



# W

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# wrexham

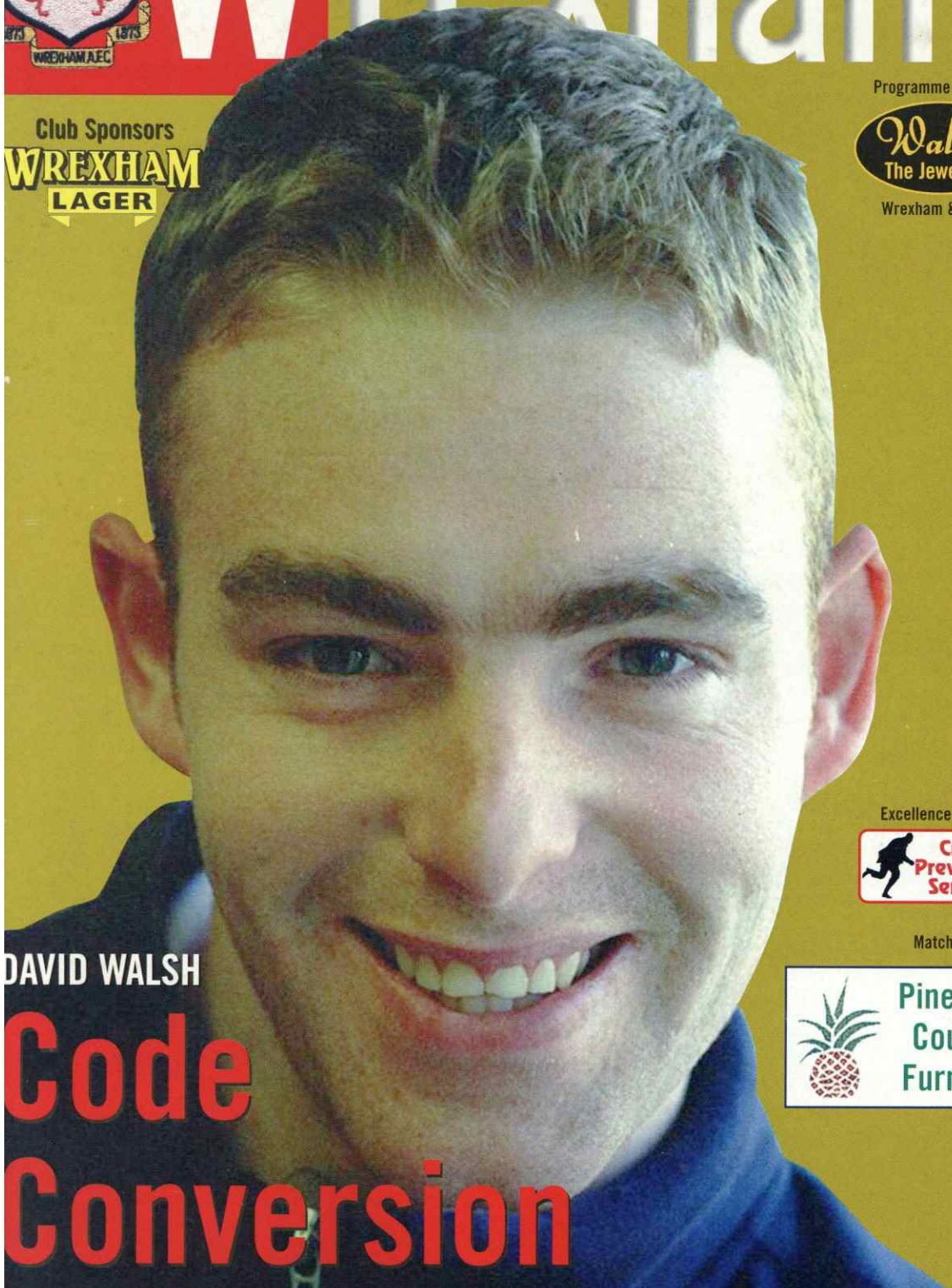
**review**

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# Code Conversion

Wrexham vs Luton Town Saturday 4th March 2000 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.





**6 IN SUPPORT**

Around the ground, news and views plus a rough guide to away fixtures

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Wrexham statistician and author Peter Jones sifts through the archives of players who have worn the red shirt

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Tables, fixtures etc

**ROBIN'S REVIEW CO-EDITORS:**

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**CROESO TREF LUTON**

Dyn ni'n croesawu tim Lennie Laurence i'r Cae Ras p'nawn 'ma ar gyfer ein gem gartref gyntaf o fis Mawrth. Nol yn mis Medi aeth y Cochion i lawr i Ffordd Kennilworth, lle mae ganddyn nhw record gampus yn ddiweddar, a cholli 3-1, gyda Ian Stevens yn sgorio i'r Cochion. I wneud pethau'n waeth i'r Cochion cafodd Phil Hardy ei hel o'r cae. Mae Lennie Laurence wedi canolbwyntio ar ddod a chwaraewyr ifanc drwadd ers iddo gymryd drosodd ar Ffordd Kennilworth, gan fwyaf oherwydd trafferthion ariannol y clwb o Swydd Bedford. I'r perwyl hwnnw, mae tîm presennol y 'Hatters' a chyfartaledd oedran o 22, ac mae ambell un ohonyn nhw wedi cymryd sylw timau o'r Uwch-gynghair. Ond, y prif rheswm pam nad ydy tim Lennie Laurence ymysg y timau sy ar frig y tabl yw anwadalwch ei dim ifanc. Ddechrau mis diwethaf, ddaru'r 'Hatters' ennill 3-1 ar Banc Ninian, dim ond iddynt gollu eu gem nesaf gartref i Bournemouth. Yn eu 29 gem hyd yn hyn maent wedi ennill 11 cael 7 gem gyfartal a cholli 11, gan sgorio 41 o goliau ac ildio'r un nifer! Does ond gobeithio felly y bydd anwadalwch yr 'Hatters' yn gweithio o blaidd y Cochion p'nawn 'ma, gan adael i ni gipio triphwynt gwerthfawr yn ein cais i osgoi mynd lawr ddiwedd y tymor. Cawn weld am bump o'r gloch! Mwynhewch y gem!

**1 GOAL-DEN BOYS**

Danny Allsopp, Darren Ferguson and Karl Connolly celebrate after all scoring in the 4-1 win at Oxford



# The Man from Down Under



**O**ur new Australian has already found hero status with the Wrexham support following his two goal debut performance at Oxford United last weekend.

The nicknames were flooding down off the open terraces as the fans revelled in the biggest league win by a Wrexham side since we went nap at Luton in September 1997.

The Melbourne born striker was taking it all in his stride though, he's heard it all before - Skippy, Harold and even Kylie, although Joey Jones' "Kerry" was a new one.

"Apparently Joey thinks I look a bit like the former Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon, but I'm quite happy to just stick with Danny if it's alright with everyone else."

Now in his second season with Manchester City, the tall blonde forward is more than pleased to spend at least the next month at Wrexham, fine tuning his footballing skills ready for another assault on the City first team.

"I arrived at Maine Road in the summer of 1998 on a two year contract from Port Melbourne Sharks and enjoyed a great season as the club gained promotion via the play-offs. I was used mainly as a substitute, but did manage to start a few matches and scored several goals.

"It was an exciting time for the club, as we bounced straight back to the First Division. This year has been a bit tougher for me, as there is plenty of competition for places amongst the forwards.

"My chances have been more limited, but I'm only 21 and still learning all the time. Joe Royle then suggested I take up the offer of a month's loan at Wrexham and he certainly spoke highly of the set-up here.

"I had a quick chat with Jeff Whitley and he was all in favour. No wonder, considering what a month here has done for his career at Maine Road. Both Tommy Wright and Terry Cooke also benefitted from a spell at the Racecourse, so I was sold on the idea.

"I have had one other loan deal this season, when playing three games for Notts County. It was at the time that City were buying Robert Taylor from Gillingham and there was talk of me going down there in part-exchange, but I was never directly involved in those talks and they settled on a straight cash fee in the end.

"Since then I have been mainly playing reserve team football, so the thought of getting back into a first team was appealing. Even so, I couldn't have imagined just such a start to my time here, but I'm just glad the team got back to winning ways and I want to make sure we get enough points during my next six games, to ensure relegation is staved off.

"After the Oldham result, I expected the atmosphere to be a little flat amongst the players, but it certainly wasn't and that was a nice surprise. There are some very good players here and lets hope the winning habit quickly returns.

"I live just outside Manchester, so the travelling is not a problem and its been made even easier as I have been able to drive over with a few of the other lads who live near me."

Danny might come from a country not well known for its soccer traditions, but he grew up in an area of Melbourne with strong British roots and so favoured the round ball game from an early age.

"Sport is very big in Australia and depending on where you live, there are different influences on the type of sports you play. I grew up playing football as opposed to Aussie Rules, Rugby League or Union. In fact, in the Under-17 national squad I was a member of, only one of the other players came from a non-European background."

It was while playing at this level that Danny really began to believe he might have long term future in the game: "I finished top scorer at the 1995 Under-17 World Cup in Ecuador and it was then that I realised I might have some potential.

"After that I knew I had to come to Britain to find out if I could make it. Team mates like Harry Kewell were picked up, so I got on a plane and happily City gave me my chance.

"I joined on a two year deal, but only 12 months into it they offered me a new three year contract. So I have some security and a little time to prove myself, which I hope I'm doing.

"As well as progressing with City, I would like to get involved with the Australian U-23 team that tries for the Olympics soon and then push for the senior side.

"We have a number of players that will be well know to followers of the game in this country and with the success of people like Mark Viduka at Celtic, standards are rising all the time.

"For the moment though, my thoughts are firmly concentrated on helping Wrexham and I'm looking forward to my first game at the Racecourse in a home shirt."

**A** quick look at the accompanying photo's will show that it was not all work for our three youth coaches, who enjoyed a trip to Italy a short time ago.

The three, the Centre of Excellence's Lee Congerton and Jamie Digwood, along with Youth coach Steve Weaver, accepted an invitation from european giants Juventus to spend a week with their junior sides.

"While we have all been behind the scenes at several Premiership clubs and a few others on the continent, this was a real eye opener and the treatment we received was first class," was how Jamie summed up his time in Turin.

"We spent some six days working and watching training involving all the Juventus squads, from under-8 right up to the first team.

"In fact, to demonstrate just how high their



## Will the next Del Peiro be a Welshman?

standards are. The under-20's team had 10 Italian Youth internationals playing for them. We are talking really talented players here.

"Only a few months ago they paid over £1m for an 18 year-old from Paraguay. They hardly batted an eye lid, as they felt the investment could be repaid many times over when the player is 28!

"On the Sunday we took in the under-15's playing a local derby with their rivals from Torino. The game was staged a decent local ground with hundreds of fans turning up to watch. It showed just how seriously the supporters view their club's youth policy and why it produces so many players for the first team.

"It was a great experience to be involved with such a set-up and we brought back many ideas which we hope to incorporate with our current training systems.

"In April we will be taking three different aged teams across to Italy to play a series of games against the full Juventus youth teams, not the satellite clubs that we have played before.

"The five day trip will also allow us to take the youngsters along to the main stadium to watch a Juventus home match in Serie A, which should be a major highlight for our players. "BBC Wales will be coming along to film the adventure and



they will be broadcasting a special documentary later in the summer.

"We can't really thank the coaches at Juve enough for their help and assistance during our stay with them. We built up a number of friendships with people at the club and hope that Wrexham will continue to benefit from the enthusiasm showed towards us by the Italians."



# IN SUPPORT

## Trinidad Trip

The Club has given details of the trips that have been organised for supporters wishing to travel to the Caribbean in May. There are two options, one 6 nights and the other 14. We will just detail the 6 night stay here.

17-23 May 2000 3 nights Trinidad & 3 nights Tobago

Guest House	Sharing	£599
	Single	£679
3 Star Hotel	Sharing	£699
	Single	£839
4 Star Hotel	Sharing	£889
	Single	£1,149

### Prices include:

- Return international flights on BWIA from London Heathrow to Piarco, Trinidad.
- Cold beer welcome at the airport.
- Transfer to and from the airport and the matches.
- Accommodation as selected.
- Breakfast included whilst in Trinidad.
- Exclusive Wrexham tour bag and T-shirt.
- Supporters function with team.
- Beach party extravaganza.

Price are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Allan Thomas at the club for further details.

You will have seen much in the local media about our end of season trip to Trinidad and Tobago. The team will be travelling across to the Caribbean in mid May to play two games, one on each island, on Friday 19th and then Sunday 21st. This is your chance to join them for the trip of a lifetime. Please call the Commercial Department for more information and to book your trip to the sun.

## Play And Win

Next Saturday will see the first of our three grand Caribbean raffles, when the top prize for each draw will be a trip for two to Trinidad and Tobago to watch the team in action.

Tickets, valid for one draw only, are priced at £5.00 and are one sale from numerous points around the ground, as well as the Club Shop. Not only will we be offering such a great first prize, but in each raffle there will be runners-up prizes of a year's free supply of Rum and a year's free supply of Beer. Make sure you have your raffle ticket and watch out for the first draw at half-time during the Burnley game in a week's time.

## Phil's Marathon



In April our Promotions Manager, Phil Sadler (left), will be competing in his second London Marathon. This time he will be raising funds for Hope House and he is currently on the look out for sponsors, both large and small. Having finished last year's race in a little over 4 hrs 30 mins, he is hoping to better that time this around. In training he has already broken two hours for the half marathon, so is in good spirits for the big day. If you would like to offer Phil your backing, please call in at the Club Shop to sign his sponsorship forms, or call the Commercial Department on 01978 352536.

## Today's Mascot

This afternoon's Wrexham AFC mascot, kindly sponsored by J.R.Boyle (Wrexham) Ltd, is Josh Hughes from Acton. He attends Ysgol Bodhyfryd and named Neil Roberts as his favourite player. His ambition is to one day play football as a professional.



We wish Josh and his family all the very best for this afternoon, and hope they enjoy their special day with us.



## Social Diary

There are a number of functions coming up over the next few months which might be of interest to supporters. On Friday, 24th March, the Chairman's Spring Dinner Dance will be held at the Grosvenor-

Pulford Hotel. Tickets are £25.00 each, with tables of 10 available, and included is a set menu and dancing to the group 'Dare'. The next events in the Gareth Owen Testimonial Year feature 'a night of rampant rhythm and blues with soul' at the Brymbo Sports Club on Saturday, 1st April (8.00pm). The very popular 'Zoot Serious and the Bellyful of Bop' will be playing, so a good night out is guaranteed. Tickets are just £6.00. Then on Wednesday, 10th May, there will be a Golf Tournament at Llangollen Golf Club. We are looking for teams of three to be joined by a member of the Wrexham AFC staff - players/management - for 18 holes of golf and a three course meal. Prizes and presentations will be made later in the evening. Cost per team is £150. For more information or tickets for any of these events, please contact the Club Shop (01978 352536).

## Shropshire Reds Quiz

The lads have organised their latest Football Quiz Night, which will be held at the Greyhound public house in St.Martins on Thursday, 23rd March. Teams of three can be entered and the players have promised to send along their top boys for this grudge match! The first question will be asked at 8.00pm, so come along and join in the fun. St.Martins can be easily reached off the A483 Wrexham - Oswestry road, following the signs at the roundabout after the Chirk A5 turn off. It's only 15 minutes from Wrexham town centre.

## 1969-70 Promotion Reunion

Those of you who have been following the story of the 1969-70 promotion season in this year's programmes, will be interested to know that we have organised a players reunion for April. Along similar lines to the extremely successful 21st Anniversary reunion of the 1978 Championship Team, the evening will be held at the Wrexham Lager Social Club and at just £10.00 a ticket is a real bargain. Already confirmed for the evening on Thursday, 8th April are: Dave Gaskell, Gordon Iivsey, Bobby Park, Tommy Vansittart, Stuart Mason, Ian Moir, Gareth Davis and George Showell. A number of other players have been contacted and we are still awaiting a few more letters of acceptance. It promises to be another great night of nostalgia. To buy your ticket, call in at the Club Shop soon.

## Thanks

The Centre of Excellence have asked us to pass on their thanks to Konica/Peter Llewellyn for the assistance afforded to the staff at Colliers Park. As well as helping out with various pieces of office equipment, the company has gone out of its way to help with other aspects of the Centre's work. Their valuable support is much appreciated by everyone at the Centre of Excellence and the Football Club as well.

## Community News

Hello and good afternoon, welcome to the Racecourse Ground for today's game. Last week over 150 children attended our Soccer School at the NEWI Sports Centre and most of them will be here today thanks to the football club, who have given a free ticket to everyone who joined in the fun. This brings to over 500, the number of free tickets the Scheme has distributed during the past month. Our good friends at Red Passion have also been involved in a project to encourage children to support their local team, while the recent Kids-for-a-quad match should also ensure a new generation of supporters at the Racecourse. Back to our Soccer School, having spent four days under the expert guidance of our excellent coaches, Friday saw our famous World Cup Day and the opportunity to show off newly learnt skills. The team representing Germany, coached and managed by Mark Morris and Tony Thomas, won the final against a very spirited England side coached by Andy Davies. Andy is still complaining about the timekeeping, while the unfortunate Welsh side failed to win a game, although coach Ben Hodgson puts this down to his left winger failing to turn up! We know different though Ben, cos Sparky you ain't.

## Happy Birthday Louise Cosgrove!

Louise who works for our Corporate Hospitality is celebrating her birthday today. Alan and all the staff of Wrexham Football Club wish her all the best on her special day, and thank her for all the excellent work she does for the club.



Pictured above are Players, Officials, Mascots and Ball Sponsors for the Wrexham v. Oldham Athletic match.

