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Contents

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Inside Today



Page 3
Gaffer Talk



Page 9
Whatever
Happened to?



Pages 6-7
Player Profiles



Pages 10-11
The Visitors



Page 12
Just Visiting



Page 23
Luton Quiz



Page 16
Team Check



Page 27
Player
Sponsorship



Page 24
Testament of
Youth



Pages 14-15
Community

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Gaffer Talk



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ANYONE steeped in Port Vale would want the club to remain where it is - and that goes for me, too.

I think there is a case for ground sharing in places, bearing in mind how many times the pitch is used in a season. It works on the continent but I don't see it happening here and my wish, along with many others, is that Port Vale continue to play in Burslem. The stadium is nice and it would be excellent to see it finished. As far as a merger is concerned I would be totally opposed because of its obvious implications for Port Vale.

The bottom line from my point of view is that this business has been going on for too long. I get on well with the administrator, Bob Young, and I am sure he is working in the best interests of Port Vale, which everyone appreciates. I just wish we were nearing a conclusion.

As far as the football is concerned I felt we were unfortunate not to come home from Tranmere last week with a point.

The general consensus was a draw would have been a fairer result. We played quite well in the first half and could have gone two goals up. We were more adventurous and made chances with Ian Armstrong contributing to much of what was good about our play.

Ian is as bright as a button and, hopefully, he can enjoy an extended run in the side. He still needs to work on his strength in the gym, but he is a young lad and the hamstring and groin problems he has suffered can be down to growing into League football.

Some might argue it has not been a particularly good week for us in terms of results with teams below us picking up points but, as ever in football, it is about looking after yourselves.

We cannot rely on teams below us losing all the time because it will not happen, but we have games in hand and must make the most of them.

We have only played here once since Boxing Day so there are a few home games to catch up on and we have to make them count.

Encouraging news on the injury front is that Neil Brisco, who last played against Crewe back in September, is on the comeback trail. He has been earmarked for a game at Shifnal on Monday in the Staffs Senior Cup.

We will be fielding a very young side as we have a first team game here on Tuesday against Chesterfield, which is unfortunate for Steve Rowland.

Steve had again been called up by the Wales under-20 squad to play Korea but as we are still short of numbers I need him here. Steve was forced to pull out his previous selection due to injury but hopefully his chance will come.

Brian Horton

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Sam Collins

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Whatever Happened To?



The club's Past Players Co-ordinator Leigh Edwards traces former favourites

Tim Rawlings' goal gave Port Vale a 1-0 Third Division victory over Luton Town in front of 11,449 at Vale Park on 14th October 1963. Luton had triumphed 1-0 at home to Port Vale five days earlier and the 1959 FA Cup finalists were destined to plummet from the First Division to Fourth in the space of five years.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PORT VALE'S TEAM?

KEN HANCOCK: Highly-rated goalkeeper who made 241 League appearances prior to joining Ipswich Town in December 1964, then played for Tottenham Hotspur, Bury, Stafford, Northwich and Leek. Now living in Ipstones, he was a maintenance man for Dairycress in Hartington until ill-health forced retirement.

SELWYN WHALLEY: Long-serving right-back who contested a first-team slot with Terry Lowe and netted seven goals in 178 League games during 13 seasons at Port Vale until a foot injury ended his career in May 1966. A part-timer who was a PE teacher at Hanley High School, he still lives locally in retirement.

ROY SPROSON: Long-serving defender who scored 30 goals in a record 760 League games for Port Vale before joining the coaching staff in May 1972. He was manager at Vale Park from January 1974 until sacked in October 1977, then became a newsagent and remained local until his death in January 1997.

TIM RAWLINGS: Former Walsall right-half who scored the winner against Luton Town and netted twice in 31 Third Division games for Port Vale prior to joining Nuneaton Borough in July 1965, then played for Coleshill. He subsequently worked for Lucas Industries and still lives in Birmingham in retirement.

JOHN NICHOLSON: Commanding centre-half who was ever-present in three consecutive seasons and scored once in 184 League outings for Port Vale prior to joining Doncaster Rovers in September 1965. He tragically died from injuries

suffered in a car crash whilst driving along the A630 in September 1966.

TERRY MILES: Versatile left-half who netted 17 goals in 365 League games prior to joining Sandbach Ramblers in July 1968, then played for Eastwood and Michelin before coaching Wolstanton Park Rangers. He spent 26 years as a production worker at Michelin until retiring in May 1996 and still lives in Stoke.

JOHN ROWLAND: Ex-England Youth winger who moved to Mansfield Town in September 1966, then played for Tranmere Rovers, Derry City, Linfield, Coleraine and South Shields. Settling in Belper, he spent 20 years as a sales agent for Ben Sherman shirts and is now an NDT inspector for Rolls Royce in Derby.

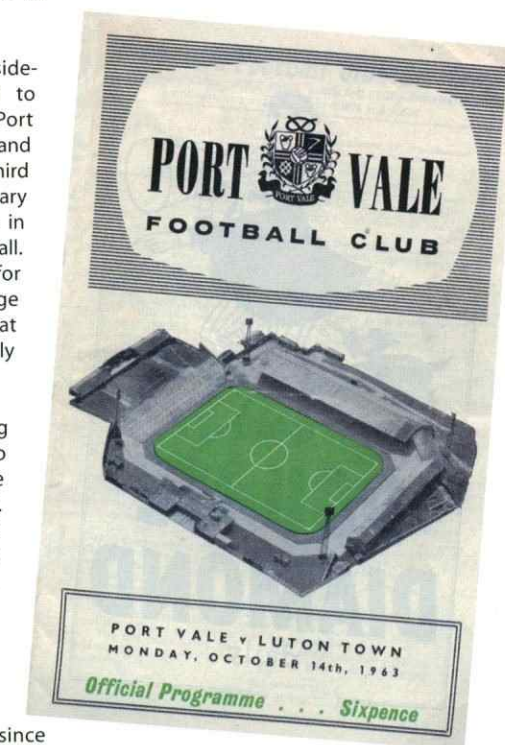
STAN STEELE: Inside-forward who moved to South African side Port Elizabeth in April 1965 and briefly returned for a third spell at Port Vale in January 1968, scoring 88 goals in 335 League games overall. He then played for Eastwood and Armitage before coaching Great Harwood and lives locally in retirement.

TERRY HARKIN: Young centre-forward who moved to Crewe Alexandra in June 1964. The Northern Ireland international later played for Cardiff City, Notts County, Southport, Shrewsbury, Finn Harps, Toronto Metros and Dundalk. He was a director of Derry City and has since managed a shoe shop in Derry.

ALBERT CHEESBROUGH: Former England U-23 international who netted

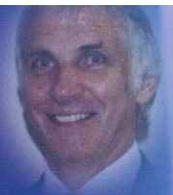
13 goals in 57 Third Division games for Port Vale prior to joining Mansfield Town in July 1965. After a broken leg ended his career he became a businessman in Southport where he still lives. His daughter Susan was an international gymnast.

RON SMITH: Winger who scored six times in 59 League games before joining Southport in July 1965, then played for Altrincham, Netherfield, Formby and Fleetwood Hesketh while employed at Liverpool docks. He lives in Formby and is involved with Everton's football in the community residential courses.



Our Visitors today are.....

With Tony Matthews



Text your Man of the Match. Just type in TXT2 and the players surname to 83222

This afternoon we welcome Luton Town - the Hatters - to town for what is a vital game for both clubs in different ways...they need a win to keep in touch with the teams chasing a play-off place while the Valiants require three points as they bid to pull clear of the relegation zone.

Three months ago Luton were languishing just above the halfway mark in the Division with 25 points from 17 games.

Since early November their form has improved ten-fold and now they are on something of a roll, having gained 19 points from their last 11 matches to edge upwards and confidently into eighth position.

Their away form is useful - seven wins and four draws from 15 attempts with their last trip on the road ending all-square at Peterborough.

Manager Joe Kinnear - in charge at Kenilworth Road for a little over two years, since January 2001 - has assembled a pretty useful squad, on limited resources it must be said, and he believes it's now good and strong enough to win promotion.

