

Royals | 13-10-01

vs Swindon Town | Ho 3.00pm

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Curo the derby day hero?

Jamie Cureton interview | pages 10-11 | Darius Henderson player profile | pages 36-37

Official matchday magazine of Reading Football Club | price £2.50 | volume 56 | issue no 9

today's events

2.30pm Player of the Month

Royals fans have been voting in their hundreds on the club's official website - www.readingfc.co.uk - to select their Courage Player of the Month for September, and now the identity of the winner is revealed!

2.40pm Fans' favourites

Three songs chosen by you! Today: You Get What You Give - New Radicals - chosen by Dylan Stewart - Let's Dance - Five - chosen by Samuel Butler - Rise - Gabrielle - chosen by Matt Tearle and Emma Bryant



3.00 The big kick-off

3.00pm Reading v Swindon Town - kick off

It's derby day at Madejski Stadium and both sides will be hoping for the victory that would push them towards the top of the table. The Royals won the corresponding fixture last season 2-0, so can they do the same to get back into winning ways?

3.48pm Golden Gamble

Give yourself a chance of winning hundreds of pounds with our Golden Gamble draw! Tickets cost just £1 from sellers around the Stadium, and even if you don't scoop the big cash prize you can still win the second prize of a signed RFC ball.



3.48 Golden Gamble

3.52pm Meet the under 10s

This afternoon it's the turn of the Royals Academy under 10s side, under the management of Adam Pilling, to be introduced to the Madejski Stadium crowd. The team beat Crystal Palace 6-1 last week so make sure you give them a big hand!



3.52 Meet the under 11's

STADIUM ADDRESS

The Reading Football Club Ltd, Madejski Stadium, Junction 11, M4, Reading, RG2 0PT

CLUB STATS

Year Founded | 1871
Stadium capacity | 24,200
Official website | www.readingfc.co.uk

CLUB HONOURS

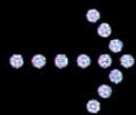
Division One Runners-Up | 1994/95
Division Two Champions | 1993/94
Division Three Champions | 1985/86
Division Three South Champions | 1923/24
Runners-Up | 1931/32, 1934/35, 1948/49, 1951/52
Division Four Champions | 1978/79
Southern League Division Two Champions | 1910/11
FA Cup Semi-Finalists | 1926/27
Simod Cup Winners | 1987/88

Biggest League Win | 10-2 v Crystal Palace
4th September 1946
Most Career League Goals |
Ronnie Bladman 158, 1947-54
Most Career League Appearances |
Martin Hicks 500, 1978-91

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Press Office | 0118 968 1314
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club honours



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50-51 Six of the best

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 Chief Executive | Nigel Howe
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 Assistant Manager | Martin Allen
 Academy Director | Nicky Hammond
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club directory



THE SPIRIT WITHIN THE SQUAD WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN THE PERFORMANCE AT ASTON VILLA

■ **Today** we entertain our near neighbours Swindon Town in the second of our local derbies. Last year we took six points from one of our oldest rivals, Swindon, and a win today would see a welcome return to form for us. May I take this opportunity to welcome Roy Evans and everyone connected with Swindon for today's encounter.

We have now gone 225 minutes of competitive football without a goal. Oh, what I would give for a goal! No matter what level you play at, goals change games, whether you are the dominant side or not, which was highlighted by our defeat at Colchester last Friday evening. After starting the game brightly, we conceded an avoidable goal after only ten minutes, which was the perfect tonic for Colchester after their recent run

It lifted their tails and they went on to add a second after 25 minutes, which again, was a poor goal on our behalf. I have been very complimentary about our defending of late, and we still have the second best record in the league. But when goals are not coming in abundance, we can't afford to concede goals of that nature.

We then had a late flurry in the first half, and had two or three great chances to pull one back before half-time, which would have changed the complexion of the game, but they went by the way. We were determined after the interval to give a better account of ourselves, and we controlled the whole second half but chance after chance came and went, and with every missed chance our hopes and aspirations for that game were diminished, and you could see

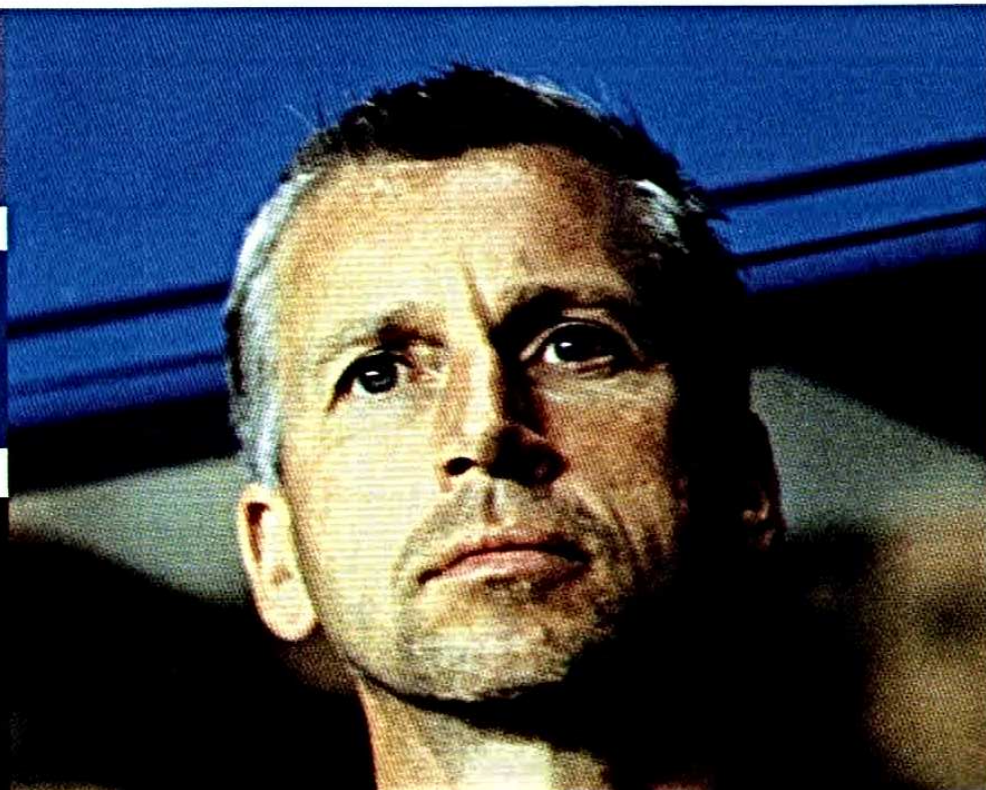
the dispirited way we finished the game. Our mental focus had slipped. The mental side of football is always underestimated in my opinion. It's something we touch on regularly in meetings and in training. The attributes of never giving in, never losing heart and staying single-minded are what can take a footballer to another level. This was brought home to me in stark reality by David Beckham's performance for England some 12 hours later. Even at the higher level of international football, his mental toughness and character took him to a level beyond the other internationals on show. During my tenure here, that has been a characteristic of our team - Stoke at home, Oxford at home, Wigan away, to name a few.

We have now suffered four defeats, and that is too many at

this stage. We need to get into gear, and quickly. The spirit within the squad was clearly evident in the performance at Aston Villa. Fuelled by our disappointment in the previous three league games, we gave a fantastic performance, which I'm sure warmed the hearts of the fantastic following we had at Villa Park. It was especially heartening for me, after the way we've played in recent games, that our fans backed us and were just as good as the team when we needed them most.

In my experience there is no logical process in football. You can have what seems a difficult run of games and do extremely well, and then you have the same scenario in reverse as we've recently experienced. You have to accept the highs and lows in this game, because both come often and back to back,

ger's teamtalk



and not get too carried away by either.

What was very encouraging for me was the level we reached against Aston Villa, both individually and collectively. Our game plan called for an honesty and work ethic that must be matched today. Our consistency is the key to success, this group of players are as honest as the day is long, no-one cheats and hides here. Of course players have dips in form, that's a natural occurrence in professional sport, but we have a very talented squad here, and it's time to reach those heights as we did at Villa Park on a more consistent basis. Our performance levels against Colchester and Villa have improved, and results will

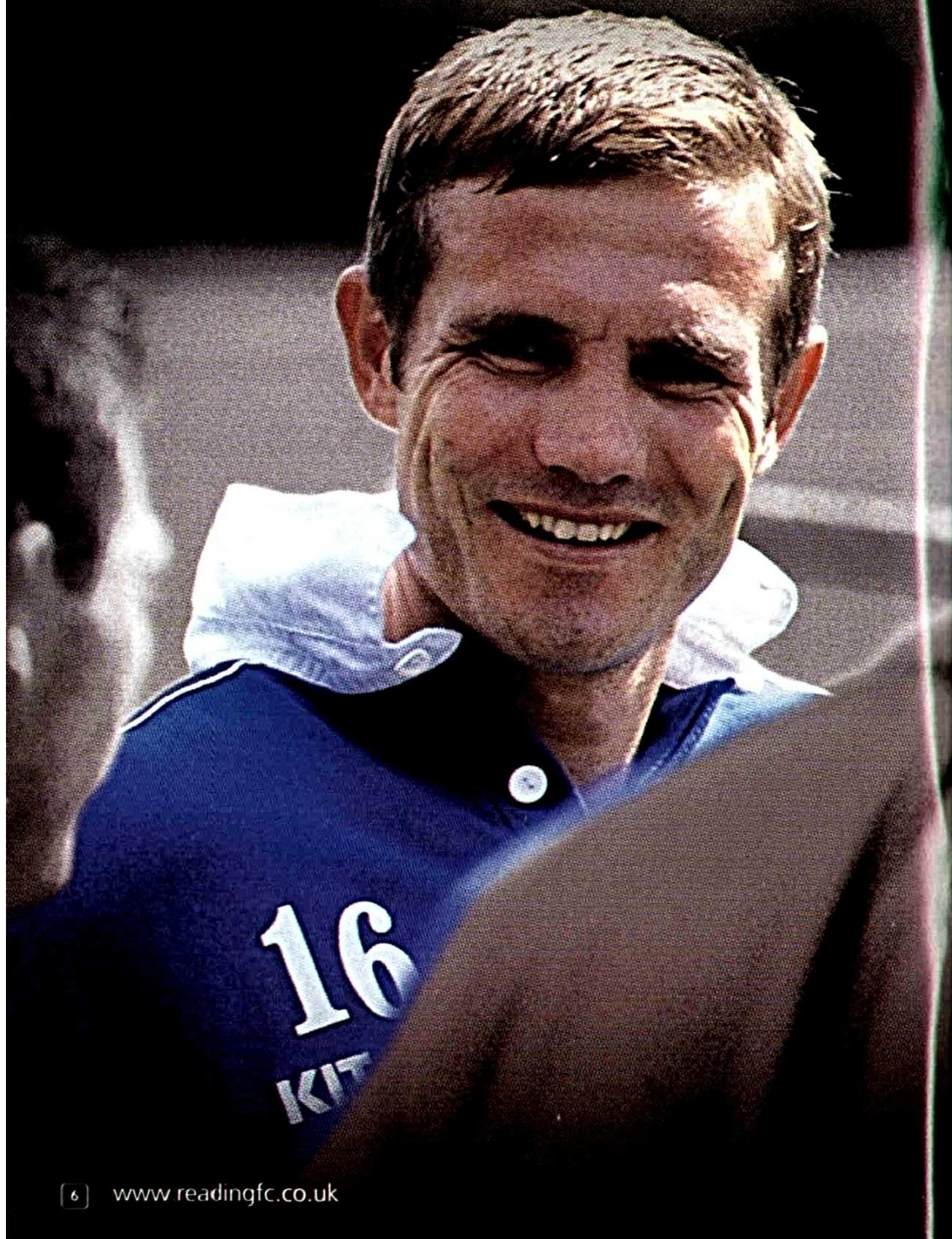
follow. You can't help feeling after the chances of the last two and a half games, that we need that old cliché - one in off the shin. It's been a frustrating time for the fans, the board, and for my staff in particular, because when you're not getting results you have to look at yourselves and question if you're doing anything different? If you're missing anything? What made us a success? Etc etc - we've been through that process, and hope to bear the fruits of it today. This can be a lonely job, and

disheartening at times, as manager, which is well documented by anyone who's done it. To raise my spirits, I asked Brian McDermott to drive me to the Bristol City v Cardiff game. We had a nice natter in the car, chewing over the fat, only just yards from the entrance for Brian to dither at the arrival of some police horses, and then drive us straight into a full-scale riot!

As Bristol City and Cardiff fans and the police all bashed each other up around my car,

I couldn't help feeling that my luck's not in. You could call it bad judgment, for Brian has a tendency to dither at the steering wheel, but whether it was a bad decision for me not to drive or whether it's just luck that's deserting me, who knows? Fortunately, we came through it unscathed, although my relationship with him is now somewhat strained, especially after he beat me to the toilet! ■

Come on you Rrrrs! Pards



First team captain

Phil Parkinson



Nicky Forster



■ I'm writing these notes on the way back from Birmingham, and I'm sure you will all agree that we ran Aston Villa very close, and perhaps on the night we deserved something better than a 1-0 defeat.

It was the first time at Villa Park for many of us, and it's certainly a superb stadium, but the occasion was made by the 4000-strong Reading support who created a tremendous atmosphere. Not only was your support exceptional, the respect you showed Mark Delaney when he was stretchered off was a credit.

While the lads are disappointed with the scoreline, there are certainly a lot of positive aspects to take out of the game. Firstly, Nick Shorey produced a quality,

composed performance and proved he has a bright future in the game. Also, Adi Viveash and Neil Smith, who haven't featured much recently, put in two sterling performances. This is a credit to their professionalism as they've been out of the side, because unless you keep yourself at peak fitness you'll never be able to survive in a game played at that pace.

The happiest man in the ground when the final whistle went was surely Alan Wright, who was tormented by Fozzy all night, and I don't think he'll have had many runarounds like that in his career. Fozzy was at his electric best.

It was vital that we produced a better performance to take

into today's crunch derby game. The lads are under no illusions that we need to get back to the high standards we set at the start of the season and for most of the last campaign. Today, if we take the desire and commitment we showed on Wednesday, we won't be far off getting a favourable result.

Finally, a mention for one of Reading's most loyal supporters and a good friend of mine Joe Brown, who was taken ill on Monday morning and missed the Villa game.

Hope you get well soon Joe, and we'll do our best to cheer you up with 3 points today. ■

All the best

Parky



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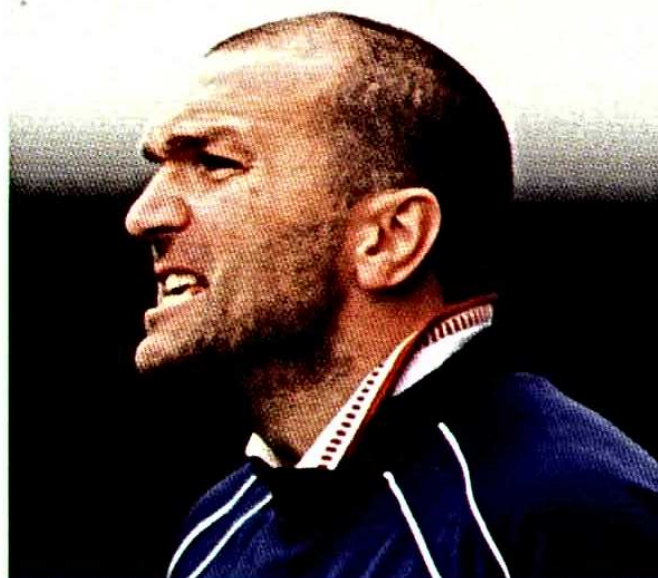
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club captain



NEIL RUDDOCK → CLUB CAPTAIN

■ **Neil** Ruddock the player needs no introduction. A dominant and tenacious defender whose game is encapsulated by strength, power and physical presence - many opposing attackers in Division Two will have already circled their fixture list with some trepidation.

