

READING FOOTBALL CLUB

Royals

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

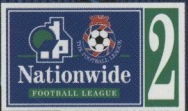


76-PAGE SOUVENIR EDITION



Madejski Stadium

Welcome to



READING vs

LUTON TOWN



Saturday 22nd AUGUST 1998

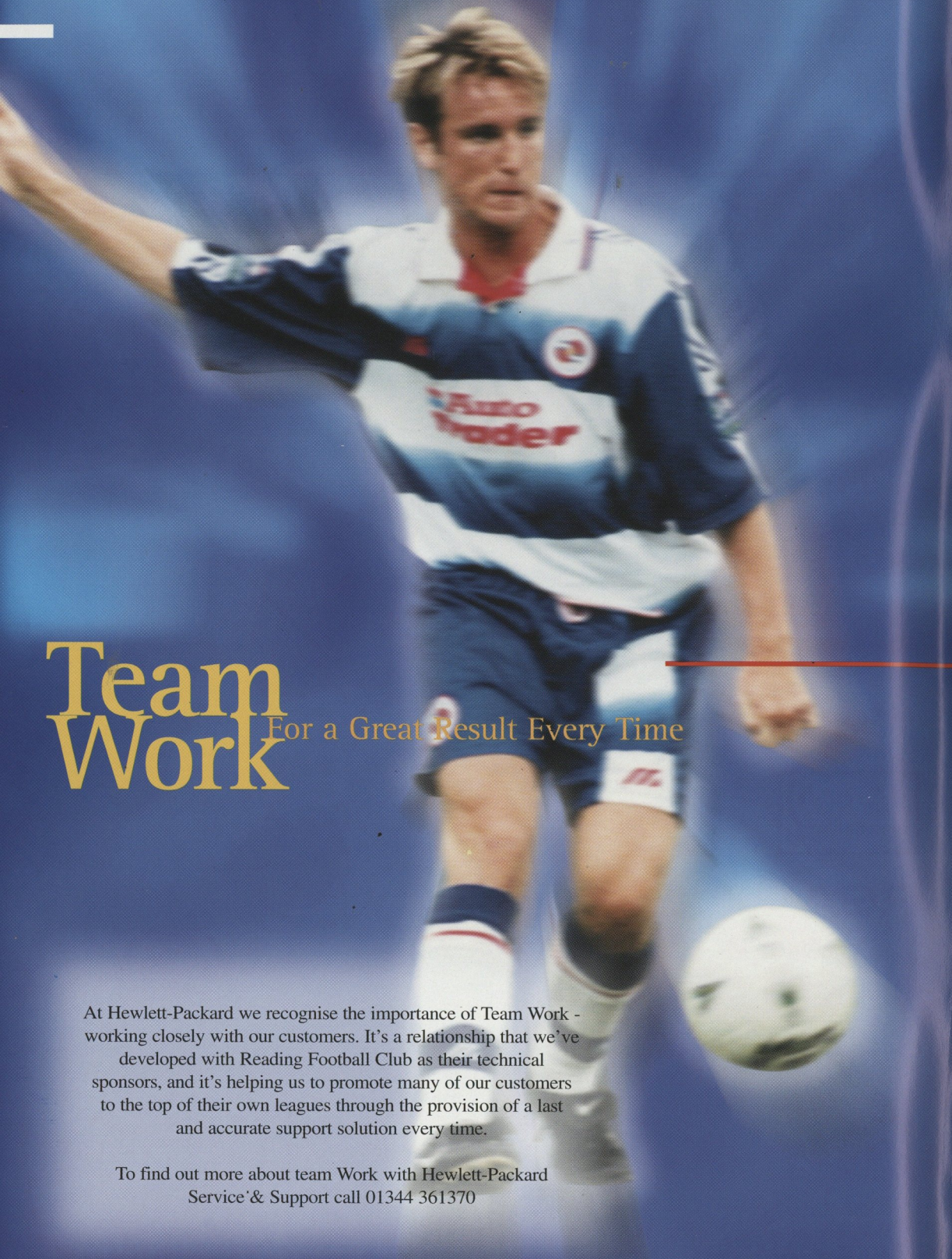
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The construction of Reading Football Club's new stadium started just over 14 months ago and today sees the Royals step out onto the pitch for the start of a whole new era.

It doesn't seem that long ago that the stadium was just a dream for myself and the supporters of the Club. The journey to Madejski Stadium has been long and complicated, and many people have worked extremely hard on this massive project.

Over the past 102 years, Elm Park has been the home to Reading Football Club and it has served us well. However, there was no question that the Victorian ground is now out-dated, with no room for expansion and with facilities which fell well short of the standard required by the Taylor Report. In order to achieve all our aims and ambitions for the club and its supporters, we had to move to a new home. The final go-ahead for the

Chairman's message to the fans...

stadium was given in April 1997. The Club's dream had become a reality.

Since that day the club has experienced heartbreak and triumph both on and off the pitch, but with teamwork and co-operation between all parties involved, we can now enjoy watching the Royals play in a stadium which compares with those of football's elite. It was important to me to spearhead a project that puts the Club at the very heart of the local community and provides a facility both useful and available to everyone in the Thames Valley. The Madejski Stadium proves that sport, business and local government can all work together in harmony to give the community as a whole, facilities of which they can be very proud.

Whilst the stadium opens its doors for the very first time today, against Luton Town, it will be some months before the whole project is completed. Over the past few months, work has concentrated on the actual seating bowl which had to be finished before today's game proceeded. Our main contractors, Birse, and everyone involved with the construction of the stadium have performed heroics to meet today's deadline.

For the first few games, however, there will be a limited number of completed concourse bars. We know it is an inconvenience to supporters but we hope to have all the concourse bars phased in over the next few weeks.

Shooters sports bar will be completed in the second week of October. The delay allows for an upgrade in the design to incorporate large screens on which to show televised sport. The scoreboard is also not yet in place as this requires major construction of a steel frame.

The official opening will be held when the overall project is complete next year. Discussions are already well underway and we will keep you posted on this.

I hope that you will enjoy the day at Madejski Stadium. Your support has been as magnificent as ever and I know that this will continue as the Club strives for promotion.

This new and exciting time is to be shared by us all and I hope you savour every moment of this special day and that the Madejski Stadium and Reading Football Club will continue to be part of your lives for many years to come.

The Reading Football Club plc, Madejski Stadium, Junction 11, M4, Reading RG2 0FL

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Volume 53 Issue No.1

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Good luck to the Royals in your new home. We're sure you'll be inspired to a speedy return to Division One!

IN OFF THE IN OFF THE IN OFF THE
POST POST POST

YOUR **letters** are answered in full by The 'Editor'

Phillip Boot - Southcote, writes.....



Dear Royals

I am writing concerning the naming of the stands in the new Madejski Stadium.

letter of the week

Are you going to be changing them from the slightly bland East Stand, North Stand etc? I think we should follow the lead of other clubs and name the stands after former players- in particular the East Stand which will be where the main congregation of fans will be.

Since Robin Friday was a cult hero with the old South Bank I think that it would be appropriate if the East Stand (the South Banks equivalent) was named after him.

As 'The Robin Friday Stand' is a bit cumbersome sounding my suggestion is calling it 'The Friday Bank' - this would also keep the spirit of the South Bank alive.

Ed. The idea of naming the areas of the stadium after players or famous Royals is a great idea, and one that will be put into effect. In the close season (May 1999) many of the concourse bars will be themed with the history of the Club. As far as the stand names go, they will be named after companies who sponsor the Club. It is their contribution that makes the Club successful and is common practice in football.

Debbie Ford - Wokingham, writes.....

Dear Royals

I am just writing to say that I was really impressed with the ground tour of Madejski Stadium that I went on in July.



I have kept up to date with the progress of the stadium through last season's match day programme and the local press. To actually see it for real, was amazing.

There was still work to be done when I visited and I am really excited about seeing the Royals play their first game at the Stadium today against Luton Town. I know that there will be a big crowd today and we are all looking forward to seeing the Royals get three points!

Ed. Thank you for your letter. RFC are really pleased that you are impressed with the new stadium. There is still some work to be done over the coming months before the stadium is completed. Work has concentrated on the actual seating bowl to allow for today's game to be played. It looks set to be a great day. When the stadium is completed there will be special ground tours so that fans can see behind the scenes. These are very likely to begin in October. Watch out for news on ground tours in the match day programme and local press.

Sue Mott, writes.....

Dear Royals

As I live in the centre of Reading I do not keep a car and travel by foot or by public transport.

Can you tell me what arrangements have been made for public transport to and from the new ground?

It is possible to get to Bennet Road using Reading Buses? Will a pedestrian access be available? These are real concerns for a real fan who having purchased a season ticket does not want to find it difficult or costly to attend every home game. The thought of having to try and use taxis for home games is not something I would want to entertain.

Ed. In partnership with RFC, Reading Buses will be operating special bus services on match days from the following areas: Woodley, Wokingham Road, Whitley, Lower Earley, Whitley Wood, Emmer Green, Caversham Park, Lower Caversham, Purley, Kentwood, Oxford Road, Norcot Road, Tilehurst, Meadway, Calcot, Fords Farm and Southcote. There will also be a shuttle service bus every 15 minutes from Reading train station. Fares cost from £0.80 to £2.20. A family ticket for up to 2 adults and up to 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children costs £4.50. For further details and routes, contact Reading Buses on 0118 959 4000.

The infrastructure, mainly of the A33 relief road, is not due to be completed until March 1999. This means that there is temporary access to the stadium. Access for cars and taxis will be by Bennet Road. There is also a drop off point near the stadium which allows fans to be dropped off, with cars turning round and returning via Bennet Road. Pedestrians and cyclists are advised to use Acre Road.

write to: Editor: The 'Royals'
Reading Football Club, Madejski Stadium,
Reading, Berks RG2 0FL.
or send us an
e-mail: comments@readingfc.co.uk

NEXT MATCH

This will be the first cup match to be played at Madejski Stadium.

We will welcome Barry Fry and his Peterborough United team on Wednesday night for this exciting fixture. The first leg ended one-a-piece, and the Royals will be looking to progress into the next round.

Get behind the team and help cheer them on!



TOMMY on the ball

First of all I would like to welcome you all to this very first game here at Madejski Stadium.

The whole team will be very proud to pull on a Reading jersey today and play in such a fantastic stadium. It really does rival stadiums in the Premiership. It is something that I am very proud of and I hope that you will share the same feelings for it.

I hope that you will enjoy this day at Madejski Stadium. This is a new and exciting time for the Club and I hope you will remember this day for many years to come. I know that the Madejski Stadium and Reading Football Club will continue to be a part of our lives for many years.

Your support since I arrived in March has been wonderful and I hope this will continue as we strive for promotion.

DID YOU KNOW...

Tommy Burns won 8 Scottish Caps between 1981 - 1988. He made his league debut in a 1-1 draw against Aberdeen at Pittodrie in 1976.

Disappointment

I am not going to avoid the fact that I am very disappointed with the way the season has started for the Royals.

But playing here, at this stadium today, means we can only look to the future. The first two League games have made us aware of the problems we have, and our performances in both games was unacceptable. We now have to put this right.

“we will make the necessary changes to become a winning team”

The two games have given some of the fringe players a chance to play for the first team, and they have continued to do a job for us.

Unfortunately the results have shown a lack of depth in the squad and it has been a big disappointment to me.

New era

Today sees us move into our new home. There is only one stadium in the South of England. We now have to get working on a team that is worthy of both the stadium and the supporters.

It will take time but we will work hard to achieve our ambitions and hopes.

I do appeal to supporters for time. It will take time to build a great team, but we are all working hard towards this. We have had a set back with injuries and we will have to wait for full fitness of some of our players. Once the proper personnel are in place we can get there. We know where we want to go and have the ambition and determination to succeed.

“We know where we want to go and have the ambition and determination to succeed”

Welcome this afternoon to Luton Town for this historic match. They are a good footballing side and this will be a difficult fixture but we are determined to get the season started today. We will be looking for the three points.

We also entertain Peterborough United on Wednesday night and I look forward to seeing you all there. But first things first, let's hear you roar for the Royals and those three points today.

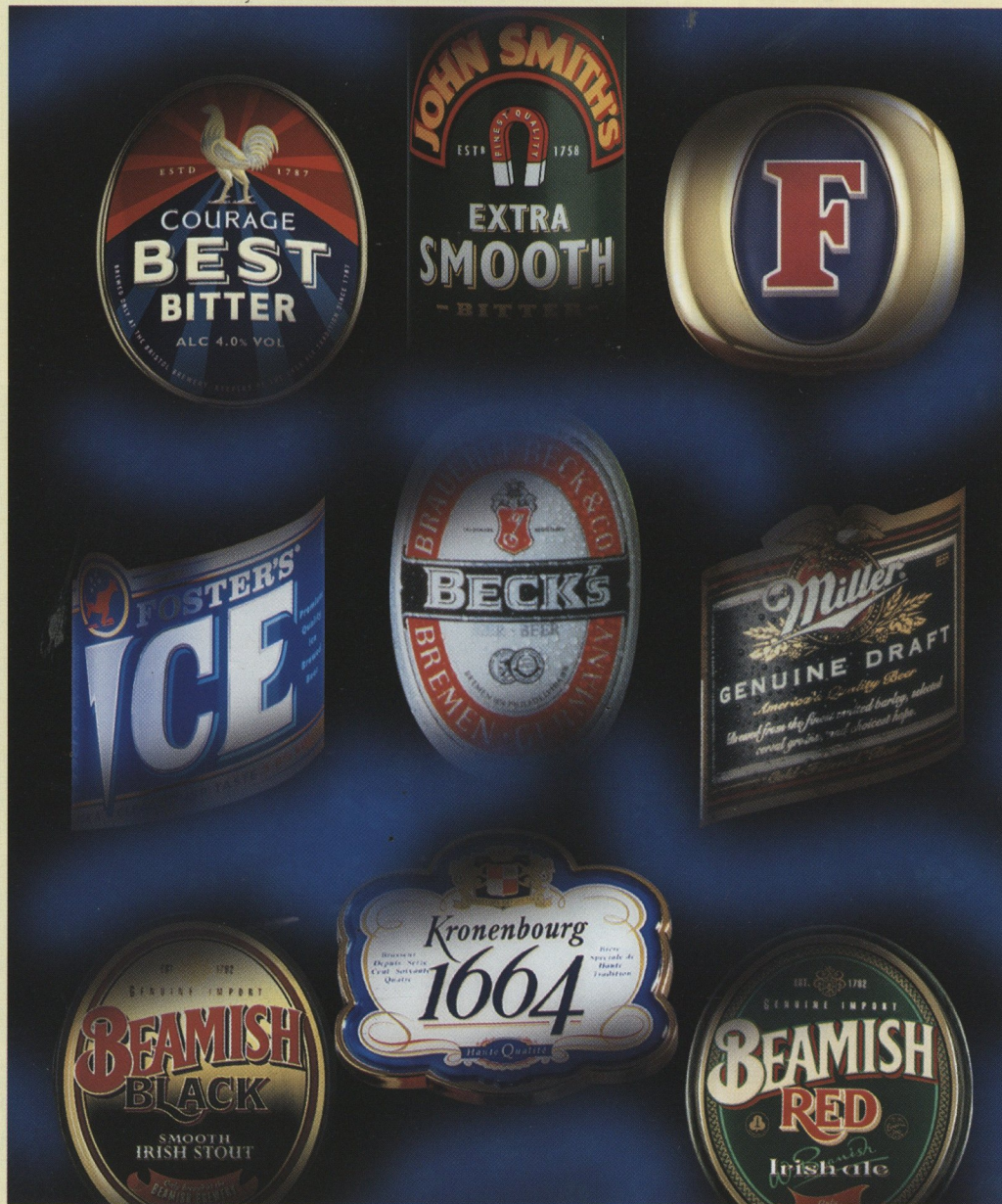
All the best, Tommy.





COURAGE

EST 1787



SUPPLIERS OF GREAT BEERS TO THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

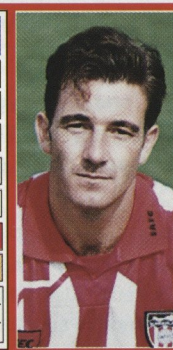
HEAD 2 HEAD

Greeted like a prodigal son when he signed for Luton for the second time in September 1997, the Northern Ireland striker soon discovered that football can be cruel.

A succession of injuries struck, culminating in surgery to cure a back problem, leaving Gray determined to make his mark this season.

He was in the Spurs reserves when David Pleat was manager who then took him to Kenilworth Road in August 1991. Two years later he moved to Premiership Sunderland, which then followed with moves to Nancy in France and Fortuna Sittard in Holland. He needed little encouragement to return to the Hatters.

PHIL GRAY		
BIRTHPLACE	BELFAST	
AGE	29	
HEIGHT	5ft 10"	
WEIGHT	12st 5lb	
POSITION	STRIKER	
CLUB RECORDS		
CLUB	GAMES	GOALS
LUTON TOWN (1)	73	26
SUNDERLAND	134	40
LUTON TOWN (2)	19	2



MASS SARR		
BIRTHPLACE	LIBERIA	
AGE	25	
HEIGHT	5ft 7"	
WEIGHT	76kg	
POSITION	STRIKER	
CLUB RECORDS		
CLUB	GAMES	GOALS
HAJDUK SPLIT	50	18
AS MONACO	-	-
MIGHTY BARROLLE SPORTS CLUB OF MONROVIA	-	-



Mass Sarr, born in Liberia, began his career with Mighty Barrolle Sports Club of Monrovia, the capital of Liberia in 1988.

In 1990 he moved to AS Monaco where he spent five years in France including a loan spell with Division Two Club Ales.

Sarr joined Hajduk Split of Croatia in 1995 where he made 50 appearances, scoring 18 goals. He has made over 40 appearances at international level for Liberia and has been a regular in the squad since he was a teenager.

Mass is a left-sided attacker who is very powerful and talented and has maintained a reasonable goal ratio throughout his career.

He's unselfish and a good creator of chances. Mass is a major celebrity back home in his native Liberia and one of his closest friends is George Weah.

TODAYS MATCHSPONSORS

This afternoon we give a warm welcome to Today's Matchsponsors



Our thanks to Auto Trader and we wish them an enjoyable afternoon

THE VISITORS

The season has got off to a good start with a 1-0 victory over Wycombe Wanderers on the opening day. Luton lost two of their influential players during the close season.

Striker David Oldfield moved north to Stoke City, while Darren Patterson headed north of the border to Dundee United. Both players left under the Bosman ruling for no fee.

Now in his third season as Manager, Lennie Lawrence was hoping to sign a few new faces for the season to join up with former Arsenal defender Gavin McGowan who signed a permanent deal after two successful loan spells with the Hatters.

Luton Town finished 17th in Division Two last season which was deeply disappointing for them considering they had finished third in the previous season. It was touch and go whether the Hatters would survive in Division Two. The sale of Tony Thorpe to Fulham just days before transfer deadline day could have been the kiss of death for the Hatters.

Instead a spirited fightback by the players, led from the front by on-loan striker Rory Allen kept them above the danger zone. It was Allen's goals that secured their survival but he has since returned to White Hart Lane and leaves the manager with a problem. The full-backs will also cause Lennie Lawrence to worry as right back Julian James has a broken leg, while left back Mitchell Thomas has a hernia.



LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

BACK ROW (L to R): Dwight Marshall, Terry Sweeny, Richard Clarke, Matthew Spring, Emerson Boyce, Steve Augustine, Gavin McGowan, Russell Lawes, Stuart Fraser, Stuart Douglas, Jimmy Cox, Michael McIndoe, Andre Scartlett.

