams who come here only for a point!

As well as a new player we also see

our new roof in action today after two seasons of fund-raising followed by an agonising three week wait to use it! I'm sure it will increase the atmosphere here at the Mem. as well keep everyone on the Clubhouse dry (not as in "Blackthorn"!) As I mentioned in the Preston "Pirate", there are other roofs to raise and the latest plan is to cover the Family Enclosure subject to planning permission of course. My thanks go to all our sellers, money-counters and helpers as well as all those of you who have bought the many thousands of tickets. Please keep it up, get behind the team today and let's make it an afternoon of celebration on and off the pitch!

JIM CHAPPELL



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WELL DONE RAY!

To mark the occasion of his seventieth birthday and his fifty year association with the Club, Kit Manager Ray Kendall was presented with a cut glass bowl prior to our FA Cup tie against Preston.

Ray is pictured here with Director Vernon Stokes and looks fit enough to carry on for another fifty years! Congratulations, Ray, and best wishes from all at Bristol Rovers Football Club.

YOUNG PIRATES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Oliver Barczyk (11) and Adam Boucher (14) who celebrate their birthdays today and to all Young Pirates who have birthdays between now and December 11th when we entertain Colchester. Congratulations also, to Ashley Hobbs, who is ten today. Ashley lives at Withywood and attends Fair Furlong Primary School. His hobbies are football, pool, music and swimming and his favourite players are Jamie Cureton and Jason Roberts.



YOUNG PIRATE

Thirteen year old Ashley Monaghan lives at Chippenham and attends Sheldon School, where his favourite subject is P.E. He enjoys playing golf and hopes to become a professional and he also plays football for Chippenham Town Youth. His favourite players are Jason Roberts and Lee Jones.

Membership No.



MASCOT

Good afternoon, and welcome to The Memorial Stadium for our first home game in almost a month. Our visitors today will be looking ahead to next weeks FA Cup replay at Lincoln and hoping to earn a trip to Fulham in the Third Round. Luton have a very young side and appear to have a bright future ahead of them. They also have two familiar faces in their side in Julian Watts and Adam Locke, who spent time with our near neighbours, Bristol City. Manager Lennie Lawrence has done an excellent job at Luton and his side always like to play a passing game, so we should see a good match today. This morning, we entertained the Junior Hatters and played football against them and we would like to welcome them, and everyone else connected with Luton, here this afternoon and hope they have a safe journey home after the match. Next Saturday, we are organising a trip to Brentford and seats are selling fast, so if you would like to travel with us, call into your clubroom today to book your place. You should speak to Sue or John for full details about the trip and a NON-RETURNABLE £5 deposit secures your place. Christmas Party tickets will be available in the clubroom today and because Tuesdays game against Reading has been cancelled due to their FA Cup commitments, this is our last home match before the party, which is on Monday December 6th at 6.30 pm. The event takes place in the Supporters Bar in the Clubhouse and all the players, and Father Christmas, will be there to see you. For your entertainment, there will be a Disco and party games with lots of prizes, so make sure you collect your ticket today

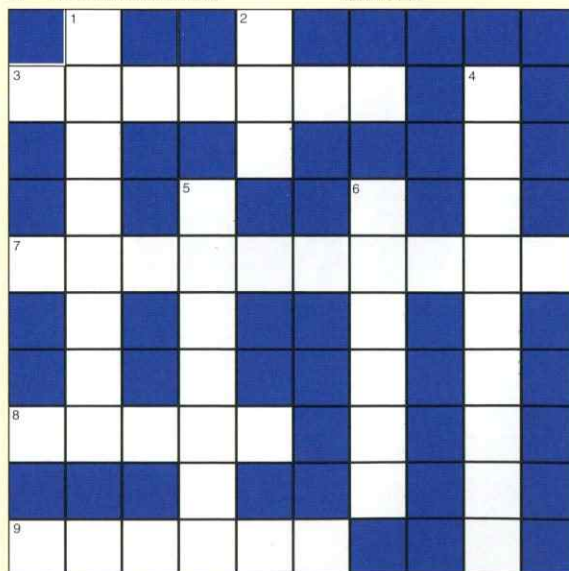
CLUES ACROSS

3. Signed from Swindon last week, Mark ???
7. Luton play here, ??? Road
8. Goalkeeper's name in reverse. Lee ???

9. First name of Luton's manager

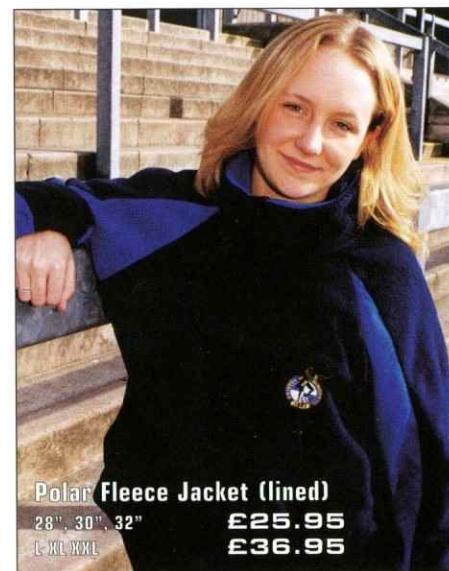
CLUES DOWN

1. Second name of Luton's manager
2. ??? ZabeK or Jones
4. Scored his FIRST goal for Rovers last Saturday
5. Luton drew with this team in the FA cup
6. One of three at the back, Steve???



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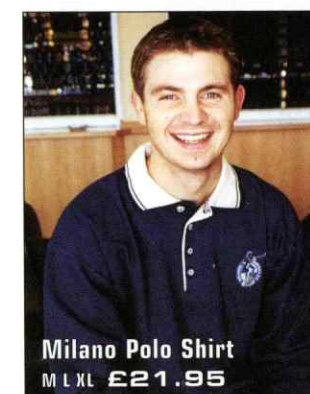
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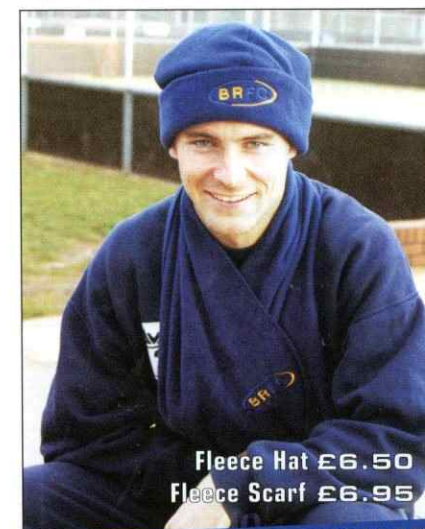
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It's been a while since we've (Rovers, not me, sadly) been back here, and with the roof now on, things have definitely changed. We now have more cover than Fiorentina, well we did anyway, even before the Clubhouse roof, and probably even before the South Stand tarpaulin.

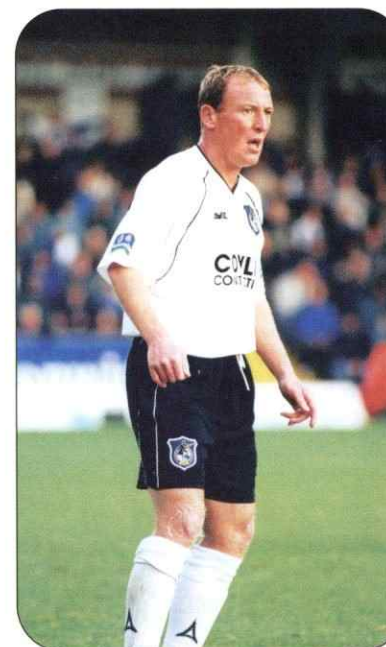
Yes, I finally went and saw a game. I wanted it to be special, and so instead of trekking out into the hills for some Serie C stuff, I waited to go and see my Italian favourites Fiorentina. The 'bella ragazza' that is my Sue was there too, as we witnessed the amazing 3-3 with Barcelona in the Champions' League, including THAT 30-yard overhead kick from Mauro Bressan, which we were right behind. I doubt you can get more special than that, unless it was Pritch becoming 'prolific'.

The Artemio Franchi Stadium was only two-thirds full, as both giants had already qualified at the expense of Arsenal, but even without Batistuta, there was Rui Costa, Kluivert, Ronald De Boer, Luis Enrique, Enrico Chiesa, Luis Figo and Rivaldo, who was warming-up only about ten yards from where we came in. The only problem with the evening (and this was what turned me off returning for the Man U clash on Tuesday) was that there were no more trains back to Rome until 5am the next morning, and we had to snooze in the station.

Sue's a bit of a Lazio girl, and she can blame her Dad for not being able to stay an extra day for the Lazio-Verona game on the Sunday. I got in for less than a tenner, but from where I was I was thankful for my good eyes, as many around me were fishing for their binoculars. At times I was having to rely on my knowledge to identify who was racing towards the far goal, like that Pavel Nedved ran slightly bandy-legged, a bit like Patrik Berger. Salas was easy, and so was Veron, who scored straight from a corner,

something not seen since Steve Staunton used to curl them in for Ireland a few years ago.

As I was less emotionally involved with the teams down below, I was able to 'study' what the locals were doing during the afternoon. At Fiorentina they laid out programmes on every seat, but as it was a damp evening, many of them were a bit mangy, but you could scavenge around for a nicer, drier one, or just sit on yours and dry it out



Me, prolific – you must be joking!

yourself. However, I doubt our ed Keith and his army would be able to cover the costs of laying out 12,000 Pirate's on the terraces and hope they would all be recovered amid the mushed pasties and pie crusts.

At the Stadio Olimpico back in Rome, you had to pay about 50p for your fanzine-style issue, as there appeared to be no official publication; I thought the cost thing was what made the clamour to get the free Lazio newspapers so intense, but I soon realised that once inside, these were

just to put on your seats to protect your Armanis from the bird-poo. My seat was alright, but I recall a trip to Cardiff Arms Park to see Marcus Browning play against Holland, where the Chappell family perches right at the top definitely weren't.

When watching Channel 4 on a leisurely Sunday afternoon, digesting your roast, have you ever wondered what that supermarket-style jangle was, that seems to go off every five minutes, without the subsequent announcements of badly-parked Volvos like you get at the Mem?

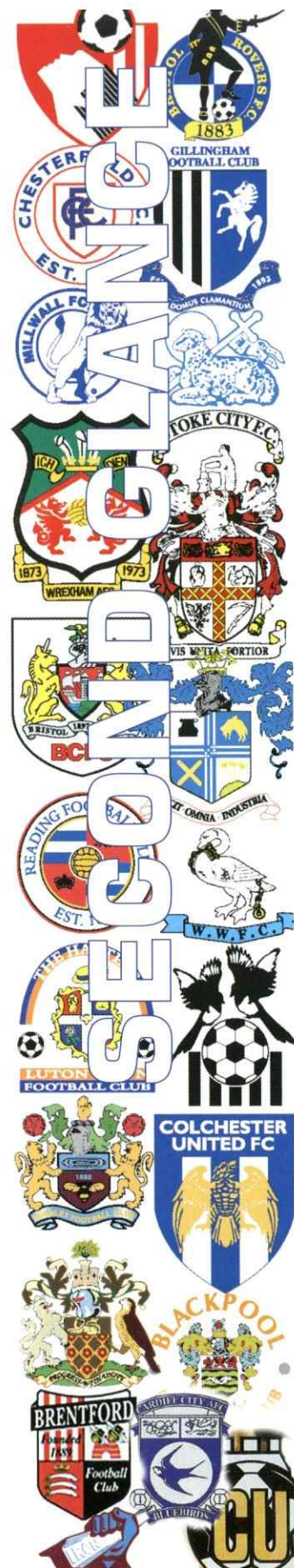
Well, the jangle signals a goal-flash, which could be any of the games in Serie A or Serie B, which is why it goes off so often. In between the scooter ads on the big screen, the scores come up, and when I was there, Lazio's 4-goal haul was equally being matched by Roma's 4 at Reggina, which brought with it a few moans.

The first of the four goals, Veron's swirling corner, was met by a manic exclamation of "GOL! GOL! GOL! GOL!" from behind me, but thankfully the other three, including Alen Boksic's first 'gol' at the Olimpico for nearly 2 years, did not spark this ecstatic 'tifo' into cry again.

At the end, when the gallant Verona fans were still blindly singing themselves to a throat clinic, a warm meeting took place, as the riot police allowed the away fans down to where the big perspex screen was at it's lowest, and they exchanged scarves and flags through the narrow gap with the Lazio fans, and then even joined for a rendition of an anti-Roma song. Nice.

I doubt the Luton support will go so far today as to determine what Ashton Gate contains in tune with the newly-roofed Clubhouse, but hopefully a good atmosphere will ensue. Next time I'll tell you what it's like to be in Rome for an emphatic derby victory, and I don't mean at Ashton Gate again.

CHRIS CHAPPELL



TRANSFERS

Chesterfield's Billy Mercer and Watford's Keith Millen join Bristol City whilst Icelandic international Iva Ingermarisson, who has been on loan at Torquay, joins Brentford. Wigan's Graeme Jones joins Scottish club St. Johnstone and two former Rovers players are involved in loan deals. Richard Dryden joins Stoke from Southampton, whilst John Vaughan moves to Colchester from Lincoln. Other loan deals see John Cornforth join Scunthorpe, from Cardiff, Portsmouth's John Durnin link up with Blackpool and Danny Allsopp join Notts County from Manchester City. Manuel (Junior) Agogo moves to Chesterfield, in his third loan move this season.

TUESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

Brentford 1 Reading 1
Bristol Rovers 0 Bury 0
Burnley 5 Wrexham 0
Cambridge 1 Scunthorpe 3
Cardiff 1 Blackpool 1
Gillingham 3 Bristol City 0
Millwall 1 Luton 0
Oldham 2 Wycombe 2
Oxford 1 Colchester 1
Wigan 3 Chesterfield 0

Blackpool remain unbeaten in their last seven trips to Cardiff, Wycombe are unbeaten in each of their three visits to Oldham and Reading record their 800th league draw.

WEDNESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

Preston 3 Bournemouth 0

SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Blackpool 2 Wigan 2
Bournemouth 1 Cardiff 0
Bristol City 1 Cambridge 1
Bury 0 Stoke 0
Chesterfield 0 Oldham 1
Colchester 2 Preston 2
Luton 2 Burnley 1
Notts County 1 Gillingham 1
Scunthorpe 1 Millwall 4
Wrexham 0 Brentford 1
Wycombe 1 Bristol Rovers 1

Stoke and Gillingham remain unbeaten in their last five visits to Bury and Notts County respectively. Notts County become the second club to record their 1000th league draw. Cardiff have not won at Bournemouth since 1936, whilst

Bristol City have not beaten Cambridge at Ashton Gate since January 1985.

SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Oxford win 2-1 at Reading to record their sixth win in eleven visits to the Berkshire club.

TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER

Oldham beat Millwall 2-1 at Boundary Park.

FRIDAY 12th NOVEMBER

Brentford 4 Scunthorpe 3
Cambridge 3 Luton 1
Cardiff 2 Chesterfield 1
Gillingham 4 Bournemouth 1
Millwall 0 Wrexham 0
Preston 2 Notts County 0
Wigan 2 Wycombe 1

Scunthorpe have lost their last eight league games at Brentford, Cambridge record their first league win over Luton in eleven attempts and Wigan take over the leadership of the Second Division.

SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Oxford and Bury share the points in a 1-1 draw at The Manor Ground.

SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER

Burnley beat Blackpool 1-0 at Turf Moor, Colchester's 2-1 win at Oldham is their first at Boundary Park since September 1969 and Gary Megson is in charge of Stoke for the last time as they draw 1-1 with Bristol City. The new man in charge at The Britannia Stadium is former Icelandic national coach Gudjan Thordarson.

TUESDAY 16th NOVEMBER

Millwall 5 Reading 0
Wigan 3 Bournemouth 1

FRIDAY 19th NOVEMBER

Brentford win 3-0 at Colchester and move into second place in the league.

SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER

Rovers win at Chesterfield for the first time since November 1988, as Dave Pritchard's first ever league goal is enough to clinch all three points. Bristol City, Burnley, Cambridge, Gillingham, Oldham and Wrexham all go through to the Third Round of the FA Cup.

ALAN LACOCK



The last year of the millennium has been a bit traumatic for everyone connected with Luton Town Football Club.

In August it was only 2 minutes before the Football League midnight deadline that new owner **CLIFF BASSETT** satisfied the authorities that the Hatters could complete their fixtures. Even today he remains a reluctant sole owner as he encourages others to share his risk. Gone are the over ambitious aspirations of predecessor **DAVID KOHLER** and his Kohlerdome stadium plan and a new more pragmatic programme of achievable development is taking shape. The supporters are also being given a greater say and FLAG, the Fans of Luton Action Group, is being actively encouraged to submit their views.

Being in the hands of a receiver

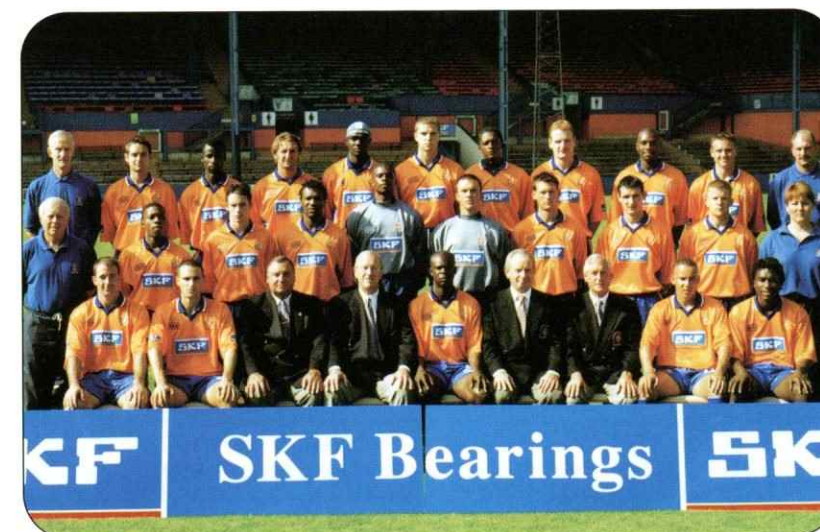
during the close season preparations could hardly be ideal but our visitors were lucky to have **LENNIE LAWRENCE** and coach John Moore to look after the playing side during those turbulent times. They worked wonders as the receiver sold players to any bidder and restricted acquisitions to short term contracts and loan signings. As a consequence a largely inexperienced youthful squad emerged to represent the Town but now the future is more settled the prize assets are being rewarded with long term contracts.

In September midfielder **MATTHEW SPRING** and right wing back **STUART FRASER** signed through to 2001 and during October striker **LIAM GEORGE** and left wing back **MATTHEW TAYLOR** followed suit.

SPRING signed professional in July 1997, and made his first team debut against Bristol City in



Adam Locke

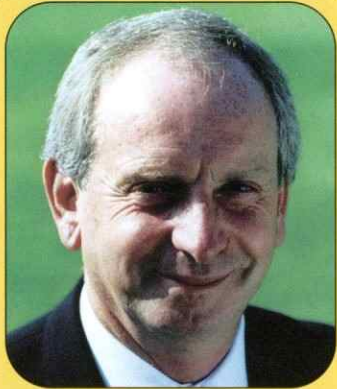


Back row, l-r: John Moore (Coach), Ray McKinnon, Landry Zahana-Oni, Adam Locke, Efetobore Sodje, Alan White, Tresor Kandol, Gary Doherty, Emmerson Boyce, Matthew Taylor, Clive Goodyear (Physiotherapist)
Middle row, l-r: Trevor Hartley (Coach), Andre Scarlett, Michael McIndoe, Gavin McGowan, Nathan Abbey, Daniel Tate, Paul McLaren, Matthew Spring, Stuart Fraser, Mandy Malins (Fitness Trainer)
Front row, l-r: Phil Gray, Andrew Fotiadis, Chris Green (Director), Cliff Bassett (Director), Marvin Joynson (Club Captain), Lennie Lawrence (Team Manager), Nigel Terry (Director), Liam George, Stuart Douglas

Luton



IN-TOWN TODAY...

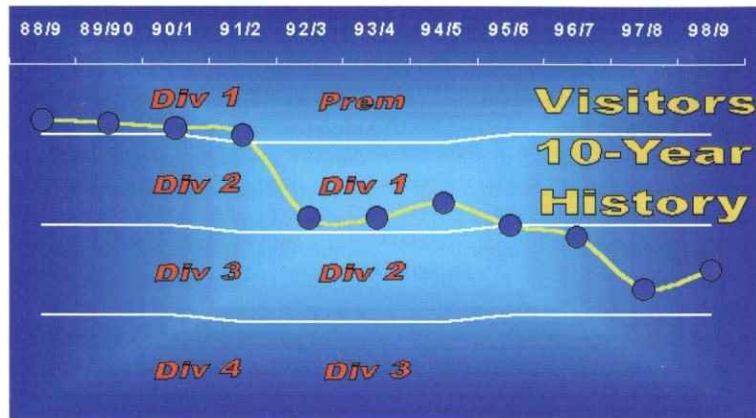


Lennie Lawrence deserves his reputation as a manager who can make the impossible seem not too unlikely. Through the late Eighties he piloted homeless Charlton Athletic to four years of First Division survival against all the odds and laid the foundation that his successor Alan Curbishley was able to build upon.

In 1991 he headed north to Middlesbrough and took them into the Premier League at the first attempt. Unfortunately his halo slipped a little on Teeside and they were relegated twelve months later with the board losing patience by appointing novice Bryan Robson in Lennie's place.

Having been born in Brighton and spending the whole of his playing career in the south, at Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton, it was inevitable that he would head south. So when the chance came to replace Frank Stapleton at Bradford City he took on the challenge although he knew he would be the fifth boss in a decade at Valley Parade. His stay of eighteen months was about par for the course. He was sacked on 27 November, 1995.

Four weeks later, on 21 December, three First Division clubs announced new managers. Martin O'Neill was appointed at 4th placed Leicester City, Gary Megson joined 8th position Norwich City and Lennie Lawrence got Luton Town who were at the bottom.



September 1997. A driving force in the side that reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997, he was voted Luton's 'Young Player of the Year' in 1998, and last term topped the Hatters appearance chart with 54 games. No wonder the big clubs regularly turn up to check on his progress.

FRASER made his debut against Carlisle in the 3-2 win on the final day of the 1997/98 season and skippered the Luton youth team to a runaway South East Counties League Championship last season. A badly gashed thigh inflicted during the FA Cup First Round win over Kingstonsian hindered his progress but he was back in the eleven for the Second Round last week.

A regular member of the Republic of Ireland squad that progressed to

the European youth championships final in 1998, **GEORGE** has brought his impressive scoring record in Luton's youth and reserve teams into the Football League. He made his debut against Bristol City in September 1997 and looked set to establish a regular place last season until after seven matches a broken foot at Wigan sidelined him for the majority of the season.

TAYLOR made the most of his chance to impress due to the restrictions placed on the purchase of new recruits during the summer. Performances in pre-season friendlies saw him leap from the youth team to the senior squad and he started the season with a League debut on the opening day at Notts County. Listen for the away section singing Happy Birthday, **MATTHEW** is 18 today.

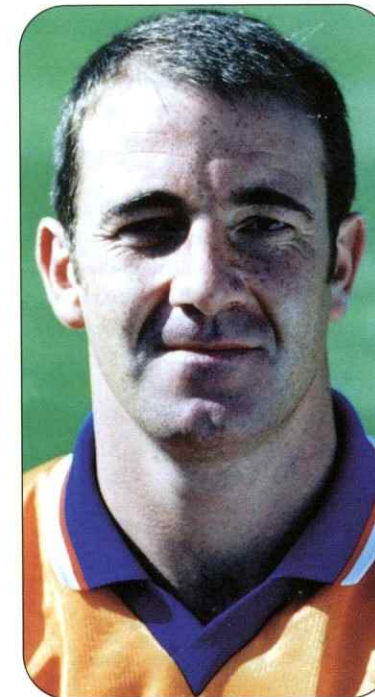
Our Visitors' Last 8 Results

23-Nov-99	Luton Town	0	2	Preston NE	Div II
19-Nov-99	Luton Town	2	2	Lincoln City	FAC(2)
12-Nov-99	Cambridge Utd	3	1	Luton Town	Div II
06-Nov-99	Luton Town	2	1	Burnley	Div II
02-Nov-99	Millwall	1	0	Luton Town	Div II
30-Oct-99	Luton Town	4	2	Kingstonsian	FAC(1)
23-Oct-99	Oxford Utd	0	1	Luton Town	Div II
19-Oct-99	Luton Town	1	1	Wycombe Wanderers	Div II

Luton

It will be interesting to see if bandana wearing Nigerian **EFETOBORE SODJE** makes the starting line up this afternoon. On the one hand he may have moved on, disillusioned by too many games on the bench, with former club Stevenage reported to be very interested in taking him back. On the other hand, the successful break up of the favoured centre back trio last week may create an opening for the former Macclesfield man. The half time rearrangement against Lincoln moved **GARY DOHERTY** away from **MARVIN JOHNSON** and **JULIAN WATTS** to lead the line and bag 2 goals to keep the Hatters in the FA Cup. If the experiment is continued **EFFY** could be on at the start.

Born in Donegal, **DOHERTY** is a Republic of Ireland Youth international who moved up from trainee in July 1997. **JOHNSON** is



Phil Gray

team captain and so he should be after 13 years with his only League club. He has played over 350 games. **WATTS** was so keen to leave Bristol City that he took a pay cut, it is alleged, when his early season loan was made permanent in September. Before moving to Ashton Gate **JULIAN** played for Rotherham, Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City.

Injuries have taken their toll in attack and **NEIL MIDGLEY** was brought on loan from Ipswich Town in September to cover for **ANDREW FOTIADIS**, medial knee ligament damage and **PHIL GRAY**, hamstring.

FOTIADIS is an England Schools international in the old fashioned physical centre forward mould but hopes last term of holding down the regular striking position that was expected were thwarted by a succession of niggling injuries.



IN TOWN TODAY...

GRAY has travelled around to Tottenham, Barnsley, Fulham, Sunderland, Nancy in France and Fortuna Sittard in Holland. The Northern Ireland international joined Luton for the second time September 1997. In some ways the striker selection is easier away from Kenilworth Road where three up front is often the case. On the road a less ambitious option may be favoured but whatever the decision expect **STUART DOUGLAS** to be in the reckoning. Yet another of the products from the youth scheme **STUART** made his League bow in

1995 and played 50 games last season.

ADAM LOCKE, PAUL MCLAREN and **MICHAEL MCINDOE** will be in contention for midfield places.

LOCKE spent 2 years at Bristol City after a decade divided between Crystal Palace, Southend United and Colchester. **MCLAREN** made his Luton debut in 1994 and has passed his century appearance milestone. **MCINDOE** made his debut for the senior side during the 1998/99 campaign in the first round of the Worthington Cup against Oxford

United. He went onto a further 27 appearances during the season, including a place in the starting eleven for the final eight games.

