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versus

LUTON TOWN

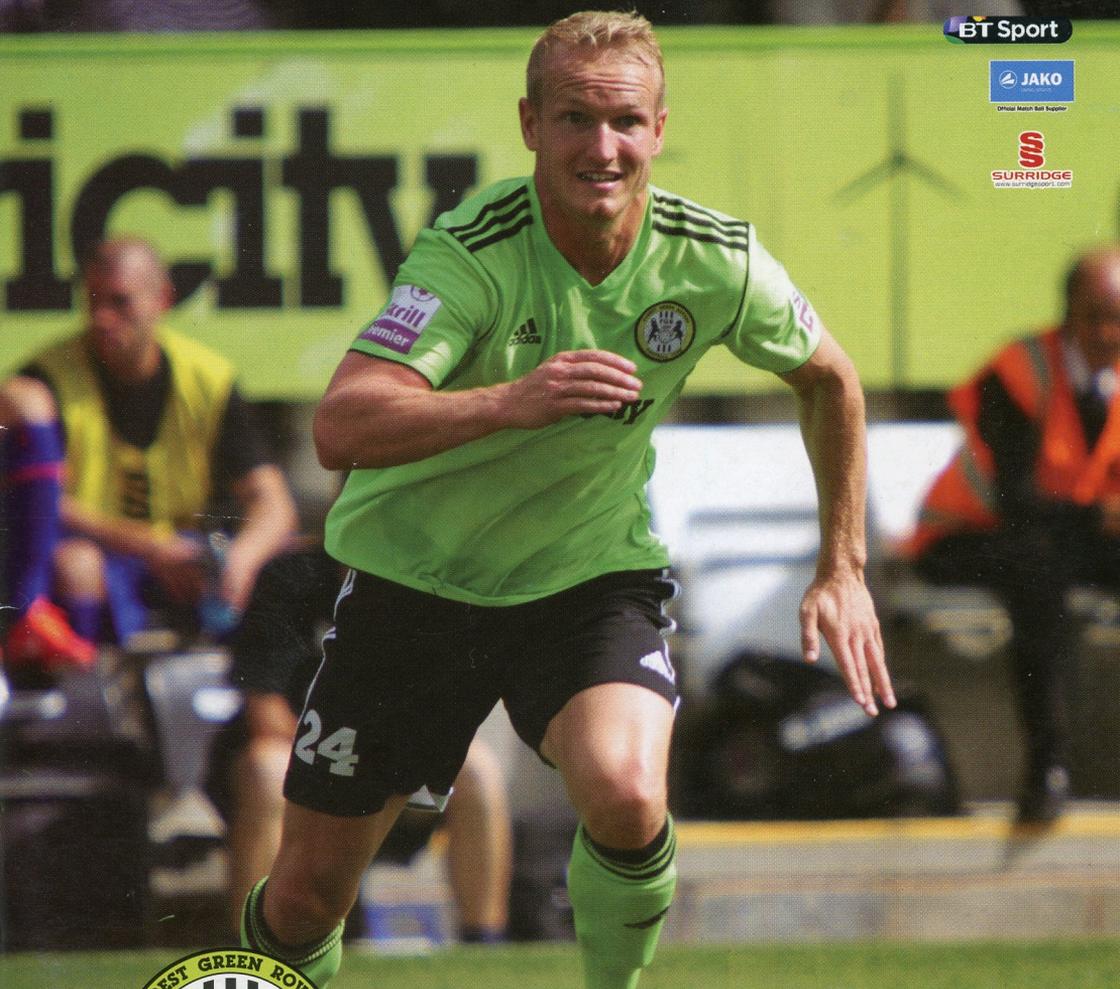


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THE FIRST WORD

with ROVERS BOSS DAVID HOCKADAY

Welcome to the New Lawn for today's Skrill Premier clash against the bookies' favourites for the title.

Luton Town are without doubt the biggest club in the Skrill Premiership and will bring a large following of supporters to cheer them on. John Still was introduced late last season as the Hatter's new manager and in the close season has been very busy in introducing many new players to his squad.

John is well aware of the huge pressure that is placed both on himself and on his players because of the expectations of his fans and yet we are all aware that this is the toughest of leagues to get out of with only two teams going up. This league is now littered with ex-Football League clubs which simply adds to the quality. Any team that gains promotion this season will have to show unprecedented levels of grit and determination in what looks like the best ever Conference League.

I would like to welcome John and all his staff and players to the New Lawn. I hope everyone associated with Luton Town FC enjoy their experience here in the Cotswolds and have a safe journey home.

Like today's opponents we have experienced a win, a draw and a defeat in our opening three games. On the opening day of the season we entertained Hyde and after an understandably nervous start we put our Mancunian opponents to the sword with a scintillating display of attacking football. I was delighted with our second half performance when we really went for the jugular ending up with eight goals to our credit.

The following Tuesday we travelled to Nuneaton, who

had won away to Macclesfield Town, and who had only lost to one of the top twelve teams at home last season. Our hosts scored early on with one of only two efforts on target in the whole game. We didn't panic and continued with our game plan. We deservedly equalised with a great counter attack and really should have gone on and won the game. Our away support was magnificent as they cheered us on at the end in search of that elusive winning goal but it was not to be.

We then travelled to Lincoln City for our third game in a week. On a poor surface in very windy conditions it turned out to be a very poor quality game. We took the lead and looked very comfortable with no threat to our goal. We then conceded a dubious free kick and from this Lincoln equalised with a fortuitous deflected shot from just inside our penalty area. From then on the game became a non-event with both teams cancelling each other out. With four minutes to go our hosts managed to score from the edge of the box from out of the blue. We then had a great chance to equalise but a header just went wide of the mark.

So a week of mixed fortunes now sees us entertaining the pre-season favourites in Luton Town. A huge game that we should all be looking forward to. This should prove to be a very tight affair and we will certainly be looking to take the game to our opponents. So get behind the players and hopefully cheer us on to victory.

Enjoy the game
DH

Any team that gains promotion this season will have to show unprecedented levels of grit and determination in what looks like the best ever Conference League.

FOREST GREEN ROVERS

WELCOME TO THE NEW LAWN

MATCHDAY EXPERIENCE

We are always trying to improve the Matchday experience, here at The New Lawn, and before the Hyde game, in the Carol Embrey Suite, our Assistant Manager, Gary Seward, gave a fascinating briefing to the fans before kick-off.



Gary spoke really well and after an 8-0 win I think he might be invited back again, don't you? Why don't you visit the Carol Embrey Suite either before the match, at half time, or after the final whistle, you will be most welcome.

WELCOME LUTON TOWN

We have another fantastic day lined up today at The New Lawn as we welcome today's visitors Luton Town. The Hatters will be backed by huge travelling support and there should be a tremendous atmosphere inside the ground today.

The Hatters have had a mixed start to the new campaign, surprisingly losing their opening away game at Southport but then recovered to beat Salisbury City 2-0 in midweek. This will be Luton's fifth successive season of football at this level and there is little doubt that they are the biggest club in the Skril Premier League, but they have found it difficult to adjust.

In saying that our playing record against them is not good winning only once from our eight league meetings. Our only win against them came in season 2011/12 when goals from Yan Klukowski and Matty Taylor (2) gave us a superb 3-0 victory here at The New Lawn.

We were dealt a cruel blow last season when Yan Klukowski's goal, two minutes into the second half looked as if it was going to be

enough to clinch another win over them. However, former Rovers old boys, Stuart Fleetwood and Scott Rendell had other ideas, with 'Fleets' equalising in the seventy fourth minute and with the game in injury time up popped Scott to win the game for the visitors with a penalty.

Although our record against Luton is not good it is improving with just one defeat in the last four meeting between the two sides and we hope that this trend will continue this afternoon.

We welcome everyone connected with Luton Town and we trust that you will all enjoy the matchday experience here at The New Lawn before have a safe trip home later this afternoon.

WELCOME ELLIE

We welcome to The New Lawn today 10 year old Ellie Locke who is making her first appearance here at The New Lawn.



Ellie is attending today's match with her dad Andy and they are sitting in the East stand. Ellie has been very excited and looking forward to today's game since dad Andy purchased the tickets on-line.

We hope you enjoy the match day experience today Ellie and we hope you will be attending many more matches here in the future. Enjoy the game.

WHAT A START!!!

Expectations were certainly high before the opening day's big kick-off against Hyde but I don't really think that anyone was prepared for what happened on the day, were they?



In the pictures you can see a really happy Chairman, Dale Vince, and the scoreboard says it all, doesn't it? Days like that come around very rarely and a massive well done to



the team on a fantastic start and you can also see a section of supporters in the Main Stand giving them a well deserved standing ovation after the end of the game.

A TRIP TO THE NEW BOYS NEXT...

We are back in action this Monday, which is of course August Bank Holiday Monday and we head up the M5/M6 to Chester.