MIDDLE ROW: Clive Goodyear (Physio), Paul Lowe (Youth Team Coach), Cherry Newberry (Club Secretary), Andrew Fotiadis, Simon Davies, Paul Showler, Gary Doherty, Alan White, Kelvin Davis, Nathanael Abbey, Julian James, Chris Willmott, Paul McLaren, Graham Alexander, Lee Lough, Les Shannon (Scout), Mandy Mallins (Fitness Trainer), John Moore (Reserve Coach).

FRONT ROW: Liam George, Phil Gray, Steve Davis, Chris Green (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Nigel Terry (Director), Mitchell Thomas, Marvin Johnson, Sean Evers.

MIDFIELDER - HERVE BACQUE

ONE TO WATCH



Signed from Monaco a week before the season kicked-off. The 22-year-old striker explained that his major reason for joining Luton was that he has a special feeling for the English way of life.

"I've always wanted to play abroad. I never made the first team at Monaco, but one of my club-mates John Collins said I would do well in England."

He started his career with Lorient in Brittany and after two years he joined Monaco but he found it hard to break into the first team. He found it frustrating playing his football in the reserves. Monaco gave him a free transfer and Bacque settled for Luton because he was more impressed with manager Lennie Lawrence than any other manager he had met.

Manager

Lennie Lawrence arrived in the autumn of 1995. Luton Town felt he knew about running Clubs on shoestring budgets and was immediately appointed after the departure of Terry Westley.

Lawrence made his name by taking impoverished Charlton into the old first division and keeping them there for four years when they didn't even have their own ground - they were ground sharing with Crystal Palace. Lawrence was a non-league player and his managerial career started as assistant manager at Plymouth and then at Lincoln. He moved onto Charlton as assistant manager before landing the hot seat.

He had been the boss at Charlton for nine years when he left in 1991 to take over at Middlesbrough where he led them to the Premiership a year later but they were relegated after only one season, and he was replaced by Bryan Robson.

Bradford City offered the next opportunity but he left after 18 months to return south. He became Luton Town's 21st manager. The survival task proved to be too much, but relegation was followed by a thrilling recovery.

In their first season back in Division Two, Luton were rarely out of the promotion frame but it all ended in disappointment with a play-off semi-final defeat against Crewe and as so often happens after a near miss saw Luton struggle last season.

Lennie Lawrence's record at Luton:
Played 138, won 49, drawn 42, and lost 47.
Goals for: 182, Goals against: 162.

LUTON MANAGER LENNIE LAWRENCE



LUTON STADIUM PLAN IS STILL ON

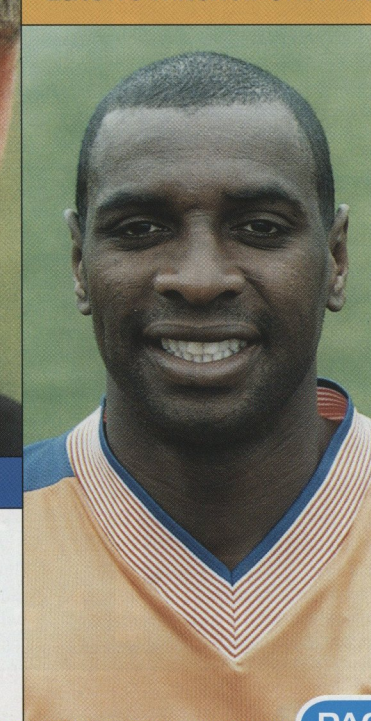
Luton Town are planning to build a new stadium despite the scrapping of the near-by M1 widening scheme.

Chairman David Kohler wants the 20,000 all-seater stadium to be in the town, but hasn't ruled out taking it to Milton Keynes. Kohler said: "It isn't the end - there are all sorts of things we can do to make it work so we're still upbeat."

did you know?

- 1 LUTON TOWN'S NICKNAME IS THE HATTERS.
- 2 THE HATTERS MOST CAPPED PLAYER WAS MAL DONAGHY WHO APPEARED 58 (91) TIMES FOR HIS COUNTRY, NORTHERN IRELAND.
- 3 LUTON TOWN'S RECORD LEAGUE VICTORY TOOK PLACE AGAINST BRISTOL ROVERS IN DIVISION THREE (SOUTH) ON APRIL 13, 1936. THE HATTERS WON 12-0.
- 4 THE HATTERS RECEIVED £2.5 MILLION FROM ARSENAL FOR STRIKER JOHN HARTSON IN JANUARY 1995. THAT'S A CLUB RECORD.
- 5 THE CLUB WAS FORMED IN 1885 AND TURNED PROFESSIONAL IN 1890.
- 6 JOE PAYNES' FAMOUS TEN GOALS FOR LUTON TOWN WERE ACHIEVED AGAINST BRISTOL ROVERS FROM SIX SHOTS AND FOUR HEADED GOALS.
- 7 JOE PAYNE WAS THE HIGHEST LEAGUE SCORER WITH 55 GOALS IN THE 1936/37 DIVISION THREE (SOUTH) SEASON.
- 8 LUTON TOWN ARE 18-1 TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP.
- 9 BOB MORTON MADE 494 APPEARANCE FOR THE HATTERS BETWEEN 1948-64 AND THAT'S A CLUB RECORD!
- 10 LUTON TOWN PLAYED AT THREE GROUNDS BEFORE MOVING TO KENILWORTH ROAD IN 1905. THEY PLAYED AT EXCELSIOR, DALLOW LANE AND DUNSTABLE ROAD.

Luton's Mitchell Thomas





opposition

HOW THEY STACK UP

DWIGHT MARSHALL

POSITION: STRIKER
BIRTHPLACE: JAMAICA
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 5 FT 7"

A late starter in the game - he was playing for non-League Grays until he was 24. Plymouth gave him his first League chance and he rewarded them with 34 goals in 119 games. Luton paid £150,000 for him in the summer of 1994 and he averaged better than one goal every three games. A broken leg at Sunderland in February 1996 forced him to take a year off, but he came back to show every sign he still had an appetite for goals.

Appearances: 156 Goals: 37

MITCHELL THOMAS

POSITION: DEFENDER
BIRTHPLACE: LUTON
AGE: 34
HEIGHT: 6 FT 2"



Now the senior professional at Kenilworth Road, and was appointed player-coach at the start of the season.

Luton signed him as a schoolboy but later joined Spurs and West Ham. He returned to Kenilworth Road in 1994. By the start of this season, Thomas had made over 450 League appearances in his career.

Appearances: 175 Goals: 5

RAY MCKINNON

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
BIRTHPLACE: DUNDEE
AGE: 28
HEIGHT: 5 FT 10"

A move to Luton at the start of this season gave the former Scottish under 21 international midfielder his second chance at making the grade in English soccer after a spell with Nottingham Forest. He joined Dundee United as a YTS and in 1992 Forest paid £750,000 for him. After Forest he played at Aberdeen before returning to Dundee United. He took advantage of the Bosman ruling to try his luck in England again. **Appearances: 1**

MATTHEW SPRING

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
BIRTHPLACE: HARLOW
AGE: 19
HEIGHT: 5 FT 11"

A competitive midfielder who was the driving force in the Luton side which reached the FA Cup Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997 and it was no surprise that he was called up for a League debut when he was 17.

Appearances: 55

SIMON DAVIES

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
BIRTHPLACE: MIDDLEWICH
AGE: 24
HEIGHT: 6 FT 2"

Midfielder who was in the Manchester United squad that won the FA Youth Cup in 1992. Luton offered him a realistic chance of regular league football, and bought him for £200,000 in the summer of 1997. But despite being capped by Wales, Davies was unable to command a regular team place last season.

Appearances: 27

MARVIN JOHNSON

POSITION: DEFENDER
BIRTHPLACE: WEMBLEY
AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 6 FT 1"

A versatile defender, normally a centre-half but capable of filling in on the flanks or in midfield. Johnson is celebrating a full decade as a first-team regular at Luton, his only club.

Appearances: 306 Goals: 8

SEAN EVERS

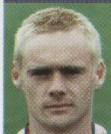
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
BIRTHPLACE: HITCHIN
AGE: 20
HEIGHT: 5 FT 9"

Another young player brought on through Luton's productive youth squad, Evers is a tenacious midfielder who coped very well last season to establish himself as a regular.

Appearances: 32 Goals: 3

GRAHAM ALEXANDER

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
BIRTHPLACE: COVENTRY
AGE: 27
HEIGHT: 5 FT 10"



Bought for £100,000 from Scunthorpe in the summer of 1995, Alexander is a midfielder who can also fill in at the

back when necessary. An injury crisis forced Luton to use him as an emergency right back several times last season, but his best performances have been on the right hand side of midfield.

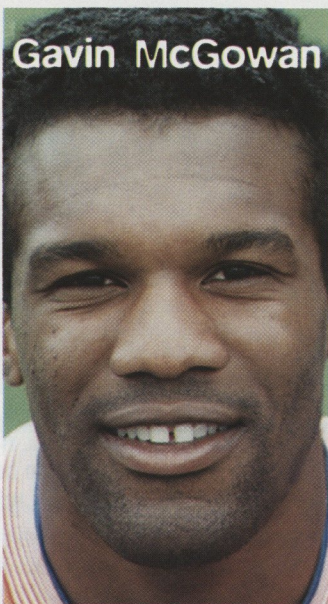
Appearances: 145 Goals: 11

KELVIN DAVIS

POSITION: GOALKEEPER
BIRTHPLACE: BEDFORD
AGE: 22
HEIGHT: 6 FT 0"

After seeing off two Americans, finally he became first choice goalkeeper last season. A product of the Hatters' youth development programme, he started his League career on loan at Torquay early in the 1994/95 season. During his time at Kenilworth Road he has won England youth and under 21 caps.

Appearances: 55

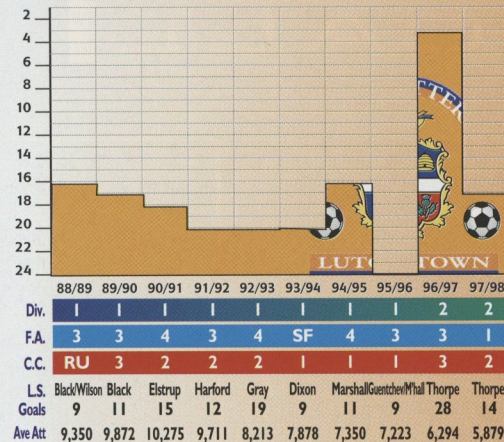


Gavin McGowan

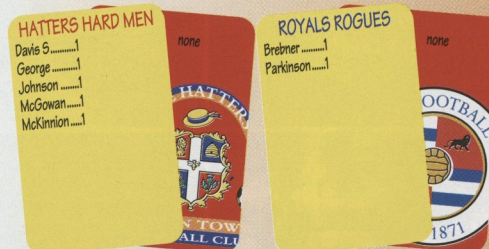
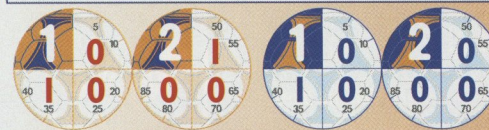
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READING vs LUTON TOWN

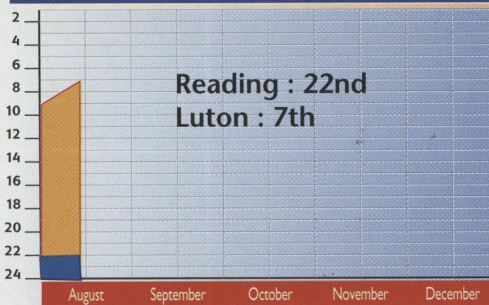
Luton Town's last ten years - the full record



When Luton have scored goals... and conceded them



Form comparison throughout this season



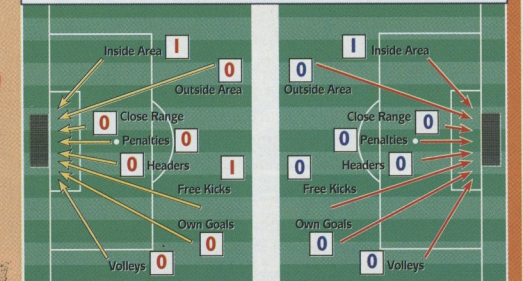
When The Royals have scored goals... and conceded them



Who's played for The Hatters this season...

Player	Pos	Lge	Lge	Age	Ht	Weight	Prev. Club	Int.
Apps Gls								
Graham Alexander	M	2	26	5 11	12.02		Scunthorpe	
Herve Bacque	F	2	22	5 9	11 10		Monaco	
Kelvin Davis	G	2	21	6 1	14 00		Hartlepool	Eng U21
Steve Davis	D	2	29	6 2	14 07		Burnley	
Sean Evers	M	2	20	5 9	9 11			
Phil Gray	F	2	29	5 9	12 09		Sunderland	N Ire
Marvin Johnson	D	2	29	6 1	13 06			
Dwight Marshall	F	2	32	6 1	11 02		Plymouth	
Ray McKinnon	M	2	28	5 10	11 9		Dundee Utd	
Matthew Spring	M	2	18	5 11	11 07			
Gavin McGowan	D	1(1)	22	5 8	11 07		Arsenal	Eng Yth
Mitchell Thomas	D	1	33	6 2	13 00		West Ham	Eng B
Liam George	F	(2)	19	5 9	11 04			
Paul McLaren	M	(1)	21	6 1	13 04			
Alan White	D	(1)	22	6 0	13 04		Middlesbrough	
Michael McIndoe	M		18	5 8	11 00			

How The Hatters have scored goals... and conceded them



Royals v Hatters

FORM GUIDE	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Sequence
Reading	0	0	2	1	7	0	LL
Luton Town	1	1	0	2	1	4	DW

Statistics compiled by Football Information Services Telephone: 0151-632 5679

How Reading have scored goals... and conceded them



ROYAL

PHOTOCALL



1

(Left) Stuart Gray looks apprehensive as to what the afternoon has in store for him.

(Right) Lazy Days - The lads take it easy in the afternoon sun.



2

(Right) Tommy does his Hat-trick!

(Left) Swalesy pulls Andy's Legg!



3

(Left) Talking Tactics - Ray discusses Team photo line-up with Ron the Kit man.

(Right) Darren hopes this will be his only appearance on the bench this season.



4

(Left) Mad Scramble - Last one on the bench gets the beer's in.

(Right) Jason plays the waiting game.



ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

In this week's Ultimate Challenge we asked our very own Mark Reilly and Jim McKintyre the following list of questions...

1. From which club did Arsenal sign Marc Overmars?
2. What was the result after extra time of the 1998 First Division play-off Final between Charlton and Sunderland?
3. What colour is England's current 'away' jersey?
4. Which two English clubs have supplied European Footballers of the Year?
5. Who was Everton's top League scorer in 1997-98?
6. Name Buckinghamshire's Nationwide League team.
7. Which actor kept goal for the allied team in the soccer film Escape to Victory?
8. Where is the Britannia Stadium?
9. In terms of trophies won, who is Liverpool's most successful manager of all time?
10. Who finished third in last season's Scottish Premier League?



this week's contestant
MARK REILLY

- 1. Ajax
- 4. Liverpool & Man Utd
- 5. Duncan Ferguson
- 6. Wycombe Wanderers
- 7. Sylvester Stallone
- 8. Stoke City
- 9. Bob Paisley
- 10. Hearts

- 2. 3-3
- 3. Grey



this week's contestant
JIM MCKINTYRE

- 1. Ajax
- 2. 4-4
- 3. Red
- 4. Liverpool & Man Utd
- 5. Duncan Ferguson
- 8. Stoke City
- 9. Bob Paisley
- 10. Hearts

- 6. Haven't got a clue
- 7. You've got me there!

ANSWERS

1. Ajax, 2. 4-4, 3. Red, 4. Liverpool & Man Utd, 5. Duncan Ferguson, 6. Wycombe Wanderers, 7. Sylvester Stallone, 8. Stoke City, 9. Bob Paisley, 10. Hearts

EXECUTIVE

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Thames Valley Auto Trader

* Thames Valley Auto Trader attracts 336,000 readers per week and it is the most widely read magazine in the area for buying and selling vehicles.

* The Auto Trader Web Site is updated weekly containing 130,000 vehicles.

* Thames Valley Auto Trader contains 20,000 vehicles on a weekly basis.

* The Auto Trader Web Site had 3.96 million page impressions per month.

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Minolta are manufacturers of a wide range of Digital Black & White and Full Colour Photocopiers together with Colour Laser Printers and Multi Functional office products.

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step back in time...

Today's the day - August 22nd

1951-DOUBLE QUICK

Having scored the season's first goal when Les Henley netted after just 30 seconds at Port Vale, Reading started our next game at a similar breakneck fashion.

Shrewsbury were making their Elm Park debut and within five minutes of the start they were two down. Maurice Edelston and Ron Blackman scored those early goals and Blackman clearly enjoyed the experience because he ended the evening with four goals. We ended up winning 6-2 with a Jack Lewis penalty completing our scoring. There was no joy for Luton on August 22 1951 - they lost 3-0 at Sheffield United.

1987-LUCKY 13

A little bit of Reading history was made 11 years ago today when Ian Branfoot made a double substitution after 62 minutes at Leeds.

Mark White and Francis Joseph came on to make it the first time that we had used 13 players in a League game. We won our first point of the season with that goalless draw at Elland Road, our season having started a

week after everyone else because the odd number of teams in the old Second Division meant that we were without a game on the season's opening day.

On the same day two goals from Mick Harford earned Luton a 2-2 draw at home to West Ham.

1991-FIRST AND LAST

Our last game on August 22 before today saw Elm Park debuts for Jimmy Quinn, Tom Jones, Jeff Hopkins and Phil Parkinson.

While Mark McGhee scored his last league goal at Elm Park in our 1-1 draw with high-flying Leyton Orient (that was seven years ago!). For lovers of the obscure facts, this game with each team containing a Taylor and a Jones. No obscure facts will hide the disappointment of Luton that day as they crashed 3-0 at home to Bristol City.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To snooker star, Steve Davis who is 41 today, to Honour Blackman, born on August 22, 1926 and to Percy Fender who scored a

record breaking century for Surrey against Northants in only 35 minutes.

Other 'birthdays' include The Americas Cup that was first held on this day in 1851 and to Match of the Day which started 34 years ago this evening with a 3-2 win for Liverpool over Arsenal.

AND FINALLY...

(Just because we've moved from Elm Park, you still get the silly ending!).

The Madejski Stadium will be trying to avoid the fate that befell both Elm Park and Derby's Pride Park on their opening days. Those two grounds failed to complete their first games, Elm Park due to rain and Derby because of a floodlight failure. Another problem to avoid is the one that happened at the end of Lincoln's game against Brentford that was played on August 22, 1970.

With only a couple of minutes to go a goalpost was broken and the game was delayed 45 minutes while it was replaced. Both of Lincoln's goals were scored by Percy Freeman who threatened a few goal-posts in his time with Reading.



The Royals Football Show

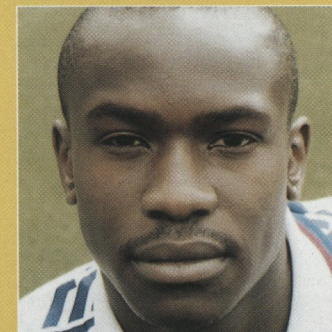
Join Neil Webb & Richard Shephard

Saturday's 2pm - 6pm
and all midweek games!



THE FIRST TIME

The Royals caught up with Linvoy Primus who told us about his first time...



LINVoy PRIMUS

What was your first car?

My first car was a VW Golf and it was an X registration. It was a great car!

What was your first job?

