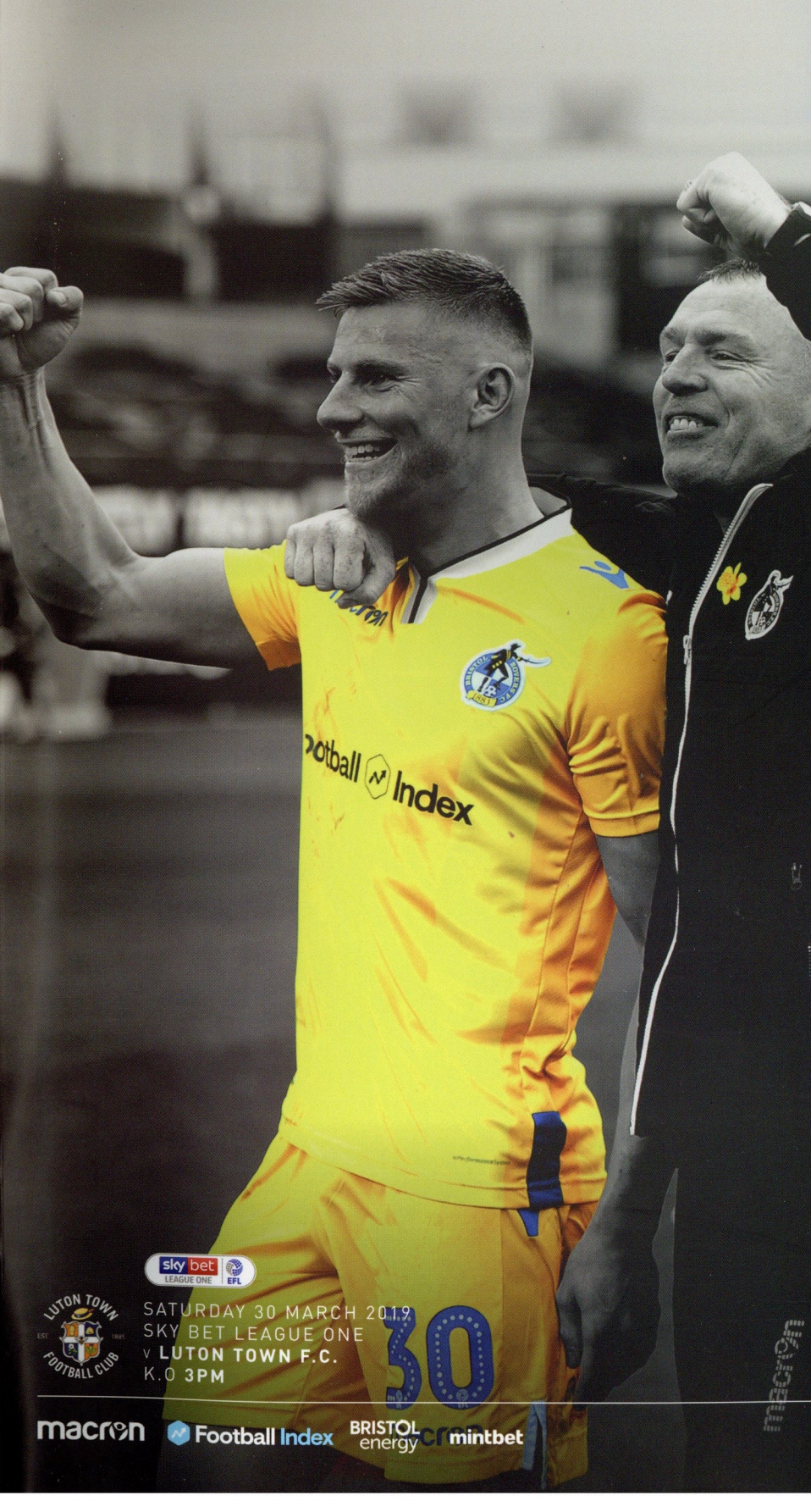




THE PIRATE

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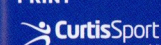
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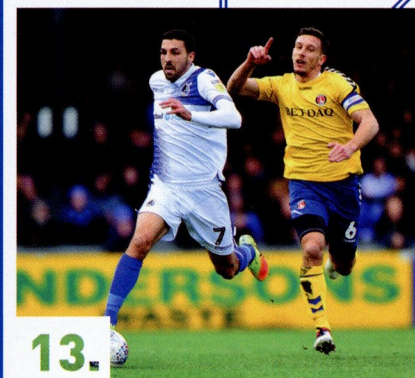
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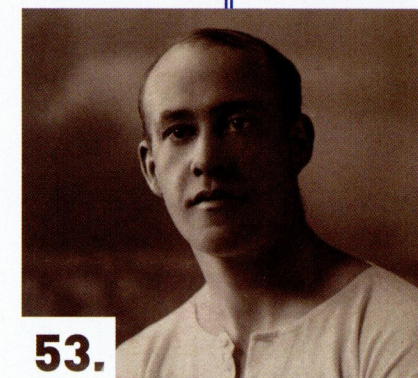
08.



16.



13.



53.

Development Loan Watch	22.	57.	Past Pirate
Chaplain Farewell	24.	58.	What We Were Reading
Academy Report	27.	60.	Played For Both
Groundhopping	28.	62.	Boys Are Back In Town
The Visitors	31.	64.	Just A Thought
Commercial Comment	40.	67.	BBC Bristol
Pin Up Poster	42.	70.	FanZone
Bull's Eye	45.	77.	Ruth Of The Rovers
Supporters Club	46.	78.	Individual Player Stats
Community Trust	49.	82.	Next Up At Home

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MANAGER NOTES

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME



GRAHAM COUGHLAN

WELCOME TO THE MEMORIAL STADIUM FOR TODAY'S
GAME AGAINST LUTON TOWN.

We welcome Mick Harford and his team, as well as the staff, directors, officials and supporters of the club.

It is nice to be back at the Mem after a couple of away trips last week.

At Plymouth, we showed that we have come on leaps and bounds by reacting well to going behind twice, against another side, my old club, who I know have made vast improvements too.

The Doncaster game was very disappointing. It was gutting, to be honest, but the better team won on the night. We were not good enough.

The important thing is to not let one game destroy what we have built up. We have been hard at it for three months, and in that time the only two teams to beat us away from home have been Sunderland and Doncaster, two teams who harbour ambitions of playing in a higher league next season.

There will always be bumps in the road. Previously, we have reacted positively, and I see no reason why we will not do that again.

We will not dwell on Tuesday. We have spoken about what went wrong, but that is done with, and cannot be fixed. We can only now focus on learning from that.

We could sulk, and wave white flags, but that is not me.

Today is obviously a huge task, against the league leaders, and probably champions elect, but these are the games you want to play in, to prove a point. I am sure the atmosphere inside the Mem will be buzzing, and if I was still a player I would be excited to play today.

This group of players have come a long way. We are still in a strong position, with a lot of points still to be played for.

Together, we will continue to try and do that. Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Enjoy the game,

Graham Coughlan

Bristol Rovers F.C. Manager

ON ROAD. ON TRACK. ON AVONS.



AVON
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ESTABLISHED 1885



Martyn
STARNES

CEO OF BRISTOL ROVERS F.C



Good afternoon everyone! I would like to welcome the players, officials and supporters of Luton Town to the Memorial Stadium for this Sky Bet League One fixture.

At this stage of the season the draws at home to Charlton, who are almost guaranteed a play-off place, and away to a resurgent Plymouth Argyle have to be seen as positive results but one of the big talking points in football at the moment is the League One relegation fight. I cannot recall so many as 13 clubs at risk with just seven games to go.

Jonno had arguably scored the goal of the season at Gillingham and then he went and did it again at Plymouth. A blistering left-foot drive brought us back on level terms for the first time and it was great to see Gav Reilly come on as a late substitute to head home an injury time goal to draw the match at Home Park. The consensus after the game was that a draw was a fair result. With Tom Lockyer unavailable on international duty, it was great to see Alfie Kilgour make his starting debut for the first team and he had an excellent game. Hopefully, it will prove to be the first of many appearances for the club.

Until Tuesday night, the lads had established an upward momentum but we encountered a Doncaster side that were smarting from a heavy defeat on Saturday and two early goals put them firmly in control and we found it difficult to get any traction in the game. Officials at Donny reported

their performance was very poor against Luton but excellent against us. This is the nature of football and our lads will want to put Tuesday's result behind them and raise their game this afternoon against the league leaders.

Today's opponents present one of our toughest tests of the season. They have been in blistering form and are easily the top scorers in the division. They are virtually assured of automatic promotion. My former colleague Nathan Jones did an excellent job recruiting and coaching his squad and the highly-experienced Mick Harford has continued the good work and built on the foundations left by Nathan before his move to Stoke City.

Whilst our game in hand has now gone and we were unable to use that to our advantage we are still three points and goal difference above the League One basement. We need to match or better the results of the six teams immediately below to ensure we retain our status for next season. Seven points should still be enough. Let's hope we will only need four after today!

I wish everyone a safe journey home.

Enjoy the game and take care.

Martyn Starnes

CEO, Bristol Rovers F.C

ALFIE KILGOUR FROM DEVONSHIRE TO DEVON

ALFIE KILGOUR NOW KNOWS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.





THE SCENES LIKE THOSE AT THE FINAL WHISTLE LAST SATURDAY, YOU HAVE TO TREASURE THEM. I COULD SEE MY FAMILY IN THE CROWD AND I THINK THAT THEY FOUND IT A BIT EMOTIONAL, BUT THOSE MEMORIES STICK WITH YOU FOR LIFE.'

H heading to Plymouth last Saturday, Graham Coughlan knew he would be without skipper and defensive lynchpin Tom Lockyer.

He turned to 20-year-old Alfie Kilgour, a lad whose EFL career to that point consisted of four injury-time minutes. It might as well as been four thousand, such was the composure the Bath-born centre-back showed at the aptly-named Home Park. Kilgour looked as at-home as any other man in a Rovers jersey.

The game was not perfect, as the Gas conceded twice in a compelling second half in a rare foray south, playing out a 2-2 draw with the upwardly mobile Pilgrims.

Gavin Reilly's late leveller made sure the sold-out away end was the happier section of fans at the match's conclusion, and as the yellow-shirted Pirates acknowledged the Gasheads,

manager Coughlan pulled Alfie to the fore.

Kilgour took the applause of the fans, and later drank in the praise of his gaffer.

"Fair play to Alfie Kilgour," said Coughlan after the game, "stepping into the shoes of a Welsh international, the club captain.

"I thought he was excellent, and he has a massive future at the football club. He'll captain this football club one day.

"He's got to enjoy things like that."

He sure did, boss.

"I loved every minute of Saturday," Alfie told us.

"It goes without saying that it was a proud moment for both me and my family. As soon as I was able to get my first touch of the ball on the pitch it settled me down into the thinking that it was just another game of football and I was there

to do a job.

"I managed to get on the ball quite early and that helped settle me into the game. I had Tony Craig alongside me, and on the other side was James Clarke. They were talking to me throughout and that was a great help and made the experience that little bit easier.

"There was a great atmosphere at Home Park on Saturday; probably the best atmosphere I have been lucky enough to play in. Sometimes playing in an atmosphere like that can be hard, but the Rovers fans were in full voice and when you know you have them behind you, it's an amazing feeling.

"The scenes like those at the final whistle last Saturday, you have to treasure them. I could see my family in the crowd and I think that they found it a bit emotional, but those memories stick with you for life."

Alfie is a young man, but the

debut has been a long time in coming. He has been a Pirate for over a decade, and was twice on the bench during our Sky Bet League Two campaign of 2015/16. He never came on, and was always going to find playing time harder to come by after Rovers' promotion that season.

Since then, he has been a poster boy for the Development Squad and its raison d'être. His four loans – at Mangotsfield, Cirencester, Hungerford and Maidenhead – have had a method behind them.

In 2015/16, his time at Mangotsfield came at Level 8 of the English football pyramid. The following season, with Cirencester, he played at Level 7, and so it continued, with this season Alfie being lent to Maidenhead of the National League. Every new season, another step higher.

He was recalled from his loan with Alan Devonshire's Magpies, in the eventuality that he would be needed for Rovers. In Devon, he was able to put his learning to the test.

"The whole experience helped me get to take the opportunity last Saturday," said Alfie.

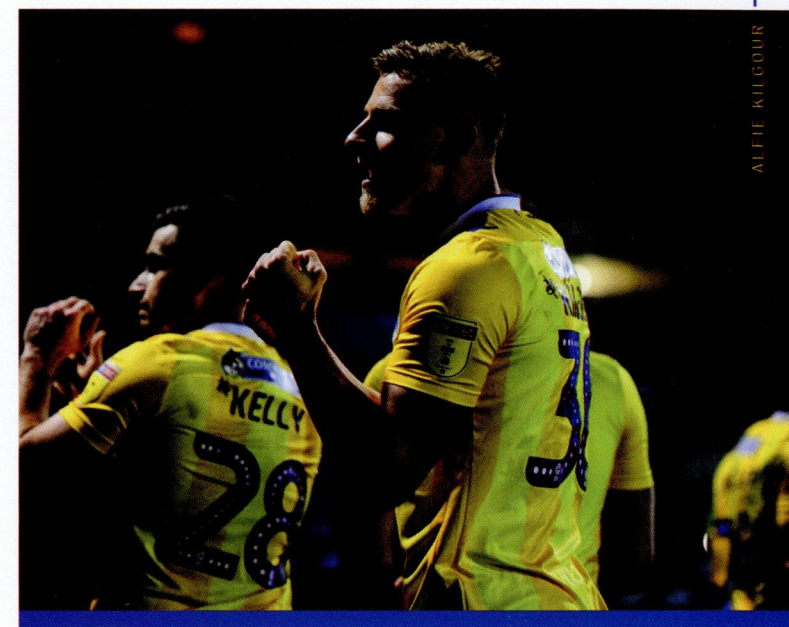
"Any loan I have had or will have, I will always try to do my best and full focus will always be on the team that I'm representing, to try and help that club as much as I can.

"My time last year at Hungerford was great. We managed to stay up on the last game of the season and Ian Herring, the manager, is a great football man. I loved every minute there.

"Maidenhead this season was unbelievable as well. I had a really good bond with the fans there and I was lucky enough that during my loan spell the results turned around, which led to us getting out of the relegation zone and looking to push on.

"It was another amazing opportunity, with the benefit being that I got 18 games under my belt. All the players, management and staff there are really professional and showed an excellent attitude towards me and I was able to get match fit."

The path to the first-team has



not always been smooth. After signing his first professional deal, Alfie played in a Gloucestershire Senior Cup match, but was injured in an innocuous challenge. The incident left him with knee and hamstring damage, for which he required surgery and a slow road to recovery.

"As a first-year pro, I had a terrible injury," said Alfie. "In fact, twenty years ago it would have probably been a career-ending injury.

"The club were excellent with me through my rehab. Fortunately I had a top surgeon and people in the medical team, such as Keith Graham and Luke Almond, helped me get through a tough year on the sidelines.

"To be honest, I think it was the making of me. It helped me come back stronger, fitter, more hungry, and made me appreciate everything, including my body and just being a footballer in general.

"The rehab process left me in good stead, just from being in the gym every day. You learn so much more about nutrition and without a doubt it was the toughest year of my life, but in many ways, it was the making of me too."

Alfie was back on the bench for Tuesday's defeat to Doncaster, and he knows that making his debut does not necessarily signal regular first-team football.

Continuing his development means maintaining his attitude and working hard to improve so that when his next chance comes, he is ready once again to take it.

He said: "Throughout my youth career and my short time as professional so far, I've just tried to take every game and training session as it comes.

"Each pre-season, I try not to set my goals too far in advance, but to hear positive things said from the manager after making my full debut is obviously amazing.

"To have the trust and confidence of the manager to put me in the side is great and a huge boost for me, but I want to keep focusing on progressing and working hard both in the gym and each training session to keep pushing myself further."

An admirable attitude, for sure, but it only seems right to leave our chat with Alfie via another nod to his debut made in heaven, in Devon.

"I have been at Rovers since I was eight, so to hear the fans chanting my name after the game is something that I have always dreamed of and it was a proud moment."

Keep making us proud, Alfie – there are so many more moments to come.



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**MATCH
ACTION**



Rovers 0 Charlton 0

16TH MARCH, 2019 – SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

sky bet LEAGUE ONE EFL

THE ANSWER, MY FRIENDS...

The 8,343 inside the Mem for this clash were probably not blown away by the football on show, as some brisk south-westerlies saw any hopes for a flowing game of football drift away on the wind.

North Bristol was so gusty that the game of football became so much harder than normal, which is not a puny excuse, just a valid reason why neither side could really get going on the day.

Credit, then, in the blustery conditions, to Charlton goalkeeper Dillon Phillips, whose save from a Jonson Clarke-Harris free-kick was as good as any that will be seen in League One this season.

The Hollywood ending would have seen Ollie Clarke, on his 200th Gas appearance, notch the winner, but his chance escaped late in the game when a corner rather cannoned into him, and into the grateful goalie's hands.

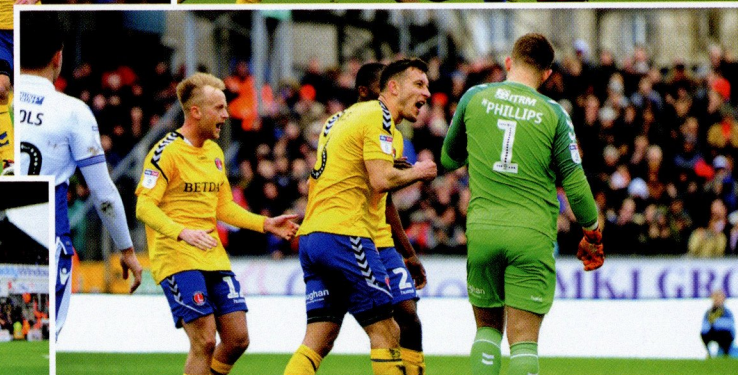
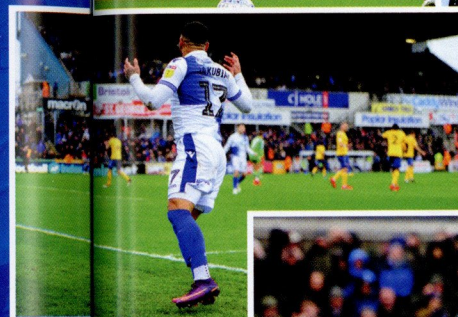
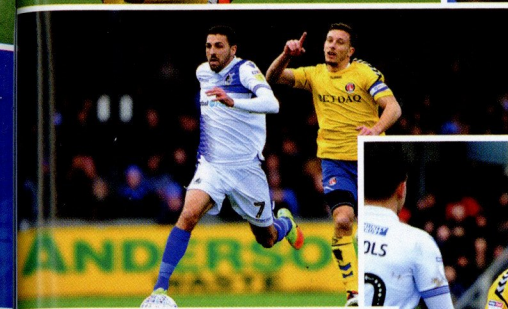
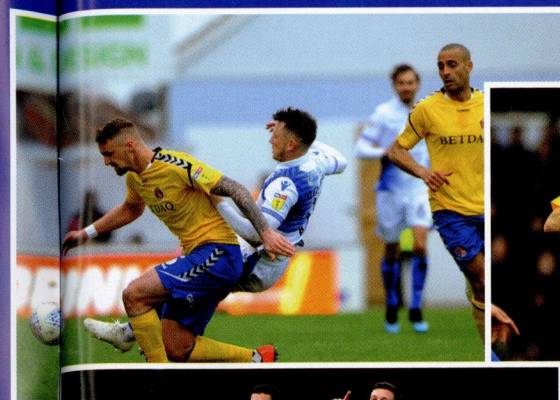
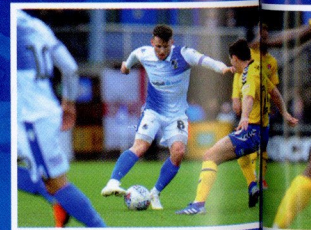
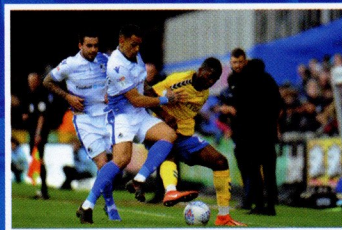
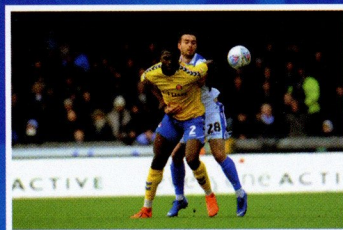
Clarke was important at the other end too, getting an important head to a dangerous cross, and Charlton were not without their threat during the game. Left-back Ben Purrington went close, but was stopped by one of many blocks by Tom Lockyer. Igor Vetokele came close, too, while Josh Cullen had the ball in the net, but was offside.

