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Inside...

Highlights in Tonight's Rovers Magazine

Around the New Lawn *Page 4*

David Brown *Page 7*

Commercial News *Page 10*

Kettering Action *Page 14*

This week. . . *Page 18*

Before we were born *Page 19*

Half-Time Quiz *Page 22*

Centre Spot *Page 26/27*

Youth review *Page 31*

Fixtures preview *Page 38*

The Visitors *Page 44*

Match by Match *Pages 48/49*

The Final Word *Page 50*



Contact the Rovers

FOREST GREEN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB, SMITHS WAY, FOREST GREEN, NAILSWORTH, GLOS. GL6 0FG

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The Programme

Forest Green Rovers Football Club Official Matchday Programme

Editors: Terry Brumpton & Scott Smith Designed by Lee Wood Contributors: Natalie Ward
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The views expressed in this matchday magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor and/or Forest Green Rovers Football Club



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AROUND THE NEW LAWN

Forest Green Rovers Race night



A race night will be held to raise much needed funds for the FGR Ladies side on Saturday 26th September in the Carol Emberry suite starting at 7.30pm. There will be a Disco and Buffet plus nine or so races, while a raffle and an auction will take place in aid of the Heart Foundation. Tickets are on sale at only £3 each in the club shop or from Brian John Fream so please give it your full support and lets have a great night.

Over the next 6 weeks we are after race sponsors and also race horse owners. There will be the usual prizes to be won by the winning horse owners, This event will go a long way to helping our Ladies team cover some of their expenditure over the season as they are self funding. So lets support them and show some appreciation for their achievements they always supports this advent very well so please give them your support.



Welcome Jon Challinor

Forest Green Rovers announced just before the home game against Kettering Town that they have signed on a one month loan, 28-year-old Jon Challinor from Cambridge United, to initially fill the void caused by the serious injury sustained by Mike Fowler.

Challinor who hails from Peterborough started his football career as a trainee with Rushden & Diamonds and has now made well in excess of 300 appearances in the Football Conference as part of successful winning teams at Aldershot



and Exeter City. At his current club Cambridge United he has missed out on promotion in the past two years, losing two Promotion Finals at Wembley.

Asst Manager David Brown is very pleased with this capture and does not rule out that the player could stay for longer but his main thrust is to ensure a balanced squad for the opening weeks of the season.

Jon is allocated Squad No 24 and has so far played in both of Rovers opening games of the new Blue Square Premier season.

Rovers Youth, Can you help?

Forest Green Rovers Youth need the assistance of supporters of the club in three specific areas.

Firstly, the Under 8's are short of players to compete in their mini league this season and seek any youngsters who would like to be part of a great set up. All other age groups are well catered for but it appears there is a dearth of youngsters wishing to play at this age level. If you know of any who are interested then you are requested to call either Rob Wright 07812 521254 or Rob Williams 07752 803520.

Secondly, in the current climate the club has secured sponsorship for all age groups from Under 7's up to Under 18's with the exception of the Under 10's. The cost of sponsorship for each age group including the sponsors name on the shirts of the age group is £500. Anyone interested in this opportunity is asked to call either Rachael Freeman on 07780 695401 or Natalie Ward in the Club Admin Office 01453 834860.

Whats on in The Green Man

Free Pool Table every sunday 6-10pm

Saturday 29th August
Jokers Live Jukebox fancy dress disco
night theme is black and white from 7pm
free entry drinks promotions

Wed 19 Lyon v Anderlecht (7.45pm)

Champions League

Sat 22 West Brom v Ipswich (5.20pm)
Championship
Sun 23 Hearts v Rangers (12.45pm) SPL

Sun 23 Cardiff v Bristol City (1.15pm)
Championship

Sun 23 Fulham v Chelsea (4.00pm)
Premier League

Mon 24 Norwich v Sunderland (7.45pm)
Carling Cup

Tue 25 Atletico Madrid v Panathinaikos
(7.45pm) Champions League

Wed 26 Fiorentina v Sporting Lisbon
(7.45pm) Champions League

Thu 27 Crystal Palace v Man City
(8pm) Carling Cup

Fri 28 Barcelona v Shakhtar Donetsk
(7.45pm) UEFA Super Cup

Sat 29 Man Utd v Arsenal (5.15pm)
Premier League

The Green Man is also available to hire FREE of charge for functions in the day or evening, we are happy for you to either provide your own catering or we can assist and adapt menu's to your requirements.

The Green Man can also provide our own in house DJ Kelvin Chapman or you are welcome to provide your own music/entertainment for availability or more details please call Paula Brown on 01453 833295

Matchday Mascot



This season's permanent official matchday mascot for Forest Green Rovers is eight-year-old Amelia Casey who is sponsored

by KB Coaches. Amelia attends St Josephs R.C. School, Nymphfield. Her hobbies include riding her pony Frankie and going to watch Forest Green Rovers. Her favourite players are Conal Platt and Andy Mangan.



Ticket news for Oxford United away game

The club have recently received news from Oxford United regarding ticket prices for our forthcoming trip to the Kassam Stadium on August Bank Holiday Monday, which this year falls on the 31st. There maybe a chance that tickets will be on sale from the club before the game itself, which if they are then Rovers supporters can pick them up at a cheaper price.

If the club do not request any tickets in advance then supporters could do it themselves by buying in advance for a cheaper rate from Oxford United on 01865 337533 or from the website.

This way of buying tickets does require a booking fee of £2.00 for posting and £1.50 collection is added per booking though.

Rovers supporters will be located in the North Stand (along the side of the pitch) and the prices for this area are as follows:

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From the Top

A word from the changing room.

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO THE NEW LAWN FOR TONIGHT'S GAME AGAINST MICK HARFORD'S LUTON TOWN.

I would like to welcome Mick, his team and all their supporters to the game this evening and trust that they have an enjoyable time with us.

The game tonight is a big game for both clubs and Luton are certainly massive favourites for an immediate return to the Football League following their start to the new season. We aren't just here tonight to make up the numbers though as we are going out to win every game. Hopefully this evening will see us pick up the right result after the start to the season we have had, which simply hasn't been good enough from us.

I've been really disappointed with the results that we have achieved so far as they were certainly not the ones we were looking for. The Crawley game particularly disappointed me as we simply didn't make it hard enough for them to beat us and afterwards I told the players this of which I included myself in that talk. I told them we have got to become harder to beat and there was a little bit of relief on Saturday when we did play better and but for a dodgy penalty decision we could have possibly got



something out of the game in the end. There have been positives from the games against Kettering and York but ultimately all that matters are the results and they haven't been good enough. Looking at the team you have got to understand that this is a very new squad of players, Andy Taylor has done well at right-back while Jon Else and Jon Challinor have come into the squad recently and performed well. Steve Davies has also come in and done well up front for us. It does take time for all the players to gel together though and I believe once that happens we will start climbing the league.

