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**Rochdale v
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Saturday 9th February 2002

Kick-off 3.00pm

Nationwide League Division Three

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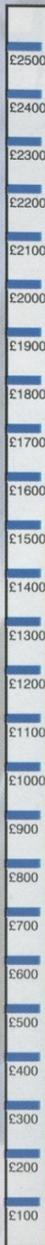
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We are an agent for both the National Lottery and the Goldbond Weekly Draw
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Would like to wish Steve Parkin and the team every success for 2001/02.
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- Les & Bev Newsagents**, 225 Boarshaw Rd, Middleton
We are a Goldbond agent and wish the team well this season
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Good luck to The Dale this season
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Good luck to the players this season.
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Good luck to Rochdale.
- Craigland News**, 677 Oldham Rd, Rochdale
Good luck to Steve Parkin and the team
- Newhey News**, 34 Huddersfield Road, Newhey
Wish Dale good luck this season
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Good luck for the 2001/02 season

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Manager: John Hollins MBE

First Team Coach: David Hamilton

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Your Matchday Programme has been brought to you by the following contributors:

Mark Wilbraham (Editor), Richard Wild, Mike Brookes, Richard Bott, Mike Floyd, Colin Cavanagh, Steve Ashworth, Daniel Youngs (photographer), Don Bimam, Suzanne Geldard, Frank Bishop, Leigh Edwards.

The views expressed in the Rochdale AFC matchday programme are not necessarily those of the Club or the Editor.

email:
rochdale_programme@hotmail.com

John Hollins

Well where do I start? A thrilling 5-4 victory in midweek must have left our supporters going home very happy at what they had seen. It was a very entertaining game and if we have many more like it then the ground will be full to overflowing. I knew we could score goals before the game, and I was pleased when the players proved me right.

We went into the game with an attacking line-up, but we also had it in our minds that if things didn't go to plan we had a Plan B waiting to be put into place. What I didn't expect was that our alternative plan would have to be implemented before half-time!

It effectively meant we played with four forwards after Steve Jones switched to the right and Patrick McCourt to the left. Lee McEvilly came on and was awesome in my opinion. The injuries we sustained on the night are obviously very worrying, and we may be forced to play the same formation again this afternoon. Why not? We cannot loan another player, and that's why we went and got Steve Jones. He is versatile and can play on the flank when needed. Touch wood Paul Connor is not too far away and I'm glad we have Steve Jones because he can play in a variety of positions.

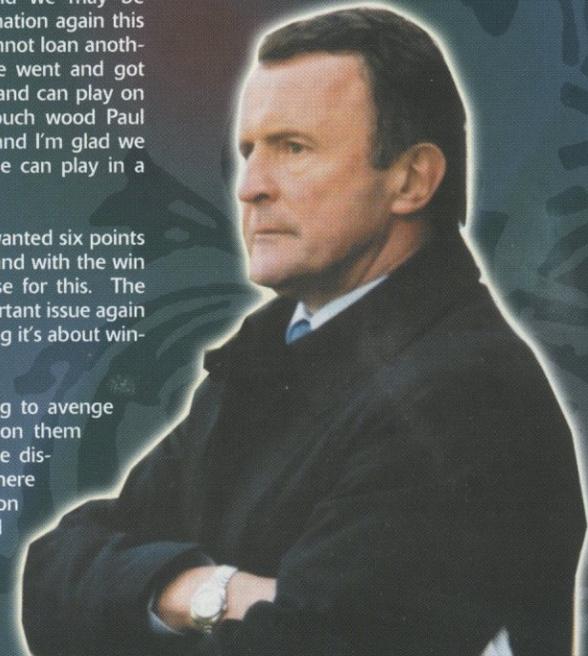
I said going into the week I wanted six points from our two home games, and with the win on Tuesday we are on course for this. The three points is the most important issue again today, and as I've said all along it's about winning.

Luton will come here looking to avenge the 1-0 defeat we inflicted on them earlier this season, and I'd be disappointed if any side came here not looking for victory. Luton will provide us with a physical test this afternoon, and it is up to us to show we are capable of handling it.

On a final note can I thank the supporters who have kindly written to me in recent weeks offering their encouragement. It is always nice to hear words of encouragement, and having shown some promising signs in recent weeks, I hope we can produce the final outcome to the season we all want. Please continue to get behind the players today as you have done in recent weeks. We are trying to play our part in helping you to do this, and the better the atmosphere the better the players respond to it.

Enjoy the game.

JOHN



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STEVE TAYLOR

REGULAR readers of *The Voice of Spotland* may recall that earlier in the season we featured an interview with former Dale striker Steve Taylor. Unfortunately he was jetting off on holiday just after the interview and was unable to attend our game against Mansfield Town.

However, we are delighted to report that Steve will be joining us here this afternoon as another of his former clubs, Luton Town, visit Spotland. Please give Steve him a warm welcome when he makes the half-time Golden Gamble draw.

ATTENTION LUTON FANS

WE have received a letter from Luton supporter Keith Brooksbank, who is keen to get in touch with other Hatters' fans that live in the North West. Anyone who is interested can contact Keith at his home address, which is:
25 Heathcote Close,
St. Dunstons Village
Liverpool
L7 6QA

FIRST DOUBLE

ROCHDALE'S 2-0 defeat of Swansea a fortnight ago meant that we completed our first ever League double over the Welsh side. This is the 16th season we have faced each other in League football and The Swans have achieved the same feat on three occasions.

DALE ON THE BOX

DALE supporters who are lucky enough to be able to receive the ITV Sport Channel will be interested to know that the club will be featured on their *Football Third* programme tomorrow morning at 11.45am. The cameras have been at Spotland during the past week recording various aspects of life at Rochdale, and we're sure this afternoon's game against Luton will also feature quite prominently.

The editor would be grateful if any Dale fans who watch this programme can keep a tally of how many times Cyril Smith, Gracie Fields, Lisa Stansfield and the Co-op are mentioned!

DALE FANS AROUND THE WORLD

IAN Tweedale, a partner in Per-Fit Windows, has recently visited Thailand with his son. The first picture he has sent us shows Ian flanked by two local females to remind him of how Dale used to play with two wingers!



In the second picture, the pair (*That's Ian and his son! - Ed*) are pointing at a blackboard on which they wrote 'Up The Dale' almost three years ago. Remarkably, the popular phrase is still there.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

TODAY completes a run of three Saturday home games when Oxford, Swansea and Luton have visited Spotland. Nothing unusual there, you might think. However, if you go back to different parts of

Scene

the 1980s you would have found each of those teams in the old First Division, when thoughts of a fixture at Spotland would have been the last things on their minds.

Luton had the most success at that level, finishing in a best position of seventh in 1986/87. They also won the League Cup in 1988 and were runners-up in 1989.

The Hatters had some very exciting players – the likes of Ricky Hill, Paul Walsh and Brian Stein being most prominent. The name Chuck Nwajobi also sticks in the mind for some bizarre reason!

Another memorable image is of manager David Pleat haring across Maine Road after Luton avoided relegation on the final day of the 1982/83 season. And that plastic pitch! And rioting Millwall fans. And 'Bedford' on the front of their shirts!

These are all excellent reasons as to why football is one of the best history lessons you will ever get.

GOALS GALORE

ANYONE who was here on Tuesday evening saw a game that they will talk about in years to come. The 5-4 scoreline was the 117th occurrence of that result in the history of the Football League and the Premiership, and when you consider that around 162,000 matches have taken place, you realise how unlikely it is that you will see it again.

The nine goals made Tuesday's match the highest scoring Third Division game this season, eclipsing Bristol Rovers' 5-3 defeat of Leyton Orient on Boxing Day. It was also the second Nationwide League match to feature nine goals this term – Colchester's 6-3 win at Chesterfield back in August being the other.

The last time Dale won a game 5-4 was on 11th September 1957 when Darlington were the visitors to Spotland. Eddie Wainwright (2), Eddie Moran, Harold Rudman and Charlie Ferguson were our scorers. That was also the most recent Spotland fixture to feature nine goals, although the Shrewsbury game came close last season!

THE WOW SHOW

with Jimmy Wagg and Eamonn O'Neal

Sunday 24th March 2002

The Gracie Fields Theatre, Rochdale

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Today's sponsors

MATCH SPONSOR

Hawley Exports,
Summarseat, Bury

A visit always to look forward to is one from Hawley Exports. There is nothing better than a quote from our sponsor: "Well it is that time of year again when Garry and Bernadette Hawley take on the role of social secretary for their close friends from Summarseat and bring them along for their annual trip to Rochdale AFC. This clearly has now become the highlight of our social calendar. We don't get out that much, all of us being shy, reclusive village types. So if we do become a little giddy with excitement then please exercise some control in the sponsors' box. We will, of course, be giving Rochdale AFC our best support."

To Gary and Bernadette, a most sincere thank you. Have a good one!

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

Eclipse Floral Design,
Prestwich, Manchester

Eclipse Floral Design are celebrating their second successful year of business in the Sedgley Park area of Manchester. The company has grown and is now firmly established, and is rated as one of the finest floral design outfits in Manchester. Today we have a party of guests, which includes amongst them Stephen Williamson, who's forthcoming wedding to Joan Bell will be the cause for a few extra drinks all round! To the sisters Amanda and Jacqueline, and not forgetting Rob (a real true-blue from Sandy Lane), a most sincere thank you for your support. Have a good day!

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

Chris Law & Friends, Rochdale

We have a group with us today consisting of Rochdale Football Club supporters, all of whom are going to enjoy the 'best of both worlds' by furthering their support for the team, but also helping the club coffers swell that little bit more through sponsorship. A mention for Chris Law who has organised today's event on behalf of everyone present in the party. We hope that everybody will have an enjoyable day and offer a most grateful thank you for your support.

Rochdale AFC supports the 'Let's Kick Racism Out Of Football' campaign, and will not tolerate racial chanting directed at players, officials or other supporters.



DALE ON THE ROAD

TRAVELLERS TALES...

Saturday 12th January 2002
Macclesfield Town 0, Rochdale 1

JOURNEY TO THE GAME

Despite its geographical proximity to ourselves, Macclesfield still isn't the easiest place in the world to get to. It took us just over an hour driving through the leafy suburbs of Cheshire.

PRE-MATCH BOOZERS

With the Silkman pub seemingly closed for the rest of all time, we made do with the Star Inn instead. This is a very odd pub, with the smallest pool room in the entire world. A bit of a dive, but perhaps the most expensive pub we will go to all season. It seems they have taken advantage of the fact that it is the only pub near the ground.

ADMISSION PRICES

Ten quid to get in for grown-ups, but a new record was set at the away end when this writer gained entry for the juniors at the ripe old age of twenty eight, saving himself four quid in the process. (*You should form the Cheap Ticket Gang - Ed*).

GROUND AND HOME SUPPORT

At long last the good people of Macclesfield Town have decided to upgrade the away end. So how have they done that? A new roof? Made it all-seater? Introduced video screens? No. They have built a toilet. At least it replaced the one filled with graffiti for football teams who went bankrupt 30 years ago. (*Or are in a non-league - Ed*).

As for the fans, well the ground was full the week before when the TV people were there, but it seems

the people of Macc cared little six days later. We were spared the comical genius of "Are you watching Altrincham?" as well!

DALE SUPPORT

Despite the doom and gloom of recent weeks, it was great to see so many Dale supporters brave the conditions to cheer us on to victory. Just under a thousand were stood on the open terrace facing a wind similar to the one we suffered at Wigan many years ago. Same result as well!

FOOD

The queues were longer than those at the home turnstiles, so the culinary delights weren't sampled. Some of our party spotted a Burger King in the distance, however, and headed in that direction.

PROGRAMME

You'd never guess from reading it that they played West Ham, on television the week before! They even managed to sneak in a picture of Mark Lawrenson! The programme team also went out of their way to keep calling us their local or closest rivals. However, there were no 'boring' references this time. The nearest they came to offending us was when they described Rochdale a rugby stronghold. Well I suppose Macc would be jealous of the crowds that Hornets get!

THE MATCH

Dale got off to a terrible start, with Macc carrying off where they left off against West Ham. They should have scored two or three goals in the first five minutes, then that was it, with Banks having to make no further saves in the entire game.

It was difficult for both teams in the conditions, with neither side really getting to grips with the wind, which made flowing football difficult. Dale seemed to cope better than their non-league opponents did, though. Dale should have been awarded a penalty at the end of the first half when Oliver was taken out, but the referee seemed more concerned about the injury to the keeper.

The winning goal came via a lovely passing move, which resulted in a superb header from Plattini across the goal to Super Kev, who fired past former Dale keeper Lee Martin.

After that, we shut up shop. Macc had a lot of possession, but were unable to do anything with it.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Michael Oliver was my man of the match, after what was arguably his best performance in a Dale shirt. A commanding display in midfield, with a number of great tackles.

