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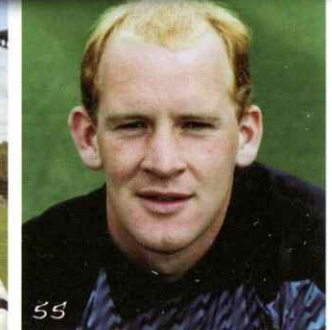
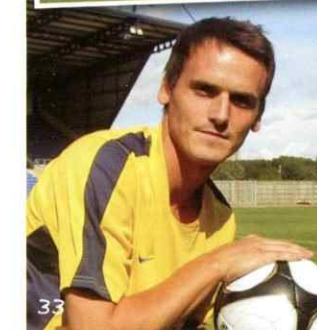
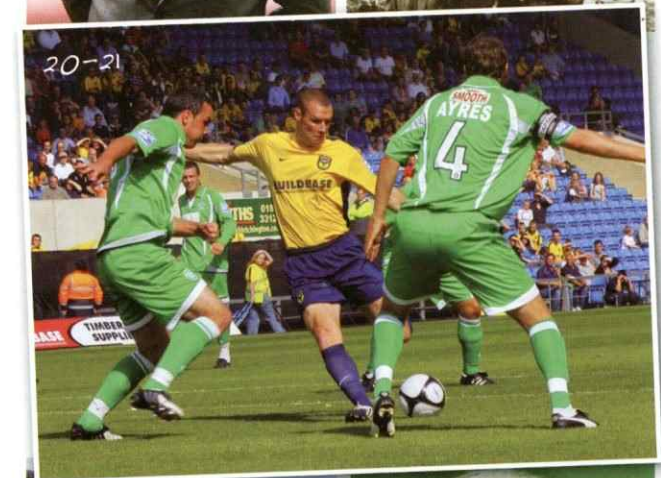
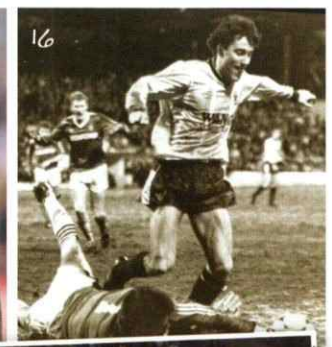
If you have any comments, complaints or praise regarding the club then please write to the General Manager, at the above address, e-mail: gm@oufc.co.uk or fax 01865 337501.

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Editor: Chris Williams
Assistant Editor: Ambrose Landon
Contributors: Martin Brodetsky, Lew Fryer, Tim Walker, Adam Goddard, Kath Boardman, Tara Nutt, Jack Johnson, Rupert Fryer, Steve Kirk, Duncan Collett
Photography: Tony Bailey, Steve Daniels, Darrell Fisher, Dave Fleming
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FROM THE TOP

Good evening and welcome to what we hope will be a fine game of football played before one of the biggest crowds in this division this season.

There is always a special atmosphere here for night games so I am sure it will be a great occasion. I would like to welcome everyone connected to Luton Town and wish them well for their first season in the Blue Square League.

Saturday's results left us in a very healthy position at the top of the league and was a very professional performance. We took our chances and I thought Simon Clist's goal was a wonderful strike.

The game also saw Jamie Cook make his return and I thought he looked lively and full of ideas. He will be a major asset to us and is the perfect player to have thanks to the Twelfth Man initiative. As most of you know, the Twelfth Man idea came from the various fans groups and has seen a number of fund raising ideas. Many of you will

be wearing the badges, but there have been other ideas, including the flag bearer who will be leading out tonight's teams, and even a beer sold for the cause!

It is a great example of how the fans are working alongside the club and we thank everyone who has played their part in bringing Jamie home. Not only is he one of the most coveted players in this division but he is also Oxford through and through. He stood on the London Road terraces and remains a fan, and I can't think of a better player to symbolise the bond between the players in yellow on the pitch and the people in yellow in the stands.

I am sure you will give Jamie a warm welcome tonight and give the team all your backing once again. You can still play a part in the twelfth man scheme as well; signing Jamie is just one part and the funds' plans and ideas will continue throughout the season. Let's keep working together and all play a part in building on what has been an excellent start so far.

Enjoy the game.

Kelvin Thomas

"We took our chances and I thought Simon Clist's goal was a wonderful strike."



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CHRIS WILDER

Good evening and welcome back for the much awaited game against Luton Town.

Luton are sure to be one of the strongest teams in the league this season and were very much the bookies' favourites because they didn't get relegated through results on the pitch. They will want to come here and get a result and it should make for an entertaining game of football for you to enjoy.

Our last home game by contrast wasn't the most entertaining game to watch. Credit to Forest Green for raising their game and making it hard for us; I think their result on Saturday may have shown how much they put into that performance. Even so, we had the chances to win the game comfortably. It was just one of those frustrating days but as I said after the game, I thought the fans were the best player. You stayed patient and kept willing us forward and that is very much appreciated. I think you know the lads are going to give it everything in every game but when things don't happen early on you are willing to stay patient and even raise your game, which has helped make this place a great place to play at home and a difficult place to visit.

We then travelled to Ebbsfleet on Saturday and came back

with all three points after a very professional performance. As with Forest Green, Ebbsfleet came at us and lifted their game and we had a real battle on our hands. I thought we stood up to that and then had that little bit of quality to win the game. Matt Green took his chance really well and Simon Clist's volley was as good as any goal you will see at this level.

We had further chances plus as clear a penalty as you'll see turned down when Jack Midson was brought down, but it was a good win plus another clean sheet so a very good day all round. Having Jack available again was a boost, and to have a player like Jamie Cook come in to the club has been another lift.

We have started the season well but felt we needed to strengthen for the months ahead, and with Kelvin's

support and the backing of the fans we have brought in Steven Kinniburgh, Ross Perry and now Jamie. All three will play a big part for us as we look to push on and keep moving forward.

Finally, I am very proud to collect the Blue Square Manager of the Month award on everyone's behalf tonight. Our thanks to Blue Square for their continued support, and the award is for a true collective effort from everyone associated with Oxford United.

Enjoy the game

Chris Wilder

"I said after the game, I thought the fans were the best player"



OXFORD UNITED - SPONSORED BY - JIMMY GAMAGE

All the news and what's going on

United taking over the world

Our quest for global domination continues. Here we have Colin Mander, a season ticket holder and fan for over 20 years, wearing the colours in Cyprus. Our second picture shows Mather and Finnley Austin flying the flag north of the border. Finally we have Laurie Jackson, in Oklahoma flying the colours along Route 66.

Expansion of Training courses

Oxford United and Sportiv8 have teamed up to provide the perfect environment for any 16 to 18 year olds looking for a way into employment

With high unemployment among school leavers there are sure to be youngsters wondering what to do next after their GCSE results, or perhaps looking for a second chance. The Oxford United E2E (Entry to Employment) course offers a great route into a new career.

Based on ICT skills and sports coaching the course lasts 22 weeks and offers qualifications in ICT and Sports Leadership, as well as lengthy work experience placements. It uses the environment of professional sports clubs to give youngsters a second chance

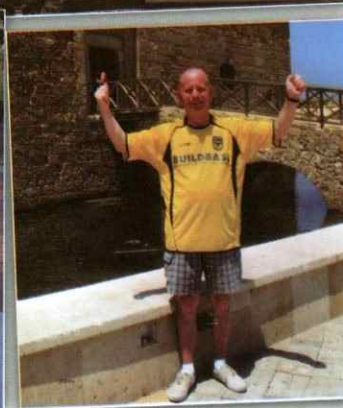
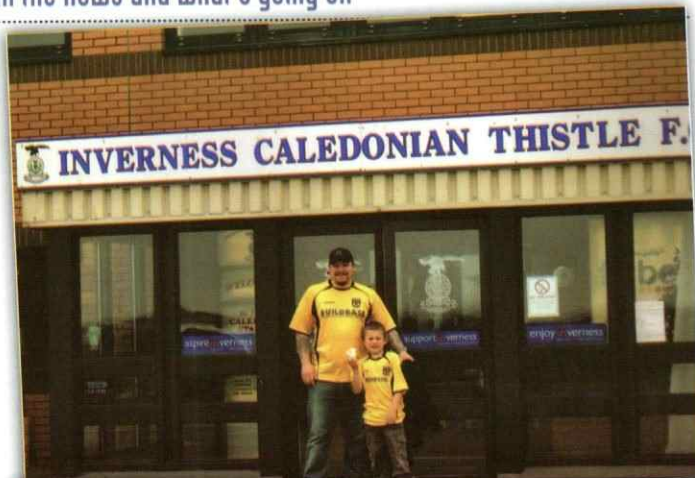
Based at the Kassam Stadium the course is about to enter its second year and was such a success last year that the number of places has doubled and the course has been lengthened to 22 weeks. The course has also expanded to include a new centre at Banbury United.

Course Coordinator Ed Duckham told us:

"Last year's course was a great success and gave those attending the best possible chance to find employment. Because it is sports based it gives students a different focus and adds something different to the course. It will appeal to anyone from 16-18, who is interested in football, and maybe did not do quite as well at GCSE's as they hoped but wants to work in the sports industry

"It is a good way to get involved at your local football club, whether it is at Oxford United or Banbury United."

The course is sure to be popular and the entry deadline is September 21st. Call Ed Duckham on 01865 337524. Ed Duckham is available for further



comment on this story at the same number.

BUSES TO THE STADIUM

A new bus service now operates from the centre of Oxford to The Kassam Stadium. Thames Travel's 106 buses run from the Rail Station to the stadium via the High Street, Littlemore and Sandford

It's an easy way to get to Saturday matches, and a 5pm bus (or 6pm if you want to stop for a drink first) back to Town also departs from the bus stop just outside the stadium.

106 Bus Route from Oxford Station & City centre (Saturdays)

Oxford Rail Station	12:30	13:30
Oxford High Street		
Bus stop L1	12:38	13:38
Littlemore George	12:50	13:50
Sandford Catherine		
Wheel	12:53	13:53

Kassam Stadium	12:58	13:58
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After the game (Saturdays)

Kassam Stadium	17:00	18:00
Sandford Catherine		
Wheel	17:04	18:04
Littlemore George	17:06	18:06
Oxford Carfax	17:21	18:21
Oxford Rail Station	17:27	18:27

For midweek games the 106 provides transport to the stadium along a similar route, but please note is not available for the return journey.

106 Bus Route from Oxford Station (Monday to Friday)

Bus Service No.	106	106
Oxford Rail Station	18:12	18:42
Oxford High Street		
Bus stop L1	18:00	18:20
Littlemore George	18:13	18:33
Sandford Catherine		
Wheel	18:16	18:36
Oxford Science Park		
Sadler Building	18:20	

Magdalen Centre, Science Park 18:21
Kassam Stadium 18:23 18:41 19:10
These buses run alongside the current 602 Football Special Bus run by the Oxford Bus Company:

The 602 service operates for all league matches with cup matches considered on a match-by-match basis.

602 Timetable

Three o'clock kick-offs

Kidlington - Summertown - Marston - Headington - The Slade - Kassam Stadium

Kidlington, Grovelands 13:40
Kidlington, Garden City 13:45
Banbury Road, Harefields 13:50
Summertown, South Parade 13:53
Marston (Headley Way Foot) 14:00
Headington, Windmill Road 14:10
The Slade, Wood Farm Road 14:15
Stadium 14:30

Kassam Stadium 17:00

The Slade, Wood Farm Road Set down as required

Headington shops Set down as required
Marston (Headley Way Foot) Set down as required

Midweek Fixtures with 7.45pm kick-off

Kidlington - Summertown - Marston - Headington - The Slade - Kassam Stadium

Kidlington, Grovelands 18:30
Kidlington, Garden City 18:35
Banbury Road, Harefields 18:40
Summertown, South Parade 18:43
Marston (Headley Way Foot) 18:50
Headington, Windmill Road 19:00
The Slade, Wood Farm Road 19:05
Stadium 19:20
Stadium 21:45
The Slade, Wood Farm Road Set down as required
Headington shops Set down as required
Marston (Headley Way Foot) Set down as required

Bucket Collection next time

The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind will be having a bucket collection at our next home game on Saturday 19th September v Eastbourne Borough. Please give generously.

Lost Watch

A Le Cheminont gold watch, with a brown leather strap was lost in the family area at the Forest Green game.

It has 'hope faith and you' engraved on the back and a reward is being offered for its return.

Call 01865 337505 if you can help.

Manager of the Month

Chris Wilder will be presented with the Blue Square Premier Manager of the Month award for August shortly before kick-off. Alan Alger of Blue Square will present the bottle of champagne.

Congratulations to Chris on the award. Remember, Oxford United earn money for every person who opens an account with Blue Square, plus you get £20 in FREE BETS

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FROM THE CAPTAIN

It will seem strange to be involved in a game between Oxford United and Luton Town tonight that is not in the Football League.

Both clubs have enjoyed spells in the highest division and have won the League Cup and I think it's fair to say that both clubs have dreams of returning to the League at the end of the season.

That makes tonight's game one of the most anticipated games in this division all season and we can't wait to get out there and perform in front of what should be a big crowd and a great atmosphere. I think there is a special atmosphere here for a night game and we will come into the match full of confidence.

The win at Ebbsfleet on Saturday was a big result really after the disappointing draw against Forest Green on the Monday before. We have set high standards and know we dipped a bit against Forest Green. We came away with a point when it should have been three, but perhaps it

wasn't such a bad thing. We didn't lose and we got a reminder that every game in this league is going to be hard and represent a different challenge. I think we have risen to the occasion most times this year, and the way we responded at Ebbsfleet showed plenty of character.

Both goals were fairly typical of their scorers. Greeny got in behind the defence to score the first and Clisty showed great technique for the second. I think we deserved more goals if anything but we defended as a team and kept another clean sheet.

That included the fans in the away end because I thought you were fantastic again. We know we can count on you

home or away and we make a point of coming over to celebrate with you when we win games. It is a collective thing and we can't do it without you.

That will be true tonight because Luton will bring the biggest away crowd of the season. Make sure you raise the roof and sing your hearts out for us and we will do all we can to send you away smiling again.

Enjoy the game,

Adam Murray



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ACTING MANAGER
Mick HARFORD



Mick Harford joined Lincoln City in 1977. He moved on to Newcastle United in a £180,000 transfer, then to Bristol City for £160,000 and then to Birmingham City for £100,000.

In December 1984, then Luton Town manager David Pleat added Harford to his side for a £250,000 fee. He was a key player at Luton until his transfer to Derby County in January 1990 for £450,000. Harford then rejoined the Hatters in September 1991 for £325,000.

Harford moved to Chelsea for £300,000 but was sold on again in March 1993, to his hometown club Sunderland in a £250,000 transfer deal. He lasted just four months at Sunderland, before moving to Coventry City for £200,000 in July 1993. In August 1994, Harford made his last move as a player, joining Joe Kinnear's Wimbledon for £50,000.