I was lucky enough to make it as a footballer after two years as a YTS. So this is my first job!

Your first memory?

Being tormented by my brother!

First record?

I am proud to say that the first record I bought was the Jackson's 'I want you back'. Great song!

First film you ever saw?

I can't really remember but I think it was Clash of the Titans.

First concert?

It was that great man himself, Luther Vandross.

WIN



Two tickets to the next game at Madejski Stadium - listen to the Breakfast Show on 2-Ten-Fm every Thursday.



on the ball...

all the latest news on the royals

Welcome to Peter & Elroy

Royals supporters will be able to welcome two new players to the squad as RFC signed Peter van der Kwaak from FC Dordrecht and Elroy Kromheer from FC Zwolle the day before the season started.

Both players signed a two-year deal with the Royals and immediately left for Wrexham to join their new team-mates.

Kromheer is a ball-playing central defender, who strengthens manager Tommy Burns' theory of playing football from defence. He's another large player who is strong in the air and likes to get forward. He arrived at the Royals for £150,000 and has previously played for FC Volendam and Motherwell.

Van der Kwaak is a 6ft 4" goalkeeper who left FC Dordrecht under the Bosman Ruling. Previous to playing at FC Dordrecht he was on the books of Ajax. He made over 80 appearances for FC Dordrecht. We wish Peter and Elroy the best of luck at the Madejski Stadium!

WorldNET Raving Success

For one weekend in July the football world was focused on Reading!

Over 800 supporters from teams the length and breadth of Britain and beyond converged on Reading Rugby Club to compete in the 3rd WorldNET tournament. 37 teams were represented, including Arsenal, Spurs, Man Utd, Leeds, Celtic, Rangers, AEK Athens and Reading. Individuals came from Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the USA, Canada, and even New Zealand to take part!

The Internet Royals hosted the event in conjunction with Reading Rugby Club and the Internet Football Association and 10 months hard work

went into the organisation. The tournament was open to teams of supporters who belong to email discussion groups and was started in 1996 as a way of promoting improved relations between fans.

Matches were 11-a-side on full sized pitches, 15 minutes each way and although competition was fierce there was equal emphasis placed on playing the game in the 'Internet Spirit'. QPR dominated the final winning 2-0.

Most of the money raised during WorldNET will be donated to the Reading FC Football in the Community Scheme to fund projects aimed at helping adults and children with learning disabilities to become more involved in football, it is expected that several hundred pounds will be passed on to Chris Whalley.

A further donation has been made to the Doncaster Rovers Community Scheme which is desperately underfunded as a result of the many problems at the club.

Many messages of thanks have been received by the Internet Royals confirming that the tournament was an outstanding success both on and off the pitch. The Internet Royals would also like to thank Reading Rugby Club, Reading Football Club, Chris Whalley in the Community Office, Neil Webb who presented the trophies and the various sponsors and advertisers who supported the event.

Well Spotted

"Alright, so it all went sour at the end but Burns deserves this honour for the magnificent 1995/96 season. Celtic played exciting, attacking football and Burns must take credit with some excellent signings like Jackie McNamara and Pierre Van Hooijdonk. Although we won nothing it was a pleasure to watch Celtic play after all the rubbish we'd witnessed in previous years. He was a great believer in attacking football was Tommy Burns"

Alan Sedunary spotted this cutting in June's edition of Match of Day magazine.

with the royals...

get all the news as it happens

It was part of a page in which a fan chooses his favourite game and season and the fan chose Tommy Burns as his favourite manager. In his all time best Celtic team the same fan chose Pat Bonner in goal!

www.readingfc.co.uk

The Royals official web site is up and running.

The site is slowly under construction but it contains all the latest news, player details, fixture lists and an update on the construction of Madejski Stadium. It is well worth a look and so far many people have visited the site. You can find the web site at www.readingfc.co.uk. Happy surfing.

The Curse of The Calendar

Fans blame different people for last season's relegation - Terry Bullivant, the players or the board, but today I can exclusively reveal who the real culprit is.

It is, of course, the person responsible for the Club calendar.

Throughout 1997 a picture in the calendar coincided with a lengthy visit to the treatment room and things haven't got much better in 1998. We got through January and February relatively unscathed but the rot set in from March when Dariusz Wdowczyk was featured. April proved a double whammy as both Martyn Booty and Keith McPherson followed Dariusz by sitting out the entire month while beaming down from our walls.

May failed to follow the jinx, mainly because the calendar featured the indestructible Phil Parkinson but it came back with vengeance in June by keeping Steve Mautone out for the rest of the year. Realising the affect of the

curse, Archie got as far away from Reading and the calendars as he could but his July photo caught up with him in as a knee injury interrupted his trial with Hibernian.

August featured the long-suffering Barry Hunter, so if I was Linvoy Primus or Lee Hodges, I'd be very, very careful throughout the whole of September. *Article by Alan Sedunary*

Auction of Memorabilia

Make a note of the date in your diary now! There will be an auction of all Elm Park memorabilia on Sunday September 27 at 1.00pm.

If you fancy getting your hands on a turnstile, a special sign, seats, terracing or other items, then this is the date not to be missed!

A catalogue of items for sale will be produced and made available long before the auction date. This will be your last chance to visit Elm Park. Don't miss it! Watch local press and match day programme for further details on the auction.

Happy Birthdays

Many happy returns to the Steve Mautone, Jason Bowen, Robert Fleck, Darren Caskey who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Welcome to Vera

Vera Cordery is attending today's game with her daughter Ann.

78 year old Vera has been a supporter of the Royals for the last 70 years and is very excited about today's game. Vera says she is looking forward to the new era and hopes the

Royals get three points today. We hope Vera and Ann enjoy their day!

The 92 Club

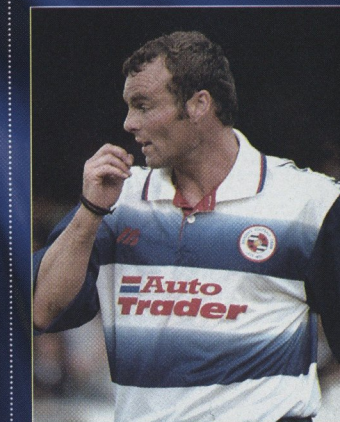
Today is a very special day in the long history of RFC. Some members of the 92 Club are here today to witness the very first game.

No doubt, there will be many more visitors here in the coming weeks keeping up their 92!

Formed in June 1978 with just 39 members for those football fans who had visited all 92 Premier and Football League grounds for the first team soccer matches, membership is now approaching 1000.

At the present time 12 Reading supporters have reached this goal but if any other supporter has visited all grounds or is likely to in the coming months, full details of the club can be obtained by sending an SAE to the 92 Club, 104 Gilda Crescent, Whitechurch, Bristol, BS14 9LD.

The club wishes RFC every success for the future at Madejski Stadium.



Congratulations to all those who celebrate their Birthday's this month!

Club Secretary Andrea Baker

"On behalf of my staff I would like to thank all our season ticket holders, both those supporters who have renewed and new season ticket holders, for their patience during the processing of their season tickets, in particular to the West Stand members.

I know many of you have waited anxiously to receive them, and it has been a painfully slow procedure to complete the whole operation in time for the opening fixture.

"The ticket office staff led by Teresa Clark, Ticket Office Manager, have worked in extremely difficult conditions all summer, both hot and very cramped in the temporary portakabin on site, where they had only one ticket computer available from which to operate.

"Access to the West Stand Ticket Office was only allowed from August 10, since when they have worked late into the night in order to process all the Luton Town ticket applications. Therefore thanks also to those supporters who have purchased Luton tickets and who have patiently waited to receive their ticket in order that they can be with us today.

"We have recruited many new match day staff to help man our additional ticket offices on match days, so therefore ask for your patience a little longer whilst we all settle into Madejski Stadium. I am sure there may well be a few teething problems as both you, our supporters, and us the staff get used to our new home.

"Thank you once again for your forbearance and marvellous support."

JUNE 1997

Work on the new Madejski Stadium kicked-off officially on June 10, 1997. It was a moment some had doubted, but when Royals chairman John Madejski turned the first spade of earth at the Smallmead site, it was the final stage of all our dreams for a superb 25,000 seater stadium.

It was the start of a 60 week project which would take Reading Football Club into football's elite. At the start of the project in June, the builders concentrate on preparing and landscaping the ground, while the stadium foundation work started later on in the month.



SEPTEMBER 1997

Constructors at the site began to start piling and the tubular casings containing steel and concrete were sunk into the ground to a depth of between 12 and 17 metres. Work on the A33 Relief Road began, however the project will not be finished until Spring 1999. By the end of September it was obvious that a football stadium was being built.

The outline of the stadium was clearly visible in the ground, there was also a perfectly flat pitch in the middle (although it was covered in sand rather than grass!) and work was underway to build the dressing rooms and players' area. The home and away dressing rooms are below pitch level and include a spacious warm-up area and well-equipped gym for fitness and rehabilitation.

The landscaping and preparation work continued on the remaining areas of the 66 acres site, and many of the 120 construction workers involved with the project were concentrating on building the foundations for the football stadium. The piling progresses well and within a couple of months all 800 of the steel and concrete piles were embedded into the ground.

The drainage system was in place under the pitch and the undersoil heating was also installed prior to laying down the sand, the topsoil and finally seeding the playing surface. And grass was growing on the Royals' new pitch by the end of October!



JULY 1997

The preparation work saw workers shift a staggering 130,000 cubic metres of old household waste in order to landscape the site ready for the construction to begin. Rubbish at the former landfill site had been buried underground for 20 years and was, at some stages, more than 12 metres below the ground. Despite this, it wasn't necessary to undergo the enormous task of removing it before work could continue. Instead the waste was capped with two layers of clay, sandwiching a gas blanket, which sealed it underground and ensured the area was protected.

Piling - the early stages of the stadium foundation had begun and it sank deep into the waste material, while a two metre layer of topsoil covered the clay capping across the site.



The final go-ahead for the Madejski Stadium was given on April 29, 1997, triggering construction of the 25,000 seater stadium.

Reading Football Club's new home, with state-of-the-art facilities now rival those at any club in the country.

The design of the stadium presents spectators with optimum viewing and high quality seating. Let's take a look at how the construction progressed over the months.



OCTOBER 1997

Work continued at pace with all the piling almost finished and the site was about to be transformed by the commencement of work on the steel infrastructure. The steelwork took several months to complete. Construction workers begin putting the concrete pre-casts for the terracing in place for the 25,000 seats to be installed in the New Year.



THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

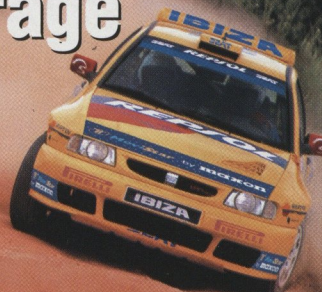
We take a step-by-step look at just how our new home was created.



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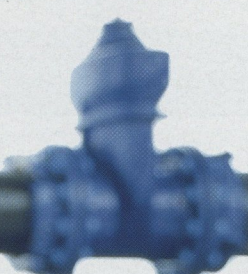


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Reading's main supporter.



Supporting The Royals in the 98/99 season.



Let's meet the football management staff



Manager Tommy Burns

He joined Reading in March 1998. Tommy made over 440 appearances for Celtic during his career and scored 81 goals for them.

During his time at Parkhead he won the League, Championship, Scottish Cup and League Cup on several occasions. He also made various European appearances and was capped eight times at full level.

Tommy broke into the Celtic side in the mid-seventies and was an important member of the 1976/77 double winning side alongside Danny McGrain and Kenny Dalglish. During the latter part of his Celtic career he joined up with Billy Stark and later become his managerial assistant.

Tommy joined Kilmarnock as player/coach in December 1989 and in his first full season as player manager, he helped Kilmarnock achieve promotion to the Premier Division. He joined Celtic as their manager and guided them to victory in the 1995 Scottish Cup Final. However, Tommy left in April 1997 and became a coach at Newcastle United in June 1997.

Assistant Manager

Pat Bonner joined the Royals as assistant manager in June 1998 and he signed a three-year-contract which will keep him at the club until June 2001.

'Packy' was Jock Stein's last signing for Celtic and he went on to play over 640 times for the Scottish side. He was the keeper in the championship sides of 1981, 1982, 1986 and 1988, and won Scottish Cup medals in 1985 and 1989 as well as a League Cup medal in 1982.

In February 1993 he surpassed Charlie Shaw's record of 420 League

games and played his 600th competitive game for the Club in November 1993.

Pat also made 80 appearances for the Republic of Ireland. In the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, Pat became a national hero when he saved Timofte's penalty at 4-4 in the shoot-out against Romania and helped send Ireland through to Rome and the quarter-finals. On his 34th birthday, under the lights of Lansdowne Road, he equalled Liam Brady's record as most-capped FAI international and later broke this record in a 1-3 defeat by the Czech Republic on June 5 1994.

Pat also played for the Republic of Ireland in the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA, and he captained his country versus Liechtenstein on October 12, 1994 - his 78th cap.

Steve Kean

Appointed as first team coach by Reading Football Club in March 1998.

He was appointed youth team coach in July 1996. Steve joined Celtic from school as a defender but moved on to play for Swansea City and Portuguese club Academica Coimbra until a broken shin finished his career. Was player-coach with 1996 Wessex League champions Thatcham Town for two seasons, was in charge of under 15 coaching at Reading's Centre of Excellence for three years and assistant groundsman at Elm Park.

Alan Pardew

Appointed as reserve team manager by Reading Football Club in July 1997.

Alan, a vastly experienced right-sided attacking midfielder, joined Crystal Palace from Yeovil Town. He made over 160 appearances for the Eagles

including the FA Cup Final against Manchester United in 1990. He moved on to play for Charlton Athletic and Barnet. He was also in charge of one of the Royals game last season as Caretaker manager when we entertained Huddersfield Town at Elm Park.

Kevin Dillon

Sir Alf Ramsey gave him the first of his 200 appearances for Birmingham City in 1977.

An England under 21 international, he helped Portsmouth into the First Division before moving onto Newcastle United. Kevin Joined Reading in 1991 and three years later became youth team development officer, and was appointed youth team manager in March 1998.

Director of youth football

John Stephenson was appointed Director of Youth Football in May 1998.

He played and coached semi-pro until 1991. John qualified as a coach in 1983 with the Scottish and English FA. In 1995 he was chosen by the National Coaching Foundation to be one of only 35 coaches in the country across all sports to study for the four-year elite coaching qualification. In 1996 he was appointed by Reading FC as assistant director of the centre of excellence.

Club Physiotherapist

Paul Turner has been the Club's physiotherapist since summer 1994.

Paul served 14 years in the Royal Marines and was a member of their world record-breaking freefall parachute regiment team. Qualified as a physio before returning to civvy street and spent two years with Newbury Town before arriving at Elm Park.

the football trust

royals to receive massive funding package from the football trust..

The Royals will today receive a grants and loans package of £2.95m from the Football Trust towards the magnificent Madejski Stadium.

Peter Lee, the Chief Executive of the Trust - the Royals are his home town Club - and David Dent, Trustee and Secretary of the Football League, will present the Club with their contribution during the opening celebrations.

The new stadium is a magnificent example of the tremendous progress which has been made as a result of the Taylor Report - which has seen 13 new grounds and 150 new stands made possible by Trust grants.

A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from the Football League, FA Premier League, the Football Association, the English Sports Council, and the Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

Helping clubs to complete Taylor is the priority task but the Trust is about a great deal more. It supports the game

at all levels down to the grass roots. It is also about a great deal more than bricks and mortar, it handles grant aid programmes of every sort.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game. The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's huge grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

Peter Lee commented: "I am delighted to be invited here today to present my home town Club with the Trust's £2.95m contribution towards the magnificent Madejski Stadium. I congratulate the Club on all they have done to provide their supporters with a new state of the art stadium. It is an excellent example of the impressive progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Taylor Report, providing the very best facilities and the highest standards of safety and comfort for the Royals' supporters to enjoy."

ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Calcot based **UK Cleaning Co** have been appointed as cleaning contractors for the impressive new Madejski Stadium. **UK Cleaning** have been cleaning at Elm Park for over two seasons and have also helped the Club by sponsoring the Stewards, Turnstile operators, programme sellers, doctors, electricians, supervisors and fire officers to name but a few. Along with the sponsorship, our friends at **UK Cleaning Co** have also supplied hundreds of stewards jackets and bibs which will be worn at events at the stadium.

PROUD SPONSORS CLEAN UP

UK Cleaning Co have also kindly assisted the Club with the provision of washroom soap and toilet roll dispensers. Over 500 dispensers have been installed around the stadium for the supporters convenience.

Kevin Wallace of **UK Cleaning** said: "I am delighted the Club has chosen my company to carry out the cleaning operation. This is a very important part of maintaining the stadium. The cleaning of Elm Park was extremely difficult especially because of the age and old fashioned design of many areas. Now we have a modern High-Tec, state-of-the-art stadium that many a Premiership Club would relish. Although a much larger operations is required the same love and dedication will be applied to ensure the new Madejski Stadium remains new.

UK Cleaning Co can be contact on 0118 945 1022 or fax 0118 942 5066.



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Supporting
Reading FC...

at the new
Madejski
Stadium



Reading Football Club's Supporter's Club had been running a small merchandising outlet for many years until they decided that they were unable to give it enough time and attention.

The Club decided they needed a professional retail outlet and in the three years it has been in operation it has been a huge success at Elm Park.

The Club Shop, or Megastore as it is known, at Madejski Stadium will open its doors for the first time today. The megastore is fantastic and is full of merchandise that every fan could possibly want!

The Megastore will stock Pro-Wear, Casual Wear, Active Wear, a children's range and our very own Hoops label. There will also be a huge range of Royals' souvenirs in stock.

Soccer merchandising is big business and the location of the new store in the Main West Stand towards the north end of the stadium puts the store in a prime location on the complex. The store has a look and feel of quality.

OPENING TIMES:

The megastore staff are on hand to help you with all merchandising queries and are easily identifiable in uniforms.

The store is open Monday to Saturdays between 9.00am and 5.00pm. For further information, please contact the shop on 0118 968 1234.

mail order service is available with a catalogue on request. Contact the store.

There are selected stockists of RFC merchandise in Berkshire, and here is a list of the places around the county where you can buy official merchandise.

John Wood Sports, Wokingham; Terry Warner Sports, Reading; Premier Sports, Thatcham; Intersport Heroes, Basingstoke, Woodley Sports, Woodley, Birthdays, Reading; Sports Wise, Wallingford and Nigel Cross Sports, Tilehurst.

royals megastore

we are pleased to accept:



HOOPS >

The Club have introduced Hoops and will bring quality merchandise at an affordable price to the megastore. The hoops label will appear in all items of clothing.



READING FOOTBALL CLUB EST. 1871



OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

< MIZUNO >

The megastore is the official stockist of Mizuno gear, and they hold a large stock of their merchandise. Why not pop down to Madejski Stadium to have a look at all the sporty gear.



PRO WEAR >

You can buy the latest Royals kit at the Megastore as well, plus tracksuits and other pro-wear.



THE LATEST ROYAL SPORTSWEAR



CHILDREN'S WEAR >

There is a huge selection of children's wear, so all young fans can get fitted out in the latest fashion items!



< SOUVENIRS >

The megastore has a huge range of souvenirs ranging from leather wallets to scarves, to watches and cuddly Kingsleys. Come and visit the megastore and see all of this and much much more!



WELCOME TO MADEJSKI STADIUM

Zac Josey takes a pictorial look at Madejski Stadium.

Purchase your match day ticket from the West Stand Ticket Office



If you look in the shop today, you will see the shelves full of RFC gear



Main Reception



What a view!