# Rough Guide to



# Brentford

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Tuesday, 7th March 2000  
Nationwide League Division Two  
Kick-off: 7.45pm  
Venue: Griffin Park, Braemar Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 0NT  
Telephone Number: (0181) 872511

**Getting there:** Head south on the A483 and A5 via Shrewsbury bypass and onto the M54 at Telford. Join the M6 south and then take the M5 south at Walsall. Leave the M5 at the M42 exit, signs for London and follow onto the M40, again signs for London. Travel down the M40 until reaching the M25, head south for one junction to the M4 (London). Travel towards the city, as the M40 becomes the A40 high raised dual carriageway. Go passed the ground on your right and take the next exit, down to the Chiswick roundabout. Go round the roundabout and double back on yourself, travelling westbound underneath the flyover. Follow this road until the floodlights appear on your left. If you take the first road left towards the ground, you will approach at the home end of the stadium. The second left turn brings you down passed Brentford Station and soon after that you turn left and quickly right, through the houses towards the away end. Park your car facing back towards the way you have come and when you go passed the railway station on the way out, turn left onto the main A4, travelling west and then rejoining the M4 at the first opportunity.

**Away Travel Club:** Supporters wishing to travel to London can be spared the hassle of fighting through the rush hour traffic by securing their place on the official club-run coach. It is scheduled to depart from the Yale Car Park here at the Racecourse Ground at 2.00 pm prompt and a seat will cost £14.00 per person. As usual, places can be reserved by calling in at the Club Shop.

**Car Parking:** There is no official car parking facility available at Griffin Park, and street parking can be difficult for late arrivals. The streets between Boston Manor Road (by Brentford train station) and Brook Road are perhaps the best option for early arrivals, but be especially careful of parking restrictions as on previous visits the local police have been known to tow-away illegally parked vehicles.

**Visiting Supporters Accommodation:** Wrexham supporters will be allocated places at the Brook Road end of Griffin Park, which offers both terracing and a seated area. Not surprisingly, this match is not all-ticket for Wrexham supporters and entry for the terrace will cost £11.00 for all, while a seat will be available for £15.00 Adults and £12.00 Cones. Both areas are covered.

**Programme:** £2.00  
**Social Club:** Brentford do not have a social club facility at Griffin Park, but as the ground is famous for having a pub on every corner this should not pose too much of a problem.

**The Last Time:** Saturday, 29th November 1997 saw Wrexham return to North Wales with a point from a 1-1 stalemate at Griffin Park, played out before a crowd of just 3,748. A late Warren Aspinall goal restored parity after Gareth Owen had given the Reds a well deserved lead with only 28 minutes of the match remaining. The draw saw Wrexham slip a place in the Second Division table to eleventh.

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In a 10 day period of extremes, **Paul Sleeman** tries to keep tabs on the roller-coaster that is Wrexham AFC.

**FEBRUARY 2000**

**15** Injuries to Kevin Dearden and Kevin Russell in training, means that both will miss tomorrow's FAW Premier Cup-tie with Merthyr Tydfil. Also absent will be Darren Ferguson who was sent home with flu symptoms. The youth team travels to Mansfield Town for a Youth Alliance match and return with a 3-3 draw, thanks to goals from Dave Warren, Dave Sweet and Danny Watkin.

**16** It's records all the way at the Racecourse as Merthyr Tydfil are dispatched 8-0, to clinch the Reds' semi-final spot for the third successive season. Andy Morrell breaks Tommy Bamford's 66-year club record with an amazing SEVEN goals. His incredible goal haul also put him way clear in the race for the competition's £10,000 top goalscorer award. The game once again gave Brian Flynn the chance to give fringe players an outing with Kristian Rogers again deputising for Kevin Dearden and keeping a second clean sheet in the process. Oh, and by the way, Ian Stevens grabbed the other goal. However, it's not all good news as midfielder Wayne Phillips once again undergoes surgery on his troublesome ankle. "This will be the second operation on my ankle and - fingers crossed - this will be the last," he revealed in the Evening Leader. "I've done my best to come back but

I've known all along something was wrong. I've been back to the consultant and now he says there's a little boney spur that is causing a problem. I'm going in to have that dealt with and hopefully I'll be back in a month."

**18** There's a shock in store for Wrexham supporters as news filters through, and is later confirmed, that striker Neil Roberts has signed for Wigan Athletic in a £450,000 deal. Neil had already travelled to the JJB Stadium earlier in the week and today put pen to paper on a three-and-a-half year deal. "The first thing I want to say is I have never asked for a move and I didn't ask for this one," he said. "Wrexham is my number one club and this is where my heart is because it's my hometown club. Leaving is going to be a big wrench for me. I've been at the club since YTS and I know everyone from the manager down. I guess some people will have a pop at me. You always get one or two, don't you? But I'm leaving with a clear conscience and I'm happy in the knowledge I've always done my best for Wrexham." Brian Flynn admitted that he would have liked to keep the striker, saying: "I didn't want Neil to go. That's the first thing I told him. But we have contingency plans already in place."



**19** Oldham Athletic clinch an easy 3-0 victory at the Racecourse amid further unrest on the terraces. Once Richard Graham gives the Latics a 12th minute lead, the result is never in doubt, and second half goals from Steve Whitehall and Craig Dudley merely rub salt in the wounds. A 2-0 defeat at Buckley Town sees the Reds eliminated from the North East Wales Cup, but the youth team beat Oldham 5-1 in a friendly at Colliers Park.

**21** Chairman Pryce Griffiths answers fans' criticism in an interview with the Evening Leader, and says: "We are losing money and attendances are dropping. I understand why fans are so frustrated. They want to see Wrexham winning matches. We all do - but the financial facts can't be swept under the carpet. It's all very well for fans to rant and rave about this and that. But the actual realities of the

situation must be considered." **22** Rumours abound that Brian Flynn is about to sign Preston striker Kurt Nogan, but the manager's version of events isn't so conclusive. "Kurt is one we are considering making a move for," he confirmed. "He is a proven goalscorer and we are aware of his abilities. But I haven't spoken to Preston or their manager David Moyes yet."

**23** Manchester City's 6' Australian striker Danny Allsopp, who scored four League goals in 3(21) appearances for City last season, joins the Reds on a month's loan to add firepower to the attack ahead of Saturday's crucial trip to Oxford United. Goals from Craig Faulconbridge, Dean Spink and Steve Thomas gives the Reserves a 3-3 Pontin's League draw with Stockport County at the Racecourse. The Reds had lead 3-1 with only 11 minutes remaining.

# A Real Roller-Coaster Ride of Late

It certainly feels like we have been on a fairground ride over the last few weeks. There was the disappointment of losing at Notts County, the amazing feat of Andy Morrell scoring seven times against Merthyr, then the awful display against Oldham and this was all followed by our biggest league win in over two years at Oxford. Obviously after the witnessing our performance in the Oldham match, we felt it was time to freshen things up and we were able to bring in loan signing Danny Allsopp from Manchester City. The idea of temporary deals, is to bring in someone who is a little different to the type of player we already have in the squad. Danny certainly fits that bill, by being able to add to the variety of choice we have for the next month. He certainly enjoyed a great debut and all credit to him for that, as he complemented the work of midfielders Darren Ferguson and Gareth Owen. Bringing in Karl Connolly from his wider berth helped his performance and gave us the chance to give another game to Robin Gibson on the right wing. It was a much improved team display and supporters would have been hard pressed to recognise some of the players, as the same ones who turned out against Oldham seven days earlier. Now we must look to continue the good work we put in at the

Manor Ground, but showing our home support just how well we can play. Since beating Oxford United at home in September, fans at the Racecourse have enjoyed just one other league victory and that is a record we must look to correct very quickly. With other results going our way at the weekend, we now have the chance to make sure we pull away from the relegation zone, but today's visitors will not be looking to do us any favours. While the Oxford result was very welcome, it is only one win in isolation and we must make sure we back those three points up with another win this afternoon. It was certainly a nice feeling to wake up on Sunday morning and enjoy reading the sports sections of the papers. But we still need to get to at least 50 points and the sooner the better. Luton's manager Lennie Lawrence brings his team to North Wales having performed a remarkable job this season. The financial problems his club suffered in the lead up to the current campaign meant a number of players leaving Kenilworth Road to help balance the books. Yet Lennie has still managed to field a team that has been on the fringe of the play-off places for most of the season. His youth policy has paid dividends and we will see a number of the Hatters' promising youngsters in action this afternoon. Make a mental note of some names, as several of them seem destined for good careers. On similar lines, we wish Neil Roberts the very best for his future, after the Welsh international joined Wigan Athletic two weeks ago. There are always a couple of aspects to be considered when you received a big money offer. The first is obviously the financial benefit to the club of generating cash for a player who you have produced yourselves. The other concerns the footballing side and while I would have loved for Neil to stay, he has the chance to further his career at a club looking to invest heavily in its future. It has to be seen as a good deal for all parties and now we look to move on.

On the youth side of things, our proposals for an Academy licence has been accepted, with one or two minor points to be cleared up. Following our ties with the Irish club Mayfield United, which included a party from Cork visiting us recently, the trip by our Centre of Excellence staff to Juventus and the forthcoming youth games between the two clubs, we can now look forward to welcoming a touring U-19 squad from Iceland. On Tuesday night we travel Brentford, before returning home next Saturday to face Burnley. It promises to be an interesting week ahead!



## The Flynn Opinion



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Johnny Edwards  
Paul Davies

**16 DAY SKIPPY**  
Loan hero Danny Allsopp boomerangs into action scoring twice to put Oxford down under, joining from the premiership -bound mighty Manchester City for a month

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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# Home Sweet Home

After seven straight away fixtures, Nigel Wynn looks back on home games against Hartlepool and Lincoln, before a visit to Welsh rivals Newport County.

The anticipated warmth of Wrexham's homecoming to play only their third game at the Racecourse in three months, was chilled somewhat by their failure to turn their superiority over Hartlepool into a more convincing win, as well as by the bitter cold conditions. It was a frustrating experience for the Reds, who had already beaten Hartlepool twice this season at their own Victoria Ground, and for a crowd of over 6,800. Not until eight minutes from the end did Albert Kinsey, who had earlier missed two fine chances, grab the facesaving goal that brought two much needed points to bolster the promotion bid.

### CREDIT

Much of the credit for the game's only goal belongs to Brian Tinnion, who produced one of his flashes of individual brilliance when he beat three opponents and fired in a hard shot. Veteran 'Pool 'keeper George Smith, who had saved the visitors several times when Wrexham did get their shots in on target, could only push the ball out and Kinsey pounced to fire it into the empty net. Wrexham dominated the game with Stuart Mason often the main springboard for their attacks. But, once they got within striking distance, their raids either petered out dismally or ended with erratic finishing. Perhaps they had lost their shooting boots on their travels or maybe they were not used to playing on the Racecourse! Wrexham's lack of conviction and confidence in attack, and Hartlepool's stubborn resistance, coupled with a measure of luck, kept the crowd on tenterhooks. Little wonder that when Kinsey at last ended the stalemate, the fans roared with relief.

### MISSED CHANCES

That relief was all the greater as 'Pool had almost snatched a surprise lead two minutes earlier, when Lance Robson thumped a snap shot just over the bar. Generally though, the visitors' attacks were well held by the Reds' defence in which Gareth Davis and Alan Bermingham were outstanding. Indeed, Reds' 'keeper Dave Gaskell was called on only three times. It would probably have been plain sailing for Wrexham if Kinsey had not shot wide of a gaping net in the opening minutes, after Mason and Tinnion combined cleverly to create the opening. Kinsey would have made amends with one cracking shot from 18 yards,



**"We now enter a very hectic and important period of the season, with two games a week up until the end of the campaign. During this time I can assure you everything possible will be done by the players and staff to reach our target, which is promotion to the Third Division."**

**John Neal**  
Wrexham Manager 1969-70

but 'keeper Smith showed razor sharp reflexes to tip the ball away. John Gill, Tony Bircumshaw and Tony Parry were the backbone of the Hartlepool defence and Bircumshaw added to Wrexham's frustration by twice clearing off his goal line from Arfon Griffiths and Tinnion. The Reds will certainly need to regain their finishing ability if they are to profit from their fixture backlog.

### RETURN

Even the return of skipper Eddie May failed to inspire Wrexham for their home game against Lincoln City. It was a big disappointment to the fans that they dropped a point they could ill afford to lose with a scoreless draw. The Reds had far more of the game but, for all their efforts, they could not find a telling punch to beat the "Red Imps". And, again all their problems lay in attack. May was given a rousing welcome on his return after missing five matches through suspension, but Wrexham were without centre forward Ray Smith, who was in hospital for an operation on his broken nose. Bernard Purdie came into the attack and the on-loan Tommy Vansittart was named substitute.

### UPPER HAND

Wrexham 'keeper Dave Gaskell was forced into an early save from City's Bill Taylor, but gradually the Reds gained the upper hand. Albert Kinsey's low cross eluded everyone before Purdie headed a good opportunity straight at Lincoln 'keeper John Kennedy. Brian Tinnion had the best chance when he cut inside two defenders, but then hit his shot wide.

It was all Wrexham and Jimmy Grummett almost scored an own-goal while attempting a clearance. May went close with a header before Purdie hit a piledriver but, unfortunately, straight at Kennedy again. Right on half time Steve Ingle almost broke through, but his effort was scrambled for a corner.

Wrexham also called the tune after the break and Ian Moir set up Kinsey, but his effort was saved by Kennedy. The Reds mounted a series of attacks, but all they had to show for them was a string of unproductive corners and, at the end of the day, Wrexham ran out of ideas.

### AWAY POINTS

At Somerton Park it was easy to see which team was on the promotion trail and which had the threat of re-election hanging over them. It wasn't so easy to explain why Wrexham did not boost their goal average considerably, as well as gaining two vital points in this 2-1 win. Although the victory was not as emphatic as it should have been, it ought to stifle the worries over goalscoring problems. Indeed, the Reds have now gained five points from the last six at stake. However, this victory over Newport was marred by a leg injury to Ian Moir, who had to retire in the first half, and a back injury to Ray Smith. Albert Kinsey also received a facial injury and his nose may be broken. Certainly, an expensive victory!

### POOR COUNTY

Wrexham did not have a lot to beat, and from County's first half efforts you could see why they had only managed one win in their 12 previous games. By the interval Wrexham were 2-0 ahead and could easily have been 6-0 in front. It was probably a combination of Wrexham's complacency and Newport's desperation that enabled County to shape up a little better in the second period and snatch a lucky goal that, in theory, if not in practice, gave them some hope. In reality, Newport wouldn't have scored again if Wrexham had gone off!

### REDS AHEAD

Man of the match was Wrexham's midfield dynamo, Arfon

Griffiths. He scored the first goal and laid on the second for Albert Kinsey. Before, between and after these goals, Griffiths covered just about every inch of this sticky and tricky pitch. Wrexham took the lead on 27 minutes following one of their renowned set pieces. A long throw-in by Alan Bermingham was headed back off the bye-line by Eddie May and Griffiths's well judged angled chip shot from 20 yards sailed over the defence and 17 year-old County goalkeeper Terry Lynch, into the corner of the net. Three minutes later, the Reds lost Moir, who had been threatening to tear Newport apart and Brian Tinnion substituted. But, in the 37th minute Wrexham struck again. Griffiths beat his man on the right and crossed from the bye-line for Kinsey to head home a fine goal. It was his 17th of the season.

### COUNTY LUCKY

Newport were very lucky to be only 0-2 down at the interval. Both Kinsey and Bermingham had "goals" disallowed for offside and Kinsey had also seen one of his shots come back off the underside of the bar. Tommy Vansittart, who was impressive through out, was also unlucky not to score when he stormed through, only to slip in the mud as he shot. Anything County did in the second half was bound to be an improvement and they made a determined effort. Once or twice Ray Mabbutt, who used to be a prolific marksman with Bristol Rovers, looked threatening and Dave Gaskell was called on to show his ability. Then, in the 58th minute Newport scored. Gaskell appeared to have player/manager Bobby Ferguson's hoof from 15 yards covered, but the ball deflected off the luckless Stuart Mason's boot and flew into the net. County tried to step up their efforts, but failed to really threaten again as Wrexham ran out comfortable 2-1 winners.





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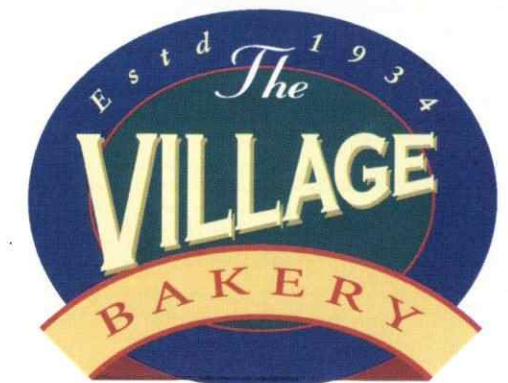
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## QUESTION TIME

So how much do you know about football? Here's fifteen questions, compiled by SHAUN WILLIAMS, to test you. The answers are on page 47.