Chester are of course a fans re-formed club and have made great progress since the ashes of former club Chester City. The kick off at the Deva Stadium on Monday will be the usual 3.00pm.

ALFRETON TOWN HERE NEXT



We are back in action at The New Lawn, next Saturday (31st August) when we host Alfreton Town in what will already be our sixth game of the new season.

There is no doubt that August is a very busy opening month and the game next weekend has a 3.00pm kick off.

BT SPORTS ANNOUNCE NEXT BATCH OF LIVE TV GAMES

Forest Green Rovers have once again missed out on live TV coverage with the next batch of games announced by the Football Conference and BT Sport. The next live games have been announced as follows

Friday 27th September

Kidderminster Harriers versus Aldershot Town

Sunday 13th October

Barnet versus Wrexham

Thursday 17th October

Macclesfield Town versus Southport

Thursday 31st October

Salisbury City versus Hereford United

MAN OF THE MATCH

MARCUS KELLY

Match Sponsor at the Hyde game Simon Gardner was certainly spoilt for choice when it came to naming the 'Eesi' Man of the Match.



Not surprisingly he went for hat-trick hero, Marcus Kelly, and Simon is seen presenting Marcus with his bottle of champagne after the match in the Carol Embrey Suite. The Man of the Match awards continue to be sponsored by EESI and we thank them for their continued support. *The Man of the Match Awards are sponsored by EESI and we thank them for their continued support.*

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Saturday 16th November

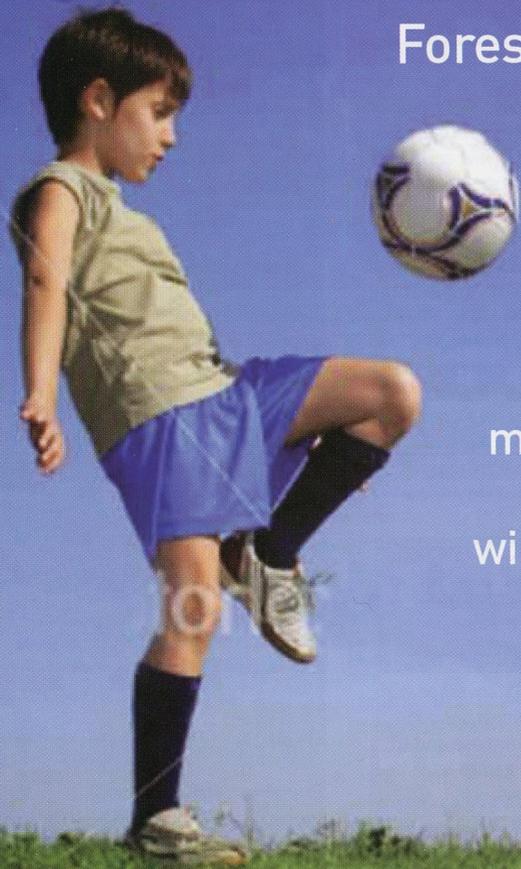
Barnet versus Cambridge United

The Football Conference and BT Sport have a two year deal for the new channels to show thirty live matches a season from The Skril Premier Football Conference.



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WHO'S WHO AT THE NEW LAWN

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Vice-President Allen Grant
Chairman Dale Vince
Vice-Chairman David Drew
Club Secretary & Head of Matchday Operations Michelle McDonald

Directors Mike Bullingham
Paul Wheatcroft
Trevor Saunders
Chris Wintle

Company Secretary Philip Catherall

Life Members Tim Barnard
Ken Boulton
John Duff
Allen Grant
Colin Peake
Peter Pearce
Bill Trueman
Heather Cook

General Manager Trevor Saunders
Stadium Safety Officer John Harper
Groundsman Stewart Ward
PR & Club Media Stuart Brennan

Match Media Nick Osbourne
Club Statistician Richard Joyce
Business Development Manager Heather Cook
Head of Sales & Marketing Dane Vince
Sales & Delivery Ryan Harmer

Administrator Kate Carpenter
Reception Leanne Norman
Bars Manager/Licensee Paula Brown
FGR Gymnasium Phil Givens
Club Photographer Bruce Fenn
Supporters Club Sam Reid

Supporters Trust Jamie Ponting
Matchday Programme Editor Tim Barnard
Terry Brumpton

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Assistant Manager Gary Seward
Coaching Staff Kevin Phillips
Scott Bartlett

T Brown
Kit Manager Richard Brown
Head of Medical Services Jason Ford
Clinical Services Manager Tim Grigg
Senior Sports Therapist Conrad Parrott
Club Masseur Dr. Stefan Kluzek
Club Doctor Dr. Alistair Smith

Scott Bartlett
Head of Youth Scott Bartlett
Ladies Chairman Craig Dexter



A WARM WELCOME

LUTON TOWN

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone connected to Luton Town Football Club who are here with us today...

When the new fixtures were announced, just a few weeks ago, then this game here at The New Lawn today between Forest Green Rovers and Luton Town was one of the eagerly awaited games of the season.

Both teams are many people's favourites to be battling out between them for the title, and here we are, just three games in and we find Rovers in eleventh spot and the Hatters two places behind in thirteenth although of course at this early stage of the season league placings count for nothing.

It has though been something of a stuttering start for today's visitors to The New Lawn, Luton Town. Installed, once again, as the favourites to win this division they have managed one win, one draw and one defeat from their opening three league games although their Manager John Still believes that his side have all the qualities needed to enjoy a season of success in the Skrill Premier this year.

On the eve of the season the boss said: "Different people have different things, for me there's three things "One is to get everyone fit, one is to get everyone organised, the other thing is to get the spirit right and I think we've achieved that.

"We've played quite well in games, but even that isn't the major thing. Those three other things I think are major and I think we've managed to do that.

"The season has always been the same, it takes seven, eight games to get underway.

"Some teams start quick and fade, some teams start slow and come strong, some teams just have consistency.

"The best clubs have the best consistency. There are one or two, Kidderminster started poor last year and really pushed on, so you do get your one or two who don't start as strong but finish strong.

"By and large, the best teams will always be in and around it. It's the old adage isn't it, cream will rise to the top eventually.

"Until you get going, you don't know what category you're going to be in, but I'm happy with the quality

of the players I have."

Hatters warmed up for their fifth in term in the Conference with an excellent pre-season campaign behind them in which they won eight out ten games, keeping seven clean sheets too.

That meant little to Still though, who said: "We had a good pre-season and we'd have won the pre-season cup, but seeing as we don't get one for it, we didn't win it.

"You don't get anything for doing well in pre-season. If you do this job you're aware of that.

"Am I pleased with pre-season, yes I am, in the big scheme of things, does it matter? No.

"I know everyone says that, but if there's a man out there who can

tell me who's going to finish first and second from the Premiership all the way down to the Conference, he'd be laying on a yacht somewhere in the Bahamas, because it's not that easy."

The Hatters began the season with a trip North to the seaside for a testing opening against Southport where they slipped to a shock 1-0 defeat. Southport's new signing Jamie Milligan scoring the only goal of the game, in the twenty second minute and the Luton Manager was very honest in his after match quotes "We were beaten and we deserved to be beaten, so I've got no issues with that. We didn't produce the sort of form I think we're capable of. The goal we conceded was unfortunate for us. Having said that I don't think we did enough to win the game"

Following on from the opening day defeat they welcomed newly promoted Salisbury City to Kenilworth Road, on the first Tuesday of the season, and before a bumper crowd of 6520 second half goals from Solomon Taiwo (a penalty) and Luke Guttridge gave the Hatters a comfortable victory and their first three points of the campaign.

Last Saturday they were at home again, this time to Macclesfield Town, where another six thousand plus crowd, 6216, turned up hoping to see another win. However, the Silkmen had other ideas and when Chris Holroyd put the visitors, ahead halfway through the second half Kenilworth Road was on a knife edge. However, with the game moving into the ninety seventh minute up popped Luke Guttridge to snatch an equaliser and send the Luton supporters wild.

During, and after the game though, the Luton faithful made their feelings known but boss Still remains unfazed by the boo-boys and has urged his players to adopt the same mentality.

The Luton boss is a very, very

"...in terms of the base you need for a good season and a great start, we've got it and that's all you hope for."

experienced football man and he does not worry about that. He understands the level of expectation at the club because if he did not then he would not be here.

"When the crowd is agitated it sometimes happens but I am building a team that should know how to deal with it so for me it is not a problem. "I know we were fortunate today but that is football. We might not be so lucky next week."

Still is the club's fifth manager in as many years, but insists he is at determined to stay at Kenilworth Road for many years to come.

He added: "I told the football club when I arrived that if they wanted a quick fix I am not the man.

"Luton have had a lot of good managers here before me and it has not happened. There was nothing wrong with the quality of those managers though but for whatever reason it did not happen.

