

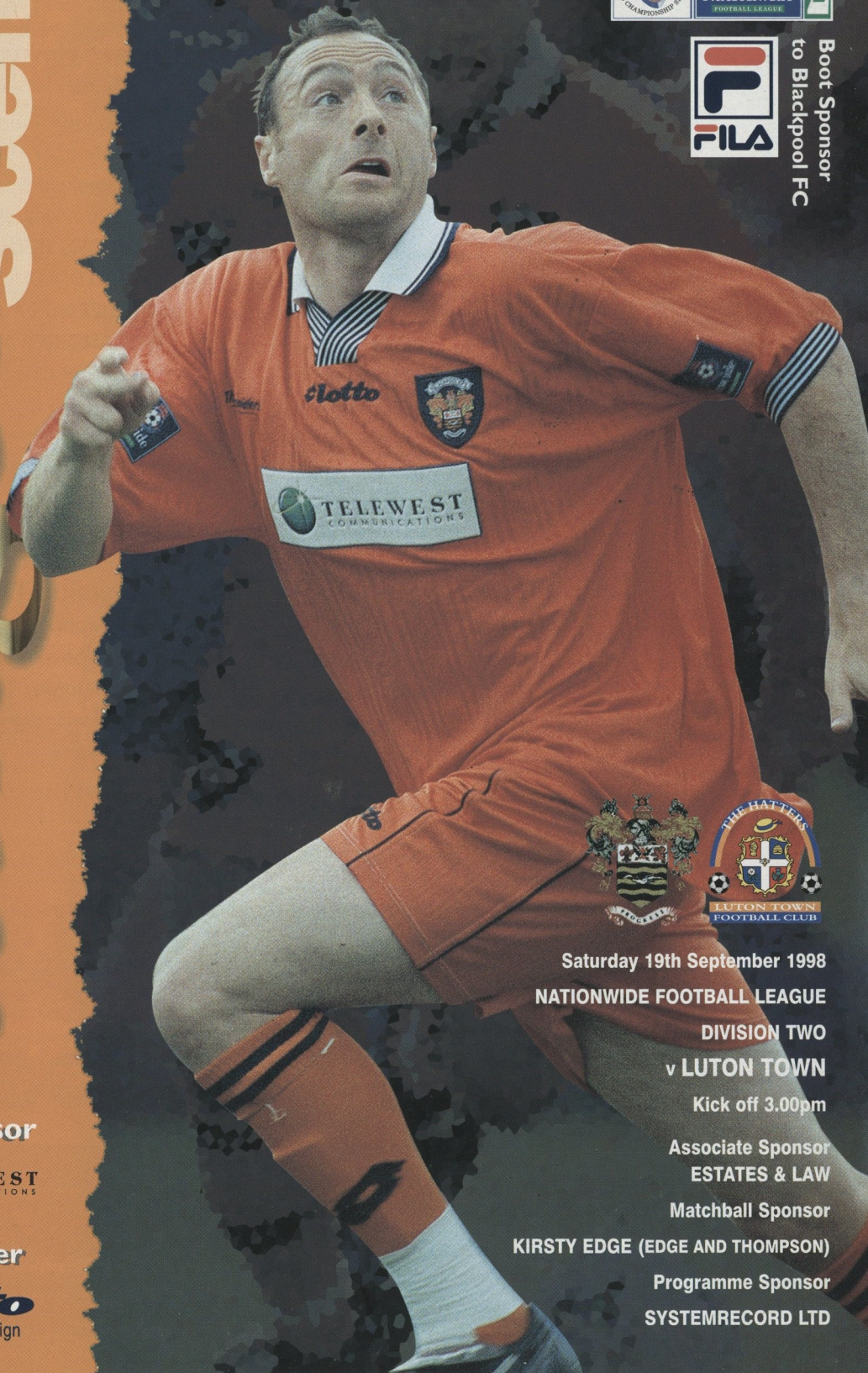
THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF BLACKPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB 1998-1999

League scene

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Saturday 19th September 1998

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DIVISION TWO

v LUTON TOWN

Kick off 3.00pm

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Jt Programme Editors: Roger Harrison, Geoff Warburton

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will be held at Aston and Lea Golf Course Club on Thursday 13th October 1998. Teams of 4 - companies providing 3 players and the 4th a current or ex-player. Evening meal with top speakers Mike Kelly and Steve Kindon, cost £295. For more information contact Andy Morley on 777120

First leg - Tuesday 15th September 1998. Bloomfield Road, Blackpool. 7.30pm kick off.
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Second Leg - Tuesday 22nd September 1998 Prenton Park, Wirral. 7.45pm kick off

Worthington Cup Second Round

We have drawn against Tranmere Rovers in the above mentioned cup fixture to be staged as follows:

Nationwide League Division Two
Blackpool v Millwall
The above mentioned fixture for Saturday 10th October 1998 will now kick off at 12.30pm.

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notice Board

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If you have any information about any person involved in football hooliganism, please call the National Criminal Intelligence Service, Football Unit on freephone 0800 515495. Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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worthy Words



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Welcome to Lennie Lawrence and his Luton Town team who have made a good start to the season. I was again pleased with another hard working performance at Lincoln last Saturday the players showed a determined disciplined attitude especially when under pressure late in the game. Phil Clarkson, after signing a new contract, celebrated with another goal and it was great for Martin Aldridge to open his league account after great work by Brett Ormerod. The injury situation among senior players seems to be slowly easing and most of them should have had a game by the time you read these notes. Unfortunately Pat Lynch a promising midfielder who is a 1st year YTS has suffered a broken leg. Our medical people will give his the best possible attention in his recovery programme and I am sure that you join with me in wishing him all the best. Another 1st year YTS Brian Manchester suffered an injury before the season started and we all wish him a speedy recovery as well. Another hard fought game against Tranmere Rovers just gives us a slight advantage for the second leg but there is still at least 90 minutes to go. Great to see Martin Aldridge doing the job I knew he could do. Cheer the lads on today and get to Prenton Park on Tuesday in force to get behind the team.

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Luton Town



Welcome to Luton Town and their supporters who have made the journey north for today's important fixture. Last season Luton were struggling in the wrong half of the table and sold top scorer Tony Thorpe to Fulham. This season they are currently in 3rd place having taken 13 out of the last 15 points only losing one league game this season 3-0 at Reading.

PREVIOUS FOOTBALL LEAGUE MEETINGS

1897/8	Div 2	1-0 (H)	1-3 (A)
1898/9	Div 2	2-3 (H)	2-3 (A)
1955/6	Div 1	3-2 (H)	1-3 (A)
1956/7	Div 1	4-0 (H)	2-0 (A)
1957/8	Div 1	1-2 (H)	0-2 (A)
1958/9	Div 1	3-0 (H)	1-1 (A)
1959/60	Div 1	0-0 (H)	1-0 (A)
1971/2	Div2	0-1(H)	0-3(A)
1972/3	Div2	1-1(H)	2-2(A)
1973/4	Div2	3-0(H)	0-3(A)
1975/6	Div2	3-2(H)	0-3(A)
1976/7	Div2	1-0(H)	0-0(A)
1977/8	Div2	2-1(H)	0-4(A)
1996/7	Div2	0-0(H)	0-1(A)
1997/8	Div2	1-0(H)	0-3(A)

BLACKPOOL TOTAL RECORD

P 30	W 12	D 6	L 12	P 39	A 41
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AT BLACKPOOL

P 15	W 9	D 3	L 3	F 25	A 12
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AT LUTON

P 15	W 3	D 3	L 9	F 14	A 29
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LAST FOOTBALL LEAGUE MEETING AT BLOOMFIELD ROAD

Saturday 9th August 1997
Blackpool 1 v Luton Town 0 HT: 1-0 Att: 6547

Blackpool: Banks, Bryan, Bradshaw, Butler, Lydiate, Brabin, Bonner, Clarkson, Quinn, Philpott, Preece
Subs: Carlisle / Russell / Worthington (not used)
Scorer: Lydiate

Luton: Feuer, McGowan, Thomas, Waddock, Davis, Johnson, McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe, Davies
Subs: Douglas for Davies Evers / Harvey (not used)
Referee: Mr S Mathieson (Stockport)

THE MANAGER

Lennie Lawrence
With former youth coach Terry Westley struggling in his first experience as a manager, he and Luton Town reluctantly decided to part company as the Hatters slid to the bottom of Division One. Four months in the autumn of 1995 had seen £2 million spent, but only four matches won out of 22. Luton decided they needed an experienced hand on the tiller, and Lawrence fitted the bill perfectly. Perhaps more importantly, he knew about running clubs on shoestring budgets, having made his name by taking impoverished Charlton into what is now the Premiership, and keeping them there for four years, when they did not even have a home of their own. Lawrence was a non-league player, with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton United. His managerial career started as assistant at Plymouth and then Lincoln. He went to Charlton as reserve team coach before landing the hot seat. He had been boss for nine years when he left Charlton in 1991 and took over at Middlesbrough. He led them to promotion to the Premiership a year later, but they were relegated after only one season and was replaced by Bryan Robson. Bradford City offered the next opportunity, but he left after 18 months to return south. A few weeks later he became Luton's 21st manager. The survival task proved too much, with the December leeway too big a gap to close, 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 ended in disappointment, with play-off semi final defeat against Crewe. And, as so often happens, reaction to the near-miss saw Luton struggle last season. Baset by injuries, and forced to see leading scorer Tony Thorpe to balance the books, relegation was a real threat until Luton picked themselves up in the last couple of months of a frustrating campaign.

Nathan "Tanny" Abbey

A young goalkeeper who had a surprise first taste of the big time last season. Happily playing for Luton's youth team. He was given his first XI debut when both Luton's senior keepers were unavailable. Abbey played well in a 1-1 draw with Colchester in the Coca Cola Cup and has since built up more experience on loan to Woking in the Vauxhall Conference.

Graham Alexander

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 side of midfield, looking to back up the attack. He contributed eight valuable league goals to help Luton out of relegation danger.



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Herve Bacque

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. He started his career with Lorient, in Brittany, and after two years, and still only 21, he was recruited by Monaco.

There, at a very rich club full of international stars, he found it frustrating playing his football in the reserves. Monaco agreed to give him a free transfer and after looking at several English clubs Bacque (pronounced Back-ay) settled for Luton because he was more impressed by Lennie Lawrence than the other managers he met.

Simon Davies

Midfielder who was in the Manchester United squad that won the FA Youth Cup in 1992, but with so much talent at Old Trafford found it difficult to make an impact in the Premiership and was loaned out to Exeter. Luton offered 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 place in the Luton team last season, but hopes to do so now.