Similar occurred with Rovers substitute Alex Jakubiak, but in truth the game did not deserve a winner, and ultimately the wind was the biggest feature in any blow-by-blow account of the latest outing of a tempestuous season.

ROVERS: Jack Bonham, James Clarke, Tom Lockyer (c), Tony Craig, Michael Kelly; Abu Ogogo; Ed Upson, Ollie Clarke, Liam Sercombe (Stuart Sinclair 90); Tom Nichols (Alex Jakubiak 68) Jonson Clarke-Harris. **UNUSED SUBS:** Adam Smith (GK), Tareiq Holmes-Dennis, Chris Lines, Gavin Reilly, Alfie Kilgour.

CHARLTON: Dillon Phillips, Anfernee Dijksteel, Krystian Bielik, Patrick Bauer, Jason Pearce (c), Ben Purrington; Darren Pratley (Joe Aribio 66), Josh Cullen, Ben Reeves (Tarique Fosu-Henry 78); Lyle Taylor, Igor Vetokele (Josh Parker 62). **UNUSED SUBS:** Chris Maxwell (gk), Chris Solly, Naby Sarr, George Lapslie.

ATTENDANCE: 8,343 [1,146 away].



MATCH ACTION

Plymouth 2 Rovers 2

CLARKE-HARRIS 72, REILLY 90

23RD MARCH, 2019 - SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

sky bet LEAGUE ONE | EFL

BEST WESTERN

Graham Coughlan's return to a place where he is heralded as a hero yielded one point, four goals, and hope for two sides desiring to retain their Sky Bet League One status.

Neither Plymouth nor Rovers looked relegation fodder in an entertaining tussle in deepest Devon.

It is hard to explain how Argyle did not take the lead when Freddie Ladapo, the Pilgrims' top goalscorer, failed to convert Joe Riley's low cross. It is even harder to clarify exactly how Matt Macey kept out Tom Nichols from inside the six-yard box, when stand-in skipper Ollie Clarke crossed the ball to the far post.

Despite those two excellent chances, the first half was quiet, although hard-fought, but after the break, things would come alive.

Ruben Lameiras, the home side's best player, was afforded far, far too much space on the right flank, and after David Fox fed the Portuguese-born attacker, Lameiras curled into the far corner.

Argyle did not have numerous chances, but looked to control possession and see the game out, and they might have managed it but for a stunning effort by Jonson Clarke-Harris.

It was all his own work. Plymouth might be a little disappointed about how easily a pair of Pilgrims were shrugged aside as Jonson advanced, but his drop of a shoulder and powerful 25-yard drive into the top corner of a stunned Macey's goal was top class.

Parity lasted three minutes. If Tony Craig faces another 9,999 corners in his career, he would never again contrive to head a bouncing ball into Jack Bonham's net via the underside of the bar. Fortunately for Plymouth, they got the one in 10,000. 2-1.

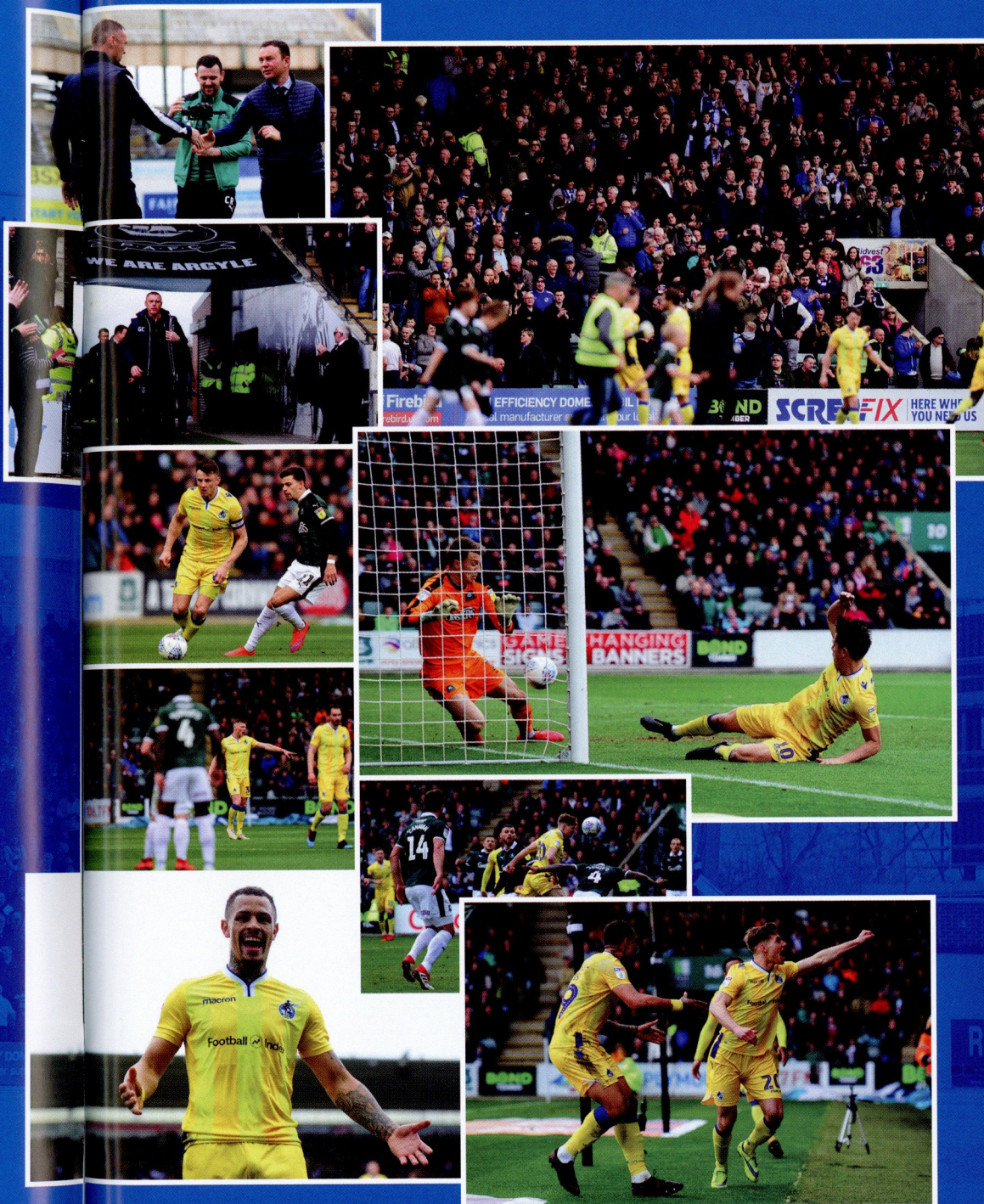
Persistence paid, though, and Rovers got a late equaliser. Goodness knows why right-back James Clarke was on the left wing, receiving the ball, but he did magnificently to hold off Oscar Threlkeld, then put in a delicious cross that Gavin Reilly glanced home tellingly.

12,000 people witnessed a game which plenty of commentators described as being a fair enough result, a game played between two good teams.

ROVERS: Jack Bonham, James Clarke, Alfie Kilgour, Tony Craig, Tareiq Holmes-Dennis, Ed Upson, Ollie Clarke (C), Abu Ogogo (Gavin Reilly, 85'), Liam Sercombe, Tom Nichols (Alex Jakubiak, 67'), Jonson Clarke-Harris. **UNUSED SUBS:** Adam Smith (GK), Michael Kelly, Joe Partington, Chris Lines, Stuart Sinclair.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Matt Macey, Joe Riley (Oscar Threlkeld 62'), Ryan Edwards, Niall Canavan, Gary Sawyer (C), Yann Songo'o, David Fox, Antoni Sarcevic, Jamie Ness, Ruben Lameiras, Freddie Ladapo. **UNUSED SUBS:** Kyle Letheren (GK), Ryan Taylor, Paul Anderson, Lloyd Jones, Ashley Smith-Brown, Alex Fletcher.

ATTENDANCE: 12,003 (1,214 away).



MATCH ACTION

Doncaster 4 **Rovers 1**

 CLARKE-HARRIS PEN 66

26TH MARCH, 2019 - SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

sky bet LEAGUE ONE | EFL

KEEPMOAT AND CARRY ON

Rovers' eight-game unbeaten away run came to an end at Doncaster, largely thanks to one of the EFL's most tenured players.

Deon Moore, who in this game would make his Rovers debut, was two months short of his first birthday when James Coppinger made his professional debut on 11th March, 2000. Nineteen years and over 700 appearances later, he continues to be a pain for opposition defences.

Grant McCann's side were two clear before any Gashead had time to settle in their seat following the 200-mile drive to South Yorkshire.

Donny's 38-year-old talisman got on the end of a John Marquis cross to score after just four minutes, then the same player made it two on 13 minutes, striking from distance and seeing a deflected shot go in.

After Coppinger had done the damage, Mallik Wilks broke beyond the Gas back-line to kill the game before it reached halfway.

Moments after the break Kieran Sadlier scored the kind of goal that occurs when you are brimming with confidence and you take a chance you may not have done at 0-0. His 30-yard curler made it 4-0, and Donny were well and truly out of sight.

Jonson Clarke-Harris kept up his scoring form, converting a penalty when James Clarke was brought down in the area, but it was scant consolation.

It is hard to sugar-coat a defeat such as this, but it feels like a team would be atone for it by, perhaps, doing something like ending the league leaders' lengthy unbeaten run?

You never know...

ROVERS: Jack Bonham, James Clarke, Tom Lockyer (C), Tony Craig, Tareiq Holmes-Dennis (Joe Partington 71), Ed Upson (Stuart Sinclair 74), Ollie Clarke, Abu Ogogo, Gavin Reilly, Alex Jakubiak (Deon Moore 81), Jonson Clarke-Harris. **UNUSED SUBS:** Adam Smith (GK), Alfie Kilgour, Liam Sercombe, Tom Nichols.

DONCASTER ROVERS: Marko Marosi, Danny Andrew, Andrew Butler, Mallik Wilks (Alfie May 74), John Marquis, Tommy Rowe (C), Ali Crawford, Matty Blair, Kieran Sadlier (Tyler Smith 83), James Coppinger (Alfie Beestin 78), Paul Downing. **UNUSED SUBS:** Louis Jones, Tom Anderson, Lirak Hasani, Aaron Lewis.



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Peterborough United 4 Rovers Development 4

A strong second half showing in front of goal allowed the Rovers' Development Squad to overturn a three-goal deficit to pick up a draw away at Peterborough in the Central League last week.

Rovers were 4-1 down at the halfway stage, but second-half goals from James Spruce, Rhys Kavanagh and Deon Moore secured a superb comeback for the Development Squad.

The team-sheet for the Central League tie resembled a balanced mix of experience and youth, with Adam Smith named in goal for the encounter.

Luke Russe was deployed to do a job at right-back, a position that the youngster is more than comfortable at, while Alfie Kilgour was picked at the heart of the Rovers back four alongside Reading loanee Gabriel Osho and Under-18 squad member Levi Paul at left back.

Moore and Kavanagh were tasked with leading the attacking line, supported by the attacking threats of Lewis Leigh-Gilchrist and Sam Matthews.

Inside the first 60 seconds, Rovers mustered a chance to register the opening goal. A teasing ball into the mix from Cameron Hargreaves caught the Peterborough backline unprepared, with the delivery swinging inches from the reaches of Kavanagh, who had advanced into the area unmarked.

From their first attack, Peterborough grabbed the game's first goal, as a shot from the edge of the box took a wicked deflection off Matthew Stevens, deflecting the ball the opposite way from the diving Adam Smith.

Posh doubled their lead 10 minutes later as a cross from the right crept through the Rovers defence, reaching George Cooper unmarked at the far post. The forward turned and hit a powerful strike that nestled in the far corner of the net.

Rovers dented the two-goal margin just ahead of the half-hour mark, as Alfie Kilgour leapt high at the back post to nod home a close-range header to give Rovers a way back into the game.

It was from a corner four minutes later that Peterborough restored their two-goal cushion. The delivery from the right picked out Connor Peters, who had lost his man and was free to drive a header into the ground and out of the

reaches of Smith.

As the half-time interval approached, Peterborough were able to add a fourth goal, as George Cooper threaded a through-ball into the path of Stevens, who kept his composure to place a finish around Smith.

Following the break, Rovers responded brightly and were awarded a penalty as Moore was hauled to the ground. Theo Widdrington stepped up and placed his penalty towards the bottom corner, but the spot-kick was pushed wide by a fine stop from Josh Allen, who was at full-stretch to make the save.

Not disheartened by the penalty miss, Rovers reduced the margin moments later. Substitute Spruce received the ball 20 yards out from goal and held the ball well to edge closer to goal and once arriving inside the penalty area, the striker found a finish inside the far-corner.

Minutes later, Rovers had another goal to add to the tally to cut the home side's lead further. Kavanagh placed a finish that crept home thanks to a touch off the post.

Rovers showed patience in their quest for the equaliser and enjoyed the majority of possession as the second half progressed. Leigh-Gilchrist struck a free-kick into the wall, and Kavanagh's low cross bounced just out of reach of the advancing Spruce at the near post.

The equaliser arrived with just under 20 minutes to go and it came thanks to alert play from Moore.

The striker darted towards a hopeful ball forward from Leigh-Gilchrist and was able to use his pace to arrive at the ball ahead of the onrushing Posh goalkeeper. Moore took a touch to knock the ball around the keeper and slotted home the finish into an unoccupied goal.

There were late chances to win the game for the young Rovers side, as substitute Warwick saw a corner fall into his path, but the striker lifted a first time finish over the target.

Hargreaves fired a left-footed shot wide from 20 yards out in the final moments, as the game ended level.

ROVERS: Adam Smith, Levi Paul (Connor Jones), Luke Russe, Alfie Kilgour (Tom Mehew), Gabriel Osho, Cameron Hargreaves, Theo Widdrington, Sam Matthews (James Spruce), Lewis Leigh-Gilchrist (Harry Warwick), Deon Moore, Rhys Kavanagh.

LOAN WATCH

A ROUND UP OF HOW OUR LOANEES HAVE FARED OVER THE PAST WEEK...

Swindon Town romped to a 4-0 victory at home to Morecambe last weekend, with Kyle Bennett involved from the start and adding the conclusive gloss to the result with the fourth and final goal; an excellent finish from outside the area as he picked up the Man of the Match award. The winger now has three goals in seven appearances for the Robins.

Stefan Payne was an unused substitute for Shrewsbury Town on Saturday, as they lost 2-0 at home to promotion-chasing Portsmouth. The Shrews take on Southend United today in a crucial clash at the bottom end of the table.

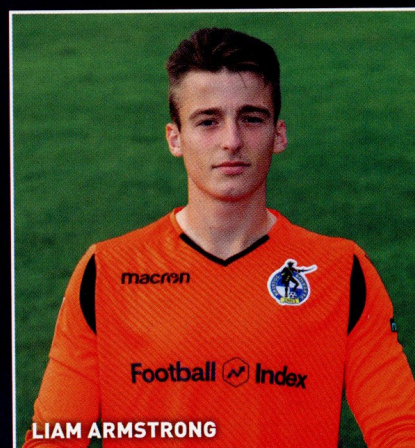
Bernard Mensah and **Rollin Menayese** were both involved from the off for Aldershot Town, as they gave their relegation survival bid a boost with a 2-0 triumph away to Boreham Wood last weekend. The pair featured again on Tuesday evening, but the Shots were not able to keep their form going, as they went down 2-0 at Barnet.

Luke Russe got 90 minutes in the tank for Gloucester City last weekend in their important 2-1 victory at St Albans City, as they look to hold onto their National League South status.

Liam Armstrong was also in action midweek, as his Tiverton side hosted Chesham. Although Tiverton lost 2-0 on the evening, an impressive display from Armstrong saw the young goalkeeper pick up the man of the match award.



BERNARD MNSAH



LIAM ARMSTRONG

'LIAM ARMSTRONG WAS ALSO IN ACTION MIDWEEK, AS HIS TIVERTON SIDE HOSTED CHESHAM. ALTHOUGH TIVERTON LOST 2-0 ON THE EVENING, AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY FROM ARMSTRONG SAW THE YOUNG GOALKEEPER PICK UP THE MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD.'



LUCAS TOMLINSON



TOM MEHEW

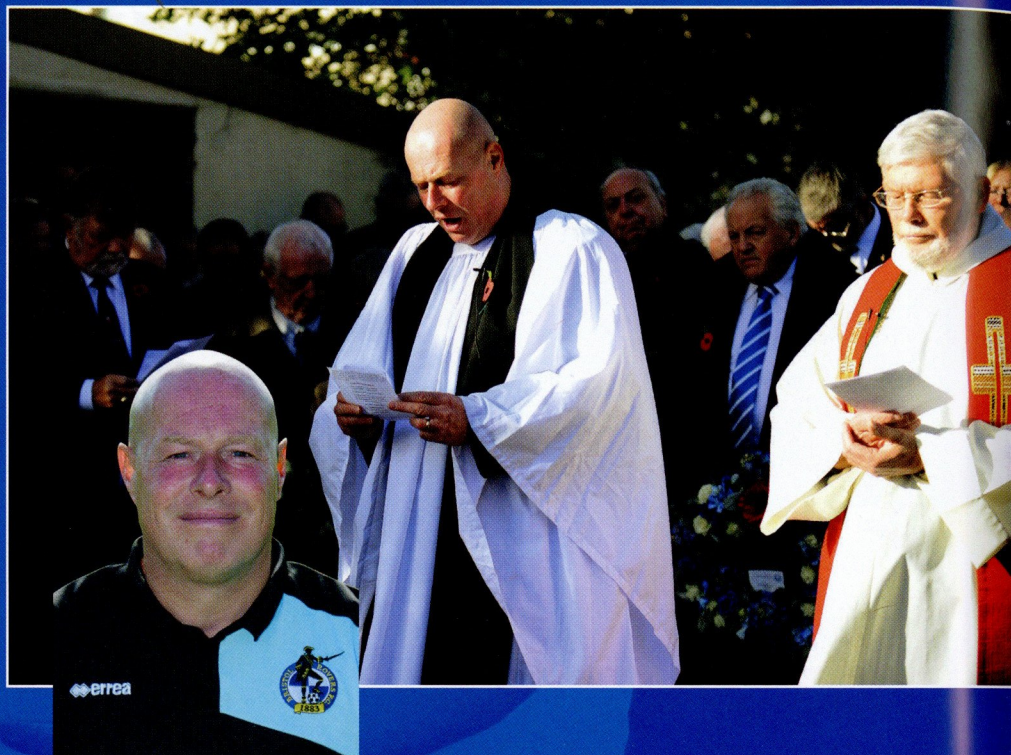
Theo Widdrington had an afternoon to forget last weekend, as he and Bognor Regis Town were beaten 4-0 at home to Leatherhead. They have a chance to put things right as they travel to Wingate & Finchley today.

Hungerford Town won 2-1 at Billericay Town last Saturday, as **Cameron Hargreaves** played the entire 90 minutes. Hungerford were behind with seven minutes to go, but a three-minute double flipped the game on its head as they claimed all three points. Rhys Kavanagh and Lewis Leigh-Gilchrist are also on loan there, but did not feature. Hungerford travel to Hampton & Richmond Borough today in the National League South.

Taunton Town nicked a 1-0 win at home to Poole Town, however **Lucas Tomlinson** was limited to a cameo sub appearance in the 90th minute. The young winger will be hoping for more game time today as they take on Chesham United.

Tom Mehew started for Frome Town last Saturday, as they played out an entertaining 2-2 draw away at Harrow Borough. They host Farnborough today as they look to escape the drop from the Evo-Stik League South.

ALL THE BEST REV. DAVID JEAL



Everyone at Rovers would like offer our very best wishes to Rev. David Jeal, who is moving on from the Mem following 13 years of service as club chaplain.

Dave is moving on to take up a role with the Royal Navy, fulfilling a long-standing ambition.

