



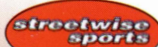
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Rovers v Luton Town

Saturday, 7th May 2005
 Kick-off 3pm

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Doncaster Rovers Football Club
Earth Stadium, Belle Vue, Doncaster DN4 5HT

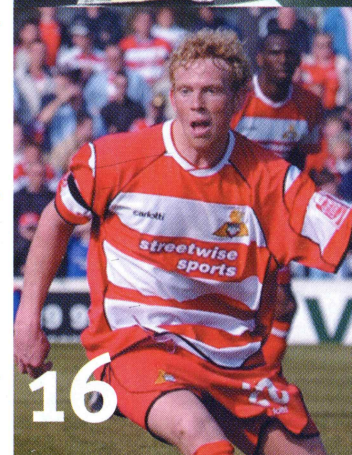
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Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Cup Winners: 2000/01, 2001/02
Yorkshire Electricity Cup Winners: 1995/96
Midland Counties League Champions: 1896/97, 1898/99
Conference Trophy Winners: 1998/99, 1999/2000
Conference Promotion Final Winners: 2002/03

Dave Penney's notes
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Dave Penney...

Good afternoon, and welcome to Mike Newell, Jon Bowden and all players, staff, officials and supporters of Luton Town to our final match of the 2004/05 season.

First of all, I must give my congratulations to Mike and his players on their achievement this year, they have been the most consistent and obviously are the best team this year. They have a good season from day one. Well done!

I am delighted the way we have handled the Coca Cola League One this season after being promoted as Division Three champions last summer, and I hope that our experiences will stand us in good stead for next season. With the additions of some new players during the

summer, I hope that we can push on to do even better next year. As you are aware, we are making some changes to the backroom staff as well as the playing staff. Mickey Lewis will be coming in next season as First Team coach. Paul Wilson will be joining us as Youth Team Coach, bringing with him the experience of bringing young local players through. I must give a big thank you to Eric Winstanley who has done a great job with the youth squad this year and we wish him all the best for the future.

I must give my thanks to you, the supporters, for your support this season. You have been a different class once again, particularly for the away games, where you have consistently turned up in superb numbers to give us your backing. It is really appreciated by me and the

players – and we look forward to seeing you all again next season, both here and on our journeys around the country. The rally at the Dome just showed how much this club has progressed in the last three years. To have 2,400 attending the rally, when we didn't even get that many to many of our matches in the Nationwide Conference, highlights how far things have come. Doncaster Rovers is becoming a proper football club on and off the pitch. When we get the new stadium, everything will be in place!

So finally, for the last time this season, have a safe journey home, and keep cheering on the lads to victory!

Dave Penney

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game - tune in to

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Brewsters



Warren Hanson and members of the North Doncaster branch of the Supporters Club present John Ryan with a cheque for £1,500 prior to the Hartlepool United game.

From the boardroom

Good afternoon to everyone for the last match of the season.

Before I go any further, I must congratulate Mike Newell and his Luton team, not only on their marvellous achievement in winning the League One championship, but by winning by such a huge margin. And also, I am sure, they will be hoping to achieve the 100 points mark this afternoon, although Steve Foster and his team will no doubt have something to say about that! I must say Luton have been the best team we have met by some distance, so they do deserve to be the number one team in Coca Cola League One this year. When you think of the trials and tribulations Luton have had in the past, I must take my hat off to Mike Newell and his team.

I sincerely hope we can emulate them next season, and I know Dave Penney is going all out to do this. I am sure Luton will acquit themselves well in the Championship, and I only hope we meet them again soon at that level. For ourselves, it has been a very encouraging season in League One, and if we can hang on to our current position in the table then it

will be our best since 1958.

I doubt if any club has progressed so much as we have in the last three years. We aim to keep that progression going next season as we will be going for another promotion.

While Luton were undoubtedly the best side in this division, I feel we have played some of the best football both home and away, particularly looking at the way we literally took apart Ipswich in the Carling Cup, Hull City and Hartlepool United, home and away, and Huddersfield Town at home. We have not had much luck this season, and given a modicum of that we would have made the play-offs.

We have not been given a penalty for a long time, our luck was out last Saturday when a blatant foul on Jamie Coppinger was ignored by the referee. I feel our luck will change and let's hope it's next season.

The team gave a sterling performance at Bristol City, and despite going down to ten men fought back to regain the lead and

hold them before falling to a marvellous goal in injury time.

It was a great game of football, and I am sure our tremendous travelling band of fans enjoyed the day out in the sunshine.

Today sees a game pitting the current champions of League One against the League Two champions and one thing for sure it will be a stirring encounter. With us having played well of late, I hope we can give Luton a real run for their money and end the season on a high.

Finally, I must mention Joan Oldale, who is leaving the club very shortly after twenty years of marvellous service, often in the most trying of conditions. At least she is leaving the club when it is in the best shape in all those years.

Enjoy your retirement Joan, you have truly deserved it. You know that you will be forever welcome at the club, here next year and then in our new stadium.

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John Ryan - Chairman

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NEXT

Belle Vue News



Welcome to the Champions, Luton Town

We will be giving the Luton Town players the chance to parade their newly won Championship Trophy before this afternoon's match. The Rovers players will also give them a "guard of honour" as they come onto the pitch, much as Boston did for us last season. Please give them genuine warm applause and appreciation for their efforts, especially since Luton have had financial problems not dissimilar to those of Rovers a few years ago.

Please keep off the pitch

After the match, Rovers' players will do a lap of honour of all four sides of the pitch, but ONLY IF all fans stay behind the walls. This will be cancelled if there are any pitch incursions, as occurred last year. Dave Penney will not have the players jostled in any way, plus the fans who behave themselves and stay in their positions deserve a proper opportunity to acknowledge their heroes.

There will be NO appearance by players or management on the directors' box balcony this year, so fans are asked to disperse immediately after the lap of honour and not invade the pitch.

We thank all fans for their cooperation with these arrangements.

Happy birthday

Happy 18th birthday greetings go to Claire Markham, who has been an avid Rovers fans since she was 8 years old. Even though she lives in Newark, she attends regularly, and has bought most of the



Rovers merchandise! Birthday greetings are sent from her mother, Beverley, who will also be attending today's game.

Birthday greetings also go to Sacha Goodwin, who will be 37 on 10th May. Greetings come from all her family and friends.

Happy retirement

Best wishes for a happy retirement go to Nobby Charters from Craig, Jim, Geoff and Mick. Nobby is a season ticket holder and watches games from the Pop Stand.

Big Boost for Coin Trail

On 10th March a large gathering at Skellow Grange WMC enjoyed a great evening's entertainment with two sessions from top band "Teaser", a Race Night, and big prizes. The event, in aid of the Viking Coin Trail (which helps fund the Youth Team), raised a fantastic £952. Thanks go to organiser Neil Harris, who's brainchild it was, and also to Skellow

Grange President Steve Locke and Secretary Roger Lumley for their invaluable help with staging the event. Neil, known to many forum visitors as "Hag", is on the far left of the picture with Donny Dog, and (left to right) Steve Locke and Roger Lumley. Our thanks go to the three organisers, and everyone who attended and contributed so magnificently!



Joint Retford Branch/Disabled Branch Race Night

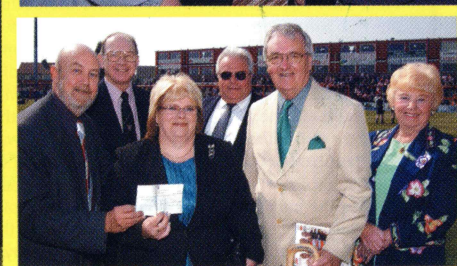
The joint race night held on 26 May in the Rovers Return raised a very impressive £486 for branch funds. We are grateful to those who organised and attended the event, and also for the generosity of the sponsors.

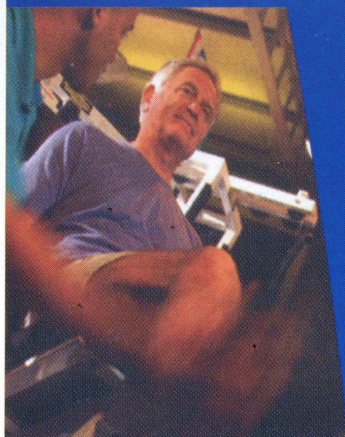
Christopher McLaughlin

We have learned that Rovers fan Christopher McLaughlin died last week. We would like to offer our sympathy to his family and friends at this sad time.

Charity Shield Fund Presentations

Three cheque presentations were made before our last home game, which were from funds distributed from this season's Charity Shield match to charities nominated by Doncaster Rovers. Pictured here receiving their cheques are representatives from the Harry Priestley House, Lansdowne Carers Centre and Thornberry Animal Sanctuary.





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Joan Oldale



This week sees the end of an era behind the scenes at Belle Vue with the retirement of the Secretary, Joan Oldale. Joan joined Doncaster Rovers in May 1984, working in the accounts section. When Les Holloway left the club at the end of the 1986-87

season, Joan stepped up to the position of Secretary, one of the most responsible jobs at any club. Although Mrs Sheila Louth and Mrs Irene Heeley had acted as Secretary in the interim period between Roger Reade leaving in 1983 and the appointment of Les Holloway as Chief Executive-Secretary in 1984, Joan was the first woman to hold the Secretary's post at the club on a permanent, full-time basis.

The post consists of maintaining the smooth running of the club in a multitude of ways together with attending to all F.A. and Football League requirements and liaising with the Chairman and the Manager about the affairs of the club. The Manager at the time of her taking up the post was Dave Cusack and the Chairman was Bernie Boldry. Since then there have been many more names in both posts, which has meant getting used to the many foibles of many different people. That Joan has been in the job for the past 18 years gives the measure of the success that she has achieved with the many, varied egos.

Managers have included Dave Mackay, Joe Kinnear, Billy Bremner, Steve Beaglehole, Tony Cunningham, Ian Atkins, Sammy Chung, Kerry Dixon, Danny Bergara, Mark Weaver, Ian Snodin, Steve Wignall and Dave Penney, a veritable "Who's Who" of English football. Chairmen, Managing Directors and Owners that Joan has served with include Mike Collett, Jim Burke, Ray Kennan, Charlie Dunn, Ken Richardson, John Ryan, Peter Wetzel and Trevor Milton. Working at a football club is not a nine-to-five job. There are Saturday afternoon matches, weekday evening matches and even games on Sunday to oversee besides the many events outside normal working hours that help to keep a football club going. Joan has had strong backing from an understanding husband and family over the past 18 years to enable her to do a thoroughly professional job in running the affairs of a club that had plunged to the depths of despair and near closure in 1998 then to the depths of the Conference before seeing the rise from the Conference to present-day League 1. Thus she leaves the club, which has finished in the highest place in the League for 47 years, to join her husband in the joys of retirement.

Many thanks to you, Joan, for all the hard work you have put in over the years from all the staff and officials at the club and may you enjoy your well-merited retirement.



Viking Supporters' Co-operative

A Word from YOUR Director

Today we congratulate Luton Town, and, of course, ex-Rovers' player Mike Newell, on winning the League 1 Championship.

As Luton collect their well deserved trophy, we, of course, relinquish ours today. Fans can have one last look at the Third Division Championship trophy on the front cover of today's programme. However, it is not for nostalgia that it appears there, but as a promise of what is to come. This time next season we confidently expect to be among the promoted clubs, and maybe even emulating Luton's impressive feat.

Although last Saturday's match ended our mathematical chance of a play-off spot, it is truly remarkable that, after two successive promotions, we even kept this season alive until literally 90 minutes from the end! Indeed, a little more luck or a couple of draws that might have been wins, and we could still be heading for Cardiff. What is also encouraging for the future is the performances we have witnessed, including at Bristol City, when we showed we could not only play good football but also defend magnificently when the need arose, and we have built a team that is surely poised to go one better next time around.

Despite just missing out, it is also worth remembering that the 65 points we have already accumulated is our highest points total EVER in Level 3 since a national Third Division (as it was then called) was first formed in 1958! Whatever today's result, we are also guaranteed to equal our highest ever finish at this level (matching the eleventh in 1969-70 and 1984-5) and could easily end the season in our highest EVER position within the Football League since we left the old Second Division in 1958! Not bad for a team languishing in the Conference only a couple of seasons ago, and surely a measure of what John Ryan, Dave, and Mickey have achieved for the club.

As yet another season closes may I remind fans that joined "Sponsor a Goal" that their pledges will be due after today's match, and I would be grateful if fans could contact me to arrange collection of their payments. The goals total to date is 62, plus, (hopefully!) a couple more this afternoon! May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who made pledges for their generosity, and we hope you enjoyed each and every Rovers' goal that you

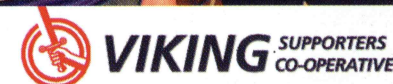
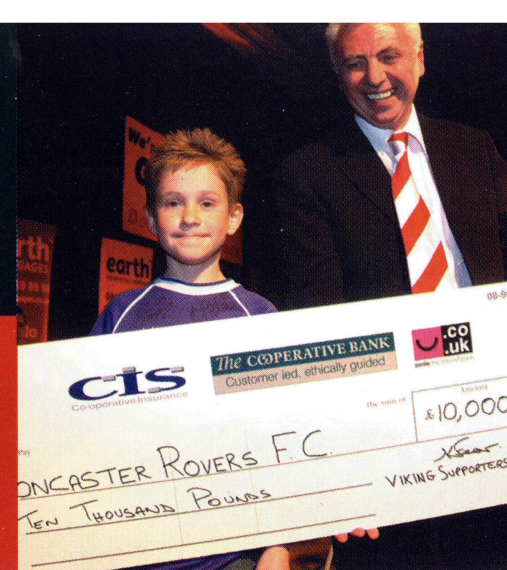
"paid" for!

Looking to next season, may I remind fans that the Annual General Meeting of the Viking Supporters' Co-operative will take place prior to the first home Saturday match. Fixtures come out on 23 June, so the actual date will become clear at that time. Several positions are up for election this year (including mine!), but remember, although all fans are welcome to attend, you must be a member to vote. Despite a very successful season of fundraising, (the Coin Trail and Sponsor a Goal alone have raised over £22,000 for the Youth Team), recruitment of new members has been poor, and we have still not quite reached 600 members. Without the Co-operative, we would have no seat on the board, and we would not have the direct access to John Ryan which has been so instrumental in getting fans' suggestions implemented. To make our influence even more representative, we urgently need to expand our membership. Remember, if any member recruits a new member, you will receive a £5 cash reward. Any new members who join at any time prior to the AGM will also have the annual membership deferred until the start of our new year, so all you will have to pay is the one-off payment for your share of £15. All the money we receive goes directly into the club, and adds to the £65,000 of shares currently held in trust for our members.

See you all next season!
Andy Liney

ABOVE: Ten year old Jordan Hamilton, a third generation Rovers' fan, presented a giant cheque for £10,000 to John Ryan at the big Dome Rally on 21 April, on behalf of the Viking Supporters' Co-operative. This is the latest donation by the Co-operative to Rovers' funds, and takes the total shares held in trust on behalf of our members to £64,000.

**Coin trail total to 30th April 2005:
£31,936.91**



This programme is produced by members of the Viking Supporters Co-operative in association with Doncaster Rovers Football Club. We welcome comments and suggestions from all - we can be contacted via our web site www.vikingsc.co.uk
Editor - Michael Harker
Programme team - John Coyle, Paul Gilligan, Colin Harker

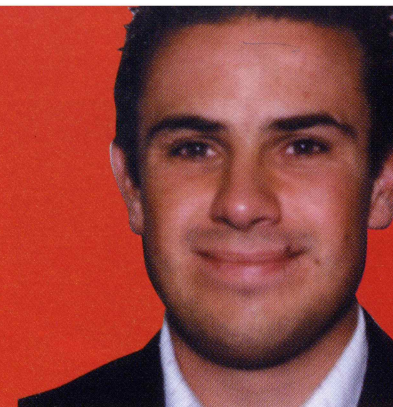
Vice-Presidents Roll of honour

We are pleased to offer a prestigious addition to our current standard membership for individuals. The title of Vice-President of the Viking Supporters' Co-operative can be yours in return for a minimum monthly donation of £10, paid by standing order. You will remain a Vice-President as long as your standing order remains in place.

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Thanks go to R. Ellis, of Ellis Car & Van Hire, for donations made on behalf of the Royal Hotel.

The View from the Press



with... Nick Westby

When Mayor Martin Winter stood up at the Rovers Rally recently and preached that he wants to see Doncaster win promotion next season to begin life in the new stadium as a Championship club, Dave Penney wore a look that said "easier said than done, pal!"

The manager is notorious for his 50-point target and that will again be the underlying blueprint for next season, but if Rovers are to achieve their promotion goal, then they can do no better than taking a leaf out of the book of today's visitors Luton Town.

