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BRISTOL ROVERS FC • OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

v SWINDON TOWN
Saturday 28th January 2017
Kick off 12.30pm

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BRISTOL ROVERS V SWINDON TOWN SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2017



Today's photo from a past encounter between the sides shows Andy Williams in action at The Mem on 12th December 2009.
Rovers won 3-0 in front of a crowd of 7,613 with Williams, Jeff Hughes and Joe Kuffour on target.



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DARRELL CLARKE

Good afternoon and welcome to The Memorial Stadium for our match against Swindon Town.

Welcome, also, to Swindon Head Coach Luke Williams and his staff and players, along with the club's supporters who have made the short trip along the M4 to Bristol this afternoon.

It seems a long time since our last home game, against Northampton Town, when we scored four goals in the opening 24 minutes and were positive and bright throughout.

We were ruthless in front of goal and scored again in the second half to complete a superb victory. It was, of course, a great afternoon for Ellis Harrison who scored

four of our goals which was an excellent personal achievement.

Unfortunately, we have since suffered successive 3-1 defeats on our travels, at Fleetwood and Walsall.

At Fleetwood our defending in the opening 25 minutes was poor and we presented our hosts with two goals. Once that happened we were chasing the game and although we did pull a goal back in the second half we conceded again before the end of the match.

I didn't think our overall performance was that bad, and we did create scoring opportunities, but that is scant consolation and defeat left me feeling very disappointed.

It was a similar story at Walsall last Saturday when, after their goalkeeper had pulled off a couple of great saves, we conceded a very sloppy goal on the stroke of half time from a set piece. After the break we conceded two more sloppy goals and were left chasing another game.

I don't think I can ask any more from my players in terms of effort but I can ask them to defend a lot better than they are doing and we will continue to work hard to eradicate the errors from our game.

We are in a transitional period at the moment and, as you will know, some players have been advised that their futures lie away from The Memorial Stadium, while new players have

been brought in during the last few weeks.

I would like to formally welcome Joe Partington, Joe Lumley, Ryan Sweeney and Jonathan Burn to the club and wish them every success during their time with us.

I know that you will give them your support and encouragement and I'm sure they will enjoy playing for such passionate supporters.

The atmosphere generated by almost 2,000 Gasheads at Walsall last week was exceptional and I would like to thank everyone who travelled to The Banks's Stadium. There should be a great atmosphere inside The Mem today and I hope you all enjoy the match.

“ THE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED BY ALMOST 2,000 GASHEADS
AT WALSALL LAST WEEK WAS EXCEPTIONAL AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK
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SLOW BOAT TO CHINA

Before the present January transfer window came into play we could all be forgiven for thinking that a mass exodus to China was the order of the day.

At the end of 2016 Chelsea manager Antonio Conte was quoted as saying, "Chinese football is a danger for all teams."

I would suspect that this thinking came on the back of Chinese spending soaring to £200m before the start of the 2016 season. The comment would have been compounded by speculation surrounding Chelsea midfielder Oscar and the fact that the Chinese transfer record was broken three times in ten days, as Chelsea's Brazilian midfielder Ramires was signed by Jiangsu Suning

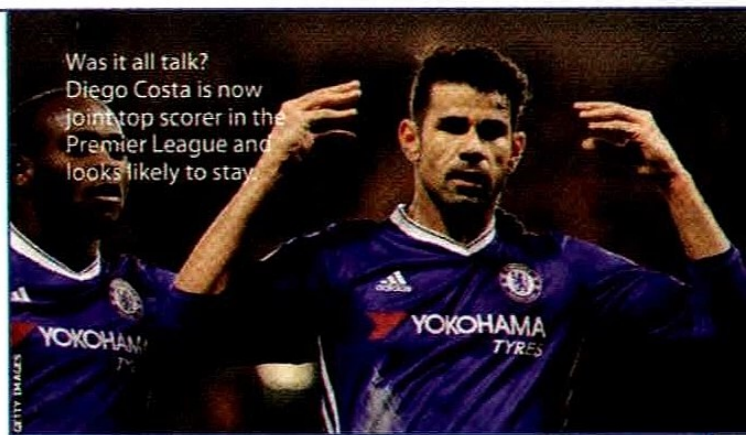
for £25m, followed by Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao buying Colombia striker Jackson Martinez for £31m from Atletico Madrid.

Jiangsu then paid Shakhtar Donetsk £38.4m for Brazilian midfielder Alex Teixeira.

However, the fee for Teixeira was eclipsed by the £46.1m paid by Shanghai SIPG for Zenit St Petersburg's Brazil forward Hulk during the mid season summer window.

The Chinese Super league presently comprises 16 clubs and I am sure the signing of what may be seen as among the top players worldwide would help to promote and raise the standards of the game in China. However, it is well to understand that China is a State with a very high level of political control

Was it all talk?
Diego Costa is now joint top scorer in the Premier League and looks likely to stay.



and it is the objectives of the Chinese government that will ultimately set the agenda.

The government wants China to be a 'world football superpower' by 2050 and aims to develop a national team capable of winning the World Cup. That means the development of Chinese players is paramount and given that they are currently ranked 83rd in the world there is a lot of work to do. The Chinese government's ten year plan, 2015-2025, is to build 20,000 football schools producing 100,000 players. The country, by all reports, wants to host and win the World Cup in the next 15 years.

It was not entirely surprising therefore to read that Chinese Super League

clubs will only be allowed to play three non Chinese players per game in their next season beginning in March. A rule change has reduced the number of foreigners allowed in a move that will result in a slow down of the wave of big money signings from Europe and elsewhere. A Chinese statement says the new measures will address irrational investments in overseas players.

Chelsea striker Diego Costa has been linked with a move to China but the move now seems to be unlikely with Conte now saying that the Costa Chinese speculation is finished. It looks like a quick flight to China has become a slow boat after all. The Chinese transfer window runs from 1st January and closes on 28th February.

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HAT TRICKS AND MORE

Defensive frailties, especially away from home, are currently taking some of the gloss off an otherwise hugely enjoyable return to League One.

Rovers have not suffered six consecutive defeats on the road since a very different period at this club, the dismal dregs of Mark McGhee's brief reign, when he failed to gain a single point from his final six away matches in charge. But that's where the similarities with today's team ends.

Rather than dwell on the negativity of those sobering losses on Rovers' travels, I would rather highlight some of the impressive landmarks which have been achieved so far this season. Describing the 5-0 demolition of Northampton Town here three weeks ago as the best Rovers performance of the campaign to date does not begin to do it justice. It was in fact a very significant day within the context of the club's entire Football League history.

Almost six years since he made a surprise debut under Stuart Campbell at Southampton, Ellis Harrison scored a seven minute hat trick. My phone was red hot in the first half, as friends were texting me to ask if it was the fastest Rovers treble

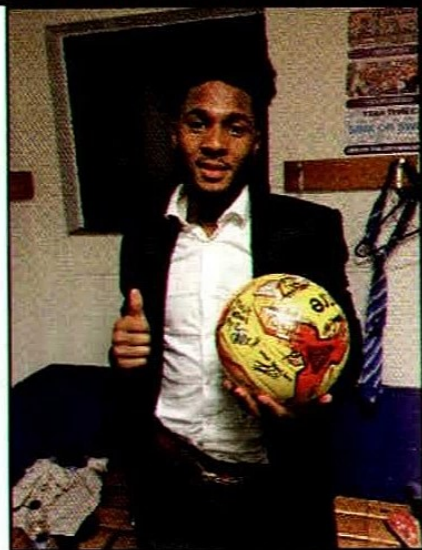
ever. Instinct told me that it was the quickest that I had seen in my time, and that was confirmed when I found a list judiciously compiled by Mike Jay at the time of another rapid fire hat-trick just over a year ago, when Matty Taylor banged in three goals in just 12 minutes here against Wycombe. That is now the sixth fastest hat trick in the club's history, while the one scored by Ellis against the Cobblers has only been surpassed by the astonishing achievement of Dai Ward, who took just four minutes to score three against Doncaster Rovers in a second tier game in 1956. After the game, I was delighted to learn that one of the regular viewers of the Screen Soccer highlights in the Clubhouse Bar, Brian Fox, had attended that game back in Rovers' golden era, so he could verify that Andy Warren's commentary concerning Ellis's hat trick was correct.

However, Ellis didn't stop at three. In the second half he became only the second Rovers player to score four goals at home in a League game since Geoff Bradford against Rotherham United in 1959, the other one being Rickie Lambert. Ellis is in good company. Until that day of Harrison Heaven, it is interesting to note that a quartet of goals had been scored more frequently by Rovers players in away

League matches in the last half century. Most recently, Jamie Cureton bagged four against Reading in the Madejski Massacre in 1999, while Alan Warboys scored the most fondly remembered foursome of all in the televised 8-2 win at Brighton in 1973. Less celebrated, but equally noteworthy, is the four claimed by Robin Stubbs at Gillingham in 1970, which proves that he shouldn't just be remembered for once being married to Anthea Redfern (kids, ask your Dad).

The joy doesn't end there. Following the exploits of Taylor and Billy Bodin, with hat tricks at MK Dons in October and Coventry City on Boxing Day, Ellis's treble emulated a feat last achieved 83 years ago. You have to go back to the 1933/34 season to locate the last time three different Rovers players scored a hat-trick in the same League campaign. Franklin D. Roosevelt was tackling the Great Depression with customary gusto in the USA, while new German leader Adolf Hitler was just embarking on his attempt to attain global destruction. I'm afraid I couldn't find anyone in the bar who could remember quite that far back!

When Jimmy Smith scored a hat-trick against QPR in April 1934, he became the



Ellis with the matchball following his four goal haul against Northampton

third different Rovers player to notch three in a game that season. The previous October, Bob McKay had taken home the matchball - if such customs existed in the Hungry Thirties - after starring against Cardiff City at the ripe old age of 33 years and 42 days. Since then, no older player has scored a League treble for Rovers. The last hat trick scorer over the age of 30 was Bobby Gould, on a memorable debut against Blackburn in 1977.

The first of the three hat tricks in 1933/34 was also achieved by a debutant, Jimmy McCambridge. Can you imagine it: first day of the season, over 25,000 fans packed into Ashton Gate for a Bristol derby, and a new signing scores a hat trick of headers to seal the points with a 3-0 win. I wonder how many of that generation of Rovers fans described it as their best day watching the team before the halcyon days of the Fifties.

Thanks as always to Mike Jay and Stephen Byrne for providing so much of the original research for this article.

Come On You Blues!

A BIG TRANSFER WINDOW

Good afternoon ladies and gents and welcome back to The Mem for today's clash with Swindon Town.

Football – it is a horrible game sometimes, isn't it?

In our last fixture here against Northampton Town three weeks ago, we turned in a flawless performance and hammered the Cobblers 5-0. It was a five star showing that demonstrated just what our team are capable of when they are at their best. We looked unplayable in attack (with Ellis Harrison running the show) and absolutely solid as a defensive unit.

Seven days later, though, we travel to Fleetwood Town and completely forget how to defend. Unexplainable individual errors saw us concede three goals to virtually their only three shots on target. In terms of general play we weren't that bad on the day,

but we dug our own grave by committing mistakes that most hungover Sunday League players would be ashamed of.

It is hard to understand where this individual errors epidemic has come from. Over the last couple of years our defending has been, in the main, exemplary. This season couldn't be more different, though. We seem absolutely incapable of going 90 minutes away from home without conceding two or three soft goals as a direct result of individual mistakes.

It happened again last weekend at Walsall; three errors, three goals. Never in a month of Sundays was it a 3-1 game, yet we made it that with some kamikaze defending. I felt sorry for debutant goalkeeper Joe Lumley because he performed well but still had to pick the ball out of his net three times. I bet he couldn't believe what was happening.

You can't legislate for individual blunders, which is why I also feel sorry for Darrell Clarke at the moment. We aren't being outplayed by teams, nor do we look like we are going to concede every time the opposition attack. We are comfortable and in control, but somehow proceed to make a howler and gift our opposition a goal. It means that we are always having to chase games.

We can't make the same errors and not learn from them, so the players losing their places in the starting eleven can't really have too many complaints. We have been pretty hamstrung by our incompetencies at the back all season, so the manager has been left with no choice but to dip into the transfer market and recruit players who will hopefully be able to improve things.

It has made January a really big transfer window for us. I was always of the opinion

that most of our changes in personnel would take place during the summer once the coaching staff had worked out who was up to League One level and who wasn't. That will still be the case I am sure, but our goals against column has been increasing at an alarming rate week on week up to this point so

our hand has been forced somewhat. We can't afford to sit back and do nothing because we are giving ourselves no chance of claiming any points from away games at the moment.

It is not ideal to have to make key signings in January, especially as the sort of players we will want are under contract at other clubs who won't be keen to let them go, but unfortunately that's exactly what the club have to strive to do.

At the time of writing we have recruited Joe Partington for an undisclosed fee from Eastleigh, the aforementioned Lumley on loan from Queens Park Rangers and Ryan Sweeney on loan from Stoke City. All three come highly rated and I look forward to seeing them in the blue and white quarters, but Clarke said last weekend that another couple of additions are still needed.

Given that both Lumley and Sweeney are loanees, I am hoping those who come through the door next are proven at this level or above. Easier said than done I know, but those are the type of players I hope we are targeting.

If we haven't completed our business already, it could be an interesting final few days of the window.

Come on Rovers,
Come on you Blues!



Ellis Harrison, who ran the show against Northampton

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MAKE MAKES AN IDOL?

I have been thinking a lot recently about what makes an idol, because I have lost one of mine.

I was crushed when George Michael died on Christmas Day. Even writing those words now, reading them back, I feel the grief anew. I only heard the devastating news - and yes, for me, it was devastating - on Boxing Day, as the children were playing with their new toys before we headed off to visit family and watch Rovers.

There have been times when watching Rovers has reduced me to tears, but none were as unrelated to our team as they were on Boxing Day as 'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go' was played over the tannoy. That song encapsulates my earliest childhood: school discos and my girlhood crush on George; I have an exercise book from my infants' school somewhere where I remember writing that when I grew up I would marry him. When a teacher asked me who I wanted to be, I remember answering "Pepsi or Shirlie."

I soon realised his songs were a soundtrack to my entire life. I wrote in my column recently about Rovers being a 'constant' in my life since early teenage days; in comparison, George had been a constant my entire life and I don't recall a time when I did not idolise him.

It was hard to understand when people like Andy



George Michael

Kershaw made cruel comments in the wake of his passing. And Giles Coren was dumbfounding in his opinion piece of the deaths of famous people in 2016 where he talked of "the pitiful handwringing over a bunch of celebrities who lived fast and died fairly young was deluded codswallop" and talked of "the sort of (weak minded, infantilised) person who falls to pieces when a pop star dies... the talk [afterwards was] the kind of consolatory gibberish you spew to console a child about the death of a pet. Not to an adult about someone they have never met."

Well, Giles, if I am 'weak minded' then let me be. It does not matter that I never met George Michael. His music, his lyrics and his caring, philanthropic nature touched my life in ways that the lives of people have I have known personally have not. He leaves behind a back catalogue of music and memories for me. I feel pity for Mr Coren and

any other person whose own lives have not been touched by an idol.

And for his flaws, his downfalls: I loved George Michael all the more. Wherever my life has taken me, different musical interests, tastes, jobs, where I was living, with whom, George was always there in the background of my life. His lyrics to 'White Light' felt incredibly personal to me. Other songs have always stopped me in my tracks and made me turn up the radio whenever they come on, like 'Careless Whisper' and 'I Knew You Were Waiting For Me.' I am appreciative to have been a fan, and forever grateful I got my hands on tickets to see him live in 2007 with my brother Mike as I realised a childhood dream to see him in concert.

He was my idol. It doesn't matter how he died, all that mattered was how he lived.

So I have been thinking of what makes an idol. My husband was a fan of

Michel Platini as a child as they shared a birthday, and tried to model his own style of play on him but in later years this has been tainted by Platini's involvement with FIFA. Other family members I asked came up with several ideas of what an idol should be ('they're only for kids'... 'someone you respect because of their faults, as much as for their qualities'... 'someone I've always looked up to with their positive attitude and charity work'... 'someone you respect and admire.' Names included fictional character (Biggles, Don Draper), late actors and performers (Audrey Hepburn, Bobby Darin, Cary Grant, Steve McQueen), those who are still with us (from sport: Stuart Pearce, Courtney Walsh), Paul McCartney and Michael Bolton.

I wonder if any of the Rovers squad of today are fans' 'idols'... someone more than just a favourite player. For me, I have huge affection for Ellis Harrison, as a player, as a character and as the man he has become. He shows a warm gesture of kindness every match to one particular fan which does not go unnoticed.

George Michael's death will not be something I will fathom any time soon. All I know is he was my idol, he was loved and my world is a greater place for having had him in my life.

George: You Have Been Loved.

May you rest in peace.

JOE
LUMLEY

SQUAD
NUMBER
31



AN INTERVIEW WITH JOE LUMLEY

Two days after joining us, on loan from QPR until the end of the season, goalkeeper Joe Lumley made his Rovers debut at Walsall.

He had a fairly quiet first game and although he had to pick the ball out of the back of his net on three occasions, none of the blame for any of the goals could be laid at his door.

"It was a disappointing beginning to my Rovers career and a disappointing result. I thought we played well in the first half, when we were probably the better side, but we conceded right on the stroke of half time which killed us and then we were punished for two

mistakes in the second half.

"I didn't have that much to do during the game and simply had to clear up from the back and while I didn't have any chance with the first two goals, maybe I could have done better with their third when their player was through in a one on one situation against me.

"On a personal level, though, I did enjoy the experience of playing my first game for the club. The important thing for all of us is that we don't dwell on that result; we have to move on and look forward to the game against Swindon."

His move to BS7 is due, in some ways to his QPR boss Ian Holloway.

"I've been looking to get out on loan since the transfer window opened and when the manager told me that he had spoken to Darrell Clarke about a possible move here I was buzzing. 'Ollie' told me that this was his club, that he watched them when he was growing up and went on to play for, and manage, them.

"I'm third choice goalkeeper at QPR, behind Alex Smithies and Matt Ingram who are both in outstanding form and I wanted to come out and play games, do well, and push those two when I go back in the summer and I don't think I could have joined a better club on loan.

"I did play a few games for Accrington Stanley, when I was 19, during another loan spell, and I have to say that I found there was a massive difference between reserve team football and playing in League Two. That said, it was a brilliant experience and now I'm looking forward to playing in League One.

"More recently, I've been playing my football in the Development League, but that's nothing compared to playing in the Football League. Development League football is not what I would class as men's football; it's still Academy football, albeit the top level, and it's a game but I don't feel I get anything out of it. >

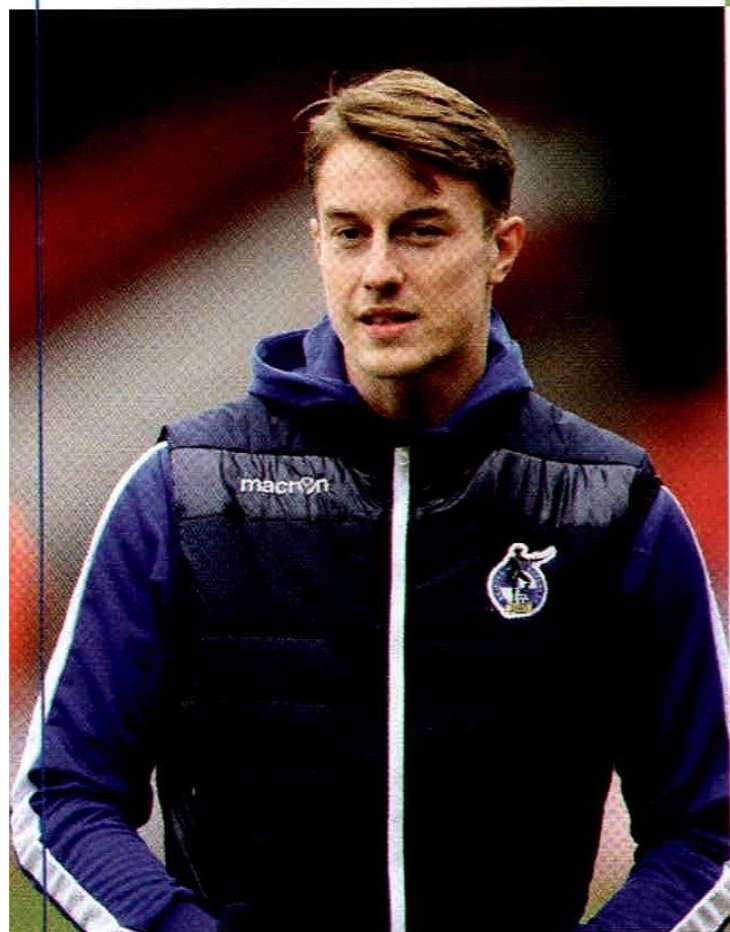
“ THEY WERE BRILLIANT AND KEPT ENCOURAGING ME
AND I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY AT HOME, NOW, AS I'VE HEARD
ALL ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEM ”

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOE LUMLEY

"To be fair, the Academy standard is top drawer but there's nothing on it; if you win it's fine, if you lose it doesn't really matter. In the league, though, it's dog eat dog and everyone is striving to win. Concentration is a key skill, especially for a goalkeeper and I make sure I am focussed in every training session as well as in every match."

He might have only played one game, but he was pretty impressed with the turnout of Gasheads last weekend.

"My Dad and two of my uncles were in amongst the Rovers supporters, who were behind me in the first half. We all thought that the travelling support was unbelievable and



it felt as though there were more Rovers supporters inside the ground than home fans. They were brilliant and kept encouraging me and I can't wait to play at home, now, as I've heard all about the atmosphere at The Mem."

He's grateful to the manager for signing him and for the support he's already received from goalkeeping coach Stuart Naylor.

"Both of them have been superb, as has everyone else. I haven't played many league games, so I'm pleased that Darrell Clarke has placed his

trust in me even though he's taken a little bit of a risk in signing me. I had heard good things about Stuart Naylor from my goalkeeping coach at QPR and he has been brilliant since I arrived."

Speaking of goalkeeping coaches, he may well see a familiar face when Swindon arrive here today; "Dean Thornton, Swindon's current goalkeeping coach, was my youth team goalkeeping coach at QPR and I am still in regular contact with him so I'll be well pleased if I can keep a clean sheet and we win on Saturday!"

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Hello and welcome to the Memorial Stadium.

Feels weird doesn't it, having an early kick off? I haven't had time for my usual Annexe pre-match lunch. I'll just have to make up for it after the game! I always make a big show of looking at the menu, only to then order what I have every time (chicken wrap and chips, for those interested).