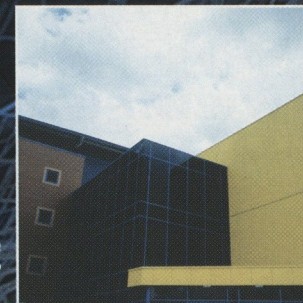
Find your way into the stadium via the directional signs



The goalposts are put in place



Can you see the Board Room?



Eyes are on you - this is the stadium control room



The finishing touches



Welcome



View from Executive Suite



View from the pitch



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DRESSING ROOM

all the latest gossip from the heart of the madejski.

Like the many other aspects of the stadium, the dressing rooms, players and official facilities are of a high quality standard.

The home dressing rooms is fitted out with blue and white tiles. The players have the option of showers or individual baths. Although the dressing rooms are of a basic design they are both spacious and comfortable.

There is also a warm-up room which joins the dressing room, which in turns links up with the physiotherapy room. These areas are also linked to a laundry room, boot room and kit storeroom.

There is also under floor heating in the area. The player's area is located in the basement of the West Stand.

There is a designated room for the referee and officials plus a female official's room. It will not be long before we see the first female referee take control of a game. The new stadium which is built for the next century needs to provide separate changing facilities for female officials.

Looking at last season's casualty list, club Physio Paul Turner is a busy man. His job is to look after the players and keep them in prime condition. Elm Park had limited facilities but with the latest high-tech rehabilitation equipment and gymnasium at Madejski Stadium, the players will be able to have their injuries dealt with on the spot.

There is a fantastic treatment room.

Three practice pitches will be built at the end of the car park. However, these will not really be completed until the pitch area has settled. This explains why the team will be retaining their base at Sonning Hockey and Cricket Club for the next few years.

Once the game is over the players will relax in their own lounge. This is where friends and family meet up after the game to either celebrate or commiserate. The players' lounge pass is the most difficult pass to get your hands on.



..press..facilities..

International, national, regional and local journalists representing newspapers, magazines, television and radio report on the Royals matches from Level Four of the main West Stand.

The football club was determined to provide a functional and comfortable press box with a good working environment for the media. The press box itself allows ease of access creating unnecessary disturbances to fellow journalists.

Press stewards are on hand to direct journalists to one or other of the 58 seats in the press box. Journalists are provided with match day programmes and team news along with any other vital information which may be required for the match. There is desk space with



each seat in the press box and the area is fitted with telephone lines.

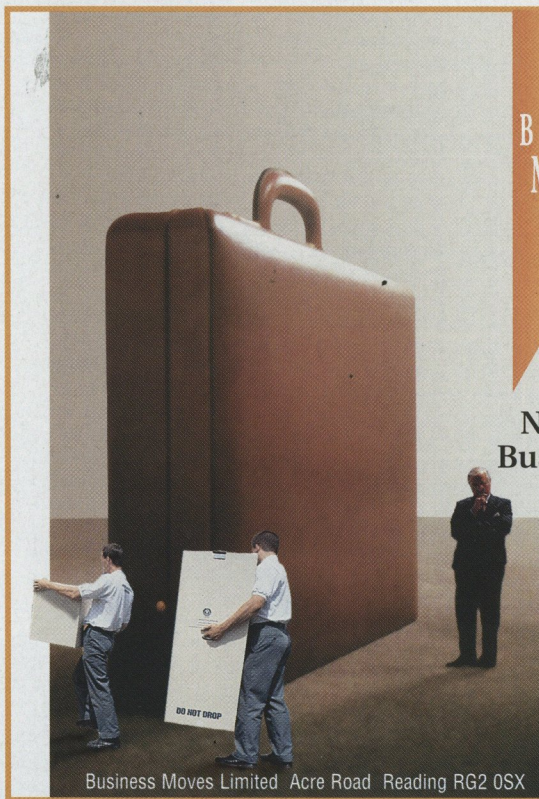
Some of the radio and television journalists have installed their own ISDN lines - broadcast quality equipment. There is a media suite located on the fourth level for post match interviews with managers and players, while the TV overhead camera

gantry is located next to the press box. On each stand in the ground

there is a camera point for excellent viewing of the whole playing area.

Match reports and pictures are a vital part in developing and maintaining an interest in our national sport.

It can be safely said that no other sport dominates the sports pages like football does and that is why the stadium must have a media friendly working environment.



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NOVEMBER 1997

Work continued on the pre-cast for the terracing for the 25,000 which will be installed later next month. At this stage the progress of the pitch was going well, while the frame of the main West Stand was clearly visible from the M4 motorway.



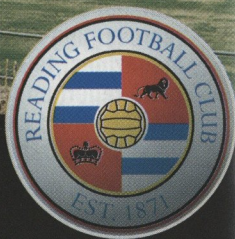
DECEMBER 1997

The Royals players take their first look at their future home when they visited the site. The team enjoyed the trip around the site and marvelled at both the pitch - already very green! - and the main West Stand, which had reached its full height and was very visible from the M4 motorway. It has become an impressive landmark from many parts of south Reading.

The steelwork on the stand was virtually complete and the final roof truss are expected to be in place within the first week of the New Year. And already around 75% of the pre-cast concrete terracing in the stand is finished.

There are almost 400 workers now employed at the stadium site. Once completion of work on the West Stand, the focus will shift to the North and South stands where the steelwork will begin in January. Meanwhile work began on the inside of the West Stand with the construction of internal walls and floors and the start of the mechanical and electrical work.

Elsewhere on the site, the remedial work and landscaping is close to completion.



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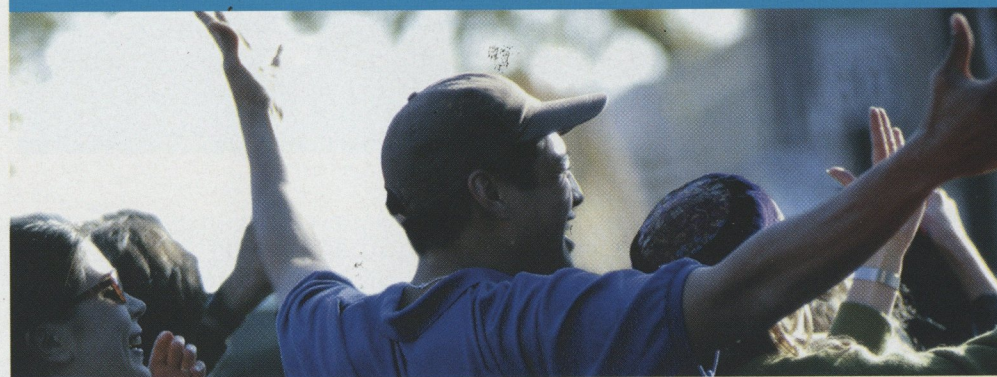
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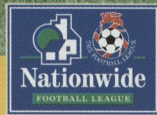


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JANUARY 1998

Supporters get the chance to see for themselves the remarkable progress at Madejski Stadium as the Club opened a purpose-built Visitors Centre. The Centre is open during office hours and allowed supporters to discover more about the construction. On display was a scale model of the new stadium and a full set of plans and drawings which show precise details of the superb facilities for supporters and corporate guests.

The Royals also submit a planning application for a 155-room hotel on the site of Madejski Stadium. The three or four star hotel will include a licensed bar and a brasserie. There will also be a health club for use of residents. Royals chairman John Madejski said: "We see this as the final piece of the jigsaw in establishing the Madejski Stadium as the finest facility of its kind in the area. The hotel will enable us to fully capitalise on the facilities offered by the Royal Berkshire Conference centre by providing first rate accommodation within the same complex and I'm confident it will greatly contribute to the future success and profitability of the Club."

The focus on the construction moved to the two 'ends' of the ground - the North and South Stands - and the steelwork and concrete terracing was now well underway. Meanwhile the brickwork which will eventually form the 28 luxury executive suites was in progress, while mechanical and electrical engineers moved into the basement and ground levels of the main stand to begin their part of the operation.



FEBRUARY 1998

As work continued on the stadium everyone is impressed with how superb the site is looking. The brickwork for the luxury executive suites is now completed. Brickwork and blockwork on all floors in the West stand commenced this month and the first seats were put in place. The mechanical and electrical engineers make excellent progress in the players' area. With the focus having moved to the North and South stands, the steelwork and concrete was well underway. Infrastructure of the East Stand also started this month. And the pitch was mown for the third time!



THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

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3

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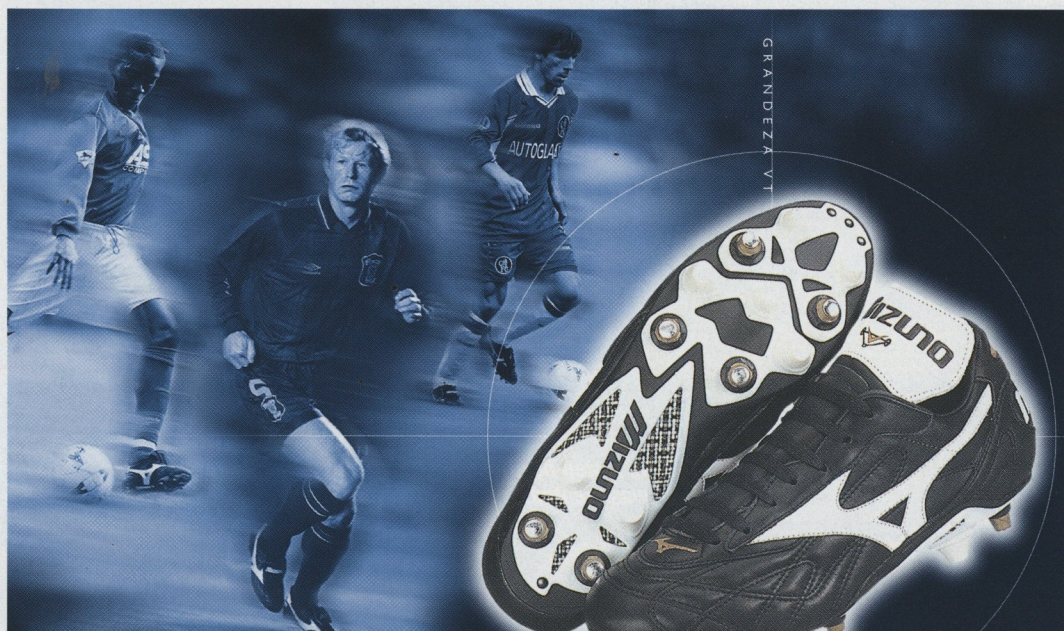
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And for superb food and excellent service, experience the magic of the Royal Restaurant. You can also take advantage of the cocktail bar and a selection of impressive menus.

From salmon terrine to chocolate truffle torte, fillet of scotch beef to wild mushroom salad, you can enjoy a four-course meal, including coffee for just £24.95.

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THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE CENTRE AT THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

The Royal Berkshire Conference Centre wishes Reading Football Club a great start to the season especially at the beginning of such a new era for the Club. We are confident the whole complex and the team will be an unsurpassable combination of exhilarating sport and an exciting venue.

In partnership with the Madejski Stadium and Reading Football Club, the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre is at the very heart of the Stadium. It is an exciting purpose-built conference and banqueting facility within the new home of our own Reading Football Club and on our doorstep.

By day, the centre provides a bustling, state-of-the-art location for seminars, conferences, training days, meetings and exhibitions. By night, it is an ideal venue for banquets, dinners, dances, parties and wedding receptions offering several suites. You will find the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre perfect for every event - large or small. Without doubt, the centre will be the preferred choice for corporate organisers or families seeking stylish surroundings for both business and social events.

Just imagine having a small and intimate meeting in one of our 28 luxury boxes with exciting views to a purpose built event suite capable of holding up to 600 guests and offering state-of-the-art AV and presentation equipment.

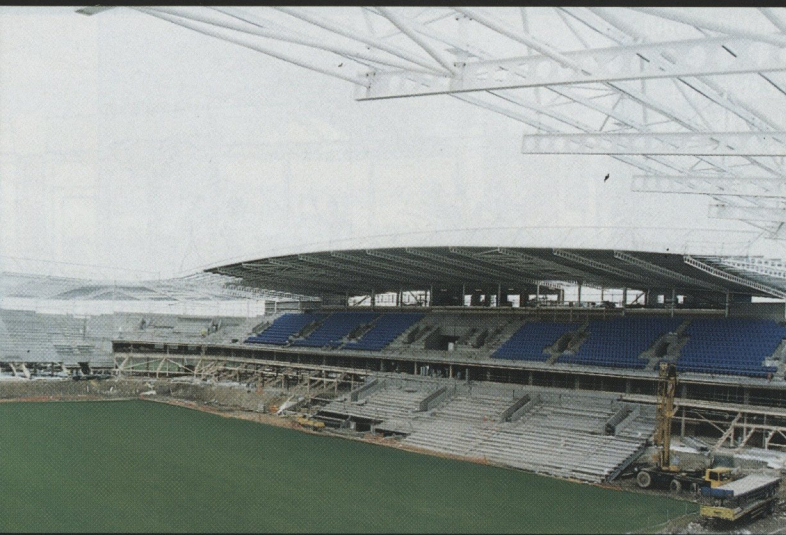
The fully air-conditioned facilities of the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre are versatile and offer total flexibility and when coupled with an outstanding catering experience and brilliant style you will enjoy a unique combination of skills and services to match even the most discerning business or social requirements.

Creative cuisine served to the highest possible standards by discerning and unobtrusive staff, are the hallmark of our catering service. With innovative menus, tailor-made to suit all requirements and prepared on-site under the leadership of our executive chef, we confidently promise you a food experience to relish.



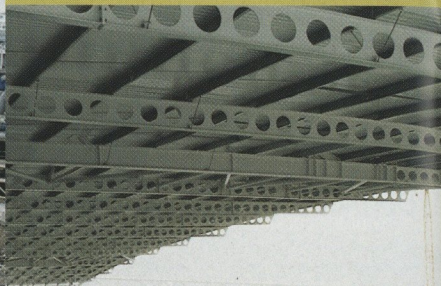
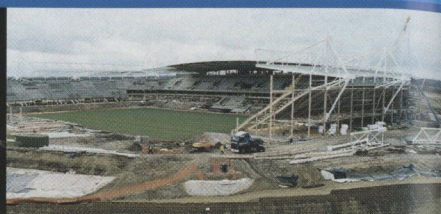
MARCH 1998

As time is passing and the project is now into the ninth month, work commenced on the car parking areas, while the steel erection and pre-cast terracing of the East stand is well underway. The focus moved to the roof where steelwork started on the West, North and South Stands. The cladding of the West Stand in the roof was completed, while the slab concrete on the ground floor of the North and South stands was underway. Work continued on the Conference and Banqueting suite, and progresses well, while the yellow cladding on the outside of the building is very visible.



APRIL 1998

The seating in the upper tier of the West Stand is completed and constructors start to plaster the walls in the offices inside the West Stand. Plastering continues in the players' area in the changing rooms, warm-up room and the players' tunnel. The East Stand progresses well and is two-thirds complete.



THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

We take a step-by-step look at just how our new home was created.

MAY 1998

As the season rolls to an end, the stadium is still on schedule to be completed for the start of the new season. The steel structure of Shooters Bar is completed, while the floodlights have been placed on the top of the West Stand roof. The bowl shape of the stadium is almost finished with only a gap in the North East corner of the stand allowing for the large cranes access in to the arena.

The final section is completed at the end of the month allowing the remaining seats to be put in place. The brickwork of the interior of the stadium particularly in the offices in the main stand is completed and the carpet, door-fittings and interior light design have all been chosen. The dugout, changing rooms and players tunnel are finished.

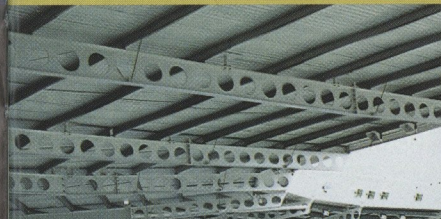
The match day restaurant has the windows in place and is the interior is plastered. The computer data points and electric plugs points are installed, while the TV camera points have been constructed on each of the stands.

The sprinkler system was operating on the pitch and was used for the first time this month, while the pitch remains in good condition in the spring sunshine. The pitch consultants are extremely happy with the progress, while the perimeter track takes shape and is soon completed. The toilets arrive and the plumbing is installed around the ground, while the showers in the player's changing rooms are fitted. And work has also commenced on the Club Shop. The conference centre is taking shape and the dividing wall which can make the centre into two rooms is in place. The various lounges around the ground have electricity installed, while all windows in the executive suites are completed. The external aluminium sheeting, which the stadium is wrapped in, was also completed.



JUNE 1998

As the month starts 2,000 more seats go into the South Stand for the away fans while 75 disabled supporters have a tour of the stadium. They are all delighted at the accessibility and quality of the disabled viewing areas. Progress is moving along at a fast pace and work continues inside of the stadium. The PA system begins to be installed and large black speakers are attached to the roof canopy.



JULY 1998

Work continues in the players area where showers and baths are installed in the home and away dressing rooms. The home dressing room are tiled blue and white. Roadworks begin on the slope leading to the stadium. All kerbing, outlining where the roads will go, starts and the car parks begin to be prepared. It is announced that Shooters will take longer than expected to be completed as the whole concept gets further upgraded while work begins to install the pitchside track which is three meters wide. This is where the perimeter advertising boards will sit.

READING FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 1998/99



FRONT ROW (Left to Right):

John Stephenson (Director of Youth Football), Paul Turner (Physio), Byron Glasgow, Martyn Booty, Darren Caskey, Robert Fleck, Grant Brebner, Tommy Burns (Manager), James Lambert, Graeme Murty, Ray Houghton, Mark Reilly, Jordan Norris, Paul Bell (Assistant Physio), Kevin Dillon (Youth Team Manager).

MIDDLE ROW: (Left to Right):

Alan Pardew (Reserve Team Manager), Ron Grant (Kit Manager), Jason Bristow, John Polston, Phil Parkinson, Jimmy Crawford, Carl Asaba, Scott Howie, Nicky Hammond, Barry Hunter, Jim McIntyre, Stuart Gray, Linvoy Primus, Gareth Davies, Pat Bonner (Assistant Manager), Steve Kean (First Team Coach).

BACK ROW: (Left to Right):

Mass Sarr, Neville Roach, Paul Brayson, Keith McPherson, Andy Bernal, Lee Hodges, Grant Smith, Jason Bowen, Andy Legg, Martin Williams, Steve Swales, Ross Harrison.

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AUGUST 1998

The finishing touches are put to the stadium as the first ever game against Luton Town is getting closer. The seats are placed in the East Stand which spell out the words Madejski Stadium. The PA System is tested and the sound system is loud and clear.

Workers continue to tarmac the road, while all directional signage around the ground is put in place. Around the town centre, all directional signs to the Madejski Stadium complex are clearly visible so everyone can easily find the stadium. The ticket office in the West Stand opened on August 17 and the shop fit out is completed. Work commences on the training pitches. Inside the stadium, the Reception area and administration offices are completed.

This is a new era for Reading Football Club and we hope that you will enjoy our new home.



The Football Trust has been providing support for football throughout the UK for 22 years.

A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

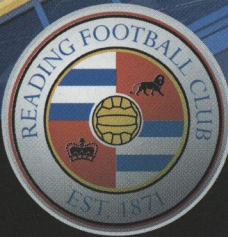
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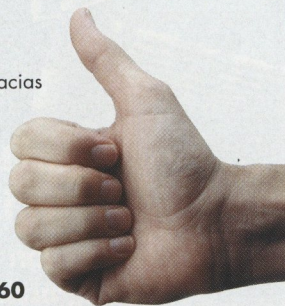
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There are a total of 28 luxury suites at the Madejski Stadium. The suites are situated on level one of the West Stand on either side of the Royal Restaurant overlooking the pitch.