Harford started his coaching career with Wimbledon, before moving back to Luton Town as assistant manager.

Spells followed assisting Kinnear at Nottingham Forest, Also assisting Andy King at Swindon before he was made manager of Rotherham United. He also had spells at Derby, Colchester and QPR.

Harford returned to Luton Town as Director of Football, as well as being the first-team coach. He was appointed Manager in January 2008.



Today's Opposition Luton Town

The formation of Luton Town on April 11th 1885 resulted from a merger between local clubs, Wanderers and Excelsior

Finishing as runners-up to Millwall in each of the first two seasons of the Southern League the ambitious club wanted more and made a bid for election to the Football League. Their initial proposition failed and a season had to be spent in the United League before they were accepted into Football League Division Two in 1897.

The final push in the fight to earn a Division One spot came in 1954/55 when the Town eventually won through in a titanic struggle with Birmingham and Rotherham.

The installation of an artificial pitch in the summer of 1985 saw mutterings of discontent grow so the Town went back to grass in 1991. Also unpopular was the decision to ban away supporters in the wake of damage caused by so-called Millwall supporters in an FA Cup match at Kenilworth Road.

With the new owners set to take full

control of the club in the summer 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.

The club were 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 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.

However, the burden of the points deductions proved too much to shoulder and relegation out of the Football League was confirmed following a goalless draw against Chesterfield on Easter Monday.

It meant the club started life in the Blue Square Premier in 2009/10 after 89 years in the Football League.



GOALKEEPERS

Mark TYLER

Mark is a hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009, following his release from Peterborough United. Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road. After falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League 2 Bury where he made 11 appearances for the Shakers.

Shane GORE

Former Wimbledon stopper Shane arrived at Kenilworth Road on a short-term deal on the eve of the 2009/10 season. He came through the ranks at Selhurst Park but could only make one substitute appearance before leaving for Peterborough in 2003. Shane has also had spells with Barnet and Stevenage and featured for Maidenhead United in 2008/10 prior to joining the Hatters.

DEFENDERS

Claude GNAKPA

A defender capable of playing centre back or full back, Claude joined on a free transfer in August 2008. Having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz, Claude moved to Swindon Town for a brief spell, before being taken on in July 2007 by Peterborough United and was a regular in the League 2 promotion winning side, starting 25 league games.

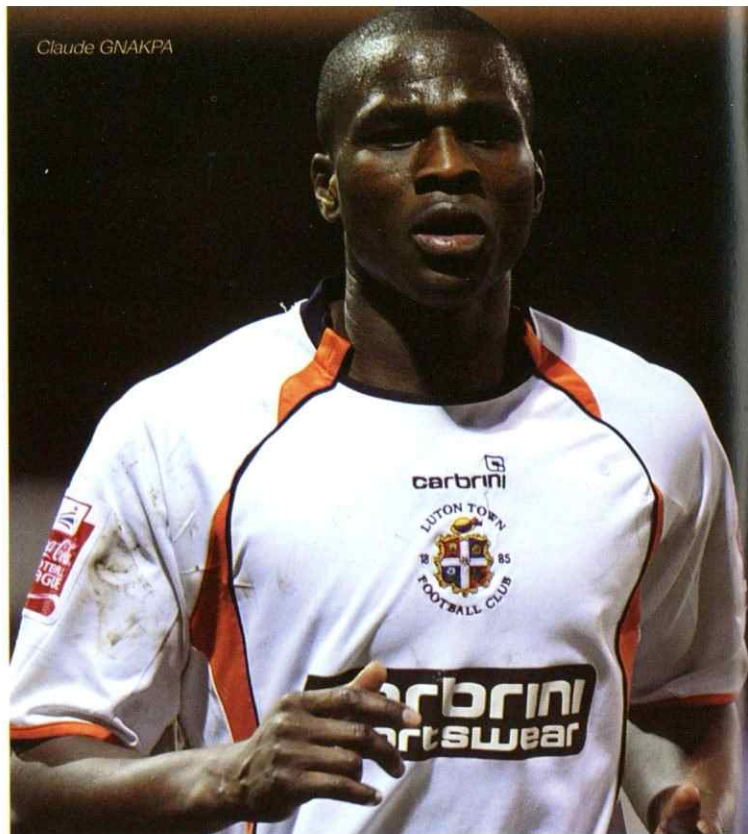
Shane BLACKETT

Luton-born Shane became after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road from Peterborough United. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003. His form with the United Counties side alerted the attention of Dagenham & Redbridge who signed the 6ft 3in defender in May 2004. He made 83 appearances during his time at Victoria Road and helped the Daggers win the Conference title and earn promotion to the Football League in 2006/07.

Keith KEANE

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, Keith Keane went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards. Another of the youth team who regularly appears for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level, he joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local

Claude GNAKPA



football, and has made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams. 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.

George PILKINGTON

George is an experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began 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.

Lewis EMANUEL

Lewis Emanuel arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2006 after deciding to leave his home town club Bradford City, the place where the defender started his career. Lewis is a pacy full-back but can also play on the left side of midfield, a position where he started on his league debut for the club. Lewis made over 150 appearances for Bradford in six-years at the club, scoring four goals.

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, who spent a short time on-loan at non-league side Walton & Hersham, made the breakthrough into the first team under former boss Mike Newell, when the Club was stretched to the limits through injury and suspension.

Freddie MURRAY

Murray is a left-footed versatile defender who joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009. Previously with Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United Freddie began his career as a trainee with Blackburn Rovers.

Alan WHITE

Alan is an experienced centre half who re-signed for the Hatters nine years after leaving Kenilworth Road. Darlington-born Alan started his career with Middlesbrough. However, with first team opportunities limited at the Riverside, Alan jumped at the chance to sign for the Hatters in September 1997 for £40,000. After 98 appearances in Luton colours, Alan left Kenilworth Road in 2000, joining Colchester United on a free transfer. Four years at Layer Road came and went before he spent one

season-spells at Leyton Orient, Notts County and Boston United. He signed for home-town team Darlington at the start of the 2007/08 season and went onto make 85 appearances for the Quakers before joining the Hatters for the second time in the summer of 2009.

MIDFIELDERS

Andy BURGESS

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. Andy started his career at Nene Park, coming through the ranks to become a regular in the Diamonds' team. 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.

Adam NEWTON

Ascot-born Adam agreed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road following his release from Brentford. Predominately used as a right winger, the pacy wide man is equally as comfortable at right-back. Adam started his career at West Ham United, coming through the Hammers' respected academy at Upton Park before signing for Peterborough United in May 2002.

Ross JARVIS

Ross 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. He spent loan periods at Torquay United and Rotherham United and joined Luton Town in August 2008 on a free transfer.

Asa HALL

Asa is capable of playing in midfield or defence. He began his football career in Wolverhampton Wanderers youth system, before signing his first professional contract with Birmingham City in 2004. He received caps for England at Under-19 and Under-20 levels and went on to have loan spells with Boston United, Ashford Town and Shrewsbury Town.

FORWARDS

Ryan CHARLES

An energetic striker, Ryan has made a huge impact at Kenilworth Road since making his debut in 2007. Charles, who

has been at Kenilworth Road since the age of nine, had worked his way through the ranks at the Club before scoring 17 goals in his debut season for the Luton Town youth team.

Tom CRADDOCK

Originally a defender, Tom developed into a promising forward who has done well at youth and Reserve team levels with Middlesbrough. He joined the Hatters on-loan from the Riverside in October 2008. An £80,000 bid was accepted by Middlesbrough and Tom signed a two-and-half year contract in January 2009. He has previously spent spells on loan with Wrexham and Hartlepool United.

Liam HATCH

The 6ft 3in Striker signed for the Hatters on a season-long loan from Peterborough United in June 2009. Hatch started his career with Herne Bay before a move to neighbours Gravesend & Northfleet in 2001. A successful spell at Stonebridge Road saw him transferred to Barnet for £17,500 where he helped the Bees to promotion to the Football League with 11 league goals in the 2004/05 campaign. His form at Underhill alerted the attention of Peterborough United who paid £150,000 for the striker's services. With first team opportunities limited at London Road Hatch was sent on-loan to Darlington during the 2008/09 campaign.

Steve BASHAM

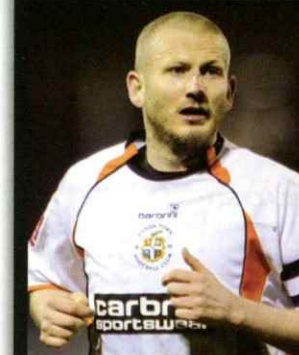
Steve is an experienced striker who joined the Hatters on a one-year deal in August 2009 following his release from Exeter City. The forward began his career with home-town club Southampton but only made one start during his time at the Dell. Basham was sent on-loan to Wrexham and Preston North End and, following a second successful spell at Deepdale, he signed permanently for the Lancashire outfit for £200,000 in the summer of 1999. However, after making 61 appearances – and winning a promotion with North End in 2000 – he signed for Oxford United in August 2002. Basham scored 43 goals in 139 league starts at the Kassam Stadium. Steve moved to Exeter City in 2007. After winning promotion again last season from League 2, he was released from St James Park this summer after making 27 league starts and scoring seven goals.

Star Men

Kevin GALLEN



A Shepherds Bush native, Gallen established himself as something of a legend at QPR. He notched up over 400 appearances and hit 97 goals for the R's in two spells spanning nearly 14 years. Gallen joined Huddersfield 2000 and after 10 goals in 30 starts for the Terriers, Gallen moved across Yorkshire to join Barnsley the following summer, but the call of West London saw him return to QPR within a few months. He scored nine goals in 16 league starts for MK Dons before joining Luton on loan. After a successful loan spell Gallen joined permanently in January 2009.



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. 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. He moved to Leeds United for £700,000 in July 2006 and was made club captain by then boss Dennis Wise. He moved to Preston North End for a fee of £750,000.



We've met before

A look back at some of the key games between the two teams.

Today is the 33rd time that we've played Luton, and the Hatters just have the upper hand with 14 wins to Oxford's 11. The average home attendance for these meetings is 7,477 with 11,121 at the only time the sides have previously met at the Kassam Stadium, on Boxing Day 2001. Luton won that game 2-1 after the sides had drawn 1-1 at Kenilworth Road eight years ago today.

The sides have been involved in some epic encounters, especially during the Glory Years when they met eight times in the three seasons United were in the top flight. These games included the astonishing 4-7 defeat at Luton in February 1988 and the two legs of the Littlewoods Cup semi-final that same season. Our pictures show Dean Saunders winning and then converting United's penalty in the first leg, which ended 1-1.

Unfortunately Luton cruised through in the second leg as United failed to recapture the form that had seen them beat Manchester United in the quarter final (Gary Briggs and Saunders again on the scoresheet).

However, Oxford supporters will more readily recall the excellent 3-2 win at Kenilworth Road on 5 May 1987 that ensured United's survival from relegation.

Oxford stormed into a 2-0 lead after 22 minutes thanks to headed goals from Dean Saunders and Trevor Hebbard. United then defended gallantly for the next hour, denying fifth-placed Luton any goal attempts. Seven minutes from time Mike Newell converted a Gary Cobb cross following a free kick to reduce the arrears. Then, with just



two minutes remaining, future Oxford player Mark Stein headed home a Darron McDonough cross. If the scores remained level Oxford would have to beat Leicester in their final game to stay in the top flight.

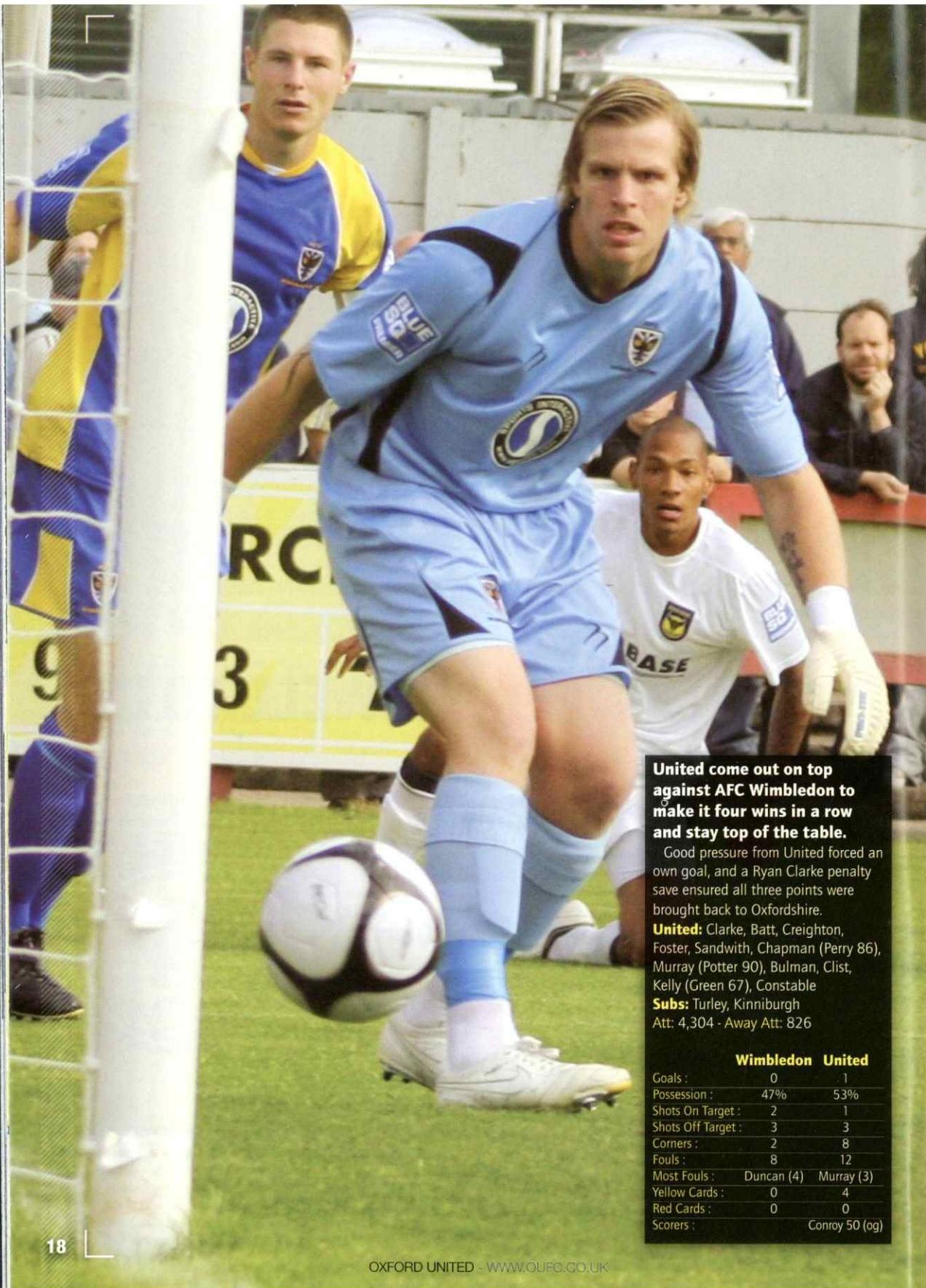
However, in the final minute of stoppage time, John Dreyer, on as a substitute for Les Phillips, crossed from the left wing and Saunders headed into the goal to secure survival. The winner was greeted by near silence by the 8,917 crowd, as only a few Oxford supporters had managed to get past Luton's ban on away supporters (see page 63 for a hands on account of the evening). This was Oxford's first away win for three months. United: Hucker, Langan, Slatter, Phillips (Dreyer), Briggs, Caton, Rhoades-Brown, Saunders, Trewick, Hebbard, Brock.

