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v luton



Sat 30 Sept 2000

Kick-off 3.00pm

Nationwide



write from the top

# with ian holloway



I was so proud of my team on Wednesday and feel it was the most enjoyable night of my managerial career, because everything else has so far ended in disappointment.

We could well have been two goals down at half time because I thought Everton played some great football during the opening forty five minutes.

At half time, our lads felt that they had let everyone down with their first half performance, so we set about dispelling those thoughts and told them to go out and be positive. They did just that and I think that in the end, they deserved to win.

There are occasions, in cup ties, when lower league teams will hassle and harry their more illustrious opponents, but we didn't do that. We moved the ball around and played some really good football. At the end of the day, I was proud of how we played and I hope other people were as well.

We have only just got this group of players together and in addition to their undoubted ability, they have a mental toughness as well, which they will need, if they want to play at a higher level.

I made a few changes during the game. Lewis Hogg did really well, but had to come off after hurting an ankle and Simon was getting very tired and also suffering from a slight groin strain. It was nice, though, to be able to send people on who could help us.

I said, last season, that we needed strength in depth and I feel we are on the way to achieving that now and when my injured players are fit again, we will be even

stronger.

Marcus Bignot, who scored our equaliser, is a fantastic person, so enthusiastic about the game and a great addition to the squad, as are so many of the other players we've brought in.

We missed Micky Evans on Wednesday, because his experience is vital to us, yet I thought our two young lads up front, Nathan Ellington and Clinton Ellis did exceptionally well, especially after the break. Then, of course, we had Mark Walters out on the wing performing a little bit of magic.

I want our team to entertain, because to me, that's what football is all about and hopefully we entertained a few people on Wednesday. As far as penalties are concerned, we did practice them out on the training ground on the morning of the game and I even joined in, which caused a few laughs, because the lads think I'm

We have only just got this group of players together and in addition to their undoubted ability, they have a mental toughness as well.



Ian Holloway's kit is sponsored by  
**YOUNG PIRATES**

old and past it. Even when I told them to end the session, because I wanted them to be fresh for the game, they stayed out practising themselves, which epitomises the team spirit we have here.

The practice certainly paid off and I had no worries when Dwayne Plummer stepped up to take the final spot kick, because he doesn't lack nerve and is very confident in his own ability. I also thought that Nathan showed great character to take a penalty, even though he missed one at Notts County. This time, his kick was saved, but he'll learn from that and I have no worries about him, because he's going to be some player.

A word, as well, about Nick Culkin. I couldn't get him here last season, but he's playing really well for us and the fact that we have Matt Glennon here as well seems to be making Nick play even better. They are both excellent 'keepers and whilst it will be difficult to keep

everyone happy, it's good to have competition for places. I haven't mentioned everyone, I know, but I felt all of the lads did so well against Everton and, as I've already said, I'm so proud of them all.

I'm delighted that Simon Bryant has been called into the England U18 squad and wish him well. Lewis Hogg has been placed on standby, as well, which is great for him and the club. With Vitalijs away on international duty as well next weekend, we might have to field an entirely new midfield on Friday, against Bury.

Once again, I have to thank our supporters. The way they got behind the team on Wednesday was magnificent. I'm so pleased that we were able to win for them, because they deserve it. I hope that we receive the same level of support today as we return to league action and whilst it will be difficult to keep

*Ollie*

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0800 30 20 13

It was only Wednesday that we were last here, so we haven't really been away that long, but there wasn't sufficient space for us to offer our congratulations to Neil Arndale, Simon Bryant and Vitalijs Astafjevs on their international selections (see pg 23) and to the Rovers squad for their magnificent performances against Everton.

#### INJURY SITUATION



Oh no, not another injury!

Phil Kite updates us on the current state of play. Andy Thomson, as you know, will be out of action for another 5 weeks due to the stress fracture in his foot and David Hillier, who was almost ready to resume training before he broke his toe, faces another two week lay off.

Ronnie Maugé is doing really well and is running at three quarter pace. He should be sprinting soon, but just needs to do a little more twisting and turning and some ball work. He did have a slight problem with shin splints, which put his

recovery back by almost three weeks, but he's kicked on again and if there is no reaction to his shins, which is nothing to do with the fracture, then we should be looking at seeing him back in action six weeks from now.

We had another scan on Dave Pritchard's knee and although there appears to be a slight problem, we are pushing him hard in training until we see a reaction. At the moment, he's sprinting and there is no swelling around the knee, so we are keeping our fingers crossed. As long as he suffers no reaction, he will step up his training and is currently on course to be playing again within six weeks. We have to be cautious though, because of what the scan showed. There still may be a problem with his knee and if that's the case, then Pritch will be facing another operation.

We are still looking at sending the scans of Jamie Shore's knee, together with the videos of his operation, to America, to get another opinion. Although he now has almost a full range of movement and the knee is functioning quite well, there is still a problem with it swelling up.

Martin Cameron is jogging and running again. He's been doing a lot of swimming and bike work whilst he's been out and could be back playing again within three weeks.

It's nice, for me, that the injury situation is easing, because at one time, I had as many as 17 players requiring treatment.

#### JOCK

There's never a good time to be injured, but Martin Cameron's ankle injury came at a time when he could have done without it. Things were going well, and I was



Martin Cameron

gutted when it happened. My fitness level was good and so it's been very frustrating sitting on the sidelines. Still, when things like this happen, you have to look to the future and come back even stronger.

I thought I was going to be out for 3 months but, thankfully it's not as bad as was first thought and here I am, just five weeks later, running again.

I've had quite a few of the lads keeping me company during my time out, and that has been a big help. Although I've not been involved, I'm delighted that the team has been doing so well. I know the gaffer has big plans for the side and hopefully I'll be back soon and be a part of it.'

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reserve report

**A**lthough the result was disappointing, I was pleased with our performance and we were able to take a number of positive points from the game. We played five at the back, for the first time this season, and dominated first half proceedings. It was 1-1 at the break but, to be honest, we should have been 4-1 ahead.



Michael Meaker – scored  
against Swindon

We created some good chances, our movement was good and we delivered some quality balls into the box. Although we faded a little bit in the second half, we'll keep working on things in training in order to improve and I think we will get better as season goes on.

It was pleasing to see Mark Foran get a full 90 minutes under his belt, whilst Chris Parker and Trevor Challis also came through another game, which brings them ever nearer to full match fitness.

Mike Trought also returned after injury and did very well in a central midfield role. Drew Shore was excellent until he was injured and up front, was pleased with the movement of our two strikers,

Michael Meaker and Dave Gilroy. It was Meaks who scored our goal and he was unfortunate not to score another two. We need to convert a few more of the chances we are creating and, in this match, we were punished for not taking chances in a game we dominated.

We had all travelled up to Liverpool the previous evening, to watch the first team in action against Everton and didn't get back to Bristol until the early hours of the morning, so I would have preferred the match against Swindon to have had an evening kick-off. That would have enabled the lads to have a lie in and prepare themselves more thoroughly.

As it was, I got them out on the pitch early to warm up and they played so well during the opening 20 minutes that I needn't have worried. It's possible that tiredness caught up with us in the

second half, as we did get a little bit ragged in the last 15 minutes.

However, I'm not going to use that as an excuse, because it was a great experience for everyone to watch the Everton game. This was especially true for the younger lads, as it gave them a chance to see Simon Bryant and Lewis Hogg in action and, hopefully, made them realise that if they can play and train like those two, then they also have a chance of breaking through to the first team.

As I say, it was a great experience and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

**TEAM:** Clarke, Parker, Challis, Foran, Smith, Meaker, Trees (Zabek), Shore (A.J.) (Chambers), Trought, Rose, Gilroy

**Subs (not used):** Hardcastle, Powel, Cordy

**GARRY THOMPSON**

## fixtures 2000/01

Wed 16 Aug	Brentford	H 1-2
Tue 22 Aug	Portsmouth LC	A 1-1
Wed 30 Aug	Bristol City	A 1-3
Wed 13 Sep	Portsmouth	H 3-0
Thur 21 Sep	Swindon Town	A 1-3
Thur 28 Sep	Wycombe Wanderers	A
Tue 3 Oct	Cirencester GFA	A
Wed 11 Oct	Brighton & Hove	H
Wed 18 Oct	Oxford Utd	H
Wed 25 Oct	Bristol City LC	H
Wed 1 Nov	AFC Bournemouth	A
Wed 15 Nov	Norwich City	H
Wed 22 Nov	Crystal Palace LC	A
Wed 29 Nov	Colchester Utd	H
Wed 6 Dec	Cheltenham Town	A
Wed 13 Dec	Reading LC	A
Tue 19 Dec	Southend Utd	A
Wed 10 Jan	Peterborough Utd	H
Wed 17 Jan	Cambridge Utd	A
Tue 23 Jan	Northampton Town	A
Mon 29 Feb	Luton Town	A
Wed 7 Feb	Barnet	H
Tue 13 Feb	Millwall	A
Wed 28 Feb	Leyton Orient	A
Wed 14 Mar	Gillingham	A
Wed 21 Mar	Fulham	A
Tue 27 Mar	QPR	A
Wed 4 Apr	Crystal Palace	A
Wed 11 Apr	Reading	H

LC = League Cup  
GFA = Glos Senior Challenge Cup

## ROVERS 3 CHELTENHAM 2

Our U-17's recorded their first victory of the season last Saturday, when they beat Cheltenham by three goals to two. After three consecutive defeats, it was a welcome result, but in terms of performance, the players and myself would be the first to admit that it was probably our worst of the season.

The blustery conditions and the small pitch didn't help matters, but we shouldn't make excuses for what was, at times, a lack lustre performance.

We went a goal down after 20 minutes when Couzens, who was one of the few players to have started the match brightly, was dispossessed thirty yards from goal and the Cheltenham player

## U-19 FIXTURES Season 2000/2001

<b>Sat 19 Aug</b>	<b>Cirencester</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2-0</b>
Sat 26 Aug	Cardiff City	A	2-0
<b>Sat 2 Sept</b>	<b>Exeter City</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-0</b>
<b>Sat 9 Sept</b>	<b>Swindon Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-0</b>
Sat 16 Sept	Swansea City	A	3-2
Sat 30 Sept	Portsmouth Fr	A	
Sat 14 Oct	Torquay Utd	A	
Sat 21 Oct	Plymouth Argyle	A	
<b>Sat 28 Oct</b>	<b>Oxford Utd</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 11 Nov	Cirencester	A	
<b>Sat 18 Nov</b>	<b>Cardiff City</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 25 Nov	Exeter City	A	
<b>Sat 2 Dec</b>	<b>Swansea City</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>Sat 9 Dec</b>	<b>Portsmouth Fr</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 16 Dec	Swindon Town	A	
<b>Sat 20 Jan</b>	<b>Torquay Utd</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 3 Feb	Oxford Utd	A	
<b>Sat 10 Feb</b>	<b>Plymouth Argyle</b>	<b>H</b>	

Fr = Friendly

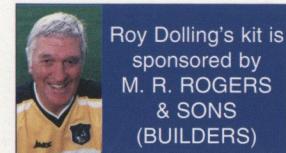
### UPDATE

Congratulations to Glyn Jones, a former Rovers 'keeper, and his wife, on the recent birth of their daughter.

Best wishes to Dave Palmer for a speedy recovery from pleurisy.



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outpaced Wilson and Nolan and scored with a good low shot into the left hand corner of the net. For the next 20 minutes we were definitely second best, but that changed as half time approached. With 5 minutes of the half remaining, Guibarra latched on to a through ball, rounded the goalkeeper and, under pressure from two defenders, slotted the ball home for our equaliser. Then, in time added on, Matt Young put us in front with a superb 30 yard drive.

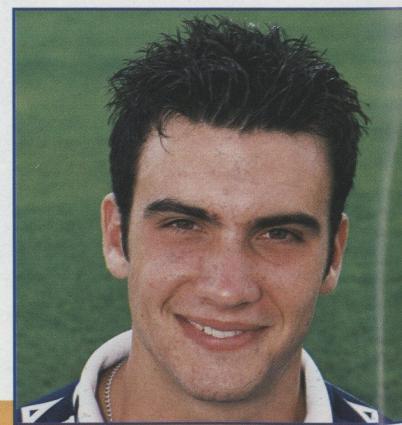
Our best wishes, also, to Leon Cozens, who has suffered a major setback. Having almost recovered from the dislocated knee injury he received last summer, he now has shin splints, which means another operation and a further eight weeks out of the game.

### FITNESS FOR KEEPERS

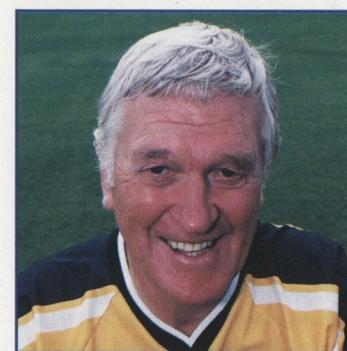
Just as he did with Nigel Martyn, over ten years ago Youth Development Manager Roy Dolling is back on the training ground putting the clubs keepers through a gruelling fitness programme.

'About six weeks ago,' he says 'Ian asked me if I would undertake some fitness work with them, so that's exactly what I've been doing. Brian Parkin, who is responsible for their technical work, joins in as well, because he wants to keep himself fit and I think the group involvement is good for all of us.

At one time, the keepers here



Leon Cozens



Roy Dolling

didn't all train together, but in my opinion, they need a little bit of friendly rivalry. In any case, it's good to talk about things that have gone right, or wrong in a game and we all do that. I think everyone in the group now sees the importance of learning from each other.

When Nick Culkin first came to the club, I told him that I thought that all 'keepers needed fitness training, as they need to be agile, be quick off their line and good with their feet. In other words, they have to be like an old fashioned centre half, as well as a goalkeeper. To be fair to him his attitude has been magnificent. He's come to us from the best club in the country and really knuckled down. He never moans and works extremely hard, and Matt Glennon has come in with exactly the same attitude.

I'm amazed that neither of them have never done this type of work at their respective clubs. Maybe they think it's not needed, but I believe it to be very important.

It's been good for Ryan Clarke, as well. Phil Bater was a little bit critical of Ryan early on but, in fairness to him, he has now said how well Ryan has been playing recently, which is a good thing because he is an important part of our group.

Ryan can learn so much from Nick's experience at Manchester United, and Matt's at Bolton. Brian on the other hand, has over 300 games behind him and he has something to offer to all of them. It's great for the club, to have such a good group of 'keepers and I think they are as good as, if not better, than those at any club in the second division.

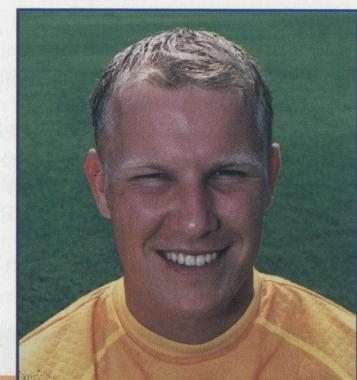
I have to say that I'm enjoying taking them all. I remember that Nigel Martyn did exactly the same as these 'keepers, all those years ago, even when he returned from international duty. Gerry Francis was a great believer in this type of work, as is Gary Penrice and Ian has given me his backing as well.

I think that between us all, we have proved the importance of the fitness work for 'keepers, though I must stress that Brian is totally responsible for the technical work they undertake. He works with me because he wants to and he does a lot of coaching and we shouldn't forget how valuable his input is.'

### THE KEEPERS VIEW

Nick Culkin offers his view on the work being undertaken by Roy. 'I'm receiving technical help from Brian Parkin and pure, raw fitness work with Roy, so I'm getting the best of both worlds, really. The way things are going, we've all been getting in some good sessions. I'm enjoying it and looking forward to working with Roy for the rest of the season.'

To be honest, I've never really done fitness work as such and I have to say, I've never really experienced anything like it in my life. I remember that, after our first session, I couldn't stand up or feel my arms! At Manchester United, we always concentrated on technique, but having played a few games for



Nick Culkin

Rovers now, I realise how much I need this type of work as well. It seems to be playing off, but there's a long season ahead. Nevertheless, I'm loving every minute of my time here, it's just fantastic.'

