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READING V SWINDON TOWN | SATURDAY 19 AUGUST 2000 | KO 3.00PM

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JOHN MADEJSKI'S WELCOME |

CHAIRMAN JOHN MADEJSKI OBE

I would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Madejski Stadium for this afternoon's opening home League fixture of the season. It promises to be a memorable occasion as we face our local neighbours Swindon Town, who have joined us in the Second Division following their relegation.

This is a very important season and I am confident that we are heading in the right direction. The final 20 games of last season were extremely encouraging, and if we can maintain that kind of form over the course of this season there is little doubt that we will be celebrating in May. Of course, there will be difficult periods along the way and last weekend's defeat at Millwall is just the first obstacle that we have to overcome, but if we approach every game with the right attitude, we will get our rewards in the end. We are striving to constantly improve, and as you will know we have

continued to invest in the squad with the signing of Tony Rougier - I would like to welcome him to the Club and wish him the best of luck.

We are also continuing to invest in other areas of the Club, and the emergence of players such as Darius Henderson and Nathan Tyson proves that all our work with the Academy is already beginning to bear fruit. The fact that we now have ten schoolboy scouts where we used to have just one is a testimony to the improvements we have introduced to the development of young footballers, and we can say with confidence that the long-term future of the Club is in safe hands.

Looking at the more immediate future, our management team of Alan Pardew, Martin Allen, Nicky Hammond and Maurice Evans have already achieved a great deal in a short space of time, and thanks to some very

astute signings we now have a squad to rival anybody in this Division. Undoubtedly we will need everybody in that squad to perform to the top of their ability because injuries and suspensions are part and parcel of football. This is something we have already discovered to our cost this season, but there is no good in feeling sorry for yourself when you are affected by them, instead we have to brush ourselves down and get ready for the next challenge.

You, the supporters, can also play a major part. We saw towards the end of last season how your backing can make a difference to the team, and at Millwall on Saturday it was easy to appreciate how the vocal encouragement of supporters can inspire a home side. Our aim this season is automatic promotion. We can do it, but only with your help.

Best wishes, John Madejski

Swindo



Swindon Town playing squad season 2000 | 01

The 1999/2000 season was an extremely unhappy one for Swindon Town, ending with relegation from the First Division. Their fate was sealed with a run of nineteen League games without a win between October and February, leaving them at the foot of the table and well adrift of the competition.

There was an improvement in the Robins' form towards the end of the campaign, winning

three of their five games in March, including a 1-0 away win against eventual champions Charlton Athletic. However, this did not save them from ultimately finishing bottom of the table and relegation to Division Two. As a result, manager Jimmy Quinn, ex-player and ex-manager with the Royals, left the County Ground to be replaced by Colin Todd.

Todd joined Swindon in May and immediately set about trying to make the improvements to the squad that would allow the Robins to make a swift return to the First Division. The club's new owner and Chairman, Terry Brady, has made money available to develop the squad and a number of new players have already been signed. Highly-rated striker Gary Alexander joined for a fee of £300,000 from West Ham;

Antoine van der Linden signed from Sparta Rotterdam and seven more free transfer signings were made including Juan Cobain from Aberdeen, Matt Hewlett from Bristol City and Australian Danny Invincible from Marconi. The opening game of the season was a 0-0 draw against Colchester United at the County Ground last weekend. The squad included defenders Mark Robinson, Alan Reeves and Adam Willis, who have so far survived the transitional period, as well as debutantes Alexander, Hewlett and Invincible.

The final score was a repeat of the opening fixture last season, when the Robins shared a goal-less draw with Walsall - Swindon fans will be hoping that this will be the only similarity between the two seasons as they aim to return to the First Division.

COLIN TODD |

PROVEN MANAGER

Colin Todd, a composed central defender with Derby County and England in the seventies, took over the reins at the County Ground this summer following the departure of ex-Royal Jimmy Quinn, who had spent eighteen months in the hotseat. Todd's managerial career began with Middlesbrough in March 1990, but he left Ayresome Park in June 1991 after just one mid-table season in charge.

This led to a four-year break from management before he took over at Bolton Wanderers, initially working in tandem with Roy McFarland but then

assuming sole control in January 1996. Wanderers were in the Premiership when Todd took over, but he was unable to prevent relegation at the end of the 1995/96 season.

A year later they were back in the top flight after winning the Division One title, but again they could not prolong their stay in the Premiership and returned to Division One for the 1998/99 season. Todd eventually left the Lancashire club last September after internal disputes, and Swindon fans will be hoping that he has brought his ability to mould promotion-winning sides down to Wiltshire.

PICTURE ACTION IMAGES



n Town

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GARY ALEXANDER |

EXCITING YOUNG STRIKER

Gary Alexander is a highly-rated striker who celebrated his 21st birthday on Tuesday. The South Londoner joined the Robins in early August from West Ham United in a £300,000 deal, and he is now facing a great deal of expectation at the County Ground as he spearheads the strike-force.

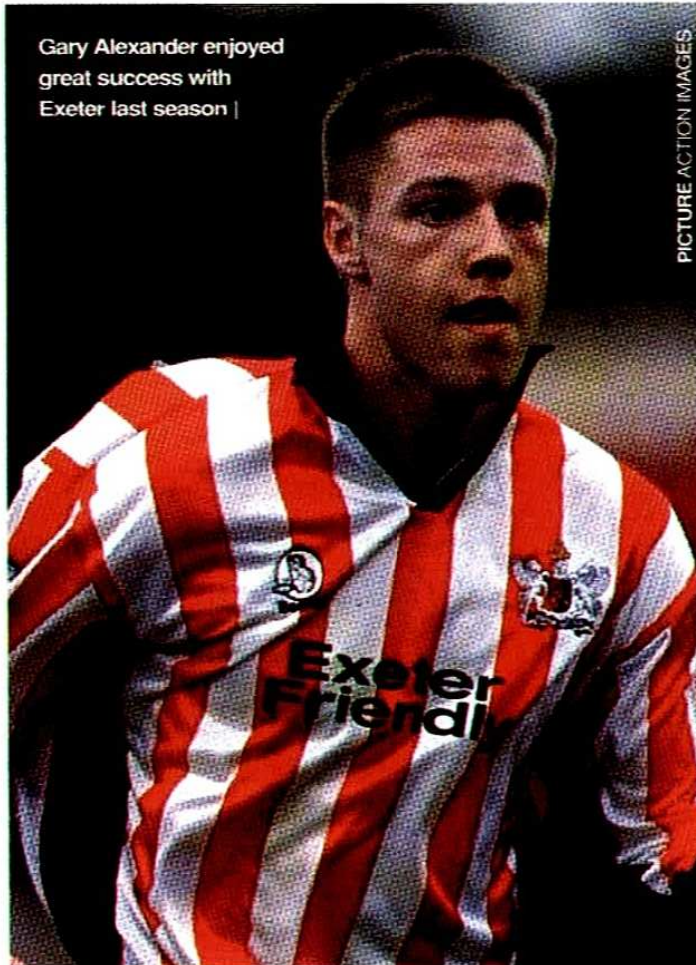
A product of West Ham's famously successful youth development system, Alexander spent last season gaining first team experience on loan with Exeter City. He certainly made a big impression in the south-west, scoring 19 goals in 46 appearances to comfortably finish as top scorer for the

Grecians and contributing a great deal towards their successful efforts to retain Football League status.

Alexander is the only player out of manager Colin Todd's summer signings not to join on a free transfer, and bearing in mind his form last season and Todd's track record for spotting a quality performer, Alexander could be one of the players to watch in Division Two this season.

Although he drew a blank in last weekend's season opener against Colchester, his first goal for Swindon cannot be too far away and Royals fans will be hoping it doesn't arrive this afternoon.

Gary Alexander enjoyed great success with Exeter last season |



PICTURE ACTION IMAGES

ROBINS FACTFILE |

A LOOK BACK OVER THE HISTORY OF SWINDON TOWN

1 | In their first Football League game in Division Three (South), the Robins achieved a record League victory of 9-1 against Luton Town on 28 August 1920.

2 | The highest league scorer in a single season was Harry - Morris with 47 goals during the 1926/27 Division Three (South) campaign. Morris also scored the most League goals in total with 216 during 1926-33.

3 | The Robins enjoyed great success during 1968-70, finishing as runners-up in Division Three in 1968-69, winning the League Cup in 1969, and winning the Anglo-Italian Cup the following year.

4 | The record attendance at the County Ground is 32,000 for the FA Cup third round tie with Arsenal, on 15th January 1972.

5 | In 1990 the Robins 'enjoyed' the unique distinction of achieving promotion and relegation in the same season.

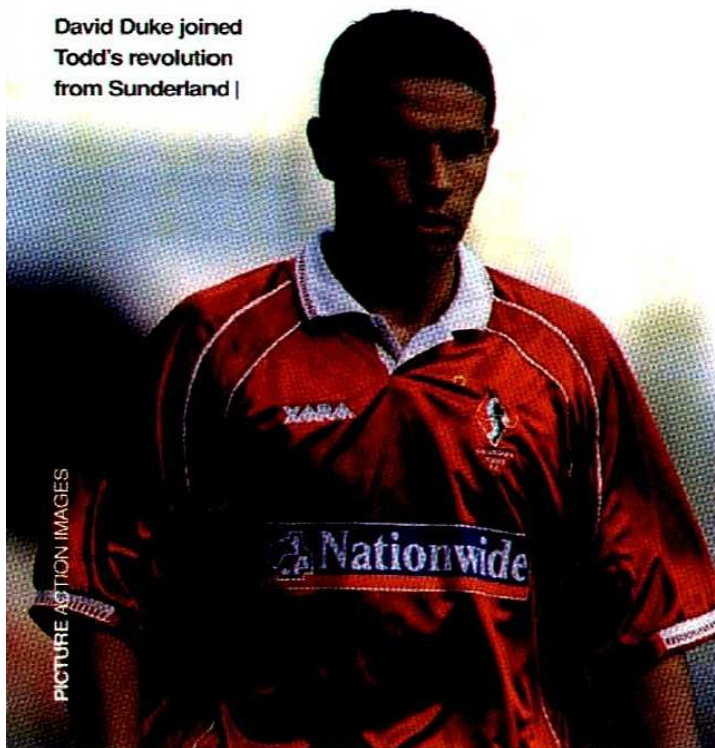
A 1-0 play-off final victory at Wembley against Sunderland earned top-flight status, but within days they had been demoted back to the (old) Second Division as a punishment for financial irregularities.



squad

SWINDON TOWN KEY MEN 2000 | 2001

David Duke joined
Todd's revolution
from Sunderland |



BART GRIEMINK |

AGE | 28

NATIONALITY | DUTCH

The 6ft 4 goalkeeper played second fiddle to England U21 international Mark Tyler at Peterborough for the past couple of seasons, and after only 44 League appearances for The Posh he decided it was time for a new challenge when his contract expired during the summer.

ADAM WILLIS |

AGE | 23

NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

Released by the Coventry, the centre-back was called into action from the reserves towards the end of last season to cover for injuries and suspensions. Some confident displays earned him a place in the starting line-up and he was rewarded with a new contract by Colin Todd.

SOL DAVIS |

AGE | 20

NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

Left-sided fullback who made his League debut shortly after his 18th birthday. Last season he made over 25 first team appearances and his commitment was exemplified by some very tough tackling.

JUAN COBIAN |

AGE | 24

NATIONALITY | ARGENTINE

Cobian joined Aberdeen from Sheffield Wednesday on a free transfer in November 1999 after initially moving to England from Boca Juniors. A rampaging right-sided defender, he moved again this summer, joining the Robins on a free transfer.

BOBBY HOWE |

AGE | 26

NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

An attacking midfielder who signed for Swindon in January 1998 from Nottingham Forest. Last season he fell out of favour in the first team, but after initially being told he could leave the club he has worked hard to re-establish himself in the side.

MATTHEW HEWLETT |

AGE | 24

NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

An attacking midfielder who signed on a free transfer in July. He started at Bristol City, where he failed to live up to his potential. A fresh start may be just the challenge he needs and this season will give him a great opportunity to impress at the County Ground.

DANNY INVINCIBLE |

AGE | 21

NATIONALITY | AUSTRALIAN

Colin Todd believes that the midfielder can become a star after completing a deal to sign the Australian on a free transfer in July. Todd moved swiftly to tie up a deal for Invincible after spotting the 20-year-old playing for West Ham in a trial match.

DAVID DUKE |

AGE | 21

NATIONALITY | SCOTTISH

A left-sided midfielder, he was unable to command a first-team start at Premiership Sunderland after joining them in June 1997 from Reddy. Subsequently signed for the Robins on a free transfer in July, and impressed new boss Colin Todd in several pre-season friendly fixtures.

KEITH O'HALLORAN |

AGE | 24

NATIONALITY | IRISH

O'Halloran made six starts for Middlesbrough before joining St Johnstone in 1997 for £50,000. The natural right-sided midfielder went on to make over 60 appearances for the Saints but chose to join Swindon this summer.

GIULIANO GRAZIOLI |

AGE | 25

NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

Dangerous striker who signed a year ago on a free from Peterborough. His previous visit to the County Ground had been with Stevenage in the FA Cup, when his winning goal dumped Swindon out. Missed most of last season through injury.

CHARLIE GRIFFIN |

AGE | 21

NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

Charlie was signed for £10,000 from Chippenham Town where he was top scorer with 30 goals. He is a good prospect for the future and the coaching staff believe that he will be ready to challenge for a regular place in the side in the coming months.

STEVE COWE |

AGE | 25

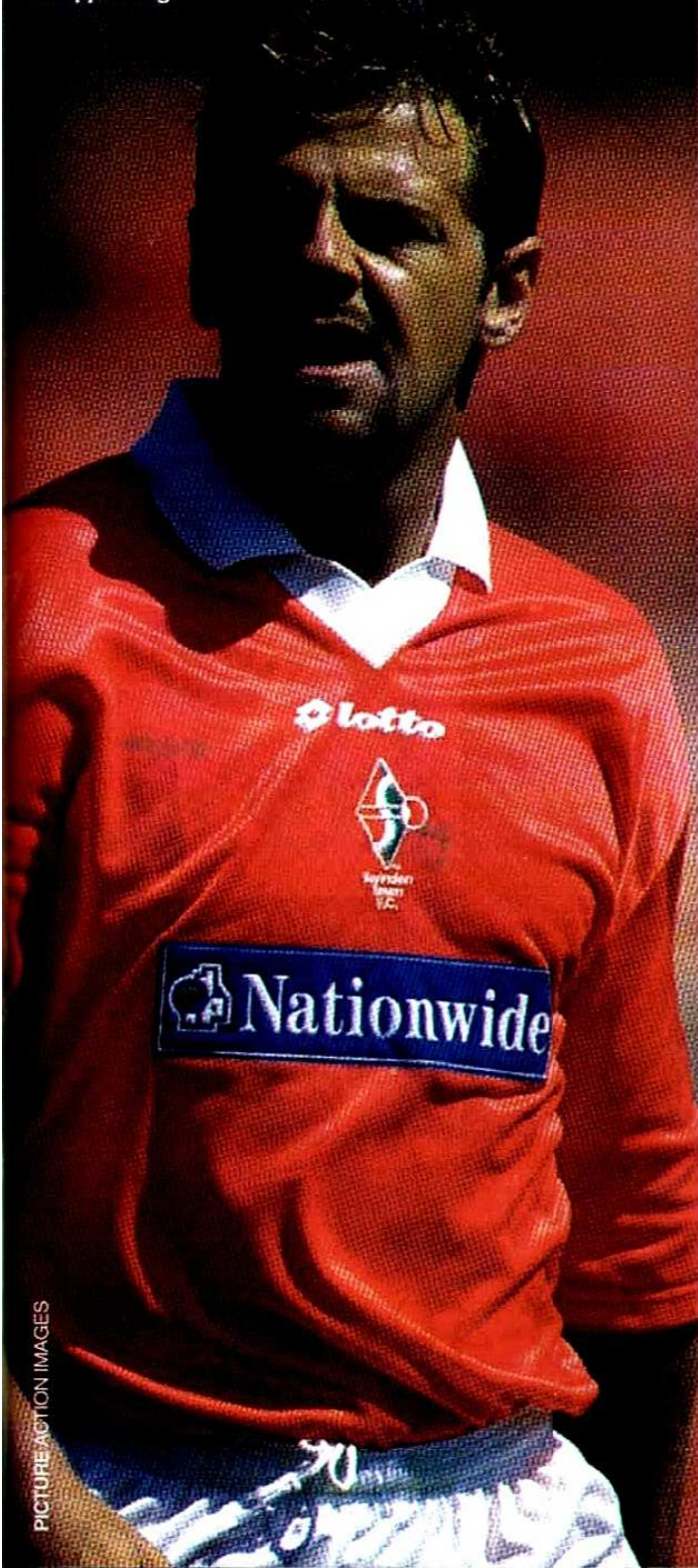
NATIONALITY | ENGLISH

A nippy forward rarely called upon under former manager Jimmy Quinn, Steve tried to find another club after he was told he had no future with the Robins. However, he came in from the wilderness to finish the season strongly and win a new contract.

captain

MARK ROBINSON

"We didn't pass the ball too well last week, and overall it was disappointing."



MARK ROBINSON |

ROBINS CAPTAIN GIVES HIS VIEW ON TODAY'S GAME

Swindon Town's new captain Mark Robinson is one of the players at the County Ground who has managed to survive the recent transformation of the club, and he admits it has been an unusual three or four months. "The changes at the Football Club this summer have been immense. A few months ago we didn't even know if the club would be operating this season, and all of a sudden Terry Brady has come in and injected some money. Now we've got a new big-name manager, as well as fresh coaching staff, and at last count nine new faces in the playing squad with promise of more to come."