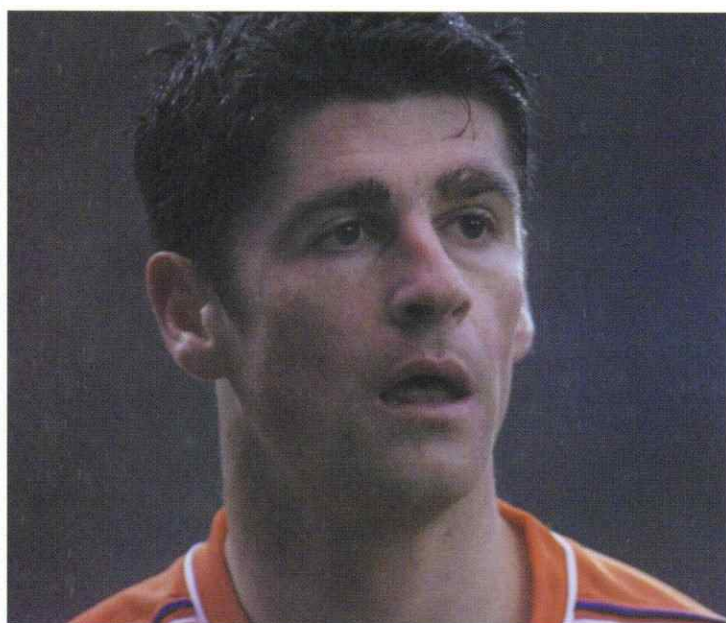
Said the former Tottenham Hotspur right-back and Wimbledon boss: "We are a very hard working side. We train with grim determination, defend well and overall we cope with confidence. Our attack is perhaps not as lethal as I would like it to be, but the midfielders certainly do the business and I feel that is a key department where a lot of matches are won and lost

"We were put under a lot of pressure by Wycombe Wanderers recently. They tossed in a lot of long throws and high centres and my defenders dealt with everything in a positive way. Prior to that, when winning at Barnsley - for the first time in 51 years incidentally -

we were reduced to ten men and again we battled hard and resiliently at the back and also in centre-field. This was one of our best displays for some time."

THE SQUAD

The players who have grafted hard and long for the Hatters over the past month have been goalkeepers **Carl Emberson** (ex-Millwall, Colchester United and Walsall - he is likely to be suspended today following his red card at Oakwell) and **Mark Overdale** (formerly of Northampton Town and Bournemouth); defenders **Emerson Boyce** (almost 150 games for the club), **Dave Bayliss** (once of Rochdale), **Ian Hillier** (signed from Spurs in 2001), **Russell Perrett** (72 League outings for Portsmouth and 29 for Cardiff before moving to Kenilworth Road), Welsh international **Alan Neilson** (ex-Newcastle, Southampton and Fulham), Aussie **Chris Coyne** (the former West Ham and Dundee star), **Alan Kimble** (now aged 36 who has almost 650 senior appearances to his credit, amassed with a variety of clubs), **Aaron Skelton** (who has 150 League games under his belt), **Steve Robinson** (signed from Preston six months ago) and **Sol Davis** (a 23 year-old from Cheltenham), midfielders **Matthew Spring** (over 200 League outings for the Hatters), **Kevin Nicholls** (a former England Youth international, once of Charlton), the Croatian **Ahmet Brkovic**, **Paul Hughes** (who in the past has served with Chelsea, Southampton and Norwich City), teenager **Michael Leary** and another youngster, **Lee Mansell**, and strikers **Tony Thorpe** (in his third spell at the club), journeyman **Carl Griffiths** (a former Vale player of course), **Steve Howard** (top scorer last season), **Andrew Fotiadis** (who has over 70 substitute appearances to his name) and **Dean Crowe** (ex-Stoke City, Northampton Town and Plymouth Argyle). Prior to that French 'keeper **Cedric Berthelin** had also played.



Steve Robinson

Luton Town

Text your Man of the Match. Just type in TXT2 and the players surname to 83222

ONES TO WATCH

• **MATTHEW SPRING**, aged 23, has been at Kenilworth Road since 1995 and a professional with the Hatters since July 1997. A 100 per-cent competitor in the engine-room, he has now appeared in almost 250 senior games for the club and has netted his fair share of goals (25). He is on a two-year contract with Luton and already this season has produced some exhilarating performances.

• **STEVE ROBINSON** was signed from Preston North End last summer having earlier played twice for Tottenham Hotspur in the Premiership and also for Bournemouth as well as having a loan spell with Bristol City. A Northern Ireland international at five different levels (including five appearances in the senior side) he was born in Lisburn in December 1974 and was at White Hart Lane until 1994. He then appeared in 286 first-class matches for Bournemouth (60 goals scored) and although he never really settled down at Deepdale, he is now back on the goal trail and to date has netted more than 70 times in major competitions for his five clubs.

• **STEVE HOWARD** is a 6ft 2in, 14st 6lbs striker who has now scored in excess of 80 goals in a 'League' career that began at Hartlepool in 1995 (following his transfer from Tow Law Town). After four years at The Victoria Ground (162 appearances) he was sold to Northampton Town for £120,000 and in his two years at Sixfields added a further 85 games to his tally before his move to Luton in March 2001 for £50,000. He was the Hatters' leading marksman last season with 24 goals and was voted the club's 'Player of the Year' and players' 'Player of the Season' in 2002. So far this term Howard, strong and competitive, has notched 14 goals and is again Luton's leading scorer.



Matthew Spring



Joe Kinnear

THE BOSS

Joe Kinnear appeared in 196 League games for Spurs and 16 for Brighton & Hove Albion during a career that spanned 13 years (1963-76). Born in Dublin in December 1946, he started out with St Albans City and moved to Spurs (as an apprentice, turning professional in February 1965. An FA Cup winner in 1967 (v. Chelsea), a League Cup winner in 1971 (v. Aston Villa) and a UEFA Cup winner in 1972 (v. Wolves) he also won 25 caps for Eire and after retiring (in 1976) he coached in the UAE and Malaysia before becoming working as coach, assistant-manager and caretaker-manager at Doncaster Rovers. After a brief coaching appointment and then assistant-boss at Wimbledon, he was appointed manager at Plough Lane in 1992 and stayed until 1999 before suffering heart problems which forced him to relinquish his position. After a brief sojourn he returned to the fray with the Hatters and is now hoping to lift the Hatters back into the First Division where they haven't played since 1996.



Just Visiting

With Gerrard Austin



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Now let me see. Tranmere Rovers, Merseyside's finest well if you don't include Liverpool and Everton I suppose. A club that has had their share of problems in the past but are trying to look to the future.

Prenton Park - a ground with a multitude of newish constructions, from which to view proceedings. The steepest being the Bebbington End, from where players change into 'subbuteo-like' characters if you venture too high. Over the years the club, based close to Birkenhead, has had a youthful fraternity in its stands who generally try their best to annoy those who are slightly wiser and of sound mind. Maybe this is to do with the very reasonable pricing structure in the past, as Rovers attempt to wrestle a few from their more illustrious neighbours.

Column inches of newsprint, websites and message boards alike have been densely populated with enough words to fill a million Oxford English dictionaries this week, as uncertainty through administration keeps rearing its head. Vale had to focus on the job in hand and maybe a glance at the third division trapdoor would be a motivating factor.

Little to talk about in the end though, but I can't be a fraudster any more. The truth is, those column inches I talked of earlier were required on Saturday to produce some of the information as I, with much regret, did not attend the Prenton Park occasion.

Now as for why is slightly difficult to explain. Yes I had work commitments, but I remember the days when if it

was 4.30 pm on a Tuesday night, I would propel my vehicle towards Tranmere or even Ipswich or Portsmouth.

Is all the talk of takeovers wearing me down? Am I being unsettled for once in my life by my beloved club? Is it the constant reading of a tome akin to War and Peace when the local paper drops at my door? I've always wanted the Vale on the front page, but not in these circumstances. I can never remember this happening in all my Vale-filled days. Devotion to duty for all in black and white to me is all consuming, but am I really showing weakness when they need me most. I'm sure I'm not, but to be afflicted by what I shall call Valeapathitis leaves me with a curious feeling of, is it contagious? or is it terminal? I'll have to visit the quack soon. Anybody feeling the same? Let me know the cure.