## U-17 FIXTURES Season 2000/2001

Sat 19 Aug	Oxford Utd	A	0-3
Sat 2 Sept	Cardiff City	A	0-1
Sat 9 Sept	Swansea City	A	1-4
<b>Sat 23 Sept</b>	<b>Cheltenham Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3-2</b>
Sat 30 Sept	Portsmouth Fr	A	
Sat 7 Oct	Torquay Utd	A	
Sat 14 Oct	Cirencester	A	
<b>Sat 21 Oct</b>	<b>Plymouth Argyle</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 28 Oct	Exeter City	A	
<b>Sat 4 Nov</b>	<b>AFC Bournemouth</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>Sat 11 Nov</b>	<b>Oxford Utd</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>Sat 25 Nov</b>	<b>Cardiff City</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 2 Dec	Swindon Town	A	
<b>Sat 9 Dec</b>	<b>Portsmouth Fr</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>Sat 16 Dec</b>	<b>Swansea City</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>Sat 6 Jan</b>	<b>Swindon Town</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>Sat 13 Jan</b>	<b>Torquay Utd</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 20 Jan	Cheltenham Town	A	
Sat 27 Jan	Plymouth Argyle	A	
<b>Sat 3 Feb</b>	<b>Cirencester</b>	<b>H</b>	
Sat 10 Feb	AFC Bournemouth	A	
<b>Sat 17 Feb</b>	<b>Exeter City</b>	<b>H</b>	

Fr = Friendly

# with micky evans

At 27, Micky Evans finds that he is one of the more experienced members of the current first team squad and, as he explains, its not something he's used to. 'It's a bit weird, really, because at West Brom I was one of the younger players, yet compared to some of the young lads in this side, I'm an old man, which is a bit scary as I reckon I've got another ten years left in

the game myself!'

As a youngster, he was spotted by his home town club, Plymouth. 'I was with them, at their Centre of Excellence, from the age of 11, was taken on as a trainee at 16 and things just carried on from there.'

'I had some great times with Argyle and it was very enjoyable. I would have to say that the highlight of my time there was the play-off final at Wembley in 1996 when we beat Darlington. Ronnie Maugé scored the only goal of the game that day, and he never tires of telling everyone, every day of the week, that he scored the winning goal at Wembley!'

Micky was unable to play against his former club in this season's Worthington Cup, as West Brom didn't want him cup tied during his loan spell with us, which was unfortunate, as he would have enjoyed going back to Home Park. 'To be honest, I would have loved to have played in those games. I still know a lot of people down there from my time with them. Argyle are a nice, family club and it's a shame they are struggling so much at the moment.'

Less than a year after his Wembley appearance with Argyle, he was on his way to The Premiership, as Southampton paid £750,000 to secure his signature and four goals in twelve games helped his new club avoid relegation. 'Yes, I managed to score a few goals and won a Carling Player of the month award as well, and I enjoyed those games. We managed to stay up, of course and that made it a bit special.'

Within six months, though, he was on the move again this time to West Bromwich Albion. Southampton's boss, Graeme Souness decided to leave and David Jones took over. He tried to change everything and I wasn't playing on a regular basis. There was no pressure on me to leave the Dell, but I wanted to be playing, so when West Brom, came in for me, I decided to go almost straight away. It meant stepping down a division, which made it a difficult decision but they were lying second in division one then and, looking

back, I still feel I made the right decision at that time.'

Unknown to him, though, he could have signed for West Ham. 'I only found out about that after I had signed for West Brom. For some reason Southampton had decided not to tell me of West Ham's interest, which was a little bit disappointing. Then, I had a lot of injuries after moving to the Hawthorns. They weren't career threatening injuries, it has to be said, but every time I got myself fit, I seemed to get injured again. I suffered a broken cheekbone, then had a problem with my knees and my ankles and once

it showed, at last, that they had a bit of ambition, something that's not been in evidence in the last few years.'

However, I knew the writing was on the wall for me, straight away. I could have stayed and sat on the bench, I suppose, but I really want to be playing so I jumped at the chance of coming down here'

Signed initially on loan, Micky met up with his new team mates just two days before our game at Peterborough. 'I enjoyed it right from the start and, naturally it was good to score on my debut. Things have gone really well since then and we are playing some good football.'

He was impressed by the younger players in the side in that game against Peterborough and has seen no reason to change his mind since. 'They continue to impress even in training and they are improving all the time. When you are a teenager, as many of these lads are, it can be very difficult, no matter what league you are playing in. The youngsters here are coping very well with the physical demands of the Second Division and their passing ability is now starting to show through.'

With his loan transfer coming to an end, Rovers decided to try to make the move permanent and a three year deal was agreed surprisingly quickly. 'I had no hesitation about signing a contract at all. Once you know you are wanted at a club and everything is going well and you are enjoying your football, then there is no point in delaying things. It didn't take long to sort everything out and the club were pretty good to me, so I wanted to sign straight away.'

I think I have fitted in well and the lads have made me feel really welcome. This is a good well run family club and that's what I like about it. I'm delighted to be here, we are playing football the way I want to play and I'm really enjoying it.'

Although he has been here since mid August, today will only be his second appearance at The Memorial Stadium, so those supporters who have yet to

see him in action should be aware that he's not an out and out goalscorer – there's more to his game than that.

'I know that Rovers sold Jamie Cureton just before my arrival. He was a proven goalscorer, but maybe didn't add anything else to the side. Although I won't score as many goals, because I'm a different type of player, I hope I can bring others into the game and help anyone who partners me up front, as well as our midfield players, to score goals. Perhaps that's something that's been lacking, I don't know, but I feel that the whole side needs to be scoring, because this is a team game, it's not about individuals. We are all in it together and as I've played a few more games than some of the other lads and have a bit more experience, I hope I can help them in any way I can.'

He has high hopes for the current season and feels his own game will improve once he is fully match fit. 'It's early days yet, and you never know what is going to happen in football. However, as long as we can keep a good squad together and don't pick up too many injuries, there's no reason why we can't be up near the top of the league. We've just got to carry on playing as we have been and if we can do that up until Christmas and still be in the same position, then I am sure we will be up there with the best of them come the end of the season.'

As far as my own fitness is concerned, a few more games will see me back to being fully match fit. When you haven't played a lot of games, it takes a while to get back into things. You can do all the running you want but, at the end of the day, it's all about match fitness and being sharp and alert during games. Having said that, I've improved my fitness no end in training and hopefully that's shown through a little bit in my last couple of games.'

Everyone has their own ideas about training and here, I feel that it's not necessarily better than at the other clubs I've been at, though it is, perhaps, a little more intense. I'm loving every minute of

it, though, and look forward to the next three years and, hopefully, a few more after that if things go well.'

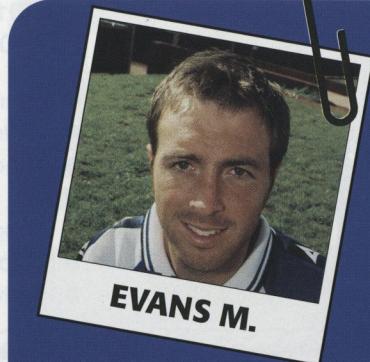
It is perhaps, somewhat ironic that Rovers should have bought a striker from West Brom to replace the one that they sold to the same club. 'The strange thing about it,' says Micky, 'is that West Brom had to pay ten times more money for Jason than Rovers paid for me and only time will tell whether it was money well spent.'

He's right, of course, but I can't help thinking that however things turn out, it was a shrewd piece of business on our part!

**I think I have fitted in well and the lads have made me feel really welcome. This is a good, well run family club and that's what I like about it.**

again I found myself in the position of not playing on a regular basis.'

When Albion decided to spend £2m on Jason Roberts, it came as a little bit of a surprise. 'I think the real surprise was that they spent that amount of money on a centre forward, given that they already had five on their books, in Lee Hughes, Bob Taylor, James Quinn, Fabian De Freitas and myself. However, by spending such a large sum of money



EVANS M.

## career profile

Born in Plymouth on 1 January 1973 ... Joined his hometown club as a youngster and went on to complete two years as a trainee before signing his first pro contract ... Played for Argyle in the 1996 Division Three Play-Off Final at Wembley ... Joined Southampton for a fee of £750,000 in March 1997 ... Capped by the Republic of Ireland, against Romania in October 1997 ... And in the same month signed for WBA, again with a £750,000 fee changing hands ... Joined Rovers, on loan on 18th August 2000 and made a scoring debut at Peterborough two days later ... signed a three year contract on 9th September.

## Mind your language

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## rovers in the community

**with peter aitken**

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I would like to thank Liam Dixon, Ben Rhodes, Roxanne Onura and Natalie May for being very patient. Today's penalty competition at 2.10pm should have been finalised last season. Good luck to all four of you.

There will be a second penalty competition at half time today. I will select four youngsters from the crowd to take part. The winner will be given a special day out for the family.

We have two more photos from our soccer school at the Pro5 Complex, featuring Ian and Gary with some of the children.



### BRISTOL ROVERS COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT

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Peter Aitken

**Community Coaches**  
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These notes are written before last Wednesday's big cup tie against Everton and so follow on the back of two excellent away results - the superb draw at Goodison Park to set up what I hope was a sensational return leg here and then a seemingly efficient demolition of Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium last Saturday.

I had to miss that one due to work and family commitments and it seemed strange to be listening to the live commentary via Radio Bristol. I normally can't stand the tension of not being able to see what is going on and usually avoid the radio until just before the end of the game if I can't get to it. This time there were no worries though as the 'Pirates' returned with the Division's only unbeaten record still intact. Let's hope we can keep the run going this afternoon against the 'Hatters' and continue our climb up the table.

It was a busy week all round what with the long night journey to Liverpool and back, a 'Pirates' skittles match and the Supporters Club AGM all within four days! The skittles are going as surprisingly well as the Rovers, with the supporter's club also boasting an unbeaten record so far. It's early days yet of course and I have probably 'put the mockers on it' by mentioning both teams records. We shall see!

The AGM date was chosen many months ago as usual in order to prepare and print the formal notices and to book the busy Clubhouse here at the 'Mem'. Consequently we were not to be aware when booking that many Club members would have had a long night in the previous 24 hours and therefore our attendance was badly affected. Not as bad as one caller mentioned on Geoff Twentyman's phone-in the following night but still only about

fifty tired souls turned up. That was disappointing, particularly as we had a splendid turnout of Football Club management, Directors and officials for the forum we held straight after another very brief AGM.

My thanks go to all those who made the effort, particularly the 'Boss' Ian Holloway, Chairman Mr Denis Dunford, Vice-Chairman Geoff Dunford and Director of Youth Development Ron Craig, who formed the forum panel and answered a string of interesting and varied questions on life with the Rovers. Those of you who couldn't be bothered missed a very entertaining evening especially as all the guests stayed behind in the bar afterwards to chat with our members. This I know was much appreciated as this sort of thing makes Rovers the great friendly club that it is and I'm sorry there weren't more of you here to enjoy their company.

For the record, the five committee members standing for re-election, 'Yours truly' included I'm afraid to say, were returned unopposed again so you'll have to put up with us for another three years unless we are victims of a 'coup'! All of last season's 3,000 plus membership were sent AGM notices with the supporters Club newsletter but it seemed that few of you are very interested in the organisation and running of the Club.

That is not a crime of course but perhaps it is time for us to outline the modern-day BRSC and, starting in the next edition of 'The Pirate' I will try not to bore you but to introduce some of the characters on the Committee and explain the many tasks we perform on your behalf. But, for today, enjoy the match and hopefully a first home win!

**JIM CHAPPELL**



I wish this game was over. I've got a skittles match and an AGM to get to!

## football in the classroom

Following several planning visits we welcomed students and teachers from St. Thomas More School to the Memorial Stadium last Tuesday. These days the curriculum includes new additional elements such as key skills which require the teachers to present concepts in ever increasingly different ways. In order to deal successfully with these ideas a good number have the option of being delivered outside the classroom. The 'module' chosen by the school was based on a 'site' visit to an organisation involved in the 'Leisure Industry'. (Apparently the students chose Alton Towers but the staff thought that Bristol Rovers would be better!!!). From that main title the youngsters then had to concentrate their efforts on the skills of 'Information Gathering' or 'Research'.

The session began with a discussion on 'job roles' at Bristol



Pupils of St Thomas More School with Rod Wesson ...

Rovers. The breadth of career possibilities within professional football clearly surprised many of the students, a good number of whom didn't realise just what a range of opportunity there is these days.

A 'tour' of the stadium facilities



... here they are joined by Simon who assists them at the school

then followed with all elements of the ground being investigated. Inevitably the visit to the dressing rooms proved very popular along with the trip to the top of the Centenary Stand where it was possible to identify large areas of the city including more specifically their actual school buildings. On entry to the stand each of the boys and girls had been given a match ticket so that they had to interpret the information and then find their own particular seat. This ticket also served as entry to a raffle which was held at the end of the visit. The prize was an autographed football which caused great excitement. A piece of work then followed which was based on our excellent match day programme. Pupils had to read an example and then decide what they thought should be in such a publication, what should be included as a priority, what they personally liked and disliked and what could in their opinion be taken out. This exercise

was to be continued back at school and could produce some interesting thoughts.

An orienteering quiz based around the stadium buildings then occupied the youngsters for the remainder of the time available to them and, with the prospect of a prize for the winners, produced a real competitive edge to the exercise.

All too soon the session had come to an end and armed with their 'goody gifts' the group set off back to school expressing the desire to return again for more projects in the future.

The boys and girls who took part in this visit were Dana James, Manof Varsani, Luke Daniels, Angharad James, Neil Smith, Marcus Veira, Ashley Hill, Michelle Owens, Gemma Coombes, Marcus Williams, Brent Stadden, Shane Sawyers, Alex Twitchen, Dannie Heavens, Marcus Grant, Marlan McKenna and Justin Williams. All will be back at the Memorial soon anyway as guests of the club at a first team match, the hope of course being that like the rest of us they eventually get the 'bug' and become long term 'gasheads'.

**Rod Wesson** Director of Education

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Ann Craig, Simon and Sylvia Watts oversee the work undertaken by the students

### pirate pics



#### key to pics overleaf

- A** Micky Evans shoots ... and keeper Perez has to pick the ball out of the net
- B** Evans practises keeping the ball in the air
- C** Marcus Bignot is first to the ball
- D** Scott Jones about to take off after scoring our third goal before being grounded by Simon Bryant
- E** Nathan Ellington outpaces a Cambridge defender



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captain's column

midfielder  
with andy thomson

Today of course, we return to the serious business of gaining three more league points, and everyone at the club is in a confident mood after our win against Everton on Wednesday.



What an evening it turned out to be. Once Marcus Bignot scored our equaliser, I thought we would go on to win the game, though I have to admit I was biting my nails during the penalty shoot out!

It's quite an achievement to beat a Premiership side over two legs of a major cup competition and we are delighted to have made it through to the third round.

It was a superb team effort on Wednesday and the support the lads received from

the crowd of over 11,000 was magnificent. I just hope that our unbeaten start to the season will encourage more people to come along to watch us, because it gives everyone a lift playing in front of a large crowd.

I wasn't able to travel to Cambridge last Saturday, and had to be content with watching the goal flashes on TV so I was pleased that the lads pulled off another great result. Obviously, I was delighted for Simon Bryant, who scored his first goal, even though I thought it was an own goal by the Cambridge keeper when I saw it on TV.

However, Simon insists on claiming it, and who can blame him. He had something else to celebrate last week, as well, after being selected for the England U18 squad. I think his selection is fully deserved and is a reflection on how well he is doing, individually, and how well the team has done since the start of the season. These things go hand in hand, in that when the team is doing well, individuals tend to be rewarded as well.

Last season, we did very well against Lyton, knocking them out of the Worthington Cup and beating them twice in the league, though that doesn't mean we will do as well against them in our league outings this season. We have to approach today's game in the same way we approach any other and if we

do that, then I'm sure we will get the right result this afternoon.

To be honest, I think we are confident going into any game at the moment, because of the way the season is going and the way the boys are playing and I'm sure that confidence will have improved again since Wednesday.

There's been no real improvement in my injury since my last programme notes, though I have seen the doctor again and he's told me that I won't be able to start jogging until I am free from any pain. In the meantime, I'll be spending a lot of time in the swimming pool, trying to keep my fitness up to a reasonable level until I can get back out on the training ground.