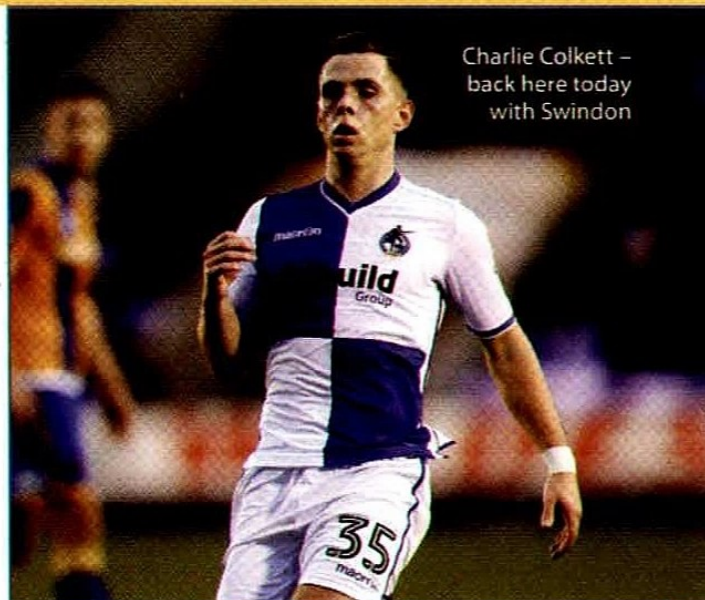
I'd like to welcome Swindon Town today, especially Charlie Colkett. I hope he does well in this new loan spell, although obviously not today as I am very keen to grab all three points! It will be a bit odd, potentially seeing him play on the opposing team, as it quite often is when a former player returns with their

subsequent club. Some are received warmly whilst others are not!

As we are in the final days of the January transfer window, I think we'll all welcome the end when we don't have to be constantly checking our Twitter feeds to find out who has gone and who has come in.

At the time of writing, we are yet to lose our most prized players but there's still time for a bigger fish to come in for them and snap them away – it's a nervy time! You want your players to do well but not so well that vultures start circling.

That said, it's important to remember that our players are just blokes earning a wage and wanting to progress their careers. There was an interesting



Charlie Colkett –
back here today
with Swindon

debate on Match of the Day recently after a newspaper stated that "anyone who thinks there is any loyalty left in football is an idiot". Harsh words but, whilst there is room for a degree of loyalty in some circumstances, I don't blame players for taking up offers from clubs in higher divisions. Of course I am sorry to see them go but I try and understand it from their perspective. Haven't we just done the same thing to Eastleigh in buying Joe Partington?

I have found it difficult, especially a few years ago, when you would see players suddenly start

playing well in December and January as they were clearly putting themselves in the shop window.

I actually think those days are behind us now in that our players under Darrell Clarke have the spirit and drive to play for each other, and for us fans, and not just when they're angling for a move. I also think we have become a club that many footballers would like to play for as they see what we're about and the good things that are happening here.

Isn't it lovely to be able to think that!

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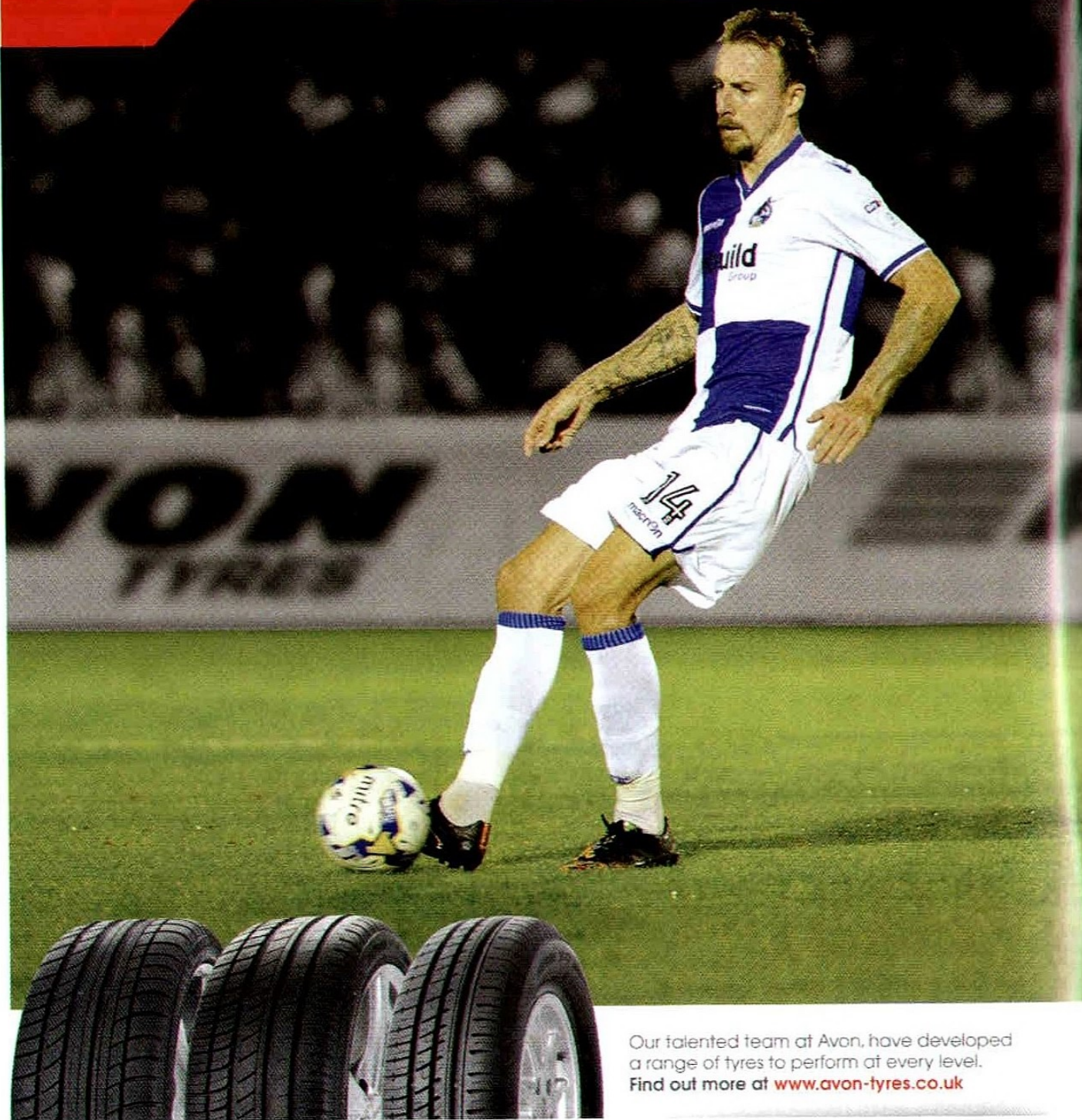
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COMMERCIAL COMMENT

BY IAN HOLTBY

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone from Swindon Town Football Club and hope that they enjoy their day at the Memorial Stadium.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention our special guests today who include Vaughan Jones, Steve White, Jim Eadie, David Hillier and Paul Bodin (Swindon Legend but Billy's Dad!). They will be around the hospitality areas and Clubhouse Bar throughout the day, something we are looking to do each matchday with past players.

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Above: Ellis Harrison was our sponsors Man of the Match choice at the Northampton game and is pictured here with representatives of Match Sponsor Bird in hand...

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Left: ...and with Matchball Sponsor Mark Godfrey of Marcol Fabrications (Plastics) Ltd



PROGRAMME SPONSOR

AARON HOLBROOK

Our Programme Sponsor this afternoon is **Aaron Holbrook** who is celebrating his 21st with his parents and his girlfriend Georgia in the DriBuild Suite today. He and his family are all lifetime Rovers fans. Aaron has played football since the age of six, playing for his local youth teams Yate United and St Nicholas, and now in midfield for Wick FC in the Bristol and District Senior Division. He also spent two happy years here at The Mem on the BTEC Sport Level 3 Education Programme, representing Rovers in the Futsal league. He now works in IT as a data analyst.

COMMERCIAL MASCOTS

JACK RICHARDS AND CONNOR MAHONEY

Our Commercial Mascot this afternoon is **Jack Richards** who celebrated his 10th birthday on the 26th January. Jack lives in Clevedon and plays for Clevedon United U-10s, North Somerset Schools and North Somerset Development Academy (as did Olly Clarke and Kieran Hodges).

His favourite position is as a striker or attacking midfield and he has scored 30 goals in 17 games so far this season. Jack's hobbies include playing football, talking football, reading football, writing football and dreaming football! His favourite player is Billy Bodin.

This is the second time Jack Richards (pictured right with Captain Gas) has been a mascot – the first time was for Manchester United at Wembley in the 2016 FA Cup semi final v Everton when he walked out with match winner Anthony Martial. This time he will be at the match with six mates from school and football, in addition to family and his favourite Rovers supporter Blythie (dad's best friend).

Connor Mahoney (pictured far right) has just celebrated his ninth birthday. His first Rovers match was with his Dad George and Granddad Keith when he was just four years old, and he has been coming to the matches (including Wembley) ever since. Connor's favourite player is Matty Taylor.

Have a fantastic day Connor and enjoy your mascot experience.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 16th birthday to Aimee Glover who will be celebrating her special

day on 4th February. Aimee is enjoying hospitality in the DriBuild Suite today.

C'mon ye Blues!



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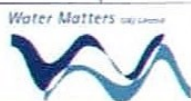
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THE ROVERS CONNECTION

Far away from the glare of the Premier League and World Cup qualification, the 2017 African Cup of Nations has begun in Gabon.

This tournament, which started on 14th January, will reach its final in the Stade de l'Amitié in Libreville on 5th February. Believe it or not, there are a number of loosely related Rovers connections.

On this occasion, no Rovers player past or present is taking part. However, striker Junior Agogo, having played over 100 times for Rovers between 2003 and 2006, was in Ghana's squad for the 2008 tournament. Jean-Paul Kalala was in the Democratic Republic of Congo squad in both 2004 and 2006 and was with Rovers in the spring of 2011.

Only one man who has faced Rovers in competitive football has played in an Afcon Final. Max Gradel, who played against The Gas with Bournemouth,

Leicester City and Leeds United, was in the Ivory Coast side which lost to Zambia in a penalty shootout in the 2012 final. Hervé Renard, who managed Zambia to success that day and takes charge of Morocco at the 2017 tournament, was Cambridge United's manager when they played Rovers in October 2004.

There are eight men representing their countries in Afcon this time round, who have also played against Rovers in the Football League, the highest number yet.

Amongst these are Jordan Botaka, in the Democratic Republic of Congo squad, who was in Charlton Athletic's side in both their large victories over Rovers in recent weeks, and also Ghana's Andy Yiadom, who was sent off against Rovers this time last year.

Zimbabwe's Onismor Bhasera, Jacques Maghoma of DRC and Yiadom have all played five times against Rovers, although one of Maghoma's appearances was in the League Cup and two of Yiadom's in the Conference. In February 2011, Orient brought

on both Harry Kane and DRC's Paul-José M'Poku as substitutes against Rovers.

Yiadom for Barnet, Gradel for Leeds United and Northampton Town's Gabriel Zakuani, the last named when Rovers won 3-2 away from home in October this season, have all been sent off in League fixtures against Rovers.

Whilst none on the list has registered a League goal against Rovers, Jacques Maghoma scored for Birmingham City in a League Cup tie at The Mem in August 2015.

PLAYED AGAINST ROVERS IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

Toni Silva (Guinea-Bissau)	2 apps	Northampton Town, Dagenham
Onismor Bhasera (Zimbabwe)	5 apps	Plymouth Argyle
Max Gradel (Ivory Coast)	3 apps	Bournemouth, Leicester City, Leeds United
Gabriel Zakuani (DRC)	3 apps	Orient, Peterborough Utd, Northampton Town
Jacques Maghoma (DRC)	4 apps*	Burton Albion
Paul-José M'Poku (DRC)	2 apps	Leyton Orient
Jordan Botaka (DRC)	2 apps	Charlton Athletic
Andy Yiadom (Ghana)	3 apps*	Barnet

*indicates also played against Rovers in other competitions



Jean-Paul Kalala



Junior Agogo



Max Gradel



SUPPORTERS CLUB

BY KEN MASTERS

JIM SAYS:

Home, sweet home! Well at least I hope it is after a couple of unproductive road trips since we last gathered here for the visit of Northampton.

Those two away games turned out to be very disappointing after The Cobblers had been well and truly put to the sword by rampaging Rovers in what was undoubtedly our best performance since returning to the Football League.

Four goals ahead by half time, the second fastest Rovers hat trick of all time included in Ellis Harrison's quartet of strikes and a clean sheet to boot made it as good a start as we could have hoped for to the New Year's home campaign. Since then we have extended to six a dismal run of away defeats. What makes it worse in a way is that Rovers were yet again

WELCOME

Good afternoon to all at the Memorial Stadium for today's League One fixture with near neighbours Swindon Town.

We extend a warm welcome to the supporters, players, staff and officials from the Wiltshire Robins. Enjoy your football with us in Bristol and have a safe journey home after the game.

the better side in both games but lost to very poor defensive errors.

To have 800 fans make the 420 mile round trip to Fleetwood was brilliant but a couple of howlers left Rovers facing a now familiar fight back to get anything out of a very long day. Billy Bodin continued his recent fine form to pull one back after the interval but a fine third goal from The Cods left us pointless on the road again.

During the following week Manager Darrell Clarke made it known that no less than six players, four of them first team squad members, would no longer

be considered for selection as he looks to boost the strength of the side. Jake Gosling had already gone out on loan for the rest of the season, presumably also not to feature for Rovers again and he was joined by three former team mates who all played a major part in our climb back from the dreaded Conference. On behalf of every Rovers fan I would like to say a big thank you to Jake, Will Puddy, Mark McChrystal and Jermaine Easter for their valuable contribution to the Rovers return and to wish them, along with Liam Lawrence and youngsters Jay Malpas and Tyler Lyttle, all the very best for their futures in the game.

Two of those players had played in both the aforementioned games so they were omissions from the lineup to face Walsall at the Banks' Stadium last Saturday, keeper Puddy being replaced by young

loan signing Joe Lumley from QPR and he had the backing of almost 2,000 Gasheads behind his goal. Unfortunately, despite what I considered to be a very competent performance with not a shot to save otherwise, he was let down by three more bad mistakes by those in front of him and all the points were gone once more.

I will say that both Fleetwood and Walsall had very lively and powerful forwards who took their limited chances well and I guess that is the difference we are facing this season compared to the last two campaigns. I wish the very best of luck to Joe and our other loanee, (at the time of writing), Ryan Sweeney from Stoke who we might get a sight of this afternoon.

Finally today I am pleased to announce to our members that the Supporters Club's auditor has almost completed our accounts as I write and therefore I hope to announce the new date for our postponed Annual General Meeting very shortly. I expect it to take place by the end of February with the accounts available online or by application to '199' within a couple of weeks.

Here's to continuing our fine home form this lunchtime.

Up the Pirates!
Jim Chappell



Left: Simon Prior collects his 50/50 winnings from Jim Chappell at the Northampton game

A BID ON THE SIDE

Thanks all who have made bids on the items so far in 2016/17.

The first half of the season has raised the sum of £186.25. Very well done to all, your support is very much appreciated.



This week's Bot's features a very rare piece of Rovers history and a chance to get your loved one a special Pirate related Valentine's gift.

Item 1 is a special Bristol Blue Glass creation. Produced to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our great club, this lovely piece is 9cms in diameter and would grace the collection of every Bristol Rovers Supporter. Not to be missed!

Item 2 is this oh so cute Pirate Teddy. Decked out in his skull and crossbones t-shirt, eye patch and bandana he could be sitting in your bedroom soon.

Both of these items have been auctioned on Ebay since Thursday 26th January and will be available for 10 days. The minimum price is just 99 pence each item and the highest bidder wins. Links to the auctions will be found at <http://bristolroversmemorabilia.weebly.com/>

If any other Rovers fans

have any rare or interesting Rovers related items that they would be happy to donate, please pass the item(s) on to 199 Two Mile Hill Road, or pop in to the Supporters Club matchday shop in the car park by the Dribuild Stand.

Thank you again for your bids and for your support.

COMING SOON



Look out or another BRCS 50/50 Super Draw.

This will be taking place at a home game later in the season. More details will be provided in the coming weeks. Yet again the Top Prize will be a minimum of £1,500, up to a maximum of £2,000. Yes, that is a very mouth watering £2,000 in cash. Book that holiday in the summer sun for you and all the family. There will also be a second prize of a very handy £500.

Neil Dix and David Brown

will show you the way. Neil and David were the lucky top prize winners in the first and second Superdraws respectively. The coming up third draw could be your lucky moment; Happy Days!

At Walsall last Saturday no less than six former young guns made the first team squad including the captain. The development team is on the up and chalked up an impressive away win less than two weeks ago against today's visitors Swindon Town. At the time of writing the U-18's sit proudly in second place in the South and South West table and look certain to make the cut for the top division in the second half of the season.

Bristol Rovers Supporters Club is the proud sponsor of the Bristol Rovers Youth Academy.

QUIZ TIME

Quiz night dates have been set for Thursday 16th OR 23rd February.

The actual date will be posted on the BRSC Web site as soon as it is established. A further quiz date has been set for Thursday 6th April. All quiz night bar open at 7.30 for a prompt start at 8.00pm

CHARLIE IS OUR DARLING

50/50

The holder of the first prize did not make it pitchside at half time at the Northampton game but we are pleased to announce that the lucky ticket holder has now come forward to claim the money.

Charlie Russell is the lucky ticket holder with number 116519. Charlie bought his ticket from James Rudman at the Memorial Gates and has since popped into 199, Two Mile Hill Road to collect the cool £1,333 in cash.

Second fixed prize of £100 went to Simon Prior from Weston super Mare. Simon came forward with ticket number 118015 to collect his winnings. Simon bought his ticket from Jackie Hawkins from her usual spot behind the clubhouse. Congratulations to Charlie and Simon and well done and thank you to James and Jackie.

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YOUNG PIRATES



BY IAN BROMMAGE

TODAY'S MASCOT

Twelve year old Kieran Wilson lives in Whitchurch and says that Daniel Leadbitter is his favourite player.

He predicts a 2-0 win for The Gas this afternoon and we all hope that he's right



and enjoys his time as our mascot.

Good afternoon (just about) and welcome to you all to the Memorial Stadium.

I will further extend that welcome to our visitors today who have made the very short trip along the M4 from Swindon.

I hope you enjoy your visit to Bristol and I wish you a safe trip back to Wiltshire.

Ok guys, I have an exciting announcement for you!

We will be running a coach to the away game against Coventry City that is being played on Saturday 25th March. It's a 3.00pm kick off so the coach will be leaving the Mem at 10.30am so you need to be at the ground for 10.00 am.

So, if you fancy a trip to the Midlands, come in and see

Right: Mackenzie Marsh, our mascot for the Northampton game, pictured warming up before the game...

us in the Young Pirates room for details. I can tell you that your seat on the coach will cost £15.00 and you will need to arrange your own matchday ticket into the Ricoh Arena but I think you'll agree it will be a good day out and it's not the other side of the world.

As I said, come in and see us and book your seat!

Well, after that wonderful revelation that is just about it for me so I'm off for a lie down to get over all the excitement!

So, until next time
COME ON YOU BLUES!

Brommo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY

- 1 Joe Macdonald
- 2 Freya Bloor
George Bird
Oscar Pate
- 3 Charlie Skuse
Oliver Thomas
- 4 Billy Blackmore
Jake Kirkland
Oscar Ball
Toby Shellard
- 5 Alexander Bradbury

- 5 Alfie Britton
Ryan Perry
- 6 Ben Foster
- 8 Louis Aquilina
- 9 Joe Tucker
- 10 Edward Westcott
Esme Slocombe
- 12 Ellie May Smith
Lucy Thomas

Happy Birthday to all those, not mentioned, who have celebrated birthdays this month. We will make sure more January Birthdays appear in our next programme.



We've distorted the face of a current Rovers player. Can you guess who it is?



...and left with Rory Gaffney

Answer: Joe Lumley

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our game against Swindon Town. We rely on your contributions to make this page a success, so if you have any photos, dedications or requests please get in touch.



**ALL ABOUT YOU,
FOR YOU!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 23rd Birthday to **ROISIN KENNEDY**, seen right, with love from Mum, Dad, and all the family.

Also, Happy 70th Birthday to lifelong Gashead **MICHAEL FERRIS**, pictured below, with love from James, Lucy, Freddie and Florrie.



Everyone at Bristol Rovers also send their best wishes to Roisin and Michael.

WELCOME

To another new Gashead, **REGGIE TRUEBODY**, below,



whose Dad **JAMES** sent us this photo of his six month old son.

CANADA GAS

PAULINE SOUTHWAY has sent in the photo below of **RILEY MCGEE**, who lives in Vancouver, Canada, who would only wear his Rovers kit to school for a couple of weeks after she bought it for him.

Apparently he loves being a Gashead and runs around the house shouting 'Up



the Gas' and he's looking forward to seeing his photo in the programme.

SPECIAL GUEST

OLIVER MERRITT (pictured above) was a special guest of ours for the game against Northampton and was taken to the home dressing room where he met the players before they went out and won 5-0 to make it a very special afternoon!

CROSSED SWORDS

LYNN and **MIKE BRIGHT**, pictured below with **RICHARD TINCKNELL** and his son **GEORGE**, were also our guests for the Northampton game. Richard ran an auction for Children in Need on his Crossed Swords website and Lynn and Mike paid a substantial amount for a behind the scenes tour and it was a pleasure to be able to show them around.



FANZONE MESSAGES

COMPILED BY KEITH BROOKMAN

PHILIP TAYLOR

CHRISTINE TAYLOR has written in following the death of her father, **PHILIP** (below) and says; 'Dad was a lifelong Rovers supporter and had followed the club since he was a child.



'He signed on as a player, but quit after the first day's training as he found it so tough.

'He introduced Rovers to his wife and even left the reception on his wedding day, with her, to watch a game. He took my brother and I to games when we were toddlers and we were all hooked and went on to become season ticket holders.

'Rovers gave him so much pleasure-and pain! We even named our dog Boris, after David Meheew, and attended Micky Barratt's funeral.

'One of the last things I did for him was to tell him Rovers had won again.'

PAUL HILL-DEAR

We were sorry to learn, from his cousin **CRAIG**, of the passing of **PAUL HILL-DEAR**, aged 55.

