



the pirate

The Official Match Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON
2006/2007

ISSUE NO 5

£2.00



Iuton town

Carling Cup 1st Round
Tuesday 22nd August 2006
kick-off 7.45pm





Don't miss a round this season

Round One Week commencing August 21st, 2006

Round Two Week commencing September 18th, 2006

Round Three Week commencing October 23rd, 2006

Round Four Week commencing November 6th, 2006

Quarter-Final Week commencing December 18th, 2006

Semi-Final (1st leg) Week commencing January 8th, 2007

Semi-Final (2nd leg) Week commencing January 22nd, 2007

Carling Cup Final February 25th, 2007

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Let's bounce back

Good evening and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our Carling Cup First Round tie against Luton Town.

We were bitterly disappointed to lose again on Saturday and, as I've said before, we haven't made the start to the season that we were looking for. We went into it with quite high hopes, and although it was a tough start on paper, we thought we would have more points on the board by now.

I did feel that the scoreline of 2-0 at MK Dons was a little bit harsh, and I was pleased with the spirit, the passion and the pride shown by the players. The first goal, a free kick, came after a dubious decision had gone against. That was disappointing, because we felt we were well in the game at the time and putting in a decent performance. Even in the second half we had some good spells in the game, and were never really under that much pressure, but we have to learn again.

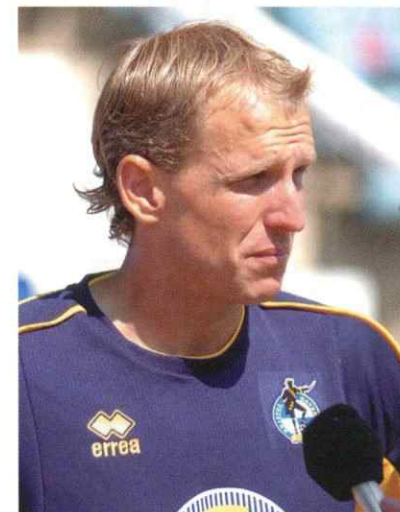
We don't like losing and we want don't want to lose. We need to turn things around quickly, so we've been back on the training ground working as hard as we can. Hopefully we will have put things right for tonight's game and, more importantly, Saturday's match against Shrewsbury because we need to get back to winning ways in the league.

Sean Rigg made his debut for us on Saturday, going on as a substitute with fifteen minutes to go, and did particularly well and had quite a few very good touches. He's looked sharp in pre season games, has a bit of pace and strength about him and is very direct. He gave us a little spark when he went, on which was positive, and he'll probably be involved again tonight, because he deserves to be.

Hopefully his progress will inspire more of our young players because it's crucial to a football club, especially in League Two, that youngsters can see a light at the end of the tunnel. I think we are showing them that there is a way through to the first team, if they are good enough and if they apply themselves correctly.

Last year we had Darren Mullings and Chris Lines in the squad and now that Sean has joined them we hope that the youngsters at the club, right from an early age, strive to emulate the likes of those three.

Two more players, Byron Anthony and Andy Sandell have come into the side, having not previously experienced playing league football, and have taken to it very, very well.



We've been impressed with them in training, right through pre season, and their performances have been good. Hopefully, this is the start for them, though we think there's a lot more to come from both players and hopefully they can go on to have a good career.

Mike Newell has done a fantastic job at Luton, a club that has had a few promotions in recent years and has now established themselves as a Championship side. They have started this season well, so it's going to be a tough game tonight, but one that our players should be relishing.

It's always nice to pit your wits against teams from a higher league. We know that Luton have some very good players but we are looking to bounce back quickly from a defeat so, for us, a night game at the Mem is just what we need as we hope to get back to winning ways.

We need to bounce back quickly, in terms of results, but it's important that we put in a good, spirited performance as well to enable us to take that into Saturday, for what is a crucial game against Shrewsbury.

I hope that you all enjoy tonight's game and look forward to seeing you all here again on Saturday.

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We need to bounce back quickly, in terms of results, but it's important that we put in a good, spirited performance as well

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

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Youth Department
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Community Department
Tel: 0117 952 2581

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honours

Football League

Division Three (South)

Champions: 1952/53

Football League Division Three

Champions: 1989/90

Runners-Up: 1973/74

Division Three (South)

Cup Winners 1934/35

Watney Cup Winners 1972

Debut delight

Director of Football Lennie Lawrence spent four and a half years as manager of tonight's visitors, Luton Town, and has many memories of his time at Kenilworth Road.

I left the club in 2000, which seems a long time ago now, but I enjoyed some very good times there and the club produced a number of very good players. In fact, over the last fifteen years or so, a great many players have graduated through the ranks at Luton before going on to better things. The latest, of course, is Curtis Davies, who went to West Brom and who is now the subject of interest from a number of top clubs.

In my time at the club we produced Gary Doherty, who went to Spurs and who is now at Norwich, and Matthew Upson who was sold for £1m, to Arsenal, before he'd even played a first team game. There were many other good young players who moved on, and it seemed, at times, as though Luton was like a production line for bigger clubs. We made a big transfer profit when I was there, and just missed out on the play offs, from what is now League One, in 1997.

He's expecting a hard game against his former club this evening. Mike Newell has done a fantastic job there and they have started off well again this season so it will be a tough game for us. The interesting thing, in all these cup games, is how the bigger club treats it. This year teams have to field no fewer than seven players who have played in the majority of previous league games, so teams can't put out a reserve side.

Most teams will change three or four players, but it will be a question of their attitude in approaching the game, as to whether they change the maximum number of players permitted, or whether they field their strongest team. It's the same for us, of course, and we will have to decide whether to include players who have been on the bench for the last couple of games, or stick with the team that, hopefully, did well at MK Dons on Saturday.

Turning his thoughts to Rovers, he was delighted with the full debuts of three players, Byron Anthony, Andy Sandell and Ryan Green in the game against Grimsby ten days ago.

Byron did well. I've seen a lot of debuts in my career, and that was a very good one. We always felt he had it in him, but you never really



know until you throw them in at the deep end. He waited a long time to make the first team at Cardiff but, in my time there, as still happens there now, the club sign a lot of players. Unless you break in at seventeen or eighteen at a club like that, you will struggle and end up spending too long in the reserves and that's exactly what happened to Byron. He needs the challenge of first team football though he probably got his opportunity here a little bit quicker than he, or anyone else thought, he's grabbed it with both hands and good luck to him.

The way that Andy Sandell has taken his opportunity to play league football has also impressed. He had already made two substitute appearances, but made his full debut in the same game as Byron, and did very well. It's most unusual to see two very good debuts in the same match. Andy has a completely different football background to Byron, but he seems to have jumped three grades effectively and, thus far, he appears to have adjusted very well.

Although he spent the last three years playing Conference football for Hereford, Ryan Green had played league football for four clubs prior to his Rovers debut. He's a lot more experienced and has it in his locker to be in League One, never mind League Two, without a shadow of a doubt. He's only 25 and can be a good player for us. He made a good, steady debut and did very well for the goal. He has a bit of quality and class and although he missed two or three weeks of pre season training he's virtually there now, fitness wise, and hopefully he can help us.

The addition of those three players has intensified competition for places. No disrespect to those who were here last year, we knew what the team was and, apart from one or two changes the other players were really cover. This year we are doing what we can to create a realistic challenge for places, which can only be good for everyone.

from the boardroom

For the August report I thought that fans might like an insight into a monthly board meeting. If nothing else, it might help you understand the responsibilities of various directors.

The August meeting was held on 31st July following the annual team photo shoot. Keith Brookman organised the photos, of which there were many, so that sponsors could be incorporated. You could tell that Keith has been receiving training at the Colerne army base, as it was like a military operation. Lennie Lawrence remarked that it was the most professionally organised photo shoot in his time in football.

Chairman Geoff Dunford reported on a number of meetings including negotiations with Avon & Somerset Police over crowd control. Last season we only had 12 ejections, so well done to all fans. A number of initiatives were discussed to encourage larger attendances at matches.

The latest stadium regeneration briefing confirmed that there is much optimism with the completion of consultations with local residents and councillors. Fans were subsequently given the opportunity to view plans at the first two home games. A number of environmental reports have been commissioned and many 'green' issues considered in the design. Detailed plans are now being developed with the full planning application to be submitted before the end of August. Roger Cooper and Ed Ware, as well as a number of other people, deserve much credit for their work on the stadium regeneration plans. Fans will be asked to write letters of support and this could be vital in influencing the gaining of planning consent. Toni Watola outlined the financial position and various budget issues were discussed in detail. Season ticket sales and commercial income was discussed at length. Chief Executive Bill Smith gave details of the signings of Steve Phillips and Sammy Igoe, along with notification that Byron Anthony was to be offered a contract. There followed an update on interest from other clubs for Junior Agogo.

Ron Craig outlined his plans for the Community Department and issued copies of the FA Youth report paper, which was discussed. The board unanimously confirmed the importance of youth development and greater community links. This is an area which I have been asked to get involved in and will report to you on the Summer Soccer Schools and the Centre of Excellence when I have visited them.

Barry Bradshaw gave a commercial update which was generally positive, although there have been a number of advertisers to replace following the boardroom upheavals. As always, Ian Holtby has been working hard in this area. Corporate packages are down for the first couple of matches and is an area being targeted.

Pete Thornell reported on the Presidents Club AGM and their plans for the forthcoming season.

Nick Higgs, who was on holiday, will be responsible for the stadium regeneration project and various other areas including communications. Nick hopes to spend some time in the bars, before and after games, to give fans the opportunity to present their views.

I presented the latest Share Scheme details which included news that numbers had dropped, mainly those reaching their third year anniversary. A number of initiatives to raise the profile of the Share Scheme were discussed and negotiations are ongoing. Toni Watola confirmed the following statistics as to how Share Scheme money had been spent:-

Split	Activity	Amount	Remarks	Notes
40%	Debts	£216,400	Used to reduce debts.	Total debt reduction in this period £414,181
40%	Operating costs	£216,400	Used to pay mortgage.	Total mortgage payment in this period £226,042
20%	Team building	£108,200	Transfer fees Wages contribution	Junior Agogo Andy Rammell Danny Williams Aaron Lescott Bo Henriksen John Anderson Ali Gibb Chris Lines Darren Mullins
Totals		£541,000		

Fans have been magnificent in making contributions through the Share Scheme and I urge you to continue and get your friends to join.

Lennie Lawrence gave a detailed report on playing matters, including discussions on current players, and a feedback on scouting reports. Lennie confirmed the importance of developing and maintaining the youth system, outlining his thoughts on young players showing potential.

As always I am happy to receive your questions by e-mail, davidbrain1883@btinternet.com or feel free to stop me and talk at any time.

David Brain,
Share Scheme Chairman
and Associate Director



BARGAIN TIME AT PIRATE LEISURE!

We have a limited supply of reduced kit from the 04/05 season with some away shirts at £5 in XL and XXL sizes. We also have adult home shirts selling at £20 in XX to 5XL from the 05/06 season as well as a limited number of small children's shirts at £5 each. Tomba crew t-shirts and training tops are available at £15. All these lines are now very limited. One new line we have in stock is a 'Captain Gas' doll which is £8.50 and already selling very well!

stand tickets are available from:

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Ticket Office (Matchdays Only):
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on the road

Stockport County

Sunday 3rd September (ko 2.00pm)

For this Coca Cola League Two match at Edgeley Park, Supporters Club coaches leave the Memorial Stadium and Kingswood at 8.30am and Eastville at 8.45am.

Each fare:	£14.50		
Admission:	(All Seats):	Side	Open End Stand
	Adults:	£18.00	£16.00
	65+/Students:	£11.00	£11.00
	U-16's:	£5.00	£5.00

Official Programme: £3.00

Car: Take the M5 North, then the M6 North. Leave the M6 at Junction 19 and take the A556 towards Manchester/Altrincham. Then on the M56 towards Manchester Airport. Leave the M56 to join the A50 towards Stockport. Leave the M60 at Junction 1 and head towards Cheshire. Turn left into Edgeley Road (There is a pub on the left hand corner at the lights at this junction). The ground is down the road on the right hand side.

