

# Rushden & Diamonds

The official matchday magazine of Rushden & Diamonds Football Club £2.50



## INSIDE

Your guide to  
today's visitors

**ACTION REPLAY**  
vs Peterborough,  
Swindon, QPR

& Wycombe

Caption  
Challenge

## PLAYER PROFILE

**Marcus Bignot**

Interview with

Mike Newell

2003 review

vs Luton Town

Saturday 10th January 2004 : Kick-off 3.00pm

**Dr Martens**  
AirWair  
The Original

**erreà**

**Nationwide** **2**  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# Eagle BITTER



Proud supporters of  
Rushden & Diamonds

CHARLES  
WELLS

[www.eaglebitter.co.uk](http://www.eaglebitter.co.uk)

From the Editor

Good afternoon &  
Welcome  
to Nene Park



What a good Christmas I had with my family and my lovely grandchildren, I hope everyone was as fortunate as me. Certainly our team did very well over the holiday period, apart from a hiccup at Peterborough, with 6 out of a possible 9 points. As the old adage states "we would have settled for that".

Our visit to Loftus Road last weekend saw the team unlucky not to come away with a share of the points. After a disappointing start, we produced a spirited second-half performance but eventually slipped to a narrow 1-0 defeat following Kevin Gallen's first-half strike.



on the cover...

Rodney Jack in action against Wycombe over Christmas...

Designed and produced by [www.blugreendesign.co.uk](http://www.blugreendesign.co.uk) | Branding, design and website consultants for RDFC.

Printed by Printhaus | RDFC photography by Paul Redding (unless otherwise stated). Contributors: Ian Addis, Karen Bond, Steven Dove, Tony Jones.

The views expressed within this publication by individual contributors are not necessarily those of Rushden & Diamonds FC.

The copyright in the content of this matchday magazine is owned by RDFC. No part of this publication may be reproduced or

transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in any retrievable system of any nature without the prior written permission of RDFC.

Application for permission for use of copyright material should be made to RDFC. Full acknowledgements will be required at all times.

Rushden & Diamonds

Football Club

Nene Park, Diamond Way,

Irthlingborough,

Northamptonshire NN9 5QF

Tel: 01933 652000

Fax: 01933 650418

Chairman

W.M. Griggs CBE, MA

Directors

M.G. Darnell (Managing)

S.W. Griggs

H.M. Johnstone

A.C. Jones

C.M. Smith

Club Manager

Brian Talbot

First Team Coach

Steve Spooner

Goalkeeping Coach

Stuart Naylor

Physiotherapist

Simon Parsell

Youth Development

Geoff Harrop

Youth Team Coach

Neville Hamilton

Chief Scout

Cyril Lea

Kit Manager

Mark Stringer

Secretary

David Joyce

Operations Mngr/Safety Officer

Dean Howells

Stadium Manager

Kieran Farmer

Community Officer

Gregg Broughton

Club Doctor

Dr Mark Pepperman

Crowd Doctor

Dr John Mellor

Club Chaplain

Canon Roger Knight

Programme Editor

Ted Carroll



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



# Teamtalk with Brian Talbot...

Good afternoon and welcome to this, our first home game of 2004. I hope everybody had a good holiday period, and all the best to everyone for the New Year.

Let us hope on the football front, we can carry on in our first season in Division 2 in the vein we have done so far.

Since I last wrote my notes we have recovered from a very poor performance against Peterborough, to beat Swindon 2-0. Against Swindon we gave a very good performance, and it was a convincing win. Two good goals from Onandi Lowe gave us the much needed three points. We then went to Wycombe and did a very professional job. We ran out 2-0 winners, with two excellent goals from Rodney Jack to seal a victory which was thoroughly deserved.

Then to QPR. Maybe the hardest game of the season so far - although we have Plymouth as our next away game. QPR have only let three goals in at home all season, and a hard game it turned out to be. I have to say that, although the result was a 1-0 defeat, after our performance in the second half, we should have got something from the game at the finish. All credit for our battling performance but it wasn't quite good enough.

This brings me to today. A local derby against a team we have never beaten before. A side that seems to be a jinx to us. They are doing very well in their second season back in Division 2, and are obviously doing their very best to secure a play-off position. Although I believe the two automatic places will go to Plymouth and QPR.

We have got to keep our home form going. We want to consolidate this Club in Division 2, and it is important that the players, fans and everyone at the Club gets together so we can - starting today. We want a good return of points from our remaining 11 home games until the end of the season. I must say, it will be nice if we can turn the tables on Luton after some near misses in the past.

What other news at the Club? Trevor Benjamin has gone back to Leicester by mutual agreement. We have signed Jamie Ashdown on a long loan to the end of the season. He has done very well for us, and whilst Turley is still injured he has been a first class replacement and is looking a number one goalkeeper.

Stuart Gray is well on the way back and should be fit in two weeks.



## HONOURS

Football League Division 3 Champions 2002-03

Play Off Finalists 2001-02

Nationwide Conference Champions 2000-01

Conference Championship Shield Winners 2001

Southern League, Premier Division Champions 1995-96

Southern League, Midland Division Champions 1993-94

F.A. Umbro Trophy Semi-Finalists 1994-95

Northants F.A. Maunsell Premier Cup Winners 1994-95,

1998-99, Finalists 2001-02

Northants F.A. Senior Cup Winners 1993-94, 1998-99

Isle of Man International Football Festival Winners 2003

Paul Underwood had his operation on his knee on Wednesday, and unfortunately he will be out for 6-8 weeks. All the rest will take a little bit longer.

I hope you enjoy the game today. Get behind the lads and let us hope for a change of luck against Luton, and that we come out with the three points.

All the best.

*Brian*

“ We want a good return of points from our remaining 11 home games until the end of the season



“ We have got to keep our home form going... ”





**Dr  
Martens**

## Behind the scenes

with Simon Parsell



Happy 2004 to you all, and I hope you all have a good year. If my stars in Sunday's paper are anything to go by, it should be an interesting one for money and love. How the mind boggles. I hope I'm not going to be using one to pay for the other. I hope you are all sticking to your New Year's resolutions and not cheating. Mine personally is to continue making love at 46, which isn't bad as I live at 76, but it isn't far to walk. Stuart Wardley tells me his is to tell his wife he loves her every day. How romantic!

So welcome to Luton. Now to say that they are a bogey team is an understatement. We just cannot get a win (or a point come to that). With Luton playing well at the moment, today is going to be a tough game for us. It should be a great atmosphere with this being a local derby and as they say, may the best team win. Hopefully that's us, so we can keep Dovey quiet. When he announced he was coming out, I wondered what he was going to say, but it was to say he's a Luton fan. Let's hope he's cheering both sides' goals.

Well let's backtrack to Wycombe, and a good win for us. It gave us six points from the holiday period, which was excellent, and credit to the boys. Rodney's two goals were PlayStation goals. His first was terrific and you'll have to go a long way to see one better. The game started strangely. As I came out of the tunnel, I saw the Gaffer stood

in the dugout. "All right, Gaffer?" I said. "Yes", he replied. "You staying there, Gaffer?" "Yeah, why not?" he replies. As I carry on walking, the Gaffer suddenly realises he is stood in the home dugout. Well, he did say he would help Tony Adams if he could, but coaching the team on match day is a bit strong.

I believe Wycombe was also memorable for the supporters' coach having a flat tyre and everybody going down the pub to await a repair. Apparently, having repaired the tyre, the bus set off but not with all the passengers. Anyway, I am sure a few pints eased the blow.

Whilst talking of coach drivers, good luck to Dave, our driver, who has had an operation, we think on his foot, to help him drive faster. His first operation was cancelled. I asked, "Why's that, Dave, NHS cut-backs?" "No", he said, "it was the operating table". "Broken?" I said. "No", says Dave, "it only has a 100kg weight limit".

Next up, a visit to West London and Queens Park Rangers. It was a real test for us, as they are promotion favourites. First half, we did poorly, but in the second half we battled and could have got a draw after good efforts from Hally and Rodney. So whilst it was disappointing not to keep the run going, the boys show good battling qualities.

Ritchie had a good Christmas and got an all-action present, namely baby Jamie, so congratulations to Ritchie and Sancha. Strings and I have made ourselves available as potential godparents. What finer examples could he have?

Whilst discussing athletes let's move on to the injury list.

Stuart Gray has made excellent progress and will resume training next week. Obviously he needs a good weeks'

fitness work and maybe a reserve game. Robert Duffy is also on course, we hope, for a return. Duffers has had a rough time so it will be good for him to get back involved, but once again, he needs fitness work. Billy is making good progress and has done more training with Stu Naylor. He is still a couple of weeks away. Confidence is important following injury and, for a goalie, even more so. We'll soon be able to get that No.1 shirt out again soon.

News on Andy Edwards is not so good. He suffered a reaction in training to his back injury and will now go for a scan. Stu Wardley will be returning to Lilleshall for his final visit hopefully the week after next. The sad fact is that in football, that injury can come at any time and strike you down. That has happened to one of our young lads, Ricardo, who unfortunately developed pelvic problems and has had to take six months out of football. We wish him luck. Unders has had his knee washed out and cleaned up and if all goes well he could be back in six weeks.

Now we try to introduce technology to the club and improve service. So as you may have seen, I now wear an earpiece and carry a radio to give communication with the bench in the event of an emergency. On home games, I communicate with Phil but away, I rely on Strings. So at Wycombe, I tested the system as Burge was injured only some ten yards from the bench. As I got no reply on the radio, I resorted to shouting. As I got back to the bench, I said, "Strings, did you hear me?" "Hear what?" he says. "The radio!" I said. "Oh", he says, "I forgot to ask - how do you turn it on?"

Enjoy today's game and cheer the boys on.

Simon

**PERFECT** 

SPORTS SUPPLEMENTS

TEL: 01638 662589

Perfect Performance search for high quality products which are scientifically proven.

We at Perfect are pleased to be able to pass this knowledge to Rushden this season

Perfect Performance  
The Supplements Behind Sport  
[www.perfectperformanceuk.co.uk](http://www.perfectperformanceuk.co.uk)



# News & Views...

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AS IT HAPPENS VISIT



## MASCOT FILE...

Name Sharon Jessop  
Age 38  
School Teachers Asst at High Ash  
Favourite Diamond Billy Turley and Paul Hall



## TODAY'S OFFICIAL

Rushden & Diamonds would like to welcome today's match official Mr Steve Tanner from South Gloucestershire and his assistants Mr Gary Chapman, Mr Phil Gibbs, and Mr Peter Kirkup.

Mr Tanner is in his first season on the Nationwide List having been promoted from the Conference at the end of last season. He is one of two 'rookie' referees from that county on the list this season.

This will be the first time he has ever officiated either Luton Town or the Diamonds.

He made his debut on the opening day of the season in Kidderminster's 2-1 home victory over Mansfield. Issuing five yellow cards (one for Kidderminster and four for Mansfield) and awarding the home side a penalty.

So far this season he has handled 14 matches, three in Division Two, nine in Division Three and two in various cup competitions. In

those games he has issued 68 yellow cards and dismissed five players. Two of these, both Huddersfield players, came in their 2-0 defeat at Swansea

back in September.

In December he was in the middle for a remarkable FA Cup tie at Griffin Park. Brentford beat

Non League Gainsborough by the little matter of 7-1.

Last Saturday he was due to have been the 4th Official for the Birmingham City v Blackburn Rovers FA Cup Tie.

## TODAY'S COLLECTION

Today's collection is on behalf of the Rushden-based charity FAIR.

Please give generously to this organisation.

## DOC SHOP STAFF WANTED

Rushden & Diamonds' Doc Shop is looking for a Part Time Sales Assistant - can you help?

The successful candidate must be flexible to cover additional hours on matchday's and evening games and work well with customers.

### Hours Required:

Saturday 9.00am-1.30pm  
Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

## MASCOT FILE...

Name Alasdair Sloan  
Age 7  
School Higham Ferrers Infants  
Favourite Diamond Onandi Lowe  
Hobbies Football and swimming



Monday and Tuesday 10.00 - 5.30

Do you think that you fit the bill? For more information please contact Jane Corby, Retail Operations Manager, on telephone number 01933 652000 (ext 2257) or email jane.corby@airwair.co.uk.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Rushden & Diamonds are on the look out for your voluntary help. The club needs your help in a number of important roles around the club such as stewarding and stadium cleaning.

We are also seeking your support in a massive leaflet operation which will be occurring from Nene Park within the next few weeks.

In a bid to raise awareness of special offers at Nene Park and increase attendances we urgently need people to assist with a huge leaflet distribution both locally and more widespread to the surrounding areas of Thrapston, Bedfordshire, Woodford, Wellingborough, Milton Keynes, Huntingdon, St Neots, Barton Seagrave, Sharnbrook, and more.

If you feel that you can lend your voluntary support in any of these areas then please contact Jane Corby on (01933) 652000 or via e-mail on jane.corby@airwair.co.uk



# from Nene Park



## RESERVE CLASH

Rushden & Diamonds have arranged a reserve team match with Chesterfield on Tuesday 13th January, kick-off 1:00pm

Supporters wishing to attend can do so via the gates on Pitch Two. Hot snacks are likely to be available on the day of the game.

## TICKET SELL BACK

Rushden & Diamonds have a new scheme whereby Season Ticket holders who cannot attend matches have the opportunity to sell their ticket back to the club who will try to sell it on and give them a percentage of the re-sell value.

The scheme will work as follows: Season Ticket holders who cannot attend a particular match should contact the Ticket Office at their earliest opportunity and arrange to hand over the relevant voucher from their Season Ticket book.

Once all usual available seating has been allocated the Ticket Office will try and re-sell the ticket and, if successful, will give the Season Ticket holder a voucher to the value of 40% of the re-sell face value of the ticket.

Vouchers may be redeemed throughout Nene Park (at the Ticket Office, Doc Shop, Strikers, Seasons, Snack Bars etc) as full payment or part-payment. No change will be given.

It is anticipated that this scheme will be particularly useful for games which are likely to be a sell-out. Although the scheme is more likely to be used by seated Season Ticket holders, it is also available to those on the De Banke, as there will no doubt be certain matches when the terrace will sell out as well.

## FURTHER CAR BOOT SALE

Following on from the success of our recent Car Boot sale, Rushden & Diamonds are delighted to announce they have added further dates.

And the next chance to come down to Nene Park and visit one of the biggest car boot sales in the county is tomorrow.

These car boot sales are hugely popular and the club hope to announce further dates soon.

## TRIBUTE NIGHTS

Rushden & Diamonds would like to remind supporters that tickets are still available for our forthcoming tribute nights.

The club will be staging a Justin Timberlake and Kylie night on Friday 6th February in the Kimberley Suite which will be backed by a fantastic disco. Tickets for this event will be £5. Meanwhile a tribute to Dexter and the Revelations will also be appearing at the Diamond Centre on the 19th March 2004.

For further information on any of these events please contact Marie Carolan on (01933) 650345 ext 2333.



## BYE NINA

Everyone at Rushden & Diamonds Football Club would like to wish

Nina Hadley all the best for the future after ending her three-year stay at Nene Park as the Sports & Exhibition Centre Manager.

## MASCOT FILE...

Name Connor White  
Age 8  
School Freemans C.E  
Favourite Robin  
Hobbies football, cricket, PlayStation and RDFC





# diamondsbet

Our Official Online Betting Service

Powered by  
**bet365**

## WIN, LOSE or DRAW?

## IT'S YOUR CALL!

**TO PLACE YOUR BET  
PHONE 08000 323 365**

Quote: diamondsbet

**Match Markets Include:** • 1st GOAL SCORER • SCORECASTS  
• 90 MINUTES • CORRECT SCORE  
AND MANY MORE...

### Each bet **benefits the club!**

First time telephone betting customers placing a bet in their first call will receive a **FREE** bet on their club's next match to the same stake total (maximum free bet £10)

\*To qualify, the free bet must be placed during the first call. The stake on the free bet is not returned. Existing bet365/clubbet account holders do not qualify. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Only one open account offer per customer, household, family and debit card. Offer only applies to debit cards. [www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com)



## FOOTBALL

 **Nationwide**

## Win The FA Cup for a day



You could lift the oldest trophy in the world. To be in with a chance of having The FA Cup come to your school, workplace or local club just answer this simple question;

Which Nationwide Football League Teams played in last seasons FA Cup semi finals?

Swansea & Watford

text

FA CUP A

to →

88099

Sheffield United & Watford

text

FA CUP B

to →

88099

Sheffield United & Walsall

text

FA CUP C

to →

88099

or enter via [www.nationwide.co.uk/football](http://www.nationwide.co.uk/football)



Nationwide is an Official Partner of The FA Cup  
and sponsor of The Football League

Text entries cost 25p per entry, in addition to your standard operator rate. All correct entries will be entered into a draw to win a visit from The FA Cup Trophy. The deadline for competition entries is midnight on Friday 16 January 2004. The competition is powered by textsport.com on behalf of Nationwide. For full terms and conditions visit [www.nationwide.co.uk/football](http://www.nationwide.co.uk/football)



"management is always a little bit special if you have played for a club..."

**Karen Bond talks to the Luton boss, Mike Newell about his season so far in charge of Luton and his regular visits to Nene Park over the last year...**

Mike Newell's unveiling as the new manager of Luton Town in June set a precedent for English football, the appointment having been made after he beat former incumbent Joe Kinnear by just four votes in a phone vote.

The fact that the club went into administration shortly afterwards did not make for an easy start for Newell, who guided Hartlepool United to automatic promotion from Division Three last season, although at least he wasn't a stranger to Kenilworth Road.

"It [management] is always a little bit special if you have played for a club," admitted Newell, who scored 18 goals in 63 League appearances for Luton between January 1986 and September 1987.

"People know you and there are still a lot of people working here who were here when I was and a couple of my staff, Mick Harford and Brian Stein, I played with them. Marvin Johnson, the youth team coach, he was an apprentice when I was here.

"So all my staff I know and have worked with before."