So I'm left with talk of takeovers, but it's all been done. Us staunch Valeites await the right result to the most important game of the season. Stoke City maybe in a different division for the moment, but it would appear that their involvement in being the solution to our long-term survival creates a new cup fixture we didn't want. I didn't think we'd need to beat the Potters this season unless we drew them in the cup. Instead, they could be our most difficult opponent within our own survival.

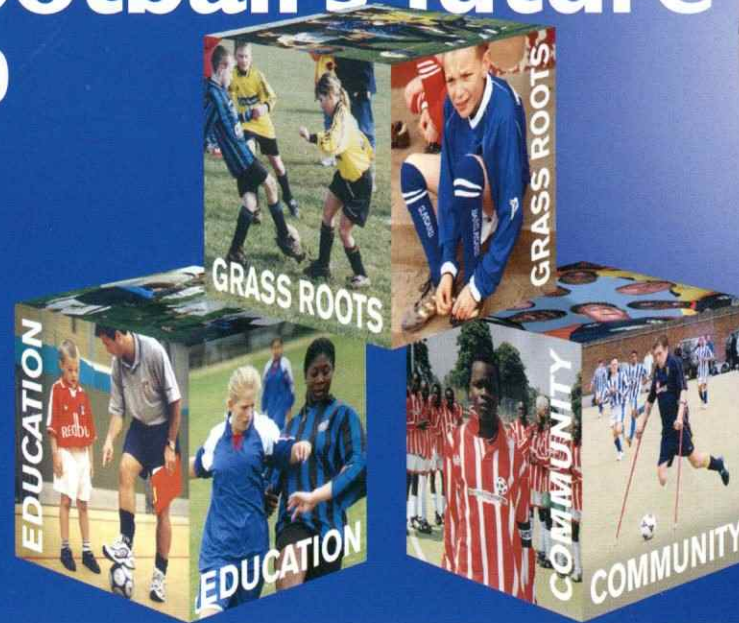
The 'Men from the Ministry' have to make decisions and it can't stretch on forever, straining the sinews of all emotion in all those who have a passion for this club of 127 years old. To you, Bob Young, don't complain

about the sack-fulls of correspondence you have received over the past few weeks. Passions are running high at present and whilst you may see not as many as the club likes going through the turnstiles, you have to realise that there is much recent history that Port Vale fans have had to disappoint them. Bridges have to be rebuilt and that's why the new broom must sweep clean, but the house must still have the sign Port Vale over the door and its address must still be Vale Park, Hamill Road, Burslem, Stoke on Trent. It must not move into uncomfortable lodgings in a land foreign to its followers.

So back to Teletext and Sean McClare gave Vale a defeat, but the only reflection from my self-reliant media moguls was that at least we only scored one own goal in 90 minutes. At the Stadium of Light however, the 'Black Cats' of Sunderland managed three in NINE minutes. So much for the lucky feline. I know one Geordie who'll be happy with that though.



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This weeks diary

Monday 3rd February

Schools Coaching
Dilthorne Endowed school
St Lukes primary school
After schools coaching
Bursley primary school
Summerbank primary school
Biddulph High school

Tuesday 4th February

Schools coaching
Abbey Hulton primary school
Goldenhill primary school
The Grove primary school
After schools coaching
Endon High school

Wednesday 5th February

Schools coaching
Forest Park primary
Smallthorne primary school
After schools coaching
Sir John Baskeyfield
Woodcroft First school
Haywood High school
Northwood Stadium

Thursday 6th February

Schools coaching
St Marks primary
Forsbrook primary school
After schools coaching
St Mary's primary
Goldenhill primary school
Dimensions Leisure Centre
Valiant girls training

Friday 7th February

Schools coaching
Carmountside primary school
Bursley primary school
Parkhall primary school
After schools coaching
Blurton primary school
Biddulph leisure Centre
Midnight Football
Dimensions Leisure Centre

Saturday 8th February

Saturday Soccer
Dimensions Leisure Centre
Port Vale F.C Gym

Good Afternoon, a warm welcome to all the Luton Town fans who have made the journey to Vale Park for today's game.

Adidas Community Cup for Girls Under 13

This competition is now entering it's fifth year, the winner of our local competition will represent Port Vale in the Area Final and if successful will be part way down the road to reaching the Grand Final at the Millennium Stadium. Local school's who have entered this years local competition include Holden Lane High School, St Margaret Ward High School, Haywood High School, Churnet View Middle School, Clayton High School, Wolstanton High School, St Joseph's College and Dilthorne Endowed School.



Girls can play football !Grove Primary School girls taking time out from a community scheme coaching session at Northwood Stadium

Forthcoming Holiday Courses

17th - 21st February

- Biddulph Leisure Centre SOLD OUT
- Dimensions Leisure Centre
- Fenton Manor Sports Centre

17th - 19th February

Congleton High School

19th February

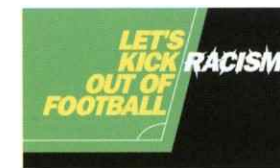
Woodcroft First School - Leek SOLD OUT

• Denotes courses which includes a trip to a Premiership football club.

Children from age 6 to 13 years can apply for places on the above courses, Booking Forms are available from each of the venues



RAILTRACK
SAFETY IS OUR GOAL



Railtrack Playsafe Six a Side Competition Update

This year's Area Final is being hosted by Manchester United at The Cliffe Training Ground. Youngsters from our local winners Meir Heath Primary school will have the opportunity to wear their Vale shirts with pride as they play at a venue which has witnessed the skills of all time greats like Bobby Charlton, George Best, Denis Law, Roy Keane, David Beckham and Ryan Giggs to name a few. Teams who have been drawn in their group include Stockport County, Manchester City, Rochdale and Oldham Athletic.

Good Luck lads!

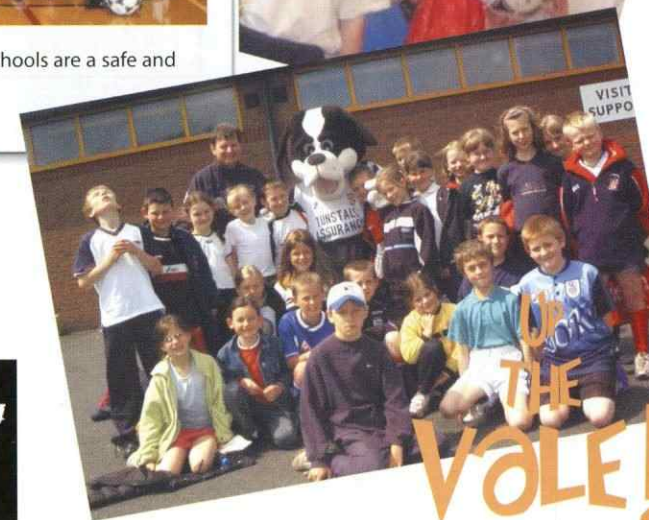
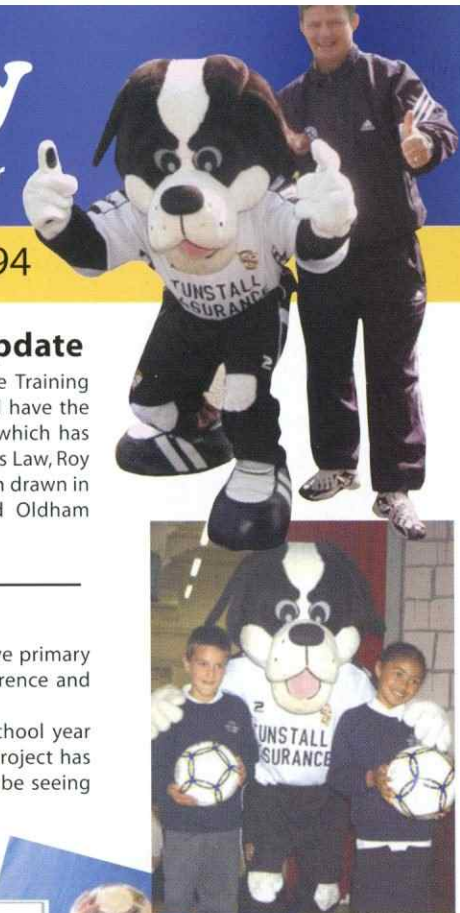
Vale Community Scheme SCORE again

The latest school to sign up to our schools coaching programme is Belgrave primary in Lightwood. This is a new school and is an amalgamation of the old Florence and Dresden schools.