- 1 Which current Welsh international did Luton sell to Arsenal for £2.5m in January 1995?
- 2 When the Hatters won the Littlewoods Cup by defeating Arsenal in 1988, which current Premiership boss netted one of their goals...?
- 3 ... and in the same year, they also reached the Simod Cup final, but lost 4-1 to which current Second Division side?
- 4 Having been awarded 58 caps for Northern Ireland, who holds the record as Luton's most capped player?
- 5 Which two players - both of whom are no longer with the club - scored for Wrexham in last season's 2-1 success at Kenilworth Road?
- 6 Karl Connolly secured the matchball with a hat-trick in a 5-2 away victory over the Hatters in September 1997. Which two other former Reds were also scored in that game?
- 7 Broadwood Stadium is the home to which high flying Scottish Second Division side?
- 8 Which player scored the only goal of the friendly international played between Germany and Scotland in April 1999?
- 9 Ian Wright has been on the books of four clubs during the 1999/2000 season, can you name them?
- 10 Name the three Wrexham players to score hat-tricks in the record breaking 10-1 victory over Hartlepool at the Racecourse in March 1962?
- 11 In the last 20 years, four current Nationwide League sides have been defeated in FA Cup Final replays, who are they?
- 12 Name the two losing semi-finalists in the 1998 World Cup?
- 13 Which team won the Vauxhall Conference in 1996, but were refused entry to the Football League?
- 14 Which country did Wales meet for the only time to date in a match played in Tokyo in June 1992?
- 15 Peter Shilton's record breaking 1005 League appearances were made while with eight different Football League clubs, can you name them?

## Who am I?

If guess who I am, then you deserve a prize!

1. I was born in Toxteth Park, Liverpool on 23rd September 1915 and began my career with Everton at the age of 21.
2. After failing to register an appearance for the Goodison Park club, I accepted an invitation to sign for Wrexham in September 1937.
3. During the Second World War, I appeared as a guest player for Crystal Palace, Hartlepool, Luton, Tottenham and Tranmere.
4. When I finally left the Racecourse in 1952, I joined Cheshire League side Winsford United. After retiring from playing, I took up a coaching position with Tranmere Rovers.
5. During my ten seasons with Wrexham I made almost 300 appearances, yet never scored a goal.

If you haven't guessed who I am, then turn to page 47 for the answer.



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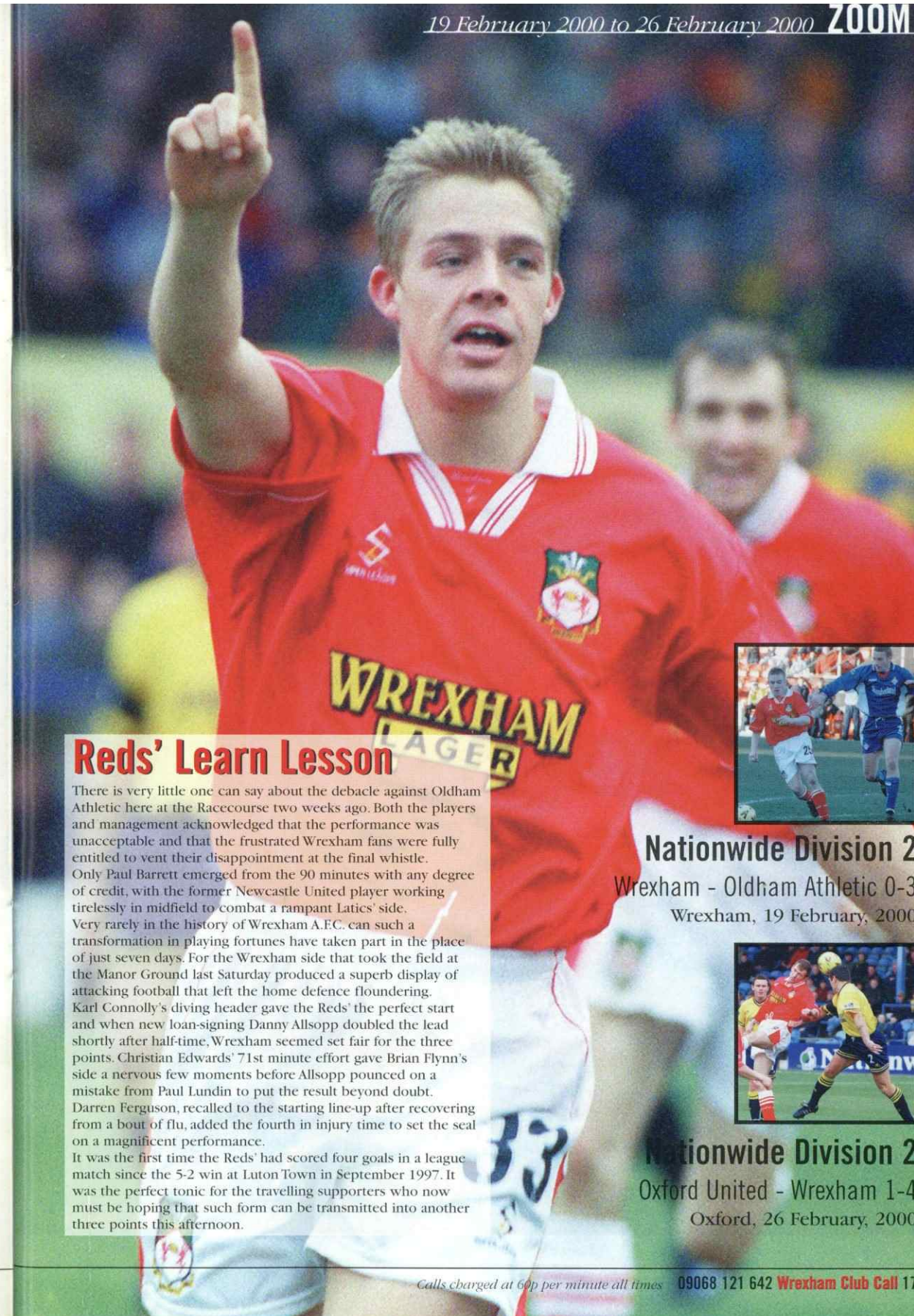
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In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at the Racecourse Ground and will be enforced by the Club's stewards, with the full support of North Wales Police: **REMEMBER**

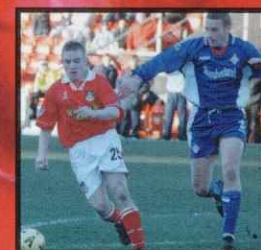
- (1) The club has the right to refuse entry or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a steward or police officer.
  - (2) Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground.
  - (3) Any person whose behaviour could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators may be ejected. ALSO it is a criminal offence, for which you may be arrested to:-
    - (1) Throw anything on to the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters.
    - (2) Take part in any indecent or racist chanting.
    - (3) Go on to the playing surface at any time.
    - (4) To try to enter the ground with intoxicating liquor.
    - (5) To try to enter the ground whilst drunk.
    - (6) To possess any article, such as knives, bottles, fireworks, smoke canisters, cans and flagpoles which might be used as offensive weapons.
    - (7) Use behaviour which is threatening, abusive or insulting towards another.
- Persons convicted of criminal offences will become subject of Exclusion Orders banning them from all Football League grounds.

19 February 2000 to 26 February 2000 **ZOOM**

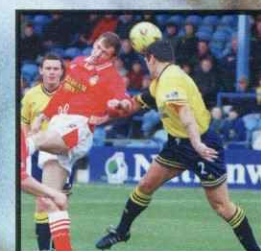


### Reds' Learn Lesson

There is very little one can say about the debacle against Oldham Athletic here at the Racecourse two weeks ago. Both the players and management acknowledged that the performance was unacceptable and that the frustrated Wrexham fans were fully entitled to vent their disappointment at the final whistle. Only Paul Barrett emerged from the 90 minutes with any degree of credit, with the former Newcastle United player working tirelessly in midfield to combat a rampant Latics' side. Very rarely in the history of Wrexham A.F.C. can such a transformation in playing fortunes have taken part in the space of just seven days. For the Wrexham side that took the field at the Manor Ground last Saturday produced a superb display of attacking football that left the home defence floundering. Karl Connolly's diving header gave the Reds' the perfect start and when new loan-signing Danny Allsopp doubled the lead shortly after half-time, Wrexham seemed set fair for the three points. Christian Edwards' 71st minute effort gave Brian Flynn's side a nervous few moments before Allsopp pounced on a mistake from Paul Lundin to put the result beyond doubt. Darren Ferguson, recalled to the starting line-up after recovering from a bout of flu, added the fourth in injury time to set the seal on a magnificent performance. It was the first time the Reds' had scored four goals in a league match since the 5-2 win at Luton Town in September 1997. It was the perfect tonic for the travelling supporters who now must be hoping that such form can be transmitted into another three points this afternoon.



**Nationwide Division 2**  
Wrexham - Oldham Athletic 0-3  
Wrexham, 19 February, 2000

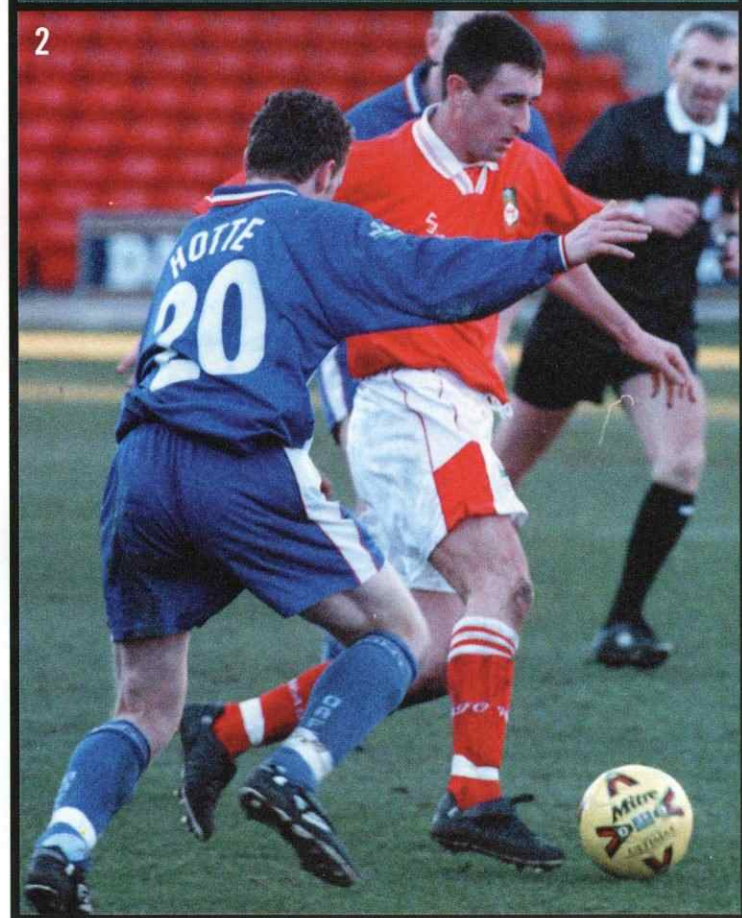


**Nationwide Division 2**  
Oxford United - Wrexham 1-4  
Oxford, 26 February, 2000



# Wrexham vs Oldham Athletic 0-3

# Things can only get better!



1

2

3

4

## DAILY POST

The comprehensive defeat, Wrexham's worst performance of the season at the Racecourse, was the third in a row and results elsewhere pushed them closer to the bottom four.

### The main points

When manager Brian Flynn called this probably the Reds' worst performance for many a long year few, if any, of the Wrexham fans present will beg to differ. With all due respect to visitors Oldham their convincing and comfortable victory owed more to their hard work and effort than it did to any superior ability that they may have. As a result those three wins in four games at the end of January/early February now seem a distant memory as this third successive League defeat edges the Reds ever nearer that dreaded relegation zone. Results elsewhere, that always seemed to be beneficial earlier in the season, are now going the opposite way to such an extent that following this defeat we found ourselves sitting only three points clear of the bottom four. With the Racecourse attendance once again affected by the counter attraction of the Wales - Italy rugby international the mutterings of discontent were only to clear on the terraces and calls for the resignation of manager, chairman and the board of directors once again surfaced. Although it is only to be expected that the faithful express their level of discontent one thing that the Reds boss can't legislate for is individual mistakes that once again proved so costly. Hardly had supporters come to terms with the transfer of striker Neil Roberts to Wigan than the Reds found themselves a goal down on 12 minutes. Steve Whitehall swung over a corner to the far post and Richard Graham rose unchallenged to head past Kevin Dearden from five yards. With Latics' experienced keeper Gary Kelly enjoying one of his quieter matches Brian Flynn rung the changes at half time but before six minutes of the second half had elapsed Gareth Owen gave possession away and seconds later Whitehall converted Paul Rickers' cross to double his side's advantage. Had Karl Connolly's 63rd minute header gone in instead of striking the bar then who knows? But Rickers' pass then released Craig Dudley who rounded Dearden to compound Wrexham's misery.

1 Deryn Brace takes on the Oldham defender

2 Paul Barrett beats his man

3 Andy Morrell gives chase to a through ball

4 The Score-board tells the sorry tale

## EVENING LEADER

I'm sure everyone of those baying for blood don't want Wrexham to go down. Unity has to be the key to make sure they don't.

### Match quotes

How can you possibly make excuses for a performance like that? Well, and to his credit, Wrexham boss Brian Flynn didn't. "From first minute to last it was probably our worst performance for many a long year," he admitted. "Only one or two came out of it with any credit. Paul Barrett was one, but we need more than that in the situation in which we find ourselves. We lacked any cohesion, we lacked any sort of creative form and you could say that we missed someone like Darren Ferguson who has composure in there, but we were second best all round. We don't like it but we must accept it. But the players are only human and they make mistakes. They don't intend to, but unfortunately our mistakes have most certainly been punished." However, the Reds' boss insisted that whatever positives could be taken out of the game would be and the team will begin preparations for next Saturday's important clash at fellow strugglers Oxford United. "We'll start again from today," he added. "We'll have to take any positive things out of the game, though there were not many. But we'll not pack in. The lads have really, really got to show strength of character. But I believe we can stay up, even after a performance like that. We've got enough here, but obviously I'll have to look to strengthen now in certain areas. It may well involve spending money and it may well be this week. We know what's available and I know for certain I've got two options that I could put into place today." Coach Joey Jones was as forthright as usual and understood the criticism from fans. "If things don't change soon then we will go down," he said. "Everything today was wrong. No criticism from the fans was unjustified today. In fact, I felt like booing myself. We simply won't stay up playing like that. I apologise to the fans for that performance, we just never got to grips with the game."

### Wrexham

1	Kevin Dearden	
2	Mark McGregor	
14	Deryn Brace	55
5	Brian Carey	
17	Stephen Roberts	
15	Paul Barrett	♦♦♦
4	Gareth Owen	
18	Danny Williams	46
9	Karl Connolly	♦♦
28	Andy Morrell	46
29	Ian Stevens	67
22	Kristian Rogers	
10	Dean Spink	29
8	Kevin Russell	
25	Robin Gibson	18
31	Craig Faulconbridge	28

Manager: Brian Flynn

### Oldham Athletic

1	Gary Kelly	
29	Paul Jones	♦♦♦
3	Andrew Holt	
4	Shaun Garnett	♦♦
20	Mark Hotte	38
24	Neil Adams	
6	Lee Duxbury	45
7	Paul Rickers	♦
26	Richard Graham	12
10	Steve Whitehall	51
17	Craig Dudley	73, 88

13	David Miskelly	
16	Ryan Sugden	17
18	Danny Boshell	
5	Stuart Thom	
36	Paul Beavers	

Manager: Andy Ritchie

■	Booked	●	Goal	■	Substitution	◆	Form guide
■	Sent-off	●	Own goal	73	Minutes	◆◆	Bronze
						◆◆◆	Silver
						◆◆◆◆	Gold

### Match points

Referee: Roy Pearson (Durham)  
Attendance: 3,603  
Away support: 845  
Conditions: Fine



# Oxford United vs Wrexham 1-4

# Danny Boy Sparks Reds to Vital Win



4



2



3



5

## SPORT on SUNDAY

Aussie Danny Allsopp scored twice on his Wrexham debut in a crucial six-pointer at the Manor Ground

### The main points

When your journey involves passing an overturned boat on the M40 (yes, on the motorway) and a giant shark diving through the roof of a house near the ground you know you are in for a day with a difference. And so it was to prove as Wrexham recorded their biggest away win since that incredible afternoon at Luton two-and-a-half years ago. With Oxford nestling alongside the Reds in the table this was always going to be a crucial game and one in which avoiding defeat was imperative. To therefore come away with such an emphatic victory was especially pleasing for the faithful travelling fans on the open away end. The contribution of on-loan striker Danny Allsopp will inevitably take most of the plaudits following his double salvo but this was a success that had its foundations on a solid team performance in which every player played his part. The fact that team had to be changed twice within the opening 21 minutes due to injuries to Deryn Brace and Paul Barrett made the victory even better. Although Oxford made the brighter start the Reds' confidence soon began to flow once Karl Connolly's diving header opened the scoring after 15 minutes. Two minutes into the second half Wrexham's advantage was doubled when Allsopp brushed aside a defender and beat Paul Lundin with a well-executed shot. Kevin Dearden did well to keep out a Nigel Jemson header a minute later but the home side did reduce the lead on 71 minutes when Christian Edwards headed home. Then came the moment home keeper Lundin will quickly want to forget. With Allsopp bearing down on him the Swedish completely missed an attempted clearance and Allsopp gleefully stroked the ball into the empty net in front of the ecstatic Wrexham contingent. That was the end of the contest and when Darren Ferguson latched onto Allsopp's return pass on 88 minutes to steer a low drive past Lundin the celebrations were well and truly underway especially when results from elsewhere filtered through.

## SPORT FIRST

Two minutes from the end Ferguson ran on to a defence-splitting return pass from Allsopp to complete the rout.

### Match quotes

What a difference a week can make. After the huge disappointment following last Saturday's home defeat by Oldham everyone at the club was clearly enjoying the boot being on the other foot this time around. "It's a rollercoaster game with highs and lows," Reds' manager Brian Flynn said after the game. "We desperately needed to bounce back from the result and the performance last week. We did that well today. We'd like to think it will give us the spark that's been lacking in recent weeks," he added. "It's a convincing win away from home and it's obviously going to boost our confidence but the most important thing for me was the way we went about it after what happened last week. We were determined, we were strong in all departments. I decided to play Karl Connolly up front. He hasn't played there much this season and we thought with Danny coming in it might freshen things up for Karl as well and it did. You expect to be under some pressure away from home and they bombarded us in the second half. On occasions we rode our luck but we cleared our lines, got bodies in the way and Kevin Dearden made a wonderful save within 20 seconds of us scoring our second goal, which was important."