Craig tells us that **PAUL** (pictured right) was a passionate Gashead who played football for the Supporters Club many years ago

Craig, who supports another team in Bristol, will be here today watching from Executive Box 11 courtesy of Ed Ware and has asked all supporters to join him and his family in observing a one minute's applause in Paul's memory in the 55th minute.

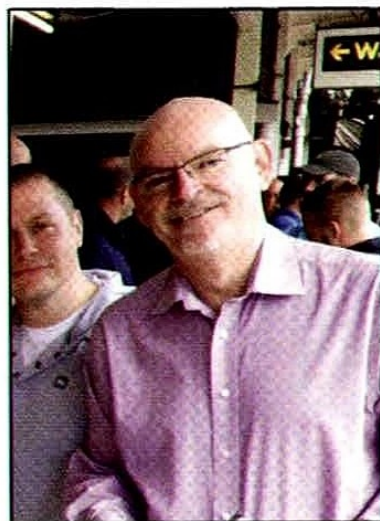
Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Philip and Paul at this sad time.

SENT TO COVENTRY ...BY BIKE

Longstanding supporter **RICH FORD** is looking for enthusiastic cycling (and fit) Gasheads to join him on a charity bike ride in aid of the Alzheimers Society on 26th March 2017 when Rovers travel to Coventry.

'I've been looking to ride to an away game for some time' said Rich 'Coventry in early Spring seems to be a good destination and the right sort of challenge whilst raising some money for a cause that is touching so many more families as our population is living longer.'

Rich has raised thousands of pounds for Alzheimers over the last few years. 'Sent 2 Coventry' is the latest in a series of events and he is looking for some riders to



join him on the route.

'Riders will need to be capable of riding at 15mph for a distance of just over 90 miles from the Mem to the Ricoh Arena with a 6am start.' Explained Rich.

If you would like to take part please contact Richard by 10th February for more details via e-mail at richard_ford@blueyonder.co.uk, on Twitter at @FordyFive or via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fordy5>.

BERNIE WATSON

What makes our club so different from any other is that once we are in it we know we are part of a family, a Rovers family.

We stick together no matter what is thrown at us.

Following our game at Fleetwood one of our own, **BERNIE WATSON**, went missing. He was found in a confused state in Newcastle on Sunday, and on Monday afternoon/night and following a 14 hour round trip of 650 miles, **DALE COLLINSON** and **TALL NICK** brought Bernie back to Bristol.

Print deadlines mean that items for a Saturday programme should reach us no later than the previous Tuesday lunchtime, and items for a Tuesday night game will need to be with us the previous Thursday. Send any photos and dedications to Keith Brookman at keithbrookman@bristolrovers.co.uk or by post to The Memorial Stadium, Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0BF

Donations for the cost of diesel and vehicle hire can be made to RUTS Gas via Dale, and any excess will be donated to The Rainbow Centre for Children.

Glad you're safe, Bernie, and thanks to Dale and 'Tall Nick' for their rescue mission.

JUST GIVING

RICHARD GILLARD writes in to say; 'I am undertaking a 125 mile charity cycle (the distance from Bristol to London) for the Stroke Association. This will be done on a static bike in the UWE Gym on Friday 17th February.

'I had a stroke on my 8th Birthday I am now 28 and have had to learn to do everything again and cycling was one of the things I had to relearn.

'I am a season Ticket holder at Rovers along with all of my family and we have been all our lives, we love the club.

'I did my work experience when I was at school at Bristol Rovers for a week.

'If there's any way of publishing my charity cycle I would be more than grateful.

'This is my just giving page': <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Richard-Gillard>

And don't forget walking for Glo (see page 29).

REFEREE RAMBLE



Have you ever called a decision during a football match, only to realise having seen replays, that you were wrong?

Shortly after submitting my last entry about the poor refereeing decisions of late and how important I think the inclusion of video technology would be, I listened to a special episode of my favourite podcast 'The Football Ramble' which featured ex-referee Howard Webb.

The Football Ramble (@footballramble on Twitter), is a great way to preview and analyse the weekend's football, without being overly serious, whilst actually being rather amusing. Presented by four guys who support Arsenal, Newcastle United, Portsmouth and Hearts, I think.

This particular episode with Howard Webb, was presented by Luke Moore (the Portsmouth fan). A superb interview that showed the game from the perspective of the man in the middle.

As the podcast went on, I wondered whether I had been too critical in my previous programme entry, whether I'd slipped back into football fan on the terrace mode, whether my words were just a reaction to Daniel Leadbitter's

incorrect dismissal at Millwall back in November, along with some of the questionable decisions made in recent weeks that have been further highlighted by television broadcast. Had I really considered all angles?

Generally speaking, referees are older than most footballers, some, often twice their age, and yet they are required to be so much fitter. The distance they cover, the speed at which they run, for 90 minutes plus, is often glossed over when hurling abuse at the poor man in the middle for not booking your opponents' centre back as he clipped your advancing centre forward's ankle.

As Luke mentions in the interview, referees are professional athletes and they don't get the respect they deserve. This is further backed up by learning what their fitness test involves.

The first stage of the FIFA Fitness Test for Referees and Assistant Referees involves 6 x 40m sprints, each to be completed in under 6.00 seconds, with a maximum of 60 seconds recovery in between each sprint. If they fail one of the six trials, they are to be given a seventh trial immediately, but if they fail two of the seven, they have failed the test.

The job is tough, and that's just the first stage.

Howard Webb starts the podcast by describing how he became a referee. He states how he would have to sacrifice watching his beloved Rotherham United on a Saturday afternoon in order to progress through his career – I know how he feels. Except not refereeing and certainly not Rotherham United.

He started refereeing in the Football League in 2000 before making his Premier League debut three years later. He understood how much it meant to supporters when a decision didn't go the way of their team and says 'this was professionals, people's lives, you were dealing with.' Nice to know a former referee agrees with me on that point, at least...

In my time supporting Bristol Rovers, I've been to a few grounds that could be considered hostile. Unsurprisingly, it's the lower league grounds where the atmosphere is more intimidating. Luke discusses with Howard Webb, (seems disrespectful to just call him Howard. He's refereed a World Cup Final! No offence to Luke Moore of The Football Ramble), whether the intensity of the crowd being on top of you affects your performance.

According to the former man in the middle, you don't get any training on how to officiate in the lower

leagues. You learn from your own developments – you learn to block out the abuse, from supporters that scream obscenities at an official for making what they believe is the wrong call – we all know what he means.

Since retiring in 2014, Howard Webb frequents at Rotherham United matches, only to find himself in the stand shouting at the referee over a decision. He says sometimes he has to stop himself and thinks 'what am I doing? I hope he doesn't see me'.

From listening to this excellently constructed podcast, I bought Howard Webb's autobiography – The Man In The Middle – which is just as good to read as the interview was to listen to. (Needless to say, I also own The Football Ramble book.)

It's another side to the game that we love. A side that is always targeted, but never really understood, by the general supporter. Referees are humans. They make mistakes. And as fellow human beings we have to learn to accept that not all decisions will go our way.

That said, I definitely found myself giving the referee at Fleetwood some stick, just a fortnight ago. I guess some things will never change...
UTG

FOOTBALL, A FORCE FOR GOOD

Football, eh? Full of mercenaries, diving cheats, foul mouthed bullies, prima donna poseurs, living lives that bear no resemblance whatsoever to the people who pay their wages.

And the people who pay their wages? Foul mouthed drunks, a screaming, baying pack of animals whose only aim in life is to fight other fans. Is this the football world you recognise? No. Nor me. If we allow the media stereotype image to take hold, we might even believe them. So we mustn't.

There are, and have always been, more positive stories about football, footballers and football fans than there are negatives. However, it's bad news that sells newspapers. We'd much rather read a story about a drunken footballer than a footballer who does something noble, right? Here I present my case for the positive.

Does the name Bradley Lowery ring any bells? He is the five year old Sunderland fan who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in 2013. £700,000 was raised to enable him to have treatment that might cure him, £200,000 of which was donated by Everton football club.

Tragically, his mother recently revealed that little Bradley 'will lose his fight'. So what did football do?



Turn its back? Pretend nothing had happened? Count its billions? No. He was carried onto the pitch by Jermain Defoe prior to the Sunderland v Chelsea game, was treated like a king by the likes of Diego Costa, Cesc Fabregas and Gary Cahill and scored a penalty against Chelsea keeper Asmir Begovic which, thanks to BBC Match of the Day, became the Goal of the Month.

Everton made him their mascot a few weeks later and he was again treated like royalty by the Toffees, being doted on by the players in a wonderful show of loyalty and, yes, love. Bradley was carried on to the pitch by Everton striker Romelu Lukaku. Those loveable scousers, eh? And they did it again a few weeks later.

Plymouth fan Kevin May was at Anfield for the Liverpool v Plymouth FA Cup tie when he received a text from his daughter telling him that his son Daniel, 25, had died. Daniel was quadriplegic, blind and had cerebral palsy.

Kevin was devastated. Unable to speak properly at

this terrible news, a police officer took him to a quiet place where he was cared for by Liverpool officials. Then Liverpool fans took things into their own hands, raising money to buy a banner to take to the replay at Home Park, sharing condolences and showing solidarity with the family. In fact, the collection massively exceeded the sum required and the excess had been donated to good causes. You still think football is in a bad place?

Closer to home, look at our own club. Did you see the pictures of our players visiting the Children's Hospice South West? Our red rivals across town have also supported the hospice, proving that love and compassion transcends petty football rivalries and I can give you countless examples of acts of sheer kindness and generosity conducted by Bristol Rovers over many, many years. Not all of these acts make their way into the public gaze because if they did, there would be no room for any other kind of news. And I've got more good news for you today about how you can help.

Between 20th March and 24th March 2017, a hardy bunch of mainly Gasheads will be doing a sponsored walk between Home Park in Plymouth and Bristol Rovers, a distance of some 125 miles. It has been organised by Gashead Mark Brimson whose wife Gloria died tragically a decade ago following complications during brain surgery. He is looking to raise £10,000 for the Gloria Brimson Foundation to support the excellent Headway charity which provides support services and information to anyone affected by brain injury. I know from speaking to Mark that the club is giving him great support.

Many of you will know Mark who was once a commentator with the brilliant Screen Soccer team who provide top notch coverage and DVDs of Rovers games. As well as being a very successful businessman, Mark is an all round great guy and it is truly inspiring that he has decided to direct his efforts towards helping others after what happened to him. And you help Mark reach his target by visiting his 'Just Giving' page which you can find at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Mark-Brimson1>.

Do you see now? Football is still far more a force for good than bad. There are more positive stories like these than there are bad ones. And you don't have to look very far.

MATCH REPORTS

BY DAVID BUCKWELL

It's been a while since our last programme, so today we catch up with reports from all the matches that have been played since then.

Thanks to David Buckwell, Paul Hughes, Tom Parrinello and James Hayhoe for their match reports.

SWINDON TOWN 3 BRISTOL ROVERS 3

SAT 7th JANUARY 2017

Our U-18 side played out a 3-3 draw against their Swindon Town counterparts in their first EFL South West Youth Alliance game of 2017.

PDP Coach David Buckwell had this to say after the game; "The start of the game was fairly even, with Swindon probably edging the first half with slightly more territory in our half.

"However, a purposeful ball forward from Matt Swan caused confusion between two Swindon Town defenders and Lewis Ellington ruthlessly punished the error by lobbing the goalkeeper from 30 yards.

"We then doubled our advantage through Luke Russe following a high regain from Lewis Ellington, who slipped in James Spruce and the goalkeeper parried his shot into Luke's path and he applied a tidy finish.

"It was fair to say that we got our reward with the lead more for the patience we showed off the ball as opposed to the time we spent on the ball and creating chances.

"Although we contained Swindon well, we were undone from two corners late in the first half with Swindon getting the rub of the green for their second goal after the referee deemed the ball to go over the line when perhaps it didn't.

"It wasn't to be our day; Tyrone Tucker-

Dixon broke into the box well early in the second half and although clearly fouled, no penalty was given.

"Swindon took the lead late on, but our response was swift and Lewis Ellington was on hand to tap in a rebound from Luke Russe following a clever cross from Jordan Carey.

"We were disappointed that we didn't get the rub of the green, but can only have ourselves to blame for letting a two goal lead slip.

"As always it will give us plenty to work on, but there were plenty of positives to take from the game against a strong Swindon team."

Rovers: Rovers: Callum Dark, Matt Swan (Oscian Dillon, 65) Josh Bailey, Luke Russe, Toby Rennie, Jordan Carey, Tyrone Tucker-Dixon, Connor Jones, James Spruce, Lewis Ellington, Dan Lammiman (Josh Brace, 67)

FL YOUTH ALLIANCE U18 SOUTH WEST

6th Aug	AFC Bournemouth	H	0-0
13th Aug	Exeter City	A	3-3
20th Aug	Portsmouth	H	4-2
27th Aug	Cheltenham Town	A	4-1
30th Aug	Swindon Town (Cup)	A	1-2
3rd Sept	Oxford United	A	2-1
17th Sept	Yeovil Town	H	5-1
24th Sept	Plymouth Argyle	H	5-2
8th Oct	Swindon Town	H	3-1
15th Oct	Newport County	H	0-5
22nd Oct	Exeter City	H	2-3
27th Oct	Oxford United FAYC	A	2-0
29th Oct	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-4
5th Nov	Portsmouth	A	2-3
12th Nov	Cheltenham Town	H	4-1
19th Nov	Oxford United	H	1-0
3rd Dec	Yeovil Town	A	2-1
17th Dec	Plymouth Argyle	A	2-3
7th Jan	Swindon Town	A	3-3
28th Jan	Newport County	A	10:30

All home games will be played at Lodge Road, Yate unless otherwise stated
FAYC - FA Youth Cup

Luke James waits for a cross in the game against Newport



MATCH REPORTS

BY DAVID BUCKWELL

BRISTOL ROVERS 2 NEWPORT COUNTY 0

TUE 10th JANUARY 2017

First half goals from Jamie Lucas and Liam Lawrence earn Rovers a victory against Newport County AFC in this Central League fixture.

Rovers created a number of early opportunities and almost took the lead in the opening minutes when Jake Gosling delivered an inviting cross that was deflected on to the upright before being turned behind for a corner.

Jamie Lucas opened the scoring with ten minutes on the clock, the striker turning the ball in from close range after a Luke James effort reached him via a number of deflections.

Byron Moore's shot then forced Newport 'keeper James Bittner into making a fingertip save, as he dived low to his left to turn the ball behind for a corner.

Rovers doubled their lead just before the break when Newport conceded a penalty for a foul on Luke James inside the area. Liam Lawrence took the resulting spot kick, sending a powerful sidefooted effort into the bottom corner of the net.

Byron Moore takes on two Newport Defenders



Chances for either side were few and far between after the break, though James saw his shot comfortably saved by Bittner and there was a late opportunity for Lucas, who got on the end of Ryan Broom's cross and directed his header wide of the target.

Rovers: Kieran Hodges, Tyler Little, Sam Hedges, Danny Greenslade, Ryan Broom, Lee Mansell (Connor Jones, 74), Liam Lawrence (Luke Russe, 74), Jake Gosling (Matt Swan, 87), Byron Moore (Tyrone Tucker-Dixon, 67), Luke James (Lewis Ellington, 67), Jamie Lucas.

the game with an unbeaten record this season, which included two wins against us so we were aware that this would be a tough match for us.

"We devised a game plan that, we hoped, would lead to us putting in a positive performance and obtain the right result and the lads executed that plan to perfection.

"We knew that they would be a threat from set plays and the intention was to combat that from the start. However the plan didn't work initially, because they scored from a set piece in the opening ten minutes!

CENTRAL LEAGUE (U21/RESERVES)

Tue 6th Sep	Exeter City	H	2-1
Tue 11th Oct	AFC Wimbledon	A	0-4
Tue 25th Oct	Cheltenham Town	A	1-2
Tue 6th Dec	AFC Slimbridge (Mem)	H	5-2
Tue 10th Jan	Newport County	H	2-0
Tue 17th Jan	Swindon Town	A	2-1
Tue 24th Jan	Newport County	A	2-4
Tue 31st Jan	Cinderford Town	A	19:45
Tue 7th Feb	Peterborough United	H	14:00
Tue 21st Feb	Southend United	A	13:00
Tue 7th Mar	Cheltenham Town	H	13:00
Tue 14th Mar	Swindon Town	H	13:00
Tue 28th Mar	Exeter City	A	13:00
Tue 11th Apr	AFC Bourmemouth (Yate)	H	13:00

BRISTOL ROVERS 1 EXETER CITY 2

FRI 13th JANUARY 2017

Our Academy U-16 side became the first holders of the South West Midweek Floodlit Cup when they beat Exeter City last Friday at Axminster Town's ground, thanks to goals by Harry Warwick and Kieran Phillips.

Lead Youth Development Phase Coach Tom Parrinello was delighted with his side's performance; "Exeter came into

"After that we were happy to let them have the majority of possession and to soak up any pressure they exerted on us because we knew that we had the ability, and the pace, to hit them on the counter attack.

"As a result, we restricted Exeter to long range attempts on goal and equalised after half an hour thanks to a fine goal from Harry Warwick who won the ball on the halfway line and raced towards goal, beating two men along the way before hitting a shot into the far corner of the net.

MATCH REPORTS

CONTINUED

BY DAVID BUCKWELL

"We were still on level terms at the break and told the lads during the half time interval that they were executing the game plan to perfection and asked them for more of the same in the second half.

"Ten minutes after the restart Kieran Phillips, one of our U-15 lads, scored what proved to be the winning goal when he hit a shot across the keeper following an excellent counter attack.

"From then on we controlled the game and although Exeter continued to enjoy a great deal of possession, they rarely threatened to get back on level terms and we saw the game out comfortably."

The South West Midweek Floodlit Cup is a competition that came about following a great deal of hard work put in by our Academy Manager Jonny Henderson, who wanted to increase the number of competitive fixtures for our U-15 and U-16 sides.

The intention was to begin with two groups of four, but one side pulled out at the last minute and so Rovers found themselves in a group with Newport, Swindon and Cheltenham, while the second group consisted of

Exeter, Plymouth and Bournemouth.

All games were played under floodlights at non league grounds, the idea being to try to replicate FA Youth Cup/U-18 football.

The EFL have now expressed an interest in rolling a similar competition out to other regions as they are pleased with what we have done in the south west this season.

SWINDON TOWN 1 BRISTOL ROVERS 2

TUE 17th JANUARY 2017

Jamie Lucas and James Spruce were on target for Rovers, as they won their second consecutive Central League encounter, against Swindon Town.

Lucas created the first opportunity of the game when he controlled a flicked on header and dribbled the ball into the area before curling a left footed shot that sailed just over the crossbar.

Rovers' keeper Kieran Hodges did well to prevent Nathan Delfouneso from opening the scoring, when the striker was played in behind, standing tall to deflect Delfouneso's effort away from danger.

Lucas fired Rovers into the lead with a fine individual goal midway through the half. A quickly taken throw in by Danny Greenslade found the striker inside the area and he produced a fine piece of skill to lift the ball over a defender and kept his composure to slot the ball into the net from close range.

Rovers created another opportunity shortly afterwards when Luke Russe slid a perfectly weighted through ball that stretched the Swindon defence and allowed Lewis Ellington the opportunity to get a shot away from inside the area, but his effort was turned away by the outstretched legs of Swindon goalkeeper Will Henry.

Swindon equalised just before the break, when a corner from the right was met by Rhys Sharpe, who managed to guide a header across a crowded goalmouth and into the bottom corner, with his effort clipping the post on its way into the net.

Danny Greenslade came close to scoring in what was a quiet second half in terms of chances on goal, when he picked up a loose ball twenty yards from goal and hit a well struck left foot shot that bounced just wide of goal.

Rovers created an opportunity in the final minutes of the game, with the energetic Ryan Broom racing to the byline and delivering a low cross into the area that narrowly escaped Jamie Lucas and the far post.

Following a series of late chances, Rovers scored a late winner when Spruce took advantage of a slack pass by the Swindon defence and advanced towards goal before slotting home a composed finish.

Rovers: Kieran Hodges, Tyler Little, Toby Rennie, Emmanuel Adebawale (T), Danny Greenslade, Ryan Broom, Marc Klok (T), Dan Lamminan (Jame Spruce, 64), Luke Russe, Lewis Ellington (Tyrone Tucker-Dixon, 74), Jamie Lucas.
Substitutes: Connor Jones, Sam Iles, Matt Swan

U-16 squad





U-16 Coach, Tom Parrinello



U-16 Coach, Marco Chiavetta

NEWPORT COUNTY 4 BRISTOL ROVERS 2

TUE 24th JANUARY 2017

Youngster Lewis Ellington was on the scoresheet for Rovers as they were defeated by an experienced Newport County outfit in the Central League fixture at Spytty Park.

Newport took an early lead in the game when striker Ryan Bird was played in behind the Rovers defence from a through ball by Tom Owen-Evans. The forward composed himself in the one on one contest with Kieran Hodges and slotted the ball under the 'keeper to open the scoring.

Hodges produced a fine save to deny Bird moments later, with the 'keeper getting a strong hand to push a powerfully hit effort away from goal.

Rovers created a handful of early chances, the most threatening originated when Jamie Lucas managed to steer a pass into the path of Ryan Broom, who directed a first time shot towards goal that was held by Newport 'keeper Rhys Davies.

The home side doubled their lead just after the ten minute mark when a corner from the right took multiple deflections inside the crowded penalty area and eventually fell to Tom Owen-Evans who fired the ball into the net from ten yards out.

Rovers responded with Ryan Broom using his pace to move the ball through midfield and from the byeline

the winger delivered a dangerous low cross across the face of goal that was touched on to the post by the Newport defence, with the delivery forcing the home side to concede a corner. Broom's opportunity was quickly followed by a neat piece of skill on the edge of the area by Tyrone Tucker-Dixon, which saw the midfielder create space for himself to produce a well directed ball to the far post that was almost met by Jamie Lucas.

On the stroke of half time Rovers pulled a goal back when Ryan Broom claimed the ball in midfield and dribbled to the edge of the area and threading a pass that was intentionally left by Jamie Lucas, which created a clear path to goal for Lewis Ellington and the youngster produced a fine finish which saw his side footed shot fly into the top corner of the net.

After the break, Newport were awarded a penalty when the referee deemed that a cross into the area made contact with Danny Greenslade's arm. Hodges guessed the right way from Craig Reid's spot kick, but the effort was well placed and just out of his reach and Newport regained their two goal advantage.