Newell, who turns 39 later this month, began his career as a junior with hometown club Liverpool, but would actually make his League debut for Crewe Alexandra during a brief stay before joining Wigan Athletic in October 1983.

*Mike Newell*

Moves to Luton Town and Leicester City followed before the striker made a £1.1 million switch to Everton in July 1989 and went on to score 15 goals in 68 League appearances until Blackburn Rovers paid the same fee for him in November 1991.

Newell made more than 100 League appearances for Blackburn, helping the club win the Premiership in 1995 before joining Birmingham City in July 1996, an association that lasted only a season and included loan spells with West Ham and Bradford City.

The striker's next stop was Aberdeen, although by March 1999 he was back in England and enjoying a second brief spell at Crewe followed by moves to Doncaster Rovers and Blackpool where he combined playing with a spot of coaching.

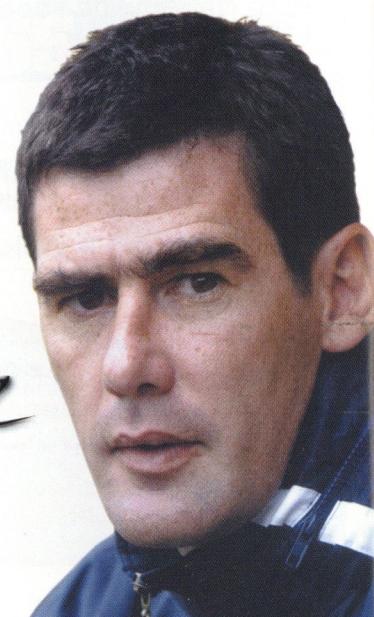
Newell, who made more than 500 League appearances in a career spanning 19 years, gained more experience as reserve team manager at Tranmere Rovers before taking over as manager of Division Three leaders Hartlepool United in November 2002.

What then is Newell, a former England Under-21 and B international, expecting from his third visit to Nene Park in eight months?

"We [Hartlepool] played them the last game of the season and lost out on the Championship with a 1-1 draw," recalled Newell, who is "reasonably pleased" with Luton's season so far.

"We [Luton] have actually played twice this year, the first game of the season here [Kenilworth Road] and we won 3-1 on a roasting hot day and we beat them in the LDV at Rushden.

"We have played three matches in the last six months so I know Rushden fairly well, they have added a couple of players to the squad and we have had them watched. I don't really know what to expect, but we will be in for a difficult game."



# Visit the Doc Shop...

Adult's Fur Hooded Parka  
S, M, L, XL  
£45.00



Kid's Navy Fleece  
Sizes 24-32  
£22.00



Adult's Bonded Fleece  
S, M, L, XL, XXL £35.00

Kid's Reversible Jacket  
(fleece lined)  
Age 11-12  
£30.00



Adult's Navy/Stone Polo Shirt  
S, M, L, XL, XXL  
£16.00



The Doc Shop, Nene Park, Diamond Way, Irthlingborough, Northants NN9 5QF Tel: 01933 652000

All available at the Doc Shop here at Nene Park

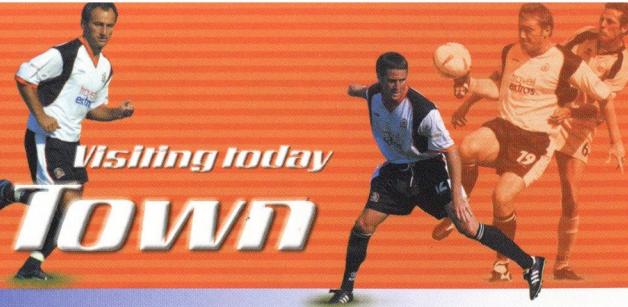


**Special offers for Season Ticket Holders and Diamond/Dazzler Members**

**Sale**  
Doc Martens  
Sale NOW ON  
prices from  
£5

Saturday 10th January  
Kick-off 3.00pm

# Luton Town



## DAVID BAYLISS

Signed in November 2001, Bayliss soon became a regular in Luton's Division Three promotion campaign of 2001/02, but injuries cut down his chances last

season. Happily he was back to full fitness when this season began. Ironically, an injury crisis led to the defender joining the Hatters. Then manager Joe Kinnear had 24 players unavailable, and discovered to his great delight that Rochdale were prepared to release their longest-serving player. An inch under six feet tall, he made over 200 first-team appearances for Rochdale before deciding not to accept a new contract with them.

## ROBERT BECKWITH

Quietly learning his trade in the Luton youth team, the teenager became the seventh goalkeeper Luton used last season when a crippling run of injuries forced his early promotion to the league side. He did well in four appearances at the end of the season, but in the summer found that at 18 he was the most senior keeper on the books. Luton were in receivership, deep in debt, and could not prevent their two senior keepers leaving on Bosman free transfers. So as the new season kicked off, Beckwith, who had come up through the ranks, was back in the firing line.

## EMMERSION BOYCE

One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995, and made

the breakthrough to the League squad at the age of 19 midway through the 1999/2000 season after occasional appearances following a debut in the Auto Windscreens Shield in January 1999. He became a regular at right back, with a liking to attack on the overlap, and signed a new contract in the summer of 2002.

## AHMET BUKOVIC

Believing a move would be good for his career, the midfield playmaker refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999. He was bitterly disappointed when Orient failed in the play-offs to win promotion to the Second Division, and decided he might have a better chance if he joined Luton. He was right, playing a valuable role, mainly on the right flank, to help Luton return to the Second Division at the first attempt.

## CHRIS COYNE

The centre-half was playing for Perth Soccer Club when he was selected for the Australian under-17 squad for the 1994 youth World Cup, and came to the notice of Harry Redknapp, then manager of West Ham. Coyne signed for the Hammers as a teenager, but Premiership chances were few and far between, and after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, Coyne went to Dundee. A £50,000 cheque persuaded the Scottish Premier League club to let the defender move to Kenilworth Road in September 2001 and

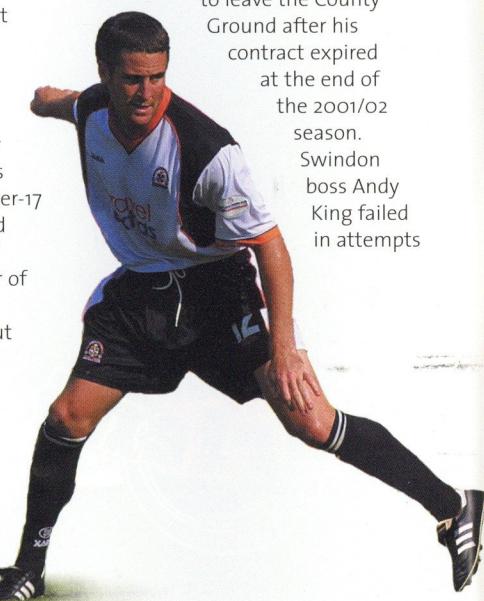
Coyne rapidly became a crowd favourite in the promotion run that followed.

## DEAN CROWE

The striker was signed on loan from Stoke City in September 2001 when an injury crisis decimated the Hatters squad. He made an immediate impact, scoring on his debut at Plymouth, and was soon signed on a permanent deal, and he helped Luton win promotion that season. Crowe began his career as a YTS boy at Stoke, but was frozen out by a change of management and an influx of Scandinavian players. He had loan spells at Northampton and Bury before joining Luton.

## SOL DAVIS

It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton, when the highly-rated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of the 2001/02 season. Swindon boss Andy King failed in attempts



factfile  
manager Mike Newell  
stadium Kenilworth Road  
capacity 9,975  
nickname The Hatters  
year founded 1885  
captain Kevin Nicholls  
website [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)

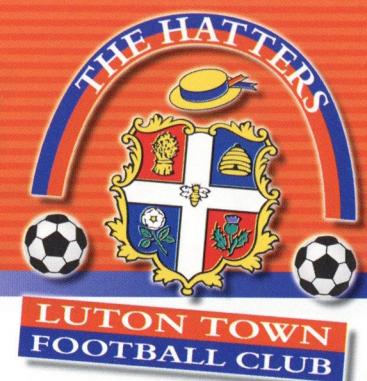
to persuade him to sign a new deal, and the Luton manager swooped for the tough-tackling left back. Davis had joined Swindon as a trainee in the summer of 1998, and made rapid progress through the youth and reserve teams to become a regular in the Nationwide League.

## KEVIN FOLEY

Great things are expected of this cultured defender, who was promoted to the first team squad at the start of this season, despite still being eligible for youth football. He has been brought through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road, and in pre-season games was pitchforked into the first team because of injuries to other defenders. He settled in rapidly, to suggest he will be competing on merit for a regular place in the league side.

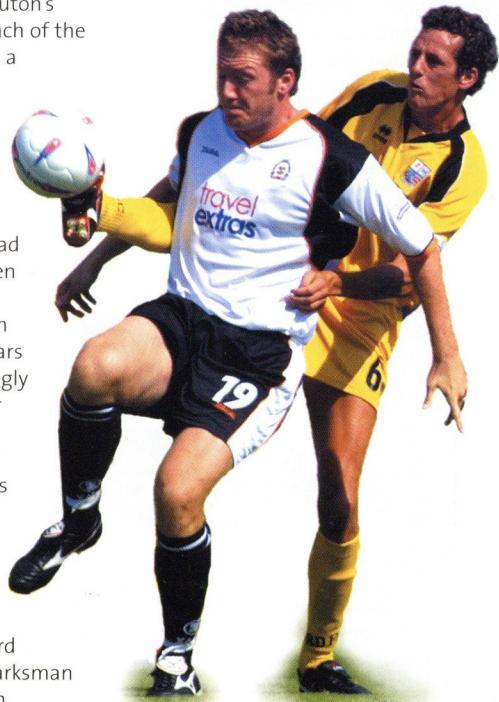
## ADRIAN FORBES

After considerable First Division experience, and with an England youth cap to his credit, Forbes was a surprise inclusion on Norwich City's list of players available for transfer in the summer of 2001, and Luton were delighted to pay £75,000 for a right winger to add width to his attacking formation. Forbes is noted for his ability to run at and past defenders, either to deliver crosses from out wide, or to cut in and have a crack at goal. But last season was a nightmare for him: he suffered cruciate ligament damage in a pre-season friendly, and missed all but the final six weeks of the campaign. He is keen to make up for lost time this season. Forbes had been at Carrow Road for four years, starting as a trainee, before his move to Kenilworth Road.



## PAUL HUGHES

A promising career that began at Chelsea was cruelly interrupted after the gifted midfielder earned the admiration of, among others, Glenn Hoddle. Hughes worked his way up at Stamford Bridge from trainee to Premiership, learning his trade under Hoddle's management, and gained experience on loan to Stockport, Norwich and Crewe. When Hoddle became manager of Southampton he soon recruited Hughes, but a serious groin injury put the midfielder out of football for nine months. Gordon Strachan succeeded Hoddle, and listed Hughes, who joined Luton at the start of the 2001/02 season.



# Luton Town

Visiting today

**MICHAEL LEARY**  
Luton's receivership in the summer might mean that former trainee Leary gets his chance this season. The club was under a Football League transfer embargo, but the coaches had no hesitation in promoting the young Londoner to the first team squad after a string of impressive performances in the youth and reserve teams.

## LEE MANSELL

The young midfielder is hoping to make the permanent breakthrough into Luton's first team this season, after making a dramatic surprise debut. Because of injury absences, he had to make the transition straight from the youth squad to the first team in January 2001, and was just 58 seconds into his debut against Queens Park Rangers, in an FA Cup third round replay, when he scored. Luton had looked after him since he was an 11-year-old, and signed him as soon as he left school. His dramatic emergence at Loftus Road led to him being rewarded with a full professional contract, but he went into this season still fighting for a permanent place in Luton's side.

## ALAN NEILSON

Experience and versatility has made Neilson a valuable member of Luton's squad, and he has filled any role asked of him with dependable consistency - anywhere in the back four, or in midfield. The former Welsh international was signed from Grimsby in 2002 as part of a cost-cutting exercise. His



international career began with appearances for Wales at youth and under-21 level, followed by five full caps, and he enjoyed a good career in the Premiership, with his first club Newcastle and then with Southampton and Fulham.

## KEVIN NICHOLLS

The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton and quickly made an impact after skippering England youth teams at under-18, under-19 and under-20 levels. Surprisingly, Wigan decided to put him on the transfer list in the summer of 2001, for a bargain fee of £150,000, and Luton snapped him up. Charlton had sold him for £250,000 to Wigan in the summer of 1999. The move to Luton suited Nicholls and the Hatters alike. He quickly became team captain, and his huge enthusiasm and ferocious tackling soon made him a big favourite with Luton fans, although opponents did not always view his all-action style with similar relish.

## PARYS OKAI

Small, but very quick, the young midfielder kicked off this season with high hopes that it will be the start of a successful senior career. At Kenilworth Road since he was a schoolboy, he began the campaign with only one brief first team appearance behind him, as a sub in the LDV Vans Trophy at Woking. But with Luton's league squad cut to the bone by receivership in the summer, he was hoping to make the breakthrough this season.



## RUSS PERRETT

Having helped Cardiff City win promotion to the Second Division in May 2001, the big central defender was the victim of a huge recruitment drive at Ninian Park and Perrett knew his first team future at Cardiff might be limited. He accepted an offer to join Luton, and won promotion from Division Three with the Hatters 12 months later. His career had begun with non-league Lymington before he went to neighbouring Portsmouth in 1995 and then to Cardiff four years later.

## STEVE ROBINSON

Looking to add experience to a young midfield department, Luton snapped up a man who had earned respect

wherever he played. They paid £50,000 to Preston North End in the summer of 2002 for a player who had been capped five

times by Northern Ireland. He had made his name at Bournemouth after joining the Cherries on a free transfer from Spurs, where he had been a trainee. He hit 60 goals in 286 appearance for Bournemouth, an enviable strike rate from midfield, and Preston paid £375,000 for him. But he failed to make the same impact in two years at Deepdale, and jumped at the chance to get his career moving again when Luton came in for him.

## MATTHEW SPRING

There was relief all round when the competitive midfielder accepted a



new contract at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2002. Spring has been at Luton since he was a schoolboy, and was a driving force in the side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997. After a league debut when still only 17, he soon became a regular in Luton's Second Division team, and his first 100 appearances were clocked up while he was only 20. He has developed into a very consistent midfielder, always willing to drive forward and look for goals. His long-range shooting is particularly admired by the Hatters fans, and a 30-yard cracked against Watford in the Worthington Cup last season was the runaway winner for their award for goal of the season.

## The Manager

### MIKE NEWELL

The former striker is unique among managers - Luton fans helped him to get the job in a telephone poll just before this season began. They had suffered agonies as Luton underwent a change of ownership, which resulted in the sacking of the previous manager, Joe Kinnear. The new owners enlisted supporters' help in drawing up a shortlist to fill the vacancy, and Newell, who had been a popular player at Kenilworth Road two decades earlier, was installed.

He was delighted to get the job, but soon discovered he had taken on a huge challenge. He had hardly settled in before the club went into receivership, with debts of £11million. The Football League imposed a transfer embargo, and with eight players having left earlier in the summer Newell found himself having to do the best he could with limited resources.

Fortunately the core of the Luton team was still intact, and the receiver allowed the new manager to make the major new "signing" he most wanted when Luton legend Mick Harford was brought back to be Director of Football and first team coach. Harford had been sacked two months previously by the new owners.

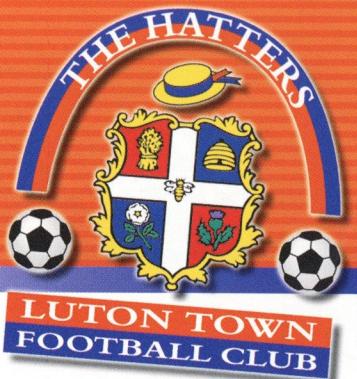
Newell has been in football for more than 20 years, beginning as a striker at Crewe before joining Wigan. After three years at Springfield Park he moved to

Luton for £80,000 in January 1986. He

was recruited as a replacement for Mick Harford, who was on the injured list. Luton were then in the old First Division, now the Premiership, and Newell flourished at top level, with 19 goals in 68 matches for the Hatters.

He racked up a succession of big money transfers after that: £350,000 to Leicester, £1.1million to Everton, £1.1million to Blackburn, where he won a Premiership winner's medal, and £900,000 to Birmingham. West Ham, Bradford, Aberdeen, Crewe again, and Blackpool were also grateful for his goal-scoring abilities before he moved into coaching at Tranmere.

In November 2002 he was given his first job as a manager, at Hartlepool. He guided them to promotion a few months later, but surprisingly his contract was not renewed. But Luton fans hadn't forgotten him, and gave him a huge welcome back when he took charge for the first time. It was a



# aglance back with today's visitors



## FA Cup frustration...

Ian Addis looks back to 1961, an abandoned game and a Denis Law double hat-trick...

If Rushden and Diamonds players have endured frustrations in their past dealings with Luton Town they pale into insignificance when compared to those suffered by the great Denis Law.

I wonder how many of today's visiting supporters were among the crowds at Kenilworth Road forty-three years ago this month for two of the most contentious matches in the long history of the FA Cup.

One Wednesday afternoon in January 1961, I was among a car-load of football fans from Kettering who set off down the A6 to Luton for the replayed Fourth Round FA Cup fixture between the Hatters, then in the Second Division, and Manchester City from the top flight.

The weather was murky but dry, in marked contrast to the conditions the previous Saturday when relentless rain had turned the playing surface at Kenilworth Road into a quagmire. Whether the

original game should have started at all was the subject of debate both on the terraces and, no doubt, in the visitors' dressing-room.

It had all begun so well for Luton who, with just seventeen minutes gone, led with two goals by striker Alec Ashworth. Enter Denis Law.

The treacherous conditions, with pools of standing water covering much of the pitch, did not hamper the Scot in the slightest. His incredible close-range reactions in the goalmouth, taking advantage of defenders floundering in the mud, enabled him to complete a

remarkable double hat-trick as City took a 6-2 lead. Imagine his despair as referee Ken Tuck, of Chesterfield, decided after sixty seven minutes that it was impossible to carry on and abandoned the match. Luton were reprieved.

