

# Notts

C O U N T Y

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF NOTTS COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB

£1.80



Notts County

v

Luton Town

Saturday,  
24th April, 1999.  
Kick-off 3pm

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# big Sam

You get certain games during the course of a season which turn out to be more significant than others and our previous meeting with Luton certainly came into that category.

I vividly remember last year how we were showing signs of losing our way when we went to Gillingham at the start of December to play Brighton.

We emerged from that with a 1-0 win after a very dogged and determined display - and set off on a run of 16 unbeaten matches which carried us clear at the top.

**"All credit to the chairman for making the signing possible."**

To say that we were struggling when we went to Kenilworth Road in February is a massive understatement. Ten defeats in 12 League games had us in the relegation zone and there's no denying that we were in big trouble.

But Kevin Rapley marked his debut for us with a priceless goal and - as against Brighton - we defended resiliently to keep our first clean-sheet for a long time and claim another 1-0 win.

We haven't looked back since then, of course, and I sincerely hope that we will have cause to reflect on

setting the **scene**

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**Meadow Lane Stadium**  
**Nottingham NG2 3HJ**

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# MAGPIES *Action*

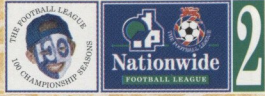
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Saturday 3rd April

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Division Two



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# On The Record



**Geoff Davey**  
Managing Director

**We welcome the supporters, players and officials from Luton Town to Meadow Lane and hope that they have a pleasant, if brief, stay in Nottingham.**

It was at Luton's Kenilworth Road ground only eight weeks ago that our then dismal and worrying position took a turn for the better. Our team that evening included new signings Peter Beadle and Kevin Rapley, the latter scoring the only goal of the game in a win that sparked a super run of form and results.

Luton are of course one of several clubs that find themselves in serious difficulty of another kind. All associated with the club must be extremely concerned to read reports such as were carried in some newspapers last week. One cited the Football League as saying that Luton might not be permitted to compete next season unless certain financial guarantees are in place. The position is far from clear and only those at the heart of the club will know the precise circumstances. We wish them and their supporters well. They should take heart from the likes of Bournemouth and Northampton, both having survived and prospered despite facing extinction in recent years.

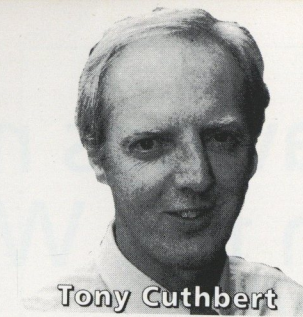
There has been considerable speculation about the prospect of all Nationwide Football League Clubs moving to a system of Squad Numbering and names on shirts next season. This is almost certain to happen in the First Division and whilst a large number of Second Division Clubs are against the proposal I find it strange that a majority of Third Division clubs are in favour. On the face of it, the attraction of seeing your own favourite team follow the Premiership with names on player's shirts is attractive to most supporters. There is of course the added cost when purchasing a replica shirt (about £10) but the real pitfalls and consequences (as inevitably) fall to the club. I am advised that kit suppliers will want something in the region of £2,000-£2,500 more to produce the club kit and we could never recoup such a sum from the small profit margins from heat-printing names on shirts. Few clubs outside the Premiership have sufficient shirt sales to warrant such a scheme. The real problem for the clubs in the Second and Third Divisions is with Squad Numbering. This season Notts have used, I think, 38 players. Disadvantages include 'picking your own team' from a list of all registered players printed in the programme. I prefer to see defenders wearing numbers 2-5 and strikers 9 and 10 for example, not 29 and 37!

As you may have guessed, I am against the proposal; but my opposition is based entirely on economic grounds. The Football League have based their support for the initiative on commercial considerations, believing that the scheme will raise the profile of the League as a whole. They might be right on that score, but I am sure at a cost to most clubs outside of the First Division.

A decision is to be taken at the League's Annual General Meeting on June 12th. We wait with bated breath!!!

*Geoff Davey*

# News Desk



**Tony Cuthbert**

## **ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES**

Bradford City youngster Paul Bolland has joined the Magpies after completing his three month loan period at Meadow Lane. Paul has signed a contract until 30th June 2002.

## **MACCLESFIELD TOWN (HOME)**

This game has been re-arranged for Tuesday 4th May 1999, kick-off 7.45pm.

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CUP - SEMI FINAL**

### **Notts County v. Mansfield Town**

The above game will take place at Meadow Lane on Tuesday 11th May, kick-off 7.45pm. Admission prices for this match will be: Adults £7.00 & Concessions £4.00.

## **THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL**

### **LINCOLN CITY:**

Walsall (H)  
Wigan Athletic (A)  
Colchester (A)  
Wrexham (H)  
Wycombe (H)

### **MACCLESFIELD TOWN:**

Notts County (A)  
York City (H)  
Stoke City (H)  
Luton Town (A)  
Bristol Rovers (H)

### **WYCOMBE:**

Man City (A)  
Notts County (A)  
Blackpool (H)  
Wigan Athletic (H)  
Lincoln City (A)

### **NORTHAMPTON TOWN:**

Wigan Athletic (H)  
Colchester (H)  
Chesterfield (A)  
Burnley (H)

## **OLDHAM ATHLETIC:**

Gillingham (H)  
Walsall (A)  
Stoke City (H)  
Reading (H)

## **YORK CITY:**

Blackpool (H)  
Macclesfield (A)  
Bournemouth (H)  
Man City (A)

## **YOUTH ALLIANCE NEWS**

The Youth Team will be at home to Shrewsbury Town Youth on Saturday 1st May, kick-off 11am, and on Wednesday 5th May they will be at home to Burnley Youth, kick-off 12 noon. Both games will be played at the Power League Ground.

## **SAM MIDDUP**

It is with regret that we report the death of life-long supporter Sam Middup, who passed away on Easter Monday 5th April 1999, aged 85. Sam who lived at Woodborough had supported the club as a small boy often walking with his father from his home to Meadow Lane. All of his family support the Magpies.

Our sincere condolences are extended to all his family.

## **GARY JEFFERY**

Gary passed away suddenly on Monday 12th April 1999, aged 41. Gary had been a supporter for over 30 years, his father Jeff started bringing him to matches when he was only 8 years old.

Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Sue, children Alex & Gavin and all his family and friends.

