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vs Luton Town

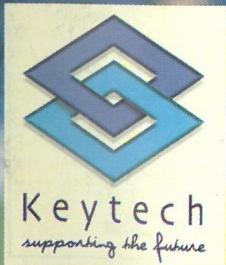
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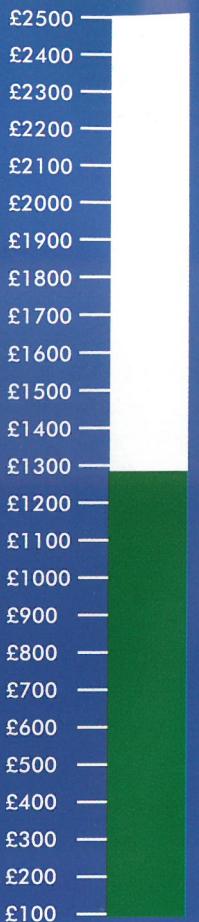
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Contents & Editorial

KEY OF THE DOOR

I WILL be celebrating a special anniversary this week and I'd like to share it with you.

There won't be a party and I don't think I'll get any cards or presents, but it will still be an occasion to savour.

'What is he talking about?' I can see you thinking.

I'm talking about the celebration of my twenty-first. I don't mean my own 21st birthday – that happened years ago – but on Wednesday it will be 21 years since I saw my first ever Rochdale match.

The occasion was Saturday 10th December 1982. I had popped into my local shop for 20p worth of midget gems when the shop assistant, a kind of Granville from 'Open All Hours', asked if I wanted to go to the football with him.

I won't name him for fear of embarrassment but Raymond operates a turnstile at the WMG Stand end of Spotland these days!

My mum said it was OK for

me to go and we set off at around 2.00pm.

Raymond had his own unofficial parking spot next to the Church Inn and in those days, due to sub-1500 crowds, it was always vacant.

We entered through the Pearl Street turnstiles and dropped down to Willbutts Lane, ready for the walk round to 't'Sandy'!

Sometimes I wish we could still do things like that.

Dale were playing Wimbledon in a rearranged fixture. Both teams had been knocked out of the FA Cup so the opportunity was taken to play the game on a Saturday instead of the scheduled Tuesday in March.

I believe Bury have done something similar today!

The game is hazy to the point of oblivion but I do

recall a couple of things.

Wimbledon had this huge goalkeeper called Dave Beasant (Whatever happened to him?) while one of Dale's centre-halves was Bill Williams, who lived just down the road from me.

Dale lost 2-0 and typically the second goal came courtesy of an underhit back-pass from Williams.

I should have known then that following Dale wouldn't be easy!

Although the past 21 years have brought more bad times than good, I've never regretted one minute.

There are things that have been said and done that shouldn't have been, but they usually come out of pride, passion, upset and anger.

There have been times when I thought of packing it all in and spending Saturday afternoon at

home or in the bookies.

But I just couldn't do that and I can't imagine what life would be like without Dale.

I have made lots of new friends and acquaintances in this time and there have been enough arguments and post-mortems to last a lifetime.

I've also been to places I never thought I'd visit, such as Plymouth, Bournemouth, Southend, Gretna, Tamworth and Burnley.

Twenty-first birthdays are a cause for celebration, a time when old memories are dragged out and when future success is toasted.

Applying this to my time watching Dale couldn't be more appropriate.

Mark Wilbraham
(Editor)

THE VOICE OF SPOTLAND

The official matchday programme of Rochdale AFC

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The views expressed in The Voice of Spotland are not necessarily those of the editor or the club.



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“Too often this season we have seen our individual errors punished by the opposition scoring and we must eradicate these mistakes sooner rather than later”



GOOD Afternoon and welcome to today's FA Cup encounter with Luton Town.

Our visitors are undoubtedly looking to establish themselves in the Second Division after their promo-

tion under Joe Kinnear a couple of years ago. Obviously a lot has happened since then and Mike Newell is now in charge of team affairs but in difficult circumstances he is making a good job of re-establishing the club.



Paul Connor returned to training this week

I'm not normally the type of manager who likes to make excuses but today I admit it will be a welcome change to get away from playing in the League. Obviously we have been

on a barren run of late so it is nice to see the back of November and starting a new month with a cup tie. Our win at Bury in the first round of the FA Cup was the highlight of the month but now we face another

players knew their jobs and didn't make individual costly mistakes. Too often this season we have seen our individual errors punished by the opposition scoring and we must eradicate these mistakes soon-

out my managerial career but I can honestly say I have never come across the disciplinary difficulties I have this season. Don't get me wrong, I have worked with individual players who have had disciplinary prob-

bility of including him today is extremely tempting.

Enjoy the game
Alan

Buckley's Brief

difficult task against Luton Town. We must show the same characteristics that were evident at Gigg Lane a month ago.

Looking back on our recent poor results, I honestly feel that in the vast majority of these games the results could have gone either way. Obviously the Southend match is the exception to this but take the Kidderminster, Orient and Swansea games as being examples of what I mean. In all of these fixtures we have enjoyed a great deal of possession but never capitalised on this by scoring at crucial times. I have looked back after a couple of days after the games and wondered how we lost them.

People ask how are Oxford top of the League because they weren't overly impressive last weekend, but the difference is that they played to a set formation and all the

er rather than later.

Everybody right from the Chairman to the supporters at this club wants to see the team winning football matches but losing matches does affect your demeanour. I'm sure all our supporters will agree that when you lose it affects your life for a couple of days. As manager it is my job to raise the players as we approach the next match but nobody can hide from the fact that when you lose it has a negative effect. When you are used to winning, like Oxford have been this season, certain things just come easily to you. This hasn't been the case for us so far.

Injuries and suspensions will once again play a pivotal part in my team selection today as we are without key members of our squad for the reasons just stated. I have managed over 1,000 games through-

lems, but as a team we are paid to play football and not argue with officials. These are the sentiments I echo to the players before and after a game but for some reason my players seem to make reckless errors of judgement that have led to needless bookings and sendings-off. As a player I never had to resort to these tactics myself and as I've said to the players in person, we concede too many free-kicks in general. They have been for petty offences and in the end we get punished for them.

On a positive note, Paul Connor returned to training this week and everybody - Paul included - realise just how important he is to this club as a player. He hasn't played a competitive 90 minutes since mid-September but Paul is the type of player we cannot do to be without. His progress over the last couple of weeks has been tremendous and the possi-



Sean McClare is suspended today after his red card at Southend

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Buckley's Brief





* Luton Town were formed in 1885.

* They gained promotion to the old First Division on three separate occasions.

* Luton once had an artificial pitch installed at Kenilworth Road.

* After rioting Millwall fans caused mayhem there in March 1985, Luton took the drastic decision to ban all away supporters from their ground.

* They won the League Cup in 1988 and were runners-up 12 months later.

Luton Town

AFTER Coventry City in January, Luton became the second former finalists to visit Spotland in the FA Cup inside 12 months.

The Hatters' best ever run in this competition occurred way back in 1959. They started off with a 5-1 thrashing of Leeds in the third round before ousting Leicester after a replay at Kenilworth Road.

In round five Luton went nap again with a 5-2 win at Ipswich, while a replay was required to see off Blackpool in the quarter-final.

The semi-final against Norwich ended all-square at 1-1 but the Hatters gained a single goal victory in the replay to progress to a meeting with Nottingham Forest at Wembley.

Luton had actually beaten Forest 5-1 in a League game a few weeks before the final but this counted for little at Wembley – Forest running out 2-1 winners with David Pacey scoring Luton's goal.

Our visitors have reached the semi-final three times since then, losing on each occasion to Everton (1985), Wimbledon (1988) and Chelsea (1994).

While it is unlikely Luton will reach those heights this season, they will be looking for a good run to boost the coffers and hopefully ease the club out of administration. The Hatters are one of many clubs who have fallen on severe financial hardship in recent times and progress to round three would open up the possibility of landing a tie against one of the game's giants.

Luton overcame a tricky first round tie to make it to Spotland today. They were drawn away to non-league Thurrock in round one and, with the Sky TV cameras present, struggled to a 1-1 draw at Ship Lane.

Indeed, had former Luton player Tresor Kandol not fluffed a fairly straightforward chance in the last minute, we might well have been welcoming the Essex side here today.

In the event Town survived to a replay in which Adrian Forbes netted a hat-trick as the plucky non-leaguers were beaten 3-1 at Kenilworth Road.

That win forms part of an impressive eight-match unbeaten run that Luton will be looking to extend today. They went down to a remarkable 6-3 defeat at Bournemouth on 21st October but since then have won four and drawn four of their eight League and cup games.

Their most recent success came last Saturday when Chesterfield were beaten 1-0 at Kenilworth Road. Former Hartlepool striker Steve Howard netted the game's only goal to ensure Luton have still lost only once at home this term.

That win lifted the Hatters into tenth place in the Second Division table, just a point outside the play-off zone. And although Luton have just one away win to their credit – a 2-1 triumph at Stockport in August – their current form, when compared to that shown by Dale, is likely to make them quietly confident this afternoon.

last 3 games

3 Luton Town 3
Thurrock 1
FA Cup
18th November
2003

After a 1-1 draw at Thurrock, Luton eventually overcame the Ryman League side at Kenilworth Road. Adrian Forbes opened the scoring for the Hatters when Thurrock equalised, a surprise seemed possible.

However, Forbes netted twice more late in the game to clinch today's trip to Spotland.

2 Sheffield
Wednesday 0
Luton Town 0
Division Two
22nd November
2003

Once upon a time this was a regular First Division fixture but on this occasion both teams

were slugging it out in the middle of Division Two. Chances were at a premium and Luton deserved their draw after defending stoutly to keep out the home side. The best chance fell to former Dale striker Mickael Antoine-Curier in the last minute, but his tame shot was saved by Marlon Beresford.

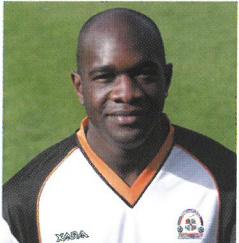
Luton Town 1
Chesterfield 0
Division Two
29th November
2003

After his hat-trick against Thurrock, Adrian Forbes turned provider to earn Luton their seventh home League win of the campaign – the joint best record in the division. Returned to his normal position on the right wing, Forbes produced a pinpoint cross for Steve Howard to head home his fifth goal of the season.



LEFT: Striker Steve Howard has scored over 100 senior goals in his career

RIGHT: Adrian Forbes' hat-trick saw off Thurrock in the last round



Meet the Players

3 ALAN NEILSON

Formerly a Welsh international, Alan joined our visitors from Grimsby in February 2002. Aged 31, he has played Premiership football for Newcastle and Southampton.

4 MATTHEW SPRING

A product of the Hatters' youth system, Matthew has now clocked-up 280 senior appearances for our visitors.

5 RUSSELL PERRETT

A promotion-winner with Cardiff in 2001, Russell repeated the feat as a Luton player 12 months later. The 30-year old played his early League football for Portsmouth.

7 ADRIAN FORBES

Once a First Division player with Norwich City, Adrian linked-up with Luton for £75,000 in the summer of 2001. His hat-trick against Thurrock in the last round earned the Hatters their trip to Spotland today.

8 KEVIN NICHOLLS

Initially a trainee at Charlton Athletic, midfielder Kevin returned south to Luton in August 2001 after two years with Wigan.

11 STEVE ROBINSON

A Northern Ireland international, Steve was signed from Northampton in March 2001. A North-Easterner, he

began his League career at Hartlepool.

21 PAUL HUGHES

A former Premiership player with Chelsea, Paul linked-up with the Hatters prior to the start of the 2001/02 season after a brief, injury-hit spell at Southampton.

