



GILLINGHAM FC

Official Matchday Magazine of the Gills – Season 2008/09



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72 Clubs. The 'Coca-Cola' Football League.

From the Manager MARK STIMSON

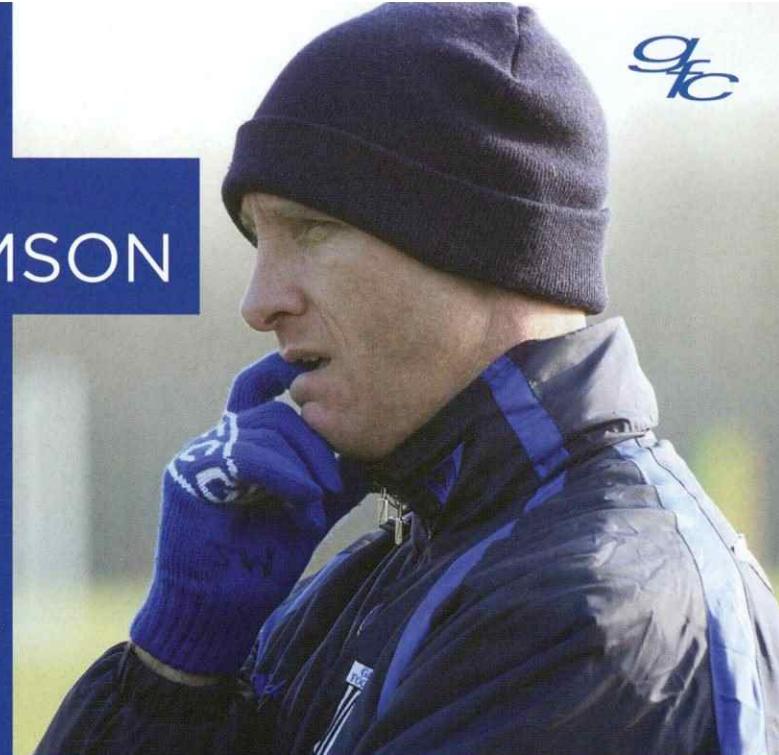
First of all I would like to start by welcoming Luton and their supporters, I hope they had a safe trip down and wish them a safe return.

Today we face a Luton side who unfortunately have had a difficult summer and suffered a major points deduction. I know Mick Harford, regardless of what team he has or which position they're in, we know they'll be fighting for their lives and we expect a tough game today. Mick has recently signed a few new boys and Kevin Nicholls in particular, is a very good player at this level. Also young Chris Martin, on loan from Norwich, is a decent player too, so we've got to be aware of them. What we have to do is make sure that we take last week's performance against Bournemouth in to this match. If we can do that, and create as many chances as we did away from home, then I think we're going to give Luton problems.

It was great to see Mark McCommon complete a full 90 minutes at Bournemouth and if anything he got stronger as the game went on. Also, for Gary Mulligan, it was fantastic that he took being named substitute in the right way. He was very professional about it and then he came on to the pitch and scored a great goal which gave us, I think, a very well deserved point.

Also in that game Curtis Weston made his debut on the right side of midfield, putting in a good performance. He showed signs of his natural ability and an awareness to get on the ball and make things happen. He's short of match fitness and he only lasted about 70 minutes but we'll see much more from him before long.

As Curtis came off, Tyrone Berry was thrown in to the game, he's got so much pace and he made it count. He used his pace to get past the full back



and set up the goal for us. He's someone that I'm sure we're going to see a lot more of and I hope the fans get excited like I do when I see him take the full backs on. In the modern game it's very pleasing on the eye to see someone do that.

Signed

On the subject of new faces, we've also taken Leigh Mills on loan from Tottenham Hotspur. He is a young, well regarded defender who has represented England at several age groups and he's got great potential. When he became available it was a case of quick let's get him signed and we've agreed to take him on a months loan with a view to a further period after that. He's someone who, I'm sure, when he gets in the team will be hard to budge because he's a natural defender and also very good on the ball.

Also joining us this week is Mark Robson who comes in as First Team Coach to work alongside myself and Scott. Mark's got a great knowledge of the game. He's just been at Charlton for some time and he's worked with them in the Premiership and in the Championship. He's worked with some top quality players and bringing him to the club can only help our players. Mark is someone I've

known personally for a long time, in fact we went to school together. Mark is actually a year younger than me although I know I look younger than him.

Mark played for some big clubs in his career at a high level. He's had a fantastic coaching career too. When I heard that he was available my first thought was that he would be great to work with but because of his quality I didn't think we'd get the opportunity. Now he's here I'm looking forward to bouncing ideas off each other and getting this club up into the division it deserves to be in. The only way to do that is to bring in the best people and set ourselves high standards and Mark will certainly help us achieve that.

Finally I can't finish without mentioning our exceptional following at Bournemouth. We took 1,200 fans away last Saturday and there were some teams in this division that struggled to get that many at home. It was great that we scored right in front of our supporters and the players went over and celebrated together. To be successful you have to be united from the top down and long may that continue.

Enjoy the game
Mark

The Chairman

Paul D.P. Scally

“ . . . we controlled the game for large periods and yet somehow could not force the ball in to the net. By contrast, Colchester scored with their first real chance of note and struggled to create another for the rest of the match . . . ”



Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome back to KRBS Priestfield for our first home league fixture against Luton Town. On behalf of all at the club I would like to welcome the team, management and supporters who have made the trip down from Bedfordshire today.

We come in to this afternoon's game off the back of a frustrating defeat on Tuesday night against Colchester United. I say frustrating, not because I felt the team underperformed, in fact quite the reverse, we controlled the game for large periods and yet somehow could not force the ball in to the net. By contrast, Colchester scored with their first real chance of note and struggled to create another for the rest of the match.

One aspect of the game I particularly enjoyed was watching the developing relationship between our strike



partners Mark McCommon and Simeon Jackson. Although neither we're able to get on the score sheet, I'm sure you'll agree that there is a growing understanding between the two and I know we will see a lot of goals from these two over the season.

Prevent

Another encouraging sign was the performance of our debutant Goalkeeper Alan Julian. Alan only arrived at the club in July but has already settled in to the squad superbly. He was probably expecting to warm the bench on Tuesday but with Simon Royce ruled out through illness; Alan came in to make his debut. There was little he could do to prevent Colchester's goal but his save from Kemal Izet, late in the second half, was nothing short of miraculous. With performances like that I'm sure you'll agree that our Goalkeeping department will not be found wanting in the coming weeks.

On Monday, Mark Stimson added a new face to his coaching staff with the arrival of Mark Robson as First Team Coach. Mark brings a wealth of experience to the krbs Priestfield Stadium having featured as both a player and coach at the very top level of the game. During an eight year spell with Charlton Athletic, Mark progressed from coaching the Academy side all the way through to Assistant Manager under Les Reed. Most recently he was First Team Coach to Alan Pardew and this priceless experience is sure to be a major asset to Mark Stimson in his preparations for promotion.

Supporters

Away from the football I would like to wish the very best of luck to Kent's Cricket Team and their supporters in the Friends Provident Trophy Final at Lords this afternoon. I know many of our fans are followers of the summer game and I hope that, after their

recent disappointment in the 20/20 Cup Final, Kent will be able to bring some sporting pride to the County today.

Finally, this afternoon's game is sure to be an intriguing one as Mark and the team pit their wits against a Luton side that, like us, will be looking to bounce back after suffering the heartbreak of relegation last season. It's sure to be a keenly contested encounter so let's get behind the team today and ensure that we start our home campaign with three points.

Enjoy the game
Up The Gills

Paul D.P. Scally
Chairman

GFC NEWS



GFC Megastore

This season's Vandanel training wear is now available to buy in the GFC Megastore. The shop has many new items in stock for the 2008/09 season including specially designed fixtures mugs. It's even easier to shop this season with the introduction of our new Pay & Collect service which allows you to leave your purchases in a secure area during the match and pick them up safely from the store after the final whistle.



Today's Mascots

Today we give a huge krbs Priestfield Stadium welcome to ten year old **Bethany McLellan** and her eight year-old brother **Joshua McLellan**.



Bethany lists her favourite pastimes as Dancing, swimming and gym and is looking forward to seeing the Gills earn promotion this season.

Joshua is a huge football fan and says his favourite players are Andrew Crofts and Cesc Fabregas.

Everyone at Gillingham Football Club would like to wish Bethany and Joshua a fantastic afternoon with us.



Robson Signs

Mark Stimson added to his coaching staff this week with the arrival of Mark Robson as First Team Coach. Mark enjoyed a long and successful career as a player with Tottenham, West Ham and Charlton Athletic before taking up the role of Academy Coach at the Valley in 2000. In 2006 he was appointed Reserve Team Manager and more recently First Team Coach alongside Alan Pardew. You can read an exclusive interview with Mark on p19.

Soccer Schools

If you're struggling to keep the kids entertained this summer our GFC Soccer Schools are continuing throughout the holidays. We have already seen lots of enthusiastic and talented young players but we still have a final few spaces left at the following venues:

18th Aug – 22nd Aug

Monkton Sports Ground & Lamberhurst Parish Ground

26th Aug – 29th Aug

Rochester Maths School & Borden Grammar School

All days run from 10am to 3pm. For further information please call 01634 350125 or go to www.gillinghamfootballclub.com.

Matchday Programme

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From the Chief Executive MARK JONES

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the krbs Priestfield Stadium for our first home League match of the season against Luton Town.

In my short time at the club I have been overwhelmed by the strength of support and affection of Gillingham's fans. This summer's season ticket sales have been tremendous which bares testimony to the outstanding loyalty of our fan base. You are a great credit to this club and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

One of our primary objectives for this season is to widen the supporter base throughout the county of Kent. This will be spearheaded by the launch of our brand new GFC Community Schools Partnership Programme. This initiative will target over 26,000 school children across the region with membership schemes and incentives to attract them to the club and hopefully create the next generation of Gills.

A recent survey by the Football League revealed that on average most match going football supporters have chosen the club they will follow by the age of eight. So, for Gillingham, attracting youngsters at an early age and encouraging them to come to krbs Priestfield is an important step in securing the long term future for the club.

You may have also noticed on our

official website that this season we are looking for a Junior Reporter for each game so that we can post their report on our site. Whether you're six or sixteen we want your entries and you can read our first entry from Yoosof Farah on p9 of this programme.

Fixtures

I would also like to encourage fans to go and watch our youth team when they can this season. Mark Patterson is developing an impressive crop of talent and I'm sure some of our youngsters will be pressing Mark Stimson for a first start before long. The Youth Team begin their home fixtures against Brighton on August 30th at Beeching's Cross, I hope to see you there.

Away from the field, I would like to welcome all our new season ticket holders and corporate sponsors. Once again, thank you to krbs for your continued support throughout the summer and the forth-coming season. We will be unveiling a series of new initiatives in partnership with krbs soon, so keep an eye out for details.

I hope that you are enjoying the new look programme, after consulting with supporters we have returned to a more traditional format. I know, in particular, that many of you were keen to see the



team sheets return to the back cover, so you can see we really do respond to you feedback.

You will have noticed that over the summer we have relocated the family catering area in the Medway stand. This year, for every game, season ticket holders have vouchers to use for different catering offers at all of the stadiums outlets, so be sure to make use of these offers.

As always, I am pleased to hear from you on all the clubs activities. You can e-mail me direct at mjones@priestfield.com or write to me personally at the club main address.

Let's all get behind the team this afternoon and start our league home fixtures with a win.

Mark



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Junior REPORTER

Junior Reporters is a new feature for the 2008/09 season and we need all our Junior Gills supporters to put pen to paper.

It doesn't matter if you're six or sixteen; if you think you could be the next John Motson then we want to hear from you.

For every home match this season we want you to send us your match reports and we will post them all on the GFC website.

Each week one lucky junior journo will be selected our "Star Reporter" and receive a superb Gills Goody Bag plus their report will be included in the matchday programme.

So make sure you bring your pen and paper with you to the krbs Priestfield Stadium each week. Then after the final whistle email your match reports, together with your name, age and address to media@priestfield.com

Gills Hold Town to a Draw

A crowd of 1,374 saw Gillingham's best starting eleven draw 1-1 in the fourth match of their pre-season friendly campaign, against an Ipswich Town XI.

Manager Mark Stimson said before tonight's game that he was going to play his best starting eleven, but it was Ipswich who started brighter as they dominated possession and created a few opportunities, showing their Championship quality. This meant Gillingham could only make their first real chance of the game on 6 minutes, when striker Gary Mulligan headed over from an Adam Miller cross.

The Gills then had another chance on 10 minutes when a shot from a free kick went just wide after Adam Miller was fouled following a good run with the ball.

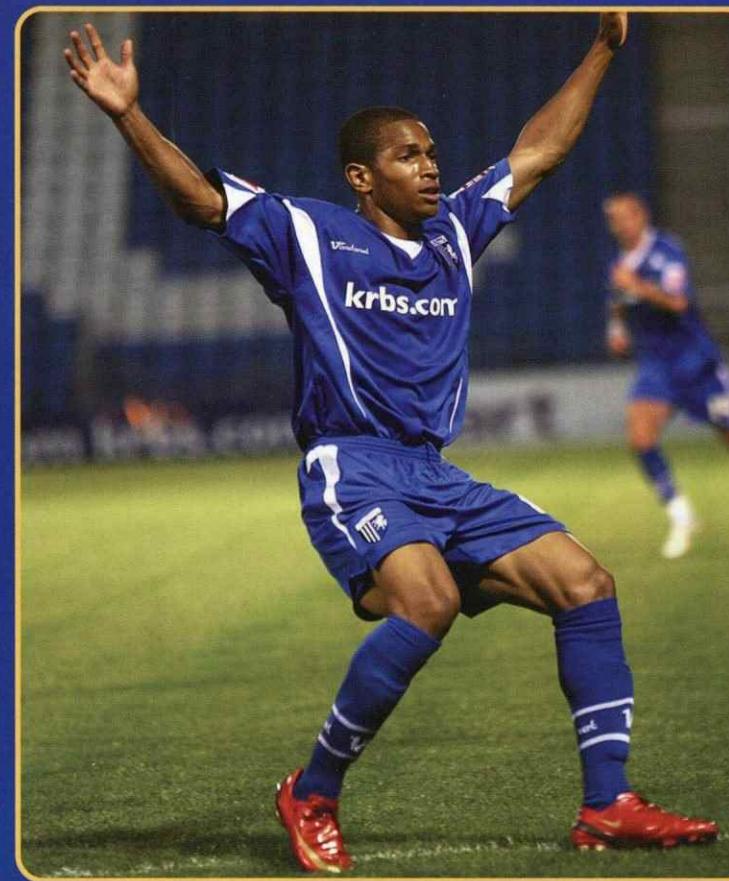
Andrew Crofts was next to try and test the Ipswich goal on 17 minutes, but the Wales midfielder hit his long-range shot over the bar, troubling neither the Ipswich goalkeeper or the defence.

