

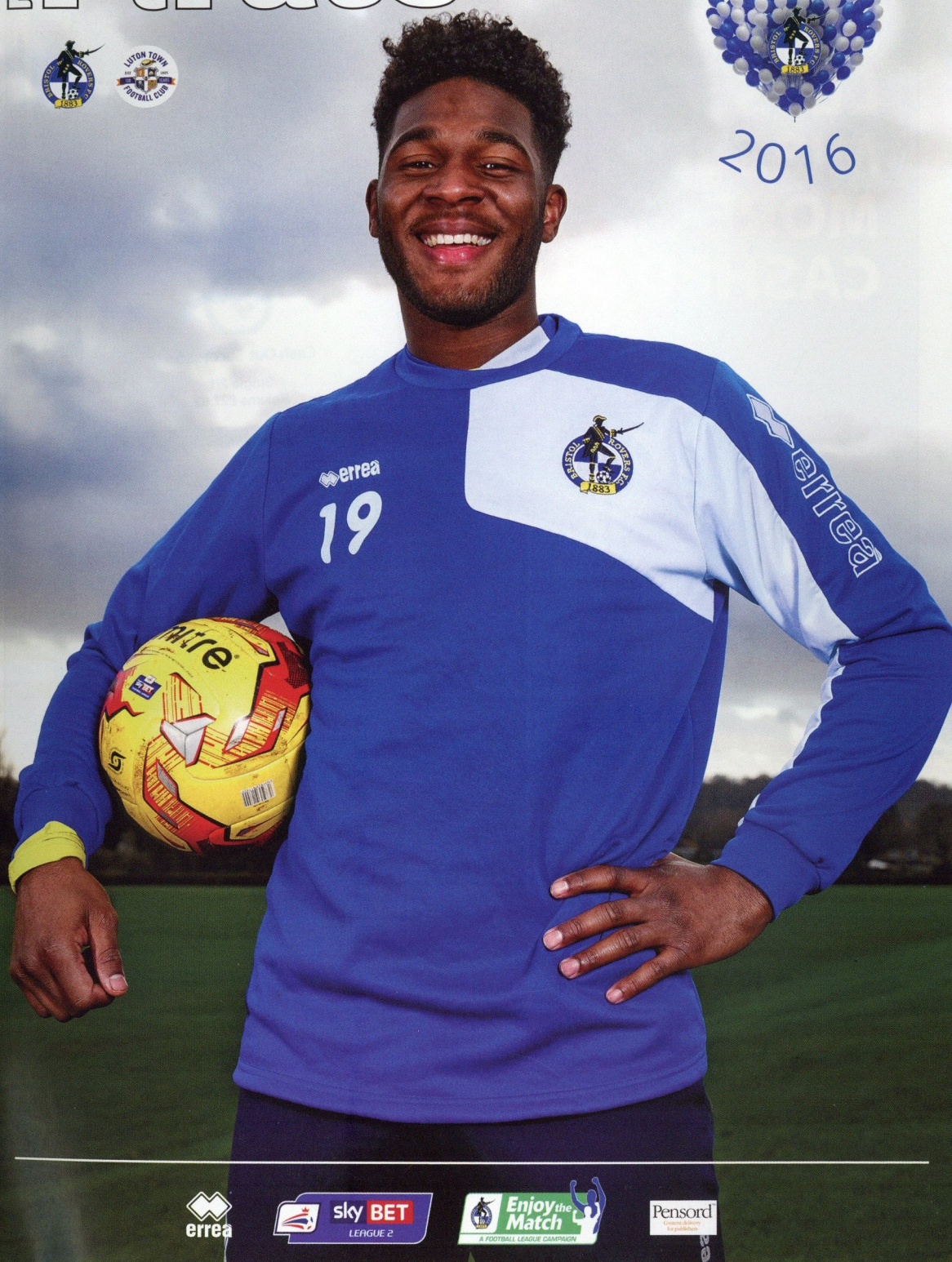
THE Pirate



Happy New Year



2016

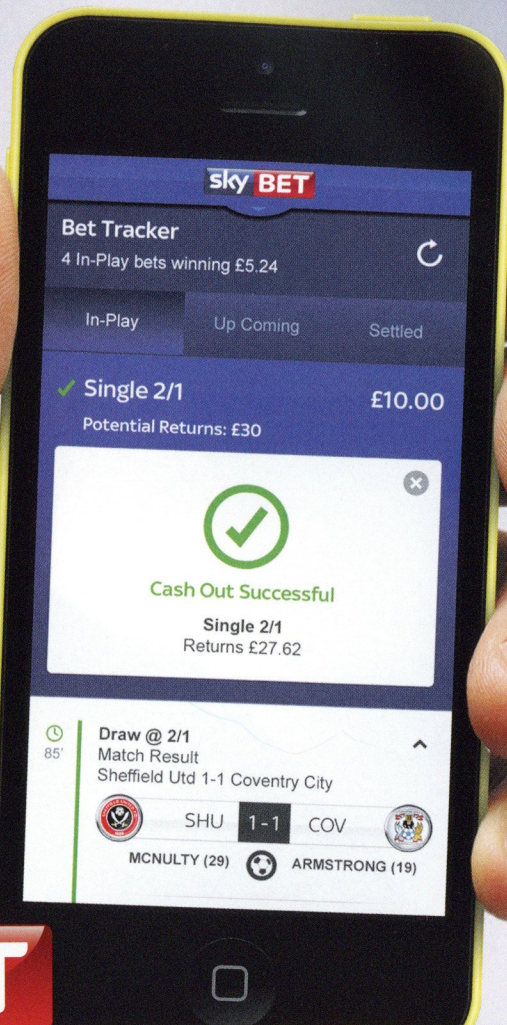


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THE MANAGER

Darrell Clarke



Happy New Year
2016

Good afternoon and a belated Happy New Year to you all as we return to The Memorial Stadium for our game against Luton Town.

A warm welcome, also, to the Luton management team and players, along with the club's supporters who have made the trip down to Bristol for the match.

Luton boss John Still left Kenilworth Road, by mutual consent, just before Christmas and Andy Awford, someone I know very well, was placed in charge as caretaker manager. I'm not sure if Andy will be in charge this afternoon, though, as two weeks is a long time in football!

I'm sure that many contributors to this afternoon's programme will take time out to reflect on the past year at our football club and whilst I'm not one for looking back, I have to say that 2015 will be a year that those of us involved with Bristol Rovers Football Club will remember for a very long time.

The promotion final at Wembley was very special, and emotional, as we won promotion back to The Football League at the first attempt. We have adapted well to life in League Two in the first half of the season and now look forward to building on that as we go into 2016.

We have a very good group of players at the club; it's a very tight knit squad and it will stay that way. Naturally those who aren't in the side aren't happy as they all want to be playing and be a part of things. However I'm sure that, during the course of the season, as we pick up injuries that will keep some players out of action for a while, that everyone will get their chance.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the rest of my management team. We, also, are a tight knit group and the likes of Assistant Manager Marcus Stewart, Goalkeeping Coach Stuart Naylor and Coach and Recruitment Officer Steve

Yates don't always get the credit they deserve.

I shouldn't forget, either, the contributions of physiotherapist Paul Maxwell and his backroom team, especially Luke Almond, or kitman Marco Carota and Tom Foley who assists him on matchdays.

Thanks to them and everyone else who works so hard behind the scenes and, especially, a big thanks to all of you for your amazing support.

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THE CHAIRMAN

Nick Higgs



I hope that you have all recovered from your New Year celebrations and welcome you all back to The Memorial Stadium for our first game of 2016.

When we look back over the last twelve months, I am sure we will all agree that it was an exciting time in our club's history.

It took us a while to get used to being a non league team, but Darrell Clarke had urged us all to embrace The Conference and not think that we didn't deserve to be

there and I think we did that.

Our supporters were a credit to the club and were welcomed at almost every ground we played at. Behind the scenes we met some very friendly people, all of whom were doing the best for their club and we were made to feel welcome in every boardroom we visited.

Our main aim, of course, was to return to The Football League and whilst we were disappointed not to have claimed the one automatic promotion place after a race with Barnet for

the title, we were promoted via the play offs after a memorable day at Wembley where we defeated Grimsby Town in a penalty shootout.

The first half of this season has flown by and our squad, led by Darrell and his management team, have adapted well to life back in the league. For a number of the squad, this is the first time they have played at this level, though you wouldn't guess that from their performances.

Whilst some of the results at The Memorial Stadium have

been slightly disappointing, the performances have, by and large, been excellent and wins against Wycombe and York here before Christmas, boosted everyone.

The results we have achieved away from home have been nothing short of outstanding; seven victories achieved with only half of the season gone helped propel us up to seventh place in the league before the busy festive period.

That's all in the past, of course, and now we look ahead to what could be a momentous time in the club's history as later this month we go to the Court of Appeal regarding our ongoing legal dispute with Sainsbury's. The Appeal Court has accepted our arguments about the need for an early decision and have granted us an early date for the hearing and, naturally, we are hoping for a successful outcome though I will not be able to comment further on the matter until a decision has been reached.

On the pitch, I think we can look forward to an exciting second half of the season and, with your support, which has been the one constant in the last 18 months we can continue to build on the progress we have made in the last year.

BRISTOL ROVERS FC CLUB PERSONNEL

Chairman Nick Higgs

Directors

Barry Bradshaw,
Chris Jelf,
Ken Masters,
Brian Seymour-Smith,
Edward Ware
Non Executive Director
Colin Sexstone

Honorary Vice Presidents

Bob Andrews, Ann Craig,
Roy Redman, Vernon Stokes

Director of Finance Toni Watola

Manager Darrell Clarke

Assistant Manager Marcus Stewart

Academy Manager
Jonny Henderson

Youth Team Manager Alan Walsh

Goalkeeping Coach
Stuart Naylor

Coach and Recruitment

Steve Yates

Senior Physiotherapist

Paul Maxwell

Sports Therapist

Luke Almond

Head of Academy Medical

Steve Bissix

Club Doctor Dr Tim Jenkinson

Kit Manager Marco Carota

Community Manager
Peter Aitken

Stadium General Manager

Ian Holtby

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Former Swansea boss Gary Monk



Changes at the top

looks otherwise likely or even possible at this time.

More often than not for labelled 'struggling clubs' is a change at the top with speculation mounting about the future for a good number of incumbents as the days go by. Not that there has not been a hefty record of change in that regard already!

I am writing this article with 16 games already decided of the 2015/16 season in the Premier League and 20 or 21 games in the bag for the 72 clubs that make up The Football League.

The National League Clubs have already chalked up 24 or 25 games at the time of writing and so it is fair to say we are just around the halfway point in the season.

A study or even a quick look at the league tables give us almost an upside down look and not a lot like the position many of us would have predicted when the season kicked off back in August and even less like than when last seasons ups

and downs were settled back in May.

Who would have thought Leicester City on top of the Premier League, having beaten a Chelsea outfit rooted in the lower half with the smallest of margins between the highly financed West London Club and those taking up the relegation places?

It has been thought in the past that those clubs promoted from the Championship are bound to struggle because of the long term established and big investment clubs already there. It was thought that the Premier League was itself made up

of three leagues within it but not so this season with Watford particularly and Bournemouth doing much better than expected.

Who would have thought The Cherries would take all three points off of Chelsea and Manchester United respectively let alone within one week? It is quite bizarre but it's what football is all about; ups and downs and what goes around comes around.

So we are now in the crazy period of the mid season transfer window with clubs taking stock of their positions and working, changing, and spending their way to a more successful outcome than

December saw the demise of Steve Clarke, Gary Monk, Jose Mourinho and John Still. November recorded 11 manager sackings including four each in the Championship and National Leagues respectively. Nine more were for the chop October with Brendan Rogers and Tim Sherwood on the list that included one more in the National League. Ten went in September with yet five more in the National League. What is it with the National League?

What strikes me is that good up and coming managers and coaches are losing their jobs before being given the time and a fair crack!

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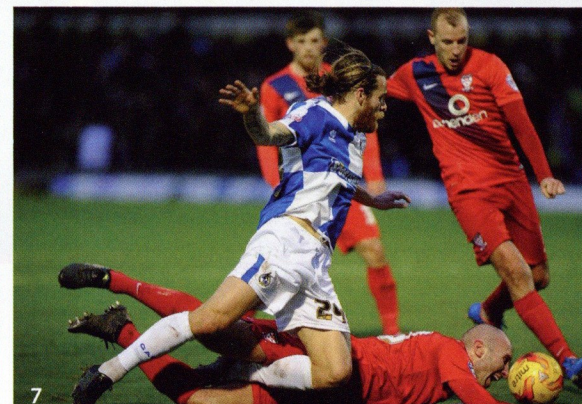
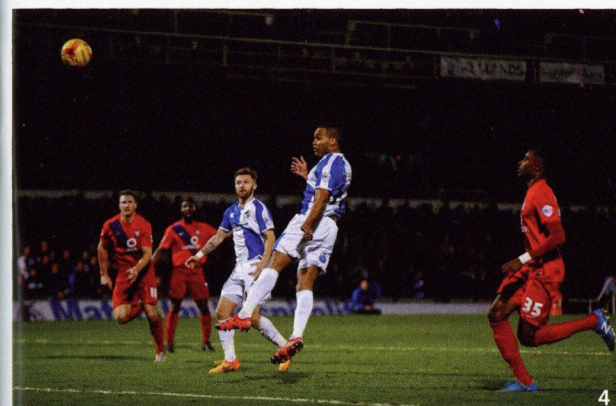
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Bristol Rovers v York City

1

Easter (70), Taylor (90)

Oliver (41)



■ Two changes to the starting lineup saw Billy Bodin and Paris Cowan-Hall come in for Daniel Leadbitter and Ollie Clarke.

■ One change on the bench sees Jake Gosling come in for Cristian Montano.

■ For the third time this season Montano is not in the squad.

■ Steve Mildenhall on the bench for the 22nd consecutive game.

■ York lose their ninth consecutive match.

■ Matty Taylor scores his 14th goal of the season, Jermaine Easter his sixth.

■ The 43rd league meeting between the sides sees Rovers edge in front with 16

wins to York's 15. There have been 12 draws.

Key moments

23 Matty Taylor, when through on goal, is denied by a fine tackle from David Winfield.

41 Vadaine Oliver puts York ahead

47 Tom Parkes sees his effort blocked on the line

50 Lee Mansell's shot is deflected over the bar

59 Gosling's shot is blocked and Brown's follow up shot is saved by Flinders

70 Jermaine Easter equalises with his first touch after coming on as a substitute

90 Taylor scores his 14th goal of the season to give Rovers all three points



BRISTOL ROVERS

Nicholls,
Clarke (J) (Leadbitter, 54),
Parkes, Lockyer, Brown,
Bodin (Easter, 70),
Sinclair, Mansell,
Cowan-Hall (Gosling, 54),
Gaffney, Taylor

SUBS

NOT USED
Mildenhall, McChrystal,
Clarke (O), Harrison

YELLOW CARDS

Taylor



YORK CITY

Flinders,
O'Connor, Winfield,
Boyle, Ilesanmi,
McEvoy (Straker, 56), Penn,
Summerfield (Godfrey, 88),
Berrett, Fewster (Galbraith, 69),
Oliver

SUBS

NOT USED
Carson, Swan,
Ingham, Kitching

YELLOW CARDS

Flinders, O'Connor

- 1 Late celebrations are in order after Matty Taylor's goal
- 2 Paris Cowan-Hall on the ball
- 3 Tom Parkes gets past Kenny McEvoy
- 4 Jermaine Easter's first touch led to the equalising goal
- 5 A determined run from Jake Gosling
- 6 Matty Taylor; ready to celebrate after his last minute winner
- 7 Stuart Sinclair goes to ground

“ All three substitutes made an impact, which hasn't always been the case this season, and the character of the players shone through again. York tried to kill every second of the game but we weren't frustrated and kept going right to the end ”

Rovers boss
DARRELL CLARKE

“ I'm disappointed with the way we lost after conceding a late goal because the lads had given everything. However in the second half you could see we were very nervous and one or two showed fear and apprehension ”

York City boss
JACKIE McNAMARA

“ You need to be switched on mentally when going on as a sub I wanted to make an impact because I want my first team shirt back. There was an element of luck in the way Lee Mansell's shot was deflected to me but I was ready and able to take my chance ”

Rovers player
LEE MANSELL

0

Dagenham & Redbridge v Bristol Rovers

3

Brown (33), Gaffney (82), Bodin (90)



■ Three changes to the starting lineup see Will Puddy, Ollie Clarke and Daniel Leadbitter return in place of Lee Nicholls, Paris Cowan-Hall and Billy Bodin.

■ Puddy, the fourth goalkeeper used by the club this season, is forced off through injury in the 49th minute of his first game of the season.

■ Rory Gaffney registers his first Rovers goal in the fourth game of his loan spell from Cambridge.

■ Steve Mildenhall who started on the bench for the 23rd time, makes an appearance as a 49th minute substitute, his first taste of action since 11th August.

■ Rovers record their seventh away win of the season.

Key moments

3 Christian Doidge wastes a golden opportunity to put his side ahead

24 Ashley Chambers shoots wide when well placed

33 Lee Brown puts Rovers ahead following a well worked free kick routine

64 Mildenhall makes an outstanding save from Josh Labadie

83 Gaffney doubles Rovers lead

90 Billy Bodin wraps up victory with the third goal of the afternoon



DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Cousins, Noiyte, Dikamona, Obileye (Nosworthy, 46), Connors, Passley, Labadie, Boucaud, Jones (Vassell, 65), Chambers, Doidge (Cureton, 65)

SUBS

NOT USED
O'Brien, Raymond, Hemmings, Ferdinand



BRISTOL ROVERS

Puddy (Mildenhall, 49), Leadbitter (Bodin, 67), Clarke (J), Parkes, Lockyer, Brown, Sinclair (Gosling, 49), Clarke (O), Mansell, Gaffney, Taylor

SUBS

NOT USED
McChrystal, Harrison, Easter, Cowan-Hall

YELLOW CARDS
Parkes, Gaffney

1 Rory Gaffney watches his shot evade the despairing dive of Mark Cousins and was soon able to celebrate his first Rovers goal

2 Daniel Leadbitter on the ball
3 Lee Mansell challenges Andre Boucaud

4 A determined Ollie Clarke gets to the ball ahead of two Dagenham players

5 Tom Parkes gets the better of Andre Boucaud

6 Lee Brown on the attack

7 Billy Bodin celebrates scoring goal number three

“ Sometimes you have to come away from home and win ugly and I think that is exactly what we did. It is important to be able to do that because there are going to be periods in every game at this level where you will be required to defend ”

Rovers boss
DARRELL CLARKE

“ Bristol Rovers had better players but they scored with their only first half shot. We were camped in their half before they scored their second goal without troubling them too much. 3-0 flattered them a little bit but they definitely deserved to win ”

Daggers boss
WAYNE BURNETT

“ It's a good result away from home and to keep a clean sheet and score three goals was a fantastic effort from the lads. I caught the ball quite well for my goal and was delighted to set us on the way but even more delighted that we collected all three points ”

Rovers player
LEE BROWN

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Pirate Sounds

by Lance Cook



2 January

This week, on the pitch and in the charts

A Happy New Year to all Gasheads as we welcome Luton Town to The Memorial Stadium for the last of the fixtures that have come thick and fast as usual in this busy Christmas period.

