

The Pirate



Season
2007/08
Issue 31

The Official Matchday Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

£2.50

PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR
2007/2008



v Swindon Town

Tuesday 22nd April 2008

kick off 7.45pm

The Memorial Stadium



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Let's finish as high as possible

“WITH NEXT SEASON IN MIND, WE HAVE HAD SOME YOUNGER PLAYERS ON THE BENCH INCLUDING CHARLIE CLOUGH LAST SATURDAY”



Good afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium, for our penultimate home game of the season, against Swindon Town.

We were disappointed not to take all three points against Gillingham on Saturday, as we set out to attack the game in a really positive manner and get a lot of men forward. That was the case for the first half an hour, as we started at a good tempo with some good attacking play.

Unfortunately, when the chances came, we couldn't take them and no matter what level you play at, when you are on top you need to score the goals that you deserve. That wasn't the case on Saturday, even though we started the game in a very encouraging way.

We conceded a soft goal, which meant we had to work hard to get back into the game in the second half, but the players showed a good mentality and a good spirit to be able to do that. Whilst it took a long time for the equaliser to arrive, courtesy of a great strike by Steve Elliott, we had two very good chances before his goal when we could have got back into the game.

Naturally, it was disappointing to draw another home game, even though we were delighted with some of our play. However we are very keen to end our

home games with two wins, as it's been a while since we won a league game here at the Memorial Stadium.

In fact, it's been an intriguing season at home. We started off badly, then went on a run of eleven league and cup games without defeat. However since our home game against Doncaster, on 4th March, we have been disappointing again, so we want to turn things around.

Our aim this week will be to win both remaining home fixtures, and we have a confidence we can do it, but we are going to need a good spirit about us. Sometimes we can't produce the football we would like to on the pitch, but the players are still showing a hunger and desire to win games, and that must continue.

We are looking to next season, and the formation changes that we have put in place have freshened us up and made us look more of a threat, which has been pleasing, and that will continue toward the end of the season.

People have said that we've played 4-4-2 for years, which is true in a defensive sense, but when we've attacked we have always done so with a fluidity about us and with people coming off the shape from wide areas. We'll continue that over the last few games, as we would like wins to improve our league position and to move up to where we feel we should be in the table.

With next season in mind, we have had some younger players on the bench including Charlie Clough last Saturday. We may see him in action before the end of the season, and we may see one or two others, though as I've previously said, it's about getting the balance right.

We are in a position where we can experiment, but we are also in a position where we are still looking up the table and we want to overtake a few teams, but whatever happens we want to make

sure we finish strongly.

The average age of our squad, in recent weeks, has been pretty low and that's something Lennie and I addressed when we first came together. We had a very young bench on Saturday, and a few young boys in the starting eleven, which bodes well for the future.

We have had a few tough games at Swindon in the last couple of years, and have come away from the County Ground disappointed at having lost when we felt we deserved better. The game there earlier this season was spoilt by four sendings off, which made it a bit of a farce in the end. It's a local derby, though, and under lights at the Mem, so we are definitely looking forward to it.

We need three points to push us up the table again, and we need the support of the fans just as much as we have in recent weeks. The home record has been average, at best, but the support has been better than that so we want to make sure we finish on a high to ensure that we give them something to cheer about, and make sure the last few games here are enjoyed by everyone.

Swindon enjoyed a very good result on Saturday, scoring six goals against Port Vale without reply. Scoring six goals in any game, whatever the opposition, is a good achievement and we have to be wary because they have some good attacking players capable of scoring goals.

Our own form has been alright, without being brilliant, but we'll be confident that this is a game we can win. Both teams are in a safe position, looking upwards, and looking to finish the season strongly and while you could make quite a few comparisons between two teams promoted last season, it would be nice for us to finish above them.

I hope that you all enjoy the game.

■■■■

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HONOURS

Football League

Division Three (South)

Champions: 1982/83

Football League Division Three

Champions: 1989/90

Runners-Up: 1973/74

League Two Play Off Winners:

2006/07

Division Three (South)

Cup Winners 1934/35

Watney Cup Winners 1972

Steve has
just hit a
sweet left foot
volley and
knows the
ball is on its
way into the
net



Steve's strike

Accompanied by two bottles of bubbly, courtesy of the sponsors who named him man of the Match last Saturday, defender Steve Elliott arrived at the post match press conference to describe his wonder goal six minutes from time.

His stunning left foot volley earned Rovers a point, and whilst confirming League One status for next season, the goal pushed the visitors nearer to relegation to League Two.

He described his fourth goal of the season as his best ever.

It's definitely the best goal of my career, as I hit it so well. It came after a long ball forward but Josh Klein-Davies went for it and went down. I thought the referee had given a foul, so I was quite relaxed and hit it. The moment I made contact, I knew it was going in and I think I was already off celebrating before it crossed the line!

Described by many observers as the goal of the season, that accolade probably still stays with Rickie Lambert, for his strike at Luton earlier in the season, and Steve agreed.

I think Rickie's goal is still the best, as his strike came as the ball dropped from a height and he showed great technique to volley it into the net.

Saturday's goal came at the end of a frustrating afternoon for Rovers. Having created a number of chances in the opening half an hour, a combination of near misses and good goalkeeping prevented them from taking the lead and they fell behind seven minutes before half time when John Nutter scored with a

close range header.

I think we deserved a point, as we created a few chances in the first half but couldn't take them. Then we got a little bit sloppy and conceded what was a poor goal from our point of view and had to dig in again.

In the end, I think a point was a good result. I know we should be beating teams at the foot of the table, and that's no disrespect to Gillingham, but we are mathematically safe now so, in the grand scheme of things, it was a good point.

Two more home games this week, against Swindon tonight and Brighton on Saturday provides an opportunity to improve the record of only five wins at the Memorial Stadium this season. The ten draws on home territory go a long way to explaining why we are not challenging further up the table.

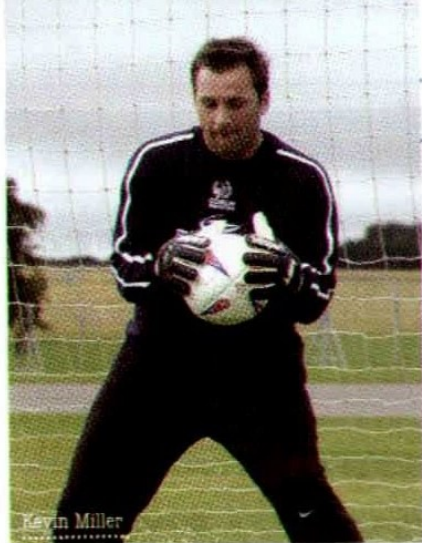
I think that five wins and far too many draws tells its own story. It's all very well drawing, but you may as well win a few more and lose a few more and gain more points that way. To be perfectly honest, those drawn games at the Memorial Stadium have hindered our play off chances, so we'll be looking to win the last few games and push on.

We have two decent games to complete our home fixtures and will have to be on our mettle for the game against Swindon where there is a little bit of local pride at stake, so we will be going all out to win and put in a good performance.

Having missed ten weeks of the season with a knee injury, he's pleased to be ending the campaign back in the side, so to walk off with three Man of the Match awards on Saturday made for a good afternoon's work.

We didn't play particularly well and could have done a lot better, but on a personal note I was very pleased with my goal and the fact that we gained the point required to make us safe. It's just great to be back in the side, and to score a goal like that today topped everything off and made it a great day for me.

♦♦♦♦



The time has come to announce the contenders for the Best 11 at the Memorial Stadium. The top nominees for each position are listed below, in no particular order, and the final winners will be announced in Saturday's special edition programme.

■ **GOALKEEPER:** Brian Parkin: Made 246 appearances in two spells with the club. Steve Phillips: His ability to save penalties, coupled with his passion and commitment, has made him one of the most popular keepers Rovers have ever had. Kevin Miller: Played for 10 clubs in his 18 year career, spending two seasons at the Mem.

■ **LEFT BACK:** Joe Jacobson: The Welsh U-21 captain has been a great addition to the current side, a pacey player with a good football brain. Trevor Challis: Joined Rovers in 1998, and gained a reputation as a tough tackler who never took any prisoners. Matt Lockwood: Made 63 appearances and is remembered for the cross to the head of Barry Hayles in 1998 that cemented a play off place.

■ **RIGHT BACK:** David Pritchard: Strong in the tackle, 'Pritch' was loyal, hard working and tenacious. Aaron Lescott: A hotly tipped contender for this year's Player of the Season, Aaron has been one of our most consistent performers this season. Ryan Green: Injury has curtailed the season of a player many feel is a big talent and it's to be hoped he's back in action soon.

■ **CENTRAL DEFENDERS:** (any two from five): Steve Elliott: 'Mr Consistent', Steve is strong and solid at the back, he also chips in with his fair share of goals. Byron Anthony: Widely believed to be one of Rovers' brightest prospects, fans fully expect him to lead the back line for years to come.

Steve Foster: During his five seasons here, 'Fos' built up a strong partnership

with fellow central defender Andy Thomson. Craig Hinton: Has rebranded himself as a goal machine, banging them in at every given opportunity.

Andy Tillson: Probably the best captain we have had in the last 11 years, a true professional and a great leader of men. 'Tilly' was strong at the back, and always led by example.

■ **LEFT MIDFIELD:** Mark Walters: Brought a touch of class to the Memorial Stadium. Scored 14 goals from midfield, created many, many more, and kept the crowd entertained with his flair and style. Ryan Williams: The diminutive winger gave the team much needed width and would create plenty of attacking chances for those around him.

Vitalijs Astafjevs: The Latvian was an accomplished midfielder, capable of changing a game at the blink of an eye. His pinpoint passes and strong shots will live long in the memory of all who watched him play.

■ **RIGHT MIDFIELD:** Jamie Cureton: See below; Jamie received a number of nominations for the right midfield birth from people who wanted to find him a place in their team.

Vitalijs Astafjevs: He was nominated in a number of positions, as it seems people are desperate to get him in the team somewhere.

Mark Walters: Like Vitalijs, Wally's attacking qualities got him a vote in more than one position.

■ **CENTRAL MIDFIELD:** (any two from six): Ian Holloway: Ollie will always be known in Bristol for his spirit and determination, whether as a player or a manager.

Jamie Shore: It was clear to all who saw him play that he exuded natural talent and great vision, but unfortunately a knee injury proved too much to shake off. Gary Penrice: His personality and eye for goal made him popular on the terraces, and fans were happy to see him return to Bristol in 1997 to link up again with his best mate Ollie.

Craig Disley: His work rate in midfield has earned him many fans, and this year his nine goals from midfield have helped to relieve the pressure on our strikers.

Stuart Campbell: When he was handed the captain's armband Campbell became a totally new player. Able to control the

midfield and deliver a beautiful corner kick. Vitalijs Astafjevs: Let another nomination for the versatile Latvian.

■ **STRIKERS:** (any two from six):

Nathan Ellington: The free scoring striker regularly wowed crowds both home and away, most notably with his hat trick against Derby in the FA Cup in 2002. He had speed, strength and skill in equal measures.

Jason Roberts: At a time when Rovers were churning out quality strikers like there was no tomorrow, Jase was one of the best. Scoring 38 goals in just two years, he made a massive impact on the club.

Richard Walker: Became a goal hero during our promotion season, as he scored a number of crucial goals, including two wonderful strikers at Wembley to see us lift the play off trophy.

Barry Hayles: Scored 32 goals for Rovers in just 62 appearances. Strong and tough, Barry had a fighting spirit which could always be relied upon when the chips were down.

Jamie Cureton: Could always be relied upon to score a goal. Born in Bristol, he spent four seasons with Rovers before heading across to Reading.

Rickie Lambert: His goal at Hartlepool pushed us into the play offs on the final day of last season and his strike that put City out of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy cemented his place in Rovers folklore.

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The win that all but secured League One status finally arrived, at Walsall, last Tuesday after a winless run of eleven games.

The scenes of celebrations on the pitch afterwards weren't simply relief at having gained the three points, but at the manner in which victory was achieved.

Yet again it was another outstanding performance on the road and those supporters who follow Rovers around the country have certainly witnessed some excellent performances this season, along with seven wins.

Goalkeeper Steve Phillips kept his fifteenth clean sheet of the campaign at the Bank's Stadium and hinted, in his post match interview, was already looking ahead to next season, suggesting that the best was yet to come from this side.

Fifteen clean sheets this season isn't good enough on the back of last year, and I think I certainly need to set my standards higher than that.

However to come up a division on the back of such a good season, with few additions to the squad, and do so well is an indication of how good we can be and tonight, for example, I thought the lads were absolutely awesome.

That performance shows what we are capable of on a good pitch. I know everyone goes on about the playing surface at the Memorial Stadium, but it's there for all to see that we do play better on a better pitch and our style of play is obvious.

We don't try to lump it forward, we play it the right way, and our players are suited to play it in the right way. The pitch tonight suited us as the rain on the top surface meant that we could zing it about and a three or four goal winning margin wouldn't have flattered us tonight.

Steve looks ahead

Whilst it was an important result, he refuted suggestions that Rovers had been in a relegation fight.

Of course the win was important, every win is, but I think everyone associated with the playing side here is a little bit frustrated at people even mentioning relegation because we are a far better team than our league position suggests. I think we proved that tonight, though we do need to score more goals. That's been a big gripe this season and probably was last season, in all fairness.

The lads get chances and if we want to get out of the league, or extend our season via the play offs, then we need to start sticking the ball in the net more often or it won't happen, it's as simple as that.

This league is a lot better than League Two and if teams were creating the number of chances that we do, then ninety nine times out of a hundred, they are going to stick them away and it's also something we need to do.

Whilst the whole team played well, he had special words of praise for the defenders in front of him.

I think our defence deserve special praise tonight, because they were awesome. To be honest, though, I thought the whole team was superb. That game was us in a nutshell and we'll go back down the M5 and be pleased with ourselves, as we've gone up a place in the table and be looking at a mid table finish.

Even though we were all really pleased with our performance, we were saying afterwards that we still need to put our chances away. Our defending was superb, as was our counter attacking, against a side that are seventh in the table and there for a reason.

I thought we thoroughly deserved the win, although we could have won by a bigger margin. All of our play was fantastic, but if Walsall had scored with a couple of minutes to go, then we would have been very frustrated. That's happened to us a few times this season, with the game at Cheltenham being a prime example of how we have dominated teams but either lost or drawn. We need to transform situations like that into wins next season because if we can, then we will enjoy a very, very good campaign. ■■■■



Yeovil Town 0 Bristol Rovers 0

Yeovil Town

- 31 Asmir Begovic
- 28 Nathan Smith
- 6 Terrell Forbes
- 4 Terry Skiverton
- 16 Jamie Peters
- 12 Matthew Rose
- 26 Stephen Maher
- 27 Lee Peltier
- 25 Zoltan Steiber
- 10 Marcus Stewart
- 9 Lloyd Owusu

Substitutes

- 2 Mark Lynch
- 5 Scott Guyett
- 11 Jen Francois
- Christophe 12 (53)
- 15 Liam Bridcutt 16 (84)
- 24 Andrew Kirk 26 (59)

Bristol Rovers

- 1 Steve Phillips
- 16 Danny Coles
- 5 Craig Hinton
- 6 Steve Elliott
- 32 Aaron Lescott
- 14 David Pipe
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 20 Craig Disley
- 18 Chris Lines
- 9 Rickie Lambert
- 39 Wayne Andrews

Substitutes

- 3 Joe Jacobson
- 8 Andy Williams
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 26 Lewis Haldane
- 29 Josh Klein-Davies 39 (31)

Rovers returned from Huish Park with a hard earned point under their belts following this goalless draw.

They adapted to the atrocious conditions far better than their hosts and were unfortunate not to take all three points, and were twice denied a goal by good saves from Begovic.

The first chance of the afternoon came after 12 minutes when Lambert's downward header, from Campbell's free kick, was comfortably saved by Begovic. Two minutes later another Lambert header, from Campbell's corner, was cleared as far as Hinton, whose shot drifted well wide of the target.

New signing Andrews saw his debut curtailed after just 17 minutes when he was stretchered off following a challenge by Skiverton.

The Yeovil skipper, then had his side's first goalscoring opportunity, but headed over following a corner on the left, while at the other end Coles ballooned a left foot shot high over the bar.

Skiverton's acrobatic overhead cross was punched clear by Phillips, but Rovers regained the upper hand and put the home defence under pressure late in the half, forcing three corners in quick succession. From the second of those, Lambert powered a header towards goal only to see Begovic touch the ball over the bar.

The first chance of the second half fell to Rovers but Elliott's 25 yard free kick cannonned into the Yeovil defensive wall. The home side then squandered a good opportunity when Owusu broke clear but opted to shoot when he had time to take the ball on and his long range effort was well wide of the target.

Lines went close when he ran on to Lambert's through ball, only for Begovic to make an unorthodox save with his legs.

With three minutes left

on the clock the keeper again came to his side's rescue when he touched a free kick from Campbell over the bar. Lines then had a shot blocked when the resulting corner was cleared to him on the edge of the box.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦





Matchfacts

	Rovers	Yeovil
Shots on target	7	1
Shots off target	4	2
Corners	11	5
Fouls conceded	9	14
Offside	1	2

The bloke behind me said...

With thanks to the tractor blocking the route on the way down, and the milk lorry doing the same on the way back. There's hardly any place you can overtake on the A37 and a travelling time of one hour forty five minutes each way is not something I'd be looking forward to if we were to groundshare with our Somerset neighbours next season!

Weather report: It was a horrible day, with a

strong wind blowing down the pitch and it rained for most of the afternoon.

Crowd: 6,654 and most of them were either too cold or too wet to create much of an atmosphere inside the ground.

Referee watch: Jon Moss put in a pretty average performance.

Best moment: On the stroke of half time, a delightful backheel by David Pipe set up Danny Coles for a cross and he delivered the ball into the box, only to see it cleared at the expense of a corner. A moment of skill by Pipe, who worked hard all afternoon.

Funniest Moment: As Wayne Andrews was being stretchered off, Paul Trollope gave vent to his feelings and, in a moment of frustration, kicked a full bottle of water down the pitch. It struck club photographer Jeff Davis in the side and he turned round ready to give the culprit a right mouthful, but when he realised who was the guilty party, he forced a smile and went on taking snaps – priceless!

My Man of the Match: I thought that Aaron Lescott had another good game at the back and he gets my vote.