Torquay United

Wednesday 13th September (ko 7.45pm)

For this Coca Cola League Two match at Plainmoor, Supporters Club coaches leave the Memorial Stadium and Kingswood at 4.15pm and Eastville at 4.30pm.

Coach Fare:	£11.00		
Admission:		Terrace	Stand
	Adults:	£14.00	£15.00
	U-16's:	£5.00	£ 5.00
	65+/Students:	£12.00	£12.00

Official Programme: £ 2.50

* The Torquay United website states that £1.00 will be added to all of the admission charges detailed above, to cover policing costs, U-7's will be charged a £1.00 admission fee.

By Car: Take the M5 (South), and at the end of the M5 follow the A38 and turn left onto the A380. On reaching Kingskerwell, take the first exit at the large roundabout (McDonald's & Sainsbury's on one side) onto the A3022 towards Torquay. After one mile, turn left towards Babbacombe (A379). After 1 mile turn left into Westhill Road for Warbro Road. Torquay United is well signposted as you approach the ground.



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signed on this day

Walter Hurley

It was on this day in 1910 that the local student Walter Edwin Hurley signed for Southern League Bristol Rovers after impressing in the annual pre-season warm-up game.

Born in Bristol on 11th October 1892, Hurley was a pupil at Fairfield Grammar School and continued his education alongside his football career, enrolling at Bristol University on a three-year course in 1911 and graduating in 1914 with a first-class degree in Physics, as well as earning full colours for both football and athletics. Shortly after his eighteenth birthday, he made his Southern League debut in Rovers' 1-1 draw with Coventry City at Eastville, a result earned through a goal from the long-serving Billy Peplow. During the 1910/11 season, indeed, young Hurley played in fifteen games for Rovers, his five goals including two in a 2-1 win at Queen's Park Rangers that November.

Hurley was not just a fine athlete and footballer, though. "This student is a good example that good sport and success can go on together", reported the Fairfield magazine for Christmas 1908, indicating that Hurley had come equal top in the recent Oxford Local Examinations. He represented Bristol Boys at rugby from 1905 to 1907 and scored England Boys' only try in the game against Wales in March 1907. "Hurley dashed up and fielded very cleverly", reported the 'Evening Express and Evening Mail' of 16th March 1907, "and, running the whole length of the ground, scored between the posts."

Understandably, Walter Hurley's sporting career was put on standstill as his professional career took hold. He taught Physics at Anthony Gells Grammar School in Wirksworth, Derbyshire between September 1914 and July 1916 and played sporadically for Rovers on rare visits home. His first appearance in the side for over two years saw him score the final goal past the future England goalkeeper Ernie Williamson as Rovers defeated Croydon Common 3-1 in the Southern League on Easter Tuesday 1915, his sixth goal in a career total of 23 League matches for the Eastville club. He also represented Gloucestershire at football between 1914 and 1916.

In September 1916, Hurley accepted a post at Gillingham Grammar School in Gillingham, Dorset, where he remained until his retirement in 1960. He taught Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and in later years held down the post of Senior Master. The Gillingham School magazine of 1960 refers to his fine singing voice and his eagerness to participate in local amateur operatic work. It also mentions that he was "one of the safest catchers in the long-field and a bat who could be relied on to knock a successful bowler off his length." Above all else, a colleague Ron Best reports: "Most of you have heard of Stanley Matthews. It has been my privilege to see him only once in the flesh, play football a few years ago. I think it is no exaggeration to say that the greatest impression I felt at the time was that he was just a second W.E. Hurley".

On his retirement in 1960, Hurley continued to live in Gillingham and his house still stands, within earshot of the London railway; however, he is not buried in the town. His two sons, Brian and Edwin, were both believed to be married and living in the Bristol area and it is possible their father returned there later in life. If anyone knows the details to complete the Walter Hurley story, I would be most interested to hear from them.



■ Ian Alexander



■ David Mehew



■ Andy Reece

22nd august 1992

Rovers 2 Brentford 1

As Rickie Lambert strode up to take his two penalties against Rovers in the penultimate game of last season, it was the fifteenth occasion in Rovers' Football League history that two penalties had been awarded to the opposition. Fourteen years ago today, before a crowd of 5,779 at Twerton Park, the thirteenth such instance saw Mickey Bennett miss the first penalty awarded to Rovers' opponents, Brentford, before Gary Blissett scored from the second spot-kick. Mick Gooding of Rotherham United, in 1983, remains the most recent

opponent to score from two penalties in the same League game.

Rovers picked up their first points of the 1992/93 relegation season thanks to two goals from John Taylor, the healthy 2-0 half-time lead holding firm despite the second-half awarding of two penalties against the club. Only Ian Alexander, David Mehew and Andy Reece remained of the side that had been Third Division champions just over two years before and Marcus Stewart is the only player that day who is still plying his trade in the Football League.

On the same day, Luton Town were crashing to a 3-0 home defeat at the hands of our neighbours, Bristol City. A crowd of 7,926 at Kenilworth Road saw Mickey Mellon put City ahead before half-time, with a John Dreyer own goal and a late strike from Andy Cole putting the result beyond Luton's reach.

Celebrity fans

t gives me great pleasure to welcome Luton Town to the Memorial Stadium for tonight's game. This is not for any reasons of deep affection for the club, because it's nice to write something about a club from a higher division. And Luton Town is a name synonymous with famous fans. I have to confess that I am longer in the first flush of youth so I have fond memories of the finest TV comedy act's country ever produced, Morecambe and Wise. At the height of their fame in the 1970s, Morecambe and Wise could do no wrong. Theirs was the show people stayed in to see, theirs was the big Christmas Day special that got higher ratings than the Queen!

And one of the duo, Eric Morecambe, was a Luton Town supporter. He plugged the club mercilessly on their shows and in some ways he gave the club even bigger place on the football map. In fact, Morecambe even joined the board of directors at the club and to this day I understand the club boasts the Eric Morecambe Sponsors Lounge, which I think is fantastic.

Unfortunately, times have been hard for Luton over the years and the only 'celebrity' I can associate with the club is Nicky Brien, who older insomniacs might remember as that bloke who sat next to me on Diamond on TV AM. We can hardly brag about famous fans if we consider that Lord Jeffrey Archer is top of every list I can find, followed by boxers Len Oxley and Jane Couch, popular beat duo outfit Depeche Mode, Roni Size and the Airman of the England cricket selectors David Graveney!

I seem to remember the leader of the Rovers' workers union was a Rovers supporter (Roger Poole?), a fact that emerged when he was being interviewed about a national strike his members were involved in. I think our back four at the time must have joined it for a whole season!



So if Lord Archer was the best we could come up with, what about our rivals across the river?

The list was longer though, Massive Attack's 3D and it is a little more impressive than ours.

Tony Robinson supports the reds which means I tend to avoid re-runs of 'Blackadder' in the same way that I refused to drink Dry Blackthorn the year their name was emblazoned on the front of City's shirts.

Then comes Marcus Trescothick, who I understand plays cricket, and Gareth 'Coochie' Chilcott the former egg chaser who hails from the Lower Dundry Slopes (Hartcliffe to you and me).

But it comes unstuck with the final name: The Wurzels.

You might as well have the St Winifreds School Choir or Black Lace who both possess a similar level of street cred, as us modern types refer to it.

Do any of these great celebrities actually attend matches or do they just say they support a team to make it appear they are actually the same as the riff raff who watch them on TV, buy their CDs or vote for them in elections?

Prime Minister Tony Blair certainly likes to give the impression that he supports Newcastle United and he is in a list which also includes predictable names like former Athlete Brendan Foster and actor Robson Green.

But it also includes an eclectic mix of

Stiff Little Fingers' singer Jake Burns, the late Cardinal Basil Hume former Archbishop of Westminster (is it normal to include persons who have died in these lists or do we include the afterlife just with religious types?) and - I am being serious here - former boxer Chris Eubank.

To ensure I cannot be accused of political bias, Tory leader David 'Dave' Cameron professes to be an Aston Villa supporter, along with the pop group Ned's Atomic Dustbin (but not the drummer!), most of Black Sabbath and, allegedly Tom Hanks. (I greet a lot of these with more than a hint of cynicism!)

As you would expect, the celebrity numbers grow in relation to the size of the club.

The Manchester United list goes on forever with such top celebrities as loveable TV presenter Eamonn Holmes, Specials vocalist Terry Hall and of course the highly talented (editor - please insert what she does for a living because I haven't a clue) Kym Marsh.

But Hereford United can only boast crooner Roger Whittaker and some bloke who plays drums in the Pretenders!

I suppose it works in the same way as you'll get a coach load at least of Manchester United fans leaving from just about every major city in the land for a day out at the Library of Dreams every second Saturday but you won't find so much as a car load heading for Edgar Street!

It's not quite as glamorous is it?

It's strange how comedians attach themselves to football clubs.

Alan Davies supports Arsenal, David Baddiel supports Chelsea, Jimmy Tarbuck supports Liverpool and today's visitors are watched from on high by the great Eric Morecambe.

Even Bristol City got in on the act last season by appointing former Yeovil funny man Gary Johnson!

So it's a big welcome to all the famous football fans who have deigned to attend tonight's match.

I expect they will all be mingling with the great unwashed on the Bass End. Or not!

Either way, I hope that by the end of the evening Nick Day will be playing us out with a burst of 'Bring Me Sunshine'!

Enjoy the game!

Seriously corrupt

In a summer that was never short of a good football story, arguably the biggest of them all was the remarkable imploding of Italian domestic football in what became known as the 'Calciopoli' scandal.

It took a while for the story to take hold in the British press but once the World Cup got underway there was no stopping the coverage of the scandal and especially its effect on the Italian national team. And rightly so. Can you imagine the uproar if some of the biggest teams in the Premiership were found guilty of rigging matches?

As it was the teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th in Serie A (Juventus, Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio respectively) last season were all found guilty and punished accordingly. It was refreshing, if somewhat surprising, to see the severity of the initial punishments.

For once, there was no copout or leniency. It was therefore rather sad, but all too predictable, that the punishments were watered down so dramatically after appeals made by the four clubs. Italian law is so utterly chaotic and complicated that there will almost certainly be more appeals by corrupt officials protesting their innocence before the Italian season belatedly gets underway in September. It perhaps says much about the current state of football that

such a corrupt domestic league is also the home of the World champions.

Despite the magnitude of this case, observers of Italian football wouldn't have been surprised at the damning evidence against these clubs and the scandal as a whole. Football in Italy has been rife with corruption for years, and it's only now it's all come blurring out in one massive court case. Having been an avid viewer of Serie A football ever since it first appeared on our screens in 1992, it was noticeable in the following years the amount of times Juventus profited from favourable or 'lucky' decisions when in crucial matches.

It always appeared that referees were biased and now it's a relief that for once the conspiracy theories were found to be true. On one such infamous moment, when Juventus faced Inter in what was essentially a title decider in 1998, Inter were denied a clear penalty as Ronaldo, in his prime, was bundled over. As Inter protested furiously, Juventus broke away and were given a highly contentious penalty of their own. It was saved, but Juve won 1-0 and walked off with one of their many titles of recent times.

And now it's been revealed that the main orchestrator of these dirty tactics, former chief executive Luciano Moggi, used his sphere of influence not only to select refs that would favour Juventus, but also make sure opposition star players would just

'happen' to be suspended for matches against Juventus. So the initial punishment of relegation and 30 points deducted seemed totally fair, lenient even, considering how the wrongdoings at Juventus have tarnished the entire modern era of Italian football and rendered the last two league seasons meaningless. A points penalty of that size meant that Juventus would almost certainly remain in Serie B for two seasons. But now, with the penalty reduced to minus 17, it is quite conceivable that Juventus, who are sure to hold onto a squad good enough to win the Italian second division, will only be down for one season. Hardly fitting, considering what they've been up to.

While Juventus have been the focus of attention, Lazio and Fiorentina are back in Serie A, after initial relegations, while Milan are back in Europe. All this proves is that football officials in Italy can be utterly corrupt and essentially get what amounts to a slap on the wrist. These are all big sides that will be able to be able to buy their way out of trouble if the points penalties place them in fear of relegation so the punishments are almost negligible anyway.

