

PIRATE

VOL. 2/27

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF BRISTOL ROVERS F. C. 1997/98

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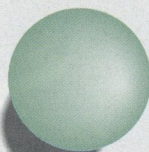


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Up Front IAN HOLLOWAY

Today's cover pic features Barry Hayles celebrating after last Friday's opening strike against Wigan. He added two more to his tally on Monday, bringing his season's total to 24.



WE have won three and drawn two of our last five games and I couldn't have asked any more from my players. Over the last few weeks we have sorted out some fundamental understanding problems with things I wasn't quite putting right. Overall, my plan and policy is to try to stop people scoring and we

haven't quite got that right this year. Fortunately we have scored enough, but what it's all about is defending the right way, from strength, and we were causing our own problems in as much as we were going off of shape because people thought I wanted them to press the ball all the time. That's not the way to do it. What you have to do is come from strength and get your shape solid and then go and press people and sometimes you have to let people have it. I think we've made these points now and everyone is clear as to what I want now. I also have to put my points across. When you see how I play, it looks as though I just charge around everywhere, but what I've already done is taught myself, over nine years, to anticipate where the next pass is going and that's what I want my players to do. The confusion came from that, because they thought I wanted them to run and shut down like I do, but that is not the case.

I'm often asked about pressure. To me, it's something you put on yourself and unfortunately the media tend to build it up as well. To me, there is no pressure. You have to learn to play in the bigger games. Some of our lads have not played in games like that before and I think that is what we got wrong and we went into those games being worried and anxious and panicked a little bit. Those words are now barred from our vocabulary at Bristol Rovers. I want people to be confident, determined and assertive and over the last five games we have been. Even in the two drawn games, we deserved better and if we can carry on and keep improving, keep learning from everything we get wrong, then we are going to have a chance.

Unfortunately, John Trollope left the club recently. I felt he did a good job whilst he was here, but his job description did change slightly when Geoff Twentyman left the club last year and, overall, it didn't really work out for us or for John in particular. Since his departure, Phil Bate has gone into that job and he realises the enormity of the task for the way we have to go in the future and he has come back to me and said he wants to stay there. I think for him and I to get this club how we want it to be, it's a vital move. I can now go home at night and not have to worry about that whole department, because Phil is in charge of it and it's made me feel a lot happier. In the meantime, I am at least one member of staff short on the training ground, so I've asked Gary Penrice, who's now 34, to come in and see if he would enjoy coming across the other side of the fence. I feel he has a lot to offer the club. I brought him back here not only for his footballing ability, but for his knowledge of the game, something he has acquired over the years. I know I'm defensively minded and he's attack minded, but I think that between Phil, 'Penny' and myself, we have a working relationship that could take this club forward, hopefully, for generations to come.

You are all absolutely vital to us. I hope you have enjoyed some of the football we have played, because I know I have. All we need you to do is see us realistically and know we are trying and having a go. With your support, who knows what can happen, even now.

Olly

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The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

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From The BOARDROOM



I am pleased to hear that referees, clubs and football's governing bodies may meet in the close season to examine the present guide-lines and interpretations of the rules of our beloved game.

Imagine booking to see a top west end play or musical and being disappointed,

upon taking your seat, to be informed that the star of the show was missing because he or she made a mistake in a previous performance.

We in football are competing against many other forms of entertainment yet we are depriving our customers by suspending so many of our star players through petty rules and regulations.

Tackling is part of the game of football. How boring the game would be without physical contact. During a match, mistimed tackles will happen and referees must be given the initiative back to decide whether a late tackle was an attempt to play the ball or a deliberate foul designed to stop the player in possession. At the moment football is conceding an own goal by the number of yellow and red cards being issued.

Naturally our game at Wigan on a frosty pitch is a classic example. We committed twelve fouls in the whole ninety minutes and yet had nine bookings and four dismissals, in a match where the letter of the law was applied by the referee and created a farcical situation.

Referees are only human and will make mistakes, but we must give them the flexibility to decide what is a good or bad challenge. Football Clubs cannot afford to have their highly paid players on the sidelines and we owe it to our paying customers, who come to watch footballers parade their skills and not to see them sat in the Stand. Let us hope common sense will prevail and next season, referees will be able to use their initiative rather than worrying about booking players for every misdemeanour.

Today we welcome Luton Town to The Memorial Ground. They too have high hopes of relocation to a new multi-purpose stadium. It will be interesting to see how much progress each club makes over the next twelve months in achieving their objectives.

Enjoy the game.

GEOFF DUNFORD



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AT the end of March, locked into a relegation berth, with just one victory from their previous twelve, our visitors looked to be in dire straights. Then successive wins at Walsall, York City and Grimsby Town propelled the Hatters out of the bottom four.

Given that manager **Lennie Lawrence** is at the helm, the change of direction should come as no great shock. During a decade at Charlton he had shown a proven record of excelling when his team had their backs to the wall and that experience could be the trump card in Luton's survival hard. Another factor will be the return of the wounded for it must be argued that Town's current plight is the result of an astonishing injury list throughout the season.

In contrast, the departure of leading scorer **Tony Thorpe** to moneybags Fulham is certain to dent the Hatters striking options. No surprise that transfer deadline day saw the arrival of a new forward at Kenilworth Road and **Rory Allen** repaid the faith with a debut goal at Walsall and the winner at Grimsby.

The ex-trainee made his premiership bow for Tottenham Hotspur as a second half substitute at Wimbledon in September 1996 and impressed enough to warrant a full outing three days later at White Hart Lane against Newcastle United. He scored in a 1-2 defeat and went on to bag four from sixteen appearances. This term opportunities have been few and far between as a loan period away from the Lane was grabbed for the prospect of first team action.

Rory's arrival seems to have inspired the resident strikers to rediscover their form. **Phil Gray** leapt from the bench to hit his first since September, **Dwight Marshall** hit his third of the season and **David Oldfield** hit two in successive games to raise his tally to eight. All this within ten days of Rory's arrival.

Gray was also a Tottenham apprentice who originally joined the Hatters in 1991. In two years he hit twenty six goals, often in spectacular fashion, and enabled our visitors to treble their investment when he moved to Sunderland. Becoming a free agent in 1996, the Northern Ireland International moved to Nancy in France and then to Fortuna Sittard in Holland before returning to Kenilworth Road seven months ago.

Marshall was a latecomer to league football joining Plymouth Argyle from Grays Athletic when in his mid twenties. During his first year he fell just two games short of an ever-present season and went one better after his move to Luton in 1994. A badly broken leg at Sunderland in February 1996 put him out of action for nine months and contributed to Luton's slide to relegation. Despite missing a third of the season, **Dwight** finished as the club's top marksman. He is now often employed as a substitute where his speed and ability to attack

In Town Today

defences from wide positions can be most effective. There must be something about the Bedfordshire air since **David Oldfield** is another enjoying a second spell with our visitors. His first period began with an apprenticeship and twenty nine league games until Manchester City came with the cheque book. That was nine years ago. Since then he played over two hundred times for Leicester City and a loan at Millwall before returning to Luton in 1995. **David's** unselfish play provided the perfect foil to **Tony Thorpe's** thirty one goals last season and his own contribution of all three in the play-off semis against Crewe deserved better than another year in Division Two.

Also available up front are **Andrew Fotiades**, **Stuart**

LUTON

Douglas and **Liam George**, all home grown products. **Fotiades** stayed on at school to complete his A-Levels before signing full-time in 1996. He missed the start of this season through injury and did not make the squad until November. In contrast the injury crisis gave **Douglas** a chance of early league action. He responded with the Hatters first goal of the season, in front of the Sky Sports Cameras,

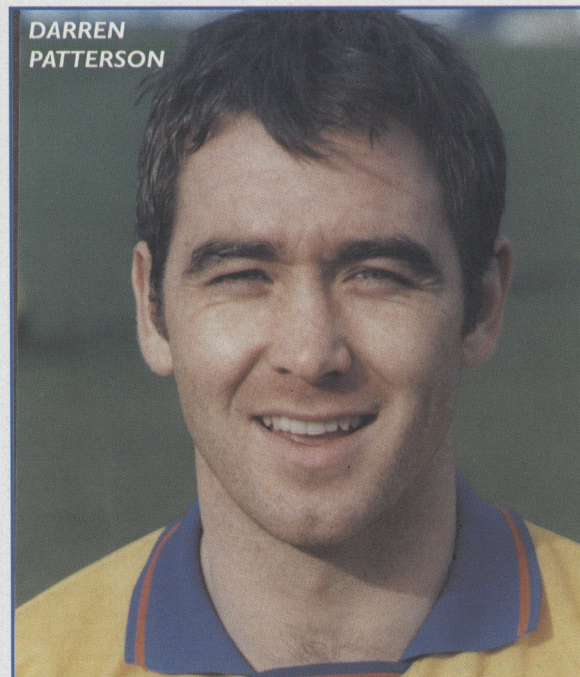


SEAN EVERS



LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 1997/98

Back row, l to r: Robert Kean, Sean Evers, Stuart Douglas, Steve Augustine, Andrew Barr, Paul McLaren, Simon Davies, Gary Doherty, Matthew Spring, Ian Jones, Andrew Fotiadis, Richard Harvey, Dwight Marshall
 Middle row, l to r: Bob Bird (Financial Controller), Cherry Newberry (Club Secretary), Clive Goodyear (Physio), Paul Lowe (Youth Development Officer), Wayne Turner (First-Team Coach), Paul Showler, David Oldfield, Mitchell Thomas, Nathan Abbey, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Marvin Johnson, Chris Willmott, Graham Alexander, John Moore (Youth Team Coach), Trevor Peake (Reserve Team Coach), Kathy Leather (Commercial Manager), Les Shannon (Scouting Co-ordinator)
 Seated, l to r: Liam George, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis, Nigel Terry (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Chris Green (Director), Gary Waddock, Julian James, Terry Sweeney
 Front row, l-r: Jimmy Cox, Russell Lawes, Stuart Fraser, Darren Howe, James Ayres, Daniel Tate, Nick Webb, Emerson Boyce, Moses Jerry, Michael McIndoe, Andrew Scarlett, Delroy McKey



DARREN PATTERSON

sliding the ball home left-footed from ten yards for the winner over Southend in August. **George** made his league debut against Bristol City at Ashton Gate in September when the injury list was at its peak. He is top scorer in the Reserves this season and certainly one for the future, already in the Ere

Under 18 squad.

As for the present, the most consistent and injury free player has been midfielder **Paul McLaren** in his first season as a regular member of the starting eleven. **Paul** joined Luton from school and gained England Youth International honours on his way to making his full debut at Tranmere Rovers in October 1995. He began as a centre-half but has now settled into a more creative role filling the vacancy left by **Ceri Hughes** summer sale to Wimbledon.

Graham Alexander and **Gary Waddock** have also been regular selections in midfield.

Alexander's penalty opened the scoring against York City at the beginning of the month to bring his tally up to eight for the campaign, not bad considering his previous strike rate had been just three from over one hundred appearances for the Hatters. He did achieve a little better at his first club Scunthorpe United but this term is his best so far.

Our ex-skipper **Waddock** has long since abandoned any dreams of being a goal scoring superstar. He netted once in seventy one league outings for the Gas, which is about the usual ratio he has achieved

throughout his long career. Gary has twenty five full international caps and began as a Queens Park Rangers apprentice. A serious knee injury threatened to finish his footballing life and he moved to Charleroi in Belgium but then returned to England with Millwall. He joined our visitors from Rovers on a free transfer in 1994.

Providing stiff competition for Waddock's place in recent weeks has been ex-trainee Sean Evers whose performances earned a call up to the Eire Under 21 squad who faced the Czech Republic last month. Further competition is on the way from ex-Bradford City player Paul Showler, back in training after injury, and Simon Davies who has been more often the substitute since his summer move from Manchester United.

Simon's inclusion in the team can be a commentator's nightmare with two others of the same sounding surname established in the Hatters defence.

Keeper Kelvin Davis has emerged through the youth and reserve teams to oust giant American Ian Feuer from the nets while club captain, Steve Davis has been in commanding form at centre back. Steve was a Southampton trainee who played more than two hundred games for Burnley before his transfer to Luton in 1995. Always able to grab his fair share of goals he was second behind Tony Thorpe in the league last season.

With home grown Marvin Johnson's decade of

experience unavailable through hamstring problems, Steve's likely partners will be either Darren Patterson or Alan White.

Northern Ireland International Patterson was signed from Crystal Palace in 1995, he was previously with Wigan and West Brom. White has recently returned from a recurring knee injury. He moved from Middlesbrough in September where Lennie Lawrence had recruited him from Derby County three years earlier.

The draw at Burnley in mid March saw the return of Julian James at right back after a three month lay off. A hard tackling veteran of over three hundred games for the Hatters, Julian has resumed his full back partnership with the even more experienced Mitchell Thomas.

Although both trainees at Kenilworth Road, Thomas had moved to Tottenham two years before James had reached the first team. He moved to West Ham in 1991 and returned to Luton two years later. Despite seven years away he has recently also achieved the three hundred appearance mark for his home town club.

The visiting squad is completed by Richard Harvey a youth team contemporary of Julian James and a host of young pretenders who have had an early taste of league action. Due to the injury crisis, including Eire Under 18 cap Gary Doherty who can play in defence or up front and midfielder Matthew Spring.

BOB FORD

STATS compiled by Chris Spencer



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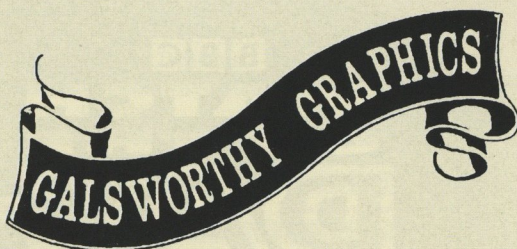


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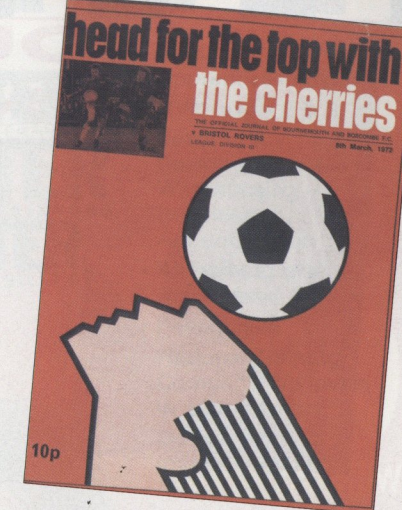
1922	Rovers 1	Watford 1
1924	Luton 0	Rovers 0
1925	Rovers 0	Gillingham 0
1927	Rovers 3	Swindon 1
1928	Rovers 1	Swindon 0
1930	Rovers 0	Orient 0
1931	Thames 1	Rovers 2
1934	Rovers 4	QPR 1
1936	Brighton 4	Rovers 1
1938	Rovers 2	Cardiff 1
1949	Reading 1	Rovers 0
1959	Middlesborough 2	Rovers 2
1960	Rovers 1	Huddersfield 0
1964	Rovers 4	Notts County 0
1972	Bournemouth 2	Rovers 1
1978	Rovers 0	Brighton 4
1981	Luton 1	Rovers 0
1987	Rovers 0	Bristol City 0
1992	Oxford 2	Rovers 2
1995	Bournemouth 2	Rovers 0
1993	Rovers 1	Portsmouth 2

1981 v Luton

After an impressive run of results on this day, Rovers' six most recent fixtures on 18th April do not make good reading. Previously, two Bill Culley goals helped Rovers to victory in 1927, Arthur Attwood scored twice in 1931 and Alfie Biggs twice in 1964. Rovers' comfortable victory in 1934 was achieved thanks to a hat trick from Jimmy Smith, who

features in the "Guinness Book of Records" as his 72 goals for Ayr United during 1927-28 remain a British seasonal goalscoring record. Conversely, the much travelled Malcolm Poskett scored three goals at Eastville in 1978 for a Brighton side which included a young Mark Lawrenson.

