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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF PORT VALE FC

LUTON TOWN EDITION
PORT VALE v LUTON TOWN
SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2005
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MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

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We need great support for now is the time to stick together; we need the fans more than ever.

We also need Ian Armstrong back to get involved but, while we keep hoping with each passing week that the injury situation will ease, I am beginning to wonder whether it ever will.

We need the likes of Nathan Lowndes and Lee Matthews for their experience because, without them we tend to be lightweight going forward. At the time of writing, following the disappointment of yet another 1-0 defeat, I am desperately trying to rectify the situation.

I was able to beg Danny Sonner off Barry Fry, at Peterborough, for a month and I thought he did OK on his debut at Swindon. Danny will give us experience and leadership and he can put his foot on the ball.

Another addition or so will give me the opportunity to freshen things up and maybe wake a few up, too.

We finds ourselves in a sticky situation but it is the same for many sides in the bottom half of the table with teams like Walsall, Huddersfield and Colchester all looking nervously over their shoulders.

The lads were dejected after surrendering to Swindon on Wednesday in what was our ninth 1-0 defeat of the season.

We had some great chances to score and we were most unfortunate to come away with nothing to show for our efforts. Andy King, their manager and a good friend, said he could not believe they had won the game.

All we can take is encouragement. I went to three at the back in a system devised to accommodate our best players and we defended well.

We could not have tougher task today than to take on the league leaders who, similar to Swindon, are strong, show no frills at the back and are dangerous at set plays.

Luton are one of the sides we have lost to by the only goal that came late in the game at Kenilworth Road where I did not think they caused us a lot of problems. Suffice to say if we still have a four point cushion between us and the bottom four come close of play today I will be happy. Then we must aim to capitalise on the next handful of games.

Enjoy the Game
MARTIN FOYLE



FROM THE TOP

THE THOUGHTS OF THE GAFFER v LUTON

We are clearly approaching the 'make or break' month of the season.

Games against Oldham, Colchester, MK Dons, Walsall and Wrexham during March will sort the men from the boys and give us a truer picture of where we are heading.

The visit to Oldham next Saturday is a massive game for both clubs, a cup final, but I would rather have these games because we can do something to help ourselves rather than having to rely on others.

I am sure Vale supporters will respond to the importance of the occasion and travel in great numbers.

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IN ONE

A ROUND UP OF ALL LEAGUE ONE NEWS

Brentford were the toast of League One last weekend after a stirring comeback in their FA Cup fifth round tie at Southampton.

The Bees earned a replay after going two goals down and manager Paul Allen and his boys now fancy their chances of securing a quarter-final date at home to Manchester United?

Allen, however, was fixing his sights firmly on his team's two games before the Saints come to Griffin Park for a tough night's work on March 1.

He said: "Of course the cup is very exciting and to see Brentford in the hat for the sixth round is fantastic.

"But the league and promotion remains our number one target and we have to turn games in hand into points in the bag."

Allen's side are certainly well in with a shout for the play-off places, but Luton and Hull increased their hold on the automatic promotion slots with wins over Bradford and Wrexham respectively.

An early goal by Rowan Vine, which clipped the woodwork on its way in, proved enough to give the Hatters a 1-0 victory in a scrappy encounter at Bradford.

Luton boss Mike Newell used a famous analogy from golfing legend Gary Player afterwards, when he said: "The harder we work, the luckier we get."

"It was a poor match, but we are a good team and that's why we have won more matches than anyone else."

Bradford were not even lifted by Paul Henderson's superb penalty save from Kevin Nicholls and have now failed to win any of their last 10 home games, equalling an unwanted club record last 'achieved' in 1963-64.

Danny Allsopp was the hero for Hull as Peter Taylor's team got back on track with a 2-1 win over flu-hit Wrexham, who had tried to get the game postponed.

Wrexham boss Denis Smith said: "The flu had gone right through the camp and I contacted the league on Friday.

I'm afraid they were unsympathetic.

"They told us we could have the game called off, but I knew we would have been docked points if we had done."

Wrexham, of course hammered by a 10-point deduction for going into administration, and bottom two Peterborough and Stockport now look odds-on to drop into League Two.

Stockport did record their first win in eight games to retain a flicker of hope as goals by Kevan Hurst, on loan from Sheffield United, and Warren Feeney were enough to inflict Oldham's sixth successive defeat in League and cup.

A famous FA Cup success over Manchester City now seems an age ago for Brian Talbot's strugglers, who have slid too close to the drop zone for comfort.

Talbot has moved to sign Guy Branston from Sheffield Wednesday and hopes the tough-tackling 26-year-old can help to shore up his injury stricken defence.





BRUCE RIOCH

DREAM TEAM

A LOOK AT THE HATTER'S POST WAR DREAM TEAM



Football historian **LEIGH EDWARDS** selects a post-war Luton Town's 'Dream Team' with the help of several Luton supporters and club officials.

RON BAYNHAM

England international goalkeeper who was a key figure as Luton Town were FA Cup finalists in 1959. He impressed with Worcester City before moving to Kenilworth Road in November 1951 and contested a first-team slot with fellow England keeper Bernard Streten as Luton gained top-flight status for the first time in 1954-55. Missing just one match in both 1955-56 and 1957-58, he was capped three times and also represented the Football League. He made 388 League appearances for the Hatters until injury ended his career in May 1965 and subsequently worked as an interior decorator in Bedfordshire.

KIRK STEPHENS

Attacking right-back who was ever-present in Luton Town's 1981-82 Second Division title triumph. Initially with Nuneaton Borough, he helped them finish Southern League runners-up in 1974-75 and followed David Pleat to Kenilworth Road in June 1978. He was voted Luton's 'Player of the Year' in 1978-79 and 1983-84, scoring twice in 227 League games for the Hatters before moving to Coventry City in exchange for Ashley Grimes in August 1984. Later rejoining Nuneaton as player-manager after a knee injury ended his top-flight career, he also had a spell at Barnet and worked for his father's building firm.

MITCHELL THOMAS

Versatile England U-21 international left-back who had two spells at Luton Town. Born locally, he signed professional at Kenilworth Road in August 1982 and starred as Luton reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1984-85. He followed David Pleat to Tottenham Hotspur for £275,000 in July 1986 and featured in the 1987 FA Cup final, moving to West Ham for £525,000 in August 1991. Returning to Luton in November 1993, he netted six goals in 292 League games overall for the Hatters prior to joining Burnley in July 1999 and was an experienced figure in their 1999-2000 promotion success.

BRUCE RIOCH

Influential midfielder who was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in September 1964, he starred in the 1967-68 Fourth Division title triumph and netted 46 goals in 149 League games prior to joining Aston Villa for £100,000 in July 1969. He was a key figure in their 1971-72 Third Division title success and moved to Derby County in February 1974, helping to win the League Championship in 1974-75. He played for Everton, Derby again and Torquay, since managing Middlesbrough, Millwall, Bolton Wanderers, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wigan Athletic.

SYD OWEN

Long-serving England international centre-half who skippered Luton Town in the 1959 FA Cup final. Signing professional for Birmingham City in October 1945, he moved to Luton in June 1947 and starred in their 1951-52 FA Cup run, 1952-53 promotion near-miss and 1954-55 promotion success. He was 'Footballer of the Year' in 1958-

59 and netted three goals in 388 League games before becoming Luton's manager for a year in May 1959. Subsequently Leeds United's chief coach under Don Revie until October 1975, he then coached at Birmingham, Hull City and Manchester United. He died in August 1998.

MAL DONAGHY

Northern Ireland international central defender who gained a club record 58 caps while at Luton Town. He moved to Kenilworth Road from Larne in June 1978 and was ever-present as Luton won the Second Division title in 1981-82 and were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85. Voted 'Player of the Year' in 1985-86, he was an FA Cup semi-finalist again in 1987-88 and starred in that season's Littlewoods Cup final triumph. He netted 16 goals in 410 League games for the Hatters prior to joining Manchester United for £650,000 in October 1988, then returned on loan before moving to Chelsea in August 1992.

RICKY HILL

England international midfielder who was 'Player of the Year' when Luton Town won the Second Division title in 1981-82. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in May 1976, he was 'Player of the Year' again in 1982-83 and starred as Luton were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85. He featured in two consecutive Littlewoods Cup finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph and netted 54 goals in 436 League games before moving to Le Havre in July 1989. Reuniting with David Pleat at Leicester City in August 1990 and later as a coach at Sheffield Wednesday and Spurs, he briefly rejoined Luton as manager.

MALCOLM MACDONALD

Ace marksman who was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Initially with Tonbridge, he moved to Fulham in August 1968 and moved to Kenilworth Road in July 1969. He was Luton's top scorer in two consecutive seasons including the 1969-70 promotion success and netted 49 goals in 88 League games before being sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. An FA Cup

finalist in 1974, he joined Arsenal for £333,000 in August 1976 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1978 before injury ended his career. He subsequently managed Fulham and Huddersfield Town.

PAUL WALSH

England international striker who was capped five times while at Luton Town. Signing professional for Charlton Athletic in October 1979, he starred in their 1980-81 promotion to Luton in July 1982. He was 'Player of the Year' in 1982-83 and leading marksman in 1983-84, netting 24 goals in 80 First Division games for the Hatters prior to joining Liverpool in May 1984. Helping to win the League Championship in 1985-86, he joined Tottenham Hotspur in February 1988 and was an FA Cup winner in 1991. He later played for Portsmouth and Manchester City until injury ended his career.



BRIAN STEIN

MICK HARFORD



England international striker who played for Luton in consecutive Littlewoods Cup finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph. Signing professional for Lincoln City in

July 1977, he had spells with Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham City prior to joining Luton in December 1984. He starred as the Hatters were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88, moving to Derby County in January 1990 and returning to Luton in September 1991. Joining Chelsea in August 1992, he then played for Sunderland, Coventry and Wimbledon before coaching at Luton and Nottingham Forest.

SYD OWEN



Long-serving England international centre-half who skippered Luton Town in the 1959 FA Cup final. Signing professional for Birmingham City in October 1945, he moved to Luton in June 1947 and starred in their 1951-52 FA Cup run, 1952-53 promotion near-miss and 1954-55 promotion success. He was 'Footballer of the Year' in 1958-

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blasts Vale boss**

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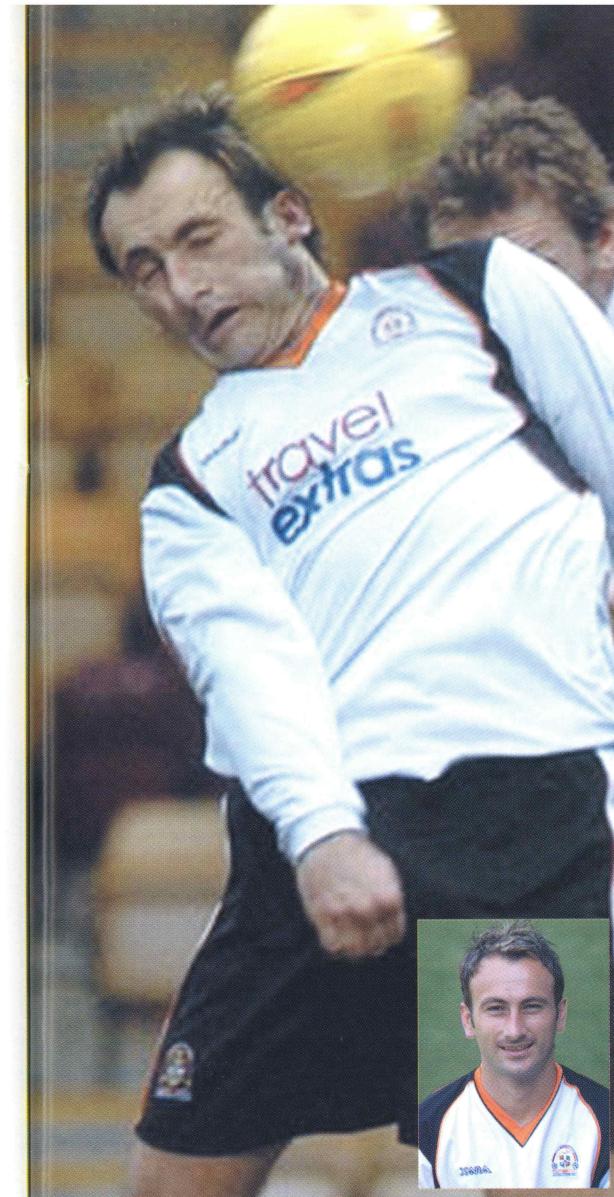
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MAN TO WATCH

MICHAEL BAGGLEY LOOKS AT.....



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BORN: Dubrovnik, Croatia
POSITION: Midfielder
DOB: 23/09/74
HEIGHT: 5' 9"
WEIGHT: 10st 112lbs
CLUBS: HNK Dubrovnik, Leyton Orient

AHMET BRKOVIC



The travelling fans who saw Vale denied a point at Kennilworth Road in December will need no reminder of Ahmet Brkovic's capabilities.

The Valiants looked to have been rewarded for a stubborn defensive effort with a draw before Brkovic produced a brilliant volley to score the game's only goal five minutes from time.

"It was a magnificent finish and there aren't many players in our division who can finish like that" said a disappointed Martin Foyle.

"I thought the back four did very well, but unfortunately that one bit of magic cost us."

The 30-year-old midfielder has netted 12 goals for the Hatters this season to help keep them ahead in the title race and is chasing his second promotion with the club having helped them out of the old Third Division three seasons ago. Brkovic began his career in England in 1999 with Leyton Orient having joined the London club on a free from HNK Dubrovnik.

However, after Orient lost out in the Third Division play-offs he joined Luton on a Bosman free transfer and is now in his fourth season with the Hatters.



LUTON TOWN.

A LOOK AT THE HATTERS' PLAYERS

1. MARLON BERESFORD

Mike Newell strengthened his squad with the signing of 6'1" goalkeeper at the beginning of July 2004 from League One rivals Barnsley. The 34-year-old is a vastly experienced goalkeeper with over 400 appearances under his belt and he returned to Kenilworth Road on a two-year contract after impressing during a successful three month spell with the Hatters last year. The Lincoln-born goalkeeper picked up the Umbro Isotonic Division Two Player of the Month and twice received the Travel Extras Player of the Month during his first spell with Luton. Marlon has appeared for a handful of clubs during his career but the majority of his time has been spent with Sheffield Wednesday, Burnley and Middlesbrough.

