



the pirate

The Official Match Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Programme Monthly
PROGRAMME of the YEAR
LEAGUE 2 2006/2007

SEASON
2006/2007

ISSUE NO 31

£2.50



 **Coca-Cola** LEAGUE 2



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swindon town

Saturday 28th April 2007

kick-off 3.00pm



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We are in good shape



We are positive, and confident, that we can get the results we need to take us into the play offs

Since Christmas there have been a number of games that have built belief and confidence within the squad. Even in defeat at Derby County, and Doncaster at the Millennium Stadium, the performances showed that we have ability and the right qualities to maybe play at a higher level.

The games against Bristol City were fantastic nights and added to that belief, but it's important that we continue in the same vein and that the confidence we have built over a period of time is in place for our final two league fixtures.

Sean Rigg scored the only goal of the game to enable us to beat Macclesfield on Tuesday and he can be very proud of his first season as full time professional. He made an impact through pre season, and once the league programme began, and he was in the starting lineup when he was injured at Barrow.

It took him a while to come back from that but we've seen signs, in training and in the reserves, that he's back to his best. We were very pleased with his contribution when he came off the bench against Lincoln last week, and obviously delighted for him when he scored his first league goal at Macclesfield. We feel that he has a big future and that this is just the beginning for him. Next year we are looking for him to kick on further and become a regular within the squad and, hopefully, within the team.



TROLLOPE Paul 24
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Electrical Office Equipment
Kevin Spencer

Good afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our game against Swindon Town.

I think that this season seems to have passed quickly, probably because we have played so many games due to our success in two cup competitions.

We are pleased, after the way we started the season, to be in a position now where we are still fighting for a place in the play offs. It's still a challenge, but it's one the staff and the players are ready for.

Earlier in the season we were putting in good performances, but not quite getting the return we felt we deserved. Consequently we had to make some improvements. We feel that we've made them and since then we've enjoyed some good spells in the league and in the cups.

We do seem to have hit form at the right time. Physically the lads are in very, very good shape and we are also strong mentally and looking forward to our remaining two games. We are positive, and confident, that we can get the results we need to take us into the play offs.

The progress that Sean has made should act as an incentive to younger lads, whether they are at our Centre of Excellence, or Filton College.

We had a decent intake of young professionals this year and they have been a good group, though they have been frustrated, at times, with the lack of reserve team games.

There will be another group of young lads from Filton College joining us in pre season and we look forward to welcoming them to the club, because it's important for us to bring local youngsters through the system and see them progress into the first team.

However, they have to have ability, and the right attitude, to get there. A few of them have shown those qualities this year and they need to continue the good start they have made and to make further progress next year.

Our visitors today, Swindon Town, have been up near the top of the league all season and occupied an automatic spot for much of it. Now we are at the business end of the season, they want to finish the job off.

They have a good record and our game against them, at the County Ground earlier in the season, was an interesting one in front of a good crowd. We felt a little bit hard done by to come away from there with nothing, because we felt we performed well on the day.

Swindon, though, took all three points and we go into this afternoon's match with a lot at stake. They are looking to clinch promotion, whilst we are looking to get ourselves into one of the play off positions. It's an interesting game, and there will be a big crowd here but we all hope that the game is played in the right spirit and that we come out on top.

Our support, at home and away, has been superb all season and the players feel a sense of togetherness with the fans. Their support has been crucial to how we have progressed and we want another fantastic atmosphere here this afternoon. If it's as good as the one we had for the Bristol City game, that's all we can ask because that really lifted everyone and helped us go on and win the match.

I hope you all enjoy the game.

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB



The Memorial Stadium,
Filton Avenue,
Horfield, Bristol BS7 0BF

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honours

Football League

Division Three (South)

Champions: 1952/53

Football League Division Three

Champions: 1989/90

Runners-Up: 1973/74

Division Three (South)

Cup Winners 1934/35

Watney Cup Winners 1972

Off the mark

Nineteen year old Sean Rigg couldn't have chosen a better time to score his first senior goal.

He hit the target just four minutes after going on as a substitute at Macclesfield on Tuesday night. There were just fourteen minutes remaining when Joe Jacobson crossed from the left, Richard Walker touched it on and he hit a first time shot past goalkeeper Tommy Lee.

It was a goal we really needed and I'm just pleased it was me that put it in. I'm over the moon to score my first goal for the club, it's probably the happiest day of my life.

It took a little bit of a deflection on the way in, but I was just pleased to see it hit the back of the net. I didn't know where to run when it went in, and I still can't think straight. To score such an important goal for the club, and my first as well, is something I'll remember all my life.

The final whistle saw him race over to the Rovers fans and almost dive over the barrier.

I went over to see my Dad, Jim. He comes to watch every game, home and away, and has supported me all the way so I was really pleased he was here to see me score.

The goal, which gave Rovers all three points, was crucial as it maintained a late push for a play off place.

I think we got better as the game went on. It was a bit nervy at times but we kept defending well, especially on set pieces, and looked a threat going forward. We pushed on, went for it, and I was fortunate to get a touch off 'Walks' and put it in.

There was a chance for a second goal in time added on, but he hit his shot straight at Lee.

The ball bobbled up at last minute and came off my shin, but I scored one and I'm really pleased.

It capped an eventful season for the youngster, who missed a chunk of the season after sustaining a fractured jaw in the First Round FA Cup tie at Barrow.

I've come further than I thought I would this season, and I'm really enjoying it. I made my debut against MK Dons earlier in the season, but unfortunately the injury set me back a little bit. If it hadn't been for the injury, perhaps I might have started a few more games than I have, but my aim



To score such an important goal for the club, and my first as well, is something I'll remember all my life

at the start of the season was to get on the bench as often as possible and maybe push for a start. I think the season has gone better than I thought it would and I'm really happy with how it's turned out.

I've got another season on my contract, so hopefully I can get more involved next year and improve my game.

Turning his thoughts to this afternoon's important clash against Swindon, he expects an exciting encounter.

It will be a very tough game, as they are a good side. However we seem to perform well against better opposition and I think if we put in the effort we know we can, we have the quality in the team to win it.



What would you do if you lost your mobile phone?

■ Panic, as I rely on it that much!

Who was your last text message from?

■ From one of my friends, wanting to know what was happening on Saturday night.

What was your first thought on waking up this morning?

■ Can't I stay in bed for another hour.

What's in the glove box of your car?

■ Sunglasses and tissues.

Favourite meal?

■ Caribbean food, particularly chicken, rice and peas.

Favourite other club?

■ Aston Villa.

Favourite holiday destination?

■ Los Angeles.

Favourite other sport?

■ Golf. Even though I've never played it in my life, I like watching it.

Do you need an alarm clock in the mornings?

■ Most definitely.

Any Educational qualifications?

■ Seven GCSE's six at grade C and a grade A in maths.

Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?

■ I'd like to be stuck in a lift with Jessica Alba, but definitely not with Craig Hinton because his nose would get in the way and take up all the room!

What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

■ Sit in the same van as kitman Roger Harding while he smokes a cigar!

Last CD you bought?

■ The latest Jay-Z album, Kingdom Come.

Do you have any annoying habits?

■ Some might say that I talk too much, though I'm not sure I would agree with them!

Are you a tidy or a messy person?

■ Somewhere in between!

How long would you last in a sponsored silence?

■ Give me a couple of seconds, and that's about it!

Who is the dressing room wind up merchant?

■ Craig Hinton, Richard Walker and me, the three amigos. We just like to wind each other, and the rest of the lads, up.

If you won £1m what would you spend it on?

■ I'd treat myself to a nice car and a house and look after my family and my friends.

Who is the funniest player you have ever played with?

■ I'd have to say it was Graham Hyde, who was here when I first joined Rovers on loan. I used to travel in with him in the mornings and he was quite funny. He always had something to say and would always kill people with a one liner and leave the room before anyone could come back at him.

PLAY- OFFS

WITHOUT THE
HEARTACHE



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Marathon man!

Goalkeeper Steve Phillips remained philosophical when asked about Rovers' play off hopes following last Saturday's goalless draw against Lincoln City.

«We're hanging on is probably the way to describe it. We were a little bit fortunate today as they hit the post four times and they were better in our box than we were in theirs. That's been the situation all season, otherwise we'd be higher up the league than they are, in my opinion.»

Another clean sheet brought the total to twenty in the league so far.

«If I'm being honest, if you don't get in the play offs when you keep that many clean sheets, then there's something very wrong, and we all know why we aren't in there.»

«We dominated the first half, yet their goalkeeper didn't have to make an outstanding save. In fact, I don't think he had to make an outstanding save all game and that sums us up, really. We pass the ball well, we get in good areas, but when we get a cross in we lack movement and you can put your finger on a few things. We shoot from 50 yards, and my nan wouldn't get beat from that distance, so decision making is probably something we could work on.»

He admitted he was fortunate to keep a clean sheet after the visitors hit the woodwork so many times.

«They all hit the outside of the post. If they had hit the inside, I don't know if I would have saved them or not.»

However, he did well when faced by former Rovers striker Jamie Forrester in a one on one situation late in the game.

«I think I did well to hold things up. If I'd sold myself, he's good enough to just nick it over me or nip round me, so I made sure I tried to hold him up as much as I could so that people could get back round me. Fortunately, we picked up another point, but the fact is that we dominated 60 or 70 minutes of the game and their keeper never made a really telling save.»

The chance of a play off place remained, though.

«Stockport losing is a bit of a bonus. The wheels seem to have come off there massively since we beat them, so we are looking to catch them. If we win our game in hand, we will be a point off the top seven with two games to go, so we are still in there.»

That game in hand came against Macclesfield on Tuesday and he admitted it would all be over if three points weren't forthcoming from our visit to the Moss Rose.

It's not about how fast I do it in, it's about the money I can raise

«Whatever happens, we end the season with games against Swindon and Hartlepool, who have already secured promotion, and that will set the benchmark for next season and tell us how good we really are.»

We told you last week of Steve's plans to run the Bristol half marathon this September, and he admits he's not really looking forward to it!

«I don't think you'll find too many goalkeepers running a half marathon, to be honest. I do a bit of running and go down the gym, so I thought why not do this and raise some money for a good cause.»

«The furthest I've run is 13 kilometres, but I think I'll do ok. I keep myself quite fit, but I don't think you'll find that I'll be breaking any records, as it takes place during the season! If I can run round I will, and if I have to walk, then I'll do that. It's not about how fast I do it in, it's about the money I can raise.»

Steve will be running to raise money for the SANDS charity and for Jamie Cooper, the young soldier injured in Iraq.

«A friend of mine, Mike Lewis, and his wife helped me during my testimonial year at Ashton Gate, and their son and his partner had the misfortune to have a stillborn baby. They help raise funds for SANDS, a charity that helps people through the trauma of having a stillborn child.»

«I think everyone knows about Jamie Cooper, and a lot of people have already helped him. I spoke to his dad, because I'd only heard a little bit about what he had gone through. Hopefully some of the money raised can help him with his future, because he's been through a lot.»

He's had to convince the management team that he won't be racing round the course!

«I've had an ear bashing from Paul already, but I've spoken to Lennie and told him I won't be doing anything stupid. If I have to walk round in three hours I'll do that, the main thing is raising the money, everything else is secondary to that.»

If you would like to sponsor Steve as he raises money for two very deserving causes, please contact the club and we will advise you how money can be paid in.



BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

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Roger Hynam Tel: 0117 976 0568

BRISTOL ROVERS 1 CHELTENHAM TOWN 2

Rovers Reserves were beaten 2-1 by Cheltenham Town in this reserve team fixture.

Tom Parrinello's first half own goal and a second half strike by Paul Connor sealed the points for the visitors, although Joshua Klein-Davies did score a consolation for Rovers nine minutes from time.

Cheltenham were the better side for much of the game, although Rovers did improve during the last 25 minutes, and went close to getting back on level terms.

The visitors took the lead when Sam Foley raced clear of his marker down the right, and took the ball around Mike Green who had advanced off his line. Foley then squared the ball across the face of goal and Parrinello, in attempting to clear, touched it into the net.

The second goal arrived on the hour mark when Foley's ball down the left was deflected into the path of Paul Connor, who hit an angled drive past Green.

Rovers got themselves on the scoresheet through Klein-Davies. Rigg broke forward down the right before cutting in and finding the trialist, who fired home from 12 yards.

Manager Kevin Hodges was disappointed with what was a below par performance from his team.



■ Matt Groves

“The players have raised their levels in recent weeks, and for the first time since I've been at the club, I think they dropped, and I was very disappointed with that.”

“We never really got going, and it looked like a lacklustre performance with an end-of-season feel about it.”

“The two goals we conceded were sloppy, but to give Cheltenham credit they are a difficult and well organised team. To play against them you need to be at your best and show the right attitude, and also to work hard with and without the ball.”

“For the last 25 minutes we got back into it, we looked good, and we raised our levels and the tempo of the game. But we've got to do that for 90 minutes, not just the final stages of the game.”

“The players need to have a look at themselves and to think about the game, and make sure that next time they play the standards are raised again.”

Team: Mike Green, James Palmer, Tom Parrinello, Sammy Igoo (Alex Kite 75), Darren Mullings, Ollie Barnes, Chris Lines, Andy Sandell (Jon Cox 75), Joshua Klein-Davies, Stuart Nicholson (Adam Mahdi 41), Sean Rigg
Substitutes (not used): Luke Owen, Theo Tonkin

BRISTOL ROVERS 1 SWINDON TOWN 2

Joshua Klein-Davies gave Rovers an early lead in last Monday's reserve game, but

Swindon equalised just before the break, through Lucas Jutkiewicz, and took all three points after Ashley Grimes' goal eight minutes from time.

Rovers took the lead from their first real attack. Cai Jin Yuan picked out Klein-Davies, and the former Bristol City youngster took a couple of touches before hitting a shot into the back of the Swindon net.

Swindon's equaliser arrived in controversial circumstances. Two Swindon players looked to be in an offside position when the ball was played down the left, but play was allowed to continue and a cross into the box evaded Green, giving Jutkiewicz the easy task of heading home unchallenged from two yards.

The winning goal came after Sahr Kabba was caught in possession on the edge of the Swindon box, and a swift break forward from the Robins eventually allowed Grimes a shot on goal from just outside the area, and he made no mistake as he drilled the ball past Green.

Although disappointed with the result, manager Kevin Hodges felt there were a number of positives to take from the game.

“It was a very competitive game and it was pleasing to see that our young side competed well against a team with a lot more experience. We made a good game of it, and the match was played at a good tempo throughout.”

“We were pleased that a side containing so many trialists and young lads, who hadn't played reserve football for us before, came together and did so well.”

“Mike Green made two good saves in the whole game, but other than that I thought we defended well as a unit and Swindon found it very hard to penetrate us.”

“It was disappointing to concede a goal late on, but we gave away possession by trying to win the game. We lost a bit of shape and perhaps too many bodies were bombing forward, but that's inexperience and something the players will learn from.”

“Their first goal was also a hard one to accept. A lot of the players stopped because they thought there was going to be an offside decision. They shouldn't have stopped, they should have reacted, but that's naivety and they will learn from that as well.”

“I'd also like to have seen a bit more commitment from Tom Parrinello in an attempt to stop the ball going in, rather than just accepting that he wasn't going to get there. He might not have done, but you need to make the attempt.”

RESERVES – Pontins holidays combination

AUG 15	Tue	BRISTOL CITY 7.00 PM	A	0-6
AUG 29	Tue	CARDIFF CITY 7.00 PM	H	2-2
SEPT 4	Mon	SWANSEA CITY 7.00 PM F	A	0-1
OCT 9	Mon	SWANSEA CITY	H	2-2
NOV 6	Mon	EXETER CITY	H	2-0
NOV 13	Mon	YEovil TOWN	H	0-2
DEC 19	Wed	WEYMOUTH 7.00 PM	A	1-0
JAN 16	Tue	EXETER CITY 7.30 PM	A	1-0
MAR 12	Mon	SWANSEA CITY	H	1-0
MAR 21	Wed	CARDIFF CITY	A	0-1
MAR 27	Tue	CHELTENHAM TOWN 7.00 PM	A	0-2
APR 2	Mon	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 7.00 PM	A	2-0
APR 6	Fri	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE *	H	0-2
APR 10	Tue	WEYMOUTH 7.00 PM	H	2-0
APR 16	Mon	CHELTENHAM TOWN	H	1-2
APR 21	Sat	YEovil TOWN *	A	2-0
APR 23	Mon	SWINDON TOWN	H	1-2
APR 30	Mon	BRISTOL CITY 7.00 PM	H	
MAY 2	Wed	SWINDON TOWN 7.00 PM	A	

Home games to be played at the Memorial Stadium

PC = Pontins Cup

GFA = GFA Senior Challenge Cup

F = Friendly

KD 2.00pm unless stated

* Doubles as a Youth fixture



YUAN Cai Jin

Dave Perry, Weston super Mare

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Mike Green

Kevin acknowledged the quality of the football his young players produced.

“We try to encourage players to be positive and also to be creative in the right areas. As a coach you look for perfection, and we do need to be better with the ball at times and improve in other areas of our game. But again, these are things you learn as you get more experience.”

“I thought we did well, and I think we deserved a point from the game. A draw would have been a fair result, and when you compare their team to ours, I think that speaks volumes for how well we did.”

Team: Mike Green, Stuart Nelson, Tom Parrinello, James Palmer (Theo Tonkin 79), Gary Elphick, Ollie Barnes, Sahr Kabba, Darren Mullings, Joshua Klein-Davies, Dean Nicholson, Cai Jin Yuan (Charlie Clough 67)

Substitutes (not used): Scott Armstrong, Jason Burt, Ben Swallow

BRISTOL ROVERS 2 YEovil TOWN 0

Two goals from Matt Groves ensured our Under 18 side finished their 2006/07 campaign with a deserved 2-0 win against Yeovil Town.

Rovers took the lead with their first serious attack, when a through ball picked out the run of Groves, who made no mistake as he chipped the ball over the visitors goalkeeper in a one-on-one situation.

The second goal arrived 15 minutes into the second half, when good play from Sahr Kabba saw Groves played in, and the striker made no mistake as he drilled a shot into the bottom corner.

After the final whistle, Tony Ricketts said he was pleased to see the season end on a positive note for his players, and praised the overall team performance.

“It was a comprehensive victory, and a good way to finish the season. Apart from

the first ten to 15 minutes, when we started slowly, we dominated the match.”

“Matt Groves scored two great goals, and it was nice for him to end his year like that having been hit by injury a bit this season.”

“Jason Burt and Theo Tonkin are also worthy of mentions, because they are the unsung heroes of the team. They are not the glory boys, but they’ve been in the side for two years now and you know you are always going to get 100% from them.”

“You won’t get man of the match performances from them, but they won’t let you down either, and they have been part of the heartbeat of the side.”

Tony will shortly meet with Lennie Lawrence, Paul Trollope and Kevin Hodges to decide which players will be offered professional deals ahead of the 2007/08 season.

Team: Luke Owen, Jon Cox, Theo Tonkin, Alex Kite (Ryan Paddock 46), Lukas Stiklakis, Jason Burt, Charles Reece (Sahr Kabba 48), Charlie Clough, Matt Groves, Adam Mahdi (Ben Swallow 15), Jonathan Gill
Substitutes (not used): Scott Armstrong, Rob Deakin

PORTSMOUTH 4 BRISTOL ROVERS 0

Our U-16 side were beaten 4-0 at Portsmouth, a result which disappointed manager Stewart Naughton

“We looked jaded and didn’t come to terms with a difficult pitch. We drew with Portsmouth earlier in the season, and gave them a good game, but on this occasion they were the better side.”

“Things might have been different had George Brimson converted the penalty we were awarded when we were 2-0 down, but he missed it and we faded after that.”

“Rob Moore and Kyle Thomas were our best players on the day, against the youth team of a Premiership side soon to be granted Academy status.”

“My consolation is that the very next day our U-14 and U-15 sides went down to Portsmouth and won their games, which bodes well for next season.”

Team: Giles Cutlan, Byron Brown, Rob Moore, Rhys Farmer, Mich Smit, Craig Harding, Jamie Dingle, Evan Day, Kyle Thomas, Scott Bamford, George Brimson.
Substitutes (both used): Tim Dunne, Mackenzie Freeman



CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE U16'S SOUTH WEST - Fixtures 2006-07

SEP 2	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	1-1
SEP 9	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	A	3-1
SEP 16	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	3-3
SEP 23	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	5-1
SEP 30	Sat	WALSALL	A	3-6
OCT 7	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	2-0
OCT 14	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	1-1
OCT 21	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	A	2-2
OCT 28	Sat	PORTSMOUTH	H	2-2
NOV 4	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	H	5-1
NOV 11	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	0-4
NOV 18	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	P-P
NOV 25	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	P-P
DEC 2	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	0-4
DEC 9	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	0-1
DEC 16	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	3-1
JAN 6	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	A	5-5
JAN 13	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	P-P
JAN 20	Sat	WALSALL	H	4-3
JAN 27	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	1-1
FEB 3	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	3-2
FEB 17	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	A	5-0
FEB 24	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	2-2
MAR 3	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	H	1-1
MAR 10	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	1-4
MAR 17	Sat	BRENTFORD	A	2-2
MAR 24	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	8-1
MAR 31	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	1-3
APR 7	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	0-3
APR 14	Sat	PORTSMOUTH	A	0-4

Home KO 10.30am Away KO 11.00am unless stated
FAYC = FA Youth Cup

PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE U18'S SOUTH WEST - Fixtures 2006/07

AUG 12	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	0-0
SEP 2	Sat	LEYTON ORIENT / PYAC 1	A	0-2
SEP 9	Sat	LUTON TOWN / PYAC 2	H	1-1
SEP 16	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN / PYAC 3	A	2-4
SEP 23	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	3-1
SEP 30	Sat	YEovil TOWN	A	1-4
OCT 14	Sat	NORTHAMPTON TOWN/PYAC 5	H	1-1
OCT 21	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	1-0
OCT 28	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	H	3-2
NOV 4	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	1-1
NOV 7	Tue	HEREFORD UNITED/FAYC 1	A	2-0
NOV 11	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED/PYAC 6	A	0-2
NOV 15	Wed	MILWALL	A	0-2
NOV 18	Sat	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS/PYAC 7	A	1-0
DEC 9	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	3-4
DEC 16	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	A	0-2
FEB 3	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	A	2-2
FEB 17	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	1-2
MAR 3	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	A	4-1
MAR 10	Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	H	5-1
MAR 17	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	2-2
APR 6	Fri	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE *	H	0-2
APR 14	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	1-2
APR 21	Sat	YEovil TOWN *	H	2-0

PYAC = Puma Youth Alliance Cup

Home KO 10.30am Away KO 11.00am unless stated

FAYC = FA Youth Cup

* Doubles as a Reserves fixture

Playing for the gas



■ Chris Llewellyn



■ Matt Lockwood



■ Rik Lopez

Football historian Leigh Edwards traces every Bristol Rovers player from 60 post-war League seasons.

CHRIS LLEWELLYN

Welsh international midfielder Chris Llewellyn had a loan spell at Bristol Rovers during the 2002/03 campaign. A former Norwich City trainee, he signed professional in January 1997 and was given his League debut in their 5-0 defeat at Wolves a year later. He helped them qualify for the First Division play-offs in 2001/02 and was loaned to Rovers in February 2003, netting three goals in 14 Third Division outings while at Memorial Stadium. Joining Wrexham in August 2003, he featured in their 2005 LDV Vans Trophy final success and moved to Hartlepool United in July 2005. He returned to Wrexham in July 2006.

LARRY LLOYD

Big central defender Larry Lloyd gained four England caps after leaving Bristol Rovers. Locally born, he signed professional at Eastville Stadium in July 1967 and starred as Rovers reached the FA Cup Fifth Round in 1968/69. He scored once in 43 League games prior to joining Liverpool for £55,000 in April 1969 and featured in their 1972/73 League Championship and UEFA Cup double triumph. Sold to Coventry City for £240,000 in August 1974, he joined Nottingham Forest in October 1976, starring in their successes under Brian Clough. He later managed Wigan Athletic and Notts County, then became a publican in Nottingham.