The suites accommodate up to 10 people in comfort and have private facilities with glass frontage and direct access to balcony seats. Rather than being seated behind glass, supporters can take in the atmosphere of the live match from the balcony seats. The balcony level seating incorporated in the design provides all suite holders with an excellent view of the action in front of their suite.

hospitality at the madejski stadium...

On matchdays, suite holders can enjoy a full drinks service, four-course silver service meal or buffet and the use of the lounge bars. There are two hospitality bars in the West Stand, the Loddon Suite and Kennet Suite, which provides suite holders with the opportunity to socialise with each other before and after the game.

All suites have their own television showing Sky and terrestrial channels and each suite boasts a fully fitted interior including dining table and chairs, and refrigerator.

Match sponsors are entertained in the Thames Room on level one between the Royal Restaurant and the Kennet Room.

There are a number of sponsorship opportunities available at Reading Football Club, each one bringing value for money. Match sponsorship is the ideal way to raise your company profile while treating your valued clients, colleagues and friends to a feast of hospitality. Your guests can relax and enjoy a Bucks Fizz reception, stadium tour, silver service meal and post-match presentations, while your company benefits from match day programme advertising.

Associate Sponsorship is ideal for smaller groups incorporating the superb hospitality and entertainment of match sponsorship and is guaranteed

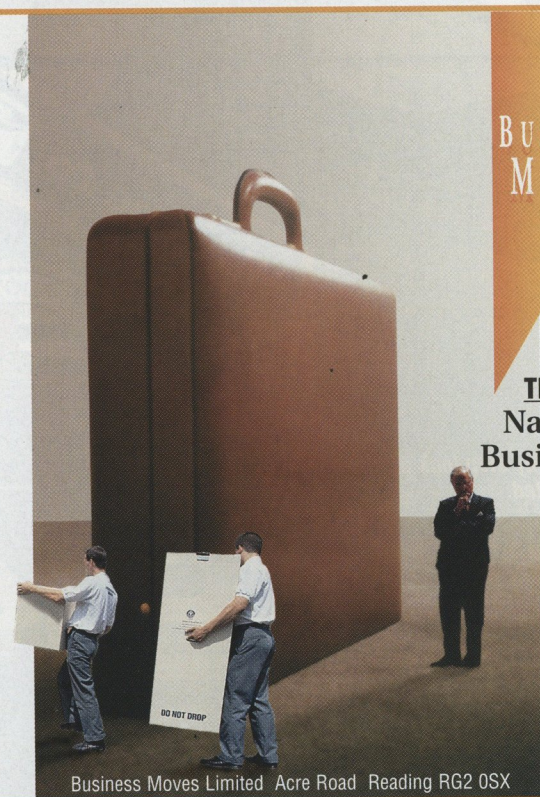
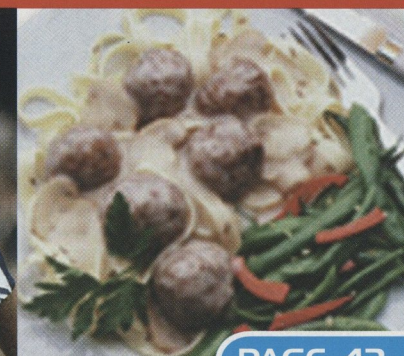
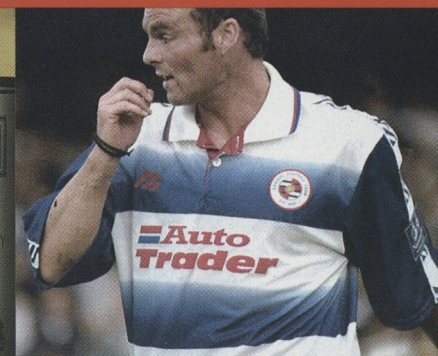
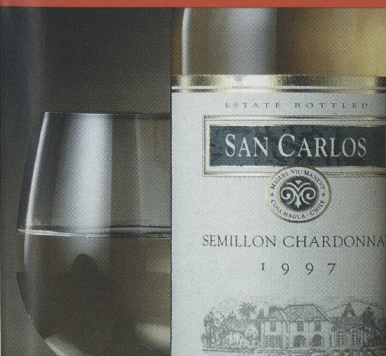
to bring benefits long after the final whistle has blown. Match Ball Sponsorship is a prestigious day at Madejski Stadium for up to six people culminating in the presentation of a signed match ball. As sponsor, your name or company logo is featured alongside the team line-ups on the back cover of the match day programme.

The Vice Presidency of Reading Football Club is a prestigious and exclusive club with the facilities for just 124 members. VPs will enjoy the benefits of a luxurious members' lounge bar plus seats adjacent to the Directors Box. The Royals Executive Club provides companies and individuals with the benefit of reserved seating for all home and cup games, plus private lounge bar facilities. Members enjoy seats adjacent to the Directors Box, half-time refreshments, a complimentary programme and a hot buffet after the final whistle.

Our facilities at Madejski Stadium are unrivalled anywhere in the country. Don't miss out on the opportunity to sample all that is best of Reading Football Club. We can accommodate groups large or small and adjust our packages to suit your individual needs and requirements. On and off the field we are here to serve you and entertain you with the best of sporting action and hospitality.

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the road to smallmead

by Alan Sedunary...

We've moved at last! It may have taken 15 years, three chairmen and more false starts than on Olympic 100 metres final, but today, in our magnificent new stadium, it has been worthwhile.

For 86 years Elm Park was the unchallenged centre of professional football in Reading (and, therefore, the known universe!) but all that began to change in October 1982. At that time, the Club was at its lowest ebb with a dispirited team heading for relegation in front of crowds of less than 2,000. Those fans who still cared blamed the Chairman Frank Waller and he reacted by putting the Club up for sale and talking about moving from Elm Park.

His solution to the Club's problems was to suggest that we share the Speedway Stadium at Smallmead. If this wasn't enough to incense the Elm Park faithful, the final straw came when it was revealed that Bill Dore, the owner of the Racers, was also the director at Sw*nd*on! Fortunately this scheme was soon scrapped but six months later a much bigger threat reared its ugly head (in more ways than one) in the form of Robert Maxwell and his ill conceived Thames Valley Royals.

Within days of the announcement of the merger, Maxwell was unveiling plans for a £10 million (only £10 million?) The cheap-skate!) super stadium in Didcot and the sale of Elm Park. Fan power, plus the efforts of Jim Brooks and Roy Tranter, saw off this threat enabling Roger Smee to lead the Club towards a bright future. Even before he was installed as Chairman he was announcing plans for a new ground, and with his experience in the property market, Roger had already spotted that Smallmead was the most likely venue.

By September 1984, the council had mentioned the possibility of making land available for the Club but almost immediately Smee scotched rumours of a move from Elm Park. A year later, with the record breaking Royals 'filling' Elm Park to its post Bradford capacity, a new ground was now becoming desirable for the right reasons and although the possibility of a ground in the, then, proposed complex at Richfield was briefly considered all eyes were soon looking towards Whitley again.

Soon after the council's relocation working party met with the Club, stating "the search for alternative sites in the Smallmead area is bearing fruits" and by February 1986

the Club and the council at last agreed that a move to Smallmead was best for everyone. A date for the move was set at the Summer of 1989! Despite this agreement, negotiations were still at a delicate stage and so when a Government public enquiry overturned the council's objections to the proposed Royals Rendezvous, the council react by suggesting that they should reconsider their help over the move.

They must have considered this for a long time because it is not until April 1989 that it is revealed that Roger Smee had been in secret talks with the council. Although the relocation committee hadn't met for two years they were still able to clarify that an area near the A33 relief road was the most likely site. With progress back on course everything is thrown into disarray when Roger Smee is forced to stand down as Club chairman due to problems with his company, Rockfort.



Enter John Madejski. Initially our new chairman planned to stay at Elm Park and convert it to an all seater stadium over the next four years but within months of taking the helm he is ordering a feasibility study to consider relocation. A year on from him bailing the Club out, Mr Madejski stated that the Club must move to survive and that his plans were to create an all seater sports and leisure complex capable of staging World Cup matches.

Again everything went quiet but behind the scenes things were moving on although it was not until February 1995 that the council announce that it was spending £50,000 on surveying appropriate sites. They are rewarded for this action by being accused of buying votes by the Conservatives! Then came the moment we had all been waiting for. On April 7, 1995, it was announced that the Club would be moving to an all-purpose community stadium with 20,000 + seats. With admirable hindsight, John Madejski commented that "The endeavour is an enormous one and will not happen overnight. We must be

patient." As the date set for the move was the start of the 1997/98 season he was proved right!

From now on things began to gather momentum and within the next six months fans start a fund to buy concrete for the new ground. Nigel Howe was appointed to oversee the move and an artists impression of the new ground was released. By now we should have known that around every corner is another delay and the next one occurred when it took the Department of the Environment over three months to rubber stamp their approval of the plans for the ground. This is finally given on May 8, 1996 but the result is yet another revised opening date - now it's December 1997. The rest of 1996 is spent resolving the complex legal issues surrounding the move, but at last, in January last year work starts on preparing the site for construction.

Although most of the funding is in place, the Club are still £10 millions short and in March 1997, John Madejski agrees to guarantee any eventual shortfall. As a result Nigel Howe suggest that the new stadium be named after our Chairman. This sparks a rash of alternative suggestions ranging from the sensible to the silly. New Elm Park and The Royals Stadium probably fall into the first category while last year's tragedy even brought the suggestion of the Princess of Wales Stadium. Rather less serious names revolved around the connection between Smallmead and its sewage related history which inspired those with a warped liking for bad puns (who can that mean? - editor) to come up with Dungroaming, Flushing Meadows and even W C Fields! Amazingly these were rejected in favour of naming it after the man who had done little more than save the club from extinction, ploughed millions into the Club and turned the new ground from a distant dream into a reality. At this point the Club wishes to deny that there is no truth in the rumours that despite the influx of Scotsmen to the Club following the appointment of Tommy Burns, there are no plans to rename the ground to the MacJocks Stadium.

On April 29 last year, the Club formally announced at the FA's London Headquarters that our new ground would be called the Madejski Stadium and that Birse Construction, who had built the new stadiums at Bolton and Scunthorpe, were to build our stadium. Six weeks later on June 11, 1997, John Madejski performed the traditional sod-turning ceremony and work commenced on the most talked about building in the town.

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40 FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT Madejski Stadium

by Anthony Smith of The



1. The landfill site which the Madejski Stadium was built on transferred from Reading Borough Council to the football club for just £1. But developers had to spend a whopping £6 million on remediation work and levelling the land in order to build on it.

2. Workers at Madejski Stadium were warned by club officials to quite literally watch their step as they went about their jobs. For any worker caught walking on the playing surface faced instant dismissal.

3. A staggering 870 construction piles - some sunk 23 metres deep - were needed to strengthen and secure the stadium structure.

4. The lower 10 terraces at Madejski Stadium are below ground level in order to give it a sleek appearance.

5. The site will be constantly monitored by health and safety workers once construction is finished to make sure levels of leachate (liquid waste) don't rise. If they do, tankers will come to take it away.

6. More than 300 people have been working on the stadium site at any one time since the project began on June 2, 1997.

7. The Madejski Stadium car park will provide spaces for 1,700 vehicles - second only to Wembley

8. Fans can pass on their good wishes for the future at the stadium's Wall of Fame. Personalised messages will be engraved in special panels and erected on the stadium wall. A maximum 22 characters on two lines costs £35.

9. Royals fans can take one last look behind-the-scenes at Elm Park in a grand auction of memorabilia collected at the ground. The auction takes place on Sunday September 27 from 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

10. Should space ever become a problem at the Stadium, the club has been left with the option of attaching another 5,000 concrete terracing to the East Stand, increasing the overall capacity to 30,000.

11. The 43 manually operated turnstiles at the stadium could be fully automated in the future. But be warned - match tickets for the Royals and Richmond Rugby Club games can only be purchased from the four ticket offices dotted around the ground.

12. Reading's groundsmen should find working at the stadium a breeze compared with Elm Park with its undersoil heating, an automatic watering system and synthetic fibres in the sand/soil mixture which helps the grass grow stronger.

13. The changing rooms are only a part of the player's area under the West Stand.

Home and away teams have separate bathrooms with showers and baths, a gym, a warm-up room with hi-tech training and exercise equipment and a large physiotherapy room. There is also underfloor heating.

14. The stadium floodlights will be situated on the front of the roof canopy to give intensified lighting. The stadium has its own generator to avoid the possibility of an embarrassing powercut.

15. Reading Reserves are looking forward to pitting their wits against the likes of Arsenal and Chelsea in the Avon Insurance Combination League. They will play most of their home games on Monday nights at the new stadium (7.30pm). Season ticket holders and Young Royals can get in free.

16. Soccer romantics can dine in the licensed match day restaurant directly over looking the pitch. A four-course meal costs £24.50 per person.

17. Three practice pitches will be laid out at the end of the stadium car park for Royals' training sessions and community to use. The club will continue to use their base at Reading Hockey and Cricket Club in Sonning until the pitches have settled.

18. Shooters sports bar will provide Royals fans with an ideal meeting point before the game or during the week. There are big screens showing a range of sports events and the bar is available for parties.

19. Internet users have access to two RFC websites. To find out the latest information about the club or just to browse through the merchandise store call the official website at readingfc.co.uk or to catch up on the fans' latest gossip and exchange views contact the Internet Royals website at football@southbank.i-way.co.uk.

20. The Madejski Stadium is likely to become a musical arena as well as a sporting one. Several promoters have shown an interest in staging pop, rock, and classical concerts during the summer months and the stadium could also be an ideal venue for Millennium celebrations.

21. Royals fans can take a behind-the-scenes look at the stadium in special ground tours beginning in October. The club can also accommodate school parties who can watch all reserve team matches for free.

22. Developers Birse have been battling it against the clock to keep the project on schedule. Work started a month late due to legal problems, there was a three week delay in remediation work and the opening date was brought forward one week to August 22.

23. Fans enter the Madejski Stadium one-third of the way up the tier to give wheelchair users easy access and a better view.

24. RFC had to contribute £6 million towards the building costs of the A33 Relief Road which will service the stadium from the M4 motorway.

25. There will be around 200 stewards working at the stadium during match days and most will hail from the Reading area.

26. The suspended stadium roof is tied back with steel supports so there are no vertical piles to obstruct the view of spectators.

27. There is a 13 person capacity lift in the main West Stand. There is also a goods lift in the stand serving all levels.

28. Elm Park will eventually be turned into 149 much-needed social houses with communal gardens.

29. The Madejski Stadium conforms to the recommendations of the Taylor Report, the Guide to Safety at Sports Ground (Green Guide) and the Football Stadia Development Committee.

30. For every £80 Young Royals season ticket bought through the Schools Soccer Cashback programme, the club gives £40 back to the school.

31. The total cost of the Madejski Stadium is a cool £40 million - slightly more than the £1,300 it cost to build Elm Park.

32. Despite the 25,000 capacity at the Madejski Stadium, it will be hard pushed to beat the Elm Park record attendance of 33,042 for an FA Cup fifth round tie on February 19, 1927.

33. There will be a huge colour scoreboard at the stadium which can be used to display messages from fans. The board was bought in America where it was used at a baseball ground.

34. All 13 concourse bars at the stadium will be themed and named by fans through the Chronicle's Name a Bar competition.

35. The football club plans to build a luxury 150 bedroom hotel, with pool, gym, business centre and restaurant at the stadium to go with the conference and banqueting facilities.

36. All East Stand seats in the stadium are unreserved for most games and fans can sit where they chose (RFC has right to make any game reserved seating)

37. RFC is expecting an annual turnover of around £1 million from its conference and banqueting facilities.

38. The huge Madejski Stadium car park will operate as a park and ride facility from early 1999.

39. BBC Thames Valley FM has clinched a deal to broadcast live action from Royals matches, home and away for the next two years. Coverage can be found on 104.1 and 104.4FM.

40. There are several new telephone numbers at the new stadium. The ticket line is 0118 968 1000, the mail-order line is 0118 968 1234 and the main switchboard number is 0118 968 1100.



hit
the road

We are at our new home again on Wednesday night for the League cup, sponsored by Worthington.



The tie against Peterborough United comes complete with ex-boss Jimmy Quinn.

Following that, next Saturday (August 29) we travel to Chesterfield for a Division Two clash. The Supporters Club will be continuing to run coach travel to all away matches this season - but supporters are reminded that in order to travel on the official coaches you must be a member of the Supporters Club for insurance purposes. You may book your away travel at the moment by contacting Denny Fullbrook on **0118 958 5566**. We will have our own window in the East Stand for away travel bookings in the near future and I hope to have further details in the Peterborough programme.

If you wish to join the Supporters Club this season, I will have further details of what we can offer you in the Posh programme on Wednesday. To contact us you may wish to write to

Reading Football Supporters Club,
55 Omers Road, Burghfield Common,
Reading, RG7 3HH.

supporters standpoint

by Gary Purser...

Good afternoon and welcome for the very first time to the Madejski Stadium.

I don't think I need spell it out that we are all making a significant contribution to the history of Reading Football Club this afternoon. As somebody said: *"this is the first day of the rest of our lives."*

A special part of this historic day must of course be given to our first ever visitors. So an especially warm welcome is extended to the supporters of Luton Town. This is the first time we have faced the Hatters since their relegation to this division at the end of the 1995/96 season. That season we managed the double over Luton winning 3-1 at Elm Park and 2-1 at Kenilworth Road. Since then Luton have been trying desperately to bounce back into Division One, but although starting last season as one of the favourites they instead struggled and almost dropped into Division Three. As if that wasn't bad enough, they had to stand by and watch as their most hated local rivals Watford



Luton Town and their supporters looking to improve their record over Reading FC.

romped away with the Division Two Championship. Hopes are high again this term as Lennie Lawrence aims to take them on back up the table despite losing a couple of key players in the summer due to the Bosman ruling.

summer action

It has been a very eventful and action packed summer this year, with virtually no break in the football action.



In fact our first friendly match against Sheffield Wednesday was no more than THREE DAYS after the World Cup final where France became only the seventh nation to carry off 'La Coupe Du Monde' as it was referred to over the channel. The England team certainly suffered some great highs and lows. The petulance of David Beckham was more than matched by the outstanding emergence of Michael Owen onto the world stage. People are asking the question as to whether



David Beckham should be forgiven for his part in England's elimination against Argentina. Speaking as someone who at that game and saw Beckham sent off no more than 25 yards in front of me - I can honestly say that Beckham should be forgiven.

The World Cup was all very good, but if we are honest the day that we have been waiting for all summer long is today! This is when we finally get to show off our fabulous new home to the world. This is when we can start to look forward with some optimism for the coming season. Although we have not enjoyed the best results in our opening couple of games, I am certain that Tommy is the right man to put it all right. So this afternoon, lets blow the roof off the place (not literally - it did cost a lot of money!) and get behind the team to show Tommy that he made the right choice in coming here.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome on behalf of the supporters John Polston, Graeme Murty, Grant Brebner, Peter van der Kwaak, Elroy Kromheer and Mass Sarr to the Club. We all wish them a very long and happy stay here at Madejski Stadium - hopefully ending up with a place in the Premiership.



Minolta are manufacturers of a wide range of Digital Black & White and Full Colour Photocopiers together with Colour Laser Printers and Multi Functional office products.