New signing Danny Allsopp also had an extremely enjoyable debut. "It was great," he said. "I've scored two and had a hand in another and the team got a good win. It could not have worked out better. At half time with us 1-0 up the boss said we needed to keep a clean sheet and although we didn't manage to do that we took our chances at the other end." Oxford boss Dennis Smith was understandably livid with his side's display and held nothing back in his scathing comments after the game. "I am absolutely seething," he said. "You wonder whether people have the passion needed and there are going to be a few backsides kicked."

- 1 Karl dives at full stretch to head home our first
- 2 Danny scores on his debut to make it 2-0
- 3 Robin Gibson is grounded in another Wrexham attack
- 4 Danny 'couldn't give a XXXX' for Oxford as he celebrates his second
- 5 Darren Ferguson completes the scoring with this strike and Wrexham's fourth

Oxford United	
13	Paul Lundin
2	Les Robinson
3	Paul Powell
30	Christian Edwards ● 71
15	Simon Weatherstone ● 49
4	Peter Fear
7	Matt Murphy
9	Mark Anthrobus ■ 71
6	Craig Russell ■ 71
11	Joey Beauchamp
24	Nigel Jemson
Manager: Dennis Smith	

Wrexham	
1	Kevin Dearden
14	Deryn Brace ● 8 ■ 19
3	Phil Hardy
5	Brian Carey
17	Steve Roberts
15	Paul Barrett ■ 21
8	Kevin Russell ■ 58
32	Darren Ferguson ● 88
25	Robin Gibson
9	Karl Connolly ● 15 ● 90
33	Danny Allsopp ● 47, 78
Manager: Brian Flynn	

Oxford United		Wrexham	
●	Booked	●	Goal
■	Sent-off	■	Own goal
■	Substitution	■	Minutes
◆	Form guide	◆	Bronze
◆◆	Silver	◆◆◆	Gold

**Match points**  
 Referee: Bill Jordan (Tring)  
 Attendance: 4,988  
 Away support: 351  
 Conditions: Good



# HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME



## PACKAGE 1      PACKAGE 2

The Club has released details of two trips that have been organised for fans wishing to travel to the Caribbean in May and support the team on their end of season tour. There are two packages on offer, one for 6 nights and the other for 14.

**17-23 May 2000 3 nights Trinidad/  
3 nights Tobago**

Guest House	Sharing	<b>£599</b>
	Single	<b>£679</b>
3 Star Hotel	Sharing	<b>£699</b>
	Single	<b>£839</b>
4 Star Hotel	Sharing	<b>£889</b>
	Single	<b>£1,149</b>

**18 May - 1 June 2 nights Trinidad /  
12 nights Tobago**

Guest House	Sharing	<b>£729</b>
	Single	<b>£899</b>
3 Star Hotel	Sharing	<b>£869</b>
	Single	<b>£1,179</b>
4 Star Hotel	Sharing	<b>£1,349</b>
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Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Allan Thomas at the Club Shop (01978 352536) for further details.

### GRAND CARIBBEAN RAFFLE

As part of the promotion for this trip, we have been given six free holidays to raffle off amongst supporters. They will be put up as pairs of prizes in draws held at three upcoming games, those against Burnley, Reading and Bournemouth. Tickets are only valid for one draw and will cost £5.00 each.

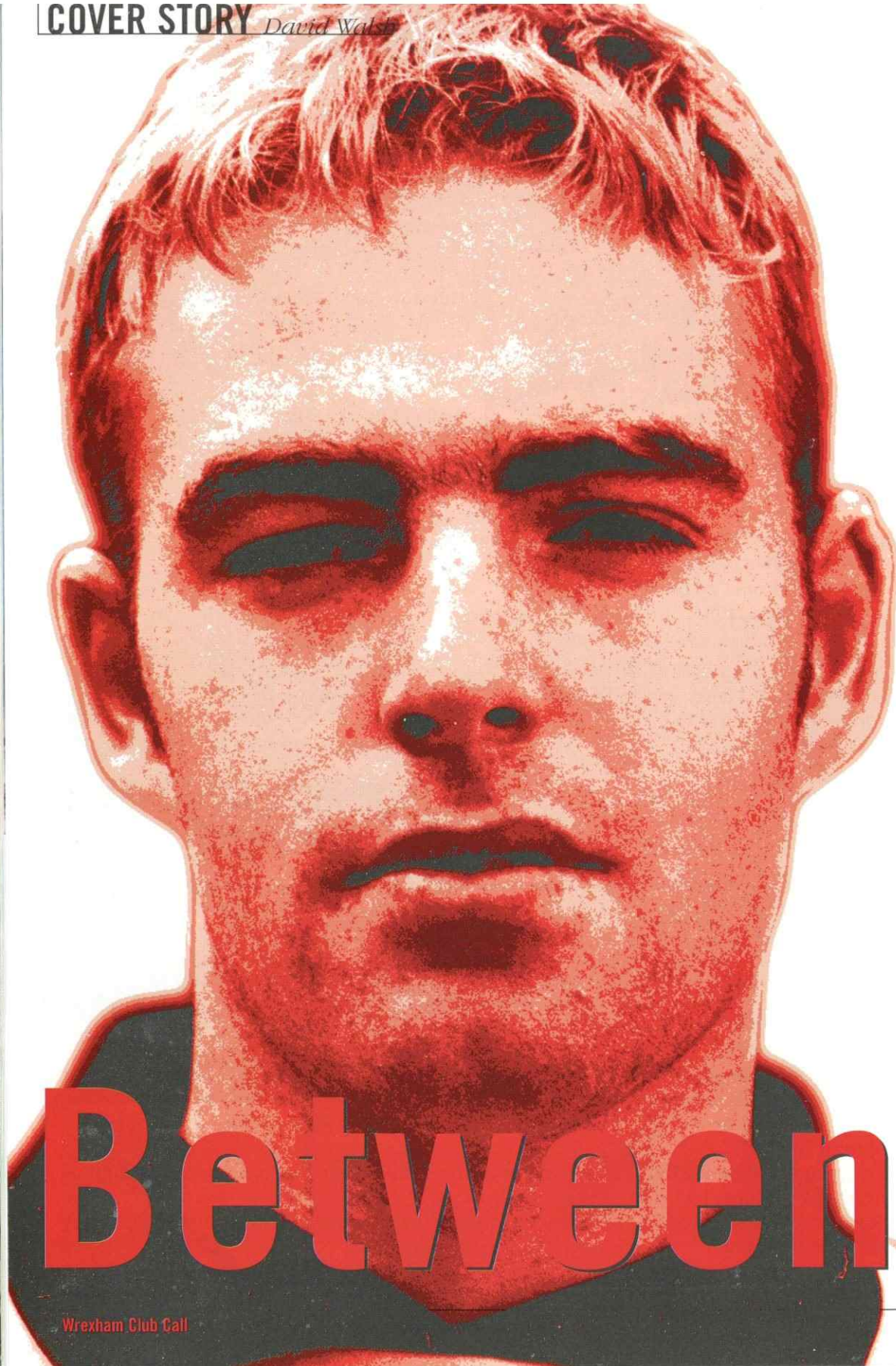
As well as the chance of winning a pair of these great holidays in each raffle, we will also be having runners-up prizes.

Second prize will be a year's free supply of rum and third prize will be a year's free supply of beer.

Draw tickets will be available from sellers around the ground next Saturday, as well as a number of outlets including the Club Shop.

Make sure of your chance to be in the Caribbean this May, by getting your raffle ticket at the Burnley game.





**T**here are not too many players who can claim to have trodden the hallowed turf of Cardiff's National Stadium in pursuit of both round and oval ball codes, but David Walsh is one of them. Quiet and unassuming, Wrexham's highly rated international goalkeeper began his sporting career on the rugby field before finding his niche between the posts.

"Rugby was my first sport, which I took up whilst I was still at Bryn-y-Baal Primary School in Mynydd Isa, where I grew up. As the school didn't play the game I joined the set-up at Mold, and I made enough progress as a prop to earn a call-up to the North Wales XV. It was as a member of the Mold side that I was able to turn out at the National Stadium, as we won through to the final of a national competition." Most of my mates played football, and I would occasionally go with them to watch their games. Up to the age of nine or ten rugby was all that I played - to be honest, it was all I was interested in at that stage - but, then, I took up one of my friends' suggestion that I try my luck at football and went between the posts for one of their games. I enjoyed the experience, and stuck with it. "There was just enough time to play my way into the school side at Bryn-y-Baal before I moved on to Argoed High. I also joined up with Mynydd Isa Juniors, who played their games on a Saturday morning, because I quickly developed an appetite for the game and wanted to play as many matches as I could. By this time football and rugby were competing on equal terms for my time, and for a while I played both sports. Gradually, however, the demands grew such that I became unable to do either full justice, so I had to choose between the two. Football won, and I gave up playing rugby from the age of twelve." By the time that I was fourteen I had earned call-ups for both Clwyd Schoolboys and Flintshire, so I was perfectly satisfied that I had made the right decision. Danny Williams was in the same Clwyd side as me - and I must be one of very few footballers of my age group who can't claim to have played in the same team as Michael Owen! Obviously, we all knew who he was - he had a massive reputation even in those days - but I honestly cannot

recall playing either with or against him." As I developed I joined Buckley & Bistre, a good Sunday league side who competed in the Eastham League, whose games were in addition to those I continued to play on a Saturday. When their manager agreed to take charge of Neston - another Sunday League side but of a higher standard - I moved with him, and this then forced me to quit playing for Mynydd Isa. "During my time at Neston we took part in a youth tournament staged at Blackpool. I played against a side from Manchester United, and obviously caught the eye of a scout from Oldham, because at the end of the competition I was invited over to Boundary Park to take part in some trials. Nothing subsequently materialised, however. Neston's reputation as a successful, skilful side meant that our games regularly attracted a number of scouts from the Football League clubs. To illustrate this point you need only to consider the fact that Wrexham eventually signed four of us on schoolboy forms - Andy Griffiths, Dave Swannick, Julian Pepper, and myself - after Mike Buxton had checked out our potential for himself." Because it was difficult for a club of Neston's size to provide specialised coaching for goalkeepers most of what I was able to pick up came from watching other keepers in action. That all changed when I started coming over to Wrexham to take part in the now legendary Monday night sessions at the back of the Yale Stand. Mike Buxton and Cliff Sear directed operations, but I got the chance to work with Grenville Millington, and he was fantastic. I learned a lot in a very short time thanks to him, and the debt that I owe him is an enormous one. They were very enjoyable days, and I used to look forward to my Monday evenings very much indeed." Those sessions with Grenville eventually

paved my way to a place in the club's Youth team, and we won through to the 1995 final of the Welsh Youth Cup to play Cardiff City at Aberystwyth. I was still in school at this time, and though we lost 1-0 I was satisfied that things were progressing nicely for me." The club obviously thought so, too, and I was offered a YTS place in the summer, along with Andy, Dave, and Julian from Neston, and Leigh Edwards, another goalkeeper. Throughout the subsequent two years' apprenticeship he and I became competitors and close friends: he was - still is - a very fine goalkeeper indeed, with lots of natural ability, and I suppose the fact that he is no longer part of the professional game serves to emphasise just how fine is the dividing line between success and failure at this level. He was very highly regarded by the club throughout his time here, and, as I'll come on to explain, I needed a big slice of good fortune to earn a contract ahead of him." Tranmere Rovers had obviously been monitoring my progress during my days at Neston, too, and they also offered me YTS terms at the time that I was about to sign for Wrexham. But they were too late: by the time that they made their move I had already settled my mind upon a future at the Racecourse. I can remember quite clearly the very first time that I saw Wrexham in action. It was the home leg of the European Cup-Winners' Cup tie against Manchester United, when we did really well to hold the eventual winners of the competition to 2-0 in view of the number of youngsters we'd been forced to play because of the UEFA rules of the time. My first League game was a Fourth Division fixture against Rochdale, which, if I remember correctly, we won quite comfortably. I'd signed schoolboy forms by this time, and was encouraged to attend as many games as possible to settle into the club. "All the way through my two years' YTS I had Leigh for company, and he provided me with some top-class competition. We were very

# Between the posts



similar in those days, both in style and in build, and we would occasionally play in alternate games - intended, I suppose, to keep us both on our toes. In those days I was fairly tall, but slightly built, and so I worked at developing my body strength to make me better able to look after myself. I was made very aware of the need to do that as I played in the Cymru Alliance as a 15 year-old! "By and large, my early years at the club were very successful ones. We followed that 1995 Welsh Cup Final with another run to the Final a year later, when we played Swansea City at the National Stadium as a curtain-raiser to the Welsh Cup Final between Barry Town and Llansantffraid. And we won, 3-2, which was the perfect way to celebrate my second appearance in the capital. "I've also got a tidy collection of championship medals. We waltzed the Second Division of the Welsh National League whilst I was still at school, and repeated the feat in the First Division at the end of the following season, my first as a YTS. My second year YTS saw us finish at the top of the table yet again - so I was getting used to the sweet taste of success in those days." Then, to cap it all, I got to sample international football. Leigh had become established as the regular Welsh Youth team 'keeper, and he was doing so well that I couldn't force my way in. One evening, as Wales prepared to face Northern Ireland in a friendly at the Racecourse, I was training with Grenville as usual and we chatted about my ambitions to play for my country. He impressed upon me the need to keep working extremely hard, and he instilled in me the belief that my chance would come if I was hungry enough for it. He was dead right, too, because - eventually - I was handed the opportunity to show what I could do in a friendly against England at Lilleshall. That was a major boost, because I'd broken my arm at the start of the season, and it had affected my confidence for a while. "Shortly afterwards I was named in the Welsh squad for the Milk Cup tournament in Ireland, when I played against Russia and the competition's hosts. We beat Russia 3-0 before taking on the Irish, to whom we lost 1-0. I got knocked out in that game - so it wasn't all roses, but it was still a fantastic experience for me. Like a long list of players before me - and after - I cannot praise too highly the abilities of Jimmy Shoulder. He is an absolutely

brilliant coach and a great motivator of his players, and the experience of working with him was a very great privilege indeed." Holland was our next stop, and the European championships. We travelled down to London prior to travelling over for the tournament, where we used Chelsea's training camp as our base. I'd joined up with the squad, expecting to be little more than a stand-by, so you can imagine my surprise when I was pulled to one side after one of our training sessions to be told that I had been given the nod to start the games against Holland and Scotland. Leigh was the other 'keeper, and because he had come to be regarded as the first choice I naturally assumed that he would be lined up for the opening matches, so I was as surprised as I was delighted by this news. Obviously, Jimmy Shoulder and his staff had seen something to persuade them that I was worthy of the chance; and, I maintain to this day, the edge that it then gave me over Leigh became a major factor when the club eventually had to make a decision about which of us to retain. See what I mean about a very fine dividing line between success and failure? "On arrival in Holland we stayed in the same hotel as Scotland and Lithuania - all of whose players were upwards of 6'7" tall! The overall standard of the competition was extremely high: most of the Dutch lads came from Ajax, so they were used to playing together, and the pitches and general facilities were absolutely superb. We did really well against Holland, holding them to 0-0 with about ten minutes to go. Then, they brought on one of their substitutes, a Vialli look-alike who was obviously a huge local favourite because the crowd had been chanting his name for ages before he came on. With virtually his first touch he hit a screamer from about thirty yards that was flying straight into the top corner. I managed to get a hand to that one, but had no chance at all when he did the same thing again a few minutes later. A late second added to our woe and we ended up losing the game 2-0." The Scotland match was heading towards a goalless draw, which would have been quite an achievement considering that we had been reduced to ten men for most of it, and that we'd also conceded a penalty, which I saved. But, an own goal in the last ten minutes did for us, and we lost again, 1-0. "Changes were made for the game against the

**DAVID WALSH**

**Date & Place of Birth:**  
29th April 1979/Wrexham

**(Almost) On This Day:**

1st May 1979  
Football League Division Two  
Notts County 1 Wrexham 1 (Giles)  
Team: Niedzwiecki, Sutton, Dwyer, Cegielski, J.Roberts, Giles, Shinton (Williams), Cartwright, McNeil, Buxton, & Fox. Att: 4,374.

**Career Stats:**

Wrexham Jul 1997 (Pro) 0 League games, 3apps in other competitions\* (\*to 3rd March 2000)

**International Honours:**

Wales Youth Int; Wales Under-18 Int.