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United come out on top against AFC Wimbledon to make it four wins in a row and stay top of the table.

Good pressure from United forced an own goal, and a Ryan Clarke penalty save ensured all three points were brought back to Oxfordshire.

United: Clarke, Batt, Creighton, Foster, Sandwith, Chapman (Perry 86), Murray (Potter 90), Bulman, Clist, Kelly (Green 67), Constable

Subs: Turley, Kinniburgh
Att: 4,304 - Away Att: 826

	Wimbledon	United
Goals :	0	1
Possession :	47%	53%
Shots On Target :	2	1
Shots Off Target :	3	3
Corners :	2	8
Fouls :	8	12
Most Fouls :	Duncan (4)	Murray (3)
Yellow Cards :	0	4
Red Cards :	0	0
Scorers :		Conroy 50 (og)

AFC WIMBLEDON 0 v OXFORD UNITED 1

Saturday 29th August 2009





A frustrating afternoon for the Yellows as the visitors' stubborn defence keeps United at bay.

The point is good enough to keep Oxford top of the league.

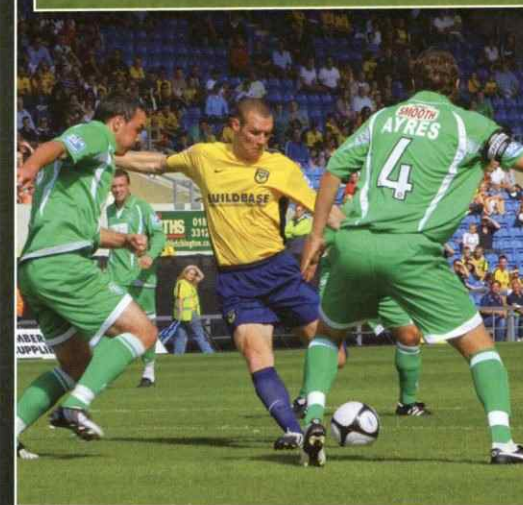
United: Clarke, Batt, Creighton, Foster, Kinniburgh, Murray, Bulman, Clist, Potter (Chapman 78), Green, Constable

Subs: Turley, Perry, Sandwith, Kelly
Att: 6,338 - Away Att: 146

	United	FGR
Goals :	0	0
Possession :	53%	47%
Shots On Target :	4	4
Shots Off Target :	7	5
Corners :	9	1
Fouls :	9	11
Most Fouls :	Constable (2) Challinor (3)	
Yellow Cards :	1	4
Red Cards :	0	0

OXFORD UNITED 0 v FOREST GREEN ROVERS 0

Monday 31st August 2009



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ON THIS DAY



Tuesday 8 September 1970

Mark Stewart Watson was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He joined Oxford, after a brief trial, from Swedish side Östers IF in December 1988, making his first appearance on 19 December against Stockport County. Watson was a Canadian international centre-back who won 12 of his 78 caps while at Oxford. Watson's last game was on 24 April 2000 at Bristol City, after which he fell out with manager Denis Smith in a club against country dispute. After leaving Oxford Watson played a couple of games for Oldham before returning to North America where he played for DC United and then Charleston Battery. Watson was responsible for the arrival of goalkeeper Pål Lundin, whom he recommended to United after playing with him in Sweden.

Saturday 8 September 1979

Oxford beat Reading 4-0 to go second in the table and leave the Biscuitmen at the foot of the Third Division. Paul Berry put United ahead with a header from a Ray Graydon cross. Graydon scored twice, the second a penalty after Joe Cooke had been fouled by Chris Sparks, and David Fogg scored the other goal, beating Steve D'earth with a left-footed drive. The attendance was 5,905. This is United's best win over their Berkshire rivals. This was United's third meeting with Reading already this season, having lost in both legs of the League Cup first round in August.

Saturday 8 September 1984

Oxford beat Wimbledon 3-1 at Plough Lane to go sixth in the table in their Division Two championship winning season. The win established a new club record of 16 unbeaten League games, and meant that Oxford had remained unbeaten longer than any of the other 91 Football League teams. Bobby McDonald broke the

deadlock in the 61st minute with a 35-yard free kick and John Aldridge scored United's second with an unstoppable shot. Kevin Brock scored Oxford's third goal.

Sunday 8 September 1985

Luke James Foster was born in Mexborough, South Yorkshire. He joined Oxford from Stalybridge Celtic, having been released by Lincoln, after his father had written a letter to Jim Smith requesting a trial for his son. Foster impressed in a reserves match against Luton in February 2007, and signed before the month was over after United made a seven-day approach to Stalybridge. Foster made his debut on 13 March 2007 against Kidderminster, and by the end of the 2008-09 season had played over 90 games for the Yellow, scoring twice. The previous season Foster won both the Players' Player of the Year and the Supporters' Player of the Year awards. He was called up to represent the England C team, playing against Bosnia & Herzegovina in September 2008.

On This Day: Written by respected official Oxford United historian Martin Brodetsky and published in October, *Oxford United: On This Day* (192 pages, priced £9.99, published by Pitch Publishing) tells the story of the Us' unique and eventful history. With individual diary entries for every day of the year, plus multiple listings on busier dates, it is full of United heroes (and villains) and tells the tales of the matches and the characters, the promotions and relegations – indeed, all the events, however big or small, that have helped make Oxford the club it is today. From its foundation in 1893, its rise from local football into the Southern League, its name change from Headington United, and its climb to the top flight and the Milk Cup final victory in 1986, all the major events, and many lesser known episodes, are featured. *Oxford United: On This Day* is available from the Oxford United club shop, all good bookshops, and can be purchased online at: www.oufc.co.uk and www.amazon.co.uk

WHO'S BEST...

This season Oxford fans have been debating the merits of players from different eras via the fans' forums on www.oufc.co.uk.

This week's hot topic has been two strikers who between them played over 200 hundred games for the Yellows, scoring over 100 goals in the process.

Paul Moody was a towering and skilful striker who enjoyed two spells at Oxford, scoring 24 goals for the team that won promotion in 1996 to what is now the Championship and returning during our first season at the Kassam Stadium.

Steve Biggins was a cult hero in the successful mid-80s United team and also scored 24 goals in a promotion winning team - this time in 1983/84.

Fact File...

Paul Moody

Born: 13-06-1967

Total appearances: 148 (Plus 49 as substitute)

First time started game: 26-02-1994 against Nottingham Forest

Last time started game: 20-04-2002 against Darlington

Total goals: 75

Highest in one game: 3

Braces: 5

Hat-tricks: 5

OTHER CLUBS

Southampton, Reading, Fulham, Millwall, Aldershot



Steve Biggins

Born: 20-06-1954

Total appearances: 62 (Plus 19 as substitute)

First time started game: 14-08-1982 against Reading

Last time started game: 25-09-1984 against Blackburn Rovers

Total goals: 28

Highest in one game: 3

Braces: 3

Hat-tricks: 1

OTHER CLUBS

Hednesford Town, Shrewsbury Town, Derby County, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Port Vale, Trelleborg FF, Exeter City, Telford United, Worcester City


[Home](#)
[News](#)
[Match](#)
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[Tickets](#)

What the fans said...

yellowmagic

No Question about it has to be Moody all the way. Ask me to name the all time best strikers for Oxford, it would be way down the list before I named Biggins.

martin_b

Yep. Moody all the way. Biggins never struck me as a natural goalscorer, and you could never imagine him scoring some of the strikes that Moody managed (that dribble at Cardiff, that piledriver against Burnley...). I also saw Biggins playing for Exeter against Cambridge a few years after he left us, and he contrived to miss an open goal from two yards out in the centre of the goalmouth, slicing wide. I could never imagine Moody doing that!

dukklar

Has to be Moods at every level. Both as a natural finisher and as a fans' favourite.

daddymoos

Yep its gotta be Moods for me too.. only saw biggins play a few times and although he was OK, he didn't have the desire or all round battering ram effect that Moody had! Plus he gets bonus points for the celebration at the Wycombe game! We have had many strikers at the club but Moods will always be fondly remembered...

duanedibley

I remember Moody's first game for us...he came on and shot wide. "Not got a right foot" I said to my mate.....few minutes later another effort hits the London Road faithful.... "Not got a left foot either"Header over the bar "Can't head the ball as well...we've got a right one here" ...and then he went off with cramp... "Oh dear" ...Little did we know that on that day a legend was born...The hat-tricks, the goals the power and the glory... and who can ever forget the celebration at Wycombe...arise Sir Moody.. I'll get my coat

One other thing springs to mind was when Jemson had a moan at our Moods in front of the London Road...His face was a picture when the London Road to a man chanted Moody Moody Moody...If old big mouth had a tail it would have been firmly between his legs as he ran off

mrboots

OK.. as the finished article Moods has to win hands down (Wycombe ..excuse the pun) ..however .. I will never forget Biggins goal against Man U.

The ball seemed to hang in the air for an eternity before going in followed by mayhem in the London Road ... pure magic!!

And for those that moan about a bit of yellow smoke at some of our recent games ... the two smoke bombs let off in the London Road that night were so dense I could not even see my mate standing next to me and was very nearly sick gasping for air after after leaping about like a headless chicken so acrid was the smell !!

If any of you still have footage of the game, you can see the yellow smoke billowing out from under the roof of the stand.

HAPPY DAYS!!!

Who was the best? Paul Moody or Steve Biggins

Paul Moody 88%

Steve Biggins 12%



United stayed on top of the table on Saturday thanks to two goals in two minutes from Matt Green and Simon Clist.

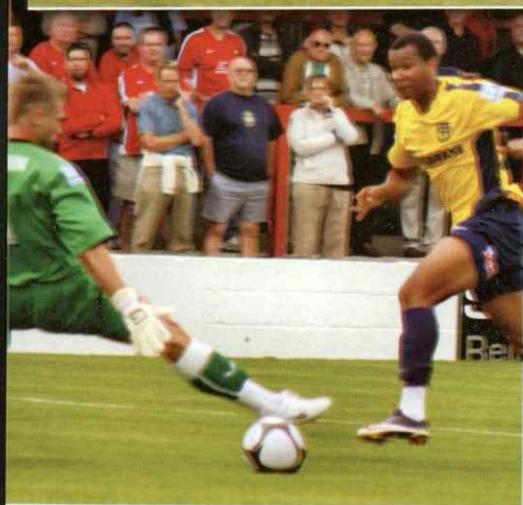
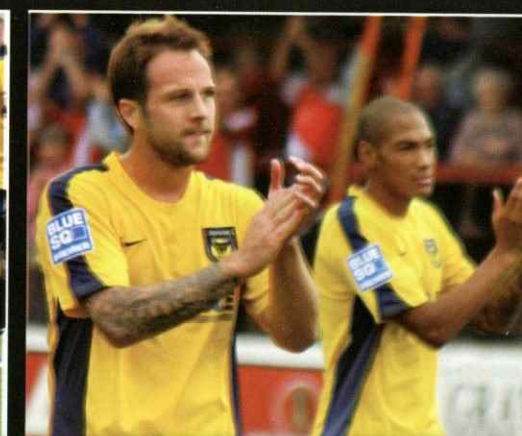
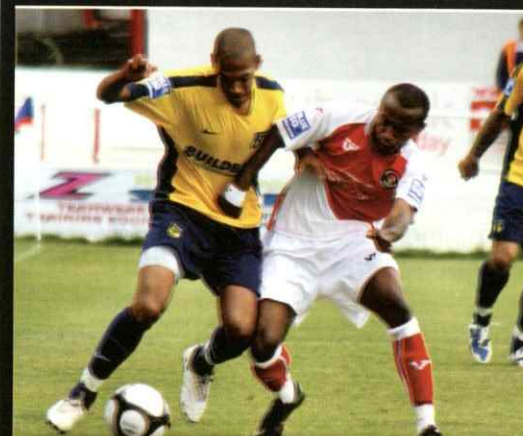
United: Clarke, Batt, Foster, Creighton, Kinniburgh, Murray, Bulman, Clist, Green (Chapman 89), Constable (Midson 78), Cook (Sandwith 85)

Subs: Turley, Potter.

Att: 1,468 - Away Att: 506 -

EBBSFLEET UNITED 0 v OXFORD UNITED 2

Saturday 5th September 2009



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Interest in the 50/50 Draw continues to grow with over £1,000 won in over 25% of the games last season.

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We are launching the restaurant for the home game on the 19th September 2009 v Eastbourne Borough, a 2 course meal will be £9.50 for adults. We have a new menu this season which is based around good football food.

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MATCHES TO REMEMBER - 1953/54

1963-64 Oxford United 3 Blackburn Rovers 1

(FAC 5th round) 15 February 1964

Most people expected that United were to be handed a lesson by Blackburn, who were second in the First Division at the time of this match.

Instead, it was a day when the underdogs not merely overcame, but outsmarted and for lengthy periods outclassed and outplayed their more illustrious opponents, six-times winners of the trophy and strongly fancied to reach the Final again this season.

Apart from a short spell just after they scored midway through the second half, Blackburn were made to play second fiddle and look second rate to opponents who sensed in the opening minutes that victory was a strong possibility.

United's opening goal by Tony Jones in the 14th minute provided the springboard, and Blackburn were totally incapable of checking the home team's unquenchable spirit and endeavour. Whenever Blackburn tried to increase the pace and impose themselves on the game, they found United one step ahead of them, and there were long periods when the visitors seemed completely bewildered by what was going on around them.

Blackburn's policy was immediately obvious: to feed Bryan Douglas. However, United were anticipating this and often two and sometimes even three or four men were in position to mark him; seldom can the former England

winger have suffered such a frustrating afternoon. In the end it was not so much a case of Oxford watching Douglas, as Blackburn watching Jones, who was playing at inside left. Jones easily managed to avoid challenges by Ronnie Clayton so that he was twice on hand to snap up half chances.

In a convincing team display, Maurice Kyle completely overshadowed the future England forward Fred Pickering, while Pat Quartermain crowned his splendid performance by determinedly fighting his way through on the left to provide the cross from which Bill Calder notched up Oxford's dramatic third goal on the stroke of time. Ron Atkinson's tackling was swift and strong, his distribution and control sure, not least when he swung the ball across for Bill Calder to lay on Jones's second goal. Calder began to get the better of centre half Mike England in the second period, and although Harry Fearnley was initially at fault when Blackburn scored, failing to clear a corner, this was his only slip, and he had a quiet afternoon compared with Fred Else, who was peppered with shots from all angles.

