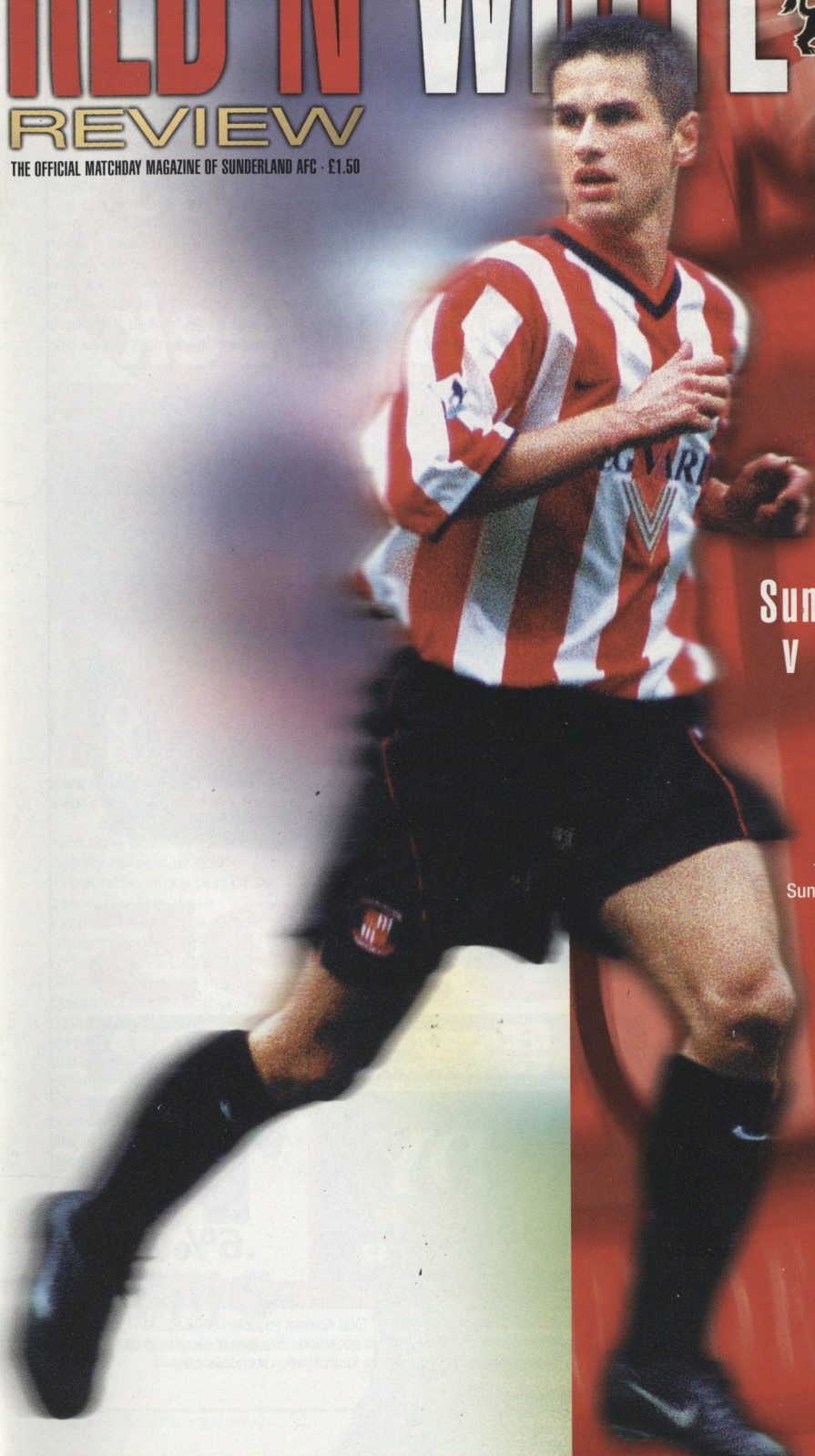


RED'N'WHITE

REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF SUNDERLAND AFC • £1.50



Sunderland AFC v Luton Town



Tuesday
19th September 2000
Sunderland Stadium of Light
Kick-off 7.45pm



Worthington Cup
Round 2 • 1st Leg

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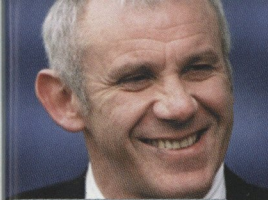
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MANAGER

Reid Between The Lines

THE THOUGHTS AND VIEWS OF PETER REID

Patience will bring deserved awards



I can't give our supporters enough praise for the way they patiently stayed behind us in Saturday's much-needed win over Derby.

It did not take a genius to work out that we struggled in the first half-an-hour of the game; our passing was poor, we were edgy and the pressure was there for everyone to feel. The crowd had every right to give us a

Tonight we welcome Luton to the stadium as we start our Worthington Cup campaign - a match that we must not underestimate.

Although Luton are at the wrong end of Division Two and suffered a bad result on Saturday, I have no doubts that they will provide stern opposition for us. Playing at the Stadium of Light will be a special occasion for a lot of their players and we must

"Teams have found it very difficult to come to the Stadium of Light and you can count on your hands the number of times we have lost there in three years."

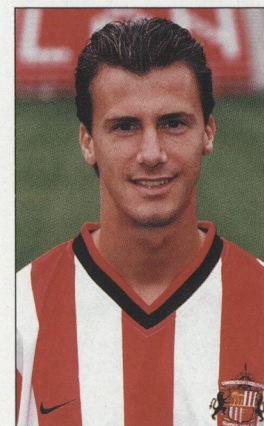
When I looked at the injury list last week I said to Bobby Saxton that we could pick a team from it that would hold its own in the First Division.

Stanislav Varga has been told he can start bike work and his comeback should not be too far away which is a massive boost for the club. We missed Stan on Saturday when we were very edgy in the opening part of the game. His cool head in possession was much needed and when you've got a player like that it rubs off on everyone else.

I'd like to wish a warm welcome to the Stadium of Light this evening to Luton Town and their supporters. I hope you enjoy the game and that we go home with our unbeaten home record this season still intact.

Darren Holloway, Mark Maley and Paul Thirlwell will all relish a first-team chance.

I've never known a club have so many injuries so early in a season as we have at the moment, but at least there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.



■ TOM PEETERS AND MARK MALEY - Two players who may get the chance to impress in tonight's game and enhance their first team credentials

hard time but they didn't and it really helped us come through the sticky part of the game. The fans were excellent and had a massive influence on the result.

Teams have found it very difficult to come to the Stadium of Light and you can count on your hands the number of times we have lost there in three years. That is simply down to the supporters and if the crowd continues to back us like it did on Saturday we won't go too far wrong at home.

make sure we are very professional.

The game gives me an opportunity to hand some of my squad players the chance to impress in the first team - those who are not on the injury list!

Football has become much more of a squad game in recent years which means players have to be patient at times. But I'm sure the likes of Tom Peeters, Darren Williams,

Mill

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RED'N'WHITE REVIEW

Sunderland AFC Official Website - www.sunderland-afc.com



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THE AIR ZOOM TOTAL 90

As in 90 minutes later you'll realise where all those defenders went.



The Big Match

SCENE SETTER

All you need to know about the **BLACK CATS** and **THE HATTERS**

REMEMBER THE LAST TIME?

Tuesday 1st December 1998, League Cup Round Five

Sunderland 3

(og, Bridges, Quinn)

Luton Town 0

The Lads: Sorensen, Makin, Scott, Ball, Melville, Butler, Summerbee, Clark, Quinn, Bridges, Johnston

Hatters: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (sub McLaren), Evers, Douglas (sub Doherty), Gray, McGowan (sub White)

Attendance: 35,752

In the end a three goal victory was a fair reflection on Sunderland's territorial superiority. However, as Marvin Johnson's 41st minute own goal only separated the sides until virtually the final whistle, Hatters followers must have gone away deflated. Particularly as Luton played for over an hour with ten men, player/coach Mitchell Thomas having been red carded following two bookables.

Second Division Luton were a credit to manager Lennie Lawrence, keeping a tight reign on the free scoring home frontline, that had netted 49 goals in 21 league games. Though SuperKev was missing through injury, the lads, fresh from Saturdays 4-0 win at Sheffield United, when Quinny and Michael Bridges grabbed two apiece, were early on the rampage.

Despite continuous pressure, few clear cut chances were carved out, and indeed the Luton rearguard grew in stature and resolve after the dismissal of Thomas. Though little was seen of the Hatters as an attacking force, a breakaway leveller was always on the cards as the match entered the final ten minutes. More than one home fan reckoned Phil Gray would embarrass his former club.

Then two goals in the final minutes eased frayed nerves. Michael Bridges shot powerfully into the top left corner, and straight from the restart Quinny registered his tenth of the season.

A semi final with Leicester beckoned.

LUTON LIFT THE CUP

Luton were winners of the competition in 1987/88 when it was known as the Littlewoods Cup. Arsenal were beaten 3-2 in front of 95,732 when 'keeper Andy Dibble who had earlier spent a loan spell at Roker, saved a critical penalty when Arsenal were already a goal in front. Brian Stein (2) and Danny Wilson scored the goals. Town were back at Wembley again the following year but Forest took the trophy 3-1.



■ BRIAN STEIN

FIRST ROUND FALLERS

Luton were eliminated at the first round stage last season. Drawn against fellow second division side Bristol Rovers, they shared four goals at the Pirates' Memorial Ground in the first leg. But in an anti climax at Kenilworth Road they were beat 2-0.