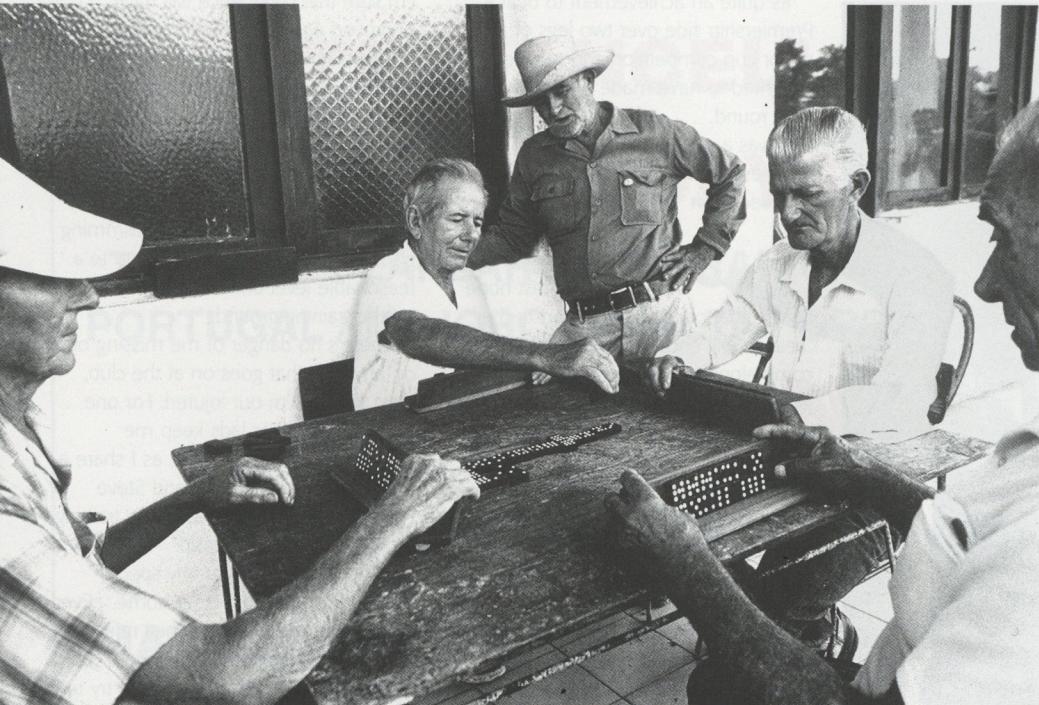
There's no danger of me missing out on anything that goes on at the club, even though I'm out injured. For one thing, all the other lads keep me informed and involved and, as I share a house with Trevor Challis and Steve Foster, I'm bound to hear of any training ground incidents or gossip.

Mind you, I don't get any special favours from Trev or Foz at home. Even though I am on crutches, they refuse to make any concessions. We have a rota for tea and coffee and although I try to get out of it by lying on the sofa and making them look after me, it's not working and they still make me hobble out to the kitchen when it's my turn.

There are still a number of us in the treatment room, but once everyone is fit, the manager will have some interesting selection problems and I'm sure that's how he wants it and is why he's brought players to the club. When we picked up so many injuries last season, it hit us really hard, whereas this time around we're still doing well in spite of the number of players out injured. Things look really good for the future and, hopefully, everyone will soon be fit and challenging for a place.



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# international Rovers

## midfielders to miss bury trip?

Neil Arndale returned from international duty with the England U16 side this week, having won his seventh cap at The Bescot Stadium, Walsall on Friday 22nd September when England beat the Republic of Ireland 3-1.

Meanwhile Simon Bryant learned of his selection for the England U18 squad at the team talk given by manager Ian Holloway before the game against Cambridge. Simon took it all in his stride, went out and celebrated his first senior goal and then calmly talked about that and his international call up.

'I think I was due a goal and hopefully, that's the first of many. I got into the side last year then had to miss four months because of injury, so it's nice to score so early in the new season. It's good, also, that the goals are coming from so many players and any team we play will have to be careful, because we no longer rely on two people to score for us. As for the England call up, I was, naturally, delighted. I didn't really know how to react when I

was told, but I had to make sure that, initially, I put it to the back of my mind and concentrate on the game against Cambridge.

I'll miss the game against Bury, and obviously I'll be a little bit worried about losing my place, because one of the other lads could come in and play well and I'll have a fight on my hands to get back in. I don't really mind that, because competition for places is good for everyone. In any case, you don't turn down the opportunity to play for your country.

It would have nice if Lewis Hogg could have been selected as well. We've played together since we were eight years old and know each other's game, strengths and weaknesses, which is a big help now we are in the first team together. I think he will be selected if he keeps on playing the way he has and I hope he will join me, in a future England squad.'

Whilst Neil and Simon are international fledglings, Vitalijs Astafjevs is one of the more



Neil Arndale returned from international duty this week

experienced international players around. With some 70 caps to his name, the Latvian skipper will, barring injury, be leading his side out against Belgium in next Saturday's World Cup Qualifier in Riga.

'After just one qualifying game so far, it's a little bit early to say how well we will do. As well as ourselves and Belgium the other teams in the group are Scotland, San Marino and Croatia. Naturally, we want to win every game and it felt very good playing against Scotland recently.'

It is good to play at the highest level possible and it was enjoyable, also, playing against Everton. I am also enjoying playing for Bristol Rovers this season and feel that the team is getting better and better.'

**Stop Press: As we went to print we heard that Lewis Hogg has been put on standby for the same England U18 squad as Simon. Congratulations to everyone – but who's going to play in midfield on Friday?**



Simon Bryant in celebratory mood

next up...

Shakers, Cobblers &  
Merry Millers



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Nationwide Division Two  
The Memorial Stadium  
Tuesday 17th October  
Kick-off 7.45pm

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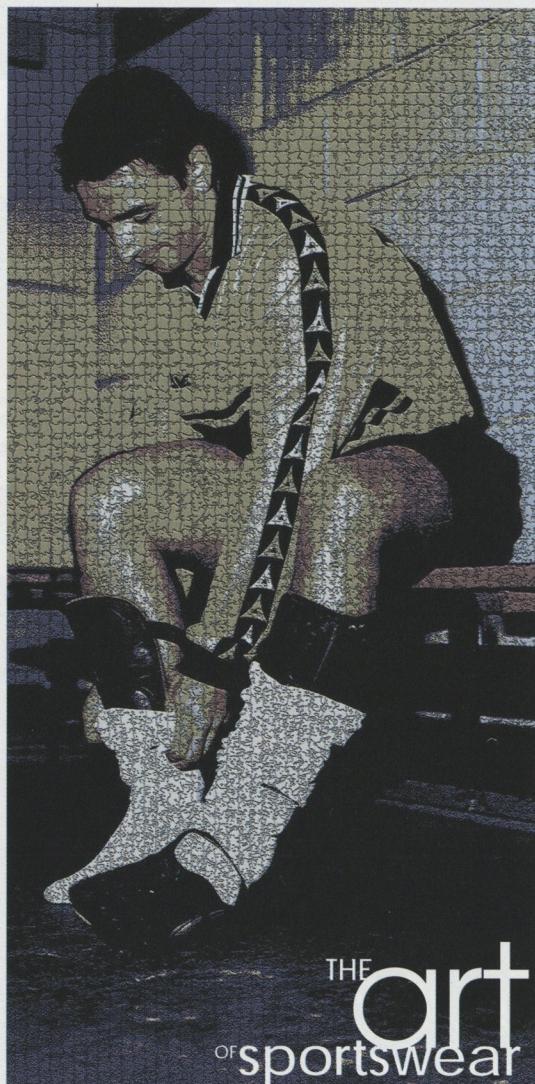
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Our ladies side recorded their third consecutive 2-0 victory to keep them top of the South West Combination. Both goals, in the match against Clevedon, came during the first half.

K J Donaldson scored our first, after 25 minutes, when she headed home from close range following a corner by Steph Curtis and it was Steph who put us further ahead just before half time, when her shot

## gas girls fixtures 2000/01

### SEPTEMBER

3	Reading	A	1-1
10	<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>	H	<b>2-0</b>
17	Bristol City	A	2-0
24	<b>CLEVEDON</b>	H	<b>2-0</b>

### OCTOBER

1	Oxford (LC1)	A	
8	Oxford	A	
15	<b>SALTASH</b>	H	
22	Swindon Town	A	
29	AXA FA Cup 1	A	

### NOVEMBER

5	<b>SOUTHAMPTON</b>	H	
12	AXA FA Cup 2	A	
19	Yeovil Town	A	
26	Cheltenham	A	

### DECEMBER

3	League Cup 2	H	
10	<b>DENHAM</b>	H	
17	<b>READING</b>	H	

### JANUARY

7	Portsmouth	A	
14	<b>BRISTOL CITY</b>	H	
21	Clevedon	A	
28	<b>OXFORD</b>	H	

### FEBRUARY

4	Saltash	A	
11	<b>SWINDON TOWN</b>	H	
18	Southampton	A	
25	<b>YEOVIL TOWN</b>	H	

### MARCH

4	<b>CHELTONHAM</b>	H	
11	Denham	A	

### APRIL

29	League Cup Final		
----	------------------	--	--



Kerry Weaver and Michelle Peart who both received a hostile reception from their former club



from 20 yards beat the Clevedon goalkeeper as she advanced off her line.

The three clean sheets we have kept have been very pleasing and we are starting to look more organised than we were at the beginning of the season. However, we can't afford to relax and we must continue to work hard on the training ground if we are to achieve National League status

In this game, I was especially pleased with the performances of Michelle Peart and Kerry Weaver, the two girls who joined us from Clevedon in the summer. Michelle, in particular, received a hostile reception from the Clevedon management team, but answered her critics with another superb display.

Our reserves went goal crazy with a 9-2 victory against Bristol National, whilst our Colts were, at one stage, 3-1 up against Gloucester City but eventually lost 8-5.

Our next two games will both be

against Oxford United. Tomorrow, we travel up to Oxford for a league cup tie and next week we go there again for a league game.

Although our priority is the league, we won't be taking things easy in the cup, because winning is a habit and the more you win, the more confident you become. Naturally, I'm hoping our confidence continues for many weeks to come!

DAVE BELL



K J Donaldson scorer of our first goal

## tonight's sponsors

Firstly I would like to welcome everyone to the Centenary Hospitality Suite today and to tell you that our Match Sponsors are Harris & Barry, Building & Maintenance Contractors of Glyn Vale, Bedminster. Mike Harris – a True Blue – today celebrates his 50th year of supporting Bristol Rovers; he was born and bred in South Bristol, and is a regular supporter both home and away. Mike rates this season's team as one of the best he has seen in his time of supporting The Gas. A very warm welcome to Mike, who is joined by his family and close friends.

Our Matchball Sponsors are Michael and Linda Rogers – they both share the same birthday would you believe – and are here today as part of their



celebration. Happy Birthday to them both from everyone at Bristol Rovers Football Club and we also welcome Hilary, Michael's sister, who is on holiday from Gibraltar ... enjoy the game.

The Commercial Mascot is Jed Carter, aged 11, who goes to Hartcliffe School and he enjoys playing football as well as watching Bristol Rovers. His favourite players are Nick Culkin and Marcus Bignot and I am sure he will have the opportunity to talk to all the players today.

Many thanks to all of you who supported the Sporting Lunch recently. It was an absolute success, most enjoyable and there will be another one taking place in the near future, so watch this space for further details.

**GRAHAM BOWEN**

Nick Culkin picked up the Man of the Match awards from our sponsors for his performance against Everton. He is pictured (left) with representatives of match sponsors HPC Export and (right) phoning home to let everyone know about it!!

Thanks to HPC Export and matchball sponsors Quicksors for their support



## presidents club

The last day of September, only our third home league match of the season, the majority having been played away, but still unbeaten in the league so far.

Despite much pre-season pessimism amongst supporters, Presidents Club Members included, Ollie and the boys are proving that despite squad players leaving, and many injuries, a great spirit and enthusiasm, together with a desire to play quality football will win through.

A long way to go, but the signs so far are very encouraging. Despite the pre-season pessimism we are pleased to say that most members rejoined this term, and with an influx of new members, the total membership numbers are already up from last season.

It is also encouraging to see more members travelling away this season, and enjoying the experience.

For information contact Bob Taylor on 0117 937 2274. If you have any suggestions on how your

membership of the Presidents Club can be improved, home or away, please let any committee member know.

**ROY COWELL**



Nick Culkin also picked up the Presidents Club Man of the Match award on Wednesday

## stadium update

Good afternoon and welcome back to the Memorial Stadium – two games in a week and two sets of programmes notes (Thanks Mr. Brookman!). Today's game is bigger than Wednesday's in our overall season's plan; however, it was a splendid sight to see the stadium full and it goes to show that our Planning Applications are very valid and we need a bigger capacity here (my mobile phone keeps ringing from desperate friends still looking for tickets as I pen these notes!).

Straight after Bristol Rugby's game against Leicester Tigers last Saturday, the groundstaff team started work by spiking the pitch and replacing divots. On Monday we verti-drained the whole pitch, Tuesday and Wednesday was spent rolling and cutting and preparing the pitch to have it in the best possible condition. I hope all the hard work that has gone into this pays off with the right result today. Thanks to Peter and team.

I must say the atmosphere at the Club at the moment is electric. Last Saturday, as I said earlier, Bristol Rugby entertained Leicester Tigers

Thanks again to Aaron James for last Friday's Comedy Lunch; he was very funny and very well received. We will be holding another lunch in January, so watch this space for more details and keep in touch with Trish or Graham on the number above. I might ask him along for a Men's evening at the stadium, because the jokes that were being told at the Top Table were not for a mixed audience....but very funny!

End of season games on the main pitch – normally we have 7-10 days before pitch undergoes major

refurbishment so contact us for Cup Finals (Bristol Boys and Girls). We always try to accommodate local people, so contact me for details and we will do our very best.

One of the new ideas for the coming season will be to have a Curry Night at the stadium, probably a Wednesday evening priced at £2 and we will show videos of Rovers outstanding games, eg Rovers 5-0 win at Oxford, 6-0 win at Reading and 2-0 win at The Mem against Bristol City. I hope people will come and support this, especially with beer priced at £1.25 per pint!

We will also be showing a selection of videos before home matches on Saturdays in the Bars – Geoff Twentyman will plug this for us on Friday nights.

Finally, we are all enjoying Mr. Holloway's football at the moment and the lads need your vocal support as always. Get behind the team today and cheer them to another three points. C'MON YOU BLUES!

**IAN HOLTBY, Stadium Manager**

## COMMERCIAL CONTACTS

## Marketing/Sponsorship

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## Helpline Membership

Kate Radnedge  
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01454 321191

## Presidents Club

Roger Hynam  
**Telephone**  
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## helpline

Everyone who joins Helpline can forget about having to claim prizes as we do the checking for you. Helpline members will know that whenever anyone wins a prize we always contact them to check the address before we send out their winnings.

This means that your prize can be sent as quickly as possible to the correct address and you can enjoy the benefits.

Every once in a while we do have a problem as people move or change their telephone number without telling us. We do our best to track them down and usually make contact BUT at this moment there are three winners we cannot get hold of to send their winnings. One winning number goes back to March 1999!!!!

PLEASE, PLEASE if you have moved or changed your phone number without telling us, get in touch NOW. We want you to have your prizes.

If you are not a member PLEASE, PLEASE join now.

**Ring Kate on 01454 321191**

my first, my worst, my everything

# with david pritchard



## • describe the best goal you've ever scored? - In your case, the only one!

- A difficult one, I've scored so many!! Probably the one at Saltergate because that's the only one I can remember! The ball came out to me and I caught it well. The keeper dived but what a waste of time that was!!

## • who is the worst golfer at the club and why?

- Our fitness coach, John Gingell. He talks a good game, he tells me he's had lots of birdies, or is that birds, I don't believe either!!

## • who is your best friend in football?

- Andy Tillson.

## • Who is your roommate on overnight trips - and does he have any annoying habits?

- I haven't been on any this season, but last season it was Tilly. His bad habits include, drinking, smoking, passing wind, picking his nose and burping non-stop. Only joking, can you imagine Tilly having any bad habits?

### • tell us about your debut

- For West Bromwich Albion against Bury. For Bristol Rovers against Exeter, neither were good games, but I'll always remember them.

### • what was the worst game you ever played in?

- The playoff semi-final against Northampton, losing 3-0.

### • who did you support as a boy?

- Wolves, and I still do.

### • who has been the biggest influence on your career?

- My parents Michael and Susan.

### • who would you be on 'Stars in their Eyes'

- You obviously haven't heard me sing. Paul Weller.

### • Name three things in your glove compartment.

- Wallet, phone and Golden Boot for 1999/2000 season. Ha Ha!!!

### • which three guests would you invite to dinner

- George Best, Gazza, (I'm sure they've got some stories) and my wife Sarah, so she could drive.

### • what was the last book you read?

- Hard Bastards by Kate Kray.

### • what was the last CD you bought?

- Pink.

### • how would your teammates describe you?

- You'd better ask them!!

### • what is your perfect meal?

- Sunday roast. (When my wife cooks one!)

### • who is the best dressed member of the squad - and the worst?

- Are you trying to get me into trouble! There's a few that think they are the best and someone who knows he's the worst.