They have dominated the league from start to finish and victory today will take them to 100 points for the season. And yes, they are represented in my League One team of the year, in a 4-3-3 formation.

Goalkeeper: Boaz Myhill, Hull's big American keeper, following in the footsteps of Kasey Keller, Tim Howard and Brad Friedel in crossing the Atlantic to build a fruitful career in English football.

Right-back: Set-piece specialist Ryan Taylor, at just 20, has had an outstanding season for Brian Little's side and is courting attention from Liverpool, Everton and Newcastle.

Left-back: Rovers' own Tim Ryan, consistency, consistency, consistency. And rumour has it, he's got a bit of a shot on him!

Centre-back: Sol Davis of champions Luton, a rock at the back for the champions, the type of defender you need to get out of this division.

Centre-back: Michael Jackson, goal-scoring defender with Championship experience, he's been a major factor in Tranmere's third-place finish this season.

Centre-mid: Stuart Elliott, has to be. The Hull City star has topped the goal scoring charts this season from left-wing, and even missed a month or so with injury.

Centre mid: Iain Hume, Tranmere's Canadian-born attacking midfielder, can play up front or in the centre of midfield. Has a wicked shot.

Centre mid: Luton's Kevin Nicholls was voted the champions' players' player and supporters' player of the season. Need I say more?

Striker: Dean Windass, back to goal there's no-one better, predatory instincts, at 35, still the best in the division. He'd be an ample foil for the main goalscorer and would still bag 20-plus goals.

Striker: Juan Ugarte, I haven't actually seen him play, but this guy came to the division late and still managed to rattle in the goals for a struggling team. Don't expect him to stay at Wrexham this summer.

Striker: Free-scoring Leroy Lita edges the final spot in the team ahead of Pawel Abbott of Huddersfield and Steve Howard of Luton.

So that's it for the team of the year, and for the season. Enjoy today's game and the close season, and here's to August and everything starting all over again.

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Nick Westby
Sports Editor, South Yorkshire Times

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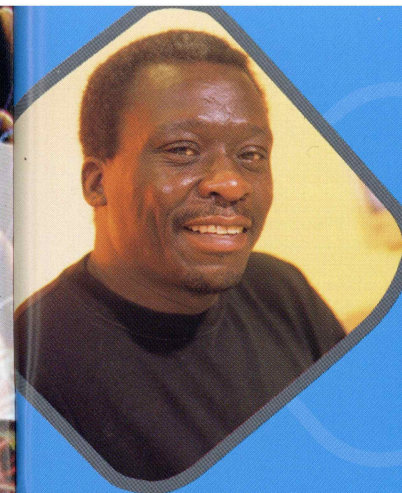
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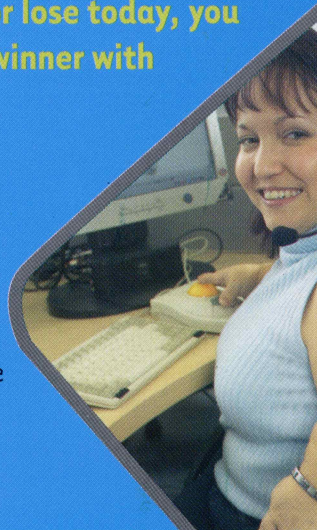
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Saturday 23rd April 2005
Coca-Cola League One

Rovers (o) 2
Hartlepool United (o) 0

Rovers: Turner, Mulligan, Ryan, Foster, Fenton, Ravenhill, Coppinger, Green, Fortune-West, Guy, McIndoe

Substitutes: Blundell (for Guy, 67), Brown (for Coppinger, 76), Doolan, Maloney, Warrington

Hartlepool United: Konstantopoulos, Clark, Robson, Sweeney, Nelson, Westwood, Strachan, Humphreys, Williams, Boyd, Butler

Substitutes: Daly (for Butler, 63), Appleby (for Strachan, 69), Robertson, Tinkler, Provett

Goals:

Rovers: Ravenhill (59), Fortune-West (90)

Hartlepool: none

Attendance: 7,024

Referee: P. Melin

Assistants: C. Barker & B. Roberts

Yellow cards:

Rovers: None

Hartlepool: Westwood

Red cards: None

Report: Paul Gilligan

Statistics: John Coyle

Photographs: Paul Gilligan and Howard Roe

This was a good home win for the Rovers in what proved to be an excellent contest before a reasonable attendance of over seven thousand spectators, including a handsome following for the visitors, who were looking to cement their place in this seasons play-offs. Hartlepool began in good form, and the Rovers looked to have quite a bit to do to repel their early attacks, but eventually these were safely quashed and the home team began to dictate the pace of the game. Coppinger and Green began to take control in midfield, and Guy looked especially dangerous in front of goal.

Little was seen of Boyd in the visiting attack, with the Rovers defence settling well to their task after some early pressure, and the Doncaster attack often looked the likeliest of the two to open the scoring as the first half drew to a close. However, the interval arrived without a goal to show for either side, but the early play in the second period suggested that there were goals to be had, and the first arrived on 59 minutes. Guy seized on a headed pass from Fortune-West, and, after bustling his way past two defenders, picked out Ravenhill, who drove the ball home from ten yards.

A raft of substitutions from both sides changed the

personnel on the field, but the Rovers remained the more inventive of the teams, and Blundell failed by inches to convert a low cross from McIndoe as the Rovers looked for a second goal that would effectively close the game out. A pleasing aspect of the game at this stage was the introduction of Rovers starlet, Adam Brown, for his home debut. The youngster produced a series of neat touches, and he was involved alongside Green in a delightful move that created the opportunity for Fortune-West to bundle the ball home in injury time. This, after Green's effort had rebounded back off the Rovers midfielder.

Other results on the afternoon left Rovers still within range of the play-off places, although the odds were still against it – Rovers needed six points from two games, whilst needing several results in the final two weeks to go in their favour. However, the Rovers can effectively look back on a season where much further progress has been made. Rovers are guaranteed their highest league finish since 1958 - a remarkable achievement. Will they do better next season? You know where to come to find out!

Match Action



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The Half Time Quiz

How many of these questions can you answer without having to look at the answers?

- Which club did Mick Harford make his debut for?
- What is the nickname of Dumbarton?
- What were West Bromwich called before they added "Albion"?
- Which two teams merged in 1885 to form Luton Town FC?
- Who scored the goal that kept Luton in the First Division on the last day of the 1982/83 season, causing David Pleat to run dancing across the Maine Road pitch?
- Their only FA Cup final appearance, who did Luton lose to in the 1959 final?
- In what year did Luton lay an artificial pitch?
- In which year were Rushden & Diamonds formed?
- Which Benfica star was named European Footballer of the Year in 1965?
- Who scored in seven successive Premiership matches between September and November 1996?
- With which club did Geoff Hurst begin his career?
- John Hartson, Robbie Savage and Gary Speed have all played for which country?
- How many of the 16 World Cups, to 1998, have been won by the host country?

- Goalkeeper Mart Poom has played for which national side?
- Which member of the "Busby Babes" was nicknamed "Boom-Boom"?
- Who scored the winner for Blackburn in the 1992 Division One play-off final?
- Who succeeded Paul Jewell as manager of Bradford City?
- Which Manchester United player was nicknamed "El Beatle" by the Portuguese?
- Who scored the fastest-ever goal in the FA Cup final (in 43 seconds)?
- Which defender made his 500th appearance for Manchester United in March 2001?
- Which country does Mark Viduka represent?
- Who was manager of Wales for their 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign?
- Who was sacked as Spurs manager in 2003?
- What colours do Juventus wear for home games?
- Which team are nicknamed the "Addicks"?
- Who scored 34 goals for Newcastle United in 1993/94?
- Why were the four Home Nations not eligible for the 1930 World Cup?
- Which Dutch striker was voted as European Footballer of the Year in 1988?
- What surname links England players Ashley, Andy and Joe?
- Which goalkeeper left Blackburn Rovers in 1999 to join Leicester City?

The brain teaser

From the following career statistics, can you work out who the player is?

Team	Season	Apps	sub	goals
Bristol Rovers	1956-1961	0	0	0
Barry Town	1961-1962	-	-	-
Newport County	1969-1965	91	0	46
DONCASTER ROVERS	1965-1967	58	0	34
Norwich City	1966-1968	27	0	16
Rotherham United	1967-1968	19	0	6
Oldham Athletic	1967-1968	18	0	6
Luton Town	1968-1970	31	4	12
DONCASTER ROVERS	1969-1970	13	2	6
Peterborough United	1970-1971	17	1	6
CAREER TOTAL		274	7	132

Answers:
1 - Lincoln City; 2 - "The Sons"; 3 - West Bromwich Strollers; 4 - The Wanderers and The Excelsiors; 5 - Raddy Antic; 6 - Nottingham Forest; 7 - 1985; 8 - 1992; 9 - Eusebio; 10 - Alan Shearer; 11 - West Ham United; 12 - Wales; 13 - Six; 14 - Estonia; 15 - Duncan Edwards; 16 - Mike Newell; 17 - Chris Hutchings; 18 - George Best; 19 - Roberto di Matteo; 20 - Denis Irwin; 21 - Australia; 22 - Mark Hughes; 23 - Glenn Hoddle; 24 - Black and white stripes; 25 - Charlton Athletic; 26 - Andy Cole; 27 - They withdrew from FIFA in 1928; 28 - Marco van Basten; 29 - Cole; 30 - Tim Flowers

The Brain Teaser: Laurie Sheffield

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Web Site News

My Doncaster Rovers Commentary Experience

Adam Grice, aged 13, won the Mexborough and District Music and Drama Festival "Sport Reporter" Award which was sponsored by Doncaster Rovers. Adam had to create a match report and read it out to the judges which included Steve Uttley from Rovers. This is an annual competition and any Rovers fan can enter. The prize was a trip to Rovers to sit in the press box and work with such people as John Helm and Radio Sheffield, as well as being able to talk on Rovers World.

Name: Adam Grice
Age: 13 years
Lives: Adwick-le-Street
(with Mum, Dad and sister Lauren)
School: North Doncaster Technology College
(NDTC) Yr. 8.
Favourite Players: Michael McIndoe, Greg Blundell,
Andy Warrington.
Hobbies: Football, Cricket, Basketball.

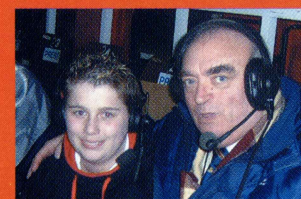
My night with the Doncaster Rovers commentary team was fantastic. I was there because I had won the sports reporting class at Mexborough Festival. I was really excited, but also as nervous as a little child on their first day at school. My evening began with a tour of the stadium. I walked in the players' entrance, and there in front of me was Andy Warrington, the Rovers number 1 goalkeeper. I was absolutely thrilled to meet him, and I am a big fan. I couldn't believe he was the one congratulating me, for winning this fantastic prize. The tour continued with a look in the players dressing room and a sneaky peek in Dave Penney's office, though that's a secret between you and me! In the boardroom I was introduced to the vice-chairman. The boardroom had a strict dress code - suit only - I managed to escape that rule, in my Rovers top - and my dad was left stranded outside. Sorry, Dad! When the formalities were over, it was into the players' tunnel and out pitch side to be faced by hundreds of fans! Amazing! I felt really special. It was ace!

Up in the press box it was chaos! Seven reporters were crammed in, all busy typing, phoning, ironing out technical problems in preparation for kick off. You could hear the noise blaring from each segment of the ground. It was exhilarating! But I also felt a surge of butterflies in my stomach. What could go wrong live on air? The pressure was on! I was sat with Brian who

reports for Rovers World and Paul Mayfield who reports for Trax FM. Brian gave me a lot of tips on commentating live on the radio (they came in very useful). I also got to sit with John Helm from Yorkshire television. It was a pleasure to meet him because he is such a great commentator. While I was commentating live on air it was fantastic! I made comments on all of the main parts of the match. There were some great moments. Two goals and reckless challenges. It was so exciting! After the match I went down to pitch side to where the after match interview with Dave Penny was taking place. And then I met him personally. That was unbelievable, because I'd always looked up to him as a great manager.

I had a great day; I've always been a Rovers fan. Now, one day, I'd like to be a full time Rovers Reporter.

I just want to say thank you to:
Steve Uttley (for organising such a superb prize)
Brian from Rovers world (for all his help and support)
Paul Mayfield (for the half time biscuits)



Adam with Brian Bradley



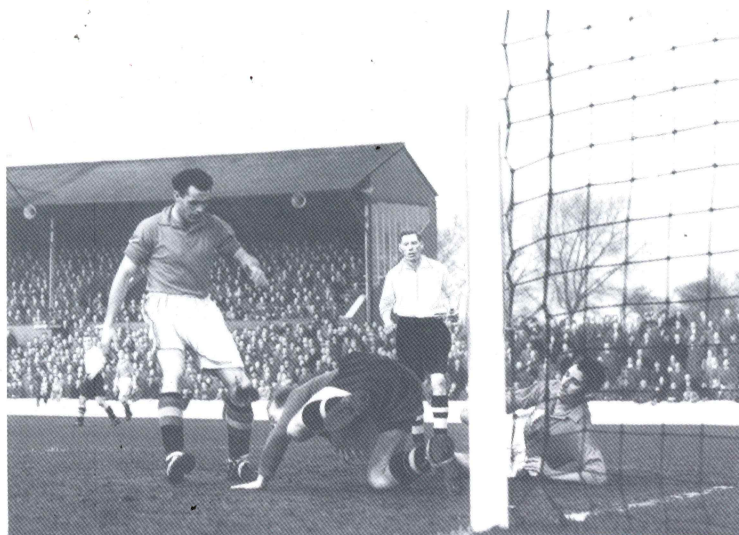
Adam with Rovers' boss, Dave Penney



streetwise sports

The Rovers & The 'Hatters'

A Potted History by Paul Gilligan



ACTION FROM ROVERS V LUTON, DECEMBER 1953

In contrast with our previous visitors, Hartlepoons, Luton Town pay only their tenth visit to Belle Vue this afternoon, and their first since October 1970. Indeed, the two teams did not meet for the first time until December 1947, following the Rovers' promotion to the old Division Two at the end of the previous season. That first meeting, at Kenilworth Road, saw the Rovers lose by the odd goal in three, with Caverley their scorer. The return fixture in April 1948, provided the league "double" for the Hatters as they won by two unanswered goals at Belle Vue.

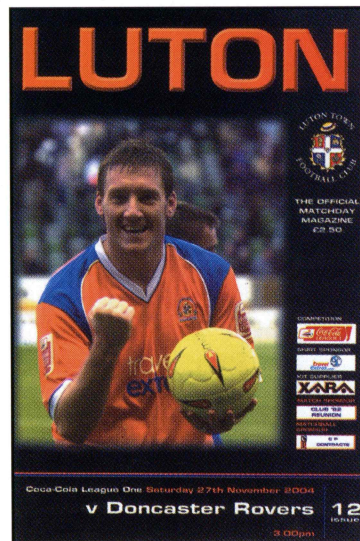
The decade of the 1950's saw the teams met in five consecutive seasons, beginning with two games within three days in March 1951. The first featured a fine 5-2 Rovers victory at Belle Vue, with Harrison (2), Tindill (2) and Lawlor the men on target before a "gate" of over 32,000, but the return fixture just three days later saw the "Hatters" record a 3-1 victory. The following season saw the Rovers enjoy their best result in

Luton when they stormed to a 4-1 win at Kenilworth Road, thanks to goals from Lawlor, Adey, Jones and Tindill, and they went one better during the 1952-53 campaign, when they registered their first league "double" over Town. The last four meetings of the 1950's saw four consecutive victories for the "Hatters", with only a single goal from Lawlor acting as a reward for the Rovers in that period.

Town were promoted to the old First Division at the end of the 1954-55 season, and did not cross swords with the Rovers again until October 1965, when each was back in the old Fourth Division. Sadly, the Rovers' luck was still out and, although the sides shared seven goals in their meeting at Kenilworth Road, the visitors lost out by the odd goal. The return game at Belle Vue, some six weeks later, was also a close run affair, with Jeffrey scoring the Rovers' goal in a 1-1 draw. Town enjoyed their biggest victory over the Rovers during the 1967-68 season. The

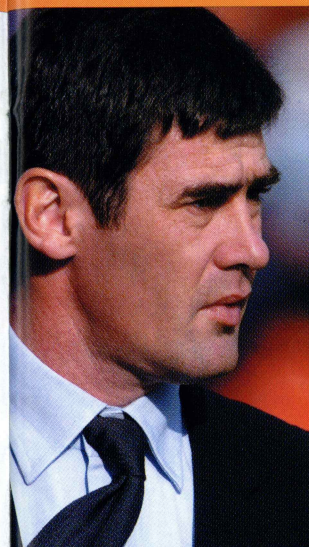
teams first met in early September 1967, and a sparkling performance from the Rovers gave them a 2-0 win, thanks to goals from Gilfillan and Watson, but the return at Kenilworth Road saw the Rovers given their comeuppance as the "Hatters" romped to a 3-5 victory.