Kelvin Davis

After seeing off two Americans, finally became first choice goalkeeper last season. A product of the Hatters' youth development, he started his league career on loan to Torquay early in the 1994/95 season, but despite having few chances at Kenilworth Road because of the form of Juergen Sommer he won England, youth and under-21 caps. Davis eventually ousted Sommer, who is now back in the States, but went through a rocky spell in a struggling Luton team and lost his place to Ian Feuer, a giant American who cost £600,000 from West Ham. Feuer lost his place through injury last season, and this time Davis proved too good to drop again, and Feuer has since returned to the USA.

Steve Davis

A massive bonus from Terry Westley's short reign as Luton manager in 1995, Davis was formerly Burnley's skipper and the Turf Moor club wanted £1.5 million for him, in the days before Bosman. Luton offered £300,000 and happily accepted a tribunal decision of £750,000. He was immediately appointed skipper, and as well as being a commanding figure in central defence has a habit of popping up in attack and powering in goals.

Gary Doherty

Big and brave, Doherty is a centre-half who can also operate as a centre-forward. He played in central defence for the Luton team which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals and won the South East Counties League

championship last season. He became a temporary striker to help an injury crisis, and did well enough to make the switch permanent. And he is making an impact on a bigger stage too: after being capped at youth level he has already been on the subs' bench for the Republic of Ireland.

Stuart Douglas

A real hotshot in youth and reserve team football, Douglas was still a 17-year-old trainee when he made his league debut for Luton against Oldham in 1995. He scored and won the sponsors' man of the match award. The pacey striker looked set to be a regular in Luton's league side last season, but was one of the unlucky victims of the injury plague which swept through Kenilworth Road.

Sean Evers

Another young player brought on through Luton's productive youth squad, Evers was on the fringe of the league squad until midway through last season. But when injuries struck Lennie Lawrence had to ask boys to do men's jobs. The tenacious midfielder coped very well and established himself as a regular.

Andrew Fortiadis

Another local discovery, Fortiadis chose to stay at school to gain GCSE A-levels before being a full-time soccer professional. He won England Schools caps at under-15 and under-18 level, and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry opposing defences, as an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power and concentrated determination to score goals.

Stuart Fraser

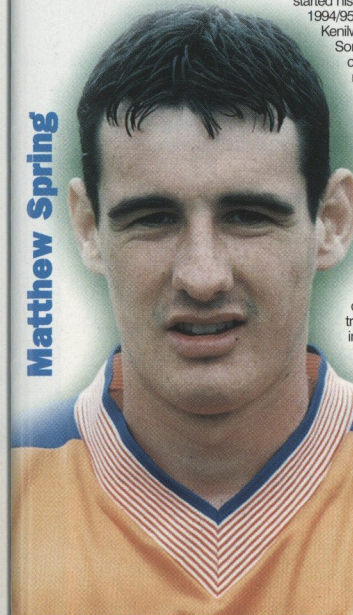
Stylish defender and skipper of the Luton youth team which ran away with the South East Counties League championship last season. Reckoned by the Luton coaching staff to be an outstanding prospect, he was given his league debut against Carlisle, in a 3-2 win, on the final day of last season.

Liam George

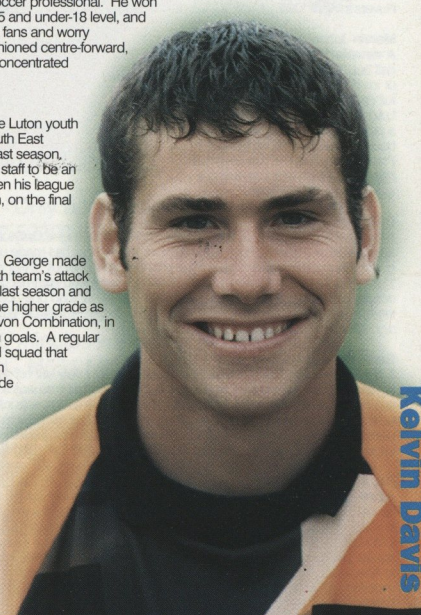
Full of pace and nimble footwork. George made a big impression in the Luton youth team's attack before graduating to the reserves last season and proving that he could cope with the higher grade as well - 18 full appearances in the Avon Combination, in a mid-table team, yielded a dozen goals. A regular member of the Republic of Ireland squad that progressed to the European youth championship final, the striker made his league debut against Bristol City in September 1997, and started this campaign hoping for more chances to show he can score goals at every level.

Phil Gray

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



Matthew Spring



Kelvin Davis

Back row (left to right): Dwight Marshall, Terry Sweeney, Richard Clarke, Matthew Spring, Emerson Boyce, Steve Augustine, Gavin McGowan, Russel Lawes, Stuart Fraser, Stuart Douglas, Jimmy Cox, Michael McIndoo, Andrew Scarlett
Middle row (left to right): Clive Goodyear (Physio), Paul Lowe (youth team coach), Cheryl Newberry (club secretary), Andrew Fortiadis, Simon Davies, Paul Showler, Gary Doherty, Alan White, Kelvin Davis, Nathanael Abbey, Julian James, Chris Wilmott, Paul McLaren, Graham Alexander, Lee Lough, Les Shannon (scout), Mandy Matins (fitness trainer), John Moore (reserve coach)
Front row (left to right): 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



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Manager - Lennie Lawrence



succession of injuries struck, culminating in surgery to cure a back problem, leaving Gray determined to make up for lost time when this season kicked off. He was in Spurs reserves when David Pleat, ex-boss at White Hart Lane, and then in his second spell as Luton manager, splashed out £275,000 for him in August 1991. Two years later he moved on to Premiership football with Sunderland, for £900,000 and after three years at Roker went to Nancy in France, and then Fortuna Sittard in Holland. He needed little encouragement to return to Kenilworth Road in exchange for £400,000.

Julian James
One of the most loyal clubmen ever to sign for Luton, from schools football. The right back has had more than his share of ups and downs in football. He was 18 when he made his full debut, in a League Cup game at Leeds, played brilliantly, but got sent off five minutes from time. He went on loan to Preston to gain league experience, and won England Under-21 honours. A regular in Luton's sides throughout this decade, he was given a well deserved testimonial, but then suffered tragedy, breaking a right leg against Bristol Rovers in April 1998.

Marvin Johnson
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. Injuries have been a problem, but he always bounced back, and is a former winner of the Players' Player of the Year award at Kenilworth Road after becoming a regular in central defence.

Dwight Marshall
A late starter in pro football - he was playing with non-league Grays Athletic until he was 24 - a succession of defences have paid the price as Marshall has made up for lost time with a string of goals. Plymouth gave him his league chance and the nippy striker rewarded them with 34 goals in 119 full appearances. Luton paid £150,000 for him in the summer of 1994, and despite being used occasionally as a wide attacker he still 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 has an appetite for goals.

Gavin McGowan
A right back fighting for a Premiership places against very stiff competition at Arsenal, McGowan signed for Luton for the third time in June 1998. The first time was a loan deal in March 1997, but that ended after only two impressive appearances. A calf muscle injury needed surgery, and after getting over that he joined Luton on loan again, this time for three months, at the start of the 1997/98 season. Lennie Lawrence rated him, but could not afford to make an offer, and was delighted to conclude a quick deal a year later when Arsenal offered the defender a free transfer.

Ray McKinnon
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 an unhappy experience with Nottingham Forest. He joined Dundee United as a YTS boy and in 1992 Nottingham Forest paid £750,000 for him. But Brian Clough resigned, and Frank Clark was determined to build his own squad. McKinnon made only eight appearances for Forest in 20 months before being transferred to Aberdeen. He had two years there, then returned to Dundee United. After two years, and vastly experienced, he took advantage of the Bosman ruling to try his luck in England again, and Luton beat several other clubs to secure his signature.

Paul McLaren
The midfielder was still a schoolboy when Luton realised that he had enough talent and strength to play regularly in their youth team. A YTS offer was a formality, and he was offered pro terms while still only 17. Forceful and always ready to back up attacks, he was one of the reasons why Luton were ready to let Welsh international Ceri Hughes move to Wimbledon in the summer of 1997. McLaren slotted into the Hughes role so well that he played in all but three of Luton's league games in 1997/98.

Paul Showler

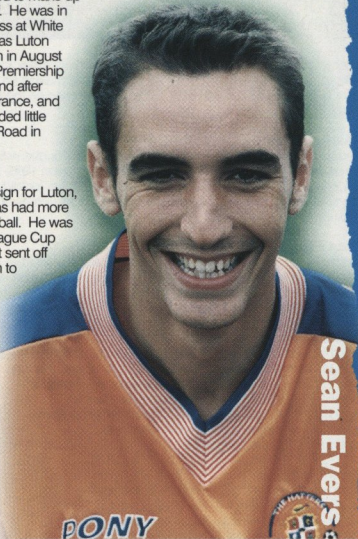
If ever a player deserved a run clear from injuries, it is Showler, who is with manager Lennie Lawrence for the second time in his career. He can play in attack, but it more often used as a left-sided midfielder pushing forward. Having learned his soccer trade with Altrincham, Showler was given his league chance by Barnet, after they were promoted from the Conference, and then moved on to Bradford. Lawrence was his manager there, and paid £50,000 in the summer of 1996 to enable Showler to follow his boss to Luton. He played in 33 games in his first season with Luton, but was then hit by a series of injuries, and managed only one brief appearance as a sub last season.

Matthew Spring

A competitive midfielder, Spring was a driving force in the Luton side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi finals in 1997, and it was no surprise when he was called up for a league debut, when still only 17, as a sub against Bristol City in September 1997. His full debut followed a month later, in a home victory against Plymouth and boss Lennie Lawrence called Spring's display "the best debut I have seen in a long time."

Mitchell Thomas

Now the senior professional at Kenilworth Road, and appointed player-coach at the start of this season, elegant left back Thomas is back where it all started as a boy. Luton



signed him on schoolboy forms, and he moved up through the ranks to make a league debut in the old First Division, now the Premiership, against West Ham in January 1983. He won England Under-21 honours and Luton were not entirely delighted when manager David Pleat left for Spurs three years later and persuaded Thomas to go with him. The tribunal fee was £250,000, half of what Luton wanted. They turned out to be right: Thomas moved on to West Ham for £500,000 in the summer of 1991, and three years later returned to Kenilworth Road signing for David Pleat again, on a free transfer. By the start of this season Thomas had made 456 league appearances for his three clubs, and was hungry for more: his coaching deal is for him to be 90% a player, 10% a coach.

Alan White

Lennie Lawrence went back to Middlesbrough, one of his old clubs when an injury crisis robbed him of three of his back four in September 1997. The Luton boss, as ever, had little money to spend, but centre-half White was a prospect he knew well: Lawrence had signed him as a 17-year-old at Ayresome Park. White was unable to force his way into Middlesbrough's Premiership squad after the advent of Bryan Robson and big-money signings, and grabbed the chance to rejoin Lawrence and sample league football. And the £40,000 fee has looked a bigger bargain with every match.

