



Royals

SAT 21ST AUG 1999 - K.O 3.00^{PM}

 **Nationwide**
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

READING VS LUTON TOWN

Mad as
Hatters
FOCUS ON TODAY'S VISITORS

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Gray
PLAYER PROFILE INSIDE

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CONTENTS



PAGES 10-13 FOCUS ON LUTON TOWN

Lennie Lawrence (left) is one of the most experienced managers in the game, and his Luton Town team have got off to a good start after surviving severe financial problems.

PAGE 19 ROYALS SUPERSUBS XI

The latest in our series of Royals 'teams of the century' features a group of players who specialise in coming off the bench - including Jimmy Quinn as a goalkeeper!



PAGES 20-21 NATIONWIDE NEWS

Catch up with all the latest goings-on in the Nationwide Football League along with details of this afternoon's top five fixtures across the country.

PAGES 44-45 STUART GRAY IN PROFILE

Full-back Stuart Gray has been one of the most consistent performers for the Royals over the past six months. Find out here why he doesn't get injured!

READING FOOTBALL CLUB DIRECTORY

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PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO SMOKING IN THE STADIUM BOWL AREA - VOLUME 54 ISSUE NO.3

ROYALS VS HATTERS

STATISTICAL HISTORY

ROYALS V HATTERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
	38	17	6	15	54	57

BEST AND WORST

BIGGEST WIN	28/10/33 DIV 3 THREE (S) READING 4-1 LUTON TOWN
BIGGEST DEFEAT	9/2/21 DIV 3 THREE (S) LUTON TOWN 6-0 READING
LAST WIN	22/8/98 DIV 2 READING 3-0 LUTON TOWN
LAST DEFEAT	28/3/70 DIV 3 (OLD) LUTON TOWN 5-0 READING

BETWEEN THE TEAMS

Luton Town will always be remembered as the opposition on that historic day last August when Madejski Stadium staged its very first match, and the Royals would be more than happy with a repeat of the result and performance of that game.

Goals from Grant Brebner, Jim McIntyre and Robert Fleck resulted in a 3-0 triumph in front of more than 18,000 fans.

Last March's return match at Kenilworth Road, a game that the Royals went into on the back of four wins on the trot, was also an eventful affair. In the fifth minute Graham Alexander missed a penalty for the hosts - the third successive spot-kick Royals' opponents had failed to convert - but two minutes later the Hatters went ahead anyway when Matthew Spring netted from close range.

Centre-back Tony Barras equalised in the last ten minutes with a firm header from a Ray Houghton cross, and despite late Royals pressure the game ended 1-1.

Recent fixtures between the clubs have gone very much in Reading's favour - in fact you have to go back seven fixtures and nearly 30 years until the Hatters' last League victory over us, a resounding 5-0 win at Kenilworth Road in March 1970.

After that disastrous afternoon, Luton's rise to the top flight meant that we didn't face each other again in a League fixture until the 1994/95 season.

Our first meeting with Luton was back on 5th February, 1921, when the Hatters earned a 1-0 victory in front of 6,000 supporters at Elm Park halfway through our first season in Division Three (South).

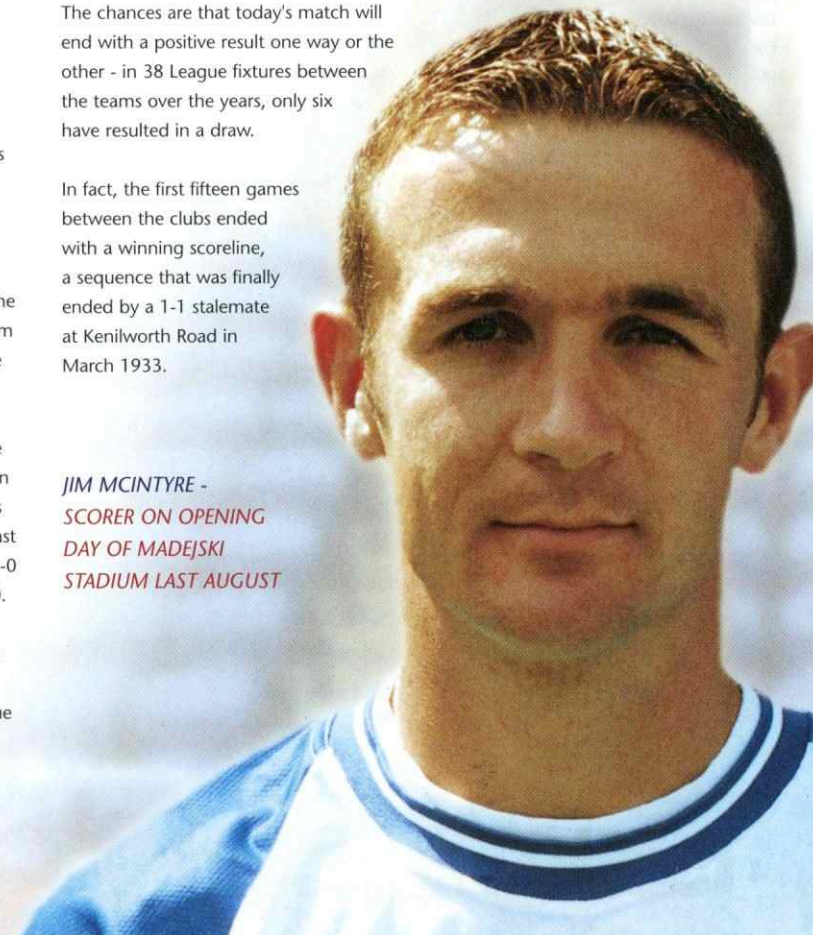
In those days clubs played back-to-back League fixtures, so our return meeting with Luton was just four days later, and the Hatters completed a double over us with a convincing 6-0 win.

We registered our first victory over the Hatters the following January, when goals from Abe Jones and Robert Gardiner helped us to a 2-1 win at Elm Park, a result that sparked a run of four consecutive victories over the Hatters in the next two years.

The chances are that today's match will end with a positive result one way or the other - in 38 League fixtures between the teams over the years, only six have resulted in a draw.

In fact, the first fifteen games between the clubs ended with a winning scoreline, a sequence that was finally ended by a 1-1 stalemate at Kenilworth Road in March 1933.

*JIM MCINTYRE -
 SCORER ON OPENING
 DAY OF MADEJSKI
 STADIUM LAST AUGUST*



MILLENNIUM VOTE!

PLAYER OF THE MILLENNIUM

We have all voted for and debated our 'Man of the Match' many times. There's also 'Man of the Month' awards, and at the end of the season you can vote for your 'Player of the Year'. But why stop there? As we approach the year 2000, we want to know who is the Reading FC Player of the Millennium - and we want YOU to decide.

Many great players have pulled on the hoops over the last 128 years, and it will take a great deal of thought to decide who is the greatest of them all. An early hero was Herbert Smith, who captained the club at the turn of the century and also played for England. Striker WG Bailey scored Reading's first ever Football League goal in 1920, while Alf Messer was another great from the early days, captaining the team that won the Division Three South title in 1925/26. Long-standing fans will remember the goalscoring exploits of Ronnie Blackman,

who hit a record 158 league goals for the club in the forties and fifties. And what about Martin Hicks, the all-time record holder for the most number of appearances (500 between 1978-91)?

Who can forget the legendary Robin Friday, Reading's answer to George Best and perhaps the most talented player ever to play at Elm Park? Steve Death was a great keeper for the Royals in the seventies, setting a new Football League record for the most consecutive clean sheets. Trevor Senior was a much-loved striker, while more recently Shaka Hislop was another fantastic goalkeeper for the 1993/94 championship-winning team. The choice is yours, so please get your vote in now by one of three possible ways:

POST: Player of the Millennium, Reading FC, Madejski Stadium, Reading, RG2 0FL

FAX: 0118 968 1315

EMAIL: comments@readingfc.co.uk

The closing date for votes is 1st November 1999, and the winner will be announced at a Player of the Millennium Awards Dinner at Madejski Stadium on Friday 10th December.

You can book tickets for the Dinner via the Commercial Department - please phone 0118 968 1304 or email: ztrusler@readingfc.co.uk

There will also be a special presentation ceremony for the winner (or a relative) before our League game against Wrexham at Madejski Stadium on Saturday December 18th.

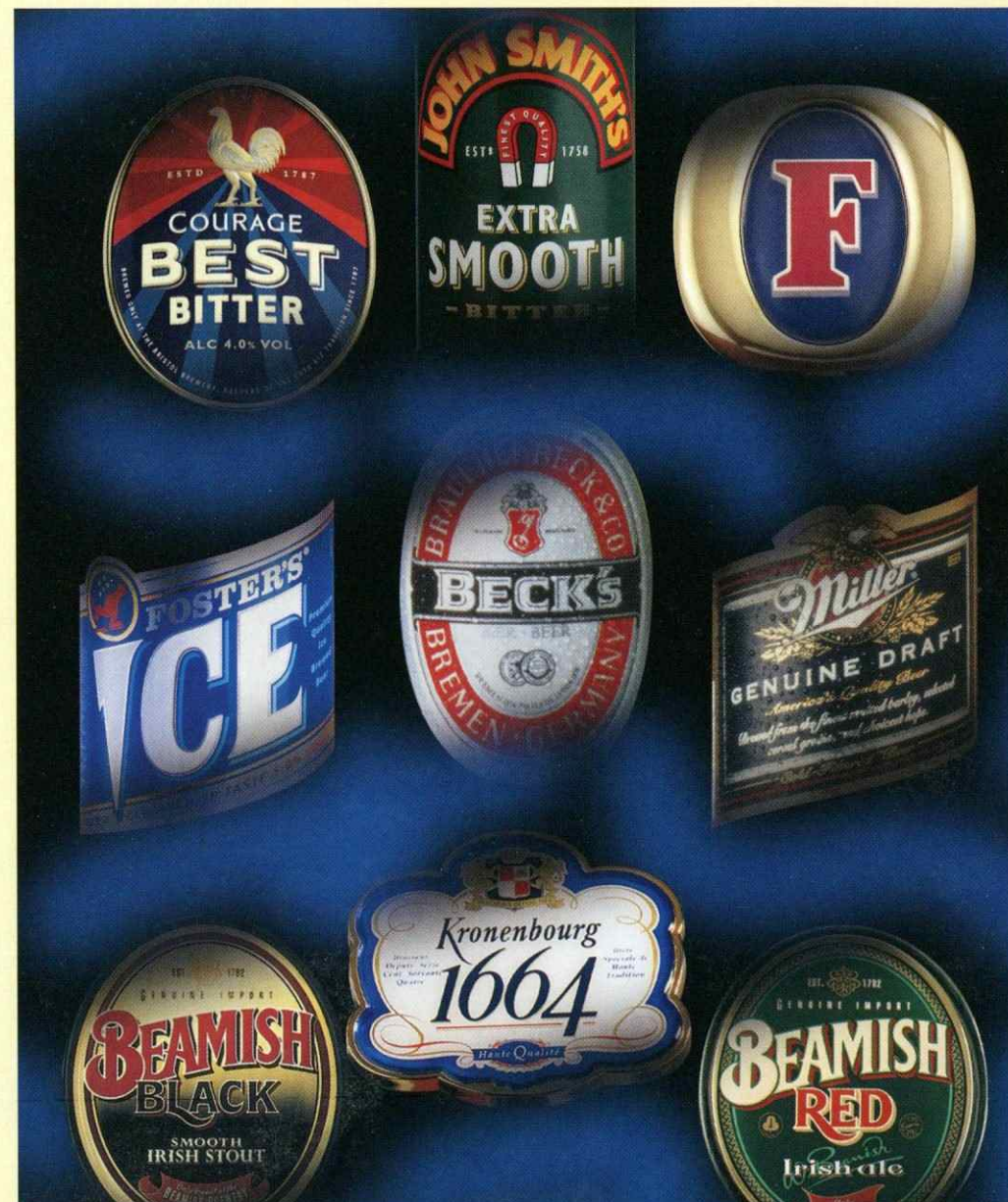
And if you need any more encouragement to submit your entry, at the end of the voting we will be holding a random draw and the winner will be given the opportunity to join the presentation ceremony prior to the Wrexham game.

So vote NOW, and help us honour the greatest player in Reading Football Club's history.



COURAGE

— EST 1787 —



SUPPLIERS OF GREAT BEERS TO THE MADEJSKI STADIUM

MANAGERS TEAM TALK

We're all looking forward to this afternoon's game and a chance to get back into winning ways after the disappointment of our last two fixtures against Peterborough and Cambridge.

After a great start to the season with the victory over Bristol City, it was frustrating that we couldn't continue our winning sequence against Peterborough in the Worthington Cup.

There was a huge contrast in atmosphere for those two games at Madejski Stadium. For the opener with Bristol City there was a crowd of 13,000 plus and all the supporters were really fired up for the start of the season, and from that we went straight into a game in front of less than 5,000 where the atmosphere was very subdued.

But the players have to be able to motivate themselves to play no matter what the conditions are, and although the Bristol City game gave them a glimpse of what it would be like if we were in the First Division, they have to realise that we won't be getting a crowd and an atmosphere like that every week this season.

We started the game very slowly and it took us a very long time to get going, although I felt we finished the game strongly and I was happy with the way we played in the final ten minutes - we certainly had the chances to win the game. But that's not good enough because we have to be prepared to show real desire and commitment from the first minute of every match.

To be fair to the players, both of those qualities were in evidence at Cambridge last weekend, when we worked very hard. Unfortunately all that hard work was ruined by some basic defensive errors as we conceded two goals directly from set pieces.

The players put in a lot of effort last Saturday, but when you come away with a 3-1 defeat that counts for absolutely nothing, so we've got to make sure we cut out the silly mistakes.

One thing that will really help us in the next few weeks is seeing some of our injured players returning. We have been exceptionally unlucky with injuries, every time we buy somebody he seems to get injured, and nobody is more frustrated about that than me.

The situation is almost farcical and it's a good job we've got a good sense of humour or I think we'd spend all our time on the phone to the Samaritans!