However, Crofts came closer with a second attempt on 21 minutes that hit the woodwork, when he saw his shot beat Ipswich keeper Richard Wright but not the post, as Gillingham started to press on for the opening goal.

Created

Ipswich were the next team to try their luck on goal, when striker Jonathan Walters created something out of nothing, hitting a powerful shot which forced the acrobatics from Simon Royce in order to keep the scores level.

Gillingham had another good chance on 33 minutes when Dennis Oli showed his strength and persistence, making a good run into the box and then creating a chance for striker partner Simeon Jackson, but the Canadian forward hit his shot wide.



It wasn't long however until the Gills broke the deadlock, when on 38 minutes, the so far impressive Simeon Jackson put the Gills ahead after hitting a low effort that drifted in past keeper Richard Wright, following a lay-off from strike-partner Gary Mulligan.

Rather unlike the previous three friendlies, there was only one change at half-time for the Gills, as Nicky Southall came on in place of Gary Mulligan.

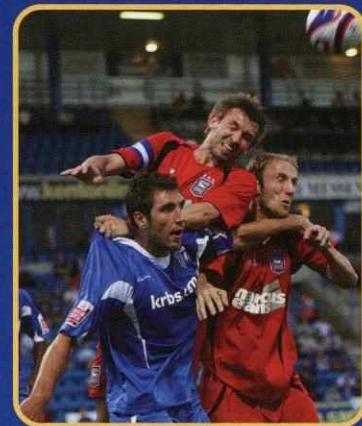
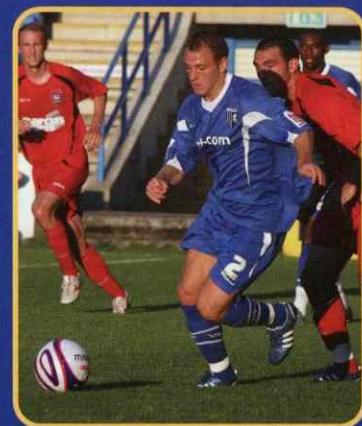
The second half started rather slowly, with neither side creating any clear opportunities. However it was visitors Ipswich who did create the first real opportunity of the second half, when on 55 minutes Jonathan Walters crossed in from the left for striker Pablo Counago, but the Spaniard failed to find the target as his effort

against the side netting. Gillingham came close themselves a few minutes later when club captain Mark Bentley saw a powerful volley go just over the bar.

Crowd

The visitors then equalised on 62 minutes when striker Danny Haynes was awarded a penalty after being felled in the box by Gills defender Simon King. Town midfielder Tommy Miller stepped up to take the penalty and coolly slotted home, sending keeper Simon Royce the wrong way.

Ipswich could've then taken the lead on 69 minutes, when Town's new Dutch signing Pim Balkestein beat Simeon Jackson to a loose ball and hit a fierce goal bound effort which required quick reactions



from Simon Royce in order to keep the score tied.

Few chances were created in the latter stages of the game, and both sides made multiple changes, with Gills' Sean Clohessy coming on for midfielder Adam Miller, who was forced to depart on 83 minutes with what looked to be an arm injury.

In the end it finished 1-1, with the Gills receiving a big ovation from the 1,300 strong home crowd, who will be just pleased as manager Mark Stimson by the good performance today from the Gills, against a tough Championship opposition who brought along some of their best players to the krbs Priestfield Stadium.

Name: **Yoosof Farah**
Age: 16

LEIGH MILLS

Central defender Leigh Mills recently signed on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, today we bring you the lowdown on the Gills latest arrival.

First of all Leigh tell us about your career so far.

I started out with Swindon's Centre of Excellence and trained with them from the age of eight until I was 16. I've signed as a school boy with Tottenham and I've been with them for four years now. I've also represented England from Under-16 up to Under 19 level.

You were recently on loan at Brentford how did the move to Gillingham come about?

I joined Brentford on a season long loan and played in their pre-season games. Then, I don't know why but I was recalled by Tottenham and then the chance came to come to Gillingham.

You've had a chance to meet the team how are you settling in?

I've been really impressed by what I've seen in training. There's a good group of lads here with a nice mixture of youth and experience.

Did you know any of the squad before arriving at the club?

Yes I already knew Stuart Lewis from the Tottenham Youth team. He lives just over the road from me so he can give me a lift too.

What are you hoping to achieve with Gillingham?

Well I haven't made my League debut yet so that's something I'd like to get under my belt. Having said that Garry and Simon are a

firmly established partnership but hopefully an opportunity will come along. I've got a point to prove and I need to catch up my fitness levels with the rest of the squad. I know I've got a chance of first team football with Gillingham and so I've got a big incentive to do it.

Finally, we've not seen you in action yet, how would you describe your style of play?

I'm definitely a more physical type of defender, tackling is a big part of my game and I've no fear of going in where the boots are flying.





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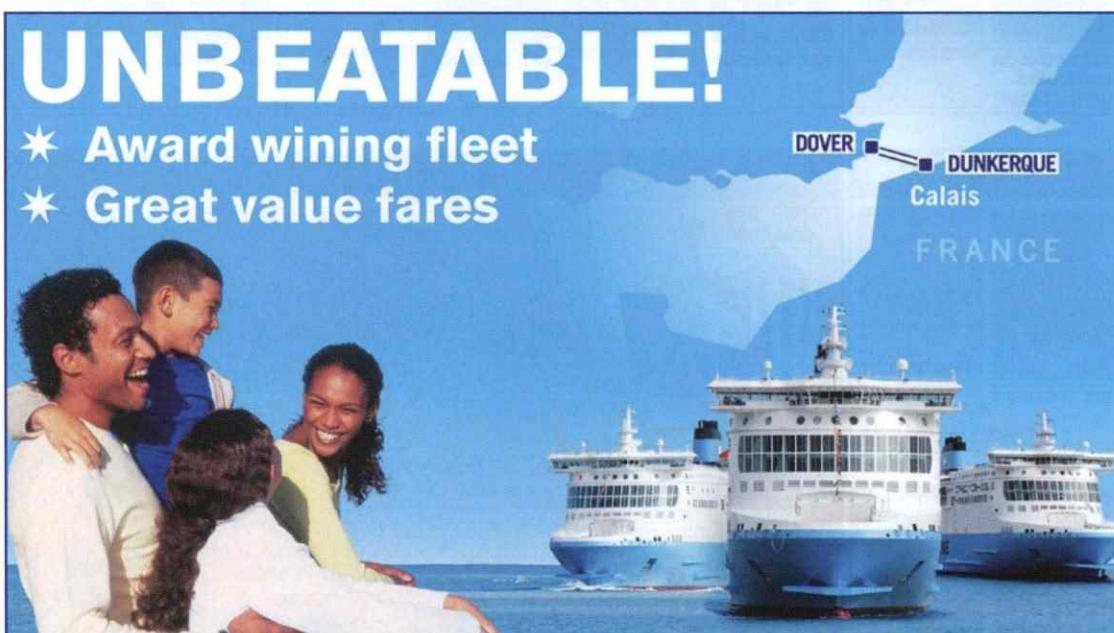
This season we're going retro with the launch of our brand new Spot the Ball feature.

Study the picture and see if you can decide which of the six panels is hiding the match ball. Email your answer together with your name age and address to media@priestfield.com and if you are correct you will enter a draw to win a signed Gillingham football.



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SCRAPBOOK OF 10 YEARS AGO

Andy Bradley reflects on Gillingham's progress during the 1998-99 campaign.

After two games without scoring a single goal the need to strengthen in attack was painfully obvious but manager Tony Pulis refused to be rushed.

"Our quest for one or two more strikers is vital to our season," he explained. "But we will not be panicked into making a rash decision.

"Although all supporters are desperate for us to bring somebody in as soon as possible, whoever we sign must be right for this football club. We must get the right sort of player and it's proving anything except easy.

"One potential deal has been held up over a bizarre situation," he continued. "I can only say I have never encountered anything quite like this before and it must be unique to this particular player."

He refused to elaborate any further or name the player involved. Nevertheless his comments still provided some interesting food for thought.

So, for a few more weeks Pulis had to soldier on with the existing squad, starting with the Second Division match at York City on Saturday, 15 August, 1998.

The good news is the Gills put in a better display to draw 1-1 and secure their first point of the campaign. The bad news is nobody is absolutely certain who netted Gillingham's equalizer, the goal which cancelled out the early lead given York by Richard Cresswell.

Awarded

Was it Mark Saunders or Paul Williams? Both players attacked the right-flank cross delivered by fellow summer signing John Hodge and ball went in off one or maybe both of them.

Both players claimed the goal but after much debate in the dressing room it was officially awarded to Saunders.

"I was pleased with the performance,"

declared Pulis afterwards. "For the first time this season we created some good goalscoring opportunities and we really should have come away with all three points."

The wing play of Hodge was largely responsible for creating those chances, mainly for Robert Taylor who did just about everything except score.

The manager was also pleased with the way Gillingham played at home to Southend United in the Worthington Cup (first round, second leg) three days later.

"We again improved on our all-round game only to be thwarted by some bad luck in front of goal," said the team boss.

The Gills were beaten 1-0 on the night and 2-0 on aggregate.

As a matter of interest the Southend team included some familiar names, like Mark Stimson at left-back, Leo Roget in central defence and Kevin Maher in midfield. Wonder what ever became of them?

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BEHIND THE SCENES MARK ROBSON

" . . . I said to Mark after the first day that training was very good, there's a good tempo and the boys look like a nice unit . . . "

What attracted you to Gillingham?

Well Mark has really, I know Stimmo well from our days as kids, we both went to the same school and we were brought up in the same sort of areas. I was at Tottenham with Mark as a player so I know him very well. He asked me if I would come along and be a part of the team and it's a nice way for me to step back into it here at Gillingham.

Was it a wrench leaving Charlton after 8 years?

Yes, to be honest it was. I had a fantastic time at the club, worked with some good people there and it's rather strange at the moment not being there. But you have to move on. I felt that it was time for me to look for pastures new and I feel I need a fresh challenge.

You said when you left The Valley that you were looking to move into management, is that still the case?

I feel like management is definitely something I want to do further down the line. At the moment, I very much want to do the coaching and I felt I would have to move away from

Charlton to get that opportunity. So here I am as First Team Coach. Doing the coaching on a day to day basis will be fantastic, but obviously long term I do have ambitions of management.

How have you found your first week at the club?

I have to say I was impressed. I said to Mark after the first day that training was very good, there's a good tempo and the boys look like a nice unit. They're close together as a group in training and I was impressed.

Mark Stimson was a Left-Back, Scott a Goalkeeper, as a more attacking player is that something you will bring to coaching?

I was a more attacking player, I played out wide left or right, I could play central in a forward three so was definitely an attacking player. Everybody has their own traits as coaches when you step into this side of the game and I'd like to think that the attacking side is something I'm good at. That said, I like to think I'm very capable at the defensive side whilst I know that Mark has a very forward way of thinking with regard

to how his teams play and that's something about Gillingham that appeals to me too. It will probably take a few weeks to get to grips with the players and how they play individually but I'm really looking forward to it!

Have you worked with any of the players before?

Mark McCammon left Charlton just as I arrived but I've worked with Barry Fuller at Charlton both in the youth and reserve team. I actually worked with Mark Bentley when he was 18. I was still playing at Charlton but I used to take a youth team at Aveley, Mark was there and he really shone out in that side. There are also a few experienced players here and I've played against one or two of them.

Finally, Scott is very vocal on the touchline Mark likes to study the game more, what are you like on the bench?

It's difficult to know yet where Mark wants me to fit in so we'll take it from there. I've got no problems shouting from the sidelines, if not whatever, I don't mind, I just want to fit into the team.

YOUTH TEAM PRE-SEASON REVIEW



It's been a successful summer so far for the Gills Youth Team with six wins out of six in their pre-season fixtures. Though Manager Mark Patterson is keen to ensure that the lads aren't getting complacent.

The Youth Team began their pre-season programme with a 3-0 win against Dover Athletic. It was a relatively comfortable victory with two goals coming from Charlie Stimson and the third from Luke Rooney.

The following week we played Margate and managed to win it 7-1 in the end, Liam Wybraniec scored, Luke Rooney scored a hat-trick, Dean Rance, Jacob Arnold-Smith & Tom Murphy all scored as well. On paper it looks good to pick up the wins against Margate & Dover but we are training full time so you would expect us to be stronger.

Moved

On the 12th of July the team played Millwall and won 2-0 with goals from Dean Rance and Luke Rooney. In the first half we played well, moved the ball around and kept good possession. The overlapping with the full backs was particularly pleasing.

Then the Second half was completely different because Millwall came out and pushed us back, putting us under a lot of pressure. Ultimately, the only difference between the two sides is that they scored and we didn't. They

were an Academy side last year so it was a good work out for all the players.

Our next scheduled game against Whitstable was postponed so the team didn't play again until July 25th away to Bromley. We ran out 3-0 winners in really hot conditions which was pleasing because the lad's fitness levels were quite high. Tom Murphy scored two with Luke Rooney adding a penalty and it was a really good workout as Bromley aren't a bad team.

Interval

Next up we travelled to The Dripping Pan to play Lewes on the 2nd of August. Lewes have a great set-up with an excellent pitch. We had a chance after 10 seconds and missed and I thought that's a decent start, then we never got in their half again until the second half. It was a classic example of how sometimes results don't give a true reflection of the game. We won 5-0 and yet in the first half we were absolutely battered. They hammered us from pillar to post, and but for a couple of good saves from Conor Quinn – who has had a good pre-season we should have gone into the interval a couple of goals behind.

Lewes are good, we have played them before at U16 & U18 and they give you a game. Their problem is that their starting 11 is very good but when they start to make changes the subs aren't quite as strong. Sure



enough in the second half we ran in five goals but as I said to the lads afterwards don't kid yourself that you played well. For the record Tom Murphy and Adam Burchell both scored twice with Luke Rooney adding the other.

Last weekend we played at Dagenham & Redbridge and won 3-2. It was a difficult game, because there was a strong cross wind and a very hard bouncy pitch. We went 1-0 down, then 2-1 ahead, before scoring the winner right at the end.

The goals came from unlikely sources with defenders Ellis Munday scoring the first with a lovely right foot half volley and then Connor Essam netting a similar goal from eight yards out. Dagenham came back to 2-2 before Charlie Stimson charged down a goalkeeper's clearance to seal the win.

It was a different kind of game to

Millwall and Bromley as they are both passing teams, whereas Dagenham are very direct. You've got to be on your toes and it was good for some of the younger ones to play and compete against that. They're not playing development football now, they're playing in a league and it's not about looking nice you've got to be effective.

Youngsters

We've been able to give everybody a run-out through pre-season. Everybody's played the same amount of minutes; we've scored a few goals and only let in three during pre-season. It's not about results, but it does breed confidence.

On Saturday we travel to Brisbane Road for an 11.00am kick-off against Leyton Orient. Orient have been up there with us at the top of the table for the last two seasons so we'll be in for a tough start.