Participating schools receive weekly coaching sessions throughout the school year and have the opportunity to make regular match visits to Vale Park. This project has run for two years now and has been extremely popular, I am sure we will be seeing other schools applying to join in the very near future.



Port Vale F.C Football in the Community Soccer Schools are a safe and enjoyable diversion for children during the half term break.





Team Check

www.port-vale.co.uk www.valeshop.com

Referee

L. S. Mason

Officials

Assistant Referees

D. Naylor

A. R. Parker

Reserve Official

D. G. Cooke



The Mascot



Name: Callum Rollings
From: Sneyd Green
DOB: 07-02-96
School: Hamilton Infants
Favourite Players: Marc Bridge-Wilkinson, Ian Armstrong
Hobbies: Football, Swimming



Name: Mitchell Underwood
From: Tunstall
DOB: 20-12-95
School: Summerbank, Tunstall
Favourite Player: Mark Goodlad
Hobbies: Football, Cricket, Computers

For more information of mascot packages contact
the Marketing Department 01782 835524

Official Travel Coach

Destination: QPR
Saturday 15th February,
Departs: 10.30am
Adults £13, Concessions £11

TICKETS
Adults £7
Concessions £2

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Port Vale

1. Mark Goodlad	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Matt Carragher	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Rae Ingram	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Sean McClare	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Michael Walsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Sam Collins	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Neil Brisco	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Michael Cummins	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Stephen Brooker	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Steve McPhee	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Marc Bridge-Wilkinson	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Dean Delaney	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Levi Reid	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Mark Boyd	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Ian Armstrong	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Steven Rowland	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Paul Byrne	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Billy Paynter	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Phil Charnock	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. John Durnin	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Liam Burns	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Ryan Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Ian Brightwell	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Chris Birchall	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Simon Eldershaw	<input type="checkbox"/>
50. Iain McIntosh	<input type="checkbox"/>

Luton Town

1. Mark Owendale	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Aaron Skelton	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Alan Neilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Matthew Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Russell Perrett	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Marvin Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Adrian Forbes	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Kevin Nicholls	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Tony Thorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Carl Griffiths	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Steve Robinson	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Chris Coyne	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Andrew Fotiadis	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Dean Crowe	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Carl Emberson	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Emmerson Boyce	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Ahmet Brkovic	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Steve Howard	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Peter Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Paul Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. David Bayliss	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Ian Hillier	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Sol Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Alan Kimble	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Lee Mansell	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. Robert Gillman	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. Chris Willmott	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Michael Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. Stephen O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>
40. James Osborn	<input type="checkbox"/>



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HIGHLIGHTS**

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A World of Surprises

The recent heavy rain, frosts and snow have restricted the games being played in the North Central conference that Vale's U19s play in. However the initial league stage is coming to a close with some clubs already having completed their fixtures whilst others still have 4 games to play. The current table shows Vale sitting at the top with only one game to play, however Mansfield are only a point behind with 2 games in hand and a home fixture against bottom of the table Wrexham to come next. The likely outcome is that Mansfield will finish top with Vale as runners up but we can but hope that they slip up in a couple of their final games and Vale win their final game, also at home to Wrexham, to take the title.

Vale's two games this year have seen a 3-2 win at Mansfield to complete the double over them in the league and a 1-0 win at Chester

last Saturday. The game at Mansfield was won 3-2 by a last minute strike by Ryan Brown after Vale had been pegged back twice, through their own mistakes, after taking the lead. The first Vale scorer was Simon Eldershaw and the second was Chris Rowley, but unfortunately this was in his own net! Eldershaw again put the Vale ahead but Ben Sly mishandled resulting in a penalty to pull Mansfield level again. Shaun Dooxey had hit the post before a 25 yarder from Brown into the top corner sealed it for the Vale.

Vale have also been to Chester and won 1-0 courtesy of another goal by Simon Eldershaw. Lets hope he can get on the sheet again at Tranmere in the 5th round of the FA Youth Cup in 10 days time. Vale will finish at least second as Rotherham have completed their fixtures and were the only team to get hear Vale and Mansfield. Once these fixtures are

completed the Merit section of the competition begins but hopefully we will by then be looking forward to a quarter final tie at Old Trafford in the Youth Cup.

Vale have reached the quarter finals twice before but not for 25 years. The first occasion was back in 1966/7 when after defeating a talented Coventry side including Willie Carr, Vale's youngsters were kicked off the Vale park pitch for a 0-0 draw with an uncompromising Scunthorpe side in the quarter final and lost the replay. The last time was 1977/78 when we went out at Crystal Palace who had a side including Terry Fenwick and Vince Hilaire. Vale's line-up included Phil Sproson, Russel Bromage and Neville Chamberlain but we still lost 0-3.

01.02.03	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
PORT VALE	17	12	2	3	42	28	14	38
MANSFIELD TOWN	15	12	1	2	37	20	17	37
ROTHERHAM UNITED	18	10	3	5	49	31	18	33
DONCASTER ROVERS	18	5	5	8	33	33	0	20
NOTTS COUNTY	15	5	4	6	32	33	-1	19
SHREWSBURY TOWN	15	4	7	4	28	30	-2	19
CHESTERFIELD	14	5	1	8	18	26	-8	16
CHESTER CITY	16	4	3	9	17	32	-15	15
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	14	2	5	7	16	23	-7	11
WREXHAM	14	3	1	10	18	34	-16	10

Programme Nostalgia

www.port-vale.co.uk www.valeshop.com

Part 16 of a series by the Editor of "Programme Monthly & Football Collectable" magazine

WHAT TO COLLECT - FOREIGN PROGRAMMES

Enthusiastic collectors clubs are run from Holland, Germany and Scandinavia, but the real hot-bed of programme collecting is to be found in the British Isles. Despite the European "Single Market" and the so-called shrinking globe, there is still a reluctance for programme collectors to embrace continental programmes.

The exception to this is when British clubs play in European competitions, and when clubs undertake friendly matches abroad. A brisk market for such items exists, with dealers and club shops making special arrangements to import sufficient quantities of programmes. While these are invariably expensive in comparison with domestic programmes, buying from dealers is considerably cheaper and more convenient than attempting to obtain programmes direct from the foreign clubs.

The best method of obtaining domestic programmes from overseas is by befriending a programme collector in another country. These people often write to British clubs, who in turn print their requests for new friends in their match programmes. A few of the continent's more prominent collectors make themselves known to British dealers, programme magazines and clubs etc. and they are invariably willing to assist, where possible, in obtaining foreign programmes for British collectors.

Purchasing programmes direct from clubs on the continent is comparatively difficult. British Postal Orders or cheques are unlikely to be accepted, and the main "currency" in such matters is International Reply Coupons, which are obtainable at any post office at a cost of around 40p each. These, in turn, may be redeemed at any foreign post office for the cost of

postage back to Britain. If you have obtained the address of a foreign club, a request for programmes should be accompanied by 4 or 5 IRC's in lieu of payment.

As stated before, however, such a method of obtaining programmes from abroad is painfully slow and unreliable. Using contacts within programme collecting, and searching for issues in dealers lists, is the best way of obtaining foreign issues for your collection.