Opposition Man of the Match: Over the course of the ninety minutes, I felt that Marcus Stewart was Yeovil's best player.

Gas Connections: The aforementioned Marcus Stewart began his career with Rovers and made 171 league appearances for the club before his move to Huddersfield Town.

How many opposition fans there: 1,630 and although they were soaked to the skin they did all they could to get behind their team.

Actual time played: 96 minutes.

Summary: Rovers just about shaded a poor game ruined by the appalling conditions and created the better chances, but had to settle for a point.

Entertainment value: 4/10

Atmosphere: 5/10

Programme: 4/10

"I WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE WAY WE DEFENDED AGAINST THE ELEMENTS IN THE FIRST HALF BUT I FELT WE LET OURSELVES DOWN IN THE SECOND HALF AND DIDN'T PUT THEIR BACK FOUR UNDER ENOUGH PRESSURE"

**Yeovil boss
Russell Slade**

"WE PLAYED BETTER AGAINST THE WIND AND STARTED TO CREATE A FEW CHANCES AND, AS AN AWAY PERFORMANCE, WE HAVE TO BE PLEASED WITH A POINT AT WHAT IS A TOUGH PLACE TO COME TO"

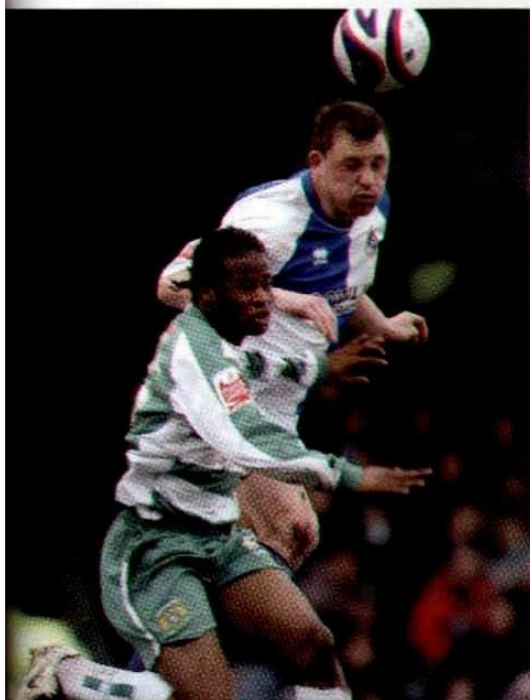
**Rovers First Team Coach
Paul Trollope**

Far Left Top: Joah Klein-Davies has everything under control

Far Left: Chris Lines on the ball

Left Top: Steve Elliott is first to the ball

Left: Stuart Campbell takes on Nathan Smith





Bristol Rovers 0 Hartlepool United 0

Walker (34), Disley (62) Anthony (67)

Walker (34), Disley (62)

Bristol Rovers

- 1 Steve Phillips
- 16 Danny Coles
- 5 Craig Hinton
- 6 Steve Elliott
- 32 Aaron Lescott
- 14 David Pipe
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 20 Craig Disley
- 18 Chris Lines
- 9 Rickie Lambert
- 29 Josh Klein-Davies

Substitutes

- 3 Joe Jacobson 16 (17)
- 8 Andy Williams 29 (69)
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 19 Sean Rigg
- 26 Lewis Haldane

Hartlepool United

- 21 Arran Lee-Barrett
- 2 Jamie McCunnie
- 5 Michael Nelson
- 6 Ben Clark
- 8 Ritchie Humphreys
- 17 David Foley
- 15 Anthony Sweeney
- 4 Willie Boland
- 11 Andy Monkhouse
- 19 Matty Robson
- 10 Joel Porter

Substitutes

- 1 Jan Budtz
- 3 Robbie Elliott
- 20 Godwin Antwi
- 24 Michael Mackay 17 (77)
- 32 Jonny Rowell

■ Clark, Porter

A draw was probably the right result in a game played in difficult conditions on a pitch that wasn't conducive to flowing football.

Klein-Davies had an early opportunity for Rovers but headed well wide of the target, and then Lines struck a volley from the edge of the area which flew over the crossbar.

Lines then played in Klein-Davies, who saw his shot drift just wide of the target and the striker then hit a shot straight at Lee-Barrett, while at the other end Hinton blocked a shot from Boland and Porter hit the loose ball wide of the upright.

Lambert headed straight at Lee-Barrett when well placed and the keeper kept out another effort from the same player with a fine save.

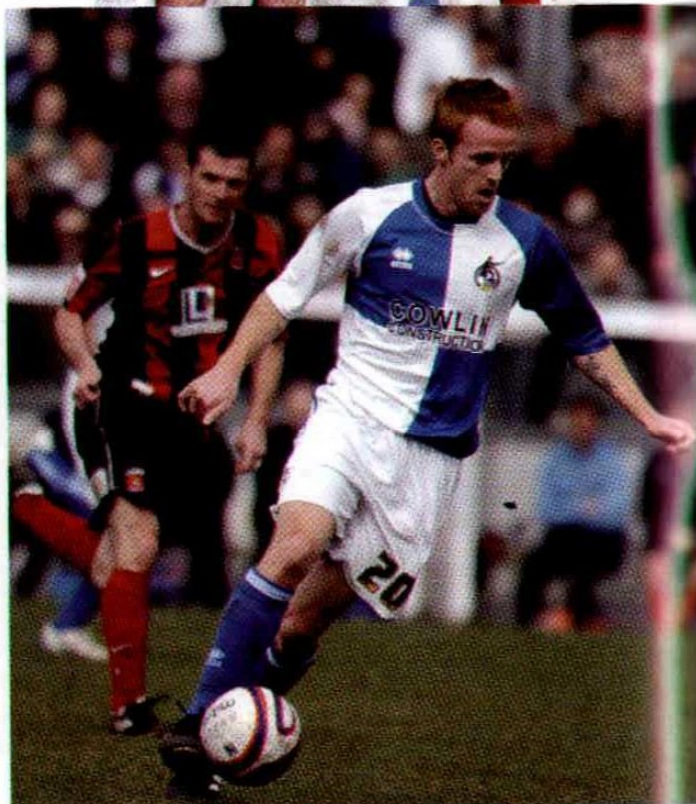
The visitors threatened in the final minute of the half and Phillips saved well from Foley and Nelson hit a shot high over the bar.

The game didn't improve after the break, though Boland saw a shot blocked and another effort from Monkhouse was comfortably saved by Phillips.

Lines and Klein-Davies just failed to get on the end of a couple of decent crosses from Pipe before Phillips was called into action again, making saves from Foley and Monkhouse.

Substitute Williams drew a good save from Lee-Barrett, who kept out the striker's low drive, while Monkhouse hit two chances over the bar at the other end and before the ninety minutes were up another effort, from Humphries, met the same fate.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦





Matchfacts

	Rovers	Hartlepool
Shots on target	5	5
Shots off target	5	5
Corners	4	4
Fouls conceded	14	17
Offside	2	2

The bloke behind me said...

With thanks to the blokes behind me who created the only real atmosphere around me. Even then, it took them until the second half to get going and start banging their seats up and down to generate a little bit of noise. As they were corporate guests, I can only assume they needed

some half time liquid refreshments before they could really let themselves go!

Weather report: It was dry, sunny and windy, and also a tad on the cold side.

Crowd: 5,526 and the atmosphere inside the Memorial Stadium was very low key.

Referee watch: Jarnail Singh isn't my favourite referee, but I have to admit that he had a decent game on this occasion.

Best moment: Just ten minutes into the game Chris Lines showed a touch of skill when he found Josh Klein-Davies with a superb reverse pass and the young striker raced into the box before hitting a shot wide of the target.

Funniest Moment: Referee Jarnail Singh's natty line in trainers, which seemed an odd choice of footwear for a match official. I was expecting him to lose his footing at some stage, but he never did - spoilsport!

My Man of the Match: On the day, I would say that David Pipe was Rovers best player. He got through a tremendous amount of work and delivered some telling crosses into the box.

Opposition Man of the Match: I was quite impressed with Ben Clark and he gets my vote as Hartlepool's best player.

Gas Connections: Hartlepool's assistant manager Ian Butterworth did a little bit of coaching for a few weeks when Ian Atkins was here as manager.

How many opposition fans there:

150 and I didn't hear them at all during the whole ninety minutes. Still, all credit to them for making the long trek to Bristol in the hope of seeing their side win. Instead, they witnessed their side's first goalless draw in 72 games. At least they can say 'I was there!'

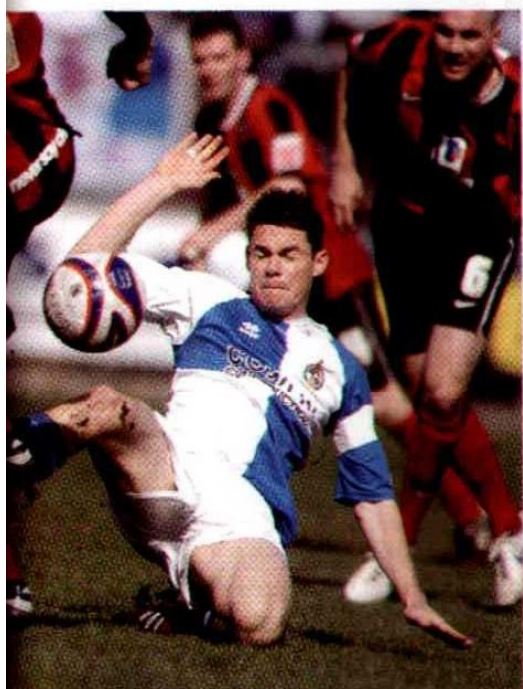
Actual time played: 95 minutes.

Summary: Well, it wasn't the best of games by any stretch of the imagination. Both teams tried to get the ball down and play but the pitch, and the weather, was against them.

Entertainment value: 4/10

Atmosphere: 4/10

Programme: It was a little bit like the game, promising to deliver in some places and falling disappointingly short in others.



“HAVING THREE AWAY GAMES ON THE TROT IS PROBABLY THE BEST THING FOR US NOW, AND WILL SUIT US. HOPEFULLY WE CAN GO AWAY AND PICK UP THE POINTS WE NEED TO MAKE US SAFE”

**Rovers First Team Coach
Paul Trollope**

“WE’VE HAD SOME GREAT GAMES OF FLOWING FOOTBALL AGAINST ROVERS AT OUR PLACE BECAUSE THE SURFACE IS EXCELLENT. BUT THE PITCH AND THE ELEMENTS HERE, WITH THE STRONG WIND, MADE IT VERY HARD”

**Hartlepool boss
Danny Wilson**

Far Left Top: Craig Hinton is sandwiched between Michael Nelson and Ritchie Humphreys

Far Left: Craig Disley on the ball

Left Top: Stuart Campbell is surrounded by Hartlepool players as he challenges for the ball

Left: Andy Williams in determined mode



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English FA Tour to the West Indies, 1955

It's now 53 years since Geoff Bradford, Rovers talented goalscorer, was selected by the English Football Association for their tour to the West Indies.

The tour party was made up of fifteen professionals and two amateurs, and the trip was a reciprocal one as the Trinidad FA had visited England in 1953.

Apparently the FA Selection Committee had considered a remarkable number of players for the tour, including 14 goalkeepers, 39 full backs, 66 half backs and 97 forwards before finalising their squad.

The final selection was as follows:

Goalkeepers: Ted Bennett (Watford) Harry Sharratt (Bishop Auckland)

Full Backs: Ken Hair (Leeds) John Hall (Birmingham) Jim Langley (Brighton)

Half Backs: Tony Emery (Lincoln) Harry Goring (Arsenal) Jimmy Hill

(Fulham) John Kelly (Blackpool) Syd Owen (Luton) (captain)

Forwards: Geoff Bradford (Bristol Rovers) Vic Groves (Leyton Orient)

Ron Heckman (Bromley) John Hoskins (Southampton) Bedford Jezzard &

Bobby Robson (Fulham) Gordon Nutt (Cardiff) and Stan Pearson (Bury).

The party assembled at Lancaster Court Hotel in central London on Monday, 9th May 1955 and left that evening flying out to Bermuda.

The first match, against a Bermuda XI, was played in a temperature of 80 degrees (27c) on the Prospect Field. Fulham's Bedford Jezzard astounded the home side with his powerful shooting, scoring four times, while Bradford contributed two goals in an emphatic 11-1 victory.

A much changed Bermuda side were hammered 14-1 in the following match, and that despite the home goalkeeper performing heroics. Both Bermuda goals in those first two matches were own goals, scored by Owen and Langley.

Moving on to Jamaica, the party received a warm welcome on their arrival in Kingston and enjoyed both the hospitality and the sightseeing.

In the first of three matches against Jamaica in five days, the tourists ran out 7-0 victors on two occasions and also registered a 4-2 victory in a more competitive game, when the two home goals were greeted with much delight from the crowd. Bradford scored in all three games, and netted two superb hat tricks.

A short flight to Trinidad followed, where the matches were played on cricket grounds—three of which took place at the Queens Park Oval in Trinidad. The first, against North Trinidad, was the hardest of the tour and Jezzard scored the only goal of the game eight minutes from time.

The highest crowd to witness a tour match, 16,000, were in attendance for the next match and they saw the touring side put on a superb display, scoring six goals without reply.

Bradford scored a first minute goal in the next game and bagged another hat trick. Then followed a two hour flight to



The FA tour party, 1955 - Geoff Bradford is on the right in the front row

Curacao, for the final two matches. The final game was played under floodlights and concluded the successful tour.

The touring party also had time to watch a day of the final test cricket match between the West Indies and Australia in Kingston on their way home. The eleven match tour, which lasted a month, resulted in nine wins and two draws. Sixty nine goals were scored by the tourists and just eight conceded. The performance of Rovers' Geoff Bradford was certainly noted by the management team on the tour as within four months he was selected for the full England International team and won his solitary cap in the 5-1 victory in Copenhagen against Denmark.

Geoff scored one of the goals in that game, and despite being told by England manager Walter Winterbottom that he would play in the next International against Wales he was never selected again, to his extreme disappointment.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Date	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers
12 May	Bermuda	Won 11-1	Jezzard (4), Bradford (2), Hoskins (2), Robson (2), Kelly
14 May	Bermuda FA	Won 14-1	Jezzard (3), Heckman (3), Pearson (3), Hill (2), Groves (2), Nutt
18 May	Jamaica XI	Won 7-0	Robson (4), Hoskins (2), Bradford
21 May	Jamaica XI	Won 4-2	Bradford (3), Langley
23 May	Jamaica XI	Won 7-0	Bradford (3), Jezzard (2), Hill, Hoskins
26 May	North Trinidad XI	Won 1-0	Jezzard
30 May	Trinidad	Won 6-0	Bradford (2), Robson (2), Groves, Jezzard
2 June	Trinidad	Won 8-1	Bradford (3), Heckman (3), Robson (2)
4 June	Trinidad	Won 8-0	Robson (3), Jezzard (3), Pearson, Hoskins
7 June	Curacao	Drew 2-2	Jezzard, Bradford
10 June	Curacao	Drew 1-1	Pearson

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Smash and Grab in town!

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

The match was originally scheduled to take place in March, but was called off because of our progress in the FA Cup.

However, it's good to be playing our near neighbours at last and good to know that we have both secured our place in League One for next season.

I would like to welcome the Swindon Directors, players and supporters here today and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Tonight's Match Sponsor is Mercedes Benz, and we welcome their representatives to the game as they enjoy our hospitality in Executive Box 14. We are delighted to be doing business with such a prestigious company, and proud that they sponsor Paul Trollope's car.

Our Matchball Sponsor is Hills Construction, who have been enjoying the facilities of Executive Box 12 for the second half of the season, by way of sponsorship. We hope that Shaun and his guests enjoy being our sponsor this evening, and that they look to continue their support of the football club in the months to come.

Our Commercial Mascot tonight is Jordan Molesworth, son of our legendary (or so he says!) Chief Scout. Jordan is 12 years old and attends Aston Fields Middle School. He plays football for Bromsgrove Rovers U-13's as a midfielder and says that the best games he has seen are Rovers play off win at Wembley last season and Liverpool's Cup Final win against West Ham.

Jordan's favourite Rovers player is Rickie Lambert and I hope he has a great evening with us.

We are almost at the end of what has been another season of success and frustrations, and by this weekend we will have hosted three games in seven days.

On Saturday, of course, we play our final home game of the season and our last at the Memorial Stadium as we become football nomads again whilst the redevelopment takes place.

On Friday night, we are hosting a Sporting Dinner here at the Memorial Stadium, and if you haven't already got tickets, I strongly suggest you contact me tomorrow before we sell out! Joining us will be Glenn Catley, the Ex World Middleweight Champion, not to mention some of the 1973/74 promotion team, amongst them Jim Eadie, Lindsay Parsons, Stuart Taylor, Peter Aitken, Graham Day, Frankie Prince and the famous 'Smash & Grab, Bannister & Warboys.

Despite the fact that we haven't got anything to play for this evening, please let me hear your voices, as another three points on the board would still be great!

Come on ye Blues



Above: Steve Elliott was our sponsors choice as Man of the Match against Gillingham and is seen here with a representative of Match Sponsor the Carco Group...

...and below, with Matchball Sponsor Clive Fryer



Left: Tonight's Commercial Mascot Jordan Molesworth

Right: Our Commercial Mascot for the Gillingham game was Max Butcher, pictured here with Rickie Lambert





Craig Disley was the Supporters Club man of the Match against Gillingham and is seen here receiving his trophy from Caleb Armstrong

£55,000 CHEQUE TONIGHT

Tonight, Supporters Club chairman, Jim Chappell, and Share Scheme Chairman, David Brain, are presenting the Football Club Chairman, Ron Craig, with a cheque for £55,000 and in return will receive 20,000 shares.

This will give us a real chance of reaching £750,000 in total when the current scheme expires in December 2008. I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Share Scheme and those who have helped to make it a success through promoting this

Supporters Club scheme. The Supporters Club has traditionally raised money to donate to the football club and we are now looking at new ways to help our club and at the same time maintain our share holding in the club which allows us to have two directors on the main board. This latest presentation brings the Supporters Club total holding as at 5th April 2008 to £734,578 which is 329,510 shares and represents 9.74% of the issued share capital in Bristol Rovers 1883 Ltd.

