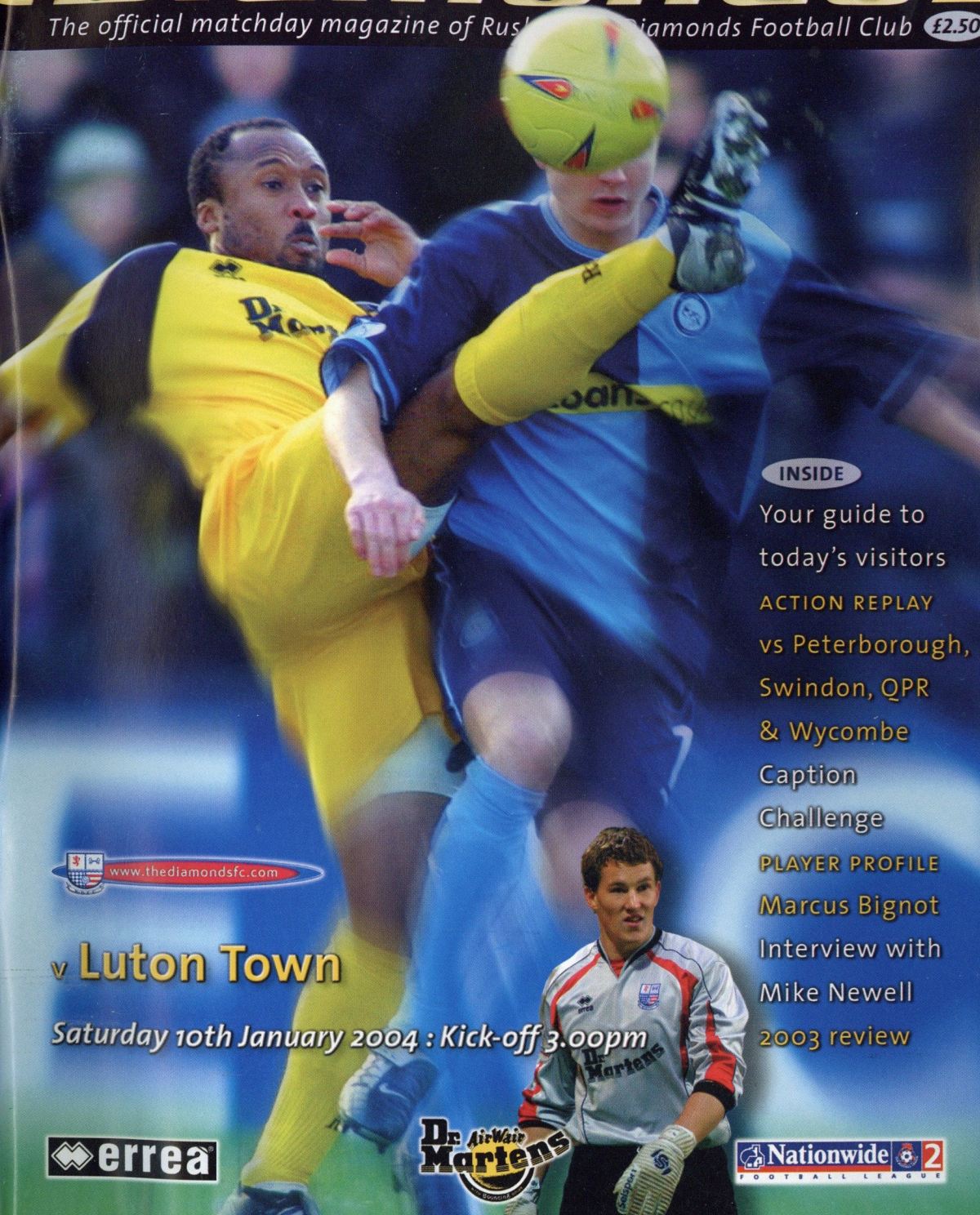




Rushden & Diamonds

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



www.thediamondsfc.com

v Luton Town

Saturday 10th January 2004 : Kick-off 3.00pm



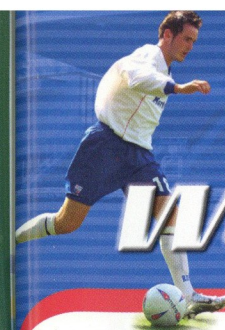
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From the Editor
Good afternoon &
Welcome
to Nene Park



**Rushden & Diamonds
Football Club**
Nene Park, Diamond Way,
Irthlingborough,
Northamptonshire NN9 5QF
Tel: 01933 652000
Fax: 01933 650418

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.

No one knows what 2004 has in store for our club, but we certainly start the year with some very difficult fixtures - QPR away, Luton home, Plymouth away, Tony Jones away - what more challenging times could we ask for! But seriously Tony is ready for a holiday as he, together with Mark Darnell and Brian Talbot, have worked tirelessly and continues to investigate every avenue available to assist our Chairman, Max, in trying to secure the future of RDFC.

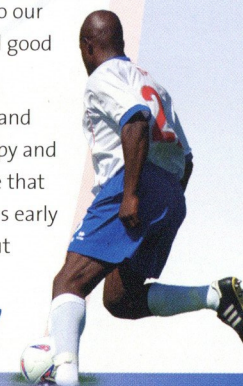
At the time of going to press there is no further information on a possible buyer for the club.

One little boy arrived in time for Christmas in the form of Jamie Hanlon. The little fellow gave his mum and dad a scare after he was born but I am delighted to say the Hanlon family are all fine, we send them our congratulations and very best wishes for the future.

What 2004 bring in terms of our clubs future pales into insignificance when you compare it to our families well being and good health.

I will end on that note and wish you all a very happy and healthy 2004 and hope that Father Christmas comes early this year - around about April will do nicely!

Ted



on the cover...

Rodney Jack in action against Wycombe over Christmas...

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Dr John Mellor
Club Chaplain
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Programme Editor
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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

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

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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.

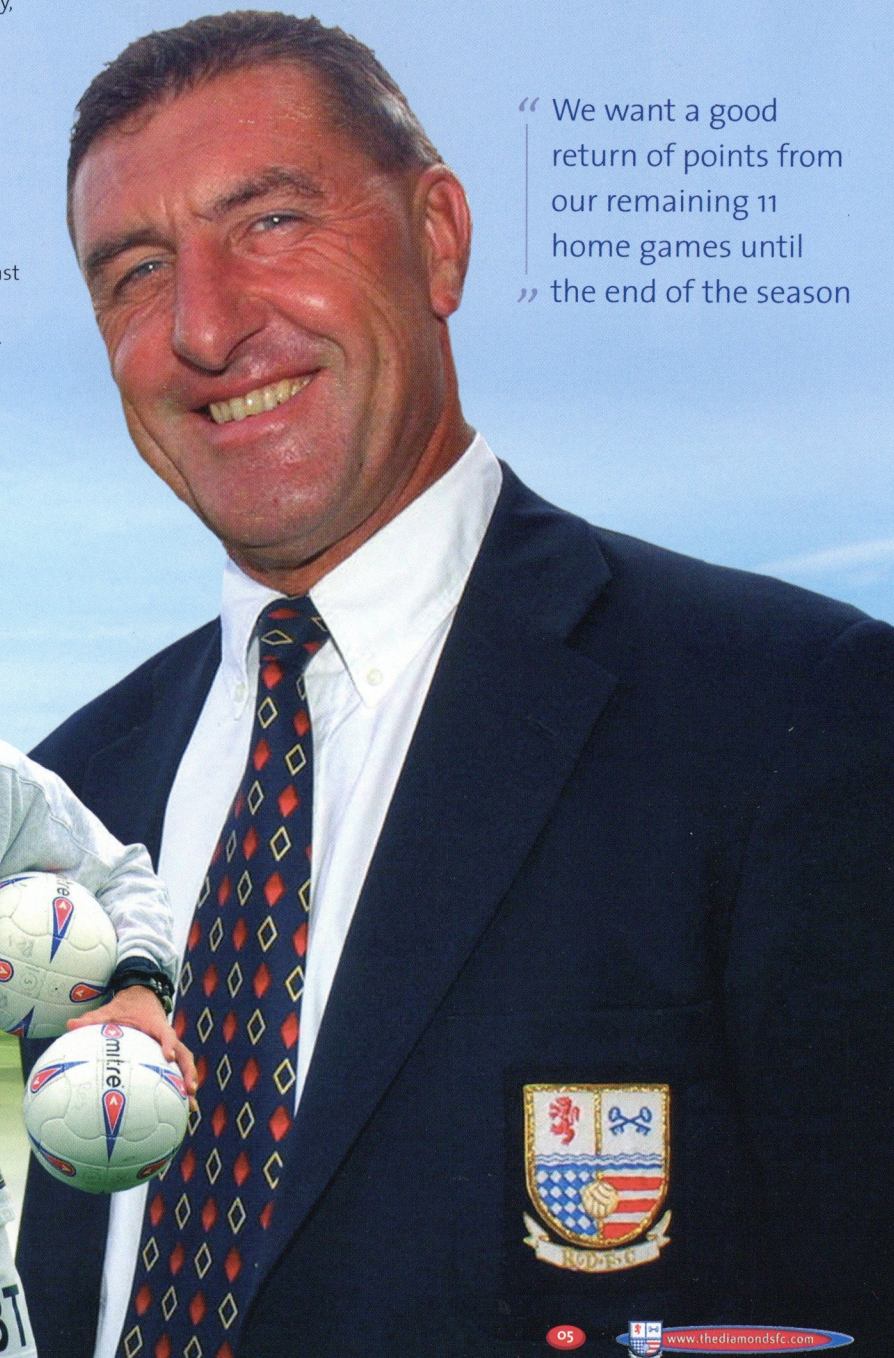
All the best.