Finally it was pleasing to see some of the youngsters involved in the first team in pre-season. Luke Rooney played at Grays, Joshua Sargeant against Birmingham, Rimmel Daniel has been involved with the first team a few times and Liam Wybraniec played for us at Folkestone.

Mark Stimson has proved he's willing to put his faith in the youngsters and if we can produce another this year that will go on and get a professional contract, then we are moving in the right direction. The introduction of the Reserve Team is good because it might give some of them more opportunity to play against men. It's a massive step for them to go from playing U18 football to senior level football, but they've worked hard in pre-season and we're all looking forward to the league starting and see how we get on.



Thomas Cook
Going Places

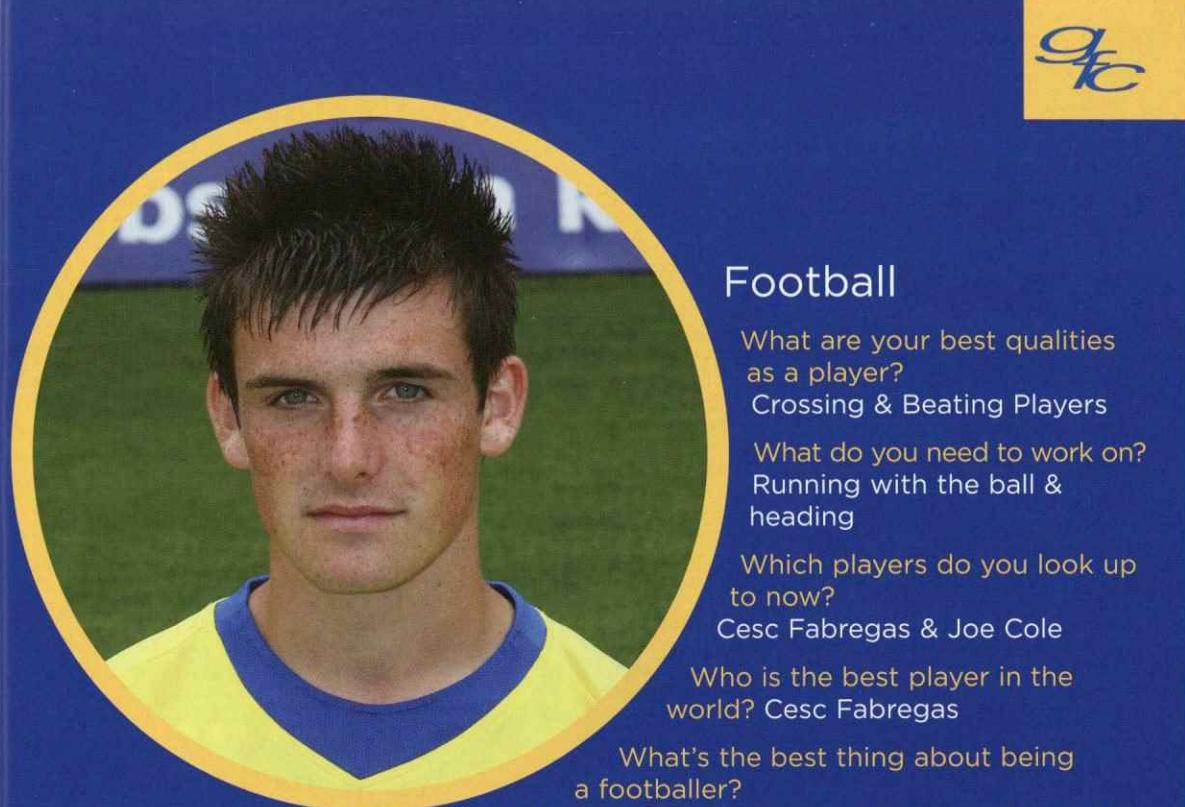
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Football

What are your best qualities as a player?
Crossing & Beating Players

What do you need to work on?
Running with the ball & heading

Which players do you look up to now?
Cesc Fabregas & Joe Cole

Who is the best player in the world? Cesc Fabregas

What's the best thing about being a footballer?
Being able to do something you love everyday and being paid for it

Whose boots do you clean?
Barry Fuller's and Mark Bentley's

If you had to compare your style to a premiership player, who would it be? Joe Cole

Team Mates

Who is your most skilful team mate? Liam Geering

Who tackles the hardest? Liam Wybraniec

Who is the fastest? Adam Burchell

Who is the joker in the squad? Conor Quinn

Favourites

Favourite stadium you've visited? Wembley

What is your other favourite sport to play? Golf

Who is your favourite artist? DJ Ironic

What is your favourite film? Braveheart

Who did you support as a child? Arsenal

www.gillinghamfootballclub.com 23



Welcome to the By Official Appointment Business Directory, an initiative helping bring together local businesses and Super Gills Fans created to appoint local businesses as an official supplier to the club and ultimately you the fans.

In this handy directory, you will find a list of the companies taking part in the scheme. Look out for our By Official Appointment logo displayed at shops and in advertisements.

These companies are counting on your support to make this programme a success as money raised will directly fund the Gills Centre of Excellence and Youth Development.

You can save money through discounts and exclusive offers, so don't forget to mention you are a Super Gills fan.

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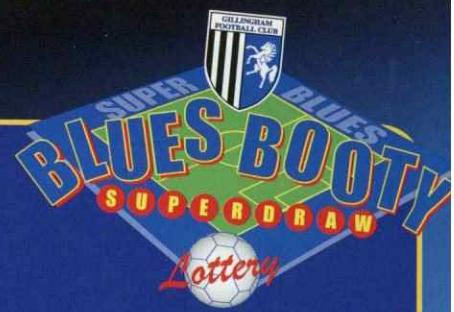
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LOTTERY NEWS with Cliff Egan



- Kenwins 213 High Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5AE Tele 01227 375132
- Queens News 176 Canterbury Road Herne Bay Kent CT6 5SB Tele 01227 361550 will accept payment other than paper bill.

BLUES BOOTY SUPERDRAW AGENT.

Dan Underhill was one of the first Blues Booty Superdraw agents to sign up and has been recruiting members for the Blues Booty Superdraw mainly paying by standing order, cheque and credit card which means he does not have to collect but gains the benefit of being an agent.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH

ALL GILL'S HOME LEAGUE GAMES FOR FREE

If you can recruit 20 members from friends and family you will receive a ticket plus the use of the Superdraw Lounge before, at halftime and after the game. Plus you will be invited to the Man of the Match presentation.

You will also receive 15% commission on the gross money collected from your members each week plus a 10% winners bonus if any of your members win the £500 weekly top prize or the accumulator jackpot.

If you would like to become a Blues Booty Superdraw agent or would like further information please contact me at the club on 01634 350350 or mobile 07894 000273.

50/50 MATCHDAY DRAW

Today we have our first 50/50 Match Day Draw with the winner receiving 50% of today's gross income less expenses.

2nd Prize 4 Watch Wine & Dine for a game of the winners choice.

3rd Prize Signed Gillingham Shirt

4Th Prize Signed Gillingham Football.

Tickets just £1 from the sellers around the ground. Good luck to anyone participating in any of the club's lotteries and thank you for your support.

Good luck to Mark and the lads and enjoy the game.



The Football Foundation provides grants for kit, goalposts, pitches, floodlights, clubhouses, coaching and innovative projects that use football to deliver a wide range of community benefits. If you are a local authority, football club, youth group, charity or a school looking to update your football facility or need to build a new one, or have an idea for using football to tackle a local issue you can take advantage of this funding.

For more information visit

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MISSING MEN

Can you remember the line-up for our Play-Off Final win over Wigan on 28/05/00? The Gills won 3-2 but can you name the missing men?



Turn to page 65 for the answers



TEAM TEASERS

1. Curtis Weston became the youngest player to appear in an FA Cup final in 2004, which team did he play for?
2. Which former Gills boss was appointed Huddersfield Town Manager this summer?
3. Striker Mark McCommon joined the Gills from which team?
4. Which current Gillingham player holds the record for Gillingham's most-capped international?
5. Who will be wearing the Gills No.14 shirt this season?
6. Delroy Facey (left) recently signed for which of our League 2 rivals?

Turn to page 65 for the answers

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A must for all die-hard Gills fans!
“STAND UP FOR GILLINGHAM”

On the last Sunday of May 2000, just over four months before it was closed for demolition, the old Wembley Stadium may have been past its sell-by date but still exuded twin-towered elegance as it hosted the Division Two Play-Off Final between Gillingham and Wigan Athletic.

Many Gills supporters, whether they were at the game or not (and tens of thousands of them were) taped the match, broadcast live by Sky, as their permanent reminder of the occasion, tapes that became even more precious due to the way the day turned out, with The Gills defeating Wigan to reach the second tier of English football for the first time in their history.

Since then, technology has moved on and video tapes have become obsolete, superceded by the shiny and infinitely better DVDs, so many supporters can no longer relive the

day. However, help is at hand. Newly released is a two DVD set of our triumph at Wembley in 2000, entitled “Stand Up For Gillingham”, when we returned to the stadium where we had experienced such bitter disappointment only a year previously, defeated Wigan and, by doing so, exorcised the ghosts of Paul Dickov, Nicky Weaver and Mark Halsey.

Presentation

Sky Sports’ coverage of the game is used so you get co-commentator Alan Brazil feeling sorry for Wigan in the same way he had for The Gills the year before when we’d lost the Play-Off Final to Manchester City. The first disc features a few fan interviews pre-match outside the stadium and then the first ninety minutes of action, with handy chapter points when the goals were scored. The second disc will doubtlessly be the one played most by our

supporters, especially the second period of extra time, which included the goals by Steve Butler and Andy Thomson which turned the game around and won the match for The Gills. This disc includes the whole of the additional half hour, the presentation of the trophy, post-match celebrations and interviews.

The picture and sound quality is excellent and this is the perfect lasting memento of a fantastic day for Gillingham Football Club. Let’s face it, with The Gills enduring a torrid time in recent seasons, it is an excellent opportunity to wallow in nostalgia and look back at better days for the club, whilst hoping that such times return soon.

“Stand Up For Gillingham” is priced at £13.50 and is currently available at the Megastore in Redfern Avenue and also online at www.gillinghamfootballclub.com.

NO

Respect Referee Game

One match in three is played without a referee because of abuse from players.

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some Respect?**



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the first competitive home league game of the new season.

After the obvious disappointment of last season the team are determined to prove that we can bounce back and push the club back to where we belong. These are the times when all of us as fans can do our bit and really get behind the team to drive them on through the season.

The club held it's 'Open-day' on July 31st and it proved to be a great success. Nearly 1000 people turned up over the course of the day and were given an insight into what goes on behind the scenes here at the KRBS Priestfield Stadium, as well as getting the chance to watch a first team training session and meet the players.

Ground tours were running throughout the day and every time slot was fully booked. This gave people the chance to see the Executive boxes, Board Room, Conferencing facilities, The Great Hall and the Blues Rock Café as well as asking any questions about the club or ground as they walked around. It was great to see so much enthusiasm about the club and all of our staff thoroughly enjoyed showing everyone around.

The Players got their chance to meet everyone after the training session when they sat for autographs and



photos in the players lounge. Again, it was great to see how many people wanted to meet the team and it gave the players a real buzz to meet you all.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who attended the 'Open-day' and we hope to see you again soon.

We are now at the half-way-point of the school holidays (sorry kids!) and our soccer schools are continuing throughout. We have already seen lots of enthusiastic and talented young players and we still have a few spaces left at the following venues:

18th Aug – 22nd Aug
Monkton Sports Ground & Lamberhurst Parish Ground

26th Aug – 29th Aug
Rochester Maths School & Borden Grammar School

All days run from 10am to 3pm. For further information please call 01634 350125 or go to www.gillinghamfootballclub.com.

Our Girls Centre of Excellence teams will be starting their new season at the beginning of next month and we are looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable year.

We still have some spaces left in our Under 10's age group, so if you are in Year 4 or 5 next year and are interested in playing for Gillingham Football Club please contact Pete on 01634 350125 or email to gfcfitc@yahoo.co.uk

Enjoy today's game and **COME ON YOU GILLS!**



In the Community in association with



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Gillingham Football Club, along with the majority of other Football League Clubs, run a Centre of Excellence designed to produce full time trainees ("scholars") and ultimately professional players for the clubs first team.

The majority of the Centre of Excellence programme is based at the excellent facilities at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Our different age groups, which run from Under 9s to Under 16s, train twice a week, and our younger teams (U9s-U14s) play their Sunday fixtures at the University. Our U16s train once a week at Canterbury, and once a week during the daytime at Beechings Cross, if their school allow. The Under 16s Saturday fixtures are also at Beechings, normally when the Youth Team are away.

All of our age groups are in a 'games programme' competing against other Centres from such clubs as Brighton, Millwall, Colchester and Southend as well as some more geographically distant ones such as Northampton and Peterborough. No points are at stake in these fixtures, "roll-on-roll-off" substitutions are allowed, and, up until the Under 16 age group each player must play a minimum of 2/3 of a match. This is all designed to encourage the development of players, rather than sole focus on the result. This is not to say the games are uncompetitive, as they most certainly are!

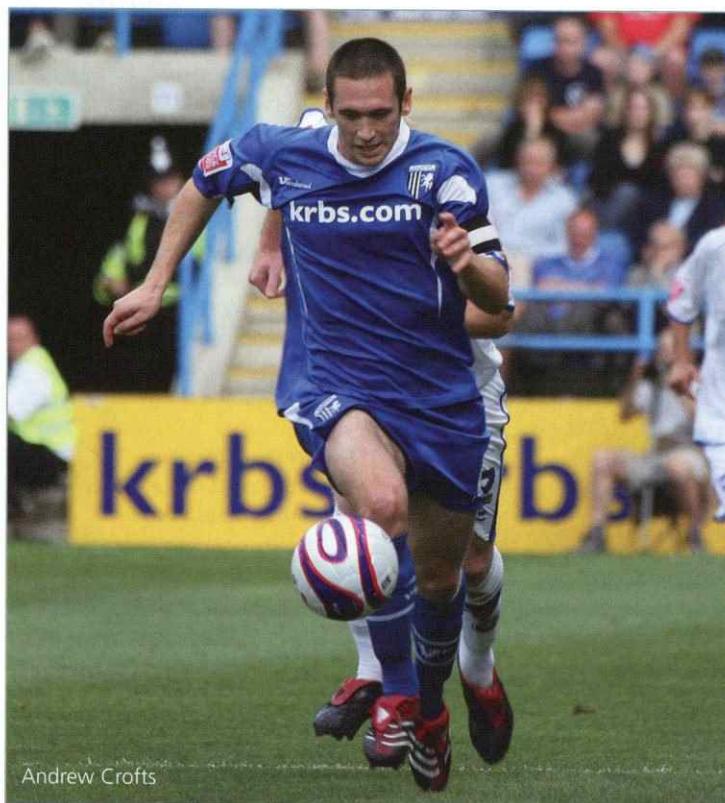
During their games no parental involvement is allowed, with most coaching input coming in the breaks of play. Our U9s and U10s play 8v8 (although there is a move to reduce

this to 4v4 by some clubs) and our U11s 9v9. Periods of play are normally 60 minutes broken into 3 or 4 periods. From U12s up to U14s it moves to 3 x 25 minute periods on smaller size 11v11 pitches, while at U15/U16 level full sized pitches are used and two halves played.