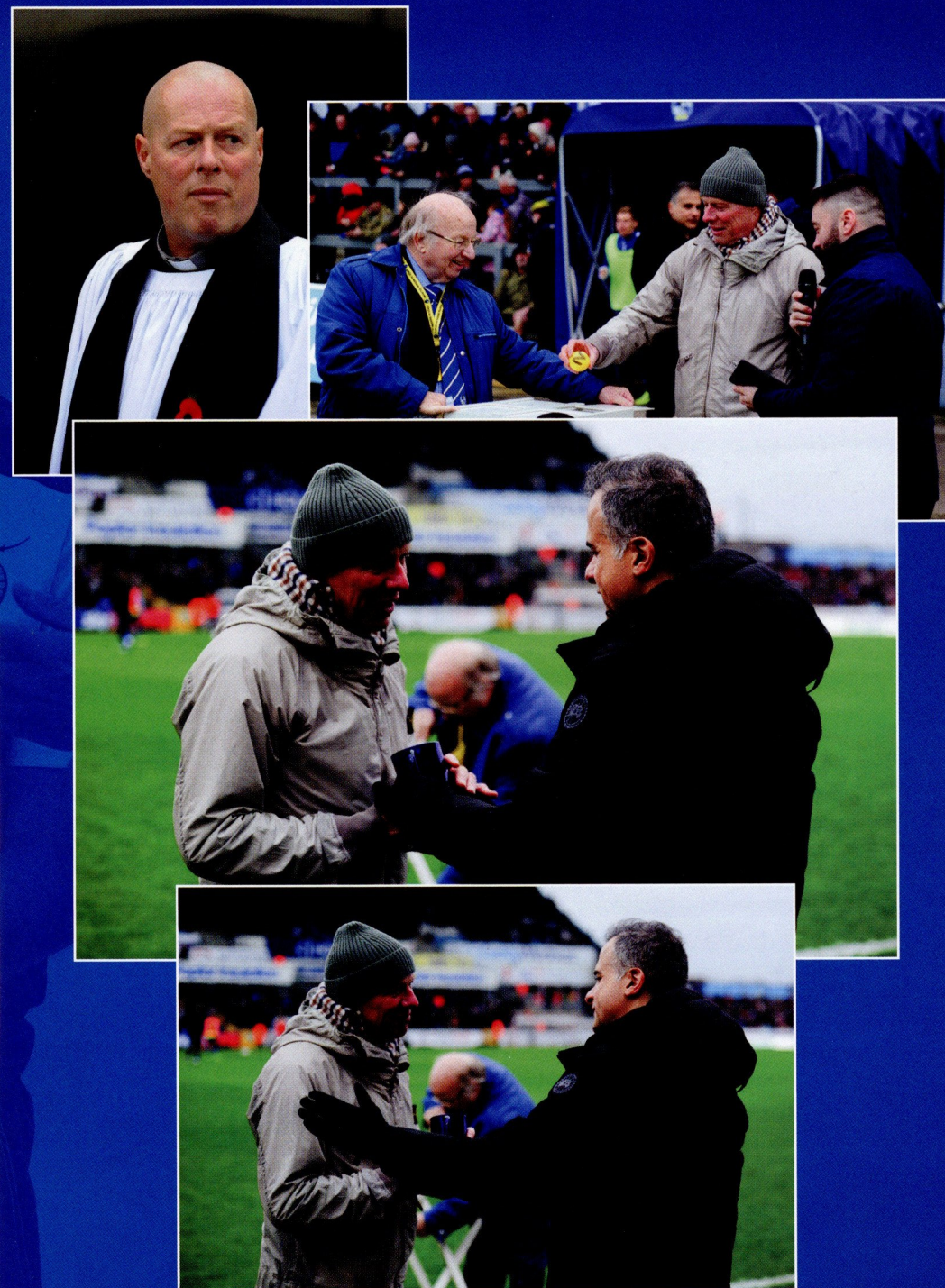
A Lockleaze man, Dave will be missed, as a popular figure around the club on match-days, training sessions and other club events.

Dave was presented with a parting gift as a token of appreciation by Rovers President Wael Al-Qadi.

Good luck in your new role, Dave. When you have the chance, we cannot wait to see you back on the terraces roaring on the Gas as usual.

Thank you for supporting the Rovers, in so many ways, and now thank you for serving our country too.

UTG



FOOTBALL v TRANSPHOBIA

FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

Transgender (trans) people have long been part of football. Across the leagues trans fans have been supporting their clubs for many years and on pitches up and down the country, trans people have been playing the game they love.

In 2015 the FA updated their policy on trans people in football to make it easier and fairer for trans people to participate in the game. The FA believes that 'gender identity should not be a barrier to participation in football'.
Nor do we.

Last summer Lucy Clark, a Non-League referee who is trans talked to the papers about her transition. She told the press "I have kept this secret hidden away most of my life. Now is the time to be ME".

We believe that football is at its best when people can bring their whole selves to the game, which is why we've launched the **Football v Transphobia week of action from 24 - 31 March**. We're standing up for transgender people in the beautiful game. **Will you?**

**STAND UP FOR TRANSGENDER
PEOPLE IN THE BEAUTIFUL GAME**

More information at:

WWW.FOOTBALLVHOMOPHOBIA.COM

Rovers U18s 2 Gillingham U18s 2

ROVERS UNDER-18S CAME BACK FROM CONCEDED AN EARLY GOAL TO RECORD A 3-1 WIN OVER CAMBRIDGE UNITED IN THE EFL YOUTH ALLIANCE MERIT LEAGUE THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH.

Rovers drew 2-2 with Gillingham in the Merit League at Lockleaze, in a match where the young Gas twice took the lead - through Zain Walker and then Harry Warwick - only to be twice pegged back by their opponents, both from corner-kicks.

The game began with a good intensity as Rovers started on the front foot. Lucas Tomlinson saw a free kick headed away and Walker rattled the side netting with a powerful strike.

Gillingham grew into the game past the 10-minute mark, as their number 9 rolled Luc Noble out wide and forced a stretched save from Thomas Barker to cut out a useful low cross.

Warwick should have perhaps opened the scoring when he raced through on goal, but his low finish was denied point-blank before ricocheting off him and just over the bar.

The striker did have the ball in the back of the net moments later as he lifted the ball cutely over the keeper, but was judged to be offside as he latched onto Tomlinson's deft through ball.

Walker then broke the deadlock on the half-hour mark, cutting inside from the left flank and finishing powerfully beyond the keeper on his right.

The lead did not last as Rovers switched off at a corner and allowed Gillingham to bundle home a scrappy equaliser.

Joe Budd nearly restored his side's lead, letting an excellent volley go from 25 yards that demanded a superb save to tip it onto the post and behind.

At the break, Tom Parrinello made a switch, as he brought on Tom Mehew for Kinsly Murray.

Ten minutes after the interval, Rovers were back in front, as Warwick got his goal after rounding the Gillingham keeper and finishing calmly into the empty net.

Gillingham's keeper had another heart-in-mouth moment on the hour, as his attempt to

clear a loose ball almost led to Walker adding his second, but a defender recovered well.

Tomlinson went into the book as he chased the ball down all the way to the keeper and was deemed to have left a leg in as the visiting stopper cleared.

Credit to the visitors, they kept going despite going behind twice and were rewarded on 73 minutes as they again capitalised from a corner, with their big centre-half rising high to head home from 10 yards.

Rovers almost replied immediately, with Mehew driving in a low free-kick at goal which required a decent save and Jamie Bremner followed in to tap home but the linesman had raised his flag for offside.

The prompt response from the hosts continued as Warwick almost scored an identical goal to his first, rounding the keeper although the angle this time just a bit too tight as the ball flashed across the face of goal.

Mehew scored an outstanding free-kick last week whilst on loan and tried to replicate that just inside the final 10 minutes, but his effort sailed wide of the target.

Gillingham almost found a late winner in what would have been bizarre circumstances, as Luca Hoole tried to clear coming off the right-back position and very nearly found his own bottom corner, but was a relieved man as he saw the ball rebound off the post.

They almost did once again moments later, this time through their own means as the defender who had scored their second got up really well again from a free kick but was denied by an excellent outstretched save by Barker, who tipped it over the bar. Rovers were having to hang on a bit in the closing minutes and as such, brought on left-back Levi Paul in place of midfielder Mason Raymond, seeing the game out.

ROVERS XI: Thomas Barker, Luca Hoole, Jamie Bremner, Luc Noble, Sam Heal, Mason Raymond (Levi Paul, 88'), Joe Budd, Lucas Tomlinson, Kinsly Murray (Tom Mehew 45'), Zain Walker, Harry Warwick. **UNUSED SUBS:** Jed Ward (gk).

Groundhopping WITH THE GAS

BY ERIC WHITLOCK

SUNDAY, 7TH APRIL. 3PM KICK-OFF.



COVENTRY CITY



GROUND - RICOH ARENA, PHOENIX WAY, COVENTRY, CV6 6GE
STADIUM TEL NO: 024 7699 1987 | **CLUB TEL NO:** 0844 873 1883 | **FAX NO:** 024 7623 4099
TICKET OFFICE NUMBER: 0844 873 1883 (OPTION 1)
CAPACITY: 32,600 (ALL SEATED) | **NICKNAME** - THE SKY BLUES
PITCH SIZE: 116 X 72 YARDS | **YEAR GROUND OPENED:** 2005
UNDERSOIL HEATING: YES | **SHIRT SPONSORS:** ALLSOP & ALLSOP
AWAY SHIRT SPONSORS: STATSPORTS | **KIT MANUFACTURER:** NIKE

HISTORY FACTS & RECORDS

FOUNDED - 1883 (Singer FC)
YEARS AT TODAY'S GROUND - 13 (off and on)
FIRST ADMITTED TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE - 1919
FIRST OFFICIAL FLOODLIT MATCH - October 1955 Highfield Stadium
HIGHEST ATTENDANCE - 51,455 v Wolverhampton Wanderers Division Two 29/04/1967

HIGHEST SCORE FOR - 9-0 v Bristol City Division Three South 28/04/1934
HIGHEST AGAINST - 10-2 v Norwich City Division Three South 15/03/1930

HIGHEST SCORER IN A SEASON & HIGHEST SCORER OVERALL -

Clarrie Bourton, 50 in 1931/32, 182 goals from 1931-37

Player with most First Team Appearances - Steve Ogrizovic, 601 from 1984 to 2000



GROUND GUIDE

The Ricoh Arena is functional and fairly conservative in its design. Three sides of the stadium, which are large single tiered stands and within the complex has an exhibition centre attached to its West side, resulting in a unique looking stand that gives more of a continental feel.

The Lloyds Pharmacy Stand has a small tier of seats overhanging the larger lower tier, with a row of corporate hospitality boxes, running along the back of the lower section. Along the top of the stand is a large area of white panelling (adorned with the logo of the stadium sponsors) that runs along the length of the stand and around the corners of either side of it. In one of these corners is located a police control box. Below the white panelling is a large windowed corporate hospitality area.

The stadium is fully enclosed with all corners of the stadium being filled with spectator seating. All the stands are of the same height, giving it a symmetrical look. There are several clear Perspex panels located in the roof at the South end of the stadium, plus a large strip of Perspex that runs around the stadium just below the roof at the back of three sides. These measures allow more natural light to enter the stadium, which helps the growth of the grass pitch. There is also a large video screen scoreboard located

in one corner of the stadium between the South and East Stands.

Seating for away supporters is normally allocated within Blocks 6 and 7 of the south stand, although if there is greater demand for seats this is extended to sections 8 and 9. Entrance to the stadium is through automatic turnstiles, where you have to put your ticket (which has a bar code on it) into a slot reader, which then allows the turnstiles to admit you.

Behind the stands there are spacious concourses and a number of food and drink outlets. Food on offer includes; steak pie (£3.50), chicken curry pie (£3.50), cheese and onion pie (£3.50) and sausage rolls (£3). The concourses also have a number of televisions which show the game being played inside..

ADMISSION

Adult: **£22**

60+/18-21/Student: **£15**

Under-18s: **£10**

Prices rise **£2** on match-day

PROGRAMME

£3



WHAT ELSE TO DO IN COVENTRY

HERE'S WHAT ELSE YOU CAN SEE BESIDES THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

WHERE TO DRINK

T.G.I. Friday's opposite the Main Stand serves good food and beer and is close to the main stand. Just walk over the car park to the ground.

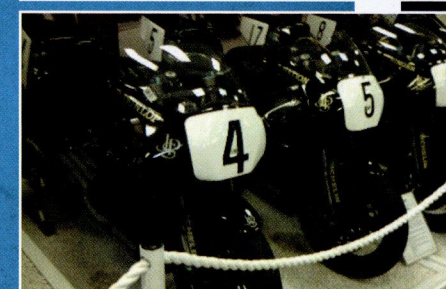
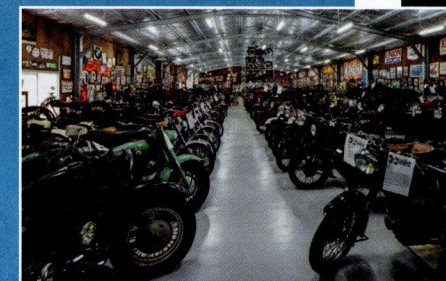
WHAT ELSE TO DO?

The National Motorcycle Museum opened its doors in October 1984 with a collection of 350 motorcycles on display. The museum collection now boasts some 1000-plus machines, fully restored to the manufacturers' original specifications.

Since opening, this magnificent centre has become the largest motorcycle museum in the world and attracts around 250,000 visitors a year. One of the biggest attractions for many guests is the comprehensive cross-section of British machines, spanning the "60 Glorious Years" of motorcycle manufacturing in this country. The museum's aim is to preserve these pieces of history for future generations to come, as a reminder of our industry, engineering prowess and work ethic.

The National Motorcycle Museum is located directly on the J6 island of the M42 motorway, directly opposite the NEC, near Solihull in the West Midlands. Once you are on the A45 and in the vicinity of the NEC and Airport, look for the brown signs.

Sat Nav postcode is **B92 0EJ**.





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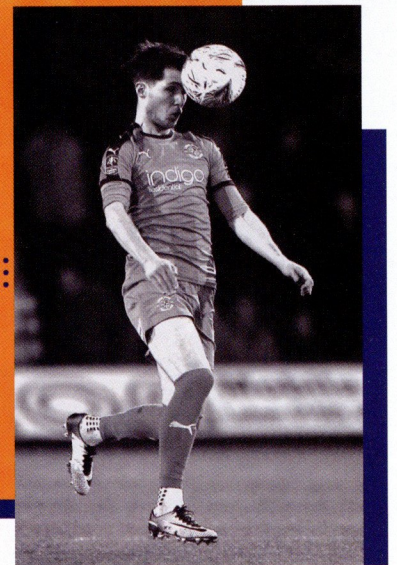
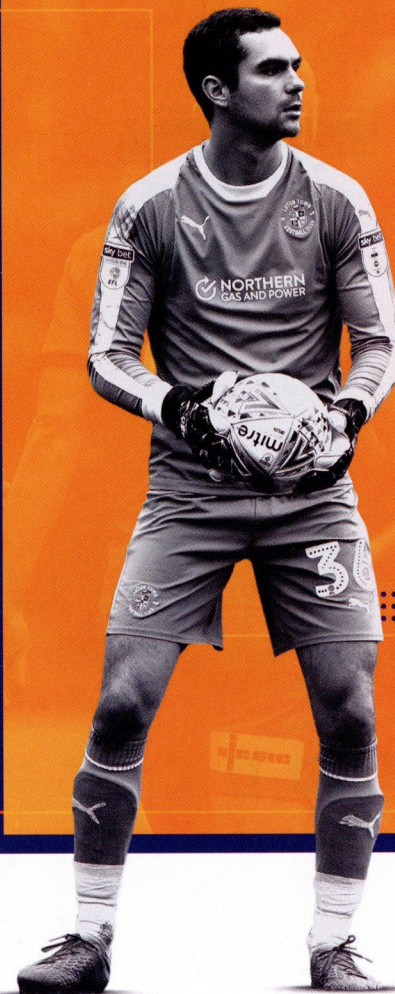
WHEN THE **FUN** STOPS **STOP**

BeGambleAware.org

18+

18+ only. Begambleaware.org.

Welcome to



LUTON TOWN

The Visitors

HEAD
HEAD
2

31

GAS WINS

25

DRAWS

36

HATTERS
WINS

26

GAMES UNBEATEN IN A STAGGERING RUN
OF FORM FOR THE HATTERS

76

LEAGUE GOALS SCORED BY LUTON - MORE
THAN ANY OTHER SIDE IN SKY BET LEAGUE
ONE THIS SEASON

19

CLEAN SHEETS KEPT BY THE HATTERS THIS
SEASON - THE SECOND HIGHEST TALLY IN THE
DIVISIONW W D D L RECENT FORM
(ALL COMPS)RECENT FORM W D W D W
(ALL COMPS)

HATTERS' SCORERS

JAMES COLLINS	20
ELLIOT LEE	10
DANNY HYLTON	8
HARRY CORNICK	7
MATTY PEARSON	6
ANDREW SHINNIE	5

The
MANAGER

WITH GRAHAM MILLS



MH Mick
Harford



MANAGER

Luton Town legend Mick Harford took over the Kenilworth Road hot seat in January 2019 following the departure of Nathan Jones to Stoke City. Harford's arrival has seen no change in Luton's stunning form as they last suffered a league defeat back in October!

Sunderland-born Harford has a long association with the club having been a former player. He started his managerial career as a coach at Wimbledon before linking up with Joe Kinnear in 2001 at Luton as his assistant. He then had spells in various capacities at Nottingham Forest, Rotherham United, Colchester United, Queens Park Rangers, Swindon Town, MK Dons and Millwall but he could not resist the lure of Kenilworth Road and returned in 2008 as manager. He led them to a Johnstone's Paint Trophy success in 2009 but left after the club was relegated following a 30 point deduction. He became Head of Recruitment in January 2016 and since taking over from Jones has maintained The Hatters unbeaten run.

As an old fashioned centre forward he began his career in 1977 at Lincoln City and in a 21 year career he scored 186 goals in 582 league matches playing for Derby County, Bristol City, Birmingham City, Luton Town (two spells), Chelsea, Sunderland, Coventry City and Wimbledon. He was part of the Luton side that shocked Arsenal when they won the League Cup in 1988 and he also won two caps for England whilst on the books of Luton.

THE SQUAD THE HATTERS

WITH GRAHAM MILLS

Arsenal academy graduate, goalkeeper **James Shea** had loan spells with Southampton and Dagenham & Redbridge before plying his trade with Needham Market and Harrow Borough after his release by the Gunners. The 27-year-old returned to the League by signing for AFC Wimbledon in 2014. He helped the Dons to promotion from League Two in 2015-16 before joining the Hatters in July 2017.

Goalkeeper **Marek Stech**, a Czech Republic international, joined the Hatters in June 2017 from Sparta Prague. The 28-year-old started his career as a schoolboy with Sparta, before joining West Ham United at 16 and gaining experience on loan with clubs including Wycombe Wanderers and Yeovil Town. He signed permanently for Yeovil helping them to promotion to the Championship before leaving in the summer of 2014 to play in the Europa League with Sparta. He also has 12 Under-21 caps and was named in the PFA Sky Bet League Two Team of the Season for 2017/18.

Luton-born **James Justin** signed a professional contract with the club in November 2015. The defender joined the Hatters in 2005 becoming a regular in the 2016/17 campaign. He made his England Under-20 debut against Holland in August 2017.

24-year-old defender **Dan Potts** joined the Hatters in the summer of 2015 from West Ham United. Whilst with the Hammers he also represented the USA at Under-20 level before being selected for England Under-18s, 19s and 20s. He gained experience on loan at Colchester and Portsmouth before joining Luton. Last season he was named in the EFL and PFA Sky Bet League Two Team of the Season, as well as winning the club's Players' Player of the Year award.

Centre-half **Sonny Bradley** joined the Hatters in the summer from Plymouth Argyle. The 26-year-old started his career with hometown club Hull City going on loan at Harrogate Town and Aldershot. He has since played for Portsmouth, Crawley and Plymouth, with whom he won promotion as League Two runners-up in 2016-17, winning the Pilgrims' Player of the Year award and was selected in the EFL League Two team of the season.

A summer capture from Barnsley, **Matty Pearson** is a defender who has over 250 career appearances despite being only 24-years-old. The Yorkshireman began his career at Blackburn Rovers, progressing through the youth ranks there before leaving for Rochdale. He played for Halifax Town and Accrington Stanley before signing for Barnsley.

A Reading youth product, **Jack Stacey** played six times for the Royals in the Championship. He had loan spells with Barnet, Carlisle United and Exeter City. A full campaign at St James Park saw him make 38 appearances as Exeter reached the Play-Off Final, losing to Blackpool. He joined the Hatters from Reading and had a debut season to remember being named in the EFL Sky Bet League Two Team of the Season.

Alex Baptiste is an experienced defender who joined the Hatters on loan from QPR on transfer deadline day in January - his 33rd birthday! Alex started his career at Mansfield Town, then moved to Blackpool, where he won promotion to the Premier League. He later played for Bolton, Blackburn, Middlesbrough, Preston and QPR.

Defender **Alan Sheehan** joined the Hatters initially on loan from Bradford City in January 2016. He has made over 400 appearances in his career playing for Notts County, Leeds United and Swindon Town, as well as loans with Mansfield, Crewe, Oldham and Peterborough, after starting out at Leicester City. Last season he earned a place in the EFL Sky Bet and EA Sports Sky Bet League Two Team of the Season, as well as scooping the Supporters' Player of the Year and Internet Player of the Year.

Andrew Shinnie initially signed on a season-long loan from Championship side Birmingham City, before joining permanently in the summer of 2018. The 28-year-old started out with Rangers, spending time on loan with Dundee. He went on to play for Inverness Caledonian Thistle, impressing enough to earn selection for the PFA Scotland SPL Team of the Year. The midfielder moved to Birmingham but spent time on loan at Rotherham and then a full season with Hibernian, which saw him win the Scottish Championship title.