* "Programme Monthly & Football Collectable" contains up to 160 pages each month on all aspects of programme collecting. The current edition is available priced £2.50 (inclusive of postage) from 46 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 1TL or send 9 x 1st class stamps. www.pmfc.co.uk

check out the stats @
www.soccer-stats.com

Most Scoring chances per game

	On Target	Off T		On Target	Off T
Wigan	6.47	7.23	Luton	5.25	5.29
Cardiff	6.45	6.14	Oldham	4.63	5.63
Crewe	6.70	5.77	Huddersfield	5.10	5.07
Plymouth	5.59	6.86	Swindon	5.03	4.93
Barnsley	5.86	6.24	Stockport	5.17	4.50
QPR	5.43	6.30	Cheltenham	5.34	4.31
Mansfield	6.17	5.40	Port Vale	4.61	5.00
Blackpool	5.48	5.31	Northampton	4.80	4.70
Wycombe	5.50	5.17	Notts County	5.07	4.37
Bristol City	5.48	5.17	Chesterfield	4.00	4.41
Peterborough	5.67	4.97	Colchester	3.93	4.14
Tranmere	5.53	5.03	Brentford	3.30	4.37

TOP GOALSCORERS

Long range shots

Player	Club	Tot	Player	Club	Tot
Zola	Chelsea	6	Ferguson	Rangers	8
Liddell	Wigan	5	Alexander	Preston	6
Tudor	Cambridge	5	Beattie	Soton	5
Henry	Arsenal	4	Blake	Burnley	5
Shearer	Newcastle	4	Dickov	Leicester	5
Mulryne	Norwich	4	Merson	Portsmouth	4
Brown	Sheff Utd	4	Sonner	Walsall	4
Corden	Mansfield	4	Hunt	Brentford	4
Langley	QPR	4	Tinnion	Bristol City	4
Simpson	Rochdale	4	Keith	Colchester	4
Lowe	Rushden	4	Eyres	Oldham	4
Burns	Partick	4	Parkin	Swindon	4
			Brown	Wycombe	4
			Crosby	Oxford	4
			Morrell	Wrexham	4
			Duffield	York	4

Average
Shots On
and Off
target per
game

Goals in last 15 Mins of match

FOR	76-90	Tot	%	AGAINST	76-90	Tot	%
Peterborough	12	31	39	Chesterfield	12	36	33
Huddersfield	7	21	33	Northampton	14	47	30
Bristol City	17	53	32	Plymouth	10	34	29
Luton	13	42	31	Cardiff	7	24	29
Blackpool	11	38	29	Tranmere	13	45	29
Wycombe	12	43	28	Brentford	8	30	27
Tranmere	11	41	27	Mansfield	17	64	27
Oldham	12	46	26	Crewe	7	27	26
Notts County	11	43	26	Huddersfield	9	35	26
Swindon	10	41	24	Peterborough	10	39	26
Cardiff	11	46	24	Swindon	11	43	26
				Stockport	12	51	24
				QPR	8	34	24

ordered by late goals as % of all goals

ordered by late goals as %
of all goals

Goals from Set Pieces for and against

SCORED	Co	FK	CONCEDED	Co	FK
Plymouth	10	6	Mansfield	10	10
Crewe	3	12	Blackpool	7	8
Brentford	7	6	Huddersfield	6	8
Oldham	7	6	Cheltenham	7	5
Wigan	6	6	Northampton	2	10
Bristol City	4	7	Barnsley	3	7
Wycombe	7	4	Stockport	9	1
Blackpool	9	1	Cardiff	3	6
Mansfield	2	7	Notts County	5	4
Notts County	2	7	Peterborough	6	3
QPR	4	5	Port Vale	7	2
Swindon	6	3	Swindon	2	7
Tranmere	4	5			

Co = Corners FK = Free Kick Routines

Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1gl	2gl	3gl	4gl	5+gl
Wigan	9	11	1	0	0
Crewe	6	7	2	1	1
Cardiff	11	2	1	3	0
Oldham	9	3	0	2	1
Bristol City	5	5	4	1	0
QPR	5	7	1	1	0
Tranmere	8	2	2	1	0
Blackpool	5	4	3	0	0
Luton	8	2	2	0	0
Chesterfield	9	1	0	1	0
Plymouth	6	4	1	0	0
Brentford	7	2	0	0	1
Wycombe	4	4	1	0	1
Swindon	5	3	2	0	0
Mansfield	4	2	0	1	1
Stockport	4	2	1	1	0
Northampton	4	1	3	0	0
Port Vale	7	1	0	0	0
Peterborough	4	1	1	1	0
Barnsley	6	1	0	0	0
Huddersfield	5	1	1	0	0
Cheltenham	3	3	0	0	0
Colchester	5	1	0	0	0
Notts County	3	0	3	0	0

Scorers' Points Gained & Scoring Run

Club	Gls	Gl/gm	Pts	Run	1stG
Robert Earnshaw	23	0.79	17	3	6
Sam Parkin	17	0.63	16	6	5
Rob Hulse	19	0.76	14	4	7
Luke Beckett	22	0.73	12	4	10
Steven Howard	14	0.54	10	4	7
Martin Smith	9	0.41	10	1	4
Mark Stallard	14	0.48	9	3	3
Simon Haworth	14	0.56	9	8	4
Andy Clarke	12	0.41	8	3	3
Andy Liddell	12	0.50	8	2	6

eg if player scores the goal in a 1-0 win, the goal is worth 2 pts as score would have been 0-0, or if 2 goals in 2-1 win, goals worth 3 pts. Also shown is goals per game figure and number of games player scored 1st goal

COMEBACKS

Won from	-3	-2	-1	Tot
Luton	0	0	5	5
Blackpool	0	0	4	4
Mansfield	0	0	4	4
Tranmere	0	0	4	4
Bristol City	0	1	2	3
Port Vale	0	0	3	3
QPR	0	0	3	3
Swindon	0	0	3	3

THROWAWAYS

Lost from	+3	+2	+1	Tot
Barnsley	0	0	5	5
Cheltenham	0	0	5	5
Stockport	0	1	3	4
Notts County	0	0	4	4
Mansfield	0	1	2	3
Chesterfield	0	0	3	3
Luton	0	0	3	3
Plymouth	0	0	3	3

number of games when clubs have come behind to win or been ahead and lost

Fouls and Offsides per game

avg. fouls per game	avg. offsides per game
Tranmere 14.53	Luton 5.11
Luton 14.11	Barnsley 4.45
Brentford 13.78	Tranmere 4.17
Wycombe 13.70	Peterborough 4.03
Oldham 13.57	Wycombe 3.70
Notts County 13.40	Cheltenham 3.66
Swindon 13.30	Crewe 3.63
QPR 13.03	Stockport 3.60
Bristol City 12.90	Brentford 3.33
Mansfield 12.70	Plymouth 3.31
Chesterfield 12.59	Oldham 3.27
Barnsley 12.34	Swindon 3.13
Northampton 12.27	Northampton 3.10
Plymouth 12.07	Colchester 3.03



Head 2 Head

www.port-vale.co.uk www.valeshop.com

Port Vale v Luton Town

Location <http://www.soccer-stats.com/headtohead>

SP SP

For/Against Goalscoring Home/Away Top Scorer Form Guide Discipline Attendances Swings/Margins Miscellaneous



Clubs Comparison

	Goals Scored	
13	Shots	27
8	Headers	8
7	Volleys	5
3	Penalties	2
0	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	0

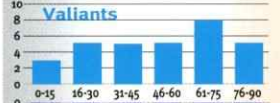
Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored



Form Guide - Last 6

1	Won	4
2	Drawn	1
3	Lost	1
4	For	10
6	Against	6
5	Points	13
-2	Goal Difference	4
LLDWDL	Sequence	WWLWWD

	Yellow & Red Cards	
38	Yellow	55
3	Red	5



2002-2003 Attendances

	Valiants	Aggregate	Hatters
60,211			89,449
6,395			9,477
3,328			5,890
4,632			6,881
25	% of Capacity		69

Average Goals per game

	For	Against
1.11	Home For	1.50
1.15	Away For	1.62
1.07	Home Against	1.40
1.46	Away Against	1.29
1.38		1.15
1.53		1.40

2002-2003 Figures

	Valiants	Hatters
25	Players Used	34
7	Clean Sheets	10
7	Failed to Score	5
3	Goals scored from...	6
2	Corners	2
7	Free Kicks	2
2	Goals conceded from...	2
7	Corners	2
2	Free Kicks	4