Darrell Clarke's men are in a decent position in the league after a positive first half of the season, and with the second half getting under way, all eyes will be on those top seven places in the table, in a league which is being fiercely contested as it normally is.

With that potential challenge and a host of exciting new releases, gigs and festival bills to come, 2016 is shaping up to be as good as last year!

This afternoon's old song is taken from the number one single from this day in 1982, which was The Human League with 'Don't You Want Me'. The single is best known as the band's most successful and recognisable song, and was the Christmas number one single. It spawned a new lease of life in 2014 when the song re

entered the singles chart at number 19, thanks in large part to a social media campaign by the supporters of Aberdeen Football Club. It wasn't the best of New Year starts for the Rovers however, as they lost 4-0 in the league fixture to Plymouth Argyle.

Rod Stewart provides the new song with the latest single taken from his 29th studio album 'Another Country'. 'Way Back Home' is a song described by Stewart as 'Dedicated to my sister Mary and to all those who sacrificed their lives for freedom and for peace'.

The borrowed song is 'Staring At The Rude Bois' by Gallows & Lethal Bizzle. The rap/rock collaboration was released nine years ago and is an interesting take on the original version made by British punk rockers The Ruts.

And finally, for our blue song, we go all the way back to 1970 with The Doors and their hit 'Roadhouse Blues' taken from their highest charting album in the UK, Morrison Hotel.

On this day....
2010 - Top 5

1. Joe McElderry - 'The Climb'
2. Rage Against The Machine - 'Killing In The Name'
3. Lady Gaga - 'Bad Romance'
4. Cheryl Cole Featuring Will I Am - '3 Words'
5. 3OH3 Featuring Katy Perry - 'Starstruck'

Bristol GIG GUIDE

Henry Rollins - St George's - 10/1

An icon of rock music, Henry Rollins is back with his first 'talking shows' since 2012. He's forged his own distinct career path, with the intensity of his punk rock roots with Black Flag and Rollins Band to his spoken word performances, journalism and acting career. Rollins will be stopping by St George's as part of his Charming Obsolete tour which is one not to be missed.

Jamie Lawson - Academy - 16/1

The first act to be signed to Ed Sheeran's label,

Gingerbread Man Records, Plymouth singer/songwriter Jamie Lawson's dark and tender country tinged pop songs take a passionate and intimate look at all that is beautiful and terrible in love and regret.

Kurupt Fm - Motion - 16/1

A DJ Collective from Brentford featuring MC Sniper and DJ Beats. They featured in the BBC Three mockumentary 'People Just Do Nothing' following the exploits and lives at a pirate radio station. They will be dropping beats and bringing the streets of London to Motion in a fortnight's time.

Musical Connections

Luton

A brace of musicians in the field of progressive rock can be found with associations to Luton, making the Bedfordshire town an unlikely hotbed for the genre.

John Payne was born in Luton and became a member of Asia when he was given the invitation to become the group's frontman by founding member of Geoff Downes in 1992. During his time in the band, Asia released eight studio albums before he left in 2006.

Clive Bunker was the original drummer in Jethro Tull and with his technique based on his throbbing, gritty, engagement with the essence of blues and



rock & roll, he was given comparisons to Ginger Baker and Mitch Mitchell. Bunker's time in the band lasted until 1971, when he left just after the release of Jethro Tull's most popular album to that date, Aqualung.

Away from the world of progressive rock and into one of the most successful singers of the 1980s. Paul Young was born and raised in Luton and embarked on a solo career in the early 1980s after being part of the band Q-Tips. Young would go on to score three top 5 albums and a number one single for 'Wherever I Lay My Hat' (That's My Home).

There's a good chance that Lee Mansell will, this afternoon, get to play against the side he first joined as an 11 year old.

"Although I was at Kenilworth Road for a long time, I've never played against them since leaving back in 2005."

His Hatters career began after he was spotted playing for a Gloucestershire Primary Schools representative side; "Back in those days you could be affiliated to any club you wanted to and it was the late Stuart White, a Luton scout, who spoke to my parents and invited me up for a trial match."

"I went up, played a match against Arsenal, and from then on I was up there every other weekend playing games. I was taken on as a YT and made my first team debut at 18 before signing a three year pro deal."

That debut came in an FA Cup tie against QPR in January 2001 and although Luton lost 2-1, he had the satisfaction of scoring in the first minute of the game. Truly a debut to remember!

"I ended up winning the Young Player of the Year Award, which was staggering as I was only trying to earn myself a pro deal. The club were relegated at the end of the season following several changes of manager but then Joe Kinnear arrived and he brought in Mick Harford while my youth team manager, Brian Stein, was upgraded to first team coach."

"Following relegation Joe was given a large budget and he brought in a lot of players from higher levels and, as a young player, it was good for me to mix with them and it

LEE MANSELL



proved to be a valuable learning curve.

"We were promoted back to League Two after just one season, but then I found first team opportunities hard to come by as the club continued to bring in more quality players and it was difficult for some of us younger lads to break into the side."

"Then Mike Newell took over from Joe as manager, and I managed to get back into the side and made 24 appearances in 2003/04, but chances were limited again the following season when Luton won the title and were promoted to The Championship."

"I was initially offered a new deal for the 2005/06 season, but that was withdrawn shortly after it had been made and I found myself searching for another club before ending

up at Oxford in the summer of 2005."

"It was a wrench to leave a club I had been at since I was 11 years old. I used to travel up to Luton in the school holidays and I loved it there. It was where I learnt my trade, how to deal with life as a footballer, and where I became a man. Everything I learnt at Luton helped me progress in the game and I have a lot to thank the club for, because they took a big chance on me as a youngster."

"My brother, Rich, was with the club a few years later at the same time as Stuart Sinclair and they say the same thing; it was a brilliant club to be at with so many good people behind the scenes. Kenilworth Road holds so many memories

for my family as Mum and Dad did a lot of driving from home to the place as first me, and then my brother, were there. In addition, I bought my first house in Luton and it's also where I met my wife."

"If selected for the game this

afternoon it will be a very special day. It's always nice to play against your former club as I know from playing against both Oxford and Torquay, since joining Rovers."

His move to The Mem came after eight years at Plainmoor; "I can honestly say that I've loved every minute of my time here and I think that will continue to be the case for as long as I'm here. This is a brilliant place to come and play football and it's very special to play in front of 7,000 fans every other week."

He will always be remembered as the player whose penalty took us back into the Football League; "That was highlight of my career to date and it was such a special moment. I think what we actually achieved that afternoon only really sunk in a few weeks later. To be promoted at the first time of asking, under immense pressure, was truly magnificent."



by Richard Hoskin

It's now January, which means the transfer window is open again.

While the likes of Jim White go into overdrive at this time of year, dusting off their yellow ties, I'm pleased to say BBC Radio Bristol has never had to commission a 'Deadline Day Special' - and just as well.

Historically, deadline day is an anti climax for our local sides, and I can only imagine standing in an empty car park with no news to report.

However, there will no doubt be some transfer news to report over the next four weeks. For Rovers, will they add to their squad, or will they receive an offer they can't refuse?! Time will tell.

In the meantime, I'm certain Darrell Clarke will get fed up of being asked by the media if there is any transfer news to report? Of course like any manager, he's hardly going to say; "well because you asked Richard, I'm actually planning to sign player x in 48 hours time. We just need to agree a transfer fee and personal terms with the player first!"

But we have to do our

Happy New Year everybody

job and keep asking the question, because eventually there will be some news to report.

Next season, I was interested to learn that the loan window is being scrapped, which will impact clubs

throughout the Football League. And who knows what the future is for football transfers in general?

Twenty years since the Bosman ruling was introduced, I keep hearing talk of transfer fees

being scrapped altogether in the future. Some of the arguments for this happening actually make sense, so we will have to wait and see.

But in the meantime Darrell, is there any transfer news to report?!

Don't ask, Rich - you know the answer!



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Rovers at Kenilworth Road last August

FALLING FROM THE TOP

I'd like to warmly welcome Luton Town to the Mem this New Year.

They're a club I've always quite liked. Our two clubs have shared some similarities in recent years.

We both know the crushing pain of getting relegated out of the Football League.

We both know the joy and relief of bouncing back. And we both know what it's like to be in the lower leagues while your biggest rival (in Luton's case Watford) are in a higher division. We've also both, unfortunately, been managed by Paul Buckle.

We weren't always on the same level as Luton however. When I was a football obsessed kid in the eighties, Luton were in the old First Division, only just missing out on a place in the first ever Premier League.

It seems hard to believe now but they finished 7th in 1987. Their big fall came between 2007 and 2009 when they tumbled consecutively from the Championship into the Conference due to financial problems. I cannot imagine what that's like. After five years in the Conference, they came back up the season before we did, winning that title by an impressive 19 points!

Nowadays, we're used to sugar daddy owners buying success for clubs who were once in the lower leagues, or even no league. But it can be interesting to recall those clubs who were once big successes in the top division but who we now forget were ever there.

Recently, I was nostalgically looking through my old Panini albums from the eighties and was surprised to find Oxford United in there as a First Division club!

They'd spent three seasons there and I'd just not remembered. Clubs like Oldham and even Swindon have been in the Premier League, but it's easy to forget that.

Before their 2001 relegation, Coventry City had been in the top flight for 34 consecutive seasons, which is rather impressive.

While we might say a football fan doesn't know true heartbreak until they've been relegated out of the league, it cannot have been easy for Coventry fans in recent years, especially when they had to play all their home games at Northampton.

That 1987 FA Cup win must have felt a million years ago.

Gone are the days of the plucky team of youngsters fighting their way up into the top flight and staying there.

What league a club is in, and their position in that league, is all often to do with how much money is being thrown into it.

I blame the Premier League for destroying a lot of what made football so accessible and exciting. Every now and then, the unexpected occurs - for example, the current reversal in expectations of Chelsea and Leicester.

But we can often tell how a season is going to pan out just by looking at how rich or poor a club is. For every club buying their way up the leagues, there's another getting into financial problems, often by trying to do the same.

Who knows what the future holds for Rovers, or indeed any club? I'd love to have a sneak peek at the football tables in 10 years' time. I'm sure there are many surprises ahead.

In praise of Matty Taylor

Happy New Year to you all, Pirates and Hatters alike.

As I was writing this well before Christmas, owing to print deadlines, these words may seem a little dated by the time you read them, along with my predictions that Lady C will get on with just about everyone in the jungle and Jose Mourinho will be Manager Of The Year.

However, I am pretty sure that it will remain valid when I say that the form and goalscoring achievements of Matty Taylor are nothing short of a revelation. I admit that I had not heard of him when Darrell Clarke signed him from Forest Green Rovers in that apprehensive summer of 2014, when we were all still licking our wounds after being dumped out of the Football League. On his debut alongside Ryan Brunt in our Conference opener against Grimsby Town, Taylor missed a one against one chance which would have won the game. Rovers' appalling start to the campaign was not conducive to bloodng a new striker, and it took Taylor until the tenth match, a 3-1 win over a hapless Nuneaton side, to make his mark.

With constant clamouring for a new striker, and despite the confidence shown in him by his manager, many Gasheads remained unconvinced that Taylor would have sufficient guile and weaponry to fire Rovers back into the League. Even

by the end of November, apart from two penalties his only addition to that strike against Nuneaton was a superbly taken goal against leaders Barnet, and at that stage few would have predicted how the rest of the season would unfold. One turning point may have come at Plainmoor on Boxing Day, when he delighted the huge travelling support by hammering home a long range strike to set Rovers up for a 2-1 win. Further goals followed in the next two matches, and he was now well on the way to that stunning run of success at the Mem, as including the playoff semi final against Forest Green, he scored in the last seven home games.

In addition, who is to know how differently that play off clash would have turned out had Taylor not scored that supremely clever opening goal at the New Lawn early in the first leg. He clearly enjoyed putting one over on his old employers, who had given him few opportunities in his final months at the club, and the villagers who had jeered him on his return were made to choke on their veggie burgers. Taylor was also one of the five penalty takers who fired Rovers to promotion at Wembley, and he could now look forward to his first ever match as a Football League player, long after being discarded as inadequate by his hometown club Oxford United.

How would he adjust to the step up, particularly

if it took him as long as it did to get going in the Conference? Surely, he would now be a squad player, limited mainly to substitute appearances. Again there was an inauspicious start, as Rovers were edged to defeat by Northampton in the opening game, but a goal in the next home match against old foes Barnet saw him open his account before August was out.

With Rovers struggling at the Mem, there were more demands for a new striker, but then something quite phenomenal happened. Near the end of September at Hartlepool, following a run of three home defeats in a row, Taylor - the Mem specialist in his first season - started terrorising defences on the road. He opened the scoring in that morale boosting 3-0 win at Victoria Park and netted another the following Saturday in a 4-3 triumph at Morecambe. Further goals followed at Mansfield (a glorious headed winner in the eighth minute of stoppage time), Cambridge (another late game decider) and a consolation penalty at Crawley. It must be ages since a Rovers player scored in five consecutive away League matches, and what was even more impressive is that when defences tire Taylor comes into his own. He possesses fantastic stamina and a never say die attitude



Matty Taylor - a superb season to date

which ensures he keeps going to the last whistle. So even when he doesn't hit the net, and we all know that even the best strikers have fallow periods, Taylor does not hide: he is still attempting those difficult passes and clever flicks which may create space for a colleague, and he is still gunning for goals.

After years of enduring Rovers' strikers' like the under achieving David Clarkson, the appalling Derek Riordan and the shot shy Chris Beardsley, it has come as a breath of fresh air to watch Matty Taylor don the blue and white quarters. This club is famous for producing excellent forwards, and Taylor has helped to restore some of that heritage.

And I nearly made it through the entire article without mentioning a comparison with Jamie Vardy...

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LET'S GET OFF TO A FLYER

Happy New Year, Gasheads, and welcome back to The Mem for this afternoon's clash with Luton Town!

I can scarcely believe that we are now in 2016; the last 12 months have absolutely flown by. On a personal level I think it is partly because I am having such a good time at Uni, but another huge reason why 2015 went so quickly is because Rovers have been giving me something to get excited about every weekend.

In the past I have been going to games as much out of habit and dedication than anything else. Since Darrell Clarke took over as manager and put together a squad of players who want to play for the football club, however, my excitement about watching Rovers has returned.

It is because we go into every game with a belief and confidence that we can win it. When supporters see their team play with absolute commitment, enthusiasm and a will to win it makes all the difference. Happily we win or draw a lot more than we lose, which is obviously fantastic, but even when we don't win we can still appreciate the performance because the lads always play with 100% effort.

That was the case in 2015 and it is no coincidence that we went on to have a successful year. We clinched a first time promotion from the Conference in the second half of last season and have gone on to make a very decent start to life in

League Two, meaning we are well placed to kick on in the second half of this campaign.

If we continue in the same vein we have done since Clarke took over in 2014 then you would be foolish to rule anything out, including the 'p word'. We have a strong squad and know full well that we can more than match any team in the division, so why not aim high?

Luton are the first side to stand in our way in 2016 and it will no doubt be a true test of our capabilities. At the time of writing they are 17th in the table and have not lived up to the pre-season hype surrounding them, but they have such a talented squad of players that a late play off charge is by no means beyond them.

With the likes of Craig Mackail-Smith and Danny Green in their ranks they have more than enough quality in attacking areas to score goals in League Two, so you would think that if they can rectify their leaky defence they will go on a good run of form at some stage.

We have to be prepared, therefore, for a very tough game this afternoon. The Hatters will be

Stuart Sinclair celebrating at Luton earlier this season

cheered on by a big away following and I am sure they will all be hoping their side can put an inconsistent start well and truly behind them. It is up to us to ensure they don't achieve it today.

Stuart Sinclair netted the winner in stoppage time in the reverse fixture at Kenilworth Road in August and I have to say it has probably been my favourite game so far this season. On the night we played fantastically and thoroughly deserved the three points, although Luton fans posted on social media afterwards to say they thought it was a drab affair. Perhaps it was from their point of view, but there is no doubt we were by far the better team on the night.

We carved through them at will and should have scored a couple of early goals to make our dominance count. It felt like it was just going to be one of those nights and most of us in the away end were discussing how a point was by no means a bad result given Luton's budget.

Much to our delight, though, Matty Taylor and Sinclair combined to plunder all three points in stoppage time. Against his first professional club, Sinclair latched on to a ball over the Luton back line from Taylor and fired beyond goalkeeper Mark Tyler from eight yards. He loved it, we loved it and the celebrations were terrific — the sort that make travelling around the country worth it.

Luton fans applauded the lads off the pitch after the final whistle, which I thought was a great touch, and I think it underlined just how well we had gone about our business on the night. For me, it was the result that announced our return to League Two.

It is in the bigger games like this that Gasheads go the extra mile to get behind the team, so I am looking forward to what should be a good atmosphere today. Let's get off to a flyer, lads.

Come on Rovers, Come on you Blues!



I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone from Luton Town Football Club and hope that they enjoy their time at the Memorial Stadium.

Happy New Year to you all!

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with commitment to technical excellence, View Engineering can guarantee the results to suit your needs. Service, repairs, MOT preparation and welding repairs to all Commercial vehicles 3.5t to 44t. Fully mobile operation, with three fully equipped mobile workshops direct to your door.



Programme Sponsor – Lee McClean

We are delighted to welcome **Lee McClean** and his guests to the



game as our Match Programme Sponsor this afternoon after winning his Win Your Club prize with McCoy's, the official Crisp of The Football League. As part of the prize Lee visited the manager and players on 22nd December as he toured the training ground and later on in the day went behind the scenes to see all the goings on at The Memorial Stadium. Congratulations to Lee for Winning His Club and we hope you have a fantastic day.

Mascot – George Sinclair



Our Commercial Mascot this afternoon is six year old **George Sinclair**. George attends Whyteleafe School in Surrey and his favourite player is Stuart Sinclair, especially as they share the same surname!

George loves Lego and has recently become big brother to Rosa, who already has a Rovers kit!

We hope you have a fantastic day with us George – UTG!



Will Puddy, Cristian Montano and Chris Lines, along with Director Barry Bradshaw, presented York Match Sponsor Mike Courtiour with a signed home shirt

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1883 Sponsors Club

Today we are delighted to welcome Kevin Bond/ Somerlap Forest Products, Sean Carnell/Regal Tile Ltd., Mark Shail/Chiller Technical Solutions, Andrew Bradmore and Dean Wood/Smart Computers, Ben Skuse/Sprint Print & Design and Gary Cotterell/APS Fire & Security who are all members of our 1883 Sponsors Club – we hope you enjoy your hospitality with us this afternoon

Chris Lines, Cristian Montano and Will Puddy with some young supporters prior to the York game

and many thanks for joining our 1883 Sponsors Club this season.