We have certainly had a tough start with the teams that we have played while we have also picked up a couple of injuries at key times, which hasn't helped. But I'm not afraid of any other teams in this league and I'm aiming to put the current position right in the coming games. I was very optimistic for the future at the start of the season and I still am now and my optimism levels will never drop.

We have been at looking to strengthen the team in the recent week with new recruitments, but as of yet we have been unable to add any more new faces to the squad. We shall continue to keep looking and trying to convince players that Forest Green Rovers is the right club for them to come and join.

I must end by giving my appreciation to you the supporters who have been great recently. You came out to support us in numbers against Kettering and also thank you to those that made the trips to both Crawley and York. It's just unfortunate that we haven't been able to repay you with the results that you and the team would have wanted.

Enjoy the game,
David

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THE ROVERS FAMILY



A look at the other Rovers' teams. . .



Forest Green Rovers Ladies 1- 4 Fulham Ladies

The last pre-season game for the ladies commenced on Sunday 9th August against Fulham LFC. Fulham play one league above Forest Green after being relegated a few seasons ago from topflight football. During their time in the top division they were the only women's side to turn professional.

An unusual game of four thirty minute half's in the blistering heat meant Rovers had a hard game on their hands. The girls battled hard and found quite a few opportunities by playing some decent football, but unfortunately failed to produce a finishing product until right at the end when Katie Cook scored a screamer of a goal.

Fulham played some great football and having both their first and reserve team to help share the workload managed to score four goals in the two hours played. The match was very competitive and evenly matched until the Forest Green girls got tired and could not play their football as well as they can.

The match was a great fitness test for the girls and would have given them a head start going into last Sunday's first league match away against Winscombe.

The first home game of the new season for the Ladies is on Sunday 23rd August against Oxford City, kick off 2.00pm at the New Lawn. It would be good to try and get as many of you down to come and support the ladies over the coming season



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Swansea City (Away)
Monday 5th October 7.00pm
Reading (Away)
Monday 19th October 7.00pm
SALISBURY CITY (Home)
Monday 26th October 7.00pm
SOUTHAMPTON (Home)
Tuesday 8th December 7.00pm
Salisbury City (Away)
Tuesday 15th December 7.00pm
Swindon Town (Away)

2010

Tuesday 12th January 2.00pm
Bristol City (Away)
Monday 1st February 7.00pm
SWINDON TOWN (Home)
Monday 8th February 7.00pm
Southampton (Away)
Monday 22nd February 7.00pm
BRISTOL CITY (Home)
Tuesday 2nd March 2.00pm
Plymouth Argyle (Away)
Monday 8th March 7.00pm
AFC BOURNEMOUTH (Home)
Tuesday 16th March 7.00pm
Exeter City (Away)
Monday 22nd March 7.00pm
SWANSEA CITY (Home)
Monday 12th April 7.00pm
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (Home)
Tuesday 20th April 2.00pm
READING (Home)

Commercial

Thank you to Julian Risbey for sponsoring tonight's match from Marstons Brewery.



I would also like to thank Julian for his hospitality recently at the Cheltenham Cricket Festival where we got a few new ideas for sponsors and prize draws.

This evenings Match Ball Sponsor is Gyles Allen Hairdressers in Nailsworth 01453 835750

Thank you to eesi once again for their continuous support.



Tonight they are assisting Youth Development and will be seen at Half Time Presenting our Under 16's Keeper Joe Snell with a pair of Goal Keeping Gloves and Football Boots.

This evening we are hosts to B Grade, Griffith Clarke, Fourways, R Williams Building, Western Thermal and Glenn Hurley with guests in the hospitality suites.

If anyone would like further details of their goods/services or an introduction please do not hesitate to contact me this evening

Natalie Ward
Commercial Manager FGRC
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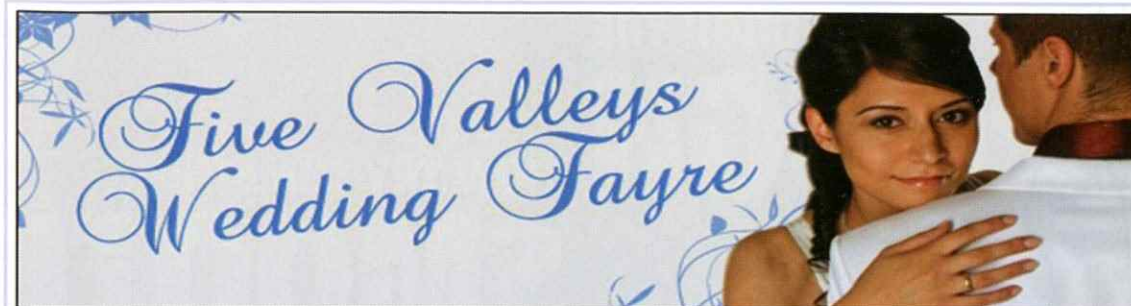
At half time, the bar is again open, however, tea/coffee and sandwiches

(free) are also available. The half time scores are on the TV.

After the game, enjoy a drink whilst watching the full time results on the TV and discuss the merits of the game with our friendly members and guests. The "Man of the Match" presentation is then made by the Match Sponsors and you will also have the opportunity to speak to the team management and players who relax in the club after the game.

If you are interested, please contact me on 07779 732228 or the Admin office on 01453 834860 for further details.

John Whiffen
Chairman (Premier Club)



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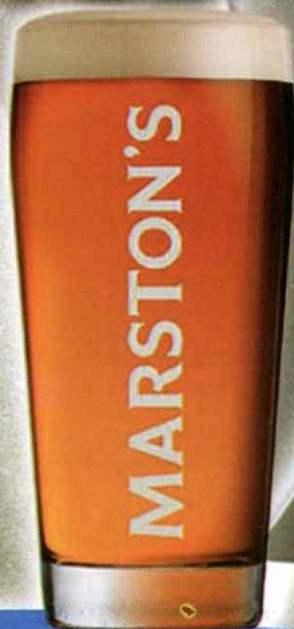
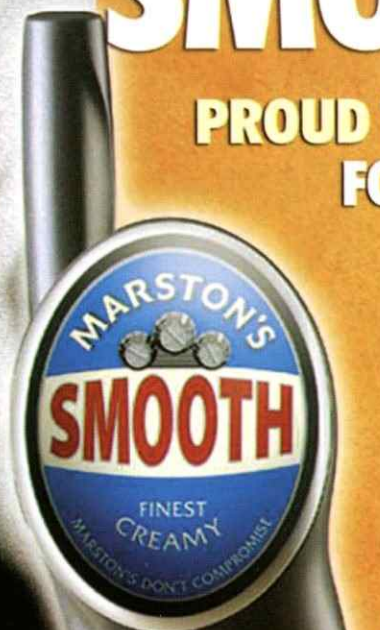
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Last time at the New Lawn. . . .