2. KEVIN FOLEY

The emergence of Kevin Foley was one of the success stories of last season for Luton, during the course of the campaign he went from the Hatters youth team to the Republic of Ireland Under-21's. Each time he has comfortably adjusted himself to the level of football and great things are expected of this cultured footballer. He has been brought through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road and in pre-season games last year he was thrown into the first-team because of injuries to other defenders. He settled in rapidly and was soon competing on merit for a regular place in the side.

3. 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.



5. RUSS PERRETT

Having signed a one-year contract in the summer he will be looking to make up for lost time this season after a frustrating spell on the sidelines last year. The ex-Portsmouth man was restricted to just six games during the 2003/2004 season but when fully fit the experienced campaigner is an important member of the squad. He helped Cardiff City win promotion to the Second Division in May 2001 but 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. His career had begun with non-league Lympstone before he went to neighbouring Portsmouth in 1995 and then to Cardiff four years later.

6. PAUL UNDERWOOD

Luton Town fought off competition from a number of clubs to complete the free transfer signing of Paul Underwood from Second Division rivals Rushden & Diamonds on transfer deadline day. The Wimbledon-born defender joined Rushden for £50,000 in the summer of 1997 from Enfield and went on to make over two-hundred appearances for the Northamptonshire club. During his time at Nene Park he was a regular in England semi-professional squad as Diamonds progressed up the non-league pyramid and in 2002/03 he led the club to the Third Division Championship and was named as Rushden's Player of the Season. Unfortunately a hamstring injury sustained twenty minutes into his Luton Town debut against QPR ruled him out for the rest of the season and he has made in a Hatters shirt this season now that he has regained his full fitness, forming a formidable partnership with Sol Davis on the left hand side

8. KEVIN NICHOLLS

The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton and quickly made an impact after skippering England youth teams at under-18, under-19 and under-20 levels. Surprisingly, Wigan

decided to put him on the transfer list in the summer of 2001, for a bargain fee of £150,000, and Luton snapped him up. Charlton had sold him for £250,000 to Wigan in the summer of 1999. The move to Luton suited Nicholls and the Hatters alike. He quickly became team captain, and his huge enthusiasm and ferocious tackling soon made him a big favourite with Hatters fans, although opponents did not always view his all-action style with similar relish. Just five games into 2003/2004 season he picked up a niggling knee injury which ruled him out for five months but he returned at the end of January, adding strength and experience to the right hand side of midfield.

9. ROWAN VINE

The Basingstoke-born striker initially joined Town on a three-month loan deal from Premiership Portsmouth on the eve of the new season but that arrangement was extended in September for the whole season after he had made a good start to his professional career, which resulted in a close season call-up to the

had made an impressive start to life as a Hatter. His performances during that month were recognized when he was named as the Powerade League One Player of the Month. The 21-year-old front man has enjoyed successful loan spells at this level before when he appeared for Brentford and Colchester United. In his time with the Bees he scored thirteen goals in 47 appearances as part of a year long loan deal in 2002/03 and last year he spent a similar spell at Layer Road, scoring ten times in 42 games.

12. 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 and since then he has firmly established himself as a formidable rock at the heart of the Hatters defence. It was a big boost to the Club when the solid and dependable defender agreed a two-year contract during the close-season.

14. MICHAEL LEARY

The London-born central midfielder signed an extension to his contract in the summer which will tie him to the Hatters until 2006. He has had to wait patiently for his first-team chance but has taken the opportunity with both hands whenever it has presented itself. The scorer of two goals at Hartlepool back in March, in one of only eight first-team starts last year, he will be looking to add to both tally's throughout the course of the new season and provides manager Mike Newell with adequate cover for the central midfield position.

15. STEPHEN O'LEARY

A player with a bright future ahead of him, he became the third of the three graduating scholars who signed a two-year professional contract in the summer. The skillful midfielder made the most of his chance in the first-team spotlight in the final few matches of last season to show what he could do. Denied a superb goal - with a clever half-volley - on his full league debut at Wrexham by a coat of paint, he didn't have too wait long to open his professional goalscoring account, netting against Sheffield Wednesday a week later. O'Leary joined Luton as a 13-year-old, when he was spotted playing for Barnet Schools and he was awarded a Scholarship in the summer of 2001 along with Kevin Foley. Luton had fought off competition from top London clubs for his signature and during his time with the Hatters he has also been a regular at schoolboy level for the Republic of Ireland. His game is a mixture of skill and determination, and he is equally at home going forward or in a midfield holding role.

16. ENOCH SHOWUNMI

The big striker will be looking to build on his growing reputation this season and continue the good start he made to his professional career, which resulted in a close season call-up to the

Nigerian national squad for the Unity Cup which was staged in England. Enoch soon established himself as popular figure on the terraces and was rewarded with a two-and-a-half-year contract in February 2004 after the Football League gave the club permission to sign him permanently. He had originally joined the Hatters on non-contract terms on the eve of their trip to Notts County in September 2003 after impressing on trial with the club. He had appeared for Luton during pre-season however the Hatters weren't in a position to sign him at the time because of a transfer embargo which had been imposed on them in the summer. In the autumn they received special dispensation from the Football League following an injury to Kevin Nicholls, which would rule the midfielder out for over four months. The London-born forward joined the club fresh from non-league football with Willesden Constantine - the same side that nurtured the early years of Barry Hayles career - after completing university.

19. STEVE HOWARD

Rarely can £50,000 have been better spent in football than the fee Luton paid Northampton Town on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the bustling striker away from the Cobblers. He has been the Hatters leading marksman in for the last three 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. By the end of last season he had moved up to seventh in Luton Town's list of leading post-war goalscorers, averaging a goal every two games for the Hatters and he's carried that form into the new season, picking up the League One Powerade Player of the Month for August, after he netted five times in the opening five matches.

20. CURTIS DAVIES

Central defender Curtis was rewarded with a two-year professional contract at the end of last season after impressing during a spell in the side at the tail-end of the campaign. Having been a solid and consistent performer in the club's Under-19s over the past three years, he made the step-up to first-team level and turned in some encouraging displays when called upon. Previously with Wimbledon as a schoolboy, Curtis initially joined Luton as a trialist at the age of sixteen, and he made the best possible impression with two goals in his

first three games to earn himself a scholarship at Kenilworth Road. Mobile and strong - in the air and on the ground - he has made a notable improvement during his time at the club.

21. KEITH KEANE

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old last season he went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured. Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level and he finished the season with fourteen appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship. Another of the youth team who regularly appears for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level, he joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and has made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential to convince Mike Newell to give him his first taste of senior action. Keith has been a key player in Luton's youth squad over the past two seasons and has featured most prominently on the right of midfield, bursting forward to great effect to provide many goals for himself and his teammates.

24. 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 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.

25. DINO SEREMET

The 6'4" Slovenian goalkeeper impressed on trial in July 2004 to earn a two-year contract and signed on a Bosman transfer from Maribor Pivovarna Laako. With youngsters Robert Beckwith and Dean Brill recovering from injury he will provide healthy competition for Marlon Beresford for the goalkeeper's jersey.

27. PETER HOLMES

A two-footed midfielder, he came to Luton as one of new boss Ricky Hill's first signings after impressing Hill while he was coaching at Sheffield Wednesday. Holmes has a good pedigree, he is a product of the FA'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 but former Manager Joe Kinnear turned to him for an important match against Swansea, where he scored the second goal of a 3-1 win which secured promotion to Division Two. After initially being released in the summer of 2003 as a result of the club's financial situation he continued to train with the club and agreed a fresh deal to stay with the Hatters in November 2003, the former Wednesday man netted three times in sixteen appearances before he sustained an injury in the match against QPR which brought a premature end

to his season.

29. CALVIN ANDREW

The young striker has made an explosive start to this current season, scoring an incredible eight goals in three games for the Under-18 side, including hat-tricks against Northampton and Rushden. He was rewarded with a first-team squad number and a place in the travelling party for the Hatters' trip to Sheffield Wednesday at the start of September. A tall, powerful and direct front-man, Calvin possesses a lightning turn of speed and the ability to score goals with his head and on the ground.

33. DEAN BRILL

Luton-born goalkeeper Dean Brill is another young player of whom big things are expected. Having enjoyed a taste of first-team football last season he will, along with Robert Beckwith, provide healthy competition for the goalkeepers jersey and keep Marlon Beresford on his toes. A former pupil of Lea Manor High School, Brill joined his hometown club at the age of nine and has progressed through the Centre of Excellence, representing Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools at a variety of age groups. He kept a clean sheet in Under-19 debut as a 15-year-old in April 2001 and his impressive displays alerted the attention of several bigger clubs, but Luton fought off the competition to secure his signature. A tall, commanding goalkeeper standing at 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 very highly regarded by members of the coaching staff at the club.

11. STEVE ROBINSON

Was the first of the out of contract players to agree a new deal with Luton in the summer after enjoying a campaign where he firmly established himself in the Hatters side. A hard working midfielder who topped the Hatters assists chart last season. 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. 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.

46. MAX HOWELL

A solid and reliable defender from Middlesex, Max was handed a first team squad number midway through the 2003/04 season for the trip to Rushden & Diamonds in the LDV Vans Trophy although he didn't make the squad on that occasion. The youngster's impressive form in the Under-19s led to him being offered the third year of his football scholarship at the club. He has been involved with the first team in pre-season, and will be hoping to make the breakthrough this year to earn a professional contract at the end of the season.



FAST FORWARD

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT HOME GAME

COLCHESTER UNITED

Tuesday 8th March 2005
Kick-off 7.45pm VALE PARK

Quite often Colchester make a blistering start to the season and then fade away. It is a phenomenon with which their fans have become quite familiar, so they know they shouldn't get over-excited if they are top of the table in September. They did it again this season, winning their first three league games. Last season, by way of contrast, they actually started with three defeats, the last of them by 3-4 at Vale Park after a titanic struggle. Soon they got into gear and won five in an undefeated seven-game run to go sixth. A poor run was followed by four successive victories to reach what was to be their highest placing of the season : 4th on 15th November. Form was pretty erratic thereafter and they drifted below half-way, a run which included a defeat by 1-4 at home to Vale in February, with Vale completing a notable 8-4 double! Three successive victories at the end of the season for Phil Parkinson's side left them in 11th position. Encouragingly for their supporters is that this carried on a record of continuous improvement in league position since promotion in 1999. Their finishing positions since 1999 have been 18th, 18th, 17th, 15th, 12th and 11th.



As with so many clubs the close season at Layer Road witnessed much activity. Since last July Colchester have lost the services of regular scorer Scott McGleish to Northampton, Thomas Pinault to Grimsby, Wayne Andrews to Crystal Palace and Andy Marriott to Bury, though he had only been with United for three weeks. In have come Aidan Davison from Grimsby, Stephen Hunt from Southampton, Kevin Watson from Reading, Wayne Brown from Watford, George Elokobi from Dulwich Hamlet, Gareth Williams from Palace (part of the Wayne Andrews deal) and Richard Garcia from West Ham. In December they signed Neil Danns for a nominal fee from Blackburn, remembered by Vale fans as he scored both goals while on loan in Colchester's 2-1 victory over Vale at Layer Road in October. A month ago they signed Guylain Ndumbu-Nsungu from Sheffield Wednesday. Fans will doubtless be queuing up to have that name on their shirts.

So far Colchester have beaten Stockport at home 3-2, Peterborough 2-1, Doncaster 4-1, Vale 2-1, Walsall 5-0 and Bournemouth 3-1, drawn with Huddersfield 0-0, Oldham 0-0 and Luton 0-0, losing to Swindon 0-1, MK Dons 0-1, Wrexham 1-2, Tranmere 1-2, Barnsley 0-2, Hull 1-2, Blackpool 0-1 and Bristol City 0-2. Away they began the season

with a 3-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday, then beat Bournemouth 3-1, Torquay 3-1 and Swindon 3-0, drawing at Oldham 1-1, Blackpool 1-1, Bristol City 0-0, Bradford City 2-2, Luton 2-2 and Tranmere 1-1, losing at Chesterfield 1-2, Hartlepool 1-2 and Walsall 1-2. In the Carling Cup they beat Cheltenham 2-1 and West Brom 2-1 before going out at Southampton by 2-3. The 3rd Round of this competition is a level little-known to Vale fans.

In the FA Cup Colchester had quite a time of it, beating Mansfield 4-1 at Layer Road after a 1-1 draw at Field Mill, they then triumphed 5-2 at Rushden and Diamonds. They had an unexpected 2-0 victory at in-form Hull to enter Round Four, where they went out by 0-3 at Blackburn Rovers, thanks partly to an unfortunate own-goal. In the LDV Vans Trophy they lost on penalties to Southend at Layer Road.

United have put together some impressive results in cup and league away from home but they have now entered the same area of the league table as Vale. This will not be an easy one but they rarely are.



BIRD BRAIN

JEAN JACKSON & KIRSTY ROLLINGS VOICE THEIR VIEWS

When Vale lost to West Brom in the '54 FA Cup semi-final, there were nine Potteries-born players on the pitch. Sadly, one of them was Ronnie Allen who scored the winning goal for the Baggies (it was never a penalty by the way) and ended the Vale's dream of Wembley. The Vale side had eight local lads, two others from no more than 50 miles away and a genuine "foreigner" in goal, Northumbrian born Ray King.

Contrast this with Arsene Wenger's much publicised line-up against Crystal Palace last week. As everyone who reads the tabloids knows, not one of the sixteen man squad was from the British Isles. "Disgraceful!" cried the self-appointed guardians of football in the red-topped scandal sheets. How, they say, can the England national team expect to win anything when one of the country's top clubs is packed with these interlopers? How unfair on all our English players, they cry, that their jobs are being usurped by these foreign mercenaries!

I am a little uneasy about this over the top reaction. If the concern is for the England team and its chances of success in

international competition, why have we happily provided employment in our league for a wide variety of Scottish, Welsh and Irish over the last century or more? Why were we not up in arms against the great Liverpool teams of the 80s which won cups with hardly an Englishman in sight? Surely the objection is not that these players are foreign and not British?