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... ”

Brian Talbot



Behind the scenes

with Simon Parsell



1460



Dr Martens

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

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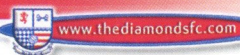
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News & Views...

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



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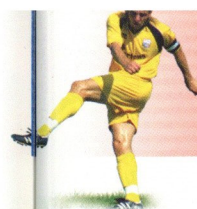
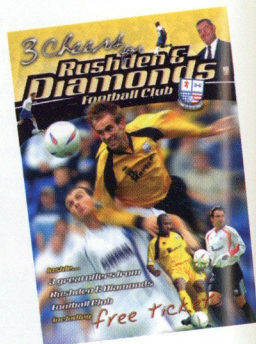
CAN YOU HELP?

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



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.

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.

RAFFLE WINNER

Rushden & Diamonds would like to congratulate Mr Kane, who lives in Irthlingborough, after he won a brand new garden shed in our recent raffle.

The shed, which was kindly donated by A&J Sectional Buildings, was used by the club at a recent Santa's Grotto. It was then signed by Brian Talbot and his players and raffled away as a prize.

The club would like to thank the RDISA for their support for the help of sales of raffle tickets and approximately £500 was raised.



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



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.



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"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.

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."

Mike Newell



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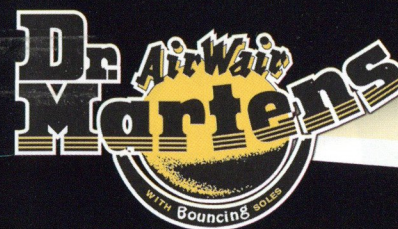
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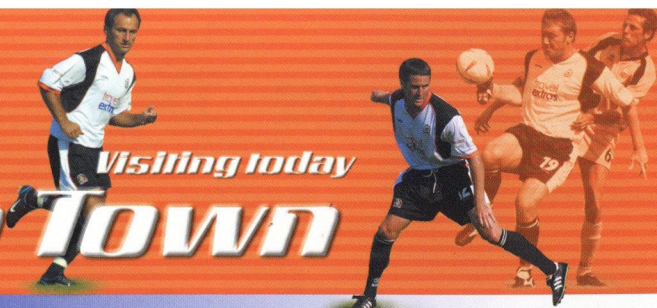
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Visiting today Luton Town



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.

EMMERSON 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 BRKOVIC

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

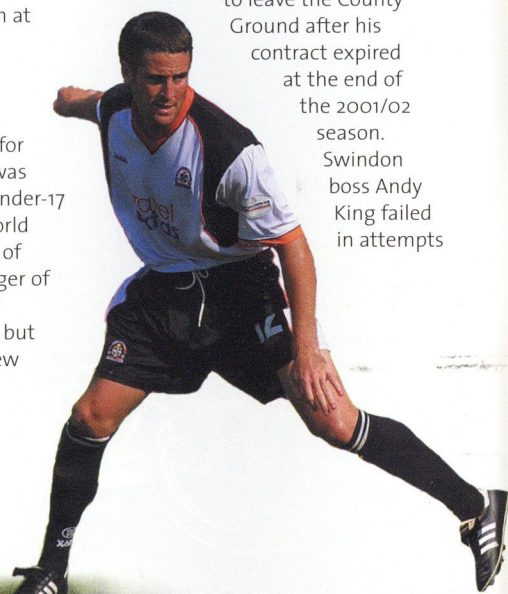
Coyne rapidly became a crowd favourite in the promotion run that followed.

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



manager Mike Newell
stadium Kenilworth Road
capacity 9,975
nickname The Hatters
year founded 1885
captain Kevin Nicholls
website www.lutontown.co.uk



LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

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.

IAN HILLIER

No-one was more surprised than the Welsh under-21 international himself when he made his league debut for Luton in the second game of the 2001/02 season. The day before he was training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Kenilworth Road led to Luton taking the young right back on loan, and Hillier settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him for a bargain £30,000 fee and he became a regular squad member.

STEVE HOWARD

Rarely can £50,000 have been better spent in football than the fee Luton paid Northampton on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the bustling striker away from the Cobblers. He has been Luton's leading marksman in each of the past two seasons and is a huge favourite at Kenilworth Road - he was the fans' player of the year in 2002, and the players' player of the year 12 months later. Howard had cost Northampton a then record fee of £120,000 when they recruited him from Hartlepool two years previously. They grudgingly accepted a third of their asking price for a player who would have left for nothing soon afterwards under the Bosman ruling. Howard exploded into action in his first full season with Luton, and his 24 goals made him the Third Division's top league marksman as Luton won promotion.

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.



Luton Town

Visiting today

MICHAEL LEARY

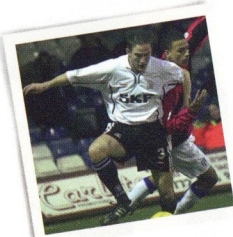
Luton's receivership in the summer might mean that former trainee Leary gets his chance this season. The club was under a Football League transfer embargo, but the coaches had no hesitation in promoting the young Londoner to the first team squad after a string of impressive performances in the youth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

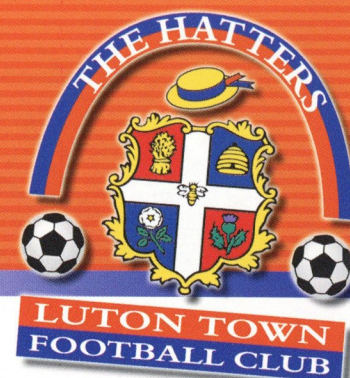
He was delighted to get the job, but soon discovered he had taken on a huge challenge. He had hardly settled in before the club went into receivership, with debts of £11million. The Football League imposed a transfer embargo, and with eight players having left earlier in the summer Newell found himself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



nice occasion. On the final day of the previous season, Newell's last game in charge of Hartlepool was at Rushden, where a draw meant that Rushden were Division Three champions, and Hartlepool runners-up. And the first day of this season saw Luton meet Rushden - and run out 3-1 winners, to set the young manager's record straight.



a glance 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.