Interest

During the season we will be giving you more details on each of the age groups and the type of things they do in training, what we look for in a footballer and hopefully other areas you might find of interest.

Over the last few years the likes of



Andrew Crofts

Andrew Crofts, Matty Jarvis, Nyron Nosworthy, Danny Spiller, Charlie Howard, Andrew Pugh, Craig Stone and Luke Freeman have gone from the youth system into the first team. Luke Freeman (now with Arsenal) and Ryan Bertrand (who moved to Chelsea when aged 16) have since gone onto represent England at various age groups. Clearly not everyone in our programme can reach these heights, but undoubtedly we have the potential for some to follow in the footsteps of those named above. It is our job to nurture them and ensure they have the best possible opportunity.



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Annual Ball

on
Saturday 13th September 2008
The Great Hall, The krbs Priestfield Stadium



Guests of Honour

**Mayor & Mayoress of Medway,
Cllr David Carr & Mrs Kirstine Carr
& Allyn Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable**



Reception from 6.30pm Dinner 7.30pm Carriages 1.00am Black Tie



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Table of 10: £300 (incl VAT) Individual Tickets: £35 (incl VAT)

GILLINGHAM FC

2008/09 Coca-Cola League Two Squad



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"What a *****
goal!" screamed
Johnny's dad.

"I don't like
football with Dad,"
thought Johnny.

Pass ball dad

**BAD LANGUAGE HAS NO PLACE IN FAMILY
ACTIVITIES. PLEASE RESPECT YOUR FELLOW
SUPPORTERS IN OUR FAMILY AREA.**



**MARK
McCAMMON
FACE THE FANS**

Compiled by Chris Dicketts

For the 2008/09 season we're giving you the chance to put your questions to the players.

In the spotlight this afternoon is summer signing Mark McCammon.

Turn over to find out how he got on.

www.gillinghamfootballclub.com 37



Harry Smith asks How many goals are you hoping to score this season?

I don't really set a tally because obviously you end up putting yourself under pressure. This season I'll be looking to get amongst the goals but I prefer to take it one game at a time.

Michael Pilcher asks It must have been a wrench to leave Doncaster after such a great season, do you think you'll regret turning down the chance to test yourself against Championship defences?

I've played at Championship level before so I've experienced it all already. When I spoke to the Chairman and the Gaffer at Gillingham and heard about their ambitions to get straight back up into League One that was a big reason for coming here. I don't regret it and I'm sure I've made the right decision.

James Hawking asks What will you bring to the Gills strike force this season?

I will bring a physical presence and a little bit of pace up front. Hopefully I will form a good partnership with whoever I play with up front. Obviously, with me being injured in pre-season, that was a bit of a downside as the lads have got that bit more of an understanding. I just need to get my match fitness up to what I know I'm capable of but the more training sessions and matches I have the more understanding myself and Simeon will get.

Gary Taylor asks You've had the hamstring injury lately, have you had any other serious injuries in your career?

I dislocated my shoulder a few seasons ago when I was with Doncaster and I also had a bad ankle

injury when I was 18 but I recovered from both of them really well.

Jay Walton asks You played on the left wing for Doncaster last year, what's your favourite position?

Target Man, Centre Forward, that's my favourite position, I've always played there. I used to play right wing when I was younger and I've also played at Centre-Back a few times as well. I did ok there but Centre-Forward is my position.

David Loveridge asks What is the best ground you've played at?

Well, I have played at the new Wembley Stadium with Doncaster Rovers and I've also played at the Millennium Stadium. I would have to say the Millennium Stadium as Wembley is a bit too open for me, the Millennium is more compact and has a better atmosphere.

And the worst?

That's the Withdean Stadium, my home ground when I played at Brighton. It's the worst ground I've ever played at, the fans are too far away because of the athletics track and the noise goes straight up in the air so there's no atmosphere. They've got great fans down there so hopefully they'll have a new ground soon.

Elliot Chisholm asks Do you have any superstitions or pre-match routines?

No not really, I pray to god then try and go out there and be professional and do the right things.

Olly Bellwood asks What team did you support as a kid?

Liverpool, always supported them since the days of John Aldridge, John

Barnes, Peter Beardsley and Jan Molby. When I was 5 or 6 years old my dad used to take me up to Anfield sometime and I used to watch them when they played away at QPR.

Lee Griffiths asks Do you come from a footballing family?

Yeah, they all love their football but my Dad's West Indian so naturally he's a cricketer.

Danny Evans asks What tune would like to see the Gills run out to?

In my spare time I just like to chill at home with my fiancée and take my dog for walks to the park. I sometimes play Pro-Evolution Soccer on the internet but this lot are obsessed with Mario Kart on the Nintendo Wii. All the time they're ringing me every minute to play Mario Kart, there's some good banter. I also like a nice action film or a horror, it's got to have an "18" on it though, I don't watch kids films.

Finally, Jamie Fellows asks What's your favourite takeaway?

(Laughs) That's a bit random isn't it? My favourite take away is...Chinese. I have Egg Fried Rice, Aromatic Duck with Pancakes and Chicken and Green Pepper in Black Bean Sauce that's delicious.

Be sure to check out the next programme to see who will be in line to . . . FACE THE FANS!





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COMMERCIAL NEWS WITH JOHN HOLMES

... Gillingham Golf Club will be the venue for our next Golf day to be held on Tuesday October 21st ...

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back for our first home league match of the season against Luton Town.



I would like to start by welcoming our Match Sponsors Mandave Project Interiors Ltd. MPI Ltd are a local company, formed four years ago by Managing Director David Thurston. Together with Ed Hutchins, who runs the office, they have grown year on year. Specialising in the creation and refurbishment of all types of interiors, from major banks to hygienic laboratories and clean rooms, no job is too small or too big for Mandave.

Sportsman's Dinner

Football Legend Jack Charlton will be our host for a Sporting Dinner on

Thursday October 2nd. One of football's finest ambassador's, this should be a fantastic night. With "Big Jack" looking at retiring from the "Speakers Circuit" this could be your last chance to meet him so don't miss out. Tickets are selling fast at £47 each or £400 + vat for a table of 10. To book your seat, call the Sales Team on 01634 350350.

Game Of Two Halves

Gillingham Golf Club will be the venue for our next Golf day to be held on Tuesday October 21st. Teams of four will have breakfast in the morning, 18 holes of golf and lunch. The day continues with Watch Wine & Dine at the krbs Priestfield Stadium plus prize presentations. Then in the evening, take your seats to watch

the Gills take on Notts County. This spectacular package costs just £350 per team, call our GFC Sales Team on 01634 350350 to book

By Official Appointment

The By Official Appointment Directory for the 2008/09 season will be coming out soon. If you spend and shop at these outlets not only can you save £££'s yourself, you'll also be generating £££'s for the Gills Academy. These Companies are relying on your support so keep an eye out for the By Official Appointment Logo. We still have room for a few more companies so if you would like to see your company included in the Directory give me a call on 01634 350137 and benefit from our superb Networking Evenings.



As Platinum Match Sponsors, The Mandave team enjoy their day with the Gills at last season's tie with Swindon Town.

DEMELZA'S 10th Birthday Party



Thursday 25th September 2008
at Priestfields, Gillingham FC

This year, Demelza Hospice Care for Children celebrates its 10th Birthday. As part of our celebrations, we are holding a special Birthday Party which promises to be full of fun, surprises and special guests!

Time: 7.30pm till late • Ticket price: £75 per person • Dress Code: Party Wear

Talk to us about how you can support and get involved in this special event by contacting us on 01795 845288, events@demelza.org.uk or visit www.demelza.org.uk

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GFC TICKETS AND TRAVEL

HOME TICKETS

Tickets are currently on sale for the following home Coca-Cola League Two matches –

Saturday 30 August 2008 Kick-Off 3.00pm
v **ACCRINGTON STANLEY**

Saturday 6 September 2008 Kick-Off 3.00pm
v **GRIMSBY TOWN**

Saturday 27 September 2008 Kick-Off 3.00pm
v **PORT VALE**

Saturday 11 October 2008 Kick-Off 3.00pm
v **MORECAMBE**

Tuesday 21 October 2008 Kick-Off 7.45pm
v **NOTTS COUNTY**

Saturday 25 October Kick-Off 3.00pm
v **CHESTER CITY**

There are three ways to purchase home match tickets.

1. By using the new online ticket site. Visit www.gillinghamfootballclub.com and follow the link on the tickets homepage. Tickets can be booked up to three days before the fixture for which tickets are being bought. Tickets booked online cost an additional £1.00 per ticket but will be sent to the recipient free of charge.
2. By telephoning Gillingham Football Club on (01634) 300000 choosing option 3.
3. By visiting the ticket office in Redfern Avenue in person. Opening hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 1.00pm on non-matchday Saturdays and up until kick-off on matchday Saturdays.

AWAY TICKETS & TRAVEL

DARLINGTON V GILLINGHAM

Coca-Cola League Two
Saturday 23 August 2008
Kick Off 3.00pm

We have received an allocation of 400 tickets for this fixture, which are situated in the East Stand, behind the goal.

Prices are £16.00 adults, £10.00 senior citizens (over 60) and students (NUS card required), £6.00 juniors (under 17) and free for juniors (under 10).

Tickets are currently on general sale.

CLUB CLASS TRAVEL

Club class travel is priced at £30.00 adults and £24.00 juniors (under 16).

Coach departure times and pick-up points are:

6.15am Sittingbourne Railway Station
6.30am The Cricketers
7.00am KRBS Priestfield Stadium
7.15am The Coach and Horses
7.20am Tollgate

Coach bookings can be made by ringing Dave or Julie Taylor on (01634) 375919, Trevor or Julie Loveridge on (01634) 301899 (evenings before 10.00pm) or by visiting the ticket office in Redfern Avenue.



HALL OF FAME ANDY THOMSON

Article by Chris Ray

The most iconic moment in the long history of Gillingham FC encapsulated in a few seconds of extra time football, as the club's most successful season culminated with the burying of a ghost that had haunted the team for almost exactly twelve months, but what went through the mind of the man who created such a moment of euphoria for players, officials and fans alike?

"We were putting in loads of crosses at that stage and getting some good balls in the box, I was caught in between two defenders and thought I could catch one of them unaware, I timed my run well and after that I don't remember anything!"

"Watching it on TV brings it all back, I don't remember too much about it apart from lying in the corner and one of the players saying something along the lines of 'you lucky Scottish b*****d', but that's the only thing I remember after the goal, which is surreal."

Andy Thomson's arrival at Priestfield was anything but dramatic as he was snapped up for a mere £25,000 from Oxford United just before the 1999/2000 season kicked off, Peter Taylor eventually dubbed him "the best £25,000 I've ever spent."

"I think that's because he never spent £25,000 on anybody else!" Thomson said "He had tried a couple of other times to sign me so obviously I was one of the players he liked."

"It doesn't matter how confident you are in yourself, if you've not got

the confidence and backing of the manager then there's not much chance you're going to play."

"When I arrived at the club I got a good welcome, the players were a tremendous bunch and that carried through the squad throughout the season, there was a great spirit between the players, management staff, even the supporters."

Alongside another impressive league campaign came an unprecedented run to the FA Cup quarter-finals, with the Scotsman grabbing more tabloid headlines with goals against Premiership sides Bradford City and Sheffield Wednesday.

"The cup run was really good and we got a bit of publicity through it, we played in a lot of good, big games and it was good for the club's profile."

Promotion

Another injury kept the striker out of the final few games of the Division Two season, including the vital last match of the regular season, which saw the side fall from the automatic promotion places into a play-off position following defeat at Wrexham.

"It was a huge disappointment, we'd been on a really good run towards the end of the season, as a team we were confident we could do it at Wrexham, unfortunately for us they lifted their game and we maybe suffered from a few nerves."

"In the end it proved to be a good thing but obviously at the time you don't think of that, it shows the character in the team that we

bounced back from that and what happened the season before, when a team can do that it speaks volumes for the characters involved."

Thomson's persistent ankle injury kept him out of both legs of the semi-final tie with Stoke City, but he still looks back on the second leg at Priestfield as a career highlight.

"It was a great atmosphere that night, it was probably one of the best I've been involved in, the game wasn't the best with the stakes being so high, but to do it in the end was brilliant, the players were going off their heads!"

"I didn't really understand as I'd never played in the play-offs before, but for the players who had played in the final the year before, who knew what it was all about, it was a great occasion."

The 3-0 win after extra time took Gillingham to the Division Two play-off final for the second successive year, and gave Thomson his greatest moment of all.

"I'd been out for six weeks and can't have done much training, even to be a substitute wasn't exactly a surprise, but I certainly wasn't 100% confident, I was just delighted to get on the bench."

"You couldn't explain in terms of how amazing it is, even just to go to Wembley was a wonderful experience but to play there and ultimately score the winner was the stuff dreams are made of."

"I grew up watching Scotland play at Wembley, even now that goal is all people want to talk to me about when they ask me about my career."

The club's first season in Division One saw the man now etched into Gillingham folklore fall out of favour under the management of Andy Hessenthaler, and he eventually left for pastures new in the form of Division One rivals Queens Park Rangers.

Landmark

This however, was not before scoring more landmark goals as the club picked up their first point in the second tier of English football against Tony Pulis' Portsmouth, and gained their first ever away win at that level with a 2-1 victory at Sheffield United's Bramall Lane.

"Initially it took us a while to find our feet at a higher league, but once we'd adjusted we did really well as a team, the team spirit carried us through again, it was great to play at big grounds in front of big crowds."

"Hess' had his own ideas and people who he'd brought in who he wanted to play, which was fair enough, I was pushed further down the pecking order and at that point was fourth of fifth choice striker."

"I was offered a new deal at that stage, but I wanted a better chance of playing regularly and that was the reason I moved to QPR, simple as that."

Return

After leaving the English game, Thomson's return to Scotland brought short stints with Partick Thistle and Falkirk before a second spell at Queen of the South, where he is also regarded as a club legend.

He recently announced his retirement from playing at Scottish Third Division club Stenhousemuir, and is keen to further a coaching career he has already been enjoying with 'The Warriors'.

"I love it; I do a bit of coaching for the local council as well with the kids which I enjoy, and also with Stenhousemuir, so it's a good combination."

Whatever his future role in or out of football may be, for that fateful day at Wembley on 28th May 2000, there can be no doubt that Andy Thomson will forever carry the title 'Gillingham Legend'.

