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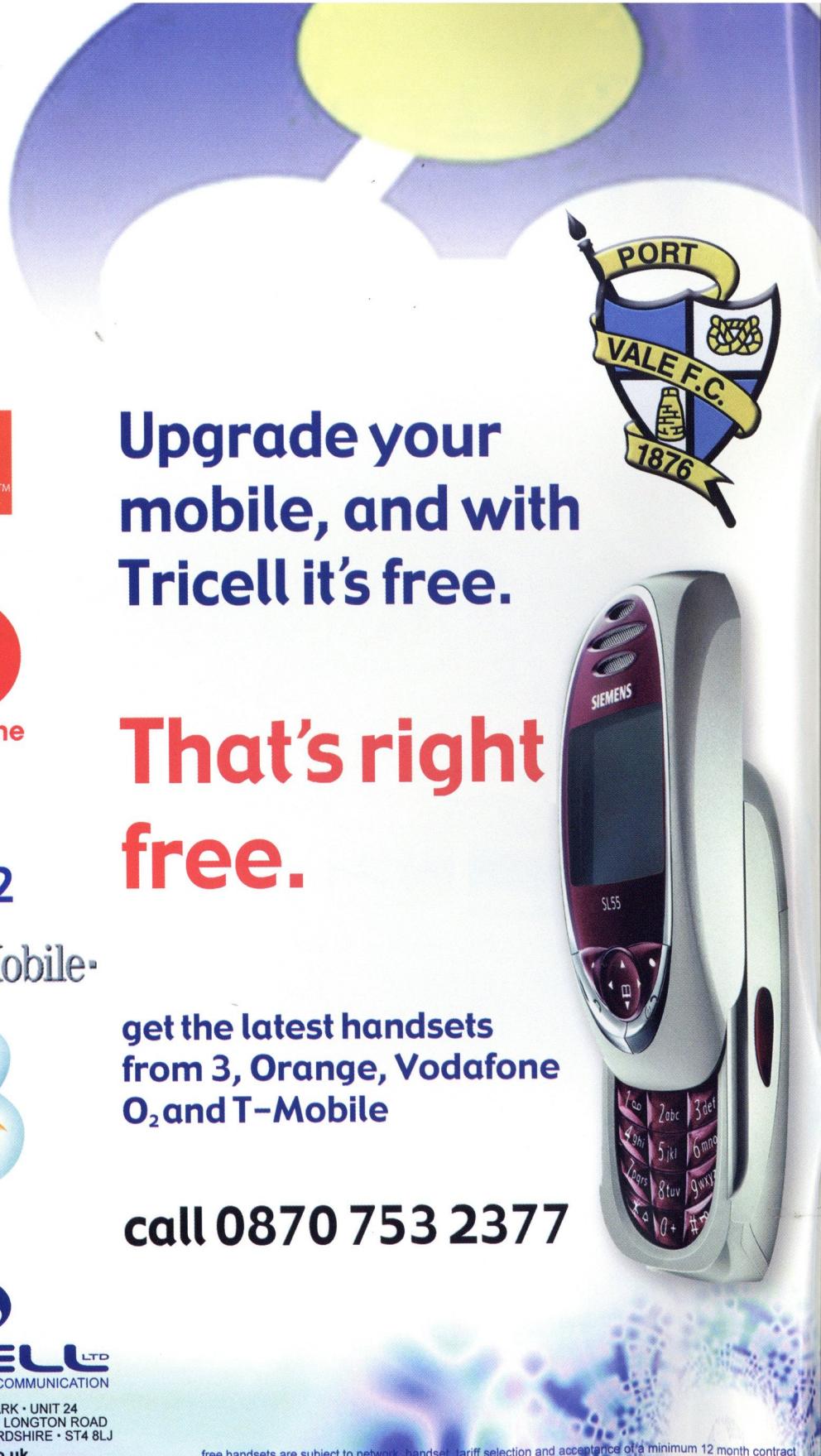
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Club Officials

Chairman: Bill Bratt

Vice Chairman: Charles Machin

Directors: Paul Humphreys, Glenn Oliver,
David Smith, Mike Thompson,
Geoff Wakefield

Secretary: Bill Lodey

Manager: Martin Foyle

Assistant Manager: Dean Glover

First Team Coach: Ian Brightwell

Youth Development Officer: Bill Chetwyn

Youth Academy Head Coach: Andy Porter

Physio: Andy Jackson

Medical Officer: Dr D. Phillips

Ticket Office Manager: Ted Wilcox

Merchandise Manager: Andrew Burgess

Community Officer: Jim Cooper

Head Groundsman: Steve Speed

Safety Officer: Bill Stephenson

Health & Safety Officer: Phil Mayer

Club Photographer: Bill Bache

Kit Man: Stan Nichols

Website Editor: Dave Johnson

Club Chaplain: John M. Hibberts (M.A.)

Club Honours

Founder Members (Div 2) 1892

Highest Position - Fifth (Div 2) 1930/31

Div 3 (North) Champions 1929/30, 1953/54

Div 4 Champions 1958/59

Promoted to Div 1 1993/94 (runners-up)

Promoted to Div 2 1988/89 (via play-offs)

Promoted to Div 3 1969/70, 1982/3, 1985/6

FA Cup Semi-Finalists 1953/54

Autoglass Trophy Winners 1992/93

Anglo Italian Cup Runners-up 1995/96

LDV Vans Trophy Winners 2000/01

Matchday Magazine

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Football in the
Community



True Supporters Code of Conduct



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I would like to welcome to tonight's game everybody associated with Luton Town, and especially Mike Newell and Mick Harford. I have played against both of them over the years and they were two very good strikers.

Now Dean Glover and I find ourselves opposing them in different circumstances altogether, and we will be looking forward to pitting our wits against the pair of them.

It is a massive game for us tonight, our biggest of the season, there is no question about it. We need three points tonight and, if we get them, it would take us right back into the promotion fray.

I was a little bit disappointed about our result at home to Brighton on Saturday. It was a

game I thought we thoroughly deserved to win. They had two shots and a penalty and they ballooned both shots way over the bar, but it was probably our quality in the final third that let us down.

We didn't give good service to the front men, via either open play or our free kicks, but that has gone now and we must get on with things. Just three days later, we have another chance to get right back up there.

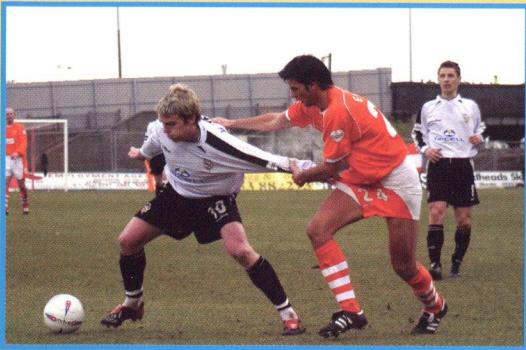
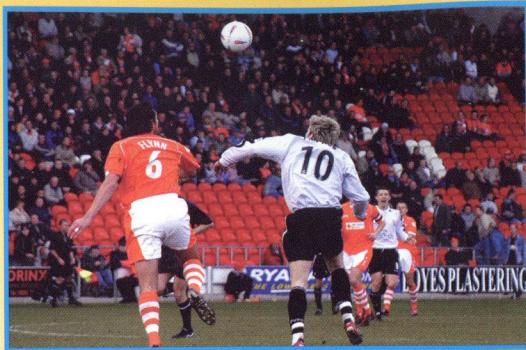
The opportunity is there, and it is now all about us and how we

approach this game. Prior to the game, we will be back on the training pitch, to check to see if everybody is fit or if we have got any team problems. Touch wood, I don't think we have, so we are looking forward to meeting Luton at our full strength.

We have got a few more tough games ahead of us but, if we can start with three points tonight, we will go to Barnsley on Saturday on a high, and we hope also to get a good result at Oakwell.

It wouldn't be catastrophic if we come away with a draw from tonight's game, but a win would make a big difference to the League table.

That is the be all and end all of the situation, really, because a win tonight would reel in Luton, and also the other teams above us, putting us in good shape for the run-in to the end of season, and securing a play-off spot. So a



STRAIGHT TO THE TOP

MANAGER, MARTIN FOYLE

draw is the very least I will take tonight but, it goes without saying, we will be going all-out for a win.

Martin Foyle



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'Photo courtesy of The Sentinel'