There was more of the same in the following season. The Rovers won well at Belle Vue in October, 1969, when goals from Briggs and an "o.g." from Slough gave them a comfortable win, but Luton won by four clear goals on their own ground in February 1970, and that proved to be the last league meeting between the two sides until this season. The Rovers proved tough opposition at Kenilworth Road back in November, and despite the fact that Luton return to Belle Vue this afternoon as worthy Champions of League One, one suspects that they would have preferred any number of alternative venues at which to play their last match. Today's game is not without interest for both sides – we anticipate it with some relish.



The Visiting Manager

Mike Newell



A long and successful playing career began in Liverpool's junior sides, before moves to Crewe and Wigan Athletic, where he established his credentials. A move to Luton Town for £100,000 in January 1986 was successful but following a move to Leicester in 1987, it was two successive £1m+ transfers – to Everton and then Blackburn, that established his reputation. It was at Ewood Park that he was part of Kenny Dalglish's successful challenge for the Premier League title, although it was the SAS partnership (Shearer and Sutton) that was the first-choice partnership. Even so, Newell weighed in with over 110 starts for the club before leaving for Birmingham City in 1996. Loan moves to West Ham and Bradford followed, before joining Aberdeen in July 1997. A brief return to Crewe in 1999 preceded his surprise move to Belle Vue in June 1999, and although he scored 3 goals in 16 games for Rovers, he is unfortunately mostly remembered by Rovers fans for a glaring miss against Dover. A short stay in Blackpool ended his playing career which had seen him feature in over 600 first team games with international recognition for England's U-21 and "B" teams along the way. Mike's first opportunity into football management followed in November 2002, when he was

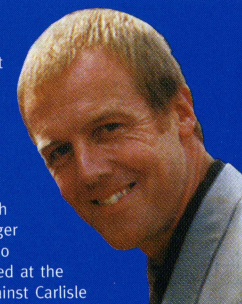
appointed as manager at Hartlepool United when he succeeded Chris Turner, who had left for Sheffield Wednesday (and we all know what happened there!). Whilst inexperienced, successfully guided Pool to promotion from Division Three in May 2003 as runners up. Hartlepool's board decided that they needed someone more experienced for their Division Two campaign, and declined to renew Newell's contract. However, he was not out of work for long, as Luton Town appointed him as manager following an unprecedented and controversial vote by supporters, following the departure of ex-Rovers boss Joe Kinnear. Since then, he has won over half of the games Luton have played, with this season eclipsing all, as his side swept to six successive victories at the start of the campaign, and whilst Hull City occasionally got close, his side have looked down from the pinnacle for all but one week since achieving top spot in the fourth week of the season. Mike continues to take his UEFA coaching badges and also began the Certificate of Applied Management at Warwick University in the summer 2003 as he further develops his knowledge and experience in a profession that he is still relatively new to.

Connections

Kerry Dixon was born in July 1961 in Luton.

He was originally a Tottenham apprentice, scoring 27 goals as the youth team won the South East Counties Division One title. Released by Spurs, in August 1979 he moved to non-league Dunstable before again moving club to Elm Park, home of Reading Football Club for a price of £20,000. He played in a 116 games, scoring 51 times for them, 26 of those coming in the 1982/83 season when he was top scorer in the old Division Three. Kerry scored four times in 7-5 defeat at Belle Vue in September 1982. Then in August 1983 he moved again, this time to current Premiership champions Chelsea and helped them to the Second Division title with his 28 goals. Dixon remained at Stamford Bridge for nine seasons, clocking up 420 appearances and scoring 193 goals making him the second highest Chelsea goal scorer of all time. During his time at Chelsea he appeared eight times for England scoring four times. Two of those goals were scored on his first start in June 1985 in the 3-0 win over West Germany. He left Chelsea and moved out of London and went to play on the south coast for Southampton signing for them for a fee of £575,000. He then played just eight games and another one as a sub before joining today's opponents Luton Town on loan. This signing was made permanent in February 1993. Playing 75 league games, Kerry scored 19 goals for the Hatters under the

management of David Pleat and kept current Celtic star John Hartson out of the team. Dixon's best memory in football apart from his England matches, was playing for Luton in the FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea in 1994. He left Kenilworth Road for Millwall in March 1995 for £5,000 in 1995 and later for Watford in January 1996 for £25,000. On 17th August 1996 he was appointed player/manager of Doncaster Rovers. This came as a shock to existing boss, Sammy Chung, who had arrived at the ground for the first game of the season, against Carlisle United only to be told on his arrival that Dixon was the new manager. Dixon was very popular with Rovers fans but as Ken Richardson took more control over the first team Kerry's position became impossible. After leaving Belle Vue he moved to Non-league Boreham Wood as player/coach where he was joined by Rovers team mate Simon Ireland. At the same time he took on the lease of The Distillery public house in Dunstable. From Boreham Wood he left to manage Letchworth Garden City and later became manager of Hitchin Town in November 2003. These days he can be found back at Stamford Bridge doing ground tours. He is also a summariser for Sky Sports and runs the Icknield Youth Under 12's team.

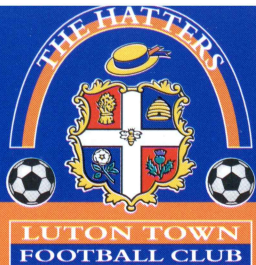


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Luton Town



Marlon Beresford (goalkeeper)

Marlon joined Luton last summer from Barnsley, and received a "Special Achievement Award" at last Sunday's award ceremony. With over 400 games under his belt, Marlon names Sheffield Wednesday, Bury, Northampton, Crewe, Burnley, Middlesbrough, Wolves, York and Bradford as his former clubs.

Kevin Foley (defender)

Kevin is one of the success stories of last season, as he progressed from the Hatters' youth team to the Irish under-21 squad, comfortably adjusting to each level of football. Now a regular member of the first XI.

Alan Neilson (defender)

A former Welsh international, Alan joined Luton from Grimsby in 2002, when the Mariners were forced to release players as a cost-cutting exercise. He is equally comfortable anywhere in the back four or midfield.

Warren Feeney (striker)

Signed from Stockport County on transfer deadline day for £150,000, Warren has scored 17 League goals so far this season, but had to wait until last Saturday for his first start for the Hatters. A current Northern Ireland international.

Russell Perrett (defender)

Injury meant that Russell played only six games last season, but when fit is an important member of the Luton squad. Formerly at Portsmouth and Cardiff, he moved to Kenilworth Road on a free transfer in 2001.

Paul Underwood (defender)

Paul joined the Hatters from Rushden & Diamonds on transfer deadline day last season. During his time at Nene Park he became an England semi-professional international.

Paul Hughes (midfielder)

A serious groin injury kept this talented midfielder out of the game for nine months when at Southampton. Hughes left the club to join Luton for the 2001/02 season after a change of management at The Dell, but a broken leg brought last season to an early close.

Kevin Nicholls (midfielder)

A tough tackling midfielder, Kevin began at Charlton as a trainee, going on to skipper England at U18, U19 and U20 levels. He joined Wigan in 1999 for £250,000, but was surprisingly released in summer 2001 to join Luton for £150,000. Kevin won the supporters' "Player of the Season" and "Website Player of the Season" last Sunday.

Rowan Vine (striker)

Rowan initially joined Town on a three month transfer from Portsmouth, but that was extended to the whole of this season by September. He has spent similarly long periods on loan at Brentford and Colchester. Currently struggling with a back injury, but still managed to come on as a substitute last week.

Steve Robinson (midfielder)

Capped five times by Northern Ireland, Steve joined the Hatters from Preston in 2002. He made his name scoring 60 goals in 286 games for Bournemouth, and has also played for Spurs and Bristol City.

Chris Coyne (defender)

Born in Brisbane, Chris was a centre-half for Perth before his selection for the Aussie U17 squad in the World Cup brought him to the attention of West Ham boss Harry Redknapp. He also played for Brentford, Southend and Dundee before his arrival at Kenilworth Road in September 2001. Chris has been named as League One player of the month for April.

Michael Leary (midfielder)

A graduate from the Luton youth team, Michael has mainly appeared for the Hatters as a substitute. A central midfielder, he had to wait patiently for his chance at senior level.

Stephen O'Leary (midfielder)

Another skilful midfielder who graduated from the youth team last season. Despite being born in London, Stephen is a Republic of Ireland schoolboy international.

Enoch Showunmi (striker)

A Nigerian international who was born in London, Enoch is a popular figure on the terraces having signed for the club in September 2003, after Luton's transfer embargo had been lifted.



THE LUTON SQUAD CELEBRATE THE LEAGUE ONE CHAMPIONSHIP LAST WEEKEND. WITH THANKS TO LUTON TOWN FC, PICTURE BY GARETH OWEN

Lee Mansell (midfielder)

An injury crisis saw Lee, then in the youth team, thrust into the first team for an FA Cup replay against QPR in January 2001 – and dramatically he scored after less than a minute on the pitch!

Ahmet Brkovic (midfielder)

A tidy and hard working member of the Luton squad, Croatian-born Ahmet is Luton's second most prolific goal scorer this term. He signed for Luton on a Bosman free transfer from Leyton Orient, and has since become a regular on the Luton right flank.

Ahmet won "Goal of the Season" at last Sunday's award ceremony.

Curtis Davies (defender)

A central defender, Curtis has progressed from the youth squad to improve noticeably since making his debut. Mobile and strong both in the air and on the ground. This season's "Young Player of the Season".

Keith Keane (midfielder)

Keith made his debut last season as a 16-year old, deputising whilst Kevin Foley was injured, but his form kept him in the

squad despite Foley's return to fitness. Mainly a right-sided midfielder.

Sol Davis (defender)

Sol, a highly rated tough tackling left back, left Swindon Town on the expiry of his contract at the end of the 2001/02 season, although he cost Luton a £60,000 fee. His career began at Swindon as a trainee in 1997.

Dino Seremet (goalkeeper)

A tall 6ft 4ins goalkeeper from Slovenia, Dino arrived on trial at Luton last summer, and earned a two-year contract. He had a decent run in the side last autumn, but has not featured recently.

Peter Holmes (midfielder)

A product of the FA's School of Excellence, Peter arrived at Luton as one of Ricky Hill's first signings after impressing whilst he was coaching at Sheffield Wednesday.

Calvin Andrew (striker)

Prolific youth team striker Calvin burst onto the scene this season to be handed a first team squad place, and made his league debut last December.

One to Watch

Steve Howard (striker)

Nationality: English
Born: Durham
Date of birth: 10th May 1976
Height: 6ft 3ins
Weight: 14st 7lbs
Yellow cards 2004/05: 12
Red cards 2004/05: 1
Career statistics (league games only):
Tow Law Town (1994-1995): No statistics available
Hartlepool United (1995-1999) 120 apps, 25 sub, 26 goals
Northampton Town (1999-2001): 67 apps, 19 sub, 18 goals
Luton Town (2001-2005): 168 apps, 0 sub, 81 goals
Career total: 355 apps, 44 sub, 125 goals

Celebrating his 29th birthday next week, Steve will also be able to celebrate his club's promotion to the Championship, as he bids to end the season as Luton's top goal scorer, currently being two ahead of Ahmet Brkovic. Having scored a goal in each of the Hatters' opening five games of the campaign, the £50,000 spent to prise him away from Northampton Town on transfer deadline day in March 2001 is looking to be a most shrewd piece of business. He has been Luton's top marksman for the last three seasons, and unsurprisingly is a huge fans' favourite at Kenilworth Road, having won a number of "Player of the Year" awards. Beginning his career at non-league Tow Law Town, he moved to nearby Hartlepool United in 1995, going on to make over a hundred appearances, with a respectable goals/games ratio of almost a goal every four games. This success persuaded Northampton Town to pay out £120,000 for his services, although they were forced to accept a fee of less than half that two years later, when faced with the prospect of losing Steve for nothing under the "Bosman" ruling at the end of the 2000/01 season. At the end of last season he was seventh in the Luton all-time goal scorers list.

MARLON BERESFORD

CHRIS COYNE

THE HEAT IS ON!



SUMMER RACING ACTION

May

Thurs 19th (Eve),
Sat 28th

June

Sat 4th,
Sun 12th,
Sat 25th (Eve)

July

Thurs 7th (Eve),
Thurs 14th (Eve),
Thurs 21st (Eve), Sat 30th

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Saturday Yankee Lottery News

with Terry Burdass

23rd April 2005
Treble Winners Share £200

Code	Winner	Agent
0397	Mr Hone, Hyde Park	Chris Keeton
3197	Mrs M J Hill, Wheatley Hills	Brown News
3327	Dave Place, Doncaster Market	Dave Dale
3377	S Thrower, Fishlake	Standing Order
3391	G R Jowett, Intake	Paul Wilkins
3392	M McCullagh, Rossington	T Hippo Robson
3395	Paul Joll, Southampton	Standing Order
3797	T Marshal, Balby	Miscellaneous
4397	M Jarvis, Conisbrough	Windmill News
5397	R D Langton, Warmsworth	Joyce Edis
6397	Mr Thomson, Intake	Mr Eales
9397	G Jewell, Wheatley	R Haley

Sponsored Prizes

code	Winner	Prize
2287	J Marshall	Frankie & Bennys £25 Meal
0918	M Kennedy	McDonalds Family Meal
3045	J D Edwards	Superbowl 4 Free Games
0272	P Burrows	Vue Cinemas 4 Film Tickets
2386	Brian Davies	Sunday Lunch at the Grove Inn
1881	Mr Hughes	Le Bistro Meal voucher
0791	S Highfield	Brewster Meal Voucher
2436	M McDonald	Beefeater Meal Voucher
3422	Mr James	Pizza Hut Meal Voucher
3032	D Eggington	Cast Hair Design Cut & Style

Agent
Sarah Breslin
M Ockleford
Standing Order
Beever News
Paul Dunford
Intake Area
Standing Order
T-A Firth
Chris Keeton
D & M Dale

30th April 2005
Treble Winners Share £200

code	Winner	Agent
6273	A Roberts, Intake	Standing Order
2270	B Tate, Askern	DRFC Office
2277	P Cuffing, Bennethorpe	DRFC Office
2283	M Sutton, Bawtry	Bennethorpe PO
2279	R Lambert, Doncaster	Elsmore News
5273	Mr Smith, Wheatley Hills	Elsmore News
2278	A McKinna, Doncaster	DRFC Office
7273	D Littledyke, Intake	Peter Lowcock
2271	V Hurst, Warmsworth	Joyce Edis
2203	K Heeson, Balby	Joyce Edis

Sponsored Prizes

code	Winner	Prize
3000	J Mead	Frankie & Bennys £25 Meal
3085	W Lennox	McDonalds Family Meal
1771	M Williams	Superbowl 4 Free Games
0732	D Hart	Vue Cinemas 4 Film Tickets
2424	D M Brooks	Sunday Lunch at the Grove Inn
2425	R Newcombe	Brewster Meal Voucher
0331	T Clark	Beefeater Meal Voucher
1254	T Pears	Pizza Hut Meal Voucher
2152	Mrs Gears	Cast Hair Design Cut & Style

Agent
Standing Order
Grove Inn
United Discounts
Brown News
Standing Order
Standing Order
Standing Order
T Pears
Paul Wilkins

Supporters, support your club for £1 a week!

Good afternoon to all our supporters this afternoon, May 7th, which is our last game of the season against Luton Town.

Firstly I would like to thank all our agents and members for their support over this season. From their valued support, our lottery membership has nearly doubled since this time last year. I have a cheque in my office waiting for one lucky winner and a signature from John Ryan for this week's top Yankee prize of

£3000. (You have to be in it to win it.)

We have 10,000 memberships available, for £1 each per week.