MAURICE LOCKIER

Outside-left Maurice Lockier briefly appeared for Bristol Rovers at the end of the 1949/50 season. Locally born, he signed professional at Eastville Stadium in July 1947 and made his League debut in Rovers' 0-0 draw at home to Northampton Town in May 1950. He retained his place for the next match, a 1-0 victory at Reading, but failed to make any further League appearances before

moving to Bath City in May 1952. Helping them reach the FA Cup Second Round in 1952/53, he joined Trowbridge Town in July 1956 and switched to full-back, partnering Ralph Jones in their defence. He resided in Bristol until his death in 2001.

MATT LOCKWOOD

Versatile left-back Matt Lockwood helped Bristol Rovers qualify for the Second Division play-offs in 1997/98. A former Southend United trainee, he signed professional for QPR in May 1995 and followed Ian Holloway to Rovers in July 1997. He made his League debut in the following month's 1-0 victory at home to Peterborough United and scored once in 63 Second Division games while at Memorial Stadium prior to joining Leyton Orient in August 1998. Starring as they qualified for the Third Division play-offs in 1998/99 and 2000/01, he captained Orient to promotion in 2005/06 and is now their longest-serving player.

CARLOS LOPEZ

Spanish right-back Carlos Lopez briefly appeared for Bristol Rovers during the 2001/02 relegation campaign. His full name was Carlos Sanchez-Lopez and he played for Getafe in the lower reaches of the Spanish League before moving to Memorial Stadium on a short-term contract in February 2002. He made a promising League debut in that month's 1-0 defeat at home to Hartlepool United, showing good touches and a willingness to have a shot on goal. Unfortunately he suffered with a shin problem early on, then was sidelined by a knee injury. He made six Second Division appearances before being released in May 2002.

RIK LOPEZ

Attacking left-back Rik Lopez played for Bristol Rovers during the 2001/02 relegation battle. A former QPR trainee, he signed professional in April 1997 but failed to secure a first-team slot and spent a year with Portuguese side Uniao Leiria before moving to Rovers in August 2001. He made his League debut in that month's 1-0 defeat at Darlington and showed early promise

but then had to undergo a calf operation that sidelined him for three months. Returning to the first-team in February 2002, he featured in the FA Cup Fourth Round tie at Gillingham and made seven Second Division appearances before leaving in May 2002.

JEFFERSON LOUIS

Big striker Jefferson Louis understudied Junior Agogo while at Bristol Rovers. Initially with Aylesbury United, he moved via Thame United to Oxford United in March 2002 and made his League debut in the following month's 2-1 defeat at home to Darlington. He headed their 2002/03 FA Cup Second Round winner against rivals Swindon Town, then appeared for Forest Green Rovers and Woking before moving to Bristol Rovers in May 2005. Playing nine League Two games while at Memorial Stadium, he has since had spells with Hemel Hempstead, Worthing, Lewes, Stevenage Borough, Yeading and Havant & Waterlooville.

JOSH LOW

Welsh U-21 winger Josh Low helped Bristol Rovers qualify for the Second Division play-offs in 1997/98. A former Rovers trainee, he signed professional in August 1996 and made his League debut in that month's 1-1 draw at home to Stockport. He regularly appeared as a substitute and played 22 Second Division games before moving to Leyton Orient in May 1999. Joining Cardiff City in November 1999, he helped them win promotion in 2000/01 and reach the Second Division play-offs in 2001/02. He moved via Oldham Athletic to Northampton Town for £165,000 in August 2003 and starred in their 2005/06 promotion success.

MIKE LYONS

Young centre-forward Mike Lyons briefly deputised for Geoff Bradford during the 1953/54 campaign. Signing professional for Bristol City in June 1950, he joined Rovers in July 1953 and made two Second Division appearances before moving to Bournemouth in July 1956. He switched to right-back and starred as they reached the FA Cup Sixth Round in 1956/57, then played for Swindon Town and Yeovil Town. Later Bristol Rovers' reserve team trainer/physio for 17 years while a self-employed insurance broker, he then assisted Bobby Jones at Bath City and Forest Green Rovers. He owns several properties in Bristol.

PHIL LYTHGOE

Versatile winger Phil Lythgoe had a loan spell at Bristol Rovers during the 1978/79 season. The son of former Bristol City winger Derrick Lythgoe, he turned professional with Norwich City in December 1977 and made his First Division debut at home to Manchester City a month later. He was loaned to Rovers in September 1978 and played six Second Division games while at Eastville Stadium. Sold to Oxford United for £15,000 in August 1980, he later played for Witney Town, Gorleston, Lowestoft, Poringland and Wroxham. He has settled in Norwich, since working in advertising sales for local newspapers and radio.



■ Josh Low

GARY MABBUTT

Versatile central defender Gary Mabbutt was capped 16 times by England after leaving Bristol Rovers. A son of former Rovers favourite Ray Mabbutt, he signed professional at Eastville Stadium in January 1976 and was ever-present in 1980/81. A diabetic, he netted ten goals in 131 League games for Rovers prior to joining Tottenham Hotspur for £100,000 in July 1982. He was an influential figure in their 1984 UEFA Cup final triumph, then was an FA Cup finalist in 1987 and skippered Spurs to FA Cup final glory in 1991. Awarded the MBE in the 1994 New Year's Honours list, he has since worked in corporate hospitality.



■ Gary Mabbutt

RAY MABBUTT

Long-serving wing-half Ray Mabbutt was ever-present for Bristol Rovers in 1959/60. He had spells with hometown Aylesbury, Spennymoor and Yorkshire Amateurs before moving to Eastville Stadium in August 1956. Given his League debut in Rovers' 2-1 defeat at Derby County in September 1957, he scored a hat-trick in the 5-4 win at Northampton in October 1967. He netted 27 goals in 394 League outings prior to joining Newport County in September 1969, then played for Trowbridge, Bath City, Clevedon, Frome Town, Mangotsfield, Clevedon again and Keynsham. Now a retired insurance broker, living in Winford.



■ Ray Mabbutt

SHARE SCHEME MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership at the end of March 2007 stands at:-

Level	Number
Bronze	285
Silver	99
Gold	13
Platinum	5
Corporate	1
Total	403

The total monthly income is **£6,349**.

LETTERS TO MEMBERS

A newsletter has recently been sent to Share Scheme members. If you are a Share Scheme member and didn't receive this letter please get in touch to make sure we have your correct contact details. Special thanks to Clare McDonagh and her team for getting the newsletters out.

JUNIOR MATCHDAY PARTIES

We offer a warm welcome to a party of 50 from Bromley Heath Juniors for today's game against Swindon, with thanks again to Eagle Coaches

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The annual Player of the Year Awards will take place on Sunday 6th May, kick off 7.30pm in the Bristol Room.

MUSIC QUIZ

Our music quiz takes place on 3rd May, at 7.30pm. Entry fee is £1 per person, with a maximum of 5 in each team. All profits will go to the Share Scheme.

FROM THE CHAIR

I'm hoping that these are not my last notes of the season and that there is going to be one more set to write, for the home leg of the play off semi-final.

There has been a great improvement in general play since Lennie & Trolls took command and excellent performances in all three cup competitions, culminating in reaching the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, have proved our defence is more than capable and the midfield play a match for anyone below the Championship. However, a lack of goals has cost us in the league campaign though it's not just the forwards who are to blame as there has been a dearth of goals from the midfield as well. Rickie Lambert seems to be improving with every game whilst Richard Walker is on target for another twenty this term, but we just can't seem to finish off the opposition when we are well on top. I'm sure the management team are aware of this and will be working on solutions for next season!

Whatever division we are in, next season is going to be a vital one for the club. If we are able to scrape up through the play offs, or if we have to begin again in the basement division, it is going to be essential to make a good start with a move away to yet another temporary home scheduled for the beginning of 2008.

We don't yet know which of the two possible venues we will be playing at, but neither is very close to home and will require around an hour's travelling, to either the County Ground or Waddon Road. Home attendances will be badly affected, given the poor public transport links, so the last thing we want is a bad start in the autumn!

The Supporters Club Committee has a lot of serious planning to do, for our own logistical problems and for those of our members who will need to be transported north or east. The vital planning will get underway as soon as we know which ground Rovers will be playing at. Meantime, just in case this is the last opportunity this season, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all our many staff and volunteers who have given such fantastic service again this last nine months, especially selling the thousands of tickets for all the big cup ties - you have been magnificent!

My thanks, also, to the rest of the Executive Committee who have provided me with such excellent support throughout the season. This goes particularly for our two Directors, Dave Brain and Ken Masters and our two newest recruits, Commercial Chairman Clive Farquhar and Communications Chairman Dennis Payter. These four have worked tirelessly and with great diligence since we were all thrown into the 'melting pot' on the back of last autumn's

resignations. With my retirement from a working lifetime of 24-hour duty callouts coming to an end in the next couple of weeks I hope that I will be able to put more into the club myself but my committee colleagues will certainly be a tough act to emulate!

Finally, congratulations to our visitors today. Let's hope we Gasheads will be joining them, not just at their ground, but in League One in the very near future!

Jim Chappell.

FROM THE BOARDROOM

At this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held last Monday, the Board of Bristol Rovers 1883 Ltd. held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to vote on a proposed increase in share capital to raise new investment for the football club.

There were five simple resolutions at the AGM which were all passed on a show of hands. The AGM was then closed and the EGM opened.

Chairman Ron Craig opened the EGM and explained the rationale behind the resolutions to increase the share capital of the company. Ron also explained that the normal protocol was to ask for a show of hands for voting purposes but that any member could ask for a vote based upon shareholding held.

These were the three following resolutions at the EGM:-

1. Increase authorised share Capital
2. Authorisation of Directors to allot shares
3. Dis-apply statutory pre-emption rights

The purpose is to increase the company share capital by 25% and to give the Directors authority to issue these shares should it require new investment to support the funding of the stadium regeneration during the redevelopment stages. The resolutions were added to this year's AGM to avoid a costly EGM during the year when there may also have been insufficient time to raise the investment immediately it was required.

Resolution 1 was sought to increase the share capital from £2,000,000 to £2,250,000 by the creation of 2,500,000 additional ordinary shares of 10p each to rank pari passu in all respects with the existing Ordinary shares in the capital of the company.

Resolution 2 was sought to authorise the Directors to allot and issue these ordinary shares. These are ordinary resolutions requiring a vote of 50% + 1 share to be passed. These resolutions were passed on a simple show of hands.

Resolution 3 was sought to disapply statutory pre-emption rights. This is a special resolution requiring a vote of 75% of the shares to be passed. Resolution 3 will confer rights on the

Directors to allow share sales to anybody for whatever price without having to offer the same to existing shareholders, not withstanding their duties to the company to ensure best value. This resolution was not carried on a simple show of hands but passed on a ballot of shareholding held.

The increase in share capital has been discussed by the SCE who have agreed that this is a necessary contingency and a responsible approach, by the football club, to manage the risk during construction. The SCE have also agreed that the redevelopment of the ground is of paramount importance to the future of our club.

Strictly speaking the SCE should have a mandate from its membership on which way to vote on Resolution 3, it being a special resolution requiring 75% of the votes. The SCE had insufficient time to take legal advice, provide an executive recommendation and to organise a ballot before the EGM. However the SCE considers the ground redevelopment to be of utmost importance and therefore supported all three resolutions.

David Brain

WE MUST TAKE OUR FANS

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the supporters of Swindon Town. Our visitors today have made a relatively short trip from just along the M4.

Swindon are a West Country Club with similar traditions to ourselves and with hopes and ambitions that we would well understand.

Down the years there has never been a history of anything other than respect and friendship between our two clubs and groups of supporters. Many players have played for Rovers and Town they will tell us of the good and strong feelings that they hold for both our clubs. There is no good reason why the traditions and ways of the past should not be so today and for many years to come.

Swindon got off to an excellent start this season and apart from the odd blip here and there have performed well throughout. The run in can be a difficult few weeks for teams in the top few, but Town have displayed the sort of resilience and form required to last the pace. By contrast, we got off to a poor start but have since played the type of football Rovers fans appreciate a little more. Relatively speaking we have enjoyed a much better season overall. Nobody associated with this club wants to ply our trade in this division, next season, or ever again.

In two years from now we will be proud and privileged to own and play our football in the very best stadium for miles around; brand new and fit for purpose. That marvellous target should not

detract from our desire to perform on the field of play. Progress on and off the pitch must go hand in hand and there are many very good people at our club working hard and working together to bring this about. Unity and team work is the only way, the only solution.

In the meantime, of course, we will have to suffer the pain and inconvenience of being away from the Mem for around a season and a half. We are not looking forward to it, but we have no choice. We have been talking over the weeks of distance from home, travel arrangements, kick off times, parking, personal costs and the rest. Of course, our host club will do well in financial terms for their trouble and so they should. Club directors will welcome us for that reason and quite understandably. However, we are beginning to think that that is not the only welcome we need. Supporters, townsfolk, local businesses and others will have their part to play. We are not to be herded like cattle in and out, we want to be friends, find friends and make friends. This issue is becoming increasingly important to many decent and law abiding fans at Bristol Rovers.

All said I have no doubt, wherever we go, we must be made to feel welcome otherwise a good number of good, loyal and true may not come with us. A football club is nothing without its fans and wherever we go we must take our fans with us; week in a week out. We must keep our Bristol Rovers family together and we must come back here strong, in good shape and together.

Ken Masters

2007 AGM ELECTIONS

In accordance with the rules of the Bristol Rovers constitution 5.1, a request for nominations for election to Officer and Committee posts will be issued by the Chairperson by 30th April each year.

I call for nominations for the following posts: BRSC Chairperson, BRSC Vice chairperson, BRSC Share Scheme Chairperson, BRSC Executive Committee, BRSC Business Committee.

Nomination forms (appendix 3) are available from BRSC, 199, Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AZ or from the website bristolroverssc.co.uk

Fully completed nomination forms must be received by the BRSC Secretary at the above address by June 30, 2007.

Jim Chappell



lincoln man of the match

The winner was

Byron Anthony, chosen by Ray Mabbutt, Barbara Mabbutt, Sean Isles, Jean Walsh and Jeff Wager.

The trophy presented by T.J. Alexander.



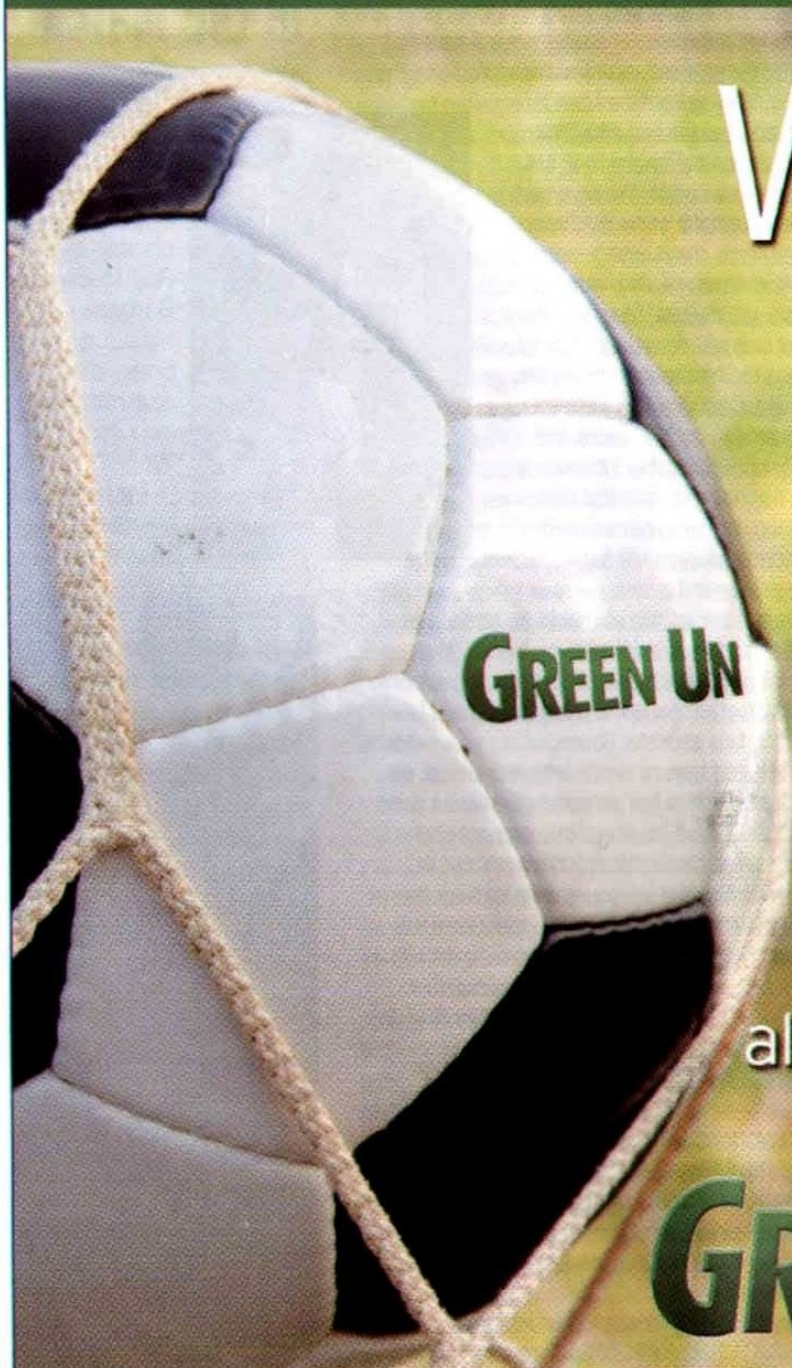
supporters club officials

Chairman Jim Chappell
Director and Vice-Chairman Ken Masters
Treasurer Jane Browne
Secretary Sue Williams
Director and Share Scheme Chairman David Brain
Commercial Chairman Clive Farquhar
Social Chairman Dave Hewett
Communications Dennis Payer
Matchday Chairman Taff Alexander
Committee members Janet Wooster, Pete Collins, Ralph Shaw

stand tickets are available from:

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and online @
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PIRATE LEISURE
At the Memorial Stadium
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Fax: 0117 908 5530
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SATURDAY TEAM CLUBS

We have two Saturday Team Clubs with us today and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the players and parents of Peasedown Athletic and Coalpit Heath Football Clubs.

PEASEDOWN ATHLETIC

Based at Peasedown Cricket Club, near Bath, Peasedown Athletic runs teams from U-11's up to U-16's as well as a men's senior team and a Sunday morning team.

The trip to the Swindon game is mainly Peasedown U-11's and the U-11's Colts, managed by Darren Owen, but there is a sprinkling of players from various other age groups as well as their managers.

COALPIT HEATH

The Coalpit Heath club has grown now to support teams from U-7's through to 2 senior teams, whilst achieving the FA charter development status earlier this season.

We have 2 teams with us today, the U-9's and U-10's.

The U-9's have had an encouraging first season in the Hanham Minor league. They have won 8 of their 11 league games and reached the quarter finals of the cup. They

won 9 league and cup games in a row during a good spell after Christmas.

The U-10's currently lie second in the Hanham Minor league Division B. They have lost only once to date this season, and are unbeaten since the end of October. They have won 14 of their 21 league matches, drawing six, and need to win two of their last three matches to guarantee promotion to make them the youngest team to represent Coalpit Heath in the top division.

HOLIDAY COURSES

We will be running our popular Holiday courses from 29th May until 1st June, at Filton Sports Academy, Stoke Gifford.

The cost is just £10 per day and each course runs from 10.00am-3.00pm.

Please give us a call for more details.

■ **Hutton Juniors, one of our Saturday Team Clubs for the Lincoln game...**



I'll know when the football season begins again, because I'll hear Keith's dulcet tones bellowing down the phone asking if there's any chance of me getting notes to him in the next two hours. I think I'm going to miss that over the next few weeks!

■ **...and Lavington Juniors, who were also our guests last week**



■ **Brislington U-7's, one of our Saturday Team Clubs for the game against Bury**



...on the road

Hartlepool United

SATURDAY 5TH MAY (KO 3.00pm)

For our final Coca Cola League two fixture of the season, Supporters Club coaches leave Kingswood at 6.00am, Eastville at 6.15am and the Memorial Stadium at 6.30am.

Coach fare: £26.50

Admission: (All seats) Adults: £18.00

Concessions: £9.00

Please note that this game is all ticket for Rovers fans. To check availability of tickets please phone 0117 9096648 or 0117 9611772

Official Programme: £2.50

By Car: Take the M32 out of Bristol, keeping in the left hand lane, before joining the M4 (signposted South Wales). Exit the M4 at junction 20 and keep in the right hand lane to join the M5 (signposted The Midlands). Exit the M5 at Junction 4A and join the M42. Continue on the M42 before joining the A42 and then the M1 (signposted The North, Nottingham). Remain on the M1, joining the A1(M) after Junction 47. At Junction 45 of the A1(M) continue onto the A1 until rejoining the A1(M). Exit the A1(M) at Junction 49 (Dishforth Interchange) and merge onto the A168. Continue forward onto the A19 before joining the A139 (Signposted Billingham). At

first roundabout take the first exit onto the A1027 before joining the A689 (signposted Hartlepool). Follow the town centre signs for 2.8 miles, over two roundabouts. Go straight over the next two sets of traffic lights, passing Hartlepool College on your right. The next turning left takes you to Victoria Park, home of Hartlepool United.

stroll 4 meningitis

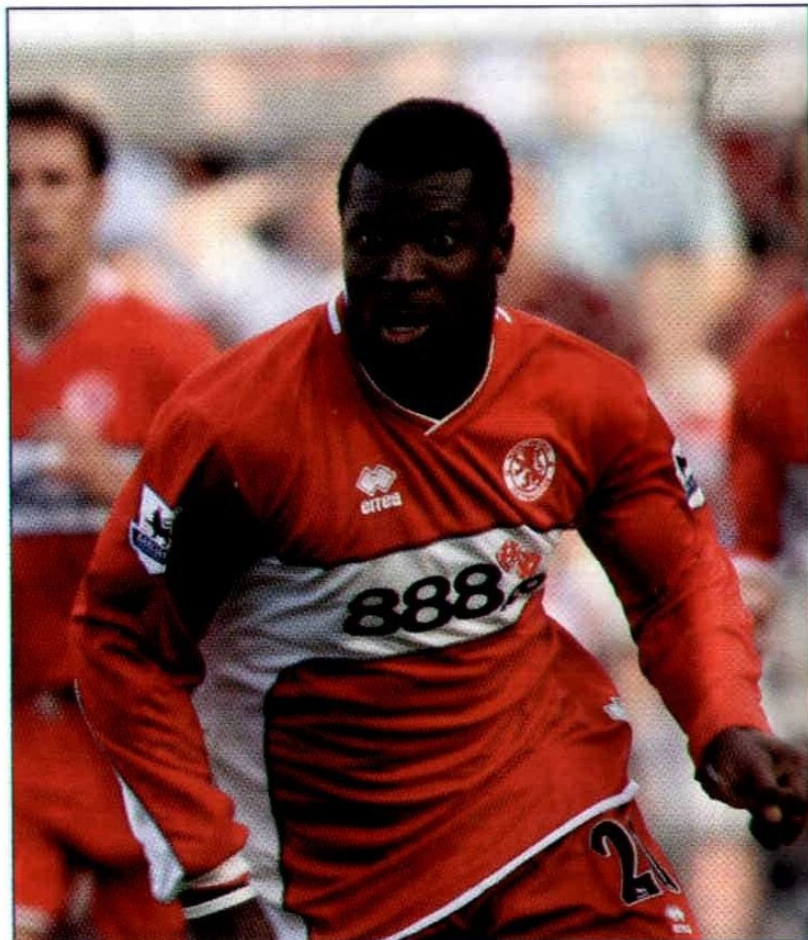
Local fundraiser Paul Hobbs has once again organised the Stroll 4 Meningitis, a 16 mile walk from Bath Rugby Club to Bristol Rugby Club, and this year's walk takes place on Saturday 30th June.

The walk is divided into four stages; Stage one is from Bath to Saltford, stage two Saltford to Brislington, stage three Brislington to Welshback and stage four Welshback to the Memorial Stadium.

You are invited to join the walk anywhere, anytime, for any distance and help raise funds for research into finding a vaccine for meningitis.

To join the walk, please call **0117 373 7373**, or for further information visit www.meningitisUK.org

All walkers will receive a free information pack and T-shirt.



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Alan Ball

Only one man has won a World Cup winners' medal and also played for Bristol Rovers, so it is with great sadness that we learn of the death of Alan Ball.