Rovers' two prior fixtures against Luton on this date have been low-scoring affairs. Goalkeeper Jesse Whatley made several good saves in the away game in 1924, ably supported by full-backs Harold Armitage and Ernie Sambidge. In 1981, Terry Cooper did not play and Bob Lee returned to Rovers' side with David Williams returning as substitute. The 9,000 crowd was only slightly higher than the corresponding attendance in 1924. Luton's talented side included Mal Donaghy, Tony Grealish, Brian Stein and Ricky Hill; it was a David Moss penalty which separated the sides.



THE PLAYERS

BORN ON THIS DATE

Stuart Taylor 1947

Alan Warboys 1949

Two key figures in Rovers' 1973-74 promotion side were born on this date. Stuart Taylor, the older of the pair by two years, was born in Bristol and signed professional terms with Rovers as an eighteen year old in 1965. Between then and 1980 he was a model in consistency and an essential presence at the heart of Rovers' defence. Taylor remains, at 6 ft 5 in, the tallest player to have represented Rovers in league football and his 546 league appearances for his only club remain a Rovers record. Rovers' captain in Division Two, Taylor became player-manager of Bath City in May 1980.

Six foot goalscorer Alan Warboys was born in Goldthorpe, Yorkshire on this day in 1949. Unlike Taylor, he had experienced league football at a number of clubs (Doncaster, Cardiff and both Sheffield clubs) before joining Rovers in a £35,000 deal from Sheffield United in March 1973. At the end of 1973, he scored two hat tricks and claimed four goals against Brighton. In 141 (plus 3 sub) league games for Rovers, he scored 53 goals. Joining Fulham in February 1977, Warboys later played for Hull and Doncaster before retiring in 1982.

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Stars of the Future

Today we take another look at our Soccer Academy, which has now been up and running for almost a year, through talking to **Director of Youth Rod Wesson** and first year trainees, **Dean Pendry** and **Mike Adams** "Inevitably", says Rod, "some of our boys are excelling and doing extremely well academically, whilst some are finding it hard going. However, we are generally happy with the way things have gone and happy to look ahead to the three year scheme which starts this summer". In fact, the college has already begun planning for next year. "Yes, that's true, one of the things we learnt from last year was that there are things we could improve to make it easier for the boys to adjust and for them to get used to the place and to the two way process between college and the training ground. All of next years intake have been interviewed and accepted by the college and we are simply awaiting their examination results to confirm what courses they may or may not be able to start. Inevitably, the college is concerned about funding, because that is how they survive. However, the statements coming from the PFA and FFEVTS indicate that funding will be better under the scholarship scheme than it was under the YT system, so the college won't suffer or miss out. Obviously, though, they need reassuring that it is going to be in place and that it will be better than the old system".

Two important meetings are due to be held shortly, regarding the scholarship scheme. "Firstly, we have to decide, with the college, the exact model, in terms of the timetable, for the boys, when they go to college and when they train. Many clubs will aim to let the boys attend college in the mornings and train in the afternoons, but it all depends on the individual courses the boys are doing and the individual timetables of the college. St Brendans have just changed their timetable, which may help us and I'll be meeting with them to have a first stab at the model which will be most effective for us". The other meeting, again with college representatives, together with Micky Burns Chief Executive of the FFEVTS, will be to talk about the scholarship scheme, in relation to the academic side of it and to look at the model we have come up with, as well as discuss funding and any other issues the college may have concerns about.

The Football Club has also adapted and will continue to adapt to these radical changes. "I think", says Rod, "that people have been very tolerant and patient and what we have been able to do during the year is make amendments, adjust the timetables a little bit and adjust what the boys are doing in as much as when they are at college or training. Everyone has been very co-operative about how to make that work and they have done that because they see the positive side of it, but it is very different and one hopes that everyone sees how things might gel together and come through for the future and the hope is that people have done that".

Dean Pendry, a right sided midfield player, has been associated with Rovers since he joined the under 9 side, through **Dave Payne** and has almost completed his first year as a trainee. "Things were a little bit difficult to begin with", he says "but once I got into it, it was alright. At school, I enjoyed certain subjects, like Art and PE and I just tried really hard in those subjects. If I



pass the Tourism and Leisure course I'm taking now, I can do what I want next year, such as AS Level Art or something different". The mix of college and football, has says **Dean**, not been too bad and, hopefully, will be easier next year if timetables are altered. "I think we may be attending college in the morning

and training in the afternoons, which I think will be better. However, I'm not sure who will be doing all the jobs around the training ground next year, as all of the trainees will be at college at some point during the day". As for football, he's pleased with his progress. "I started off a little slowly, playing in the South West Counties side, before working my way through to the South East Counties team, but I feel I am playing well at the moment. I appreciate I'll have to work hard next year, but if I can keep my position and stay in the South East Counties side, I hope to do well and maybe get offered a pro contract at the end of the year".

Central midfielder **Mike Adams** is also taking a GNVQ course in Leisure and Tourism, having also been at the club since he was nine. "Yes, that's right, I've been here as long as Dean and in fact we came up through the same age groups together, under **Dave Payne**. I wasn't too bad, academically, at school and I obtained 3 G.C.S.E's last year and I'm enjoying my college course at St Brendans. I look on the course as something to fall back on in case I don't make it as a pro. In the main, it involves looking at the travel and tourism side of the industry and next year I hope to do an A-Level in Geography, which is related to my present studies". He might be too modest to admit it, but Mike has adapted well to the demands of attending college and playing football and is considered to be one of the most successful of this years YT intake, in terms of his studies. His football seems to be going quite well, too. "I began in the South West Counties side and have now pushed my way into the South East Counties team. I'm not doing too bad in that and in the last few weeks I have got a regular place, so I'm doing okay, now, I think".

Next season, we'll be following the progress of **Dean**, **Mike** and the other lads through their second year, as well as keeping an eye on the new intake of trainees who will be commencing the three year scholarship scheme.

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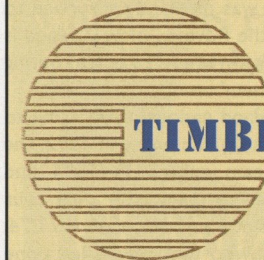


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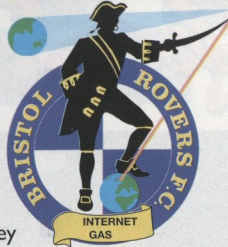
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MAYBE too early to get excited about a possible trip to Wembley, but the lads have given us something to think about haven't they? A great performance at home to Wigan and just desserts after that awful night "at their place" last December. Just the right frame of mind to take us to Blundell Park on Easter Monday and none of us were disappointed after making that long trip on a bitterly cold day, bringing back another three points to set the pulses racing and thoughts of the likely outcomes of remaining games. Imagine the thoughts of fans far away who haven't seen their beloved team for many months, even years. Despite what Jeff Short says in the following paragraphs, I bet he's having thoughts on how much he'd like to see the lads make the playoffs. I'll let Jeff speak for himself-

"Keep it relevant to BRFC" Mo said when asking me to write a piece for the Internet Gas section of today's programme. Well I am kept fully informed of current BRFC events here in New Zealand by the ever popular Gaslist, so something current and topical perhaps? No, the latest news I received was concerning that other team in Bristol gaining promotion not something any of us wish to dwell on. So how about BRFC connections with New Zealand. Could there be enough in that topic to complete 500 words? I thought long and hard and apart from the BRFC supporters Club Wellington, NZ branch comprising of myself and Chris Marsh, came up with just with 2!

NZ Connection No.1 Rovers Tour of 74 - On arriving in NZ in 1990 and explaining my soccer (herein after referred to as football) allegiances to the locals I was pleasantly surprised to find just how many Kiwis knew of the Rovers. New Zealand is just about as far as you can get from anywhere so when touring teams come here they are long remembered.

Everton once toured here, the England national team came to celebrate SNZ (Soccer New Zealand's) centenary in 1992, the 'well known' Danish Olympic team toured in 1994 and surprisingly Rovers are remembered by many after their tour here following the triumphant promotion season of 1973/74. Unfortunately few can remember who they played let alone what the results were, so if anyone can help with the details please let me know.

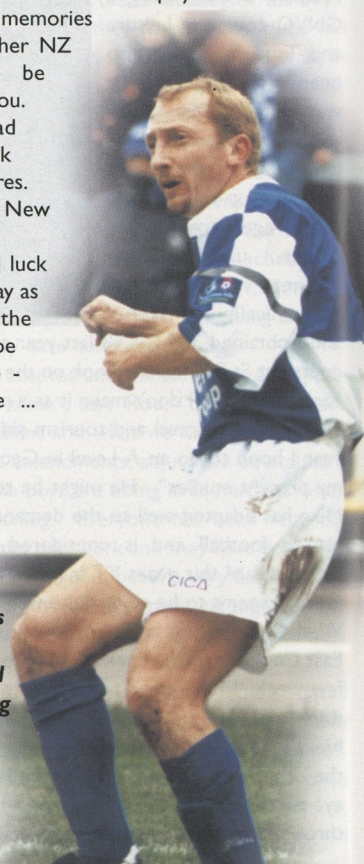
NZ Connection No.2 Paul Nixon - Since leaving Bristol, I have turned my football interest from that of supporting to youth

coaching. During a recent coaching convention my still prominent Bristol accent was noted by the key speaker, Roger Wilkinson who asked if I remembered Paul Nixon playing for Bristol Rovers. Paul was English born but raised in New Zealand even playing for the New Zealand national team, the All Whites. He then returned to England in attempt to gain himself place in a professional football club. Fortunately for us Gasheads he chose Rovers where he contributed immensely in the glory days of the 1989/90 promotion season. I remember Paul as a player with great pace and while I recall he was a great creator of goals there is one he scored I will always remember.

After the unforgettable events on the evening of 2nd May 1990, Rovers played Blackpool the following Saturday where victory would seal the title. There must have been 5,000 Gasheads at the Bloomfield Rd stadium that day, so the stage was set, the weather was perfect and the show went exactly to plan. 2-0 up with one minute to go, fans singing all around the ground and with the last kick of the match Paul Nixon fires home a 30 yard volley! This is the stuff dreams are made of and to quote lyrics from a Bowie song "Oh to capture just one drop of all the ecstasy that swept that afternoon". It was even more poignant for me as this was the last league match and league goal I was to see before emigrating to New Zealand. Paul has since returned to New Zealand and continues to play in the national league. Thanks for the memories Paul. If I've missed any other NZ connections I would be interested to here from you. (e:mail me at Gashead @Cheerful.com.) Good luck lads for the remaining fixtures. Jeff Short, Wellington, New Zealand."

Sure we all echo the good luck message, especially for today as we welcome Luton to the Memorial Ground. Hope you are all in good voice - let's hear you out there ... these are exciting times!

Mo BELL



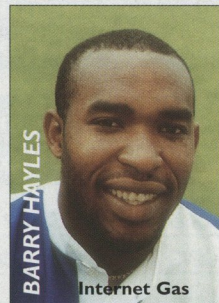
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Ollie contemplates a tour of New Zealand after chipping in the corner for Barry Hayles' goal last Friday

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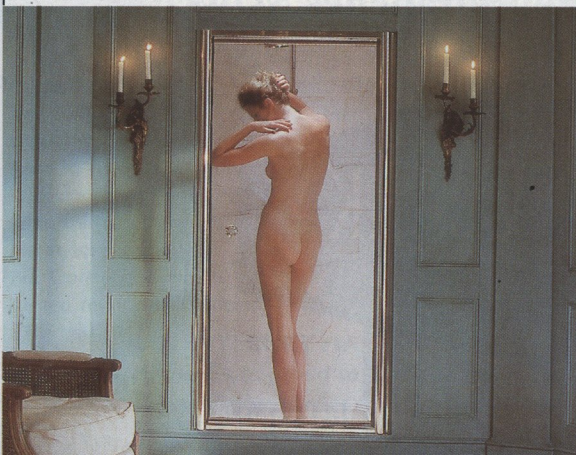
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Captain's Column

IT's often said that the Easter programme of fixtures are crucial when it comes to determining promotion and relegation issues and we certainly put ourselves back in the frame for a play-off place by picking up six points last weekend.

WIGAN

I think it has suited us by being able to come from behind the clubs currently occupying the top six places. Many had written off our chances of achieving a play-off spot and others had been a little unkind in their comments prior to the Wigan game, which only served to make us even more determined to put in a good performance. We approached the game in the right way and put them under a great deal of pressure in the opening twenty minutes. We were aware that we had started many home games in a similar way, only to see our opponent take the lead, so we kept things tight at the back and Barry Hayles opened the scoring for us. Being three ahead at the break could have made us complacent, but when Peter Beadle hit our fourth, it settled us again and 'Beads' of course, went on to complete a superb hat trick. I think he is now reaping the rewards for his tremendous work rate in recent games, and he now has 16 goals to his credit which is his best ever tally for a season. I should also mention Tom Ramasut's spectacular strike for our second goal. It really was an unbelievable finish.



Tom Ramasut –
tremendous strike
against Wigan

GRIMSBY

Our preparations for this crucial game were spot on. We had Saturday off, undertook a light training session on Sunday morning and travelled up in the afternoon. An overnight stay makes a great difference when you have to travel any great distance for a match, and Sunday evening saw us discussing what we needed to do the next day and going over our game plan. Grimsby are a very good side and if you are not strong against them, they will murder you. However, even after they took an early lead, thanks to a penalty, we didn't feel we could lose. That belief comes from knowing we have players in the side who can score goals and its a great feeling for a defender with 'Beads' and Barry Hayles in such fine form. Barry took his two goals very well and its nice to see him leading the list of Second Division goalscorers, along with Roger Boli.

THE PLAYERS

Lee Jones has done well since he came into the side. He didn't have too much to do against Wigan, but he had a solid game at Grimsby and made a couple of excellent saves. His concentration level is

excellent, just what a keeper needs when he isn't kept too busy. We now have three excellent keepers at the club and we know that whoever plays will do a good job for us. Credit must also be given to

Tom Ramasut and Jamie Cureton, who, in our last few games, have put in some quality defensive performances. They have had limited opportunities to go forward, which is their natural game, but they have always been willing to learn and stick at their new roles and it was good to see them play so well at Grimsby. It was also good to see Matt Lockwood back in the side and he also put in two excellent performances last weekend. As for Jason Perry, it was good to see he only received a one match ban from the FA. Not only is he a character, he's a strong character, someone you want in your squad and in your dressing room.

OLD FRIENDS

Monday was the second time I have been back to Grimsby with Rovers. As a player, you are never quite sure how well you will be received by your former club, but I had a good reception and met up with many old friends. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially as we won! Grimsby are in the Auto Windscreens Shield Final at Wembley tomorrow and I hope to be there cheering them on against Bournemouth.

THANKS

It was good to see so many of you at the recent race night we held down at Clevedon. The lads really appreciated the fact that the event was well attended and we hope to organise another evening early next season. Thanks, also, to those who organised the evening and made it such a success.

GOOD LUCK

I hope that many of you will come along to The Memorial Ground on Tuesday to support the reserves in the first leg of their Trophy Final against Bristol City. They have had a good season and I hope they can end up on a winning note.

AND FINALLY

We have had a great run recently and hope we can keep it going. The lads deserve credit for our current position and its certainly much more enjoyable being at this end of the league than it was near the bottom last season. However, there is a very fine dividing line between success and failure. We are simply concentrating on today's match and aim to finish as high as we can in the league. We hope we do ourselves justice and that we are able to end the league campaign on a high note. I don't need to tell you how important your support is to the team and I hope you will really get behind us this afternoon. Enjoy the game.