Luke Russe had two efforts on goal

during the second half, both from similar positions on the fringes of the area, but on both occasions, the youngster's efforts were held by the Newport goalkeeper.

In the closing stages of the game, Newport added a fourth goal when a driven long range effort from Jaanai Gordon crept inside the post from 25 yards.

Rovers: Kieran Hodges, Danny Greenslade, Tyler Lyttle (Toby Rennie, 73), Ryan Delaney (T), Emmanuel Adobowale (T), Tyrone Tucker-Dixon (Connor Jones, 65), Marc Klok (T), Luke Russe, Ryan Broom, Lewis Ellington (James Spruce, 60), Jamie Lucas (Kwai Marsh-Brown, 77).
Substitutes: Liam Armstrong, Sam Iles



Jamie Lucas in action against Swindon

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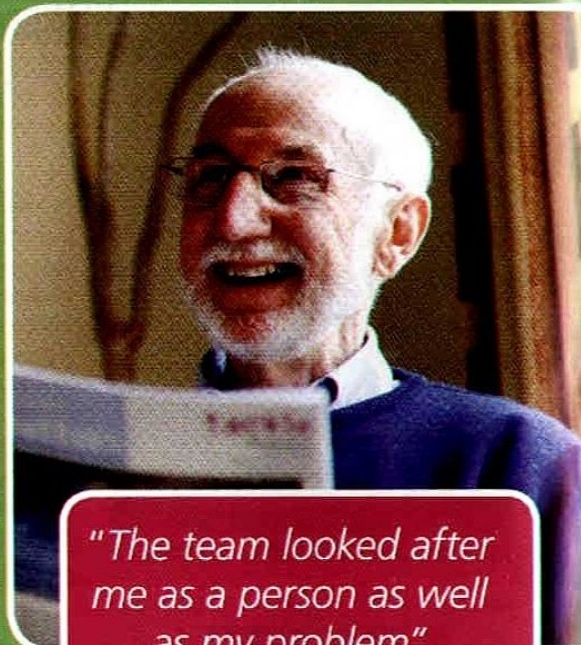


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« THE VALUE AND HISTORY OF FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA THAT HAVE SOLD AT AUCTION AND ELSEWHERE »

The Way To Wembley Swindon Style (& Other Items)

The primary item in this lot was the 1969 booklet relating to Swindon's League Cup Final match against Arsenal, which Swindon won 3-1, autographed inside on pen pictures and central page colour team group by approximately 30 players and staff. Also included was 'Meet the Sports Stars' about Don Rogers, the hero that day, autographed by him on the front cover plus the programme for the Don Rogers Testimonial match v. West Bromwich Albion on 5th May 1978, with teams written in. Estimated at £45-50, the lot sold for £55.

Swindon Town v. Cambridge Town 1946/47

After three impressive away victories in the FA Cup qualifying rounds – at King's Lynn (2-0), Chatteris Town (6-1), Chelmsford City (4-0) Cambridge Town were drawn away again in the first round proper and this time succumbed, losing 4-1 to Swindon in this match played on 30th November 1946. Estimate £15-25, sold for £15.

Swindon Town v. Chelsea

Three Swindon v. Chelsea programmes, all from matches at the County Ground. Two were single sheet reserve matches that took place on 9th November 1957 (team changes, fold, a little marked) and 25th September 1963. The other, dated 13th May 1985 was from a League Cup tie and had a fold. Described overall as 'Generally good' condition the estimate was £25-35, eventually selling for £35.

Postcard of Swindon Town Team Group

This postcard is part of the Health and Strength Series, published in the first decade of the twentieth century and shows, three trophies in front of the team. Formerly the

property of a player, with a note to that effect, also described as 'Generally good' but failed to sell despite a reasonable estimate of £45-50.

Swindon Town v. Torquay United

Quite rare Swindon home programme for the match against Torquay played on 12th October 1929, the description stated it had rusty staple marks in the spine area on most pages and was 'Fair-generally good'. The estimate of £110-120 was bang on and the programme was sold at the higher figure.

Bristol Rovers Subbuteo Team

Selling on a well known auction site recently was this Subbuteo 'heavyweight' team from the early 1970s. Described as 'Bristol Rovers Ref No 12, in very good condition, with one man shorter than the others!' The accompanying box was said to be in excellent condition. Listed at a starting price of £12.50, it sold for £18.

Leeds United v. Bristol Rovers

This programme for the match played on 10th October 1953, was described as being in 'good condition'. The estimate of £15-20 was exceeded as it sold for £20.



Paul is the editor of Programme Monthly & Football Collectable. He can be contacted at programmemonthly@gmail.com. The latest edition of the magazine can be obtained by sending a cheque for £4.65 to 11 Tannington Terrace, London N5 1LE or by PayPal to programmemonthly@gmail.com



WELCOME TO

SWINDON TOWN

A fortnight ago the Robins chalked up their first win since November with an impressive performance at Bolton.

Their 2-1 victory at the Macron Stadium followed the arrival of four loan signings including former Rovers' loanee **CHARLIE COLKETT**.

BEN GLADWIN, on loan from QPR, is no stranger to the County Ground having originally joined the Robins from non league Marlow in the summer of 2013. The winger, now 24, arrived at Loftus Road two years later and has since had two loan spells at Swindon in addition to a month on loan at Bristol City early last year.

GLADWIN was followed by three loanees from Chelsea, **COLKETT**, England

U-20 defender **FANKATY DABO** and Somalian striker **ISLAM FERUZ**.

COLKETT, whose last game on loan for the Pirates was in last month's defeat at Shrewsbury, made a total of 17 appearances on loan for Rovers, scoring three times in the process. He captained Chelsea's youth side in last season's successful UEFA Youth League campaign.

DABO, who made his League debut against the Trotters, is an England U-20 international while **FERUZ**, 21, has made substitute appearances on loan for Blackpool and Hibs. All four played in the Robins' win at Bolton in which **GLADWIN** scored their first goal. Iraqi international **YASER KASIM**, whose winning goal there was his second strike of the season, came to these shores at the age of six and signed for

Brighton in August 2010 after spells as a youth with Fulham and Tottenham. He played on loan for Luton and Macclesfield before joining the Robins in the summer of 2013 and has since made over 130 senior appearances.

Summer 2016 signing **LUKE NORRIS** joined Brentford on a two year scholarship in the summer of 2010 and made his senior debut for the Bees in April the following year at the age of 17. Loan spells took him to Northampton and Dagenham & Redbridge ahead of a move to Gillingham in the 2014 close season which kept him at Priestfield for the next two campaigns. **NORRIS** netted for the third time this term in the Robins' pre Christmas home draw with Fleetwood.

JERMAINE HYLTON returned in December from a loan spell at National League side Guiseley. The 23 year old striker signed for the Robins in January 2015 from Southern League Redditch after netting 45 times in two seasons.

Northern Ireland U-21 international **JORDAN STEWART**, who can play in midfield or up front, left Glentoran to join Swindon in the summer of 2015. **STEWART**, who ended last season on loan at Grimsby, netted at QPR in the EFL Cup in August. He returned to play in a development team fixture against Rovers earlier this month having been out of action since November and undergoing knee surgery. He returned to the Robins' senior side against Peterborough last week when he stepped off the bench with 15 minutes remaining.

THE OPPOSITION

BY PETER GIBSON

Striker **JONATHAN OBIKA**, now 26, is a former Tottenham trainee who signed for Town in September 2014 after loan experience at Yeovil, Millwall, Crystal Palace, Peterborough, Charlton and Brighton as well as at the County Ground. The ex England U-20 cap found the net for the third time this term in November's draw at Southend.

ELLIS IANDELO, 19, who was released by Gillingham in 2012, made his debut for the Robins in September 2015 at Newport in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. He scored in Swindon's Checkatrade Trophy defeat at Luton in December.

Summer 2016 signing **CONOR THOMAS** was one of nine players released by Coventry last May. The former England U-18 international midfielder, now 23, rose through the Sky Blues' Academy ranks to make 117 senior appearances for them in six years. A hamstring problem prevented him from playing for Liverpool, whom he joined on loan in January 2011.

After his release from Brighton's Academy, 24 year old **ANTON RODGERS** made one substitute appearance for the Seagulls, in a FA Cup tie against Wrexham. The son of Celtic boss Brendan, the former Republic of Ireland U-19 cap switched to Swindon in the summer of 2014 after a season at Oldham in which he played 14 games for the Latics.

JOHN GODDARD's 20 goals for Woking last season earned him the club's 'Player of the Year' award. The former England 'C' international, now 23, joined Reading at the age of eight. After leaving the Royals in the summer of 2012 he spent a season with Hayes and Yeading and switched to the County Ground last May after leaving the Cards.

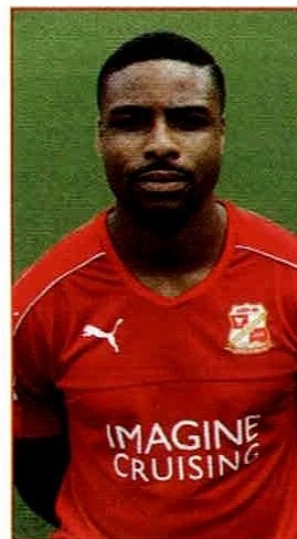
JAMES BROPHY stepped up from non league football to sign for the Robins in August 2015 after a trial period. The 22 year old had previously turned out for Broadfields United and Edgware Town. 18 year old

Academy graduate **TOM SMITH** signed a professional deal in the summer of 2014 and made his senior debut as a second half substitute at Preston in April 2015. Former scholar **JAKE EVANS**, also 18, has been with the club from the age of ten. He made his first senior appearance towards the end of last season's final game, a 3-0 home win against Shrewsbury. Ex Republic of Ireland U-21 cap **SEAN MURRAY**, an August 2016 acquisition from Watford, was part of the Hornets' youth system before signing a professional deal in 2012. He scored 14 goals in 84 outings and netted once in eight games for Wigan on loan last term.

LLOYD JONES, 21, on loan from Liverpool, was born in Plymouth and spent five years in the Argyle Centre of Excellence before Liverpool came calling in May 2011. The England U-20 cap previously played for Wales, for whom he qualified thanks to his father, at U-17 and U-19 levels. He turned out on loan for Cheltenham,



Luke Norris



Jonathan Obika

THE MANAGEMENT

Head Coach **LUKE WILLIAMS** joined the Robins at the start of the 2013/14 campaign when Mark Cooper occupied the manager's chair.

He coached at the County Ground under Cooper and Martin Ling before taking over in January 2016 for the rest of that campaign after Ling's departure.

In March, after winning six of his ten games in his spell in caretaker charge, he signed a five year deal while former Spurs and Aston Villa boss **TIM SHERWOOD** was appointed as Director of Football last November.

WILLIAMS began his coaching career with the FA and coached Leyton Orient and West Ham United youngsters before spending three years at Brighton and Hove Albion

where he took charge of the Seagulls' U-21s and coached their second string.

First Team Coach **ROSS EMBLETON**, who played for Orient at youth level and worked alongside **WILLIAMS** at Brisbane Road under ex Swindon boss Ling, has performed various roles at Bournemouth, where was youth manager before leaving in March 2013, Norwich City and Tottenham.



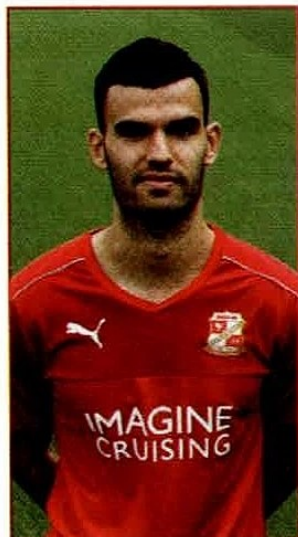
Luke Williams



THE OPPOSITION

BY PETER GIBSON

SWINDON TOWN

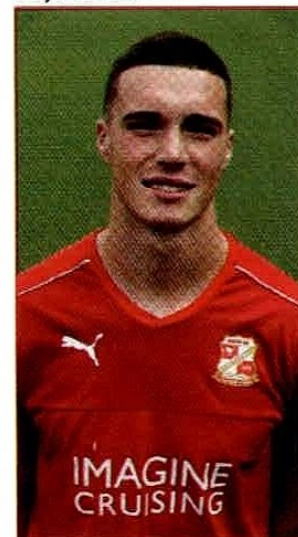


Conor Thomas



John Goddard

Lloyd Jones



Accrington and Blackpool before starting a season long loan at the County Ground last August.

NATHAN THOMPSON, a local newspaper readers' choice as 'Player of the Year' in 2012/13 and 2013/14, signed a professional deal in April 2009 after reports suggesting that Arsenal, Spurs, Everton and Newcastle were taking an interest in the defender. He netted his second goal of the current campaign in the Robins' defeat at Scunthorpe last October.

20 year old **BRANDON ORMONDE-OTTEWILL** has represented England at U-16 and U-19 levels. The left wing back, signed from Arsenal after being released at the end of the 2014/15 campaign, joined the Gunners at the age of eight. He has welcomed the competition generated by the December signing on a short term contract of former Derby trainee **RHYS SHARPE** who can play at left back or as a central defender. **SHARPE**, 22, is a former Northern Ireland U-21 international who has turned out on loan for Shrewsbury and Notts County.

JAMIE SENDLES-WHITE, who was with QPR as a youth, turned out on loan for Mansfield before signing for Hamilton Academical at the start of the 2015/16 campaign. The Northern International U-21 defender returned south of the border to join the Robins last February after being released by the Accies. Right back **BRADLEY BARRY**, 21, whose uncle is Everton and England midfielder

Gareth, is a former Brighton trainee who signed for the Robins in the summer of 2015 after being released by the Seagulls.

Brazilian **RAPHAEL ROSSI BRANCO**, born in Campinas, in the interior of Sao Paulo, attracted the attention of a friend of former Brighton boss Gus Poyet. When immigration problems prevented him from appearing for the Seagulls the central defender, right back or midfielder joined Brighton based Whitehawk, who went on to win the Isthmian Premier League in 2013, before becoming a Robin later that year.

Last November 17 year old former Scotland U-15 international central defender **JORDAN YOUNG**, who joined the Robins' youth setup at the age of eight, passed up the opportunity to join Chelsea. In the same month **SCOTT TWINE** netted in extra time for Swindon's U-18 side as they progressed to the third round of the FA Youth Cup.

Former Chilean youth international **LAWRENCE VIGOUROUX** arrived at the County Ground on loan from Liverpool in August 2015 and signed a three year deal with the Robins last July. The 23 year old keeper, who joined Tottenham's Academy in 2012, played on loan for Hyde before Liverpool signed him in July 2014. **WILL HENRY** joined Bristol City from Taunton in October 2014 at the age of 16. He saved a penalty at Rochdale on his senior debut at the end of April last year.

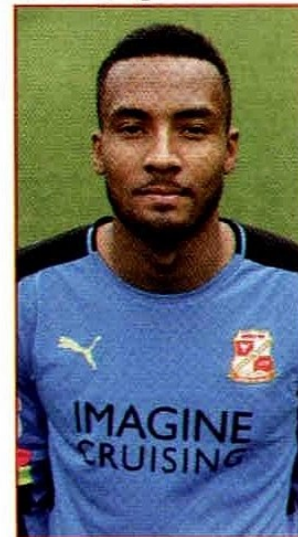


Nathan Thompson



Raphael Rossi Branco

Lawrence Vigouroux



« LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES FIVE BIG NAME SWINDON TOWN PLAYERS NOT USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLUB »

OSSIE ARDILES

Former Argentina international midfielder Ossie Ardiles made two League appearances for Swindon Town in 1989/90. Together with Ricky Villa, the World Cup winner made headlines with his transfer from Huracan to Spurs in July 1978. He helped win the FA Cup in 1981 and UEFA

Cup in 1984, moving to QPR in May 1988. Appointed Swindon's player/boss in July 1989, he plotted their 1989/90 Second Division play off final success but they were denied promotion due to an illegal payments scandal. He took charge of Newcastle United in March 1991, then managed West Brom and Spurs before coaching overseas.

GLENN HODDLE

Ex England international midfielder Glenn Hoddle was player-manager as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. Signing professional for Tottenham Hotspur in April 1975, he starred as they won promotion in 1977/78, then won the FA Cup in two consecutive seasons and the UEFA Cup in 1984. He moved to Monaco in July 1987 and helped win the French title in 1987/88, becoming

Swindon's player/boss in August 1991. Scoring once in 64 League games for the Robins, he left to take charge of Chelsea after the 1992/93 play off final triumph and later managed England, Southampton, Spurs and Wolves.



MIKE SUMMERBEE

Brilliant winger Mike Summerbee was capped eight times by England after leaving Swindon Town. Initially with Cheltenham Town, he moved to the County



Ground in March 1960 and was an important figure in Swindon's 1962/63 promotion success. He netted 39 goals in 218 League games prior to joining Manchester City in August 1965, amassing a vast collection of domestic and European honours under the Joe Mercer/Malcolm Allison partnership at Maine Road. Later playing for Burnley, Blackpool and Stockport County, he became a successful businessman and his son Nicky also starred for Swindon Town.

PAUL INCE

Midfielder Paul Ince gained 53 England caps before playing for Swindon Town. Initially with West Ham, he moved to Manchester United for £1,000,000 in September 1989 and was England's first black captain. He amassed numerous honours, including the 'double' in 1993/94, joining Inter Milan for £8,000,000 in July 1995. Later with Liverpool, Middlesbrough

and Wolves, he joined Swindon in August 2006 and made three League appearances while at the County Ground. He became Macclesfield Town's player/boss in January 2007 and has since managed MK Dons, Blackburn, MK Dons again, Notts County and Blackpool.



FRANK MCAVENNIE

Former Scotland international striker Frank McAvennie had a loan spell at Swindon Town in 1993/94. He starred for

St Mirren before joining West Ham in June 1985 and was top scorer as they were third in the top flight in 1985/86. Moving to Celtic in October 1987, he scored twice in their

1988 Scottish Cup final triumph and rejoined West Ham in March 1989. He helped win promotion in 1990/91, moving to Aston Villa in August 1992, then

Celtic again. Loaned to Swindon in February 1994, he made seven League appearances before rejoining St Mirren. His colourful life story is titled 'Scoring - An Expert's Guide'.

| THE FAMOUS AGAINST THE GAS |



Welsh international Paul Bodin won 23 caps for his country but was on the losing side when Swindon and Rovers met at The County Ground on 13th October 1990. Rovers won 2-0 in front of a crowd of 11,494, one of the goals coming from Ian Holloway's penalty. Bodin, second left, can only watch as Holloway converts from the spot.

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

BY KEITH BROOKMAN



Rovers goalscorer
Danny Woodards
on the ball

10TH DECEMBER 2011 v SWINDON TOWN



Back in season 2011/12 £3.00 would have bought you a 64 page programme.

Mustapha Carayol and his signature graced the cover of this particular issue while Chairman Nick Higgs and manager Paul Buckle penned their own notes inside.

Player interviews were with Danny Woodards, who spoke about scoring for the first time ever with his left foot (against AFC Totton) and Byron Anthony, who spoke about the goal he scored in the same FA Cup tie.

There was another interview with Joe Anyinsah, while Darren Jefferies and Lamar Powell were featured on the youth team pages.

For some reason the editor decided that the centre spread for the season would be used for the match statistics – not a popular choice

Hard to believe, but Swindon Town's last visit to The Mem was on 10th December 2011 and this afternoon we take a quick look back at how Rovers were making the news in the week leading up to that game.

The previous Sunday had seen Rovers in live TV action as they took on AFC Totton in the second round of the FA Cup and they passed their test with flying colours, winning 6-1 against the non league outfit.

The draw for the third round, made immediately after that match, gave Rovers a home tie against Aston Villa, and the Monday papers were focussed on that match rather than the next league fixture!

Chairman Nick Higgs said that he hoped the TV

cameras would be at The Mem to cover the Villa game; "Villa won't want to come to a full Memorial Stadium with the majority of fans baying for us to win. If the TV Cameras don't come it will be their loss, because we will be putting on a show."

Manager Buckle added; "It's a cracking draw. The first thing you want is a Premier League club and the chance to play them at home will be great and brings a smile to my face!"

Goalkeeper Scott Bevan, at least, was focussed on league form and said; "We have a big home game against Swindon Town on Saturday and now we have to try to get on a roll and start pushing up the league."

Meanwhile Eliot Richards was hoping that after scoring twice in the FA Cup he would be selected for the Swindon game. He

had, in fact, made a little bit of history in that he became the first Rovers substitute to score a double in an FA Cup tie; "I just have to keep proving myself, get in the gaffer's thoughts and hopefully get a place in the starting eleven."

While Buckle was still prattling on about the Villa game, Chris Zebroski, born and raised in Swindon and who played for the club from the age of 10 through to 16, was looking forward to facing his hometown club; "They are on a good unbeaten run, so they are high on confidence. But it's been a good week for us and a win against Swindon would top it off."

It didn't quite happen as the sides drew 1-1, with Danny Woodards on target for Rovers and Paul Caddis for The Robins.

RORY GAFFNEY

SQUAD NUMBER

30

POSITION: **STRIKER**

NATIONALITY: **IRISH**

ROVERS LEAGUE APPEARANCES: **38 (7)**

ROVERS LEAGUE GOALS: **10**

AUTOGRAPH



THE NAME'S THE SAME

« STEPHEN BYRNE PROFILES ROVERS PLAYERS »

JEFFREY EDWARD HUGHES

A trainee engineer with one goal in 47 Irish League games for Larne, 'The Harbour Rats', under his belt, tall midfielder Jeff Hughes made his League bow as a last minute substitute at The Mem, when Lincoln drew 0-0 with Rovers in September 2005.

He was to enjoy a degree of success with the Imps, scoring twice in their 7-1 win against Rochdale in October 2006 and scoring in both legs of the play off semi finals against Rovers in May 2007.