"There were a lot of disappointing aspects today for sure. I do not think we got the ball into the box enough at key times and for most of the game there was not enough purpose to our play.

"We all know the only way we are going to turn it around is by working hard though."

Former Forest Green Rovers midfielder Alex Lawless believes Hatters' preparation has been spot on as they attempt to finally lift the Conference title this season.

The 28-year-old is in his third

pre-season at Kenilworth Road and when asked if there was a difference under new boss John Still to previous managers, Lawless said: "There is, but there always is. But there is a difference and it's definitely a positive difference, so that's the main thing.

"When the pressure comes and the league starts it's totally different. But in terms of the base you need for a good season and a great start, we've got it and that's all you hope for."

The Luton boss has been busy in the transfer market and at the moment he is happy with his squad

"I think the squad is strong. It's not 100% how we'd like it, but if you're saying am I happy with my squad? Yes I am happy.

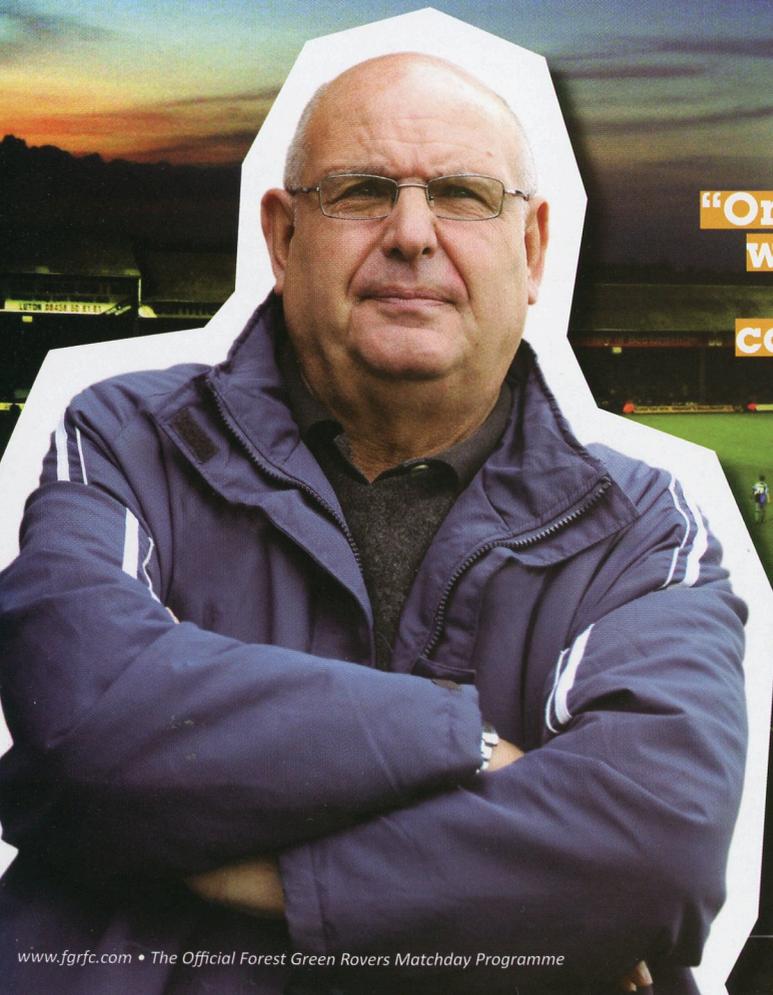
"Did we play well? No. No we didn't. We weren't good, I don't expect [the fans] to be happy, but I expect them to be behind the team.

"Listen, I live in the real world. When we play great [the fans] are going to be really happy, when we don't play great they're not going to be happy.

"That's the supporters' prerogative. It's been I don't know how many years now, the club trying to get back to where they say they belong, and it doesn't happen overnight.

"Fortunately I've been in the game a long time and I understand the highs and lows, and you know what you have to do, just get back on again, like falling off a horse, get back on and straight back to work."





“On our trips to Kenilworth Road we are still looking for our first victory there. The 2009/2010 campaign saw us beaten once more right at the death.”

The Hatters lost their place in the Football League at the end of the 2008/09 season when they finished bottom with twenty six points. However, that particular season they were deducted an astonishing thirty points, which under a normal season, fifty six points would have been good enough to finish the season in fifteenth spot.

Since then it has been a long hard road for The Hatters as they try and reclaim what they believe is their rightful place, back in the Football League. Under John Still I believe

that they probably have their best opportunity yet of doing just that and their record here at The New Lawn has seen them win two of the four games here.

They were first here on Tuesday 18th August 2009 and went away with the three points courtesy of a Tom Craddock early in the second half and the following year they were 1-0 winners yet again, this time Lloyd Owusu scoring the only goal in the thirty eighth minute.

Then on Tuesday 20th March 2012 it was third time lucky for Rovers when a Yan Klukowski goal, followed by two for Matty Taylor gave us an

emphatic 3-0 victory. However, last season, Luton returned to winning ways, here at The New Lawn, but boy did they leave it late. Yan Klukowski was once again on the score sheet giving us the lead just two minutes into the second half and for a long time that goal appeared to be enough to give us another victory over the Hatters.

However, cue two former Forest Green Rovers players in the shape of Stuart Fleetwood and Scott Rendell. In the seventy fourth minute, 'Fleets' banged home the equaliser and then

those the least said the better. By the thirty fourth minute the home side were 3-0 up and although Reece Styche pulled a goal back it was only ever going to be a consolation as the Hatters scored three more times to win 6-1. The 2011/2012 season proved more fruitful when we picked up our first ever point at Kenilworth Road. Charlie Griffin gave us the lead, seven minutes into the second half, but we were denied a famous win when Dean Beckwith equalised.

That was the way the score stayed and we had earned our first point



with the game going into injury time the Hatters were awarded a penalty which Scott converted to snatch victory for the Town.

On our trips to Kenilworth Road we are still looking for our first victory there. The 2009/2010 campaign saw us beaten once more right at the death. Tom Craddock gave the Hatters a first half lead but with just nine minutes of the game left Conal Platt's penalty looked to have snatched a point for us. Once more though in injury time Luton snatched the winner when Craddock again grabbed the goal to win the game for his side.

The following season was one of

there. We did the same last season but this time we had to come from behind. Andre Gray put the home side in front, but just nine minutes later we were back on level terms when Matty Taylor equalised.

In the second half both sides were reduced to ten men, first Luton when former Rovers star, Alex Lawless received his marching orders and he was followed for an early bath just thirteen minutes later when Al Bangura was sent off.

So the scene is set, there is sure to be a huge crowd inside the New Lawn this afternoon and let's hope that the game lives up to it's pre-match billing.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO FOUR OF LUTON TOWN'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

1959 FA CUP FINALISTS

RON BAYNHAM: England international goalkeeper who made 388 League appearances until injury ended his playing career in May 1965. He later worked as an interior decorator and now lives in Silsoe.

BRENDAN McNALLY: Eire international right-back who joined Cambridge City in July 1963, then Dunstable. He managed Chesham and Dunstable, then worked for Zenith Windows, settling in Dunstable.

KEN HAWKES: Left-back who moved to Peterborough United in June 1961, then played for Bedford and St Neots. He spent 28 years as a sales rep for a wholesale food company and still lives in Luton.

JOHN GROVES: Long-serving right-half who netted 16 goals in 218 League games, moving to Bournemouth in September 1963. Settling in his native Derby, he spent 30 years working for Courtaulds.

SYD OWEN: England international who became manager. Later Leeds United's coach until October 1975, he then coached at Birmingham, Hull City and Manchester United. He died in August 1998.

DAVE PACEY: England U-23 left-half who netted 16 goals in 246 League games for the Hatters, moving to Kettering Town in July 1965. He then worked for Electrolux, settling in Newport Pagnell.

BILLY BINGHAM: Northern Ireland international winger who joined Everton in October 1960, then played for Port Vale. He managed Southport, Plymouth, Everton, Mansfield and Northern Ireland.

ALLAN BROWN: Scotland international who moved to Portsmouth in March 1961, then managed Wigan, Luton, Torquay, Bury, Nottingham Forest, Southport and Blackpool. He died in April 2011.

GEORGE CUMMINS: Eire international who scored 21 times in 186 League outings, moving to Cambridge City in July 1961, then Hull City. He was later an electrician, settling in Newton-le-Willows.

TONY GREGORY: Ex-England Youth winger who joined Watford in March 1960, then Bexley, Bedford, Hastings, Dover and

Stevenage. He was managing director of an aerosol manufacturing firm.

BOB MORTON: England B international who netted 48 goals in 495 League games, becoming Bletchley Town's player-boss in July 1964. He worked for Luton Sports Press and died in April 2002.