**Surfing the Net? - You can access the OFFICIAL NOTTS COUNTY WEB SITE at [www.nottscounty.co.uk](http://www.nottscounty.co.uk)**

where you can see news, reports, information and a full listing of kit, clothing and souvenirs available from our shop. You may place your order via our secure credit card service on the site. We can also be e-mailed as follows:

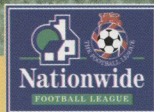
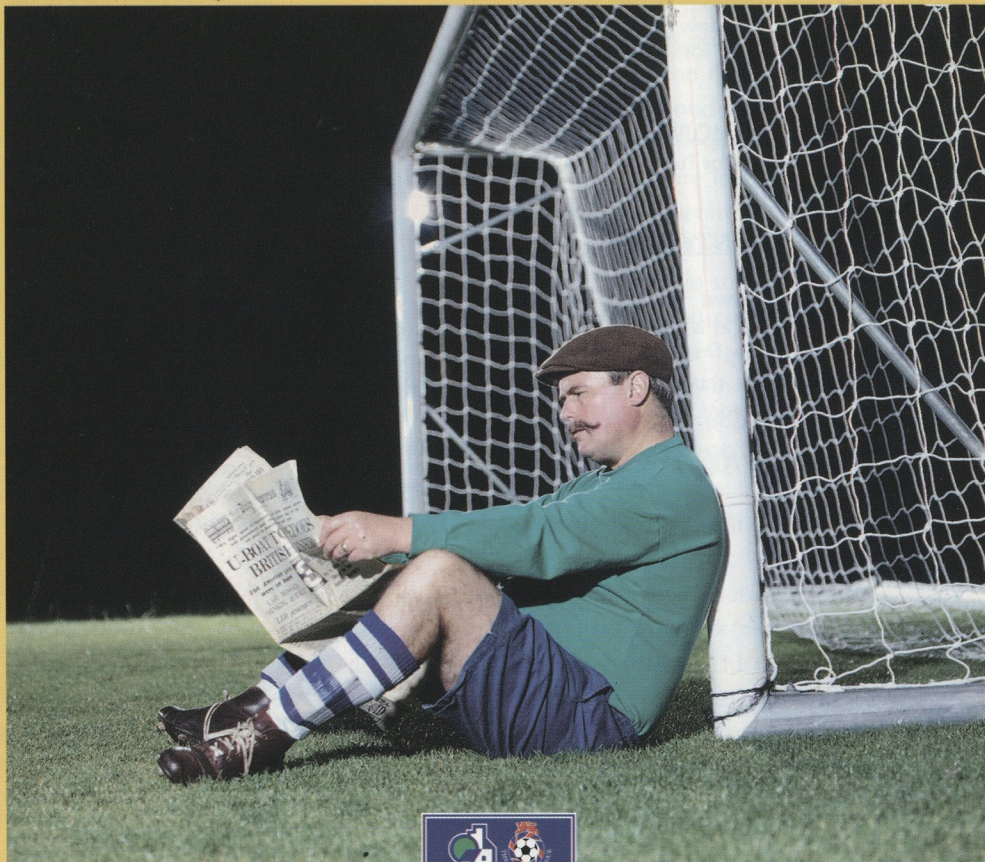
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# The Foresters

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# New Kit Designs

We are pleased to announce, and illustrate, the new Home and Away kit designs for seasons 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. We have clearly retained a strong black and white stripes theme for the home kit, having also incorporated the 'Swedish gold' which seems to have been popular as a foil for the black & white.

There is a fresh look for the away kit with a move to Royal Blue/Sky Blue, also incorporating the 'Swedish gold' theme. There will also be white shorts & socks as an alternative to the Blue where there is a colour clash.

Both kits incorporate a new 'V' neckline, moving away from the shirts with collars as in recent seasons.

All shirts are made to the very high standard with which AVEC are associated, with some subtle but nice touches of embroidery, woven club badges and 'Magpies' motifs. We are now about to enter our third year of three with AVEC, whose support for the club has been and continues to be first class. We stock a wide range of top quality AVEC replica kit and leisurewear.

As previously, we are committed to retain the kits for two full seasons, ensuring that purchases have added value for supporters in that they will not be replaced too soon. We are also pleased to be able to hold this seasons prices during May and the summer months whilst stocks of our first batch are available.

It is intended to launch the new home strip on Saturday 8th May when we entertain Gillingham for our final fixture of the current campaign. The Club Shop will have a comprehensive stock of all new home shirts, shorts and socks from Thursday 6th May. The new away strip will be launched early in the new season, most likely for the first away game (depending on the fixture).

In the meantime, there are still some bargains left in the Club Shop as all of the current strips: black & white, blue and yellow and yellow 'Champions' outfits are available at ridiculously low 'give-away' prices.

Call in and get your bargain, your piece of Notts history.



# OFFICIALLY OWERS

## 'Ricco' is favourite

I know that supporters are starting to cast their votes for 'Player of the Year' and it's going to be very interesting to see who they choose for the various awards.

By the same token, it's going to be fascinating to discover who emerges as our leading scorer at the end of the season.

The big debate where that is concerned is about whether or not Cup goals should be allowed to count in the tally.

Gary Jones, last seen pointing that BMW towards the North East, is still at No. 1 in the charts. But six of his eight goals this season have come in FA Cup ties and according to some people, they shouldn't be included. Ian Richardson certainly subscribes to that theory because he's currently in second place on seven goals... all of them in League matches.

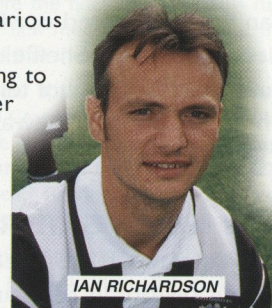
Next comes Ian Hendon with six. But he's out of the reckoning so it's all down to whether Mark Stallard and Peter Beadle can make a late surge to put themselves in contention for the title.

It's an interesting situation that's sure to be a major topic of conversation in the dressing room over the next few weeks.

My tip? Put your money on 'Ricco'... especially if it's his turn to be captain and we get a penalty!

## Our Karate Kid

Mark Warren took the 'Man of the Match' vote in the local paper for his performance at Colchester last week



and I'm told that he maintained a Meadow Lane tradition by doing so.

He needed a dozen stitches in a nasty head wound during the game against Chesterfield and when we were halfway through the warm-up at Layer Road, he was summoned back to the dressing room.

Roger Cleary insisted that he must wear a protective headband and when Mark re-emerged 10 minutes later, there was a strong resemblance to the Karate Kid.

If anything though, the headband inspired him and I'm told that it worked exactly the same way for Ian Richardson when he had to wear one for two matches last season.

Under the circumstances, don't be surprised if we all turn out wearing headbands at some stage in the future!