At the end, the Oxford fans showed their jubilation with an impromptu pitch invasion, carrying the players shoulder high from the field. In their short history as a professional football club, United had just achieved the pinnacle of their success to date.

Oxford United: Fearnley, Beavon, Quartermain, Atkinson, Kyle, Shuker, Knight, Longbottom, Calder, Jones, Harrington.



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A Chat With...

Jamie Cook came home last week after eight seasons away from his hometown club. Jamie played 77 times for the U's before leaving for Boston in 2001, but couldn't hide his delight at returning to The U's:

"I am still buzzing about it and can't wait to get started. I'd like to think I am a better player than when I left. I am certainly more experienced now, a little bit wiser, and hopefully still as quick and sharp!"

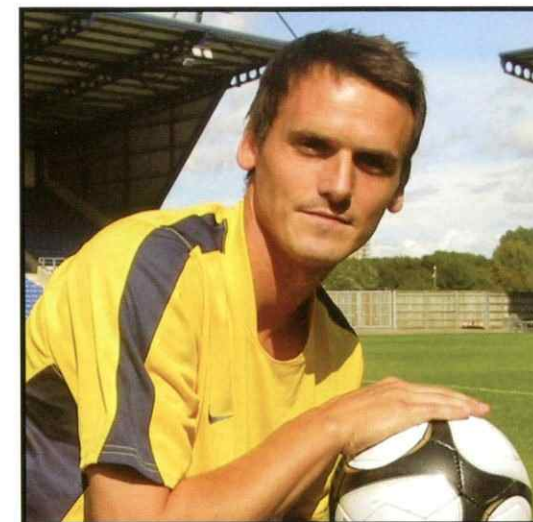
Would you have left Crawley for anybody else?

"No. I got the opportunity from the Gaffer at Crawley to see if I could find another club. There was only one I wanted to speak to, and only one I did speak to. It was either Oxford or stay where I was.

"I was a schoolboy here for a couple of years then did my YTS at The Manor from 16, then four years as a pro so I probably did ten years that first time. I scored my first ever goal at Maine Road, for Oxford against Man City which is one of the best memories of my career. Hopefully I can come back and get a few more goals."

In the last few seasons Jamie has regularly scored goals against The U's:

"I have found a knack of scoring, not just against Oxford! The goal I scored against them at Crawley two seasons ago was probably the best I've ever scored. I hope I can score



more goals like that for them now.

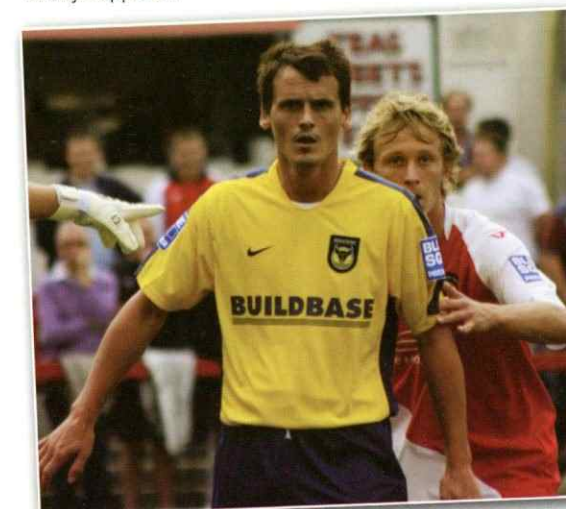
"I'm hoping the fans will support me. I will give them 100% and hopefully that will help the club towards its goal of promotion. I know I will boost the gate because about 100 of my friends and family want to come to the Luton game on Tuesday!"

Jamie's career has not all been plain sailing and at one stage he turned his back on football to try and become a professional golfer. Was there ever a time when he thought his footballing days were over?

"It crosses your mind. I had great support from family and close friends and they made me realise then that football was the way to go, and that I am a good footballer. It went from there and I have improved as a player from that day forward. It was worth doing. With hindsight I wish I hadn't but it has improved me as a person and as a player so it has all helped."

Jamie is looking forward to playing in front of a big crowd this evening:

"It's exciting to be back playing in front of the Oxford fans and those sorts of crowds. I can't wait. I have wanted this to happen for a long time and I'm chuffed that it has finally happened."





Oxford United



Handwritten signature and the number 4.

ON THE SPOT

Name:

Adam Murray

Date of Birth:

30th September 1981

Star sign and does it matter?

Libra, and no it doesn't.

What jobs do your mum and dad do?

My mum works for W H Smith, but I've no idea what my dad does as I've never seen him.

Rate your ability at the following

(1 is best, 5 is bad)

Darts	5
Snooker	5
Golf	5
Bowling	5
Tennis	5

Last book you read?

The Sun

TV series you'd recommend?

Entourage.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, two kids.

Can you cook?

Yes.

SPORTS FILE

Were you always going to be a footballer?

Yes.

Which team did you support as a kid?

No one.

Favourite other sport?

None. Golf is rubbish.

Is there a sport you just can't get to grips with?

Golf, cricket, fishing.

LEISURE TIME

If you had to appear on reality TV which show would you go on?

Big Brother. I'd be awesome.

Do you own any slippers?

No way!

What is the Dharma initiative?

A curry.



Is there ever a reason to go to IKEA?

Yes, for the free coffee refills.

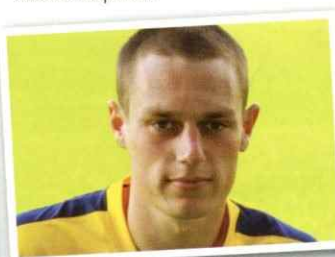
TEAM MATES

Cleverest?

Sam Deering.

Um, not the cleverest...

Adam Chapman.



Joker

We have lots, Billy, Bully and Kevin. In fact 90% of the squad are weirdos.

Vainest

Billy!

Fastest

Me

Fittest

Bully

Last to the bar?

Billy

A future Manager

Me



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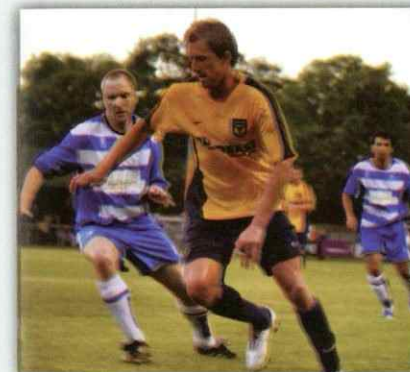
TREATMENT TABLE

I am pleased to report that it has been another quiet week or so in the treatment room, with only Rhys Day in regularly and everyone else in full training.

Rhys is doing very well after his knee problem and at the end of last week he started some straight line running, which he will do at varying speeds over the next few days. We will then try and move him from the gym to the training pitch and start to build everything up.

This is the functional rehabilitation phase where we will try to recreate the movements on the pitch which players actually go through. It's not often that they are running straight during a game, it's more about twisting and turning, and this phase of rehab is all about building the exercises up, placing a little stress on the knee and getting full mobility again. I would say that Rhys is right on track at the moment, possibly a little ahead of schedule if anything, and he should be back in full training in around two weeks time.

The only other player who we were treating was Jack Midson who came on at Ebbsfleet on Saturday and played fifteen minutes with no reaction. He said he felt fine and with no soreness after. Jack is back in full training and will be available again tonight.



One development to report on is the use of weights in training. We have introduced some power exercises, such as squats and power cleans, which are all about explosive strength. We aren't rushing into things and will build this up slowly because you need the technique as well to really progress. So far the results have been good, and it's all about that explosive power that you need in a game.

I have to say that we are very fortunate to have the Bicester Sports Association facilities where we can spread out and work on this properly, and to have the gym facilities just over the road at the Bicester Golf and Country Club has been excellent as well. We thank them for the use of the facilities.

Jon Brown

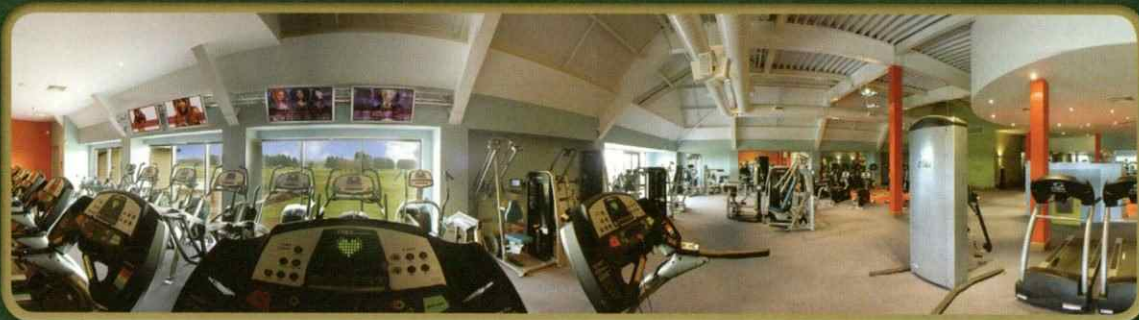


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New Faces...

Steve Kinniburgh and Ross Perry

How was the journey down Steve?

Not too bad, we left late at night and arrived in Oxford about 2am, the traffic wasn't too bad.

You are a long way from home and it is a big challenge for you?

Yeah, it is a big challenge for me, probably the biggest of my career. We'll just see how it goes. We're here until Christmas and we'll hopefully do well.

Were you part of the pre-season game between Oxford and Rangers?

Yes, that was our first pre-season game and we had a lot of preparation before it with running and the like.

We do have some good players in our squad and the standard at this level is quite high...

Yes, as soon as you get over

the border to England it's a lot different from the football in Scotland. Playing for Rangers as one of the bigger teams there's a lot of passing and movement, but a lot more teams play like that in England.

Steve tell us about Ross

He's good in the air and a good tackler, a typical central defender. If it's Ross' ball he'll be there. He's also got a turn of pace that he's developed in the last couple of years! Nothing gets by him to be honest.

Ross - What do you know about conference football?

Being honest, not a great deal, but I know it's a good standard. We've been told by the coaches that it's better than the first division in Scotland, which is the level the boys have previously been out on loan to. I'm just looking forward to it.

Tell us about Stevie. What kind of player is he?

He's a good footballer who likes to play football. I've been surprised how he's improved his heading this season. He's good on the ball and likes to get forward, but is also a good defender as well.

What are your goals for your time here?

To get games and get experience. Our situation in Scotland is that our reserve league at our level has been scrapped so there's no guarantee of getting regular games. At this stage of our careers we need to be getting consistency, playing every week and improving.

How long have you been at Rangers?

Since I was twelve, I've been professional for four or five years and am at that stage where I need a new challenge to keep my career progressing, particularly with the reserve league now gone.



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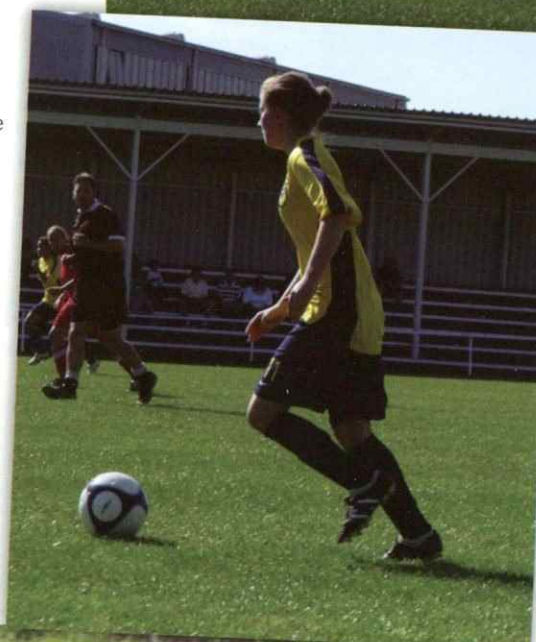
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OXFORD LADIES

Oxford United Ladies new season in the Southern Region Premier started with defeat at the hands of Shanklin Town Ladies as United struggled to get to grips with their new league.

After an excellent pre-season all the ladies hard work was undone as Shanklin hit Oxford with two quick goals coming within the first 10 minutes of the match. From here it was always going to be an uphill struggle, but the ladies clawed their way back into the match and were undoubtedly having their best spell of the match when Shanklin hit the killer blow. After possession broke down in the middle of the pitch, Town pumped a long ball over the top. United all waited for the flag for offside, but it never came and a sure finish from the Shanklin striker made it 3-0 going into the half-time break.

The Oxford players, unhappy with their performance knew they needed to show the management they were better than this and started the stronger of the two sides in the second half. With the defence looking more assured and the midfield creating chances it was United that had the first real chance of the second half. Lauran Spraggs' run down the right wing left the Shanklin keeper unsure whether to stay at home or come out leaving



her doing neither and Spraggs was able to lift the ball over her. Unfortunately for Oxford, luck was not on their side. The covering defender, just getting to the ball before it crossed the line, sliced her clearance, but only onto the bar and away to safety rather than into the net.

United buoyed by that chance created another one on one chance shortly after, but a great save from the keeper saw the ball roll passed the post for a corner. At 3-2 it might have been different, but as it was Shanklin hit back again with two similar goals in the last 15 minutes making the final score 5-0. A scoreline that flattered the away side,

but United will have to work harder if they want to get anything from this league.

An unhappy introduction, but maybe one that will spur the ladies on in the coming weeks.



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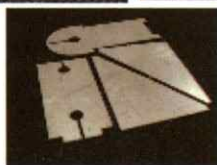
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GIRLS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



After an excellent pre season the girls centre of excellence started their season on Saturday 5th September with an away journey to Gillingham FC.

With the centre now entering its third successful year it has gone from strength to strength moving from Oxford Community to the first team training ground (BSA) at the start of last season and also setting up a complete pathway for girls football for ages eight upwards. The pathway now includes U10-16 centre of excellence football, U19 British Colleges Academy football, Girls Thames Valley football and also Ladies Southern Region Premier football which is a massive boost for football in Oxfordshire.

It's not just off the pitch where things have improved. Last season Sadie Mansell of the U16 squad was chosen to represent Wales U17s in three international matches and the U16s Centre of Excellence squad has also had success with eight of the U16s progressing to play in the Ladies team who got promoted back into the Southern Region Premier division for the

2009/10 season.

With these eight girls progressing into the academy and ladies setup and with a new season starting this has meant new faces needed to be brought in. Oxford United girls centre of excellence held three successful trial dates at Tilsley Park over the summer with the standard of player once again improving. Oxford United would like to welcome to each age group:

U10s-

Alice Ford
Molly Ripley
Jessica Hawkins
Ella Dawkins
Harriet Talbot
Katie Miller
Kate Maddox
Niamh Sames

U14s-

Hannah Godin
Hayley Bennett
Katie Hoare
Amy McDonald

U16s-

Lindsay Pinker
Jemma Young
Bianca Lee
Jemma Petty
Sophia Lee
Natasha Jones

U12s-

Georgia Timms
Sarah Harrison
Ellice Rourke
Rosie Anderson

As well as on the field Oxford United girls centre of excellence would like to welcome Chris Loves and Leon

Blackmore-Such to its coaching staff. Chris who works for the Football in the Community department and has done for many years now has been given the role of U10s assistant.