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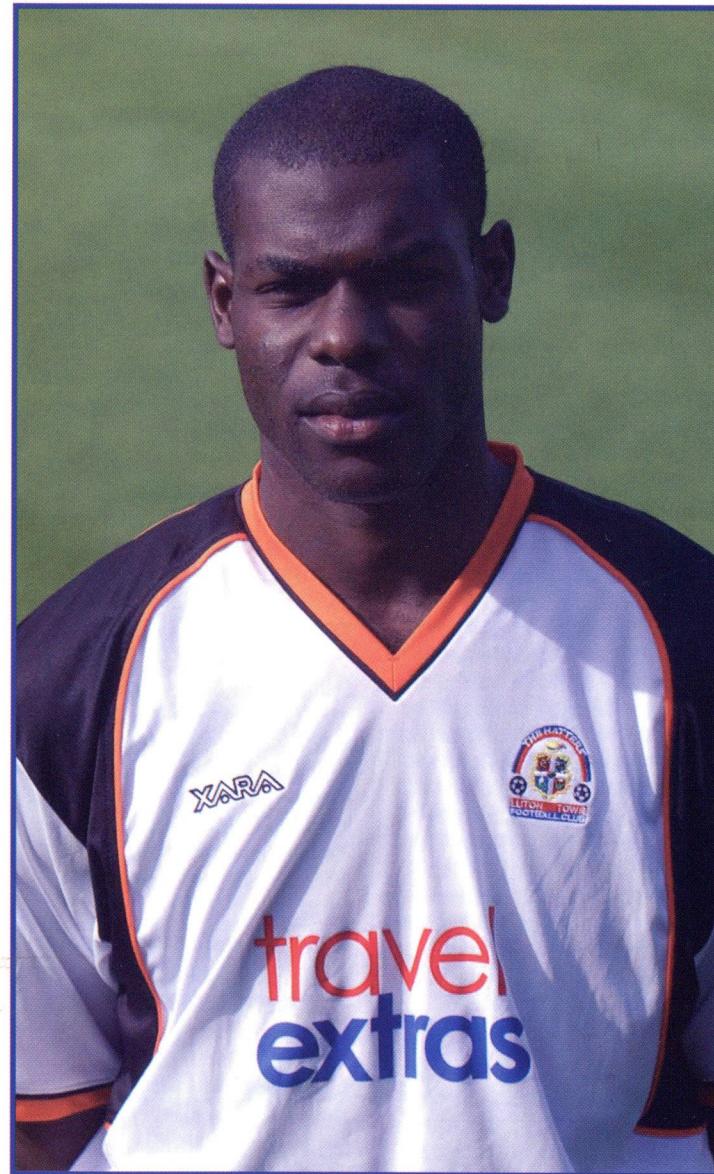
Michelle added: "At Ace we appreciate and pride ourselves on the support we have had from our old and new clients over the previous seven years and that of our temporary / permanent staff that have been excellent ambassadors for Ace Recruitment Services Limited to which we owe our success and A Big Thankyou.

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WITH MICHAEL BAGGLEY

LOOK OUT FOR... ENOCH SHOWUNMI



STRIKER, Enoch Showunmi, has been playing most of the season for free.

The 6ft 4in hit-man signed for the cash-strapped Hatters on an expenses-only basis at the start of the campaign, but has now earned his reward as he has been given an 18-month contract.

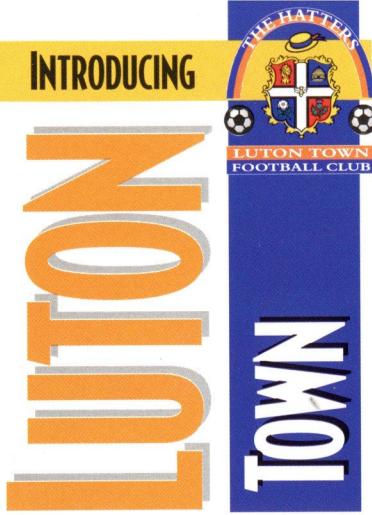
Luton have been under a transfer Embargo, but were given special permission to give a deal to North Londoner, Showunmi.

The striker, whose parents are Nigerian, was playing in the Middlesex County League for Willesden Constantine, last season, before a pre-season audition for Luton as part of a trialists XI.

The 21-year-old was obviously raw, but the Hatters decided to take a chance on a player whose determination to prove himself was obvious by his decision to play for nothing.

The striker is understandably showing some signs of inconsistency in his first season of senior football, but he is fast becoming a key part of the Hatters' promotion bid.

His form was so good in February that he won the Umbro Isotonic player-of-the-month award for the Second Division. This followed a golden month in which he scored a winner against Colchester, set up two goals against Brighton and netted his first-ever hat-trick in the 4-1 demolition of Brentford.

**David Bayliss**

Signed in November 2001, Bayliss soon became a regular in Luton's Division Three promotion campaign of 2001/02, but injuries have severely hampered his progress with the Hatters since then. After missing a large chunk of the 2002/03 season with a shoulder injury, he forced his way back into the side at the start of the current campaign, but a ruptured Achilles tendon, sustained at Charlton in the Worthington Cup back in September, has ruled him out for the rest of the season. Ironically, an injury crisis led to the defender joining the Hatters. Then manager, Joe Kinnear, had twenty four players unavailable, and discovered to his great delight that Rochdale were prepared to release their longest-serving player.

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 and in the summer found that, at eighteen, he was the most senior 'keeper on the books, after the two senior 'keepers left on Bosman transfers.

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 nineteen, 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 for attacking on the overlap, and signed a new contract in the summer of 2002.

Dean Brill

Another young player of whom big things are expected. Last season, in the first year of his scholarship, he represented the club's Under-17s, Under-19s and reserves, before stepping up to first-team level at the start of the current campaign. A tall, commanding goalkeeper, standing six-foot-three, Brill is a great organiser whose voice will always be heard throughout a game. His handling and concentration are exceptional, and he is highly regarded by members of the coaching staff at the club.

Ahmet Brkovic.

Believing a move would be good for his career, the Croatian midfielder 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.

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.

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 to persuade him to sign a new deal, and Luton manager swooped for the tough-tackling left-back.

Kevin Foley

Having progressed through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road, he found himself thrown into the first-team picture during pre-season, but has never looked back. Despite still being eligible for youth football, he has established himself in the Hatters' squad with a series of fine displays. Equally at home at right-back or on the right-hand side of midfield, his composure belies his years and he has settled in rapidly. In the Autumn, he was called into the Eire Under-21s squad, but an ankle injury denied him the opportunity to make his international debut.

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, after having been at Carrow Road for four years, starting as a trainee. Luton were delighted to pay £75,000 for a right-winger to add width to the 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.

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.

Peter Holmes

A two-footed midfielder, he came to Luton as one of the then manager,

Ricky Hill's, first signings. Holmes arrived from Sheffield Wednesday with a good pedigree; he is a product of the F.A.'s School Of Excellence, from the same year as Michael Owen.

He found first-team opportunities limited when he first arrived, due to a midfield that boasted new signings of the calibre of Nicholls, Valois, Forbes, Hughes and Brkovic. However, he was still able to make an important contribution in his first season.

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.

Paul Hughes.

A promising career, that began at Chelsea, was cruelly interrupted after the gifted midfielder earned the admiration of, among others, Glenn Hoddle, the former England boss. 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.

Morten Hylgaard

The 6' 6" stopper arrived at the Hatters in January 2004, on a free transfer from Scottish Premier League side, Hibernian. He began his career with Danish First Division side Ikast, before a £200,000 move to Coventry City followed. He appeared just over thirty times for the club, in a four-and-a-half-year stay at Highfield Road.

Keith Keane

A naturally more attacking player, the promising seventeen-year-old has deputised admirably for the deadleg victim, Kevin Foley, at right-back, in recent weeks. He made his debut whilst only sixteen against Rushden in the LDV Vans Trophy, back in October and, in February, he earned a call-up

to the Republic of Ireland Under-19 squad, and returned to the first team, to turn in some impressive displays. Keith has been a key player in Luton's youth squad over the past two seasons, and has displayed great versatility by operating in a variety of outfield positions during that time.

Michael Leary

Another graduate from Luton's youth set-up, Leary signed a professional contract in the summer of 2002, after serving his apprenticeship with the club. After a string of impressive performances in the youth and reserve teams, the former trainee has found himself promoted to the first-team squad, this season. The young Londoner has given a good account of himself, whenever called upon, and he is looking to add to the experience he has gained so far.

Lee Mansell

The young midfielder has made a 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 less than a minute into his debut against Queens Park Rangers, in an F.A. Cup third round replay, when he scored.

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 a result of their 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.

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 substitute in the LDV Vans Trophy at Woking, an experience he will be hoping to add to 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 twelve months 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 appearances for Bournemouth, an enviable strike rate from midfield, and Preston paid £375,000 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 F.A. Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997. After a league debut when still only seventeen, he soon became a regular in Luton's Second Division team, and his first 100 appearances were clocked up while he was only twenty. He has developed into a very consistent midfielder, always willing to drive forward and look for goals.

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LOOKING BACK AT SOME OF PORT VALE'S GREATEST GAMES



SEASON 1954/55

Vale were still basking in the glory of the previous season, when they won the Third Division (North) and reached the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup, and made no significant new signings ahead of the new campaign. The Railway Stand was opened, though, to add 4,000 seats to the ground.

On the opening day, Vale lost 1-0 at Bristol Rovers and then their opening home game v Notts County, which ended 1-1, attracted a crowd of 26,805. If we could only get one third of that, nowadays, then the directors would be doing cartwheels around the main car park.

Vale began to string a few results Together, and then drew the local derby 0-0 at Stoke, to end their 100% start. After beating Swansea Town (now City) 1-0, Vale moved into 6th place, to begin dreaming of the First Division, but 10 days later had a rude awakening. It was the return at Swansea and, despite Vale taking the lead, they contrived to lose 7-1, their heaviest defeat for 17 years. Tommy Cheadle going off injured early on (no subs then) was one of the excuses used.

We then hit a sticky patch and, after losing 3-0 at home to Blackburn in October, to end our club record (still) 43-game unbeaten run at Vale Park, we proceeded to take just 3 points from 6 home games. Ken Griffiths was missing with a cartilage injury (as he had been for the F.A. Cup semi-final, seven months earlier) and Freddie Steele decided to

change the team's tactics from the "Iron Curtain" that had been so successful the previous season. Not one of his better ideas as, in the next game, Vale lost 7-2 at Birmingham City. To boost the goal output, in December, Vale paid £1,000 for 34-year-old Cyril Done (pronounced Doan), from Tranmere Rovers. He didn't score in his first three games, but then notched in his next five to prove his worth.

In the F.A. Cup Third Round, Vale were drawn away to West Ham and were seemingly on their way out at 2-0 down, but they rallied to draw 2-2, to please their thousands of supporters, who had travelled largely by train. Mascot, Steve Dawson, father of former Vale groundsman and still a fan today, Denis Dawson, walked around the ground in his black suit and large top hat, as was the done thing in those days. If someone did that nowadays, they would probably get covered in jellied eels before they got 10 yards.