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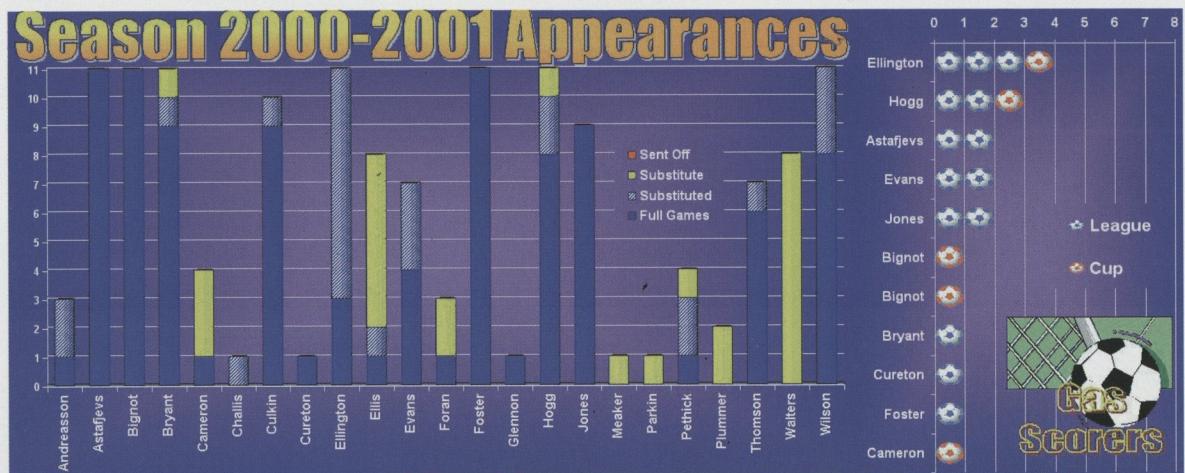
SIMON BRYANT



LEWIS HOGG



## Season 2000-2001 Appearances



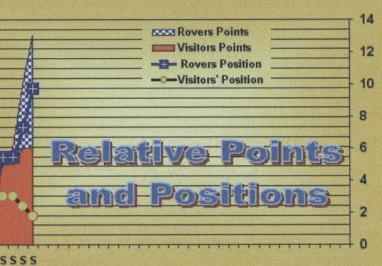
### Recent History of League meetings



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H	18	11	7	70	40	72.00
A	5	8	23	38	88	17.86

Biggest Home Win... 5 - 0 1920/1  
 Biggest Home Defeat... 2 - 4 1980/1  
 Biggest Away Win... 4 - 1 1999/00  
 Biggest Away Defeat... 0 - 12 1935/6



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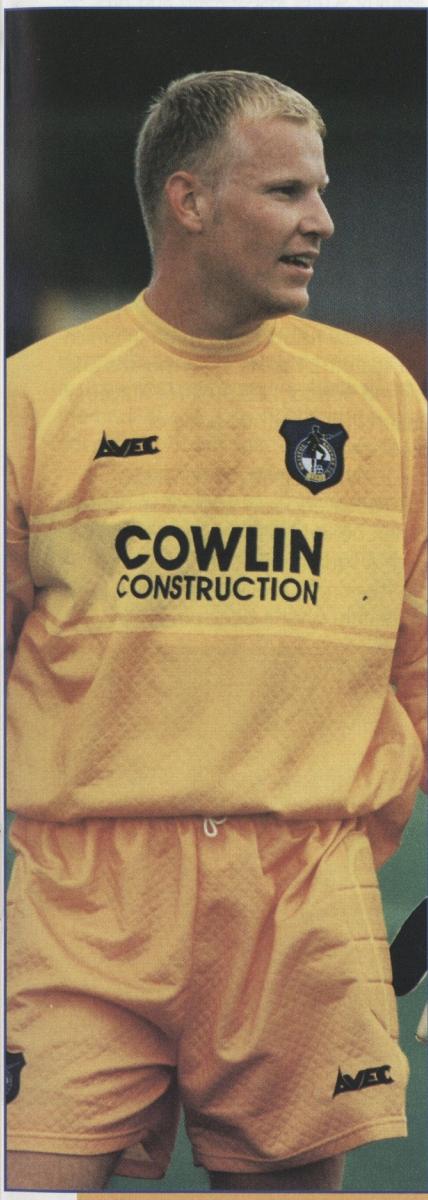
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While gold medals were being handed out as history was being made at the Sydney Olympics, we were saluting our own heroes at the Abbey



Nick Culkin – put on a performance worthy of an Olympic gold medal

Stadium just hours after; four heroes including a great Olympian, Steven Redgrave on the Penwith Lake and for us 11 heroes including a gold medal performance by Nick Culkin on the pitch in Cambridge.

Cambridge, perhaps, is more well-known for its University and association with the annual boat-race (very topical); however, it has to be said that it's football team showed why success has come their way so far this season, securing ten goals in the last two games. Thanks to a fantastic performance by Nick Culkin, he made sure no further goals were added to that tally. Yet again Lewis Hogg and Simon Bryant played exceptionally well in midfield, the latter scoring a screamer from 30 yards and learned just before kick-off that he had been selected for the England Under-18's – congratulations Simon, well deserved and hopefully recognition for Lewis will follow.

If there are comparisons to be made between the Olympians and the lads in blue and white, first and foremost it must be teamwork and an understanding of each others strengths in pulling together to bring about the best results. Contributing to that strength is the skill, fitness, stamina, determination, drive and leadership – athletes all.

Those who made the long journey to Cambridge, delays on the M25 to boot, witnessed a powerful display from a complete unit, transferring that power to goals in the same way Redgrave and his colleagues transferred power to oars and ultimate victory. Steve Redgrave is a role model for all sportsmen and young people can aspire to greater things by following

his example.

Our visitors today have not had the best of starts this season, having taken only 6 points from 9 games. However, Chairman Mike Watson-Challis states that "we are putting together a new team behind the scenes which will ensure the club make progress". He also went on to say how pleased he was to have Graham Kelly join the Board of Directors. Kelly, of course, left his post as Chief Executive at the FA last year in somewhat acrimonious circumstances, but says "I am delighted to accept Luton Town's invitation to come back into football. I shall work hard to enhance the club's status".

The sacking of Lennie Lawrence shows how precarious life can be as a Manager. Although he may not have achieved great things, he did a pretty good job during difficult times, particularly when the club went into receivership. Whatever the reason for his dismissal, his loyalty to the club and supporters could not be questioned. Perhaps the recent Boardroom changes and the availability of some money to the new Manager to bring in new players will change Luton's fortunes. The most familiar face will be Mark Stein from Bournemouth.

Maybe today we will see a goal from a central defender – ex Rovers player Andy Tillson always seemed to make a habit of scoring against the Hatters! Not that it matters who scores, but we hope to give everyone at home a treat, since the travelling Gas have seen more goals on opposition soil so far this season than at The Mem. Are we cheering loud enough? COME ON YOU BLUES!

## luton

LUTON Town manager RICKY HILL admitted after last Saturday's 3-2 defeat at home to lowly Swindon that his side are desperately lacking confidence.

There is little wonder. Before Wednesday's return leg in the Worthington Cup against Sunderland, the Hatters had let in 10 goals in three games.



ricky hill

The blame, says HILL, is firmly with his defence's lack of determination and self-belief.

The manager's options are also being hindered by injury, with MARVIN JOHNSON, STUART DOUGLAS, ANDY FOTIADIS, GAVIN McGOWAN and PAUL McLAREN all currently struggling with either knocks or illness.

HILL will be hoping today's visit to Bristol will bring the Bedfordshire side more joy than last season's league meetings when Rovers enjoyed a 7-1 aggregate advantage over a side led by LENNY LAWRENCE.

The Hatters ended in a mid-table position following a run which brought three wins from their last four away games. Last year's financial worries are now behind the club and Luton are looking to develop a new ground.

But while problems off the pitch may have receded, form on it has



dipped. The team are now fourth from bottom with just one victory to their name and eight goals conceded in four away league games. The manager, who has brought in former Bristol City player Chris Ramsey as his number two at Luton, has concentrated on firming up his defence and has hinted that he is keen to bring in new players to strengthen his squad.

One positive aspect to come from last weekend's defeat against Swindon was the understanding being developed between MARK STEIN and LIAM GEORGE, who both scored first half goals. STEIN, a former Luton favourite, returned to Kenilworth Road pre-season from Bournemouth. He and Hill are the only men now at Luton who were members of the team who won the League Cup in 1988. Brother of Brian, Stein was persuaded by his old friend to return to Kenilworth Road after a 20-year break. At 34, STEIN may represent Luton's glorious past. But in passing his experience to 21-year-old

GEORGE he is also helping to invest in the club's future. The pacy striker joined the Hatters as a schoolboy and made his debut as a teenager in September 1997. He was Luton's leading scorer last season and has Ireland under-21 experience.

New signing PETER THOMSON almost salvaged a point against Swindon with a deflected effort at the death. The striker has had a curious career. He failed to make the grade at his home town side Bury and dropped into the non-league circuit where he made a name for himself with Chorley and Lancaster. Dutch Premiership club NAC Breda somehow heard about a run in which he scored 24 goals in six months and signed him for £25,000. He arrived at Luton this month for a fee of £100,000.

DEAN BRENNAN and TOMMY CARTER were early acquisitions for Hill when he arrived at Luton to be faced with a squad of just 19 full-time professionals. BRENNAN, who is likely to feature on the bench today, was



Back, l-r: André Scarlett, Mark Stein, Tommy Carter, Jude Stirling, Peter Holmes, Stuart Douglas, Dean Brennan  
Middle, l-r: Andrew Fotiadis, Paul McLaren, Tresor Kandol, Mark Ovendale, Nathan Abbey, Friedrich Breitenfelder, Matthew Taylor, Gavin McGowan  
Front, l-r: Liam George, Emmerson Boyce, Matthew Spring, Chris Ramsey (Assistant Manager), Ricky Hill (Manager), Julian Watts, Marvin Johnson, Adam Locke



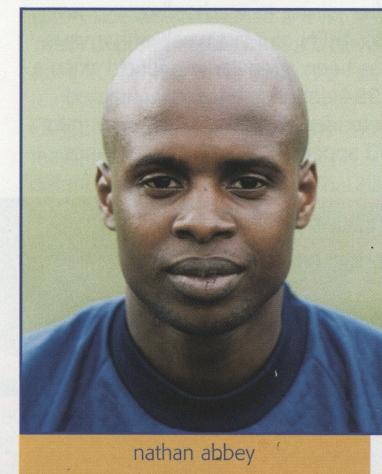
## Our Visitors' Last 8 Results

26-Sep-00	Luton Town	1	2	Sunderland	WC2(2)
23-Sep-00	Luton Town	2	3	Swindon Town	Div II
19-Sep-00	Sunderland	3	0	Luton Town	WC2(1)
16-Sep-00	Swansea City	4	0	Luton Town	Div II
12-Sep-00	Luton Town	0	0	Walsall	Div II
09-Sep-00	Luton Town	0	2	Northampton Town	Div II
05-Sep-00	Peterborough Utd	2	2	Luton Town	WC1(2)
02-Sep-00	Rotherham Utd	1	1	Luton Town	Div II

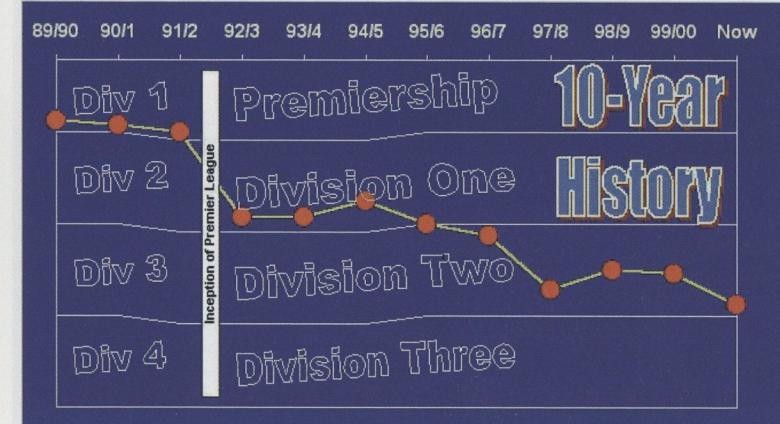
known to Hill from his time as a coach at Sheffield Wednesday. The midfielder, who can also play in attack, was brought to Luton on a free transfer. CARTER was born in Bermuda and was capped twice by his country before putting football on the back-burner to concentrate on his education. Armed with a degree in health and physical education, he decided to try his luck in Europe and knocked on Hill's door. He was offered a short-term contract which he signed in August.

Lanky striker TRESOR KANDOL hails from Banga in Zaire, but was spotted playing schoolboy football in London before becoming a YTS player in 1997. He was a fringe player last season, but managed to score an equaliser in a 2-2 Worthington Cup draw against Rovers at the Memorial Stadium. KANDOL also started last

Saturday against Swindon before being replaced by substitute THOMSON. Winger ANDRE SCARLETT is also enjoying first team experience after just 12 appearances before this



nathan abbey



## keeper's column

NATHAN ABBEY played in all four meetings between Luton Town and Bristol Rovers last season, but his first team place has now been taken by new signing MARK OVENDALE. Visitors to Kenilworth Road for Rovers' 4-1 win would have witnessed two blunders by Abbey which turned the game on its head. Luton dominated the opening stages of the match, but ABBEY's poor clearance led to the first goal from Roberts after 26 minutes – followed just 12 minutes later by a mistake in which he dropped the ball at the feet of Cureton, who promptly curled a shot into the top corner of the net.

But the 22-year-old has battled defiantly to keep his career going at Luton. At one point in 1999 he nearly accepted a free transfer to a Dutch club. But he decided to stay and was rewarded with first team action following the sale of Kelvin Davis. Now he remains at the club as a loyal understudy on the bench.

OVENDALE has himself suffered a horrible run in goal in recent weeks, although his manager has absolved him from blame for a string of heavy defeats. The signing of the 26-year-old from Bournemouth in the summer for a 'substantial fee' was a significant loosening of purse strings by new chairman Mike Watson-Challis. Before his arrival, Luton had become a selling club in order to balance its books. Ovendale has experience with Wisbech, Northampton and Barry Town.



season. He made a big impact on his debut in October 1998, coming off the bench to score one and set one up in a 2-0 win over Oldham.

More experienced strikers STUART DOUGLAS and ANDREW FOTIADIS are expected to be back in contention soon following minor injuries. DOUGLAS has had a fair share of injury problems since signing as a trainee back in 1995. But at his best the Enfield-born player can cause problems with his pace. FOTIADIS is another local discovery who has now made more than 80 appearances for the Hatters, collecting England under-15 and under-18 caps along the way.

MARVIN JOHNSON, PAUL McLAREN and GAVIN McGOWAN are also recovering from enforced breaks from the first team. Club skipper JOHNSON is Luton's longest-serving player with more than 400 appearances. The defender, who is out with hamstring problems, has



paul mclaren

spent 13 seasons at Kenilworth Road after joining as a schoolboy.

McLAREN, out last week with a virus, has been a regular in midfield since a 1994 debut as a teenager. Injured defender McGOWAN has more than 60 appearances to his name since

moving from Highbury. He was fighting a losing battle to get into the Arsenal first team and after a number of false starts his free transfer to Luton was confirmed in June 1998.

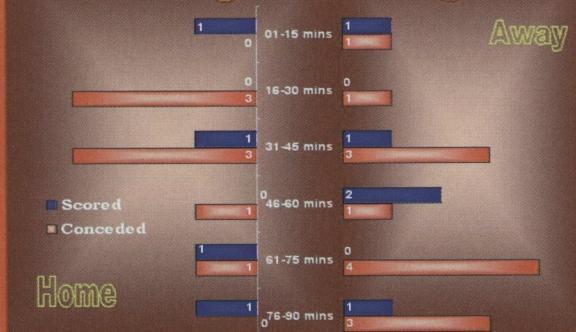
Two former Ashton Gate players are expected to make returns to Bristol today. ADAM LOCKE joined Luton on a free from City last summer. The player became a regular with his new club, adding much-needed experience to a young midfield. His career before Bristol City included Crystal Palace, Southend and Colchester. Defender JULIAN WATTS fell out of favour with the Robins and moved to Luton on a free transfer last season. Like LOCKE, he played a big part in keeping up Luton's on-field performances while directors struggled to keep the club afloat financially.