Leon will be working with the U14s and is an ex Oxford United Centre of Excellence player so his knowledge and experience will be valuable to the setup. For further information please visit our new web site www.oxfordunited-yc.co.uk.

Sadie Mansell gets International call up

Following a successful call up in the 08/09 season Sadie Mansell has once again been called up to represent her Country. Sadie who was born in Wales represented Wales in three international U17 fixtures last season has now been called up to the squad for their game against Belgium at the National Centre, Tubize, Nr Brussels.

Sadie who plays central midfield for our U16s side is only 14 so to be chosen to represent the U17 national squad is an excellent achievement and Oxford United would like to wish her all the best.



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OXFORD UNITED YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST

Good evening and
welcome to you all.

Jamie Cook To Help

We have a new soccer course running in WITNEY at the Windrush Leisure Centre starting on Tuesday 15th September 4pm-5pm and great news - Jamie Cook will be there for the first two sessions helping me out with the coaching. If you're aged 4-11 and you want to join us get an application form from us, we have limited spaces on all our courses so book early to avoid missing out.

Charity game

Next Sunday we the coaches will be playing in the annual match at Tilsley Park Abingdon against a team from Radley Athletics Club, kick-off is 12 noon so if you want to support please come, there is a BBQ after with fun horse racing too.

Player of the Month

Our lovely Dorothy Calcutt is still presenting her marvellous hamper to the player of the month, and this season we also have Allsports Trophies giving a



keepsake trophy to the player too. So thanks to both for their support.

Welcome

Sitting over in the North Stand in the Luton Section I'd like to welcome Marcus.

He lives very close to me in Witney, enjoy the warm up, enjoy the noise and I hope that's all you enjoy tonight, but welcome haha.

New Ollie the Ox

We have a new outfit, and a new sponsor, Sean Bradford Decorating 01865 247752 or www.bradforddecorating.co.uk. I hope you like Ollie with his make over...

U'sMASCOTS



Calum Walters is eight years old and attends St Joseph's Primary School in Headington.

He enjoys football, swimming, movies, trampoline and violin.



Ashley Thompson is also eight and attends Marsh Gibbon CE School.

He enjoys playing football, watching football and riding his bike and his favourite player is James Constable



ON THE ROAD

After visiting close to 150 different grounds with United we finally find a stadium which is new to the web team.

Kingsmeadow is home to Kingstonians and, funnily enough, is in the middle of Kingston, south West London. Kingston is a nice part of town, home to advertising execs, minor celebrities and a myriad array of panini bars. In the early autumn sunshine it looks very picturesque as we cross the River Thames and start to look for the ground.

It has only taken an hour or so to get to the ground despite the usual detour as we try to get around the snarling M25. We are indebted to David Williams for his driving skills, and our old friend Sat Nag for getting us well and truly lost yet again. In the back of the car photographer Darrell Fisher is nursing two broken fingers, suffered in the line of duty at our last away game. A wayward shot from one of our (unnamed) strikers, was heading straight for the lens until Darrell tipped it away, saving his camera but



leading to three hours in casualty and his wedding ring being sawn off of his swollen digit!

I have to be honest, I'm in hysterics when we stop at lights and Darrell sticks the camera out of the window to snap a sign on The Old Kings Head which says 'Husband crèche: leave him here while you shop'. It's not the sign that make me laugh, it's the 'crack' as Dave drives off at a vital moment and Darrell's bandaged fingers catch the top of the window.

Still smiling we find our way to the ground up a long straight road and enter the official car park. It is free and consists of a wide field next to the main stand. It is like a, very, mini Twickenham, with home fans playing keepy uppy among the cars and others enjoying a picnic. The Oxford fans are enjoying a pint or two in the sunshine and all is well with the world.

We are pointed in three directions by three different stewards but finally find the stand and a very helpful press officer called Lawrence guides us to our seats. We are to the left of a single tier main stand with cheerful red plastic seats and the main offices and dressing rooms. To our left runs a low terrace behind the goal which houses the superb away fans. If you would like a reference point then it reminds me of a slightly developed Didcot or Aylesbury United. Nicely presented and with a beautiful playing surface to boot.

There is a refreshment bar with a young lady who has floury baps, which I have with two sausages and bacon. Very nice.

I chat to some of those fans across a low fence until an over eager steward asks me to move round to the away end. I am happy to do this. I chat for thirty seconds then the very same steward comes round to our side and says 'you can't stand here'. 'My good man' I reply, 'you placed me here not half a minute

ago' 'Well you'll have to move' he says, now jabbing an angry finger at me. Sensing there is no point in arguing I move on, and this is where our story takes a turn for the worse.

In the loo I am much relieved, when my brother in law appears on my left. Bear with me, he is a Wilson and for years I have always called him by an abbreviation of this. 'Hello Willy' I say cheerily. I now recognise that this is not the best thing to say at a urinal, and can only apologise to the startled looking man to my right.

Back in the safety of the stand I resume my seat and watch as the two low terraces for home fans fill up. There is good home support and that is heartening to see after everything the club has been through. Usurped by Franchise FC, left to scrap for their very existence by the authorities, I am happy to see them flourishing once again. My mind drifts back to top flight games at Plough Lane against Wimbledon; Steve Biggins scoring there, Billy Whitehurst doing the same a few years later.

Under much changed circumstances the two teams meet once again and it is a fine display of attacking football. Luke Moore on Wimbledon's backhand wing

catches the eye but we repel all they can throw at us and even the appearance of a giant Womble at half time can't spoil our enjoyment. There is even a plastic beaker full of what we think is tea to refresh us.

The mascot is either underground or overground, but almost certainly wombling free when four minutes into the second half we score the opener. Damian Batt crosses low and Conroy nips in front of Adam Murray to convert into his own net. Lovely. Our fans go wild while the players work out who scored and who they are supposed to jump on under these circumstances.

We need a hero, and a few minutes later it turns out to be Ryan Clarke. Batt touches a striker on the shoulder and he tumbles to the ground. It's a penalty. The ball is thumped to Clarke's right but he throws himself full length to push the ball away and maintain the lead. The womble hangs its head in despair and begins to dream of life on the common with Orinoco, Tobermory and George Michael.

Wimbledon keep pressing but it is the Yellows who should wrap it up in the seventh and eight minutes of the six minutes of injury time. Dannie Bulman, James Constable and Matt Green all do the footballing equivalent of another Wimbledon favourite, smashing the ball long with the whole court open. But we forgive them because everyone has played their part and another three points are in the net. Yes, that Wimbledon pun was intentional. Sorry

A more than satisfactory first visit, packed full of own goals, penalties and unintentional soliciting. A win always makes the world seem better but Wimbledon are on the way up again and it is nice, as a true football fan, to see that. A hospitable club and a grand day out all round.



COMING SOON

Eastbourne Borough



Date: Saturday 19 September Competition: Blue Square Premier Kick-Off: 3.00pm



Garry Wilson returns for a second visit to the Kassam Stadium with his team who lie in 12th position in the Blue Square Premier after seven games played.

Their squad includes two former United players with midfielder Danny Brown and Simon Weatherstone among their ranks.

Weatherstone left full-time football to allow him to work with his brother Ross in their Soccer School business.

Our meeting here at the stadium last term with BSP newbies Borough in only the third game of the season saw an incredible see-saw match with United eventual 6-3 winners in front of just short of 4,000 spectators. Two goals from Constable, a rare strike from Hutchinson, one from Reid (who left shortly afterwards), an even rarer goal from Barry Quinn plus an own goal secured the three points for The Yellows.

'The Sports' as Eastbourne Borough are known, finished a creditable thirteenth last term in their first season at this level with 18 wins and six draws to their credit.

Our full record against The Sports is shown below:-

Manager	Season	Competition	Venue	Result	Score
Chris Wilder	2008/09	Conference	Away	Won	3-0
Darren Patterson	2008/09	Conference	Home	Won	6-3
Brian Talbot	2005/06	FA Cup 1r	Home	Won	3-0
Brian Talbot	2005/06	FA Cup 1	Away	Drew	1-1

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Crawley Town, Tuesday 29 September, Blue Square Premier, Kick-off 7.45pm

Grays Athletic, Saturday 10 October, Blue Square Premier, Kick-off 3pm

Altrincham, Saturday 31 October, Blue Square Premier, Kick-off 3pm

Rushden and Diamonds, Boxing Day 26 December, Blue Square Premier, Kick-off 3pm

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm except Fridays preceding Saturday Home matches when the closing time will be 6pm.

AWAY TRAVEL

Wrexham



Date: Saturday 12 September Competition: Blue Square Premier Kick-Off: 3.00pm

Venue: Racecourse Ground, Mold Road, Wrexham, LL11 2AH

Admission prices:-

	In Advance	On the day
Adult	£14	£17
Over 65	£10	£12
Aged 16-21	£10	£12
Under 16	£5	£5

To book call 01978 262129 or on line

www.ticketlord.com/wrexham.htm

Please note that there is a booking fee of £1 per order. Oxford United have not been sent any tickets for this game.

Wheelchair users phone 01978 351332 to book.

Directions

Travel by car and parking: -From the South: Take the M54 from the M6 (Junction 10A Northbound). Follow the M54 to the end of the motorway and join the A5 towards Shrewsbury.

Continue on the A5 past Shrewsbury

and Oswestry and then join the A483 towards Wrexham.

Stay on the A483 as you reach Wrexham (this is the Wrexham by-pass). Leave the A483 with at the junction of the A541 Mold road. The ground is 300 yards from this junction (on the A541) towards Wrexham town centre.

If you arrive early (around 1-1.15pm) there is some street parking to be had, on the other side of the road from the car showroom by the Turf Pub. Otherwise there are a couple of private car parks, charging in the region of £2, including NEWI on the Plas Coch Retail Park.

By Rail: Wrexham General station is located next to the ground.

Pubs:

There is one pub right on the corner of

the ground at the Kop End called 'The Turf'. It is a Marstons pub which does allow in away supporters, but only in small numbers. The favoured pub for away fans is the Plas Coch, which is located past the ground going away from the town centre, near to the Sainsbury's Petrol Station. It is about a five-minute walk away from the stadium.

Otherwise the town centre is about a ten-minute walk away, where there are some good pubs to be found.

Away supporters should avoid both the Barracuda Bar and Wetherspoons'.

London Road Club

Fares: Adult £18, junior £15.

Departs:

Stadium: 9.15am

Ice Rink: 9.30am

Mansfield Town



Date: Tuesday 22 September Competition: Blue Square Premier Kick-Off: 7.45pm

Venue: Field Mill, Quarry Lane, Mansfield, NG18 5DA

Admission prices:-

All areas of the ground:

Adults £16 - Over

65/Students/Under 16s £8

Wheelchairs users need to telephone 08707563160

London Road Club

Fares: Adult £16, junior £13

Departs: Stadium 3.30pm

Ice Rink 3.45pm

Directions

Travel by road: -Leave the M1 at Junction 28, take A38 to Mansfield and after 6.5 miles turn right at the crossroads into Belvedere St, then turn right into Quarry Lane.

Parking: Parking at the ground at a cost of £2. Otherwise it is street parking.

Travel by train: -The ground can be seen from Mansfield railway station, which is no more than ten minutes walk away. The station is on a local line and is served with trains from Nottingham. To get to the ground from the station; Leave the station and turn left along the dual carriageway, (away from the town centre), you should see a retail park on the right. Go straight ahead at the first set of traffic lights, along Portland Street and then right at the next lights and into Quarry Lane. The ground is a short distance down this road on the right hand side.

Please note that for mid-week matches the last train leaves from Mansfield - Nottingham at 9.45 PM and the last train leaves from Mansfield - Worksop at 9.38 PM. Check times before travelling.

Pubs:-

'The X-Bar (Cross Bar)' at the ground, located under the West Stand, welcomes away support, although there is a £1 admission charge. 'The Talbot' on the Nottingham Road (A60) near to the Sainsbury's Supermarket also serves food and has big screens showing televised football and is about a five minute walk away from the ground (just go along the Nottingham Road in the opposite direction to the town centre). Opposite the Talbot is the 'Il Rosso', an upmarket wine bar with Big Screen TV.

The Sir John Cockle pub is on the A38 going into Mansfield from the M1 serves good food.

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER ROUND UP

Saturday's BSP action included goals, goals, and more goals as the season starts to worm its way into its normal routine with the likes of Rushden and Cambridge looking like strong contenders after big wins.

First of all we will start with tonight's visitors, Luton who like Oxford, remain unbeaten despite a disappointing 1-1 draw with Salisbury. The Hatters took the lead through Kevin Gallen after he finished Adam Newton's well-timed pass but Salisbury battled hard and were rewarded for their efforts as Matt Tubbs found the back of the net. As the game wore on the Whites continued to fight away and they nearly found a winner through Luke Ruddick but he fired over.

Big win number one comes from up north where Rushden crushed Barrow 6-1 away from

home. The visitors opened the scoring through former U's striker Craig Farrell and then doubled it thanks to Cliff Akurang. Former Woking man Matt Pattinson then got his name onto the score sheet before Andy Bond pulled a goal back for the home side. After that there was no sign of a Barrow comeback with Farrell netting again and Neil Cousins and James Reid rounding off an impressive afternoon for Rushden.

Big win number two came at the expense of FGR as their battling display here last week didn't seem to work against a rampant Cambridge side. Danny Crow opened the scoring for the U's before Chris 'goal machine' Holroyd made it 2-0. Crow and Holroyd then completed their braces before Sam Ives also scored twice and Mark Beasley made it seven. This emphatic victory means Cambridge now sit in the play-offs whereas FGR are still second from last.

There were no more thumping victories last weekend but Chester's 2-0 victory over Histon

big win number one comes from up north where Rushden crushed Barrow 6-1 away from home

must have felt pretty good as they have now recorded their first win of the season. Kevin Roberts and Nick Chadwick ensured the home side got all three points as Histon continue to struggle on.

Elsewhere and Grays and Mansfield drew 1-1 meaning Oxford are now three points clear at the top of the table. Jake Speight headed the Stags into the lead after the visitors had dominated the first half but the hosts managed to snatch a goal after former Oxford man Jamie Slabber rose high to head the ball home. Mansfield had chances to win the game but Luke Jones wasted two headers (that bell must have been ringing in his ears) and Grays keeper Lee Butcher performed miracles to keep the ball out of the net.