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STOKE CITY
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Coaches leave 12.15pm
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Programmes £1.80
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Alan White

race for promotion
Hots Up

Teams have now played enough games in the Nationwide Division Two for positions in the League table to have some significance. First priority must be Blackpool, but some concerns being caused by one of our nearest and dearest Preston making such a good start. When last year's top goalscorer Lee Ashcroft left for Grimsby, Mixu Paatelainen refused a move from Wolves, it seemed likely North Enders would struggle for goals. With Kurt Nogan re-discovering his shooting boots the opposite has happened, Preston are at present leading goalscorers in the League, could have been even better (worse) if they hadn't thrown away a 3-1 lead against Stoke. Still, like the common practice in modern Athletic races, Preston are our pacemakers who will drop out when the race for promotion points hots up. The standard of teams in this Division is reflected by the standard of the managers, Kevin Keegan, Brian Little and Joe Royle, have all managed at the very top level with varying degrees of success. Stoke made a flying start benefiting, as Brian Little admitted on Radio Five, from the run of the ball at crucial times, the Potteries outfit failing their first stern test at Fulham. Manchester City will be awesome at Maine Road, but have already caught a touch of our travel sickness crashing to defeat at Fulham. Them again! Kevin Keegan has trod a similar path, from being General Manager back into team control, taken by Graham Taylor at Watford, with ominous signs that his team Fulham will follow a similar route taken by The Hornets into Division One. Charlton and Middlesbrough, both at present Premier League teams, were steered to promotion when less than fashionable sides by Luton's boss Lennie Lawrence. Today's visitors, after a difficult time last season, are now reaping the benefits of Mr Lawrence's astute management, having lost just once away with one of the best centre-backs in this Division Steve Davis at the heart of their defence will provide our stiffest test yet at Bloomfield Road this season. Bournemouth as expected made a sound start

until so deflated by Pool's disciplined point saving performance at Dean Court they lost the next two away games. Wrexham were recently featured on the Nationwide Goals Extra television programme, confirming the need for large dug-out areas, Manager Brian Flynn, Assistant Kevin Reeves, Coach Joey Jones and new man Ian Rush all shouting instructions from the touchline, too many chiefs will jeopardise a good footballing side's chances. What of the rest? Chesterfield do not change, first three games at home the bare minimum of three goals scored enough for maximum points, until Walsall doing well on their travels returned the compliment scoring the only goal to win at Saltergate. New Manager Stan Ternent at Burnley is in a similar position Nigel Worthington found himself twelve months ago, needing a season to find his players who will adapt to his methods. Now to the priority, Blackpool, who have got to be delighted to find themselves at the dizzy heights of fourth place after eight games. It's the best start since Sam Allardyce was in charge three years ago. How apt that we beat Notts County to continue good form at Bloomfield Road. Two key moments in that game, the Referee allowing Barry Shuttleworth to have another blast at that free-kick, then in the dying moments County's striker missing the target when it seemed easier to score. After an inevitable defeat at Manchester City, and a bad loss at Wigan, the draw at Bournemouth followed by a vital win at Lincoln is not a total cure for our travel sickness. Nevertheless the win at Sincil Bank arrived at a vital time to boost morale in time for a tough visit next week to the League leaders Stoke City. The players efforts deserve the reward today of the best attendance this season at Bloomfield Road, an improvement to the average gate which the club needs maintained.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT
THE FUTURE IS TANGERINE

Barry Jones

what the
Papers say

Paul Merson's transfer to Aston Villa has been a much publicised deal. The press coverage all started when Merson stated "I will go and see Bryan Robson tomorrow and tell him I may have to quit Middlesbrough for the good of my health." Bearing in mind his previous problems, he agonised "I fear that if I stay I will end up falling over the edge again and I just can't afford to take that risk." Writing about the same time in his column in one of the tabloids Merson's former team-mate Ian Wright commented "Paul Merson wanting to leave Teeside does not surprise me one bit." Wright went on to say that he did not think that Merson wanted to leave because Middlesbrough was "a place where the sun don't shine" or because he wanted "to bank the cash". He felt that it was more straightforward than either of those reasons, "There are people at the club that he feels he does not want to be around."

Merson's view was something similar but less bluntly put. He said "A lot of players there like to have a drink and a lot of the players like to have a bet." Stating that there was nothing wrong with that situation he added "But I see the danger signs and I have to think about myself. I have to think of my health, my recovery and my wife and children." Wright, who admitted "he's obviously a big, big pal", saw it the same way as he agreed "He has rebuilt his life after he was on the verge of suicide...but he is now at a club which is not suitable to him...you can take it too far and at Middlesbrough, I gather, the volume of those goings on is quite large."

It obviously was because Merson's view was "I know if I keep being exposed to drinking and gambling I am in danger of going back to the bad old days." He realised that no-one at Middlesbrough knew what those dark days were like but he was wise enough to realise "I remember and so does my wife Lorraine". With all this in mind Merson made Bryan Robson aware of his feelings in a telephone call from Sweden when he was with the England squad but this was not the first time that the subject had been discussed. "I had three meetings with the club last year and things were sorted out behind the scenes" said Merson.

"I have to think of my health, my recovery and my wife and children"

None of this stopped the player doing his best for his contracted club. "I have tried my best for Middlesbrough. I was player of the year last season and helped win promotion to the Premiership." But early this season newspaper headlines were screaming "Merson Quits Boro Over Gazza". This particular story implied that Merson and Gascoigne had "a deteriorating relationship" but Merson insists "this story did not come from me". He even went so far as to stress "I wanted to sort it all out with Bryan Robson quietly and without any fuss" and he did emphasise "I won't be a Ravenelli or Emerson who refuses to come back and demands a move. I will be there."

He would have been there too, despite rumours to the contrary. He was incensed that the story had got about that he failed to turn up for training and a meeting with Robson and cleared the situation for himself with "I wanted to get on with things as soon as I came back from Sweden with England and was keen to hold a meeting in a private way away from the club." "That couldn't happen" he continued "so it was agreed for Monday but then Robson rang my agent to say it was called off so I didn't go into the club and stayed at home with the family for the day."

Fortunately before the situation got any worse Aston Villa manager John Gregory stepped in with a bid of £6.25 million and Merson was on his way to Villa Park. His only regret was for the supporters; "I hope the fans understand and appreciate my unique situation...they have been marvellous to me" he said. And then he emphasised his

point with "I hope and pray they understand" and with a heartfelt final comment added "Some things are more important than football." Bryan Robson was understandably annoyed that his team was accused of being "packed with drunks and gamblers" and both he and Boro chief executive Keith Lamb were aggrieved that Merson had given the wrong impression of the club. Robson's final word was "Paul was the biggest beneficiary of our relaxed atmosphere...in a moment of reflection he will remember the way everyone bent over backwards to help Paul and his family."

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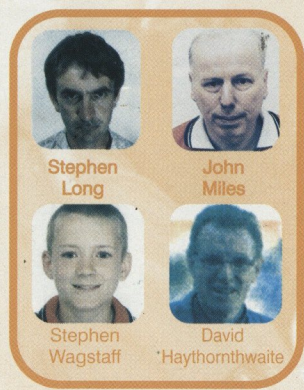
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talking Football

The latest card in the Manchester United takeover saga was dealt this week when rock star Roger Taylor pledged £10,000 towards the Reds supporters clubs to help in their fight against B.SkyB. Its a noble gesture to assist the fans but compared to the resources of the Murdoch empire it looks a Canute style attempt to stop the tide.

The one aspect of this proposed takeover which many have missed is why the United directors feel the need to sell in the first place.

United are undoubtedly the biggest club in this country and one of the biggest in Europe. They sell out every home game to the tune of 55,000 supporters and their merchandising empire is worth millions itself. As far as playing resources go they have just acquired Dwight Yorke, Jaap Stam and Jesper Blomqvist for a total of around £25m plus, as Alex Ferguson looks to increase his squad to the "18 quality players" he feels are required to compete successfully in Europe. In short they don't struggle for a bob or two and there is therefore no compelling reason for the sale, so why are their directors trying so hard to accommodate Murdoch? Well one reason that might be significant is the nice little earner the Directors themselves

may make, with Chairman Martin Edwards share being an estimated £83m. Surely enough to turn any head. John Edmonds at the TUC Conference at the Winter Gardens this week may just as well have been referring to the boardrooms of our Premiership clubs rather than our industries when making his somewhat Anglo Saxon comments. Already a number of other clubs have been looking to jump into bed with media concerns; Carlton with Arsenal, ENIC with Spurs and Sony with Newcastle. Incidentally Sony are also major shareholders in Japan SkyB.

The apologists will no doubt insist that this will all be for the good of the game, and B.SkyB have already launched an advertising campaign expressing their undying love for the game of football. If this holds true and it is good for the game then can we expect to turn up at Bloomfield Road one day and find a new stadium and half a dozen new signings with our share of the riches, after all Blackpool is just as much part of the game as any other club.

Anyone who stood in the pouring rain at the recent Notts County game and trudged home to their TVs would have seen the future of the game. Men in suits talking about share prices, market forces, natural synergy et al... not the usual topic of conversation in

the South Paddock. But rest assured, these people who are now running the game are actually true football fans like ourselves. They've probably never missed a Sky TV game you know

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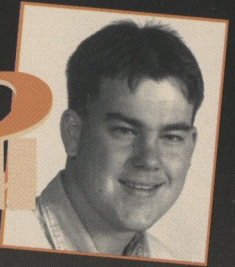
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By Gary Flintoff

On the Ball



Well so far Blackpool have managed to stave off any threat of a take-over by a media giant. Although I'm sure if a hostile bid was forthcoming then The Nolan Sisters would step in with some cash to help supporters mount an opposition campaign! Over the past week speculation has rocketed over the future ownership of more than five English clubs. but the spotlight remains on Manchester United, in more ways than one. Press reports on Tuesday morning regarding the club's interest in Hidetoshi Nakata merely served to intensify the fear among the United fans. The Japanese star was approached by men representing Rupert Murdoch and not Manchester United. As far as I'm aware Alex Ferguson has never even looked at the player. Then, reading between the lines it appears that the signing of Nakata would help boost the Murdoch empire in Japan, where he owns Star TV, the eastern equivalent of Sky. Perhaps we are already beginning to see the real reason why Murdoch wants to buy Manchester United.