LEAGUE CUP PEDIGREE

Back in August 1976 the two clubs clashed at Roker in the second round of what was then simply called the Football League Cup. Sunderland, newly promoted to Division One, overcame their opponents, a league below, 3-1.

Billy Hughes netted twice in the first half, with Pop Robson also on target. Jimmy Husband replied for the Hatters, who fielded former Sunderland midfielder Brian Chambers in the number four shirt.



■ Niall Quinn soars above Luton's Marvin Johnson

NINE GOAL WONDERS

Top Black Cats hitmen in this tournament are Brian Clough and Marco Gabbiadini, both with nine. Third is Gary Rowell with eight, while Clive Walker, Eric Gates, Michael Bridges and Danny have managed six.

DANNY'S DELIGHT

Danny Dichio had a successful time in front of goal last season in this competition, netting four goals in Sunderland's three games. Walsall were beaten 6-2 on aggregated in round two before Wimbledon won 3-2 at Selhurst Park. The big front man also scored twice in 98/99, and is now the current Sunderland leading League Cup marksman with six.

BLACK CATS HAVE THE EDGE

In terms of progress beyond round two Sunderland hold a slight edge 19-18. A summary of the respective records is as follows. Note, Luton's includes a disqualification in 1986/87 at the second round stage when opponents Cardiff were not offered tickets for the Kenilworth Road leg.

ROUND REACHED	THE LADS	HATTERS
Round One	3	7
Round Two	18	15
Round Three	11	10
Round Four	3	4
Round Five	2	2
Seem Finals	2	-
Beaten Finalists	1	1
Winners	-	1

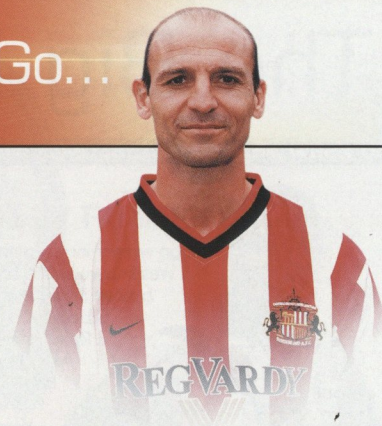
CAPTAIN'S LOG

Everyone was delighted to get the three points on Saturday. The first half proved to be a nervous affair but Kevin Kilbane's excellent goal pulled us around a bit.

After half time I thought we started to look like we did in the early part of last season. The crowd really got behind us and boosted the lads' confidence. I thought the supporters really warmed to Don Hutchison whose tackling and passing were tremendous and he was very unlucky not to score with his two free kicks that hit the bar.

Kevin Phillips looked like he is starting to get his match fitness. He has been under a bit of pressure but he can handle that because he is a top class player and he showed it once again with a great finish when a chance arrived.

It seems as if we may well give opportunities to some



squad players tonight and I think the Worthington Cup is a great

competition to do that in. Top Premiership sides need big squads in the modern game and we have quite a few lads who are more than capable of performing on a big stage. Tonight will be a big game for them and they'll be very keen to show what they can do.

It's obviously a big game for Luton as well and they'll be well up for their visit to the Stadium of Light. In welcoming them to the north east tonight we know they'll be determined to give us a hard game as we try to establish a lead to take with us to the second leg.

Enjoy the game,

STEVE BOULD



TEAM TALK



Winger Kevin Kilbane has put his eye-catching start to the season down to a gruelling pre-season fitness programme.

Kilbane has been singled out as one of Sunderland's most impressive performers so far by boss Peter Reid and the Republic of Ireland man reckons it is due to a tough summer fitness campaign.

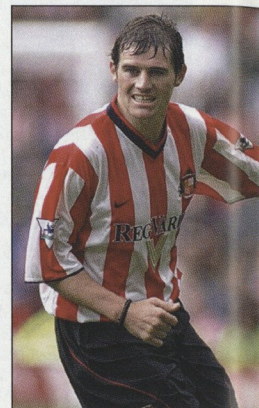
By his own assessment, it took the winger time to settle at the Stadium of Light after a big-money move from West Brom nine months ago.

FITTER THAN EVER

Kilbane admits that he was left scratching his head at times last season as to why he was not producing the form he was showing at international level in the Premiership.

It prompted him to put in a summer of hard work on the training ground and it is beginning to pay dividends.

The 23-year-old explained: "I've been fairly pleased with the way things have gone for me this season, although it would have been nice if we could have had



KEVIN KILBANE reveals his fantastic form secret

a few more pints on the board as well.

"During the summer I didn't really let my fitness drop. I was doing bits and pieces all the time and when I came back for pre-season I just tried to work as hard as possible and I think it's paying off now.

"I'm feeling fitter than I ever have and I'm pleased with that. Training at Sunderland is harder than it was at my other clubs.

"Every single day it's high intensity. The lads are put through their paces without fail and that's probably what has made me feel fitter and stronger.

"If you're not one hundred per cent right and fully fit in the Premiership you'll struggle and you'll get turned over. You have to be on top of your game to play against the best teams."

"If you're not one hundred per cent right and fully fit in the Premiership you'll struggle and you'll get turned over. You have to be on top of your game to play against the best teams."

KEY FIGURE

Kilbane has been a key figure for both club and country this season. He helped the Republic of Ireland kick-off their World Cup qualifying campaign with an impressive 2-2 draw in Holland earlier this month.

Things, however, don't get any easier for Mick McCarthy's men as they face a trip to Portugal in their second game next month.

"A point from that will set us up very nicely for the home games to come," added the Sunderland man. "We're desperate to qualify for the World Cup finals after recent disappointments."



Tyson Looks To Land World Cup Blow



While England are concentrating on their crucial World Cup opener with Germany next month, Sunderland striker Milton Nunez will have his thoughts elsewhere - 5,000 miles away to be exact!

Kevin Keegan's men will be preparing to set off along the road to Japan and Korea in 2002 at the same time as Honduran striker Nunez is gearing up for his country's final qualifying round after a year of trying.

Honduras started their World Cup campaign 12 months ago and have come through a preliminary phase, a play-off, and a semi-final stage to get down to the last six from the CONCACAF group.

In fact, the day after England meet Germany at Wembley Nunez will play for Honduras against Jamaica to see who tops the group to earn the easiest

draw in the final group of six teams, from which three will qualify for the World Cup finals in two years.

"It's a massive game for us," said the Sunderland striker. "The winners between us and Jamaica will top the group which makes it easier in the final round.

"We've already qualified for the next stage which is great but it's important we top the group. When we get into the final group of six we can really start to live the World Cup dream.

"Honduras have not qualified for the finals since 1982 and I can remember watching them as a boy play in the Spain finals.

"Football is a massive thing at home and it'd be great to qualify and make the people really happy.

"We have a very young team but there are some talented players. Once

we start the final group the pressure will grow because all the teams will know they are very close to qualifying."

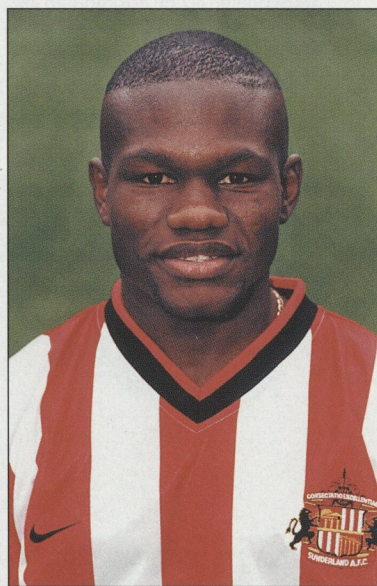
Nunez has been at the Stadium of Light for just over six months now and he is finally beginning to feel at home.

The diminutive striker, nicknamed Tyson because of his stocky build, has impressed in the Reserves in recent weeks and is champing at the bit to get some first-team experience.

"I'm enjoying it at Sunderland," he said. "There are some great guys here and I like the type of football that is played.

"Playing in the Reserves is very important and I want to play more games for them, but I'd love to get a chance in the first-team, although I know it'll be difficult because Kevin (Phillips) and Niall (Quinn) have a very good partnership.

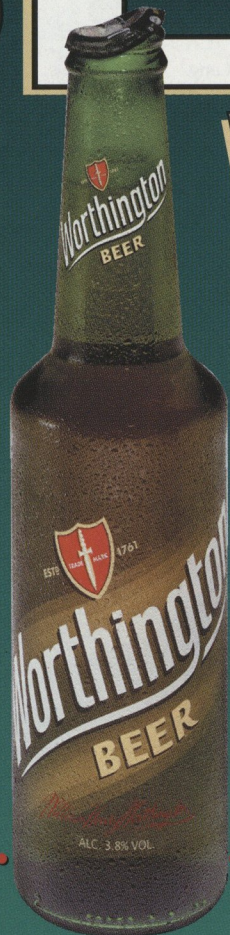
"English football is very tough and physical but I like that part of the game and I'm looking forward to the future with Sunderland."



Win with Worthington...

BEER WE GO!

What better way to enjoy the season of Worthington Cup action and follow your team's road to the Worthington Cup Final and then Europe, than by winning a year's supply of new Worthington Beer - available in bottles. Even if your team doesn't make it through to the next round you can still raise a bottle to the Worthington Cup!



Don't forget to follow the progress of your club in the Worthington Fives (Second Round, 24th September) as teams of fans continue to battle it out for a place in the Worthington Fives Final and a trip to Europe.

Also look out for fantastic competitions in the Sunday People newspaper throughout the season offering Worthington Cup tickets to every game as well as the chance for you and a team of mates to play against the Worthington Masters in future Worthington Fives events.