PELLEY RUDDOCK MPANZU

Glen Rea is a former Republic of Ireland Under-21 international. He joined the Hatters initially on loan from Brighton & Hove Albion in March 2016 signing permanently in June. The Sussex-born player had made his debut for Albion in August 2015 in the Capital One Cup against Southend, who he went on to join on loan for a three-month spell before his temporary stint at Kenilworth Road led to a permanent move.

Former West Ham United academy graduate **Pelly Ruddock-Mpanzu** was an instant hit when signed on-loan from the Hammers midway through the Conference title-winning campaign of 2013/14. Versatile Pelly passed the 100-game mark for the Hatters during 2016/17. He extended his stay with the club until 2020 over the summer of 2017, which was extended until 2021 following promotion last season.

Midfielder **Luke Berry** joined the Town from Cambridge United in August 2017. The 25-year-old netted 22 times in 2016/17 for the club with whom he started his career. Berry made his professional debut in 2010 and went on to play 135 times for the Abbey Stadium outfit before departing for Barnsley in 2014. After one season with the Tykes, he returned to Cambridge before switching to Kenilworth Road. Another to be selected in both EFL and PFA League Two teams of the season.

Midfielder **George Thorne** joined the Town on loan until the end of the season from Derby County in January. One of West Bromwich Albion's youngest ever appearance makers, the 26-year-old had played all of his career in the top two tiers of the English football pyramid, prior to joining the Hatters. Loans with Portsmouth, Peterborough United and the Rams followed, before he made his move to Pride Park permanent at the beginning of the 2014-15 campaign. Thorne represented England from Under-16 to 19 level, winning the European Under-17 Football Championships in 2010.

34-year-old **Alan McCormack** joined the Hatters in July 2017 from Brentford. McCormack had a number of promotions to his name prior to his arrival, including from League Two with Swindon Town and League One with the Bees. The Irishman played for Southend and Charlton amassing over 450 career appearances before signing for the Hatters.

West Ham academy graduate **George Moncur** left the Hammers in 2014 and signed for Colchester United. An impressive two seasons there earned him a move to Barnsley in 2016. He made 64 appearances for the Tykes in his two-and-a-half years there, signing for the Hatters in January 2019.

Forward **Danny Hylton** joined the Town in 2016 after helping Oxford United to promotion to League One and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final. He started his career with Aldershot Town, where he made over 200 appearances, before joining Rotherham United. He was loaned out to Bury and AFC Wimbledon prior to his move to Oxford. Hylton was named in the PFA Team of the Season for the division and won four club Player of the Year accolades in a memorable campaign in 2016/17. Last season he was again named in the PFA and EFL League Two Teams of the Season.

Elliot Lee is in his second spell at the club having had a short loan spell from West Ham United in 2015. The 23-year-old was an instant hit at Kenilworth Road, netting with his first touch away at AFC Wimbledon. Whilst at West Ham, the forward had loan spells with Colchester, Southend and Blackpool, before leaving in 2016 to join Barnsley. Having found game time limited at Oakwell he joined the Hatters in July 2017.

James Collins joined Luton in June 2017 from Crawley Town. Since leaving Aston Villa, the 27-year-old has enjoyed a prolific career scoring regularly for Shrewsbury Town, Swindon Town and Crawley. The former Republic of Ireland Under-21 international has now won promotion four times from League Two; twice with Shrewsbury, once during his loan at Northampton Town and once with the Hatters. He has also played for Hibernian.

23-year-old forward **Harry Cornick** joined the Hatters from Bournemouth in August 2017. He signed for the Cherries as a 17-year-old after impressing on trial, but continued playing for Wessex League club Christchurch while completing his A-levels. He gained experience on loan at Welling United, Aldershot, Havant & Waterlooville, Yeovil, Leyton Orient and Gillingham.

Scottish international striker **Jason Cummings** signed on loan from Nottingham Forest on the final day of the January transfer window. Cummings spent the first half of this campaign on loan at Peterborough United. He started his career at Hibernian before moving south to join Forest in the summer of 2017. He finished last season on loan with Glasgow Rangers.

Kazenga LuaLua signed for the club in September 2018. Having started his career at Newcastle United the Congolese attacker had loan spells at Doncaster Rovers and Brighton, before joining the latter permanently in 2011 and helping them win promotions from League One and the Championship. He had two loan spells with Queens Park Rangers leaving Brighton in January 2018 to sign for Sunderland, but left the Black Cats after their relegation.

Aaron Connolly signed on 31st January, 2019 on loan from Brighton. The 19-year-old Irishman came off the bench for Albion's first team to make his senior debut in the 2-0 victory over Barnet in the Carabao Cup in 2017. He opened the 2018/19 season in excellent form, as he scored the equalising goal for Brighton against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium.

MATTHEW PEARSON



A Football Club that does not respect its past has no future

Welcome Back

By Martin Bull

By the time you read this article we will be recovering from the biggest event in our social and fundraising diary, the Annual Former Players Dinner, with Rickie Lambert as our returning guest of honour.

The sold-out event featured over 30 former players and first team members of staff, boasting around 6,000 appearances and 500 Gas goals between them!

From the club we also had Graham Coughlan, Chris Hargreaves, Lee Mansell and the Chairman, Steve Hamer join us. Keep an eye on our website and social media accounts for our other events, especially the forthcoming 2019 Golf Day on 13th June.

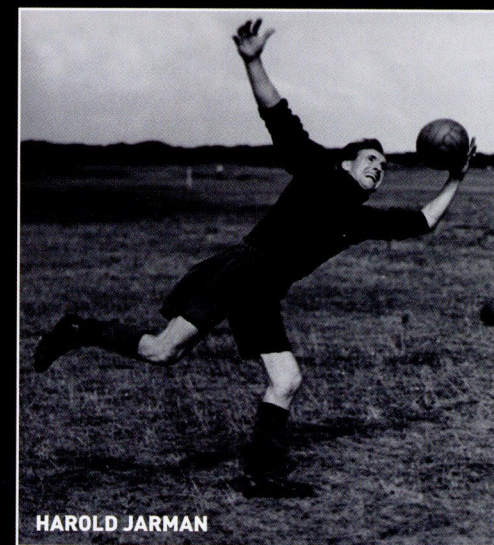
A few of the former players could also come to the match today; we plan to have Harold Jarman, Graham Day, Christian McClean and Howard Radford with us this afternoon.

Harold Jarman probably needs little introduction to the Pirate faithful, as he holds the third highest amount of senior appearances in Rovers' history (452 overall), and also the third highest amount of goals (127.), beaten only by Geoff Bradford and Alfie Biggs. Harold was also a very handy cricketer, playing a decade in the summer break for Gloucestershire.

After retirement Harold held various roles at the club in the 70s, 80s and 90s, including becoming the first ever Bristol-born [caretaker] manager of Rovers in the Football League. Sadly his 1979/80 success at steering Rovers away from relegation was not rewarded for the following season, as ex-England international Terry Cooper was brought in instead; promptly taking Rovers to bottom place and relegation with just 23 points!

Graham Day, another Bristolian, had a fascinating football life, and was yet another Rovers defender who scored a solitary goal for us. Graham's came in February 1977 against Fulham, and he admits it flew in off his ear. Ouch!

A tough central defender, Graham was just two games shy of making 150 Pirate appearances and spent three summers on loan in the USA with Portland Timbers, before joining them permanently in 1979. Whilst in America he played with, or against, Carlos Alberto, Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff, Gerd Muller and Pele.



HAROLD JARMAN

Christian McClean played in the staggeringly successful team from 1988 to 1991. Gerry Francis converted Christian from a tough centre-back to an equally tough centre-forward, and some terrace fans even nicknamed him 'The Beast'. Christian's finest moments in the blue and white quarters possibly came during the famous run of six 2-1 wins in a row in the Spring of 1990, the final five of which were all achieved despite going behind.

Christian holds a strange footballing record in having not one, but two goals, expunged from the record books. He scored in both of Northampton Town's games vs. Aldershot in the 1991/92 season but the Shots went into liquidation mid-season and the records were wiped forever.

Howard Radford came to Bristol in 1951 when Rovers paid Welsh valleys club Penrhiwceiber the princely sum of £50 for his services. A small, yet brave and nimble keeper, Howard played his entire professional career with Rovers, making 266 appearances, and on retirement was replaced by the infamous Esmond Million. Howard later settled in Devon and we are very proud that he's made the trip up to see us, alongside his son Gary.

To keep up to date with our efforts please visit our web site - www.brfpa.org.uk





END OF SEASON AWARDS 18/19



LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE!...

LLOYDS AMPITHEATRE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH 2019

Doors open 6:00pm | Dinner served at 7:30pm

Spend the evening in the company of the players, staff and management whilst enjoying a delicious three-course dinner

Player of the year awards | 1883 Club draw | Silent auction

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COMMERCIAL COMMENT

I would like to give a warm welcome to everyone from **Luton Town Football Club** and hope that they enjoy the day here at the Memorial Stadium.

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR



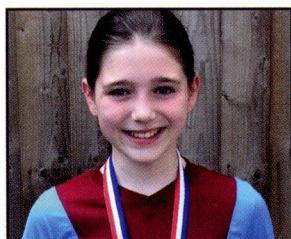
We would like to welcome **Brunel Group** and its clients here this afternoon as our match sponsors.

Brunel is an award-winning independent insurance broker. They provide expert advice to both businesses and individuals on all matters relating to insurance. As Chartered Insurance Brokers, their team has been recognised for their high levels of service, and with their Professions team as registered Lloyds Brokers, they have access to the world's leading insurance markets. Brunel work with over 7,000 corporate and commercial clients throughout the UK placing over £40m of Premium, covering a wide spectrum from small owner-managed businesses, to SMEs and larger corporates. The Brunel Group is one of the UK's fastest growing Insurance Brokers, employing over 90 staff with offices in Bristol, Manchester, Perth and London.

Brunel work side-by-side with clients as their trusted adviser to understand their needs and individual circumstances. They have adopted highly disciplined client focused management processes, with the goal of delivering unparalleled service.

The team provide extensive insurance solutions and have access to a wide market of insurers. Their independence means they are not restricted to limited panels of insurers and do not operate schemes with insurers. This means their clients benefit from a full market review, competitive pricing and access to more appropriate wordings for their risk.

Please visit www.brunelgroup.co.uk for further information.



TODAY'S CAPTAIN'S MASCOT

Our Captain's mascot this afternoon is **LAINA WARREN**. Laina is 12 years old and her hobbies include playing football. She currently plays for Wotton Rovers in their mixed u12's team and u12's girls' team and her favourite Rovers player is Ollie Clarke.

Laina is here today enjoying hospitality in the Poplar Suite with her grandad Al. We hope you enjoy your day Laina.



1 | 8
8 | 3
CLUB

We are delighted to welcome **1883 Sponsors MKJ Group Ltd** and **TMT Accounting** to the game this afternoon – we hope you enjoy your hospitality with us and many thanks for joining our **1883 Sponsors Club** for the 2018/19 season.

SPONSOR PICTURE SPECIAL

BRISTOL ROVERS v CHARLTON ATHELTIC

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE 23RD MARCH 2019

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MATCHBALL SPONSOR



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Anyone looking at purchasing hospitality in the matchday restaurant for the new season, please contact the **Commercial Department** on **01179 524 010** for further information or visit www.brfc.co.uk

BRISTOL ROVERS F.C



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30.

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1	8
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CLUB



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1883 CLUB
FOR THE 2019/20 SEASON

Join the 1883 Club and receive free entry into the
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Bull's EYE

BY MARTIN BULL

WE ARE WHO WE ARE

In August 2016, NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick explained his refusal to stand during pregame renditions of the American national anthem as a protest against racial oppression. He said: "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of colour."

It is hard for us in England to really envisage what it is like to be expected to regularly stand for a flag and to sing a national anthem, but in America it is a huge preoccupation, being performed en masse at public events. In addition, the Pledge of Allegiance is undertaken every day in most public schools, and at the start of many meetings, both governmental and non-governmental.

Whilst we proudly wear our 'colours' to matches (and away from the game), and sing 'Goodnight Irene' at the top of our lungs, we are not told to, forced to, or even expected to by custom or society. This makes our passion truly righteous, as routines that are forced or take place in a vacuum tend to be exactly the customs of life that become meaningless and hollow.

WHY ARE WE GASHEADS?

Because there is something we love about the club.

Maybe it is the tradition, or the home territory and the rivalry with a club who apparently play a few miles away. Maybe it involves family and friends, the style of play, the smell of the stadium, the fortnightly repetition of the true football experience, or perhaps it's the excitement of a real game and the (relative) freedom afforded by standing on a terrace amidst YOUR tribe.

Two things it certainly is not are: forced. or rigidly time-limited. The club is ours forever. It really is.

Although Kaepernick's issue was aimed at the current treatment of "black people and people of colour", an added layer of complexity was added into the bigger picture when some historians pointed out that the rarely sung third stanza of the anthem seems to celebrate the deaths of black slaves recruited between 1808 and 1816 to fight as soldiers for the British on the promise of gaining their freedom afterwards.

The stanza finished with the usual reference to "the land of the free and the home of the brave", but in that brutal Battle of Fort McHenry, who really were the free and who were the brave? Obviously most African-Americans were not free, as they



were still enslaved, yet clearly they were brave as they voluntarily fought in a war to try to 'earn' their freedom.

In most compassionate societies the idea of enslaved people fighting for freedom would be considered exactly the sort of thing a rallying cry, or a national anthem, SHOULD be written for.

Interest in Kaepernick's stance has grown massively since that day of course. On the physical level it has mutated into a kneeling protest, and on the metaphysical plain it has encouraged debate about the rights and wrongs of protest, what racism remains in today's America, and on a wider compass, what discrimination exists towards other sections of society, such as along the lines of their gender, disability, nationality, sexuality, religion (or lack of...), and even their economic status.

This is sadly something that crops up in football from time to time, and we, as decent Gasheads, will be fighting, like Kaepernick does, to highlight these abuses and tackle difficult issues so that our tribe is not tainted by exclusion or inequality.

So, let us stand together as Pirates and Gasheads behind our manager, behind the good people at the club and behind the reasons we fell in love with Rovers.

This is our club. And it always will be.

Martin Bull

Programme Contributor



JIM'S JOTTINGS

All of us who attended the win at Gillingham thought we had seen the goal of the season from Jonson Clarke-Harris but I have to say I thought he ran it very close with another superb turn, run and long-range blockbuster into the roof of Plymouth Argyle's net for the first goal at Home Park.

How great it was for substitute Gavin Reilly to clinch that last-gasp point with such a deft header in stoppage time to send the Blue & White Army into raptures. It is certainly fun to follow the Gas on the road these days.

PROUD SPONSORS

I mentioned the recall of Alfie Kilgour from his loan at Maidenhead United in the Charlton programme and I said it would not be long before he made his overdue debut for us.

And so it transpired as Alfie was called in to replace skipper Tom Lockyer who was on international duty again whilst we did battle at Plymouth. What a great debut it was, but having seen Alf in action so many times for the Supporters Club-sponsored Youth Academy and the Development Squad I was not in the slightest surprised. Keep buying those 50/50 tickets and I am sure there are more to come!

COMMITTEE CLIPS

There was, as usual, a packed agenda for our latest Committee meeting which was held on 11th March.

As well as getting to grips with the new procedures for purchasing memberships and away travel it was time for us to turn our attention to our end of season awards.

Player of the Season, Young Player of the Season and Goal of the Season are all up for grabs. More information will follow in the Bradford programme.

If you haven't looked at our website yet please do, it can be found at <https://www.bristolroverssc.co.uk/> You will find full details on away travel, match tickets, 50/50 draw details (published the day following every home game), news on Supporters Club events, match reports and highlights, and news on the Development Squad and Academy sides that we sponsor. Have a look at our Events Guide

too; the quickest way you can find out about future Rovers games on the web.

The Committee has taken the decision that, from the end of this season, tickets for away coach travel and membership will only be available online through the SC Website <https://www.bristolroverssc.co.uk> and from the SC outlets at the stadium on a match day.

The football club superstore will no longer sell tickets for travel or membership. On match-days, membership will be available from the SC Bar (cash payment only) and the SC shop (cash or card) in the main car park. Away travel will only be sold at the SC shop.

Existing members are encouraged to rejoin online before the start of next season, and to book away tickets online to avoid long queues at the SC shop on match-days especially in the early part of the season. Please do not include payment for BRSC membership with season ticket renewals or you may have to pay again. There are bound to be some initial teething problems as with any new system. The Committee will review the changes regularly and members can also contact the travel organiser and membership secretary by e-mail in the event of any problems at travel@bristolroverssc.co.uk or membership@bristolroverssc.co.uk

Please note that BRSC membership will still place you in priority group two for tickets for all-ticket matches.

Please do not attempt to purchase next season's membership yet.

Things you can do to help are:-

- * Join the Supporters Club during the close season
- * Book for away matches on-line as early as possible.
- * Arrive early at the stadium if you intend to book travel or purchase membership in person.
- * Always bring your BRSC membership card when booking away travel or you will be charged the non-members rate (an additional £5 per ticket)
- * Do not send renewal for BRSC membership with Season Ticket renewals as in previous years.



CHARLTON ATHLETIC 50/50 TICKET WINNERS

50/50 DRAW V CHARLTON ATHLETIC

1st Prize: £850.00

Winning Ticket Number: 014625

Winner: Amanda Toms from Filton.

2nd Prize: £100.00

Winning Ticket Number: 018041

Winner: Wendy Williams from Stoke Gifford.

3rd Prize: £50.00

Winning Ticket Number: 019098

Winner: UNCLAIMED at the time of writing.

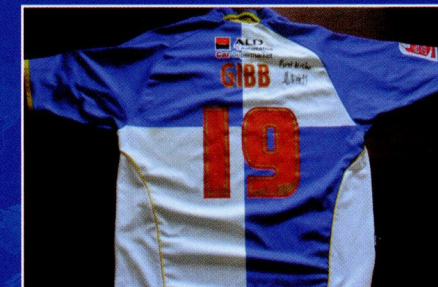
THE 3RD PRIZE CAN BE CLAIMED BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEXT HOME GAME AND UP TO SIX WEEKS FROM THE SUPPORTERS CLUB'S MATCH-DAY CABIN IN THE CAR PARK.

A BID ON THE SIDE

ALI GIBB MATCH-WORN SHIRT.

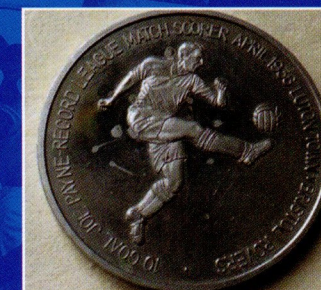
Ali played 64 times for Rovers between 2004-2006. This shirt, from the 2005/06 season is a size XL and comes with all the Coca Cola Football League badges on the sleeves. It is in good condition but does have some marks on the white quarters where although it has been washed not all the mud has come out. Mud

BRISTOLROVERSMEMORABILIA.WEBLY.COM



from the Mem - does that make it even more valuable? As an added bonus Ali has signed the back of the shirt as well.

A TEN-GOAL PAYNE




Never let it be said that we only cater for the home fans here at Bid on the Side. Commissioned in 1985 this coin celebrates one of the best days in Luton Town's history - and one of our worst. It is of Joe Payne, scorer of ten goals in a 12-0 win in 1936. It is in good condition and measures 38mm across. A fine reminder for any older Town fan that might remember that extraordinary game.

These items have been auctioned on eBay since Thursday, 28th March, and will be available for 10 days. The minimum price is just 99p and the highest bidder wins.

A link to these auctions will be found at <http://bristolroversmemorabilia.weebly.com/>

If any other Rovers fans have any rare or interesting Rovers related items that they would be happy to donate, please pass the item(s) in to the Supporters Club match-day shop in the car park by the Dribuild Stand.

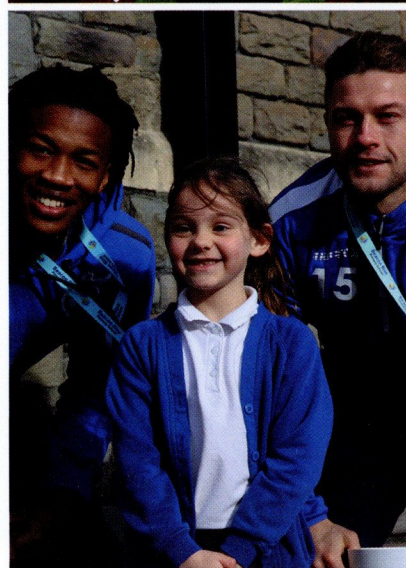



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EMAIL: edstrange@bristolroverscommunity.org.uk ● /roverscommunity ● /bristolroverscommunity



CELEBRATING OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY

Today, Bristol Rovers celebrate our annual Community Day and showcase the work that is carried out Bristol Rovers Community Trust.

Being the registered charity of Bristol Rovers, the Community Trust make a real difference to people's lives in our community. Its board of Trustees is led by Ken Masters and Steve Hamer as well as other major figureheads from the local community.