With his contract expiring in the summer, the former Barnsley player was unsure of his own future and says "I'm very pleased to still be here myself, because I really didn't know if I still would be, but fortunately I was offered a new contract." Of course, being made captain was an added bonus for Robinson. "I hadn't thought about it at all, I just wanted to get a new contract, so I was quite chuffed to be named skipper as well."

The 31 year-old right-back was disappointed with his team's performance in their opening day 0-0 draw with Colchester at the County Ground last weekend. "All of the players and the manager felt that we didn't play as well against

Colchester as we did in our pre-season games. We didn't pass the ball too well, and overall it was disappointing."

Certainly, performances will need to improve if the Robins are to achieve their objective of regaining First Division status at the first attempt, and Robinson thinks that a good start to the season is vital if his side are to prosper. "The first half-dozen games might set the tone for the rest of the season. We need to build up confidence amongst all the new players, and so it's essential that we make a good start."

With that in mind, this afternoon's clash with the Royals is clearly a very important fixture, and today's match is the first of many derby games for the Robins. "In the last couple of years we've missed out on the derby games, but in Division Two this season we've got all of them, with both of the Bristol sides and Oxford as well as Reading. It's an important game on Saturday."

"I've played for Swindon against Reading a few times in the past and they are always a bit hectic and very competitive - there's a lot of banter between the two sets of supporters so they wouldn't accept anything less. But like most of the lads I've not played at the Madejski Stadium before, and we're looking forward to it."

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Versus

FULL NAME ADI VIVEASH | **BIRTHPLACE** SWINDON |
DOB 30.9.69 | **HEIGHT** 6FT 2 | **WEIGHT** 12ST 2 |
POSITION DEFENDER | **PREVIOUS CLUB** WALSALL

FULL NAME ALAN REEVES | **BIRTHPLACE** BIRKENHEAD |
DOB 19.11.67 | **HEIGHT** 6FT | **WEIGHT** 12ST |
POSITION DEFENDER | **PREVIOUS CLUB** WIMBLEDON

ADI VIVEASH VERSUS ALAN REEVES |

VIVEASH GOES HEAD TO HEAD

ADI VIVEASH |

One face in the Royals line-up this afternoon that will already be very familiar to visiting supporters is Adi Viveash. The Swindon-born central defender started his career with his home-town club and spent seven years at the County Ground without ever fully establishing himself in the starting line-up. During that period he also had two separate loan spells with the Royals at Elm Park before moving on to Walsall in 1995.

Viveash enjoyed a great deal of success in his four full seasons with the Midlands club, twice winning the Player of the Year award, being made club captain and most memorably leading his side to

automatic promotion from the Second Division in 1998/99. This summer it was time for a fresh challenge though, as he joined the Royals on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling in search of more silverware, and he has already established himself in the heart of Alan Pardew's defence.

ALAN REEVES |

Alan Reeves quit Wimbledon's "Crazy Gang" in search of first team football with Swindon, joining the Robins on a free transfer two years ago.

The tall central defender, who had made 69 appearances for the Dons after signing for £300,000 from Rochdale, is an excellent header of the ball and uses his aerial prowess to

pose a considerable threat in attack on set pieces.

Reeves started his career with Norwich City after impressing for non-league Heswall near his native Birkenhead. He was unable to make the grade at Carrow Road and after a loan spell with Gillingham a £10,000 fee took him to Chester.

It was with Rochdale, though, that he made his name, earning himself a move to the Premiership with the Dons in 1994. Despite being linked with several clubs in the summer, Reeves is now working hard to command a first team place under new Robins manager Colin Todd and can play a key role in the side's attempt to make a swift return to the First Division.

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2000 | 01 MATCH TICKETS

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matchday £6

UPPER WEST STAND |

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Concessions |
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By popular demand the East and North Stands will be unreserved seating unless otherwise indicated by the Club. The ticket office is open between 9 and 5.30 Monday-Friday, and season tickets can either be purchased in person or by telephoning 0118 968 1000.

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NORTHAMPTON TOWN V READING |

Nationwide League Division Two Saturday 26th August, kick off 3pm, Sixfields. This game is all-ticket for Reading supporters, none will be available to purchase on the day of the game. Tickets are now on general sale from the Madejski Stadium ticket office. Seats are available in the South Stand - unreserved seating. Adults £12, concessions (seniors and juniors) £8.50.

HOW TO GET THERE |

NEAREST RAILWAY STATION | Northampton Castle (two miles)

BY CAR |
Exit the M1 at Junction 15A following the signs for Sixfields Leisure onto Upton Way - the ground is approximately two miles.

LEYTON ORIENT V READING |

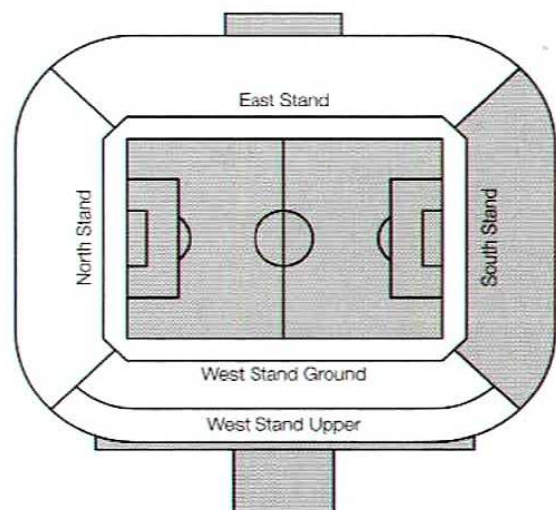
Worthington Cup First Round First Leg Tuesday 22nd August, kick off 7.45pm, Brisbane Road. Tickets will be available on pay on the day basis. Adults £12, concessions £6

HOW TO GET THERE |

NEAREST RAILWAY STATION | Leyton Midland Road (0.5 miles)

BY CAR |
At the end of M4 take the A406 North Circular, following signs for Chelmsford to Edmonton. After 2.5 miles take 3rd exit at roundabout towards Leyton (A112).

Pass railway station and turn right after 0.5 miles into Windsor Road and left into Brisbane Road.



nationwi

A ROUND-UP OF THE OPENING NATIONWIDE ACTION

NORWICH | CANARIES PREPARED TO LOSE STAR STRIKER TO COVENTRY

At the time of going to press Norwich City were set to lose star forward Craig Bellamy. The 21-year-old Welsh international was reportedly wanted by Wimbledon who have received a huge influx of cash over the summer, while Newcastle were also believed to be interested in a front-runner regarded as the prize asset at Carrow Road. But the Canaries, who opened their campaign with a 1-0 defeat at Barnsley, agreed a fee of £6.5m with Coventry for a player whose progress last season was badly disrupted by injury.

PORTSMOUTH | AWFORD GIVEN ALL CLEAR

Portsmouth fans will be relieved to hear that Andy

Awford has been given the all-clear after suffering a neck injury during his side's 2-0 defeat last Saturday which required him to be stretchered off the field. There were fears that Awford's injuries were serious after a three-way collision with Sheffield United keeper Russell Hoult and striker David Kelly left the defender unconscious. The player was allowed to leave Sheffield's Hallamshire Hospital on the same day suffering from concussion and whiplash-style injuries. Awford is now partnered in defence at Fratton Park by former Royal Linvoy Primus, who suffered the misfortune of marking his full debut with an own goal.

PRESTON | MOYES MOANS DESPITE WIN

Last season's Second Division champions Preston North End opened their Division One

Injured - Cambridge's skipper Paul Wanless |

PICTURE ACTION IMAGES



campaign with a splendid 2-1 away win at Grimsby, sealed with an excellent strike by last year's leading scorer Jon Macken before the hosts replied with a last minute consolation. Despite the opening day three points North End boss David Moyes was still bemoaning the goal conceded, saying, "I was disappointed to give away a goal in the way we did, but overall I thought we deserved the victory."

WATFORD | HORNETS STING IN THE TAIL

Watford manager Graham Taylor admitted that his team were lucky to win at Huddersfield on the opening day of the season. The Hornets won 2-1 at the McAlpine Stadium but had to defend for large periods of the match and Taylor acknowledged the Hornets were fortunate to take home all three points. "I would have been happy with a point after our first-half performance," admitted Taylor. "To come away with three is something of a miracle." Terriers boss Steve Bruce agreed: "It's totally

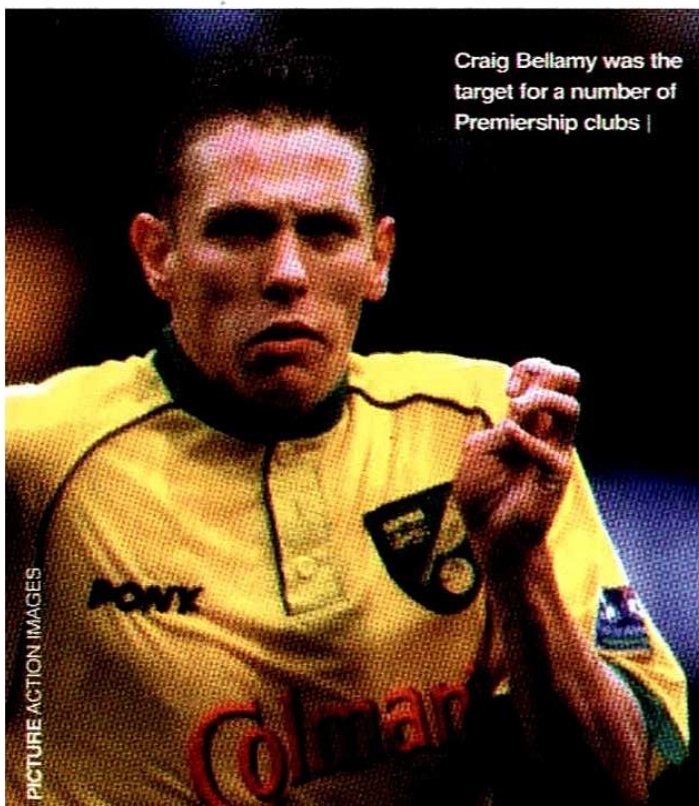
frustrating. We were a joy to watch for 40-minutes and, overall, I couldn't ask for more from my players."

CAMBRIDGE | BOSS BEMOANS SKIPPER LOSS

Cambridge skipper Paul Wanless suffered a sickening injury in the 1-0 home defeat against Bury last weekend. The 26-year-old midfielder was carried off on a stretcher after a clash of heads with Bury player/manager Andy Preece on the hour mark and had to receive 10 stitches in a head wound. Losing such an influential player made all the difference to the game's outcome according to Cambridge boss Roy McFarland. "It was the turning point and we were never the same after Paul went off," admitted McFarland, whose side were already trailing 1-0 after Paul Barnes' opener just before the interval.

LUTON | OVENDALE MAKES HATTERS MOVE

Ricky Hill's Luton Town have snapped up goalkeeper Mark Ovendale from Bournemouth in



Craig Bellamy was the target for a number of Premiership clubs |

PICTURE ACTION IMAGES

de news

a deal worth £425,000. The former Barry Town 'keeper joined the Hatters just four days before the start of their season-opener against Notts County, but could do nothing to prevent a 1-0 defeat as Mark Stallard netted a 24th minute winner for the visitors at Kenilworth Road. Cherries boss Mel Machin was sad to see Ovendale go. He said, "Mark has done brilliantly for us in the years he has been here. He had one year left on his contract and the offer Luton made was a good one." Machin replaced Ovendale immediately by signing Frenchman Michael Menerrier from Metz on a free transfer. The 21-year-old played in a recent friendly against Fulham, and will challenge Gareth Stewart for the number one jersey at Dean Court.

MILLWALL | LIONS EARN INTERNATIONAL CALL-UP

Millwall players Marc Bircham and Michael Gilkes were called up for international duty by Canada and Barbados respectively. Bircham faced Mexico on August 15 and ex-Royal Gilkes played on August 16 against the USA. Bircham has been recovering from injury recently and made a brief substitute appearance against the Royals last week, while winger Gilkes has not featured in the first team too regularly because of the impressive form of Christophe Kinet, who had a particularly good game against the Royals.

SWINDON | ROBINS WILL BE AHEAD OF REST

Swindon Town's millionaire backer Terry Brady has pleaded for patience from fans. Despite a new manager in

Colin Todd and nine new signings in the team the Robins could only draw 0-0 at home against Colchester last weekend but the new owner is not too concerned. "Everybody is going to have to work hard to get things right," commented Brady. "But we believe we've got the personnel capable of taking the club forward." Brady was appointed after acquiring a controlling interest in the club and made it clear that his first task will be to form a new board of directors at the County Ground.

BLACKPOOL | SEASIDERS SAVIOUR WINGS IN

Blackpool boss Steve McMahon was delighted with his latest capture from Wolves, winger Paul Simpson who scored a crucial goal on his debut for the Seaside last weekend. With the game against Hull at Bloomfield Road finely poised at 1-1 and with five minutes left, Simpson popped up with an assist and then a late winner to make the

final score 3-1. A delighted Pool boss Steve McMahon praised his star wingman. "You need something different like Paul Simpson at a club like this to help change the game," beamed McMahon.

LEYTON ORIENT | SUGAR TAKEOVER TURNS SOUR

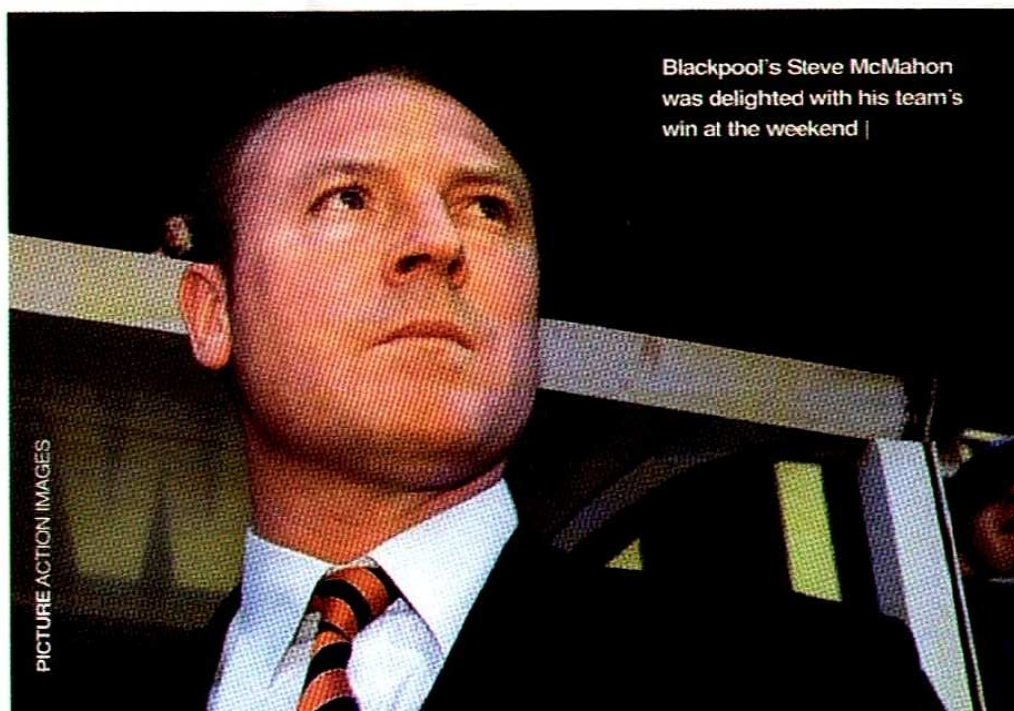
Daniel Sugar, the son of Tottenham chairman Alan, has made an approach to buy Leyton Orient, the Royals forthcoming Worthington Cup opponents. Orient chairman Barry Hearn has confirmed that Sugar Junior asked about the possibility of taking over at Brisbane Road but he was given short shrift.

"Daniel made an inquiry but I have no intention of selling and I don't think the football authorities would have allowed him to own Orient while his father had a large stake at Tottenham," revealed Hearn. Rules state that no individuals or associates can own more than 10 percent of two clubs

and there are rules specific towards close relatives being classed as an associate. Daniel Sugar owns less than one per cent in Spurs but his father has 40 percent meaning that neither would be able to buy into another club.

TORQUAY | UNITED LEFT FUMING AT HARRIERS' JOY

Torquay United were furious after conceding a controversial opening goal to Football League newcomers Kidderminster last Saturday. The new boys appeared to be handed a gift when Harriers skipper Ian Clarkson looked well offside in setting up the first goal, but there were no complaints later on when a glorious 25-yard volley from former Southampton and Everton star Barry Horne finally put the skids under the Devon team for the second goal. Kidderminster have become the first ever club from the county of Worcestershire to play League football.



Blackpool's Steve McMahon was delighted with his team's win at the weekend |

A young boy with dark, curly hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt, stands against a wall of peeling, grey and white paint. He is holding a violin that is ingeniously constructed from various tools: a hammer for the body, a saw for the neck, and a yellow pencil for the f-hole. He is looking down at the instrument with a focused expression.

All kids are inventors.

It's because they're not afraid to get their hands filthy. To eat the glue. To use a hammer as a brush. To break something just to see how it works. And to start with the impossible, which is where grownups usually stop. Just a few of the things we're keeping in mind as we invent the new hp. Want to come along?

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quiz time

AND ALL THE YOUNG ROYALS TRAVEL DETAILS

FILL THE GAPS I

Can you complete gaps in the Royals starting line-up at Millwall last week?

Phil Whitehead
Ricky Newman
?????
Barry Hunter
?????
Darren Caskey
Phil Parkinson
?????
Jim McIntyre
Keith Scott
?????

WHICH ROYAL I

- 1 | scored our last goal of last season?
- 2 | made his Reading debut against Colchester in January?
- 3 | scored the goal in the 1-1 draw at Brentford last season?
- 4 | signed for £100,000 on deadline day last season?
- 5 | scored twice as we beat

an Army side in a friendly earlier this summer?

6 | joined from Norwich City in the summer of 1998?

7 | started his career with York City?