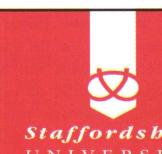
Of course, the reality of the situation is that Arsene Wenger picked his sixteen non-British players for exactly the same reason as Freddie Steele picked his eight potters – they were the best men for the job. What we should be shouting about is not why the Arsenal team was full of foreigners, but why English players are no longer good enough to fill our top teams? Wenger has no aversion to picking English players. What he does try to avoid, however, is picking second-rate players. So why is it that when the Arsenal academy and the academies at every other Premiership club, are packed with the best English nine and ten year olds, they don't develop into the best nineteen and twenty olds?

I was talking to a Dutch PE teacher who was visiting my school a couple of weeks

ago and I asked him why their Under 21 team was so much more skilful than ours. His response was that in Holland boys are taught to play football, not play football matches. Why do we constantly push our kids to win things? Why do Dads scream at them from touchlines up and down the land when they don't win a key match in the Fegg Hayes Under 12s Sunday League? Teaching kids how to win is important – ensuring that they have the skills to do it even more so, however. Perhaps we should more time getting our lads to practise their first touch rather than pushing them to achieve success in some spurious competition where big lads always beat little lads whatever their ability. Then we might start producing the sort of English players that Wenger and his mates want to have in their teams.

Club managers have a responsibility to pick the best players available. It would be nice if the best players were English, but to be perfectly honest, I'd have eleven blokes from the Planet Zog in the Vale team if I thought they would win us promotion!

N.B. The views expressed above are not necessarily the views of Port Vale FC



For further information

E-mail journalism@staffs.ac.uk
call John Rafferty, Malcolm Pithers, Mick Temple or Gary Hudson on 01782 294415
or write to AMD admissions
Faculty of Arts, Media and Design,
PO Box 661, Staffordshire University,
College Road, Stoke-On-Trent ST4 2XW.

■ CREATE THE DIFFERENCE

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wh@t y*u th!nk *f h!m

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FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

Good afternoon. May I offer a warm welcome to all the travelling supporters from Luton Town, I hope you enjoy today's game.



TODAY'S HALF TIME ENTERTAINMENT

During the half time period today we are staging the second heats of this season's schools relay series.

Teams competing today are representing Clough Hall High School, Chesterton High School, Leek High School and James Brindley High School.

Today's heats will begin with the firing of a traditional starter pistol and each competitor will have to run half a lap around the perimeter of the Vale Park pitch before changing over to a team mate, each team will have three runners representing their school.

Last time out you gave them great support, I am sure the youngsters competing today will benefit from a repeat, good luck to all the teams.



■ Her name is Rio – presenting the Kia Rio supplied by local dealership Ken Jervis.

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PRE-MATCH PROMOTION

Prior to kick off today local car dealers Ken Jervis, based in Cobridge Rd, will be parading one of their superb quality value for money vehicles around the perimeter of the Vale Park pitch.

Potential buyers can pop down to the showroom in Cobridge Road and the staff will talk you through all the specifications of the Kia Rio and are sure to tailor a package deal to suit your needs.

Ken Jervis Ltd exclusively provide transport to Port Vale F.C. Community Scheme.

PORT VALE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

If you want to become an exclusive member of the only official junior membership scheme for Vale fans, you can access an application form from the Community Office, children from birth to 15 can apply.



■ **Flashback** – Previous winners of our schools relay series were this St Margaret Ward team, seen pictured with former Vale player Harry Poole.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

If you would like to organise a birthday party for your child which is something a bit different we have just the thing for you.

Football in the Community can provide you with a tour behind the scenes at Vale Park, a function room which overlooks the Vale Park pitch, a signed ball for the lucky birthday boy or girl and a football session in the club gym.

We cater for boys and girls from age 4 to 13 years old, the cost is £60.00 this also includes free membership to the Port Vale Juniors and all the related benefits including a unique membership pack, discounted away travel, free away mascot package and invitation to the annual Christmas bash at Vale Park.

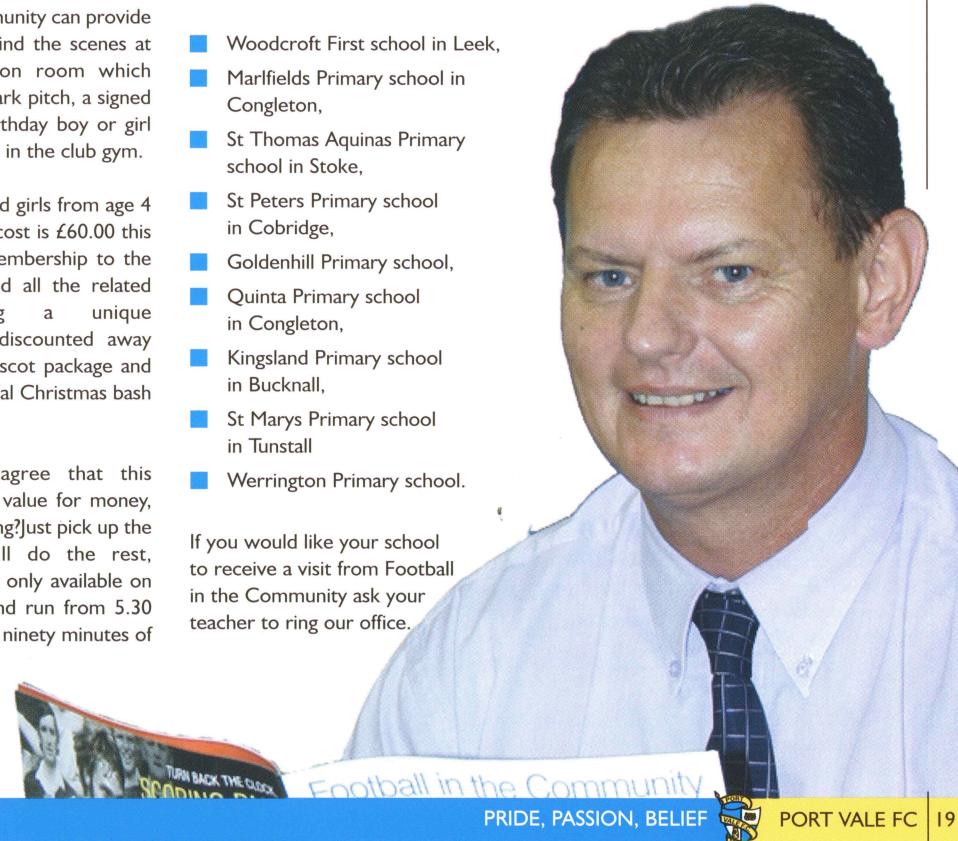
I think you will agree that this represents excellent value for money, so why are you waiting? Just pick up the phone and we will do the rest, children's parties are only available on weekday evenings and run from 5.30 pm until 7.00 pm for ninety minutes of fun packed action.



BOOMER'S CLUB

Due to refurbishment and decoration of the Community building in Hamil Road, our out of school childcare club, Boomer's, has been unable to operate during the February half term break for schools.

We apologise to regular customers and their children and can assure you that this is unlikely to happen again for several years. However, on a brighter note, we will be back to normal again for the Easter half term break with spanking new facilities for the children.



Football in the Community

PRIDE, PASSION, BELIEF



PORT VALE FC

VALE POSTBAG & NOTICES

LETTERS AND NOTICES ABOUT PORT VALE

Simon Eldershaw's bootlaces are sponsored by Sophie Keates. Before today's game against Luton, Sophie will have her photograph taken with her favourite player.



PORT VALE ENTERTAINMENT

Forthcoming attractions from the Lorne St Restaurant

Telephone 01782 655800 to make a reservation



Thursday 3rd March

Potters Derby Night
Big screen action,
Comedian/Meal Meet ex-players

£17.50

Saturday 5th March

Dinner with The American Drifters
(Bottom)
and comedian Ian Sludge-Lees

£30.00

Thursday 24th March

Men's Race Night
- Adult Show for the Guys

£20.00

Thursday 31st March

Cabaret Duo Vice Versa
and Top Chubby Brown tribute
- Chris "Chubby" McCall
With Basket meal

£12.50

Thursday 14th April

Ladies Night

Time for the girls to get their own back
strictly girls only!

£20.00

Saturday 30th April

Dinner

Back by popular demand
Counterfeit Abba!
With Comedian Ollie Spencer

£27.50

**Don't miss out on a brilliant
nights entertainment**



American Drifters

Annual Spring Bolton Football Programme & Memorabilia Fair:
Excel Leisure Centre, Lower Bridgeman Street, Bolton
(Behind the college). Sunday 13th March 2005, 11am - 3pm.
Enquiries: Ruth Cranshaw
Tel: 01204 529284 or 0780 3609531

Annual Shropshire Football Programme and Memorabilia Fair:
St. Georges Sports & Social Club, Church Road, St Georges,
Telford. Sunday 6th March 2005, 11am - 2pm - Admission
Free. All enquiries, especially if you have football programmes
or memorabilia for sale. Telephone Chris on 01952 604742

Barnet recovered well from their debut setback, and won their first away match as a League club at Mansfield the following Saturday. They flirted with the top of the table in October and November, and finished one place below Crewe, falling to Blackpool in the play-offs.

It was a highly creditable debut season, under the combustible leadership of manager Barry Fry and chairman Stan Flashman. They remained in the League throughout the 1990's, only returning to the Conference at the end of 2000/1.

THE PROGRAMME

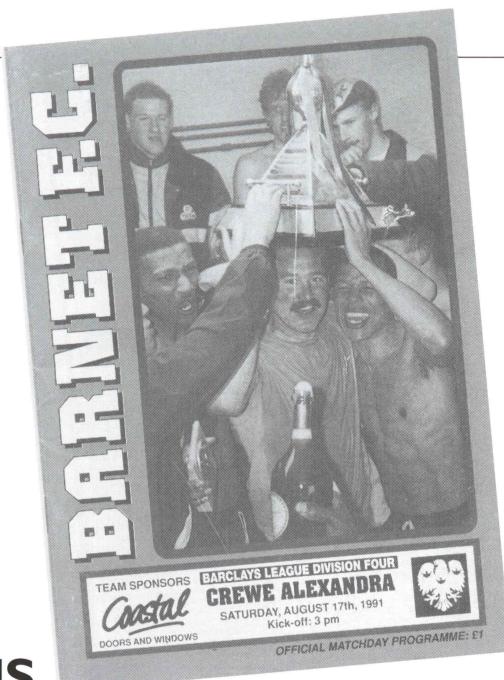
Celebrating players with the Conference Trophy had pride of place, in full colour, on the programme cover. The only other colour, apart from the outer pages, was in four pages of kit sponsorship, which featured photos of all the Barnet players.

The remainder of the attractive 48 A5 page, £1 programme was printed black on white glossy paper. Barry Fry's page opened the contents, and was followed by messages from the Chairman and the programme editor. Coverage of the visitors extended across five pages and included substantial pen pictures and a page on the club's history.

There was a page tribute to former Barnet player Kevin Durham, who died on holiday over the summer, and an article on the debut League season of the clubs who have joined the League since 1923. The centrefold carried photos of the players in pre-season training, and the "Bees Scrapbook" concentrated on an FA Amateur Cup tie from January 1930.

A list of pre-season matches shared a page with details of "The Ninety Two Club", and the rather disappointing contents were concluded with two pages of statistics, in their time-honoured position of the last two inside pages.

Adverts included Coastal Windows, League sponsors Barclays, "Barnet Football Club thank Yves Saint Laurent for their support in supplying blazers and flannels", the programme publishers Pinegen, Barnet Advertiser, Eastern Electricity, Ribero Sportswear, Barnet High Street, Henleys for cars and plenty of local adverts. The programme now sells for around £5 on dealers' catalogues



FAMOUS PROGRAMMES

FROM CLASSIC GAMES

A series by the Editor of Programme Monthly & Football Collectable magazine in which famous matches are remembered by their programmes, which remain popular with modern collectors.

BARNET

(Bull 2, Carter 2)

CREWE ALEXANDRA

(Naylor, Futcher, R. Edwards 3,
Hignett 2, 1 pen)

4

7

Barclays League Division Four,
Saturday August 17th 1991

BARNET

Phillips ; Blackford, Cooper (sub
Murphy), Horton, Bradley (sub Stein),
Johnson, Showler, Carter, Bull, Lowe,
Evans

CREWE

Greygoose, Wilson, R. Jones, Smart,
Callagher, Walters (sub Murphy),
Hignett, Naylor, Futcher (sub Garvey),
Gardiner, R. Edwards.

REFEREE

Peter Jones
(Loughborough)

ATTENDANCE:

5090

"Programme Monthly & Football Collectable" contains over 150 pages each month covering all aspects of collecting football memorabilia. The current edition is available priced £2.70 (inclusive of postage) from 46 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1TL; or send 9 x 1st class stamps. www.pmfco.co.uk





A STEP BACK

TO OUR LAST HOME GAME



PORT VALE v HARTLEPOOL UNITED

Nathan Lowndes and Steve Rowland were both ruled out injured after picking up knocks in the win over Stockport. Craig James started his first game for more than three months while Tommy Widdrington started his first game since re-joining the club. Chris Birchall started upfront alongside Billy Paynter while George Abbey was on the right hand side of midfield.

The visitors arrived at Vale Park on the back of two defeats, but they were out of the starting blocks quickly and before many people had settled in their seats they had taken the lead.

Gavin Strachan's ball over the top caught the defence flat footed. Adam Boyd burst into the area before pulling the ball back for Joel Porter who made no mistake from close range.

Not the perfect start and it could have been worse before five minutes had elapsed. A free kick into the area found defender Michael Nelson whose spectacular overhead kick rattled the crossbar with goalkeeper Mark Goodlad well beaten.

Porter again, escaped down the left before cutting in and seeing his first shot saved by the Vale keeper, before putting the rebound over. Ritchie Humphreys then tried his luck from long distance but saw his shot go wide of the far post.