Moses Ashikodi was the star man for Kettering

Moses ASHIKODI



as he scored one and made another in his side's 2-0 victory against Altrincham. Kettering took the lead after Ashikodi curled his effort into the top corner and then a minute later Francis Green finished off Ashikodi's through ball. Dale Johnson had the best chance for the away side

Kidderminster suffered a shock 2-0 defeat at home to Eastbourne as their poor start to the season goes from bad to worse.

but the fact that he failed to beat keeper Lee Harper means that Altrincham are slowly slipping down the table.

Kidderminster suffered a shock 2-0 defeat at home to Eastbourne as their poor start to the season goes from bad to worse. The Aggbrough crowd were left frustrated for most of the match and things were made worse after Nathan Crabb and Jamie Taylor fired passed Dean Coleman to earn the visitors their first away win of the season.

AFC Wimbledon battled back from 2-0 down to earn a well deserved point away to Tamworth thanks to their star man Dannie Kedwell. Tamworth took the lead through Jake Sheridan after he found the bottom corner of the net before Nick Wright doubled the lead. Then the comeback started. Kedwell headed home Sam Hutton's cross and then finished off a similar ball from Chris Hussey to maintain the Dons excellent start to their BSP campaign.

Crawley's week didn't get any better as after losing Jamie Cook to Oxford as they were beaten comprehensively by York. Richard Brodie scored for the fifth time this season after winning and then converting the penalty and then set up former Ebbsfleet forward Michael Gash to give City their third win in a row.

Tonight's round-up ends on a sad note as the match between Gateshead and Hayes & Yeading was abandoned after 75 minutes because of a serious injury to Gateshead midfielder Martin Brittain. Brittain was taken to hospital where it was revealed that he had broken his leg.

Neil COUSINS



BLUE SQUARE PREMIER

Team of the Week
following the games on Saturday 5th September:

		X Butcher (Grays)	
X Batt (Oxford)	X Dempster (Kettering)	X Geohagen (Kettering)	X Meynell (Chester)
X Pattinson (Rushden)	X Clist (Oxford)	X Ashikodi (Kettering)	X Crow (Cambridge)
	X Kedwell (AFC Wimbledon)	X Holroyd (Cambridge)	

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I was the only one who liked...

PAUL KEE

with Brian Grace

During my first few seasons as an Oxford supporter I was privileged to watch some excellent goalkeepers appear for the Yellows.

There was Ken Veysey, a shot stopper par excellence who was our Mr Dependable, Paul Reece, who made agile and athletic saves, and Phil Whitehead who commanded the area, marshalled the defence and turned in a number of outstanding performances.

There was also Paul Kee, Northern Ireland's first-choice keeper at the time – an international, at Oxford – but who, during his four years at the Manor, was never more than second choice for Oxford.

During the 1990/91 season Kee played in every one of Northern Ireland's games and during the 4-1 defeat by Yugoslavia in March 1991 he is reported to have gone to his gloves' bag, pulled out a white handkerchief and waved it.

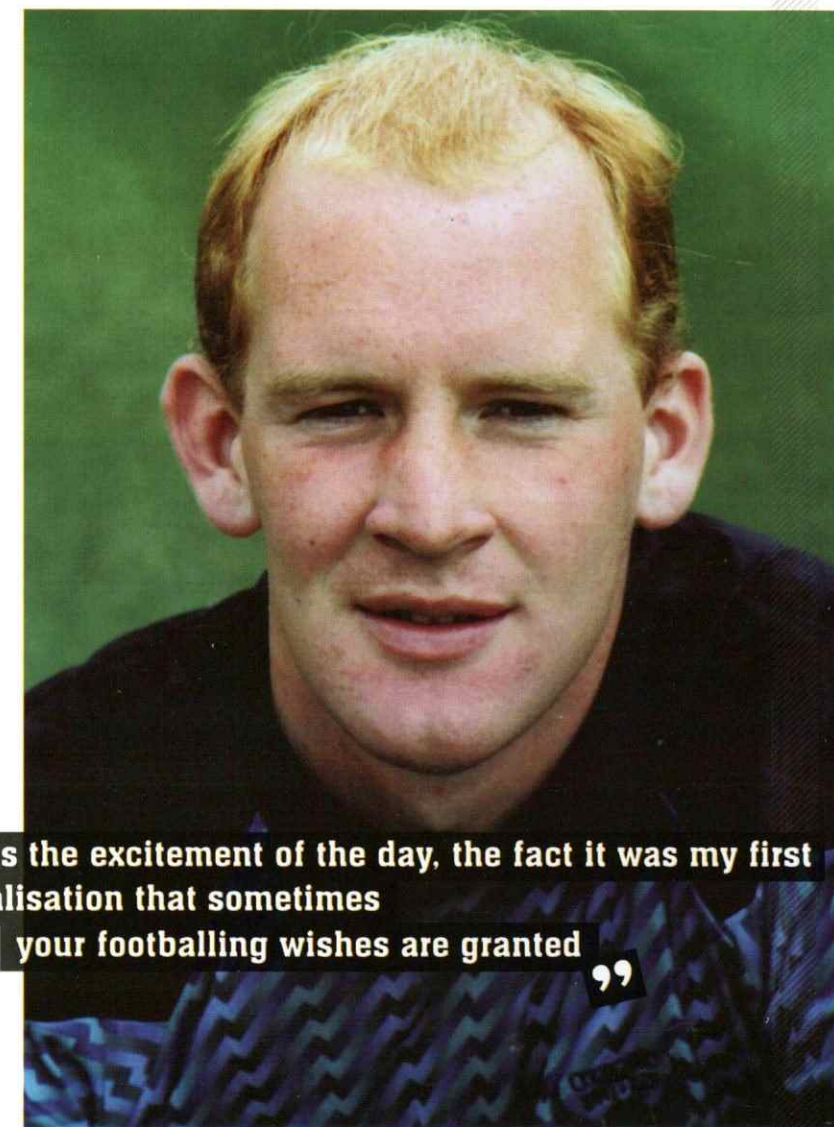
But then, any player who comes in and out of the side to play the odd game will, in my opinion, always be hindered by a lack of match practice and familiarity with teammates. When that player is a goalkeeper those hinderances are magnified. I have wondered how Paul Kee would now be considered by Oxford fans if he had been given a run of games in the team, or given the No.1 jersey when Ken Veysey left. Perhaps there was a reason why he wasn't.

Kee made 67 appearances, keeping a clean sheet on 13 occasions, a return of just over 1:5

“ Maybe it was the excitement of the day, the fact it was my first away trip and the realisation that sometimes your footballing wishes are granted ”

games. Veysey kept 17 in 67, just under 1:4, Reece kept 12 in 45, just under 1:4 and Whitehead kept 70 in 238 appearances, just over 1:3. But this is where statistics can hide the true impact of a player on the game. In one of the most crucial games in Oxford's history he played what can only be described as a blinder.

Needing a win away at Tranmere at the end of the 1991/92 season to stand any chance of staying in the first division (now Championship) Kee was named in the team to face a successful Tranmere who had a certain John Aldridge leading the attack for them. It was also my first away game. The match was one where the whole team had to play out of their skins, and looking back it was a strong



team that included Andy Melville, Jim Magilton, Gary Bannister and Mickey Lewis along with goalscorers Joey Beauchamp and John Durnin. Of course those two goals were crucial to Oxford staying up, but also crucial were the number of outstanding saves made by Paul Kee, including one from Aldridge that was arrowing in to the top left hand corner before Paul leapt to his left to palm the ball over for a

corner. At that moment, with the other results going our way, it was obvious we were destined to stay up.

Maybe it was the excitement of the day, the fact it was my first away trip and the realisation that sometimes your footballing wishes are granted, but I always wished Paul Kee well and wanted him to perform out of his skin every time he played for the Yellows.

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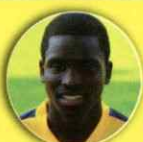
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Daniel WEST

Date of Birth: 29th March 1993

Place of Birth: Oxford

Where you live now:

Thame

Position: Centre Midfield

Age when you joined Oxford

United? 9

How did you get spotted?

Local football

Which boys clubs did you play for? Thame

Biggest influence on your career other than your parents: Has to be my Dad, watching him play

Footballing hero? David Beckham



YOUTH TEAM



Les Taylor, Youth Team Manager

Bournemouth 1 United 2

Saturday 29 August

"This was our first win of the season and fully deserved against a Bournemouth side who were top of the league before kick-off and who beat a strong Plymouth side 5-2 the week before.

On a slightly bobbly pitch but in decent conditions we switched the system a little to a 4-5-1 formation. Niall Hodgkins is normally a striker or winger but we switched him to right back and we asked James Dobson to sit in front of the back four in midfield to allow Dan West and Sam Parish to get forward.

It took a while to adjust and

Bournemouth took advantage of that to open the scoring after just seven minutes. They then hit the post on 15 but credit to the lads who stuck to the system and stuck together and we started to get a foothold in the game and start to impose our own game.

Aaron Woodley was a constant threat up front, a hard role to play on his own, and he got his reward with the equaliser after half an hour.

From that moment I thought we dominated the game, certainly so in the second half when we played all the football. Deservedly, we took the lead with a well worked goal that saw Niall Hodgkins get the ball to Connor



Sam PARISH



Aaron WOODLEY

McDonagh and his ball was converted by Sam Parish for what turned out to be the winner.

Aaron Woodley might have made it 3-1 with ten minutes to go but missed out when one on one with the keeper, but at the other end we defended very well. Cole Hinchliffe stepped up from the under 16s and played the full 90, and his under 16 teammate Jack Ross partnered him at the back from just after the hour when Henry Owen had to go off. It was very encouraging to have those two step up to an under 18 game and do well

United: Silver, Hodgkins, Owen (Ross 65), Hinchliffe, Likita, Dobson, McDonagh, Parish, Bowerman (Alderman 85), Woodley

On Saturday we travelled to Swindon in the league cup, full report in our next programme."

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE and CUP — UNDER 18'S

Date	Opposition	
SAT 22ND AUG	BRISTOL ROVERS H	2-4
Sat 29th Aug	AFC Bournemouth A	2-1
Sat 5th Sep	Swindon (Cup 1) A	1-1
SAT 12TH SEP	BOURNEMOUTH (Cup 2) H	
Sat 19th Sep	Free week (Cup 3)	
SAT 26TH SEP	HEREFORD UTD (Cup 4) H	
Sat 3rd Oct	Cheltenham Town (Cup 5) A	
SAT 10TH OCT	CHELTEHAM TOWN H	
Sat 17th Oct	Exeter City A	
SAT 24TH OCT	SWINDON TOWN H	
Sat 31st Oct	Swansea City A	
Sat 7th Nov	Cup Round 2	
SAT 14TH NOV	YEOVIL TOWN H	
Sat 21st Nov	Plymouth Argyle A	
Sat 5th Dec	Hereford United A	
SAT 12TH DEC	TORQUAY UNITED H	
Sat 16th Jan	Cup Round 3	
Sat 23rd Jan	Bristol Rovers A	
SAT 6TH FEB	AFC BOURNEMOUTH H	
Sat 13th Feb	Cheltenham Town A	
Sat 20th Feb	Cup Semi-Final	
SAT 27TH FEB	EXETER CITY H	
SAT 6TH MAR	SWANSEA CITY H	
Sat 13th Mar	Swindon Town A	
Sat 20th Mar	Yeovil Town A	
SAT 27TH MAR	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE H	
SAT 10TH APR	HEREFORD UNITED H	
Sat 17th Apr	Torquay United A	

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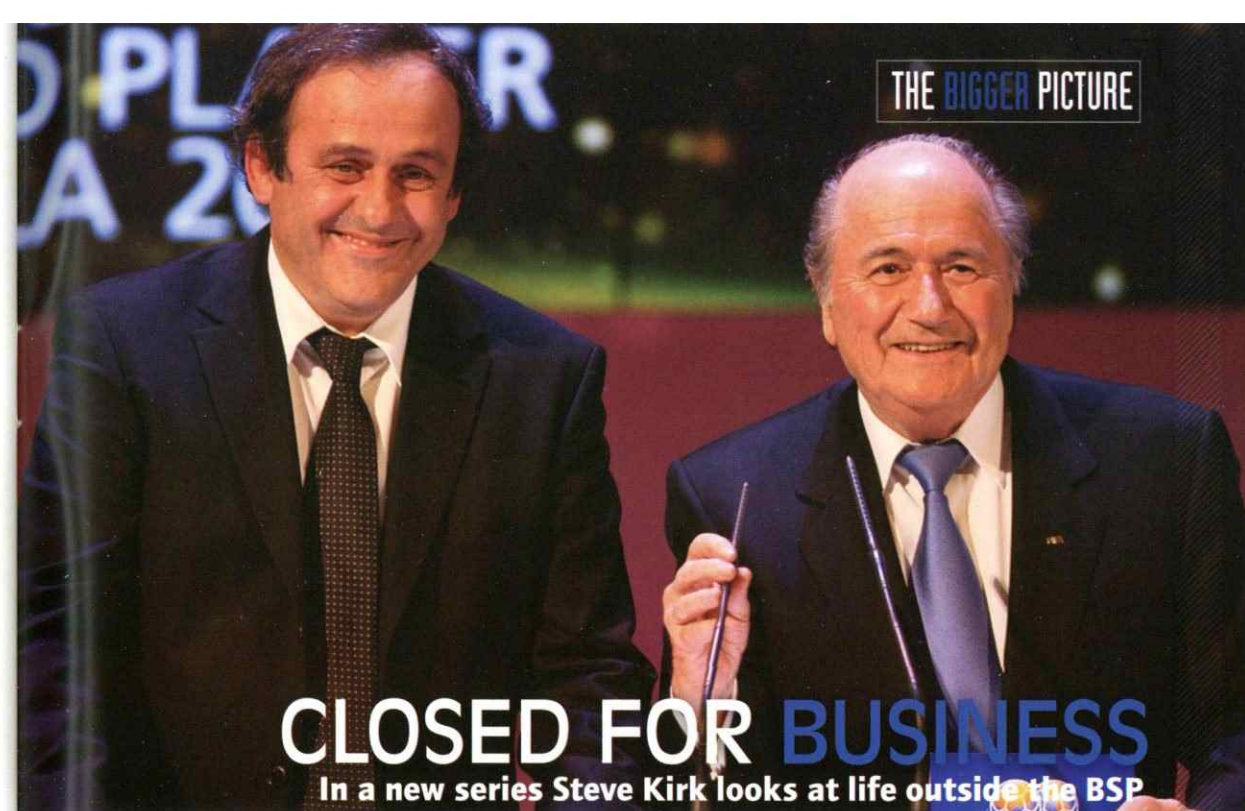
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So that's it, the transfer window is now closed until January 1st. We should all check on the children – not stolen by Chelsea? Good. It's time then to look back on another exciting summer of wheeling and dealing.

They say everyone can remember where they were when they first heard life-altering news stories. The fall of the Berlin wall, the death of the 'King of Pop', the Dudley earthquake are just a few examples of such pivotal moments in our society. I know I'll never forget where I was when news broke of West Ham's double coup of Javier Mascherano and Carlos Tevez (I was sitting behind a desk in Wellington). I had to make a cup of tea and take five to fully absorb it.