We offer a wide range of projects that include:

- Disability football for adults and youth
- Social inclusion football sessions for 11 to 18-year-olds
- Primary and secondary school sport
- Health programmes
- Over 60s social clubs
- Walking football
- Women's and girls' football
- Mental health support
- Post-16 education
- And much, much more

The Community Trust engages with over 1,000 people a week in and around the Bristol area. We use the power of sport and the brand of Bristol Rovers to make a positive change in people's lives. Before today's match, the Community Trust will be holding a bucket collection to help raise funds for the vital work that we carry out in the community.

At half-time, there will be an opportunity for you to welcome around 100 different participants from the various projects, who will perform a lap of honour around The Mem.

Bristol Rovers Community Trust CEO, Adam Tutton, said: "Today we get the opportunity to showcase the work that we do in our community. It makes me feel incredibly proud to see the participants from our projects, join us at the stadium as guests and take part in the lap of honour.

"The work that we do is so important to so many people and like every charity, we rely on funding and donations to continue to grow and impact more lives in Bristol. I'd like to thank all the supporters who have generously made donations throughout the week and at today's match. Your support is invaluable, and we are proud to represent Bristol Rovers in the community."

Bristol Rovers encourage all fans to donate generously and help make positive change in our community. If you wish to donate, please visit

www.bristolroverscommunity.org.uk/donate

ROVERS FANS TO TAKE ON TREKFEST CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMUNITY TRUST

Brothers Darren and Nathan Gould are preparing to take on the TrekFest challenge, which consists of a 50km hike through the Brecon Beacons mountain ranges and Pen-Y-Fan, this coming July to raise money for Bristol Rovers Community Trust.

Darren and Nathan, both season ticket holders, are raising money for the Community Trust after experiencing first-hand the work which The Trust provides throughout Bristol, whilst solely relying on grants and donations. The Community Trust have also launched their 'Just Giving' page which gives supporters the opportunity to fundraise for the affiliated charity of Bristol Rovers. Whether it's a bake sale, a video game tournament or a 50km Trek, every penny that you raise will go back into the Community.

Everyone at Bristol Rovers Community Trust would like to thank Darren and Nathan for their incredible gesture and we wish them a safe and enjoyable journey through the Brecon Beacons this Summer. Please support their fundraiser by donating whatever you can via their Just Giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/darren-nathangould>



Bristol Rovers 2018/19

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 TONY CRAIG DF ERIC PEGRAM AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 ED UPSON MF HOME SPONSOR AVAILABLE AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 LIAM SERCOMBE MF MKJ GROUP - WWW.MKJGROUP.CO.UK MKJ GROUP - WWW.MKJGROUP.CO.UK	 OLLIE CLARKE MF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. WWW.FAROUHARPARTNERSHIP.CO.UK HARRISON FOLEY - KEVIN STOCKHAM
 TOM NICHOLS FW HOME SPONSOR AVAILABLE ERIC PEGRAM	 JACK BONHAM GK BRISTOL & BATH SCAFFOLDING - 07447 469 892 FAN'S FORUM SPONSOR CLUB - PROUD TO WEAR THE QUARTERS	 CHRIS LINES MF IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY MARKS BRISTOL & BATH SCAFFOLDING - 07447 469 892	 JAMES CLARKE DF HOME SPONSOR AVAILABLE AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE

 ALEX JAKUBIAK FW HOME SPONSOR AVAILABLE AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 GABRIEL OSHO DF HOME SPONSOR AVAILABLE AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 JONSON CLARKE-HARRIS FW THE GAS GIRLS DERRICK & SHEILA GULWELL	 GAVIN REILLY FW BRIGHTON WILLIAMS & PARTNERS - 01454 773 690 AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE
 ADAM SMITH GK BIRD IN HAND SALT FORD 01225 873 335 BIRD IN HAND SALT FORD 01225 873 335	 JOE PARTINGTON DF WSM GAS / THE WINDSOR CASTLE PVE GROUNDWORK'S & DIGGER HIRE - 01179 324 169	 KYLE BENNETT MF OUT ON LOAN BRISTOL & BATH SCAFFOLDING - 07447 469 892 INSTANET SAFETY NET LIMITED - WITH CLAIRE BROOKS	 STUART SINCLAIR MF FINE & DANDY BARBERSHOP, WIDCOMBE BATH IN MEMORY OF ROY COMER 'ROVERS 'TIL HE DIED'
 ABU OGOGO DF BRIGHTON WILLIAMS & PARTNERS - 01454 773 690 AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 SAM MATTHEWS MF PVE GROUNDWORK'S & DIGGER HIRE - 01179 324 169 JAGUAR COMMISSIONING SERVICES LTD	 MICHAEL KELLY DF CASTELL HOWELL AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 LUKE RUSSE MF OUT ON LOAN HOME SPONSOR AVAILABLE CLUBHOUSE BAR REGULARS
 ALEX RODMAN FW THE COOK BROTHERS AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 CONNOR JONES FW OUT ON LOAN CLUBHOUSE BAR REGULARS AWAY SPONSOR AVAILABLE	 GRAHAM COUGHLAN M NICK DAY ANN CRAIG	 CHRIS HARGREAVES AM IN MEMORY OF RON CRAIG DHL S.A.S

President's CLUB

BY KEITH BROOKMAN

A FIRST FOR LUTON!

It is probably a record they know nothing about, but Luton Town were our opponents in the first ever League Cup tie played at the Memorial Stadium.

The competition was known as the Coca Cola Cup at the time of their visit, 4th September 1996 and Luton's boss at the time was the future Rovers Director of Football Lennie Lawrence.

Twenty three years ago, the first round of the competition was played over two legs and the Hatters arrived here holding a 3-0 lead from the first leg which had been played at Kenilworth Road on 20th August, so it was always going to be a battle for Ian Holloway's side.

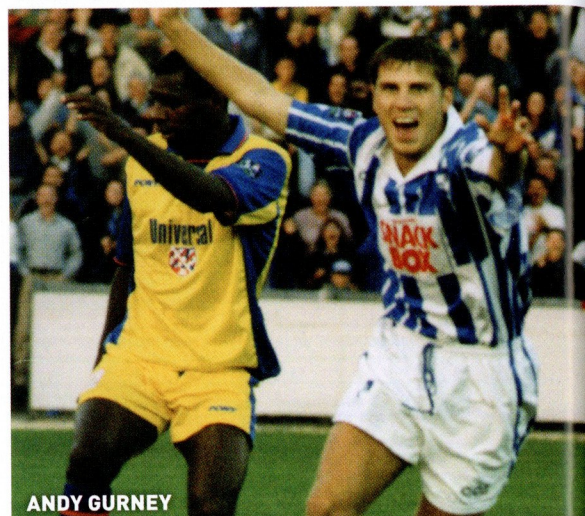
The fact that they required four goals to go through to the next round was a contributory factor for the low crowd of 2,320.

However, Rovers had pulled back two goals in the opening twenty minutes through Andy Gurney and Lee Archer. Had it not been for goalkeeper Ian Feuer Rovers might well have scored further goals before the break.

Luton brought on substitute Andrew Fotiadis at the start of the second half, though, and his introduction proved to be crucial as he was instrumental in creating the all-important away goal which effectively won them the tie.

Scored by David Oldfield, who had also scored in the first leg, it saw the Hatters through to the next round where they beat Derby County 3-2 on aggregate. They bowed out of the competition in round three, losing 2-1 to Wimbledon in a replay following a 1-1 draw.

We met again in the same competition in 1999/2000 when we avenged that defeat by winning 4-2 on aggregate and, of course, our paths have crossed in league action on a number of occasions since we moved to the Mem in 1996.



ANDY GURNEY

This afternoon we meet in the league for the 82nd time, though it may be the last for a while given that Luton are on a 26-game unbeaten run and have lost only four league matches all season.

Hopefully we can bring that incredible run to an end, though it's going to take something, or someone, special to achieve that.

We need a Man of the Match to step up to the plate and that's where you come in as you can vote for your star man by downloading the President's Club Man of the Match App. It's FREE download and FREE to vote while we continue trial it.

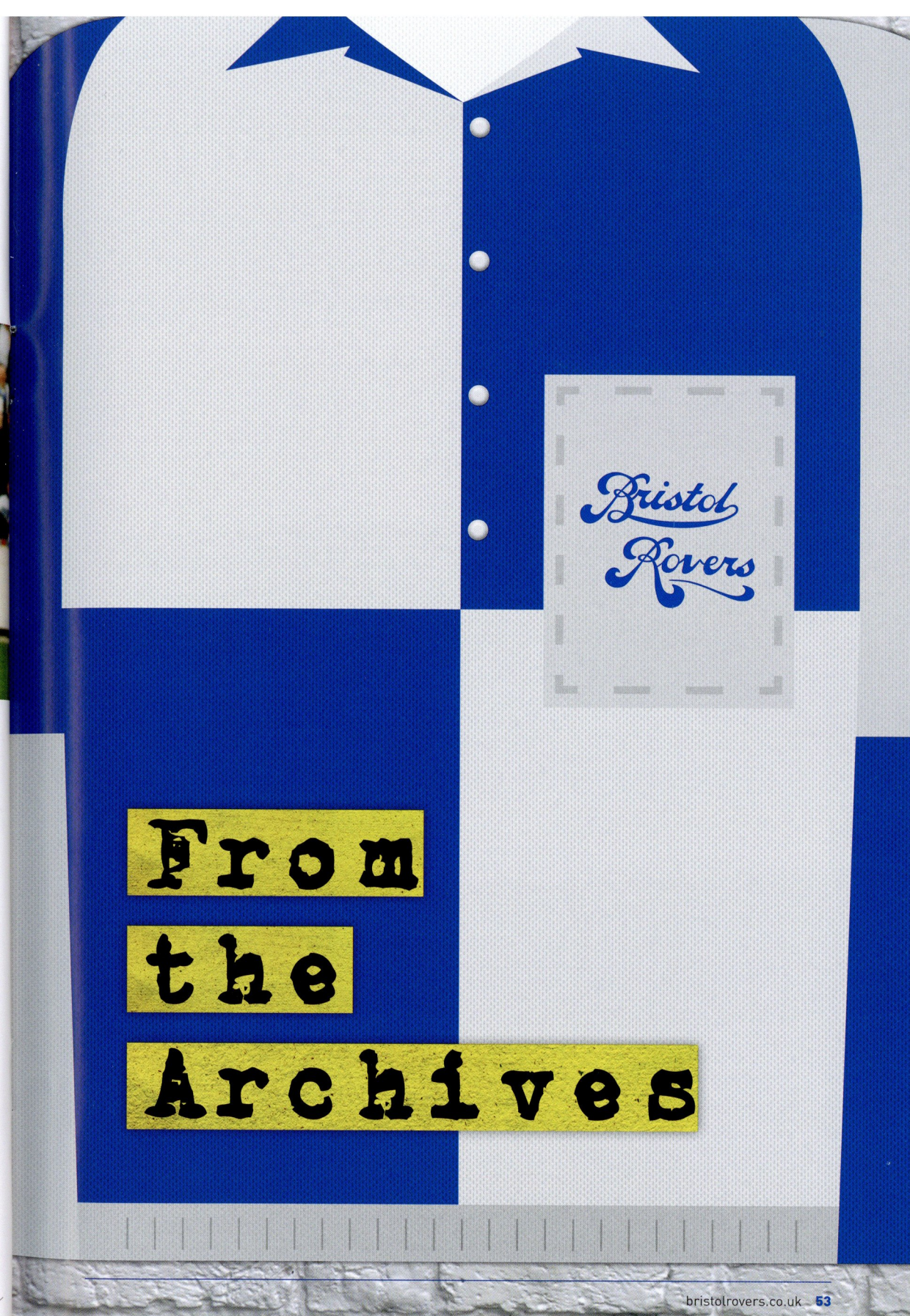
If, or when, we start charging you will be informed beforehand so that you can decide whether to continue or not.

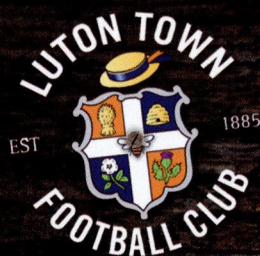
Net funds received in this way will be used to support key projects within BRFC which will ultimately help the Youth Teams/Academy.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

You can help our fundraising efforts by joining the **PRESIDENT'S CLUB 1883 DRAW** it costs just £5 per month and you have the chance to win monthly cash prizes.

See our website for details; bristolroverspresidents1883club.co.uk/





The Highlighting Hatters

By Mike Jay

Rovers have a long history of games against Luton Town, going back almost a century to the inaugural Division Three season. Rovers won both those games 2-1; at Kenilworth Road, with goals by Sid Leigh and an o.g. by Fred Tirrell for Rovers and Allan Matthieson for the home team; then 5-0 at Eastville on 29th March, 1921 with Leigh (penalty), Ellis Crompton, Bill Palmer, and Harry Boxley (2) scoring Rovers goals. In fact, despite meeting every league season it was not until 26th September, 1925 that the Hatters recorded their first victory over the Pirates, a 1-0 win in Bedfordshire, at their 11th attempt, with a goal from Sydney Reid.

Ten-Goal Payne

Without doubt the most notable match between the teams occurred on 13th April, 1936 and it was certainly an unlucky day for Rovers. Town's Joe Payne notched up a record 10 goals that day as his team recorded a 12-0 win over the hapless Rovers. Payne later recalled that one of those goals even went in off his backside! The teams had met three days beforehand, at Eastville, and fought out a 2-2 draw, but there was no Joe Payne in the Hatters line-up.

The previous January, 1935, Rovers had gone down 6-2 at Kenilworth Road with Luton forward Sam Bell notching a hat trick. Rovers' unfortunate goalkeeper Jack Ellis who conceded the half-dozen in 1935 was also in goal for the full dozen in 1935.

There has not been much to separate the teams down the years in league and cup meetings, but the Hatters now have the upper hand, winning 37 games, losing 31 with the other 24 drawn..

Hats Off

One remarkable game I remember well took place on Boxing Day, 2007, when the Hatters played out a 1-1 draw here despite having three players sent off/ Chris Coyne after 15 mins followed by Steve Robinson (42 mins) and Anthony Grant (76 mins). Rickie Lambert scored a penalty for Rovers on 15 mins, with David Edwards scoring on 49 mins for our visitors. Chris Lines played that day; now on 499 Rovers appearances and counting - while there are three other of his team mates who are still playing in the EFL, namely full back Joe Jacobson (Wycombe) full back David Pipe (Newport County) and striker Andy Williams (Northampton Town).

NEXT ROVERS HISTORY GROUP MEETING

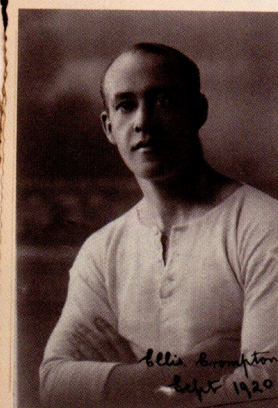
Monday, 1st April, at The Wellington Pub, Horfield Common 7-9pm. Open to all Gasheads interested in the archiving of Rovers history. Bring along your memorabilia and memories.

Recent Meetings

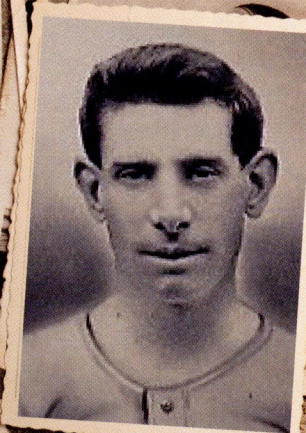
This season, Luton are unbeaten at home. They have won 15 and drawn five of their 20 games, with a favourable home goal difference of +36. Their away form is pretty good, too. They have 33 points from their 19 trips, losing just four times.

Luton chalked up a 1-0 victory over Rovers on 15th September. Hatters midfielder Andrew Shinnie scored the winner on the hour mark to record Rovers fifth defeat in eight starts. A free-kick had only been half-cleared by the over-worked Rovers defence as far as Shinnie, who rifled his effort past Jack Bonham.

The Hatters last visit to the Mem was on 2nd January, 2016 when Rory Gaffney scored twice for the second successive match. The on-loan striker from Cambridge United scored after an hour from close range after Tom Lockyer's header was cleared off the line. Twelve minutes later Luton keeper Mark Tyler fumbled Gaffney's shot and the Irishman scored from the rebound. The win moved Rovers up to fifth position while Town dropped to 15th position.



Ellis Crompton



Billy Palmer



Chris Lines

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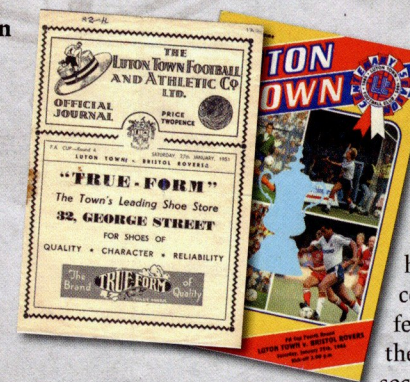
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*no glass making on Sundays



Rovers and Luton first locked horns as far back as November 1900, in a Southern League encounter. We played each other most seasons from then till March 1937, when Luton were promoted to Division Two.

Sadly I do not own any programmes from this period. The first issue available is from January 1951, in the FA Cup Fourth Round. Measuring 170 x 245 mm, it came with eight pages. The front cover contained the match details, price (2d) and an advert for the "True Form" shoe shop, which, I believe, is now a Specsavers. More ads followed on page 2, including being able to join the Bobbers Stand Club for a ha'penny a year. Club notes appeared next - written in a very small font so you may



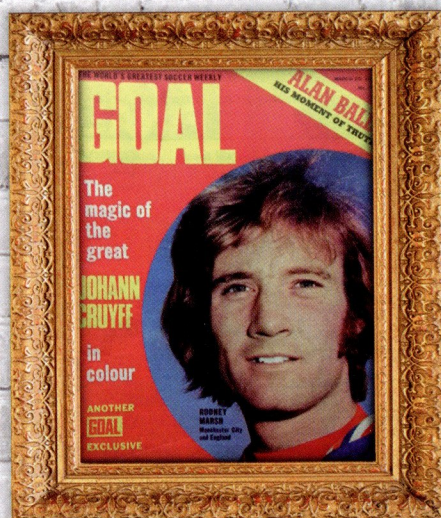
need to visit Specsavers to read it - but there certainly was plenty of it. The centre spread was similar to a lot of programmes at that time in that it had the team line-ups surrounded by more adverts. Page 6 was similar with the half-time score boards in the centre before all Town's fixtures featured on page 7 along with the league tables for the first and second teams. Another advert was found on the back cover.

Moving on 35 years and Rovers made the trip east for another fourth round FA Cup game. This time the programme was smaller but came with 32 pages mainly in colour. The price had risen to £1. Obviously this gave far more room for articles covering both the present goings on around the club and historical features including a mention of the game covered above.

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.

You can contact me direct via jamiegas@blueyonder.co.uk. You can also check out the information only site at <http://bristolroversmemorabilia.weebly.com>



Rodney Marsh: £200,000 buys you an England international with one cap in his locker.



Literally a give-away as all you have to do is drive in according to this advertisement – no mention of buying petrol.



The Dutch master weaves his magic in colour on the back page.

What we were reading

By Steve Smith

Oldham Athletic are the latest side to suffer defeat at the hands of a resurgent Bristol Rovers side as they go down 1-0 at Eastville. The Pirates make it four wins on the spin on 25 March, 1972, the same day that issue number 187 of GOAL magazine hits the shops.

Front cover star Rodney Marsh has just made his Manchester City debut against Chelsea, but as he reveals in GOAL, he was not best pleased.

"I played poorly. I didn't start very well and I didn't get much better," says the £200,000 signing from QPR.

However, his new coach, Malcolm Allison, remains optimistic: "Rodney will be a great player for us – next season."

As for this campaign (1971/72), the City boss hopes the five-point lead at the top will be enough to secure the crown: "If we don't land the title now there will be some explaining done by some people." Maine Road must have been a noisy place in the summer as City finished in joint second spot along with Leeds United and Liverpool all on 57 points, one behind the champions Derby County.

The ever-controversial pundit, Jimmy Hill, adds his opinion to the Marsh transfer, with a word of advice for both Malcolm and Rodney.

"The challenge facing Allison is to prove it's not too late to teach an old dog new tricks." And of his latest prodigy? "It is a new discipline, a new concept of running and challenging in training and on the field. And at the end of the week he must apply all

this to make his cheeky skill work in the toughest league in the world."

There is a mass of showbiz celebrities associated with football at present, such as Tommy Steele, Jimmy Tarbuck and Frankie Vaughan turning up to watch. Even Luton Town have Eric Morecambe as a director. But where are the girls? Well, surprise, surprise, even pop-starlet Cilla Black can now be counted upon as a soccer supporter.