"We've already got more points on the board than we did at this stage last season, and it's vital we keep on picking up the points and build on that."

But, barring any more mishaps, in the next few weeks we'll be able to welcome back Darren Caskey, Nicky Forster, Sean Evers, Linvoy Primus, Graeme Murty and Phil Parkinson. Any team would be affected by having so many players sitting watching rather than being out there on the park, so their return is something to look forward to.

NEXT HOME MATCH

WED 1ST SEPTEMBER V PRESTON



ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST WE TAKE ON EARLY LEAGUE LEADERS PRESTON NORTH END. THEY WERE A GOOD TEAM THROUGHOUT THE LAST CAMPAIGN AND LOOK SURE TO BE AMONG THE PROMOTION CONTENDERS AGAIN THIS SEASON, SO IT IS CERTAIN TO BE A TOUGH GAME FOR THE ROYALS.

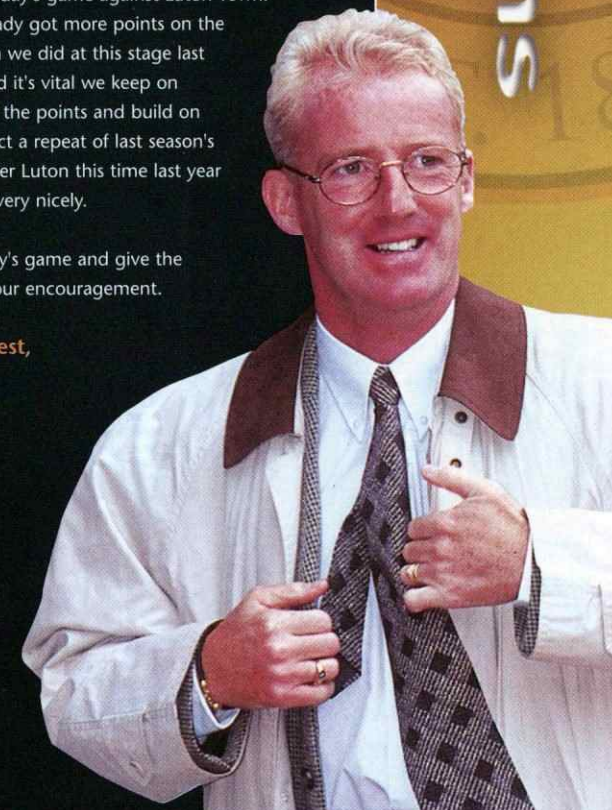
Although we're a couple of weeks into the season, I think it's far too early to start judging results or paying any attention to League tables. It will be a couple of months before everything starts to settle down and we get a decent idea of how the season will run, and we've just got to make sure we're up there at that stage.

We can get the season off to a solid start by winning today's game against Luton Town. We've already got more points on the board than we did at this stage last season, and it's vital we keep on picking up the points and build on that - in fact a repeat of last season's 3-0 win over Luton this time last year would do very nicely.

Enjoy today's game and give the team all your encouragement.

**All the best,
Tommy**

Tommy Burns

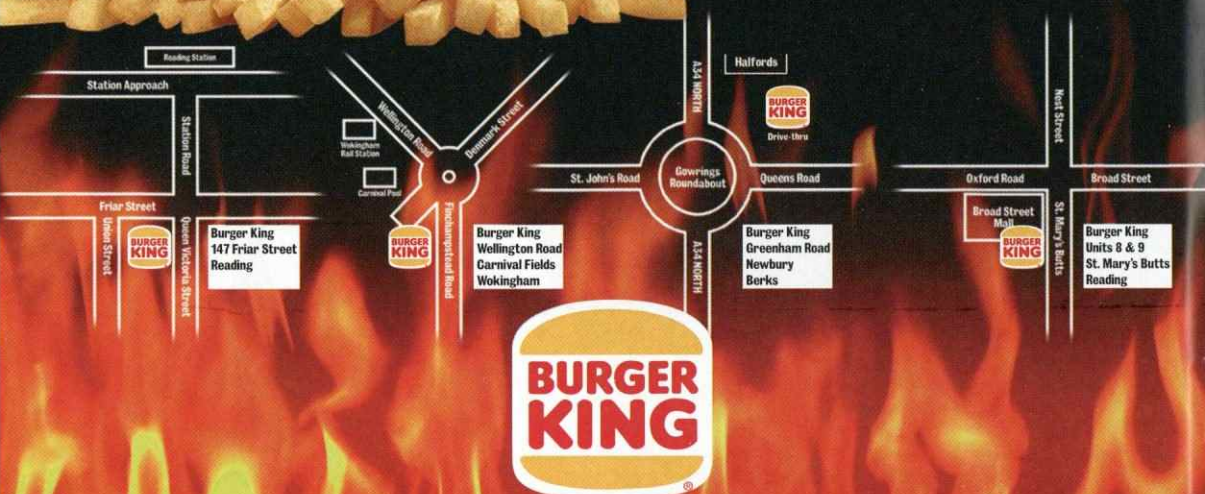


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IN A LEAGUE OF IT'S OWN

*BURGER KING IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF BURGER KING CORPORATION

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LUTON TOWN

THE HATTERS



LUTON TOWN SQUAD SEASON 1999/2000

Luton Town manager Lennie Lawrence will be hoping his young team can reproduce the form they displayed throughout much of last season when, despite playing under extremely difficult circumstances, the club finished in a highly respectable 12th place. This season, with the squad down to the bare bones following the departure of more players, will once again prove to be a stern test for the Hatters. With the club just beginning to recover from a perilous financial situation, Lawrence has to rely on his youngsters again, and another mid-table position would no doubt be warmly accepted while the club gets back on its feet.

Luton made a very good start to last season, losing only three of their opening 14 League games and staying in and around the play-off positions, but at the turn of the year results took a dive as they suffered 18 defeats in 31 games. At one stage they were threatened by relegation, but three wins from the final four fixtures secured a place in the top half of the table. The highlight of last season was a tremendous run in the Worthington Cup, as the Hatters eliminated Oxford, Ipswich, Barnsley and Premiership Coventry en-route to the Quarter Finals, where hopes of a Wembley appearance were dashed by a 3-0 defeat at Sunderland.

The Hatters kicked off the new season in good form with a 0-0 draw at Notts County, followed by last Saturday's thrilling 3-2 win over Blackpool at Kenilworth Road. But more importantly for the club's long-term future, the long-running receivership saga was settled just before the start of the season, when Cliff Bassett replaced David Kohler as majority shareholder. All Hatters fans breathed a big sigh of relief at this news - as did manager Lawrence who was at last able to add to his squad by signing defender Effy Sodje from Macclesfield.



FORMED 1885
GROUND KENILWORTH RD
CAPACITY 9,975
MANAGER LENNIE LAWRENCE

- The club's record victory was a 12-0 thrashing of Bristol Rovers in April 1936, with Joe Payne scoring an amazing 10 goals in the game, watched by 13,962. In the Hatters' next home game, the attendance increased to 23,142!
- In the same season (1936-37), Payne maintained an excellent scoring ratio, finding the back of the net a record 55 times.
- Luton's record crowd came on March 4th 1959 when 30,069 fans crammed into Kenilworth Road for an FA Cup 6th Round replay against Blackpool.
- Bob Morton is the player who has made the most league appearances for Luton Town. Between 1948-64, he turned out in 494 League games.
- The signing of Danish international Lars Elstrup from Odense in August 1989 for £850,000 is the club's record purchase - despite taking place 10 years ago!

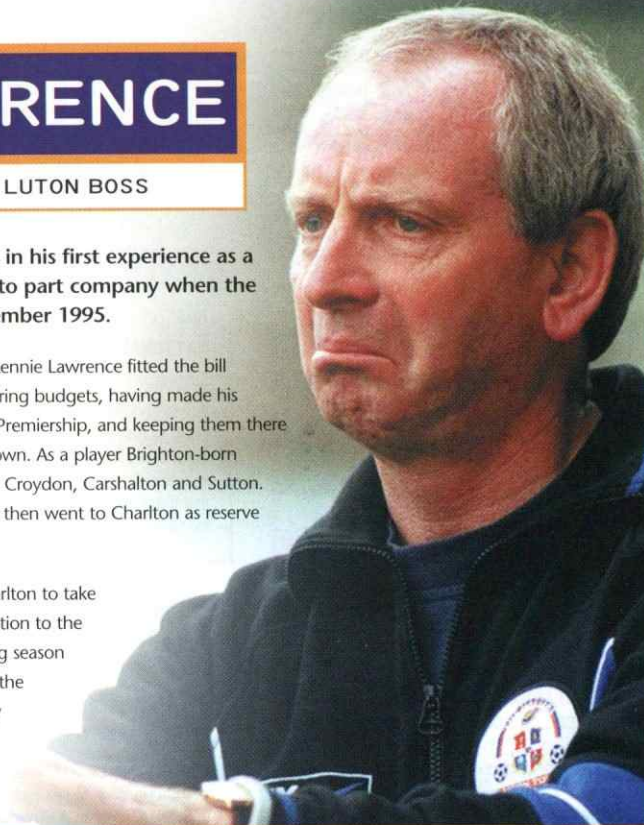
LENNIE LAWRENCE

LUTON BOSS

With former youth coach Terry Westley struggling in his first experience as a manager, he and Luton Town reluctantly decided to part company when the Hatters slid to the bottom of Division One in December 1995.

The Hatters decided they needed an experienced head, and Lennie Lawrence fitted the bill perfectly. He was also accustomed to 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. As a player Brighton-born Lawrence plied his trade in the semi-professional leagues with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton. His coaching career started at Plymouth and then Lincoln. He then went to Charlton as reserve team coach before taking his place in the hot seat in 1982.

Lawrence had been in charge for nine years when he left Charlton to take over at ambitious Middlesbrough, and he led them to promotion to the Premiership a year later. But Boro were relegated the following season and Lawrence was replaced by Bryan Robson (who repeated the feat of taking Boro up and straight back down). Bradford City offered the next opportunity, but Lawrence left after 18 months to return south and become Luton's 21st manager.



PHIL GRAY

WELL-TRAVELLED STRIKER

A 30 year-old striker who was signed by Luton for the second time in September 1997, the Northern Ireland international hopes to get in a full season after being hit by a succession of injuries in recent years.

Gray started his career with Spurs in 1986, but he was unable to earn a regular place in the first team at White Hart Lane. He had brief loan spells with Fulham and Barnsley, and in August 1991 David Pleat, his former manager at White Hart Lane, splashed out £275,000 to take him to Kenilworth Road. Gray scored 26 goals in 67 for the Hatters before moving on to Premiership football with Sunderland in a £800,000 move. After three years with the north-eastern club he joined Nancy in France, and then moved on to Fortuna Sittard in Holland. But he returned to Kenilworth Road in September 1997 for a £400,000 fee, and having rediscovered his goal touch was recalled to the Northern Ireland squad in November. He has made a total of 20 international appearances, scoring five goals. An aggressive and at times unorthodox striker, Gray has maintained a good goalscoring ratio throughout his career, but considering the number of talented youngsters now at Luton, he is facing a battle to retain his place in Lennie Lawrence's starting eleven.



MEET THE SQUAD

THE HATTERS

NATHAN ABBEY



AGE 21
POSITION GK
NATIONALITY ENG

The keeper made his debut for Luton in the League Cup against Colchester aged only 18. An excellent shot-stopper, he has huge potential. Now in his second spell at the club after a brief stay in Belgium with Antwerp.

STUART FRASER

AGE 19 POSITION DEF
NATIONALITY SCO

A Scottish left-back who starred as captain in last season's championship-winning youth team, Stuart will be looking to establish himself as a regular this season. Another promising youngster to come through the ranks.

JULIAN WATTS

AGE 28 POSITION DEF
NATIONALITY ENG

Signed on a month's loan from Bristol City at the start of the season, and keen to get his career moving again after falling out of favour at Ashton Gate. Best known for his spells with Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City.

GARY DOHERTY

AGE 19 POSITION DEF
NATIONALITY IRE

A big and brave centre-half who can also operate effectively as a centre-forward. Last season's excellent form, when he scored six goals and made 35 appearances, led to a call-up to the Republic of Ireland squad.

ALAN WHITE

AGE 23 POSITION DEF
NATIONALITY ENG

Lennie Lawrence went back to one of his old clubs to sign this reliable central defender from Middlesbrough in September 1997 in a £40,000 transfer. Sound in the air, quick on the ground, and an excellent striker of the ball.

PAUL McLAREN



AGE 22
POSITION MID
NATIONALITY ENG

Another product of the Luton youth system, Paul is a well-established member of the first team despite his tender age.

A forceful player who possesses an excellent all-round game.

MATTHEW TAYLOR



AGE 18
POSITION MID
NATIONALITY ENG

Yet another talented youngster to come through the ranks, Taylor was a key member of last season's successful youth side. Impressive performances in pre-season friendlies saw him leap into the first team squad, and he started both this season's League games.

MICHAEL McINDOE

AGE 19 POSITION MID
NATIONALITY SCO

Made his debut for Luton's senior side last season when injuries hit three players above him in the pecking order for the wide left midfield slot. Joined the club as a YTS trainee after leaving school.

MATTHEW SPRING



AGE 19
POSITION MID
NATIONALITY ENG

A star in the club's continually successful youth team, Matthew is a competitive midfielder who has great vision and a good ability to read the game. Voted joint Young Player of the Year in 1998, Matthew has amassed 70 appearances despite still being a teenager.

STUART DOUGLAS

AGE 21 POSITION FOR
NATIONALITY ENG

A lively, fast, and aggressive striker, Stuart was a permanent fixture in the Luton line-up last season, finding the back of the net 11 times. Joined the club as a trainee in May 1996 and made a full debut soon after.

LIAM GEORGE

AGE 20 POSITION FOR
NATIONALITY IRE

A regular scorer for the youth and reserve teams, and a regular member of the Republic of Ireland Under 18 side, Liam will be looking to establish himself in the first team this season. A tricky, unpredictable striker with lots of pace.