22 DAVE BAYLISS

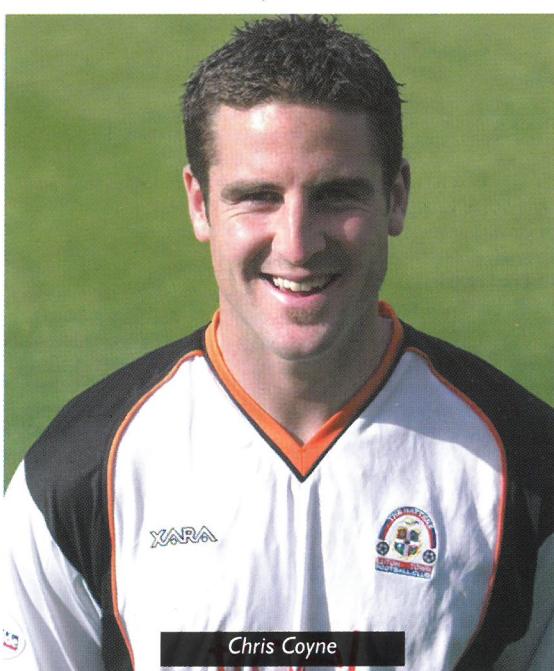
Once a popular central defender at Spotland, Dave joined our visitors two years ago this week. He made 218 senior appearances for Dale and was described by

23 IAN HILLIER

A former captain of Spurs' reserve side, Ian was recruited by former Luton manager Joe Kinnear on the eve of the 2001/02 campaign.

24 SOL DAVIS

A tough-tackling left-back, Sol moved to Kenilworth Road from Swindon Town in the summer of 2001 for a fee in the region of £600,000.



Chris Coyne

Luton Town - Five Year Record

League	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Av Att.
1998/99	Div 2	12th	46	16	10	20	51	60	5527
1999/00	Div 2	13th	46	17	10	19	61	65	5658
2000/01	Div 2	22nd	46	9	13	24	52	80	40
2001/02	Div 3	2nd	46	30	7	9	96	48	97
2002/03	Div 2	9th	46	17	14	15	67	62	6747



"I wasn't literally forced out of the door but some of the things being said about me were ludicrous"

Richard Wild in conversation with Luton defender Dave Bayliss

Fact File

BORN: Liverpool, 8th June 1976

SIGNED: From Rochdale, December 2001

LUTON DEBUT: v Hartlepool U. (a), 8/12/01

LUTON RECORD: 39 appearances, 1 goal

25 GARY McSHEFFREY

Once the Premiership's youngest-ever player, Gary is Luton's joint leading scorer this term with ten goals. Currently on-loan from Coventry City, the 21-year old played here at Spotland for the Sky Blues in last season's famous FA Cup defeat by Dale.

27 PETER HOLMES

Formerly an England youth international, Peter is a midfielder who moved to Luton on a free transfer from Sheffield Wednesday in August 2000.

29 MARLON BERESFORD

A vastly experienced goalkeeper, Marlon is now with his tenth different League club. Starting out at Sheffield Wednesday, he will be best remembered for making almost 300 appearances for Burnley in the 1990s.

32 LEE MANSELL

A product of Luton's youth system, Lee has been with at Kenilworth Road since he was an eleven-year old.

33 DEAN BRILL

A tall, commanding goalkeeper, Dean made his Hatters' debut in a 3-0 defeat at Oldham in September, adding four further appearances since then.

34 DEAN CROWE

An influential figure in Luton's promotion from Division Three in 2001/02, Dean has since found goals hard to come by. He had a loan spell at York earlier this term.

38 MICHAEL LEARY

A former trainee at Kenilworth Road, Michael has broken into the first team this season.

41 KEVIN FOLEY

Still eligible for youth team football, Kevin has been a regular at the heart of Luton's defence this term.

43 MATTHEW JUDGE

A young striker, Matthew has made a handful of appearances since breaking into the senior side last year.

44 PARYS OKAI

Born in Luton, Parys is a left-winger with just three first team outings to his name.



the boss Mike Newell

45 LEON BARNETT
A second year scholar, Leon has appeared in three cup games for the Hatters this season.

47 ROB BECKWITH
The seventh goalkeeper used by Luton last season, Rob had a good run in the side this term prior to Marlon Beresford's arrival at Kenilworth Road. The 19-year old was sent-off in the 3-0 defeat at Oldham in September.

A succession of big money transfers saw Newell play for the likes of Leicester, Everton and Blackburn before he moved into coaching at Tranmere.

In November 2002, Mr Newell was given his first managerial job at Hartlepool. He guided them to promotion a few months later, but his contract wasn't renewed at the end of the season.

In profile Dave Bayliss

Mike Newell is unique among managers – Luton fans helping their former striker to get the job in a telephone poll just before this season began.

Newell has been in football for more than 20 years, beginning as a striker at Crewe before joining Wigan. He moved to Kenilworth Road in January 1986 when Luton were in the old First Division and flourished at top level, netting 19 goals in 68 matches for the Hatters.

"In an ideal world I would have liked to have stayed at Rochdale and continue playing in the first-team; however, it was made obvious to me I wasn't welcome. I wasn't literally forced out of the door but some of the things being said about me were ludicrous.

"I've heard it said I wasn't a popular player in the dressing room but to this day I still speak to the likes of Wayne Evans and Gareth Griffiths. The day I left I got phone calls off all the lads wishing me well and even the office staff phoned me to offer their congratulations. I still visit the club whenever I can and frequently speak to

Chairman David Kilpatrick when I'm at Spotland.

"When I think of some of the memories and highlights I had during my time at Rochdale, it was a real shame I left in the circumstances I did. I wouldn't say I've regretted leaving, because at the time it felt right, but the whole episode just left a sore taste in the mouth."

Bayliss joined Joe Kinnear at Luton Town on a free transfer following his expulsion from the first-team squad at Spotland and played a major part in the Hatters' promotion just five months later.

"In hindsight the move worked out really well for me. I had been at Rochdale a long time and sometimes you can go a bit stale. Perhaps this was the case with me but whatever happened I joined a club that helped me get back playing football on a regular basis.

"Luton are genuinely a big club with great potential and it was great for the fans when we achieved promotion that season. Obviously Rochdale finished the season in the play-off places and nobody more than me wanted them to join us in the Second Division. I had enjoyed some good times and seen a lot of people come and go and I didn't feel any bitterness towards the club at all."

Three months after Bayliss left Spotland he was back here in a Luton shirt for a League fixture. Bayliss finished on the losing side that day but made headlines all of his own after being sent-off on his old stomping ground. So does he regret his actions that Saturday afternoon?

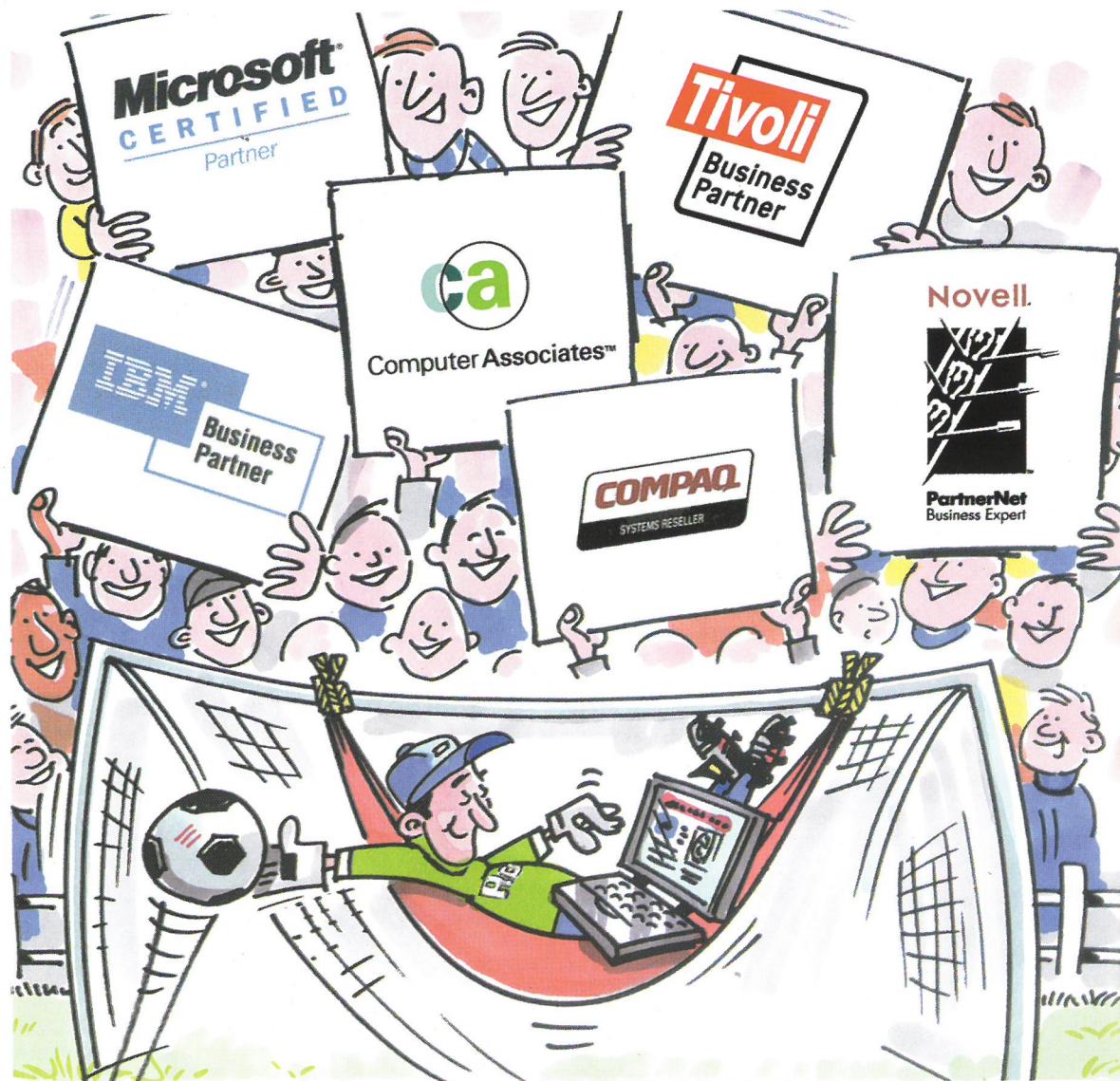


"Of course I regret what happened that day and getting sent-off. In saying that, I learned an awful lot after that and hopefully I've become a better player because of what happened."

"I was so wound up because of the events when I left and wanted to win so badly. Although I thought we played quite well, obviously it didn't happen for us."

An Achilles injury sustained at Charlton during a Carling Cup game in September will prevent Bayliss from playing today, although he is hopeful of a return to action around March.

"I had my operation two days after sustaining the injury and it appears that everything has gone to plan. I just remember winning a header and landing awkwardly and when I tried to



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Whatever the event
Wherever the venue



On seeing the draw for round two of the FA Cup, Luton-based Dale fan Dave Coupe immediately vowed to go to Kenilworth Road for the first round replay between the Hatters and Thurrock. Not only that, but he has written us a 'Travellers Tales Special' about his night out.

Travellers' Tales

Tuesday 18th November 2003

Luton Town 3
Thurrock 1

FA Cup, First Round Replay

DEPARTURE TIME

I work in Watford and managed to get away at about 6.15pm from a meeting.

JOURNEY TO THE GAME

I travelled in the company car which thankfully saves me a fortune on petrol. From Watford to Luton it should be a relatively short journey, junction 5 to junction 11 on the M1. However, this is easier said than done at 6.15pm on a weekday. I decided to go the back route, through such places as Sarrat, Chipperfield, Hemel Hempstead, Redbourn and Dunstable, just about making it on time.

ADMISSION PRICES

Taking my leave from a previous writer of this column, I decided to see if, in my mid-twenties, I could get in as a concession. It worked and a £6 ticket was purchased! Full price admission for grown-ups and honest people was £12 in the Kenilworth Road end.

GROUND

Luton's ground is not the most picturesque and has changed little over the years. It does have a certain character about it and is not like any of the modern purpose-built stadiums that we come across nowadays. I sat in the Kenilworth Upper Stand and this offers a very good view of the action, unlike the restricted view you get in the main stand and the away end. Plus you can move your legs in this stand!

AWAY END

As I said earlier, I went in the home end. However, I have previous experience of the away end. You enter it through what looks like the entrance to someone's house and then walk over someone's back garden to get there!! The view is restricted and you have to sit sideways!!

FOOD & DRINK

A bar is in operation underneath the Kenilworth Road end, although this closes approximately 15 minutes before the kick-off. Luton have their own brand of beer, Golden Hatters, although this is not sold at Kenilworth Road!