And so to the replay. I remember the result being of secondary importance to me at the time.

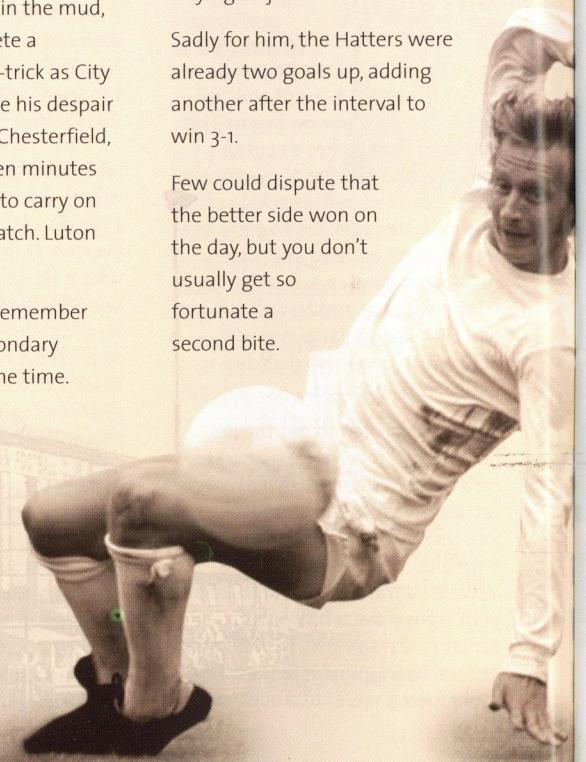
It was my second glimpse of Denis Law, having watched the precocious youngster at Filbert Street some years before during his 'apprenticeship' with Huddersfield.

If his promise had been apparent then, he was now marked for greatness. Here was a player who had scored six times against the same opposition four days earlier, yet somehow consistently eluded his markers, conjuring time and space whenever he received the ball. He even managed to score City's goal just before half-time.

Sadly for him, the Hatters were already two goals up, adding another after the interval to win 3-1.

Few could dispute that the better side won on the day, but you don't usually get so fortunate a second bite.

Whether the original game should have started at all was the subject of debate both on the terraces and, no doubt, in the visitors' dressing-room.



# Diamonds



## Form Guide:

Won: 2  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 7  
Scored: 6  
Conc: 6  
Points: 8  
Goal Diff: 1  
Last 6: DDLWFL

Last 5 Home: LWWDW

Last 5 Away: LDLWL

Miscellaneous

Players Used: 24

Clean Sheets: 5

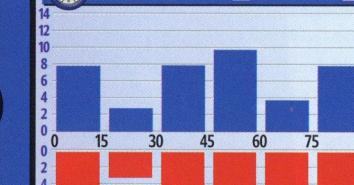
Failed to Score: 4



## The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Lowe	4
Long range shots	Lowe, Jack	3
Inside 6 yards	Lowe	6
Shots from 6-18 yards	Jack	3
Volleyed shots	Jack	2
Penalties	Gray	2
Scored 1st Goal in match	Lowe	5
Most goals in last 10	Lowe	2
Points gained from goals	Lowe	10.08

## When Goals Scored □ & Conceded □



## Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target  
Goals conceded  
On target/goals scored  
Division 2 rating

198  
37  
5.35  
2

Shots on target  
Goals scored  
On target / goals  
Division 2 Rating

165  
41  
4.02  
8

## Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10  
Points won  
Goals Against, last 10  
Points lost

8  
2  
4  
1

## Fouls & Offsides

Won: 2  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 7  
Scored: 7  
Conc: 6  
Points: 8  
Goal Diff: 1  
Last 6: DDLWFL

11.44  
4  
5.12  
24

## Swings

WON when behind  
DRAWN when behind  
LOST when ahead  
DRAWN when ahead  
WON 2 down  
WON 1 down

3  
3  
3  
2  
0  
3

## Margins

WON BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

4  
5  
0  
1  
0

LOST BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

6  
4  
0  
0  
0

## Attendances

Aggregate  
Highest  
Lowest  
Average

52,313  
5,544  
3,817  
4,359



Need a car?...Can't get credit?  
apply online at [www.adcf.co.uk](http://www.adcf.co.uk) or call 0800 027 1150\*

Lines open 8.30am - 8pm weekdays, 8.30am - 6pm on Saturdays and 10am - 4pm on Sundays. Finance is provided subject to status. Written quotations on request. Licensed credit brokers. You must be a UK resident and aged 18 or over. Credit only available on cars supplied by us. \*Telephone calls may be monitored or recorded for security and quality control.



# Hatters



Form Guide:  
Won: 3  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 1  
Scored: 5  
Conc: 2  
Points: 11  
Goal Diff: 3  
Last 6: DDLWFL

WON when behind  
DRAWN when behind  
LOST when ahead  
DRAWN when ahead  
WON 2 down  
WON 1 down

3  
3  
2  
4  
1  
2

LOST 2 up  
LOST 1 up  
DRAWN 2+ down  
DRAWN 1 down

0  
2  
0  
3

DRAWN 2+ up  
DRAWN 1 up

0  
4

Miscellaneous  
Players Used: 32

Clean Sheets: 5

Failed to Score: 4



## Where Goals

16 Close Range  
14 Inside Area  
11 Outside Area

6  
27  
4

## How Goals

19 Shots  
11 Headers  
6 Volleys  
2 Penalties  
3 Free Kicks  
3 Own Goals

21  
10  
3  
2  
0  
1

## When Goals Scored □ & Conceded □



## The Guys to Watch

Headed goals  
Long range shots  
Inside 6 yards  
Shots from 6-18 yards  
Volleyed shots  
Penalties  
Scored 1st Goal in match  
Most goals in last 10  
Points gained from goals

Howard, Perrett  
McSheffrey  
Forbes  
3 players  
Nicholls, McSheffrey  
Howard  
5 players  
Howard

2  
2  
2  
1  
3  
3  
0  
7.5



## Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target  
Goals conceded  
On target/goals scored  
Division 2 rating

138  
35  
3.94  
19

Shots on target  
Goals scored  
On target / goals  
Division 2 Rating

139  
37  
3.76  
4



## Set Piece Goals

CORNERS: Scored from C  
Conceded from C  
FREE KICKS: Scored from FK  
Conceded from FK

4  
4  
4  
4



## Goals in last 10 mins

CORNERS: Scored from C  
Conceded from C  
FREE KICKS: Scored from FK  
Conceded from FK

4  
3  
4  
4



## Cards

WON BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

28  
3  
0  
0  
0

LOST BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

49  
5  
0  
0  
0



## Swings

WON BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

5  
5  
3  
0  
0

LOST BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

3  
2  
2  
0  
0



## Margins

WON BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

5  
5  
3  
0  
0

LOST BY: 1 Goal  
2 Goals  
3 Goals  
4 Goals  
5+ Goals

3  
2  
2  
0  
0



## Luton Town's 10-Year Record

Div 1: 16th  
Div 2: 20th  
Div 3: 24th  
Div 4: 3rd  
LS: 1st  
GLS: 9  
ATT: 7,878

FA Cup: 1st  
League Cup: 1st  
SF: 1st  
F: 1st  
W: 1st

1st  
2nd  
3rd  
4th  
5th

1st  
2nd

# Action replay

Saturday 20th December  
Peterborough Utd (A) 1-3

Att: 6,167  
Ref: A Bates



## PETERBOROUGH UNITED

Pullen, Burton (Gill 89), Legg, Arber, Kanu, Jolleyman, Willock (Fotiadis 88), Thomson, Curtis Woodhouse, Logan, Andy Clarke (Farrell 72).

**Subs Not Used:** Scott, Newton.

**Goals:** Willock 77, Curtis Woodhouse 84 (pen), Farrell 86.

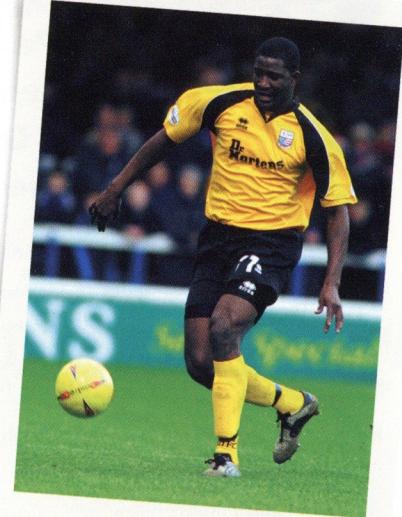
## RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS

Ashdown, Bignot, Hunter, Dempster, Underwood (Sambrook 70), Talbot (Bell 79), Burgess, Mills, Jack, Kitson (Hall 86), Lowe

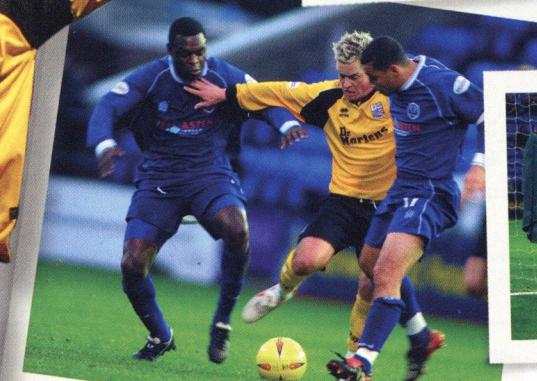
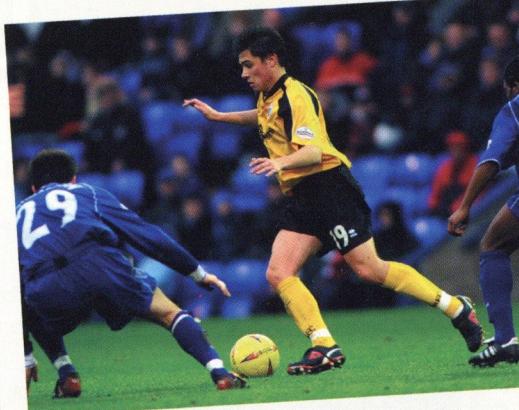
**Subs Not Used:** Story, Akinfenwa.

**Booked:** Lowe.

**Goals:** Kitson 49.



Don't forget, many of Club Photographer, Paul Redding's, superb action photos can be purchased from the Doc Shop.



# A Plant Persons' Paradise

Thousands of Plants Always Available



**Houseplants -  
Ponds - Fish -  
Pumps - Paving -  
Walling - Fencing -  
Furniture - Garden  
Sundries**

OPEN: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm (Winter), 9am-6.30pm (Other Times) Sun 10.30am-4.30pm

Please Telephone For Details Of Our Late Opening Evenings.



High Street, Podington, Wellingborough, Northants

**Tel: 01933 353656**

[www.podington.co.uk](http://www.podington.co.uk)



Static Security Officers

- Access Control & Gatehouse Officers
- Event & Exhibition Security
- SITO Accredited Security Trainers
- Short or Emergency Cover Provided

**Tel: 01604 722211**

HEAD OFFICE

Synergie House, 298 Wellingborough Road, Northampton NN1 4EP

Fax: 01604 722222

Website: [www.stargardsecurity.ltd.uk](http://www.stargardsecurity.ltd.uk)  
E-mail: [info@stargardsecurity.ltd.uk](mailto:info@stargardsecurity.ltd.uk)

# DEEJAK

**Builders and Property Developers**

Sponsors of Rushden & Diamonds FC

Francis Court, Norris Way

Rushden

Northants  
NN10 6AY

Telephone: [01933] 358818

Facsimile: [01933] 410492

email: [admin@deejak-builders.co.uk](mailto:admin@deejak-builders.co.uk)

Website: [www.deejak-builders.com](http://www.deejak-builders.com)

Builders for the Airwair Stand

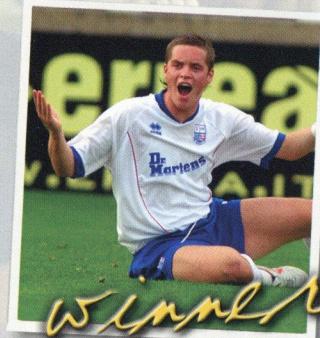


# Caption Challenge Competition Corner

with



[www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com)



We had loads of entries for our latest 'Caption Challenge' featuring the above photo. Congratulations go to Mr Tim Smith, from Norfolk, for his winning caption 'What do you mean you're sending me off for a bad hair-do?!'.



*Come on, log on and win!*

Good afternoon and welcome to Competition Corner!

Throughout the season we will offer you the chance to win some fantastic Rushden & Diamonds merchandise with our fantastic competitions.

In this issue we have our popular 'Caption Challenge'.

For your chance to win a signed Rushden & Diamonds football, simply send us an amusing (not too rude, this is a family magazine!) caption for the above picture, taken of the new Wycombe boss, Tony Adams at our recent game, by

logging on to the Club website at [www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com), click on 'Fans' and then 'Caption Competition' and register your entry. Alternatively, you can send your entry on a postcard to Paul Redding at the Club (see page 3 for the full address).

The best captions will be printed in future programmes and the winning entry will receive a signed Rushden & Diamonds football.

*Good luck!*

We had loads of entries for our latest 'Caption Challenge' featuring the above photo. Congratulations go to Joanne Steele, from Rushden, for her winning caption 'When the gaffer said 'look at the stud' I thought he meant me!'.

# Action replay

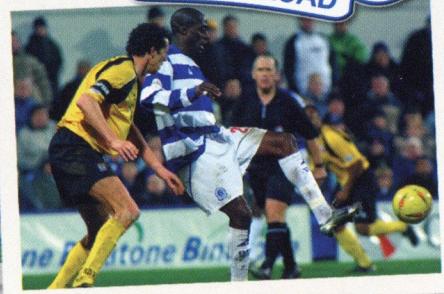
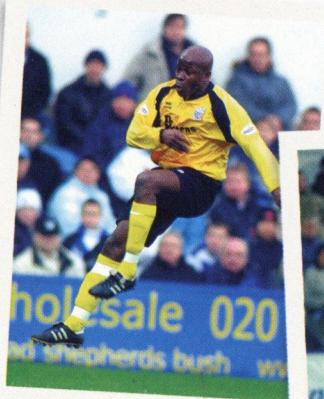
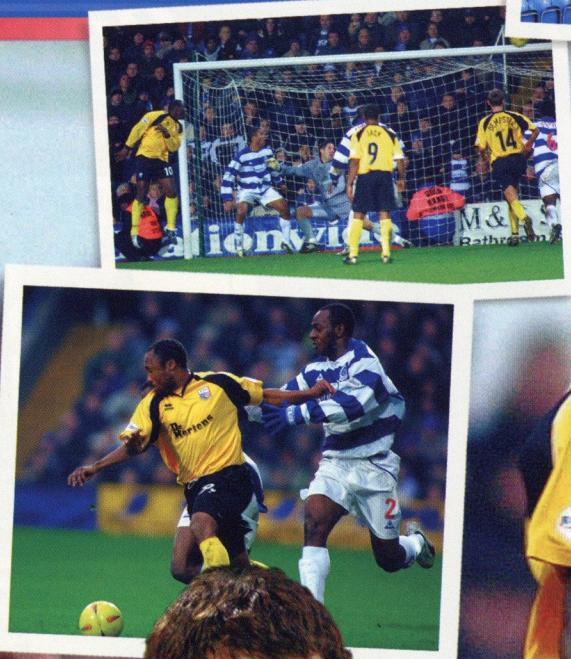


Saturday 3rd January

QPR (A) 0-1

Att: 14,141

Ref: A Butler



## QPR

Day, Forbes, Carlisle, Shittu, Padula, Rowlands, Bircham, Bean, McLeod (Ainsworth 84), Gallen, Furlong.

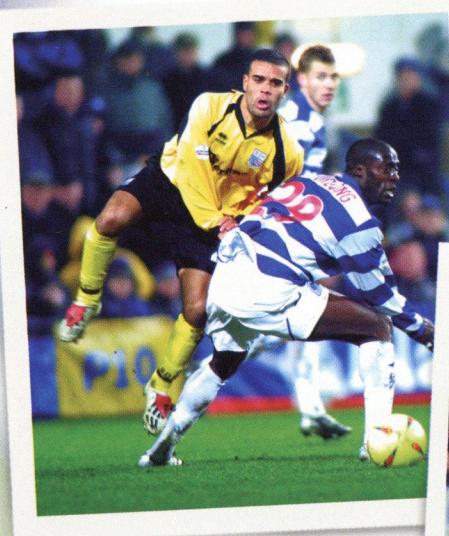
**Subs Not Used:** Culkin, Palmer, Rose, Sabin.

**Goals:** Gallen 24.

## RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS

Ashdown, Sambrook, Hunter, Dempster, Bignot, Hall (Bell 60), Hanlon, Burgess, Jack, Kitson (Benjamin 68), Lowe

**Subs Not Used:** Talbot, Okuonghae, Akinfenwa.



Don't forget, many of Club Photographer, Paul Redding's, superb action photos can be purchased from the Doc Shop.



# Around the Division

with Steven Dove

Nationwide Division Two leaders Plymouth maintained their four-point lead at the top of the table with a 7-0 thrashing of struggling Chesterfield at Home Park, while second-placed QPR defeated Rushden & Diamonds 1-0.

Lee Hodges gave the Pilgrims a dream start putting them ahead after only four minutes, before Tony Capaldi grabbed his fourth goal in five games to make it 2-0 seven minutes later. The game was over on 12 minutes when Nathan Lowndes pounced to make it 3-0 and David Friio's 10th of the season made it four three minutes later before Lowndes' second on 18 minutes made it five. Friio fired the ball into the roof of the net from close range for his second of the game to make it 6-0 on 36 minutes and the Frenchman scored his hat-trick for the seventh two minutes from time.