Having watched the Champions League semi-final between Manchester United and AC Milan the previous evening, Alan died of a heart attack in the early hours of Wednesday 25th April 2007 at the age of sixty-one. Following the death from cancer of Bobby Moore in 1993, Ball, the 'baby' of the 1966 side, is the second of England's World Cup winning side to die.

Alan Ball's reputation grew out of his good fortune to be in the England side that became World champions in 1966. At the age of twenty-one, Ball was the youngest member of the side and had only made his international debut in May 1965, in a 1-1 draw with Yugoslavia. Diminutive, red-haired and with a bubbly personality, a famously squeaky voice and an infectious sense of humour, he was in the engine-room of England's midfield, providing the box-to-box service that the national side required in the World Cup finals. In the final itself, he can be seen turning away, arm raised aloft, fully confident that Geoff Hurst's controversial goal had crossed the line. Hurst, the son of a former Rovers reserves player, completed a hat-trick as England defeated West Germany 4-2 at Wembley.

On 26th January 1983, towards the end of a long and celebrated career, Ball was signed for Bristol Rovers by Bobby Gould. Aged thirty-seven, his signing was by no means a risk, for the wealth of experience and his willingness to go on running provided Rovers with greater depth and quality. 'I'm not a believer in luck', he once said, 'but I do believe you need it'. He played in Rovers' midfield in seventeen League games, including a 5-0 win at Wigan Athletic, scoring against Plymouth and Huddersfield. The latter goal, a stunning thirty-yard shot following a throw-in out on the left, proved to be the last of his career, whilst his final game for Rovers was the last League match played by any of the eleven players who had secured the Jules Rimet trophy back in 1966. For the record, Ball

was Rovers' third oldest debutant, the seventh oldest man to don a Rovers shirt in League action and the fourth oldest to score a goal.

Born in Farnworth on 12th May 1945, Alan James Ball was the son of a former Southport, Oldham Athletic and Rochdale player; Alan Ball senior had gone on to make his name as a manager. Rejected as a junior at Wolves and Bolton because of his size, 'Bally' was not yet five feet six inches when he arrived at Blackpool in September 1961, signing as a professional on his seventeenth birthday. He played in 146 League games for Blackpool, scoring 46 goals and, having made his mark at international level, moved to Everton for £115,000 in August 1966. Merseyside was a thriving place at that time, with the worlds of music and fashion adding an atmosphere to the city; with Ball commanding the midfield, Everton were League champions in 1969/70 and he totalled 208 League appearances and 66 goals. He also played for Arsenal, who paid a British record transfer fee of £220,000 for his services in December 1971 - he was their top scorer and Player of the Year in 1973/74 - and, from Christmas 1976, Southampton, playing in 177 (45 goals) and 195 (11 goals) League matches respectively. He helped the Saints to promotion from Division Two in 1977/78. Oddly enough for a World Cup winner, he was unsuccessful in domestic cups, being a losing FA Cup finalist with Everton in 1968 and Arsenal in 1972 as well as a losing League Cup finalist in 1979 with Southampton. He did, however, score a European Cup hat-trick, when Everton defeated Keflavik 6-2 at Goodison Park in September 1970. His time at Rovers took him to a career total of 633 League games and 170 goals.

Having won eight U-23 caps, Ball went on to represent England in 72 full



internationals, scoring eight times, and captaining his country on six occasions. He also represented the Football League. He contrived to miss a penalty against Finland in 1966 and was sent off against Poland in 1973, becoming only the second England man to be dismissed in a full international. Coupled with his sending-off for the U-23 side in Vienna in 1965, he was, until David Beckham in 2006, the only man to have been sent off twice in an England shirt. Prior to his arrival at Eastville in 1983, he had also spent time in North America and in Hong Kong. 25 games and five goals for Philadelphia Fury in 1978 were followed by 31 games and ten goals in two spells with Vancouver Whitecaps. It was from the Hong Kong side Eastern United that he joined Rovers. Subsequently he was to manage Portsmouth (whom he led back to top-flight football), Stoke City, Exeter City, Southampton and Manchester City, as well as coaching at Colchester United and Minehead. At one point, from January 1992, he was coach to the England 'B' team. The death of his wife Lesley in 2004, after thirty-six years of marriage and shortly after the birth of their third grandchild, was a bitter blow and Ball sold his World Cup medal and commemorative cap in May 2005 for £140,000 in a bid to raise money for his family. He leaves a son, Jimmy, who played football for Petersfield Town, and two daughters, Mandy and Keely. ■

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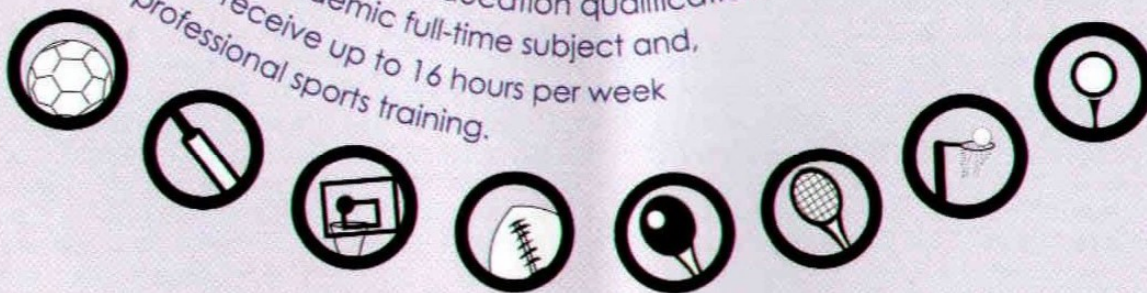
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Let's hear you!

Good afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our game against Swindon Town. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Swindon Directors, players, staff and supporters and hope they enjoy their day with us. I would like to congratulate Swindon on an excellent season and hope that their promotion is confirmed by MK Dons losing this afternoon. That way, they will still be promoted if we take all three points and we will be a step nearer the play offs!

Our Match Sponsor this afternoon is All Metal Services.

The All Metal Services Group are leading specialists in the processing stockholding and supplying of Raw Materials, in the fields of Aerospace and Defence. They carry a comprehensive stock of Titanium, Aluminium and Steel and supply the widest range of American materials, outside of the USA.

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Lee Bridges and Matt Paines would like to welcome our guests this afternoon.

For the fourth year running, The Windsor Castle Public House and Weston-super Mare Gas have teamed up to provide the Matchball Sponsorship for today's final home league game of the season. The Windsor Castle can be found at the top of Baytree Road, in the Milton area of W-s-M. The bar serves a wide range of beers and real ales, wines and spirits, and fine home-cooked food is also available

■ **Lincoln Match Sponsor, the Princess of Wales Public House, chose Byron Anthony as their Man of the Match...**



■ **... as did Programme Sponsor AR Fulham Plumbing & Heating...**

- all highly recommended for any of those Gasheads heading to Weston this summer. They are more than welcome to call in to enjoy the hospitality. 'Weston-super-Mare Gas' are an official branch of the Bristol Rovers Supporters Club and organise various fund-raising activities with all monies raised used to help support Bristol Rovers U-18's side.

This afternoon's Programme Sponsor is Boxes and Packaging (B&P) and their Bristol management team are very proud that the employees of the company have joined together to continue our support of BRFC. Whilst the parent company no longer supports local events, the management team at Bristol, Ian Waldron and Neil Powell were encouraged by the reaction of the employees who agreed to continue to support their club. In fact, over one third of the employees at Bristol travelled to the Millennium for the JPT final.

They are joined by one of their employees John Holder, who is celebrating 20 years of working for the company. John has always been an avid Rovers supporter.

Our Commercial mascot is ten year old Michael Gane. He plays football for Congresbury F.C and Rugby for Yatton. His favourite player is Steve Elliott and he will be watching the game from Box 12 with his Dad Steve, from SMG Carpentry, who is a great supporter of this club.

This is a huge day for our catering department, with over 510 meals being served throughout our hospitality areas, which requires a fantastic effort from everyone involved. There are clubs in the Championship who cannot match our catering, and we are extremely proud of what we can offer our fans on Matchdays. A huge thank you to everyone who helps us gain such a high reputation, from the cleaners, waiting staff, bar staff, chefs and catering management, as without your efforts it would not be possible to pull off such a large and successful operation.

It's been a long season, with good cup runs in both the JPT and the FA Cup, and we have many things reasons to boast about, especially beating Bristol City over two legs, to reach the Millennium Stadium. We hope that the play offs are still within reach, as Tuesday evenings win has left us with a very good chance. A day out at Wembley would really cap a fantastic season, so thanks go to Lennie Lawrence and Paul Trollope, who are a pleasure to work with and their players are the best group we've had here for quite a while.

Finally, a special mention must go to my PA Liz Jack, whose story you can read elsewhere in today's programme. What she did last Saturday was really remarkable and everyone at the club is very proud of her.

We will have a very big crowd in the stadium today, so let's hear you all for one last time, and let's finish on a high!

Come on ye Blues



■ **...while Matchball Sponsor AB Fluid Power chose Steve Elliott**

Progress report

After Saturday's draw with Lincoln, I anticipated that this would probably be the last Regeneration progress report of the season and that I would be advising readers to watch out for news on the club website and in the local press during the summer.

As I write, though, Sean Rigg's goal has just won the game at Macclesfield and maybe there will be the opportunity for one more programme report before the season finally draws to a close!

Talking of Riggs, those of you who walked past the Clubhouse at the Bury match may have noticed the drilling rig parked outside. This was part of the equipment being used by contractors undertaking the ground investigation work - always one of the first activities in any development project, to provide detailed information about conditions beneath the ground for the architects and structural engineers amongst others. It will also provide the information about any possible contamination in the ground to help us meet our obligations to the City Council who will want to approve our plans for dealing with any that is found.

Temporary Relocation:

The last programme progress report (Lincoln programme) was devoted to a

questionnaire issued by the club to seek views on fans' preferences between Swindon and Cheltenham as our temporary home while the Mem is rebuilt. If you missed this and would like to register your preference you can download a copy from the club website or call in at Pirate Leisure today and get one.

Current Progress:

Before we can move anywhere we need to be ready to start demolishing the existing stadium by the end of this year and so behind the scenes work continues towards this objective. S&P Architects who produced the designs that helped secure planning permission have now been reappointed to undertake the detailed design and this should take three to four months and so be complete early next season.

The Club is also now in discussion with the different engineering contractors who will advise on various aspects of the development. These include civil engineers, structural engineers, mechanical and electrical engineers, acoustics specialists

and hydrogeologists. Quotes for demolition are also being sought and we expect to appoint lawyers shortly to oversee the legal aspects of the development.

Discussions are also continuing with the various bodies I have mentioned in previous reports - the financial institutions in respect of funding and student accommodation companies in terms of the enabling development.

Finally, the wording of the formal legal agreement between the Football Club and the City Council (the so called Section 106 agreement) is now pretty much agreed and it is hoped this will be ready for signature within the next week or so by the two parties and by others who have a legal interest in the land covered by the planning permission. Once this is signed it will give legal effect to the planning permission for the Regeneration scheme.

Once the agreement has been signed we can start the next stage of consultation in earnest. Plans for this have been drawn up and the club is considering them as part of its overall communications strategy. Amongst other things this will include the setting up of the Stadium Monitoring Group, as required under the agreement itself and greater direct contact with local residents and businesses.



brsc extra

compiled by Dennis Payter

COMMERCIAL

In case we are not fortunate enough to make the play-offs I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following websites: www.buy.at/rovers

I've mentioned this in previous articles, but it's worth remembering that if you are thinking of making any online purchases during the summer, please check out our web shop first as it will cost you nothing but will earn us commission. www.britannia.co.uk/brfc

Britannia Building Society offers a Bristol Rovers Save and Support Account (Adults) and a Captain Gas Junior Saver Account

(under 18's) which require opening deposits of only £100 and £1 respectively. Opening an account will give you:

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We earn up to 1% of the daily average balance of all such accounts so this offer is well worth taking up.

As usual, if you have any suggestions or comments, I will be happy to receive them at: clive.farquhar@bristolroverssc.co.uk

Clive Farquhar

SHARE SCHEME BENEFITS

We are planning to offer Share Scheme meals early next season before moving temporarily from the Memorial Stadium, so please contact us once fixtures are announced.

If you are a Share Scheme member and didn't take up your Share Scheme membership benefits this year, eg free meals, but intended to claim them please let us know ASAP to see if you can be accommodated next year.

If you were a Share Scheme member but left during the year please remember that you will need to review your Supports Club membership at the start of next season.

Wembley here I come!

Welcome, everyone, to the Memorial Stadium for our final league match of the season.

Once more we enter the final stages of the campaign and, as I did last year, I am writing these notes with Bristol Rovers still having an outside chance of making the play offs. Obviously, last Saturday's goalless draw with Lincoln City was a disappointment. Unfortunately, these notes had to be written before Tuesday night's match at Macclesfield and anything less than a win there would surely put an end to our chances. So, whilst there is still a mathematical possibility, I will cling to the hope that we can make it into the top seven to extend our season.

A little closer to home, (well my home anyway!), Eynesbury Rovers have unexpectedly extended their season, due to a South Midlands Floodlit Cup quarter final success. The final two games of the season were both scheduled to be at home, the aforementioned cup tie on April 19th and the final league game of the season on Saturday 21st April, followed by the end of season presentations. This meant that I had to produce two separate programmes for each match without knowing the outcome of the cup tie.

As we were up against higher grade opponents in the cup, I really didn't expect us to win! Oxhey Jets play in the South Midlands League Premier Division and were seventh at the time. In the previous round they had won 4-1 away at Southern League Premier Division side Cheshunt. Eynesbury Rovers play in Division One of the United Counties League and were 9th at the time of the game. Oxhey Jets took the lead, but by half time Rovers were 2-1 ahead. Craig Lanham scored his first goal for the club and Ian Dawkes fired Rovers in front. After the break Oxhey had the best of the play, and it came as no surprise when they equalised in

the 81st minute. Things took a turn for the worse for Eynesbury when Ian Dawkes was sent off two minutes later, but in the fourth minute of stoppage time our 6' 7" centre half, Stuart Harper, headed home a winner. Therefore I now have another programme to produce as we are at home to another South Midlands League Premier Division side, Royston Town, in the semi-final. Also I was made to eat my words, as in the programme for the Irchester match I wished all our supporters an enjoyable summer! Oh ye of little faith!



■ **Rickie Lambert goes close to breaking the deadlock against Lincoln last Saturday**

In addition, due to the extra game or two we had to postpone our presentations! I also had the additional worry of possibly missing the semi-final. On the day of the quarter final I received a phone call from my boss asking if I could work in Northern Ireland the following week. I agreed to do this, not thinking that Eynesbury would win! Of course they won and, for a short while, there was a possibility of the game being played when I was away but fortunately the tie has now been fixed for Tuesday 1st May.

Having contributed to the award winning Pirate during the course of the season, I was naturally pleased that it won the Programme Monthly Programme of the Year award for Coca Cola League Two. On a more personal level I was delighted that the Eynesbury Rovers programme that I produce won the

Programme Monthly award for best programme in the United Counties League First Division. To be involved in two winning programmes is a bonus for me, as I just do the work as a hobby. Once the season comes to an end I always feel a tinge of sadness as I produce my final programme. There are no more games to look forward to, no more endless nights discussing the match over a pint or two and my diary is suddenly empty as the summer draws near.

Naturally, there are still jobs to be done. The summer months offer the only chance

to decorate the changing rooms, clubhouse, toilets and corridors; whilst the goalmouths, centre circle and the touchlines on the pitch are either re-turfed or re-seeded. However, it never seems too long before training starts and the various AGM's for the league and cup competitions are held. Pre-season friendlies are arranged and, before you know it, a new season has begun again.

Before that, however, there is still much to look forward to. The aforementioned cup tie/ties for my local side; the

possibility of Rovers reaching the play offs and two forthcoming trips to Wembley (and maybe a third!). The first major final to be played at the new Wembley Stadium will be the FA Trophy Final on Saturday 12th May when Kidderminster Harriers take on Stevenage Borough. With tickets at just £25 each, a group of us have decided to make a day of it and take the opportunity to get a good look at the new Wembley. The following day the FA Vase Final is also being played at Wembley with Truro taking on AFC Totton and with tickets at just £15 each I decided that a return trip just 24 hours later would give my girlfriend Sue a chance to visit the ground. (Let's face it, as a Tottenham fan she could have a long wait!).

So two trips to Wembley are in hand, can Bristol Rovers make it a third? ■

We'll write again!

Hi everyone, it must be many years since Bristol Rovers' season was still 'boiling' right into the last week of fixtures.

Tuesday night's great win away at my 'second home' guarantees a sellout today, against our local rivals Swindon Town.

I watched Macclesfield get absolutely torn apart by a very vibrant young Rochdale side last Saturday, and I knew that they would respond with a much improved performance against us.

Rochdale's smaller, and nippy, forwards caused the Macc defenders all sorts of problems, and that also proved to be the case with us when 'Riggy' went on and scored the vital winner.

As I was up at Hartlepool last Friday night, and at Rochdale the following day, it was left to Kevin Hodges to watch Swindon on Saturday, when they played Mansfield Town.

Hopefully that result will be enough to see Swindon go up automatically, as they can't expect any favours from us today. We know that we are in for a tough game, but we play well against the better teams. As I've said in previous programme notes, I expect that everything will hang in the balance until our final league game of the season, at Hartlepool next week.

We will, of course, be monitoring Hartlepool again today, and guess where they are playing? Rochdale, of course, so I'm off to Scotland again, gathering information which, we hope, will be very important for next weekend.

My final wish for the season is that these will not be the last programme notes I write, so let's keep our fingers crossed!

Whatever happens now, this has already been a truly memorable season for this football club. I often get a lot of 'stick' for



■ Roar us on to a win!

always, seemingly, wearing my Rovers tracksuit every day (he doesn't have any proper clothes - Ed), but I'm proud to wear it, and you must be very proud of your team these days, as well!

Roar us into the play offs.
C'mon the Gas



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Better than the Archers!

Every so often, football consumes your life. Today is one of those days where everything has centred around Rovers.

An overwhelming combination of anxiety and excitement ahead of this evening's game against Macclesfield have filled my thoughts all day long at work and now, at 7:48pm, I sit listening to Radio Bristol to the live commentary from Moss Rose.

When I'm not able to get to an away game, I sit transfixed to the radio. The love triangle between Brian, Siobhan and Jennifer in *The Archers* may be radio at it's best but not even that will leave me as totally absorbed as tonight's live game will. I can't do anything else. I'm not even bothering to cook tonight; the Manchester United Champions League game is on mute. Sri Lanka and New Zealand's World Cup Semi Final can wait. For now, and for the next few hours, I will be listening to every word from Richard Hoskin and co-commentator Chris Swift, wishing I could be there at Macclesfield for what could be our final chance to haul ourselves into the play off positions.

If last year we flirted with the top seven, then this year we're trying to pull them. The surreal experience that was the Johnstone's Paint Final seems a lifetime ago with the news that about 200 Gasheads are at Macclesfield tonight. Only just under the 7,000 mark were there for our match last Saturday against Lincoln; I don't ever remember a 0-0 that was so tense, so nerve wracking and so exciting. The commercialisation of Rovers that naturally and inevitably occurred due to our recent performance at the Millennium Stadium meant being a Gashead became diluted; sharing the ultimate day a lower league football fan craves - a big day out at a cup final - with people who did not know the players from Adam was a little strange. It was like being at a big concert seeing one of your all time favourite artists with people who don't know half the songs and push past you before the end to get their car out of the car park. It was like

sharing your birthday in a pub full of strangers - fun, but not the same as sharing it with people you care about.

I have kept texts from friends and family in recent weeks that capture the different moments in the final chapter of this season: 'We are 9th, 2 points behind Shrewsbury and 3 behind Wycombe who we have a game in hand over! Only 6 off Stockport!' my brother Ed updated me after I left Field Mill on Easter Saturday after our 1-0 win there. 'Macc beating Stockport! Walsall beating Notts Co. Sky said Richard Lambert scored! Who's he?! :-)' came another during the first half at Barnet when both fans at Underhill and fans listening back home were united in their confusion as to who had

things up at half time. Missed chances have been the story of our season; the difference between why we are chasing the play offs instead of sitting pretty in the automatic spots. We have, throughout the season, missed chances to go 2-0 or 3-0 and only having a slender lead has cost us sometimes. That is my only reservation in a season that has otherwise brought so much excitement and created so many treasured memories.

Richard Hoskin and Chris Swift are describing Rovers' bright start to the second half. I've eaten a pizza without tasting it, and my heart is in my mouth just listening to the game. The cheers and bursts of Irene that are coming from the away support is the soundtrack to their narrative. It's 0-0 between Wrexham and Shrewsbury, just to make me even more nervy. This whole evening, as jittery as it's making me, is a testament to how great this season has been.

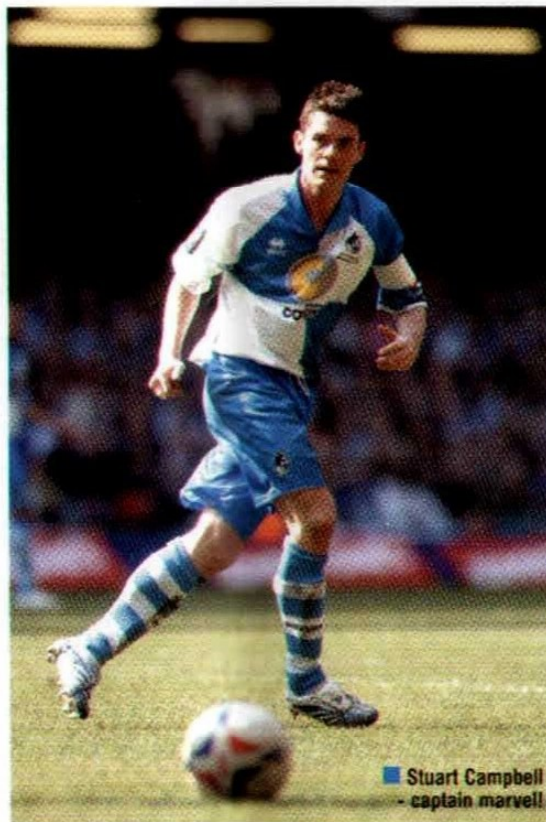
So many of the players have had their best season ever in their Rovers career and many have exceeded all expectations some people had of them. Not least our captain marvel Stuart Campbell, who gets my vote for Player of the Season.

Fifteen minutes left. I can't cope with this. Come ON Rovers! They go over to Ashton Gate again for a rugby update and I switch off momentarily... my mind, not the radio... but as they return to Moss Rose, Richard Hoskin tells us there's been a goal:

'Macclesfield nil Rovers one! Sean Rigg!! Yesssss!! Irene goodnight Irene, Irene goodnight'. The sweetest song ever can be heard over the commentators. I could never imagine that the two words 'Macclesfield nil' could sound so wonderful. And apparently Wrexham are beating Shrewsbury!

Ten minutes left. How many times have we had to cling to a 1-0 this season? Trust Rovers to stamp such a vital game with their trademark scoreline! Four minutes of injury time... where has that come from... oh my god... Final whistle! We've done it! Rovers live to fight another day! Wrexham have beaten Shrewsbury!

Bring on Swindon!

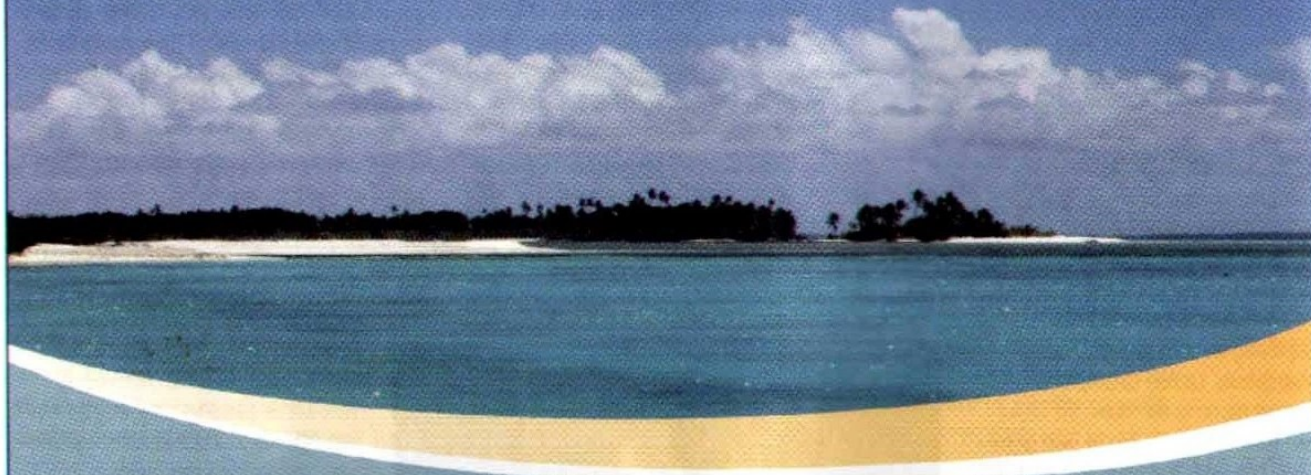


Stuart Campbell
- captain marvel!

got our first goal against the Bees.