Consistent club form earned a couple of full caps for Northern Ireland, Hughes playing against Uruguay in New Jersey and Rumania in Chicago at the end of July 2006. Red booted Hughes found Palace, lost

JEFFREY EDWARD HUGHES

b 29.5.1985 Larne,
Northern Ireland

6' 1"; 11 st 4 lbs M

DÉBUT:

9.8.08 v Carlisle United

CAREER:

Larne

Ballymena United

2004 Larne

27.8.05 Lincoln City (£5,000)

[55+8, 8]

4.7.07 Crystal Palace (£250,000)

[4+6, 0]

22.11.07 Peterborough United

(loan) [2+5, 1]

27.3.08 Bristol Rovers (loan)

6.6.08 Bristol Rovers (free)

[127+2, 28]

28.6.11 Notts County (free)

[83+6, 20]

22.5.13 Fleetwood Town (free)

[45+2, 4]

15.7.15 Cambridge United (free)

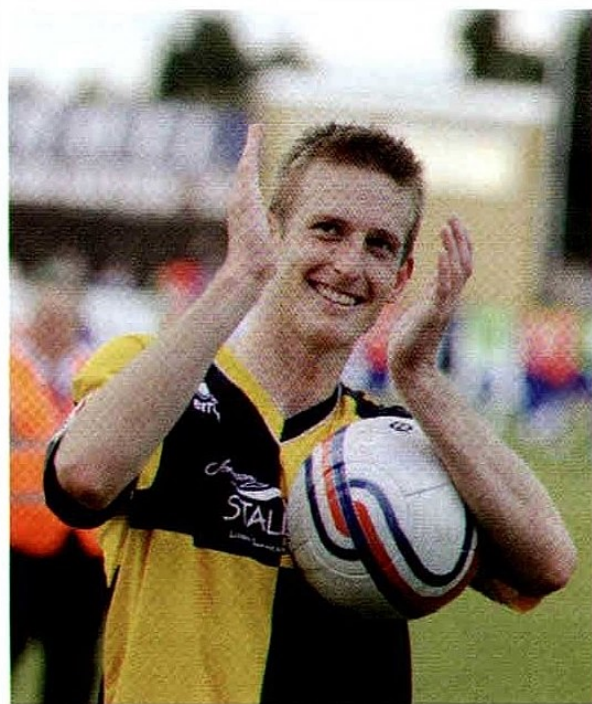
[7+2, 0]

2.1.16 Tranmere Rovers (loan)

(18, 1)

1.7.16 Tranmere Rovers (free)

(22, 2)



his first three games there 1-0, and he scored his only Peterborough goal two minutes from time, a winner against Bradford City over Christmas 2007, having also appeared in a 7-0 drubbing of Brentford.

February and his partner Danielle give birth that evening to a daughter, Esmée, and it also saw the constructive midfielder sent off at Carlisle.

The 2010/11 season led to Rovers' relegation to League Two, despite Hughes compiling a left footed hat trick, after 27, 31 and 86 minutes, in Rovers' first ever League fixture at Dagenham & Redbridge, on a day when transport to the game was held up in congestion due to the Papal visit to London by Benedict XVI; he also conceded an own goal against Brighton, to add to one at Orient the previous campaign.

Hughes scored against Carlisle on his Notts County début after just 13 minutes,

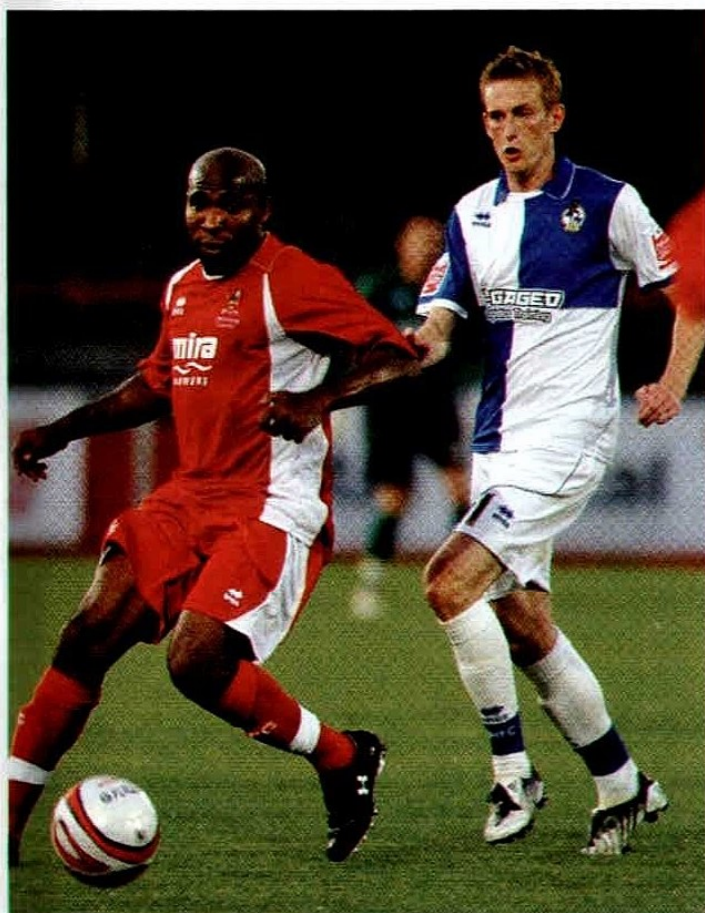


Impressing for the reserves in the spring of 2008 and scoring against FC Copenhagen prior to his League début, Hughes took over the mantle of penalty taker at The Mem and, in 2009/10, equalled Ray Warren's Rovers club record of seven successful spot kicks in one League campaign. This season saw Hughes play at home to Colchester in

This season we will take a look at the career of players who have appeared for Rovers during the more recent of our twenty years at The Memorial Stadium and compare them with players of a similar name who represented Rovers many years ago.

but his form was insufficient to prevent County missing out on the play offs in 2011/12 on goal difference and, having scored in three of his first four League games for the Cod Army, he subsequently played for Fleetwood against Rovers in October 2013 and Cambridge United against Rovers in October 2015.

He scored once in 18 Conference matches with Tranmere, one of three last minute goals in a 4-3 win at Barrow in January 2016 and since joining them permanently last summer, has scored twice in 22 games for the National League outfit.



CLARENCE LESLIE HUGHES

Five Southern League matches for Rovers included a brace of goals against Northampton in October 1919 when he was played at centre forward.

Leslie Hughes had earlier made his Football League debut for Bristol City against Barnsley in February 1915 at right half.

The second of four children to Henry Hughes and his Indian born wife Ena (Helena Moore, 1878-1934), he married a Bristol girl, Edith Euphraiza Skinner (1896-1967) and they had two sons, Gordon

CLARENCE LESLIE HUGHES

CLARENCE LESLIE HUGHES

b 2.1.1896 Brentford
d May 1989
Weston super Mare

DÉBUT:
27.9.19 v Newport County

CAREER:
Sneyd Park
February 1915 Bristol City
(amateur)
September 1919
Bristol Rovers
20.12.19 Bristol City [2, 0].

and Albert; they settled in Weston super Mare, where he died in May 1989, at the advanced age of 93.

Only five Rovers players have lived to a more advanced age.

PAST PIRATES

« SEASON 2012/13 AWAY »

BY JAMIE HOWARTH

To collect a full season of home programmes it is a massive bonus when the numbering system works well.

Well in 2012/13 it was perfect. From number 1 in August (a friendly with Coventry City) to number 26 in May (Accrington Stanley) just find each number and you will have the complete set.

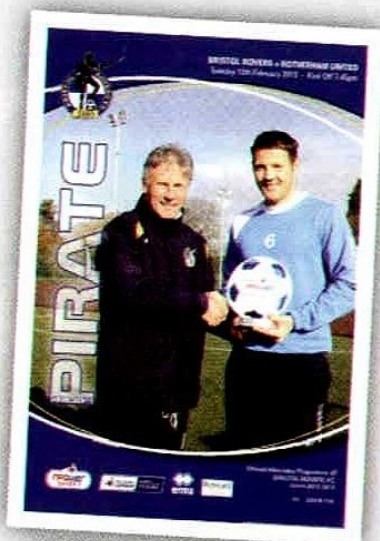
Well actually, no you won't. Two games were postponed, number 15 (Rotherham United) and number 18 (Exeter City) due to the freezing weather. When they were played a short while later each came with a free eight page wraparound. These were numbered 15A and 18A respectively so they could easily be missed if you didn't realise the games were postponed. Check you have them in your collection.

The standard programme came with 68 pages and cost £3.00. Once again it was an impressive production with enough reading material to last the whole weekend.

If you want to peruse BRSC's stock then it can be found at 'The Programme Centre' website. You can find it at this address: www.footballprogrammecentre.co.uk Click on 'Market Place' then 'Members Mini Stores' and you will find us at the top of the list under Past Pirate.

You may also like to join up to the forum where you will find many people willing to help you with your collection.

Alternatively you can contact me direct via jamiegas@blueyonder.co.uk. You can also check out the information only site at www.bristolroversmemorabilia.weebly.com/



ON THIS DAY

28TH JANUARY

BY STEPHEN BYRNE

Between 1883 and 1888, Bill Braund, a founder member of the Black Arabs who was born on this day, 28th January 1865 in Bedminster, is known to have played at right half in 17 games, although the full figure from unreported fixtures may well be significantly higher.

He also refereed Eastville Rovers' game at Warmley over Easter 1886. Honorary secretary for the inaugural season, 1883/84, whilst living at 10 Frenchay Terrace, he later lived in City Road, Lower Ashley Road and Ashley Hill and was at 152 Richmond Road, Montpellier for much of his adult life.

The second of eight sons to George Braund (1839-1904), a journeyman brush maker, and Elizabeth Southey (1843-1920), Bill Braund married Linda Maria Pow (1871-1970),

who lived to the age of 98, in Bristol in 1894. They had two children, Marion Elizabeth (born in 1897), who married Henry Leigh (1901-62), and Herbert (1895-1952), and they lived at 31 Balmoral Road, St Andrew's Park.

Having taught at Mina Road School (1888-93), Anglesea Place School (1893-1900) and Russell Town School for five years, he was from 1905 to January 1928 Headmaster of Barleyfields Board School, Horton Street, St Philips and was from 1904 President of the Bristol and District branch of the National Union of Teachers.

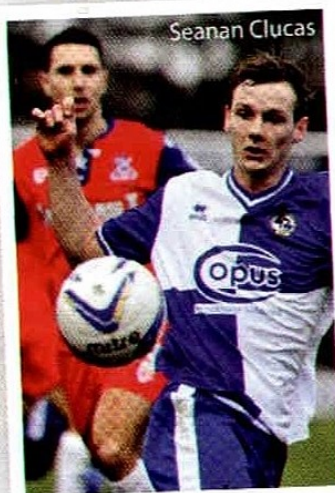
In 1920 he helped form the Bristol and District Inter Club Billiards championship and was regional secretary for the National Billiards Association.

He died in Bristol in 1955, aged 90.

LOOKING BACK

« PART ONE OF MIKE JAY'S LOOK BACK AT SEASON 2012/13 »

Under manager Mark McGhee Rovers struggled to find success though the autumn of 2012, crushing defeats at Gillingham, Port Vale and York City leaving the club rooted to the foot of the Football League at Christmas, before manager John Ward returned for a second spell.



Seanan Clucas

However, illusions were swiftly shattered as the club's unbeaten home record under McGhee crumbled 2-0 against Oxford, the visitors bringing 1,019 supporters for the opening day fixture. A fortnight later, Rovers dropped into the relegation zone when the second home fixture was lost 3-0 to Morecambe. Suddenly, from

the jaws of a potential promotion campaign, Rovers were clutching at the ashes of a proposed relegation dogfight.

Three goals behind by half time at champions Gillingham, Rovers crumbled 4-0. Defeat at Vale Park by the same score, Rovers taking just 132 hardy supporters, included a hat trick by Tom Pope. Three goals were conceded in 14 first half minutes at Wimbledon, and four in a disastrous 20 minutes before half time at York. Rovers were, in December, the only side in the division to have received six red cards, both Eliot Richards and Kenneth being dismissed in the defeat at Rochdale.

The side only managed a point after three times taking the lead at home to Bradford City and only 1,794 fans turned up when Rovers visited Barnet. When the first victory appeared on the cards, Rovers' game at Wycombe was controversially abandoned after 63 minutes; leading 3-1 in a storm with Richards having registered a brace, Rovers found the game called off not by the referee or the police, but the Health and Safety Officer and, when the fixture was replayed, crashed to a 2-0 defeat with Matt Lund being sent off. The subsequent

irony of Rovers' victory at Wycombe in April 2014 which ensured Rovers' League safety and all but relegated Wanderers to Conference football was not lost on Rovers' supporters.

More than this, Rovers appeared to be having a very poor run with injuries. Top scorer from 2011/12 Harold had contributed just one goal when he suffered a cruciate ligament injury at Gillingham and Kenneth also underwent knee surgery. In addition to this, Matt Gill, Scott Bevan and Adam Virgo were long term absentees with injury. Dan Woodards also suffered a cruciate knee injury in April which threatened to keep him out of football for nine months.

Despite the early season poor results, Rovers contrived to pick up four points from their two September trips to Devon, victory at Exeter paving the way to a League double, though former Rovers striker Jamie Cureton, aged 37, became the 17th oldest opponent to register a League goal against the club. Before injury took its toll, new signing Clarkson proved he had an eye for goal and Lee Brown also indicated he was reliable from the penalty spot; his tally included a twice taken effort at Oxford.

A morale boosting 3-1 home victory over Northampton in October featured first goals for the club for Eaves, Man of the Match Kenneth and young Oli Norburn; Eaves, impressively scoring seven times to become the club's seasonal highest scorer despite the side's failings around him, added two goals as ten man Torquay United were defeated 3-2. When Rovers staged a November book signing of Geoff Bradford's long awaited biography, pleasingly against his namesake club Bradford City, loanee central defender Guy Branston scored after 79 seconds with his first touch in a quartered shirt.

To be continued.

Ward made a number of astute signings and restored the players' self belief. An astonishing run then took the club within shouting distance of an unexpected play off berth. Spring success enabled Rovers, despite not winning any of their final four fixtures, to complete their second campaign back in the basement division in fourteenth place.

Undefeated at home in 2012, Rovers approached the new season with realistic optimism. McGhee brought in Seanan Clucas, goalkeeper Sam Walker on loan and former Bristol City player David Clarkson who all made their club debuts at Ipswich in the League Cup. Garry Kenneth, a veteran of two Scottish Cup Finals at Dundee United, was ruled out initially following a calf injury sustained whilst warming up for his debut at Barnet; Neil Etheridge, a Filipino international, was an efficient goalkeeper; Derek Riordan, the third highest scorer in the Scottish Premier League, played poorly for the club before returning goalless to Scotland; Tom Eaves proved a useful loan signing in a struggling side and squad member Fabian Broghammer, a German midfielder, soon accrued popular status amongst the Rovers following.

20 YEARS AT THE MEM

“ FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** SELECTS HEADLINE STORIES FROM THIS MONTH OVER 20 YEARS AT THE MEMORIAL STADIUM ”

1998 – ROVERS HOLD IPSWICH

Peter Beadle's first half strike gave the following Bristol Rovers team a 1-1 FA Cup third round draw with Ipswich Town in stormy conditions at the Memorial Stadium on 3rd January 1998: Andy Collett, David Pritchard, Matt Lockwood, Gary Penrice, Tom White, Steve Foster, Ian Holloway, Tom Ramasut (Frankie Bennett), Peter Beadle, Jamie Cureton, Barry Hayles. Ipswich, including former Rovers midfielder Geraint Williams, equalised through Mick Stockwell in the second half. David Johnson's goal shortly before half time gave Ipswich a narrow 1-0 victory over Ian Holloway's side in the replay at Portman Road ten days later.

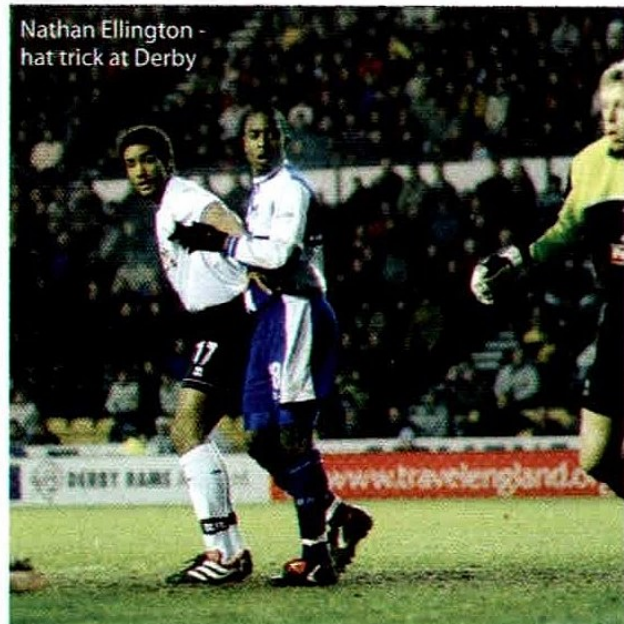
1999 – CURETON STUNS ROYALS

Jamie Cureton scored four goals as the following Bristol Rovers team gained an amazing 6-0 Second Division victory over Reading in the new Madejski Stadium on 16th January 1999: Lee Jones, Stephane Leoni, Trevor Challis, Rob Trees, Steve Foster, Andy Thomson, Ian Holloway, David Lee, Mark McKeever, Jamie Cureton, Jason Roberts. Goalless at half time, the irrepressible Cureton scored the first four in 21 minutes, while Jason Roberts added two goals in the last two minutes. Rovers netted ten goals against Reading that season, winning 4-1 at home five months earlier, a figure only previously achieved against Doncaster Rovers in 1956/57.

Jamie Cureton, on his way to four goals at Reading



Nathan Ellington - hat trick at Derby



2002 – ELLINGTON SLAUGHTERS RAMS

Nathan Ellington grabbed a hat trick as the following Bristol Rovers team gained a stunning 3-1 FA Cup third round victory over top-flight Derby County in front of 18,549 at Pride Park on 6th January 2002: Scott Howie, Mark Smith, Trevor Challis, Mark Foran, Che Wilson, Mike Trought, David Hillier, Lewis Hogg, Sergio Ommel, Nathan Ellington, Kevin Gall (Mark Walters). It was one of three hat tricks scored by Ellington in



« 20 YEARS AT THE MEM »

less than a month. Derby's late consolation goal was netted by Fabrizio Ravanelli. Third Division Rovers' only previous FA Cup win away to top flight opposition was the 3-2 third round victory at Burnley in 1957/58.

2011 – ROVERS ROCK ROBINS

Leading marksman Will Hoskins, Jo Kuffour and Jeff Hughes scored to give the following Bristol Rovers team a 3-1 League One victory over fellow strugglers Swindon Town at the Memorial Stadium on 22nd January 2011: Luke Daniels, Carl Regan, Gary Sawyer, Stuart Campbell,

Dave McCracken, Byron Anthony, Ben Swallow, Chris Lines, Will Hoskins, Jo Kuffour, Jeff Hughes. It was Rovers' first win in 13 League matches and first under new manager Dave Penney but they crashed to a 6-1 defeat at Walsall a week later. Rovers lost all except one of their next nine matches and were relegated, together with Swindon, at the end of the season.

2013 – ROVERS BATTER COD

Goals by Danny Woodards, Eliot Richards and John Joe O'Toole



Above: Will Hoskins was on target against Swindon

2014 – SEVERNSIDE SUCCESS

Lowly Bristol Rovers gained a 3-1 League Two win at home to Newport County on 25th January 2014. Kaid Mohamed, on loan from Port Vale, missed a good chance before giving Rovers the lead on 45 minutes. An Ollie Clarke shot was deflected and Mohamed reacted quickly to break the deadlock. Rovers went further ahead after 48 minutes when Eliot Richards ghosted past former Rovers player Andy Sandell to score. Newport reduced the deficit on 57 minutes when former Rovers loanee Rene Howe netted from Ryan Burge's pass. Lee Minshull hit the post for Newport before John Joe O'Toole completed the win on 90 minutes by scoring from 20 yards.



Left: Kaid Mohammed - on target against Newport

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

READ ALL ABOUT IT ! READ ALL

« DAVID WOODS LOOKS BACK AT EARLY FOOTBALL IN BRISTOL »

« PART FOURTEEN »

As the preceding article in this series made reference to the regarding the work of Joseph Daveridge and Thomas Bowden, it would now seem opportune to explore their work in greater detail.

Given that both of these early soccer historians were products of the Victorian educational system, it is of little surprise to find their enterprises recorded in almost

identical copperplate handwriting, but where they occasionally differ is in regard to goalscorers.

Originally, it was thought that this was due to Daveridge's extra knowledge in consequence being a director of Bristol City Football Club, but the fact that he often fails to record games played at Christmas and Easter, suggests it is more likely a consequence of his choice of newspaper (the Tory Bristol Times & Mirror for many years not

covering such games, whilst the Liberal supporting Western Daily Press had no such scruples)

The writer of this article first had knowledge of Bowden's research when visiting Bill Pinnell (The Traveller) at his Greenmore Road home in Knowle, in October 1964, but it was to be quite some time before this work could be examined in greater detail. February 1980 in fact when Peter Godsiff (Bristol Evening Post),

1869	Southern League Fixtures	1869
1 1st	Bristol City	1 1st
2 2nd	Crus	2 2nd
3 3rd	Southampton	3 3rd
4 4th	Millwall Athletic	4 4th
5 5th	Queens Park Rangers	5 5th
6 6th	Cardiff	6 6th
7 7th	Reading	7 7th
8 8th	Swansea United	8 8th
9 9th	Bristol Rovers	9 9th
10 10th	Portsmouth	10 10th
11 11th	Tottenham Hotspur	11 11th
12 12th	Newington	12 12th
13 13th	Greenwich United	13 13th
14 14th	Derby County	14 14th
15 15th	Southampton	15 15th
16 16th	Cardiff	16 16th
17 17th	Reading	17 17th
18 18th	Swansea United	18 18th
19 19th	Bristol Rovers	19 19th
20 20th	Portsmouth	20 20th
21 21st	Tottenham Hotspur	21 21st
22 22nd	Newington	22 22nd
23 23rd	Greenwich United	23 23rd
24 24th	Derby County	24 24th
25 25th	Southampton	25 25th
26 26th	Cardiff	26 26th
27 27th	Reading	27 27th
28 28th	Swansea United	28 28th
29 29th	Bristol Rovers	29 29th
30 30th	Portsmouth	30 30th
31 31st	Tottenham Hotspur	31 31st
32 32nd	Newington	32 32nd
33 33rd	Greenwich United	33 33rd
34 34th	Derby County	34 34th
35 35th	Southampton	35 35th
36 36th	Cardiff	36 36th
37 37th	Reading	37 37th
38 38th	Swansea United	38 38th
39 39th	Bristol Rovers	39 39th
40 40th	Portsmouth	40 40th
41 41st	Tottenham Hotspur	41 41st
42 42nd	Newington	42 42nd
43 43rd	Greenwich United	43 43rd
44 44th	Derby County	44 44th
45 45th	Southampton	45 45th
46 46th	Cardiff	46 46th
47 47th	Reading	47 47th
48 48th	Swansea United	48 48th
49 49th	Bristol Rovers	49 49th
50 50th	Portsmouth	50 50th
51 51st	Tottenham Hotspur	51 51st
52 52nd	Newington	52 52nd
53 53rd	Greenwich United	53 53rd
54 54th	Derby County	54 54th
55 55th	Southampton	55 55th
56 56th	Cardiff	56 56th
57 57th	Reading	57 57th
58 58th	Swansea United	58 58th
59 59th	Bristol Rovers	59 59th
60 60th	Portsmouth	60 60th
61 61st	Tottenham Hotspur	61 61st
62 62nd	Newington	62 62nd
63 63rd	Greenwich United	63 63rd
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DEMONS AND DEFENDERS

It has to be the coldest place on the planet and I consider myself extremely fortunate to not have lost my only remaining foot to an amputation - courtesy of frostbite.