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TRAVELLERS TALES

DALE ON THE ROAD

Destination: Nene Park, Rushden & Diamonds

Date: Saturday 16th February 2002

Kick-off: 3.00pm

Advised route: Take the M62 eastbound until its junction with the M1 southbound (Jn 29). Continue on the M1 until its junction with the M6 (Jn 19), where you leave for the A14 (Kettering). Head eastbound on the A14 until junction 10, where you follow the A6 South (Bedford). Continue on the A6 for approximately six miles and enter the ground at the second roundabout.

Parking: Over 1,000 free car park spaces are available, although admission cannot be guaranteed. Dale supporters are advised to arrive as early as possible. The car park is located immediately behind the Airwair Stand.

Estimated driving time: Just over two hours

Estimated mileage: 170 miles

Away Area: Rochdale fans will be located in Block C of the all-seater Airwair Stand (Turnstiles R, S & T).



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Admission Prices: £11 Adults, £6 Under 16s/Senior Citizens, £3 Under 12s accompanied by an adult

Cost of Programme: £2 and it's a fairly decent read.

Grub in the Ground: There are ample snack bar facilities, an alcoholic bar and televisions. Since this is our first visit to Nene Park, we don't really know what to expect.

Nearby Pubs: Again, we don't really know what to expect in the way of watering holes. However, Diamonds told us that the club shop sells the usual merchandise, as well as discounted Dr Martens boots and shoes!

Is the match on?: Telephone Rushden & Diamonds FC on (01933) 652000

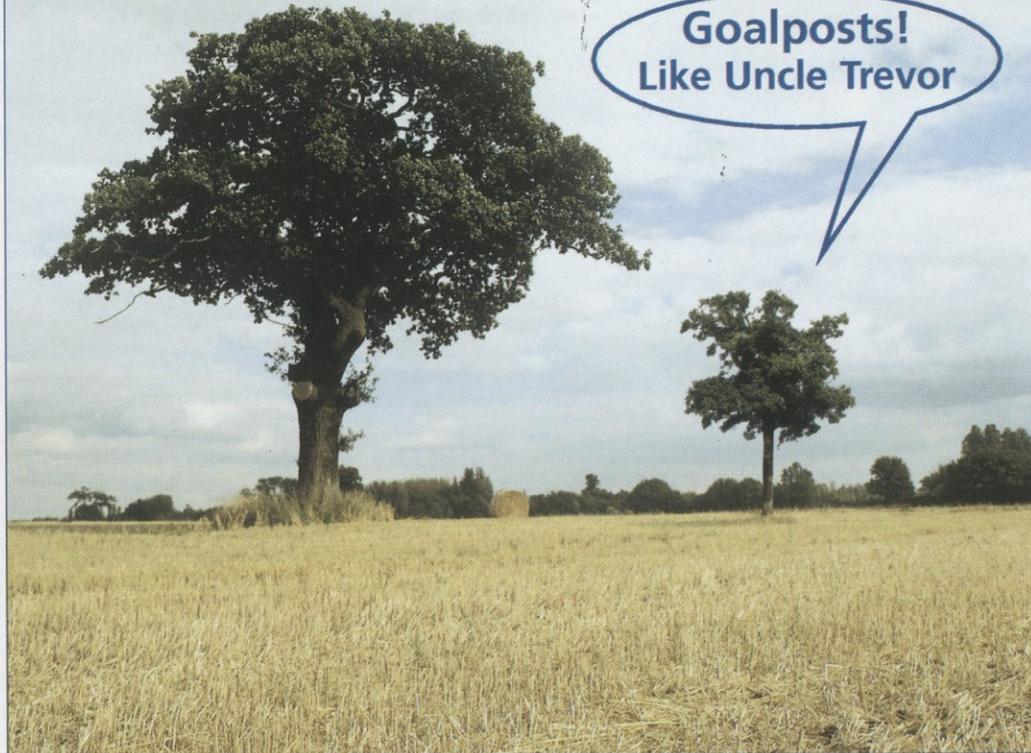
Local Radio: BBC Radio Northampton 104.2FM and 103.6FM

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES Nationwide League Division Three

Bristol R v Halifax
Darlington v Shrewsbury
Exeter v Cheltenham
Hartlepool v Torquay
Hull v Rushden & Diamonds
Kidderminster v Carlisle
Leyton Orient v Swansea
Lincoln v Macclesfield
Plymouth v Mansfield
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Southend v York

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Lotteries & Club Shop News

Reshuffle of the Commercial Department

THE Commercial Department is to undergo a reshuffle in the next couple of weeks. Since the departure of Francis Collins in the summer, the commercial side of the club has seen an increased volume of workload. Despite this increased workload, no additional members of staff have been taken onboard. Until now, that is!

As you are all aware we advertised just before Christmas for a new Lotteries Assistant, and we have now taken Mark Goulbourne on to fill this position. Mark will take up his new job very shortly, and when he joins the fold we are changing the job descriptions of a few of our staff.

Peter Woodhouse will be promoted to become the Lotteries Manager at the club. Peter has worked with me (Richard) for several years now, and I felt the time was right to promote from within. I will then be able to focus more on helping Stuart Ashworth with the Internet side of the club. This is something we need to concentrate on extremely hard in order to meet the demands asked of us by Premium TV. I will also liaise with Peter on all Goldbond matters, but not work so hands-on as I do at the moment.

The Goldbond Weekly Draw is still the biggest contributor in terms of finance, and we aim to keep it that way, but the financial opportunities open to us via the worldwide web are also very large. We want to get the best out of both worlds, and hopefully by reshuffling the Commercial Department in this way it will allow us to do that.

Kit Voting

AT the time of writing this article we had already had over 300 votes cast for the new home strip. Dave Leeming was leading the last time we checked the ballot box, but since then a large percentage of votes have been cast and things may be a little closer.

I must say how surprised I am by the number of votes the

striped design had received. As a Dale supporter for approaching 20 years (I know I don't look much older than that!) I would never consider the team playing in a striped kit. I like to stick with tradition, and tradition tells me we should be playing in a blue shirt with white trim. Only a personal view, and at the moment it looks as though I'm in the majority!

Voting is due to finish next weekend, and we will be announcing the winning kit on the official website. Make sure you log on around 18th February to see the winning design.



Internet Shopping

THE club is receiving orders every day for merchandise from the club shop via the official website. We endeavour to ensure that all our merchandise is available via the net, and we guarantee to send out all deliveries within two days of receiving them. So if you cannot pay us a visit in person, then make sure you order on-line and save yourself the hassle.

The official website also has a dedicated shopping zone on it for if you are thinking of purchasing anything on-line. *Lastminute.com* offer great holiday packages, there is a music section as well, and *amazon.co.uk* also offer you the opportunity to buy virtually anything you want.

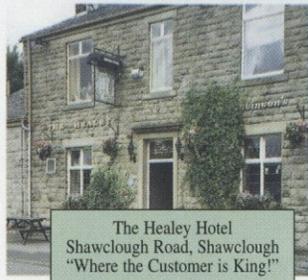
The site is totally secure, so you don't have to worry about people seeing your credit card details. The club also receives a percentage of everything you spend on the site as well. So if you are sat at home and you fancy going shopping, then log-on and do it via www.rochdaleafc.co.uk

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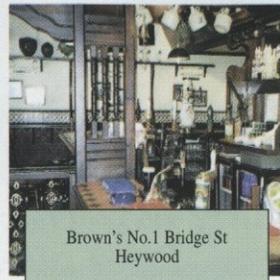
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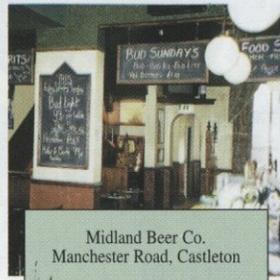
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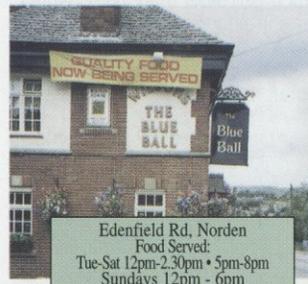
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Heywood



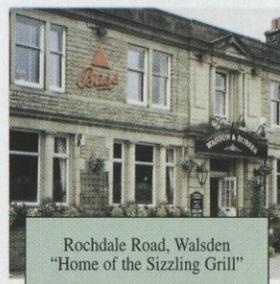
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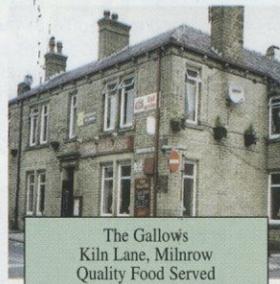
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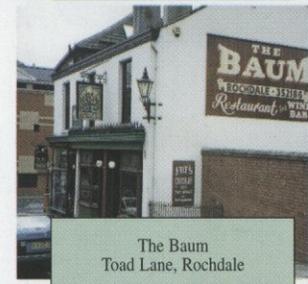
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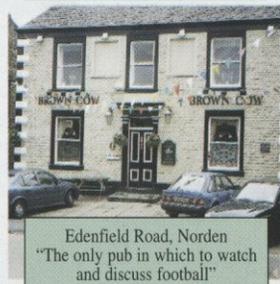
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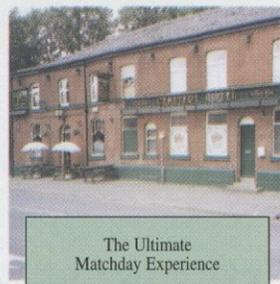
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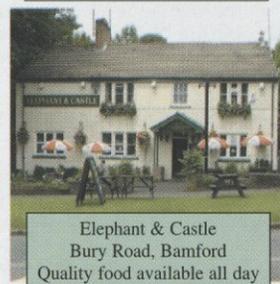
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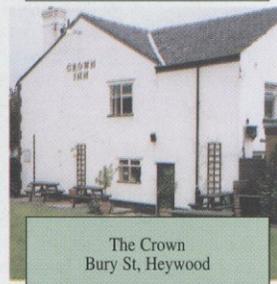
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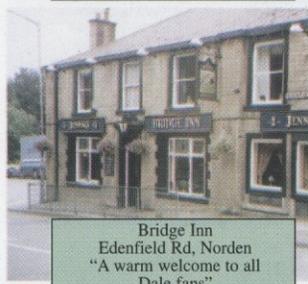
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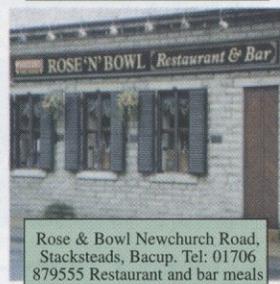
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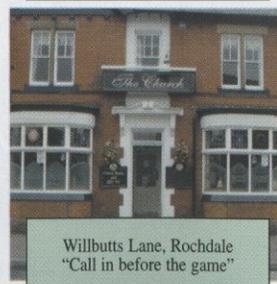
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Fixtures 2001-2002



Wed Aug 15	Hartlepool Utd	3-2
Wed Aug 29	Macclesfield Town	1-3
Wed Sep 5	Chesterfield	1-2
Wed Sep 26	Hull City	0-1
Wed Oct 3	Mansfield Town	2-5
Wed Oct 10	Halifax Town	2-2
Wed Nov 7	Wigan Athletic	1-2
Wed Nov 14	Kidderminster Harriers	0-4
Wed Nov 21	Scunthorpe (Cup)	1-1
Wed Nov 28	Sheffield Utd (Cup)	1-2
Wed Dec 19	Stockport Co. (Cup)	0-6
Wed Jan 16	Hartlepool Utd	3-0
Wed Jan 23	Notts County	0-1
Wed Feb 6	Carlisle United	A
Wed Feb 13	Halifax Town	H
Wed Feb 20	Hull City	H
Wed Feb 27	Macclesfield Town	A
Wed Mar 6	Notts County	H
Wed Mar 13	Chesterfield	A
Tues Mar 19	Wigan Athletic	H
Wed Mar 27	Kidderminster Harriers	A
Wed Apr 10	Carlisle United	H
Wed Apr 17	Mansfield Town	H

All Rochdale's home fixtures this season will be played at Accrington Stanley

Notts County Reserves 1, Rochdale Reserves 0

THE day after Rochdale had picked-up a point at York City, it was time for John Hollins to see some of the fringe players, injury returnees and youngsters trying to stake a claim for a place in the first eleven. Watching from the stands at Meadow Lane were the new Notts County boss Bill Dearden, accompanied by former Dale manager Steve Parkin.

Rochdale's team included seven players who have tasted first team football in one way or another, including two who played in the 0-0 draw the previous evening in the shape of Paul Connor and Paul Ware.

Matt Doughty started on the left wing with Lee Todd, returning from injury, playing in the left back slot. Ware and Darren Dunning took up the central midfield duties, with young Irish prospect Rory Patterson playing on the right.