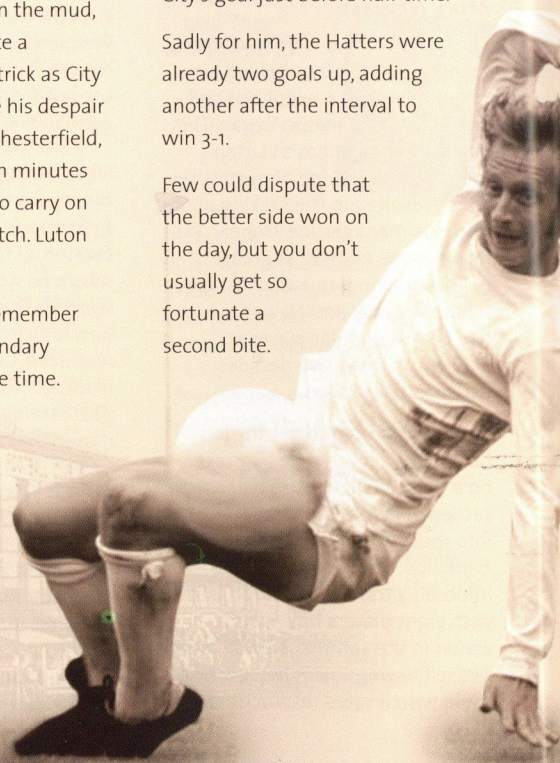
It was my second glimpse of Denis Law, having watched the precocious youngster at Filbert Street some years before during his 'apprenticeship' with Huddersfield.

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:	2
Scored:	7
Conc:	6
Points:	8
Goal Diff:	1
Last 6:	DDLWWL
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



Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	198
Goals conceded	37
On target/goals scored	5.35
Division 2 rating	2

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	165
Goals scored	41
On target/goals	4.02
Division 2 Rating	8

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	8
Points won	2
Goals Against, last 10	4
Points lost	1

Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	11.44
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	4
Average Offsides per game	5.12
Div 2 Rating	24

Swings

WON when behind	3
DRAWN when behind	3
LOST when ahead	2
DRAWN when ahead	2
WON 2 down	0
WON 1 down	3
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	3
DRAWN 2+ down	1
DRAWN 1 down	2
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	2

Attendances

Aggregate	52,313
Highest	5,544
Lowest	3,817
Average	4,359

Where Goals

16	Close Range	6
14	Inside Area	27
11	Outside Area	4

How Goals

19	Shots	21
11	Headers	10
6	Volleys	3
2	Penalties	2
3	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	1



Set Piece Goals

CORNERS:	Scored from C	6
	Conceded from C	4
FREE KICKS:	Scored from FK	4
	Conceded from FK	4

Cards

28	3
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Margins

WON BY:	1 Goal	4
	2 Goals	5
	3 Goals	0
	4 Goals	1
	5+ Goals	0
LOST BY:	1 Goal	6
	2 Goals	4
	3 Goals	0
	4 Goals	0
	5+ Goals	0



Attendances

Aggregate	72,703
Highest	8,339
Lowest	5,002
Average	6,059

The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Howard, Perrett	2
Long range shots	McSheffrey	2
Inside 6 yards	Perrett	2
Shots from 6-18 yards	Forbes	6
Volleyed shots	3 players	1
Penalties	Nicholls, McSheffrey	1
Scored 1st Goal in match	Howard	3
Most goals in last 10	5 players	1
Points gained from goals	Howard	7.5



Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	138
Goals conceded	35
On target/goals scored	3.94
Division 2 rating	19

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	139
Goals scored	37
On target/goals	3.76
Division 2 Rating	4

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	5
Points won	2
Goals Against, last 10	7
Points lost	8

Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	13.21
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	16
Average Offsides per game	5.00
Div 2 Rating	23

Swings

WON when behind	3
DRAWN when behind	3
LOST when ahead	2
DRAWN when ahead	4
WON 2 down	1
WON 1 down	2
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	2
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	3
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	4

Attendances

Aggregate	72,703
Highest	8,339
Lowest	5,002
Average	6,059



Hatters



Form Guide:

Won:	3
Drawn:	2
Lost:	1
Scored:	5
Conc:	2
Points:	11
Goal Diff:	3
Last 6:	DWWLDW
Last 5 Home:	DWWLDW
Last 5 Away:	LDDWD

Miscellaneous

Players Used:	32
Clean Sheets:	5
Failed to Score:	4

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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, Jelleyman, 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.

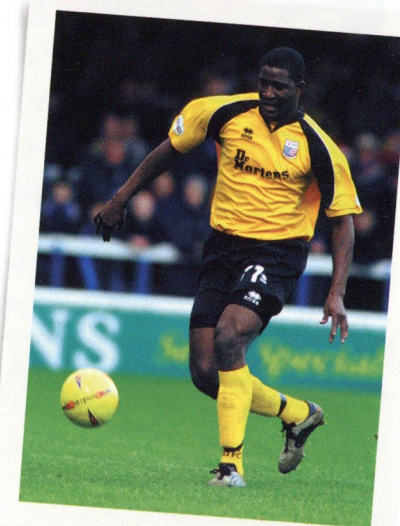
RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS

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

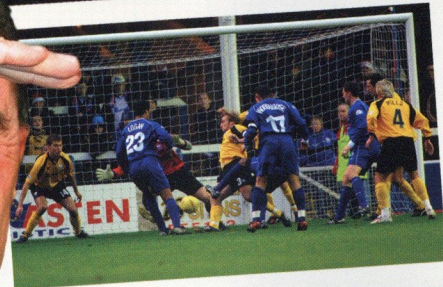
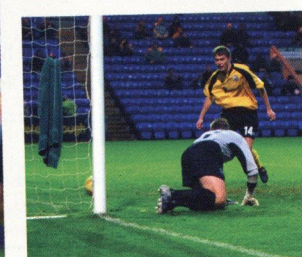
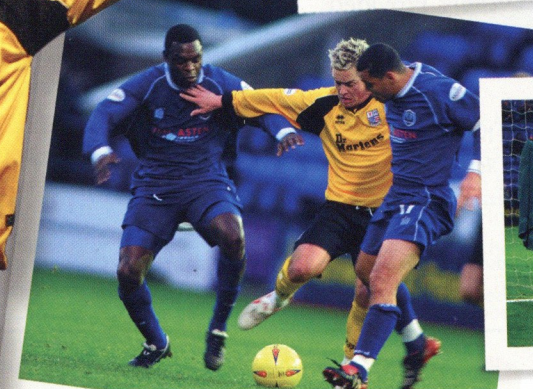
Subs Not Used: Story, Akinfenwa.

Booked: Lowe.

Goals: Kitson 49.



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with



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Caption Challenge photo

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

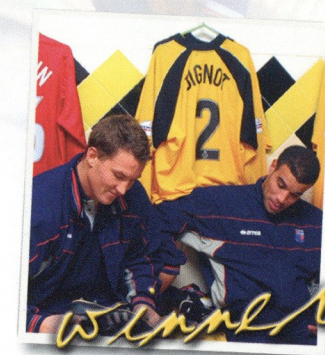
logging on to the Club website at www.thediamondsfc.com, click on 'Fans' and then 'Caption Competition' and register your entry. Alternatively, you can send your entry on a postcard to Paul Redding at the Club (see page 3 for the full address).

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 Mr Tim Smith, from Norfolk, for his winning caption 'What do you mean you're sending me off for a bad hair-do?!'.

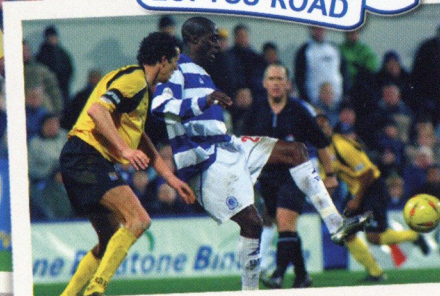
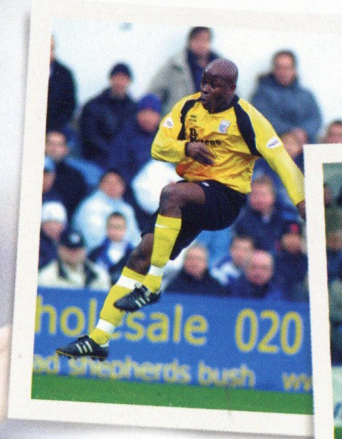
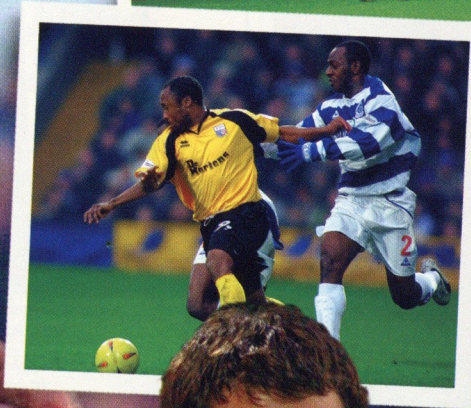
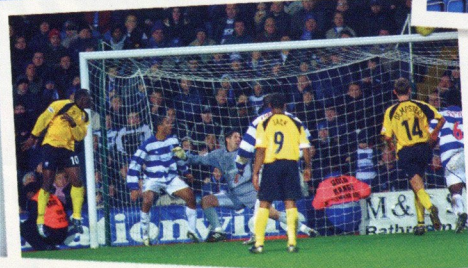


We had loads of entries for our latest 'Caption Challenge' featuring the above photo. Congratulations go to Joanne Steele, from Rushden, for her winning caption 'When the gaffer said 'look at the stud' I thought he meant me!'.