1973-74 PROMOTION WINNERS

GRAHAM HORN: Goalkeeper who moved to Charlton Athletic in December 1976, then Southend, Aldershot and Torquay. Later a residential social worker for Devon County Council, he died in July 2012.

JOHN RYAN: Right-back who joined Norwich City in August 1976, then Sheffield United, Manchester City, Stockport County, Chester and Cambridge United's player-boss. He has held coaching posts.

BOBBY THOMSON: Ex-England international who had a spell with Hartford Bi-Centennials before joining Port Vale in October 1976. He was Stafford's player-boss, then ran a sports shop in Sedgley.

PETER ANDERSON: Midfielder who joined Antwerp in December 1975, then Tampa Bay Rowdies, Sheffield United and was Millwall's player-boss. Now CEO of Bayshore Technologies Group in Tampa.

JOHN FAULKNER: Central defender who netted six goals in 209 League games. Later coaching at Luton and Norwich City, 'Maxie' then scouted for various clubs and since become a sports psychologist.

ALAN GARNER: Central defender who moved to Watford in February 1975, then played for Portsmouth, Barnet, Chesham United and Barton Rovers. He now runs his own window business in Hitchin.

JIM RYAN: Winger who scored 21 times in 184 League games, then had a spell with Dallas Tornado before rejoining Luton as a coach, then manager. He has since coached back at Manchester United.

JIMMY HUSBAND: Former England U-23 international who joined Memphis Rogues in May 1978. Later with Eynesbury and St Neots, he



then worked as a barman at a local pub and has settled in Clophill. **BARRY BUTLIN:** Leading marksman who moved to Nottingham Forest in October 1974, then played for Peterborough and Sheffield United. He is now a financial adviser and has settled in Chellaston.

ALAN WEST: England U-23 midfielder who joined Millwall in July 1981, then had spells with Hitchin and Baldock. He has since become a church minister in Luton and also the Hatters' club chaplain.

JOHN ASTON: England U-23 winger who netted 31 goals in 174 League games before moving to Mansfield Town in September 1977, then Blackburn Rovers. He has since run Pet World in Stalybridge.

1981-82 SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

JAKE FINDLAY: Goalkeeper who made 167 League appearances before joining Swindon Town in July 1985, then Portsmouth and Coventry City. He has held coaching posts, including at Stourport Swifts.

KIRK STEPHENS: Right-back who scored twice in 227 League games before joining Coventry City in August 1984, then Nuneaton Borough. He has since run the family building firm Walsgrave Contractors.

RICHARD MONEY: England B international who joined Portsmouth in August 1983, then Scunthorpe United again. He has since had spells as manager of Scunthorpe, Walsall, Luton and Cambridge United.

BRIAN HORTON: Inspirational skipper who became Hull City's player-boss in July 1984, since managing Oxford United, Manchester City, Huddersfield Town, Brighton, Port Vale and Macclesfield Town.

CLIVE GOODYEAR: Central defender who moved to Plymouth Argyle in August 1984, then Wimbledon, Brentford and St Albans City. He has since been a physio at several clubs and now in Bletchley.

MAL DONAGHY: Northern Ireland international who joined Manchester United in October 1988, then played for Chelsea. Settling back in Northern Ireland, he has worked for the FAI in development roles.

RICKY HILL: England international midfielder who joined Le Havre in June 1989, then reunited with David Pleat at Leicester City. He held several coaching posts before a spell back at Luton as manager.

BRIAN STEIN: England international striker who joined Anney in June 1988, then played for Luton again and Barnet. He has since held coaching posts, including a spell assisting Mike Newell at Luton.

STEVE WHITE: Striker who moved to Charlton Athletic in July 1982, then Bristol Rovers again, Swindon Town, Hereford United and Cardiff City. He has assisted Bath City and managed Chippenham.

LIL FUGGILLO: Midfielder who later played for Tulsa Roughnecks, Southend, Peterborough and Cambridge United. His management posts included a spell back at Luton and he now scouts for Newcastle.

DAVID MOSS: Winger who returned to Swindon Town in July 1985. He later assisted Brian Horton at various clubs and managed Macclesfield Town, becoming involved with youth development at Liverpool.

1988 LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

ANDY DIBBLE: Welsh international goalkeeper who joined Manchester City in July 1988, then Glasgow Rangers, Luton again, Stockport County and Wrexham. He has since been a goalkeeping coach.

TIM BREACKER: England U-21 right-back who netted three goals in 210 League games before joining West Ham in October 1990, then played for QPR. He has coached at various clubs, now Millwall.

ROB JOHNSON: Left-back who reunited with David Pleat at Leicester City in August 1989, then played for Barnet. He is now a physio with the English Institute of Sport and has a practice in Matlock.

RICKY HILL: England international midfielder who joined Le Havre in June 1989, then reunited with David Pleat at Leicester City. He held several coaching posts before a spell back at Luton as manager.

STEVE FOSTER: England international central defender who netted 11 goals in 163 League games, joining Oxford United in July 1989, then Brighton again. He now has an insurance business in Hove.

MAL DONAGHY: Northern Ireland international who joined Manchester United in October 1988, then played for Chelsea. Settling back in Northern Ireland, he has worked for the FAI in development roles.



DANNY WILSON: Northern Ireland international who moved to Sheffield Wednesday in August 1990. He has managed Barnsley, Wednesday, Bristol City, MK Dons, Hartlepool, Swindon and Sheffield United.

BRIAN STEIN: England international striker who joined Anney in June 1988, then played for Luton again and Barnet. He has since held coaching posts, including a spell assisting Mike Newell at Luton.

MICK HARFORD: England international striker who joined Derby in January 1990, then Luton again, Chelsea, Sunderland, Coventry and Wimbledon. Later Luton's manager, he is Millwall's assistant-boss.

DAVID PREECE: England B international who netted 21 goals in 336 League games, moving to Derby County in August 1995, then was player-coach at Cambridge United and Torquay. He died in July 2007.

KINGSLEY BLACK: Northern Ireland international winger who joined Nottingham Forest in September 1991, then appeared for Grimsby Town and Lincoln City. He currently owns tanning studios in Luton.

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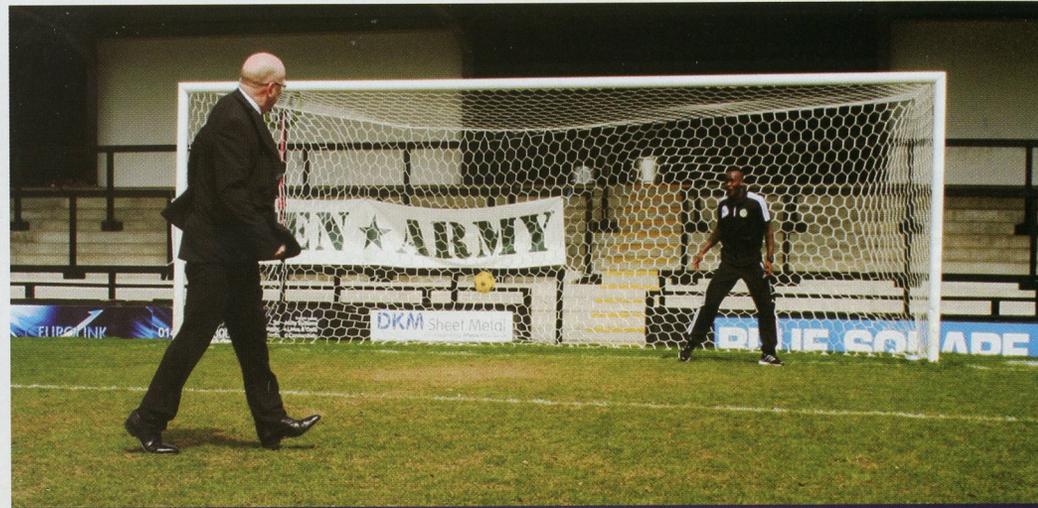
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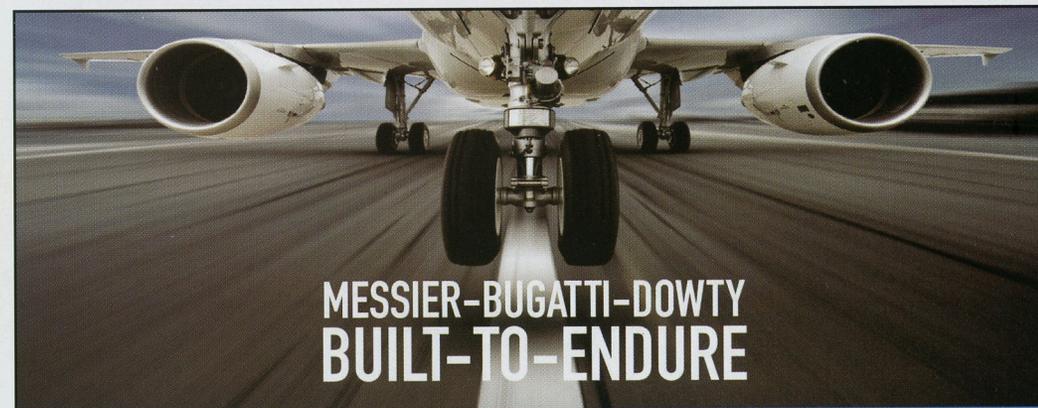