However, as well as sharing the captain's armband with Alan Reeves, 'Razor' is intent on proving himself as a coach and it is at Swindon Town (under the guidance of Roy Evans) that Ruddock is set to embark on his new challenge. The former Liverpool and West Ham bad boy completed his coaching badge in the summer and his presence on the pitch, the sidelines and also on the

training ground, has not gone unnoticed. "My playing days aren't over, but at the same time I'm not getting any younger and I have started to divert my attention to coaching. To be able to combine the two here at Swindon is fantastic, I couldn't have wished for a better opportunity to develop this stage of my career," he enthused after his appointment on 3rd August.

He started his career at Millwall in 1986 before moving to White Hart Lane later that year. Three seasons at Southampton were sandwiched between his second spell at his previous club before his footballing education was catalysed by a move to

Liverpool for £2.5million (coincidentally under Roy Evans' rule.) "Roy has great knowledge and experience and he sets a certain standard - anyone who falls below that will feel his wrath, believe me!" Razor and Roy's close relationship would later see them reunited at Swindon following Razor's stints at West Ham and Crystal Palace.

Ruddock's Swindon experience couldn't have started any better, the Big Breakfast regular scoring on his home debut against league leaders, Colchester. Indeed, Town seem to have performed well against those above them in the league, so what about the club's visit to Reading? "We've had a nice break after a busy period and we will be

fresh and raring to go. We all know Reading were many people's favourites to go up and on their day they can be a huge threat, their strikers have a good reputation and I have played against some of them before.

"However, I think they will be a little bit worried about us as well and we just have to concentrate on our game. So far this season we have outplayed the teams above us and there is no reason why we can't do that again.

"This is one game the players and fans have been looking forward to and if you can't get excited about a big derby such as this, and in such a big stadium, then you're in the wrong game!" ■

Centre-back's nightmare =

Jamie Cureton



JAMIE CURETON ...➤

■ **Jamie** Cureton is a local derby veteran, having played for Norwich against arch rivals Ipswich, Bristol Rovers against City, and of course Reading against Swindon, Wycombe and Oxford.

He has experienced mixed fortunes along the way, but endeared himself to Royals fans last season with a great record in our local clashes, scoring against Oxford twice and netting the winner at the

County Ground in March. Perhaps his most memorable derby moment came for Norwich when he scored against the Tractor Boys, having dyed his hair green in the days leading up to the match! "I scored twice for Norwich against Ipswich, once in a 3-0 win and once in a 2-1 defeat.

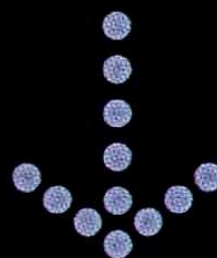
"I was man of the match in the 3-0 win, which was very pleasing. The game when I dyed my hair was near the end of the season with a relaxed

atmosphere, and for some reason I just volunteered to get my hair dyed."

Derbies are usually tense, pulsating affairs, and Jamie believes they are noticeably different from normal fixtures. "They're unlike other games, they're big occasions with an added edge although obviously it's only the same number of points at stake. Everyone wants to win derbies to keep the fans happy, and there are quite a few derbies for Reading so it just adds that little bit extra."

Fellow Bristolian and ex-Royal Andy Gurney joined Swindon in the summer, and Jamie is expecting a tough game this afternoon after speaking to his former teammate, who has started every game so far this season for his new club.

"I spoke to Gurns last week. He said they're playing a lot of football this season and it looks like they're doing ok. I've no doubt he'll want to put one over on us, and with our form not being the best at the moment they might fancy their



Goal Machine

Striker Jamie Cureton suffered from injuries at the start of the season, but proved at Colchester last week that he's close to getting back to his best now.

chances more than normal."

Swindon put the former Liverpool combination of Evans and Ruddock in charge over the summer, and with their knowledge they will bring a strong Swindon team to Madejski Stadium today. Cureton said, "They've got a lot of experience and they know their stuff. It'll be one of Evans' first derbies in charge, so he certainly won't want to lose it."

Jamie admits that the Royals are not yet firing on all cylinders,

but has no doubt that with the squad Alan Pardew has at his disposal the results will improve. "It's a weird situation because we know we are good enough, we're just not quite playing well."

"There is so much quality here, and if we continue to believe in ourselves, then it will all come right. We were favourites at the start of the season, we're just not quite delivering right now and we must put it right and get that turning point. Hopefully that will be today." ■





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Welcome to our



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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

■ We would like to give a thank you to our sponsors from the last game here at Madejski Stadium, the visit of Bury two weeks ago. The match sponsors for the afternoon were Westcoast, who are of course also the Club's main sponsors, and we would like to thank them for all their continued support. Like all match sponsors, they received a memento of the day, and RFC Chairman John Madejski is pictured here alongside Jim Holland from Westcoast. (1)

The matchball sponsor for the game with Bury was none other than the Right Honourable Tony Jones, the Mayor of Reading! Our town's Mayor is a true Loyal Royal and Madejski Stadium season ticket holder, and on this

occasion he decided to show his support for the Club by sponsoring the matchball! He is pictured here receiving a souvenir signed matchball from John Madejski. (2)

MIDFIELDERS TAKE MAN OF MATCH AWARDS

Two Royals players were presented with Man of the Match awards after the 1-1 draw with Bury a fortnight ago, starting with goalscorer Sammy Igoe, who won the vote from match sponsors Westcoast. Sammy is pictured here receiving the traditional bottle of bubbly from Westcoast's Eugene Mitchell and Kerry Pettiforce. (3)

The second Man of the Match award was selected by SMS Maintenance on behalf of the Madejski Stadium suiteholders,

and they chose to give the award to central midfielder Keith Jones. Dennis Neves from SMS Maintenance is pictured presenting the prize bottle of champagne to 'Jonah'. (4)

MATCH SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

We currently have availability for a Match Sponsor for the forthcoming games against Wrexham on Tuesday 6th November and Tranmere Rovers on Tuesday 20th November. This excellent package includes luxury hospitality seating, four-course silver service meal, VIP car parking and advertising opportunities. You and your guests will enjoy Premiership quality hospitality and your company will receive some excellent publicity. Please call Sara Jacob on 0118 968 1304 for more information. ■

SPONSORS PRESENTATIONS



MAN OF THE MATCH AWARDS



TODAY'S MATCHSPONSORS

We would like to welcome Arnold Laver Timber World to today's home fixture against Swindon. We would like to thank them for their support and hope they enjoy their afternoon at Madejski Stadium.

Arnold Laver



TODAY'S VISITORS

NEIL RUDDOCK & ROY EVANS

Swindon Town

UNDER THE NEW MANAGEMENT OF ROY EVANS AND NEIL RUDDOCK, THE ROBINS HAVE SHOWN IMPRESSIVE FORM IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

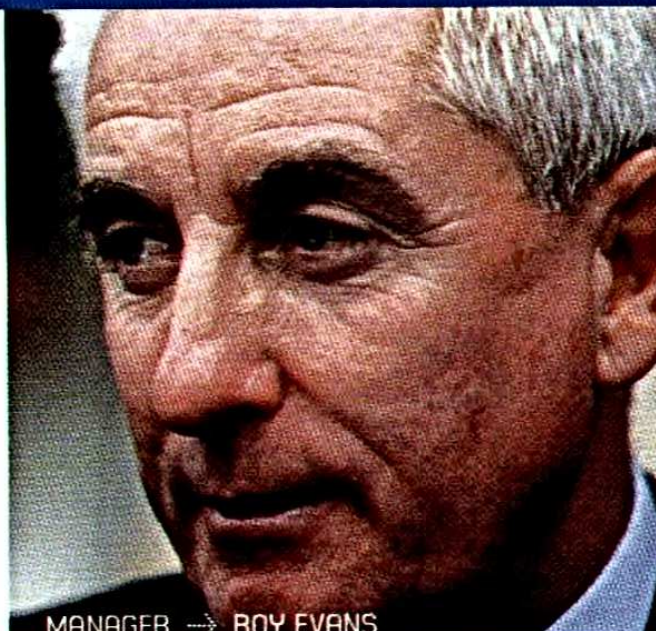
■ **Swindon** Town have recovered from a poor start to the season to set themselves up for a push towards the top of the table, currently lying just one point behind the Royals. The Robins just did enough to avoid relegation last season, and it looked as though another year of trouble was on the cards after the opening three League games of the new campaign yielded just one point. But under the management of ex-Liverpool boss Roy Evans, the Robins then put together an excellent run of form to instil a new sense of optimism around the County Ground.

After an opening-day 0-0 home draw with Peterborough and successive defeats against Bristol City and Oldham, the Robins then gained their first League victory of the season with a 3-0 success at Bury thanks to second-half goals from Jonathan Osei-Kuffour, Keith O'Halloran and David Duke. Winning ways continued at the County Ground with a

1-0 victory over Colchester, the goal coming from assistant manager Neil Ruddock's thunderous free-kick, and the Robins then kept their third successive clean sheet with a 0-0 draw against Bournemouth.

In the next game former Royal Andy Gurney rescued a 2-2 draw with a late close-range equaliser against Tranmere at the County Ground, and the unbeaten run was extended to five League games with a 2-0 victory at Port Vale, Danny Invincible and Matt Hewlett getting on the scoresheet.

That unbeaten run was then brought to a shuddering halt with a surprising 4-0 reverse at Chesterfield, but Evans' side soon bounced back to gain an impressive 2-0 home win over in-form Brentford thanks to goals from Invincible and Guiliano Grazioli, before drawing their last game 1-1 at Northampton a fortnight ago, with Grazioli getting his third goal of the campaign. ■



MANAGER → ROY EVANS

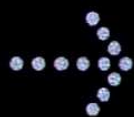
Roy Evans stayed with Liverpool from the moment he signed as an apprentice in 1965 to the day he departed Anfield in November 1998 after four years as manager.

He made his full League debut in 1969, and after five seasons as a left-back in Bill Shankly's sides, his successor Bob Paisley persuaded Evans to work towards being a coach. As manager of Liverpool reserves, Evans won the Central League Championship in his first season in 1975.

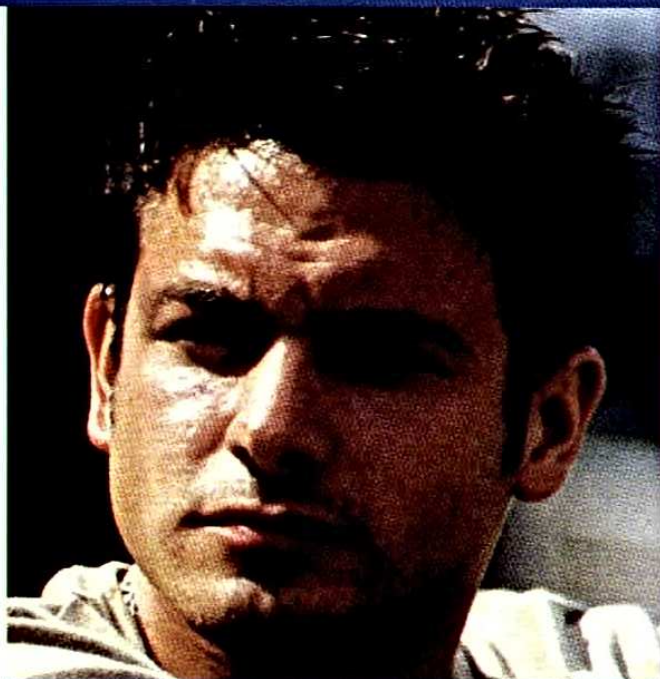
He won it seven times in nine years before being appointed to the senior coaching staff by Joe Fagan. He was then Graeme Souness' assistant

manager and succeeded Souness as boss in 1993/94. During his spell as manager, Liverpool gained a League Cup triumph over Bolton in 1995, and also reached the FA Cup Final in 1996, but shortly after Gérard Houllier was appointed joint team manager Evans decided to step down.

Other than a brief spell assisting Karl Heinz Riedle as caretaker manager of Fulham, he remained outside football for three years until the departure of Andy King from the managerial post at Swindon. He was appointed Robins boss in August and acted swiftly to bring in Neil Ruddock as his assistant.



Swindon



ONE TO WATCH → **GUILIANO GRAZIOLI**

Swindon's leading scorer so far this season is Guiliano Grazioli, with three strikes from seven League starts. The season did not begin well as he saw red in the season-opener goalless draw with Peterborough. He had to wait a while for his first goal of the campaign, which came in the 2-2 draw with Tranmere at the County Ground, and has since added goals against Brentford and Northampton.

The 26 year-old started his career with Peterborough but shot to national prominence with Stevenage during the Conference side's FA Cup exploits in 1997/98. Their run

was eventually ended by Newcastle United in the Fourth Round, but not before Grazioli's equaliser to Alan Shearer's strike forced a replay at St James's Park.

Another team who were given close-up evidence of Grazioli's abilities were Swindon, who were dumped out of the competition by Stevenage in the Third Round, with Grazioli netting the winner. A year later the striker was snapped up by the Robins on a free transfer, and was top scorer with eight goals in his first season. He was hindered by injuries last season, but is now back to his best.

BART GRIEMINK

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 10 - GOALS 0

Dutch keeper who made 64 appearances for Birmingham and Peterborough before his move to Wiltshire. He went straight into the side, but lost his place to Steve Mildenhall after a suspension. With Mildenhall now gone, he will be looking to cement his place in the side.

ANDY GURNEY

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 10 - GOALS 1

A familiar face to Royals supporters, Gurns has started every game for the Robins this season after being released by Alan Pardew at the beginning of June. After making most of his 84 Reading appearances at full-back, he is now playing a new role in a three-man defence.

ALAN REEVES

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 6(+1) - GOALS 0

Rugged 33 year-old defender who left the Wimbledon 'Crazy Gang' for Swindon in search of regular football in 1998. A good team leader and excellent motivator, he recently agreed a new one-year deal. Has also played for Norwich, Gillingham, Chester and Rochdale.

JUAN COBIAN

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 0 - GOALS 0

The 26 year-old Argentinian defender or midfielder is a useful squad player, but has been unable to break into Roy Evans' first team so far this season. Moved to Britain when he joined Sheffield Weds from Boca Juniors and has also played for Aberdeen and Charlton.

PAUL MCARERVEY

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 0(+1) - GOALS 0

20 year-old Northern Irish midfielder who was limited to two appearances last season, but proved that when called upon he can do a job for the first team. Has made just one substitute appearance under Roy Evans, and will be hoping for more chances as the campaign progresses.