The replay was staged two days later, with an afternoon kick-off (floodlights at Vale Park were still nearly four years away) and Vale won 3-1. West Ham took it well, and complained about the state of the pitch. 18 years later, they also visited us in the F.A. Cup and, although winning on that occasion, complained about our "roughhouse" tactics. Glad they enjoyed their visits to Burslem.

In the 4th Round, it was another trip "darn the smoke" (as a trip to London was called in those days, because of the

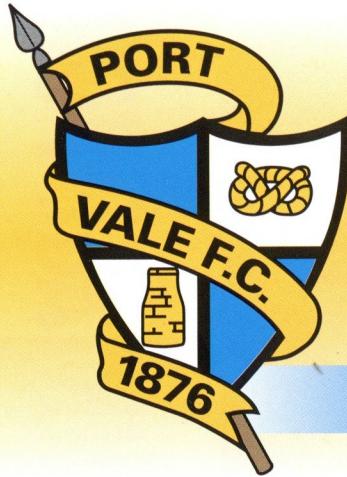
WITH PHIL SHERWIN

pea-souper fogs they had) and over 50,000 saw us lose 4-2 at Tottenham Hotspur. Too much fog in the 'keeper's eyes, perhaps

Vale had slipped to third bottom (two relegated) just before Easter, but then, crucially, beat Bury 1-0. On Good Friday, Vale seemed to be heading for defeat at Liverpool, when they were 3-1 down early in the second-half, but Cyril Done had other ideas. He was a former Liverpool player, and scored all four goals as Vale came back to win 4-3. He also scored against them from the spot in the return, three days later, in a 1-1 draw at Vale Park.

The derby game v Stoke at Vale Park was lost 1-0, but the game attracted a crowd of 41,674, our record league home attendance. Safety was mathematically assured after a 1-0 home win over Rotherham United, in which the visitors missed a penalty and went away chuntering about the state of the pitch. The reason for the sour grapes became clearer a week later, as the top three teams all finished on 54 points, with Rotherham missing promotion by being third on goal average.

Cyril Done ended up as top scorer with 13, Stan Smith being next with 6. This gave Cyril a record which still stands today, being the top scorer at two clubs (Tranmere as well) and also scoring more than double the next man at each club. The club's average gate was 20,869 - not surprisingly, still a club record. The profit was £141.



IT'S GOOD NEWS WEEK

LEIGH EDWARDS REFLECTS ON THIS WEEK DOWN THE YEARS...

1950

Strikes by Jack Whent and Johnny McNichol gave Brighton a 2-1, Third Division (South) win at home to the following Port Vale side on 18th March 1950: Ray King, Lol Hamlett, Garth Butler, Bill McGarry, Tom Cheadle, Jimmy Todd, Colin Askey, Walter Aveyard, Cliff Pinchbeck, Stan Polk, Alan Bennett.

Struggling Luton Town faced Cardiff City in the Second Division and the following team was held to a 0-0 draw in front of 15,071 at Kenilworth Road: Iorrie Hughes, Harry Cooke, Tom Aherne, Charlie Watkins, Syd Owen, Wally Shanks, Alec Glover, Tommy Kiernan, Jimmy Jinks, George Stobart, Bobby Wyldes.

Ron Bennett's goal gave Portsmouth a 1-1 draw against title rivals Sunderland in front of 44,591 at Roker Park Strikes by Johnny Hancocks and Roy Swinbourne gave Wolverhampton Wanderers a 2-0 victory at Liverpool Stan Mortensen scored twice to give Blackpool a 2-1 win over Manchester United at Old Trafford.

1957

Tony Rowley scored twice to give Liverpool a 2-1, Second Division win over the following Port Vale side, watched by 14,241 at Vale Park on

16th March 1957: Ray King, Tom Cheadle, Reg Potts, Albert Leake, Basil Hayward, Roy Sproson, Colin Askey, Billy Spurdle, Cyril Done, Harry Poole, Dickie Cunliffe.

Goals from Alan Shackleton and Albert Cheesbrough gave Burnley a 2-0 First Division victory over the following Luton Town team at Kenilworth Road: Ron Baynham, Les Jones, Brendan McNally, Bob Morton, Syd Owen, Ray Smith, Mike Cullen, Allan Brown, John Groves, George Cummins, George McLeod.

Peter Broadbent netted to give Wolverhampton Wanderers a 1-1 draw at home to leaders Manchester United Bobby Smith was on target as Tottenham Hotspur defeated Portsmouth 2-0 at White Hart Lane Peter Sillett scored for both sides as bottom club Charlton Athletic beat Chelsea 3-1 at The Valley.

1964

Jimmy Whitehouse netted two goals as Millwall gained a 3-1, Third Division victory over the following Port Vale side at The Den on 16th March 1964: Ken Hancock, Terry Lowe, Ron Wilson, Harry Poole, John Nicholson, Roy Sproson, John Rowland, Billy Bingham, Jackie Mudie, Tony Richards, Ron Smith.

Strikes by Roy Horobin, Keith Smith and an own goal gave Peterborough United a 3-2 Third Division win over

the following Luton Town team at Kenilworth Road: Ron Baynham, Alan McBain, John Bramwell, David Pacey, Graham Caleb, Mark Lownds, Harry Walden, Tom McKechnie, David Pacey, Gareth Salisbury, Ray Whittaker.

Bobby Tambling scored four times as Chelsea gained a thrilling 4-2 win over Arsenal at Highbury Fred Pickering grabbed a hat-trick as high-flying Everton trounced Nottingham Forest 6-1 at Goodison Park Reg Stratton scored to give Fulham a shock 1-0 victory over title-chasing Liverpool at Craven Cottage.

1971

John James' penalty gave Gordon Lee's Port Vale a narrow 1-0, Third Division victory over Doncaster Rovers in front of 4,782 at Vale Park on 15th March 1971: Keith Ball, John King, John Brodie, Clint Boulton, Roy Cross, Brian Horton, Mick Morris, Tony Lacey, Tommy McLaren, John James, Sammy Morgan.

Goals from John Moore, Viv Busby and Malcolm Macdonald gave Luton Town a 3-1, Second Division victory over Hull City at Kenilworth Road: Tony Read, John Ryan, Alan Slough, Don Givens, Chris Nicholl, John Moore, Jimmy Ryan, Viv Busby, Malcolm Macdonald, Mike Keen, Peter Anderson.

Leeds United remained top, after Peter Lorimer and Johnny Giles scored in their 2-1 win at home to Crystal Palace Peter Storey's goal gave title rivals Arsenal a 1-0 victory over struggling Blackpool at Highbury Hugh Curran scored twice as Wolverhampton Wanderers triumphed 4-2 at local rivals West Brom.

1978

Neville Chamberlain's strike gave struggling Port Vale a 1-1 Third Division draw against Peterborough United at London Road on 17th March 1978: John Connaughton, Kenny Beech, Neil Griffiths, Russell Bromage (Phil Sproson), David Harris, Garry Dulson, Alan Lamb, Mick Moore, Neville Chamberlain, Terry Bailey.

Goals by Alan West, Ron Futcher, Phil Boersma and Lil Fuccillo gave Luton Town a 4-0 Second Division win over Blackpool in front of 6,041 at Kenilworth Road: Miliija Aleksić, Paul Price, David Carr, Ricky Hill, John Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Brian Stein, Alan West, Ron Futcher, Lil Fuccillo, Phil Boersma.

Young goalkeeper, Chris Woods, was the hero as Nottingham Forest drew 0-0 against Liverpool in the League Cup final Ally Robertson scored to give Ron Atkinson's West Brom a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester United Frank Stapleton netted two goals as Arsenal defeated Bristol City 4-1 at Highbury.

1985

Strikes by Peter Griffiths, Billy Kellock and Ally Brown gave Port Vale a 3-1, Fourth Division victory over Rochdale at Vale Park on 16th March 1985: Chris Pearce, Alan Webb, Russell Bromage (Chris Banks), Geoff Hunter, Phil Sproson, John Ridley, Peter Griffiths, Robbie Earle, Ally Brown, Billy Kellock,

Eamon O'Keefe.

Mick Harford scored to give David Pleat's Luton Town a 1-1, First Division draw against Sheffield Wednesday watched by 18,856 at Hillsborough: Les Sealey, Tim Breacker, Mitchell Thomas, Peter Nicholas, Steve Foster, Mal Donagh, Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, Mick Harford, Chuk Nwajiobi, David Preece.

Kevin Richardson's goal gave leaders Everton a 1-1 draw against Aston Villa at Villa Park Garth Crooks scored to give title rivals Tottenham Hotspur their first win over Liverpool at Anfield for 73 years Goals from Bryan Robson and Frank Stapleton gave Manchester United a 2-2 draw at West Ham.

1992

Carl Saunders scored to give Bristol Rovers a 1-0, Second Division victory over the following Port Vale team in front of 5,861 at Vale Park on 14th March 1992: Mark Grew, Neil Aspin, Darren Hughes, Ray Walker, Tim Parkin, Dean Glover, Kevin Kent, Robin Van der Laan, Peter Swan, Martin Foyle, Nicky Cross (Joe Allon).

Brian Stein's strike gave struggling Luton Town a 1-1 First Division draw against Everton watched by 17,388 at Goodison Park: Mervyn Day, Julian James, Richard Harvey, Chris Kamara, John Dreyer, Trevor Peake, Jason Rees (Ceri Hughes), Brian Stein (Jamie Campbell), Mick Harford, Mark Pembridge, David Preece.

Lee Chapman grabbed a hat-trick, as title-chasing Leeds United stormed to a 5-1 victory at home to Wimbledon Manchester United remained second after Brian McClair and Clayton Blackmore scored in their 2-1 win at Sheffield United Ian Wright netted both goals as Arsenal defeated West Ham 2-0 at Upton Park.