MATTHEW TAYLOR is another to take advantage of Luton's cash problems. The young wing-back took his chance after more experienced

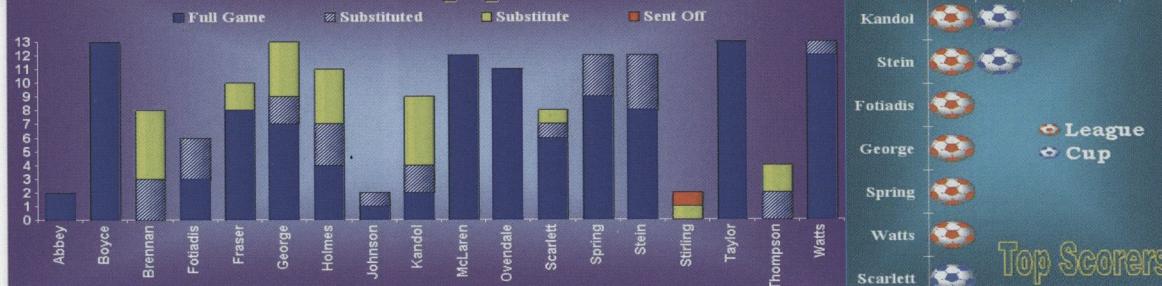
## Highest Attendances



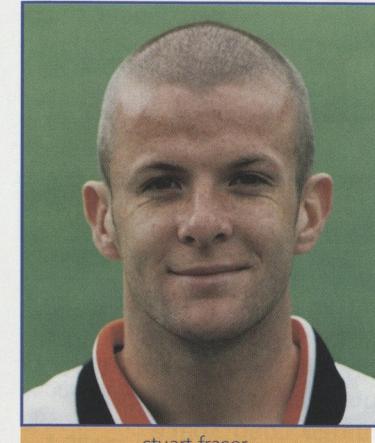
## When the goals have gone in



## 2000-2001 Appearances



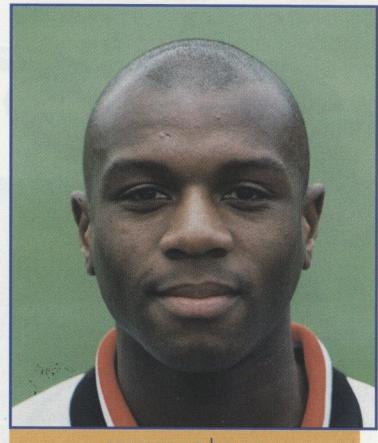
Top Scorers



stuart fraser

in the same year as Michael Owen, but his Premiership career was cut short with the relegation of Wednesday and Hill bought him for a nominal fee.

Youngsters EMMERSON BOYCE, JAMES AYRES, MATTHEW SPRING and STUART FRASER are all products of Luton's youth team. BOYCE signed as a YTS boy in 1995 and is now a regular after making his breakthrough as a first team defender last season. AYRES, a centre-half, is still to establish himself in the Luton starting line-up, but is a regular on the bench. He had a spell on loan with Stevenage Borough towards the end of last season. SPRING, a competitive midfielder, was a driving force in the Luton side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997. Now aged 20, he has more than 120 first team appearances under his belt. FRASER, a former skipper of the youth team, made his full debut as a defender against Carlisle in a final day victory in the 1997-98 season.



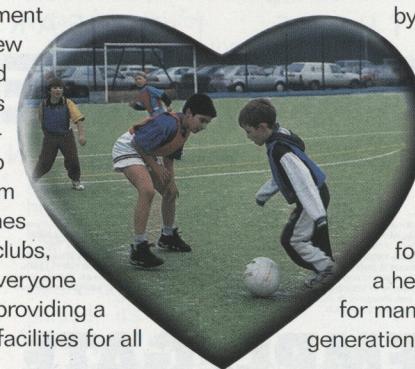
emmerson boyce

Finally, Austrian midfielder FRIEDRICH BREITENFELDER, is with Luton on a one-year contract after he became a free agent following the financial collapse of his club FCM St Polten in March. He has experience as a schoolboy with Rapide Vienna.

MARK DREW

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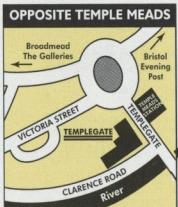
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pirate eye

with the poor man's alan green

their own to transport the staff to the match. I ask Rovers Vice Chairman if he is available to steward a coach, he replies that he has already received complaints about the steward on Coach 5!

**5.55pm** Arrive in Liverpool and disembark on the edge of Stanley Park. Anfield is to our left whilst Goodison is immediately in front.

**6.05pm** Ron Ballinger and myself are given a bewildering set of instructions by a local scouse bobby as we ask the way to the Royal Oak where we are to meet Paul Davis Rovers top blind supporter.

**6.08pm** We stumble across the pub more by luck than design, Paul is already there having bumped into the "Second Of May" gang at the railway station.

**6.20pm** Paul tells us that he fell asleep on the train after the Notts County game having supped a few to many ales. He went all the way to York having failed to wake up in time to get off at Leeds where he lives, he has to wait an hour before getting a train back!

**6.45pm** A scruffy fellow comes into the pub trying to sell cheap cigarettes, we murmur about "poverty and unemployment in Liverpool" and then realise that the entrepreneur is in fact from Bristol!

**7.00pm** Chat to three Preston based Everton fans who tell me that the Toffee men thrashed a full strength North End 5-0 in a friendly...

**7.40pm** We make our way to the ground and follow a Dad proudly holding the hand of his 2 year old little girl who we are told is watching her first match. She has a full Everton kit and on her back her name is printed...it's "Oli".

**7.45pm** I walk through the turnstiles, much to my amusement Paul is searched I am not.

**7.55pm** Disaster, they have sold out of programmes. I explain to a steward that I shall be commentating for my friend and that for me a programme is essential. Eventually the chief steward himself arrives with

a programme, which he has obtained, from the office, marvellous service!

**7.57pm** I can hear the "Z Cars" theme playing, this is the signal at Goodison that the players are on their way, the crowd roars and we make our way up the staircase and find our seats high in the top tier of the stand.

**8.00pm** The match starts, I am amazed at the size of the crowd.

**8.06pm** Paul informs me that the local radio station is providing commentary so I shut up!

**8.47pm** Half-time its 0-0, Paul insists we have a beer and we bump into fellow Supporters Club Committee member Nigel Cockram who joins us for the second half.

**9.05pm** Campbell gives Everton the lead; I have resumed my commentary and assure Paul that it isn't over yet.

**9.10pm** I switch on my mini-tape recorder as I sense that history may yet be made. Alan Green, Mike Ingham and Jimmy Armfield have nothing to fear from Messrs Davis, Cockram and yours truly!

**9.20pm** We speculate about the make up of Everton's recent forward line Paul casually informs us that he does not know because he NEVER WATCHES the Premiership!

**9.30pm** I am still sure that we can score!

**9.40pm** Gascoigne arrives on the pitch and delivers a textbook free kick immediately.

**9.41pm** Corner to Rovers.

**9.42pm** "Headed forwards, Evans couldn't quite get to it, the ball's driven in, it's there!"

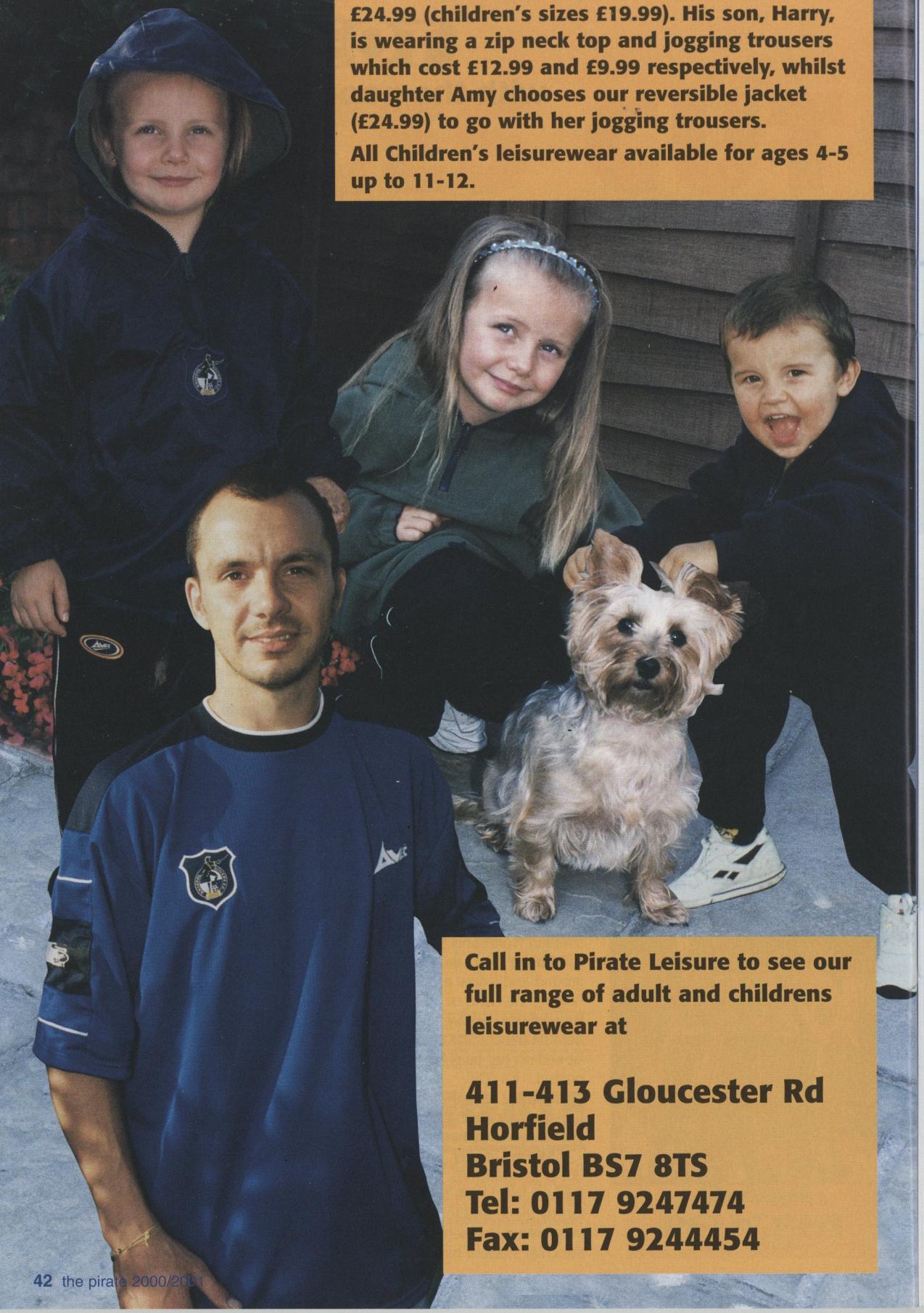
ITS THERE!!! HOGG HAS SCORED!  
HOGG HAS SCORED, THAT'S A  
BRILLIANT GOAL, A BRILLIANT  
GOAL!!!!" I feel like Kenneth Wolstenholme.

**9.43pm** Paul Davis kisses Nigel Cockram.

**9.47pm** The final whistle, a richly deserved draw, the best away performance that I have witnessed against higher league opposition in my 32 years...a near perfect day....



If it's good enough for  
Paul and Nigel, it's good  
enough for us!



**David Hilliers** **Avec Replica** T-shirt is available at £24.99 (children's sizes £19.99). His son, Harry, is wearing a zip neck top and jogging trousers which cost £12.99 and £9.99 respectively, whilst daughter Amy chooses our reversible jacket (£24.99) to go with her jogging trousers.

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taking the mike

with nick day

**D**ue to a technical cyberspace problem (my e-mail packed up!) these notes are being re-written at 2am on Thursday morning, in the hope that Lord Beaverbrookman will be able to get them to the printers in time!

I got back to Bath at just after 1am this morning, having just witnessed the most exciting and dramatic football match that Rovers have been involved with for many a year. The magnitude of our Worthington Cup victory against Everton hit home as I listened to the headlines on National Radio Five; it went something like this, "Sports Headlines. Arsenal maintain their 100% record in the Champions League with a 2-0 victory over Lazio and Bristol Rovers blast Everton out of the Worthington Cup!"

Arsenal, Lazio and Bristol Rovers! 'Proud to be a Gashead' almost seems too weak as a statement at the moment! We won, yes, but it was the manner of the victory that was all the more important. This was no lower league 'cup mugging' or 'Smash and Grab' affair - we

outplayed them. In atrocious conditions, we played the better FOOTBALL!

We went a goal behind - nobody's head dropped. Everton kept possession for long periods - we kept our concentration. We equalised with a move of real quality. During extra time, the additional fitness that we're told Premiership players have was not evident and who showed more bottle during the penalty shoot-out?

As if all that isn't enough, who gets the decisive goal to make it 4-2 and send us into the third round? Only Dwayne Plummer, who's making his home debut, having seen the light and decided to resume his football league career with the 'right' team in Bristol.

It was a fantastic night, in front of a packed and passionate crowd and will certainly go down in Rovers history. Thank you to everyone who was here and played a part - your support was different class.

Today we welcome Luton Town to The Memorial Stadium, as we have to plant our feet back firmly on the ground and concentrate on

league action. Last season we took six league points off The Hatters, and Ollie and the boys will be looking for a similar return this time.

As you know, we are still experiencing some problems with the PA at the Stadium after we thought we had solved the problem. Apologies for that, please be assured that we are doing all we can to correct the situation.

Finally, a new competition. If you visit **'From The Touchline'** at [www.bristolrovers.co.uk](http://www.bristolrovers.co.uk), we are offering signed Rovers shirts for each home game. All you have to do is guess the attendance at a forthcoming home game and, if you are within five of the official attendance, we'll drag you onto the pitch to present your prize. While you're visiting the web-site, you can also win free tickets to Rovers home games and request a song or dedication to be read out on matchdays, over the PA.

Please keep up your fantastic support,

**Come On You Blues!**

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There are a lot of things happening at the club, and many of the events, functions and presentations are not always fully reported in the local press.

Today gives me an opportunity to tell you about two of our latest pitch-side presentations and also of the work of two very important organisations who have enlisted our help.

### GUIDE DOGS

The young pups with the young pups – what better way to launch Bristol Rovers next big charity initiative?

Simon Bryant and Lewis Hogg, the two teenagers who've been snapping at other people's heels in midfield this season, met up with the two youngest hopefuls of the Bristol branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

It costs £2,500 to train a Guide Dog for the invaluable work they do, and Rovers are setting out to try and buy two or more this season.

Guide Dogs for the Blind have arranged a bucket collection at today's game, so please give generously to support this worthy cause.

Last season we raised nearly £10,000 together for the Macmillan Cancer charity appeal, and this is another ongoing and ambitious project.

**Rovers also want to get the message out that we have special facilities for the visually impaired, who can come to games for free with their carer paying only £5. Contact Pirate Leisure on 0117 924 7474 for details.**



### THE BEN DAVIES CHARITY WALK

The end of the road at last for Ben Davies and his friends who walked from Chesterfield to Bristol last season. Martin Cameron accepted their cheques on behalf of the club for a total of £3,255.70 raised last season to support the Raise the Roof fund and the Macmillan Cancer appeal.

Ben (above, in the tie) is off to University, but came back to the Mem for the Wigan game together with his walking colleagues from left Mike Bullock, Paul Thomas and John Spilsbury.

### BROTHERS AND SISTERS

What have Ronnie Maugé and Dave Pritchard in common with Bart Simpson and the President of America?

Answer: They are among the names used to promote America's most successful children's charity, called Big Brothers and Sisters.

The idea of the scheme is to find adults who can act as mentors to children from one parent or difficult backgrounds.

The mentor gives up two or three hours a week to act as a friend to the youngster, often providing the chance for outings and different experiences, but mainly just providing somebody to listen and talk through life's problems.

In America the scheme has drastically reduced truancy and juvenile crime rates, and it is just being launched in Britain.

The charity organisers have begun their national launch from Bristol, and asked for Rovers to help raise publicity and awareness at the start.

That's where Ronnie and Pritch came in, and they did more than just turn up for the photos. The two of them insisted on a thorough pre-launch briefing so that they understood the campaign, and have taken literature and a video back to the dressing room for the other players to see.

As Ronnie said: 'It's a superb scheme. Whether any of the players choose to become a mentor would obviously be an individual thing and not something we would want publicity on.'

'But I think we have all learned in football at various times the value of having a friend and somebody to talk to, and this is a great way to help kids.'

If you'd like to know more about the scheme ring the London office on 020 8673 3030



### EAGLE RADIO

Our friends from Eagle Radio helped promote season ticket sales this summer – and gave away a signed yellow shirt in a competition.