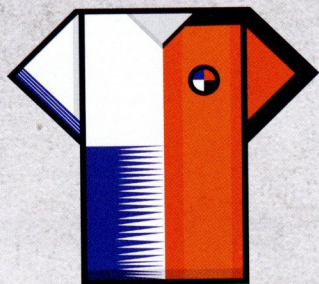
"I didn't like football at first," she said. "This was about five years ago. But when you've got a boyfriend or husband who is crazy about the game, you either leave them or join them. Now I enjoy it." No wonder the article is called "Soccer or Divorce."

The female theme continues with guest writer Gabrielle Taylor, editor of Women's Realm, talking to Diana Law, wife of Manchester United's Denis. And as she discovers, it is not all plush living and parties as a soccer wife.

"We don't go out much. We are both homely types and once the children (four boys) are in bed, we like to sit by the fire and read, or watch television.

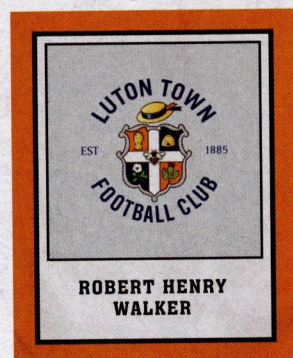
Mrs Law goes on to reveal that while Denis enjoys staying in a couple of nights each week with the kids, she pops off to play badminton and visit her local slimming club. So, is there an extravagant lifestyle?

"Actually we live very modestly. It's nice, when you're looking around the shops and you see something you like, you know you could buy it if you wanted to. But we don't have many luxuries," says the Glasgow-born other half.



THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH

BY STEPHEN BYRNE



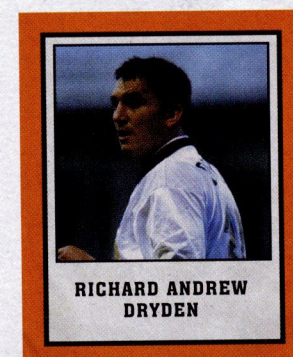
5.1.1886 Northallerton **d 22.12.1944** Cleveland, Ohio

Debut: 7.9.12 v Plymouth Argyle

Career: 6.1.06 Middlesbrough [9,2]; 3.5.06 Tottenham Hotspur [25,3]; 27.3.07 New Brompton; 31.8.08 Northampton Town; January 1911 Millwall; 28.4.11 Luton Town; 17.6.12 Bristol Rovers; 1915 Middlesbrough.

Towards the end of a long footballing career, Bobbie Walker arrived at Eastville. He had enjoyed two years with Spurs after scoring in Middlesbrough's colours against Newcastle United and Preston North End in March 1906. In addition to his Football League experience, he appeared without scoring in eight Southern League games for New Brompton alongside Walter Marriott and Bill Floyd, 22 times in 67 matches for Northampton and added fifteen goalless games for Millwall, 28 games and eight goals for Luton, and eleven strikes in 108 Southern League fixtures with Rovers.

Initially a centre forward, during which time his forceful performance helped Rovers defeat Merthyr Town 7-1 on Boxing Day 1912, he was later converted into a tall, dependable centre-half, from which position he scored in the 3-1 home victory over Croydon Common on Easter Tuesday 1915. He had earlier scored the opening goal as Rovers were defeated 3-0 at Northampton in January 1909 and was in the Luton side defeated 2-1 at Eastville in November 1911. Having retired during the war, Walker emigrated to Ohio and continued to play football there. The son of George Henry Walker and Mary Smith, he married Susie Simpson in Ohio and was buried on Boxing Day 1944.



b 14.6.1969 Stroud

Height & Weight: 6'; 11 st 2 lbs

Debut: 28.12.86 v Brentford

Career: Bristol Rovers [professional, 14.7.87] [12+1,0]; 22.9.88 Exeter City (loan); 8.3.89 Exeter City (£10,000) [92,13]; 15.5.91 Manchester City (loan); 9.8.91 Notts County (£250,000); 18.11.92 Plymouth Argyle (loan) [5,0]; 19.3.93 Birmingham City (£165,000) [48,0]; 16.12.94 Bristol City (£200,000) [32+5,2]; 15.7.96 Dundee United (trial); 22.7.96 Southampton (trial); 5.8.96 Southampton (£150,000) [44+3,1]; 1.11.99 Stoke City (loan); 23.3.00 Stoke City (loan) [11+2,0]; 17.8.00 Notts County (loan) [30+1,1]; 8.9.00 Northampton Town (loan) [9+1,0]; 21.11.00 Swindon Town (loan) [7,0]; 2.2.01 Luton Town (free) [22+1,0]; 28.11.01 Scarborough (loan); 11.7.02 Scarborough (loan); 12.7.03 Worksop Town (free); 4.9.03 Redditch United (free); 7.11.03 Tamworth (exchange for Joe Taylor) [assistant manager, 28.4.04]; 5.3.07 Shepshed Dynamo; 28.11.07 Worcester City (manager, to 17.1.10); 29.6.10 Darlington (assistant manager, to 14.10.11); 14.7.12 York City (head of youth team); 5.8.15 Notts County [youth coach; senior professional development coach, 5.10.15; caretaker manager, 29.12.15-10.1.16]; 22.6.16 East Bengal (coach; 2.9.16 caretaker manager); 28.3.17 Forest Green Rovers (chief scout).

A teenage flying winger with Rovers, later converted into a dependable left-back, Richard Dryden enjoyed a long and varied career.

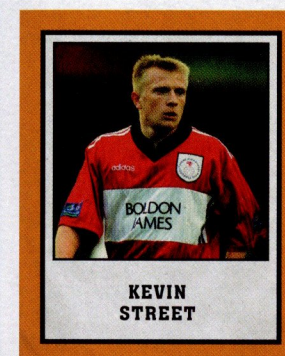
Unusually, his first five appearances for Rovers came in away matches, before his career took in several loan spells and League appearances against Rovers with Birmingham, Stoke, Luton and Northampton.

"BRISTOL ROVERS PLAYERS: WHO'S WHO, 1946-2018", COMPILED BY STEPHEN BYRNE AND MIKE JAY, IS AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE CLUB SHOP AND ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS.

Having secured a Fourth Division championship medal with Exeter in 1989-90, Dryden suffered relegation to Division Two with Bristol City in 1994-95 and had four stitches inserted in an eye wound during the 2-0 defeat at Swindon in October 1995. His two goals for the Robins came in a 3-2 victory over Barnsley in February 1995 and a 75th-minute equaliser in the 4-2 loss at Crewe the following December; he scored a League goal for Southampton against Forest, in addition to three goals in the League Cup.

Having conceded an own goal to Newcastle in his only Saints game in 1999-2000, he finished that campaign with a Wembley appearance, being used as a substitute as Stoke beat his former club Bristol City 2-1 in the Auto Windscreens Shield Trophy Final. On his Swindon debut, he managed to concede an own goal in favour of his former team, Stoke. After 7(+3) games in pre-season 2003 for Worksop had included a Man of the Match performance against Leek Town, Dryden was not used in their side once the campaign got underway and moved on, adding Conference games at both Scarborough, where he scored twice in 24(+2) appearances, and Tamworth, where his two goals playing alongside Carl Heggs and Julian Alsop came in 23 fixtures, before embarking on a managerial career.

He and Mark Cooper took ailing Darlington to the 2011 FA Trophy Final at Wembley, where Mansfield Town were defeated 1-0 after extra time, whilst York retained their EFL status in 2013 with a final day victory at Dagenham and Redbridge. Cooper and Dryden were reunited at Notts County, Dryden making an appearance for their reserve side aged 46, as Chesterfield reserves were beaten 3-1 in April 2016. He later worked under the former Rovers striker Trevor Morgan at East Bengal in the Indian League.



b 25.11.1977 Crewe

Height & Weight: 5' 10"; 10 st 8 lbs M

Debut: 30.11.02 v Rushden and Diamonds

Career: Crewe Alexandra [professional, 4.7.96] [57+58,9]; 20.11.01 Luton Town (loan) [1+1,0]; 12.8.02 Northwich Victoria (free); 26.11.02 Bristol Rovers (trial); 29.11.02 Bristol Rovers (free) [21+12,2]; 17.10.03 Shrewsbury Town (free) [15+6,1]; 2.9.05 Stafford Rangers (free); 1.7.08 Altrincham; 27.7.09 Nantwich Town [player-assistant coach; manager, 5.5.10]; 29.6.11 Stafford Rangers (trial); 11.7.11 Stafford Rangers; 1.10.12 Kidsgrove Athletic (coach, 9.11.12).

Exceptionally clean midfielder Kevin Street accrued just four yellow cards in his entire Football League career, all of them at Crewe, where he scored a last-minute winner against Tranmere on his debut as a substitute in September 1997 and where he played alongside Rovers names in Marcus Bignot and Paul Tait. Whilst at Gresty Road, he added two goals in the final eight minutes as Crewe recovered a two-goal deficit to defeat Norwich City 3-2 in January 1999.

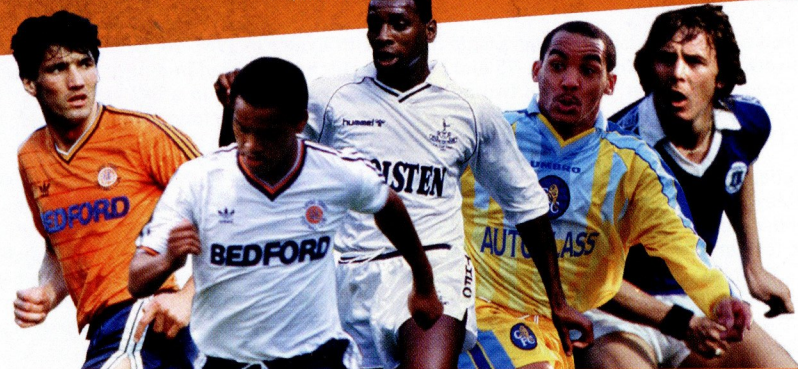
A trial game for Rovers reserves against Reading at Cossham Street led to his signing and the experienced midfielder added some talent to the middle of Rovers' play. Joining Shrewsbury, he played alongside Scott Howie and Trevor Challis, his two goals in 20(+8) Conference games leading to a substitute appearances as the Shrews defeated Aldershot in the play-off final at Britannia Stadium to regain their Football League status in May 2004.

He added 12(+1) games and six goals for Northwich; nine goals in 92 matches for Stafford; three games for Kidsgrove; as well as being with Lee Jones in the Nantwich side which trailed 6-2 at Mickleover Sports in October 2010 before recovering for a 6-6 draw. The son of Colin Street and June Robinson, Kevin embarked on a four-year correspondence course at St John's College, Nottingham in 2002, with an eye to becoming a priest and later studied Theology at Chester University, and is now teaching History and Religious Studies at a school in Cheshire.



THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS**
PROFILES TEN PLAYERS WHO HAD MORE
THAN ONE SPELL AT LUTON TOWN



MICK HARFORD | BRIAN STEIN | MITCHELL THOMAS | MARK STEIN | ANDY KING

ANDY KING

England Under-21 midfielder Andy King had two spells at Luton Town. Signing professionally for the Hatters in July 1974, he moved to Everton in April 1976 and appeared in the 1977 League Cup final. He joined QPR in September 1980, moving via West Brom back to Everton in August 1982. After spells at Cambuur and Wolves, he returned to Luton in December 1985 and netted three goals in 36 League games overall for his hometown club. He joined Aldershot in August 1986, helping win promotion in 1986/87, then played for Aylesbury. Later holding various coaching, scouting and management posts, he died in Luton in May 2015.

BRIAN STEIN

England international striker Brian Stein scored twice in Luton Town's 1988 League Cup final triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Edgware in October 1977, he was leading marksman in Luton's 1981/82 Second Division success and also starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984/85 and 1987/88. He joined 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 before joining Barnet in August 1992, helping win promotion in 1992/93. Later with St Albans City, he coached back at Luton.

MITCHELL THOMAS

England Under-21 left-back Mitchell Thomas had two spells at Luton Town. Born locally, he turned professional at Kenilworth Road in August 1982 and starred as Luton reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1984/85. He followed David Pleat to Tottenham Hotspur for £275,000 in July 1986 and featured

in the 1987 FA Cup final, moving to West Ham for £525,000 in August 1991. Returning to Luton in November 1993, he netted six goals in 292 League games overall for the Hatters prior to joining Burnley in July 1999 and was an experienced figure in their 1999/2000 promotion success. He has since been a football agent.

MARK STEIN

Ex-England Youth striker Mark Stein featured in Luton Town's 1988 League Cup final success. Signing professionally for Luton in January 1984, he also appeared in the 1988 FA Cup semi-final and Simod Cup final. He joined QPR in August 1988, then moved via Oxford United to Stoke City in November 1991 and helped win the Second Division title in 1992/93. Joining Chelsea in October 1993, he was an FA Cup finalist in 1994 and moved via Bournemouth back to Luton in July 2000. He netted 22 goals in 84 League games overall for the Hatters. Later at Dagenham & Redbridge, he has been physio at Barnet and Crawley.

MICK HARFORD

England international striker Mick Harford played for Luton Town in two consecutive League Cup finals including their 1988 Wembley triumph. Signing professionally for Lincoln City in July 1977, he had spells with Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham City prior to joining Luton in December 1984. He starred as the Hatters were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984/85 and 1987/88, moving to Derby County in January 1990 and returning to Luton in September 1991. Joining Chelsea in August 1992, he then played for Sunderland, Coventry City and Wimbledon. He is now Manager of the Hatters.



PHIL GRAY | KEVIN NICHOLLS | MATTHEW SPRING | DAVID OLDFIELD | TONY THORPE

DAVID OLDFIELD

England Under-21 midfielder David Oldfield had two spells at Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in May 1986, he helped them reach the League Cup final in 1988/89 and joined Manchester City for £600,000 in March 1989. He helped clinch promotion and reunited with David Pleat at Leicester in January 1990, returning to Luton for £150,000 in July 1995. Starring as they reached the Second Division play-offs in 1996/97, he netted 22 goals in 146 League games overall, moving to Stoke in July 1998. He later played for Peterborough, Oxford United, Stafford Rangers, Tamworth and Brackley, since holding coaching posts.

PHIL GRAY

Northern Ireland international striker Phil Gray gained five of his 26 caps while at Luton Town. Initially with Tottenham Hotspur, he reunited with David Pleat at Luton Town for £275,000 in August 1991 and was leading marksman in 1992/93. He joined Sunderland for £800,000 in July 1993 and was twice top scorer, then helped to win the First Division title in 1995/96. Following spells with Nancy and Fortuna Sittard, he rejoined Luton for £400,000 in September 1997, netting 43 goals in 140 League games overall. He later played for Burnley, Oxford United, Boston United, Chelmsford, Stevenage and Maidenhead.

TONY THORPE

Striker Tony Thorpe was leading marksman as Luton Town qualified for the Second Division play-offs in 1996/97. A former Leicester City trainee, he reunited with David Pleat at Luton in August 1992 and was also top scorer in 1997/98. He joined Fulham for £800,000 in February 1998 and

helped them reach the play-offs that season. Sold to Bristol City for £1m in June 1998, he was top scorer three times prior to rejoining Luton in July 2002 after two loan spells. He netted 70 goals in 164 League games overall before moving to QPR in August 2003, then Swindon, Colchester, Stevenage, Grimsby and Tamworth.

MATTHEW SPRING

Midfielder Matthew Spring had two spells at Luton Town. Starring in Luton's 1996/97 FA Youth Cup run, he turned professional in July 1997 and was a key figure in their 2001/02 promotion success, moving to Leeds United in July 2004. He joined Watford in August 2005 and featured in their 2005/06 Championship play-off final triumph. Rejoining Luton in January 2007, he netted 35 goals in 308 League games overall and was loaned to Sheffield United before joining Charlton Athletic in January 2009. He had spells at Leyton Orient and Wycombe, then was player-coach at St Neots Town, Hemel Hempstead and Hitchin.

KEVIN NICHOLLS

Ex-England Youth midfielder Kevin Nicholls skipped Luton Town's 2009 Johnstone's Paint Trophy final triumph. Starting with Charlton Athletic, he joined Wigan Athletic in June 1999 and helped to reach the Second Division play-offs in 2000/01. He moved to Luton in August 2001 and captained them to promotion in 2001-02, then the League One title in 2004/05. Sold to Leeds United for £700,000 in July 2006, he moved via Preston back to Luton in August 2008 and netted 31 goals in 194 League games overall for the Hatters before injury ended his career in August 2010. He has since worked for Elite Management Agency.

by Chris Wathen | @chriswathen1

Just a thought...

Mick Harford

At the home game with Charlton two weeks ago, I again found myself taking part in a 92-ground journey, by fans of another club. Shaun Stewart (far left, in the photo opposite) is a Chelsea regular. He contacted me some time ago, to tell me about his travels over the last 2/3 seasons. We have seen neutral 92-ground chasers visit us before but this story comes with a difference.

Shaun completed a full set of grounds at Underhill, Barnet in 1995, but had not kept complete records. Therefore, he decided not to fully register his achievement. Just under three years ago, he began taking his son Sebastian to games with him. The first game they attended was a Portsmouth clash with Plymouth, in February 2016. Since then, they have visited another 90 league stadiums for matches, usually travelling by rail. The Memorial Stadium was ground 91 for Sebastian, and he is known now as 'The Apprentice'. The journey to a full 92 should complete next week, at the Madjeski Stadium, Reading.

Shaun will have completed a set of 92 grounds twice. Father and son have achieved all this from their normal place of residence, in Bexhill-on-Sea, Kent. The picture shows us all together at the Mem. Sebastian informed me that his favourite ground from his travels is the Etihad Stadium. Also pictured is 92 Club member Kevin Markey. Kevin is a Liverpool fan from Dursley and his membership number is 461. My number, 674, was allocated in 1990, so Kevin predates me by some distance.

Turning to today's game, Luton Town are having a phenomenal season, by anyone's standards. In the early weeks of a season, I like to write my summary of who is going to appear in the away dugout. My memories on Nathan Jones, [the manager who started this season at Luton] would have been limited. The current man however, Mick Harford, is someone who gives me plenty to write about.

Harford made 582 senior appearances for various clubs, scoring 186 goals. He also earned two England caps. Eleven of his goals were apparently scored on the other side of town, in the early 80s.

My clearest memories of Harford the player were in the 1983/84 season. On Saturday, 5th May, 1984, the record shows that I was at St Andrews with local Birmingham City fan and mate, Andy Locker. It seems that Rovers played on the previous Wednesday and then on Tuesday, 8th May, at home to Millwall. I took the opportunity to watch Birmingham play Liverpool on the Saturday, then took a quick trip to Norwich with Andy, on Bank Holiday Monday too, to see Birmingham again. What was I thinking?

Harford was part of a 'hard man' Birmingham side then, including players like Tony Coton, Noel Blake, Brian Roberts and Mark Dennis. The frantic last three games they played yielded just three points, from three draws and they were relegated in 20th position.

My most poignant moment of that Liverpool game was a half-time pitch circuit by Muhammad Ali.

On the Friday prior to the game, Andy and I asked for autographs at a training session. Brian Roberts stepped up and Andy had nothing for him to sign but a recently purchased 45' single cover "Neunundneunzig Luftballone" by Nena. (yes, before it was released in England) The B Side was called 'Ich Liebe Dich'.

"What does that mean?" said the hard man footballer to Andy.

"I love you," said Andy.

"I knew that," said Brian. "I just wanted to hear you say it."

Well, I thought it was funny!

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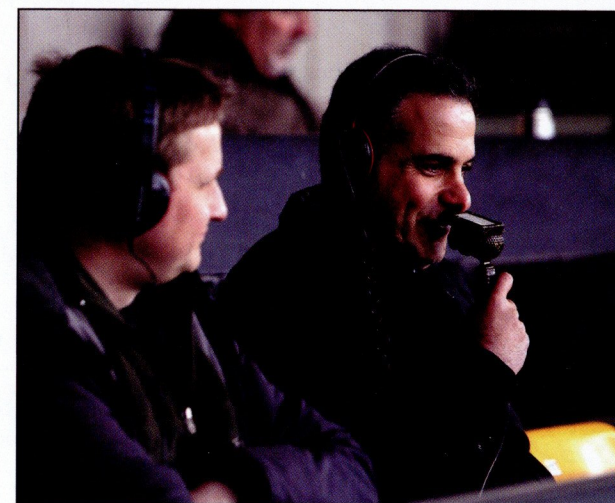
ONE OF THE FIRST EVER GAMES I COVERED FOR BBC RADIO BRISTOL WAS A GAME BETWEEN ROVERS AND LUTON TOWN.

Kevin Gall scored the winning goal, as Gerry Francis led Rovers to a 3-2 victory on a sunny afternoon in August 2001 (Lee Mansell was one of the goalscorers for Luton!) Unfortunately, it was not a sign of things to come that season. Gerry's return to the club did not go as planned and he left the club by Christmas, while Rovers were fortunate to avoid relegation from the Football League, finishing 23rd when only the bottom side were relegated to the Conference. In contrast, Luton were promoted, finishing second in the table behind Plymouth.