Tonight is the culmination of the fund raising efforts of the Supporters Club since it was asked by the board to promote a scheme that would not only raise funds but give the fans some equity in our football club. The then Supporters Club Vice Chairman, and Board Associate Director, Steve Burns introduced the Share Scheme and Roger Cooper became its inspirational Chairman. Today, with the scheme in its last year, we can all see what a resounding success it has been. By the time the scheme completes its six years next December it will have raised over £750,000, given the Supporters Club two full directors and helped save us from the Conference most notably by the transfer deadline signing of Andy 'Rambo' Rammell.

It's not too late to join the Share Scheme and have your name on the 'roll of honour' which is to be displayed in the supporter's bar of the rebuilt Memorial Stadium. Get your name added to those who have helped our club at the time it was needed most.

For individuals weekly membership of the scheme begins at less than the price of a pint of beer. There are four different ordinary levels and a corporate level. These options are:

- **Bronze Option** - £10.83 per month
- **Silver Option** - £21.67 per month
- **Gold Option** - £43.34 per month
- **Platinum Option** - £83.34 per month.
- **Corporate Option** - £100.00 per month.

If you would like to join or introduce someone else please contact Clare McDonagh at Pirate Leisure on **(0117) 952 4001** clare@bristolrovers.co.uk If you would simply like to now more about the scheme then please contact me:- davidbrain1883@btinternet.com

The current membership at the end of March 2008 stands at:-

Level	Number
Bronze	251
Silver	77
Gold	8
Platinum	4
Total	340

The total monthly income is £5,530

David Brain

FROM THE CHAIR

I knew it would happen when I had a 'bit of a go' at the team following the defeat at Bournemouth that made it eleven games without a win; an excellent performance and all three points at promotion chasing Walsall!

Rovers were clearly the better side in an exciting game of attacking football that was very reminiscent of last season's League Two encounter at the Bescot Stadium both in terms of weather and performance and it virtually assured our safety in the higher division. Hopefully survival was completely guaranteed with a home win over struggling Gillingham last Saturday.

Tonight we should be presenting the Football Club with a cheque for £55,000, which has come out of the Supporters Club's general fund in much the same way as we used to do on a regular basis before we took over all the ticket sales and club merchandising, the profits from which we hand over internally. Whilst the Share Scheme is not involved in this particular piece of funding the Football Club has agreed to provide us, in return, with shares equivalent to those we have been purchasing from the scheme. This, we hope, will give us a boost towards reaching our target of £750,000 invested by the Share Scheme into the Football Club before the scheme expires in December. What a fantastic achievement that will be for the scheme devised by Steve Burns six years ago when the team was in the basement division and in severe danger of dropping out of the League altogether. How much better things are today with Rovers cementing promotion to League One and about to

SUPPORTERS CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman Jim Chappell
SC Director on Football Club Board and SC Vice-Chairman Ken Masters
Treasurer Jane Browne
Secretary Sue Williams
SC Director on Football Club Board and Share Scheme Chairman David Brain
Commercial Chairman Clive Farquhar
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embark on the building of a brand new state of the art stadium in just a couple of months! Whilst the Share Scheme has been a fantastic success, so too has another of Steve's ideas, albeit involving lesser sums of money but which has been vital in providing improved facilities here at what we can easily forget was a very basic old style rugby ground when Rovers moved in! I am referring of course to the 50/50 Draw, which was set up to help fund whatever needed to be upgraded for the benefit of our long suffering supporters. Such things as covering the rainswept Clubhouse Terrace and Family Enclosure, the superb new floodlights, (remember how gloomy it was here before!), improving the always troublesome public address system etc etc. In a way the 50/50 Draw reaches a natural conclusion before the Share Scheme as, from the end of this season, there should be no longer be any need for us to help pay for improvements to facilities. For the next two seasons our temporary landlords, wherever they may be, will automatically be providing the facilities and when we move back to Horfield there should of course be no need to make any improvements! The Executive Committee has backed my idea that we do however continue with the 50/50 Draw, which has become so popular with fans over the last decade or so. What we want to do is to use the draw to provide additional funding for the Rovers' Youth Scheme.

Tonight's clash will now certainly lack the intensity of last season's dramatic home win in the corresponding fixture that was settled by as fine a goal as you

could see anywhere in the Premier League. However, the honour of 'Best in the West' will likely fall on the victors tonight so get behind those boys in blue!

Up the Pirates!

Jim Chappell

Quite Comprehensive

Good evening to all at the Memorial Stadium for tonight's fixture with our Wiltshire neighbours; a sincere warm welcome to Town supporters.

The uncertainties surrounding the County Ground this season has attracted a good deal of sympathy for Robin's fans. Enjoy a safe and good evening with us. We wish you a trouble free journey home and all good wishes for the financial future of your football club.

At Rovers we have always enjoyed a good level of support from the West Wiltshire Towns. We also enjoy strong support in North East Somerset and very high, if not quite comprehensive, support in Mid and South Gloucestershire. The branch of our Supporters club in Weston to the south west is exemplary in terms of what we can do all around our patch.

I make an appeal, once more, to fans in our areas of support to come forward and help us to form, or reinstate, additional branches. If you live, for example, in Paulton, Melksham, Yate, Wootton or close by, please come on board.

Our season is not yet over. We want to finish as strongly as we can as we prepare for 2008/09. Come on you Pirates.

Ken Masters

Youngsters in final

The Bristol Rovers Supporters Club U-11 team play Warmley Rangers in the Hanham Minor League U-11 Cup Final at The Creek, Manor Farm's ground on the Portway on Sunday, April 27, kick-off 11 am.

Free Travel

Don't forget that if you have travelled with the Supporters Club to at least 18 away matches this season then you are entitled to free travel for our last away game at Leyton Orient on Saturday, May 3rd but you must book in advance.

♦♦♦♦

Commercially Speaking

Not surprisingly, apart from the first few days of the month leading up to the West Brom FA Cup match, March has been fairly quiet from a commercial point of view.

Sales at our Pirate Leisure and Kingswood outlets were a fraction of the figures for the corresponding time last year, though that obviously owed to the build up to our visit to The Millennium last March. That said, we are still up between 30% and 40% on the year to date which is very pleasing.

We are now focussing on running stocks down to a level manageable for when we move out of The Mem and, to this end, Steve Burns and his staff and volunteers will be arranging 'end of season' sales. More details will follow on our website and in our matchday programme in due course.

Talking of the website, I'm pleased to announce that Peter Gibson (husband of Alison from Pirate Leisure) has recently agreed to assist with development and content matters. His experience, along with continuing guidance and help from our resident expert Ben Ede, will help keep things fresh and I know they are already working on a number of new projects as well. As always, if you have any newsworthy articles for submission, please get in touch.

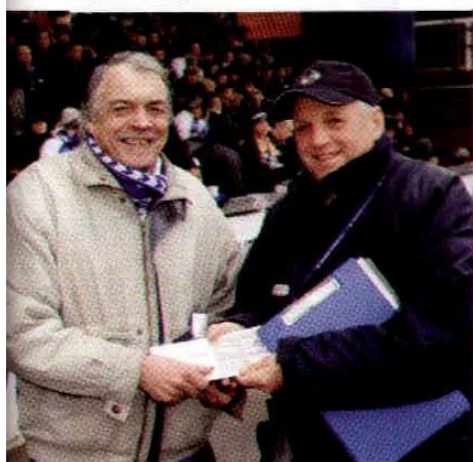
Last Monday saw the Commercial Committee meet and, as expected, most of the discussions centred on next season and the logistical challenges that will be faced. As you would expect, it is a little frustrating not being able to make firm plans for the retail outlets and members facilities next season at this stage but we appreciate that, until the stadium build tenders come in and the process moves forward, we have to be patient. However, this doesn't mean we've been sitting on our hands and initial plans and timelines have been discussed which are vital when you take into consideration lead times for re-locating telecoms and IT networks for example.

Last but not least, Steve Burns has confirmed that next season's new home shirt will be launched at the Fun Day during the close season – further details, date (and venue!) to be announced in due course.

Enjoy the game!

Clive Farquhar

Jim Chappell hands over the Gillingham 50/50 winnings



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Ahoy, shipmates!



Our mascot for the game against Gillingham was George Pillinger, pictured right with Lewis Haldane... and left with team captains, match officials, commercial mascot Max Butcher and Captain Gas prior to kick off



Good evening and welcome to the Young Pirates Home Page.

This evening we entertain Swindon Town here at the Memorial Stadium, and would like to welcome all the players, staff and supporters who have made the short trip here down the M4.

These notes are being written before

Saturday's game against Gillingham, so let's hope the result went our way and we are finally safe!

As Baggie Sue has been ill for the last four weeks, we have a guest writer this evening. His name is Marc Radford, and he is a very close friend of ours.

Our 'bubble' match saw the contentious, dubious, 4-4-1-1 work. We should have been four goals to the good

before Swansea spread their wings.

Martinez's team play such delightful football that it got me pondering. I have said, without a shadow of a doubt, La Liga is the best quality of football in Europe. Watching those Swans swing the ball left to right and back again, with each player as capable technically as the next, was superb viewing. I predict they will waltz to the upper echelons of the Championship.

The Champions elect played in their manager's footprint, as does ours. To our credit Trollope's is sound defensively, yet its striking prowess leaves a lot to be desired. No moaning, but let's just say that with Andrews and Hughes in full flow we would have dispensed of Yeovil and Bournemouth. Against the Cherries, every time we were on the attack at the start and when we were two nil down, we looked like we could have scored! It'll be a nostalgic goodbye to the Mem as we know it, but good riddance to the pitch, a wider and flatter one, please!

Player of the Year 'do' coming up, 27th April. I haven't got it wrong for years... what a captain we have this year! I work in Swindon, so a special 'hi' to Greendown School FC from their captain elect, what a team!

Finally, thank you Marc for helping us out. It has been a difficult four weeks, and we have really missed the Rovers, but have been keenly following their progress via the radio, etc., and hope to be back for the last game of the season even if we have to leave Baggie Sue in the room!

BIRTHDAYS

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

Apr 9	COREY NEAL	4
Apr 9	GEORGE SULLIVAN	1
Apr 9	CALLUM DRY	10
Apr 11	HARRY BEVAN	12
Apr 11	BONNIE THOMAS	13
Apr 11	EMMA DYMOCK	3
Apr 11	LUKE MILLINMER	14
Apr 12	JAKE GARMAN	9
Apr 12	KIAN BRYANT	2
Apr 12	AARON MUSCAT	8
Apr 13	JAMIE WARN	16
Apr 14	ELLIS SEARLE	10
Apr 14	JAMES BREWER	9
Apr 14	LUCY AMOS	6
Apr 14	OLIVER MORAN	12

TODAY'S MASCOT

Eleven year old Annabel Owen lives in Kingswood and attends Bristol Brunel Academy. Her hobbies are football and playing the guitar. She also plays football, for A&K Boco, as a midfielder or defender.

Annabel recently ran the Sports Relief Mile and raised £50. Her favourite players are Sammy Igoe and Rickie Lambert and we hope she enjoys being our mascot this evening.





Bristol Rovers 0 Swansea City 3

Rovers reserve side were well beaten by their Swansea counterparts in this Pontin's Holidays Combination fixture at the Memorial Stadium.

In spite of a hard working performance a young Rovers side, skippered by Alex Kite, came out second best to an impressive Swansea side that looked particularly impressive going forward.

It was a disappointing performance by Kevin Hodges' side after some encouraging results in recent weeks and the youngsters missed having any experienced players alongside them.

Both sides created chances in a frantic opening spell. Ben Swallow did well to ride a couple of chances in the centre circle before playing in Joe White, but the striker's first time shot was well saved by David Knight.

At the other end, Mike Green did well to save a low drive from Chris Jones at his near post. The keeper then touched a shot from Dion Chambers round the post and saved well from Shaun McDonald, who curled a free kick round Rovers defensive wall from the edge of the area.

The visitors always looked a threat on the break, though, and took the lead on 31 minutes when Jones broke down the right and squared the ball to Stefan Morrison who stroked the ball into the net from ten yards.

Rovers responded well and James Fraser powered a header wide from a superb Ben Swallow cross, though they were unable to break the deadlock before the break.

There was a scrappy start to the second half and it wasn't until the hour mark that the first goalscoring opportunity arrived, but after a good run through the middle, McDonald fired a weak shot well wide of the upright.

Charlie Reece hit a shot wide of the target shortly afterwards, but Swansea doubled their lead on 64 minutes when Green misjudged a cross from the left and could only parry the ball as far as Andrea Orlandi who scored from close range.

The keeper was beaten again minutes later, by a ferocious drive from substitute Kerry Morgan, and was relieved to see the ball rebound into play off the post.

Reece fired a speculative shot into the

side netting, but Swansea came close to adding a third goal when Morgan's fierce drive from 20 yards was touched round the post by Green.

The third goal did arrive on 76 minutes, though, when Green was beaten by Jones, who rifled home a 25 yard free kick.

Charlie Clough almost pulled a goal back for Rovers, but his diving header, from a Reece free kick, was well saved by Knight.

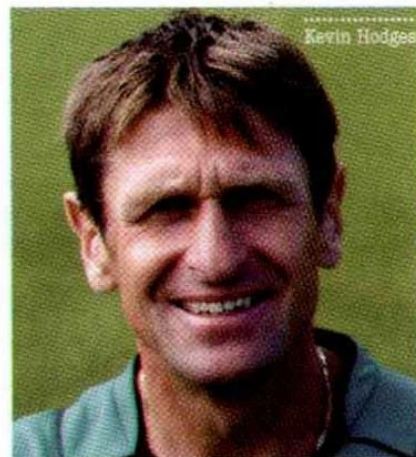
Reserve team boss Kevin Hodges could offer no excuses for his side's performance, and was also disappointed with the lack of discipline shown by his players, who picked up five yellow cards.

We fielded a very young side, but that's not an excuse for our performance. There are times when I try to inspire a little bit of self belief and confidence into the players, but sometimes I expect them to give me a little bit of inspiration in return, and I felt that didn't happen tonight.

Our conduct on the pitch has been admirable all season but tonight there was far too much petulance, niggly fouls and back chatting. Things didn't quite go our way and a little bit of frustration crept into our play. We lost our discipline completely, and also lost sight of our objectives of getting the ball down and passing it, and trying to create some chances.

We experimented a little bit, with Charlie Clough playing off the lone striker, but overall it was a disappointing performance.

Some of the younger players have been offered new contracts, so they



Kevin Hodges

have no worries about their immediate future, but our performance tonight is not one that any of the management team will accept.

We did get the ball into some decent areas in the first half but, unfortunately, we didn't get enough bodies into the box and our quality on the ball wasn't good enough. We didn't retain possession for long enough to get into the game, and it was bitty and scrappy, and we lost our way a little bit.

On the positive side right back Mark Cooper made an encouraging debut.

Mark is still at school, and defended well. He's a strong lad and not too much went past him.

Kevin is now looking for a positive finish to the season.

When the first team are mathematically safe I would like to think that some of these players might be given a first team opportunity, but they won't get one with performances like that. However I hope that it was a one off performance tonight and will be looking for some improvement in our next match.

Team: Mike Green, Mark Cooper, Alex Kite, James Tyrell, Tom Parrinello, Charlie Reece, James Fraser, Charlie Clough, Ben Swallow (Reeko Best, 80), Joe White (Eliot Richards, 80), Rob Deakin (Sam Wade, 62).
Substitute (not used): Sam Burgess



Joe White

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Bristol Rovers 2 Yeovil Town 0

Our U-18 side beat Yeovil 2-0 thanks to a Joe White penalty and a goal from Nuno Felix.

We fielded a young side against Yeovil, said Head of Youth Kevin Hodges, and included Reeko Best and George Pawley, who both did very well. Physically, Yeovil were a much bigger

side, but our lads adapted well and put in a very good performance.

Team: Alex Bowering, Jon Cox (Nuno Felix), James Tyrell, Brian Bowles, Rob Deakin, Dan Cayford, Reeko Best, Kyle Thomas, Joe White, George Pawley (Jordan Cooper), Ben Swallow. Substitutes (not used): Deon Noakes, Dan O'Brien

Bristol Rovers 2 Walsall 1

Our U-16 side, which included eight of our U-15 squad and one from our U-14's, beat a strong Walsall side in a game played at the Creek, home of Manor Farm FC.

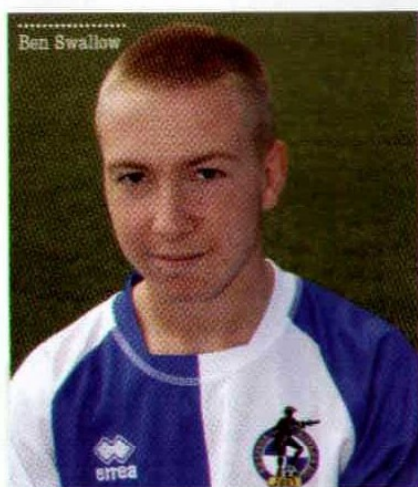
I wouldn't have been surprised if we had lost this game, because the players are so young,

said manager Stewart Naughton, but they gave a terrific account of themselves and deservedly won the match.

Alex Hoyle and Tom Seery scored first half goals for us, and although we came under pressure after the break as we tired a little, we coped well and the only goal we conceded was from a penalty.

Man of the Match for us was Eliot Richards, who plays up front and who was unfortunate not to score. In midfield, Ben Campbell put in a strong performance and Lamar Powell, from our U-14 side also did well. He's a very talented player and we have high hopes for him.