On the subject of purchasing, no doubt over the coming weeks more and more scouts from other Nationwide League teams and Premiership sides will be visiting Bloomfield Road to take a look at Nigel Worthington's "kids", Clarke Carlisle, Phil Thompson, Barry Shuttleworth and Brett Ormerod are all doing wonders for the Blackpool boss at present, but it won't be long

before other managers at a higher level begin to notice what's going on at Bloomfield Road. The club have made pretty sure all the youngsters are on long term contracts, but they must resist the temptation to sell. And at a time when the team is flying high despite all the off the field problems at the start of the season, then surely this is the time to invest some money to allow the manager to bring in some more quality players to strengthen the squad. Another plus for Nigel Worthington is that the "kids" have finally got rid of Blackpool's away hoo-do. The win at Lincoln was a great result on two counts, first of all and most importantly for the three points, and secondly because it ended a terrible run of seven games without an away win. It's been said over and over, but if Blackpool can get things right on the road, then with the home form Nigel Worthington's men seem to produce, then the team can challenge for promotion at the end of the season.

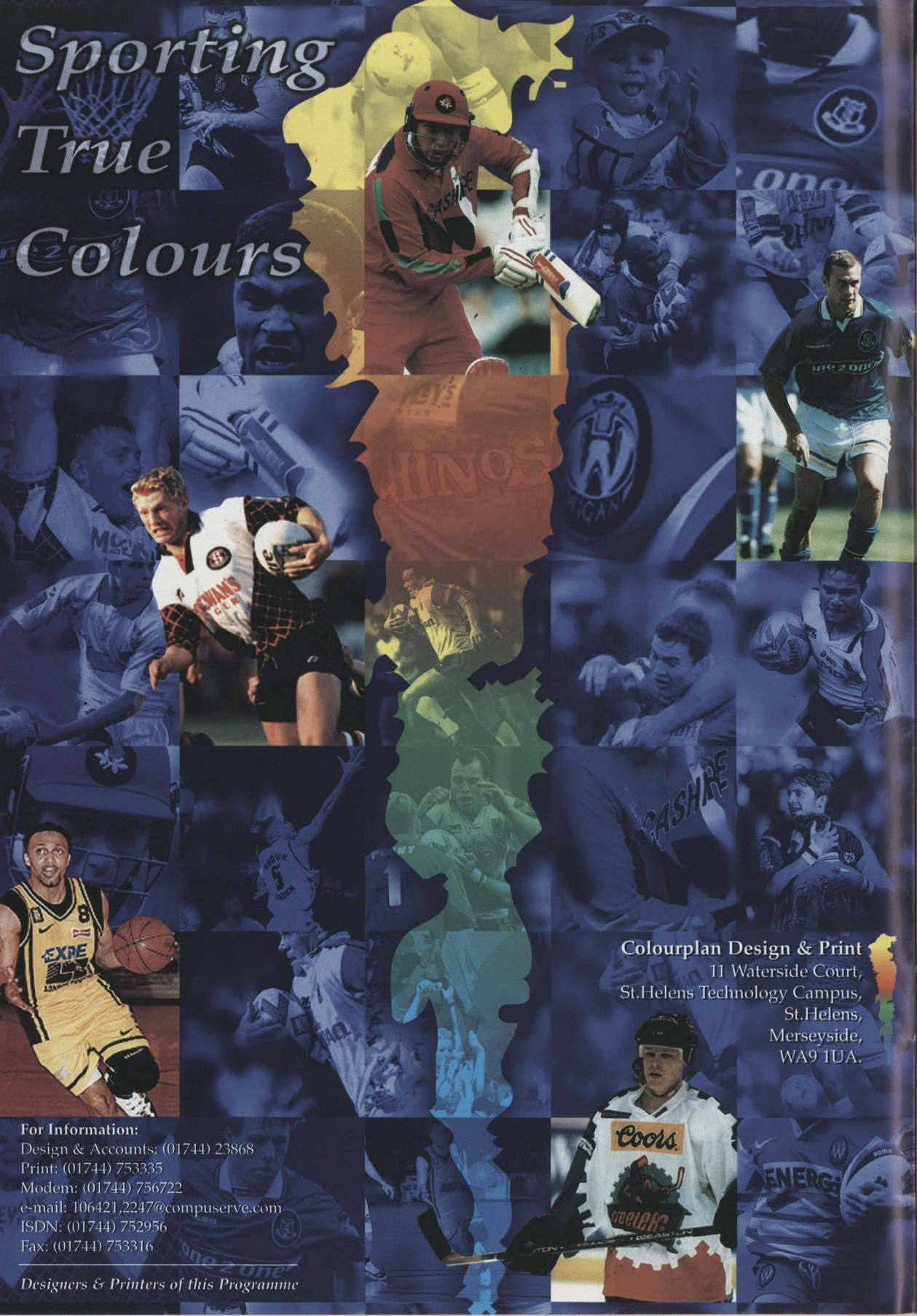
Interesting to read this week that failed Burnley boss Chris Waddle could soon be back playing football. Where? At the time of writing Third Division giants Torquay were favourites to get his signature. That would be a huge comedown for the man who was playing Premiership football less than two years ago. His Burnley experience has obviously shattered him for life! Mind you it could be worse, it was rumoured the former England man was set to sign for Conference side Doncaster Rovers. This afternoon's game with Luton will provide a good test for Nigel Worthington's men, and of course a win will put the Tangerines on level points with Luton. The Hatters have actually started this season how many thought they would start the last and many would say are finally beginning to show what they're capable of. Nevertheless Worthington's "kids" will fancy their chances of another three points. Don't forget to tune in to Red Rose 999am after today's game for reports and reaction to all the day's action, including an interview with the Blackpool boss Nigel Worthington. Also, after five, phone us on 01772 900999 if you want to take part in the penalty shoot out quiz to win a crate of Thwaites. It's all live after five - only on Lancashire's Football Stadium - Red Rose 999am. Go on make the move to medium wave.
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Gerry Wolstenholme

in this week 1995

- Andy Barlow was sent off for the first time in his 11 year career as Blackpool won 2-1 at Brighton. Manager Sam Allardyce said "Andy will certainly escape any kind of club punishment because I feel he has been punished enough by the sending off."
- Striker Andy Watson returned to training having agreed to sign a weekly contract. He had rejected three offers by the club and had failed to turn up for pre-season training.
- Blackpool cut their prices for admission to the forthcoming Auto Windscreens Shield game with Crewe. It was to be £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. "The overwhelming feeling among fans was that some discount incentive should be offered in this competition and we are delighted to give it a try" said Gill Bridge.
- Defender Darren Bradshaw was doubtful for the Saturday League game with Crewe due to a foot injury. "It is improving every day but whether there is enough time for him to recover, we don't know" was Sam Allardyce's guarded comment.
- The European Court of Justice decision on the Jean-Marc Bosman affair brought this comment from Blackpool chairman Owen Oyston "It is a disaster for football and if the decision is ratified by the full court, I see it as spelling the end of our national game."
- Sitting on the wall of the West Paddock was to be forbidden starting with the Crewe League game. "It is a condition of our safety certificate and we have put up a platform for youngsters to stand on to help their view. We hope everyone will co-operate" said Gill Bridge.

division 2 Review

Luton Town's two early goals at home to Bristol Rovers and Martin Aldridge's second half winner for Blackpool at Lincoln last week sets up today's third versus fourth clash at Bloomfield Road. The two teams trail leaders Stoke who gained a 1-0 win over Millwall courtesy of a last minute goal by Kyle Lightbourne and second placed Preston comprehensive 4-0 winners over Reading, who if they are not careful could follow in the footsteps of last season's Southend United and go from Division One to Division Three in successive years. Bournemouth held on to a top six spot with

a winner seven minutes from time at home to Wigan, that despite being down to 10 men and Manchester City were thankful to Shaun Goater's late-on seventh goal of the season to gain a 1-0 win at struggling Macclesfield. Fulham were beaten 1-0 by Notts County and Walsall moved into eighth spot with a 1-0 win at luckless Chesterfield. A fourth draw of the season gave Gillingham a point at Colchester and there were draws also for Burnley at home to winless Wycombe, Northampton at home to Oldham and York at home to Wrexham.

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tango

Hi there kids
Well you should all have received your latest newsletter by now and you will see that we have some away trips planned for you. The trip to Stoke City on Saturday September 26th costs £10 for adults and £5 for children this includes

your ticket into the game and leaves Bloomfield Road at 11.30am. There is also a trip to Walsall on Saturday 17th October at the same cost as the Stoke trip and also leaves Bloomfield Road at 11.30am. If you want to go on either of these trips contact Pauline on telephone number 01253 866709 or her answerphone which is 01253 896237. All being well we should have some more American style shootouts in the

forthcoming home games against Luton Town and York City as the one at the Oldham match last month proved so popular, so watch out for those. Well if our team has had more than its fair share of injuries this season your truly Tango injured his hand saving a penalty last week, but now is well on the way to a speedy recovery, but hey what a save. Come on you Pool
Tango

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Good afternoon and welcome to third placed Luton Town this afternoon at Bloomfield Road. I mention third place but in all honesty although the table makes good reading positions at this stage are of little importance. Picking up points on a regular basis are what really matter and this will lead to a good position when it counts, at the end of the season. These notes were written after our excellent first away win of the season at Lincoln last Saturday but before Tuesdays game against Tranmere in the Worthington Cup 2nd round, first leg.

Before I go on to thank our sponsors today, may I firstly thank all those people who have applied to be Blackpool F.C.'s representative in next Springs Flora London Marathon. We will be sifting through the applications shortly and will introduce the one selected to come onto the pitch to be introduced to the crowd prior to a forthcoming home game. I would also like to inform fans that the club's Internet page will soon have a new look about it with our very own M.D. Gill Bridge taking on the role of updating this with all sorts of news and information about the club. The web site can still be found at the address, is that the correct term?, in the listing at

the front of this programme. I trust all you Internet surfers out there will let Gill have your comment on the pages when they are complete and don't forget if you have any ideas for them why not drop a line to the club or E-Mail, or leave a message on the Internet site itself.

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Welcome today to our sponsors. Firstly our old friends from Estates & Law who are back once more as our Associate Match Sponsors. Welcome as ever to Steve and his party.

Our Mitre Match Ball today is sponsored by Kirsty Edge, daughter of Stuart Edge of Edge & Thompson, builders and refurbishment contractors. They are great supporters of the club and we thank them for their continued support.

The programme you are reading has been kindly sponsored by System Record who where our Mitre Matchball Sponsors at the recent Notts County match. Their party is again led by Michael & Sue Craddock and pictured above right is Sue receiving a replica match ball at that game from man of the match and goal scorer, Barry Shuttleworth.