Fast forward a few years, and both Rovers and Luton have something in common in that they have both been relegated to the Conference. Rovers in 2014, Luton in 2009. While it took Rovers only a year to bounce back, Luton spent five years playing non-league football. Now, it seems, they are on the verge of playing in the Championship. Very impressive when they beat Rovers 1-0 earlier in the season, Graham Coughlan recently described them as "Champions Elect" and it is hard to disagree with the Rovers boss.

Not only that, but Luton are ever so close to realising their dream of building a brand new stadium. As much as I enjoy visiting traditional football grounds, I will not miss Kenilworth Road, where a pillar obstructs your view of one of the goals in the press box. Football commentary is hard enough without not being able to see the goal properly!

Luton, it seems, are a club on the rise. As somebody who remembers watching them in the top flight of English football in the 1980s, with good, honest players like Steve Foster, Mark Stein and Mick Harford causing big clubs problems on their awkward plastic pitch, I wish them well going forward.



As for Rovers, let's hope they take another step to securing their League One status this afternoon.

We appreciated Rovers President Wael al-Qadi speaking to Geoff Twentyman recently on "Having a Gas". If you missed the interview, it is still available to listen back to via BBC Sounds. Naturally, the topic of a new stadium for Bristol Rovers was raised by Geoff. Without giving much away, Wael replied: "We are now focussed on finding a new site, to try and get this project up and going again... there are several options, and there is a lot of work being done with considerable cost."

Wishing a bright future for both clubs, here's hoping in the next few years Bristol Rovers and Luton Town start hosting each other at respective new stadiums; that would show a real ambition fit for the 21st century.

BY KEN MASTERS
STEP UP
ONE

**BLUES FOR
 THE BLUES**

One fascinating feature of being a football follower is keeping tabs on the league tables week in and week out, from day one in August until the final day of the season in May.

Teams start well and fall away after the turn of the year; Peterborough United always seem to. Others start slowly and grow into it to make a challenge; remember Plymouth Argyle last season? Some do well enough to begin with and then drop like a stone and into the relegation places; look at Walsall this time around. Some start well and last the pace; Luton in League One and Norwich One Step Up do not look like disappointing. Others start poorly and never recover; One Step Down to find Notts County, One Step Up to find Ipswich Town. Such is the way of it and such is the fascination.

Dropping like a stone is the one that really hurts. Losing football matches can become a habit and it is a struggle to get to winning ways. Perhaps it is a confidence thing or it can be for tangible reasons like key loan players being recalled by parent clubs, leaving it too late for adequate replacements to be drafted in.

A quick look at the table One Step Up, Birmingham City's present plight reminds me of the Snakes and Ladders board game we played as children; a nice little climb up the ladder over time and then whoosh - here comes the snake and right back where we started.

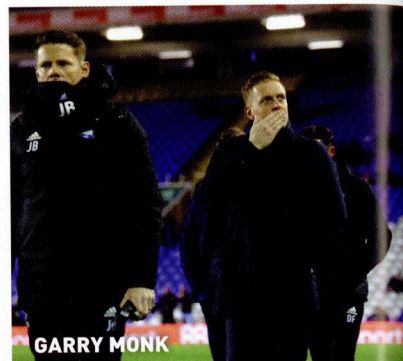
The Blues had climbed to a mid-table, 13th place in the table, with 50 points, looking to be making

good progress towards the top half. One role of the dice, down to 18th place with 41 points and a very different-looking situation. A plunge into administration and a plunge down the table can be a nightmare scenario but the Blues have got the blues for other financial reasons. The West Midlands club were deducted nine points for EFL profitability and sustainability rule breaches. The EFL said Blues incurred losses of nearly £48.8m between 2015 and 2018. That is almost £10m more than the accepted adjusted losses of £39m over a three-year period.

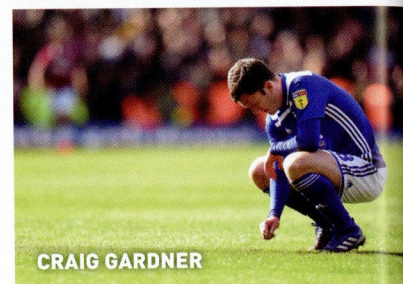
Birmingham have avoided relegation on the final day in each of the past two seasons. The club is reported as saying they had put measures in place to limit future spending and adhered to an EFL business plan since the beginning of this season. The Blues are the first club to be deducted points since the EFL introduced its new profitability and sustainability regulations at the start of the 2016/17 season.

Football management is a tough business and those that aspire are under constant pressure and scrutiny. You cannot help but feel for current boss Garry Monk. By all accounts he has done well and has looked to be moving the club in the right direction after recent end of season nail biting. Could they now be looking over their shoulders once again? Looking at the table I doubt it. There is still a decent gap to the relegation places from the position the club now finds itself in.

So how did Birmingham City get into the situation they now find



GARRY MONK



CRAIG GARDNER

themselves in? You can probably put it down to burning ambition. Blues are one club of many in the current Championship who have tasted life in the top tier, with all the financial rewards that go with it, and are anxious for a return. Large playing budgets and expensive transfer deals are as much a risk as they are a guarantee for success. A change of management is tempting if things are not going according to plan and such decisions can be costly too. Clubs will be looking at the circumstances at Birmingham and will be taking note; the EFL are not afraid to make decisions themselves.

Ken Masters

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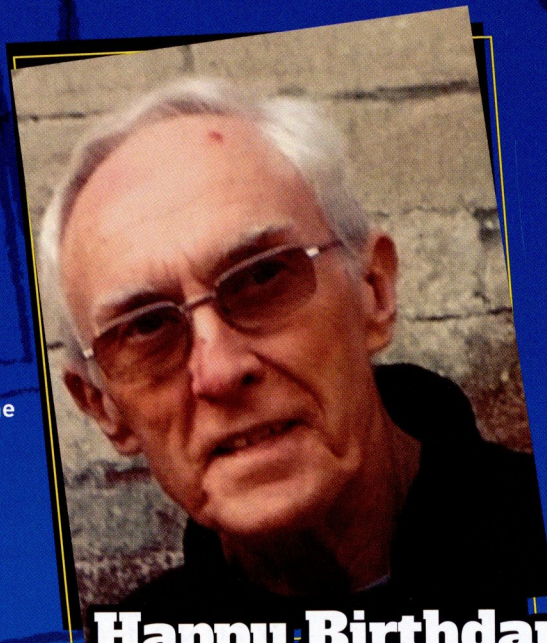
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Fan ZONE



Happy birthday to Mike Goodfield, who is celebrating his 70th birthday this week. Have a great day, Mike!

Happy Birthday Mike



Happy 70th Birthday to John Whelton, supporting the Gas since he was 5! Have a wonderful day! UTG! Love from Hazel and family.

Happy Birthday John



News from Orlando

A message from our 'Groundhopping' correspondent Eric Whitlock:

I recently visited Soweto, South Africa – the home of Orlando Pirates.

I am pleased to report that Soweto's "Pirates" are well aware of Bristol's "Pirates". Not sure if we dress up enough on the Thatcher's Terrace after meeting these noisy Orlando Pirates fans!

If you have a message you would like us to share on this page – celebrating your 21st drive, passing your marriage test, walking down the aisle for the birthday, anything – please contact robmcnichol@bristolrovers.co.uk

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YOUNG PIRATES

BY OLLIE LOUCH

Good afternoon Young Pirates and welcome to our game today against league leaders Luton Town.

I would firstly like to congratulate Luton on their absolutely phenomenal unbeaten run stretching way back to mid-October. Could today be the day where the mighty Gas put a stop to that? We would like to welcome all Luton fans into Bristol today and wish them a safe journey home.

I am writing this a day prior to our visit to Doncaster so we are all praying for a brilliant performance.

Since I last spoke to you, Rovers have picked up a brilliant seven points from a possible nine.

It all started at Gillingham where we showed great character to earn a superb three points thanks to an absolute rocket from our January signing Jonson Clarke-Harris. After a gritty game, we hosted Charlton in a wind-affected game where neither side were able to create anything special. It was however a wonderful game of football.

A week of rest and recuperation had then led us to Home Park where we visited Plymouth Argyle. I still have not found my voice after that day. The atmosphere was electric, our fans were excellent and nothing beats a last minute goal away from home! Although we managed to get a point, I did not feel as if Rovers got out of first gear last week. I thought my game assessment on the radio to Geoff was not as honest as I could have been because of my emotions and adrenaline.

We gave Plymouth a bit too much room just in front of the back four and let them drift off our own players which was probably my only negative. We have been crying out for a goal scorer since Taylor left and I believe Clarke-Harris has come in and worked his socks off scoring some outstanding goals along the way.

Today will be tough, Luton are a great outfit and will be in the Championship next season no doubt so we have to try and break a record and make our club popular in the country by beating the in-form team.

GET BEHIND THE TEAM TODAY. THEY NEED US MORE THAN ANYTHING.

COME ON ROVERS!

Louchy





League One LOOK-OVER

BY ROB McNICHOL

sky bet LEAGUE ONE EFL

TWO OF THE FASCINATING FEATURES OF THE RUN-IN TO THIS TIGHTEST OF SKY BET LEAGUE ONE SEASONS, FROM A RELEGATION PERSPECTIVE, WITH BE TEAMS IN THE BOTTOM HALF HAVING TO PLAY THOSE THAT STILL HARBOUR PROMOTION AMBITIONS - AS WELL AS MEETING THOSE THREATENED BY THE DROP, TOO.

Let us first of all salute Burton Albion and Fleetwood Town. Tenth and eleventh, on 53 and 52 points respectively, Nigel Clough and Joey Barton are possibly the only two managers who know for sure what division they will be playing in next season. Needing seven and eight point swings, it is not impossible for either side to make the play-offs, nor mathematically are they safe from the drop, but the odds on them going up or down are probably longer than for Clough to emulate his father or Barton to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Everyone else has something to play for: survival or progression.

There are four fixtures today, including our own, where a team looking over their shoulder has to meet a side doing their utmost to become a Championship side next season. Walsall, who have slipped below the dreaded dotted line on goal difference, travel to our Tuesday-night conquerors Doncaster Rovers, whose win over the Gas ended a seven-game winless run, and took them back in to the top six.

Bradford are now bottom, six points from safety, and they have to go to Charlton, who are fifth, unbeaten in seven games. Plymouth may only be six places below Blackpool (Argyle are 14th, the Seasiders 8th) but Blackpool can still make the play-offs if their run-in is a big one, while Argyle do not want to get in to too much of a

losing pattern.

Four further fixtures will be played out by eight teams who all fear the drop, should the last clutch of games go against them. Southend are in freefall, and reacted by sacking Chris Powell during the week. Their hopes of the 'bounce' factor helping them to victory may be aided by the fact that they are at home to Shrewsbury Town, winners of only three of their last 12 outings, and just one in their last eight away.

If either the Shrimpers or the Shrews fail to win, they are susceptible to falling into the relegation zone if Walsall win their game, or Rochdale continue to turn their form around, this time at Gillingham. The Gills are in reasonable nick, with four wins in their last eight carrying them to 12th, but they are still only six about Rochdale, 22nd. Dale have seven points from nine since sacking Keith Hill on 4th March.

Recent form tables rate Wycombe as the worst team in the division at present, with just one point from six games. They look to stem the tide 25 miles up the M40, at Oxford, at a side with four wins in their last six. Wimbledon's resurgence took a knock with a heavy defeat at home to Gillingham last week, but they have hope where previously they looked doomed. The Dons play Scunthorpe, whose 4-1 stuffing of Southend was a false dawn. Either side of that win, they have lost four from five and are 18th, two points above the drop zone.



Accrington Stanley, despite games in hand, are not out of the woods, and meet Fleetwood hoping apathy with sneak in. The only game that does not affect the relegation battle is between Barnsley and Coventry City.

Sunderland meet Portsmouth in the Checkatrade Trophy final tomorrow, while Burton and Peterborough are not in action, as they would have been opponents to the Black Cats and Pompey, had they not have reached Wembley.

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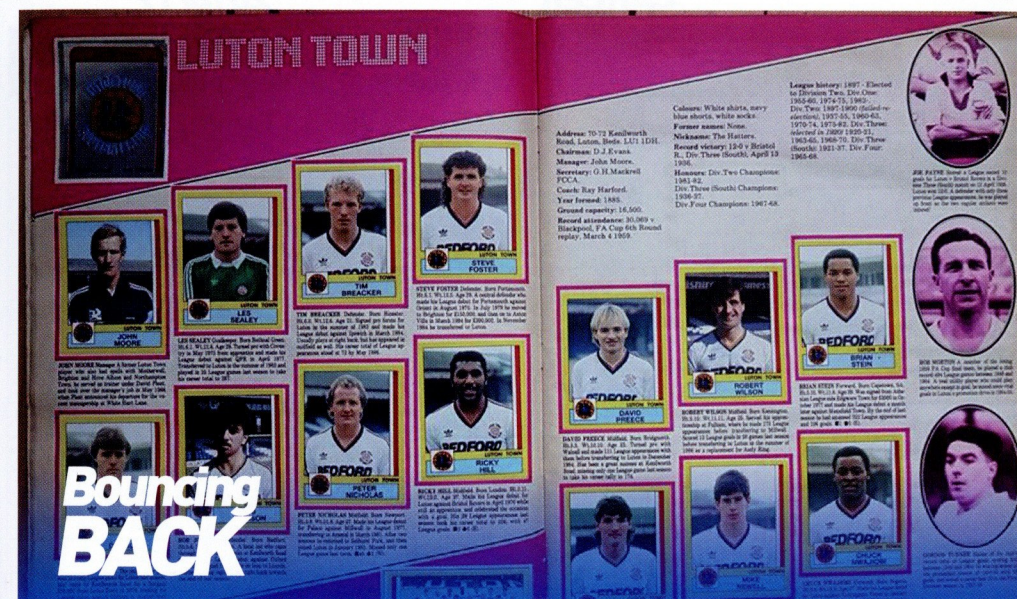
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The Chesterfield, 3 Clifton Hill, Bristol BS8 1BN

Ruth of THE ROVERS

BY RUTH WILLIAMS



When I was collecting Panini stickers during the World Cup last summer, I got out my old football sticker albums from the late eighties. Flicking through is always interesting as, although you have your usual top division clubs in there like Liverpool and Arsenal, it is always a reminder of those old days when you see clubs like Oxford United featuring as part of that old First Division also.

Today's visitors, Luton Town, were in the First Division all through my childhood. They were technically founding members of the Premier League, although never got to actually play in it, having been relegated in 1992 before the Premier League's first season commenced. Sadly, Luton have not been back up there since.

Four years later, Luton sank to what is now League Two and dropped out of the Football League, for the first time in their history, in 2009, having suffered severe financial problems. It took them five years to get back. When we too were relegated in 2014, it was witnessing Luton's struggle that had many Rovers fans expecting to be down there for a few years at least – it was quite remarkable that we bounced straight back. It is therefore lovely to see Luton flying high this season and I hope to see them go up as champions. That said, I am still hoping to take some points off them today!

Talking of non-league football, I am saddened to see some of the clubs who have not only dropped

out of the EFL in recent years, but who have slipped even further – Clubs like Stockport, Darlington and York. It was not long ago that Torquay were in the League Two play-offs and now they are fighting for promotion from the National League South. It is why I've never really liked it when football fans claim to be at "rock bottom". Sunderland fans seem to bang on about how hard they have had it, yet they should try being a Darlington fan! Like life, football comes at you fast and, before you know it, you are in freefall.

Luton's march towards glory this season shows us all how you can bounce back from adversity. I wish we ourselves were in that position at the top of the table, rather than being one of a fair few teams scrapping to avoid the drop! It is really hard to predict who will actually go down. A few weeks ago, Wimbledon looked pretty adrift and now they are dangerously gaining ground. Whilst I have nothing against some of the clubs down there with us, I have to be selfish and hope that it is anyone but us! As I said, it is hard to predict but I am very pleased with our current form and am thrilled to see the goals flying in. Our goal difference may well be our saving grace.

Every game is important for us now but it also is for Luton so we are in for a tough one this afternoon.

Whatever the result, enjoy the match. Up the Gas!

Ruth Williams

Bristol Rovers FIRST TEAM STATS

BRFC
CAREERBRFC
2018/19

	LEAGUE		CUP		LEAGUE		CUP	
	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS
ALEXIS ANDRE JNR	0 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mo Baghdad	0 (2)	-	0 (1)	-	-	-	0 (1)	-
Kyle Bennett	27 (9)	3	6 (1)	1	12 (7)	-	6 (1)	1
Jack Bonham	34	-	6	-	34	-	6	-
Tom Broadbent	23 (6)	-	6 (1)	1	4 (3)	-	3 (1)	1
James Clarke	95 (10)	2	13 (1)	-	31 (4)	2	7	-
Ollie Clarke	169 (33)	16	21 (6)	2	34	4	7	2
Jonson Clarke-Harris	8 (2)	8	1	-	8 (2)	8	1	-
Tony Craig	56	3	7	1	39	2	7	1
Cameron Hargreaves	-	-	0 (3)	-	-	-	0 (1)	-
Tareiq Holmes-Dennis	14	1	2 (1)	-	14	1	2 (1)	-
Alex								
Jakubiak	11 (20)	2	3 (3)	3	11 (20)	2	3 (3)	3
Connor Jones	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Michael Kelly	17 (2)	-	8 (1)	-	17 (1)	-	8 (1)	-
Alfie Kilgour	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-
Daniel Leadbitter	102 (13)	1	17 (4)	-	11	-	5 (2)	-
Chris Lines	282 (31)	30	36 (6)	5	12 (6)	1	4 (1)	1
Tom Lockyer	240 (8)	6	28 (1)	1	33	3	7 (1)	1
Joe Martin	7 (2)	-	1	-	7 (2)	-	1	-
Sam Matthews	5 (11)	-	6 (2)	-	5 (11)	-	6 (2)	-
Rollin Menayese	-	-	1	-	2 (1)	-	1 (1)	-
Bernard Mensah	3 (6)	-	-	-	0 (1)	-	-	-
Deon Moore	0 (1)	-	0 (1)	-	0 (1)	-	0 (1)	-
Tom Nichols	41 (30)	2	9 (5)	3	23 (9)	1	5 (3)	2
Abu Ogogo	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Joe Partington	45 (6)	3	7 (3)	-	11 (1)	-	4 (1)	-
Stefan Payne	14 (6)	2	6 (1)	1	14 (6)	2	6 (1)	1
Gavin Reilly	14 (11)	4	2 (3)	-	14 (11)	4	2 (3)	-
Alex Rodman	16 (7)	3	7	2	16 (7)	3	7	2
Luke Russe	1 (2)	-	2 (3)	-	-	-	1 (2)	-
Liam Sercombe	66 (6)	12	12 (2)	4	26 (5)	4	6 (2)	-
Stuart Sinclair	123 (17)	7	19	1	8 (8)	-	3	-
Sam Slocombe	25	-	4	-	2	-	-	-
Adam Smith	26 (1)	-	8	-	3 (1)	-	5	-
Ed Upson	27 (1)	1	7 (2)	1	27 (1)	1	7 (2)	1
Zain Walker	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Theo Widdrington	-	-	0 (1)	-	-	-	0 (1)	-

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE TABLE

sky bet LEAGUE ONE | EFL

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Luton Town	39	24	11	4	76	31	+45	83
2	Barnsley	39	22	12	5	65	28	+37	78
3	Portsmouth	39	21	11	7	68	41	+27	74
4	Sunderland	37	19	16	2	64	34	+30	73
5	Charlton Athletic	38	19	10	9	55	37	+18	67
6	Doncaster Rovers	39	16	12	11	65	51	+14	60
7	Peterborough United	39	16	10	13	60	54	+6	58
8	Blackpool	39	14	14	11	43	41	+2	56
9	Coventry City	39	16	8	15	43	43	0	56
10	Burton Albion	39	14	11	14	53	46	+7	53
11	Fleetwood Town	38	14	10	14	49	41	+8	52
12	Gillingham	39	13	8	18	53	63	-10	47
13	Oxford United	39	11	13	15	45	54	-9	46
14	Plymouth Argyle	39	12	10	17	49	61	-12	46
15	Bristol Rovers	39	11	12	16	40	43	-3	45
16	Wycombe Wanderers	38	11	11	16	47	58	-11	44
17	Accrington Stanley	37	11	11	15	40	54	-14	44
18	Scunthorpe United	39	12	8	19	47	67	-20	44
19	Shrewsbury Town	39	10	13	16	42	52	-10	43
20	Southend United	39	12	6	21	47	57	-10	42
21	Walsall	39	11	9	19	42	61	-19	42
22	Rochdale	38	11	8	19	47	76	-29	41
23	AFC Wimbledon	39	11	6	22	34	57	-23	39
24	Bradford City	39	10	6	23	43	67	-24	36