BOBBY HOWE

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 10 - GOALS 0

Signed for the Robins in 1998 from Nottingham Forest where first-team opportunities were limited. The 27 year-old had a good pre-season and has since established himself as the side's chief playmaker, mainly operating from a roving position behind the front two strikers.

Town squad list

MARK ROBINSON

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 0 - GOALS 0

Defender who signed for the Robins from Newcastle for a record fee of £600,000 in July 1994 and has now made more than 300 Swindon appearances. The 32 year-old defender started his career with West Brom and also played for Bamsley. Returning from a hernia injury.

GARETH DAVIES

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 0(+2) - GOALS 0

Welsh defender whose first club was Crystal Palace before a £175,000 move to the Royals in 1997. Initially a regular in the side but lost his place under Tommy Burns and joined Swindon two years ago. Has recovered from injuries and should be on the bench today.

SOL DAVIS

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 5 - GOALS 0

22 year-old defender who made his debut shortly after his 18th birthday, and is a good long term prospect for the club. Determination and strength are his strongest qualities, which saw him figure on a regular basis last season and keep his place in the squad under Roy Evans.

MATTHEW HEYWOOD

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 9(+1) - GOALS 0

22 year-old defender who could prove a valuable asset after signing on a free transfer from Burnley in January. Strong in the air, with good positional play and an eye for goal, the Swindon defensive record has improved since his arrival. Ever-present so far this season.

STEVE ROBINSON

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 7(+1) - GOALS 0

A favourite amongst the fans, the 26 year-old midfielder has got a great engine as well as the ability to score and create goals. Is doubtful for today's game with a shin injury but expected to play. Started his career with Birmingham and moved to Swindon in February.

DAVID DUKE

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 10 - GOALS 1

22 year-old Scottish midfielder who joined Swindon in July 2000 after impressing in pre-season friendlies. He has fitted into the left wing-back role, and after impressing last year with determined displays he has started every game this season, scoring in the 3-0 win at Bury.

PAUL EDWARDS

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 4(+2) - GOALS 0

21 year-old who has established a regular place on the right of the Robins' midfield since Keith O'Halloran suffered a broken leg at Bournemouth. Moved to the County Ground from non-league side Leigh RMI in the summer and could be the season's surprise package.

MATTHEW HEWLETT

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 10 - GOALS 1

Regarded at the County Ground as a very talented player, a series of injuries have hindered the midfielder's progress in the last couple of years, but his return to the side proved to be essential in the club's survival last season. Will play today if he overcomes a groin injury.

DANNY INVINCIBLE

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 7(+3) - GOALS 2

The 22 year-old Australian previously played for Marconi Stallions and represented Australia at u20 level. Plays on the right of midfield or in attack and has lightning pace. Finished top scorer last season with ten goals, and has started the new campaign in good form.

JO OSEI-KUFFOUR

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 5(+3) - GOALS 1

Small but dangerous 19 year-old striker who has made the breakthrough into first team football this season after joining the Robins on loan from Arsenal, and taken his early chances well, scoring his first senior goal in the 3-0 win at Bury. Likely to be on the bench today.

BERTI BRAYLEY

LAST 10 ROBINS GAMES |
APPS 0(+4) - GOALS 0

The centre forward began his career at West Ham where he played in the same team as Joe Dole and Michael Carrick. He also had a spell at Spurs before moving to QPR for a season and then joining Swindon on a short-term deal. Has a good first touch and ball skills.

UNAVAILABLE TODAY

One long-term injury victim is midfielder Keith O'Halloran, who will be badly missed for the majority of the season after suffering a broken leg at Bournemouth last month. Striker and summer signing Eric Sabin will be absent for another few weeks but Mark Robinson is returning from injury and could feature today. Matt Hewlett and Steve Robinson are expected to overcome slight knocks.

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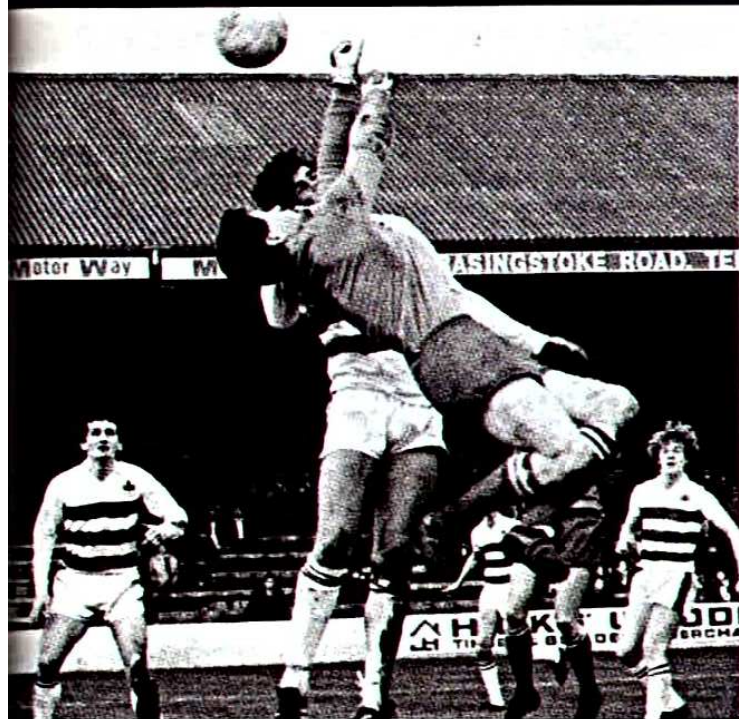
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Between the teams | Reading v Swindon Town | by David Downs

20th Feb 1982



Neil Webb challenges Swindon goalie Jimmy Allan in the incident which led to Reading's equaliser.

Football League Division Three

Reading (0) 1 Swindon Town (0) 1

Reading: Court, Williams, Cullen (Barnes 75), Webb, Hicks, Hetzke, White, Earles, Dixon, Lewis, Donnellan

Swindon Town: Allan, Henry, Baddeley, Hughes, Lewis, Stroud, Abbley, Carter, Rideout, Beamish (Greenwood 85), Pritchard

Attendance: 4,130

Referee: Mike Taylor (Deal)

■ **Spectacular** errors by both goalkeepers added considerable excitement to an otherwise scrappy, drab and eminently forgettable local derby at Elm Park.

The first came on the hour mark as Swindon's Brian Hughes sent in a low, powerful near post cross from the right flank. Royals keeper Colin Court, making his debut for the unavailable Steve Dearn, came off his line to smother

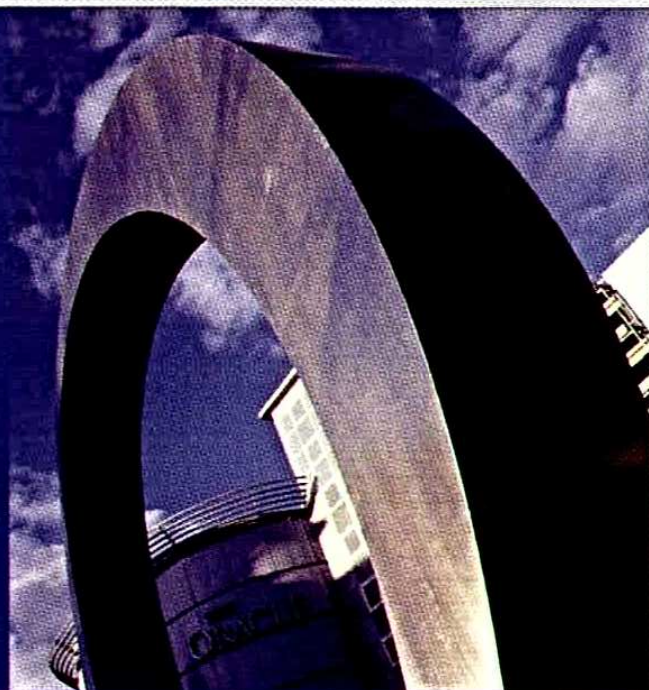
the ball, then looked round in disbelief as the ball slithered out of his grasp and over the line. Court, stepping up from Andover reserves to make his only League appearance of his goalkeeping career, made three fine saves later in the match to regain his equilibrium, whilst the second goalkeeping boob was made by Jimmy Allan in the visitors' goal. Just ten minutes from the final whistle, Allan jumped with Reading's Neil Webb to

challenge for an inswinging corner taken by Gary Donnellan. Under severe yet legitimate pressure from Webb, Swindon keeper Allan only succeeded in punching the ball into his own net. Both goals were credited as own goals, thus creating a unique situation in Football League history.

There was little else of note in the 90 minutes, though Ken Beamish hit a post near the

end, and Kerry Dixon produced a solid stop from Allan after being put through by Alan Lewis. The attendance was a poor one, and the fact that two more home points had gone down the drain made Reading's promotion prospects even more remote. They ended the season in twelfth position, whilst Swindon fared even worse - they came 22nd, and were relegated to Division Four. ■

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Kingsley's quiz

■ **Hello** again, and welcome back to Madejski Stadium for another local derby, this time against Swindon Town. I know Swindon's mascot Rockin Robin well - I'm sure we'll have a good laugh when we're doing our thing out on the pitch before the game and at half-time.

I had a good time up at Aston Villa this week, and it's always nice to go to new grounds. I also went up to Colchester last week, and it was the first time I've worn the new away kit. I like the kit a lot, and I hope we get a bit more luck in it soon. At this game, I had a penalty shoot-out with Eddie The Eagle, but he tricked me because he said it would be the best of three, but he walked off with the ball after we only had one kick each! Anyway, now it's time for this week's quiz. Good luck! ■

1. What was the score when Reading played Tottenham in a pre-season friendly at Madejski Stadium?
2. Who scored Reading's first penalty in the Worthington Cup shoot-out against West Ham?
3. What is the address of Alan Pardew's own internet site?
4. Who scored Reading's 4999th League goal?
5. Who scored a great free-kick for Reading at QPR but saw it cruelly disallowed?
6. Who are England going to play in a friendly at Old Trafford next month?
7. Which three players in the Reading squad have also played for Swindon?
8. Which three players in the Reading squad have been capped as full internationals?
9. What was the score when Swindon visited Madejski Stadium last season?
10. Which two players made their home debut for Reading on that day?

KINGSLEY'S ANSWERS

1 - 2-0 to Tottenham 2 - Alex Smith 3 - www.tottenham.co.uk
4 - Adie Williams 5 - James Harper 6 - Sweden 7 - Alex Smith, Adie Williams and
Adrian Whitbread 8 - Barry Hunter, Anthony Rounger and Adie Williams
9 - 2-0 to Reading 10 - Adie Williams and Anthony Rounger



YOUNG ROYALS
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TRAVEL WITH THE YOUNG ROYALS!

The Royals' next away game is against Notts County on Saturday 20th October. Call Grace Kearney on 0118 968 1300 to book your place on this coach. Prices are £12 for members, £15 non-members. Reading then travel to Oldham Athletic on Tuesday 23rd October, but there is not a Young Royals coach to this game, sorry!

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



Reading FC

■ EXITING THE STADIUM

Supporters are reminded that all vehicles will be held back from leaving the Madejski Stadium car parks for a short period of time after the game to enable pedestrians to clear the Stadium roads. This measure is taken in the interests of safety and we thank you for your co-operation and patience. Royals fans are also reminded that both the Jazz Café (behind the Kyocera Mita East Stand) and the Hotel Atrium Bar are open after the game to home supporters.

■ FA YOUTH CUP CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN

Kevin Dillon's youth team will kick off their AXA FA Youth Cup campaign against Woking at Madejski Stadium on Thursday 18th October. The game will kick off at 7.30pm and admission prices will be £3 for adults, £2 for seniors and £1 for juniors. Free car parking will be available.

■ CAPTAIN MARVEL GRANTED TESTIMONIAL (PIC 1)

Shortly before kick-off as the Royals faced Bury a fortnight ago, RFC Chairman John Madejski OBE, DL announced that Phil Parkinson has been granted a testimonial at the end of this season despite a club policy that such games are not staged. The Chairman explained, "We decided three

years ago not to grant any more testimonials because they are inconsistent with running a football club in this day and age, due to the massive recent rises in players' wages. There are a great deal of people behind-the-scenes at the Club working long hours on much lower salaries than players, who make an enormous contribution to keep the Club running, and obviously it would be impossible to have testimonials for everyone.

"However, there is no doubt that Phil Parkinson is an outstanding stalwart of Reading Football Club. He has shown great loyalty and devotion to the Club, and because of his unstinting service over ten seasons I have decided on this unique occasion to honour him with a testimonial game. It is my prerogative to change my mind and I have chosen to do so on this occasion, but this doesn't set a precedent and our Club policy remains is that no more testimonials will be staged in the future."

■ FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE

Reading FC is currently seeking a full-time administration assistant. The duties include dealing with correspondence as directed by the Stadium Manager, completing event attendance sheets, co-ordinating match day paperwork and managing event staff training

and personnel records. Please apply in writing to Ray Booth, Stadium Manager, Reading Football Club, Madejski Stadium, Junction 11 M4, Reading, RG2 0FL.

■ DARIUS RECEIVES 5000TH GOAL MEMENTO (PIC 2)

Prior to the 1-1 draw with Bury a fortnight ago, striker Darius Henderson was presented with a framed certificate to commemorate his goal in the 2-0 victory against Wycombe Wanderers in September - Reading FC's 5000th Football League goal. The certificate was presented to Darius by John Russell from the Association of Football Statisticians. Thanks to Bob Magill at programme designers Dunwoody Sports Marketing for producing the certificate, and the Reading Evening Post and readingfc.co.uk for the use of photography.

■ NEWBURY BUS NEEDS MORE PASSENGERS!

The Club is concerned that the matchday bus service from Newbury via Thatcham may have to be discontinued. The service was introduced at the beginning of the season but has not been as well used as hoped, and unless there is an increase in numbers on the bus in the next few weeks, it will no longer be possible to operate the service. So if you travel to Madejski Stadium from

anywhere along the route, why not save yourself the trouble of parking and catch the bus? The service departs from Newbury Bus Station (Bay E) at 1.03pm (Saturday games) and travels along the A4 via Thatcham, Woolhampton, Theale and Calcot with regular stops. Price is £5 for adult return from Newbury, decreasing accordingly depending on where you get on.

■ KID A QUID FOR WIGAN CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

The Club has announced that the home game with Wigan Athletic on Saturday 22nd December will be this season's 'Kid for a Quid' match. Tickets purchased for under 16s will be priced at just £1 in all stands if booked in advance. The last time we played Wigan at Madejski Stadium was that amazing play-off game, so forget shopping on the last Saturday before Christmas, come along to Madejski Stadium and see if we can recreate the excitement and atmosphere of that night!

■ THANKS FROM THE BICYCLE HELMET TRUST INITIATIVE

The Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust would like to thank everyone who gave to the charity collection before the game against Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday 22nd September. Eight volunteers working for the Trust, based less

Football Club news

than a mile from the Madejski Stadium, raised £430. Since its formation three years ago BHIT, a registered charity, has been dedicated to saving children's lives and reducing the number of youngsters who suffer permanent brain damage as a result of head injuries caused by cycling accidents. For more information about BHIT, or to make a donation, contact Angela Lee on 0118 975 2994 or visit the charity's website www.bhit.org

■ SUPPORT THE CARL ADEBOWALE FUND

Last July, Royals fan Carl Adebawale was diagnosed as having meningococcal septicaemia, a very severe form of meningitis. Against all odds, the 22-year-old pulled through and is currently making an excellent recovery, however the disease has taken its usual appalling toll and amputations to both Carl's arms and legs were necessary.