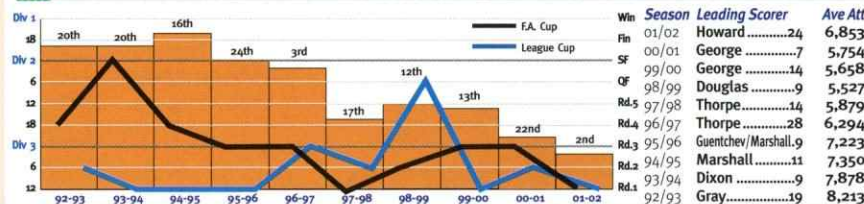
10 Year Record

Valiants	Avg Pos.	Hatters
44.5	among 92 clubs	53.3
8,323	Avg Att 1993	7,878
4,682	Avg Att 2002	6,842
-44	+ / - %	-13

Top League Scorers

	Hidge-Wilkins	Howard
7	League Goals	14
21	Games Played	26
0.33	Lge Goals/Game	0.54
7	Points Gained	10
1	Scoring Run	4
0	Hat-Tricks	0
1	Close Range	5
6	Inside Area	7
0	Long Range	2
2	Shots	6
1	Headers	5
2	Volleys	3
2	Penalties	0
0	Direct FKs	0

Luton Town's 10 Year History



Swings

	PV	LT
3	Games Won from:	0
0	3 Goals Down	0
2	Goals Down	0
3	1 Goal Down	5

Lost from:

	PV	LT
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
2	1 Goal Up	3

Drawn from:

	PV	LT
0	3 Goals Down	0
0	2 Goals Down	1
4	1 Goal Down	0
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
1	1 Goal Up	3

Margins

	7	8
1	Won by 1 Gl	2
1	Won by 2 Gls	2
0	Won by 3 Gls	2
0	Won by 4 Gls	0
0	Won by 5+ Gls	0
9	Lost by 1 Gl	6
2	Lost by 2 Gls	0
2	Lost by 3 Gls	2
0	Lost by 4 Gls	0
0	Lost by 5+ Gls	0

Misc stats

	9	6
24	Highest Pos.	24
5	Lowest Pos.	5
5	Winning Run	5
4	Unbeaten Run	7
4	Losing Run	4
6	No Win Run	5



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'It's stored in my favourites' - Mark Bright

'A must visit for Vale fans' - Soccersearch

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Anagrams Away

All of the jumbled-up words below have a Luton connection. If you cannot work them out the answers are to be found elsewhere in this programme.

- 1 PRETTY OH NO
- 2 EARN IN JOKE
- 3 HAMSTRING WEPT
- 4 WAVERED SHOT
- 5 BONES CALM ERR
- 6 WONDER ACE
- 7 HOVELS LICK INN
- 8 FORTIES AID DAWN
- 9 ECONOMY EMBERS
- 10 LAND OVER MAKE

Answers on page 30-31

QUIZ FOR LUTON FANS

See if you can answer these Luton-related questions.

Some are easy, others are tricky.

The answers are to be found elsewhere in this programme.

QUESTIONS

- 1 In what season were Luton relegated from Division One?
- 2 Against whom did Joe Payne score his famous ten goals in a match?
- 3 Who managed Luton from 1995-2000?
- 4 Who scored eleven league goals for Luton last season?
- 5 In what year were Luton runners-up in the FA Cup?
- 6 When did Luton win the League Cup?
- 7 Who scored the winning goal against Wycombe two weeks ago?
- 8 Which two players scored league hat-tricks for Luton last season?
- 9 For whom did Luton receive a record fee in 1995?
- 10 Which club record did Luton create between 19th February and 6th April last season?

Answers on page 30-31



Testament of youth

Written by Tom Holdcroft

www.port-vale.co.uk www.valeshop.com

As promised in the last edition I will begin today's article with a pleasant reminder of Vale's giant killing victory over Everton. I'm sure that the majority of you will require very little reminding of what was a magnificent evening. Of course, it all started on a freezing cold day on Merseyside where Vale got the result that was to set up the historical replay. I was unfortunate on that day in the fact that, despite having coach and match tickets, I was unable to attend due to the snow. Watching the final few minutes of that encounter unfold on teletext was pulsating so I imagine that being present must have been extremely exciting. Seeing Duncan Ferguson's late Everton goal appear on the screen was depressing and what followed was merely waiting for the screen to read full time just in case there was a reply, although this was by no means expected. There were scenes of joy in the Holdcroft household when it became apparent that Ian Bogie had somehow equalised for the Vale, as I am sure there was in the away stand at Goodison Park.

There were no such problems with the weather on the night of the replay, although the story of that game could have been very different had Steve Guppy not abandoned his broken down car miles from the ground and ran the rest of the way to the ground. If he was tired from this run whilst playing it certainly didn't show as he was a star performer in Vale's victory that night, setting up Jon McCarthy's winner with a pin point cross.

The game started brightly for Vale culminating in Ian Bogie's opening goal, struck from long range. It was somewhat baffling that Bogie was so reluctant to shoot from range throughout his Vale career given his strikes against Everton both finding the net, his goalscoring record at Leyton Orient prior to joining Vale was also good.

In-between Vale's goals was an equaliser for Graham Stuart, but Vale thoroughly

deserved to win the game after dominating for long periods of the game. There was an excellent crowd at Vale Park that night and, at this point, Vale were playing attractive, attacking football with the exciting two wingers, McCarthy and Guppy wreaking havoc in opposition defences. Guppy moved on to enjoy a successful spell with Leicester, which saw him capped by England, and is still a part of the first team squad at one of the biggest clubs in Britain, Celtic. McCarthy, on the other hand, didn't manage as big a move, joining Birmingham and never reaching the Premiership level he seemed destined for.

Two broken legs didn't help his cause, although he did have a short, successful spell in the team shortly after his move, including playing a major part in Birmingham's hilarious 7-0 win at Stoke. Despite the short length of 'Super Jon's' period at Vale at the beginning of this season it was great to see him in a Vale shirt again and he will always be a hero here at Vale Park.

Our visitors, Luton, our no strangers to cup upsets having taken the trip to Wembley for an F.A Cup semi final against Chelsea whilst in the lower reaches of the First Division in the mid nineties. The notable scalps of West Ham and Newcastle were taken during this run, both of which were memorable games covered live on Sky. The West Ham game particularly is one that sticks in my mind, I can remember to this day lying in front of the

television fixated on an excellent game of football, rooting for Luton to record an upset. The name of Scott Oakes must be mentioned as he scored a hat trick from midfield and, if my memory serves me correctly, was also on the score sheet against Newcastle.