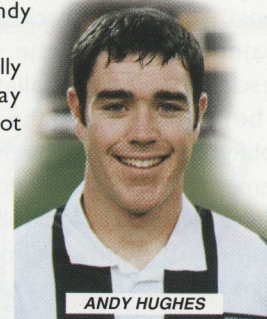
## Sunny Outlook

We're all looking forward to seeing the sun again after another wet and miserable week... except for Andy Hughes.

In his case, it would actually be more accurate to say that he's desperate for a hot spell, so that he can show off his new Saab Convertible to its very best advantage.

"Hughesy" is one of several in our dressing room who are really interested in cars and he was delighted when he completed his new purchase.

As we were quick to point out, owning a car of that type is one of the privileges of living in Nottingham. If he was still playing for Oldham, it would be a complete waste of time owning a convertible because the sun hasn't shone there since 1952.



Gary Owers

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## to the Letter

### G is for . . . GOATER

Shaun Goater made just one appearance in a six-day career at Meadow Lane but he covered a few miles in the process!

The Bermuda international was playing for Rotherham Reserves when Mick Walker spotted his potential and within 24 hours of arriving in November 1993, he turned out for us at Charlton.

He created an early goal for Tony Agana but the dream start

was soon halted because after Gary Lund missed a good chance and Paul Devlin struck a post, Charlton hit back to win 5-1.

Goater then joined the squad travelling to Brescia for an Anglo-Italian Cup tie but he had to be withdrawn at the last minute, when problems developed over a work permit.

It emerged that the work permit at that time only allowed him to play for Rotherham so he returned to Millmoor immediately after we arrived back in England.

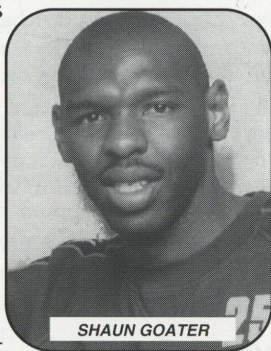
### G is for . . . GOALSCORING

It's been a long time since we had a goal-scoring feat which caused us to change our record books and it's actually debatable whether we will ever need to do it again.

For the record, our major goal-grabbing achievements are...

Tommy Keetley's 39 goals in 34 matches in 1930-31 in Division Three South is our highest number of goals in a season.

Les Bradd set the highest League total in



SHAUN GOATER

aggregate when he reached 125 goals in 1977 and our fastest League goal was timed at six seconds by Barrie Jones at Torquay in 1962.

Ian Scanlon scored our fastest hat-trick in 165 seconds against Sheffield Wednesday in 1974 and Keetley's haul of ten hat tricks - including three in successive away games in 1931 is a club record.

### G is for . . . GATE RECEIPTS

It was one of the great days in our more recent history in February 1991 when victory over Manchester City took us through to the sixth round of the F.A. Cup - and that was a lucrative occasion as well.

The all-ticket match was in doubt until an hour before kick off because of heavy snow but 18,979 saw Gary Lund cap a thrilling tie by scoring the only goal of the game a minute from time.

They paid £124,539 for the privilege of watching that game - which remains a club record to this day.

### G is for . . . GRAY

Big things were expected of Billy Gray when he returned to Nottingham in March 1967 to become our new manager.

A member of Forest's 1959 Cup-winning side, he had tasted success in management with Millwall and then Brentford. But he was unable to lift us from the lower reaches of the Fourth Division.

What he did do, however, was to sign two players who were to have a massive influence at Meadow Lane over a long period of time... Don Masson and Les Bradd.



### A Fine Mess

The F.A. have finally thought about tackling the epidemic of spoiled brats (i.e. players) squealing at their elders (i.e. match officials) every time a decision goes against them. Two ideas are currently circulating to eradicate this blight from our game once and for all.

The first involves the referee booking a dissenter immediately, then moving the free-kick ten yards towards that player's goal. If the player dissents again, a second yellow card is shown and he exits the field to reflect on the fact that next time he might keep his big mouth shut and get on with the game. The ball is moved forward ten yards once more. In my view, this rule is long overdue. A very successful experiment in Jersey has wiped out dissent from the games there, plus speeded up the play. The only complaints have come from managers and players who think that referees have been too lenient.

The second suggestion is to fine players a percentage of their wage every time they are booked or sent off. The more a player misbehaves, the more the fines increase. This rule would have cost Emanuele Petit over £100,000 this season already!! Coupled with the first measure, I think that this will banish forever the sight of a grown man squawking at someone who has just ruled that the potentially leg-breaking tackle they have executed was illegal, and not before time.

This sort of childish behaviour spirals down quickly into the sort of playground squabble which we recently witnessed between Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux. Whilst I would like to rid this sort of behaviour from our game, I would miss the sort of blunder from the commentators which this arguing can provoke. For instance, Barry Venison actually said "I think Le Saux should get the same ban as Fowler because he came from behind, to give Fowler one, and that's not acceptable on a football pitch," Bearing in mind the circumstances of Fowler and Le Saux's bust-up, I think this is one of the best 'cock-ups' (phnurr, phnurr) in commentating history!!!

Finally, here are a few of the things I think should incur an instant yellow card, and please let me know your own suggestions: Wearing your football shirt collar up in the style of Eric Cantona; wearing any red football strip; waving a pretend card at the ref to try and get another player booked (much loved by Italians and Argentinians); wearing any colour football boot other than black; rushing up to a floored player to accuse him of diving; diving to get a free-kick; and I include one for any fan found using a mobile phone in a football ground - a definite ejection and instant £20 fine!!

*This is a personal viewpoint, so all views expressed are mine and not necessarily Notts County's. Feel free to inform me that I am wrong at any time, and all letters will be answered personally. Can't say fairer than that.*

**Neil Glenn. E-mail: neil@lhr.mrc.ac.uk**

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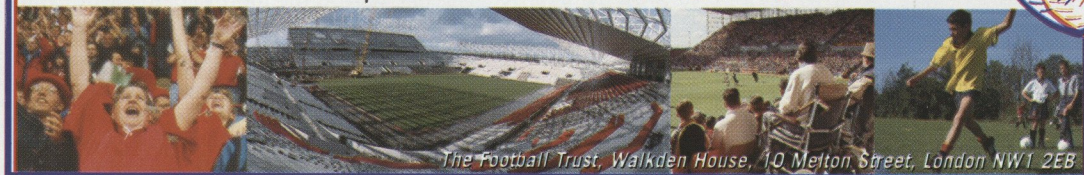
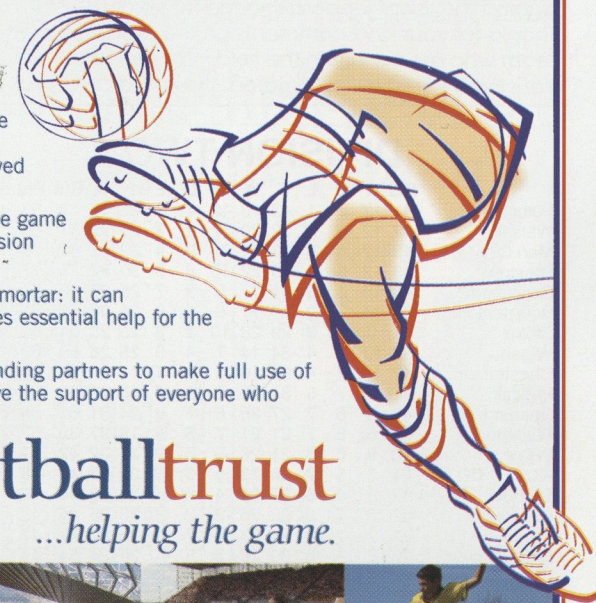
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