8 | spent the summer recovering from a shin injury?

9 | scored our goal against Plymouth in the FA Cup last season?

10 | played for Wrexham before joining Reading?

WHO PLAYS WHERE I

Which club plays their home games where?

Derby County
Filbert Street
Cambridge United
Carrow Road
Leicester City
Abbey Stadium
Norwich City
Fratton Park
Portsmouth
Pride Park

ANSWERS I

FILL THE GAPS I

Matt Robinson
Adi Viveash
Lee Hodges
Tony Rougier

WHICH ROYAL? I

- 1 | Darren Caskey
- 2 | Matt Robinson
- 3 | Andy Gurney
- 4 | Sammy Igoe
- 5 | Darius Henderson
- 6 | John Polston
- 7 | Graeme Murty
- 8 | Martin Butler
- 9 | Jim McIntyre
- 10 | Barry Hunter

WHO PLAYS WHERE? I

Derby County |
Pride Park
Cambridge Utd |
Abbey Stadium
Leicester City |
Filbert Street
Norwich City |
Carrow Road
Portsmouth |
Fratton Park

young royals

AWAY TRAVEL I

The Young Royals club organises discounted travel to watch the Royals away from home for all members. Our coaches are modern, comfortable, and the travel fare always includes match tickets.

Our next away match is at Northampton next Saturday, and we now taking bookings for the visit to the Sixfields Stadium. Prices for the trip are £10 for Young Royals members and £15 for accompanying adults. The coach will depart from madejski Stadium at 11.30am. Call Grace Kearney on 0118 968 1310 to book.



THANKS THE ENTERTAINER I



Thanks to The Entertainer, Reading's premier toy shop, for supplying all the sweets that Kingsley is giving out today. If you want some great toys, you know where to go - to the shop that supports Reading FC!

KEY WINDOWS

A big thanks to Mr Mark Edgell and his company, Key Windows, for sponsoring the outfits for our Young Royals 2000/1 ballboy/girl squad. Call Key Windows on 01344 777515.

WHICH ROYAL | QUESTION 5



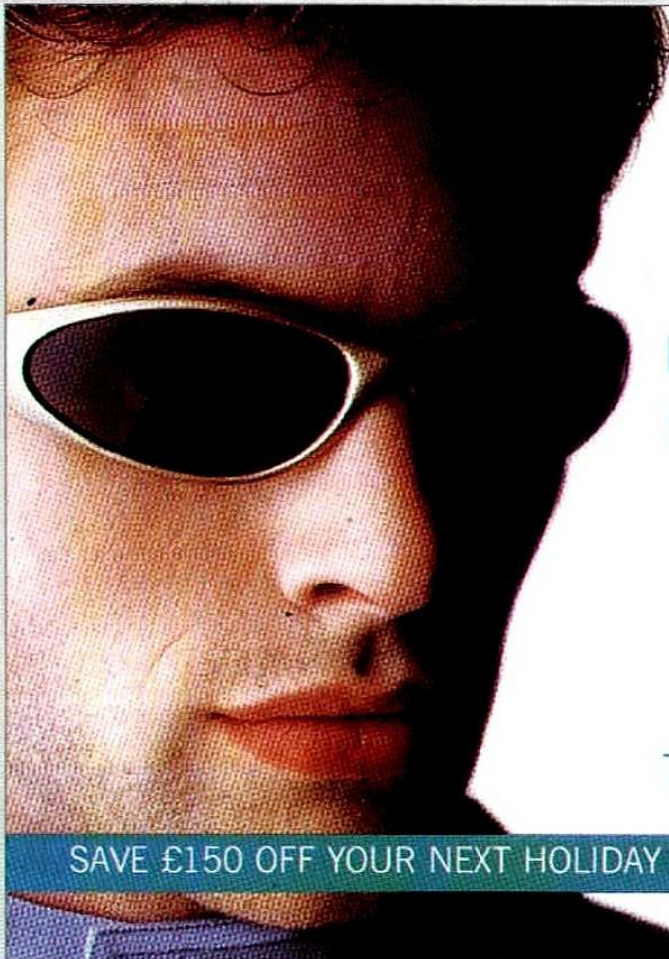


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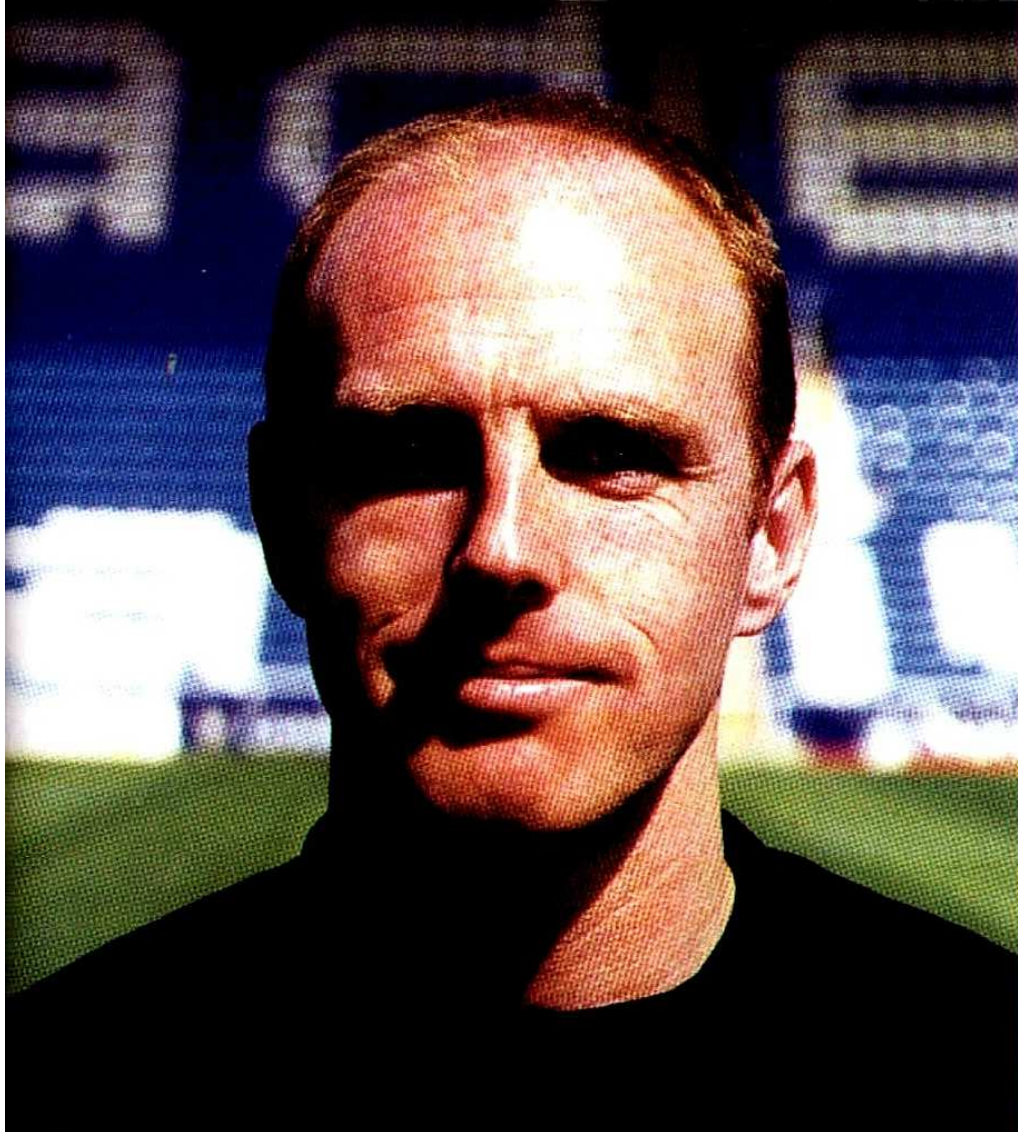
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We need to spend time in training working on sharpening up the timing of our strikers' runs |

ROYALS UNDER SEVENTEENS |

UNDER 17 COACH STEVE KEAN

Last Saturday we played a friendly fixture at Portsmouth, and it was a good game in difficult conditions for the lads. It was our first competitive game of the new season and the game was played on a very hot day with a big pitch and hard ground, but we acquitted ourselves well in difficult conditions.

Before the game we were stressing to the players that this was a continuation of our pre-season programme, so not to worry about the result and focus more on the technical aspects and the fitness side of the game.

We played well and dominated the game from the opening

minute to the final whistle, and it was really just a matter of time before we scored.

The one thing that was a little disappointing was that we had so much of the play but only managed to score one goal, which came with about ten minutes to go through Steve Laidler, who has done well throughout the pre-season.

It was also very pleasing that our two under 15 players who had come on as substitutes, Bailey and Bird, were both involved in the build-up to the goal before Laidler tucked it away to secure a 1-0 win.

We need to spend time in training working on sharpening up the timing of our strikers'

runs and the type of crosses that are delivered to them, but at this time of the season, when players have mostly been working on the physical side of the game, they're bound to be a little bit rusty on the technical aspects.

All in all we were delighted with the exercise, we knew it would be a good test against Portsmouth and the lads came through with flying colours, so now we're looking forward to our next friendly fixture, against Nottingham Forest on Monday.

TEAM I

Cox, Stevens (Bird), Beckles, Stanley, Theo, Clissold (Bailey), Howell, Lagudi, Corbisiero, Laidler, Samuels

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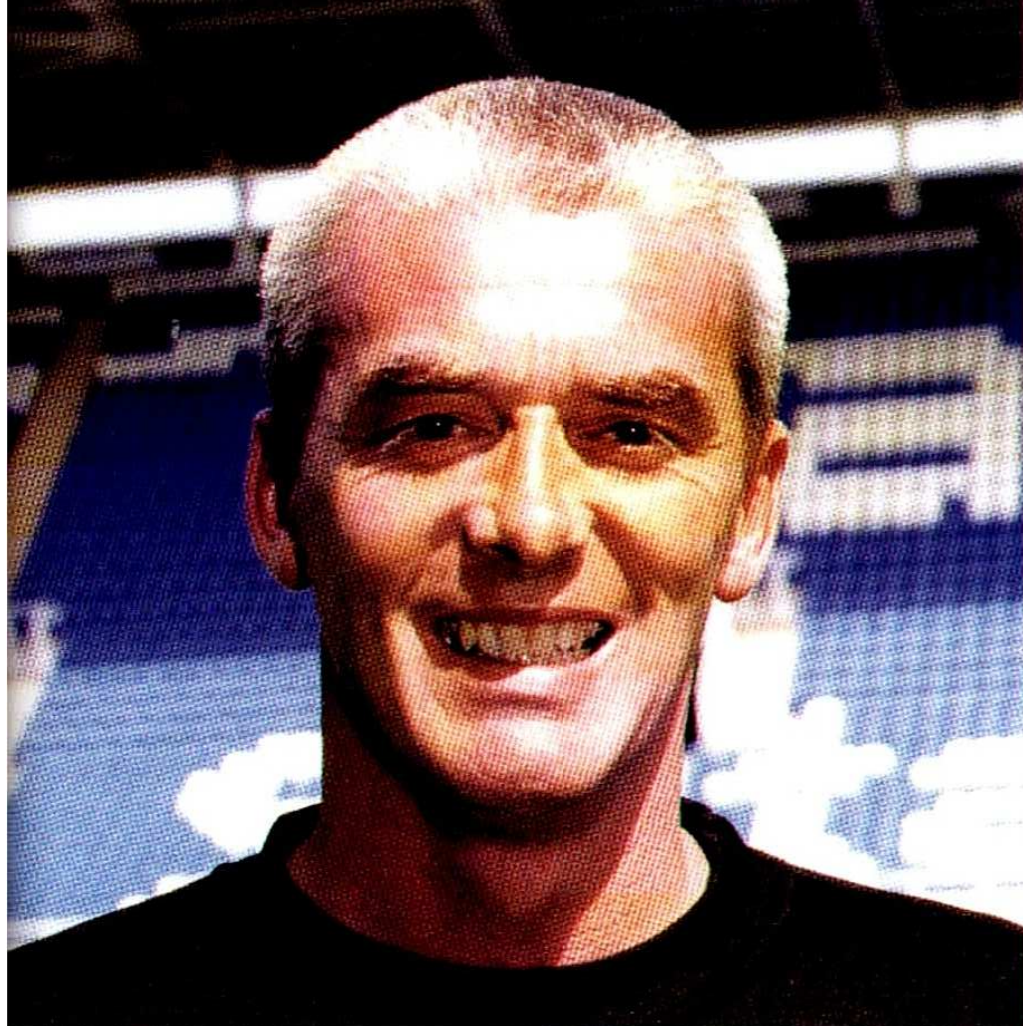
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Our bad journey down seemed to affect the team and we played poorly in the first half |

ROYALS UNDER NINETEENS |

UNDER 19 COACH KEVIN DILLON

Last Saturday our under 19 side travelled down to the south coast - getting stuck in traffic for three hours along the way - to play a friendly fixture against Portsmouth.

This followed on from a game against Oxford the previous week when we won 3-0 with goals from Kenny Strandberg, Declan O'Hara and trialist Podraig Drew. Our side against Portsmouth included three trialists, with the rest of the side composed of second and first year scholars.

Our bad journey down seemed to affect the team and we played poorly in the first half. After a sluggish start to the second period we went a goal down after 50 minutes, but we immediately responded through a penalty which Joey Alcott converted with ease

after he had been fouled inside the area.

This equaliser was quickly followed by a superb individual goal by Craig Brown, who received a diagonal ball, jinked his way past a couple of defenders and then struck a fierce rising shot from 15 yards that the goalkeeper could only parry into the roof of the net.

There was more to follow as another goal of equal quality by Alcott made it 3-1 soon afterwards - Joey made a good run and as the ball dropped over his shoulder he hit a superb volley into the top corner from 20 yards.

After this Mark Boddy (twice), Brown (twice), Alcott (twice), and Birnie (once) all missed one-on-one chances with the keeper, so our finishing in that

kind of situation is definitely something we'll be working on in training. We then conceded a very late goal due to some very sloppy defending to make the final score 3-2.

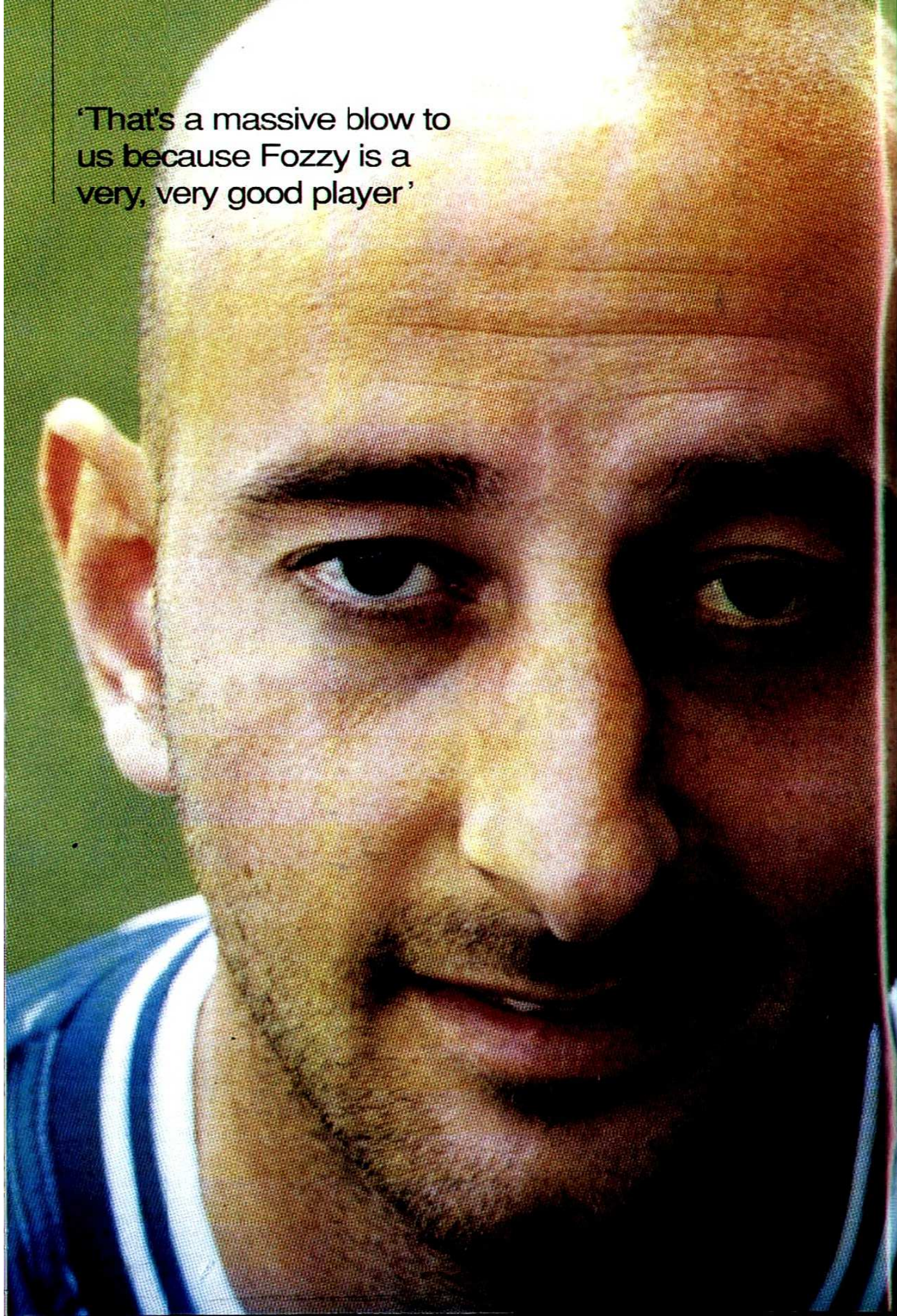
Overall it was a good performance after a slow start, with outstanding displays from Alcott, Brown and Boddy, and it was noticeable that our boys had superior fitness levels and technical ability.