Chris Swift says Rovers are nervy; join the club. My heart was just in my mouth as Lewis Haldane just shot over the cross bar - no, apparently it was Rickie Lambert. Quite how those two can be confused is beyond me but in the hysteria of such a game as this, I can't blame them. That turns out to be the main effort of the half, as they wrap

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born on this day Les Berry

Should you glance through any cricketing book of the inter-war period, the name of the Rovers goalkeeper Les Berry, who was born in Dorking on 28th April 1906, is likely to appear.

Les Berry was a distinguished captain of Leicestershire (1946-48) who, as a right-handed batsman, scored 30,143 runs and took ten first-class wickets in 605 matches between 1924 and 1951. His highest score was 232 against Sussex at Leicester in 1930 and, in the summer of 1933 alone, he contributed 1,971 runs. Canynge Caple's 'Cricketers' Who's Who' from 1934 records that he 'has rendered his side good service' and mentions a particularly poignant score of 156 at The Oval against Surrey, the county of his birth. Yet, he was also a tall, reliable goalkeeper for Rovers and today's visitors Swindon Town, whose family had moved from Surrey to Market Harborough and it was from his home-town club, following trials with Leicester City in 1926, when on the books of Symington's FC, that

George Leslie Berry joined Sheffield Wednesday as a professional goalkeeper in March 1929. Understudy at Hillsborough to the England international keeper Jack Brown, Berry had to wait for his League debut until he had signed for Rovers on 13th June 1930. That first game was a heavy defeat at the hands of Northampton, for whom the future Bristol City forward Ted Bowen scored a hat-trick but, undeterred, Berry played in 39 consecutive League and Cup matches for Rovers, filling the rather large shoes of the recently retired legendary guardian Jesse Whatley. Unfortunately, Rovers conceded four or more goals in eleven of the 34 League matches, no fewer than eight opponents scoring hat-tricks during this run. He was only left out of the side, though, after breaking a bone in his wrist in training. In May 1932, he moved to Swindon Town, where his 22 League matches were to include a 1-0 defeat at Eastville in November of that year, George McNestry scoring Rovers' goal. Thereafter, whilst able to focus on his exceptional cricket career, Berry played for Nuneaton Town from October 1933, Anstey Primitives from October 1935 and Leicestershire Nomads as player-coach from September 1934. Between 1952 and 1980 he was cricket coach at Uppingham School in Rutland, where he coached the future England bowler and television and radio commentator Jonathan Agnew. Les Berry died on 15th February 1985, at the age of seventy-eight, at his home in High Street, Great Glen in Leicestershire.

28th april 1987

Bristol Rovers 3 Chester City 2

A series of postponements through a wet winter meant that Rovers had to squeeze eight home games and three away fixtures into the final weeks of a tough 1986/87 season.

What was more, the threat of relegation to the basement division for the first time in Rovers' history hung over the club and the side languished in the relegation zone when Chester visited Twerton Park on this day twenty years ago for a Third Division match. Optimism was vanishing fast and there were just 2,323 hardy souls in the Bath ground for this tie. Despite a home defeat at the hands of Gillingham, Rovers fielded an unchanged side for the visit of Chester City and the tired side soon fell behind when Ricky Greenhough took advantage of hesitant defending to fire home past Rovers' unsighted goalkeeper Tim Carter. After fifteen minutes, with a goal pictured in Mike Jay's excellent 'Complete Record, 1883-1987', Jeff Meacham casually back-heeled Rovers level. However, from a header from Graham Barrow, Stuart Rimmer, looking offside, put Chester back in front. This controversial goal caused tensions to mount and Barrow was sent off just before half-time following a late challenge on John Scales. After half-time, with a one-man advantage, Rovers scored twice to secure a valuable victory. First, after fifty-eight minutes, Meacham scored his second of the game after good work by Phil Purnell; then, with eighteen minutes left to play, Scales seized on to Rob Turner's lay-off and volleyed home from twenty-five yards for a spectacular winner. John Scales was to score only twice in his time with Rovers, before playing three times for England in a career that took in

Wimbledon, Liverpool, Spurs and Ipswich.

Victory over Darlington forty-eight hours later gave Rovers a hint of space in the battle against relegation, though the ensuing three defeats set up a tense finish. As it was, Phil Purnell's goal at Newport on the final day ensured that Rovers survived in Division Three, a league that the club was to leave as champions just three years later. The drop into the basement division, for the first time in the club's history, was to arrive in 2001, more than eighty years after Rovers had first become members of the Football League.


On the same day in 1987, our visitors today Swindon Town, with former Rovers Steve White and Tim Parkin in their starting line-up, won 3-2 at Notts County in the same Third Division. Recalling Leigh Barnard and Bryan Wade, the Robins trailed to a David Hunt goal at half-time, before rallying to record a victory before a crowd of 6,354 at Meadow Lane. Darren Davis scored an own goal and Colin Calderwood and Wade a goal each, with Ian McParland replying for County.

■ Jeff Meacham (10), backheels the ball past Chester goalkeeper Butcher for his first goal




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something for our visitors... A funny old game

Jimmy Greaves' famous saying might just strike a chord with First Team Coach **Paul Trollope**, who started his career with the Robins before making his League debut for Torquay.

Less than two years ago it looked as if the midfielder, son of County Ground legend **John**, was heading for the exit door of the Mem after **Ian Atkins** suggested that he was surplus to requirements. **Trollope**, who has now been in charge for a longer period than his predecessor, became **Atkins'** coach before replacing him, in association with Director of Football **Lennie Lawrence**.

Sammy Igoe has a more recent Swindon connection, having spent two seasons with Town before an ill-fated move to Millwall in the summer of 2005. His three goals so far this season included the equaliser against Doncaster in the JPT Final. With the central midfield positions being filled by skipper **Stuart Campbell**, signed from Grimsby in the summer of 2004, and **Craig Disley**, formerly with Mansfield, **Igoe** has been employed on the right wing with **Lewis Haldane** or **Andy Sandell** on the left flank. **Sandell** joined Rovers from Bath City at the start of the season. **Joe Jacobson**, on loan from Cardiff City, gives the Pirates another option on the left and provided the cross for **Sean Rigg's** vital goal on Tuesday evening. **Jacobson** was the Bluebirds' reserve team skipper last term and made his senior debut in their last home game of the season against Norwich. He played for Accrington Stanley on loan in their 4-0 defeat here at the Mem last December. 19 year old **Rigg**, who sustained a double jaw fracture at Barrow in the FA Cup last November, replaced **Haldane** from the bench three minutes before scoring his first senior goal at Macclesfield. Bristol boy **Chris Lines** proved a capable deputy during **Campbell's** absence through suspension last month. Another local lad, **Darren Mullings**, has had a loan spell at Clevedon, whilst **James Palmer** is one of five Filton College youngsters in this season's squad.

Stuart Nicholson, who has been on loan from West Brom, missed last Tuesday's



Paul Trollope

game through illness. **Richard Walker** and **Rickie Lambert** are the preferred partnership up front, although **Nicholson's** pace has often been employed to good effect in the later stages of games. **Walker**, our leading marksman, scored in our meeting at the County Ground last December. He joined Rovers from Oxford in August 2004, after beginning his career as a trainee at Aston Villa, and playing for Cambridge, Blackpool, Wycombe and Northampton. He is out of contract at the end of the season and has rejected a new offer. Reports have suggested that he may be a target for Leyton Orient. **Lambert**, whose goal against Bristol City sealed the Pirates' passage to the JPT Final, spent the best part of two years at Stockport after his £300,000 move from Macclesfield in April 2003. He scored 22 for Rochdale last season, the best a Dale striker had managed for 20 years, and Rovers' invested around £200,000 to bring him to the Mem at the end of August last year. **Lewis Powell**, 19, has been on loan at Mangotsfield but has yet to make a senior appearance.

Last Saturday's game saw changes in the Pirates' back four as **Ryan Green** and **Byron Anthony**, a Welsh U-21 international signed from Cardiff, came in for **Aaron Lescott** and

Craig Hinton at right back and in central defence respectively. **Green**, a close season recruit from Hereford, needed an operation on a lacerated ankle and his return coincided with a four match ban for former Stockport midfielder **Lescott** after his dismissal at Barnet a fortnight ago.

Anthony had been absent with a knee injury after being stretchered off at Walsall just after Christmas and finally had an outing when he replaced **Haldane** during the second half at Underhill. **Hinton**, who joined Rovers from Kidderminster in July 2004, is likely to miss the rest of the campaign after suffering a groin injury at Underhill. Central defender **Steve Elliott** scored his fifth goal of the campaign in our win at Mansfield three weeks ago. After missing three games with an Achilles injury, **Elliott** scored on his return at Wycombe last month, a few days before making his second visit to the Millennium Stadium. His earlier trip to Cardiff, in the LDV Vans Trophy for Blackpool against Southend in March 2004, ended in a 2-0 win for the Seasiders. In January he faced his first club, Derby County, in the 4th round of the FA Cup. Ex-England youth international **Chris Carruthers**, formerly with Northampton, has started every game since the end of October at left back, leaving 17 year old former Filton College scholar **Tom Parinello**, who has been on the bench five times, waiting to make his first senior appearance. Last summer **Parrinello** secured his first professional contract twelve months earlier than expected. 6'3" youngster **Ollie Barnes**, who had a spell on loan at Gloucester City, has yet to make a League appearance. He signed a professional contract last summer after his release by Bristol City.

Former Bristol City keeper **Steve Phillips** has proved to be a valuable acquisition since joining Rovers last summer, replacing ex-Coventry custodian **Scott Shearer**, who is on loan at Shrewsbury. 18 year old scholar **Mike Green**, who was recalled from a loan spell at Mangotsfield to provide cover after **Shearer's** departure, is likely to be on the bench.



The Gaffer - Paul Sturrock

Paul Sturrock was a striker who played his entire career in Scotland, but has earned most of his success as a manager south of the border.

He joined Dundee United from Bankfoot Juniors in 1973 and stayed at Tannadice for 20 glorious years. In that time he played 576 games, scored 171 goals, won the Scottish League Championship in 1983 and the League Cup in 1979 and 1980 and played in the 1987 UEFA Cup Final defeat by Gothenburg.

After 9 games for the U-21's he won his first full international cap in 1981 and the following year was selected by the Scottish sportswriters as Player of the Year. He won 20 caps, scored 3 international goals and played in the 1986 World Cup Finals in Mexico. Paul finished playing in 1989 and stayed at Tannadice as a coach until his first managerial appointment at St Johnstone.

He returned to Dundee United as boss in September 1998 but left 2 years later to begin his adventures in the Football League with Plymouth Argyle. In his second season he stormed to the Division Three title with a record 102 points. In March 2004, with Argyle on the brink of another promotion, he replaced Gordon Strachan as manager of Southampton. Unfortunately it did not work out at St Mary's and Paul left after just five months and took charge of Sheffield Wednesday. He won promotion for the Owls in 2005 but was dismissed in October 2006 and replaced Dennis Wise at Swindon a few weeks later.



swindon town

Almost there!

The Robins may have practically clinched the third automatic promotion place but they have much more to play for this afternoon.

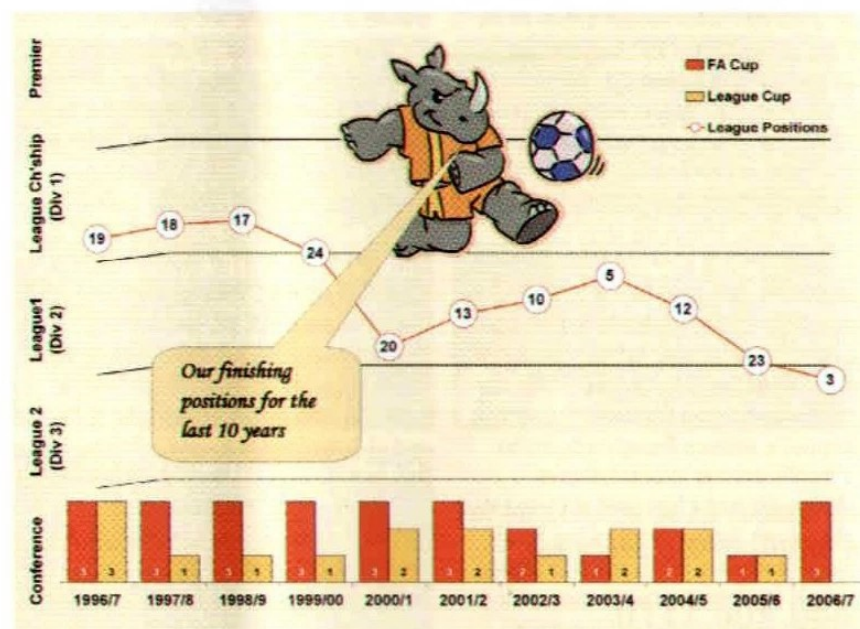
Walsall's surprise defeat at home to Bury last Saturday has opened up the prospect of a runners up finish when the Saddlers come to Wiltshire for the last game of the season. And who knows? The Championship is still within reach!

Our visitors are peaking at the right time. An unbeaten run of seven games including five wins has been achieved following an inspired reshuffle of the team that lost narrowly at Grimsby on St Patrick's Day. Leading marksmen **Christian Roberts** and **Lee Peacock** were pulled back into midfield with **Barry Corr** brought in to make his Town debut alongside teenager **Lukas Jutkiewicz** and the result was a 3-2 rout of promotion rivals Lincoln City at Sincil Bank. **Corr** scored on his debut and since then the goals have been shared between him, **Jutkiewicz** and **Blair Sturrock**.

Corr is on loan from Sheffield Wednesday where his first team appearances have been limited to just one game this season. The

former Leeds United trainee did gain some exposure during one month on loan with Bristol City. He played four times and in November scored his first ever senior goal at Leyton Orient after charging down their keeper's clearance and stabbing the ball into an empty net. **Jutkiewicz** was born in Southampton but although he spent some time as a junior with Saints he joined the Swindon Town Centre of Excellence and made his senior debut for the Robins in April 2006 while still a trainee. Now he has 40 appearances and 5 goals to his name including the equaliser against the Gas in December and winners against Torquay and Bury earlier this month. The Swindon fans would love to see his career develop before their eyes but it is not to be. **Lucas** has signed a pre-contract agreement with Everton and will officially join the Toffees in the summer.

Sturrock, the son of the manager, was born in Dundee and joined Dundee United before going out on loan to Brechin City in August 2000. He played 33 games for them before following his father to Devon and Plymouth Argyle in October 2001. He made his debut in the green and white two months





later in a Second Round FA Cup tie against the Gas at Home Park. In December 2004 he moved to Kidderminster Harriers and three months later scored against us in a 1-1 draw at Aggborough. Last term he joined Rochdale after a successful pre-season trial and scored again against the Gas when Dale pinched a 2-1 victory at the Mem in November 2005. He moved to Swindon before Christmas. A further striking option is provided by **Ashley Grimes** recruited on loan from Manchester City in March. The youngster has already scored once at the Mem this week firing in the winner as the reserves beat the Gas on Monday afternoon.

Roberts and **Peacock** are likely to be joined in midfield by **Michael Pook** and **Sofiane Zaaboub** leaving **Aaron Brown**, **Michael Timlin**, **Ricky Shakes**, **Curtis Weston** and **Kevin James** contesting the places on the bench.

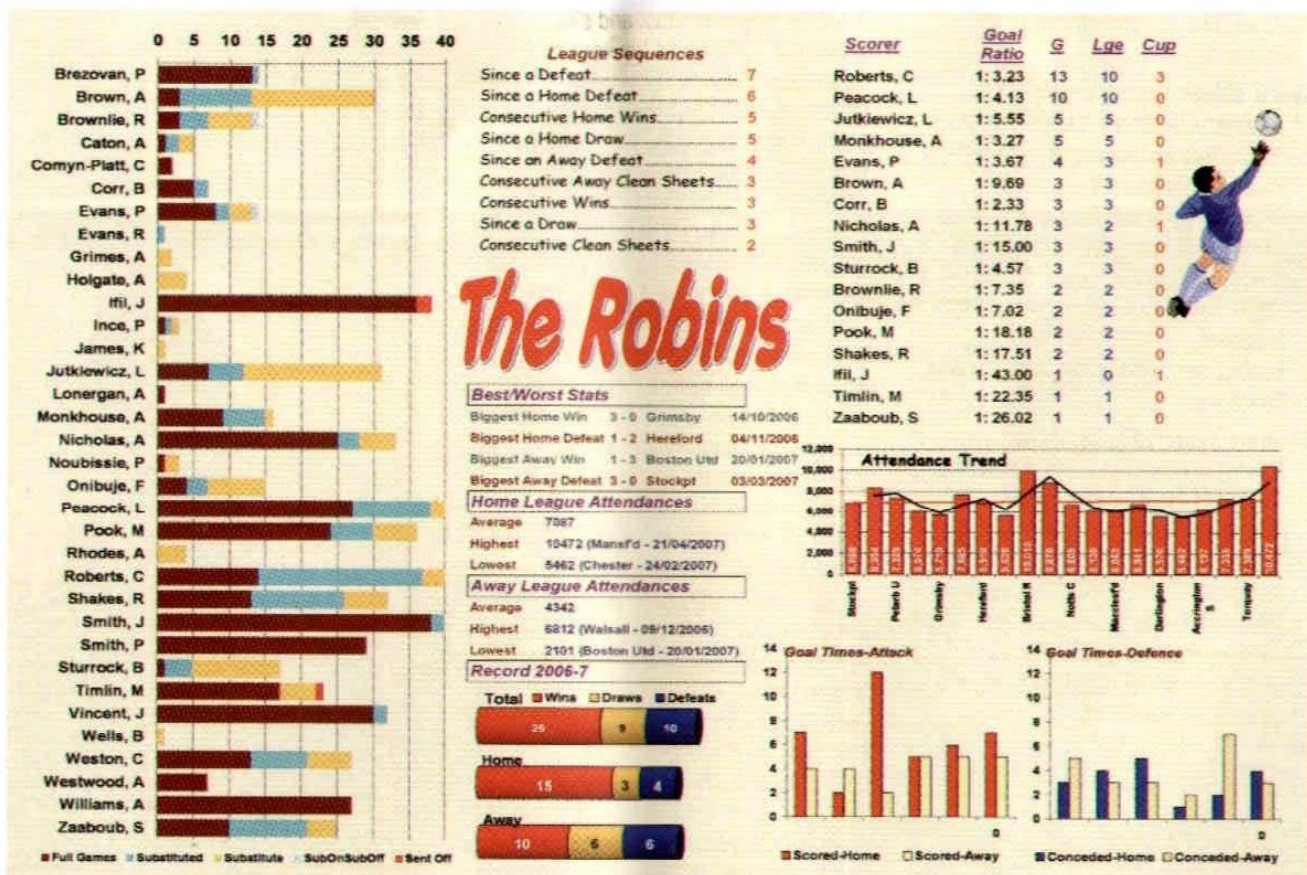
Roberts was a trainee with home town club Cardiff City making half a dozen League starts before leaving in July 2000 for Exeter City. Once he had established a regular place and won the hearts of the Grecian supporters with his direct running he

■ Lee Peacock



transferred to Bristol City on transfer deadline day 2002. Over 100 games later he moved along the M4 to Swindon and scored on his debut against Oldham in October 2004. **Peacock** was a Carlisle trainee who made over 80 appearances for the Cumbrians until transferring to Mansfield Town in October 1997. Two years and 100

games later he moved to Manchester City where he could not command a regular place and made just 4 starts before moving to Bristol City in August 2000 and immediately becoming part of the furniture. Lee played 175 games for City and scored 63 goals before moving to Sheffield Wednesday in July 2004 then to Swindon in





SWINDON TOWN



Ground: County Ground

Colours: Red shirts, shorts & socks

Swindon Town's League record as at 21.4.07

P3552 W1319 D931 L1302
GF5120 GA5114

Best win: 25/3/39 5-0 (H)

Rovers: Nicholls, Roberts, Millar, Warren, O'Mahoney, McArthur, Butterworth, Mills, Curran, Gardiner, Turner.

Goalscorers: Curran (4), Gardiner

Swindon Town: Bryan, Parkhouse, Butcher, Cousins, Morrall, Wilcockson, Jones, Francis, Morton, Lucas, Barraclough.

Worst defeat: 6/3/82 2-5 (A)

Rovers: Kite, Bailey, Mabbutt, Gillies, Parkin, Hughes, Barrett, Williams (D), Stephens, Randall, Williams (B).

Goalscorers: Parkin, Stephens

Swindon Town: Allen, Henry, Baddeley, Williams, Lewis, Stroud, Hughes, Carter, Rideout, Greenwood, Pritchard.

Goalscorers: Rideout (2), Henry, Carter, Parkin (og)

Honours even: 12/4/69 2-2 (A)

Rovers: Taylor (L), Jones (R), Stanton, Taylor (S), Lloyd, Petts, Jarman, Ronaldson, Jones (W), Gadston, Williams (B).

Goalscorers: Jones (W), Gadston

Swindon Town: Downsborough, Thomas, Trollope, Butler, Burrows, Harland, Heath, Smart, Noble, Rogers. **Goalscorer:** Rogers (2)

January 2006. As he approaches his 500th career game he has been transformed from striker to midfielder with remarkable effect.

Pook is a local boy who came through the Swindon youth system to make his debut at Boston United in October 2003. He has established a regular place in the Town engine room since Christmas following the ankle injury to Welsh international **Paul Evans**. French-Algerian **Zaaboub** was **Paul Sturrock's** first signing as Town manager and will probably play on the left. He has previously played in France for Montereau and Saint-Etienne, in Italy for Modena, in the Andalucia region of Spain with Real Jaén and in Belgium for FC Brussels.

Brown is Bristol born and joined Bristol City as a junior becoming a trainee then a professional and making close to 200 appearances despite a serious leg injury before departing for Queens Park Rangers in July 2004. His time in Shepherds Bush was plagued by injuries and after loan spells with Torquay United and Cheltenham Town he joined Swindon in November 2005 initially on a loan that became permanent in January 2006. **Timlin** is a young Fulham player who has yet to make his League debut for the London club but has gained experience through loan deals with Scunthorpe United, Doncaster Rovers and currently Swindon. **Shakes** had a similar problem after graduating from trainee at Bolton. He scored on his debut for Wanderers in an FA Cup tie against Tranmere Rovers in January 2004 but could not get a sniff of the Premier League squad. He came on loan to the Gas in February 2005 and made two substitute appearances, both away from home, then joined Bury where he scored twice in four starts. He moved to Swindon in July 2005 and has made over 70 appearances and earned one international cap for Trinidad & Tobago. **Weston** scored the winner in the reverse fixture. He was a Millwall trainee released to join our visitors in August 2006. **James** is on loan from Nottingham Forest where he has been since transferring from Gillingham in May 2004. His appearances on loan with Boston United, Walsall, Yeovil and Grimsby Town far outweigh the eight appearances he has made for Forest.

Outstanding Slovakian goalkeeper **Peter Brezovan** broke his arm against Grimsby Town in October and **Phil Smith** stepped up to the challenge and has been number one

ever since. He was with Millwall as a youngster then moved out of the League with Folkestone Invicta, Dover Athletic, Margate and Crawley Town. In the 2006 close season all the Crawley players were made available for transfer when the club went into administration and **Paul** was snapped up by Swindon.

Another long term injury has robbed the Robins of defender and club captain **Ady Williams** but the squad was initially strong enough to cover and has since been boosted by loan signings **Ashley Westwood** and **David Partridge**. **Jack Smith** will be available this afternoon after completing a two match suspension but **Paul Sturrock** may stick with **Westwood**, **Jerel Ifil**, **Jamie Vincent** and **Andy Nicholas**. **Claude Gnapka** was on the bench last week.