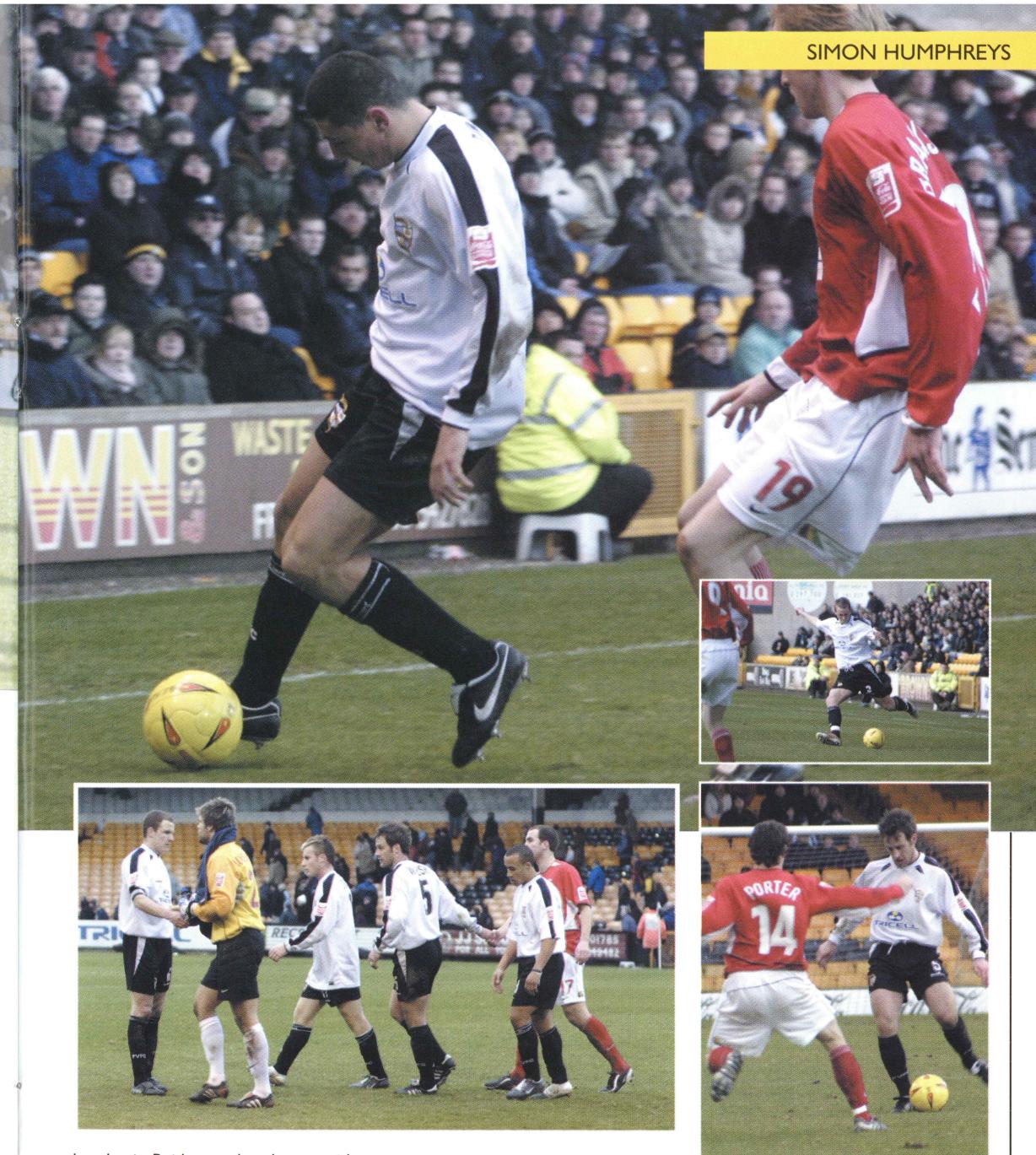
The home side just could not get their passing game going and despite enjoying plenty of possession there was no creativity. It took them thirty-two minutes before they tested United's keeper Konstantopoulos. Paynter's cushioned header fell to Tommy

Widdrington who saw his snap shot plucked out of the air. Skipper Sam Collins curled in a free kick but that too was well held by the keeper.

The second half started with the Vale again getting plenty of possession and Widdrington, not renowned for his goal scoring exploits, saw a cracking shot from twenty yards whistle past the upright.

Ten minutes in and manager Martin Foyle made the first change. Striker Dave Hibbert replaced winger Jeff Smith as they reverted to a 3-4-3 formation. Within minutes of his arrival Hibbert soared above the visitors defence from a Craig James free kick, but saw his effort went just wide.

Michael Cummins then took a nasty blow in the face and had to be replaced



by Levi Reid as the home side continued to probe. Widdrington fed Paynter on the edge of the box but his shot lacked any firepower to trouble the Greek stopper.

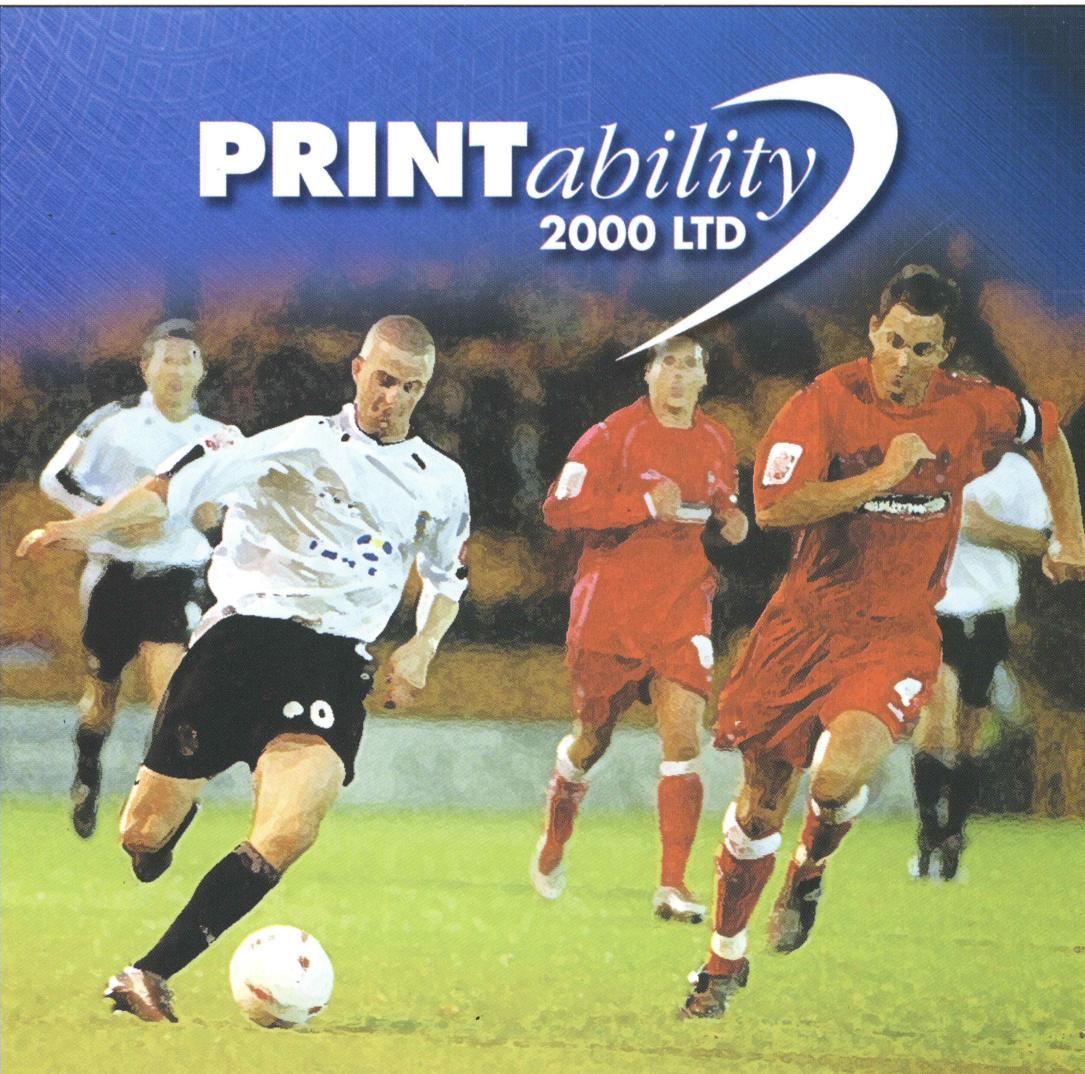
Ryan Brown replaced a tired looking Craig James fifteen minutes from time as the home side battled away in search of an equaliser. However it was all in vain as Neale Cooper's team completed the double.

MATCH RECAP:

Another bad start to a game and poor defending cost us dear. In the previous two matches the players had started in the faces of the opposition, this time the boot was on the other foot. The lads to their credit kept plugging away but did not look like breaking down a very well organised side who are heading for another top six finish.

MOM: GEORGE ABBEY.

It was another solid display from the Nigerian international. We all know he's not a natural right winger, but he does not moan and gets on with it. He's been the most consistent performer in recent weeks and would be a very useful addition to the squad for next season.

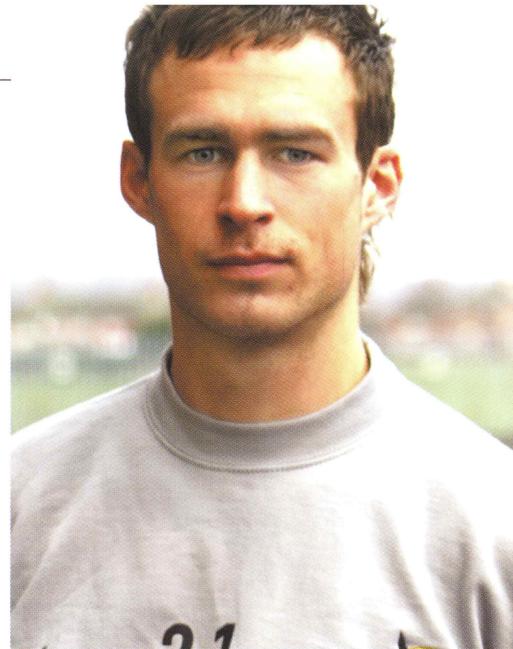


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SPOTLIGHT ON

EACH EDITION WE CHECK ON INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS

PERSONAL FILE

NAME: Dave Hibbert
POSITION: Striker
D.O.B. 28/1/86
HEIGHT: 6ft 2 ins
WEIGHT: 12st 5lbs

FOOTBALL FILE

FORMER CLUBS: None
BEST MATE AT THE CLUB: There are a few in the Youth Team

ALTERNATIVE CAREER: I haven't a clue

FOOTBALLING HERO AS A KID: Eric Cantona
FAVOURITE 'OTHER' FOOTBALL STADIUM: Old Trafford

HOW YOU SPEND SATURDAY WHEN VALE AREN'T PLAYING?: With my mates

WORSE THING IN FOOTBALL: Injuries

TIP FOR THE TOP (YOUNG PLAYER): Stuart Downing (Middlesbrough) & Matt Fryatt (Walsall)

TIP FOR LEAGUE ONE CHAMPIONS: Luton Town

TIP FOR PREMIERSHIP CHAMPIONS: Chelsea

GENERAL STUFF

IF YOU COULD BE GRANTED ONE WISH, WHAT WOULD IT BE? To have no money worries

IF YOU COULD TURN BACK THE CLOCK, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY? Work harder at school

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL? Steak & Chips

WHAT WAS THE BEST PRESENT YOU EVER RECEIVED? A car

WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH? Little Britain

WHAT CD IS PLAYING IN YOUR CAR? One I made

IF YOU COULD INVITE ANYBODY, PAST OR PRESENT TO A DINNER PARTY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Pamela Anderson, so I could try and get in her!

IF YOU COULD LIVE ABROAD WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE AND WHY?

In the Caribbean because of the weather & the lifestyle

NAME THREE THINGS YOU WOULD TAKE WITH YOU IF YOU KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE STRANDED ON A REMOTE ISLAND

My girlfriend, Food and a photo of my family

TELL US ONE THING YOU WILL NEVER FORGET? Dislocating my knee!

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CAR? Vauxall Corsa

WHAT NEWSPAPER DO YOU READ ON A REGULAR BASIS? The Sun

WHO DO YOU REALLY ADMIRE AND WHY? Eric Cantona, just a class act

ANY SUPERSTITIONS? I always put my shinpads on last

WHAT WAS THE WORSE THING YOU EVER DID? Smash my car up

21
DAVE HIBBERT

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For further information, contact us on 01782 655800



OBITUARY MR REG DEAN

It is with deep regret we have to announce the sad passing of Mr Reg Dean, a lifelong Vale fan, who died last weekend, aged 94. Everybody associated with the club would like to take this opportunity to pass on our condolences to his family and friends – he will be sadly missed.

Reg first watched the Vale at the Old Recreation Ground and continued to watch the Vale, rarely missing a game either home or away over the years.

Several years ago, Reg was awarded free lifelong membership of the club by our previous Chairman, Bill Bell – something that was carried on by the present Chairman, Bill Bratt.

We hope you will all join us today in honouring Reg with a minute's silence in his memory.

Rest In Peace Reg.

Reg Dean (Left) seen here with former Vale goalkeeper John Poole

MASCOTS

A LOOK AT TODAY'S MASCOT



NAME: Leon Austin
AGE: 6 years old
SCHOOL: St. Peter's, Cobridge
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Billy Paynter & Sam Collins
HOBBIES: Football & Running



NAME: Daniel Bull
AGE: 11 years old in March
SCHOOL: Excalibur
FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Pilkington, Chris Birchall & Jon Brain
HOBBIES: Football & Playstation
ADDITIONAL INFO: Plays for Kidsgrove Athletic, Under 11s as a striker and scores for them most weeks.