Portsmouth play their youth games outside of the Academy structure, so it shows that the only place to be to develop quality young players is in the Academy.

TEAM |

Brennan, Nathan Stamp, Neville Stamp, Lockwood, O'Hara, Brown, Sopotwa, Boddy, Birnie, Alcott, Tait

'That's a massive blow to us because Fozzy is a very, very good player'



FULL ON FULL-BACK |

'ROOSTER' LOOKS AHEAD TO THE NEW CAMPAIGN

WHAT DID YOU GET UP TO OVER THE SUMMER? |

I just tried to relax during our break. I went on holiday to Ayia Napa with some friends from when I played with Southampton - Kevin Davies and a few of the others.

HAVE YOU BEEN HAPPY WITH YOUR PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS? |

The pre-season went very well, although the result and performance at Millwall last Saturday didn't reflect how we'd been doing in the friendly games. That can happen though, which is why the pre-season is really all about getting your fitness levels right and organising the team rather than results.

HAVE YOU RECOVERED FROM THE HAMSTRING PROBLEM THAT FORCED YOU TO PULL OUT OF THE CHARLTON GAME? |

I have fully recovered now. I had to miss a few days training last week, which didn't help in my preparations for the Millwall game, but that's no excuse - and I know I didn't play that well last week. So I just want to go out and put that right against Swindon.

WHAT'S YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE GAME AT MILLWALL ON SATURDAY? |

We're all very disappointed about it because we know we didn't perform well. We've got a lot more about us than we showed last week, and we want to prove it to ourselves, the fans and everybody else in the League.

I can't really put my finger on what went wrong, I just think we had too many players who didn't perform on the day, and as a team we weren't playing the way we have been over the past few months. Having said that, Millwall are a good team and they played very well. Millwall is always a very difficult place to visit, and they were tough and very well organised. I think they'll be a top team this year, but even so we didn't do ourselves justice.

IN ADDITION TO MILLWALL, WHO ELSE DO YOU FANCY TO CHALLENGE FOR PROMOTION THIS SEASON? |

I think Wigan will be strong again, and I expect Bristol City to have a good season - they finished well last year and now they've got a good new manager in Danny Wilson.

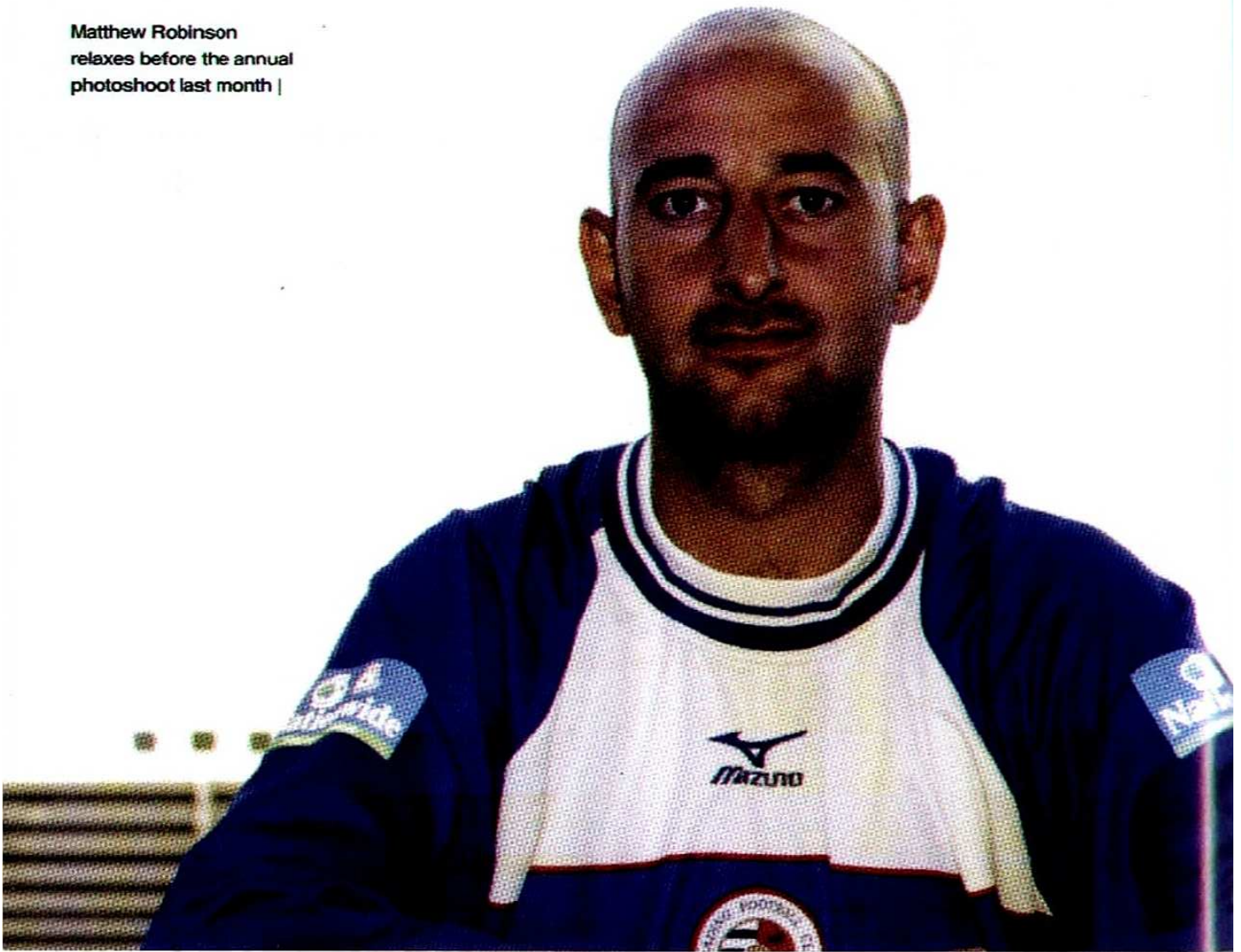
The teams that come down will be desperate to bounce straight back up, and of course that includes Swindon who we know will give us a tough game on Saturday. I experienced a derby game against Oxford last season and I thoroughly enjoyed that because we played well and won convincingly, so I'm looking forward to playing Swindon. It should be a good crowd and hopefully we'll get our first win of the season.

HOW HAVE THE PLAYERS REACTED TO THE NEWS ABOUT NICKY FORSTER? |

That's a massive blow to us because Fozzy is a very, very good player and he was an important member of the team.

Towards the end of last season he showed just how good he is, and with his pace and ability he'll always cause problems for any defence. So of course we will miss him, but we've got a very good squad, strong enough to cope with losing him, with plenty of players who can come in for us. And the signing of Tony Rougier will give us another option - he did well on his debut at Millwall and there's promise of a lot more to come from him. >

Matthew Robinson
relaxes before the annual
photoshoot last month |



ON THE SPOT |

MATTHEW ROBINSON STEPS UP

BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON YOUR CAREER: |

Obviously my parents, who encouraged me a lot, and then there was a coach at Southampton called Dave Merrington who brought me up through the youth team. He was there for quite a few years and helped develop a lot of the young players like Alan Shearer and Matt Le Tissier, and became first team manager for a season as well. The last I heard he was the youth team manager at Leeds where he brought through a lot of their current first team players.

FAVOURITE PLAYERS TO WATCH: |

When I was younger I always liked watching Bryan Robson and Peter Beardsley, and now I think Ryan Giggs is a great player. In my position I think Denis Irwin has always been someone to look up to.

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID: |

I was a Man United fan.

BEST GOAL SCORED: |

That's an easy one because the only goal I've scored in League football was against

Bury two seasons ago for Pompey. It was a diving header, not far out from goal but they all count! I used to score quite a few as an apprentice, I was top scorer at Southampton in the youth team and the reserves when I played in midfield.

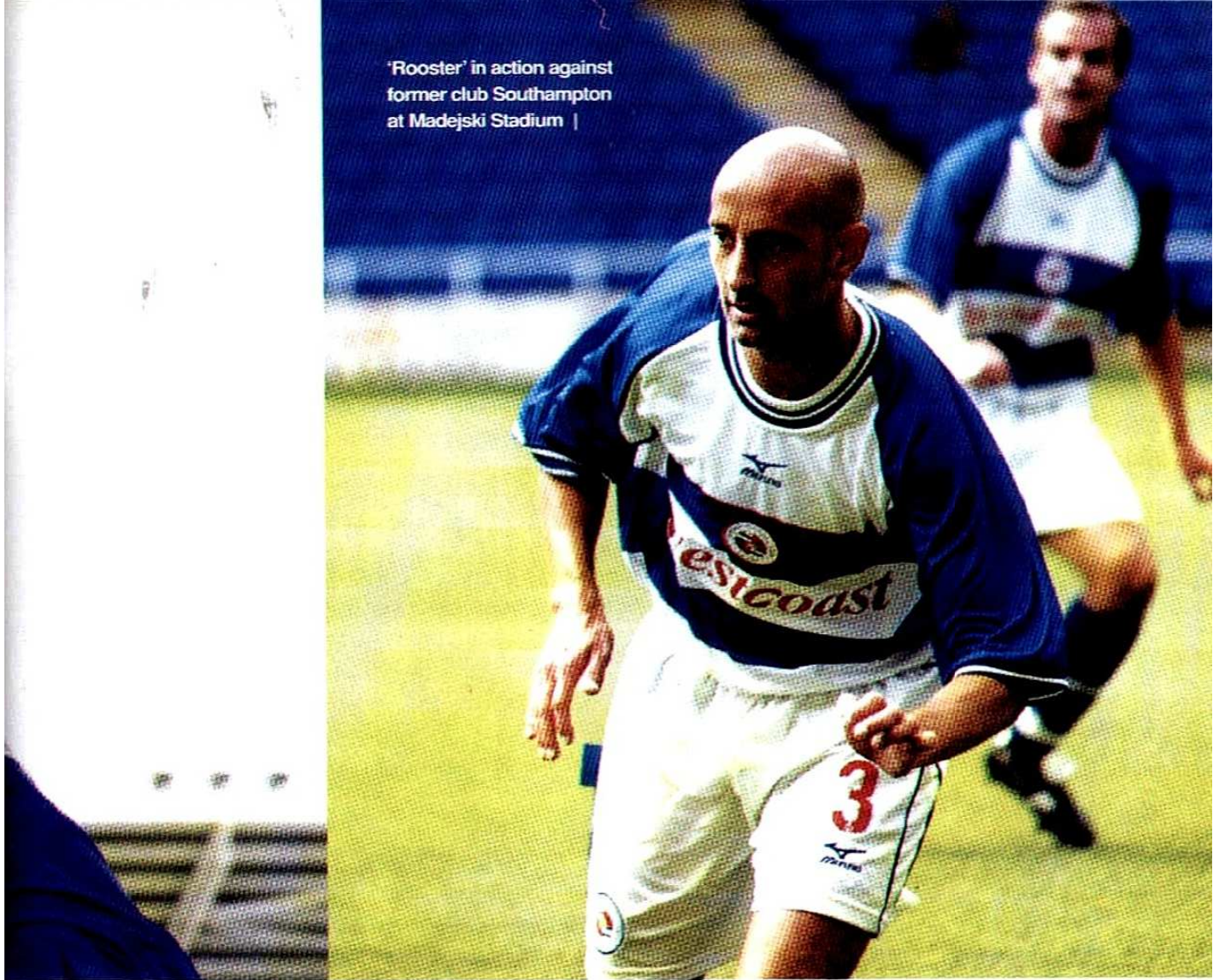
BEST STADIUM PLAYED AT: |

Old Trafford - I played there three times for Southampton.

BEST FOOTBALLER PLAYED WITH: |

I'd have to say Matt Le Tissier. His skills are there for all to see, and I was at Southampton

'Rooster' in action against former club Southampton at Madejski Stadium |



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when he had a superb season and was one of the best in the country a few years ago.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: |

When I played in the Premier League I had to mark Keith Gillespie who was a great winger at the time. Also, I made my debut against Liverpool and had to mark Jason McAteer.

AMBITIONS AFTER PLAYING CAREER: |

Nothing specific at the moment. I'd quite like to stay in football but touch wood I've

got a good few years left as a player yet.

FAVOURITE FOOTBALL PUNDIT: |

That's a hard one. I like Alan Hansen, he talks straight and says it as it is. Andy Gray's good as well, very passionate about the game.

OTHER SPORTS PLAYED/WATCHED: |

I play a bit of golf, and I enjoy watching most sports, although nothing in particular.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: |

'Only Fools And Horses' is

always brilliant, and I also like watching anything with Frank Skinner, I think he's very funny.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: |

I like soul music and rap, but I've got quite broad tastes and can listen to pretty much anything.

PRE-MATCH MEAL: |

Chicken and pasta, pretty standard stuff.

PRE-MATCH SUPERSTITIONS: |

I don't really have any. I try and stick to the same routines but

that's preparation more than superstition.

WHAT GETS ON YOUR NERVES: |

In football it's a few reporters who go out to cause trouble. Most of the reporters are fine but some tabloids aren't really passionate about the game and just try to bring players down.

I also don't like people having opinions about things when it's obvious they don't know what they're talking about!

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ROYALS PAST MASTER |

ANDY 'SKIPPY' BERNAL

Andy Bernal was released by Reading at the end of the 1999-2000 season, and thus was brought to an end the career of one of the Royals' most consistent defenders of the 1990s.

Although born in Canberra, Australia in 1966, Andy had played his first professional football for the Spanish club Sporting Gijon, but travelled to England to make his Football League debut for Ipswich Town during the 1987-88 season. After eleven first team games he had to leave because he was unable to obtain a work permit and returned to his homeland to play for Sydney Olympic.

However his ability was remembered by Mike Hickman, who became youth team manager at Reading under Mark McGhee, and

Bernal travelled to England once again to join the Royals for the 1994-5 campaign, when they reached the Division One play-off finals. He was a regular in the side, usually at right back but occasionally at centre back. He was a tough, gritty defender, who could win the ball on the ground and in the air against forwards who were physically bigger than him.

He was also a more than capable substitute goalkeeper, performing bravely between the posts after the first choice 'keeper had been injured or sent off. His competitive and abrasive style of play was evidenced by the fact that during his time with Reading, he was sent off the field of play eight times, more than any other player in the club's history. An unwanted statistic maybe, but one that indicated

his commitment to the team and his determination to finish on a winning if numerically reduced side.

Bernal remained an almost permanent fixture in the line-up until last season, when a series of niggling injuries finally caught up with him and forced his retirement from full-time football. His final season was marked by him captaining the team for a spell and also by the last of his five goals for Reading, a stunning left-foot volley from thirty yards which flew past Yeovil Town's goalkeeper in an FA Cup First Round tie.

Andy Bernal made a total of 224 first team appearances for the Royals and still intends to support the club whilst he continues to visit England.

David Downs

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top man

MAN OF THE MATCH PRESENTATIONS

MATT TAKES FIRST |

Our first Man of the Match award for the new season was made after the pre-season friendly fixture with Southampton in July.

The winner was Matt Robinson, who had an excellent game against his old club, making a number of surging runs forward and also defending with the determination and efficiency we have come to expect. The award was made by our match sponsors for the day,

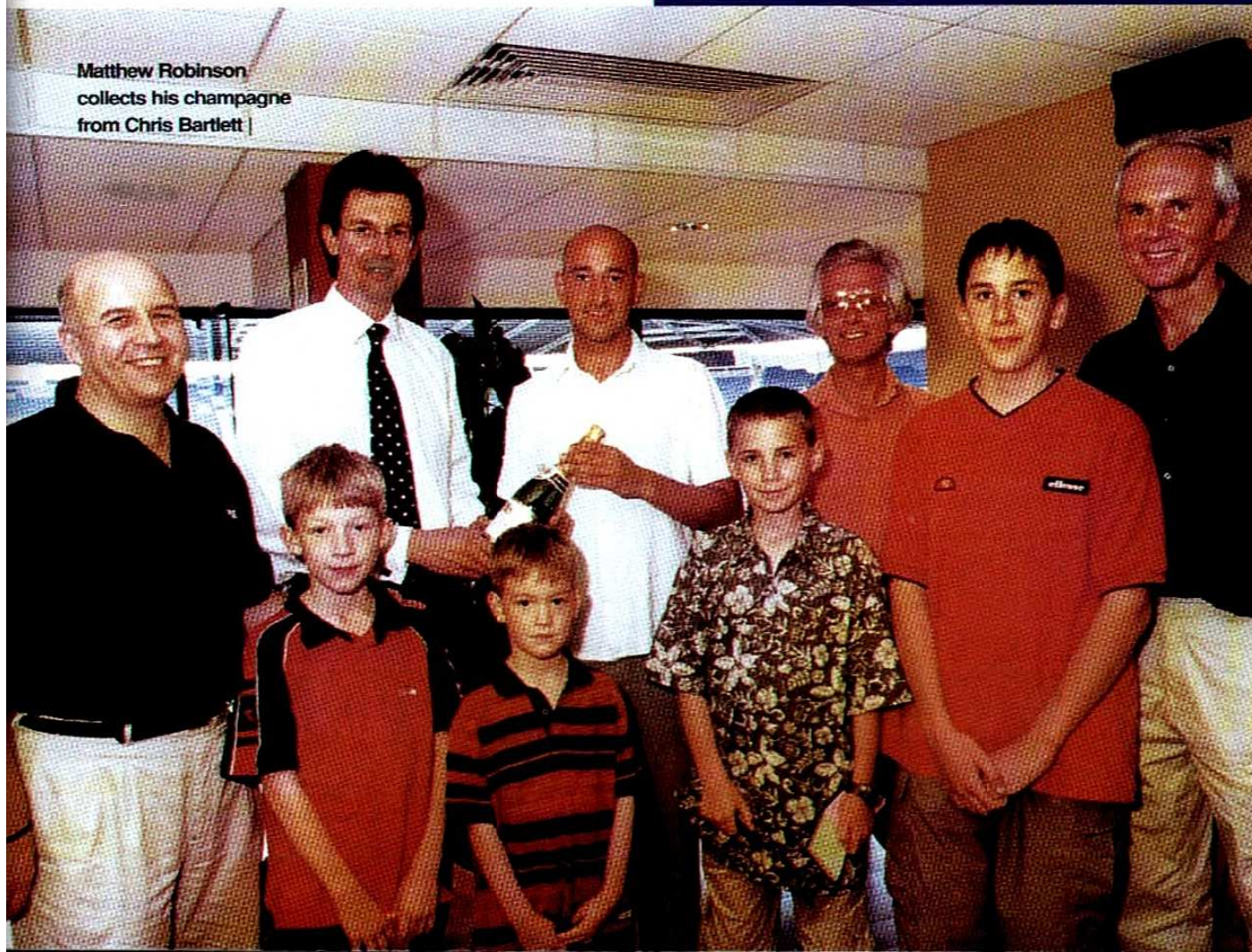
who were GCS Computer Recruitment, and Chris Bartlett from GCS is pictured here with his guests making the traditional award of a bottle of champagne to Matt after the game.