The Carl Adebawale fund is now being established to meet Carl's current and ongoing needs and will hopefully ensure that he has every opportunity of a fulfilling life. The inaugural event has Carl's love of sport very much to the fore. As a passionate supporter of the Royals, Carl challenged his friends and family to walk from Villa Park to Madejski Stadium, some 120 miles

across country. The team taking up this challenge are planning to arrive at Madejski Stadium just prior to this afternoon's kick off to take a final lap around the pitch. There is also a collection for Carl before the game. If you would like to help, please write to The Carl Adebawale Fund, 12 Wickford Way, Lower Earley, Reading RG6 4HP or email Frank Adebawale (Carl's father) at frank@fadbawale.co.uk

■ MAGIC MASCOTS

The Royals will be led out by three mascots this afternoon. **Charlotte Ely** celebrated her seventh birthday on 3rd October. She is a pupil at Emmer Green Primary School, and a proud Young Royal whose favourite players are Martin Butler and Adi Viveash.

Louis Wilson is here today to celebrate his eighth birthday, and attends St Dominic Savio School in Woodley. He plays football for Woodley Zebras and his favourite Reading player is Jamie Cureton.

Daniel Bell is seven years old and attends St Mary's School in Mortimer. He plays for Burghfield Boys and his favourite player is Phil Whitehead.

Swindon's two mascots are **Jon Shepherd** and **Sam Eddolls**.

PICTURE GALLERY



PICTURE 1 - PHIL PARKINSON & JOHN MADEJSKI



PICTURE 2 - DARIUS HENDERSON & JOHN RUSSELL

TODAY'S MAGIC MASCOTS



Charlotte



Louis



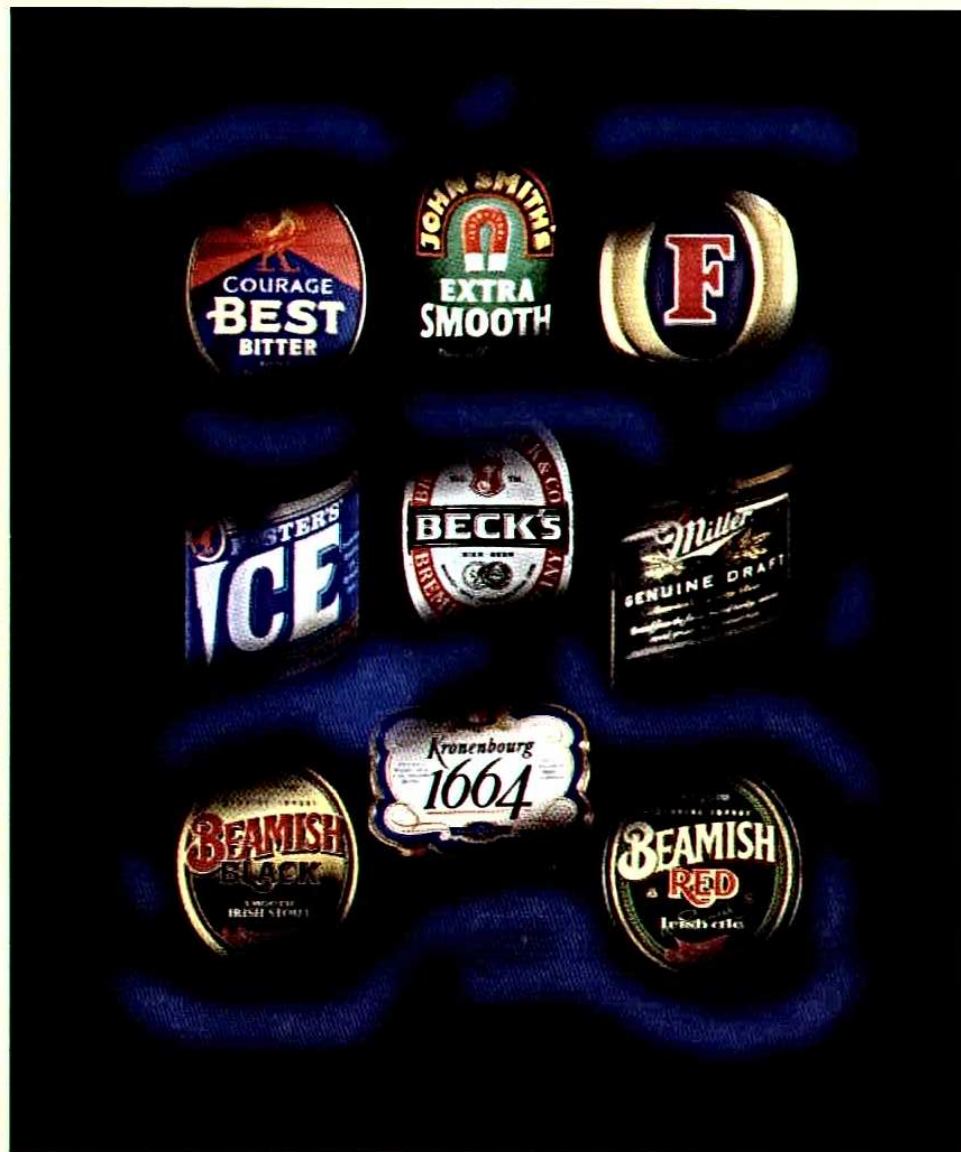
Daniel



Jon



Sam



**SUPPLIERS OF GREAT BEERS
TO THE MADEJSKI STADIUM**

Academy profile



■ **Reading-born** Simieon Howell is one of the youngest Scholars at the Club, and is just one of a number of hot prospects in the Royals Academy. He has been with Reading for a few years now, and is developing into a real talent. "I've been here since Kevin Dillon signed me when I was 11, and I just turned 16 in August. I had a few trial games at Cantley before I signed, and I know other clubs have been interested like Fulham and Charlton but I always wanted to sign for Reading as it's my hometown club."

Simieon is a forward-thinking playmaker, and sees one of his strengths as his determination

to cause damage to defences. "I like playing in an attacking midfield role. I like to take people on and it's great to play a passing game. After I played for England against Scotland, some people said I played like Patrick Vieira which was nice."

The youngster has been a regular part of the England set-up, and was in the squad for the summer international youth mini-tournament in the north east. "I've played a total of five games for England now, three for the under 15s and two for the under 17s. It's good experience to be involved, because you play with good players in front of big crowds."

Simieon singled out the Samba superstars of Brazil as the most impressive of the opponents his England team has faced. "I didn't play against them, but Brazil are the best team I've seen. The best team I've played against would have to be Germany when we played them earlier this year."

Although still only 16, Simieon has been regularly playing above his age group and has made a number of appearances for both the under 19s and even the reserves. He is delighted to be gaining such excellent experience at an early age. "It's great playing for the reserves and obviously it's

harder because I'm playing against men and they're physically stronger. I've had a few games for the reserves now and it's been a good start to the season from my point of view."

The young midfielder still has a long way to go, and stated that his coaches are helping him along the way. "All the coaches including Kevin Dillon, Brian McDermott and Brendan Rodgers are always encouraging me, and with their help I'm trying to improve my tackling and that whole side of my game. I'm in the first year of a three-year scholarship now and my long-term goal is to stay with Reading." ■

Reading 1

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ROYALS SHAKEN UP IN INJURY TIME AS BURY RESCUE A POINT

■ **Visitors** Bury claimed a deserved point with an equaliser deep into injury time from substitute Ian Lawson. The Shakers belied their lowly League position with a battling performance, while the Royals never did enough to win the game.

Nicky Forster lifted a lob volley just over the bar as the Royals took early command, and came close again on 17 minutes with a brave diving header but Bury keeper Paddy Kenny held on. The visitors came close when Jon Newby beat the offside trap and was unlucky to see his low shot rebound off the right-hand upright. Bury had another good chance in the 45th minute when a quick break resulted in a clear shooting chance for Newby, whose low shot was well saved by Phil Whitehead with his feet.

There was still time in the first half for the Royals to go ahead, when a Graeme Murty throw was flicked on by Nicky Forster, and after instantly controlling the ball Sammy

Igoe despatched a cool left-footed finish into the bottom left corner.

Murty rescued the Royals on 58 minutes when he was well positioned to head Singh's goalbound effort off the line. Sub Darius Henderson sparked a good Reading move which ended with Nicky Forster crashing a volley just over the bar, but the Royals were struggling to get their game together and needed Whitehead to make a superb diving save from Chris Swales' 80th minute header.

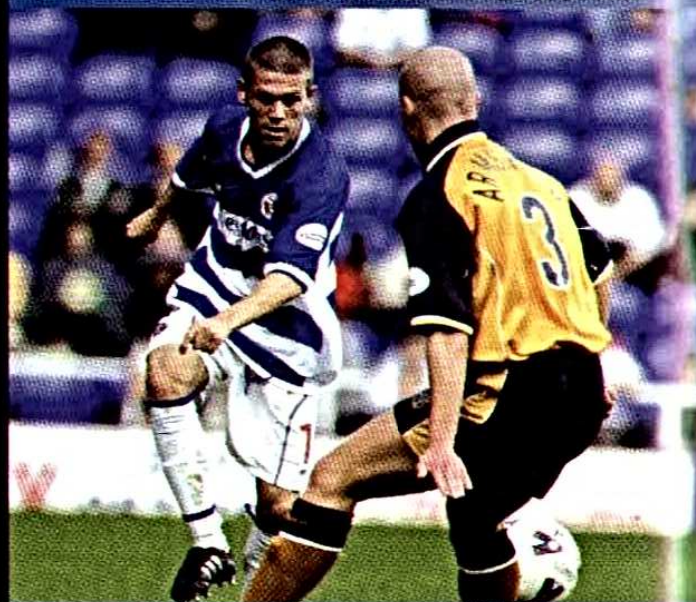
Jamie Cureton, on as a sub, came close with a couple of half-chances towards the end, but just when it looked like the points were safe, Lawson appeared at the far post to volley home Singh's left-wing cross and claim a point.

Reading: Whitehead, Murty, Robinson, Whitbread, Williams, Jones, Igoe, Harper, A Smith (Rougier 32), Forster (Cureton 77), Butler (Henderson 61)

Subs: Ashdown, Viveash ■



Darius Henderson in no mood to surrender



Sammy Igoe takes on his man

Bury 1

"The one bright thing for me was Cureton when he came on, he looked like he's getting up to speed. We've worked hard on him this week both physically and mentally, and we need his goals now." - Alan Pardew

POST-MATCH REACTION

- **Alan Pardew:** "I can't offer any excuses for that. Bury made it difficult as you'd expect, and that will happen again here, but no matter who you've got at the back and in midfield, if your strikers aren't contributing then you're going to struggle.

"The back four played reasonably well, but I look in front of them and everyone else was not as good as they should have been. You can huff and puff but if your strikers aren't retaining the ball and creating problems for the opposition, you're going to struggle. I've offered excuses for them this season but now it's time to stand up be counted.

"The one bright thing for me was Cureton when he came on, he looked like he's getting up to speed. We've worked hard on him this week both physically and mentally, and we need his goals now. He's always pretty positive and we're going to need him to give us a lift."

WHAT THE PRESS SAID

- **Sport First On Sunday:** Bury goalscorer Ian Lawson put down his side's success in ending a long losing run to a one and a half hour wait on the motorway; Bury's coach had broken down on the way to the game and the players were stranded while a replacement was found. It turned out to be a mini-bus which was far too small for the squad.

"We arrived about 40 minutes before the kick-off and it seemed like we got straight off the bus and onto the pitch," said Lawson. "That seemed to fire us up and the spirit was really good."



Alex Smith is toppled on the run



Darius goes for an aerial challenge

photos by Eddie Greville. Reading Evening Post

Colchester

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ROYALS HIT BY EARLY STRIKES AS U'S SURGE TO VICTORY

■ **Two** goals in the opening 26 minutes gave the home side three points last Friday evening. The first strike came after just eight minutes, when Phil Whitehead did well to parry a fierce Gavin Johnson 20 yard free-kick but the rebound fell kindly to Kevin Rapley who made no mistake from close range.

Encouraged by their good start, the U's continued to put the Royals under pressure and added to their tally on 26 minutes, when Kemal Izzet got behind the Reading defence to meet a high long ball from Johnson with a neat back header which looped over the despairing Whitehead and into the net. The Royals improved significantly after conceding the second goal and went on to dominate the remainder of the match, creating enough chances to win the game but failing to take them. Jamie Cureton came close to reducing the deficit before the interval, but his well-struck shot from the edge of the area was superbly tipped

over the bar by U's keeper Andy Woodman, while Matt Robinson, James Harper and Cureton again were only just off target.

In the second-half Alan Pardew's side continued to press forward and came close on a number of occasions. Keith Jones could have done better with a shot from 12 yards, and the best chance fell to Martin Butler after an excellent run and cross-by substitute Nicky Forster, but Butler could not hit the target with his close-range side-footed effort. Cureton was a constant threat throughout the evening, and in injury time he was desperately unlucky to see his powerful snapshot rebound off the crossbar with Woodman beaten.

Reading:

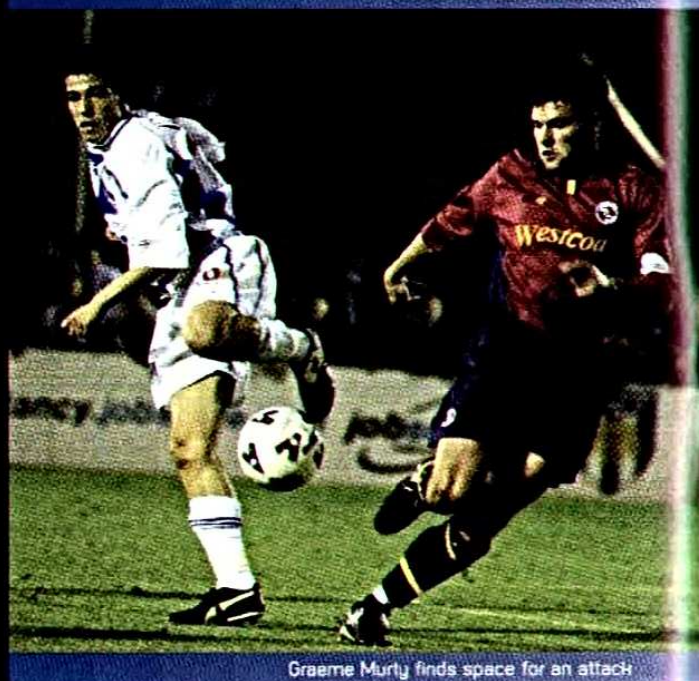
Whitehead, Murty, Robinson (Henderson 75), Whitbread, Williams, Jones (Iqoe 58), Parkinson, Harper (Forster 63), A Smith, Cureton, Butler

Unused Subs:

Ashdown, Viveash ■



Alex Smith twists and turns



Graeme Murty finds space for an attack

2 Reading 0

"We're not suddenly a bad team and it's not a desperate situation by any means. We're together as a unit and we know we'll pull through it." - Nicky Forster

POST-MATCH REACTION

■ **Nicky Forster:** "I thought we started OK, and the goal gave them a leg-up into the game. That let them in, and from then on we're obviously playing catch-up. We are creating, we just need that little bit of fortune, it's just not really happening. We're not suddenly a bad team and it's not a desperate situation by any means. We're together as a unit and we know we'll pull through it."