Lithuanian giants, in order to give as many players as possible a taste of international football, and I was one of those to make way for someone else. Even so, it was a marvellous experience to be a part of a squad that included the likes of Craig Bellamy, John Oster, Chris Llewellyn, Lee Phillips, and Steve Thomas. "A week or two later I was packed off to Holland again, this time as a member of the Under 21 squad. Though I didn't get to play on this occasion the trip provided me with more useful experience. The Whalley brothers had charge of the Under 21s, and their methods were completely different to those of Jimmy Shoulder. Whilst they might not have been everyone's cup of tea they certainly provided us all with a very different perspective of the game - experiences which will undoubtedly reap their rewards as my career progresses." With things developing very nicely at international level I now had to sort out my future at Wrexham. My two years' YTS were completed in the summer of 1997, whereupon both Leigh and myself were awarded one year professional contracts. That didn't really surprise either of us: he was a highly regarded Youth international 'keeper, and I felt that I had done enough to earn my chance. Julian Pepper and Dave Swannick were allowed to leave, however, another sad reminder that not every aspiring young footballer's story has a happy ending. "It's strange to think that I've since made greater strides for my country than I have for my club. The heaven-sent opportunity to take part in that tournament in Holland proved to be the springboard that catapulted me into the Welsh Under 21 set-up, and

though I've yet to win my first cap at that level I have been a regular member of the squad for some time. Anthony Williams, of Blackburn Rovers, is currently ahead of me in the queue, and he has been performing so well that I haven't really expected to be given the nod ahead of him. However, he'll soon be too old to be eligible for selection, so I'm hopeful that all the work I've put in will earn me my chance one day. That remains a very real ambition, because I'd love to be able to represent my country at all the various levels as my career develops." Leigh was released at the end of our first year as professionals, and he's now at Flexsys Cefn Druids where he combines League of Wales football with work as a bricklayer. We keep in touch, and he's enjoying his football at the moment - though I can't avoid the feeling that, because of his undoubted ability, he should still be

has been my only other senior appearance - so far. Even though a trip to Deepdale is a daunting prospect I was fully prepared for the challenge, and I felt that I gave a reasonable account of myself in spite of the 4-1 scoreline in the hosts' favour. Earlier this season I had a spell out on loan with Connah's Quay Nomads, and really enjoyed my time with them. They are a well-organised League of Wales club, with a great set-up and a fantastic team spirit. Because there were a number of familiar faces to greet me upon my arrival - Paul Jones, Steve Hopkins, Julian Pepper, Andrew Thomas, Andy Griffiths, and Paul

**"I've been at Wrexham for six years now, and I know that I have to press my claims for a place in the first team a lot more forcefully."**

playing full-time." My new deal promoted me to second choice 'keeper at the club, after Andy Marriott had moved on, and gave me the chance to work with Fred Davies, the club's goalkeeper coach. Like Grenville, he is a first class teacher, and I feel that I have improved considerably as a result of his advice. It's interesting to watch him put the younger 'keepers through their paces, because he's able to school them before they start to pick up bad habits, and I've noticed how one or two of them have responded in the right way and made quite rapid strides. "I eventually got my chance in the first team at the end of last season, when I was included in the side to face Cardiff City in the first leg of the Welsh Premier Cup semi-final. A 3-1 victory, and a couple of decent saves that earned me the sponsors' "Man of the Match" award, made it a perfect occasion; and the champagne, coming two days before my twentieth birthday, was very much appreciated! The win set us up nicely for the final - though, as you won't need reminding, that ended disastrously with a defeat against Barry. "Since then, I've had to be patient. I was pitched in against Preston for our Auto Windscreens Shield tie earlier this season, which

Mazzarella all spent some time at the Racecourse, and I also knew Jon Kenworthy, once of Tranmere - I settled in pretty quickly, and that helped me no end. I'm a fairly quiet type of lad, and I need to play games to keep up my confidence levels, so from that point of view my time with the Nomads did me a power of good. "I've been at Wrexham for six years now, and I know that I have to press my claims for a place in the first team a lot more forcefully. I believe that I'm good enough, but, then, if I didn't I couldn't really expect anyone else to have faith in me, could I? My present contract expires at the end of the season, so - clearly - I've got it all to do, particularly with the rapid strides now being made by Kristian." The irony of David Walsh's situation will not be lost upon the generation of Wrexham's fans who remained loyal to the cause throughout the dark, despairing, days of the eighties, as the club trawled through a bewildering list of goalkeepers in its bid to steady a ship heading fast for the rocks. Those same fans, who have already seen enough of his ability to appreciate his potential, are undoubtedly hoping that his chance will come in far more favourable circumstances.



**1 KEEPING FAITH**  
David shows how much he wants the No.1 jersey



# The past 12 months has been no tea party for the Hatters



Despite their recent down turn in league results, this has still been a very good season for the Hatters, Phil Jones explains why.

Followers of Luton Town will be glad to see the back of February. Their nightmare month, which brought four defeats in five games, has certainly put the brakes on any promotion play-off push, after the team had been in such a good form at the start of the month.

Prior to February, and with just one defeat in their previous seven games, successive victories coming over Cardiff and Reading, coupled with a side scoring at will, seemed to suggest that they were in a prime position to mount such a challenge. But over the past month the wheels have certainly come off the Hatters handwagon. Confidence will have been knocked following defeats at the hands of Bournemouth, Bristol Rovers and Brentford, all at Kenilworth Road, whilst another reverse, away to Bury, just added to their woes.

The situation would call usually call for drastic measures, but for Luton Town, their current position is probably far higher than most would have imagined for them at the start of the season. When just days before the opening fixture at Notts County, they could even have folded altogether.

Towards the end of last season, amidst mounting debts, the majority creditor and long time supporter, Cliff Bassett, called in receivers to the club, following a protracted and public dispute between directors. Just hours before the new campaign's start, with the club up for sale and in administration, debts had been cleared to a large extent, thanks to manager Lennie Lawrence having raised £1.4m from the sale of players after the receivers were called in.

The Football League threatened to throw Luton out if they could not sort a satisfactory solution out, and the threat appeared to work, with the majority shareholding passing to Cliff Bassett, just hours before the League's deadline.

Manager Lawrence decided to stay on, despite losing members of his back room and his first team staff, all in a bid to cut the wage bill. Their large wage bill was probably a legacy from the days spent in higher divisions, as Luton have only recently slipped back into Division Two, after spending most of the past decade in more distinguished company.

They were relegated in 1996 and looked well set for a quick return to Division One, but fell away crucially at the final hurdle, finishing third and ultimately succumbing to Crewe Alexandra in the dreaded play-offs. Some would argue that they have never recovered from that two legged defeat, and it appeared so the following season as the side struggled to 17th position, followed by a mid-table 12th last term.

So why then if the club is in such a parlous state, has the side performed so miraculously in such circumstances. The answer lies in the youth system at Kenilworth

**"On the subject of the ground, we looked at a total of 26 sites during David Kohler's time, and all agreed that Jct 10 of the M1 was the only feasible site, and that still remains. We need a new stadium with a capacity of about 12-15,000, which may not sound a lot, but we have to attract those not coming now to start."**

**CLIFF BASSETT - Luton Town Chairman**

Road, and one look at the current side, will show that no fewer than seven of those who started last Saturday's game are 21 years-old or under.

Their youth set-up has always produced some fine talent and with all that has gone on off the field this term, they could not have had a better insurance policy to cover the eventuality of a financial crisis.

That the youngsters have come on so well, is a tribute to Lawrence and his team of coaches, who have nurtured the likes of Matthew Taylor, Stuart Fraser, Liam George, Gary Doherty, Emmerson Boyce and the very highly rated Matthew Spring. All have been given their chance in the side, and have taken it with relish, only last weekend Spring was rumoured to be interesting Tottenham Hotspur.

Some have argued that youngsters do not perform consistently, which may explain recent results, with rookie keeper Nathan Abbey has carrying the can for some of the recent reverses. Indeed, Lawrence has brought in Ben Roberts from Middlesbrough on a month's loan. Such deals have to fit into the current wage structure at the club, something chairman Cliff Bassett keeps a close watch on.

Off the field, many supporters will recall former Luton chief David Kohler's grand plans for the club a few seasons back and the now infamous 'Kohlerdome', a new ground mooted as far back as six seasons ago. Now consigned to memory, Kohler has since departed, and with supporters concerns over the long term future of the club, current incumbent Cliff Bassett was quick to re-assure fans at a recent Supporters Club open meeting, called to discuss the future of Luton Town FC.

Asked about the future of the ground he replied: "We will be here at Kenilworth Road for the foreseeable future at least. We do have plans for a new stadium and if we can hold the team together, we would hope to be in Division One by then. "We have our best young players under contract, and with a slight strengthening of the squad, we should be challenging for promotion next season, if we don't make it this time.

"When I first took over, I asked Lennie Lawrence what were his thoughts on the current side and he said in his judgement that we were going to be a top eight side.

"On the subject of the ground, we looked at a total of 26 sites during David Kohler's time, and all agreed that Jct 10 of the M1 was the only feasible site, and that still remains. We need a new stadium with a capacity of about 12-15,000, which may not sound a lot, but we have to attract those not coming now



to start." Asked whether he would invest in the current stadium or the team, he stated: "We must have a good stadium and a good team together. That is the way forward, there has been a lot of talk over the last eight years. A good football team is good for the town, but we must also have the facilities to attract investors and sponsors to the club."

A final note of caution was sounded when asked if it was right for any one investor to have so much control of a football club, as had been so in the past: "There will be safeguards to ensure that the situation does not arise again, where any one person can have total control without the finance to back it up. I want to see a working board of directors, and no-one should hold more than 15 or 20% of the shares, at any one time. The spread is important."

Keen not to go down the route of the former owner, Bassett looks set to oversee another interesting chapter in the club's history. With Lennie Lawrence now in his fifth season at the helm, the chairman has seen enough to convince him that the club's troubles are now firmly behind them. He does, however, live in the real world, which tells him that with current gates around the 6,000 mark, Luton may again have to generate their revenue through the transfer markets. That may not happen for a while, until the day when a big bid for one of their talented youngsters finally comes in. But after their recent financial troubles, that may prove too hard to resist.

WAF

LUTON TOWN FORM GUIDE				
Luton Goals	62 mins 2-1 GRAY			
	58 mins 1-2 ROYCE	78 mins 1-1 GRAY	13 mins 1-0 GRAY	9 mins 1-0 GRAY
	34 mins 0-1 MEAN	33 mins 0-1 O'CONNOR	61 mins 0-1 LITTLEJOHN	27 mins 1-1 ROBERTS
	46 mins 0-2 WATTS o.g.			38 mins 1-2 CURETON
				58 mins 1-3 CURETON
Opposition Goals				90 mins 1-4 ROBERTS
	Feb 5 Bournemouth (H) Lost 1-2	Feb 8 Stoke City (H) Won 2-1	Feb 12 Bury (A) Lost 0-1	Feb 19 Bristol Rovers (H) Lost 1-4
				Feb 19 Brentford (H) Lost 1-2

- 1 **LENNIE LAWRENCE**  
Luton Town Boss
- 2 **STUART FRASER**  
takes on the Wigan defender
- 3 **ADAM LOCKE**  
Luton Town's Midfield Dynamo





# MEET THE PLAYERS *Luton Town*



## KF SKF Bearings SKF

### BACK FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

John Moore (Coach), Ray McKinnon, Landry Zahana-Oni, Adam Locke, Efetobore Sodje, Alan White, Tresor Kandol, Gary Docherty, Emmerson Boyce, Matthew Taylor, Clive Goodyear (Physiotherapist).

### MIDDLE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Trevor Hartley (Coach), Andre Scarlett, Michael McIndoe, Gavin McGowan, Nathan Abbey, Daniel Tate, Paul McLaren, Matthew Spring, Stuart Fraser, Mandy Malins (Fitness Trainer).

### FRONT FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Phil Gray, Andrew Fotiadis, Chris Green (Director), Cliff Bassett (Director), Marvin Johnson (Club Captain), Lennie Lawrence (Team Manager), Nigel Terry (Director), Liam George, Stuart Douglas.

### 1. NATHAN ABBEY (Goalkeeper)

Was an ever present this term until last Saturday. "Tanny", as he is known to his team mates, had made only eight first team appearances prior to this season. At the end of last season, he and manager Lennie Lawrence, agreed that his future lay away from Luton, and he was released. He joined a club in Antwerp, but the deal went sour, then events at Luton gathered pace. Kelvin Davis, last season's keeper, moved on to Wimbledon and after returning to England following the summer's break, Nathan found himself signing forms once more. A former YTS player with the club, he was dropped last weekend after making mistakes in Luton's 4-1 home defeat by Bristol Rovers a fortnight ago.

### 2. GAVIN MCGOWAN (Defender)

Injured earlier in the season, Gavin has recently returned to the first team squad. A former Arsenal trainee, he has signed for Luton three times, the previous two spells being on loan. The permanent move was made before the start of last season and Gavin has now made over 50 appearances for the club. A former England Youth and Schoolboy international, he is a right back who can also perform in midfield. Tenacious in the tackle, he sometimes picks up one or two cards more than he should, now 24 years-old, that record should improve with experience.

### 4. MATTHEW SPRING (Midfield)

Splendidly consistent again this term, Matthew made a midfield place his own last season, missing just one league game. Only another three missed this term, he is another former YTS player to have broken through at Kenilworth Road. Only 20 years-old, Matthew picked up the "Young Player of the Season" award during 97-98, was rewarded with a regular place in the side and has just made his 100th senior appearance in a Hatters shirt. Was last weekend the subject of rumoured £3m bid from Spurs, which national radio suggested might happen at the end of this season.

### 5. ALAN WHITE (Defender)

It appeared that he might be leaving, after spending time on loan at Colchester United in November. The club's apparently agreed a fee, but Alan remains at Kenilworth Road after being unable to compromise on personal terms, although he is out of contract in the summer. To date Alan has made just four starts in the first team this season, but that is around 65 appearances for the central defender since coming to Luton from Middlesbrough in September 1997. He made just one appearance at the Riverside, and, ironically, the 23 year-old scored his only goal last season against Colchester, at Layer Road.

### 6. MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender)

Marvin has missed just five outings so far this term, which is his 17th season at the club and he is easily their longest serving player. As a trainee back in 1984, Marvin impressed enough to earn a professional contract before his YTS was up, although his career has been interrupted by a series of injuries over the years. However, he is a solid pro at the heart of the defence, who has now made over 350 senior appearances during his unbroken spell with the Hatters. Now 31 years-old, Marvin is the team captain, leading by example.

### 7. PHIL GRAY (Forward)

Signed for the club for a second time, back in September 1997, Phil is a Northern Ireland international who has earned 21 caps. Belfast born, he has missed a large part of this season with an injury, now thankfully cleared. Began his career at Tottenham as a junior, where went on to spend five seasons as a professional, although making just ten first team appearances. During that time he was loaned to Barnsley and Fulham, before joining Luton Town for £275,000 in the summer of 1991. In his first spell at Kenilworth Road, Phil made almost 70 appearances, but was transferred to Sunderland in July 1993 for a profitable £800,000. After spending three seasons on Wearside, he then joined Nancy in France during 1996, but it was whilst playing in Holland with his next club Fortuna Sittard, in 1997, that he was contacted again by Luton who wanted him to return. He suffered a series of injuries during his first season back with Luton, but had a better campaign last time out. Now 31 years-old, Phil has scored four times so far this term.

### 9. STUART DOUGLAS (Forward)

Established himself in the side last season, after being used in previous years as a substitute. Stuart came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and turned professional in 1996. He shared top goalscorer spot with Phil Gray on 11 goals last season, this term however, he has netted just four. Not the tallest of strikers, his pace can cause all sorts of problems though and still only 21 years of age, he already has 120 first team games under his belt.

### 11. LIAM GEORGE (Forward)

Has grabbed his chance in the first team this season, a some 12 months later than he would have liked. Having seemed set to make an impact last term, he broke his leg against Wigan, and was out for most of the year. Another promising youngster to have broken through from the youth sides, Liam made his debut in September 1997 at Bristol City. A Republic of Ireland Youth international, he was a prolific goalscorer at junior levels and has

already netted 15 times so far this term, to easily be the top scorer at the club. Not tall, he is able to use his pace to turn defenders in the tightest of situations.

### 12. GARY DOHERTY (Defender)

Donegal born, Gary is a commanding centre half, who has also been utilised as a central striker. Just turned 20 years-old, Gary made most of his appearances before this season from the substitute's bench, but has certainly blossomed this season as Lennie Lawrence has given youth its head. Turned pro in 1997, he has now made over 60 appearances, for the Hatters.

### 13. STUART FRASER (Defender)

Not seen in the first team squad since December, Stuart is another youngster to have progressed from the youth set up. A left back essentially, he made his debut two seasons ago and continued his improvement last season. With just ten appearances before this season, Stuart has made 27 starts this term so far, having been given a real chance to hold down a regular place. Skipper of the championship winning Youth team, which won the South East Counties League last season, he is highly regarded at Kenilworth Road.

### 14. ANDREW FOTIADIS (Forward)

Hitchin born, Andrew chose to stay at school to gain his 'A' levels, before starting a professional footballing career. Having played for England at schoolboy level, he is a pacey striker who was expected to break through to the first team in 1998, but an ankle injury hampered any chance of progress. He did, however, make 25 appearances last season, with over half from the bench, and it has been a similar story this term, with him having to settle for a bench place recently. Netted twice earlier in the season, when given the chance in the starting line-up.

### 15. MATTHEW TAYLOR (Midfield)

Recently returned to the team, after serving a suspension, Matthew had been ever present up until January, until being sent off in the match at Stoke. The Oxford born 18 year-old, is another youngster to be given his debut this season by manager Lennie Lawrence and he made his league bow at Notts County on the opening day of the season. Equally at home in defence, Matthew secured himself a regular place in the side after impressing last season in Luton's second string.

### 17. EMMERSON BOYCE (Defender)

Recently signed an extension to his contract, which will tie him to Luton to 2002. Emmerson is a 20 year-old and former member of their youth side. He had made just two appearances prior to this season, but after being given his chance has performed superbly at right back. Bags of pace, Emmerson can terrorise opposing defenders with runs down the flank and has played in the Hatters' last ten games. Another find for manager Lawrence.

### 19. JAMES AYRES (Defender)

One of the many promising young players Luton have had to rely on after the financial problems forced the club to cut its senior squad. A commanding centre-half, James joined his home town club on a YTS in 1996 and later skippered the youth team to the SE Counties League title. He made his debut at Oxford last December in the AWS and has been on the bench from time to

time since. In February he joined neighbours Stevenage Borough on loan, with Luton making it clear this was only to continue his footballing education and they had no intention of putting him in the shop window.