A wide selection of food is available and in the interests of writing this column I tried most of it. The pies were good; I'm not sure what brand they were but it wasn't Pukka. I would recommend the Steak and Kidney. I also tried a burger which was a bit dry and not as good as the pie. In the interest of fairness I tried a hot dog from the seller on the way out which was very tasty.

For those of you who are adventurous you could always try some of the local cuisine in the numerous restaurants run by the natives close to the ground.

PROGRAMME

Luton produced a reduced issue for this match, a 28-page edition with a glossy cover being priced at £1.50. All pretty standard stuff I'm afraid, such as articles from the manager, captain, away team pen pics etc. The Thurrock team photo (pictured) was the most interesting bit as it looked like a

'Right Said Fred' reunion party!!



STEWARDS & POLICE

Not really a big police presence for this one. In fact, I think I saw only four officers, which is very unusual for a Luton home match. As usual there were plenty of stewards taking the opportunity to watch the match for free! No trouble at all.

LUTON FANS

They were strangely subdued in the first 25 minutes. Luton fans tend to either get behind their team or get on their backs, a bit like most fans I suppose. The first goal was really strange. It was about 20 seconds before anyone realised it had gone in, which led to late cheers and bemused looks, a bit like Kevin Townsend's goal at Cheltenham for Dale this season. Luton started playing better in the second half and the fans got behind them when it was 2-1.

THURROCK FANS

Without doubt the shortest journey of the season for me! From my house in Luton to Kenilworth Road and back, I would clock up the grand total of about four miles! However, I came straight from work so I can claim more?

OFFICIALS

The referee, Mike Thorpe from Suffolk, didn't ring a bell with me and he had a quiet game. (He reffed Doncaster v Dale – Ed.) He booked about four players but I didn't really notice him, which means he must have had a good game!

THE GAME

Luton started slowly and the crowd got on their backs. They were very sloppy in the first 30 minutes before taking the lead rather fortuitously on the stroke of half-time. Then a mistake by Leon Barnett allowed Cliff Akurang to level for the visitors shortly after the interval.

Midway through the second half Luton took advantage of their growing pressure when Forbes headed home a Robinson cross. Soon after Brkovic was felled in the area and Forbes stepped forward score his and Luton's third to send the Hatters to Spotland in round two.

JOURNEY HOME

I parked my car in the town centre car park, so I had to walk the 15 minutes or so back to it. From there it was a five minute drive home and I was in the house by 10.15 pm.

MILEAGE

Without doubt the shortest journey of the season for me! From my house in Luton to Kenilworth Road and back, I would clock up the grand total of about four miles! However, I came straight from work so I can claim more?

"Where did it all go wrong? What decisions were taken and by whom which suddenly put Hornets on the slippery slope to their current predicament?"



Scrutator

Opinion Column

JUST what is going on at Hornets? The Rochdale Observer is becoming a soap version of Hornenders, or should that be Hornadale? Every issue is full of the latest comings and goings (mainly goings), with various people taking a swipe at the Hornets Board in every issue.

The current Hornets Board, beleaguered and downtrodden, must be wondering what they have done to earn the wrath of so many people. Scrutator believes you have to go far and wide to find anybody who has a good word to say about Messrs. Taylor, Reynolds and co. He should know – he's tried and failed!

It is likely that the problems Hornets find themselves in now have been brewing for many years, possibly since before they sold the Athletic Ground in the 1980s. The sale of their home raised £2.8M, if memory serves me correctly, and this money was used to pay off debts, to buy an equal share in Spotland and to create a trust fund from which the club could survive for ever. It also provided the funds for Hornets to build a successful promotion winning team and their gates at Spotland in the late 1980s often dwarfed Dale's.

However, would our crowds drop over a ten year spell by 75% as Hornets' have done? Probably not.

Therefore, there must be other reasons why so many fans have deserted Hornets. This desertion of around 1500 people over the last ten years is perhaps the fundamental reason why they are in such deep trouble

Where did it all go wrong?

today.

I have not been a keen follower of Rugby or Hornets so do not have recall on various incidents why the Hornets Board are so disliked in this town. Nevertheless, the general opinion on the street is that they have neither the ability nor wherewithal to run a sporting institution.

More sinister is the general feeling that they do not always play with a straight bat. Tales abound of unpaid bills, lawsuits, mismanagement, unpaid staff and saying one thing whilst doing another. So numerous are the stories Scrutator has heard, that The Voice of Spotland could be filled with these alleged tales.

Even our old friend Bloke in the Pub used to go to Hornets and he can often be heard exclaiming that he will never step foot into a Hornets match until ***** has gone. (Insert name of Hornets Director or, in extreme cases, the whole Board!)

As said, it is difficult in an article such as this to get to grips fully with all the facts as all coins have two sides and this being a football publication, it is only likely to present one side of the argument.

What we can assume as fact is that presently Hornets

owe the Stadium Company around £80,000 despite their attempted wriggling out of it. Their Board have managed to alienate their two potentially biggest allies, the Football Club and Rochdale Council, with allegations in the press.

Their Board members, past and present, seem to be waging a public media war and they still haven't settled their bills with the likes of Hull KR and other creditors.

Their only idea out of the £500,000 debt that they have (though they claim is nowhere near that amount despite the books showing that it is so), is to offer fans and Rochdale people the chance to buy shares in this shambles of a club and therefore in its equally shambolic Board. If this is the best they can come up with, then I can now see why public opinion is so stacked against the club.

It is sad that Hornets seem so bereft of ideas. One day, full details of the two offers made for the club that have both been rejected by Hornets may come to light. Surely a failed Board to move aside for a younger Board with fresh ideas and enthusiasm would have been better than presiding over what now seems an imminent death? Or have the current Board got other agendas?

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THE second round of the FA Cup is a very nerve-wracking occasion. Just 90 minutes away from round three, the 'big boys' and all the other tired clichés that are dragged out year-on-year. But we love it and here are ten of the best from a Rochdale perspective.

**2-1 v
SCUNTHORPE
U. (h) 1985/86**

We've put this game at Number One because of what the winners were playing for – a trip to Old Trafford to take on cup holders Manchester United. The first match at the Old Showground had ended 2-2, so it was all to play for on a cold, damp night at Spotland.

Steve Taylor shot Dale into an early lead but Scunthorpe equalised soon after. It could have gone either way but Ronnie Moore emerged as our hero (Read about it on page 40) with a sweet volley at the Pearl Street end to send most of the 5,066 crowd into ecstasy.

**2
1-0 v
DARLINGTON
(a) 1995/96**

Another replay was required after the teams had drawn 2-2 but now Dale would have to win away if they were to progress to a tie with Liverpool at Anfield.

We were fourth in the table at the time but had hit a sticky patch, while Darlington, in the days before anyone had heard of George Reynolds, were just a couple of places below. They were slight favourites and a good Dale following travelled up the A1 in trepidation rather than expectation.

The game was very tense and neither team looked like they wanted to score.



**3
2-0 v
YORK C. (a)
1983/84**

This tie was the home banker. York were hundreds of points ahead at the top of the table while Dale had dropped into the re-election zone. We had

already lost 2-0 at Bootham Crescent earlier in the campaign so the chances of us winning were very remote, to say the least.

The game was postponed on the Saturday so, as was the case in those days, the teams gathered just three days later to try again. Many Dale fans were late arriving due to heavy traffic and they missed our opening goal – Steve Johnson racing clear to give Dale the lead after just 14 SECONDS.

Steve Conroy's goal came under heavy pressure but that faded away after Johnson had doubled the advantage early in the second half. It's just a shame we gave such an insipid performance against Telford in round three.

**4
1-2 v
NOTTS CO. (h)
1949/50**

This defeat has been included because of the game's significance. Any scholar of Dale history should know the number 24,231 – Spotland's record attendance. Club officials reckoned the capacity of the ground was 30,000 but having seen photographs from the game, I would like to know where another 6,000 people were going to go!

County fielded England international Tommy Lawton and it was his presence that influenced the crowd figure. And, despite the large audience, it was reported that the afternoon passed off 'without a hitch or untoward incident'.

Former County player Cyril Brown gave Dale a half-time lead but Tommy Johnston levelled after the restart. Lawton then gave the fans what they'd come to see when he netted the Magpies' winner on 80 minutes.

**5
2-0 v
DARLINGTON
(a) 1970/71**

When Dale gained promotion in 1968/69 they were managed by Len Richley, a former half-back with Hartlepool. By December 1970 he was in charge at Darlington, while Dale were under Dick Conner's stewardship. Conner had been Richley's assistant at Spotland. It was the sort of pairing made for the FA Cup.

Rochdale were a division higher than the Quakers at the time and it showed as we recorded an easy 2-0 win – Bobby Downes and Ronnie Blair scoring the goals.

Top Ten...

Second Round Ties

**6
6-1 v
HARTLEPOOLS
U. (h) 1946/47**

Rochdale made history in this game by reaching round three for the first time. Hartlepools, as they were called, were swept aside by an 'attacking tornado', with Billy Woods doing most of the blowing with a fine hat-trick. Arthur Cunliffe and Alex Carruthers (2) netted the other goals as Dale progressed to a tie at Charlton in the third round.

Unfortunately many of the spectators didn't see most of the second half due to the thick fog that enveloped Spotland. Five minutes from time, with the score at 6-1, the Hartlepools' players cheekily asked the referee to abandon the game. He refused!

**7
2-1 v
TRANMERE R.
(h) 1979/80**

After drawing 2-2 at Prenton Park on the Saturday, we waited with baited breath for the third round draw. "Rochdale or Tranmere Rovers will play Bury or York City," said Graham Kelly in his usual deadpan style and suddenly

all Dale and Bury fans were dreaming of a classic derby clash. But first the replays had to be won.

Dale had thrown away a two-goal lead at Tranmere so when they raced into a similar advantage at Spotland – Mark Hilditch and Brian Hart on target – the fans were still a little nervous. Tranmere reduced the arrears and almost snatched a late equaliser, but Dale held on and duly progressed to take on the Shakers.

**8
3-0 v
LINCOLN C. (h)
1989/90**

This game has



been included because it formed part of our best-ever FA Cup run, something that was equalled last term of course. Lincoln were in our division but being the home side, Dale were made slight favourites. This tag proved fully justified as goals from Peter Ward (below left), Steve Johnson and Steve O'Shaughnessy sent Dale through to a third round tie with Whitley Bay.

**9
3-2 v
BRISTOL R. (h)
2002/03**

It was a freezing cold night just before Christmas last year when the two teams vied for a trip to Preston in round three. Hardly the most appealing of draws but one which eventually allowed Dale to continue their way to the fifth round.

Rovers took an early lead at Spotland before Clive Platt levelled for Dale – he had also scored in the 1-1 draw at Bristol ten days earlier. Paul Connor then shot Dale 2-1 in front, only for a sleepy defence allowing Paul Tait to equalise soon after.

Extra-time was looming when Patrick McCourt was introduced to the action and he immediately made himself a hero. Picking up a loose ball, Paddy weaved his way towards the edge of the area before bending a low right-footed shot into the bottom corner.

**10
3-0 v
GILLINGHAM (a)
1951/52**

Gillingham and their supporters were very confident of victory in this tie. It was probably a case of thinking Dale were a bunch of Northern oiks who had no chance. How wrong they were!

After withstanding early pressure, Dale took a 24th minute lead through Frank Tomlinson. The Gills continued to attack, throwing everything but the kitchen stove at the Dale goal, according to the Observer's report, only for Tomlinson to break away to make it 2-0 on the hour mark.

This deflated Gillingham and Jackie Arthur wrapped up our win with the third late in the game.



Patrick McCourt scored in our second round defeat of Bristol Rovers last season

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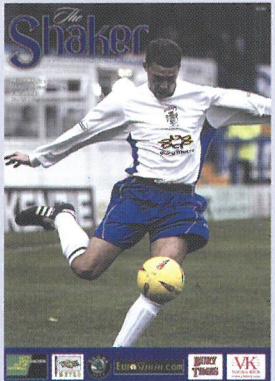
Everyone waited with baited breath while the FA Cup first round draw was being made. When Dale were pulled out alongside Bury, our Traveller knew it would be a special day to report on, one way or another.