Andy

The Bristol Fryer



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PROUD TO BE A GASHEAD

THANKFULLY, Screen Soccer is rarely criticised for providing insufficient content. Compared to other clubs' videos, both local and national, feedback from fans has proved that our videos provide value for money. However, we are also aware that our videos often require two viewing sessions! Therefore, we thought it would be a good idea to split this season's video in two, thus providing four hours of entertainment in two equal instalments.

At a retail price of just £14.95, Proud To Be A Gashead provides greater value for money than any previous Screen Soccer video. In addition, we are also aiming to provide a more in-depth view of Bristol Rovers than ever before. Features on aspects of the club such as the Centre of Excellence, the Soccer Academy, Pirate Leisure, the Supporters Club, the Community Scheme and Internet Gas are sure to be of interest to all Rovers fans. Other plans include speaking to Chris Swift of the Evening Post, Geoff Dunford or Simon Arnold (about the proposed roof over the Clubhouse End and latest new stadium hopes), filming a first team

training session and preparations at the ground on matchdays. There will also, of course, be extensive highlights of the key games of the season, both home and away. The quality of goals scored by Rovers has rarely been higher in recent years, and we are confident that a blend of action and topical issues will create the best Screen Soccer video yet.

DAVE ROGERS



It's no good, I can't get a decent picture with this camera, I'll just have to wait for the new Screen Soccer video to see what I've missed!

“GOING DOWN, GOING DOWN, GOING DOWN ...”

Well, what a fuss over Deirdre Rachid in Coronation Street, eh? Given eighteen months for fraud and now, as if to heap more misery upon the woman, having the likes of Tony Blair and William Hague taking up the cause to free her! They say that the truth is stranger than fiction, don't they? Could be, I suppose, that Tony Blair is on the look out for some consultative work for Mrs B - legally trained as she is - and, I've no doubt, a cameo appearance in the soap could be on the cards. All in the interest of justice of course and nothing to do with showing the public that both the government of the day and the opposition are at the forefront when it comes to issues of national importance! Both Blair and Hague are wasting their time, of that I've no doubt. I have it on good authority from an informed source that Deirdre's case won't go to appeal before Crystal Palace win a home Premiership game - so we could be looking at the Summer before there's any movement on that one. Which means, therefore, that had Deirdre been lucky enough to secure tickets to games at the World Cup Finals, (and, based on the case against her, you can't rule out her and her accomplice from having registered a French address

just for that purpose), she's going to miss out. With 'lights out' at 8 o'clock she's not going to get the chance to see an awful lot of games on TV either.

Still, you could look on the bright side in that respect, if ITV continue with the likes of Mike Baldwin, sorry I mean Terry Venables, she'll be spared having to listen to some of his impromptu responses to fairly innocuous questions as with the Manchester United/Monaco Champions League game recently. 'And such-and-such a player, Terry?' Now at this point, Tel is obviously trying to catch up on his postbag and clarify if he's boss of Australia; Chairman of Pompey or supremo at Palace: "Yes. He epitomises all he stands for. What the heck does that mean? But wait, theres more "Yeh, Uventus." The Rolls Royce of teams. The fact that Juve, for years, were backed by the family who controlled FIAT cars seems to have passed him by. Still, I suppose, calling them the '650' of teams doesn't have the same impact.... Have to finish now, lights out!

DAVE PEACEY

Supporters' NEWS

IT may be a little late to wish you all a Happy Easter - I'm sure you all enjoyed your Easter Eggs, seeing those long lost relatives, or I'm having a few beers before early closing. However, deep down did we all expect the Gas to collect 6 points and seven goals in two games?

As usual we quietly got on with the job while over the other side of town, the local press and media went ecstatic with 3000 travelling to Burnley and collecting one point and one goal in two games. Has anyone noticed that we are now joint top scorers with you know who in the division - we at

least have two more things to aim for - the play offs and the league's top goal scorers!

My final mention (or is it the first) about City, after discarding countless newspapers full of 'Promotion specials' regards the fact that The Evening Post mentioned Watford received 2300 tickets after I was informed that Watford would receive the same amount of tickets as us, i.e 1700. I admit I only got Grade E in maths all those years ago but I make it that they received 600 more than us, or was it a misprint?



Peter Beadle collected another matchball for last week's hat trick

The Wigan game was a superb exhibition of football. We all knew sometime this season we were going to score a hatful against someone - Wigan can't be that bad as they scored five on Monday themselves! It was a great team effort with everyone doing their part, but not surprisingly Peter Beadle was the Supporters Club Man of the Match, but what a strike by Tom Ramasut.

The Grimsby result was also excellent and with the other results going our way it now looks like 4 teams going for 2 places! Our goals scored could be vital but whatever happens it will go to the last game!

RAISE THE ROOF

No sorry we haven't got one yet ... but the good news is the planning application has now been submitted to Bristol City Council so all we need is the permission... Watch this space! For almost the first time this season we didn't need a roof for the vocal support you gave the team against Wigan - with the last two games against sides at the wrong end of the table it is vital we get behind the team as neither game will be easy.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Supporters Club voting slips are being handed out today. So this will be your chance to vote for your player and young player of the year. Please hand your completed slips into the Supporters Club bar or caravan after the game, or to '199' or Pirate Leisure. Tickets are now selling fast for our Presentation Evening at The Beeches on May 2nd - The cost is just £5 which includes buffet and disco and are available at the normal outlets.

So don't forget to raise that volume this afternoon and let's see at least 3001 of you at Blackpool next Saturday!

STEVE BURNS



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NEW STADIUM – KEEP PUSHING

SOUTH Gloucestershire Council are currently carrying out a consultation exercise seeking views from residents about their Draft Local Plan which includes a reference to the possible building of 'one major all seater sports stadium'. Thanks to the magnificent response of South Gloucestershire based Rovers Supporters who have answered our call to lobby the council, at the time of writing, it is the biggest single issue being raised at the Draft Local Plan exhibitions.

Hundreds of letters have been sent to South Gloucestershire based Rovers supporters urging them to either write to the council or visit one of the local plan exhibitions. Already many of you have responded either by attending the 'open evening exhibitions' or by writing to the council. The exhibitions are not meetings as such but give residents the opportunity to talk to councillors on a one to one basis, so don't worry you do not have to make a speech! I am sure that those who have attended will confirm that it is a lot easier than going to the dentist, it costs nothing and may ultimately prove to be very profitable! Do not underestimate the impact that those of you who have attended the exhibitions have had, we are playing a long game. It may seem an insignificant contribution now but when you are sitting in that new stadium in a few years time you will have played your part! I stated in the Southend programme that this process was the beginning of the

beginning. We have made a very good start. Whilst the door is not yet ajar it is beginning to loosen very slightly. There may even be a glimmer of light around the frame and it is vital that we keep pushing and believing that it can happen. Look at what Derby County achieved with the co-operation of their local authority. In just two years they built 'Pride Park' from a standing start, so it can be done. No matter how convenient the Memorial Ground may appear now, no matter what is done to secure Rovers short term future, if we are serious about being Bristol's top club, we must be a major player in a multi purpose community stadium project.

The next two 'open evenings' will be held on Tuesday 21 April, 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm at Yate Library and Monday 27 April, 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm at the Council Office, Thornbury. Letters should be sent to Freepost SWB 243, Director of Planning, Transportation & Environmental Services, South Gloucestershire Council, The Council Offices, Castle Street, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, BS35 1HE. You should state your support for section 9, paragraph LC8 Major Sports Stadium. Letters must be received at The Council Offices on or before Friday 8th May. A copy of the Draft Local Plan will be available in The Supporters Club bar today, at the Reserve Team match on Tuesday and at the Brentford match. Response forms will also be available to those of you who live in the South Gloucestershire area. Come and talk to us!

JOHN MALYCKY

IN RESERVE

NEXT Tuesday our reserve side take on Bristol City in the first leg of the South West Trophy Final, here at The Memorial Ground, kick off 7.30pm. Only the Centenary Stand and Terrace will be open and prices are as follows:

Terrace: Adults £3, Juv/65+ £1.

Stand: Adults £5, Juv/65+ £3.

In the ten league matches played in this competition, Rovers have used an incredible 33 players. The only ever present in the side is Josh Low. The eleven goals scored have come from eight different players, with Frankie Bennett, James French and David Whyte each having scored twice.

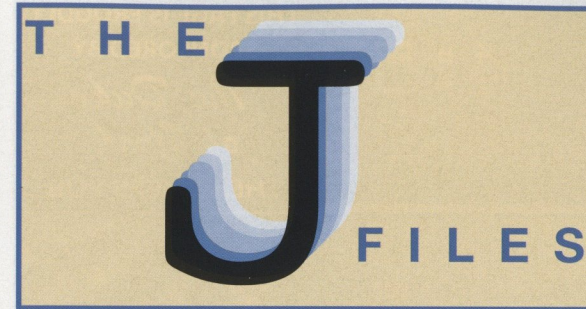
City, at the time of writing are undefeated with one league match to play. They have conceded just one more goal than ourselves and both

league matches between the sides have ended goalless.

It promises to be an intriguing contest, so why not come along and support the lads on Tuesday.

The second leg takes place at Ashton Gate on Tuesday 28th April, kick off 2pm.

Frankie Bennet
– 2 goals for the reserves this season



BAZZA & PUNKY

BEFORE Barry Hayles who was the last Rovers player to score 20 goals in his first season with the club? The answer is ... Paul Randall who twenty years ago at the age of 19, scored on his league debut in a 1-1 draw at Cardiff City. Randall finished that 1997/98 season as the club's leading scorer with 22 league and cup goals in 35 appearances. Many longstanding supporters will remember the impact Randall, the Liverpool born striker, made two decades ago and the memorable goals he scored in his first season with Rovers at Eastville. I remember his two superb goals which knocked out first division Southampton in the FA Cup. Randall had originally been discarded by Rovers as a schoolboy and drifted into Western League football with Glastonbury where he lived as a young lad after his family moved from Merseyside. His father Ken had been a professional footballer with Everton and Aldershot. Rovers scouts had watched Paul Randall whilst he scored regularly for Frome Town and after a pre-season friendly against Rovers he convinced manager Don Megson that he was ready for professional football. Randall gave up his job as a supermarket trainee manager to fulfil his dream of a career in professional football. His enjoyment of Punk music ensured a dressing room nickname of "Punky" but Rovers supporters warmed to his exciting contribution to the team and it was not long before other club's scouts were taking note of him. His

PAUL RANDALL
– 22 goals



club record transfer fee of £180,000 to Stoke City in December 1978 however is another story.

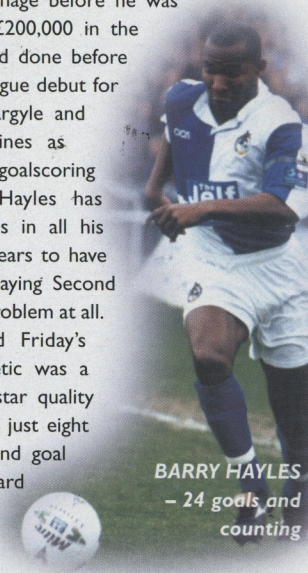
SIMILARITIES

There are many similarities between Randall and Hayles who both have genuine pace, excellent close control and a sharp football brain. Also what sets them apart from many other players in the second division is that they both show remarkable composure in front of goal when goalscoring opportunities are created by themselves or set up for them by their teammates.

BAZZA

Barry Hayles born in South London on 17th May 1972 had experienced amateur football with Spartan League Willesden Hawkeye from 1990-93 before in July 1993 at the age of 21, he joined Vauxhall Conference Stevenage Borough. Hayles helped Stevenage win the Conference title in 1995/96 and was voted Conference Player of the Year. Hayles won the coveted "Mail on Sunday" top goalscorer award for his 29 goals. Hayles was rewarded with two England caps at semi professional level. Barry unfortunately broke his leg halfway through last season but still managed 20 goals for Stevenage before he was transferred to Rovers for £200,000 in the close season. As Randall had done before him Hayles scored on his league debut for Rovers, against Plymouth Argyle and quickly grabbed the headlines as supporters heralded a new goalscoring hero they could cheer. Hayles has genuinely performed heroics in all his displays this season and appears to have found the transition into playing Second Division league football no problem at all. His performance in Good Friday's hammering of Wigan Athletic was a wonderful example of the star quality Barry Hayles now exudes in just eight months at the club. His 22nd goal was just reward for the hard work and determination Barry Hayles has consistently shown all season. **MIKE JAY**

BARRY HAYLES
– 24 goals and counting



MATCH FACTS IN OPPOSITION compiled by Mike Jay

Wigan Team: Carroll, Green, Sharp, Newman, Morgan, Bradshaw, Diaz, Martinez, Barlow, Kilford, Jones
Subs: Warne for Jones (45mins), Whitworth for Green (46mins), Smeets for Kilford (69mins)
Rovers Subs: Penrice, Hayfield, Bennett (not used)
Goalscorers: Hayles (25mins), Ramasut (31mins), Beadle (45, 51, 56mins)
Matchfacts: Recalls for Lockwood in place of Perry, and Holloway for Penrice. Rovers best victory since defeating Wigan by 6-1 on 3rd March 1990. Another, superb hat trick for Peter Beadle the third of his Rovers career scored in just 12 remarkable minutes. He has now scored 16 goals for the season.

Grimsby Team: Davison, McDermott, Gallimore, Handyside, Lever, Burnett, Donovan, Smith, Nogan, Lester, Groves
Subs: Clare for Gallimore (60mins), Black for Nogan (70mins), Jobling for Burnett (87mins)
Rovers Subs: Penrice, Perry, Bennett (not used)
Goalscorers: Donovan (13mins pen), Hayles (38 & 41mins)
Matchfacts: Rovers record their first away win since 10th January and move to within one point of a play-off spot. Two goals for Barry Hayles takes him to 24 for the season, to head the divisions goalscoring charts with Walsall's Roger Boli.

ROVERS
WIGAN

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Barry Hayles scores ...