For your chance to win beer for a year simply call our competition line and answer the question below:

Q. Which British club entered the UEFA Cup by winning the Worthington Cup Final 1999/2000
A. Norwich City B. Leicester City C. Cardiff City

CALL NOW ON: 020 7898 3354

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

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) All entrants must be over 18. 2) All competition entries must be received by 25/09/00. 3) One prize winner will be drawn at random. 4) Editor's decision is final.



SUNDAY PEOPLE

Sunday People competition winners line up with the Worthington Masters: Bob Bolder, Kenny Sansom, Kerry Dixon, Paul Allen, Clive Walker, Micky Hazard, during the first round.

Worthington cup

IT'S A FAN THING

Top CV Earns Kevin Coaching Role

TEAMTALK

KEVIN RICHARDSON joins the Club to guide the under-17's



When Kevin Richardson sent in his application form and CV for the job of Under-17s coach at Sunderland it must have made pretty impressive reading.

For Richardson played at the top level for nearly 20 years and has gathered a pretty impressive collection of trophies and medals during his time with Everton, Watford, Arsenal, Aston Villa, Coventry and Southampton among others.

The North-East-born coach twice won the Championship as a player, once as a team-mate of Peter Reid at Everton and the other at George Graham's Arsenal. Also on the list of achievements is a FA Cup winners' medal, a European Cup Winners' Cup winners' medal (both with Everton) and one England cap.

Mind, by his own admission, playing achievements alone are not enough to guarantee a job on the coaching side.

NO HESITATION

Richardson, 39, had to send in his CV, go through two interviews before being offered the job in the Sunderland Academy.

"It doesn't really matter what you've done as a player - coaching is still hard to get into," said the former midfielder, whose only England cap came in 1994, against Greece.

"I knew this job was available and sent in my CV, probably with hundreds of



BLACKPOOL ROCK - Kevin's last season saw him play a key role for the Tangerine's midfield

other people. They asked me to come through and have a couple of chats and it went from there.

"I had no hesitation about saying yes when Sunderland offered me the job. I've always wanted to go into coaching and management and I'm still ambitious.

"This is a good job and hopefully I can help players go on to the reserves and first-team here - that's the aim."

ANOTHER SEASON

Richardson, after being released by Blackpool last season, was looking for another club (while doing pre-season training with

Darlington) when the Sunderland coaching role came up.

"I thought I had at least another season in me as a player but there were no offers," he said. "Then when this job came along it was too good to overlook.

"Just like when you're playing, it's not always easy to get a club when you first go into coaching and I'm lucky to have been given the opportunity. I'll work as hard as I did as a player to make a success of it.

"I've had a lot of experience in football - both at the top level and in the lower leagues. I've played under a lot of good

managers and I'll use things I've picked up from them in this job. Although experience is not everything it certainly helps."

AMBITIOUS

Richardson reckons the most difficult part of his new job is getting used to a normal working day.

"It's a bit different to being a footballer because you only work two-hour days then," he explained, "I was knackered in the first few days of the job!

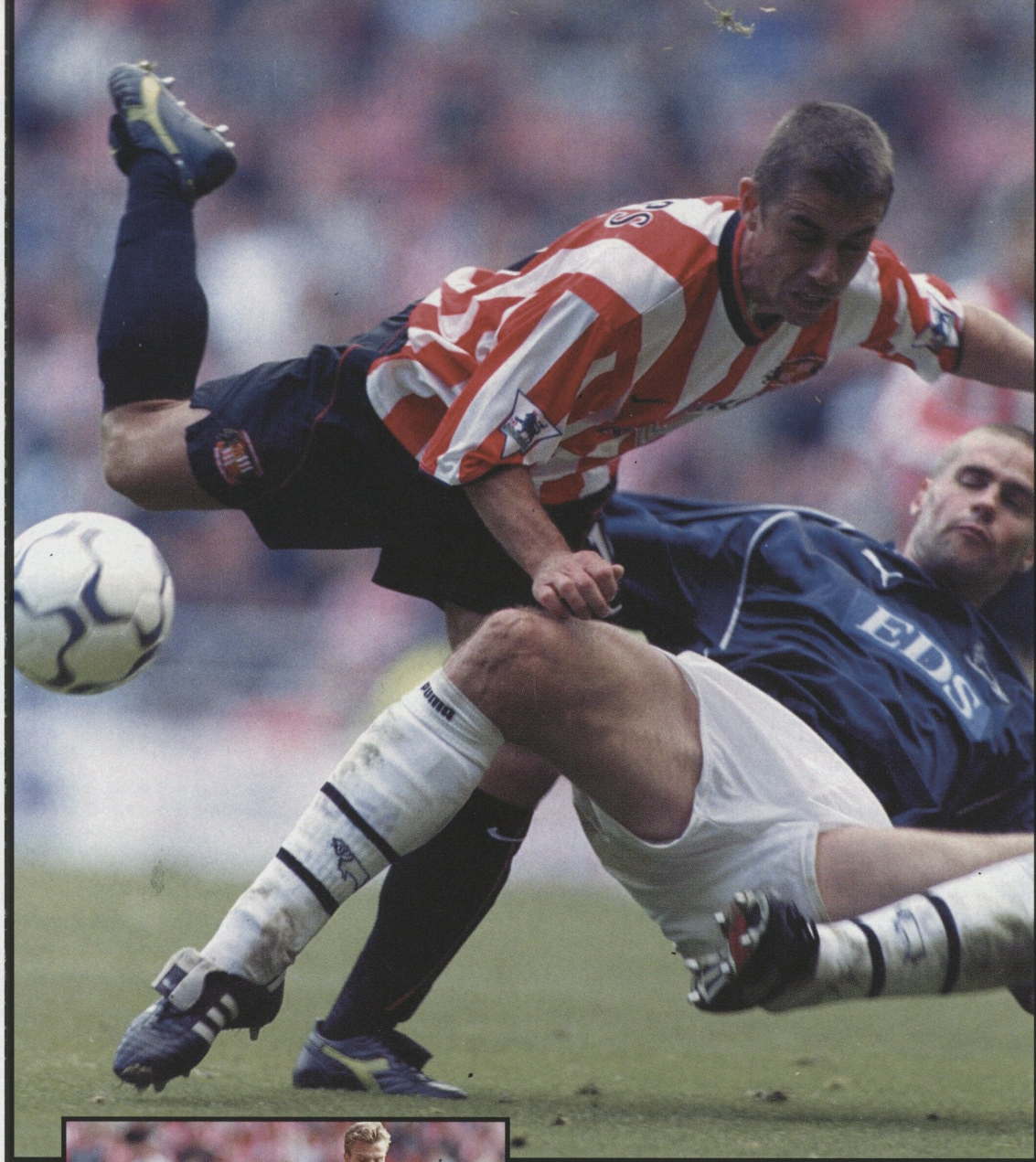
"But I'm really enjoying it and it's great to work with the kids and the rest of the coaches here. It's always good to know people when you come to a new job (he played with both Peter Reid and Adrian Heath, Sunderland's first-team coach, at Everton) and people have been great with me."

Richardson is keen to follow his former Goodison team-mate Reid into management but he knows he has to learn the ropes first.

"It's like everything else, you have to do your apprenticeship first," he said. "I was ambitious as a player and I'm just as ambitious as a coach and I'd like to go into management one day. If it doesn't work out then so be it but at least I'll have given it a go."



EVERTON RE-UNITED - Kevin is happy to team up with former team-mates Peter Reid and Adrian Heath

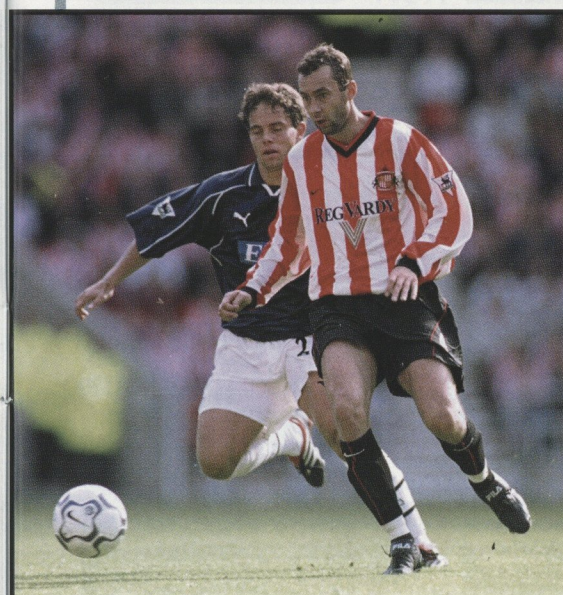


Sunderland 2 - Derby County 1

Saturday 16th September 2000, Stadium of Light

ACTION STATIONS

Action from our Premier League game against **THE RAMS**



- MAIN - Kevin Phillips is sent tumbling by the tackle from Derby defender Otto Bragstad
- FAR LEFT - Mickey Gray keeps a close eye on talented Georgian international Georgi Kinkladze
- ABOVE - Kevin Kilbane is well pleased after he scored a fantastic left foot curling goal
- LEFT - Derby's Simo Valakari tries to stick close to Don Hutchison
- BELOW - Kevin Phillips receives the congratulations from Kevin Kilbane



Three valuable points were achieved as Sunderland started to look like themselves in the second half following an edgy opening period. Thomas Sorensen returned to the side and immediately looked as sharp as he had in the opening day win over Arsenal while SuperKev's first home goal of the campaign came as a result of a vintage link up with big Niall. The Rams had created several good openings without scoring although one close shave from Deon Burton was enough to temporarily fool the scoreboard operator! There was no doubt about Kevin Kilbane's 40th minute strike though. Said by Niall Quinn to be, "A moment from greatness" after his recent performance for Eire in Holland, Kilbane produced a goal the equal of anything a Dutch Master might create. Cutting inside from the right wing he got into the box before curling an exquisite shot into the roof of the net. The increasingly influential Don Hutchison twice struck the bar with free kicks which would have put the match out of Derby's reach but a late goal from the promising Malcolm Christie ensured the excitement didn't end until the final whistle.