Barry Shuttleworth presents Matchball to Sue Craddock



Barry Shuttleworth wins Man of the Match

Also pictured here is Barry Shuttleworth collecting his man of the match award from Liz Hatcliffe of our main club sponsors Telewest Communications. Barry not only hammered in that tremendous free kick but also had an excellent all round game. Thank you to the fans who have taken up players kit sponsorship over the past few weeks. The

page looked a little barren at the start of the season but you have all rallied round tremendously and I am pleased to say there are just a few of players left to sponsor. If you are interested in sponsoring any of those remaining then please contact Sue Charley in the club shop after todays game.

Gold Bond Supported by Moorland

Today we will making a presentation on the pitch at half time to the Webster family of Lorne Road in Bispham who scooped the £2000 Jackpot last weekend. Their agent, Peter Clarke will also be on hand to collect his £200 agents bonus cheque for selling the winning number. We are currently searching for a few supporters who are looking for part time work to form a canvass team to develop our door to door collection operation of our Gold Bond weekly draw and Play the Game scratch cards. If you have a few evening hours spare each week and would like to earn a basic wage, commission on sales and get FREE entry to home games then give Marc Johnstone a ring on 752222. For further details and a home discussion.

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Pictured is the winner of £265 in cash at the recent Northampton Town home game. Brian Kay of



Golden Gamble winner Brian Kay collects his prize from Mr. Trevor Aldridge

Gainsborough Road is seen collecting his loot from Mr 'Golden Gamble' Trevor Aldridge. Trevor has now become 'Uncle Trevor' around the office as of course he is uncle to our new marksman Martin Aldridge.

Enjoy todays game and lets here you all getting behind the team for the whole 90 minutes. LOOK OUT for great news in the local press of several great events coming to Blackpool including a great one for the kids called 'PULL YOUR SHIRT ON FOR THE POOL'. At a chosen forthcoming game shortly to be announced any junior team turning up wearing any of the three current shirts or goalkeepers jersey will be able to get a free ticket from the ticket office for that game. Yours in Sport Geoff Warburton

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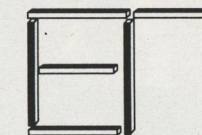
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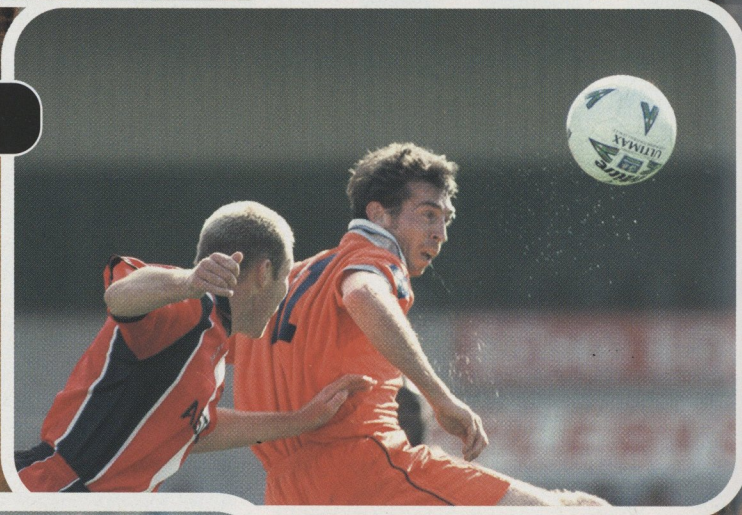


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This photo shows our photographer Phil Heywood at work on Bloomfield Road. Phil is out in all weathers taking shots (except this one) which appear in this programme and away ones. On behalf of all supporters we thank him for his efforts.
EDITOR

Chris Malkin wins a header at Lincoln



Marvin Bryan on the attack chased by Lee Philpott!!

football in the community



Yet another exciting event over the summer holidays was the visit from Nickleodeon Sky T.V. Blackpool Football in the Community organised for Nickleodeon to come down to Bloomfield Road to help with their filming of "I want to be a footballer". A fun day was organised with everyone having a great time, except of course Phil Barnes who ended up being gunged, well done Phil for being such a good sport. The day was shown on the Nickleodeon Channel in August. Also, thanks to Steve Banks and all the YTS lads who turned up to support the day.



In August, we attended the Whitegate Day Centre and opened their Summer Fair. Thanks to Sue Craddock for my invitation to attend. On the day I took down an autographed football and a box of wagon wheels, both were very much appreciated.

Good luck to the lads for today's match, keep up the good work and keep us at the top of the table!



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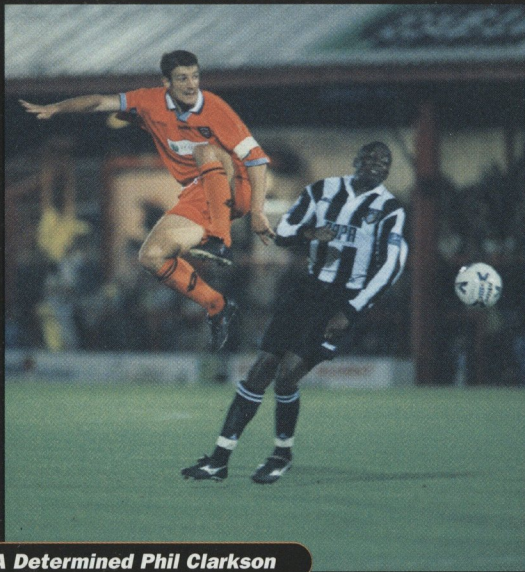
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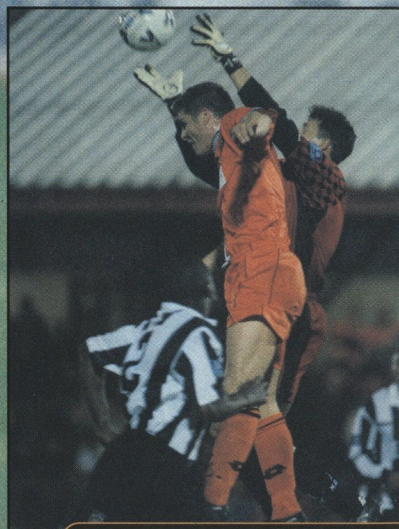


A Determined Phil Clarkson

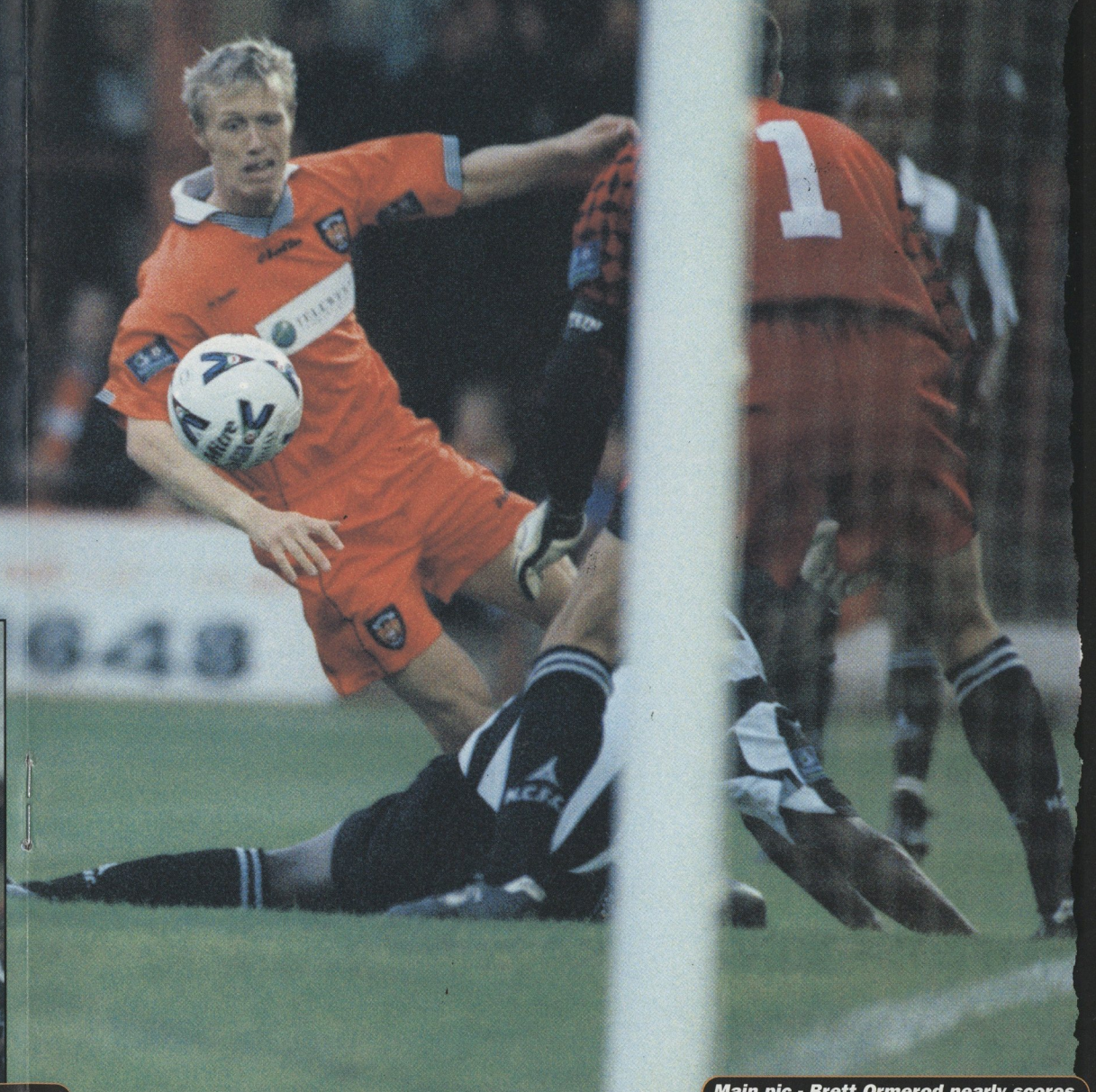
Barry Shuttleworth's Goal



the Goal Celebrations



Martin Aldridge challenges for the ball



Main pic - Brett Ormerod nearly scores

glimpses from the past

By the time Luton came to Bloomfield Road on 6 December 1958 Blackpool had an unbeaten home record, and they had not done too badly away either but were only sitting in mid-table in the First Division. The reason was that of nine home games only three had been won and six drawn, the last four in a row.

Leading up to the game Blackpool had no injury worries but late on the morning of the match Stanley Matthews reported to manager Ronnie Stuart that he would be unable to play. He had suffered an injury in the Arsenal game the previous Saturday but up to the day of the game he was expected to be fit "But, this morning it was obvious that I was not fit and I had to tell Mr Stuart that in the circumstances it would be unfair to the rest of the team to play" said Matthews.