Now I'm no stranger to sub-zero anguish. I'm Scottish. Freezing and miserable are conditions which satisfy my default setting to weather tolerance. And they complement my personality too. But stone me - Walsall must surely qualify for a new location for Hell if it's decided by an all powerful deity that

eternal cold is the new way forward for bad folk - like Bristol City supporters.

I've never felt anything like it. I thought my fingers were going to fall off. No. Not frostbite. I was shivering and shaking and almost fingerless - thanks to my hand in my mouth - because Walsall had just found the back of the net for the third time and the sheer terror of flashbacks to Charlton and Shrewsbury hit me like an iceberg.

It wasn't the prettiest of away games. Then again - how could it be? It was a

hypothermic second half humping which saw many supporters depart the Banks' Stadium immediately after their Joe left our Byron looking like Bambi on ice to put number three past our own Joe!

I was absolutely mortified! No. Not because Byron had turned into Bambi on ice - but because I thought we stayed 'til the end? Apparently not! But then I thought about it afterwards in the car on our way home. It was a freezing day. Maybe the frozen tears of anguish which filled the eyes

of many of our travelling blue and white faithful had sealed eyelids shut in the 73rd minute - thus seeing the nearby A&E Dept invaded by snow blind Gasheads in the 80th minute? Or maybe not!

One thing I will say though - is our car journey back from away games has now become hugely entertaining. And to be honest - I'm kind of looking forward to losing the next away match we go to. The post match analysis is so much better when it's delivered by four irate supporters whose viewpoints are inspired by nothing less than out and out fury.

Don't get me wrong - it's an incredible feeling returning from an on the road win. But the journey back to Bristol seems to be one of serenity and smug smiles. Horror is much more fun. On Saturday - just as I was joining the M5 from the M6 - I heard an outburst of expletive savagery from the back seat which seemed to last an eternity and pretty much guarantees the soul from whence it came an eternal penance with the aforementioned City supporters in a hellish icebox.

It was madness but it was a delightful dementedness and I'm hoping to record something similar during our return from Rochdale next Saturday. I reckon I could sell the recording to Hollywood for the next new Exorcist movie. But in all seriousness (don't worry - I'm not about to suggest DC gets a priest in to vanquish our away demons) I do think DC should get a priest in to vanquish our away demons. It's gone too far now. And to be truthful - I don't think the man of the cloth will have trouble in casting out the unholy entity. Based on its presence away from the Mem - it's unlikely it'll be able to defend itself!

Speaking of 'the possessed' - Swindon visit us today. The last time I saw them was in August during that biblical flood. Five thousand of them. So how come I counted ten thousand heads? UTG!



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PIRATE VISION BY KEVIN COOK

BECOMING ZLATAN

ABOUT...

A documentary film focusing on the long journey former international Swedish Footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic made from his early days as a youth player in Sweden.

The Manchester United No 9 has again linked with former Inter Milan Manager Jose Mourinho on a free transfer from Paris Saint-Germain, he is an incredible talent and at 35 years of age what makes him the legend he has become?

The film goes back to his roots where he made his debut for Malmo FF. Following a move to Ajax in 2001 he experiences the ups and downs of the game initially however, after a change of Manager he eventually finds his feet with 35 goals in 74 appearances.

Zlatan switched clubs again in 2004 when he moved to Juventus for 16m Euros. His association with

the club ended in 2006 following a lean spell in performance and Juve's relegation to Serie B

Next stop on the journey in 2006 was at Inter Milan where he enjoyed his most successful to date scoring 57 goals from 88 appearances.

Following on from the two seasons spent at Inter a dream move to Barcelona in 2009 turned out to be short-lived ending with a loan move to AC Milan that eventually became permanent in 2011.

In 2012 Zlatan then made a switch to Paris Saint-Germain where he played 122 games scoring 113 goals.

In Summary, an fascinating film that gives insight into a genius who has been absolute class offset against where on occasion he has suffered 'on the field' with discipline issues.

Enjoy Becoming Zlatan!

FACTS...

Directed by Fredrik Gertten & Magnus Gertten

Produced by Margarete

Music: Florencia Di Concilio & Marc Lizier

Released: Studio Canal Plus

Duration: 100 mins

Production Company: Auto Films & WG Films

CAST...

Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Jan van Halst
Hasse Borg	Niclas Kindvall
Priscilla Salazar-Janssens	Patrik Eriksson-Ohlsson
Leo Beenhakker	Hugo Borst
Jacobus Adriaanse	Ronald Koeman
Mido Ahmed	Aleksandar Djordjevic
Hossam Hussein	Mia Olhage
Rafael van der Vaart	Jari Litmanen
David Endt	Marco van Basten
Yksel Osmanovski	Jan-Olov Kindvall
Bengt Madsen	Michael Andersson
Tony Flygare	Mino Raiola
Hans Mattisson	Luciano Moggi
Andy Van der Meyde	Vittorio Oreggia
	Fabio Capello
	Christian Trisorio

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

BY ROY GOWELL

There have been many 'friends' who have helped the President's Club since our inception not least of course Bert Tann at whose suggestion the Club was formed.

His grace The Duke of Beaufort, who the President's Club is named after, was the Football Club President and allowed us to use his family crest and shield and was a frequent visitor on match days.

In the early days Chairman

Douglas Mearns-Milne who was a highly respected neurosurgeon at Frenchay Hospital almost always walked across the Eastville pitch following a match to share his opinions with club members. So did Alan Seager who was a local solicitor and director of the Football Club and who gave time and support and regularly sat in on our committee meetings.

A special friend of the President's Club and Bristol Rovers Football Club was Lionel Smart a vice chairman of the FA and a farmer who

was also a Director of today's visitors Swindon Town in the 1980s.

When Geoff and Denis Dunford took charge of the destination of the Football Club they too gave time and effort in support of the PC and instructed the football club management to do the same.

One person who has a special place in the history of the President's Club is Vernon Stokes who was our treasurer for a number of years and later when he became a Director of the Football Club he acted as liaison to the support groups. Always a



Vernon Stokes

willing helper Vernon is now a Vice President of the Football Club and on February 8th will be celebrating his 90th birthday and I am sure the many Gasheads who know Vernon will be wishing him a very happy one.



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IN CONVERSATION WITH 'MOI-MEME'...

Good afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for the 29th game of Bristol Rovers' 2016/2017 campaign as we host Swindon Town.

With today's visitors currently sitting in 19th place in League One, Darrell Clarke will be looking to his side to continue this season's impressive home form. With the spice of a local derby and the woes of a poor run of away form, Rovers have the perfect opportunity to bounce back and reignite their promotion aspirations.

Just a week before the January transfer window closes and 18 games to completion of the current season, DC continues to set his plans in motion as the playing side of the club moves into a transitional phase.

I am a personal fan of the way Darrell conducts himself with on and off the pitch business. He is very loyal to his players and strikes an excellent balance between what needs keeping in the dressing room and how he communicates information to the press and fans.

The manager is very fair and puts an honest onus on the players who are given every opportunity to show they are capable of performing regularly at the required level. Although close to the players, he doesn't let them rest on their laurels. During his time at the helm,

we have seen him regularly offer year deals to players with the promise of renewal should they fulfil their obligations to set playing targets.

So, what about those changes? Rovers currently sit in 10th place, within striking distance of the play off places. DC has indicated that League One consolidation would be acceptable this season, but we know differently don't we?! He constantly seeks success and the message and standards set for his players all point to a genuine objective of promotion to the Championship.

This very week, the futures of four regular first team members have been settled with the manager telling them they will no longer be considered for first team selection. Thinking it through, I'm not really surprised by any of them, even Jermaine Easter. Great servants for the club and top class professionals, I don't see Will Puddy, Mark McChrystal or Liam Lawrence producing the required consistency as the Gas move forward with performance based targets. Jake Gosling has departed on loan to Forest Green Rovers and with his contract expiring at the end of the season, his career in blue and white quarters appears to be all but over.

As a club we are comparable to the exploits of other teams in recent years. Swansea City now

Ryan Sweeney



play in the Premier League having risen through the divisions with a core nucleus of players. The same can be said about AFC Bournemouth, brilliantly guided by Eddie Howe. Both teams stuck with players they believed could do a job at the required level and that trust and stability paid off. MK Dons are another club to have enjoyed a lot of success with the same approach under the guidance of Karl Robinson until their relegation to League One last season.

So, what can be expected change-wise? 21 year old Joe Lumley's arrival from QPR has offered a solution to the goalkeeping dilemma and 19 year old Ryan Sweeney has made the loan move from Stoke City to feel a void in the Gas central defence. Matty Taylor's future is always the focus of transfer column gossip and it's difficult to envisage keeping his services should the club not be aspiring to securing

a third consecutive promotion. Should Rovers succeed in staving off interest from higher level suitors, I would expect Matty to move on this summer should Rovers not be plying their trade in the Championship. Two or three further additions are expected between now and Transfer Deadline Day (end of January).

Every Gashead has a right to an opinion, but there is some negativity at this moment in time. I accept negativity as long as logical justification can be given. The fact is we are a club that have secured back to back promotions and expectations are simply not realistic in some 'quarters' as to what we are achieving. The training ground project continues to gather momentum and the UWE Stadium is also progressing behind the scenes. The future's bright, the future's blue and white!

Enjoy the game today guys!

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HUDDERSFIELD

As our fixture today against Swindon is set to go ahead, that means one sure thing.

We are both out of the FA Cup...

For 32 other teams, including two from non league, a game will have to be moved to a midweek slot. For our near neighbours, it means that their fans get to travel to Birmingham one evening, to face improving Aston Villa. Their miserable run of eight straight League defeats has probably not been noticed by many of our fans, but it will stay as just that for now. They have a daunting Cup trip to Premier League side Burnley to tackle instead.

Our second round exit to Barrow was embarrassing, but our visitors today also crashed out at home to non League opposition, in the guise of ambitious Eastleigh. Their fate was sealed in round one, following a replay.

For anyone who follows the draw thread and ignores ball numbers, Barrow crashed out to League One Rochdale in round three. Their third round crowd of 4,414 was at least a tonic. Rochdale must feel that they have a chance of overcoming round four visitors Huddersfield Town,

who will make an unusual trip across the moors to visit them, this afternoon.

Working on the same premise as above, today would see Swindon on a far more glamorous (and expensive) trip to Chelsea. Eastleigh went on to beat fellow National League side Halifax, but were then trounced by Championship side Brentford, who now travel to Stamford Bridge.

My most recent memories of round four weekend, are still just under 10 years ago. On 26th January 2008, we travelled at very short notice to Barnet's Underhill. Round three had been a real saga. We'd drawn on a Sunday (2-2), at Craven Cottage, home of then Premier League side Fulham and brought them back to the Memorial Stadium.

Mid January that year was very damp, and eventually, the game took place in the midweek, before round four Saturday. We won on penalties, after extra

time and only found that night, that we'd face Barnet, (not today's opponents Swindon). Bizarrely, Barnet had pipped Swindon on penalties too, on the same night.

Notwithstanding both our early Cup exits this season to non league opposition, last week saw even more success for National League sides. Sutton United must have licked their lips when they drew AFC Wimbledon from up the road, in round three. After a draw at home, they were pinching themselves last week when they won the replay 3-1. They now have a mouthwatering fourth round tie against Leeds United coming up.

It still seems strange to call Lincoln City a non league side, but after over five years at National League at level, they are now leading

the table and looking likely to return to the Football League. Crowds have climbed up over 5,000 and despite the obvious need to maintain League form, a strong FA Cup run is ongoing too.

They started out in the fourth qualifying round against fellow National League side Guiseley and after dispatching them, moved on past Altrincham and League One Oldham Athletic. Their third round reward was a daunting trip to Championship Ipswich Town. A draw at Portman Road saw them take the Tractor Boys back to Sincil Bank for a money spinning BBC televised replay last week.

An added time winner sent a full house into ecstasy, final score 1-0. They now have another home tie against another Championship side, Brighton & Hove Albion. It must have been the biggest night at Sincil Bank since 2007, when a certain team beat them 5-3, in a League Two play off second leg game.

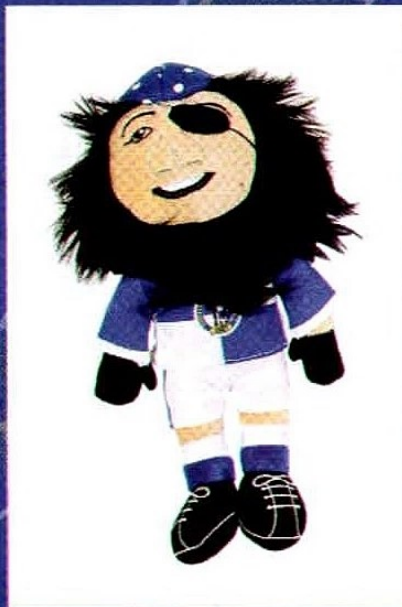
Rory Gaffney and Billy Bodin in action against Barrow





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EFL

Last Friday, 20th January, Bristol Rovers Community Trust hosted our local round of the EFL Kids Cup.

This is where a variety of schools entered in hope to progress to the Area Finals and represent Bristol Rovers. The competition had representatives from seven local Primary Schools who competed in a round robin tournament to decide would represent Bristol Rovers Community Trust in the next round of the competition. The competing schools were St Bonaventure's, Elmlea Junior, Horfield C of E, Westbury Park, Mangotsfield, Glenfronme and Cheddar Grove.

All teams put in a great showing and represented their schools fantastically well. St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School were our victors and rightly earned their place at the Area Finals which will be held in the near future.

The tournament was organised by the Community Trust's first year degree students and was part of their

professional development that they gain as part of their course. Under the supervision of Matt Bennett, Community Manager, the team of students put on a great event for all involved. Josh Skuse and George Carter, who lead on the project did a super job along with their fellow students and should be very proud of their efforts. This is a perfect opportunity to put into practice what they learn in the classroom and apply it in a real life situation.

This will stand them in good stead to lead on other projects in the future. It's vital that our degree students gain practical experience which will benefit them when they are out in the working world. They have had to communicate with schools to participate, organise a venue, arrange a fixture list, referee the games, liaise with our media department for media coverage and many other aspects of putting on a tournament such as this.

Jamie Lucas and Dominic Thomas were on hand to help present the

certificates and winners pendants to the participants and were kept busy signing autographs and taking photos with the players. They were very impressed with the efforts of the players on show and their enthusiasm for the game.

Matt Bennett went on to say; "Having two of our young professionals down at an event like this really shows the level of commitment and support the club offers towards its community projects. The kids playing in the tournament were so excited to meet them and they were great taking time to pose for photos and sign autographs. This will be something that the kids go home and tell all their family and friends about and a day that they will never forget. That is the real strength our community department that we can take events like these and make them an extra special day for all involved."

TEL: 0117 952 2501 WEBSITE: www.bristolroverscommunity.org.ukEMAIL: matt.bennett@bristolroverscommunity.org.uk

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A full-page photograph of Joe Partington, a soccer player, in action on a field. He is wearing a green training bib over a black long-sleeved shirt with yellow accents on the sleeves, yellow shorts with the number 34, yellow socks, and white cleats. He is holding a yellow and red soccer ball with both hands in front of his chest. The background is a blurred stadium with spectators.

JOE PARTINGTON

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AN INTERVIEW WITH

JOE PARTINGTON

Defender Joe Partington was the first of four (at the time of writing) new players to arrive at the club this month after agreeing to move to us from Eastleigh.

"It feels as though a lot has happened in a such a short space of time, what with the two games we've played and a couple of weeks of training, but I feel comfortable around the boys and everyone, from the management team, the players and the staff, have made me feel welcome. The training has been really good and I've enjoyed everything about the club so far.

"With three more players

coming in after me, I'm no longer the new boy. Those three have got their initiation song to get out of the way on our next overnight stay and, having done mine, I'll be able to sit back and relax and watch them perform!"

His debut, as a second half substitute, at Fleetwood ended disappointingly as we were beaten 3-1; "It was a difficult game to go on in, though on a personal level it was nice to be on the pitch and to be involved so soon after signing, but I think I could have performed better than I did on the day."

An unused substitute at Walsall last weekend, he's ready for another taste of

first team action; "Naturally it was disappointing not to get on, as every footballer wants to play but, at the same time, I have to take a step back and realise where I've come from and where I want to be. Missing the game gave me the opportunity to focus on the people playing in my position and seeing what decisions they made in certain situations was a good experience for me. Make no mistake, though, I'm desperate to play and feel ready for when the manager calls on me."

Moving to Rovers means he's realised his ambition of returning to the Football League after spending two years with National League side Eastleigh.

"I've wanted to get back into the league for a long time, to be honest. All the time I was signing contracts at Eastleigh I had the ambition to play league football again. Every time I played I wanted to impress people and play at a higher level and, fortunately, I did that on a consistent basis.

"The people at Eastleigh understood my ambitions, appreciated me, and managed to get me a move to such a massive club as Rovers. They said some nice things about me when I left and knew what it meant to me to play football and to play at a higher standard."

Our one year sojourn in the fifth tier showed us how difficult a league it is; >

“ I WANTED TO GET UP HERE AS QUICKLY AS I COULD AND I GOT IN THE CAR, MISSED TRAINING ON THURSDAY MORNING AND DROVE UP TO BRISTOL TO GET EVERYTHING SORTED ”

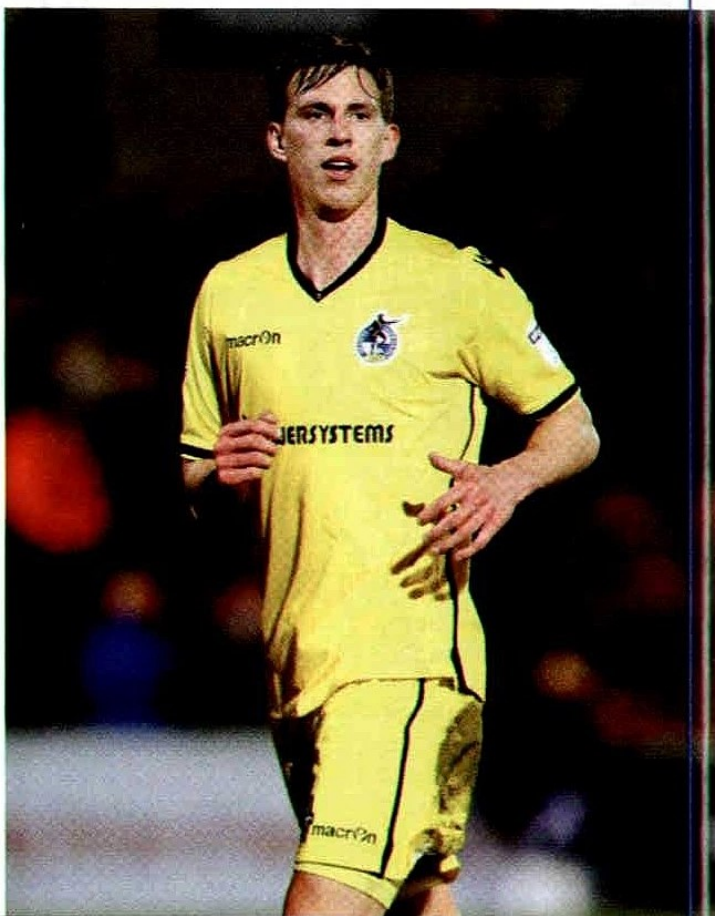
AN INTERVIEW WITH JOE PARTINGTON

"It's a very competitive league as many of the players here can testify. It's also difficult because the conditions, the surroundings and the standards vary quite a lot and determine how games pan out and how the football is played.

"From what I've seen of League One so far there seems to be a lot more focus on the ball,

which is what I enjoy and I think that quality on the ball is more important the higher up the leagues you go and being involved on the ball has always what football has been about for me."

It was rumoured, at the time he signed, that Rovers faced strong competition for his signature; "I know that



was being said, but I was never truly aware of anything, to be honest and when the Eastleigh Chairman told me that Rovers wanted me to sign for them I did everything I could to push things on.

"I spoke to Darrell Clarke and a few other people about the club and it was a no brainer for me. I wanted to get up here as quickly as I could and I got in the car, missed training on Thursday morning and drove up to Bristol to get everything sorted."

He's played at The Mem for Eastleigh, so knows

a little bit about the support the club gets.

"I've never experienced anything like it in terms of noise or atmosphere and when I walked off the pitch at the end of the game I honestly remember thinking that I would love to play here week in, week out. Now it's going to be my home ground and, hopefully, Rovers fans will be cheering me on and not giving me abuse!

"At the moment, though, I'm just looking forward to playing in my first home game for the club."



This week,
on the pitch
and in the
charts

PIRATE SOUNDS

BY LANCE COOK

MY KIND OF MUSIC... JAMIE LUCAS



28 JANUARY

We go back to 1967 when Rovers took on Arsenal in the third round of the FA Cup.

The Gunners won 3-0 thanks to goals from George Armstrong, George Graham and Gordon Neilson. The number one single on this day came from The Monkees with their iconic tune 'I'm A Believer'. Spending a total of four weeks at the top of the chart, it also became the best selling record of 1967.

New music today comes from King's Lynn rockers Deaf Havana, with 'Fever'. The song is taken from their brand new album 'All These Countless Nights', which was released yesterday. This is the follow up to their top ten album from 2013, 'Old Souls'.

TOP 5 - ON THIS DAY - 1988

Tiffany - 'I Think We're Alone Now'

Belinda Carlisle -
'Heaven Is A Place On Earth'

Terence Trent D'Arby -
'Sign Your Name'

Krush - 'House Arrest'

Morris Minor And The Majors -
'Stutter Rap'

Jamie Lucas is the latest player to choose his soundtrack; The young striker was an unused substitute at Walsall last week, and has come back into the squad following a number of loan spells at National League side Boreham Wood.