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH 2019 - SKY BET LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES | 3PM

Accrington Stanley v Fleetwood Town

Barnsley v Coventry City

Blackpool v Plymouth Argyle

Bristol Rovers v Luton Town

Charlton Athletic v Bradford City

Doncaster Rovers v Walsall

Gillingham v Rochdale

Oxford United v Wycombe Wanderers

Scunthorpe United v AFC Wimbledon

Southend United v Shrewsbury Town



FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	KO	H/A	COMP	OPPONENT	RESULT (F/A)	ATT. (A)								STARTING XI
AUGUST														
Sat 04	15:00	A	SBL1	Peterborough United	1-2	6,439	Slocombe	Clarke	Craig	Lockyer (1)	Leadbitter	Sercombe	Lines	
Sat 11	15:00	H	SBL1	Accrington Stanley	1-2	8,683 (460)	Slocombe	J. Clarke	Craig	Lockyer	Broadbent	Sercombe	O. Clarke	
Tue 14	19:45	H	CC1	Crawley Town	2-1	2,336 (47)	Smith	J. Clarke	Craig	Lockyer	Leadbitter	Matthews	O. Clarke (1)	
Sat 18	15:00	A	SBL1	Wycombe Wanderers	2-1	4,858	Smith	J. Clarke (1)	Craig (1)	Lockyer	Broadbent	Matthews	O. Clarke	
Tue 21	19:45	H	SBL1	Portsmouth	1-2	9,073 (1,147)	Smith	J. Clarke	Craig	Lockyer	Leadbitter	Bennett	O. Clarke	
Sat 25	15:00	H	SBL1	Southend United	0-1	8,172 (356)	Smith	J. Clarke	Craig	Broadbent	Leadbitter	Bennett	O. Clarke	
Tue 28	19:45	A	CC2	Queens Park Rangers	1-3	5,007 (1,750)	Smith	J. Clarke	Craig	Lockyer	Matthews	Bennett	O. Clarke	
SEPTEMBER														
Sat 01	15:00	A	SBL1	Shrewsbury Town	1-1	7,759 (639)	Bonham	Martin	Craig	Lockyer	Matthews	Leadbitter	O. Clarke	
Sat 08	13:30	H	SBL1	Plymouth Argyle	0-0	9,006	Bonham	J. Clarke	Craig	Kelly	Matthews	Leadbitter	O. Clarke	
Sat 15	15:00	A	SBL1	Luton Town	0-1	8,912 (519)	Bonham	J. Clarke	Craig	Lockyer	Matthews	Martin	O. Clarke	
Tue 18	19:45	H	CT	West Ham United U21	2-0	1,021 (175)	Bonham	Kelly	Broadbent	Lockyer (1)	Matthews	Leadbitter	O. Clarke	
Sat 22	15:00	H	SBL1	Coventry City	3-1	8,385 (1,137)	Bonham	Kelly	Craig	Lockyer (1)	J. Clarke	Lines	O. Clarke (1)	
Sat 29	15:00	A	SBL1	Bradford City	0-0	15,916	Bonham	Kelly	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Partington	O. Clarke	
OCTOBER														
Tue 02	19:45	A	SBL1	Rochdale	0-0	2,301 (198)	Bonham	Broadbent	Craig	Lines	J. Clarke	Partington	O. Clarke	
Sat 06	15:00	H	SBL1	Walsall	0-1	7,768 (468)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Craig	Lines	J. Clarke	Martin	O. Clarke	
Tue 09	19:45	H	CT	Yeovil Town	2-0	1,179 (125)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Broadbent	Kelly	J. Clarke	Upson	Matthews	
Sat 13	15:00	A	SBL1	Burton Albion	0-1	3,171 (708)	Bonham	Partington	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Upson	O. Clarke	
Sat 20	15:00	H	SBL1	Oxford United	0-0	8,506 (921)	Bonham	Partington	Craig	Lockyer	Kelly	Upson	O. Clarke	
Tue 23	19:45	H	SBL1	AFC Wimbledon	2-0	7,184 (268)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Craig	Lockyer	Kelly	Upson (1)	O. Clarke	
Sat 27	15:00	A	SBL1	Barnsley	0-1	10,966 (446)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Craig	Lockyer	Kelly	J. Clarke	O. Clarke	
NOVEMBER														
Sat 03	15:00	A	SBL1	Blackpool	3-0	3,227 (514)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Craig (1)	Lockyer	Kelly	J. Clarke	O. Clarke (2)	
Sat 10	15:00	A	FAC1	Barnet	1-1	1,705	Smith	Leadbitter	Craig	Lockyer	Kelly	J. Clarke	O. Clarke	
Tue 13	19:45	A	CT	Exeter City	0-2	873 (149)	Smith	Partington	Martin	Menayese	Kelly	Jones	Walker	
Sat 17	15:00	H	SBL1	Scunthorpe United	1-2	8,003 (202)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Martin	Craig	Lines	J. Clarke	O. Clarke	
Wed 21	19:45	H	FAC1R	Barnet	1-2	2,740 (96)	Smith	Partington	Upson	Craig	Kelly	Bennett	O. Clarke	
Sat 24	15:00	A	SBL1	Charlton Athletic	1-3	10,328 (693)	Bonham	Leadbitter	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	O. Clarke	
Tue 27	19:45	H	SBL1	Gillingham	1-2	6,583 (192)	Bonham	Partington	Martin	Craig	Lockyer	Lines	Sinclair	
DECEMBER														
Wed 05	19:45	A	CT2	Swansea City U21	2-1	-	Bonham	Leadbitter	Upson	Craig (1)	Kelly	J. Clarke	Payne	
Sat 08	15:00	H	SBL1	Doncaster Rovers	0-4	7,356 (364)	Bonham	Partington	Martin	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Payne	
Sat 15	15:00	A	SBL1	Sunderland	1-2	28,971 (1,577)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Holmes-Dennis	
Sat 22	15:00	H	SBL1	Fleetwood Town	2-1	7,159 (68)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke (1)	Holmes-Dennis	
Wed 26	15:00	A	SBL1	Walsall	3-1	5,069 (n/a)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer (1)	J. Clarke	Holmes-Dennis (1)	
Sat 29	15:00	A	SBL1	Oxford United	2-0	8,135 (1,475)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Holmes-Dennis	
JANUARY														
Tue 01	15:00	H	SBL1	Burton Albion	0-0	9,060 (198)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Sinclair	
Tue 08	19:45	H	CT3	Northampton Town	2-1	1,312 (97)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Partington	Lockyer	Broadbent	Lines	
Sat 12	15:00	A	SBL1	Accrington Stanley	0-0	2,246 (410)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Holmes-Dennis	
Sat 19	15:00	H	SBL1	Wycombe Wanderers	0-1	8,163 (674)	Bonham	Kelly	Upson	Craig	Lockyer	J. Clarke	Holmes-Dennis	
Tue 22	19:45	H	CT1 QF	Port Vale	3-0	2,016 (199)	Bonham	Partington	Lines	Craig	Lockyer	Bennett	Holmes-Dennis	
Tue 29	19:45	H	SBL1	Peterborough United	2-2	6,851 (218)	Bonham	Partington	Lines	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Holmes-Dennis	
FEBRUARY														
Sat 02	15:00	A	SBL1	Southend United	2-1	5,982 (349)	Bonham	Partington	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe (1)	Holmes-Dennis	
Sat 09	15:00	H	SBL1	Shrewsbury Town	1-1	8,322 (469)	Bonham	Partington	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Holmes-Dennis	
Tue 19	19:45	A	SBL1	Portsmouth	1-1	17,880 (803)	Bonham	Partington	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Holmes-Dennis	
Sat 23	15:00	H	SBL1	Sunderland	0-2	10,009 (1,408)	Bonham	Rodman	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Holmes-Dennis	
MARCH														
Sat 02	15:00	H	SBL1	Blackpool	4-0	8,496	Bonham	Partington	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe (1)	Holmes-Dennis	
Tue 05	19:45	H	CT1 SF	Sunderland	0-2	6,699	Bonham	J. Clarke	Sinclair	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Holmes-Dennis	
Sat 09	15:00	A	SBL1	Scunthorpe United	1-0	3,877	Bonham	J. Clarke	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Kelly	
Tue 12	19:45	A	SBL1	Gillingham	1-0	3,938	Bonham	J. Clarke	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Kelly	
Sat 16	15:00	H	SBL1	Charlton Athletic	0-0	8,307 (1,144 avg)	Bonham	J. Clarke	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Sercombe	Kelly	
Sat 23	15:00	A	SBL1	Plymouth Argyle	2-2	12,000 (1,214 avg)	Bonham	J. Clarke	Ogogo	Craig	Kilgour	Sercombe	Holmes-Dennis	
Tue 26	19:45	A	SBL1	Doncaster Rovers	1-4	6,907	Bonham	J. Clarke	Ogogo	Craig	Lockyer	Jakubiak	Holmes-Dennis	
Sat 30	15:00	H	SBL1	Luton Town										
APRIL														
Sun 07	15:00	A	SBL1	Coventry City										
Sat 13	15:00	H	SBL1	Bradford City										
Fri 19	15:00	A	SBL1	AFC Wimbledon										
Mon 22	15:00	H	SBL1	Rochdale										
Sat 27	15:00	A	SBL1	Fleetwood Town										
MAY														
Sat 04	17:30	H	SBL1	Barnsley										

				SUBSTITUTES							REFEREE
Upson	Rodman	Nichols	Bennett	Broadbent	Kelly	Matthews	Russe	Mensah	Reilly	Smith	J. Busby
Upson	Rodman	Payne (1)	Bennett	Leadbitter	Lines	Matthews	Nichols	Mensah	Reilly	Smith	N. Kinsey
Lines	Rodman	Payne	Bennett (1)	Broadbent	Sercombe	Upson	Nichols	Jakubiak	Reilly	Stocombe	L. Swabey
Upson	Sercombe	Payne	Nichols	Leadbitter	Lines	Bennett	Rodman	Jakubiak	Reilly	Stocombe	K. Johnson
Upson	Sercombe	Payne	Nichols	Broadbent	Lines (1)	Mensah	Rodman	Jakubiak	Reilly	Andre	G. Salisbury
Upson	Sercombe	Payne	Nichols	Russe	Kelly	Mensah	Rodman	Jakubiak	Reilly	Andre	R. Joyce
Upson (1)	Rodman	Payne	Bennett	Russe	Broadbent	Mensah	Nichols	Jakubiak	Reilly	Bonham	C. Breakspear
Upson	Rodman	Payne	Nichols	Russe	Broadbent	Kelly	Bennett	Jakubiak	Reilly	Smith	A. Coggins
Lines	Reilly	Payne	Bennett	Sinclair	Broadbent	Upson	Nichols	Jakubiak	Rodman	Smith	M. Salisbury
Lines	Upson	Payne	Bennett	Sinclair	Broadbent	Leadbitter	Nichols	Jakubiak	Reilly	Smith	R. Lewis
Sinclair	Upson	Payne	Jakubiak (1)	Russe	Kilgour	Menayese	Partington	Baghdadi	Ebbutt	Smith	C. Hicks
Sinclair	Reilly (1)	Nichols	Bennett	Upson	Broadbent	Leadbitter	Matthews	Jakubiak	Payne	Smith	T. Bramall
Sinclair	Reilly	Nichols	Upson	Bennett	Broadbent	Lines	Sercombe	Jakubiak	Payne	Smith	O. Yates
Sinclair	Sercombe	Payne	Bennett	Upson	Menayese	Leadbitter	Martin	Jakubiak	Reilly	Smith	M. Donohue
Sinclair	Reilly	Nichols	Bennett	Upson	Broadbent	Matthews	Sercombe	Jakubiak	Partington	Smith	L. Swabey
Jakubiak (1)	Sercombe	Rodman (1)	Bennett	Kilgour	Menayese	Russe	Ebbutt	Moore	Nichols	Smith	R. Jones
Jakubiak	Sercombe	Rodman	Sinclair	Kelly	Broadbent	Matthews	Bennett	Payne	Reilly	Smith	M. Coy
Jakubiak	Sercombe	Nichols	Sinclair	J. Clarke	Lines	Matthews	Bennett	Payne	Rodman	Smith	T. Nield
Matthews	Sercombe	Nichols	Bennett	J. Clarke	Lines	Partington	Jakubiak	Payne	Rodman	Smith	A. Woolmer
Lines	Sercombe	Payne	Reilly	Upson	Matthews	Partington	Jakubiak	Bennett	Rodman	Smith	A. Backhouse
Upson	Sercombe	Payne	Nichols	Martin	Lines	Sinclair	Jakubiak	Bennett	Rodman	Smith	T. Kettle
Sinclair	Sercombe	Payne	Nichols	Menayese	Lines	Partington	Matthews	Bennett	Reilly	Andre	R. Lewis
Matthews	Russe	Jakubiak	Reilly	Holmes-Dennis	Hargreaves	Morgan	Widdington	Moore	Warwick	Andre	K. Johnson
Bennett	Sercombe (1)	Payne	Nichols	Menayese	Upson	Partington	Matthews	Jakubiak	Rodman	Smith	L. Collins
Bennett	Sercombe	Rodman	Nichols (1)	Menayese	Leadbitter	Lockyer	Matthews	Lines	Payne	Andre	L. Swabey
Martin (1)	Sercombe	Payne	Nichols	Partington	Bennett	Partington	Jakubiak	Lines	Rodman	Smith	M. Donohue
Bennett	Sercombe (1)	Rodman	Nichols	J. Clarke	Leadbitter	Upson	Matthews	Reilly	Payne	Smith	O. Yates
Bennett	Sercombe	Rodman	Nichols	Menayese	Holmes-Dennis	Russe	Matthews	Reilly	Jakubiak (1)	Smith	C. Sarginson
Lines	Sercombe	O. Clarke	Nichols	Menayese	Upson	Rodman	Bennett	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	J. Busby
Jakubiak	Sercombe	O. Clarke	Rodman (1)	Broadbent	Leadbitter	Russe	Bennett	Nichols	Payne	Smith	T. Bramall
Jakubiak	Reilly (1)	O. Clarke	Rodman	Broadbent	Partington	Lines	Matthews	Nichols	Payne	Smith	B. Huxtable
Jakubiak	Reilly	O. Clarke	Rodman (1)	Broadbent	Partington	Lines	Sercombe	Nichols	Payne	Smith	R. Lewis
Jakubiak (2)	Reilly	O. Clarke	Rodman	Broadbent	Partington	Lines	Sercombe	Nichols	Sinclair	Smith	G. Salisbury
Jakubiak	Reilly	Martin	Rodman	Menayese	Partington	Lines	Sercombe	Nichols	Payne	Smith	S. Oldham
Matthews	Sercombe	Payne	Rodman	Menayese	Leadbitter	J. Clarke	Russe	Nichols	Reilly	Smith	C. Breakspear
Jakubiak	Sercombe	O. Clarke	Rodman	Broadbent	Partington	Matthews	Payne	Nichols	Reilly	Smith	A. Young
Jakubiak	Payne	O. Clarke	Rodman	Bennett	Partington	Matthews	Lines	Nichols	Reilly	Smith	B. Toner
Nichols (1)	Reilly	O. Clarke (1)	Rodman (1)	J. Clarke	Upson	Matthews	Sercombe	Jakubiak	Payne	Smith	M. Donohue
Nichols (1)	Reilly	O. Clarke (1)	Rodman	J. Clarke	Upson	Matthews	Osho	Jakubiak	Payne	Smith	L. Collins
Nichols	Reilly (1)	O. Clarke	Rodman	J. Clarke	Upson	Lines	Osho	Jakubiak	Clarke-Harris	Smith	O. Yates
Nichols	Reilly	Lines	Rodman (1)	J. Clarke	Upson	Matthews	Sinclair	Jakubiak	Clarke-Harris	Smith	P. Wright
Jakubiak	J. Clarke	Upson	Clarke-Harris (1)	Kelly	Lines	Matthews	Sinclair	Nichols	Reilly	Smith	N. Hair
Reilly	J. Clarke	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris	Partington	Upson	Matthews	Sinclair	Nichols	Jakubiak	Smith	J. Linnington
Nichols	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris (3)	Kelly	J. Clarke	Matthews	Sinclair	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	D. Drysdale
Nichols	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris	Kelly	Lines	Matthews	-	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	M. Salisbury
Nichols	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris (1)	Kilgour	Lines	Matthews	Sinclair	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	T. Kettle
Nichols	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris (1)	Kilgour	Lines	Osho	Sinclair	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	C. Sarginson
Nichols	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris	Kilgour	Lines	Holmes-Dennis	Sinclair	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	D. Whitestone
Nichols	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris	Kelly	Lines	Partington	Sinclair	Reilly	Jakubiak	Smith	R. East
Reilly	Upson	O. Clarke	Clarke-Harris (1)	Kilgour	Sercombe	Partington	Sinclair	Moore	Nichols	Smith	M. Coy

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SATURDAY 13TH APRIL, 2019
SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | KICK-OFF 3PM

sky bet LEAGUE ONE EFL



Bottom club Bradford began the season with a victory, but after their initial win, against Shrewsbury Town, they would lose six of their next seven league matches.

After a draw with Rovers, then a win against Wimbledon, the Bantams lost six consecutive games, meaning they had just ten points from 17 games.

They rallied, winning five of their next nine fixtures, and climbed as high as 20th with a New Year's Day win at Accrington. Only two more wins have followed in 2019, though, as the Yorkshire side have found themselves sliding back down to the foot of the table.

Experienced Irish forward Eoin Doyle has scored ten times for Bradford this season. The 31-year-old has enjoyed his best spells in English football at Chesterfield and Oldham, from whom he transferred to Valley Parade in the summer.

He is often supported by loanees Jack Payne and David Ball. Ball can play as a striker or in amore withdrawn position, and has scored seven times this season. Currently on loan from Rotherham, Ball is most associated with Fleetwood Town, where he spent five years, and made over 200 appearances. He was part of the Rotherham squad that got promoted last season.

Payne came through the ranks at Southend United, coached by Graham Coughlan, and

his good form for the Shrimpers earned him a move to Huddersfield Town. He split last season between loans at Oxford and Blackburn in League One, and has netted nine times for the Bantams.

Anthony O'Connor, a commanding defensive player able to play in the back-line or defensive midfield, has played 44 times this season, scoring six times. His career has included two spells at Burton Albion either side of a loan stint at Torquay and an impressive season with Plymouth. He played almost 100 games for Aberdeen in the Scottish Premiership before joining Bradford last summer.

Manager Gary Bowyer is Bradford's third manager of the season, following Michael Collins and David Hopkin. Bowyer retired from football still in his twenties, due to injury, but went into coaching, taking charge of non-league Carshalton. From there, he worked in the academies of Derby County and Blackburn Rovers.

At Ewood Park, he graduated to running the development squad, then had two stints as caretaker manager before taking the job full-time. He was dismissed in November 2015. In the summer of 2016 he took over at Blackpool following the Seasiders' relegation to League Two, but took them back up at the first attempt, via the play-offs. He resigned from the troubled Tangerines at the start of this season, and took over at Bradford earlier this month.

GARY BOWYER

ANTHONY O'CONNOR



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SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

v BRADFORD CITY A.F.C.

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL

KICK-OFF 3PM

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Official Kit Manufacturer



TODAY'S TEAMS

**MANAGER:**

Graham Coughlan

**INTERIM MANAGER:**

Mick Harford

(GK) Sam SLOCOMBE	1	1	Marek STECH (GK)
Daniel LEADBITTER	2	2	James JUSTIN
Tareiq HOLMES-DENNIS	3	3	Dan POTTS
Tom LOCKYER	4	4	Alan McCORMACK
Tony CRAIG	5	5	Sonny BRADLEY
Ed UPSON	6	6	Matty PEARSON
Liam SERCOMBE	7	7	Jack STACEY
Ollie CLARKE	8	8	Luke BERRY
Tom NICHOLS	10	9	Danny HYLTON
(GK) Jack BONHAM	13	10	Elliot LEE
Chris LINES	14	11	Andrew SHINNIE
James CLARKE	15	12	Alex BAPTISTE
Alex JAKUBIAK	17	14	Harry CORNICK
Gabriel OSHO	18	16	Glen REA
Jonson CLARKE-HARRIS	19	17	Pelly Ruddock MPANZU
Gavin REILLY	20	19	James COLLINS
(GK) Adam SMITH	21	20	George MONCUR
Joe PARTINGTON	22	23	Jason CUMMINGS
Stuart SINCLAIR	24	24	George THORNE
Abu OGOGO	25	25	Kazenga LUA-LUA
Sam MATTHEWS	26	36	James SHEA (GK)
Michael KELLY	28	40	Harry ISTED (GK)
(GK) Alexis ANDRE-JR	31	44	Alan SHEEHAN
Alex RODMAN	33	48	Josh NEUFVILLE

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS**Referee:** Charles Breakspear**Assistant Referees:** Paul Hobday & Marc Wilson**Fourth Official:** Kevin Morris