... and celebrates



Peter Beadle completes his hat trick against Wigan



Here he shoots home his first goal



Player/Manager Ian Holloway often looked physically and mentally shattered during his first season at the helm and only he can describe how tough it was. "I don't want to tell people, to tell you the truth. I just had this dreadful fear that it would be ironic if the fellow who loves Rovers the most took them down, and the way it was looking at one stage, it could have gone that way. Talk about being thrown in at the deep end! I nearly sunk, and what that taught me and what I learned from the experience was amazing. A lot of managers, in their first season, end up getting relegated or sacked and, at one time, it was certainly looking like that for me." The experience, though, made him even more determined. "All the way through last year, I was asking myself 'do I really need this?' "Having come through that, I believed I could do it and believed I knew what I needed to do. I felt that I had to introduce new ideas and bring in new faces, in particular, I felt I wanted people who would look at my club as an upward step. I wanted people who looked at Bristol Rovers as the best thing they have ever had and who had the desire and who were hungry to get to the top and I feel that has worked to a certain degree. "New players, new training equipment and methods ensured a good start to this season. "Yes, there were some new things I wanted to bring in and everyone responded well to that and the fact we began the season so well was a credit to the lads. Unfortunately. Though, we didn't win enough of those

putting pressure on them. I have to get it right. We are halfway there and I can't wait for next season to start again." There's as much pleasure to be derived from seeing your players progress as there is from playing. "I think you get more from that, I really do. I think I've had my day, I must admit. I wasn't blessed with the best ability, but I've enjoyed what I've achieved. I was determined and made myself a player and I'm delighted to have played where I have. I feel I know what the secrets are. You have to know your next pass, its a train of thought and if I can get some of our young players doing that, particularly those in our youth set up, then that is a habit that will stay with them all their lives. "Whilst the players benefit from his own experience, Ollie has had to learn the managerial ropes the hard way. "Every manager has his own style and you can't copy someone else's, you have got to learn to be your own man. When I first became manager, I

is how bad you want to make yourself a player." Though it may be frustrating that he can't delve into the transfer market like many managers, he says he was fully aware of the situation when he first took over, though he recognises that the Bosman ruling has changed things further, particularly for lower division clubs. He has, though, had to step back and look at himself. "I am different person than when I first started. I thought I could be enthusiastic and it would rub off on to others, but I don't think that works. You have to have people who want to do it themselves, who want to listen and learn. I've changed an awful lot, but its important to still be the same fundamental person as you were, if I lose my determination, I may as well pack in. I have to try and do things with disciplined determination and I know that, sometimes, caring too much for this place has brought out the worst side of me. Every booking we have had this year is when my side



entrusting that to Geoff Dunford, and I believe he will get us a ground which will be a magnificent stadium in the Bristol area. The minute we have that, we'll have some standing and clout with the bank and everything will change. I truly think that will happen." A generous and appreciative man, he's had help from so many people. "Everyone at The Beeches, the office staff and those on the playing and scouting side, people like Ray Kendall, Roy Dolling, Rod Wesson, Phil Bater, Phil Kite, Harold Jarman, Brian Hall, Dave Winwood and Richard Everson. They have all been absolutely magnificent and everyone has pulled together." Without the support and help of one person, though, he may not have achieved anything. "I owe everything to my wife, Kim. She has been absolutely magnificent throughout our relationship and without her I would never have been a professional footballer, let alone anything else. She has coped with our wonderful children, which speaks volumes for her. The rest of my family have been so supportive, it is unbelievable, they have been magnificent. My sister Sue, brother John, my Mum and my in-laws, Terry and Wendy. It has been absolutely phenomenal." There's nothing I can tell you about Ian Holloway that you don't already know. Ambitions, determined and fiercely proud of his club, he has definite ideas on how he wants his teams to play and how a football club should be run. A complete revamp of the clubs youth set up last summer has laid the foundations for the future and he intends being around to see his long term plans come to fruition.

PIRATE TAPES

... Ian Holloway

THE STORY SO FAR
Now in his third spell with Rovers, the club he joined as a youngster. Made his debut in April 1981, with a substitute appearance against Wrexham. Joined Wimbledon in July 1985 and later played for Brentford and had a loan spell at Torquay before returning to Rovers. An influential member of the 1990 Third Division Championship side, he moved to QPR in 1991 and made 147 league appearances during his time at Loftus Road. Appointed as Player/Manager of Rovers in May 1996.

early games and I felt we deserved to win an awful lot more. In our first game, against Plymouth, we missed far too many chances and conceded a goal from a sloppy free kick and unfortunately, that's the way the season has gone, but I do strongly believe that we have made some fantastic strides and you can only do things one step at a time." We, the fans, don't always appreciate that a manager needs time to build his own side and that success doesn't come overnight. "Yes, in my first season, I inherited someone else's team and players and I had to get to know what I was doing. To be honest, it was a mess. I wasn't sure and I was doubting myself, but at the end of the day, it all settled down when Phil Bater joined me. "As player/manager, he has to strike the right balance between the two. "I think that's the hardest part, you are trying to split yourself in two. Its more confusing for the lads, as they don't know when I'm Ollie or when I am the gaffer and sometimes it would be much easier if I were just the manager or just a player. I feel I can cope with it as long as I am still enjoying it and as long as I feel I have a merited place in the squad, then I will continue to play. Some newspaper reports have said that I'll play until I'm 40, but I'll play as long as I'm needed. I think the way for me to go is to entrust the playing side to young lads, for me to rub off on them and trust it to them and the minute I feel I have got someone who I can do that with, then I'll start to do it. Its just about experience and if you blood too many youngsters at once, you end up

was very naive and I wanted to play the Gerry Francis system. As a player, I learned from him and every time he spoke. I shut up and listened. His was a very organised way of playing. We played as a unit and we won promotion in a year we lost our two best players. I think its down to people at the end of the day and how I handle the people I have here. If the people here aren't hungry enough, then I will get others who are, I think that's what sums it up, its not how good you are, it

isn't doing it and I feel totally and utterly responsible and I have got to learn to cope with that." His vision of the future is, I'm sure, one we all share. "I want promotion as quickly as possible. I want to be here as long as I am manager. I want to be with Bristol Rovers and have a dream of being the manager when they are in The Premiership and we can do it. I truly believe that. I think if we can get a ground, and I am

"I want promotion as quickly as possible. I want to be here as long as I am a manager. I want to be with Bristol Rovers and have a dream of being the manager when they are in the Premiership and we can do it. I truly believe that."

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES

Bristol Rovers 5 Brighton 0

Has the season ended when we have discovered and started to show our best form? The recent run of results would seem to suggest this. A third clean sheet for Ray Johnston in goal and the team as a whole was as much due to the inexperience and wastefulness of bottom of the table Brighton as it was to our display. This was another game in which our visitors were fielding a youthful and outclassed team.

From a very early stage it seemed entirely feasible that a rout could be on the cards if we played to our full potential. While we were not at our

DEAN PENDRY – Man of the Match in the 5-0 defeat of Brighton



scintillating best we had far too much strength, skill and wherewithal for the Albion lads. In the 10th minute a fine Dean Pendry dribbling run produced a pass to Rob Claridge who showed how effective the shin can be. 1-0. The game degenerated as the half progressed and apart from Rob Claridge who could have had a hat-trick we were too elaborate and too individualistic in our approach work.

After 30 minutes a sharp looking Kevin Coles replaced Mike Adams who was bravely playing in an uncharacteristic front role. Phil Bater had a few patient words to say at the interval and even more words of an encouraging and motivating nature. While the score was 1-0 there was always the chance that a breakaway could produce a turnaround which the visitors did not deserve. Within minutes of the restart the greater urgency in the team produced a justified penalty when Mark Smith was unceremoniously scythed in the penalty area. Eager Kevin Coles took charge and blasted the ball home. 2-0. Shortly afterwards Matt Williamson replaced the injured Mark Smith. Almost immediately after a long Ray Johnston clearance found

Kevin 'HAYLES' Coles who rounded the keeper to tap home for his second and our third.

It was 4-0 when Mike Trought's splendid through ball allowed Dean Pendry to show great skill and deceive the defence and keeper to slide the ball home. Goal number five was a blaster by Dean Pendry which the keeper could only help into his net. Rob Claridge hit the woodwork twice in the closing stages otherwise the rout might have been on the cards. Simon Bryant played competently and maturely before his 60th minute removal after which we saw out the match with just 10 players. Brighton ended the game having won several corners and managed eight shots without really being in the contest.

Simon Bryant, who is only 15 was making his debut at this level and had an excellent game. He passed and tackled well and certainly did not look out of his depth. "He was carrying an injury into the game," said Phil Bater, "but was determined to play. I feel that Simon is an outstanding prospect for the future. I was also please with the contribution made by substitute Matt Williamson, and we are looking forward to working with

him when he joins us as a trainee next season."

TEAM: RAY JOHNSTON, DAVE WATTS, LUKE BASFORD, MARK SMITH, MIKE TROUGHT, DEAN PENDRY, MIKE ADAMS, LUKE WILLIAMS, BOBBY ZAMORA, SIMON BRYANT, ROB CLARIDGE.

SUBS: KEVIN COLES for MIKE ADAMS, MATT WILLIAMSON for MARK SMITH.

SOUTH WEST COUNTIES

Bristol Rovers 3 Bashley 1

Rovers, playing against a strong wind, opened brightly against Bashley, but didn't continue the half in the same vein and found themselves a goal down at the interval, after a rare and uncharacteristic Ali Hines error allowed the visitors to open the scoring.

By contrast, our second half performance was outstanding. David Gilroy opened our account, when he cut in from the edge of the box, played a couple of one-two's and slotted the ball home. Geraint Bater then scored an excellent goal, riding two tackles before thundering a 35 yard drive past the Bashley goalkeeper. "It was a goal his father would have been proud of" said Harold Jarman "and his goalscoring ratio is already better than Phil's who averaged a goal in every 103 appearances for Rovers!"

Inevitably, it was Jazz Bright who completed the scoring, his 20 yard effort gave the keeper no chance of saving.

TEAM: Alister Hines, Mark Pope, Geraint

Bater, Gary Powell, Andrew Shore, John Crowley, Andrew Marfell, James Potts, Hadleigh Winter, Jonathan Derbyshire, Dean Pendry.

SUBS: Jazz Bright for James Potts, David Gilroy for Hadleigh Winter.

**PLAYER IN PROFILE
GUY JONES**

Guy Jones has played regularly for the South East Counties side in recent weeks after making his early appearances in the South West Counties team. He has been associated with Bristol Rovers since 1995 and is single-minded in his target of becoming a professional footballer. A right or central midfielder player Guy is finding the transition from gentlemanly schoolboy football to the physical youth team standard a major step up. To his credit he has responded well to the coaching staff and his team mates and is now a much more competitive player. Creative and skilful players such as Guy find that their opponents derive enormous pleasure from forceful early challenges designed to test the mettle of the truly talented footballer. A good crosser of the ball who passes the ball well over a range of distances Guy is also learning the requirement of a strong engine in midfield. As Guy physically develops in the next season he will find that his increasing strength will limit the options of the type of negative player he often confronts.



An ex-pupil of Lakers School, Guy is a Gloucester born and bred trainee who currently resides in Coleford, near Gloucester. As a youngster he represented Gloucester Youth and the Forest of Dean sides. Apart from his first love of football Guy has that traditional footballer's interest in Golf on his day off. His loyalties outside the club are to the strikers Duncan Ferguson and Alan Shearer. Everton and England are his favourite teams. If he is not one of the fortunate few to make the transition to the ranks of full time professional Guy has ambitions of becoming a chef. With good fortune and determination we hope that Guy may be able to combine his artistry with the bone crunching technique of his arch opponents to become a terroriser of opposing defences. If he can also continue to be the scorer of important late goals his contributions will prove to be a priceless asset to any successful team.

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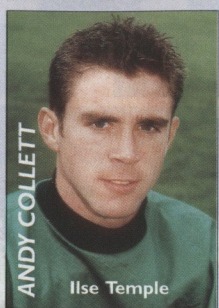
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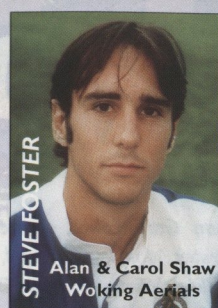
ANDY COLLETT

Ilse Temple



BARRY HAWLEY

Internet Gas



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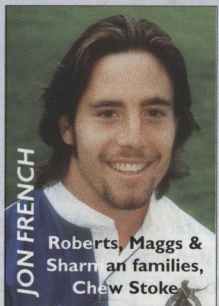
ANDY TILLSON

Hays Montrose



IAN HOLLOWAY

Bristol Rovers
Young Pirates



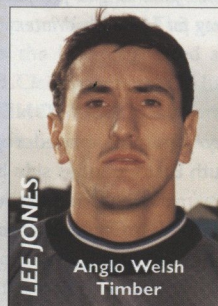
JON FRENCH

Roberts, Maggs &
Sharnan families,
Chew Stoke



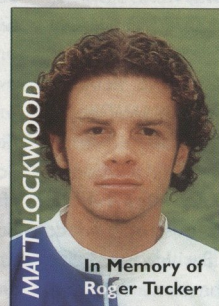
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In Memory of
Bill Blackmore



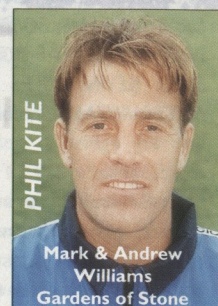
LEE JONES

Anglo Welsh
Timber



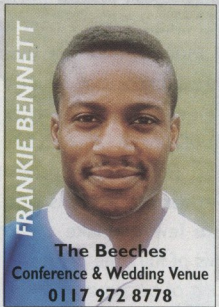
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Stan & The Boys,
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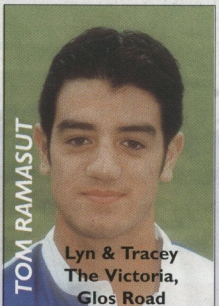
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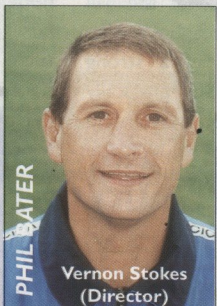
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Michael Paul
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TOM RAMASUT

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PHIL BATER

Vernon Stokes
(Director)



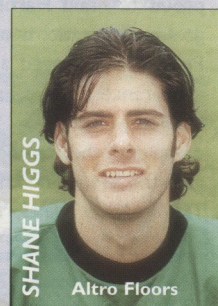
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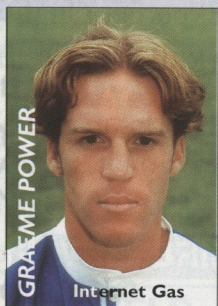
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London CALLING

LUTON haven't had their best season ever - and that's probably an understatement. One of the pre-season promotion favourites, their season has been erratic, often toying with relegation and at times looking certain for the drop. However, with the end of the season approaching Luton now look pretty safe candidates for staying in the Second Division.

For Luton fans the misery felt by some of their own team's performances has been compounded by neighbours and bitter rivals Watford's success and Gasheads can definitely sympathise with Luton on that count! It wasn't surprising then, that when Rovers travelled to Kenilworth Road back in December, there was quite a bit of joint commiserating going on between the fans before the game, and no doubt this was compounded by the fact that it followed Rovers lowest point of the season - the quadruple sending off at Wigan and the 4-0 home defeat by Grimsby. Fortunately for Rovers, the Luton game was also the turning point in our season and a four-two win marked the start of Rovers excellent run over the Christmas period.

It has to be said though, that whatever the result of the game we've always found ourselves made exceptionally welcome in The Bricklayers Arms when we've visited Luton. In fact, these days it's like visiting old friends and we always try and make a trip there when in the area even on non-football days! The landlady of The Bricklayers is an ardent Hatter, but that certainly doesn't stop her remembering you season after season or being friendly to fans of other clubs - so much so that at The Second of May we regularly name it our favourite away pub of the season. There is some competition for the accolade and on our travels this season there are a few pubs which have got worthy runners up awards. The Griffin at Brentford is a perennial favourite for Gasheads. It is always packed to the rafters and echoing with Goodnight Irene when we play at Griffin Park and the only problems is that it needs to grow to get everyone in! Mind you, there was a bit of contrast when we visited The Griffin a couple of weeks back when, having a free Saturday after the Southend game, we took a trip to see Oldham play Brentford. Arriving at The Griffin just over an hour before kick-off we expected the place to be heaving with Oldham fans. It was a bit of a surprise then, when we walked in to see about five people in the pub, two of whom were sitting there reading the Sun TV guide! We did wonder if the game had been

called off but in the end we realised that it was so long since Oldham had visited Griffin Park that they were still drinking at the opposite corner of the ground, near the old away end!

The Cricketers in Gillingham is another favourite pub for Rovers fans. It never reaches Griffin standards, and probably has far too many home fans to become completely taken over in the same way! Even so it' become a meeting place for Gasheads over the past few years and the atmosphere is always pretty friendly even if they don't remember you in the same way as The Bricklayers does.

In Southend, The Railway was another reasonably friendly hostelry with a lot of food on offer. Again it was probably more of a home fans pub but there were a few Gasheads there too when we visited. After the game at Roots Hall we found a much more Gas-Oriented establishment in the Golden Lion where the singing and dancing



The beers are on me - see you down The Bricklayers Arms

went on long after the match.