Forest Green sunk after Davies stunner

Forest Green Rovers 1 -2 Kettering Town 8/08/09



Like prodding a hornets nest, Steve Davies' debut dazzler put Forest Green under a pressure they could not handle.

The Hartpury College starlet, who operated mostly on the flanks for Cirencester Town last season, spectacularly repaid the faith shown in his striking abilities by caretaker Rovers boss David Brown. But Kettering's response to falling behind was a summons for substitute Jean-Paul Mama, and he twice cashed in on jittery home defending to deny Brown a winning start to his tenure. Poppies manager and former Forest Green captain Mark Cooper is a stickler for set-pieces, and the visitors were a threat from well-drilled routines throughout.

Gareth Seddon headed narrowly over under pressure from a fourth-minute corner, and the same player dragged a shot wide when Rovers had been caught out by James Jennings' quick free-kick. Pacy frontman Francis Green looked more dangerous with the ball at his feet, twice missing the target after getting the better of Mark Preece.

Rovers' only meaningful effort of a disjointed half came in the fifth minute, Davies heading straight at keeper Lee Harper from Jon Else's right-wing cross. More worrying was the sight of skipper Lee Ayres hobbling off four minutes before the break with a groin strain, forcing the introduction of substitute Curtis McDonald as a straight replacement at the back.

At least Brown and company could mull things over at the interval with parity in the scoreline, though it needed a desperate clearance off the line from debutant Andy Taylor to keep out John Dempster in stoppage time.

Taylor had a solid game at right-back, as did new loan signing Jon Challinor in the middle of the park, yet Davies had been largely

anonymous before setting the game alight in the 68th minute. The goal was all his own work, as he picked the pocket of giant Kettering defender Exodus Geohaghton and worked the angle for a glorious curling finish into the far corner.

His joy and that of his team-mates was short-lived. Three minutes later ex-Rovers man Lee Fowler saw his free-kick nodded against the bar by Ian Roper, only for Mama to steer home the rebound with his head. Davies came within inches of doubling his tally when he got on the end of Jonathan Smith's inswinger and smashed agonisingly wide of the upright.

But it was Kettering who snatched the spoils on 81 minutes, as Green's pass ricocheted fortuitously into the path of Mama and the striker nipped past a hesitant Terry Burton for an easy finish. It was a morale-sapping manner in which to concede, particularly for a team containing so many young heads, while the

opening day heat rendered a salvage job doubly unlikely. Yet there was one more positive for Brown in the vivacious display of 18-year-old sub Ross Steam, who suggested he can make an impact on either flank or as a central striker.

Forest Green: T. Burton; A. Taylor, M. Preece, L. Ayres (C. McDonald 41), P. Stonehouse; J. Else (R. Steam 67), J. Smith, J. Challinor, C. Platt; D. Brown; S. Davies; Subs not used: J. Baldwin, P. Lloyd, T. Pass.

Kettering Town: L. Harper; N. Eaden, I. Roper, E. Geohaghton, J. Jennings; A. Boucard, J. Dempster (D. Thomas 72), L. Fowler (D. Wrack 87); G. Seddon, F. Green, D. Spencer (J.P. Mama 64); Subs not used: G. Taylor, J. McPike.

Referee: D. Handley (Bolton)

Attendance: 1,074

Report courtesy of thisisgloucestershire.





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This week...

In 1959 Hawaii became the 50th state of the USA, in 1940 Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky was killed with an ice pick in Mexico (sing along everyone), and on the 23rd August 2003 Rovers recorded their first win of that season

Owers calls time on Accrington

by Ashley Loveridge

Forest Green Rovers 2, Accrington Stanley 1
AT 34 years of age Gary Owers is old enough to remember a certain classic TV advert that put Accrington Stanley on the football map.

And it was Owers who will be remembered this time by the men from Accrington after his sweet strike gave Colin Addison's side their first Nationwide Conference win of the campaign.

Owers was indeed Rovers' beacon of light on Saturday as his goal and all-round drive and energy belied his advancing years to give Rovers the kick start they have been craving.

Owers goal, his first for Rovers since he joined from Notts County brought the former Sunderland midfielder a large slice of relief after receiving his first ever red card in a 16-year professional career at Chester last week.

Rovers had earlier given home debuts to striker Jimmi-Lee Jones and defender Scott Morgan and got off to a perfect 12th minute strike.

Steve Cowe relishing his role behind Neil Grayson and Jimmi-Lee Jones latched on to Grayson's flicked header to beat Jon Kennedy with clinical precision.

Rovers held firm and increased the deficit five minutes before the break.

Owers' traded passes with Steve Jones to run through and finish with sweet aplomb.

Stanley found their feet after the break and got back into the contest on 57 minutes as the unfortunate Steve Jenkins was caught cold and turned the ball past Steve Perrin.

The match was now in the balance as Stanley looked for parity and Rovers searched for further goals, but Rovers held firm to bring morale boosting victory.



ON A HIGH AFTER THEIR BEST-EVER LEAGUE FINISH (6TH) THE SEASON BEFORE, THE FOLLOWING CAMPAIGN STARTED POORLY, INCLUDING A 5-1 POUNDING AT HEREFORD TEN DAYS EARLIER.

Finally a win came in the fourth game, a 2-1 home win over Accrington Stanley, though subsequent results still went badly (including a 5-1 defeat to Dagenham in the following game) and manager Colin Addison had resigned by Christmas.

Ashley Loveridge's SNJ report reads: At 34 years of age Gary Owers is old enough to remember a certain classic TV advert that put Accrington Stanley on the football map. And it will be Owers who will be remembered this time by the men from Accrington after his sweet strike gave Colin Addison's side their first Nationwide Conference win of the campaign.

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Rovers team: Perrin, Ingram, Richardson, Jenkins, S. Jones, Cowe, Owers, Foster, Morgan, Grayson, J-L. Jones.



Before we were born



The early life of Forest Green Rovers 1889-1914



The FA Cup 1891 Blackburn v Notts County

It is 120 years since Football came to Forest Green and over the course of this season we take a closer look at the early years. Copies of the Book "Something to Shout About: A History of Forest Green Rovers AFC" are available in the Club Shop.