The repercussions of this scandal didn't just affect these four clubs. Spare a thought for fans of Lecce and Treviso, who for a week or so thought they were going to be allowed back in Serie A due to the relegation of Fiorentina and Lazio in their place. Turns out they have to plan for Serie B now after all.

Roma and little Chievo now find themselves in the Champions League qualifiers, while Messina fans were surely rejoicing that Juventus were relegated in their place after their 18th placed finish last season. This constant chopping and changing has made the Italian pre-season an absolute joke with teams being dropped up and down the divisions with every new court case.

Newly crowned 2006 champions Inter triumphantly claimed their victory by default as a 'title of honesty'. But essentially they came top of the teams that didn't cheat, which is hardly something to feel self-satisfied about. Don't bet against a few more revelations over the next few weeks - the court cases are ongoing. As a result it'll be a long, long time before Italian football can become clean and respectable again.

■ It could be better, but at least it's not corrupt!



mariners musings

Byron Anthony became the 754th player to make his league debut for the club in the game against Grimsby. It was another milestone for the former Cardiff City defender, as he was also his Football League debut.

Ryan Green and Andy Sandell also started a league game for Rovers for the first time, and Sandell weighed in with his first league goal.

After three games, Rovers had three points, a goal difference of minus three, and three players had all scored one goal each.

The Grimsby game produced the side's first clean sheet of the season.

If Rovers beat Shrewsbury on Saturday, it will be their 900th home win in the Football League.

WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST

In spite of the dismissal of Lloyd Opara, early in the second half, Peterborough still managed to take all three points on their visit to Boston.

The match was won late on, when Simon Yeo scored the only goal of the game.

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST

After just three games, only two of the division's clubs, Walsall and Swindon, had 100% records.

Dean Keates scored both Walsall goals in their 2-0 win over Hartlepool, but had goalkeeper Clayton Ince to thank for their clean sheet as he saved a penalty from Gavin Strachan. The Saddlers remained top of the league, on goal difference, from Swindon who beat Rochdale 1-0 thanks to an own goal by Alan Goodall. The margin of victory would have been greater had it not been for the fact that Rochdale keeper Michael Gilks saved penalties from Christian Roberts and Paul Evans. The defeat left Rochdale without a goal, or a point, this season, and they have now lost on each of their six visits to the County Ground.

Torquay looked on course to maintain their 100% record as they led Lincoln by Darren Garner's goal as the game entered stoppage time. However Paul Morgan and Martin Gritton scored headed goals to give the Imps all three points to

maintain their fourth placed position behind Peterborough who dropped their first points of the season in a 0-0 draw at Wrexham.

Darlington also dropped their first points of the new campaign when they were comprehensively beaten 4-1 at Boston. Julian Joachim scored twice as the Lincolnshire club gained their first points of the season. Hereford United gained their first home win since returning to league action, as Stuart Fleetwood and former Rovers loan player Richard Rose were on target in their 2-0 win over Chester

John Fitzgerald scored his first ever league goal to give Bury a first half lead in their home game against Shrewsbury. However the Shakers slipped to their third consecutive defeat of the season as the visitors hit back with second half

strikes from Kelvin Langmead and Ben Davies to take all three points.

Another side waiting to win their first points of the season are Barnet, who lost 2-1 at



■ Andy Sandell celebrates his goal against Grimsby

Accrington. Frenchman Rommy Boco scored twice for Stanley to give last season's Conference Champions their first win in the Football League since 1962.

Here at the Memorial Stadium, Andy Sandell celebrated his first league start by scoring the only goal in Rovers 1-0 defeat of Grimsby. Junior Mendes scored the only goal of the game as Notts County condemned Wycombe to their first defeat at Meadow Lane in seven visits.

A late Danny Swailes own goal was the difference between the sides as MK Dons ran out 2-1 winners at Macclesfield, while a late equaliser from Mansfield's Matt Hamshaw denied his former employers, Stockport County, victory in a 1-1 draw at Field Mill.



■ Everyone wants to celebrate Andy's goal!

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MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Paul Trollope

Played 40 Won 16 Drawn 6 Lost 18
For 51 Against 56
Av Pts/game 1.35
Biggest Win(s) Won 3-1 on 3 occasions
Biggest Loss(es) Northampton 4
Bristol Rovers 0 (19/11/2005).

Mike Newell

Played 141 Won 65 Drawn 36 Lost 40
For 227 Against 184
Av Pts/game 1.64
Biggest Win(s) Luton 5 Bristol City 0 (05/03/2005).
Biggest Loss(es) Sheffield Utd 4 Luton 0 (01/11/2005).

MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ..0 Paul Trollope0 Mike Newell.....0
Draws ..0 Goals 0 Goals 0

Player with the most...

shots
Junior Agogo 8

shots on target

Sammy Igoo 3

shots off target

Junior Agogo 7

assists

Andy Sandell 1

crosses

Sammy Igoo 10

fouls

Richard Walker 8

free-kicks-won

Stuart Campbell 7

Player with the most...

shots
Richard Langley 6

shots on target

Warren Feeney 4

shots off target

Richard Langley 5

assists

Rowan Vine 1

crosses

Carlos Edwards 11

fouls

Leon Barnett 8

free-kicks-won

Warren Feeney 7

SHARP SHOOTERS

Bristol Rovers	CCFL Cup	Tot	Luton	CCFC Cup	Tot
Andy Sandell	1	0	1	1	0
James Hunt	1	0	1	1	0
Sammy Igoo	1	0	1	1	0

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played76	Bristol Rovers wins24	Luton wins31
Draws21	Goals 114 (1.5 per game)	Goals 136 (1.8 per game)
0-0's4	Times failed to score 20	Times failed to score 15

Biggest League win at Bristol Rovers for each team:

29/03/1921 Bristol Rovers 5-0 Luton
27/12/1980 Bristol Rovers 2-4 Luton

Stat Pack



2006/07 LEAGUE STATS

16	Position	6
3	Played	3
1	Won	2
0	Drawn	0
2	Lost	1
3	Goals For	5
6	Goals Against	3
3	Points	6

Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
0	0	1	14	0	0	1	15

Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
1	0	1	14	2	0	0	4

Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
1	0	0	13	2	0	1	4

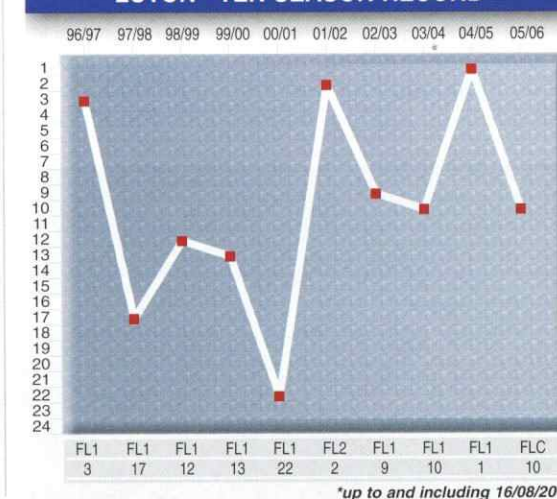
Record When Conceding First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
0	0	2	18	0	0	0	12

Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[1], Losses: 1-2[1], 1-4[1], Wins: 1-0[1], Losses: 2-3[1],
Draws: None Draws: None

LUTON - TEN SEASON RECORD



*up to and including 16/08/2006



The Football League's Fans of the Future initiative is aiming to attract the next generation of supporters to watch live football at their local club
Find out more at www.football-league.co.uk



On the spot

Not so long ago, in the spring of 2001, Rovers slid out of Division 2 and into the basement for the first time in the club's history.

Eleven points worse off and occupying a place below us in the relegation zone were Luton Town. Both plumped for recent Premiership managers to spearhead swift turns, with Luton keeping faith in former mbleton boss Joe Kinnear and Rovers veiling Gerry Francis that summer, yet only one club saw this policy prove to be a success - the Hatters ended up 52 points clear of us as Division 3 runners-up the following May.

Rovers' subsequent stagnation is in stark contrast to Luton's resurgence to the heady heights of the Championship and what was an a league six-pointer a few years back now more of a David and Goliath tussle, which is the gulf between the two sides today.

James Garley, from the Hatters' leading official side www.lutonfc.com has kindly asked us in on a few things we may need to know about the new high-flying Luton Town.

How has your season been so far?

We've started pretty well, two wins out of three as I write this, although we threw away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 at Norwich City and it was certainly a big blow because we could have made as good a start to this

campaign as we did last season - we had 7 points after three games then. However, I don't think there would be a Hatters fan alive who wouldn't have taken six points from the opening nine available, especially considering two matches were away from home.

What is your verdict on Luton's new summer signings?

Adam Boyd is obviously the big arrival, costing £500,000 from Hartlepool United, but a lack of match fitness has meant that he hasn't started a game for us as I write this. He did show some very nice touches though when coming on against Leicester City on the opening day. Our other two new summer arrivals were Lewis Emanuel from Bradford City, who has already opened his account and looks another bargain buy by Mike Newell, and Richard Langley from QPR. Langley has given mixed performances so far but there's undoubtedly talent there and we'll hope to see more from him.

Who do you think is your best player?

Markus Heikkinen, our Finnish international defender. He signed from Aberdeen last summer and won a whole host of awards in his first season at Kenilworth Road, including the Player of the Year trophy. He oozes class and looks every bit a Premiership player, but he may be out for a while with an ankle injury sustained at Norwich.

And is there a player amongst your squad whom you secretly like but nobody else does?

Warren Feeney gets his fair share of stick from certain sections of Hatters fans mainly because of his run of games without a goal. He works hard for the team though and I am sure once

he gets off the mark his confidence will begin to come back and he could go on to win over the boo boys.

Which former Luton player still playing today would you love to buy back, regardless of the cost?

Curtis Davies from WBA - he is absolutely awesome, reliable, consistent, fast, strong, great in the air - just sheer class as you would expect from someone with a current price tag of £10m (according to Bryan Robson)!

Luton were of course involved in that epic FA Cup tie with Liverpool last season and went 3-1 up just after half-time. Did you ever think you'd done enough to beat the reigning Champions of Europe?

It is always hard to tell with Luton! All Hatters fans have seen it so many times, throwing away leads, conceding last-minute goals, etc so I don't think any of us really thought it was over, even at 3-1. A great shame as it would have been a real scalp, but I think Liverpool turning on the style, coupled with a tiring Luton side, contributed to the amazing turnaround.

Were you a fan of the Kenilworth Road plastic pitch? How much of an advantage did it give Luton?

Ah, the artificial pitch question! Always comes up! Not a great fan myself, but it did result in us having a great home record as other teams just hated to play on it and weren't used to it - Kenny Dalglish moaning as Liverpool manager is probably the most famous example.

You've had various kits down the years, swapping between black and blue shorts and even orange shirts. What's your favourite strip?

The current set - white shirts and black shorts. That's trademark Luton in my opinion, with orange and blue for the away kit.

Finally, how do you think the game will go today?

It all depends what sort of a side we put out. If we play our strongest team then on paper we should win but anything can happen in Cup matches and I am sure Mike Newell won't be under any illusions - it will be a tough match, no doubt.

Ahoy, shipmates!

Good evening and welcome to the Bristol Rovers Young Pirates home page. Tonight we play in the First Round of the Carling Cup.

We welcome Luton Town to the Memorial Stadium and would like to extend a special welcome all the junior Hatters who have made the journey to Bristol this evening. Cup games always seem to produce thrilling performances and leave us all hoping for a win to take us into the next round.