Wrexham's automatic promotion hopes were dented when they crashed to a 2-1 defeat against

Sheffield Wednesday in the 1pm kick-off at the Racecourse Ground. The Owls went ahead in the 39th minute when Guylain Ndumbu-Nsungu headed in a Paul Smith cross. The Red Dragons were on level terms ten minutes later when Brian Carey got on the end of a Paul Barrett cross to head past David Lucas in the Owls goal, but Chris Turner's men grabbed all three points on 65 minutes when Alan Quinn fired in on his first game back from a loan spell at Sunderland.

Bottom club Wycombe made a great start against Grimsby at the Causeway Stadium when Luke Moore - on loan from Aston Villa - put Tony Adams' men ahead after only five minutes. The lead only lasted three minutes when loan man Iffy Onoura from Sheffield United equalised for the Mariners. Jermaine McSporran put the Chairboys back in front on 28 minutes converting a Darren Currie cross. Moore grabbed his second and Wycombe's third on 52

minutes, latching on to a Nathan Tyson pass to fire past Aidan Davison, before completing his hat-trick in the 90th minute to seal an impressive 4-1 win.

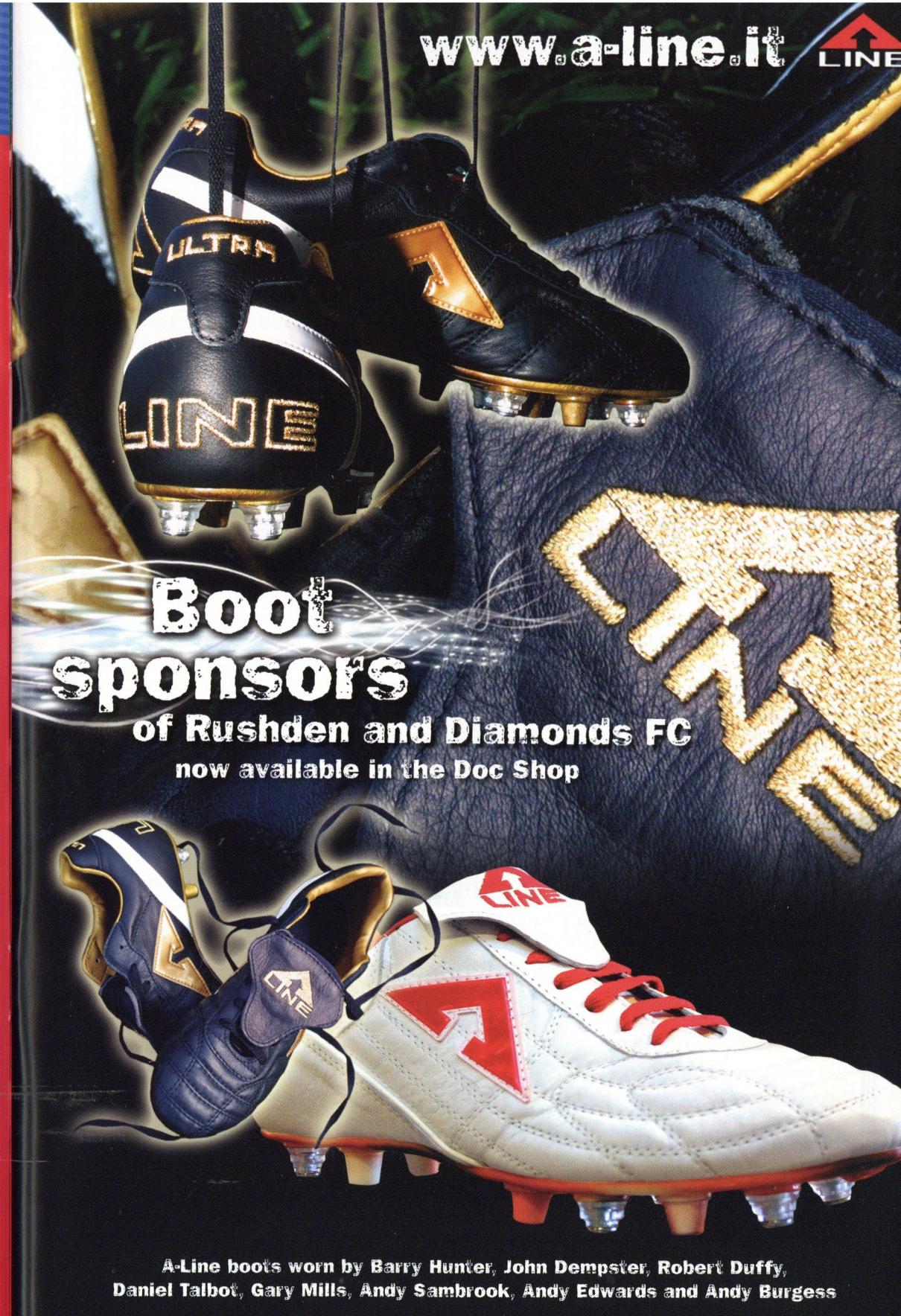
Bournemouth scored their first goal in six games when James Hayter put them in front against Swindon Town at the County Ground. The Robins hit back quickly to get back on level terms through Tommy Mooney's first goal since October to make it 1-1 on 15 minutes. Mooney grabbed his second on 80 minutes to complete the comeback for Swindon and the win lifts them from mid-table to the fringes of the play-off places.

Ben May headed in Michael Dobson's corner to hand Brentford a 13th minute lead in the 1-1 draw against Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park. The Latics were level on 54 minutes when Scott Vernon headed in a cross from John Eyre to secure a share of the spoils. The visitors were reduced to ten men on 73 minutes when Joel Kitamirike was red carded for two bookable offences.



[www.a-line.it](http://www.a-line.it)

LINE



# HAMMON OSBORNE

---

## INSURANCE BROKERS

*Proud to be  
Insurance Brokers to  
Rushden & Diamonds  
Football Club*



**Hammon Osborne Ltd**  
De Senlis House  
41-43 Sheep Street  
Northampton  
NN1 2NE

Tel: 01604 627911  
Fax: 01604 620180

[www.hammon-osborne.co.uk](http://www.hammon-osborne.co.uk)

## Player Profile Pull-out with **Marcus Bignot**



For young Marcus Bignot, a devoted Birmingham City fan, the future at St Andrews couldn't have seemed brighter. As captain of the club's Youth team and a Reserve side regular he seemed destined for a professional career, but things changed with the arrival of new boss Terry Cooper from Exeter City. Suddenly the YTS youngster found himself surplus to requirements, received the '*polite let-down*' and moved into Conference football with Telford United, then managed by Gerry Daly.

The former Irish international was one of a number of important influences in Marcus's football career and, although Telford's huge potential was largely unfulfilled during his four years at the Bucks Head, he regards the period as a crucial part of his football education, a time for '*important grounding*' and '*learning basics*'. This 'apprenticeship' continued at his next club, Kidderminster Harriers, where manager Graham Allner had built a side worthy of League status. As Marcus recalls, *'The whole set-up was brilliant, and we seemed certain to get promoted. At one time we were sixteen points clear but Macclesfield pegged us back and pipped us to the Conference title in the last game of the season. It was my biggest disappointment since being released by Birmingham, but within a few weeks of the next season I'd finally made the move into the Football League and achieved my ambition to be a full-time professional. I'd heard that Crewe were interested and had made an offer but Kiddy turned it down. Like Graham Allner said, 'They'll be back.' I trusted him implicitly and he was right. Crewe paid £100,000 down*

*with the promise of another £100,000 when I'd played a certain number of games. I'm pleased to say I did and Kiddy got the money they deserved.'*

He was due to make his League debut in a high-profile televised local derby against Port Vale but this had been postponed due to the death of Princess Diana, and he eventually appeared in a midweek game against Bury winning the Man of the Match award in a 2-1 defeat. He became a regular in Dario Gradi's team, which included the likes of Danny Murphy and Seth Johnson, and enjoyed what he regards as '*my best year in football*' as the Gresty Road side established itself in the First Division. Marcus's education developed under one of the game's most respected coaches and confirmed his intentions to remain in football in a similar capacity when his playing days are over.

After three successful years a dislocated shoulder injury put his first team place in jeopardy. Marcus was offered a new contract but '*Crewe were not the most generous payers*' and, now in his mid-twenties, he was looking for greater security. He seemed to have found this at his next club, Bristol Rovers, where manager Ian Holloway had the funds to finance a promotion-winning side. Marcus retains great respect for Holloway who, *'didn't only add to my footballing education but influenced me as a person too. He was an infectious character and a good friend.'*

There were good times, like scoring a rare goal in the Worthington Cup defeat of Everton, but within a year he'd moved on again as the chairman put the whole team on the transfer list in a bid to off-

load the heavy payers. He followed Holloway to Queen's Park Rangers but was unable to prevent the once-great club suffering relegation to the Second Division.

A period of crisis followed as Rangers went into administration, increased family responsibilities added to the pressure, and his contract was at an end. He resisted the temptation to take a 40% pay cut and, after discussions with former team-mate Stuart Wardley, decided on a move into the Third Division with Rushden and Diamonds. Fitness problems after operations in the close season caused some anxiety but after four one-monthly contracts he finally signed for the Nene Park club in November 2002 and went on to win the Championship medal that had eluded him with Kidderminster Harriers.

Now twenty-nine, Marcus's experiences in non-league football have taught him to take nothing for granted. '*Everyone needs to set targets and personal goals, otherwise they stand still. Having been a part-timer, and knowing how difficult that is, I'm more determined than ever to succeed. I started my League career in the First Division and that's where I aim to finish. Then I'll start a second life in the game, hopefully as a player-coach.*'

He attributes much to important figures, such as his father Paul, Kevin Sweeney, his Sunday Youth team manager, Daly, Allner, Gradi and Holloway, who have all helped in his development in football. With such positive influences he is well-qualified to help others achieve success in the game he loves.

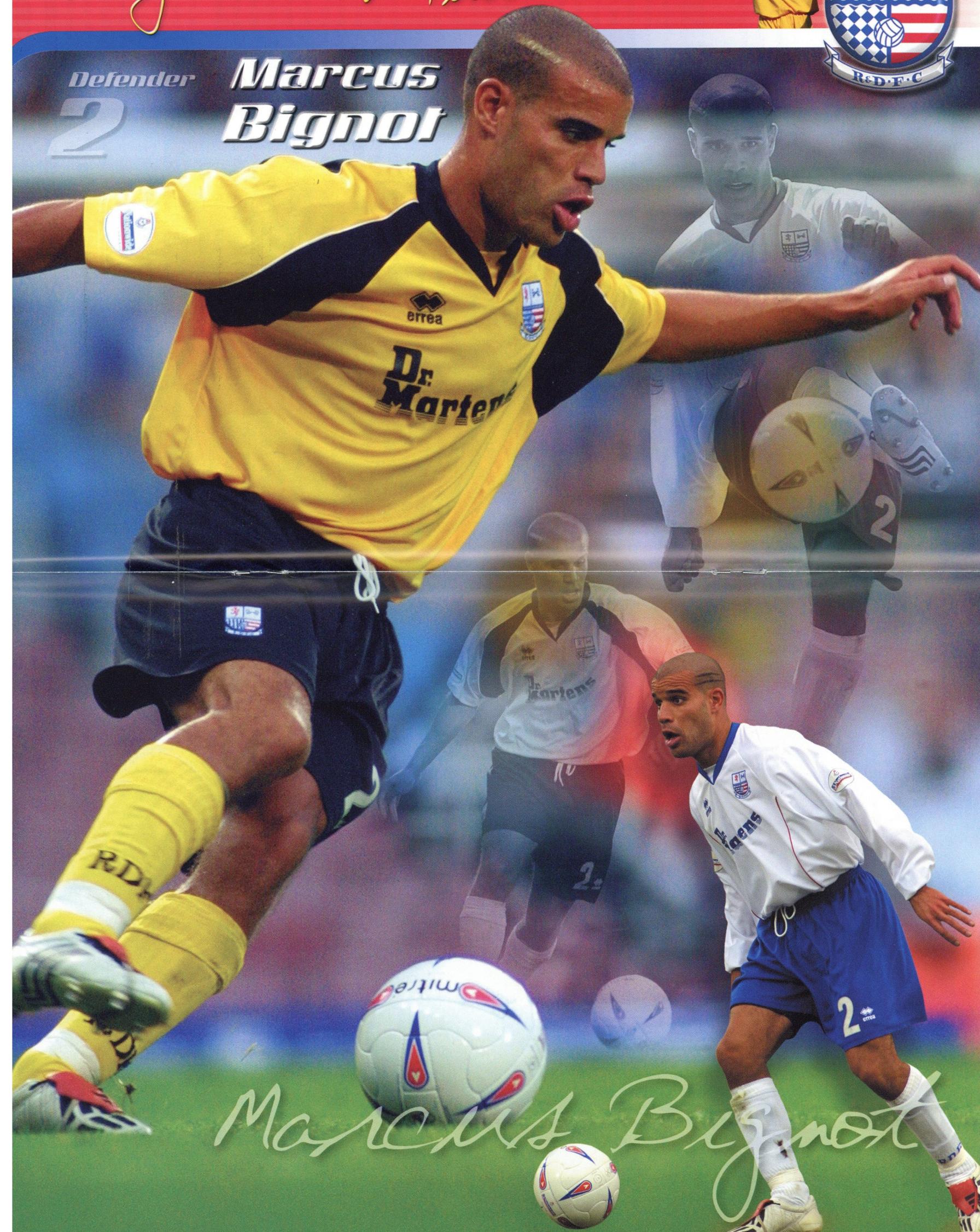
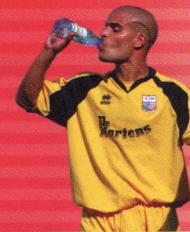
# Player Profile

Pull-out with

Defender

**2**

## **Marcus Bignot**



# Marcus Bignot's Favourite player Mikael Forssell



“ ...loan spells at Crystal Palace, where he scored 18 times in 54 appearances

“ described by former midfielder Dennis Wise as 'the best young player he had ever trained with'

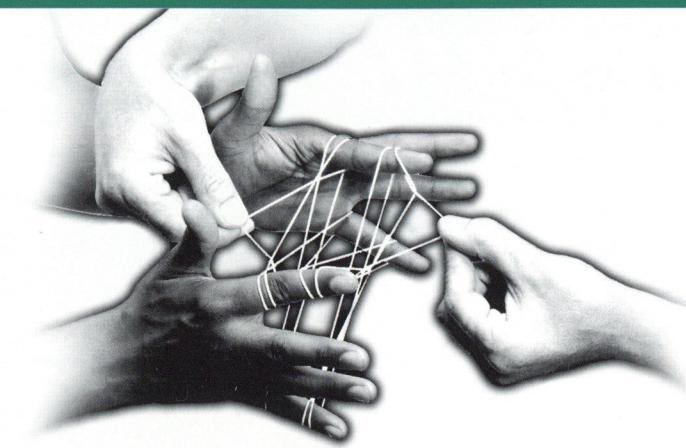
Marcus Bignot was unequivocal in his choice of favourite player. He couldn't be swayed in favour of one of the game's distant greats but was insistent upon a current Birmingham City player who would appear to have more of a future than a past.

Mikael Forssell has marked his brief career at St Andrews with a number of important goals confirming his potential as one of football's most promising strikers. Since joining Birmingham from Chelsea, initially on a four-month loan deal, he has won the admiration of Blues fans who regard the signing of the Finnish international as further evidence of the club's determination to establish itself as a leading Premiership club.

Looking at Forssell's record it's difficult to understand why Chelsea feel able to dispense with the services of such a proven goalscorer, despite their surfeit of top quality forwards. Used mainly

as a substitute during his time at Stamford Bridge, he still managed to score 12 goals in 51 appearances and was described by former midfielder Dennis Wise as 'the best young player he had ever trained with' while forecasting a 'superb future' for the youngster. Forssell's goalscoring record was further enhanced by loan spells at Crystal Palace, where he scored 18 times in 54 appearances and, for the last four months of last season, at Borussia Moenchengladbach where he played twelve times in the Bundesliga hitting seven goals.

The impressive ratio of goals to games has been maintained at St Andrew's this season and, as Marcus Bignot implies, marks out the twenty-two year old for future greatness. Time will tell if the Birmingham born defender's predictions prove accurate, but if Forssell's goals continue to safeguard the Blues Premiership status, and perhaps bring a bit of glory in the process, he won't care too much.



## Helping our clients to solve problems...

[www.bluegreendesign.co.uk](http://www.bluegreendesign.co.uk)

BRANDING, DESIGN AND WEBSITE CONSULTANTS



BBC WORLD SERVICE



MENCAP  
Understanding learning disability



enjoy!Whitbread

01234 217218

# Action replay

Friday 26th December  
Swindon Town (H) 2-0

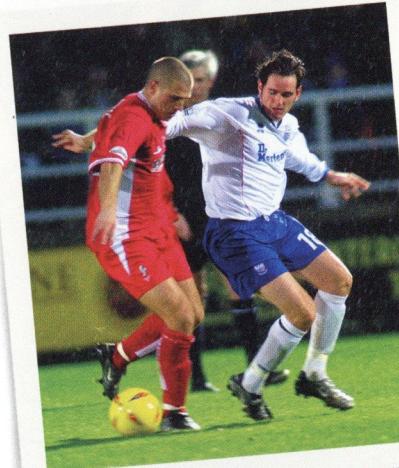
Att: 4,845  
Ref: M Warren

## RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS

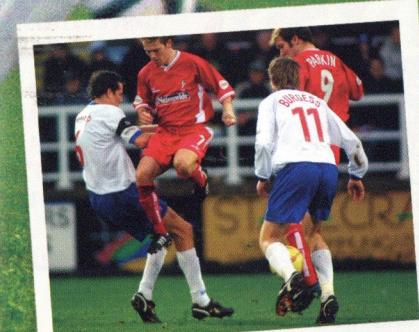
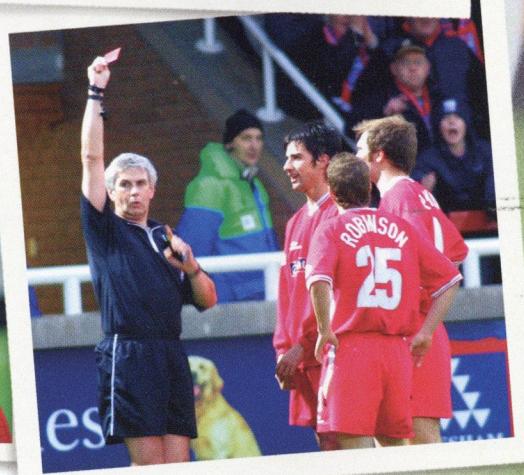
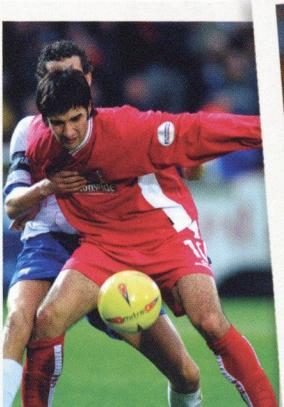
Ashdown, Bignot, Hunter, Dempster,  
Sambrook, Hall, Bell, Burgess, Jack,  
Kitson, Lowe (Hanlon 73)  
Subs Not Used: Benjamin, Talbot,  
Okuonghae, Akinfenwa.  
Goals: Lowe 23, 63.