ANDREW FOTIADIS

AGE 21 POSITION FOR
NATIONALITY ENG

Another local discovery, Fotiadis won England Schools caps at under-15 and under-18 level, and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry defences as an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power, and determination to score goals.

HEAD TO HEAD

KEITH SCOTT



KEITH'S FACTFILE

(1) FULL NAME	KEITH SCOTT
(2) BIRTHPLACE	WESTMINSTER
(3) DOB	9 6 67
(4) HEIGHT	6 3
(5) WEIGHT	14 3
(6) POSITION	FORWARD
(7) PREVIOUS CLUBS	LINCOLN, WYCOMBE NORWICH, SWINDON STOKE, BOURNEMOUTH WATFORD

Powerful striker **KEITH SCOTT** has added some height and strength to the Royals attack since his arrival from Wycombe Wanderers on transfer deadline-day in March. The experienced target man, who has played in all four professional English leagues, is now with his eighth club after starting his professional career with Lincoln back in 1990. He made an immediate impact at Reading, scoring twice in his first two games, and has started every game so far this season.

Luton Town's **MARVIN JOHNSON** is the longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, a versatile defender who normally plays as a centre-back but is also more than capable of filling in on the flanks or in midfield. He is starting his 12th season as a first-team regular at Luton, his only club and the team he joined as a schoolboy. Injuries have been a problem over the years, but he has always bounced back and is now club captain and seemingly a permanent fixture in the starting eleven.

MARVIN JOHNSON



MARVIN'S FACTFILE

(1) FULL NAME	MARVIN JOHNSON
(2) BIRTHPLACE	WEMBLEY
(3) DOB	29 10 68
(4) HEIGHT	6 1
(5) WEIGHT	13 6
(6) POSITION	DEFENDER
(7) PREVIOUS	NONE

POWER PLAY

Marvin Johnson burst onto the scene as a teenager in the late 80's when Luton were enjoying a successful spell in the top flight, with a team containing the likes of Mick Harford and Steve Foster, playing in a ground that banned away supporters and had a plastic pitch. A lot has changed since then, but Johnson has been a regular throughout the last twelve years and his commitment has made him a constant favourite with fans and managers alike.

Strong in the air and firm in the tackle, Johnson is primarily a centre-half, but he is also deceptively good with his feet and this ability has led to him being deployed as a midfielder or wide player on a number of occasions. He has now racked up more than 350 appearances for Luton, and his experience is a vital steadying factor in a team that possesses a remarkably high number of young players. Johnson's physical presence will be tested to the full today by Royals striker **Keith Scott**.

Although the big target man is yet to get off the mark this season, he has been a constant threat to opposing defences. Scott has been directly involved with a couple of 'assists' in the last fortnight - his shot against the post led to Jim McIntyre's consolation at Cambridge last week, and he also contributed to Grant Brebner's opening day goal with a neat header to Lee Hodges.

Royals fans are eagerly awaiting the appearance of summer signing Nicky Forster, and when the former Birmingham striker returns to fitness, there will be five strikers (Forster, Scott, McIntyre, Williams and Brayson) contesting just two or three starting places. Scott has started every game so far, and despite the competition for places he will be hoping to impress Tommy Burns enough to retain his place as Forster's partner - his height and power would certainly be a good complement to Forster's pace - so a goal or two today wouldn't harm his cause.

Football. It's a game of two halves



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Photograph courtesy of Reading Evening Post

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Insurance Brokers

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AT MADEJSKI STADIUM

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Tickets can now be purchased for all home games until the end of the season.

As last season, we would like to remind you that we offer discounted prices for tickets purchased up to 5.30pm on the day before a match.

PRE-PURCHASED PRICES

UPPER WEST - £18 (NO CONCESSIONS)

LOWER WEST, NORTH AND EAST -

ADULTS £12, CONCESSIONS £7

MATCHDAY PRICES

UPPER WEST - £20 (NO CONCESSIONS)

LOWER WEST, NORTH AND EAST -

ADULTS £14, CONCESSIONS £8

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FAX - 0118 968 1001

EMAIL - ticketorder@readingfc.co.uk

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MATCHDAYS (SAT) 9.00am-3.45pm

(MIDWEEK) 9.00am-8.30pm

PETERBOROUGH UTD

(A) TUE AUG 24 - K.O. 7.45PM



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WORTHINGTON CUP 1RD 2L

TERRACES - 2,700 AVAILABLE
ADULTS £9, CONCESSIONS £3

SEATS - 885 AVAILABLE

ADULTS £11, CONCESSIONS £3

PLEASE NOTE NO TICKETS ARE ON SALE FROM MADEJSKI STADIUM, ALL READING FANS WILL BE ABLE TO PAY ON THE DAY.

COLCHESTER UTD

(A) SAT AUG 28 - K.O. 3.00PM



LAYER ROAD COLCHESTER
NATIONWIDE DIVISION 2

TERRACES - 1,000 AVAILABLE
ADULTS £9, CONCESSIONS £5

SEATS - 190 AVAILABLE

ADULTS £11, CONCESSIONS £7

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN ALL TICKET FIXTURE FOR READING FANS AND NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW AT THE MADEJSKI STADIUM TICKET OFFICE.

HOW TO GET TO:

LONDON ROAD

TAKE A1 AND THEN FOLLOW A15 INTO LONDON ROAD.

LAYER ROAD

FOLLOW SIGNS INTO THE TOWN CENTRE AND THEN PICK UP B1026 TO LAYER, LEADING INTO LAYER ROAD.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Ticket Office Contact details:

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HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS AT MADEJSKI STADIUM

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

TELESALES

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

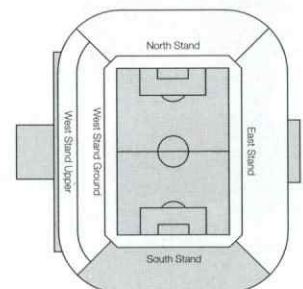
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You can pay by cheque, credit or debit card. Please include a SAE and clearly state the date of the game and which stand you require. We do not recommend that you send cash in the post.

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MADEJSKI STADIUM SEATING PLAN



ROYALS 0 PETERBOROUGH 0

WED AUG 11, MADEJSKI STADIUM, KICK-OFF 7.45 PM



1ST RND
1ST LEG



MATCH REPORT

WORTHINGTON CUP 1ST ROUND 1ST LEG

WORTHINGTON CUP BLANK

Royals 0 Peterborough 0

An impressive performance from Barry Fry's talented youngsters gave the Royals a very uncomfortable evening in this first round, first leg Worthington Cup clash. The visitors started brightly, with rising stars Simon Davies and David Farrell looking particularly dangerous. The Posh had a number of goalscoring opportunities but thanks to a combination of wayward finishing and good goalkeeping from Scott Howie, Reading were able to keep the scores level. There was more bad news for the Royals at half-time when influential midfielder Darren Caskey limped off with a groin strain. Caskey was replaced by the previous Saturday's goalscoring hero Jimmy Crawford, who, together with fellow sub Andy Bernal, added some bite to the Royals' midfield. But Peterborough continued to create most of the chances, and Howie was called into action on a number of occasions to make saves from Davies, Farrell, Broughton and Shields.

The hosts grew stronger as the game progressed, and another substitute, Jim McIntyre, was a particular menace for the Peterborough defence. Reading had their best spell of the game in the last ten minutes, and a left-wing cross from McIntyre gave Keith Scott the best chance of the match but he fired into the side-netting from ten yards. Martin Williams forced a good save out of Posh keeper Mark Tyler as the Royals continued to press, and the home side also forced a few corners in the closing stages. But it was too little too late from Reading, and after dominating for 80 minutes it would have been rough justice on Posh if they had conceded a late goal. There is still everything to play for at the London Road Ground on Tuesday night, and after their first leg performance Barry Fry's team will fancy their chances, while Tommy Burns can be greatly encouraged by the final ten minutes.

Attendance 4,651

ROYALS STORYBOARD

- 1 Flying Scotsman**
Scott Howie dives acrobatically to make one of many saves on the night.
- 2 Scramble**
Barry Hunter finds himself surrounded by red.
- 3 Caskey shows the way**
Darren Caskey before his half-time departure through injury.
- 4 Taking control**
Jim McIntyre made a good impression as a late substitute

FORMATION



SUBS

(22) McINTYRE (8) CRAWFORD (16) BERNAL

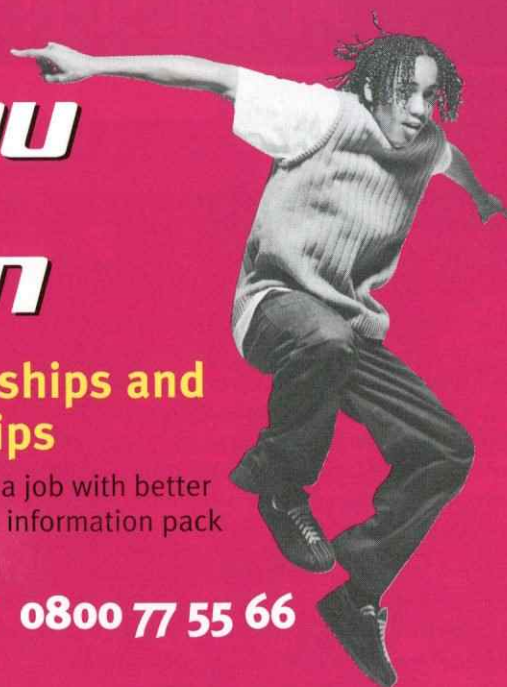
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Minolta is one of the world's leading manufacturers of business equipment and has just launched its new line-up of digital copier/printers to take business printing into the next millennium. The new range is known as DiAlta.

Minolta Direct Operations at Reading will be demonstrating the benefits of the new **DiAlta** range at their "Digital Revolution Exhibition for the New Millennium". Visitors will also be able to see Minolta's range of mono and full colour laser printers and multi-functional products at this exhibition, which will be held at the Madejski Stadium on **Tuesday 5th October between 11.00am and 5.00pm.**

To receive your official invitation to this prestigious exhibition please call Julie Prince at Minolta's Reading Office on **Freephone 0808 100 1053.**

TEAM OF THE CENTURY

ALAN SEDUNARY

SUPERSUBS XI

Substitutes were first introduced for 1965-66 season with Ralph Norton coming for Peter Shreeves in our first game of the season. For that one season subs could only come on for an injured colleague so we only used four subs all season - a far cry from the 84 used in the League last season!

The number of permitted subs was doubled in 1987/88 when Francis Joseph and Mark White came on together during our draw at Leeds (doesn't that sound good?!). Although clubs were allowed to use a replacement keeper as well from 1992/93, Reading waited until September 5th, 1995 at Southend, when three outfield subs were allowed, to use our full quota of 14.

That historic 14th man was Jimmy Quinn, who is almost the King Of The Bench - by the start of last season he had come off the bench an amazing 98 times putting him third in the League's all time substitutes list (headed by Alan Cork with 111 subs appearances).

That wasn't the end of Quinn's record breaking substitute appearances - on September 8th, 1996 he came on for the last minute of our 2-0 win over Oxford (doesn't that sound good as well!). In doing so he became the seventh sub to be used because as well as both sides using all three subs, the referee was "substituted" by the fourth official!

Obviously any "team" of Reading substitutes will feature Quinn, but not in his usual centre forward role. Jimmy Quinn is the only Reading outfield player to come off the bench to play in goal,

replacing Simon Sheppard during our game against WBA on December 2nd, 1995, and then 15 months later he came on for Bobby Mihailov against Bolton. He proved equally adept at stopping goals as scoring them, keeping a clean sheet against Albion and finishing on the winning side both times!

Surprisingly, Quinn's long time strike partner Stuart Lovell is our most-used sub with 50 sub appearances in the League. From our Supersub XI line-up, which requires some imaginative positional selection, it is clear that Reading managers have favoured the use of attacking subs through the years. That wasn't always the case though - it was nearly five years after subs were first introduced that Barrie Wagstaff became our first goalscoring sub

when he scored our winner at Bournemouth in January 1970.

John Hulme would captain this team, even though he is not even in it. Why? Well, he has done it before - in the last game of our 1974/75 season, at Chester, John captained the side as substitute and as he wasn't used during the game, his only duty was to toss the coin before kick-off, which must surely make him football's only non-playing captain!

Every side, imaginary or otherwise, needs a manager but surely no manager has ever been substituted? Or have they? Charlie Hurley was so despondent after Reading's first half performance at home to Bury on February 26th, 1977 that he resigned at half-time!



NATIONWIDE NEWS

PART ONE

MANCHESTER CITY ROYLE FURIOUS

Manchester City manager Joe Royle was furious with referee Paul Rejer for sending off Andy Morrison last Saturday after an incident with Fulham's Stan Collymore. Rejer also booked three other City players and Royle fumed: "I'm amazed. We have had a player sent off for allegedly putting his tongue down another player's throat. I haven't asked Stan whether or not he enjoyed it. This is a passionate game, a man's game. That was nothing and we have to suffer the consequences."

BLACKBURN ROVERS SIGNING PROBLEMS?

After swapping Kevin Davies for Southampton's Egil Olsen, Blackburn Rovers are reportedly facing problems in attempts to sign Bradford striker Robbie Blake and Benfica defender Steve Harkness. Rovers are in dispute with City over a fee for striker Blake having reportedly offered £2.6m for the frontman, while City are looking for nearer £3.5m. Harkness is being edged towards a move to a fellow Portuguese outfit - Benfica want to remove Harkness from their wage bill but want him to move on loan to Alaves.

Meanwhile, boss Brian Kidd blamed his side's lack of concentration for a late defeat against Huddersfield. Rovers looked to have salvaged a point, fighting their way back from two goals down, only to be caught with a last-gasp sucker punch. The loss leaves the First Division promotion favourites still searching for their first victory of the season after opening the campaign with a goalless draw against Port Vale. Last Friday night's clash proved a harsh lesson for Kidd, who said, "Our concentration was poor and that cost us. We deserved something but credit to Huddersfield because they stuck in there."