Travellers' Tales

Saturday 8th November 2003

**Bury 1
Rochdale 2**



DEPARTURE TIME

I left Littleborough at 1.30pm thinking it would be a trouble free journey to the other side of Heywood. You know what thought did!

JOURNEY TO THE GAME

The traffic was OK through Rochdale and Heywood but the trouble started as we approached Heap Bridge. Unfortunately, the roads of Bury couldn't cope with the large volume of Dale fans who had all chosen the same route to Gigg Lane. This resulted in an annoying stop-start crawl under the motorway bridge, up the hill and eventually around to the ground. We arrived just after 2.30pm – it was quicker going to Doncaster!

PRE-MATCH

With little time to do anything, we made our way into the ground. I think there might be a different routine next Saturday.

ADMISSION PRICES

Bury have dropped their admission prices this season, meaning it was a reasonable £12 for adults to sit down. Unfortunately the tickets – if you'd bought one before the dramatic change of plan by Bury FC – looked as if they had been run off on someone's home computer. Ticket touts would have had a field day!

GROUND

Bury redeveloped parts of Gigg Lane during their rise to Division One, with the far right hand side sweeping around the corner like Old Trafford. The Main Stand is the same as when I first went to Gigg Lane in 1983 although the terracing in front isn't used anymore.

The away seats are too far away from the playing area for my liking and if you are sat on the front couple of rows you are actually looking up at the pitch! However, there is a terrific walkway across the front of the away end which doubled up as a celebration area during our visit. One programme contributor even used this space to practice his sprinting when Dale scored their first goal. He writes page 52, by the way!

OTHER FACILITIES

The person doing the tannoy sounded as though he was speaking through a muffled handkerchief. Or maybe it's just a poor tannoy system.

FOOD & DRINK

When I first went to Bury in 1983, I recall how aghast I was at the prices for refreshments. It was something £1.00 for a pie 20 years ago! Therefore, unless it's a desperate situation, I refuse to buy food from Bury. Those that did purchase were not happy at having to pay nearly four quid for a pie and a bottle of pop, nor at the lack of Steak & Kidney Pies after 3.20pm.

Meanwhile, Dougie Clegg, when

asked about the quality of his Meat & Potato Pie, responded with his usual one-word answer that begins with 'C' and ends with 'P'!

PROGRAMME

Bury's programme was called 'The Shaker'; 'The Shocker' would have been a more appropriate title. It contained 48 pages, of which 22 were adverts or commercially orientated. Indeed, towards the back of the programme there were seven consecutive advert pages!

For some reason they were carrying an interview with former World of Sport and 'How!' presenter Fred Dineage, who is a Portsmouth fan. Watch out for features on Dickie Davies and Jack Hargreaves when we go there next weekend!

Programme Monthly seem to like it though!

STEWARDS & POLICE

The stewards inside the away end all seemed to be from Spotland, as did the turnstile operators. It was quite funny seeing someone wearing a Dale shirt operating an away ground turnstile. There were more police present than we normally see at away games but they were very low key and unobtrusive.

HOME FANS

A Bury fan I have spoken to claimed the Cemetery End was "packed". I told him his definition of packed was different to mine. They were fairly quiet for most of the game, although three incidents did raise wake them up a little.

1. Bury's goal;
2. Boiling the substitution of Lee Connell;
3. Cheering the half-time score of Arsenal 0, Tottenham 1 as it obviously benefited Bury fans' second club.

DALE FANS

In contrast we were raucous and loud for the full game honest

we were! Seriously, Dale fans obviously had more to cheer and it does help when you are all packed into one end. Imagine if the WMG Stand was like that.

We were a little quiet and nervous when Bury launched their late assault on our goal, but the final whistle brought scenes of joy not witnessed since we beat Coventry in January.

OFFICIALS

Referee Mick Fletcher was in charge of that game against Coventry so he is proving a lucky omen in the cup. Generally his decisions were spot on, although how he let Connell get away with his challenge on Edwards without so much as a word is a mystery. He also booked Kevin Townson for leaping into the crowd after scoring; that was a bit harsh as I'm sure there were several other Dale players on the terrace as well!

THE GAME

Dale started the game positively and most of the play seemed to be up the other end. We thoroughly deserved our lead, although having seen the goal on TV, I do wonder if the keeper should have saved Leo's shot. Never mind!

'Super Kev' scored a great goal to make it 2-0 but it was an agonising wait for the ball to eventually come down out of the air. Bury caused a few heart-stopping moments with their late fightback but it was all in vain.

JOURNEY HOME

Another stop-start journey as hundreds of cars wound their way back towards the right side of Heywood. We didn't mind this delay as it gave us a chance to mull over a great day out.

MILEAGE

10 miles for the round trip.

Seasonal Total: 2772 miles



RIGHT: It wasn't a good day for the crowded out Andy Preece



Match Reviews

Our 2-1 win at Bury



Bury Times – 'Andy Preece's impressive record against Lancashire opponents went west as Rochdale dumped the Shakers out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle. Preece has rarely been on the losing side in derby games during his four year Gigg Lane tenure but he could have no complaints at this result.

'Two goals in either half had the Shakers chasing the game and although they rallied in the final minutes, they couldn't get the crucial leveller that, in truth, their overall display barely deserved.

'The visitors came into the match on a three match losing

streak while Bury were on a winning one of equal length. But, disappointingly, it was Alan Buckley's men who showed far more appetite from the start, forcing a handful of corners inside the first six minutes.

'Rochdale looked sharper to the ball and in the tackle and it came as no surprise when they went in front through Leo Bertos ... It would have been rough justice on Dale had the teams gone in level at the break.

'Whatever Preece said in his half-time team talk certainly wasn't heeded as four minutes from the restart Kevin Townson took advantage of hesitancy in the home defence to expertly lob Garner in front of the ecstatic 2,000 travelling Dale fans.'

Our 1-0 defeat to Kidderminster
Worcester Evening News –

'Jan Molby believes Kidderminster Harriers players are enjoying their football again and they showed that in this handy win at Rochdale. Harriers have now gone three games without conceding a goal and deserved to win by more than Matt Gadsby's 35th minute decider. Fellow relegation battlers Rochdale were not helped by an injury to Michael Simpkins which forced them to play with ten men for the last 25 minutes as all three substitutes had been used.'

'Apart from a shaky first 15 minutes and the aerial threat of big Gareth Griffiths, Harriers held firm.'



Gareth Griffiths provided an early threat to Kidderminster



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THROUGH THE ARCHIVES



Referee Alan Dawson tries to separate feuding players at Burnley ten years ago

5-10-15-20-30
years ago

December 1998

Dale misses mean a trip to Millmoor

Rochdale 0, Rotherham United 0
FA Cup, Second Round

A hard-fought FA Cup tie ended all-square as Dale failed to make the most of their chances at bitterly cold, windswept Spotland. The draw also cost the editor a lot of

money as it let him down for a line of seven homes!

There was drama before the game when Dale keeper Neil Edwards was held up in motorway traffic, meaning Lance key had to start in goal. 'Taffy' turned up shortly after kick-off but was the

least busy of the two custodians as Dale ground out the majority of the openings.

Dale: Key (Edwards), Williams (Diaz), Sparrow, Hill, Monington, Johnson, Carden, Painter, Stuart, Bryson, Peake

Attendance: 3346
Referee: P. Walton (Northamptonshire)

Luton had Steve Davis on target but they went out of the cup after a 2-1 home defeat by Hull.

December 1993

Unsavoury aspects overshadow events

Burnley 4, Rochdale 1
FA Cup, Second Round

Three penalties, five yellow cards and three red cards were only part of the story of our usual peaceful trip to Turf Moor. Here was a cup tie full of entertainment and controversy, the like of which we've never seen since.

The scene was set early

doors when a tackle from John Francis left Jimmy Graham needing 47 stitches in a gaping wound. Francis suddenly became a marked man and every time he received the ball he was sent crashing by a fierce challenge.

One of those tackles led to Dale's Alex Jones being sent-off, along with the Clarets' Mark Monington for

his part in the ensuing brawl. We had already had Andy Thackeray dismissed for two yellow cards so by now it was ten against nine.

Jones had earlier put through his own goal to give Burnley the lead, while David Eyres completed a hat-trick. Steve Whitehall scored from the spot for Dale but missed another penalty minutes later.

Dale: Hodge, Thackeray, Graham (Jones), Bowden, Reeves, Butler, Stuart (Taylor), Reid, Lancaster, Whitehall, Ryan
Attendance: 11388
Referee: A. Dawson (Jarrow)

Luton were beaten 1-0 in a First Division game at Charlton.

Referee Alan Dawson tries to separate feuding players at Burnley ten years ago

December 1988

Thriller that didn't happen

Peterborough United 1, Rochdale 0
Division Four

Rochdale gave their poorest performance of the season in a match that was something of a damp squib at London Road. Having earned a reputation for their sparkling, attacking football, Danny Bergara's men looked tired and jaded as they allowed Peterborough to grab

a win they just about deserved.

The only goal came in the 63rd minute. Steve O'Shaughnessy was punished for a foul just outside the area and the resulting free kick was floated to the back post. Centre half Keith Oakes headed the ball against the inside of the post but referee Trevor West ruled it had crossed the line before being clawed away by

Dale: Welch, Copeland, Mycock, O'Shaughnessy, Sutton, Reid, Wood, Smith, Mellish (Armittage), Beaumont, Frain
Attendance: 3273
Referee: T.E. West (Hull)

Luton stayed in 15th place in the old First Division after a goalless home draw with Newcastle.

December 1983

Farrell's face saver

Rochdale 3, Hereford United 3
Division Four

Although this game produced six goals, the quality of football on display was quite poor. However, Dale were thankful for a point after twice trailing by two goals.

Hereford, with Keith Hicks and Kevin Rose in their line-up, were 2-0 ahead early in the second half and the Spotland crowd were getting restless.

Malcolm O'Connor then reduced the arrears only for prolific marksman Stewart Phillips to shoot the visitors 3-1 ahead.

Dale manager Jimmy Greenhoff was getting some fearful abuse but he was rescued by two late goals.

Andy Higgins poked in Les Chapman's cross to make it 3-2 and in the last minute Peter Farrell pounced after Kevin Rose had spilled a bouncing ball.

Dale: Conroy, Williams, Chapman, Farrell, Higgins, Doyle, Thompson, Hamilton, Johnson, O'Connor, J. Greenhoff (B. Greenhoff)
Attendance: 1261
Referee: F. Roberts (Prestatyn)

Luton dropped to tenth place in the old Division One after a 4-2 home defeat by Coventry. Trevor Aylott scored for the Hatters, while the other was an own goal.

December 1973

Dale deserved better luck

Rochdale 1, Blackburn Rovers 2
Division Three

Rochdale played their tenth League game without a win but they really deserved better against promotion chasing Blackburn. Leading at half-time, Dale continued to match Rovers after the break only for Tony Field to score two late goals to condemn us to another defeat.

Dale's goal was very controversial. Lee Brogden hooked the ball into the Sandy Lane net but after initially awarding a goal, referee Bob Raby changed his mind. He was surrounded by players from both sides and Dale's Keith Bebbington was sent-off for his protests.

Raby then reversed his decision and reinstated Bebbington. This led to ugly scenes as Blackburn fans snarled and spat at the official when he left the field at half-time.

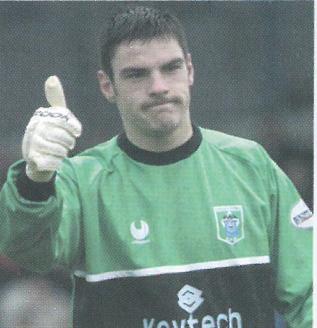
Dale: Poole, Smith, Bradbury, Bebbington, Arnold, Marsh, Brogden, Taylor, Skeete, Gowans, Downes
Attendance: 3660
Referee: R.E. Raby (Leeds)

Luton had Barry Butlin on target in their 1-0 win at Millwall.



Reserves & Youth

**BLACKPOOL 2
ROCHDALE 1**



A stronger than usual Rochdale reserve side travelled to Blackpool - Dale's starting eleven including six players who've made appearances in the first team this season.

Dale had a new face in the ranks too in the form of midfielder Andrew Waine. The 20-year old had joined Rochdale on trial from Accrington Stanley.

Chris Beech returned from injury after picking up a bruised thigh in training to take up station in the heart of the midfield.