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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The Football Trust, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EB







Welcome to

# LUTON TOWN

Luton Town, having had an indifferent season on the field of play, have avoided being drawn into a relegation battle and although not technically clear, are likely to finish mid table. Off the field, their season has been a much troubled one. After years of planning to move to a new stadium - the much vaunted Kohler Dome, named after chairman David Kohler - permission has been denied following an appeal to the Government. It is also true that sections of the Luton supporters were against a move from Kenilworth Road although it is difficult to understand why. Access is poor, there is little if any room for expansion and outside investment for commercial enterprise to mitigate costs extremely unlikely whilst at that site. Despite, or indeed because of his ambitious plans for Luton, Kohler became the target for a hate campaign which recently included threats against his family and whilst still chairman his shares in the club are for sale. Increasing financial pressure over the past two seasons have forced the sale of their better players and the Hatters may find themselves on the verge of extinction unless they can resolve the existing problems. Luton are one of a number of clubs whose future is far from clear. Who said 'It's only a game'?

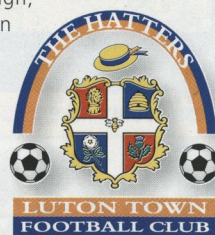
## MITCHELL THOMAS

Luton born, Mitchell Thomas was first on schoolboy forms and then an apprentice with his local club until Tottenham paid the Hatters £250,000 for him in the summer of 1986. He had five years with Spurs during which time he made something approaching 200 appearances before moving on to West Ham for £525,000. After only two seasons in which he played a handful of games, he returned to his home town club on a free transfer. A left sided defender, he passes the ball well and can cause problems for opposing defences when he gets forward. Although now entering the veteran stage of his career, his 6' 2" and long legs make him a formidable opponent. He has been a tower of strength at the back and his tenacity and aggression make him a favourite with Hatters fans. He played for England at Boys, Youth and Under-21 level and has clocked up well over 500 first class appearances of which over 300 have been for Luton. Appointed player coach at the beginning of the current season, and he is apparently keen to play on as long as he can.

## LENNIE LAWRENCE

Born in Brighton, Lennie never played League football, his playing career restricted to spells with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton United. His managerial career began with coaching

appointments at Plymouth and then Lincoln City where he was recruited by his friend Colin Murphy. He moved to Charlton Athletic as reserve team coach before being made manager at the Valley. He had in fact spent nine years with Charlton during which time he was instrumental in their retaining First Division status two seasons running. When the call came for him to take the manager's position at Middlesbrough he took the opportunity to move on and in his second season with them they were promoted to the Premiership. Relegated after one season, Lennie was replaced by Bryan Robson. He was soon back in business with Bradford City where he lasted just 18 months before moving to Luton. Arriving too late to stave off relegation, the following season provided Luton supporters with their best for some years. Rarely out of the promotion frame, they made the Play-Offs but failed to beat Crewe in the semi finals. A familiar story, they struggled badly last season having done so well in the previous campaign, Lawrence forced to sell his leading scorer Tony Thorpe in order to balance the books. Indeed they avoided relegation to the Third Division courtesy of a late revival only. This season, if possible, has been even worse for the chirpy cockney boss. More departures, including club captain and leading scorer Steve Davis departed for Burnley and in recent weeks turmoil at Board Level has left the manager isolated in his task to keep the football side of the business alive and kicking.



## SQUAD MEMBERS

### NATHAN "TANNY" ABBEY

A young goalkeeper who had a surprise first taste of the big time last season: happily playing for the reserves, 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, built up more experience on loan to Woking in the Vauxhall Conference and is now confirmed understudy to Luton's England under-21 international Kelvin Davis.

### JIMMY COX

First joined Luton on associate schoolboy forms, and made a big impact in the youth team as an old-fashioned winger, able to take on men and go past them with the ball. He was in the Luton Town squad which did the youth double in the 1997/98 season, winning the South East Counties League Championship and the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. He made the breakthrough into the first team squad earlier this season with his senior debut in a victory over Ipswich in the Worthington Cup second round.

### KELVIN DAVIS

After seeing off two Americans, finally became first choice goalkeeper last season. A product of the Hatters' youth development programme, 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 returned to the USA.

### 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 F.A. 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. Luton record to the start of the season: 11 appearances, no goals.

### 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 has 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. Became skipper earlier this season.

Luton record to the start of this season: 306 appearances, eight goals.

### SEAN DYCHE

A very experienced centre-half signed on loan from Bristol City in January as Luton

were hit by a crop of injuries, and the loss of Steve Davis, who returned to Burnley for pressing personal reasons. Dyche began his career as a trainee with Nottingham Forest, but he best known for his time at Chesterfield. He skippered the unfancied Spireites to the F.A. Cup semi-finals in 1997, and after 200 matches for Chesterfield he joined Division One side Bristol City in the summer of 1998 for £275,000.

### ANDREW FOTIADIS

Another local discovery, Fotiadis chose to stay at school to gain GCSE A-levels before being a full-time soccer professional. He won England School 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. Luton record to the start of this season: 38 appearances, four 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. Luton record to the start of this season: One appearance.

### 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 championships 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.

But no sooner had he got established in the side than he broke a leg, to face a six-month lay-off. Luton record to the start of this season: Four appearances, no goals.

### 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 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 £800,000 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, and having rediscovered his goal touch this season was recalled to the Northern Ireland squad in November. Luton record to the start of this season: 19 appearances, two goals.



Meet: THE HATTERS



## JULIAN JAMES

One of the most loyal clubman 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 tie 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



STUART DOUGLAS

testimonial, but then suffered tragedy, breaking a right leg against Bristol Rovers in April 1998. He faces an uphill battle to return before the end of this season. Luton record to the start of this season: 339 appearances, 14 goals.