Team: Ackeem Morgan, Mark Cooper, Alex Hoyle, Tom Seery, Lee Chapman, Lamar Powell, George Booth, Ben Campbell, Andreas Rooney, Eliot Richards, Robbie Maggs. Substitutes: Sam Butler, Jack Cam, Jordan Tillson, Josh White



RESERVES -

Pontins holidays combination FIXTURES 2007/08

AUG 20	Mon	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	1-1
SEP 12	Wed	EXETER CITY	A	0-1
SEP 18	Tue	SWINDON TOWN	H	0-1
SEP 25	Tue	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	A	1-0
OCT 5	Wed	FOREST GREEN ROVERS OPA	A	*1-1
OCT 16	Tue	APC BOURNEMOUTH	A	2-1
OCT 23	Tue	YEovil TOWN	H	0-2
OCT 30	Tue	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 2.00 pm	A	1-2
NOV 13	Tue	BRISTOL CITY	A	3-3
DEC 17	Mon	APC BOURNEMOUTH	A	0-2
FEB 13	Wed	SWANSEA CITY	A	5-1
FEB 25	Mon	EXETER CITY	H	0-0
MAR 16	Tue	SWINDON TOWN 2.00 pm	A	1-3
MAR 26	Wed	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	H	2-1
MAR 31	Mon	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	H	4-1
APR 9	Wed	SWANSEA CITY	H	0-2
APR 16	Wed	YEovil TOWN	A	1-1
APR 23	Wed	BRISTOL CITY	A	
APR 28	Mon	FOREST GREEN ROVERS 7.30 pm A		

Home games to be played at the Memorial Stadium, unless stated

PC = Pontins Cup

GFA = GFA Senior Challenge Cup

F = Friendly

NO 7.00pm unless stated

* lost 3-2 on penalty

Centres of Excellence U16's South West - FIXTURES 2007-08

SEP 1	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	1-0
SEP 8	Sat	APC BOURNEMOUTH	A	1-1
SEP 16	Sat	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	H	1-0
SEP 22	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	2-2
OCT 6	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	4-5
OCT 15	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	4-0
OCT 20	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	4-2
OCT 27	Sat	WALSALL	H	1-2
NOV 3	Sat	APC BOURNEMOUTH	H	1-1
NOV 10	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	3-0
NOV 17	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	3-0
NOV 24	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	3-4
DEC 1	Sat	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	A	0-1
DEC 16	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	H	4-1
JAN 12	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	4-1
JAN 19	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	3-2
JAN 26	Sat	WALSALL	A	2-3
FEB 2	Sat	APC BOURNEMOUTH	A	3-2
FEB 9	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	A	4-5
FEB 16	Sat	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	H	2-2
FEB 23	Sat	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	A	3-2
MAR 1	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	7-2
MAR 8	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	A	3-0
MAR 15	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	1-1
MAR 22	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	3-3
APR 5	Sat	WALSALL	H	2-1
APR 12	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	
APR 19	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	
APR 26	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	

Home EO 10.30am Away NO 11.00am unless stated

WYVC = WA Youth Cup

PUMA Youth Alliance U18's South West - FIXTURES 2007/08

AUG 26	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	A	3-5
SEP 1	Sat	YEovil TOWN	A	4-1
SEP 8	Sat	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	H	1-3
SEP 15	Sat	COLCHESTER UNITED		
		PYA CUP 1 12.00noon	A	1-2
SEP 22	Sat	SWINDON TOWN - PLYMOUTH	H	2-4
SEP 29	Sat	YEovil TOWN - PYAC 3 11.00 AM	A	3-2
OCT 6	Sat	LEWIS ORIENT		
		PYA CUP 4 11.00 am	H	3-1
OCT 13	Sat	OXFORD UNITED - PYA CUP 5	H	2-0
OCT 20	Sat	SCOTCHBURN UNITED -		
		PYA CUP 6 12.00noon	A	1-2
OCT 27	Sat	GILLINGHAM - PYA CUP 7 11.00 am	H	1-2
NOV 7	Wed	CHRISTCHURCH - PYAC 1	A	3-1
NOV 10	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	0-1
NOV 17	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	1-1
NOV 21	Wed	BRIGHTON & HOVE - PYAC 2 7.30pm	A	0-5
NOV 24	Sat	COLCHESTER UTD - SOUTH CUP 2	H	0-5
DEC 1	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	1-0
DEC 8	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	0-5
FEB 2	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	2-0
FEB 9	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	3-1
FEB 16	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	2-3
FEB 23	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	3-2
MAR 1	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	2-1
MAR 15	Sat	APC BOURNEMOUTH	A	0-3
MAR 22	Sat	APC BOURNEMOUTH	H	2-0
MAR 29	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	H	0-1
APR 5	Sat	YEovil TOWN	H	1-1
APR 12	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	
APR 19	Sat	CHILTERNHAM TOWN	A	

PYAC = Puma Youth Alliance Cup

Home EO 10.30am Away NO 11.00am unless stated

WYVC = WA Youth Cup

For all the latest news, match reports and views...



...read the EVENING POST



Monday's



Tuesday's



Wednesday's

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Sailors and rugby league



Pirates meet the Navy

The Pirates came face to face with the Royal Navy on Saturday, when crew from the HMS Iron Duke visited the Memorial Stadium.

The naval frigate was docked in Avonmouth for the weekend, and 40 officers and sailors in full uniform watched our League One clash against Gillingham.

Attendance at the game came about after Commander Tom Herman contacted Rovers Chairman Ron Craig to see if he could arrange a match between Rovers and the members of HMS Iron Duke.

As this was not possible, Ron invited the sailors to come and enjoy a game as his guest. He said:

A new FA initiative encourages football clubs to offer support to our Armed Forces, so the call from Commander Herman could not have come at a better time.

Because of our game

against Gillingham, we were not able to play a match against the crew of the Iron Duke, so I invited them along to watch the game.

There is a good seafaring connection between the navy and our history as the Pirates, and we enjoyed having several members of the crew as our guests.

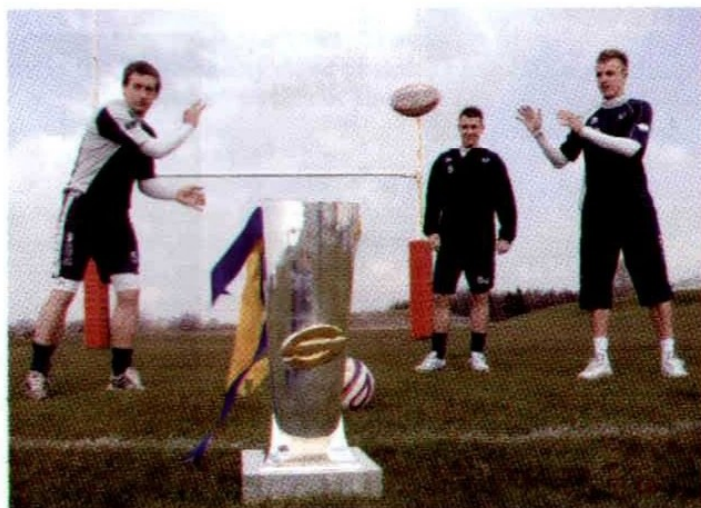
The crew enjoyed a tour of the ground before being introduced to the team for a photo opportunity before they began their warm up and at half time representatives from the ship presented a ships crest to the club.

The HMS Iron Duke is a Type 23 frigate, and the third ship to be named after the Duke of Wellington. It was launched in 1991, and is currently in active service with a crew of more than 180.

Rugby trophy at Colerne

As a means of promoting their weekend at the Millennium Stadium, when six games will be played over the weekend of 3rd/4th May, rugby league officials brought the Super League Challenge Cup to our training ground last week.

The trophy, worth £250,000 caught the eye of Craig Hinton, Chris Lines and Andy Williams, who showed they can handle the oval ball as well as a football!



April 1973

“ONE OF THE OBVIOUS WAYS OF COMBATING HOOLIGANISM IS BY PROVIDING SEATING AS IT DISSUADES THE HOOLIGAN ELEMENT FROM EVEN SHOWING UP”

Malcolm Macdonald, then of Newcastle United, graced the cover of the April 1973 edition of *Football Monthly*, whilst the back cover was given over to a full page advertisement for razor blades (Wilkinson Sword).

The lead article listed the top goalscorer for each Football League club, and the season in which each club scored their record haul of league goals. In Rovers case, 1952/53 was the season to remember as Geoff Bradford scored 33 of the club's league goals, as promotion was achieved for the very first time.

Swindon's records had stood for far longer, 1926/27 to be precise, when Harry Morris scored 47 of his side's 100 league goals.

Only one player had topped 50 goals in a post war season.

Terry Bly, of Peterborough, is that player and his 52 in season 1960/61 came out of the record league debut of the Posh with a season's best for the Football League of 134 goals.

Elsewhere in that month's issue, Brian Glanville made the point that wing halves were still essential.

So what is the old school wing half, in essence, but the new school of overlapping full back? The birth of the third back game not only brought the wing halves infield to mark the inside men, it also took

the full backs out of the middle to look after the opposing wingers.

There were in depth articles on Blackpool's Alan Ainscow and Leeds goalkeeper David Harvey while David Exall, the Everton promotions manager, penned an interesting article advocating all seater stadia.

People are proving they are not interested in going to pig sties or standing on terraces where they are liable to be knocked about. One of the obvious ways of combating hooliganism is by providing seating as it dissuades the hooligan element from even showing up.

1973 marked the centenary of international matches between England and Scotland and that landmark was celebrated in this issue, whilst the historical content focussed on Portsmouth's record since becoming members of the Football League in 1920/21.

The only other mentions for Second Division Swindon and Third Division Rovers came in the list of recent transfers, where we learn that the Wiltshire club had signed Mick McGovern from QPR and Charlie Tusan from Crusaders, while goalkeeper Jim Ladie had moved to Rovers from Cardiff. ■■■■



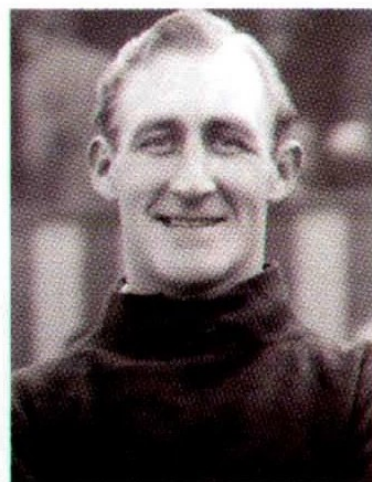
Bert Hoyle

Born on this day

Born in the small Yorkshire town of Baildon on this day in 1920, Herbert Hoyle was always a goalkeeper.

6' 3", with huge hands and broad shoulders, he cut an imposing figure between the posts. Despite spending three pre war seasons with Bradford Park Avenue, Bert did not break into league football until 1946. By then, he had spent many years playing services football in Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece, appearing regularly for the Combined Services team. This side could select the likes of Len Shackleton, Raich Carter, Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney and Tommy Lawton and played at top venues across Europe. He became good friends with the Wolves player Stan Cullis and played for the Stan Cullis XI against England in Naples where, injured after only 25 minutes, he was substituted by the England goalkeeper Frank Swift.

Hoyle signed for Wolves in May 1946, where he briefly shared a house with Billy Wright, and for Exeter City three months later. That breakthrough into league football came with the Grecians, for whom he appeared in the first post war league game, a Third Division (South) encounter with local rivals Torquay United, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Although he shared goalkeeping duties with a fellow former Wolves keeper, Barney Singleton, Hoyle appeared in 82 league games for Exeter in four seasons, including both matches against Rovers in the 1948/49 season. The meagre income from immediate post war professional football was supplemented by summer work at local farms. On 10th May 1950, Hoyle signed for Bristol Rovers in a deal worth £350, as manager Bert Tann's first signing, earning the club's top wage of £16 per week. He made his debut for the side on the opening day of the season, as a Vic Lambden goal earned a 1-0 victory at home to Swindon Town. During his first year with Rovers, he appeared in all 58 first class matches, as Rovers finished sixth in Division Three (South) and reached the quarter finals of the FA Cup for the first time



Bert Hoyle

in the club's history. In February 1951, Hoyle kept a clean sheet at St James' Park as Rovers ground out a goalless draw to earn a replay where, beaten by a cruel deflection, the Third Division club lost to the eventual winners, Newcastle United. The 1952/53 season brought even greater success and Hoyle played in the opening 29 league games as Rovers lost only twice. Indeed, a club record run of twelve consecutive victories around Christmas included a 7-0 win against Brighton. Goals conceded were few and far between – by February the club had scored 67 goals and conceded only 24. He appeared in a total of 105 Third Division (South) matches for Rovers. Hoyle was an extrovert on and off the field and his confidence and assertiveness in the penalty area were crucial to Rovers' success.

On his way home to Dawlish, following a goalless draw with Bristol City at Ashton Gate in February 1953, Hoyle was involved in a car crash that ended his professional career. The only consolation to him was that he had already played in enough fixtures to win a Third Division (South) championship medal once Rovers had secured the title with a 3-2 win against Newport County in April. Bert retired officially at the season's end and appeared briefly for Exmouth Town from August 1953 before running the Ship Inn at Cockwood, near Starcross, Devon for many years. The open house policy there enabled generations of Rovers fans to meet the amiable goalkeeper who spent hours regaling his visitors with detailed tales of his years in football. Bert enjoyed nothing less than sharing his experiences with fans old and young. The day to day running of the pub was later taken over by relatives and the pub was sold in June 1994 but, by then, many eager visitors had been able to meet a charming and engaging man and relive the halcyon days when Rovers reached the quarter finals of the cup and gained promotion to Division Two. In a careless moment, he had once admitted his love of oranges and soon Bert Hoyle's Eastville goalmouth was regularly carpeted with fruit every home game. Not that he minded, for the genial goalkeeper, who died in Dawlish on 5th July 2003, was first and foremost a lover of people and would gladly spend every moment talking with the loyal fan base gathered behind the celebrated banana shaped flower beds at the Tote End or Muller End.

22nd April 1987

Bristol Rovers 4 Carlisle United 0

Older supporters may remember the 1986/87 season as one in which Rovers came perilously close to sinking for the first time into the uncharted waters of the fourth tier of English football.

It was the first campaign at Twerton Park following the enforced departure from Eastville and Rovers were in freefall towards the relegation trapdoor. After 22nd April, the side incredibly still had eleven League games to play, eight of these at home; four of those home matches were lost and Rovers ultimately survived relegation courtesy of Phil Purnell's final day goal at Newport County. Lying in 21st place in Division Three after a 2-0 defeat at Bournemouth, Rovers were in dire need of points and a pitifully low crowd of 2,435 at Twerton Park saw Jeff Meacham and Kenny Hibbitt return to the side in place of Ian Alexander and David Rushbury; Nicky Tanner, a future Liverpool player, and Geoff Twentyman, now a well known voice on local radio, were both in the Rovers

On this day in history...

Last five league matches on 22nd April

1987 DIV3	Carlisle United	H	W 4-0	Meacham, Penrice (2), Purnell
1989 DIV3	Northampton Town	H	D 1-1	Bailey
1995 LD2	Lepton Orient	H	W 1-0	Clark
2000 LD2	Bristol City	H	W 2-0	Roberts, Walters
2006 LOR2	Boston United	H	W 3-1	Dialy, Walker (pen), Adogo



Phil Purnell

line up. Carlisle were unchanged following their single goal home defeat to Middlesbrough, meaning that Wes Saunders and the former Everton pair of Billy Wright and Ian Bishop all played. Two goals in each half saw Rovers through to a comfortable victory, Meacham scoring the first, Gary Penrice adding one in each half and Purnell also finding his way onto the scoresheet. For Carlisle, this represented the third in a run of seven consecutive League defeats that led to relegation, Rovers surviving with 51 points.

On the same day, our visitors Swindon Town defeated Darlington 1-0 at home in the same division. Having beaten Rovers 4-3 eleven days earlier, in a game played at Ashton Gate, the Robins won through a second half David Hockaday goal before a crowd of 7,740. Leigh Barnard and the former Rovers striker Steve White returned to the side, with Peter Coyne and Chris Ramsey making way, whilst Darlington recalled Gary Whetter and Gary Hinchley for the missing Chris Evans and Stewart Ferebee. Darlington were also relegated, whilst Swindon, thanks to a brace of White goals against Gillingham past goalkeeper Phil Kite, were promoted via the play offs.



Landlords and The Blues

Good evening and welcome back again as we set in place the final blocks of the season in our penultimate game against Swindon Town and, subject to the official announcement, the Memorial Stadium as it stands today!

Our visitors this evening have made the short trip along the M4 to fulfil a fixture originally scheduled for earlier in the season but cancelled due to our hugely successful FA Cup run.

An interesting evening lies ahead as both teams are closely matched in the league. Add to that the extra spice and intrigue which is thrown into the melting pot with the possibility of the County Ground being considered as an alternative home venue for us during the redevelopment of the Mem.

Just 39.9 miles separates the home of Bristol Rovers and the home of Swindon Town, but what do we know about the 'other' Robins from our league?

Starting with the all important football facts we have faced them 83 times, excluding friendly games, since season 1920/21 and have won 29, lost 36 and drawn 13 in the league, whilst in the cups we have lost two and won one in the FA Cup and won one and lost one in the League Cup.

In the transfer markets a fee of £1.5m was received for Kevin Horlock from Man City in January 1997, and a record £800k was paid for Joey Beauchamp to West Ham in August 1994. Past glories include one season in the Premier League during 1993/94, having conceded the third highest number of goals to date, a record

that now belongs to Derby. The League Cup was won in 1969, by defeating Arsenal 3-1 after extra time and there is an important connection between the clubs in that John Trollope, father of Paul, holds the record for the number of league appearances for one club (770) and was also manager of Swindon between November 1980 and March 1983.

Other interesting facts about Swindon show that it was a small market town, mainly for barter trade, until the mid 1800's. The industrial revolution was responsible for an acceleration of Swindon's growth. The construction of the Wilts and Berks Canal in 1810, and the North Wilts canal in 1819, was at the heart of this growth as the canals brought trade to the area and the population started to grow.

In 1840, Isambard Kingdom Brunel chose Swindon as the site for the railway works he planned for the Great Western Railway, which were completed in 1842. During the first half of the 20th century the railway works was the town's largest employer, and one of the biggest in the country, employing more than 14,500 workers. The works' decline started in 1960, and the Evening Star was the last steam engine to be built in the UK. Rolling stock maintenance for British Rail was the focus after the loss of its loco building role. In the late 1970's, much of the works closed, and the rest followed in 1986. These days the town's major employers include the Honda car production plant at South Marston, BMW/Mini in Stratton, mobile phone company Motorola, and retailer W H Smith, with its distribution centre

and headquarters.

From the world of music, Swindon has spawned **XTC**, **Justin Hayward** of the **Moody Blues**, **Gilbert O Sullivan**, and **Jamie Cullum** who, although born in Essex, was raised near the Town. TV/Cinema and radio celebrities include, Diana Dors, Billie Piper, Melinda Messenger and Mark Lamarr, host of the quiz show 'Never Mind the Buzzcocks'. Finally, other citizens and former residents of the SN postcode include jockey John Francombe, explorer David Hempleman-Adams and golfer David Howell.

I cannot finish this piece on Swindon without mentioning the infamous road traffic roundabout known as the 'Magic Roundabout' at the junction of five roads including Drove Road, Queens Drive and Fleming Way. It is near the County Ground. The official name used to be County Islands but the name was changed in the late 1990's to match its popular name. It was also the inspiration behind the subject of the song '**English Roundabout**' by local band **XTC** from the album **English Settlement**.