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COMMERCIAL

The 2000-2001 kit sponsorship line-up

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Club News

OFFICIALLY SUNDERLAND AFC

LIGHT SOURCE

News from inside the STADIUM OF LIGHT

Mascot



Tonight's mascot is **Simon Paul Bays** aged 10 and comes from South Shields.

PROGRAMME SELLERS WANTED

The club is currently on the look-out for new programme sellers to join our existing dedicated team. Applicants must be aged 16 or over and be available to work on home matchdays. For more details please call 0191 5166570

Do you know a former player?

The publication of the 'All The Lads' book charting the complete A to Z of senior Sunderland players has brought home just what a massive job Former Players' Association secretary Norman Howe faces.

The organisation so far has only 60 members. "After reading the book we realise we have a very long way to go!" explained Norman.

If any former players would like to get in touch, contact Norman on: 0191 5482932

SUNDERLAND LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

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New SAFC Web Site Set To Score With Students

Thousands of teenagers throughout the UK and beyond will soon be logging on to Sunderland Football Club's new student information web site for help with their homework and projects.

As the new academic year begins, the Club has linked up with the University of Sunderland's School of Education to produce a comprehensive information source for students at school, college or university.

The project came about because of the huge volume of requests - several hundred each week - for information about the Club, received by staff at the Stadium of Light.

The web site, which can be accessed from the Club's homepage at

www.sunderland-afc.com, has a wide range of information about SAFC - from players' fitness & nutrition to the financial, administration and legal aspects of the Football Club, such as players' contracts and the Bosman Ruling.

The University's School of Education will update the site on a monthly basis and new topics will be added to reflect current issues.

Lesley Callaghan, Sunderland AFC's Corporate Communications Manager said: "Sunderland AFC was the first club to launch an official website several years ago. We believe we are now the first club to also offer students a unique learning tool to help them with their studies".

Sunderland AFC

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Fax: 0191 5515123

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CLUB HONOURS

'Old' Football League Champions:
1892, 1893, 1895, 1902,
1913, 1936.

'New' Football League Champions:
1996, 1999

'Old' Division 2 Champions: 1976

'Old' Division 3 Champions: 1988

FA Cup Winners: 1937, 1973

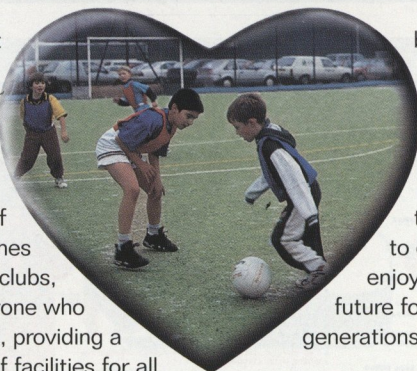
'Old' Football League Runners-Up:
1894, 1898, 1901, 1923, 1935

'Old' Division 2 Runners-Up:
1964, 1980

FA Cup Finalists: 1913, 1992
League Cup Runners-Up: 1985

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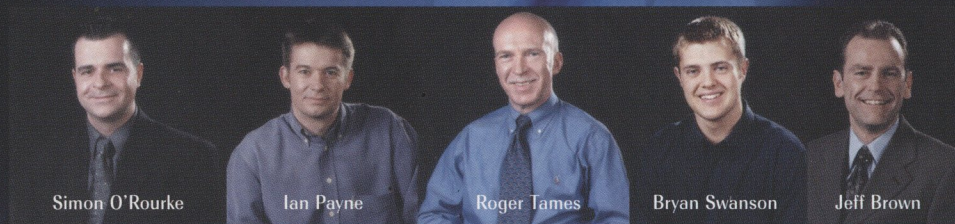
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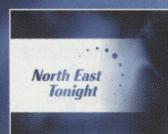
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PLAYER PROFILE

All you ever need to know about our Welsh wing wizard

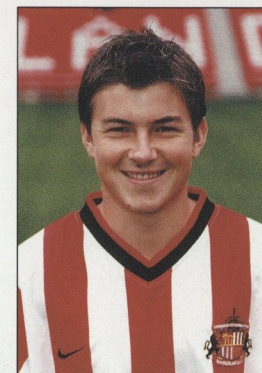


Having been a regular substitute in the early weeks of the season, winger John Oster is hoping to get the chance to impress tonight as we entertain Luton Town.

With Peter Reid often using the League Cup to give first team opportunities to several players pushing for a regular first team place, Oster may well be in the side this evening. "All you can do is play as well as you can in the reserves and wait for your chance. Hopefully I'll be involved against Luton," says the in form frontman.

ON THE VERGE

The 21 year old Welsh international arrived at Sunderland at the start of last season from Everton for a reported fee of around £1m. In the line up for our first two home matches, he also started all three of our League Cup games but then faced a six month period with only the occasional substitute appearance



Kevin Kyle, our young striker, attracted some attention earlier this month by making his Scotland Under 21 debut before his league debut. Oster mirrored this

before a strong end to the season saw him feature in the final five fixtures.

Starting in half of this year's pre-season friendlies offered Oster encouragement as did being on the bench in the last five successive Premiership games. Despite ever increasing competition for first team football, John is on the verge of a Premiership place. Performing well in the Reserves, he scored at the Stadium of Light earlier this month with a superb 20 yard volley against Man Utd Reserves and followed that up with a busy display in last week's Reserve team win at Newcastle.

BEST GOAL

"I don't score many volleys so that one against Man Utd's Reserves has to go down as one of my best goals along with one I scored for Everton in the FA Cup against Coventry."

"All you can do is play as well as you can in the reserves and wait for your chance. Hopefully I'll be involved against Luton"



PLAYER QUIZ!!!

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW JOHN OSTER?

- 1) Who did he score the first senior goal of his career against?
- 2) Who did John play against on his full international debut?
- 3) What was John's first club?
- 4) Which two Sunderland players were among Oster's team mates at Everton?
- 5) Who did John make his Sunderland debut against?

Answers on page 26.

Continued on page 18

JOHN OSTER



Continued from page 15

situation when he made his international bow for Wales at Under 21 level three months before he played a first team game for his first club Grimsby Town.

He helped John Hartson to a hat trick against San Marino in August 1996 and had won another Under 21 cap, this time against the Netherlands, by the time Brian Laws gave him his league debut in a 3-1 win for Grimsby at the Valley in November where none other than Clive Mendonca notched a brace against Charlton.

BREAKTHROUGH

Having made the first team breakthrough John remained in the side,

"I prefer playing wide as you tend to get more touches but I'm more than happy to play wherever the manager wants me to in order to play first team football."

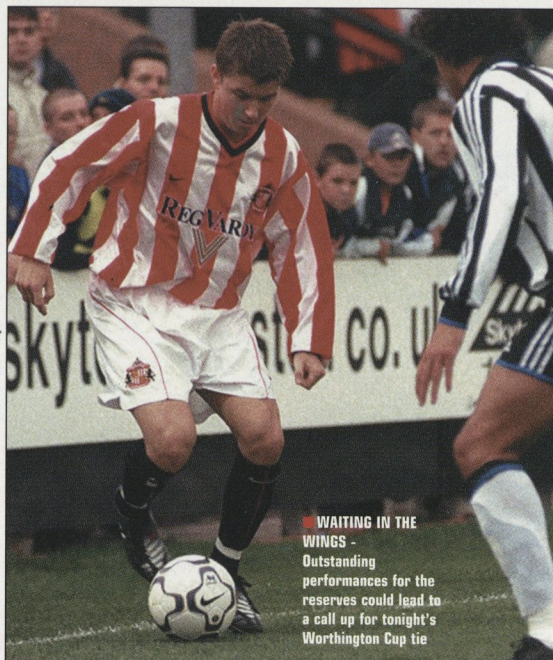
missing only three of the Mariners' last 26 matches. Then a mere 18 year old he proved to be a glimmer of hope for Grimsby's future as they slid to relegation from the first division. Earning rave reviews for his performances on the wing he scored four times with the first of his goals coming in the FA Cup at Hillsborough although his strike as a sub was small consolation as The Mariners were cast adrift to the tune of 7-1.

Standing out in a struggling side, John attracted plenty of attention and Howard Kendall wasted no time in paying £1.5m to take him to Everton where he was coached by Adrian Heath.

In a personally productive first season at Goodison John was a first team regular playing 31 times in the Premiership which made him Everton's joint highest appearance maker for the season. Although almost half of these games saw him coming on from the bench this was valuable experience for a teenager at a club where his team mates included Don Hutchison and Gavin McCann.

SKILFUL FOOTBALLER

Oster's progress meant that as well as extending his under 21 career to nine games he was called up for a full debut by Wales although he was sent off in



WAITING IN THE WINGS - Outstanding performances for the reserves could lead to a call up for tonight's Worthington Cup tie

his last two under 21 games both times against Italy.

He was still only 18 when he achieved an ambition many players never do, namely playing away to Brazil. He followed this up with a second full cap against Jamaica at Cardiff and has since been capped again as a Sunderland player when he played against Switzerland last October.