Lucky winner Shane Whitlock collected his prize from skipper Andy Thompson before the Wigan game, with the Lone Ranger and Tonto from Eagle's breakfast crew looking on. Shane's dad, Phil, also managed to get in the frame

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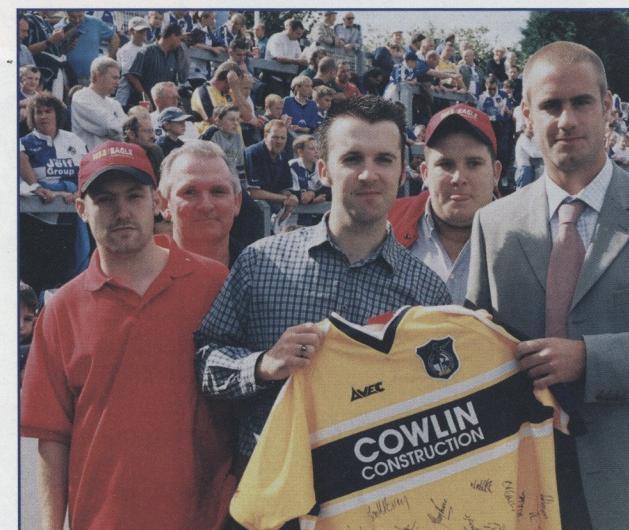
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The return of Stephane Leoni to first-class football action on these shores with Dundee United calls to mind the career of another player who appeared in France and for both Rovers and the Tannadice club. Bobby Gardiner was an inter-war inside-left who, at five feet four inches in height remains one of the shortest players to pull on a Rovers shirt in League action. Born Robert Gardiner in Dundee in 1913, young Bobby played for Dundee East Craigie before signing professional forms with Dundee United as a twenty year old. He and Arthur Milne became known on account of their size, as the



'Mighty Midgets', but the opposition gained no advantage from any perceived lack of stature. In season 1935-1936, Gardiner was the clubs second highest scorer with fifteen of United's 108 League goals. Indeed, the final six games of the season saw his club register an impressive 42 goals, a feat unsurpassed in the Scottish League or Football League. Despite his 35 goals in 77 Scottish League appearances, Gardiner refused terms and was leased, initially for a season, to Southern League Dartford and it was from here that Rovers signed him in July 1937 for a fee of £1500, later reduced to £250.

Bobby Gardiner made his Football League debut against Watford and was a regular in the Rovers side for the last two inter-war seasons. He scored five times each year for a total of ten League goals in his 66 matches. When Rovers lost 5-2 at Walsall over Christmas 1937, he scored one of the goals past the England goalkeeper Bert Williams. Although he and Danny Tolland forged an excellent understanding

down the left wing, they were unable to prevent Rovers, who crashed to a 6-3 defeat at Brighton on the final day, from having to seek re-election in 1939 for the only time in the club's history.

Returning to Dundee United, he played in the 1940 Scottish Cup Final, which was lost 1-0 to Rangers. Gardiner spent a season with Hibernian and five with Clyde before signing for the French club Valenciennes in 1946. Latterly with Arbroath, Gardiner worked as a baker in Dundee and died there in April 1993.

Stephane Leoni played his first Scottish League game for Dundee United on 9th September, in a 1-0 defeat at Kilmarnock. There was one player in that United side who has scored a League goal for Rovers and it was not him. Leoni's only goal for Rovers came in an FA Cup Tie at Rotherham. However, his current teammate, Neil Heaney contrived to score for both sides in February 1992 as a member of the Cambridge United side which beat Rovers 6-1 at the Abbey Stadium.

### ROVERS SQUAD 1960/61

Back, l-r: Sampson, Hillard, Pyle, Radford, Frowen, Mabbutt  
Front, l-r: Petherbridge, Biggs, Purdon, Ward, Hooper

The Rovers team group featured here includes seven players who played against Luton Town almost 40 years ago. On 8th October 1960 Rovers were beaten 4-2 at Kenilworth Road before a crowd of 9373. Goalscorers were Ted Purdon and Geoff Bradford.

If anyone has any really old Rovers team group photographs particularly seasons' 1920/21, 28/29, 29/30, 37/38, 38/39, and 39/40 please contact Mike Jay at the club.



### ROVERS SQUAD 1986/87



Back: Boyle, Scales, Carr, Carter, Morgan, Twentyman, Tanner  
Middle: Purnell, Jones, Eyles, Yates, Mehew, Dryden, Carota, Portch, Howells

Front: Alexander, Penrice, Hibbitt, Gould (Manager), Kendall (Kitman), Micalef, Noble, Weston

30th September 1986

Notts Co 3 Rovers 0

The first season Rovers spent away from Bristol at Twerton Park was one of struggle. Ultimately, nineteenth place in Division Three, secured through Phil Purnell's final day goal at Newport County, ensured Rovers could maintain their proud record of never playing in the basement division. On their travels, Bobby Gould's side suffered a 6-1 defeat at Blackpool, lost 5-0 at Mansfield Town and conceded four goals at Wigan Athletic, Gillingham and Port Vale. The first of their heavy defeats took place at Meadow Lane fourteen years ago today. This Tuesday night game attracted a meagre 3,409, who saw Rovers field an unchanged side. County, destined to finish seventh in Division Three, were also unchanged following victory at Chesterfield and won comfortably with goals from David Clarke and Dean Yates plus a Steve Sims penalty. It was the penultimate game in Rovers colours for future manager, Gerry Francis, and for on loan goalkeeper, Nick Hammond.

Our visitors, Luton Town, were without a fixture on this day but in this, their Division One heyday, had defeated Manchester City 1-0 at Kenilworth Road just three days earlier. The Hatters finished the season in seventh place, ten points clear of Manchester United and fourteen ahead of Chelsea, and were to be League Cup winners in 1988. Victory over Manchester City had come courtesy of a second half Brian Stein goal, his fifth of the season, before a 9,371 crowd.

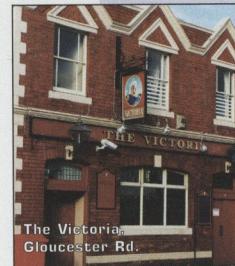
### died on this date Billy Richards

When Wales played Northern Ireland in December 1932, William Edward Richards, who died in Wolverhampton on 30th September 1956, earned his sole full international cap.

A brother of the much-capped Dai Richards, Billy joined Rovers towards the end of his career, signing from Brighton in May 1937

He played in just four League games for the Eastville side and, dropped after a Christmas Day victory over Walsall, signed for Folkestone Town at the end of the season.

Once a miner, born in the Merthyr valley in August 1905 and brought up there, he had made one League appearance for Merthyr Town before joining Wolves. Either side of a spell with Coventry City, he enjoyed huge success at Molineux and won a Third Division (South) championship medal with Fulham. A keen cricketer and golfer, Billy Richards died at the early age of 51.



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Portsmouth manager Tony Pulis and an aptly named Keith Curle rather outdone by a permed Paul Randall! So check your collection and see if this one is needed. If you wish to bid for this item, send an SAE for reply with your bid (marked with Auction Number 4) to 199 Two Mile Hill Road. Alternatively you can Email me. The auction will close four weeks from today. Minimum suggested bid £1.50

### Review

There is nothing like an all-ticket cup-tie to put Jamie and me behind with the on-going programme sort. However I believe that finally all of Bristol Rovers home programmes will be completely sorted well before the end of October, leaving a much smaller section of aways to complete by the New Year. Our next task will then be to put the stocklist on computer. We continue to discover some oddities for the auction slot so check this page each game.

**PHIL DRAPER**

### Review

**BRIGHTON v Rochdale 19/08/00 Size 238x169mm 48 pages Price £2**



The Seagull is a full-colour production with no real surprises, and no "alternative" articles and not much to raise a smile either. This edition has got no less than NINE pictures of Bobby Zamora who seems pleased to be back with the Seagulls, and even more delighted with his salary no doubt! There is a feature article on his re-signing. I was impressed with the amount of pages devoted to Brighton's visitors and the history

between the two. I also liked the "Who's that bloke then?" panel within this which gave a brief run-down of Rochdale's players by squad number and a helpful coding (GK, D, M, F) suggesting where they usually play. This particular issue also contains an article with familiar content for us - how the club battled to make close-season improvements to the Withdean, where "their opponents failed to scupper" plans for 960 extra seats. The article also continues with the plans for a new stadium at Falmer, and the successful steps achieved so far.

### Auction #04

**AIRDRIEONIANS v Bristol Rovers 8/8/83 Size 209x148mm 8 pages Then Price 10p Condition = Mint**



Again this is a scan of the actual programme on offer, slightly badly collated before stapling but in perfect condition. Most collectors will have the Hamilton v Rovers programme from this pre-season tour of Scotland, but this one is much harder to get. Half the programme features Bristol Rovers, with one page being the photograph of the Rovers squad in their green and black quartered kit. Spot our current backroom team, Phil Kite looking pretty much the same, but Ian Holloway with a hairstyle he would rather

forget. The pic is unusual in having the goalkeepers in quarters too! On the side is the current (or maybe not by today!) Profits go to Bristol Rovers SC. Personal callers on Thursdays 1830-2030 only.

### PastPirate - Pre-season friendlies Part 7 (by Jamie Howarth)

Below I have continued to list season by season all the games I know of. After each club are four sets of brackets. The first is the Venue of the game, Home, Away or Neutral. The second is the size in cms, Next comes the number of pages (i.e. Single sheet printed on both sides will equal 2 pages) and finally the price. You will notice that there are many question marks, if you can help fill in any of the blanks please write to me care of the supporters club, or e-mail me at the address below. Then at the end we should be able to produce a definitive list of Pre-Season matches.

Continuing on from part 6. 98-99 Tiverton T (A)(?)(?)(?) Clevedon T (A)(?)(?)(?) Stevenage Borough (A)(21x30)(1)(10p) Cadbury Heath (A)(15x21)(36)(?) West Ham Utd -Billy Clark's testimonial- (H)(17x24)(16)(£1.50) Watford/Port Vale (both games covered by one programme)(H)(17x24)(8)(80p) 99-00 Slough T (A)(15x21)(20)(£1.00) Gloucester C (A)(?)(?)(?) Bridgwater (A)(No programme issued) Weston-S-M (A)(?)(?)(?) Bath C (A)(15x21)(4)(?) Oxford C (A)(15x21)(42)(£1.00) Clevedon T (A)(15x21)(4)(20p) QPR (H)(17x24)(8)(50p). Remember you can e-mail me on

**jamiehowarth75@netscapeonline.co.uk**

## PIRATE PROGRAMMES

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All enquiries welcomed but must be accompanied by SAE for reply. Sorry, no current stock list available. Specialist stockist of Rovers programmes. Donations (any club) always welcome.

### Game: UEFA Striker

### Format: PlayStation

Back in the winter of 1999 Rovers fans were eagerly anticipating the second half of a football season that was promising to re-live the emotions of ten years ago. Meanwhile, PlayStation gamers were foreseeing the arrival of Euro 2000 and the appendix of new football games that were to appear alongside the Dutch and Belgian festival of "voetbal".

It seems to be always the way that games developers decide to release a footy sim for every major competition. The FIFA 'collection', as it can now be named, is famous for its persistence by makers Electronic Arts to churn out title after title, ostensibly never reaching the quality of Namco's ISS series. But every so often a games development company such as Codemasters or Rage dives head-long into this market.

The latter of the two companies mentioned, Rage, have been envied in the PlayStation sports world thanks to their success with the 'much playable' Jonah Lomu Rugby.

As Euro 2000 beckoned, so it was that UEFA Striker entered into the impossible task of competing for the 'football sim crown'.

As expected, they failed to overcome the stronghold that EA and Namco have reinforced over last few years. The game itself isn't too bad...

To begin with UEFA possesses a fine assortment of European club



teams and International squads. There are 51 countries included, each with 22-man outfits. You can play with the likes of Rivaldo, Figo, Del Piero and even with the legend that is Vitalijs Astafjevs!

If that wasn't enough, there's also an editor where player features and kits can be created for your own team. However these teams are given world-class status, full marks in all areas of quality - therefore your team becomes the best in the game - there's no choice here, and no quarters!!

UEFA hosts a large variety of competitions, in which you can choose the number of rounds, legs, teams and difficulty. Winning these tournaments means claiming special cheats and opening up other avenues down which to pursue your gaming experience further.

Though I doubt you would get that far as the actual playing of the game fails to live up to expectancy. The passing is jerky and the tackling unpredictable. Shooting successfully relies on your players' position in the box and the keepers are almost superhuman.

Apart from that lot, UEFA Striker enjoys quite a range of neat touches. Running with the ball is very fulfilling and sometimes surprisingly slick in comparison to other movements by players. Despite the graphics being disjointed the little men on your screen often show signs of emotion! They'll put their head in their hands after a

missed shot, clap to the crowd and you'll see their mouths moving as they argue with the referee. There's even a Spot the Ball competition before every match.

Along with some decent commentary from Clive Tyldsley and the 'oh-so irritating' Ron Atkinson, plus some good sound effects from the supporters in the stands, you can really feel an atmosphere, especially as the crowd suddenly roars as the ball hits the back of a net. Perhaps a little more than 4 stadiums might not have gone a miss, but still, this game could have really challenged the 'top-guns' of the PlayStation football market if only the gameplay had been in any way addictive.

**UEFA Striker holds some very nice effects within its plucky exterior. With options that offer almost everything and a sound structure that actually creates a footballing atmosphere, this could have been an excellent soccer sim. But with limited addictiveness due to poor gameplay UEFA Striker, as Rovers threw away a perfect opportunity last season, has followed in our footsteps.**

#### COME ON THE QUARTERS!!

<b>Graphics</b>	-	<b>6</b>
<b>Sound</b>	-	<b>8</b>
<b>Options</b>	-	<b>8</b>
<b>Gameplay</b>	-	<b>6</b>
<b>Lastability</b>	-	<b>7</b>
<b>OVERALL</b>	-	<b>70%</b>



To many of us 'on the outside' Luton Town's dismissal of Lennie Lawrence over the summer came as quite a shock. Admittedly, close to Kenilworth Road there may well have been different feelings, but to the rest of us Lawrence was a manager who'd kept Luton going through difficult times and, during the past season, had brought some exciting youngsters into the first team. He may not have had any great success in his five years at Luton - his best season saw the club reach the play-offs - but given the off-the-pitch action it's difficult to know whether any more could have been asked of him.

Lawrence had seen the club go into receivership and then witnessed the efforts of Hatters' fans to save Luton Town and, given that loyalty, everyone expected Luton to stick by him too.

It is fair to say that after a blistering start to the 99/00 campaign Luton fell away fairly badly; when Rovers beat them 4-1 at Kenilworth Road back in February it was near enough the end of their play-off dream. However, given Lawrence's budget and the number of young players in the team a sustained challenge was never really likely and the club's status was really drummed into the fans when one of their most promising players, Gary Doherty, was sold to Spurs before the transfer deadline. Other youngsters such as Liam George, Stuart Douglas and Matthew Spring remain and, with the financial side of things becoming more settled Luton fans will be hoping that they are around for some time yet.

Whether boardroom changes and the consolidation of last year's takeover were factors in Lawrence's dismissal remains unclear, although it was not long after Mike Watson-Challis took over from Cliff Bassett as Chairman that the Manager's reign ended. Managerial changes in such circumstances are not uncommon; another seen this summer was the departure of Steve Coppell at Crystal Palace after Simon Jordan took charge and, while continued poor results invariably played a part, Alan Ball may also be seen as a victim of takeover at

Portsmouth. Like Lennie Lawrence, both Coppell and Ball had shown admirable loyalty in sticking with their respective clubs through prolonged financial problems - reportedly at times even without pay - rather than take the easy option and move on. That they were rewarded with something approaching the antithesis of gratitude seems more than a little harsh...

**If there is anything positive that can be taken from their plight then it is surely that Gasheads can be grateful that our own directors have the ability to look beyond the short-termism that characterises boardrooms around the country.**

#### COME ON THE QUARTERS!!

Another managerial duo who have every right to feel hard done by, albeit in slightly different circumstances, are the ex-Millwall pair Keith Stevens and Alan McLeary who were relieved of their duties earlier this month by ambitious Chairman Theo Paphitis. Stevens and McLeary epitomised Millwall in the same way as Ian Holloway embodies the spirit of Rovers and, considering the impressive side that the two were continuing to build at the New Den, their dismissal seems somewhat shortsighted.

If there is anything positive that can be taken from their plight then it is surely that Gasheads can be grateful that our own directors have the ability to look beyond the short-termism that characterises boardrooms around the

country. There is little doubt that, at another club, Ian Holloway could have been shown the door by now but the faith that the Rovers' Board have in him is admirable and it has been rewarded by very real improvements on the pitch. The agony of last season is still hard to accept, but the fact that Ollie has responded to it by building a squad which is stronger, not only physically but mentally, is encouraging and vindicates the faith of the Board (and plenty of fans) in the Manager.

To get back to Luton, Lennie Lawrence - luckless or not - has been succeeded by former Town favourite Ricky Hill. Hill has enjoyed the relative luxury of funds being made available to him which, in turn, has allowed him to make his mark by bringing in a number of new faces. The most high profile of those signings are goalkeeper Ovendale, a £425K buy from Bournemouth and veteran striker Mark Stein, also from the South Coast club and a former teammate of Hill's. Boardroom changes have also continued with the latest arrival looking set to be a man usually connected with reading out FA Cup draws, Graham Kelly - no prizes for guessing who'll be organising the Kenilworth Road sweepstakes with a classy velvet bag to pick choices from in the future!