In 1889 as Forest Green Rovers came into existence, sport was developing well in Gloucestershire. The first President of the GFA in 1886 was W G Grace, a keen Association Rules Umpire as well as cricketer.

Gloucestershire's second ever 'Association Rules' County match was reported in The Stroud News on November 8th 1889, against Wiltshire and on the cricket scene, W.G. Grace was still going strong having been a founder member of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club some 20 years previously. In October 1891 The Stroud News stated:-

Dr W. G. Grace has replied as follows to a correspondent who inquired whether there was any foundation for the report that he did

not intend to take any active part in first-class cricket in England - 'I have no more intention of giving up cricket than I had 20 years ago'.

Rugby Rules also created the kind of controversy reserved these days for Soccer. On November 8th 1889, The Stroud Journal reported on a 'Rugby Rules' Football match between Farmhill and Dursley

'The match resulted in a draw, each side scoring a try and a minor. Play was very even, Dursley scoring a try towards the latter end of the first half. In the second-half Farmhill was awarded a freekick in front of the goal, when the greater part of the Dursley men unaccountably left the field, still wanting five minutes to time. By the direction of the umpires and the referee, the kick was made, and resulted in a try.'

Simple. A drawn match. But on November 15th 1889, the following letter was published: Sir, the account in your last week's paper re

the football match, Farmhill versus Dursley, is very imperfect and needs correction...

At the commencement of the game I compared my watch with the Referee's but when time should have been called, the referee insisted on playing another five minutes. The Referee granted a 'free kick' for 'handball' to the home team, but this was a wrong decision, and a 'scrum' ought to have been formed, as only in the case of the 'lineout' is the 'free' taken for 'handball'.

Owing to the eccentric and partial habits of the Referee, the visitors lost many points, but succeeded in fairly defeating their opponents by one try and one minor to nil. Kindly publish above in your next issue and oblige, Yours obediently, W. E. Loxton, Junr. The Dursley Umpire.

Everybody knew the rules better than the Referee, even in 1889! The argument continued on November 22 1889:

Sir, Mr Loxton, the Dursley umpire impugns the correctness of the reporting of your valuable paper, and accuses me of partiality in the game. He says that a free kick was granted for handball; in this he is incorrect: the kick was awarded not for handball, but for offside.

I would remind Mr Loxton that the club he had the honour of representing has already obtained a considerable notoriety with local teams on account of the entirely new meaning they ascribe to certain rules when the game is going against them.

Indeed, it is a common bye-word among footballers in this neighbourhood that it is not 'Rugby' but 'Dursley' rules when playing this particular club. Trusting you will do me the favour to insert this,

I remain yours truly, Frederick Elliott Referee FFC

Was the referee right or wrong?

Whatever the case, it is clear that 'Football' was a hotly debated subject then as now. If the Forest Green Rovers web site had existed 120 years ago then no doubt it would have had a lot of users looking back on the past week's action, just as it does now. www.forestgreenroversfc.com



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ROVERS QUIZ TIME

Test your grey matter with these half-time teasers.
Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. What was unusual about one of the goals scored in Lutons home defeat by Liverpool in the FA Cup in 2006?
2. Which television pundit has been manager of Luton Town on 2 separate occasions?
3. Roy Dwight broke his leg whilst playing against Luton in the 1959 FA Cup Final. Who is his famous nephew?
4. How many goals did Joe Payne famously score in a league match against Bristol Rovers?
5. What trophy did Luton win in 1988 but fail to retain in the final the following year?
6. Which country has the letters KNVB on the crest of its players shirts?
7. Which country defeated England in the final of the U-21 Championship this summer?
8. Of those teams whose results are regularly read out for The Pools which is the most northerly?
9. Which player was cautioned most often in the Premiership last season?
10. Which famous Yorkshire fast bowler played for Lincoln City?



12 August 2009

Dear Mr Horsley,

Thank you from the Supporters of Chester City Football Club

On behalf of Chester City supporters everywhere, we want to thank your members for voting to admit us to the Blue Square Premier. We understand that you might have experienced conflicting emotions over this. Many of us have similar reservations about recent events at our club.

124 proud years

Our club was founded in 1885. We were founder members of the Cheshire League and joined Division Three North of the Football League in 1931. Our most successful season yet was 1974-75, when we were promoted from Division Four and reached the semi-finals of the League Cup, beating the then reigning league champions Leeds United along the way. Promotions were also achieved from Division Four under Harry McNally in 1985-86 and from Division Three under Graham Barrow in 1993-4. More recently, you may recall that we were Nationwide Conference champions in 2003-4.

We have been associated with some of the great names in football. Although best known for launching the career of Ian Rush, we have developed a host of other top players including Ron Davies (whose clubs included Southampton, Manchester United and Wales), Paul Fletcher (Luton Town, Manchester City and more), Lee Dixon (Arsenal and England) and Danny Collins (Sunderland and Wales). Famous names like Alan Oakes, Arthur Albiston and Cyril Regis finished their playing careers with us; after wearing the blue and white shirt of Chester, we think there was nothing left for them to achieve!

A commitment to the future

The plight of our club is painful for all Chester supporters. At the time of writing, we have no idea whether football will be played in Chester this, or any other, season. Many supporters have bought season tickets with little hope of a refund. For all of us, years of loyal support, football friendship and emotional investment are on the line.

We want you to know that the supporters of Chester City are working towards a future in which we play a leading role in running our club in a financially sustainable way. We take inspiration from clubs like AFC Wimbledon, Exeter City, Halifax Town and AFC Telford.

We know we are embarking on a long road towards success and that, in the short term, things are likely to get worse before they get better. With this in mind, we hope you will continue to do all you can to help the supporters of Chester City.

With this in mind, we would sincerely appreciate any messages of support, encouragement or advice that you are able to send to our supporters at this time.

We look forward to seeing you at the Deva Stadium under happier circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Musson

Chester City ISA - Chester City Supporters' Trust - Chester City Exiles - Chester City Official Supporters' Club

Answers 1: Alonso scored from inside his own half 2: David Pleat 3: Elton John 4: 10 5: Littlewoods Cup (League Cup) 6: Holland 7: Germany 8: Elgin City 9: Marouane Fellaini - Everton 10: Fred Trueman

FROM THE TREATMENT ROOM



Lee Ayres

Lee is making good progress following his groin irritation against Kettering. He missed the York match but if he continues to improve he could be available for tonight's match.

Curtis McDonald

Curtis had to come off during the game against York after he twisted his ankle in a block tackle. He could be doubtful for tonight's match.