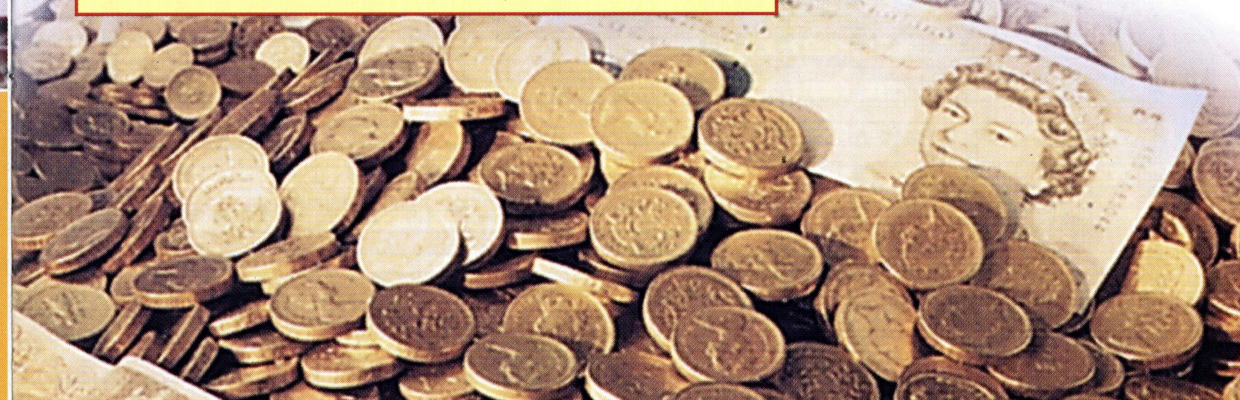
If today's home attendance reaches 5000, and each supporter paid £1 per week, this would generate £260,000 per year for your club.

Although the football season is over for 2004/2005, our Saturday Yankee Lottery continues throughout the year.

The revenue from our lottery is just as vital, possibly more important in the close season as during the season. To guarantee the Yankee prize is won each week, we would need to sell all of our 10,000 membership numbers. In doing this we would be able to increase our weekly prizes considerably.

To find out more information about your club's lottery, you can contact the Lottery Office on 01302 379329 or Terry on 07979 205690, we will give you a list of agents and ways to join. We are constantly looking for new agents, so support your club and help raise the funds needed to compete with the big clubs in our league.

Enjoy the game, and get behind the lads.
Terry Burdass
Lottery Manager



Fixtures & Results 2004 - 05

Date	Opponent	Venue	Result	Att	Away Att	Pos	Pts	Goal Scorers
Sat 07 August	BLACKPOOL	H	W 2-0	7,082	1,263	3	3	RYAN(8), FORTUNE WEST(81)
Tue 10 August	Brentford	A	L 3-4	5,621	785	9	3	McINDOE(4)(pen 45), GREEN(84)
Sat 14 August	Bradford City	A	L 0-2	10,444	2,060	18	3	
Sat 21 August	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	D 0-0	6,040	639	17	4	
Tue 24 August	CC1 PORT VALE	H	W 3-1	3,943	-	-	-	FORTUNE WEST(36), DOOLAN(53), McINDOE(56)
Sat 28 August	Colchester United	A	L 1-4	3,803	592	19	4	DOOLAN(45)
Mon 30 August	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H	W 2-1	7,058	1,707	18	7	FORTUNE WEST(28), GREEN(53)
Sat 04 September	WALSALL	H	W 3-1	6,146	571	13	10	FENTON(20), McINDOE(50), BLUNDELL(88)
Sat 11 September	Milton Keynes Dons	A	W 1-0	4,334	1,286	8	13	ALBRIGHTON(66)
Sat 18 September	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	D 1-1	6,775	981	9	14	McINDOE (pen 44)
Tue 21 September	CC2 IPSWICH TOWN	H	W 2-0	6,020	-	-	-	RAVENHILL(6), McSPORRAN(46)
Sat 25 September	AFC Bournemouth	A	L 0-5	6,588	650	13	14	
Tue 28 September	LDV1 Lincoln City	A	W 1-0	1,875	541	-	-	BEARDSLEY(77)
Sat 02 October	WREXHAM	H	D 0-0	7,567	-	14	15	
Fri 08 October	Port Vale	A	L 0-2	5,314	1,049	15	15	
Sat 16 October	TORQUAY UNITED	H	D 2-2	5,529	-	16	16	McINDOE(18, 27)
Wed 20 October	Barnsley	A	W 3-1	12,478	5,320	15	19	REID(og, 45), BLUNDELL(57) VAUGHAN(OG, 59)
Sat 23 October	Chesterfield	A	D 0-0	6,219	1,701	15	20	
Tue 26 October	NOTTINGHAM FOREST (CC3)	H	L 0-2	9,261	-	-	-	
Sat 30 October	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H	W 2-1	6,039	-	11	23	McINDOE (3), GREEN (87)
Tue 02 November	Hereford United (LDV 2)	A	L 1-1	1,375	138	-	-	RIGOGLIOSO (90). AET 1-1. Lost 1-3 on pens
Sat 06 November	Hartlepool Utd	A	L 1-2	5,495	886	14	23	ROBERTS (39)
Sat 13 November	Tiverton Town (FAC1)	A	W 3-1	1,618	421	-	-	McINDOE (18), FENTON (26), BLUNDELL (84)
Sat 20 November	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	W 3-1	6,697	-	12	26	BLUNDELL (9, 68), RYAN (65)
Sat 27 November	Luton Town	A	D 1-1	8,142	1,062	12	27	ROBERTS (82)
Sat 04 December	Exeter City (FAC2)	A	L 1-2	4,797	508	-	-	BLUNDELL (86)
Tue 07 December	BRISTOL CITY	H	D 1-1	5,608	-	12	28	ROBERTS (35)
Sat 11 December	Swindon Town	A	D 1-1	5,452	494	13	29	BLUNDELL (39)
Sun 19 December	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	H	L 0-4	10,131	3,314	16	29	
Sun 26 December	MILTON KEYNES DONS	H	W 3-0*	6,153	76	13	32	EDDS (o.g., 9), JOHNSON (60,62)
Wed 29 December	Hull City	A	L 1-2	24,117	3,383	14	32	MULLIGAN (45)
Sat 01 January	Walsall	A	D 1-1	6,021	888	14	33	BENNETT (o.g., 10)
Mon 03 January	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	D 1-1	6,016	-	14	34	GREEN (69)
Sat 08 January	PORT VALE	H	W 2-0	5,209	-	11	37	RYAN (45), GREEN (90)
Sat 15 January	Oldham Athletic	A	W 2-1	7,401	1,390	10	40	BLUNDELL (2), McSPORRAN (80)
Sat 22 January	HULL CITY	H	W 1-0	9,633	-	10	43	McINDOE (59)
Sat 29 January	Wrexham	A	D 0-0	6,115	928	8	44	
Sat 05 February	Torquay United	A	L 1-2	3,157	554	11	44	JOHNSON (87)
Sat 12 February	CHESTERFIELD	H	L 0-1	6,765	-	11	44	
Sat 19 February	Peterborough United	A	W 2-0	4,983	1,613	11	47	ROBERTS (55), FOSTER (81)
Tue 22 February	BARNSLEY	H	W 4-0	7,286	-	8	50	BLUNDELL (16,32), DOOLAN (69), GREEN (83)
Sat 26 February	SWINDON TOWN	H	D 1-1	7,696	-	9	51	ROBERTS (30)
Sun 06 March	Sheffield Wednesday	A	L 0-2	28,712	5,149	11	51	
Sat 12 March	BRENTFORD	H	D 0-0	5,525	-	11	52	
Sat 19 March	Blackpool	A	D 1-1	6,548	1,576	10	53	RYAN (40)
Thur 24 March	BRADFORD CITY	H	D 1-1	6,688	-	10	54	BOWER (o.g., 21)
Mon 28 March	Tranmere Rovers	A	W 4-2	9,730	968	9	57	McINDOE (3), BLUNDELL (5), RAVENHILL (52), ROBERTS (81)
Fri 01 April	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	D 1-1	6,774	205	8	58	GUY (76)
Sat 09 April	Huddersfield Town	A	L 1-3	12,972	2,075	10	58	FORTUNE-WEST (13)
Sat 16 April	Stockport County	A	W 4-2	4,508	-	10	61	RAVENHILL (2), GREEN (72), McINDOE (82), BROWN (87)
Sat 23 April	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H	W 2-0	7,024	1,891	9	64	RAVENHILL (59), FORTUNE-WEST (90)
Sat 30 April	Bristol City	A	D 2-2	12,375	687	10	65	FORTUNE-WEST (34, 88)
Sat 07 May	LUTON TOWN	H						

Fixtures & Results Key

- Starting Player
- ➡ 1st Substitute Off
- ➡ 2nd Substitute Off
- ➡ 3rd Substitute Off
- ⬅ 1st Substitute On
- ⬅ 2nd Substitute On
- ⬅ 3rd Substitute On
- Unused Substitute
- Booked
- Sent off

[illegible]

Appearances 2004/2005

No	Name	LEAGUE			TOTAL CUPS			TOTALS			CAREER		
		Starts	Sub	Goals	Starts	Sub	Goals	Starts	Sub	Goals	Starts	Sub	Goals
1	Andy Warrington	34	0	0	5	0	0	39	0	0	217	0	0
2	Simon Marples	12	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	0	160	8	1
3	Tim Ryan	37	1	4	4	1	0	41	2	4	215	12	7
4	Dave Morley	9	0	0	4	0	0	13	0	0	64	13	7
5	John Doolan	31	6	2	3	0	1	34	6	3	82	9	3
6	Mark Albrighton	15	2	1	2	0	0	17	2	1	73	7	6
7	Francis Tierney	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	57	14	12
7	Lewis Guy	3	5	1	0	0	0	3	5	1	3	5	1
8	Gregg Blundell	33	8	9	4	0	2	37	8	11	81	15	32
9	Guy Ipoua	1	8	0	1	1	0	2	9	0	2	9	0
10	Adriano Rigoglioso	2	10	0	1	3	1	3	13	1	8	25	1
11	Jermaine McSparran	15	11	1	3	1	1	18	12	2	18	12	2
12	John McGrath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0
13	Leo Fortune-West	15	8	6	4	0	1	19	8	7	50	20	19
14	Chris Beardsley	1	3	0	2	2	1	3	5	1	3	5	1
14	Andy Campbell	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0
15	Nick Fenton	36	1	1	7	0	1	43	1	2	43	1	2
16	Mark Wilson	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
17	Chris Beech	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	36	0	0
18	Jamie Price	5	1	0	3	1	0	8	2	0	47	12	0
19	Ricky Ravenhill	21	14	3	5	1	1	26	15	4	70	54	7
20	Paul Green	37	4	7	4	1	0	41	5	7	106	31	23
21	Michael McIndoe	42	1	10	7	0	2	49	1	12	99	1	22
22	Jon Maloney	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0
23	Steve Foster	33	0	1	3	0	0	36	0	1	106	3	3
24	Stuart Jones	3	1	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	4	1	0
25	Nic Priest	7	0	0	3	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0
26	James Coppinger	26	4	0	4	3	0	30	7	0	30	7	0
27	Ben Jackson	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	3	0
29	Craig Nelthorpe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Dave Mulligan	26	4	1	1	3	0	27	7	1	41	7	2
31	Simon Johnson	8	3	3	0	0	0	8	3	3	8	3	3
31	Adam Brown	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1
32	Ross Flitney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Neil Roberts	30	0	6	2	0	0	32	0	6	32	0	6
34	Michael Ingham	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
34	Iain Turner	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0
36	Lee Cockerham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Coca-Cola League One Table 2004 - 2005

Last updated 04-05-05

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	Leading scorers (league only)
Luton Town C	45	17	4	2	46	16	12	6	4	38	29	39	97	Howard (17), Brkovic (15), Nicholls (11)
Hull City P	45	16	5	2	42	17	10	3	9	37	34	28	86	Elliott (27), Barmby (9), Green (8)
Tranmere Rovers	45	14	5	4	43	23	8	8	6	29	30	19	79	Hume (15), Hall (11), Dadi (9)
Sheffield Wednesday	45	10	6	6	32	25	9	9	5	43	31	19	72	MacLean (18), Jones (7), Bullen (7)
Brentford	45	14	4	4	32	21	7	5	11	23	38	-4	72	Burton (10), Rankin (8), Sodje (7)
Hartlepool United	45	15	3	5	51	30	6	4	12	23	34	10	70	Boyd (22), Porter (14), Sweeney (12)
Bournemouth	45	9	6	7	38	28	11	3	9	37	34	13	69	Hayter (17), O'Connor (13), Fletcher (9)
Bristol City	45	9	8	6	42	25	8	8	6	29	30	16	67	Lita (24), Brooker (14), Wilks (9)
Huddersfield Town	45	12	6	5	42	28	7	4	11	31	37	8	67	Abbott (26), Booth (10), Brandon, Beckett (6)
Doncaster Rovers	45	10	10	2	32	17	6	7	10	30	40	5	65	McIndoe (10), Blundell (9), Green (7)
Bradford City	45	9	6	8	40	35	8	8	6	23	25	3	65	Windass (26), Schumacher (6), Cooke, Wetherall (4)
Swindon Town	45	12	4	6	39	29	5	7	11	26	38	-2	62	Parkin (22), Smith (10), Howard, Henderson (5)
Barnsley	45	7	11	5	38	31	6	8	8	29	33	3	58	Chopra (17), Boulding (10), Nardiello (7)
Blackpool	45	8	7	7	28	28	7	5	11	26	29	-3	57	Taylor (12), Murphy, Parker (9)
Walsall	45	10	7	5	37	28	5	5	13	25	41	-7	57	Fryatt (14), Leitao (8), Wrack (7)
Colchester United	45	7	6	9	25	22	6	11	6	33	27	9	56	Danns (10), Johnson (9), Fagan (8)
Chesterfield	45	9	8	6	32	28	5	6	11	22	33	-7	56	N'Toya (7), Nicholson (7), Folan, Allison (6)
Port Vale	45	12	2	8	32	23	4	3	16	16	36	-11	53	Matthews (10), Paynter (10), Birchall (6)
Torquay United	45	8	5	10	27	36	4	10	8	27	41	-23	51	Akinfenwa (14), Constantine (9), Gritton, Kuffour (6)
Oldham Athletic	45	9	5	8	40	33	4	5	14	18	39	-14	49	Killen (9), Vernon (7), Haining, Betsey, Beckett (5)
Milton Keynes Dons	45	7	10	5	31	27	4	5	14	21	40	-15	48	McLeod (16), Small (10), Harding, Smart (4)
Wrexham* R	45	6	8	8	26	36	7	6	10	36	43	-17	43	Ugarte (16), Sam (9), Armstrong (8)
Peterborough United R	45	5	6	12	27	35	4	6	12	22	37	-23	39	Willcock (12), Purser (6), Legg (5)
Stockport County R	45	3	1	16	26	46	3	4	15	23	49	-46	26	Feeney (15), Beckett (7), Lambert, Le Fondre (4)

*Wrexham deducted 10 points after going into administration



League One Review


For Rovers to still reach the playoffs with two games remaining was testimony to the fact that having got used to this league, Doncaster have now established themselves as one of the better teams. When you look back to the fact that they lost four of their first five away games and were still as low as sixteenth in the table when defeated by Sheffield Wednesday in December, congratulations are certainly in order for the achievements of Dave, Mickey and everyone else involved with the first team. Congratulations are also in order for our opponents today, Luton Town. The Hatters went to the top of the table after four games of the season played and remained top for the rest of the season, with the exception of one week, and won the division comfortably. In their last home game

of the season against Brentford last week, Luton were trailing with six minutes to go, but still managed a 4-2 win - this against a strong side who still ought to be in the play-offs. Hull City, promoted a fortnight ago, have lost their last two matches. The first against the improving Walsall , and last week they conceded a last minute goal at home to Sheffield Wednesday, a result that assured Wednesday of their play-off place. Hull face Brentford today and if Brentford win, their play-off place would also be assured. Tranmere have finished third in the table by a reasonable margin. In beating Port Vale last Friday they were able to rest some of their senior players, namely McAteer and Rankine, ready for the play-offs. Today's big game sees Hartlepool face

game, at home to Walsall last week seeing them going 3-0 down before half time. Pools missed out on a play-off place on the last game of last season, will history repeat itself ? Bristol City and Huddersfield are the other teams still with a mathematical chance of getting in the play-offs. City travel to Hillsborough today, with Huddersfield facing Wrexham. Wrexham's Juan Ugarte scored another hat-trick last weekend in their 4-1 win at Stockport. It gave Wrexham a slight chance of survival, although wins for Torquay and MK Dons made it unlikely. Torquay and Huddersfield, both promoted last season are the two form teams, apart from Luton. Huddersfield have 22 points from the last eight games and Torquay 12 from four. Adebayo Akinfenwa has scored five in the last seven to lift his team to survival. Oldham could still be relegated, and that would be two teams relegated in one season for manager, Ronnie Moore.