Minolta are holding a Colour Solutions Exhibition

at Reading Football Clubs new Madejski Stadium on Friday 18th September 1998 from 11.00am - 4.00pm

For further information please contact:

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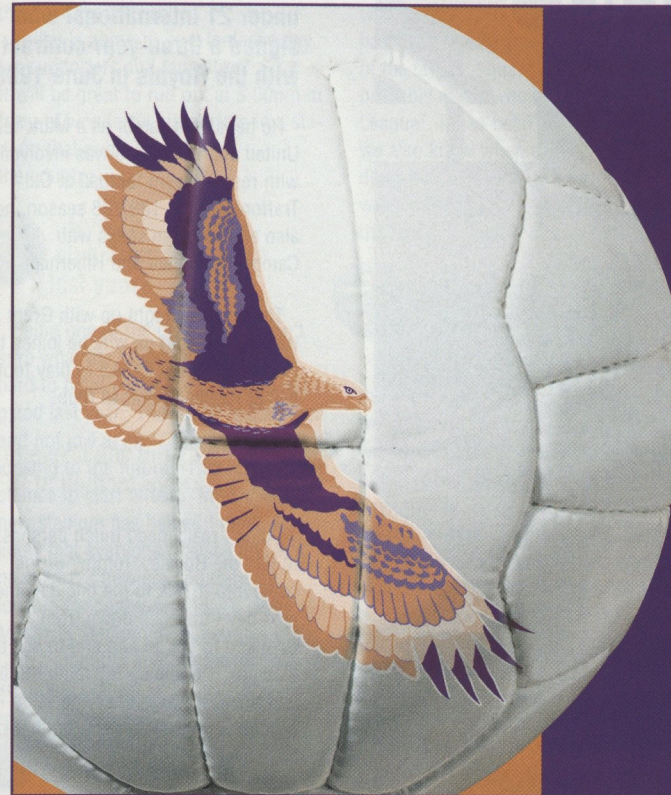
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PLAYER PROFILE



Grant Brebner is a Scottish under 21 international who signed a three-year-contract with the Royals in June 1998.

He began his career as a Manchester United apprentice and was involved with reserve team football at Old Trafford. In the 1997/98 season, he also enjoyed loan spells with Cambridge United and Hibernian.

The Royals caught up with Grant at training and told us why he joined the Royals and what its like to play football at Reading Football Club.



Why did you chose to play your football at RFC?

I didn't really need much persuasion to join the Royals. Tommy Burns came into to talk to me one day, the next day I travelled down from Scotland to talk to him and to see the stadium. I made up my mind there and then. It was an easy decision - probably the easiest decision that I have ever had to make.



What is the mood like in the dressing room?

It is like every dressing around the country. A lot of banter takes place and it's generally a good laugh. We have had a good pre-season. All the lads have worked very hard since we returned after the summer and I don't think it will be long until it starts to show. I think our fitness is at the highest level it could be. Everyone couldn't wait for the start of the season - I think if you weren't looking

forward to it, there would be something wrong with you. Today is going to be a fantastic day for supporters and fans alike. It will be great to run out at 3.00pm in front of wonderful supporters in a stadium that rivals the best in the country.



How low was the club after relegation last year?

Being one of the new lads I wasn't sure what the mood would be. It is hard to believe that the Club was relegated last year. The mood is confident and not low at all. I think everyone is looking to the future. This is the chance to start afresh. Moving to the new stadium has helped I think, I know that everyone realises this is a new start, a new era and they are looking for success. Today's game at Madejski Stadium demonstrates the Club's ambition and I know that we are going places.



What influence has the gaffer had on you?

Tommy Burns is a great manager. I can honestly say that I have learnt more in my career since I joined the Royals six weeks ago, then I have done throughout the rest of my career. He is an ambitious man who has his own plans for the team. His experience certainly rubs off on the players. We can learn a lot, lot more from him and his management staff.



What do you know about the new lads?

Well I am one of them!! I've only been with the Club for six weeks. Everyone has fitted in really well. We have one of the largest squads in our Division probably in the whole of the Football League! It has been a good laugh, but we also know when to keep our heads down and train hard. I'm looking forward to having a night out with the lads!



Is promotion possible to Division One?

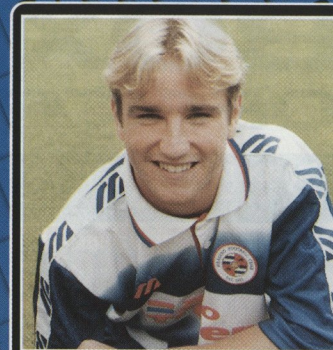
Definitely. You cannot start off with the wrong attitude. Promotion is what we want and we all know that is what we are working towards. The season has only just kicked off. We have been on the wrong end of two bad results, but we know that we have to start to put this right. We all have the ability to do this and that we have to get on a winning streak we must start today, take it from there and climb the table. We all know we can do it!

We have a stadium that rivals any Premiership club. That's our ultimate aim, but we have to take it as it comes, and we all know that we can be playing in Division One next season. As for other Clubs likely to get promoted with us this season, I think City and Fulham have a good chance.



Who are the possible match winners at the Club?

I would have to say any of the forwards. Jim McIntyre, The Kid and Flecky could be match winners. Let's hope so anyway.



BIRTHPLACE Edinburgh (Scotland)

AGE 20

HEIGHT 5ft 9in

WEIGHT 10st 11lb

POSITION Central Midfielder

PREVIOUS CLUB

Manchester United

Football team supported as a boy:
Hibernian

Favourite position at School:
Midfield

First match ever attended:
Hibernian versus Dunfermline

Favourite Football Expert:
Ally McCoist

Highlight of career so far:
Winning the FA Youth Cup with Manchester United

Biggest disappointment of career:
Being relegated with Hibernian last season.



grant brebner

our star midfielder - a closer look...

One definitely for the future is midfielder Grant Brebner. He has had a storming pre-season with the Royals and is looking forward to kicking off the home season this afternoon against Luton Town.

BOX OFFICE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

ELM PARK TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(Available until 6th September 1998)

Elm Park Main Switchboard:

0118 950 7878

Elm Park Ticket Office:

0118 958 6951

MADEJSKI STADIUM

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Madejski Stadium Main

Switchboard: 0118 968 1100

Madejski Stadium

Ticket Office: 0118 968 1000

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

Please remember advance ticket sales (prior to day of match) offer discount on tickets.

TELESALES

Credit card applications will incur a £1 handling fee per transaction. Please note however there is no charge on debit cards.

POSTAL

You can pay by cheque, credit or debit card. Please include a SAE and clearly state the date of the game and which stand you require.

PERSONAL CALLERS

Cash accepted by personal callers to the Ticket Office. We do not recommend that you send cash in the post. You can also pay by cheque, credit or debit card.

HOW TO FIND CHESTERFIELD

Exit junction 29 of M1. Follow signs to Chatsworth. Take second exit at next roundabout. Continue along until next roundabout and take first left into Markham Road. At next roundabout take fourth exit at Rutland Road. Follow road and turn right at traffic lights and immediate left into St Margaret's Drive.

MADEJSKI TICKET OFFICE NEWS

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR SUPPORTERS

THERE IS NO CASH ADMISSION AT THE TURNSTILES AT MADEJSKI STADIUM. THIS SEASON YOU WILL HAVE TO PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS FROM THE TICKET OFFICES.

AREA & CATEGORY	PRE-MATCH SALES up to 5.00 pm BEFORE DAY of match	MATCHDAY SALES
West Stand Upper Level	£18	£20
West Stand Lower Level	£12	£14
East Stand (unreserved)	£7	£8
North Stand	£6	£6
Adult	£7	£8
Concessions	£6	£6
Young Royals	£6	£6
Disabled	£6	£7

Main Ticket Office (West Stand) open Mon - Fri 9.00 am - 5.00 pm & Matchdays In addition on Matchdays, 2 hours before kick off please purchase tickets from the Ticket Office of the Stand in which you wish to sit, i.e. East Stand Ticket Office for East Stand Tickets

READING VS PETERBOROUGH UNITED

Please note Opening Hours for Peterborough United tickets

Madejski Stadium Main Ticket Office	Sat 22nd Aug	4.45pm - 6.00pm
	Sun 23rd Aug	10.00am - 12.30pm
	Mon 24th Aug	9.00am - 7.00pm
	Tue 25th Aug	9.00am - 7.00pm
	Wed 26th Aug	9.00am - 7.45pm

In addition on Matchdays, 2 hours before kick off please purchase tickets from the Ticket Office of the Stand in which you wish to sit, i.e. East Stand Ticket Office for East Stand Tickets.

East & North Stand Ticket Offices Wed 26th Aug 5.00pm - 7.45pm

Postal applications, personal callers and credit/debit telesales will be accepted. N.B: production of season ticket Voucher A will secure your own seat for this game. Normal prices apply.



TRAVELLING ROYALS

CHESTERFIELD VS READING

Saturday August 28, 1998 Recreation Ground 3.00pm kick off

TICKET NEWS

Cross Street Terrace Prices

£8.50 adults

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Approx. 2,000 - ALL PAY ON THE DAY

SUPPORTERS COACH

For details and bookings, please contact Denny Fullbrook on : 0118 958 5566.

CHESTERFIELD FACTFILE

Ground: Recreation Ground, Capacity: 8,800. Tel: 01246 209765

Manager: John Duncan. Club nickname: The Spireites

Last Season: 10th.

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If you have read this far then it has partly succeeded, however if your company requires additional IT personnel or you are an individual seeking your next contract or permanent IT position, then hopefully you will telephone us on the number above. You will discover that our sole aim is to leave you with the feeling that your problems were solved efficiently, by an agency that is simply "good to deal with".

Thank you for reading our advert and we look forward to speaking to you.

Today's mascots

Leading out the Royals on this very special afternoon is **Jonathan Denton** and **Chris Adaway**.



Jonathan is four years old and attends the Park Day Nursery in Reading. He's looking forward to meeting his favourite Royal, Phil Parkinson with his mum and dad. Jonathan is already showing a passion for football, cricket and golf and simply loves being outside. We all hope Jonathan enjoys the first ever game at Madejski Stadium.



Our best wishes are also extended to 12 year-old **Chris Adaway**. Today is a special treat for Chris from his mum and dad, Shirley and Roy. His favourite players are Phil Parkinson and James Lambert. His hobbies include football, tennis, badminton and playing football games on the play station.



Leading out the Hatters this afternoon is **Serdar Ismail**. He loves tennis, football and cricket and is looking forward to meeting his favourite player, Steve Davies, at the Madejski Stadium.

commercial & marketing...

SUCCESS OF THE ROYALS CUP

This was the final year that the Royals Cup was played at Elm Park.

The tournament offered a unique chance to play 11-a-side football in a League club environment.

Last year the competition adopted a league format providing each team with a minimum of 3 games and this proved very popular. And Hewlett Packard remained the Royals Cup sponsor.



BTSS Syncordia Solutions collect the Royals Cup from Club Director Ian Wood-Smith.

In May 1998, 16 teams took part in the tournament. Once again the tournament featured tremendous games, most of which were closely fought contests. BTSS Syncordia Solutions beat Walkers Snack Food in a penalty shoot out in the semi-final, while the other semi-final was won by Eagle Star who beat Gowrings PLC 3-2.

And the last Royals Cup at Elm Park climaxed with a superb final between BTSS Syncordia Solutions and Eagle Star, with BTSS Syncordia Solutions winning 4-1.

Reading Football Club would like to thank the Royals Cup sponsor - Hewlett Packard - and to all the companies who took part in this year's competition.

A WINNER WITH THE ROYALS

Another Royals supporter found himself going home with more than a victory to celebrate when he scooped the prize in our fabulous half-time Golden Gamble draw at the Sheffield Wednesday game on July 15.



Lucky winner Steve Jennings.

Steve Jennings from Tilehurst was the lucky holder of the winning ticket and he collected a cheque for £480 from Lee Hodges and Golden Gamble girl Amanda Chivers. Don't forget to buy your ticket today - you could be the first ever Golden Gamble winner at the Madejski Stadium.

BE A MASCOT FOR THE DAY

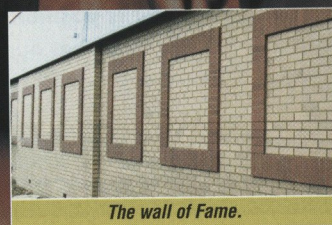
We have opportunities for children to be mascots at our League and Cup games at Madejski Stadium.

It is a great day out and one that any child will remember for life. If you would like to be a mascot in this historic first season at Madejski Stadium, please call Sue Reid, commercial co-ordinator, on 0118 975 7400 for details.

WALL OF FAME

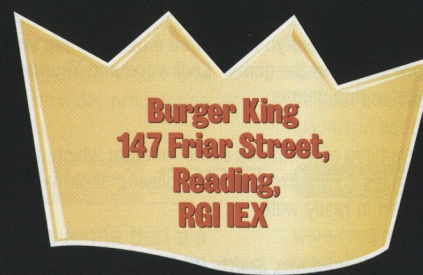
There is still some space available on the Wall of Fame at Madejski Stadium.

You can pass on your best wishes for the future or have your very own personal message (with up to 22 characters on two line) engraved in the brick wall for just £35. You can reserve your brick by contacting **Sue Reid** on 0118 975 7400.

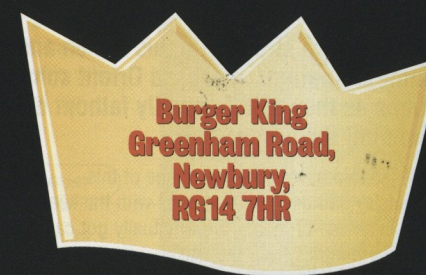


The wall of Fame.

Tasty Locations by Royal Command!



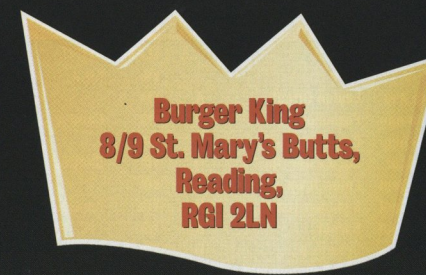
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YOUTH FOCUS

with Kevin Dillon



READING 2 GILLINGHAM 0 SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

This game was played at Elm Park and it was a game that the lads played really well in. Actually we should have won the game by a bigger margin.

We had to involve a couple of schoolboys in the side due to injuries of the YTS lads. The two goals were scored by two of our midfield players, Adam Beasley and Toby

Sumner. I was pleased with both their performances.

We played a different system to normal, in fact it is similar to the way the first team have kicked off this season. And it worked really well.

Team: Cooper, Smith, Hadow (Martin), Sumners, Lockwood, Youngs, Hadland, Beasley, Hill (Williams), Garton, Pulisciano (Lackford).



READING 1 LEYTON ORIENT 1 SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

We were much stronger in this match and kept the same formation. It caused Orient some problems as they didn't actually fathom out the system until the second half.

And we should have taken advantage of this. Adam Beasley had three one-on-ones with the keeper and failed to finish any of them. We eventually got caught on the break 15 minutes from the end.

whistle when Emlyn Hill scored a penalty. We should have gone onto win the game. Lockwood and Youngs had outstanding games.

We have nine injuries at the moment which doesn't help the cause. The first years are playing in games and have settled in really well.

Team: Ashdown, Smith, Hadow, Sumners, Lockwood, Youngs, Hadland, Beasley, Hill (Williams), Garton (Martin), Pulisciano (Lackford).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIXTURES 1998-99						
DATE	MATCH	H/A	TEAM	VENUE	FIXTURE	K.O.
Sat 8th Aug	Gillingham	H	Yth	t.b.a.	SECL	2-0
Sat 15th Aug	Leyton Orient	A	Yth		SECL	1-1
Sat 22nd Aug	Portsmouth	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 29th Aug	Cambridge Utd	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 5th Sept	Colchester Utd	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 12th Sept	Luton Town	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 19th Sept	Swindon Town	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 26th Sept	Barnet	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 3rd Oct	Brentford	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 10th Oct	AFC Bournemouth	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 17th Oct	Brighton & Hove	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 24th Oct	Bristol Rovers	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 31st Oct	Oxford Utd	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 7th Nov	Southend Utd	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 14th Nov	Wycombe Wanderers	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 21st Nov	Leyton Orient	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 28th Nov	Portsmouth	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 5th Dec	Wycombe Wanderers	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 12th Dec	Gillingham	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 2nd Jan	Cambridge Utd	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 9th Jan	Colchester Utd	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 16th Jan	Luton Town	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 23rd Jan	Swindon Town	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 30th Jan	Barnet	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 6th Feb	Brentford	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 13th Feb	AFC Bournemouth	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 20th Feb	Brighton & Hove	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 27th Feb	Bristol Rovers	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am
Sat 6th Mar	Oxford Utd	A	Yth		SECL	11 am
Sat 13th Mar	Southend Utd	H	Yth	Cantley	SECL	11 am

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE APPEARANCES 1998-99					
	SECL	LC	SJFC	FAYC	GOALS
STEPHEN ARKINS					
JAMIE ASHDOWN	1				
ADAM BEASLEY	2				1
RICHARD COOPER	1				
MARK ENGLISH					
WESLEY GARTON	2				
ALEXANDER HADDOW	2				
PHILLIP HADLAND	2				
DARIUS HENDERSON					
EMLYN HILL	2				1
STUART LACKFORD	(2)				
ADAM LOCKWOOD	2				
PAUL MARTIN	(2)				
DANIEL MASTERS					
MARCUS McDONALD					
ASHLEY PULISCIANO	2				
GARY SHAW					
CHRIS SMITH	2				
NEVILLE STAMP					
TOBY SUMNER	2				1
KEVIN YOUNGS	2				

RESERVE RESULTS

With Reserve Team Manager Alan Pardew

The Reserve team is due in action on Monday nights at Madejski Stadium.

The Reserves will play in the Avon Insurance Combination League and will be taking on reserve teams such as Crystal Palace, Spurs and Wimbledon. The League promises some good nights out! And season ticket holders and Young Royals at the Madejski Stadium can watch the Reserve team for free.

There will be special offers and events for all Monday night Combination games. Watch local press and match day programme for further details.

The first Combination league game at Madejski Stadium will kick off on Monday September 7 at 7.30pm against Wycombe Wanderers. Refreshments will be available and there will be a relaxed atmosphere inside the stadium making it a good night out for families.

You will be able to enjoy yourselves, watch some good football - a nice and relaxed evening out at Madejski Stadium. Members of the first team will also be at the match and you will be able to mingle with them and get their autographs. Reading FC have a large squad this season, and this will be your chance to see some of our players in action.

READING 0 QPR 2 MONDAY 17 AUGUST

This was a game that we played reasonable well in and it looked like it was going to be a 0-0 draw.

75 minutes had been played when QPR were attacking our goal when one of their players strayed off side and the referee let it go. This decision resulted in a goal. This was really the turning point of the game, until then we were holding our own. It changed the game, our concentration went with the decision and QPR scored again. At the end of the game QPR were much stronger than us.

Andy Bernal and Nicky Hammond

were credited with a good game, as were Robert Fleck and Paul Brayson. Brayson played the first half - it was his first game back since injury. Another player to get through the game was Mark Reilly - who hasn't been in action lately due to injury.

It was a disappointing result, we worked extremely hard and played particularly well. We will continue to work hard again and get the right result against Barnet on Monday.