Birthday/ Special Announcements

A date for your diaries is the **Bristol Rovers Valentines Ball** which will be taking place at the Bristol Hotel on **Saturday 20th February**



in the company of players, directors and management of the club. Places cost £55 per person to include three course dinner and entertainment from local

musician and entertainer Daz Sims. Please contact the Commercial Department to book your place.

C'mon Ye bBues!

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Bristol Rovers Scholars 2015/16

Back (L-R): Lewis Leigh-Gilchrist, Sam Iles, Dan Lammiman, Sam Hedges, Charlie Phillips, Kieran Hodges, Bradley Confrey, Blake Davies, Alfie Kilgour, George Corp
Middle (L-R): Luke Russe, Connor Jones, Tyrone Tucker-Dixon, Lewis Ellington, Regan Sollars, Sam Blake, Eliot Green, Olly Mehew, Callum Bingham, Tom Fry
Front (L-R): Alex Hinder (Head of Recruitment), Paul Hughes (Lead Foundation Phase/U-16's Coach), Tom Parrinello (Lead Youth Development Phase/U-16's Coach), Jonny Henderson (Academy Manager), Ken Masters (Supporters Club Director), Alan Walsh (Professional Development Phase Coach), Dave Buckwell (Assistant Development Phase Coach/Head of Psychology), Steve Bissix (Head of Medical), Mike Byrne (Goalkeeping Coach)

Daniel Leadbitter Visits Academy Foundation Phase Training

Our Foundation Phase boys were treated to a visit from first team player Daniel Leadbitter in their last training session before breaking up for Christmas.

Daniel walked around each group as they trained and he got to watch the boys in action before each group had the opportunity to chat with him and ask any questions they had.

The boys were delighted to meet one of their role models from the club and asked some good questions around his experience of progressing through Youth Academy football to be a professional at our club.

It was also great as an Academy to have a real love of playing the game and love being in possession of the ball. The visit also gave our boys the opportunity to chat with and get to know one of the first team players.

It's brilliant to see our boys developing themselves as young Bristol Rovers players with a real connection to the club and identifying role models from the first team

Under 10s Squad



such as Daniel who showed just what a fantastic role model he is to them.

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BRFC YOUTH UPDATES

U-13 Programme Update



Pete Martin

Pete Martin

Peter is the Manager of the Performance Tennis programme at the University of Bath where he also delivers on the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence and is a lifestyle support advisor to dual career athletes.

He has been a UEFA 'B' Licence Coach since 2009, and has also completed the FA Youth Award.

Pete has been coaching to juniors of various ages at the University of Bath and also coaches U-19 and U-11 Development Squads.

Joe Sharples

Joe joined the Academy part time in September 2015 having previously been responsible for West Bromwich Albion's Development Centre in Bristol for the last three years.

He has worked with a number of local players who have gone on to sign for our Academy. Joe holds the UEFA 'B' Licence award and will start his 'A' Licence in the summer of 2016.



Under 13s Squad

He is currently working towards his Youth Module 3 as well as Position Specific courses. Joe leads a Post 16 programme in Chippenham which looks to help players achieve football scholarships in America and Australia.

they are now training for a third evening in the week and regularly playing 11v11. They are a very creative

Under 13s

Our U-13 squad have adapted very well with the transition from the Foundation Phase to the Youth Development Phase.

The most significant changes being



Jo Sharples

FL YOUTH ALLIANCE U18 SOUTH WEST

Sat	Aug 8	PORTSMOUTH	H	1-1
Sat	Aug 15	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	0-0
Sat	Aug 22	CHELTHENHAM TOWN	H	4-3
Sat	Aug 29	A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	H	1-0
Tue	Sep 1	LUTON TOWN Cup 1	H	0-2
Sat	Sep 5	Newport County	A	2-2
Sat	Sep 12	SWINDON TOWN	H	2-0
Sat	Sep 19	Yeovil Town	A	3-3
Sat	Sep 26	Oxford United	A	3-2
Sat	Oct 10	EXETER CITY	H	0-1
Sat	Oct 17	A.F.C. Bournemouth	A	1-3
Sat	Oct 24	NEWPORT COUNTY	H	1-0
Thu	Nov 5	Gloucester City FAYC	A	4-1
Sat	Nov 14	Swindon Town	A	1-3
Tues	Nov 17	PORTSMOUTH FAYC	H	3-3
Tues	Dec 1	YEOVIL TOWN	H	1-3
Sat	Dec 5	Exeter City	A	3-1
Thu	Dec 10	OXFORD UNITED	H	0-2
Sat	Dec 19	Portsmouth	A	1-1
Sat	Jan 9	Plymouth Argyle	A	
Sat	Jan 23	Cheltenham Town	A	

BRFC YOUTH

Our U-16 coach, Paul Hughes, has designed these player challenge cards, featuring members of the first team squad, which have been handed

to our Academy players.

Essentially, they are an aid for our coaches to ask a youngster to play as the first team player shown on his card.

The first set of cards are reproduced here (with a back) for coaches and players to cut out and keep for use in their training sessions.



Tom Parkes

Try to take good marking positions around the box



James Clarke

Can you always give the keeper a passing option



Jermaine Easter

Try to press opponents early to reduce their options



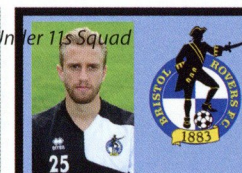
Kieran Preston

Try to use a range of distribution techniques



Danny Greenslade

Can you join in with wide midfielder in attack



Will Puddy

Try to recognise when to start a counter attack



Ryan Broom

Can you keep clear passing channels to receive



Jay Malpas

Try to see when you can pass straight to forwards

Daniel Leadbitter with the Under 11s Squad

team who clearly love playing the game and have developed a good character and team spirit over their time together so far.

The current squad is Andrew Williams, Anuerin Livermore, Callum Ball, Danny Constable, Ellys Preece, Flynn Trueman, Jed Ward, Joe Bud, Kinsly Murray, Louis Holden, Lucas Connelly, Michael Friend, Miguel Freckleton, Sam Heal and Toby Lawrence.



BRFC
YOUTH

We hope you will enjoy using our skills cards, whether you are a player or a coach.

Please let us know if you feel they are helping you.



Bristol Rovers



Bristol Rovers



Bristol Rovers



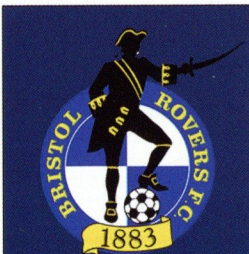
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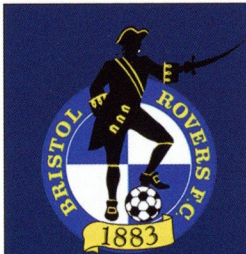
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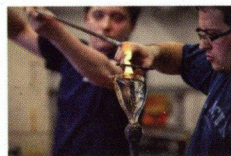
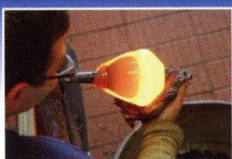


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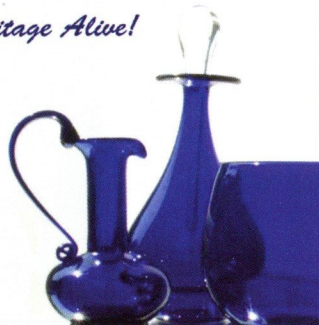
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DEEP HEAT

by Sue Chappell

A photo with Teddy!

When I was in my teens, I was an armchair fan of Tottenham Hotspur; this was before and during my introduction to Rovers courtesy of my Dad.

Why Spurs? Well, it had seemed the natural progress after becoming huge fans of both Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne during the 1990 World Cup in Italy, my gateway to becoming a football fan. Before that summer, football was something I just tolerated.

When Teddy Sheringham joined Spurs in 1992, it was to the great annoyance of my brother Ed, whose team was Nottingham Forest. Neither of us had been taken to Twerton Park yet so our loyalties to 'our' teams was fierce. So posters of Sheringham wearing Forest's red were taken down in one bedroom and, along the landing in my room, posters of him in Spurs' white went up. During the years that followed, whilst my peers were obsessing over Take That, the objects of my affection were Spurs' stars, such as Sheringham, Jurgen Klinsmann, Darren Anderton and Ian Walker. By now I was a fully fledged Gashead, watching Rovers lose at Wembley in 1995 and move back to Bristol the following year and was immersed in watching my local side. But my affection for Tottenham did not wane.

Nowadays, my interest

in Tottenham is barely a passing interest, but for those years one player in particular became my all time hero, and that was Sheringham. I made scrapbooks of his career, with newspaper clippings and cuttings from Match magazine. His late involvement in international football – he was 27 when he made his England debut – was a great excitement for me, especially in the heyday of the 'SAS', his strike partnership with Alan Shearer. Pundits infuriated me at the time when they bemoaned his lack of pace, when his ability to find space and provide key passes at crucial moments were the best areas of his game. Plenty of strikers have pace but did not have his brain.

Anyway, I digress. Over the years I have watched many a former England player see out the days of their career at a lower league side. I remember Gazza's appearance for Everton against Rovers at Goodison Park in the League Cup in 2000. I got Chris Waddle's autograph leaning over the hoardings at the Mem when he played for Burnley. And some years later, when Rovers played Leicester City, I leant over the hoardings by the tunnel again and called over to their goalkeeper, Ian Walker, who was at the end of his career then. He kindly posed for a photo.

But a few weeks back I met my all time favourite, Sheringham – I had my eye on our fixture with

Stevenage since news of him becoming their manager broke and decided it would be a game I'd have to get to – more so since he announced he'd be registering himself as a player at the age of 49. I'd never seen him play as he was an unused sub in the England v Spain fixture I saw at Villa Park in 2001.

He wasn't going to be playing when Rovers went up against Stevenage a few weeks back but I was thrilled to spot my teen idol walking his side out at the Mem. And although it was a sorry night for Rovers, as we lost 2-1, I stole my chance to meet Sheringham as he walked down the tunnel behind his players after their victory. I called over to him and asked for a photo. He looked up and for one brief second, I waited for his response with bated breath. Could I imagine if he'd ignored me or said no? My teenage years would have been wasted on being his biggest fan! But no, thankfully he broke from his reverie to come over and have his photo taken with me. My husband took it as I am not one for selfies. (Selfies and selfie sticks: what IS that all about? I wonder if future



generations will baulk at how crazily narcissistic our generation became, needing a STICK to take snapshots of themselves. Anyway, that's a rant for another day!)

In my teenage years, I'd written to many a player and have a treasured stash of autographed photos in my attic – one from Sheringham addressed with my name on it and 'best wishes' (which probably made my year, not just my day, back then!) amongst them. But having a photo of him, which I immediately WhatsApped to a few people, was thrilling. It was only a moment from his busy evening, but a moment that meant the world to me. He was charming as I had hoped he'd be and I am certainly going to have a soft spot for Stevenage this season.

I can honestly say it's the happiest I've ever been after a Rovers defeat!



4

When he looks back at 2015, defender Tom Lockyer is spoilt for choice when it comes to selecting the highlight of quite an extraordinary 12 months in his career.

In no particular order he turned 21, played at Wembley, was promoted with Rovers, passed the 100 league game mark for the club and made his Welsh U-21 debut along the way.

"It has to be playing at Wembley and winning promotion," he says when asked. I consider playing at Wembley to be a lifetime achievement. Some players never get to play there at all in their careers, so that was a personal highlight of the year.

"Winning promotion back to the Football League runs playing at the stadium a close second. It was particularly sweet, because I was in the side that went down to The Conference. Relegation hurt a lot, so it was nice to be able to play my part in putting things right."

The first half of this season has gone well, with Rovers adapting well to life back in the league.

"The aim was always to push on after last season's success and I think we have done that. We have an excellent team spirit in the squad and I believe that shows out on the pitch.

"Mind you, I do believe that the top seven or eight sides in The Conference could do well in League Two. There is a difference in standards, but the top clubs could comfortably cope with life at this level."

The first half of the campaign might well have been better

TOM LOCKYER



had it not been for some poor results at The Memorial Stadium; "I've no idea why we struggled at home early on. However we did win our last two home games before Christmas so I hope that was a turning point. Still, our results away from home have been pretty good and hopefully that will continue."

Support for Darrell Clarke's side this season has been outstanding; "It's been great, both home and away. The number of fans travelling to away games is unbelievable and it's good that we have been able to reward them with some good results. To hear them get behind us at every game is so encouraging when we are out on the pitch."

Like all members of the squad, he has had to get used to the manager treating each game as a different project and to the changes made in starting

lineups and the tactical switches made during matches.

"The gaffer has said he will mix and change things and to go and see him if we aren't happy with things, but as a player I don't think you can complain if, for example, you aren't in the side. There's only one thing to do and that's work hard to get in there.

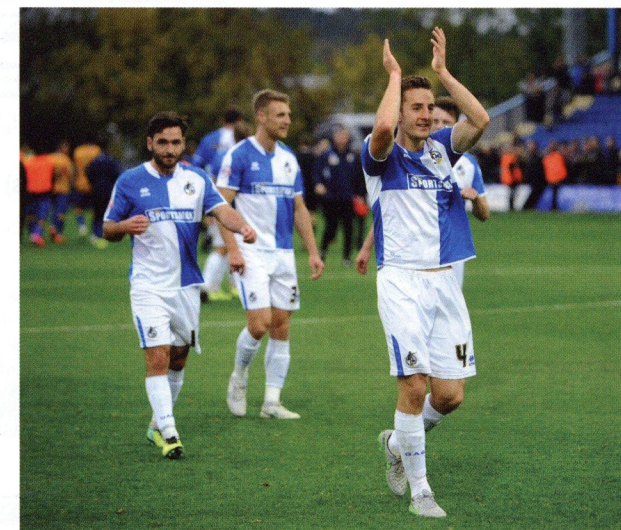
"As far as different systems are concerned, we are all comfortable with either a three or a four at the back, so whatever the manager decides to do we can adapt. At Crawley, we even went with a back two!"

On to the matter of representing his country, he is clearly very proud to have

"These are good times to be Welsh and even more so to be a Welsh footballer and the whole country is buzzing with the draw for the group stages of the European Championships this year and I can't wait for us to beat England!"

At the age of 21 he had appeared in 123 first team games for Rovers, in all competitions, going into the Christmas games; "That total has just crept up on me. I don't really set myself targets and I just keep playing and try to do well and stay in the team. By doing that the appearances soon begin to mount up and it also helps if it's possible to stay free of injury.

"As for the rest of the season, hopefully we can kick on and make a charge for the upper reaches of the league. I believe we have a squad capable of doing it and see no reason why we can't do that."



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

EARLY BRISTOL FOOTBALL (PART ONE)

Association Football was a late starter in Bristol; it was not until Tuesday, 5th December 1882, that we find any reference to any local activity of the game in the pages of the Bristol Mercury, Bristol Times & Mirror, or the Western Daily Press.

On this day the latter journal reported on the encounter between St George and Warmley three days earlier, commenting that: 'These clubs met on Saturday on the ground of the former. Considerable interest was taken in the game, as the rules adopted were 'association', which, although the popular game of the Midlands North, has never found much favour in this neighbourhood, where rugby union has so firm a hold.

The experiment was quite successful, and

the promoters of the 'dribbling game' are to be congratulated on their maiden attempt, and there is no doubt that in a few seasons Bristol may possess an 'association eleven' which will uphold their game as successfully as the rugby union teams have in the past.

'Warmley won the toss and selected to play down the hill, but, owing to the strong defence of the home team's half backs and backs, were never dangerous, and only the good goalkeeping of J.A. Tayler prevented St George from scoring on several occasions. Up to half time no score was made, but on the change of ends the home team completely penned their visitors and the ball was twice forced through their goal.'

St George: JR Riddell (capt), H Long, R Summerhill, G Grace, J Baylee, JW Clarke,

S Fleming, E Fleming, A Smith, W Betty, J Howse.

Warmley: H Furber (capt), JA Tayler, A Greenough, A Elmes, G Godfrey, G Peacock, G Gay, G Henley, C Fussell, C Packer, C Bryant. Umpires: Messrs Slocombe and Godfrey.

Both of these pioneers of the association game in Bristol were formed in 1882, but even so they were only following in the footsteps of various clubs not too far distant, such as Wotton under Edge, Street, and Paulton Rovers.

However, it wasn't long before other teams sprung up in Bristol, as the following season saw the birth of Bristol Rovers, who burst on the scene as the Black Arabs, and the Clifton Association club.

To many, the Clifton were the aristocrats of the local game, numbering among

their ranks Oxbridge men, such as Charles Wreford-Brown, who became Bristol's first international in 1889 on turning out for England v. Ireland when he was playing for Oxford University in term time, and his home club Clifton during vacations. Further caps were gained v. Wales in 1894 and 1895, and against Scotland in 1898.

On this latter occasion, he was a member of the FA. Selection Committee, and had to be prevailed upon by his colleagues to captain the side that beat the Scots 3-1 in Glasgow on 2nd April.

He also played for the Corinthians, and the Old Carthusians, winning the FA Amateur Cup with the latter in 1894 and 1897, as well as turning out in County matches for both Gloucestershire, and London representative sides.

Unfortunately, the influence of the winners of the very first Gloucestershire Senior Cup in 1887/88, was to wane following the start of the very first local league competition in 1892, and the advent of professionalism, which was adopted by Bristol City in 1897. Not long after suffering a 9-1 FA Cup defeat by City at St John's Lane, the wearers of the 'chocolate and cardinal' disbanded in December 1897.

Whilst the early roots of the association game in Bristol were in the east of the city, it wasn't long before clubs sprouted up south of the river, much interest being kindled due to the first local Representative match taking place in front of a 600 crowd on the Bedminster Cricket ground on 7th April 1885, when Gloucestershire beat Somerset 1-0.

The following season saw further fixtures being fulfilled, including 10-1 drubbing by Aston Villa at Perry Barr, before the official formation of the Gloucestershire F.A. on 7th September 1886. However, it was the start of the Gloucestershire Senior Cup in 1887 that saw the association game

really take off in Bristol, with many more clubs being formed, including Southville, who would become Bedminster on

joining with the cricket club two years later, and Globe, who became QEH Old Boys in 1888.

The adjoining page details some of the earliest rugby and association results in the local press.