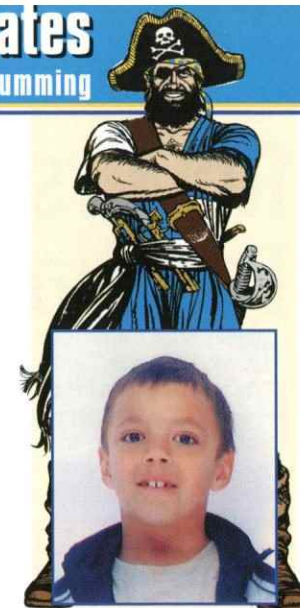
Most, if not all, Young Pirates will not know about our fabulous cup exploits in the early 1970's at Eastville, where dreams were made and hearts were broken. We are sure your parents will remember those days fondly and will all have their own stories to tell. So let's hope, in twenty years time, we will have such memories of this year's cup run. Well, we can but dream...

At the time of writing Junior Agogo is very much a part of our football club, even though we all thought he may have played his last game for us, against Grimsby. Let's hope he plays tonight and shows Luton what he can do and inspire the team to victory.

We have 30 places available for the trip to Stockport, priced at £19.00 juniors/£24.00 adults, and remember our price includes both your coach fare and ticket into the game. You can book either after today's game in our new room or speak to Baggie Sue on 01384 443777 during office hours or by calling in to see us, either before or after the game with Shrewsbury.

We expect lots of noise from the Family Enclosure tonight, so come on all you Young Pirates, make lots of noise and help cheer the team to victory.

Young Pirates signing off...



TODAY'S MASCOT

Seven year old Jack Greenhill lives in Barton Hill and attends Deerswood School.

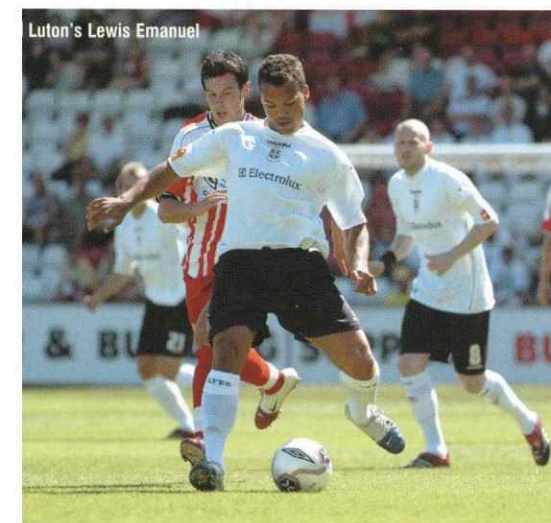
His hobbies are football, swimming and judo and we understand that he's football crazy. He does like rugby and cricket as well and he likes helping out at home and playing with his dog, Breezer.

Jack's favourite player is Junior Agogo and we hope he enjoys being our mascot this evening.

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish the following Young Pirates a very Happy Birthday.

AUG 22	GEORGE WILLCOX	12
AUG 23	JOSHUA OVENS	6
AUG 23	LUKE JOHNSON	9
AUG 23	LUKE CARTER	7
AUG 23	MARK BRAGG	14



Luton's Lewis Emanuel



Above - Our mascot for the Grimsby game, Aaron Kemp, pictured with Sammy Igoo...



... and right, with team captains and match officials prior to kick off

Rovers in the Football League Cup

Rovers play their 129th league cup-tie tonight and it is also the sixth time Luton Town have been our opponents.

The first cup-tie between the clubs took place in a Second Round at Kenilworth Road on 11th September 1974, when the Hatters secured a narrow 1-0 victory courtesy of a goal from Australian international striker Adrian Alston.

Rovers had just started their new season in the Second Division, following promotion, after a 22 year stint in the Third Division. Four days earlier they had suffered their first defeat in five league and cup matches, a heavy 5-1 reverse at Sunderland. There was just one team change from the side that played at Roker Park, manager Don Egson dropped Bryn Jones bringing in winger Kenny Stephens for his first match of the season.

The League Cup, at that time, was a knockout competition and plays were played if necessary. Rovers created enough chances, against their superior First Division opponents, to have secured a play at Eastville as Alan Warboys and Gordon Fearnley both missed chances to put Rovers in front in the first half. It was a rare goalkeeper mistake by Rovers' Jim Eadie on 36 minutes, which led to the only goal of the game.

Luton winger Gordon Hindson centred high from the left and striker Adrian Alston ran in and practically headed the ball out of Eadie's hands and into the net. Commenting on the goal after the match, Eadie said: 'As the centre came over, I lost sight of the ball for a second in the glare of the floodlights-and then it was too late. I'm sick about it.' Eadie redeemed himself later in the game, with two fantastic saves from Jimmy Husband and Barry Butlin. Manager Egson felt that a strong penalty claim, after 56 minutes, did not go in his way. Stephens, who enjoyed an impressive game, was tripped out behind by Don Shanks. Nine minutes from time a Stephens

Jamie Cureton and Jason Roberts. Both scored against Luton on 10th August 1999.



drive was diverted on to a post and cleared to safety to the relief of the majority of the 10,073 crowd.

Luton Town: Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Garner, Ryan, Hindson, Husband, Butlin, West, Alston.

Rovers: Eadie, Jacobs, Parsons (Jones 80) Aitken, Taylor, Prince, Stephens, Stanton, Warboys, Bannister, Fearnley

It was almost another 22 years before the sides met again in the competition and Town inflicted an emphatic 3-0 win over Ian Holloway's side. The First Round tie was played at Luton on 20th August 1996, watched by a crowd of 2,643 who cheered goals by Kim Grant, Tony Thorpe (pen) and David Oldfield. The Second Leg, at the Memorial Stadium on 4th September, attracted a crowd of 2,320 who saw Rovers avenge that earlier defeat with a fine 2-1 win with goals from Andy Gurney and Lee Archer with Oldfield scoring for the visitors who went through 4-2 on aggregate.

Luton Town: Feuer, James (Guentchev) Thomas, Waddock, Davis S, Johnson (Patterson) Hughes, Alexander, Oldfield, Grant, Thorpe (Showler)

Rovers: Collett, Martin, Lockwood, Browning, Clark, Tillson, Holloway, Gurney (Low) Miller (Parmenter) Beadle, Archer.

In the Second Leg Rovers were unchanged, apart from Parmenter starting in place of Beadle. Luton made three changes, as Linton, Showler & Guentchev gained a place in the starting lineup. (See page 19 for a report of this match).

The last time the clubs met each other in the League Cup was three seasons later, when Rovers secured an impressive 2-0 win at Kenilworth Road, on 10th August 1999, in the First Leg. Jason Roberts scored both goals, in front of a crowd of 2,984.

Luton Town: Abbey, Fraser, Taylor, Watts, White (Doherty) Boyce, Gray, McClaren, Douglas (George) Spring, McIndoe (Fotiadis)

Rovers: Jones, Pethick, Challis, Foster, Thomson, Tillson, Mauge (Trees) Hillier, Pritchard, Cureton, Roberts.

The Second Leg, on 25th August, at the Memorial Stadium saw Rovers field an unchanged starting lineup. The Hatters, though, made four changes with Locke, Sodje, Kandol & McKinnon replacing Fraser, Taylor, McClaren & Spring. The teams shared four goals at the Mem with Roberts and Jamie Cureton getting on the scoresheet for Rovers, and Tresor Kandol and sub Gary Doherty scoring the first and last goals of the tie watched by a crowd of 4,414.

Rovers played Birmingham City in Round Two, losing 2-0 at St Andrews, 1-0 at the Mem.

Rovers All time League Cup Record 1960-2006

Venue	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
Home	65	25	18	22	93	86
Away	63	15	14	34	60	105
Total	128	40	32	56	153	191

Good evening and welcome back to the Memorial Stadium for our Carling Cup First Round tie against Luton Town.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone connected with Luton who has made the journey to the Memorial Stadium tonight and hope that we see a thrilling cup tie.

Our Match Sponsor this evening, Dave Maggs, needs very little introduction from me. His company, Whitecross Wholesalers Ltd are loyal supporters of Bristol Rovers. Dave and his company were Matchball Sponsor on two occasions last season and Programme Sponsor for the match against Boston United. It so happens that we won all three of those games, so let's hope we keep the run going tonight.



Byron Anthony was the choice of our sponsors for the Man of the Match Award against Grimsby and is pictured here with representatives of Match Sponsor The Princess of Wales public house...



... and of Matchball Sponsor SMG Carpentry

scouting around Paul Molesworth

Good evening everyone. Once again, due to print deadlines, I am penning these notes prior to last Saturday's game against MK Dons.

I watched the 'Dons' up at Macclesfield and they work extremely hard as a unit both with, and without the ball, so I expect that we had a tough game at their place and if we came away with a point, it will have been well deserved. A win would have been outstanding, so fingers crossed!

Tonight we play Luton Town, another of my former clubs! I worked as Chief Scout at Kenilworth Road during their promotion season, when Joe Kinnear, Mick Harford and Brian Stein were the management team. Only Brian Stein remains at the club from that successful trio and I'd like to welcome him to the Memorial Stadium tonight, along with Mike Newell who has taken the club on to the next level and who is doing a superb job.

I went to watch them play Stoke City on Saturday, so hopefully they will field a similar lineup tonight! I would like to think that Luton will take this competition seriously, as any club should. They play fast, attacking football, which should make for a good game. We are obviously the underdogs, but we respond well against the better footballing sides and we could be in for a cracking cup tie.

Whilst you are engrossed in a game that will, hopefully, end in a win for us I will be seeing if Shrewsbury can also pull off a similar, if not more spectacular, result at Birmingham. At least it means a nice local trip for me, which makes a change! We also had the 'Shrews' watched on Saturday against Boston United, so we will be well prepared for their visit on Saturday.

We are obviously lining up potential replacements for Junior (although at the time of writing he's still with us!), but we must be very careful in our choice, and make sure that we get the right man, even if it means waiting a little longer. Anyway, we have to trust the squad we have here, which gives someone else a big opportunity to

come into the side and make a name for themselves, perhaps starting tonight!

C'mon the Gas

Don't talk about replacing me yet, man. I was still here when you wrote these notes!





BRISTOL ROVERS FC 2006-07

Back Row (l-r): Lewis Haldane, Craig Hinton, Steve Elliott, Mike Green, Scott Shearer, Steve Phillips, Ollie Barnes, Chris Lines, Byron Anthony, Darren Mullings.

Third Row (l-r): Craig Disley, James Hunt, Chris Carruthers, Andy Sandell, Richard Walker, Junior Agogo, Sean Rigg, James Palmer, Robbie Ryan.

Second Row (l-r): Tom Parrinello, Lewis Powell, Stuart Campbell, Rod Wesson (Director of Administration), Phil Kite (Physiotherapist), Roger Harding (Kit Manager), Ryan Green, Aaron Lescott, Sammy Igoe.

Front Row (l-r): Bill Smith (Chief Executive), Barry Bradshaw (Director), Geoff Dunford (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Director of Football), Paul Trollope (First Team Coach), Ron Craig (Vice Chairman), Nick Higgs (Director), David Brain (Associate Director)

Football historian Leigh Edwards selects eight Luton Town 'Classic Campaigns' from 60 post-war seasons.

1954/55

Gordon Turner scored 32 goals as Luton won promotion to the top-flight for the first time in 1954/55. The Hatters began with a 1-0 victory at home to Nottingham Forest and soared up the Second Division table with straight wins. Gordon Turner grabbed a hat-trick as Luton trounced Blackburn 7-3 and they triumphed 5-1 at Nottingham Forest. Billy Duncan's side maintained their challenge, slamming four goals past Hull City, Wrexham, Liverpool and Port Vale. Tom Horne and Shay Dunne were ever-present as they topped Rotherham to the runners-up spot on goal average with a 3-0 win at Mansfield.

1958/59

Luton Town were FA Cup finalists for the first and only time in 1958/59. The Hatters were unbeaten in their opening ten First Division games, trouncing Manchester City 1-0 and scoring four goals past West Ham at Preston. They recovered from a lean spell beat Arsenal 6-3 and Burnley 6-2, then top scorer Allan Brown netted four goals in a 5-1 demolition of Nottingham Forest but poor results over the closing weeks saw them finish in a low mid-table. Luton defeated Leeds 5-1, Ipswich 4-1, Ipswich 5-2, Blackpool 1-0 and Wrexham 1-0 in the FA Cup before Syd Owen's side lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest in the final.