Immediately Blackpool called up Ronnie Brown from his Bolton home where he was preparing to play for the reserves against Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park and he took his place in the following line-up Farm, Armfield, Wright, Kelly J, Gratrix, Kelly H, Barnes, Mudie, Charnley, Durie, Perry. For Luton ex-Blackpool inside forward Allan Brown led the attack in a team which was Baynham, Dunne, Hawkes, Kelly T, Owen, Groves, Bingham, Turner, Brown, Cummins, Adam.



Blackpool on the Attack

Blackpool lost the toss and defended the south goal and from the kick-off Billy Bingham, who had made his first international appearance on the ground some years earlier, set up Town's leading goalscorer Gordon Turner but Farm made a save at the expense of a corner. Other Luton attacks followed as Blackpool struggled to find any rhythm. Gratrix repelled Brown and Farm had to dash to the edge of his area to gather the ball from the feet of the onrushing Cummins.

At the other end Dunne headed away an innocuous centre and Mudie tried a long-range shot which caused no end of problem. Then Luton could have opened the scoring as Bingham raced away from Wright, found Brown who quickly transferred the ball to Adam on the left wing. He chose to shoot instead of passing to any of three unmarked team-mates and the chance was wasted as the ball flew high over the bar. Two minutes later

Blackpool made a menacing raid as Durie opened up Luton's right flank with a pass to Perry who in turn found Charnley for the centre forward to put in a shot which Baynham did well to parry as it flashed towards the top corner of the net.

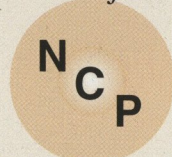
For a time there was a lot of good midfield play without any chances being created but on balance Luton looked the better side. Blackpool did create a couple of opportunities as the half drew to a close but Barnes lost the ball when about to shoot and then Charnley latched on to an underhit back pass from Owen only for Baynham to get down quickly and push the ball inches wide of the post for a corner. And then with only two minutes to go to half-time Blackpool took the lead. A left wing move broke down but the ball was not properly cleared and Perry retrieved the ball and centred quickly to where Mudie, completely unmarked, rose to head the ball away from Baynham's desperately clutching hand and into the net.

The second half opened with Blackpool intent on building on their one goal lead and it was an unexpected shot from Jackie Wright that nearly succeeded - Baynham just managing to grab the ball at the last minute. Wright's adventurous excursion upfield nearly cost Blackpool dear as Baynham straightaway punted the ball into the Blackpool half and, with the Blackpool defence out of position, Turner

latched on to it and put in a shot which Farm was grateful to hold at full stretch.

Then in the eighth minute of the second half Blackpool made it 2-0. Durie made a misplaced pass but was alert enough to retrieve it before brushing past two defenders and crossing to Charnley whose first time shot hit a defender. Charnley was the first to react to the loose ball and he shot again and the ball took a slight deflection before entering the net. Nine minutes later the game was over for Luton and it was a goal that thrilled most of the 14,140 spectators present. Perry gathered the ball on the halfway line, raced past his full back and from 30 yards struck a venomous drive which flew past the surprised Baynham and lifted the roof of the net. Charnley could later have made it 4-0 but his shot went just wide and when the final whistle went Blackpool were celebrating their first home win since 27 September.

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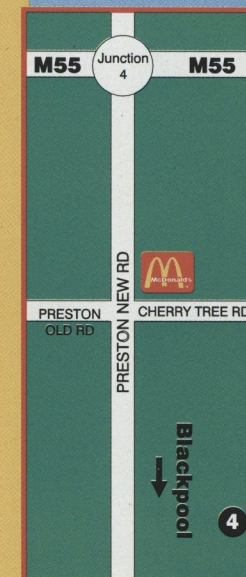
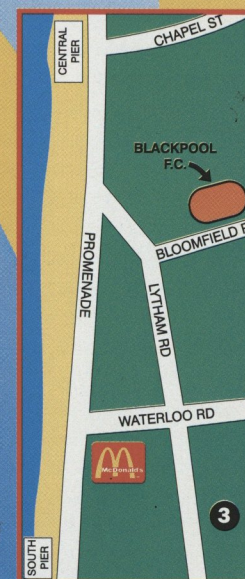
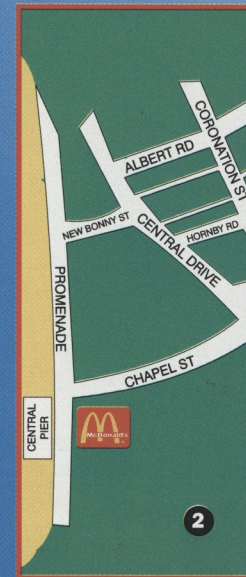
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The B.I.S.A. Column

As we turn our attentions back to concentrate upon the league action this afternoon, after our midweek fixture in the Worthington Cup, it is good to see that the Pool are back in their rightful place in the play off zone after picking up their first away victory of the present campaign. Lincoln were, as always, a difficult side to play against and the lads certainly knew that they had been in a physical game. The cards were laid on the table in no uncertain terms early on when Lee Philpott clearly took a chunk out of Marvyn Bryan's leg about ten minutes after the ball had gone. Granted that the referee probably wouldn't have seen the clear case of violent conduct but what was the linesman doing? (Mind you, how many times have we said that this season already!?) Apart from that it was clear that Philpott was far from fit, getting beaten for pace every time, while the other ex-Pool player Thorpe hardly challenged in any area of the play. All in all Lincoln looked a poor side, especially when you consider that they were at home, but let's take nothing away from our own lads performance which showed commitment and spirit throughout, with the youngsters yet again demonstrating that the team selection is far from straightforward when we once again have a fully fit squad. Anyway, enough of all this mindless rambling. On the B.I.S.A. front we shall definitely be running a coach to Stoke City next Saturday which, by all account, should be an interesting trip with their new stadium and top of the table team. To date we have had a good response since the re-vamping of our travel which now goes straight to the ground to give people the option of going into the stadium as soon as we get there or meeting some of the opposition supporters for a quick drink. We would like to remind people that we do now pick up at Broughton roundabout in

Preston, for those who are unfortunate enough to live in the wrong area of Lancashire and that we can pick up at any service station along the way. For further details or to book a guaranteed place on the coach don't hesitate to call Martin on Blackpool 318681. Over the last couple of months it has also been brought to our attention that tickets for away games at the likes of Macclesfield may be a problem this year, even though for last week's league game the away capacity had been increased. Due to these concerns the club have agreed to allow us to use our B.I.S.A. cards. We hope that this shall also be of benefit to those members who live outside of the Blackpool area to gain priority tickets over the phone, especially as many of these members are unable to purchase a season ticket due to the distance. For those who wish to join us or who have not yet re-newed their memberships, details can be acquired by sending your name and address to B.I.S.A., PO Box 154, Blackpool DO, FY3 9GR or alternatively queries can be left in the B.I.S.A. box which is on the counter in the Club Shop.

So on to today's game, which must surely be viewed as the hardest home encounter of the season to date with the teams frequenting third and fourth spot in the division. Luton have already won two league games away from home this season and have registered only one defeat. On a more positive note for Pool fans, I for one will be glad to see that Thorpe is no longer pulling on the Luton shirt when playing against Blackpool, as he always appeared to have the annoying habit of popping up from nowhere to score against us! Let's get behind the lads this afternoon and here's to keeping our home record in tact! See you all at Prenton Park on Tuesday.

Samantha Upton
(BISA Committee)

The Socker Report

Football has definitely gone money daft. Or should that be that the world of corporate sponsorship has gone money daft?

The latest news is that Michael Owen, at the tender age of 18, has been signed up by the giant American marketing group Marquee in a deal likely to be worth millions of pounds to the Liverpool ace. Marquee already has the renown basketball player Michael Jordan as one of its clients and he reputedly earns £45 million per year, a mere £20 million a year from his sport and £25 million a year from endorsements, sponsorship and advertising. Marquee, a company which has just bought out the company run by Owen's agent Tony Stephens, now has the rights to market Owen around the world.

The current deal that Owen has with Liverpool, worth £500,000 per year, plus a similar amount earned from commercials with car firm Jaguar and soft drinks company Pepsi, will be small beer once the American marketing techniques take over. Owen is expected to be as big an earner as Jordan if his name becomes a household one in the States where football is said to be the up and coming big thing (although, how often have we heard that?).

New Yorker Bob Gutkowski, the president of Marquee UK, fully expects Owen to be the big earner that Jordan is and he says "He is possibly the most exciting footballer to emerge in the last year and the kind of image that people like." No-one would disagree with that statement but does it beg the question as to whether being a footballer justifies the sort of sponsorship being talked of. Obviously the answer is "yes". Gutkowski reckons that "Owen has the same opportunity to become instantly recognised anywhere in the world" just the same as Jordan. He goes further when he says "There will come a time when companies want to make a product with Owen's

name on it rather than now, where they use his face to endorse goods already on the market." And mentioning that the deals Jordan signs are long term ones, "say for 10 years", he adds that for Owen "Opportunities are endless. There could eventually be his own range of clothing and toiletries."

Already, before Marquee took over, Owen has apparently had over 400 commercial proposals but the sensible young man has accepted only three as he most definitely puts football first. But presumably he might as well make more of his marketing potential as the opportunity presents itself, and Marquee will want him to do so as it will also put some money in their coffers at the same time.

Stephens has held out on selling his firm previously when he had received a number of offers but finally gave in to Marquee because, as he says, "I wanted small company care with big company contacts". He can be sure of the latter for Marquee's British client list already boasts cricket's Michael Atherton, rugby's Will Carling, plus David Beckham, Alan Shearer and, perhaps more surprisingly, Graeme Le Saux. So Owen will be in good company.

"This is another step towards achieving our goal of becoming a global company" says Gutkowski and UK managing director Jon Holmes, whose Park Associates company was recently acquired by Marquee, adds "In the last two years the growth of football has moved at a fantastic rate. Now it is on the front pages of newspapers as often as it appears on the back."

The net result is that we should expect to see much more of the Michael Owen profile over the next few years but not necessarily in a footballing context. As the song title goes "Nice work if you can get it" and Owen apparently can, so he might as well make the most of it while he is able to.