<u>Season 1881-82</u>				
<u>Saturday, October 20th</u>				
<u>Association Football</u>				
<u>Representative Match</u>				
London	1	Birmingham	1	(Kennington Oval)
<u>Rugby Football</u>				
Clifton Rugby	v.	Cardiff		(Redland)
(3 goals, 4 tries, 8 touch downs)		(1 touch down)		
<u>Saturday, January 7th</u>				
Nonport (1 goal, 3 touch downs)	v.	Clifton Rugby (1 touch down)		large (Nonport Athletic Ground)
<u>Saturday, January 14th</u>				
South Wales	v.	North of England		2000 (Nonport)
(1 try, 2 touch downs)		(1 goal, 3 touch downs)		
<u>Association Football</u>				
<u>Friendly</u>				
Wells	4	Shepton Mallet	0	(Wells)
<u>Saturday, January 28th</u>				
<u>Representative Match</u>				
South	3	North	1	(Kennington Oval)
<u>Rugby Football</u>				
Gloucester (1 touch)	v.	Clifton Rugby (1 goal, 1 try, 8 touches)		(Spa Ground, Gloucester)
<u>Saturday, February 4th</u>				
Weston-super-Mare	v.	Clifton Rugby		large (Weston-super-Mare)
(2 goals, 2 tries, 6 touches down)		(3 touches down)		
<u>Saturday, February 11th</u>				
<u>Association Football</u>				
<u>Representative Match</u>				
Sheffield	3	Glasgow	1	(Sheffield)
<u>Saturday, February 18th</u>				
<u>International</u>				
Ireland	0	England	13	(Bloomfield, near Belfast)
<u>Rugby Football</u>				
Druids (1 try, 2 touches)	v.	Llantrissant House (1 try)		(Lockleaze)
Long Ashton School 1st XV	v.	Druids 1st XV		(Long Ashton)
(1 touch down)		(1 goal, 2 tries, 5 touch downs)		
<u>Saturday, March 18th</u>				
<u>Association Football</u>				
<u>Representative Match</u>				
FA XI	1	Oxford & Cambridge XI	1	(Kennington Oval)
<u>County Match</u>				
Staffordshire	4	Lancashire	2	(Stoke-on-Trent)
<u>Scottish FA Cup Final</u>				
Dumbarton	2	Queens Park (Glasgow)	2	12000 (Cathkin Park)
<u>Saturday, April 1st</u>				
<u>The Boat Race</u>				
Oxford (20 minutes 12 seconds)	beat	Cambridge (21 minutes) by ten lengths		(Putney)
<u>Association Football</u>				
<u>Shropshire Cup Final</u>				
Oswestry	2	Shrewsbury Castle	1	
<u>Scottish Cup Final Replay</u>				
Queens Park (Glasgow)	4	Dumbarton	1	15000 (Cathkin Park)
<u>Friendly</u>				
Old Carthusians	1	Old Etonians	0	(Kennington Oval)



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The Ones who didn't score ten

Undeniably Bristol Rovers supporters look away with horror whenever the question arises as to which individual scored the most goals in a Football League match.

As any good student of the game can recall the answer is Joe Payne (1914-75), whose name has been given to a lounge at Kenilworth Road. It was Easter Monday 1936 and Rovers took to the field away to an injury ridden Luton Town team. The sides had drawn 2-2 at Eastville just three days earlier and Payne was playing in his first League match for eight months. With no fit forward to take the centre forward berth, he scored a first half hat trick, before a crowd of 14,296, and went on to claim ten goals in a 12-0 demolition which remains to this day Rovers' heaviest ever defeat.

In scoring his final nine goals in 46 minutes, Payne eclipsed Tranmere Rovers' Bunny Bell's feat of nine goals in a match. He opened the scoring with a low shot after 23 minutes and added two close range shots in the run up to half time. After the interval, the centre forward could do no wrong and, by the 86th minute, had increased his impressive goal tally to three headers

and seven shots. He scored an astounding 83 goals in 72 League encounters with Luton before later winning one England cap in 1937 (and characteristically scoring twice that day against Finland) in a war stunted professional career.

All this, embarrassing though it may well be for Gasheads like us, is all well and good. But who scored the other two goals that day? Has history totally forgotten them both? Shortly after Payne's 23rd minute opener, Fred Roberts scored the Hatters' second of the day; a minute from time, inside right George Martin, who had initially been falsely credited with the sixth goal, added the twelfth. Who were Roberts and Martin and how did their lives intertwine with the Bristol Rovers story?

Luton born in August 1909, Frederick Charles Roberts was a forward who had initially made his name at Birmingham; joining the Blues in 1933, he had top scored at St Andrew's in 1933/34, albeit with only eight goals for a struggling side. After 29 League matches and nine goals, he arrived at Kenilworth Road in December 1934 and was with Luton for a decade. During that time, he managed 38 goals in 180 League appearances,



Joe Payne's ten goal feat was acknowledged on this plaque on the Miners Arms, Brimington, the village in which he was born

scoring once against Rovers as Luton ran up a 6-2 home victory in January 1935.

Roberts appeared five times against Rovers in all, scoring twice, helping Luton run away with the Third Division (South) title in 1936/37; they did, however, lose 4-0 that campaign at Eastville. Division Two football saw Roberts score a brace against each of Norwich, Barnsley, Southampton and Plymouth and, after wartime football with Luton and Watford, he spent three years at Kettering Town to 1948. Fred Roberts died in Luton in January 1979, aged 69.

Scottish forward George Seatt Martin was born in Bathgate in July 1899 and, from Hamilton and Hull (204 League games and 55 goals, including a hat trick against Preston in April 1927), joined Everton in time to secure a First Division championship medal in 1927/28. In five years, he managed to play in a side relegated, re promoted

and once again crowned national champions before, after 31 goals in 85 League games for the Toffees and six matches with Middlesbrough, furthering his career from 1933 at Luton.

A noted singer with a fine tenor voice, Martin totalled 27 goals in 98 League matches at Kenilworth Road to take his career total past 100 League strikes, this tally including five games and two goals against Rovers. He scored in the 2-2 draw at Eastville on Good Friday 1936 and his last-minute goal in the 12-0 win proved the final one of his Football League career. He made just three appearances in the title winning 1936/37 season, when the inimitable Payne racked up 55 League goals, but had also played in the Everton side for which Dixie Dean scored 60 times in 1927/28. He became a coach at Luton and manager from December 1944, manager at Newcastle United who signed Jackie Milburn, Aston Villa and Luton again, before retiring in 1966.

George Martin died in Luton in the autumn of 1972, aged 73.

24

Stuart Sinclair

Autograph



Who else has worn this shirt? 24

We take a closer look at previous Rovers players who have worn this number since 2000.

Mike Trought · Neil Arndale · Matt Somner · Michael Leary
Sammy Igoe · Alex Kite · Ollie Clarke

Michael Leary



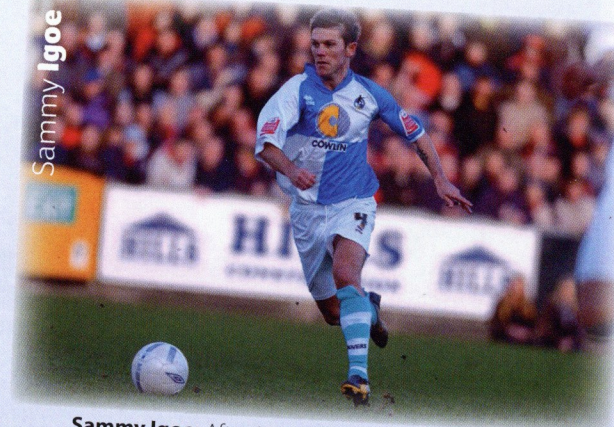
Michael Leary: Made 13 league appearances for Rovers during his loan spell from this afternoon's visitors and on leaving The Mem he turned out for Walsall, Torquay United, Brentford, Barnet, Gainsborough Trinity and Spalding United.

Mike Trought



Mike Trought: Having come through our centre of Excellence Mike went on to appear in 33 league games for Rovers. On leaving The Mem he played for a number of non league clubs but is no longer involved in football.

Sammy Igoe



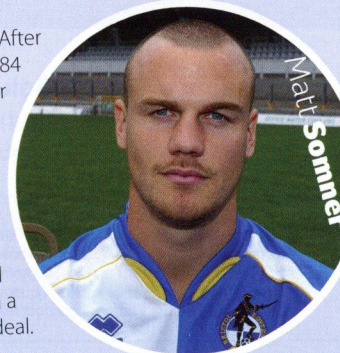
Sammy Igoe: After 11 goals in 160 league games for Portsmouth, Sammy Arrived at The Mem via Reading, Luton, Swindon and Millwall. Scored twice in 72 league games for Rovers and in the 2007 play off final against Shrewsbury.

Ollie Clarke



Ollie Clarke: Having graduated through our Centre of Excellence, Ollie is now a member of the first team squad and is our longest serving player. Now wearing the number 8 shirt, he has scored six goals in 91 games in all competitions for Rovers.

Matt Somner



Matt Somner: After appearing in 84 league games for Brentford and 24 for Cambridge, Matt arrived at The Mem in the summer of 2005. However after one game manager Ian Atkins decided against offering him a long term deal.



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A YEAR REMEMBERED

Chris Wathen

2015 - Been and gone

For football fans like some of us, a calendar year can perhaps be hard to review.

We view the season from August to May as more important. However, 31st December is always an opportunity to look back and for us perhaps you'd say, 'remember where we've come from'.

We were looking good as the New Year began. A win at Torquay (Boxing Day) and then a 4-0 win at home to Macclesfield had rounded off 2014 well. On New Year's Day, we had the return game with Torquay, a favourite Conference trick, where you generally get matched with someone near you twice at holiday time, to play each other home and away. In the end, we scraped a 2-2 draw but kept a useful unbeaten run rolling.

One of my enduring memories of the early part of the year, will always be the scenes at Woking. As a youngster, I

remember games at Elm Park, Reading, with no all ticket restrictions. Many of us woke up on the day and decided to go, no forward planning.

That's exactly what happened in January, as we dominated two sides of the ground with our loyal band of away supporters. Sadly, some were locked out. We could have had three sides of the ground to watch the steady 0-0 draw.

The recently formed 'Chepstow, Forest Of Dean and Monmouthshire Gas', took a posse on a much more successful trip to Gateshead. They even flew up. This was another odd shaped ground for the connoisseur, but the 1-0 win, courtesy of an Ellis Harrison strike, placed another vital cog in the Conference escape plan wheel.

On a personal note, I spent the latter part of March and early April in Fukuoka, Japan. Running round Japanese hotel corridors in the early hours trying to

get WIFI for Gas games and praying for Barnet slip ups was an unexpected set of events. I was home in time for the 7-0 destruction of Alfreton but the record shows that we just missed out on the title. Still, I was confident as we marched on Forest Green in the play offs.

Marching on Forest Green was fraught with hazard. Our contingent at the August League fixture was far too noisy, so the well known home Chairman halved our ticket allocation. I still got one myself though and recall parking my car in the middle of nowhere. What a strange place to try and plant a Football League Club! Over the two legs though we made it to Wembley, 3-0 on aggregate.

The Wembley date didn't really go according to plan at first. Grimsby Town, our opposition on the day, took an early lead. Ellis Harrison clawed us back in with an equaliser before half time and we took the game to penalties. Five

heroes smashed home our penalties and one miss from Grimsby meant that we went home to the Football League at the first attempt. The footage of Lee Mansell's penalty will be watched again and again on New Year's Eve, by many fans, along with Darrell Clarke's sprint across the Wembley turf.

And what about our Football League return? Well, up until recently, most fans would only have wanted to talk about the away games. However, on Tuesday 1st December, Matty Taylor proved that you should never compile your Top five memories of the year until it's over.

Our poor home form seemed to fade away as Matty hit three second half goals in just 11 minutes. As this was a rearranged game, he got lots of unlikely national media recognition and has even been likened to Jamie Vardy.

Let's hope he stays with us and powers us up again.

John Taylor

There were a few eyebrows raised in March 1992, when crowd favourite Devon White was allowed to leave Rovers in a part exchange deal involving Cambridge United striker John Taylor.

But the newcomer soon put everyone's minds at rest, going on to score 44 goals in just over 100 appearances. "I managed to find the net early on in my time with Rovers, which is always a big help," pointed out John, when I tracked him down at his home in Felixstowe.

Originally working as a shipping clerk, John's early dreams of making it as a footballer were dashed, when his local club, Colchester United, released him in 1983, having made just one substitute appearance – a decision they've no doubt regretted ever since. He was subsequently spotted playing for Ryman League side Sudbury United by Cambridge United, who promptly splashed out £1,000 to sign him on, kick starting a career that would see him play a total of 627 games and score 172 goals from his time with seven different Football League clubs. His first spell at Cambridge – he later returned to play and manage them – saw him consistently find the back of the net, many coming in an explosive partnership with Dion Dublin.



John Taylor, coaching the young stars of tomorrow...



admitted John.

...and in action for Rovers

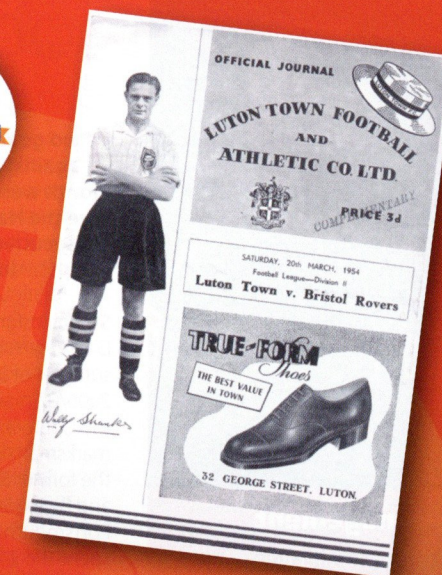
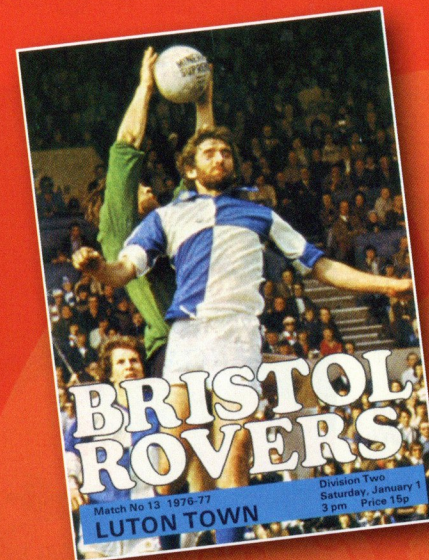
today's visitors, Luton Town, forked out £200,000 to sign him. But the move never really worked out. "I was carrying a back injury which didn't help," pointed out John, whose return of just four goals from 40 appearances was nothing like his previously prolific goalscoring record.

Loan spells at Lincoln and original club Colchester followed, before Cambridge won the race for his signature to bring him 'home.' John was to enjoy seven more years with 'the Us,' taking his place in their Hall of Fame with a grand total of 409 appearances and 103 goals.

After taking on the reserve team manager's position, John was given the job of first team boss in January 1992, a post he held until March 2004. "Looking back, the opportunity probably came too early in my career,"

Mark's Memory
Lane column is featured each week in the Sunday Independent. He is also the author of 'Life After Bristol Rovers,' which is available from Pirate Leisure.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS



Luton Town FC

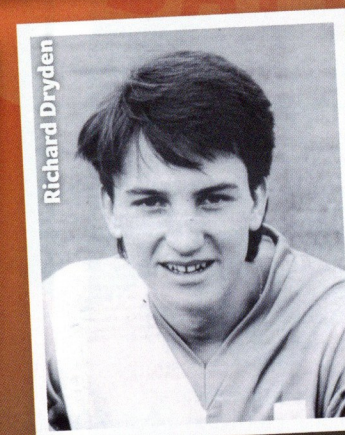
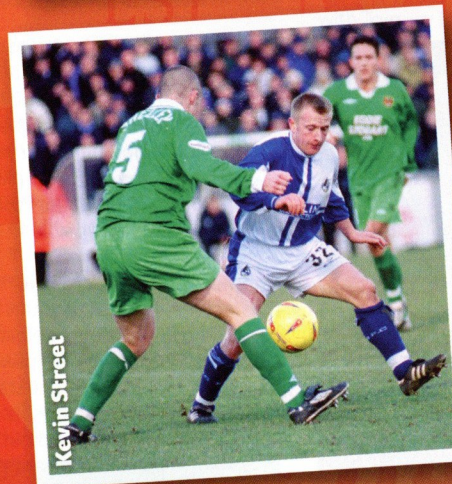
Programmes: Programme cover from the game between the sides on 1st January 1977 when Rovers won 1-0 courtesy of a Peter Aitken goal, in front of a crowd of 7,185.

Programme cover from the game at Kenilworth Road on 20th March 1954 which ended in a 1-1 draw. Jackie Pitt scored Rovers goal from the penalty spot in front of a crowd of 12,915.

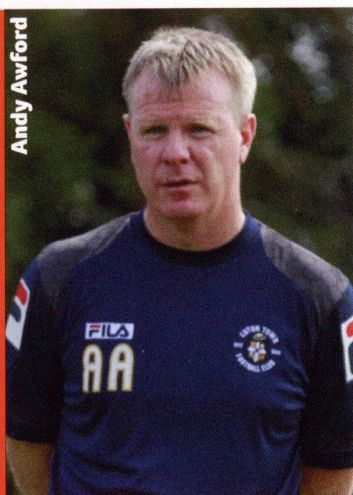
Kevin Street: Had played two games from Luton, when on loan from Crewe Alexandra, by the time he arrived at The Memorial Stadium in November 2002. Went on to score twice in 33 league games for Rovers.

Gary Waddock: Eight goals in 203 league games for QPR preceded his time with Rovers for whom he scored once in 71 league games. The Republic of Ireland international appeared in 153 league games for The Hatters, scoring three goals.

Richard Dryden: Began his career with Rovers, for whom he made 13 league appearances. Later in his career played 37 league games for Bristol City and appeared in 22 league games for this afternoon's visitors.



Andy Awford



The Management

John Still, the former Rovers' assistant manager who combines the distinction of having led three teams into the Football League with an enviable reputation for identifying talent in non league football, was relieved of his duties at Kenilworth Road eight days before Christmas.

As the Hatters invited applications for the job, Academy and Development Manager **Andy Awford** became caretaker boss ahead of the pre Christmas trip to Exeter.

Awford was previously manager of Portsmouth, for whom he played over 370 games over 11 years and where he had twice acted as caretaker boss.

In his second stint in charge on a temporary basis, which began in March 2014, he won his first five games in charge to save Pompey from relegation from the League and was April's Sky Bet League Two 'Manager of the Month'. His 11 month stint in permanent charge began in May 2014.

Awford was League Two's 'Manager of the Month' again in February last year after 14 points and four clean sheets in six games without defeat.

Today we welcome -

Two goals from **Paul Benson** against Northampton last month were not enough to save the Hatters from a fourth consecutive defeat or to prevent **John Still** losing his job.

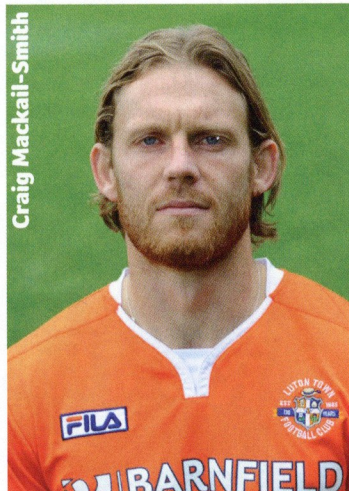
Still first signed **Benson** for Dagenham & Redbridge in the summer of 2005. His 28 goals in 2006/07 made him the club's and the Conference National's top marksman. Subsequent moves took the former England 'C' cap to Charlton and Swindon with loan stints at Portsmouth and Cheltenham. He spent the 2013/14 campaign on loan at Luton before switching permanently ahead of the following season.