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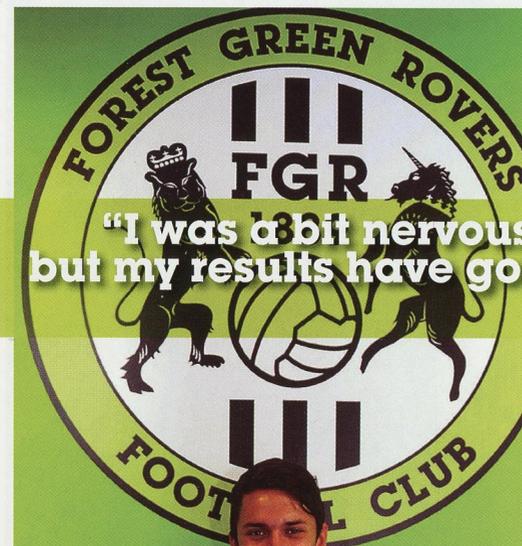


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A RESULT

FOOTBALLERS aren't perceived as the sharpest tools in the academic box but Forest Green's Ashley Brown has gone to the top of the class.



"I was a bit nervous when I drove to school, but my results have gone better than expected with a B, C and D."

The 18-year-old Newent Community School sixth former bagged a schoolboy hat-trick of A-levels in physical education, psychology, and design and technology today.

The former Gloucester City youngster admitted to a few pre-results butterflies as he drove to his school this morning.

He said: "I was a bit nervous when I drove to school, but my results have gone better than expected with a B, C and D."

With his results slip in his tracksuit pocket the relieved scholar stepped on the gas to arrive at Rovers' Royal Agricultural University training headquarters.

Brown added: "I made training just in time and the gaffer and the lads all congratulated me."

Midfielder or defender Brown joined Scott Bartlett's U18s two years ago and signed his first professional deal last summer.

He made a number of appearances for the reserves as they won the Football Combination Southern Division title.

However, the Newent-based youngster has been sidelined since October and underwent a career-threatening hip operation in February.

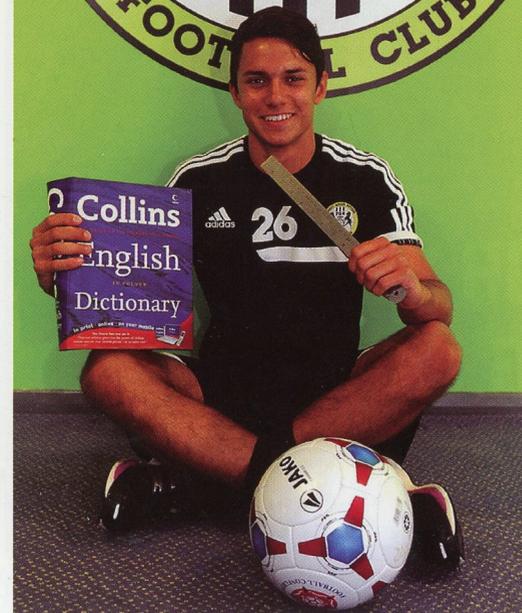
He said: "The surgeon repaired my ligaments, cleaned up some cartilage and shaved some bone down.

"My rehab with sports therapist Tim Grigg is going well and I am striking balls, doing sprints and sharp turns, so it's just a matter of getting my fitness right.

"My aim is to get fit and possibly go out on loan to get some games."

Ashley Loveridge
Sports editor

Stroud News and Journal





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FOREST GREEN ROVERS

SUPPORTERS CLUB

JAMIE & SAM bring you the latest Supporters Club News ...

Good afternoon and welcome to The New Lawn for one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures of the season; Luton at home.

They always travel well in numbers and it's a game which tends to see us produce some of our best football, so we are hoping for a real spectacle and more importantly three points.

Since our notes two weeks ago we've played three games and have one win, one draw and one defeat, so a bit of a mixed bag. After steaming out the blocks against Hyde with an emphatic 8-0 victory, Nuneaton

“There's plenty of time to go and plenty of football to be played so there's no need to panic yet and we've just got to continue supporting the team and giving them all the encouragement we can.”

Town represented a tough midweek fixture and then with a number of absentees a below par performance saw us slip to our first defeat against Lincoln City.

There's plenty of time to go and plenty of football to be played so there's no need to panic yet and we've

just got to continue supporting the team and giving them all the encouragement we can. There's been some surprise results already elsewhere in the league and from experience we know to expect the unexpected during a forty six game season in the Conference.

Off the pitch, we would just like to remind you again that the Supporters Club are please to confirm for yet another season we are freezing membership prices. These means you can become a member of the Supporters Club for just £15 if you're an adult or just £5 if you are a Junior (Under 16s).

The benefits you continue to receive as a Supporters Club member also have been further enhanced. For your adult membership fee you get...

- 10% off purchases in the Club Shop
- Cheapest Away Travel in the Conference
- Voucher to travel to one League Away Game of your choosing for £10
- Designated Supporter's Club Seating Area in the Main Stand to sit with fellow Members
- Our Junior Greens will also get the following additional benefits:
 - Signed Birthday Card
 - Entry into a raffle to be a Mascot
 - Birthday announced in Matchday Programme

In addition to this Sam's superb Travel Club will once again continue at the ridiculous price of just £25 a month. As part of a 10 month contract that sees you pay £250 over the course of the season - your place is booked for each and every away league game that Forest Green take on this season. That works out as an excellent saving which can see you travel the country covering Rovers for an average of £10.86 a game.

Our next away trip sees us travelling to Chester on Bank Holiday Monday. What better way to finish your long weekend than travelling to one of Sam's favourite walled cities to support FGR. Call Sam on 01666 505519 to book your place and make sure you do it quickly to avoid disappointment.

Anyway that's enough from us, let's get behind the lads and enjoy the game.

Come on Rovers!

*Come on Rovers!
Sam & Jamie*





CENTRE STAGE

WOW What a start to the brand new season wasn't it? 8-0 with five different goalscorers on the scoresheet and Bruce Fenn got them all on camera after the Hyde game

Left to Right Marcus Kelly, Matty Taylor, Danny Wright, James Norwood and Matthew Barnes-Homer.

TRANSFER NEWS:

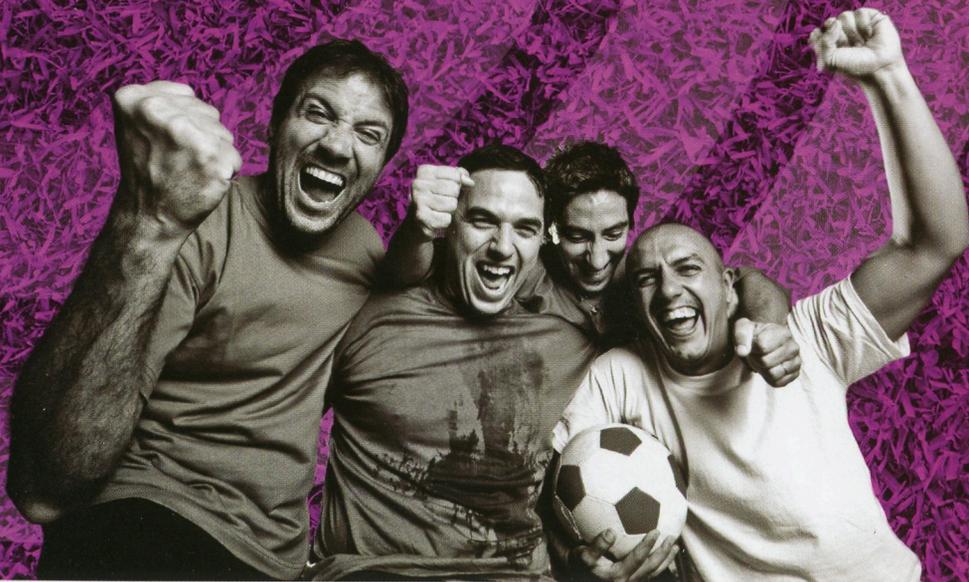
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with Keith Weyman

QUIZ TIME



1. Who came on as a substitute and scored for England against Scotland last week?

2. Which player, who famously broke his neck in the 1956 Cup Final, passed away last month?

3. Who has taken over from James Alexander Gordon this season to read the classified football results?



4. Which major competition was won last season by a club which did not originally enter it, and which they are not entered to defend this season?