Today's Coca Cola League One matches:

Blackpool v Barnsley
Bournemouth v Hartlepool United
Brentford v Hull City
Colchester United v Torquay United
Doncaster Rovers v Luton Town
Milton Keynes Dons v Tranmere Rovers
Oldham Athletic v Bradford City
Port Vale v Peterborough United
Sheffield Wednesday v Bristol City
Swindon Town v Chesterfield
Walsall v Stockport County
Wrexham v Huddersfield Town



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Adam Brown, pictured in action in his home debut for Rovers against Hartlepool United

Rovers in the Community

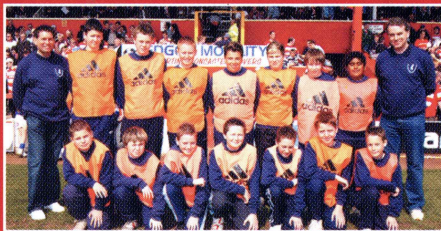
Division Three/Conference
Community Pages Of The Year
Winners 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04

Good afternoon everyone.

Welcome to the final – yes, the final – game of the season against Champions Luton Town. Many congratulations go to Mike Newell and his Hatters side. Mike is, of course, no stranger to Belle Vue, having played here during the early Conference years. Mike visited Tranmore School, Armthorpe, with myself and the coaches, so I'd like to personally congratulate him on his side's success this year. It seems really strange that, for the first time in three years, we are not involved in a promotion party. We have had a fantastic season tough, and I fully expect us to be challenging for a play-off spot at the very least next season. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked closely with Eric, myself and Rovers in the Community this season. You have all been a credit. Special thanks also to Michael Harker, our programme editor.

Thank you to you both

A big Donny thank you to Adam and his McAuley School, and to Dave Lilley and his Finningley Harriers Under-13 side. Both sets of lads did an excellent job as ball boys at the Hartlepool game.



Welcome Mick and Ben

A warm Donny welcome to Mick Ashley and his joint Edenthorpe Panthers/Cougars group, and our own Community Coach, Ben Mawson, and his Edlington White Stars group, who are acting

as ball boys at today's game. We hope the boys enjoy the final game of the season and see a Rovers victory at full time.

Welcome Ken and the boys

A warm Belle Vue welcome to Ken Porter and his Hall Cross Juniors side who are being shown around our famous stadium before kick-off, and are taking their places on the Town End terrace to watch the game. We hope Ken, who by the way is a Rovers' Lottery agent, enjoy the game and the stadium tour, and watch yet another home win.

Enjoy your retirement

Eric and Richard would like to place on record their thanks to club secretary Joan Oldale, who is retiring from her role after today's game. Eric said "Joan has helped me enormously throughout my sixteen years here. Her support has been fantastic and I personally wish her well during a deserved retirement."

Richard backs this up by saying "Joan's door has always been open to both of us, she has served this club brilliantly. I hope Joan and Peter have a great retirement and enjoy their caravanning trips."



Kick for CLIC
During June,
Rovers in the
Community

coaches will be distributing leaflets and several small "Kick for CLIC" footballs to a selected number of Doncaster schools. The leaflets will give schools an insight into CLIC, which is the leading children's charity linking cancer. The footballs will be used by the schools to take part in some kind of sponsored event, with all money going into the "Kick for CLIC" charity. If your school is interested in any way, please contact Football in the Community officer Richard Bailey on 01302 370250, or register on-line at www.kickforclik.org.uk or email kickforclik@click.org.uk. Please help us back this event.

Football in the Community
in association with



In partnership with



Doncaster
Children's Fund

IDEAL

Ideal Financial Management Ltd.
142 Thorne Road, Edenthorpe,
Doncaster DN3 2LU
Phone: 01302 880140

sponsor the Rovers in
the Community
Football Fun Centres

Steve shows his community spirit

None of us will ever forget Boxing Day 2004 and the terrible tsunami disaster. That day will always stay in our minds forever. Through the disaster, several close friendships have developed, none more-so than Rovers' fanatic, Steve Chadwick, and Silva and family from Sri Lanka. Steve was already a close friend of Silva before the disaster, but ever since he has tried to help tsunami disaster countries in any way he can. So far, Steve has sent six autographed Rovers footballs, courtesy of Rovers in the Community. He also sent a mix of Rovers and Rovers Belles shirts, along with money he has raised by selling a selection of the Rovers and Belles shirts on Doncaster Car Boot Market. Steve is a credit to the Rovers, and this letter, sent to Steve by email, says it all.

Dear Steve Chadwick

How are you getting on? We are of course still trying to spend our normal life as we did before December 2004.

As you know there was another tsunami threat on 28th we got the news at around 11.45 p.m and my family went for a safe place. But fortunately the earthquake didn't affect us. Now again we are back on our own house. But we are still afraid because the sea is a little bit strange in the last couple of days. I can say is because we are living near the sea form our childhood. Hopefully there won't be any threat for us.

Thanks you very much for the support given to me financially which helped us in a big way, as we still haven't got any support from the government. If you didn't support us, we are wonder what will happen for us. Because we were really financially down at that moment. And now we are trying to make our lives steady by the help given by you. But it is also a problem for us, coz no one is employed in our family.

Eden hotel is the only hotel that is on operation for the moment but there are only 30-40 guests in it.

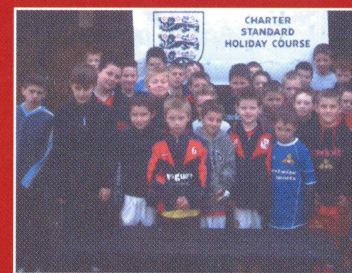
They also people who have come 4 to 5 times to the hotel (only the repeat guests). Still Sri Lanka is recovering and we wonder what is government doing after three months and with all the funds that were given by various countries.

Most of the people still living in temples. If you didn't help us we would be also still be living in a temple. We really won't forget your help. When you are coming to Sri Lanka? My family will definitely help you as we can. Every day I am thanking God for making peoples like you who are very helpful for others.

Please try to reply me through e-mail or fax, whenever you are free. Coz we would really like to have contact with you.

"God bless you."

Silva & family (Sri Lanka)



Rovers' Community Coaches seen with youngsters

Disability Awareness Campaign

Rovers in the Community are fully backing the Disability Awareness Campaign pilot scheme. We will be sending a player along with our Community coaches to a Special Needs school in the near future. Other aims for the future include:

- including a message of support from the manager/captain in the match programme
- include an article in the programme written by a member of the club's disabled supporters group or an individual disabled supporter in the match programme
- conduct a half time football display from disabled football in the community group
- distribute tickets to young people from special needs schools
- issue a press release to local media highlighting the event and the good work your club does
- send a player into a special needs school with Football in the Community coaches to undertake a coaching session

Adidas Community Cup By Sarah Newbould

April 13th saw me and Edlington Comprehensive School down at Millmoor for the quarter finals of the Adidas U13's girls tournament. Unfortunately the girls weren't quite strong enough to proceed any further, but they were a credit to themselves and Doncaster Rovers. The results were as follows:

Everton 1 Donny Rovers 0
Huddersfield 2 Donny Rovers 0
Donny Rovers 1 (Jenny Knibbs) Burnley 4

The girls didn't walk away empty handed though. They each received a trophy and two Adidas gifts, as well as a full Adidas kit for their school. Everton were the eventual winners on the day, and will play in the final before the Women's FA Cup Final at West Ham United.

Rovers in the Community announce goalkeeping sessions At Hall Cross Lower School from Friday, 22nd April between 5pm and 6pm.

For further information, contact Richard on 01302 370250. Finally, enjoy the summer break. With the new stadium just a season away, let's "go4it" next year!

Rovers 'til I die!
Richard & Eric



Doncaster
Junior Library
with Rovers'
striker Lewis
Guy



Congratulations Rovers Belles

Before today's game, members of the Doncaster Rovers Belles side, along with manager Eric Randerson, assistant Wayne Galloway and support coach Bob Sanderson will be presented with the Midland North



Reserve Team Championship, along with medals for every player. This is a totally deserved award for a very young bunch of highly talented reserve players, some of whom are expected to push for the Rovers Belles first team next season. May we also

congratulate John Buckley, Jim Dobbin and their first team girls, who stayed in the National League, courtesy of a Vicky Exley goal against Birmingham City in the very last match of the season. That win meant that the Rovers Belles escaped relegation.

Saturday 30th April 2005
Coca Cola League One

Bristol City (o) 2
Doncaster Rovers (a) 2

Bristol City: Phillips, Carey, Golbourne, Coles, Fortune, Murray, Brown, Skuse, Brooker, Heffernan, Wilshire
Substitutes: Anyinsah (for Murray, 37), Gillespie (for Brown, 59), Bell (for Golbourne, 75), Smith, Orr

Rovers: Turner, Mulligan, Ryan, Fenton, Foster, Ravenhill, Coppinger, Green, Fortune-West, Guy, McIndoe
Substitutes: Blundell (for Guy 72), Doolan (for Coppinger, 74), Maloney, Brown, Warrington

Goals:
Bristol City: Brooker (62,90)
Rovers: Fortune-West (34,88)

Attendance: 12,375

Referee: F. Graham
Assistant referees: I. Harris & D. Hine

Report: Paul Gilligan
Statistics: John Coyle
Photographs: Steve Uttley

A late, late equaliser from City denied the Rovers their seventh away win of the season, and effectively ended their lingering hopes of a play-off place. But they were well worth their point, despite having Ravenhill dismissed for a second bookable offence with eighteen minutes left.

The Rovers enjoyed the better of the exchanges in the first half, with McIndoe, Coppinger and Fortune-West always looking dangerous as the visitors swung the ball around in good style. City, in contrast, seemed devoid of any constructive attacking ideas, and Turner in the Doncaster goal dealt capably with any number of crosses that came his way. The opening goal of the match came on thirty four minutes, when Fortune-West beat Turner with a good header from twelve yards. The big Rovers striker was marked on the day by his nephew, Clayton, so this was definitely "one up" for Uncle Leo as the Rovers continued to look the better side up to half-time. Shortly before the break, Murray was stretchered from the field following an aerial collision, and was taken to hospital with a suspected fractured cheekbone.

The home team looked a different outfit as the

second half got under way, and the Rovers were often under severe pressure as the half progressed. It came as no surprise, therefore, when Brooker latched on to a long clearance from Coles, and outpaced the visiting defence to drive the ball past Turner. The Rovers goal survived a number of near misses, and things looked even blacker when Ravenhill was sent off for pulling back Anyinsah, but Fortune-West looked to have pinched the points when he volleyed home after Blundell and Green provided the opportunity with just two minutes left. Even at this late stage, the Rovers slim play-off hopes were still intact, but Brooker was adjudged to have headed home in injury time, although this may well have been an "own goal" from a Rovers defender, and the spoils on the day were shared. In the event, the Rovers have eventually missed out on a play-off place, although, as a result of the games played later today, that final margin may be as little as a single point. Disappointing as that may be, we can all look forward to the summer and then the new season, happy in the knowledge that we as a club have continued to improve, and that the future is one of great promise.

Match Action





FA Cup
90 minutes
6/4 Man Utd
2/1 Draw
7/4 Arsenal

Outright
4/5 Man Utd
Evs Arsenal

Premiership 2005/06
Evs Chelsea
3/1 Arsenal
3/1 Man Utd
20/1 Liverpool
150/1 Everton
200/1 Spurs
400/1 Newcastle

Today's game
6/4 Rovers
9/4 Draw
6/4 Luton

05/06 Specials
20/1 Rovers win League One
8/1 Rovers promoted automatic
8/1 Rovers promoted via play-offs
9/2 Forest win League One
12/1 Newcastle relegated
200/1 Luton win Championship

Summer Specials
9/2 England win Ashes
7/2 Woods wins British Open
10/1 Henman wins Wimbledon
4/1 Rovers spend £500,000 on players
9/4 Yorkshire win a trophy

Congratulations to Dave Penney and the boys for cementing their place in League One - good luck for 05/06!!

CENTRAL RACING

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Hallam FM



Anyone who heard my post-Bristol City interview with Dave Penney on Hallam FM last Saturday could rightly have complained about the interviewer's composure. I was a right mess.

When you've got a full-time report to write, you tend to start scribbling with one eye on the page at about 85 minutes, banking on the result staying the same. The most foolish mistake is when it all changes on 88 (Leo scoring surely the winner) and you throw away the old report for a draw, which in the end would have been perfect because Bristol scored and screwed it all up anyway and I'd binned a report which could have gone fine. Rubbish.

By the time the City equaliser got in, there was a bit too much sweat going on for my liking (hi ladies), this being due to the prehistoric Bristol City press box which is, unfortunately, indoors. Might be a nice touch in February but when you're looking forward to a day out in the fresh, pie-stained football air the last thing you need is to get locked inside a furnace with a clutch of "seasoned" journalists.

Anyway. I think the crux of what I

tried to splutter at full-time was that having spent the afternoon trying to work out how League One was changing using just the tiny table in the match programme, Saturday was really exciting. True, even with a win Rovers would still have been major outsiders for the play-offs, but when the chances of making the top six started being written off, I didn't expect it'd come down to the penultimate game. For a debut season in this league, to only have one game where you're not challenging for promotion has got to be a good result.

But today's obviously a bit sad because the Third Division has new winners. The trophy has a new home. I've spent a good chunk of the past year alienating much of the Hallam FM office by really going overboard on the fact that Doncaster are - until 5pm tonight - The Champions. You know the deal, repeatedly putting the picture of me holding the trophy as computer wallpaper, insisting that Rovers are only referred to as "The Champions", that kind of thing. Make the most of today - you can't be champions every year - and this

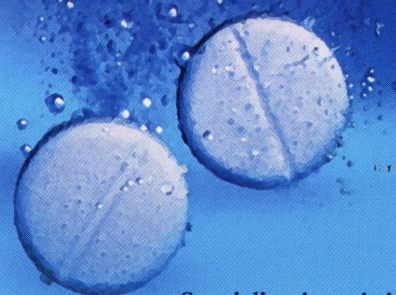
has been a real season to be proud of. A win today would, of course, be... well... champion.

Hallam FM is live at the Earth Stadium today as usual; if you get chance on your way out give Jules a call on 0114 221 4444 for Rate 'Em or Slate 'Em. Enjoy the game, and have a very good sunny summer.

Simon Owen
Hallam FM's Game On
97.4 - 102.9 - 103.4 FM

PS: Thank you to Michael Harker and his programme editing team for all their efforts this season. I know they work very hard and I don't make their job any easier by repeatedly filing copy late, but anybody who's trawled the country like me this season will know they produce a product unmatched by any other club in League One.

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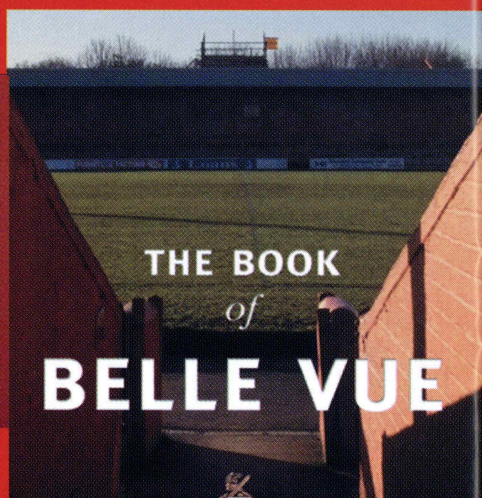
Wristbands in white or red with
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 commemorative plate to celebrate
 our promotion from Division three.
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 individually numbered. They
 compliment the limited edition
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Rovers 125

THE STORY OF DONCASTER ROVERS

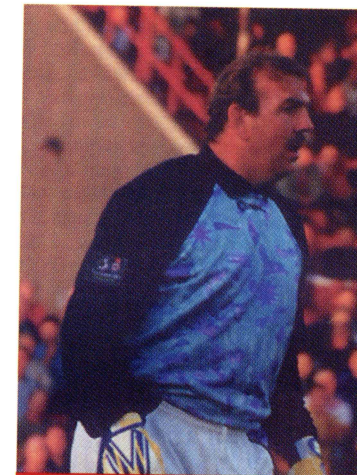
Back in August we began a look at the history of Doncaster Rovers as part of the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of the formation of the club. Today we finish the long tale, with John Coyle taking a look at the events from 1998 to date – from the first Conference season, right up to the 2004/05 season.