Danny Green

The Hatters' third goal against the Cobblers came from the penalty spot thanks to **Danny Green**, a summer signing from MK Dons. The former Bishop's Stortford midfielder spent three seasons with Charlton before joining MK Dons at the start of the 2014/15 campaign after five games on loan for them in 2013.

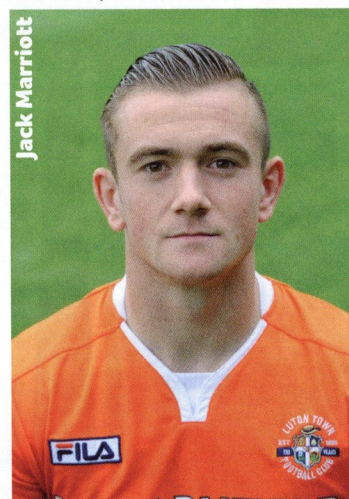
Another ex Dagger, England 'C' international **Craig Mackail-Smith**, has also represented Scotland at full international level thanks to his Edinburgh born grandmother. His



Craig Mackail-Smith

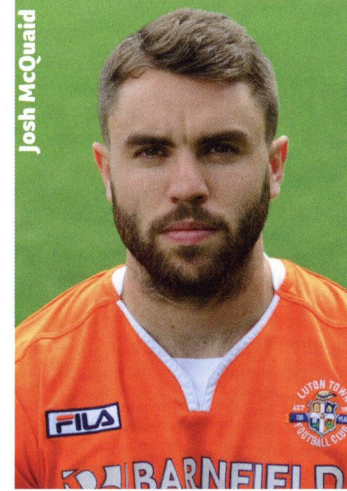
38 goals for the Daggers led to a move to Peterborough early in 2007 which resulted in 99 goals and three promotions. **Mackail-Smith** became a Hatter last August after four years at Brighton during which he played a further three games for the Posh on loan towards the end of 2014.

Summer signing **Jack Marriott** found the net for the eighth time this term in November's 4-3 home defeat by Carlisle. Now 21, he joined Ipswich at the age of 15 and made one start and two substitute appearances for the Tractor Boys. He has turned out on



Jack Marriott

LUTON TOWN FC



Josh McQuaid

loan for Woking, Gillingham, Carlisle and Colchester. Also on target against the Cumbrians, with his fourth strike of the campaign, was striker or wide man **Josh McQuaid**, a Northern Ireland international who switched to loan in the summer after playing for Bournemouth and Millwall and spells on loan at Burnley, Peterborough and Coventry.

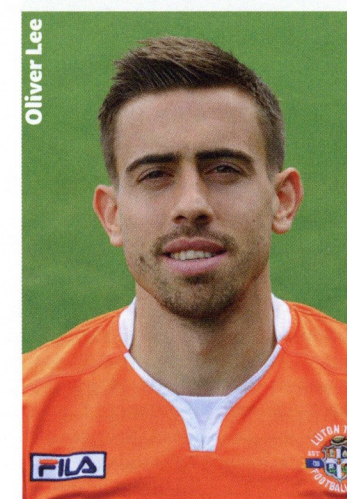
2014/15 'Player of the Season' at Kenilworth Road, midfielder **Nathan Doyle**, a September signing from Bradford City, was a trainee at Derby, making 10 appearances for the Rams. He spent time on loan for Notts County ahead of stints at Hull and Barnsley, and six loan outings for Preston.

Luke Guttridge was chosen as 'Players Player of the Year' in the 2013/14 promotion winning side. The 33 year old made one substitute appearance for Torquay in April 2000 before moving on to Cambridge United and Southend. A loan move to Leyton Orient in November 2006 led to a permanent deal but he spent the 2007/08 campaign with Colchester. He played for Northampton in two spells on either side of a 14 game stint at Aldershot before switching to the Hatters in the summer of 2013.

February signing **Ryan Hall**, a former Crystal Palace youngster, spent two months on loan with Dagenham & Redbridge early in 2008 before spending a further month on loan at Crawley. Hall has since played for Bromley, Southend, Leeds United, initially on loan, Sheffield United, also on loan, MK Dons and Rotherham. Last season he turned out six times on loan for Notts County.

Alex Lawless has represented Wales at U-21 level and as a semi professional. Whilst with York in 2010 he spent two months on loan at Kenilworth Road before the switch became permanent. A former Fulham trainee, he spent the 2005/06 season with Torquay followed by three years at Forest Green.

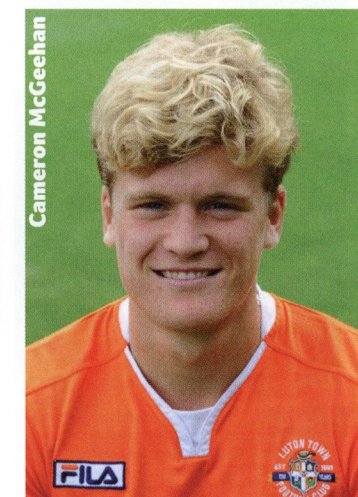
Oliver Lee, on loan from Birmingham, scored in the Hatters' 4-1 win at Hartlepool in October. The 24 year old ex West Ham trainee played on loan for Dagenham & Redbridge and Gillingham before spending the 2012/13 campaign with Barnet. Initially loaned to Birmingham in March 2013, he switched to St Andrews on a permanent basis two months later. He played 15 games during a loan spell at Plymouth, netting twice.



Oliver Lee

Midfielder **Jake Howells** returned to the squad for the pre Christmas visit to Exeter looking to feature in his first game of the season for the Hatters. The England 'C' and former Wales U-21 cap, who has spent a month on loan at Yeovil, was transfer listed at his own request in the summer.

Winger **Paddy McCourt** was once described by Scotland manager Gordon Strachan as one of the most gifted footballers he had ever seen. The Northern Ireland international left Rochdale for Shamrock Rovers in 2005 and joined Celtic in 2008 after a spell at his home town club Derry City. Before signing for the Hatters in July he plied his trade at Barnsley and Brighton, ending last season with three months on loan at Notts County.



Cameron McGeehan

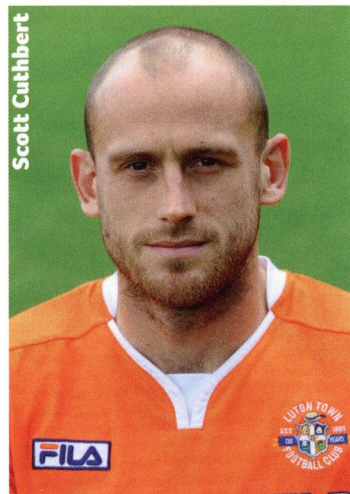
Cameron McGeehan's early years were spent with Fulham and Chelsea. The Northern Ireland U-21 cap joined Norwich in 2011 and captained the Canaries' youth side to success in the FA Youth Cup in 2012/13. Early in 2014 he joined the Hatters on loan and helped them to gain promotion to League Two. Loans spells at Cambridge United and back at Kenilworth Road led to a permanent switch to Luton in the summer. **McGeehan**'s eighth goal of the current campaign came in November's home win over Barnet.

Luton Town FC



A central midfielder who can also play in defence, **Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu** went from Boreham Wood to West Ham, who loaned him to the Hatters in November 2013 and recalled him the following month due to an injury crisis. Luton secured his services on a permanent basis in January 2014 and **Mpanzu** helped them to win promotion to League Two as Conference Premier champions.

Jonathan Smith netted for the fourth time this term in October's 4-1 win at Hartlepool. He has played for Morecambe and Forest Green and spent the 2011/12 campaign with Swindon between two spells at York.



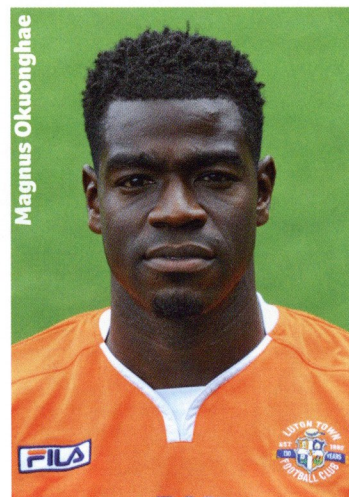
Central defender or right back **Scott Cuthbert** signed a professional deal with Celtic but did not appear for their senior side. He went on loan to Livingston and St Mirren before spending two campaigns at Swindon. In 2011 the former Scottish U-21 cap moved to Leyton Orient, featuring over 150 times for the O's before his summer move to Kenilworth Road.

England 'C' cap **Scott Griffiths**, who helped the Hatters to return to the League as Conference Premier champions in 2013/14, also

enjoyed promotion in 2006/07 with Dagenham & Redbridge, and with Chesterfield in 2010/11 during one of his two loan stints with the Spireites. Right back Sean Long, a Republic of Ireland international, joined the Hatters on loan from Reading in mid October.

Right back **Stephen O'Donnell** scored 10 times in his four campaigns with Partick Thistle before the ex Scotland U-21 cap came south of the border in the summer. There appears to have been an element of fortune about his first goal for the Hatters, in a home JPT win over Leyton Orient in September, when the 23 year old former Celtic trainee got in the way of a shot from midfielder **Ryan Hall**.

Summer signing **Mark O'Brien** was named Derby County's 'Scholar of the Year' and Republic of Ireland's U-19 'Player of the Year' in 2009. In that year he needed heart surgery for a valve problem but fortunately made a full recovery. He spent last season on loan at Motherwell.



Magnus Okuonghae has returned from a loan spell at Hartlepool. The 29 year old Nigerian's former employers include Aldershot, Crawley Town, Dagenham & Redbridge and

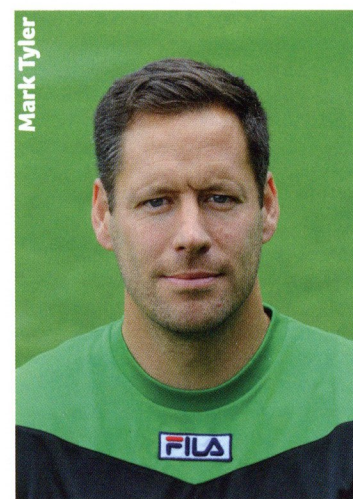
Colchester, where he was club captain and for whom he played over 200 games.

Dan Potts signed for the Hatters in May after 13 games for West Ham. The 21 year old left back or central defender has been on loan at Colchester and Portsmouth.

Previously signed by **Still** for Dagenham & Redbridge in 2010, **Luke Wilkinson** left Bristol City for Portsmouth, later playing on loan for Eastleigh, Boreham Wood and Dartford, with whom he won promotion to the Conference Premier via the play offs. The defender scored his third goal of the campaign in September's 3-1 win at Morecambe.

Frankie Musonda, a 17 year old central defender who signed professional forms in November along with defensive midfielder **James Justin**, was on the bench against the Cobblers last month.

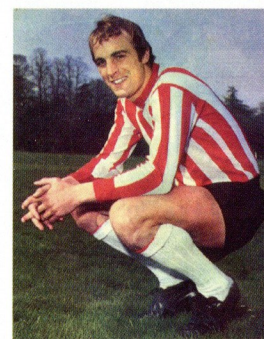
38 year old keeper **Mark Tyler**, signed from Peterborough in the summer of 2009, made over 500 appearances for the Posh. He began as a trainee at Norwich City, his hometown club. His number two **Elliot Justham** has featured four times since switching from East Thurrock in 2013.



Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles five big name Luton Town FC players not usually associated with the club

Ron Davies

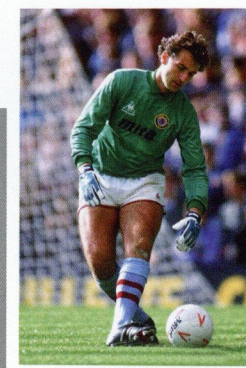
Noted for his aerial ability, Welsh international striker Ron Davies was capped 29 times after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Chester in July 1959, he was twice leading



marksman, moving to Luton in October 1962. He was top scorer in 1962/63, netting 21 goals in 32 League games before joining Norwich City in September 1963. Moving to Southampton in August 1966, he topped their goalscoring charts three times before joining Portsmouth in April 1973. Later with Manchester United, Arcadia Shepherds, LA Aztecs, Tulsa Roughnecks and Seattle Sounders, he coached in the United States and died in May 2013.

Mervyn Day

Luton Town's former loan goalkeeper Mervyn Day starred in West Ham's 1975 FA Cup final success. The England U-23 international was twice ever present for the Hammers and played in the 1976 ECWC final, moving to Orient in July 1979. He was ever present three times prior to joining Aston Villa in May 1983, then joined Leeds United in February 1985 and helped win the Second Division title in 1989/90. Loaned to

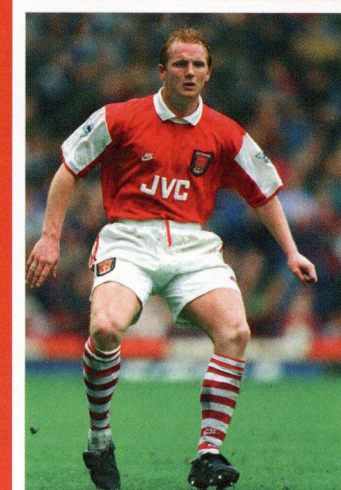


Luton in March 1992, he made four League appearances. Joining Carlisle United in July 1993, he became their manager, then assisted Alan Curbishley at Charlton and West Ham, returning to Leeds as chief scout.

John Hartson

Welsh international striker John Hartson helped Luton Town reach the FA Cup semi finals in 1993/94. Signing professional for Luton in December 1992, he netted 11 goals in 54 League games before sold to Arsenal for £2,500,000 in January 1995. He scored in the 1995 ECWC final, moving to West

Ham for £3,200,000 in February 1997. Leading marksman in 1997/98, he joined Wimbledon for £7,000,000 in January 1999 and had a spell with Coventry City prior to joining Celtic in August 2001. He starred in their 2001/02 'treble' triumph and joined West Brom for £500,000 in July 2006, gaining a total of 51 caps.



Colin Todd

Ex England international central defender Colin Todd appeared for Luton Town in 1984/85. Initially with Sunderland, he moved to Derby County in February 1971, starring as they won the League Championship in 1971/72 and 1974/75, when PFA Player of the Year. He joined Everton in September 1978, then played for Birmingham City and Nottingham Forest. Reuniting with Jim Smith at Oxford United in February 1984, he helped clinch the Third Division title and moved to Luton in October 1984, playing two League games. He later managed Middlesbrough, Bolton Wanderers, Swindon Town, Derby County and Bradford City.

Matthew Upson

Former Luton Town central defender Matthew Upson gained 21 England caps. Signing professional for Luton Town in April 1996, he made his only League appearance for the Hatters as a substitute

in their 1-0 win over Rotherham four months later and joined Arsenal for £1,000,000 in May 1997. He featured in their 1997/98 Premier League title campaign and was a member of the 2001/02 'double' winning squad.

Loaned to several clubs, he moved to Birmingham City for £2,000,000 in January 2003, then joined West Ham for £6,000,000 in January 2007. He has since played for Stoke City, Brighton, Leicester City and MK Dons.



Taken from the Carling Cup First Round tie at The Mem on 22nd August 2006, today's photo shows Lewis Haldane and Peter Holmes tussling for possession. The sides traded a goal apiece in the 90 minutes, Adam Boyd scoring for The Hatters after only three minutes, and Richard Walker equalising just after the hour mark. The sides couldn't be separated in extra time, but Luton won the penalty shootout 5-3.



Good afternoon and a very Happy New Year to everyone.

Well, it is now officially 2016! I turned around and 2015 was gone; how did that happen?

I think looking back on last year, I'm quite sure you will agree with me that 2015 was a fantastic year for our wonderful club. It really is fantastic to see the buzz around the Memorial Stadium again. Let us hope that 2016 is even better and with Darrell at the helm, why shouldn't it be.

Best of luck to him and the boys for the coming year.

I would like to welcome our visiting supporters today who have travelled to us from Luton. You have to be as mad as a HATTER to make that journey; you can probably now see why I am not a stand up comedian!



Our mascot for the game against York City was Josh Gray, pictured here with Matty Taylor...

...and with team captains, match officials, Captain Gas and commercial mascots Hope and Nathan Shepherd

Young Pirates



by Ian Brommage

If you would like to tell me how bad my jokes are then please come and see us in our Young Prates room at the top of the car park.

We sell sweets, drinks and souvenirs so if you would like a little memento of your visit to the Memorial Stadium, come and see us.

Enjoy your day in Bristol and from all of us I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a safe trip home.

Don't forget that we are always looking for parents or guardians of Young Pirates to join us so if you think you could become an active member with some fresh ideas, then please come and see us.

Well, that is just about it for now; sorry it is a little brief but I am sure you don't mind that too much!

All the best for 2016.

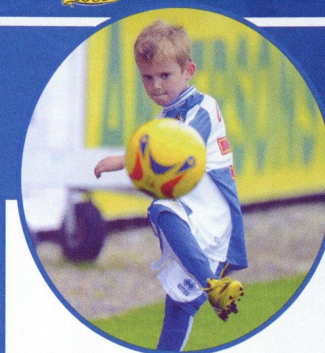
COME ON YOU BLUES
Brommo

Happy New Year
2016

UNSCRAMBLE!

Solve the anagram below to find the name of a current Rovers player:

KAGO JINGLES



TODAY'S MASCOT

Nine year old Kian Stock attends Blaise Primary School and his hobbies are football and American football (he follows Miami Dolphins).

He plays football, as a central midfielder, for Henbury Colts, and his favourite players are Matty Taylor and Ellis Harrison.

We hope that Kian enjoys being our mascot this afternoon.

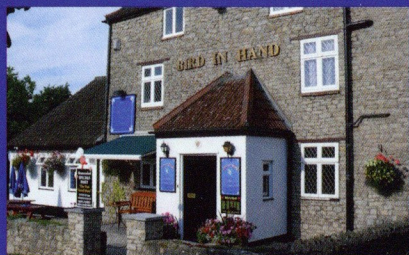
Happy Birthday to...

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------|
| 1 | Jan | Joe Macdonald |
| 2 | | Oscar Pate |
| 3 | | Olli Gilson |
| 4 | | Oscar Ball |
| | | Billy Blackmore |
| | | Martin Donovan |
| | | Reece Humphries |
| | | Toby Shellard |
| 6 | | Ben Foster |
| 8 | | Louisa Aquilina |
| 9 | | Joseph Tucker |
| 10 | | Esme Slocombe |
| 13 | | Luke Bailey |
| | | Neveah Grose |
| 15 | | Alan James |
| | | Smoothy Cody |
| 17 | | Oakley Stephens |
| 18 | | Sam Maseley |
| 19 | | Finley Cummings |
| 21 | | Thomas Silcocks |
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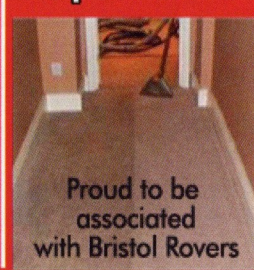
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Q&A with Phil Tuckett

TALKING POINT

by Antony Addy

I'd like to extend my very best New Year's wishes to all Gasheads as we embark on a fresh year of football.