## SWINDON

Evans, Gurney, Ifil, Reeves,  
Nicholas, Igoe (Mooney 59),  
Miglioranzi, Robinson, Howard  
(Duke 74), Fallon, Parkin.  
Subs Not Used: Griemink, Hewlett,  
Ruster.  
Booked: Gurney, Reeves, Robinson.  
Sent Off: Fallon 30.



Don't forget, many of Club  
Photographer, Paul Redding's,  
superb action photos can be  
purchased from the Doc Shop.



## engineering the future with Rolton

Local and national providers of Professional Engineering services for the construction industry.

- Civil & Structural
- Mechanical & Electrical
- Geotechnical & Environmental
- Engineering Project Management
- Planning Supervisor
- Fire Engineering



Offices in Higham Ferrers  
Peterborough Nottingham & Solihull

**ROLTON**  
[www.rolton.com](http://www.rolton.com)

The Charles Parker Building, Midland Road, Higham Ferrers, Northants NN10 8DN  
Telephone +44 (0)1933 410909 Fax +44 (0)1933 410922



Suppliers to R&DFC, The Diamond Centre and Seasons Bistro.

Stockists of Prime Scotch & English Beef, English Pork and Lamb, Poultry and Game.

Hog Roast Specialists for BBQs, Weddings, Parties and Corporate Functions.

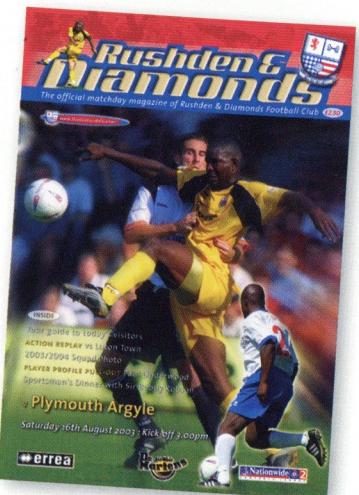
BBQ Specialists, homemade sausages, burgers and kebabs.

Come to us for all your freezer meat packs (prices on application).



22 Spencer Parade, Stanwick,  
Northamptonshire NN9 6QJ  
Tel: 01933 622232

Get your message across...



Call Sue or Lynn on 01933 652000  
for details of advertising opportunities  
in the RDFC Matchday Magazine

## Headland

### CARPETS AND RUGS

#### CARPETS

The Ultimate Carpet Showroom  
All Major Manufacturers  
Plus Instock Rolls of Carpet  
Wood/Laminates

#### DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL

#### ORIENTAL RUGS

A fine selection of Chinese, Indian and Persian rugs - all shapes and sizes

#### CANE FURNITURE

Quality at its Best  
Suites and Dining furniture at affordable prices

#### CURTAINS

Made to measure curtains and blinds  
Free estimate and fitting service

01933 652333

63 Station Road  
Irthlingborough  
Northants  
[www.headlandcarpets.co.uk](http://www.headlandcarpets.co.uk)



E-mail: [radiodiamonds@thediomdsfc.com](mailto:radiodiamonds@thediomdsfc.com)

Tel: 01933 65 35 35

**Radio Diamonds**

1503AM

**Radio Diamonds**

on air if you don't want to of course, just phone, text or e-mail your question or point, we would love to hear from YOU.

Between 12.30 and 1 I have two women in the studio (should I re-phrase that, no, you know what I mean for goodness sake!)

- Retail Manager Jane Corby and Marketing Manager Marie Carolan.

Then comes recorded interviews with community or youth team people plus 3 or 4 first team players. After 2 we re-run the Brian Talbot interview, get the teams and discuss and we look ahead to the rest of the day's football programme, before Phil Harris-Ward with guest co-commentator takes up the live commentary on the game.

Don't forget also "predict the score" - our ever popular phone in competition with a £30 prize for the winner, all you have to do is correctly forecast the result and be picked out from those who get the score line right. Easy eh?

Give it a whirl then. Our phone number and e-mail address is at the top of the page, the text number is 07813 836078.

Thanks for listening.

wally



First of all, and I know it's a little belated, a Happy New Year to one and all. I trust the celebrations went well and a good time was had by all.

On the playing side we had a good Christmas of course, although unfortunately I personally missed the Swindon game on Boxing Day, and were by all accounts a tad unlucky at Loftus Road last week not to get a point at least. Good luck to the lads today against our old friends Luton and indeed for 2004 generally.

By way of a reminder, and also for the benefit of new listeners to 1503am Radio Diamonds (and if you are a new listener where have you been?) can I just run through a typical Saturday show for you.

Basically, 11am to 2pm is a 50-50 mixture of popular music and interviews (either live or recorded) or studio discussions, 2-3 is the build up to the match, 3-5 the game itself plus score updates, 5-5.30 sees a results round up plus the post-match reaction of Brian Talbot and a review by Phil Harris Ward and myself.

#### BROADCASTING LIVE FROM THE HEART OF NENE PARK!

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
INTERVIEWS  
WITH BRIAN  
TALBOT,  
FIRST-TEAM  
PLAYERS AND  
CLUB OFFICIALS!

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
SIMON PARSELL  
MUSIC AND  
CHAT WITH A  
FIRST-TEAM  
PLAYER  
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

**1503AM**  
**Radio Diamonds**

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
FULL MATCH  
COMMENTARY  
WITH PHIL  
HARRIS-WARD  
AND A GUEST  
SUMMARISER

**ON AIR FROM**  
**11.00am**  
**SATURDAYS,**  
**AND 5.30pm**  
**MIDWEEK**  
**VIA DIAMOND WORLD!**



FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM NENE PARK...

39

 [www.thediomdsfc.com](http://www.thediomdsfc.com)



## THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THE RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS FAN THAT HAS EVERYTHING!

What do you get the Diamonds fan that has everything in 2004?

Why not book them in for an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Nene Park?

Rushden & Diamonds have introduced a new tour package making Sundays more special. This exciting package started on January 4th and looks to be a great success.



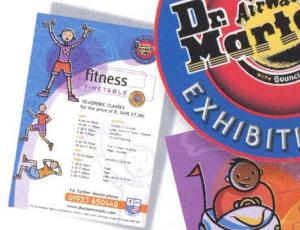
To book this exciting package contact  
Marie Carolan on (01933) 650345 ext 2333



## What's on at the Dr. Martens Sports & Exhibition Centre?

Activities available at the Sports Centre

- 6-A-Side All Weather Pitch
- Beauty Treatments
- Indoor 5-A-Side Pitch
- Sunbed
- 4 Badminton Courts
- Children's Birthday Parties
- Basketball
- Kids' After-school coaching sessions
- Netball
- Ladies' Fitness/Aerobic/ Yoga Classes
- Mums and Tots Sessions
- Music and Movement Classes
- Judo/Kick Boxing/Tae Kwon Do
- Gymnastic Clubs
- Trampolining
- School Holiday Clubs



For further information please call: **01933 650440**



### EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Rushden & Diamonds Football Club has a detailed evacuation procedure in place should the need arise.

Supporters who visit Nene Park on a regular basis will become aware that throughout the season we will occasionally broadcast the following message: 'STEWARDS TO POST'.

In the event that the message is given, please remain seated (if applicable) and listen carefully for further announcements. The Public Address system at Nene Park is designed to reach people both inside and outside of the stadium. Any Emergency messages may also be announced in the Corporate Hospitality areas.

Whole stands, part of stands, or the entire stadium may have to be evacuated. Depending on the nature of the incident, the evacuation may be forward onto the playing area, once play has stopped, or out of the stadium.

The Public Address System operates on a zone to zone basis throughout the whole stadium. It may be that certain zones are affected but not others. Therefore any announcements will be directed to the area affected and attention will be specifically focused on the spectators using that part of the ground.

If you hear an announcement broadcast within the stadium, which is not directed at the area where you are situated, please ignore it. You should only respond to messages directed at your section of the stadium.

All spectators are asked to respond calmly, but as quickly as possible if you are in the affected area and comply with stewards' instructions without delay.

In the event of an abandoned match, regardless of the amount of playing time remaining, stewards will issue vouchers at all exits from the stadium.

Advice regarding these vouchers will be published on the club website at [www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com) and in the local press in the days immediately following the match.

## Justin Timberlake and Kylie in Vogue Tribute night

Friday 6th February 2004

in the Kimberley Suite

Backed by a fantastic disco

**Tickets only £5**

To reserve tickets call Marie  
on (01933) 650345 ext 2333.

## CAR BOOT SALES

in the AirWair Car Park

**Every Sunday**

**Gates open at 7am till 1pm**

**£5.00 Car**

**£8.00 Car & Trailer**

**£8.00 Van**

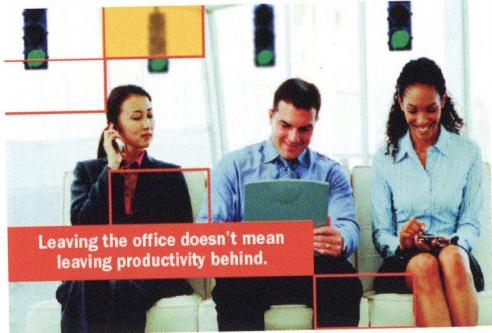
**FREE Entry to Buyers**

**NO trade Vehicles**

**All Hard Standing with  
indoor snack bars**

## Microsoft Exchange Server 2003

### Get going with anytime, anywhere collaboration



Leaving the office doesn't mean leaving productivity behind.

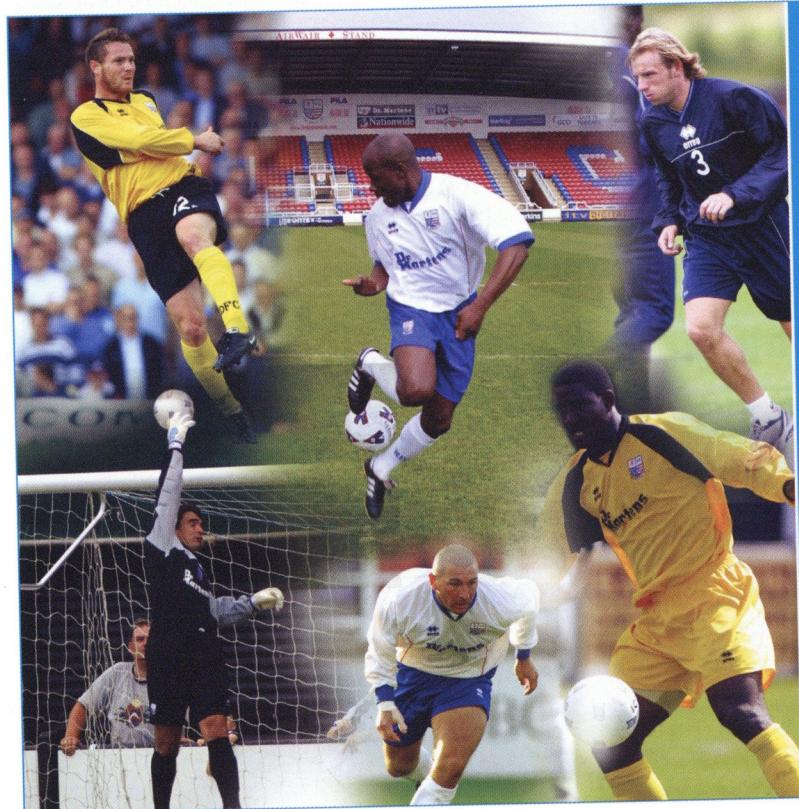
If insecure or unreliable e-mail systems are impeding your business's productivity, mobility and competitiveness, our team at EACS can help you get moving.

Microsoft Exchange Server 2003, part of the Microsoft Windows Server System, delivers the highest reliability for mission critical services like e-mail and calendaring, while making it easier than ever for you to support mobile and remote workers. Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 is fully extensible and integrated with other Microsoft products and platforms, enabling you to leverage your current and future investment for maximum business value.

### Microsoft® GOLD CERTIFIED

Partner

1-3 Harvard Way, Kimbolton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0NJ  
Tel: 01480 861010 Fax: 01480 861747  
E-mail: [sales@eacs.com](mailto:sales@eacs.com) Web: [www.eacs.com](http://www.eacs.com)

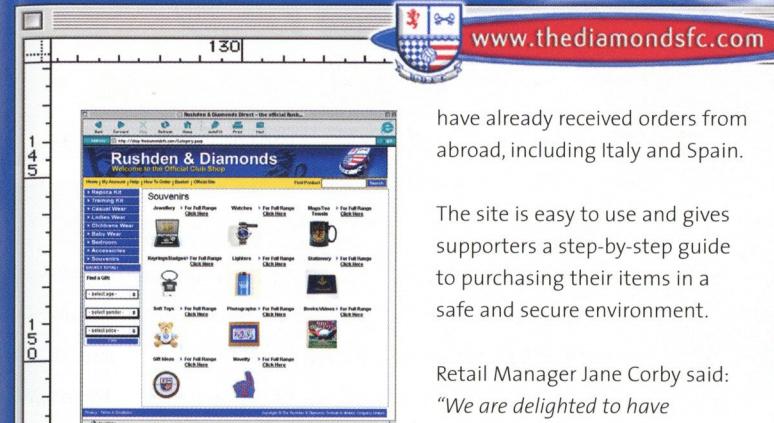


Follow the  
Diamonds  
six nights a  
week in  
your...

**EVENING  
Telegraph**

Newspaper House, Ise Park, Rothwell  
Road, Kettering, Northants, NN16  
8GA 01536 506100  
[www.northantsnews.com](http://www.northantsnews.com)

## RDFC online with Steven Dove



[www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com), your club's official website, continues to get bigger and better.

Prior to Christmas, we launched a brand new service - a new online shopping site which is simple and easy to use.

Our latest addition to our official site gives supporters the opportunity to shop for Rushden & Diamonds merchandise from the comfort of their own home and in front of their PC.

The site has everything from shirts and shorts to pin badges and bedroom accessories, everything that you would normally find at the Doc Shop from Nene Park.

Items purchased via our online shopping site continue to support the club financially and the club

have already received orders from abroad, including Italy and Spain.

The site is easy to use and gives supporters a step-by-step guide to purchasing their items in a safe and secure environment.

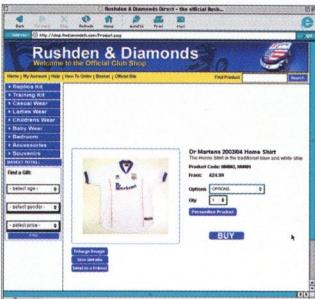
Retail Manager Jane Corby said: "We are delighted to have launched a fantastic new service which enables supporters from all over the world to view the hundreds of items we stock.

*The early response from supporters has been very encouraging and in the first three weeks since we went live, the club have received over 30 orders from every part of the country.*

Orders are normally processed within 24 hours and are dispatched within 48 hours from the time of purchase. The online shopping site is a must view for any true Diamonds supporter.

The website can be viewed from the following website address - <http://shop.thediamondsfc.com> or via a link on the official site down the left-hand column.