Action replay

Saturday 3rd January
QPR (A) O-1

Att: 14,141
Ref: A Butler



QPR

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

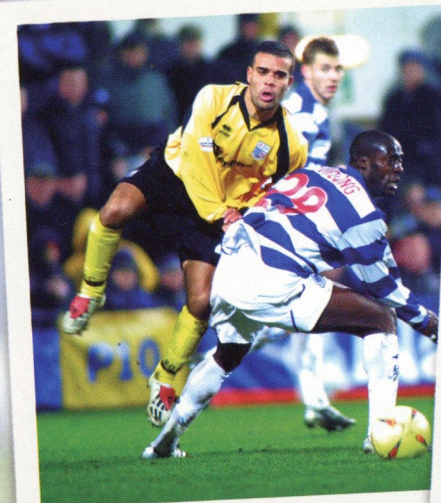
Subs Not Used: Culkin, Palmer, Rose, Sabin.

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 McSporry 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.



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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 seem 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-

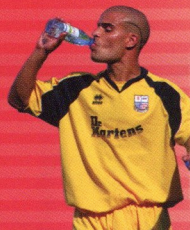
load the heavy payers. He followed Holloway to Queen's Park Rangers but was unable to prevent the once-great club suffering relegation to the Second Division.

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.'*

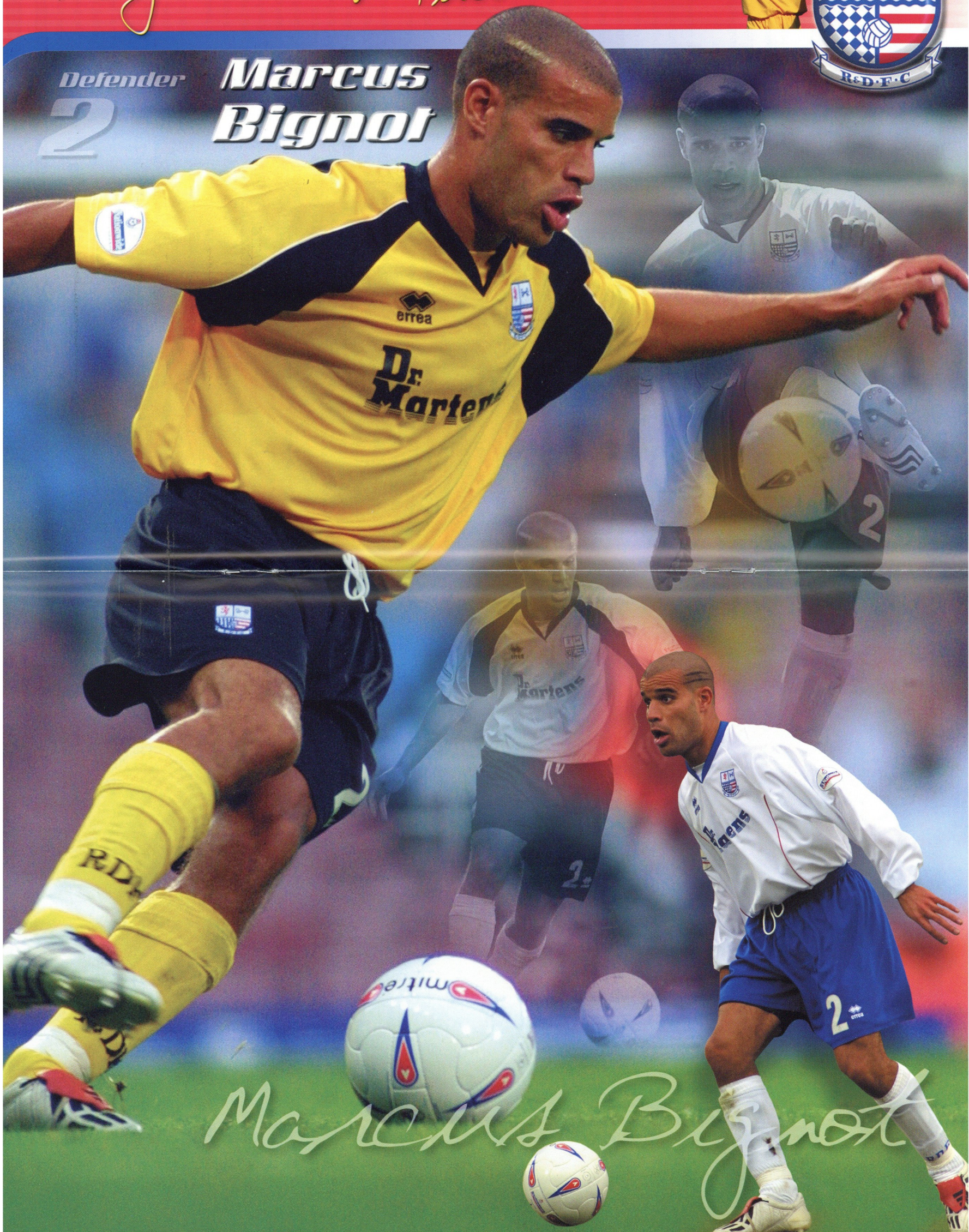
He attributes much to important figures, such as his father Paul, Kevin Sweeney, his Sunday Youth team manager, Daly, Allner, Gradi and Holloway, who have all helped in his development in football. With such positive influences he is well-qualified to help others achieve success in the game he loves.

Player Profile Pull-out with



Defender **Marcus Bignot**

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’

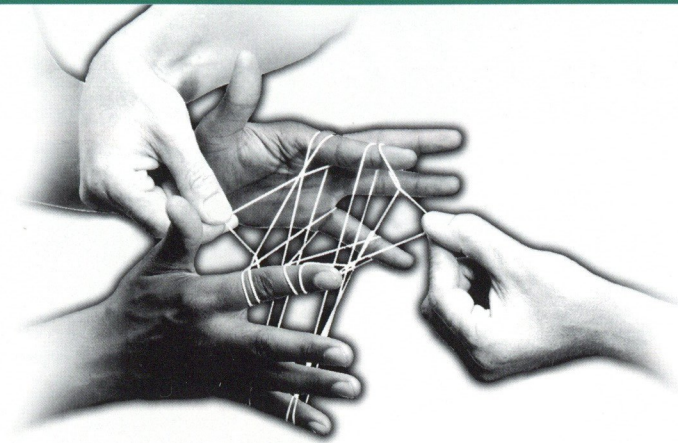
Marcus Bignot was unequivocal in his choice of favourite player. He couldn't be swayed in favour of one of the game's distant greats but was insistent upon a current Birmingham City player who would appear to have more of a future than a past.

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.