On the pitch, results to date have failed to live up to the expectations of the fans and no doubt Hill and Watson-Challis too. Last Saturday's 3-2 home defeat to Swindon sparked murmurings of discontent around Kenilworth Road with Hill being barracked by one section of the crowd, but that certainly doesn't mean that Rovers should take anything for granted today. A trip to a side in form may be just the incentive that Hill and his squad need to get their season rolling, though Rovers will be just as keen to get the home league win that has eluded them so far (albeit after only two games). After all, considering the impressive performances recently it surely won't be long before the goals start flowing at home as well as away.



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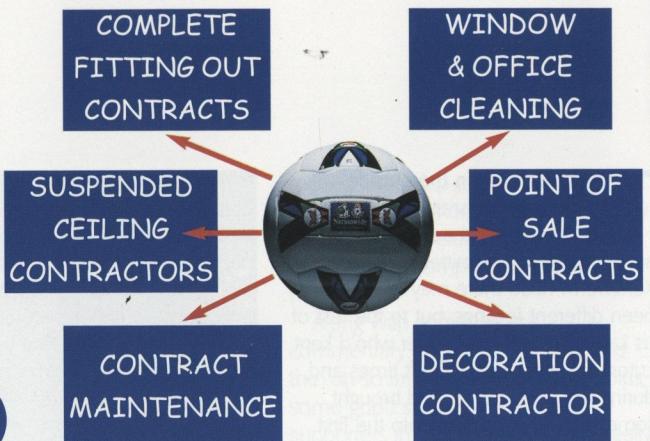
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**our man in the midlands**

**chris chappell**

I remember our away game with Luton last season well. Not for the clinical manner in which Roberts and Cureton took their four goals, or indeed the silver service of Tanny Abbey and his comical presentation of those well-taken chances, but instead the game was memorable for being my first back on two healthy feet.

Most people celebrated the Millennium by getting absolutely legless and I did too, although I'm sure that to the majority it meant something completely different. Despite the risk of crashing computers and aeroplanes which caused a cautionary pause in the League fixtures programme, the Bristol & District Sunday League went blindly ahead, and Bishopston United were to face Broad Plain Youth in a Division 4 needle match.

Having returned for Christmas

during my year studying abroad in Italy, I had already been home from Rome for two weeks, complete with a pair of blue Diadora Bomber boots that had cost me a lot of lire and were just crying out to be played in.

Fifteen whole weeks since I had last attempted to control a midfield against Mechanics Arms in the Cup, the time had finally arrived when I was to grace the Kellaway Avenue turf again, albeit from the bench.

The Chappell Brothers, in other words me and Mike, have had a very consistent career in local football in that pretty much all of the teams we have represented have been quite awful - just ask Dad. Bishopston had done little to change that course, and it was no surprise when I was summoned from the sidelines when 4-0 down.

My number 15 shirts were acquiring a legendary status within family circles, as I had played my most inspirational football in them for the Clifton College 3rd XI and the Pro 5 spin-off team Clifton Olympic in the Wednesday League, both when there were no number 10 shirts.

Now that I was sub I was first into the kit bag for number 15, and the black and red jersey slipped on like I had been sleeping in it for years. With a Lucozade and a banana boosting my energy levels in anticipation, the moment I had been awaiting for months duly came, and I was on.

My first touch was to muscle in on an opposing mid-fielder to win the ball with all the determination of a caged rat set loose. I tried to play it forward, but the boots were still too new to react instinctively to my right-footed caress; the ball however came back to me, and my mind was set on taking it on. Just as I opened



Stop whingeing about your leg and play with a smile on your face

out into a dribble - crunch! A meaty challenge from the side with both his legs wrapped around my right ankle (perhaps the same man I had robbed with my zealous first touch) and a little crack sounded - surely that was the ankle guard on my ancient Gary Lineker shinpads.

Down I went in searing pain, and even the magic sponge was beyond its powers here. Maybe it was just a nasty bruise; up I hobbled, patrolling an area about the size of a garden shed for five minutes without once getting near the ball - it was too much. Within seconds I was back off, as the inside of my ankle swelled to the size of a Granny Smith. Mike got a goal back, but it was all in vain in a 10-3 defeat.

I struggled on to go and see Rovers steal a win over Cambridge the next day, but soon I could cope no longer and I had to see the doctors - it was a severe class B fracture of the fibula just above the ankle and millimetres above the shinpads guard. It was plaster for seven weeks.

And so to Kenilworth Road in March. The day before was my release from the shackles of my cast, and blimey, was it weird. There was enough dead skin there to graft on an extra leg, but it felt so light and flimsy I had to watch that I didn't re-break it simply by leaning on it. It didn't hurt though, especially after a result like that!

Nearly seven months on and last Saturday I finally returned to Bishopston, again as a sub, again in those blue boots, but this time in a number 12 top. Thankfully I finished the game, inspiring the team back from 3-2 down to a fighting draw. They're a better team than before, but then we always say that to get Dad along to watch!

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young pirates

this trip you will need to pay in full. Details will be posted in the Clubroom before today's game. We may also be playing football on the day and we will confirm this as soon as possible.

Our picture competition is now in full swing and we have received a number of entries. If you would like to win a signed football shirt at the end of the season then come into the Clubroom and pick up an entry form and your picture might just appear on this page. If you would like to know more then speak to Roger or Paul.

Most of you will know that our Clubroom is now in the carpark, in the big Blue and White Portakabin. What you may not know is that a part of the portakabin is divided off into an area for you to relax in before the match. You can sit and watch the television or play on our football game. If you have any suggestions as to how you would like us to develop your clubroom, please let us know.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all Young Pirates who have birthdays between now and 14th October, when we entertain Northampton Town. Belated birthday greetings to James Green (pictured) who was twelve yesterday. James, who lives in Temple Cloud, attends Chew Valley School. His hobbies are football and cricket and his favourite players are Nick Culkin, Marcus Bignot and Mark Walters.



20 Marcy Bignot.



this drawing of Marcus Bignot was submitted by 10-year-old Benjamin Dean.

**TODAY'S ROVERS MASCOT**

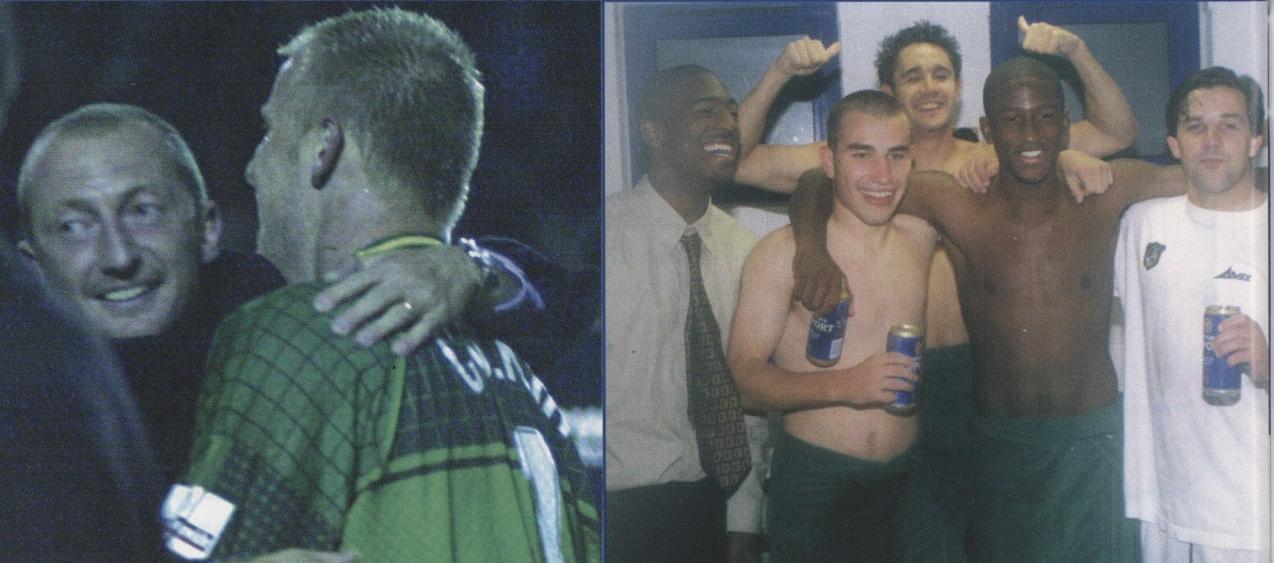


Sam Pearce

**Eleven year old Sam Pearce lives in Stoke St Michael and attends Norton Hill School, Midsomer Norton, where his favourite subjects are Science and Technology. His hobbies are football, cricket and all other sports and his favourite players are Nick Culkin, Vitalijs Astafjevs and Steve Foster.**



toffees chewed by a mint performance



international gasheads?

First up today is a letter from Zoe Paramore from Horfield, who is currently working in Cologne as a teacher at St George's English School.

Zoe writes: *'The school has children of many nationalities, with just one class of 6 and 7 year olds representing Germany, Netherlands, Finland, Japan, Portugal, Italy, America, India, South Africa, Russia and England. This class undertook a project 'Treasure Island' and were particularly interested in Pirates. Being a Gashead, this gave me the opportunity to promote The Gas in school, by supplying pirate hats.'*

*The hats were prizes at the end of a pirate quiz. The children had great fun and were joined by their teacher, Nigel Burdett, a Derby County fan. The children would love to see themselves featured in the match day programme and I promised to try.'*

Consider it done Zoe. Thanks for the photo and keep spreading the word!

Lee Morgan is pictured outside the Twin Towers shop on a recent holiday to Zakynthos, Greece.

An exiled Gashead living in Portsmouth, he still manages to get to some 20 Rovers games each season and does his best to exert his influence as a PE teacher to persuade the youngsters of Portsmouth to become Gasheads!

Safe to say that after his recent



holiday, many more people in Zakynthos are now aware of the famous blue and white quarters.

Congratulation to Pete and Cecilia Webb, who live in Australia, on the birth of their daughter Jennifer Rose, who arrived on 6th September and weighed in at 9lbs 9oz.

The October issue of Programme Monthly has this to say about our matchday programme;

*'Once again a superb programme, one of the best outwith the Premiership, and indeed it would be one of the best even in that exalted company. Pleasant, simple design using yellow and blue as a standard feature, and masses to read, providing full coverage of club affairs and excellent historical notes. Superb value for money, this has matured into a programme of the highest standard.'*

I just hope we can keep the standard up for the remainder of the season. However, knowing the commitment of our contributors, I don't think that will be a problem and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work. – Ed

Programme Monthly, by the way, is the leading magazine for programme collectors and is available from 46 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 1TL priced £1.80 plus 50p postage.

We were sorry to learn of the recent death of Jack Harris, a life long Rovers supporter. Jack of Worle, Weston-Super-Mare, passed away on 15th September aged 86. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

from you to us

kryten

# second glance

## with alan lacock

### TRANSFERS

Jorge Leitao scores the only goal of the game against Wrexham, whilst Lomana Tresor Lua Lua finally leaves Colchester, signing for Newcastle for a fee of £2.25m. Mark Watson joins Oldham from Oxford on a free transfer and is joined at Boundary Park by Paul Smith on loan from Burnley. Another player to leave Turf Moor on loan is Alan Lee, who links up with Rotherham. Two Manchester City players are also involved in loan moves.

Nick Fenton, who was recently with AFC Bournemouth, has joined Notts County for a second spell, whilst Leon Mike has signed for Oxford. Peterborough take David Billington on loan from Sheffield Wednesday and Peter Thompson joins Luton from Dutch club NEC Breda.

### TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Caretaker manager Ray Harford guides Millwall to a 2-0 home win over Ipswich in the Worthington Cup Second Round First Leg, whilst Brentford and Wigan draw 0-0 with Spurs and Wimbledon respectively, Luton lose 3-0 at Sunderland and Colchester go down by the same score at Sheffield United, whilst Swindon draw at Tranmere. Walsall are beaten 1-0 by West Ham and there are also defeats for Wycombe, Notts County and Oldham.

**WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER**  
More Worthington Cup action sees Stoke beat Charlton 2-1 and Rovers draw 1-1 with Everton at Goodison Park, where Lewis Hogg scores Rovers first ever goal against the Merseyside club.

**SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER**  
Walsall return to winning ways as

Jorge Leitao scores the only goal of the game against Wrexham, whilst Wigan and Bury record home wins over Northampton and Port Vale respectively. Martin Butler bags a hat trick for Reading in a 5-1 home win over Swansea. Goals from Simon Bryant, his first for the club, Micky Evans and Scott Jones give Rovers to a 3-0 win at Cambridge, where they are now unbeaten in their last five visits.

Millwall, with a hat trick from Neil Harris and a double strike by loan signing Sam Parkin, thrash Oxford 5-0, whilst Bristol City draw 1-1 with Oldham at Ashton Gate and Oldham also pick up a point from their 1-1 draw with AFC

Bournemouth at Dean Court, where they have not won since February 1974. Assistant manager Mark Stein scores his first goal for Luton since returning to Kenilworth Road in the summer, but it's not enough to prevent his side slipping to a 3-2 home defeat at the hands of Swindon.

Rotherham defender David Artell, sent off on his league debut the week previous, scores his first goal for the club at Stoke, who hit back to claim a point thanks to Peter Thorne's equaliser. It's the first draw between the two sides, at Stoke, since April 1954. In spite of twice taking the lead in their home game against Brentford, Notts County fail to register their first home win of the season as a last minute equaliser by Scott Partridge earns the London side a 2-2 draw.

### IT'S A FACT

At Wycombe last Saturday, the home side beat Peterborough 2-0 and scored both goals without their opponents touching the ball. Jamie Bates put them ahead on the stroke of half time and there was no time for Peterborough to restart the game. Wycombe kicked off at the start of the second half and, after three passes, Jermaine McSporran netted.



Simon Bryant? scored his first goal for the club at Cambridge

### Division 2 2000/01 Ave. Attendances

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000	12000	14000
Bournemouth						3,876	
Brentford						5,166	
Bristol City						9,598	
Bristol Rovers						8,078	
Bury						3,461	
Cambridge						3,916	
Colchester						3,666	
Luton						5,657	
Millwall						9,272	
Northampton						5,937	
Notts County						4,827	
Oldham						4,781	
Oxford						4,695	
Peterborough						6,120	
Port Vale						5,347	
Reading						10,759	
Rotherham						4,136	
Stoke						12,731	
Swansea						6,883	
Swindon						6,394	
Walsall						5,960	
Wigan						5,848	
Wrexham						4,108	
Wycombe						5,267	

# Statson2

### League Scorers: the difference their goals made

		Gls	Gms	Gl/Gm	W>L	W>D	D>L	Pts	Run	Dry
Walsall	Angell	4	9	0.44	1	1	1	6	1	3
Millwall	Harris	7	7	1	0	2	1	5	3	1
Notts County	Stallard	4	9	0.44	0	2	1	5	3	3
Wigan	Haworth	5	8	0.63	1	1	0	5	1	2
Bournemouth	Fletcher S	5	8	0.63	0	0	3	3	2	2
Bury	Bullock	2	8	0.25	0	1	1	3	2	4
Northampton	Forrester	4	7	0.57	0	1	1	3	1	2
Rotherham	Robins	5	8	0.63	0	1	1	3	2	2
Swindon	Williams	2	4	0.5	1	0	3	1	3	3
Wrexham	Sam	6	7	0.86	0	1	1	3	5	1
Wycombe	Brown	3	9	0.33	0	1	1	3	1	3
Bristol Rovers	Ellington	3	7	0.43	0	0	2	2	3	3
Colchester	Lock	2	8	0.25	0	0	2	2	6	6
Peterborough	Green	3	9	0.33	0	0	2	2	2	4
Brentford	Scott	2	8	0.25	0	0	1	1	1	3
Bristol City	Thorpe	2	7	0.29	0	0	1	1	1	5
Cambridge	Youngs	4	8	0.5	0	0	1	1	3	4
Reading	Butler	6	8	0.75	0	0	1	1	1	2
Stoke	Thordarson	3	8	0.38	0	0	1	1	3	3
Oldham	George	1	9	0.11	0	0	0	0	1	8
Corazzin	2	8	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Oxford	Beauchamp	2	8	0.25	0	0	0	0	1	5
Port Vale	Naylor	3	6	0.5	0	0	0	0	2	3
Swansea	Bound	2	8	0.25	0	0	0	0	1	3

Each club's leading league scorer and their goals per game (Gl/Gm). Next 3 columns show taking off their goals how many games change from Win to Loss (W>L), Win to Draw (W>D), Draw to Loss (D>L) and Points (Pts) lost. Last 2 figures show best scoring run, and longest dry spell in consecutive games.