1967/68: Back: Morris Stevenson, Fred Jardine, Graham French, Mike Keen, Keith Lennox, Peter Phillips. Centre: John Ryan, Alan Allinson, Neil Rioch, Sandy Davie, Tony Reed, Max Dougan, Terry Branstetter, Robin Bainwright. Front: Brian Lewis, Alan Slough, John Moore, Jackie Bannister, Mike Harrison, Bruce Rioch, Laurie Sheffield.



1967/68

Bruce Rioch netted 24 goals as Luton Town won the Fourth Division title in 1967/68. New captain Terry Branstetter made his debut as the Hatters kicked off with a 1-1 draw at Wrexham and Ian Buxton arrived from Derby in September. Luton lost just two of their first 18 matches and beat Charlton in the League Cup first round, scoring 27 goals in a run of eight successive wins. Allan Brown's side went top of the table with a 2-0 win at Brentford in February and Keith Allen, Max Dougan, Fred Jardine, John Moore and Ray Whittaker also starred as they remained in pole position, clinching the title with a 4-0 victory over Crewe.

1969/70

Malcolm Macdonald scored 25 times as Luton Town won promotion in 1969/70. The Hatters had narrowly missed promotion the previous season and Bruce Rioch was sold to Aston Villa for a record fee, with Alec Stock signing Malcolm Macdonald, John Ryan and John Collins. Luton were early leaders after remaining unbeaten in their opening 13 matches, recruiting Chris Nicholl from Halifax and Matt Tees from Charlton. Malcolm Macdonald grabbed hat-tricks in 5-0 wins over Bradford City and Reading, with Luton unbeaten in their last six matches and clinching promotion as Third Division runners-up with a 0-0 draw at Mansfield.

1981/82

David Pleat guided Luton Town to the Second Division title in 1981/82. The Hatters had narrowly missed promotion in the previous two years and Tony Grealish was swapped for Brighton's Brian Horton. They raced to the top by winning their first three games and hammered rivals Watford 4-1, then

Steve White scored four times in a 6-0 demolition of Grimsby. Richard Money arrived from Liverpool and was an influential figure as Luton were unbeaten in their last 14 matches. Leading marksman Brian Stein, Mal Donaghy, Kirk Stephens and Steve White were all ever-present as Luton won the title with 88 points.

1987/88

Ray Harford plotted Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Danny Wilson replaced Peter Nicholas in midfield, while Micky Weir arrived from Hibernian and Mike Newell moved to Leicester. The Hatters won 5-2 at Oxford and Ian Allinson was signed from Stoke in October, with Luton losing just twice in 12 matches including a 7-4 win in the return match against Oxford, finishing ninth in the top-flight. They defeated Wigan 5-2, Coventry 3-1, Ipswich 1-0, Bradford City 2-0 and Oxford 3-1 in the Littlewoods Cup before beating Arsenal 3-2 in the final. Luton were also FA Cup semi-finalists and Simod Cup finalists.

2001/02

Steve Howard scored 24 times as Luton Town won promotion in 2001/02. Joe Kinnear's side were early leaders after winning their opening two matches and newcomer Carl Griffiths netted a hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Torquay. The Hatters briefly regained pole position after beating Darlington 5-2 in October, signing Chris Coyne from Dundee, Jean-Louis Valois from Lille, Dean Crowe from Stoke, Ahmet Brkovic from Orient and Dave Bayliss from Rochdale. A run of 12 successive wins, slamming five goals past Halifax and Mansfield, took Luton back to the top with two games remaining but they finished runners-up to Plymouth.

2004/05

Mike Newell managed Luton Town to the League One title in 2004/05. The Hatters stormed to the top of the table, winning 10 of their first 12 games before three successive defeats. They beat Bradford City 4-0 and Wrexham 5-1, then Steve Howard netted a hat-trick in a 4-1 win at MK Dons. The 1-0 victory over Port Vale in December heralded a 14 match unbeaten run and Luton bounced back from a 3-1 defeat in the return fixture to hammer Bristol City 5-0. Briefly displaced as leaders by Hull, they triumphed 4-1 at Torquay and secured promotion with four games remaining. Luton won the title with a record 98 points.

something for our visitors...

New boys stop the rot

Paul Trollope's decision to give three new signings their first starts in the blue and white quarters against Grimsby last Saturday week enabled the Pirates to secure their first points of the season.

The back four took on a new look with **Ryan Green** at right back, **Byron Anthony** alongside **Craig Hinton** in the centre of defence and **Aaron Lescott**, usually employed at right back, on the left. **Green**, a summer signing from Hereford, secured the Bulls' return to the League last May with his goal in the Conference final against Morecambe. **Anthony** recently signed a one year deal with Rovers after leaving Cardiff City, where former Mariners' boss **Lennie Lawrence**, now Rovers' Director of Football, spent three years at the helm. The Welsh U-21 international defender spent a month on loan at Forest Green early this year.

Hinton, a former Birmingham City trainee who prefers a central position to his previous right back slot, joined Rovers from Kidderminster Harriers just over two years ago. **Lescott** originally came to the Memorial Stadium from Stockport County in March 2004 and made his mark in midfield before being switched to the back four last season. The two defenders relegated to the bench were **Steve Elliott**, formerly with Derby County and Blackpool, and ex-England youth international **Chris Carruthers**, who has been keeping former Millwall defender **Robbie Ryan**, who is currently injured, out of the side. 6'3" youngster **Ollie Barnes**, rejected by Bristol City, has been given the opportunity of proving that the Robins were wrong to let him leave.

The season has started with a new man, another exile from Bristol City, between the posts. After much speculation, **Steve Phillips**, whose face did not seem to fit at Ashton Gate after the arrival of **Gary Johnson**, has finally made the trip across the river. **Phillips** joined the Robins from local non-league side Paulton Rovers in November 1997. He has been preferred to ex-Coventry custodian **Scott Shearer** who missed only one league game in the



2005/06 campaign.

Ryan Green provided the cross for the naturally left sided **Andy Sandell**, also making his first start for Rovers, to score the only goal against the Mariners. 22 year old **Sandell**, a former Bristol City youth, has stepped up from the Southern League Premier Division to sign a two year deal after leaving Bath City. He spent six weeks on trial with Swansea last season and, like **Phillips**, previously played for Paulton Rovers. **Sammy Igoe**, on the right flank, scored his second goal for Rovers at Peterborough on the opening day when he converted a cross from **Sandell**. **Igoe** had a loan spell with Rovers towards the end of last season and has now signed a two year deal. **James Hunt** and **Craig Disley** occupied the centre of midfield against the Mariners until **Disley** suffered a knee injury and was replaced by ex-Grimsby man **Stuart Campbell** who played for **Lennie Lawrence** when he was in charge at Blundell Park. **Hunt** came to Rovers two years ago from Oxford United after spending five years at Northampton. **Disley** is in his third season with the Gas after leaving Mansfield Town. **Paul Trollope**, another recruit from Northampton, still has a squad number but confined himself to reserve team football

last term, while local lads **Chris Lines** and **Darren Mullings** will be looking to build on the progress they made last season. **Lines**, who made his senior debut as a substitute against Chester City in January, made his first start for the Pirates against Macclesfield in the last game of the 2005/06 campaign. **Mullings** made four substitute appearances last term but has yet to make a senior start. He made local headlines in March when he was named Bristol's Young Sportsman of the Year and donated his £1,000 prize to the Academy which had helped him to progress.

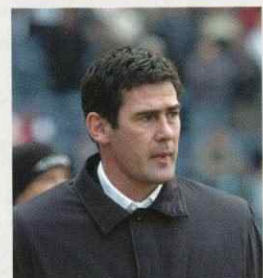
Everyone at the Grimsby game, including **Junior Agogo**, seemed to be under the impression that the former Barnet striker was on his way to Nottingham Forest having played his last game for Rovers. It later emerged that the offer from the City Ground was considered to be inadequate and that **Agogo** would be staying at the Mem unless Forest came back with a more realistic figure. Former Southampton Academy schoolboy **Lewis Haldane**, who can operate on the right wing as well as in a central striking position, replaced **Agogo** against the Mariners with sixteen minutes of the game remaining. Player of the Year and last season's leading scorer **Richard Walker** is a former Aston Villa trainee who joined the Pirates in August 2004 from Oxford United. His career has also taken him to Cambridge United, Blackpool, Wycombe Wanderers and Northampton.

With an eye on the future, the Pirates' squad this season includes five young players from the local Filton College, goalkeeper **Mike Green**, midfielders **James Palmer** and **Sean Rigg**, striker **Lewis Powell** and left back **Tom Parrinello**. Four of them are at the end of their second year at the College but **Parrinello** has only completed his first year and has secured his first professional contract twelve months earlier than expected. It has not been a good week for the youngsters who represented Rovers' in a reserve fixture at Ashton Gate last Tuesday. After a 6-0 thrashing at the hands of Bristol City, **Lennie Lawrence** expressed his concern about the ease with which the Pirates' second string were swept aside by the Robins.



Luton town

Canaries halt early run



The Gaffer - Mike Newell

During his 19 year playing career Mike Newell experienced life at various levels, coming out in over 500 games for 14 clubs. He is a relative newcomer to club management but in less than four years has achieved promotion twice and last year collected the Coca Cola Football League One Manager of the Year award.

In November 2002 Mike became manager of Hartlepool, where he replaced Chris Turner who left Victoria Park for Sheffield Wednesday. Prior to that appointment Newell had taken charge of the reserves at Tranmere Rovers and had coached at Doncaster. He led the Monkey Hangers to automatic promotion in May 2003 but his contract was not renewed and a month later he became Luton Town's new boss. His UEFA coaching badges coupled with a Certificate of Applied Management at Warwick University stood him in good stead as he led the Hatters to the Championship.

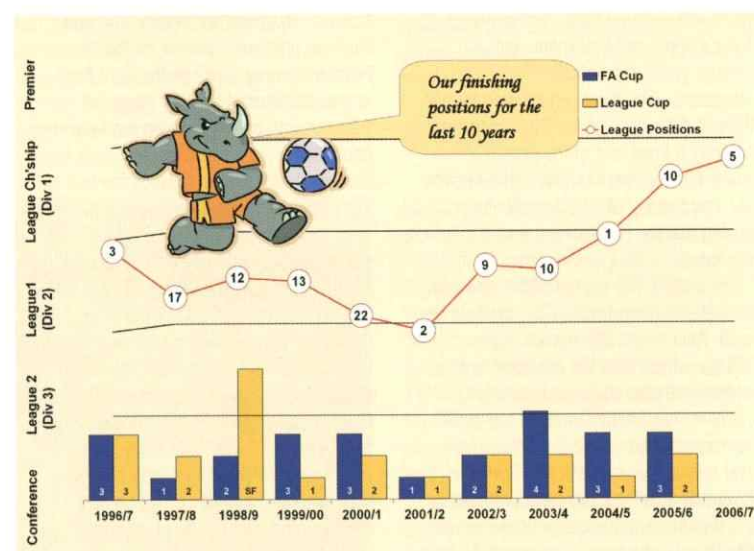
Newell's playing career, during which he turned out for England's U-21 and 'B' teams, started as a junior at Anfield. He made the short trip to Crewe before joining Luton for the first time in January 1986. His next club was Leicester City, for whom he played for two seasons before returning to his native Merseyside and a spell with Everton. He then enjoyed success with Blackburn Rovers, helping them to gain Premier League status and later to win the Premiership title. Newell left Ewood for Birmingham and went on to Aberdeen, a second spell at Crewe, Doncaster and Blackpool before hanging up his boots.



The Hatters started the season in style, following up a home win over Leicester City on the opening day with a 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday. Individual errors in their third game, at Norwich, allowed a 2-0 lead to slip into a 3-2 defeat.