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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

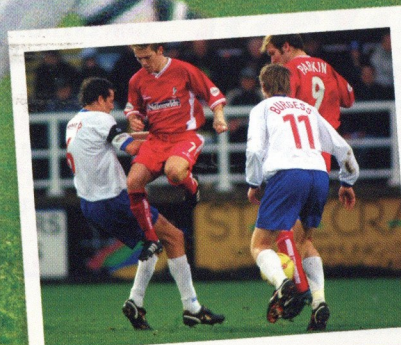
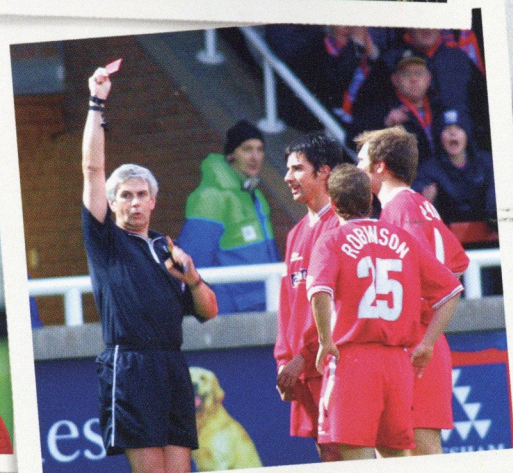
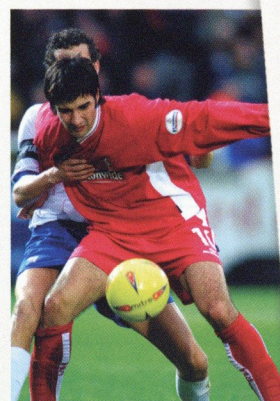
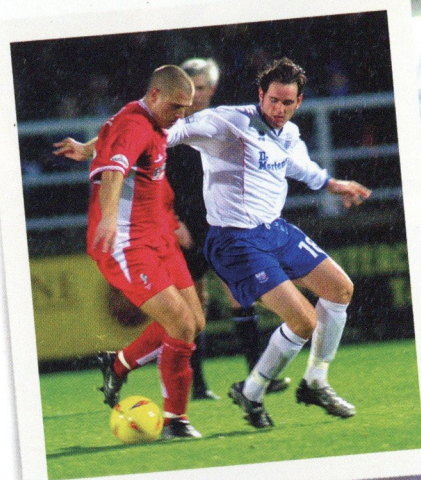
Evans, Gurney, Ifil, Reeves,
Nicholas, Igoe (Mooney 59),
Miglioranzi, Robinson, Howard
(Duke 74), Fallon, Parkin.

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.





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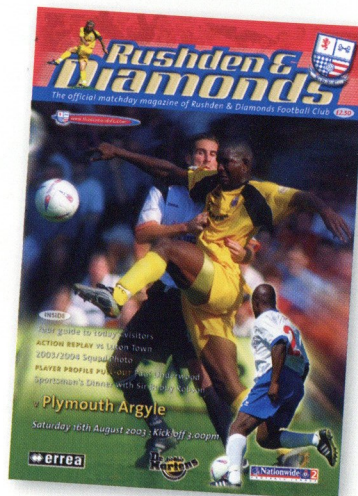
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Radio Diamonds

1503 AM
Radio Diamonds

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.



In the first hour between 11 and 12, we have a recorded interview with Brian, a review/preview discussion with Phil (who goes to most of the away matches) and a chat with either Operations Manager Dean Howells or Stadium Manager Kieran Farmer. At 12, physiotherapist extraordinaire (his words not mine!) Simon Parsell joins me in the studio and we talk of many things - not always anything to do with Rushden & Diamonds, it has to be said! Now this is where YOU come in - is there anything YOU would like to ask Simon, or would like to hear our thoughts on, YOU can join in the discussions on the phone. You do not necessarily have to talk

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



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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.

You will get the chance to go behind the scenes at Nene Park - visit the first team dressing rooms, go pitch side, sit in the gaffers seat on the bench, walk around the stadium, sit in the Boardroom, visit the match day control room and much much more! You will then enjoy a 3-course Sunday lunch in Seasons Bistro and receive a certificate of your visit and a Rushden & Diamonds memento.



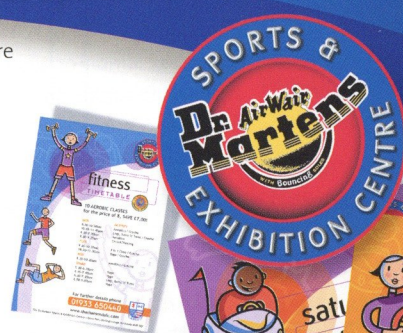
To book this exciting package contact Marie Carolan on (01933) 650345 ext 2333



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- 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 and in the local press in the days immediately following the match.

Justin Timberlake and Kylie in Vogue Tribute night

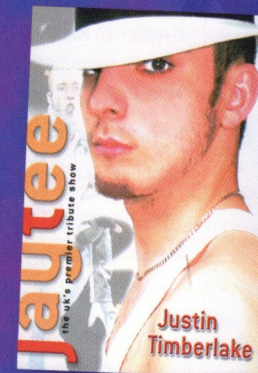
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RDFC online with Steven Dove

www.thediamondsfc.com

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.

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.

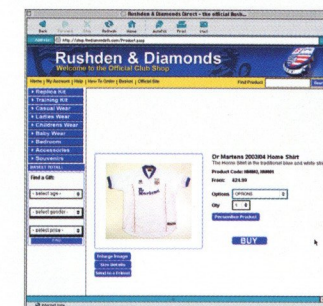
Items purchased via our online shopping site continue to support the club financially and the club

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.

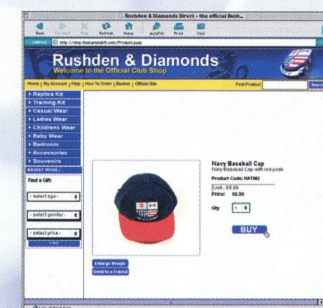
The media department are always on the look out for new ideas and features for the official



website so why not jot them on the e-mail and send them to steven.dove@airwair.co.uk.

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.

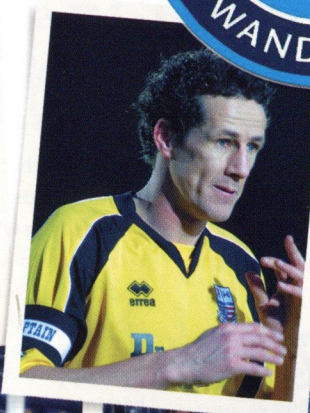
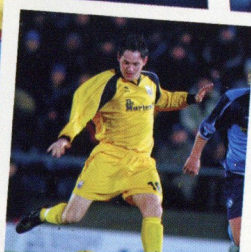
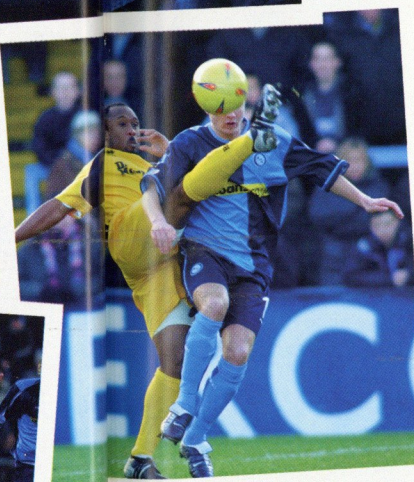
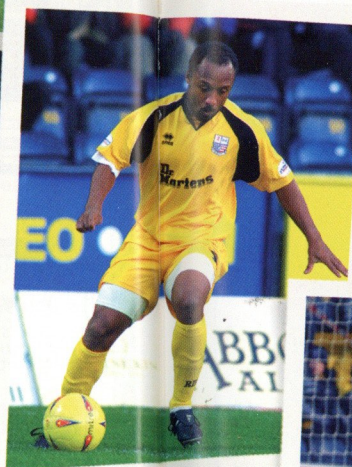
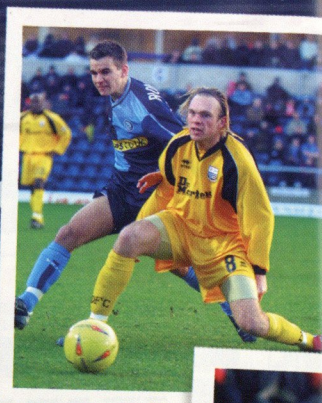
"gives supporters the opportunity to shop for RDFC merchandise from the comfort of their own home..."



Action replay

Sunday 28th December
Wycombe (A) 2-0

Att: 5,421
Ref: P Danson

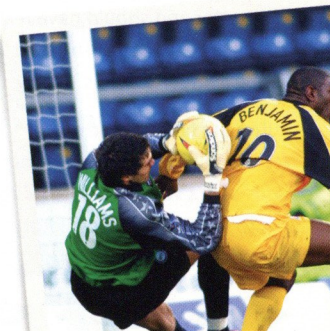


WYCOMBE

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.



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.