Rochdale came up against a young Blackpool side after manager Steve McMahon's players rested from the previous night's LDV Vans Trophy game but they soon took command of proceedings.

The Seasiders took the lead following a neat build-up and cool finish as the home side began the game the better side.

Blackpool were in command and later doubled their lead following a Dale foul inside the penalty area. The referee had no choice but to point to the spot and Blackpool scored their second of the game despite the best efforts of Matthew Gilks (pictured).

Reserves Fixtures Pontin's Holidays League

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Wed Aug 20	Wigan Athletic	1-3
Wed Aug 27	CARLISLE UNITED	2-4
Wed Sep 3	Wigan Athletic (League Cup)	2-7
Tue Sep 9	Wrexham	0-4
Wed Sep 17	ROTHERHAM (League Cup)	1-6
Wed Sep 24	BURY	2-3
Wed Oct 1	Oldham Athletic (League Cup)	3-2
Wed Oct 8	Shrewsbury Town	0-5
Wed Oct 22	STOCKPORT COUNTY	1-3
Wed Nov 5	Blackpool	1-2
Wed Nov 26	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	1-0
Wed Dec 10	Oldham Athletic	A
Wed Jan 14	Bury	A
Wed Jan 28	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H
Wed Feb 18	BLACKPOOL	H
Wed Mar 3	Stockport County	A
Wed Mar 17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H
Wed Mar 24	Macclesfield Town	A
Wed Apr 7	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H
Wed Apr 14	Carlisle United	A
Wed Apr 28	WREXHAM	H

All home games will be played at Dark Lane, Rossendale United, kick-off 2.00pm

Youth Team Fixtures



Sat Aug 9	PRESTON NORTH END	1-1
Sat Aug 23	CARLISLE UNITED	1-2
Sat Aug 30	Stockport County	4-1
Sat Sep 6	Blackpool	3-1
Sat Sep 13	WIGAN ATHLETIC	1-1
Sat Sep 20	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	0-0
Sat Sep 27	Burnley	2-5
Sat Oct 4	Bury	1-0
Sat Oct 11	Darlington (Cup)	0-1
Sat Oct 18	TRANMERE ROVERS	0-4
Sat Oct 25	BLACKPOOL	0-2
Sat Nov 1	Wigan Athletic	1-2
Sat Nov 8	Oldham Athletic	2-3
Sat Nov 15	BURNLEY	1-1
Sat Nov 29	BURY	1-1
Sat Dec 6	Tranmere Rovers	A
Sat Dec 13	Preston North End	A
Sat Jan 10	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H
Sat Jan 24	Carlisle United	A

All home games will be played at Bowlee, Middleton, kick-off 11.00am

Division Three League Table

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Oxford United	20	8	2	0	19	4	3	6	1	13	9	41	+19
Doncaster Rovers	20	7	2	1	20	6	5	2	3	16	10	40	+20
Mansfield Town	20	7	2	1	28	12	5	1	4	18	14	39	+20
Hull City	20	7	3	0	26	11	3	4	3	14	10	37	+19
Yeovil Town	20	8	0	2	20	6	4	1	5	12	14	37	+12
Swansea City	20	6	3	1	19	7	4	2	4	12	15	35	+9
Torquay United	20	7	2	1	19	10	3	2	5	8	12	34	+5
Lincoln City	20	5	4	1	15	6	3	3	4	11	13	31	+7
Scunthorpe United	20	4	4	2	23	14	3	5	2	16	17	30	+8
Huddersfield Town	20	7	2	1	17	6	1	4	5	14	23	30	+2
York City	20	5	4	1	13	7	2	4	4	6	14	29	-2
Bury	20	5	2	3	13	14	4	0	6	15	18	29	-4
Bristol Rovers	20	4	3	3	12	11	3	2	5	13	15	26	-1
Leyton Orient	20	3	4	3	14	15	3	3	4	11	14	25	-4
Boston United	20	5	4	1	19	9	1	2	7	5	18	24	-3
Cambridge United	20	1	4	5	12	20	4	4	2	15	13	23	-6
Northampton Town	20	4	2	4	8	12	2	3	5	8	14	23	-10
Cheltenham Town	20	5	2	3	17	17	1	3	6	12	24	23	-12
ROCHDALE	20	2	3	5	12	15	3	2	5	13	16	20	-6
Macclesfield Town	20	3	5	2	13	11	1	3	6	11	21	20	-8
Kidderminster H.	20	2	2	6	10	17	3	3	4	9	13	20	-11
Southend United	20	3	1	6	11	14	2	2	6	7	19	18	-15
Darlington	20	4	3	3	12	13	0	2	8	9	22	17	-14
Carlisle United	20	1	1	8	6	17	0	1	9	6	20	5	-25

Facts & figures



DIVISION THREE STATISTICS

Best Home Win

6-1, Hull C. v Kidderminster H., 27/9/03

Best Away Win

5-1, Hull C. at Northampton T., 4/10/03

Highest Aggregate

8 goals

5-3, Mansfield T. v Bury, 16/9/03

6-2, Scunthorpe U. v Huddersfield T., 1/11/03

Leading Scorers (all competitions)

17 goals - Steve MacLean (Scunthorpe U.)

14 goals - Jonathan Stead (Huddersfield T.)

13 goals - Lee Trundle (Swansea C.)

Hat-Tricks

B. Maylett (Swansea C.) v Bury (h), 9/8/03

L. Trundle (Swansea C.) v Cheltenham T. (a), 16/8/03

D. Spencer (Cheltenham T.) v Hull C. (a), 23/8/03

I. Christie (Mansfield T.) v Southend U. (a), 23/8/03

S. MacLean (Scunthorpe U.) v Cheltenham T. (h), 30/9/03

M. McIndoe (Doncaster R.) v Bristol R. (h), 4/10/03

S. MacLean (Scunthorpe U.) v Huddersfield T. (h), 1/11/03

S. MacLean (Scunthorpe U.) v Cambridge U. (h), 22/11/03

Highest Attendance

20,903, Hull C. v Swansea C., 30/9/03

Lowest Attendance

1,821, Macclesfield T. v Southend U., 25/10/03

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Nationwide League Division Three

Darlington v York City

Hull City v Bury

FA Cup, Second Round

Bournemouth v Accrington Stanley

Bristol City v Barnsley

Cheltenham v Leyton Orient

Colchester United v Aldershot Town

Gravesend & Northfleet v Notts County

Hornchurch v Tranmere Rovers

Macclesfield Town v Cambridge United

Northampton Town v Weston-super-Mare

Oldham Athletic v Blackpool

Peterborough United v Grimsby Town

Scunthorpe United v Sheffield Wednesday

Southend United v Lincoln City

Swansea City v Stevenage Borough

Telford United v Brentford

Woking v Kidderminster Harriers

Yeovil Town v Barnet

Fixtures 2003/04

| | OPPONENTS | RES | PTS | POS | ATT | AWAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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SMS ALERTS

Do you want to be first with the news from Spotland? If so then register with Rochdale AFC's official 'Dale Mobile' service.

Log-on to www.rochdaleafc.co.uk and choose 'Mobile' from the main menu for details of the services available and how to subscribe.



FA CUP, THIRD ROUND

and 39 – Watford.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

EVERYONE at the club would like to say Many Happy Returns to Scott Warner. The Dale midfielder celebrated his 20th birthday on Wednesday.

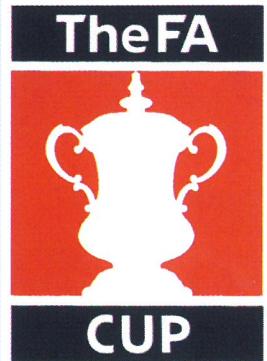
HOSPITALITY AT BURY

WE have been contacted by Bury with details of hospitality facilities at Gigg Lane when Dale play there next Saturday.

EXECUTIVE SUITE

£25 per person

Overlooking the pitch, the suite includes Directors Box Seating, Matchday Programme, Bar Facilities, Hot & Cold Buffet at Half-Time, with Tea & Coffee also available.



The winners of today's tie will be number 46 in the draw. Other numbers to look out for are 1 – Arsenal, 7 – Burnley, 21 – Liverpool, 22 – Manchester City, 23 – Manchester United

Spotland

Scene

HOSPITALITY AT MANSFIELD

WE have also been contacted by Mansfield Town with news about Corporate Hospitality at Field Mill for our fixture there on Boxing Day.

Executive Package in the Provincial Home Loans Lounge

£30 (+vat) per person

Reserved Car Parking Light Refreshments

Cash Bar Facilities Programme & Team Sheets

Executive Reserved Seats Half-time Tea & Coffee

For further details and/or to make bookings, contact Jill Neville on (0161) 764 4881.

PLAYER NEWS

THERE have been several comings-and-goings at Spotland over the last few weeks and we now bring you up-to-date with all the movements.

Ged Brannan and Mickael Antoine-Curier have both left the club for pastures new. Brannan, who was on loan from Wigan, returned to the JJB Stadium but has since tied up a two-year deal with Accrington Stanley.

DALEBET FANCY A FLUTTER?

DaleBet is the place to go for all your betting needs. You can bet on every Rochdale game, with a wide variety of choices available. So if you fancy Wayne Evans for the first goal and Dale to win 5-0, go to DaleBet to see what odds are available.

You can also bet on any other football matches, as well as the widest choice of sporting events available. Log-on to www.rochdaleafc.co.uk and choose 'Betting' from the main menu or place your bets from the terraces by telephoning 08000 323 365



Antoine-Curier (below) continued his journey around the Football League by linking-up with Sheffield Wednesday on non-contract terms. He made his debut as a substitute for the Owls against Luton a fortnight ago, apparently

missing a good chance to win the game in the closing minutes.

Gary Jones and Andy Bishop have arrived at Spotland on loan. Jones is a familiar face to Dale fans and the club are delighted that his move

from Barnsley has been extended until the middle of January. A comprehensive interview with 'Jonah' can be found on page 48 of today's programme.

Bishop (above), who spent the early part of this term on loan at Kidderminster, is

a striker who has arrived from Walsall. He made his debut for Dale in the recent 4-0 thrashing at Southend.

Both players have been given permission by their parent clubs to play in today's FA Cup tie.