NAME: Alice Kent
AGE: 14 years old in March
SCHOOL: St. Peter's C.E. High
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Billy Paynter & Ian Armstrong
HOBBIES: Watching football and playing football for Langdale Lions
ADDITIONAL INFO: Alice will be celebrating her 14th Birthday on 2nd March

BOOTLACE SPONSORSHIP

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CRAIG JAMES

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Adam & Becky Fell

BILLY PAYNTER

Larson Colclough

CHRIS BIRCHALL

Alex Steventon

LEVI REID

Dimitri Moore

RYAN BROWN

Laura Cartwright

JONATHON BRAIN

Tanisha Cook

IAN ARMSTRONG

Matthew Wain

IAN ARMSTRONG

(SHINPADS) Julie Adams

JEFF SMITH

Meghan Hughes

SIMON ELDERSHAW

Sophie Keates

NATHAN LOWNDES

Joshua Brooke

PETE LAWTON



SALES & MARKETING

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP

Loyalty is often referred to as a rare commodity in football and through these commercial pages; I have often thanked our many sponsors for their continued support and loyalty to Port Vale Football Club.

The way in which this club and football clubs throughout the country operate means that sponsorship is crucial to each clubs individual business, but even more crucial is the support of a club's supporters.

At Port Vale we have many ways in which you as an individual supporter can make a huge contribution.

Let's call it a "true Vale fan check list". Just tick the boxes below and see the ways in which you are making, or can in the future make a difference to the Vale.

- BRITANNIA VALIANT SAVER ACCOUNT HOLDER
- MBNA CREDIT CARD HOLDER
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- VALE LOTTERY TICKET BUYER
- VARIOUS MATCH DAY DRAW BUYER
- PURCHASER OF FOOD/BEVERAGE FROM KIOSKS
- PURCHASER OF MERCHANDISE/SPORTS GOODS FROM CLUB SHOP
- REGULAR PROGRAMME BUYER

If you ticked all of the boxes thank you for your fantastic support !

If you ticked any of the boxes, again a very big thank you and now that you know what is available and what a difference it can make please show

your support in as many of the above ways as possible.

I am more than happy to talk to anyone about the above so please give me a call on (01782) 655800 for further information.

For our attractive game against the Division One leaders Luton Town, I would today like to welcome as our match sponsors **NATWEST** along with today's match ball sponsors **BRAMELLS OPTIIONS** of Sandbach.

Thank you very much for your valuable support and sponsorship. We hope that you and your guests enjoy the game and your day with us.

Pete Lawton
Marketing Manager

- SHAREHOLDER
- SEASON TICKET HOLDER

WOT'S ON AT THE VALE

Winter / Spring 2005



Saturday 5th Feb

**COCKS ENTRY @
TOMMY CHEADELS**

TICKETS
£2.00

"Play Up Play Up Port Vale"

Friday 11th Feb

**Fantastic B-Gees Tribute
STAYING ALIVE +
COMEDIAN TONY ROSCOE**

TICKETS
£27.50

Friday 18th Feb

QE11

*The closest thing
to the original
Queen, Stunning
Tribute Band*



Thursday 24th Feb

**SPORTMANS
DINNER with
Micky Quinn and
Comedian Mick Walker**

TICKETS
£27.50

Thursday 3rd March

**"LOCAL DERBY
NIGHT"**

TICKETS
£17.50

*Re-live some of our Greatest Victories
over Stoke City with Ex-Players*

Saturday 5th March

**The AMERICAN
DRIFTERS**
top Cabaret Show
with Comedian
Ian Sludge Leese



Thursday 24th March

**MENS RACE NIGHT
ADULT SHOW FOR
THE GUYS!**

TICKETS
£20.00

TICKETS
£12.50

Thursday 31st March

VICE-VERSA (Duo)
A Great Comedy Show
+ Special Chubby Brown
Tribute Act



Thursday 14th April

**LADIES NIGHT!!
ADULT SHOW FOR
THE GIRLS!**

TICKETS
£10.00

TICKETS
£27.50

Saturday 30th April

COUNTERFIT ABBA
Back by Popular
Demand - with
Top Comedian
OLIE SPENCER



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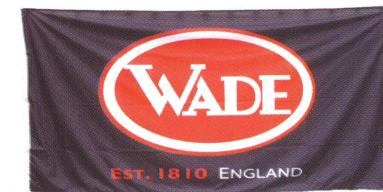
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PORT VALE VOLUNTEER GROUP



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TEXT

VALE PLAYER'S NAME, FOLLOWED BY
YOUR FULLNAME (NO SPACE)
TO

81066

EG: VALE BRAIN JOEBLOGGS

VOTE NOW!
SPOT PRIZES TO BE WON

Jon Brain won our first Player of the Month award

ODEON

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0871 22 44 007
WWW.ODEON.CO.UK **skyactive**

Prizes were won by the following supporters:

Anne Gilston, of Woodseaves, Stafford

Daniel Berrisford, of Bradeley, S-O-T

Colin Lear, of Birches Head, S-O-T



BBC RADIO STOKE

AIRWAVES

IEWS FROM RADIO STOKE'S PHIL BOWERS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/> - World Wide Wonderland

PHIL BOWERS

Cast your mind back just over 12 months. The 14th of February 2004. Port Vale v Oldham Athletic. Nothing remarkable you may think. Another home win, another Steve McPhee goal, just the same as they always were. But that day, a new face appeared in the dugout. That game against Oldham was Martin Foyle's first match in charge of Port Vale, and considering all the financial problems he's had to overcome, is it not fair to say he's done a good job. Critics have levelled accusations at both he and the board over his lack of experience, but has anyone bothered to look at Foyle's record for his first year in charge? If you compare the first 12 months with that of John Rudge and Brian Horton, you'll find a startling fact. Martin Foyle has gained 72 points from 53 games, John Rudge 71 from 50 and Brian Horton 47 from 48. This shows, in a relatively similar amount of time, that Foyle has proved to be more successful than the previous two managers. I know the hard work he does at the club, and the amount of time he spends on his job. Not only from a media perspective, but from a supporters perspective, Port Vale are very lucky to have him. He doesn't deserve some of the criticism he gets, and I can assure you, if you stick with Martin Foyle, he will stick with the club, and reward you tenfold.

PHIL BOWERS
BBC Radio Stoke

BBC RADIO STOKE

104.1, 94.6 FM & 1503 MW

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ON 01782 208008

OR TEXT: 07786 202946

EMAIL: sports.stoke@bbc.co.uk/stoke

WEBSITE: www.bbc.co.uk/stoke



AWAY FROM IT ALL

GERARD AUSTIN LOOKS AT OUR TRIP TO STOCKPORT

EDGELEY PARK STOCKPORT

With talk abounding pre match over history and tradition in Stoke on Trent, of Spittires and heroes, we were all Stockport bound. An afternoon guaranteed to be accompanied by many a modern aircraft flying up above with a flight path to Manchester Airport veering straight over Edgeley Park.

GROUND 4

The powers that be decided in their infinite wisdom to build a great big stand at one end a few years ago, but Edgeley Park is still sadly a sorry sight. Progress is difficult in this part of Cheshire because of the proximity of housing and railways littered around the ground, but they really need a side stand with some desperate urgency. I believe that the away throng had trouble seeing Billy Paynter's wonder goal and its all due to the Vernon Stand's collection of vertically positioned pieces of steel. Still it's only £19 to get in, so what do you expect? A bargain, not!

SEATING 4

The main stand is acceptable, though there are posts there too. The home fans in the double decker at the end must be OK, but as previously stated, those who paid the most money had the worst view. A shallow stand and an uncovered end of blue seats dismay away followers. We know the money is not around for these developments, but they really didn't make the best of it when grants were available.

STEWARDS 8

Attitude was spot on I have to say. The gent I spoke to told me I could go anywhere, so long as I didn't block the fans view. Good enough for me I SAY.

PROGRAMME 8

A good effort by County as they too have shoestring staffing levels. Some good articles well written and plenty of information.

PERFORMANCE 9

It's easy to say that the quality of the opposition sometimes dictate your own team's performance, but that would be hugely unfair to the lads if you did that on this occasion. Vale showed some style in the way they tackled 'bottom of the table' County. On a pitch not conducive to stylish football, Vale performed admirably. Nathan Lowndes hard work finally produced his first goal in Vale colours and it is questionable whether Billy Paynter will hit a better strike than Vale's second on a blustery rained filled afternoon in Cheshire. County huffed and puffed, but without effect and all Marc Bridge-Wilkinson could muster was a booking for a lunge in on Chris Birchall, much to the delight of the Vale throng – delighted about the booking, not the tackle of course. Back to back wins were just what Vale needed.

HOME FANS 7

It is understandable that Edgeley Park has little cheer around at present, but the Home fans had few aspects to encourage them on a miserable afternoon. Congratulations to them though for a lack of animosity to Vale fans. That was commendable.

AWAY FANS 8

A terrific response from Burslem's finest, who must have raided piggy banks everywhere to stump up the £19 to follow their heroes. There was a raucous response too, which the players reacted to. I can testify that that the atmosphere sounded magnificent from pitch level and fans packed into the Vernon Stand, leaving no empty seats.



FORTHCOMING AWAY GAMES COACH DETAILS



OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Saturday 5th March 2005
Boundary Park
Kick Off 3.00pm

OFFICIAL COACH TRAVEL

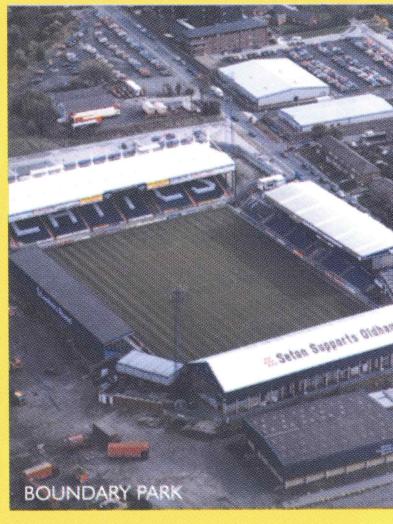
Coaches leave Vale Park at 12.00 noon
ADULTS: £8.00
CONCESSIONS: £6.00

ADMISSION PRICES

ADULTS:	£18.00
CONCESSIONS*:	£9.00
(* Including Student Card Holders)	
U12'S:	£3.00

DIRECTIONS:

Join the M6 northbound at Hanford, then at Junction 21A, join the M62. Turn off the M62 at Junction 20 onto the A627(M) and continue for 3 miles to the second roundabout and turn off for Broadway. The first right turn off Broadway into Hibre Avenue leads to the Car Park.



League 1 Stats

Where, how & when goals scored



Goals scored in last 15 minutes

FOR	76-90	Total	%	AGAINST	76-90	Total	%
Chesterfield	15	42	35.7	Sheff Wed	15	40	37.5
Stockport	12	38	31.6	Hull	13	41	31.7
Bradford	14	45	31.1	Barnsley	14	46	30.4
Hartlepool	15	56	26.8	Bradford	14	48	29.2
MK Dons	10	41	24.4	Bournemouth	12	43	27.9
Colchester	11	46	23.9	MK Dons	15	58	25.9
Bristol City	14	59	23.7	Tranmere	10	39	25.6
Blackpool	9	39	23.1	Torquay	13	57	22.8
Doncaster	10	45	22.2	Blackpool	9	43	20.9

Volleys

Long range goals

Scored from volleyed shots		Scored from outside 18 yard box			
Player	Club	Goals	Player	Club	Goals
Lita	Bristol City	4	Elliott	Hull	4
Wilshire	Bristol City	4	Lita	Bristol City	4
Barmby	Hull	3	Eyres	Oldham	3
Beckett	Stockport	3	Green	Hull	3
Green	Hull	3	Hall	Tranmere	3
Hayter	Bournemouth	3	Hume	Tranmere	3
Hume	Tranmere	3	Keith	Colchester	3
Leitao	Walsall	3	Nicholls	Luton	3
O'Connor	Bournemouth	3	Ryan	Doncaster	3
Rankin	Brentford	3	Shuker	Barnsley	3
Ugarte	Wrexham	3	Smith	Swindon	3
Windass	Bradford	3	Stock	Bournemouth	3
Wrack	Walsall	3	Wilkshire	Bristol City	3

Goalkeeping and goalscoring

Best goalkeeping ratio

Colchester United



Worst goalkeeping ratio

Wrexham



Best strike ratio

Hull City



Worst strike ratio

Blackpool



Is it the Premiership or Division 1...? Or is it the Championship...? And what's Division 2 now...?
The leagues have changed again...check out how your team were doing the last time it happened...

www.soccer-stats.com

ALL the stats since 1992

Margins of victory & defeat

WON by	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4+ gls	LOST by	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4+ gls
Luton	14	2	3	2	Stockport	11	5	4	2
Hull	10	6	2	1	Port Vale	13	2	2	2
Hartlepool	11	4	1	2	Oldham	9	6	0	2
Tranmere	8	6	2	1	MK Dons	7	4	4	1
Sheff Wed	6	5	3	2	Peterborough	12	2	0	1
Bournemouth	9	2	1	3	Blackpool	8	5	0	1
Brentford	12	2	1	0	Huddersfield	9	4	1	0
Swindon	10	2	3	0	Torquay	7	2	4	1
Bradford	10	2	1	0	Colchester	10	3	0	0
Bristol City	4	4	2	3	Walsall	7	5	0	1
Doncaster	5	6	1	1	Wrexham	6	1	2	4
Chesterfield	10	1	0	1	Bradford	7	3	1	1
Port Vale	6	5	1	0	Chesterfield	7	3	2	0
Walsall	9	1	1	0	Swindon	10	1	1	0
Blackpool	6	1	2	1	Barnsley	9	1	0	1
Colchester	3	3	3	1	Brentford	3	4	4	0
Oldham	6	2	2	0	Bournemouth	6	4	0	0
Doncaster	5	2	1	2	Doncaster	5	2	1	2
Barnsley	4	4	0	1	Hartlepool	5	2	3	0
Wrexham	7	2	0	0	Bristol City	6	0	3	0
Torquay	5	3	0	0	Hull	4	3	0	1
MK Dons	3	3	2	0	Sheff Wed	4	3	1	0
Peterborough	3	0	2	1	Tranmere	3	1	0	2
Stockport	3	1	0	1	Luton	1	2	1	0