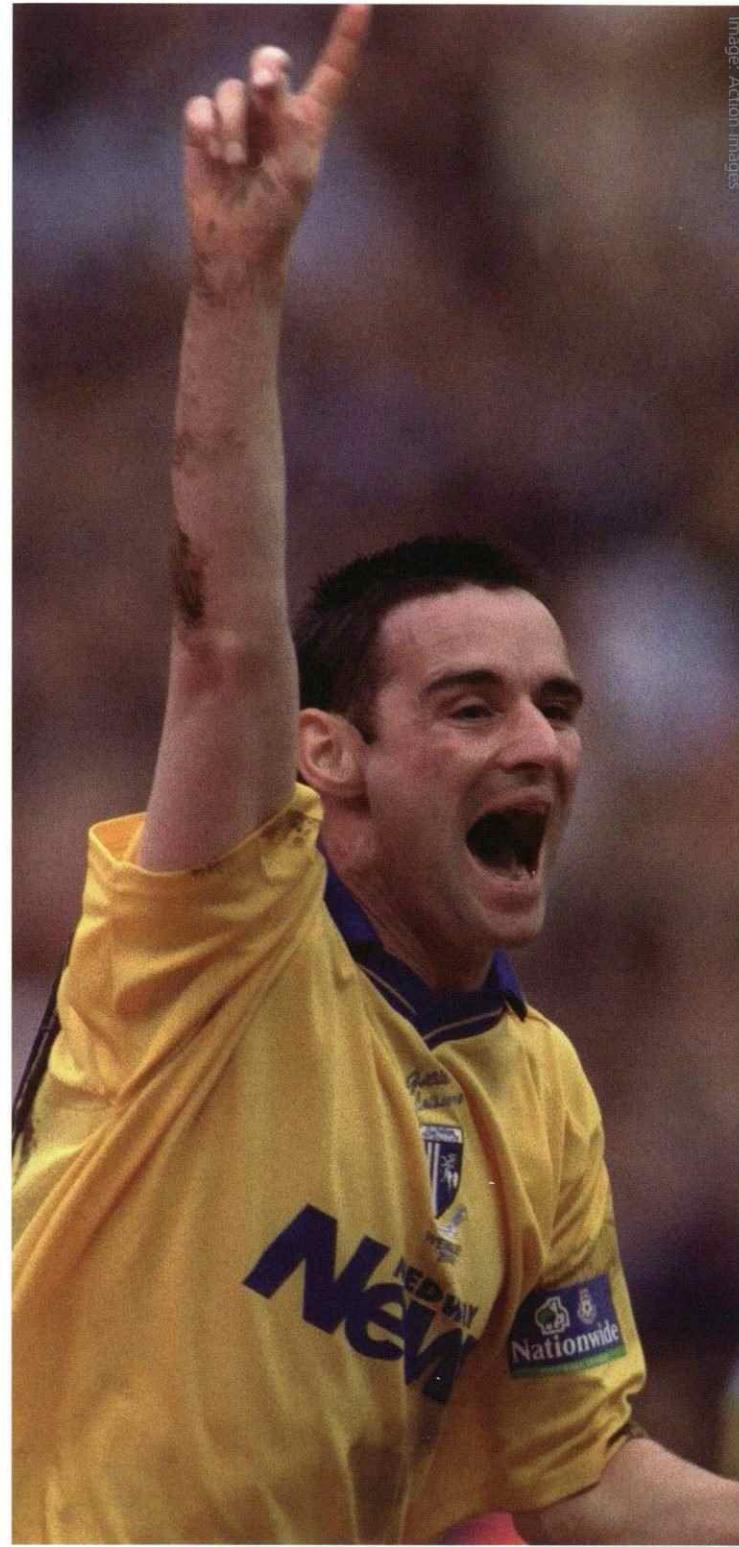


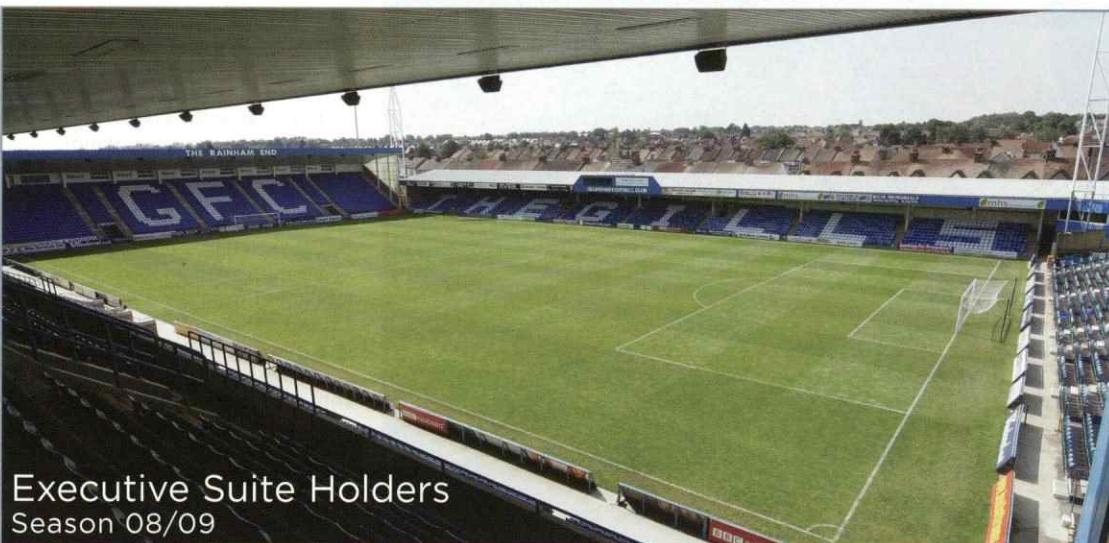
Image: Action Images

FACE IN THE CROWD



Each week our club photographer will be training his lens on a section of the krbs Priestfield crowd.

Then we will be selecting a supporter at random to be our face in the crowd. If your face is the one circled in the picture simply email your details to media@priestfield.com and you will win a superb prize.



Executive Suite Holders
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Looking Back . . . PAST PROGRAMMES

At the beginning of the 1994-5 season our matchday programme cost £1.20 for 32 pages.

Neil Smillie featured on the front cover in an action picture from the previous season, the only problem being that, since the photo had been taken, The Gills had changed shirt sponsors. The solution was clumsily executed, a blue blob daubed inexpertly on to the front of Smillie's shirt to obliterate the previous sponsors name and logo.

This cover picture was retained until the following January, when a new photo, featuring an action shot from the home game against Rochdale earlier in the campaign, was introduced for the FA Cup Third Round tie against Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday.

Draws

As a one-off, the programme price was increased to £1.50 and the page count went up to 36, although the additional four pages were un-numbered and devoted in their entirety to advertisements. By the time of the next programme, for the visit of Colchester United on Saturday 21 January 1995, The Gills had entered administrative receivership.

Attempts to boost income included the price of tea going up at the refreshment huts and a 10p increase in the price of the programme to £1.30. The page count stayed at 32 and the cover picture from the Sheffield Wednesday game was retained for the rest of the season.

The Colchester edition concentrated on the plight of the club and the need to reach a break-even figure of 5,000 for home games to try and prove to prospective buyers that the club was financially viable.

The average league attendance at Priestfield at the time was 2,914. The Colchester game was postponed half an hour before kick-off due to heavy rain and rearranged. Articles relating to the takeover were reprinted in the following home programme.

Colchester's visit was rescheduled for Tuesday 7 March and called off once again due to rain. The same programme was used from the original fixture, with the exception of four pages being replaced. On Tuesday 11 April the game finally took place. The Gills Supporters Club provided the money so that a brand new programme could be produced.

The matchday magazine was now being edited by David Garth,

previous incumbent Roger Evans having been made redundant. Manager Mike Flanagan (Neil Smillie was now in charge) and general manager, Bill Williams had also lost their jobs. In his notes, manager Smillie reflected on "two more excellent results", 1-1 draws against promotion-chasing Preston and Bury, but the statistics page revealed that the attendances had started to dip again after hitting the 4,000 mark in the early days of receivership, with only 2,945 turning up for the visit of Bury the previous Tuesday.

Loan

The visitors pen pictures included Carl Asaba, who was on loan from Brentford but didn't play in the game. Elsewhere in the programme, local journalist Tony Hudd penned an article, "In Depth" featured Gills Supporters Club supremo Alan Liptrott and the ever-entertaining Murray Evans contributed his regular "Pick Of The Press" feature.

Colchester won the match 3-1 with two goals in the last three minutes from Canadian international Niall Thompson, Simon Betts having earlier equalised Paul Watson's 15th minute opener for The Gills.

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Match Action AFC BOURNEMOUTH 1 GILLINGHAM 1



Gillingham kicked off their League 2 campaign with a well earned point at Fitness First Stadium.

The Gills enjoyed the better of the first half chances urged on by over 1,000 travelling supporters. Simeon Jackson had a series of good chances but against the run of play the home side took the lead in the 40th minute. Former England international Darren Anderton took on the Gills defence single handedly before slotting past Simon Royce to give Bournemouth a 1-0 lead at half time.

After the break, Gillingham took control of the game with most of the play taking place in the Bournemouth half. Debutant Mark McCammon and Simeon Jackson both troubled the home keeper but could not find the all important goal.

With time running out Mark Stimson sent on Tyrone Berry and Gary Mulligan to strengthen his attacking options. In the 90th

minute his tactic paid off as Mulligan fired home a Tyrone Berry cross to give the Gills an opening day point.

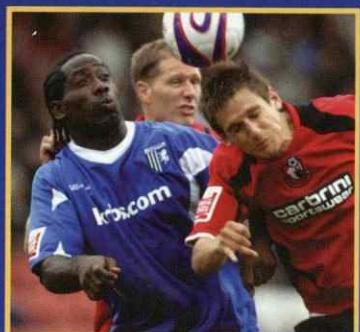
Gillingham: Simon Royce, Barry Fuller, John Nutter, Simon King, Garry Richards, Andrew Crofts (c), Mark Bentley, Simeon Jackson, Adam Miller (87 Gary Mulligan), Curtis Weston (70 Tyrone Berry), Mark McCammon

Subs not used: Sean Clohessy, Alan Julian, Leigh Mills.

AFC Bournemouth: Shwan Jalal, Lee Bradbury, Scott Guyett, Jason Pearce, Shaun Cooper, Ryan Garry, Sammy Igoe (61 Warren Cummings), Brett Pitman (83 Josh McQuoid), Darren Anderton (c), Marvin Bartley, Jo Kuffour

Subs not used: Ryan Pryce, Joel Ward, Carl Pettefer

Images: Medway Messenger, Matthew Walker



Richard Day welcomes....

LUTON TOWN

This afternoon we welcome Mick Harford, the players, officials and supporters of Luton Town following a traumatic few months for the club, for our first home League Two fixture of the 2008-09 season.....

A TROUBLED SUMMER.....

The Hatters, who like ourselves were relegated from League One, began the 2008-09 campaign on a massive minus 30 points. They were deducted 20 points after failing to satisfy the Football League's insolvency rules and then hit with another 10-point penalty for financial irregularities.

The club appealed against the 10-point deduction and £50,000 fine for making irregular payments to agents, arguing that the old owners were responsible and that they should not now be punished for their mistakes. However at a Football Association hearing in London the appeal was rejected.

An FA statement said: "The FA Regulatory Commission's responsibility was to decide the appropriate punishment for Luton's admitted breaches of the FA's own rules and regulations.

"The deduction of 10 points was a heavy sanction, as it was intended to be, but was not excessive as a reflection of the seriousness of the breaches and the need to deter such conduct within football clubs."

Prospective chairman Nick Owen of Luton Town Football Club 2020 (LTFC2020) said "I am absolutely shattered by the decision, as we all are in the 2020 consortium, but it will not detract from our determination to save our football club and drive us back up the league."

"It will take a lot to avoid relegation, but that is our aim, despite the obstacles thrown at us by the League and FA."

The Hatters, who went into administration in November 2007, were deducted 10 points as a result (separate to their two latest penalties), eventually ending the

season bottom of League One.

Owen said the penalties should have been imposed last season in order to avoid punishing the club's prospective new owners for offences committed under the previous regime.

"We knew we would get some sort of point's deduction and we were hoping it might have been less than 15," he added.

BOSS HARFORD COMMITS HIS FUTURE TO THE CLUB.....

One piece of good news came the club's way when manager Mick Harford committed his future to the Hatters despite their difficulties.

The former Hatters striker said "I have always loved this club but, over recent months, I have realised how much more I will love it when LTFC2020 finally take ownership."

"I have a great deal of experience in the game but never before have I been so encouraged and enthusiastic about working in such a strong management team.

"It won't be easy by any means but the team we're building will be strong in character and will rise to the challenge.

"We have to remain resolute and confident we can retain our long history in the league and I will give that commitment to Luton Town Football Club and our fabulous supporters."

THE TAKE-OVER IS COMPLETED....

Luton Town Football Club 2020 (LTFC2020) completed their takeover of the League Two club late in July after the Football League approved their application.

Director Stephen Browne told the Hatters website "It's an historic day for all Luton Town supporters. Through their efforts the club survives to fight

another day. This is where the hard work begins."

THE NEW SEASON.....

The players returned to pre-season training on the 2nd July under Mick Harford and his assistant Warren Neill before playing local friendly's against Boreham Wood (4-2), Hitchin (1-4) and Bedford Town (3-0).