Furthermore, a warm welcome to Luton Town and their supporters for this first home match of the second half of the 2015/2016 season. This year has seen the club demonstrate healthy progress on the pitch under the continuing positive guidance of Darrell Clarke and his team. As always, Gasheads have their own thoughts on the way our football club performs on and off the pitch.

In this first edition of 2016, we talk to Gashead Phil Tuckett, a regular at the Mem with his son Harry. Enjoy today's game Gasheads!

Firstly, tell us how long you've been a Gashead Phil?

Happy New Year to all Gasheads! My Rovers adventure started back in the days of Eastville. I used to go with my father and brother and had the pleasure of watching Paul Randall and Archie Stephens leading the line. Mickey Barrett demonstrated so much talent back then and was so tragically taken from us. God only knows how good he could have been. David Williams also stood out in my younger days. I was a regular at Twerton and have been coming to the Mem regularly since 2010. Work commitments

prevented me from doing so before then.

First game of 2016, give us your thoughts on the Gas in 2015.

The Conference seems so far away now, but we were there at the beginning of 2015. Jumping to the end of the year, I am ecstatic to be honest. There is still negativity around the place, but if you had told me that we'd be where we are today going into 2016, I'd have snapped your hand off. Whilst life in the Conference wasn't fun at all, it constituted an important step on the road to recovery for us as a club. Darrell Clarke has done a phenomenal job in light of the rebuilding process and budget cuts he has had to endure. I hear fans around me in the Blackthorn who band around frankly stupid comments. When you analyse our progress on the whole, I don't see how any Gashead can be negative. We don't have the given right to be the best. Bristol is a big city, but we need to earn the right to have a successful Rovers around the place.

Who were the pivotal players for you in 2015 and why?

Stuart Sinclair has epitomised the change in attitude of the whole team. They are clearly a unit and have shown their ability to adapt to life



Darrell Clarke

back in the professional ranks. Lee Brown has to be one of the best left backs in the lower two divisions. Daniel Leadbitter has come on leaps and bounds. It's great to see Tom Lockyer developing in what I believe to be his best position, central defence. Matty Taylor's goals this season speak for themselves.

What are you expecting from now to the end of the season?

If we can continue this momentum going into 2016, we have a great chance of challenging for automatic promotion. That said, I don't want to come over delusional, but I think we're more than capable of a play off spot come May. We are also waiting for imminent news on a final decision on the UWE. Gasheads are divided on the stance to continue challenging the initial

decision, but I believe it was the right one and have fingers and toes firmly crossed that the ruling goes in our favour.

As a Gashead, what changes, if any, would you like to see?

Interesting question. I am a great fan of DC's approach. I'd like to think he has resources to make changes when and where needed, so time will tell. At the moment, the long term keeper situation is an issue. With the list of players out of contract at the end of season so long, I'd like to think the manager will be addressing that in the opening months of this year. As a fan, maybe a creative midfielder could be considered and it'll be see how the winger situation pans out. Darrell likes his wingers, so I'd expect him to be looking for a consistent performer if those players aren't performing.



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Get healthy and active in 2016 with Bristol Rovers Community Trust

Bristol Rovers Community Trust is an independent charity working within the community to improve the quality of life for local people.

We work in four key areas including Education, improving health, sports participation and social inclusion

Fans4Life is a health project that will help male sports fans, who do very little exercise and are overweight, to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle. Research has shown that taking part in this programme could add six seasons to a fan's life.

The Fans4Life project aims to improve the health and well being of the people of Bristol and South Gloucestershire using a completely free 10 week exercise and education programme to target sports fans living in one of the poorest health areas of the South West.

Stuart Sinclair



Fans4Life



Each year preventable diseases such as diabetes and coronary heart disease cost the Bristol area alone roughly £7.5 million per year and current interventions have struggled to engage a wide variety of participants.

To help combat this rising problem Bristol Rovers Community Trust will be offering local people a free 45 minute education programme followed by an hour of light physical activity every Tuesday evening between 7.00-9.00pm from 12th January here at the Memorial Stadium.

The education sessions will look at healthy eating including food preparation and nutrition, heart health, stress and mental health, ways of giving up smoking, sensible drinking limits as well as a 1:1 GP session.

All of these will be led by qualified NHS staff. The exercise sessions will be a fun engaging hour led by qualified Bristol Rovers staff.

Stuart Sinclair who himself is a qualified personal trainer has taken on the role of Fans4Life ambassador. He said: "I am delighted to be involved with this fantastic programme as its ambassador. There is a huge problem of obesity and heart disease in this country and I am well aware of the positive impact this programme can have on tackling these issues. Signing up to the programme really can change people's lives for the better".

The programme is open to all men who do very little exercise regardless of club or sport allegiance. We are aiming to recruit participants from across the city and South Gloucestershire including fans from both Bristol Football clubs, Bristol Rugby, Gloucestershire Cricket Club and any fan of sport.

The programme is supported by both Bristol and South Gloucestershire councils as well as NHS Bristol and the University of Gloucester.

To sign up for the programme starting in January or to find out more go to www.fans4life.com.

You can also find us on facebook at [fansforlifeofficial](https://www.facebook.com/fansforlifeofficial) or on twitter at [@fans4life](https://twitter.com/fans4life)

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Peter Aitken

ExtraTime

supporting independence and wellbeing for older people

OVER 60s CLUB

Every Tuesday morning our friendly Over 60s group meets to take part in a range of social and physical activities either here at The Mem or out and about in Bristol.

Extra Time is for anybody aged over 60. If you would like to know more contact Pete or John on the information at the top of the page.



FOOTBALL CONFERENCE TRUST SCHOOL SPORT

For the last calendar year the Trust has been delivering a Primary School PE and School Sport Project after achieving a grant from the Football Conference Trust during last season.

The sessions have taken place in different Primary Schools across the city and we would like to place on record our thanks and gratitude to the Football Conference Trust for all their help throughout the funding process.



Emersons Green JFC



Emersons Green Junior Football Club were our Saturday Team Club for the victory over Carlisle United in November.



Despite the rain the boys had a great day and a big thank you goes to Tom for organising the matchday visit.

If you would like to take part in a Saturday Team Club matchday visit next season please contact Pete or John on the information at the top of the page.

The day includes:

- Training session and small sided tournament at Golden Hill Sports Ground.
- Tour of The Memorial Stadium.
- Lunch supplied

for everyone.

- Visit to the club shop.
- Meet Bristol Rovers first team players for autographs and photos.
- The chance to perform the Guard of Honour as the players take to the pitch.
- Seats in the South Stand for the game*
- Photo on the pitch at half time, which is then included in the next available matchday programme.
- Signed official Bristol Rovers football for the group.

*(subject to change, depending on the fixture).



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our game against Luton Town. We rely on your contributions to make this page a success, so if you have any photos, dedications or requests please get in touch.

WELL DONE GASHEADS

We begin the New Year with some plaudits from the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Crawley, and the mayor himself writes to say: 'Please would you pass on my thanks to all your travelling supporters who supported the Crawley Mayor's bucket collection on Saturday 21st November.'

'We raised an incredible £604 to help a project that organises activities for local disabled youngsters and I know that a significant part of it came from generous Bristol Rovers fans.'

'I met many of them around the ground and was struck by what a friendly bunch they are!'

'I think the combination of the respectful support for the people of Paris, coupled with the generosity shown by both sets of supporters, showed the football community at its caring best.'

'I hope to see you in Bristol later in the season 'Mayoral duties permitting!'

**Councillor Chris Cheshire,
Mayor of Crawley**

BOOK REVIEW

Martin Bull's new book 'Print That Season' is now available to purchase from the club shop at the very reasonable price of £9.99.

I haven't yet finished reading my copy, but as I'm almost halfway through it I can thoroughly recommend it to all Gasheads.

To quote Martin; 'Re live Bristol Rovers' great escape from non league through a different approach; the warts and all meanderings of a Gashead writer who penned a weekly article available on the Bristol Post website.'

'Starting at that fateful relegation day against Mansfield Town in May 2014 and culminating 379 days later with a Hollywood ending at Wembley, revisit the ups and downs of a breathtaking season through 55 sparkling and inventive articles, with none of the hindsight that most writers rely on.'

Oh, and I should add that only 462 copies have been printed. Why? Because that's how many

PRINT THAT SEASON!

the antidote to obedient season reviews



One man's weekly meanderings throughout Bristol Rovers' promotion campaign of 2014-15

Martin Bull

days there were between the Mansfield game and the opening match of this season against Northampton Town so make sure you get your copy.

T-Shirt winner

Matt Wright, winner of our November design a t shirt received

a signed copy of the finished article from Barry Bradshaw



POET'S CORNER

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR...

Well what a New Year that was, so much for the idyllic dream,
I've just eaten the last bit of turkey,
and slightly off whipped cream,
My guts have all but exploded, and me belt don't fit no more,
After all those days of 'festive fun', it was becoming quite a bore.

The first row broke out Christmas Eve,
when I cut the carrots wrong,
And I started swearing loudly, when someone sang that song
(something about a seasonal bird with a red breast bob bob bobbin along!)

The next row came as I'd not taken, the turkey out the freezer,
And my joke with pepper in the crackers, turned into a sneezer!
(That were a good 'un that, added some 'seasoning' to the festive season!)

I received a pair of socks and scarf, in exchange for an expensive ring,
So sitting around the tree in me scarf, I didn't want to sing,
If it's better to give than to receive,
then I've had a cracking time,
(Whatever smart arse dreamt that up, found an alternative to crime!)



Word went out that I'd a beer barrel, chilling by the cellar wall,
And then strangely out of nowhere, loads of 'old friends' came to call,
Folks appeared I ain't seen for years, and then only knew by and by,
But like locusts they descended, and drank me barrel dry!

The longer it all dragged on, the more I dreamt again,
Of getting back to normality, and being back at the Mem,
I've done with all that tinsel, and repeats on the telly,
And stuffing everything I could eat, down me blooming belly

So a 'Happy New Year' everyone, welcome back to the 'Mem',
It's time to get the football out and cheer on the boys again,
While we've all been pigging out, with belts all tight and straining,
They poor lads have been training hard, even when it's raining.

Luton Town are here today, and very welcome so they are,
It's a fair old distance down here, by coach or in a car,
We hope their season goes well, though they'll understand it when I say,
They are welcome to take points anytime except, that is, today!

Happy New Year to one and all

Dr Scumbrum

(pictured left). News of our December winner will appear in the programme for the Plymouth Argyle game.

WELCOME

Carl Powell is a guest in the Boardroom today and his children, six year old Isabella and four year old Samuel will be running out with the team.

We hope you all have a great day with us.

HELPLINE

Martyn Radnedge

AN OPTIMISTIC NEW YEAR

It has been a while since Gasheads could look forward to the New Year with optimism that the play offs to League One might be possible.

Although there is still a long way to go, the standard of play we have seen so far this season has been a welcome improvement over the

past few years, and it is mainly that fact that generates a strong bond between the fans and the team.

The past year has proved to be a very successful one for Helpline as we saw many new members join, which obviously increases the funds we are able to pass on to the Football Club. The

money raised by Helpline goes directly to helping our Club continue in the right direction, so every new member is very welcome.

If you want to join Helpline either ring Kate on 01454 321191 or join online through brfcdirect.co.uk

We wish all our members, both present and future, a very Happy and successful New Year.

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Bradley Stoke
Downend

by Steve Smith

SOCCER: IN SIGHT & SOUND

FROM PICTURES TO HD SOUND AND VISION

As I mentioned in the last programme (Leyton Orient) there was an apparent harmony between the BBC and the Football Association just before the outbreak of WWII.

From 1938 the FA allowed the Charity Shield, FA Cup Final, England – Scotland internationals and even the Amateur Cup final to be televised, albeit to the affluent region of the London area where most television sets were owned.

Our journey through the media minefield continues in the post War era, but not with the latest technology of television, oh no. The BBC still maintained that radio was the way forward and so we return to 'sound only' for this next instalment.

During those early years of peace time the BBC were responsible for producing some of the finest programmes to have both popularity and in some cases longevity: 'Mrs Dale's Diary', 'Woman's Hour', 'Dick Barton-Special Agent' and of course 'The Archers' had the pulling power to empty public houses and entice the listeners in their millions.

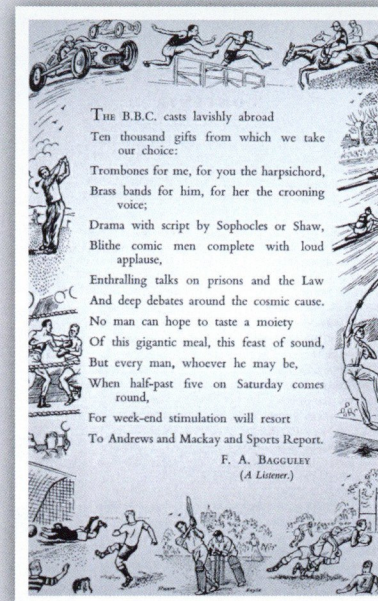
Star names at the time emanating from those walnut housed, five valve radio sets such as 'Round The Horne' with Kenneth Horne, 'Big-hearted' Arthur Askey, 'Cheerful' Charlie Chester, 'It's That Man Again' Tommy Handley (aka ITMA) and 'The Man in Black' Valetine Dyal soon became personal friends of the airwaves. But amid all

these dramas and comedies, where is the sport?

Up until the end of 1947 the BBC Sports Dept was still limited to very little airtime and even when it did, it was restricted to being no earlier than 6:15pm, so as not to affect stories that would make headline news in the morning editions of local and national newspapers. But on 3rd January 1948 all that was about to change as the BBC broadcast the very first edition of Sports Report.

Because we have the availability to listen to radio sport almost anywhere these days we take it for granted that one programme is set aside for an entire Saturday afternoon to not only bring live commentaries of more than one match, but bounce around the nation and get on the spot accounts of goals and incidents as they happen. In 1948 it was a little different.

The winds of change were indeed whipping up into a storm in the autumn of 1947. It appears that the Football Association were getting cold feet on the limitations of how many viewers were benefiting from TV broadcasts. With only around 10.8m living in London, it was estimated that less than one



The poetic introduction to the 1954 publication Sports Report (Naldrett Press) as the programme celebrated its sixth birthday.

tune. Theme music for radio broadcasts was paramount for capturing the attention of the listening audience.

As the first strains of The Devil's Gallop wafted through the air you knew it was time for 'Dick Barton – Special Agent'. And see if you can name the BBC radio programmes from these theme tunes? 'Coronation Scot', 'By the Sleepy Lagoon', 'Barwick Green' and 'Puffin' Billy'.

* Of course, you must be of a certain age to remember any of these, but try them out on YouTube.

It took Mackay and his assistant Hugh Driver several days of raiding the BBC gramophone library in the depths of Broadcasting House, but with literally hours until the 5:30 debut broadcast a tiny 10 inch disc was brought up to the turntable where 'Out Of The Blue' was blasted out and selected as the programme's now famous signature tune, with the most popular recording being played by the Central Band of the RAF since the mid 1950's.

So as you tune in to Sports Report at 5:00pm this evening get ready to raise a glass of bubbly as this iconic programme celebrates its 68th birthday tomorrow. Happy Birthday Sports Report!

* Radio theme answers: Paul Temple, Desert Island Discs, The Archers and Children's Choice

25/2/61 Division Two Bristol Rovers 4 Luton Town 1

Bristol Rovers gained their first win in ten matches at home to Luton Town. Bert Tann's side took the lead on 29 minutes when former England international Ron Baynham failed to hold Norman Sykes' shot and Geoff Bradford followed up to score. Rovers doubled their advantage on 34 minutes when debutant Johnny Watkins crossed and George Petherbridge fired home. Rovers made it three after 55 minutes as Petherbridge's corner was headed on by Bradford and Peter

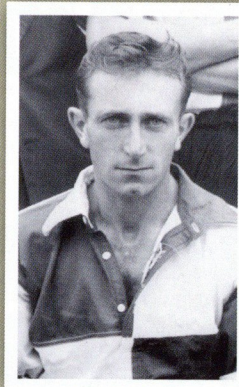
Hooper slammed the ball into the net. Luton pulled a goal back on 78 minutes when a Gordon Turner shot went in off Ray Mabbutt, but Bradford ran through to complete the scoring with four minutes left.

ROVERS: Radford, Hillard, Frowen, Sykes, Davis, Mabbutt, Petherbridge, Jones, Bradford, Hooper, Watkins.

LUTON: Baynham, Dunne, Bramwell, Morton, Kelly, Groves, Walden, Ashworth, Turner, Cummins, Fleming.

Star Player: GEORGE PETHERBRIDGE

Long serving winger George Petherbridge starred in Bristol Rovers' 1952/53 Third Division title triumph. He played



for Colston Sports before moving to Eastville Stadium in October 1945 and scored four goals in Rovers' 5-0 victory over Torquay United in December 1951. Ever present in 1951/52, he featured in the epic 4-0 FA Cup third round win over Manchester United's 'Busby Babes' in January 1956. He netted 85 times in 452 League outings prior to joining Salisbury in July 1962, then Falmouth and Glastonbury. Later a publican at Sherston, he was sports master at Millfield School, then groundsman at Wells Cathedral School. He settled in Glastonbury and died in March 2013.

27/12/80 Division Two Bristol Rovers 2 Luton Town 4

A Brian Stein hat trick helped Luton Town to a comfortable win at Eastville Stadium. Struggling Rovers took the lead on eight minutes when Steve Williams knocked down Mike Barrett's cross for Stewart Barrowclough to score. Luton drew level four minutes later when Stein capitalised on Gary Emmanuel's poor back pass to score, but Terry Cooper's side regained the lead on 14 minutes when Gary Mabbutt forced home Barrett's cross. Luton equalised again on 34 minutes when Stein followed

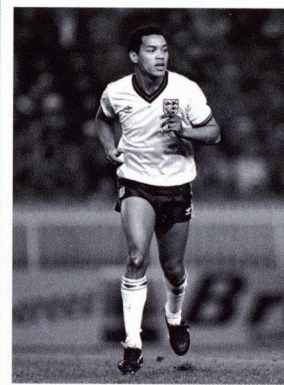
up Godfrey Ingram's shot to score, then went ahead three minutes later through a Ricky Hill free kick. Stein netted again on 81 minutes to complete his treble and seal victory for Luton.

ROVERS: Thomas, Jones, Bater, Emmanuel, Hughes (Gillies), Cooper, Williams (S), Barrowclough, Mabbutt, Williams (D), Barrett.

LUTON: Findlay, Stephens (Antic), Donaghy, Grealish, West, Price, Hill, Stein, Ingram, Aizlewood, Moss.

Star Player: BRIAN STEIN

England international striker Brian Stein was leading marksman in Luton Town's 1981/82 Second Division title triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Edgware Town in October 1977, he starred as Luton were FA Cup semi finalists in 1984/85 and 1987/88 and scored twice in their 1988 League Cup final triumph. He joined French side Caen in July 1988 and moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991. Voted 'Player of the Year' for the second



time in 1991/92, he netted 130 goals in 427 League games overall for the Hatters before joining Barnet in August 1992, then St Albans City. He later coached back at Luton and Grimsby. His younger brother Mark also played for Luton.