Things started well for Rochdale and stayed that way for the whole game. Connor worked some space for himself and drove in a shot to Stuart Garden's near post inside 90 seconds, but the keeper was perfectly positioned to catch the ball with his body behind it.

The game was a very even-even affair throughout, but with 14 minutes played The Magpies should have taken the lead. An angled ball from the right found Tony Hackworth completely clear, but with only Baker to beat from around 16-yards, he blasted his shot high wide and not at all handsome.

Dale hit back with a chance of their own just a minute later. Although not as good a chance as the one seen moments earlier for County, it was neat play on the edge of the host's box that led to a solid shot from Patterson after a neat side-footed lay-off from McEvilly. County defender Mark Warren bravely blocked the effort that had keeper Garden worried enough to dive across his goal.

On the ascendancy, Rochdale pushed forward and began to put a little more pressure on the home side, although Dale weren't exactly running away with the game. Keeper Garden was called into action again during that spell, and pulled off a comfortable save diving to his right from a Lee McEvilly low drive.

The game swung on its heels and it was the turn of Notts County to apply a little pressure of their own with around 25 minutes gone. A chance fell to Hackworth and with a little more composure, he would have given John Baker in the Dale goal something to really think about. Hackworth certainly left his shooting boots in the dressing room, as he spurned the chance a fired the ball wide again.

After claiming a goal in the last reserve game, Simon Grand promised me before the game that he would score another goal today and he almost did too. From a Rochdale corner the young defender got above everyone and powered a header goalwards. Again the positioning of the keeper was spot on and he made the save.

Grand did find his way in the ref's notebook just a few minutes later, sadly not against a goal scored, but for a little altercation with Kevin Nicholson. The pair jostled for position whilst the home side were preparing to take a free-kick, but they jostled a little too much for referee Mr Chapman and he booked the pair.

The second half started as if a break hadn't occurred. The play continued in exactly the same vein, with both sides very evenly matched. That was until 10 minutes into the second period when County broke and Nicholson scored with his second attempt. After a fine save from Baker the ball rebounded straight back to the striker, and he rammed the ball home, giving Baker no second bite of the cherry.

The goal was hard on the Dale lads and if the truth be told, they didn't deserve to go a goal down. Credit to them that they kept their heads up and continued to battle for an opening of their own. Paul Connor stooped onto a forward ball by Ware, heading the ball as it nearly touched the ground. The striker did very well to get something on it at all; shame the something he did get on it wasn't powerful enough to trouble the keeper.

One 'pro' in the making, Scott Warner, replaced Paul Ware with around half an hour to go and slotted in very well in the middle of the park. He quickly picked up the tempo and the fresh legs added a little more to the midfield battle.

The game swung from end to end, with the 50 or spectators at the game applauding some good football by both teams. They nearly had something else to cheer inside the final quarter when a powerful header by Craig Ireland crashed against the bar from a corner kick.

Not to be outdone, Dale went back up the other end, and Patterson was unlucky to see his 18-yarder drift wide. Almost from the subsequent goal-kick, County's Danny Stone tried a cheeky little chip over Baker. The ball landed on the roof of the net with Baker scrambling back, but I'll give young Baker the benefit of the doubt and say if it had been on target, he'd got it covered.

Bar the goal, the only other sad thing to come out of the game was an injury to young Colin Bell, who had replaced Lee Todd with around 20 minutes to go. Bell and Heffernan went for a 50/50 ball on the half way line, but sadly for Bell he came off worst with a Coleman-like gash on his knee that required stitches.

The game ended and Dale, though they didn't take any points away, took a little credit for the way they performed. The youngsters in the side, as well as the first teamers, never gave up the game and as John Hollins said afterwards: "You did yourselves proud." And I agree.

Rochdale: Baker, Duffy, Grand, Hill, Todd, Patterson, Ware, Dunning, Doughty, McEvilly, Connor

Notts County: Garden, Stone, Riley, Liburd, Warren, Ireland, McNamara, Jorgensen, Heffernan, Hackworth, Nicholson

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Sat Sep 08	Stockport Co. (Cup)	1-4
Sat Sep 15	Oldham Athletic	1-2
Sat Sep 22	Preston North End	1-4
Sat Oct 13	Bury (Cup)	1-1
Sat Oct 20	Bury	1-3
Sat Nov 03	Oldham Athletic (Cup)	2-1
Sat Nov 17	Oldham Athletic	2-0
Sat Nov 24	Preston North End	1-4
Sat Jan 12	Bury	0-2
Sat Jan 19	Carlisle Utd	3-2
Sat Feb 09	Tranmere Rovers	H
Sat Feb 16	Wigan Athletic	A
TBA	Blackpool	H
TBA	Carlisle	A
TBA	Blackpool	A
TBA	Burnley	A

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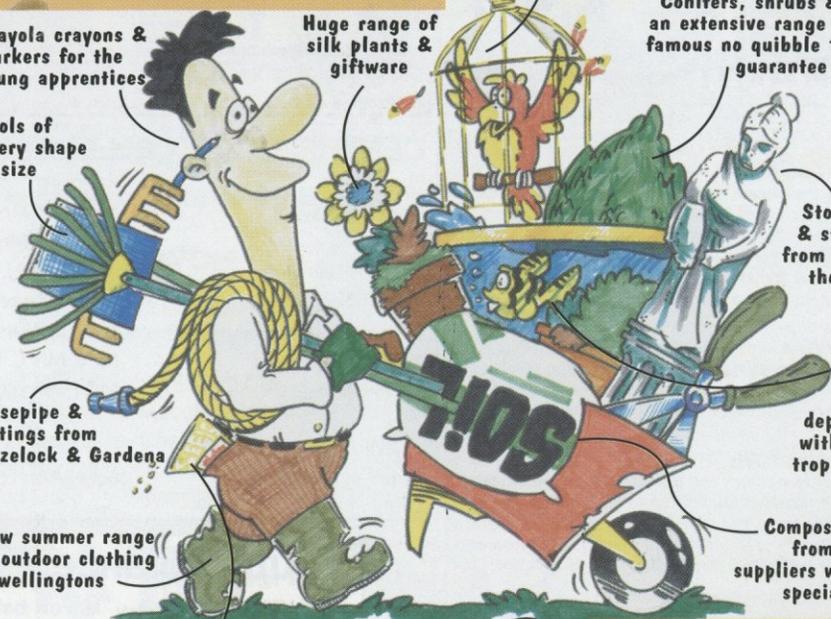
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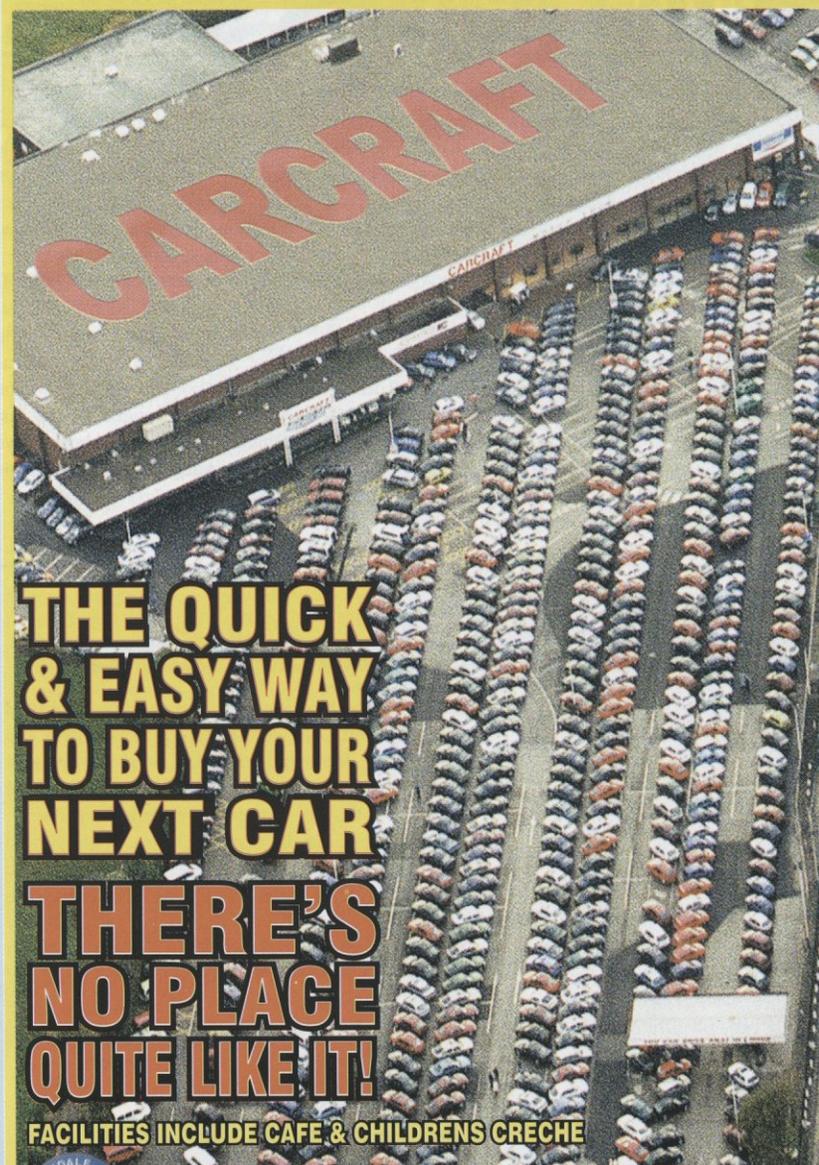


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What the papers said...

ANY neutral would have been amazed to be told it was Dale, rather than United, who were the team chasing promotion,' wrote Jon Murray in the *Oxford Mail* following the recent 1-1 draw at Spotland. 'United had Dale on the back foot for the entire second half, dominating possession and pinning them back. Paul Moody's equaliser was the reward for non-stop second half pressure.'

Murray produced a fair report on the game, and even took time to comment on the posse of scouts watching Dale's young talent. 'Scouts from 17 clubs, including

Arsenal and Manchester United, were looking at teenage prodigies Townson and 'McCourt,' he said. 'And it was easy to see why the youngsters were interesting them. Townson was lively, full of twists and turns, while McCourt possessed excellent technique and was a danger on the right.'

The *Yorkshire Evening Press* had a classic headline for our 0-0 draw at York. '**INTENSIVE SHARE - Matt pulls rug from City**'. Reporter Dave Stanford proceeded to describe how York would have won the game if a series of events

hadn't conspired against them.

'If only a first half penalty had been converted. If only Rochdale had not been reduced to ten men and if only young goalkeeper Matthew Gilks had not produced one of the saves of the season.'

However, all those things DID happen and they led to Dale getting an undeserved point. It could have been all three points, as Stanford pointed out: 'Townson had his shirt tugged in the last minute and a penalty should have been awarded. But referee Danson waved play on.'

They made 'The Sandy' Groan

No. 18

CYRIL SMITH

Born: Rochdale, 1066.

Rochdale appearances/goals: Open to speculation!

Rochdale debut: When t'club shop sold souvenir donkey stones.

Last game: The last big 'un when t'telly folk came and t'press lads.

Oh Cyril! Rochdale's biggest fan, ho ho. How dare you! The cheek of it! There you are, large as life (and some), holding aloft a blue and white scarf on the back page of the *Daily Gleaner* whenever we draw a 'big' club in the cup. As photo opportunities go, it probably makes a change from kissing babies! And, yet, strangely, not seen at Spotland since Reg Jenkins were a lad and the ball was as heavy as a planet and forwards could use a cosh to beat goalies to the ground at will. Ah, those were the days. Also, ex-RAP darling (anyone remember the comic strip *Fatman*

and his magic dog-iron?) what were those words of wisdom when Dale were featured on Sky TV a few years back? The telly bods asked what you thought of the cursed souls that habitually trudged Spotland way: "Aw, they're not doing anyone any harm." Hmm, rather a baleful platitude from a man with an eye for good publicity and a decent plate of tripe. No doubt, you raised thousands for the club back in the 1920s when Alfred T Waterworth and his predatory scrap yard-expanding shenanigans threatened it with closure. But where have you been since then, our Cyril? Couldn't you have used your Parliamentary influence to make Steve Parkin and Gary Jones stay at Spotland, or put a compulsory purchase order on Turf Moor, claiming it was a hideout for Taliban infiltrators? Fat chance! Oh Cyril!

Written by Don Birnam



Directly Speaking

with Richard Bott

WE concluded a very smart piece of business recently when we secured Patrick McCourt's future as a Rochdale player.

He signed his first full-time professional contract, which effectively keeps him at Spotland until June 2005.

Naturally, if Patrick develops as our backroom staff and many other shrewd judges believe, in the next couple of years he could well be on his way to a higher division, with or without us.