In goal **NATHAN 'TANNY' ABBEY** is establishing his position following the departure of **KELVIN DAVIES** to Wimbledon during the summer. He had made just 2 League appearances at the start of the campaign but is relishing the chance that he might have missed if a planned move to Antwerp, Belgium had not fallen through. His understudy is teenager **DANIEL TATE**. **BOB FORD**

Nationwide

FOOTIE

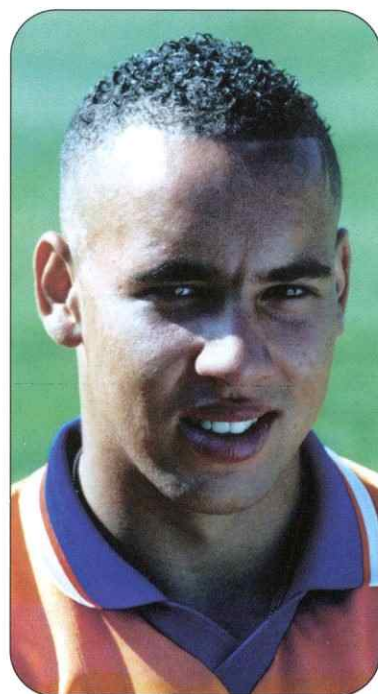


FACTS

Statistics supplied by Carling Opta

Liam George DANGERMAN PROFILE

Liam George's performances for Luton this season have won him rave reviews in the local and national papers alike. He has ten goals to his name and has had a further 23 shots on target. In the past he has often been used by Lennie Lawrence as a wide man, although he has been playing up the middle this season due to the fact that Matthew Taylor on the left and Stuart Fraser on the right have been so impressive performing in the wing-back roles. However, he still allows his ability to go wide to feature in his game and this helps make him a more complete striker. His skilful ball-play has led to him going on 51 dribbles and runs with a 61 per cent dribble completion, which suggests that he often loses his way, and could do with passing the ball more often, rather than doing it all himself. His partnership up front with Stuart Douglas is one of the more dangerous in Division Two, so Andy Tillson's well marshalled defence will need to be on their toes to defend not so much an aerial attack but quick passing football. For the neutral it is good to see two managers who like to play football in the right way. Rovers manager Ian Holloway has been backed by the Gas board in his efforts to strengthen his side by recruiting Mark Walters from Swindon Town. Supporters will be hoping that the former Liverpool and Rangers man explodes into action this afternoon, causing many leaks in the Luton defence.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



RAY WARREN

MIKE GREEN

VAUGHAN JONES

It's almost a month since I wrote my last programme notes and in that time, we have been knocked out of the FA Cup, drawn games against Bury and Wycombe and recorded our fifth away win of the season, at Chesterfield.

We were all looking forward to another good cup run this season, so it was disappointing to go out in the first round. However, we lost to a very good Preston side, who probably deserved to win on the day.

We followed up our cup defeat with two very good performances against Bury and Wycombe and I felt we deserved to win both matches. We dominated proceedings against Bury so much that I can't remember Lee Jones having to make a save during the whole 90 minutes and it was unfortunate that we were unable to hit the back of the net to get the result I thought our play warranted. When we took the lead at Wycombe, I thought we would go on to take all three points, but it wasn't to be and they equalised within 10 minutes, which was a big disappointment. Still, we avoided defeat, which is very important. I think if we can get to the end of the season having lost only seven or eight games then we'll be alright.

We were without Robbie Pethick and Jason Roberts at Wycombe, but the lads who came into the side did exceptionally well. Simon Bryant had a great first half, before leaving the action through injury. Nathan Ellington did really well and scored a great goal, Frankie Bennett came on and did a superb job, whilst Bobby Zamora made his long awaited league debut. It makes a difference to everyone to know that there are players who can come into the squad and do a good job, as it keeps everyone on their toes when there is competition for places.

After that game, of course, we had a two week break before last Saturday's game at Chesterfield. When that happens, it's always a bit of a worry that you will go into your next game having lost a little bit of sharpness. We put in a lot of fitness work during the week following the Wycombe game and hardly saw a football all week (thanks Ginge!) and then began preparations for our trip to Chesterfield, where I thought we

dominated the first half, though they came at us a bit in the second half. They are always a tough team to play against, especially at present, as they are bottom of the league and scrapping for points. They are not a team you would choose to come up against after a two week break, but fortunately, we managed to take all three points from a difficult match.

We were all delighted for Dave Pritchard, who scored his first ever goal and I hope I'm still around when he scores his next one in five years time! Seriously, though, there's been a lot of talk about a lack of goals from our midfield players, so I'm sure Pritch's goal will be a big boost for all of our midfielders.

I would like to welcome Mark Walters to the Club. We have many young lads with a lot of potential here and they will benefit from playing and training alongside Mark, who has a wealth of experience. He will be able to help them out and will be a vital addition to the squad. He can get forward, is a good crosser of the ball and chips in with a few goals and he will, I'm sure, prove to be a very good signing.

Starting with Luton today, we begin a run of very tough games. We need to be taking points off of teams near the top of the league and put a good run of results together. I know that we've only lost one of our last eight league games, so things aren't so bad, but we need to be winning a few more games and it would be nice if we could take all three points today against a Luton side who will undoubtedly prove to be very difficult to beat.

Finally, on behalf of all of the lads, I would like to congratulate Ray Kendall on his remarkable achievement of being involved with the Club for 50 years and wish him a belated Happy 70th Birthday. He's a real character and the place wouldn't be the same without him. He does take a lot of stick, but I can assure you he gives as good as he gets and he looks after us all really well.

It will be good to see the new roof over the Clubhouse Terrace, at last, today and I hope you all enjoy the game.

Andy



ANDY TILLSON

HELPLINE

With just over a third of the season gone and heading towards the Christmas period, Rovers are sitting in a very different position to last year. The team building of the past couple of years is starting to show its value as we now look a stronger proposition challenging for a promotion spot. Off the field THE ROOF has finally appeared, doubtless other columns will make comment on that fact, and of course we now have a stand at the Alton Road end.

The recent signing of Mark Walters shows that Ollie and his team have not let the dust settle for too long and should give the side more options to break down the boring sides still to come to play at the Mem.

(Some more boring than others!!)

A late reminder that the Helpline Christmas Party is being held next Sunday the 5th December at The Rotunda Club, Moravian Road, Kingswood.

It's the same number to join so kill two birds with one call!!!!

There may be some tickets left so contact Kate on 01179 232277.

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COMMERCIAL BREAK

A warm welcome to this afternoon's match against Luton, and in particular to our match sponsors, **DOWNEND ELECTRICS**, who are represented by **JACK FOORD** and his guests. This is a first time sponsorship for the company and I hope we will see them here again in the near future.

Our matchball sponsors, **ROMAN GLASS**, need no introduction from me. The company are old friends of ours and it will be good to see **WAYNE DAGGER** along with his friends and colleagues here again today.

Joining us in our hospitality suite are **INTOHEAT** and it will be a pleasure to see **ADRIAN HALL** and his friends here once again. I am also pleased to be able to welcome **DAMION WHITTARD** and his guests, of **MACWHIRTERS** and I would like to extend a warm welcome to **PAUL** and **PETER LOVERIDGE**. **PAUL** is celebrating his 60th birthday this afternoon. There are two other birthday celebrations I should mention today, also. A happy 30th birthday to **ANDY READ**, from your wife **NICOLA**, family and friends and a happy 50th birthday to **ANDREW BAKER**.

On behalf of everyone connected with the Club, I would like to add my own good wishes to **PAUL**, **ANDY** and **ANDREW** and hope that they and all our

Graham Bowe

1 **AB Fluid**, our match and matchball sponsors for the Preston game pictured with their Man of the Match, **Andy Tillson**.

2 & 3 **Jamie Cureton** was voted Man of the Match against Bury by our match sponsors **MB Frames PVC-u Ltd** and our matchball sponsors **Wessex Coaches**



PRESIDENTS CLUB



Lee Jones (above) and Jason Roberts (below) receive their Man of the Match awards for their performance against Preston and Bury respectively



By now all members should be in receipt of a supply of tickets for our Christmas Draw, if not please see **John Hargreaves**. Due to the way fixtures have fallen this season we are holding the draw early this year after the match with Colchester United on **December 11th** and we would ask everyone to make a supreme effort to ensure that tickets are paid for and returned to **John Hargreaves** by that date.

We shall also be joined on **December 11th** by a large number of the **Ex-players Association** who will also join in our half-time buffet. **December 11th** therefore promises to be a good day.

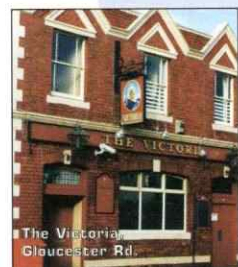
Your Committee has co-opted **Bob Taylor** who will immediately be helping with any away tickets which members require. (Bob's telephone number is **0117 9372274**).

Today we shall hold another **200 Club** draw after the match, so some lucky members will again be going home a good deal wealthier than when they arrived.

If you are a **200 Club** member - it could be you! If you are not yet a **200 Club** member, it's time you were. Details from any Committee member.

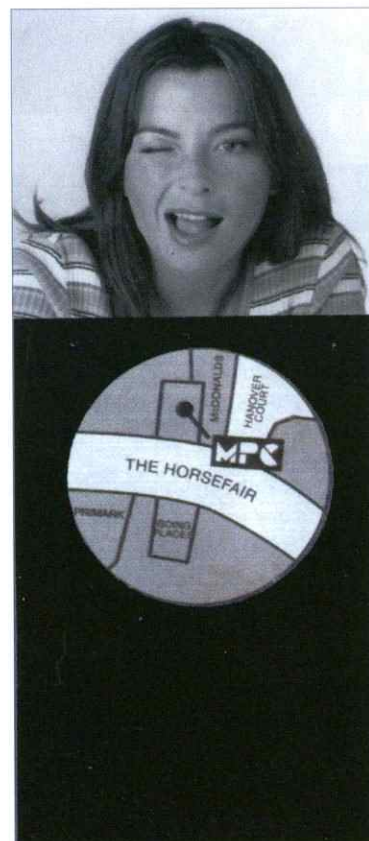
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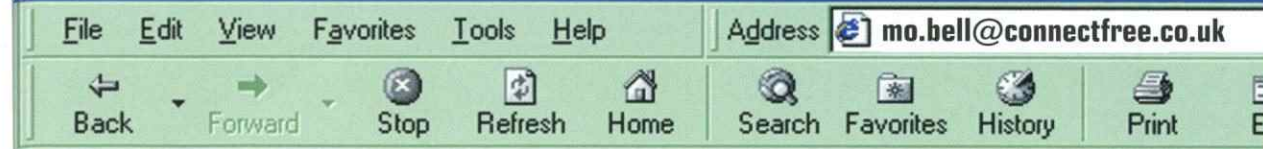
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Taking a few days to recover from the shock of Pritch scoring at Chesterfield, it came as no surprise that I actually fainted on my return home, banging my head and knocking myself out...and I'm not joking! Seriously, I have been suffering a mystery virus, so I am happy to introduce Liam Brennan, a fellow Gaslister, to writes as follows:-

"Greetings to fellow Gasheads and a warm welcome to travelling 'Hatters' fans for today's game at the Memorial Stadium. It seems somewhat appropriate to be asked to write a short piece for today's Pirate because Luton is just a few miles south down the M1 from Newport Pagnell, the town where I reside.

This is my second article for the 'Internet Gas' column. I made my debut six months ago, when I wrote an article for the Man City game at the end of last season. What a difference six months can make in football. Times then were a little scary to say the least as we stared relegation in the face. The Gas-List was also not a place for the faint-hearted either, with both the optimists and pessimists being very forthright with their opinions. Personally I saw last season as a transitional one, with major changes to the squad of players and the acquisition of the Memorial Stadium. I was, therefore, hardly surprised or annoyed when the results did not go in our favour. As a member of the 'optimist' camp I was delighted when Rovers secured Division Two status, knowing full well that Ollie and the team would start this season from a position of strength.

And what a start the Gas made! We even managed to briefly lead the division for a time, a far different story compared to last season - what a difference a settled squad can make. Currently in 6th position on 32 points, we are a full 10

points clear on last season's campaign at this stage. We have also had some notable results on our travels beating Notts County, Chesterfield and even Bournemouth! Many 'Listers' have already commented that the omens look good and a few have suggested that

One would think then, that with everything going so well, the Gas-List would not be so controversial - wrong! Some Gaslister feel we are not progressing quick enough on the field and are less than complimentary of the management because we are not top. My view is this; I would much rather take three seasons to get to division 1 and stay there to build for the future, rather than get promotion this year and come straight back down - it hasn't done our neighbours any favours has it? (What position are they in the table?.....I must stop grinning!)

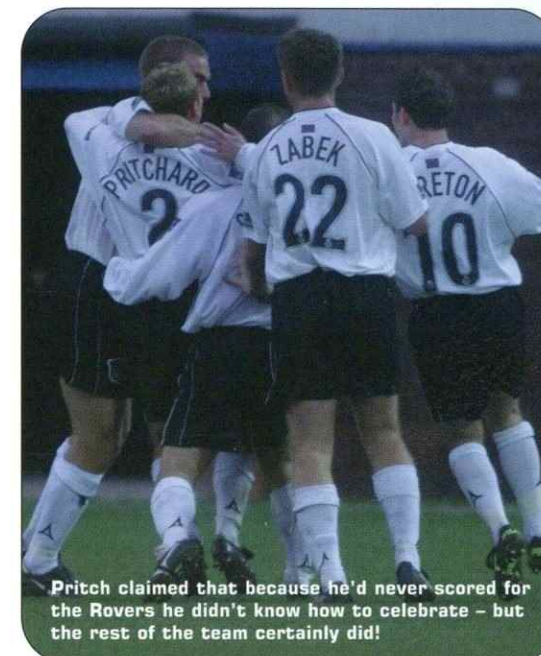
Finally two points. Firstly I would like to say a quick hello to Tony Smith, an old school mate of mine, who is visiting Bristol this weekend and will be at the match. Tony has been following the Gas for over 25 years and he gets to see even less games than me because he lives overseas. Hopefully I can talk him into joining the Gas-List. Secondly, a quote from fellow 'lister' Ben Davies, "I've had a bet with my mates since

1994 at Twerton park that if Pritch ever scored for the Gas I would walk home (home or away) because I was so sure he'd never score" - good trip from Chesterfield was it Ben? You have to watch your words on the Gas-List!

Looking forward to today's match and the first chorus of 'Irene' from the Blackthorn 'Dry' End.....C'mon you Blues."

Thanks Liam, you should know the truth about Ben Davies and I quote his words "I didn't go to Chesterfield because I thought it would be a boring 0-0 draw. Anyway, obviously you're not going to let me get away with it so if you can think of any sadistic forfeit for me to engage in, then let me know. How about a penalty shoot-out with Pritch before Saturday's match!" Suggestions on a postcard...