.....
Leadbelly - Singing the Blues



recorded six months later by **Pete Seeger**. His music still has a great influence on some of the greatest artists both black and white. Artists like **The Beatles**, **The Rolling Stones**, **Eric Clapton**, **Little Richard**, have all expressed their early studies of music to Leadbelly's records.

Enjoy The Game - Let's Do this!

THE BLUES

Just recently we have dipped into the Blues as we have navigated more eclectic waters in search of worthy tunes to entertain you pre match.

R L Burnside and **BB King** are recent

PIRATE SOUNDS



offerings and we have aired **Johnny 'Guitar' Watson** whose brand of funk has blues influence. One blues tune familiar to all Gasheads is '**Goodnight Irene**' by **Huddie 'Lead Belly' Ledbetter**. Born on January 20th 1889, in Mooringsport, Louisiana. Lead Belly was the only child of Wesley and Sally Ledbetter. After his death, the Weavers, a folk quartet sent 'Goodnight Irene' to No.1 on the charts, which became the most famous song in his repertoire. It sold a million copies and was also



Celebrations at Walsall, following
Rickie Lambert's goal

Last Tuesday's superb win at Walsall not only ended Paul Trollope's worst run without a victory since taking over as Rovers coach, but it also removed lingering fears of relegation for all but the most manic of depressives.

Rickie Lambert's 18th goal of a very productive season, and his 20th in the League since joining from Rochdale, earned Rovers a precious three points to dispel the awful prospect of Gillingham moving to within two points of us at the Mem three days ago.

After all the talk of a play off challenge, buoyed by the luxury of several games in hand, the stark reality of a nervous finish had emerged. Yet Rovers' first victory over Walsall since Peter Beadle's winner at the Bescot on Boxing Day 1997 meant that we could all breathe the spring air a little more easily.

Defeat at Bournemouth had sealed Rovers' tenth league game without a win, which was the first time we had all endured such a sequence since the hapless team Phil Bator inherited from Ray Graydon spiralled towards the Conference four years ago. Two years earlier, Garry Thompson's side played eleven matches without tasting victory, when the only saving grace was the fact that it was the last year only one team was relegated from the Football League, and Halifax Town obliged by being beyond useless.

Yet to compare the current side with those teams is grossly unfair. Not only are Rovers playing in a superior level of

football, but some of their performances within those ten games were really encouraging, with two in particular catching the eye. Few teams have come away from Swansea with anything other than a sound beating, and despite the fall from grace of the former European Champions, a point at the City Ground is still a noteworthy result. The problem was that despite such a considerable effort, the total points haul from those fine displays was a mere two, and while Rovers could not add to their paltry total of five home victories, mid table security remained a long way off.

If someone had said to me at the start of the season that Rovers would win seven away games in the League - and with one more trip to come at plummeting Orient, it could yet be eight - I would have expected a play off challenge at least. That haul is one more than that of second placed Carlisle, and the same total as Rovers managed a year ago. However, while Rovers were very solid and consistent at home last season, form at the Mem has been patchy at best this time around, with no wins until late November, too many draws and more defeats than victories. We all know that the pitch is a huge contributory factor in this, and can only hope that wherever we play next season there is more grass, less mud or bare soil, fewer bobbles and a better chance for our team to play its football.

I am writing this article the morning after the win at Walsall, a victory that was made all the sweeter by two other away successes in the Championship.

Best in the West

Two of Bristol City's misfiring, erratic and downright depressing promotion rivals finally managed to win at the same time, which had seemed about as likely as Heathrow's Terminal 5 winning an award for 'best baggage handling of the year'. West Brom's Black Country derby victory at Molineux, coupled with Hull's resounding victory at Barnsley, has at last appeared to punish City for a run of seven points from an available 24, a sequence which, even in this most crazy of divisions, is hardly worthy of a team bound for the Premier League.

It's not entirely that I am bitter and twisted about City, it's just that I want Rovers to be competing with them again, and with our own team now doing so much better, the last thing we want is for them to be in the Premier League.

Yes, yes, it would be a laugh seeing them get hammered every week, and perhaps even challenge Derby for the title of the worst ever team in that division, but with earning potential of up to £50m, if spent wisely it could take us years for us to be even close to them again. It's only eight years since we finished above City, and I don't want it to be another eight before we get the chance to put one over on them. That's the trouble with having two teams in the same town: whatever you do, you're always judged in relation to the other lot. Harsh, perhaps, but unavoidable.

One thing is for sure. The only thing we can affect is our own league position, and that will be improved tonight with victory over Swindon Town. City may be beyond us for the moment, but there is every chance that Rovers could finish the season as the West Country's top team in League One, and after years of looking up to Torquay, Exeter, Yeovil and Cheltenham - let alone the Moonrakers - that would be an achievement in itself.

Come On You Blues!

♦♦♦♦

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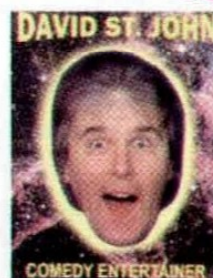
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With just one more home league game to play at the Memorial Stadium before we move away for the redevelopment, it is hard not to feel like we are coming to the end of an era.

I have only been a full time Rovers fan for the last 10 years, as growing up I was led to believe that football was the domain of horrible, smelly boys. At 15 I became curious and decided to check it out for myself, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Because of my relatively short time as a member of the Rovers family, the Memorial Stadium is the only home I have ever really known. And it is for that reason that there will probably be a tear in my eye when I say goodbye at Saturday's game.

Despite its ramshackle appearance and rather outdated facilities, the Mem will always hold a special place in my heart, as the place I started the greatest love affair of my life. I started out on the Blacktorn End as a rowdy teenager and enjoyed the boisterous atmosphere and camaraderie of the terraces. As I became more dedicated, I would regularly turn up to matches on my own, and not bat an eyelid as the rain lashed down - of course this was in the days before the Raise the Roof campaign covered the home end. After three years of following the boys I took the bold - some would say foolish - step of getting a Rovers tattoo on my ankle, so it is a good job I plan to be Rovers til I die!

Football became my favourite topic of conversation and it wasn't long before my rugby loving mum changed her allegiances to the round ball. It was around this time that I started making proper friends and I switched my season ticket to the West Stand after bonding with a certain fanzine editor over a shared appreciation of Vitalijs Astafjevs! I have held the same spot by the tunnel ever since, and find it hard to imagine standing - or even sitting - anywhere else.

Following Rovers over the last ten years has been a real rollercoaster ride of emotions - I don't think any other relationship would manage to cope with such stresses and strains. I think that we all agree that if our partners routinely

upset and hurt us in the same way as Rovers do, we would not keep coming back for more.

Despite the low points, which for me include the way certain 'fans' react to bad results, I am definitely a member of the rose tinted spectacles brigade. My time as a Rovers fan has changed my life, to the extent that I now feel really sorry for people who do not have a passion in life. Rovers has given me; entertainment, excitement, a chance to see the country, some wonderful friends and even a job. I have had the chance to spend more quality time with my mum, and have adventures up and down the country.

When I first started to come to games, I didn't know anyone. Up until recently I had a close group of friends on the terraces. But now, I cannot walk round the stadium without people stopping to talk to me every few minutes. Being a Rovers fan is about more than just football, it is about being part of something much bigger, and the Memorial Stadium is a big part of that.

I am a bit of an amateur photographer, and love to document my life in pictures, so I imagine I will annoy the hell out of everyone on Saturday, as I attempt to capture our last moments at the Mem. These will be pictures I can look back on for years to come, but our memories can only take us so far.

The new Memorial Stadium marks a

new period in our history and signals the ambition of our club, and the willingness of everyone here to take Bristol Rovers forward. For that reason I could not be more excited about the redevelopment. Every time I look at the images of the new ground I get a little thrill of excitement as I imagine the roar of the crowd as the boys run out on to the immaculate pitch for the first time.

People worry that modern grounds signal the end of atmosphere at football matches, but I cannot see that happening for us. We know that we have a massive potential fan base, coupled with a loyal hardcore following, who will be able to turn the new Memorial Stadium into a fortress. The modern facilities will help to attract new fans to the matches, and hopefully encourage more players to come and ply their trade for Bristol Rovers.

Saturday will be an emotional day, as we say goodbye to part of our history, but I for one will be looking back with a smile and looking forward with a sense of excitement. Let's make sure that our time away from Bristol is filled with even more good memories that we can relay to future generations from the comfort of our brand new shiny stadium.

♦♦♦♦

.....
They look more like blue tinted specs to me, Kirsty!





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Looking ahead

“I WOULD STILL LIKE TO SCORE A FEW MORE BEFORE THE END OF THIS SEASON AND MAYBE REACH DOUBLE FIGURES”

Looking back on his first season at the club, striker Andy Williams is disappointed he hasn't scored more goals.

It's been a little bit disappointing, mainly because I'm a striker and I'm judged on the number of goals I score, and I've only managed seven so far. In spite of that, though, I have enjoyed my first season here.

I endured a difficult time just before Christmas, as it took me a while to settle in, but apart from that it's been really enjoyable. As far as the team are concerned getting to the Quarter Finals of the FA Cup was a great achievement and, for long periods, we looked quite decent in the league. At one time, we had a chance of reaching the play offs but our challenge fizzled out a little bit towards the end of the campaign.

His season couldn't have got to a better start as he came off the bench at Port Vale in our opening fixture, and scored the equaliser in a 1-1 draw.

I hadn't scored in pre season, which was a little bit disappointing, but getting that goal at Vale Park was one of the best things that's happened to me this season. After that, Richard Walker and Rickie Lambert played really well up front for a while and I was just fighting to get a spot in the team. Then I scored against West Ham, in the Carling Cup, and started a few more games but, unfortunately, didn't score as many goals as I would have liked.

Things changed just after Christmas, when he and Rickie formed a useful looking partnership up front.

I think we established quite a good

partnership at that time, and we were both scoring quite regularly. We enjoyed a good run in the side together, which helped, as it coincided with a good run for the team. I wasn't too worried about not scoring at that time, because the chances kept coming. However I wasn't really taking enough of them and, because of that, I lost my place in the team.

I tried not to let the lack of goals affect my confidence, and would have been more worried if I hadn't been getting chances in games. To be honest, though, if I'd been able to take all the chances that came my way, who knows how many goals I would have scored this season.

That's the positive I can take from my own season and, hopefully, I can work on converting more chances through pre season and come back stronger for the new campaign. That will be my main aim for next season, but I would still like to score a few more before the end of this season and maybe reach double figures which would make it a reasonable first season at the club.

In spite of a lack of goals, he's been encouraged by the team spirit that exists within the squad.

There's a group of lads who have been here a good few years and I just sensed, when I first arrived, that there was a really good team spirit about the place. Everyone was really welcoming when I arrived, and we all get on really well. It's just a good place to be, and the fact that everyone gets on is a big help when you are a newcomer. The spirit here is such that even when we have been under the cosh in games, it

hasn't as felt though we are going to lose. That was certainly the feeling when we went on an eleven game unbeaten run earlier this year, and I'm sure that will continue into next season.

The key feature of the season has been the away record which, at the time of writing, had yielded seven wins and seven draws from the 22 games played.

Many of the pitches we play on away from home enable us to get the ball down and play, which is what we like to do. Sometimes that can be tricky at the Mem, although I think we've done it a few times. I'm sure our home fans would like to see more attractive football, but we have tended to play better away from home this season.

Next season, of course, every game will be an away one as we relocate to a temporary home while the Memorial Stadium is being redeveloped.

It's just something we are going to have to adjust to, but I don't think that playing elsewhere for a season or two will prove to be too much of a hardship, though it will be tough for our fans, who will have to travel further to see us every week.

As for next season, he believes that this side can make a push for the upper reaches of the league.

On a personal level I'd like to be involved in at least as many games as this season, and to make a positive contribution towards the team and that means I need to score a few more goals. As for the team, we will have had the benefit of playing at this level for a season and we will be a lot wiser, which will help us to push on a little bit more.



1

Steve Phillips

BORN:

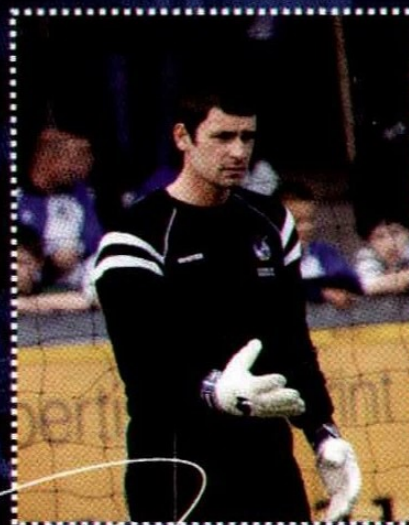
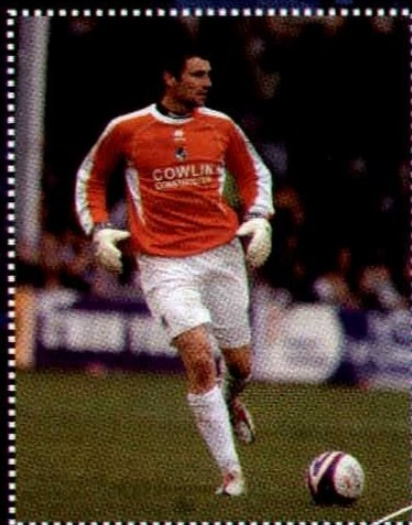
Bath, 6th May 1978

ROVERS LEAGUE APPEARANCES:

87

PREVIOUS CLUB:

Bristol City

ROVERS LEAGUE DEBUT:5th August 2006,
v Peterborough United (A)
L 1-4





Welcome, SWINDON TOWN



In contrast to the fixture here twelve months ago, when promotion nerves dominated the game, tonight's meeting promises to be a far less nail biting affair but there is still plenty to play for.

Our visitors have a chance to gain their second double of the season and score their first ever goal at the Mem at the third attempt.

One thing for certain is that **Christian Roberts** will not be able to repeat the match winning performance from November. The former Cardiff, Exeter and Bristol City striker will be missing after a serious knee operation. **Simon Cox** and **Lee Peacock** could be given first crack at breaking the Robin's duck at the Mem but **Billy Paynter** who scored for the reserves last week is pressing for a start as is youth team striker **Ben Joyce**. **Blair Sturrock** has been ruled out for the rest of this season with a fractured arm and **Barry Coor** has a shoulder problem but that did not prevent him being included on the bench at Doncaster eleven days ago.

Leading scorer **Cox** joined the Robins on loan from Reading in August 2007 and the deal was made permanent in January. He was a trainee with the Royals but only made a few substitutes appearances in the blue hoops. Loan spells at Brentford and Northampton Town gave some experience of life in the lower divisions. **Peacock** was a Carlisle trainee who made over 80 appearances for the Cumbrians until transferring to Mansfield Town in October 1997. Two years and 100 games later he moved to Manchester City where he could not command a regular place and made just four starts before moving to Bristol City in August 2000 and immediately becoming part of the furniture. **Lee** played 175 games for City and scored 63 goals before moving to Sheffield Wednesday in July 2004 then to Swindon in January 2006. After more than ten years and nearly 500 games as a striker, **Peacock** was transformed into a midfielder last season by previous boss

Paul Sturrock but was pushed back into attack against Oldham two weeks ago.

Paynter was a Port Vale trainee and played over 100 games before moving to Hull City in November 2005. He moved to Southend United in August 2006 but struggled to hold down a regular place and went on loan to Bradford City in January 2007. Here he was in instant success partnering several different strikers and scoring a sensational thirty yard volley at Ashton Gate as the Bantams won 3-2. He was transferred to Swindon in August 2007. **Joyce** was brought to Swindon by former Rovers winger and current Swindon assistant manager **David Byrne** who had worked with the young striker at Plymouth College. **Sturrock**, the son of former manager **Paul Sturrock**, was born in Dundee and joined Dundee United before going out on loan to Brechin City in August 2000. He played 33 games before following his father to Devon and Plymouth Argyle in October 2001. In December 2004 he moved to Kidderminster Harriers and three months later scored against us in a 1-1 draw at

Meet the Manager Maurice Malpas

In January 2008, Maurice Malpas became manager of Swindon Town after the takeover of the club by local businessman Andrew Fitton.

Malpas joined Dundee United from Leven Royals in 1979 on the recommendation of the Club's scout in Fife, Jock Speed. He made his Premier Division debut two years later against Airdrieonians and quickly established a regular place at full back. Less than eighteen months later, still a part timer studying for an Honours Degree in



Electrical Engineering, he won a League Championship medal, the youngest member of the triumphant 1983 Dundee United - Champions of Scotland team.

In 1984, Maurice won the first of his club record fifty five caps for Scotland against France in Marseille the last part time footballer to represent Scotland and on the eve of his wedding day. With

Dundee United he recorded the club's all time record of 617 League appearances by the time he retired from playing in 2000. He changed from player/coach to full time coach at Tannadice and was part of the temporary management team following the dismissal of Alex Smith in October 2002.

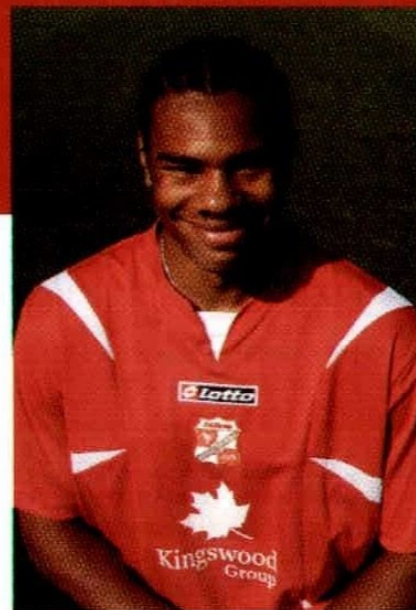
In 2003 Maurice joined Motherwell as assistant to manager Terry Butcher and replaced the former England captain in May 2006 following Butcher's departure to coach Sydney FC. A year later he departed and became caretaker manager of the Scotland U-21 team but was disappointed to miss out to Billy Stark when a permanent appointment was announced. Having spent his whole working life playing and coaching north of the border, his appointment at Swindon heralds a new beginning.