Last summer we had the deadline day capture of Robinho to add a bit of excitement to our muesli and morning paper. This year however was a little different. Once the dust had settled on Ronaldo's media-shy move to Real Madrid there wasn't all that much to get us going (other than the spending spree at Eastlands). Having been underwhelmed by a largely uneventful deadline day we were all left with one eye already on January.

But the best transfer news was yet to come. Having just spooned a mouthful of pasta into my mouth in

the work staffroom Sky Sports News broke the story that Chelsea had been banned from making any transfers until 2011. The pasta returned to the plate and carpet as I let out a shocked, nervous laugh. This sort of news is usually reserved for April the 1st. Until then, like many others I hadn't really even heard of Kakuta, let alone that Chelsea were up to their eyes in trouble for him.

It's not the first time Chelsea have found themselves in trouble for their ethics in the transfer market. Mikel was taken from under the noses of Manchester Utd, Mourinho found himself in bother for 'tapping up' Ashley Cole and Chelsea had to settle out of court with Leeds United over approaches made to some of their youth contingent. Tut, tut!

UEFA President Platini is now said to be fast-tracking new rules on the signing of all under-18 talent. This would mean that any player under the age of 18 would no longer be allowed to transfer. This will protect clubs from suffering a similar fate to Lens when Chelsea nabbed Kakuta. In the spirit of competitiveness it seems unfair that the super-rich can rob talent from clubs

nobly trying to 'grow their own'. The excitement wasn't all reserved for the upper echelons of the Premier League. Just ask the Notts County fans. Not only have they secured the services of a little known Swede called Sven, they've also talked ex-England rock

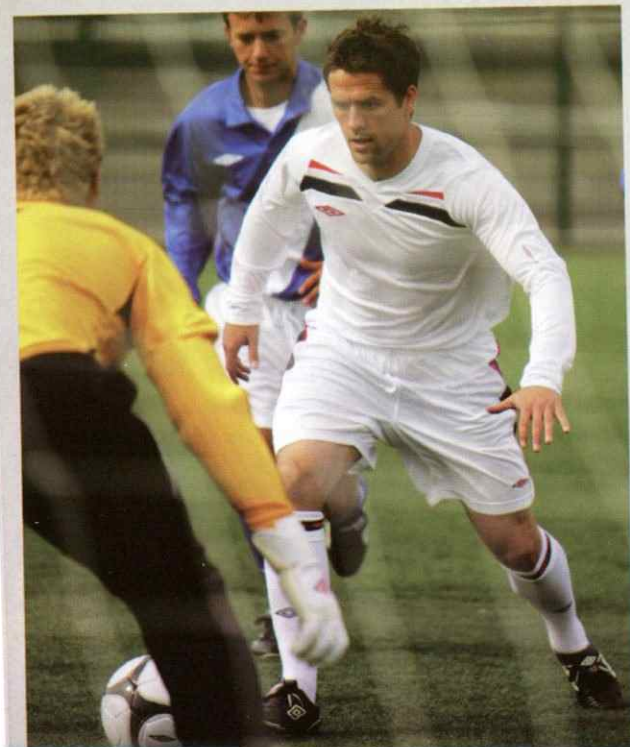
Sol Campbell into donning a black and white jersey and a baby Schmeichel to watch over the goal. My sources tell me that even Lionel Messi is now considering a move to

"Once the dust had settled on Ronaldo's media-shy move to Real Madrid there wasn't all that much to get us going until..."

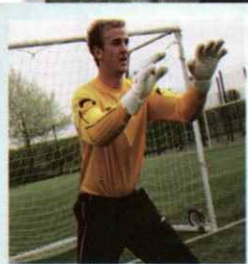
Meadow Lane in January.

I'll leave you to mull over your summer transfer highlights. Meanwhile I'm heading to the local under 14s side to make sure no one steals any of our up and coming talent.

Alberto Aquilani - Roma to Liverpool (20m)
Cristiano Ronaldo - Manchester Utd to Real Madrid (80m)
Emmanuel Adebayor - Arsenal to Manchester City (25m)
Michael Owen - Newcastle to Manchester Utd (Free)
Thomas Vermaelen - Ajax to Arsenal (10m)
Joleon Lescott - Everton to Manchester City (16m)



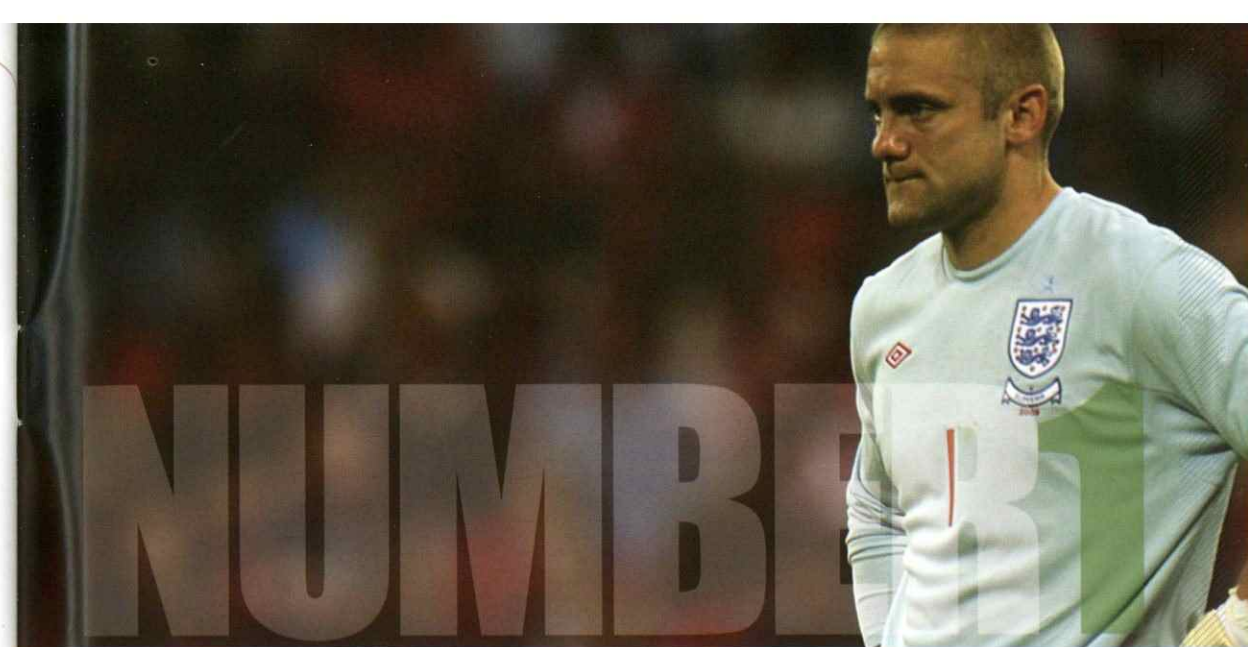
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With the World Cup in South Africa fast approaching many players this season will be hoping to cement their place in the starting line up for their respective national teams.

The position that really seems to be up for grabs more than any other in the England team right now is the number one jersey. No fewer than five goalkeepers stand a realistic chance of obtaining the shirt. David James has worn it most consistently but Robert Green has deputised recently. Ben Foster is currently starting for Man Utd and Joe Hart is first choice at Birmingham while Paul Robinson has had a resurgence of form under Sam Allardyce at Blackburn.

THIS WEEK WE ASKED BROTHERS LEW AND RUPERT FRYER ONE QUESTION: WHO IS YOUR ENGLAND NUMBER 1?

Lew - Although David James has been Fabio Capello's first choice since he took charge of the national team I have never felt comfortable with him in goal for England. He is in great shape and has phenomenal reflexes, especially considering his age, but I am always waiting for him to make one terrible decision. It only takes one to put your team out of a World Cup especially at the knock out stages when playing top class opposition. Robert Green is a very good keeper but not exceptional. Paul Robinson, although playing very well for Blackburn, will always feel the nerves for England after his previous errors, so for me; England's number one would have to be between Ben Foster and Joe Hart.

Rupert - Unless Ben Foster has an exceptional season in another successful Man Utd team, and manages to retain the number one spot at Old Trafford following Edwin Van der Sar's return from injury, I would completely rule him out of being my first choice England keeper. Like Richard Wright, Scott Carson and Chris Kirkland before him, he has failed to make any real impression in a number of seasons spent on loan to lesser clubs following his big move. He is just one in a long line of young English goalkeeping prospects who have failed to make the step up. He severely lacks the experience required to stand between the posts in a World Cup, as does Joe Hart, and like the aforementioned Foster, he will have to have a hugely successful season to even be considered. For me, it is between Robert Green and David James, with Paul Robinson, who was unfairly victimised for a freak occurrence in Zagreb, coming in as my third choice.

Lew - You seem to be forgetting the seasons Foster had at Watford where he helped them win promotion from the Championship and keep the score down on a regular basis in the Premiership. He was superb for them. I agree however that he will need to keep Van der Sar out of the side regularly if he is to stand any chance of becoming first choice for England and he has shown a few nerves already this

season at United. Robinson was unfairly treated for the goal in Zagreb but after that he was shot to pieces for England and you can not have someone lacking confidence in such a vital position. I've made my point about David James, his experience is important but not enough for the mistakes he is likely to make at important times. Hart proved to me what a match winner he can be in the Under 21 European Championship semi final against Sweden where, in my opinion, he won the penalty shoot out for England virtually on his own. He oozed confidence and completely out psyched the Swedes as well as scoring a penalty himself. He is a fantastic shot stopper, a big physical presence and is now beginning to really command his box. My three would be Hart, Green and James, with the latter for the experience he will be able to share with the other keepers. I think you can only have one young goalkeeper in the squad so there would be no room for Foster. Hart would be my first choice at The World Cup.

Rupert - I agree that we should take either Hart or Foster to the World Cup, maybe even both, depending on who has the better season with their clubs; but I think they would find being thrown straight into the first team very daunting, perhaps even overwhelming. I am still inclined, at this moment in time, to go with James. I know he is prone to the odd mistake, which is a lot more costly for a keeper than any other member of the team, but he has been able to successfully eradicate the regularity at which they used to occur during certain periods of his career. I really hope one of the others do step up, but I doubt Foster or Hart will be 'world-class' by next summer. I think that when it comes to selecting a keeper for your World Cup team, if there isn't much to separate them in terms of ability, then you go with experience.

Lew - We simply have a different view on who should be number one for England!

Rupert - It seems that way!

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OFF THE BALL

with Editor Chris Williams

It's funny how time changes your memories, but in my head there were only about a dozen of us at Luton that night.

Back in 1987 The Hatters operated a strict 'home only' policy, with no tickets for any away fans and a revolutionary new credit card season ticket system which rather put our own dog-eared raffle ticket books to shame. The rest of the scheme was rubbish but the tickets were nice.

The home fans only policy had generated so much debate that it almost put Luton's plastic pitch out of the headlines, but by May 5th it had become the only thing anyone in Oxfordshire was talking about. United needed points to stay in the top flight and on the Saturday they fluffed their big chance of a win with a 1-0 home defeat by Norwich. Maurice Evans's side could still reach safety, but needed points from the trip to Luton and the final game of the season at home to Leicester. Defeat in the first would make the second almost academic.

The problem was, nobody would be there to see it. It would be a hostile atmosphere and United would have no fans behind them.

Except that is, the Dirty Dozen from Thame....

Where I live is only 40 minutes from Luton and was obviously within the radius in which they would sell tickets. It was a bit nerve wracking, but by keeping my eyes on the ground and following a line of home fans I gained access and was amazed when the

first person I met on the other side of the turnstiles was my cousin! Then I saw a couple of other mates. They recognised a couple of others, and by kick-off time we were all standing together behind one goal. No colours, no singing, just nervous looks around us.

Then the team ran out and we had a problem. Everyone cheered Luton out.

to watch. Incredible.

And what a game. Trevor Hebbard and Dean Saunders made it 2-0. Two minutes to go and we concede to make it 1-2. Ninetieth minute and it's 2-2. There is bedlam all around us. Things are being thrown, fingers are pointing and 8,905 Luton fans are loving our discomfort. Then John Dreyer, wide on the left, swings in a

“ Things were thrown at us, our circle shrank inwards, and then as if by magic, a line of policemen formed

Except us. There was a shuffle of feet and faces started to turn on us. Then Oxford trotted out and we didn't join the boos. More shuffling. Some very red faces edging our way. And so, in these circumstances my mate Joff shouted something rude and unfurled the Union Jack with OUFC on it.

Now, I am a mild mannered man, but figured that if I ran away I would get picked off on my own, so I huddled into the middle of our gang as we stood in splendid isolation like Michael Caine at Rourke's Drift. Things were thrown at us, our circle shrank inwards, and then as if by magic, a line of policemen formed up around us. Obviously figuring it was easier to leave us where we were than to eject us they hemmed us in, faced outwards and left us

cross. I can still see the ball heading towards Dean Saunders and the twist of his neck to make it 3-2. ABSOLUTE BEDLAM. Twelve of us going wild while 8,000 people try and get at us. The feeling of absolute elation and near certainty that I was going to die, all in one moment.

United won and stayed up, and after a long wait we were allowed to leave the ground under police protection. I have never ever experienced such a high at a football ground and feel so privileged to have been there. Over the years I have met hundreds of Oxford fans who say they were there too. Did I just imagine it all? Were there other pockets of yellow around me? Who knows. All I know is it was a fantastic night and I can say with hand on heart; I was there...