Mo BELL



Pritch claimed that because he'd never scored for the Rovers he didn't know how to celebrate - but the rest of the team certainly did!

events appear to be following the same pattern as the 89/90 season. They could well be correct because we have reverted to wearing white shirts away from home (as we did that season) and we drew 0-0 away to the City - but we all know what happened at Twerton on the 2nd May 1990 don't we?

However events off the field are not exactly the same as the 89/90 season are they? No longer do Rovers fans based in Bristol have to commute to another city to watch their team play at home. No longer do Bristol Rovers FC have to pay rent for the right to stage home matches, although I hear the mortgage repayments are a bit steep! No longer will the Clubhouse faithful, sorry the Blackthorn End faithful, get soaked to the skin every time the heavens open.

ACTION EXTRA

- 1 David Hillier in the thick of the action against Chesterfield
- 2 Jamie Cureton get in a shot on the Chesterfield goal
- 3 Ouch!! A tough tackle in more ways than one on Jason Roberts!

Pictures by
MG Digital

Graphics by
**Alan Marshall
&
Malcolm Herbert**





Good afternoon, and welcome back to The Memorial Stadium, the home of Bristol Rovers Football Club. It's a big day for us, not only with the visit of Luton Town (it seems like ages since our last home game) but with the official opening of the Clubhouse Roof at what will, in future, be known as The Blackthorn End.

Today marks the end of a frantic period of building work and the last of the contractors have now left the site. Hopefully, things will quickly get back to normal and as far as I'm concerned, it will be nice not having to ask the workmen to keep quiet whilst conferences are taking place!!

With December almost with us, it's time for party nights and Christmas lunches and we are all geared up for the festive season. So if you haven't yet booked your office lunch or disco then The Memorial Stadium is the place to

party. Our superb three course Christmas Lunches cost just £11.50 per head and we still have vacancies for December 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 22nd. Our evening parties, which include a disco and three course Christmas dinner cost £19.50 per head and we now only have vacancies for December 21st and 22nd. Book now to avoid disappointment. Sue or Trish will be looking forward to hearing from you (0117 9096648).

Between now and January 3rd we will be hosting a total of eleven football and rugby matches, so it will take a lot of work to keep the pitch in tip top condition, and I would like to thank Peter and Martin, who I know take great pride in keeping the playing surface immaculate and who always give it 110%.

A lighting specialist paid us a visit last week and will be submitting a report suggesting how we can improve our floodlights. One simple halogen light costs £2000 plus fittings, so it will be an expensive exercise to improve the present situation, but it's something we must do as quickly as possible.

Yesterday we held another Sporting Luncheon, when our guest speaker was Ron "Chopper" Harris. The event was very well attended and 165 people sat down for lunch in the Centenary Suite. I would like to thank everyone for supporting us both yesterday and at all of our other functions. We

plan to hold another Sporting Luncheon next March, so watch this space for further details.

Tomorrow, Bristol Rugby Club entertain Calvasino in a European Shield game (kick off 3.00 pm) so after your Sunday lunch, why not come along and give them your support in their quest for European honours.

Tuesdays game against Reading has been cancelled due to their involvement in an FA Cup replay against Halifax. However, we hope to rearrange the game before Christmas. Meanwhile, don't forget that its Happy Hour here every evening between 5pm - 7pm, so pop along and join us for a drink.

I've just returned from a short break in Cornwall with our leader, Mr Holloway and his lovely wife, Kim. It was very enjoyable and gave me a chance to see my partner again at last! However, I won't mention our midnight game of golf, played on a cliff top course whilst we were all under the influence of alcohol. All I can say is that if things don't work out for Ian as Rovers' boss, he could certainly make a living from playing golf! A special mention must go to Kim, who played exceptionally well and burnt up the course.

Get behind the Gas today and make some noise (not too much, or you'll annoy the local residents!) and cheer the lads on to another three points.

C'mon you Blues.

IAN HOLTBY

THE JAY FILES

The signing of the experienced Mark Walters from Swindon Town last week was a welcome boost to Rovers squad.

Walters, a tricky winger, has vast experience of playing in the Premiership and Scottish Premier League over the past 16 years. Mark has represented England at Schoolboy, Youth, Under 21 (9 caps), B (1 cap) and Full International level (1 cap).

This season Mark has made 13 first division appearances for Swindon Town scoring two goals prior to his move to Rovers.

When Mark left Aston Villa for Rangers the transfer fee was £500,000 his transfer to

Liverpool almost four years later was for a fee of £1.25 million.

DOMESTIC HONOURS

Mark has won many honours in the game including a FA Cup winners medal with Liverpool in 1992. While with Rangers he won the Scottish Premiership in 1989, 1990 & 1991 and also the Scottish League Cup in 1989 & 1991. Walters scored in both league cup finals at Hampden Park against Aberdeen and Celtic respectively.

EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

His career with Rangers and Liverpool gave him experience of European football. He played against Bayern Munich and scored, and also made

ENGLAND HONOURS

Mark who was playing in Scotland for Glasgow Rangers when he won his one full England cap. That was during England's summer tour of Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. The match he played was in Auckland against New Zealand on 3rd June 1991. England won 1-0 with a 90th minute goal by Gary Lineker.

The England team was Chris Woods, Paul Parker, Stuart Pearce, David Batty, Des Walker, Earl Barrett, David Platt, Geoff Thomas, Dennis Wise, Gary Lineker & Mark Walters. Subs: Brian Deane & John Salako

appearances in ties with Valetta, Red Star Belgrade, Spartak Moscow and Appollon.

I am sure like other Rovers supporters we will all look forward to seeing Mark in action and hope his contribution will provide the vital ingredient to create and provide goals from midfield.

Mike Jay



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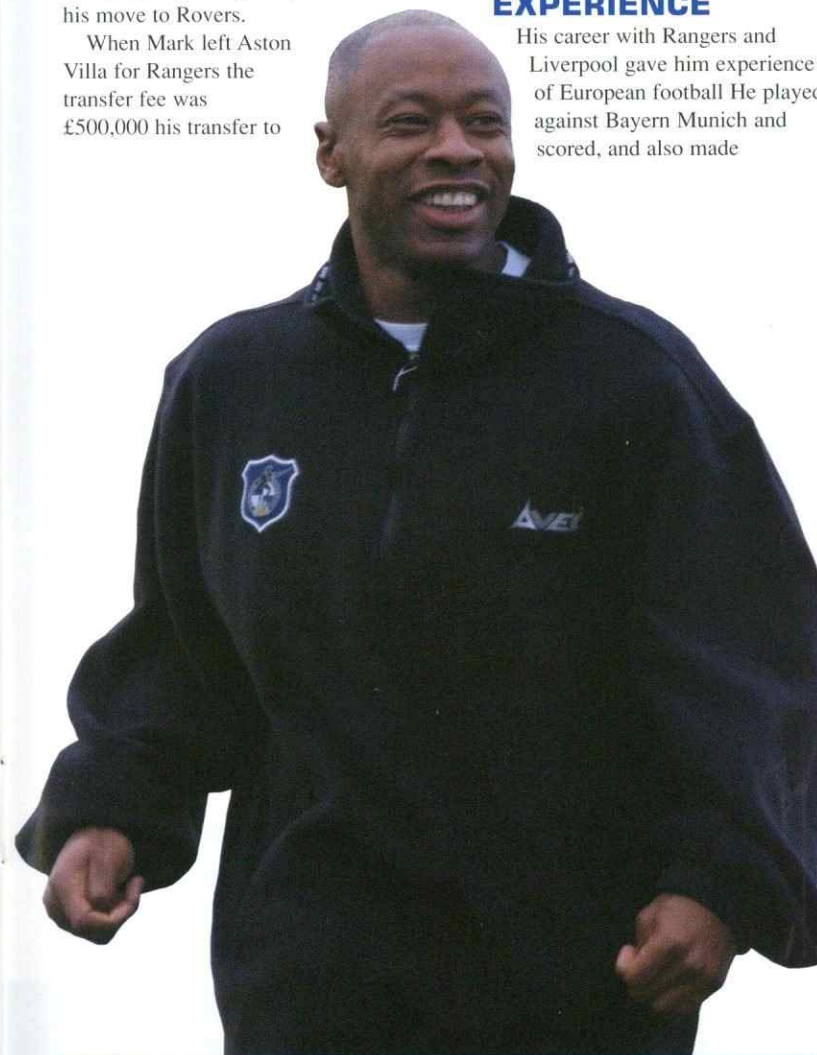
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MARK WALTERS

Mark Everton WALTERS

Born: Birmingham 2nd June 1964
Height: 5ft 10ins
Weight: 12st 8lbs

MARK'S LEAGUE CAREER

Team	Signed	Apps	Goals
Aston Villa	18.5.82	168+13	39
Rangers	31.12.87	101+5	32
Liverpool	13.8.91	58+36	14
Stoke (Loan)	24.8.94	9	2
Wolves (Loan)	9.9.94	11	3
Southampton	18.1.96	4+1	0
Swindon	31.7.96	93+19	25
Rovers	17.11.99	0+1	0
TOTALS		444+75	115

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RESERVE REPORT



Fixture List

Wed 18 Aug	Norwich City	A	7.30	0-0
Tue 30 Aug	Ipswich Town	H	7.00	1-2
Wed 8 Sep	Colchester U	A	2.00	1-3
Wed 15 Sep	Wycombe W *	A	2.00	1-1
Wed 22 Sep	Southend U	H	7.00	5-0
Wed 29 Sep	Bournemouth *	A	2.00	3-1
Mon 4 Oct	Peterborough	A	7.00	3-5
Wed 13 Oct	Cambridge U	H	7.00	3-0
Wed 20 Oct	Bristol City	A	7.00	0-1GFA
Wed 27 Oct	Luton Town	H	7.00	0-0
Wed 17 Nov	Millwall	H	2.00	1-3
Wed 1 Dec	Leyton Orient	A	2.00	
Wed 8 Dec	Gillingham	H	7.00	
Wed 15 Dec	Bristol City *	H	7.00	LC
Wed 22 Dec	Fulham	A	1.00	
Wed 12 Jan	Bristol City	H	7.00	
Wed 19 Jan	Portsmouth	A	7.00	
Wed 2 Feb	Swindon T	H	7.00	
Wed 9 Feb	Oxford U	A	7.30	
Wed 23 Feb	Wycombe W	H	7.00	
Wed 1 Mar	Brighton	A	7.00	
Tue 14 Mar	QPR	A	2.00	
Wed 29 Mar	Bournemouth	H	7.00	
Mon 3 Apr	Northampton	A	7.00	

GFA Gloucester Cup

* League Cup

TBA Barnet A

League Table as at 17/11/99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	9	7	2	0	22	11	23
QPR	8	6	2	0	22	7	20
Ipswich	8	6	2	0	24	11	20
Norwich	9	3	5	1	14	8	14
Fulham	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
Oxford	9	4	2	3	18	15	14
Peterborough	8	4	1	3	13	10	13
Bournemouth	7	4	1	2	12	14	13
Portsmouth	6	4	0	2	9	8	12
Millwall	7	2	4	1	8	6	10
Bristol City	6	2	3	1	12	10	9
Leyton Orient	8	3	0	5	10	19	9
ROVERS	8	2	2	4	14	13	8
Luton	9	2	2	5	11	15	8
Brighton	7	2	1	4	12	14	7
Cambridge	8	2	1	5	8	15	7
Northampton	6	1	3	2	10	8	6
Colchester	7	1	3	3	7	12	6
Barnet	8	1	1	6	11	16	4
Wycombe	6	1	1	4	4	11	4
Gillingham	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
Southend	8	1	1	6	8	23	4

In spite of taking the lead with a goal from Michael Meaker, our reserve side slipped to a 3-1 defeat against Millwall, here at The Memorial Stadium, ten days ago. Garry Thompson acknowledged the fact that it wasn't a particularly good team performance.

"The boys know they let themselves down a little bit, especially as they had played well in our most recent games. They had a fortnight's break from league action before this game and were keen to show that they were still sharp, but things didn't quite go as planned. Still, you'll always get setbacks and the important thing is that we kick on, work hard and look forward to our next game. Although we took the lead, Millwall had already shown that they had a little bit of pace up front and looked as though they could cause us a few problems and we knew we had to defend well to keep ourselves in the game and at times, our defending wasn't as good as it might have been.

Ronnie Mauge played for us in this match and I thought he looked calm and composed whilst he was on the pitch. Unfortunately for us, though, he had to go off before half-time and had four stitches in a facial wound. His departure gave Lewis Hogg a chance and I was delighted with his performance. He got forward, forced Nigel Spink into making one very good save and generally took the game to Millwall a little bit.

I did feel very sorry for Alan Reilly, a young lad who came down from Manchester City. He trained with us for 3-4 days prior to the game and he has great ability and a lovely left foot. Unfortunately, he didn't get the chance to show how good he could be in this match, because we couldn't quite grasp how to get the ball to him. It was obvious, from the sidelines, what was going on, but in the heat of the battle, the lads forgot certain things. I certainly hope that we can get Alan down again to have another look at him.

Like most of the trialists who have spent time with us, he loved it here and that tells me what a good atmosphere there is on the training ground and what a good bunch of boys we have. We



Alan Reilly, a trialist from Manchester City who played against Millwall

will continue to look at other players, because although we have a good set of lads here who have done reasonably well in the reserve competition, I believe we should be higher up the league than we are, given the quality of some of our performances.

I am looking to give some of our youth team players an opportunity in the reserves, as well as bringing in other trialists. Of course, we can always go and watch them play for their own clubs, but sometimes it's better to get them down here for a few days to see how they cope with the training, how they interact with our boys and how they get used to being at Bristol Rovers. Everyone who comes here seems to leave with a good impression of the Club, which reflects well on the management team here.

Of course, the presence of a trialist also acts as a spur to players already here, particularly if the new lad plays in their position!