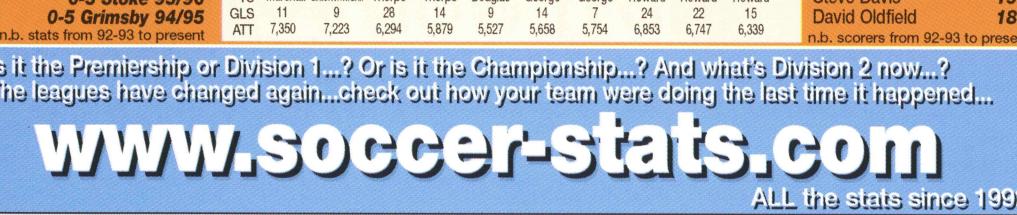
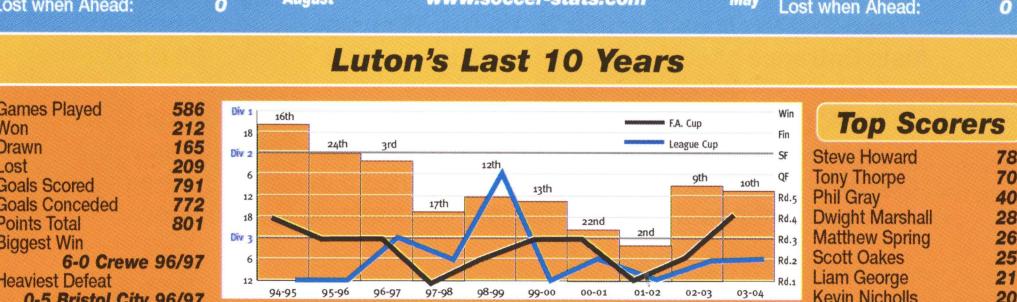
Football League 1 records

Highest Gate	28,701	Sheff Wed v Hull
Lowest Gate	2,384	Torquay v Wrexham
Aggregate Attendance	3,058,715	
Average Attendance	7,628	
Biggest Home Win	Bournemouth 5-0 Doncaster, Bristol City 5-0 Stockport, Colchester 5-0 Walsall, Hartlepool 5-0 MK Dons, Hull 6-1 Tranmere	
Biggest Away Win	Wrexham 1-5 Hartlepool, Doncaster 0-4 Sheff Wed, Blackpool 0-4 Stockport, Wrexham 1-5 Tranmere	
Biggest Aggregate Score	Tranmere 4-5 Bradford	
Total Games	401	
Home Wins	185 (46%)	
Away Wins	111 (28%)	
Draws	105 (26%)	
1-1 Draws	46 (12%)	
0-0 Draws	25 (6%)	
Consecutive Wins	Hull 8	
Games Unbeaten	Luton 14	
Consecutive Defeats	Stockport 6	
Games with no win	MK Dons, Peterborough 10	
Cards	Yellow 1109 Red 62	

Comebacks & throwaways

WON from	-3	-2	-1	Total	LOST from	+3	+2	+1	Total
Walsall	0	2	4	6	Oldham	0	0	5	5
Hartlepool	0	0	6	6	Huddersfield	0	1	3	4
Hull	0	0	5	5	Barnsley	0	0	4	4
Port Vale	0	0	5	5	Hartlepool	0	0	4	4
Brentford	0	0	4	4	Stockport	0	0	4	4
DRAWN from	-3	-2	-1	Total	DRAWN from	+3	+2	+1	Total
Bristol City	0	2	4	6	Barnsley	1	1	6	8
Torquay	0	2	4	6	George	1	1	6	8
Chesterfield	0	1	5	6	Howard	24	22	15	63
MK Dons	0	1	5	6	Howard	24	22	15	63
Wrexham	0	1	5	6	Howard	24	22	15	63
Tranmere	0	0	7	7	Howard	24	22	15	63
Sheff Wed	0	0	6	6	Howard	24	22	15	63

Port Vale v Luton



Is it the Premiership or Division 1...? Or is it the Championship...? And what's Division 2 now...?<



YOUR CHANCE TO BUY SHARES IN THE VALE

As was announced recently, the club are re-launching the sale of shares in Port Vale Football Club and are making it easy for supporters to own shares in the club.

If you are interested in buying shares in your favourite club, you can do so by paying as little as £5 per month, which should make it affordable to everybody.

All you have to do is to set up a Banker's Order (Standing Order) but NOT a Direct Debit - for a share account with the Co-operative Bank at 2, Town Road, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, ST1 2JE.

The bank details are as follows:

Account No: 70787311

Sort Code: 089009

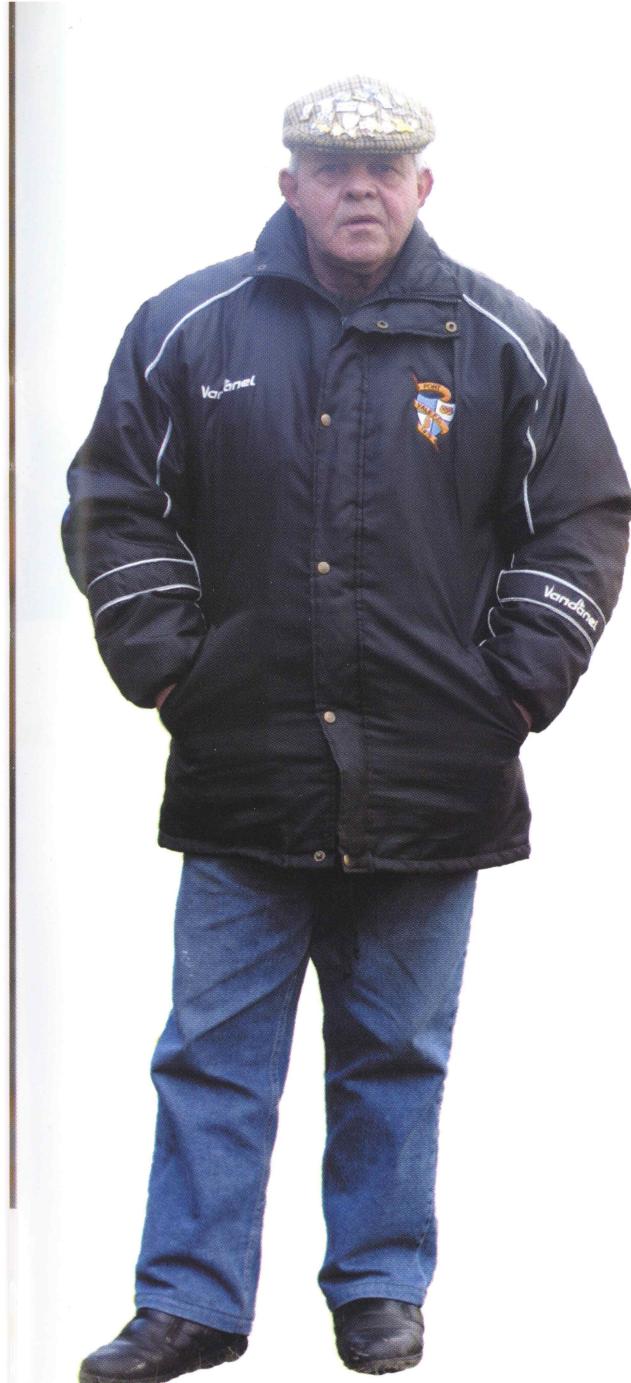
Account Name: Port Vale (Valiant 2001) Football Club - Share Account

You can arrange to pay in anything from as little as £5 per month, and, when your total reaches £100, you will be issued with a share allocation letter.

Make sure you get a copy of the Banker's Order, because we will need that to allocate money to shares. Then take the copy to the Main Entrance at the club and hand it in, marked 'FAO Mr Bill Bratt.'

Bill said: "It is imperative for the future of the club that the majority of shares are sold, so please feel free to purchase as many as you can afford. We hope that by introducing the £5 per month scheme every one of our eligible supporters can become shareholders."

**AND IT WON'T
LEAVE YOU SKINT!**



FANS STORY

TODAY WE LOOK AT GRAHAM LAWTON

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Graham's family are Vale through and through and Graham has many happy memories of following the club back to the days in Hanley.

Not all memories are happy though, as Graham's Uncle Cain died on the Bycars End during a match against Exeter City some 20 years ago, but the good family memories shine through.

Graham's brother still travels to home matches from Telford with his two grandchildren, while Graham's grandchildren, who live in Leeds, always want to go to the Vale shop when they visit.

One of Graham's best memories is the whole family going to Wembley for the 1993 Autoglass Trophy final. Graham's dad lost his job at Enoch Wedgwood when someone else clocked him off so that he could get to a match and Graham's wife got into trouble at school for missing school to watch an FA Cup tie with Halifax in the 1953/54 season.

Graham's best matches have been any match against Wrexham, when Tommy McLaren and Arfon Griffiths were in opposition, he also lists Wrexham as his favourite away ground.

He remembers the days when you could watch from a pub in the corner of the ground and also an occasion when John James scored a penalty and swung round the goalpost in celebration.



Not surprisingly, Tommy McLaren is amongst Graham's favourite players, along with Colin Tatt who 'always got a good foot in', the classy Steve Brooker, and now Mickey Cummins (left), whose shirt he has at home having recently won the Shirt Off The Back Draw.

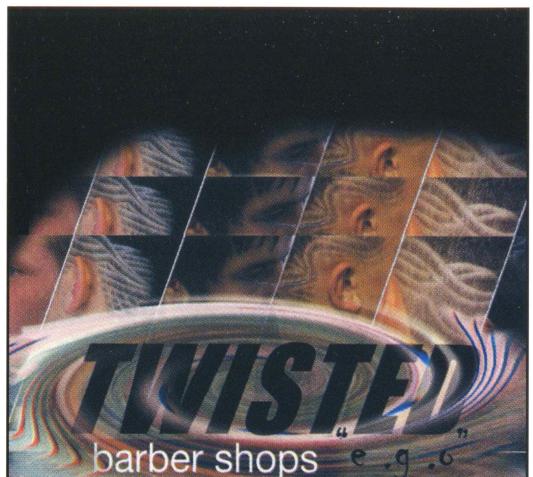
Graham has a tea chest of old programmes at home, many from the 50's, to rekindle memories, like the time the match was stopped because Brian Horton had lost a contact lens and when the ground flooded due to the drains getting blocked.

He also remembers a match when fans were going home after the game across the field that is now Dimensions, when four horses stampeded and everyone scattered as fast as possible.

As to the future, Graham believes that the team deserves the full backing of the fans and we should not get on the players' backs, as they are doing well given the circumstances. What the club needs is an injection of cash.

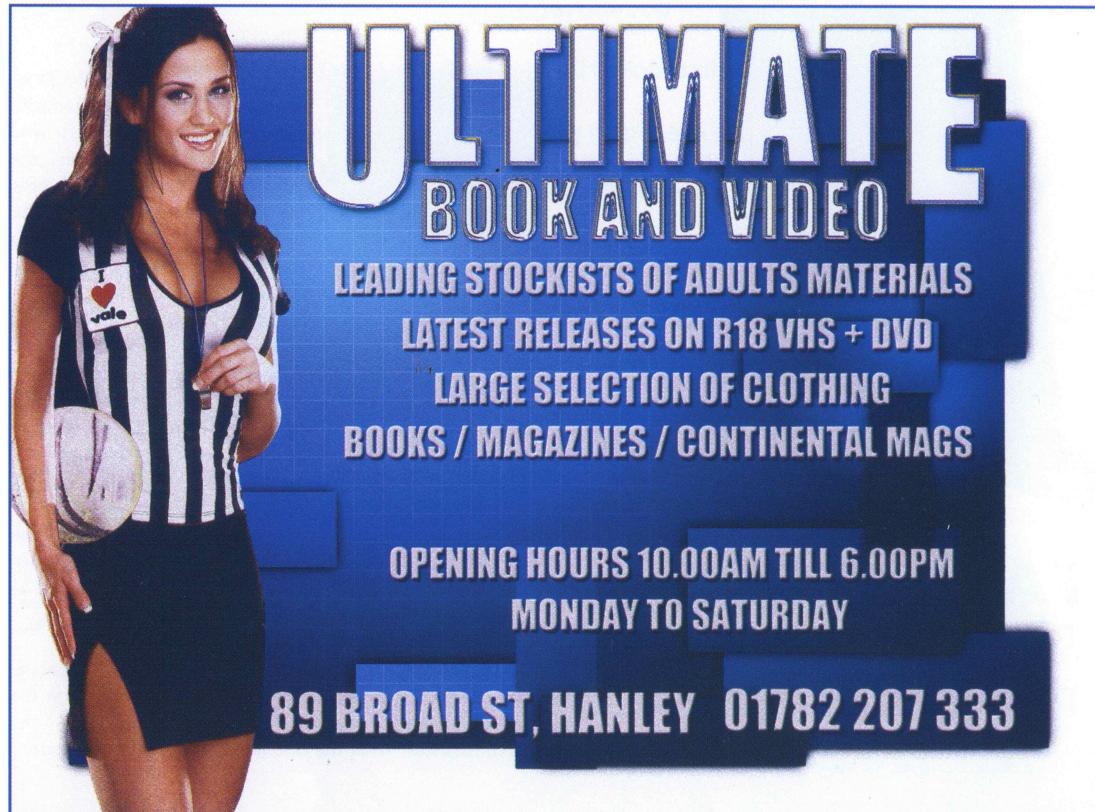
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THANK YOU TO
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MAN OF
THE MATCH
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82 Hamil Road - Burslem - Stoke on Trent.
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or Phone: 07867 771 182
Phone 01782 832182




remember the game as his only ever senior appearance.

There are only a handful of people in the whole world who were alive the last time that a Vale team won in Luton. It was back in November 1898 when a solitary Dick Evans goal won a Second Division game at Luton's Dunstable Road ground, meaning of course that we have never won at Kenilworth Road.

We lost there 1-0 a couple of months ago to an 84th minute strike from Ahmet Brkovic and our previous visit also ended in defeat. That was in September 2003 when goals from McSheffrey and Foley made it 2-0 in the Hatters' favour. Also in that game our central defender Liam Burns was carried off with a bad injury after careering into the away seats. Liam is currently with Forest Green Rovers, his fourth club of the season, after spells with Bristol Rovers, Shrewsbury and Kidderminster Harriers.