Lee Peacock



Craig Easton



Jerel Iffl

Aggborough. Last term he joined Rochdale after a successful pre-season trial and scored again against the Gas when Dale pinched a 2-1 victory at the Mem in November 2005. He moved to Swindon in December 2006. **Corr** joined on loan from Sheffield Wednesday in March 2007 and signed permanently a few months later. The former Leeds United trainee spent one month on loan with Bristol City last term.

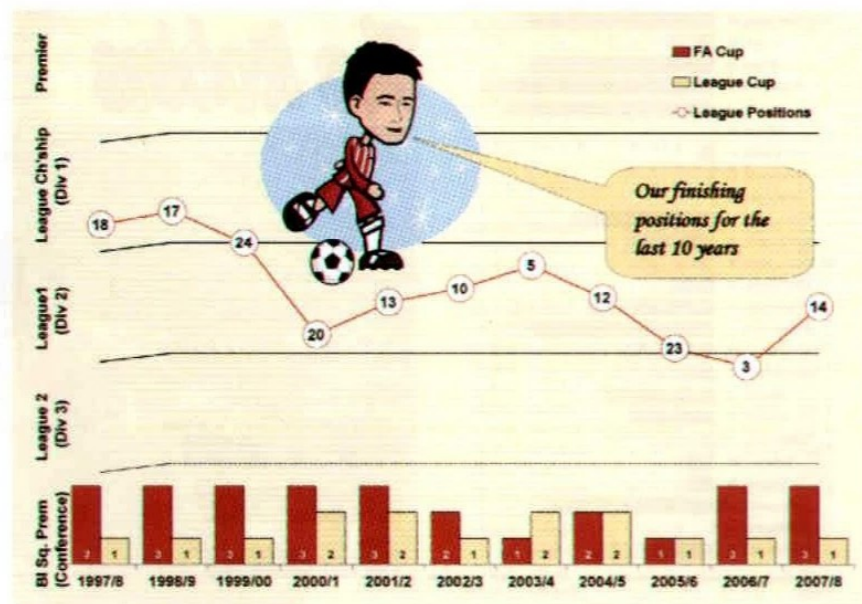
If **Lee Peacock** continues in his traditional striker role this evening we can expect to see **Jon-Paul McGovern**, **Craig Easton**, **Michael Timlin** and **Anthony McNamee** starting the game in midfield. **Kaid Mohamed**, **Chris Allen**, **Michael Pook** and **Sofiane Zaaboub** comprised the midfield in the reserves against Bournemouth last week and all four would expect at least to be candidates for a place on the bench this evening.

McGovern normally plays on the right. He was a junior with Hearts, joined Glasgow Celtic in 2000 then played fifteen League games on loan with Sheffield United before a free transfer move to Livingston in 2003. He returned to Sheffield in June 2004 but this time with Wednesday and moved to MK Dons two years later. He was reunited with his boss at Wednesday when **Paul Sturrock** brought him to Wiltshire in August 2007. Easton played over 200 times for Dundee United and another thirty for Livingston where he arrived just three weeks after **McGovern** had departed. He became a Leyton Orient player in July

2005 and moved to Swindon two years later. **Timlin** is a Fulham player who has yet to make his League debut for the London club but has gained experience through loan deals with Scunthorpe United, Doncaster Rovers and will be making his second appearance for Swindon at the Mem in this his second loan spell at Swindon. **McNamee** will be expected to demonstrate some trickery down the left flank. He made his Premiership debut for Watford against Sheffield United in November 2006 four years and almost 100 games after making his senior debut for the Hornets and winning the club Young Player of the Year award. He played five times on loan for

Crewe Alexandra last term and made his final two Watford appearances at the start of this season before being transferred to our visitors in January.

Mohamed was signed after impressing on trial in a pre season friendly against Bristol City and made his Town League debut as a late substitute on the opening day of the season at Northampton Town. **Kaid** had decided to leave Welsh Premier side Carmarthen Town after scoring twice in the 3-1 Welsh Cup final win over Afan Lido. He played for Ely Rangers in the Welsh League then joined Cwmbran Town in 2003 and had two spells with Llanelli before moving to Carmarthen in February 2006. He has recently returned





Swindon Town



1981-1996

Ground: The County Ground

Colours: Red shirts, shorts & socks

Year Formed: 1881

Swindon's league record as at 19/4/08

P 3597 W 1333 D 944 L 1320

GF 5180 GA 5170

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

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

Goalscorers: Curran (4), Gardiner

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

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

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

Goalscorers: Partin, Stephens

Swindon: Allan, Henry, Baddeley, Williams, Lewis, Stroud, Hughes, Carter, Rideout, Greenwood, Pritchard. Goalscorers: Rideout (2), Henry, Carter, Parkin (og)

Honours even: 7/9/29 2-2 (A)

Rovers: Whatley, Barton, Haydon, Britton, Murray, Hamilton, Reay, Paterson, Phillips, Shaw, King.

Goalscorer: Phillips (2)

Swindon: Nash, Dickinson, Wylie, Low, Bew, Archer, Denyer, Eddleston, Morris, Roberts, Thorn.

Goalscorers: Dickinson, Morris

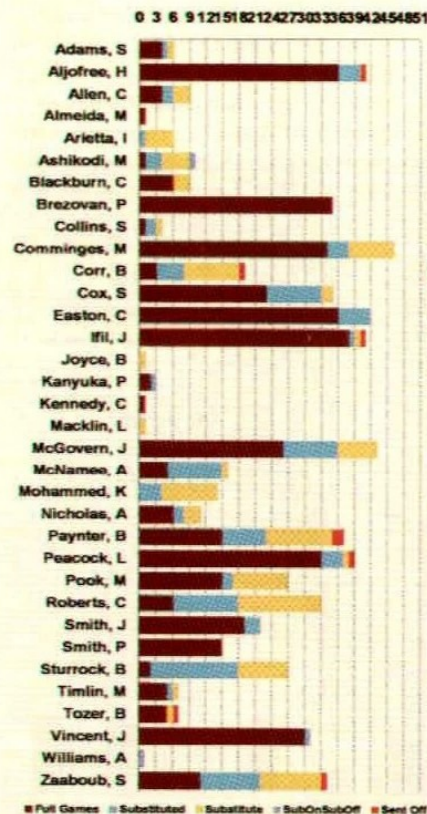
from loan at Torquay United. **Allen** and **Pook** are Wiltshire born and former trainees. **Allen** made his senior debut in September. **Pook** made his debut at Boston United in October 2003. French-Algerian **Zaaboub** was **Paul Sturrock's** first signing as Town manager. He has previously played in France for Montereau and Saint-Etienne, in Italy for Modena, in

the Andalucia region of Spain with Real Jaen and in Belgium for FC Brussels.

Town captain **Hasney Aljofree** missed Saturday's game against Port Vale following his red card at Doncaster the previous weekend but the defender should return tonight alongside **Jack Smith**, **Jerel Ifil** and **Jamie Vincent**. Other defensive options are **Miguel**

Comminges, **Ady Williams** and **Andy Nicholas** but **Pat Kanyuka**, signed from Queens Park Rangers in January, is unlikely to be fit due to a lingering groin injury.

Aljofree was a Bolton trainee who has played under **Paul Sturrock** at four different clubs. A brief association at Dundee United was followed by over 100 games at Plymouth Argyle, a loan spell at



League Sequences

Since an Away Win.....	7
Since Last Away Clean Sheet.....	7
Since a Draw.....	6
Consecutive Away Defeats.....	4
Since an Away Draw.....	4
Since a Home Draw.....	3
Consecutive Home Clean Sheets.....	2
Consecutive Home Wins.....	2
Since a Home Defeat.....	2

The Robins

Best/Worst Stats

Biggest Home Win	6 - 0 Port V
Biggest Home Defeat	0 - 1 Yeovil
Biggest Away Win	1 - 2 Millwall
Biggest Away Defeat	3 - 9 Carlisle

Home League Attendances

Average	7142
Highest	13279 (Leeds - 01/03/2008)
Lowest	4840 (Hudd T - 04/03/2008)

Away League Attendances

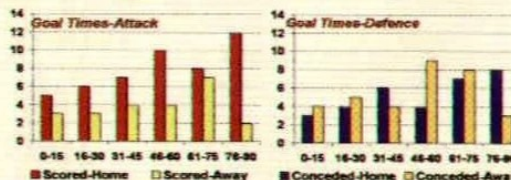
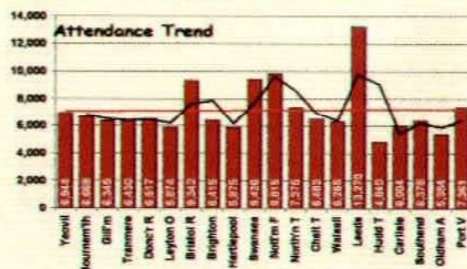
Average	8097
Highest	27990 (Leeds - 17/11/2007)
Lowest	3082 (Leyton O - 11/03/2008)

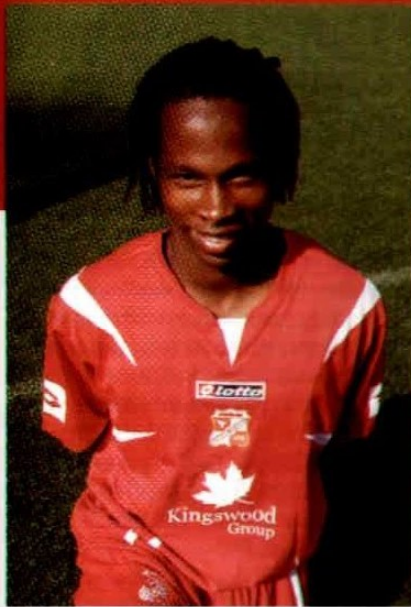
League Record 2006-7

Total	Wins	Draws	Defeats
14	12	17	
Home	11	5	6
Away	3	7	11

Scorer

Scorer	Goal Ratio	G	Lge	Cup
Cox, S	1: 2.54	13	12	1
Easton, C	1: 7.00	6	6	0
Corr, B	1: 3.93	4	4	0
Foley, D	1: 7.80	3	0	3
Aljofree, H	1: 20.50	2	1	1
Blackburn, C	1: 4.01	2	0	2
Brown, A	1: 7.34	2	1	1
Collins, S	1: 4.00	2	2	0
Griffiths, L	1: 8.03	2	2	0
Antwi, G	1: 33.67	1	1	0
Arietta, I	1: 4.35	1	0	1
Armstrong, C	1: 15.67	1	0	1
Clark, B	1: 15.35	1	1	0
Cogan, B	1: 18.36	1	1	0
Cox, I	1: 22.00	1	1	0





Miguel Comminges



Peter Brezovan



Chris Allen

Sheffield Wednesday then the latest reunion at Swindon last summer. **Smith** was acquired from Watford in August 2005. **Ifil** was also a Watford trainee and joined our visitors July 2004 after impressing on loan. **Vincent** began with Crystal Palace and moved to Bournemouth in 1996 where he made over 100 appearances before continuing his tour of the country at Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Walsall, Derby, Millwall and Yeovil. He was recruited in August 2006.

Guadeloupe international **Comminges** played for French Ligue 2 club Reims before joining Swindon in July 2007. Welsh international **Williams** has made more than 400 appearances in a career that has seen him in a FA Cup semi final, a play off final and being voted Reading's best ever centre back in a fans' poll. He

joined Swindon in the summer of 2006 and after the resignation of **Dennis Wise** became caretaker manager. In November 2007 he again led the team on a temporary basis jointly with **Dave Byrne**. **Nicholas** was a Liverpool trainee who joined the Robins in 2003.

Slovakian goalkeeper **Peter Brezovan** has been preferred to **Phil Smith** in recent weeks. **Brezovan** was captured on a season long loan from FC Brno in the summer of 2006. **Smith** was with Millwall as a youngster then moved out of the League with Folkestone Invicta, Dover Athletic, Margate and Crawley Town. In the 2006 close season all the Crawley players were made available for transfer when the club went into administration and **Paul** was snapped up by Swindon.

Swindon Town fixtures 2007-8

Date	Opposition	Score	Att	Comp
11-Aug	North'n T	D 1-1	6,210	Lge 1
14-Aug	Charlton	L 0-2	6,175	LC1
18-Aug	Luton	W 2-1	7,520	Lge 1
25-Aug	Chelt T	D 1-1	5,442	Lge 1
01-Sep	Crews A	D 1-1	6,595	Lge 1
04-Sep	Brentford	W 4-1	3,118	JPT(S)1
09-Sep	Yeovil	L 0-1	6,944	Lge 1
15-Sep	Hartlepool	D 1-1	4,943	Lge 1
22-Sep	Bournemouth	W 4-1	6,668	Lge 1
29-Sep	Millwall	W 2-1	8,744	Lge 1
02-Oct	Swansea	L 1-2	10,135	Lge 1
06-Oct	Gillingham	W 5-0	6,345	Lge 1
09-Oct	Chelt T	L 1-3	3,765	JPT(S)2
20-Oct	Tranmere	W 1-0	6,430	Lge 1
27-Oct	Port V	L 1-2	4,013	Lge 1
03-Nov	Doncaster R	L 1-2	6,517	Lge 1
06-Nov	Leyton O	D 1-1	5,874	Lge 1
10-Nov	Wye W	W 2-1	3,332	FAC1
17-Nov	Leeds	L 1-2	27,990	Lge 1
24-Nov	Bristol R	W 1-0	9,342	Lge 1
01-Dec	Forest Green	W 3-2	7,588	FAC2
04-Dec	Carlisle	L 0-3	5,477	Lge 1
08-Dec	Southend	L 1-2	7,403	Lge 1
15-Dec	Brighton	L 0-3	6,415	Lge 1
22-Dec	Hartlepool	W 2-1	5,875	Lge 1
26-Dec	Yeovil	W 1-0	6,539	Lge 1
29-Dec	Bournemouth	D 2-2	6,540	Lge 1
01-Jan	Swansea	D 1-1	9,426	Lge 1
05-Jan	Barnet	D 1-1	5,944	FAC3
12-Jan	Walsall	D 2-2	5,449	Lge 1
19-Jan	Nott'm F	W 2-1	9,815	Lge 1
22-Jan	Barnet	D 1-1 (2-0)	2,810	FAC3(R)
26-Jan	Crews A	D 0-0	4,344	Lge 1
29-Jan	Luton	W 1-0	5,738	Lge 1
02-Feb	North'n T	D 1-1	7,375	Lge 1
09-Feb	Hudd T	L 0-1	9,388	Lge 1
12-Feb	Chelt T	W 3-0	6,483	Lge 1
16-Feb	Nott'm F	L 0-1	23,439	Lge 1
23-Feb	Walsall	L 0-3	6,265	Lge 1
26-Feb	Oldham A	D 2-2	3,923	Lge 1
01-Mar	Leeds	L 0-1	13,270	Lge 1
04-Mar	Hudd T	W 3-2	4,840	Lge 1
11-Mar	Leyton O	L 1-2	3,082	Lge 1
15-Mar	Carlisle	D 2-2	6,004	Lge 1
22-Mar	Brighton	L 1-2	6,849	Lge 1
24-Mar	Southend	L 0-1	6,378	Lge 1
28-Mar	Tranmere	L 1-2	5,815	Lge 1
05-Apr	Oldham A	W 3-0	5,384	Lge 1
11-Apr	Doncaster R	L 0-2	8,371	Lge 1
19-Apr	Port V	W 6-0	7,361	Lge 1
22-Apr	Bristol R	-	-	Lge 1
26-Apr	Gillingham	-	-	Lge 1
03-May	Millwall	-	-	Lge 1





Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles six leading Swindon Town managers

BERT HEAD

Bert Head plotted Swindon Town's 1962/63 promotion success. Signing professional for Torquay United in October 1936, the defender moved to Bury in February 1952 and was assistant boss before becoming Swindon's manager in October 1955. He produced several fine players including Mike Summerbee, Ernie Hunt, Don Rogers and Rod Thomas before returning to Bury as manager in August 1965. Appointed Crystal Palace's boss in April 1966, he guided them to the top flight for the first time in 1968/69 and had a spell as general manager. He was later manager and director at Bath City and died in February 2002.

DANNY WILLIAMS

Danny Williams guided Swindon Town to a promotion and League Cup 'double' in 1968/69. A former wing half, he turned professional with hometown Rotherham in October 1942 and starred in their 1950/51 Third Division (North) title triumph. He made a club record 459 League appearances for the Millers before becoming trainer-coach in July 1960, then was manager prior to taking charge of Swindon in August 1965. Leaving the County Ground in July 1969 to manage Sheffield Wednesday, he then managed Mansfield Town before rejoining Swindon as boss from March 1974 until May 1978. He now lives in Bournemouth.



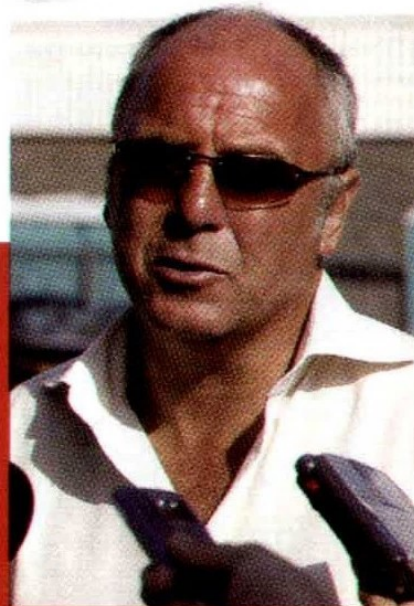
Bert Head

FRED FORD

Fred Ford plotted Swindon Town's 1970 Anglo Italian Cup final triumph. He was a centre-half with Erith & Belvedere, Arsenal, Charlton Athletic, Millwall and Carlisle United, then coached Bristol Rovers before becoming Bristol City's manager in July 1960. He guided them to promotion in 1964/65 and discovered several notable players, then coached Swindon from September 1967 until his appointment as Bristol Rovers boss in April 1968. Returning to Swindon as manager between October 1969 and May 1971, he later coached Torquay United, then was Oxford United's chief scout until his death in October 1981.

OSSIE ARDILES

Former Argentina international midfielder Ossie Ardiles was unlucky not to lead Swindon Town to the top-flight in 1989/90. Together with Ricky Villa, the World Cup winner made headlines with his transfer from Huracan to Spurs in July 1978. He helped them win the FA Cup in 1981 and UEFA Cup in 1984, moving to QPR in May 1988. Appointed Swindon's boss in July 1989, he plotted their 1989/90 Second Division play off final success but they were denied promotion due to an illegal payments scandal. He took charge of Newcastle United in March 1991, then managed West Brom and Spurs before coaching overseas.