TEAM: KUIPERS, BENNETT, SMITH, TROUGHT, WHITE, REILLY, TREES (GILROY), MAUGE (HOGG), ZABEK, MEAKER, ZAMORA

SUBS: (Not used), POWELL, SHORE (A.J)



Football League Youth Alliance Fixtures 1999/2000

Sat 14 Aug	Exeter City	A	1-1
Sat 21 Aug	CARDIFF CITY	H	2-1
Sat 28 Aug	Cirencester	A	4-1
Sat 4 Sep	TORQUAY UTD	H	0-2
Sat 18 Sep	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	1-2
Sat 2 Oct	SWINDON TOWN	H	4-2
Wed 69 Oct	GILLINGHAM (FAYC)	H	3-3
Thur 14 Oct	Gillingham (FAYCR)	A	1-1#
Sat 16 Oct	SWANSEA CITY	A	1-1
Sat 23 Oct	Cirencester (Cup1)	A	1-1
Fri 29 Oct	CHELTHENHAM (Cup2)**	H	4-0
Sat 13 Nov	Swansea (Cup3)	A	3-1
Sat 27 Nov	EXETER CITY	H	
Sat 4 Dec	Cardiff City	A	
Sat 11 Dec	CIRENCESTER	H	
Sat 8 Jan	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	
Sat 15 Jan	Torquay Utd*	A	
Sat 22 Jan	SWANSEA CITY	H	
Sat 29 Jan	Cup 2		
Sat 5 Feb	Swindon Town	A	
Wed 1 Mar	Cup Quarter Final		
Wed 22 Mar	Cup Semi Final	All matches kick off	
Sun 16 April	Cup Final	at 11.00am except	
#Lost 5-4 on penalties		* KO 11.30am	
		and ** KO 2.00pm	

South West Counties Youth League Fixtures 1999/2000

Sat 21 Aug	Yeovil Town	A	0-2
Sat 28 Aug	Bashley	A	1-4
Sat 4 Sep	BATH CITY	H	0-2
Sat 11 Sep	AFC Bournemouth	A	2-0
Sat 18 Sep	Cardiff City	A	0-4
Sat 25 Sep	CIRENCESTER	H	1-1
Sat 2 Oct	Swansea City	A	2-6
Sat 9 Oct	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	1-7
Sat 16 Oct	NEWPORT COUNTY	H	0-8
Sat 23 Oct	SWINDON TOWN	H	0-4
Sat 30 Oct	Trowbridge Town	A	6-3
Sat 6 Nov	TROWBRIDGE TOWN	H	3-3
Sat 13 Nov	YEOVIL TOWN	H	2-4
Sat 20 Nov	BASHLEY	H	5-0
Sat 27 Nov	Bath City	A	
Sat 4 Dec	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Sat 11 Dec	CARDIFF CITY	H	
Sat 18 Dec	Cirencester	A	
Sat 8 Jan	SWANSEA CITY	H	
Sat 15 Jan	Plymouth Argyle	A	
Sat 22 Jan	Newport County	A	
Sat 29 Jan	Swindon Town	A	
Sat 5 Feb			
Sat 12 Feb			
Sat 19 Feb			
Sat 26 Feb			
Sat 4 Mar			
Sat 11 Mar			

CUP
COMPETITION
All matches
kick off at
11.00am



ROVERS 4 CHELTENHAM 0

This was the most pleasing performance so far this season and the inclusion of our two first team players was a massive boost to our young side.

We completely dominated the game and but for Cheltenham's 'keeper, we could well have reached double figures. We also kept a clean sheet for the first time this season and the visitors had only one scoring opportunity during the whole ninety minutes.

The 4-4-2 system we played suits us better, but because of injuries, it's a system I have been unable to use so far. Down the flanks we got in a number of crosses, thanks to Lewis Hogg and Lance Spencer, who were supported well by Mark Pope and Gary Powell, who both played their best games for some time. James Zabek and Rob Scott were outstanding in midfield and Dave Gilroy and Nathan Ellington caused Cirencester all sorts of problems up front. In goal, Ryan Clarke had very little to do because Mike Trought and John Crowley were in such good form in front of him.

We were 3-0 up at half-time. The first was scored by Spencer, who hit in a volley from Hogg's cross and the second came from Gilroy who beat the 'keeper after Powell had weaved his way past three defenders to set up the chance. A typically strong shot from Ellington gave us a comfortable lead.

We started the second half slowly and began to take things easy, though we added a further goal through Scott, who began the move on the halfway line and finished it with a strong header following the best move of the game.



John Crowley

After that, it was one way traffic for the rest of the game. The boys have now set themselves high standards and they have to maintain them, but they reacted very well in training in the week after this game and I am delighted that they are, at times, fulfilling their potential.

TEAM: CLARKE (R), POPE, POWELL, SCOTT, TROUGHT, CROWLEY, SPENCER, (CHAMBERS), ZABEK (J), ELLINGTON, GILROY, HOGG
SUBS: (Not used) FRENCH

PHIL BATER

SOUTH WEST COUNTIES

Our two games against Trowbridge Academy gave us an opportunity to blood some of our young trialists.

In the first game, we twice came from behind and eventually won the game 6-3. However it was a different story the following week, when we surrendered a 3-0 lead and only took a point from a 3-3 draw. The less said about that, the better, but I can tell you

I was not very pleased at all.

However, I have been very pleased with the form of one of our trialists, John Cordy. We recently held a trial match at The Beeches and John stood out above all the other lads, so Phil and I decided to take another look at him in the home game against Trowbridge. He didn't disappoint us and turned in a very good display. A big, strong, hardworking player, John has recently been in Bilston Town's first team squad.

To give him a further chance to impress, he has now been invited along to The Beeches to train with our first and second year scholars.

I'm sure, like the other players, John realises how difficult it is to succeed in

the pro game, but to our credit, we have given him this chance because we realise there is a lot of young talent in non-league and amateur football, and many youngsters deserve to be given a chance. I wish John the best of luck, because you need that as well as talent, and I would remind him that if this door closes, then its quite possible that another one will open elsewhere.

DAVE BELL

TROWBRIDGE 3 ROVERS 6

TEAM: CLARKE (T), HEALE, LOW, GINGELL, CHAPMAN (GIBSON), DAVIES, ARNDALE, FRENCH, WARREN, BROWN (DEMBIKI), KEAR (HOBBS)

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS



Congratulations to Joe Naughtley and Andy Hayes (pictured above) who were recently selected for the Woodspring Under 13 Representative side. Joe, a left back attends Priory School, W-s-Mare and Andy who is a central midfielder goes to Worle School.

Both lads have been with our Centre of Excellence for two years and Joe is a big Manchester United fan whilst Andy supports Arsenal. They are both rated as exciting prospects for the future.

GOALSCORERS FRENCH (2), ARNDALE, WARREN, DEMBIKI, HOBBS

ROVERS 3 TROWBRIDGE 3

TEAM: MARKLOVE, READ, LITTLE, DAVIES, GINGELL, ARNDALE, CLEVERLEY, CORDY, KEAR (WARREN), DEMBIKI (GIBSON), FRENCH
GOALSCORERS: FRENCH (2), KEAR

THANK YOU, RON

Winner of the 50/50 draw at the Preston match was none other than Ron Craig, who is, of course, one of the directors of the Club. Ron had no hesitation in handing over his cash prize of £751 to the Youth Department. The money will certainly be put to good use and everyone in the Youth Department would like to thank Ron for his generosity.

Football League Youth Alliance League Table 1999/2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torquay	8	5	0	3	16	11	15
Exeter	7	4	2	1	11	7	14
Cardiff	6	4	0	2	13	7	12
Plymouth	8	4	0	4	10	9	12
ROVERS	7	3	2	2	13	10	11
Swindon	7	1	3	3	11	15	6
Swansea	7	1	2	4	4	12	5
Cirencester	6	1	1	4	2	9	4

South West Counties Youth League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	13	10	3	0	38	11	33
Bournemouth	12	8	0	4	33	16	24
Swindon T.	13	7	1	5	25	22	22
Bashley	13	7	1	5	30	28	22
Cardiff City	13	7	0	6	26	19	21
Swansea City	12	5	2	5	30	22	17
Cirencester	11	5	2	4	18	12	17
Bath City	13	4	4	5	28	33	16
Newport C.	10	4	2	4	34	9	14
Plymouth A.	12	4	2	6	25	20	14
ROVERS	13	2	2	9	18	48	8
Trowbridge T.	13	1	1	11	19	84	4

TOMORROW'S WORLD



We have in this column, often referred to the **Advanced Football in the Community Scheme**, without really explaining why it exists or how it was set up. Today, with the help of recently appointed Chief Scout **Richard Everson**, we aim to rectify that and, at the same time, pay tribute to the dedicated team of staff who have been instrumental in ensuring the success of the scheme since it was introduced some four years ago.

"It's really a two tier system," says Richard "and got off the ground when Ian Holloway came back to the club as manager. You can only send a certain number of boys into the Centre of Excellence and it is unfair to keep asking the Centre to take in trialists, so in the Advanced Football in The Community Scheme, we screen boys prior to them going to The Centre of Excellence in order that the Centre can stand alone. Underneath it all, boys are fed into the Advanced Football in the Community Scheme through our scouting network, tip offs and phone calls.

We take boys from the age of 7 to the age of 12 and they will train once each week. When the scheme was started, we only used the facilities at The University of the West of England.

As the scheme developed, we selected the more able footballers and trained with them at Chipping Sodbury in the school gym. **Harold Jarman** and **Geoff Twentyman** ran that and from their group, we selected a number of talented youngsters to go into The Centre of Excellence, but I think it's important to stress that we

only select boys who we think are ready to make the step up and it's a case of looking for quality rather than quantity.

The boys who come into the scheme are of varying ability and we don't stop anyone coming to us. People can phone me about boys and people I know are always out looking at boys who we think might benefit from being with us. Roy Dolling, at the Club, also receives many calls from people about certain youngsters. The calls are all passed on to those running the scheme and the boys are then invited to come along to a training session.

As I have already stated, **Harold**

"The incentive for the youngsters is to see how quickly they might progress through to the first team if they are good enough."

Jarman and **Geoff Twentyman** were in at the beginning and they were joined by a former Rovers player, **Bobby Brown**. Since then, the scheme has expanded and we have opened up a centre in Devizes, run by **John Etheridge** and **Shaun Venton** and another in Somerset, which was initially run by **Martin Ingram** and **Andy Eisentrager** but is now run by **Stuart Ogden**.

The boys in Somerset and Bristol train on Fridays, those in Devizes train on Tuesday and the better group of hand picked boys that have been screened properly and are ready to play in trial matches against The Centre of Excellence teams, or the younger ones that will go into the Centre of Excellence, train on Wednesday evenings.

Since my appointment as Chief Scout, **Harold Jarman** has taken a

large percentage of the workload off of me, but I try to get along to training sessions at least twice each month. Obviously I can't cover all of the centres, but **Stuart Ogden** is very good and does an excellent job in Somerset and **John Etheridge**, in Devizes, is equally as good. You have to have people you can trust doing the work, delegate responsibility to them and let them get on with things in their own way.

The centres do play games against each other and against similar centres that are based elsewhere. This month, for example, we took some boys to play against Cinderford. The whole operation is self financing and the boys pay £2 per week, so the scheme hasn't cost the Club a penny since it began. I like to think that we have made a great deal of progress since those early days and I think that was proved recently, because when we

first started up, we played Southampton and lost 12-0. We recently played them again, four years down the line and included in our side a number of the boys who came through the scheme. This time we won 3-2 and no-one was more pleased than me to see the progress that this Club is now making in its Youth Department.

There are other people I should mention who have been a big help along the way, for example, **Tony** and **Craig Lewis**. I have known **Tony** for many years and he is a very good friend of mine. Like **Harold** and myself, he has been around for a long time, now. He has undertaken a great deal of work since the scheme started, including scouting and working behind the scenes. He has recently been ill and had a major operation. We wish him a speedy recovery and

thank him for all of his hard work. His son **Craig** has worked closely with him and, I guess, will eventually take over from him. Others who have been a big help to us are **Ray Dale**, **Vince Galtani** and **Terry Lines**.

I hope the scheme continues to grow, but we do need funding and personnel to help us. However, the incentive for the youngsters is to see how quickly they might progress through to the first team if they are good enough. When you are working in youth football, nothing gives you greater pleasure than to see a youngster get into the first team and to see the likes of **Bobby Zamora**, **Simon Bryant** and **Nathan Ellington** in the team this season is brilliant and I hope that many local youngsters will follow in their footsteps.

It is, of course, a big help having a management team that gives us their

full backing. Ian and his staff back us all the way, and we are operating a system, whereby I am scouting full time and the Youth Department is in the very capable hands of **Phil Bater** and it really is a team effort. It has to be like that, and not reliant on individuals. All of the people I have mentioned today are, or have been, part of an excellent team running The Advanced Football in the Community."



Richard Everson gets the dreaded 'vote of confidence' from manager Ian Holloway and Chairman Denis Dunford



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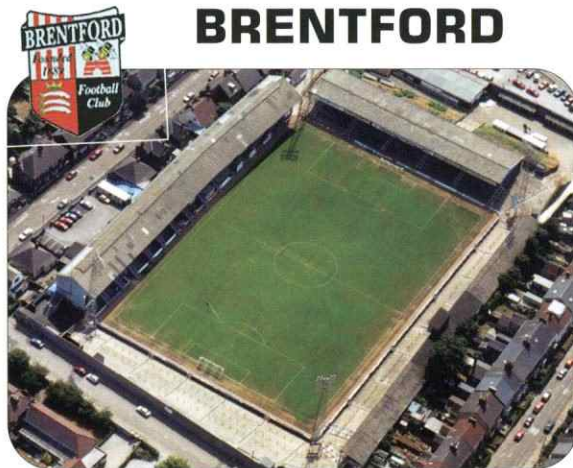
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● **The Supporters Club** are running coaches to Brentford, leaving Horfield and Kingswood at 10.45am and Eastville at 11.00am. Coach fare: £8.50.