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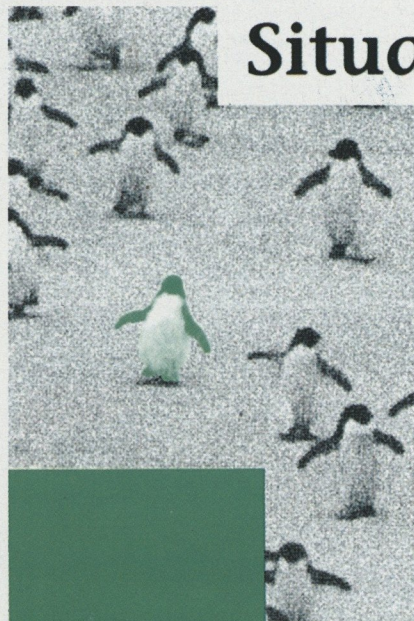
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Jonathan Lee Writes

Welcome to what promises to be a top hat occasion today, with the third-placed Hatters here to take on fourth-placed Pool in Division Two's undisputed Match of the Day.

It's certainly been hats off to Blackpool in recent weeks. Highest league position for three seasons, three league wins on the trot for the first time since

broke the 5,000 average last season, before today gates for Pool's previous three home league matches have all hovered around the 4,000 mark. Now comes the moment of truth. It's always been said that Pool's results and position in the table is what determines the number of people persuaded to forsake their alternative Saturday

Perhaps the star contributor to The Gazette's Tangerine Talkback this week had the best word on the subject. Because however much you are upset by Pool's stadium fiasco or the lack of money spent on team strengthening, every game there are 14 Tangerines rolling up their sleeves and giving everything for the cause, backed by a

moment of truth

1997, all achieved with a severely depleted squad.

Of course gone are the hat-throwing days for Seasiders supporters. Long gone too are the big Bloomfield Road crowds of yesteryear - more than 32,000 here to witness Blackpool's biggest ever league win over Luton when Pool won 4-0 back in 1956. No-one is kidding themselves that such Seasiders gates are now consigned to the history books. What is more pertinent is the dip in home gates this season. A sizeable 6,547 crowd attended Pool's 1-0 opening day win over Luton here last season. But despite this season's home league opener being against North West rivals Oldham, the crowd only reached 5,258. And although Blackpool

afternoon entertainment to come through Bloomfield Road's turnstiles.

And with Pool enjoying such a lofty league position now is the time when some of those stay-away Seasiders fans should start coming back, especially for a crunch game like this. The club, so long accused of not listening to supporters, did their bit in midweek by slashing prices for Pool's Worthington Cup Second Round tie with Tranmere Rovers. And if people were tempted by the reduced charges to come and cheer on the Tangerines on Tuesday, especially the youngsters who took advantage of the "Quid a Kid" scheme it's to be hoped many, if not all of them, are back again today.

management team for whom simply achieving Division Two safety doesn't come into the equation.

That alone is a Worthy cause for you to rally behind both team and manager as Pool seek to maintain their unbeaten home record after their travelling heroics at Lincoln. And given the possible prize of climbing to third place in the table tonight level on points with PNE should our arch rivals slip up at Oldham today, it's to be hoped you the fans have turned up in your numbers today. If you have, then hats off to you! *Remember you can air your views on today's game by calling our Tangerine Talkback line - 361872 - and give yourself a chance of picking up a star prize in the process.

The Gazette

EVENING

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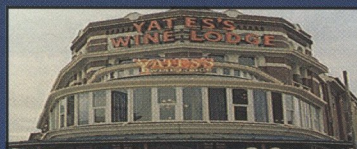
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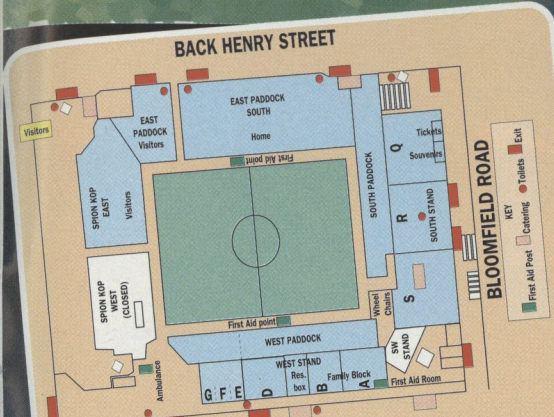
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with a safe evacuation. Blackpool Police request that spectators visiting the football ground arriving by car do not park in Field Street or in the area defined as an emergency corridor at the north end of the ground behind the Spion Kop or in front of any entrance or exit gates. This is to ensure safe passage into and away from the ground and to assist emergency services in the event of any major incident at the ground. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

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Andy McCall was one of the five 'M' forwards, Matthews, Mortensen, McIntosh, Munro and McCall, at

Blackpool in the late 1940s. He made Scotland 'B' appearances before moving on to West Bromwich Albion and then Leeds United. And it was at Leeds that his Yorkshire-born Scotsman son, Stuart, first made his appearance in the world. The young McCall was a Leeds

tells of the trauma he suffered particularly when he realised that his dad and other relatives were there watching. England Under 21 selection came along and he was lucky that, by clever, devious means, he was able to delay his entrance onto the field of play so that before he made it the final whistle had gone. His Scotland chances were still alive! He moved on to Everton

book Review

United fan before becoming an apprentice at Bradford City where he found future Blackpool player David McNiven to be one of the "good professionals with good habits". McCall made the Bradford reserve side and he wrote his own reports of the game and gave the players, including himself, marks out of 10! He played for an FA Colts XI against a Young England side before making his Football League debut in the 1982/83 season. Dave Sexton later had him watched and he was selected for the England Under 21 squad. He agonised over whether he wanted to play at international level for Scotland or England and did his chance of playing for his favoured Scotland no good when he answered cheekily to a telephone call from Jock Stein, thinking that it was one of his prankster mates. He was delighted to get a new deal with Bradford which earned him £500 per week and a signing-on fee of £25,000 but the payment of the latter was later to cause trouble between himself and the Bradford board. The next significant event in his footballing life was a tragedy. He was playing on the day that the Bradford stand caught fire and many fans lost their lives. McCall

where he held out for £50 per week extra and that put him on three times his Bradford salary. At Everton he played with and recalls great players and a good manager all factors which helped his own performance and earned him selection for the Scotland squad for Italia '90. A disappointing World Cup tournament followed and then a dream move to Rangers where his impishness and willingness to join in a prank found him good allies in Aily McCoist, Ian Durrant, Gordon (Juke Box) Durie and others. He played in the last seven of the Rangers nine seasons of domination in Scotland and he tells of the good times had by all even when they were winning too easily and it was no challenge through to the despair of the repeated failures in the European Cup. Walter Smith was his manager at Rangers and Craig Brown for Scotland, for whom he played 40 internationals scoring one goal and that on his debut, and he admires both and feels that he has learned from them for what he sees as his future, becoming as football manager when his playing career is over. He speaks of Paul Gascoigne, very much in the same vein as everyone else does, but has nothing but admiration for the player's skill. The goal Gascoigne scored at Wembley in Euro '96 was a particular killer for Scotland and the whole team felt it badly particularly as they had just missed a potential equaliser through Gary McAllister's penalty miss. The final chapter at Rangers was not such a happy one as he missed much of the season through injury and then found himself out in the cold for Scotland when it came to selection for France '98. He was not down-hearted for long and this cheeky chappie whose autobiography is a light-hearted read believes "Give it your best shot and be lucky." He did and he was!

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London Calling



My comment in the Tranmere programme (written before Lincoln away) that it would be great if our forwards would join in the good start to the season and begin scoring as well has obviously inspired Mr Aldridge. He has now scored the last 3 Pool goals. Some irony that someone of his name should score two against Tranmere and let's just hope that he keeps it up and inspires some of the other forwards. Terrible mistake to count your chickens, remember the details of Wembley coaches at the home play-off game with Bradford, but Tranmere are having a hard time at the moment. I also now feel that anything I do can bring no more bad luck to the team than I have over 30 years. I have watched Blackpool decline from being an alright sort of top division team right down to re-election and it hasn't mattered how many ladders I have not walked under or cracks in the pavement I have stepped over, it all just carries on. So I will indulge myself and hope for a proper big team in the next round. I am now very confused about when the allegedly big clubs come into the competition. Nice contrast for me in North London that Arsenal are off to Lens in the Champion League and Spurs struggled to get past Brentford in the first leg of the Worthington Cup, but I would settle for a convenient trip to White Hart Lane in the next round. The way they are playing you'd be confident of a result there. Whilst Luton's Stadium plans fall apart the team have started off as if they couldn't care less. Who does that remind you of then? Last season at Luton BASIL had a meeting with Mrs Oyston where she outlined the difficulties the Club were having with our new Stadium development. By the time we go there at the end of February next year I hope we will be in a position to hear what the plans are now. Luton's Kohlerdome whilst at least at planning stage has been rejected again. Widening the M1 is the problem, but my Bedfordshire sources tell me there may be scope to get a smaller stadium agreed. We are to watch out for their Mac midfield, all four of them beginning with Mac, but like us they lost

experienced players, Oldfield and Patterson and of course there is no Tony Ford to give them firepower. None of this has been a problem, up until today that is of course. I was thinking back about Pool v Luton games I have been to and remembered one when we won 3-2 in 1975 when my mate Mickey Walsh scored with an unusual brace from Peter Suddaby. Talking of ground improvements reminds me that for that game I made one of my few ventures into the Scratching Shed or, as it was known for that one season, the East Stand. Is my mind playing tricks or does anyone else remember when, for I think it was only that season, it was all seated? In my ramblings in the Gillingham programme I mentioned that I was aware that The Gills hated Swindon and that the feeling was mutual. Now for you lot up there the two clubs may both be in the South of England but they are a long way apart and there are much better candidates for the usual local rivalries and hatreds. I am grateful to Bob Wilson, surely not the ex Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper, for supplying some background. Remember I was

recounting events of 1979 and much that Bob mentions comes after this time. The best bit of his list of reasons why he believes the Wiltshire club are so disliked in Kent is that on one occasion at the County Ground the Swindon directors called the Police and had several Gillingham players arrested after a tunnel brawl. Good stuff and yet more proof that people read what I write.

All the Best
Mark Hillary
If anyone wants to join the Blackpool Association of Supporters in London (BASIL) send £2 to Membership Secretary, 33 Colman Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2BB.