Part 25 – The Conference Years, and the triumphant return to the Football League

Rovers began the 1998-99 season in the Nationwide Conference. That in itself was somewhat miraculous, given the state of the club over the preceding months, with Westferry buying the club from Dinard Trading on 1st August – just two weeks before the new season. With Ian Snodin installed as player/manager and only five registered players, a frantic search for players began. Only by scouring Snodin's contact book were Rovers able to find enough players for the opening game at Dover Athletic on 15th August 1998. Rovers lost 0-1, but put on a competitive performance, as they did a few days later when losing 0-1 to Southport at Belle Vue in front of an encouraging crowd of 3,663. Snodin's new signings included Simon Shaw (Darlington), Mark Hume



TOMMY WRIGHT



NEVILLE SOUTHALL



IAN DUERDEN

(Barnsley), Shaun Goodwin (Rotherham), Tommy Wright (ex-Leeds), Dave Penney (Cardiff City), the returning Scott Maxfield and former Wales and Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall, although he departed after nine games. Rovers struggled for much of the season and at Christmas they were bottom of the table. A revival was sparked by Ian Duerden, signed from Burnley, who notched 18 goals in all competitions. Rovers eventually finished 16th, just above the relegation zone but that was an achievement in itself. Unusually for Rovers, the main excitement came in the Cups. In the FA Cup, Rovers saw off Flixton and Guiseley in the Qualifying Rounds before defeating Southend United in Round One, thanks to a Dave Penney goal. This took Rovers into Round Two for the first time since 1989-90, with 5,398 seeing Rovers draw 0-0 at Belle Vue with Rushden and Diamonds. With Leeds United awaiting the winners in Round Three, Rovers went down 2-4 in the replay, hampered by the early dismissal of Hume. Consolation came in the Endsleigh Trophy, the Conference's League Cup. Rovers sailed through the early rounds and after defeating Morecambe in a two-legged semi-final they faced Farnborough Town, also over two legs. Penney's late goal secured victory in the away leg, with a crowd of

7,160, a competition record, pouring into Belle Vue to see the second leg. Goals by Colin Sutherland and a brace from Duerden secured Rovers' first silverware for many years. Rovers began 1999-2000 tipped by many for promotion. New signings included Dean Walling, Andy Warrington and former Blackburn Rovers striker Mike Newell. Rovers made a rather patchy start and were soon adrift from the leaders, and from February Rovers' form dipped dramatically, with only one win in 11 League games. With the threat of relegation looming, the Snodins were relieved of their duties. Dave Penney and Mark Atkins were placed in temporary charge, engineering a revival to enable Rovers to finish in a rather flattering 12th place, with Dino Maamria being top scorer with 11 goals. In the Cups, Rovers made early exits in the FA Cup and FA Trophy, but they did retain the Conference Cup, now named the Nationwide MacMillan Trophy. Wins over Nuneaton Borough, Scarborough and Telford United secured a final with Kingstons at Belle Vue which Rovers won 2-0. Former Rovers defender Steve Wignall was appointed as Rovers' new manager just before the end of the 1999-2000 season. Experienced in non-league football, Wignall was seen as the man who could lift Rovers back into the

Rovers 125



MIKE NEWELL

Football League, with his close season signings, ex-Rover Tim Ryan, Jimmy Kelly and Jamie Paterson. Prolific striker Carl Alford appeared to be the jewel in the crown, but like Rovers' season as a whole, he was to prove a massive disappointment, and was loaned out to try and regain some form.

Rovers began the season poorly, with only two points from the first four games and finished 9th, with average home League gates falling to 2,281,



JAMIE PATERSON

with Paterson finishing top scorer with 14 goals in all competitions. Useful signings, including Barry Miller, Francis Tierney and Dean Barrick, failed to result in improved form, with Rovers failing to make the First Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time since 1923 after losing a Fourth Qualifying Round replay at Southport. The same club knocked Rovers out of the Conference League Cup in the first



PAUL BARNES

round. Rovers did, though, win the Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Challenge Cup, goals from Tristram Whitman and Mike Turner securing a 2-1 win over Emley in the final at Hillsborough.

With Alford gone, manager Wignall brought in experienced strikers Paul Barnes and Mark Sale for the 2001/02 season, along with midfield men Gareth Owen and Paul Carden. In September, after three wins from the opening five games, Rovers splashed out a club record fee to secure Justin Jackson, another England semi-pro international, who had just helped Rushden & Diamonds to the Conference title. Jackson missed many matches through injury, and Barnes also missed a number of games with a foot injury, but Rovers managed an improved run of

form late in the season which was only ended when eventual Champions Boston United won 1-0 at Belle Vue in front of 4,027. Rovers went on to finish the season in an encouraging fourth place and there were signs of a useful forward partnership developing between Barnes and the young Robert Gill, although Jamie Paterson (14) was again top marksman.

John Ryan stepped down as chairman following a dispute with the Council over the proposed new stadium and the club was forced to make budget cuts. One victim was Wignall, who was replaced by first-team coach Dave Penney. The first round FA Cup tie with Scunthorpe United saw Rovers unlucky to lose 2-3, with 6,222 in attendance. Rovers also retained the Sheffield & Hallamshire Cup, again beating Emley in the final, this time by a convincing 3-0. Penney opted to strengthen his defence in the close season, bringing in Mark Albrighton (Telford United), Dave Morley (Oxford United) and Steve Foster (Bristol Rovers). A second promotion place into the Football League, by way of end of season play-offs, was introduced for the first time.

Rovers won six of their opening seven games, the only points being dropped in an amazing game at Telford, where Rovers led 4-0 at half-time but allowed the home side to come back and level the game. On 7th September 2002 Belle Vue hosted its first live televised game, as Sky TV arrived to cover the match with Dagenham & Redbridge. Rovers turned on a scintillating display to win 5-1 and establish themselves as title contenders. After five matches without victory they were subsequently always in the pack trying to catch up with leaders Yeovil Town. Despite consistent goal scoring from Paul Barnes, Rovers never managed to regain pole position and the play-offs became their best route of progress. Rovers signed midfielder John Doolan from Barnet and striker Gregg Blundell from Northwich Victoria on transfer deadline day to strengthen the squad.

On the last day of the season, with third place and a play-off slot



GREGG BLUNDELL

confirmed, Chairman John Ryan played in the final minutes of the game at Hereford United, thus fulfilling a lifelong ambition, as well as becoming the oldest player to appear in a senior game.

The play-offs pitted Rovers against fourth-placed Chester City, with the first leg at Belle Vue. Rovers trailed to a goal by ex-Rover Kevin McIntyre until Tristram Whitman snatched a late equaliser. At the Deva Stadium, Rovers trailed again before Barnes levelled, and the match progressed to a tense penalty shoot-out. Rovers scored four of their five kicks and fine work by goalkeeper Andy Warrington ensured that Chester managed only three. The final, on 10th May 2003 was against Dagenham & Redbridge at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke. Rovers led 2-0 with goals from Paul Green and Dave Morley but Dagenham levelled to send the game into sudden-death extra time and with ten minutes remaining Francis Tierney scored the "golden goal" that sent Rovers back into the Football League. It had been an excellent season, with League attendances averaging 3,540 and 6,857 attending the Chester play-off game. Barnes' 28 goals had been the best return by a Rovers' striker for over 25 years and

Rovers 125

earned him the Conference Golden Boot. Cup matches had taken a back seat, although Rovers beat Wigan Athletic in the LDV Vans Trophy and also gave a good account of themselves in a 1-2 FA Cup defeat at Bournemouth. In preparation for a return to the Football League, Dave Penney brought in experienced Leo Fortune-West from Cardiff and, on the eve of the season, captured Yeovil Town's star winger Michael McIndoe, a major coup for the club. On the season's opening day, Rovers travelled to Leyton Orient and in sweltering heat they recorded a 3-1 win, Blundell and Fortune-West twice notching the goals. Rovers were languishing in 16th place after eight games, but a win over League leaders Oxford United sparked a run of eight wins from nine games to put them near the top of the table. Striker Chris Brown joined on loan from Sunderland and he proved a vital signing, remaining with Rovers till the end of the season. On 19th December a 3-1 win over Swansea City put Rovers top of Division Three and although they lost that position, it was regained in February 2004 with a 2-1 win at promotion rivals Mansfield Town. Rovers then held on to top spot till the end of the season, clinching promotion on Easter Monday with a 2-0 win over Cambridge United in front of a crowd of 9,644, and securing the title with a game still to play. The Championship trophy was presented after Belle Vue's final game of the season against Carlisle United, a 1-0 win watched by 9,720, the best home attendance of the season. Rovers had won their first Divisional title since 1968-69. Attendances averaged 6,947, brought in by success and by some excellent football by a side that lost only twice at home. Gregg Blundell's 18 League goals (plus two in Cups) made him top scorer, but Fortune-West (11), Brown (10) and McIndoe (10) also made big contributions to an overall total of 79 League strikes. In the League Cup, Rovers recorded an excellent win over Grimsby Town, winning 3-2 after being two goals down before an unlucky defeat at Crystal Palace, but the FA Cup

offered disappointment with a 0-1 defeat at Conference side Scarborough. It was, though, a small blot on an almost perfect season.

Dave Penney made several new signings for the 2004/05 season in the renamed Coca-Cola League One, including Nick Fenton, Chris Beardsley, Guy Ipoua, James Coppinger and Jermaine McSparran. Despite a shaky start and some inconsistency, Rovers have established themselves in the League and came close to a play-off place before settling for mid-table respectability. Highlights included a 1-0 home victory over promotion chasing Hull City and excellent away wins at Barnsley and Tranmere, although a FA Cup Second Round exit at Conference side Exeter City denied the club an opportunity to play against Manchester United. Rovers continued to play exciting attacking football and pull in the crowds, and with a move to the new community stadium only just over 12 months away, the club's prospects look brighter than ever after a sensational few years. Whilst Rovers narrowly missed out on the chance of a third successive promotion, the future's certainly bright – it's red and white!



DAVE PENNEY

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 <p>06 Mark Albrighton</p> <p>Home shirt I Digicon Ltd Home shorts & socks Steve & Mick Reed Away shirt Peter Frankland Away shorts Darren, Gwen & Luc Burke</p>	 <p>07 Lewis Guy</p> <p>Home shorts Paul Thompson</p>	 <p>08 Gregg Blundell</p> <p>Full Home Kit Butler's Garage, Armthorpe (tel: 831492) Away Socks Rachel Lee Away shorts Danny Ford Away shirt Steve Redman</p>	 <p>09 Guy Ipoua</p>
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 <p>26 James Coppinger</p> <p>Home shirt Woods Decorators Home shorts Neil Woods Home socks Mrs D.T. Lesniak, Exeter Away shirt Lewis Munday</p>	 <p>27 Ben Jackson</p> <p>Home shirt Retford Branch, Supporters Club</p>	 <p>30 David Mulligan</p> <p>Full Home Kit White Hart, Bawtry (Sandra & Phil Rose) Away shirt Stirling Castle, Bridlington</p>	 <p>33 Neil Roberts</p> <p>Home and away kits Exchange Vehicle Rental (tel:322321)</p>
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Commercial Talk



Good afternoon, and welcome to the last game of the season against League One champions, Luton Town. I would like to begin by thanking everyone who has been kind enough to has put money into Doncaster Rovers by way of sponsorship – whether that be player sponsorship, match or match ball sponsorship. Your support and custom is greatly valued, and I hope that we will see all of you again next season. As you may have seen on pages 46 & 47, we are holding our kit sponsorship prices at the same levels as this season. Anyone who wishes to renew their kit sponsorship from this season should do so as soon as possible. Get in touch with one of the commercial staff, Ray, Alick or Charles, to discuss how we can help you. For a kit sponsorship, you will get your name, or your company name, in the Rovers programme for all remaining games of next season. Those who have sponsored kit this season will shortly receive an invitation to the Sponsors' Presentation Evening at the Rovers Return on 6th July. Unfortunately the evening cannot be at the end of this season due to the players leaving for their holidays. There are only two hospitality boxes available for next season, which is great news for the club. If you, or your company, are interested in booking a hospitality box next season, do not delay, or you may be too late! Give us a call to find out more details. I would like to welcome our match ball sponsors this afternoon, who are; Crozier Jones (Chartered Accountants), The Salutation, Dr Erskine & C Sharpe. Thank you all for your kind sponsorship, and I hope that you enjoy your afternoon with us. I would also like to welcome Smart DMBC and Plasmoor to today's match. They have hired hospitality boxes this afternoon – we hope that they enjoy watching the game today. Our match sponsor for the Hartlepool United game was the Doncaster Star, and our match ball sponsor was Joe Middleton. They are pictured here making their presentations to their "Man of the match".

Finally, enjoy the game, have a great summer, and let's see you all packing Belle Vue for the final season before we move to the new Community Stadium!

Best wishes,
Ray, Alick and Charles



Commercial Talk



Unique Bid

The successful bidder from the Doncaster Legends photograph auction was a Mr Gordon Howell. He got the item by placing the lowest unique bid which on this occasion was 27p! He is a huge Doncaster Rovers fan and has been supporting them for 25 years. He regularly attended the games for many years up until 1985 when he moved from Doncaster to Hertfordshire. He has found it difficult to attend as many games as he would like to but did manage to attend the Hartlepool game on Saturday where he was presented with the signed photo!!



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Upper Tier

LowerTier

Saturday 16th April 2005
Coca Cola League One

Stockport County (2) 2
Rovers (1) 4

Stockport: Cutler, Hurst, Jackman, A. Williams, Raynes, Briggs, Goodwin, Horwood, Barlow, Le Fondre, Allen

Substitutes: Tomlinson, Cartwright, Robinson, C. Williams, Hardiker

Rovers: Turner, Maloney, Ryan, Foster, Fenton, Ravenhill, Mulligan, Green, Fortune-West, Blundell, McIndoe

Substitutes: Brown (for Mulligan, 28), Guy (for Blundell, 77), Doolan, Rigoglioso, Warrington

Attendance: 4,508

Referee: P. Danson
Assistants: I. Faulkner, P. Simpson & C. Harwood

Yellow cards:
Stockport: Briggs
Rovers: Ryan

Red cards: None.

Goals:
Stockport: Allen (28), Le Fondre (45)
Rovers: Ravenhill (2), Green (72), McIndoe (82), Brown (87)

Report: John Coyle
Statistics: John Coyle
Pictures: Steve Uttley

Rovers had to come from behind to complete victory over bottom club Stockport County, in a game notable for the goalscoring debut of youth team midfielder Adam Brown. The right-sided player, only allocated a squad number on the eve of the game, notched Rovers' fourth goal in a game which may have lacked quality but did not want for excitement.

Dave Penney made several changes from the side that lost at Huddersfield, the most notable being a first start for right-back Jon Maloney following a successful loan spell at York City. Rovers got the perfect start when Tim Ryan's deep cross was headed back across goal by Dave Mulligan for Ricky Ravenhill to stab home. There were only two minutes on the clock and Rovers

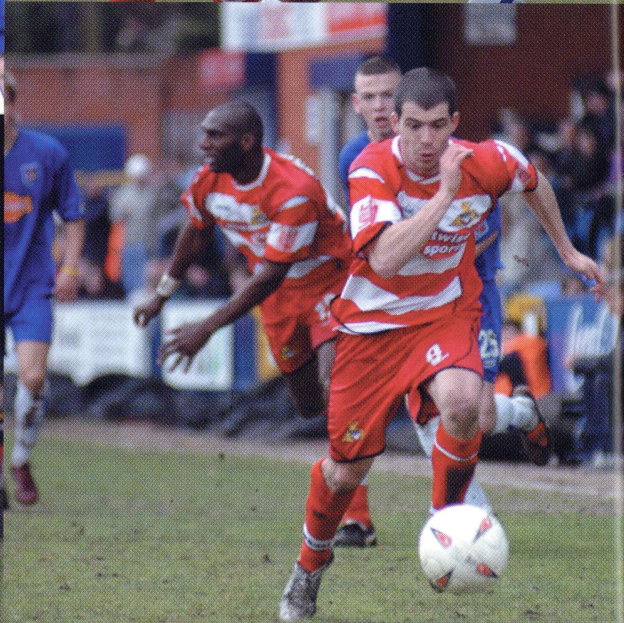
were 1-0 up against a team who had lost their last seven games. Rovers did not capitalise on their early advantage, although both Leo Fortune-West and Ravenhill went close and they were pegged back by a fortunate Stockport equaliser after 28 minutes. Briggs' long range effort seemed to be covered by Iain Turner but the ball struck Allen and deflected past the Rovers'

keeper. At this point Brown replaced Mulligan, who appeared to be struggling with an injury. Rovers might have regained their lead just before the break when Gregg Blundell was fouled on the edge of the area but Michael McIndoe's free kick was blocked by the wall. Worse was to follow in stoppage time. Briggs' throw-in was helped on by

Barlow and Le Fondre, who looked to be offside, headed past Turner from close range. The goal stood, and Rovers were behind at the break.