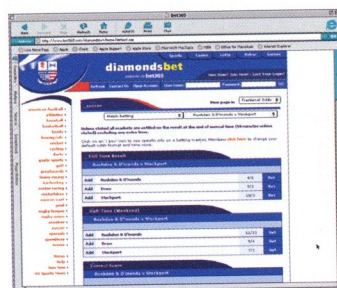
However, Diamonds pushed Luton all the way in our previous encounter and should have really booked their place in the next round of the LDV Vans Trophy.

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.

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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 £15, Concessions £10.
Non-members £20, Concessions £15.

RDISA: Depart Rushden 6:15am, Nene Park 6:30am.
Fares: Members £12, Concessions £9.
Non-members £15, Concessions £12.

By Car: From Bristol travel down the M5 towards the South West. At Exeter the Motorway runs into the A38 Devon Expressway. Stay on the A38 into Plymouth. Signs will then direct you to Home Park.

Approx mileage: 500

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

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.



Travel to Swindon

Supporters Club: Depart Rushden 11:15am, Nene Park 11:30am.
Fares: Members £8, Concessions £6.
Non-members £11, Concessions £9.

RDISA: 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.

COACH BOOKINGS

SUPPORTERS CLUB via Graham Smith on 07850 070524

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



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.

TICKET OFFICE HOTLINE

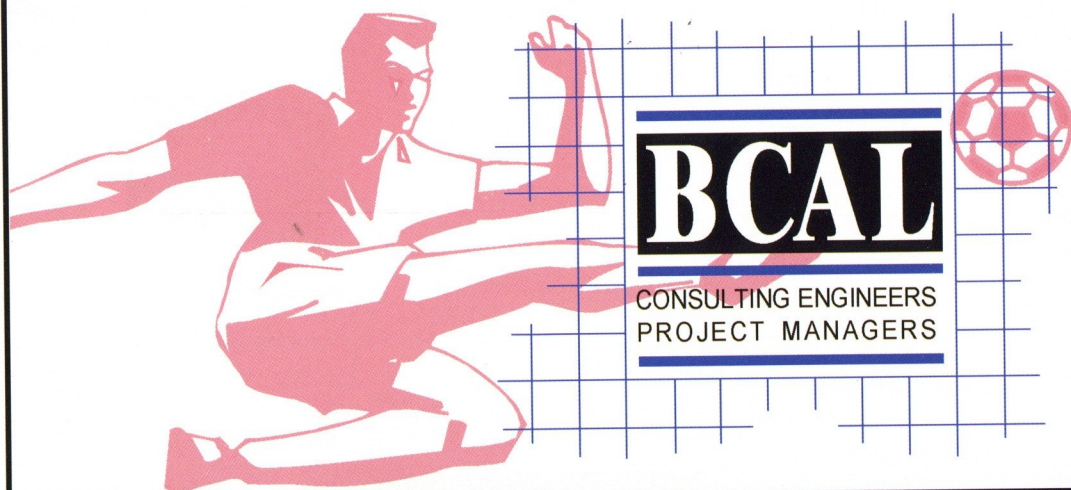
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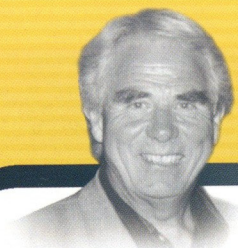
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Tony Jones



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.

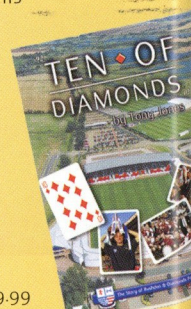
Whilst accepting that the Premiership and the attendant European competitions puts the big clubs in an entirely different bracket, it is true that the world market, even at this level, is now on the decline. Lower down the leagues, the downward trend is cash availability and reduced squad sizes are there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



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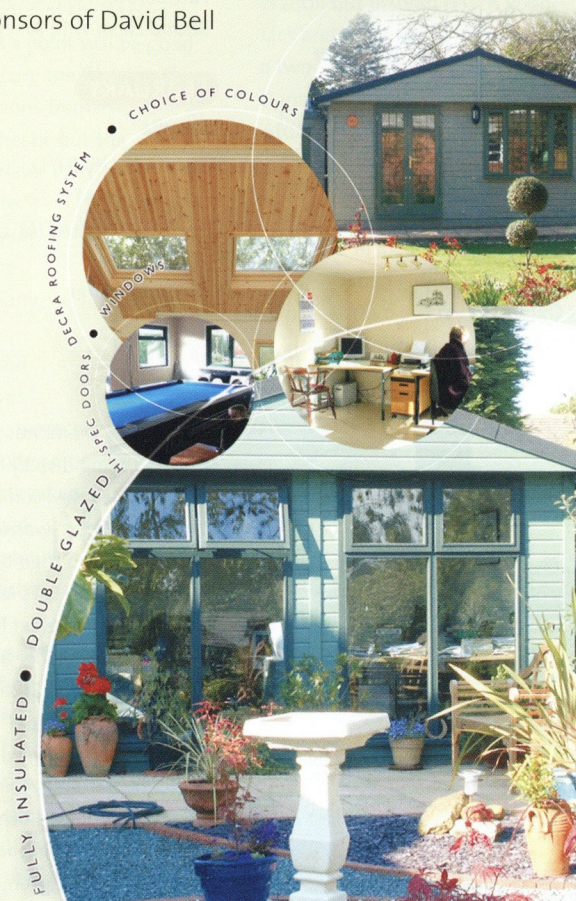
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A look back over

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



Mustafa completes a move to Dagenham and Redbridge whilst Brian Talbot confirms his interest in signing a central defender.

MARCH

Results

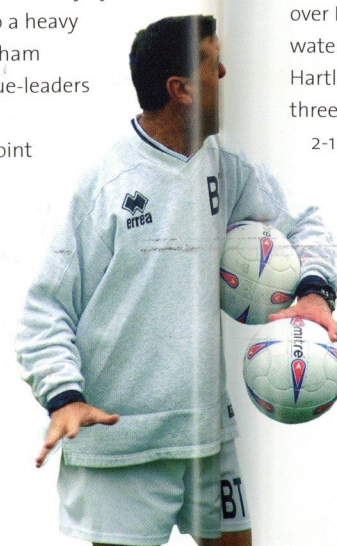
York City (H) **W 2-1**
Bournemouth (H) **W 2-1**
Wrexham (A) **L 0-3**
Hull City (H) **W 4-2**
Bury (A) **W 1-0**
Boston United (A) **D 1-1**
Rochdale (H) **D 3-3**
Exeter City (H) **W 1-0**

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

Results

Hartlepool United (H) **D 1-1**

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 Lillleshall 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 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.

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.

Diamond Performance Centres

Diamond Performance Centres are held locally and 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.

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
For more info on Performance, Development & Elite call Gregg Broughton on 01933 652000 or email 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

Diamond Development

When do sessions begin?

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

TERM TWO	Term Three
Begins Monday 12th January Ends Friday 26th March Excluding 16th-20th February	Begins Monday 26th April Ends Friday 9th July Excluding 31st May-4th June
(i.e Corby begins 15/1/04) (Half-Term)	(i.e Corby begins 29/4/04) (Half-Term)



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





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Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4 gls	5+ gls
Plymouth	3	8	1	1	2
QPR	5	2	4	1	1
Brighton	3	5	2	1	0
Wrexham	8	2	0	1	0
Barnsley	7	4	0	0	0
Bristol City	6	2	1	0	1
Blackpool	8	1	0	1	0
Rushden	4	5	0	1	0
Swindon	6	3	0	1	0
Colchester	8	2	0	0	0
Luton	5	5	0	0	0
Port Vale	7	2	1	0	0
Hartlepool	4	4	0	0	1
Brentford	6	1	0	1	0
Bournemouth	7	0	1	0	0
Grimsby	2	4	0	1	0
Sheff Wed	5	1	1	0	0
Tranmere	6	0	1	0	0
Oldham	3	1	2	0	0
Peterborough	3	1	2	0	0
Notts County	3	1	1	0	0
Chesterfield	3	0	1	0	0
Stockport	4	0	0	0	0
Wycombe	1	1	2	0	0



Comebacks

WON from	-3	-2	-1	Total
Port Vale	0	0	4	4
Blackpool	0	1	2	3
Luton	0	1	2	3
Bournemouth	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3
Wrexham	0	0	3	3
Barnsley	0	0	2	2
Bristol City	0	0	2	2
Swindon	0	0	2	2