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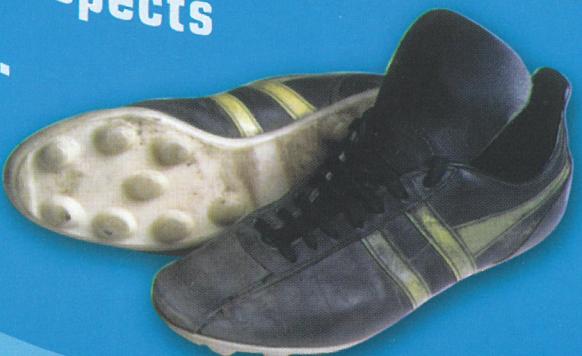
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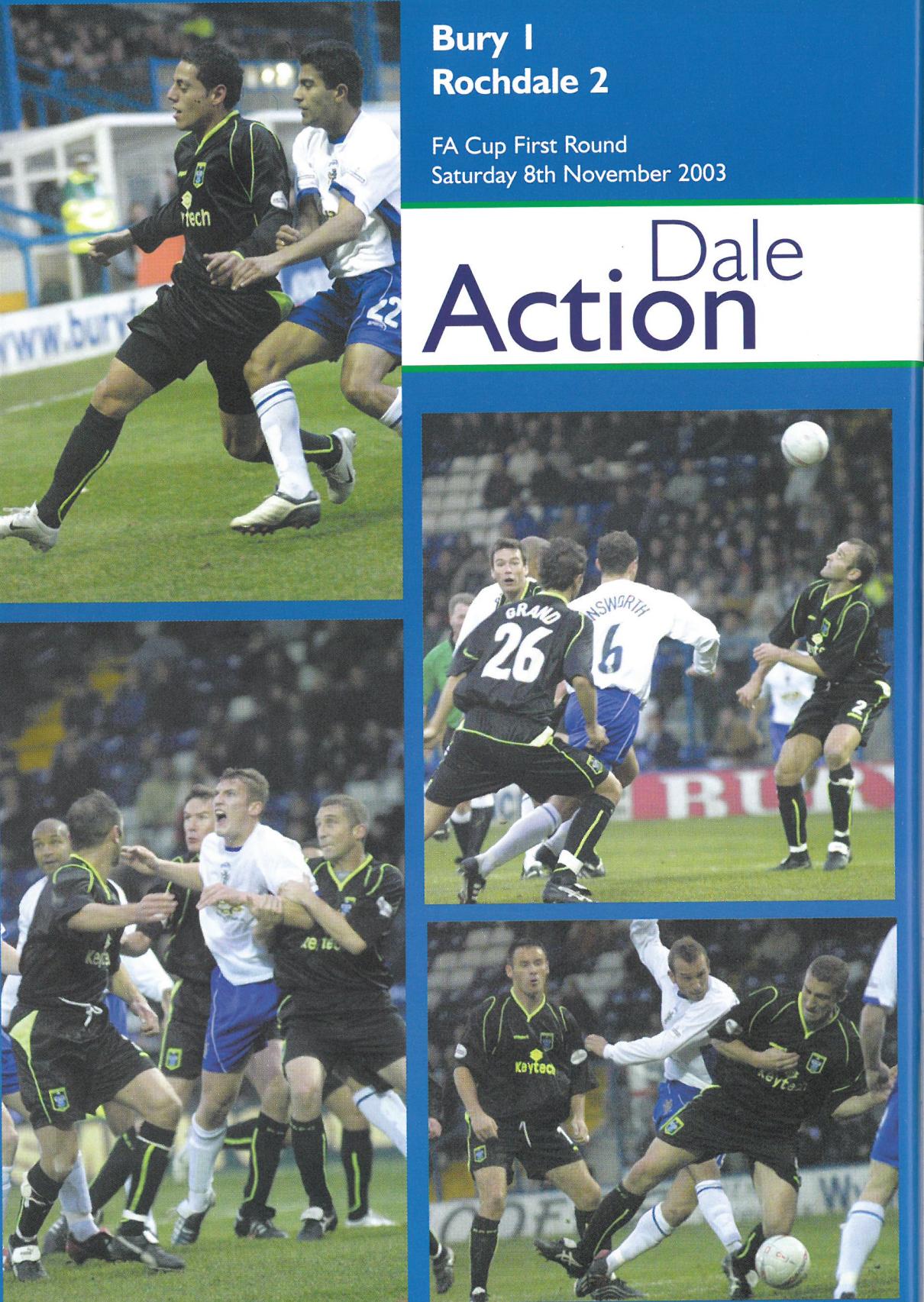
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Rochdale 2

FA Cup First Round
Saturday 8th November 2003

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Player Sponsorship

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ROCHDALE manager Vic Halom was looking for a big target man to play alongside Steve Taylor in the 1985/86 campaign. He recruited former Rotherham team-mate Ronnie Moore, who became a hero with one swing of his left foot ...

Dale Heroes Ronnie Moore

RONNIE MOORE spent just a single season as a Rochdale player but he did one thing in that time that fully merits his inclusion in this series.

It was December 1985 and Dale had drawn 2-2 at Scunthorpe in the FA Cup. Steve Taylor scored both goals at the Old Showground to earn the replay after Dale had twice trailed The Iron.

In those days they used to perform the third round draw on Saturday teatime. We were travelling home in the dark – as it always seems to be at Scunny – when the draw com-

menced. "Number 23 – Manchester United, will play ... Number 56 – Scunthorpe United or Rochdale."

It was the first tie out of the bag and the car nearly swerved off the motorway in its excitement!

But first we had to win the Spotland replay. Taylor scored early doors to set us on the way, only for Scunthorpe to equalise soon after.

The nerves were jangling at Spotland as both sides created and missed chances. It was very much in the balance as to who would be enjoying a big pay day at Old Trafford.

But then Ronnie Moore took over with a goal still very clear in my head.

Dave Thompson sped down the right wing, working his way to the byline at the Pearl Street end.

He chipped a great ball

FACT FILE	
BORN:	Liverpool, 29th January 1953
DALE DEBUT:	v Aldershot (h), 17/8/85, won 2-0
LAST APPEARANCE:	v Peterborough U. (a), 7/5/86, drew 1-1
DALE RECORD:	50 appearances, 10 goals



back towards the penalty spot where Moore was waiting. The big striker shaped his body before sending a powerful volley fizzing past the Scunthorpe 'keeper.

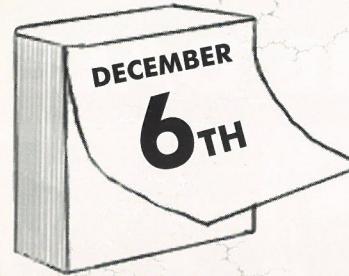
That goal turned out to be the winner and Dale were on their way to Old Trafford.

Undoubtedly that was the high point of Moore's Dale career. A low point came when he missed a penalty against Wrexham in the Milk Cup but he gained tremendous respect by saying "Sorry" to the disappointed Sandy Laners.

Now a respected manager at Rotherham, Ronnie Moore wasn't the greatest player to pull on a Dale shirt. But he did give us one of the best nights of our football-supporting lives.



Do you have a Hero of your own? If so, submit your article to the Editor at rochdale_programme@hotmail.com.



Also on 6th December 1986...

Manchester City dropped to the bottom of Division One after their third consecutive defeat.

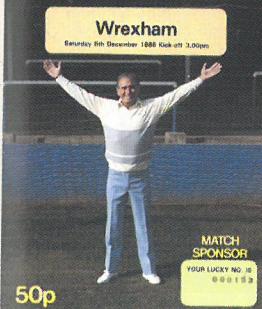
Number One in the charts was 'The Final Countdown' by Europe.

Arsenal's ninth win in ten games – a 3-1 home defeat of QPR – kept them at the top of the First Division.

On this day 6th December

Rochdale 1,
Wrexham 4
FA Cup, Second
Round

ROCHDALE A.F.C.



ing couldn't have been worse.

onslaught after the break?

Reserve team coach Brian Taylor, who also acted as Stadium Manager, was put in charge for the cup tie as Dale looked to overcome a Wrexham side unbeaten for 15 games.

Taylor could have become a hero but instead he was powerless as the Robins romped to a 4-1 win.

The answer was a resounding "No" as Wrexham turned several screws.

Steve Massey netted on 49 and 69 minutes to make the score 3-1, before Barry Horne confirmed Wrexham's passage to round three when he headed their fourth goal.

Rochdale: Redfern, Johnson, Grant, Hudson (Holden), Bramhall, Smart, Reid, Wakenshaw, Gibson, Mills (Woods), Conning

Wrexham: Pearce, Salathiel, Cunningham, Williams, Cooke, Comstive (Charles), Massey, Horne, Steel, Conroy, Emson

Attendance: 2,822
Referee: J.M. Key (Rotherham)

Other Dale games on 6th December include ...

1969 – Tony Buck scored but Dale went down 2-1 at Bury.

1975 – Rochdale suffered a 3-0 thrashing at Brentford.

1980 – Another defeat as Southend won 2-0 at Spotland.

1997 – A desperate Dale performance saw us lose 1-0 in a League fixture at Scarborough.



Brian Taylor was in temporary charge 17 years ago

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Andy Capp strip courtesy of Mirrorpix

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Our FA Cup record against Luton Town

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	1	0	1	0	1	1
Away	1	0	0	1	2	3
Total	2	0	1	1	3	4

Connections with Luton Town

LAST VISIT

Luton were last at Spotland in February 2002 in a game crucial to both clubs' chances of gaining promotion. Patrick McCourt's deflected shot looped over the keeper to give Dale an early lead and we held on for the victory after withstanding a barrage of Luton pressure. On loan goalkeeper Steve Banks was outstanding for Dale, while the visitors had Dave Bayliss sent off in the second half.

Rochdale: Banks, Evans, Doughty, Jobson, Griffiths, Flitcroft, Oliver, McCourt, Jones (McLoughlin), Townson, McEvilly (Durkan)

Luton: Emberton, Spring, Perrett, Forbes, Bayliss, Nicholls, Taylor, Boyce, Howard, Valois (Coyne), Crowe (Hughes)

Attendance: 4,306

Referee: M.D. Messias (York)

Lineker scored more goals in the whole country.



Taylor left Spotland for Preston in October 1986 before returning for a brief spell towards the end of the 1988/89 season. His Dale career showed an excellent ratio of 56 goals in 115 appearances.

CUP TIES

Contrary to what I wrote in the Kidderminster programme, Dale and Luton HAVE met before in the FA Cup, although the matches took place 93 years ago.

Royton-born, Taylor had enjoyed success with Bolton and Oldham when he moved to Luton in January 1979. Debuting in a 3-2 defeat of Bristol Rovers, Taylor went on to score just once in 20 appearances for the Hatters before leaving Kenilworth Road at the end of the season.

After several other spells around the North West, the curly-haired front man arrived at Spotland in November 1984. He scored in only his third game – a 2-2 draw with Southend – and finished the campaign as our second top scorer with 14 goals.

1985/86 was even more profitable for Taylor (pictured) as he found the net 31 times. Only Everton's Gary

Dale's last visit there in October 2001 we recorded our first-ever away win against Luton when Paul Wheatcroft scored the only goal of the game to put Dale top of Division Three.

STRIKER STEVE 2

Steve Elliott had more scoring success for Luton than Steve Taylor despite playing almost half as many games for the club.

Joining them from Preston in July 1984, Elliott netted on his debut in a 2-0 defeat of Stoke City. He scored twice more for the Hatters before linking-up with Walsall just prior to the Christmas period.

The experienced forward later served Bolton and Bury prior to arriving at Spotland in October 1989. Another debut goal, in a 2-1 away win over Alan Buckley's Grimsby, immediately endeared Elliott to the fans but he struggled with form and injuries as the season progressed.

A regular in attack during the 1990/91 campaign, Elliott (pictured) left Spotland in the summer of 1991 having scored ten goals in 61 appearances for the club.

The replay at Kenilworth Road went the way of the home side who sneaked a 3-2 victory.

BOGEY GROUND

That defeat started a run of five consecutive losses at Kenilworth Road, although they were separated by almost 60 years. However, on

TV COVERAGE

When Dale travelled to Luton in November 1969, we were top of Division Three with the Hatters in second place. The appeal of the game attracted the Match of the Day cameras to Kenilworth Road but unfortunately Dale had a case of stage-fright as Luton eased to a 2-0 win thanks to goals from John Collins and Keith Allen.

WESHL WINGER

Left winger Simon Davies played Champions League football for Manchester United before embarking on a career in the lower leagues. Joining Luton in August 1997, he was mainly used as a substitute during his 16 months with the Hatters, making 30 appearances and scoring just once.

Davies (pictured) also netted one goal for Dale – a penalty on his debut in a 1-1 draw with Darlington in August 2000. Always struggling to win over the fans, the Winsford-born wideman played 16 times for the club before being released in the summer of 2001.



LUTON TOWN had secured promotion to Division Two five days before this game, so they arrived at Spotland in party mood. Unfortunately, they were followed by a large group of skinheads, who caused mayhem on what should have been a day of celebration ...

Saturday 25th April 1970
Football League Division Three

ROCHDALE 1 LUTON TOWN 2

today if a policeman's helmet was thrown around Sandy Lane?

After all the off-field shenanigans, the actual match paled into insignificance. Dale seemed more unsettled by what was happening elsewhere and it was no surprise when the visitors took a 15th minute lead – Viv Busby pushing the ball over the line after hesitancy in the Dale defence.

Ten minutes after the restart Malcolm McDonald doubled the advantage after racing onto Mike Keen's precise through ball and Luton could afford to relax in the knowledge that both points were theirs.

Rochdale reduced the arrears when Reg Jenkins headed his 99th League goal and for a while it looked as though they might snatch a point.

MUD & MADNESS

THE headline in the Rochdale Observer perfectly reflected the day's events at Spotland.

'Mud' referred to the state of the playing surface. It was reported that 15 hours of non-stop rain had left the pitch heavily waterlogged. In no time, it apparently looked like Flanders fields.

The 'madness' was the behaviour of the visiting Luton supporters and, to a lesser extent, some Dale fans.

The Hatters' followers had invaded the dressing room area before the game started, no doubt to get close to

Can you imagine the furore



This Luton squad gained promotion five days before playing at Spotland

But the Hatters held on, much to the delight of their remaining fans.