Throughout the season we will be keeping count of the Man of the Match award winners so you can see who has won the most. Matt Robinson's performance against Southampton has given him an early lead - will anyone be able to catch him up today?

MAN OF THE MATCH LEAGUE TABLE |

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 PHIL WHITEHEAD | 17 NEIL SMITH |
| 2 JOHN POLSTON | 18 ANDY GURNEY |
| 3 MATTHEW ROBINSON 1 | 19 JOE GAMBLE |
| 4 KEITH JONES | 20 CHRIS CASPER |
| 5 ADRIAN VIVEASH | 21 SCOTT HOWIE |
| 6 BARRY HUNTER | 22 JIM MCINTYRE |
| 7 GRAEME MURTY | 23 JOHN MACKIE |
| 8 DARREN CASKEY | 24 DARIUS HENDERSON |
| 9 MARTIN BUTLER | 25 RICKY NEWMAN |
| 10 NICKY FORSTER | 26 STUART GRAY |
| 11 LEE HODGES | 27 NATHAN TYSON |
| 13 KEITH SCOTT | 28 CHRIS SMITH |
| 14 SAMMY IGOE | 29 ADRIAN WILLIAMS |
| 15 SEAN EVERS | 30 ALEX HADDOW |
| 16 PHIL PARKINSON | 31 JAMIE ASHDOWN |
| | 32 RICKY ALLAWAY |
| | 33 ADAM LOCKWOOD |
| | 37 TONY ROUGIER |

Matthew Robinson collects his champagne from Chris Bartlett |



commercial

OPPORTUNITIES AT MADEJSKI STADIUM

THANKS TO GCS

Our match sponsors for the pre-season friendly with Southampton on 29th July were GCS Computer Recruitment. We would like to thank GCS for their support and hope they had an enjoyable afternoon. Paul Bartlett from GCS is pictured here receiving a memento of the day from Reading FC President Frank Orton.



MATCH SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We still have a limited number of matchday sponsorship opportunities available for Royals fixtures at Madejski Stadium this season. Match sponsorship is a rare opportunity to raise your company profile at the same time as giving your guests a memorable day out. Book early to avoid missing the match of your choice.

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- ❖ Gift for every guest

- ❖ Pre-match preview with member of the management team
- ❖ Presentation of memento of the day
- ❖ Substantial advertising benefits

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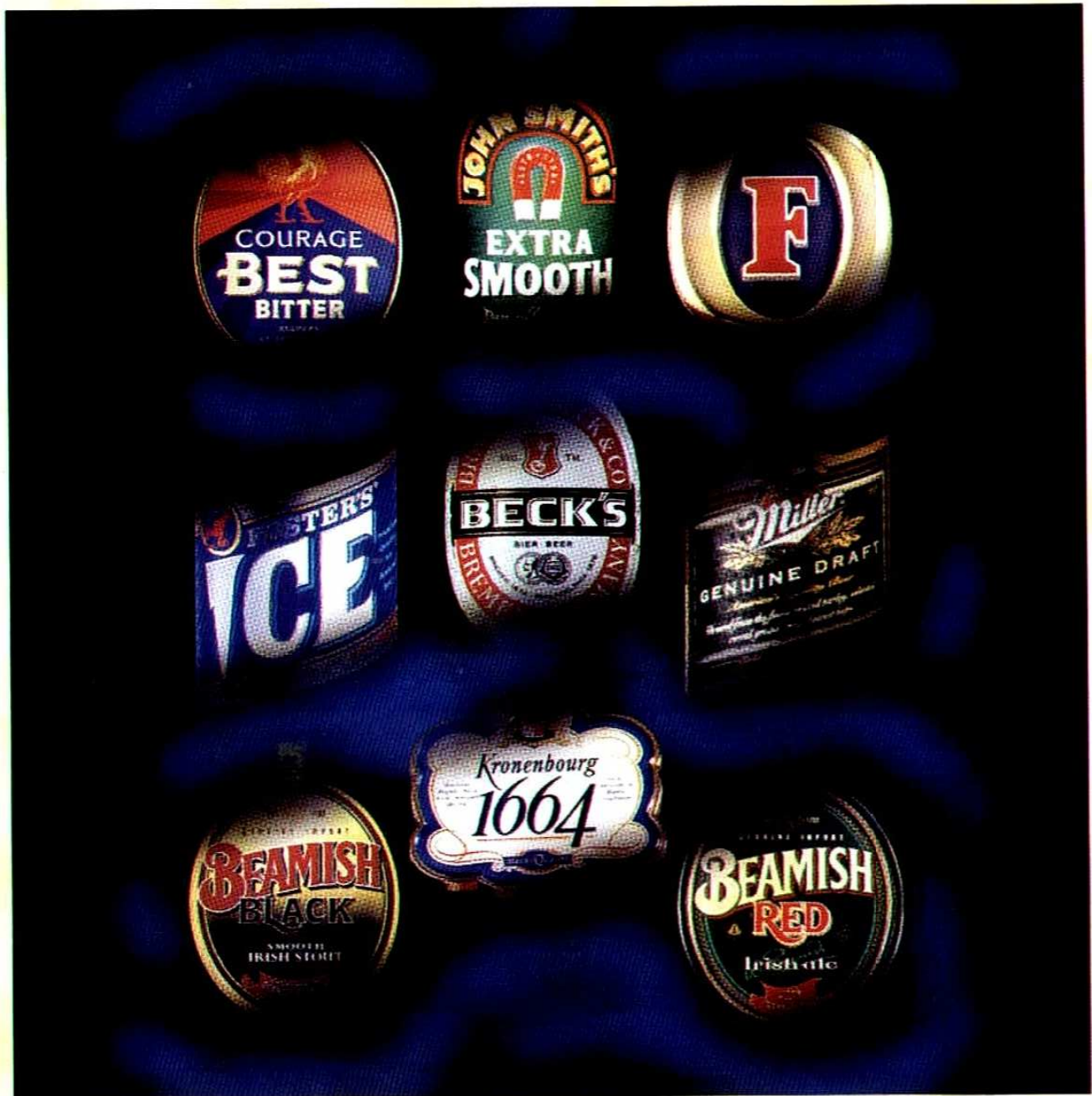
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ROYALS SQUAD 2000|01

1 PHIL WHITEHEAD	23 JOHN MACKIE
2 JOHN POLSTON	24 DARIUS HENDERSON
3 MATT ROBINSON	25 RICKY NEWMAN
4 KEITH JONES	26 STUART GRAY
5 ADRIAN VIVEASH	27 NATHAN TYSON
6 BARRY HUNTER	28 CHRIS SMITH
7 GRAEME MURTY	29 ADRIAN WILLIAMS
8 DARREN CASKEY	30 ALEX HADDOW
9 MARTIN BUTLER	31 JAMIE ASHDOWN
10 NICKY FORSTER	32 RICKY ALLAWAY
11 LEE HODGES	33 ADAM LOCKWOOD
13 KEITH SCOTT	37 TONY ROUGIER
14 SAMMY IGOE	
15 SEAN EVERS	
16 PHIL PARKINSON	
17 NEIL SMITH	
18 ANDY GURNEY	
19 JOE GAMBLE	
20 CHRIS CASPER	
21 SCOTT HOWIE	
22 JIM MCNTYRE	

TEAM MANAGER | ALAN PARDEW

ROYALS FACTFILE |

SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT READING FC

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Line-ups

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SWINDON TOWN

GOALKEEPER

1 | PHIL WHITEHEAD

DEFENCE

4 | RY HUNTER 5 | ADI VIVEASH 3 | MATT ROBINSON

MIDFIELD

10 | PARKINSON 11 | LEE HODGES 22 | JIM MCINTYRE

17 | H SCOTT 37 | TONY ROUGIER

ATTACK

9 | XANDER 10 | GIULIANO GRAZIOLI

7 | KETT 7 | KEITH O'HALLORAN 17 | DANNY INVINCIBILE

22 | WILLIS 22 | ALAN REEVES 2 | MARK ROBINSON

GOALKEEPER

1 | BART GRIEMINK

SWINDON TOWN SQUAD 2000|01

- 1 | BART GRIEMINK
- 2 | MARK ROBINSON
- 3 | SOL DAVIS
- 4 | MATTHEW HEWLETT
- 5 | ADAM WILLIS
- 6 | ANTOINE V. D. LINDEN
- 7 | KEITH O'HALLORAN
- 8 | BOBBY HOWE
- 9 | CHARLIE GRIFFIN
- 10 | GIULIANO GRAZIOLI
- 11 | DAVID DUKE
- 12 | JUAN COBIAN
- 14 | STEVE COWE
- 15 | ANDY WILLIAMS
- 16 | KIM HEISELBERG
- 17 | DANIEL INVINCIBILE
- 18 | GARY ALEXANDER
- 20 | FRAZER MCHUGH
- 21 | GARETH DAVIES
- 22 | ALAN REEVES
- 23 | STEVE MILDENHALL

TEAM MANAGER | COLIN TODD

ROBINS FACTFILE |

SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT SWINDON TOWN FC

MANAGER | Colin Todd | since May 2000

ALL-TIME LEADING LEAGUE APPEARANCES | John Trollope | 770

RECORD ATTENDANCE | 32,000 | v Arsenal, 1972

GROUND | The County Ground | since 1896

BIGGEST WIN | 9-1 | v Luton, 1920

ALL-TIME LEADING LEAGUE SCORER | Harry Morris | 216

PREVIOUS GROUNDS | The Croft



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PICTURE ZAC JOSEY

THE ROYALS ACADEMY |

ACADEMY DIRECTOR JOHN STEPHENSON

RARING TO GO |

There is nothing more exciting than the expectation surrounding a new season, and what a way to start the home fixtures - a derby match against Swindon Town! It will be commitment, commitment, commitment that will win the day, and I am certain that Alan and Martin will have the lads raring to go. The game also means that I will get to see Toddo from close up - as a youngster I watched him dictate games as a young player at Sunderland. He was a hero of mine, and I wish him well...after today.

The Academy has been very busy over the close season. A successful trip to compete in the Long Island International Tournament, trials at every age

group for new recruits (brilliantly organised by Peter Charters), a raft of friendly games, a lot of coach education, and a hard pre-season programme, all add up to a full diary. While it is hard work it has been very worthwhile.

The trials will see a number of top quality players come into the Academy, and the pre-season programme will prepare all of our players to compete at the highest possible level. The challenge of competing with the Arsenal, Chelsea and West Hams of this world is only just around the corner, and we cannot wait. The fruits of our labours are there to see with a number of Academy players featuring prominently at first team level at the end of last

term and again in pre-season. This shows that the Academy is delivering, but most of all, it shows that the manager believes in it.

HELLO'S AND GOODBYE'S |

Sadly we have lost a couple of full-time members of staff during the close season.

Chris Holloway (Academy Physio) has joined his girlfriend Melanie back in the NHS at the Royal Infirmary in Oldham. I wish them both the very best of luck and would like to thank Chris for the mountain of hard work he got through while he was with us. Replacing Chris will be Glen Driscoll who we have recruited from Charlton Athletic. Glen has settled in well and promises to be a great asset.

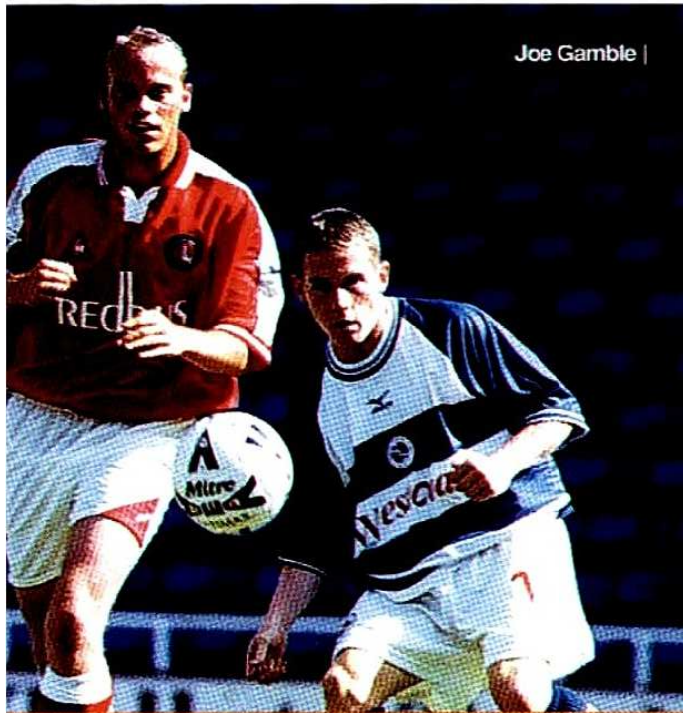
David Downs (Education and Welfare Officer) is leaving his full-time post to join us again in a part-time capacity as a Welfare Officer. David's experience has been invaluable and I am sure that it will continue to be in his new role. He will be replaced by Niall Clarke, our new Head of Education and Science. Niall joins us from our part-time coaching staff and will ensure that the educational needs of all of our players are addressed. He will also have a special focus on delivering our science programme. As well as being a former schoolteacher, Niall holds a BSc in Sports Science and a MSc in Sports Psychology.

Enjoy the game

John Stephenson

royals 1c

5/8/2000 PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY



Joe Gamble |

Irish eyes

JOE GAMBLE KEEPS A CLOSE WATCH ON THE BALL.

ADDICKS SHOW THEIR CLASS |

The Royals suffered their first pre-season defeat as the reigning Division One champions turned in an impressive performance. But more concerning for Alan Pardew was a first-half injury to key striker Nicky Forster, who damaged his right knee in a tussle for possession with Chris Powell.

Pardew fielded a new-look formation with Darren Caskey supporting Nicky Forster in attack, Jim McIntyre on the left of midfield, Sammy Igoe on the right and Lee Hodges alongside Phil Parkinson in the middle. Alex Haddow deputised for Matt Robinson at left-back after the former Portsmouth defender felt a slight hamstring strain.

Reading started brightly with McIntyre coming close after just three minutes when his close range header from a

left-wing Forster cross was superbly saved by Charlton keeper Dean Kiely. It was a free-flowing game in the early stages with both sides willing to attack, and the visitors had their early chance to go ahead on six minutes, but new signing Jonatan Johansson's chip went narrowly wide of Phil Whitehead's left upright.

A few minutes later, though, Charlton did go ahead and again Johansson was the main instigator. The Finnish striker broke down the right, and although Ricky Newman came across to block his shot, the rebound fell to Shaun Newton who drove the ball past Whitehead from eight yards. The Royals were still very much in the game, and the dangerous Forster nearly equalised on 16 minutes when he went clear on the left, but his attempted chip was palmed away by Kiely before Powell and Carl Tiler combined to clear the danger.

Royals swept away by impressive Addicks |

Shortly afterwards Reading suffered a double injury blow, firstly with McIntyre picking up a slight hamstring strain and being replaced by Darius Henderson, and then Forster hobbling out of the action with his knee injury.

The changes forced the Royals to alter their shape, leaving a teenage strike force of Henderson and Nathan Tyson, and for the remainder of the half Charlton enjoyed the majority of the possession, but Newton wasted their best opportunity when he blazed over from ten yards. Before the

interval Pardew added another teenager into the fray, giving new signing Joe Gamble his first taste of action at Madejski Stadium.

The second half started as the first had ended, with Charlton dominating the possession and passing the ball around well without creating too many opportunities. The closest they came to extending their lead was through John Salako, who produced a good save from Whitehead from a direct free-kick and then went on a mazy run before dragging his shot across the face of goal.



Nicky Forster

Charlton 3

PICTURES COURTESY OF EDDIE GREVILLE | READING EVENING POST



The Addicks paid the price for failing to score their second as the Royals equalised after 69 minutes. Haddow swung in a free-kick from the left, Keith Scott, on as a substitute for Henderson, challenged Kiely, and as the ball broke free Nathan Tyson was on hand to tap the ball home from close range. It was a simple goal, but no less than the pacy striker deserved after an excellent performance.

Reading were inspired by the equaliser and for a few minutes looked the more likely side to grab a winner, but

on 75 minutes Andy Hunt found space on the right wing, and after advancing towards goal his squared pass gave John Robinson a simple chance which the Welsh international converted with aplomb.

The Royals battled away for another equaliser, but Charlton always had something in reserve and in the final minute Hunt was sent through from the halfway line and the former WBA striker firmly placed the ball past Whitehead and into the bottom right corner to make the final score 3-1.