1999

Goals by Paul Devlin, Marcelo and Jonathan Hunt gave Sheffield United a 3-0 First Division win at home to the following Port Vale side on 20th March 1999: Paul Musselwhite, Michael Walsh, Allen Tankard, Ian Bogie, Dave Barnett, Anthony Gardner, Stuart Talbot (Tony Naylor), Simon Barker (Chris Allen), Marcus Bent, Martin Foyle, Paul Beesley.

Steve Wilkinson scored twice as Chesterfield gained a 3-1, Second Division victory over the following Luton Town team at Saltergate: Kelvin Davis, Graham Alexander, Mitchell Thomas, Matthew Spring, Chris Willmott, Marvin Johnson, Gerry Harrison (Gary Doherty), Ray McKinnon (Paul McLaren), Stuart Douglas (Liam George), Phil Gray, Gavin McGowan.

Allan Nielsen's last-gasp header gave Tottenham Hotspur a 1-0 win over Leicester City in the Worthington Cup final David Beckham was on target as treble-chasing Manchester United gained a 3-1 win at home to Everton Arsenal defeated Coventry City 2-0 at Highbury, with goals by Ray Parlour and Marc Overmars.



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WITH ANTHONY MUNDAY

GOT IT IN 2

DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

Brian Talbot's decision to walk away from Rushden & Diamonds means no less than 11 Second Division clubs have now had a change of management during this most turbulent of seasons.

In alphabetical order, Barnsley, Brighton, Grimsby, Notts County, Oldham, Plymouth, Port Vale, Rushden, Stockport, Tramore and Wycombe have all seen changes at the helm.

And the departure of Talbot, after seven incredible years at Nene Park, had unfortunately been on the cards since chairman, Max Griggs, put the club up for sale, last October.

The former Ipswich and Arsenal midfielder had grown frustrated at a lack of cash to bolster his team's chances of making a real drive for success, in their first season at this level.

He said: "I want to thank Mr Griggs for his support over the years, and I have enjoyed it here, very much. I am proud of what we have all achieved both on and off the pitch.

"It is the end of an era and I think the time is now right for me and the club to make the break, so we can both have a new start."

There can be no doubt Griggs, the owner of Dr Marten's footwear, deserves most of the credit for the club's meteoric rise, after coming up with the decision to merge Rushden Town and Irthingborough Diamonds, just under 12 years ago.

A crowd of just 315 turned out to see their first-ever game, against Bilton Town in the Southern League Midland Division, at the start of the 1992/93 season.

But Griggs' money, aided by other

sponsorship deals and a growing interest from the public, saw Rushden & Diamonds rise through the leagues, along with a massive redevelopment of Nene Park.

They were suffering a blip, at the bottom of the Conference table, when Talbot took the reins, on March 1st, 1997, but were soon back on the march and won the Third Division title last May, at the end of only their second season in League football.

Talbot's arrival at Oldham, only two days after he left Diamonds, had been one of the worst-kept secrets in the game, with the Latics finally making the plunge 11 weeks after Iain Dowie moved on to Crystal Palace.

Former Vale boss, Brian Horton, had been among a host of names linked with Boundary Park, but the Oldham board waited and waited before deciding 50-year-old Talbot was the man for them.

Oldham, despite their own, much publicised financial problems in the recent past, have promised the new boss funds for new players, and that appears to have swayed Talbot's decision.

Simon Corney, Latics' managing director, said: "Brian's arrival is a very exciting move for the club and we are delighted to have him in place.

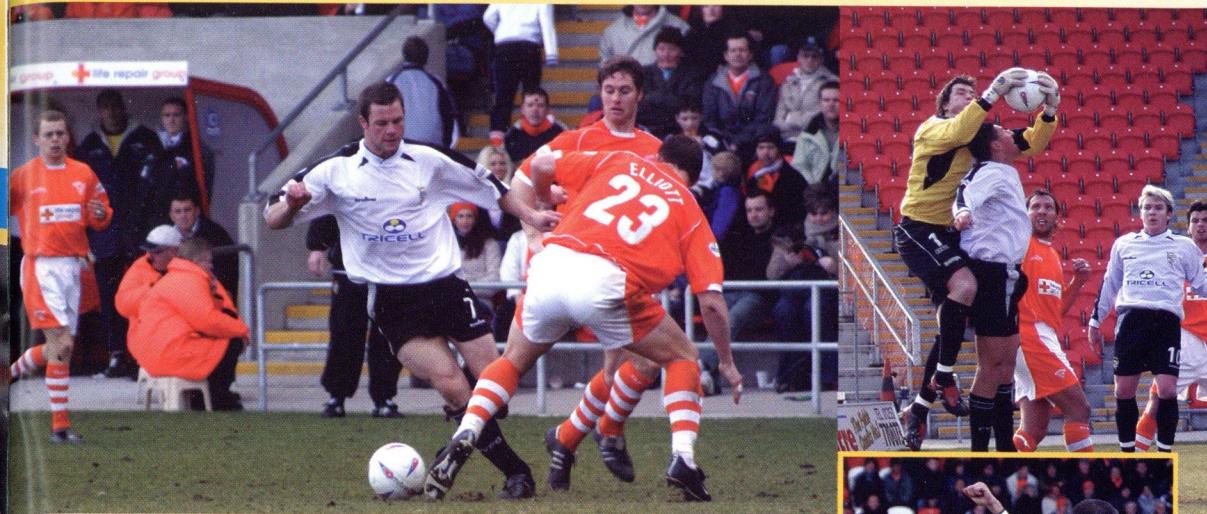
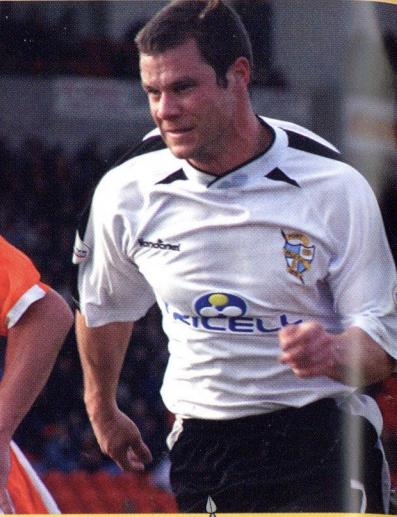
"We still have financial worries to deal with, but Brian will have money to spend. He knows a lot of good people, when it comes to making signings, and he's already expressed some ideas on that front.

"We interviewed a lot of people and they all brought something good to the table, but Brian was the board's overwhelming choice."



A BACKWARD GLANCE

WITH SIMON HUMPHREYS



BLACKPOOL 2 - 1 PORT VALE

SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2004

Nationwide
FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Martin Foyle was forced into making two changes for the trip to the Seaside.

A groin injury kept striker, Steve Brooker, sidelined, while a horrific facial injury meant Ryan Brown was also ruled out. As it turns out, he's now out for the rest of the campaign, a real blow, just when he'd settled back into the side. Our thoughts go out to the youngster and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Their absence meant a place in the starting line up for Adrian Littlejohn, up front - while defender Michael Walsh made his long awaited comeback from injury. The Vale almost got off to a flyer, but Billy Paynter's header from Marc Bridge-Wilkinson free-kick, in the opening minute, lacked power.

However the Vale – and Billy! – were not to be denied a perfect start.

Steve McPhee picked up Tony Dinning's wayward pass on the halfway line. He then raced clear of the home side's defence before sending in an inch-perfect cross to Paynter, whose header back across goal gave 'keeper, Phil Barnes, no chance. Two thousand visiting supporters went wild. Sadly, the rest of the first half was pretty much a non-event, with chances few and far between.

Michael Walsh and Sam Collins stood up to anything the home side could throw at them. Indeed, on a poor pitch, their only real chance

MATCH RECAP

A pity the lads could not build on an excellent start to the game. The pitch did not help but, unfortunately, the Vale lacked a cutting edge - especially in the second half. The game changed on the controversial penalty decision that went against them, just when it seemed they were well in control of the game.



came when Mike Sheron outfoxed Walsh in the box, but then hit a weak shot, which keeper Jon Brain saved with his legs.

The second half started with the home side again coming at Vale, but with no real goal threat - until disaster struck in the fifty-third minute.

Sam Collins sliced a clearance away, on the edge of his own box, with no apparent danger. Walsh seemed to control the ball on his chest, although his arm was out.

Although there were no vehement appeals from the home side, the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Despite furious protests, led by Walsh and the rest of the team, the referee stood by his decision. Tony Dinning stepped up and, with barely a run up, sent Brain the wrong way to put the Tangerines on level terms.

This stung Vale into action and, two minutes later, from a George Pilkington cross, Michael Cummins saw his goal-bound header tipped over by Barnes.

Just after the hour mark, the home side were in front. There seemed to be little danger when Jon Brain hit a poor clearance downfield. Bridge-Wilkinson sold a dummy, but Skipper, Richie Wellens, picked up

the loose ball. He then let fly from just inside the Vale half and the ball sailed over the despairing dive from Brain and into the back of the net. A David Beckham-style goal (remember Wimbledon, from the half-way line) from a player who used to play alongside the England skipper, at Old Trafford, in his early years.

It was a cracking goal, worthy of winning any match, and a candidate for goal of the season. Martin Foyle then made a double substitution, bringing on Chris Birchall and Levi Reid for Neil Brisco and Adrian Littlejohn, in a bid to give the Vale fresh impetus.

But it was the home side who were still creating the chances. Mik Sheron was again denied by Brain's legs, after bamboozling the visitors' defence. By this time, Michael Walsh had run his legs off in his first match for four months. He'd lasted eighty minutes, before being replaced by Liam Burns.

Michael Cummins then had the last chance for the visitors, but defender Steve Elliott blocked his goal-bound volley.



MAN OF THE MATCH

Billy Paynter

Billy Paynter led the line really well, after starting up front, alongside Steve McPhee. After signing a new contract only forty-hours before the game, he could not have wished for a better start, with a goal after three minutes. He faded slightly in the second half, but what a future he has ahead of him in the game. There's plenty for the youngster to learn, and what better a tutor than Martin Foyle?