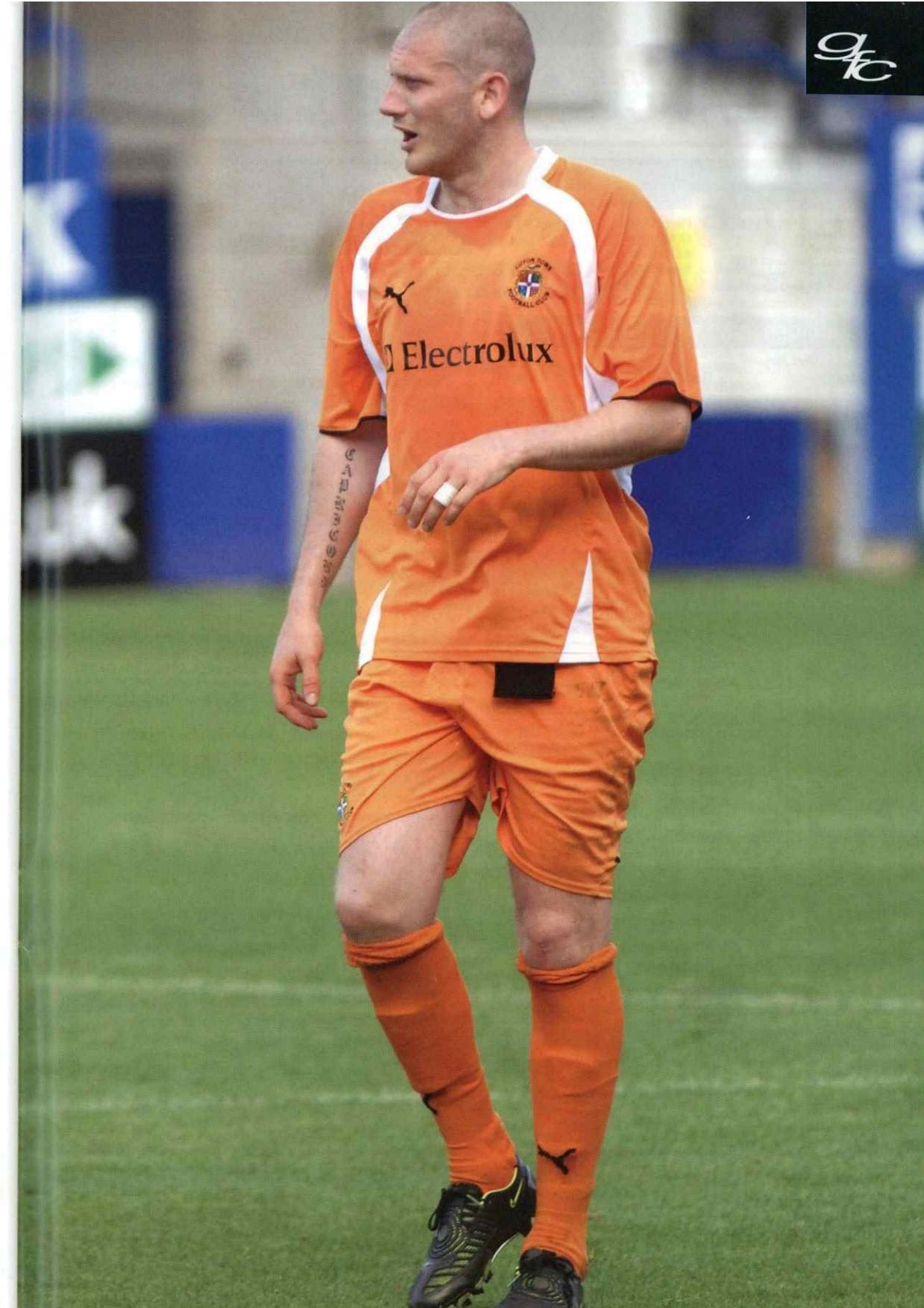
Then came four games at Kenilworth Road against Leicester City (1-1), Northampton Town (0-0), Colchester United (0-1) and Brighton (0-3).

They opened their League Two campaign last Saturday with a 3 - 1 home defeat by Port Vale, Sam Parkin netting the Hatters goal. Following the game Mick Harford said "Anyone here could see it wasn't a 3-1 score-line. I was excited by the first-half performance but we defended badly".

The team last Saturday was – Brill, Gnapka, Roper, Pilkington, Davis (Klein-Davies), Emanuel, Nicholls, Hall, Jarvis (Plummer), Parkin, Martin. Unused subs: Keane, Watson, Spillane.

PLAYERS ARRIVING....

Following the departure of numerous players during the summer, boss Mick Harford signed no fewer than 11 players in the 24 hours leading up to the big kick-off. Coming in were defenders Claude Gnapka, George Pilkington, Ian Roper and Michael Spillane, midfielders Kevin Nicholls (pictured), Kevin Watson, Asa Hall and Rossi Jarvis and strikers Chris Martin, Tristan Plummer and Josh-Klein Davies. Spillane and Martin are both season-long loan deals from Norwich City while Plummer and Klein-Davies are currently short term loanee's from Bristol City and Bristol Rovers respectively. Six of these were in the starting line-up against Port Vale.



Stat Pack

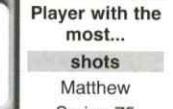
MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Mark Stimson	Mick Harford
Played 33 Won 7 Drawn 11 Lost 15	Played 22 Won 2 Drawn 4 Lost 16 For 17 Against 36
For 32 Against 47	Av Pts/game 0.97
Biggest Win(s) Gillingham 3 Nottm.	Biggest Win(s) Luton 3 Oldham 0
Forest 0 (29/12/2007). Biggest Loss(es) Northampton 4 Gillingham 0 (16/02/2008).	(15/03/2008). Biggest Loss(es) Hartlepool 4 Luton 0 (02/02/2008).

MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played .1	Mark Stimson	1	Mick Harford	0
Draws ..0	Goals 2		Goals 1	

Player with the most...

shots	
Miller 54	

shots on target

Simeon	5	a win	6
Jackson 26	2	a home win	2
	11	an away win	12
	0	a defeat	0

shots off target

Adam	1	a home defeat	0
Miller 36	0	an away defeat	0
	1	a score draw	8

assists

Nicky	6	a no score draw	7
Southall 7	0	conceding a goal	0
	0	scoring a goal	3

crosses

Nicky	0	conceding > 1	1
Southall 66	5	scoring > 1	6
	6	keeping a clean sheet	7

fouls

Simon	29	back to back wins	25
King 54	9	back to back defeats	0
	1	gaining a point	6

free-kicks-won

Adam	0	losing a point	0
	22	win by > one	9
	9	loss by > one	1

SHARP SHOOTERS

Gillingham	CCFL	Cup	Tot	Luton	CCFL	Cup	Tot
Simeon Jackson	20	2	22	Matthew Spring	9	3	12
Adam Miller	8	0	8	Paul Furlong	8	4	12
Andrew Crofts	5	0	5	Sam Parkin	5	0	5

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

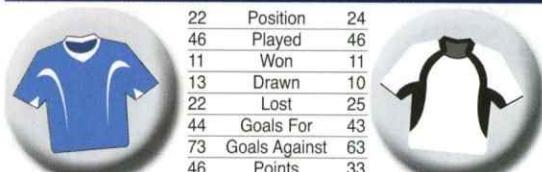
Played16	Gillingham wins.....7	Luton wins.....7
Draws2	Goals 24 (1.5 per game)	Goals 22 (1.4 per game)
0-0's0	Times failed to score 2	Times failed to score 4

Biggest League win at Gillingham for each team:

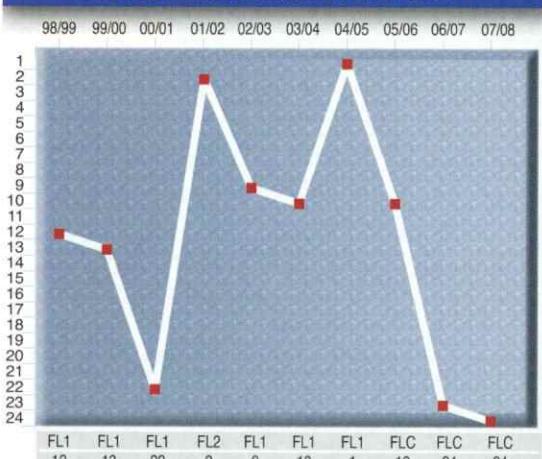
24/10/1964 Gillingham 5-0 Luton
31/08/1968 Gillingham 1-3 Luton



2007/08 LEAGUE STATS



LUTON - TEN SEASON RECORD



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

SHARP SHOOTERS

Player	Team	Lge	Cup	Ttl
Aaron Mclean	Peterboro	29	4	33
Jack Lester	Chesterfield	25	2	27
Scott McGlynn	Wycombe	26	0	26
Michael Boulding	Mansfield	22	3	25
Andy Bishop	Bury	19	6	25
Ben Strevens	Dag & Red	15	5	20
Liam Dickinson	Stockport	19	0	19
Craig Mackail-Smith	Peterboro	12	7	19
Theo Robinson	Hereford	13	3	16

WHERE TO SEE GOALS (By Ground)

Ground	Home Team	M	Gls	G/Mt
Recreation Ground	Chesterfield	23	71	3.09
Sincil Bank	Lincoln City	23	71	3.09
Edgeley Park	Stockport	23	70	3.04
Field Mill Ground	Mansfield	23	69	3.00
Underhill Stadium	Barnet	23	67	2.91
Millmoor Ground	Rotherham	23	66	2.87
London Road Ground	Peterboro	23	66	2.87
Spotted Stadium	Rochdale	23	65	2.83
Christie Park	Morecambe	23	65	2.83
Blundell Park	Grimsby	23	60	2.61
Gigg Lane	Bury	23	60	2.61
Coral Windows Stadium	Bradford	23	60	2.61
Griffin Park	Brentford	23	60	2.61
L.B Barking & Dg Stad	Dag & Red	23	59	2.57
Fraser Eagle Stadium	Accrington S	23	59	2.57
96.6 Darlington Arena	Darlington	23	58	2.52
The Moss Rose Ground	Macclesfield	23	58	2.52
stadium:mk	MK Dons	23	56	2.43
The New Meadow	Shrewsbury	23	53	2.30
Edgar Street	Hereford	23	53	2.30
The Deva Stadium	Chester	23	51	2.22
Racecourse Ground	Wrexham	23	44	1.91
Adams Park	Wycombe	23	44	1.91
Meadow Lane	Notts County	23	42	1.83

TEAM LEADERS

Team with the most...

shots on target 328 Peterborough. shots off target 342 Peterborough. corners 330 Dag & Red. hit woodwork 21 Chesterfield. offsides 217 Bury. fouls 606 Chesterfield. yellow cards 92 Macclesfield. red cards 8 Lincoln City.

PLAYER POWER

Player with the most...

Shots 145 Michael Boulding (Mansfield). Shots on target 81 Michael Boulding (Mansfield). Shots off target 65 Aaron Mclean (Peterborough). Assists 13 Garry Thompson (Morecambe). Crosses 239 Matthew Hamshaw (Mansfield). Offsides 85 Jack Lester (Chesterfield). Fouls 97 Tommy Wright (Darlington). Free-kicks won 90 Kevin Ellison (Chester).

2007/08 SEASON

Coca-Cola League 2	actim stats
GOAL COUNTER	1425

RIGHT FOOT	771 goals
	54.1%
LEFT FOOT	353 goals
	24.8%
HEADERS	270 goals
	18.9%

In the Coca Cola Football League Two this season there have been 5839 shots on target, goals constitute 24.4% of all shots (doesn't include own goals). The woodwork has come to the rescue of the defending side on 237 occasions (the biggest beneficiaries being Morecambe 15). There have been 147 penalties awarded this season and of those 108 have been scored (a success rate of 73.5%). Bradford have been awarded most penalties - 10. Lincoln City have given most penalties away 9. The team to score the most penalties is Dag & Red 8. Chester missed 5 penalties in the Coca Cola Football League Two this season.

QUICK-FIRE GOALS	
From the start of a match	David Perkins (Rochdale vs Bradford) 0:24
By a substitute after coming on	Martin Butler (Morecambe vs Grimsby) 0:35

DISCIPLINARY	
2.5 cards per match	1371
0.1 cards per match	71

SUB TOTALS

Total number of goals you would have missed by leaving every match ten minutes early

2	3	2
---	---	---

*2007/08 Stats

Find out the latest club and league stats at www.football-league.co.uk



Main: Lewis Emanuel
Top: Richard Jackson
Bottom: Paul McVeigh

LUTON TOWN

Player Profiles of Today's Visitors

1 Dean Brill

Luton-born goalkeeper Dean Brill is a young player of whom big things are expected. A tall, commanding goalkeeper standing at six foot three, Brill is a great organiser whose voice will always be heard throughout a game.

2 Claude Gnakpa

Claude Gnakpa is a well-travelled defender capable of playing centre back or full back, who joined on a free transfer earlier this month. Claude had a brief spell at Swindon, before joining Peterborough United in July 2007 where he was a regular in their League 2 promotion winning side.

3 Sol Davis

Tough tackling full-back Sol Davis joined The Hatters from Swindon on a Bosman transfer in the summer of 2002. In 2006/07 he hit the headlines after suffering a stroke on the team coach but made a miraculous recovery and was back in action within weeks.

4 Keith Keane

Keith made his debut for the club as a 16-year-old first year scholar in November 2003. Keith has featured most prominently on the right of midfield, bursting forward to great effect to provide many goals for himself and his team-mates.

5 Ian Roper

Ian Roper is a central defender with bags of experience who signed a contract at Luton in August 2008. Roper climbed up the ranks while at Walsall, gaining a reputation for being a tough, no nonsense defender. He made 325 appearances in a 13 year period at the Saddlers, winning 3 promotions.

6 George Pilkington

George Pilkington is a highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having begun his career as an Everton trainee, George joined Port Vale in June 2003. He started 223

league games for Vale and was named player of the year twice.

8 Kevin Nicholls

The hard-working midfielder enjoyed six successful seasons at Kenilworth Road between 2001 and 2006, captaining the side to the League One title in the 2004-2005 season. After spells with Leeds and Preston Kevin returned to Luton, signing a three-year deal in August 2008 and being named as club captain.

9 Sam Parkin

Ex-Chelsea trainee Sam Parkin is a forward with a prolific goalscoring record, and chose Kenilworth Road as the place to further his career in August 2006. Unfortunately his career was derailed by injury and to date Parkin has only managed 16 appearances for the Hatters

10 Ryan Charles

An energetic striker who has made a huge impact at Kenilworth Road over the last two seasons. Charles earned a professional contract and the Young Player of the Year award for his performances for the club last season.

11 Lewis Emanuel

Lewis Emanuel arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2006 after deciding to leave his home town club Bradford City. Lewis is a pacy full-back but can also play on the left side of midfield. In his first season at Kenilworth Road he made 40 appearances, scoring twice.

14 Asa Hall

A versatile player capable of playing in midfield or defence, Hall began his football career in Wolverhampton Wanderers youth system. He has been capped by England at Under-19 and Under-20 levels and joined Luton prior to the start of the season

15 Ed Asafu-Adjaye

Ed Asafu-Adjaye is in his first year as a professional footballer having made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up. The full-back made the breakthrough into the first team under former boss Mike Newell.

16 Rossi Jarvis

Rossi Jarvis is an adaptable player who can play on the left or right hand side of defence or midfield. Jarvis came through the Norwich City youth system but after finding his first team opportunities limited, Jarvis joined Luton in the summer on a free transfer.

17 Kevin Watson

An experienced central midfielder who joined the Hatters on a free transfer last week after being released by Colchester United. Something of a journeyman, Watson has won promotions with Rotherham (twice), Reading and Colchester United.

18 Chris Martin

Chris Martin joined the club on a season-long loan from Norwich City in August 2008. Martin is a young striker who has played 30 times for The Canaries, scoring 5 goals. He burst into the first team in 2007, and his performances quickly saw him become a fans' favourite at the club.

19 Drew Talbot

Drew Talbot signed for Luton Town in a £250,000 deal in January 2007 from Sheffield Wednesday. He made an immediate impact, making one and then scoring the winner against his old club at Kenilworth Road on his home league debut.

20 Michael Spillane

Michael Spillane also arrived at Luton this month on a season-long loan from Norwich City. The Irish youngster is equally at home in defence or midfield, having playing in both positions in recent seasons for The Canaries.