Rochdale: Harker; Smith, Parry, Ashworth, Ryder; Riley, Rudd (Clarke); Butler, Cross, Jenkins, Downes

Luton: Read; Ryan, Branston, Moore, Slough, Bannister; Collins, Keen; Busby, McDonald, Tees (Allen)

Referee: K.H. Burns (Stourbridge)

Attendance: 5,830

Yesterday's Pages

* Rochdale issued their normal 16-page programme costing one shilling. The programme also contained the Football League Review magazine.

* It was announced that the club would be making a presentation to their first ever 'Player of the Year', the identity of whom was still a secret.

* The editor of the 'Voice of Spotland' was listed as Dick Bott, still a contributor to this fine publication of course.

* Manager Dick Conner wrote: 'Our football this season has given me tremendous satisfaction, particularly because we have won over so many Southern fans'.

* The night after the game, the social club at Spotland was hosting 'The Tommy Bruce Show'. Fans were encouraged to 'Join the Swinging Social Club Set'!

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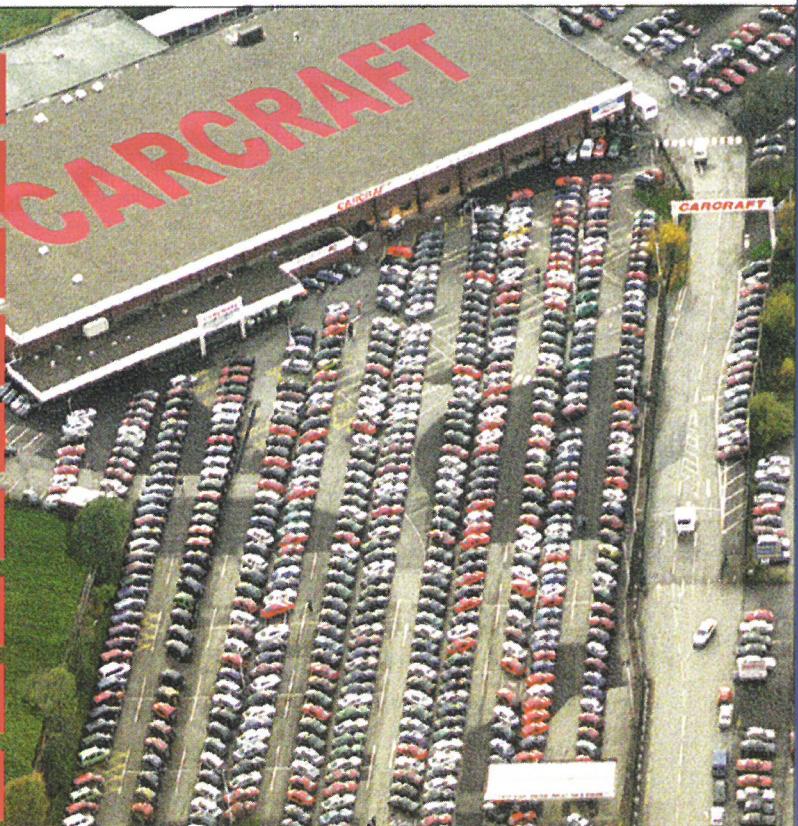
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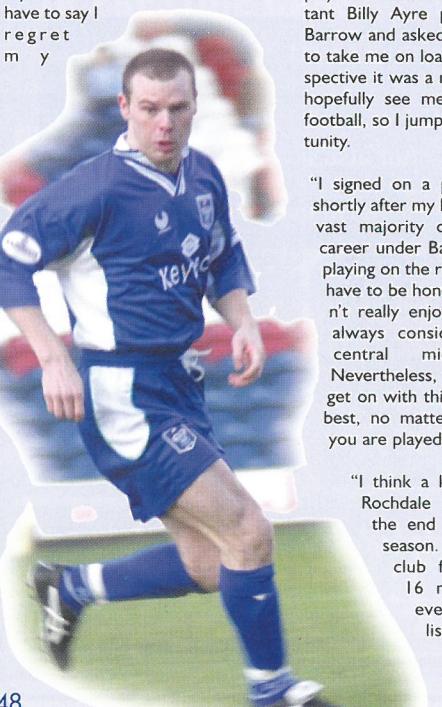
THE Rochdale rumour mill was working overtime a few weeks ago when news broke that Gary Jones was to return to Spotland on loan from Barnsley. In an exclusive interview, the former Dale captain talks about his previous time at the club and what he hopes for in the future.

In the spotlight Gary Jones

GARY JONES needed no introduction to the Spotland faithful when Alan Buckley brought him to the club recently.

The 26-year old played over 150 games for the club around the turn of the century, before joining Barnsley in a £180,000 transfer in November 2001. Much has been made of the circumstances surrounding the deal that took him to Oakwell, but now Jones is back in a Dale shirt he is only too willing to give his side of the story.

"I realise that in hindsight the way I left wasn't the most productive for Gary Jones or Rochdale Football Club. Obviously much has been made of the conversation between Chairman David Kilpatrick and myself and I have to say I regret my



actions that day. However, in my defence I'd say my actions were of somebody who wanted to try and better himself. Barnsley were a First Division outfit at the time and the opportunity to play at that level was a major step in my career."

Gary Jones initially arrived at Spotland on a month's loan from Swansea City in January 1998. Manager Graham Barrow was in need of strengthening his midfield at the time and after impressing in his four loan games, Jones moved back to his native North-West on a permanent basis.

"Alan Cork was the manager at Swansea at the time and it was obvious he didn't fancy me as a player. With this in mind his assistant Billy Ayre phoned Graham Barrow and asked if he would like to take me on loan. From my perspective it was a move that would hopefully see me play first-team football, so I jumped at the opportunity.

"I signed on a permanent basis shortly after my loan spell but the vast majority of my Rochdale career under Barrow was spent playing on the right of midfield. I have to be honest and say I didn't really enjoy this as I have always considered myself a central midfield player. Nevertheless, you just have to get on with things and do your best, no matter what position you are played in.

"I think a key stage in my Rochdale career came at the end of the 1998/99 season. I had been at the club for approaching 16 months without ever really establishing myself in

my favoured position and I was approaching the end of my contract. Obviously it was a very difficult time for me because I didn't know what was happening, but the manager (Graham Barrow) had the same problem as I did because he was also out of contract. Graham left the club before the final game of that season and fortunately for me his replacement was Steve Parkin."

Prior to Parkin's arrival, the Board of Directors offered Jones a one-year contract. He duly signed this deal but took a little bit longer to convince his new manager he was worth a place in the team.

"I seem to recall I wasn't a regular under Steve Parkin when he first took over but after a while I got my chance and I'd like to think I never looked back. Obviously I got the chance to play in the centre of midfield and I knew it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

The departure of Steve Parkin after a couple of fruitful years at Spotland saw the new Barnsley manager return to his former club in pursuit of his old club captain. Jones had quickly established himself as the catalyst behind Rochdale's success and admits that Parkin was one of the main reasons behind his proposed switch to Oakwell. However, the grass wasn't as green on the other side as Jones had perhaps expected and shortly after his new club was relegated to the Second Division.

"It was a major disappointment to everybody connected to the club that we were relegated that season. We worked extremely hard as a squad to prevent this but obviously we were unable to do so. The manager paid the price the following season after a poor start



but I still held down a regular place in the side whilst Glyn Hodges took temporary charge for the remainder of the season.

"This season saw Barnsley appoint a new manager in Gudjon Thordarson but unfortunately for me I broke a bone in my foot in pre-season and was out for four months. I worked extremely hard to maintain my fitness as much as I could whilst I was on the sidelines but I think it's obvious I don't have a future at Barnsley anymore. All this despite the fact the new manager has never seen me play.

"This has prompted my move back to Rochdale and I am delighted to be here. I really enjoyed my previous spell at the club and it is nice to see some familiar faces again. It will take me a few games to regain my match fitness but once I do I hope all the fans will see a similar Gary Jones to the one they saw in action before. Hopefully this will lead to the manager being happy with what he sees out on the field and we can talk about making the move permanent."

In the Luton squad this afternoon will be a familiar face from Jones' Rochdale past, so he regrets the fact his old friend Dave Bayliss won't be lining up in a white shirt opposite him today.

"Dave is a quality player as we all know, so from that perspective it's good he's injured. It would have been nice to play against him but obviously his injury will prevent this. I've known Dave for a while and we talk regularly, so I'm sure we'll enjoy a drink in the bar afterwards."



Gary Jones

FACT FILE

BORN: Birkenhead, 3rd June 1977

DALE DEBUT: v Peterborough U. (a), 17/1/1998, lost 1-3

DALE RECORD: 168 appearances, 26 goals

OVERALL CAREER RECORD: 225 appearances, 28 goals



In the spotlight Gary Jones

Most Memorable Career Moment

I would say the highlight of my career would be making my debut for Barnsley in a Yorkshire derby against Sheffield Wednesday. A crowd of over 16,000 watched the game and it was totally different to what I had been used to throughout my career in terms of atmosphere. The standard of football wasn't massively different as derby games are always scrappy, but it was nice to win 3-0. Mike Sheron scored twice and we totally deserved to win the game.

All time XI

1	NEVILLE	SOUTHALL		
2	CAFU	3 STUART PEARCE	6 KEVIN RATCLIFFE	5 FRANCO BARESI
7	DAVID BECKHAM	4 ROY KEANE	8 PAUL GASCOIGNE	11 MARADONA
9	RONALDO	10 MARCO VAN BASTEN		

Schoolyard Hero



It would have to be Paul Gascoigne. The way he used to beat players for fun was brilliant to watch. He was an entertainer as well as an excellent footballer.

Away from work

I've got to be honest and say I don't do much really. I suppose you could call that relaxing but it's probably me being lazy. I like to go shopping if I get the opportunity, as well as going out for a meal with my girlfriend Nicola.

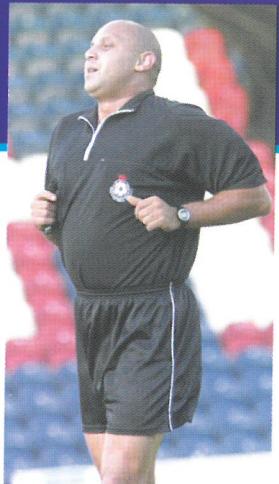
Rochdale 0 Kidderminster H. I

Saturday 15th November 2003

Nationwide League Division Three

If you are a visiting supporter and would like to write about today's game, then submit your article in the format below to rochdale_programme@hotmail.com

Visitors' Tales



What are your views on the game?

(DW) Not the greatest game I've ever seen but not the worst. Rochdale looked in control for the first 20 minutes then we started to play. I had a feeling we might take something from the game but on another day I think Rochdale might have given us more of a run for our money. A good team performance away from home for us, both sides wasted two or three good chances on goal though.

What did you think of the programme?

(DW) An excellent programme, by far the best I have seen on my travels this season. It's a good read, with a lot of the articles being written by football supporters and commercial content being kept to a minimum. The 'Connections' page was very interesting. If you'd asked me before the game I would have struggled to think of more than two connections between the clubs. It was also the first time I have ever seen a page of pubs sponsoring a club.

(JH) After having been spoiled for the last few seasons with an excellent Harriers programme, most others disappoint, but The Voice of Spotland was an excellent read, especially the articles on links between the clubs.

Also, not too much advertising guff either which makes a pleasant change.

Were you happy with the facilities for away fans?

(DW) We just managed to squeeze our travelling support into the 4,000 seater stand! We had excellent seats on the halfway line and there was somewhere to put my flag. The toilets were clean (always important to ladies) and the food & drink on sale reasonably priced. You must be commended on your extremely friendly stewards – every single one I came into contact with spoke to me and all of them were very pleasant and ready to share a joke. Very refreshing compared to some of the 'bulldogs' you get greeted with at away games.

(JH) We arrived in Rochdale at about 1345 and parked in a side street before making straight for the boozer.

When did you arrive at Spotland?

(DW) When we got to Rochdale we parked in a side road by the cemetery and took a leisurely stroll up the hill to the ground, arriving at Spotland just after 2pm. But they didn't open the turnstiles until 2.20pm, so we milled around with the other waiting Harriers supporters.