Throwaways

LOST from	+3	+2	+1	Total
Peterborough	0	1	2	3
Grimsby	0	0	3	3
Oldham	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3
Wycombe	0	1	1	2
Blackpool	0	0	2	2
Brentford	0	0	2	2
Luton	0	0	2	2
QPR	0	0	2	2
Sheff Wed	0	0	2	2
Swindon	0	0	2	2



Scoring Chances per Game

No. of Shots per game	ON Target	OFF Target
Plymouth	9.08	5.96
Swindon	6.32	5.32
Bristol City	6.50	5.08
Bournemouth	5.76	5.68
Oldham	5.84	5.60
QPR	6.08	5.20
Notts County	5.84	5.32
Blackpool	6.26	4.70
Brighton	6.33	4.58
Wrexham	6.13	4.75
Rushden	6.60	4.20
Colchester	5.54	5.13
Peterborough	5.80	4.60
Barnsley	6.08	4.29
Grimsby	5.63	4.63
Luton	5.79	4.38
Tranmere	5.75	4.42
Port Vale	5.22	4.91
Stockport	4.96	4.58
Wycombe	4.84	4.36
Hartlepool	5.21	3.88
Sheff Wed	4.96	4.08
Chesterfield	4.56	4.40
Brentford	4.76	3.64



Scorer's Points Gained & Scoring Run

	GlS	GlS/Gm	Pts	Run 1st Gl
Scott Taylor	13	0.57	15	3
Leon Knight	17	0.74	13	4
Steve McPhee	11	0.48	10	3
Wayne Andrews	9	0.41	10	4
Michael Boulding	12	0.50	9	4
Tommy Mooney	10	0.40	9	4
Lee Peacock	10	0.50	8	3
Warren Feeney	8	0.35	8	4
Kevin Betsy	7	0.29	8	1
Aaron Wilbraham	7	0.32	8	2
Onandi Lowe	12	0.80	7	5

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



Fouls & Offsides per game

	Games	Fouls	Average
FOULS			
QPR	25	397	15.88
Tranmere	24	362	15.08
Barnsley	24	330	13.75
Colchester	24	328	13.67
Plymouth	25	338	13.52
Notts County	25	336	13.44
Wycombe	25	336	13.44
Bristol City	24	318	13.25
Luton	24	317	13.21
Brentford	25	328	13.12
OFFSIDES			
Rushden	25	128	5.12
Luton	24	120	5.00
Chesterfield	25	113	4.52
Peterborough	25	112	4.48
Hartlepool	24	102	4.25
Bristol City	24	99	4.13
Tranmere	24	99	4.13
Grimsby	24	98	4.08
Colchester	24	97	4.04
Oldham	25	101	4.04

Average is number of Fouls/Offsides per game. Clubs are ordered by highest number of Fouls/Offsides per game.



Headed Goals

most goals from headers	Player	Club	Goals
	Frio	Plymouth	7
	Lawrence	Wrexham	5
	Peacock	Bristol City	4
	McKenzie	Peterborough	4
	Evans	Plymouth	4
	Lowe	Rushden	4
	Barlow	Stockport	4



Shots from Long Range

Most goals from outside 18 yd box	Player	Club	Goals
	Wotton	Plymouth	4
	Peacock	Bristol City	3
	Anderson	Grimsby	3
	Strachan	Hartlepool	3
	Padula	QPR	3
	Lowe	Rushden	3
	Jack	Rushden	3



Late Goals Scored

Most goals in last 10 mins of match	Player	Club	Goals
	Boulding	Grimsby	3
	Frio	Plymouth	3
	Evans	Plymouth	3
	Parkin	Swindon	3
	Andrews	Colchester	2
	Gabbadini	Hartlepool	2
	Heffernan	Notts County	2
	Murray	Oldham	2
	McKenzie	Peterborough	2
	Collins	Port Vale	2
	Furlong	QPR	2
	Lowe	Rushden	2
	Barlow	Stockport	2
	Nicholson	Tranmere	2
	Taylor	Tranmere	2



Scored in last 15 mins

FOR	76-90	Total	%
Tranmere	9	26	35
Peterborough	10	33	30
Grimsby	8	29	28
Stockport	8	30	27
Bristol City	8	31	26
Swindon	9	35	26
Hartlepool	8	36	22
Plymouth	13	59	22
QPR	10	46	22
Notts County	5	24	21
Against	76-90	Total	%
Brentford	15	38	39
Sheff Wed	11	33	33
Brighton	8	27	30
QPR	5	20	25
Wycombe	10	43	23
Grimsby	8	35	23
Luton	8	35	23
Swindon	7	31	23
Peterborough	8	36	22



Set Piece Goals

Scored from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Plymouth	8	8	16
QPR	4	9	13
Stockport	3	8	11
Brentford	8	2	10
Rushden	6	4	10
Bristol City	6	3	9
Sheff Wed	4	5	9
Swindon	3	6	9
Conceded from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Brentford	8	5	13
Wycombe	8	5	13
Oldham	6	5	11
Bournemouth	5	5	10
Bristol City	4	6	10
Chesterfield	7	3	10
Colchester	4	6	10
Stockport	3	7	10



Division 2 Statistics

























Updated 5/1/04

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Plymouth	25	9	3	1	35	10	6	4	2	24	15	34	52
2	QPR	25	10	3	0	29	3	3	6	3	17	17	26	48
3	Bristol City	24	7	4	1	19	7	3	6	3	12	12	12	40
4	Barnsley	24	5	6	1	15	9	6	1	5	17	19	4	40
5	Brighton	24	8	2	2	23	9	3	3	6	14	18	10	38
6	Swindon Town	25	6	4	3	23	15	4	3	5	12	16	4	37
7	Wrexham	24	5	4	4	16	11	6	0	5	14	15	4	37
8	Luton Town	24	8	2	2	23	12	2	5	5	14	23	2	37
9	Port Vale	23	7	3	1	21	14	3	3	6	11	16	2	36
10	Colchester	24	6	4	2	15	11	4	2	6	12	20	-4	36
11	Hartlepool	24	5	6	1	19	6	4	2	6	17	24	6	35
12	Rushden & Diamonds	25	6	3	3	24	16	4	2	7	17	21	4	35
13	Blackpool	23	6	0	6	16	14	4	3	4	13	19	-4	33
14	Bournemouth	25	5	5	2	18	14	3	3	7	11	17	-2	32
15	Sheff Wed	25	2	6	4	13	15	5	4	4	17	18	-3	31
16	Tranmere	24	6	4	2	17	11	1	5	6	9	23	-8	30
17	Grimsby Town	24	4	3	4	18	12	3	5	5	11	23	-6	29
18	Oldham	25	5	3	5	18	17	1	7	4	19	23	-3	28
19	Brentford	25	5	1	6	17	21	3	3	7	9	17	-12	28
20	Peterborough	24	1	5	6	16	20	4	4	4	12	14	-6	24
21	Stockport	24	1	5	6	14	21	3	5	4	16	19	-10	22
22	Notts County	24	3	4	5	15	15	2	2	8	7	24	-17	21
23	Chesterfield	25	3	5	4	14	14	1	4	8	5	23	-18	21
24	Wycombe	25	4	2	7	20	21	0	5	7	8	22	-15	19