Rovers might have gone further behind early in the second half when Barlow's header from a corner was scrambled to safety by Nick Fenton. Play became rather scrappy, with the home side happy to hold onto a rare lead, although Paul Green almost levelled on the hour when his low shot hit a post. This proved to be a portent of things to come as on 72 minutes Green equalised with a goal of high quality. He took a pass from Brown, a constant threat down the right in the second half, and dribbled through the home defence before shooting wide of Cutler. The goal seemed to drain the confidence from the home side and eight minutes from time Rovers were ahead, Fortune-West's neat lay-off finding McIndoe who drew the keeper before slotting into the empty net. With three minutes on the clock Rovers sealed the victory and Brown scored the debut goal his enterprising performance had merited. Substitute Lewis Guy got to the byline and pulled the ball back for Brown to convert from close range. So Rovers completed their fourth and final "double" of the season in a game that at one point threatened to offer them only an embarrassing defeat.

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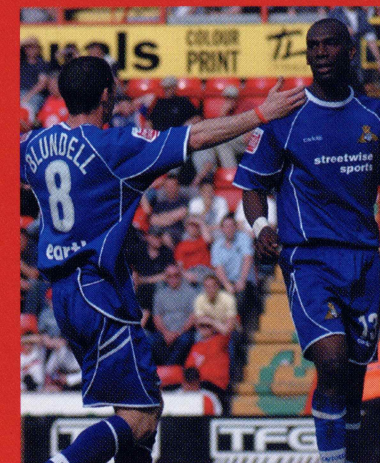
Rovers fans at
Stockport two
weeks ago

Talk of the Terrace

with **Danny Roberts**

A big welcome to League One champions Luton Town who arrive here for the last game of the season. Today's game should be entertaining after a cracking match at Kenilworth Road ended all square in November. Today sees a certain Warren Feeney playing at Belle Vue – it's a pity it isn't in Rovers colours. The second half of the season has provided so many brilliant memories. The trip to Hull in December was a game played at the highest quality in white-hot atmosphere. Only a late Elliot goal condemned us to defeat. January ended with the return match against Hull City, after the parading of our Division Three trophy. The game got underway at a fast pace, and a Michael McIndoe volley was enough to ensure we won all three points. Then there was the demolition of Barnsley at Belle Vue in February. Our once Premiership counterparts came to Belle Vue already changed and left

with their tails firmly between their legs, after the 4-0 drubbing they received. Goals from Greeny, Doolan and two from Blundell gave us our biggest win of the season. The visit to Tranmere came over the Easter period and we took apart - a team who are favourites to win the playoffs. We were two up in five minutes and were rampant. Before half time Tranmere had a player sent off and had pulled level. Goals from Ravenhill and Roberts ensured the 1000 travelling fans went home happy. The moment where Roberts kissed the badge will stay in our minds forever. April started badly for us with a mediocre draw against Colchester and a very poor performance against Huddersfield that ended our play-off places chase. Amazingly, freak results two weeks on the trot to pushed us back into contention. After we beat Stockport 4-2 and Hartlepool 2-0, we travelled to Bristol with hope. Nearly seven hundred fans made the 300 mile round trip to Bristol last weekend with hopes of a win that would keep us in play off contention if other results went our way. We started the stronger of the two sides and were pressing all the time when Leo eventually broke the deadlock with a thunderous header. After the break Bristol threw everything at us with Turner and Mulligan saving us on no fewer than half a dozen occasions. The inevitable happened and on 61 minutes Brooker equalised. After the sending off of Ravenhill for a second bookable offence and the clock ticking down on our play off chances, Blundell wiped a cross in



and Greeny flicked it on to Leo who smashed the ball into the bottom corner of the net with 120 seconds to go. The 700 travelling fans were sent into a frenzy as news filtered through that Luton had scored a winner as had Bradford. Dreams of Cardiff we beginning to materialise, only for Brooker to equalise again with virtually the last kick of the game. The lads gave their all, but sadly they fell short. With guaranteed local derbies against Rotherham, Nottingham Forest, Barnsley and other local teams. Next season should be even more exciting and have more heart in the mouth moments such as Leo's goal.

Well done lads, see you next season.

Rovers till I die!
Danny



Macca celebrates
his goal against
Hull City

JUNIOR ROVERS



Welcome to our final game of the season against the League One champions, Luton Town. Congratulations to our opponents Luton Town on their promotion and also to their manager Mike Newell, who had a short spell here at Doncaster Rovers. This is the time when all memberships are due for renewal for the coming season. Forms will be available from the Junior Rovers Office before kick off this afternoon. Remember that the earlier in the season you enrol the more chances you have of being picked out to be mascot.

Birthday wishes in May go to: Jordan Edwards, Luke Jackson, Emily Ennis, Arron Pickersgill, Jemima Harrison and Daniel Renton.

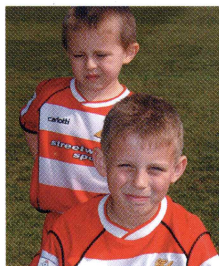
Also, Happy Birthday to all our members who celebrate their birthday during the close season.

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you all again next season.

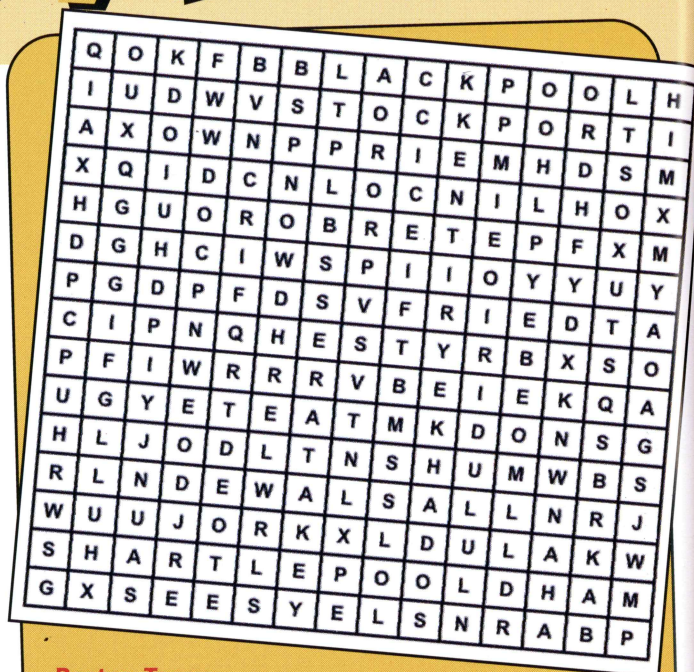
Rita & Jill Martin

Do you want to be a mascot?

- All mascots, home and away, must be members of the Junior Rovers Supporters Club
- Once you have paid your £5 membership there is no extra charge to be a mascot
- All members, aged over 3 years and under 12 years have a membership number, which is entered into each mascot draw during the season.
- The earlier in the season you join the Junior Rovers, the more draws you will be entered in
- Being chosen to be mascot is purely the luck of the draw
- We will print on the Junior Rovers page when a draw has taken place, who by and where. We will also include the names chosen for each League game.
- So, to be in with a chance, join the Junior Rovers!



The mascots at our last home game, against Hartlepool United, were Aaron John Pickersgill, Morgan Pickersgill and Kristen Naylor. Aaron and Morgan are pictured here just before the match started. We hope that all three of them enjoyed their afternoon with us.



Beaten Teams

Final word search of the season. Find the teams we have beaten (at the time of going to press) this season! Lets hope the list is MUCH bigger next season!!!

BARNLEY, BLACKPOOL, HARTLEPOOL, HUDDERSFIELD, HULL, IPSWICH, LINCOLN, MKDONS, OLDHAM, PETERBOROUGH, PORT VALE, STOCKPORT, TIVERTON, TRANMERE, WALSALL

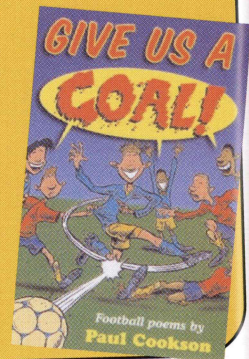
"Poem for the last day of the season"
Taken from
GIVE US A GOAL!
By Paul Cookson

It looked so good
Halfway through
Unfulfilled
Potential blue

Early exits
From each cup
Safe & sound
But not quite up

We could have
done
So much more
Lost too many
Couldn't score

Signs of hope
With good
reason
Same time
same place
Next football
season



Doncaster Rovers & Doncaster Library Service FUNZONE



WELCOME TO FUNZONE THE PAGE FOR CHILDREN WHICH IS ALL ABOUT FOOTBALL BOOKS, STORIES AND QUIZZES - AND MUCH MORE. ALL THE BOOKS FEATURED ON THIS PAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM DONCASTER LIBRARY SERVICE, WHICH IS FREE TO JOIN!

The Carnegie Shortlist

Need something to read in the close season? Why not try the Carnegie short list? The winner will be announced on 8th July 2005 so you've plenty of time to read the books. Talk to your school librarian about your favourite or go into your local library and register your vote!

Millions By Frank C Boyce

Looking for J.J. By Anne Cassidy

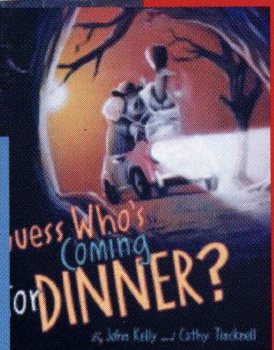
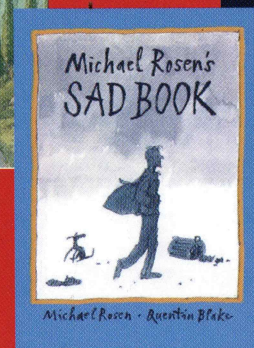
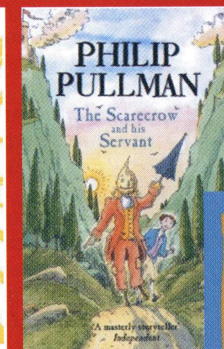
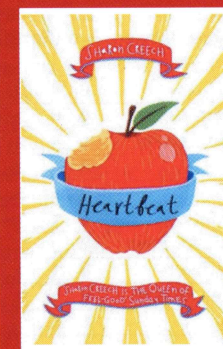
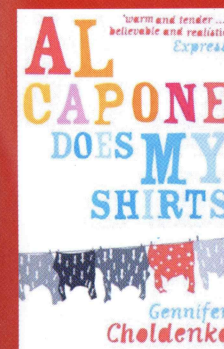
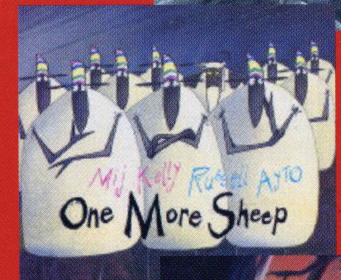
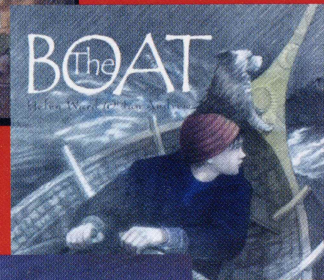
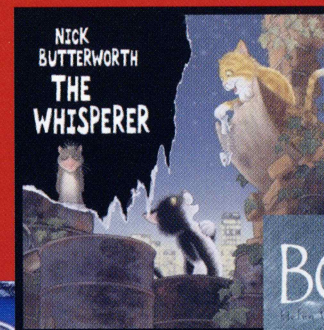
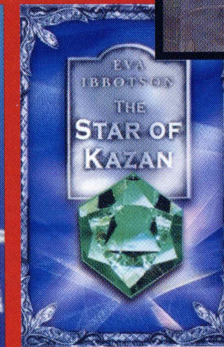
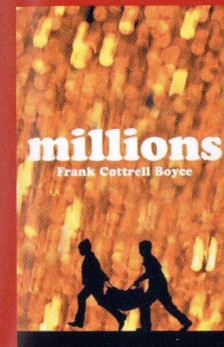
Al Capone does my Shirts By Gennifer Choldenko

Heartbeat By Sharon Creech

Star of Kazan By Iva Ibbotson

The Scarecrow and his Boy By Philip Pullman

For the younger readers find out about taking part in the Greenaway Shadowing. This is looking at illustrations in picture books. Check with your local library for details



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Reserves & Youth

Reserve Team Fixtures 2004-05

Pontins Holiday League Division One East

DATE	SCORE	OPPONENTS
Wed 18 Aug	L 2-5	Boston United
Wed 1 Sep	W 2-1	Huddersfield Town
Wed 8 Sep	W 2-0	Notts County
Wed 15 Sep	W 4-0	Halifax Town
Wed 6 Oct	D 2-2	Lincoln City
Wed 13 Oct	W 4-2	Grimsby Town
Wed 27 Oct	L 1-5	Scunthorpe United
Wed 8 Nov	D 2-2	York City (7pm)
Wed 24 Nov	W 3-1	Darlington
Wed 15 Dec	W 6-1	Lincoln City
Wed 12 Jan	W 3-0	Halifax Town
Wed 26 Jan	D 2-2	Scunthorpe United
Wed 16 Feb	W 2-1	Grimsby Town
Wed 2 Mar	W 2-0	York City
Wed 9 Mar	W 3-1	Darlington
Wed 13 Apr	L 1-3	Huddersfield Town
Wed 27 Apr	W 1-0	Notts County
Wed 4 May	D 0-0	Boston United

Kick-off 2pm unless indicated

Division One (East)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Huddersfield Town	18	14	0	4	41	16	25	42
2 Scunthorpe United	18	12	2	4	33	21	12	38
3 Doncaster Rovers	18	11	4	3	42	26	16	37
4 Lincoln City	18	9	2	7	35	27	8	29
5 York City	18	6	5	7	21	27	-6	23
6 Grimsby Town	18	7	1	10	33	37	-4	22
7 Boston United	17	6	3	8	27	27	0	21
8 Halifax Town	17	4	3	10	18	33	-15	15
9 Notts County	18	4	3	11	17	36	-19	15
10 Darlington	18	3	3	12	14	31	-17	12

to the 4th May 2005

Youth Team Fixtures 2004-05

DATE	OPPONENTS	SCORE
14th Aug 04	HULL CITY	D 3-3
21-Aug-04	Scunthorpe United	D 2-2
04-Sep-04	DARLINGTON	L 2-3
11-Sep-04	Boston United	W 5-3
18-Sep-04	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	W 5-2
25-Sep-04	Grimsby Town	W 4-1
02-Oct-04	MANSFIELD TOWN (FLYAC)	W 4-3
09-Oct-04	YORK CITY	W 3-2
16-Oct-04	Lincoln City	L 0-2
23-Oct-04	BRADFORD CITY	W 2-1
30-Oct-04	BOSTON UNITED	W 4-2
06-Nov-04	Hartlepool United	L 2-3
10-Nov-04	SHEFFIELD WED (FAYC)	L 0-1
13-Nov-04	GRIMSBY TOWN	D 0-0
20-Nov-04	York City	W 2-0
27-Nov-04	BOSTON UNITED (FLYAC2)	W 2-0
04-Dec-04	LINCOLN CITY	D 0-0
11-Dec-04	Bradford City	W 4-1
18-Dec-04	Hull City	D 1-1
15-Jan-05	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	W 1-0
29-Jan-05	Preston N.E. (FLYAC3)	W 1-0
01-Feb-05	Darlington	D 2-2
12-Feb-05	BURY (ML)	L 1-2
19-Feb-05	Stockport County (ML)	D 1-1
26-Feb-05	Blackpool (ML)	L 0-1
05-Mar-05	YORK CIT Y (ML)	W 2-0
12-Mar-05	Burnley (FLYACQF)	L 0-4
19-Mar-05	Hull City (ML)	D 0-0
26-Mar-05	MACCLESFIELD TOWN (ML)	D 1-1
02-Apr-05	GRIMSBY TOWN (ML)	W 3-1
23-Apr-05	ROTHERHAM UNITED (ML)	L 0-1
25-Apr-05	Chester City (ML)	W 2-1

ML = Merit League

Merit League Division Two (North)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Rotherham United	9	6	2	1	16	9	7	20
2 Stockport County	9	5	2	2	20	12	8	17
3 Blackpool	8	4	2	2	9	5	4	14
4 Bury	9	4	0	5	14	12	2	12
5 Chester City	8	3	3	2	13	11	2	1
6 Macclesfield Town	8	3	3	2	11	10	1	12
7 Grimsby Town	8	3	2	3	11	14	-3	11
8 Doncaster Rovers	8	2	3	3	8	7	1	9
9 Hull City	8	1	2	5	9	19	-10	5
10 York City	9	1	1	7	8	20	-12	4

Contact Doncaster Rovers on: 01302 539441

Meet the Fan

with Alan Smith

As we are at the end of the season, and it's the last home game, we thought that we would 'turn the tables' on our regular 'Meet the Fan' interviewer and columnist.

Dr. Alan Smith – to give him his correct title – has been supporting Doncaster Rovers since 1956. He vividly remembers his very first game at Belle Vue – in February of that year – Rovers losing 2-0 to Tottenham Hotspur in the 5th Round of the FA Cup, on a snow-covered pitch and in front of over 30,000 spectators.