● **By Car from all routes outside M25:** Exit M25 at junction 5 (s/p M4, Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3, London (W)) onto the M4 eastbound. After 8.3 miles exit M4 at junction 2 (s/p A4, N and S Circular A406 (A205), Chiswick A315), onto slip road, down onto the A4, which runs underneath, and parallel to, the M4. At Chiswick Roundabout after 0.7 miles, there's a choice of directions:

(a) To the main parking area: go right round the roundabout and head back up the A4 (s/p The West, Heathrow A4, M4). Keep in the two right-hand lanes (s/p Staines, Hounslow A4) and go straight on for 1.5 miles, to junction/lights. Here, turn left (s/p Brentford A3002) into Boston Manor Road. Somerset Road, which leads to one of the best parking areas, is on the RHS after 1.0 miles.

(b) To the ground: take 4th exit (s/p S Circular A205, A316, M3 Richmond) onto Chiswick High Road/Kew Bridge Road. Straight on for 0.3 miles to junction/lights (Kew Bridge Junction). Here, keep in lane for the A315 and go straight on (s/p Hounslow, Brentford A315), towards 'The Plough' At lights after 0.5 miles turn right (by McDonalds) into Ealing Road, which runs past Griffin Park.

● **Please Note:** If you are travelling to Stoke by car on December 18th, the only car parking at The Britannia Stadium is on the South Car Park. Spaces are available by booking IN ADVANCE only, through Pirate Leisure. The cost is £3 per car and we have been allocated a total of 40 car park spaces only. Access to the South Car Park is from the A5035 NOT the A50.

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Nationwide Division 2
The Memorial Stadium
Saturday December 11th
Kick-off 3.00pm

**STOKE CITY v
Bristol Rovers**
Nationwide Division Two
The Britannia Stadium
Saturday December 18th
Kick-off 3.00pm Prices:
Adults: £15
Concessions: £9.00
Matchday Programme: £2

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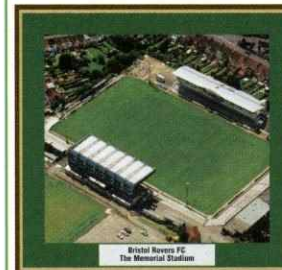
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ONE 2 ONE

with Bobby Zamora

Its only his first season as a pro, but already Bobby Zamora has made his debut in three different competitions, having come on as a substitute in the Worthington Cup, FA Cup and, three weeks ago, in the league at Wycombe.

As a schoolboy, he spent time with West Ham, Chelsea, Arsenal and Charlton. "None of the London clubs offered me a chance to join them as a trainee, though, but Norwich invited me to spend some time with them, which I did. However, they didn't offer me a place as a trainee either and I then had trials with a few more clubs.

"I have learnt so much this season, especially from Garry Thompson and Gary Penrice. They have taught me a great deal about timing my runs and how to hold the ball up and bring other people into play"

I did have the opportunity to join Southend, but Richard Everson, who is now Rovers' Chief Scout, had been at Norwich when I was there and he suggested I came to Rovers for a trial, which I did. I obviously did alright, as I was taken on as a trainee."

Strangely enough, the reason Norwich didn't offer him a contract as a trainee was due to the fact that he was too small - they should see him now! "I was really disappointed not to be offered anything, but at the time, I suppose they did have a point about my height, because when I first came here, I was an absolute midget!

Norwich said I had the ability, but they didn't seem prepared to help me. They didn't think I was going to grow and I guess the fact that neither of my parents are very tall may have been one of the reasons they thought that. After a year in Bristol, though, I just shot up and I'm now just over 6ft tall."

For those of us who have never been involved in the pro game, it's difficult to imagine what the pressures are like on a trainee in his final year, as he waits and wonders whether or not he's going to be offered a pro contract and its something Bobby went through last season. "There really is a great deal of

one year. Needless to say, I was delighted when I was offered a two year contract."

Since then, of course, he's made rapid progress and though he has yet to start a senior game, he's been a regular on the bench since making his debut, in the second half of the second leg Worthington Cup Tie against Birmingham. "It was quite a thrill to get on in that game and, surprisingly enough, I didn't feel nervous at all. I thought I would be, but once the manager said I was going on, the nerves just disappeared and I just thought I'd go out and do my best."



The hard work on the training ground is obviously paying off and he's quick to pay tribute to the help he's had from both the staff and the other players. "I have learnt so much this season, especially from Garry Thompson and Gary Penrice. They have taught me a great deal about timing my runs and how to hold the ball up and bring other people into play, which is the type of game I play really, and they have been a tremendous help. Jamie Cureton and Jason Roberts have also helped and Nathan Ellington and I have learnt a great deal from them. Really, though,

FAVOURITES

T.V Programme:	Dream Team
Film:	Rush Hour
Music:	House/Garage
Actor/Actress:	Will Smith
Food:	Chinese
Drink:	Orange
Resort/Country:	Florida
Football Ground:	Upton Park.

all of the lads are superb and are always willing to help the younger players. Ronnie Maugé, David Hillier and Andy Tillson all have a great deal of experience in the game and are always telling us little things. For example, in training sessions, 'Tilly' is always telling us what to do or what not to do and it's a great help."

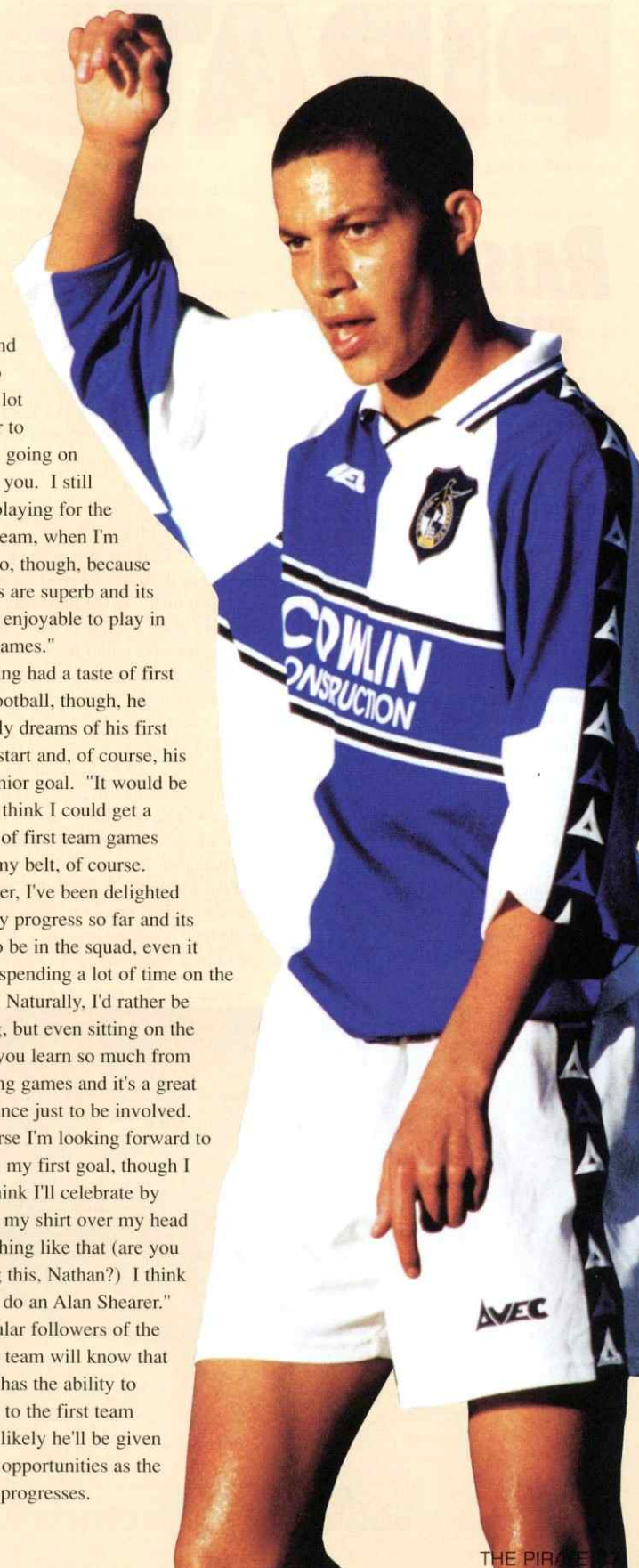
The first team strike force of Cureton and Roberts will need to keep an eye out for Bobby and Nathan Ellington, who have struck up a formidable partnership in the reserve team. "We have had to work hard to establish that partnership, because when we first played together, we didn't seem to be hitting it off, but having spent a great deal of time working with 'Thommo' and 'Penny', we seem to have clicked and we have both scored regularly for the reserves. It was good to come on as a substitute at Wycombe and link up with Nathan. He had a very good game up there and scored a great goal. There were about 10 minutes left when I went on, but I thought I did okay and I just wanted the game to go on a lot longer. In that short time, Nathan and I seemed to work quite well together - it's a pity he didn't score when I set him up!"

He's still eligible to play in the youth team this season, and so he's been in an ideal position to recognise the difference in standards between youth, reserve and first team football. "There is quite a difference at each level, but I would say that you have to be a lot stronger at first team level, which, I suppose, is stating the obvious, but perhaps the main difference is in speed of thought. You don't have a great deal of time to dwell on the ball in the first

team and have to react a lot quicker to what is going on around you. I still enjoy playing for the youth team, when I'm asked to, though, because the lads are superb and it's always enjoyable to play in those games."

Having had a taste of first team football, though, he naturally dreams of his first senior start and, of course, his first senior goal. "It would be nice to think I could get a couple of first team games under my belt, of course. However, I've been delighted with my progress so far and it's great to be in the squad, even it means spending a lot of time on the bench. Naturally, I'd rather be playing, but even sitting on the bench you learn so much from watching games and it's a great experience just to be involved. Of course I'm looking forward to scoring my first goal, though I don't think I'll celebrate by pulling my shirt over my head or anything like that (are you reading this, Nathan?) I think I'll just do an Alan Shearer."

Regular followers of the reserve team will know that Bobby has the ability to step up to the first team and it's likely he'll be given further opportunities as the season progresses.



PIRATE EYE

RAISE THE ROOF

Part Two of the "Raise The Roof" story... In the last Pirate Eye we looked at the early days of the "Raise The Roof Committee". If it was this organisation that "conceived and gave birth to the baby" it was the Supporters Club Committee that acted as the midwife, slapped its bottom and gave it a chance of actually surviving beyond it's first gasps of breath! The slap on the backside was delivered in the form of the 50/50 half time draw an event, which in just two short seasons has become something of an institution amongst Rovers supporters.

In Committee we talked about how it could work once the decision to use the draw for "Raise The Roof" had been taken. Steve "Lord" Burns used his powers of persuasion to secure sponsorship from "Keith's School Of Motoring" courtesy of Mr Mike Fletcher; this enabled us to produce the seller's

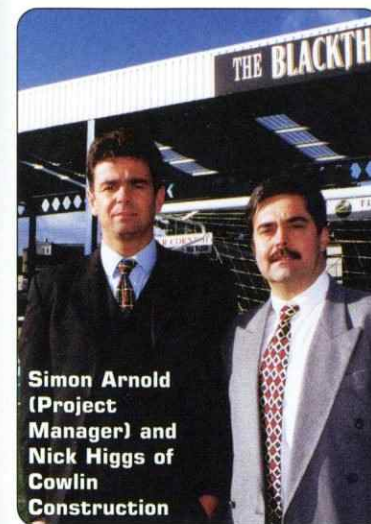
matchday wear and also met the cost of the actual tickets. It is appropriate today to record our appreciation to Mike for his help during the last two years. A former "Tote Ender" Chris Brown assisted with the design of the "Raise The Roof" logo whilst Paul "Swampy" Seaton used his scissors and paste to create the familiar 50/50 draw tickets.

The draw was officially announced one rainswept October night when we entertained Watford, if ever there was weather to illustrate the need for a roof it came that night. So the following sunny Saturday when Blackpool were our visitors we went out to sell our 50/50 tickets for the first time not really knowing how the supporters would react to this latest fund-raising scheme. We hoped to sell about a thousand tickets to give a prize of £500. Realistically anything around £400 for a first time prize could be deemed a success but I think we were all prepared for something less than that. It was with baited breath that we waited for 'Lord Burns' to tell us privately before the actual draw was made how much the prize was. It turned out to be a whopping £674, which

exceeded our expectations. The blue touch paper had been lit....

It took a few matches for everyone to adapt to their new matchday roles but gradually it all started to click into place as it became clear that "Raise The Roof" was a very popular cause amongst the fans. All the sellers are usually at the ground by about 1.30pm where they collect their tickets from 'Lord Burns' ready for the opening of the turnstiles, whilst others disappear to the local pubs. Things are usually fairly quiet for the first 45 minutes or so with a steady flow of customers coming into the ground. As a book of fifty is sold it is returned to the central counting point where the ticket stubs are torn from the book and dropped into the "blue box". Most of this tearing and "running" to collect the used books falls to Jim "ticket stubs" Chappell, who zips around the Mem. in the hour before kick-off with the look of a man who realises that he's about to be late for his own wedding if he does not finish his work quickly. The tearing always extends beyond kick-off and apparently he always issues an expletive if Rovers score a goal before he has finished.

The busiest selling period coincides with the late rush to the turnstiles, which begins around twenty minutes before the kick-off when the pub sellers begin to arrive back at the ground. There is no let



Simon Arnold (Project Manager) and Nick Higgs of Cowlin Construction

up for the backroom staff led by the unflappable Jane Browne (Supporters Club Treasurer) and assisted by daughter Lucy. Somehow they also manage the match-day programme sales. It is an astonishing feat of organisation on Jane's part given the cramped conditions and time pressures under which she works. The pressure also increases around this time for the sellers and the right money is always welcome rather than a fiver or a tenner please note!

Outside the Blackthorn End turnstiles (no longer The Clubhouse Terrace!) we are literally swamped as fans pour through the gates and I usually double my sales in the last ten minutes. 'Lord Burns' will tell you that this is because I have been "poncing about inside the ground" though I prefer to call it evangelical work spreading the word for "Raise The Roof"! It does mean that I can get distracted sometimes, on one occasion last season I had sold a complete book inside the ground and put it into my back pocket. Needless to say I forgot it was there and handed my pouch in just after kick-off as usual. At the half-time whistle I made my way to where "the Queen goes alone" suddenly I realised that I still had an empty book. To say that I panicked would be an understatement as I belted down to the pitch to head off Lord Burns just

before he met Nick Day to do the draw and we frantically ripped the tickets and dropped them into the box!