5. Which current Football League club were originally a bicycle factory team?

6. Who are the current holders of the FA Youth Cup?

7. Name the current Skrill Premier manager who is an unpaid former Champions League winner



8. What are Dutch club to the man-of-the-match winner at home games this season?

9. Which is the only club, now in League 1, that Chelsea have failed to defeat in four attempts in the Premier League?

10. Name the six managers who have won the League, FA Cup and League Cup treble as managers?



ANSWERS 1) Ricky Lambert, 2) Bert Trautmann, 3) Charlotte Green, 4) Europa League – Chelsea, 5) Coventry City then Singers FC, 6) Norwich City, 7) Edgar Davids, 8) To have his car cleaned by three bikini-clad ladies, 9) Oldham Athletic, 10) Ferguson, Dalglish, Graham, Nicholson, Mourinho and Mercer

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JOYCE

THE KIDS ARE OK!!

RICHARD JOYCE LOOKS AT THE FGR UNDER-18S WITH THE YOUTHS MANAGER SCOTT BARTLETT...

It may very well be Forest Green's first team looking to achieve big things this season but the under 18's squad will equally be hoping for another great year to follow up their success from last season.

Scott Bartlett's young charges romped to the South West Counties Youth League title last term in a superb campaign that has seen the youth system at the club reach its strongest position yet.

With another year in the same division to come, and an even more experienced group for Bartlett to work with, the signs are promising that there may be even more Rovers youth team products lining up as part of the first team squad in twelve months time.

"They really bought into our philosophies as a club last year," comments Bartlett. "We had lots of first years last year and many of those are young in their own year groups.

"Physically they are much bigger and much stronger so we're trying to get through to them the benefit of following their individual development programs."

Last season saw the club's under 18's side operate as a full-time outfit for the first time in the club's history. In association with Stroud & South Gloucestershire College, the combination of balancing education and

full-time training proved to be a real winner last term as Bartlett shapes up with an even stronger squad this time round.

"We've got 25 in total and 23 of

League.

"In total we have taken nine players out of the under 16's. In our squad of 25 we've got sixteen or seventeen that have been through Forest Green

"Physically they are much bigger and much stronger so we're trying to get through to them the benefit of following their individual development programs."

them are going to be full-time. They are going to be at SGS College with me on a daily basis which is fantastic as I get a lot of contact time with them.

Strong

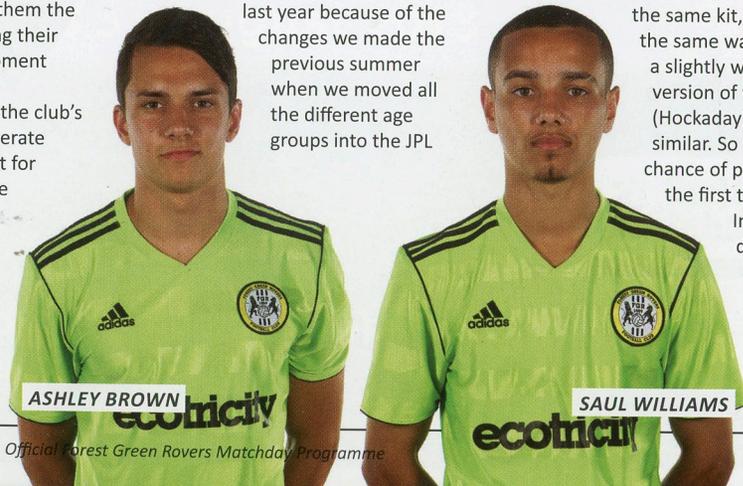
"We had a strong under 16's last year because of the changes we made the previous summer when we moved all the different age groups into the JPL

Rovers youth which is important to me. We've picked up a few from Swindon, a couple from Cheltenham and one or two from Bristol City.

"With the first team manager getting involved as much as he does – we do everything the same. We have the same set plays, we wear

the same kit, we set out the same way, training is a slightly watered down version of what David (Hockaday) does but it's similar. So they can see a chance of progressing into the first team."

In a tough division, the under 18's beat Salisbury's youngsters to top spot in



ASHLEY BROWN

SAUL WILLIAMS

the South West Counties Youth League last year, and Bartlett was more than happy with how his young age group developed over the course of the season.

He added: "I was pleased for them because I tested them all season. I didn't talk about winning much, it's not our main focus, but if we can develop winners then it is a bonus.

Pressure

"They found ways to win games even when I was tinkering with the team and we won fifteen out of eighteen games and drew two so we did really well and I was happy for them because they put a lot of pressure on themselves."

Bartlett's squad's achievements have certainly caught the eye. So much so that Premier League new boys Cardiff City provided Rovers youngsters with a fantastic end of season treat.

As well as working with footballing legends Dietmar Hamann and Marcel Desailly as students for their UEFA Pro License course, the FGR youngsters faced up against the Welsh giants under 18's squad on the fabulous playing surface at the Cardiff City Stadium – losing just 2-0 against top level youth opposition.

"It was a massive compliment to the way the players conducted themselves that someone like Cardiff would invite us to play and on their stadium and to be fair we did really well.

"We've watched a DVD of the game and we were probably one or two players away from giving them a proper game and on the day we were younger than them. The guy from Cardiff now wants to play us at all age groups. We had a great end to the season with that and going on the UEFA Pro License day where we met a lot of internationals."



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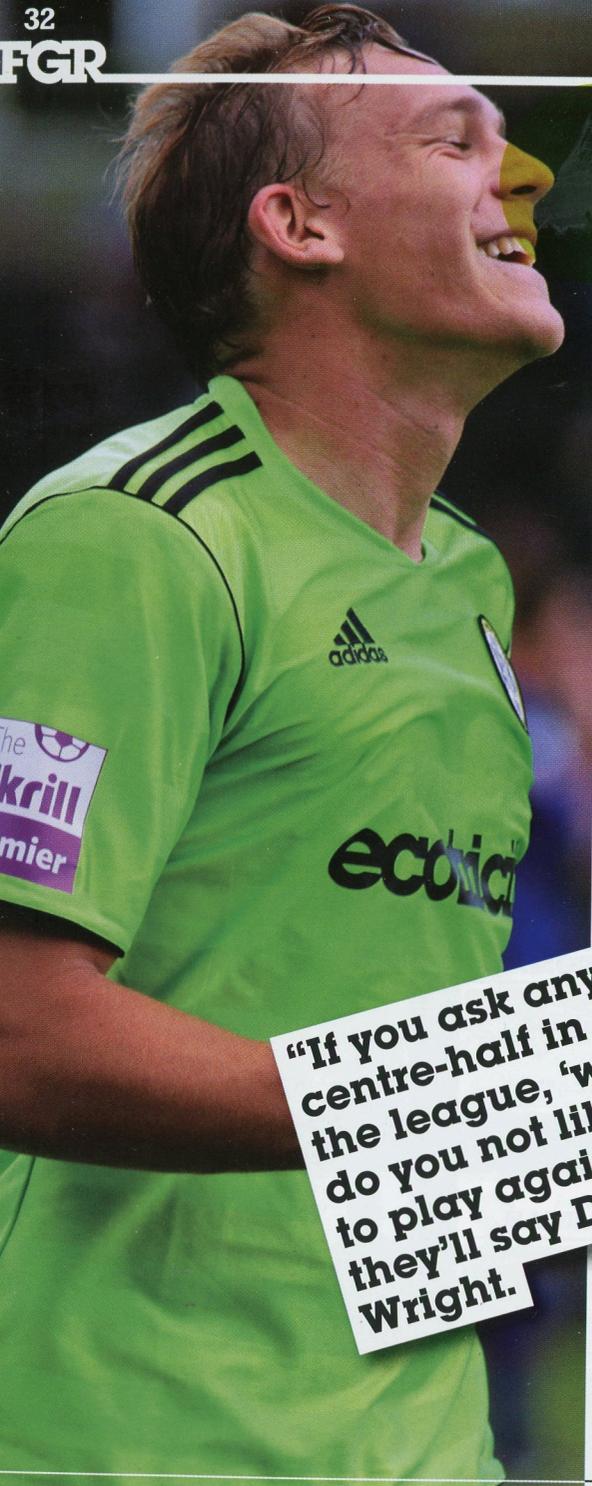
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"If you ask any centre-half in the league, 'who do you not like to play against', they'll say Danny Wright."

9. DANNY WRIGHT - Forward

It's always nice for a new striker, coming into a new club, to get on the scoresheet as soon as she possibly can and Danny Wright did just that by notching our third goal in the 8-0 home win over Hyde on the opening day of the season. It took Danny just thirty three minutes to find the back of the net, and let's hope it is the first of many goals he scores for Rovers.

Size and strength may be an obvious part of the centre-forwards repertoire, but Wright's vision and delicate touch had much to do with the former Wrexham players return of 17 goals and nine assists in north Wales last season.