22 Josh Klein-Davies

Josh Klein-Davies is a striker who has joined the Hatters on loan from Bristol Rovers. Klein-Davies signed for Bristol Rovers in 2007 after being released by local rivals Bristol City's Academy. He has been capped by Wales at Under-17 and Under-19 levels

23 Tristan Plummer

Tristan Plummer is another loan signing, this time from Championship side Bristol City. He has been capped for England Under-17s and was once

rumoured to be a target for Arsenal. He is a pacey forward who Bristol City regard as one for the future.

24 Paul Underwood

Left sided utility player Underwood came to prominence with Rushden & Diamonds before joining The Hatters in March 2003. His career at Kenilworth Road has been blighted by injuries including a blood infection, contracted during a routine operation, which ruled him out for the entire 2006/07 season.

25 George Beavan

A highly promising central defender who is good in the air and strong in the tackle. George made his debut against Bournemouth in February 2008 and is tipped to have a bright future in the game by many at Kenilworth Road.

26 Richard Jackson

Experienced full-back Jackson joined Derby in March 1999 from Scarborough after playing only 24 senior games for the Seaside club. He made 118 appearances for the Pride Park outfit before joining Luton on a free transfer in August 2007

27 Dean Morgan

Morgan moved to Kenilworth Road from Reading in July 2005 after seeing his opportunities limited at the Madjeski Stadium. Dean is a skilful midfielder who likes to get forward at every opportunity.

28 Paul McVeigh

Free scoring striker Paul McVeigh signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2007. He started his career at Tottenham Hotspur but enjoyed his greatest success after joining Norwich City. McVeigh is a Northern Ireland international and has been capped 20 times.

36 Aaron Fletcher

Youth Team Goalkeeper Aaron Fletcher has recently been promoted to the first team squad. Although yet to make an appearance, he was an unused substitute in Luton's Carling Cup tie win over Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday night.

THE FIRST AND LAST TIME THAT WE MET LUTON IN A LEAGUE GAME

This season Richard Day will be taking a look back at the first and last time that the two teams, today its Gillingham and Luton Town of course, have met in a league game.

It was way back on the 8th February 1896 that today's opponents, we were known as New Brompton, actually met for the first time in a Southern League Division One fixture.

This was around two years after the two club's had been founder members of the Southern League and was won 1 – 0 by Luton.

The New Brompton side that day was – Gascoigne, Wilson, Cockrill, Manning, Pellatt, Meager, Thomas, Hutcheson, Strachan, Buckland, Cochrane.

The Bedfordshire outfit, who, went on to finish second in the table, completed a 'double' with a comprehensive 8 – 1 thumping a couple of months later.

It was back on April Fool's Day that the Gills last met Luton when both team's were trying hard to fight off the threat of relegation, something which unfortunately they both eventually failed to do.

Superb

A superb second-half atmosphere here at the krbs Priestfield Stadium reached a crescendo as Simeon Jackson struck twice in the final 15 minutes as the Gills came back from a goal down.

The home side had started brightly, but they were rocked when the Hatters took a 19th minute lead against the run of play. Striker Sam

Parkin was given too much room as he met Paul McVeigh's cross and looped a long-range header over Derek Stillie.

Parkin could, and perhaps should have made the game safe for Mick Harford's side before the break and helped himself to a hat-trick. He headed a glorious chance from close range wide before toe-poking a shot straight at the Gills keeper.

It had not all been one-way traffic though as former Gillingham loanee Dean Brill saved well to deny Denis Oli.

Scramble

The Gills dominated after the break and Brill again saved well this time from Jackson before Sol Davis twice cleared off the line.

The long over-due equaliser finally came in the 75th minute when Jackson was on hand to nod home from close range following a goal-mouth scramble.

Then with three minutes remaining the Canadian struck again. Nicky Southall crossed perfectly from the right and Jackson got in to plant a firm header beyond Brill to send home supporters into raptures.

Gillingham: Stillie, Richards, King, Cullip, Southall, Bentley, Crofts, Nutter (Griffiths 60), Miller (Ba 67), Jackson, Oli (Simmonds 84)

Subs not used: Kiely, Fuller,

Luton: Brill, Asafu-Adjaye, Davis, Keane, Emanuel, O'Leary, Hutchison, Spring, McVeigh, Parkin, Charles (Andrew 77)

Subs not used: Goodall, Currie, Robinson, Beavan

Att: 6,142

Referee: Paul Melin

THE LAST TEN SEASONS.....

Here we take a look at where today's visitors, Luton Town, have finished in the League since the 1998-99 campaign.

Unless you are actually a Hatters fan I guess you probably won't have realised what an up and down time they've been through –

1998-99	12th in League One
1999-00	13th in League One
2000-01	Relegated from League One having finished 22nd
2001-02	Promoted as runners-up from League Two
2002-03	9th in League One
2003-04	10th in League One
2004-05	Champions of League One, promoted
2005-06	10th in the Championship
2006-07	Relegated from the Championship, they were 23rd
2007-08	Relegated again, this time from League One having finished 24th.



GILLINGHAM FC

MEET THE LADIES

BECKY LYON, 24 years old has been with us for 10 years and Captained the team for the last two seasons. A strong leader and an absolute rock at the back. Her determination will drive the team forward and she is a great ambassador for Ladies football.

ALISON SMITH 25 years old, has been with Gillingham for 16 years, a solid shot-stopper and will be ever present this season.

KELLY SEATH 26 years old has returned to us after taking a season out and playing 5-a-side. Kelly was formerly a central defender but has now come to us as a confident midfielder.

NIKKI SEATH 24 years old has been with the club for 10 years, as a consistent left-back. Nikki has great vision and will be a key player this season.

WHITNEY JUDD at 18 years old, Whitney is one of our youngest players but shows the strength and maturity on the pitch of someone with years more experience. Whitney will be a big asset to this year's squad.

VICKY ASHTON-JONES, 21 years old, fairly new to the Gills side but already well established as one of our strongest central defenders.

TINA MARTIN joined the club this season after playing for Gravesend for 5 years. Tina's knowledge of the game will be a good base for a quick integration into the squad.

ZARA PHILLIPS 19 years old and in her second season with the team. Zara was one of our biggest signings last season and has shown great determination, developing well within the team.

LEANNE STEVENS 28 years old returned to Gills after a short spell at Anchorians, her strength and experience is a huge inspiration to the team.

LESLEY KAY 27 years old has been one of the most consistent and dedicated players over the last few seasons. Lesley's skill combined with her knowledge makes her one our finest central midfielders.

KIM BOLDEN 21 years old. Kim joined us last season after leaving Anchorians, her attitude and drive are two of the many qualities she has brought to the club. Kim also works at the Centre of Excellence.

GEMMA RIDGE 27 years old has the ability to play on either wing making her a defender's nightmare.

KYLIE OVERTON 19 years old joined Gills alongside Zara last season and has proved also to be another great signing from Crystal Palace. Kylie's quick feet and pace have ensured her place in the starting line-up last season.

TERRI REYNOLDS 21 years old has been with Gills for 10 years. Terri is a solid and competitive midfield player, her power and strength of mind is a key to the squad's success.

ANNA BROAD 21 years old has also been with Gills for 10 years. Anna shows quality both as a striker and a midfielder, Anna's movement off and on the ball is one of her biggest assets.

KIRSTY GOODALL 21 years old has been with the club for 14 years. Kirsty's control of the ball and the precision of her shooting and passing will keep her as a main striker this season.

JACLYN FIDDYMENT 29 years old is the clubs longest serving player. Jac has shown great quality as both a defender and a striker. Jac's goal tally for previous seasons says it all.

IAN VARLEY (1st team Coach) For followers of Kent Football, the name will ring a bell, Ian currently plays for Sittingbourne and works for The FA as a skills coach, his experience is vital as we push the Ladies forward.

Finally not forgetting:-

KEN FIDDYMENT is the father of the team and has kept the team going through thick and thin since their formation. For him to see the ladies now affiliated with GFC and move forwards as a more "professional" team is a testament of his hard work.

For more information on the team, click on www.gillinghamfootballclub.com and select Ladies from the Team drop-down menu.



South East Combination Fixtures for Season 2008-09

DATE	OPPONENTS	HOME/AWAY
August 17th	Bedford Town Belles	Home
August 24th	Lewes	Away
August 31st	Whitehawk	Home
September 7th	Luton Town	Away
September 14th	Welwyn Garden City	Home
September 21st	Northampton	Away
September 23rd/24th	Tottenham	Home
September 28th	Cambridge City	Away
October 5th	Norwich City	Away
October 12th	Wellingborough Diamonds	Home
October 19th	Anchorians	Home
October 26th	Bedford Town Belles	Away
November 2nd	Northampton	Home
November 9th	WFA Cup 1st Round (Not Entered)	
November 16th	Lewes	Home
November 23rd	Whitehawk	Away
November 30th	Luton Town	Home
December 7th	Welwyn Garden City	Away
December 14th	Cambridge City	Home
January 4th	Norwich City	Home
January 11th	Wellingborough Diamonds	Away
January 18th	Enfield	Home
February 1st	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
February 8th	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
February 15th	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
February 22nd	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
March 1st	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
March 3rd/4th	Tottenham	
March 15th	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
March 22nd	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
April 19th	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
April 26th	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	
May 4th	Date Available for County Cup/League Cup Fixtures	



Graham Dorkins rounds things up in his... LEAGUE TWO REVIEW

Whether by accident or design the season's opening League Two fixtures produced several piquant fixtures.

Heading the list was the clash between Accrington Stanley and Aldershot Town two clubs who have not only endured the pain of relegation from the Football League, but also suffered the heartache of going out of business into the bargain. Accrington who lost League Status in 1962 were reformed in 1968 under the name of Accrington Stanley Football Club as opposed to Accrington Stanley F.C. thus distinguishing themselves from the defunct club and it took them until 2006 to return, when ironically one of the two sides relegated to the conference, were Oxford United who had taken Stanley's place in the League.

Aldershot who suffered similarly in 1992 were reformed under the title Aldershot Town and last week's fixture was their first "back in the big time", as it also was for their manager Gary Waddock who was sacked by Q.P.R. a month into the 2006/7 season despite having saved them from relegation from the Championship the previous season

in his role as caretaker boss. In the event Waddock bounced back by leading the Hampshire team out of the Conference, and it was Waddock who was celebrating after the game as Scott Donnelly's free kick gave his side a 1-0 victory, leaving opposite number John Coleman contemplating searching for a new striker after his side missed a host of chances.

The League's fixture computer also managed to pitch together the four clubs relegated from League One last season, two of whom in Luton and Bournemouth can be excused for considering with a shiver the plight that Accrington and Aldershot once suffered.

Punishment

Luton of course commenced the season with minus thirty points following the Draconian punishment handed down to them for breaching League rules on insolvency, whilst the Cherries have been deducted 17 for a similar if less serious breach, as also have Rotherham.

The Hatters made no inroads into the deficit last Saturday, despite hosting the second highest crowd in the division. In order to cut costs in line with the administrator's wishes

the Kenilworth Road club transferred out eight players, including David Bell for whom Norwich City paid £600,000.00. In addition a further five players were released, and until the day before the season started and Mick Harford was able to bring in eleven new players, the only newcomer had been Kevin Nicholls from Preston. A side thrown together in haste was always going to struggle and although Sam Parkin equalised Louis Dodd's 25th minute long range shot, second half goals from Robert Taylor and Marc Richards ensured that the Potters were the only one of the quartet to open this campaign with a win.

Obviously League rules have to be obeyed and the powers that be, are making abundantly clear to clubs, the stringent penalties that they will impose for not observing same, but it seems that the players, the new board known as Luton 20/20 and most significantly the fans, are being punished for failings by an earlier regime over whom they had no control. It looks almost inevitable that a third successive relegation will follow and if their financial problems are not rectified could face oblivion. Bournemouth manager Kevin Bond

must have been thinking that his club were about to erase three points of their own deduction after former England star Darren Anderton had put the Cherries in front against Gillingham, but substitute Gary Mulligan who had only been on the field for three minutes equalised with virtually the last kick of the game.

New signing Reuben Reid scored the only goal of the game against Lincoln for his new club crisis torn Rotherham, who have been forced to play for the next four seasons at the Don Valley Athletics Stadium, the victory at least managed to erase three of the points deducted.

Dagenham and Redbridge who spent most of last season fighting to avoid an immediate return to the Conference, got this season off to a flyer with a 6-0 home victory over Chester City, Sam Saunders grabbing a brace, as the East London side ran amok against a hapless Chester defence.

Promotion

Shrewsbury Town have been League Two's big spenders during the close season, putting themselves in the frame as favourites for promotion, and their transfer activity was rewarded as three of the new signings hit the back of the net in a four-nil triumph against perennial strugglers Macclesfield Town. Shane Cansell-Sheriff opened the scoring when his thirty yard shot hit the bar and went in off the back of goalkeeper John Brain. Grant Holt who had aided Forest's promotion run last season added the second from the spot, Graham Coughlin signed from Rotherham scored the third and Dave Hibbert completed the scoring.

Bradford City whose low season ticket prices have resulted in large attendances at Valley Parade, got off to a winning start against Notts. County in front of 14,000 fans with Peter Thorne who had scored a hat trick in the corresponding fixture last term, and who had also scored in the return at Meadow Lane, notching a brace as City ran out 2-1 winners.

At Underhill another prolific Ex Forest striker in the form of Jack Lester scored twice as Chesterfield ran

out 3-1 winners over Barnet, despite the fact that Ashley Carew had given the North London side the lead.

Defeated Play-Off finalists Darlington came up against newly promoted Exeter City and a 1-1 draw was the outcome, defender Dan Seaborne earning the point after Rob Purdie had put Darlington in front.