James Harper: "Obviously we need a goal, we need any sort of goal and I think we'll get rolling after that. We're defending well, but there's only so much you can defend if you don't score. We'll get a goal, and as soon as we do the consistency will come back, and it'll all go back into place."

U's boss Steve Whitton: "It was important we made a positive start. It's good to play nice football but it's not always going to be that way as it proved in the second half. I thought we defended brilliantly under a lot of pressure." ■

WHAT THE PRESS SAID

■ **sports.com:** United had scuppered Reading's chances of promotion last season by inflicting the double over the Berkshire club. Their 2-1 win at Layer Road had secured their Division Two status for another year. And they had the hoodoo over Alan Pardew's side again, never looking back after Rapley had nudged them in front on seven minutes... Cureton was denied by a splendid first half save from Andy Woodman and he was unlucky not to reduce the arrears during the final few minutes.

He rattled the bar in stoppage time and the unfortunate Butler completely missed his kick from the rebound. ■



Martin Butler's disappointment is plain to see



Alan Pardew faces the press after the game

photos by Eddie Greville. Reading Evening Post

community



ROYALS IN VENEZUELA

Andy Chinook from Wokingham works with Barry Gordine in the Club's Community department, and he recently went on a school trip all the way to Venezuela. In true Royals style, Andy took a Club banner and scarf on the trip with him, and he is pictured here proudly displaying his true colours with some new friends he made on the trip!

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

We would like to welcome the following groups who are guests of our Community department for this afternoon's match - Sandhurst Town u12s, Calleva u9s, Grove Challengers u10s and James Dale's 8th birthday party. We hope you all have a great day!

OCTOBER HALF-TERM SOCCER SCHOOLS

For boys and girls - all you need is your kit, a packed lunch and drink for a fun time with our qualified coaches! There will be competitions, a goody bag, and a free voucher to see the first team at Madejski Stadium this season! Look right for more details!



■ BRACKNELL AREA

Age: 8 - 14 years
Venue: Pines Junior School,
Hanworth Road, Bracknell
Date: Monday 29th October -
Friday 2nd November 2001
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £42 or £10 per day

■ READING AREA

Age: 8 - 12 years
Venue: Rivermead Leisure
Centre, Richfield Ave, Reading
Date: Monday 29th October
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £14

Age: 8 - 12 years
Venue: Rivermead Leisure
Centre, Richfield Ave, Reading
Date: Wednesday 31st October
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £14

Age: 8 - 12 years
Venue: Palmer Park,
Wokingham Road, Reading
Date: Thursday 1st November
Time: 10.00am - 12.00 /
12.30pm - 2.30pm
Cost: £6 per session

Age: 8 - 12 years
Venue: South Reading Leisure
Centre, Northumberland
Avenue, Reading
Date: Friday 2nd November
Time: 10.00am - 12.00 /
12.30pm - 2.30pm
Cost: £6 per session

■ THAMES VALLEY AREA (ANDOVER, ROMSEY ETC.)

Age: 8 - 12 years
Venue: Charlton Sports Ground,
West Port Way, Andover

Date: Monday 29th October -
Friday 2nd November
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £42 or £10 per day

■ WEST BERKSHIRE AREA

Age: 6 - 14 years
Venue: Bradfield Sports
Complex, Bradfield
Date: Monday 29th -
Friday 2nd November
Time: 1.00pm - 3.30pm
Cost: £35 or £12.50 per day

Age: 6 - 14 years
Venue: Henwick Worthy
Playing, Henwick Lane,
Thatcham
Date: Tuesday 30th October -
Thursday 1st November
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £32/£30 for Young Royals

■ WOKINGHAM AREA

Age: 6 - 14 years
Venue: Cantley Park,
Wokingham
Date: Monday 29th October -
Friday 2nd November
Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £30

■ GOALKEEPING COURSE

Age: 6 - 14 years
Venue: Cantley Park,
Wokingham
Date: Friday 2nd November
Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Cost: £20

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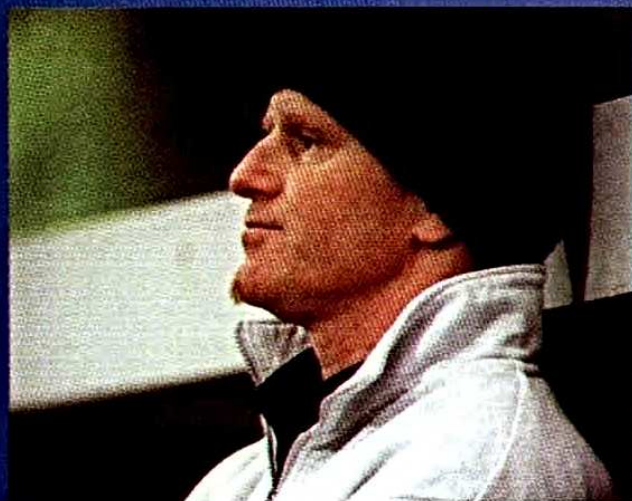
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RFC diary



THE ROYALS VISIT ANDY RITCHIE'S OLDHAM ATHLETIC ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 23RD

Keeping you informed on all the fixtures that are coming soon...and other forthcoming special events!

■ WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER

Reading reserves v

Northampton reserves

Avon Insurance Combination League, Faraday Road, AFC Newbury, kick-off 2pm.

A chance for Kevin Dillon's reserves to get back into winning ways after a disappointing run of results.

■ SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER

Notts County v Reading

Nationwide Division Two Meadow Lane, kick-off 3pm. The Royals seek an away victory against Jocky Scott's side, who have been inconsistent this season. Tickets will be available from Meadow Lane on the day.

Reading u19s v Southampton u19s

FA Premier Academy League Cantley Park, kick-off 11am

Southampton u17s v

Reading u17s

FA Premier Academy League kick-off 11am

■ TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Oldham Athletic v Reading

Nationwide Division Two Boundary Park, kick-off 7:45pm.

A long trip north to face Andy Ritchie's Latics, who have made a great start to the campaign. The Royals will hope for a repeat of last season's 2-0 victory at Boundary Park.

■ WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER

Reading reserves v

Swindon reserves

Avon Insurance Combination League Cup. Faraday Road, kick-off 2pm. A local derby League Cup reserves clash that the Royals have to win after defeat against Cardiff in the opening group game.

■ SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Reading v Brentford

Nationwide Division Two Madejski Stadium, kick-off 3pm.

Another tough local clash, this time against Brentford, who have been in good form recently. Jamie Cureton scored a hat-trick in the corresponding fixture last season but might find it harder this time against the high-flying Bees.

Bristol City u19s v Reading

u19s FA Premier Academy League BCFC Training Ground, kick-off 11am. **Reading u17s v Bristol City u17s** FA Premier Academy League Cantley Park, kick-off 11am.

■ MONDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Half-term Soccer Schools - venues across the Thames Valley

A chance for kids to enjoy their half-term week by

attending one of our Soccer Schools, where our fully-qualified coaches provide a mixture of fun and teaching! Contact Elaine New in the RFC Community Department on 0118 968 1415 for more information.

■ FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Gourmet Christmas and Magical Evening

Cilantro Restaurant, Millennium Madejski Hotel. 7.30pm.

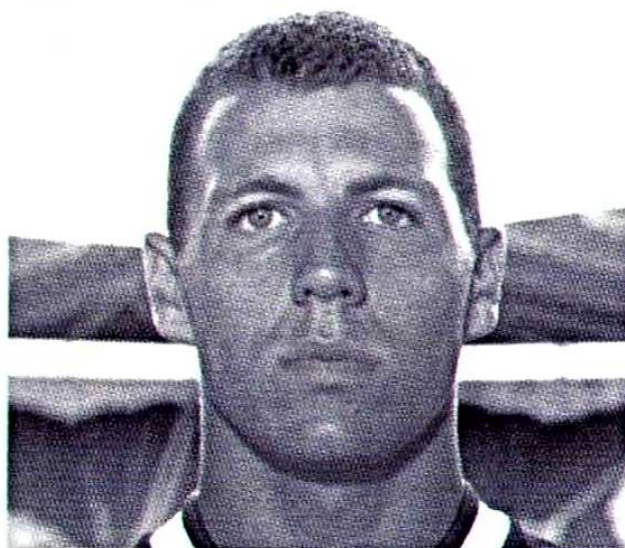
This black tie event is part of our special events series. The sumptuous Christmas menu will be complemented by Magic Circle magician David Redfeam performing unbelievable tricks at your table! Tickets are available now for £60 per person (including VAT) - to reserve your place call 0118 925 3817 or 0118 925 3500 (please mention Reading FC when booking). ■



YOUNG STRIKER DARIUS
HENDERSON ADMITS HE HAS GROWN
IN CONFIDENCE THIS SEASON

no.24

DARIUS HENDERSON



■ **Royals** fans would be delighted if Darius Henderson can repeat his last local derby display this afternoon. Against Wycombe Wanderers last month, Darius gave arguably his best performance yet in a Reading shirt and crowned it with his first - and the Club's 5000th - League goal.

The burly striker has fond memories of the afternoon. "It was an important game for the team to win, we went into it with a new formation which is always interesting, and we got the result and performance we wanted."

So what does Darius recall of that goal? "I remember the ball being set back to Sammy Igoe,

and I pulled off towards the back post. When the cross came over at first I was going to challenge the player in front, but I decided just to wait for the ball to come to me, then I picked my spot and luckily it went in! The feeling was unreal! It felt so good to score in front of a big crowd, because my first two goals were in front of a smaller crowd in the Worthington Cup."

This afternoon's fixture with Swindon is, of course, one of the highlights of the season for both sets of supporters, but Darius explains that he will prepare for it in the same way as any other match. "I think every professional footballer

goes out with the same determination for every game. There's always a great atmosphere at a local derby because you generally get more away fans than normal, but I personally won't approach it any differently because I treat every game as though it's the World Cup Final."

The target man has been one of this season's biggest success stories so far, fully establishing himself as a first-team player despite the presence of four experienced strikers, and he admits to feeling a lot more comfortable in first team football than he used to. "I feel a lot more confident. Before, when I stepped out for the first

team I used to rush things and try to do everything at 110mph. I'm also a fitter player now, and the gaffer's given me time on the pitch to improve what I was doing wrong. But you get better with experience and I'm still learning."

After a few disappointing League results, Darius says the players are relishing the opportunity of putting things right this afternoon. "I'm definitely looking forward to this one, especially playing in front of our own fans."

"Hopefully we can rectify what we've done wrong in the last few games, and show both the fans and ourselves that we can do it." ■

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A soccer player is shown from the waist up, celebrating with his arms raised in a 'V' shape. He is wearing a yellow and blue patterned long-sleeved shirt and blue shorts. His shirt is being pulled off his shoulders, revealing his bare torso. The background is a blurred stadium setting.

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ticket office



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All stands except the North Stand are **RESERVED SEATING**. When you buy a ticket for the North Stand this does not necessarily mean that you will be able to sit in your chosen seat. Every ticket for the North Stand will have a seat number on it, but this will only come into play for specific fixtures as directed by the Club.

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ONLINE ticketing service at www.readingfc.co.uk available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for all fixtures at Madejski Stadium (unless stated otherwise).

■ NOTTS COUNTY V READING

Nationwide League Division
Two, Meadow Lane, Saturday
20th October, kick-off 3pm

Tickets will be available to Reading supporters on the day. All seating is unreserved, pay through the turnstiles in the Kop Stand. Students must purchase tickets from the box office in Meadow Lane, showing NUS card.

Ticket Prices: £14 Adults, £8 Over 60's, £7 Students, £3 Under 15's (all pay at turnstiles)

HOW TO THERE

Nearest Railway Station: Nottingham Midland (half mile)

Directions by car: Exit J24 of the M1. Follow the signs for Nottingham on the A453, continuing through Clifton, passing the Trent University on your left. At the next set of traffic lights, continue straight over and follow the signs for West Bridgford (B679). Continue for two miles, at the junction turn left onto the A60. Continue over Trent Bridge and take the first right turn at the lights into Cattle Market Road, Meadow Lane is on your right-hand side..

■ OLDHAM ATH V READING

Nationwide League Division
Two, Boundary Park, Tuesday
23rd October, kick-off 7.45pm.

Tickets for this game will be available on a pay-on-the-day basis, priced £15 for adults and £7 juniors / senior citizens.

HOW TO THERE

Nearest Railway Station:

(Oldham Werneth): 1.5 miles

Directions by car:

Exit M62 at junction 20 (s/p Ashton, Rochdale, Oldham A627(M)). At roundabout follow signs to 'Ashton, Oldham, Manchester A627(M)'. After 0.5 miles, where the road divides, keep right (s/p Manchester East A663, Oldham, Ashton A627). After 1.4 miles exit A627(M) (s/p Oldham, Ashton A627). At the roundabout, take the 1st exit following signs for Oldham Athletic FC (also s/p Royton A663, Rochdale A671) onto Broadway. Take first right turn into Hilbre Avenue.

■ STUDENT CONCESSION TICKETS

Please note that all student concession tickets require a valid NUS card to be presented in conjunction with the ticket at the turnstiles upon entry.

■ POST-MATCH OPENING

The West Stand ticket office will be open for approximately 30 minutes after the final whistle (weekend games only).

Behind the scenes

Kingsley's Madejski



THIS ONE WAS TAKEN WHEN I
GATECRASHED THE ANNUAL
PLAYERS' PHOTO-CALL!

■ **Hello** again and welcome back to my tour of Madejski Stadium, home of the Royals. It feels like a while since I've written this page, and I hope you haven't missed me too much!

For this edition of my tour, I thought I'd show you a few little places inside the Stadium bowl. These are places that you can all see, but you might not be able to look at them close up. First of all, I love the big Reading FC sign

that is above the entrance to the tunnel. The sign inspires me a lot, because it's just so big and imposing. It's great to think the Club was established way back in 1871. Of course, I wasn't born back then, so I wonder who the Royals mascot would have been? I can't imagine anyone other than me doing the job now, can you? I hope not!

Right along the whole of the pitch, there are lots of advertising

boards that people use to display their company name. They display their names because they know that Reading fans like to help companies that support their team. The board that I'm sitting behind in the picture advertises the Club's website readingfc.co.uk. The Club itself likes to advertise the website because it is a great place for fans to get all the latest news and plenty of other exciting stuff. There's also a few pictures of me

on the site, so it must be great!

Finally, I wanted to show you a little bit of the lovely green pitch. Later on in the season I'll talk about it in more detail, but the pitch is doing really well this season after being completely relaid in the summer. That's all for now, see you soon! ■

Roar!