We kick off Jamie's selections with his first song bought, which is 'Axel F' by The Crazy Frog. Originally known as 'The Annoying Thing', The Crazy Frog came into prominence a decade ago by appearing in adverts. To capitalise on its success, a version of 'Axel F' was released in 2005, and became one of the biggest selling singles of that year, going straight in the charts at the number one spot. It was also a very popular ringtone at the time, which was how Lucas came to buying it. 'I bought it as my ringtone when I was about 12!' he explains. We will let you off for that one, Jamie!

The novelty songs continue as we go into Lucas' choice for his guilty pleasure, which belongs to South Korean musician PSY, with 'Gangnam Style'. Released five years ago, this song took the world by storm and gained number one placements in over 30 countries, as well as achieving a Guinness World Record for the most liked music video on YouTube, which was thanks in part to the dance moves

seen on it. It recently came back into the public consciousness late last year, when politician Ed Balls bravely recreated those dance moves in Strictly Come Dancing.

For his favourite song of all time, Lucas has chosen City Life's 'What Would You Do?'

Released in February 2001 as the lead single from the American R&B trio's self titled debut album. It landed the group a top three single in this country and is the group's most successful single to date. The song was also covered by Bastille and featured on their debut album 'All This Bad Blood'.

For the song that Lucas has chosen for motivation, he takes us to the movies with the featured track from the film about the life of Muhammad Ali, which starred Will Smith's excellent portrayal of the legendary boxer. It comes in the form of R. Kelly's 'The World's Greatest', it was a top five hit for the superstar, reaching the number four spot in the singles chart when it was released in 2002.

We round off Lucas' selections with 'I Would Like' by Zara Larsson, and Sam Smith's 'Stay With Me', which are his favourite song from the past 12 months and his initiation song respectively.

MUSICAL CONNECTIONS - SWINDON

Formed in Swindon in the early seventies, XTC came into prominence in the musical landscape in the late seventies punk and new wave explosion.

Led by songwriters Andy Partridge and Colin Moulding, Despite failing to gain popular success on both sides of the Atlantic, they nevertheless amassed a cult following amongst music fans. Their most successful

album came in the form of 1982's English Settlement, which placed inside the top five of the album charts, thanks in part to songs such as 'Senses Working Overtime' and 'Ball And Chain'.

Also born in Swindon, and going on to be the founder of progressive rock band Supertramp, Rick Davies achieved great success with his band when they relocated to the United States in 1977, releasing the hit album 'Breakfast In America'.



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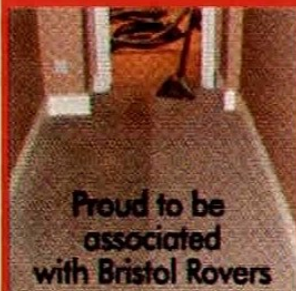
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RICHARD DRYDEN

Most football fans have, at one time or another, picked their 'dream team' – a side made up of their footballing heroes.

Today's Double Bubble guest, former Rovers and Swindon Town defender Richard Dryden, could pick the nucleus of his own dream team, based on managers that he's played for. "If you could put Bobby Gould, Gerry Francis, Terry Cooper, Joe Jordan, Graeme Souness, Glen Hoddle, Peter Shilton and John McGovern in the same line up, you'd be well on the way to having a pretty good side," he pointed out.

Watched playing youth football in Stroud by Rovers legend Harold Jarman, Richard joined the Pirates on a one year youth training scheme. He would make his debut in a 2-1 win at Brentford as a 17 year old, going on to have two years as a full time pro with Rovers. His 20th and last appearance came in a 1-1 draw at Bolton in September 1988. "I moved on to Exeter City, managed by Terry Cooper. Apart from my Mum and Dad, he was, without doubt, the single biggest influence on my career," Richard told me. He would make 105 appearances for the Grecians, enjoyed a loan spell with Manchester City, before joining Neil Warnock's Notts County.

Richard spent two years with County, during which time, he went to Plymouth Argyle on loan to get match fit after injury. "Shilton and McGovern were the management team there at the time and you can only have respect for what they achieved as players," he said.

In March 1993, the chance to link up again with Terry Cooper at Birmingham was too good to turn down. "There were lots of good reasons to go to Birmingham, Terry (Cooper) not being the least of them."

After half a hundred or so games for Brum, Richard moved back to Bristol, signing for Rovers' arch enemies, City, managed by Joe Jordan. "It was great to be back in Bristol but I have to say, it wasn't the best time of my career," admitted Richard.

Richard played 45 games for the Robins between 1994 and 1996, and when he did leave Ashton, it was to move back to the top flight with Southampton. His five years there though were blighted by a serious knee injury, which restricted him to around 50 games.

"I went out on loan to try and get match fit and had spells at Stoke, Northampton and (today's visitors) Swindon Town," said Richard, who made the worse possible start at Swindon by scoring an OG on his debut. He did enjoy winning success in his next two games, but finished his loan spell of just a handful of games with a 1-0 defeat at Port Vale in January 2001.

After leaving the Saints, Richard signed for Luton Town – manager Lil Fuccillo's last signing. "He signed me on the Thursday, our game was postponed on the Saturday and he was sacked the following Monday – but don't blame me!"

In the Summer of 2002, Richard left league football for non league

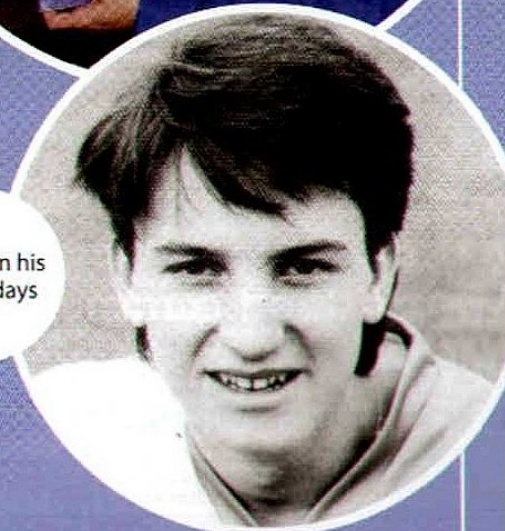
Scarborough, then managed by current Coventry City manager Russell Slade. He moved on to Worksop Town and then had two and a half years as assistant to former team mate Mark Cooper, who was managing Tamworth. Further moves saw him join Shepshed Dynamo, manage Worcester City, rejoin Mark Cooper as his assistant at Darlington and take on a Head of Youth coaching role at York City. He linked up again with Cooper Junior at Notts County, before moving overseas last Summer to experience the Indian League as assistant coach with East Bengal.

He knows a good read when he sees one! Richard in more recent times.

(Photo courtesy Phil McCheyne Photography of Nailsea)



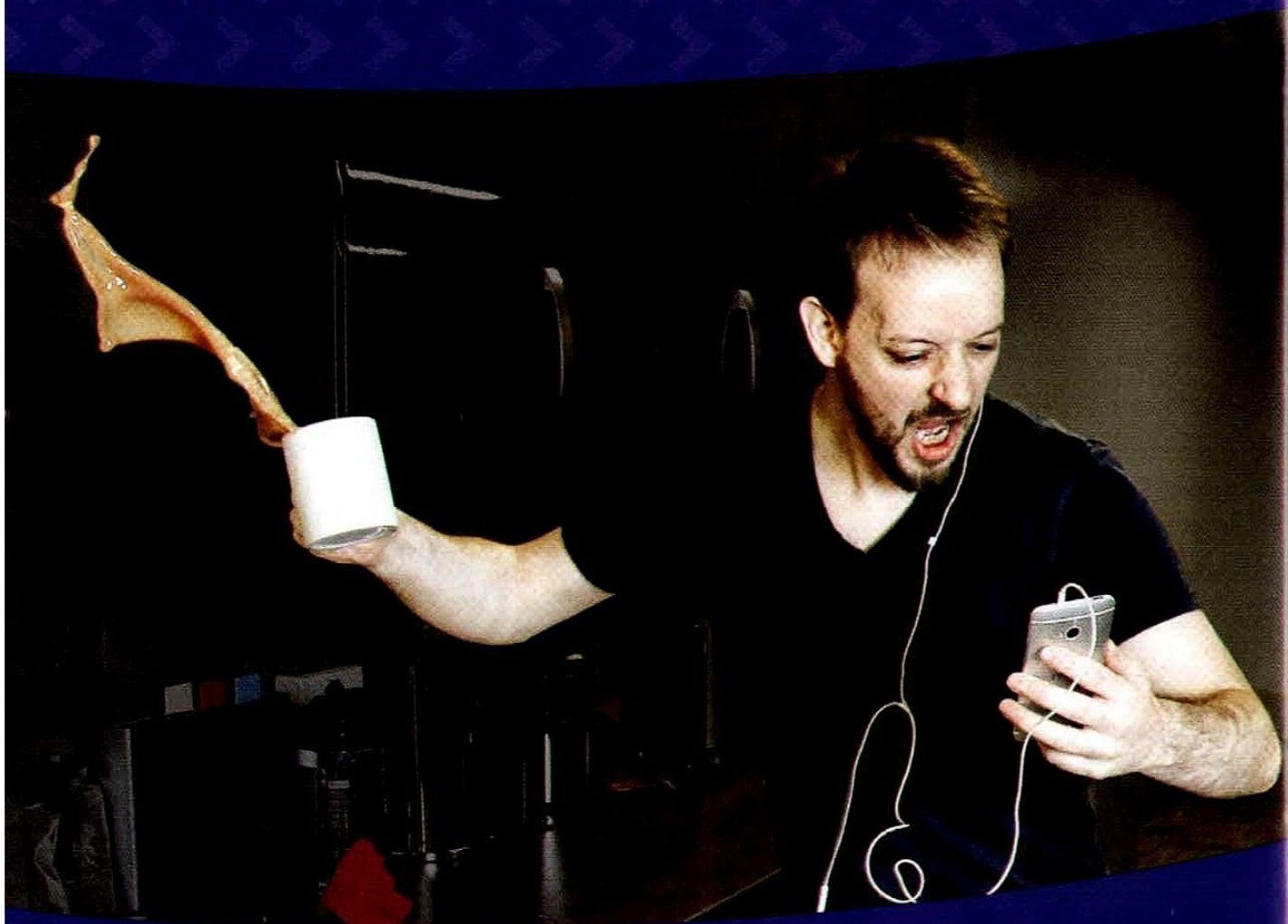
Richard in his Rovers days



Mark's Memory Lane column is featured each week in the Sunday Independent. He is also the author of 'Life After Bristol Rovers', which is available from the Club Shop.

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Player 

FROM THE PAGES OF « THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BULLETINS »

The gleaming Jules Rimet Trophy rises from the centre of the pitch at Everton's Goodison Park on the cover of this January 1966 edition and a venue for several group matches in the forthcoming World Cup finals comprising of just 16 nations, not like the expanded 48 that will compete in 2026.

In the six months leading up to the tournament in July the FA News covered each club ground staging the matches and begin with a trip to Merseyside, where it is scheduled for five internationals on 12th, 15th, 19th, 23rd (quarter final) and 25th(semi final).

The Secretary of Everton, Mr. W. Dickinson, takes over the story for the next three pages of how much these matches mean to the area.

"There is little doubt that the event will be a financial success – ticket bookings have already confirmed that fact. We appreciate that the Merseyside supporter derives his greatest pleasure by watching his local favourites – Everton,

Liverpool and Tranmere Rovers, or one of the more lesser known Professional or Amateur clubs in which the region abounds. Granted that Mexico v France may not have the intimate appeal of Everton v Liverpool or England v any country, but soccer on Merseyside has an irresistible appeal."

Stated above in black and white is the fact that one semi final would be played at Goodison Park and when England were due to face Portugal for a place on the final football's governing body FIFA deemed fit to move the match forward 24 hours and stage it at Wembley, the venue where West Germany and Russia were due to play. More money could be made from a sell out England match at Wembley at this crucial stage and so Merseyside lost out for the big day, despite impressive attendances in the Group 3 matches played there (Brazil – Bulgaria, 47,308; Brazil – Hungary, 51,387; Portugal – Brazil, 58,479; and the quarter final Portugal – North Korea, 40,248). The semi final that was staged at Goodison Park was a poor affair with only 38,273 watching West Germany triumph.

A crowd of over 23,000 packed into The Dell at Southampton on a cold

November night to see an England U-23 side defeat their Yugoslavian counterparts 2-1, with local player Martin Chivers in the lineup. Here is a small snippet from the official report and the all important lineup, including one legend from our visitors today:

"For England it was a much stronger test than that provided by France three weeks previously. The winning goal – a superb header by Chivers – came only 11 minutes from the end.

"Three newcomers in the England forward line, [George] Armstrong (Arsenal), [Ernie] Hunt (Wolves) and [Don] Rogers (Swindon Town), added very little in extra thrust to the attack compared with the team which had played at Norwich and England's success again was mainly due to a strong half back line and a well drilled defence."

England U-23: Stepney (Millwall), Lawler (Liverpool), Thomson (Wolves), Hollins (Chelsea), Mobley (Sheffield Weds), Smith (Liverpool),

Armstrong (Arsenal), Hunt (Wolves), Jones (Sheffield Utd), Chivers (Southampton), Rogers (Swindon).

For the record Yugoslavia fielded a side that included seven full internationals and had gone 1-0 down through a Mick Jones goal on 25 minutes, but were level by the break.

Brazil was certainly planning ahead for the next World Cup in 1970 and had formed four new XI's to play matches all around the world:

"One team will consist of players from Sao Paulo and take part in a tour of Africa and the Middle East, where they will play 20 matches. A second eleven from Rio will play, at the same time, 15 matches in the United States and in Asia. A team from Southern Brazil will meet 12 opponents in South America and a fourth with players from the Northern territories will travel to Eastern Europe and play 15 matches."

With all this going, is it any wonder they were World Champions four years later!



Left: Front cover of the January 1966 edition
Right: Badge and brief history of Swindon Town was part of an A-Z series from the centre pages of the magazine each month, focussing on Football League clubs and their achievements.

SWINDON TOWN

Ground: County Ground, Swindon, Wilt.
Founded: 1881.
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Change Colours: Blue Shirts, Blue Shorts, Blue with White Tops Stockings.
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Club Motto: Salubritas et Industria.
Ground Capacity: 28,500. No. of Seats: 3,500.
Prices for League matches: Ground 4/-. Enclosure 5/-. (Boys half price).
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Outstanding Performances: 14th Div. 2. 1963/64. 2nd Div. 3. 1962-63. F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists 1910, 1912.



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| THE BIGGER PICTURE |
BY KEITH BROOKMAN

● AFC WIMBLEDON 31ST DECEMBER 2017 THE MEMORIAL STADIUM



Matty Taylor has just scored his
and Rovers, second goal, and Ellis
Harrison helps him celebrate





BRISTOL ROVERS

2

Taylor (61 & 70)

Rovers ended the calendar year with their 17th win from 24 league games at The Mem, a twelve month period that had seen them lose just three times at home.

Inevitably it was Matty Taylor who sealed the win, with two second half goals following an

opening 45 minutes when AFC Wimbledon thwarted Rovers by keeping men behind the ball.

It took Rovers half an hour to fashion their first opportunity and then Billy Bodin's left foot shot was saved by goalkeeper James Shea. At the other end, the visitors' best chance came just before the break when Tom Elliott

AFC WIMBLEDON

0

headed straight into the arms of a grateful Will Puddy.

The breakthrough came on 61 minutes. After Taylor had seen a shot saved by the legs of Shea, the striker was on hand again moments later to head past the keeper following a Chris Lines ball into the box.

Lines was the provider

again nine minutes later when his delightful through ball found Taylor and his left foot effort comfortably beat Shea to double the lead.

Bodin fired a shot straight at the keeper and Taylor might have registered a hat trick before the end, but he glanced another cross from Lines just wide of the upright.



AFC WIMBLEDON • 31ST DECEMBER 2017 • THE MEMORIAL STADIUM



- 1 Chris Lines eases past two AFC Wimbledon defenders
- 2 Daniel Leadbitter gets away from Jonathan Meades
- 3 Cristian Montano gets in a cross past Barry Fuller

- 4 Ollie Clarke is challenged by Jake Reeves
- 5 Billy Bodin takes on Paul Robinson
- 6 Ellis Harrison controls the ball as Jake Reeves closes in

KEY FACTS/MOMENTS

- 50th league start for Ellis Harrison
- Matty Taylor takes his total goals for 2016 to 32
- 30 Billy Bodin's low drive is saved by James Shea
- 44 Tom Elliot directs a header straight at Will Puddy
- 61 Matty Taylor's shot is saved by the legs of Shea
- 61 Taylor opens the scoring, as he heads past Shea from close range
- 70 Taylor scores his second goal of the afternoon
- 88 Taylor glances a header just wide of the upright

THE TEAMS



BRISTOL ROVERS

Puddy, Leadbitter, Lockyer, Hartley, Brown, Bodin (Lawrence, 86), Clarke (0), Lines, Montano (Moore, 59), Harrison (Gaffney, 84), Taylor

Substitutes: Clarke (J), Easter, Roos, Colkett

Cards: Montano, Moore



AFC WIMBLEDON

Shea, Fuller, Robertson, Robinson, Meades, Francomb, Reeves, Bulman (Perrett, 67), Barcham (Poleon, 67), Barnett (Charles, 84), Elliot

Substitutes: Beere, Kelly, McDonnell, Egan

Cards: Reeves, Bulman

“ I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT INDIVIDUALS AFTER THIS GAME BECAUSE IT WAS AN OUTSTANDING TEAM PERFORMANCE AND WE COMPETED REALLY WELL ”

Rovers Boss **Darrell Clarke**

“ IN OUR LAST TWO GAMES, AGAINST SOUTHEND AND ROVERS, WE HAVE COME UP AGAINST TEAMS WHO HAVE SHOWN US HOW FAR WE ARE AWAY FROM THEM ”

AFC Wimbledon Boss **Neale Ardley**

“ IT WAS A GREAT WAY TO FINISH THE YEAR AND ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE PRETTIEST PERFORMANCE I THOUGHT IT WAS AN EFFICIENT VICTORY ”

Matty Taylor

BRFC POSSESSION 53%

SHOTS ON TARGET 6

SHOTS OFF TARGET 4

CORNERS 3

FOULS 3

AFCWFC POSSESSION 47%

SHOTS ON TARGET 5

SHOTS OFF TARGET 4

CORNERS 8

FOULS 9

What CIDER'S supposed to TASTE LIKE



EST. 1904

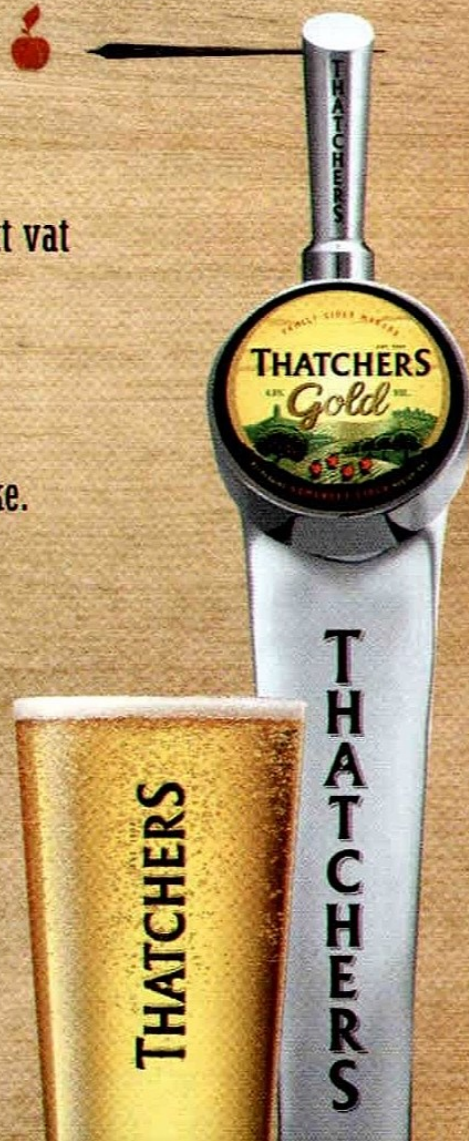


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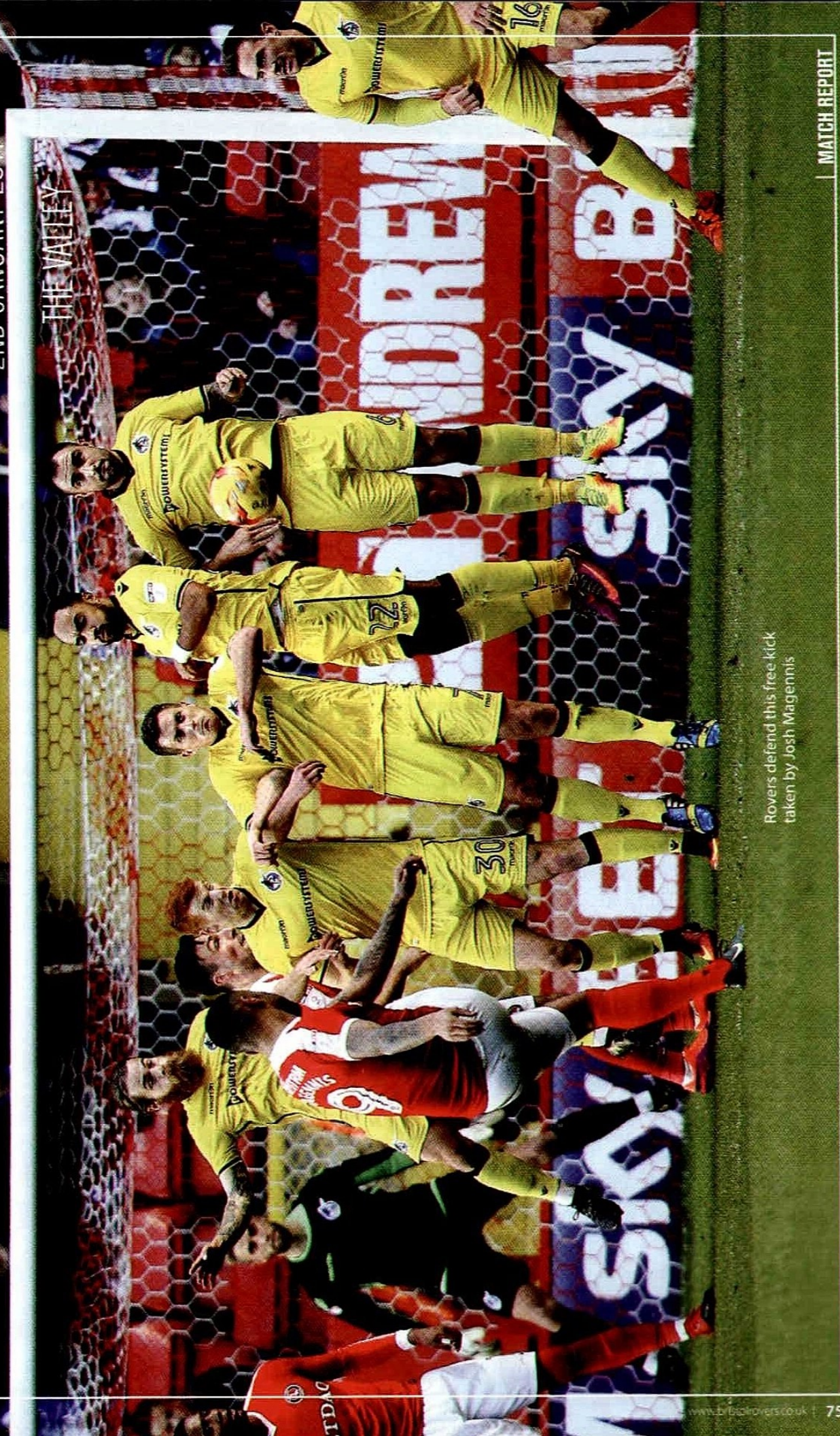
THE BIGGER PICTURE

BY KEITH BROOKMAN

V CHARLTON ATHLETIC

2ND JANUARY 2017

THE VALLEY



Rovers defend this free kick taken by Josh Magennis

MATCH REPORT



CHARLTON ATHLETIC

4

Magennis (41, 50, 74), Teixeira (61)

Rovers will be glad to see the back of Charlton Athletic this season as they followed up their 5-1 win at The Memorial Stadium back in November with a 4-1 win at The Valley.