Former Reading, Wolves and Coventry stopper **Williams** is recovering from knee surgery but the temporary acquisition of **Westwood** has proved a reliable deputy. The former Manchester United trainee played over 300 games for Crewe, Bradford, Sheffield Wednesday, Northampton and Chester City whom he joined in the summer. **Partridge** remains on Bristol City's books. He has made just one appearance for the Reds this term as an extra time substitute in the FA Cup replay at Middlesbrough but otherwise has relied on

■ Christian Roberts



loan deals at Leyton Orient and Brentford to see first team action.

Ifil, also known as The Beast, was a Watford trainee who joined Town in July 2004 after impressing on loan. **Vincent** began with Crystal Palace and moved to Bournemouth in 1996 where he made over 100 appearances before continuing his tour of the country at Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Walsall, Derby, Millwall and

Yeovil. He signed for our visitors in the summer. **Nicholas** was a Liverpool trainee who joined the Robins in 2003. Frenchman **Gnapka**, formerly of Alaves and Racing Santander, received his international clearance in March and signed until the end of the season. Although becoming a regular on the bench he is still waiting for his debut.

Swindon Town fixtures 2006-7

Date	Opposition	Score	Mt	Comp
05-Aug	Hartlepool	W 1-0	4,690	Lge 2
08-Aug	Barnet	W 2-1	7,475	Lge 2
12-Aug	Rochdale	W 1-0	6,771	Lge 2
19-Aug	Darlington	W 2-1	4,571	Lge 2
22-Aug	Brentford	D 2-2 (3-4)	5,582	FLC1
26-Aug	Stockpt	W 2-0	6,868	Lge 2
01-Sep	Chester	W 2-0	3,382	Lge 2
09-Sep	Wrexham	L 1-2	5,257	Lge 2
12-Sep	MK Dons	W 2-1	8,304	Lge 2
16-Sep	Peterb U	L 0-1	7,329	Lge 2
23-Sep	Notts C	D 1-1	6,079	Lge 2
26-Sep	Wye W	D 1-1	6,090	Lge 2
30-Sep	Boston Utd	D 1-1	6,074	Lge 2
07-Oct	Accrington S	D 1-1	3,083	Lge 2
14-Oct	Grimby	W 3-0	5,719	Lge 2
17-Oct	Wye W	L 0-1	1,583	JPT(S)1
21-Oct	Shrewsbury	W 2-1	5,218	Lge 2
28-Oct	Lincoln C	L 0-1	7,685	Lge 2
04-Nov	Hereford	L 1-2	6,910	Lge 2
11-Nov	Carlisle	W 3-1	4,938	FAC1
18-Nov	Torquay	W 1-0	4,029	Lge 2
25-Nov	Bury	W 2-1	5,628	Lge 2
02-Dec	Morecambe	W 1-0	5,942	FAC2
05-Dec	Mansfd	L 0-2	2,274	Lge 2
09-Dec	Walsall	W 2-0	6,812	Lge 2
16-Dec	Bristol R	W 2-1	10,010	Lge 2
23-Dec	Macclesfd	L 1-2	2,377	Lge 2
26-Dec	Wye W	W 2-1	8,878	Lge 2
30-Dec	Notts C	D 1-1	6,805	Lge 2
01-Jan	MK Dons	W 1-0	6,797	Lge 2
06-Jan	Crys Pal	L 1-2	10,238	FAC3
13-Jan	Wrexham	W 2-1	6,130	Lge 2
20-Jan	Boston Utd	W 3-1	2,101	Lge 2
27-Jan	Macclesfd	W 2-0	6,062	Lge 2
30-Jan	Peterb U	D 1-1	3,516	Lge 2
03-Feb	Hartlepool	L 0-1	6,841	Lge 2
17-Feb	Darlington	D 1-1	5,570	Lge 2
20-Feb	Barnet	L 0-1	2,639	Lge 2
24-Feb	Chester	W 1-0	5,462	Lge 2
03-Mar	Stockpt	L 0-3	6,594	Lge 2
10-Mar	Accrington S	W 2-0	6,197	Lge 2
17-Mar	Grimby	L 0-1	4,595	Lge 2
25-Mar	Lincoln C	W 3-2	5,741	Lge 2
31-Mar	Shrewsbury	W 2-1	7,335	Lge 2
03-Apr	Rochdale	D 0-0	2,544	Lge 2
07-Apr	Hereford	D 0-0	4,740	Lge 2
09-Apr	Torquay	W 2-1	7,389	Lge 2
14-Apr	Bury	W 1-0	2,401	Lge 2
21-Apr	Mansfd	W 2-0	10,472	Lge 2
28-Apr	Bristol R	-	-	Lge 2
05-May	Walsall	-	-	Lge 2

■ Lukas Jutkiewicz



■ Andy Nicholas



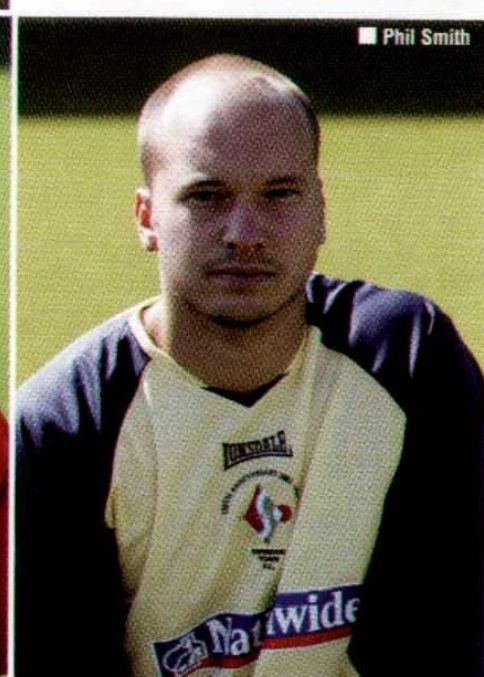
■ Jerel Ifil



■ Michael Pook



■ Phil Smith



- 3** ...Rovers have been a Football League Club since 1920, and in that time have won promotion on **3** occasions, in 1952/53, 1973/74 and 1989/90.
- 3** ...The Commodores topped the UK singles chart in 1978 with **3** Times A Lady, which was written by lead singer Lionel Richie.
- 3** ...Billy Wright, the first England player to reach a century of caps, scored **3** goals in one hundred and five appearances for his country.
- 3** ...The 1987 film **3** Men and a baby, starring Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg, Ted Danson and Nancy Travis, featured three bachelors who unexpectedly discover the joys of fatherhood when a baby is left on their doorstep.
- 3** ...The record for the fastest hat trick scored by a Rovers player is held by Dai Ward, who scored **3** goals in four minutes, against Doncaster Rovers, in December 1956.
- 3** ...The letters A F H K N Y Z are all made up of **3** lines.
- 3** ...There are **3** English clubs, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United in the semi finals of this season's Champions League.
- 3** ...The 1845 novel The **3** Musketeers, by Alexander Dumas, tells of the adventures of a young man named D'Artagnan after he leaves home to become a musketeer.
- 3** ...England have played full internationals against Paraguay on **3** occasions and have yet to concede a goal against the South American side.
- 3** ...BBC Radio **3** makes available a broad spectrum of classical music, jazz, world music, drama and arts discussions.
- 3** ...Joe Jacobson won **3** U-21 caps for Wales in the 2005/06 season, playing against Malta, Cyprus and Northern Ireland.
- 3** ...Joe currently wears the number **3** shirt for Rovers.



Joe Jacobson biog

Joe, a Welsh U-21 international, joined Rovers, on loan, on 16th February this year until the end of the current season.

Cardiff's reserve team captain last season made his first team debut for the Bluebirds in the final match of the 2005/06 campaign when going on as a substitute against Norwich City.

Having already played against Rovers, when on loan with Accrington Stanley earlier this season, Joe made his Rovers debut in the match against Boston United on 10th March.

Primarily a left back, he can play in any position on the left flank and has played on the left of midfield in all of his first team appearances to date.



Joe Jacobson



That's a hat trick!



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It's a massive game

Midfielder Craig Disley emerged from a jubilant Moss Rose dressing room on Tuesday night, after Rovers had confirmed their play off credentials with a 1-0 win over a side fighting to stave off relegation.

The performance was as pleasing as the result in what had been a must win game for Paul Trollope's side.

It was tough, as both sides wanted the points for different reasons. Once we scored, though, we looked pretty strong and never looked like conceding. It's fair to say that there were a few 'hairy' moments, but we could have scored a couple more ourselves, and in the end it was a massive three points for us and everyone is absolutely delighted.

After a hesitant start, Rovers seemed to get better as the game progressed.

It was a little bit frustrating that we didn't score earlier, but they had a good opening twenty minutes and we weathered a bit of pressure, against the wind and up the hill. At half time, we were confident that if we kept playing how we could the goals would come. Fortunately, one came when 'Riggy' shanked one in!

It was the youngster's first ever goal in league football.

It was unbelievable and we are all really delighted for him. I remember when I scored my first goal, because the feeling was absolutely amazing and I think you could tell that 'Riggy' felt the same. No one could catch him after he'd scored, he was off and away! It was a great moment for him and he's been doing really well for us lately. He came off the bench tonight and made a change, and I hope he continues to do that.

So, with just two games to go, this roller coaster season has turned in our favour once again.

After last Saturday's result, against Lincoln, maybe there were people who thought we'd blown our chances of reaching the play offs again. But we won tonight, and



We have two tough games left, but we've given ourselves a chance. The first of those games is against Swindon, and we are all looking forward to it

Shrewsbury lost, so I don't think it could get any better. We have two tough games left, but we've given ourselves a chance. The first of those games is against Swindon, and we are all looking forward to it.

We are ending the season strongly, and we are the form team at the moment. We'd only lost one game in our previous eight before this one, and I think if we had started the season playing as we are now, there's no doubt we would be up in the automatic places. However, if promotion doesn't happen this season then at least we have something to build on next season, and we can all be confident about that.

It's possible that defeat in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final may have been the spur for the run of results since.

I think we've proved that we can hold our own against the good sides, and the game against Doncaster gave the lads the confidence they needed to really kick on. We've done really well since then and the lads go into every game thinking they aren't

going to lose, which is a great mentality to have. Winning games breeds confidence, and when you get into the habit of winning it's hard to break so we are taking each game as it comes, but we are looking forward to them.

Not only is the team playing well against the better sides, teams that are struggling near the bottom of the league are also being beaten.

Playing, and beating, teams near the bottom of the league has been a

problem for us since I've been here, to be fair, and we don't seem to have raised our game when the expectation has been there for us to do so. In the last few weeks, though, we have delivered when the expectation has been there and tonight was a prime example of that. I think this time last year, maybe we wouldn't have won a game like that. It shows what strides we have made, and we are all looking forward now.

He and his team mates are looking forward to playing local rivals in front of what should be a big crowd here at the Memorial Stadium.

It should be an amazing game and should be close to a sell out, and it would be nice if we could recreate the atmosphere we had for the game against Bristol City. Maybe we can make Swindon wait another week for the point they need to confirm automatic promotion and, at the same time, give ourselves a really good chance of making the play offs. It's a massive game, and one we are all looking forward to so fingers crossed that all the Gasheads will turn out in force and cheer us on to a win.

There were almost 250 here tonight and fair play them, because they really got behind us. There have been a lot of ups and downs this season. There have been times when we think we are there and don't deliver, then there have been times when we think we are dead, and we deliver again. Through it all, their support has been much appreciated, so I hope they turn out in force for the Swindon game and cheer us on to a win.

matki

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Getting shirty!

Well here we are again, final home game of the season, and a summer full of beaches, BBQs and cricket to look forward too. Despite all the benefits of summer, hot weather, beer gardens and flip flops to name but a few, I always find the sunny season a bit of a let down.

As much as I love to shop - I am female - Saturday afternoons are only made for football. And summer Saturday's have that strange hollow feeling about them. The last few years have seen me get really interested in cricket, and I am sure I will be spending a few hot afternoons at Glos, cider in hand, but it is still not the same. To twist the famous phrase - it just isn't football. It is hard to look too far ahead at the moment, as while I write these notes ahead of the Macclesfield game, there is still a very real chance that Rovers will be competing in the play-offs. The excitement saw us draw a few extra thousand fans to the Mem last week, and hopefully we will see a similar crowd today.

Over the years it has become traditional for fans to run onto the pitch on the last home game of the season to congratulate the players. Although the intentions of these people are good, it does not bode well for the reputation of the club - especially since we have already had a spot of bother with today's opponents. The last three years I have managed to secure an item of clothing from some of my favourite players without setting foot on the pitch. Last season, the legend that is Richard Walker promised me his top when he left the field after the game, and despite being mobbed by the crowd during the lap of honour, he emerged from the scrum and handed me the jumper. After the city match we were warned that any more crowd trouble could lead to the deduction of points, and I have been developing a very bad feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Imagine the scenario. Rovers beat Macclesfield, and a tense game against Swindon is capped off with a single goal from Richard Walker. Jubilant Rovers fans stream onto the pitch to celebrate the win - especially since Stockport and Shrewsbury have both slipped up. But lo and behold, some suits in FA headquarters don't like the fact that Rovers fans have ran onto the pitch yet again, and dock us three points. Bye bye play-offs! I know that we have to win two games to even get into that position (and with Byron, Rickie and Stu all doubts for Tuesday's trip to

Macclesfield, it looked a bit of a long shot), and I know that it would be harsh for the FA to dock us points for something so trivial, but it could happen. And for that reason I hope everybody stays in the stands come the final whistle.

So after today, there is the daunting prospect of the long journey to Hartlepool to look forward too.

According to the trusty AA Route Planner it will take a mighty four hours and 54 minutes to travel the horrendous distance of 280 miles up to the North East. That makes a round trip of more than 10 hours by the time you factor in sitting in the car park on the way home. I foolishly promised earlier in the season that if we were still in with a shout of a play-off place I would make the journey up to Victoria Park. As someone who hates travelling it does not look like a very attractive prospect, but I would do anything for my boys. Am hoping that Rovers will see sense and charter a plane, so we can all travel up in style, it would sure beat the train.

Well, for all of you who will not be making the trip up to Hartlepool, this may not be the end. I have my fingers crossed that these will not be my final programme notes of the season. I am looking forward to penning a joy filled article to accompany our home leg of the play-off semis. If we are unlucky and miss out on all the fun, I guess I will see you back here next year - for a few months anyway, until we move out and make way for our sparkling new home.

Next year will be a big one for Bristol Rovers, regardless of whether we make the play-offs, but lets hope that we will be playing League One football in our temporary home. I know we are capable of it, we just need to prove it to everyone else out there.

UP THE GAS!



I can't give her another top. Uncle Albert went mad when I gave away last year's!

YOUNG PIRATES BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish the following Young Pirates a very Happy Birthday.

APR 28	
SAMUEL WOODS	12
APR 30	
ROBERT FARQUHAR	7
APR 30	
HAYLEY FRY	15
APR 30	
JAMES BURNS	12
MAY 3	
JAMES BRACEY	10
MAY 4	
LEE CLAYTON	10
MAY 4	
SOPHIE BISHOP	10
MAY 4	
JADE FINCHER	10
MAY 4	
GEMMA PHILLIPS	2
MAY 4	
NICOLA CLAYTON	10
MAY 5	
KYE BASS	16
MAY 6	
EDWARD GURLING	11

Swindon stalemate

Continuing our series of photos looking back at our ten year stint at the Memorial Stadium, we go back to Saturday 24th March 2001, when Swindon Town visited the Mem.

In the build up to this West country clash, Rovers had been busy in the transfer market. Striker Micky Evans had returned to Plymouth Argyle, whilst manager Garry Thompson had been busy signing Richie Partridge, on loan from Liverpool, Kevin Gall from Newcastle, Christian Lee from Gillingham and goalkeeper Alex O'Reilly from West Ham.

All of the new boys were included in the squad for the visit of Swindon, with Partridge and Lee in the starting lineup and Gall and O'Reilly on the bench.

The visitors included future Rovers player Giuliano Grazioli in their starting eleven, along with former Bristol City midfielder Matt Hewlett.

A crowd of 8,114 were treated to a goalless draw and saw Rovers finish with ten men after Simon Bryant received his marching orders in the second half for picking up a second yellow card.

The first save of the game was made by Rovers keeper Nick Culkin, who saved an angled drive from Grazioli, but with Partridge showing good form down the right, it wasn't too long before the home side threatened the Swindon goal.

The Liverpool youngster got in a number of telling crosses but his new team mates were unable to take advantage.

Ian Woan shot straight into Rovers defensive wall, from a free kick some thirty yards out and Culkin saved a volley from Gary Alexander.

Nathan Ellington saw a shot charged down before Bryant picked up his first

booking of the afternoon for a challenge which left Hewlett on the floor.

Scott Jones made a goal line clearance from Matt Heywood to deny the visitors a goal before the break, but neither side was able to break the deadlock.

Dwayne Plummer shot high over the bar at the start of the second half and Bryant went close to scoring when he took a pass from Plummer and hit a fierce 25 yard drive which only just cleared the bar.

The young midfielder was sent off with 73 minutes on the clock, when he picked up another yellow card for a late challenge on Woan just outside the Swindon box.

ahead, as they battled to avoid relegation.

"I'd never experienced League football before so it was a case of trying to find my feet early on and doing the best I could, and I thought I did ok."

"Maybe we could have won, because I thought we looked the better team and created the better chances, but when we had the man sent off it was a bit backs to the wall."

"I didn't really know what to expect. It was probably more physical and, because of the pitch, the ball tended to be in the air more."

"But I've had a few days with the boys

now and the standard is very good. It's a great experience and something I can learn from. Hopefully the fans have taken to me and will carry on supporting me through my time here."

The result left Rovers three points adrift of safety, but Thompson took consolation from the way his team played; "I've got a young team out there, but a good team. People who look at our lineup will see there

is ability in there. Kids might make the odd mistake, but they will run and work hard for you."

Rovers finished the season with 51 points, and were relegated, while Swindon were only one place and one point better off.

Rovers: Culkin, Wilson, Thomson, Foster, Jones, Partridge, Plummer, Bryant, McKeever (Owusu) (Challis), Lee, Ellington. Substitutes (not used): Gall, Hogg, O'Reilly
Swindon: Mildenhall, Robinson, Heywood, Reeves, Davis, Robinson, Hewlett, Woan (Invincible), O'Halloran, Grazioli (Van der Linden), Alexander. Substitutes (not used): McAreavy, Hall, Griemink



■ Nathan Ellington causes a few problems for Swindon defenders

There was almost a late winner for Swindon following a misunderstanding between Steve Foster and Culkin, but the keeper was able to block a shot from Danny Invincible and the game remained goalless.

Manager Thompson said afterwards that he had no complaints with the sending off; "Simon is gutted by his sending off because he thought it would harm the lads and, to be fair, it did stop us continuing our game plan in the second half."

"When we got pressure on the ball, we looked a decent team and we penned them in but as soon as he went off, we had to change the thing again."

Partridge, who was making his league debut, did enough to suggest that he would be a valuable asset to Rovers in the weeks



FACING
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■ Stuart Campbell in action
against Lincoln last week

A time for reflection

So, here we are, our final home game of the season and to be honest I don't have a clue where the time has gone.

However, I'm sure that by 5 pm today we will know if our season is to be extended at all.

It's been a testing time, on and off the pitch, in the last twelve months and I think it is fair to say that being in the play off mix going in to the last couple of games of the season, reaching a cup final and beating your deadliest rivals along the way constitutes a pretty successful season.

Of course, we all want a little bit more than that.

The play offs have teased us for months now, staying just out of our reach, and seemed to have disappeared eight weeks ago only to flirt with us once more during March. Don't you wish that you were put out of your misery sometimes, and know one way or the other if your side is going to make it?

I can only imagine Stockport, Shrewsbury, Wycombe and Peterborough fans are going through the same what-if scenarios in their heads about what could happen today and next week and what should have already happened over the course of the season, in the same way we are.

Today's visitors don't have that worry hanging over them, as they are all but promoted to League One. A position to be envious of, perhaps, but no one we should really worry about, as we just need to win this afternoon.

This season Rovers have given their all, even if we seem to have lacked the quality or depth to the squad that some other teams in League Two possess. I guess if we had the resources of teams like Walsall and Hartlepool, then we wouldn't be talking about scraping in to the play offs.

The fact is we don't, and if it were not for the help of three or four outstanding individuals we would not be challenging at the right end of the table. Something we have not experienced for a long time, so perhaps we shouldn't lose sight of that however hard it can be in the heat of the moment.

Steve Phillips, quite frankly, has been a revelation for us this season. The number of clean sheets he and the defence have kept has been fantastic, more the Championship side of 1990. A fine achievement and, even if City go up this season, he along with Rickie Lambert silenced the Ashton Gate supporters for a while!

Steve Elliot also deserves a mention. A rock at centre back who came up with some

crucial goals and helped Byron Anthony turn in to a fantastic prospect alongside him. People like you and I have most likely been critical of the likes of Aaron Lescott, Craig Hinton and Chris Carruthers, part of last season's defence that leaked goals left right and centre, but it would be fair to say that they have made a telling contribution to a resilient defence something we will need again this afternoon.

Player of the season to my mind, and I am sure to the majority fans, is Stuart Campbell, a fantastic leader who has never let us down this season. Add a few more goals and he'd be the complete player, though he's pretty accomplished as it is.

Hopefully all these plaudits will not be in vain and we picked up a decent result against Macclesfield last Tuesday. If we did, I'm sure that today we can all look forward to a packed house and a great atmosphere.

We have also been fortunate to experience some great cup ties, on more than one occasion, this season. In the FA Cup, the home tie against Hereford and the away match at Pride Park, Derby, stand out. Then there were the two ties against Bristol City, and that goal, in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, followed by the final of the competition at the Millennium Stadium, a great day even in defeat. There has been no better demonstration this season of the potential of this team and the management behind them and I can't remember the last time we were in two cup competitions after Christmas. A big thank you is due to Paul Trollope and Lennie Lawrence for turning us in to a competitive football team again.

I am painting a rosy picture, too rosy for some I'm sure, but I can't remember a more rosy time on the pitch for a number of years, so I'm going to be grateful for it! At the moment, things are slightly uncertain off the pitch, though it seems we'll be heading for 18 months of tearing up and down the M5 to Cheltenham, or the M4 to Swindon.

One thing that I'm sure will never change is that the Pirate will continue to pick up more awards, wherever we play, so well done to editor Keith Brookman. Despite losing four contributors, our very own Arsene Wenger has made sure the Pirate has given us something worth looking at when the games have not! A feat that, surely, deserves a small mention.

Let's hope that Keith and the rest of us can put together another programme for the play offs. If not, enjoy today and I'll see you next season!

Up the Gas!

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The best so far



A scan, undertaken earlier this week, will have determined whether or not Craig Hinton's season is over.

The central defender picked up a groin injury in the game against Barnet two weeks ago and has been unable to train since.

Hopefully, it's just a muscle tear, though the scan will determine if it's anything more serious. I realised I had a problem about ten minutes before I came off and told Craig Disley and Byron Anthony that my groin was sore, but we were down to ten men and I felt I had to try to carry on. Then I started to run and felt a massive pain and hit the floor. I tried to get up and felt the pain again and knew that something was wrong.

The injury meant that he faced the prospect of missing the final run in to the season.

It's terrible, and I feel a little bit gutted that it happened with four games left. We'd given ourselves a massive chance of reaching the play offs and it's very disappointing that I'm not going to be involved in it.

It's one of those things, though, and there's not much point getting depressed over it. I can't do any more, and have to get on with things and try and get fit as soon as possible.

Having reclaimed his place in the starting lineup at the beginning of the year following the injury sustained by Byron Anthony, his

own misfortune has seen Byron come back into the side in his place.

That's football. You never know what's round the corner. It just makes the game what it is and, if you are in the team, you have to keep your place because if you do get a slight knock there's always someone to come in and take your place so you do as much as you can to stay fit.

He feels that the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final may have been a turning point in a season that appeared as though it was going to end with a great day out in Cardiff.

I think we played well before the final, just to get there. We were doing reasonably well in the league, but the game at the Millennium Stadium was one where we didn't have to think about picking up points. It was a one off game and then, when we returned to league action, we started picking up points and results elsewhere went for us.