Andy Taylor

Andy has a hip flexor irritation and is able to play matches but stiffens up after games. He could also be doubtful for tonight's game as he will need to rest to let the inflammation settle down.

Mike Fowler

Mike is at home resting his ankle. His ankle will be immobilised in a cast for up to 8 weeks. Then he can start his rehabilitation for his ankle injury.

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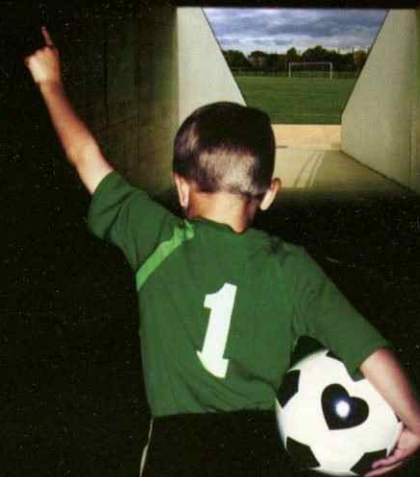
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The Forest Green Rovers' players show their respects to Sir Bobby Robson prior to the Kettering Town game

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Talkback.

With Jonathan Smith.

WE NOW FIND OURSELVES THREE GAMES INTO THE SEASON AHEAD OF THE FIXTURE THIS EVENING AGAINST FORMER FOOTBALL LEAGUE OPPOSITION LUTON TOWN.

It has certainly been a baptism of fire for Rovers young squad over the first couple of weeks of the season taking on a couple of clubs who are expected to be in and around the playoff mix-up come the end of the campaign.

One player who has been there and seen it all before is midfielder Jonathon Smith. Despite being only 22 he has now amassed over 70 appearances for the club in just two years since joining from Morecambe towards the end of the 2006/07 season. With the young looking nature to the team Smith is now one of the more experienced heads in the squad and knows what it takes to clear the club away from relegation and into mid-table safety, following previous campaigns at the club.

It is certainly all change for the former Morecambe man as he now finds himself trying to nurture the younger players into Blue Square Premier football in the coming weeks as he explained to us late last week,

"Yeah things have certainly changed around here over the past few months. Obviously when I joined there were a lot of old heads with lots of experience of playing throughout the leagues. But now that has all changed as I feel that I'm one of the most experienced parts of the squad now. Being in this position it is now my turn to look after the younger squad members and make sure that they can learn about this standard of football."

"I'm very much looking forward to it as it's good for all the players in the squad to test themselves against a good team."

The opening three games of the season have seen Rovers unable to pick up the points that they would have wanted. Speaking ahead of last weekend's ultimately fruitless trip to York City, Smith gave his thoughts on how the first couple of games had gone.

"We obviously would have liked to get a better start to the campaign, both with how we played and the results that we have picked up. Both the results have been disappointing for us really as we would have expected a better start to the season than we have done."

"It was nice to get a goal as it always is but I would have obviously exchanged this for the three points on the day. It's now vital that we get some points on the board in the coming weeks and start climbing up the table so that we can pull away from the relegation places. We believe that we can match anyone in this league as we like to play our football and we have shown in the past what we are capable of. All we need to do is start finding a bit of form and make sure that we keep injury free as it will be vital in the coming months."

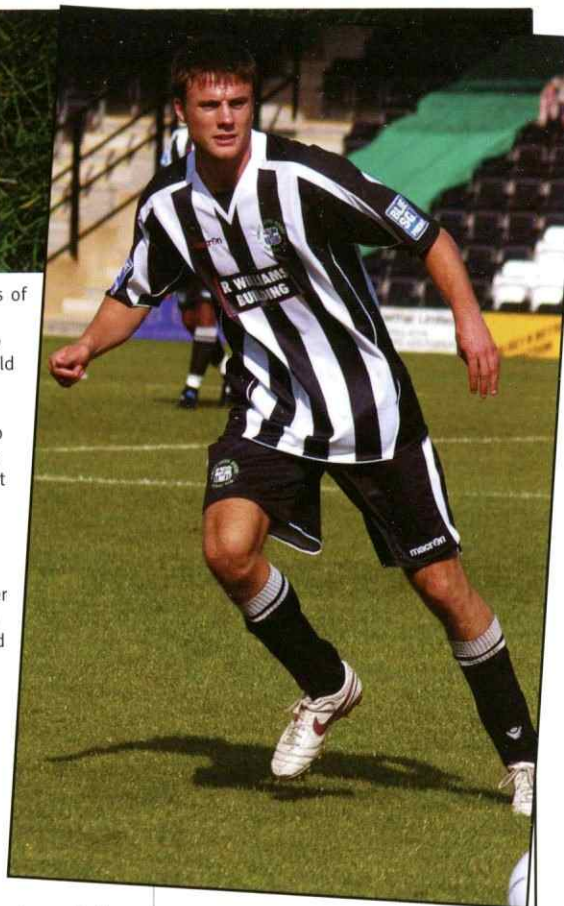
Tonight's visit of Luton doesn't see the start to the season get any easier for Rovers as we take on a resurgent Hatters following their relegation to the BSP last time around. Despite this Smith stated that Rovers shouldn't fear anyone this season,

"Tonight is obviously going to be a test for us as they are a good side. Being at home though we expect to win the game, like every other home fixture we play at home as we are on our own turf and we should know the pitch. We certainly won't be frightened of them though even though they are one of the biggest clubs in the Blue Square Premier."

They have had some good results so far and obviously we haven't had the best of times recently but hopefully tonight we will get the season started with a good result. I'm very much looking forward to it as it's good for all the players in the squad to test themselves against a good team."

Smith ended by stating what his hopes and aims were for the rest of the season,

"I just want to playing every week and making sure that my name is on that team sheet every week. We want to do the best that we possibly can for David Brown over the coming season and hopefully things will start to turn for us in the right direction soon."



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However we currently do not have enough players for our Under 8's team, so we are asking for your help. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Under 8's then please get them to contact either of the coaches Rob Wright 07812 521254 or Rob Williams 07752 803520.

In order to provide all of our players with new playing kit we have to find team sponsors and a great job has been done so far with us having ten sponsors already. Which in the current

economic climate is a great achievement, however this does leave us one team without a sponsor, Under 10's.

The cost is £500 and for that you get your logo on the front of the shirt, as well as on the youth section of the clubs website, and you can use the team for PR activity.

So once again if you know of anyone interested then please ask them to get in touch with myself, or Natalie at the club.

Having two of our Under 18's from last year already progress to the first team this year (Tom Pass and Callum Henry) we are beginning to achieve our goal of supplying the first team with up and coming talent from the local area. With some of the boys that we have

across the ages I see no reason why this cannot continue.