There were some extenuating circumstances in that Luton lost three players, including the sought after Carlos Edwards and new signing Lewis Emanuel, through injury just after the interval at Carrow Road. Edwards, the Trinidad and Tobago international midfielder, scored on the opening day, netting the Hatters' second against the Foxes. Mike Newell tried to sign Edwards when he was in charge at Hartlepool and finally got his man from Wrexham in May last year. Emanuel, a former England youth international who scored the winner at Hillsborough, has come from Bradford City, his only previous club. The Town's midfield includes another

newcomer in Richard Langley, a Jamaican international who cost Cardiff City £250,000 from QPR three years ago. Skipper Steve Robinson, originally a Tottenham trainee, scored 60 goals in 286 games for Bournemouth. He was also injured at Norwich but had to stay on the field as the Hatters had already used all three substitutes. Preston North End paid the Cherries £375,000 for him six years ago but two years later, after a loan spell at Bristol City, he was on his way to Kenilworth Road for £50,000. Dean Morgan, who scored the second goal at Carrow Road, grabbed six for Town last season after arriving from Reading in July 2005. A former Colchester trainee, Morgan joined the Royals in November 2003. The Croatian midfielder Ahmet Brkovic joined Leyton Orient from HNK Dubrovnik in October 1999 and switched to Luton two years later. Having been with the club for six years, the Hatters' longest serving player is Peter Holmes. He was released at the end of the 2002/03

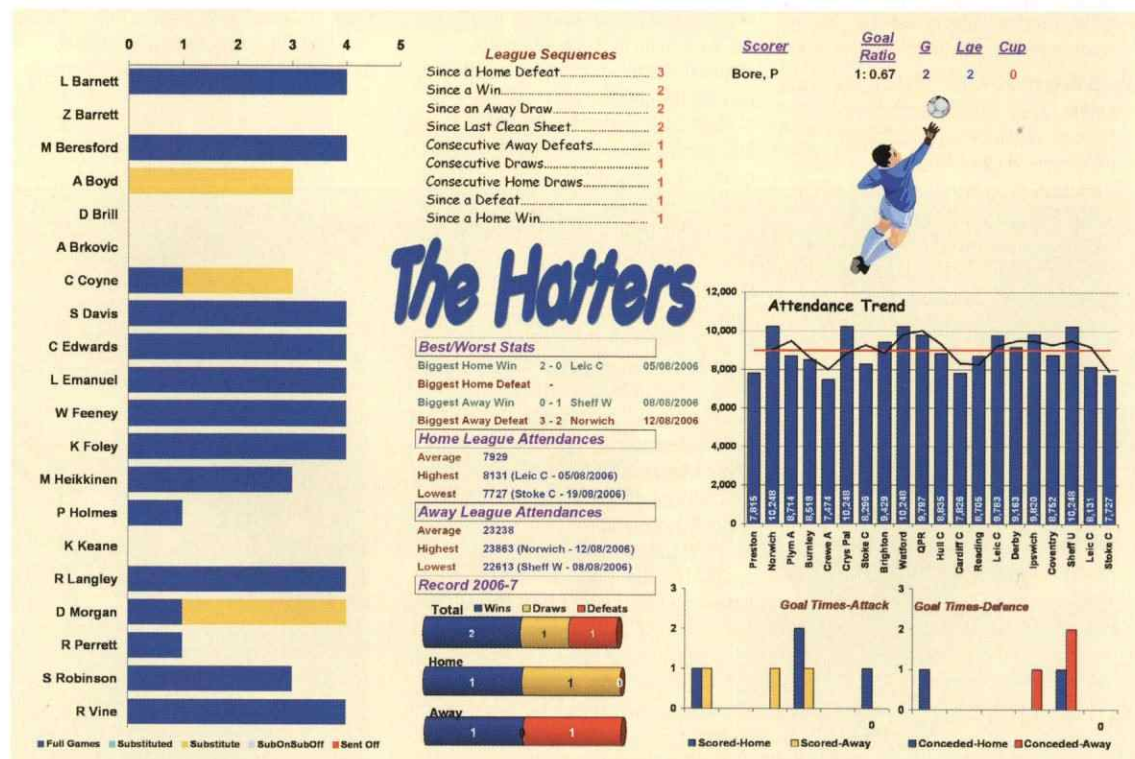


campaign due to the club's financial constraints but returned in the following November. He started his career at Sheffield Wednesday and learned his trade at the FA School of Excellence alongside Michael Owen. Republic of Ireland U19 and U21 international David Bell signed a three and a half year contract with the Hatters in mid-January 2006 having spent his previous career with Rushden & Diamonds. His form for the Diamonds, for whom he made over 100 starts, prompted Middlesbrough to take him on trial twice. He can play anywhere in midfield but prefers a central role. Michael Leary and Stephen O'Leary have both represented the Republic of Ireland at youth level. Leary made thirteen appearances for Rovers last season in a two month loan spell. He graduated from the Hatters' junior ranks five years ago but has yet to command a regular first team spot. After his stint at the Memorial Stadium he soon found himself out on loan again, this time at Walsall, but was unable to save the Saddlers from relegation. O'Leary, who made a favourable impression at Tranmere Rovers on loan last season, started the 2004/05 campaign as a

first team regular before losing his place to Brkovic. Another midfielder spotted at an early age was Danny Stevens who joined the Hatters in March last year after being released by Spurs, and made his debut from the bench at Burnley in last season's final game. Spare a thought for Paul Hughes who has been forced to retire from the game after a career which started at Chelsea under Glenn Hoddle was plagued with injuries. The Hatters are not renowned for splashing the cash but having received a total of around £1.7 million for Steve Howard and Kevin Nicholls, Mike Newell has spent £500,000 on Hartlepool's Adam Boyd. It took two loan spells at Boston for Boyd's career to take off - the Pilgrims wanted him to make a permanent transfer to York Street after he scored four goals in fourteen games. Instead he returned to the Monkey Hangers and notched twelve in thirteen appearances to take them to the play-off semi-finals. In the 2004/05 campaign Boyd scored 29 times in all competitions. The following season was less successful due to a knee injury but



Richard Langley





LUTON TOWN



1885-1914

Ground: Kenilworth Road
Colours: White shirts, black shorts and socks
Year Formed: 1885
Luton's League Cup record:
 P136 W 44 D36 L46 GF209 GA196
League Cup:
Best win: 10/8/99 2-0 (A)
Luton: Abbey, Spring, White (Doherty), Gray, McLaren, Douglas (George), McIndoe (Fotiadis), Fraser, Taylor, Boyce, Watts.
Rovers: Jones, Pritchard, Challis, Foster, Thomson, Tillson, Mauge, Hillier, Cureton, Roberts, Pethick. Goalscorer: Roberts (2)
Worst defeat: 20/8/96 0-3 (A)
Luton: Feuer, James (Guentchev), Thomas, Waddock, Davis, Johnson (Patterson), Hughes, Alexander, Oldfield, Grant, Thorpe (Showler). Goalscorers: Oldfield, Grant, Thorpe (pen)
Rovers: Collett, Martin, Lockwood, Browning, Clark, Tillson, Holloway, Gurney, Miller, Archer, Beadle.
Honours even: 25/8/99 2-2 (H)
Rovers: Jones, Pritchard, Challis, Foster, Thomson, Tillson, Mauge (Bryant), Hillier, Cureton, Roberts, Pethick. Goalscorers: Roberts, Cureton
Luton: Abbey, Sodje (E), White, Gray, Douglas (Fotiadis), McIndoe, Boyce, Kandol, McKinnon (Doherty), Locke, Watts. Goalscorers: Kandol, Doherty

this did not deter **Newell** from following up his interest in the striker. Before joining the Hatters, **Boyd** was a one club man in his home town whereas **Warren Feeney** arrived at Kenilworth Road via Leeds, Bournemouth and Stockport County. He left Elland Road for the south coast in March 2001 and scored 37 times in his 3½ years with the Cherries. He was at Edgeley Park for only eight months but his 17 goals in that period led to the Northern Ireland international's switch to Luton on transfer deadline day last year. **Feeney** scored six last season while **Rowan Vine**, who got off the mark at Carrow Road, will hope to improve on his ten last term. A former Portsmouth trainee, **Vine** first joined the Hatters on three months loan in September 2004 after previous loan spells at Brentford and Colchester. The arrangement was extended until the end of that season and he signed a three year deal after the club's elevation to the Championship in May last year. 19 year old **Calvin Andrew** made a name for himself at the beginning of the 2004/05 campaign, scoring eight in three games for Luton's U-18 side. He gained experience last season by going on loan to Grimsby and Bristol City. His only outing for the Hatters was as an 84th minute substitute at Plymouth where he scored the winner two minutes from time.

Right back, Republic of Ireland U-21 international **Kevin Foley**, has also played on the left side of defence and in midfield. Another local boy, **Keith Keane**, is mainly used on the right of midfield but has deputised for **Foley** in the past and has played in most outfield positions. **Keane**, who has represented the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level, made twelve appearances last season and scored in the home defeat by Hull in February. **Leon Barnett**, like **Keane**, made his senior debut at the age of sixteen. Four years ago, **Barnett** became the first player to represent the club at U-17, U-19, reserve and senior levels in one season. It took him just eight minutes to make his mark this season against Leicester City. The Australian **Chris Coyne** cost West Ham £150,000 from Perth Soccer Club in January 1996. **Coyne** struggled to establish himself at Upton Park and, after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, moved to Dundee. The Hatters brought him back south of the border for £50,000 in September 2001. **Russell**

Perrett joined Portsmouth from Lymington and went on to help Cardiff to promotion in May 2001 before starting the following season at Kenilworth Road. **Sol Davis** made over 100 appearances for Swindon Town after joining the Robins as a trainee. The Hatters paid £600,000 for him at the start of the 2002/03 campaign. **Davis** and **Coyne** have recently signed new deals which will keep them at Kenilworth Road until the summer of 2009. Finnish international **Markus Heikkinen** came south twelve months ago having spent two years with Aberdeen. He has spent most of his career in Finland and joined the Dons, for whom he appeared over fifty times, after a stint at Portsmouth. During the summer **Paul Underwood**, who joined Luton from Rushden & Diamonds on transfer deadline day 2004, suffered an infection which has delayed his start to the current campaign. The Diamonds took **Underwood** from Enfield and his career at Irlthlingborough earned him a Third Division Championship medal three years ago. He signed for Luton in March 2004 when a number of other clubs were keen on signing him.

Senior keeper **Marlon Beresford** spent three months on loan with the Hatters before making the move from Barnsley permanent in July 2004. His former employers include

Sheffield Wednesday, his first club, to whom he returned for a loan spell in January 2000. He will face competition from 20 year old local boy **Dean Brill** who joined the Hatters at the age of nine. He progressed through the Centre of Excellence and has represented Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools.

He kept a clean sheet in his U19 debut at the age of 15 in April 2001 and made six senior appearances last season. **Zach Barrett**, who is 18 years of age, has earned a professional contract on the strength of his performances for the youth team.