Boston born, John qualifies for Wales through his mother's family. Being able to play regular first team football would virtually guarantee his place in future Wales squads as Wales face a tortuous route to the 2002 World Cup in a qualifying group dominated by Eastern European teams.

"I need to be in the first team to get into the Wales squad because with Mark Hughes still playing himself he isn't likely to have time to watch players in reserve games. I've played up front recently as well as operating in wide positions. I prefer

playing wide as you tend to get more touches but I'm more than happy to play wherever the manager wants me to in order to play first team football."

A skilful footballer with lots of natural ability, Oster has the attributes required to hold down a first team place. Doing so on a regular basis is his challenge and should he play tonight look out for him attempting to illustrate why he should be retained for Saturday's trip to Anfield.

PLAYER QUIZ!!!

THE ANSWERS

- 1) Sheffield Wednesday
- 2) Brazil
- 3) Grimsby Town.
- 4) Don Hutchison and Gavin McCann.
- 5) Watford, 10/8/99.



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Luton Town

OPPOSITION

An in depth look at today's visitors, THE HATTERS

THE HATTERS

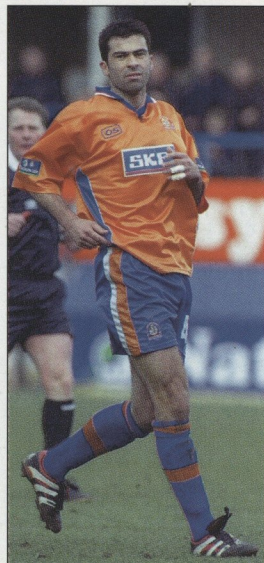
When The Hatters travelled to the Stadium of Light for a Worthington Cup-tie nearly two years ago, the face-value scenario was that of a club on the road to regaining lost ground.

They were looking for their first League Cup semi-final in a decade, and their best start for many years had raised hopes that they could deliver a promotion challenge in the Second Division.

Yet the bright image on the field turned out to be a smokescreen for an impending crisis at the oldest professional club in the south of England. The weeks that followed were to become as traumatic as any in a century of League football.

RECEIVERSHIP

Outsiders would only have noticed that the League Cup exit on Wearside accelerated a decline in results - from third in the table in September to 14th at the end of January.



■ JULIAN WATTS - Played at the highest level for Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester

EMMERSON BOYCE - A home-town product who first appeared as a teenager



Then, news items in February confirmed that problems were escalating elsewhere, not least that a blueprint for revival was scotched in the High Court. If it was blow to lose an appeal against the Government's decision to block a scheme for a new stadium near the M1, the next setback put Luton's immediate existence under threat.

In March, it was announced that they had gone into receivership - and speculation that players would be sold to reduce debts was confirmed the next day when Preston agreed a £50,000 cut-price deal for full back Graham Alexander.

CASH-STRAPPED

Supporters explored ways of buying the club under the banner of FLAG (Fans of Luton Action Group), but the situation was unresolved

LUTON TOWN ROLL CALL

(2000-01 appearances for Nationwide League Division Two & Worthington Cup)

PLAYER	BIRTHPLACE	BIRTHDATE	PREVIOUS CLUB	APPS	GLS
Nathan Abbey	Islington	11.7.78	School	2	-
James Ayres	Luton	18.9.80	School	-	-
Emmerson Boyce	Aylesbury	24.9.79	School	9	-
Friedrich Breitenfelder	Vienna	16.6.80	FCM St Polten	-	-
Dean Brennan	Dublin	17.6.80	Sheffield Wednesday	3(5)	-
Tommy Carter	Bermuda	9.7.77	Unattached	-	-
Stuart Douglas	Enfield	9.4.78	School	-	-
Andrew Fotiadis	Hitchin	6.9.77	School	6	1
Stuart Fraser	Edinburgh	9.1.80	School	5(2)	-
Liam George	Luton	2.2.79	School	7(2)	-
Peter Holmes	Bishop Auckland	18.11.80	Sheffield Wednesday	4(4)	-
Marvin Johnson	Wembley	29.10.68	School	2	-
Tresor Kandol	Zaire	30.8.81	School	-	1
Adam Locke	Croydon	20.8.70	Bristol City	4(2)	-
Gavin McGowan	Blackheath	16.1.76	Arsenal	-	-
Paul McLaren	High Wycombe	17.11.76	School	9	-
Mark Ovendale	Leicester	22.11.73	Bournemouth	7	-
Andre Scarlett	Brent	11.1.80	School	5(1)	1
Matthew Spring	Harlow	17.11.79	School	8	1
Mark Stein	Capetown	28.1.66	Bournemouth	9	1
Jude Stirling	Enfield	29.6.82	School	-	-
Matthew Taylor	Oxford	27.11.81	School	9	-
Peter Thomson	Crumpsall	30.6.77	NAC Breda	1	-
Julian Watts	Sheffield	17.3.71	Bristol City	9	1

(NOT including last Saturday's match at Swansea)



LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

when a young team completed the season in 12th place.

Luton were not alone in a summer of worry for several cash-strapped clubs, and their cause was one of the strongest, according to David Pleat, the manager who had launched a ten-year term in the old First Division in the 1980s.

"The club has far too rich a tradition to go under," he said. "Of all the clubs that are in trouble, they have the best recent history."

NEW OWNERSHIP

Relief arrived in August when Luton were given the go-ahead to start a new season after a meeting between the receiver and the Football League. New ownership was finally confirmed in October, but the summer of doubt had taken its toll with the departures of Kelvin Davis and Chris Willmott to Wimbledon for around £1m.

In the circumstances, it was satisfactory to finish the campaign in 13th place, and sale of Irish prospect Gary Doherty to Spurs for £1m had more to do with natural progression by the latest startlet from Kenilworth Road.

But more changes were to come. Another new owner took over, Mike Watson-Challis returning to the helm after serving on the board in the glory years, and manager Lennie Lawrence was replaced after nearly five years' service.

■ ADAM LOCKE - One of Luton's more experienced players

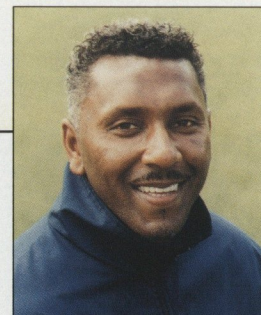
FRESH START

A fresh start resulted another throwback to the 1980s with the appointment of Ricky Hill, a player in the team which won the League Cup by beating Arsenal, and now taking up his first management position.

His assistant is Chris Ramsey, a Cup Finalist with Brighton in 1983 and recruited from Howard Wilkinson's coaching team at the Football Association, but there is continuity in the backroom staff in the presence of John Moore.

A former player and coach, he took over as manager from Mr Pleat in 1986 and led the Hatters to their highest placing in the top-flight before handing over to Wembley-winning boss Ray Harford.

Mr Moore returned in January 1990 and has since specialised in coaching young players - a role which is the heartbeat of a club operating on average attendances of around 5,500.



MANAGER: RICKY HILL

Born: London, 3rd May 1959

PLAYING CAREER

Clubs: Luton Town (1976-89, 436 Lge apps, 54 goals), Le Havre (1989-90), Leicester City (1990-92, 26 Lge apps), Tampa Bay Rowdies (player-coach), Chertsey Town, Coco Expos (player-coach). TOTAL: 462 Lge apps, 54 goals.

HONOURS

With Luton Town: Division Two Championship, 1981-82; League Cup, 1987-88

INTERNATIONAL CAPS

England, 3 Full

MANAGEMENT CAREER

Club: Luton Town (Jul, 2000 to date)
Extras: Sheffield Wednesday (youth coach, 1996-99), Tottenham Hotspur (Under-17 Academy coach, 1999-00)

The success in developing their own talent is not only measured in a largely home-produced first team but in a supply line which raised many millions in the transfer market.

The inevitable problem is that successful sides have to

be broken up. This was the case in 1994 when Luton, having missed the formation of the Premiership with relegation two years earlier, went to Wembley for an FA Cup semi-final with Chelsea.

If they had been able to keep that squad together, they might have been looking at promotion instead of further relegation in 1996. John Hartson has since had numerous big-money moves and both Mark Pembroke (Everton) and Paul Telfer (Coventry) are internationals in the Premiership. Defender Matthew Upson was another bright prospect, with only one League outing before joining Arsenal.

LIFT OFF

This year, under a new regime, there was a step to reverse the trend with the purchase of Bournemouth's highly-rated goalkeeper, Mark Ovendale, to become No 1 ahead of last season's first-choice, Nathan Abbey.

The season took a while to lift off, but after successive defeats by Notts County and Wigan, the Hatters registered a first win against Bournemouth and drew away games at Wycombe and Rotherham.

But progress in the Worthington Cup, on the away-goals rule against Peterborough, was followed by a home defeat against promoted Northampton Town.

LUTON TOWN TEN IN A ROW

The Hatters' in the League Cup for three seasons

DATE	VEN	OPPONENTS	RES	ATT	SCORERS
1998-99					
Aug 11	H	Oxford United	2-3	3,165	Alexander 2 pens
Aug 18	A	Oxford United	3-1	5,099	Gray Evers McLaren
Sep 15	A	Ipswich Town	1-2	9,032	Douglas
Sep 22	H	Ipswich Town	4-2	5,655	Fotiadis Douglas Davis Johnson
Oct 27	H	Coventry City	2-0	9,051	Gray Davis
Nov 10	H	Barnsley	1-0	8,435	Gray
Dec 1	A	Sunderland	0-3	35,742	
1999-00					
Aug 10	H	Bristol Rovers	0-2		
Aug 25	A	Bristol Rovers	2-2		Kandol Doherty
2000-01					
Aug 22	H	Peterborough United	0-0	3,175	
Sep 5	A	Peterborough United	2-2	4,286	Stein Scarlett

NEW



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The Squad

OPPOSITION

NATHAN ABBEY:

Understudy to several 'keepers and was close to trying his luck on the Continent until playing in the first 32 League games of last season.