## 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. Luton record to the start of this season: 25 appearances, three goals.

## GAVIN MCGOWAN

A right back fighting for a Premiership place 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. Luton record to the start of this season: Ten appearances, no goals.

## 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.

## MICHAEL MCKINDOE

Made his debut for Luton's senior side earlier this season when injuries hit three players above him in the pecking order for the wide left midfield slot. He joined Luton as a YTS boy after leaving school, and was part of their youth team which won the South East Counties League championship and the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup in the 1997/98 season. He made his first team debut in the Worthington Cup first round victory over Oxford United in August.

## 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. Luton record to the start of this season: 94 appearances, one goal.

## ANDRE SCARLETT

It was a Roy of the Rovers story when the 18-year-old made his league debut for Luton in October. Because of injuries the winger was on the subs' bench against Oldham, and got his chance with 20 minutes to go, with the score at 0-0. His trickery tempted an Oldham player into a rash tackle which earned a red card, and Luton went on to win 2-0, with Scarlett netting the clincher.

## 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 is 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. Luton record to the start of this season: 34 appearances, six goals.

## MATTHEW SPRING

A competitive midfielder, Spring was a driving force in the Luton side which reached the F.A. 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." Luton record to the start of this season: 13 appearances, no goals.

## 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. Luton record to the start of this season: 33 appearances, one goal.



ALAN WHITE

## L'ANDRY ZAHANA-ONI

Signed by Lennie Lawrence in January, from Bromley, of the Ryman Premier League, Zahana-Oni had attracted the interest of several other league clubs with his abilities as an old-fashioned left winger. A French national, he had spent six years with Le Havre before crossing the Channel to make the grade in British football. He spent eight months at Stirling Albion before joining Bromley, and Luton paid £25,000, with more to follow depending on the players progress.

Luton Town Football Club



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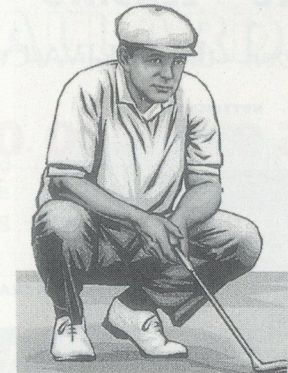
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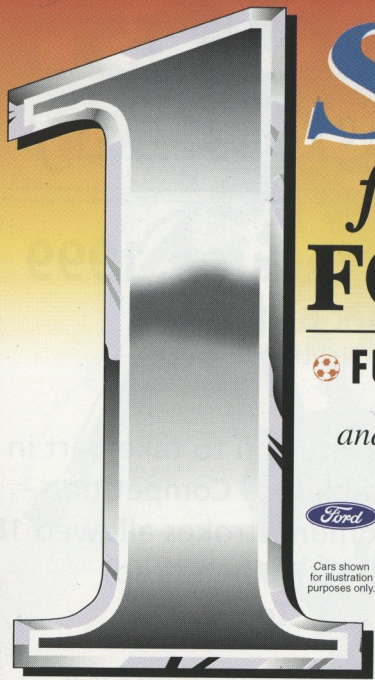
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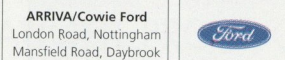
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# Life Away From Football

## different angle

### MARK STALLARD

#### What was your worst subject at school?

Computer studies. Computers and me just don't get on and I've come to the conclusion that the only thing they are good for is playing games.

#### What were you most in trouble for at school?

I once put chewing gum in my mate's hair when I was in the first year at secondary school. It was just one of those things that you did - although it did seem to get the teachers a bit excited. The Head of Year had to use scissors to cut out the offending stuff and I actually thought that improved the hairstyle no end.

#### What was your first car?

A red D-reg Ford Fiesta. At the time I thought it was brilliant and it certainly covered plenty of miles during the 18 months that I had it.

#### What is the silliest thing you have ever done?

'Bad Taste' was the theme of a players' Christmas party while I was at Derby and I really went for it. I had an Afro curly wig, my mate's mum's multi-coloured blouse, a medallion, red cord trousers and white shoes.

The problem was I felt a right idiot when I got out of the taxi and walked down the road to the pub where we were all meeting!

#### If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I have to confess that I bite my nails and aside from that, maybe I would be a bit less hard on myself when things are not going right.

#### What's the best dish you cook?

People come from miles around to taste my pasta and chicken (out of a jar) - and my toast is second to none.

#### Where do you see yourself being in twenty years time?

Hopefully I will be reflecting on a good playing career while still involved in the game in some capacity. I'm not sure if coaching is my forte but I do fancy having a go at management - so that I can give back some of the 'stick' that's been handed to me over the years!

#### What would you do if you won the Lottery?

I would send everyone a postcard from the Bahamas.





# Football in the Community



## FAMILY MAGPIES

For the third year running, Reg Killick and I took two teams of Family Magpies football players for a four-day football tour of Nottingham's twin city of Ghent in Belgium during the Easter break.

Both teams took part in an under 13 tournament hosted by SK. Vindehoute, a local club. Our 'A' team finished fourth in the competition which also included a team from Holland.

The following day we were guests of Royal Racing Club Ghent, a Belgian Third Division side. Both Family Magpies teams played a game on the first team's pitch against their juniors - a tremendous experience for the children. The Family Magpies also played well - the 'A' team gaining a 1-1 draw, while the 'B' team came away with a brilliant 2-0 win. As we do every year we handed out lots of Notts County gifts, so hopefully we have created a few more Notts County fans in Europe!



## MEMORY LANE MAGIC

Friday 19th of March 1999 will live long in the memory for all our 1862 Club Members who attended our most recent event, the Magpies Memory Lane Lunch. Over 50 senior County supporters were there to listen to Brian Bates and Jack Wheeler recalling their times at Meadow Lane.

Bates a former player, teamed up with the likes of Les Bradd and Alec Gibson in the mid 60's when the legendary Wheeler was the trainer. Completing the 'top table' line-up was the great Colin Slater, who for once was answering the questions not asking them! Also present was John Mounteney and wife Daphne, along with Director Billy Barrowcliffe. After a marvellous lunch in the Oriental Suite, there followed a lively question and answer session where Bates, Wheeler and Slater were all on top form.

**If you want information on the 1862 Club contact Graham Moran on 0115 9557215.**



**BRIAN BATES, JACK WHEELER & COLIN SLATER with 'payment' for their after lunch speeches at the 1862 Club Memory Lane event - a Wagon Wheel each!**



## JAPANESE SUPPORTERS CLUB

Recent visitors to Meadow Lane were these Japanese students who are in England to improve their English language. After a tour of Meadow Lane they asked for details of future Magpies results and wish us all the best in our push away from the relegation zone.