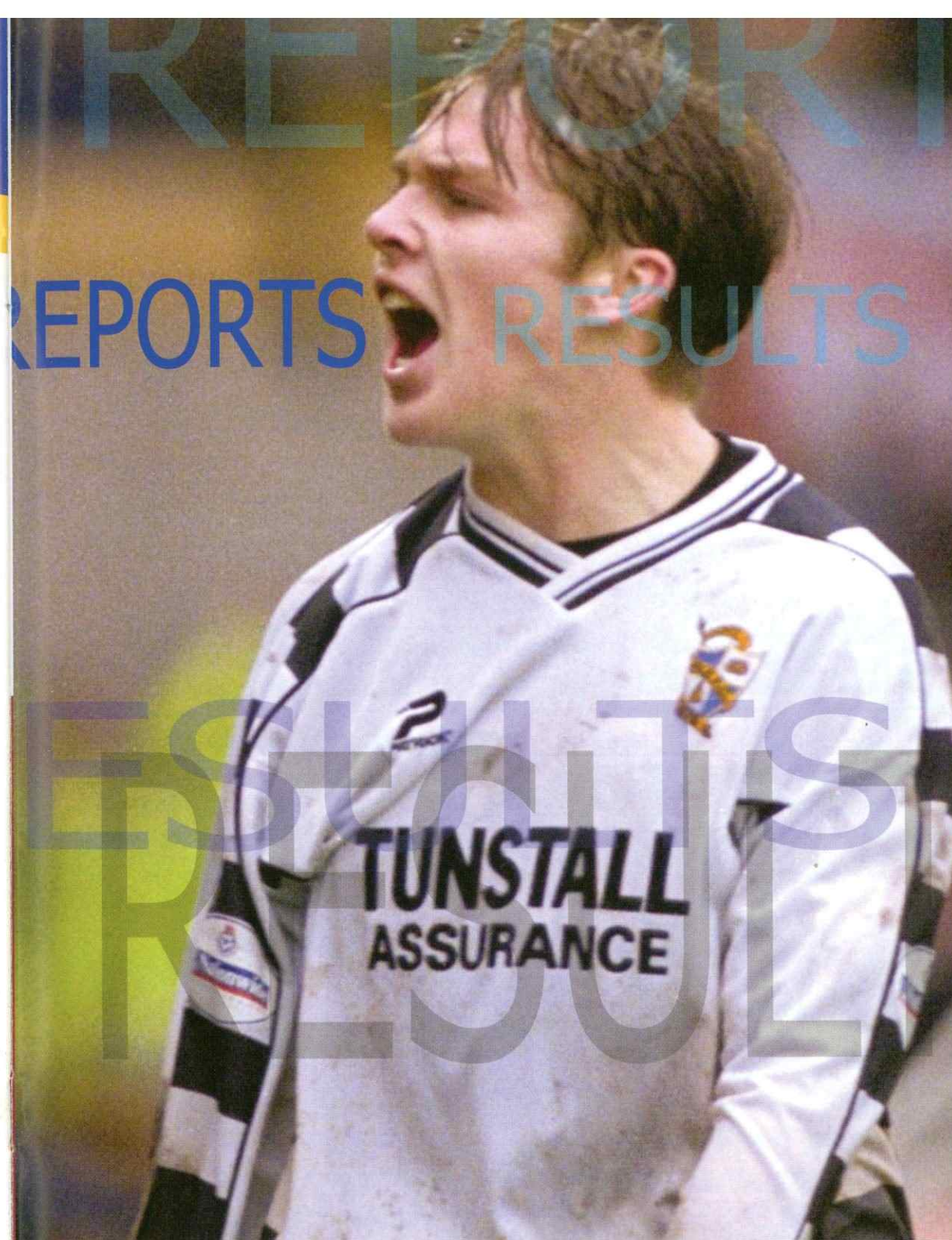
It is great to see Joe Kinnear back in football management after a heart attack, long may his return continue and I wish him every success with Luton, of course excluding this afternoon.

Up the Vale!

Tom



Steve Guppy



Sentinel
SUNDAY

GREEN 'UN

Marketing

Match Sponsors

We would like to offer a warm welcome to today's match sponsors and would like to thank them for their support of Port Vale Football Club. We hope they enjoy today's game.

C Edwards and Family

Matchball Sponsor

Today's Matchball Sponsor is C. Rollings, Building Contractor. They will present the ball to the Match Officials before the game and have their photographs taken with the team captains. We hope they enjoy their time at Vale Park

C. Rollings Building Contractor

Watch the Vale in Style

You can hire an executive box for a match of your choice - The package includes a pre-match silver service meal, complimentary programmes, half-time refreshments and access to the restaurant to witness the post-match Man-of-the-Match awards. For further details contact the marketing department.

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- P.A. System Messages

For more information call the Marketing Department now on 01782 835524.

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Clinic In A Box

Port Vale Football Club and local health services are teaming up to help young people have easier access to health information and advice. Nationally recognised as 'best practice' Clinic in a Box is a young person's health clinic that visits youth venues across north Staffs, but this is the first time a football club has opened its doors to the scheme.

Confidential clinic sessions will be held in the Physiotherapy room in the Lorne St Stand on home match days from January 2003. Viv Bradford, leader of this North Staffordshire - wide Teenage Pregnancy initiative says: "Port Vale FC not only has an excellent track record of working in partnerships with other agencies to the benefit of the local community, but sits within one of the local target areas, and was a natural choice for this innovative and ground breaking idea."

It is hoped that by working with the Football Club Clinic in a Box will attract a new group of young people who can take advantage of the expertise of a fully trained nurse and receive information and advice on their diet, how to reduce or quit smoking, drugs or alcohol and about cancer prevention, relationships and sexual health. They may also be able to receive condoms and emergency contraception following a discussion with the nurse.

All enquiries about Clinic in a Box or the service at Port Vale FC should be directed to Viv Bradford at the Teenage Pregnancy Team on 01782 400520

Youth Team News

The youth team's fifth round FA Youth Cup clash with Tranmere Rovers will take place on Tuesday 18th February 2003. Tickets are priced at £3 adults and £1 concessions.

Those wishing to travel with the Official Travel Coach can purchase tickets from the club shop they are priced at £8 for adults and £6 concessions. The coaches depart for Tranmere at 5pm and kick off is at 7.30pm.

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The Match Sponsors

Mr Cyril Edwards and Family

Today we welcome Mr Edwards from Boreham Wood, Herfordshire. Cyril has been a Vale fan for over 60 years, he and his late wife Evelyn were one of the main benefactors of the old Disabled Stand.

A plaque bearing their name is now displayed in the new Britannia Disabled Stand.

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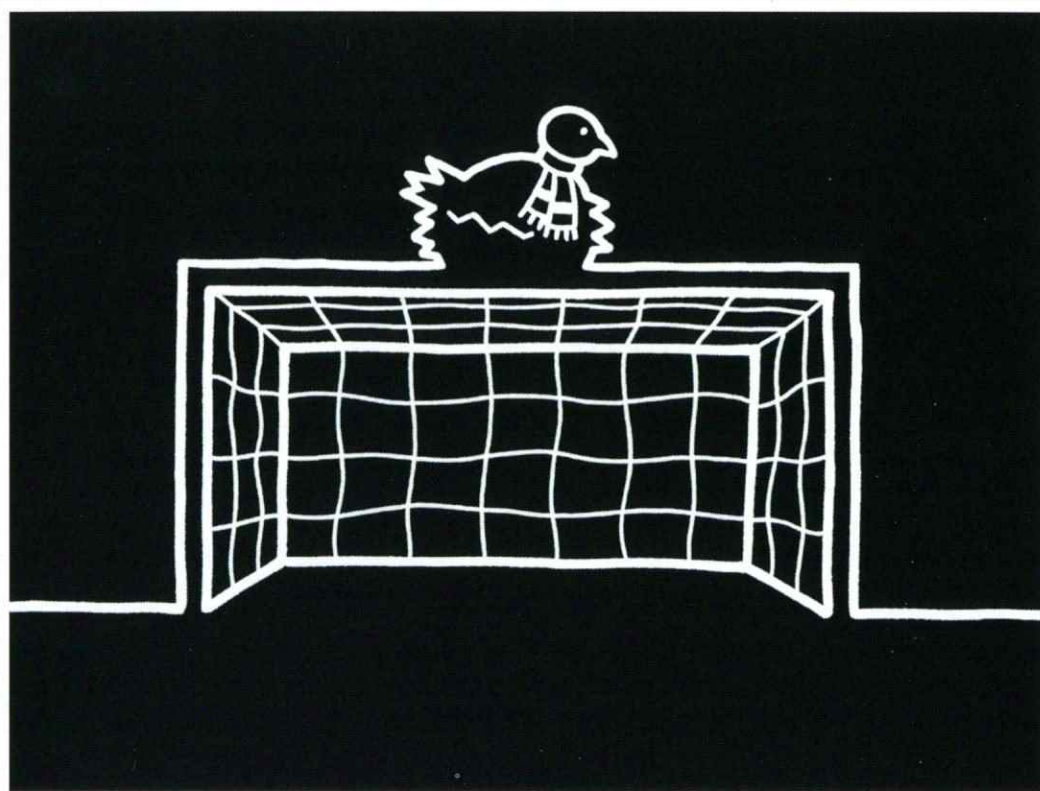
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Vital Statistics 2002/2003



KEY

- Started the game
- Sub not used
- Substitute & No.
- Replaced
- No. of goals scored
- Yellow Card
- Red Card
- Sent off 2 yellow