This season is looking to be very exciting indeed and rest assured we will keep you updated along the way. Finally you will have noticed that we now have Ball Boys for our games at The New Lawn.

All of these are supplied by the youth teams so I would ask that you support and encourage them throughout the games.
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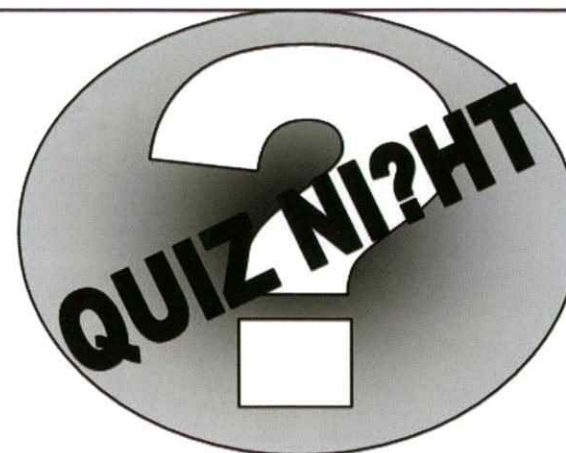
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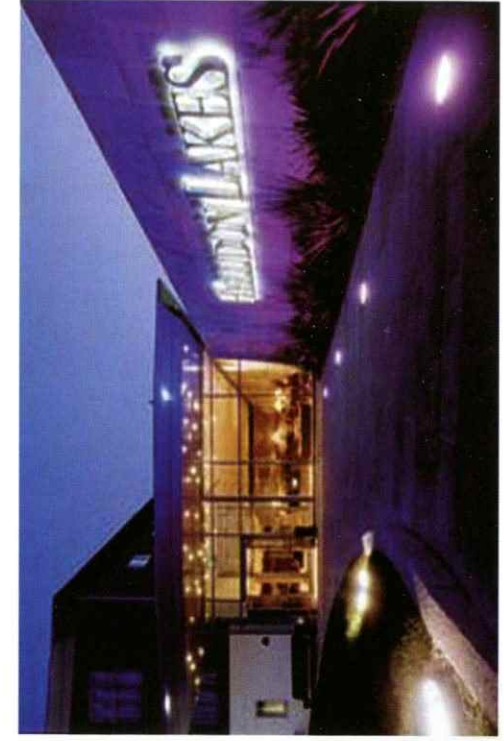
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Fixture Preview

BLUE SQUARE
PREMIER

We look ahead to a compelling evening of fixtures...

THE FOOTBALL CONTINUES TO COME THICK AND FAST AS THIS EVENING WE PLAY OUR FOURTH GAME OF THE NEW CAMPAIGN ALREADY.

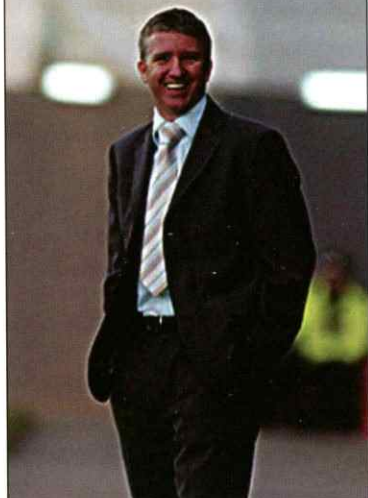
By the end of this evening Rovers and the majority of the other Blue Square Premier sides will have crammed in 360 minutes of football in just eleven days. We haven't had the best of starts to the season and it doesn't get any easy tonight as we host early pacesetters Luton Town who have climbed to the top of the table with seven points from their opening three games.

There are two other sides with seven points from their opening three games, one perhaps being a surprise early season contender while the other would have expected to have been in contention. Second placed Altrincham host Histon, who lost their first game of the season on Saturday to end their unbeaten run. While the other team with seven points are the much fancied Oxford United who will be looking to reach double points figures tonight as they host troubled Chester City.

City will be fighting for every point that they can get though after being allowed to start the new season last weekend after all their troubles, albeit with a 25 point deduction.

There is another unbeaten team still in the BSP apart from the ones mentioned above, however they have only played two competitive fixtures so far, this being Tamworth.

Martin Ling is all smiles after re-taking the hot-seat at Cambridge United



The Hatters have climbed to the league summit after seven points from three games

Their game last week against Wrexham was called off due to international call ups but either side of this they avoided defeat picking up a victory and a draw. This evening they make the long journey up to Gateshead, who will be hoping to pick up their first victory of the season, although again like Tamworth they have only played two games, both ending in defeat, due to Chester's problems.

Two sides who would have hoped for better starts to the season meet at Nene Park this evening with Rushden & Diamonds hosting Hayes & Yeading with both sides looking to pick up three points for the first time this season. While another two sides who would have expected to have started well but haven't meet at the Lamex Stadium where Stevenage Borough play host to Ebbsfleet United, with again both sides looking for their first victories.

There will be an interesting clash tonight at the R Costings Abbey Stadium where two of the top seven sides in Cambridge United and Crawley Town battle it out for those three vital points. While AFC Wimbledon will be looking to pick up their first home victory of the campaign after picking up their first away victory on Saturday as they host Salisbury City. City will be no pushovers though after picking up six points out of nine so far.

Looking down the fixture list there are a couple of mid-table clashes with Kidderminster Harriers hosting Kettering Town and Wrexham playing York City at home, with both sets of teams

hoping to make their way up the table with three important points. Of the other fixtures this evening Eastbourne Borough travel to Grays Athletic with the latter still looking for a victory this season after their two league games played. While fifth placed Mansfield Town host Barrow. Town have had a good start to the campaign with a convincing 4-0 victory over Crawley being the highlight so far.

Barrow started with victory at Cambridge but have only picked up one point in two home games since and they will be hoping to pick up another three points on their travels this evening.

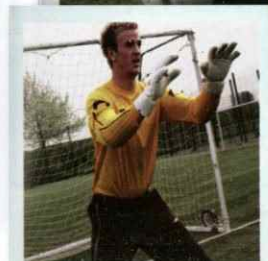
BLUE SQUARE
PREMIER

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Altrincham	v Histon
Cambridge United	v Crawley Town
Forest Green R	v Luton Town
Gateshead	v Tamworth
Grays Athletic	v Eastbourne Borough
Kidderminster H	v Kettering Town
Mansfield Town	v Barrow
Oxford United	v Chester City
Rushden & D	v Hayes & Yeading
Stevenage Boro'	v Ebbsfleet United
Wrexham	v York City



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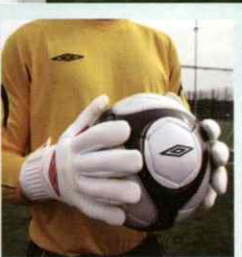
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tackle or shoot
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wear his shorts.*



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THIS EVENING WE WELCOME LUTON TOWN AND EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE THE JOURNEY ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR TONIGHT'S GAME AT THE NEW LAWN.