Four memorable matches against our visitors...

19/2/00 Division Two Luton Town 1 Bristol Rovers 4

Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton scored two goals apiece in Bristol Rovers' convincing win at Kenilworth Road. Luton took the lead after 13 minutes when a cross by Stuart Douglas was steered home by Phil Gray but Rovers drew level on 26 minutes through a blunder by Nathan Abbey. His kick barely reached the halfway line and Robbie Pethick nodded the ball to Roberts who calmly lobbed home. Rovers went ahead on 38 minutes after Abbey spilled the ball and Cureton scored from

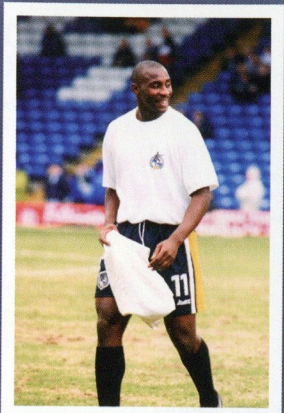
a tight angle. Rovers increased their lead in the 58th minute when a Pethick pass was turned home superbly by Cureton, then Roberts completed the scoring with a 20 yard strike in stoppage time.

LUTON: Abbey, Boyce, Taylor, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George (Fotiadis), Locke, Douglas, Gray, Spring (White).

ROVERS: Jones, Pethick, Challis, Foster, Thomson, Tillson, Astafjevs, Hillier, Cureton, Roberts, Walters.

Star Player: JASON ROBERTS

Grenada international striker Jason Roberts starred as Bristol Rovers reached the FA Cup fifth round in 1998/99. A cousin of Cyrille Regis, he impressed with Hayes before moving to Wolves in September 1997 and was loaned to Torquay United and Bristol City. Joining Rovers for £250,000 in August 1998, he netted 38 goals in 78 League games before sold to West Brom for £2,000,000 in July 2000. He helped win promotion in 2001/02, joining Wigan Athletic for £2,000,000



in January 2004. Starring as they won promotion in 2004/05 and were League Cup finalists in 2006, he later played for Blackburn Rovers and Reading. He received the MBE in recognition of his charity work.

19/2/02 Division Three Luton Town 3 Bristol Rovers 0

Second placed Luton Town swept aside Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth Road. Luton dominated throughout and nearly scored in the first half when a 25 yard shot by Matthew Taylor came back off the post. The Hatters broke the deadlock on 46 minutes when Taylor's cross was headed in by Steve Howard. Luton doubled their lead in the 65th minute when a David Bayliss cross was headed home by Chris Coyne. Lowly Rovers offered little in reply and were reduced to ten men after 76 minutes when Steve

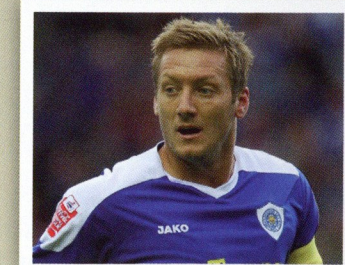
Foster's professional foul brought down Howard in the penalty area. Kevin Nicholls made in three from the resulting spot kick. Luton were promoted at the end of the season.

LUTON: Emberson, Boyce, Taylor, Spring, Perrett, Bayliss, Nicholls, Brkovic, Howard, Crowe (Forbes), Valois (Coyne).

ROVERS: Howie, Smith, Wilson, Foster, Foran, Jones, Thomson, Hogg (McKeever), Ommel, Ellington, Plummer (Walters).

Star Player: STEVE HOWARD

Striker Steve Howard topped Luton Town's goalscoring charts in five successive seasons. Initially with Tow Law, he joined Hartlepool United in August 1995 and moved to Northampton Town for



£120,000 in February 1999. He starred in their 1999/2000 promotion campaign, joining Luton for £50,000 in March 2001. A key figure as the Hatters won promotion in 2001/02, then the League One title in 2004/05, he scored 95 goals in 212 League outings before being sold to Derby County for £1,000,000 in July 2006.

The Scotland 'B' international helped them to win promotion in 2006/07 and joined Leicester City for £1,500,000 in January 2008, then played for Hartlepool again.

THE GREAT AND THE GOOD

STEPHEN BYRNE profiles past Rovers players

WILLIAM WALTER WEBBER GERRISH

*b 28.12.1884 Bristol
d 8.8.1916 Flanders*

Début: 21.4.06 v Fulham

Career: Eastville Board School
Freemantle
1.5.05 Bristol Rovers (49, 11)
14.4.09 Aston Villa (£200) [55, 17]
25.5.12 Preston North End [3, 0]
30.11.12 Chesterfield Town.

Flanders field' claimed the life of Billy Gerrish, who had left Rovers to win a League championship medal with Aston Villa in 1909/10, for whom he scored a hat trick against Chelsea in Division One in September 1909.

Unable to retain his place in the side the following season, his career took him to Preston and Chesterfield, where he suffered a broken leg, before enlisting as F/936 in the Footballers' Battalion, the 17th Middlesex

Regiment; he was killed on the Western Front.

The former England international Frank Buckley, who coached the Footballers' Battalion team, described Gerrish as 'a splendid soldier, most willing and brave'. In February 1915, when in military hospital, he had heard another patient was dying through blood loss and offered to have some of his blood pumped into the patient 'who was ever after grateful for the extension of his own life by about a year', as his former

Rovers team mate Peter Roney wrote from the trenches.

One of 52 soldiers in his regiment killed in one day, Gerrish has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Prior to this sad end, he had broken into Rovers' side at the age of 21, establishing himself in the side and becoming a lynchpin during the 1908/09 season, when his two goals set up a 4-1 victory over a very strong Southampton side.

These were but two of eleven goals in 49 Southern League appearances for the Eastville side; he is said to have once smashed a shot into the Eastville net so hard that it broke through the back and out on to the main road.

He later represented Chesterfield in eight Midland League games without scoring, as his club finished second in the table, his first appearance being in a 6-0 victory over Grimsby Town reserves in December 1912. The extended Gerrish family lived for many years on the corner of Whitehall Road and Gordon Road, in a house demolished in 1925, and nearby Gerrish Avenue bears their name; Billy Gerrish was one of ten children born to Wesley Charles Gerrish (1848-1916) and Florence Webber (1854-1940) of 664 Stapleton Road and fathered a son called Horace (1911-39). His brother Howard Gerrish (1885-1969) was on Rovers' books during the 1904/05 Southern League championship season but, unable to break into the side, moved away and was reported to be at 6 Cardiff Road, Glanllyn, Taffs Well in 1953.

SAMUEL EDWARD DUCKERS

*b 28.11.1903 Stafford
d JFM 1972 Stafford*

5' 9½"; 10 st 10 lbs IF

Début: 5.12.25 v Southend United

Career: Bagnall's
26.1.24 Stafford Rangers
7.5.25 Bristol Rovers [1, 0]
15.1.26 Stafford Rangers
September 1938 English Electric
1947 Stafford Rangers (director).

Top scorer with Bagnall's in the Stafford and District League, Sam

Duckers was a regular for over a decade at Stafford Rangers, where he was one of three professionals

on the club's books as late as the 1935/36 season.

His most profitable campaign had been that of 1926/27, when he scored 18 times in 20 games for the Birmingham League champions, before being ruled out by an injury suffered against Wellington St George's in January 1927. Rangers scored 542 goals in a five season spell at this time.

On the basis of good club form, Rovers took

a chance on the inside forward, signing him along with Charles Heinemann, but he appeared just the once in the League, in a 3-1 home defeat, in which Rovers conceded three headed goals. 'It is obvious', the Bristol Times and Mirror reported, 'that Duckers needs far more experience'. He did score for the reserves when they defeated Bath City 4-1 in December 1925, but returned to Stafford to play alongside his cousin John Duckers and also

THE GREAT AND THE GOOD

WILLIAM ERNEST FOREMAN

b 3.2.1958 Havant

5' 7"; 10 st 9 lbs M

Début: 8.3.77 v Blackburn Rovers

Career: Bournemouth
19.5.76 Bristol Rovers [0 + 2, 0]
1978 football in Australia
31.8.79 Dorchester Town
February 1980 Sligo Rovers
9.8.80 Dorchester Town
17.1.81 Bridport (loan)
19.2.82 Bridport (loan)
17.7.82 Bridport (free; released, 19.3.83).

Midfielder Billy Foreman played a total of 38 minutes' League football in a Rovers shirt, 26 against Blackburn on his début and 12 against Oldham Athletic in April 1978.

Signing for Rovers along with Brian O'Donnell in May 1976, he was later, as a student at Weymouth College, selected by the

British Colleges XI for a tour of North America in 1981. Two loan spells at Bridport earned Foreman a début as a substitute in the goalless draw at Melksham in January

1981 and a goal from the penalty spot as well as an assist, as Keynsham were defeated 3-1 the following month.

To a tally of 31 (+1) Western League games and two goals for the Bees could be added five cup ties and an appearance in the abandoned game at Saltash United in 1981. His second goal for Bridport was driven home from 20 yards after Neil Mitchell's pull back, just nine minutes into a 2-2 draw with Barnstaple Town in November 1982; this was one of 23 Western League games in which he played during 1982/83, having

missed the opening game as it clashed with his shift stacking deck chairs on Weymouth beach.

Married to Elaine and living in Ferndown, Billy Foreman's Christian names both derived from his maternal grandfather; his parents William Foreman and Jean Ward had married in Portsmouth in 1957, his father being the son of Samuel Foreman (1875-1919) and Beatrice Shaw (1876-1962) and his mother the daughter of Ernest William Ward and Ethel Gardiner.

Billy Foreman in reserve team action for Rovers in 1976/77.



Frank Wragge, another Rovers man, and later for English Electric in the Stafford Works League.

Sam Duckers, the son of William Duckers (1873-1951) and Mary Elizabeth Adams (1876-1938) was brought up in Stafford with his two younger sisters and later married in 1932 to Frances Jones, who died in 1985, having a son Bryan who still lives in Stafford.

Looking Back

- Season 2000/01 -

A season which opened with great optimism ended in tears on a Wednesday night in May, as Rovers slipped into the basement division for the first time ever.

Relegation ended Rovers' proud record of being the only club never to have played in either the top or the bottom division of the Football League. Requiring at least a point at home to Wycombe, Rovers conceded a 73rd minute deflected shot from the future Rovers defender Danny Senda and a spectacular volley from Bulman five minutes later.

Only six minutes into the season, Jamie Cureton stroked home a penalty against Bournemouth to give Rovers an early lead. Rovers were unbeaten in their opening 12 league and cup games and recorded comprehensive victories at Brentford and at second in the table Cambridge.

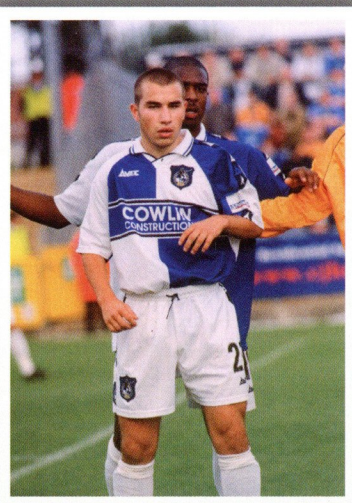
However, the warning signs were already there and Rovers, in particular, had not yet won at home. Jason Roberts had commanded a club record fee of £2m to move to West Brom, but the sales of influential defender Andy Tillson for just £10k to Walsall and, after the opening game, of Cureton to Reading were regarded by supporters with disbelief. Rovers had sold three forwards, in Roberts, Cureton, and Bobby Zamora for a profit over two million pounds.

Zamora was to be the top scorer in all four divisions, while Cureton and Roberts scored 30 and 16 times respectively. Nathan Ellington was top scorer and Vitalijs Astafevs' five goals rendered him an unlikely second highest scorer for the season. Rovers failed to score in 19 of their 46 league fixtures.

New signing Martin Cameron was ruled out for much of the season while new club captain Andy Thomson broke his foot early on. Nick Culkin, a season long loan signing, was an inspirational goalkeeper, while Player of the Year Steve Foster also missed few games. Beyond these two, however, few players could lay claim to a regular place in the side, although Astafevs and Ellington appeared often alongside the new generation of Rovers players in Simon Bryant and Lewis Hogg,

Young Player of the Year, Hogg made his league debut as an opening day substitute and scored his first two goals at Brentford. New signings Che Wilson and Scott Jones, alongside Marcus Bignot early in the season, were also pivotal figures, but Rovers used a seasonal total of 35 players.

The long unbeaten run ended at Bury in October, which forced Culkin to leave the field injured and Foster was red carded. The substitute goalkeeper was Brian Parkin, who



Lewis Hogg

thus set a post-war club appearance record for a goalkeeper. Culkin was also unable to finish the game at Wycombe, following a foul which earned Andy Rammell a sending off. There was also controversy at Meadow Lane where, Notts County equalised in the last minute in bizarre circumstances. All in all, eight Rovers players and eight opponents were sent off during the 2000/01 season. Early in the season, Rovers could rely on goals from a variety of sources. Marcus Andreasson fired home for his first goal for the club at Swindon, where 2,400 Rovers supporters saw Mark Walters star against his former club. Bignot scored after just 27 seconds on the Friday before Christmas, but Rovers lost to three second half goals at Ashton Gate, including one from former Rovers player Peter Beadle, four minutes after coming on as a substitute. Then, following a dramatic Boxing Day draw with Reading, in which Hogg was sent off and Trevor Challis followed for retaliation, Rovers went an

astounding 576 minutes without a goal in league or cup football. When Astafevs scored to give Rovers a 33rd minute lead over Cambridge, his goal, coupled with Ellington's header, finally gave Rovers their long awaited first home league win of the season.

They were the last league side to do so and the winless run since Easter Saturday had finally stretched to 13 home league matches.

Ultimately, Rovers' six home league wins equalled the total of away league victories, and matched the six home wins of the 2010/11 relegation campaign. Success at Dean Court for a second consecutive season was, though, the only victory away from home after the first week in November and Rovers lost their final six away matches. Only on one occasion in the season were consecutive league fixtures won and Rovers recorded 10 draws at home and 15 in all, eight of them goalless. Three points from any one of these, for instance the local derby where a seasonal highest home crowd of 9,361 saw Bristol City earn a point when Steve Phillips saved Scott Jones' penalty deep into injury time, one of four penalties Rovers squandered all season, would with hindsight have prevented relegation.

To be continued...

PAST PIRATES

Season 2000/01 - HOME

Unusually two of our first three home matches were postponed.

On August 25th our match with Port Vale clashed with a Bristol RFU game and their game took priority

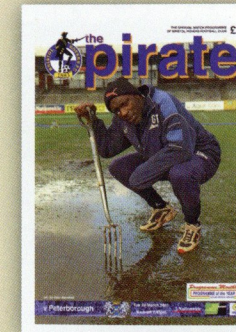
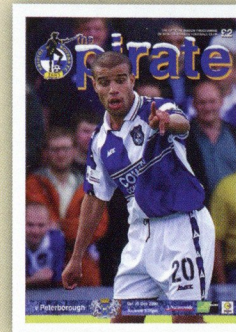
we had to concede. Just a week later international call ups from Millwall's squad enabled them to call the game off. This was a theme that would continue throughout the whole season.

If you want to peruse BRSC's stock then it can be found at 'The Programme Centre' website. You can find it at this address: www.footballprogrammecentre.co.uk Click on 'Market Place' Then 'Members Mini Stores' and you will find us at the top of the list under Past Pirate.

You may also like to join up to the forum where you will find many people willing to help you with your collection.

Or you can contact me direct via jamiagas@blueyonder.co.uk

You can also check out the new information only site at www.bristolroversmemorabilia.co.uk



On October 31st Port Vale once again had to stay home as we had a game in the League Cup to deal with. None of these games had programmes issued for them.

Peterborough were the next victims of this epidemic of postponements. The December 30th game did

have a programme issued as did the next attempt on 14th March. Eventually the game was played on 20th March and a four page wraparound was added.

Finally, nothing was issued for our postponed games against Bristol City in January and Wycombe in February.

Back in the Day

2000/2001 PART 1

by Kevin Cook

Two ex Rovers managers tasted success this year.

Mark McGhee would eventually guide Millwall to the Division Two title and Ray Graydon, managing Walsall, would guide them to another promotion.

Taking a look at players from this year Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was Chelsea's record breaking £15m signing, whilst our very own Marcus Stewart was the second highest scorer in the Premiership with 15 goals. Two other ex Rovers strikers making the back of

the net bulge was Jamie Cureton who bagged 27 for Reading and Bobby Zamora who clinched the Division 3 title with Brighton & Hove Albion.

Following a poor Euro 2000 England manager Kevin Keegan resigned on

October 7th in the wake of a 1-0 defeat to Germany in the opening game of the World Cup qualifiers. Sven-Goren Erickson would eventually replace Keegan as manager thus becoming the first foreign coach to take charge of the England football team.

TV

Channel 4 breaks ground with the reality programme Big Brother.

The show, whose name was taken from George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four Novel, was hosted by Davina McCall and ran on CH 4 for ten years before switching CH5 where it continues its run to date.

News

The Queen Mother reaches 100 years of age on August 4th.

On September 8th the UK was plunged into a fuel crisis as protesters fight against the high cost of fuel. Blockades at refineries meant the fuel could not get through. Panic buying led to shortages and rationing.

Film

The biggest grossing film of 2000 was the popular franchise 'Mission Impossible 2' dubbed M:i-2.

The soundtrack featured Limp Bizkit's version of the original theme tune re badged as 'Take A Look Around' The movie was produced by Tom Cruise & directed by John Woo.

Music

Limp Bizkit who hailed from Florida hit the heights this year.

Their energetic mix of hip hop punk and metal laced with angry lyrics was delivered by front man Fred Durst. Their album 'Chocolate Starfish and the Hot Dog Flavored Water' sold over 1 million copies in the first week of release.

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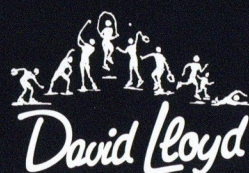
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BUCCANEERING BANTER

Mo Bell

Rovers and York prepare to do battle!

Looking for a New Year treat!

Not unusual at this time of the year that programme notes have to be prepared and written early to meet print deadlines prior to the Christmas shutdown.

On this occasion, the game against Dagenham & Redbridge has not yet been played, yet these notes are being put together for today's programme and the fixture against Luton Town.

At the same time, news that John Still, Manager of Luton Town, has parted company with the club after losing four consecutive games in which they conceded 13 goals. At least he will have spent time with his family over Christmas!

Of course we know something about John Still from the time he spent with the Pirates a few years back as Assistant Manager to Ray Graydon. He had joined Luton Town in February 2013, succeeding

Paul Buckle (another ghost from the past). For the Hatters he will surely be remembered for leading Luton Town to promotion from The Conference to League Two in April 2014. That achievement won him the accolade of being the only Manager to take three non league clubs into the Football League.

Will a newly appointed Manager be in charge today or will it be caretaker Andy Awford, Academy and Development Manager? Before today, the Hatters will have played Exeter, Wycombe and Portsmouth, while Rovers will have played Dagenham & Redbridge plus Wimbledon away, then home to Leyton Orient last Monday.