(JH) We arrived in Rochdale at about 1345 and parked in a side street before making straight for the boozer.

What did you do before the game?

(DW) Put my flag up and read the programme!

(JH) We went straight to The Cemetery (the pub, not the graveyard) to meet some friends for a few cheeky pints with some very friendly Dale supporters.

What do you think of Spotland?

(DW) It's a nice traditional little ground. It's nice to see a ground with four decent stands, unlike some others in the division I could mention, although if I was in one of the other stands the supporting posts obstructing my view would have annoyed me. The pitch was in good condition too.

Who were the best player(s) for Kidderminster?

(DW) The whole team performed well but I thought that 'Flying Postman' John Williams, Dean Bennett and on-loan Steve Burton all had really good games.

(JH) John Williams is getting better every game and in the first half he seemed to have the beating of Simon Grand every time he got the ball. He did brilliantly in beating three players to put the ball on a plate for Matty Gadsby for the goal and once again gave his all.

Did any Dale players catch your eye?

(DW) Kevin Townsend up front straight away. He's like a bloody whippet and did our captain and defender Wayne Hatswell for pace every time.

(JH) Gareth Griffiths always looked dangerous at set pieces and along with the keeper was responsible for keeping the goals against column to a minimum. Despite being the shortest goalkeeper in the history of football, Neil Edwards pulled off a number of outstanding saves. If only we'd shot just above his head!

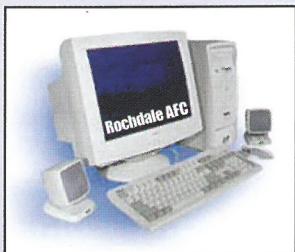
What was your journey home like?

(DW) Better than on the fans coach, I would imagine. We passed them on the motorway where they were parked on the hard shoulder with the police! Another good journey with no disruptions.

When did you get home?

(DW) 7.10pm - the journey home taking just under two hours. Time to have my dinner and get ready to go out again, hitting the town an hour later.

(JH) We arrived home at 19.20, having stopped off to pick up a celebratory Chinese on the way.



THE Internet is full of news about Dale, be it match reports, statistics or programme collecting. Steve Ashworth has been surfing the 'net to see what he could find away from the traditional sources of Dale information.

Dale on t' Internet

BELGIAN BLUE

This week we've had a look around the 'Up The Dale' site hosted by ex-pat Dale fan 'Belgian Blue'. The front page shows a lot of design skill and the site logo is surrounded with what looks like droplets of rain, which ripple away in their puddles. This may or may not be an ironic comment on the weather problems experienced on the hallowed turf over the past few years.

The 'Breaking News' section of this site featured a match report of our game against Oxford. This said: 'Despite a much improved performance against the league leaders, Dale still managed their 6th league defeat on the trot, much to the despair of the majority of the 2,282 crowd. Slack marking on the half-hour allowed Basham to score and when Alsop scored 6 minutes into the second half, it looked all over. But Dale replied almost immediately, Gary Jones sweeping home from the edge of the box, to chalk his first goal on his return to Spotland. Straight after the goal, manager Alan Buckley made a double substitution, replacing Bishop and Patterson with McEvilly and Townson. For most of the remainder of the second half, it was backs to the wall for Oxford with some stout, but sometimes desperate defending. Beech replaced

Doughty after 76 minutes, but to no avail. Dale have got to look over their shoulders now, with the three teams just below them all gaining ground after today's results.'

Next up is the 'Match Info' section, which provides probably the most in depth and comprehensive statistical information available on any of the Dale websites. Looking around this part of the site covers this season in every conceivable way that the numbers can be crunched.

The 'Club Info' section lists the who's who at Spotland and our achievements over the years. There is also a page dedicated to some then and now pictures of Spotland in the form of a slide show, where old and new shots morph from each other. There is a list of all our managers and a page dedicated to the birth of the club and a potted history up to the present day.

The 'History' section looks back through the years more comprehensively, with team pictures from as far back as the 1910/11 season, with covering notes. A past players page features more pictures and comment, covering old names like Charlie Ferguson, Ray Haddington, Dave Pearson and Eric Betts. This part of the site also features results and league tables from our time as a

Official Site - www.rochdaleafc.co.uk
Rivals website - www.rochdaleafc.com
'Belgian Blue' Dale site - www.angelfire.com/my/rochdale/main.html
Dale Programmes/memorabilia - www.daleprogs.co.uk
BURKS (Bath University Rochdale Keen Supporters) <http://www.theburks.org>
Rochdale Online (Info + local league football) - www.rochdaleonline.org/
Old footage archive - www.dalevideos.co.uk
The Dale Online - <http://mysite.freeserve.com/Thedaleonline>
Rochdale Mad - www.rochdale-mad.co.uk/

PROGRAMME SITES

Through visiting the above site, I was directed towards the site at <http://home-page.ntlworld.com/antony.lack/> which is known as 'Ectors Dale Programme Page'. Here we have another site dedicated to trading Dale (and others) programmes from a vast collection, working in a similar field to the www.daleprogs.co.uk site.

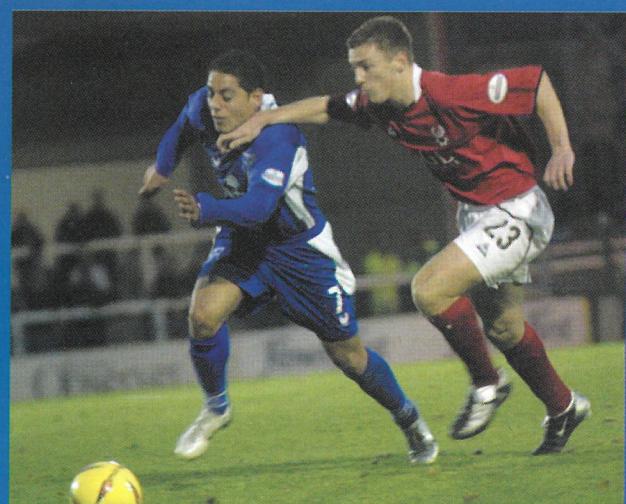
MAD ABOUT DALE

Next, a visit to Rochdale Mad for their view of the Oxford game. They reported: 'Rochdale went down to a 2-1 defeat at home to Oxford but made the league leaders fight all the way for their points. The home side stormed back in the last quarter of an hour in which they came very close to getting an equaliser. Rochdale were in early trouble but kept



**Rochdale 0
Kidderminster Harriers 1**
Nationwide League Division Three
Saturday 15th November 2003

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Today we welcome John Leach, Managing Director of the company, plus good friend Steve Appleyard, who keeps the 'wheels of industry turning'.

We wish everyone an enjoyable day.

Today's Referee

The man in charge this afternoon is **ANDY HALL** from the West Midlands. He is in his seventh season on the referees' list and is today officiating at Spotland for the fifth time.

Andy was last here for our 1-1 draw with Carlisle on Boxing Day 1998, while his most recent Dale game was the 2-0 defeat at Exeter in January 2000.

Today's Mascot

Eleven-year old **WILLIAM HAZLEHURST** is this afternoon's mascot. He attends Bury Grammar School and names his favourite Dale players as Leo Bertos.

William's hobbies are football, cricket and computer games.

Have a great day William!

ODEON
FANATICAL ABOUT FILM



Forthcoming Games

Should today's game end in a draw, the replay will take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 16th December, kick-off 7.45pm. That date is subject to the demands of Sky Television.

Dale were last at Kenilworth Road just over two years ago when a first half goal from Paul Wheatcroft sealed a 1-0 win, allowing us to replace Luton at the top of the table in the process. Our only previous FA Cup trip there was back in December 1910! Luton are charging normal admission prices for the replay. That means £15.50 for adults and £8 concessions. Away fans enter the ground through the Oak Road turnstiles, which are strangely located between two houses!

The Luton programme normally costs £2.50, although they produced a smaller issue for their replay against Thurrock in the first round. The official Travel Club will be running a coach to this game should demand warrant it. For further details, call into the Club Shop after today's action or give them a call during the week on (01706) 647521.



"Luton's visit reminds me of the days before substitutes when there was an outcry after nearly every FA Cup Final if the 'Wembley injury jinx' struck again."

with Richard Bott

Directly Speaking

THERE is always an extra buzz on FA Cup days and this is one of them.

I had to write this column nearly two weeks ago, because I was going away on holiday, so I am not in a position to comment on current affairs at Spotland.

Instead, I will try to amuse you with a few FA Cup memories and anecdotes. Hopefully, I can save a few more for the next round!

Luton's visit reminds me of the days before substitutes when there was an outcry after nearly every FA Cup Final if the 'Wembley injury jinx' struck again.

In nine finals, between 1952 and 1965, players were badly injured, leaving their team reduced to ten men or having to struggle on as passengers.

The casualties included two goalkeepers, Manchester City's Bert Trautmann and Manchester United's Ray Wood, and other notable victims were Wally Barnes (Arsenal), Eric Bell (Bolton), Jimmy Meadows (Manchester City) and Dave Whelan (Blackburn), now the multi-millionaire boss of JJB Sports and the owner of Wigan Athletic and Wigan Warriors RLFC.

The Luton connection is that in their only FA Cup Final appearance, in 1959, they lost

to a 10-man Nottingham Forest side who had one of their goal scorers, Roy Dwight, stretchered off with a broken leg.

Years later I interviewed Roy Dwight for a Sunday Express article and he recalled: "I was carried off after half an hour and knew my leg was broken.

"But it was decided not to tell the other players during the half-time interval in case it had a psychological effect on them since we were not allowed substitutes.

"They were told it was just a trapped nerve and that I would be back in the second half. Instead, I was rushed to Wembley hospital as soon as the game restarted.

"I told the staff in casualty I wanted to watch the rest of the game on TV before they did anything with my leg - so they wheeled me into a ward full of Luton fans and I was still in my Forest shirt!"

At least Roy had the last laugh because Forest finished 2-1 winners.

FA CUP STORIES

HERE is an odd piece of football trivia. Luton were without a manager at the time and were led on to the Wembley pitch by their chairman Thomas Hodgson.

He told me his knees were absolutely 'knackered' and he wanted to come off at half time because he was in so much pain. Another great Arsenal legend Alex James then produced a half bottle of brandy and told Denis to have a couple of swigs.

"Suddenly, I felt good and went out for the second half and played a blinder," said Denis.

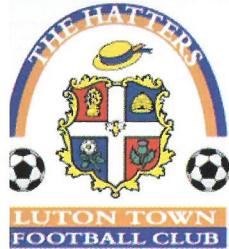
AWARDS

MIKE Newell, the Luton manager, was a guest of the northern branch of the Football Writers' Association last month when he was one of the award winners at our annual dinner in Manchester.

The award was for winning promotion to the Second Division last season with Hartlepool United, six months after they hired him to replace Chris Turner.

Hartlepool missed out on the title on the last day of the season and Mike was promptly shown the door. In June, he rejoined Luton, one of the clubs he served as a player, appointed manager after a telephone poll amongst the club's shareholders and supporters.

Jimmy Greaves was right. It is 'a funny old game.'



today's squads

Rochdale AFC v Luton Town

1	Neil Edwards (GK)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Wayne Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Michael Simpkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Sean McClare	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Gareth Griffiths	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Daryl Burgess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Leo Bertos	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Chris Beech	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Andy Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Matt Doughty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Gary Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Matthew Gilks (GK)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Patrick McCourt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Lee McEvilly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Kevin Townson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Lee Duffy	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Stephen Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Simon Grand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Paul Connor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Rory Patterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Scott Warner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3	Alan Neilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Matthew Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Russell Perrett	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian Forbes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin Nicholls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Steve Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Chris Coyne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Enoch Showunmi	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Emmerson Boyce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Ahmet Brkovic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Steven Howard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Dave Bayliss	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ian Hillier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Sol Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Gary McSheffrey	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Peter Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Marlon Beresford (GK)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32	Lee Mansell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
33	Dean Brill (GK)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
34	Dean Crowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
38	Michael Leary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41	Kevin Foley	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	Matthew Judge	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Parys Okai O'LEARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
45	Leon Barnett DEENEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
47	Rob Beckwith (GK)	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFEREE: Mr AR Hall

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Mr CL Reeves & Mr BC Sygmuta

4TH OFFICIAL: Mr GT Stott

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