THE LINEUP |

- 1 Whitehead
- 25 Newman
- 30 Haddow
- 5 Viveash
- 6 Hunter
- 16 Parkinson
- 14 Igoe
- 11 Hodges
- 8 Caskey
- 22 McIntyre
- 10 Forster

- 15 Evers | 16
- 19 Gamble | 14
- 24 Henderson | 22
- 13 Scott | 24
- 27 Tyson | 10

ATTENDANCE | 4,256

Nathan Tyson |

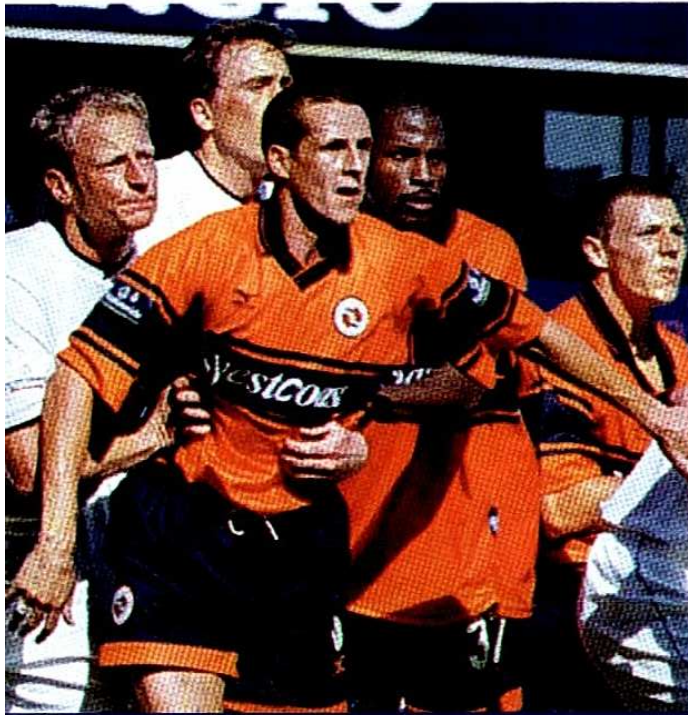


The first of many

NATHAN TYSON CELEBRATES HIS FIRST SENIOR GOAL FOR THE ROYALS

millwall 2

12/8/2000 NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2



Getting to grips

BARRY HUNTER TRIES TO BREAK FREE FROM PAUL MOODY

ROYALS SUFFER OPENING DAY LOSS |

Australian midfielder Tim Cahill inflicted an opening-day defeat on Alan Pardew's side with goals five minutes into either half, and in truth it was no less than the Lions deserved after an impressive performance full of determination and attacking ideas. Alan Pardew's plans for the game were thrown into disarray by injuries to a number of key players, although he was able to welcome back Jim McIntyre and Matt Robinson, while there was also a starting place for Tony Rougier, signed from Port Vale just 24 hours previously.

Rougier lined up in attack alongside Keith Scott, in front of a midfield consisting of Lee Hodges and Phil Parkinson in the middle, with McIntyre on the left and Darren Caskey on the right. The back four included ex-Lion Ricky Newman, who was subjected

to loud abuse throughout the game by Millwall fans, and Phil Whitehead who received the nod ahead of Scott Howie for the goalkeepers' position.

The Lions were boosted by the return to fitness of star striker Neil Harris, and he made his mark early on with a burst towards goal but his attempted lob was too low and straight at Whitehead. The Lions maintained their early pressure, though, and as a corner was cleared Belgian winger Christophe Kinet cracked a superb volley goalwards, forcing Whitehead into a smart low save.

But if the Royals thought that the early pressure had eased they were wrong - with four minutes on the clock Steven Reid was allowed to get in a cross from the bye-line on the right, and Cahill's run was timed perfectly to flick a header past Whitehead and put the Lions ahead.

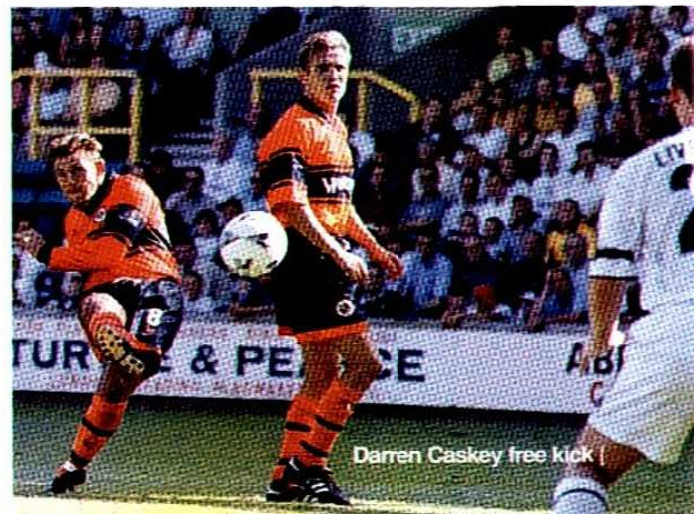
Cahill bags two to end Royals resistance |

> Millwall continued to dominate the play although Rougier was showing some good touches for the Royals and a Hodges cross was met by McIntyre but his header drifted wide. The Lions looked more menacing though, with Cahill, Kinet and Harris all impressing and repeatedly linking well as Millwall broke forward.

Harris created two half-chances for himself midway through the half, and then on the half hour his pace on the counter-attack gave him a one-on-one chance against

Whitehead, but the big goalkeeper stood his ground to make an excellent save.

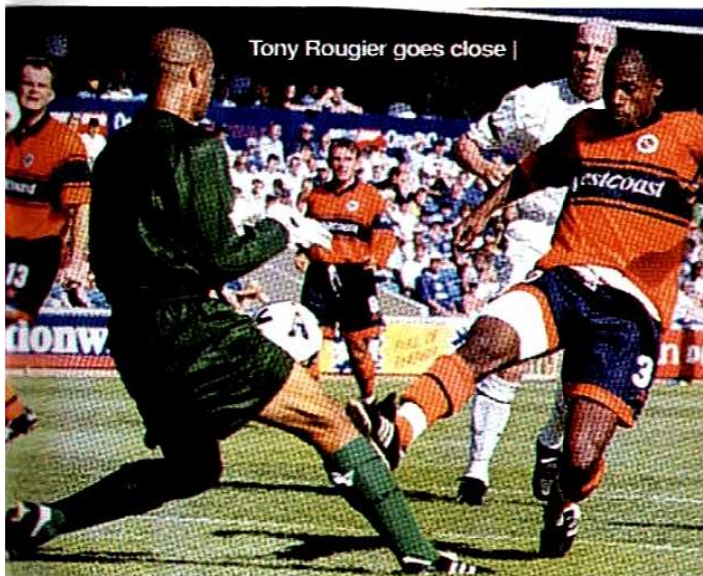
Five minutes before the break the Royals had their best opportunity of the match when a free-kick was awarded 20 yards from goal. Darren Caskey - who else? - stepped up and curled a shot on target but Millwall keeper Tony Warner reacted quickly to make a comfortable save. Before the break there was still time for a free-kick at the other end, from which Kinet's powerful shot was just too high to bother Whitehead. >



Darren Caskey free kick

royals 0

PICTURES COURTESY OF READING EVENING POST



> Reading made a positive start to the second period, enjoying good possession and applying pressure towards the Millwall goal with Rougier prominent, but the Lions quickly provided the hammer blow. Harris won the ball on the edge of the area, and although his snapshot was blocked it fell kindly for the onrushing Cahill, who made no mistake with a firm low drive past Whitehead for his and his team's second.

Alan Pardew introduced Darius Henderson and Neil Smith into the action, but Millwall

continued to dominate with Harris and Kinet in particularly good form. After an hour Reading's frustration spilled over to the touchlines, where Martin Allen was dismissed from the bench, and shortly afterwards Paul Moody came close to adding a third but his header was brilliantly saved by Whitehead.

With time running out, the Royals came close to finding the scoresheet through Adi Viveash and another Caskey free-kick, but they also had the linesman's flag to thank for denying Cahill a hat-trick.

THE LINEUP |

- 1 Whitehead
 - 25 Newman
 - 3 Robinson
 - 5 Viveash
 - 6 Hunter
 - 8 Caskey
 - 16 Parkinson
 - 11 Hodges
 - 22 McIntyre
 - 13 Scott
 - 37 Rougier
-
- 14 Igoe | 11
 - 17 Smith | 22
 - 24 Henderson | 13
 - 2 Polston
 - 21 Howie

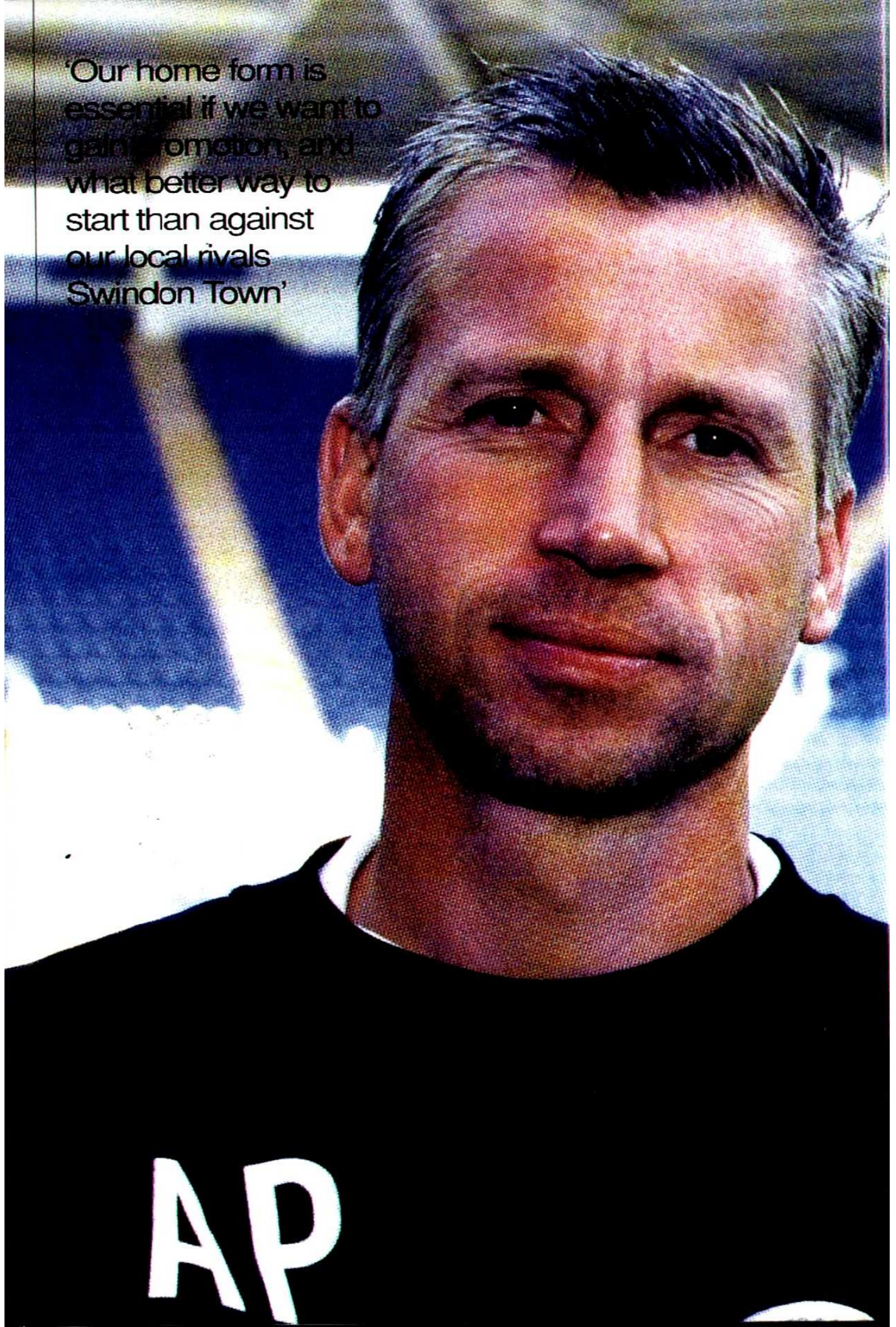
ATTENDANCE | 11,043



On the run

TONY ROUGIER WAS ONE OF THE ROYALS BETTER PERFORMERS ON HIS DEBUT

'Our home form is essential if we want to gain promotion, and what better way to start than against our local rivals Swindon Town'



WHEN SATURDAY COMES |

BOSS ALAN PARDEW LOOKS AHEAD TO THE NEW CAMPAIGN

ROYALS V SWINDON TOWN |

I'd like start by welcoming all Royals fans to Madejski Stadium for the new season.

During the summer I brought in some new players on free transfers under the Bosman ruling - Ricky Newman, Keith Jones, Adi Viveash and Adie Williams, who did so well for us last season. That has now been added to with Tony Rougier, who was was Port Vale's leading scorer last season and I believe he will prove to be a major addition to the squad.

I honestly believe that squad would have won the championship, and nobody could convince me otherwise. But now we have been hit by the shattering news of Nicky Forster's injury, and it cannot be disguised that losing him was a big blow, not just to the fans and the management but also to the squad itself. My first thoughts go to Nicky. He'd been training with a sprinting coach over the close season and got himself up to a level he hadn't been at for some time. He was then so unfortunate to suffer a second cruciate injury after sustaining the same injury to his other knee a few years ago, and only someone with his strength of character would be able to deal with two such

blows. It goes without saying that he will be aided in every way for a speedy recovery.

With the loss of Forster imposed upon us, what we must do now is accept it, look to the strength of our squad, and make sure everyone is pulling together. With Tony Rougier now becoming a main catalyst and a player who will give us width on either side of the pitch, goals will have to be more evenly spread, and we will also introduce a slight alteration in our tactics.

In this process, you, the fan, must play your part. We need to not only sustain but also build on the positive atmosphere that was generated towards the end of last season. Obviously results help achieve this, and the defeat at Millwall was not the tonic required. However, our disappointment was not in the result but in our performance - it was not satisfactory and we have to put that right immediately today against Swindon.

The injuries we have sustained during the pre-season games have been well documented. In our defence, only one player (Adi Viveash) played more than five friendly games, and all

our players would tell you that this pre-season has been no harder than any other. Every team suffers injuries at this time of year, and we have had no more than our fair share, but our problems have been highlighted by the fact that the players suffering injuries have all been key performers. But our squad remains strong and every member of that squad has a part to play - as it has turned out we need to call upon a few of them right at the beginning of the season.

One disappointment for me at times towards the back end of last year and during our pre-season games has been a lack of patience with our younger players. It's essential that these players are encouraged as much as possible so that the first team stage does not become an intimidating and restrictive arena.

The season in front of us is full of hope. Our management goal is to win this league, and we must all believe. Our home form is essential if we want to gain promotion, and what better way to start than against our local rivals Swindon Town?

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We can all pull together and get ourselves out of this Division. I know the supporters are desperate for success, and we aim to deliver it this season. |

CAPTAIN'S LOG

SKIPPER PHIL PARKINSON'S MESSAGE TO THE FANS

Welcome to our opening home game of the new season at Madejski Stadium. Today couldn't be set up better with our first match here being against Swindon Town, who we haven't played for a couple of years, and I know all the supporters will be eagerly anticipating today's fixture as much as the players.

The season didn't get off to the flying start we had hoped for against Millwall last week, and we certainly didn't do ourselves justice which was very disappointing. But I think it's important to keep it in perspective and remember that it was only one game and we've still got 45 to go. The players aren't going to get too despondent over one defeat, in the same way that we wouldn't be getting too carried

away with the victory if we were Millwall. They played well on the day, and we were well below par, but the lads have still got every confidence in this being a successful season.

I'm sure you will all give Tony Rougier a massive welcome today. I have already told him that the last time we had a Trinidadian international in the team, we won the Championship, so I hope this is a good omen! I'll certainly be speaking to Shaka in the next few days to try and dig up a few stories about Tony, although he seems a quiet lad.

Obviously on the downside all supporters will know about the injury to Nicky Forster. I don't think we can hide away from the fact that it was a massive

blow not only for Nicky but also the whole Club. What I will say is that this calls for every other player, every supporter and everybody connected with the club to give that little bit extra to make up for the loss of Fozzy.

As you know, supporters can make a massive difference to the fortunes of the club - we've had fantastic support over the past few years despite not enjoying the best results, but let's make this Madejski Stadium a real fortress.

We can all pull together and get ourselves out of this Division. I know the supporters are desperate for success, and we aim to deliver it this season.

All the best, Parky

promotions

GOLDEN GAMBLE WITH RFC PROMOTIONS MANAGER MIKE KEARNEY

WIN HUNDREDS WITH THE GOLDEN GAMBLE!

Don't forget that you can win up to £2,000 every matchday at Madejski Stadium by taking part in our Golden Gamble draw, which has now been running successfully for nearly ten years!

Tickets cost just £1, and the winning numbers are drawn on the pitch during the half-time interval. The first prize is an instantly awarded cash windfall of anything up to £2,000, and we also have superb second prizes up for grabs. Look out for our sellers around Madejski Stadium,

and if you miss the half-time draw you can also check the winning numbers in the following day's Reading Evening Post. Good luck!

When the Royals played Southampton at the end of July the draw was made by former Reading defender Bill Davies, and although the Golden Gamble main prize was unclaimed, the second prize of a signed pennant was won by Graham Goldsmith from Letchworth.

He is pictured here receiving his prize from Bill Davies and RFC Promotions Manager Mike Kearney.

RITA SCOOPS £5,000 |

Our last home game was against Charlton Athletic a fortnight ago, and Adie Williams was on hand to present a cheque for £5,000 to lucky Rita Knott, who is the latest top prize winner in the Royals lottery. Rita (left) is pictured here with Adie Williams and her friend June, who will share the prize. Congratulations to you both!



Congratulations Golden Gamble Winner!