Defensive errors let Darrell Clarke's side down after a bright start that saw his side take a 12th minute lead

through Jermaine Easter. The striker took advantage of a mistake by home defender Patrick Bauer and raced into the area before rounding goalkeeper Dillon Phillips and rolling the ball into an empty net.

A Josh Magennis effort hit the bar shortly afterwards and the striker equalised for the home side with

BRISTOL ROVERS

1

Easter (12)

four minutes of the half remaining, heading past Will Puddy from a Joe Aribio free kick.

The same combination delivered a second Charlton goal five minutes after the break when Magennis was again allowed the freedom of the area to head his second goal past Puddy.

Aribio was then allowed time and space to play the ball across the six yard box where Jorge Teixeira swept home goal number three from close range and Magennis completed his hat trick, and a miserable afternoon for Rovers, when he beat Puddy after running on to a through ball from Andrew Crofts



CHARLTON ATHLETIC • 2ND JANUARY 2017 • THE VALLEY



- 1 Liam Lawrence on the ball
- 2 Byron Moore gets past Morgan Fox
- 3 Jermaine Easter rounds Dillon Phillips before putting Rovers ahead
- 4 Stuart Sinclair challenges Ezri Konsa
- 5 Lee Mansell on the attack
- 6 Rory Gaffney eyes up his next pass

KEY FACTS/MOMENTS

- Rovers have not won at The Valley since 1958
- First league starts of the season for Liam Lawrence and Lee Mansell
- 12 Jermaine Easter gives Rovers the lead
- 41 Josh Magennis equalises for Charlton
- 50 Magennis scores his, and Charlton's, second goal
- 61 Jorge Teixeira scores a third goal for Charlton
- 74 Magennis completes his hat trick with Charlton's fourth goal
- 87 Another Magennis effort hits the crossbar

THE TEAMS



CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Phillips, Solly (Ajose, 82), Teixeira, Bauer, Fox, Konsa (Foley, 82), Crofts, Chicksen, Botaka, Magennis, Aribio (Ulvestad, 77)

Substitutes: Ahearne-Grant, Mitov, Umerah, Dasilva

Cards: ■ Fox, ■ Chicksen, ■ Solly



BRISTOL ROVERS

Puddy, Leadbitter (Clarke (J), Lockyer, Hartley, Brown, Moore, Sinclair, Mansell, Lawrence, Gaffney (Harrison, 59), Easter (Taylor, 59)

Substitutes: McChrystal, Bodin, Colkett, Roos

Cards: ■ Brown, ■ Mansell, ■ Moore

“WE HAD ENOUGH OF THE BALL AND CREATED PLENTY OF CHANCES TO WIN THE GAME BUT PERHAPS TWO GAMES IN 48 HOURS WAS TOO MUCH FOR SOME OF MY DEFENDERS”

Rovers Boss **Darrell Clarke**

“THEIR GOAL CAME AGAINST THE RUN OF PLAY AND WE GOT BACK IN IT IN THE SECOND HALF. IT WAS OUR SECOND GAME IN THREE DAYS AND OUR PERFORMANCE WAS OUTSTANDING”

Charlton Boss **Karl Robinson**

“WE HAVE 21 GAMES LEFT AND, IF WE CAN RECTIFY THE ISSUES WE ARE HAVING, I'M SURE WE WILL HAVE A GOOD SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON”

Jermaine Easter

BRFC POSSESSION 49%
SHOTS ON TARGET 4
SHOTS OFF TARGET 3
CORNERS 3
FOULS 11

CAFC POSSESSION 51%
SHOTS ON TARGET 5
SHOTS OFF TARGET 6
CORNERS 9
FOULS 9



GOODBYE 'MACCA', IT'S BEEN EMOTIONAL

Rarely has a player experienced such highs and lows during his time with Bristol Rovers as Mark McChrystal.

Not many (if any?! Answers on a postcard...) score their first - and only - goal for the club against Bristol City at Ashton Gate. McChrystal ticked that box in front of the travelling Gasheads on 4th September 2013. I was there that night, and remember him rising highest in a crowded penalty area to head home Lee Brown's free kick just before the hour mark.

One of Darrell Clarke's first actions after taking over as manager was to make McChrystal captain. He was wearing that armband

on the day the club was relegated out of the Football League for the first time. Indeed, as the tension mounted around The Memorial Stadium on 3rd May 2014, McChrystal had a half-chance to change history, lashing a volley just over the crossbar with 15 minutes left.

But in the club's darkest hour, he stayed, and remained skipper.

During the single season in The Vanarama Conference, he even went in goal, away at Wrexham on 2nd December 2014. He kept a clean sheet, of course. "I've never played in goal before so it was an interesting evening." He told us at the BBC. "I said no problem, I'd give it a go. I think I did fine.

Mark McChrystal

But I've gone out there and we've got a clean sheet. It's not as easy as it looks."

Neither is skipping his team to victory in the Promotion Play Off Final at Wembley some six months later, I suspect. The penalty shootout win over Grimsby on Sunday 17th May 2015 made sure McChrystal went down in Bristol Rovers history, becoming just the second man to captain the side to a win at the home of football.

I wonder how that compares to Saturday 7th May 2016, when McChrystal led his team to the most dramatic of victories against Dagenham & Redbridge, to clinch back to back promotions?

Mark McChrystal has always been the first to front up to us in the media when it's gone wrong on the pitch, and - it seems - the last to take any glory when it goes well. He came to Bristol Rovers relatively late in his career, but has played more games for The Gas than for any other team. He may not be the first name you think of when recalling the rollercoaster of the past few years, but he was always there, and should not be forgotten.

President Wael Al Qadi told me this week that McChrystal was "Full of class, a great leader and will have a great coaching career". If that's anything like the past four seasons, he's in for quite a ride!





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NEXT HOME

BY GRAHAM MILLS

Stuart McCall has used just 19 players in Bradford's league campaign so far, as The Bantams sit in a play off position.

He has made two signings in the current transfer window. Alex Gilliead has joined on loan from Newcastle United until the end of the season. The 20 year old winger has England caps at U-16, U-17, U-18 and U-20 levels and has had previous loan spells at Carlisle United and Luton Town.

22 year old striker Alex Jones signed for an undisclosed fee from Birmingham City. He has spent time on loan at Grimsby Town and Port Vale.

The leading goalscorer, ahead of last Tuesday's match, was Jordy Hiwula with nine strikes. He was a summer signing who started his career at Manchester City and took



BRADFORD CITY

EFL SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2017

KO 3.00PM

seasons at Oldham making 68 (+12) appearances scoring one goal from midfield.

Nathaniel Knight-Percival spent six seasons at non league Histon before joining Wrexham. Subsequent moves took the 29 year old defender to Peterborough and then Shrewsbury before joining Bradford in the summer of 2016.

Romain Vincelot is an experienced 31 year old French midfielder who joined the club from Coventry City. He started his career at Dagenham & Redbridge and has also played for Brighton, Leyton Orient and Gillingham.

in Walsall, Yeovil, Wigan and Huddersfield before signing for the Valley Parade club.

Frenchman Timothee Dieng was also a summer recruit. The 24 year old spent two



ROCHDALE

EFL SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2017 KO 3.00PM

Spotland Stadium, Sandy Lane, Rochdale, OL11 5DR

Supporters Club Coaches leave The Kingsway at 8.30am and The Memorial Stadium at 9.00am

Coach Fare: Members £21.50 Non Members £26.50

Ticket Prices (All Seats)

Adults:	£22.00		
65+/U-22:	£16.00	U-17:	£5.00

NEXT AWAY

BY KEITH BROOKMAN



PORT VALE

EFL SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2017 KO 3.00PM

Vale Park, Hamil Road, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, ST6 1AW

Supporters Club Coaches leave The Kingsway at 11.00am and The Memorial Stadium at 11.30am

Coach Fare: Members £19.00 Non Members £24.00

Ticket Prices (All Seats)

Adults:	£22.00	60+/18-21:	£17.00
U-18:	£10.00	U-9:	FREE



BRFC MATCH FIXTURES & STATS

played:
 2 S = substituted
 2 B = booked
 2 G = goals scored & times

used sub:
 1 R = indicates player replaced
 1 O = sent off

EFL = English Football League Cup FAC = Emirates FA Cup
 CT = English Football League Checktrade Trophy

sky BET
 LEAGUE ONE



DAY/DATE	KO/FA	POS	H. ATT. A	REFEREE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AUG	Sat 6	Scunthorpe United	A 1-3	21	4,636	1,012	B Toner							30 1
	Thu 11	CARDIFF CITY EFL Cup1	H 1-0 aet	21	4,851	971	C Kavanagh	S						S
	Sun 14	OXFORD UNITED	H 2-1	12	10,053	1,283	C Breakspear							30 1
	Wed 17	BOLTON WANDERERS	H 1-2	17	9,169	700	O Yates	S	S				S 1	
	Sat 20	Southend United	A 1-1	18	6,084	518	G Ward			1			S	S
	Tue 23	Chelsea EFL Cup2	A 2-3	18	39,266	4,000	K Stroud			1			1	S
	Tue 30	READING CT	H 2-3	17	1,418	69	B Huxtable					21	1	
SEPT	Sat 10	ROCHDALE	H 2-2	19	8,059	137	R Joyce						23	2
	Tue 13	WALSALL	H 1-1	19	7,805	170	B Malone						S 1	
	Sat 17	Bradford City	A 1-1	21	17,499	576	A Haines							
	Tue 20	Swindon Town	A 2-1	15	6,760	414	O Langford						30 1	
	Sat 24	PORT VALE	H 2-1	9	9,088	436	T Kettle						S 1	
	Tue 27	Sheffield United	A 0-1	10	19,196	833	C Sarginson		S					
OCT	Sat 1	Northampton Town	A 3-2	7	6,642	997	G Horwood			1			S	S
	Tue 4	YEOVIL TOWN CT	H 0-0 aet (penalties 5-3)	7	2,117	130	J Adcock		S					30
	Sat 15	GILLINGHAM	H 2-1	8	9,489	389	J Brooks						1	90
	Tue 18	MK Dons	A 3-3	10	8,366	1,008	D Handley						S	S 3
	Sat 22	Oldham Athletic	A 2-0	5	4,394	859	S Stockbridge				S			
	Sat 29	PETERBOROUGH UTD	H 1-2	8	9,839	447	M Hayward						S	30 1
NOV	Tue 1	FLEETWOOD TOWN	H 2-1	5	10,088	41	C Breakspear							S
	Sat 5	Crawley Town FAC 1	A 1-1	5	2,221	518	D Deadman		1					
	Tue 8	Portsmouth CT	A 0-1	5	1,200	65	J Adcock						17	30
	Sat 12	Millwall	A 0-4	5	9,532	1,018	A Madley			35				
	Tue 15	Crawley Town FAC 1 Replay	H 4-2 aet	6	3,676	85	B Toner				S			2
	Sat 19	MK DONS	H 0-0	8	9,031	291	N Miller							S
	Tue 22	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H 1-5	10	8,089	411	S Hooper			27			24	1
	Sat 26	Chesterfield	A 2-3	13	6,330	934	A Haines			1			30	
DEC	Sun 4	BARROW AFC FAC 2	H 1-2	13	4,570	374	D Whitestone						15	
	Sat 10	BURY	H 4-2	9	7,843	166	R Jones	36		1		34	1	1
	Sat 17	Shrewsbury Town	A 0-2	9	6,139	1,509	S Stockbridge						24	
	Mon 26	COVENTRY CITY	H 4-1	10	11,200	902	B Malone			1		14		30
	Sat 31	AFC WIMBLEDON	H 2-0	10	10,093	491	B Huxtable						S 1	
JAN '17	Mon 2	Charlton Athletic	A 1-4	10	12,252	1,571	D Deadman	S					30	17
	Sat 7	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H 5-0	8	8,424	321	G Ward						4	
	Sat 14	Fleetwood Town	A 1-3	9	3,728	769	D England		S		S			
	Sat 21	Walsall	A 1-3	10	6,029	1,991	N Miller	S						1
	Sat 28	SWINDON TOWN	H 12:30											
FEB	Sat 4	Rochdale	A 15:00											
	Sat 11	BRADFORD CITY	H 15:00											
	Tue 14	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H 19:45											
	Sat 18	Port Vale	A 15:00											
	Sat 25	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	H 15:00											
	Tue 28	Bolton Wanderers	A 20:00											
MAR	Sat 4	Oxford United	A 15:00											
	Sat 11	SOUTHEND UNITED	H 15:00											
	Tue 14	Bury	A 19:45											
	Sat 18	CHESTERFIELD	H 15:00											
	Sat 25	Coventry City	A 15:00											
APR	Sat 1	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H 15:00											
	Sat 8	AFC Wimbledon	A 15:00											
	Fri 14	Gillingham	A 15:00											
	Mon 17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H 15:00											
	Sat 22	Peterborough Utd	A 15:00											
	Sun 30	MILLWALL	H 12:00											

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are always mindful that The Memorial Stadium is located in a residential area and we do try to be good neighbours to all of those living nearby.

It's very difficult for those who live close by, especially on a matchday, when pedestrian and traffic flow in the area is particularly high.

Therefore we respectfully ask all of our supporters to treat our neighbours, and their property, with respect when entering and leaving the stadium.

[illegible]

BY MARTYN RADNEDGE

The introduction this season of an end to mid term loans has meant that many clubs have had to carry extra players to cover possible injuries

**suspensions and
general loss of form.**

This rule has placed clubs in the lower leagues in difficulty from a wage point of view.

We have just seen six players told they will not feature in the future and it is to be expected that

many other clubs will be shedding unwanted players to allow possible incoming transfers.

Of course Helpline continues to grow and this means we can give as much support to Bristol Rovers as possible.

If you are not yet a

Helpline member now is the time to join. The more members we have the more we can help our team.

You can join online through brfcdirect.co.uk or ring Kate on 01454 321191.

SHAME ON YOU FIFA

The tears of my old Grandmother, were so hard to endure,
Each droplet pained in anguish, each sweet tear clear and pure,
I watched my grandma say goodbye, to the one man of her life,
The man she's been through world wars with, and long years' man and wife.

My Grandfather was a quiet man, who had fought the First World War,
The experience left the deepest scars, that changed him to the core,
His medals like his mental wounds, were hid deeply out of sight,
And he returned to marry his sweetheart, and raise a family straight and right.

His son, my father, also heard, the call to go to war,
Like so many of his time before, he went off to fight once more,
Like his father did before him, he returned and lived his life,
Doing his best for his fellow men, and for his children and his wife.

Wars are men making madness, when our leaders are out for a fight,
They then ask us millions to join them, swearing by God that it's right,
In foreign fields stand the graves of the lost, in neat rows of Poppies so Red,
The right and wrongs we won't question here,
but it IS right to remember the dead.

It's right to remember the lives lost in war, though no one
condones why they fell,
It's right to remember the many so young, whose short lives
often ended in hell,
So on every November Eleven, it's so right to put one minute aside,
To stand in respect and remember, and to wear your Poppy with pride.

So when the saintly and good of brave FIFA,
fine Great Britain for showing respect,
It is they who should take time to consider, take time to deeply reflect,
For the free world is free for one reason,
it's a reason that should never be lost,
For that freedom so cherished was paid for in lives,
and that is the ultimate cost.

So for FIFA to fine us for wearing, a Red Poppy to honour our dead,
Reveals in them glorious ignorance, and makes me see darker than Red,
I'd love if our FA don't pay the fine, and put principles
before ignorance and hate,
Just remember the tears in your own Grandmothers eyes,
and why the word before 'Britain' is 'Great'...

*There is so much good in Football, but FIFA fining our national sides for
wearing a poppy on November 11th is simply wrong and shows how much
they do not understand the British people or our values. And when one is
right, then it is also right to stand up and demand justice, and not just
meekly pay the fine.
Up the Gas.*

Dr Scumbrum



Honouring
the fallen



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TEAMSHEET

SAT 28TH JANUARY 2017

KO 12.30PM



BRISTOL ROVERS

Manager: **Darrell Clarke**

- 1 STEVE **MILDENHALL** •
- 2 DANIEL **LEADBITTER**
- 3 LEE **BROWN**
- 4 TOM **LOCKYER**
- 5 MARK **McCHRYSTAL**
- 6 PETER **HARTLEY**
- 7 LEE **MANSELL**
- 8 OLLIE **CLARKE**
- 9 ELLIS **HARRISON**
- 10 MATTY **TAYLOR**
- 14 CHRIS **LINES**
- 15 JAMES **CLARKE**
- 16 LIAM **LAWRENCE**
- 17 JERMAINE **EASTER**
- 18 DOMINIC **THOMAS**
- 19 DANNY **GREENSLADE**
- 21 CRISTIAN **MONTANO**
- 22 BYRON **MOORE**
- 23 BILLY **BODIN**
- 24 STUART **SINCLAIR**
- 25 WILL **PUDDY** •
- 26 TYLER **LYTTLE**
- 27 RYAN **BROOM**
- 28 JAY **MALPAS**
- 29 LUKE **JAMES**
- 30 RORY **GAFFNEY**
- 31 JOE **LUMLEY** •
- 32 ALFIE **KILGOUR**
- 33 RYAN **SWEENEY**
- 34 JOE **PARTINGTON**
- 35 JONNY **BURN**
- 36 JAKE **CLARKE-SALTER**
- 41 KIERAN **HODGES** •



SWINDON TOWN

Head Coach: **Luke Williams**

- 1 LAWRENCE **VIGOUROUX** •
- 2 NATHAN **THOMPSON**
- 3 BRANDON **ORMONDE-OTTEWILL**
- 4 CONOR **THOMAS**
- 5 ANTON **RODGERS**
- 6 JAMIE **SENDLES-WHITE**
- 7 BEN **GLADWIN**
- 8 YASER **KASIM**
- 9 JONATHAN **OBICA**
- 10 JOHN **GODDARD**
- 11 JAMES **BROPHY**
- 12 WILL **HENRY** •
- 14 ELLIS **IANDOLO**
- 15 TOM **SMITH**
- 16 JORDAN **STEWART**
- 17 ISLAM **FERUZ**
- 18 JAKE **EVANS**
- 20 CHARLIE **COLKETT**
- 21 FANKATY **DABO**
- 22 SEAN **MURRAY**
- 23 NATHAN **DELFOUNESO**
- 24 JERMAINE **HYLTON**
- 27 BRADLEY **BERRY**
- 28 LLOYD **JONES**
- 29 RAPHAEL **ROSSI-BRANCO**
- 33 LUKE **NORRIS**
- 35 JORDAN **YOUNG**

Swindon Town Last Time Out

v Peterborough United 21/01/17 (H) L 0-1
Vigouroux, Thompson (Brophy), Rossi-Branco,
Jones, Dabo, Kasim, Colkett, Gladwin,
Goddard (Stewart), Feruz (Hylton), Norris.

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MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE:

James Linington



ASSISTANT REFEREE 1:

Neil Davies



ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:

Daniel Leach



FOURTH OFFICIAL:

Christopher Sarginson



LEAGUE ONE TABLE 2016/17

AS AT 26/01/17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
1 Sheffield United	29	17	6	6	53	34	19	57
2 Scunthorpe Utd	27	16	7	4	53	26	27	55
3 Bolton Wanderers	26	15	5	6	35	19	16	50
4 Fleetwood Town	28	14	7	7	42	29	13	49
5 Bradford City	28	11	13	4	34	23	11	46
6 Rochdale	27	14	3	10	41	36	5	45
7 Southend United	27	11	9	7	39	34	5	42
8 Peterborough Utd	27	11	8	8	40	33	7	41
9 Millwall	27	11	7	9	42	40	2	40
10 Bristol Rovers	28	11	6	11	47	50	-3	39
11 AFC Wimbledon	27	9	10	8	38	33	5	37
12 Oxford United	27	10	7	10	34	30	4	37
13 Walsall	27	9	10	8	33	35	-2	37
14 Charlton Athletic	26	8	12	6	33	26	7	36
15 Port Vale	26	8	8	10	29	39	-10	32
16 MK Dons	26	8	7	11	34	37	-3	31
17 Gillingham	27	6	7	12	34	43	-9	31
18 Northampton Town	28	8	6	14	39	48	-9	30
19 Swindon Town	28	7	8	13	27	41	-14	29
20 Shrewsbury Town	28	7	7	14	27	40	-13	28
21 Bury	28	7	5	16	43	55	-12	26
22 Chesterfield	28	7	5	16	28	45	-17	26
23 Oldham Athletic	27	5	10	12	15	28	-13	25
24 Coventry City	27	4	9	14	23	39	-16	21



THE PIRATE

The Official Matchday Programme of

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

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The Memorial Stadium
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Front Cover photo:
Ellis Harrison who scored
four of our five goals against
Northampton in our last
home game