In fact, he has been tipped for a future right at the top and to prevent him from being 'poached' it was a matter of some urgency that we persuaded him to commit himself to Rochdale. Now, if one of the big clubs does come knocking at our door, the offer will have to be the kind we can't refuse.

Conversely, we were delighted that Patrick, having been spotted by our First Team Coach David Hamilton and given his chance by this club, was prepared to sign on.

It is so easy for a young player to be swayed by the lure of bigger rewards and bigger clubs and wanting to run before he can walk.

Staying with an unfashionable club instead of heading for the bright lights is often a wise move. Football is full of heart-rending stories of rising stars who have gone to big clubs only to be discarded within a year or two without ever making the first team.

If Patrick McCourt has managed to win a place in the Northern Ireland squad on the strength of a handful of appearances for The Dale, he doesn't have to chase his dreams.

When the subject of Patrick's contract came up recently, his agent presented us with various 'requirements'.

Our manager also argued a very strong case for him, so

young Patrick has not taken long to make an impression on a man who has played with and against the best.

Patrick has been rewarded for his promise - and it is no more than that yet - with as good a contract as this club

can afford

the opportunity to be a respected member of the first-team squad.

If he fulfils his potential, the world is his oyster. And the same goes for Kevin Townson, another special talent who has been attracting the scouts in droves.

The sight of Paul Connor being stretchered off early in the home game against Carlisle was surely one of the lowest points of the season.

It has been a wretched season for our record signing. A recurring hamstring injury and then what appeared, at the outset, as a very serious knee ligament injury.

Since then, the news has been more encouraging and the manager seriously believes Paul could be back in action within a few weeks.

We expected a great deal from Paul this season but no more than he expected from himself. After all his bad luck he was just beginning to look sharp and was on the point of striking that elusive goal when he was injured again.

One particularly disturbing aside to the Mansfield defeat last Saturday was the 'verbal abuse' allegedly dished out to a few Dale fans by other Dale fans.

As a result, the editor of *The Voice of Spotland*, Mark Wilbraham, has served notice that he intends to resign at the end of the season because he is not prepared to give up so much of his time, voluntarily, to be abused for having a free match ticket.

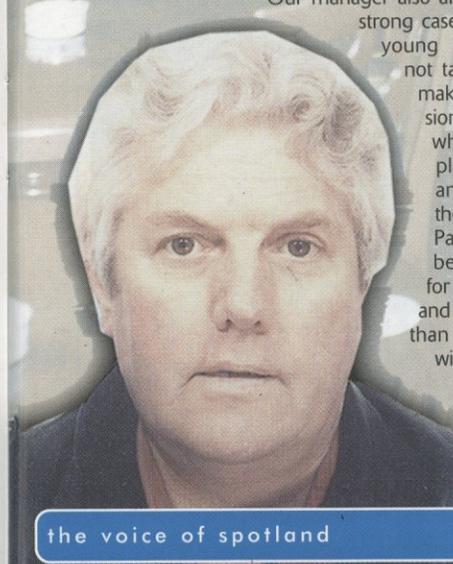
As a former editor and compiler of the Dale programme, I have some idea of the work and effort involved. And in those days I had to deliver the copy by hand to the printer in Accrington. But there is even more work involved now because it's a damned sight better programme!

Now what the hell is going on? Football clubs like ours survive on the tireless efforts of volunteers who do the work they do for the love of the club. If you are one of them, you deserve a gold medal.

If you are one of those whose actions drive away good people whose heart and soul is in the club, you are out of order.

Have a go at the team, have a go at the manager, have a go at the board but don't start picking on people who ask nothing but a bit of respect for the work they do.

I am sorry I missed the Fans' Forum. It was not out of choice. This column takes a lot of filling every game so, if you've got a grievance against the board, or me don't whinge on the website, drop me a line. Or I'll be happy to meet you for a pint.



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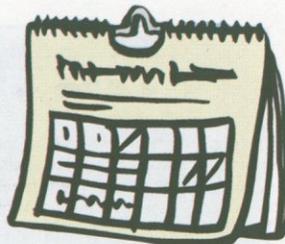
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February 1997

Dale's long trip to Exeter produced the usual outcome when we visit Devon – no goals and no win! Indeed, with both sides firmly entrenched in the League's bottom six places, a scoreline of 0-0 was always the most likely result.

Exeter: Bayes, Chamberlain (Steele), Hughes, Minett, Blake, N.Richardson, Braithwaite (Ghazghazi), J.Richardson, Flack (Baddeley), Bailey, Rees
Dale: Gray, Fensome, Dowell, Johnson, Hill, Farrell, Russell, Deary, Painter, Whitehall, Thackeray
Referee: D.Orr
Attendance: 2849

Luton were lying second in Division Two, but threw away two points in a 2-2 home draw with Plymouth. Tony Thorpe struck both goals for The Hatters.

Luton: Feuer, James, Thomas, Evers (Linton), Davis, Johnson, Guentchev, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe, Marshall (Fotiadis)

February 1992

Rochdale gave a debut to left-winger Andy Kilner (pictured) for their trip to The Shay to face Halifax. A large following of around 1,000 Dale fans also made the brief journey over the hills.

They were left largely disappointed, however, as Andy Flounders' second half goal was only sufficient for a 1-1 draw.



Halifax: Bracey, Barr, Wilson, Lucketti, Richards, Evans, Kamara, Juryeff, Cooper, Richardson, Gregory (Hardy)
Dale: Rose, M.Brown, Graham, T.Brown, Butler, Payne, Doyle, Milner, Flounders, Bowden, Kilner
Referee: W.A.Flood
Attendance: 2213

Luton were still in the old First Division where they recorded an important 2-0 home defeat of Norwich. David Preece and Mick Harford were the scorers.

Luton: Sutton, James, Harvey, Kamara (Stein), Dreyer, Peake, Oakes, Hughes, Harford, Pembridge, Preece

February 1987

Dale turned in an excellent display against Third Division leaders Middlesbrough, but were eliminated from the Freight Rover Trophy after suffering the heartache of a penalty shoot-out defeat. The first 120 minutes of action finished goalless, but Boro' progressed to the next round with a 4-3 advantage on spot-kicks.

Dale: Welch, Johnson, Grant, Seaman, Bramhall, Smart, Stanton, Parlane, Young, Reid, Wakenshaw
Middlesbrough: Pears, Kernaghan (Coyle), Cooper, Mowbray, Parkinson, Pallister, Slaven Stephens, Kerr, Gill, Ripley (Hamilton)
Referee: N.J.Ashley
Attendance: 2615

Luton were a Division One side in those days and stood in the heady position of fifth place. Their latest result was a 2-2 draw at Newcastle, with Ashley Grimes and Tim Breacker on the score-sheet.

Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B.Stein, Newell, Harford, Grimes

February 1982

Dale played out their fourth consecutive 1-1 draw at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool. Mark Hilditch put us in front after just 180 seconds with a powerful shot under Iain Hesford, whilst The Seaside's equalised on the stroke of half-time when Wayne Entwistle cashed-in on Terry Dolan miscontrolling the ball.

Blackpool: Hesford, Deary, Pashley, Blair, Greenall, Wann, Morgan, Noble, Bamber (Stewart), Entwistle, Harrison
Dale: Poole, Weir, Snookes, Dolan, Taylor, Cooper, Goodwin, Hamilton, Hilditch, Wellings, Martinez
Dale: P.N.Willis
Attendance: 3294

Luton were striding ahead at the top of Division Two 20 years ago, but they had a day off due to their scheduled opponents Orient still being involved in the FA Cup.

Whatever happened to

NOT too many Dale players from the early 1980s tend to stand out in your mind, but perhaps one person will be uppermost in your thoughts when you think of this period. The name Eugene Martinez just makes him sound like a good player, but this left-winger had more to his game than just a fancy name.

Eui, as he was known on the terraces of Spotland, played for three seasons, all but two months of which were under the leadership of Peter Madden. He was signed by Madden in the summer of 1980, and went on to play 130 games for the club. It was my pleasure to speak with Eugene as he travelled down the M1 last week on his way to a business convention in London.

"I had been given a free transfer at the end of the previous season by Bradford City. As far as I can remember Rochdale was the first club to show an interest in me and I signed almost straight away. In life you have to accept that perhaps you need a change from time to time, and I was at the stage where I hadn't established myself at Bradford, so I needed that change.

"I remained living in Ilkley and travelled to Rochdale from there. It was only a 45-minute drive, but after a while I moved into the area to make life easier for me.

"Whenever I look back on my football career I will always remember the time I spent at Rochdale most fondly. I recall the fans taking to me very quickly and I had a very good relationship with Peter Madden. I always felt the manager knew how to get the best out of the players he had at the club. Different players need motivating in different ways, and I thought Peter accepted that and tried to adapt himself in the right way. He was certainly the best manager I worked under during my career.

"He was energetic, enthusiastic and had lots of drive and he knew how to motivate all the players. He led by example and the players respected him for that. He certainly got the best out of me as I think he knew what motivated me on a personal level.

"I only missed two games in my first season at Rochdale – against Bradford City and Aldershot through a knee injury. The game previous to the Bradford match was against Wigan Athletic, and I was substituted at half-time because the fullback had completely gone over the top of the ball and caught me on the knee.

"My second season was very similar to the first in that I only missed a couple of games. Perhaps my biggest memory from that season was not scoring a hat-trick against Stockport County in October. It would have been one of the quickest hat-tricks on record, but I missed a chance for a third goal and therefore my hat-trick. I scored the opening two goals of the game very quickly indeed, but as Peter Madden always told me, I missed the easiest chance of the three to complete the hat-trick.

"We didn't do too well in terms of results in that season, and I think we finished in the bottom four positions of the League. It's difficult to explain why this was the case, but I suppose we were up against it for most of the season, and we just had that something missing from our side.

"My third and final season at the club saw me miss several games through injury. I was always suffering from hamstring trouble, and I never really knew why. The problem surfaced at Bradford, and I always wonder whether or not the fact that I was quick off the mark affected my hamstrings or not.

"I also lost my way a little during that season. In the lower leagues things are just left up to you get on with, more often than not. I was the type of player who needed an arm around my shoulder every so

often, but in that third year I never got it. Peter was relieved of his duties towards the end of the season, and I was obviously very disappointed about it. I had worked closely with him throughout my time at Spotland, but you cannot be afraid of change. I wasn't afraid of the change we would undergo, but just disappointed for Peter himself.

"I remember very clearly to this day the final goal I scored for the club. It was at the Sandy Lane end against Hull City. I remember a cross coming in from the right by Alan Weir and I was waiting on the edge of the penalty box inside the 'D'. I let the cross come across my body and hit it on the volley with my left foot. I caught it perfectly and it curled into the top corner of the net.

"By this stage I had already been told I would be given a free transfer at the end of the season. I felt very saddened to be leaving the club but if you really believe in yourself then you just



want to prove people wrong. I did believe I could still play, and after a trial period I was given a one-year contract at Newport County in the

old Third Division.

"At the end of that contract I was again given a free transfer and once more I sat down and asked myself if I was good enough. In the end I decided that I couldn't see myself trailing from club to club and that I must have something missing from my game. One week I could be a world-beater, whilst the next week I could be dismal. I had no consistency in my game.

"At this point I decided to go back to college. Football had taught me an awful lot. To never give up and to come to terms with things you might not like – all sorts of different emotions really. It was a good lesson for me and I really enjoyed it.

"I gained a distinction grade in HND Business Studies once back at college, and all this despite not studying for my seven years as a professional footballer. I then became a buyer for a monitor manufacturing business, before changing jobs and becoming a sub-contractor for an electronics company. I am now the Chief Executive of the same company, Chase Advance Technologies, and from a turnover of nothing, we now turnover more than £11 million."

With Steve Taylor due to make the Golden Gamble draw today we have asked Eugene if he will come back in a few weeks' time. He was more than happy to do this and he will be present at the Hartlepool United game on 16th March.