GRAHAM GOLDSMITH COLLECTS HIS SIGNED PENNANT FROM MIKE KEARNEY AND BILL DAVIES



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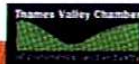
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CLUB NEWS WITH CHAIRMAN ROGER TITFORD

COME AND JOIN US |

Welcome back for what we really believe is going to be a very good season.

RFSC welcomes renewing and new members alike. We have again pegged the membership fee at £5 (£2.50 concessions) with all the same benefits, and possibly more, as last season. You can simultaneously opt into our members' email branch 'e-rfsc' for free. You can join at The Football Shop or with our recruitment hit squad outside the Megastore or at the Ticket Office during the week.

THE FOOTBALL SHOP |

It's time our shop premises on the East Stand concourse had a name. My original suggestion of 'Foster's Larder' was deemed sweet but obscure so we've gone with something more all-encompassing - 'The Football Shop'.

Mick Foster will be ready to take orders for programme subscriptions for the season with his unique brand of charm.

FANS FORUM |

The first of our Fans Forums took place on Thursday 10th August, immediately after the RFSC AGM.

It was a well-attended event to the extent it was moved late on into the Princess Suite. Representing the Football Club and answering questions from members were Martin Allen, Maurice Evans, Boyd Butler and Ray Booth among others. Alan Pardew sent his

apologies but he was busy signing a new player.

AWAY TRAVEL |

We will again be running Horseman coaches to all first team away matches.

The next League trip is to Northampton on 26th August, price £10. Coaches will now depart firstly from the Madejski Stadium (Hotel Roundabout) and then pick up at the Horseman's stop in Garrard St, near the station. There will be free car parking for coach travellers at the Stadium.

There is also a bus for the Leyton Orient trip - departure times are 4.15pm (Stadium) and 4.30pm (Garrard St). For Northampton, departure times are 11.15am (Stadium) and 11.30am (Garrard St). Away travel arrangements for days when there is rugby at the Stadium are not yet finalised; please watch for announcements.

THE DIDCOT TRIANGLE |

As Reading trooped off The Manor Ground, tails between

legs, in March 1998 it was a question of 'when shall we three meet again?' Yet after a gap of only two seasons the forces of relegation have re-united us with the other two points of the Didcot Triangle - Swindon Town and Oxford United.

Last time around, in 1997/98, when the hurly-burly was done and the games lost and won, it was Swindon who held sway - on goal difference by one. All three clubs beat each other and lost to each other once - as they did the previous season when Reading emerged as masters of the Didcot Triangle by that same, narrowest of margins.

This is only the 10th time all three clubs have competed together in the same division. Swindon have been top dogs twice, Reading three times and Oxford four times. The bookies fancy us more than them.

Get behind the lads and make it happen. URZ.

CALLING SOUTH-WEST ROYALS |

Tim Webb from Torquay is trying to organise a local supporters' club for any loyal Royals living in exile in the South West. Anyone interested should call Tim on 0421 631774, email him at Royalwebbs@btinternet.com or contact the RFC Supporters Club.



blast from

1959/1960 SEASON |

Alan Pardew and his team will be looking to avoid the kind of start that Reading made in 1959-60, although we would settle for a repeat of our games against Swindon that season.

Our first eight games saw us gain just one point and we were fixed firmly at the foot of the Third Division. That draw had come against 10-man Brentford, and Reading's first win also came against a side reduced to 10, although we were already ahead when Southend's keeper broke his arm. From then on we began to claw our way up the table and, remarkably after that start, Reading managed to finish in the top half of the League.

October saw a couple of big wins - first we beat Chesterfield 6-3 with Jimmy Wheeler scoring direct from a corner for the first of a hat trick while Maurice Evans weighed in with a rare double strike. Then, on 17 October we travelled across to Swindon.

Jimmy Wheeler was destined to be our top scorer again and he got Reading off to a flying start at the County Ground, scoring after only three minutes. The second half saw Reading take complete control and Ray Reeves doubled our lead from the penalty spot after Wheeler was fouled. George McLuckie and Wheeler again added to Reading's joy for a 4-0 final score. When Swindon returned to Elm Park in March, Reading were just above the

relegation zone but, again, we were too good for our neighbours as we won 3-0. Bobby Ayre scored twice, and (give him a special cheer when he replaces the divots at half time) the third was a penalty scored by our current groundsman, Gordon Neate, who 'slipped home the ball with nonchalant ease'.

The FA Cup was pretty eventful as well. Drawn away to the previous season's giant killers and semi-finalists, Norwich, few gave Reading a chance but a battling draw brought the Canaries back to Elm Park. Jimmy Wheeler (who else) gave us the lead and then, early in the second half, Ray Reeves made it 2-0 with a free kick that is part of Elm Park's folklore - I recall it being over 30 yards out but many claim it was much further. Not for nothing was Ray known as 'Bomber'!

Our Cup run ended in Nottingham where holders, Forest, scraped a 1-0 win after Ray Reeves had a goal disallowed and a penalty saved. One fact of interest is that our four Cup ties that year attracted over 91,000 fans.

The first team weren't the only ones enjoying a cup run in 1959-60. Our youth team won through to the final of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup where we lost to a very strong Chelsea Team that included Peter Bonetti, Dennis Butler, Bobby Tambling and a certain Mr T Venables. Elsewhere in football Burnley won the

League while Wolves beat Blackburn 3-0 in a Cup Final marred by crowd trouble from Rovers fans.

A far better game saw Real Madrid beat Eintracht 7-3 in Glasgow to win the European Cup in a game thought by many to be one of football's all time great matches.

1959-60 also saw USSR become the first winners of the European Nations Cup (should that be Euro '60?) while Dennis Law became Britain's first £50,000 footballer and Liverpool appointed Bill Shankly as their new manager.

At the cinema, 'Ben Hur' was cleaning up at the Oscars while the hit parade was topped by the likes of Cliff's 'Living Doll', 'Cathy's Clown' by the Everley Brothers and 'My Old Man's a Dustman' by Lonnie Donnegan. But there was no doubt about the record of the year - the soundtrack of 'South Pacific' was the top selling LP for every week of the 1959-60 season.

FANCY THAT |

It is unlikely that Reading and Swindon fans will agree on very much this afternoon but I am sure they will all be 'united' in their response to the following. Early in 1960, Headington (now Oxford) Utd approached both clubs to ask for their support to United's application to join the League.

I don't know which way Reading and Swindon voted

but United were voted into the League - Peterborough United, that is!

THIRD DIVISION FINAL TABLE, 1959/60 |

POS	TEAM	PTS
1	Southampton	61
2	Norwich City	59
3	Shrewsbury Town	52
4	Grimsby Town	52
5	Coventry City	52
6	Brentford	51
7	Bury	51
8	QPR	49
9	Colchester Utd	47
10	Bournemouth	47
11	READING	46
12	Southend United	46
13	Newport County	46
14	Port Vale	46
15	Halifax Town	46
16	Swindon Town	46
17	Barnsley	44
18	Chesterfield	43
19	Bradford City	42
20	Tranmere Rovers	41
21	York City	38
22	Mansfield Town	36
23	Wrexham	36
24	Accrington Stanley	27

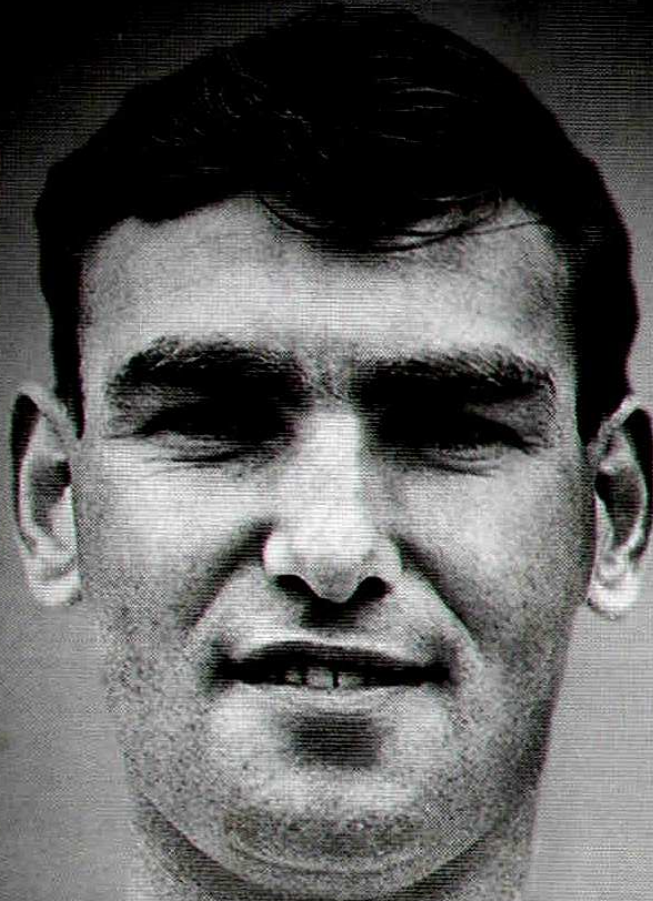
LEADING LEAGUE APPEARANCES |

- 1 | Jimmy Wheeler | 44
- 2 | John McIlvenny | 42
- 2 | Johnny Walker | 42
- 4 | Bernard Goodall | 38
- 5 | Ray Reeves | 36

n the past

BY ALAN SEDUNARY

Maurice Evans |



- 6 | Bill Davies | 35
- 7 | George McLuckie | 34
- 8 | Bill Lacey | 29
- 9 | Maurice Evans | 28
- 10 | Bobby Ayre | 25
- 10 | Jimmy Whitehouse | 25

LEADING LEAGUE SCORERS |

- 1 | Jimmy Wheeler | 19
- 2 | Bill Lacey | 14
- 3 | Jimmy Whitehouse | 10
- 4 | Bobby Ayre | 9
- 5 | Ray Reeves | 7
- 6 | Peter Shreeve | 4
- 6 | Johnny Waker | 4
- 8 | Maurice Evans | 3
- 8 | George McLuckie | 3
- 8 | John McIlvenny | 3

Maurice Evans, now Chief Scout at Madejski Stadium, was a key member of the Royals side in the 1959/60 season |

Good Luck TO The Royals



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It was great to see Martin Butler get his first 90 minutes of the season |

ROYALS RESERVES |

RESERVE TEAM COACH NICKY HAMMOND

TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST NORWICH CITY 1-1 READING |

This was a competitive game, played at a good tempo, and it was for exactly this type of fixture that we decided to go back into the Avon Combination League.

It's a good preparation for players to go and join the first team, and also allows the management team to assess players.

We went 1-0 down late in the first half when Norwich broke down our left and the ball was pulled back for a good close range finish. They were a typical Norwich side, moving the ball around well and comfortable in possession, and it was a good test for us. But we more than stood up to the challenge and played some

terrific stuff, fully deserving our equaliser early in the second half. It came about after good play by Sammy Igoe on the right wing, and he cut the ball back for Keith Scott to drive the ball home from about 12 yards. After equalising, we looked the side more likely to go on and win it, and our best chance came with a penalty but Martin Butler's shot hit the bar.

All of our players performed to a good standard, but John Mackie, Joe Gamble and Sean Evers gave particularly eye-catching performances.

It was great to see Martin Butler get his first 90 minutes of the season, and he showed no sign of his injury even though he went into a couple of really heavy challenges, while Andy Gurney also played the full

game to bring himself into first team contention. We also fielded a Dutch trialist at left-back, Erik Van Kessel, and he gave a good account of himself.

Our next game is a League Cup fixture at Farnborough Town, our home ground for the season, against Crystal Palace next Wednesday afternoon, and it would be good to see as many of you as possible down there. The lads would appreciate the support, and it would be a good chance for you to see some of the younger players as well as those returning from injury and maybe some more trialists.

TEAM I

Howie, Gurney, Van Kessel, Polston, Mackie, Igoe, Evers, Gamble, Haddow, Scott (Alcott), Butler

15/08/00 NORWICH CITY (A)	1-1
23/08/00 CRYSTAL PALACE	2.00 LC
30/08/00 CHELTENHAM	2.00
13/09/00 COLCHESTER UTD(A)	2.00
20/09/00 SOUTHEND UTD	2.00
27/09/00 CAMBRIDGE UTD	2.00
02/10/00 P'BOROUGH UTD (A)	2.00
10/10/00 NORTHAMPTON (A)	2.00
18/10/00 PORTSMOUTH (A)	7.00 LC
01/11/00 LUTON TOWN	2.00
08/11/00 BARNET (A)	2.00
15/11/00 MILLWALL	2.00
29/11/00 GILLINGHAM	2.00
06/12/00 LEYTON ORIENT(A)	2.00
13/12/00 BRISTOL ROVERS	2.00 LC
20/12/00 FULHAM (A)	1.00
03/01/01 BRISTOL CITY	7.00 LC
10/01/00 QPR	7.00
17/01/01 CRYSTAL PALACE (A)	7.30
31/01/01 BRENTFORD	2.00
07/02/01 BRISTOL CITY (A)	2.00
14/02/01 PORTSMOUTH	2.00
28/02/01 SWINDON TOWN (A)	2.00
14/03/01 OXFORD UNITED	7.00
21/03/01 WYCOMBE W (A)	2.00
28/03/01 BRIGHTON & HOVE	2.00
04/04/01 BOURNEMOUTH (A)	2.00
11/04/01 BRISTOL ROVERS	2.00

ALL HOME FIXTURES TO BE PLAYED AT FARNBOROUGH TOWN FC

royals on

ALL THE LATEST ROYALS NEWS



SPECIAL NOTICE |

→ Please note that there is unreserved seating in both the East and North Stands for this afternoon's fixture. The Safety Gate between the East and South Stands will be in operation for a few minutes after the game. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your co-operation. ←



WELCOME TO TONY ROUGIER |



→ The Club's official website - www.readingfc.co.uk - announced on the Friday morning before the Royals trip to Millwall that Tony Rougier had been signed from Port Vale. Rougier joined for a fee of £325,000, and the 29 year-old Trinidad and Tobago international signed a three-year contract, taking the number 37 shirt

Alan Pardew told www.readingfc.co.uk "Tony is two footed and he will offer us width on either side of the pitch. He'll give us something different in terms of pace and power, and I'm hoping that what Mass Sarr promised, Tony Rougier will deliver."

Rougier started his British career in Scotland with Raith Rovers in 1995 before joining Hibs in 1997. Eighteen months ago he moved to Port Vale for £175,000, and he was Vale's top scorer in Division One last season despite often operating from a wide position. A quick and skilful player, Rougier is primarily a winger but can also play through the middle. He was on international duty with Trinidad & Tobago this week for a World Cup qualifier against Panama. ←



ROYALS HIT BY FORSTER BLOW |

→ The Royals have been hit by the news that striker Nicky Forster is likely to miss the entire season after a scan showed that he sustained cruciate ligament damage to his right knee in the friendly fixture with Charlton.

Speaking on Meridian TV on Monday evening, Alan Pardew said, "With Nicky out of the picture it's going to be harder for us, but what we must do is stay positive. I know this news is going to be a real blow to the fans, and I'm hoping that they respond in a positive manner in the same way that we have as a squad, and keep believing that we will go up. I'm not going to disguise the fact that it is a huge blow, but as a squad and a management team we've accepted it and we're going to move on, and we need the fans to have that frame of mind."



"He's been very unfortunate because he had no trauma to the knee, he walked off and we thought it was just a knock. Nicky is a cracking lad and he's really been buzzing this year, so it's a huge blow for him, more so for him than for me or anyone who supports this team, and he's got eight or nine months of recuperation ahead of him. So

if any fans see him in the street, pat him on the back, wish him well and tell him that we're going to do it without him, but we all hope he comes back soon because he's really a terrific lad." ←



RESERVES RETURN |

→ The Royals reserve side has returned after an absence of one season and are competing again in the Avon Insurance League, kicking off with a 1-1 draw at Norwich on Tuesday (see Nicky Hammond's match report on page 49). Hammond told www.readingfc.co.uk "We feel the club missed having competitive reserve team football last year and we wanted to re-introduce it for a number of reasons. It's good for players who've had injuries to make their way back, it gives a chance for senior players who aren't in the first team to stake their claim, and obviously it's a good stepping stone for youngsters who want to progress to the next level."

Reading's home games will be played at Farnborough Town's ground, and season ticket holders and Young Royals members will be able to benefit from FREE entry to all home reserve games (on production of their valid season ticket/YR cards). Otherwise admission prices will be £5 for adults and £3 for seniors & juniors, or free for under 14's accompanied by one paying adult. In return, Farnborough Town will be playing their Ryman League fixture against Gravesend & Northfleet at Madejski Stadium on Tuesday 22nd August. Kick off is at 7.30pm and admission prices will be £5 for adults and £3 for seniors & juniors. Again, under 14's will be given free entry when accompanied by one paying adult. ←

the ball

VISIT THE ROYALS OFFICIAL WEBSITE @ WWW.READINGFC.CO.UK

PARDEW TAKES GAMBLE |

→ The Royals completed the signing of central midfielder Joe Gamble in time for the Irish teenager to make his Madejski Stadium debut against Charlton Athletic a fortnight ago. The 18 year-old has signed a two-year professional contract after greatly impressing Alan Pardew during a trial spell from Cork City.

Gamble first appeared in a Reading shirt in the opening pre-season fixture against an Army Select XI at Arborfield, and went on to feature prominently in a number of the warm-up matches, giving a particularly strong performance in the 3-0 win at Kingstonian. Gamble now has one more season of eligibility for the under 19's, although he will go straight into the first-team squad and take the number 19 jersey. ←

MATCHDAY TICKET STAFF WANTED |

→ The Madejski Stadium ticket office is looking for matchday staff to join our team. Computer literacy is a bonus but not essential, and full training will be provided. Please apply by writing to David Luker, Ticket Operations Manager, at Madejski Stadium, or by calling on 0118 968 1100. ←

MADEJSKI STADIUM BUS SERVICES |

→ Matchday bus services to and from Madejski Stadium are continuing to operate this season, with buses now running from Reading Station, Woodley, Lower Earley, Emmer Green and Purley. All are stopping services except the town centre route. For more information please contact Reading Buses on 0118 959 4000. ←

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR |

→ We hope you like your new-look matchday programme. This season's publication is four pages bigger than last season with more features for you to read, and a specially printed front cover

which we hope will make the programme even more of a collectors' item. The programme follows the same format as the £3 pre-season magazine, although the inclusion of adverts has enabled us to reduce the price of the regular matchday editions to £2.30.