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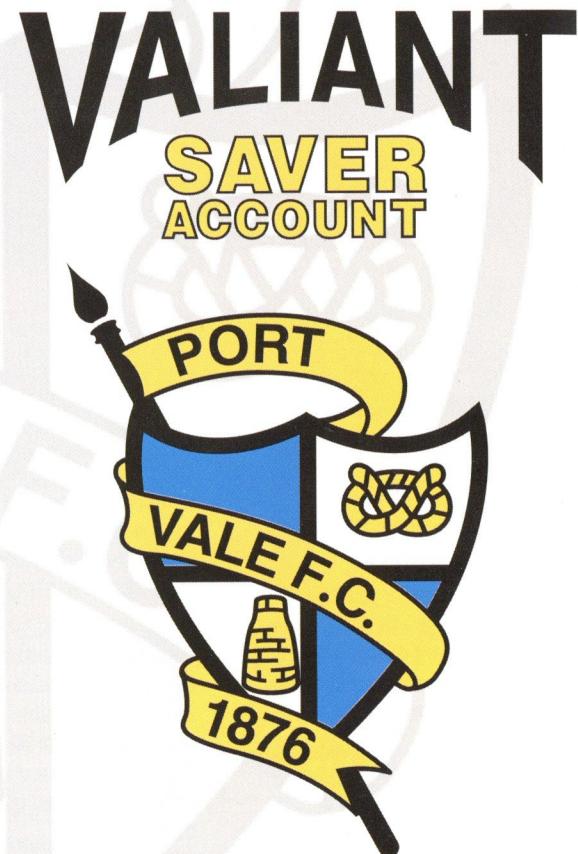
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WITH BEN BROWNING

BEN'S BETTING BONANZA

We have yet another tough fixture in front of us, tonight, and we really must get the three points if we are to go places this season. In my opinion, tonight's game will be a tight affair, but I think we will sneak it. I admit, I am forever the optimist, and perhaps that is not always a good think when you are preparing a bet – you should be thinking with your head, not your heart, but I fancy the Vale tonight.

Because these notes were written before the Brighton game, on Saturday, I obviously have no idea how we went on against the Seagulls, but I think big Sam is due a goal from a set-piece – and I know the odds will be fairly attractive, too, so I am going with my hunch.

I don't know about you, but I tend to read up in the local paper and on the Official Website, so I know all the latest team news, who is injured, etc., then wait for the team line-up to come over the tannoy, then ring on the number below to place a bet. Try it! It beats placing a bet, on the day before the game, only to be disappointed when

players miss out.

If you would like to put a wager on through ValeBet, the club will benefit financially, whether your bet comes up trumps or not!

You can access ValeBet on the official website (www.port-vale.co.uk) or, if you fancy a couple of quid on today's game, you can always call the number on the advert below

You might just add a few quid to your wallet, whilst helping the Vale out at the same time, but make sure you don't overdo it, we wouldn't want you to be skint after betting more than you can afford!



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STUDENT DIARIES

THE STUDENTS POINT OF VIEW

WITH TOM HOLDCROFT

The recent European Champions Cup fixture between Manchester United and FC Porto was notable for the amount of diving and play-acting from the Porto players.

I didn't watch the first leg of the tie, but did listen to Alex Ferguson's post-match comments, in which he cited the diving and play-acting. At the time I was a little sceptical, as Fergie has never been renowned for taking defeat gracefully.

However, the antics of Porto players in the second leg did make me wonder whether these players are instructed to behave in such a manner by their management.

In my opinion, this type of cheating must not be allowed to continue in football and should be clamped down upon. I believe that, in the case of diving and play-acting, video evidence should be used to punish offenders.

As long as the cheating can be proven conclusively, I believe that the punishments should be very harsh. I would have no qualms about five-match bans for single, blatant dives, because there is no place for this type of conduct in football.

Manchester United could consider themselves unlucky not to have won the above-mentioned tie, as a Paul Scholes' strike was disallowe for

offside when the replay showed that he was, in fact, yards onside. Vale also suffered at Blackpool, when a major decision was incorrectly given against them, and when these decisions change the course of a match it can be extremely infuriating for the teams involved.

In obvious cases, such as these, where it can be conclusively seen within seconds that a decision is wrong, there is a case for allowing

television evidence to be reviewed, briefly, to review the decision.

I am not in favour of this because, although it was my team that suffered from it last week, refereeing blunders are part and parcel of the game and they add to the unpredictability that people love so much about football.

Up the Vale!

Tom



“As long as the cheating can be proven conclusively, I believe that the punishments should be very harsh.”

Clinic in a Box

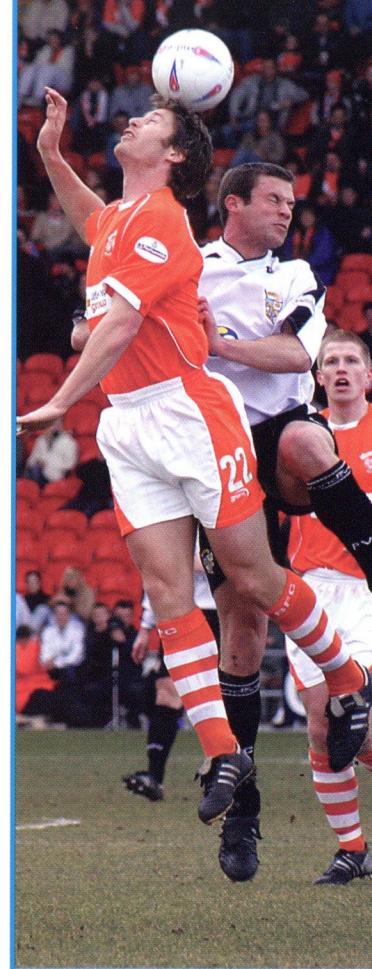
**Under 25's Health Clinic,
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Vale fans have been giving referees a huge amount of stick, in recent weeks. From those who can't tell the time to those who can't tell a chest from an elbow, we seem to have been blessed with a number of officials from the FA's Special Needs section.

Frustrating though it is to see your team dealt the dodgy hand on so many occasions, I must admit to feeling some sympathy for the men in black (or green, or yellow). We have such double standards in these matters.

This was never more clearly demonstrated than in the game from Old Trafford which I watched last Tuesday night. One minute Van Nistelrooy was running into a defender and falling over. "He's been clever and won a free kick there", said the totally unbiased commentary team, accompanied by a chuckle. Similar action by a Porto player, and we heard Clive Tyldesley say, "He's been very accomplished there". "Yes", said Big Ron. "Accomplished at cheating".

I've said this on numerous occasions before, but if players spend part of the game attempting to deceive a referee, they should not be annoyed when an opponent succeeds in doing so. If you live by the sword, you die by the sword. You cannot complain about dubious decisions if you have, yourself, fallen so far



from the moral high ground that we have to dig a hole to find you! Finally, with regard to Mr Atkinson of Blackpool fame, I have an idea which may benefit the Vale.

Perhaps Martin Foyle should seek his advice. The referee's obvious need for a guide dog means he might be able to offer some tips on how to hang on to a lead!

**“
If you live by the
sword, you die
by the sword.**

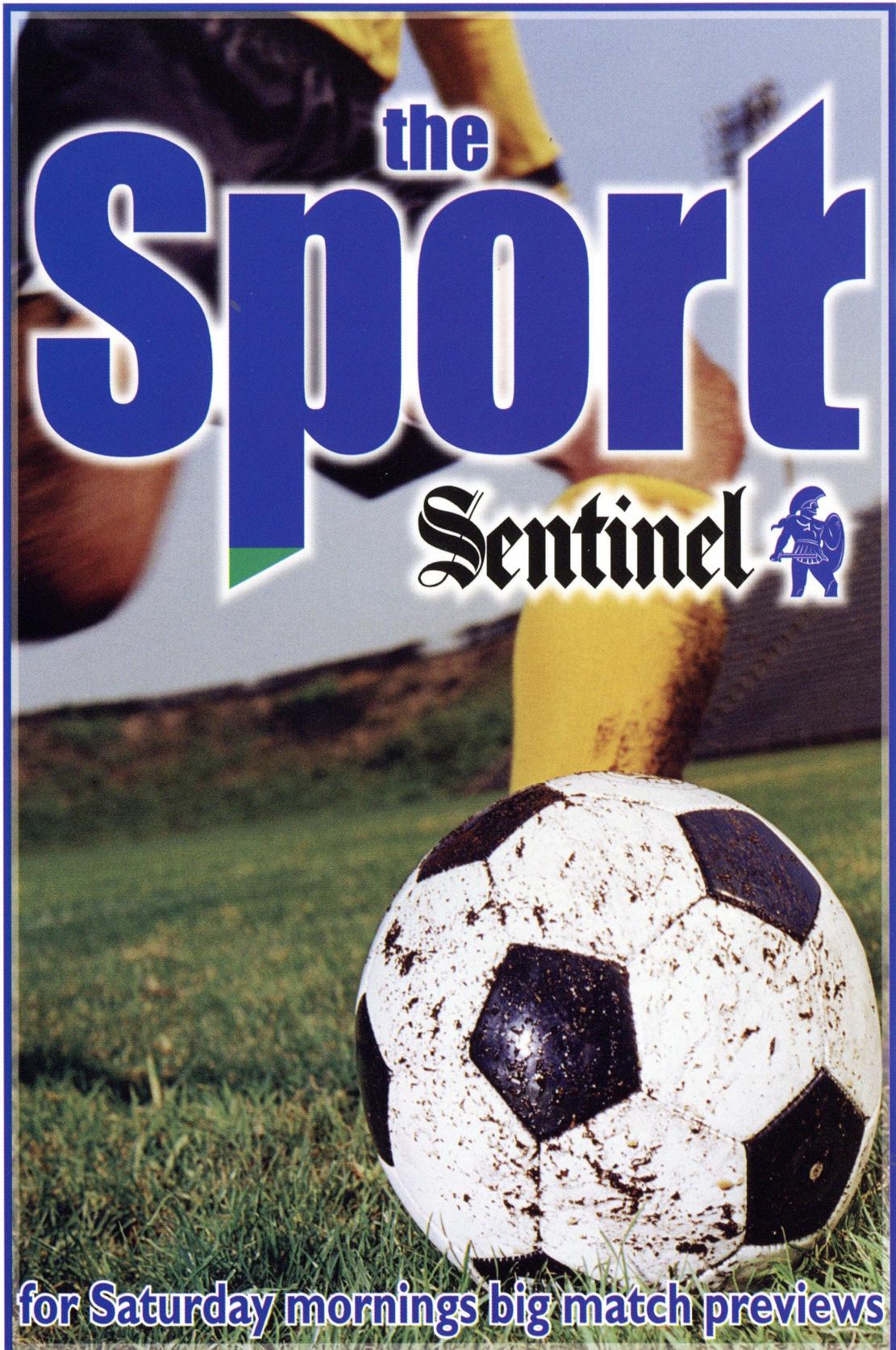
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From: Sneyd Green