Kingsley



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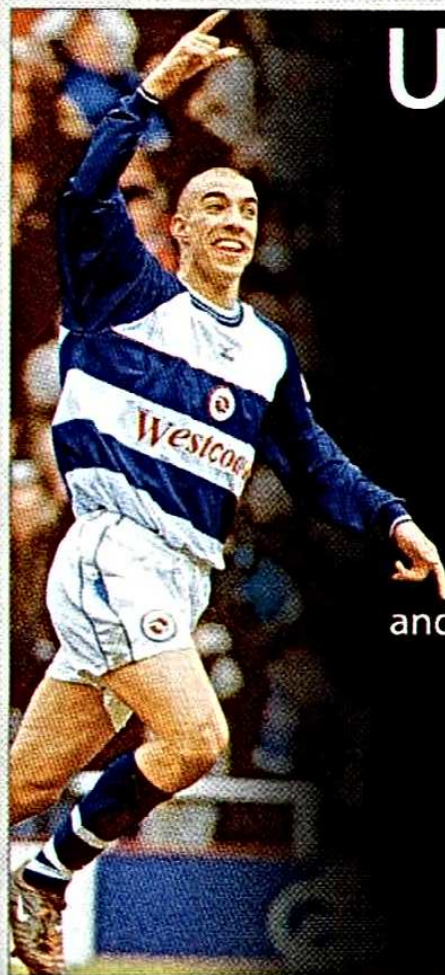
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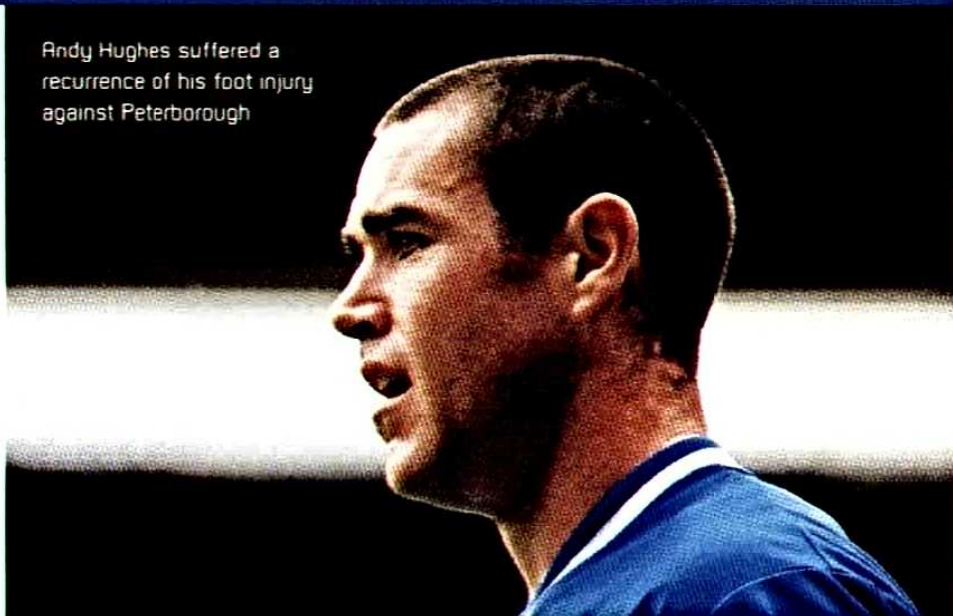
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Royals reserves

Andy Hughes suffered a recurrence of his foot injury against Peterborough



READING 0
PETERBOROUGH 1

■ The Royals reserve team lost 1-0 to Peterborough United in a frustrating afternoon at Didcot's Loop Meadow ground ten days ago. As well as the result, another disappointment came with the first-half withdrawal of Andy Hughes with an ankle injury, and a shoulder injury to Chris Casper which resulted in the centre-back going to hospital. The diagnosis showed that Chris had suffered a fractured collar bone which will keep him out for four to six weeks.

The goal came after 15 minutes when our defence

failed to clear the ball, Peterborough won possession and scored. After that we had some half-chances to equalise and Joey Alcott came closest with a header that went just wide. The same player also had a late goal disallowed.

Our attitude was excellent and we showed good desire to get the goal back, but our anticipation inside the box was not good enough.

We had Alcott and Louie Soares up front and they were both bright and busy, but if they improve their anticipation on crosses they might get a few more goals. Our side also included a trialist, young

right-back Marcel Nugent who has recently been released by QPR, and he did well enough to warrant another look. ■

Reading:

Ashdown, Nugent (Williams), Shorey, N Smith, Allaway, Viveash, Hughes (Howell), Casper (Stanley), Campion, Alcott, Soares

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

CAMBRIDGE UTD 4
READING 0

■ A young Reading reserve team lost 4-0 at Cambridge on Monday night. With most of the first-team squad preparing for the Worthington Cup

game at Aston Villa, we fielded a large number of under 19s scholars at the Abbey Stadium.

The U's stormed into an early unassailable lead, scoring all four goals inside the first half-hour. We came into the game more after this devastating opening spell, but were unable to find the back of the net. Former Reading midfielder Scott Taylor played all 90 minutes for the U's. ■

Reading:

Ashdown, Nugent (Howell), Stanley, Birnie, Allaway, O'Hara, Laidler, Gamble, Alcott, Maxwell (Stamp), Williams

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under 17s



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Brian McDermott

WIMBLEDON
READING

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■ **This** was an excellent result against a tough Wimbledon outfit, and on top of that it was our first clean sheet of the season. The clean sheet was pleasing, and we were boosted by the return of Adam Theo, who he was outstanding at centre-half considering he was playing for the first time in three weeks.

As far as clear-cut chances were concerned, both sides struggled to create anything of real note, and most of the game was spent as a battle in midfield. The conditions

certainly didn't help matters, as they were anything but conducive to a good passing game. Generally speaking, both ourselves and the Wimbledon team showed a lack of real motivation and we had to address that at half-time. Our players obviously responded, because we performed much better in the second half after a strong team talk.

We had to make some changes at half-time, with Gary Middleton going out to left-back and Peter Castle moving to centre-half. We looked a better outfit as a result. Midfielder Simieon

Howell came into the game much more in the second half, as did his teammate Chris Davis. Nathan Bailey and Leon Bird also began to look far stronger up front as the game went on, and caused the Wimbledon defence a lot more problems. Our goal came from a corner in the 75th minute, it was a good cross by Ian Oliver and the ball broke to Nathan Bailey who put it in, which was very pleasing for him as he's been scoring goals this season.

Notoriously, Wimbledon are one of the most difficult sides to play against and one of the most pleasing aspects of this

game was the way we competed in the second half. Our quality wasn't quite up to the standard we normally require, but to take the positives out of the game the players produced a very good result and we never really looked threatened.

Jamie Young did very well in goal, his kicking was excellent, and once again the youngster at the back Peter Castle looks a good prospect. ■

Team: Young, Castle, Oliver, Howell, Theo, Middleton, Campbell (Coe), Davis, Bailey, Bird, Lucas (Kew)



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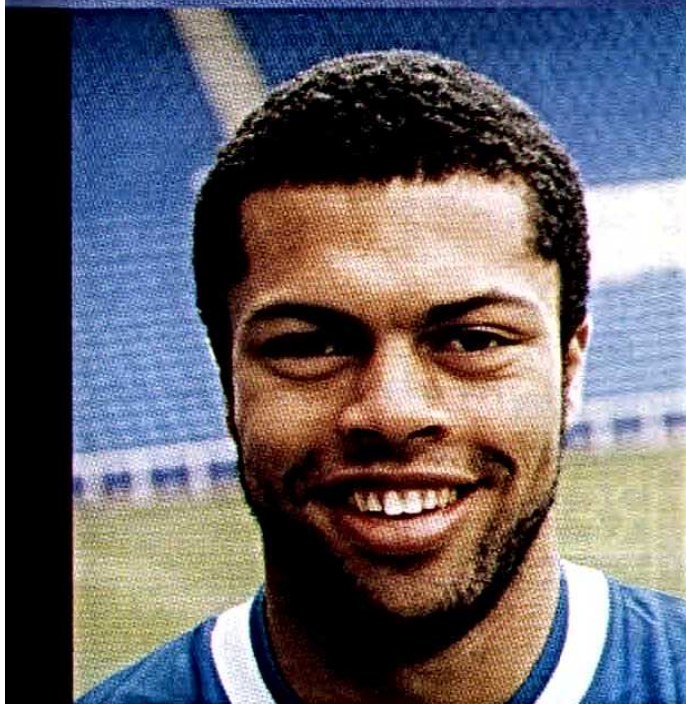
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under 19s



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Joey Alcott came close to scoring

READING WIMBLEDON

■ We played very well in this game, and we were much better than we have been all season. We had two good weeks of training, and in actual fact I was disappointed the week before when our game against Leicester was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch, as I thought we were ready to take them on and we just felt right. In any event, we put in our best performance of the season against Wimbledon.

We created a number of chances in this game, and that

0 was pleasing because we had worked hard in training on making this happen. We'd concentrated on making forward runs, getting the ball forward and making sure we had plenty of runs from the wide men and from midfield.

All this work paid off because we created the chances to win the game, and although we didn't get a goal that wasn't too important as the performance was very good. Our failure to create chances in previous games was a big worry and it was great to rectify that problem. Joey Alcott hit the bar with a shot, and he also had a good lob

turned over the bar. Matt Birnie should have hit the target with a shot and Ricky Allaway had a good header blocked. Ricky had a very good game and was probably our pick of the bunch.

It's been hard for him recently as he hasn't been at the top of his game, but he was excellent for the reserves against Peterborough last week and was outstanding again on Saturday. In fact, every player was right at the top of their form in this game.

Triallist Marcel Nugent did well for us in defence, and in goal Chad Harper was superb

again. He's been very good for us but we simply can't offer him anything as we've already got two good keepers.

Simon Cox is an international and we've got Australian Jamie Young, but I'm sure Chad will get a club as he was watched by a few scouts and he deserves to get a contract somewhere. ■

Reading:

Harper, Nugent, Allaway, O'Hara, Stanley, Birnie, Campion, Maxwell, Williams, Alcott, Soares (Laidler)

Unused subs:

Stamp, Earle

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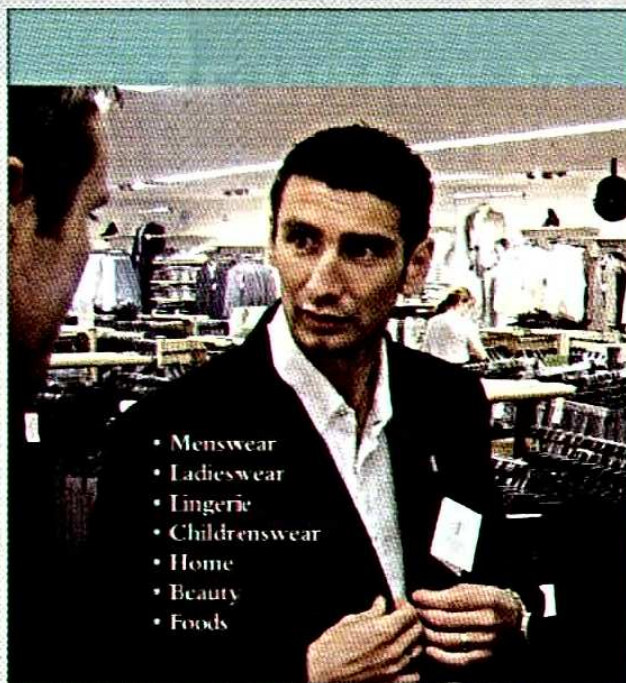
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match stats

UNDER 17 FIXTURES

Sat 25th Aug	Blackburn Rovers	A 0-7
Sat 1st Sept	Sheffield Wed	A 1-1
Sat 15th Sept	Watford	A 1-3
Sat 22nd Sept	Ipswich Town	H 2-1
Sat 29th Sept	Leicester City	H 1-2
Sat 6th Oct	Wimbledon	A 1-0
Sat 13th Oct	Millwall	H
Sat 20th Oct	Southampton	A
Sat 27th Oct	Bristol City	H
Sat 3rd Nov	Fulham	A
Sat 10th Nov	Arsenal	A
Sat 17th Nov	Charlton Athletic	H
Sat 24th Nov	Crystal Palace	H
Sat 8th Dec	Tottenham	A
Sat 15th Dec	Bristol City	A
Sat 12th Jan	Fulham	H
Sat 19th Jan	Arsenal	H
Sat 26th Jan	Charlton Athletic	A
Sat 2nd Feb	Crystal Palace	A
Sat 9th Feb	Tottenham	H
Sat 16th Feb	Wimbledon	H
Sat 23rd Feb	Millwall	A
Sat 2nd Mar	Southampton	H

APPEARANCES

6	Nathan Bailey, Peter Castle, Gary Middleton, Ian Oliver, Jamie Young
5	Leon Bird, Daniel Walsh
4	Darren Campbell, Chris Davis
3(+2)	Leon Kew
3	Adam Theo, Simieon Howell
2(+2)	Russell Lucas, Tim Coe
2(+1)	Chris Milstead
1(+3)	Daniel McKenzie
1(+2)	Ryan Crockford
1(+1)	Callum Earle
(+2)	Simon Cox Jnr
(+1)	Curtis Osano

SCORERS

4	Nathan Bailey
1	Daniel Walsh
1	own goal



UNDER 19 FIXTURES

Sat 25th Aug	Blackburn Rovers	A 1-1
Sat 1st Sept	Sheffield Wed	H 0-2
Sat 15th Sept	Watford	H 0-1
Sat 22nd Sept	Ipswich Town	A 0-3
Sat 6th Oct	Wimbledon	H 0-0
Sat 13th Oct	Millwall	A
Sat 20th Oct	Southampton	H
Sat 27th Oct	Bristol City	A
Sat 3rd Nov	Chelsea	H
Sat 10th Nov	Arsenal	H
Sat 17th Nov	Charlton Athletic	A
Sat 24th Nov	Crystal Palace	A
Sat 8th Dec	Tottenham	H
Sat 15th Dec	Bristol City	H
Sat 12th Jan	Chelsea	A
Sat 19th Jan	Arsenal	A
Sat 26th Jan	Charlton Athletic	H
Sat 2nd Feb	Crystal Palace	H
Sat 9th Feb	Tottenham	A
Sat 16th Feb	Wimbledon	A
Sat 23rd Feb	Millwall	H
Sat 2nd Mar	Southampton	A
Sat 9th Mar	Birmingham City	A
Sat 16th Mar	West Ham United	H
Sat 6th Apr	Fulham	A
Sat 13th Apr	Norwich City	H
TBA	Leicester City	A

APPEARANCES

5	Ricky Allaway, Declan O'Hara, Louie Soares
4(+1)	Matt Birnie, Alex Stanley
4	Ryan Maxwell
3(+1)	Jason Awbery
3	Joey Alcott, Adam Campion, Chad Harper, Simieon Howell
2(+1)	Steve Laidler, Scott Williams
2	Denis Behan, Justin Wilson, Simon Cox Snr,
1(+3)	Nathan Stamp 1(+1) - Callum Earle
1	Marcel Nugent (+2) - Chris Davis