FIXTURES & RESULTS



READ ACROSS FOR HOME TEAM

BARNLEY		3/1	17/1	17/4	1-0	1/5	0-1	1-0	0-0	7/2	6/3	1-1	1-1	2/3	3/4	20/3	12/4	2-0	1-1	3-3	1-1	2-0	2-1	21/2
BLACKPOOL	0-2		1-2	16/3	10/4	1-0	1-0	14/2	0-1	4-0	0-1	2-1	24/1	1/5	28/2	6/3	10/1	2-3	17/4	27/3	31/1	2-1	0-1	3-2
BOURNEMOUTH	2-2	20/3		1-0	1-0	0-0	12/4	3/4	0-0	2-2	6-3	14/2	28/2	1-2	0-2	10/1	24/1	2-1	1-0	1/5	2-2	17/4	31/1	6/3
BRENTFORD	2-1	0-0	8/5		4-0	1-2	3/4	12/4	1-3	2-1	4-2	28/2	2-1	0-3	1-3	31/1	14/2	20/3	0-3	13/3	0-2	10/1	24/1	24/4
BRIGHTON	24/1	3-0	21/2	2/3		1-4	1-0	20/3	3-0	3/4	2-0	1/5	10/1	17/4	31/1	1-1	2-1	12/4	2-0	0-1	2-2	6/3	2-0	4-0
BRISTOL CITY	2-1	8/5	2-0	7/2	24/4		17/1	3/1	1-0	1-1	1-1	5-0	20/3	1-1	12/4	0-1	3/4	13/3	1-1	1-0	2-1	2-0	21/2	2/3
CHESTERFIELD	0-2	24/4	1-1	1-2	16/3	1-1		28/2	27/3	1-2	8/5	0-1	1-1	2-1	1-1	1-0	31/1	14/2	6/3	10/4	3-0	2-2	10/1	24/1
COLCHESTER	10/1	1-1	1-0	1-1	1-0	2-1	1-0		20/2	6/3	1-1	10/4	2-1	27/3	0-2	24/1	2-2	1/5	3-1	2/3	0-1	31/1	17/4	16/3
GRIMSBY TOWN	28/2	12/4	13/3	1/5	14/2	31/1	4-0	2-0		20/3	24/1	2-0	3-3	1-1	10/1	1-2	0-1	17/4	3/4	1-1	1-2	0-1	P-P	3-1
HARTLEPOOL	1-2	20/2	10/4	27/3	0-0	24/1	2/3	0-0	8-1		31/1	17/4	0-0	10/1	1/5	2-0	13/3	2-1	1-1	16/3	2-0	0-0	2-0	1-1
LUTON TOWN	0-1	13/3	2/3	21/2	3/1	17/4	1-0	7/2	1-2	3-2		2-0	3/4	1-1	20/3	2-0	1-1	3-1	1/5	17/1	12/4	3-1	3-2	3-1
NOTTS COUNTY	31/1	3/4	0-1	2-0	1-2	10/1	20/3	3-0	2/3	1-0	1-1		8/5	0-1	6/3	24/4	3-3	1-3	12/4	21/2	24/1	2-2	16/8	1-1
OLDHAM	16/3	2-3	1-1	1-1	1-3	1-1	1/5	13/3	7/2	0-2	3-0	0-1		10/4	17/4	2-1	2-1	3-2	17/1	2-0	0-1	21/2	2/3	27/3
PETERBOROUGH	2-3	0-1	24/4	17/1	2-2	14/2	7/2	1-2	0-0	3-4	28/2	3/1	2-2		2-2	12/4	0-0	3-1	0-1	1-2	3/4	20/3	13/3	8/5
PLYMOUTH	2-0	1-0	7/2	2-0	3-3	0-1	7-0	8/5	2-2	2-0	2-1	3-0	2-2	16/3		21/2	24/4	17/1	2/3	3-1	13/3	6-0	27/3	10/4
PORT VALE	3-1	P-P	2-1	1-0	13/3	27/3	17/4	4-3	17/1	3/1	16/3	1-0	14/2	3-0	1-5		2-0	1-1	7/2	2-2	28/2	1/5	10/4	1-1
QPR	4-0	5-0	1-0	1-0	17/1	1-1	3-0	2-0	10/4	4-1	27/3	7/2	6/3	21/2	3-0	2/3		1-0	3-0	17/4	1/5	1-1	16/3	0-0
RUSHDEN & D	10/4	2/3	27/3	0-1	1-3	1-1	2-1	4-0	3-1	24/4	10/1	16/3	31/1	6/3	2-1	8/5	3-3		21/2	2-2	2-0	24/1	2-3	2-0
SHEFF WED	13/3	0-1	17/3	10/4	27/3	28/2	0-0	24/4	0-0	14/2	0-0	2-1	2-2	24/1	1-3	2-3	8/5	0-0		2-2	10/1	2-0	2-3	31/1
STOCKPORT	8/5	1-3	3-2	1-1	28/2	6/3	0-0	1-3	24/4	1-2	1-2	2-2	12/4	31/1	24/1	2-2	1-2	3/4	20/3		14/2	1-1	0-1	10/1
SWINDON	27/3	2-21	2-1	6/3	2-1	10/4	21/2	17/1	17/3	8/5	2-2	4-0	24/4	2-0	2-3	0-0	1-1	7/2	2-3	1-2		3/3	1-0	2-0
TRANMERE	24/4	7/2	1-1	4-1	1-0	16/3	13/3	1-1	8/5	17/1	10/4	27/3	2-1	0-0	14/2	1-0	28/2	1-2	2-2	3/1	1-0		1-2	2-1
WREXHAM	14/2	4-2	0-1	1-0	8/5	0-0	0-0	0-1	6/3	12/4	24/4	17/1	4-0	2-0	2-2	2-1	0-2	28/2	1-2	7/2	20/3	3/4		0-0
WYCOMBE	1-2	17/1	2-0	1-2	7/2	3-0	3-3	1-2	4-1	28/2	14/2	13/3	2-5	1-2	0-0	3/4	20/3	0-2	1-2	1-0	17/4	12/4	1/5	



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	

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



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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 Football League

A = starting appearance
S = sub appearance
G = goals scored

HOME GAMES IN RED

				Total
AUGUST		SCORE	ATT (visitors)	PTS/POS
9	Luton Town	1-3	6,878 (922)	0 / 21
13	West Ham United	CALLING CLIP 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 / 1
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	LDV Vans Trophy 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	LDV Vans Trophy 1-2	2,746 (876)	-
8	Swansea F.A. Cup R1	1-1	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	1-1	4,340 (979)	29 / 13
13	Bristol City	1-3	6,167 (1,576)	29 / 14
20	Peterborough United	2-0	4,845 (1,089)	32 / 12
26	Swindon Town	2-0	5,421 (545)	35 / 11
28	Wycombe Wanderers	2-0		
JANUARY				
3	Queens Park Rangers	R3 1-1	14,141 (TBC)	35 / 12
10	Luton Town			
17	Plymouth Argyle			
24	Tranmere Rovers	R4 1-1		
31	Oldham Athletic			
FEBRUARY				
7	Swindon Town			
14	Chesterfield	R5 1-1		
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			

[illegible]

NEXT AT NENE PARK:

Nationwide League Division 2

Saturday 24th January 2004

Tranmere Rovers

Kick-off 3.00pm

Today's squadcheck



RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS 2(1)

MANAGER: BRIAN TALBOT

SHIRTS: WHITE | SHORTS: BLUE | SOCKS: WHITE

LUTON TOWN (2)2

MANAGER: MIKE NEWELL

SHIRTS: ORANGE | SHORTS: BLUE | SOCKS: BLUE

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Mr SJ Tanner

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Mr GJ Chapman

Mr PN Gibbs

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Mr PJ Kirkup

Today in the 2nd

Blackpool v QPR

Bournemouth v Port Vale

Brentford v Tranmere

Brighton v Oldham

Chesterfield v Wrexham

Colchester v Barnsley

Grimsby Town v Plymouth

Hartlepool v Peterborough

Notts County v Bristol City

Sheff Wed v Swindon Town

Stockport v Wycombe

1	BILLY TURLEY	○		
2	MARCUS BIGNOT	⊗	40-1	16-1
3	PAUL UNDERWOOD	○		
4	GARY MILLS	⊗	33-1	7-1
5	ANDY EDWARDS	○		25-1
6	BARRY HUNTER	✓	50-1	16-1
7	STUART WARDLEY	○		25-1
8	RITCHIE HANLON	✓	16-1	9-1
9	RODNEY JACK	✓	9-1	33-1
11	ANDY BURGESS	✓	14-1	16-1
12	STUART GRAY	○		7-1
14	JOHN DEMPSTER	⊗	25-1	
15	ANDY SAMBROOK	✓		
16	ROBERT DUFFY	○		33-1
18	DAVID BELL	⊗	25-1	40-1
19	DANIEL TALBOT	⊗	33-1	20-1
20	PAUL KITSON	✓	7-1	
22	PAUL HALL	✓	16-1	16-1
31	ONANDI LOWE	✓	5-1	
36	JAMIE ASHDOWN	✓	20-1	
	QUINN	✓		
	AKIN FENHA	✗	28-1	

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	EMMERSON 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 OKAT DAVIES	✗
45	LEON BARNETT	○
47	ROB BECKWITH	○



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