OLDHAM RITCHIE RAGING!

Furious Oldham chief Andy Ritchie tore into his side after they were beaten by Brentford at the weekend. "We were absolutely terrible," he said: "There are no other words that you can print which say how I feel. I thought we were totally inept. The second half was especially terrible and I am not sure that any of it was due to Brentford." Ritchie was also angry at seeing his men restricted to just two shots all afternoon. "Our fans were taking the mick out of our players when they had a shot, that's how bad it got," said Ritchie.

BRENTFORD NOADES DELIGHTED

Meanwhile, Brentford supremo Ron Noades was delighted with his side's performance against Oldham in the Griffin Park curtain raiser on Saturday.

The Bees shrugged off the disappointment of the midweek defeat by Ipswich to maintain an unbeaten league record of 18 games. Tycoon Noades said, "We told the lads that the midweek game counted for nothing and that the league was all important. They responded to that by playing some more quality football. Even when the goals didn't go in we kept our shape and stayed patient, and I was very pleased."

Noades was disappointed with supporters who failed to make it to Griffin Park for the first league game back in Division Two. "I expected more than 5,000 for the first game back, especially after the way we have been playing," he said.

NATIONWIDE NEWS

PART TWO

THE SUNDAY SPORT BARE ESSENTIALS!

The Sunday Sport visited Preston's training ground to give the players some topless encouragement prior to the team's 2-1 against Stoke last Saturday. The Sport's 'hit squad' turned up at the club's Springfield training ground during a training session last week and a couple of the paper's models engaged in a few topless shots with some of the club's players. The raunchy photos appeared in Sunday's Sport, with the paper claiming that every team they have visited has gone on to win in their following match! They write: "Now our incredible 100% success record continues with Preston's stunning win over Stoke City."

NOTTS COUNTY GOOD EARLY SEASON FORM

Sam Allardyce will be looking for his Notts County side to consolidate their position in the top three of the Second Division this weekend when Scunthorpe arrive at Meadow Lane. Newly-promoted Scunthorpe have lost their opening two league games as well as their first round, first leg Worthington Cup tie with Huddersfield Town, and they will be keen to halt their early season slump when they take on County.

A win for County could potentially see them climb to the top of the table, although at this early stage of the season, nobody at the club will be getting too carried away if top position in the table is achieved.

CRYSTAL PALACE COPPELL HAPPY BUT CAUTIOUS!

Crystal Palace boss Steve Coppel has admitted disappointment over last Saturday's match at Barnsley, despite Palace's 3-2 victory. Lee Bradbury's late winner gave the Eagles maximum points at Oakwell but Coppel was unimpressed by the nature of Barnsley's goals. Coppel said: "I was unhappy about the penalty and also Barnsley's second goal."

"The free-kick for Sheron's goal was taken too quickly and from the wrong place and my players were unhappy because they didn't think the ball had crossed the line. I thought the penalty incident was six of one and half a dozen of the other but I am very happy with the win. Barnsley is a very difficult place to come to. We have got a lot of young players and you've got to look at how pressure affects them."

MATT MURPHY - OXFORD

A STRIKER WHO CELEBRATED HIS 28TH BIRTHDAY YESTERDAY, MURPHY CURRENTLY TOPS THE DIVISION TWO SCORING CHARTS WITH FOUR STRIKES IN THE OPENING THREE GAMES. HE HAS BEEN AT THE MANOR GROUND FOR SIX YEARS NOW, BUT ONLY RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A REGULAR FIRST-TEAM PLACE SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF DEAN WINDASS LAST SEASON.

LOOK OUT FOR...

IPSWICH V BOLTON - AN EARLY PROMOTION BATTLE BETWEEN TWO OF LAST SEASON'S DEFEATED PLAY-OFF CONTESTANTS. BOTH ARE UNBEATEN AFTER STARTING THE NEW SEASON WITH SOME GOOD RESULTS.

STOCKPORT V PORTSMOUTH - UNLIKELY TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH BETWEEN TWO FORM TEAMS WHO WILL BE DETERMINED TO PROLONG THEIR UNBEATEN START TO THE SEASON.

BRISTOL R V OXFORD - ROVERS, WITH FREE-SCORING JAMIE CURETON AND JASON ROBERTS, WERE MANY PEOPLE'S OUTSIDE TIP THIS SEASON, WHILE OXFORD HAVE STARTED WITH ONE WIN AND ONE DEFEAT.

WIGAN V BRISTOL CITY - WIGAN HAVE JUSTIFIED THEIR PRE-SEASON TAG AS FAVOURITES BY STARTING WELL, WHILE CITY RECOVERED FROM THEIR OPENING-DAY DEFEAT AT THE ROYALS TO BEAT BOURNEMOUTH 3-1.

BRIGHTON V TORQUAY - EARLY SEASON HIGH-FLYERS BRIGHTON WILL BE LOOKING TO MAINTAIN THEIR EXCELLENT FORM AT THEIR NEW WITHEAN HOME AGAINST TORQUAY, WHO HAVE ALSO MADE AN UNBEATEN START.

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB

VICE-CHAIRMAN GARY PURSER

WELCOME

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Madejski Stadium for this Nationwide Division Two clash with near neighbours Luton Town.

It is very nearly a year to the day that we last welcomed the Hatters here to go down in history as the first ever opponents at our new home. Unfortunately the rest of the season did not go as well as hoped for either side after that day.

Luton finished the season in 12th place (just one behind us) but in dire financial trouble - the deadline day sale of Sean Evers to us for £500,000 should have gone some way towards keeping the Hatters in business.

ON THE ROAD

After today we are off on our travels twice in a week.

On Tuesday night we go to London Road to hopefully finish the job in our Worthington League Cup first round tie. Last season a Carl Asaba goal saw us grab a 1-1 draw with Posh at this stage of the competition before we beat them 2-0 here in the second leg. And if you look back another season, we played Barry Fry's men yet again at the first hurdle.

On that occasion a drab 0-0 draw in the first leg at Elm Park was followed by a 2-0 Royals victory at London Road in a season that saw us finally knocked out of the competition in controversial circumstances in the quarter final by eventual finalists Middlesbrough.

Then next Saturday we head east again to face Colchester United at Layer Road. Last season it was Captain Fantastic Parky with

a stunning late goal that saw us secure a point in this fixture. Don't forget this match is **ALL-TICKET** for Royals fans.

To secure your place on our coach you can either phone the Football Club ticket office on 0118 968 1000 or visit the Supporters' Club booking window in the North Stand.

RFSC AGM

At the Supporters' Club AGM Chairman Roger Titford revealed that this season's membership numbers had got off to a fantastic start with already nearly 400 joined.

He called for greater involvement from the membership in helping run the various RFSC activities, whether just helping out for an hour on occasional matchdays or joining the Committee.

Thanks were given to retiring Committee member Trevor Miles for all his work down the years. Roger Titford and Francis Howell were re-elected to the Committee.

The Supporters' Club are seeking nominations for a small number of honorary memberships of Shooters for long-standing, loyal members of the Supporters' Club. If you know someone who deserves a reward for past efforts please write to us.

FANS FORUM

After the AGM the Supporters' Club was pleased to welcome John Madejski, Tommy Burns and Nigel Howe to the Fans Forum for an hour and a half question and answer session.

For members who were not able to attend this will be summarised in the next edition of our newsletter 'Reading Matter'.



NORTH HAMPSHIRE ROYALS SKITTLES NIGHT

The North Hampshire branch of the Supporters' Club are holding another one of their very popular skittles evenings. This event will take place on Friday September 10th, the night before we visit Bournemouth. If you wish to attend, please call Paul Evan on 01356 356373 or Graham Upton on 01356 470876 for what is bound to be a cracking night out.

HOW TO CONTACT US

There are three main ways of contacting the Supporters' Club if you have any queries or issues you would like to raise. You can see us face to face in either the Supporters' Club Shop, next to the Southbank Bar in the East Stand, or in the North Stand where the away travel is booked.

The other option is to write to us at the following address:

The Secretary, Reading Football Supporters' Club, 55 Omers Rise, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3HH.



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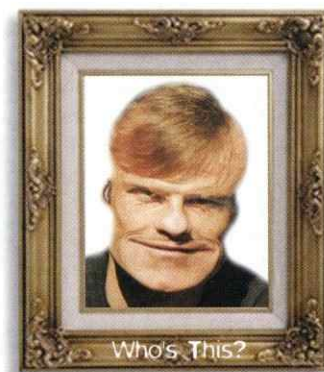
- 1 If a player kicking off kicks the ball a second time before anyone else has played it, do you take any action?
- 2 During your pre-match pitch inspection you notice that the touchline is only about 4 yards from the sideline of the penalty area. Is there a problem?
- 3 You award an indirect free kick and indicate it with your arm raised. The attacker shoots the ball straight into the net, then protests when you disallow the 'goal'. What do you do?
- 4 One of the goalkeepers changes places and his goalkeeper's top with one of his team-mates behind your back and without asking permission. When the new 'goalkeeper' handles the ball in his penalty area, you realise what has taken place. What action do you take?

answers

- 1 You award an indirect free kick to his opponents where the second kick occurred.
- 2 No there isn't. The minimum width of the pitch is 50 yards and the penalty area is 44 yards wide. So the minimum distance in question is 3 yards.
- 3 You show the player your raised arm indicating that the kick was indirect. You may also have to caution him for dissent and show him the yellow card if he persists in questioning your decision. The game is re-started with a goal kick.
- 4 The offence is 'unsporting behaviour' for changing places without permission, not handling. So no penalty award. When the ball next goes out of play, you caution both players and show them the yellow card.

Who Am I?

- I was born on 18th November 1968.
- I recently returned from a long lay-off through injury.
- I signed for Reading from Wrexham in 1996.
- I am a Northern Ireland international.
- I have been captaining the team in Phil Parkinson's absence this season.



which clubs?

Stan Lazaridis
Eddie Youds
Nicky Weaver
Darren Wrack
Ty Gooden

quick quiz

- 1 Which teams won their opening Division One games of the season 3-1?
- 2 Which Division One player scored an opening day hat-trick?
- 3 Which former Pompey hero scored on the opening day having re-signed for the club?
- 4 Which club hosted the highest attendance on day one of the First Division?
- 5 ...and the lowest?

Answers: Who Am I? Barry Hunter
Who's This? (top) Keith Scott, (bottom) Stuart Gray. Quick Quiz? 1 Charlton, Ipswich, 2 Grimsby, 3 Guy Whittingham, 4 Manchester City, 5 Grimsby Town.
Which Clubs? Birmingham City, Charlton, Manchester City, Walsall, Swindon Town

PHYSIO UPDATE

After a busy couple of months in the treatment room it has been good this week to see **LINVOY PRIMUS**, **SEAN EVERS**, **NICKY HAMMOND** and **NICKY FORSTER** all back in full training.

They have been training with the first team squad all week and all they are lacking now is match fitness, so they will be back in contention very soon - there is even a chance that one or two of them might be able to get a place on the bench this afternoon. They are all fit enough to train with the squad, so now it's just up to the manager to decide whether he thinks they're ready for a match situation.

ANDY MCLAREN picked up a minor grade hamstring strain against Peterborough last Wednesday, which made him miss the game with Cambridge last weekend, but he has responded well to treatment and is back in full training now.

"Our main concern is to rehabilitate the injured players, and thankfully we seem to be over the worst of that now."

JOHN POLSTON got injured on Saturday when he picked up a slight groin strain during the Cambridge game, but that is settling down well so he won't be missing for long at all. There was also a slight problem with **DARREN CASKEY** when he came off at half-time against Peterborough after twinging his hip in the first half. But that settled down very quickly so he's fine again now.

In addition to that, **PHIL PARKINSON** has been making excellent progress with his ankle ligament injury. He is now up and running and only a few days away from getting himself back into training.

That just leaves that long-term absentee **GRAEME MURTY**, who is coming along steadily and should be back into training in the next two or three weeks. So all in all over the last week or so things have started to clear up for us.

We have been very unlucky with injuries in the last few months, but most clubs carry three or four injuries at any one time and we're down to that level now, which is the way we would like it to stay!

I've been here for six years now and I've never known a situation where absolutely everybody has been 100% fit, even over the summer periods, and I know that was also the case before I joined. So when the likes of Forster, Evers and Primus get back to fitness we'll be in the same kind of situation as every other club.

If the players can stay injury free now, we're looking forward to a quieter time in the treatment room. Although the fit players will come in to work out in the gym, it's really down to the coaches to decide how much work the players should do in the gym.