Many Gasheads will remember the White Horse in Wycombe with affection, though I doubt if it's the beer they're talking about and it's not a place that gets any votes from me! However, Wycombe being out of town and literally at the end of the road doesn't really have any pubs near the ground so the White Horse and the Bird in Hand next door are amongst the few places you'll find groups of Rovers fans. Northampton is pretty much the same, with all the 'pubs' near the ground having fairly tacky themes and a pretty negative attitude towards away fans.

Speaking of less than friendly pubs, the Turf in Wrexham seems to have

developed a door policy that allows it to let in only selected away fans since it's refurbishment. Once inside there are no problems whatsoever but getting in is a far cry from years gone by when everyone used to congregate in the Turf and enjoy themselves. Despite that, the Turf was no match for the attitude we met in Fulham. Forget selected fans - here Gasheads were barred from every pub, although some of the London crew managed to blag a swift drink in the Pharaoh and Firkin, a pub which has always been perfectly friendly in the past! Instead everyone was herded unceremoniously into the Kings Head which was consequently overflowing with Rovers fans. Getting a drink was nigh on impossible and the frequent visits of local police did nothing to change our view that we were being treated as little more than criminals.

The publicans and police of Fulham could do a lot worse than visiting The Bricklayers or The Griffin when Rovers are playing nearby and unless people enjoying themselves, having a chat to the home fans or singing Irene is a crime then I doubt they find any!

HAZEL POTTER

A FISHY TALE OF AN EASTER RESURRECTION

AND then came the **Grimsby** game! Before then, we were all at sea. Our play-off hopes seemed *crucified*, our season beached after being on the brink of success, our fans *gutted* and in distress that such an entertaining season seemed lost at sea. As Easter approached, nobody seemed to give Rovers a prayer of even having a glimmer of a chance of being in the end of season shake up. True to form as festive or religious events go, our season was well and truly resurrected, leaving plenty of **Easter Egg** all over the face of unwilling doubters. Those five defeats was equivalent of sealing up the tunnel that we were in with a great big rock. The Millwall result looked to have more or less shipwrecked our chances as we let two precious points slip through our fingers like a slippery eel. We needed a miracle to get back in the frame of things by other clubs throwing us a line of hope. But just as some of us were left feeling *gutted* at what was happening across the other side of the river, some heaven sent results concerning other clubs saw us going into the holiday period thinking things like ... maybe ... if ... Call it divine intervention ... call it whatever you want ... but slip ups by other promotion contenders started to gather pace ... more importantly, we were busy re-establishing ourselves as masters of our own destiny ... we were bloody **brilliant** when we battered Wigan! Like fish out of water ... we were all left open mouthed at the scale of this breathtaking demolition ... and at five-nil up with half an hour to go ... goals became like sweets that you craved ... always angling for more and more! Pick of the selection box was the Tom Ramasut corker which first seemed more like to be heading for the tea hut, before

bending back impossibly into the net ... these new **remote control balls** they've introduced at the Memorial Ground makes any prospect of the summer's World Cup goals seem boring! The opposition were left *filleted* when another hat trick was netted by Peter Beadle and Barry Hayles fried them after being the subject of the week before's *red herring*. So we arrive in **Cleethorpes**, bouyed up by this wicked result, but fearful that a defeat would

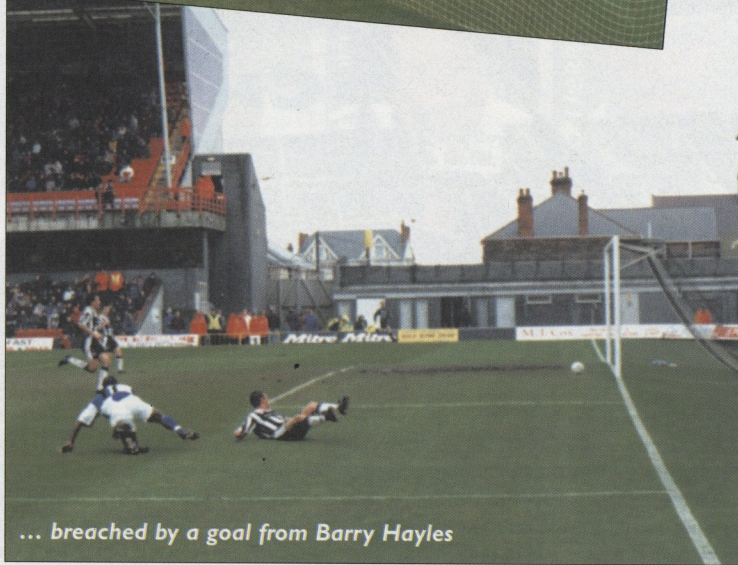
dash our hopes back onto the rocks and render this fishy tale to be forgotten as a load of old cods wallop. We arrived mindful of **Mariners** capabilities and hoped that Captain Auto Pugwash Cup Final at Wembley would serve as a suitable distraction This

school of thought was thrown out of the port hole when Grimsby were given a rather **fishy** looking penalty and when converted left us with a sinking feeling. Faced by the *grim* prospect of becoming cast as also rans, the tide turned in our favour in the snow storm raging around Blundell Park. **Barry Hayles**, one of the best footballers ever seen in a Rovers shirt bagged another two brilliantly conjured up goals to help steer us back towards the

play-off harbour. Outstanding too was Admiral Holloway and his skipper Tillson, who with the rest of the crew left us to sail back home on the **crest of a wave**. So into the last three games starting today, with our play-off fate back in our own hands as we prepare to *trawl in* those all important last few points. We will be watching with *baited* breath and *hooked* on every movement. There is still a little bit more to do yet, a win today is another must ... but as fans we really do appreciate that you players have resurrected our hopes in such a fantastic way.

PAUL SEATON

The fishing nets at Grimsby ...



... breached by a goal from Barry Hayles

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Three of our Cotswold branches are based here in Bristol, at Cumberland Road, Hotwell Road and Kingswood. For further information please telephone 01452 508365. At today's game, Graham Cotswolds are joined by colleagues and customer from the Chiltern area, which includes Luton. This is the first time that Graham have sponsored one of our matches and I hope we can look forward to a long and successful relationship between the company and our football club.

Our matchball sponsors are **Merlin Visual Aids**, who always sponsor at least one game each season. So I am delighted to welcome **Merlin, Janet and their guests**. Joining them are some friends and business associates from Luton Town, and I hope everyone has an enjoyable afternoon.

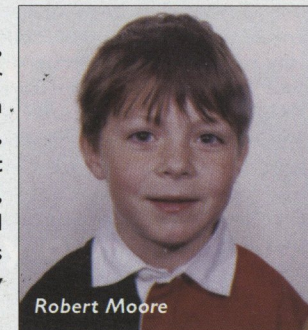


Also taking advantage of our corporate hospitality today are Tony Buss and his friends and colleagues from **DAS Legal**

Expenses Insurance Company Limited. They join us for the first time and I hope to see them back with us again next season.

Since our move back to Bristol. I have been delighted with the response we have received from companies wishing to take advantage of our sponsorship packages for the first time and I hope the trend continues.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to welcome our commercial mascot, seven year old **Robert Moore**, to today's match. **Robert** attends St Stephen's School, Soundwell and plays football for Warmley Rangers. His favourite player is Barry Hayles.



Robert Moore

I hope that all of our guests enjoy their day with us and that we see a great game of football this afternoon.

Graham Bowen

Not surprisingly, Peter Beadle was a popular man after the game against Wigan. Here he is with the afternoons sponsors



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Andrew Baird and Geoff Reece of BSCL



A view from the Touchline ...

MELLOR'S MEN GET TOUGH

Having been critical of David Mellor and some of his colleagues in the media in this column recently I am delighted to be given an opportunity to redress the balance in this issue thanks to the contents of the recently published first report of the Football Task Force of which he is Chairman.

The report, Eliminating Racism from Football contains a number of recommendations designed, commendably, to eliminate totally all forms of racism from football. Included in these recommendations is the suggestion that players and managers contracts contain a clause that allow them to be disciplined and fined if they are found guilty of making any racist remarks or gestures. Additionally they are asking that referees instantly send from the field of play any players demonstrating racist behaviour on the pitch. According to the report football must show 'Zero tolerance of racism in all forms at all levels of the game. Commitment to tackling racism must extend from the game's grass roots'.

Over the next twelve months the Football Task Force will be compiling 6 more reports covering many aspects of the game all with the interests of the supporter in mind. These will cover such issues as facilities for the disabled, supporter involvement in the running of football clubs and the growing commercialism in the game. The last report will hopefully make mention of ticket pricing and merchandising and ensure fans are given a fair deal.

Referring back to the racism issue, the FTF are also concerned about the lack of non-white players in the professional game and cite the example of the Asian community who make up 3.5 per cent of the population but have yet to produce one player playing in top class football. Whilst it is difficult to legislate for this situation any steps that can be taken to encourage any minority group to participate more in football (either by playing or spectating, or even refereeing) has to be encouraged. I am sure that Rovers, like all other clubs would not hesitate to sign an Asian player if he met the high standards required. With the likes of Barry Hayles and Frankie Bennett amongst the most exciting in the current squad, and old favourites like Devon White, Carl Saunders and Dennis Bailey, we are clearly not a racist club.

As far as referees taking appropriate action is concerned they have this power already and would not hesitate to dismiss any player

making abusive remarks to an opponent whether they were racist or not. I would be extremely disappointed to hear of any referee who failed to take action if players on his pitch were being subjected to this sort of treatment.

I am unaware at this stage if there will be any mention from the FTF of the increasing number of violent incidents in the game (the pitch invasions witnessed recently put me in mind of those dark days of the seventies) but our chances of hosting the World Cup in 2006 could be thrown into jeopardy by the actions of a small minority who seem to have very short memories.

I was just as disturbed to read that a World Cup souvenir (a knife with the France 98 logo on the handle no less) had to be withdrawn before going on general sale this summer. Perhaps the person who came up with this marketing gem was the same person who drew up the schedule for the allocation of tickets for the same tournament!

TONY MILLS

Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil!



HELPLINE

What a tremendous achievement by the team over Easter. We had a very "GOOD FRIDAY" and a really "BRILLIANT MONDAY". What must amaze everyone connected with the Rovers is why we can't score the type of goals the other team score. You know the ones that just trickle over the line, or the ones that take seven deflections on the way or the ones that bounce off the referees knee just as he was going to give them a penalty anyway. Seriously, though, the goals on Friday were another example of just how far the team have come this season. Superb strikes and good flowing moves tore the heart out of Wigan, a team who put FIVE past their opponents on Monday. Those opponents incidentally were Burnley who had managed to beat the other lot on "GOOD FRIDAY". So on to "BRILLIANT MONDAY" and Grimsby where even the fish were frozen. To make it a bit fairer we gave the home team a penalty to start them off and after that we showed them which way we were going. Strikes from Barry Hayles left the Mariners all at sea. Now everything is in our own hands as Wrexham and Gillingham are playing each other today so as long as we win we will be in the top six. Well done lads. Make sure your chances of winning are in your own hands by joining Helpline.

**Ring Kate today at the Helpline office
for an application form**

"I don't want

to be a

sporting legend

in my own lifetime.

Just next

Saturday

will do"



NOTICEBOARD

SCORE A GOAL FOR GUIDE DOGS!

Bristol Rovers fans will be given the chance to bid for a signed club shirt later this season when the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association launches its "Put Your Shirt On A Dog" campaign.

Aiming to raise many thousands of pounds, the campaign is the brainchild of two avid football supporters, Tom Watt – alias Lofty from the early days of Eastenders – and Guide Dog Owner Wayne Busbridge. A total of 93 shirts will be up for grabs in what will be the world's largest auction of signed football kit. The shirts have been donated by every one of the country's Premier and Nationwide league clubs as well as the England team. Bidding will be by telephone and phone lines will be open from Saturday April 11th to Sunday July 18th for people to place their bids. Each club will have its own number; Bristol Rovers fans can get their hands on their signed team shirt by calling 0709 1009649. The number for the England shirt is 0709 1009697. These calls are charged at 12½ pence at the weekend, 25 pence in the evening and 37½ pence during the day.

All proceeds from the auction will go to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. It costs over £25,000 to train each Guide Dog and its owner, so every penny helps! Successful bidders will be notified later this summer. So go on, help one of the nation's favourite charities by putting your shirt on a dog!

For more details and a full list of bid line numbers, just call the "Put Your Shirt On A Dog" Information Line on 0930 122822. These calls are charged at 50p per minute



Tom Watt and Wayne Busbridge are waiting for your phone calls!

BRISTOL ROVERS (England Section)

With France 98 fast approaching and a resurgence of interest in the National team, it seems like a good idea to set up **Bristol Rovers (England Section)**.

As you maybe aware at England matches abroad, people can see several sh**head flags and none too many Gasheads. In reality however, it has become apparent whilst following The Gas and England that there are several of you who do follow the National team both at home and abroad.

The initial proposal for the organisation is to help and assist people who want to follow England abroad, giving advice on travel and accommodation and getting people to travel together (if they wish) in order to reduce costs etc.

We also would like to approach the football club directly and seek some monies towards a large Bristol Rovers/England flag, which could be taken to all England's matches away from Wembley.

During the next few weeks, it is hoped that a new web-site will be online, dedicated to **Bristol Rovers (England Section)**, which will give details and advice on France 98 and all future England matches; so if you have internet access, visit the site, the address of which will be given either via existing Rovers sites and/or via The Pirate matchday

TODAY'S COLLECTION

Our collection today is in aid of The Bristol Stroke Foundation, which is celebrating its 21st Birthday this year. Provision is made for fourteen clubs for Stroke Survivors, which meet at venues across Bristol throughout the week. Transport is provided for those who attend these clubs. In addition there are support groups for carers, home visits for the physically disabled, a swimming group, a garden and greenhouse specially adapted for those who are physically disabled and information and training for carers, health care professionals and volunteers.

For more information, please contact us on 0117 964 7657.

Bristol Area Stroke Foundation

Dear Sirs

I am writing on behalf of the Blackpool Independent Supporters Association to invite the Bristol Rovers supporters to join us for a pre-match get together when our teams meet at Bloomfield Road on 25th April.

This is part of our initiative to improve relations between rival supporters with a view to (a) making new friends; (b) combatting football-related violence; and (c) uniting football supporters as a whole.

As I am not aware of any supporters club to write to directly, I am hoping you will assist us in our quest to unite fans in this way. An open invitation in your match programme would be greatly appreciated. And if the club coaches were to arrive a little earlier, we would welcome visitors in our pre-match venue from 1pm, which is the No. 1 Club, directly next to the ground on Bloomfield Road.

Also, if anyone wishes to spend the weekend in Blackpool, we will gladly show them the sights of the town on Saturday night.

I am contactable after 6pm on 01253 867069 if you would like any further information.

I hope to hear from soon with your views on the above and look forward to meeting your supporters on the 25th.

Yours faithfully

Jane Carwright, Columnist/National Liaison
Blackpool Independent Supporters Association

magazine.

If anyone has any ideas on a name for the new group, please let us know, the best idea will be in line for a surprise!

It is hoped that there will be a newsletter at least once a quarter and maybe once a month depending on numbers. It is likely that a membership fee will be charged of £2.00 to cover postage and membership cards. At this stage, we would strongly recommend that anyone wishing to travel to watch England should join the England Members Club, as it is easier/cheaper to obtain match tickets than purchasing privately. With France 98 however, due to the lack of tickets available this will not necessarily be the case, however, tickets are widely available ranging from £200-£2000. There are cheaper options and this will be discussed nearer the event.