A Vale Fan For: 57 years

Favorite Player: Steve Brooker & Michael Cummins

All Time Favourites: Neil Aspin & Martin Foyle

Most Improved Player: Steve McPhee

My Player of the Year: Steve McPhee

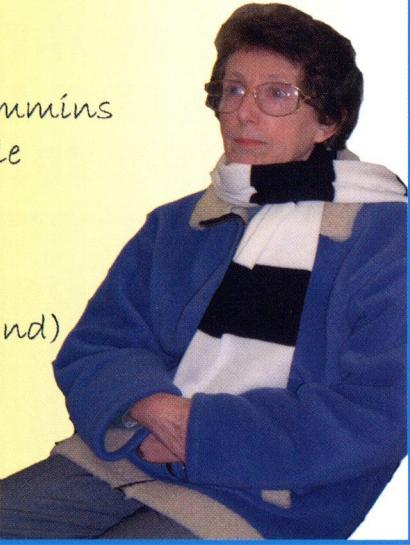
Our Final Position: Play Offs

Favourite Away Ground: Roker Park (Sunderland)

Best Vale Game: Autoglass Final, Wembley

Biggest Disappointment: Selling Best Players

Why A Vale Fan: Carrying on a long standing family tradition



24TH FEBRUARY 2004

PORT VALE 0
SWINDON TOWN 0

AET PORT VALE WON 4-3 ON PENALTIES

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The long-delayed Semi-Final of the Midland Youth Cup saw Vale at home to Swindon Town, who were still in the FA Cup and expected to provide stern opposition.

The game was predominantly a midfield battle, with Vale just having the edge, but it was 18 minutes before the first significant chance came along. This saw a cross met by Hibbert's outstretched foot, but the ball flew over the bar. This was soon followed by Cardle getting a sight of goal, while out left, but his shot was driven wide. In the 23rd minute, it looked as though Vale had gained the break that their pressure had promised, as Levi Reid wriggled past two players, before being brought down in the penalty area. Roberts stepped up to take the penalty, but blasted the ball well over the bar.

Swindon then managed to contain the home forwards, and it was not until the 40th minute that the next chance came but, although Hibbert had the ball in the net, he had already been given offside. With only a minute left of

the half, and after a well-tempered game, matters suddenly took a turn for the worse, as the visitors' No. 6 was shown the red card for kicking Holmes, whilst he was lying on the ground, after falling over when trying to shield the ball from another Swindon player. The referee was told the wrong player, by his assistant, and only the crowd's shouts finally saw justice done.

The second half began with Vale looking to make their extra man count, and Cardle and Hibbert both shot wide, but the visitors began to look dangerous on the break and, half way through the half, hit the post and started to look the more likely winners. Vale finally got on top in the final 10 minutes, with Hibbert heading back across goal, but wide and, in added time after the 90 minutes, Reid fed Hall, with the 'keeper making a good save. Then, at the death, Hibbert chested a cross down to Holmes, whose pile-driver shot was

palmed over the bar.

Extra time saw both teams going for a win, but the closest anyone came was when Hibbert saw a shot from close in saved by the 'keeper and so on to penalties. Vale began with Gowland, Hall and Hibbert netting, to give a 3-3 score line.

Then both teams missed their fourth attempts, and up stepped Roberts to place the ball home, to make amends for his earlier miss. It was now down to the final penalty from Swindon, and the Vale players were suddenly celebrating an appearance in the Final, as the shot crashed against the bar and over into the seats in the Bycars.

Line-up: Anyon, Gowland, Roberts, Holmes, Booth, Brownfield, Reid, Soboljen (Hall 61) Hibbert, Winters (Briscoe 78), Cardle,

Subs. Not used: Wilkes, Davies, Haughton.

Lindon Roberts

Supporter's Representative on the Port Vale Supporters Representative Council (PVSRC)

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Saturday 20th March 2004

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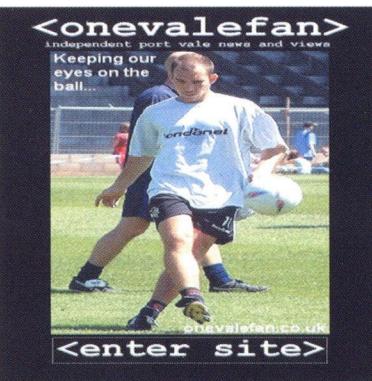
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Take the A50 from Stoke and remain on there up to the M1 motorway. Head northbound on the M1, eventually leaving the motorway at junction 37. From this point vehicles should follow the black/white 'Barnsley Football Club'



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signs. These signs will lead you directly to the visitors' car park at the Oakwell Stadium.

Barnsley FC will be pleased to welcome visiting supporters who are confined to wheelchairs. These supporters will be accommodated on a platform area within the main body of visiting supporters in the North Stand. They can initially provide spaces for up to nine wheelchair bound supporters although this figure may be increased if required. A special disabled entrance, number 52, which is adjacent to the North Stand turnstiles is available to admit disabled supporters to their viewing area. Wheelchair bound supporters and carers must arrive with pre-purchased tickets – please contact Jon Morley, Box Office Supervisor, on boxoffice@barnsleyfc.co.uk or on 01226 211211.

A trip to Blackpool generally means hawking the family to the world capital of Tat.

The wife and an eager 8-year-old, and a one-night stay, offers pleasure unlimited... to the 8-year-old that is. Why is it that a visit to this seaside resort, however humdrum this North West bucket-and-spade venue might be, creates so much recent pain, if you are a Valiant.

I remember the times when we used to have the upper hand over our Tangerine hosts, particularly when running for promotion, but being pipped by Bolton, on a day when Ian Taylor and Co. provided a quartet of finishes.

Now we have Steve McMahon and his men to deal with, and the dour Scouser seems to enjoy writing off Vale's chances in the local paper. Perfect fodder, surely designed to Motivate, and so it proved, with Billy Paynter sending 2,000 or more away followers into raptures, as early as the 4th minute. Vale fans were housed in a temporary, uncovered stand, into which home stewards seemed to allow many, many more, on the day. The result was frustration at its highest.

Explanations were sought afterwards, but not before more frustrations surfaced before the 90 minutes were up.

Vale were treated to a second half they won't want to reflect on. A penalty given for a chest trap by Michael Walsh and Richie Wellens spotting Jonny Brain out of position, to hoof a half-volley 40 plus yards over his head and into an unguarded net.

With some justification, Martin Foyle was not happy at the end, not least with the man in the middle.

Reflection again was on a day at the seaside where Bloomfield Road was renamed Gloomfield Road. At least our stay in palatial surroundings was quite enjoyable, as was the journey back on Sunday dinnertime, without the frustrations for which the rest of the weekend had, once again, been notable.

SALES & MARKETING



Hello and Welcome to tonight's match against Luton Town.

The game should be another keenly-fought affair, against the Hatters, with both teams chasing a position in the play-offs.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our sponsors and their guests. Tonight's Match Sponsors are the BFH Group Ltd,

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John Hancock and his guests are huge Vale fans and I'm sure they all hope we quickly 'dispose' of the Hatters tonight! If you would like to contact the BFH Group Ltd you can telephone them on (01474) 329292.

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Based in Hanley, Colourmatch Paints Ltd are suppliers of paint tools and sundries to the motor trade. If you would like to contact Alan Machin and his team, please call them on (01782) 286945.

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AT VALE PARK

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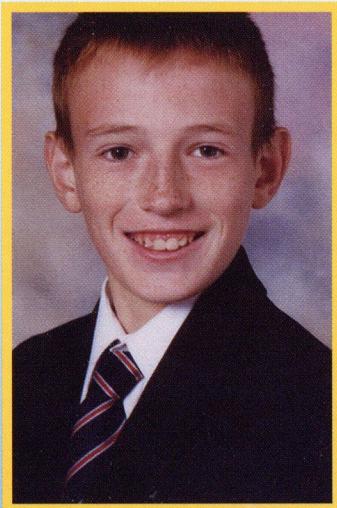
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TONIGHT'S MASCOT



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Mark Goodlad	Trina & Tanisha Cook
Ian Brightwell	Ashley & Haydn Rutter
Andreas Lipa	Laura & Kirsten Flint
Michael Walsh	Drew & Dale Walsh
Sam Collins	Jordan Yates
Michael Cummins	Georgia & Sophie Pownar
Stephen Brooker	Becky & Adam Fell
Steve McPhee	Lucy Suzanne Venables
Marc Bridge-Wilkinson	Jacob Leese & Russell Hammersley
Levi Reid	Dimitri Gianluca Moore
Ian Armstrong	Matthew & Joseph Wain
Billy Paynter	Larson Colclough
Simon Eldershaw	Ramona Silfver
Ryan Brown	Robert, Adam & Jake Carter
Adrian Littlejohn	Zac Brunt
Neil Brisco	Meghann Hughes

Hi Kids

Welcome to tonight's game.