The 1995/96 season was strange as regards Vale/Luton clashes, because through circumstances, we never actually met until the April, two of the last four games of the season. At Vale Park a Lee Mills goal gave us a 1-0 win, and he was also on the mark at Luton, along with Andy Porter, but Vale lost 3-2. The Luton goals came from Thorpe (2) and one from Bulgarian international Bontcho Guentchev.

Our heaviest defeat at the hands of the Hatters was in May 1966. It was FA Cup Final day, but Luton opted for a Saturday evening kick-off so that people could watch Everton beat Sheffield Wednesday. It wasn't to Vale's liking though, as we were 5-0 down after 25 minutes, but at least that was the way it stayed. General Manager Sir Stanley Matthews must have known what was coming, because he had gone to South Africa on a six week break.

TOTAL RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home Lge	13	8	2	3	16	7
Away Lge	14	1	8	8	10	34
Home Cups	2	0	1	1	1	2
Away Cups	1	0	0	1	2	4
Total	30	9	8	13	29	47

HAVE WE MET BEFORE

A LOOK BACK AT PAST ENCOUNTERS WITH TODAY'S VISITORS

It was March 2004 when Luton were last here and on that occasion we kept up our play-off hopes with a 1-0 win, courtesy of a Micky Cummins goal. Their last victory here was on the occasion before that, in Feb 2003, when a goal from Thorpe and a Nicholls penalty put them into a 2-0 lead. Mark Boyd's first goal for us near the end came too late and we lost 2-1.

When the two teams met here in November 2000, it was a relegation battle, as Vale were 20th and Luton next to bottom in 23rd place in Division Two. Vale won 3-0 to give themselves a bit of breathing space, with goals from Michael Walsh, Tony Naylor and Jeff Minton.

That equalled our best margin of victory against the Hatters, the other game being a 4-1 win back in March 1899. In those days Vale played their home games at Cobridge, on the site of what is now covered by a Mercedes garage, and a Ted McDonald hat-trick, plus a goal from Danny Simpson did the damage.

The two teams met in the Third Round of the FA Cup back in the 1973/74 season and amongst the 8,000 crowd at Vale Park was the then Luton

director Eric Morecambe, neither the first nor the last comedian to sit in our director's box. Vale were in the Third Division in those days and they gave Second Division Luton a hell of a game, taking the lead through centre-half Dave Harris.

Luton equalised with a Jimmy Ryan goal in the 86th minute to take the tie back to Kenilworth Road. There was a national energy crisis at the time, and most people were working a three-day week, with things such as the use of floodlights being banned. This meant that the replay took place on a Wednesday afternoon.

Vale again raised their game, and led 2-1 with ten minutes to go thanks to goals from Bob Mountford and John Woodward. Luton equalised though, and as a third game beckoned (no penalty shoot-outs then) the Hatters scored twice more in the final four minutes. The Luton scorers were Ryan again, Anderson (2) and one from former European Cup winner Johnny Aston.

The Vale team that day included current chief scout Ray Williams, former manager Brian Horton and a young lad called Andy Carr, who will

A photograph of two people relaxing in deck chairs on a beach, with the ocean and a cloudy sky in the background. The image serves as the main visual for the advertisement.

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Clough Street Sunday Market

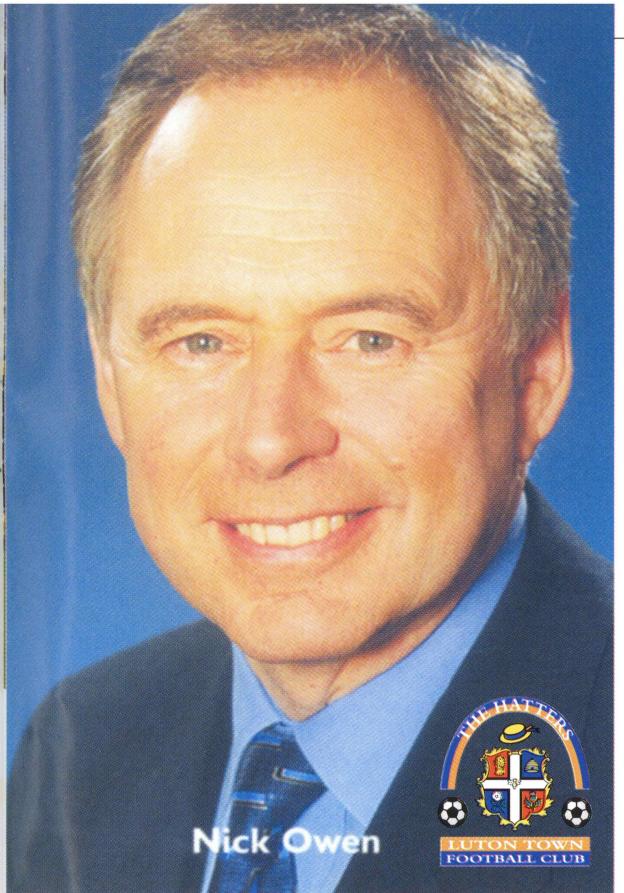
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STUART CLARKSON

presenter, teaming up with Anne Diamond for the first time. As early morning television was introduced, he played his part by taking on the role of sports presenter on TV AM. But within eight weeks he renewed his partnership with Anne Diamond as a general presenter to become one of the mainstays of Breakfast TV. The pair presented the show until late 1986 when Nick returned to a sporting role, mainly as the presenter of the ITV flagship programme 'Midweek Sports Special'. And his move to the BBC was again to team up with Miss Diamond to co-present 'Good Morning', which they did between 1992 and 1996. His sporting work has seen him travel extensively but he always looks forward to returning to the home of his favourite football team. There was one occasion though when despite having his name in lights, he could not get in the ground.

" Whenever I walk into Kenilworth Road I always experience a feeling of sheer pleasure and anticipation. Ten years ago I also was very privileged to have one of the Lounges at Luton Town named after me. Imagine my surprise when twelve months ago I arrived at the Lounge door only to find I was refused entry! The steward on the door clearly did not know who I was and told me that the lounge was full. I soon realised that he was so serious that not even the Pope would have got in. As I walked away I looked up at my name above the door in big block capitals and I remember thinking I have commentated all over the world including extensively at the 1990 World Cup and I can't get in to see my own team. To everyone there who knew me it must have been very funny and I am pleased to say that I found it funny too."

For an extensive read about the Nick Owen devotion to Luton Town FC, you are encouraged to read his recently released autobiography "In the Time of Nick". Before you do here is a precis. Other than the various promotions, his best day as a Town fan was in April 1988 when the Hatters beat the mighty Arsenal in the League Cup final at Wembley. What made it particularly exciting was how close the game was and the turning point of Andy Dibble's penalty save from which the team went on to overturn a 1-2 scoreline. Not surprisingly his two favourite players, Ricky Hill and Mick Harford were from the same era. With the wealth of talent that has passed through Kenilworth Road over the years including the legendary Malcolm McDonald, why does he single out those two? And given the superb run by the team so far this campaign how does this seasoned supporter rate the club's chances of converting it into a promotion season?

FAMOUS FANS

STUART CLARKSON LOOKS AT FAMOUS CELEBRITIES AND THE CLUB THEY SUPPORT

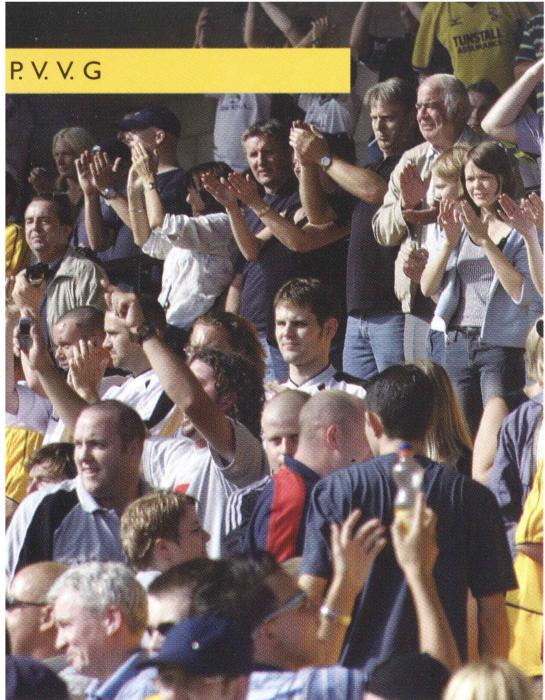
NICK OWEN

LUTON TOWN FAN

Nick Owen is looking forward to making the short journey to Vale Park from this afternoon's game, a short journey as due to his live television role in the heart of Birmingham, he is now based in the Midlands. And with Town on the crest of a wave he is excited about the prospect of another possible step towards promotion. Nick is probably best known as one of the pioneer presenters of Breakfast Television but he is also a devoted Luton Town supporter. For the last eight years he has been one of the main presenters of the Birmingham based 'Midlands Today' TV programme. He is very content in this role and sees himself as "an adopted Brummie". Born in Hertfordshire, thirteen miles from Luton he has supported the Hatters for 46 years and remembers his first game clearly, being taken by his father to see his team draw 1-1 with Leeds United in September 1958. His allegiance to the club has shown unbroken support even through his University years and the demands of working in television. Having achieved a B.A.(honours) in Classics at Leeds University, he opted for a career in Journalism beginning with a job on the Doncaster Evening Post. After a stint on the Birmingham Post and moving into Radio with the forerunner of BBC Radio Birmingham, he joined ATV Network's sports department, covering the 1982 World Cup. When Central won the Independent Television franchise in the Midlands, Nick became a general

" Ricky Hill had sublime skill and superb vision whilst Mick Harford was your all action traditional centre forward. Both did play briefly for England and you can't help thinking that if they had played for one of the more fashionable clubs then they might have played even more. The start to this season was very exciting, to have amassed so many points so early on and despite losing Mick Harford a few months ago and drawing quite a few games recently, I am quietly confident. Mick was doing a great job as coach so it is credit to Mike Newell and Brian Stein that they have kept that momentum going so well. So we need to get behind them and I will be there with some of the family, my sons Tim and Chris, other son Andy would have been except he is in South Africa! That's just leaves my wife Jill who deserves the space at home and daughter Jenny who used to come but is now 16 and football is suddenly not the priority it once was."

Nick Owen's autobiography "In the Time of Nick" is now available published by Brewin Books.



OPEN DAY

The football club intends to host an open day on Sunday 17 July from 12pm to 4pm. It is planned that the Hamil Road Car Park will house events such as a fayre, 'splat the rat', penalty shoot-outs, tombola etc. The fire, police and ambulance services will also be invited amongst others.

A memorabilia fayre will be held in the Hamil Road concourse where programs, trade cards, autographs, badges and other football collectables will be available.

It is planned that various events will take place inside the ground involving the football team and Port Vale in the community.

The popular behind the scene tours of the Lorne Street Stand from the treatment room to the director's lounge will again take place.

Food and drink will be available all day in the Hamil Road End. Tommy Cheadle's will also be open along with the director's restaurant.

To stage such an event the club will need a great deal of help. If you feel you could spare a few hours please volunteer. The forms for volunteering are available at the rear of the club shop. All help will be greatly appreciated.

P. V. V. G

THE PORT VALE
VOLUNTEERS GROUP



COVER THE PITCH THE PORT VALE SUPPORTERS TRUST (VaST)

£1000 £500 £250 £100

£250 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100 £100

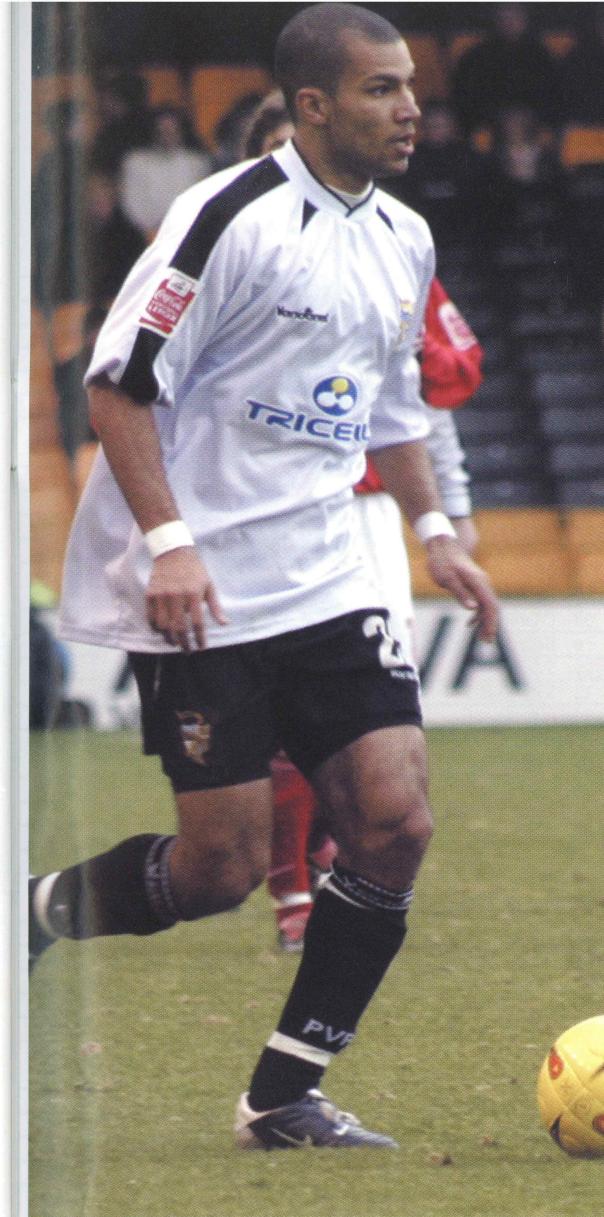
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£100 £100

TOTAL RAISED SO FAR

£2870

THE FANS WILL DECIDE HOW THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT



TOM HOLDCROFT

I'm not suggesting that fans should offer unconditional support and backing regardless of the performances that they have paid to watch (I was in the Red Lion by the time the second half kicked off in the home game against Blackpool this season), but surely there are better ways to vent frustration than this irritating farmyard noise.

Booing does not help the players – Confidence is vital to players in football and this undermines it immensely. In this respect, it is better for a supporter to leave than sit and make barbaric noises.