In order for this to work, we need you to respond and let us know whether you would like to join and state what you would like to see from the organisation. So you can either drop me a line c/o The Second of May (please state England Section on Envelope) including a SAE or you can e-mail me at the following address: Hanif.rahaman@which.net

Hanif Rahaman (BE PROUD, BE GAS)

Coming Up

ROVERS RESERVES v Bristol City Reserves

SOUTH WEST TROPHY FINAL FIRST LEG
at THE MEMORIAL GROUND
Tuesday April 21st
KO 7.30pm

versus **BLACKPOOL**
at BLOOMFIELD ROAD
Saturday April 25th
KO 3.00pm

versus **BRENTFORD**
at THE MEMORIAL GROUND
Saturday, May 2nd
KO 3.00pm

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd May 1998
Supporters Club Presentation
Dance

CCTV

THIS GROUND IS EQUIPPED
WITH CCTV INSTALLED
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0117 977 2000

Pirate Leisure:
Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm
Sat Home Games 10am-5.30pm
0117 924 7474

Supporters Club:
Mon.-Fri 9am-5pm & 7.30-8.30pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
0117 961 1772

NOTICEBOARD

It's pay on the day for Rovers fans at Blackpool and terrace prices are as follows:

ADULTS: £9
JUV/65+: £6.50
Matchday Programme £1.70

ClubCall

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Our comprehensive news and information service is now up and running. For daily updates and player interviews call **PIRATES CLUBCALL** on

0891 12 11 31

CALLS WILL COST 50p PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES



BRISTOL HOSPITAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

The service broadcasts live commentaries on Rovers games to 17 hospitals throughout the region and would like to thank the following sponsors:

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Bristol Rovers Supporters Club
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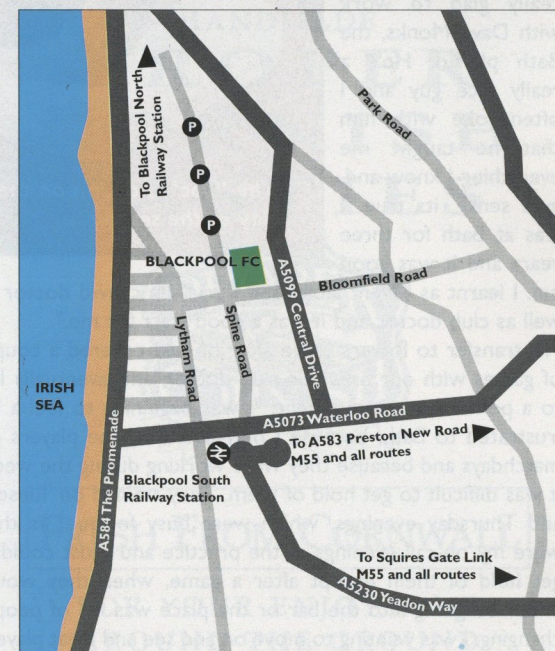
HOW TO GET TO BLACKPOOL

The Supporters Club are running coaches to Blackpool, leaving Horfield and Kingswood at 8.00am and Eastville at 8.15am. **Coach fare £11.50.**

By car: From all directions: Exit M6 at Junction 32 (s/p M55 Blackpool, Fleetwood, Preston North). Go straight on for 13.1 miles, picking up signs to Main Parking Areas. At the first roundabout (the one with the strange sculpture) go straight on (s/p Blackpool Main Car and Coach Parks) into Yeadon Way. At roundabout after 1.9 miles

go straight on (s/p All Other Parking Areas). From here follow signs to the Lonsdale Parking – this leads supporters to the main car parks along Spine Road by the ground

Taken from The Football Fans Guide by Janet Williams and Mark Johnson, published by Collins Willow, price £9.99



In Conversation With ... Andy Langton

BECOMING clubs doctor, firstly with Bath City and now with Rovers, meant that Andy Langton had to sacrifice his own playing career. He had attended a school where rugby was the main sport and played Eastern Counties rugby before turning his attention to football. "It's funny, really because although I played rugby and I know what's going on, I much prefer the 'crack' of football and it's much more exciting. Trouble is, I don't understand it!" A friend who played football persuaded him to turn out for his side. "I played a bit, but struggled to get into a very bad Saturday morning side, which shows just how bad a player I am. When I joined Bath City as club doctor, part of the deal, with my wife Helen, was that I stopped playing." The experience gained at Bath was a good opportunity to learn the ropes. "They were looking for someone to cover their matches, because they had just been promoted back to The Conference. It was great, because I was right on the bottom rung of the ladder and there was very little exposure, so I could learn from my mistakes without anyone noticing! I was really glad to work with Dave Monks, the Bath physio. He's a really nice guy and I often joke with him that he taught me everything I know and, in a sense, it's true. I was at Bath for three years and it was good fun. I learnt as I went along and I was the crowd doctor as well as club doctor and it was a good start for me."



The 'Doc' in action on the opening day of the season ...

His transfer to Rovers came after he had covered a couple of games with our previous club doctor, and eventually led to a permanent appointment. "I was beginning to feel a bit frustrated to Bath, because I only ever saw the players on matchdays and because they were working during the week, it was difficult to get hold of them. They trained on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, which were busy for me, as they were my on-call evenings at the practice and I just couldn't get hold of them except after a game, when they would either be going into the bar or the place was full of people changing. I was wanting to move on and see and treat players straight away, and have more of a captive audience. When I talked to people at Rovers I said that I wanted to hold a regular clinic, to see players in surgery, not in the dressing room, and they took me on and I've enjoyed it ever since, really. It's an interesting situation here, because under The Taylor Report, if you have crowds of over 5,000, you are

meant to have a doctor dedicated to the crowd and so I fulfil a dual role in that I am the crowd doctor and the club doctor."

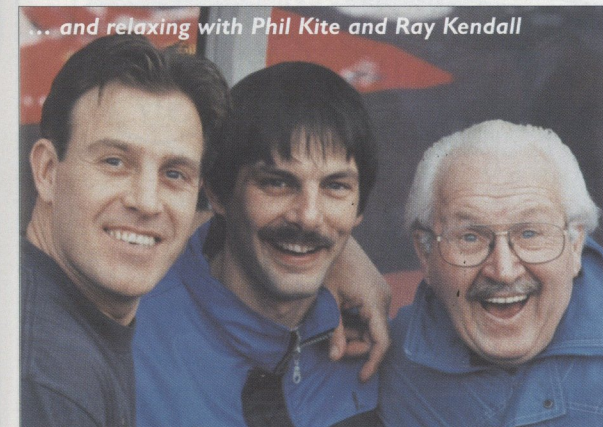
As a general practitioner, his additional commitment to Rovers means he has to work in harmony with others in his practice. "I moved from a big surgery in Nailsea to a smaller surgery in Horfield about the same time that Rovers moved to The Memorial Ground, which was great, because I suddenly moved from having to travel from Nailsea to Keynsham, or Bath, at breakneck speed to being able to finish my surgery and be at the ground within five minutes. I'm full time, though I'm looking to reduce my hours at the practice because of doing other sports medicine things as well. My partner at Horfield is really understanding and he does other things outside the practice as well, so we are able to cover for each other." During the week, Andy calls in at The Beeches every Tuesday morning to see players and

review on going injuries with physio Phil Kite. Outside of that, he and Phil talk regularly on the telephone and injured players quite often visit his surgery, especially if stitches are required, as treatment is much quicker, obviously, then if they had to wait for 2 or 3 hours in the casualty department of a local hospital. He's also on duty for all first team and reserve fixtures. "I have to be at the ground an hour before kick off and I'll check that the first aid people and paramedics are alright, go to the dressing room to check that Phil is happy with everything and call in on the referee to make sure he can see! Seriously, I have got to know a number of the refs and have treated one or two for calf strains, and I wouldn't take the micky out of them. On the few occasions I can't make a match and someone covers for me, then those are the times I realise how much I have grown used to the pressures. When a player is injured, you have the manager wanting to know when he can come back on and you have to make a decision. You have the physio having a go at you and the press and the fans want to know what's going on and you only realise what experience you've got in dealing with that kind of situation when someone else doesn't deal with it quite so well." You also have to know your players. Sometimes, when they appear to fall badly and don't get up quickly, it's only because they need to catch their breath. There may be other things troubling them, apart from injury, such as an impending transfer, or a family problem and,

naturally, The Doc has to deal with a mountain of paperwork. "Yes, there's the sickness benefit for the club, BUPA paperwork for the players and your own paperwork, which has to be really clear, I can't just say that a player's left calf looks a bit knackered, I have, for insurance purposes, to record when the injury was sustained, how it happened, etc. I keep routing injury data on all of the players."

An Ipswich supporter at heart, though he claims to have supported Rovers in this seasons FA Cup ties between the clubs. "I was sad when Ipswich won," his three children, James, Joanna and Sam often accompany him to matches and even his wife Helen has been dragged along occasionally. "It's lovely to come as a family and I'm really grateful to the club for giving me the opportunity to take them."

I'm not sure where he gets the time to do anything else, but he's a keen runner, musician and is very involved with his local church. "I'm running in the London Marathon this year, to raise funds for the Wellspring Counselling Organisation in Nailsea. I've wanted to run in it for a long time, and to have The Mall shut just for me, and a few thousand others, seems a great idea! My wife and I are active church goers, I have been a Christian since I was a teenager and I was brought up in a Christian family. My other passion is music and I do a lot in our church service. I get very carried away, playing guitar and leading worship and my faith means a lot to me." He's also ambitious, and looks forward to the time he can divide his time equally between general practice and sport and, perhaps, become a doctor working with the Football Association. However, if he ever becomes the England team doctor, he might just have to improve his taste in cars! "My Citroen 2CV, which has been known to carry up to 18 bales of straw to a carnival, was nicknamed 'the snail' by Phil Kite. However, that burnt out recently and I now have a Daihatsu Mood and have already managed to cram a whole P.A. system and half a band into that. I get a lot of micky taking because I go for cheap cars, but there's something in me that likes to have something different." The current Langton Car is known by everyone at the club as The Postman Patmobile - England beware!



IN OFF THE POST

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BRISTOL BOXERCISES

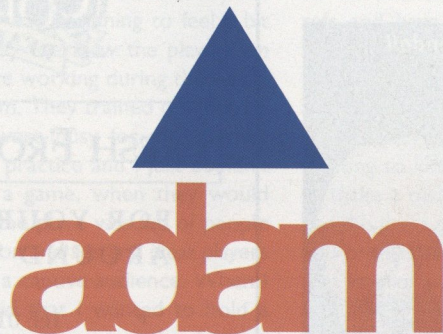
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YOUNG PIRATES



Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Tom Keeley, Mark Carly and Claire Tucker, who all celebrate their 15th birthdays today and to all Young Pirates who have birthdays between now and our game against Brentford on 2nd May.



Rachel Simmons, our mascot for the Wigan game, pictured with Lee Jones and Commercial mascots Mark and Scott Beban

Today is your last chance to vote for your Player of the Year. The votes already cast seem to indicate that two players have a chance of winning the award. Voting slips will be available in the Young Pirates room before and after today's match. There will be a presentation, on the pitch, to the winner before our last home league game, against Brentford on 2nd May.

Last Wednesday we held our Annual Meet the Players Day at The Beeches. These notes have been written prior to that event but I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the day and would like to thank Ian Holloway and his staff for giving up their time for us. We hope that some of you will write in and tell us how you think the day went.

After 2 wins and 7 goals we are back in with a great chance of making the play-offs. Your support for the team has been magnificent this season and we now need to really get behind them in our next three games, two of which are at home. Let's make sure the players enjoy your tremendous vocal support this afternoon. Having made the play-offs last season, our visitors today have not done so well this season and are currently just above a relegation place, so they will be looking for 3 points themselves. They will also be looking to avenge the home defeat we inflicted on them just before Christmas. Luton are a good footballing side, so we can expect a very entertaining game this afternoon. We would like to welcome everyone connected with Luton Town Football Club here today and wish them a safe journey home.

QUESTION TIME

Today's questions are:

1. Who beat Luton in last seasons play-off Semi Final?
2. Luton's Manager in their first division days is now with a Premiership club - name the Manager and the Club?

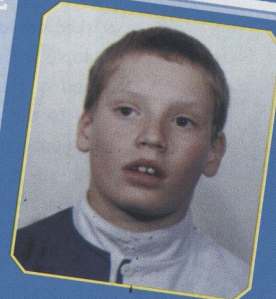
ANSWERS

Page

42 & 43

YOUNG PIRATE

14 year old Terry Rogers lives at Hartcliffe and attends Withywood School, where his favourite subjects are PE, history, maths and english. His hobbies are football, keeping fit and dancing and his favourite players include Andy Tillson and Peter Beadle plus the rest of the team.



MASCOT

Membership No.
Signature

We were unable to play football against The Junior Hatters today, as the room at the Sports Centre was not available and we were unable to arrange an alternative venue. We hope to play a Brentford junior team on the 2nd May so look in next Saturday's Green Un for full details.

Quiz

It seems that you all enjoy our cryptic quizzes, judging by the response we have had to those compiled by Tony Mills. Today we bring you another challenge, prepared for us by Graham Weeks. Up for grabs are two tickets for a home game next season. Entries should be sent to The Beeches by Tuesday 28th April. All clues lead you to the names of Football League Clubs.

Listed below are cryptic clues for twenty clubs from the Football League ... but can you identify who they are?

1. Silent pastime in the library?
2. A biscuit for the former President?
3. The cook is in the green place every Wednesday?
4. Mind the gap on the motorway?
5. Red cheese for the ex-jockey?
6. A "fair" old team play at the seaside?
7. A green area that's not for women?
8. Internal organ is placed in water?
9. Have this lot moved to Epsom?
10. The University professor needs some sugar?
11. This court is no longer in the South?
12. The amateur radio enthusiast creates havoc?
13. The ship's personnel?
14. Cross the water for a "D" cup?
15. The Windsors have moved home?
16. Fairytale brothers on standby?
17. Get sent here and nobody will speak to you?
18. Very dark water?
19. Not a club for the unattached?
20. Drop the "H" on which leg joints?

Compiled by Graham Weeks

PIRATES PROGRAMMES BRSC, 199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, BRISTOL BS15 1AZ

Welcome to the programme collectors from Kenilworth Road. The programmes in stock at the club shop are listed below. Regular visitors to Eastville, Luton exceed the total number of visits to Twerton today by Visiting the Memorial Ground for the third time. These visits include last season's league meeting, the programme from which is especially sought-after after selling out (Min. bid £3).

ROVERS(H) v LUTON TOWN 96/7*M, 96/7LC £1.20, 94/5(FAC)*M, 93/4 £1.50, 92/3 £1 80/1 70p, 79/80*VG, 78/9 60p, 77/8*VG, 76/7 80p, 75/6 90p, 69/70*VG, 68/9*VG, 66/7(FAC)*VG, 64/5*G, 63/4*G, 54/5*Pht

LUTON TOWN v ROVERS(A) 96/7 £1.50, 85/6(FAC) 80p, 80/1 70p 79/80*VG, 78/9*VG, 75/6*G, 74/5(LC)*G, 69/70*VG

OTHER LUTON TOWN HOMES 64/5vOldham*VG, 70/1 vBlackburn*G, vMillwall*G, vPortsmouth*G, 71/2 vBirmingham*VG, vCardiff*VG, vLorient*VG, 73/4 vPortsmouth*Gfd,



Presidents CLUB

With the season bubbling up to what we hope will be a very happy conclusion, two good wins against Wigan and Grimsby give us a very realistic chance to secure a play-off place. This could give us the opportunity of a third visit to Wembley and, who knows, the opportunity to play Bristol City again next season!

We welcome our visitors, Luton Town and hope they enjoy their visit to The Memorial Ground and have a safe journey home.

With next season fast approaching, it is very important for the Presidents Club to prepare for a second year in our splendid club room. To supporters who are not members, the advantages of joining us are outlined below:- Presidents club members will enjoy:-

- Car park pass
- Match day programme
- Comfortable club room
- Well stocked bar
- Pre-match hot and cold meals
- Centenary Stand seat
- Half time refreshments
- Arrangements for away visits.