SCORERS

1	Jason Awbery
---	--------------



RESERVES FIXTURES

Wed 15th Aug	Norwich City	H 4-0
Mon 20th Aug	Cardiff City L/C	A 1-5
Wed 29th Aug	Cheltenham Town	A 2-0
Wed 12th Sept	Colchester Utd	H 1-0
Wed 19th Sept	Southend Utd	A 0-1
Wed 3rd Oct	P'borough Utd	H 0-1
Mon 8th Oct	Cambridge Utd	A 0-4
Wed 17th Oct	Northampton	H
Wed 24th Oct	Swindon Town L/C	H
Wed 31st Oct	Luton Town	A
Wed 7th Nov	Barnet	H
Wed 14th Nov	Millwall	A
Wed 21st Nov	Bristol City L/C	A
Wed 5th Dec	Cardiff City	H
Wed 12th Dec	Gillingham	A
Wed 19th Dec	Leyton Orient	H
Wed 9th Jan	Crystal Palace	H
Tue 15th Jan	QPR	A
Wed 6th Feb	Brentford	A
Wed 13th Feb	Bristol City	H
Wed 20th Feb	Portsmouth	A
Wed 27th Feb	Swindon Town	H
Wed 13th Mar	Wycombe W	H
Wed 20th Mar	Oxford Utd	A
Wed 27th Mar	Brighton	A
Wed 10th Apr	AFC Bournemouth	H
Wed 17th Apr	Bristol Rovers	A

APPEARANCES

6	Jamie Ashdown, Chris Casper
5	Adam Campion, Joe Gamble, Nicky Shorey 4 - Keith Jones, Adi Viveash, Neil Smith, Louie Soares 3(+1) - Ricky Allaway
3	Joey Alcott, Barry Hunter
2(+2)	Stephen Laidler, Scott Williams
2(+1)	Matt Birnie 2 - Nathan Tyson, Dwaine Lee, John Mackie, Jason Awberry, Marcel Nugent
1(+2)	Declan O'Hara, Alex Stanley, Adam Lockwood
1	Andre Fashanu, Sammy Igoo, Jamie Cūreton, Simon Cox Snr, Andrew Hughes, Ryan Maxwell
(+3)	Simieon Howell (+1) - Jamie Young, Nicky Forster, Denis Behan, Nathan Stamp, Justin Wilson

SCORERS

3	Nathan Tyson 1 - Andre Fashanu, Sammy Igoo, Joey Alcott, Neil Smith, Keith Jones
---	--

Royals



2 - STUART LOVELL

■ **Forget** Oxford, Wycombe or Aldershot, as far as Reading fans are concerned THE local derby is always the one against Swindon. Dating back to our Southern League days, Swindon are one of our oldest opponents so it is fitting that today's 'Six of the Best' features games against the Robins. But first, a word of warning to our visitors - my idea of 'the best' might prove to be different to theirs, so they may wish to look away now if they don't want to know the scores!

6 ROBINS IN THE WARS 2ND FEBRUARY 1946

Swindon had missed visiting Elm Park throughout most of the Second World War and they probably wished they hadn't turned up for this game as well. They were totally overrun in the first half, and as well as two goals from Gilbert Glidden and one from Wilf Chitty, Tony MacPhee had two more efforts disallowed. A rare Swindon attack led to them winning a penalty but Tudor's spot kick was saved by George Marks, making his Reading debut as a guest from Arsenal. MacPhee was not to be denied in the second half and he scored twice to make the final score Reading 5 Swindon 0.

5 WEBB'S WONDER 30TH AUGUST 1980

A year after 16 year old Neil Webb became the youngest player ever to be picked for our first team when he was the unused sub for our game at Swindon, the future England star wrote himself into our records again.

An hour into the game he scored to put us two up and so became our youngest ever League goalscorer. Pat Earles had scored in the first half, then a Richie Bowman penalty and another England star of the future, Kerry

Dixon, put us four up before Alan Mayes scored a late consolation for the visitors.

4 AWAY THE LADS 17TH OCTOBER 1959

When Reading travelled to the County Ground 42 years ago this week we had taken just two points in seven away games, and with only three wins all season we were in the relegation zone.

Scenting blood, the Swindon programme asked 'Can today's game be the greatest ever?' - 90 minutes later the Reading fans certainly thought it was! It took Reading just three minutes to take the lead, Jimmy Wheeler doing the damage and early in the second half 'Jimmy Wee' was fouled to allow Ray Reeves to score from the penalty. Further goals from Wheeler (who else?) and George McLuckie gave us our biggest League win at the County Ground.

3 ROYALS RAIN 2ND OCTOBER 1976

Another October triumph and again we got off to a flying start (hopefully, that's an omen). Two up in 10 minutes, thanks to a John Murray penalty and a Gordon Cumming effort, 'Minty' then scored the goal of the game, winning a tackle on the halfway line and running clear to shoot us 3-0 up before the break. Bryan Carnaby put us further ahead with a delightful chip and then Reading eased up but Swindon found Steve Death in brilliant form that culminated in a penalty save.

Although Ernie Moss got a late consolation goal, Swindon's main hope in the last half hour seemed to be their increasing attempts to get the game abandoned as torrential rain

six of the best

turned the pitch into a quagmire. Obscure Fact Of The Day - when Paul Bennett was harshly booked for an innocuous challenge he became the first Reading player to be shown the newly introduced yellow card.

2 APRIL FOOLS 1ST APRIL 1995

This was 'Archie's' day. Reading were going for promotion while Swindon were at the other end of Division One and two quick goals mid way through the first half from fans' favourite, Stuart Lovell, made sure it was Swindon who were the April Fools. Archie's first was a snap shot which he celebrated by imitating the airplane celebrations of Swindon's recently transferred hero, Jan-Aage Fjortoft.

Shortly after, Peter Thorne missed a sitter for the visitors and Reading went straight down the other end and won a penalty, which Archie gleefully converted. Near the end Archie completed his hat-trick with the best of the three but the biggest cheer came when Simon Osborn made a late substitute's appearance after his long spell out injured.

1 SEVENTH HEAVEN 7th January 1933

All the signs were there to warn Swindon that they could suffer their worst defeat at Elm Park.

Reading had averaged four goals a game over our last six home games while our young centre forward, Jack Palethorpe, had averaged a goal a game so far that season. By half-time those averages had been improved - Jack had already completed a hat-trick and another Jack, Oxberry, had put us four up before Morris pulled a goal back

for the Robins on the stroke of half time. This was only a brief respite for Swindon as Fred Chandler soon restored our four goal advantage with a goal on his debut. Frank Eaton added a sixth before Palethorpe brought his personal tally to four to give us our biggest win over Swindon by seven goals to one. ■

5 - KERRY DIXON



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FINANCE: £9796, INTEREST CHARGES:
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PAYMENTS OF: £199, FINAL
PAYMENT (G.M.F.V.): £2574.86, TOTAL
PAYABLE (INC. DEP.): £11,241.86, APR
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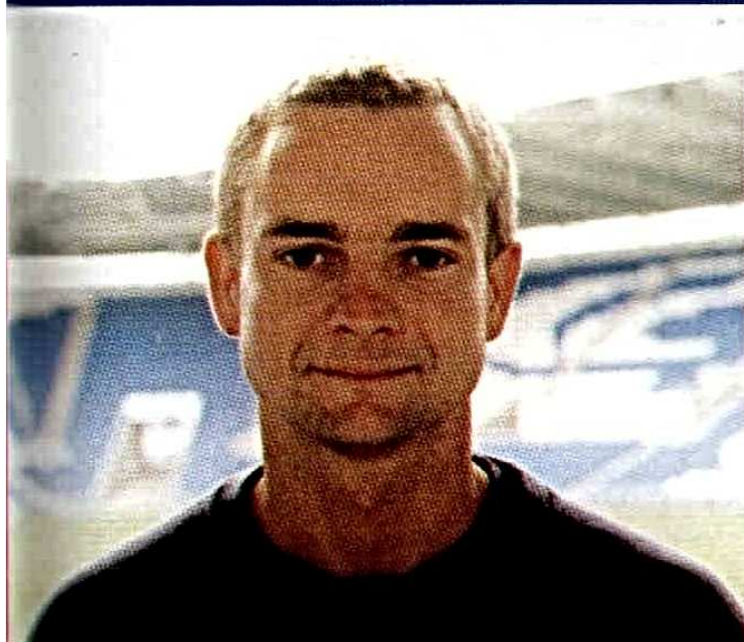
FIAT

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Driven by Passion



Jon Fearn



COMMON MYTHS

- I wanted to use this page today to talk about some common myths that are often mentioned concerning sporting injuries.

Common myth: Ice does everything for a sporting injury.

Recent research has shown that stretching before a training session provides no greater protection against pulled muscles than launching straight into a work out. In fact it may cause injury, particularly if they are carried out with a poor technique. I would advocate performing gentle aerobic exercises, such as jogging or cycling, and gradually building up the intensity over a 20-30

minute period. Including a dynamic stretching exercise as described by our Sport Scientist Niall Clark in a previous issue will functionally prepare the joints and muscles for all variety of movements that the body will experience during an exercise session.

Common myth: Heat is what you need to heal.

Deep Heat, Algonan and Tiger Balm are all known as counter-irritants. They act by irritating the skin and causing a mild inflammatory reaction, i.e. the skin becomes red and warm. In fact it acts like a mild painkiller by providing the nerves with something else to think about rather than the pain!

"YOU SHOULD APPLY ICE TO AN INJURY UNTIL ALL BRUISING AND SWELLING HAS GONE."

Ice basically acts by slowing down the circulation and numbing the nerves. By applying ice, the blood supply takes on a different consistency, changing from runny to much thicker. This is important because too much blood (swelling) can actually kill healthy tissue in the area.

The inflammatory response following an injury lasts up to five-seven days, depending on how severe it is, so there is no need to ice the injury for any longer. After this time the injury is encouraged to heal so there is no need to

carry on icing it, and this will only slow the healing down!

In short, after an injury, apply ice and compression for 15-20 minutes every two hours for five-seven days. Always ensure there is good circulation and sensation. If symptoms are not improving, seek professional medical advice.

Next time around, I'll use this page to take about another couple of common myths, namely that ice or freeze spray helps alleviate the effects of a dead leg during a game, and that wearing a support will help an individual to play in a match. ■



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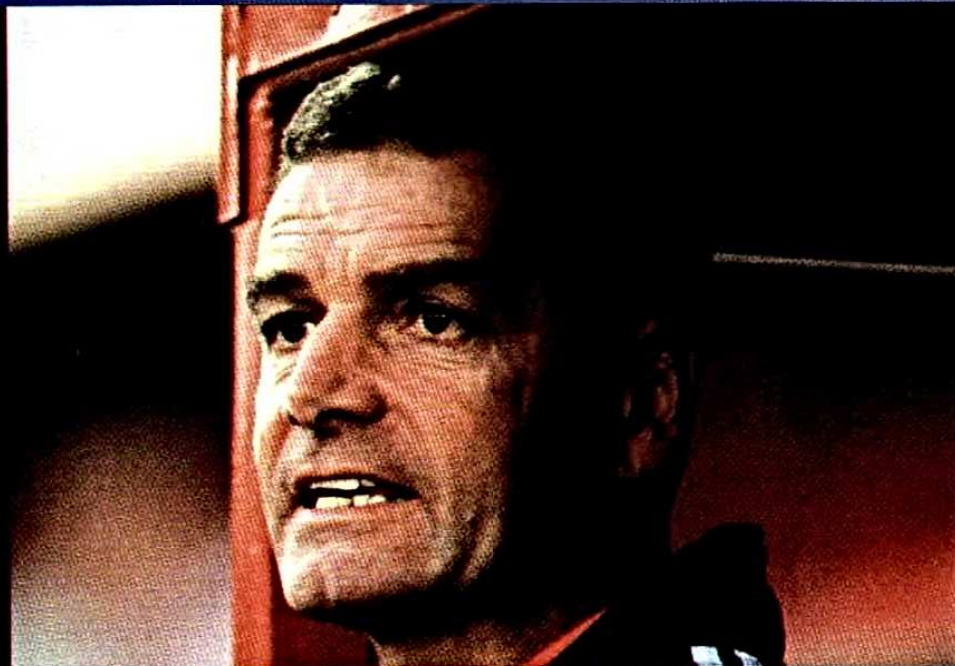
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Where are they now?

Former Royals



MICK GOODING NOW PLAYS FOR LOCAL
NON-LEAGUE SIDE HENLEY TOWN

■ All Royals fans are hoping that this season will end with promotion from Division Two - in this week's 'Where Are They Now?' we'll take a look at the whereabouts of the squad from the last time the Royals gained promotion in 1993/4.

Ever-present between the posts was a certain **NS HISLOP**. Goalkeeper Shaka, of course, went on to become one of the most popular players in RFC's history, and is set to make his 100th League appearance for West Ham United at Blackburn today. Shaka left the Royals in a £1.5m transfer to Newcastle in 1995, and was on the losing side with the Hammers in his first playing return to Reading

for last month's Worthington Cup tie at Madejski Stadium.

Few members of the 1993/94 squad are still playing in the Football League, but a number have stayed in the game in coaching or managerial positions. They include leading scorer **JIMMY QUINN** (currently Northwich Victoria boss), **JEFF HOPKINS** (coaching in Australia), as well as the team's number 8 for the majority of games, a tough but skilful midfield player called **KEVIN DILLON**. The former England under 21 international is now of course reserve team coach and under 19 manager here at Madejski Stadium.

One player who is still active in professional football is **DYLAN KERR**, although the left-back's future is now uncertain after he was recently released by Exeter City following the dismissal of manager Noel Blake last month. Another member of the 93/94 squad currently looking for a new club is midfielder **SCOTT TAYLOR**, who has been on trial with Cambridge United after being released by Wolves.

A player who has more success since leaving the Royals is **STUART 'ARCHIE' LOVELL**, who is enjoying success this season as captain of Scottish Premier League newcomers Livingston. The Livi Lions are currently sitting pretty in third

place in the SPL after just one defeat in their opening nine games. Two key members of the 93/94 championship-winning team were current stars **ADIE WILLIAMS** (who returned to Reading in 2000 after four years with Wolves) and **PHIL PARKINSON**. The duo played 83 League games between them as the Royals roared to the title, with Parky getting on the scoresheet three times.

Some of the players of the 93/94 vintage are still playing locally for non-league sides, including **MICK GOODING** (now with Henley Town), **MICHAEL GILKES** and **KEITH MCPHERSON** (both Slough Town). ■

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ALEX SMITH



■ **Midfield** man Alex Smith signed for the Royals from Port Vale in the summer, and his former clubs include today's opponents Swindon Town.

Alex joined the Robins from Everton when Steve McMahon signed him on a free, but the diminutive left-footer admits it was hard for him to move south away from his native Liverpool. "I was only 19, and it was hard for me to settle because it was the first time I'd moved away from home." Smith played 31 games in a Robins shirt before moving back north to Chester in 1998, and revealed that his spell

at the County Ground appears to be a distant memory. "My time there was good, the fans treated me OK but really I've moved on since then and I've not thought about it too much." He never really found a position for himself under Steve McMahon's management, and found himself playing in a variety of different roles. "I played all over the place really, one week I would be at left-wing, the next full-back, then wing-back and sometimes in midfield."

Since signing for the Royals, Alex has been a regular feature in the team and started the first

nine games on the left-hand side of midfield. The team's form has been patchy, but Alex insists it is only a matter of time before things take a positive turn. "I think we got off to a good start, and we had a great result against West Ham, but since then we've struggled a bit. I am sure though that once we get one win we will be able to string a few results together."