Career Details

Born: Chelmsford, 6th July 1957

Club	League Apps	League Goals
Bradford C.	52	5
Rochdale	116	16
Newport Co.	20	1
Northampton T. (loan)	12	2

TOTALS 200 24
 Rochdale debut: v Stockport Co. (a), 16th August 1980, 2-2
 Last appearance: v Tranmere R. (a), 16th May 1983, 0-0



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STATISTICS 2001/2002

Opponents	Result	Pos	Att	Away	Goalkeepers	Defenders	Midfielders	Forwards
2001 August								
Sat 11 Oxford United	A 3.00	W 2-1	5	8842	880	Gilks	Evans	Todd
Sat 18 Macclesfield Town	H 3.00	D 1-1	7	3346	424	Gilks	Evans	Todd
Tue 21 Huddersfield T. (WC)	A 7.45	W1-0	-	3995	944	Edwards	Evans	Todd
Sat 25 Plymouth Argyle	A 3.00	W2-1	3	4198	170	Edwards	Evans	McAuley
Mon 27 Exeter City	H 3.00	W2-0	1	3003	89	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
September								
Sat 1 Carlisle United	A 12.00	W2-1	1	3373	477	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 8 Kidderminster H.	H 3.00	W2-0	1	2885	185	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Tues 11 Fulham (WC)	H 7.45	D2-2	-	6303	267	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 15 Scunthorpe United	H 3.00	D2-2	1	3468	490	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Tue 18 Hull City	A 7.45	L1-3	1	10213	462	Gilks	Todd	Doughty
Sat 22 Shrewsbury Town	A 3.00	L0-1	6	4612	633	Gilks	Todd	Doughty
Tue 25 Halifax Town	H 7.45	W2-0	3	3410	685	Gilks	Evans	Todd
Sat 29 Mansfield Town	H 3.00	W3-1	1	3963	789	Gilks	Evans	Doughty
October								
Tues 9 Swansea City	A 7.45	W1-0	1	3533	96	Gilks	Evans	Doughty
Sat 13 Rushden & Diamonds	H 3.00	D0-0	2	4345	311	Hahnemann	Evans	Doughty
Tue 16 Southport (LDV)	H 7.45	W2-0	-	1411	163	Hahnemann	Evans	McAuley
Sat 20 Luton Town	A 3.00	W1-0	1	7696	684	Hahnemann	Evans	McAuley
Tue 23 Cheltenham Town	H 7.45	D2-2	2	3279	161	Hahnemann	Evans	McAuley
Sat 27 Leyton Orient	A 3.00	L2-4	3	4631	317	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Tue 30 Port Vale (LDV)	H7.45	L1-2	-	1639	288	Hahnemann	Duffy	McAuley
November								
Sat 3 Torquay United	H 3.00	W2-0	2	3078	148	Hahnemann	Evans	McAuley
Sat 10 Bristol Rovers	A 3.00	W2-0	2	5675	339	Hahnemann	Evans	McAuley
Sat 17 Tamworth (FAC)	A 3.00	D1-1	-	3119	1119	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Tue 20 Darlington	A 7.30	L0-1	2	3362	269	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 24 Lincoln City	H 3.00	D2-2	2	3139	248	Edwards	Evans	McAuley
Tue 27 Tamworth (FAC)	H 7.45	W1-0	-	2709	563	Edwards	Evans	McAuley
Fri 30 Hartlepool United	A 7.45	D1-1	2	4162	275	Edwards	Evans	McAuley
December								
Sat 8 Blackpool (FAC)	A 3.00	L0-2	-	5191	980	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 15 Southend United	H 3.00	L0-1	5	2849	111	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Wed 26 Kidderminster H.	A 1.00	L1-4	5	3856	389	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 29 Exeter City	A 3.00	D1-1	5	2994	158	Banks	Evans	McAuley
January								
Sat 12 Macclesfield Town	A 3.00	W1-0	5	3002	966	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 19 Oxford United	H 3.00	D1-1	6	3355	403	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Tue 22 York City	A 7.45	D0-0	5	2317	345	Gilks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 26 Swansea City	H 3.00	W2-0	4	2819	171	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Tue 29 Carlisle United	H 7.45	D1-1	4	3008	797	Banks	Evans	McAuley
February								
Sat 2 Mansfield Town	A 3.00	L1-3	5	4876	549	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Tue 5 York City	H 7.45	W5-4	4	2383	244	Banks	Evans	McAuley
Sat 9 Luton Town	H 3.00							
Sat 16 Rushden & Diamonds	A 3.00							
Tue 19 Plymouth Argyle	H 7.45							
Sat 23 Scunthorpe United	A 3.00							
Tue 26 Hull City	H 7.45							
March								
Sat 2 Shrewsbury Town	H 3.00							
Tue 5 Halifax Town	A 7.45							
Sat 9 Southend United	A 3.00							
Sat 16 Hartlepool United	H 3.00							
Sat 23 Cheltenham Town	A 3.00							
Sat 30 Leyton Orient	H 3.00							
April								
Mon 1 Torquay United	A 3.00							
Sat 6 Darlington	H 3.00							
Sat 13 Lincoln City	A 3.00							
Sat 20 Bristol Rovers	H 3.00							

+ Replaced by 1st sub. * Replaced by 2nd sub. • Replaced by 3rd sub. ^ Lost 5-6 on penalties

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE																		
	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	G.D.	Pts					
Plymouth	31	12	1	2	28	10	7	6	3	17	13	22	64					
LUTON	30	8	4	2	26	11	9	2	5	33	27	21	57					
Mansfield	29	10	3	2	32	14	6	3	5	14	15	17	54					
ROCHDALE	31	7	7	1	27	15	7	3	6	18	21	9	52					
Hull	32	10	5	1	30	7	4	4	8	15	25	13	51					
Rushden	32	10	4	2	28	14	3	5	8	14	25	3	48					
Shrewsbury	32	8	4	4	25	16	5	4	7	19	23	5	47					
Scunthorpe	31	9	3	3	33	16	3	7	6	23	24	16	46					
Kidderminster	29	9	4	2	23	9	4	2	8	13	19	8	45					
Cheltenham	28	6	8	1	25	16	5	3	5	18	6	44						
Exeter	30	5	6	5	16	22	6	2	6	17	24	-13	41					
Hartlepool	29	8	4	4	33	16	3	3	7	9	16	10	40					
Southend	30	9	3	4	27	15	2	4	8	9	19	2	40					
Darlington	30	9	3	2	24	10	2	4	10	14	31	-3	40					
Oxford	32	6	5	5	26	19	2	6	8	14	24	-3	35					
Bristol Rovers	29	6	4	4	21	18	3	4	8	8	16	-5	35					
Macclesfield	30	4	5	7	17	19	4	4	6	10	19	-11	33					
Lincoln	29	6	3	5	18	15	1	8	6	12	24	-9	32					
Swansea	31	3	6	6	13	15	5	2	9	22	32	-12	32					
Carlisle	29	6	3	5	20	13	1	7	7	12	23	-4	31					
Orient	29	6	2	5	24	18	2	5	9	16	34	-12	31					
Torquay	31	6	3	7	18	24	1	7	7	10	22	-18	31					
York	28	5	4	6	14	18	2	3	8	20	33	-17	28					
Halifax	30	3	7	4	13	13	2	3	11	9	34	-25	25					

ROCHDALE SEASON 2001/2002 APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS								
Player	01/02 League		01/02 Cup games		Date career		Overall career	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Atkinson	7(2)	-	(1)	-	66	6	363	42
Banks	9	-	-	-	9	-	306	-
Bayliss	9	-	3	-	218	9	218	9
Coleman	8	1	1	-	14	1	470	29
Connor	11(6)	1	3(1)	-	35	11	102	26
Doughty	17(4)	1	5(1)	1	27	2	72	3
Dunning	4(1)	-	-	-	5	-	18	1
Duffy	(3)	-	1(1)	-	5	-	5	-
Durkan	14(8)	1	6	-	26	1	312	27
Edwards	3	-	2	-	185	-	403	-
Evans	29	-	6	-	140	4	369	6
Filtcroft	9(13)	-	4(2)	-	125	2	331	23
Ford	17	2	3	1	104	7	1072	121
Gilks	14	-	3	-	20	-	20	-
Green	5	-	-	-	6	-	505	27
Griffiths	26	3	5	-	31	3	221	11
Hahnemann	5	-	2	-	7	-	11	-
Jobson	19(1)	3	5	-	25	3	656	42
G. Jones	20	5	5	1	163	25	172	25
S. Jones	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	-
McAuley	23	-	5(2)	-	45	-	303	4
McCourt	4(5)	1	(4)	-	13	1	13	1
McEvilly	(5)	1	-	-	5	1	5	1
McLoughlin	5(1)	-	-	-	6	-	586	102
Oliver	31	6	6	1	79	7	286	23
Platt	30	5	6	1	131	26	174	31
Rose	-	-	1	-	1	-	8	-
Todd	5(1)	-	-	-	50	3	384	7
Townson	11(16)	11	3(2)	3	35	14	35	14
Ware	4(4)	-	(1)	-	43	2	275	24
Wheatcroft	6	3	-	-	6	3	9	3

Up to and including York City . (h) 5/2/02

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Mike Brookes in conversation
with Steve Banks

BROOKESIDE

WITH Neil Edwards struggling with a knee injury, John Hollins reacted quickly to make Steve his first signing within days of coming to the club. The former West Ham, Gillingham and Blackpool keeper had slipped down the pecking order at the Reebok Stadium, and jumped at the chance to join Dale's promotion bandwagon. What better time to feature him than on his 30th birthday. Let's hope his defence give him a present of a clean sheet.

"Sam Allardyce had decided that I was no longer going to be involved with the first team squad and that it was best for me to go out on loan. This was coming up to Christmas so ideally I was looking for somewhere close to home so that I didn't have to live in a hotel over the festive period.

"Luckily Rochdale came up, which is only half an hour from where I live. It is a good club, looking for promotion, so it was ideal for me and things have gone pretty well so far. I am now coming to the end of my second month and enjoying it."

In fairness Steve looked a little rusty in his first couple of games, but by the Exeter match he had begun to show the Dale faithful what he is capable of.

"I was going weeks without playing. In the first match my game was OK, but my kicking was awful, then in the second my kicking was good but my game wasn't too clever. By the third match at Macclesfield it started to come together a bit and, as I say, I am pleased with how things have gone.

"It is good for both the club and myself. It is getting me games and hopefully I am bringing some experience to the club with Neil Edwards being out injured."



Steve knows the keepers at the club and with a fully fit Neil Edwards and Matty Gilks behind him, it is

probably unlikely that his move would be made permanent, as a club of this size cannot be expected to have three quality keepers on its books. It hasn't stopped him enjoying his time here though and doing his level best to keep the side in the top six.

"I know all of them from working together under coach Fred Barber, which made things a little easier in coming here. They are all great keepers in their own right and Matty Gilks and John Baker are amongst the best young keepers that I have ever seen. Obviously I am no more than a stopgap, but I am quite happy with that.

"I have another year left on my contract at Bolton but with things as they stand I have absolutely no idea as to what is around the corner. The main thing was to start playing again because I wasn't even getting reserve team football at Bolton, so it was never an ideal situation for me. The manager has in a way forced the issue with the things he has said to me, but I am lucky to have found a decent club to play with, albeit on a temporary basis.

"Not many people would take me on if I wasn't playing, although I would hope that they would know my reputation, how hard I work and what I can do when given the chance. If anyone was to be interested they can at least see me in a match situation where I can put things into practice. It would possibly make someone's decision on me easier to make.

"Most teams that we have played since I came here have been on a decent run so we haven't had what anyone would call an easy run of it. But I have still enjoyed every minute of my time at the club."

Steve is a nice lad and like Marcus Hahnemann has gained a place in the hearts of Dale fans with his increasingly confident displays since coming to Spotland.

Let us hope that he can continue to produce the goods and that things work out for him, as he is far too good a goalkeeper not to be playing League football on a regular basis.

Mike

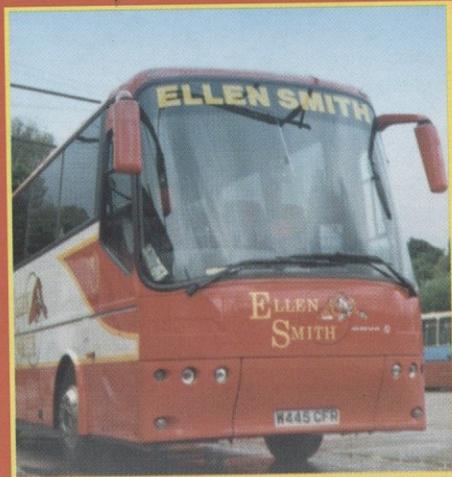


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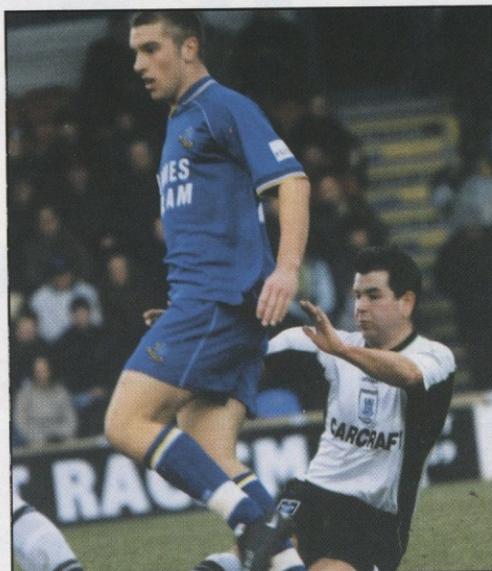
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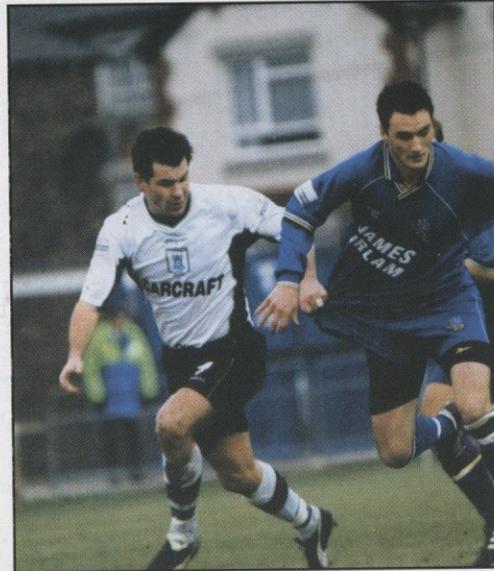
PHOTO

GALLERY

MACCLESFIELD TOWN 0, ROCHDALE 1 John Hollins' first win



Michael Oliver slides in on Ricky Lambert



... and tries to pull the shirt off Shaun Came's back!