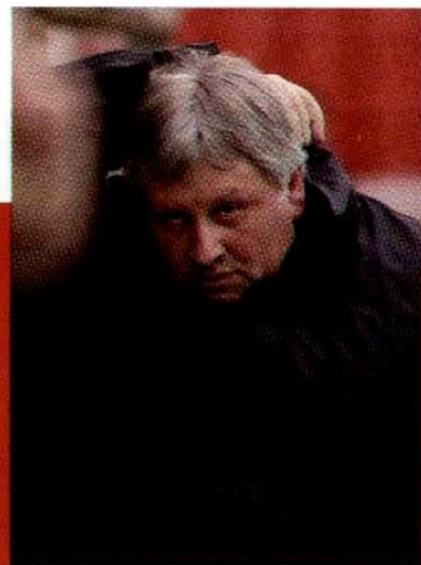
Andy King

ANDY KING

Former England U-21 midfielder Andy King managed Swindon Town to the Second Division play offs in 2003/04. Signing professional for Luton Town in July 1974, he joined Everton in April 1976 and appeared in the 1977 League Cup final. He moved to QPR in September 1980, then West Brom a year later and rejoined Everton in August 1982. After spells at Wolves, Luton again and Aldershot, he became Mansfield Town's boss in November 1993. He was assistant boss at Grimsby and Swindon, where he was appointed manager from November 2000 until August 2001, then again between January 2002 and September 2005.

PAUL STURROCK

Former Scotland international striker Paul Sturrock guided Swindon Town to promotion in 2006/07. A legend at Dundee United, he starred as they won the Scottish Premier title in 1982/83, Scottish League Cup twice and were Scottish Cup finalists four times. He became their coach in June 1989, was St Johnstone's boss and rejoined Dundee United as manager in September 1998. Taking charge of Plymouth in October 2000, he plotted two promotion campaigns, then managed Southampton. He led Sheffield Wednesday to promotion in 2004/05, then was Swindon's boss for a year until rejoining Plymouth in November 2007.



Paul Sturrock

For the visitors...

Rickie to the rescue

Former Blackpool, Macclesfield, Stockport and Rochdale striker Rickie Lambert has acquired a reputation for scoring important goals since his £200,000 move from Spotland in August 2006.

His winning strike against Bristol City in the Area Final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in February last year was eclipsed at Hartlepool in May by the goal which clinched a play off place. No less vital was his header at Walsall last Tuesday evening which virtually assured the Pirates of League One survival this term. Last season saw Lambert paired with Richard Walker, who has not enjoyed much success this time round and now seems to be out of the picture altogether. Walker joined Rovers from Oxford United in August 2004, after beginning his career as a trainee at Aston Villa, and playing for Cambridge, Blackpool, Wycombe and Northampton.

Lambert has worked with a number of striking partners this season, including Andy Williams and the ill fated Coventry City front man Wayne Andrews, whose loan spell from the Sky Blues lasted just 17 minutes before he suffered knee ligament damage at Yeovil. Williams was Hereford United's leading scorer in their Conference promotion campaign before moving to the Mem last summer. He was one of three strikers introduced from the bench at Bournemouth last Saturday week, along with Sean Rigg and Josh Klein-Davies.

Rigg, a Filton College graduate scored his first senior goal of the season against Northampton last month and recently agreed a contract extension to keep him at the Mem for the next two seasons. Klein-Davies, 18, who with his fellow striker Matt Groves, a 19 year old former scholar, has won a one year contract extension, was released by Bristol City last summer. Lewis Haldane, a former Southampton schoolboy and Welsh U-21 international, was originally a striker but is now used primarily for his pace on the flanks.

We are used to seeing former Mansfield Town youngster Craig Disley

alongside skipper Stuart Campbell in central midfield, but in our last three games he has been employed in a 4-4-1-1 formation behind Lambert. The switch has given Filton College graduate Chris Lines, who recently signed a two year extension to his contract, the opportunity to relinquish his left wing role to partner Campbell. Campbell, who arrived from Grimsby Town three years ago, started as a trainee with Leicester and made two substitute appearances for Birmingham City before his £200,000 switch to the Mariners in September 2000.

David Pipe, a close season signing from Notts County, no longer faces competition for his right wing spot from Sammy Igoe, who has gone to Hereford United on loan. Charlie Reece joined Filton College after his release by Aston Villa while the left sided Adam Mahdi graduated to the professional ranks through the Centre of Excellence and the College. 17 year old Charlie Clough, also from the Centre of Excellence, signed a two year deal last September. Reece, Mahdi and Clough have all been offered contract extensions. James Fraser, a former Worthing midfielder and England Schools U-18 captain, proved a popular loan signing during his three months with Tiverton Town.

Byron Anthony, a Welsh U-21 international who graduated through the ranks at Cardiff City, regained his place in central defence at the Bescot last Tuesday at the expense of Craig Hinton, who recently signed a one year contract extension. Our more mature visitors will remember Hinton's uncle Alan, a hero with Nottingham Forest and Derby County in the Brian Clough era. Craig is a former Birmingham City trainee and Kidderminster Harrier.

Steve Elliott, a former Derby County and Blackpool defender who joined Rovers from Blackpool in the summer of 2004, returned on Easter Monday after a two month absence due to a knee injury sustained in the FA Cup replay against Fulham. Danny Coles, a former Bristol City defender, arrived on loan from Hull City in November after playing against



Rovers for Hartlepool and has since signed a two and a half year deal. In our recent home game against the Monkey Hangers, Coles suffered severe bruising on a knee but has not ruled out a return before the end of the season. His absence has meant a return to right back for Aaron Lescott, who joined the Gas, initially on loan, from Stockport as a midfielder four years ago.

Alex Kite, 19, the son of Rovers physio and former goalkeeper Phil, has been given a year's contract extension while Ryan Paddock, 19, who was once on Aston Villa's books, has been released as has 19 year old right back Tom Godsell. Ex Hereford United defender Ryan Green, who arrived from Edgar Street two weeks after scoring in the 2006 Conference play-off final, will miss the rest of the season with Achilles problems.

Welsh U-21 cap Joe Jacobson, ex Cardiff City, is the first choice at left back, with former Northampton midfielder Chris Carruthers likely to be on the bench. 18 year Tom Parrinello, Rovers' reserves' regular left back, has been signed up for another season as has 19 year old Mike Green. Steve Phillips' deputy between the posts. Phillips, a former Bristol City keeper, played over 250 games for the Robins before crossing the river in the summer of 2006. Goalkeeping coach Steve Book, the former Forest Green Rovers and Cheltenham Town keeper, has been registered as a player in case of emergency.

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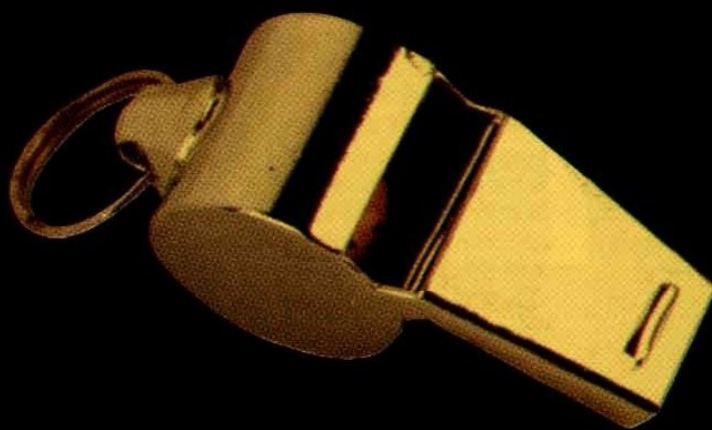
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We wish every success to
Bristol Rovers Football Club for
the 2007/08 season



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“IT WAS QUITE A LONG RUN WITHOUT A WIN BUT CONFIDENCE DIDN'T REALLY DISAPPEAR, AS WE ALL THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD GET A WIN AND PUSH ON”

Twenty the target

It was on Easter Monday, in the game against Swansea at the Liberty Stadium, that Paul Trollope introduced a new formation to a side known for playing 4-4-2 in almost every game.

The 4-4-1-1 formation, seen for the first time that evening was a huge success, in the first half at least, as Rovers took a two goal lead into the interval and could have been even further ahead.

That game ended all square, though, as the Welsh side hit back to score twice in the second half. The same system earned another valuable point at Nottingham Forest, though wasn't as successful at Bournemouth, but the first three point haul playing that way came last Tuesday, at Walsall.

It certainly appears to have benefited striker Rickie Lambert, as he's scored in three of those games and after last week's win at the Banks's Stadium, he spoke of the confidence it's given him.

I enjoy it, as it means I'm playing a lot higher and therefore I'm closer to goal, so when the ball comes into the box I've got more chance of scoring. All I have to do is concentrate on getting on the end of the crosses that come in.

With Rickie playing the lone striker role and Craig Disley tucked in behind him, it can hardly be described as a negative tactic as the two wide midfielders are encouraged to get forward at every opportunity.

We get people into the box very quickly, and 'Dis' is brilliant in the role just behind me. He's an attacking midfielder, but he can be like a second striker as he can finish and he makes some great runs into the box.

Having pace on either flank is a great asset. My job is to get the ball to them and, instead of going out to them, I simply stay in the box hoping they will get a cross in and, in recent games, they have been doing just that.

His goal last Tuesday was a fine example of how the system works as the ball was played out to the left, and Joe Jacobson whipped in a cross and Rickie was on hand to apply the finishing touch.

It was an ok goal, he said modestly in his post match interview, adding,

I just got my head to it and when I looked up it was in the back of the net. It was a great cross from Joe and I was made up to score again.

He confirmed that the emphasis, in training, has been to get the ball into the box as quickly as possible.

I've been told me to stay up and not to come off my marker as much as I usually do, as the wide men will get in as many crosses as they can. David Pipe has put in some great balls in the last few games and although I've got on the end of them, I haven't scored as many goals as I would have liked, so I was relieved when that one went in tonight.

The strike was his eighteenth of the season and, while he won't readily admit to setting himself targets, he'd love to break the twenty goal barrier.

I think a total of twenty is achievable for the season, because I'm confident enough at the moment. When I'm confident, I feel as though I'm going to score in every game and my goals tend to come in short bursts of four or five, so I hope this is the start of another little run.

The win at Walsall, the first since three

points were gained at Millwall on the first day of March, eleven games before, came as a relief to supporters, though he says the players were confident they could get back to winning ways.

It was quite a long run without a win but confidence didn't really disappear, as we all thought that we would get a win and push on. Now, I think we can go on and finish in mid table.

A good finish to the campaign will, he feels, set things up nicely for the 2008/09 season.

It sends out a message for next season, I feel. Lennie has said, and the boys agree, that if you finish a season badly the likelihood is that you will start the next season badly. On the other hand, if you finish one season strongly, you are likely to start the next season in a similar manner. In any case, finishing well gives the fans encouragement over the summer, as they look ahead to the new campaign.

If only home results had been better, then something more than a mid table finish might have been a possibility.

It does need to improve, and it would be nice to finish the season with a couple of wins at the very least. As we speak, we've only won five at the Memorial Stadium all season and our fans deserve better than that.

In fact, those supporters who travel away have seen more wins on the road than they have at the Mem.

I think the away fans have been brilliant and, to be honest, they are the ones who have seen us at our best this season, as some of our away performances have been superb.

♦♦♦

MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Paul Trollope

Played 125 Won 47 Drawn 34 Lost 44
For 140 Against 138
Av Pts/game 1.40
Biggest Win(s) Bristol Rvs 4
Accrington S 0 (23/12/2006).
Biggest Loss(es) Northampton 4
Bristol Rvs 0 (19/11/2005).

Maurice Malpas

Played 18 Won 5 Drawn 4 Lost 9
For 20 Against 23
Av Pts/game 1.06
Biggest Win(s) Won 3-0 on 2 occasions
Biggest Loss(es) Swindon 0
Walsall 3 (23/02/2008).

MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ..0 Paul Trollope0 Maurice Malpas0
Draws ..0 Goals 0 Goals 0

Player with the most...

shots

Richard Lambert 93

shots on target

Richard Lambert 47

shots off target

Richard Lambert 46

assists

Stuart Campbell 9

crosses

Stuart Campbell 138

fouls

Lewis Haldane 40

free-kicks-won

Stuart Campbell 70



GAMES SINCE

0	a win	1
7	a home win	0
0	an away win	7
1	a defeat	0
1	a home defeat	1
1	an away defeat	0
2	a score draw	5
3	a no score draw	16
1	conceding a goal	0
0	scoring a goal	1
1	conceding > 1	0
5	scoring > 1	1
0	keeping a clean sheet	1
3	failing to score	0
14	back to back wins	23
6	back to back defeats	2
0	gaining a point	1
1	losing a point	0
17	win by > one	1
7	loss by > one	0

Player with the most...

shots

Billy Paynter 53

shots on target

Billy Paynter 29

shots off target

Simon Cox 30

assists

Sofiene Zaaboub 7

crosses

Jon-Paul McGovern 47

fouls

Jerel Ifil 66

free-kicks-won

Billy Paynter 52

SHARP SHOOTERS

Bristol Rvs	CCFL Cup			Tot	Swindon	CCFL Cup			Tot
Richard Lambert	12	6	18		Simon Cox	12	1	13	
Craig Disley	6	3	9		Billy Paynter	8	2	10	
Andrew Williams	4	2	6		Lee Peacock	6	0	6	

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played.....27 Bristol Rvs wins.....9 Swindon wins14
Draws4 Goals 40 (1.5 per game) Goals 50 (1.9 per game)
0-0's1 Times failed to score 5 Times failed to score 6

Biggest League win at Bristol Rvs for each team:

17/09/1966 Bristol Rvs 3-0 Swindon

16/09/1995 & 17/10/1981 Bristol Rvs 1-4 Swindon



2007/08 LEAGUE STATS



15	Position	16
42	Played	42
12	Won	13
16	Drawn	12
14	Lost	17
43	Goals For	53
46	Goals Against	54
52	Points	51



Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
7	9	7	8	4	6	14	20

Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
5	7	7	24	9	6	3	13

Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
10	8	2	16	12	6	3	13

Record When Conceding First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
2	5	12	13	1	5	14	21

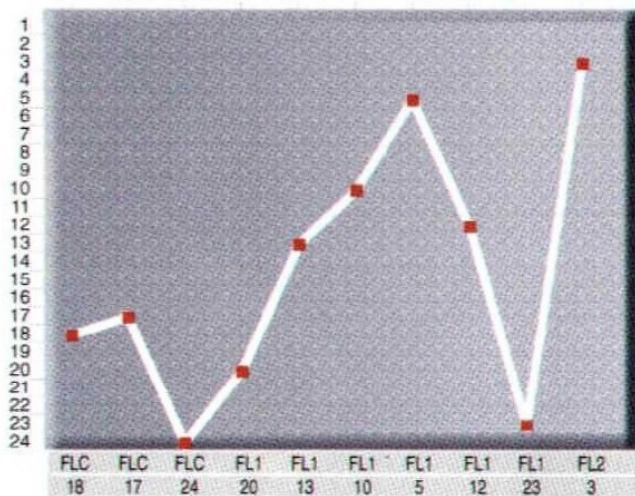
Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[6], 2-0[2], 2-1[2], 3-0[1], 3-2[1], Losses: 0-1[5], 0-2[3], 0-3[1], 1-2[2], 2-3[3], Draws: 0-0[3], 1-1[11], 2-2[2]

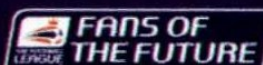
Wins: 1-0[4], 2-1[4], 3-0[2], 3-2[1], 4-1[1], 5-0[1], Losses: 0-1[5], 0-2[1], 0-3[3], 1-2[8], Draws: 0-0[1], 1-1[7], 2-2[4]

SWINDON - TEN SEASON RECORD

97/98 98/99 99/00 00/01 01/02 02/03 03/04 04/05 05/06 06/07



*up to and including 16/04/2008



The Football League's Fans of the Future initiative is aiming to attract the next generation of supporters to watch live football at their local club

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Lowering the bar

By now we should know whether Rovers and Swindon have safely negotiated their first seasons back in League One, or whether one or both of us still have lingering doubts.

The first scenario looks the most likely, and that will signify that all four teams promoted from the basement last year have stayed up in the higher division.

The play off winners are, understandably, the most likely to fall at the first hurdle seeing as they were the lowest ranked of the sides promoted, but this year Rovers' achievement (I hope this is not a Murray Walker moment) in surviving League One has been matched by Morecambe (Conference play off winners) and Blackpool, with the only exception being Derby County.

A battling 2-2 draw with a decent Portsmouth team on the opening day gave Rams fans hope that they might be able to compete, but heavy losses to both Tottenham (4-0) and Liverpool (6-0) away from home soon after came as something of a reality check.

County's first win arrived in the middle of September as Kenny Miller sunk Newcastle 1-0 at Pride Park and those three points briefly lifted them off the foot of the table above Bolton.

However, that was Derby's only victory in any competition this season. Even in the cups they needed a penalty shootout to get past Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup Third Round before being thrashed by Preston, and in the League Cup they were knocked out on spot kicks by Blackpool.

The 6-0 home defeat to Aston Villa last week made it 28 league games without a win, and 31 across the board if you discount shootout triumphs. It has been a truly abysmal campaign and with a pathetic 11 points from 34 games at the time of writing, they are threatening to re write the history books.

Up until the modern era, the record low for a top flight season was 17 points by Stoke City in 1984/85 who registered just three victories in 42 games, two of which happened to be against Arsenal and Manchester United.

Swindon were the first Premier League side to have a go at the record with their

wretched season under John Gorman in 1993/94.

Town took 16 games to notch their first win, when former Wycombe striker Keith Scott scored the only goal against QPR, whose starting eleven included Ian Holloway and Steve Yates as well as future Rovers front man Bradley Allen.

Big money summer signing Jan-Aage Fjortoft, bought from Rapid Vienna, had failed to score in his first 20 outings for Swindon but broke his duck against Spurs in late January before scoring a hat trick (two from the spot) in the next game at home to Coventry.

Both matches were won but there would only be one more triumph, completing a double over QPR at Loftus Road, before bowing out of the big time with a suitably embarrassing 5-0 defeat to Leeds at the County Ground on the final day.