Team: Hammond, C Smith, Swales, Reilly, Davies (Youngs), Bernal, Lambert, Roach, Fleck, Brayson (Bowen) (Hadland), G Smith.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION FIXTURES 98/99



Mon Aug 17	Q.P.R.	A	0-2
Mon Aug 24	Barnet	H	
(2 pm kick off at Elm Park)			
Mon Sep 7	Wycombe W.	H	
Wed Sep 16	Luton Town	A	
Mon Sep 21	Watford	H	
Mon Sep 28	Crystal Palace	H	
Tue Oct 6	Oxford	A	
Mon Oct 12	Northampton Town	H	
Mon Oct 26	Cambridge United	H	
Wed Nov 4	Peterborough Utd	A	
Mon Nov 16	Portsmouth	H	
Wed Nov 25	Brighton & H.A.	A	
Wed Dec 2	Swindon Town	A	
Wed Dec 9	Gillingham	A	
Mon Dec 21	Millwall	H	
Wed Jan 6	Brentford	A	
Mon Jan 11	Ipswich Town	H	
Thur Jan 21	Norwich City	A	
Mon Feb 1	Colchester United	H	
Tue Feb 9	West Ham United	A	
Mon Feb 22	Tottenham Hotspur	H	
Mon Mar 1	Arsenal	A	
Mon Mar 15	Charlton Athletic	H	
Mon Mar 22	Chelsea	A	
Mon Mar 29	Wimbledon	H	
Wed Apr 7	Southampton	A	
Mon Apr 12	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H	
Wed Apr 21	Fulham	A	

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated, all of the above home fixtures will kick off at 7.30 pm at Madejski Stadium.



family night football

DON'T MISS THE NEXT RESERVE MATCH

READING VS WYCOMBE W.

MONDAY 7th SEPT
7.30PM KICK-OFF
TO BE PLAYED AT MADEJSKI STADIUM

(Season Ticket Holders FREE)
CHILDREN: (FREE)

interior design at **madejski stadium**



The creative and innovative designs of the restaurant, bars and corporate facilities at the futuristic Madejski Stadium were developed by Ferndale Interior Contracts Limited.

Established in 1980, Ferndale was originally contacted by Derrick Carr, Retail Development Manager at Courage Ltd, back in July 1997. With their Head Office in Ascot, Berkshire, Ferndale's principle line of business is the design and refurbishment of commercial premises.

Because of the long and successful relationship it has enjoyed with Reading Football Club, Courage had offered the design of numerous bars planned at the new Madejski Stadium as part of an agreement between the Club and Brewery. Based upon their previous working partnership, Ferndale's Senior Designer, Laura Beard, was approached by Courage as to whether they would be interested in putting together some initial concepts.

After several meetings with Courage, Ferndale presented the design schemes to Nigel Howe, the Club's Chief Executive. He was so impressed with the initial concepts that he asked Ferndale to design the Corporate Facility areas throughout the stadium. These areas include the 28 luxury boxes, the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre and banqueting suite, the Vice-President's lounge, Directors Lounge and the Royals Executive Club.



Shooters Bar

The design team, led by Laura Beard, have had an interesting challenge in creating something unique to Reading. With the number of new football stadia increasing at an astonishing rate it is all too easy to mirror the latest fads without giving too much thought to the people who are going to use it, namely the fans and equally important, the local residents of Reading. Laura therefore tried to create designs that will appeal to visitors who will use the stadium's facilities during the week as well as on matchdays. This is best reflected in the designs of Shooters Bar which is members only on matchdays but will be used by local business people at lunchtime and after work during the week.

Reading Football Club now has a football stadium to be proud of and Ferndale are very pleased to have been involved in the development of such an impressive structure. Indeed one that we hope will soon be visited by rival Premiership teams!

Ferndale Interior Contracts Ltd
Gibbs House
Kennel Ride
Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7NT

Tel No 01344 890099
Email : sales@ferndale.co.uk

Contact: Neil Littlewood, Director



Cocktail Lounge

Royal Heroes

Herbert Smith Born - 1879

Herbert Smith played for Reading shortly after the Club had moved to Elm Park and he won more England International caps than any other player in the Club's history. He was born in Witney in 1879 and played for many teams including Richmond, Oxford City, Clapton and Stoke City before joining the Biscuitmen in the summer of 1902.

He remained an amateur player throughout his career and played fourteen times for the England amateur side as well as helping Great Britain win the Olympic gold medal for football in 1908. In addition he played for the full England side on four occasions - never once being on the losing side. Despite often being the only amateur in the line-up, he was the Reading captain throughout the early 1900's and also found time to help Oxford City reach the Amateur Cup Final of 1903 which they lost after a drawn game at Elm Park.

Herbert Smith played at left-back and despite being powerfully built, had a reputation as a fast and clean defender, renowned for his sportsmanship. According to the Book of Football published in 1906, Smith's success was to a large extent due to the fact that he was a total abstainer.

In later life he became President of the Oxfordshire Football Association.

By David Downs.

Picture sourced from article on Herbert Smith 1904.



READING borough council

A SYMBOL OF PARTNERSHIP IN READING

The first match at Reading's Madejski Stadium is especially pleasing for the council as it represents an excellent example of a truly successful partnership project.

The council provided the land at Smallmead for the site, and has continued to work closely with the Club to make the Stadium a reality.

Cllr David Sutton, leader of Reading Borough Council, said: "The Madejski Stadium is an important part of the town's growth, reflecting the exciting times ahead for Reading to take us into the next Millennium and towards City status.

"I am pleased that the council has been able to play a part in making the stadium a reality and proud to be wishing them the best of luck, on behalf of the council, at their new ground."



John Madejski pictured here with Cllr David Sutton, leader of Reading Borough Council.

JUMP ON A BUS

To make your journey to watch your favourite team more enjoyable and comfortable, RFC have teamed up with Reading Buses to operate a special bus service on match days from the following areas:

Service 72	Woodley, Wokingham Road and Whitley
Service 73	Lower Earley and Whitley Wood
Service 74	Emmer Green, Caversham Park and Lower Caversham
Service 75	Purley, Kentwood and Oxford Road
Service 76	Norcot Road, Tilehurst and Meadway
Service 77	Calcot, Fords Farm, and Southcote

There will also be a shuttle service in operation between Reading Station and the Madejski Stadium for the first team matches. Buses will operate every 15 minutes, starting two hours before kick off. The last shuttle will run approximately 30 minutes before the game starts. After the match there will be a regular service leaving the stadium every 15 minutes.

For further timetable details please call Reading Buses on 0118 959 4000.

READING festival 98

If after the excitement of the first match you still have some energy to spare, why not join the thousands of festival-goers who travel to Reading for one of the country's leading music events.

Bands including Ash, Shed Seven and Garbage will entertain crowds at this year's festival on August 28, 29 and 30 at the Richfield Avenue showground.

Headlining on Friday night will be Jimmy Page and Robert Plant and some of the highlights from the rest of the weekend include the Beastie Boys, Foo Fighters and Roni Reprazant. * In addition to the main stage there will also be a number of smaller stages providing for a whole range of music tastes.

For further details please call 0171 344 0044. **

*details correct at time of press
** tickets still available at time of press.



ROYALS Academy junior centres...

WHAT IS A JUNIOR CENTRE?

An opportunity for players between the ages of 6 and 11 to receive quality coaching by Reading Football Club's Centre of Excellence coaches.

Coaching provided will use the Centre of Excellence syllabus giving players the chance to develop skills and techniques to a high standard. Players who achieve the required standard will be recommended to the Centre of Excellence.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Players need to be of a reasonable standard with the desire to develop to the highest level required by Reading Football Club's Centre of Excellence.

Local team managers may also use the facility for the extra training of better players.

HOW LONG DO THE CENTRES RUN?

The Centres run during the school term time from September until May.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost of attendance at the Junior Centre will be £21 per school term regardless of how many weeks there are in the term, so whether it is a 10-week or 16 week term, the cost remains the same.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY?

Reading Football Club feel that this is a unique opportunity to offer players the chance to develop to the standard required by the Centre of Excellence or just to receive quality coaching by our experienced and highly qualified staff.

JUNIOR CENTRE INFORMATION

* Junior Centres run per school term at a cost of £21.00 per term. (10% discount for Young Royals and for second or subsequent child in family - £18.90)

* Junior Centres are for the following age groups - under 6, 7, and 8 with emphasis on mini-soccer coaching. Under 9, 10, 11 with Centre of Excellence syllabus and small sided games. All ages at midnight August 31.

* Dates and times of courses are:

Henwick Worthy, Newbury - from Monday September 7
16.30 - 17.30 under 6,7 and 8
17.45 - 19.00 under 9,10 and 11

Reading Hockey and Cricket Club, Sonning - from Monday September 7
17.00 - 18.30 under 9, 10 and 11 + goalkeepers 8 -14

Mini Soccer Centre - venue t.b.a. - from Monday September 7
17.00 - 18.50 - under 6,7 and 8

Windsor Boys Club, Windsor - from Friday September 11
19.00 - 20.00 under 6,7 and 8
20.15 - 21.30 under 9,10 and 11

*To apply for a place at a Junior Centre please complete the form and return with cheque for requisite amount made payable to Reading Football Club for £21.00 to:

Royals Academy, Elm Park, Norfolk Road,
Reading, Berks, RG30 2EF.



Child's name:.....
School:.....
.....
Date of Birth:.....
Telephone Number:.....
Any allergy or medical condition:.....
.....
Preferred Location: Newbury / Reading / Windsor (Please circle)
Signed:.....(Parent / Guardian)
Date:.....

I agree to the transfer of my son from the Junior Centre to the Reading Football Club's Centre of Excellence if recommended by the Junior Centre manager. I also understand that there may be a waiting list for places.

Yes / No (Please circle)

THE NETS GAPING

...so here is your chance to score

11.9% APR

No Annual Fee



Show you're a team player
and support the Club by applying for the
Reading Football Club MasterCard® Card now!

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0800 413907

Quoting Ref 05UH for an application form

*APR 11.9% (13.6% for Cash Advances) for the first 6 months rising to 19.9% (21.8% for Cash Advances). Interest rates may be varied from time to time. Minimum monthly repayment of £5.00 or 5% of outstanding balance, whichever is the greater. "Bank of Scotland" is a registered Trade Mark of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland. "MasterCard" is a registered Trade Mark of MasterCard International Inc. All lending is subject to appraisal by The Bank of the applicant's financial status. Full details and a written Consumer Credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland, Banking Direct, Card Services, Pitreavie Business Park, Dunfermline, Fife KY99 4BS. Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and monitored under the Bank's quality control procedures. You must be 18 or over and resident in the UK to apply for a Card. Bank of Scotland subscribes to the Banking Code (1997).

QUICK BITS

young royals membership...

When the Young Royals club started in June we set ourselves a target of 1,000 members by Christmas.

And we are pleased to say we now have over 900 members and it looks like we will be reaching our target by the end of September. This makes us one of the biggest and best junior clubs in the Football League - and that's official! It is fantastic news.

how to join...

If you are interested in joining the Young Royals and receive some great benefits, write for more information to Young Royals, Reading FC, Madejski Stadium, Reading, Berks, RG2 0FL.

Or call Jane Rosi on 0118 975 7400 or 0118 968 1310 (from September 7).

thank you...

Reading Football Club and the Young Royals would like to thank Mark Edgell and his company Key Windows for sponsoring the Young Royals ball-boy and girl team kits.

KEY WINDOWS

Windows • Doors • Conservatories • Roofline Products

young royals



Welcome to this new season and to our very first game at the magnificent Madejski Stadium.

We would also like to welcome our very special visitors today, especially Jane Kelso, her helpers and members of the Luton Town's Junior Hatters Club.

You may think that the Young Royals closed down during the summer, but they have been kept very busy. They have been busy processing all YR memberships as well as organising some great trips and events for the near future. For all up-to-date information read this page in every match day programme and in our column each week in the Reading Chronicle.

THE YR BACKROOM TEAM

Let's meet the Young Royals back room team. **Richard Wickson**, is the father of two of our very own Young Royals. He has been a volunteer at the club for many years and is a former chairman of RFC's supporters' club and a current Vice-President. **Jane Rosi** joined the Royals in January this year and is the Young Royals co-ordinator. Jane's role is to look after all the Young Royals providing all sorts of information and help to create a friendly and exciting environment for all members. You can contact Jane on 0118 975 7400 or 0118 968 1310 (from September 7)

1998/99 YOUNG ROYALS BALLBOYS AND GIRLS

A squad of ballboys and girls were chosen at a selection day in July. This is the first season that our Young Royals club has been given the opportunity to supply ballboys and girls for RFC. Over 40 boys and girls aged between 12 and 15 came along for the day. They all had to work very hard with everyone running, jumping, catching and throwing throughout the day. The exercises and games were fun and it was very hard to select 18 from so many young hopefuls. And here is your chance to meet the official squad: David Taylor (squad leader), Gareth Hedderly, Rebecca Gregory, Stuart Gosney, Christopher Pattern, Simon Goswell, Tom Edgar, Ryan Maslen, James Elliot, Debbie Wanklyn, Joanne Taylor, Harriet Eggleton, Nathan Dobson, Christopher Wrey, Philip Freeman, David Bird, Claire McNicholas. Reserves: Samuel Kraze and Gary Osler. We would like to wish them the very best for the coming season!



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CAPTAIN'S COMMENT

Welcome to the very first game at Madejski Stadium.

After 14 months of hard work by everyone involved with the construction of the stadium, our first game is taking place today.

It is hard to believe that the Royals are playing in such a fantastic stadium - the dream is finally here. The stadium reflects all our ambitions and hopes and the new era is now underway.

I know that there will be a big crowd today and I hope that as many of you as possible will continue to be here for the whole of this historic season at Reading Football Club. This season is very important for the future of the Club. As we push for promotion we need your support as much as ever. We all have our dreams of playing in higher divisions and we know this can be achieved. We have an ambitious Chairman, Board of Directors and of course manager Tommy Burns has ambitions of taking the team to the Premiership.

I know that all the fans will cheer us on today and steer us to the three points. It is vitally important that we get our first win of the season under our belt today. All the players know they have the capability to do well in this division and push for promotion.

DISAPPOINTMENT

The first two League games of the season have been very disappointing for us. I know that our disappointment is shared by the management and players as well as the fans. We know what we have to do to put it right. Things didn't go to plan in the games against Wrexham and Bristol Rovers. But we know that we can turn it around today and get the vital points. Once we have that first win under our belt, our confidence will be sky high and the results will come together.

Division Two is a tough League. Everybody knows this and we don't expect it to be a walk over. We need to get ourselves right and start playing how we should be playing. However, we are confident that we will be at the top end of the table and pushing for promotion.



I think all the teams in the League are difficult opponents. As well as Reading, I think that there will be two other teams heading up the pack - Stoke and Fulham. We'll just have to wait and see how the season develops.

GOOD TEAM SPIRIT

All the lads have worked very hard in pre-season. I think everyone is a lot fitter this year and it will show over the season. We have a big squad this campaign, probably one of the biggest in the League. But we have had a few injuries so far this season, which has not been good. And some of the new players have not had chance to play yet, which has been a shame, due to injuries they have picked up. Mass Sarr returned from Liberia on Wednesday where he had been playing for his country and he will be available for selection today. All the new boys have settled in really well and we are looking forward to seeing them playing for the Royals.

On a personal note, I am delighted to be captain. I am very proud that the manager asked me to take on this new role and I am obviously disappointed that the way we have started the season. It has not been good. But I will be working hard to put this right - starting with today's game.

Everyone is fired up for the clash with Luton Town. Luton have made a good start to the season with a win on the opening game of the season against Wycombe Wanderers, while they drew 1 -1 with Preston North End last weekend. They will be coming here to snatch the points but we are determined to have them for ourselves.

So let's cheer on the Royals. And I look forward to seeing you all back here at the Madejski Stadium on Wednesday night when we take on Peterborough United in the Worthington Cup.

"I know that all the fans will cheer us on today and steer us to the three points. It is vitally important that we get our first win of the season under our belt today"





ROYALS Academy

a new approach in a new era

Reading Football Club's Centre of Excellence launched its new look earlier this month with over 160 of the regions best young players involved.

The centre, which coaches age groups from under 9 - under 16, has moved to the Club's training centre in Sonning. This will ensure that the best facilities possible are made available to the youngsters. In addition, the coaching curriculum has been widely expanded to include all aspects of football, physiology, nutrition and mental skills.

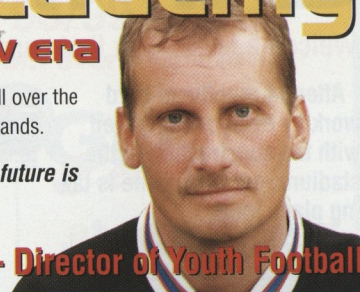
Older age groups will receive 5 hours coaching each week, covering all of the topics mentioned above. Supervised homework rooms have been provided at the training centre so as the school-boys involved have a quiet location to do their school homework before they train.

Most of the young players will be involved in fixtures played on a Sunday. These start on September 13, 1998 and will enable our young

players to display their skills all over the South of England and the Midlands.

The future is bright, the future is Reading Football Club.

John Stephenson - Director of Youth Football



THE ACADEMY COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

The Royals Academy Junior Centres are the route into the Club's Centre of Excellence and one is opening near you.

On September 7, 1998 coaching centre will be opened in Newbury, Reading and Windsor. They are low cost and are specifically targeted at young players who feel they have the ability to progress to Centre of Excellence standards. The Junior Centres are staffed by senior coaches from the Centre of Excellence to deliver the highest standards of coaching.

In addition they will be on hand to watch you perform and recommend you to the Centre of Excellence if you reach the standard required.

If you think you are good enough and would like to be involved please call John Stephenson on 0118 950 7878 for an application form.



COMMUNITY news

With Football & Community Officer Chris Whalley

Welcome back and I expect you're reading this in a more comfortable place in our new home.

I expect you are all excited and amazed at the sheer scale of the stadium compared with our past humble abode.

We have not yet moved into our new office and will keep you informed as to when we do, however, for the time being, we are still in our drafty old home in E stand at Elm Park.

We have been very busy over the last few weeks with the Royals Soccer Roadshows, bringing quality soccer activities to boys and girls aged between 5 and 14.

Next week sees us at Hugh Farringdon School, Reading and Rucstall School, Basingstoke. The Roadshow comes to an end at Kidmore End School on September 4. You can still join in the fun by calling the office on 0118 956 0898.

HAVEN SENT

Back in May, seven-year-old Luke Giles of Lower Earley won our Haven Holiday Soccer School Competition and as promised here

he is receiving his award from our very own Keith McPherson and yours truly at a special assembly with his schoolchums at Hawkedon Primary School.

*Luke won a holiday for seven people at one of Haven UK Caravan Parks. P.S. We are still waiting for our postcard!!



NEW DEAL

We have teamed up with Adidas UK Ltd and you should be able to recognise us easily in our new scheme gear. It's a marvellous deal and there will be lots of initiatives for all our young fans to take part in over the season. Watch this space!!

SATURDAY CLUB

It will take a while for the Saturday Club to get off the ground this season. Eventually the day will include coaching and

games, ground tours and a chance to meet the players plus tickets for the match. Contact the Office for further details.

Meet Bob, Chris and Nick - The Royals Community Department



As you will know by now, we are no longer responsible for the Young Royals and away travel. All enquiries to Jane Rosi on 0118 975 7400.

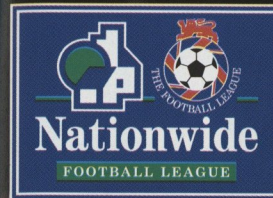
COMING SOON

Girls Football Development Scheme
Learning Difficulties Scheme
Small-sided Tournaments

HOW TO REACH US

0118 956 0898 (until September 6)
0118 968 1460 (after September 7)
Mobile: 0468 295381.