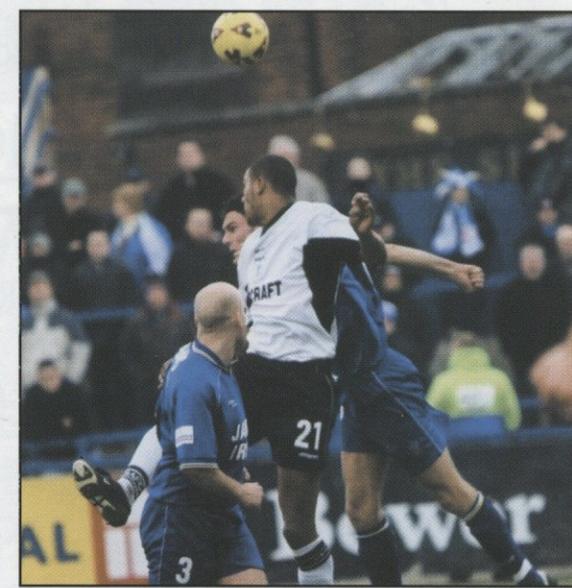
Gareth Griffiths ensures Ricky Lambert is going nowhere!



Dale look to clear their lines



Alan McLoughlin moves away from Chris Byrne



Another excellent flick-on from Clive Platt

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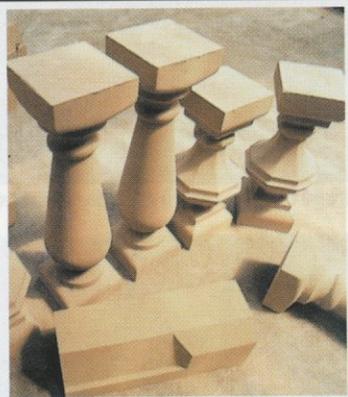
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PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

Leigh Edwards traces former favourites

from the

GREEN ROOM

ROCHDALE turned in many disappointing performances during the 1983/84 season, leading to intense pressure on manager Jimmy Greenhoff. It therefore came as no real surprise when he tendered his resignation two months from the end of that campaign.

The Spotland board immediately installed senior player Les Chapman as caretaker manager, although he would only hold that position for the remainder of the season. His last game was a 1-0 victory over Torquay, but a few days later a new manager arrived at Spotland in the shape of Vic Halom.

The former Sunderland striker had guided Barrow to the Northern Premier League championship, and these credentials were enough for the directors to believe he was the man who would lead Dale to better things.

This picture shows Halom being welcomed to Spotland on the day of his appointment by members of the Rochdale squad.



1 JOHN HUMPHREYS

Young striker who joined Rochdale on loan from Oldham Athletic in March 1984 and made six Fourth Division appearances during the closing weeks of that season as Dale battled vainly to avoid the re-election zone. He subsequently played for Horwich RMI and still lives locally.

2 SHAUN REID

Fiery midfielder who was sold to York City for £32,500 in December 1988, then rejoined Rochdale in August 1992 and netted 14 goals in 240 League games overall prior to joining Bury for £15,000 in July 1995. He moved to Chester City in December 1996 but injury ended his career in June 2000 and he is now scouting for his brother Peter at Sunderland.

3 STEVE CONROY

Experienced former Sheffield United goalkeeper who was ever-present for Rochdale in 1983-84 but lost his

7 MIKE DOYLE

6 STUART THOMPSON

Former England Schoolboy international striker who netted eight goals in 31 Fourth Division games for Rochdale prior to joining Chorley in July 1984. He then had a spell in Belgian soccer and subsequently played for Bacup Borough, Glossop North End, Buxton, Southport on loan, Rossendale United and Curzon Ashton. Still living locally.

7 MIKE DOYLE

Former England international central defender whose solitary goal in 24 Fourth Division games clinched Rochdale's 2-1 win at home to Peterborough United in October 1983. He retired shortly after Vic Halom took charge at Spotland in May 1984 and has since concentrated on his various business interests, employed by Slazenger and working in the media.

8 VIC HALOM

Ex-Luton Town striker who succeeded Jimmy Greenhoff as Rochdale's manager in May 1984 and guided Dale to an FA Cup third round meeting with Manchester United at Old Trafford in 1985-86. He remained in charge at Spotland until dismissed in December 1986, then briefly managed Burton Albion and has since worked as a PR for several firms, living in Irlam.

first-team slot early the following season and made 49 Fourth Division appearances while at Spotland prior to rejoining Rotherham United in January 1985. He provided goalkeeper cover until injury ended his career in December 1985 and now lives in Staveley.

4 IAN McMAHON

Versatile midfielder who had joined Rochdale from Oldham Athletic in January 1984 and was a popular member of Vic Halom's squad at Spotland. He also featured in a midfield role and played in the 1985-86 FA Cup third round tie at Manchester United, scoring eight goals in 91 Fourth Division games before injury ended his career. Still living in Oldham, until recently he was Chief Executive at Doncaster Rovers.

5 NEVILLE HAMILTON

Young midfielder who scored five goals in 74 Fourth Division games for Rochdale prior to joining Wolves in July 1984, but suffered a heart-attack during pre-season training that summer and retired on medical advice. He qualified as an FA coach in August 1986 and has since been Leicester City's community development officer and Academy assistant director.



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Dale on th'INTERNET



DISAPPOINTING performances resulting in draws against Oxford and York led numerous web surfers to question the wisdom of John Hollins' appointment. The reaction after the fans' forum was mixed towards the new gaffer. What The Dale needed was a win, and they got one against Swansea, which made the doubters doubt their doubts after Doughty, once a Hollins' doubtful, inspired an excellent Dale performance. RochdaleAFC.com observed: 'Well there had been complaints beforehand that we were too negative and that we didn't know how to attack. Today the players proved us wrong as they put on a good solid display, which was made to look even better by the poor quality of the opposition.'

The issue of communication between the club and fans was mentioned at the forum. The following Tuesday, the club responded with a superb, insightful article into the current financial state at Spotland. It read: 'Financial Director Graham Morris said "The Board of Directors budget to make a trading loss every year. Last year we spent £150,000 on Paul Connor, but that was due to an increase in predicted gate revenue. We always do our best to make whatever money we have available to our manager, and that has been the case in recent years.'

"All the Board of Directors are fans of this football club, and we take nothing out of the club in terms of finance. In actual fact it costs a lot of money to be a Director at the moment! I can assure all our fans that we see the same game as they do. We want what is good for this football club as well, but we have the responsibility of the club in our hands. It is not always practical to go out and sign a player just like that. We might want to do, but that fact is that the club cannot always afford to. We take calculated risks throughout the season, but we are always aware of the fact that the welfare of the club is paramount."

He went on to say "The Goldbond Weekly Draw is vital to this club, as it is the main source of our revenue. If it wasn't for that money we would have to cut our cloth accordingly! In the last fortnight the Goldbond Weekly Draw has contributed more to this club than the gate receipts. Our gate receipts on Saturday were just £10,000, whilst the Goldbond has contributed more than that figure in the last 10 days alone!"

For my money, this is one of the finest articles the official site has come up with this season – just the sort of in-depth factual content the fans are looking for.

The Carlisle draw provoked mixed reactions, especially towards referee Steve Baines, as fans of both clubs debated which side he favoured on the RochdaleAFC.com message board.

Onwards to Mansfield for a third v fourth clash. Sports.com said: 'Hotshot striker Chris Greenacre took his goal tally for the season to 24 as The Stags shattered Rochdale's six-match unbeaten run in a thrilling promotion showdown played in appalling conditions. Earlier, torrential rain and a gusty wind had made conditions extremely difficult from the kick-off, but both sides still served up a thrilling game.'

The Stags official site at www.mansfieldtown.net said: 'Rochdale didn't lay down and die and with just five minutes remaining they continued to look for ways of getting back into the game. Pilkington saved a Lee Duffy shot on 87 minutes, before Rochdale scored a consolation goal on 88 minutes when Patrick McCourt pulled back the ball for Michael Oliver to fire home a well-taken goal. The game finished 3-1, and that was a much-deserved victory for The Stags and an important win to extend the gap between themselves and the teams below chasing the automatic promotion spot that we currently occupy.'

One message board posting after this game read: 'So far under Hollins Dale's record stands: P9 W2 D4 L3 F8 A11 PTS10 We are averaging about a point a game, which is not promotion form. If this continues for the rest of the season we will end up with about 65 points, which is not enough to get into the play offs. We need to get a class central midfielder because the players we have got (Ware/Flitcroft) and the one Hollins has brought in (McLoughlin) are not good enough. If it is not sorted soon our season is over. One good performance (Swansea) and one battling performance (Carlisle) out of nine is not good enough. Discuss.'

Rochdale related websites:

Official site: www.rochdaleafc.co.uk

Fans site: www.rochdaleafc.com

The Dale Bullet Website: www.go.to/rochdaleafc

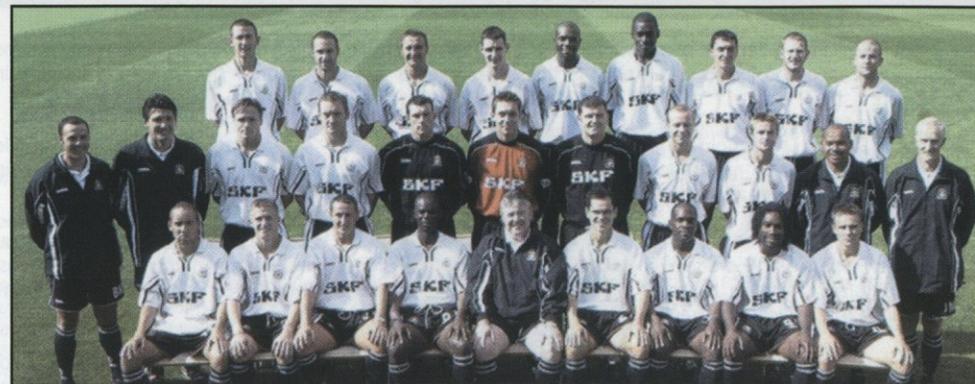
Up The Dale: <http://upthedale.nav.to/>

Rochdale directory: www.rochdaleonline.org

Local History site: www.dunning94.freereserve.co.uk/

3rd division forum: www.bottomofthebarrel.co.uk/

Luton Town



Back Row (L-R): Russell Perrett, Andrew Fotiadis, Adam Locke, Matthew Spring, Emmerson Boyce, Jude Stirling (No longer with the club), Richard Dryden, Kevin Nicholls, Stuart Fraser
Middle Row (L-R): Bruce Sewell (Sports Therapist), Mick Harford (First Team Coach), Kent Karlsen, Steve Howard, Mark Owendale, Scott Ward, Carl Emberson, Paul Hughes, Peter Holmes, Brian Stein (Reserve Team Coach), John Moore (Youth Team Coach)
Front Row (L-R): Liam George, Lee Mansell, Carl Griffiths, Marvin Johnson, Joe Kinnear (Manager), Aaron Skelton, Adrian Forbes, Stuart Douglas, Matthew Taylor

THE bookmakers are usually fairly accurate when it comes to setting their odds at the start of the season. Back in the summer they made Luton one of the strong favourites for the Third Division title, and by arriving at Spotland this afternoon in second place, The Hatters are going a long way towards giving those who gambled on them a great chance of a payout in two months time.

Their position was strengthened last weekend with an excellent 2-0 home defeat of leaders Plymouth Argyle. Manager Joe Kinnear felt that was Luton's best display of the season, even calling the performance a '2-0 mas-sacre'.

"I know we scored two late goals," he said.