Chris Coyne



Carlos Edwards



Steve Robinson



Ahmet Brkovic



Rowan Vine



Warren Feeney

Luton Town fixtures 2006-7

Date	Opposition	Score	Pen	Att	Comp
05-Aug	Leic C	W 2 - 0		8,131	Lge Ch
08-Aug	Sheff W	W 1 - 0		22,613	Lge Ch
12-Aug	Norwich	L 2 - 3		23,863	Lge Ch
19-Aug	Stoke C	D 2 - 2		7,727	Lge Ch
22-Aug	Bristol R	-			FLC1
26-Aug	Wolves	-			Lge Ch
09-Sep	Crys Pal	-			Lge Ch
12-Sep	Colch U	-			Lge Ch
16-Sep	Cardiff C	-			Lge Ch
23-Sep	WBA	-			Lge Ch
30-Sep	Barnsley	-			Lge Ch
14-Oct	Birm C	-			Lge Ch
17-Oct	Hull C	-			Lge Ch
21-Oct	Leeds	-			Lge Ch
29-Oct	Ipswich	-			Lge Ch
31-Oct	Burnley	-			Lge Ch
04-Nov	Preston	-			Lge Ch
11-Nov	QPR	-			Lge Ch
18-Nov	Derby	-			Lge Ch
25-Nov	South'n	-			Lge Ch
28-Nov	Plym A	-			Lge Ch
02-Dec	Preston	-			Lge Ch
09-Dec	Sund'ld	-			Lge Ch
16-Dec	Southend	-			Lge Ch
23-Dec	Coventry	-			Lge Ch
26-Dec	Colch U	-			Lge Ch
30-Dec	Birm C	-			Lge Ch
01-Jan	Cardiff C	-			Lge Ch
13-Jan	WBA	-			Lge Ch
20-Jan	Barnsley	-			Lge Ch
30-Jan	Coventry	-			Lge Ch
03-Feb	Leic C	-			Lge Ch
10-Feb	Norwich	-			Lge Ch
17-Feb	Stoke C	-			Lge Ch
20-Feb	Sheff W	-			Lge Ch
24-Feb	Crys Pal	-			Lge Ch
03-Mar	Wolves	-			Lge Ch
10-Mar	Leeds	-			Lge Ch
13-Mar	Hull C	-			Lge Ch
17-Mar	Ipswich	-			Lge Ch
31-Mar	Burnley	-			Lge Ch
07-Apr	South'n	-			Lge Ch
09-Apr	QPR	-			Lge Ch
14-Apr	Plym A	-			Lge Ch
21-Apr	Derby	-			Lge Ch
28-Apr	Southend	-			Lge Ch
06-May	Sund'ld	-			Lge Ch

Football obituary Stephen Byrne

JOHNNY ANDERSON

The death, in the first week of August 2006 at the age of 34, has been reported of wing-half Johnny Anderson.

Born in Salford on 11th November 1921, Anderson signed for Manchester United in November 1938 but, like many in his generation, lost the prime years of his career to the war. Between 1947 and 1949 he appeared in 33 League games at Old Trafford, scoring once, and moved to Nottingham Forest in October 1949.

40 League games followed for Forest, plus a goal at Orient; in the 1949/50 season, with Forest languishing unusually in Division Three (South), Anderson played in both fixtures against Rovers, Forest winning 2-0 at home and 3-0 at Eastville. He featured in only eight games as Forest won the championship of that division in 1950/51 and joined non-League Peterborough United from 1951 to 1955. In December 1952 Rovers had to travel to London Road in the Second Round of the FA Cup and, despite Anderson's experience, were defeated by a first-half Vic Lambden goal to nil. 83 games and four goals for Posh completed Anderson's career and he later coached at Peterborough for several years.

First League Cup Tie

We continue our series of photos from our ten year stint at the Memorial Stadium with a look back to the first ever cup tie played here, ironically, against Luton Town.

The Hatters, whose manager at the time was none other than Lennie Lawrence, came to town on 4th September 1996 for the second leg of the First Round Coca Cola Cup Tie. They held a 3-0 advantage from the first leg, played at Kenilworth Road on 20th August, thanks to goals from Kim Grant, Tony Thorpe and David Oldfield.

Rovers had played their first league game at their new home just a few days before this game, but the fact that they had to score four goals to win this tie meant that many supporters stayed at home.

Within twenty minutes of the kick off, though, Rovers had pulled back two goals, through Andy Gurney and Lee Archer.

It was Gurney who opened the scoring, after just five minutes; Marcus Browning began a move which culminated with Archer arrowing a low cross towards the near post where Paul Miller lunged in. His effort was partially blocked and the rebound presented Gurney with a simple tap in.

Browning was again at the heart of the movement which created a second goal fifteen minutes later. His superb pass set Archer free on the left and the livewire winger was given room to cut inside and fire a fierce angled drive beyond Luton keeper Ian Feuer and into the far corner of the net.

Rovers continued to push forward for the remainder of the first half, and the visitors were indebted to Feuer for preserving their one goal advantage, as he saved from Gurney on three

occasions and made another important stop to keep out an effort from Browning.

It was a different matter after the break, though, and the introduction of substitute Andrew Fotiadis at the half time interval proved crucial.

The new man was instrumental in creating an all important third goal for the visitors, which effectively settled the tie.

It was Fotiadis who, almost single-handedly, carved out the opening for Oldfield to score a crucial goal for Luton in the 63rd minute.

His weaving run and astute pass between Billy Clark and Lee Martin left the former Manchester City forward with only keeper Andy Collett to beat, which he achieved with ease.

Rovers didn't give up, though, and Feuer needed to be alert to keep out efforts from Andy Tillson and Gurney.

Our photo from the match shows Lee Archer outpacing a Luton defender on his way to goal. Archer, who had scored the club's first ever league goal at the Memorial Stadium, made 21 league appearances for Rovers that season, though he was to score only once more for the club, in a 1-0 win against Plymouth Argyle, on 21st September 1996.

It was to be his last full season with the club, and he joined Yeovil Town in October 1997.

Luton met Derby County in the Second Round of that season's Coca Cola Cup, winning 3-2 on aggregate, though they went out of the competition in Round Three when, having drawn 1-1 at Wimbledon, they lost the replay 2-1.

The game at the Memorial Stadium was watched by a crowd of 2,320 and the teams lined up as follows:

Rovers: Collett, Martin, Clark, Tillson, Lockwood, Gurney (Low 71), Holloway, Browning, Archer, Miller, Parmenter (French 71). Substitute (not used): Bowey
Luton Town: Feuer, James, Linton, Davis, Thomas, Hughes, Alexander, Johnson, Showler (Fotiadis 46), Guenchev, Oldfield. Substitutes (not used): Thorpe, McLaren



Lee Archer

Hands up for penalties!

Recent signing Byron Anthony played just two games for Cardiff City, both in the Carling Cup.

He scored in both those games, so is out to complete a unique hat trick this evening!

His debut came against MK Dons, at the National Hockey Stadium, in a Second Round tie in September 2004. His 72nd minute goal sealed a comfortable 4-1 win for the Welsh side.

It was nice to make my first team debut and to get on the scoresheet, but it was even better to win the game. We were drawn away to Bournemouth in the Third Round, and I was on the bench for that one.

It was a great game, and I went on after about an hour, replacing Rhys Weston. It ended 3-3 after extra time and we then went into a penalty shootout and I volunteered to take one. I managed to score the fourth spot kick and we went through 5-4 on penalties.

If scored are level tonight after ninety minutes, the game will go into extra time, followed by a penalty shootout if the scores remain level after the additional thirty minutes and he's ready to take another penalty if needed. If that happens and I'm involved, I'll put my hand up to take one. Hopefully, though, we'll get a result without the need for penalties.

Having made his league debut, just ten days ago against Grimsby, he's keen to remain involved at first team level.

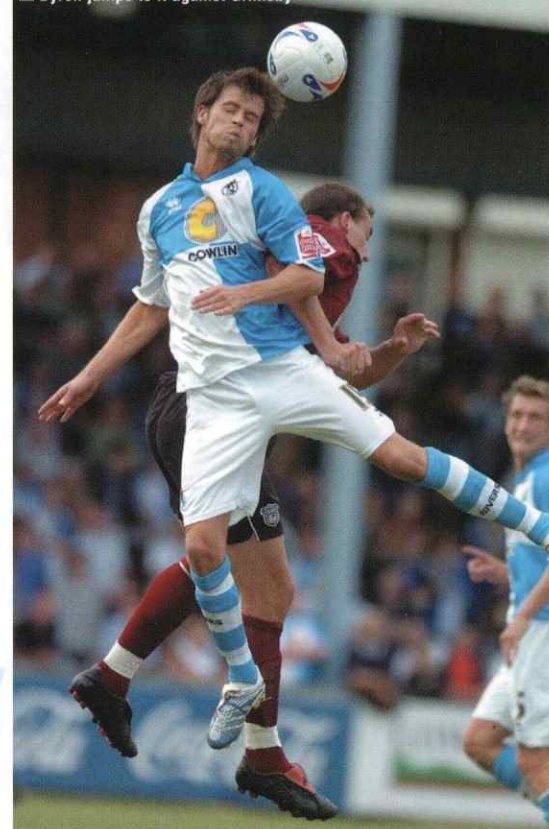
I came here to play first team football and now I've made the breakthrough I'll try to keep pushing on and see how many games I can get under my belt.

He joined Cardiff as a sixteen year old, so it's taken a long time to make that long awaited league debut.

I first broke into the squad at Cardiff when I was seventeen, but it became difficult to make further progress. That was, in part, due to the fact that it's such a big club and they have quite a large squad. In addition they have got a little bit of money as well, so it's harder for youngsters to break through. It's very frustrating as you are

I came here to play first team football and now I've made the breakthrough I'll try to keep pushing on and see how many games I can get under my belt

Byron jumps to it against Grimsby



in and around the first team squad and very much on the fringe of it. You think you need just one chance, but it doesn't come. That's just the way that football is, I'm afraid, so now I've moved to Rovers and hope I can do well here.

He still has a soft spot for his first club, though. As soon as our game is over, I look for their results, but in that respect I'm no different to most footballers. Every player has a former club they have a soft spot for. Cardiff is in the past though, and I'm a Rovers player now and I hope that good things will happen here.

With three Welsh U-21 caps to his name, he could be forgiven for casting an envious eye over John Toshak's full squad last week, as a number of former colleagues were included in the side that took on Bulgaria.

I know quite a few of them, such as Danny Gabbidon and James Collins and it's good that the younger Welsh players are being given a chance with the full squad. I learned a lot from Gabbidon and Collins, and also from the likes of Spencer Prior, Scott Young and Neil Cox. Whilst it's good

to see some of the players I played alongside earning international recognition, at the moment all I'm doing is concentrating on league football and hope that something might follow as a result.

Looking back to the game against Grimsby, he says: We trained well and worked hard in the days leading up to the game and always knew we were going to get a result. We did well in pre season, but didn't do too well in our opening two matches, but we weren't playing really badly.

The win boosted everyone, from players to the management team, and from directors to fans. The main thing is to get fans on your side, as it gives you an extra man, something that will be needed this evening.

It would be nice to think that we could beat Luton this evening and go through to the next round but, as far as we are concerned, progression is the main thing and we need to continue picking up three points from our league games.

the memorial stadium

bristol rovers 1

Sandell (50)

grimsby town 0

BRISTOL ROVERS

- 1 Steve Phillips
- 2 Ryan Green
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 5 Craig Hinton
- 32 Aaron Lescott
- 4 Sammy Igoe
- 8 James Hunt
- 20 Craig Disley
- 17 Andy Sandell
- 9 Junior Agogo
- 10 Richard Walker

Substitutes

- 6 Steve Elliott
- 7 Stuart Campbell (20) 57
- 11 Chris Carruthers
- 23 Scott Shearer
- 26 Lewis Haldane (9) 79

Anthony, Igoe

People were throwing their bodies in the way to stop shots and to prevent us conceding a goal and I think the whole work ethic of the team was a lot better

Rovers first team coach Paul Trollope

A goal from Sandell, on his first start for the club, was enough to give Rovers all three points.

He had to wait until early in the second half to find the net, but had already caught the eye with a solid first half performance and set up an early chance for Igoe, which saw the midfielder shoot just wide from 25 yards out.