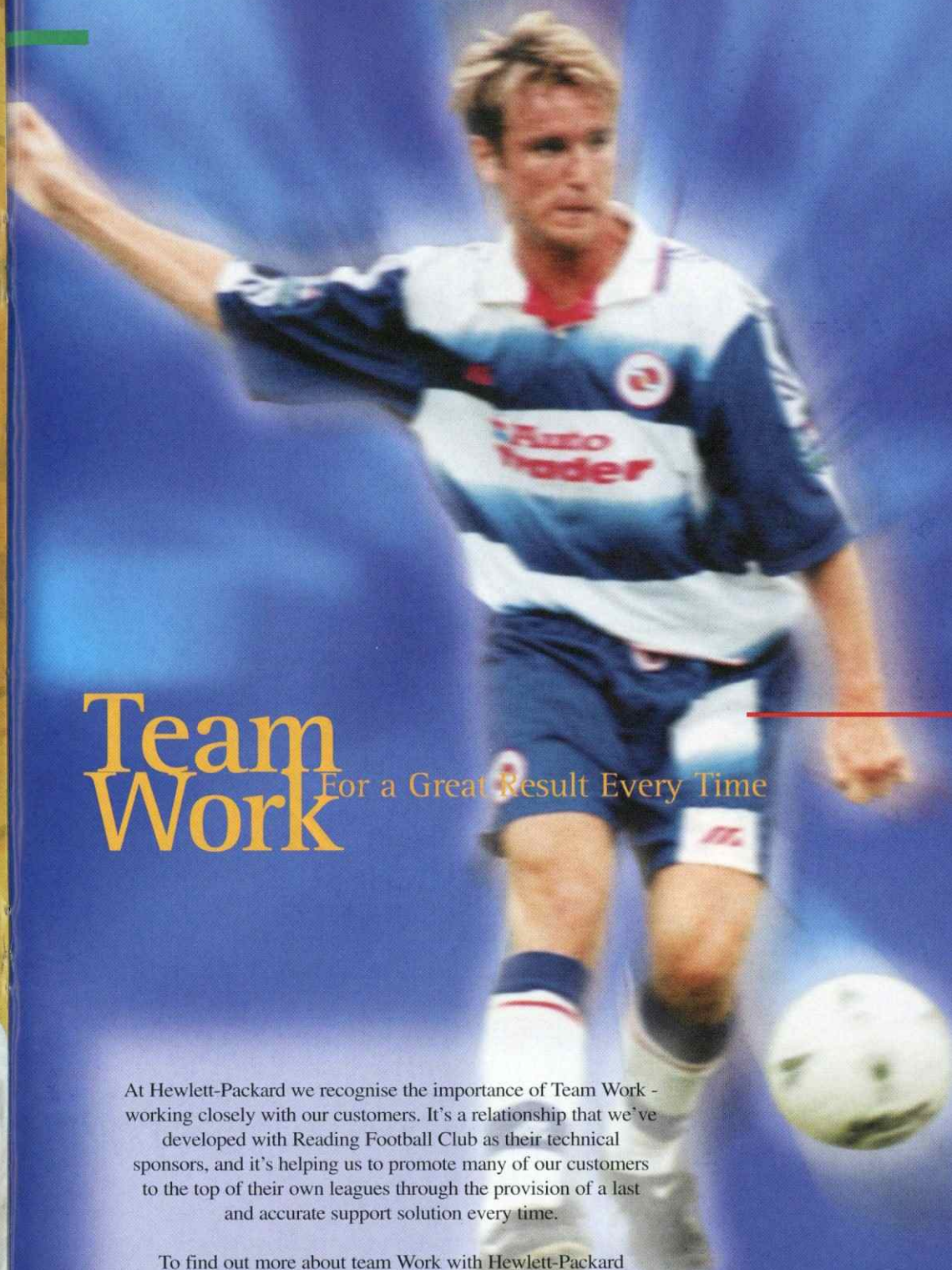
Our main concern is to rehabilitate the injured players, and thankfully we seem to be over the worst of that now.

Paul Turner



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Lee
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ROYALS MEGA POSTER

NUMBER 4 OF 25





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thursday - all the latest news from Madejski Stadium including updates on players' injuries
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YOUNG ROYALS

WITH GRACE KEARNEY

WELCOME YOUNG ROYALS

This afternoon we would like to welcome Dave Lewis and his travelling members of Luton's "Junior Hatters" who have made the relatively short journey to the Madejski Stadium for today's game. Enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

BALLBOY/GIRL TEAM 1999/2000

Following our selection day in June we have chosen our Ballboy/girl team for 1999/2000. They all had to work very hard, and only 16 could be chosen out of so many young hopefuls.

Our team members were introduced to the Madejski Stadium crowd before our recent opening home match against Bristol City. They are: David Taylor and Stuart Gosney (team leaders), Samuel Krauze, James Saunders, Mark Slade, Daniel Inglis, Graeme Wallis, Joanne Le Blond, Mark Beatty, James Masson, Brendan Gosney, Jake Hart, Richard Gregory, Leanne Kemp, Jonathan Faulkner, John Bielous, Sophie Scicluna and Mark Hassell. We wish you all the very best for the coming season!

We would also like to welcome back Mark Edgell and Key Windows who have, for the second season running, decided to sponsor our Young Royals Ballboys and Ballgirls. Thank you Mark and Key Windows for your continued support of the Young Royals.

MEMBERSHIP 99/2000

HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH:

Read our weekly column in the Reading Chronicle and our page in the Royals official matchday magazine at every home game.

A big thanks to Mr Mark Edgell and his company, Key Windows, for sponsoring the outfits for our Young Royals 1999/00ballboy/girl squad. Call Key Windows on 01344 777515.

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YOUNG ROYALS ON THE ROAD

SAT AUGUST 28TH, COLCHESTER UNITED

The coach leaves Madejski Stadium at 11am. Prices are £15 for Young Royals members and £18 for non-members and accompanying adults.

SAT SEPTEMBER 11TH, BOURNEMOUTH

The coach leaves Madejski Stadium at 10am. Prices are £8 for Young Royals members and £10 for non-members and accompanying adults.

The Young Royals have also been invited to play the Young Cherries at a friendly football match prior to the main match.

Please remember all prices include match tickets and luxury travel with drinks and refreshment facilities.



Relay Racers



Royals Ballboys/Ballgirls

Royals 31

CAMBRIDGE 3 ROYALS 1

SAT AUG 14, ABBEY STADIUM, KICK-OFF 3.00PM



MATCH REPORT

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

CAMBRIDGE TOO STRONG

Cambridge Utd 3 Royals 1

Newly-promoted Cambridge United produced a strong and determined display to gain their first victory of the season. The star performer for Roy McFarland's side was young striker Trevor Benjamin, who was a constant danger throughout the afternoon and scored the second goal after helping to create the first. Reading had the better of the early exchanges but the home side soon settled down and created a couple of decent chances in the opening 20 minutes without really troubling Scott Howie. The two sides were evenly matched at this time though, and the Royals nearly took the lead after 29 minutes when Keith Scott's header from a corner was well tipped over by Cambridge keeper Arjan van Heusden. Cambridge fought back, and after a few minutes of pressure they eventually took the lead in the 36th minute. Benjamin's pass put Alex Russell through, and although Howie was able to parry his shot, it was followed up by Michael Kyd who tapped the ball home.

Royals' Jim McIntyre was foiled by good saves from Cambridge keeper Van Heusden either side of half-time, but the home side were in flowing form now and extended their advantage on the hour mark when Russell's free-kick was headed home by the unmarked Benjamin. Cambridge continued to exert pressure on the visiting defence, and after a succession of corners they made it 3-0 in the 68th minute, when another Russell cross was headed home by Andy Duncan. The Royals continued to battle to the end though, and got their consolation goal seven minutes from time when Keith Scott's excellent effort rebounded off both posts before falling to fellow striker McIntyre, whose shot went in off a post.

Attendance 4,630

ROYALS STORYBOARD

1 Midfield battler

Jimmy Crawford made his first starting appearance of the season.

2 Twist and turn

Second-half substitute Paul Brayson goes on a mazy run

3 Down in the dumps

Royals look dejected as U's fans celebrate their second goal.

4 At last!

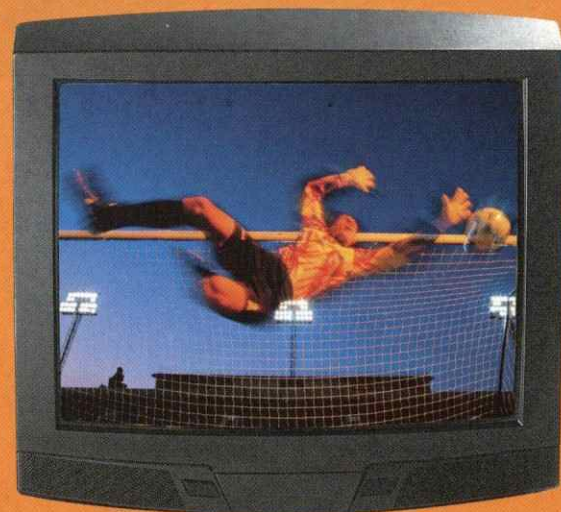
Jimmy Mac scores a late consolation for the Royals.

FORMATION



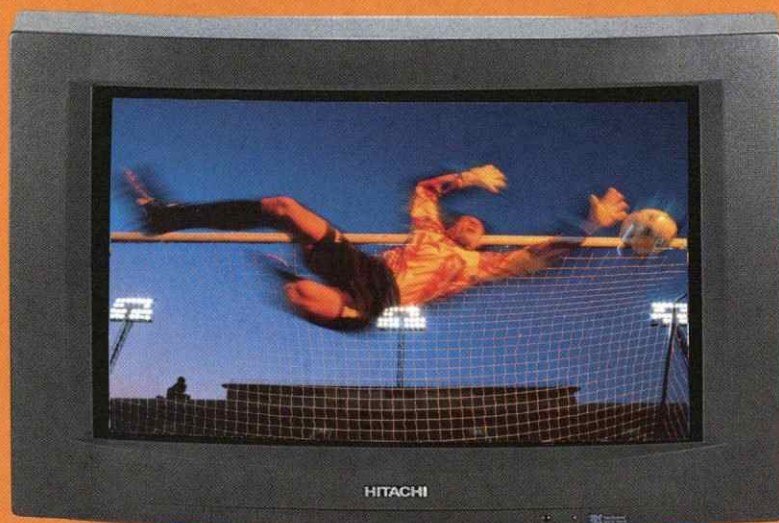
SUBS

CASPER (2), BRAYSON (17), HODGES (20)



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IN THE COMMUNITY

BARRY GORDINE

WELCOME

Welcome to Madejski Stadium again, I hope you see an enjoyable game of football today.

We have been very busy in the last few weeks with our summer soccer schools, which have been taking place at lots of different venues all over the Reading, Wokingham and Newbury areas. I spent last week at a new course we were running at Prospect College in Reading, and also took a very well-attended goalkeeping course at Cantley Park in Wokingham on Monday.

LOOKING AHEAD

Unfortunately the summer holidays are

nearly over, but we have nearly finalised the details for the October half-term programme. We look forward to seeing you in the local schools to tell you all about it. One exciting event we are currently planning is a lunchtime penalty shoot-out competition. We will be finding a champion from each school, and the regional winners from Reading, Newbury and Wokingham will go on to a Final at Madejski Stadium where we will crown our Penalty King (or Queen!). Full details on this event will be available soon.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

If you want your day at school brightened up by a visit from Reading FC's Community coaches, why not speak to your headmaster about setting up an

after-school or lunchtime coaching club with us? Most after-school or lunchtime clubs will run for four weeks and involve a weekly session lasting roughly an hour. In the first week we might concentrate on heading, followed by a session on passing in the second week. In the third week we would teach you how to control the ball with all parts of your body, and the final session would be based around a competition or a game. As you can see it's all good fun, and also gives you a chance to learn some football skills from qualified Reading FC coaches!

CONTACT US

You can call the Community Office on 0118 968 1460 - messages are checked daily.

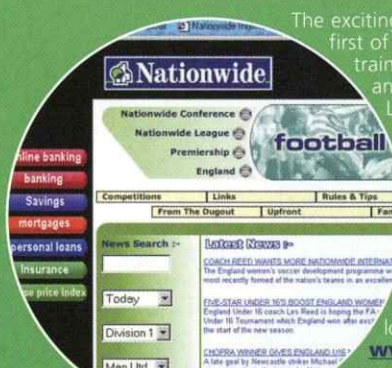
Fans can have their say on footballNOW! - the new-look Nationwide soccer web site with up-to-the-minute news and features on England's European Championship campaign, the Premiership and all the big European competitions as well as the Nationwide Football League and The Nationwide Conference.

football NOW!

Central to the re-launch of the football site, will be fanFARE - a fans' forum aimed at giving supporters the chance to air their opinions, tell their silly soccer stories and ask key questions to the top names in the game.

The exciting new format includes prize competitions - the first of which is for a trip for two to see England in training, a signed England shirt, a signed England ball and tickets for the Euro 2000 qualifier against Luxembourg - plus special offers on soccer merchandise and, from the autumn, an interactive Manager game in which fans across the nation will be invited to take part. For all this plus the latest news on the international fortunes of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, domestic competitions such as the FA Cup and Northern Ireland's Nationwide Gold Cup - and not forgetting Manchester United's participation in the World Club Championship - log on to footballNow! at www.football.nationwide.co.uk

www.football.nationwide.co.uk



ROYALS ACADEMY

JOHN STEPHENSON

MANY HANDS MAKE

LIGHT WORK!

I know that "many hands make light work" is a cliché, and football is not short of a few of them, but in this case it is absolutely right.

In this day and age the game is played at such a high tempo that every facet of a player's game has to be in tune or the chances are they will fall below acceptable standards. If we accept that is the case, we should then analyse the role of the coach in helping the players prepare for the game at the highest level. A coach would need to be:

A physiologist, a psychologist, a dietician, a technical expert for every position in the team, a tactical expert for every position in the team, a manager, etc etc.

The fact of the matter is that the coach would never be able to deliver this sort of expertise in the quantities needed to make a real difference. The coach may or may not be able to seriously improve one or two of the above but not all of them! So where does that leave us?

Well, we have to apply another cliché and that is "horses for courses". That is what we do at the Academy. We have a technical team headed up by Dean Simpkins that teaches technique right across the whole Academy. We have a Science Team headed up by Gareth Jones that teaches Physiology, Diet and Nutrition and Psychology right across the whole Academy.

We also have coaches for each age group who apply their tactical knowledge to ensure that players understand where and when to apply their new-found skill - they also have the honour of selecting the team.

In my job it is a little like putting together a big jigsaw. Every player will require a different mix of the above components, every team will require players who can deliver a consistent style of play. It is a job that sees me liaising with Kevin Dillon one minute about the system of play we will adopt for a particular game, and then the next minute talking to Craig Langley about the need to introduce plyometrics to the training programme at U19 level.

It's a job I would not swap for the world (another cliché?), a true management job.