If you know of any supporters further afield than Japan let us know.

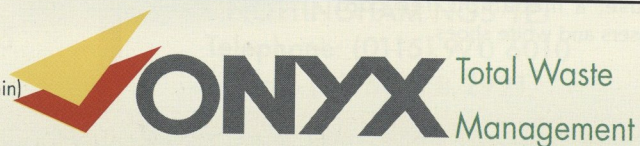
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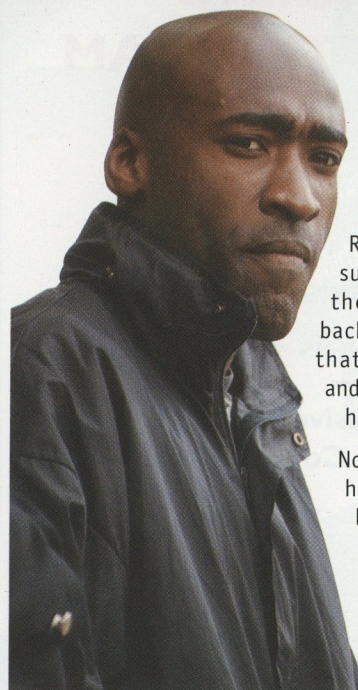


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# BEHIND THE SCENES



## ROGER CLEARY

Roger Cleary is suitably touched by the warm welcome back to Meadow Lane that he has received and he says: "I'm very happy to be back."

No one ever doubted his contribution to last season's Championship triumph - not only through his 'healing hands' but also his influence in

other areas like nutrition and fitness training - and we knew it was a massive blow when he decided to leave us during the summer.

But Roger missed us, just as much as we missed him, and we were delighted when he accepted our invitation to return last month.

He said: "I enjoyed my time involved in a private practice but I missed the football environment - and the opportunity to spend a good part of my working week in the fresh air.

"What I especially missed was the buzz around the dressing room on a Saturday afternoon. It's a special atmosphere and there's a real sense of satisfaction if you work hard all week to get a player fit and then he goes out and performs well to help the team win.

"I really missed that and although I've no doubts that I will go back into private practice at some stage, that's something for the future.

"After I left Meadow Lane in the summer, I still kept in regular contact with Sam Allardyce, I think he could detect the fact that I was missing football and

although I did have another option to go back into the game, I was pleased when the invitation arrived to come back here."

Gone are the days when the treatment of injuries was almost a sideline for a man who used to be known as trainer - something to fit in alongside looking after all the kit and 1001 other duties.

Roger made it clear from the outset at Meadow Lane that he was a Chartered Physiotherapist, not a kit-man etc, and he added: "Looking after the kit has never been an issue. I'm happy to help out when time allows but it is not a priority for me.

"There is still some way to go but I think the message is gradually getting through to football clubs that looking after players is a very important side of the game.

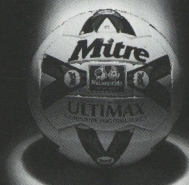
"I've always believed that prevention is better than cure and we introduced a number of things last season, like warm-ups and warm downs, which were very helpful in that respect. I could see what a difference it made by doing things right - and that was a factor in winning promotion.

"Having put such strong foundations in place, I was disappointed that we failed to build on it this season. But we are well placed to move forward from here and it's vital to get a good pre-season, to prepare the players properly for the challenges ahead."

Although Roger played in goal for our youth team, he went off to join the RAF, where he did a five-year stint as a PE instructor before leaning towards the medical side.

He worked as masseur for the Great Britain Triathlon team for five years before becoming a personal trainer in London and studying to gain his degree at University, then eventually finding his way into football with Lincoln City.

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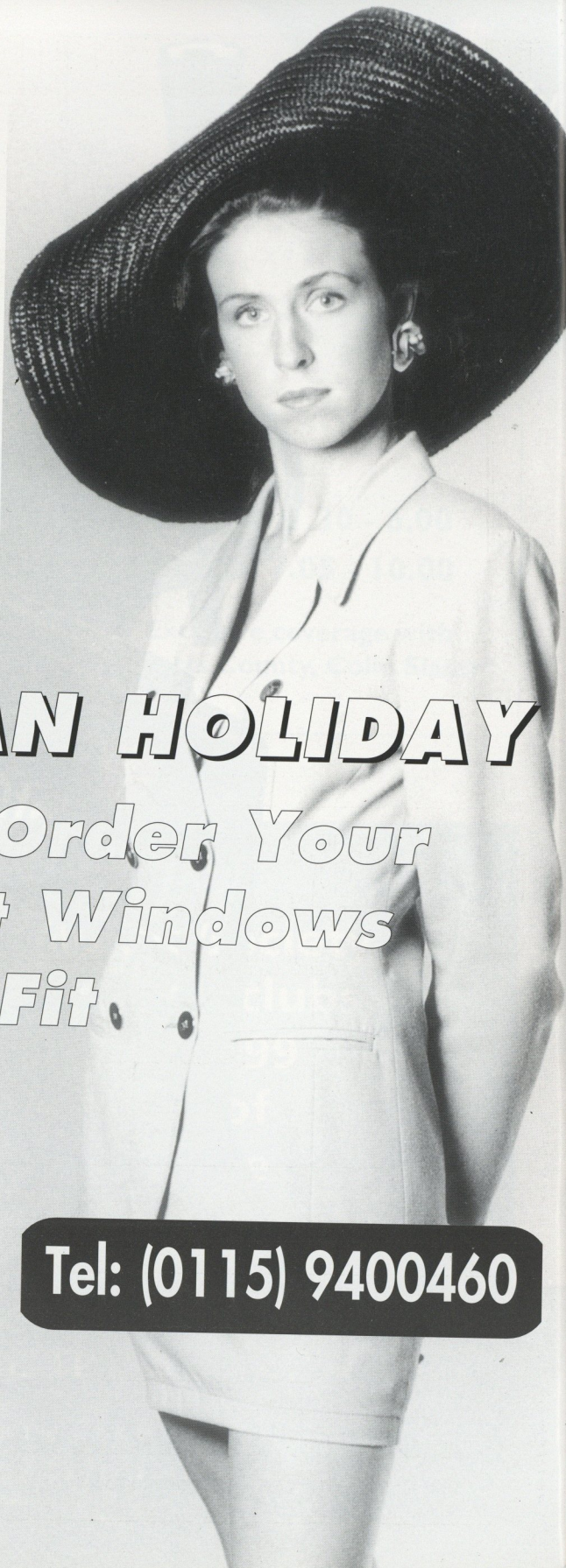
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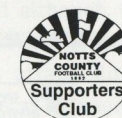
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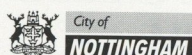
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 Nottingham City Council,  
 Woodthorpe Grange,  
 Nottingham NG5 4HA.