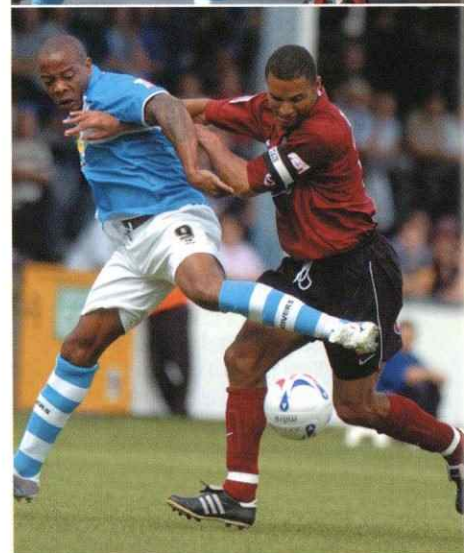
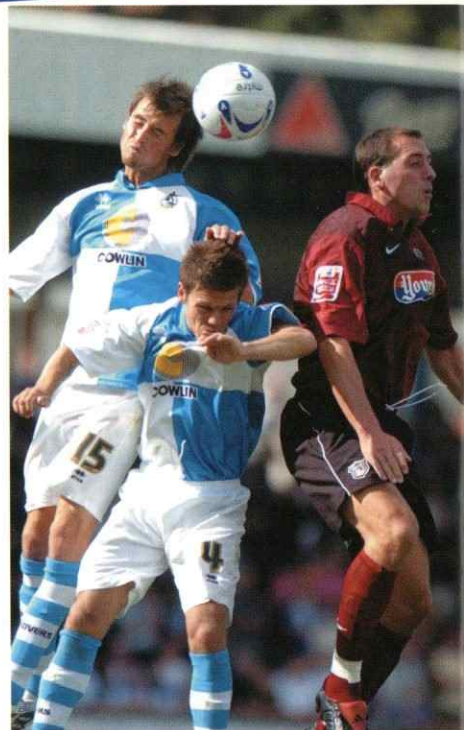
The visitors best chance of the half came on 17 minutes, but Phillips made a vital save, with his legs, to deny Reddy. By the time Fletcher headed over the bar in the final minute of the half, it was surprising that Rovers didn't go in at the half time break at least one goal to the good.

Igoe chipped a shot over the bar, Agogo hit one effort wide and saw another blocked by Fletcher, while Hinton headed over from Anthony's cross.

Sandell, Igoe and Walker were all denied by goalkeeper Barnes immediately after the break, but it only took Rovers five minutes to make the vital breakthrough. When Green hit a low cross into the area, Sandell was on hand to tuck the ball home from close range.

The visitors felt that Walker was in an offside position when the ball was played in and Barnes was booked for his protests. The striker, though, played no part in the move and couldn't be accused of interfering with play.

Although they had to soak up some late pressure, the only time Phillips was really tested

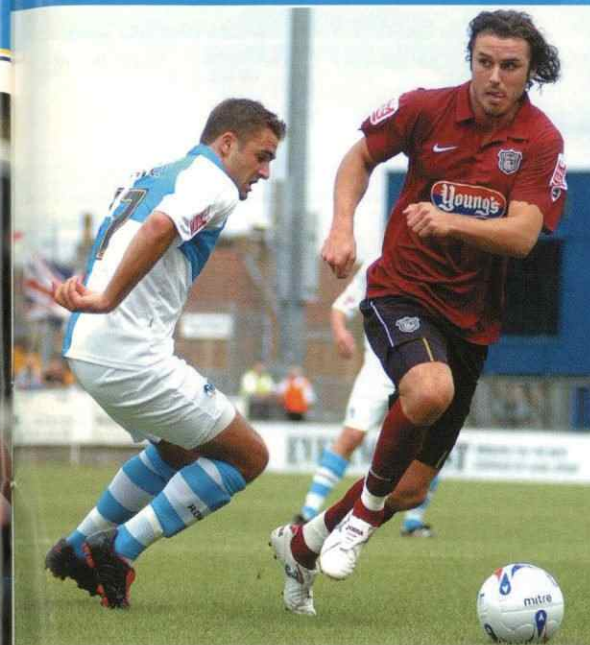


■ Top - It's a Sammy Igoe sandwich as Byron Anthony wins this header!

■ Above - Justin Whittle fends off a challenge from Junior Agogo

was by a header from Fletcher following a corner, some 13 minutes from time.

Newey made a fine tackle to deny Haldane a shooting opportunity, whilst Campbell made a crucial block at the other end. Overall, a much improved performance from Rovers which, it is hoped, will kick start their season.



■ Above - Goalscorer Andy Sandell is congratulated by physio Phil Kite

■ Left - Andy Sandell moves in to challenge Michael Reddy



It was definitely offside. The lad coming back was offside and was interfering with play. How it wasn't given offside I'll never know

Grimsby boss Graham Rodger

matchfacts

	Rovers	Grimsby
Shots on target	6	5
Shots off target	7	4
Corners	2	4
Fouls conceded	19	16
Offside	3	4

the bloke behind me said ...

Weather report: It was dry and, at times, sunny but there's always a breeze in the Mead Stand and it wasn't that hot.

Crowd: 4,596 and they generated a decent atmosphere.

Referee watch: As well as getting a few decisions totally wrong, Andy Hall was a bit too fussy for my liking

Best moment: The block that Stuart Campbell made to deny the visitors a last minute equaliser summed up the side's performance. More of the same is needed to keep the momentum going.

Funniest Moment: Steve Phillips speaking about Andy Sandell's goal; 'He can cross, he can dribble and he can finish, although I think even my mum would have put that one away!'

My Man of the Match: The new boys,

With thanks to the three blokes behind me who didn't stop rabbiting for the whole ninety minutes. Trouble is, they weren't talking about the football, but about their families. Really distracting!

Sandell, Anthony and Green all played really well. For me, though, Sammy Igoe made all the difference. It was another class performance from the midfielder.

Opposition Man of the Match: Ben Fletcher has always been a thorn in our side and this game was no different.

How many opposition fans there: 250 and, understandably, they were fairly quiet!

Actual time played: 96 minutes.

Summary: The three changes made by Paul Trollope had the desired effect and the result was a much more positive performance which earned his side all three points.

Entertainment value: 7/10

Atmosphere: 6/10

Programme: Nothing is in the same place as last season. Takes me ages to find my favourite bits - and there aren't that many!

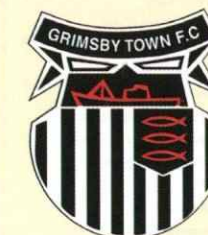
GRIMSBY TOWN

- 1 Phil Barnes
- 2 John McDermott
- 6 Justin Whittle
- 5 Ben Fletcher
- 3 Tom Newey
- 7 Isaiah Rankin
- 4 Gary Harkins
- 8 Paul Bolland
- 10 Ciaran Toner
- 9 Michael Reddy
- 19 Gary Jones

Substitutes

- 11 Peter Beagrie (4) 84
- 14 Terry Barwick
- 18 Peter Bore (7) 65
- 20 Gary Croft
- 22 Danny North

Barnes, Newey, Bolland



First season passes

In our last programme, Peter told us about his reserve team debut, which ended after just forty five minutes even though he scored a goal.

The week after his debut, at Crystal Palace, he was selected again for the reserves.

In my second game we came up against Birmingham City, at Eastville, and in our back four that day was Alan Impey, who as a year older than me, Jeff Coombes and myself, who were both only fifteen and one of the other apprentices.

We lost 1-7 that day, and playing centre forward for Birmingham was a player by the name of Bob Latchford. I have to admit that he looked a very good player, though at the time I didn't realise just how good he was going to be. He went on to win 2 caps for England, and scored over 100 league goals for Everton following his move from Birmingham, so at least I was able to not his potential!

After a defeat like that, there was bound to be some talk about it in the dressing room afterwards and two of the senior pros, Gordon Marsland and Johnny Petts, got into a little bit of an argument about whether it was right to put young players into the reserves too early.

I think Gordon was of the opinion that it wasn't good that they should go in and experience such a battering every week as it could destroy their confidence. Johnny, on the other hand, felt that players, no matter what age they were, had to take things as

they came and that there was no perfect scenario to come into a side.

I think his feelings were that if a player got into the side and took his chance, it said a lot about his character. If, on the other hand, the player was unable to cope with the pressure, then he probably wasn't up to a career in the game anyway.

The defeat against Birmingham didn't deter me in any way. In fact, I think it just made me a little bit more resolute that I would have to play better in the next game because that was what was expected at that standard.

In my early days in reserve team football, I played against a lot of quality players and it was just a case of trying to get on to a level where I could compete with them. I daresay I got my backside smacked once or twice in some of those games but, at that stage in your career, all you want to do is to strive to get better.

When we weren't playing for the youth or reserve teams, we would watch the first team in action at Eastville and one game from my first season really stays in the memory. It was against Gillingham. It was the penultimate game of the season and Rovers knew that wins against Gillingham and Tranmere Rovers, in their final two games, would almost certainly guarantee promotion to the Second Division.

It was an evening game against Gillingham, and a crowd of 18,978 were at Eastville to see the match. At that time, we were on fire and we threw everything at them, but they broke away and scored twice against the run of play. We did manage to score, through Carl Gilbert, but it wasn't enough.

I sat there watching it and couldn't believe that we lost. I was on dressing room duty that night and had to report there afterwards, to clear things up. I was still only fifteen and I remember going in and looking at the players and it was all so quiet. The dressing room, in fact, was dead.

I'd never been in a dressing room, at any level, where everyone was so dejected. Supporters never really see how hurt players are after a defeat, yet watching the whole scenario unfold after that game was quite painful.

It was very, very quiet, yet manager Bill Dodgin did nothing but praise the players



Gordon Marsland

and thank them for their efforts. He said they had done everything they could and he was proud of them. He said all the right things, and that typified him, really. He rarely put people down.

I looked at the players and decided against speaking to anyone. Sometimes, in football, you can change the atmosphere and liven things up, but that wasn't a time for anything like that. Of course, everyone eventually got changed and put their suits on and went out to deal with the situation. I'm sure that then, as now, people were saying that the players didn't want to win or to get promotion, but they didn't see those players in the dressing room afterwards.

My first season at the club went very, very fast and trying to remember too many things about it is difficult. I don't think I made a lot of progress because I was still acclimatising to a certain extent. I think I started to develop more in the following season. I'd been taking in a lot of knowledge and experience and working with the players and I think, gradually, it all started to come together. I suppose my physical strength and mental knowledge improved as well as adapting to life in the dressing room.

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One word: football

It's not about foreign businessmen, inflated wages, book deals or soapstar girlfriends. It's about the scrappy goal in extra time that means your team makes it into the hat for the next round. It's about the fans. It's about...football.

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v luton town

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bristol rovers

Coach PAUL TROLLOPE

1	Steve PHILLIPS (G/K)
2	Ryan GREEN
3	Robbie RYAN
4	Sammy IGOE
5	Craig HINTON
6	Steve ELLIOTT
7	Stuart CAMPBELL
8	James HUNT
9	Junior AGOGO
10	Richard WALKER
11	Chris CARRUTHERS
12	GASHEADS
15	Byron ANTHONY
17	Andy SANDELL
20	Craig DISLEY
21	Ollie BARNES
22	Chris LINES
23	Scott SHEARER (G/K)
24	Paul TROLLOPE
25	Darren MULLINGS
26	Lewis HALDANE
27	Sean RIGG
28	Tom PARRINELLO
29	Lewis POWELL
30	James PALMER
31	Mike GREEN (G/K)
32	Aaron LESCOTT



luton town

Manager MIKE NEWELL

1	Marlon BERESFORD (G/K)
2	Kevin FOLEY
3	So! DAVIS
4	Chris COYNE
5	Russell PERRETT
6	Paul UNDERWOOD
7	Carlos EDWARDS
8	Steve ROBINSON
9	Rowan VINE
10	Warren FEENEY
11	Dean MORGAN
14	Michael LEARY
15	Stephen O'LEARY
16	Lewis EMANUEL
17	Richard LANGLEY
18	Ahmet BRKOVIC
20	Adam BOYD
21	Keith KEANE
22	Danny STEVENS
25	Leon BARNETT
26	Markus HEIKKINEN
27	Peter HOLMES
28	David BELL
29	Calvin ANDREW
33	Dean BRILL (G/K)
34	Zach BARRETT (G/K)
35	Chris PENDLETON



COVER SHOT:

■ Andy Sandell has just scored his first league goal and is congratulated by Junior Agogo, whilst Byron Anthony and Craig Hinton look pretty happy about it!

next up...

... on the road

Stockport County

Sunday 3rd Sept 2006

Kick off 2.00pm

Torquay United

Wed. 13th August 2006

Kick off 7.45pm

... at the Mem

Shrewsbury Town

Saturday 26th August 2006

Kick off 3.00pm

Rochdale

Sat. 9th September 2006

Kick off 3.00pm

tonight's match officials



referee

Jarnail Singh, Middlesex



assistant referees

James Cox, Worcestershire

Ian Scarr, West Midlands



fourth official

Simon Knapp, Bristol

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