PRESS ATTENTION

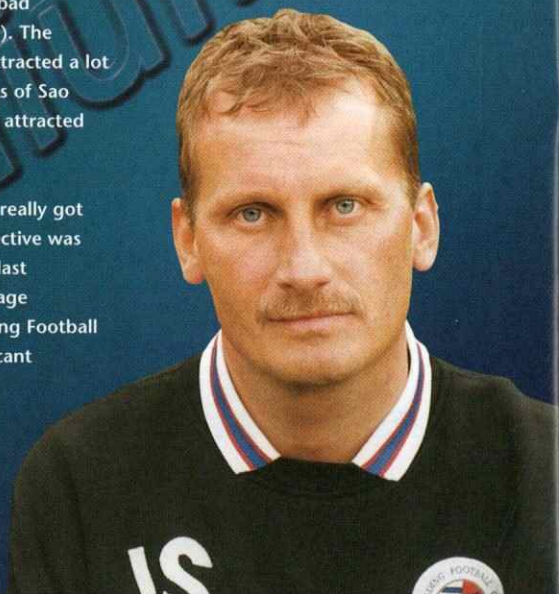
Our Academy seems to be picking up quite a bit of press attention lately. Well, you know what they say, "there's no such thing as bad publicity" (another cliché!). The launch of the Academy attracted a lot of attention, and the visits of Sao Paulo and West Ham also attracted some publicity.

However, the article that really got things in the right perspective was the one in The Guardian last Saturday. Almost half a page explaining that the Reading Football Club Academy is a significant contributor to England's

bid to win the 2006 World Cup! That's a bit far fetched you may think, but it is not as far away from the truth as you might expect. This Academy project is about raising the standards of players coming through at Reading Football Club - however, it is also about raising the standard of player available to Howard Wilkinson.

Howard's job is to provide the England first team with quality players who have come through the Academy project and are properly equipped to cope at the very highest level. Our Academy is geared to provide leading edge coaching and training methods to our players, which will help them not only make the gaffer here successful, but also Howard Wilkinson, and consequently England. Our Academy is run to the highest standards to ensure we produce players "Howard's way". Finally, I expect Luton to play a good passing game today, but I also expect three points for the Royals. Enjoy the game.

John Stephenson



STEVE KEAN'S INTRODUCTION



The Under 17 and Under 19 teams in the Academy have continued to work hard in this stage of pre-season training, which is still all about preparing them for competitive match action. Last week was probably the hardest they will go through in the whole pre-season, and the training sessions will now become sharper and begin to taper off as we approach the first National Academy League fixtures against Wimbledon next weekend. Enjoy today's game, Steve Kean

ROYALS UNDER 19'S

KEVIN DILLON

Reading 2-1 Wimbledon
Saturday August 14th, Cantley Park

It is beginning to look like everything is coming together nicely and we're beginning to overcome the few problems we've been facing earlier in the pre-season.

Our main problem up till now had been scoring goals, but we got over that in this game by scoring twice, having another one harshly disallowed, hitting the post twice and the bar once. We also defended very well and pressed the opposition in midfield extremely well, which was something else

we had been struggling with. The players are now looking very comfortable with our new 3-4-3 formation, and I was pleased that a couple of the lads played slightly out of position but adapted superbly. Wimbledon's only chance in this friendly match was when they took the lead in the first half after some hesitation from our goalkeeper Jamie Ashdown. After that we completely dominated the game, and we equalised when Nathan Tyson's pace took him to the bye-line, and his cross was knocked in by Steve Arkins. We then hit the post through twice Arkins and Marcus McDonald, but in the second half we went

ahead when Nathan Tyson made a great run to the far post and headed home Chris Smith's excellent cross. Arkins added another towards the end but it was controversially ruled out by the referee, and we ended up 2-1 winners. Overall I was very satisfied with the performance, and I hope we can produce something similar next Saturday when we meet Wimbledon again for our first game in the National Academy League.

TEAM: Ashdown, Smith, Osborne (Masters), Haddow, Hadland, McDonald, Sumner, Martin, Arkins (Hill), Tyson, Henderson

ROYALS UNDER 17'S

STEVE KEAN

Reading 0-4 Wimbledon
Saturday 14th August, Cantley Park

At this stage of the pre-season training we decided to really overload the players so that they would get properly stretched and their general fitness levels would improve. So the day before this game all the boys did six 600 metre runs and fifteen 150 metre runs - which is a fair amount of running! - so inevitably their legs suffered during the game as a result.

Although you would never choose to lose a game and concede four goals, we weren't

really bothered because the game was intended more as a training exercise than a competitive match.

We were very pleased that the players continued to work hard and tried to apply things they had learnt in training even though they were very tired from the previous days' running.

Like I said last week when I was reporting on our 4-1 win over West Ham, results are insignificant at this time of year, and the fact we lost can be put down to the boys' tiredness.

Three of their goals were simply down to our players being unable to close Wimbledon down quickly enough in midfield because of their heavy legs, but we were disappointed with the other goal though, because it came directly from a set-piece and that is the sort of goal you can never afford to concede. Now we're all looking forward to the start of the season next weekend.

TEAM: Witt (S Allaway); Tonna, O'Hara, R Allaway; Laidler, Birnie, Williams, Brown (Stacey); McKenzie, Wintrip (Wallace), Alcott

ROYALS MEGASTORE

NEW KIT LAUNCH

NEW SEASON, NEW SPONSORS, NEW MILLENNIUM...NEW KIT

The Royals new kit combines the traditional RFC blue and white hoops with the latest 'Permatex' design system. The kit will be available from the Madejski Stadium Megastore and selected stockists throughout Berkshire in the next couple of weeks. To be among the first to get your replica Royals kit, place your pre-order NOW by contacting the Megastore by post, phone, fax, or email. Postage and packing will be **FREE** of charge.

£5 MEGASTORE VOUCHER FREE IF YOU PRESENT YOUR 98/99 RFC SHIRT WHEN YOU PURCHASE A NEW HOME SHIRT FROM THE MEGASTORE (Offer ends 30th September 1999 - not to be used in conjunction with any other offer)

Prices: Shirts: £29.99 - £39.99,

Shorts: £14.99 - £17.99, Socks: £6.99 - £7.99

As you will already know, this season all teams in the Nationwide League are introducing squad numbers and names on the back of shirts. The Royals Megastore will be happy to put the name and number you require on the back of your replica shirt quickly and at reasonable rates. Please ask any member of staff in the Megastore for more information.

PHONE: 0118 968 1234 FAX: 0118 968 1001

EMAIL: megastore@readingfc.co.uk

Permatex is the new generation of textiles with unique cooling qualities to help today's players, incorporating a multi-layered dry weave fabric with increased moisture removal properties - so you can run around as much as you want and still keep your cool!

THANKS TO MIZUNO We are happy to announce a one-year extension to our contract with kit manufacturers Mizuno, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them.



ROYALS PROMOTIONS

MIKE KEARNEY

ROYALS GOLDEN GAMBLE

You can win more than £1,000 every matchday by buying a £1 Golden Gamble ticket from one of the sellers inside the Stadium. Winners are announced and cheques presented at half-time, so if you want to walk home with a few hundred pounds, make sure you buy your ticket! You can also check the winning number in the following day's Evening Post.

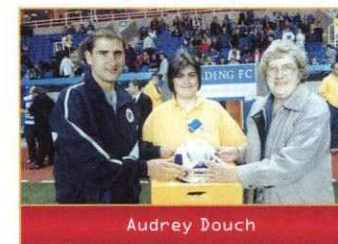
Ten days ago we played host to Peterborough United in the Worthington Cup, and the lucky Golden Gamble winner was Martin Mullett from Bracknell.

Martin was presented with his £400 winning cheque by RFC Merchandise Manager Simon Hunt.



Martin Mullett

Audrey Douch from Leckhampstead was the winner of a signed matchball on that evening, which was presented to her by new Royals striker Nicky Forster.



Audrey Douch

We kicked off the season with a 2-1 win over Bristol City a fortnight ago, and the Golden Gamble winner that afternoon was Ian Mills from Southcote, who is pictured here receiving his winning cheque for a whopping £800 from former Royals star Bobby Williams.



Ian Mills

BUSINESS LOTTERY

Reading FC's Business Lottery is available to all companies. This simple but unique scheme means that for just £1.00 you can buy a chance for a member of your staff to win prizes of up to £10,000. The companies below support the Business Lottery. If you would like to join them please call promotions manager Mike Kearney on 0118 968 1480. Many thanks to the following companies for their continued support:

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - Beasley Construction, Denton & Gibson, Fairley Brown, Graham Group, Guardian Fencing, James White Pools, J P Moran - Ground Workers, Travis Perkins, Willmotts, S. Beavon.

CARS/ TRANSPORT - Big Wheelers Vehicle Training, Elite Wheels & Tyres, David Gardner, J P Motors, John Griffiths (Merc), Wadham Kenning, JF International, MOT Centre (Reading), Timothy Green.

CLEANING - Thames Valley Cleaning.

DOUBLE GLAZING - Abbey Windows, Glasrite Ltd.

FOOD - Clover Leaf Ice Creams, Gilberts Butchers, Village Butchers Tilehurst and Woodley.

LEISURE - County Dance Centres, Lovicare, Reading & Runnymede Dive, Smiths Cycles, Thames Valley Angling, Ian Tattoo, Cougar Music.

HAIRDRESSERS - Top Cut, Alfonso's.

OFFICE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT - Fraser Office Supplies, Benham Office Supplies, P M K Computers, Warnercomm (Mobile Phones).

PHOTOGRAPHY/FRAMERS - County Framers, John Palmer Studio.

PLASTICS - Elgee Plastics.

PLANT HIRE - Rapid Hire Centres, Terranova Lifting.

PLUMBING & HEATING - Fairley Brown & Co Ltd.

PRINTERS ETC - Armour Print & Designs, Herald Graphics, PME Engraving & Screen Print,

Quality Printers, Right Image.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - G E Day, Hall & Clarke, Haslam Chartered Surveyors, Property Maintenance Surveyors Thompson & Leatherdale, Solicitor, Masterplan, Simmonds, Creative Communications.

REMOVALS - Business Crate Hire, Business Moves.

SHEET METAL/ENGINEERING - Baywells Engineering, Broadbear Bros Ltd, Clifford Precision Engineering, C F Taylor, Just Precision, Simpson Spring & Pressings, V I Precision Grinders.

SIGNS - Chris Thomas Signs, Rocheford Signs.

WALLS, FLOORS & CEILINGS - Cameo Carpets, Caversham Tiles, Koltrane Lighting, Swift Flooring Supplies Ltd, Wicks Carpets.

MISCELLANEOUS - Force Components 98 Ltd, Fred Webber, Intec, Systel UK Ltd, WCP International, Wood & Douglas.

ROYALS ON THE BALL

READING FC NEWS

TWO MORE DEPART

Steve Mautone and Elroy Kromheer have both left the club in the last couple of weeks as Tommy Burns continues to trim his squad.

Goalkeeper Mautone joined former Royals coach Colin Lee at Wolverhampton Wanderers, who were desperately short of goalkeeping cover for number one Mike Stowell, and defender Kromheer has returned to Holland after leaving the Club by mutual consent.

WILKO TO NAME UNDER 21'S

England under 21 manager Howard Wilkinson is set to name his squad for the forthcoming international at Madejski Stadium (Friday September 3rd, 7.45pm) on Tuesday morning. The squad is likely to contain a number of Premiership stars and we are all looking forward to a great evening.

You can win a pair tickets for the fixture by entering a competition on the RFC website (www.readingfc.co.uk) - look under the 'latest news' section of the website for more information!

Remember we have made tickets available at a discounted rate for this fixture - prices are £10 for adults, £5 for concessions (students and senior citizens) and there are also a limited number of tickets available at JUST £1 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16. Book your tickets now from the Madejski Stadium ticket office (0118 968 1000).

YOUNG ROYALS F.C.

The Young Royals have teamed up with the South Reading Leisure Centre to provide the opportunity for members to represent Reading F.C. and the Young Royals and play football against visiting junior supporter's clubs.

If you want to play football in OUR team then phone or write top us at the Young Royals office for further information.

Please remember we encourage both girls and boys, of all ages and all abilities, to join in the fun and have a laugh.



Young Royals

ROYALS FOOTBALL SHOW ON TVTV!

If you agree with us that there's not enough about the Royals on TV, make sure you watch 'The Royals Football Show' on cable channel Thames Valley TV every week. The first show featured studio guests Phil Parkinson and Graeme Murty chatting about life at RFC, and the last week's programme gave a unique behind-

the-scenes tour of Madejski Stadium on matchday. The show is on screen most days at varying times, so keep watching!

ACADEMY REFEREES WANTED!

If you are interested in working as an Academy match official for the forthcoming season, in games against opposition such as Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea, get in touch with our referees co-ordinator Sean Dipple on 0118 969 9574.

You will need to be a qualified referee (class two or three for U9-U11's, class one or two for U12-U16's).

ROYALS LOTTERY UPDATE

Don't forget you can support the Royals with various schemes run by the Promotions Department, which raises money for the youth development at the Club.

As well as the Golden Gamble, which pays out hundreds of pounds to a lucky winner at every home game along with a signed ball as second prize, you can also buy a £1 scratchcard with prizes up to £10,000 from various local outlets and matchday sellers. Another scheme is the Royals Blue Riband, a daily draw in which you can win £100 for just 50p a week.

And, for £5 a week, the Business Lottery puts your company's name in the matchday programme and gives you a chance of winning up to £10,000. We would like to thank

ROYALS ON THE BALL

PART TWO

CHARITY COLLECTION THIS AFTERNOON

Gilomatic Arrow Machine Services for their support along with NINO'S (sponsors of the £1 Scratchcard sponsors) and GRAVITY PERSONNEL (Golden Gamble sponsors).

Finally, the Promotions Department requires agents from all areas to support the various schemes that we run.

Call Mike Kearney on 0118 968 1480 for further information.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Many happy returns to Royals midfielder Darren Caskey, who celebrates his 25th birthday today!

There will be a bucket collection this afternoon at Madejski Stadium on behalf of Angela Newland, who is undertaking a 345km cycle ride in Turkey next month in order to raise funds for Cot Death Research.

Sadly, nine babies die each week from cot death, and the Foundation for the Study into Infant Deaths continues to require funds for research and to offer help to bereaved families.

Angela would like to offer her thanks to everybody who supports her.