Maybe everyone thought that we had no chance of a top seven finish and many had written us off, thinking that the final would be the highlight of the season. I think the disappointment of going to Cardiff and losing, the day itself, and the number of fans we took there, made everyone start to think that we had another chance of another massive day out. We wanted to do well in the league for the fans, because they have been brilliant this season, and everyone is digging in now to try and get there.

This is his third season at the club and

has, he says, been the best so far. Had it not been for the poor start to the campaign it's quite likely that a play off spot, at the very least, would have been confirmed by now.

After the defeat by Walsall, last September, we were fourth from bottom and if we had picked up more points early on and been in a mid table position at that stage of the season, it would have held us in good stead as we are finishing strongly.

However we have played a lot of games this season, and have done a lot better in the cup competitions than we have in all the time I've been here. It's been exciting to play and, hopefully, it's been exciting to watch as well. The FA Cup tie at Derby and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final at the Millennium Stadium were both brilliant days and made it one of those seasons to look back on but, hopefully, there's more to come.

The recent announcement that Rovers will play at Swindon or Cheltenham for an eighteen month period whilst the Memorial Stadium is rebuilt, is something he is looking forward to.

It will be a transitional period for the club, but in order for Rovers to move on, it needs to happen. When you see what the new ground is going to be like, it's going to be fantastic for everyone so you don't mind that transitional period as long as it works out for the club.

At the moment, though, he's hoping for two trips to the new Wembley Stadium in the next month. He'll definitely be there on 12th May, when his former club, Kidderminster Harriers, take on Stevenage Borough in the final of the FA Trophy Wembley.

One of my best mates, Jay Sedgemore plays for Kiddy and I played with their manager Mark Yates. I was there for six years and have a lot of friends there and retain a great deal of affection for the club. When I left Birmingham, I wondered what would happen next. Kiddy came along, and the way they played suited me down to the ground and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. It would be nice to think that I might be going to Wembley again a few weeks later, with Rovers, though if we do get there it's too early to say if I'll be fit enough to be involved.

helpline

Martyn Radnedge

So to the last home game of the season, or is it?

This year we have had more to be cheerful about than for some years. Planning permission finally approved for a new stadium, a trip to the Millennium Stadium for the JPT Final, and still involved in a chance of the play-offs.

The victory by the lads on Tuesday against our bogey side Macclesfield showed just why we are in with a shout. Every member of the side WANTED to win and the effort and commitment proved to be enough to take the points.

The icing on the cake was Shrewsbury's result, losing at home to lowly Wrexham. The journey back from Macclesfield was so much easier than the trip up!!

No matter what the result today we have had a good season but for Helpline members it does not end now. We carry on throughout the summer sending out prizes to our winners.

Make sure you are in with a chance by ringing **Kate** on **01454 321191**, after all, you have got to be in it to win it!

presidents club

Roy Cowell

As I write these notes I am in the USA, and have just learned that Rovers have drawn with Lincoln.

With some results going Rovers way but, unfortunately, some not it means that this could well be the last programme for this season, but it might not be! Let's hope that there is more to come.

Although I am normally an optimist, I will treat this as the last for the season and thank members, guests and friends of the Presidents Club for your support and good wishes through what has been a season at times full of hope and also, often, one of disappointment.

A decision as to where we will be watching the second half of next season has yet to be made, although we are told it will be either Cheltenham or Swindon. When the decision is announced



Presidents Club MoM against Lincoln was Stuart Campbell

your committee will let you know what arrangements will be for members. Wherever it is, we do hope you will come and watch. We will also let you know the date for our AGM which will be in June.

Have a good summer break and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed for another season, in just three months time.

florida gas

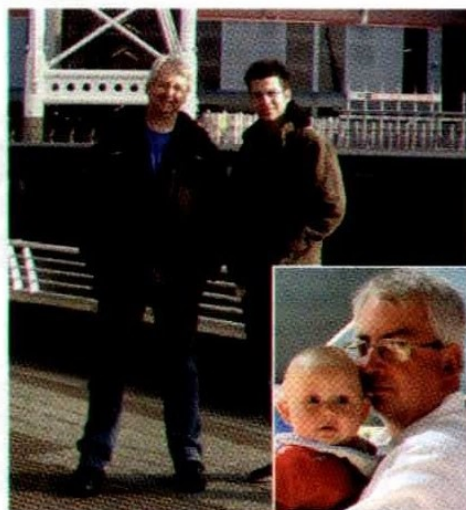
Roy Cowell

Chris Searle, his wife Denise and their two children emigrated 15 years ago to Florida, settling in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Denise's brother, Stafford, followed them soon afterwards.

Pictured on their local beach are Chris, his son Newman and Stafford. All three are fanatical Gasheads who keep in touch with results via the internet and have Rovers programmes flown over to them. They also keep up to date with the goals

which are shown weekly on Fox Sports TV.

Fort Lauderdale is home to lots of Brits, many of whom are Bristolians. Chris is a mortgage broker, Stafford a realtor and Newman runs a building business but they all find plenty of time to enjoy the sunny Florida climate and to sailing Chris's yacht.



50 year old gas!

Congratulations to Steve Pritchard, who will be celebrating his 50th birthday at the end of May.

Not only this, he will also be celebrating his Silver Wedding Anniversary with wife Val - let's hope promotion makes it a treble!

Steve is a lifelong gashead and season ticket holder, along with son Dave and daughter Carly. Steve is pictured with Dave, soaking up the atmosphere outside the Millennium Stadium, and inset with family friend Devon O'Loughlin, a much younger gashead, at his christening (Devon's that is, not Steve's!)

Have a great day, Steve, with love from Val, Dave, Marie, Carly and all your family and friends!



End of the lines!

Today marks the end of Pete Prior's time as groundsman at the Memorial Stadium.

The sixty year old, a popular and well known figure around the stadium will be marking out the pitch for the last, or possibly penultimate, game of his tenure. Naturally, there will be one more if we should make the play offs.

Keeping the pitch in shape for both football and rugby has been quite a challenge.

"I'd go as far as to say that every game has been just that. For the first four years Rovers were here, it was still a rugby pitch made into a football pitch every other week. The grass was kept at the same length for football and rugby, but over the years I think I've found what I consider to be a reasonable length between the two codes."

"I've always discussed the pitch with the managers who have come and gone whilst Rovers have been here, just to make sure they are happy with what I produce. Sometimes I'm not very happy with the pitch myself, but that's just the way things have been here."

"The Directors have given me financial support to improve the pitch over the years, and there has been a noticeable improvement because in the early years that Rovers were here, we always worked in wellington boots from October through to February, not because we were pushing divots back but because we were pushing great swathes of mud around to make the pitch level!"

Different managers have, of course, held differing views on how they would like the pitch to be prepared.

"My first boss told me that the managers are in control and to always let them believe it. But he also told me that, at the end of the day, it was me preparing the pitches their teams played on so it's often been a case of listening to what they wanted and then preparing things in my own way!"

Essentially a rugby fan, he's almost been 'converted', if you'll excuse the pun, to the round ball game.

"I've supported Bedford Rugby club all my life and remember my father, whose uncle lived just up the road from the Mem, bringing me here as a youngster to see Bedford play Bristol. Whilst I've always been interested in rugby, though, I've never played the game. Because of my work here I've developed a tremendous affinity for Rovers, so much so that I was even singing 'Irene' at the Millennium Stadium a few weeks ago!"

He says he's retiring, but that's not strictly true.

"I'm 60 and have a pension coming out in the next few weeks, which is one reason I'm finishing. The other reason is that this is a very physically demanding job and one for a younger man. The hours involved, because of the dual role of the stadium, means working long hours to get things spot on,

and I would like to spend more time with my family."

"I guess you could say that I'm reluctant to leave, but we have a new groundsman starting and I'll oversee things until Rovers leave the Mem at the end of December. I'll also be looking after the pitches at Filton College, which will become Rovers training ground, and that will be a big challenge."

"So I'm not actually retiring, but I can work fewer hours and make sure the training facilities are right for the club."

He admits it will be a sad occasion if this is to be his final game.

"Of course it will, as I enjoy seeing the players out on the pitch. I've seen the highs and the lows since I've been doing the job and seen a number of managers, and even more players, come and go. The current squad are a great bunch of lads, and I've thoroughly enjoyed working for Paul Trollope and Lennie Lawrence."

"Seeing Rovers at the Millennium Stadium was undoubtedly the highlight of working for the club and I hope that it's not too long before we can gain promotion to League One. The new stadium will, hopefully, be the start of good times for the club and we will have a side competing at a much higher level than now."



suited 'n' booted!

Why, you may ask, have we included a photo of Steve Elliott on this page, fully suited and booted?

The answer is to thank the suppliers of the suits, shirts and buttonholes provided for us for the JPT Final at the Millennium Stadium. All of the players and the management team were dressed in suits

supplied by **Gabucci** of 35 Milsom Street, Bath, BA1 1DN Tel: 01225 469975.

The buttonholes were supplied by Roger Webb, of **Webb's Flowers**, 13 Cleve Wood Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2SF Tel: 0117 9569577, whilst the shirts were supplied courtesy of **John Lewis** who are, of course, based at The Mall, Cribbs Causeway.

Stadium manager has Ian Holtby has said

how grateful we are to all three companies for their help in preparing us for our day out at Cardiff, and we hope that our supporters will, in turn, consider them when making future purchases.



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Ahoy, shipmates!

Good Afternoon, and welcome to the Young Pirates home page. Today we would like to welcome the supporters, officials and players of our local rivals Swindon, who have travelled the short distance down the M4, for today's local derby. Hopefully, with three points from our midweek game against Macclesfield, a victory today (which might delay Swindon's promotion party) will make our long journey to Hartlepool next week worth while.

Several committee members will be making the trip to the north east, where we intend to meet up with the Dumfries branch of Bristol Rovers Young Pirates. Baggie Sue and Geoff intend to enjoy the weekend in Scotland and hopefully celebrate our play off place, although Baggie Sue will have a tense Sunday listening to the radio, hoping (praying!) that WBA hold on to a play off place.

Now what a great double that would be!

For those Young Pirates who are regular readers of this page Alan (Mascots), has also decided to travel to Hartlepool, and as on previous away matches has sought out his trusty map. (So, Young Pirates, if you happen to see a blue Peugeot with a BRFC scarf on the back seat follow with caution.)

Alan would like to tell the Young Pirates about the away coach Baggie Sue took to Cardiff for the Millennium Final. Coming off the M4 we followed the blue, then red, footballs! (Strange that, as I thought Rovers were blue) taking the wrong turning at one of the many roundabouts on the route into Cardiff. We backtracked and as we approached the island from the wrong direction, who should be approaching, but Alan's coach! Alan was sitting at the front, grinning like a Cheshire cat, and

waving frantically as we approached. (So, Alan, it seems you have had the last laugh after all!).

Baggie Sue also embarrassed herself even further when she rushed to the microphone and told everyone, that if you looked left you could see the stadium. Unfortunately, the coach went into a dip and as everyone looked out of the window, all they could see was a shop and a red faced Baggie Sue!

Baggie Sue and Geoff would like to thank you for all your wonderful support during the year, with special thanks to Arthur (who helps Geoff sell the programmes when required) and all the Young Pirates who visit us each home game.

Today sees the presentation, on the pitch, for the Young Pirates player and Young Player of the season, so special thanks to all the Young Pirates who have voted, it was a close affair.

We would also like to thank the ball boys and girls, who come rain or shine and lastly to Trolls and the players for all their efforts in making it a season to remember.

Young Pirates signing off (hopefully not for the last time this season).



■ Above right - Our mascot for the game against Lincoln was Ben Dart, pictured above with Rickie Lambert...

■ ...and right, with team captains, match officials, commercial mascot Toby Parmley and Captain Gas, prior to kick off

TODAY'S MASCOT

Six year old Jamie Hedges lives in Pucklechurch and attends Pucklechurch Primary School. His hobbies are playing football and cricket and watching Rovers.

Jamie, a midfielder, plays for Pucklechurch U-8's. On matchdays he can be found near the Memorial Gates, helping his Mum sell programmes.

Jamie saw his first away game on 30th December last year, against Walsall at the Bescot Stadium. He went with his Dad and says it was a brilliant game and that he really enjoyed it.

Jamie's favourite players are Richard Walker and Steve Phillips. He was due to be our mascot for the Stockport game, which was called off at the last minute, and was unable to be here when the game was rescheduled, so we hope that he enjoys being our mascot this afternoon.

BIRTHDAYS

For Young Pirates birthdays, please see page 37.

First Team Squad 2006/07

PLAYER	No.	BIRTHDATE	SEE NOTES	ROVERS CAREER					THIS SEASON					Prev Club			
				League		Cup		Ratio	League		Cup		Ratio				
				Total Apps	+Sub Goals	Apps	+Sub Goals		Total Apps	+Sub Goals	Apps	+Sub Goals					
Junior AGOGO	9	01/08/1979	1	140	109 17 41	11	3 4	1:2.96	3	3	-	-	-	Barnet			
Byron ANTHONY	15	20/09/1984		28	18 3	-	7	- 2	1:13.51	28	18 3	-	7	- 2	1:13.51	Cardiff C	
Ollie BARNES	21	10/03/1987		0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bristol City	
Stuart CAMPBELL	7	09/12/1977		131	86 18 2	25	2	-	1:62.20	52	33 6 1	13	-	-	1:50.02	Grimsby	
Chris CARRUTHERS	11	19/08/1983		99	72 9 1	16	2	-	1:95.37	49	31 5	13	-	-	-	Northampton T	
Craig DISLEY	20	24/08/1981		138	95 18 16	24	1 2	-	1:7.32	56	40 3 4	13	-	1	1:11.00	Mans'f'd	
Jamal EASTER	18	15/11/1987	2	4	1 2	-	1	- 1	1:3.34	4	1 2	-	1	- 1	1:3.34	Cardiff City	
Steve ELLIOTT	6	29/10/1978		148	122 1 9	25	-	-	1:16.41	49	37	- 5	12	-	-	1:9.80	Blackpool
Ryan GREEN	2	20/10/1980		37	27 4	-	5	1	-	37	27 4	-	5	1	-	-	Sheffield Wed
Lewis HALDANE	26	13/03/1985		133	66 47 14	10	10 2	-	1:7.14	55	30 13 6	8	4	-	1:8.23	-	
Craig HINTON	5	26/11/1977		127	95 9	-	22	1	-	38	28 2	-	7	1	-	-	Kidd'r
James HUNT	8	17/12/1976	5	110	95 2 6	13	-	-	1:18.22	16	14 2 1	-	-	-	1:15.34	Oxford	
Sammy IGOE	4	30/09/1975		61	45 4 2	12	- 2	-	1:14.92	50	35 3 1	12	-	2	1:16.34	Millwall	
Joe JACOBSON	3	17/11/1986	8	9	7 2	-	-	-	-	9	7 2	-	-	-	-	-	Cardiff C
Rickie LAMBERT	9	10/02/1982		44	26 8 6	9	1 1	1:5.86	44	26 8 6	9	1 1	1:5.86	Rochdale	-	-	
Aaron LESCOTT	32	02/12/1978		126	97 8	-	19	2	-	43	30 4	-	8	1	-	-	Stockport Co
Chris LINES	22	30/11/1985		11	5 5	-	-	1	-	7	4 2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Darren MULLINGS	25	03/03/1987		4	- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuart NICHOLSON	19	03/02/1987	6	26	12 10 6	1	3 1	1:3.10	26	12 10 6	1	3 1	1:3.10	West Brom	-	-	
Sam OJI	16	09/10/1985	9	5	5	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	Birmingham C
Steve PHILLIPS	1	06/05/1978		54	42	-	12	-	-	54	42	-	12	-	-	-	Bristol City
Sean RIGG	27	04/02/1988		20	1 14 1	1	4	-	1:14.06	20	1 14 1	1	4	-	1:14.06	-	-
Robbie RYAN	3	16/05/1977	7	65	53 1	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Millwall
Andy SANDELL	17	08/09/1983		46	20 14 3	7	5	-	1:13.24	46	20 14 3	7	5	-	1:13.24	Bath City	-
Scott SHEARER	23	15/02/1981	3	53	47	-	6	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	Coventry C
Paul TROLLOPE	24	03/06/1972		40	26 4 2	9	1	-	1:19.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	North'n T
James WALKER	19	25/11/1987	4	5	3 1 1	1	-	-	1:4.67	5	3 1 1	1	-	-	1:4.67	Charlton Ath	-
Richard WALKER	10	08/11/1977		140	101 16 41	20	3 12	1:2.52	56	37 7 11	12	- 7	1:2.98	Blackpool	-	-	

NOTES:

1. Now with Nottingham Forest
2. Returned to Cardiff City
3. On loan to Shrewsbury Town
4. Returned to Charlton Athletic
5. On loan to Grimsby Town
6. On loan from West Bromwich Albion
7. Now left the club
8. On loan from Cardiff City
9. On loan from Birmingham City

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SDS

The princely gas adventures continue!

■ Did we mention the slow start!

Welcome to the second instalment of news from the latest Prince's Trust Team to be supported by Bristol Rovers.

Only a couple of weeks ago, on the sunny Bank Holiday Monday, Team 142 were prowling around the gates of the Memorial Stadium asking the generous fans to dig deep into their pockets. And what a result all round!

A big thank you to everyone who gave their support and helped us to raise a massive £432.48.

Once again the Rovers fans have proved that they are the best in the land and once again the Gas won a cracking 2-0 game when we were fundraising. Some might say that's instant pay-back in action and others would be wrong!

So here we are now, half way through our community project and working hard to get it finished on time.

After a slow start, because we wanted to find a project that really deserved our help, things have really picked up pace and started to come together.

We found a hostel in Bristol which provides supported housing to women who have been abused and made homeless. The team decided that they could make a real difference to the lives of the residents by totally renovating their garden and brightening the place up ready for the summer.

The plans include a general clearing of the overgrown bushes and flowerbeds, planting new flowers and trees, the installation of a water feature and a BBQ, the re-painting and staining of the benches and pagoda plus a bright mosaic as a centre-piece!

Not bad for seven days work but we've had some fun at the same time. We've discovered who doesn't like spiders and who doesn't like worms, we've realised who can't use any tool without breaking it, and who doesn't have any idea of what a day's hard

labour is really like! But as we pull together as a team, working around our strengths and weaknesses, we can really appreciate the progress we have made.

And best of all we haven't really spent any of our budget yet as we have been busy persuading local businesses to donate everything from compost and wood chippings to paint and even a pond!

By the time you read this we will have, hopefully, finished all of our work in the garden and left it looking bright and lovely as we move swiftly onto the next phase of the 12-week programme.

After spending time developing the skills we need for employment and another week at a work placement we will then move onto our Final Challenge where we have to organise a week of fun activities for a 'deserving' group in the community.

Unfortunately our budget can't stretch to cover all the wonderful Rovers fans, but watch this space for more exciting adventures with 'The Princely Gas'.



Bristol Rovers

Adult and Junior Savings Accounts



SAVE FOR THE FUTURE AND SUPPORT BRISTOL ROVERS



Bristol Rovers have recently received a payment of £31,455 from our partners Britannia Building Society. The cheque was presented to Rovers director Barry Bradshaw by Simon Reid, Bristol Area Sales Manager for Britannia.

The cheque represents a bonus of up to 1% of the value of the daily average balances held in all Bristol Rovers Save & Support Accounts in the 2006-2007 season. This money goes straight towards the development of your club.

Britannia and Bristol Rovers would like to thank all the fans for their continued support through the Bristol Rovers Save & Support Accounts.

To find out more



Call free on 0800 132 304



Visit www.britannia.co.uk/brfc



Talk to Britannia branch staff

Lines are open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm and Sat 9am-12 noon.
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Britannia undertakes to comply with The Banking Code. Copies of this Code are available on request.

**Britannia Building Society Britannia House
Leek Staffordshire Moorlands ST13 5RG**

Thanks from Liz

Last Saturday Liz Jack, who works in the Memorial Stadium commercial department, and our matchday ticket office, had her hair shaved off all in the name of charity.

Liz was raising funds for the Children's Hospice South West and if you were unable to contribute last week, or would like to give more, you can log on to justgiving.com where she has her own page, or send your donation to Liz c/o the Memorial Stadium.

This is her story of a day that she was very nervous about.

Well, finally the day crept up on me, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have been a massive source of support to me over these past few months.

I'd been quite fortunate really in that the Johnstone's Paint Trophy games, against Bristol City, and the final at the Millennium Stadium meant that I had been flat out with work and hadn't had much time to dwell on the prospect of sitting in front of thousands of people having my hair shaved off!

I know this may sound total madness to many of you, but I went to have my hair trimmed a few days before, and made final arrangements for the 'big day' with my hairdresser Cherie, from Cuts & Curls in Lodge Causeway, Fishponds.

The reason I had it trimmed was because I have been in touch with a company who make wigs for people who have lost their hair through cancer treatment. So, I wanted to make sure my locks were in tip-top condition to send to that company, so that someone else could benefit from the event as well as the Children's Hospice in Wraxall.

On Saturday the girls from Cuts & Curls came into the ticket office at 2pm and, whilst I was busy selling tickets, they tied sections of my hair into bands in order to make sure that I could save as much of it as possible.

From the moment I walked out onto the pitch, I went into some sort of 'zone' and, to be totally honest, I really don't remember too much about the following ten minutes.

I think the worst feeling was when Cherie and Amanda were cutting off the banded sections, and the best photographer in Bristol (he says!) was having great fun snapping away. Walking round the pitch afterwards, with Nick Day, was heart warming, as the reception I received was amazing.

I would like to thank all those who

contributed so generously to the bucket collection on the day, and also those who made their donations in other ways.

It would be great if I could give you the total amount raised so far, but I am still collecting in sponsorship forms etc. As things stand I am hopeful that I will reach £5,000, and although this is short of my very ambitious target, I will be proud to hand over a cheque to the Children's Hospice South West for any amount, as it all helps.

Finally, I would like to tell you about some special people, whose support has been untiring and very valuable to me. I had several offers of help to do the bucket collection, so a huge thank you goes out to them all, especially three special ladies who had practically lost their voices by the time I met them for a drink after the game (you know who you are!). I obviously wouldn't have been able to fulfil my commitment without the help of Cherie and Amanda, from Cuts & Curls, who were very nervous about the prospect, but did a sterling job, not only to cut my hair, but also to hold my hand!

The Football Club as a whole has been very supportive, although several members of staff did try, initially, to try talking me out of it! I have to say that I work with some amazing people and, to use the old cliché, we are like a big family going through all the highs and lows together.

I would like to mention one special lady in particular, my best mate Clare! I've been struggling to find the words to tell you all just how supportive she has been throughout all of my 'wobbles', and I feel proud to be able to call her my best mate! She is phenomenal, not only in the professional job she does for the football club, but she always makes time to be very caring, and is loved by so many! Thank you Clare, my rock! I couldn't have done it without you by my side.

A big thank you to all of you, not only for your contributions, but also for your kind words of support.



■ Lisa Walker, Helen Wigmore, Liz, Paul Trollope and Jackie Chappell, before the event.



■ Here we go!



■ The final cut!



■ Result!

Beating the Robins

We reach the final home league match of the season against old West Country rivals Swindon Town, who have all but clinched promotion back to League One.

Interestingly enough, Rovers could possibly be ground sharing with the Robins at the County Ground from January 2008. The journey by train, or by car or coach, will put a strain on the funds of many supporters as well as extra time to enable the majority of loyal, dedicated fans to make the average 90 mile round trip for a 90 minute home match.

Our recent home record against Swindon is poor, just one win in the last seven meetings. The last home victory was recorded on 21st March 1991, a 2-1 win at Twerton Park, with goals from Carl Saunders and Tony Sealey.

The previous home win was another 2-1 victory, at Eastville Stadium, on 21st September 1968 when Rovers goals were scored by Wayne Jones and Ray Graydon with Shaun Taylor replying for Swindon.

I came across a very interesting press match report of a Southern League match between the clubs which took place at Eastville, just over 95 years ago, on 6th April 1912.

Although they had to call upon five or six reserves, Swindon did not expect to be beaten by three clear goals at Bristol. On the previous day the Rovers, with practically the same eleven, failed to score against Leyton.