### 28. ADAM LOCKE (Midfield)

One of the few experienced players amongst the Hatters' ranks, Adam joined from Bristol City last summer on a free transfer. With the receivers in-situ at the club, he was initially offered a short term deal, but after impressing enough, was given extended terms to the end of the season. Now 29 years-old, Adam began his career at Crystal Palace as a trainee back in 1986, but was released before making a first team appearance. He then joined Southend, given his chance and stayed at Roots Hall for three years before leaving

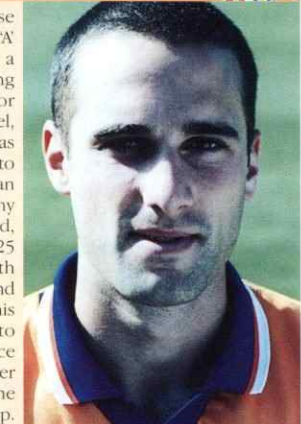
for Colchester. There were over 100 appearances at Layer Road before another move, this time to Bristol City in the summer of 1997. He played a starring role last season at right back for the Robins and was offered new terms, but chose to move back nearer to his roots. Adam has made 20 appearances so far this term and his experience has proved invaluable to such a young squad.

### 32. BEN ROBERTS (Goalkeeper)

Made his Hatters debut last Saturday in their 2-1 defeat by Brentford, he is currently on loan from Middlesbrough. Unable to break into the Boro first team on a regular basis, Ben has previously had loan spells at Hartlepool, Wycombe, Bradford City and Millwall during the past five seasons. Now 24 years-old, and a former England Under-21 international, the Bishop Auckland born keeper signed for Boro from school and became a professional in March 1993. He has, however, made just 26 first team appearances in the senior team over the past seven seasons.

### 40. JULIAN WATTS (Defender)

A nomadic defender, Julian has had almost as many clubs as our own Kevin Russell! Signed from Bristol City at the start of the season on a free transfer, having had fallen out of favour at Ashton Gate. He had only signed for the Robins a year previously, but never established himself in the side, being loaned out to Lincoln City and Blackpool, although never making either move permanent. A commanding central defender, he began his pro career with Rotherham after signing from Frecheville CA a local side, that was in 1990. Two years he later realised a boyhood dream by signing for his hometown club Sheffield Wednesday in a £80,000 deal. Julian stayed at Hillsborough for four years, but made only 18 appearances in their first team and after a loan spell at Shrewsbury, moved to Leicester City for £210,000. He made 52 appearances at Filbert Street, during which time there were spells with Crewe and Huddersfield on loan. Julian, who will be 29 years-old next month, has played in all bar two games so far this season at the heart of the Hatters' defence, but will be absent next week, suspended as a result of being sent off against Brentford last Saturday.







1

The main news items from Kenilworth Road over the past month...

**FEBRUARY 2000**

- 2** Lennie Lawrence, the vastly experienced Hatters boss, admits he is unlikely to pursue his interest in signing Charlton's Scott Parker, as the club's injury crisis gradually eases: "I still like him as a player and believe he would be good for us but the urgency to bring him here has receded."
- 4** Tomorrow's home match with Bournemouth gives Luton the chance to push their claims for a play-off place. "Three points would leave us handily placed."
- 5** Luton slip to a 1-2 home defeat at the hands of Bournemouth, with only a 58th minute consolation strike from Emerson Boyce, the first goal of his league career, to show for their efforts.
- 8** The Hatters bounce back in fine fashion after the Bournemouth defeat to record a 2-1 victory over play-off hopefuls Stoke City. Northern Ireland International Phil Gray is the star of the show with his two second-half goals clinching the three points.
- 11** Continuing financial problems may see Luton forced to sell defender Alan White to Colchester United for £35,000. The 23-year-old has not figured regularly in Lawrence's first-team this term.
- 12** Adrian Littlejohn scores the only goal of the game as Bury beat Luton 1-0 at Gigg Lane, curling a low shot past keeper Nathan Abbey. Hatters top scorer Liam George is relegated to the substitute's bench.
- 14** Despite his error against Bury, Lawrence admits that he has no regrets at handing Nathan Abbey

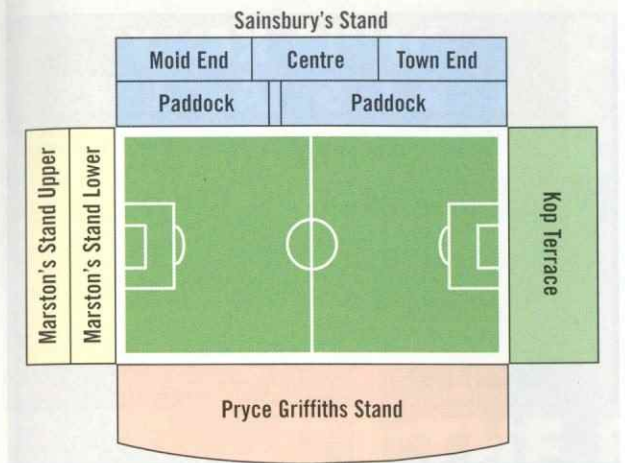
- the goalkeeping gloves following Kelvin Davis' departure to Wimbledon during the summer. "I never once regret putting Nathan in the team," said Lawrence. "I could obviously get a better keeper if I had some money, but I don't regret using him this season."
- 16** Alan White turns down a proposed move to divisional rivals Colchester United. "If he wants to leave and I can get my money back on him, then I'll be pretty happy," explains Luton manager Lennie Lawrence.
- 19** Despite taking the lead through Phil Gray, Luton eventually succumb 1-4 to a rampant Bristol Rovers side at Kenilworth Road. Nathan Abbey is again at fault for two of the goals and the 21-year-old keeper looks set to be rested, provided manager Lennie Lawrence can sign a temporary replacement.
- 20** The Hatters have lost their last two home games and with them any faint hopes of promotion. "The play-offs are now gone and all we can really do is plan for next season," comments Lawrence. "It is a shame but I have some reshuffling to do."
- 21** Efe Sodje has admitted that he was baffled by manager Lennie Lawrence's refusal to listen to his explanation of why he was late returning from African Nations Cup duty with Nigeria. Sodje explained: "Lennie wanted to know why I didn't ring on Monday when the competition finished on Sunday but communication is difficult in Nigeria. You cannot just pick up a phone and get through in two seconds. If I was the only one not to ring or come back I would accept it more but I got

- back before Babayaro and Kanu."
- 22** Hatters manager Lennie Lawrence plans talks with experienced trio Phil Gray, Marvin Johnson and Julian Watts to sort out their futures at the club, with all three due to be free agents at the end of the season.
- 23** After continued discussions, Luton boss Lennie Lawrence reveals that Adam Locke is set to sign a new contract with the club until 2001. "He has done a good job since arriving and he will be here until the end of the next season now, and I'm delighted to keep hold of him," confirms Lawrence.
- 24** Hatters defender Efe Sodje is transfer listed by the club in the wake of his late return from the African Nations Cup. The former Macclesfield defender is also fined a week's wages.
- 25** Middlesbrough's third choice keeper, Ben Roberts, is signed on a month's loan from the Premiership club and is set to go straight into the first-team for tomorrow's home match with Brentford. "I know Lennie well from his Middlesbrough days, and I owe him a lot for giving me my first chance in the game and then helping me out now," adds Roberts. "I hope I can repay him by playing as well as I can during my loan spell here."
- 26** The Hatters poor home form continues as this time Brentford emerge victorious at Kenilworth Road. Once again it's the experienced Phil Gray who gives Luton the lead only for the Bees to take the points courtesy of goals from Lloyd Owusu and Paul Evans.
- 27** Lawrence pulls no punches with his comments in the wake of the latest home defeat by Brentford:

"We didn't play well and the result said it all. There were a lot of players below par out there and that told. We tried to play the offside five yards from the halfway line, and that was naive to say the least. Things will have to improve and we will work hard to make sure it happens."

**28** On-loan keeper Ben Roberts blames a lack of match practice for his crucial error in Saturday's defeat against Brentford. "My fitness is very good. I just need the match practice. I should have saved the second goal. There is no doubt about it. I'll put my hands up and take full responsibility. There is no way I should concede goals like that. It is nice to get back into first-team football. I have played just one game in the reserves for Middlesbrough this season and I am still getting back into the swing of things. I only arrived at the club late last week, so after a full week's training this week, I'm sure I will settle in fine. Then you will see the real Ben Roberts."

**29** Despite the arrival of Ben Roberts, Luton supremo Lennie Lawrence is confident Nathan Abbey will come back a stronger player for his recent experiences: "It is not the end for Nathan. He had done alright up until the Bristol Rovers game. We just needed some competition here and it will be a good experience for him to challenge for the goalkeeper's shirt. Abbey has the right spirit and when you go out of the side like he has you either leave or stay and fight. I'm sure he will do the latter and you can never rule out him coming back."



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Sainsbury's Paddock	£11	£6
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Kop Terrace	£10	£5

**Next at the Racecourse**

**Ian Wright, Wright, Wright - not!**

Burnley are our next visitors to the Racecourse in just seven days time, when manager Stan Ternent brings his promotion chasing Claret to North Wales for a clash that is vital to both sides' differing ambitions.

With the Reds keen to secure the points necessary to ensure Second Division football, our visitors will have their eyes set firmly on bringing second flight football back to their impressive Turf Moor home for only the second season since 1983. They currently lie in fifth place in the table, but are just five points behind Lancashire rivals Preston, who currently occupy the last automatic promotion place and face up to each other at Turf Moor today.

The Claret caused something of a stir when revealing the capture of former Arsenal legend Ian Wright on a free transfer from Celtic a couple of weeks ago, and his frontline partnership with the ever consistent Andy Payton could yet be the key to the club's promotion aspirations. That said though, it appears to be former Crystal Palace and Glentoran midfielder Glen Little who pulls the strings for Burnley. With his all-action style and thoughtful promptings, he is a man that will have to be kept quiet if Wrexham are to triumph.

Games between the two sides are normally open and entertaining affairs, and last season's Racecourse meeting was no exception. Dave Brammer gave the Reds the lead, only for Micky Mellon to ensure a stalemate with just 14 minutes remaining.

Burnley are sure to bring their usual large and loud following, so let's make sure that a good crowd of Reds fans are also present for what promises to be an entertaining and crucial fixture. Don't miss it.



**"Stanley Collymore. Report to the Headmaster".**

Am I the only person in the world who hasn't made his mind up about Stan Collymore? Everyone else seems to have decided that he's either a poor, misunderstood soul who needs a bit of sympathy or a broody trouble-maker who should be avoided like Emyln Hughes (I was going to say "avoided like the plague", but somehow that didn't seem strong enough). And then there's me in the middle, wondering if I've just gone a bit soft.

I can't help thinking that deal Leicester have made to take Collymore off Villa's hands is a good one, or at least a gamble worth taking - despite the little fire extinguisher incident in Spain. After all, half a million pounds to find out whether an ex-international can still do a good job decent seem much in the current climate. And yet every time I feel sorry for Stan, every time I think of him as someone who just needs a bit of understanding, I hear a tale which makes me backtrack and see him as the sort of horrendous trouble-maker you wouldn't want within a Dave Challinor throw of your own club. Is he a gifted, mixed-up genius or the man who returned three hours into a loan spell at Swansea because he couldn't find South Wales? Is he the victim of the hard-nosed Gregory-Ellis Axis or a loose cannon who, told by Steve Coppell that a game at Highbury would be his last chance to make it at Crystal Palace, asked to be brought off after 15 minutes? Is he a sensitive, poetic type who thinks too much about the game or, in the words of Alan Smith, Coppell's assistant at the time: "exasperating... insecure and not too bright"?

We may find out in the coming weeks. For me, if any club is likely to give Collymore the chance to shine, it's Leicester. Partly because the expectations and, therefore, the pressure, are nowhere near what he had to cope with at Villa Park, but mainly because I sense that Martin O'Neill is a much better man-manager than John Gregory.

For me, Gregory is a bit too desperate to prove his machismo for his own good. "Trouble-maker? Send him to me, I'll straighten him out!" seems to be his motto as he looks to compile a fantasy eleven of players who invite trouble on themselves: Carbone, Merson, Collymore? Bring 'em on! Trying to off load an accident-prone 'keeper who blames his bad form on his Nintendo? I'll have him!"

Why hasn't Paulo Di Canio found his way there yet? The problem is, his gung ho approach might not be what the likes of Collymore need, and it's hard to provide a shoulder to cry n when you're looking over it yourself to see if Deadly Doug's creeping up with a P45.

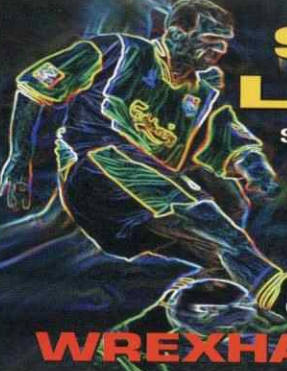
O'Neill, on the other hand, has made a career out of getting the best out of players. Indeed, the team spirit he has forged at Filbert Street is so strong that, while Collymore ought to enjoy the camaraderie if things go well, should he look to rock the boat he seems likely to meet with rejection from the rest of the squad. Like the his erstwhile master, Brian Clough, O'Neill seems to maintain the cult of the manager in a manner which few could emulate in the current, player-driven climate. Despite the widespread scepticism, I'd like to wager that, whatever the outcome of his transfer, the one person certain to avoid getting egg on his face is Martin O'Neill. Remember, he wasn't even in Spain when Stan played up, but has reacted and dealt with the situation in a very professional manner.

Mark Griffiths





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# Welsh Football

## WALES NOT HAMSTRUNG BY HAMSTRING!

If Mark Hughes had any allusions that the team manager's job would be easier for him than any of his predecessors, then they were certainly dispelled in the wake of the Qatar experience. Despite the welcome 1-0 victory.

Perhaps some of us were a little naive to expect Ryan Giggs to have played a first friendly for his pal and former team mate, which could in all honesty have been akin to Frank Sinatra making yet another comeback!

The whole concept of embarking on a nine hour journey for a match of this nature at the height of the club season was open to much debate, with a number of former Welsh internationals expressing doubts over the validity of such a trip. Both Terry Yorath and Ian Walsh were bold enough to describe the vent as 'stupid' at such a time, and although described as a 'World Cup warm-up' something much nearer home could have been arranged, despite the understood financial agreement by the Welsh FA with their Middle East counterparts.

Yorath, not surprisingly, came down hard on the FAW for arranging the game and had sympathy for Giggs and Manchester United, although another former stalwart of the international side was not in agreement. The ex-Wrexham, Swansea and Everton custodian Dai Davies felt Giggs should be given one more chance to play for his country, when Wales face Finland in March, or be left out altogether: "It's very concerning and worrying to see Ryan missing yet again. It makes it hard for Mark Hughes to formulate his World Cup plans without his best player present. You have to have sympathy if Ryan has a hamstring problem, because sitting on a plane for so many hours won't help it. But this has been happening for too long now."

"Wales have another friendly at home to Finland on March 29th, which should be the opportunity for Hughes to have a real go at obtaining Giggs to play in Cardiff, which will surely be his last chance. As you have ask yourself about him, as well as Sir Alex."

Trevor Ford, the legendary international 'scourge of goalkeepers', also added his weight to the general feeling of Welsh supporters, saying he was dismayed by the decision and that representing Wales meant everything to him: "It was the biggest honour. I couldn't play enough games for my country. It's alright being available for the big games in the World Cup and European Championship, but you have to turn up for the friendlies as well."

The vast majority of Welsh fans endorse all the above, but one must never lose sight of the fact that Ryan Giggs is a huge talent and whatever is said and done, Wales can ill afford to be without him - when he is available!

While the aforementioned may have disillusioned us, there are positive aspects to encourage many, not least the effort and workrate put in for his country by Charlton Athletic's John Robinson. "Roadrunner" is an example to all, while his goalkeeping exploits, including the winner in Qatar, continue to impress for club and country.

In the heat of the Gulf, Sparky employed the tactic of one man up front in Nathan Blake, while also expecting Gary Speed and Robinson to support him from midfield. No doubt the manager in his first official game in charge, was looking at tactics ahead of some difficult away games to come in the World Cup.

While the opposition may not have been the best around (108th compared to Wales' 98th in FIFA's rankings), he will want to make the players aware and comfortable in knowing their job descriptions when the important matches come along, and not have to undergo unsuitable systems halfway through the tournament. Thus it is essential as many friendlies as possible are arranged in the meantime to get players as familiar as possible with their roles.

After the Finland game, when the FAW will be charging just \$5.00 Adults and \$3.00 Cones for either the Millennium Stadium or Ninian Park, a June trip to Portugal has been fixed up. This will now be played in the Town of Chaves near Porto on June 2nd, which is ten days before the hosts Euro 2000 opener against England in Eindhoven. Congratulations to S4C for broadcasting the game in live, Radio Wales (FM) and Talk Sport (second half) for giving live commentary, and then BBC Wales for showing highlights later that same night. While Gol gave a nice off-beat look at the trip the following Sunday afternoon. More of the same in the future please, and I just hope your viewing and listening figures justified the effort.

To conclude on an encouraging note, how uplifting it was to hear Matthew Jones before his first start for Wales: "I want success for my club and I have the same attitude towards my country. When I walk out onto the pitch and sing the national anthem, I will be holding the Welsh logo on the shirt above my heart." He did too! I have a feeling it could have been a message for all Welsh fans, telling them the players do care.

GARETH M. DAVIES

With the recent increased interest in the internet, we have invited Rhys Gwynllyw of The Webbed Robin (come.to/webbedrobin) to contribute a series of articles concerning football on the World Wide Web. This week he continues by looking at sites dedicated to our visitors from Luton Town.