HAROLD DEVERALL

Former Reading winger Harold 'Jackie' Deverall, who started his career at Maidenhead and moved to Elm Park in November 1937, died in June, aged 83. He made 81 first team appearances for Reading and moved on to Leyton Orient in August 1948, where he played more than 100 games for the London club. Our belated condolences go out to his wife and family, who still live in the Reading area.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tickets are now available for two events at Madejski Stadium - the Sportsman's Dinner (Thursday November 18th) featuring guest speakers Dennis Taylor and Eddie Large, and the Player of the Millennium Awards Dinner on Friday December 10th, where the Reading FC Player of the Millennium, voted by you, will be honoured. Votes for the Player of the Millennium award have been flooding in, with a large number of players attracting support - see page four for more details on how to register your vote.

Meanwhile, we have one EXECUTIVE SUITE remaining, which is available for season or matchday hire. There are also a limited number of memberships available for the VICE PRESIDENTS' CLUB and the ROYALS EXECUTIVE CLUB - your chance to support the Royals and enjoy all the privileges that membership of these exclusive clubs bring, such as luxury seating, food and refreshments. For more information on any of the above please contact the Reading Football Club Commercial department by phone (Kevin Girdler on 0118 968 1303, or Richard McCoull on 0118 968 1302) or email kgirdler@readingfc.co.uk or rmccoull@readingfc.co.uk.



Happy 25th Birthday Darren

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GREATEST GAMES

DAVID DOWNS

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, 9TH MAY 1987

Ipswich Town 1 Reading 1

Reading went into their final game of the 1986-87 season knowing that a draw against Ipswich Town at Portman Road would guarantee them thirteenth place in Division Two, the highest ever position in the Royals' history. A win or draw would suit the home side too, as they were on course for a play-off spot, and much of the early play was scrappy as both teams tried to come to terms with the tension surrounding the occasion.

On a beautiful sunlit afternoon, the ball bounced all over the field, and it was little surprise that half-time was reached without score. Kevin Wilson of Ipswich came closest, but he was foiled by Reading goalie Steve Francis, who made the first of many superb stops by twisting in mid-air to palm away a close range header.

After an hour the game was still goalless, but Ipswich's new electronic scoreboard eventually stuttered into life. It registered a goal by Wilson, who latched onto a sloppy clearance from Steve Wood and gave Francis no chance of

saving his low volley. The goal prompted a pitch invasion, but the home supporters were quickly back in their places as Reading levelled within minutes. The equaliser came, surprisingly, from Steve Richardson, who scored only three times in more than four hundred games for the Club. He began the move with a cheeky back-heel to Kevin Bremner, then sprinted more than sixty yards to collect a return pass before sidefooting the ball under keeper Paul Cooper.

Both teams were pleased with the 1-1 scoreline as it stood, and the game petered out into a midfield stalemate thereafter, though Trevor Senior did skim the crossbar with a firm header seconds before the end. Reading eventually finished in thirteenth spot, just above Hull City on goal difference, bettering by one place their finish to the 1926-27 campaign. The only unhappy member of their team was substitute Steve Head, who sat out the game on the bench and left the club soon afterwards without ever having made a first team appearance.

READING: Francis, Baillie, Richardson, Beavon, Wood, Peters, Horrix, Taylor, Senior, Bremner, Smillie.
Substitute: Head (not used).

ATTENDANCE: 16,036



Reading's Steve Francis makes an acrobatic save from Kevin Wilson.

INTRODUCING

Stuart Gray

Left-back **Stuart Gray**, son of former Leeds legend Eddie, joined the Royals from his first club Celtic for £100,000 as one of the seven deadline day signings made by Tommy Burns a day after he took over at Elm Park. After spending nearly six years with the Glasgow club it was obviously a big wrench for Gray to leave Parkhead, but he was tempted down south by the chance of regular first team football and the fact he would be working again with newly-appointed Burns, one of his former managers at Celtic.

"Nearly all my top-level football has been under Tommy Burns - at Celtic I only played a few games under Liam Brady and Lou Macari, and hardly played at all under Wim Jansen. And at my age I needed regular first-team football which I wasn't getting at Parkhead."

Stuart wasn't given much time to settle in down south because just two days later he was playing for the Royals against Ipswich Town, a difficult debut to say the least as the Royals lost by the only goal and saw both Andy Bernal and Andy Legg sent off! Stuart kept his place until the end of the season, when the Royals dropped into Division Two.

The former Scotland under 21 international, who used his family connections to gain international recognition north of the border despite being born in Harrogate, kept his place in the team at the beginning of last season, and after a few games in midfield he moved into the left-back position. "My first game in the number three shirt was when we played Luton for the opening of Madejski Stadium a year ago. That was a fantastic game to play in - and fortunately we were able to play well on the day and win 3-0. Luton didn't play badly at all, but with the atmosphere generated by the fans it was always going to be our day."

He had firmly established himself in the left-back position when he suffered a groin injury in the game against Colchester United at Madejski Stadium last September. "A few days after I picked up the injury I played against Barnsley in the Worthington Cup, but that was only really because we were so short of fit players. After that game it was very sore for a few days, and unfortunately it took longer than we hoped to recover. But injuries like that are just a part of being a footballer and you get used to it. Having said that, there's not many left-footed players at the Club at the moment, so I suppose I'd better not get injured again right now!"

The groin injury kept him out of action for exactly four months last season, and he returned to the team in the away match at York. He went on to feature in every game for the rest of the season, showing his versatility by playing in a few different positions. He also managed to get on the scoresheet, first scoring the final goal in superb our 4-0 win at Stoke in March., and adding another with a header in our last home match of the season, the 2-0 win against Millwall.

And Stuart is confident that the Royals can enjoy a successful season this time round. "We've definitely got a good enough squad."

STUART GRAY FACTFILE				
CLUB	LEAGUE APPS	LEAGUE GOALS	CUP APPS	CUP GOALS
(1) CELTIC	22 (6)	1	1 (1)	0
(2) G. MORTON (L)	15	1	0	0
(3) READING	34 (2)	2	5	0
CAREER TOTAL	71 (8)	4	6 (1)	0

(L) - LOAN SUBS APPS IN BRACKETS

COMMERCIAL UPDATE

TODAYS MATCH SPONSORS

ERICSSON

ERICSSON

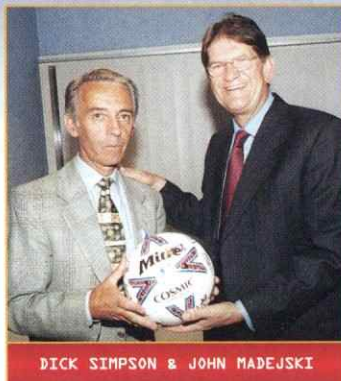
The first game of the season was a very exciting match against Bristol City a fortnight ago at Madejski Stadium, and the Royals triumphed thanks to a late headed winner from Jimmy Crawford.

We would like to thank match sponsors Hewlett Packard, and Steve Bradley is pictured below receiving a memento of the day from Reading FC Chairman John Madejski. We hope they all enjoyed their day and look forward to welcoming them back to Madejski Stadium in the near future.



STEVE BRADLEY & JOHN MADEJSKI

The matchball sponsors against Simpsons Springs and Pressings, and Dick Simpson is pictured here receiving a souvenir matchball from John Madejski.



DICK SIMPSON & JOHN MADEJSKI

Full-back Andy Gurney had a cracking game against Bristol City, making a number of surging forward runs and providing the cross for our winner.

His performance impressed match sponsors Hewlett Packard, and he was presented with his man of the match award by Helen Coe along with her daughters Rhiannon and Bethan.



HELEN, RHIANNON & BETHAN COE

John Polston also gave an excellent performance in the heart of the Royals' defence, and his display earned him the Suiteholders' man of the match award.

John is pictured here receiving his prize bottle of bubbly from Phil Reakes of Selway Moore Computer Systems.



PHIL REAKES & JOHN POLSTON

PETERBOROUGH

On Wednesday August 11th we entertained Peterborough United in the first leg, first round of the Worthington Cup. Match sponsors for the evening were Reg Vardy Citroen, and we hope they all enjoyed the evening at Madejski Stadium. Alan Cozens is pictured here receiving a memento of the day from Reading FC president Frank Orton.



ALAN COZENS & FRANK ORTON

Solo Office and Secretarial were the matchball sponsors for the Worthington Cup tie against Barry Fry's Peterborough, and Loyal Royal Jacky Revett is pictured receiving a signed matchball from Frank Orton. Thanks to Solo for their support.



JACKY REVETT & FRANK ORTON

COMMERCIAL UPDATE

Scott Howie had a busy night between the posts as Peterborough gave us a difficult evening, but the big Scotsman was equal to the task and managed to keep a clean sheet as the game ended goalless. Scott's saves made him the winner of the match sponsor's man of the match award, and he is pictured here receiving his bottle of champagne from Bob Lenton of Citroen UK.



BOB LENTON & SCOTT HOWIE

Scott's performance also earned him the man of the match award from the Suiteholders, and he is shown here receiving his second bottle of bubbly of the day from Richard Norton of Rascal Translink, and his children Andrew and Rebecca.



RICHARD NORTON, ANDREW & REBECCA

TODAYS MASCOTS

Royals lucky mascots this afternoon are Joshua Helmore and Jade Burrows.

Joshua is seven years old and goes to Churchend Primary School in Tilehurst. His favourite Royals player is Martin Williams, and when he's not watching the Royals he plays as a centre midfielder for Shinfield Rangers under 9's.

Jade is six years old and goes to English Martyrs School. Her favourite pastimes are craft, swimming and watching Reading! Her favourite player is Linvoy Primus and she is hoping to meet him today. Jade wishes the team good luck this afternoon!



JOSHUA

JADE

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'good to deal with'

BEHIND THE SCENES

SUE HEWETT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Sue Hewett is the Club's assistant secretary, a position she has held since July 1998.

"I joined the Club as administration assistant in August 1997, so this is now my third season, and I moved into my current role just before the move to Madejski Stadium.

"The job is basically to help club secretary Andrea Barker with football administration - and that involves things like player contracts and registrations, accommodation and travel both for individual players and the first team's away trips, and helping Tommy Burns and Pat Bonner with their day-to-day administration." Sue grew up in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and she has

always been a football fan, although at the beginning she supported Norwich City. "My Dad got to know Ken Brown, the former Norwich coach and manager, during his national service, and they became very good friends, so the whole family always looked out for Norwich because of that connection. But obviously I'm a Reading fan now!"

The job involves quite a lot of contact with the players and the team management, and she finds them an enjoyable but challenging group to work with. "Most of the time they are very easy to get on with, they are always ready for a joke, but I'm no longer surprised by how much molly-coddling some of them need! I don't mind going out of my way when

they are so nice about it though - but I do wish I had a fiver for every time I

booked a flight to Scotland for Andy McLaren when he first joined us! I suppose he did pop into the office and give me his banana once though!"

Sue is hoping for a successful season for more than one reason. "The atmosphere around the whole place is much better when the team is doing well, so I'll be hoping the boys go out and do the business on Saturday afternoon and grab all three points! Come on lads I know you can do it!"



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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

BARRY HUNTER

Welcome to Madejski Stadium for our third League game of the season. We played Luton this time last year in the opening fixture of Madejski Stadium, although I missed that game because I was in the middle of all my injury problems, and we will be looking to gain a repeat of last season's result when we won 3-0 thanks to goals from Grant Brebner, Jim McIntyre and Robert Fleck.

Luton are a good footballing side with a lot of talented young players and it looks like they're beginning to come through the worst of their financial problems, which must be a big boost for everybody at the club at a perfect time just before the start of the season. Lennie Lawrence is a very experienced manager who knows the game inside out, and the Hatters have got off to a decent start this season with one win and a draw. They'll be determined to maintain that unbeaten run so we know we're in for a difficult game this afternoon.

After the way we played against Bristol City in our opening fixture, it was very disappointing that we weren't able to maintain that form when we played Peterborough United here in the Worthington Cup last Wednesday. We started the game slowly and only really got going in the last ten minutes, so we've left ourselves with a lot of work to do in the second leg on Tuesday night.

I was very impressed with the way Peterborough played, and like our opponents this afternoon they have a lot of very talented youngsters in the team. I know that some of them are

already being closely watched by Premiership clubs, and I'm sure at least two or three of them will go on to enjoy very good careers in the game.

Peterborough have had a youth Academy for the last couple of years, so hopefully we will have the same quality of young players that they are currently enjoying when our new Academy begins to bear fruits in the next few years.



"We had brilliant support at Cambridge last weekend, and it was a great shame we couldn't reward those supporters with a win."

Back in the League last Saturday, we produced a much improved performance at Cambridge and played some decent football for periods in the game, but unfortunately we came away with nothing because we conceded

some bad goals. As a defender, that's always very disappointing so we'll be determined to put that right today and cut out the mistakes.

On a personal note, I was away from Reading for a few days this week when I went off to join up with the Northern Ireland squad for the midweek friendly international in Belfast with France. It's always nice to go away with the international squad, and I'm grateful to Northern Ireland boss Lawrie McMenemy for the way he remembered me during my injury problems. Unfortunately I'm writing these notes before that game took place, so I can't say at this stage whether I was involved in the action against the current World Cup holders!

A win this afternoon would mean that we've got off to a good start to the season. We can end up with six points from our three games, and if we can maintain an average of two points per game over the course of the season it will leave us in a very healthy position. If you look at last season's table, Walsall were promoted in second place after gaining a total of 87 points from their 46 games, less than that two per game average, so that's a useful target for us to aim for.

We had brilliant support at Cambridge last weekend, and it was a great shame we couldn't reward those supporters with a win. But your backing can make a real difference to the team, so I hope you get behind all the players this afternoon and hopefully we can give you something to celebrate at quarter to five.