The lethargy which then characterised their work was entirely absent in their game with the Champions. To begin with, when they had to face a gusty wind they did not show too much advantage in attack. The spoiling tactics of their backs and half backs however, proved so effective that Roney was rarely troubled. When the first half was completed neither side could claim a goal although Jones had twice gone very near to beating Skiller.

Immediately ends were changed Peplow raced clear and dropped the ball into the mouth of the Swindon goal. Before it could be got away Jones scored. Swindon were often hard pressed, but at the end of half an hour they rallied and Bown, McCulloch and Jefferson all had chances which they were unable to turn to account.

At this stage the Rovers backs showed unwanted slowness, but getting into their stride again Peplow was pried with the ball and from centres by him first Brogan and then Hoggard registered goals. Swindon were unable to make any response.

Before the end arrived it was very apparent that more than one member of the team was very leg weary, and no wonder, for the ground was very hard and the wind developed. Quite the best feature of the match was the judgement exhibited by the home team against the wind. They kept the ball close, and though there were spells when it was frequently in touch these tactics paid. When the wind favoured them they opened out the play, and were able to reap a full reward from the tactics they employed.

Hoggard, the coloured forward they recently obtained from Cardiff gave Peplow splendid support. His passes were generally low and well directed and he was full of dash near goal. The right wing was far more effective than the left, where Hughes was by no means comfortable. Jones was far more active than usual in the centre. It is a long time since they have given such a wholehearted display. No fault could be found with the tackling of the half backs, but they could not always judge the strength of the wind when kicking. There was little to choose between the three. The backs were reliable and Bennett was particularly useful. Roney had an easy time. Not so Skiller who did not show his customary keenness in taking the ball or getting rid of it.

To begin with, Walker generally mastered Peplow, but in the second half he was often beaten. Hill, without being conspicuous made few mistakes. Handley was the cleverest of the half backs though Lockhead did not give Jones much latitude. Jefferson was the pick of the forwards, who after combining smartly at the onset fell off considerably. The least successful part of their play was shooting. They had chances but failed to utilise them. There was every excuse for their defeat considering how hard they have worked of late.

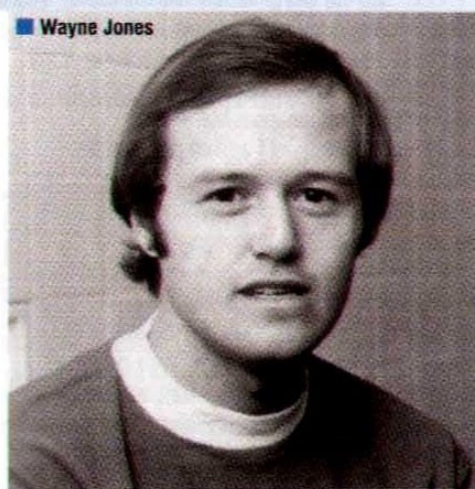
Rovers: Roney, Harvie, Bennett, Morris, Shaw, Williams, Peplow, Hoggard, Jones Brogan, Hughes.

Town: Skiller, Hill, Walker, Hicks, Lockhead, Handley, Jefferson, Burkinshaw, McCulloch, Bown, Bolland.

Footnote: Town finished the season in fourth place while Rovers escaped relegation by three points.



■ Tony Sealey



■ Wayne Jones

Past Pirate club by club

ST MATHIAS

We played just one game against St Mathias, a home friendly in November 1886 which was played at the Three Acres ground.

ST PAULS

In October of 1893, we entertained St Pauls in a Bristol and District League game. Two years later both teams had moved up to the Western League and fixtures resumed, though at the end of the 1897/98 season, St Pauls disappeared off the football map. We also met in the Gloucester Cup in January 1897, winning through to the next round courtesy of a 1-0 win.

ST SIMONS

During 1891/92, two friendly fixtures were played against St Simons, the home game being played at the Schoolmasters Cricket Ground in December 1892.

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

It is thought that the club was formed in 1909. They played for two seasons in the Lancashire & Cheshire Amateur League before turning professional and joining the Lancashire Combination.

Time was spent in the Central league and the Southern league before the outbreak of the First World War, though they rejoined the Central league in 1921/22 before becoming founder members of the Third Division (North).

After two seasons, and lacking local support, the club voluntarily resigned their place in the Football league and rejoined the Cheshire County league, where they remained for sixty years until the formation of the Bass North West Counties League.

They currently play in the Conference North, two tiers below the level they aspire to reach.

Our two games against them came in the Fifth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, in December 1922. After a goalless draw at the Bower Field, Stalybridge won the replay 2-1 at Eastville.

STAPLETON

We played a friendly fixture against Stapleton in July 1984, when a programme was produced.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH

We travelled up to Broadhall way for a pre season friendly in August 1998, and a single sheet programme was issued for the game.

Currently playing in the Conference, Stevenage have a date at the new Wembley Stadium next month, when they take on Kidderminster Harriers in the FA Trophy Final, and I would like to wish them the best of luck for their big day out.

STOCKPORT COUNTY

Given that Stockport became a Football league Club as long ago as 1900, I was surprised to discover that we haven't played that many games against the team that plays at Edgeley Park. It was November 1967 before The Hatters paid their first visit to Eastville for a Third Division fixture. We played against each other for three seasons, until County were relegated to the Fourth Division in May 1970.

It was 1993/94 before we met in the league again. We had been relegated to the Second Division, while Stockport were already playing at that level. They provided the opposition for our first ever league game at the Memorial Stadium, a match that ended 1-1, at the start of the 1996/97 campaign, and were promoted to the First Division at the end of that season.

It was to be 2005/06 before our paths crossed again, and we have already played each other twice this season, the last occasion being at the Memorial Stadium in March of this year. Currently sitting in the final play off spot, they will be hoping to gain promotion this season.

Cup competitions have seen us play each other just twice. A Second Round FA Cup game in December 1930, at Eastville, saw us run out 4-2 winners, while 19,000 fans saw County gain their revenge in January 1965 when they won a Third Round replay 3-2, after a 0-0 draw at Eastville. That replay saw a simple single sheet programme issued.

I very much hope that this won't be our last home game of the season but, if the worst happens, then see you all in August.

If either Rovers or Swindon fans need to find that elusive programme then I can be contacted c/o Pirates Programmes, 199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 1AZ or via jamiagas@blueyonder.co.uk

You could also try one of two websites, at www.geocities.com/piratesprogs or www.bristolroversmemorabilia.co.uk

We have programmes from just about every Premiership and League team plus many Non League clubs and other sports as well. So try us, you never know.

Stockport, 1964/65



Stapleton, 1984



Stockport, 1996/97



Students here today

Students at our local secondary school, Monks Park in Horfield, have been working their socks off over their Easter holiday to prepare for Year 9 SATS tests and Year 11 GCSE exams. The tests and exams start in May and run right through until early July.

Rovers have been supporting their hard work by joining forces with our Community and Education Sponsor SAM Learning, to deliver on-line revision at home and at our own Education Centre which is situated in the Mead Civil Engineering Stand. Twelve Monks Park students who have recorded the most hours of on-line revision have won tickets for today's game.

The winning students will spend some time learning how the football club and the players prepare for a game as well as adding a bit more revision and enjoying other

activities with our resident teacher and Deputy Centre Manager Becky Hunter. A tour of the stadium and the changing rooms will also be included ahead of the game so that the students can get an insight of what goes on behind the scenes here at the Memorial Stadium. Lunch at the Football Club and Rovers goody bags from the club shop have been donated as prizes by Monks Park School, through The Dawn James Charitable Trust.

Peter Gould, Deputy Headteacher at Monks Park said, "It is so good to see Bristol Rovers and Monks Park coming together to support our students with their revision and exam practice. The students would like to thank Bristol Rovers and everyone at the Rovers Education Centre for supporting them in this way. Our students are working so

hard to achieve and to get good grades. Many of them are Rovers Fans."

Please join with all of us at Bristol Rovers to wish students at Monks Park, and all students in Bristol and across our region, the very best as they prepare for a stressful summer of exams and tests. Good luck to them all and well done for their hard work.



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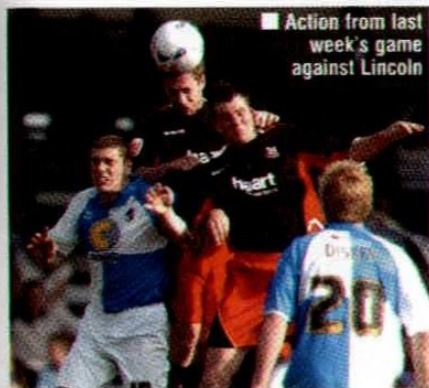
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**We wish every success to
Bristol Rovers Football Club for
the 2006/07 season**



■ Action from last week's game against Lincoln

Paper talk

I write this article before our match with Macclesfield on Tuesday so it could be that today's encounter with Swindon still affords us the opportunity to creep into a top seven position on the final whistle depending on the result at Stockport where the hosts entertain Bury.

It may yet go down to the wire with the outcome of our visit to Hartlepool proving crucial. However we fared at Macclesfield in mid-week there is no doubting that our task would have been made a little easier if we had managed to claim all three points against Lincoln last week. For a view from the Lincoln perspective I paid a visit to the official Lincoln City website to read the report by John Vickers. He had this to say:

For the third successive season, the Imps and Bristol Rovers drew 0-0 at the Memorial Stadium, although City can count themselves unlucky not to have emerged with a maximum haul, having hit the woodwork on no less than four occasions. City had the better of the chances in a game that was played mainly in the middle third of the field, with the four efforts against the woodwork being the main talking point at the final whistle.

Paul Mayo with a thunderbolt of a shot from 30 yards was the first to rattle the frame whilst a second effort in the opening period from Junior Mendes saw him follow suit. Scott Kerr and substitute Lee Frecklington got into the act in the second period whilst a poor late backpass from Sammy Igoe let in Jamie Forrester only for the former Bristol Rovers man to be dragged wide of the target by 'keeper Steve Phillips.

At the other end, City's defence stood firm with the centre-back pairing of Paul Morgan and Paul Mayo superb in front of Alan Marriott, who equalled the Club's Football League 'clean sheet' record with his 97th shut out in Imps' colours.

The game was just 30 seconds old

when the first half chance came along, with Jeff Hughes and Paul Green linking up well down the left before the former's ball into the box was hooked across the face of the goal by Jamie Forrester, who counts Rovers amongst his former clubs.

City continued to press during the opening stages with Forrester curling an effort over the bar in the sixth minute after he cut in from the left whilst Rovers' first foray forward, five minutes later, saw Stuart Campbell go down under Green's challenge but referee McDermid waved play-on.

Chances were at a premium and it took until the 20th minute before the first corner of the game came along. This flag-kick immediately led to another on the opposite side and when this was played back in, Haldane blazed well over from 20 yards. The spell of pressure from the home side continued with Joe Jacobson firing wide whilst Morgan was forced to clear a dangerous Ryan Green centre behind for another corner.

At the other end a well-worked free-kick from the Imps, given for a push on Mendes who had switched to the left, ended up with Paul Mayo blasting in a thunderbolt from fully 30 yards only for the ball to crash into the upright before bouncing to safety. Rovers' quick response saw Richard Walker see his net-bound drive from 15 yards go straight at Alan Marriott whilst a 42nd minute free-kick led to the hosts' seventh corner of the game. After this was half-cleared, Marriott did well to save low to his right from Walker.

City's reply was slick with a great passing move involving a number of players ended with Mendes and Stallard exchanging passes before Mendes saw his low shot, which was slightly mis-hit, clip the outside of the post before going behind for a goal kick.

Despite further efforts from both sides half time arrived with no clear cut chances being created.

With neither side making any changes during the break, it was as you were as the home side got the second period underway and they were the first to press following the restart with Alan Marriott at full stretch to claim a low drive from Ryan Green less than a minute in.

The opening quarter of an hour of the second half followed on in a similar fashion to the opening stages of the game in that it was a relatively quiet affair in terms of attempts at goal but that changed in the 63rd minute when a clever pass from Stallard saw him release Mendes on the left. Mendes cut inside before laying the ball into the path of the advancing Scott Kerr who was then left holding his head in his hands as his low shot came back off the woodwork before being hacked behind for a corner.

Sean Rigg replaced Joe Jacobson for the hosts as the clock showed 77 minutes played and two minutes later the Imps came within inches of breaking the deadlock again when they rattled the woodwork for a fourth time; substitute Frecklington the man coming close on this occasion, with his crisp right-footed drive from just inside the box crashing into the post.

Shortly afterwards, Nicky Eaden saw yellow for a foul on Chris Carruthers and as the clock continued to tick on, a clash of heads between Rovers' Steve Elliott and Byron Anthony saw the former receive treatment off the pitch.

With Elliott off, Forrester was gifted the ball from a poor backpass from Igoe but, after being dragged wide of the target by keeper Steve Phillips, his eventual drag back to Hughes saw the ball run in Bristol's favour and they were able to clear their lines.

At the other end some great defending by Mayo saw him clear a low Rigg centre behind for a corner whilst some more sturdy defending saw City's back line block a couple of shots from the edge of the box as the hosts looked for a late goal. The last half-chance saw Rigg blaze well over but in the end City were forced to settle for a share of the spoils. Saying that, the point could prove to be a valuable one as the Imps look to book a play-off place for a fifth successive season.

So we had to settle for a point apiece, probably a fair result, but one that would have been more useful to Lincoln than ourselves. If a win today keeps us in with a shout then a packed stadium getting behind the lads could make all the difference. Lets cheer the Gas on to three points!



BRISTOL ROVERS

- 1 Steve Phillips
- 2 Ryan Green
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 6 Steve Elliott
- 11 Chris Carruthers
- 26 Lewis Haldane
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 20 Craig Disley
- 3 Joe Jacobson
- 10 Richard Walker
- 9 Rickie Lambert

Substitutes

- 4 Sammy Igoe 70 (9)
- 17 Andy Sandell
- 22 Chris Lines
- 27 Sean Rigg 3 (77)
- 31 Mike Green



The Memorial Stadium

bristol rovers 0

lincoln city 0

Another game that Rovers dominated for long spells without finding the back of the net. They did ride their luck on occasions, though, as their visitors hit the woodwork on four occasions.

Former Gas striker Forrester cut in from the left and hit a swerving right foot shot over the bar, before Rovers had a legitimate claim for a penalty turned down after Campbell appeared to have been tripped in the box.

Haldane, Jacobson and Campbell were all wide of the target before a glorious chance fell to Lambert just after the half hour mark, but he blasted his shot just over the bar after running on to a long ball out of defence.

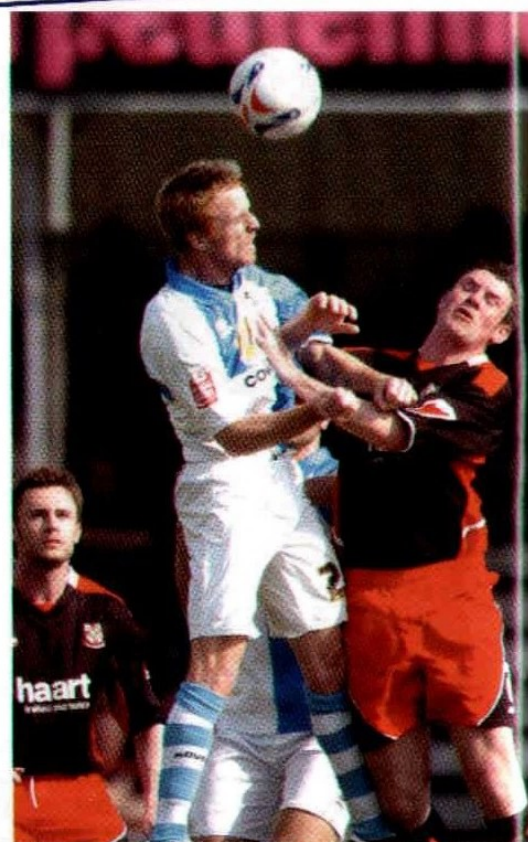
Mayo struck a 25 yard shot against the post with his free kick, but Rovers responded well and Walker saw Marriott save well from his left foot effort. The chance of the half, though, fell to Mendes in the final minute but he somehow managed to scuff his shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

A neat one two, between Lambert and Walker, shortly after the restart almost led to a goal but Marriott saved well to deny Lambert, but the visitors hit the woodwork again with an hour gone. This time Kerr was the player to be denied.

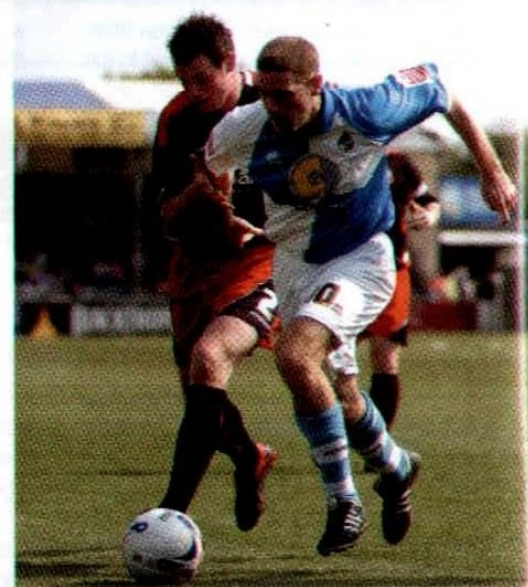
Substitute Frecklington sent a volley against the post ten minutes later, as Lincoln searched for an opening.

We needed three points against Lincoln and the draw just makes the job of reaching the play offs a bit more difficult

Rovers first team coach Paul Trollope



■ Top - Craig Disley climbs above Lee Beevers



■ Above - Richard Walker gets past Lee Beevers

Ironically, though, their best chance was set up by Igoe, on as a second half substitute. His poor back pass was seized on by Forrester though Phillips did well to force him wide while his defenders rushed back to cover.

Campbell and Rigg hit chances over the bar in the final minute of the game, and it remains to be seen whether or not the point gained will turn out to be important come the season's end.



■ Lewis Haldane takes on Paul Green



■ Byron Anthony clears as Mark Stallard closes in

I thought it was a good arm wrestle and you could see that there was a lot at stake and you feel for the players a little bit

Lincoln boss John Schofield

matchfacts

	Rovers	Lincoln
Shots on target	7	1
Shots off target	9	9
Corners	8	1
Fouls conceded	16	23
Offside	-	2

the bloke behind me said ...

Weather report: a lovely, bright, sunny afternoon.

Crowd: 6,828 and the highest crowd for a league game this season ensured there was a good atmosphere inside the ground.

Referee watch: Sorry Danny McDermid but, in my opinion, you really weren't very good!

Best moment: On 24 minutes, Ryan Green played a neat one two with Richard Walker before speeding down the right and whipping the ball across the face of goal. Unfortunately, no Rovers player could get a touch and the ball was put behind for a corner by a grateful Lincoln defender.

Funniest Moment: A certain club photographer, worried that no one was paying him enough attention in his special edition Millennium Tracksuit, sat in front of the Bass End at half time, sending his photos to heaven knows where. He decided the sun was in his eyes and took off his top and put it over his head, to make it look as though he was doing something important. It wouldn't have been

With thanks to the empty seat behind me. It was bliss not to have anyone with their knees in between my shoulder blades or their feet kicking the back of my seat. Hopefully, there will be armchairs for the press in the new stadium!

funny, except that there were two Lincoln photographers sat next to him, also sending photos, without the need to hide their faces!

My Man of the Match: In his first full game of the year Byron Anthony looked very impressive, and he gets my vote.

Opposition Man of the Match: Paul Mayo had a decent game for the visitors and was probably their best player.

How many opposition fans there: 293 and they didn't make an awful lot of noise.

Actual time played: 94 minutes.

Summary: For all their territorial advantage, Rovers failed to find the back of the net. Lincoln, though, created the best clear cut chances and hit the woodwork on four occasions.

Entertainment value: 7/10

Atmosphere: 7/10

Programme: Hopefully, whoever we groundshare with next season will let us 'borrow' their programme editor, as ours is past his sell by date!

LINCOLN CITY

- 1 Alan Marriott
- 12 Nicky Eaden
- 5 Paul Morgan
- 3 Paul Mayo
- 6 Paul Green
- 2 Lee Beevers
- 10 Junior Mendes
- 11 Scott Kerr
- 24 Jeff Hughes
- 9 Mark Stallard
- 22 Jamie Forrester

Substitutes

- 7 Lee Frecklington 10 (66)
- 8 Danny N'Guessan
- 17 Peter Holmes
- 20 Owain Warlow
- 21 Robert Olesnick

Stallard, Green, Eaden





BRISTOL ROVERS

- 1 Steve Phillips
- 2 Ryan Green
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 6 Steve Elliott
- 11 Chris Carruthers
- 26 Lewis Haldane
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 20 Craig Disley
- 3 Joe Jacobson
- 10 Richard Walker
- 9 Rickie Lambert

Substitutes

- 4 Sammy Igoe
- 17 Andy Sandell
- 22 Chris Lines
- 27 Sean Rigg 26 (72)
- 31 Mike Green

Elliott, Carruthers 



Moss Rose

macclesfield town 0

bristol rovers 1

Rigg (76)

A second half strike from Rigg, his first goal for the club, earned Rovers all three points and kept the play off dream alive.

Lambert and Carruthers went close early on for Rovers, while Hadfield fired wide for the home side. Lambert could have put Rovers ahead on 21 minutes when he met Jacobson's free kick but he fired over the bar from 12 yards.

There was a let off for Rovers just after the half hour mark when McNeil, with the goal at his mercy, headed straight into the arms of a grateful Phillips. The keeper then did well to keep out Murphy's volley from the edge of the area.

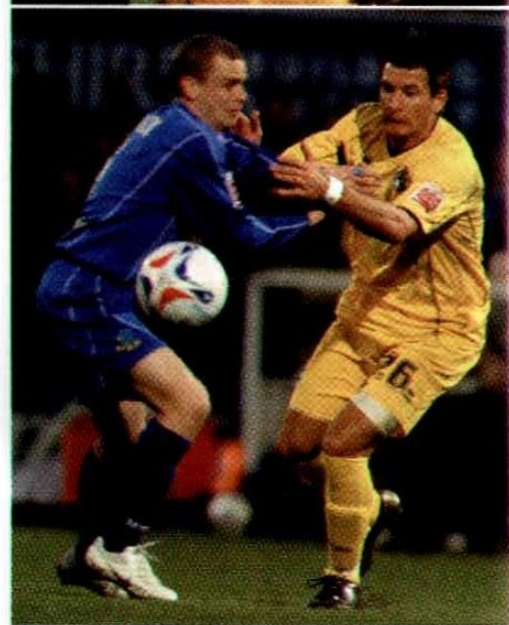
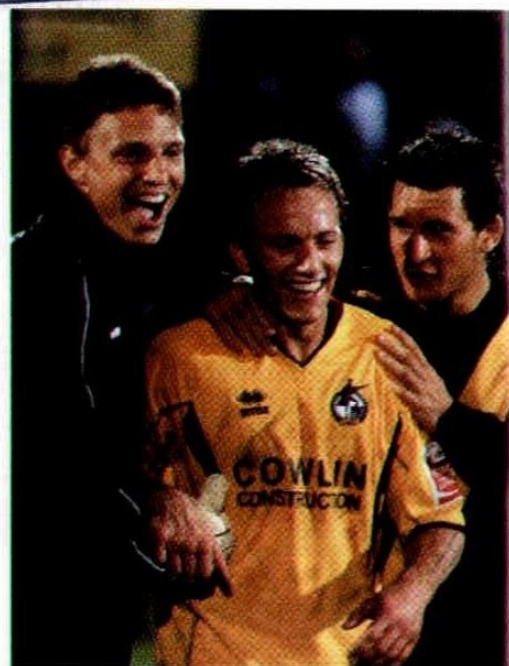
With five minutes of the half remaining, Lambert was denied a goal when Lee dived low to his left to touch the striker's curling shot round the post.

The home side were fortunate not to fall behind two minutes after the restart when a ball into the area was only cleared as far as Carruthers and his goalbound effort was deflected over the bar for a corner. Four minutes later, Jacobson let fly with a rasping drive from 15 yards which was deflected onto the post. Lee then did well to block a close range shot from Haldane as Rovers pushed forward.

Macclesfield rallied, and Tipton, McIntyre and Tipton again were all wide of the mark before Bullock tested Phillips with an angled drive, which the keeper gathered at his near post.