Tel: 0115 9152740

# A Funny Thing happened

☆ Nat Lofthouse was the manager during my apprenticeship with Bolton Wanderers and although I didn't realise it at the time, I got a good insight into the pressures of management on the day we played Queen's Park Rangers.

The apprentices used to watch the game from the tunnel area and midway through the second half, Nat came storming past us and screamed to physio Bert Sproston to get the substitute ready.

We only had one substitute in those days and he started to warm up in the normal fashion. But three minutes went by without the signal for him to join the action, then five minutes and then ten. Eventually, Bert plucked up the courage to ask Nat who he was taking off and after a long pause, he said: "Gordon Taylor."

The problem was that Gordon just happened to be standing beside him at that moment and he said: "It will be a bit difficult Boss . . . because I'm the substitute!"

Believe me, when you've been in management for a while, it gets you like that.

☆ Bolton were always renowned as a good passing team while I was there, but I well remember the day when it went too far for my liking. My fourth game for the first team was away to Bristol Rovers and after 15 minutes, I literally hadn't touched the ball, even though we'd had 90 per cent of the possession.

Barry Siddall kept throwing it out and the others were

pinging the ball around the pitch, trying to work their way through the Rovers defence. But whenever I tried to get involved, they ignored me.

I'd had enough of this after a while and when I went across to our captain Roy Greaves and demanded to know what was going on, he went a bit sheepish and said: "The manager has told us not to pass to you."

I was furious but I had the last laugh in the end because midway through the second half, I played Willie Morgan in with a 30-yard diagonal pass and he ran through to score the only goal of the game.

After that, I couldn't resist running across to the bench and saying: "Now tell them not to pass to me!"

☆ Board meetings can be interesting experiences at times and although they were particularly serious affairs during my time as manager of Blackpool, I couldn't help but laugh on one occasion.

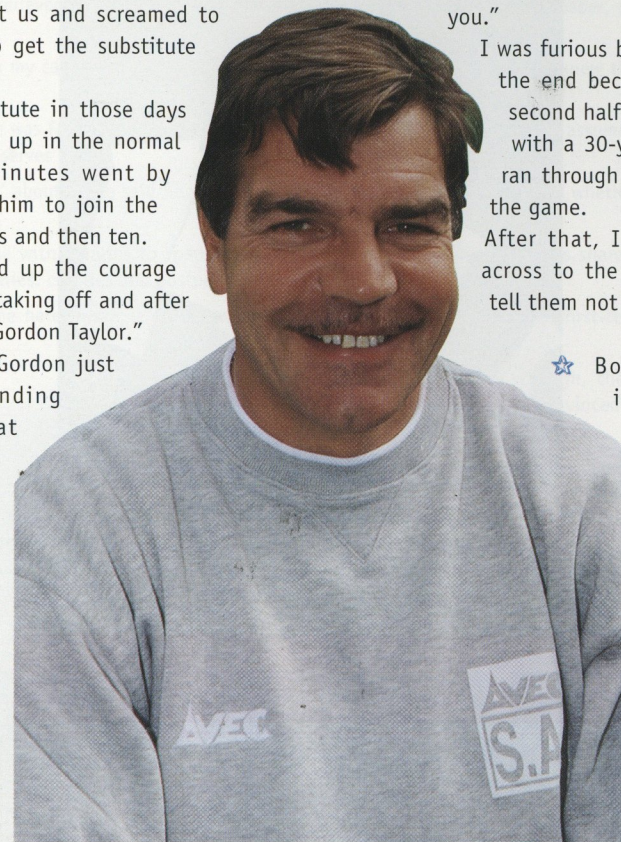
We were working our way through the agenda and came to an item marked: "Brown patches on the pitch."

Owen Oyston, the Chairman, seemed

convinced that they were caused by the YTS lads urinating on the pitch and instructed me to carry out an investigation.

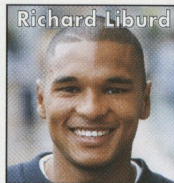
I was duty bound to question the groundsman and my report went something along the lines of: "Due to an acute lack of pitch maintenance equipment . . ."

*Sam Allardyce*

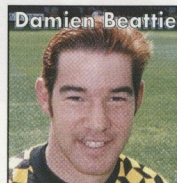


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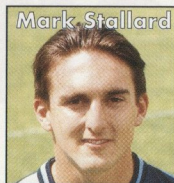
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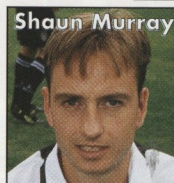
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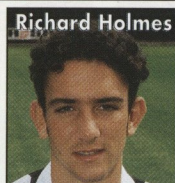
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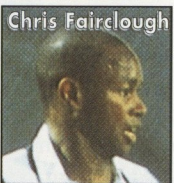
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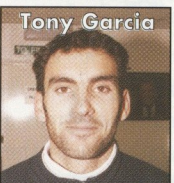
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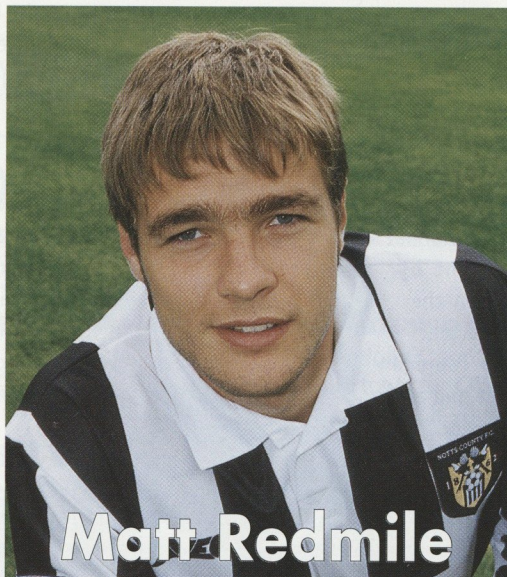
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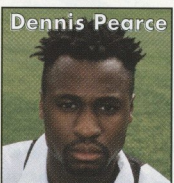