Manager David Hockaday snapped up the 6'3" target man when he became a free agent in the summer of 2013 season and Danny quickly integrated into Rovers squad after signing a two year contract with the option of a third.

The 28-year-old is coming off a successful 2012-13 campaign with Wrexham that fell agonisingly short of promotion for the Dragons after they went down 2-0 to Welsh rivals Newport County at Wembley in the play-off final.

Hockaday said: "If you ask any centre-half in the league, 'who do you not like to play against', they'll say Danny Wright. Luckily our centre-halves now only need to face him in training.

Wright started his career at Histon FC, helping the part-timers rise through the leagues while continuing to work as a carpenter, and hit the net fifteen times in his first season in the Conference Premier, while memorably scoring the winner in an FA Cup

upset over Swindon.

He switched to local rivals Cambridge for the 2010-11 season, scoring 10 times, before a two-year stint at Wrexham brought another 24 goals.

MEET THE NEW BOYS

During the close season Forest Green Rovers made a number of very impressive signings as we look to build a squad capable of challenging at the top end of the Skrill Premier table.

Six new players have come into the club and all six have made an instant impression. In this edition of the matchday programme we introduce them all to you and my thanks go to Bruce Fenn and Shane Healey for supplying the various images.

18. MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER - Forward

Another striker who joined the club in the latter part of the close season and like Danny got his name on the scoresheet on his debut for the club. Coming on as a second half substitute it took Matthew just four minutes to break his duck!

Barnes-Homer signed former Macclesfield Town striker Matthew Barnes-Homer on a two-year deal a week out from the start of the 2013-14 season.

He scored 21 times for Macclesfield the previous season, including 18 in the league and a headline grabbing brace against Cardiff City that knocked the Championship winners out of the FA Cup.

Rovers move for the 27-year-old came after Forest Green's relatively young forward line struggled to find the back of the net at the business-



23. ANTHONY BARRY - Midfielder

Very experienced midfielder who will act as a cool head in the middle of the park!

Anthony Barry followed his good friend Andy Mangan south to sign with Forest Green Rovers in May 2013, penning a three-year contract at The New Lawn.

The 26-year-old had spent the past three and a half seasons with Fleetwood Town, during which time the Lancashire club had risen from Conference North to League Two and was unlucky to be released after an injury ravaged spell during the middle part of his contract.

The Liverpoolian has experience living and playing down south after two years at Yeovil Town during which time they made the League One play-offs, playing in front of 60-odd thousand people at Wembley.

Barry started out at Everton's Academy before moving onto Coventry City and finally Accrington Stanley, where he first made his mark as a 19-year-old during their 2005-06 promotion season in the Football Conference.

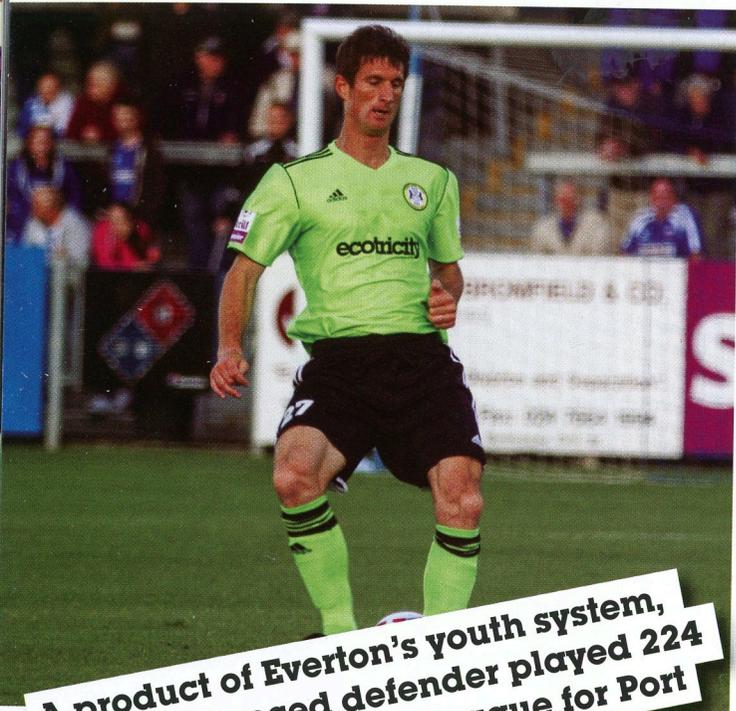
His impressive performances alerted other teams and Barry was snapped up by Yeovil Town in the 2006 January transfer window and went on to play 74 times for the League One outfit over the next two and a half seasons - including the League One play-off games against Nottingham Forest and the play-off final at Wembley which Yeovil lost 2-0 to Blackpool.

In the summer of 2008, Barry moved to Chester City in League Two where he played 46 times, before briefly joining Wrexham and then Fleetwood Town in the Conference North, where he became a member of the 2009-10 promotion winning team. He scored twice and made 50 first team appearances the following season in the Conference National when Fleetwood made the play-offs.

Fleetwood's 2011-12 promotion winning season ended for Barry after only two games when he sustained a knee injury against Darlington that would keep him out for 17 months, before finally making his return for the now League Two side on 5th January 2013 against Northampton.

Barry was named in all but one of Fleetwood's remaining 21 matchday squads in 2012-13, featuring 12 times including 9 starts.





A product of Everton's youth system, the experienced defender played 224 times in the Football League for Port Vale between 2003-2008...

27. GEORGE PILKINGTON

– Defender

Another very experienced defender who has joined the club on a two month loan spell from Mansfield Town and has impressed everyone so far with his early performances

Forest Green secured defender George Pilkington on a two-month loan spell from last season's conference champions Mansfield Town just a week out

from the start of the 2013-14 conference season.

With Jamie Turley out for eight weeks, Aarran Racine still facing a full preseason after surgery and Eddie Oshodi suspended for the first three games of the season, the 31-year-old former Port Vale and Luton Town centre-back was a welcome inclusion to Rovers back division.

A product of Everton's youth system, the experienced defender played 224 times in the Football League for Port Vale between 2003-2008, before a move to Luton Town saw another 142 appearances between 2008-2012.

end of the 2012-13 season and slipped out of the play-off positions.

Barnes-Homer has previously played for Kidderminster Harriers and Luton Town at Conference Premier level and joined the Silkmen last June after a short spell playing in Sweden. He scored Macclesfield's goal in Rovers 2-1 away win back in September 2012.

24. MARCUS KELLY

– Midfielder

What can one say about his debut.

A very talented player on his day he also showed on the opening day of the season that he knows where the back of the net is and his hat-trick, perhaps not surprisingly earned him the 'Man of the Match' Not a bad way to start your new career with a new club, was it?



Marcus Kelly signed for Forest Green Rovers on a one-year-deal after impressing management while on trial during the summer of 2013. The 27-year-old immediately showed his class and range of passing in the midfield in a number of friendlies – including a 2-0 win over League One side Swindon Town.

Kelly made 35 league appearances for Tamworth FC last season and scored a hat-trick against Lincoln City in the first round of the FA Trophy.

Before playing for The Lambs, Kelly turned out 84 times for Kettering Town over two and a half seasons, and featured for Rushden and Diamonds 157 times.

Six very impressive signings and when you include them with the rest of the talented squad it is easy to see why many people are tipping Rovers to be challenging at the top end of the table this season.

Sit back and enjoy the ride!



The prodigal son returned to Forest Green in May 2013, three and a half years and 46 goals after Wrexham bought the striker...

30. ANDY MANGAN

– Forward

Not yet made a competitive appearance but Rovers fans know all about 'Mangy' from his previous spell with the club and they can't wait until he is fit and back in the squad.

The prodigal son returned to Forest Green in May 2013, three and a half years and 46 goals after Wrexham bought the striker from cash-strapped Rovers in January 2010.

The 26 year-old has spent the past two seasons at Fleetwood Town and his goals were a massive factor in the Lancashire outfit running away with the Conference National title in 2011-12.

Despite impressive statistics during the 12 league games Mangan managed in an injury-dented last season in League Two – the forward's registration became available and Rovers swooped.

Mangan first came to Rovers from Bury FC as a

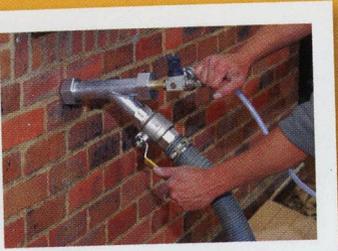
promising 21-year-old in July 2008, made 49 appearances

for Forest Green and scored 30 times – including 26 in the League. After moving to Wrexham, the Liverpoolian scored 22 League goals in 65 games over 18 months before promotion rivals Fleetwood took him on a free transfer in the summer of 2011. Mangan's first season at Fleetwood was another unqualified success, scoring 20 goals and setting up 12 more in Town's promotion winning season.