JAMES AYRES: Centre half and captain of the youth team which won the SE Counties League, loaned to Stevenage last season.

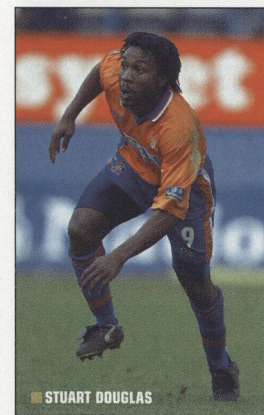
EMMERSON BOYCE: Local schools discovery, made debut at 19 and nailed down a defensive spot last season.

FRIEDRICH BREITENFELDER: A tall Austrian midfielder signed after pre-season trials, started as a schoolboy with Rapid Vienna, then played for Casino Bregenz and FCM St Polten.

DEAN BRENNAN: A 20-year-old midfielder who was coached by Ricky Hill in the youth team at Sheffield Wednesday and joined the Hatters in the summer.

TOMMY CARTER: Capped by Bermuda while a student in the USA, then played in Bolivia before arriving at Kenilworth Road as a trialist this year.

STUART DOUGLAS: A goal-scoring debutant as a 17-year-old trainee, then overcame injury problems to become a first-team regular, scored in both meetings with Ipswich in the run to the Worthington Cup quarter-final in 1998.



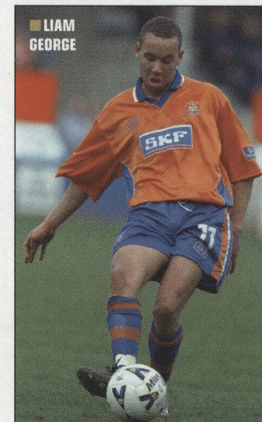
STUART DOUGLAS

ANDREW FOTIADIS:

Another marksman against Ipswich two years ago, a former England Schools international who studied for his A-levels before embarking on a professional career in 1996.

STUART FRASER:

Former youth team skipper, given a debut against Carlisle on the last day of the 1997-98 campaign.



LIAM GEORGE

LIAM GEORGE: A first-teamer at 17, a member of the Republic of Ireland squad which won the European Youth title in 1998, recovered from a broken leg to become top scorer last season, when he was also capped at Under-21 level.

PETER HOLMES: An FA National School graduate and, like Brennan, a Sheffield Wednesday trainee under tuition by Ricky Hill at Hillsborough.

MARVIN JOHNSON: The longest-serving player, now in his 13th season and completed 400 appearances for his only club earlier this year.

TRESOR KANDOL: Born in Zaire but spotted in schoolboy football in London, made debut in January 1999 as a 17-year-old, and scored his first senior goal last season.

ADAM LOCKE: One of the most experienced players with only 300 senior outings after his release as a

SNAP SHOTS

■ Former Sunderland striker Phil Gray went to promoted Burnley on a free transfer before scoring Northern Ireland's World Cup winner against Malta this month.

■ Nathan Abbey turned on a man-of-the-match show when goalkeeper Mark Ovendale missed the defeat by Northampton because of a back spasm.

■ Middlesbrough's England Under-21 'keeper, Ben Roberts, played on loan for the last 14 League games last term but then joined Premiership newcomers Charlton on a free.

■ A month after the Hatters' last appearance at the Stadium of Light, defender Steve Davis returned to Burnley for £800,000 to take possession of the buying and selling records at Turf Moor.

■ Gary Doherty became the club's latest full international with a debut for the Republic of Ireland shortly before his transfer to Tottenham last season.

■ Luton's most capped player is Mal Donaghy, who went to Manchester United after making 58 of his 91 appearances for the Northern Ireland in his time at Kenilworth Road.

YTS player at Crystal Palace; played for Southend, Colchester and Bristol City before establishing himself with the Hatters last season.

GAVIN MCGOWAN: Won an FA Youth Cup medal with Arsenal but played only a handful of League games, then had two loan spells with Luton prior to a free transfer in 1999.

PAUL McLAREN: A youth team player as a schoolboy, signed professional at 17, made debut as a teenager, and reached 150 senior appearances last season.

MARK OVENDALE: Started in non-League football with Wisbech, then had a spell at Northampton and played in Europe with Barry Town, and spent the last two years at Bournemouth.

ANDRE SCARLETT: Introduced to the first team shortly before the 1998 visit to Sunderland - coming off

the bench to set up the first goal and then score the second against Oldham.

MATTHEW SPRING: A 20-year-old midfielder, graduated from the team which reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1997 and has now played over 100 first-team games since his debut at 17.

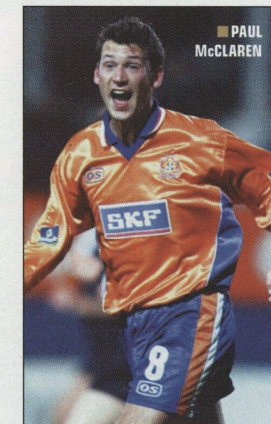
MARK STEIN: The wheel turned a full circle in 20 years with the return of the South African-born striker to the club where he won a League Cup medal. Has scored 150 League goals after service with QPR, Oxford, Stoke, Chelsea and Bournemouth.

JUDE STIRLING: An 18-year-old from the trainee ranks and included on the bench from the outset this season.

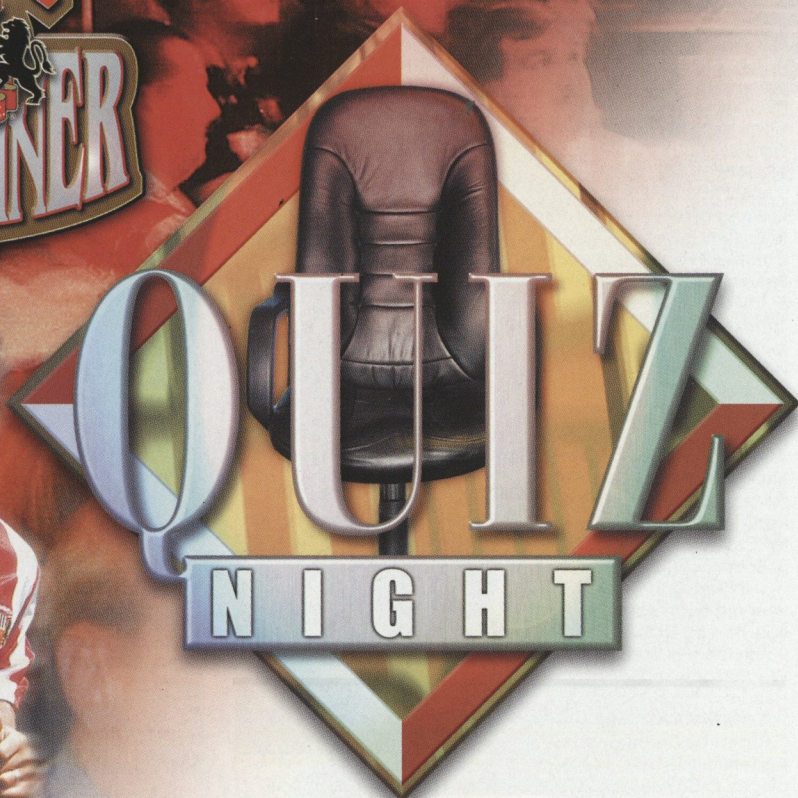
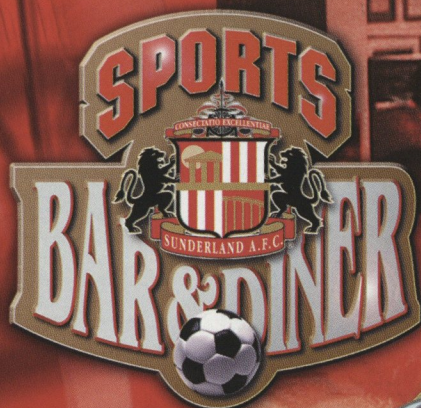
MATTHEW TAYLOR: The loss of senior defenders during the cash cuts of 1999 thrust a 17-year-old into senior action last season for 47 appearances.

PETER THOMSON: Untried in League football with Bury, then moved to Holland, where he was with NAC Breda until a recent cash transfer to Luton.

JULIAN WATTS: Former Rotherham defender who played in the Premiership with Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester, moved to Bristol City in 1998, and missed only one League game in his first season at Kenilworth Road.



PAUL McLAREN



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SUNDERLAND AFC forthcoming matches, home & away

TICKET OFFICE INFORMATION

Away Ticket Postal Applications

The club has reviewed the priority postal application procedure and would like to advise season ticket holders:-

- When making an away ticket postal application season ticket holders should enclose the relevant vouchers, a pre-paid S.A.E. and payment for only one match in their envelope
- Season ticket holders are also requested to mark the outside of their application envelope with the relevant match i.e. 'Liverpool v SAFC'.
- We will treat all vouchers in one envelope as one application with the loyalty points averaged out.