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

	F	A	Position	Attendance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	50
10 Sat	Tranmere	H	1 v 4	24	5,629																									
13 Tues	Cardiff	A	1 v 3	24	13,296																									
17 Sat	Chesterfield	A	1 v 2	24	3,598																									
24 Sat	Stockport	H	0 v 1	24	4,070																									
26 Mon	Wigan	A	1 v 0	22	6,532																									
31 Sat	Peterborough	H	1 v 0	19	3,862																									
7 Sat	Swindon	A	2 v 1	15	5,029																									
10 Tue	Crewe (WC1)	H	0 v 2	15	3,765																									
14 Sat	Colchester	H	1 v 0	11	3,328																									
17 Tues	Notts County	H	3 v 2	9	3,505																									
21 Sat	Blackpool	A	2 v 3	10	7,756																									
28 Sat	Bristol City	H	2 v 3	13	4,268																									
5 Sat	Huddersfield	A	2 v 2	12	9,091																									
12 Sat	Oldham	H	1 v 1	12	5,663																									
19 Sat	Brentford	A	1 v 1	14	5,117																									
22 Tues	Hull City (LDV)	H	3 v 1	14	2,621																									
26 Sat	Crewe	H	1 v 2	14	6,374																									
29 Tues	Cheltenham	A	1 v 0	12	3,852																									
2 Sat	QPR	H	0 v 0	13	4,394																									
9 Sat	Luton	A	0 v 0	13	6,112																									
12 Tues	Chesterfield (LDV)	H	1 v 1	13	2,222																									
16 Sat	Crewe FA Cup	H	0 v 1	13	5,507																									
23 Sat	Northampton	A	0 v 3	16	4,357																									
30 Sat	Mansfield	H	4 v 2	12	3,880																									
10 Tues	Shrewsbury (LDV)	A	1 v 2	12	2,597																									
14 Sat	Wycombe	A	1 v 3	14	5,229																									
21 Sat	Plymouth	H	1 v 2	15	4,892																									
26 Thurs	Wigan	H	0 v 1	18	6,395																									
28 Sat	Barnsley	A	1 v 1	19	9,291																									
1 Wed	Stockport	A	1 v 1	17	4,390																									
18 Sat	Peterborough	A	2 v 1	15	4,770																									
25 Sat	Barnsley	H	0 v 0	15	4,033																									
1 Sat	Tranmere	A	0 v 1	17																										
8 Sat	Luton	H	v																											
15 Sat	QPR	A	v																											
22 Sat	Swindon	H	v																											
1 Sat	Colchester	A	v																											
4 Tues	Notts County	A	v																											
8 Sat	Blackpool	H	v																											
15 Sat	Crewe	A	v																											
18 Tues	Brentford	H	v																											
22 Sat	Cheltenham	H	v																											
29 Sat	Oldham	A	v																											
5 Sat	Mansfield	A	v																											
12 Sat	Northampton	H	v																											
19 Sat	Plymouth	A	v																											
21 Mon	Wycombe	H	v																											
26 Sat	Huddersfield	H	v																											
3 Sat	Bristol City	A	v																											
17 Sat	FA Cup Final		v																											

Happy 25th Birthday to Lurch *alias* Carl Burgess who can be seen behind the counter in the Vale shop, from his friends at Blurton Health Centre

This is an appeal to all Port Vale fans to help save your club. The Lorne Street Stand Fund, run by John Goodall, is in desperate need of helpers to raise money before matches, new ideas and people willing to donate money. This is a genuine appeal by the fund to help save your club. The Lorne Street Fund needs your help, so please don't oppose the fund, be a true Valiant and support it and help finish the stand.

I am a professional collector of football videos and have over 1,000 in my collection. I am desperate to get hold of Port Vale (4) v QPR (4), division 1 from 1997.

If any fans have a copy and would be willing to sell I will buy for a good price.

Mr C Gavriel

If anyone has a copy to sell, Mr Gavriel can be contacted on 0151 630 5331.

Happy 9th Birthday to Port Vale fan Susannah Davies from Church Lawton. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Nick and Michael

Directions to QPR

By Car:

From North M1 onto A406 West, then A40 at Hanger Lane to Central London. Turn off to White City, right into Wood Lane, then right into South Africa Road.

From East A40(M) Westway, then turn off to White City, left into Wood Lane, then right into Africa Road.

From South A3 follow signs for Hammersmith, then A219 to Shepherds bush, then towards White City (Wood Lane) then turn left into South Africa Road.

From West M4 to Chiswick, A315 and A402 to Shepherds Bush, then towards white City (Wood Lane) and left into South Africa Road.

TICKET INFO

IN PERSON
Port Vale Ticket Office
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturdays 9am - 12 noon
Matchdays 9am - 12 noon
*Please note: Tickets for some away matches are available from the Marketing Dept. Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5pm Matchdays 9am - 3pm

BY FAX
You may fax your booking giving credit card and debit card details direct to the Ticket Office
24-hours a day on 01792 814981
*Please note: there is a 4% charge a minimum of £1.50

BY POST
Cheques should be made payable to Port Vale Football Club and sent to: Port Vale Ticket Office, Vale Park, Ham Road, Burton, Leicestershire, LE19 3JW
On all bookings please state match, which stand and the number of seats required (Adult, Juvenile, Student, or OAP) stating any membership numbers.
Please include a DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER and a self-addressed envelope with your application.
Customers collecting tickets from the office will be asked to produce the credit/debit card and sign for the tickets.
To avoid delay customers are advised to collect tickets at least one hour before kick-off.

BY PHONE
Tickets can be booked by telephone using all major credit and debit cards on 01792 811707
*Please note: a 4% charge is charged on all telephone bookings (minimum £1.50). Tickets will be posted out if booked more than four days in advance. During very busy periods there may be a slight delay with your call.
Thank You for being patient

Answers to Anagrams and Quiz

1 TONY THORPE, 2 JOE KINNEAR, 3 MATTHEW SPRING, 4 STEVE HOWARD, 5 CARL EMBERSON, 6 DEAN CROWE, 7 KEVIN NICHOLLS, 8 ANDREW FOTIADIS, 9 EMMERSON BOYCE, 10 MARK OVENDALE
1 1995-96, 2 Bristol Rovers, 3 Lennie Lawrence, 4 Matthew Taylor, 5 1959, 6 1988, 7 Spring, 8 Carl Griffiths and Steve Howard, 9 John Hartson, 10 Twelve successive league wins



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Wednesday 10.00am - 5.00 pm

Saturday 9 am - 12 pm

Don't get caught out again!

Did you travel to the ground for the Cardiff City match, only to return straight home after finding out the game had been postponed? Hundreds of supporters did!

Lots of others were on their way to Vale Park, oblivious to the fact that the referee had called the game off about an hour before kick off, when had they have known before-hand, they could have saved themselves a wasted journey.

But what can you do to ensure you are one of the first to know? Well one idea is to check on the official website www.port-vale.co.uk but lots of people still don't have access to the internet, or don't have the time to check before they set off for the match.

So what other steps can be taken to ensure you don't have a wasted journey? Whether or not the game goes ahead is up to the referee and if he decides to postpone the game late on, there is precious little anybody else can do about it.

But you can take steps to ensure you get to find out as early as possible and save yourself a wasted journey, then you can remain at home, warm and dry, and it won't cost you an arm and a leg either.

How? Simple, just subscribe to our SMS service and join a large number of other Vale fans who have already subscribed and who received a text message to their mobile phones as soon as we heard the Cardiff game had been called off.

OK, some of them had already set off because they live a distance from the ground, but they heard from us before there was anything on their car radios and they were able to turn their vehicles around and head for home immediately.

Some of them were in the pub whilst fellow fans were outside Vale Park getting a soaking from the heavy rain. Who is to say that it won't happen again after a heavy fall of snow?

Want to know more? Just log on to the official website or get a friend to do it for you and click onto our Mobile Zone, where incidentally, you can now download Vale related Ringer Tones and Graphics for your phone.

Don't forget, the money goes into Vale's coffers too, so you won't just be doing yourself a favour, but your club too and in the present financial climate, every penny counts!
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