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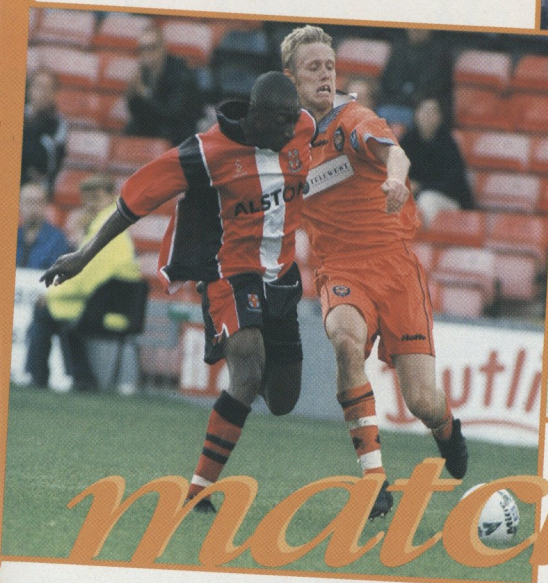
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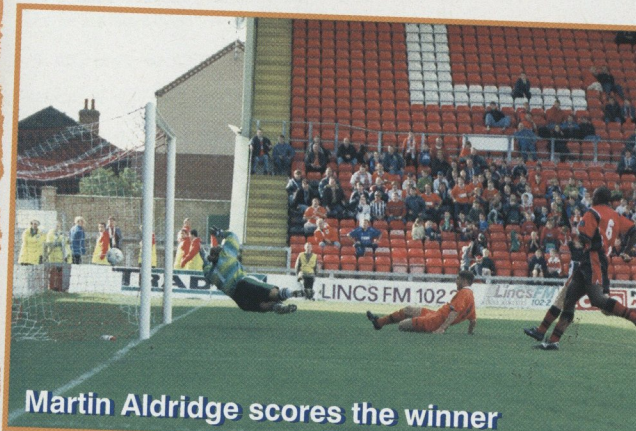
Brett Ormerod attacks the Lincoln defence



Phil Clarkson cracks in the equaliser at Lincoln



match Action



Martin Aldridge scores the winner



Martin Aldridge celebrates

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reserve Round-Up

Our youth team in the new Football League Youth Alliance (North West) have now won their last three games after losing the opener at Carlisle 4-2 when Adam Nowland and Phil Thompson scored. Wrexham were beaten 3-1 at home with goals from Adam Nowland, Paul Sidebotham and Scott Sugden while a Darren Connell goal was enough to secure a 1-0 win at Rochdale. Last Saturday Burnley were beaten 4-1 at home with two goals from Mark Lazenby and one each from Ian Dickinson and Darren Connell. A reminder that homes games are at the training ground at Squires Gate on Saturdays with a 11.00am kick off.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE (North West)

Aug 15	Carlisle United	A	2-4
Aug 22	WREXHAM	H	3-1
Aug 29	Rochdale	A	1-0
Sept 12	BURNLEY	H	4-1
Sept 19	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	
Sept 26	Bury	A	
Oct 3	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	
Oct 10	Preston North End	A	
Oct 17	CHESTER CITY	H	
Oct 24	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	
Oct 31	Wigan Athletic	A	
Nov 7	Wrexham	A	
Nov 14	CARLISLE UNITED	H	
Nov 21	ROCHDALE	H	
Nov 28	Burnley	A	
Dec 5	Oldham Athletic	A	
Dec 19	BURY	H	
Jan 2	Tranmere Rovers	A	
Jan 9	PRESTON NORTH END	H	
Jan 23	Chester City	A	
Jan 30	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	
Feb 13	Stockport County	A	

SCORERS

Reserves
Nowland 2, Jones 1, Lazenby 1, Ormerod 1. **TOTAL 5**

Youth Team
Connell 2, Lazenby 2, Nowland 2, Dickinson 1, Sidebotham 1, Sugden 1, Thompson 1. **TOTAL 10**

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

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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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For this afternoons memorabilia feature I have illustrated a copy of the programme from Blackpool's Anglo Italian Cup Final triumph over Bologna in 1971.

This large 4 sided programme is now very difficult to obtain, in fact if it ever turns up it invariably appears on a dealers "offers list".

Also illustrated here is a poster for the 1972 Anglo Italian Cup Final in which 'Pool played Roma in the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

A mate of mine who went to the game peeled this poster off a window in a shop close to the stadium.

No programme was produced for this final so this poster is the only souvenir I have of this match.

If there is anybody who went to either of these finals and has any match tickets that they can spare then I would love to hear from you. I will pay a very good price!
Happy Collecting!
John

Blackpool memorabilia



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Soccer Surfing...

Continuing our series on the Internet, we are now going to look at 'surfing' for information.

'Surfing' is a term used to mean generally browsing around the Internet for information. Often, you start looking for one thing, and end up looking up something completely different. It all works on a system called *links*, where you click on a link, and it takes you to a different page from the one you're currently looking at.

Of course, first you need somewhere to start. More often than not, this will be a *Search Engine*, basically a giant directory or index. You type in what you're looking for, such as "Blackpool Football Club", and it brings up a list of links to places on the Internet that contain those words, either in the title or somewhere on the page. The results you get vary depending on what Search Engine you use. Most surfers will have their favourite Search Engine, as some produce results in different formats to others.

You can also find information by going directly to a page you know, such as the Nationwide Football League website at www.football.nationwide.co.uk. Often from these sites you will find links to other sites, and end up miles away from what you were first looking at. When you find a useful site that you may want to look at again another day, it's a good idea to *bookmark* it, that is record it in a list of addresses for future reference. While some sites have nice easy addresses, others, especially 'amateur' sites, can often have long, unrecognisable names, so it's advisable to bookmark or write down anything interesting you find.



Here's a list of some good starting points:

Search Engines - A good place to start

- AltaVista - www.altavista.digital.com
- HotBot - www.hotbot.com
- Infoseek - www.infoseek.com
- Lycos - www.lycos.co.uk
- WebCrawler - www.webcrawler.com

Football Sites - Often concentrate on the 'big' teams

- Nationwide League - www.football.nationwide.co.uk
- Soccernet - www.soccernet.com
- Football365 - www.football365.co.uk
- UK Football Pages - www.ukfootballpages.com

News Sites - All have good Sport sections

- BBC News - news.bbc.co.uk
- The Daily Telegraph - www.telegraph.co.uk
- The Times - www.the-times.co.uk

For more information, check out <http://www.blackpool.net/bfc>, which has links to all the best BFC websites, email blackpool.fans@writeme.com, or fax "It's Not Orange, It's Tangerine" on 070506 12365

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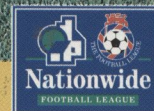
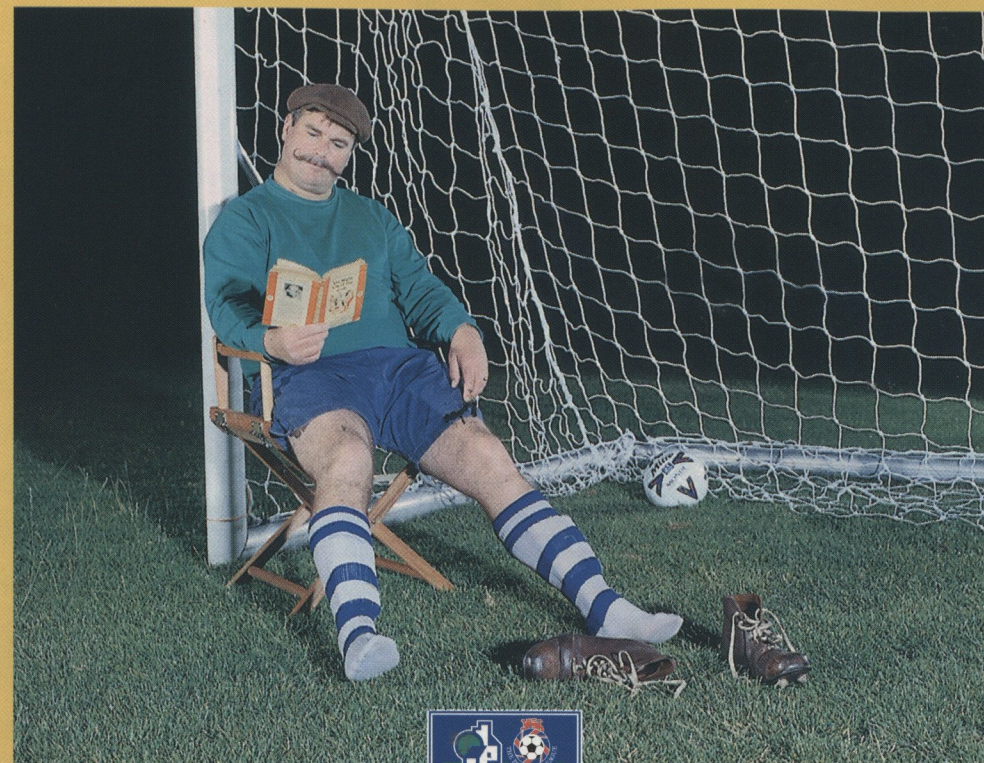
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the match

Line-up



Blackpool

Luton Town

- STEVE BANKS** Another good display last week
- MARVIN BRYAN** Likes the freedom to get forward
- BARRY SHUTTLEWORTH** Still on a 3 month contract
- DAVID BARDSLEY** Using his experience to cover the young defenders
- CLARKE CARLISLE** Looked composed under pressure at Lincoln
- BRETT ORMEROD** His great run made the winner at Lincoln
- PHIL THOMPSON** Defended well at Lincoln
- PHIL CLARKSON** Another goal at Lincoln, his 4th in 5 games
- MARTIN ALDRIDGE** Scored the winner at Lincoln City last week
- STEVE BUSHELL** Hardworking in Midfield
- CHRIS MALKIN** Working hard up front to win balls in the air
- IAN HUGHES** Has now recovered from injury
- ADAM NOWLAND** Young striker who has done well when called upon
- GARY BRABIN** Now fit after injury

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- 16

- KELVIN DAVIS** Came through the clubs junior ranks
- GRAHAM ALEXANDER** Came from Scunthorpe in 1995 - 8 goals last season
- GAVIN MCGOWAN** Came from Arsenal during the summer
- MATTHEW SPRING** Midfielder who shows a lot of determination
- STEVE DAVIS** Strong defender formerly at Burnley
- ALAN WHITE** Defender who was at Middlesborough
- RAY MCKINNON** Came from Dundee United in the close season
- SEAN EVERS** Another product of youth system
- STUART DOUGLAS** Youth striker with great potential
- PHIL GRAY** Northern Ireland striker who has played in Europe
- MICHAEL McINDOE** Young player with promise
- MITCHELL THOMAS** Experienced defender who is now players coach
- ANDREW FOTIAOIS** Young striker with pace and power
- DWIGHT MARSHALL** Striker who has good goal scoring record

REFEREE

MR G CAIN (BOOTLE)

We welcome George Cain to Bloomfield Road for today's game. He is a butcher with two children. He commenced refereeing in 1977 progressing through the northern premier league onto the league line in 1984. He was appointed to the referees list in 1993. He is actively involved in the recruitment and retention of new referees.

TODAY'S MASCOT

Adam is eight on Tuesday and goes to King Edward School in Lytham. He plays football for Kirkham Juniors and has been a Blackpool supporter since he was five. His favourite players are Steve Banks and Phil Clarkson



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