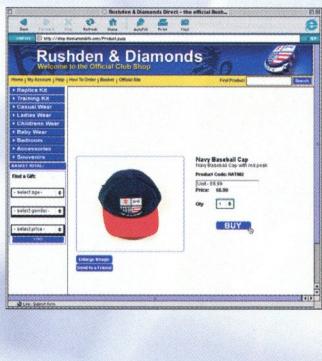
The media department are always on the look out for new ideas and features for the official



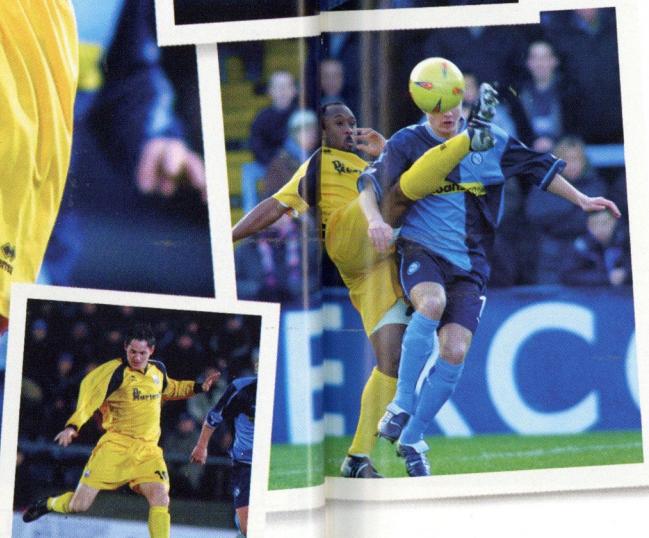
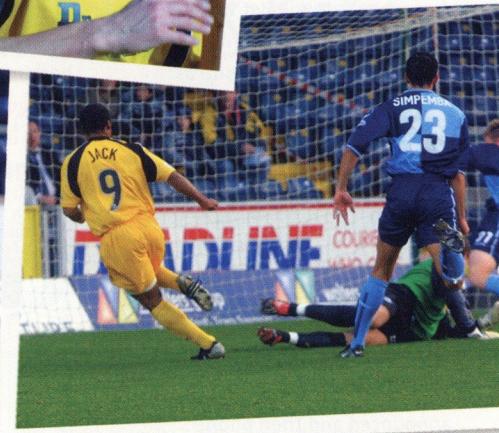
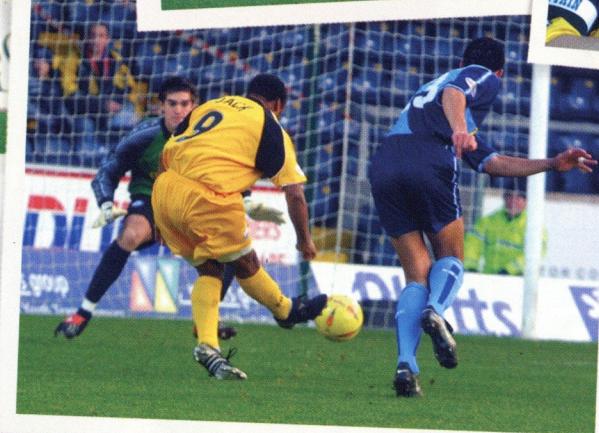
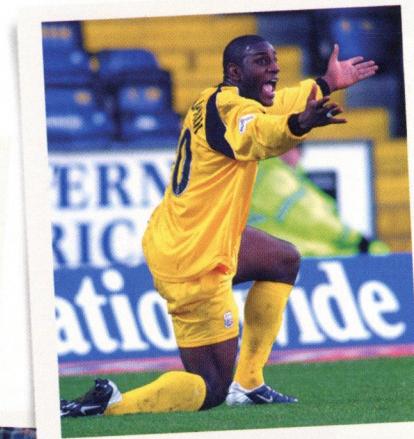
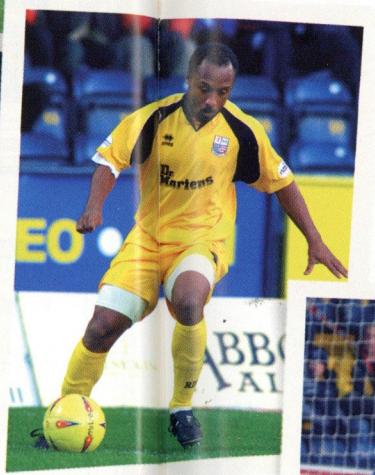
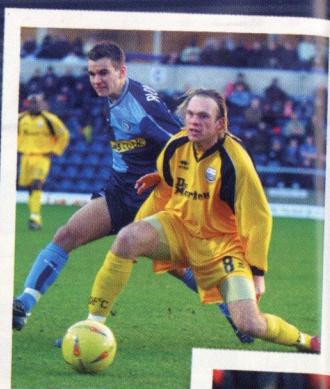
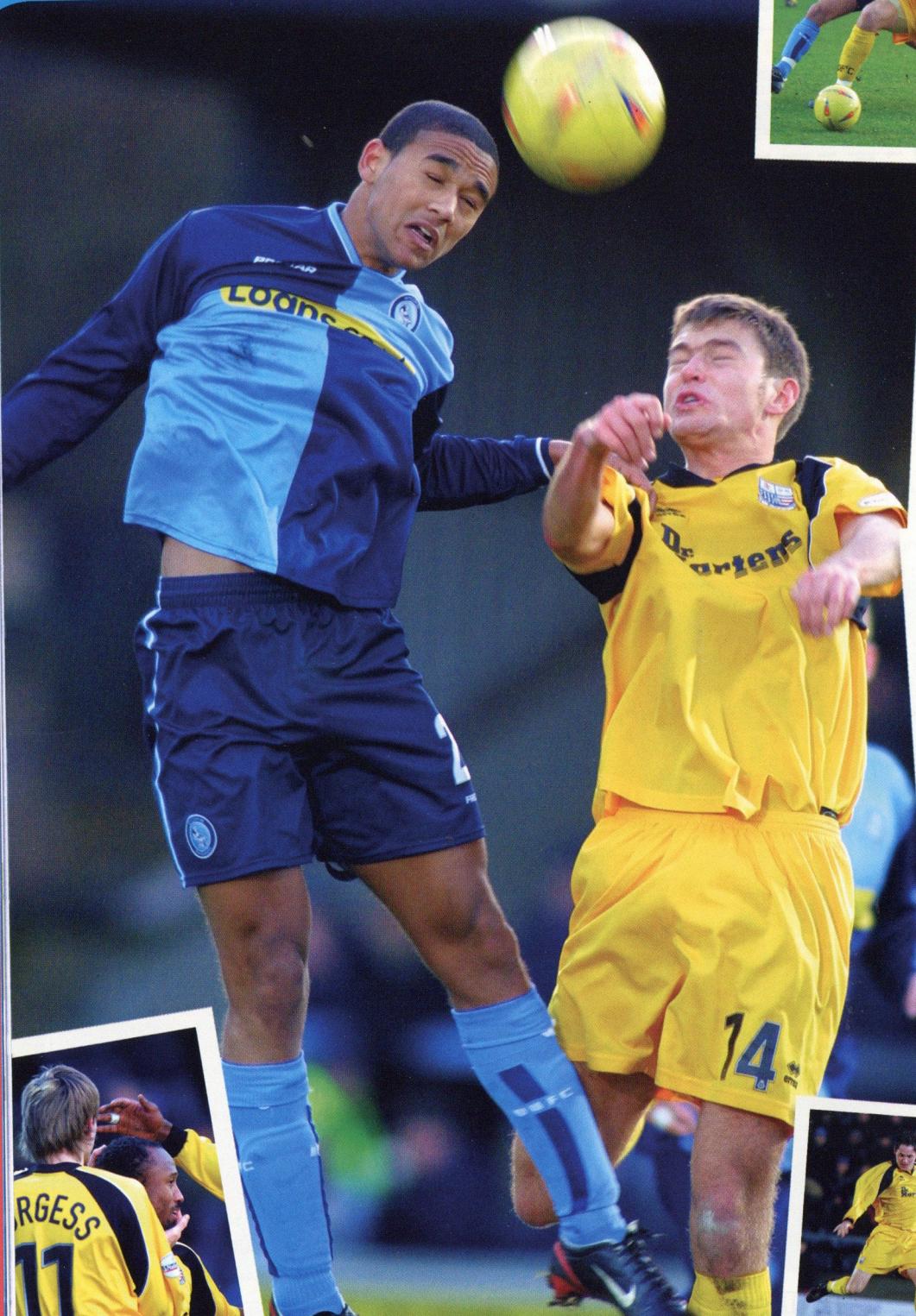
website so why not jot them on the e-mail and send them to [steven.dove@airwair.co.uk](mailto:steven.dove@airwair.co.uk).

The media department would also like to thank all their readers for their continued support in 2003 and we hope the site will continue to be a big success in 2004.

*"gives supporters the opportunity to shop for RDFC merchandise from the comfort of their own home..."*

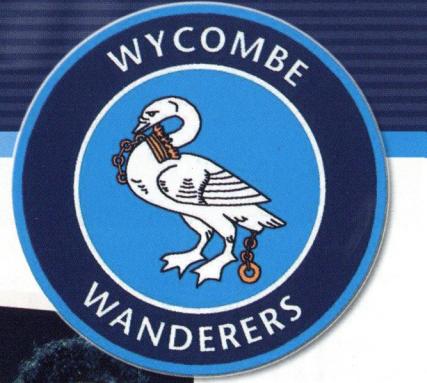


# Action replay



Sunday 28th December  
Wycombe (A) 2-0

Att: 5,421  
Ref: P Danson



## WYCOMBE

Williams, Senda, Taylor, Simpemba, Reilly, Ryan, McSporran, Mapes (Bulman 45), Bloomfield (Bell 77), Faulconbridge, Luke Moore (Roberts 72)  
**Subs Not Used:** Talia, Rogers.  
**Booked:** Bloomfield.

## RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS

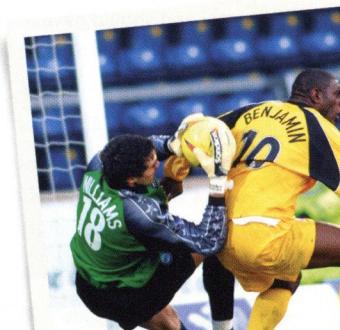
Ashdown, Sambrook, Dempster, Hunter, Bignot, Hall (Talbot 72), Burgess (Bell 60), Hanlon, Jack, Kitson, Benjamin.

**Subs Not Used:** Story, Okuonghae, Akinfenwa.

**Booked:** Sambrook.

**Goals:** Jack 4, 35.

Don't forget, many of Club Photographer, Paul Redding's, superb action photos can be purchased from the Doc Shop.



# Diamond Bet

with



[www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com)

2003 ended in spectacular style for Diamond Bet as we became the fifth highest revenue earners from all the Premiership and Nationwide League clubs that have signed into the PTV agreement.

Diamond Bet took a record £51,573 stakes through its site in the month of November and beat the likes of Premiership sides Blackburn, Bolton and Birmingham by some considerable distance.

And now Diamond Bet wants to continue this surge of interest in our official betting website as more supporters enjoy the benefits of betting online and via the telephone.

Remember all bets placed help Rushden & Diamonds Football Club whether you win or lose. And you can place your bets whilst you're at the ground.

Wait for the teams to be announced and then phone through to the FREE phone number at the bottom of this page.

So what's likely to occur in today's game. A **victory for Diamonds** is certainly going to be a **tough task** having never beaten our near-neighbours in five attempts.

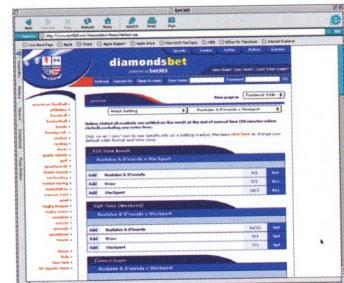
However, Diamonds pushed Luton all the way in our previous encounter and should have really booked their place in the next round of the LDV Vans Trophy.

Luton are on a **terrific run of form** and have the more favourable odds of **7/4** whilst **Diamonds** are **5/4** to record their first victory over the Bedfordshire side.

**Onandi Lowe** must surely be worth a punt at **5/1** to score the opening goal but **Adrian Forbes'** brace at Bradford has seen the makeshift striker take his tally to **13 for the season**. He is priced at **7/1 to score the opening goal**.

Other bets that must surely be worth considering are **Rushden & Diamonds to win both halves at 13/2**, **Luton to win from behind 11/1** and **Onandi Lowe to score two or more goals**.

For our scorecast today we are backing **Adrian Forbes to grab the first goal for Luton** but **Diamonds to go on and record a 2-1 victory**, which is nicely priced at **75/1**.



## TODAY'S TOP PREDICTIONS

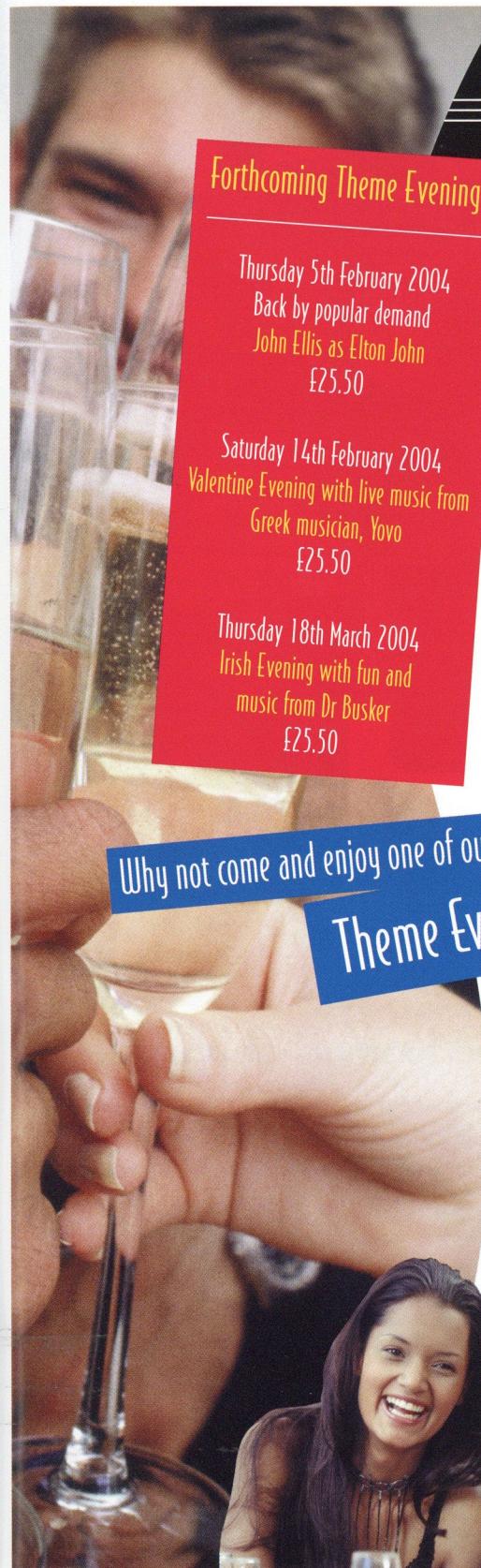
Onandi Lowe to score first	5/1
Adrian Forbes to score first	7/1
Rushden & Diamonds to win both halves	13/2
Luton to win from behind	11/1
Adrian Forbes to score first and Diamonds to win 2-1	75/1



## SETTING UP AN ACCOUNT

The procedure could not be simpler.

1. You will need to open an individual account exclusive to you, for this you will need a valid Credit or Debit card.
2. Telephone Diamondsbet on this number (0800) 032 3365 and answer the questions asked by the operator.  
**REMEMBER TO QUOTE DIAMONDS BET WHEN MAKING THE CALL.**
3. Once you have opened your account you are ready to place your bet. This is a freephone number (0800) 032 3365 but please note that calls from mobile phones are charged at local rate.



## Forthcoming Theme Evenings

Thursday 5th February 2004  
Back by popular demand  
John Ellis as Elton John  
£25.50

Saturday 14th February 2004  
Valentine Evening with live music from Greek musician, Yovo  
£25.50

Thursday 18th March 2004  
Irish Evening with fun and music from Dr Busker  
£25.50

Why not come and enjoy one of our  
Theme Evenings

SEASONS OFFERS A MENU FOR BOTH LUNCH AND EVENING. FOR LARGER PARTIES, PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE BY CALLING SEASONS

## OPENING TIMES

TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
11.30 am - 2.30 pm & 7.00 pm - 11.00 pm

SATURDAY  
7.00 pm - 11.00 pm

NOW SERVING SUNDAY LUNCH  
12.00 pm - 2.30 pm

NENE PARK  
DIAMOND WAY  
IRTHLINGBOROUGH  
NORTHANTS  
NN9 5QF  
T: (01933) 652316



## a whole world of shopping (and football) at your feet...

...situated in the heart of Wellingborough, the Swansgate Shopping Centre offers a wealth of choice for shoppers. Many top named stores and independent and specialist shops, including Diamonds World, make up the 50 plus shops conveniently spread throughout the centre.



A centre managed by Phoenix Beard Property Consultants

# Tickets & Travel



In association with Souls Coaches T: 01234 711242 | 01933 319009

Saturday 17th January

**Plymouth Argyle (A)**



*Kick-off 3:00pm*

*Nationwide League Division Two*

Admission to Home Park is by payment at the turnstiles although supporters can receive a discount by purchasing their tickets in advance at the Plymouth Ticket Office. Seating (Barn Park Stand) £15 adults, £10 senior citizens or students (on proof of NUS card) and £5 Under-16's if purchased in advance from the Plymouth ticket office on (01752) 562562. Tickets are available on the day and they are priced at £17 adults, £11 senior citizens or students (on proof of NUS card) and £5 Under-16's.



**Travel to Plymouth**

**Supporters Club:** Depart Rushden 7:00am, Nene Park 7:15am.

Fares: Members £8, Concessions £6. Non-members. £11, Concessions. £9.

**RDIA:** Depart Rushden 9:30am, Nene Park 9:45am

Fares: All members £6, non members £9

**By Car:** The ground is well signposted in and around Swindon town centre. Just follow signs for 'The County Ground'. Follow A345 (Queens Drive) to Drake's roundabout. Turn left towards the Magic Roundabout, The County Ground is on the corner of this roundabout.

**Approx mileage:** 500

*Aerial ground pictures supplied by www.premierimage.co.uk*



For a more detailed route planner, log onto [www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com) and select 'SERVICES'

Saturday 7th February

**Swindon Town (A)**



*Kick-off 3:00pm*

*Nationwide League Division Two*

Although this match is NOT all ticket, Diamonds have received an advanced allocation of tickets. Tickets are cheaper if purchased in advance. These are priced as follows, adults £19, concessions £12 and juniors £6. Tickets purchased at the County Ground are priced as follows, adults £21, concessions £13, juniors £7.



**Home fixtures**

Saturday 24th January

**Tranmere Rovers (H)**



*Kick-off 3:00pm*

*Nationwide League Division 2*

This game is subject to Tranmere's involvement in the FA Cup.

**BOGOF - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

- HELP YOUR CLUB MOVE FORWARD (subject to availability)

Buy one match ticket for this match and get another one of equal or less value FREE! Please note that this offer only applies to those NOT already registered on the Ticket Office database. Tickets are now on sale for this game.

Saturday 31st January

**Oldham Athletic (H)**



*Kick-off 3:00pm*

*Nationwide League Division 2*

**BOGOF - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

- HELP YOUR CLUB MOVE FORWARD (subject to availability)

Buy one match ticket for this match and get another one of equal or less value FREE! Please note that this offer only applies to those NOT already registered on the Ticket Office database. Tickets are now on sale for this game.

### COACH BOOKINGS

**SUPPORTERS CLUB** via Graham Smith on 07850 070524

**RDIA** via Rachel Roberts on 01933 313200 or 07818 676826 or visit the RDIA desk at the old Radio Diamonds office near the Airwair Stand.