The Hatters have a very long and proud background behind them with a number of high profile names being involved both on and off the pitch in previous years. While the club also have a number of honours to their name with probably the League Cup victory over Arsenal in 1988 being the highlight. While last season they defeated Scunthorpe United to lift the Johnstones Paint Trophy in front of a packed Wembley.

Recent years have seen the club slide through the Football League pyramid at an alarming rate though with last season seeing them ending their 89-year stay in the professional game. Their current position now is in stark contrast to where they were just over two years ago when they were entertaining the likes of Premiership new boys Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley at Kenilworth Road. Two consecutive relegations soon followed though as they started last season in the fourth tier of English football.

At the beginning of 2008 when the club's future looked in doubt it was announced that the administrator had chosen Luton Town 2020 Ltd as the preferred bidders to take over the club. The consortium was headed by famous Hatters fan and TV presenter Nick Owen and included former Hatters legends Steve Foster and Godfrey Ingram as well as other influential businessmen all of which were Town supporters.

There was more bad news to follow though with the new owners of the club set to take full control of the club in the summer of 2008 the only problem the Hatters prepared



themselves for would have been beginning their League 2 campaign with 15 points deducted for failure to agree to a CVA (Company Voluntary Agreement).

However the Football League decided that because the club had been in administration for the third time in nine years, they would punish them further by deducting a further five points.

But worse news followed. With the club still being investigated by the Football Association for the past financial irregularities that had been made public during Mike Newell's time at the club two years previously. As a result the

JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY
Winners 2009

LITTLEWOODS CUP
Winners 1988 Runners up 1989

FA CUP
Runners up 1959
Semi-Finalists 1985, 1988, 1994

HIGHEST LEAGUE FINISH
Division One 7th 1986-87

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
Champions 1982

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE
(SOUTH)
Champions 1937

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE
Champions 2005

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
Champions 1968

SIMOD CUP
Finalists 1988

SOUTH WEST CHALLENGE CUP
Winners 2009

club had a further 10 points docked by the FA which meant the club had to start the season with an incredible 30 point penalty. The task of stopping up was always going to be arduous task and so it proved as the club suffered relegation come the end of the season despite a spirited effort taking the battle up until the last few weeks of the campaign.

Manager Mick Harford will be looking to take the club back into League Two at the first attempt but he will know how difficult a task this will be with a number of ex league clubs becoming permanent fixtures in the BSP in recent years.

The Manager

SINCE HANGING UP HIS BOOTS, MICK HARFORD HAS TWICE HAD A SPELL ON THE COACHING STAFF AT LUTON, INITIALLY AS ASSISTANT MANAGER UNDER JOE KINNEAR AND MORE RECENTLY AS DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL FOR MIKE NEWELL.

During his first spell at the Club he helped mastermind the Hatters' promotion back to the Second Division in 2001/02 and as Director of Football and First Team Coach he played his part in building the side that secured promotion to the Championship, running away with the League One title during 2004/05.

Harford left the Hatters in November 2004 to be re-united with Kinnear at Nottingham Forest. He then took over as Caretaker Manager at Forest in December 2004, replacing Kinnear, for a total of six matches before Gary Megson was confirmed as the new manager at the City Ground.

Having left Forest in January 2005, he had intended to spend the rest of the season helping out old friend Andy King at Swindon Town, however, after a couple of months at the County Ground, he became Manager at Rotherham United, whose relegation from what is now the Championship had already been confirmed.

The eight month spell in charge at Millmoor was the first managerial job he held in his own right and on leaving the club, he had a short spell coaching the forwards at Millwall before he hooked up with his former Derby County team-mate, Geriant Williams at Colchester United in Summer 2006, as his number two, a position he held for a year before the opportunity arrived to join John Gregory - again as an Assistant Manager - at Queens Park Rangers in June 2007.

In October 2007, Harford took caretaker charge at QPR for one month following Gregory's dismissal, losing only once in five games before he himself left the Club when Luigi De Canio took over as a manager.



Mick Harford

SELF-CONFESSED HATTERS FAN, ANDY SIGNED FOR THE HATTERS IN THE SUMMER OF 2009 AFTER BEING RELEASED BY RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS.

The Bedford-born, left-footed midfielder can play in any position across the middle of the park and was Mick Harford's first signing ahead of the Hatters' 2009/10 campaign.

Andy started his career at Nene Park, coming through the ranks to become a regular in the Diamonds' team and went onto win the Conference and League 2 titles in 2001 and 2003.

After over 200 appearances for the Northamptonshire side he moved to Oxford United in the summer of 2006 but after one season and 57 appearances he returned to Rushden.

Burgess has also represented the England C side on six occasions prior to the start of the season.



ONE TO WATCH

ANDY BURGESS



clearing up at the back. .

Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008.

Having begun his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly regarded defender was named player of the year twice and club captain.

George Pilkington



creating the chances. . .

Kevin Nicholls needs no introduction to most Hatters fans. 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.

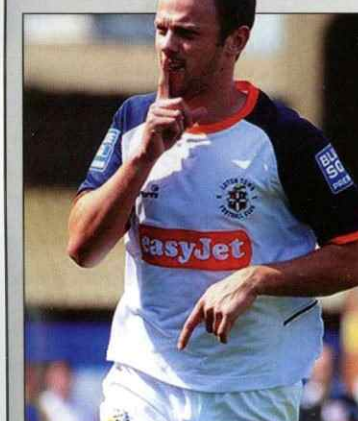
Nicholls began his career at Charlton Athletic, before moving to Wigan Athletic in 1999, where he made 28 appearances in two years. He moved to Luton in 2001, and in the next six seasons went on to appear 175 times, scoring 30 goals.

Following Luton's successful first-season in The Championship and the spirited FA

Cup performances, Nicholls was a player very much in demand. He moved to Leeds United for £700,000 in July 2006 and was made club captain by then boss Dennis Wise. However, his very public fall-out with Wise saw him fall down the pecking order at Elland Road, and the following summer he moved to Preston North End for a fee of £750,000.

His time at Preston began encouragingly, however a change in the management team saw his first-team opportunities limited. Kevin was delighted to re-sign for Luton, signing a three-year deal in August 2008 and being named as club captain.