He then began life in League Two with a bang, scoring twice himself and creating six further goals in just seven games, before a torn a knee cartilage sidelined him for six months until the end of March. But after easing back to full fitness from the bench over the final month of the season, Mangan scored in Fleetwood's last two games as they finished mid-table.

Mangan's final tally at Fleetwood included 24 goals and 18 assists from 59 appearances in all competitions. The fans favourite has signed a three-year contract at The New Lawn.

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MATCH BY MATCH

A look at the Rovers progress in 2013/2014...

DATE	OPPOSITION	RES	ATT	TEAM
Sat 10 Aug	HYDE	8-0	1158	Russell, Hodgkiss, Stokes (73), Bangura, Bennett, NORWOOD 1 (57), WRIGHT 1 (66)
Tue 13 Aug	Nuneaton Town	1-1	1005	Russell, HODGKISS 1 , Stokes, Bangura, Bennett, Norwood, Wright (53), Taylor, Barnes-Homer (66), Kelly, Pilkington
Sat 17 Aug	Lincoln City	1-2	2290	Russell, Hodgkiss, Stokes, Bangura, Bennett, Norwood (88), Klukowski, Barnes-Homer (71), BARRY 1 (88), Kelly, Pilkington
Sat 24 Aug	LUTON TOWN			
Mon 26 Aug	Chester	at The Deva Stadium, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 31 Aug	ALFRETON TOWN			
Sat 7 Sep	Braintree Town	at Cressing Road, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 14 Sep	FC HALIFAX TOWN			
Tue 17 Sep	Welling United	at Park View Road, ko 7.45pm		
Sat 21 Sep	Cambridge United	at The Abbey Stadium, ko 3.00pm		
Tue 24 Sep	TAMWORTH			
Sat 28 Sep	GATESHEAD			
Sat 5 Oct	Alfreton Town	at The Impact Arena, ko 3.00pm		
Tue 8 Oct	Kidderminster Harriers	at Aggborough, ko 7.45pm		
Sat 12 Oct	MACCLESFIELD TOWN			
Sat 19 Oct	Grimsby Town	at Blundell Park, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 2 Nov	DARTFORD			
Sat 9 Nov	Salisbury City	at The Raymond McEnhill Stadium, ko 3.00pm		
Tue 12 Nov	NUNEATON TOWN			
Sat 16 Nov	LINCOLN CITY			
Sat 23 Nov	Wrexham	at The Racecourse Ground, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 7 Dec	GRIMSBY TOWN			
Sat 14 Dec	BRAINTREE TOWN			
Sat 21 Dec	FC Halifax Town	at The Shay, ko 3.00pm		
Thu 26 Dec	ALDERSHOT TOWN			
Sat 28 Dec	Hereford United	at Edgar Street, ko 3.00pm		
Wed 1 Jan	Aldershot Town	at The Recreation Ground, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 4 Jan	SALISBURY CITY			
Sat 11 Jan	HEREFORD UNITED			
Sat 18 Jan	Hyde	at Ewen Fields, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 25 Jan	CHESTER			
Sat 1 Feb	Woking	at Kingfield, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 8 Feb	BARNET			
Sat 15 Feb	Macclesfield Town	at The Moss Rose, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 22 Feb	SOUTHPORT			
Sat 1 Mar	Gateshead	at The International Stadium, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 8 Mar	CAMBRIDGE UNITED			
Sat 15 Mar	Tamworth	at The Lamb, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 22 Mar	WELLING UNITED			
Sat 29 Mar	Southport	at Haig Avenue, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 5 Apr	Barnet	at The Hive, ko 3.00pm		
Tue 8 Apr	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS			
Sat 12 Apr	Dartford	at Princes Park, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 19 Apr	WOKING			
Mon 21 Apr	Luton Town	at Kenilworth Road, ko 3.00pm		
Sat 26 Apr	WREXHAM			

Skrill Premier Fixtures...

TODAY

Barnet v Nuneaton Town
 Cambridge United v Lincoln City
 Dartford v Braintree Town
 Forest Green Rovers v Luton Town
 Grimsby Town v Alfreton Town
 Hereford United v Tamworth
 Kidderminster Harriers v Chester
 Macclesfield Town v FC Halifax Town
 Salisbury City v Aldershot Town
 Southport v Gateshead
 Woking v Welling United
 Wrexham v Hyde

MONDAY 26TH AUGUST

Aldershot Town v Woking
 Alfreton Town v Hereford United
 Braintree Town v Barnet
 Chester v Forest Green Rovers
 FC Halifax Town v Southport
 Gateshead v Macclesfield Town
 Hyde v Grimsby Town (Live on BT Sport, ko 5.30pm)
 Lincoln City v Wrexham
 Luton Town v Cambridge United
 Nuneaton Town v Harriers
 Tamworth v Dartford
 Welling United v Salisbury City



SUB

AYLOR 2, Barry, **KELLY 3**, Pilkington
 Klukowski (57), Vieira, Asafu-Adjaye (73), Bulman, **BARNES-HOMER 1** (66)
 Klukowski 966), Asafu-Adjaye, Bulman, Barnes-Homer (53), Williams
 (71), **BARRY 1** (88), Kelly, Pilkington
 Vieira (71), Asafu-Adjaye, Bulman, Koroma (88), Williams (88)

RAE SENIOR

Rae Senior, the man that introduced me to watching non-league football in 1986, has sadly passed away after a short illness.

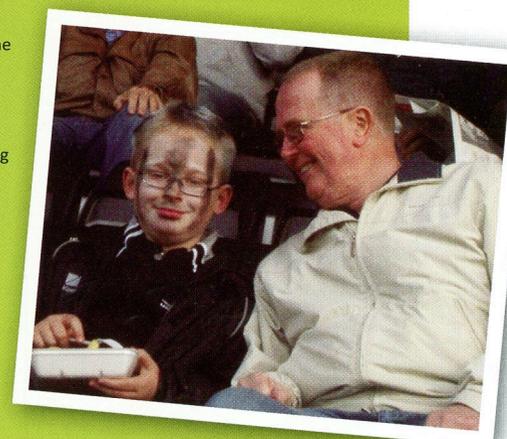
His own footballing prowess was limited to playing for his works side in the Huddersfield Works League until a knee injury ended his playing days in his late teens.

He then spent his twenties watching Huddersfield and Barnsley before moving south to Gloucestershire with work.

After work took priority over the next decade football was mainly limited to Sports Report on a Saturday evening.

Then one Saturday in 1986 he said that we should go to watch Forest Green as they were at home. They beat Leicester United 4-0 that day. From then on he followed Forest Green from their struggles in the Southern League through to their recent success in the Conference, being a proud supporter whatever the result.

I managed to drag him to most of the clubs around Gloucestershire when Forest Green were away, but he would be back at the Rovers the following game. His last game being the opening day thrashing of Hyde 8-0 which he delighted in telling me about.



Regards
Karl Senior



FOREST GREEN ROVERS

MANAGER: David Hockaday

ASSISTANT MANAGER: Gary Seward

- 1 Sam Russell
- 2 Jared Hodgkiss
- 3 Chris Stokes
- 4 Al Bangura
- 5 Jamie Turley
- 6 Dale Bennett
- 7 James Norwood
- 8 Yan Klukowski
- 9 Danny Wright
- 10 Magno Vieira
- 11 Kieron Forbes
- 12 Ed Asafu-Adjaye
- 13 Matt Bulman
- 14 Matt Taylor
- 15 Eddie Oshodi
- 16 Aaran Racine
- 17 Steve Brogan
- 18 Matthew Barnes-Homer
- 19 Reece Styche
- 20 Omar Koroma
- 22 Paul Green
- 24 Marcus Kelly
- 25 Saul Williams
- 26 Ashley Brown
- 27 George Pilkington
- 30 Andy Mangan

REFEREE:

Brett Huxtable

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Christopher Husband
& Neil Pratt

FOURTH OFFICIAL:

Thomas Harty



LUTON TOWN

MANAGER: John Still

ASSISTANT MANAGER: Terry Harris

- Mark Tyler 1
- Danny Fitzsimons 3
- Jonathan Smith 4
- Steve McNulty 5
- Anthony Charles 6
- Alex Lawless 7
- Solomon Taiwo 8
- Jon Shaw 9
- Alex Wall 10
- Jake Howells 11
- Scott Griffiths 12
- Mark Cullen 13
- Andy Parry 14
- Elliot Justham 16
- JJ O'Donnell 17
- Dave Martin 18
- Luke Guttridge 21
- Shaun Whalley 22
- Matt Robinson 23
- Ronnie Henry 25
- Andre Gray 27
- Jim Stevenson 28
- Alex Lacey 30
- Jake Woolley 31
- Brett Longden 32
- Jerome Jibodu 33

Next

Saturday 31st August 2013
Kick-Off 3.00pm

ALFRETON TOWN

The Skril Premier