"And you're always worried when they don't come, despite plenty of pressure.

"We had at least six good chances in the first half and I was wondering if Plymouth were going to punish us.

"But we stuck at it and got the breakthrough with the penalty. The second goal then finally killed them off."

The sad news to come out of last Saturday's meeting was the return of football-related violence to the streets of Luton. The club were the victims of a serious and infamous riot by Millwall fans in 1985, but the fault for last weekend appears to be shared between Luton and Plymouth supporters.

Trouble flared before, during and after the game, with most of the problems occurring in the town centre. Bedfordshire Police carried out its biggest operation for 15 years, but they still couldn't prevent 18 arrests and the stabbing of a Plymouth supporter.

These troubles marred what was The Hatters' eighth home victory of the season, compared to the nine they have

achieved on the road. Four of those wins came in successive games around the turn of the year as Luton took advantage of other teams' inactivity to climb up to second place in the table.

Our visitors' best result on their travels was a 4-1 success at Kidderminster a month ago. That game was originally scheduled for 1st December, but a flu epidemic at Kenilworth Road meant that Luton were unable to fulfil the fixture. Harriers were furious about the postponement, especially as it came after Luton had lost three consecutive matches. But

the Football League upheld The Hatters' appeal for the game to be called-off, and salt was rubbed further into Kidderminster's wounds with the eventual scoreline.

4-1 holds further significance for Luton this term, as that has been the result in their two heaviest defeats. The first came at Mansfield in November in a remarkable game that saw nine players booked and three sent-off – two of them for the home side!

Three weeks later The Hatters were trounced 4-1 at Macclesfield.

That was their last defeat on the road until the trip to Darlington a fortnight ago. Leading 2-1 with under 10 minutes remaining, Luton were left shell-shocked as the home side sent on young substitute Mark Sheeran, who proceeded to score twice to give The Quakers victory.

It's quite apparent that games involving today's opponents usually contain a high number of goals and plenty of entertainment. They have only failed to score in two League fixtures this term – at home to Dale and Hull City – whilst their last blank on the road came 11 months ago at Millwall. Dale will be hoping to end that particular record this afternoon.

In February 1984 Luton provided England's forward line for a friendly against France. Brian Stein and Paul Walsh were the strikers in a 2-0 defeat.

Official site: www.rochdaleafc.co.uk

www.rochdaleafc.co.uk

Squad Check

1 Mark Ovendale – Former Northampton and Bournemouth goalkeeper who joined Luton prior to the start of last season.

2 Aaron Skelton – Originally a trainee with our visitors, Aaron returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer after spending four years at Colchester.

4 Matthew Spring – A product of the club's youth system, Matthew has now clocked-up around 200 senior appearances for The Hatters.

5 Russell Perrett – 28-year old central defender who began his League career at Portsmouth, prior to spending two seasons with Cardiff. He joined Luton last summer.

6 Marvin Johnson – The longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, Marvin has now made almost 450 senior appearances for The Hatters.

7 Adrian Forbes – Former England youth international who joined our visitors from Norwich City in a £75,000 deal in the summer.

8 Kevin Nicholls – Signed from Wigan in the summer for £150,000, Kevin was originally a trainee at Charlton.

10 Carl Griffiths – Prolific lower league striker who was recruited from Leyton Orient for £65,000 last summer. Initially spending several years with Shrewsbury, the 30-year old can name Manchester City and Port Vale amongst his other clubs.

12 Chris Coyne – A £50,000 signing from Dundee in September, Chris had spent the early part of his career with West Ham.

13 Stuart Fraser – Former captain of the Luton youth team who has battled back from a broken leg suffered 12 months ago.

14 Andrew Fotiadis – 24-year old striker who is now in his fourth season in the first team at Kenilworth Road.

15 Matthew Taylor – Former 'Young Player of the Year' who has progressed through the ranks at Kenilworth Road.

16 Carl Emberson – Originally on Millwall's books, Carl is a goalkeeper who arrived from Walsall last summer. He spent seven seasons at Colchester in the 1990s.

17 Emmerson Boyce – Former youth player who has been a first team regular since breaking through in 1999.

18 Adam Locke – 31-year old midfielder who joined Luton from Bristol City in the summer of 1999.

19 Steve Howard – Big striker who was signed from Northampton for £50,000 last March. The 25-year old began his League career with Hartlepool.

20 Peter Holmes – 21-year old midfielder who was at the FA's School of Excellence at the same time as Michael Owen.

21 Richard Dryden – Experienced defender who joined Luton from Southampton last February.

24 Scott Ward – Third choice goalkeeper who has made just one first team appearance.

27 Paul Hughes – Former Chelsea and Southampton midfielder who linked-up with The Hatters in August.

28 Jean-Louis Valois – 28-year old Frenchman who turned down the chance of Champions' League football with Lille when joining Luton last September.

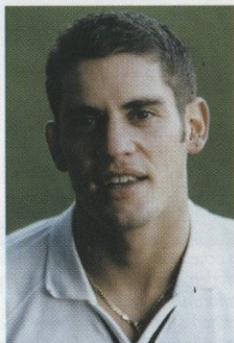
30 David Bayliss – Former Rochdale apprentice who made 218 senior appearances for the club after debuting against Barnet in April 1995. He joined Luton in December.

32 Lee Mansell – Former Kenilworth Road scholar who scored just 58 seconds into his senior debut against QPR in the FA Cup last season.

33 Ian Hillier – Welsh under-21 international who was signed from Spurs at the start of this season.

34 Dean Crowe – Former Stoke striker who recently signed permanent terms at Kenilworth Road after a loan spell.

35 Ahmet Brkovic – Signed on a Bosman free transfer from Leyton Orient last summer, Ahmet is a Croatian who had been at Brisbane Road for two years.



Dean Crowe



Ahmet Brkovic

Luton Town

Fan's Profile

Luton Town fan Dan Collier on life following The Hatters.

First Luton game? - It was against Sheffield Wednesday at home in August 1989 when I was just three years old.

Best moment as a Luton fan? - As a 'young' supporter I have missed out on many of the best moments, but my dad has told me of a fair few and I've seen the videos. During my lifetime one of the best experiences was going to Wembley for the FA Cup semi-final, but the best moment in recent years was the Worthington Cup tie against Ipswich at Kenilworth Road in 1998. We were 2-1 down from the first leg, but came back to send the tie into extra-time in the second. Steve Davis then put Luton in front on aggregate, before scoring again in his own net! If the result had stayed the same the Tractor Boys would have gone through, but in the last minute, long-serving marvellous Marvin Johnson was there to head home the ball from a corner. Luton went on to the quarter-finals, knocking out Coventry and Barnsley on the way, before stumbling at the Stadium of Light.

... and the worst? - Relegation to the basement division for the first time since 1968 has to be up there with worst moments, as well as a certain 4-0 defeat the last time our Hertfordshire neighbours visited. Last season's drop from Division Three wasn't as bad as I had dreaded though. I had always thought if Luton were to go down again it would spell out the end, but with Joe Kinnear in the hot-seat, the new stadium and promises of money from Mike Watson-Challis, off the field the club is in its best position for many years. Promotion seems more than likely and the possibility of going on to better things seems a reality.

Favourite all-time Luton player? - The legend that is Mick Harford. I've seen the videos and he was definitely The Hatters best player of the modern era. Now back at Kenilworth Road as First Team Coach, he'll be in the dugout with Joe Kinnear this afternoon teaching the current crop a thing or two.

... and the least favourite? - Well, I've been told I can't include any of the current players who are in our squad and well there are a few I could name who joined in the last few seasons.

Most hated opponents? - Watford FC. Long time local rivals.

Which opposition player always gets a hot reception from your fans? - I have to say nobody in particular, but there's always the odd chant when any Watford rejects are on the field. So nothing to worry about today!

Which former Luton player always gets a hot reception from your fans? - With Luton's relegations of late in the lower leagues, a lot of players have gone to higher clubs and so we haven't really played against any very often. But we are pretty friendly and most get a good reception - for example, Tony Thorpe.

Favourite all-time Luton kit? - Classic retro orange Luton shirts of the mid 1970s, with the blue and white stripe down one side.

Least favourite Luton kit? - The numerous third kits, which are hardly ever worn, must be some of the worst ever, including the yellow third kit of 1997, which was made the away kit the year after. Also a silver kit, which was on sale last season.

Best ground visited with Luton? - The best ground I've visited with The Hatters probably has to be Wembley. Luton hasn't been there for a while, though, with the last time in 1994 when we lost 2-0 to Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-final.

... and the worst? - The worst grounds on the other hand would be either Cambridge United's Abbey Stadium or Blackpool's Bloomfield Road. Having said that, smaller grounds like Northampton's and Rushden & Diamonds' may have good facilities, but the atmosphere is much to be desired and not a touch on Kenilworth Road this season.

Any memories v Rochdale? - As the last time The Hatters clashed with Rochdale before this season was in 1970, I haven't got any memories of past matches. In October last year we were knocked off first place in the 'Top of the Table' clash when Rochdale won 1-0 at Kenilworth Road. Dale didn't look anything special, but played as a team, which is something we have struggled to do during parts of this season.

And finally, a prediction for today? - Despite Rochdale winning at Kenilworth Road back in October, we have the best away form in the League overall. I think an away victory is on the cards today. 2-1 to Luton.

Manager's Profile

Joe Kinnear

Joe was appointed to the hot-seat at Kenilworth Road 12 months ago, becoming Luton's third manager of last season. He will be best remembered for masterminding Wimbledon's long stay in the Premier League, having been in charge of The Dons between 1992 and 1999. A heart

attack forced him to step down at Selhurst Park, before he returned to the game with Luton last year.

Born in Dublin in December 1946, Mr Kinnear's playing career saw him make 212 League appearances for Tottenham and Brighton. He was also capped by the Republic of Ireland on 25 occasions.



Down Memory Lane

AT SPOTLAND

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
League	4	1	1	2	7	6

Last Rochdale Win

Tuesday 6th September 1966
Division Four
Rochdale 3
Luton Town 0
Att: 2,472

Dale picked-up their first victory of the 1966/67 campaign against a Luton side that had won two of its three opening fixtures. The success was thoroughly deserved, although it set false hopes for the season as The Hatters went on to finish above Rochdale in the League table.

The scorers were players who don't immediately spring to mind when trying to recall Dalemen of that era. Barry Wheatley shot us ahead in the first half, with Billy Russell and Paul Crossley extending the lead after the interval.

Dale: Williamson, Smith, Calloway, Richardson, Taylor, Collins (Moulden), Crossley, Russell, Lister, Wheatley, Storf
Luton: Read, Slough, Jardine, Thomson, Rivers, Moore, Pleat, French, Riddick, Rioch, Whittaker
Referee: D.N.H.Payne

Last Draw

Saturday 30th September 1967
Division Four
Rochdale 2
Luton Town 2
Att: 2,004

The form of the teams coming into this game could hardly have been more contrasting. Dale had won just one of their eight League fixtures, whilst Luton had suffered only one defeat.

This was perfectly exemplified when The Hatters raced into a 2-0 interval lead, thanks to Ian Buxton and Bruce Rioch. However, Dale came out for the second half in a determined mood, and goals from Jack Winspear and Reg Jenkins earned us a fully deserved point.

Dale: Green, Cockcroft, Smith, Eastham, Calloway, Taylor, Reid, Winspear, Jenkins (Melledew), Fletcher, Riley
Luton: Read, Hare, Branston, Moore, Jardine, Dougan, Rioch, French, Buxton, Allen, Whittaker
Referee: D.N.H.Payne

Last Luton Win

Saturday 25th April 1970
Division Three

Rochdale 1
Luton Town 2
Att: 5,830

'Mud and madness' was how the *Rochdale Observer* saw this game. The condition of the Spotland pitch in late April was a grave cause for concern, but not as much as the mayhem caused by visiting Luton fans as they 'celebrated' their team's promotion.

(Squad pictured)
Trouble flared on Sandy Lane as, and I quote: '120 Luton skinheads fought running battles with Dale fans'. It was also reported that

these people invaded the dressing room area to get a glimpse of their heroes!

Reg Jenkins scored late in the game for Dale, but The Hatters were already 2-0 in front by then as Viv Busby and Malcolm MacDonald found the net.

Dale: Harker, Smith, Parry, Ashworth, Ryder, Riley, Rudd (Clarke), Butler, Cross, Jenkins, Downes
Luton: Read, Ryan, Branston, Moore, Slough, Bannister, Collins, Keen, Busby, MacDonald, Tees (Allen)
Referee: K.H.Burns



Rochdale v Luton Town

AT KENILWORTH ROAD

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
League	5	1	0	4	4	13

Last Rochdale Win

Saturday 20th October 2001
Division Three

Luton Town 0
Rochdale 1
Att: 7,696

Dale travelled to Kenilworth Road in second place in the table, whilst Luton were top of the pile. The game was a tense affair and you would have thought it was the last match of the season with a promotion spot at stake.