Please write to Andy West, the Programme Editor, at Madejski Stadium if you would like to make any comments. ←

MAGIC MASCOTS |

→ The Royals will be led out by three mascots this afternoon: Oliver Martin, **Nathan Lewis** and Anthony Kendrick. Nathan is 11



years old, lives in Winnersh and will start at the Forest School in September. He plays football for the Woodley Hammers as a left-sided defender or midfielder, and Darren Caskey is his favourite Reading player. His other hobbies include cycling, swimming, judo, pool and fishing. He is here today as a birthday present.

Oliver Martin is also 11 years old and will transfer from Silchester School to Hurst this term. At Silchester he was captain of the football team, and also played clarinet in the school band. Today's role as mascot will be a total surprise, and should outrank his previous greatest footballing highlight - his visit to Wembley to see England play Scotland.



Anthony Kendrick is celebrating his eighth birthday today. He knows that Darren Caskey's birthday is on the 21st so he would like to say happy birthday to him too! Anthony met Darren when he presented trophies at Anthony's team's recent tournament and he is looking forward to seeing the Royals star midfielder again today! ←





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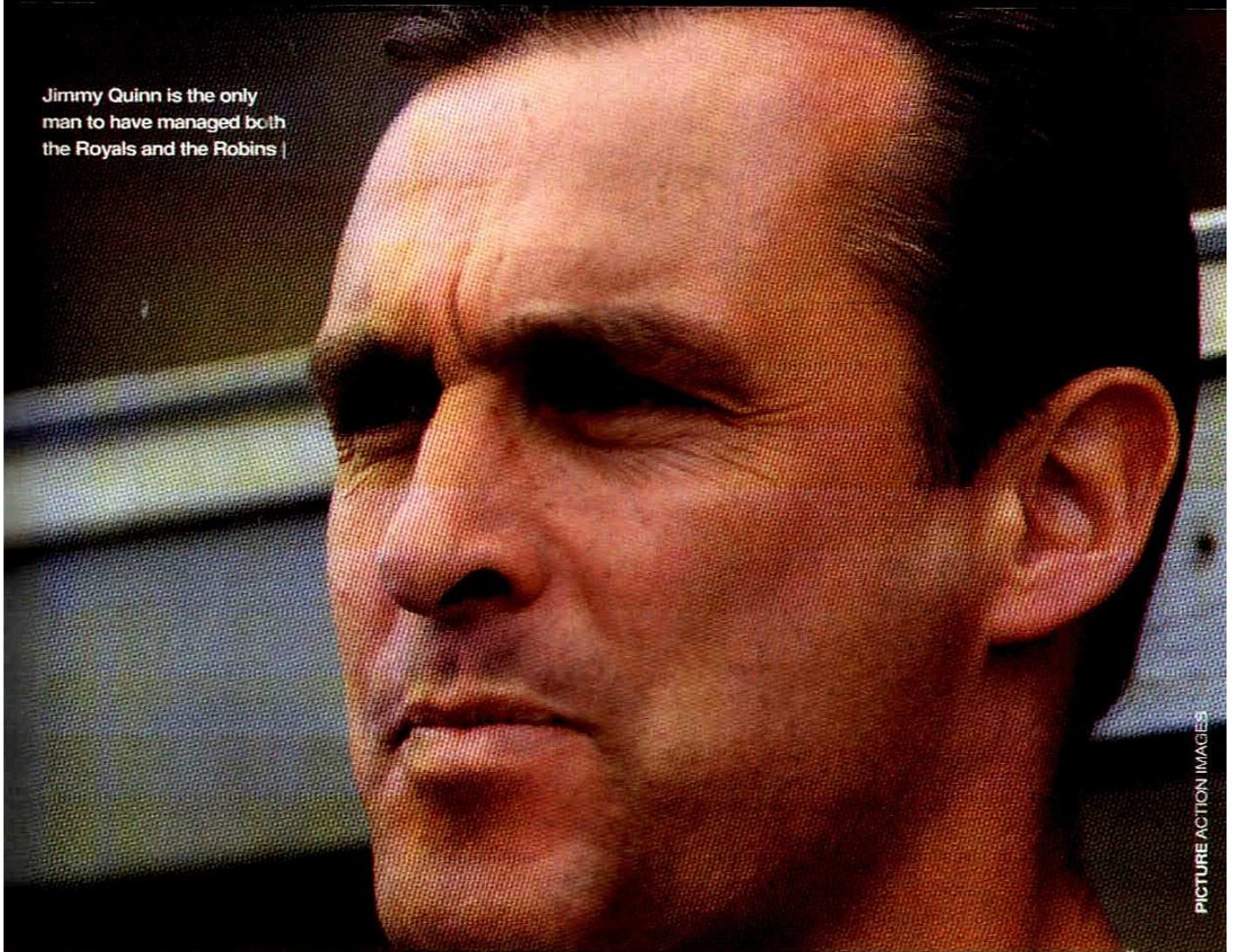
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25 years as Reading's No 1.

Jimmy Quinn is the only man to have managed both the Royals and the Robins |



PICTURE ACTION IMAGES

HISTORY BETWEEN THE TEAMS |

ROYALS VERSUS SWINDON TOWN

There have of course been many encounters between the two local rivals over the years, and remarkably after a total of 91 fixtures, the Royals hold the slenderest possible margin with 34 victories to 33.

Our first Football League meetings were in the inaugural season of Division Three (South) in 1920/21, and they were happy occasions for Swindon fans as the Robins recorded a double with wins of 2-0 at the County Ground and 3-2 at Elm Park. The following decade the Reading fans were smiling though, as their team recorded one of their biggest ever wins with a 7-1 thrashing of Swindon at Elm Park in January 1933 - Jack Palethorpe scoring four of the goals. Another high-scoring

game took place on 17th December 1949, when Reading eventually ran out 4-3 winners in front of more than 16,000 spectators at Elm Park. Two of Reading's goals that day were scored by 'Allen', but it was not Denis, father of current assistant manager Martin Allen - this goalscorer was the less well remembered Bryn Allen, who spent just one season with Reading.

The last meetings between the Royals and the Robins took place in the 1997/98 season, when one of the few bright spots of a dismal campaign for Reading fans was a 2-0 victory at the County Ground on January 17th, with goals coming from Stuart Lovell (his last goal in Reading colours) and James Lambert.

That victory was revenge for Swindon's 1-0 success at Elm Park earlier in the season, but ultimately not enough to save the Royals from the drop.

THE LAST TIME WE MET | DIVISION ONE

SWINDON TOWN 0-2 READING
LOVELL 9, LAMBERT 14

SAT 17TH JANUARY 1998
ATTENDANCE | 9,500

SWINDON |
DIGBY, BORROWS, ROBINSON,
BULLOCK (WATSON), TAYLOR,
MCDONALD (COLLINS), CUERVO,
HOWE, FINNEY, HAY, GOODEN

READING |
HAMMOND, BOOTY, SWALES,
BERNAL, DAVIES, PARKINSON,
BOWEN, HODGES (HOUGHTON),
MORLEY, LOVELL (MEAKER),
LAMBERT

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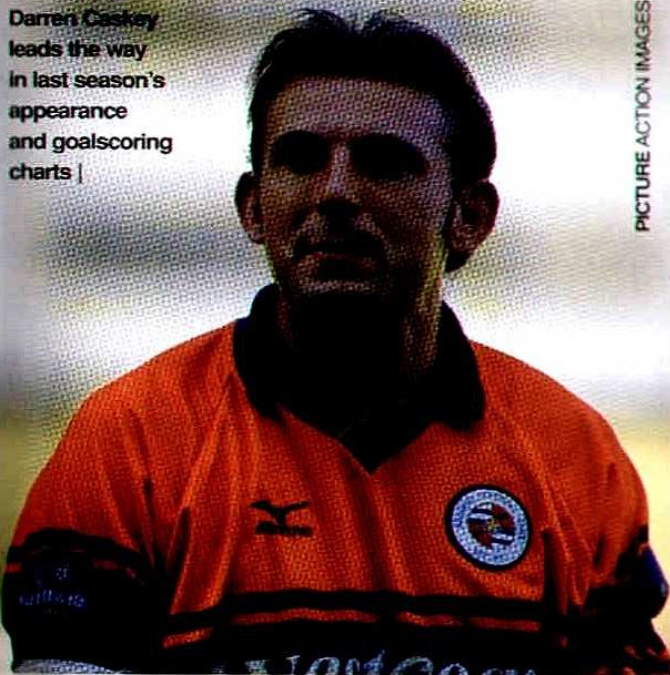
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extra time

THE ROYALS GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH SWINDON TOWN

Darren Caskey leads the way in last season's appearance and goalscoring charts |



PICTURE ACTION IMAGES

SWINDON TOWN |

THE LAST TIME THE ROBINS PLAYED |

GRIEMINK
ROBINSON
DAVIS
WILLIS
REEVES
HEWLETT
INVINCIBLE
DUKES | (HOWE)
O'HALLORAN
GRAZIOLI | (COWE)
ALEXANDER

12/8/00
(H) COLCHESTER
DREW 0-0
ATT | 7,296

THE LAST FIVE ROBINS MATCHES |

D 0-0 | COLCHESTER (H)
D 2-2 | SHEFFIELD UTD (A)
L 1-2 | BARNSELY (H)
L 0-3 | STOCKPORT (A)
W 1-0 | FULHAM (H)

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCES 1999 | 2000

BIGGEST WIN
(H) 3-1 | TRANMERE

BIGGEST DEFEAT
(H) 0-4 | BOLTON

BIGGEST HOME ATT
12,397 | MAN CITY

BIGGEST AWAY ATT
31,751 | MAN CITY

MOST APPEARANCES (STARTS) |

ALAN REEVES | 44
MARK ROBINSON | 43
GARETH HALL | 41
ANDY WILLIAMS | 36
FRANK TALIA | 33

THE TOP GOALSCORERS |

CHRIS HAY | 10
GUILIANO GRAZIOLI | 8
IFFY ONUORA | 4
MARK WALTERS | 3
THREE PLAYERS | 2

READING |

THE LAST TIME THE ROYALS PLAYED |

WHITEHEAD
NEWMAN
ROBINSON
VIVEASH
HUNTER
CASKEY
PARKINSON
HODGES | (IGOE)
MCINTYRE | (SMITH)
SCOTT | (HENDERSON)
ROUGIER

12/8/00
(A) MILLWALL
LOST 2-0
ATT | 11,043

THE LAST FIVE ROYALS MATCHES |

L 0-2 | MILLWALL (A)
W 1-0 | STOKE (H)
D 1-1 | BURY (A)
W 2-1 | WYCOMBE (H)
L 0-1 | WIGAN (A)

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCES 1999 | 2000

BIGGEST WIN
(H) YEOVIL | FAC 4-2

BIGGEST DEFEAT
(A) MILLWALL | 0-5

BIGGEST HOME ATT
BRISTOL CITY | 13,348

BIGGEST AWAY ATT
BURNLEY | 14,436

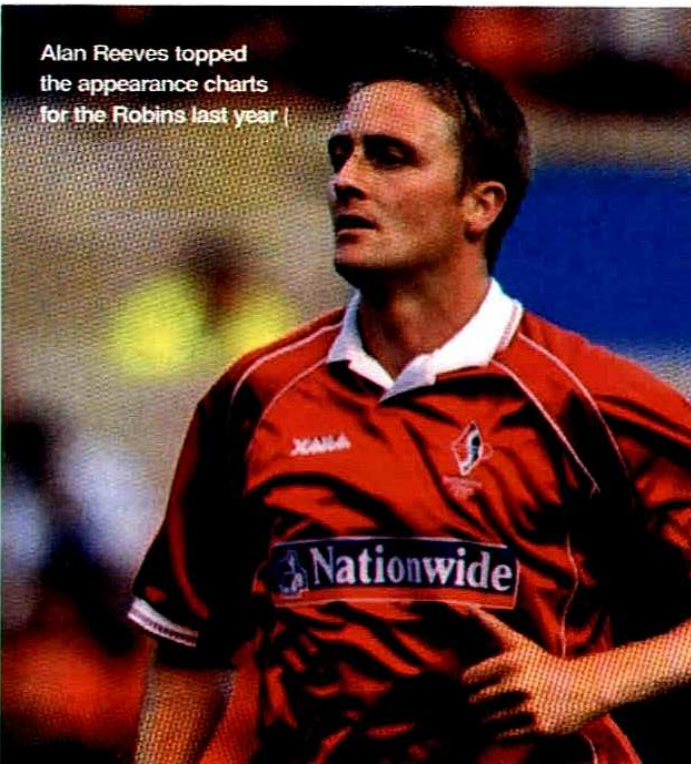
MOST APPEARANCES (STARTS) |

DARREN CASKEY | 56
SCOTT HOWIE | 46
ANDY GURNEY | 46
NICKY FORSTER | 38
BARRY HUNTER | 35

THE TOP GOALSCORERS |

DARREN CASKEY | 23
NICKY FORSTER | 10
KEITH SCOTT | 6
MARTIN WILLIAMS | 6
JIM MCINTYRE | 5









Alan Reeves topped the appearance charts for the Robins last year |



Royals sea

FRONT COVER | MATTHEW ROBINSON | PHOTOGRAPHY | A

AWF - NUMBER OF AWAY FANS ATTENDED

ROYALS FACTFILES			THE KEY		ALL HOME GAMES IN BOLD				FAC AXA FA CUP WC WORTHINGTON CUP			
DATE	OPPONENTS	RES ATT										
SAT AUG 12	MILLWALL (A)	L D-2 11,043 1,026 AWF	WHITEHEAD	NEWMAN	ROBINSON	VIVEASH	HUNTER	CASKEY	PARKINSON	HODGES		
SAT AUG 19	SWINDON TOWN (H)											
TUE AUG 22	LEYTON ORIENT WC1 (A)											
SAT AUG 26	NORTHAMPTON TOWN (A)											
TUE AUG 29	STOKE CITY (H)											
SAT SEPT 2	PORT VALE (A)											
TUE SEPT 5	LEYTON ORIENT WC1 (H)											
SAT SEPT 9	BRENTFORD (H)											
TUE SEPT 12	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (H)											
SAT SEPT 16	PETERBOROUGH UTD (A)											
TUES SEPT 19	W C 2 (1)											
SAT SEPT 23	SWANSEA CITY (H)											
TUES 26	WORTHINGTON CUP 2 (2)											
SAT SEPT 30	ROTHERHAM UNITED (A)											
FRI OCT 6	WIGAN ATHLETIC (A)											
SAT OCT 14	WYCOMBE WNDRS (H)											
TUE OCT 17	WREXHAM (H)											
SAT OCT 21	BRISTOL CITY (A)											
TUE OCT 24	BURY (A)											
SAT OCT 28	OXFORD UNITED (H)											
SAT NOV 4	WALSALL (A)											
SAT NOV 11	COLCHESTER UNITED (H)											
SAT NOV 18	F A C 1											
SAT NOV 25	AFC BOURNEMOUTH (A)											
SAT DEC 2	CAMBRIDGE UNITED (H)											
SAT DEC 9	F A C 2											
SAT DEC 16	NOTTS COUNTY (A)											
SAT DEC 23	LUTON TOWN (H)											
TUE DEC 26	BRISTOL ROVERS (A)											
SAT DEC 30	SWINDON TOWN (A)											
MON JAN 1	NORTHAMPTON TOWN (H)											
SAT JAN 6	MILLWALL (H)											
SAT JAN 13	STOKE CITY (A)											
SAT JAN 20	BRISTOL ROVERS (H)											
SAT JAN 27	LUTON TOWN (A)											
SAT FEB 3	PORT VALE (H)											
SAT FEB 10	BRENTFORD (A)											
SAT FEB 17	PETERBOROUGH UTD (H)											
TUE FEB 20	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (A)											
SAT FEB 24	SWANSEA CITY (A)											
SAT MAR 3	ROTHERHAM UNITED (H)											
TUE MAR 6	WYCOMBE WNDRS (A)											
SAT MAR 10	WIGAN ATHLETIC (H)											
SAT MAR 17	WREXHAM (A)											
SAT MAR 24	BRISTOL CITY (H)											
SAT MAR 31	NOTTS COUNTY (H)											
SAT APR 7	CAMBRIDGE UNITED (A)											
SAT APR 14	BURY (H)											
MON APR 16	OXFORD UNITED (A)											
SAT APR 21	WALSALL (H)											
SAT APR 28	COLCHESTER UNITED (A)											
SAT MAY 5	AFC BOURNEMOUTH (H)											

LAST SEASONS TOP SCORERS				LAST SEASONS TOP HOME GATES			LAST THREE GAMES	
PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL	DATE	OPPONENTS	ATTENDANCE	OPPONENTS	RESULT
DARREN CASKEY	17	6	23	SAT AUG 7	BRISTOL CITY	13,348	MILLWALL (A)	LOST 2-0
NICKY FORSTER	10	0	10	SAT MAY 6	STOKE CITY	13,146	CHARLTON ATH (H)	LOST 3-1
KEITH SCOTT	3	3	6	SAT FEB 12	MILLWALL	11,994	KINGSTONIAN (A)	WON 3-0

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Millennium Madejski Hotel

Junction 11, M4

Reading RG2 0H

Tel 0118 925 3500

Fax 0118 925 3501

Cilantro.Reading@mill-cop.com

LeCafe.Reading@mill-cop.com

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