NATIONWIDE GOSSIP



Bristol Rovers' defender Andy Tilson is believed to be a target for Ray Graydon at Walsall, who released veteran centre back Derek Mountfield in the summer, while a familiar player to

the Royals supporters, Michael Meaker, also joined

Young striker Jason Roberts arrived from Wolves to replace Peter Beadle who signed for Port Vale.

At Northampton, former Manchester United defender Graham Hogg and ex-Norwich winger Louie Donowa played in The Cobblers' pre-season draw with neighbours Rushden & Diamonds.

Bradford City midfielder Shaun Murray became Notts County's Sam Allardyce's eighth signing of the summer.

Stoke teenager Dean Crowe has agreed a new contract, heading off interest from a number of clubs.

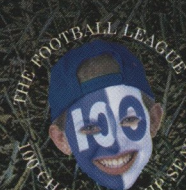
Nationwide League Division One

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	Pts
Birmingham	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	5	6
Wolves	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	6
Norwich	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	4	6
Watford	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	6
West Brom	2	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	2	6	4
Bolton	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	4	4
Sunderland	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	4
Bury	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4
Crewie	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	4	3
Sheff Utd	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	3
Huddersfield	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	3
Stockport	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bristol City	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	3	2
Ipswich	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Barnsley	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	3	3	1
Palace	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	3	3	1
Swindon	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1
Portsmouth	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	1
Oxford	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	1
QPR	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Tranmere	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	1
Grimsby	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
Bradford	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Port Vale	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0

Nationwide League Division Three

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	Pts
Rotherham	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	4	1	7	6
Southend	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	6
Halifax	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	6
Cambridge	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	6
Hartlepool	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	4
Scunthorpe	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	4	3
Brentford	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	3
Swansea	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3
Shrewsbury	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	3
Peterborough	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	3	3
Orient	2	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	0	3	3
Torquay	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Barnet	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Plymouth	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	3
Carlisle	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	3	
Darlington	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	3
Mansfield	2	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	3	2	3
Exeter	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
Brighton	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1
Cardiff	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	1
Chester	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	1
Hull	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	3	2	0
Scarborough	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Rochdale	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0

Nationwide Building Society would like to wish all clubs success in this 1998/99 centenary season of The Football League



Nationwide

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE





READING FC

Andy Bernal - Defender

PLAYERS INTERVIEWED

THE ROYALS CAUGHT UP WITH DARREN CASKEY AND ASKED HIM...



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME

YOU BOUGHT A CD?

The last time I bought a CD was Blue by Simply Red. It is a great CD and I would recommend it to anyone. I think Mick Hucknall has a great voice and I'm really into their music.

YOU BOUGHT SOME DESIGNER GEAR?

The last lot of designer gear I bought was a Ted Baker shirt.

YOU WENT TO A CONCERT?

The last concert I went to was to see Janet Jackson in 1998. It was fantastic.

YOU BOUGHT A PRESENT FOR SOMEONE?

I bought my girlfriend Nicole some clothes and a ring for her birthday

YOU SCORED A BLINDING GOAL?

That was some time ago. It would have to be when I was playing for Spurs. We travelled up to Old Trafford and I scored a blinder - that was in 1993!

YOU TRIED A DANGEROUS SPORT?

We're not really allowed to spend time partaking in dangerous sports. But in the Summer of 1997, I tried Jet skiing. What a laugh - I really enjoyed it!

YOU WENT ON HOLIDAY WITH THE LADS?

Last summer we all went to Cyprus. That is all I am going to say!!

ROYALS BARRY HUNTER TELLS US FIVE OF THE BEST...



WHICH OF YOUR TEAM MATES ARE

WORST AND BEST AT TRAINING?

Well the worst is Martin Williams but the best is Steve Swales. He trains really hard and puts a lot of effort into it!!!

CHOOSES THE MUSIC ON THE TEAM BUS?

Well we will have to wait and see who take this job over this season. For the last couple of season it has been Sal Bibbo. So we are looking for someone to replace him and we are definitely looking for an improvement on the music!!

WHO DO YOU SHARE YOUR HOTEL ROOM WITH?

Well last season I shared a room with my old pal Bods. I'll just have to wait and see who the lucky person is I get to share with this campaign!

IS THE WORST AND BEST DRESSED PERSON?

Leggy is the worst! And I don't have to explain why! Jimmy McIntyre is most defiantly the best dressed!!

IS THE LEAST PERSON YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AGAINST?

Carl Asaba - and that is all I am saying!

Its Bar-B-Q TIME

Family Bar-B-Q-Pack

- 16 Chicken Drumsticks
- 16 Homemade Sausages
- 16 Bar-B-Q Pork Ribs
- 16 Chinese Style Chicken Portions
- Tandoori Style Chicken Portions
- 16 Minted Lamb Chops
- 8 Homemade Beefburgers
- 8 Homemade Pork & Apple Burgers
- 8 Homemade Lamb & Mint Burgers
- 8 Chinese King Rib Grills

ALL FOR - £30 - FREE DELIVERY

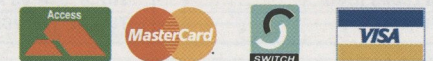


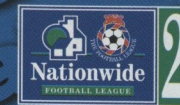
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95, Crockhamwell Rd, Woodley (0118) 9691715





THE ROYAL FACT-FILES...

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULTS
Sat Aug 8	Wrexham	A L 3-0 6,671
Tue Aug 11	Peterborough Utd (WC1) 1	A D 1-1 2,186
Sat Aug 15	Bristol Rovers	A L 4-1 7,529
SAT AUG 22	LUTON TOWN	H
WED AUG 26	PETERBOROUGH UTD (WC1) 2	H
Sat Aug 29	Chesterfield	A
WED SEP 2	YORK CITY	H
Sat Sep 5	Walsall	A
WED SEP 9	BURNLEY	H
Sat Sep 12	Preston North End	A
SAT SEP 19	COLCHESTER UTD	H
Sat Sep 26	Macclesfield Town	A
SAT OCT 3	STOKE CITY	H
Sat Oct 10	Fulham	A
SAT OCT 17	GILLINGHAM	H
WED OCT 21	BLACKPOOL	H
Sat Oct 24	Manchester City	A
Sat Oct 31	Wycombe Wanderers	A
SAT NOV 7	A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	H
WED NOV 11	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H
Sat Nov 21	Northampton Town	A
SAT NOV 28	LINCOLN CITY	H
Sat Dec 12	Millwall	A
SAT DEC 19	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H
Sat Dec 26	Luton Town	A
MON DEC 28	NOTTS COUNTY	H
SAT JAN 2	CHESTERFIELD	H
SAT JAN 9	WREXHAM	H
SAT JAN 16	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Sat Jan 23	York City	A
Sat Jan 30	Notts County	A
SAT FEB 6	WALSALL	H
Sat Feb 13	Burnley	A
SAT FEB 20	PRESTON NORTH END	H
Sat Feb 27	Colchester United	A
SAT MAR 6	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H
Wed Mar 10	Stoke City	A
Sat Mar 13	A.F.C Bournemouth	A
SAT MAR 20	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H
SAT MAR 27	MANCHESTER CITY	H
Sat Apr 3	Gillingham	A
MON APR 5	FULHAM	H
Sat Apr 10	Blackpool	A
Tue Apr 13	Lincoln City	A
SAT APR 17	NORTHAMPTON	H
Sat Apr 24	Wigan Athletic	A
SAT MAY 1	MILLWALL	H
Sat May 8	Oldham Athletic	A

THE KEY...

FAC / LC = FA CUP
OR LEAGUE CUP MATCH

VAN DER KWAAK	BOOTY	LEGG	BREBNER	DAVIES	KROMHEER	CRAWFORD
VAN DER KWAAK	BOOTY	LEGG	BREBNER	PARKINSON	KROMHEER	BOWEN
VAN DER KWAAK	BOOTY	LEGG	BREBNER	PARKINSON	KROMHEER	BOWEN

PLAYER IN RED DENOTES SCORER

NUMBER IN BRACKETS DENOTES PLAYER REPLACED ()

CASKEY	MCINTYRE	GRAY	LAMBERT	WILLIAMS (7)	SARR (11)	NOT USED
CASKEY	MCINTYRE	GRAY	WILLIAMS	ASABA (11)	HOUGHTON (7)	NOT USED
CASKEY	MCINTYRE	GRAY	WILLIAMS	ASABA (3)	HOUGHTON (7)	REILLY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2 TABLE

	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GLS	PTS
STOKE	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	5	6
COLCHESTER	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	5	6
FULHAM	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	6
BOURNEMOUTH	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	6
MILLWALL	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	6
PRESTON	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	4
LUTON	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
WALSALL	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	4
BRISTOL ROVERS	2	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	2	5	3
WREXHAM	2	1	0	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	3
NOTTS COUNTY	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	3	1	4	3
MAN CITY	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	3
BLACKPOOL	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	3
BURNLEY	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	3
CHESTERFIELD	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
LINCOLN	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
GILLINGHAM	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
NORTHAMPTON	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
YORK	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	1
WYCOMBE	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0
OLDHAM	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0
READING	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	1	0
WIGAN	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
MACCLESFIELD	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES 98/99

Player Name:	LEAGUE	W. C.	FAC.	Gls.
	Apps.	Apps.	Apps.	
CARL ASABA	(2)	(1)	0	1
ANDY BERNAL				
MARTYN BOOTY	2	1	0	0
JASON BOWEN	1	1	0	0
PAUL BRAYSON				
GRANT BREBNER	2	1	0	0
JASON BRISTOW				
DARREN CASKEY	2	1	0	0
JIMMY CRAWFORD	1	0	0	0
GARETH DAVIES	1	0	0	0
ROBERT FLECK				
BYRON GLASGOW				
STUART GRAY	2	1	0	0
NICKY HAMMOND				
ROSS HARRISON				
LEE HODGES				
RAY HOUGHTON	(1)	(1)	0	0
SCOTT HOWIE				
BARRY HUNTER				
ELROY KROMHEER	2	1	0	0
JAMES LAMBERT	1	0	0	0
ANDY LEGG	2	1	0	0
STEVE MAUTONE				
KEITH MCPHERSON				
LINVOY PRIMUS				
JOHN POLSTON				
JIM MCKINTYRE	2	1	0	0
GRAEME MURTY				
PHIL PARKINSON	1	1	0	0
MARK REILLY				
NEVILLE ROACH				
MASS SARR				
STEVE SWALES				
GRANT SMITH				
MARTIN WILLIAMS	1(1)	1	0	1
PETER VAN DER KWAAK	2	1	0	0

LAST SEASONS TOP SCORERS

CARL ASABA (ENG)	11
TREVOR MORLEY (ENG)	9
MARTIN WILLIAMS (ENG)	8
LEE HODGES (ENG)	5

LAST SEASONS TOP GATES

SUN 3 RD MAY VS NORWICH	14,817
MON 13 TH APRIL VS MIDDLESBROUGH	14,501
TUE 6 TH JAN VS MIDDLESBROUGH	13,092
TUE 24 TH FEB VS MANCHESTER CITY	11,513

LAST FOUR GAMES

BRISTOL ROVERS	LOST 4-1
PETERBOROUGH UTD	DREW 1-1
WREXHAM	LOST 3-0
NORWICH CITY	LOST 1-0

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How Clubs scored goals... and conceded them

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	
8	12	7	9	2	4	14	1	Bournemouth	8	11	4	5	1	5	16	2
13	9	9	15	0	1	11	1	Blackpool	18	8	7	6	0	5	21	2
13	7	6	6	1	3	14	0	Brentford	8	17	11	5	1	1	25	3
14	8	6	9	4	8	18	2	Bristol City	4	9	3	8	0	2	12	1
13	7	11	6	1	5	27	0	Bristol Rovers	13	7	4	7	1	7	25	0
17	13	2	6	0	3	13	1	Burnley	19	9	8	4	2	3	20	0
15	9	7	7	1	4	14	0	Carlisle United	17	12	13	9	2	4	16	0
10	10	4	7	0	2	13	0	Chesterfield	8	5	6	9	0	4	10	2
11	11	6	4	0	2	23	3	Fulham	12	5	9	3	0	2	12	0
5	3	4	4	0	5	29	2	Gillingham	5	6	7	5	1	4	19	0
9	6	5	8	3	6	17	1	Grimsby Town	6	6	2	7	1	1	14	0
12	4	6	6	1	1	29	1	Luton Town	12	6	6	10	2	5	22	1
8	7	7	2	1	1	15	2	Millwall	12	3	9	6	2	3	18	1
12	6	2	9	0	7	15	1	Northampton Town	6	12	3	4	0	1	11	0
18	14	4	9	0	2	14	1	Oldham Athletic	9	5	8	8	0	3	18	3
16	12	8	2	0	4	12	1	Plymouth Argyle	16	11	8	7	2	4	18	4
10	8	12	4	5	2	14	1	Preston North End	9	10	10	9	0	4	14	0
7	7	7	9	0	2	14	1	Southend United	10	9	10	16	5	3	25	1
8	7	5	7	0	3	12	1	Walsall	7	11	7	3	1	2	20	1
10	6	12	7	2	2	28	0	Watford	8	8	2	4	2	2	15	0
14	13	9	8	1	4	14	1	Wigan Athletic	14	7	7	8	2	5	22	1
8	6	8	2	4	2	24	1	Wrexham	13	4	8	6	2	3	15	0
8	6	5	10	0	3	18	1	Wycombe Wanderers	18	6	7	4	0	5	12	1
8	3	13	3	2	5	17	1	York City	15	7	6	6	1	3	19	1

Yellow & Red Cards

Y	R	Points
75	7	96
79	5	94
78	4	90
72	6	84
63	7	84
74	3	83
70	4	82
67	5	82
63	6	81
67	4	79
64	5	79
63	5	78
72	2	78
68	3	77
66	2	72
69	1	72
66	1	69
53	4	65
64	0	64
54	1	64
52	0	52
47	0	47
40	2	46
43	0	43

1997-98 Season Division Two Campaign Records

Highest & Lowest Attendances:
19,141 Bristol City v Watford - 13 April
2,039 Wrexham v Southend Utd. - 21 Oct

Biggest Home Win:
Burnley 7 York City 2 - 31 Jan
Carlisle Utd 5 Southend Utd 0 - 10 Jan
Bristol Rovers 5 Wigan Athletic 0 - 10 Apr
Fulham 5 Carlisle United 0 - 13 April

Biggest Away Win:
Luton Town 0 Watford 4 - 4 Oct
Bristol Rovers 0 Grimsby Town 4 - 12 Dec

Highest Aggregate Scores:
Burnley 7 York City 2 - 31 Jan

Consecutive Wins:
Bristol City - 8

Games Unbeaten:
Bristol City - 15

Consecutive Defeats:
Bristol Rovers, Carlisle United, Southend United - 5

Games Without A Win:
Preston North End - 11

Final Sequences

Consecutive Wins:
Watford - 2

Games Unbeaten:
Gillingham, Wycombe Wanderers - 6

Consecutive Defeats:
Carlisle United - 4

Games Without A Win:
Millwall - 8

Div. 2 Stat Attack

Keys: H=Header; CR=Close Range; OB=Outside Box; V=Volley; FK=Free Kick; P=Penalty; IB=Inside Box; OG=Own Goal; PU=Players Used; GF=Goals For; GA=Goals Against; CS=Clean Sheets; LP=Lowest position; HP=Highest Position

Division Two Statistics, Club by Club

	PU	GF	GA	CS	LP	HP	LS	NL	FAC	CCC	T
Bournemouth	24	57	52	17	14	4	Fletcher	12	1	0	13
Blackpool	35	59	67	10	17	7	Clarkson	13	2	0	15
Brentford	37	50	71	10	24	11	Taylor	13	2	3	18
Bristol City	28	69	39	16	19	1	Goater	17	0	1	18
Bristol Rovers	27	70	64	9	14	3	Hayles	23	2	0	25
Burnley	33	55	65	10	24	18	Cooke	16	1	1	18
Carlisle United	34	57	73	8	24	16	Stevens	17	0	0	17
Chesterfield	29	46	44	17	14	2	Willis	8	1	2	11
Fulham	37	60	43	17	18	3	Moody	15	0	0	15
Gillingham	29	52	47	17	17	3	Akinbiyi	21	1	0	22
Grimsby Town	25	55	37	23	23	3	Donovan	16	1	1	18
Luton Town	33	60	64	14	23	16	Thorpe	14	0	3	17
Millwall	38	43	54	12	18	3	Shaw	11	0	1	12
Northampton Town	29	52	37	18	8	2	Seal	12	1	1	14
Oldham Athletic	36	62	54	15	16	3	Barlow	12	1	0	13
Plymouth Argyle	27	55	70	10	24	17	Corazzini	17	0	0	17
Preston North End	26	56	56	14	18	3	Ashcroft	14	2	0	16
Southend United	33	47	79	7	24	13	Boere	14	0	0	14
Walsall	25	43	52	16	22	12	Boli	12	4	2	18
Watford	26	67	41	14	2	1	Kennedy	11	1	1	13
Wigan Athletic	31	64	66	11	21	6	Lowe	16	1	0	17
Wrexham	26	55	51	15	20	3	Connolly	7	5	1	13
Wycombe Wanderers	23	51	53	17	19	3	Stallard	17	0	0	17
York City	28	52	58	12	18	3	Rowe	10	3	1	14

Div. 2 Average Attendances

Bristol City	11,846
Watford	11,533
Burnley	10,473
Preston NE	9,468
Fulham	8,976
Millwall	7,023
Gillingham	6,464
Bristol Rovers	6,413
Northampton T.	6,393
Luton Town	5,879
Oldham Ath.	5,588
Wycombe W.	5,414
Carlisle Utd.	5,393
Plymouth A.	5,323
Grimsby Town	5,271
Blackpool	5,212
Brentford	5,037
Chesterfield	4,749
Bournemouth	4,703
Southend Utd	4,202
Wrexham	4,109
Walsall	4,062
Wigan Athletic	3,968
York City	3,853

Statistics compiled by Football Information Services
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Match Facts

TODAY'S TEAMS WILL BE PICKED FROM THE PLAYERS BELOW

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Mr Robert Styles
(Waterlooville)

A company director who began refereeing in the Hants County League in 1989. He progressed through the Isthmian League, Wessex League before joining the National List of referees in 1996. Married with three children, Mr Styles enjoys all sport in particular cricket.

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

M J North
S J Tanner

THE FACT!

DID YOU KNOW?

RFC are now in the Avon Insurance League and you have the chance to watch the Royals reserve team pit their wits against some of the best teams in the country. On Monday nights at 7.30pm why not come along to Madejski Stadium and support the reserves, not only is it free to get in if you're a season ticket holder or a Young Royal you are guaranteed a great night out absolutely free!

TODAY'S STATS

HALF-TIME:

FULL-TIME:

CROWD:

CLUBCALL

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Luton Town

TEAM LINE-UP

SCOTT HOWIE
PETER VAN DER KWAAK
MARTYN BOOTY
STUART GRAY
GARETH DAVIES
ELROY KROMHEER
ANDY LEGG
LINVOY PRIMUS
JASON BOWEN
GRANT BREBNER
DARREN CASKEY
JIMMY CRAWFORD
RAY HOUGHTON
JAMES LAMBERT
PHIL PARKINSON
MARK REILLY
CARL ASABA
PAUL BRAYSON
ROBERT FLECK
JIM MCINTYRE
MASS SARR
MARTIN WILLIAMS

NATHAN ABBEY
KELVIN DAVIS
STEVE DAVIS
GARY DOHERTY
STAURT FRASER
JULIAN JAMES
MARVIN JOHNSON
GAVIN MCGOWAN
MITCHELL THOMAS
ALAN WHITE
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