Kevin Nicholls



scoring the goals. . .

Originally a defender, Tom developed into a promising forward who has done well at youth and Reserve team levels with Middlesbrough. He was the eighth member of Boro's 2004 FA Youth Cup-winning side to progress to first team level, following James Morrison, Tony McMahon, Andrew Taylor, David Wheeler, Matthew Bates, Adam Johnson and Jason Kennedy. He joined the Hatters on-loan from the Riverside in

October 2008 and scored twice on his debut in a 2-2 draw with Grimsby Town. Two further goals followed in the games against Bury and Chesterfield and once his loan expired Mick Harford moved quickly to snap up the striker on a permanent basis. A £80,000 bid was accepted by Middlesbrough and Tom signed a two and a half year contract in January 2009.

Tom Craddock

Date	Opposition	Score	Att	Pos																					
AUGUST 2009																									
08/08/2009	Kettering Town	L1-2	1,074	20	Burton	Taylor	Ayres*	Preece	Stonehouse	Else**															
11/08/2009	Crawley Town (7.45pm)	L1-3	776	22	Burton	Taylor	Preece	Stonehouse	SMITH 1	McDonald															
15/08/2009	York City	Lo-2	1,954	23	Burton	Taylor	McDonald*	Preece	Stonehouse	Else**															
18/08/2009	Luton Town (7.45pm)																								
22/08/2009	Rushden & Diamonds																								
29/08/2009	Wrexham																								
31/08/2009	Oxford United																								
SEPTEMBER 2009																									
05/09/2009	Cambridge United																								
08/09/2009	Hayes & Yeading (7.45pm)																								
12/09/2009	Ebbsfleet United																								
19/09/2009	Barrow																								
22/09/2009	Kidderminster Harriers (7.45pm)																								
26/09/2009	Grays Athletic																								
29/09/2009	Chester City (7.45pm)																								
OCTOBER 2009																									
03/10/2009	Mansfield Town																								
10/10/2009	AFC Wimbledon																								
17/10/2009	Histon																								
31/10/2009	Eastbourne Borough																								
NOVEMBER 2009																									
14/11/2009	Altrincham																								
21/11/2009	Stevenage Borough																								
24/11/2009	Oxford United (7.45pm)																								
28/11/2009	Hayes & Yeading																								
DECEMBER 2009																									
01/12/2009	Wrexham (7.45pm)																								
05/12/2009	Rushden & Diamonds																								
19/12/2009	Luton Town																								
26/12/2009	Salisbury City																								
28/12/2009	Tamworth																								
JANUARY 2010																									
01/01/2010	Salisbury City																								
16/01/2010	Gateshead																								
19/01/2010	Crawley Town (7.45pm)																								
23/01/2010	Ebbsfleet United																								
30/01/2010	Mansfield Town																								
FEBRUARY 2010																									
06/02/2010	AFC Wimbledon																								
09/02/2010	Chester City (7.45pm)																								
13/02/2010	Kidderminster Harriers																								
20/02/2010	Cambridge United																								
27/02/2010	Gateshead																								
MARCH 2010																									
06/03/2010	York City																								
13/03/2010	Barrow																								
20/03/2010	Kettering Town																								
27/03/2010	Altrincham																								
APRIL 2010																									
3/04/2010	Eastbourne Borough																								
05/04/2010	Tamworth																								
10/04/2010	Stevenage Borough																								
17/04/2010	Histon																								
24/04/2010	Grays Athletic																								

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THE CHAIRMAN

A message from Trevor Horsley. . . .

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GOOD EVENING EVERYONE AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS LUTON TOWN. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR BRIEF VISIT TO THE LAWN AND HOPE YOU HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME.

We have had a disappointing start to the season, but rest assured Dave and the boys have been working extremely hard to resolve the current situation.

These notes are written before the York Away game, but we know the games we have lost have been down to some basic errors by key personnel and we have to alleviate these mistakes.

Well onto this evenings game which will be an extremely difficult test. As you are aware Luton are one of the favourites to go up and we will have to be at our best tonight. The club is like all clubs in the Blue Square suffering from the demise of Setanta which has left us with a deficit of about £100K which does not help in this current economic climate.

So the board and the Commercial Department are working hard to plug that gap and I would like to ask you to try and support us in any events that are happening.

We are very sorry to hear Brian Fream is back in hospital so I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. Anyhow that is enough from me. Lets get behind Dave and the Boys, and try and make this a great result for all us home fans.

Trevor



"As you are aware Luton are one of the favourites to go up and we will have to be at our best tonight."

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Forest Green Rovers

Manager: Jim Harvey
Colours: Black & White

01	TERRY BURTON
02	ANDY TAYLOR
03	CURTIS McDONALD
04	LEE AYRES
05	MARK PREECE
06	PAUL STONEHOUSE
07	DAVID BROWN
08	PAUL LLOYD
09	ANDY MANGAN
10	CONAL PLATT
11	JONATHAN SMITH
12	JONTHAN ELSE
14	ROSS STEARN
15	BEN PUGH
16	JAMES BALDWIN
17	TOM PASS
18	STEVE DAVIS
19	MARCUS PALMER
20	MICHAEL FOWLER
21	CALLUM HENRY
22	ISAAC SHAZE
23	SAM MENSAH

Luton Town

Manager: Mick Harford
Colours: Orange/White

01	MARK TYLER
02	ED ASAFU-ADJAYE
03	LEWIS EMANUEL
04	KEITH KEANE
05	ALAN WHITE
06	GEORGE PILKINGTON
07	ADAM NEWTON
08	KEVIN NICHOLLS
09	LIAM HATCH
10	TOM CRADDOCK
11	ANDY BURGESS
12	SHANE BLACKETT
13	SHANE GORE
14	ASA HALL
16	JAKE HOWELLS
17	RYAN CHARLES
18	CLAUDE GNAKPA
19	STEVE BASHAM
20	KEVIN GALLAN
21	CALLUM REYNOLDS
23	FREDDIE MURRAY
25	GEORGE BEAVAN

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Wrexham

Saturday 29th August 2009
3.00pm Kick Off



Hayes & Yeading

Tuesday September 8th 2009
7.45pm Kick Off



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Altrincham	v Histon
Cambridge Utd	v Crawley Town
Forest Green	v Luton
Gateshead	v Tamworth
Grays Athletic	v Eastbourne Borough
Kidderminster	v Kettering
Mansfield	v Barrow
Oxford Utd	v Chester
Rushden & D'monds	v Hayes & Yeading
Stevenage	v Ebbsfleet United
Wrexham	v York



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