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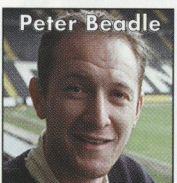
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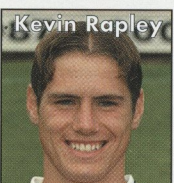
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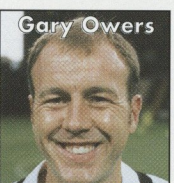
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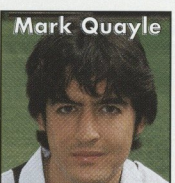
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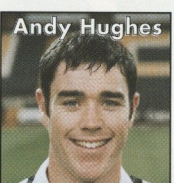
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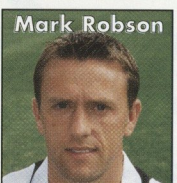
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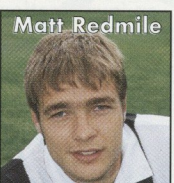
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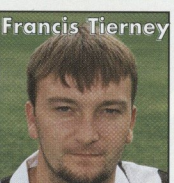
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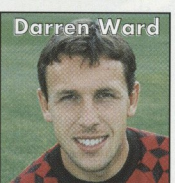
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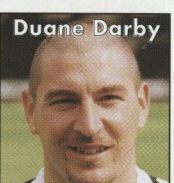
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\* Sarah Perkins



# in the limelight.....

## PAUL BOLLAND

Paul Bolland needed no persuading to turn his back on the possibility of helping Bradford City to clinch promotion - and a taste of life in the Premiership.

But don't mistake that for a lack of ambition because the Bradford-born midfielder is determined to be successful in the game, and Sam Allardyce believes he has every chance of doing so.

The manager was delighted when we managed to complete a £75,000 deal last Friday which will keep Bolland at Meadow Lane until the summer of 2002.

And the player himself was relieved as well as delighted when he was invited to put pen to paper, shortly before the team coach set off for Colchester.

He explained: "It didn't help my cause when I damaged my back against Wrexham because I knew there were only a few days left before my loan expired.

"The deadline for signing me was Friday and when it got to Thursday and I'd heard nothing, I assumed that I would be going back to Bradford to play in the Reserves again.

"When I spoke to the 'Gaffer' about it, he said he was keen to sign me but it was all down to whether a fee could be agreed with Bradford."

The deal was eventually done with minutes to spare and Bolland, who has had more than his share of frustrations over the past three months because of injuries, cup ties and postponements, was genuinely delighted.

He added: "When I first came here, I saw it purely as a loan - an opportunity to get some first-team games under my belt and gather experience.

"The longer I've been here, though, the more I've come to like the place - and people - and I'm convinced that this is a move that will benefit my career.

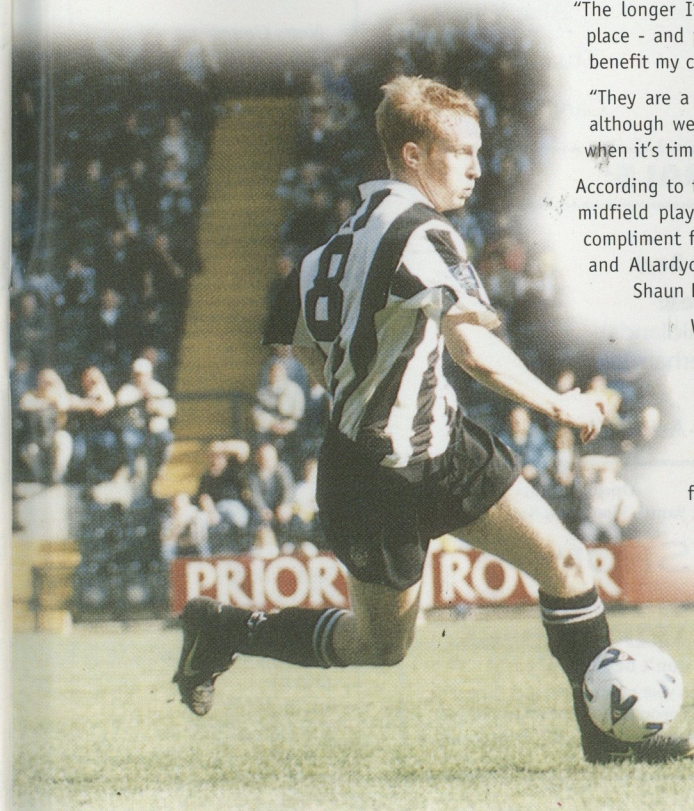
"They are a great set of lads who have made me very welcome and although we have a lot of laughs in the dressing room, we all know when it's time to be serious."

According to the manager, Bolland is the best young tackling midfield player he has seen in a long time. That's quite a compliment for a player who won't be twenty until December and Allardyce also believes that he's every bit as good as Shaun Derry and Steve Finnan were at his age.

What neither of them realised, though, was that Bolland can be equally effective in defensive roles - and the way he responded to that challenge certainly helped when the time came to make a decision about his future.

He played as an emergency right-back for the first time in his life at Lincoln, then switched to the centre of defence against Chesterfield when Mark Warren went off injured.

And he added: "It's all about gathering experience for me at the moment and I learned a lot from those games. But although I'm happy to play anywhere, I see myself as a midfielder who works hard, makes plenty of tackles and keeps things simple."



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Gary <b>OWERS</b>	2	'Chris <b>WILLMOTT</b>
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Mark <b>WARREN</b>	6	Marvin <b>JOHNSON</b>
Francis <b>TIERNEY</b>	7	Tony <b>THORPE</b>
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Mark <b>STALLARD</b>	9	Stuart <b>DOUGLAS</b>
Peter <b>BEADLE</b>	10	Michael <b>McINDOE</b>
Shaun <b>MURRAY</b>	11	Emmerson <b>BOYCE</b>
Kevin <b>RAPLEY</b>	12	Alan <b>WHITE</b>
Alex <b>DYER</b>	13	Stuart <b>FRASER</b>
Richard <b>HOLMES</b>	14	Gary <b>DOHERTY</b>

### TODAY'S OFFICIALS:

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#### Assistant Referees:

Mr. G. A. Aston (West Midlands)

Mr. P. Canadine (Rotherham)

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## TODAY'S MASCOT

### LIZZIE STRANGE

Lizzie is 14 years-old and she lives in Hucknall, Nottingham. She is a keen footballer herself



and she plays as a striker for Ilkeston Ladies Under-14's. As

well as playing football, Lizzie is a keen all round sportswoman and plays cricket, badminton and squash and in between all that, she still has time to watch 'The Pies' every week! When it comes to naming her favourite players the list includes Andy Hughes, Darren Ward, Peter Beadle, Sean Farrell and Shaun Murray.

*Notts County hopes that Lizzie and her family have a great time at Meadow Lane this afternoon!*



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