As kick-off approaches the late arrivals from the pubs begin to appear and we hit a rich vein of sales as that last minute impulse purchase is made. There is no predicting when this rush ends. Sometimes everyone is in the ground just before "Rocky" strikes up over the PA system, whilst at other times there can still be queues 2 minutes after the game has started, in which case we are still selling. The sellers then descend upon the central collecting point where the "final count" of the cash and tickets is now in full swing. The heroes of this particular process are Sue Williams, Lord Burns, Sandra Jacques, Berni Clothier, the aforementioned Jim "ticket stubs" Chappell, Jane and Lucy Browne. A puff of white smoke then emerges from HQ as the final amount is calculated with Berni usually last to leave her station and all is ready for the half-time draw.

There you are, that is how £50,000 pounds has been raised in just over two years and that is half the reason why the Clubhouse Terrace is now called "The Blackthorn End", the rest is down to the contribution of the good people of Blackthorn. I have dealt with a few cynics in the past two years who have told me that it would never happen; well it HAS so there! It is due to the hard work of a dedicated band of people who have worked extremely hard to deliver what may have appeared to be a fanciful dream, they deserve to be saluted today. They are...

THE 50/50 SELLERS who have been, **Berni Clothier, Mike Griffiths, Pete Collins, Gerald Bartlett, Mark Carver, Sue Dry ("Blackthorn"), Jean ("Bashful")** didn't make to the photo call) **Shaw, Paul ("Swampy") Seaton, Steve Noble, Dave Hewitt, James Packwood, Alan Cross, Alan Williams, Phil Draper, Ian Metheringham, Mark Smith, Alan Williams, Sue Williams, Sandra Jacques, Robbie Sparks, Bernie Green, Jane Browne, Janet Wooster, Steve "Lord" Burns, Sue and "Young"**

John (stop poaching my customers), **Simon and Lauren**, one seller who prefers to remain anonymous and yes me too!

THE BACKROOM STAFF who have been, **Sue Williams, Jane Browne, Lucy Browne, Sandra Jacques, Jim "ticket stubs" Chappell, Steve "Lord" Burns and Berni Clothier** who also carry out the administration of the draw between home matches!

FOOTBALL CLUB STAFF, who have assisted, co-operated, encouraged and made this all possible: - **The Board of Directors, Keith Brookman** (for space in the programme), **Nick Day** (for his tireless promotion of the cause), **Dave Harper** (a smooth talking bar steward), **Ian Holtby** (a shoulder to cry on), and **Ralph Ellis** (mines a Blackthorn please Ralph).

THE SPONSORS, **Blackthorn and Keith's School Of Motoring**.

THE "RAISE THE ROOF" COMMITTEE WERE AND WHO ARE NOW DISBANDED, **Robbie Sparks** (whose idea all this was), **Geoff Martin** (Treasurer), **Nigel Cockram, Dave Hewitt, James Packwood and John Malickyj** (Chair).

NOT FORGETTING, **Mr Simon Arnold**, Football Club Project Manager who found "a way" and has endured great personal stress to make this happen, well done Simon. Anyone who wishes to criticise your efforts can see me after the match!

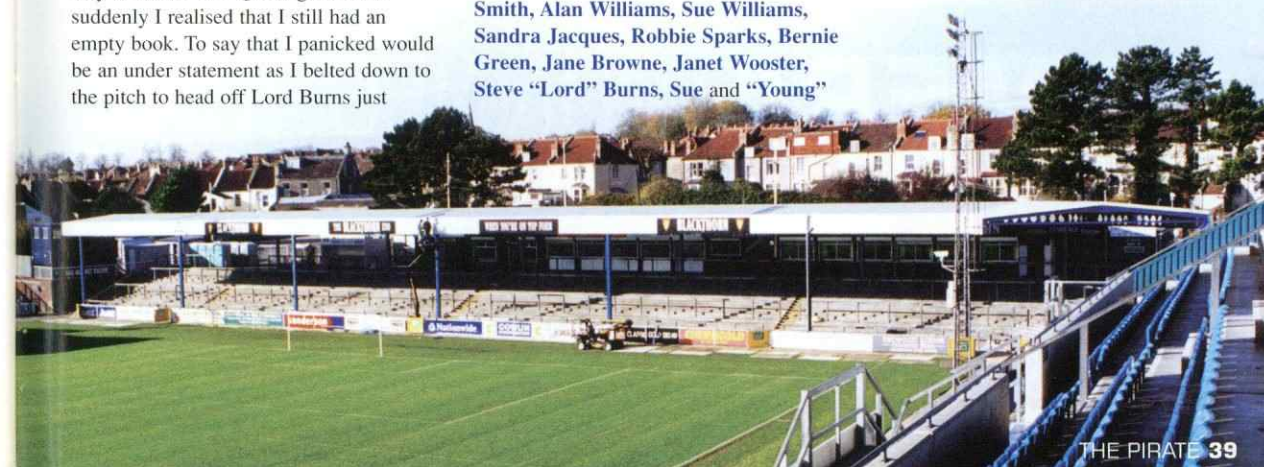
AND FINALLY, thank you to anyone who has brought a ticket in the last two years, the Memorial Stadium is now a better place to be than it was three years ago....Now its time for....

THE SEQUEL, every blockbuster must have one so here's to "Raise The Roof 2-Cover The Kids", I really must go home....

JOHN MALICKY
(Proud to have been part of "Raise The Roof" Part 1)



The "Rogues Gallery"





Left: Lee Archer in action in the Coca-Cola Cup tie in September 1996.

Below: Gary Waddock in Luton colours

Pics from the camera of Alan Marshall



Above: Andy Tillson celebrates his goal against Luton in February 1997



CAMERA CONNECTIONS



Today, Luton complete a notable hat-trick of "firsts" here at The Memorial Stadium. They were our first opponents in a cup tie here, back in September 1996, were here for the opening of the West Stand in the following February and travel here this afternoon, when the roof over the Clubhouse Terrace is in use for the first time. As Rovers won both of those previous games, it would be nice to think we could complete a hat-trick of our own today!

The second leg of the First Round Coca Cola cup tie against Luton was played on September 4th 1996 and we were 3-0 down after the first leg at Kenilworth Road. Only 2320 fans turned out to see if Rovers could pull back the deficit and hopes were raised as Rovers tore into their opponents. Andy Gurney opened the scoring after just five minutes and Lee Archer added a second fifteen minutes later. In spite of further chances before half-time, the crucial third goal didn't arrive. Luton improved after the break and David Oldfield pulled a goal back for them after 63 minutes to give them an aggregate win of 4-2.

ROVERS: COLLETT, MARTIN, CLARK, TILLSON, LOCKWOOD, GURNEY, (LOW, 71), HOLLOWAY, BROWNING, ARCHER, MILLER, PARMENTER (FRENCH, 71) Sub not used: BOWEY

LUTON: FEUER, JAMES, LINTON, DAVIS, THOMAS, HUGHES, ALEXANDER, JOHNSON, SHOWLER (FOTIADIS, 45), GUENTCHEV, OLDFIELD Subs not used: THORPE, McLAREN

When the sides next met at The Memorial Stadium on February 15th 1997, they produced a thrilling game which saw Rovers run out winners by 3-2. Luton took the lead from the penalty spot after 10 minutes. Tom White fouled Tony Thorpe and the Luton man got up to beat Andy Collett with his spot kick. Paul Miller equalised after 22 minutes and a minute later, Bontcho Guentchev was sent off after his challenge on Dave Pritchard.

Two minutes into the second half, Andy Tillson nodded in Rovers second goal and a rare Ian Holloway goal after 54 minutes looked to have put Rovers in a comfortable position. However, former Rovers favourite Gary Waddock popped up to score 10 minutes later and there were several anxious moments for the home supporters before the 90 minutes were up.

ROVERS: COLLETT, PRITCHARD, WHITE, TILLSON, LOCKWOOD, MILLER, SKINNER, HOLLOWAY, ARCHER, CURETON (HAYFIELD, 78), BEADLE (ALSOP, 68) Sub not used: MARTIN

LUTON: FEUER, JAMES, DAVIS, JOHNSON, THOMAS (MARSHALL, 78), LINTON (WADDOCK, 56), ALEXANDER, McLAREN, GUENTCHEV, THORPE, OLDFIELD (FOTIADIS, 84)

It was ironic that Gary Waddock and Andy Tillson should both have scored in the same match. They both joined Rovers, from QPR, on November 5th 1992, but were not renowned for their goalscorer exploits. Waddock began his career at QPR, but after serious, career threatening injury, he completed his recovery by playing in Belgium before returning to play for Millwall, QPR (for a second time) and had a loan spell at Swindon before his move to Rovers. A popular player with the fans, he scored 1 goal in 70 league games for The Gas. He joined Luton in September 1994, initially on loan, and is now on the coaching staff at QPR.

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PIRATE PROGRAMMES



Apologies for anyone that went to Ashton Gate on the 14th November for the Bristol City programme fair, but this was postponed due to the rearrangement of FL games to the Sunday because of the Scotland v England clash. A circular to this effect was not received until after I had "gone to press" as it were. The programme fair will now take place in the Atyeo suite 1100-1400 on the Sunday 5th December 1999.

PHIL DRAPER

Reviews



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v EVERTON 11/9/99 Size 240x170mm 52 pages Price £2

Another of the stiff cover brigade, but the two Sheffield clubs I believe were the originators of this trend. Turn this one into the light and you will see that it also has "100 years" as a raised non-reflective feature, placed around the photos of the two players. Some 15 pages are advertising and the overall

impression of this full-colour programme is very busy and crammed with material. On closer inspection though this is all somewhat official and informative rather than provocative and entertaining as well. Reports, interviews, commercial promotion and the expected statistics and visitors information. I would be willing to bet the person interviewed in the previous programme was Ian Nolan as Andy Hinchcliffe answers all Qs under the "IN" initials! More interesting still is a reproduction in the centre of the earliest programme known for Hillsborough v Bolton Sept. 8th 1900, with 16 pages and better info than many produced in the 1960s and 70s around the country! Score (out of 100) 86.

LUTON TOWN v Bristol Rovers 18/4/89 Size 241x171mm 44 pages Then Price 30p

Really a 20-page local effort with a 24-page national supplement "Programme Plus". Pre-printed colour for the local bit, and full-colour for the supplement. Six pages of advertising in the local pages, double-page photo and statistics spreads, a page on the visitors, but a fair bit to read nevertheless. The strangest page is however a strip cartoon, a sort of football spy adventure featuring Luton's foreign signing "Bobbin" Dino in

"Which side was he on?" of which episode 22 is in this edition! Under threat of being shot by an umbrella gun in the crowd our Bobbin knocks him out with a hard struck ball to the face and MI6 move in for an arrest! Add to that a Motoring column, entertainments page (with a pic of Joe Shaddap you face-Dolce) and a feature on snooker player Terry Griffiths all in the supplement and you have something approaching a Sunday Paper! Not particularly rare, expect to pay 50p - 80p in mint condition, although it may crop up in bargain boxes at fairs for less.

PastPirate - Season 1988/89 (by Jamie Howarth)
A 20% price increase (to 60p) was a small price to pay for what (in my opinion) was a fine production. Most of the cover was taken up with a version of the club badge which incorporated an action picture, and a small mugshot of a different player or member of staff each game. Match details and sponsors, etc. filled the rest. It measured 15 x 21 cms and had 40 glossy pages. The league issues numbered the usual 23, these were joined by an early season encounter with Bristol City in the Glos Cup, one game in the Littlewoods (League) Cup vs Bournemouth, and also one in the F.A. Cup against Non League Fisher Athletic. At least the Sherpa Van Trophy gave us more than one game. We played Bristol City in the preliminary round, Cardiff City in R1 and Torquay United in the quarter final. All issues were numbered (1-30) although there were two No 23's and no number 24 (oops!!). Two end of season issues though were not included in the numbering system. These were the promotion play-off



games verses Fulham (semi-final) and Port Vale (final). Both these progs were increased to £1.00 which was a lot, being that apart from a yellow cover with a picture of the squad across the middle and a few different articles inside, they were the same as the usual issues with no increase in size or page numbers. NB Pre-season friendlies will be covered towards the end of this season.

PIRATE PROGRAMMES

BRSC, 199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, BRISTOL BS15 1AZ

Web site at <http://come.to/brsc>

E-mail to PMDraper10@aol.com

All enquiries welcomed but must be accompanied by SAE for reply.

Sorry, no current stockist available. Specialist stockist of Rovers programmes. Donations (any club) always welcome.

Profits go to Bristol Rovers SC. Personal callers on Thursdays 1830-2030 only.