### Division 2 General Stats

PU	CS	FS	PU	CS	FS	
Bournemouth	20	1	1	Oxford	23	1
Brentford	21	3	3	Peterborough	18	2
Bristol City	23	2	4	Port Vale	20	2
Bristol Rovers	20	3	1	Reading	22	4
Bury	21	5	2	Rotherham	19	3
Cambridge	18	3	2	Stoke	20	3
Colchester	18	3	3	Swansea	19	5
Luton	19	2	4	Swindon	21	2
Millwall	23	3	1	Walsall	17	3
Northampton	18	4	2	Wigan	22	3
Notts County	20	3	3	Wrexham	20	0
Oldham	21	1	3	Wycombe	17	4

PU = Players Used CS = Clean Sheets NS = Games Team Failed to Score

### Division 2 Campaign Records

Highest Gate ..... 14,532 Stoke v Wycombe  
Lowest Gate ... 2,126 Wrexham v Rotherham  
Highest Aggregate Score ..... Brentford 2-6 Bristol Rovers  
Biggest Home Win ... Cambridge 6-1 Rotherham  
...Reading 5-0 Oldham, Millwall 5-0 Oxford  
Biggest Away Win ..... Brentford 2-6 Bristol Rovers

Wins ..... Walsall 5  
Games Unbeaten ..... Bristol Rovers 7  
Defeats ..... Bristol City, Oxford 4  
Winless Run ..... Oldham 8  
Games: ..... 100  
Home Wins: ..... 38 (38%)  
Away Wins: ..... 33 (33%)  
Draws: ..... 29 (29%)  
1-1 Draws: ..... 17 (17%)  
0-0 Draws: ..... 9 (9%)  
Average goals per game: ..... 2.46  
Yellow cards: ..... 296  
Red cards: ..... 16

### Division 2 Results Grid

HOME GOALS								
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	9	10	7	4	4	2		
1	15	17	2	4	1	1		
2	4	4	2	2				
3	1	2	2	1				
4	3	1						
5								
6								
7								
8								

Grid shows the number of games ending with each results. e.g. 15 matches have resulted in a 1-0 away win

### Division 2 Hotshots - Each club's most prolific marksmen

	GS	1st Gl	1 Gl	2 Gl	3 Gl	GS	1st Gl	1 Gl	2 Gl	3 Gl
Bournemouth	Fletcher S	4	1	3	1	0	Oxford			
Brentford	Scott	2	1	2	0	0	Peterborough	Green	3	2
Bristol City	Thorpe	2	1	2	0	0	Port Vale	Naylor	2	2
Bristol Rovers	Ellington	3	1	3	0	0	Reading	Bullock	4	2
Bury							Rotherham	Robins	4	3
Cambridge	Youngs	3	0	2	1	0	Stoke			
Colchester	Lock	2	1	2	0	0	Swansea	Thordarson	3	1
Luton	George	1	0	1	0	0	Swindon	Bound	2	2
Millwall	Harris	5	2	4	0	1	Walsall	Williams	1	0
Northampton	Forrester	3	3	2	1	0	Wigan	Angell	3	1
Notts County	Stallard	4	2	4	0	0	Wrexham	Haworth	3	2
Oldham	Corazzin	2	0	2	0	0	Wycombe	Sam	5	2
							Brown	3	2	3

GS=Number of Games Scored In; 1st Gl=Games Scored 1st Goal; 1 Gl=Games Scored 1 Goal; 2 Gl=Games Scored 2 Goals; 3 Gl=Games Scored 3 Goals

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# pirates progress

## roversquad 2000/01

PLAYER	BIRTHPLACE	BIRTHDATE	ROVERS LEAGUE CAREER	
			App	Goals
Marcus ANDREASSON	Liberia	13.7.78	12(1)	
Vitalis ASTAFJEVS	Riga	3.4.71	21(3)	4
Marcus BIGNOT	Birmingham	22.8.74	8	1
Simon BRYANT	Bristol	22.11.82	15(7)	1
Martin CAMERON	Dunfermline	16.6.78	0(3)	-
Trevor CHALLIS	Paddington	23.10.75	74(4)	1
Nick CULKIN*	York	6.7.78	7	-
Jamie CURETON**	Bristol	28.8.75	165(10)	72
Nathan ELLINGTON	Bradford	2.7.81	21(35)	8
Clinton ELLIS	Brent	7.7.77	1(4)	-
Micky EVANS	Plymouth	1.1.73	6	2
Mark FORAN	Aldershot	30.10.72	1(1)	
Stephen FOSTER	Mansfield	3.12.74	124(5)	3
Matthew GLENNON***	Stockport	8.10.78	1	-
Mark HARDCASTLE	Gloucester	21.4.83	-	-
David HILLIER	Blackheath	19.12.69	52	-
Lewis HOGG	Bristol	13.9.82	7(1)	2
Scott JONES	Sheffield	1.5.75	8	2
Ronnie MAUGÉ	Islington	10.3.69	22	-
Michael MEAKER	Greenford	18.8.71	17(6)	2
Brian PARKIN	Birkenhead	12.10.65	243(2)	-
Robbie PETHICK	Tavistock	8.9.70	51(2)	2
Dwayne PLUMMER	Bristol	12.5.78	(1)	-
David PRITCHARD	Wolverhampton	27.5.72	158(2)	1
Stephen ROSE	Salford	23.11.80	-	-
Jamie SHORE	Bristol	1.9.77	18(6)	2
Mark SMITH	Bristol	13.9.79	11(3)	-
Andy THOMSON	Swindon	28.3.74	69	4
Robert TREES	Manchester	18.12.77	38(8)	1
Mike TROUGHT	Bristol	19.10.80	8(5)	-
Mark WALTERS	Birmingham	2.6.64	28(7)	9
Che WILSON	Ely	17.1.79	8	-

\*On loan from Man United for the season \*\*Transferred to Reading \*\*\*On loan from Bolton

## last time at home

Saturday 27th November 1999 attendance: 7805  
Rovers 3 Luton 0

Thomson, Walters, Cureton

Rovers team: Jones, Pethick (Bennett), Thomson, Tillson, Foster, Walters (Challis), Hillier, Maugé, Pritchard, Cureton, Roberts

## Nationwide division two

Team	HOME					AWAY					Pts	GD	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Walsall	9	3	1	0	9	5	3	1	1	8	5	20	+7
Wigan Athletic	8	4	0	0	8	3	1	2	1	3	3	17	+5
Bury	9	3	1	1	6	4	2	1	1	4	3	17	+3
Reading	9	4	1	0	19	4	1	0	3	1	5	16	+11
Wycombe Wanderers	9	3	1	1	7	3	1	2	1	2	2	15	+4
Cambridge Utd	8	3	0	2	11	5	1	2	0	3	2	14	+7
Rotherham Utd	9	1	2	5	6	3	1	1	7	6	14	-2	
Bristol Rovers	7	0	2	0	1	1	3	2	0	13	5	13	+8
Millwall	7	3	0	2	9	3	1	0	5	4	13	+7	
Stoke City	8	2	2	1	8	2	1	2	0	6	5	13	+7
Northampton Town	8	2	1	0	4	1	2	0	3	4	4	13	+3
Colchester	9	1	2	1	5	4	1	3	1	4	4	11	+1
Swansea City	8	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	2	4	6	11	0
Notts County	9	0	2	3	6	9	3	0	1	3	1	11	-1
Peterborough Utd	9	1	2	1	4	5	2	0	3	5	7	11	-3
Wrexham	8	1	0	4	5	10	2	1	0	7	3	10	-1
Bournemouth	9	1	3	1	7	5	0	2	2	3	6	8	-1
Port Vale	8	2	1	1	7	2	0	1	3	2	11	6	-4
Brentford	8	0	3	1	3	7	1	2	1	4	7	8	-7
Swindon Town	7	0	1	1	1	4	2	0	3	4	10	7	-9
Luton Town	9	1	1	3	3	6	0	2	2	3	8	6	-8
Oldham Athletic	9	1	1	2	5	6	0	2	3	5	13	6	-9
Bristol City	7	0	1	3	2	5	1	1	1	2	1	5	-2
Oxford Utd	9	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	5	3	18	4	-16

League Table as at 25/9/2000

## PLAYER RECORDS 2000/2001

### NATIONWIDE APPEARANCES

### NATIONWIDE GOALS

### CUP APPEARANCES

### CUP GOALS

### TOTAL APPEARANCES

### TOTAL GOALS

## KEY

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

DATE	TEAM	F-A	ATT	AWAY SUPPORT	POS
Sat 12 Aug	AFC Bournemouth	H	1-1	8046	704
Sun 20 Aug	Peterborough (3.00pm)	A	2-2	6997	718
Wed 23 Aug	Plymouth WC1/1	A	2-1	3498	549
Mon 28 Aug	Brentford (KO 3.00pm)	A	6-2	5434	1580
Tue 5 Sept	Plymouth WC1/2	H	1-1	5228	207
Sat 9 Sept	Notts County	A	1-1	5511	835
Tue 12 Sept	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	4718	596
Sat 16 Sept	Wigan Athletic	H	0-0	8109	216
Wed 20 Sept	Everton WC2/1 (KO 8.00pm)	A	1-1	25,564	3026
Sat 23 Sept	Cambridge United	A	3-0	4624	516
Wed 27 Sept	Everton WC2/2*	H	1-1	11,045	852
Sat 30 Sept	Luton Town	H			
Fri 6 Oct	Bury	A			
Sat 14 Oct	Northampton Town	H			
Tue 17 Oct	Rotherham United	H			
Sat 21 Oct	Swindon Town	A			
Tue 24 Oct	Colchester United	A			
Sat 28 Oct	Oldham Athletic	H			
Tue 31 Oct	Port Vale	H			
Sat 4 Nov	Oxford United	A			
Sat 11 Nov	Walsall	H			
Sat 18 Nov	FA Cup Round 1				
Tue 21 Nov	Millwall	H			
Sat 25 Nov	Wrexham	A			
Sat 2 Dec	Swansea City	A			
Sat 9 Dec	FA Cup Round 2				
Sat 16 Dec	Stoke City	H			
Sat 22 Dec	Bristol City	A			
Tue 26 Dec	Reading (KO 1.00pm)	H			
Sat 30 Dec	Peterborough United	H			
Mon 1 Jan	Port Vale (KO 3.00pm)	A			
Sat 6 Jan	AFC Bournemouth (or FA Cup Round 3)				
Sat 13 Jan	Brentford	H			
Sat 20 Jan	Reading	A			
Sat 27 Jan	Bristol City (1.00pm)	H			
Sat 3 Feb	Millwall	A			
Sat 10 Feb	Notts County	H			
Sat 17 Feb	Wigan Athletic	A			
Tue 20 Feb	Wycombe Wanderers	H			
Sat 24 Feb	Cambridge United	H			
Sat 3 Mar	Luton Town	A			
Tue 6 Mar	Northampton Town	A			
Sat 10 Mar	Bury	H			
Sat 17 Mar	Rotherham	A			
Sat 24 Mar	Swindon Town	H			
Sat 31 Mar	Stoke City	A			
Sat 7 Apr	Swansea City	H			
Sat 14 Apr	Colchester United	H			
Mon 16 Apr	Oldham (3.00pm)	A			
Sat 21 Apr	Oxford United	H			
Sat 28 Apr	Walsall	A			
Sat 5 May	Wrexham	H			
Sat 12 May	FA Cup Final				

\* Won on penalties 4-2

WC - Worthington Cup

All Saturday matches KO 3pm unless stated

All midweek matches KO 7.45pm unless stated

# pirates progress

6	-	-	7	5	1(1)	-	-	0(4)	1	2(1)	0(1)	0(3)	7	6	1	7	6(1)	7	6(1)	-	0(4)	-	-	-	7	7	-	1	-		
4	-	-	1	4	2	0(1)	-	-	0(4)	-	1	-	1	4	1	2	4	4	4	-	2(2)	-	0(2)	-	0(1)	-	4	2	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10	-	-	1	11	7	1(2)	-	-	0(8)	-	3(1)	0(1)	1(3)	11	7	3	11	10(1)	11	10(1)	-	2(6)	-	0(2)	-	0(1)	-	11	9	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

## Match Facts In Opposition Compiled by Mike Jay

**Everton:** Gerrard, Watson, Hughes (S), Unsworth (Ball, 46), Jeffers (Cleland, 38), Alexandersson, Dunne, Gravesen, Nyarko, Moore, Hughes (M) (Campbell, 75)

**Subs not used:** Simonsen, Gemmill

By the time you read these notes the outcome of our Worthington Cup tie against Everton will be known to us all. Sadly I was unable to make the trip north to Merseyside last Wednesday having already purchased my ticket. Needless to say I was glued to Radio Bristol all evening. It has often been said that there are as many opinions in football as there are spectators but, in the case of the Everton away leg, every report I read contained nothing but praise for our battling heroes.

David Prentice' comments in the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo summarised these reports perfectly, even if he was more concerned with losing yet another player!

### PISTONE BREAKS DOWN AS BLUES ARE HELD

The Blues must make their first ever trip to the Memorial Ground Bristol next Wednesday with the Worthington Cup second round tie poised at 1-1.

Alessandro Pistone returned to Everton's ranks of walking wounded last night - after sustaining a freak knee



Micky Evans waits to get a deflection on Lewis Hogg's shot at Goodison Park, so that he can claim the goal!

*injury in a warm-up! The Italian defender lasted just eight minutes of the disappointing draw with Bristol Rovers at Goodison Park, before limping off. It was his first game back in a Blue jersey after a month on the sidelines with a pulled hamstring. Afterwards boss Walter Smith revealed: "Sandro sustained a knee injury during the warm-up which we thought he would run off, but unfortunately it didn't."*

To their credit they did not use this as an excuse, Smith acknowledging that a draw was a fair result.

*"It was a disappointment," added Smith "but we did expect a very tough game with Bristol Rovers not having lost yet this season.*

All our reports on them said that they were very well organised and showed a good attitude, and they did that tonight.

We didn't play well first half, but started to play well in the second half and we got ourselves in front. We conceded a bad goal near the end, but

*a better first half display might have alleviated our problems. We created chances, but credit to Bristol Rovers for working hard. We can have no great complaint about the result."*

Jonathan McEvoy wrote in similar vein

*WALTER SMITH warned Everton to prepare for a gruelling second leg after watching his side throw away the lead against Bristol Rovers in the Worthington Cup second round last night.*

*Kevin Campbell put the Blues into the lead with a comeback goal after 49 minutes before Rovers' rookie striker Lewis Hogg kept the tie alive with a crucial strike four minutes from the end.*

*It was Campbell's first goal in seven months, but the 1-1 first-leg scoreline took the gloss off his return and leaves Everton with a potentially perilous return encounter at the Memorial Ground on Wednesday.*

In stark contrast everyone in the Rovers camp was delighted with the outcome, Ollie being justly proud of his charges.

Rovers manager Ian Holloway saluted his young side after midfielder Hogg's shock goal kept the tie on a knife-edge.

*I am very proud of my young lads. They were not overawed," said the beaming Rovers boss. "We have a lot of good players and there is a great spirit in the camp.*

*After the disappointment of last year the entire coaching and playing staff deserve credit for the way in which things have been turned around. The atmosphere around the club is as good as ever. Who knows what the coming months will bring.*

Here's hoping for another three points today towards our ultimate goal.

TONY MILLS

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# COWLIN QUARTERS.

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# bristol rovers

**V**

# luton

- 1 nick culkin
- 2 david pritchard
- 3 trevor challis
- 4 stephen foster
- 5 andy thomson
- 6 mark foran
- 7 ronnie maugé
- 8 david hillier
- 9 mark walters
- 12 robbie pethick
- 13 brian parkin
- 14 martin cameron
- 15 vitalijs astafjevs
- 16 micky evans
- 17 marcus andreasson
- 18 nathan ellington
- 19 simon bryant
- 20 marcus bignot
- 21 lewis hogg
- 22 stephen rose
- 23 clinton ellis
- 24 mike trout
- 25 dwayne plummer
- 26 robert trees
- 27 michael meaker
- 28 mark smith
- 29 che wilson
- 30 scott jones
- 31 mark hardcastle
- 32 matthew glennon
- 39 ryan clarke

- mark ovendale 1
- gavin mcgowan 2
- matthew spring 4
- julian watts 5
- marvin johnson 6
- peter thomson 7
- paul mclaren 8
- stuart douglas 9
- mark stein 10
- liam george 11
- adam locke 12
- stuart fraser 13
- andrew fotiadis 14
- matthew taylor 15
- nathan abbey 16
- emerson boyce 17
- tresor kandol 18
- james ayres 19
- peter holmes 20
- andréscarlett 21
- dean brennan 22
- jude stirling 23
- scott ward 24
- dean standen 25
- friedrich breitenfelder 26
- tommy carter 27

**referee**

Mr G. Cain

**assistants**

Mr A. J. PERLEJEWSKI

fourth official  
Mr S. J. Tanner**MATCH SPONSOR**  
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