In addition supporters are reminded that Sunderland AFC does not guarantee to process any away ticket application unless it includes the following-

- The correct numbered voucher for the match
- Full payment - Cheque, credit card or postal order. Strictly no cash.
- A pre-paid self addressed envelope

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CONCESSION CORNERS	ADULTS £17 CONCESSIONS £13 JUNIORS £8
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TICKETMASTER

Alternatively, tickets can be obtained for all home league games from Ticketmaster, subject to booking fee, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **TELEPHONE: 0990 862015.**

Ticket Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday	10am - 5.30pm	Supporters are advised that Sunderland AFC accepts telephonic credit card bookings during ticket office opening hours on 0191 551-51-51.
Saturday	10am - 1pm	
Sunday	Closed	
Match Day	10am - Kick-off	

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A fee of £1.50 per transaction will be charged. Visa, MasterCard, Delta and Switch accepted.

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LIVERPOOL v

SUNDERLAND AFC
Saturday 23rd, Sept. 2000
Kick-Off 3.00pm.
This fixture is SOLD OUT.

WORTHINGTON CUP 2ND ROUND 2ND LEG

LUTON TOWN v

SUNDERLAND AFC
Tuesday 26th, Sept. 2000
Kick-Off 7.45pm.
Tickets are on general sale - subject to availability.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

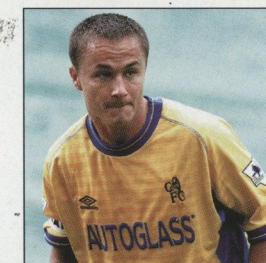
SUNDERLAND AFC

v LEICESTER CITY
Sunday 1st, Oct. 2000
Kick-Off 3.00pm.
Tickets still on sale subject to availability.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

SUNDERLAND AFC

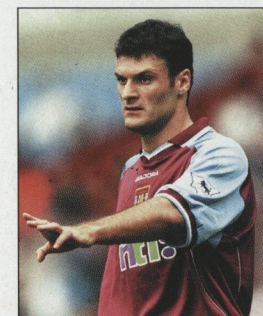
v CHELSEA
Saturday 14th, Oct. 2000
Kick-Off 3.00pm.
Tickets went on sale from 10.00am Monday 18th September 2000.



WISE - Chelsea, 14th October

Important Notice

Season ticket holders who have purchased a 'concession' season ticket book please note that as last season SAFC stewards will continue to carry out spot checks on the validity of the book at home games. If in doubt please contact the ticket office prior to the game as it could result in ejection from the ground. We would like to thank you in advance for your patience while carrying out these necessary checks.



ALPAY - Aston Villa, 22nd October

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA v

SUNDERLAND AFC
Sunday 22nd, Oct. 2000
Kick-Off 4.00pm.
SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: Season ticket holders can apply from Saturday 23rd September 2000 by postal application only until 1pm Saturday 7th October 2000 - Voucher 30 required.
GENERAL SALE: General sale will commence from 10.00am Wednesday 11th October 2000 - subject to availability.
PRICES:
Adults £20.00
Juniors/OAP's £10.00

Season Ticket Holders Please Note:

Season ticket holders are reminded that they are responsible for the vouchers contained within their season ticket book. The season ticket is only valid when in the wallet provided and accompanied by the pink slip carrying the information regarding seat details. The sale of season ticket vouchers is strictly forbidden and any voucher found to have been sold would result in the confiscation of the season ticket. Please ensure you tear out the correct number voucher in front of the turnstile operator. The voucher number for that particular fixture will be displayed above the turnstile and will not be known until the day of the game. The club is unable to accept any responsibility for incorrect vouchers being presented and cannot replace the voucher if required for a future game.

September 1928

SAFC HISTORY

What was happening at SAFC when history was being made...

Bill Shankly once suggested football was more important than life or death. And at times it does seem the whole world stops for 'the beautiful game'.

Amazingly though there are other events that shape our lives. So what was happening at Sunderland AFC when history was being made this week - throughout the world, or here in County Durham?



Cinemagoers in New York City heard Mickey Mouse speak for the first time on 19th September 1928. The film Steamboat Willie achieved for cartoons what the Jazz Singer had done for motion pictures twelve months before.

It was the first cartoon film to have a soundtrack and made Mickey and his girlfriend Minnie, stars across the globe. The character had been created by Walt Disney and his old friend Ub Iwerks in 1927 as Mortimer Mouse. Renamed 'Mickey' in time for the first of two silent cartoons, it was Disney himself who provided the characteristic squeaking voice.

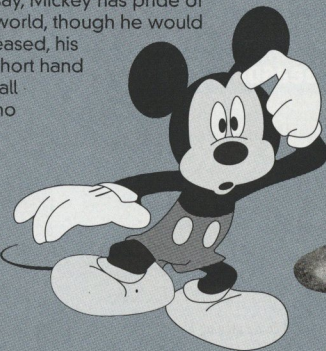
Encouraged by the success of Steamboat Willie, Disney and his collaborators started the 'Silly Symphony' cartoon series that involved Donald Duck, Goofy, and Pluto.

Originally in black and white, the Disney team quickly moved into full colour and eventually full length animation films.

But despite later monumental successes that paved the way for the modern animation epic, Walt Disney will always be associated with Mickey Mouse who was responsible for his first millions.

Needless to say, Mickey has pride of place at Disneyworld, though he would be none too pleased, his name is now a short hand term for a football competition of no consequence.

■ **MIKEY MOUSE** - Made his debut in 1928



MOMENTOUS DECISIONS

Though it did not merit front page news, a momentous decision was being taken at Roker, the week Walt Disney revolutionised cartoon characters. Sunderland signed the 'Mighty Atom' one Patrick Gallacher a 5' 6" Scot, a month after his 19th birthday. New manager Johnny Cochrane fielded a trialist in the reserves against Scotswood, and with Celtic showing more than passing intent in the youngster from Bridge of Weir, Sunderland's board gave him a professional contract.

Patsy, as he soon became known, had to wait twelve months for his league debut, but was then a virtual regular for ten years until he left Roker for Stoke in November 1938. In 307 games at inside forward, Patsy scored 108 goals including 19 in the 35/36 Championship series and the 1937 semi final winner that took Sunderland to Wembley.

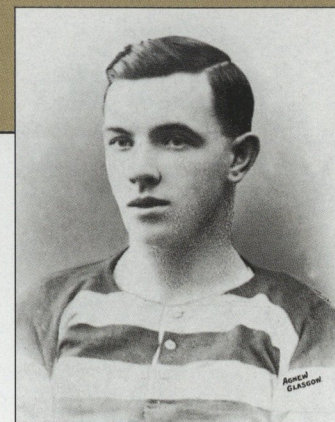
Gallacher's signing was the beginning of a new era. In the close season secretary/ manager Bob Kyle retired after 23 years at the helm, with Cochrane moving south from St. Mirren to assume control. He was the directors third choice, after Derby's George Jobey and Frank Buckley of Wolves, declined a move to Wearside. Despite that, Cochrane, without being an outstanding tactician was a fine judge of player and his laid back approach to management brought the best out of his players.

STANDING OVATION

The Lads had just escaped relegation in 27/28 and while Gallacher was a player for the future, Cochrane had four new recruits from north of the border on parade in the first few games. John Lynas a right winger, showed up well, earning a standing ovation after Derby had been beaten 4-0, but then faded, lost his place and moved to Third Lanark a year later. Robert Wallace, signed from Cowdenbeath, clearly struggled from the onset, partly because of injury problems but Tom McNally and

■ **PATRICK GALLACHER** - Signed in 1928 and a star for 10 years

■ **ADAM McLEAN** - A massive hit at Sunderland



Adam McLean were both roaring successes. Though well established at Celtic the pair, aged 29 and 33 respectively must have been lured to Roker by Cochrane's sweet talking. Albeit short term buys, they each played a crucial role in guiding Sunderland to fourth spot in division one. McNally at inside left, bought time for Gallacher and later Carter to emerge. Adam McLean who scored from the left wing on his debut, kept that position warm until Jimmy Connor emerged.

INVINCIBLE

August and September saw Sunderland invincible at home, winning all three games, with an aggregate scoreline of 11-1, Davey Halliday netting five, despite not liking the early season hard grounds. But on their travels four straight defeats were suffered, though some felt a point should have been gained at Sheff Wed. Apparently at



Hillsborough the referee denied Halliday a goal, after, to use Sunderland's striker's own words, "I just bumped into the goalkeeper."

In those early games, left back Ernie England, a Sunderland stalwart

since 1919, was being described as 'international class'. In front of him at half back, Arthur Andrews was thought to be 'playing the best football of his career.' Perhaps it was Cochrane's ability to motivate.

Clearly Sunderland were a happy crew. Though away form was moderate, the Roker faithful enjoyed an entertaining season. Only three home defeats were suffered and 67 goals on their own patch, equalled the best in Division One. Davey Halliday created a club record that still stands, his 43 league goals including one four, three threes and eight twos.

Hardly Mickey Mouse stuff.



■ **TOM McNALLY** - He was lured to Roker from Celtic



■ **ARTHUR ANDREWS** - Considered to be playing his best football under Johnny Cochrane

Elsewhere in Football

■ Centre half Fred Kean played against The Lads on successive Saturdays in September 1928. The England pivot starred in Wednesday's 2-1 win at Hillsborough and seven days later, Kean was in the Bolton line up that lost 0-4 at Roker after a £6,000 transfer.

■ The Dean of Durham wrote to 'The Times' asking "What steps are being taken to mitigate against certain evil's which are believed to issue from professionalism in football." He went on to deplore players instigating transfers for pecuniary gain, bribes and the lack of identity with local clubs. Nothing changes!

■ Durham City had just lost their Football League status after seven years in Division Three North. They returned to the North Eastern League where dressing rooms were described as 'disgusting and full of disease'.

■ Murton meant business in the Wearside League. They registered 60 players, so it was hardly surprising their play in early games was noted as 'disjointed'. Still 3,000 watched the seasons opener at home to Houghton.