A special welcome also to Harry the Hatter, who is still famous for losing his head now and again. He normally loses it in the tunnel at Kenilworth Road, because his head touches the roof, really. Now, as you might have guessed, Kenilworth Road is one of my favourite grounds. Well Kenil... it would be really, wouldn't it.

I hope Harry is here tonight because he's generally one of the friendlier mascots in the division.

He, like me, is hoping to be a first division mascot next season too.

Let's hope, after these two home games, that Folley and Co. are up with the top six.

Enjoy the game

Boomer



A

WEEK IN FOOTBALL

- Which current player has played for Derby County?
- Which current player has played for Austria?
- Which current player started his career at Scunthorpe United?

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Monday 15th March
Schools coaching
Dilhorne
St Lukes
Quinta
After schools coaching
Woodcroft
St Thomas
Staffs University
Forsbrook

Tuesday 16th March
Schools coaching
Goldenhill
Abbey Hulton
Grove
Aynsley
After schools coaching
Forest Park
Townsend
Cicely Haughton

Wednesday 17th March
Schools coaching
St Marys
Smallthorne
Forest Park
Belgrave
Faber
After schools coaching
Woodcroft
North

Thursday 18th March
Schools coaching
Parkhall
Forsbrook
St Johns
St Marks
After schools coaching
Congleton High
John Baskeyfield
Dimensions
Goldenhill
Blackfriars

Friday 19th March
Schools coaching
St Thomas
Bursley
Carmountside

After schools coaching
Blurton
Werrington

Saturday 20th March
Saturday Soccer
Dimensions Leisure
Cobridge Community
Vale Park

Division 2 Award-Winning Community Page

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

Football in the Community in association with



Good Evening, may I extend a warm welcome to all the Luton Town F.C supporters who have made the journey to Vale Park for tonight's game.

Saturday Soccer

Regular coaching is available for youngsters on Saturday mornings at Dimensions Leisure Centre.

Boys and girls age 6 to 13 years old of all abilities are welcome to take part in the sessions which take place between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm.

The cost is £3.00 per session, the 6 year olds are trained indoors and the outside astro-turf pitches are utilised for training the 7 to 13 year olds

Budding 5 year old stars are also catered for at Vale Park in the club gym, these sessions also take place between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm, any exceptional talent is nurtured and then invited to train with the Centre of Excellence.

Pre-booking for any of these sessions is not needed just turn up on the day.



First Team player George Pilkington was a big hit when he visited Belgrave Primary School in Longton to present prizes.

Player Participation

Player involvement is essential to our activities in the community whether it be a school presentation or young players helping out with after school coaching sessions.

We appreciate the support we receive from the management and staff at the club, but then we are all working towards the same objective- to market the brand name Port Vale and help the club to become more successful.



Birthday Treats

Our anti Racism project is now well under way, community scheme staff led by Ethnic Minorities Coaching Officer Shazad Mohammed are busy coaching in local schools who are taking part in the programme.

New Vic Borderlines have been busy devising and producing the first in a series of new interactive plays. "Blow the Whistle", is the second in the series "It's not as Simple as Black and White" and deals with issues of Racism, Citizenship and Community Cohesion. The play allows young children, young people and communities alike to explore their attitudes towards and experiences of racism.

The Final performance of the tour is on Friday 19th March at 1.30 pm at the New Vic Theatre, ring the Box Office if you would like a seat. Racism affects everyone in our community and we can do something about it.

WITH JIM COOPER & BOOMER



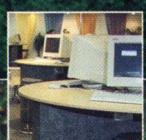


A Sporting Chance

Vale Park is now a leading venue for quality banqueting, conferencing and weddings with an award-winning team of chefs and managers to provide the very best in food and service for events ranging from 3 to 350.

Whether you're planning a party or wedding with a difference, conference, exhibition or training session, the Vale has it all.

For further information contact us on 01782 655810.



WITH PHIL BOWERS

Have you ever stopped to consider the very idea of a midweek game?

Luton have made their way here tonight up the M1 and across the A50, much as Vale did on a bitterly cold night earlier in the

ON THE AIR

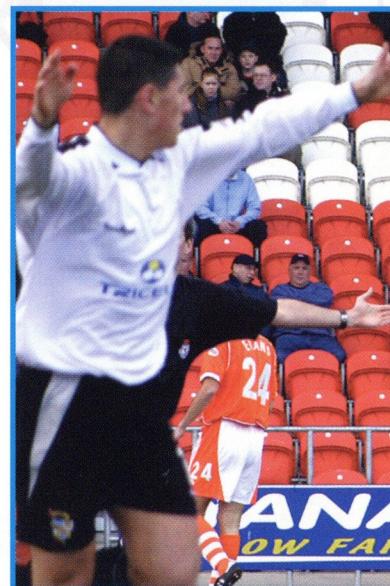
BBC RADIO STOKE

season, but are midweek games really fair to the dedicated supporter? I'm sure most of you will know, as I do, the pain, suffering and near epic trek of Scarborough away on a Tuesday night. Throw in lovely evenings out in Colchester, West London, and over the other end of the capital at Ford United, and you have all the makings of an expensive and stress-filled season. "Stop moaning, Bowers", you might cry, "You get paid to go to Vale games." This is true, and the purpose of this column is not to moan about Vale's midweek trips, rather for you to spare a thought for those supporters who have substantially longer trips.

Take Hartlepool, whose idea of a local derby is probably Grimsby, while Plymouth's animosity towards Bristol City is tempered by the fact they're three hours drive apart. So next time you

glance at the fixture list and think "Oh no, Bournemouth away on a Tuesday night!" spare a thought for the supporter who isn't as handily placed as yourself. Enjoy the game

Phil Bowers



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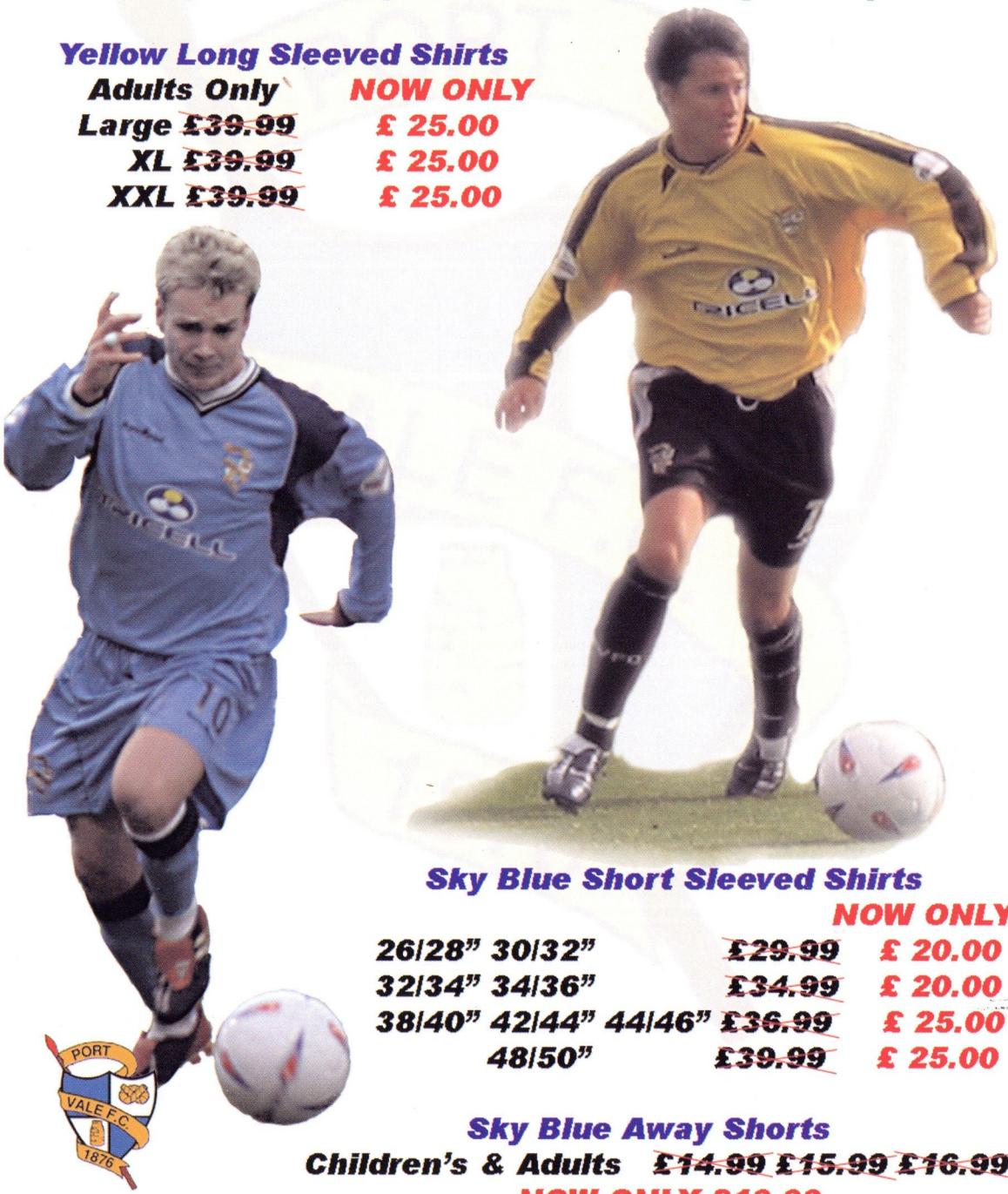
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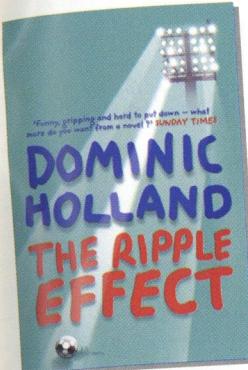
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The Ripple Effect



"Funny, gripping and difficult to put down, what more do you want from a novel about the beautiful game?"