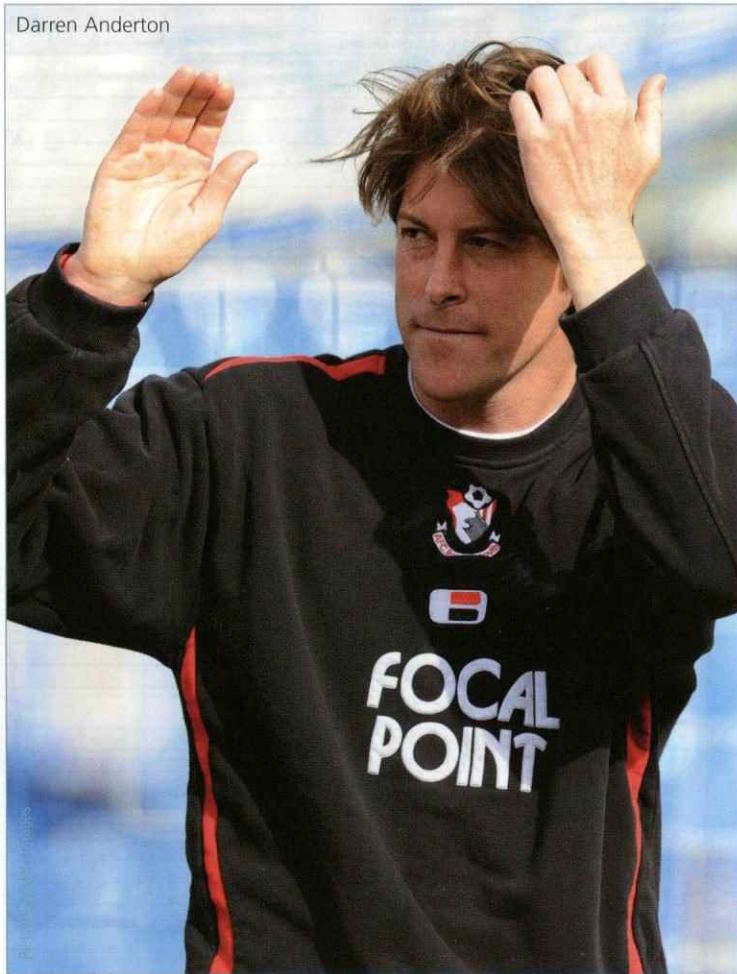
Bury defeated Brentford 1-0 thanks to Andy Bishop's first half strike, while Grimsby goalkeeper Phil Barnes who was the club's Player Of The Year last season, continued where he'd left off by producing a superb performance to earn his side a point in their home game against Rochdale in the division's only goalless game.

Peter Taylor the man who famously made David Beckham England

captain and who memorably took Gillingham to the Championship in his only season at Priestfield, failed to get off to a winning start with his new club Wycombe Wanderers, as Lewis Spence's debut goal was cancelled out in the 66th minute as David Artell poked home the equaliser for Morecombe.

So the opening Saturday brought the normal mix of elation, dejection and something in between, as will every Saturday over the next eight months, and as we turn our thought to Beijing tonight where hopefully Paula Radcliffe will be running in the Women's Marathon, it is well worth remembering that a league season is anything but a sprint.

Darren Anderton



YOUTH TEAM FIXTURES

DATE	OPPONENTS	HOME/AWAY	KO TIMES
August 16th	Leyton Orient	Away	11.00am
August 30th	Brighton & Hove Albion	Home	11.00am
September 6th	Aldershot Town	Home	11.00am
September 13th	Peterborough United (Youth Alliance Cup 1 - Game 1)	Away	11.00am
September 20th	Leyton Orient (YAC 1 Game 2)	Home	11.00am
October 4th	Northampton Town (YAC 1 Game 3)	Away	11.00am
October 11th	Luton Town (YAC 1 Game 4)	Home	11.00am
October 18th	Colchester United	Away	11.00am
October 25th	Millwall	Home	11.00am
November 1st	Dagenham & Redbridge	Away	11.00am
November 8th	Southend United	Away	11.00am
November 15th	Leyton Orient	Home	11.00am
November 22nd	Youth Alliance Cup 2		
November 29th	Colchester United	Home	11.00am
December 6th	Aldershot Town	Away	11.00am
December 13th	Dagenham & Redbridge	Home	11.00am
January 10th	Millwall	Away	11.00am
January 17th	Brighton & Hove Albion	Away	11.00am
January 24th	Youth Alliance Cup 3		
January 31st	Southend United	Home	11.00am
February 7th	Peterborough United	Home	11.00am
February 14th	Queens Park Rangers	Away	10.45am
February 21st	Rushden & Diamonds	Home	11.00am
February 28th	Youth Alliance Cup SF		
March 7th	Wycombe Wanderers	Away	11.00am
March 14th	Barnet	Home	11.00am
March 28th	Brentford	Away	11.00am
April 4th	Luton Town	Home	11.00am
April 18th	Northampton Town	Away	11.00am

RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES

DATE	OPPONENTS	HOME/AWAY	KO TIMES
2008			
Wed Aug 20	Lewes	Away	19.00pm
Wed Sept 10	Southampton	Home	14.00pm
Wed Sept 17	Crystal Palace	Away	19.00pm
Wed Oct 1	Brighton & Hove Albion	Home	14.00pm
Mon Oct 13	Charlton Athletic	Away	19.00pm
Wed Nov 12	Reading	Away	14.00pm
Wed Dec 3	Millwall	Home	14.00pm
Wed Dec 17	Queens Park Rangers	Home	14.00pm
2009			
Tue Jan 6	Aldershot Town	Away	14.00pm
Wed Jan 14	Charlton Athletic	Home	14.00pm
Wed Jan 21	Brighton & Hove Albion	Away	19.00pm
Wed Feb 11	Reading	Home	14.00pm
Tue Feb 17	Millwall	Away	14.00pm
Tue Feb 24	Queens Park Rangers	Away	14.00pm
Wed Mar 18	Aldershot Town	Home	14.00pm
Wed Mar 25	Lewes	Home	14.00pm
Mon Mar 30	Southampton	Away	19.00pm
Wed Apr 8	Crystal Palace	Home	14.00pm

TABLE, FIXTURES & CLUB STATS



COCA-COLA LEAGUE TWO TABLE

Team	Home				Away				GD	PTS
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D		
Dag & Red	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Shrewsbury	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Chesterfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Port Vale	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2
Bradford	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Aldershot	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Bury	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Darlington	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Exeter	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Gillingham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Morecambe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wycombe	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Grimsby	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rochdale	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Notts County	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	-1
Accrington Stanley	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Brentford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Lincoln City	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Barnet	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	-2
Macclesfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-4
Chester	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-6
Rotherham	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-14
Bournemouth	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	-16
Luton	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	-2

PLAYING TODAY

Aldershot v Bournemouth
Brentford v Grimsby
Chester v Wycombe
Chesterfield v Bury
Exeter v Shrewsbury
Lincoln City v Dag & Redbridge
Macclesfield v Bradford
Morecambe v Rotherham
Notts County v Darlington
Port Vale v Accrington Stanley
Rochdale v Barnet

SEASON 2008/09 ROLL CALL

PLAYER	APPEARANCES		GOALS		CARDS		GFC CAREER RECORD	
	League	Cups	League	Cups	Red	Yellow	Apps	Goals
Mark Bentley	1	1					82(2)	9
Tyrone Berry	(1)	(1)					(2)	-
Sean Clohessy							39(6)	1
Andrew Crofts	1	1					167(15)	19
Luis Cumbers							2(6)	-
Barry Fuller	1	1				1	11(1)	-
Charlie Howard							2(1)	-
Simeon Jackson	1	1					16(4)	4
Alan Julian			1				1	
Simon King	1	1				1	46(3)	-
Stuart Lewis							6(4)	-
Mark McCommon	1	1				1	2	-
Adam Miller	1	1					28(2)	3
Gary Mulligan	(1)	(1)	1				67(24)	16
John Nutter	1	1					26(1)	11
Dennis Oli		(1)					17(7)	5
Andy Pugh							-6	-
Garry Richards	1	1					14(2)	-
Simon Royce	1						40	-
Nicky Southall		1					313(22)	24
Stuart Thurgood							11(1)	-
Curtis Weston	1						1	-



Fixtures & Results 08/09



			F	A	Att	Pos	Goalscorers
Sat Aug 9	A.F.C. Bournemouth	A	K.O 3.00		1 1	5,377	10 Mulligan
Tue Aug 12	Colchester United	H	K.O 7.45	Carling Cup 1	0 1	2,566	- -
Sat Aug 16	Luton Town	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Aug 23	Darlington	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Aug 30	Accrington Stanley	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Sep 6	Grimsby Town	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Sep 13	Shrewsbury Town	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Sep 20	Aldershot Town	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Sep 27	Port Vale	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Oct 4	Exeter City	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Oct 11	Morecambe	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Oct 18	Bradford City	A	K.O 3.00				
Tue Oct 21	Notts County	H	K.O 7.45				
Sat Oct 25	Chester City	H	K.O 3.00				
Tue Oct 28	Lincoln City	A	K.O 7.45				
Sat Nov 1	Macclesfield Town	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Nov 8	F.A. Cup 1						
Sat Nov 15	Rotherham United	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Nov 22	Bury	A	K.O 3.00				
Tue Nov 25	Rochdale	H	K.O 7.45				
Sat Nov 29	F.A. Cup 2						
Sat Dec 6	Chesterfield	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Dec 13	Barnet	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Dec 20	Brentford	H	K.O 3.00				
Fri Dec 26	Dagenham & Redbridge	A*	K.O 3.00				
Sun Dec 28	Wycombe Wanderers	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Jan 3	Port Vale	A	K.O 3.00	F.A. Cup 3			
Sat Jan 10	Aldershot Town	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Jan 17	Morecambe	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Jan 24	Exeter City	H	K.O 3.00	F.A. Cup 4			
Tue Jan 27	Lincoln City	H	K.O 7.45				
Sat Jan 31	Chester City	A	K.O 3.00				
Tue Feb 3	Notts County	A	K.O 7.45				
Sat Feb 7	Bradford City	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Feb 14	Rotherham United	A	K.O 3.00	F.A. Cup 5			
Sat Feb 21	Macclesfield Town	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Feb 28	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H	K.O 3.00				
Tue Mar 3	Luton Town	A	K.O 7.45				
Sat Mar 7	Accrington Stanley	A	K.O 3.00	F.A. Cup 6			
Tue Mar 10	Darlington	H	K.O 7.45				
Sat Mar 14	Shrewsbury Town	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Mar 21	Grimsby Town	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Mar 28	Brentford	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Apr 4	Barnet	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat Apr 11	Wycombe Wanderers	A	K.O 3.00				
Mon Apr 13	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	K.O 7.45				
Sat Apr 18	Chesterfield	A	K.O 3.00				
Sat Apr 25	Bury	H	K.O 3.00				
Sat May 2	Rochdale	A	K.O 3.00				

PARKING: Visitors to The KRBS Priestfield Stadium are respectfully reminded to use care and consideration for local residents when parking their vehicles in the local roads surrounding the ground.

KEY Starting 11 (BOLD) 1 Substitute that played & who he replaced * Substitute that didn't play (Carling Cup 4 unused subs: Kiely, Lewis, Clohessy, Mills)

Royce	Fuller	Richards	King	Nutter	Weston	Bentley	Crofts	Miller	Jackson	McCommon	Berry	Mulligan	Julian	Mills	Clohessy
Julian	Fuller	Richards	King	Nutter	Southall	Bentley	Crofts	Miller	Jackson	McCommon	Berry	Oli	Mulligan		



MISSING MEN

The line-up
against Wigan
on 28/05/2000
was as follows.

TEAM TEASERS - ANSWERS

1. Millwall
2. Stan Ternent
3. Doncaster Rovers
4. Andrew Crofts 12 caps for Wales
5. Adam Miller
6. Notts County

coming up next . . .



DARLINGTON V GILLINGHAM

Coca-Cola League Two
Saturday 23 August 2008
Kick-Off 3.00pm

It's a long trip to the north east and a new ground for The Gills next Saturday as we travel to the Balfour Webnet Darlington Arena.

The last time we played Darlington was back in November 1999 in an FA Cup second round tie at Priestfield, when we knocked our visitors out of the Cup with a 3-1 victory, thanks to two goals from Robert Taylor and one from Guy Butters. However, FA Cup holders Manchester United had withdrawn from that season's competition in order to play in the FIFA Club World Championship. With United's action resulting in 63 clubs in the third round draw instead of 64, the FA held another draw, with United's place going to one of the second round losers. Darlington were the benefactors and, whilst

Gillingham faced a third round visit to Walsall, the club we had seemingly knocked out of the competition in the previous round enjoyed a trip to Premiership Aston Villa.

The last time The Gills beat Darlington away was in January 1974, when we were on our way to promotion and won 3-1 after being 1-0 down at half time. Damien Richardson, David Peach and Brian Yeo were our scorers at Feethams in a game watched by a crowd of 2,204.

Darlington finished fifth in League Two at the end of last season and lost on penalties against Rochdale in the Play-Off Semi Final, both legs having ended 2-1 to the home side.

Darlington followed up their opening day 1-1 home draw against newly-promoted Exeter City last Saturday by knocking Walsall out of the Carling Cup at the Bescot Stadium on Tuesday evening, Jason Kennedy and Billy Clarke scoring in a 2-1 win.

GILLINGHAM V ACCRINGTON STANLEY

Coca-Cola League Two
Saturday 30 August 2008
Kick-Off 3.00pm

We are back here in a fortnight's time when Accrington Stanley visit Priestfield for the first since December 1961, when goals by Harry Hughes, Alec Farrall, Gordon Pulley (2) and Ronnie Waldock helped us to a 5-1 win.

However, the result was expunged from the records when cash-strapped Stanley resigned from the league the following March. The club joined the Lancashire Combination Division Two the following season and went into liquidation in 1966.

A new Accrington Stanley was formed in 1968 and the club reached the Football League in 2006 by winning the Conference title. Accrington finished 20th in their first campaign in League Two and were 17th at the end of last season. Stanley are managed by John Coleman, who has been in charge since August 1999.

He is the club's longest-serving manager and, during his time in the role, Accrington have won three promotions as champions. Last Saturday they lost 1-0 at home against newly-promoted Aldershot Town in front of a crowd of 1,805.

Like The Gills, Accrington went out of the Carling Cup on Tuesday night, Paul Mullin and Ian Craney scoring their goals as they were beaten 3-2 after extra time by Championship side Wolverhampton Wanderers.

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GILLINGHAM

Simon Royce	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barry Fuller	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Nutter	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stuart Lewis	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Simon King	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garry Richards	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Crofts	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Bentley	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gary Mulligan	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Simeon Jackson	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicky Southall	11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Kiely	13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Miller	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rory Hill	15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stuart Thurgood	16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Pugh	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tayler Thomas	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sean Clohessy	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie Howard	20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Oli	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Wynter	22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alan Julian	23	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Walder	24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luis Cumbers	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curtis Weston	26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leigh Mills	27	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tyrone Berry	29	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark McCammon	30	<input type="checkbox"/>

LUTON TOWN

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Dean Brill
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Claude Gnakpa
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Sol Davis
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Keith Keane
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Ian Roper
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	George Pilkington
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Kevin Nicholls
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Sam Parkin
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Ryan Charles
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Lewis Emanuel
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Asa Hall
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Ed Asafu-Adjaye
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Rossi Jarvis
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Kevin Watson
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Chris Martin
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Drew Talbot
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Michael Spillane
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Josh Klein-Davies
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Tristan Plummer
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Paul Underwood
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	George Beavan
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Richard Jackson
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Dean Morgan
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Paul McVeigh

Referee: S Tanner

Assistants: A Halliday & M Matadar

Fourth Official: J Singh

NEXT HERE: ACCRINGTON STANLEY

Saturday 30th August 2008, Coca-Cola League Two, Kick-Off: 3.00pm

The KRBS Priestfield Stadium, Redfern Avenue, Gillingham, Kent ME7 4DD

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