Cheers, Barry

THE SEASON SO FAR

FRONT COVER STUART GRAY
PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN HAWKEN / MARK EVANS
READING EVENING POST



ROYALS FACT-FILES

THE KEY

FAC - F.A. CUP
WC - WORTHINGTON CUP

AWS - AUTO
WINDSCREEN SHEILD

PLAYER IN RED
DENOTES SCORER

SYMBOL IN RED DENOTES
PLAYER REPLACED

DATE	OPPONENTS	RES/ATT																
SAT AUG 7	BRISTOL CITY (H)	W 2-1 13,348	HOWIE	GURNEY	GRAY	POLSTON	HUNTER	# HODGES	MCLAREN	BREBNER	CASKEY	WILLIAMS	# SCOTT	# MCINTYRE	# CRAWFORD	CASPER	BERNAL	V D KWAAK
WED AUG 11	P'BORO UTD (H) WC 1 (1)	D 0-0 4,651	HOWIE	GURNEY	GRAY	POLSTON	HUNTER	# HODGES	# MCLAREN	BREBNER	# CASKEY	WILLIAMS	SCOTT	# MCINTYRE	# CRAWFORD	# BERNAL	CASPER	V D KWAAK
SAT AUG 14	CAMBRIDGE UTD (A)	L 3-1 4,630	HOWIE	GURNEY	GRAY	# POLSTON	HUNTER	CRAWFORD	# BERNAL	BREBNER	MCINTYRE	# WILLIAMS	SCOTT	# CASPER	# BRAYSON	# HODGES	CASKEY	V D KWAAK
SAT AUG 21	LUTON TOWN (H)																	
TUE AUG 24	P'BORO UTD (A) WC 1 (2)																	
SAT AUG 28	COLCHESTER UTD (A)																	
WED SEPT 1	PRESTON N.E (H)																	
TBA TBA	MILLWALL (A)																	
SAT SEPT 11	AFC BOURNEMOUTH (A)																	
SAT SEPT 18	CHESTERFIELD (H)																	
SAT SEPT 25	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (H)																	
SAT OCT 2	WYCOMBE W. (A)																	
SAT OCT 9	STOKE CITY (A)																	
SAT OCT 16	WIGAN ATHLETIC (H)																	
WED OCT 20	BURY (H)																	
SAT OCT 23	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (A)																	
SAT OCT 30	FAC1																	
TUES NOV 2	BRENTFORD (A)																	
SUN NOV 7	OXFORD UTD (H)																	
SAT NOV 13	BRISTOL ROVERS (A)																	
WED NOV 24	BURNLEY (H)																	
SAT NOV 27	SCUNTHORPE UTD (H)																	
SAT DEC 4	BRISTOL CITY (A)																	
WED DEC 8	AWS 1																	
SAT DEC 11	BLACKPOOL (A)																	
SAT DEC 18	WREXHAM (H)																	
SUN DEC 26	CARDIFF CITY (A)																	
TUE DEC 28	NOTTS COUNTY (H)																	
MON JAN 3	GILLINGHAM (A)																	
SAT JAN 8	BLACKPOOL (H)																	
SAT JAN 15	CAMBRIDGE UTD (H)																	
SAT JAN 22	LUTON TOWN (A)																	
SAT JAN 29	COLCHESTER UTD (H)																	
SAT FEB 5	PRESTON N.E (A)																	
SAT FEB 12	MILLWALL (H)																	
SAT FEB 19	SCUNTHORPE UTD (A)																	
SAT FEB 26	CHESTERFIELD (A)																	
SAT MAR 4	BOURNEMOUTH (H)																	
TUE MAR 7	OXFORD UTD (A)																	
SAT MAR 11	BRENTFORD (H)																	
SAT MAR 18	BURNLEY (A)																	
WED MAR 22	BRISTOL ROVERS (H)																	
SAT MAR 25	CARDIFF CITY (H)																	
SAT APR 1	WREXHAM (A)																	
SAT APR 8	GILLINGHAM (H)																	
SAT APR 15	NOTTS COUNTY (A)																	
SAT APR 22	WIGAN ATHLETIC (A)																	
MON APR 24	WYCOMBE W. (H)																	
SAT APR 29	BURY (A)																	
SAT MAY 6	STOKE CITY (H)																	

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIV TWO

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Preston	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Wigan	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Notts County	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Brentford	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Cardiff	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Burnley	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Luton	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Wycombe	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Bristol Rovers	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Bristol City	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Cambridge Utd	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Blackpool	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Oxford Utd	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Bury	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Wrexham	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Bournemouth	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
READING	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Colchester	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Millwall	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Stoke	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Chesterfield	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Gillingham	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Oldham	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Scunthorpe	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

99/2000 SEASON				ROYALS CAREER LEAGUE TOTAL		OVERALL CAREER LEAGUE TOTAL	
PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE APP.	CUP APP.	TOTAL GLS.	TOTAL APP.	TOTAL GLS.	TOTAL APP.	TOTAL GLS.
ANDY BERNAL	1	(1)	-	160(4)	2	164(9)	2
PAUL BRAYSON	(1)	-	-	15(21)	1	26(21)	6
GRANT BREBNER	2	1	1	38(3)	10	53(3)	12
DARREN CASKEY	1	1	-	102(13)	9	128(25)	14
CHRIS CASPER	(1)	-	-	32(1)	-	56(4)	2
JIMMY CRAWFORD	1(1)	(1)	1	15(3)	1	26(6)	1
STUART GRAY	2	1	-	34(2)	2	71(8)	4
ANDY GURNEY	2	1	-	7(3)	-	174(11)	19
SEAN EVERS	-	-	-	(1)	-	44(10)	6
NICKY HAMMOND	-	-	-	24	-	97(2)	-
LEE HODGES	1(1)	1	-	21(6)	6	123(23)	34
SCOTT HOWIE	2	1	-	51	-	177	0
BARRY HUNTER	2	1	-	30(2)	2	123(5)	8
ELROY KROMHEER	-	-	-	11	-	11	-
STEVE MAUTONE	-	-	-	29	-	33	-
ANDY MCLAREN	1	1	-	8	1	142(29)	12
LINVOY PRIMUS	-	-	-	66	1	197	8
JOHN POLSTON	2	1	-	6	-	223(22)	9
JIM MCINTYRE	1(1)	(1)	1	29(11)	7	116(39)	29
GRAEME MURTY	-	-	-	8(1)	-	117(12)	7
PHIL PARKINSON	-	-	-	233(23)	13	366(35)	18
MASS SARR	-	-	-	18(10)	3	18(10)	3
KEITH SCOTT	2	1	-	7(4)	2	173(42)	52
MARTIN WILLIAMS	2	1	-	78(22)	21	93(50)	23
PETER V. D. KWAAK	-	-	-	3	-	3	-

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THIS SEASONS TOP SCORERS

THIS SEASONS TOP GATES

LAST THREE GAMES

PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL	DATE	OPPONENTS	ATTENDANCE	OPPONENTS	RESULT
GRANT BREBNER	1	0	1	SAT AUG 7 VS BRISTOL CITY	13,348		CAMBRIDGE UTD (A)	LOST 3-1
JIMMY CRAWFORD	1	0	1	WED AUG 11 VS PETERBOROUGH (WC)	4,651		PETERBOROUGH (H)	DREW 0-0
JIM MCINTYRE	1	0	1				BRISTOL CITY (H)	WON 2-0

EXTRA TIME

WITH LUTON TOWN

THE LAST TIME THEY PLAYED

READING	LUTON TOWN
HOWIE GURNEY GRAY POLSTON HUNTER BERNAL CRAWFORD BREBNER MCINTYRE (1) WILLIAMS SCOTT (CASPER) (HODGES) (BRAYSON)	ABBEY WATTS DOHERTY JOHNSON FRASER (1) SPRING MCLAREN (1) GEORGE TAYLOR FOTIADIS DOUGLAS (MCINDOE) (MCKINNON) (ZAHANA-ONI)
14/8/99 (A) CAMBRIDGE LOST 3-1 4,630	14/8/99 (H) BLACKPOOL WON 3-2 5,176

THE LAST MATCH REPORT

READING	LUTON TOWN
NEWLY-PROMOTED CAMBRIDGE GAVE A STRONG PERFORMANCE TO SECURE THEIR FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON. THE OPENING EXCHANGES WERE FAIRLY EVEN BUT THE HOME SIDE BEGAN TO CREATE MORE CHANCES AND TOOK THE LEAD THROUGH MICHAEL KYD AFTER HALF AN HOUR. TREVOR BENJAMIN WAS A CONSTANT THREAT AND HE ADDED A SECOND ON THE HOUR, AND TEN MINUTES LATER ANDY DUNCAN MADE IT THREE. JIM MCINTYRE GRABBED A LATE CONSOLATION FOR THE ROYALS AFTER KEITH SCOTT'S SHOT HIT BOTH POSTS.	THE HATTERS HELD ON TO TAKE THE POINTS IN A FIVE-GOAL THRILLER. ENTERING THE FINAL 20 MINUTES THE HOME SIDE WERE LOOKING COMFORTABLE WITH A ONE GOAL LEAD THANKS TO BLACKPOOL KEEPER PHIL BARNES' FIRST HALF OWN GOAL. LUTON THEN EXTENDED THEIR LEAD THROUGH LIAM GEORGE BEFORE BRETT ORMEROD PULLED ONE BACK. MATTHEW SPRING LOOKED TO HAVE MADE THE GAME SAFE IN THE 81ST MINUTE BUT BLACKPOOL'S ADAM NOWLAND MADE IT 3-2 TO PRODUCE A NERVOUS FINAL FIVE MINUTES FOR HATTERS FANS.

THE LAST FIVE GAMES

READING	LUTON TOWN
(A) CAMBRIDGE L 1-3 (H) P'BORO (WC) D 0-0 (A) BRISTOL C W 2-1 (A) OLDHAM L 0-2 (H) MILLWALL W 2-0	(1) (H) BLACKPOOL W 3-2 (2) (H) BRISTOL R (WC) L 0-2 (3) (A) NOTTS C D 0-0 (4) (A) MILLWALL W 1-0 (5) (H) MACCLESFIELD L 1-2

THE TOP GOALSCORERS

READING	LUTON TOWN
BREBNER 1 - 1 CRAWFORD 1 - 1 MCINTYRE 1 - 1	GEORGE SPRING OWN GOAL

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCES

READING	LUTON TOWN
BIGGEST WIN (H) BRISTOL C 2-1 BIGGEST DEFEAT (A) CAMBRIDGE 1-3 BIGGEST HOME ATT. BRISTOL C - 13,348 BIGGEST AWAY ATT. CAMBRIDGE - 4,630	BIGGEST WIN (H) BLACKPOOL 3-2 BIGGEST DEFEAT (H) BRISTOL R 0-2 BIGGEST HOME ATT. BLACKPOOL - 5,176 BIGGEST AWAY ATT. NOTTS C - 6,141

MOST APPEARANCES (STARTS)

READING	LUTON TOWN
Howie, Gurney, Gray, Polston, Hunter, Brebner, Scott, Williams (all 3)	Abbey, Douglas, Fraser, McLaren, Spring, Taylor, Watts (all 3)

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ROYALS MATCHDAY STATS & FACTS



THE ROYALS

GROUND MADEJSKI STADIUM
CAPACITY 25,000
RECORD ATT. 33,042
FOUNDED 1871

THE HATTERS

GROUND KENILWORTH ROAD
CAPACITY 9,975
RECORD ATT. 30,069
FOUNDED 1885



ROYALS SQUAD 1999/00

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SCOTT HOWIE | 17. MARTIN WILLIAMS |
| 2. JOHN POLSTON | 18. ANDY GURNEY |
| 3. STUART GRAY | 19. JIMMY CRAWFORD |
| 4. PHIL PARKINSON | 20. ANDY BERNAL |
| 5. LINVOY PRIMUS | 21. PAUL BRAYSON |
| 6. BARRY HUNTER | 22. LEE HODGES |
| 7. CHRIS CASPER | 23. MASS SARR |
| 8. DARREN CASKEY | 24. PETER V. D. KWAAK |
| 9. JIM MCINTYRE | ADAM BEASLEY |
| 10. NICKY FORSTER | PHIL HADLAND |
| 11. GRANT BREBNER | ADAM LOCKWOOD |
| 12. KEITH SCOTT | STEVE OSBORNE |
| 13. NICKY HAMMOND | CHRIS SMITH |
| 14. GRAEME MURTY | NEVILLE STAMP |
| 15. SEAN EVERS | |
| 16. ANDY MCLAREN | |

LUTON TOWN SQUAD 1999/00

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. NATHAN ABBEY | 17. EMMERSON BOYCE |
| 2. GAVIN MCGOWAN | 18. TRESOR KANDOL |
| 3. EFETOBORE SODJE | 19. JAMES AYRES |
| 4. MATTHEW SPRING | 20. JERRY MOSES |
| 5. ALAN WHITE | 21. ANDRE SCARLETT |
| 6. MARVIN JOHNSON | 22. DANIEL TATE |
| 7. PHIL GRAY | 23. JUDE STIRLING |
| 8. PAUL MCLAREN | 24. SCOTT WARD |
| 9. STUART DOUGLAS | 25. RYAN DAVIS |
| 10. MICHAEL MCINDOE | 26. DAVID PEARSON |
| 11. LIAM GEORGE | 27. RAY MCKINNON |
| 12. GARY DOHERTY | 40. JULIAN WATTS |
| 13. STUART FRASER | |
| 14. ANDREW FOTIADIS | |
| 15. MATTHEW TAYLOR | |
| 16. LANDRY ZANANA-ONI | |



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1995 - LUTON TOWN



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38 YEAR OLD STEVE BENNETT, A TEACHER FROM ORPINGTON, KENT, IS CURRENTLY IN HIS 5TH SEASON AS A FOOTBALL LEAGUE REFEREE AND HAS JUST BEEN PROMOTED TO THE PREMIERSHIP REFEREE'S LIST. INTERESTINGLY FOR ROYALS FANS, HE WAS ONE OF THE LINESMEN ON THAT FATEFUL AFTERNOON AT WEMBLEY IN 1995 WHEN BOLTON WANDERERS BEAT US IN THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.

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