Goalscoring has been the obvious problem for the Royals, and Smith has weighed in with two goals, one against Luton in the Worthington Cup and one at home to Cardiff in a 2-1 defeat. Alex maintains that

when the goals do come regularly, the team's form will quickly fall back into line. "My goals this season seem a long time ago, and I haven't played all the matches since then."

"There's nothing in particular that has dried the goals up for us, it could just be a case of getting a scrappy goal to set us on our way and when that does happen we're more than capable of getting seven or eight wins on the spin."

"Personally, it's always nice to score and I hope I can add a few more along the way this season." ■



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Supporters' Club



IAN MAYNARD

■ First Reading game seen?

I don't remember my first game but I do know it was 1969 or 1970. One of my earliest memories was of Bruce Stuckey scoring direct from a corner at the Tilehurst End of the ground. I am sure that someone could confirm if I am right about this or that it's just my imagination running away with me!

■ First memories of RFSC?

I started watching regularly in my late teens. I was aware of the existence of the Supporters' Club but only had contact with it through buying occasional items from the old shop behind the South Bank. I joined RFSC in order to be able to get on the coach to Newport in the days of Senior and 'Mad Max' Bremner, which was my first away trip (1985). It was OK to be a glory hunter at that time - we only had 3,000 fans to start with! I also remember the Supporters' Club playing a big part in helping to avoid Reading ending up hand in glove with Robert Maxwell and Oxford United (1983).

■ How did you get involved in RFSC?

I saw the request in a match programme for more fans to take part on the Supporters' Club Committee. It's not the kind of thing that would normally appeal

to me and anyway I just thought it was normally a closed shop. It had not crossed my mind that I could be involved. However, I was tempted to give it a go so approached Roger and some other people on the Committee. They said 'get stuck in' so I got involved in the drive for new members and various other activities.

■ What do you do now for RFSC?

I have started to develop links with the Borough Council in relation to making inroads into the wider community. I hope to improve the Supporters' Club profile in this area without duplicating the work done by the football club. I am part of a working party looking into the pros and cons of RFSC becoming a Supporters Trust.

■ What do you want to see RFSC become or do?

I would like to see the Supporters' Club continue to improve its profile in relation to the Football Club. But I also want RFSC to shake off the 'albatross' - the wrong image - of being seen as being incapable of having different views to the Chairman/Board of RFC. I would like to see the Supporters' Club move away from being seen as 'a secret society' by many fans just as I used to view it. Ideally, the Supporters' Club should have a social base within the stadium complex too.



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date	opponents	results att								
SAT 11 AUG	BLACKPOOL (A)	W 2-0 5,613 960 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	1 PARKINSON	HAPPER	HUGHES
SAT 18 AUG	HUDDERSFIELD (H)	W 1-0 11,915 1022 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HAPPER	HUGHES
TUE 21 AUG	LUTON TOWN (H) WC1	W 4-0 5,115 528 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	SHOREY	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	1 PARKINSON 3	HAPPER	GOE
SAT 25 AUG	QPR (A)	D 0-0 13,829 2533 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HAPPER	GOE 3
SAT 01 SEP	PORT VALE (A)	W 2-0 5,916 555 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HAPPER	GOE 6
SAT 08 SEP	CARDIFF (H)	L 1-2 13,017 3040 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HAPPER	GOE
TUE 11 SEP	WEST HAM (H) WC2	W 6-5 21,173 3055 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS 2	PARKINSON	HAPPER	GOE
SAT 15 SEP	STOKE CITY (A)	L 0-2 11,752 925 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HAPPER	GOE 3
TUE 18 SEP	CAMBRIDGE UTD (H)	W 1-0 8,348 324 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	1 HAPPER	GOE
SAT 22 SEP	WYCOMBE WINDS (H)	W 2-0 13,565 2629 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	1 WILLIAMS	JONES 2	HAPPER	GOE 6
TUE 25 SEP	BOURNEMOUTH (A)	L 0-1 3,691 817 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	JONES 3	HAPPER	GOE 1
SAT 29 SEP	BURY (H)	D 1-1 10,035 109 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	JONES	HAPPER	1 GOE
FRI 05 OCT	COLCHESTER UTD (A)	L 0-2 3,691 414 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON 3	WHITEHEAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HAPPER 2	JONES 1
WED 10 OCT	ASTON VILLA (A) WC3	L 0-1 23,431 4500 AWF	WHITEHEAD	WHITEHEAD 3	SHOREY	VIVASH	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON 1	HAPPER	N SMITH
SAT 13 OCT	SWINDON (H)									
SAT 20 OCT	NOTTS COUNTY (A)									
TUE 23 OCT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (A)									
SAT 27 OCT	BRENTFORD (H)									
SAT 03 NOV	NORTHAMPTON (A)									
TUE 06 NOV	WREXHAM (H)									
SAT 10 NOV	BRISTOL CITY (H)									
SAT 17 NOV	FA CUP 1ST ROUND									
TUE 20 NOV	TRANMERE (H)									
SAT 24 NOV	PBOROUGH UTD (A)									
SAT 01 DEC	CHESTERFIELD (H)									
FRI 14 DEC	BRIGHTON (A)									
SAT 22 DEC	WIGAN ATHLETIC (H)									
WED 26 DEC	CARDIFF (A)									
SAT 29 DEC	WREXHAM (A)									
TUE 01 JAN	PORT VALE (H)									
SAT 05 JAN	QPR (H)									
SAT 12 JAN	HUDDERSFIELD (A)									
SAT 19 JAN	BLACKPOOL (H)									
TUE 22 JAN	WIGAN ATHLETIC (A)									
SAT 26 JAN	COLCHESTER UTD (H)									
SAT 02 FEB	BURY (A)									
SAT 09 FEB	NOTTS COUNTY (H)									
SAT 16 FEB	SWINDON (A)									
SAT 23 FEB	STOKE CITY (H)									
TUE 26 FEB	WYCOMBE WINDS (A)									
SAT 02 MAR	CAMBRIDGE UTD (A)									
TUE 05 MAR	BOURNEMOUTH (H)									
SAT 09 MAR	BRIGHTON (H)									
SAT 16 MAR	CHESTERFIELD (A)									
SAT 23 MAR	OLDHAM ATH (H)									
SAT 30 MAR	BRISTOL CITY (A)									
MON 01 APR	NORTHAMPTON (H)									
SUN 07 APR	TRANMERE ROVERS (A)									
SAT 13 APR	PBOROUGH UTD (H)									
SAT 20 APR	BRENTFORD (A)									

this seasons top scorers				this seasons top home gates			last three fixtures	
PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL	DATE	OPPONENTS	ATTENDANCE	OPPONENTS	RESULT
DARIUS HENDERSON	1	2	3	TUE SEP 11	WEST HAM UTD WC2	21,173	ASTON VILLA (A) WC3	LOST 0-1
JAMIE CURETON	2	-	2	SAT SEP 22	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	13,565	COLCHESTER UTD (A)	LOST 0-2
NICKY FORSTER	2	-	2	SAT SEP 08	CARDIFF CITY	13,017	BURY (H)	DREW 1-1

* WCH ON PENALTIES

number in red denotes
number of goals scored

number in black
denotes player replaced

coloured block denotes
yellow and red cards

nationwide league division two

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
OLDHAM ATH	12	6	4	2	29	17	22
BRENTFORD	11	6	4	1	20	10	22
BRISTOL CITY	12	6	4	2	21	12	22
BRIGHTON	12	6	4	2	16	10	22
QPR	12	6	3	3	18	13	21
P'BOROUGH LTD	12	6	2	4	19	12	20
HUDDERSFIELD	12	6	2	4	15	13	20
STOKE CITY	10	6	1	3	14	5	19
WYCOMBE	12	5	4	3	16	12	19
COLCHESTER	12	6	1	5	20	19	19
TRANMERE	12	5	3	4	23	17	18
READING	11	5	2	4	10	8	17
SWINDON TOWN	11	4	4	3	12	12	16
NOTTS COUNTY	11	4	3	4	14	17	15
BLACKPOOL	11	4	3	4	17	21	15
BOURNEMOUTH	12	4	3	5	14	20	15
CARDIFF CITY	10	3	4	3	13	12	13
PORT VALE	12	4	1	7	19	21	13
CHESTERFIELD	12	3	4	5	14	17	13
CRIBRIDGE	12	2	4	6	11	20	10
WIGAN ATH	10	2	2	6	10	15	8
NORTHAMPTON	12	2	1	9	8	24	7
WREXHAM	10	1	3	6	14	26	6
BURY	11	1	2	8	7	21	5

SEASON 2001/2002 LEAGUE STANDINGS UP TO OCT 10 TH

The latest from ReadingBet.co.uk

Today's odds from readingbet.co.uk show the Royals clear favourites to gain victory in this local derby game. Odds for all individual matches in all divisions are always available with our official betting partner, www.readingbet.co.uk

Today's odds:

Reading 1-0 - 6/1

Reading 2-0 - 11/2

Reading 2-1 - 7/1

Swindon 1-0 - 9/1

Swindon 2-0 - 28/1



first team appearances

PLAYER NAME	2001/2002 SEASON			NOMALS CAREER TOTAL		OVERALL UK CAREER TOTAL	
	LEAGUE APP	CUP APP	TOTAL APP	TOTAL GOALS	TOTAL GOALS	TOTAL APP	TOTAL GOALS
RICKY ALLAWAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JAMIE ASHDOWN	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-
MARTIN BUTLER	7(2)	2	9	77(7)	32	247(52)	97
ADAM CAMPION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS CASPER	-	-	-	54(1)	-	63(5)	2
JAMIE CURETON	4(4)	1(1)	5	51(2)	32	253(47)	117
NICKY FORSTER	7(2)	2	9	47(20)	14	272(83)	99
JOE GAMBLE	(1)	(1)	-	(5)	-	(5)	-
JAMES HARPER	11	3	14	22(4)	2	25(4)	2
DARIUS HENDERSON	2(9)	1(2)	3	6(20)	3	6(20)	3
ANDREW HUGHES	2(2)	-	2	2(2)	-	130(48)	23
BARRY HUNTER	-	-	-	92(9)	6	214(13)	14
SAMMY IDGE	8(3)	2	10	37(22)	7	145(90)	18
KEITH JONES	4(1)	-	4	27(6)	1	56(42)	50
ADAM LOCKWOOD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JOHN MACKIE	-	-	-	11(5)	-	11(5)	-
GRAEME MURTY	11	2	13	60(12)	1	191(24)	10
RICKY NEWMAN	-	-	-	46(5)	2	276(77)	11
PHIL PARKINSON	8	3	11	367(26)	22	522(39)	29
MATT ROBINSON	11	1(1)	12	6(4)	-	143(23)	1
ANTHONY ROUGIER	4(3)	1(2)	5	23(25)	2	164(54)	23
NICKY SHOREY	-	2	2	-	2	15(3)	-
ALEX SMITH	9(1)	2	11	11(1)	2	133(24)	9
NEIL SMITH	(3)	1	4	37(27)	2	352(55)	19
NATHAN TYSON	-	(1)	-	(2)	-	1(2)	-
ROD VIVERSH	-	1(1)	1	63(1)	3	342(81)	22
ADAM WHITEHEAD	11	3	14	33	-	411	7
PHIL WHITEHEAD	11	3	14	81	-	455	-
ROD WILLIAMS	11	3	14	274(5)	21	308(7)	22

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editor: andy west design: bob magill



today's team line

Royals squad 2001 | 2002

1 PHIL WHITEHEAD	22 NATHAN TYSON
2 GRAEME MURTY	23 JOHN MACKIE
3 MATT ROBINSON	24 DARIUS HENDERSON
4 KEITH JONES	25 RICKY NEWMAN
5 ADI VIVEASH	26 ALEX SMITH
6 BARRY HUNTER	27 RICKY ALLAWAY
7 ANTHONY ROUGIER	28 NICKY SHOREY
8 ADIE WILLIAMS	29 ADAM LOCKWOOD
9 MARTIN BUTLER	45 ADAM CAMPION
10 NICKY FORSTER	
11 ANDY HUGHES	
12 JAMIE CURETON	
13 RFC FANS	
14 SAMMY IGOE	
15 JAMES HARPER	
16 PHIL PARKINSON	
17 NEIL SMITH	
18 ADIE WHITBREAD	
19 JOE GAMBLE	
20 CHRIS CASPER	
21 JAMIE ASHDOWN	

TEAM MANAGER | ALAN PARDEW

ROYALS TEAM LINE-UP | 4-4-2

PHIL WHITEHEAD	MATT ROBINSON
GRAEME MURTY	ADIE WILLIAMS
ADRIAN WHITBREAD	ADIE WILLIAMS
JAMES HARPER	KEITH JONES
PHIL PARKINSON	ALEX SMITH
JAMIE CURETON	MARTIN BUTLER

ground | Madejski Stadium
stadium capacity | 24,200
record attendance | 33,042



For the best coverage of every game, tune into the Royals Football Show on Classic Gold Digital 1431/1485am or listen through www.readingfc.co.uk

today's officials

Referee:
Mr P Taylor
Assistant Referees:
Red & Yellow Flag:
Mr J Pearce
Yellow Flag: Mr N Murphy
Fourth Official: Mr A Webb

odds on

First goalscorer odds from
readingbet.co.uk
Jamie Cureton 4/1
Martin Butler 9/2
Nicky Forster 5/1
Darius Henderson 6/1
Anthony Rougier 8/1

First goalscorer odds from
readingbet.co.uk
Guiliano Grazioli 15/2
Danny Invinible 8/1
Jo Osei-Kuffour 8/1
Bertie Brayley 12/1
Paul McAreavey 16/1

e-ups & squads



Swindon Town squad 2001 | 2002

1 BART GRIEMINK	25 STEVE ROBINSON
2 MARK ROBINSON	26 ALAN YOUNG
3 SOL DAVIS	27 PAUL MCAREAVEY
4 MATTHEW HEWLETT	29 JAMES WILLIAMS
5 ADAM WILLIS	
6 ANDY GURNEY	
7 KEITH O'HALLORAN	
8 BOBBY HOWE	
9 JO OSEI-KUFFOUR	
10 GUILIANO GRAZIOLI	
11 DAVID DUKE	
12 JUAN COBIAN	
14 ERIC SABIN	
15 RICHARD MCKINNEY	
16 NEIL RUDDOCK	
17 DANIEL INVINCIBLE	
18 BERTI BRAYLEY	
19 MATTHEW HEYWOOD	
20 PAUL EDWARDS	
21 GARETH DAVIES	
22 ALAN REEVES	

TEAM MANAGER | ROY EVANS

Today's Matchball sponsor
is Linda Shemmans.
We hope you have an
enjoyable day.

LINDA SHEMMANS

ground | County Ground
stadium capacity | 15,220
record attendance | 32,000

the last eight meetings

Swindon Town 0
Reading 1
27-03-2001

Reading 2
Swindon Town 0
19-08-2000

Swindon Town 0
Reading 2
17-01-1998

Reading 0
Swindon Town 1
16-08-1997

the last eight meetings

Swindon Town 3
Reading 1
30-11-1996

Reading 2
Swindon Town 0
26-10-1996

Reading 3
Swindon Town 0
01-04-1995

Swindon Town 1
Reading 0
14-09-1994

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