The lads definitely deserved something from the match. That's the way the game is though, sometimes you really get kicked where you don't want to be

Macclesfield assistant boss Ray Mathias



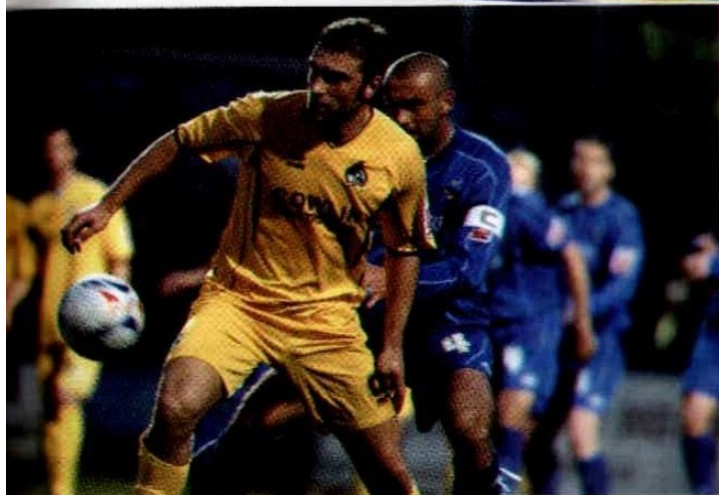
■ Top - After the match celebrations for Sean Rigg, flanked by Mike Green and Lewis Haldane

■ Above - Lewis Haldane wrestles with Rob Scott!

At the other end, Jacobson hit a 20 yard drive straight at Lee, but the lead Rovers richly deserved came after 76 minutes when Jacobson's ball into the box was touched onto Rigg, on as a substitute, by Walker and the youngster drilled the ball past Lee from just inside the box.

Lee saved comfortably from Jacobson and as the game moved into time added on McNeil almost equalised with a diving header, but Elliott's intervention was enough to force the striker to head wide of the mark.

There was still time for Disley to head over and for Lee to deny Rigg a second goal before Rovers were able to celebrate victory with their fans at the final whistle.



■ Rickie Lambert holds the ball up under pressure from Dave Morley



■ Rob Scott gets a lunging tackle in on Sean Rigg

It's a huge win because it keeps us in the hunt ahead of a derby game against Swindon side who need a point to go up

Rovers first team coach Paul Trollope

the bloke behind me said ...

Weather report: It was overcast to begin with, and the heavens opened at half time. It was mild, though!

Crowd: 1,940, though they didn't make an awful lot of noise and it was only thanks to the travelling Gasheads that there was any semblance of an atmosphere inside the ground.

Referee watch: I've criticised Ray Olivier in the past, but I thought he controlled this game well.

Best moment: In the ninth minute, Steve Elliott played the ball into Richard Walker and he, in turn, found Joe Jacobson out on the left. He and Rickie Lambert exchanged passes before the on loan Cardiff player crossed into the box but unfortunately Lambert could get no power on his header and goalkeeper Tommy Lee was able to make a comfortable save.

Funniest moment: It was probably the sight of the PA bloke dancing to the sound of 'The Liquidator' in the centre circle before kick off. If only he knew how daft he looked. Even the giant mascot seemed embarrassed by it all!

matchfacts

	Rovers	Macclesfield
Shots on target	8	3
Shots off target	6	6
Corners	5	4
Fouls conceded	10	14
Offside	4	8

With thanks to the bloke in front of me, yet another commentator for a local radio station. Unfortunately, this guy, who was working for Macc Radio, was only required to give updates from Moss Rose and spent the rest of the time listening to Man U. If I'd wanted to know what was going on at Old Trafford, I would have stayed home and watched it on telly. Broadcasters should be banned from the press box and have their own space!

My Man of the Match: There were a few contenders, but my vote goes to Steve Elliott, who was a rock at the heart of defence.

Opposition Man of the Match: John Miles had a decent game, so I'll nominate him.

How many opposition fans there: 246 and they certainly made themselves heard. Great support, as always, from the travelling Gasheads.

Actual time played: 95 minutes.

Summary: A solid and committed performance from a Rovers side more determined to win than their opponents, and a deserved win which keeps them on course for a play off place.

Entertainment value: 6/10

Atmosphere: 3/10


Programme: 4/10

MACCLESFIELD TOWN

- 13 Tommy Lee
- 2 Carl Regan
- 4 David Morley
- 24 Rob Scott
- 14 Kevin McIntyre
- 10 John Miles
- 7 Alan Navarro
- 17 Jordan Hadfield
- 6 Martin Bullock
- 26 John Murphy
- 9 Matthew McNeil

Substitutes

- 12 Matthew Tipton 26 (42)
- 19 James Jennings
- 35 Ashan Holgate
- 36 Isiah Rankin 2 (85)
- 37 Ronayne Benjamin 6 (79)

Hadfield 



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FRIDAY 20TH APRIL

Despite being held to a home 1-1 draw by Notts County, Hartlepool increased their lead at the top of the table to three points.

James Brown gave Pool an early lead before Andy Parkinson equalised on the stroke of the half time. Pool had Ben Clark sent off early in the second period and he was later followed by Stephen Hunt.

SATURDAY 21ST APRIL

Walsall missed an opportunity to take over the leadership of the section after losing at home to relegation threatened Bury, Tom Youngs scoring the only goal.

Swindon, with goals from Barry Corr and a Jon-Olav Hjelde own goal, beat Mansfield 2-0 at the County Ground. The win meant

that they remained in third place, but closed the gap on Walsall to a single point and maintained a two point advantage over MK Dons who were 2-1 winners at Stockport. Clive Platt and Keith Andrews were on target for the Dons before Anthony Pilkington pulled one back. Defeat saw Stockport drop to seventh place.

Shrewsbury moved into sixth place following a 2-1 home win over Accrington Stanley. Neil Ashton scored direct from a corner and Ben Davies was also on target after Paul Mullin had put the Lancashire side ahead. Fifth placed Lincoln took a step nearer to cementing a place in the play offs with a goalless draw here at the Memorial Stadium, while Peterborough moved into eighth place

following their 3-0 win over Hereford. Craig Mackail-Smith opening the scoring before a Hereford player touched the ball. Alan White and Gavin Strachan completed the scoring.

In the battle to avoid the drop, Wrexham and Boston completed single goal home victories.

Wrexham, with a late Neil Roberts goal, overcame already relegated Torquay while Jamie Stevens with an even later strike gave Boston victory over Chester, who had Kevin Sandwith dismissed early on. Macclesfield's 5-0 defeat at Rochdale left them looking anxiously over their shoulders. Chris Dagnall scored a hat trick for the home side and Glenn Murray scored the other two goals.

Danny North also bagged a hat trick as Grimsby eased to a 5-0 win over Barnet at Blundell Park, while Neil Wainwright scored twice as Darlington ran out 3-2 home winners over Wycombe.

Coca-Cola LEAGUE 2

	Home					Away					GD	Pts	Form
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A		(= latest)
Hartlepool	44	14	5	3	33	15	12	5	5	31	21	28	88 DWLWVW
Walsall	44	15	4	3	36	13	9	9	4	26	20	31	85 LWLWWD
Swindon	44	15	3	4	33	16	10	6	5	24	20	21	84 WWWWdW
MK Dons	44	13	4	5	38	25	10	5	7	33	32	14	78 WLLdD
Lincoln C	44	11	4	7	34	28	9	6	7	34	31	9	70 dLdLL
Shrewsbury	44	11	6	5	36	21	6	10	6	29	23	21	67 LWSWDL
Stockport	44	14	3	5	41	25	6	4	12	19	29	6	67 LLWLL
Bristol R	44	12	5	5	26	14	6	7	9	20	27	5	66 WdWVWV
Peterb U	44	10	5	7	45	33	8	4	10	21	24	9	63 WdWLDW
Rochdale	44	8	6	8	31	20	9	5	8	34	27	18	62 WMLWVW
Wyc W	44	8	11	3	23	12	8	3	11	28	31	8	62 LLDdLL
Darlington	44	10	6	6	28	25	6	8	8	23	25	0	62 WdLdLL
Notts C	44	8	6	6	29	24	8	7	7	25	27	3	61 DLWVWVW
Grimsby	44	11	3	8	33	32	6	3	13	22	39	-18	57 WdLWLL
Barnet	44	11	5	6	33	29	4	6	12	19	38	-15	56 LDWVWV
Hereford	44	9	7	6	23	16	5	5	12	22	36	-7	54 LWdLdL
Chester	44	7	8	7	22	22	6	5	11	17	23	-6	52 LdLdLW
Mansf	44	9	4	9	30	30	4	7	11	19	31	-6	50 LLLdL
Bury	44	4	6	12	21	34	9	3	10	24	25	-15	48 WLLWVW
Wrexham	44	7	8	7	20	20	5	4	13	20	43	-23	48 WWWWLd
Accrington S	44	9	6	7	39	31	3	5	14	27	45	-10	47 LWLWLV
Macclesf	44	8	6	8	35	33	4	5	13	17	40	-21	47 LLLWLVW
Boston Utd	44	9	4	9	28	31	3	5	14	21	45	-27	45 WdWLLd
Torquay	44	5	7	10	19	22	2	5	15	16	40	-27	33 LdLWLV



Joe Jacobson goes for goal against Lincoln last Saturday

football obituary

Stephen Byrne

TOMMY CAVANAGH

Though much better known today as the assistant manager and coach at Manchester United, where he served under Tommy Docherty, and Newcastle United, Tommy Cavanagh, who died in Driffild on Thursday 15th March 2007, aged seventy-eight, was also a widely-respected lower-league wing-half through the 1950's.

He leaves a widow, Doris, three

daughters, Leslie, Deb and Christine, and two sons, Tom and Robert. Tommy Cavanagh played in five League matches against Rovers, three for Doncaster Rovers and two in the colours of Bristol City. His three such games for Donny all ended in a Rovers victory, the Boxing Day game at Eastville in 1956 ending 6-1 in Rovers' favour, Dai Ward scoring a hat-trick, whilst both Bristol sides won one game apiece in the 1959/60 season.

Thomas Cavanagh, born in Liverpool on 29th June 1928, joined Preston North End as a wing-half in August 1949 and, unable to make a First Division breakthrough, left for Third Division (North) Stockport County in January 1950. The following month he made his debut in a 1-0 win at home to Hartlepool and he scored twice, goals at Darlington and at Workington, in his 32 League appearances for Stockport. In May 1952 he moved to Huddersfield Town in time for their 1952/53 promotion season to

Division One. Though he missed the FA Cup-tie against Rovers in January 1953, Cavanagh scored a hat-trick in the same calendar month, as his side won 4-2 at Barnsley. After 93 League matches and 29 goals, the relegation campaign of 1955/56 prompted a May 1956 transfer to Doncaster Rovers, where he was appointed captain. An ever-present in 1956/57, his side was relegated to the newly-created Division Three in the spring of 1958 and he played in 119 League fixtures for Doncaster, scoring sixteen times.

July 1959 saw a move to Bristol City, his 24 League games and six goals not proving enough to prevent relegation from Division Two and, in June 1960, he joined Carlisle United. 34 game and four goals followed, Cavanagh's farewell appearance, prior to thirteen years at Old Trafford, being at Accrington Stanley in a Fourth Division game in March 1961.

thanks from the editor

Keith Brookman

thank you everyone

It's that time of the year again, when I would like to thank everyone for their help and assistance in producing The Pirate.

Once again our programme has been voted the best in League Two and much of the credit for that is down to the many contributors, past and present, who have given up so much of their free time to ensure that we have maintained the high standards we have set for a number of years now.

Thanks, also, to the staff of the Football Club and members of the Supporters Club for their help and to all supporters who regularly purchase The Pirate.

Photographers Jeff Davis and Neil Brookman are out in all weathers to bring you the best possible photographs of all that happens here on matchdays and I thank them for their efforts.

Working to tight deadlines, especially when we have two home games in the space of four days, can be extremely tiring and the help of our printers, TL Visuals, is greatly appreciated. So thanks to everyone based at Yate, especially Ann Walter who has again been a tremendous help to me as without her, the programme you are reading would not be of such a high quality.

I sincerely hope that we can bring you one more edition in what has been a very successful season for the club, but if we don't, enjoy your summer break.

former rovers on the move

PLAYER	FROM	TO
Nigel Pierre	Caledonia AIA	Joe Public (Trinidad)

on this day in history... 28th April

last five league matches

1984 DIV3	Lincoln City	H	W 3-1	White, Barrett (2)
1987 DIV3	Chester City	H	W 3-2	Meacham (2), Scales
1989 DIV3	Gillingham	A	W 3-2	Penrice (2), Holloway (pen)
1990 DIV3	Shrewsbury Town	H	W 1-0	Holloway (pen)
2001 LD2	Walsall	A	L 1-2	Ellington

today's other fixtures - league two

Accrington Stanley	v	Macclesfield Town
Boston United	v	Torquay United
Chester City	v	Peterborough United
Grimsby Town	v	Lincoln City
Hereford United	v	Shrewsbury Town
Mansfield Town	v	Barnet
Notts County	v	Darlington
Rochdale	v	Hartlepool United
Stockport County	v	Bury
Walsall	v	Wrexham
Wycombe Wanderers	v	Milton Keynes Dons

key

- 2z Started, scored 2, substituted by no.22
- Started, booked

- Started, booked and sent off
- Started, sent off
- Unused substitute
- 2z Substitute replaced no. 22

DATE	DAY	OPPOSITION	VENUE	F-A	HOME	ATT	POS
AUG 5	SAT	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	A	1-4	4,890	848	21
8	TUE	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	1-2	5,319	309	22
12	SAT	GRIMSBY TOWN	H	1-0	4,596	250	16
19	SAT	MILTON KEYNES DONS	A	0-2	5,125	342	19
22	TUE	LUTON TOWN - CC Rd1	H	1-1*	2,882	275	19
26	SAT	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H	1-0	4,774	311	15
SEP 3	SUN	STOCKPORT COUNTY ko 2.00pm	A	1-2	4,846	333	16
9	SAT	ROCHDALE	H	0-0	4,689	175	17
13	WED	TORQUAY UNITED	A	0-0	3,145	768	18
16	SAT	DARLINGTON	A	1-1	3,654	200	17
23	SAT	WALSALL	H	1-2	5,260	508	21
27	WED	HEREFORD UNITED	H	2-1	4,975	724	18
30	SAT	CHESTER CITY	A	0-2	2,151	320	19
OCT 7	SAT	BOSTON UNITED	H	1-0	4,327	74	17
14	SAT	NOTTS COUNTY	A	2-1	5,707	439	11
17	TUE	TORQUAY UNITED JPT Rd1	H	1-0	2,672	128	11
21	SAT	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H	0-0	5,130	82	14
28	SAT	WREXHAM	A	0-2	3,803	306	17
31	TUE	WYCOMBE WANDERERS JPT Rd2	A	2-0	1,314	188	17
NOV 4	SAT	MANSFIELD TOWN	H	1-0	5,044	212	13
11	SAT	BARROW FAC Rd1 ko 2.00pm	A	3-2	2,939	221	13
18	SAT	BURY	A	2-0	2,635	231	17
26	SUN	BARNET	H	2-0	5,351	199	9
29	WED	PETERBOROUGH UTD JPT Rd3	H	1-0	3,621	103	9
DEC 2	SAT	AFC BOURNEMOUTH FAC Rd 2	H	1-1	6,252	948	9
5	TUE	LINCOLN CITY	A	0-1	3,913	109	11
9	SAT	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H	0-2	4,906	166	13
12	TUE	AFC BOURNEMOUTH FAC Rd2 R	A	1-0	4,153	354	13
16	SAT	SWINDON TOWN	A	1-2	10,010	2,134	15
23	SAT	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	H	4-0	5,205	100	11
26	TUE	HEREFORD UNITED ko 12.30pm	A	0-0	5,201	1,181	12
30	SAT	WALSALL	A	2-2	5,941	1,034	13
JAN 1	MON	TORQUAY UNITED ko 3.00pm	H	1-0	6,475	335	9
5	FRI	HEREFORD UTD FAC Rd3	H	1-0	8,978	1,678	9
13	SAT	ROCHDALE	A	1-0	2,547	230	7
20	SAT	CHESTER CITY	H	0-0	5,694	178	9
27	SAT	DERBY COUNTY FAC Rd4	A	0-1	25,033	5,808	9
30	TUE	SHREWSBURY TOWN JPT Rd4	A	1-0	3,199	285	10
FEB 3	SAT	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H	3-2	5,700	177	9
6	TUE	DARLINGTON	H	1-2	5,511	87	9
10	SAT	GRIMSBY TOWN	A	3-4	5,883	108	10
17	SAT	MILTON KEYNES DONS	H	1-1	5,489	380	10
21	WED	BRISTOL CITY JPT Area Final 1*Leg	A	0-0	18,370	2,872	13
27	TUE	BRISTOL CITY JPT Area Final 2*Leg	H	1-0	11,530	1,924	14
MAR 2	FRI	SHREWSBURY TOWN	A	0-0	4,227	260	14
6	TUE	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	A	1-1	1,302	101	15
10	SAT	BOSTON UNITED	A	1-2	1,697	144	16
17	SAT	NOTTS COUNTY	H	2-0	4,642	180	13
20	TUE	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	2-1	4,725	365	11
24	SAT	WREXHAM	H	0-1	5,209	196	11
27	TUE	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	A	1-0	4,299	322	11
APR 1	SUN	DONCASTER ROVERS JPT Final	A	2-3 aet	59,024	37,000	11
7	SAT	MANSFIELD TOWN	A	1-0	2,392	317	9
9	MON	BURY	H	2-0	6,266	141	9
14	SAT	BARNET	A	1-1	2,541	786	9
21	SAT	LINCOLN CITY	H	0-0	6,828	293	9
24	TUE	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	A	1-0	1,940	246	8
28	SAT	SWINDON TOWN	H				
MAY 5	SAT	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	A				

* AET, Luton won 5-3 on penalties

† At the Millennium Stadium Cardiff ko 1.00pm

All Saturday matches KO 3.00pm unless stated.

All evening matches KO 7.45pm unless stated.

FAC = FA Cup

CC = Carling Cup

JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy

2006/2007

COCA COLA APPEARANCES

COCA COLA GOALS

CUP APPEARANCES

CUP GOALS

TOTAL APPEARANCES

TOTAL GOALS

61

Regrets, I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention!

Returning to his first club, as Community Officer, was like coming home for Peter.

‘I’ve never lost my love and affection for this football club, no matter where I’ve been. My first taste of what I call real football was with Bristol Rovers, when I was 12 years of age, and I played first team football for the club in eight consecutive seasons.’

‘I was never the kind of player who wanted to move every three years or so simply to get more money. My philosophy has always been that I would like to take something, build it, and make it better and stronger until I could do no more.’

‘That’s still my feeling now, with the club as it is today. It’s a difficult time for everyone and we are all wondering if we are going to turn the corner. I’ve always said that whoever comes in and turns this club around will be revered by everyone and I still believe that to be the case.’

‘We have been languishing in this division now for six years and I don’t think we can afford to spend too much longer at this level and we need more than just a new stadium for things to change.’

‘I think the greatest effect on any football club is the team and Paul Trollope is a young man in his early days as a manager and learning as he goes, but if he could lead the team out of this division it would be marvellous.’

‘I really do hope that something will change, somewhere along the line, because I think there is a terrific passion for this football club in Bristol and I would love us to turn the corner. I don’t think we realise how much support there is out there. These days, though, people are very careful how they spend their money and when they spend it they want some kind of reward for it. So, if they are going to spend their money to come and watch Rovers, they want to know it’s going to be good.’

Maybe, if things had worked out

differently, we could be talking about Peter Aitken the coach or the manager.

‘I was very keen on going into coaching or management in the latter part of my career but when I finished playing, a lot of people I knew drifted out of the game as well. In football, it’s often a case of who you know if you want to get a job, it’s a very close knit community.’



■ There's always Golf in the Community!

‘As it was, I was out of the game for three or four years and things moved on. I had a young family and didn’t want to move around the country, something you always have to be prepared to do, so I just got on with family life and I accepted that I wasn’t going to go into management or coaching. I’d been through the experience of being at a club that almost went out of business and that had changed my outlook on life, in that I wanted to know what I was going to be doing and not face an uncertain future.’

He currently gets a great deal of job

satisfaction from his role as Community Officer.

‘I love my work. It’s the tough end of the club, in that I have to generate income, keep the interest amongst the youngsters and motivate them. We want these young people in the club and for them to take an interest in the club from a young age, and hopefully that will stay with them for the rest of their life.’

‘I’m sure there will come a stage when I feel that I can’t do the job any more, and that someone with new ideas and a fresh approach is needed, but that time hasn’t come for me yet. I’ll know when it has, though, and I’ll be the first to say I’ve had enough. After that, I don’t really know what I’ll do. I always wanted to be involved in football and have been fortunate to do that. This job takes up a great deal of my time, but I’ve learned so many skills that I didn’t have before and the job has changed dramatically since I was first appointed. I do feel that it takes a special person to deal with young people, on a regular basis, and to be able to work with them you have to understand them. Football in the Community has encouraged many young people to come to football and has an important role to play in the game.’

Whilst there are many fond memories of his time in the game, there are also some regrets.

‘I regret that I never played for Bristol Rovers in the First Division. There was a time when I thought we had enough, in terms of talent, to do it and maybe if there had been a little bit more investment in the team we might have made it. To have helped the club into the top flight would have been something else, but it didn’t happen.’

‘On a personal level, I was disappointed that I didn’t play a lot more games than I did. Perhaps if I’d stayed with Rovers I might have played many more games, who knows? In spite of that, though, I have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, my life in football.’

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bristol rovers

Coach PAUL TROLLOPE

- 1 Steve PHILLIPS (G/K)
- 2 Ryan GREEN
- 3 Joe JACOBSON
- 4 Sammy IGOE
- 5 Craig HINTON
- 6 Steve ELLIOTT
- 7 Stuart CAMPBELL
- 8 James HUNT
- 9 Rickie LAMBERT
- 10 Richard WALKER
- 11 Chris CARRUTHERS
- 12 GASHEADS
- 15 Byron ANTHONY
- 17 Andy SANDELL
- 19 Stuart NICHOLSON
- 20 Craig DISLEY
- 21 Ollie BARNES
- 22 Chris LINES
- 24 Paul TROLLOPE
- 25 Warren MULLINGS
- 26 Lewis HALDANE
- 27 Sean RIGG
- 28 Tom PARRINELLO
- 29 Lewis POWELL
- 30 James PALMER
- 31 Mike GREEN (G/K)
- 32 Aaron LESCOTT



swindon town

Manager PAUL STURROCK

- 1 Peter BREZOVAN (G/K)
- 2 Jack SMITH
- 3 Jamie VINCENT
- 4 Sofiane ZAABOUB
- 5 Jerel IFIL
- 6 Ady WILLIAMS
- 7 Gareth WHALLEY
- 8 Aaron BROWN
- 9 Christian ROBERTS
- 10 Lee PEACOCK
- 11 Barry CORR
- 12 Ricky SHAKES
- 13 Jon STEWART G/K
- 14 David PARTRIDGE
- 15 Andrew NICHOLAS
- 16 Patrick NOUBISSIE
- 18 Paul EVANS
- 19 Michael POOK
- 21 Lucas JUTKIEWICZ
- 22 Blair STURROCK
- 23 Curtis WESTON
- 25 Phil SMITH G/K
- 27 Ben WELLS
- 28 Andy CATON
- 29 Ashley WESTWOOD
- 30 Luke HOPPER
- 34 Michael TIMLIN
- 35 Kevin JAMES
- 36 Ashley GRIMES
- 37 Claude GNAKPA



COVER SHOT:

Steve Phillips gathers safely, under pressure from Lincoln's Paul Mayo, watched by Rickie Lambert, Steve Elliott and Joe Jacobson

next up...

... on the road

Hartlepool United

Saturday 5th May 2007

Kick off 3.00pm

today's match officials



referee

Andre Marriner, Warwickshire



assistant referees

Michael Murphy, West Midlands
Ceri Richards, Carmarthenshire



fourth official

Guy Strelton, Leicester



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**BRISTOL ROVERS
FOOTBALL CLUB**

programme editor Keith Brookman

club photographer Jeff Davis

additional & archive photography

Neil Brookman & Alan Marshall

video production Screen Soccer

programme designed & produced by
Ann Walter

printed & published by

TL Visuals Ltd.,

Yate 01454 319555

paper supplied by Howard Smith