The home side enjoyed the lion's share of the possession, but Rochdale's defence stood firm and repelled all that came their way.

The Hatters were also quite strong at the back, but their one lapse handed Dale three points. Tony Ford shot low and hard in the 39th minute, and Carl Emberson could only palm the ball into Paul Wheatcroft's path for a simple tap-in.

Luton: Emberson, Spring, Perrett (Boyce (Fotiadis)), Nicholls, Coyne Taylor, Howard, Valois, Hillier, Crowe, Brkovic (Forbes)

Dale: Hahnemann, Evans, McAuley, Jobson, Griffiths, Ford (Flitcroft), Jones, Oliver, Doughty, Platt, Wheatcroft (Townson)
Referee: S.G.Tomlin



Last Luton Win

Saturday 22nd November 1969
Division Three

Luton Town 2
Rochdale 0
Att: 15,876

Ironically, the same situation applied at Kenilworth Road in November 1969. Luton were top, with Dale one place below them. Both sides had 27 points, but Town were ahead on goal difference by just two goals.

The appeal of the game saw the 'Match of the Day' cameras descend on the ground in the days when they realised that good football did exist outside the top flight. They weren't disappointed, as a crowd of almost 16,000 created a cracking atmosphere to complement an excellent game.

Although Luton won 2-0, their manager Alec Stock (who was the inspiration behind the famous Ron Manager) acknowledged that Dale were the better side. However, goals from John Collins (*No, not that one! - Ed*) and Keith Allen (*or that one!*) meant that we suffered our third consecutive defeat after a run of eight wins on the trot.

Luton: Davie, Ryan, Bannister, Keen, Branston, Slough, Collins, MacDonald (Harrison), Tees, Allen, French
Dale: Harker, Smith, Ryder, Leech, Parry, Ashworth, Whitehead, Rudd, Buck, Jenkins, Butler
Referee: C.Thomas

NOW I have dried off after a very wet and disappointing trip to Mansfield, it's time to get the brain in gear to compose these notes. First on my list must be Mr Bott and the celebrated slagging-off of Dale supporters. I know some fans are 'serial moaners', but we do not need a privileged director to tell us this. Fans who pay their Goldbond weekly to keep the club going financially; fans who, no matter what the weather, state of the team, time of year or their health, go to ALL the home matches and MOST, if not ALL, of the away games at great cost to themselves and families in terms of both money and time. We know some fans hold views opposed to others, boo and chant anti-team and management songs and post their views and opinions on the Internet. So what?

Until this country becomes a dictatorship, that is allowed and free-speech rules, but fans do not expect to pay £2 of their hard-earned money to be insulted by a club director.

I was watching the Third Division programme on ITV Digital last Sunday, where the focus was on York City. What a mess they are in! With the ground being an easy target for new housing and directors liable to make a 'killing' doing so, fans have banded together to form a Supporters Trust and elicited support from all over the UK. This culminated in a march by fans from teams all over the country to the ground.

Unfortunately the match was off due to the monsoon weather conditions, but they proved their point about 'Fan Power' and hopefully a consortium will be allowed to take over to ensure the future of York City in the Football League.

No matter what you think of them, just be grateful that we have the dedicated board that we have at the moment, especially David Kilpatrick who will share a pint and a pack of Silk Cut talking to the fans whenever the opportunity arises - providing it is not in a 'No Smoking' area of course!

Try to watch this week's programme because the camera crews have spent a week with Dale. No doubt Gracie Fields will creep in there somewhere, with today's clash against Luton Town being the main feature at 11.45 tomorrow on ITV Digital. If you have not got ITV Digital then you have just 20 hours or thereabouts to 'phone a friend' or get a set-top box installed (*Chance would be a fine thing - Ed*).

Despite having to cancel the Race Night and another function due to the rearranged matches falling on those particular evenings, the Supporters Club have a very special 'do' coming up soon. How about a fun afternoon ten-pin bowling at the Worsley Super Bowl, bowling against a Dale squad team. Last year everybody had a great time, with bumper lanes for the kids who racked up some very good scores beating some of the adult teams! It is on Sunday 17th March and we can accommodate 13 teams of six players and everybody will get two full games. Cost is only £6 per adult and £4 for under-14s. So get a team together and you will be able to boast that you played against Rochdale AFC in 2002! Phone with your team bookings to 01706 353902 and have a great Dale time.

A very special young man is going on a bike ride, but where to? Shrewsbury, Hartlepool, Macclesfield? No, think a little bit further. How about John 'O Groat' to Lands End?

I wouldn't like to drive that far, let alone pedal all the 860 very long miles! Scott Clough, a 14-year old Dale supporter, has set himself this marathon of a bike ride in July to raise money for the youth development at the club, and we all know how vitally important the youth set-up is to the future of Rochdale AFC.

Kingsway Sports Cycles and Roller City have kindly donated one of the bikes Scott will be using, but we desperately need further sponsorship in the form of donations or materials, such as bottled water, two-way radios, first aid kit (hopefully returned unused!), warning lights, and of course fuel for the support vehicles. Sponsorship could see your name on the support vehicle and attendant publicity, as we hope the event will attract Nationwide media coverage.

Further details and sponsorship forms are available from Frank Duffy on 01706 852914 or Les Duckworth at the club on 01706 644649. Try to get some sponsorship arranged through work mates and colleagues, or can your company help with materials? Show Rochdale AFC youth and Scott Clough that you care about what they are doing. We will be grateful for any contribution.

Frank Bishop

Coaches to Rochdale's away matches are run by Rochdale A.F.C.'s commercial department. All bookings should be made in person at the Club Shop or by phone on 647521. All bookings must be paid for at the time of booking. Always try to book as early as you can to ensure your seat and let us know how many coaches we need to order.

FORTHCOMING GAMES

Date	Team	Dep Time	Cost
Feb			
16 Sat	Rushden & D	10.00am	£14
23 Sat	Scunthorpe	12.45pm	£9
Mar			
5 Tues	Halifax	6.00pm	£6
9 Sat	Southend	8.30am	£18

A full list of this season's coaches is available on request in The Club Shop.

RULES OF CONDUCT

- The aim of the club is to provide transport to away matches where practical, and to raise money for Rochdale AFC.
 - Alcohol and smoking is strictly banned from all coaches, and will be strictly enforced.
 - Coaches will be operated by a steward and their decision will be final. All persons travelling on the coach must abide by their decisions.
 - Repeated failure to travel after booking seats will result in a ban at the discretion of the organisers.
 - The organisers reserve the right to alter or amend prices or departure times at short notice if necessary. The organisers reserve the right to refuse transport to any individuals.
- Either all Season Ticket Holders receive a £1 discount per match on production of their season ticket book.
Or all Supporters Club members receive a £1 discount per match on production of their membership cards.
Under 12's pay half price if accompanied by an adult.

Supporters Club News

The Last Word

LAST summer Francis Collins - the football club's former Chief Executive - approached me to ask if I would be willing to take on the editorship of the programme for this season. He would be leaving for pastures new in September, and it was vital that a new editor was in place when 2001/02 began.

It was a big decision to take. I knew, from being co-editor last season, just how much work was involved. Added to this I have a full-time job of my own, so most of the programme work would have to be done at nights and weekends.

There were three reasons that made me decide to become editor. Firstly, I thought it would be a challenge, but one which I was prepared to work at and enjoy. Secondly, I wanted to give my fellow Dale supporters - plus away fans - something worthwhile to read over their half-time cuppa. And thirdly, who else would do it if I didn't?

I agreed to become the editor last May, and since then I have devoted what seems like every minute of my spare time to the programme. Researching and writing my own pages takes up enough of time, but there are also many other aspects to the 'job' that continue to fill the hours.

- 1 - Chasing-up materials from our visitors.
- 2 - Editing articles from other contributors.
- 3 - Chasing-up missing articles from other contributors.
- 4 - Finding and scanning photographs.
- 5 - E-mailing every page to the printer.
- 6 - Proof-reading the fax from the printer.
- 7 - Ringing the printer to correct his mistakes.
- 8 - Counting-out the programmes on Saturday morning.

Those tasks are just a microcosm of the whole programme producing business, so as you can see, editing a football programme is not an easy option. It is almost like having a second job, but much more enjoyable.

When I hear from Richard Wild that this programme has contributed a considerable amount of money to the football club this season, I feel proud. In the same way that Goldbond agents go

out in all weathers to do their bit for the club (and get paid commission), myself and my programme team put in a similar amount of work to raise further funds for the coffers. As a rough estimate, I reckon each programme takes up 20-30 hours of my own time each week.

There are little perks that come with this responsibility. Each contributor receives a free programme, as they should do for their work. And occasionally - and I do mean OCCASIONALLY - I receive complimentary tickets for away matches.

As someone who puts a great deal of his own time and expense into ensuring the programme is at the ground on matchday, I feel this little 'reward' is acceptable and ethical, especially when you consider that it is not Rochdale who are giving out the tickets.

But it appears as though some people resent this.

I was verbally abused during the half-time interval at Mansfield last Saturday, in front of well over 200 other Rochdale supporters. It was alleged that, amongst other things: "THERE'S TEN OF YOU ON THAT ROW WHO HAVEN'T PAID, AND YOU NEVER DO."

I tried to reason with my accuser, but eventually gave up. Obviously spending hours of your own time, raising thousands of pounds for Rochdale Football Club, gives others licence to abuse you in public. Whether this was meant in jest or seriousness is irrelevant - I was upset, embarrassed and humiliated at Field Mill last weekend.

I don't think it is worth my while to continue in this manner, and I am certainly not prepared to be abused in public when I am doing something on a voluntary basis.

Therefore, I wish to make it known that I intend to resign as editor of this programme from the end of the season. Perhaps the people who were abusing me last Saturday can offer to be my replacement?

Mark Wilbraham
(Editor)

The Rochdale Observer

KICK for CASH

Win up to £1000 in cash in the half-time Golden Gamble draw and also have the chance to be a contestant to kick the ball through the Rochdale Observer banner.

Buy your **£1 TICKET**

...from the girls inside the turnstiles





squad check



Rochdale AFC

- 1 *Neil Edwards (GK)*
- 2 *Wayne Evans*
- 3 *Sean McAuley*
- 4 *Simon Coleman*
- 5 *Gareth Griffiths*
- 6 *Richard Green*
- 7 *David Flitcroft*
- 8 *Paul Ware*
- 9 *Michael Oliver*
- 10 *Matt Doughty*
- 11 *Graeme Atkinson*
- 12 *Lee Todd*
- 13 *Matthew Gilks (GK)*
- 15 *Kieron Durkan*
- 16 *Alan McLoughlin*
- 18 *Lee McEvilly*
- 19 *Kevin Townson*
- 20 *Lee Duffy*
- 21 *Clive Platt*
- 24 *Richard Jobson*
- 25 *John Baker (GK)*
- 26 *Steve Jones*
- 27 *Paul Connor*
- 30 *Patrick McCourt*
- 31 *Simon Grand*
- 35 *Steve Banks (GK)*

Luton Town

- 1 *Mark Ovendale (GK)*
- 2 *Aaron Skelton*
- 4 *Matthew Spring*
- 5 *Russell Perrett*
- 6 *Marvin Johnson*
- 7 *Adrian Forbes*
- 8 *Kevin Nicholls*
- 10 *Carl Griffiths*
- 12 *Chris Coyne*
- 13 *Stuart Fraser*
- 14 *Andrew Fotiadis*
- 15 *Matthew Taylor*
- 16 *Carl Emberson (GK)*
- 17 *Emmerson Boyce*
- 18 *Adam Locke*
- 19 *Steve Howard*
- 20 *Peter Holmes*
- 21 *Richard Dryden*
- 24 *Scott Ward (GK)*
- 27 *Paul Hughes*
- 28 *Jean-Louis Valois*
- 30 *David Bayliss*
- 32 *Lee Mansell*
- 33 *Ian Hillier*
- 34 *Dean Crowe*
- 35 *Ahmet Brkovic*

Referee: M.D. Messias

Assistants: N. Bannister & P. Canadine 4th Official A.R. Hall

Next home game: Tuesday 19th February 2002 Kick off 7.45pm Rochdale v Plymouth Argyle Nationwide League Division 3



Today's mascot is SAMUEL FITTON who is at Spotland celebrating his fifth birthday. He attends Norden Community Primary School, and his hobbies include football, cricket and going to swimming lessons. He also enjoys supporting his brother Tom who plays for Bridge Colts. Samuel attends every Dale home game and his favourite players are Paul Connor, Clive Platt and Neil Edwards.
Have a great day Samuel.

**FULL MATCH REPORT
& FORM ANALYSIS - only in the**

**SUNDAY
PINK**