The treatment of Wayne Rooney by sections of the Everton support was another example of 'great intelligence' from a selection of football fans.

'Rooney is a complete greedy little Judas who was single handedly responsible for leaving Everton against the will of the club.' What a load of rubbish!

Everton did not have to accept the bid from Manchester United and in doing so they declared their willingness to sell the young prodigy.

Rooney had two years remaining on his contract and, even at the end of that, they would be entitled to a fee for him, as he would still be under the age of 23. Everton were, therefore under no obligation to sell – they chose to.

So what did Wayne Rooney do to make him public enemy number 1 at Goodison Park? He raised the profile of the club, made them over £20 million and gave 110% every time he pulled on the Everton shirt.

What does he get in return? Abuse, threats and missiles – what an absolute disgrace! I would like to ask all these Everton supporters if they would accept a job at a rival firm if they offered approximately three times the money? I know that I would!

Also, from a career point of view, as Rooney is one of the greatest talents to come out of the English game in recent years, is he not entitled to join a club where he has a realistic chance of winning major trophies? That club is not Everton and on the form of their disgraceful behavior towards Rooney, nor do Everton fans deserve it to be.

If anyone disagrees or would like to comment on the issues raised on this page please feel free to e-mail me on tnholdcroft@yahoo.co.uk and I will refer to your comments in future articles.

Up the Vale!
Tom

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH

TOM'S GENERAL VIEW OF FOOTBALL

What is it about football certain football fans that makes them feel the need to make cow noises when things aren't going well?

Everyone loves an intelligent comment from those who know best about football and "boooooooooooooo!" must be right up there with the best of them.



FIXTURES & STATS

COCA COLA LEAGUE ONE & CUP FIXTURES & RESULTS '04/05



	Home			Away			P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	-/+ Pts
	1	2	3	1	2	3												
LUTON	34	12	4	1	31	10	9	5	3	28	22	27	72					
Hull	33	12	3	1	32	12	7	3	7	28	29	19	63					
Tranmere	33	11	4	2	33	16	6	6	4	22	23	16	61					
Sheff Wed	34	8	4	5	24	19	8	6	3	36	21	20	58					
Hartlepool	32	13	2	1	38	17	5	2	9	18	26	13	58					
Bournemouth	33	9	5	2	35	17	6	3	8	23	26	15	53					
Swindon	34	10	3	4	32	21	5	4	8	23	26	8	52					
Bristol City	34	7	5	5	36	20	6	7	4	23	23	16	51					
Doncaster	34	9	6	2	27	14	4	5	8	18	28	3	50					
Brentford	31	12	1	3	25	15	3	4	8	12	26	-4	50					
Bradford	34	5	6	6	26	27	8	3	6	19	21	-3	48					
Chesterfield	34	7	6	4	24	19	5	4	8	18	26	-3	46					
Walsall	34	9	5	3	31	23	2	5	10	16	32	-8	43					
Huddersfield	34	7	5	5	25	21	4	4	9	26	32	-2	42					
Barnsley	34	5	7	5	25	22	4	7	6	22	24	1	41					
Colchester	33	6	3	8	22	19	4	7	5	24	20	7	40					
Blackpool	32	5	5	6	20	23	5	3	8	19	20	-4	38					
PORT VALE	33	8	1	7	21	20	4	1	12	13	26	-12	38					
Oldham	33	7	3	6	32	26	3	3	11	13	32	-13	36					
Torquay	34	5	4	8	20	26	3	8	6	21	31	-16	36					
MK Dons	34	6	7	4	25	21	2	3	12	16	37	-17	34					
Wrexham	34	5	7	5	22	30	4	5	8	20	31	-19	29					
Peterborough	33	5	5	7	23	20	1	4	11	15	29	-11	27					
Stockport	34	2	4	11	20	33	3	3	11	18	38	-33	22					



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.

KEY:

STARTED THE GAME	BOOKED
PLAYING SUB	SENT OFF
NON PLAYING SUB	SUBBED
	GOALS SCORED

KICK OFF/SCORE

ATT.

1	Mark GOODLAD	1	George PILKINGTON	1	Craig JAMES	1	Danny SONNER	1	Michael WALSH	1	Sam COLLINS	1	Lee MATTHEWS	1	Nathan LOWNDES	1	Billy PAYNTER	1	Levi REID
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SCORECAST

A COMPETITION FOR PREDICTING THE RESULT OF 4 GAMES EACH WEEK

Before each home game, we will ask a representative from each of the following groups for their scorecast on a selection of games to be played on the same day. Once we get the results of the chosen games, we will award points, according to how successful they have been.

POINTS WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:
CORRECT RESULT (home, draw, away) 2 points.

CORRECT SCORE 4 points for each team

For example, you forecast Brighton 1 Plymouth 2 and the game finishes Brighton 1 Plymouth 3

You are awarded 2 points for a correct result (a Plymouth win) and an additional 4 points for getting Brighton's score correct.

Total points from that game 6 out of a possible 10

We have included a space for you to pit your wits against the so called 'experts' - see if you can do better!

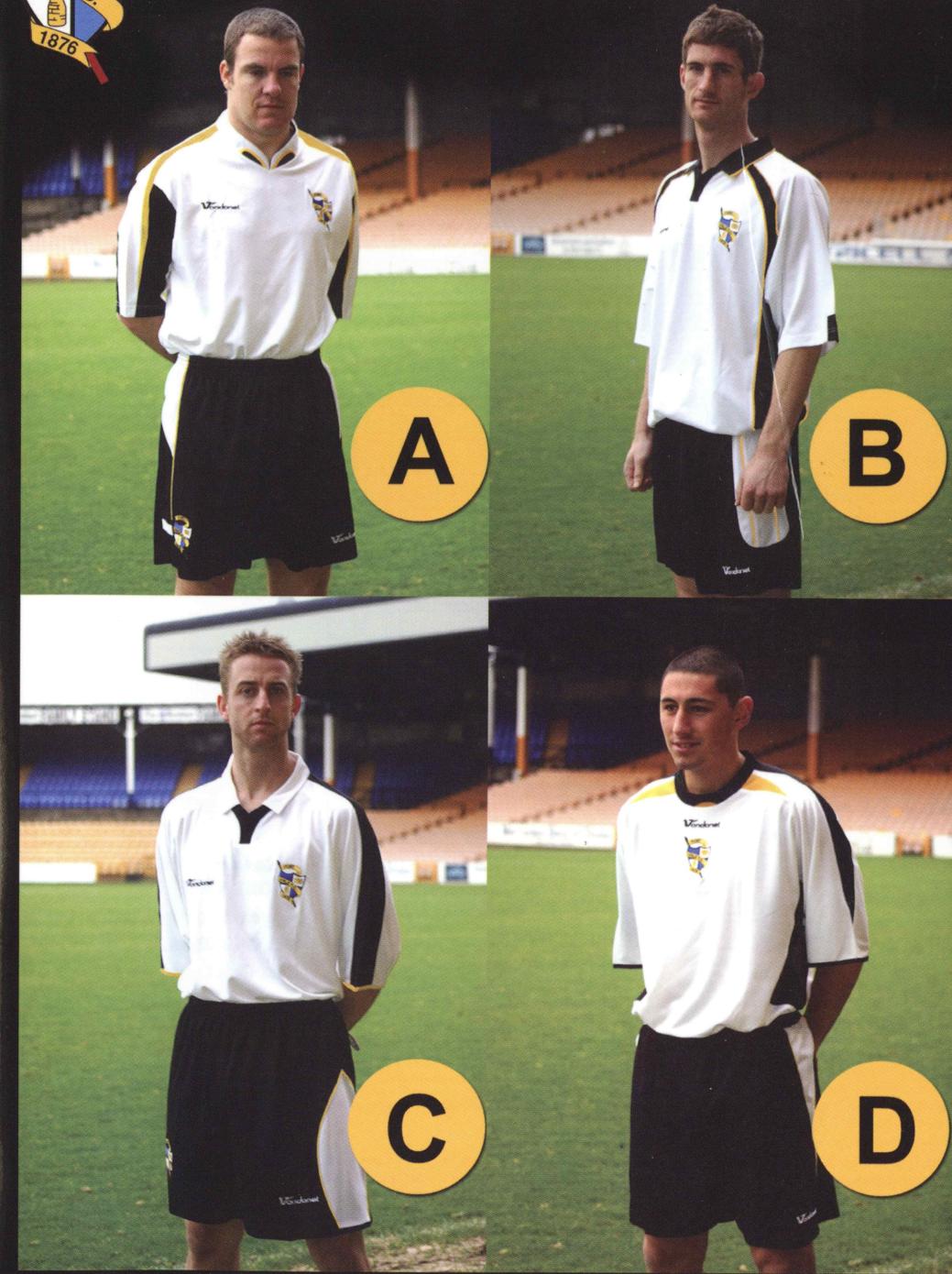
Team	Pts
Media	220
Board	210
Management	206
Players	192
Staff	190
Supporters	188

■ Simon Eldershaw heads home the first goal of his career against Huddersfield on Boxing Day

Games	Vale Management	Club Staff	Vale Players	Vale Board	Local Media	Vale Supporters	YOUR FORECAST
Aston Villa v Everton	1-1	2-1	1-0	2-0	0-2	2-0	
Leeds v West Ham	0-1	1-1	1-2	1-0	1-2	2-1	
Walsall v Bradford	1-1	1-2	0-0	2-1	1-0	1-1	
Swansea v Scunthorpe	0-2	1-2	1-1	0-1	1-2	2-2	

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEXT SEASON'S HOME KIT



To vote, either call in or telephone the Club Shop or go to the Official Website (www.port-vale.co.uk)
Closing date: Monday 28th February (10:00 am)

The Club Shop is open Monday to Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm Telephone: 01782 833545



PRIDE, PASSION, BELIEF

TEAM CHECK

TODAY'S LINEUP AGAINST LUTON TOWN



PORT VALE

MANAGER: MARTIN FOYLE

		Pld	Goal
1	Mark GOODLAD		
2	George PILKINGTON		
3	Craig JAMES		
4	Danny SONNER		
5	Michael WALSH		
6	Sam COLLINS		
7	Lee MATTHEWS		
8	Michael CUMMINS		
9	Nathan LOWNDES		
10	Billy PAYNTER		
11	Jeff SMITH		
12	Levi REID		
13	Ryan BROWN		
14	Ian ARMSTRONG		
15	Steve ROWLAND		
16	Chris BIRGHALL		
17	Simon ELDERSHAW		
18	Robin HULBERT		
19	Dave HIBBERT		
20	George ABBEY		
21	Joe ANYON		
22	Jonny BRAIN		
23	Christian HANSON		
24	Daniel HOLMES		
25	Tommy WIDDINGTON		
26	Andy PORTER		

STATS

ON THE HATTERS



Former Hatters 'keeper Milija Aleksic, nicknamed 'Elastic' for obvious reasons, was rejected as a youngster by Sir Stanley Matthews, when he was in charge at Vale Park, but Aleksic, who played for Stafford Rangers when they beat Barrow in the 1972 FA Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium, went on to forge a successful league career for himself.

Who, amongst older supporters, can forget the sight of Luton manager, David Pleat, running on the Maine Road pitch after Town had managed to avoid the drop from the top flight with a 1-0 win over Manchester City in their final league game of the season? He ran straight to former Vale midfielder, Brian Horton, who later returned to Vale Park as a manager himself of course.

What a season it has been for the Hatters so far. Currently seven points clear at the top of the table, Luton have lost just the one game in 2005 and started the season with six straight league



LUTON TOWN

MANAGER: MIKE NEWELL

		Pld	Goal
1	Marlon BERESFORD		
2	Kevin FOLEY		
3	Alan NEILSON		
4	Russell PERRETT		
5	Paul UNDERWOOD		
6	Paul HUGHES		
7	Kevin NICHOLLS		
8	Rowan VINE		
9	Steve ROBINSON		
10	Chris COYNE		
11	Michael LEARY		
12	Steven O'LEARY		
13	Enoch SHOWUNMI		
14	Lee MANSELL		
15	Ahmet BRKOVIC		
16	Steve HOWARD		
17	Curtis DAVIES		
18	Keith KEANE		
19	David BAYLISS		
20	Ian HILLIER		
21	Sol DAVIS		
22	Dino SEREMET		
23	Peter HOLMES		
24	Calvin ANDREW		
25	Dean BRILL		
26	David DEENNEY		
27	Stuart SINCLAIR		
28	Leon BARNETT		
29	Max HOWELL		
30	Rob BECKWITH		

wins and up to now, have only lost four league games all season.

Brentford have been a bee in the Hatters bonnet, if you'll excuse the pun, and were the last team to beat them, when they recorded a 2-0 FA Cup win at Kenilworth Road in January. The Bees are also the last team to beat them in the league, with a 2-0 victory at Griffin Park in December. Hatters fans will be hoping they wrap up promotion before their final home game of the season . . . when Brentford are the visitors.

Perhaps one of Luton Town's most famous fans was the late great, Eric Morecambe, who often expressed his love for the club while on TV with his stage partner, Ernie Wise. Born John Eric Bartholomew, Eric sadly passed away in 1984, but will always be remembered as 'the one with glasses' in one of the best comedy acts this country has ever produced.

FACTS

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: A. M. Penn

ASSISTANT: I. A. Evans

ASSISTANT: A. R. Hendley

4TH OFFICIAL: K. Evans

LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES



Bournemouth v Tranmere Rovers

Barnsley v Torquay

Brentford v Sheffield Wed.

Bristol City v Blackpool

Chesterfield v Peterborough Utd

Doncaster Rovers v Swindon Town

Huddersfield Town v Oldham Athletic

Hull City v Colchester United

PORT VALE v LUTON TOWN

Stockport County v Hartlepool United

Walsall v Bradford City

Wrexham v MK Dons

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES



OLDHAM ATHLETIC

v PORT VALE

Saturday 5th March 2005

Kick Off 3.00pm Boundary Park

Coca Cola League One



PORT VALE

v COLCHESTER UNITED

Tuesday 8th March 2005

Kick Off 7.45pm Vale Park

Coca Cola League One



MK DONS

v PORT VALE

Saturday 12th March 2005

Kick Off 3.00pm

The National Hockey Stadium

Coca Cola League One