SPENCER'S STATS



ROVERSQUAD 1999/00

PLAYER	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL	
Birthplace/date	App	Gls	App	Gls	L.App	Gls
FRANKIE BENNETT	0+6	0	0	0	16+24	4
Birmingham, 13.1.69						
Simon BRYANT	6+3	0	0+3	0	6+3	0
Bristol, 22.11.82						
Trevor CHALLIS	17	0	3	0	55	0
Paddington, 23.10.75						
Jamie CURETON	17	8	5	1	135+10	57
Bristol, 28.8.75						
Nathan ELLINGTON	1+9	1	0+2	0	2+18	2
Bradford, 2.7.81						
Stephen FOSTER	17	1	5	0	90+5	2
Mansfield, 3.12.74						
DAVID HILLIER	17	0	5	0	30	0
Blackheath, 19.12.69						
Lewis HOGG	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol, 13.9.82						
Ian HOLLOWAY	0	0	0	0	379+18	41
Bristol, 12.3.63						
Ray JOHNSTON	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bristol 5.5.81						
Lee JONES	13	0	5	0	53	0
Pontypridd, 9.8.70						
Michel KUIPERS	0	0	0	0	1	0
Amsterdam, 26.6.74						
Stephane LEONI	0+2	0	1	0	25+7	0
St. Michiel, 1.9.76						
Ronnie MAUGE	12	0	5	0	12	0
Islington, 10.3.69						
Michael MEAKER	0	0	0+1	0	17+3	2
Greenford, 18.8.71						
Brian PARKIN	0	0	0	0	241	0
Birkenhead, 12.10.65						
Gary PENRICE	0+3	0	0+1	0	234+23	60
Bristol, 23.3.64						
Robbie PETHICK	16	0	5	0	25	0
Tavistock, 8.9.70						
David PRITCHARD	15	1	4	0	151+2	1
Wolverhampton, 27.5.72						
Jason ROBERTS	16	6	5	3	48+5	21
Park Royal, 25.1.78						
Jamie SHORE	0	0	0	0	18+6	2
Bristol, 1.9.77						
Mark SMITH	0	0	0	0	11+3	0
Bristol, 13.9.79						
Andy THOMSON	16	1	5	0	37	2
Swindon, 28.3.74						
Andy TILLSON	17	1	5	0	224+3	12
Huntingdon, 30.6.66						
Robert TREES	0	0	0+1	0	33+3	0
Manchester, 18.12.77						
Mike TROUGHT	0	0	0	0	6+3	0
Bristol, 19.10.80						
Mark WALTERS	0+1	0	0	0	0+1	0
Birmingham 2.6.64						
Tom WHITE	0	0	0	0	44+7	1
Bristol, 26.1.76						
Lee ZABEK	2	0	1	0	20+7	1
Bristol, 13.10.78						
Bobby ZAMORA	0+1	0	0+2	0	0+1	0
London, 16.1.81						

Nationwide DIVISION TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vigan Athletic	18	8	1	0	20	5	2	7	0	17	12	38
Preston North End	18	6	1	2	13	9	4	5	0	15	8	36
Burnley	18	7	1	1	19	6	2	5	2	5	5	33
Brentford	18	6	2	1	18	9	3	4	2	13	12	33
Notts County	18	4	2	3	9	7	6	1	2	15	9	33
Gillingham	18	6	1	2	20	9	3	4	2	15	13	32
Stoke City	18	4	3	2	12	8	5	2	2	16	8	32
Bristol Rovers	17	4	3	1	9	5	5	2	2	10	6	32
Millwall	18	4	4	1	14	8	4	2	3	14	12	30
Luton Town	18	6	2	1	18	11	2	1	6	5	11	27
Bournemouth	18	6	2	1	17	6	1	2	6	8	20	25
Bury	18	4	4	1	19	14	1	5	3	9	9	24
Wycombe Wanderers	18	3	3	3	12	14	2	4	3	10	12	22
Cardiff City	18	2	6	1	10	9	2	1	6	11	15	19
Oldham Athletic	18	3	1	5	11	12	2	3	4	9	12	19
Oxford Utd	18	2	3	4	10	11	3	1	5	8	12	19
Scunthorpe Utd	18	2	2	5	8	15	3	2	4	11	15	19
Wrexham	18	3	3	3	11	11	1	3	5	7	20	18
Bristol City	17	2	7	0	12	7	1	1	6	5	15	17
Reading	17	3	3	3	10	10	1	1	6	11	23	16
Cambridge Utd	18	3	3	3	18	16	0	3	6	9	16	15
Chesterfield	18	1	2	5	5	9	2	3	5	8	12	14
Blackpool	18	1	4	4	9	16	1	2	6	9	17	12
Colchester	17	1	3	5	10	20	1	2	5	7	20	11

League table as at 27.11.99

Pirates Progress

The story so far 1999/2000

KEY

- Played and ① Goals scored
- Unused substitute
- Substitute and player replaced

DATE	TEAM		F-A	ATT	AWAY SUPPORT
Sat 7 Aug	Brentford	H	0-0	8514	752
Tue 10 Aug	Luton Town	A (WC1/1)	2-0	2984	240
Sat 14 Aug	Gillingham	A	1-0	6234	439
Sat 21 Aug	Oxford Utd	H	1-0	7617	676
Wed 25 Aug	Luton Town	H (WC1/2)	2-2	4414	134
Sat 28 Aug	Wrexham	A	1-2	3365	574
Mon 30 Aug	Burnley	H	1-0	7624	879
Sat 4 Sep	Scunthorpe U	A	2-0	4496	586
Sat 11 Sep	Wigan Ath.	A	1-3	6297	1364
Tue 14 Sept	Birmingham C.	A (WC2/1)	0-2	17,457	1204
Sat 18 Sep	Oldham Ath	H	3-2	6574	150
Tue 21 Sep	Birmingham C. H	(WC2/2)	0-1	5456	571
Sat 25 Sep	Notts County	A	2-0	6197	1011
Sat 2 Oct	Blackpool	H	3-1	7715	120
Sat 9 Oct	Cardiff City	H	1-1	7363	1061
Sun 17 Oct	Bristol City	A (1.00)	0-0	16,011	2800
Tue 19 Oct	Bournemouth	A	1-0	5613	1189
Sat 23 Oct	Notts County	H	0-1	8188	355
Sun 31 Oct	Preston	H (FAC1)	0-1	6145	615
Tue 2 Nov	Bury	H	0-0	5397	71
Sat 6 Nov	Wycombe W	A	1-1	5167	1156
Sat 20 Nov	Chesterfield	A	1-0	2875	603
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 (1.00)			
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			
Sat 5 Feb	Burnley	A			
Sat 12 Feb	Scunthorpe	H			
Sat 19 Feb	Luton Town	A			
Sat 26 Feb	Oldham	A			
Sat 4 Mar	Wigan	H			
Tue 7 Mar	Wycombe	H			
Sat 11 Mar	Bury	A			
Sat 18 Mar	Chesterfield	H			
Wed 22 Mar	Reading	A			
Sat 25 Mar	Millwall	A			
Sat 1 Apr	Stoke City	H			
Sat 8 Apr	Cambridge U	A			
Sat 15 Apr	Preston NE	H			
Sat 22 Apr	Bristol City	H			
Mon 24 Apr	Blackpool	A			
Sat 29 Apr	Bournemouth	H			
Sat 6 May	Cardiff City	A			
Sat 20 May	FA Cup Final				

Mark Walter
kit is sponsored
by Steve & Te
of SMG
Carpentry
Contractors

Robbie Pethick
kit is sponsored
by
Internet '2nd
May' Gas

Mark Walters
kit is sponsored
by Steve & Terry
of SMG
Carpentry
Contractors

Robbie Pethick's
kit is sponsored
by
Internet '2nd
May' Gas

All Saturday matches KO 3pm unless stated
All midweek matches KO 7.45pm unless stated

	Lee JONES	David PRITCHARD	Trevor CHALLIS	Stephen FOSTER	Andy THOMSON	Andy TILLSON	Ronnie MAUGÉ	David HILLIER	Michael MEAKER	Jamie CURETON	Jason ROBERTS	Robbie PETHICK	Mark SMITH	Marcus ANDREASSON*	Mike TROUGHT	Stephane LEONI	Nathan ELLINGTON	Frankie BENNETT	Michel KUIPERS	Jamie SHORE	Lee ZABEK	Tom WHITE	Bobby ZAMORA	Ray JOHNSTON	Robert TREES	Ian HOLLOWAY	Gary PENRICE	Stuart TAYLOR*	Brian PARKIN	Mark WALTERS	Simon BRYANT	Lewis HOGG			
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NOVEMBER

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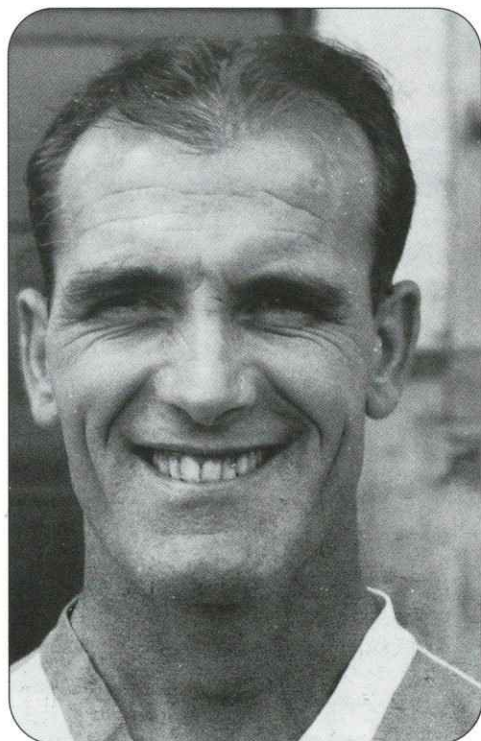
27th November 1937
ROVERS! QPR 8

The course of Rovers' 1937-38 season swung on an FA Cup tie played on this day sixty-two years ago. As Hitler's expansionist policy began to offer a hint of war-clouds gathering over Europe, Rovers had managed just three league wins by 27th November, scoring only fourteen goals in sixteen league matches.

However, Rovers had drawn 1-1 at home to QPR in October, so this FA Cup tie at Eastville was by no means beyond Rovers' ability.

Or so they said. Rovers were comprehensively swept aside by

John Watling whose consistent performances restricted first team opportunities for Maurice Lockier



STEPHEN BYRNE

ON THIS DATE



Percy Smith

Rangers. Cheetham and Fitzgerald both scored hat-tricks, the only match in the Club's FA Cup history when two opponents have scored three times each, and Bott scored twice, as QPR won 8-1 before a crowd of 8,869 at Eastville. Bill Pendergast, the scorer of Rovers' consolation goal, never played for the Club again. This remains the heaviest defeat Rovers have suffered in the FA Cup and the Club's heaviest first class defeat at home. Manager Percy Smith left the Club, three debutants appeared seven days later against Notts County and Rovers slowly moved up the table. Although Bott scored twice more when Rovers lost 4-0 at QPR in February, Rovers were by then heading for mid-table security.

On the same day, today's visitors Luton Town were 4-2 winners at Plymouth in a Second Division fixture. A crowd of 18,559 at Home Park saw an exciting game with the veteran Jack Vidler scoring Argyle's opening goal.

BORN ON THIS DATE – MAURICE LOCKIER

Seventy five years ago today, the former Rovers outside-left Maurice Lockier was born in Bristol. Six feet tall and a fast runner, he had left his home town for fruitless spells with Derby County and Chester. He returned to Bristol in July 1947 to sign for Rovers and spent five years on Rovers' books. It was Lockier's ill-fortune that Josser Watling was playing consistently well and the tall forward was twenty five before he first appeared in league football. In fact, Lockier played in just two league matches, the final two of the 1949-50 season as Rovers drew 0-0 with Northampton Town and won at Reading through a solitary Ted Parsons goal. He had, in fact, scored on Rovers' 1948 tour of Holland, in a 4-2 victory over Racing Club Haarlem and he later scored twice when Rovers won the Warminster Cup by defeating Warminster Town 4-1 in April 1951. In May 1952 Lockier joined Bath City and in July 1956 Trowbridge Town where, for his final season in football, he was converted to full-back and frequently partnered the former Rovers player Ralph Jones in the reserves side.



Maurice Lockier

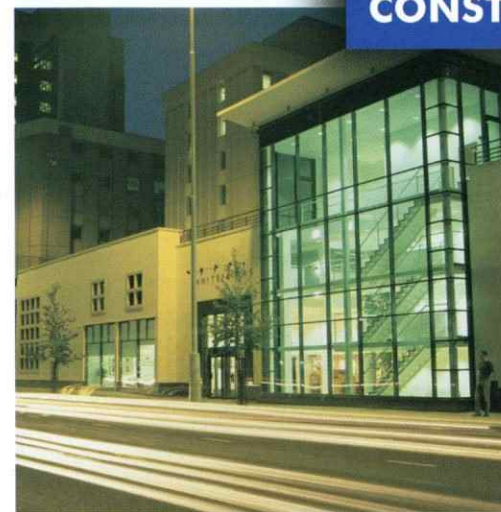
Education ▶

Swansea Institute

Leisure

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**COWLIN
CONSTRUCTION**



Residential

Industrial

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Whitefriars Bristol

COWLIN QUARTERS.

0117 983 2000



BRISTOL ROVERS



LUTON TOWN

1	LEE JONES	
2	DAVID PRITCHARD	
3	TREVOR CHALLIS	
4	STEPHEN FOSTER	
5	ANDY THOMSON	
6	ANDY TILLSON	
7	RONNIE MAUGÉ	
8	DAVID HILLIER	
9	MICHAEL MEAKER	
10	JAMIE CURETON	
11	JASON ROBERTS	
12	ROBBIE PETHICK	
14	MARK SMITH	
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	
29	BRIAN PARKIN	
30	MARK WALTERS	
31	SIMON BRYANT	
34	LEWIS HOGG	

REFEREE

PHILIP DOWD
(Stoke-on-Trent)

Philip is a 36-year-old Sales Executive for a steel manufacturing company now enjoying his second season as a Football League referee. Philip first started refereeing in 1984 and today takes charge of a Rovers fixture for a second time, having previously been in charge at Notts County last season

ASSISTANTS

M. MULLARKEY
(Exeter)

D. C. RICHARDS
(Llanelli)

FOURTH OFFICIAL

I. WHITEHOUSE
(Calne, Wilts)

	NATHAN ABBEY	1
	GAVIN McGOWAN	2
	EFETOBORE SODJE	3
	MATTHEW SPRING	4
	ALAN WHITE	5
	MARVIN JOHNSON	6
	PHIL GRAY	7
	PAUL McLAREN	8
	STUART DOUGLAS	9
	MICHAEL McINDOE	10
	LIAM GEORGE	11
	GARY DOHERTY	12
	STUART FRASER	13
	ANDREW FOTIADIS	14
	MATTHEW TAYLOR	15
	LANDRY ZAHANA-ONI	16
	EMMERSON BOYCE	17
	TRESOR KANDOL	18
	JAMES AYRES	19
	JERRY MOSES	20
	ANDRE SCARLETT	21
	DANIEL TATE	22
	JUDE STIRLING	23
	SCOTT WARD	24
	ADAM LOCKE	28
	NEIL MIDGLEY	30
	JULIAN WATTS	40

MATCH SPONSOR

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

DOWNEND ELECTRICS

ROMAN GLASS