Football grounds come in all shapes and sizes and there cannot be another football ground quite like Kennilworth Road. This statement is supported by a classic photograph of the entrance to the Luton's Oak Road Stand as shown on the "Internet Football Ground Guide". With the entrance right in the middle of a row of terraced houses, it looks as if the visiting supporter will end up in someone's front lounge. Chance would be a fine thing as the lack of leg room afforded to the seated supporter is a far cry from the "feet up with a cuppa" scenario.

Luton don't seem to have an Official Site, but there is a site called "The Fan's Choice" at www.lutontown.co.uk which claims that the official site will appear here soon. As ever these kinds of statement are never dated, leaving the surfer with no idea as to when "soon" will be, and thus resulting in an empty promise. Currently the site contains only a message board.

The Hatters Unofficial Site (www.btinternet.com/%7Eben.w/) contains a match report with photographs of Wrexham's visit to Hertfordshire back in September. The most striking thing regarding this game was the ridiculous clashing of the two teams' strips and this is clearly seen in one of the photographs. Luton wore a fetching number in yellowish-orange with heavy blue trim whilst Wrexham wore their away strip of orangey-yellow with heavy blue trim. This afternoon Luton are expected to turn up in their regular away strip of reddish-red with white trim!

In reading the comments on the Luton sites including what their manager Lennie Lawrence has to say, I was amazed to see that Luton still have a slim chance of making the play-offs. There seems to be a downbeat atmosphere, including problems in the goalkeeping department with the boo-boys having got on the back of regular goalkeeper Nathan Abbey. Maybe Mark Cartwright has benefited from not securing a permanent deal with the Hatters?

If there's an example of an acronym being decided upon followed by the words to fit then surely WHOSH qualifies. WHOSH stands for Worldwide Hatters on the Super Highway and, although they have their own website (www.whosh.net), its backbone is the WHOSH mailing list which has been going in excess of six years.

In contrast to WHOSH, the naming of "Daniel's Luton Site" (www.torget.se/users/d/domi/) must have been less of an effort, which is fair enough since it gives more time to work on the content. Although this site is nothing out of the ordinary, it does the basics and is kept reasonably up to date. None of the Luton sites are all things to all people, but this one has more information than most.

I could not drag myself away from looking at Daniel's opinion of Kennilworth Road. There's a decent history of the stadium with some informative photographs that show the ground for what it is, a mess. We're also informed that those luxury boxes underneath the big net, cost a £1000 to hire for one game! Ok so every box has a television, a sofa and a toilet, but hardly a bargain is it?

The "Luton Town Supporters Club of Scandinavia" site has got me a bit worried. We've all heard stories of ambling syndicates trying to fix games (I'm treading on thinner ground than Rooster with the referee at Oxford last Saturday!) but this site, in its list of results and fixtures, has already got Hatter Phil Gray scoring against us in the ninth minute. If this does indeed happen (and please let it not) then maybe there's a clue as to who can afford the grand game to sit in those snazzy luxury boxes.



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**RENAULT**



# Midfield dynamo who strode the European stage

In today's issue, Peter Jones meets up with Mel Sutton, a player who was the engine room of the club's success of the 1970's and early 1980's, and who also spent a brief spell as manager.

Brought up in the Handsworth area of his native Birmingham, Mel Sutton readily admits that he had no aspirations in his youth of becoming a professional footballer. Indeed, he even attended the rugby orientated Lordwood Grammar School.

"I suppose I would have been about 15 when I really began to take a keen interest in the game. I began playing for a team called Vono Sports, in an Under-18's league. I left school at 16, but the thought of playing the game for a living was the furthest thing from my mind."

Instead, Mel accepted an apprenticeship as a printer but in the mean time his footballing exploits with Vono Sports began to attract the attention of a local scout, as Mel vividly recalls.

"Dave Manchip was a scout for Aston Villa and he took me to the Villa for a trial. I played for their 'A' or 'B' team in the Warwickshire League and was invited by their then manager, Joe Mercer, to sign amateur forms after the match, which I accepted. It meant I had the best of both worlds, as I could continue with my apprenticeship and have the chance for my football career to progress."

Mel actually joined Villa in 1964, and gradually made his way into the reserve side at Villa Park.

"It was a great experience to play alongside the likes of Phil Woosnam, Tony Hateley and Harry Burrows in that reserve side, and they all taught me so much. Then there was John Dickson on the coaching staff - he was also a great help to me at that time."

Mel spent three years at Villa Park before a change of manager, Tom Cummings taking over from Mercer, paved the way for a move to Second Division Cardiff City in December 1967.

"I'd been told that I could leave and Jimmy Eastnam, who was chief scout with Villa, recommended me to the Cardiff manager, Jimmy Scouler - they had been together on the coaching staff at

Portsmouth. It was a big step for me to make as I'd been an amateur throughout my time at Villa and lived in Birmingham all my life. However, I'd just completed my apprenticeship as a printer and I suppose this helped in my decision to give it a go."

Sutton left Villa Park without having made a first team appearance, but again found himself playing reserve team football at Ninian Park.

"Having just turned full-time, I needed to improve my fitness as part of my progression and it wasn't until the start of the 1968/69 season that I finally made my Football League debut".

He replaced Leighton Phillips in a 0-1 home defeat by Charlton Athletic and his memories of the game are still vivid: "It was an evening game and I wasn't told until the morning of the match, when I turned up for training as normal, that I was in the team. Jimmy Scouler just said that I was playing and that was it."

"I was just glad at the time to be playing in a side that included the likes of John Toshack, Barrie Jones, Brian Harris, Peter King and Fred Davies, who is now of course goalkeeping coach at Wrexham."

At Ninian Park, Mel soon established himself in the 'Bluebirds' team, helping City to finish in a highly creditable fifth place in his first season.

Sutton also made his European bow that same term, as City found themselves paired with Portuguese Cup holders F.C. Porto. The two-legged tie was to prove extremely eventful, as Sutton explains.

"We'd started the league season badly, losing 0-4 at home to Crystal Palace, and I was finally given my chance in that next game with Charlton. Gradually, we turned the corner and were about sixth in the table going into the match with Porto."

"They were a very niggly side but we managed to establish a two-goal lead only to then concede two goals in the space of three minutes, which gave us a mountain to climb in the return leg two weeks later."

"When we arrived in Porto, we found our hotel was being renovated, with cement and building materials seemingly everywhere! Our manager Jimmy Scouler was far from happy and we were moved to another hotel, barely 20 yards away, at which the Press boys were staying."

"The game itself was packed full of incident. The referee awarded us a penalty and then changed his mind! We had a player sent-off and were then attacked at the final whistle, as their fans invaded the pitch to seemingly celebrate victory! I was glad to get to the safety of the dressing-room."

Cardiff protested to UEFA about the disgraceful scenes, with over 100 mounted policeman called in to combat the disturbance, and City's reserve keeper Bob Wilson left with blood pouring from a scalp wound sustained in the fracas.

Sutton also enjoyed his first taste of F.A. Cup action as Cardiff held Arsenal to a goalless draw at Ninian Park before losing the replay 0-2 at a packed Highbury.

"They were two fantastic matches to play in, with a combined total of over 100,000 spectators watching the two games! Arsenal had a fine side in those days, with the likes of Frank McLintock, George Graham, Terry Neill, George Armstrong and Bobby Gould all in their starting line-up."

Whilst City eventually missed out on promotion, they did have the consolation of lifting the Welsh Cup and their leading scorer, John Toshack, finishing the campaign as the Division's top marksman. The Welsh Cup win over arch-rivals Swansea saw City again enter the European Cup Winners' Cup, where they were paired with Norwegian minnows Mjondalen I.F., the 12-2 aggregate scoreline



"Having scored in both opening games for Wrexham, one newspaper actually reported that John (Neal) had signed a goalscorer!"

Mel Sutton

telling its own story. Despite a superb display from Sutton, City fell 1-3 on aggregate to Turkish side Goztepe Izmir in the second round.

The 1969-70 campaign ended with City finishing in seventh place, despite having led the table at one stage when they recorded seven successive wins. The Welsh Cup Final victory over Chester was scant consolation but it did at least mean a further chance of European glory for the Bluebirds.

The following term saw Cardiff again in the thick of the race for promotion, as they overcame the challenge of Cypriot side P.O. Larnaca (8-0) and Nantes (7-2) respectively to reach the last eight of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

"I actually scored in that win over the Cypriot side," added Sutton. "We couldn't believe it when the draw for the quarter-final was made and we were paired with Real Madrid! It was fantastic and the game really caught the public imagination in South Wales."

"What a fantastic experience it was playing against Real Madrid, one of the great names of European football. We won the home leg 1-0, Brian Clark getting the only goal."

"We started well in the return in the Bernabeu Stadium and held Real until early in the second-half, when we conceded two quick goals. Despite all our pressure in the closing stages, we just couldn't get the all-important away-goal which would have seen us go through."

First Division football also eluded City for a third successive season, this time falling just three points and one place short, defeats against Watford and Sheffield United ultimately proving decisive. The sale of leading scorer John Toshack to Liverpool for £110,000 in November 1970 was a key turning point in the side's fortunes.

Sutton's last season at Ninian Park saw the 'Bluebirds' struggle to avoid relegation, but they again embarked on another European campaign which eventually saw them defeated by East German side Dynamo Berlin on penalties.

The South Wales club also reached the Welsh Cup Final, surprisingly losing 2-3 on aggregate to Wrexham. However, during that defeat Sutton had done enough to impress the opposition manager, 'Robins' boss John Neal, who contacted his Cardiff counterpart Jimmy Scouler shortly afterwards. Neal made a club record offer of £15,000, which was accepted by Cardiff, and must surely represent one of the bargain transfers of all time.

For Sutton, the move north came at an ideal time: "At the beginning of that season, I'd had a bad Achilles problem, which was the first time I'd been out with injury, and it took time to put it right. I got back into the side and played in that Welsh Cup Final against Wrexham."

"City manager Jimmy Scouler, who I got on well with, came to see me and said that he wanted a winger to play on the right side of the field. As he thought I didn't think I could play with one, he said that there wasn't enough room for both of us."

"I knew I was on the way out then. He then told me about Wrexham's offer and I went up to see John Neal with the knowledge that having played against them, I knew that they had some good youngsters coming through. The club seemed to have a good atmosphere about it so I agreed to sign."

That was in the summer of 1972 and after playing in the pre-season build-up, Mel went straight into the 'Robins' team for the opening game of the campaign at Southend. He marked the occasion by scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win and was on the score sheet again on his home debut against Watford - another 1-0 win - the following week. "Having scored in both opening games, one newspaper even reported that John (Neal) had signed a goalscorer!"

'Sutty', as he was affectionately called, missed just three games that season and played in the club's first ever European match against F.C. Zurich, as well as the second round games with Hajduk Split.

His experience in Europe proved a major asset in those ties, with his hard running and precision passing bringing a new dimension to the Wrexham team.

"The whole town was excited by the prospect of those games. It was good for the town and it proved a good experience for the younger lads in the team."

"The match in Split was memorable for their very volatile fans. A dreadful referee didn't help the situation. After the game I remember going back to the coach and their supporters spitting at us. It left a sour taste."

Mel quickly became a key figure in the Reds' midfield unit, alongside Arfon Griffiths and Mickey Thomas, as Wrexham embarked on a momentous period in the club's history.

*Peter Jones concludes his interview with Mel Sutton in next Saturday's programme against Burnley.*

## Robins Past Statistics

### Mel Sutton

**Date Of Birth:** 13th February, 1946  
**Birthplace:** Birmingham, West Midlands  
**Position:** Midfield

#### Career in Football:

Vono Sports; Aston Villa (Am) 1964 0apps;  
Cardiff City 1st Dec 1967 135/3apps 5gls;  
WREXHAM 1st Jul 1972 £15,000; Crewe  
Alexandra 5th Aug 1982 13apps 0gls;

#### Wrexham Record:

Football League Debut v. Southend United (a) 12th August 1972  
Last Match v. Swansea City (a) 6th March 1981.

#### Appearances:

League:	355/5 apps	21 gls
F.A.Cup:	38/2 apps	1 gls
Welsh Cup:	27/1 apps	2 gls
League Cup:	27/0 apps	0 gls
E.C.W.C.:	14/0 apps	2 gls
Total:	461/8 apps	26 gls



Mel Sutton scores the winner against Watford in September 1972.



# Chester cause an upset in the last mini-derby of the season



Paul Sleeman finds plenty of valid excuses for why the youth team managed to lose against our local rivals. Do we believe any of them?

Tuesday, 8th February, 2000  
Football League Youth Alliance  
WREXHAM 1 CHESTER CITY 2

Reporting on a defeat against our rivals from just over the border is never easy. However, when they had previously won only one of their 13 League games (and that came at second-bottom Chesterfield on the 25th September) it suddenly becomes even harder.

With a 2-0 away League win (played almost in its entirety with ten men) and a 6-1 home Cup win already under our belts against the Cestrians this season, many people could have been forgiven for thinking that the Reds would comfortably secure an enjoyable 'treble'. However, that didn't prove to be the case and on the day the visitors adapted better to the atrocious conditions at Colliers Park, to just about edge an extremely tight game. No sooner had the game kicked off than driving rain and

sleet, not to mention the by now customary strong gusts of wind, were sweeping across the pitch making any kind of decent football almost impossible. With the elements driving fiercely into their faces during the opening 45 minutes, the Reds' defence struggled manfully to keep Chester out and they did this superbly well for the most part.

They were breached just the once in the opening period, when Wesley Kilgannon worked his way to the by-line down the right in the 16th minute and expertly picked out Mark Howell, whose close range header gave Craig Moody no chance in the Wrexham goal. Incredibly that was only Chester's 11th League goal of the season! Wrexham continued to struggle to clear their lines, due to the incessant wind, and Moody was fortunate to escape when his attempted clearance was charged down by Lee Sefton, but the ball rolled into the side netting instead of the gaping goal. The visitors had made an unexpectedly bright start, but that had come about more due to them utilising the conditions to their advantage, rather than any obvious footballing superiority that they might have enjoyed over the Reds. Another good move down the right involving Kilgannon very nearly brought Chester a second goal, when Sefton nodded the ball down



"I'm just glad I wasn't there to witness it." (Steve was away scouting a couple of Juventus players at the time.)

STEVE WEAVER

into the path of Chris Blackburn but Moody, diving to his left, superbly turned the ball round the post for a corner. As half-time approached it was difficult to remember many occasions when Chester keeper Matthew Conkie, who has regularly appeared on the substitutes bench for the first time this season, had touched the ball. Yet in a rare Wrexham foray into Chester territory, they equalised in the 45th minute. With your intrepid reporter and photographer by now sat in a car some 100 yards away, sheltering from the latest deluge, details of the goal are a bit sketchy. Between the rain lashing against the windscreen and the intermittent swipes of the wipers, a red-shirted player could be seen beating several Chester players on a never-ending run down the right before crossing for another red-shirt to powerfully head home from close range! Following discussions with Reds' physio Richie Rawlins after the game, it has since transpired that Dave Warren was the player who crossed the ball and Casey Jones the player who headed home. No sooner had the players followed the officials in heading quickly for the dressing rooms at half-time, than the sun once again emerged, although the wind seemed to take a turn for the worse at the same time. The second half was then played in almost brilliant sunshine, but with the strong wind playing just as prominent a role as it had in the first. However, Wrexham failed to make the same impact with the elements as Chester had done in the first 45 minutes, although the ball was almost constantly to be found in the visitors' half of the field. Danny Watkin skewed a 30-yard strike just wide on 58 minutes, before Blackburn's free kick was comfortably dealt with by Moody four minutes later. The winning goal then came in the 66th minute and owed almost everything to the wind. To say that the course of Kilgannon's shot was altered by some five yards due a strong gust of wind, would be an gross understatement. The shot, from the left-hand corner of the area, was aimed at the top right-hand corner of the net and Moody adjusted his position accordingly. In mid flight the ball was blown towards the left-hand corner of the net and despite Craig's best efforts there was little he could do to prevent it entering the net. Within two minutes Adam Arkell's deft header gave Casey Jones the chance to run at the Chester goal, but his shot was fired across the face of the net and hacked away by a defender. Dave Harrison and Dave Sweet were introduced in an attempt to pep up Wrexham's efforts and Harrison wasted no time, about twenty seconds in fact, before shooting wide from 25 yards,

Chris Hopwood wasted a great chance of adding a third Chester goal in the 73rd minute, but somehow side footed wide from eight yards with only Moody to beat and, in one final effort to equalise, Darran Johnson's shot was turned behind for a corner by the confident Conkie. This is not a game that will stay long in the memory, but how many defeats against our rivals are? However, the real winner on the day was the weather. It's such shame that in the last six weeks or so, far too many games have been ruined for this reason. At least coach Steve Weaver didn't have to witness this defeat, as he was away in Turin along with Jamie Digwood and Lee Congerton checking out the facilities of Italian giants Juventus prior to a visit by the club's youth teams in April. Team: Craig Moody, Darran Johnson, Mark Jackson, Adrian Moody, George Horan, Dave Warren, Darren Jones (Dave Harrison 71), Danny Watkin, Casey Jones, Adam Arkell (Dave Sweet 71), Dave Pybus. Subs: Luke Campbell, Shaun Pejic.

Wednesday, 9th February, 2000  
Pontin's League Division One  
WREXHAM RES 5 SCARBOROUGH RES 0



The Reserves returned to winning ways in some style with this 5-0 hammering of a hapless Scarborough at the Racecourse.

The Seadogs' efforts in maintaining their Pontin's League status, as their first team was suffering the disappointment of relegation to the Nationwide Conference, must be applauded.