In addition you will have the opportunity to invite friends to The Memorial Ground and participate in our two major social functions, namely our Annual Dinner Dance and The Player of the Year Awards. For full details please contact Kevin Spencer on 0117 9691356. I hope you all enjoy today's game.

JOHN GOODCHILD

74/5 vCarlisle*F, vWolves*G, 75/6 vOldham*G, vPortsmouth*F
Key: M=Mint, VG=Very Good, G=Good, F=Fair, P=Poor, woc=Writing on Cover, t=tear, h=hole, fd=folded

How to order/bid for programmes 1. Programmes priced are mint copies and I have at least five in stock. Send remittance (payable to BRSC) and a stamped addressed envelope to the above address 2. Programmes *asterisked are often available only as single copies but multiple when two conditions listed. Please send bid and a stamped addressed envelope but no money to the above address. If you are willing to accept a programme of lesser condition please state with any reduction in offer. All bids with SAEs will be answered after 4 weeks and the lucky collectors will then have the programme reserved for them for 4 further weeks. If the prog. does not match description return for full refund. Please note that most auction items have a reserve price, although this is often as little as £1.

PHIL DRAPER

Football IN THE COMMUNITY



HOLIDAY CLUB PONTIN'S BRISTOL ROVERS SUPPORTERS WEEKEND FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Why not come and enjoy a great weekend at Pontins with Football coaching provided by the experts at Bristol Rovers Football Club. There's a special residential 4 Day weekend at Brean Sands Holiday Centre near Weston-s-Mare from Friday, 5th June to Monday, 8th June, 1998. During the weekend there's soccer coaching for the youngsters run by F.A. Qualified Staff. When not being coached let Pontins provide you with great entertainment, children's club, sports and leisure facilities and much more besides. Brean Sands Holiday Centre has recently undergone a multi-million pound programme of refurbishment and investment - so Pontins can provide a better holiday experience than ever before.

The exclusive weekend brought to you courtesy of Bristol Rovers F.C. is available at the following prices:

CC1: 1 bedroom top of the range Club Class apartment for 4 person- £135 N.B. If room fully occupied prices from as little as £33.75 p.p

CC2: 2 bedroom Club Class apartment for 6 persons - £170.N.B. If room fully occupied prices from as little as £28.33 p.p.

K1: 1 bedroom Classic apartment for 4 persons - £120.N.B. If room fully occupied prices from as little as £30.00 p.p.

K2.2 bedroom Classic apartment for 6 persons - £150.N.B. If room fully occupied prices from as little as £25.00 p.p. P1: 1 bedroom Popular apartment for 4 persons - £105. N.B. If room fully occupied prices from as little as £26.25 p.p.

P2: 2 bedroom Popular apartment for 6 persons - £130. If room fully occupied prices from as little as £21.66 p.p.

N.B. One bedroom apartments sleeping 5 and two bedroom accommodation sleeping 7 is available subject to availability at a small supplement of £10.00.

Bed linen is not included in Popular grade of accommodation. However it can be hired at time of booking or on arrival for only £10.00 per apartment.

All other terms and conditions as per the 1998 Pontins Holiday brochure.

Book your Soccer Coaching Weekend now and you have the opportunity to win the weekend free of charge by returning the attached form to Alan Walsh at the address shown on the booking form.

Call now on 0990 - 331199 quoting reference BRFC and come and join in the fun.

Don't miss out - book now.



EASTER SOCCER FUN DAYS

Apart from next Tuesday and Wednesday, 21st and 22nd April, when we are at Chepstow Leisure Centre and Caldicot Leisure Centre, we have now completed our programme of Easter Soccer Fun Days. We have had some great times during those two weeks, and would like to thank all of you who came along to take part and to the players who turned up to present the prizes and certificates.

SATURDAY TEAM CLUB

Today we welcome Kevin Gaskin and his Melksham Park Junior Football Club to our game against Luton. We hope they enjoyed their training session with us this morning, as well as their trip to Pirate Leisure and tour of the ground. Hopefully, they will be watching a Rovers win this afternoon, to make their day complete.

PENALTY SHOOT OUT

Today sees the final of our penalty shoot out competition, which will be held prior to kick off. There are seven boys and seven girls taking part, and they represent the following schools. St. Pius (Withywood), Minchinhampton (Stroud), Lympsham (Somerset), Attworth (Somerset), Moorlands (Bath), West Town Lane (Brislington), Christchurch (Clifton). The winners will be presented with their prizes at half-time.

SMOBY MONNERET TABLE FOOTBALL

Today's photo appears courtesy of the Evening Post and shows Haydn Crockford with Alan Walsh and Francis Watson getting ready for a table football match during the regional finals. Haydn went on to reach the final, where he lost 10-8 to the Southampton representative.



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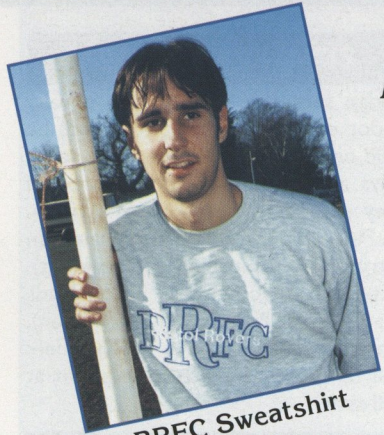
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Why not pop into Pirate Leisure to check out our new Spring Collection, some of which is illustrated here



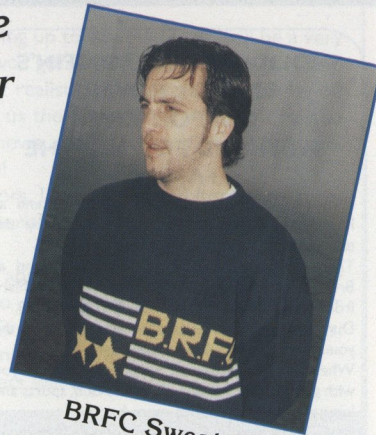
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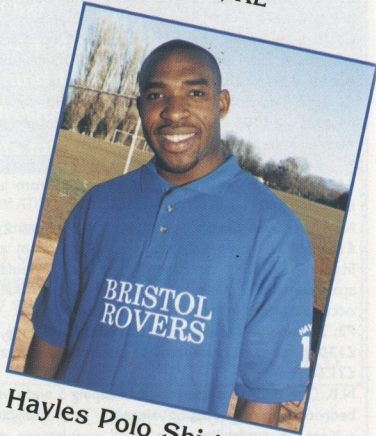
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MICHELLE THORNE

This afternoon we welcome Michelle Thorne back to The Memorial Ground. This will be the third visit that this talented vocalist has made to us this season.

Our thanks to Paul Hobbs for arranging Michelle's return visit



Division Two ROUND UP



BRISTOL CITY - With promotion already assured, City went down to a single goal defeat at Burnley and had to rely on a Rob Edwards goal in a 1-1 draw with Watford, to keep them in pole position.

WATFORD - The team, and Jason Lee in particular, enjoyed a good Easter. Lee scored the only goal of the game against Wrexham and was on target again at Ashton Gate last Monday.

FULHAM - Paul Trollope scored a late equaliser in the 1-1 home draw with Walsall and Paul Moody's double strike gave them a 2-0 win at Brentford. Paul Peschisolido's first goal in his hat trick against Carlisle, was Fulham's 5000th league goal. Moody and Tony Thorpe also scored in this game giving Fulham a 5-0 win.

GRIMSBY - A 1-0 home defeat by Luton was followed by a 1-1 draw at Wycombe, where Jack Lester scored in the last minute. Kevin Donovan's penalty gave them the lead against Rovers on Monday but Rovers hit back to win 2-1.

WREXHAM - Following the single goal defeat at Watford, suffered a 2-1 home defeat by York on Monday after having taken the lead through Mark Wilson.

GILLINGHAM - Moved back into a play-off spot following a 2-1 win over Luton, thanks to a double strike by Adi Akinbiyi, and a 0-0 draw at Southend.

BRISTOL ROVERS - A hat trick from Peter Beadle and further goals from Tom Ramasut and Barry Hayles give Rovers a 5-0 win over Wigan, their biggest winning margin since beating the same opponents 6-1 in March 1990. Hayles added two more to his season's total in our 2-1 win at Grimsby, only our third victory in 15 visits to Blundell Park.

NORTHAMPTON - After 10 years and almost 300 league appearances, Ian Clarkson scores his first league goal, though this does not prevent defeat at Chesterfield. In Monday's 2-2 home draw with Preston, Ian Sampson and David Seal were on target.

CHESTERFIELD - Keep their play-off hopes alive after coming back from a goal down to beat Northampton 2-1 thanks

to goals from Ian Breckin and Mark Williams.

BLACKPOOL - Record only one victory in 3 games against relegation candidates. Phil Clarkson and Junior Bent scored in the 2-1 win at Burnley, which preceded a 3-1 defeat at Plymouth in which they conceded their 5500th league goal, and 2-1 home defeat by Brentford.

BOURNEMOUTH - Suffered a single goal defeat at Wigan but bounced back to beat York by 1 goal to nil thanks to a Jon O'Neill goal.

WYCOMBE - After sharing the points in a 1-1 home draw with Grimsby, a Mark Stallard goal gave them victory on their visit to Oldham.

WIGAN - David Lee's goal ensured victory over Bournemouth prior to their 5-0 defeat here at The Memorial Ground. Bounced back to score 5 goals themselves on Monday against Burnley, a game in which David Lowe scored twice.

PRESTON - Gary Parkinson's goal ensured a home win over Southend though they had to rely on a last minute strike from Jonathan Macken for a point in the 2-2 draw at Northampton. This was the first ever league draw between these two sides at The County Ground or Sixfields.

YORK - Following their defeat by Bournemouth, travelled to Wrexham on Monday and recorded a 2-1 win thanks to goals from Neil Thompson and Richard Cresswell. Neil Tolson was sent off in York's seventh victory in 45 visits to the Racecourse Ground.

OLDHAM - Went down 3-1 at Carlisle, where Doug Hodgson was on target prior to their 1-0 defeat by Wycombe.

MILLWALL - Lost 2-0 at Walsall and were held to a 1-1 home draw with Plymouth, after taking the lead through Danny Hockton.

WALSALL - Roger Boli gave them the lead at Fulham, but they conceded a late goal and had to make do with a point. Didier Tholot's first minute goal in the 2-0 home win over Millwall, was the club's 4900th league goal.

LUTON - Rory Allen scored the only goal in the 1-0 win at Grimsby, their first

at Blundell Park since April 1951, and was again on target in the 2-1 defeat at Gillingham where they had Darren Patterson sent off.

PLYMOUTH - Staged a remarkable come back against Blackpool last Saturday when, after having Jason Rowbotham sent off, they scored 3 second half goals to gain a 3-1 victory. Followed this up by gaining a useful point in the 1-1 draw with Millwall, their 800th league draw.

BRENTFORD - Compensated for their home defeat by Fulham by registering a 2-1 success at Blackpool, thanks to goals from Carl Hutchings and Warren Aspinall.

BURNLEY - A 1-0 home win over Bristol City was sandwiched between a 2-1 defeat by Blackpool and a 5-1 drubbing at Wigan, which leaves them stranded in the bottom four.

CARLISLE - The 3-1 home win over Oldham raised hopes of avoiding relegation, but the 5-0 defeat at Fulham may well have sealed their fate.

SOUTHEND - Relegation is almost certain following the 1-0 defeat at Preston and the 0-0 home draw with Gillingham.

THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

- BRENTFORD V WIGAN
- BRISTOL ROVERS V LUTON
- BURNLEY V FULHAM
- CHESTERFIELD V BRISTOL CITY
- GILLINGHAM V WREXHAM
- PLYMOUTH V NORTHAMPTON
- PRESTON V BLACKPOOL
- WALSALL V OLDHAM
- WYCOMBE V MILLWALL
- YORK V SOUTHEND

Fulham have only drawn on three of their 22 visits to Burnley. Their last victory at Turf Moor came in April 1951. Blackpool will be looking for their first win against Preston since November 1973. Tomorrow sees Bournemouth and Grimsby make their Wembley bow in the Final of the Auto Windscreens Shield.

see every goal

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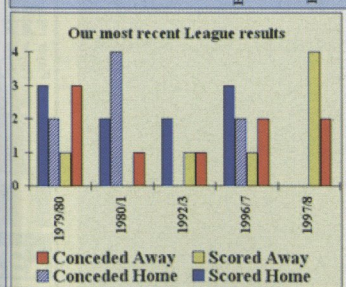
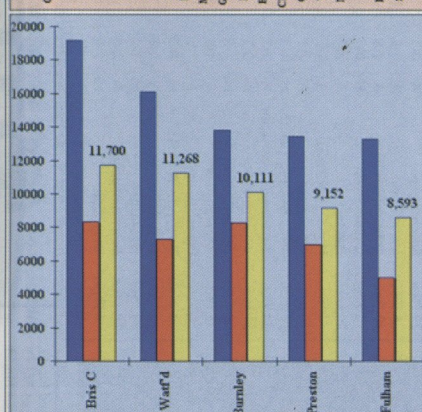
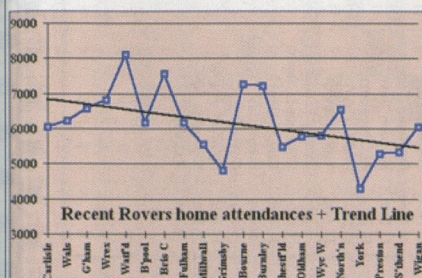
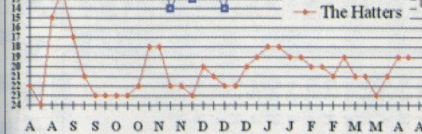
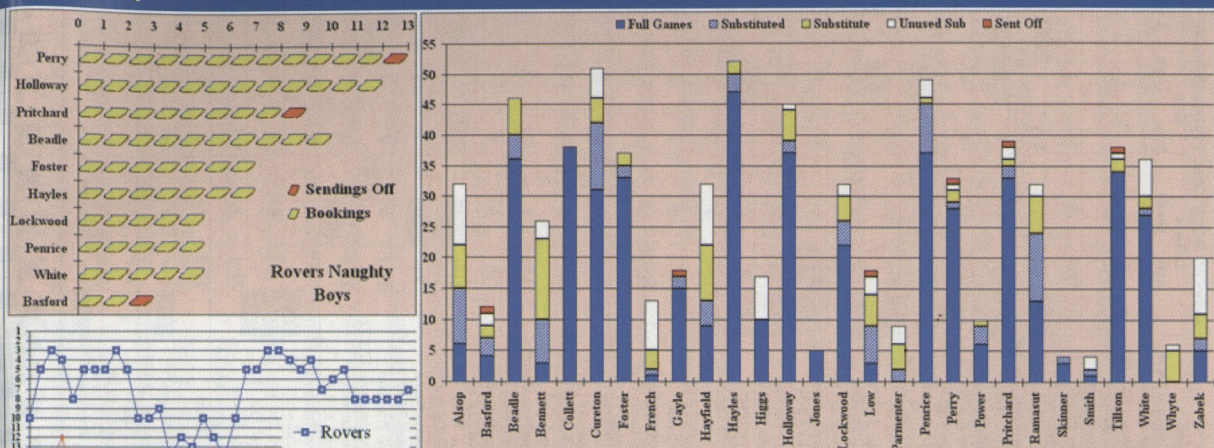
We'll be on air just after midnight on Mondays and repeated later in the week in many regions. The programme is introduced by Gabriel Clarke and includes interviews, competitions, the latest news and talking points, and all the goals scored at the weekend from the Nationwide Football League.