League Table prior to Saturday's matches

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Oxford Utd	8	3	1	0	8	2	3	1	0	8	4	10	20
2. Mansfield	8	3	1	0	11	1	2	1	1	4	5	9	17
3. Luton	8	3	1	0	9	2	1	3	0	3	2	8	16
4. Kettering	8	1	2	1	4	3	3	1	0	5	2	4	15
5. Cambridge Utd	8	2	0	2	10	3	2	2	0	8	4	11	14
6. AFC Wimbledon	8	1	1	1	5	2	3	1	1	9	6	6	14
7. York	8	3	1	0	7	1	1	1	2	4	5	5	14
8. Tamworth	8	3	2	0	8	5	0	2	1	2	3	2	13
9. Rushden & D	8	2	1	1	7	6	1	2	1	8	4	5	12
10. Stevenage	7	2	1	0	6	2	1	2	1	4	3	5	12
11. Altrincham	8	1	2	1	4	4	2	0	2	5	6	-1	11
12. Eastbourne	8	2	1	1	5	4	1	1	2	3	5	-1	11
13. Salisbury	8	1	2	1	3	3	2	0	2	6	9	-3	11
14. Wrexham	7	2	1	1	5	2	1	0	2	3	3	3	10
15. Kidderminster	8	2	0	2	4	3	1	1	2	4	4	1	10
16. Crawley Town	8	2	1	1	6	6	1	0	3	1	9	-8	10
17. Barrow	8	1	1	2	2	9	1	1	2	4	6	-9	8
18. Histon	8	1	1	2	5	6	1	0	3	5	7	-3	7
19. Grays Athletic	7	1	1	2	5	8	0	2	1	2	3	-4	6
20. Hayes & Y	7	0	2	2	6	8	1	0	2	3	4	-3	5
21. Ebbsfleet Utd	8	0	1	3	2	7	1	1	2	3	8	-10	5
22. Gateshead	6	0	1	2	2	6	1	0	2	5	6	-5	4
23. Forest Green	8	0	0	3	1	5	0	1	4	3	16	-17	1
24. Chester	6	1	0	2	4	5	0	2	1	1	5	-5	-20

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday, 8 September 2009

Barrow v York, 19:45
Cambridge Utd v Altrincham, 19:45
Chester v Tamworth, 19:45
Crawley Town v Histon, 19:45
Ebbsfleet United v Rushden & D'monds, 19:45
Forest Green v Hayes & Yeading, 19:45
Kettering v Gateshead, 19:45
Kidderminster v Mansfield, 19:45
Oxford Utd v Luton, 19:45
Salisbury v Grays Athletic, 19:45
Stevenage v Eastbourne Borough, 19:45

Saturday, 12 September 2009

AFC Wimbledon v Cambridge Utd, 15:00
Altrincham v Crawley Town, 15:00
Eastbourne Borough v Chester, 15:00
Forest Green v Ebbsfleet United, 15:00
Gateshead v Salisbury, 15:00
Hayes & Yeading v Tamworth, 15:00
Histon v Kidderminster, 15:00
Luton v Barrow, 15:00
Mansfield v Stevenage, 15:00
Rushden & D'monds v Grays Athletic, 15:00
Wrexham v Oxford Utd, 15:00
York v Kettering, 15:00

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

Chester v Gateshead, 19:45

Saturday, 19 September 2009

Barrow v Forest Green, 15:00
Cambridge Utd v Wrexham, 15:00
Chester v Stevenage, 15:00
Crawley Town v Kettering, 15:00
Ebbsfleet United v AFC Wimbledon, 15:00
Grays Athletic v Altrincham, 15:00
Hayes & Yeading v Histon, 15:00
Kidderminster v Gateshead, 15:00
Luton OFF York, 15:00
Oxford Utd v Eastbourne Borough, 15:00
Rushden & D'monds v Mansfield, 15:00
Tamworth v Salisbury, 15:00

THE STATISTICS

Date	Opposition	Time	Score	Att	Away Att
Sat 8 Aug	York City	15:00	2-1	6,403	420
Tue 11 Aug	Kettering Town	19:45	1-1	2,240	1,018
Sat 15 Aug	Histon	15:00	4-3	1,433	789
Tue 18 Aug	Chester City	19:45	4-0	5,135	131
Sat 22 Aug	Stevenage Borough	15:00	2-1	5,775	224
Sat 29 Aug	AFC Wimbledon	15:00	1-0*	4,304	825
Mon 31 Aug	Forest Green Rovers	15:00	0-0	6,338	146
Sat 5 Sept	Ebbsfleet United	15:00	2-0	1,468	506
Tue 8 Sept	Luton Town	19:45	H		
Sat 12 Sept	Wrexham	15:00	A		
Sat 19 Sept	Eastbourne Borough	15:00	H		
Tue 22 Sept	Mansfield Town	19:45	A		
Sat 26 Sept	Gateshead	15:00	A		
Tue 29 Sept	Crawley Town	19:45	H		
Sat 3 Oct	Barrow	15:00	A		
Sat 10 Oct	Grays Athletic	15:00	H		
Sat 17 Oct	York City	15:00	A		
Sat 24 Oct	FA Cup 4Q				
Sat 31 Oct	Altrincham	15:00	H		
Sat 7 Nov	FA Cup 1				
Sat 14 Nov	Kidderminster Harriers	15:00	A		
Sat 21 Nov	Barrow	15:00	H		
Tue 24 Nov	Forest Green Rovers	19:45	A		
Sat 28 Nov	Cambridge United	15:00	H		
Tue 1 Dec	Crawley Town	19:45	A		
Sat 5 Dec	Ebbsfleet United	15:00	H		
Tue 8 Dec	Hayes and Yeading Utd	19:45	H		
Sat 12 Dec	FA Trophy 1				
Sat 19 Dec	Cambridge United	15:00	A/FAC2		
Sat 26 Dec	Rushden and Diamonds	15:00	H		
Mon 28 Dec	Salisbury City	15:00	A		
Fri 1 Jan	Rushden and Diamonds	15:00	A		
Sat 2 Jan	FA Cup 3				
Sat 9 Jan	FA Trophy 2				
Sat 16 Jan	Tamworth	15:00	H		
Sat 23 Jan	Grays Athletic	15:00	A/FAC4		
Sat 30 Jan	Wrexham	15:00	H/FAT3		
Sat 6 Feb	Kidderminster Harriers	15:00	H		
Tue 9 Feb	Luton Town	19:45	A		
Sat 13 Feb	Histon	15:00	H/FAC5		
Sat 20 Feb	Stevenage Borough	15:00	AFAT4		
Tue 23 Feb	AFC Wimbledon	19:45	H		
Sat 27 Feb	Chester City	15:00	A		
Sat 6 Mar	FA Cup 6				
Sat 13 Mar	Kettering Town	15:00H/FAT SF1			
Sat 20 Mar	Tamworth	15:00A/FAT SF2			
Sat 27 Mar	Gateshead	15:00	H		
Sat 3 Apr	Hayes and Yeading United	15:00	A		
Mon 5 Apr	Salisbury City	15:00	H		
Sat 10 Apr	Altrincham	15:00	A		
Sat 17 Apr	Mansfield Town	15:00	H		
Sat 24 Apr	Eastbourne Borough	15:00	A		

*OG

Starting XI

Clarke, Chapman, Foster, CREIGHTON, Sandwith^, Murray, Bulman, Clist, Kelly*, Constable, Midson*
Clarke, Chapman, Foster, Creighton, SANDWITH^, Murray, Bulman, Clist, Potter, Green, Midson*
Clarke, Chapman*, Foster, Creighton, Sandwith, Carruthers^, Bulman, CLIST, GREEN, CONSTABLE 2, Midson
Clarke, Batt*, Day, Creighton, Sandwith, Potter^, Bulman, Murray, Clist, CONSTABLE 3*, GREEN
Clarke, Batt, Day*, Creighton, Sandwith, MURRAY*, Bulman, Clist, Green, Constable, POTTER^
Clarke, Batt, Foster, Creighton, Sandwith, Murray*, Bulman, Clist, Chapman^, Constable, Kelly*
Clarke, Batt, Foster, Creighton, Kinniburgh, Murray, Bulman, Clist, Green, Constable, Potter*
Clarke, Batt, Foster, Creighton, Kinniburgh, Murray, Bulman, CLIST, GREEN*, Constable, Cook^

Substitutes

Potter*, GREEN^, Rhodes*
Constable*, Rhodes^
Batt*, Day^
Chapman*, Rhodes^, Kelly*
Foster*, Rhodes^, Chapman
Green*, Perry^, Potter*
Chapman*
Midson*, Sandwith^, Chapman*

Unused Subs

Batt, Day
Turley, Batt, Day
Turley, Murray, Potter
Turley, Foster
Turley, Midson
Turley, Midson
Turley, Kelly, Perry, Sandwith
Turley, Potter

TOTAL APPEARANCES 2009/10

	LEAGUE			CUPS			TOTAL			OUFC CAREER		
	Apps	Subs	Goals	Apps	Subs	Goals	Apps	Subs	Goals	Apps	Subs	Goals
1Billy Turley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	180	1	0
2Damien Batt	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	20	0	0
3Kevin Sandwith	6	1	1	0	0	0	6	1	1	15	4	2
4Danny Bulman	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0
5Luke Foster	6	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	93	5	2
6Mark Creighton	8	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	8	0	1
7Adam Chapman	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	25	4	2
8Adam Murray	7	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	1	78	1	11
9James Constable	7	1	5	0	0	0	7	1	5	55	2	31
10Jack Midson	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	0
11Simon Clist	8	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	2	22	0	5
14Marcus Kelly	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0
15Alfie Potter	4	2	1	0	0	0	4	2	1	4	2	1
16Rhys Day	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0
17Ross Perry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
18Alex Rhodes	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0
19Shane Killock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
20Sam Deering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	11	2
21Ryan Clarke	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0
22Steven Kinniburgh	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
23Chris Carruthers	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	38	5	0
24Matthew Green	6	2	4	0	0	0	6	2	4	23	6	14
25Jamie Cook	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	38	52	7

THE 12TH MAN UPDATE

Jamie comes home!

We reached a milestone in the 12th Man project this week when Jamie Cook became the first player to be signed with financial support from the scheme, following his deadline day transfer on a two-year deal from Crawley Town. A £5,000 cheque is being passed to the club. It's great that this has been achieved in just two short months.

Tim Rosser, spokesman for the 12th Man Fund, said:

"The 12th Man Fund is delighted to have contributed to Jamie's signing. He is a talented player with local roots who will add additional flair and creativity to our squad. We'd like to thank all the Oxford United supporters who have contributed to the fund to date and who have made this signing possible.

"We'd originally envisaged that we would only be in a position to assist Kelvin and Chris with squad strengthening in the January transfer window but thanks to the fantastic early response of our fan-base to our various fund raising ventures we are able to

donate a sum to the club immediately.

"The 12th Man fund will continue to grow over the coming months and some exciting further projects are planned. We encourage fans to continue to raise funds so we can aid the club to sign players of a similar calibre in the future.

Welcome back, Jamie and come on you Yellowos!"

Moving on

2,000 badges are now almost sold out; we'll get more, and new collectable items will shortly be announced. Keep an eye out in the matchday programmes to see if you are this month's 'Face in the Crowd'. If you are featured you will need to present your 12th man badge to club



reception to claim your prize - a football signed by the players.

Buckets for cash donations will be near the programme sellers today, all cash received will go into the fund so please make a small donation, or unload your loose change!

You can donate online, via the OxVox and OxKits websites, or send a cheque payable to 'The 12th Man' to 18 Harvest Way, Witney, Oxon OX 28 1EG. If you give £10 or more you will be entered into a draw at the end of 2009 for the prize of a day at the training ground to meet the players. Give £20 or more and you will also receive a year's free membership of OxVox.

The flag bearer package for £50 is well established and matches are booking up. Contact twelfthman@oxvox.org.uk (note spelling) for details.

Fund total

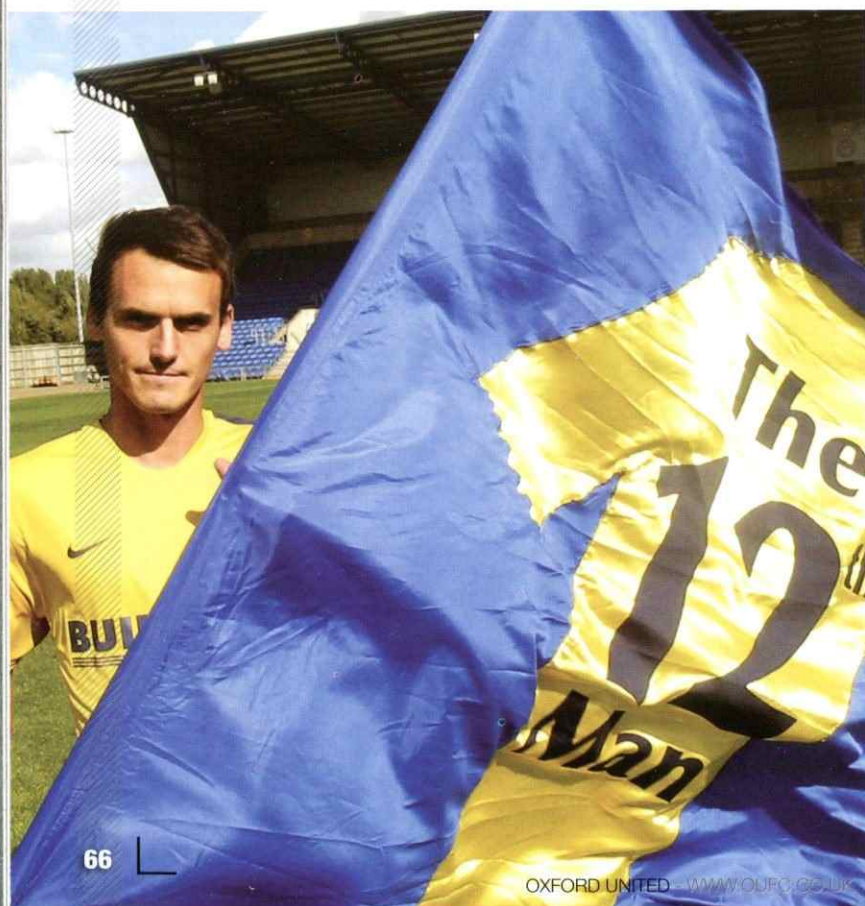
The amount raised so far is approximately **£5,500**. A precise total will be given next week when pending payments have cleared.

✓ Have an idea?

If you want to run an event or have a fundraising idea, do get in touch, via one of the fans' groups or via the email above. We'd love to hear from you.

✓ Information

We aim to keep the blog site at www.oxfords12thman.blogspot.com up to date with news - www.oxvox.org.uk, www.oxkits.co.uk and www.rageonline.co.uk carry information too.



Come on U yellowos!

supporting Oxford United



OXFORD MAIL

Oxford United

Manager: Chris Wilder - Colours: Yellow and Navy



		P	Gls		
1.	Billy TURLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Damian BATT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Kevin SANDWITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Dannie BULMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Luke FOSTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Mark CREIGHTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Adam CHAPMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Adam MURRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	James CONSTABLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Jack MIDSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Simon CLIST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	The 12TH MAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Marcus KELLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Alfie POTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Rhys DAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Ross PERRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Alex RHODES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Sam DEERING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21.	Ryan CLARKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22.	Steven KINNIBURGH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24.	Matt GREEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25.	Jamie COOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Luton Town

Acting Manager: Mick Harford - Colours: White



		P	Gls		
1.	Mark TYLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Lewis EMANUEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Keith KEANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Alan WHITE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	George PILKINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Adam NEWTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Kevin NICHOLLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Liam HATCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Tom CRADDOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Andy BURGESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Shane BLACKETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Shane GORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Asa HALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Jake HOWELLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Ross JARVIS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Ryan CHARLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Claude GNAKPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	Steve BASHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Kevin GALLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21.	Callum REYNOLDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22.	George DONNELLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23.	Freddie MURRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25.	George BEAVAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Referee: B. Malone - Assistant Referees: P. Hobday, M. Bingham - Fourth Official: R. Lovegrove MBE

Next Home Fixture: Eastbourne Borough, Saturday 19th September, Blue Square Premier, 3.00pm