Indeed, even though they finished last season in 10th place (out of 12) they were comfortably away from the proposed relegation zone.

However, this season was always likely to be one of struggle and they came into this game with only eight points to show from their 12 matches; a tally that included a point from a goalless draw between the two sides at the McCain Stadium back in September. For the Reds' part, they were eager to bounce back from the disappointing 2-1 defeat at York City the previous week and were again represented by a strong eleven with only Mark Evans having not tasted first team action at some stage this season. From the outset it became clear that it was going to be a long afternoon for the east coast outfit, as raid after raid of Wrexham attacks bore down on Kevin Martin's goal. In fact, the former Bromsgrove Rovers custodian was to play a starring role in the afternoon's proceedings, despite the five goals that found their way into his net. The Andy Morrell - Ian Stevens partnership that had combined well to deliver goals in each of the last two Pontin's outings nearly did so again in the ninth minute, but Stevens' left foot volley didn't quite have enough height to clear Martin. A spell of sustained pressure around the 12th minute very nearly produced the opening goal, when Stevens' shot struck the underside of the crossbar. The ball dropped behind Morrell, who turned quickly and laid it back to Steve Thomas. His shot took a deflection that gave the Reds a corner on the right and Martyn Chalk's flag kick was headed goalwards by Danny Williams, but Stuart Morris was on hand to hack the ball away at the post. Morrell's header brought a flying save out of Martin on 15 minutes before the inevitable, and overdue, breakthrough came a minute later. Steve Thomas' exquisite cross-field pass with the outside of his right foot gave Chalk a clear run on goal. He slipped the ball past the advancing Martin only to see the ball rebound back of an upright, but he had no hesitation in thumping home the loose ball from five yards. In the 18th minute of what was proving to be a one-sided affair Morrell's first shot after good work down the right by Robin Gibson was blocked and his follow up was well held by the impressive Martin low down to his right. Martin again denied Morrell in the 22nd minute after another lovely ball through by Thomas had opened up the visiting defence before a rare 'Boro attack on 24 minutes ended with Alex Gildea's wayward shot almost striking a corner flag as it passed behind for a goal kick. An injury to Mark Evans led to the introduction of Dave Warren in the 25th minute and the Irishman slotted into the unfamiliar right back position with some aplomb and certainly without

looking troubled in any way. Indeed, the former Mayfield United youngster had a hand in each of the three goals. The Reds' second came on the half-hour mark. Danny Williams' superb pass from near the centre spot released Gibson down the right. His cross expertly picked out Stevens, whose volley was kept out by yet another fine save from Martin. However, the unfortunate keeper couldn't hold his effort and Morrell laid the ball back to Chalk who fired an unstoppable shot into the top right hand corner from about 16 yards. In the 39th minute the score became 3-0, when Warren's cross from the right found Stevens inside the Scarborough area. His close control worked an opening but Martin again kept the ball out, only to see Morrell pounce onto the rebound to score from virtually on the goal line. It was now a case of 'how many?' in the second half as the Reds continued to enjoy almost total territorial advantage. However, the two further goals were both to arrive within eight minutes of the resumption. In the 48th minute Dave Warren, in a run reminiscent of the way he set up the equaliser in the Chester 'mini derby' the day before, brought the ball out of defence and over the halfway line. It was quickly worked inside to Thomas and then on to Morrell on the right hand corner of the area. The in-form striker cut inside the defender and pulled the ball back for Stevens to stroke home the fourth goal from about 12 yards. Once again Warren was allowed to keep on running as the visiting defence retreated. As he approached the edge of the box, he chose to shoot, only for his effort to lack direction. But he needn't have worried, for Stevens was moving in and diverted the ball past the completely wrong-footed Martin. Chalkie nearly completed his hat trick in the 55th minute after good work by Stevens on the left, but his half volley from an acute angle was blocked by a combination of two defenders and Martin. Incredibly that proved to be the end of the scoring although chances just kept on coming. Thomas fired over the bar (57th minute), Stevens shot wide (59 and 60), Morrell headed over (63), Kevin Hannon's screamer was tipped onto the crossbar by Martin (64), Steve Roberts headed over (71) and Williams's free kick glanced off the wall and passed just outside the post (84). Scarborough had their moments during the second half, notably when Danny Brunton's volley was charged down for a corner and Morris' half volley from 25 yards narrowly missed the target, but the damage had already been done. If it hadn't been for Kevin Martin, who at times seemed to single-handedly keep the Reds at bay, then who knows what the final score could have been? Seldom can a visiting keeper have left the Racecourse saving played so well, but having still let in a nap-hand of goals. Hopefully the Reds can now build on this impressive display in the coming weeks and eradicate any fears of relegation. Watch this space! Team: David Walsh, Mark Evans (Dave Warren 25), Kevin Hannon, Dave Ridler, Steve Roberts, Steve Thomas, Robin Gibson, Danny Williams, Andy Morrell, Ian Stevens, Martyn Chalk. Subs: Kristian Rogers, Dave Sweet, Dave Harrison, Shaun Pejic.



YOUTH ALLIANCE FIXTURES 1999-2000

DATE	OPPONENTS	RES
Fri 13 Aug	Chesterfield	0-5
Sat 21 Aug	Port Vale	1-1
Fri 27 Aug	Rotherham United	0-1
Sat 4 Sep	Chester City	2-0
<b>SAT 11 SEP</b>	<b>STOCKPORT COUNTY</b>	<b>4-0</b>
<b>SAT 25 SEP</b>	<b>LINCOLN CITY</b>	<b>3-1</b>
Sat 2 Oct	Sheffield United	0-4
Thu 14 Oct	Oldham Ath. (FAYC 1)	5-2
<b>TUE 19 OCT</b>	<b>MANSFIELD TOWN</b>	<b>3-3</b>
<b>SAT 23 OCT</b>	<b>WALSALL (Cup)</b>	<b>1-4</b>
Sat 30 Oct	Port Vale (Cup)	0-3
Tue 2 Nov	Mansfield Town (FAYC2)	1-5
<b>SAT 6 NOV</b>	<b>CHESTER CITY (Cup)</b>	<b>6-1</b>
Sat 13 Nov	Shrewsbury Town (Cup)	1-2
<b>FRI 26 NOV</b>	<b>CHESTERFIELD</b>	<b>2-0</b>
<b>FRI 10 DEC</b>	<b>ROTHERHAM UNITED</b>	<b>2-2</b>
Sat 8 Jan	Stockport County	0-7
<b>SAT 22 JAN</b>	<b>PORT VALE</b>	<b>1-3</b>
Sat 29 Jan	Lincoln City	3-0
<b>SAT 5 FEB</b>	<b>SHEFFIELD UNITED</b>	<b>0-2</b>
<b>TUE 8 FEB</b>	<b>CHESTER CITY</b>	<b>1-2</b>
Fri 11 Feb	Mansfield Town	3-3

MERIT DIVISION FIXTURES 1999-2000

<b>SAT 4 MAR</b>	<b>STOCKPORT COUNTY</b>
<b>SAT 11 MAR</b>	<b>CARLISLE UNITED</b>
Sat 18 Mar	Burnley
Sat 25 Mar	Bradford City
<b>SAT 1 APR</b>	<b>HULL CITY</b>
Sat 8 Apr	Mansfield Town
<b>SAT 15 APR</b>	<b>PRESTON NORTH END</b>
Sat 22 Apr	Scarborough

Home games in bold & caps

1 ANDY MORRELL scored one of our five against Scarborough



Compiled by Paul Davies

**1 BURNLEY**  
The Wright Stuff

Stan Ternent pulled off one of the most astounding transfer coups of the season, by persuading former England international Ian Wright to quit the glamour of Scottish giants Celtic for a place in the Nationwide League Second Division. The 36-year-old had found life tough at Parkhead since being red-carded in a game at Kilmarnock in January, and is reported to have been unsettled since. As a youngster at Crystal Palace, he worked with the current Clarets boss: "I've known Stan Ternent since I first turned professional and he has been on at me for years to sign for him and I've finally given in. Burnley have always been a massive club and I just hope that I can make some kind of contribution to their promotion push."

**5 PRESTON NORTH END**  
Angell's Delight

Stockport County outcast Brett Angell has arrived at Deepdale on loan until the end of the current campaign, and manager David Moyes has already stated that the deal could become permanent if he proves to be a success. The 31-year-old has been granted a free transfer by the Hatters and looked set for a move to Stoke until Lillywhites boss David Moyes pounced. The former Everton and Southend frontman enjoyed a profitable loan spell with Notts County earlier in the campaign and is keen to get back amongst the goals with his new club. North End have also secured the signature of promising midfielder Craig Wilkinson from Cefn Mawr-based LoW side Flexsys Cefn Druids. The 16-year-old has previously been on trial here at the Racecourse, as well as at a number of other Nationwide and Premiership sides, but has now committed his immediate future to Preston.

**21 OXFORD UNITED**  
Ground Hitch - Again

Plans to recommence building work on The U's new stadium at Minchery Farm has once again hit problems as Morrells, a local brewery, has threatened to take out an injunction against the club if they continue with plans to incorporate a hotel into the complex. The brewers are in possession of a covenant which prohibits the building of commercial premises to sell alcohol within a radius of half-a-mile of their establishments. U's supporters staged a demonstration before our visit to the Manor last Saturday and have threatened to boycott all Morrells pubs in the hope that this will prompt a change of mind. Meanwhile, manager Denis Smith has problems of his own and has swooped for a double loan deal in a bid to save the club from Third Division football. He has borrowed Manchester City striker Craig Russell and Nottingham Forest's former Swansea defender Christian Edwards.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points	Position
1	BURNLEY	6	4	2	0	9	3	14	1
2	BRISTOL R.	6	4	1	1	17	5	13	2
3	BRISTOL CITY	6	3	3	0	9	4	12	3
4	MILLWALL	6	4	0	2	7	5	12	4
5	PRESTON	6	3	2	1	11	7	11	5
6	READING	6	3	2	1	10	6	11	6
7	BRENTFORD	6	3	2	1	6	5	11	7
8	GILLINGHAM	6	3	1	2	10	6	10	8
9	NOTTS COUNTY	6	3	1	2	10	8	10	9
10	COLCHESTER	6	3	0	3	7	8	9	10
11	BURY	6	2	2	2	5	7	8	11
12	WYCOMBE W.	6	2	1	3	8	6	7	12
13	CHESTERFIELD	6	2	1	3	5	6	7	13
14	BOURNEMOUTH	6	2	1	3	7	9	7	14
15	CAMBRIDGE U.	6	2	1	3	6	8	7	15
16	STOKE CITY	6	2	1	3	6	9	7	16
17	BLACKPOOL	6	2	0	4	4	7	6	17
18	LUTON	6	2	0	4	8	11	6	18
19	WREXHAM	6	2	0	4	9	12	6	19
20	OLDHAM	6	2	0	4	7	11	6	20
21	OXFORD U.	6	2	0	4	4	12	6	21
22	WIGAN A.	6	0	4	2	3	5	4	22
23	SCUNTHORPE	6	0	4	2	5	8	4	23
24	CARDIFF C.	6	0	3	3	4	8	3	24

**Today's other Division Two fixtures**

- Blackpool vs Notts Conty
- Brentford vs Cambridge United
- Bristol Rovers vs Wigan Athletic
- Burnley vs Preston North End
- Bury vs Oldham Athletic
- Gillingham vs Oxford United
- Millwall vs Bristol City
- Reading vs Bournemouth
- Scunthorpe United vs Colchester United
- Stoke City vs Chesterfield
- Cardiff City vs Wycombe Wanderers (Fri)



**14 AFC BOURNEMOUTH**  
Cash Bonanza

Bournemouth Borough Council have agreed to provide a loan to the value of \$1m to the club, to assist in the rebuilding of their dilapidated Dean Court base. This will enable the Cherries to push on with plans to turn the ground into a 12,000 capacity all-seater stadium. Meanwhile, back to playing matters and manager Mel Machin has been busy in negotiation with a number of his rising stars. He has signed deals that will see Karl Broadhurst and Carl Fletcher remain with the club for a further two-and-a-half-years, while much-sought-after defender Eddie Howe has signed up for a further six years.

**16 STOKE CITY**  
Court Action

Former Potters boss Lou Macari has started court proceedings against the club for wrongful dismissal, a full three years after his departure. City are vigorously denying the accusations and have launched a counter claim themselves, based on allegations that the former Celtic boss failed to repay what are described as 'substantial loans' made to him during his time in the Potteries. Back to playing matters, and boss Gudjon Thordarson has persuaded his Liverpool counterpart Gerard Houllier to extend the loan of Frode Kippe into a third month, while also securing a new contract for promising youngster Clive Clarke, which should see him remain at the Britannia Stadium until the end of the 2002/2003 season.

**23 SCUNTHORPE UNITED**  
Double Deal

Two new faces at Glanford Park have lifted the club's spirits and manager Brian Laws is hopeful that his new forwards can be the spark that the Iron need to produce a run that will secure their Second Division survival. Giant former Swansea striker Steve Torpey has arrived from divisional rivals Bristol City, in exchange for a fee of around £200,000, while promising youngster Brian Quailey has joined from West Brom, initially on loan but a permanent move already looks likely. Quailey is no stranger to life in the Second Division having had a spell with Blackpool earlier in the campaign, and he has already made a number of telling contributions during his short time at Scunny.

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**Nationwide** **Division Two Table**

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams from Bristol Rovers to Chesterfield with their respective statistics.

Robins Rollcall table with columns: Rank, Player Name, League Apps, League Goals, Cup Apps, Cup Goals, Total Apps, Total Goals. Lists players from Kevin Dearden to Danny Allsopp.

\*Also: David Sweet 0(1), George Horan 0(1) & Dave Warren 0(1) 0(1) 0

**Nationwide** **League Division 2**

Main fixture list table with columns: Round, Date, Opponents, Result, Att, Pts, Pos, Away. Includes quiz answers and cup competition details like Worthington Cup, F.A. Cup, and F.A.W. Premier Cup.

Player list table with columns: Player Name, Goals, Assists. Lists all players from the squad, including their goal and assist counts.

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# SQUAD CHECK *Saturday 4 March 2000*

In association with



Today's Referee: ALAN BUTLER (Sutton-in-Ashfield)

It may come as no surprise to find out that Mr. Butler is a senior Police Officer by occupation. A 43 year-old family man from Nottinghamshire, he first started refereeing in his local leagues and over the seasons progressed to the Football League line in 1988. A year later he was a Panel Referee and in 1994 stepped up to the middle in the Football League. Alan refereed the Conference Cup Final in 1995 and an FA Trophy semi-final a year later, as well as being the fourth official at last season's Trophy Final at Wembley.



Assistant Referees: A.R.BROWN A.McGEE Fourth Official: G.JOHNSON



## WREXHAM

## LUTON TOWN

Played	Sub	Goals	Yellow	Red	Result	Played	Sub	Goals	Yellow	Red	
					<b>KEVIN DEARDEN</b>	1					<b>1 NATHAN ABBEY</b>
					<b>MARK McGREGOR</b>	2					<b>2 GAVIN McGOWAN</b>
					<b>PHIL HARDY</b>	3					<b>3 EFETOBORE SODJE</b>
					<b>GARETH OWEN</b>	4					<b>4 MATTHEW SPRING</b>
					<b>BRIAN CAREY</b>	5					<b>5 ALAN WHITE</b>
					<b>JASON JARRETT</b>	6					<b>6 MARVIN JOHNSON</b>
					<b>MARTYN CHALK</b>	7					<b>7 PHIL GRAY</b>
					<b>KEVIN RUSSELL</b>	8					<b>9 STUART DOUGLAS</b>
					<b>KARL CONNOLLY</b>	9					<b>10 MICHAEL McINDOE</b>
					<b>DEAN SPINK</b>	10					<b>11 LIAM GEORGE</b>
					<b>DAVE RIDLER</b>	12					<b>12 GARY DOHERTY</b>
					<b>DAVE WARREN</b>	13					<b>13 STUART FRASER</b>
					<b>DERYN BRACE</b>	14					<b>14 ANDREW FOTIADIS</b>
					<b>PAUL BARRETT</b>	15					<b>15 MATTHEW TAYLOR</b>
					<b>NEIL ROBERTS</b>	16					<b>16 LANDRY ZANHANA-ONI</b>
					<b>STEVE ROBERTS</b>	17					<b>17 EMMERSON BOYCE</b>
					<b>DANNY WILLIAMS</b>	18					<b>18 TRESOR KANDOL</b>
					<b>STEVE THOMAS</b>	19					<b>19 JAMES AYRES</b>
					<b>MARK CARTWRIGHT</b>	20					<b>20 JERRY MOSES</b>
					<b>DAVID WALSH</b>	21					<b>21 ANDRE SCARLETT</b>
					<b>KRISTIAN ROGERS</b>	22					<b>22 DANIEL TATE</b>
					<b>STEVE COOPER</b>	23					<b>23 JUDE STIRLING</b>
					<b>ROBIN GIBSON</b>	25					<b>24 SCOTT WARD</b>
					<b>KEVIN HANNON</b>	26					<b>28 ADAM LOCKE</b>
					<b>ANDY MORRELL</b>	28					<b>32 BEN ROBERTS</b>
					<b>IAN STEVENS</b>	29					<b>40 JULIAN WATTS</b>
					<b>WAYNE PHILLIPS</b>	30					
					<b>CRAIG FAULCONBRIDGE</b>	31					
					<b>DARREN FERGUSON</b>	32					
					<b>DANNY ALLSOPP</b>	33					

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NEXT AT HOME

**London Reds**



**BURNLEY**

Saturday, 11 March, 2000  
Nationwide Division 2, Kick-off: 3.00pm