Alan's involvement at Belle Vue over the years has been varied to say the least. In the mid-1970's, although refereeing at the time and being Secretary of Doncaster Youth Football League – he still took every opportunity to attend Rovers' matches whenever he could. When he finished 'whistling' in 1978, he eventually became the BBC Radio Sheffield reporter, following Rovers all over the country – a position that he held for twenty years until the club dropped out of the Football League in 1998.

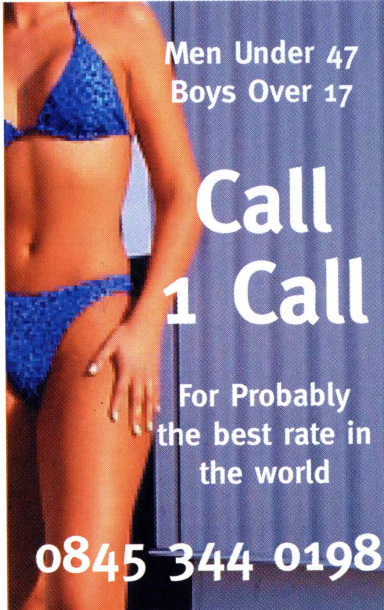
He was also the Match Day Programme Editor for three years in the mid-1980's during which time the Rovers' programme was voted in the 'Top Ten' best programmes in the Football League – and of course in those days that included all 92 professional clubs, as the FA Premiership hadn't been formed. Which games have stuck in Alan's mind over the years? "Well, I remember (and with great pride) all of the promotion seasons, particularly the last two, and whilst it's not something that I often care to recall, I will never forget the last home game in the Football League in 1998 prior to

dropping into the Conference – a 1-0 defeat against Colchester United. Of those present that day, who will ever forget the march from Doncaster town centre down Bennetthorpe to Belle Vue with the mock coffin?"

During Rovers' five seasons in the Conference, Alan became more involved in TV and video work – he provided the narration for the Rovers' video 'Reason to Believe' and could regularly be seen kitted out with headset and microphone up on the TV gantry on the 'Pop Side' helping out with the club video. His broadcasting experiences have now gone full circle and this season he has returned to the Radio Sheffield microphone at Belle Vue whilst retaining his involvement in TV and the club videos.

Alan is naturally delighted with Rovers' current success, as he says, "I honestly thought that it was the end of the road when Rovers dropped into the Conference – OK, "Oh ye of little faith and all that" – but the double promotion coupled with the current position of the club has restored my faith in human nature."

What does he think of the impending move to the new stadium? "Of course it will be tinged with sadness to some extent, I've been coming to the current ground for almost 50 years – but I accept that we must progress and I will of course always have my own little bit of Belle Vue. I paid my £25 (back in the dark days) for a piece of the hallowed turf, when the club came up with the idea to quickly generate much-needed income – and this will become mine when the current ground is dismantled."



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Supporters Club



Members Draw winner today is: Craig Hibbett North Doncaster Branch No.41

(To claim your Members Draw prize you have to call into the Supporters Club shop on the day of the game for which your number has been drawn. Any unclaimed numbers roll over to the next home game)



Tim Ryan is the North Doncaster Branch "Player of the season", and was presented with his award by Simon Hallas, Danielle Hanson, Ken and Jill Magson at the Hartlepool United game.

Retford Branch annual dinner dance

This year's dinner dance will be held at the Elms Hotel on London Road in Retford on Friday 13th May at 7.30pm for 8.00pm (sitting), and will go on until 1.00am. We will be presenting our Away Player of the Season during the evening. As in previous years we will be running a free bus from the Doncaster as follows:

Barnby Dun (The Star) 6.15pm
Waterdale (Opposite the Library) 6.30pm
Rossington (The Styrrup) 6.45pm
Bawtry (Market Place) 6.50pm

Bar extension until 12.30 am
Overnight accommodation can be arranged approx £45 B&B. (SEE PAUL)
Ticket price for dinner dance £16.

Menu details are on www.doncasterrovers-supportersclub.co.uk (Retford page)



Final Supporters' Club
"Player of the year" table

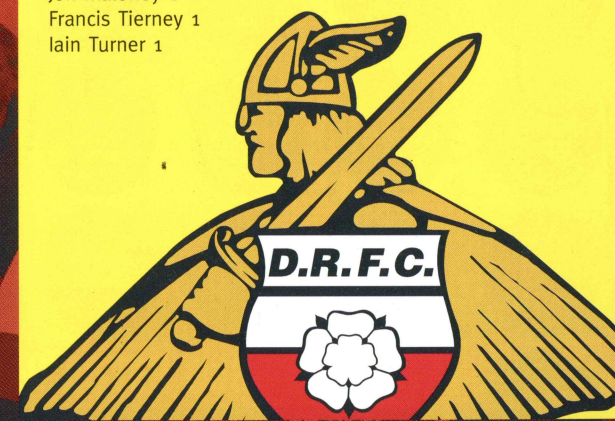
Paul Green 175
Michael McIndoe 165
Neil Roberts 145
John Doolan 138
James Coppinger 116
Tim Ryan 99
Gregg Blundell 98
Mark Albrighton 88
Andy Warrington 85
Steve Foster 59
Nick Fenton 57
Jermaine McSporran 42
Ricky Ravenhill 38
David Mulligan 37
Dave Morley 36
Leo Fortune-West 30
Simon Johnson 27
Adriano Rigoglioso 19
Michael Ingham 14
Jamie Price 13
Adam Brown 11
Stuart Jones 8
Simon Marples 7
Nic Priet 5
Chris Beardsley 3
Lewis Guy 2
Chris Beech 2
Guy Ipoua 1
Jon Maloney 1
Francis Tierney 1
Iain Turner 1

Final Retford Branch "Away
Player of the Season"

Paul Green 54
Michael McIndoe 48
Tim Ryan 45
Neil Roberts 39
John Doolan 38
James Coppinger 32
Andy Warrington 30
Gregg Blundell 26
Steve Foster 22
Ricky Ravenhill 21
Dave Morley 20
Mark Albrighton 18
Nick Fenton 18
Dave Mulligan 15
Leo Fortune-West 12
Chris Beardsley 6
Michael Ingham 6
Adriano Rigoglioso 5
Adam Brown 5
Iain Turner 5
Jermaine McSporran 3
Simon Marples 3
Francis Tierney 3
Jamie Price 2
Stuart Jones 1

The Disabled Branch Player
Of The Year 2004/2005 is
Tim Ryan. Brewis Fiddler
will present Tim with his
Award this afternoon.

North Doncaster Branch
Away Player 2004/2005:
Tim Ryan
Retford Branch Away Player
2004/2005: Paul Green



Visit the Supporters Club web site on www.doncasterrovers-supportersclub.co.uk

Sponsor a Goal



ALISTAIR MILLAR	PETE SMITH	BRIAN "IS OUR DRIVER" THOMPSON	PAUL MAYFIELD	GINNER & CYRIL	NICKY BEECH	RAY BICKNELL	CHARLOTTE HEATON
MICK ATKINS	MALC WOODROW	ROBIN LINE	GILL & SHIRLEY	GRAHAM JACKSON	STEVE OWEN	RAY BEECH	MAURICE OCKLEFORD
DAVID, BECKS & MATTHEW	eVISIONS IT SOLUTIONS	HIPPO	CHRIS & CRAIG	C.&R. RACING, EDENTHORPE	FRANKO	ERIC & PAUL, SURESTART DIESEL	"SHAKEY"
LIAM SANDERSON	THE STAR, BARNBY DUNN	BODMAN GLASS, SHAW LANE	THREE HORSE SHOES, BRANTON	THE ACORN, ARMTHORPE	THE HORSE & GROOM, ARMTHORPE	THE WHEATLEY HOTEL	COOLCO LTD.
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PETER KAY	EAGLE & CHILD, AUCKLEY	THE PADDOCK, CANTLEY	THE BENBOW, INTAKE	CARLY STEVENSON	YOUNG JACKO	ANNETTE & KEVIN	RON & JOHN
BITCH ON THE PITCH	DONNY DOG	WARMSWORTH CRICKET CLUB	EXTON	THE THREE STOOGES	ANDY & FIONA	MAUREEN & TONY STEPHENSON	THE FLAREPATH, DUNSVILLE
TISSO	PAT & CHAS	TOM & JOE	LONSDALE HOTEL INTAKE	GRAHAM & JENNY	DAVID CONROY	DAVE WRIGHT	TIPPY
PALFREY LODGE	CHESWOLD	ROB DIXON	EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH SUPPORTERS CLUB	DR. ERSKINE	GREAT LEAP FORWARD	SWANSEA	SPONSOR A GOAL
PIKEY	DEARNE VALLEY BRANCH	ALAN POVEY	JOHN & SHEILA				
HATFIELD MARK & IGGY							

Thanks to the above people for sponsoring all League One goals scored by Doncaster Rovers during the 2004/05 season. Rovers have scored 62 goals this season (plus hopefully some more today!), and with today being the last game of the season, your sponsorship money will become due to be paid. You can pay by various methods - either see Andy Liney in the Viking Supporters' Club after today's game, pay on-line at www.vikingsc.co.uk, or by post to Viking Supporters' Co-operative, P.O. Box 21, Retford, DN22 8JY - making all cheques payable to the "Viking Supporters' Co-operative". Remember - all money raised through this appeal will go towards the costs of running the Rovers' youth teams.

Pledges per League goal received to date: £51.50
League goals scored by Rovers to 30th April 2005: 62
Value of pledges made so far: £3,193.00

Doncaster Rovers F.C



ALL REPLICA SHIRTS
Adults £19.99
Juniors £14.99

ALL REPLICA SHORTS - £9.99

carlotti
OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER

streetwise sports
OFFICIAL DRFC RETAILER

FRENCHGATE CENTRE - DONCASTER 01302 818 877

*Whilst Stocks Last. Applies to Doncaster Rovers Official Carlotti Replica Home, Away & 3rd Kits Only.

...and Finally

Thank you

We are happy to announce that we have just heard that the Rovers programme has been voted as being in the top ten League One programmes in the CMMA Awards - voted by fellow League One clubs. This is a great achievement of which we are very proud - especially when, unlike the other clubs, it has been produced by volunteers with a zero budget.

Thanks go to all of the volunteers who have contributed to the production of this programme, particularly to the programme team of Colin, John and Paul. Also thank you to Andy Liney and John Ryan for their kind words of support, which are much valued - as have been the many comments made from you, the supporters, during the season.

We will shortly be starting pre-season training to prepare next season's programme, which we hope will do even better than this time. If you have any comments or ideas that you would like us to consider, please email them to programme@doncasterrovers.co.uk by the end of May.

We also need someone to report on youth team matches - please let us know if you are interested.

Michael Harker, editor

- 1 Luton Town 2103
- 2 Sheff Wed 2095
- 3 Colchester 2049
- 4 Swindon 1953
- 5 Hartlepool 1877
- 6 Blackpool 1848
- 7 Tranmere 1804
- 8 Chesterfield 1791
- 9 Hull City 1782
- 10 Doncaster 1781

Rovers around the world

With the summer break upon us, many of you will be taking a holiday before we all meet again in August. We would be interested in receiving photos of Rovers fans (in their Rovers kit!) from as many different locations as possible - why not email us (programme@doncasterrovers.co.uk) your photo during the summer, and we'll include as many as possible next season.

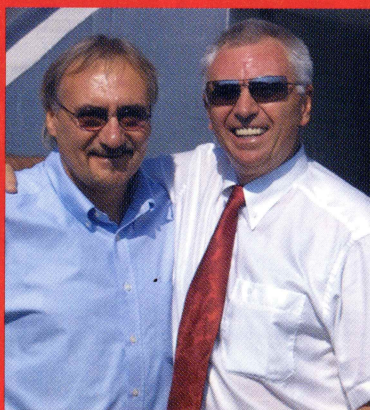
Congratulations, Luton!

As mentioned elsewhere, congratulations go to our visitors this afternoon, Luton Town, for winning the League One Championship this season. They were presented with the trophy after their last home game of the season, but we hope that they will show it off here at Belle Vue

this afternoon. They are to have a parade through Luton town centre tomorrow (8th May), followed by a civic reception, hosted by the Mayor, at the town hall. The parade will begin at the Market Hill end of George Street at about 12.30pm, driving slowly towards the Town Hall, arriving at approx. 1pm. The players will appear on the balcony between 1pm and 2pm, before leaving shortly afterwards.

Peter Kitchen biography

A biography of the great Peter Kitchen is currently being planned. Peter, who now lives in Kent, still plays around the world for charity with the Corinthian Casuals Veterans side - and still knocks in the goals! If any Rovers fans have any memories, match reports, photos etc. of Peter during his time at the Rovers, please email either us at programme@doncasterrovers.co.uk, Neil Kaufman at neilkaufman@tiscali.co.za, or by post to 4 Dartford Road, Farningham, Dartford, Kent DN4 0DX.



Peter Kitchen with John Ryan before last season's opening game at Leyton Orient



SEASON TICKETS

2004/2005

NOW ON SALE!!

Make sure of your place for all home League One matches next season - buy a season ticket before the price increases on 1st July! With home games against Bradford City, Scunthorpe, Rotherham, Barnsley, Huddersfield and Nottingham Forest to look forward to, demand for some of those game is bound to be high.

Prices for next season will be:

Seating

Adults £320.00

Concessions £175.00

Standing:

Adults £270.00

Concessions £120.00

Student season tickets will be available at the concessionary rates above - but you must be able to provide proof of full-time student status.

All pay on the gate prices will be the same as applied this season.

Prices will rise on 1st July - but all existing season ticket holders will be able to buy at the above prices right up to the beginning of the season!

They came, they saw, they departed

Dedicated Doncaster Rovers from the Palfrey's Lodge in Cantley were amongst the lucky few to be on the first flight to depart from Doncaster's new airport last week. They are pictured here as they waited to board their 9.15am flight to Palma, Majorca

With a name almost as long as its runway, Doncaster Sheffield Robin Hood Airport is expected to carry one million passengers in its first year and three million by 2010.

Photograph courtesy Doncaster Star/Sheffield Newspapers

Winning coverage of a winning team!

★ The Star

★ The Star Green'Un



TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL SPORT, SIX NIGHTS A WEEK!



Team Check

Rovers v Luton Town

Saturday, 7th May 2005

Kick-off 3pm

**Season tickets
for 2005/06
now on sale -
no price
increase from
this season
Rovers -
going4it!**



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: S Mathieson

Assistant referees:

Red & Yellow Flag: M Brown

Yellow Flag: D Naylor

Fourth official: M Short

**BBC
RADIO
SHEFFIELD**

Phone Praise or
Grumble with
your views on
today's game

0114 279 6699

or text

07786 205454

104.1 FM & DAB
Digital Radio

ANDY WARRINGTON	1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1	MARLON BERESFORD
SIMON MARPLES	2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2	KEVIN FOLEY
TIM RYAN	3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3	ALAN NEILSON
JOHN DOOLAN	5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	4	WARREN FEENEY
MARK ALBRIGHTON	6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5	RUSSELL PERRETT
LEWIS GUY	7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6	PAUL UNDERWOOD
GREGG BLUNDELL	8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	7	PAUL HUGHES
GUY IPOUA	9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	8	KEVIN NICHOLLS
ADRIANO RIGOGLIOSO	10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	9	ROWAN VINE
JERMAINE MCSPORRAN	11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	11	STEVE ROBINSON
LEO FORTUNE WEST	13	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	12	CHRIS COYNE
NICK FENTON	15	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	14	MICHAEL LEARY
JAMIE PRICE	18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	15	STEVEN O'LEARY
RICKY RAVENHILL	19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	16	ENOCH SHOWUNMI
PAUL GREEN	20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	17	LEE MANSELL
MICHAEL MCINDOE	21	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	18	AHMET BRKOVIC
JON MALONEY	22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	19	STEVE HOWARD
STEVE FOSTER	23	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	20	CURTIS DAVIES
STUART JONES	24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	21	KEITH KEANE
NIC PRIET	25	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	22	DAVID BAYLISS
JAMES COPPINGER	26	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	23	IAN HILLIER
BEN JACKSON	27	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	24	SOL DAVIS
CRAIG NELTHORPE	29	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	25	DINO SEREMET
DAVID MULLIGAN	30	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	27	PETER HOLMES
ADAM BROWN	31	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	29	CALVIN ANDREW
NEIL ROBERTS	33	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	33	DEAN BRILL
IAIN TURNER	34	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	36	DAVID DEENEY
LEE CÖCKERHAM	36	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	37	STUART SINCLAIR
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	45	LEON BARNETT
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	46	MAX HOWELL
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	47	ROB BECKWITH