So many changes likely in the league table during that time.

The Hatters were so called because of the historical connection with the hat making trade, which has

been prominent there since the 17th century. Not far from Bristol, in Winterbourne and Frampton Cotterell, the hat making industry flourished from 1770 at Watley's End in Factory Road, where Beaver hats were made (hence the name of a local road Beaver Close).

Back in the period 1900 – 1939 after the formation of the Division Three, Luton Town brought in players who would help them achieve success. In 1936 they finished runners up to Coventry (when only one club was promoted).

It so happens that a record was set when they played Bristol Rovers that season, beating Rovers

12-0, Joe Payne scoring 10 of those goals! He also went on to score 50 goals the following season and helped the Hatters to promotion to Division Two. A proud record for Luton Town, but a record

Rovers would probably rather forget.

So will today produce a scrappy win or will we witness a New Year treat. A win either way is three points, so we'll take 'scrappy' if need be. The last game I can make any comment on is home to York well before Christmas, and not giving up after going a goal down paid dividends plus some master tweaking by Darrell Clarke, firstly getting that all important equaliser and a last minute smash and grab from Matty Taylor to win the game.

Another question I can't yet answer is, are we in the top seven as of today? I certainly hope we have gained enough points to say a definitive 'yes'.

Hope you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities and a Happy New Year to one and all!

TO BATTLE QUARTERS!

Chairman
Jim Chappell

SC Vice Chairman Chris Walker

SC Directors on Football Club Board
Ken Masters, Brian Seymour-Smith

Share Scheme Representative
Helen Wigmore

Treasurer Sandra Jacques

Secretary Sue Williams

Matchday Organiser Phil Draper

Social Organiser Janet Wooster
Committee David Thomas,
Sam Parsons, Jackie Chapple

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Welcome

Good afternoon and welcome to today's League Two fixture with Luton Town.

We extend a warm welcome to the supporters, players, management team and officials of The Hatters. Enjoy your football with us in Bristol and a safe journey home to Bedfordshire and to other parts after the game.

From the SC CHAIRMAN

We are writing again well before the Christmas break and so have no idea how the last three games have gone.

Twelve months ago Rovers had just thrashed Macclesfield here then dropped two crucial points to visiting Torquay in front of another massive Conference crowd of over 8,200 in our season long chase of eventual Champions Barnet.

But how well have things worked out since thanks to Darrell and the boys, four of the regular squad never having experienced League football before.

Thanks lads, it's been a great year and let's hope for more of the same in the coming twelve months, starting today against another big club that also suffered the misery, (much longer than us), of non League.

Let's hope for a first double to start the New Year with and, who knows, by the time astronaut Tim Peake returns to earth Rovers just could be back in League One!

Up the Pirates!

Jim Chappell

Happy New Year.

Bristol Rovers Supporters Club Executive wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your support in 2015. We look forward together as we work hard for continuing progress and success in 2106; onwards and upwards.

Bid On The Side

In a few days time, on 7th January, it will be the 60th anniversary of Rovers 4-0 victory over the great Busby Babes in the mud at Eastville, which could arguably be Rovers best ever victory.

Ten years ago, the Supporters Club held a celebration evening with many of the playing squad from 1956 in attendance. Today's 'Bid On The Side' features items from the 50th anniversary celebration evening.

Item One: Item One is a special souvenir programme to mark the 50th anniversary of the game. This features a copy of the original programme in the middle section, combined with newspaper reports and quotes from the players and management in a modern programme style.

Item Two: A 'large' white souvenir tee shirt featuring a photo of the late great Geoff Bradford watching one of the two goals scored by the Baron of Eastville, Alfie Biggs, fly past the United keeper, Ray Wood.

Item Three: A magic mug that appears to be plain black, but when hot liquid is added, reveals the above picture of Alfie's goal.

Geoff Bradford, who featured in the game against Manchester United 50 years ago

All three items have been auctioned on Ebay and the last day to make a bid is Sunday 10th January 2016. The minimum price is just 99 pence each item and the highest bidder wins. If you do not have access to Ebay you can still make a bid either by post or email.

Postal bids should be sent to the Supporters Club shop at 199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, BS15 1AZ. Emails must be sent to brsc199@btconnect.com. Please note that the closing date for postal or email bids is Wednesday 6th January 2016. Please indicate clearly the item(s) that you are bidding for ie Luton item 1 £5, item 2 £7, item 3 £8 etc.

Links to all three auctions will be found at http://bristolroversmemorabilia.weebly.com/

Many thanks go to the people who have already donated Rovers related items. If you have any football related items that you no longer require, that you would be happy to donate, please pass the item(s) on to 199 Two Mile Hill Road, or pop in to the matchday cabin on matchdays.

All profits from these items go to the 50/50 fund to raise money for Rovers youth. So far the Bid On the Side feature has raised £199.



Roger Saunders, Harley Rich, Jim Chappell, Tim Rose and Rod Rich outside the new matchday shop

Super Draw Today

What will the prize total for the first ever Supporters Club Super Draw be?

Will it be a new record? We expect so! As well as a bumper first prize today, there will be a bumper second prize of £500. The draw will take place at half time today. Don't forget to buy your ticket. Good luck everybody.

New for 2016

The Bristol Rovers Supporters Club Matchday Shop is now open and operational. Over the last few weeks a number of Bristol Rovers supporters have done a magnificent job.

This particular project is a real team effort and thanks go to many people. The initial plans by the Bristol Rovers Supporters Club were to find a location for a new cabin.

The images created and installed by Engravatic Sign Shop on the inside walls for all to enjoy



Rod Rich and Mike Armstrong work on the finishing touches

The old BRSC cabin is no longer safe for public access and cannot be accessed by all supporters. Stadium Manager, Ian Holtby supported our plan to locate where previously Bristol Rugby had a shop.

The cabin was secured after a lengthy procurement process and was a compromise on our ambitions. It is compact and proved challenging to fit out to achieve a balance between public space and staff space. In the early stages, Phil Draper and Janet Wooster worked hard to clear and level the site for installation. Throughout the entire process, Andy Thomas proved to be a sound and able source of advice and assistance.

The outside signage was designed and installed by Rod Rich and Harley Rich from Engravatic Sign Shop. The inside shop fitting was project managed by a supporter, Tim Rose from Burnham on Sea. Tim was assisted by two other supporters, Mike Gould from Henbury and Roger Saunders from Kingswood.

In the final stages, Tim Rose was also able to advise us about accessibility issues and the overall design. Inside the shop Rod and Harley have created and installed some very impressive images for supporters to enjoy. Mike Armstrong and others from M. Wilcox did an excellent job for us in terms of the electrical installation.

We have already been asked by supporters for copies of some of the images within the wall display. As well as selling a wide range of souvenirs you can find both current and not so current programmes, available.

This new BRSC Matchday Shop is currently also being used as the Operations Base on Matchdays. You are welcome to visit the shop before and after matches. This new cabin is much more visible and should provide a better service to our members and all supporters. We are working hard to increase sales so that we can then provide more financial support for our football club.

Some of the items you can purchase from Janet Wooster and Phil Draper in the BRSC Match Day Cabin can be seen here.





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Graham Mills

NEXT HOME

Plymouth Argyle



**Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 23rd January
2016
Kick off 3.00pm**

**Plymouth Argyle
headed the League
Two table on Christmas
Day, on goal difference
from Northampton,
thanks to a 2-1 win at
Hartlepool.**

Full back Kelvin Mellor netted the last minute winner, his first goal for the club in 18 months. He joined the club from Crewe where he had spent six years.

Reuben Reid has been Plymouth's leading goalscorer for the last two seasons. He started his career at Home Park before playing for Rotherham, West Brom, Peterborough (loan), Walsall (loan) and Yeovil Town. Striker Jake Jervis joined the club from Ross County and has a host of experience with Birmingham City, Hereford, Swindon, Preston, Carlisle, Tranmere, Portsmouth and Ezaligspor (Turkey).

Gary Sawyer began his career at Home Park and

is in his second spell with Argyle, having rejoined them from Leyton Orient for whom he signed after spending two seasons at The Memorial Stadium.

Another former Pirate is Ryan Brunt who signed for Argyle in January 2015. He was a product of the Stoke City Academy as was Curtis Nelson who has made almost 200 appearances for The Pilgrims.

Irishman Graham Carey started at Shelbourne before signing for Celtic. He was loaned to Bohemians and played for St Mirren and Ross County before moving south to join Plymouth. Graham Wylde can also name St Mirren as a former club. He started his career at Rangers and joined the Saints from Aberdeen. Carl McHugh joined the club from Bradford and has represented the Republic of Ireland at U-17, U-19 and U-21 levels.

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Keith Brookman

NEXT AWAY

Barnet



**Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 9th January 2016
Kick off 3.00pm**
**The Hive London, Camrose Avenue, London
HA8 6AG**

Supporters Club Coaches
leave The Kingsway at
9.45am and The Memorial
Stadium at 10.15am

Coach Fare:

Members: £17.50
Non Members: £22.50

Ticket Prices

	Seats	Terrace
Adults:	£20.00	£17.00
64+/ Students:	£12.00	£12.00
U-14:	£5.00	£5.00

Oxford United



**Sky Bet League Two
Sunday 17th January 2016
Kick off 3.00pm**
**The Kassam Stadium, Grenoble Road, Oxford
OX4 4XP**

Supporters Club Coaches
leave The Kingsway at
11.30am and The Memorial
Stadium at 12.00pm

Coach Fare:

Members: £11.50
Non Members: £16.50

Ticket Prices (All Seats)

Adults:	£20.00
65+/ Students:	£13.00
U-18:	£13.00
U-13:	£5.00
U-7:	FREE*

*When accompanied by a
paying adult

Please note that this game is all ticket for
Rovers Supporters.
Please check Club Shop and '199' for availability.



DAY/DATE		H/A	KO/FA	POS	H.	ATT.	A.	REFEREE
AUG Sat 8	Northampton Town	H	0-1	17	8,712	574		M Heywood
Tue 11	Birmingham City CC 1	H	1-2	17	5,650	1,150		A Davies
Sat 15	Yeovil Town	A	1-0	10	5,895	2,038		B Malone
Tue 18	Luton Town	A	1-0	8	8,061	553		T Kettle
Sat 22	Barnet	H	3-1	4	7,107	199		R Joyce
Sat 29	Leyton Orient	A	0-2	7	5,777	1,023		D Drysdale
SEPT Sun 6	Oxford United	H	0-1	10	7,038	633		J Linington
Sat 12	Accrington Stanley	H	0-1	15	6,351	48		K Johnson
Sat 19	Plymouth Argyle	A	1-1	15	10,633	1,586		C Sarginson
Sat 26	Portsmouth	H	1-2	17	8,555	1,188		J Simpson
Tue 29	Hartlepool United	A	3-0	14	3,788	190		D Handley
OCT Sat 3	Morecambe	A	4-3	12	1,712	386		A Madeley
Tue 6	Wycombe Wanderers JPT 2	H	2-0	12	3,243	123		O Langford
Sat 17	Mansfield Town	A	2-1	11	4,196	847		M Haywood
Tue 20	Notts County	H	0-0	11	6,743	148		S Martin
Sat 24	Newport County AFC	H	1-4	13	7,442	518		N Kinesley
Fri 30	Cambridge United	A	2-1	9	5,115	562		B Malone
NOV Sun 8	Chesham United FAC 1	H	0-1	12	5,181	577		A Davies
Wed 11	Southend Utd JPT Area QTR Final	A	0-1	12	3,495	181		A Woolmer
Sat 14	Carlisle United	H	2-0	8	6,423	353		M Brown
Sat 21	Crawley Town	A	1-2	12	2,612	836		T Kettle
Tue 24	Stevenage	H	1-2	13	5,819	101		G Salisbury
Sat 28	Exeter City	A	1-1	12	5,548	1,559		P Gibbs
DEC Tue 1	Wycombe Wanderers	H	3-0	10	6,136	255		B Malone
Sat 12	York City	H	2-1	8	6,916	170		B Toner
Sat 19	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	3-0	7	1,820	603		C Breakspear
Sat 26	AFC Wimbledon	A	15:00					
Mon 28	Leyton Orient	H	15:00					
JAN'16 Sat 2	Luton Town	H	15:00					
Sat 9	Barnet	A	15:00					
Sun 17	Oxford United	A	15:00					
Sat 23	Plymouth Argyle	H	15:00					
Sat 30	Accrington Stanley	A	15:00					
FEB Sat 6	AFC Wimbledon	H	15:00					
Sat 13	Portsmouth	A	15:00					
Sat 20	Morecambe	H	15:00					
Sat 27	Wycombe Wanderers	A	15:00					
MAR Tue 1	Hartlepool United	H	19:45					
Sat 5	Notts County	A	15:00					
Sat 12	Mansfield Town	H	15:00					
Sat 19	Newport County AFC	A	15:00					
Fri 25	Cambridge United	H	15:00					
Mon 28	Carlisle United	A	15:00					
APR Sat 2	Crawley Town	H	15:00					
Sat 9	Northampton Town	A	15:00					
Sat 16	Yeovil Town	H	15:00					
Tue 19	Stevenage	A	15:00					
Sat 23	Exeter City	H	15:00					
Sat 30	York City	A	15:00					
MAY Sat 7	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	15:00					
Sat 21	Emirates FAC Final	A	15:00					

On this day 2006

by Mike Jay

Rovers travelled to struggling Rushden & Diamonds, who had lost their previous three games, and won 3-2.

Stuart Campbell and Steve Elliot had twice had Rovers in front before Drewe Broughton equalised both times.

Fortunately, in stoppage time, Rovers' Jamie Forrester tucked away a fine pass by Richard Walker to secure the points.

Rushden were relegated at the end of the season and by 2011 had gone out of business altogether.

[illegible]

Jake GOSLING	Chris LINES	James CLARKE	Nathan BLISSETT °	Jermaine EASTER	Dominic THOMAS	Danny GREENSLADE	Jamie LUCAS	Cristian MONTANO	Kieran PRESTON	Billy BODIN	Stuart SINCLAIR	Will PUDDY	Tyler LYTTLE †	Ryan BROOME	Jay MALPAS	Aaron CHAPMAN	Paris COWAN-HALL	Aaron CHAPMAN	Rory GAFFNEY ^	Lee NICHOLLS	Aifne KILGOUR
11	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	30	31	32
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5			S		S			11						15							
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		S		S				7			15		S								
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5				S			17	11													
15		S		S						8											
			1 ₄₈	S						1 ₆₄	S										
			1 ₇₈	S						1 ₄₇	S										
				S																	
			17	1 ₁₁	S			S			S			21							
7	5		1 ₁₃																		
			10	9				23			S										
S	7			S				11		1 ₁₃											
	7	2		10																	
S				S			17	11													
21	S		17	S				S													
15		S						S													
		S						29									S				
				10							2 ₈₄								S		
				10							8							2			
29		S		1 ₇₀	23						S						S				
24										1 ₉₀	2	S	S					1 ₈₃			

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Robert Massey-Ellis

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:

Matt Eva

FOURTH OFFICIAL:

John Law

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LEAGUE TWO TABLE as at 19/12/15



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
1 Plymouth	22	13	4	5	33	19	14	43
2 Northampton	22	13	4	5	38	28	10	43
3 Oxford Utd	22	11	8	3	33	19	14	41
4 Portsmouth	22	10	10	2	39	19	20	40
5 Carlisle	22	10	7	5	42	37	5	37
6 Accrington	20	10	6	4	35	23	12	36
7 Bristol Rovers	22	11	3	8	32	24	8	36
8 Mansfield	22	9	7	6	30	20	10	34
9 Wycombe	21	9	7	5	28	22	6	34
10 Leyton Orient	22	8	9	5	34	29	5	33
11 Cambridge	22	8	6	8	33	33	0	30
12 Exeter	21	8	6	7	30	30	0	30
13 Luton	22	8	5	9	38	34	4	29
14 Wimbledon	22	7	8	7	29	30	-1	29
15 Notts County	22	8	5	9	33	38	-5	29
16 Crawley	22	8	4	10	30	38	-8	28
17 Morecambe	21	8	3	10	38	39	-1	27
18 Stevenage	22	6	8	8	30	38	-8	26
19 Barnet	22	7	4	11	32	39	-7	25
20 Newport	22	4	8	10	26	35	-9	20
21 Hartlepool	21	6	2	13	20	35	-15	20
22 York	22	3	6	13	25	45	-20	15
23 Yeovil	22	2	7	13	22	37	-15	13
24 Dag & Red	22	2	7	13	21	40	-19	13



THE PIRATE

The Official Matchday Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Programme Editor: Keith Brookman

Photography: JMP, Neil Brookman, Alan Marshall

DVD production: Screen Soccer

Programme designed & produced by: Ann Walter

Printed by: Pensord, Blackwood, S. Wales



BRISTOL ROVERS

Manager
DARRELL CLARKE

- Steve **MILDENHALL** 1
- Daniel **LEADBITTER** 2
- Lee **BROWN** 3
- Tom **LOCKYER** 4
- Mark **McCHRYSTAL** 5
- Tom **PARKES** 6
- Lee **MANSELL** 7
- Ollie **CLARKE** 8
- Ellis **HARRISON** 9
- Matty **TAYLOR** 10
- Jake **GOSLING** 11
- James **CLARKE** 15
- Jermaine **EASTER** 17
- Billy **BODIN** 23
- Stuart **SINCLAIR** 24
- Will **PUDDY** 25
- Paris **COWAN-HALL** 29
- Rory **GAFFNEY** 30

The 18 players listed were those on duty for our last game before Christmas, against Dagenham & Redbridge. Our full squad can be found on pages 68/69



LUTON TOWN FC

Caretaker Manager
ANDY AWFORD

- 1 Mark **TYLER** ■
- 2 Stephen **O'DONNELL**
- 3 Dan **POTTS**
- 4 Jonathan **SMITH**
- 6 Scott **CUTHBERT**
- 7 Alex **LAWLESS**
- 8 Cameron **McGEEHAN**
- 9 Paul **BENSON**
- 10 Ryan **HALL**
- 11 Danny **GREEN**
- 12 Scott **GRIFFITHS**
- 14 Jack **MARRIOTT**
- 15 Paddy **McCOURT**
- 16 Elliot **JUSTHAM** ■
- 17 Pelly **RUDDOCK MPANZU**
- 18 Magnus **OKUONGHAE**
- 19 Olly **LEE**
- 20 Sean **LONG**
- 21 Luke **GUTTRIDGE**
- 22 Craig **MACKAIL-SMITH**
- 23 Josh **McQUOID**
- 24 Curtley **WILLIAMS**
- 25 Mark **O'BRIEN**
- 26 Nathan **DOYLE**

Luton Town FC

Last game before Christmas

19/12/15 W 3-2

Tyler, Long, Cuthbert, Okuonghae, Howells (Griffiths), Lee, Lawless, Mackail-Smith (McQuoid), McGeehan, Green (Marriott), Benson

Cover pic:

Welsh U-21 international
Ellis Harrison who, at the time of
writing, has scored five goals this
season for Rovers