### TICKET OFFICE HOTLINE

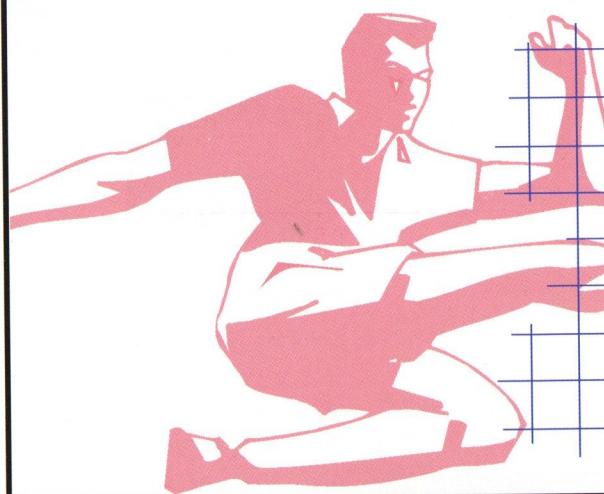
Mon & Thurs 11:00am - 7:00pm

Tues & Wed 11:00am - 4:00pm

Friday 11:00am - 5:00pm

**01933 652936**

Project Managers, Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers  
for the development of Nene Park



**BCAL**

CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
PROJECT MANAGERS



**BRIAN COLE ASSOCIATES LTD**

Lloyds Bank Chambers, Market St, Wellingborough NN8 1AA  
Tel: 01933 440024 [www.bcal.co.uk](http://www.bcal.co.uk) E-mail [enquiry@bcal.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@bcal.co.uk)

# Football's Future

Cash in on our support for:  
• pitches  
• social inclusion projects  
• changing rooms  
• education schemes  
• kit and equipment  
• pavilions



**FootballFoundation**  
football's biggest supporter

[www.footballfoundation.org.uk](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk) Helpline 0800 0277766



CONSERVATORIES

WINDOWS

DOORS

ROOFLINE

# classic elegance



contemporary style

timeless charm

victorian beauty



- Free quotes
- Competitive prices
- Quality UPVC products
- Insurance work undertaken
- Conservatory design service

call us  
free on **0800 16 33 66**  
[www.britanniaconservatories.co.uk](http://www.britanniaconservatories.co.uk)



BRITANNIA

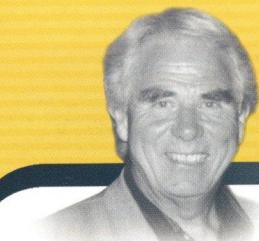
FENSA  
Registered Company

CONSERVATORIES

WINDOWS

DOORS

ROOFLINE



# Tony Jones



Yet another Christmas is over (thank goodness), and once more a New Year beckons. It is a time for looking back and recalling the good, the bad and the ugly things that happened in your life.

If the recollections are good, you naturally hope that the New Year will bring you more of the same and a bit extra as well (never say no to a bit extra!). On the other hand, if it was a difficult or even traumatic past 12 months, then obviously you are looking forward to a kinder and better period ahead. Possibly more money. Possibly a new relationship, and certainly for the football fan - more victories!

So how do you really measure a happy and successful time?

OK, so the material things in life are very nice and I'm the first to admit that it is 'better to have than have not' - within certain limits. For a lot of people, the most important things in their lives are love, friendship and respect and I would certainly subscribe to that.

However, in today's society, the new breed of footballers have every materialistic trappings imaginable, which in the past were only associated with high-flying business execs and pop stars. It really is amazing how one decision, that of Rupert Murdoch and his Sky TV Corporation, changed the lives of footballers worldwide.

Millions - no, BILLIONS - of pounds saw the Premiership evolve as a high-class marketable commodity. Agents got fat on the backs of imported and home grown talent

as they paraded them from one club to another with equal tenacity. In turn, these players began earning money that they had never dreamed of. It was scandalous to pay players such sums, but the market place was such that clubs were prepared to outbid one another in their quest for success and glory. Just look at Leeds United - and there were many others!

But returning to my earlier theme - are these players any happier for all their riches? Certainly not, if you can judge them by the escapades to which some have resorted in recent times. Surely the likes of some of our all-time greats, such as Tom Finney, Stanley Matthews and Bobby Charlton, have led more contented and fulfilled lives without these vast riches. Yobbish, boring and violent behaviour reflects the poor standards in today's society, and unfortunately this has all come about because of too much money in the game.

Now if you asked me to name the main ingredients in my life - some materialistic and other essentials, I would say - a nice house, decent car, smart clothes and good food, but in particular the best possible education and medical care. Now all of our nouveau-millionaire footballers have most of these things in abundance, but a good education would not be very high on their agendas. They would argue; why do you need it when they can earn £50,000 per week anyway?

This might seem like sour grapes, but it isn't. I can fully understand

players, say at a club like Rushden & Diamonds, striving to attain such status and riches. If the money is on the table, why not take it? However, I can see this situation changing dramatically over the next three years.

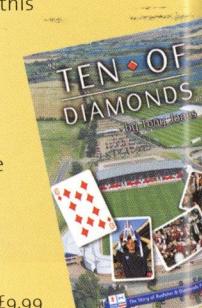
Whilst accepting that the Premiership and the attendant European competitions puts the big clubs in an entirely different bracket, it is true that the world market, even at this level, is now on the decline. Lower down the leagues, the downward trend is cash availability and reduced squad sizes are there for everyone to see. Be warned.

I have spoken to many chairmen in recent weeks and they are all of the same opinion. They have been living well beyond their means and the bubble, which was forecast to burst, has now already done so.

In consequence, the new up and coming crop of players will have to get used to working for sensible wages. Lads, I'm afraid the gravy train ride is over. Perhaps, because of this change in the climate hanging over football, some of the old values will return to the game - honesty, integrity and togetherness.

Maybe, just maybe, this new era of players will then not fall into the trap that so many of the 'fast lane' lads have done in the last decade.

I hope so.



## A&J Sectional Buildings Ltd

WOT NO SHED!

Manufacturers of Garden Sheds, Summerhouses, Playhouses, Garages etc.

Proud sponsors of Paul Underwood

### The Westleigh Garden Room

Manufactured by A&J Sectional Buildings Ltd

For all your office & leisure needs

High Specification throughout complete with fitted electrics.  
**'So versatile it could have been made for you.'**

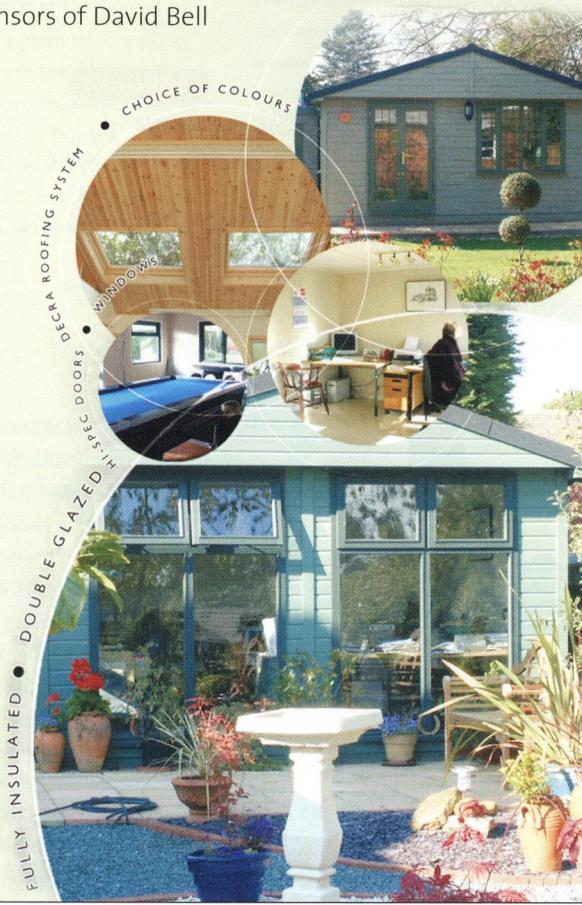
Proud sponsors of David Bell



Thrapston Road  
Finedon  
Northants  
NN9 5DG

Tel: 01933 680086

[www.ajsectional.com](http://www.ajsectional.com)



## A look back over

# 2003

The New Year is now in full swing but 2003 will always be remembered as the year Rushden & Diamonds were crowned Division Three champions.

The year was filled with highs and lows along with disappointment and jubilation. Steven Dove reflects back on what was an incredible year for everyone at Rushden & Diamonds.

### JANUARY

#### Results

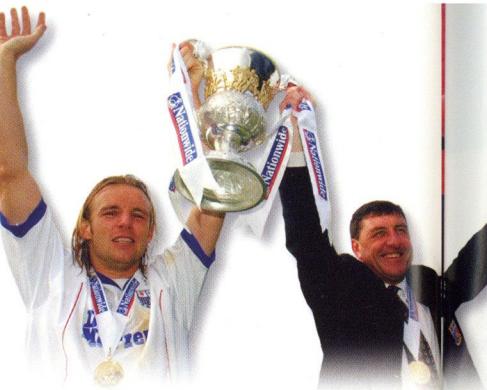
Shrewsbury (H) W 5-1  
Torquay (A) D 1-1  
Kidderminster (A) W 2-0  
Cambridge United (H) W 4-1  
Oxford United (A) L 0-3

#### Top goal scorer

Paul Hall - 5

#### News

Rushden & Diamonds kick-off 2003 in perfect style with a 5-1 demolition of Shrewsbury as Paul Hall and Duane Darby both bag a brace. Victories over Kidderminster and Cambridge keep up the pressure on Hartlepool at the top of the table although a heavy defeat at Oxford ended the month of January in disappointing style.



Brian Talbot takes a look at Birmingham goalkeeper Clint Davies as he tries to resolve a goalkeeping problem following Adam Sollitt's broken wrist sustained in December. Ray Warburton ended his days as a professional footballer in a story broken on Boston's official website and former goalkeeper Tony Pennock is in between the sticks for Farnborough in their FA Cup Fourth Round clash with Arsenal.

### FEBRUARY

#### Results

Swansea City (H) D 1-1  
Darlington (A) D 2-2  
Southend United (A) L 1-2

#### Top goal scorer

Paul Hall - 2

#### News

Rushden & Diamonds put on a disappointing display in front of a nationwide television audience over basement boys Swansea City and are only spared their blushes thanks to Paul Hall's late effort. The Diamonds midfielder later described his header as his best ever headed goal. Stuart Wardley scores a 'wonder goal' to help the reserve side to a 3-1 win over Boston and Tony Battersby joins Diamonds on non-contracted terms and makes his debut in the club's 2-2 draw with Darlington. Tarkan

### MARCH

#### Results

York City (H) W 2-1  
Bournemouth (H) W 2-1  
Wrexham (A) L 0-3  
Hull City (H) W 4-2  
Bury (A) W 1-0  
Boston United (A) D 1-1  
Rochdale (H) D 3-3  
Exeter City (H) W 1-0

#### Top goal scorer

Duane Darby & Onandi Lowe - 4

#### News

Back-to-back wins over troubled York City and promotion-chasing Bournemouth set off a busy March in fine style. However an injury ravaged side slip to a heavy 3-0 defeat to Wrexham which meant league-leaders Hartlepool United opened up a ten point gap at the top of Division Three. Brian Talbot snaps up his defender and brings Andrew Edwards to Nene Park and soon forms an excellent



partnership with Barry Hunter. Tony Battersby is released but the Diamonds boss quickly resolves his striking option by bringing in Dean Holdsworth prior to transfer deadline day. Ritchie Hanlon receives some good news over his long injury lay-off as he is able to resume training. Scott Partridge leaves the club following a disappointing stay at Nene Park. Diamonds end the month with a 1-0 win over Exeter and the gap at the top of Division Three is now cut to four points.

### APRIL

#### Results

Bristol Rovers (A) W 2-1  
Lincoln City (H) W 1-0  
Carlisle United (A) W 2-1  
Macclesfield Town (H) W 3-0  
Leyton Orient (A) D 0-0

#### Top goal scorer

Onandi Lowe - 3

#### News

Following a 2-1 win over Bristol Rovers, Diamonds take top spot in the Division Three table following a bad run of form from Hartlepool which saw them take 11 points from a possible 30. Onandi Lowe scored the only goal in a narrow 1-0 win over Lincoln City. Our mouth-watering end of season game with Hartlepool is declared a sell-out - three weeks ahead of the game. A 2-1 victory over Carlisle United seals joyous scenes as Diamonds seal promotion into Division Two. Stuart Wardley strikes his seventh goal of the season at Brunton Park but leaves the field on a stretcher following an awful challenge from Mark Summerbell. A 3-0 win

over Macclesfield, in which Dean Holdsworth scores a brace, put Diamonds in the driving seat for the Third Division although a draw over Leyton Orient means it all goes down to the final game of the season. Billy Turley makes his 200th appearance in the draw with Orient, Paul Underwood and Paul Hall are both named in the Division Three Team of the Year and the ladies side capture the Eastern Division title.

### MAY

	Rushden & Diamonds	P	GD	PTS
Hartlepool	46	26	87	
Wrexham	46	20	85	
Bournemouth	46	34	84	
Scunthorpe Utd	46	12	74	
Lincoln City	46	19	72	
Hartlepool United (H)	D 1-1	46	9	70
Oxford Utd	46	1	70	
Southend Utd	46	10	69	
Wigan (A)	46	6	66	

#### Top goal scorer

Paul Hall - 1

#### News

Diamonds go into their most important match of the season knowing that a point will be good enough to secure the Division Three title. Preparations from everyone at Nene Park is hectic but the day couldn't have gone any better and will certainly live long in the memory of many Diamonds supporters. Paul Hall's goal gives Diamonds the perfect start and despite some nervy moments when Chris Westwood equalised late on, the championship was staying in Northamptonshire.

The streets of Northamptonshire are then filled as Diamonds parade the trophy on an open top bus. Barry Hunter scoops three awards at the end of



season presentation evening although the top prize went to Paul Underwood who collected Supporters Player of the Year. Andrew Sambrook, Stuart Gray, Robert Duffy, Daniel Talbot, Duane Darby, Andy Burgess and John Dempster secure their futures at the club by signing new deals although Gary Setchell, Dean Holdsworth and Adam Sollitt are released.



### JUNE

#### News

Rushden & Diamonds are reportedly linked to Crewe's David Walton but instead poach Rodney Jack and he puts pen-to-paper on a two-year deal. David Bell also signs a new contract for the club. Stuart Wardley visits Lilleshall whilst season ticket sales look promising to set a new club record.

Meanwhile, Rushden & Diamonds draw West Ham United in the first round of the Carling Cup.   
more next issue...





# RDFC in the Community

## with Gregg Broughton

**The Development Centre**  
The Development Centre is a new concept with squads from Under 8 through to Under 15. The concept was devised for players who have been invited in from the Performance Centres or from scouting to find their feet before attempting to progress into the Elite Centre. The Development Centre will also allow Elite players who are returning from injury/loss of form to regain their confidence before returning to the Elite level. The Development Centre is held at Nene Park.

### The Elite Centre

The Elite Centre is for the most advanced youngsters and will be held at Nene Park. It contains teams from Under 8 through to Under 14. There will be regular opportunities to represent RDFC in matches against other professional clubs and all teams will tour Europe. The Elite Centre is held at Nene Park.



### Diamond Performance Centres

Diamond Performance Centres are by invite only. The basis of invitation is from scouting, or by performance at the Challenge level. Coaching at Performance Centres will look to fine tune technique and raise tactical awareness. Unlike at the Challenge, the Performance Centres are based upon continuous assessment and are not test based. If players find this level too much they simply return to the Challenge rather than be rejected all together. There will also be an opportunity to play in a match situation, which will be held midweek or during school holidays to avoid clashing with club matches.

### The Diamond Challenge

The Diamond Challenge runs in 10 week blocks, working on the main techniques of the game. During the course the players are tested on each skill. There are three levels, and therefore the course is suitable for players of all abilities. At the end of the ten week course players will either progress to the next level or continue to develop their skills. Children will benefit from the quality and experience of RDFC coaches, and upon achieving level three have a direct route to progress into the Performance Centres.



### Goalkeepers

A similar structure is in place for Goalkeepers to receive specialist coaching relevant to their position. Goalkeepers can attend the challenge to work on the major techniques of the "Shot-Stopper". During this 10 week course players receive continuous assessment on topics such as footwork, handling, distribution and narrowing the angle. From this level players can be invited into performance centres, and work their way towards representing RDFC at Elite Level.

### Girls' Programme

Running alongside the same lines as the boys' programme, girls can enter the programme at the Challenge level using an application form. Talented players can look to progress onto local performance centres to further enhance their skills. The Centre of Excellence offers the opportunity for the best girls to train at the fantastic facilities at Nene Park. There will be regular opportunities to represent RDFC in matches against other professional clubs during school holidays and all teams will tour Europe towards the end of the season. The girls programme is linked directly to the RDFC Ladies set-up who have a four-year plan to achieve Premiership status.

# Diamond Development



### How do we get involved?

Entry is via the challenge level. Players who display particular talent can be moved up through the pyramid after a few weeks, whilst the system also caters for those who wish to progress at a slower rate.

### Where are sessions held?

Town	Venue	Address	Day of the Week
Wellingborough	Wrenn School	London Road	Monday
Milton Keynes	Lord Grey School	Rickley Lane	Monday
Bedford	Dame Alice Harpur School	Cardington Road	Tuesday
St Neots	St Neots Recreation Centre	Barford Road, Eynesbury	Wednesday
Corby	Brooke Weston College (CTC)	Coombe Road	Thursday
Buckingham	Buckingham School (Swanpool)	London Road	Friday

### What time are sessions?

If your child is in between age groups, e.g they are almost 10, it is possible to choose which hour they attend.