CHECK YOUR TV LISTINGS FOR DETAILS AND SET YOUR VIDEO



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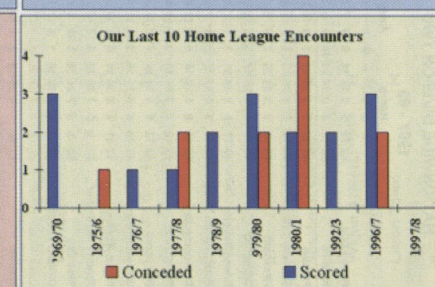
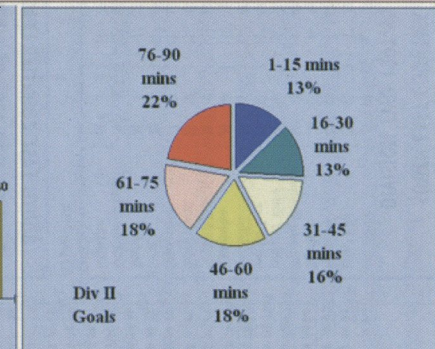
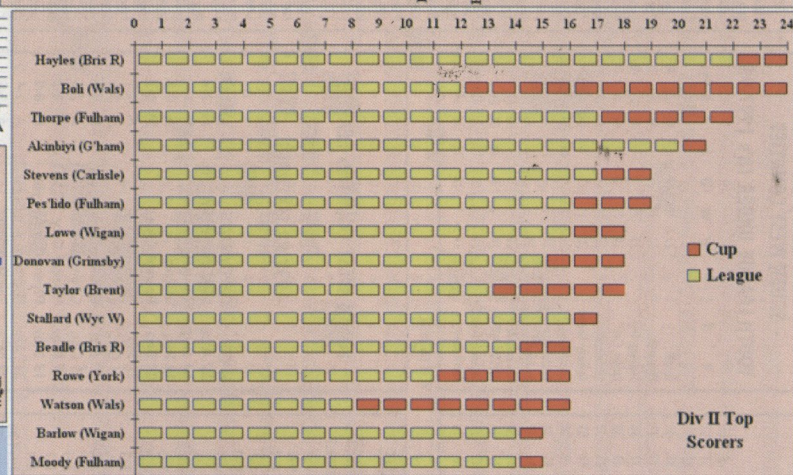
Spencer's STATSTATSTATS



Rovers have had 67 league encounters with The Hatters

	W	D	L	F	A	% Success
H	15	11	7	64	39	68.18
A	4	8	22	34	85	15.38

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 Biggest Home Defeat 2 4 1980/1
 Biggest Away Win..... 4 2 1997/8
 Biggest Away Defeat 0 12 1935/6



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NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO
1997 - 98

Home	Away	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City	43 15 5	2 30 16	9 5	7 27 19	82			
Watford	43 12 6	3 24 21	9 9	3 29 18	81			
Fulham	43 12 7	3 30 12	8 3	10 28 26	70			
Grimsby Town	43 11 7	4 30 12	7 7	24 23 88				
Wrexham	43 10 9	3 31 23	7 5	9 20 26 85				
Gillingham	43 13 5	3 29 17	5 8	11 21 29 65				
Northampton	43 11 2	8 39 31	7 8	7 27 20 64				
Bristol Rovers	43 13 5	4 32 17	3 11	7 16 19 64				
Northampton Town	43 10 8	4 26 14	6 4	11 26 34 80				
Bournemouth	43 12 6	3 29 18	3 9	10 13 24 80				
Chesterfield	43 12 6	4 24 24	4 3	14 20 39 57				
Blackpool	42 8 9	4 30 21	3 3	15 17 37 45				
Wycombe Wanderers	42 11 4	6 30 31	4 5	12 21 35 54				
Wigan Athletic	43 9 5	7 24 22	5 7	10 27 30 54				
Preston North End	43 9 5	7 25 20	4 10	8 24 36 54				
York City	42 12 6	3 38 20	1 8	12 17 31 53				
Oldham Athletic	43 6 7	9 32 36	7 7	22 22 33				
Luton Town	42 10 7	4 26 15	4 4	13 16 32 39				
Walsal	43 10 5	6 35 25	2 8	12 18 38 48				
Millwall	42 8 9	4 30 21	3 3	15 17 37 45				
Plymouth Argyle	43 10 5	6 35 25	2 8	12 18 38 48				
Burnley	42 8 9	4 30 21	3 3	15 17 37 45				
Carlisle United	43 8 5	8 26 24	4 3	15 28 42 44				
Southend	43 8 7	7 28 27	3 2	16 17 46 42				

DIV II FORM TABLE
(Last 6 games - League & Cup)

W	D	L
1 Fulham	4 1 1	
2 Luton	4 1 1	
3 Chesterfield	4 0 2	
4 Brentford	3 2 1	
5 Bristol Rovers	3 2 1	
6 Blackpool	3 1 2	
7 Bournemouth	3 1 2	
8 Bristol City	3 1 2	
9 Plymouth	3 1 2	
10 Wigan	3 0 3	
11 Burnley	3 0 3	
12 Preston	2 3 1	
13 Watford	2 3 1	
14 Gillingham	2 2 2	
15 Wycombe	2 2 2	
16 Southend	2 1 3	
17 Walsal	2 1 3	
18 Northampton	2 1 3	
19 Millwall	1 2 3	
20 Wrexham	1 2 3	
21 Oldham	1 1 4	
22 York	1 1 4	
23 Carlisle	1 1 4	
24 Grimsby	0 3 3	

Substitute and Player replaced No.12
Substitute and Player replaced No.13
Substitute and player replaced No.14
8 Goals scored

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES
DIVISION TWO 1997-98

Home	Away	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Town	27 17 6	4 4	70 27	57				
Bristol City	26 13 9	4 4	51 32	51				
Brentford	25 15 9	4 4	46 31	48				
Wycombe Wanderers	26 10 9	6 4	42 37	38				
Colchester United	26 10 8	8 6	42 37	38				
Swindon Town	24 12 2	10 4	44 40	37				
Wimbledon	26 11 4	11 4	44 47	38				
Southampton	28 9 5	11 5	52 35	35				
BRISTOL ROVERS	28 9 7	12 53	49 34	34				
Oxford United	25 10 4	11 8	45 35	34				
Bournemouth	25 10 4	11 8	45 35	34				
Barnet	28 7 7	14 47	61 28	20				
Reading	24 7 5	12 32	43 26	23				
Tottenham Hotspur	24 6 5	13 28	45 23	23				
Brighton	26 3 7	16 29	63 16	15				

AS AT 6th APRIL

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE
DIVISION TWO 1997-98 FIXTURES

DATE	OPONENTS	RESULT
9 Aug.	Reading	H 3-1
16 Aug.	Wimbledon	H 0-2
23 Aug.	Colchester*	H 4-2
30 Aug.	AFC Bournemouth	A 3-3
13 Sept.	AFC Bournemouth	H 5-0
20 Sept.	Wycombe Wand	H 0-3
27 Sep.	Wimbledon	A 7-1
4 Oct.	Swindon Town	H 1-1
11 Oct.	Oxford United	A 2-4
18 Oct.	Swindon Town (L.C.)	A 0-2
25 Oct.	Barnet	H 3-3
1 Nov.	Brighton & Hove	A 2-3
8 Nov.	Bristol City	H 0-2
15 Nov.	Brentford	A 2-4
17 Nov.	Swindon Town (FAYC1)	A 1-1
22 Nov.	Tottenham Hotspur	A 1-4
27 Nov	Swindon(FAYC1R)	H 11-10*
29 Nov.	Southampton	A 0-1
6 Dec.	Luton Town	A 2-0
10 Dec.	Enfield (FAYC2)	A 1-0
13 Dec.	Luton Town	H 0-1
20 Dec.	Reading	A 2-0
7 Jan	Hull City (FAYC3)	A 1-3
10 Jan.	Colchester	A 1-1
17 Jan.	AFC Bournemouth	H 1-2
24 Jan.	Tottenham Hotspur	H 2-1
31 Jan.	Wycombe Wanderers	A 0-2
7 Feb.	Oxford United	H 1-2
14 Feb.	Swindon Town	A 4-0
28 Feb.	Barnet	A 3-2
7 Mar.	Brighton & Hove	H P-P
14 Mar.	Bristol City	A 2-2
21 Mar.	Brentford	H 2-2
28 Mar.	Southampton	H 5-0
6 Apr.	Brighton	A 2-0

+Won 11-10 on penalties

SOUTH WEST COUNTIES
YOUTH LEAGUE UNDER 18's 1997-98

Home	Away	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	22 16 0	6 60	22 48					
Plymouth	20 14 6	0 48	14 46					
Swansea City	22 15 1	6 61	34 46					
Exeter City	19 15 0	4 67	26 45					
Grimsby	20 14 2	4 66	24 44					
Torquay United	20 13 2	5 64	38 41					
Cheltenham	21 8 3	0 34	48 27					
Bristol City	21 6 3	12 53	21 51					
Bath	24 6 3	15 36	63 21					
Bath City	23 5 3	13 28	52 20					
Newport AFC	24 6 0	18 29	64 18					
Swindon Town	24 4 3	14 27	45 15					
Yeovil Town	24 5 0	19 21	64 15					

AS AT 6th APRIL

SOUTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE
1997-98 FIXTURES

DATE	OPONENTS	RESULT
23 Aug.	Torquay United	H 2-4
13 Sep.	Bathley	H 1-4
20 Sep.	Bristol City	A 0-3
27 Sep.	Yeovil Town	A 2-1
11 Oct.	Cardiff City	A 0-6
18 Oct.	Cheltenham Town	H 3-2
25 Oct.	Grimsby	H 0-3
1 Nov.	Exeter City	H 0-3
15 Nov.	Plymouth Argyle	H 0-2
22 Nov.	Plymouth Argyle (LCC)	A 1-4
29 Nov.	Swansea City	A 0-3
6 Dec.	Swansea City	H 0-4
13 Dec.	Swindon Town	A 2-5
10 Jan.	AFC Newport	A 1-0
24 Jan.	Bristol City	A 4-1
31 Jan.	Yeovil Town	H 3-0
7 Feb.	Torquay United	A 1-0
14 Feb.	Cheltenham Town	A 0-3
21 Feb.	Grimsby	H 0-2
28 Feb.	Exeter City	A 2-4
9 Mar.	Cardiff	H 1-2
14 Mar.	Plymouth Argyle	H 1-2
28 Mar.	Newport AFC	H 2-3
4 Apr	Bathley	H 3-1

ROVERS' ROLL CALL 1997/98 SEASON

Player	Birthplace/Date	League App.	League Goals	Cup App.	Cup Goals	Total Rovers League App.	Total Rovers League Goals
Julian Alsop	Nuneaton 28.5.73	10+7	1	5	2	20+13	4
Luke Basford	London 6.1.80	5+2	0	3	0	5+2	0
Peter Beadle	London 13.5.72	33+4	14	7+2	2	95+11	38
Frankie Bennett	Birmingham 13.1.69	8+10	2	2+3	1	15+14	3
Andy Colett	Middlesbrough 28.10.73	30	0	8	0	104	0
Jamie Curreton	Bristol 28.8.75	36+4	12	6	1	69+10	23
Stephen Foster	Mansfield 3.12.74	29+2	0	6	0	29+2	0
Jon French	Bristol 25.9.76	2+1	0	0+2	0	8+9	1
Brian Gayle*	Kington 6.3.65	16	0	2	0	23	0
Matt Hayfield	Bristol 8.8.75	9+8	0	4+1	0	24+16	0
Barry Hayes	London 17.4.72	42	22	8+2	2	42	22
Shane Higgs	Oxford 13.5.77	8	0	2	0	10	0
Ian Holloway	Bristol 12.3.63	32+5	0	7	1	344+14	41
Lee Jones	Pontypridd 9.8.70	5	0	0	0	5	0
Matt Lockwood	Rochford 17.10.76	19+2	0	7+2	0	55+5	1
Iosh Low	Bristol 15.12.79	6+4	0	4+1	0	6+8	0
Hyde 5.2.68		0	0	0	0	25	0
Steve Parmenter**	Chelmsford 22.1.77	1+3	0	1+1	0	11+7	2
Gary Penrice	Bristol 23.3.64	38	5	8	1	223+3	59
Jason Perry	Cardiff 23.3.64	24+1	0	6+1	0	24+1	0
Czerpilly 2.4.70		9+1	0	0	0	25+1	0
Graeme Power	London 7.3.77	30+1	0	7	0	122+1	0
Dave Pritchard	Wolverhampton 27.5.72	22+6	5	2	0	27+12	5
Tom Ramasut	Cardiff 30.8.77	4	0	0	0	175+13	11
Justin Skinner****	Hounslow 30.1.69	0	0	2	0	0	0
Mark Smith	Bristol 13.9.79	29+1	2	6+1	1	186+2	7
Andy Tillson	Huntingdon 30.6.66	22+2	1	6	0	43+7	1
Tom White	Bristol 26.1.76	0+4	0	0+1	0	0+4	0
David Whyte**	Greenwich 20.4.71	6+4	0	1	0	6+5	1
Lee Zabek	Bristol 13.10.78						

*To Shrewsbury **To Yeovil Town ***Released 5th March ****To Hibernian

Opponents	F-A	Att.	Support Pos.
Plymouth Argyle	H 1-1	7386	721 11
Bristol City (CCC1)*	A 0-0	9341	1952 11
York City	A 1-0	3047	480 5
Carlisle United	H 3-1	6044	317 3
Bristol City (CCC1)*	H 1-2	5872	415 3
Burnley	A 0-0	9887	458 4
Bournemouth*	A 1-1	5550	1099 7
Walsal	H 2-0	6225	187 4
Gillingham	H 1-2	6572	420 5
Chesterfield	A 0-0	5309	504 5
Oldham Athletic	A 4-4	5990	602 5
Wrexham	H 1-0	6829	305 3
Wycombe Wanderers	H 1-2	8110	686 5
Brentford*	A 3-2	3967	1065 7
Blackpool	H 0-3	6183	191 10
Northampton Town	A 1-1	7264	905 9
Bristol City*	H 1-2	7552	622 12
Fulham	H 2-3	6166	706 14
Gillingham(FAC1)**	H 2-2	4825	243 14
Preston North End*	A 2-1	7798	140 12
Southend United	A 1-1	3653	521 13
Gillingham (FAC1 replay)**	A 2-0	4459	285 13
Millwall	H 2-1	5542	362 10
Wigan Athletic*	A 0-3	2738	260 12
Walsch	A 2-0	2593	759 12
Cambridge U (AWS1)	H 1-0	2386	42 12
Grimsby Town**	H 0-4	4801	97 14
Luton Town	A 4-2	5266	417 10
Walsal	A 1-0	6634	1618 9
Bournemouth***	H 5-3	7256	514 5
Ipswich (

ROVERS vs LUTON TOWN



KELVIN DAVIS



FRANKIE BENNETT



JASON PERRY



GARY PENRICE



BARRY HAYLES



JAMIE CURETON



PETER BEADLE



TOM RAMASUT



LEE ZABEK



ANDY TILLSON



STEVE FOSTER



IAN HOLLOWAY



MATT LOCKWOOD



DAVE PRITCHARD



JULIAN JAMES



MITCHELL THOMAS



GARY WADDOCK



DARREN PATTERSON



ALAN WHITE



DWIGHT MARSHALL



PAUL McLAREN



DAVID OLDFIELD



CHRIS ALLEN



GRAHAM ALEXANDER



SEAN EVERS



GARY DOHERTY



PHIL GRAY



TONY LEAKE

(Darwen)

Tony a 39-year-old Raw Material buyer is enjoying his third season as a Football League referee. Tony has previously taken charge of a Rovers fixture three times, the last being at Wycombe in October.



Assistant Referee
A. C. HARVEY
(Croxley Green)



Assistant Referee
M. A. J. HAWKEN
(St. Austell)



Reserve Official
I. RESTALL
(Swindon)



LEE JONES