This was the question asked by The Sunday Times when asked about The Ripple Effect, written by stand-up comic and football fan, Dominic Holland. It is often said that football and fiction aren't

happy bed-fellows but this "wonderfully funny" (The Times) feelgood novel dispels this myth once and for all.

A third-division club is facing destruction at the hands of asset strippers (sounds familiar eh?) and although the fans rally behind their team, it seems that all is lost until one fan, Bill Baxter, a local baker, in a fit of pique omits to put any jam in to a batch of jam doughnuts. Unbeknownst to Bill, one rogue doughnut sets off a ripple of anger which grows and grows until it engulfs the whole country and eventually coming full circle and, not wishing to ruin the end of the book, suffice to say that grown men could well weep with joy by its climatic ending.

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But The Ripple Effect is more than just a page-turning laugh. It's also a football novel with a message. It ruthlessly satirizes the modern game, with its increasing dependency on money.

Danny Baker described The Ripple Effect as 'a belter of a novel. This could be the book of the season.'

The Ripple Effect has a dedicated website: www.therippleeffect.com

WITH EDDIE JACKSON

v Bristol City

Saturday 27th March 2004
Kick-off 3.00pm

FAST FORWARD



Following relegation to Division Two in 1999 City have been striving to get back to Division One. They have been getting ever-closer, finishing 9th, 9th, 7th and 3rd, losing last time to Cardiff City in the play-off semi-finals. Now they are on the threshold of automatic promotion following a tremendous run of victories which has only recently been halted.

Manager Danny Wilson has been at the helm for nearly four years now and is under heavy pressure to deliver the promotion the fans see as their right. In the Summer he was in the unusual position for a Nationwide League Manager of being able to spend money similar to the amount brought in by

selling two players. Out went prolific scorer Scott Murray to Reading for £650,000 and Liam Rosenior to Fulham for £50,000. Others who left on frees were Ben Cleverley to Cheltenham, Peter Beadle to Brentford, Aaron Shanahan to Rugby, Robin Hulbert to Telford, Lee Matthews to Bristol Rovers, Simon Clist to Barnet and Darren Jones to Newport. In have come Lee Miller from Falkirk for £300,000, Luke Wilkshire from Middlesbrough for £250,000 and in January Marc Goodfellow came from Stoke for £50,000 and has performed well.

So far the Robins have beaten at home Barnsley 1-0, Bournemouth 2-0, Brentford 3-1, Chesterfield 4-0, Colchester 1-0, Grimsby 1-0, Notts County 5-0, Stockport 1-0, Swindon 2-1, Tranmere 2-0 and Wrexham 1-0, drawing 1-1 with Hartlepool, 1-1 with Luton, 1-1 with Peterborough, 1-1 with Sheffield Wednesday and 1-1 with Wycombe,

losing only to the Vale. This was a game of few real chances but Billy Paynter took one for Vale to give us a 1-0 win. Away from Ashton Gate City have won 2-1 at Brentford, 4-1 at Brighton, 2-1 at Grimsby, 2-1 at Hartlepool, 2-1 at Notts County, 1-0 at Peterborough, 1-0 at Plymouth, drawing 0-0 at Bournemouth, 1-1 at Chesterfield, 1-1 at Oldham, 1-1 at QPR, 1-1 at Rushden, 0-0 at Wrexham, losing 1-0 at Blackpool, 2-1 at Colchester, 3-0 at Wycombe and 2-0 at Stockport. Some great wins there and some unlikely defeats as well.

City are well capable of bringing in the crowds at Ashton Gate, averaging nearly 12,000 there at the present time. What would Vale give for attendances like that?

City is one of the many strong teams visiting Vale Park between now and the end of the season. They will represent a big challenge and will bring a large following.

FIXTURES & STATS

Key:	Started the Game	Booked
	Playing Sub	Sent Off
	Non Playing Sub	Subbed
	1	Scored (Goals Scored)



FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2

	Home			Away			GD Table						
	P	W	D	L	F	A							
Plymouth	36	13	4	1	44	12	8	6	4	28	20	40	73
Bristol City	36	12	5	1	30	9	7	6	5	19	18	22	68
QPR	35	13	5	0	39	10	5	7	5	25	24	30	66
Swindon	35	11	4	3	35	18	6	5	6	22	24	15	60
Brighton	36	13	3	2	33	10	3	6	9	19	27	15	57
Luton	34	12	3	2	35	17	3	8	6	20	29	9	56
Hartlepool	35	7	7	3	25	13	7	4	7	30	33	9	53
Bournemouth	35	11	5	2	30	15	3	6	8	13	22	6	53
Port Vale	35	11	4	2	35	22	4	3	11	22	29	6	52
Wrexham	35	7	6	5	21	13	8	0	9	20	31	-3	51
Barnsley	36	6	10	2	21	13	6	3	9	21	31	-2	49
Sheff Wed	36	6	8	4	21	18	6	4	8	20	28	-5	48
Colchester	34	8	6	4	23	20	4	3	9	12	24	-9	45
Rushden & D	36	8	5	5	33	23	4	3	11	20	32	-2	44
Blackpool	35	7	2	8	21	20	5	6	7	21	29	-7	44
Tranmere	35	8	6	3	26	17	1	8	9	14	34	-11	41
Chesterfield	35	7	6	4	27	20	3	4	11	10	33	-16	40
Grimsby	36	7	5	6	32	22	3	5	10	13	42	-19	40
Oldham	35	7	5	5	26	18	1	10	7	22	31	-1	39
Peterborough	36	3	6	9	28	28	6	6	6	17	20	-3	39
Notts County	36	5	6	7	25	22	4	3	11	16	36	-17	36
Stockport	36	3	7	8	23	30	4	7	7	24	30	-13	35
Brentford	36	6	3	9	25	32	3	4	11	12	27	-22	34
Wycombe	36	4	5	9	25	30	0	9	9	12	29	-22	26

Vale Park Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency at Vale Park you will hear a Police message over the public address system providing information and directions to spectators.

We ask all spectators to remain where they are and to listen very carefully to the message. If it affects your area, please comply to instructions immediately.

Please do not move unless the area announcement concerns your area.

Stewards, Police Officers and Officials will direct you to safe areas which may be through exit doors/gates or on to the playing area. If you are disabled or feel unsafe in a large crowd, remain where you are until stewards assist you.

Please respond quickly but calmly to ensure a safe evacuation of the stadium.

1	Mark Goodlad	Score	Att.										
2	George Pilkington												
3	Ian Brightwell												
4	Andreas Lipa												
5	Michael Walsh												
6	Sam Collins												
7	Neil Brisco												
8	Michael Cummins												
9	Stephen Brooker												
10	Stephen McPhee												
11	Marc Bridge-Wilkinson												
12	Dean Delaney												
13	Levi Reid												
14	Mark Boyd												
15	Ian Armstrong												
16	Steve Rowland												
17	Chris Birchall												
18	Billy Paynter												
19	Simon Eldershaw												
20	Adrian Littlejohn												
21	Liam Burns												
22	Ryan Brown												
23	Joe Molloy												
24	Jonny Brain												



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TEAM LINE-UPS



Port Vale

1	Mark Goodlad	B DRAW
2	George Pilkington	✓
3	Ian Brightwell	
4	Andreas Lipa	✗ ✓
5	Michael Walsh	✓
6	Sam Collins	✓
7	Neil Brisco	✓
8	Michael Cummins	✓ ✓
9	Stephen Brooker	✓ ✓
10	Stephen McPhee	
11	Marc Bridge-Wilkinson	✓
12	Dean Delaney	✗
13	Levi Reid	
14	Mark Boyd	
15	Ian Armstrong	✗
16	Steve Rowland	✓
17	Chris Birchall	✗
18	Billy Paynter	✓
19	Simon Eldershaw	
20	Adrian Littlejohn	
21	Liam Burns	✗
22	Ryan Brown	
23	Joe Molloy	
24	Jonathon Brain	

Key:-

- Goalscorer
- Player Booked
- Player Sent Off



Luton Town

1	Morten Hyldgaard	✓
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	Steve Howard	✓
21	Paul Hughes	✓
22	David Bayliss	
23	Ian Hillier	
24	Sol Davis	✓
27	Peter Holmes	✓
31	Curtis Davies	✗
32	Lee Mansell	
33	Dean Brill	✗
34	Dean Crowe	
36	David Deeney	
37	Keith Keane	✓
38	Michael Leary	✗
39	Stephen O'Leary	
41	Kevin Foley	
43	Matthew Judge	
44	Pary Okai	
45	Leon Barnett	
47	Rob Beckwith	

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

C. Cain

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

C. N. Harwood

& P. J. Keane

FOURTH OFFICIAL:

A. D. Hutchinson

MATCH FACTS

SCORE:

HALF TIME:

Port Vale



Luton Town



FULL TIME:

Port Vale



Luton Town



SCORERS:

Port Vale

Luton Town



ATTENDANCE:

5048

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES



Barnsley v Port Vale

Saturday 20th March 2004

Kick Off: 3.00pm

Nationwide League 2



Port Vale v Bristol City

Saturday 27th March 2004

Kick Off: 3.00pm

Nationwide League 2



Port Vale v Colchester Utd

Tuesday 30th March 2004

Kick Off: 3.00pm

Nationwide League 2