Wellingborough has two goalkeeper sessions :

5:30 - 6:30 for 5 to 9 years

6:30 - 7:30 for 10 to 14 years

Goalkeeper sessions are limited to 15 places - **don't miss out**

For more info on Challenge call Andrea Hudson 01933 652000 (ext 2408) or email [andrea.hudson@airwair.co.uk](mailto:andrea.hudson@airwair.co.uk)  
For more info on Performance, Development & Elite call Gregg Broughton on 01933 652000 or email [greg.broughton@airwair.co.uk](mailto:greg.broughton@airwair.co.uk)  
No confirmation will be sent unless a SAE is enclosed. Performance Centres and the Elite Centre are by invite only.

Town	5 - 9 Years	10 - 14 Years	Goalkeepers
Wellingborough	5:30 - 6:30	6:30 - 7:30	See note above
Milton Keynes	6:00 - 7:00	7:00 - 8:00	6:00 - 7:00
Bedford	6:00 - 7:00	7:00 - 8:00	6:00 - 7:00
St Neots	6:00 - 7:00	7:00 - 8:00	NA
Corby	6:00 - 7:00	7:00 - 8:00	6:00 - 7:00
Buckingham	6:00 - 7:00	6:00 - 7:00	N/A



### When do sessions begin?

We split the season into three terms, you join the scheme at the beginning of any term:

**TERM TWO** Begins Monday 12th January (i.e Corby begins 15/1/04)

Ends Friday 26th March

Excluding 16th-20th February (Half-Term)

**TERM THREE** Begins Monday 26th April (i.e Corby begins 29/4/04)

Ends Friday 9th July

Excluding 31st May-4th June (Half-Term)

Players can begin on the challenge at the beginning of any term.  
It is not necessary to have attended the previous term.



FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM NENE PARK...

57



# Sponsors 2003-2004

## Major Sponsors

R Griggs Group  
Charles Wells

## Matchday Ticket Sponsors

Bluegreen Design  
Consultants

## Car Sponsors

Central Garage,  
Irthlingborough  
Townseads Garage,  
Rushden

Thompson Motors,  
Clapham

Renault Trucks Chiltern  
Irthlingborough Diamonds  
Trust

## Scoreboard Clock Sponsors

David Headland Associates

## Patrons

Bee Bee Valeting  
BCAL  
John & Amie Brotherton  
S Church Plumbing & Heating  
Combined Leathers Ltd  
Contract Services  
Croyland Cleaners, Wellingborough  
Daison Electrical  
Dats Print Services  
Elizabeth Parker Promotions  
Foxford Hotels Ltd  
John Frederick Homes Ltd

Gotch Saunders & Surridge  
Hawkes Technical  
Mineral Star Roofing  
Roger Norman Electrical  
Orbit Tyres  
Mr & Mrs G Pursey  
Rushton Ablett Ltd  
A N Scarrat Plumbing & Heating  
Stage Craft  
Sursham Tompkins and Partners  
Tompkins Robinson Surveyors  
Wilson Browne Solicitors

## Hospitality Suites

Dr Martens  
Darah Properties  
Grant Thornton  
Sunseekers

David Knighton  
EACS  
Formwise Laminates

Cyril Jones  
Marriott Construction Ltd  
M R Harris Plant Hire Ltd

Manton Suite  
David Headland Associates  
Headland Carpets & Rugs  
T R Lawman Ltd  
Podington Garden Centre  
Shoemat Ltd  
White Arches Caravans

## Vice-President

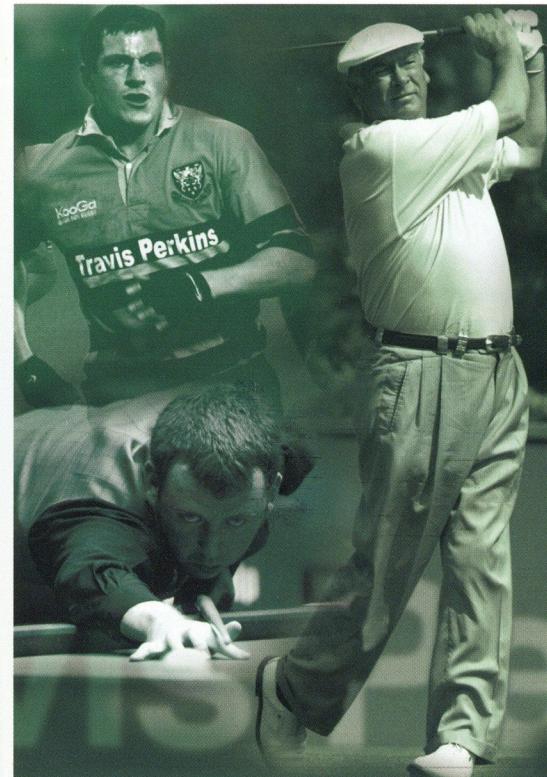
A Abbott & Sons, Funeral Directors  
Adams Tingle Insurance  
Antona Office Supplies  
Astraseal  
Robin Bailey  
Mrs J Bailey  
Bluegreen Design  
Maureen De Banke  
Mr B Brawn  
Mrs S Brawn  
Mrs Cottage  
Deejak Builders (Rushden) Ltd  
DK Fairs  
DJ Dormer & Sons Ltd  
Mr & Mrs Ellson  
E D Estates Ltd  
George Elson  
ESP Consulting  
Allen Goulsbra OBE  
Mrs T Howells  
Bob Kirk  
Canon Knight  
Mr & Mrs B Lamour  
Lewis Motor Company  
Gordon Margetts  
Mastercue  
Mead Manor

Hayden Suite  
A&J Sectional Buildings

Chichele Suite  
Mike Neville  
Andy Hart  
Mike Steele  
John Pantlin  
www.callaghanstone.co.uk  
Name-your-own-rose.com  
Ferrers Technical  
Obermans (AV) Ltd

M H Boardman & Sons  
Inter County Service Group  
Inter County Security  
Adrian Goodfellow  
J W Surridge Carpentry  
Timotay Landscapes Ltd

Mobile Radio Services Ltd  
Mykal Industries Ltd  
P.C.I. Office Services  
John Parnell  
Mr Percival  
Phipps Henson McAllister  
Mrs D Priest  
Gary Blunt @ Printhsaus  
Reg & Sue Raith  
Mrs J Reading  
Mr C Reading  
Master W Reading  
Mr T Reay  
Peter Robinson Builders Ltd  
Smith Chamberlain  
Jeffrey Stanford  
Maurice Stanford  
Richard & Sue Stringer  
Mrs D Thursby  
Mr & Mrs K Toop  
Toyworld Collectables Ltd  
Transome Partitions  
Mr Keith Turner  
John Vickers  
Wilson Browne Solicitors  
Miss V Wrenn



# One of sport's biggest supporters

From grass roots to champions, we're behind sport all the way



Travis Perkins

Links Road, Finedon Road Ind Est, Wellingborough  
Telephone: 01933 276156

[www.travisperkins.co.uk](http://www.travisperkins.co.uk)

Proud to sponsor Rushden & Diamonds

# BUSINESS TIMES

...in touch with the county's business community...

Want to know what's going on in our County?...

Need to promote a product or service?...

Then you must get hold of a copy of Business Times – the County's only dedicated Business-to-Business publication.

For Newsdesk or Ad Sales  
call

**01604 259900**

or

[email: news@business-times.co.uk](mailto:news@business-times.co.uk)

Kilvey Road, Brackmills, Northampton

Tel: 01604 701501

Fax: 01604 765152

[www.builderbulk.co.uk](http://www.builderbulk.co.uk)

[email: alan.trusler@centers.co.uk](mailto:alan.trusler@centers.co.uk)





# Stats & Facts

## For this season

### BOOKINGS & SENDINGS OFF

	BOOKINGS	SENDINGS OFF
GARY MILLS	5	1
BARRY HUNTER	5	
STUART GRAY	3	
ANDY EDWARDS	3	1
PAUL UNDERWOOD	2	
BILLY TURLEY	1	
MARCUS BIGNOT	2	
DUANE DARBY	1	
DAVID BELL	1	
PAUL KITSON	2	
RODNEY JACK	2	
PAUL HALL	1	
PAUL EVANS	1	
TREVOR BENJAMIN	1	
JOHN DEMPSTER	1	
ONANDI LOWE	1	
ANDY SAMBROOK	1	



### PENALTIES

STUART GRAY	3
VS. NOTTS COUNTY (A)	
VS. BRIGHTON (H)	
VS. OXFORD (A)	LDV RD 1



Reproduced under copyright  
licence no. IND/CLUB/086.

Copyright © The Football League Limited  
2003 & Rushden & Diamonds FC Ltd.

Please note that all fixtures are provisional  
and subject to change. Any amendments will  
be reflected at the earliest opportunity.



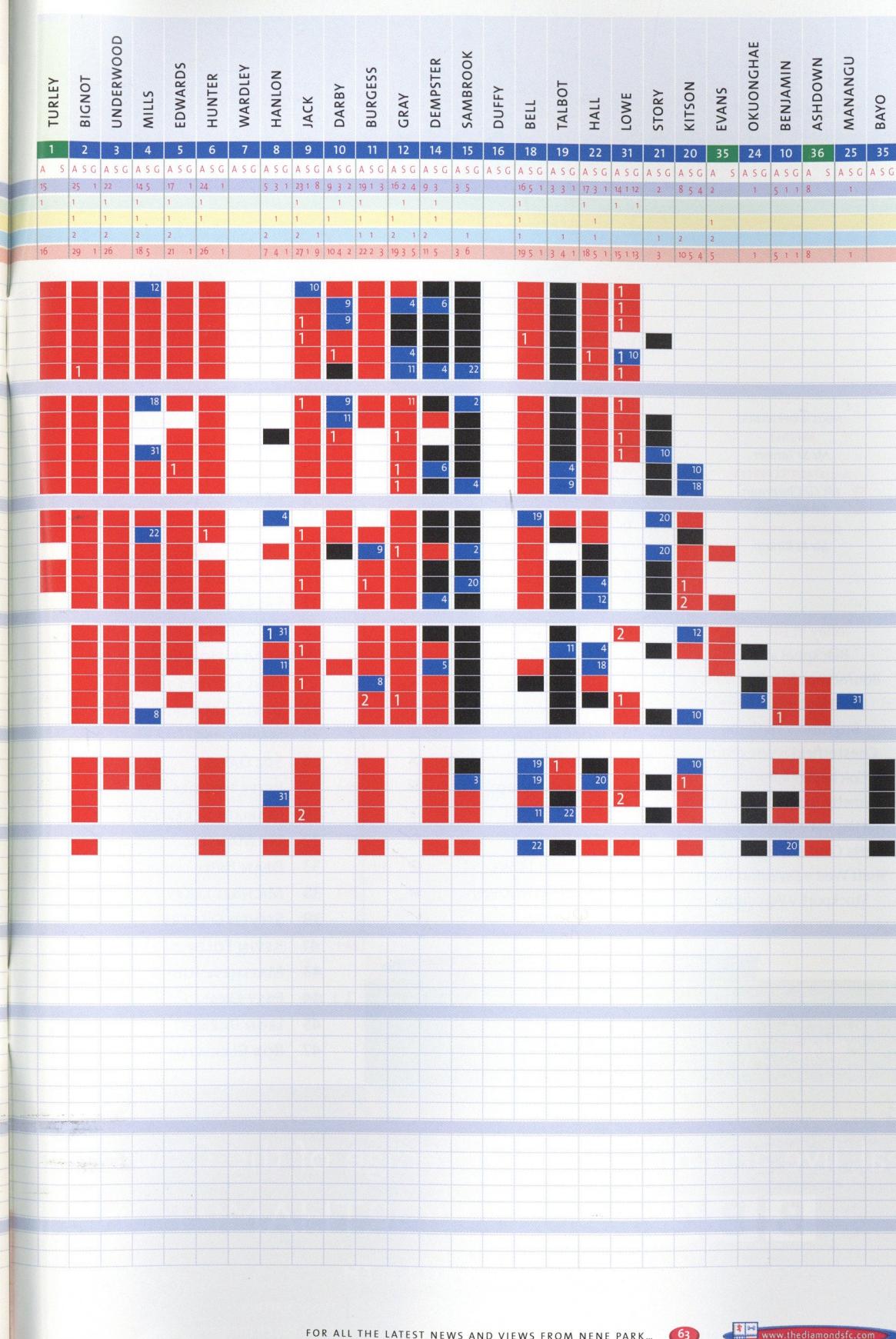
- started
- 12 used sub (& player replaced)
- 2 No. of goals scored
- unused sub
- \* own goal

PLAYER STATS

A	Starting appearance
S	League Cup
S	sub appearance
G	F.A.Cup
	LDV Vans Trophy
Total	

### HOME GAMES IN RED

		SCORE	ATT (visitors)	PTS/POS
AUGUST	9	Luton Town	1-3	6,878 (922) 0 / 21
	13	West Ham United	1-3	13,715 (984) -
	16	Plymouth Argyle	2-1	4,045 (989) 3 / 14
	23	Tranmere Rovers	2-1	7,374 (334) 6 / 9
	25	Queens Park Rangers	3-3	5,544 (2,159) 7 / 10
	30	Oldham Athletic	2-3	5,469 (273) 7 / 12
SEPTEMBER	6	Wycombe Wanderers	2-0	4,192 (677) 10 / 7
	13	Brentford	0-1	4,396 (826) 10 / 11
	16	Notts County	3-1	4,250 (674) 13 / 10
	20	AFC Bournemouth	1-2	6,464 (279) 13 / 13
	27	Stockport County	2-2	4,049 (490) 14 / 14
	30	Brighton & Hove Albion	1-3	4,634 (1,232) 14 / 14
OCTOBER	4	Barnsley	0-2	8,461 (295) 14 / 14
	11	Chesterfield	2-1	3,817 (467) 17 / 15
	15	Oxford United	1-0	2,510 (152) -
	18	Sheffield Wednesday	0-0	22,599 (979) 18 / 15
	21	Blackpool	3-2	5,234 (242) 21 / 12
	25	Wrexham	2-3	4,117 (434) 21 / 16
NOVEMBER	1	Grimsby	3-1	4,185 (686) 24 / 13
	4	Luton Town	1-2	2,746 (876) -
	8	Swansea F.A. Cup R1	0-3	5,031 (369) -
	15	Hartlepool United	1-2	4,944 (205) 24 / 15
	22	Colchester United	4-0	4,149 (744) 27 / 12
	29	Port Vale	1-1	4,586 (353) 28 / 12
DECEMBER	6	F.A. Cup R2	1	4,340 (979) 29 / 13
	13	Bristol City	1-1	6,167 (1,576) 29 / 14
	20	Peterborough United	1-3	4,845 (1,089) 32 / 12
	26	Swindon Town	2-0	5,421 (545) 35 / 11
JANUARY	3	Queens Park Rangers	R3 1	0-1 14,141 (TBC) 35 / 12
	10	Luton Town		
	17	Plymouth Argyle		
	24	Tranmere Rovers		
	31	Oldham Athletic	R4 1	
FEBRUARY	7	Swindon Town		
	14	Chesterfield	R5 1	
	21	Sheffield Wednesday		
	28	Wrexham		
MARCH	2	Blackpool		
	6	Peterborough United		
	12	Bristol City		
	16	Notts County		
	20	Brentford		
	27	AFC Bournemouth		
APRIL	3	Stockport County		
	10	Barnsley		
	12	Brighton & Hove Albion		
	17	Grimsby Town		
	24	Hartlepool United		
MAY	1	Colchester United		
	8	Port Vale		



NEXT AT NENE PARK:

Nationwide League Division 2

Saturday 24th January 2004

Tranmere Rovers

Kick-off 3.00pm

# Today's squad check



RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS

2 (1)

MANAGER: BRIAN TALBOT

SHIRTS: WHITE | SHORTS: BLUE | SOCKS: WHITE

First Scorer Odds

1	BILLY TURLEY
2	MARCUS BIGNOT
3	PAUL UNDERWOOD
4	GARY MILLS
5	ANDY EDWARDS
6	BARRY HUNTER
7	STUART WARDLEY
8	RITCHIE HANLON
9	RODNEY JACK
11	ANDY BURGESS
12	STUART GRAY
14	JOHN DEMPSTER
15	ANDY SAMBROOK
16	ROBERT DUFFY
18	DAVID BELL
19	DANIEL TALBOT
20	PAUL KITSON
22	PAUL HALL
31	ONANDI LOWE
36	JAMIE ASHDOWN

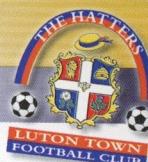
QUINN  
AKIN FENWICK



FIRST SCORER ODDS COURTESY OF DIAMONDS BET  
SET UP AN ACCOUNT ON-LINE



MUSIC PLAYED AT NENE PARK IS KINDLY SUPPLIED BY  
HMV, WELLINGBOROUGH 01933 277034



LUTON TOWN

(2) 2

MANAGER: MIKE NEWELL

SHIRTS: ORANGE | SHORTS: BLUE | SOCKS: BLUE

3	ALAN NEILSON
4	MATTHEW SPRING
5	RUSSELL PERRETT
7	ADRIAN FORBES
8	KEVIN NICHOLLS
11	STEVE ROBINSON
12	CHRIS COYNE
16	ENOCH SHOWUNMI
17	EMMERSOON BOYCE
18	AHMET BRKOVIC
19	STEVEN HOWARD
21	PAUL HUGHES
22	DAVID BAYLISS
23	IAN HILLIER
24	SOL DAVIS
27	PETER HOLMES
29	MARLON BERESFORD
32	LEE MANSELL
33	DEAN BRILL
38	MICHAEL LEARY
39	STEVEN O'LEARY
41	KEVIN FOLEY
43	MATTHEW JUDGE
44	PARY OKAFI DAVIES
45	LEON BARNETT
47	ROB BECKWITH

The Ham Fers Check Irthingborough  
Real, live and passionate coverage of the Diamonds.

BBC RADIO NORTHAMPTON

104.2 & 103.6 FM

Live and exclusive coverage of the Diamonds' away games.  
Saturdays from 2pm, weeknights from 7pm with Adam Blackmore.