■ Luton were unbeaten in their first ten games, winning seven. Thereafter they faltered somewhat and ended the season, seventh in division three south.

Nike Geo Merlin
faster
rounder
more accurate

Bang goes the 0-0 draw



The official ball for The F.A. Premier League



Tough Luck For Luca

TALKING FOOTBALL

The final word always rests with **HARRY BARRETT**



Softly spoken, charming to even the most aggressive of interviewers, Gianluca Vialli, in his designer sweaters and massive tie knots, came across as open in his thoughts, as were his top shirt buttons. Disarmingly honest that transparency, probably led to his sacking at Stamford Bridge.

Was he ruthless enough? Always understanding of an alternative point of view, Vialli should perhaps have got his retaliation in first. Frank Leboeuf and Albert Ferrer, both voiced unhappiness with the manager regarding team selection. French World Cup Skipper, Didier Deschamps was particularly scathing - after he had left for pastures anew with several medals and a huge bank account, garnered during a brief stay at Stamford Bridge. Dan Petrescu too, indulged in general rubbishing, while Gianfranco Zola, initially installed as 2-1 favourite to succeed Vialli, recently complained about being left out of the starting eleven.

Vialli never denied the problems, was openly critical of his own shortcomings, yet never blamed others, unlike his players. After the draw at Newcastle, he accepted 'work had to be done'. Though most critics had to hastily rewrite copy that had described Chelsea as 'bottlers'.

Despite the predictable comments from former Chelsea Pensioners, Ron Harris and Peter Osgood, the Italian can feel hard done by. His 2½ years Stamford Bridge stewardship was successful. Four cup triumphs, including the European Cup Winners Cup and UEFA Super Cup, plus fifth place in the Premiership would satisfy most chairmen. But for the acerbic Ken Bates, those trifles were small beer. What

STRONG ARM TACTICS -
Keeping moody players in check is never easy as Vialli has found out at great cost



"Vialli never denied the problems, was openly critical of his own shortcomings, yet never blamed others, unlike his players."

was required was champagne soccer, premiership championships and the European Cup.

Vialli made errors of judgement. The name Sutton comes to mind. But he accepted criticism with dignity, while triumphs were celebrated in an engagingly understated manner. Always generous to opponents, the Italian did much to restore Chelsea's good name. Under

Ruud Gullit they increasingly came across as plain arrogant.

But if Vialli, given his success, was sacked after four games of the season, what price more dismissals before the leaves of autumn begin to fall? Alan Buckley was relieved of his duties at Grimsby after just two games - a 0-1 defeat and 1-1 draw. Mark Lillis did not last much longer at Halifax, the final decision being taken after a 1-5 reversal at Mansfield.

Once upon a time managers would be given until Christmas to sort things out. Now performance is monitored on a weekly basis, and such are the consequences attached not only to failure, but also mid table consistency, or mediocrity, as one league chairman put it, that a manager is truly only as good as his last game.

Only three Premiership managers - Fergie, Alan Curbishley and Harry Redknapp predate Peter Reid. Dario Gradi at Crewe apart no First Division manager has been in post longer than John Aldridge who took charge of Tranmere in 1996. Some 32 managers in the two lower divisions have been in post for eighteen months or less.

John Barnwell, Chairman of the League Managers Association, suggested "the timing of Vialli's dismissal is incredible."

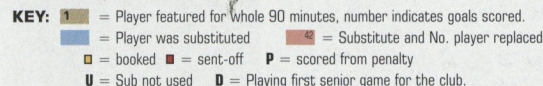
But the King is dead, long live the King. Former Chelsea striker Peter Osgood believes, "At the end of the day, it is going to make us a better side."

It's that sort of optimism and blind faith that makes football unfathomable to ordinary folk.

The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the official views of Sunderland AFC

All the STATS, FACTS & FIGURES from this season

P	HOME					AWAY					Pts
	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
6	3	0	0	11	0	1	2	0	6	4	14
6	2	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	3	0	14
6	3	0	0	9	4	0	2	1	3	4	11
6	3	0	0	7	3	0	2	1	4	6	11
6	3	0	0	7	3	0	1	2	1	4	10
6	2	1	0	5	2	1	0	2	2	4	10
5	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	3	4	8
6	2	1	0	6	1	0	1	2	5	10	8
5	1	0	2	4	4	1	1	0	2	1	7
6	1	1	1	6	5	1	0	2	4	6	7
6	1	1	1	3	3	1	0	2	4	6	7
6	1	1	1	6	5	1	0	2	4	8	7
6	0	1	2	1	5	2	0	1	5	4	7
6	2	1	0	4	2	0	0	3	2	8	7
6	0	1	2	3	5	1	2	0	7	5	6
6	1	1	1	6	5	0	2	1	3	4	6
6	1	1	1	6	6	0	2	1	1	3	6
6	1	2	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	9	5
6	0	3	0	7	7	0	1	2	5	7	4
6	0	2	1	3	4	0	1	2	3	6	3

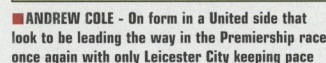


3.00	Sat	28	Southampton	A
MAY				
3.00	Sat	5	Charlton Athletic	H
	Sat	12	FAC (Final)	
3.00	Sat	19	Everton	A

The very latest ticket information is broadcast on Sun FM every Tuesday and Thursday at 5.40pm in their Red and White Ticket Update.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
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3 **MICHAEL OWEN** (Liverpool) v Aston Villa 6/9/00



- 6 **Andrew Cole** (Man Utd)
- 6 **Michael Owen** (Liverpool)
- 5 **Francis Jeffers** (Everton)
- 5 **Marian Pahars** (Southampton)
- 5 **Alan Smith** (Leeds Utd)
- 4 **Malcolm Christie** (Derby County)
- 4 **Thierry Henry** (Arsenal)
- 4 **Teddy Sheringham** (Man Utd)
- 4 **Branko Strupar** (Derby County)
- 4 **Paulo Wanchope** (Man City)
- 4 **Dean Windass** (Bradford City)
- 3 **David Beckham** (Man Utd)
- 3 **Alen Boksic** (Middlesbrough)
- 3 **Lee Bowyer** (Leeds Utd)
- 3 **Dion Dublin** (Coventry City)
- 3 **Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink** (Chelsea)
- 3 **Andy Hunt** (Charlton Ath.)
- 3 **Jonatan Johansson** (Charlton)
- 3 **Silvino** (Arsenal)

	High	Ave.
Manchester Utd	67,503	67,142
Newcastle Utd	51,687	51,525
Sunderland	47,121	46,098
Liverpool	44,692	44,078
Leeds United	40,055	38,539
Arsenal	38,025	37,944
Everton	38,541	36,560
Tottenham	36,148	34,915
Chelsea	34,923	34,511
Manchester City	34,410	33,534
Middlesbrough	31,626	31,255
Aston Villa	27,849	27,453
West Ham Utd	25,998	25,730
Derby County	27,223	24,608
Ipswich Town	22,065	21,967
Coventry City	22,109	21,036
Chantion Athletic	20,043	20,043
Leicester City	21,455	19,806
Breadford City	17,852	17,229
Southampton	15,621	15,208



Sunderland AFC v Luton Town



Worthington Cup Round 2 (1st Leg) · Tuesday 19th September 2000 · Sunderland Stadium of Light · Kick-off 7.45pm

PLAYED	SUB	GOALS	YELLOW	RED		RESULT	ATTENDANCE		PLAYED	SUB	GOALS	YELLOW	RED
					Thomas Sorensen	1			1				
					Chris Makin	2			2				
					Michael Gray	3			4				
					Don Hutchison	4			5				
					Steve Bould	5			6				
					Paul Butler	6			8				
					Nicky Summerbee	7			9				
					Gavin McCann	8			10				
					Niall Quinn	9			11				
					Kevin Phillips	10			12				
					Kevin Kilbane	11			13				
					Danny Dichio	12			14				
					Andy Marriott	13			15				
					Darren Holloway	14			16				
					Carsten Fredgaard	15			17				
					Alex Rae	16			18				
					Jody Craddock	17			19				
					Darren Williams	18			20				
					Eric Roy	19			21				
					Stefan Schwarz	20			22				
					Paul Thirlwell	21			23				
					Neil Wainwright	22			24				
					Chris Lumsdon	23			25				
					George McCartney	24			26				
					Mark Maley	25			27				
					Thomas Butler	26							
					Michael Reddy	27							
					John Oster	28							
					Tom Peeters	29							
					Jurgen Macho	30							
					Milton Nunez	31							
					Stanislav Varga	32							
					Julio Arca	33							
					Kevin Kyle	34							
					Thomas Helmer	35							
					Emerson Thome	36							

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TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Mr. M. G. Cowburn

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Mr. J. P. Devine & Mr. P. Eastwood

FOURTH OFFICIAL: Mr. D. Peacock

ALSO PLAYING TONIGHT

Newcastle Utd v Leyton Orient

Middlesbrough v Macclesfield

Darlington v Bradford City

Preston v Coventry City

Everton v Bristol Rovers

Walsall v West Ham Utd

NEXT AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT

LEICESTER CITY · FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2000 · KICK-OFF 3.00PM

Only the names changed at Filbert Street. Martin O'Neill is now a cult figure in the Celtic half of Glasgow, but the Worthington Cup holders continue to thrive under his successor, Peter Taylor. New signings Gary Rowett and Ade Akinbiyi were soon at the forefront as the Foxes joined the leading group with only one goal conceded by Tim Flowers in the first five Premiership games.