The following year Ipswich (27) and Leicester (29) both registered fewer points than the Robins (30), with the Suffolk side memorably pummelled 9-0 at Old Trafford thanks to five goals from former City prodigy Andy (now Andrew) Cole.

The reduction of clubs in the Premiership from 22 down to 20 in 1995 meant that the number of fixtures dropped from 42 to 38, therefore increasing the chances of an assault on the 17-point mark.

Graham Taylor's Watford, having been promoted two years in succession, predictably struggled at the top table in 1999/2000 but a draw at Middlesbrough and victory over Coventry at the end of the season saw them finish on 24 points.

Bradford beat Liverpool on the final day to avoid the drop but they had no such luck in 2000/01. With ten matches left, they were stuck on 16 points but back to back wins over Charlton and Derby in April saw them reach a final tally of 26 points.

Two years later, Sunderland came close to the record when they ended with 19 points but these were all picked up by mid January. The rest of the season was a blur as they suffered 15 straight defeats and registered the

lowest ever number of goals in the top division with just 21 scored in 38 games - Marcus Stewart got the last of them in the 2-1 loss to West Brom.

Manager Mick McCarthy took over in March 2003 and had to wait until the middle of August for his first win but the Black Cats eventually made it into the play offs. A year later he took them back into the Premiership, but nobody could have foreseen what was to happen in 2005/06.

An unbeaten run of three games at the end of autumn, including a 2-0 win at neighbours Middlesbrough, lifted them outside the drop zone but it was another four months before West Brom were defeated. As April arrived, they had just 10 points on the board, but two draws and a morale boosting win over Fulham took them to 15 points at the close.

Sunderland had recorded the lowest all time top flight points total and equalled Stoke's measly three wins in a season. Nobody could be that abject again could they?

Step forward the toothless (or should that be horn less) Rams. With only one win to their name and just 16 goals so far, it looks like the bar will be lowered once again.

■ ■ ■ ■



Derby fan Steve Elliott will be hoping his former club can bounce straight back to the Premiership next season.



WIN

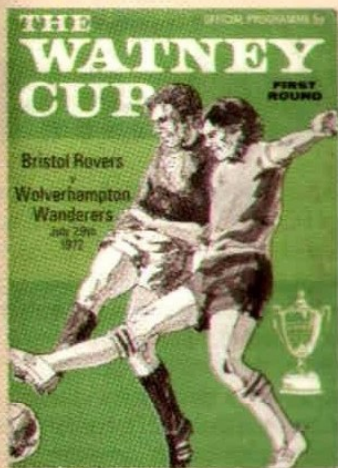
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Left: Wolves,
29th July 1972

Centre: Wotton Rovers,
4th December 1983

Right: Wotton Rovers,
11th August 1985

Past Pirates

Wolverhampton Wanderers

Wolves had been in existence for two years before they adopted their present name. They started life as St Luke's FC, in 1877, but our first meeting against them took place almost a century later.

On 29th July 1972 they came to Eastville for a First Round Watney Cup tie. At the time Rovers were a Second Division club, while Wolves were in the top flight. League positions counted for nothing, though, as Rovers ran out 2-0 winners thanks to goals from Bruce Bannister and Kenny Stephens.

The boot was on the other foot during October of the same year, in the Fourth Round of the League Cup when we suffered a comprehensive 4-0 defeat at Molineux.

Since then we have met, occasionally, in league matches. In 1976/77 we were both in Division Two, and in 1985/86 Division Three.

During the early 1980's Wolves suffered three consecutive relegations to end up in Division Four. They were in the basement division for two seasons, and by 1988/89 were back in Division Three with Rovers.

Another good season followed, and they were promoted as champions with Rovers following them twelve months later, so fixtures between the clubs resumed in 1990/91. That sequence of fixtures lasted three seasons, until our relegation in May 1993.

The clubs have met on one other occasion, a testimonial match for David

Pritchard was played here at The Memorial Stadium in July 2003.

There has been just one postponement, that being the home game scheduled for 15th February 1986, though a programme wasn't issued.

Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves

Rovers travelled to play Wolves reserves in the very first year they moved to Molineux. The date was January 1898, with the return in Bristol three months later. The following season, home and away games were also staged. All four games were Birmingham and District League fixtures.

Wotton under Edge

Wotton under Edge may not be one of the biggest names in world of football, but in the history of Bristol Rovers they are just about the most important team we have ever met. Why? Well, as most of you probably know, the game played in Wotton in December 1883 was the very first football match played by Bristol Rovers, or The Black Arabs as we were known then.

It wasn't exactly a good start, though, as we lost 6-0. Including this game, there were six friendly fixtures with Wotton over a six year period. Two were at home, and two were away, but the venue of the others has never been established. As usual, I would like to mention Stephen

Byrne and Mike Jay's book 'The Definitive History' for this information.

Wotton Rovers

One hundred years after playing our first game Rovers made the trip to Wotton once more. The game was arranged as part of our centenary celebrations. Two years later, in August 1985, we made the trip once more for a pre season friendly. The programmes from both these games are featured on this page.

Worcester City

On 26th August 1952 Rovers played City in a pre season friendly, though I'm not certain if a programme was produced for this match. If you know the answer, please get in touch. ■■■

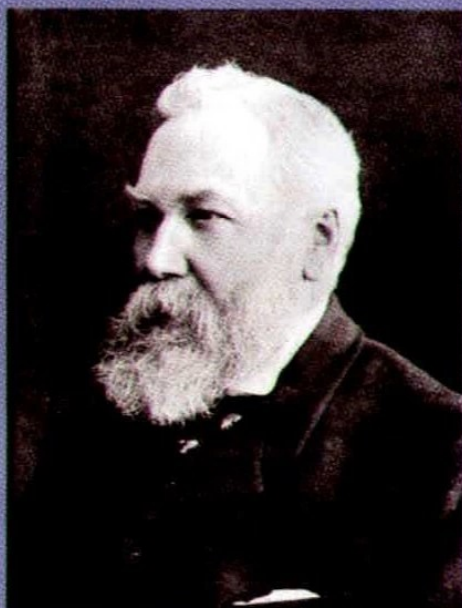
Do you need to find a lot of programmes, or just one? Whether you're a Rovers or an Swindon fan, then I can be contacted **c/o Pirates Programmes, 199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 1AZ** or via jamiagas@blueyonder.co.uk There are also two websites for you to try www.geocities.com/piratesprogs and www.bristolroversmemorabilia.co.uk

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League celebrates 120 years

**"I REALLY BELIEVE
THAT THE GAME
WOULD HAVE
RECEIVED A VERY
SEVERE CHECK, AND
ITS POPULARITY
WOULD HAVE BEEN
PARALYSED ONCE AND
FOR ALL, IF THE
LEAGUE HAD NOT
BEEN FOUNDED"**

Quote attributed to
William McGregor



Last Thursday, 17th April, marked the 120th anniversary of the inception of The Football League thanks to a Birmingham based Scot.

The lack of structure to the football landscape in 1888 meant that many matches were being cancelled due to bad weather, injuries or lack of transport. With fixture cards being rendered virtually meaningless William McGregor, a Midlands based draper and a Director of Aston Villa, set about making changes.

He wrote to a handful of clubs and all of the teams he contacted agreed there was a need for something more organised, so a meeting took place at Anderton's Hotel in Fleet Street, London on 22nd March 1888. A second meeting followed on April 17th, in Manchester, when the official plans were put in place.

Initially, 12 teams were invited to join The League, six from Lancashire - Preston, Bolton, Everton, Burnley, Accrington Stanley and Blackburn Rovers with the other six coming from the Midlands - Aston Villa, West Brom, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Notts County, Derby County and Stoke City.

The reason that all the founder members came from the North West or the Midlands was that at the time

there was no professional football being played south of Birmingham. The first programme of league matches took place on September 8th 1888, and Preston North End won the first league title without losing a game. Four years after the birth of The League, interest had grown dramatically and a Second Division was introduced and by 1920 there was also a Third Division (South) while the Northern equivalent was introduced a year later.

Up until 1992 the Football League Division One was the top level of English football, but then the top 22 clubs broke away to form the FA Premier League.

Football as we know it today has evolved massively over the years, automatic promotion and relegation replaced 'Test' matches (play offs) in 1898 before play offs were reintroduced in 1987 for the third or fourth promotion places.

This season, Football League crowds are set to break the 16m barrier for the third consecutive season, there are exciting promotion and relegation scraps in all three divisions, and Championship club Cardiff City will feature in this season's FA Cup Final.

So here's to another successful 120 years.

♦♦♦♦

Many people think that Bristol Rovers are the oldest football club in Bristol.

In fact that claim is held by Roman Glass St George FC who were formed in 1882, a year before the Rovers.

St George took part in the first ever recorded football match in Gloucestershire when they defeated Warmley 2-0 on December 2nd 1882.

In the early days of football, in the Victorian age, the paths of Eastville Rovers and St George were crossed on many occasions and throughout the 20th Century the clubs were closely linked.

On Saturday March 31st 1894 St George won their first Gloucestershire Senior Cup by beating Eastville Rovers 3-1 at the Chequers Ground, Kingswood, in front of 4,000 spectators.

By 1897 the two clubs were playing in the professional ranks of the Birmingham & District League, competing against the likes of Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves and Aston Villa Reserves, where the clubs were renamed Bristol St George and Bristol Eastville Rovers for identification purposes.

In February 1899 the 'Eastville' was dropped and the club have been called Bristol Rovers ever since. The professional game was crippling, financially, for Bristol St George and they dropped out of the league after two seasons, reverting to the amateur game, whilst Bristol Rovers joined Bristol City in the Southern League.

Whilst playing in the Birmingham League both clubs also competed in the professional section of the Western League. On Boxing Day 1898, the two clubs met at Eastville Stadium in front of 14,897 spectators, which was a record crowd for the ground at the time. Bristol St George proved victorious running out 3-2 winners that day.

As Rovers went from strength to strength, St George reverted to the local leagues climbing to the Western League in 1928. In 1926 St George's best player, Cliff Britton left to join Rovers. Four years later he joined Everton and went on to make nine appearances for England.

The following season George Britton left St George to play for Rovers before later moving to Blackburn Rovers. Bristol Rovers picked up another local lad from Bristol St George in 1933, when they signed Phil Taylor. The 15 year old played for a season and a half for St George before making the Rovers first team. Taylor impressed at Rovers and eventually signed for Liverpool in March 1936 for £5,000. He went on to captain

The first 125 years

Liverpool and was also capped 3 times by England. Taylor spent 23 years at Liverpool, the last three as manager, until he was succeeded by Bill Shankly.

The closeness of the two clubs was emphasised when Rovers Manager Brough Fletcher presided over St George's Annual Dinner in 1939, when the club celebrated their GFA Senior Amateur Cup win. After World War II, it was Rovers who helped St George out by donating goalposts, theirs having been destroyed during the hostilities.

Bristol St George progressed well after the war, and were always amongst the leading amateur clubs in the area throughout the 1950's and it was not uncommon to have Rovers scouts, as well as manager Bert Tann, attend matches when they could.

Throughout the 1960's, Bristol St George were the premier amateur club in the area and a few ex Bristol Rovers amateurs played for the club. Eastville Stadium became a second home for St George, as they won five GFA Senior Amateur Cup finals at the ground. The man in charge of training the team during this time was former Rovers centre forward Albert Iles.

Bristol St George, in this period, were renowned for their cup exploits not only in the GFA Senior Amateur Competition but also the FA Amateur Cup where they regularly beat Western League opposition. Their best result at that time was probably the 0-0 draw against Hendon, one of the best Amateur clubs in the country who boasted five Amateur Internationals. A crowd of 3,000 watched them at Bell Hill that day, on 28th January 1967. This was an impressive crowd, especially when you consider Bristol Rovers were hosting Arsenal in the Third Round of the FA Cup on the same afternoon.

As the club moved into the 1970's, one of their youngsters was catching the eye of the Rovers scouts. It was not long before Graham Day made the short journey from Bell Hill to Eastville Stadium. In May 1975 the close relationship between the clubs was secured with an agreement for Bristol St George to become a nursery club for Rovers.

An article in the Bristol Evening Post quoted Bristol Rovers' trainer/coach Bobby

Campbell stating:

we have always had a close contact with St George and are cementing the ties still further. Rovers will have the pick of the St George players for their Youth team and St George will be supplied with promising players who need experience.

The following season St George striker Keith Rogers and defender Gary Mockridge both played for Rovers reserves and in the 1976/77 season Rovers players Jeff Sherwood and Mike Malpass gained valuable experience at St George, whilst in the 1977/78 season Keith Brown left St George to sign for Bristol Rovers.

The last St George player to make it into Bristol Rovers first team was Gary Smart who made his Football League debut in October 1985, when coming on as a substitute, replacing former England Captain Gerry Francis. Ian McDonald and Kevin Miles also featured for Rovers reserves that season.

Bristol St George had mixed fortunes following this period and went on a downward spiral in the 1990's until they amalgamated with Roman Glass in 1995, which enabled the oldest club in Bristol to continue.

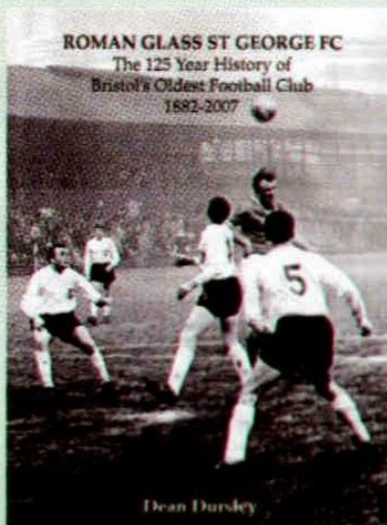
Roman Glass also has a connection with the Rovers, being the club's main sponsor for three years in the 1990's. Roman Glass St George have gone from strength to strength in recent years, and the first team are now back in the Western (Toolstation) League for the first time since 1935.

The chronicles of Roman Glass St George and their progress throughout the past 125 years are featured in a recently published book by Dean Dursley. Priced at £15, and titled Roman Glass St George FC, the book is available from Pirate Leisure, the Supporters Club shop in Kingswood, Doug Hillard Sports or direct from the author (07929 750955).

Below: Albert Iles, pictured on the day he joined Bristol Rovers, went on to train Bristol St George in the 1960's



Graham Day



A possible option

Tonight we entertain a club who, it has been suggested, could be our landlords for the next two seasons.

Of all the options mentioned, this one would suit me personally because it is an easy 45 min run up the M4, has a good capacity and good facilities for supporters.

However, Bristol Rugby and Bath Rugby Clubs are also understood to have had 'talks' with Swindon Town and because of the 'crazy idiots' that all football clubs have, the sharing by two football clubs in that town is the least likely option.

The most sensible option for us would, of course, be Ashton Gate but politically that seems to have been ruled out and there again we have the 'two football clubs - crazy idiots' problem.

I guess we shall just have to wait and hope that wherever we go it is not too difficult for the majority of our supporters and that the facilities are suitable.

Back to tonight, and with two teams who have neither promotion or relegation on the agenda perhaps we shall see an entertaining game! Lots of goals and good flowing 'Arsenal like' football - here's hoping.

Whatever the result - enjoy.

.....



Above: Steve Elliott was the Presidents Club Man of the Match against Gillingham and is seen here collecting his award...

...and below in action during the game



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Maintain our presence

We now know that Bristol Rovers will be bound to live up to its tag one more time as we uproot to play our football away from our home patch. The difference this time around is that we depart in the full knowledge that we will return to our very own special purpose facility, designed to our own brief to include the provision for income streams that will secure our future for many generations to come.

The protracted period away at Bath City's Twerton Park ground could have dented our core support and although we look back to our time there with fond memories in many ways, some would argue quite strongly that on our return we have had a bit of ground to make up on our near neighbours south of the river. We cannot deny the fact that the record attendance at Eastville was an impressive 38,742 whilst to the credit of those there at the time the figure for Twerton was a mere 9,464 and that was to host the mighty Liverpool. Fair play to Bath, we could not have squeezed one more person in.

We cannot deny the right of the South End to exist or to enjoy the same level of support as ourselves. This is Bristol and when you consider the size of the city and the generous population in our nearby towns and villages the area is well big enough to support two full time professional football clubs, I say, and emphasise the same level of support. During our period of time in Bath, some would argue that we were made by others to look, and feel, like the smaller of the two clubs.

During my lifetime this is certainly not the case at all; when I was a child there was never a notion, that I can recall, of Rovers being not at the very least on a par. Take the 1958/59 season as an example. Both Bristol Clubs were strong in the second tier. We finished sixth and the South End boys finished a little way behind us in tenth place. We played them at home in the November and

attracted 32,104. We went to their place for the return fixture in March to play in front of 26,868.

The levels of support that we have enjoyed, and are extremely thankful for, over the past eighteen months, will have served to demonstrate that we are indeed not the smallest club per se and probably never have been. Nonetheless we will have our work cut out to maintain and build on the base levels of support that we know exists whilst we are away. It is so important that we continue to maintain and grow the support of our younger fans and families.



Peter Aitken

The Football in the Community is so vitally an import part of our work in this regard and one that we will be working incredibly hard to sustain over the coming months and during our time away. Quite simply we must maintain our presence in Bristol. Peter Aitken and a Wayne Noble are our full time coaches and their role within the club at this time is a vital one. At the game on Saturday against Gillingham

we were hosts to no less than one hundred local children and many parents. Activity started as early as 9.30 with coaching and fitness training culminating in tours of the stadium and dressing rooms, lunch and then the game itself.

The Football League Trust has established itself over the course of the season with Dave Edmundson at the helm. Dave was formerly Chief Executive at Burnley Football Club. The Trust is chaired by Mark Arthur who is presently Chief Executive at Nottingham Forest. The Trust is divided into five regions each with its own Regional Manager. We are very lucky to have Bath City Manager John Relish as the top man in our South West and Wales region. John is a good man.

Whilst all clubs benefit from a base level of grant, the Trust has decided to top slice money for overall projects that it thinks will be to the benefit of football clubs and to their respective communities alike. The first of such projects is at the bidding stage. Considering our pending period of absence we simply cannot afford to miss out and every effort is being made to get our slice of the cake.

The Trust is developing a five year national project that would involve clubs working on an estate or estates with 11-18 year old boys and girls. Football is the central activity but the project delivery must include multi sports as well. The older young people must be given a delivery role in support of the coaches and go through to introductory awards, for example Sports Leadership awards. Activities will take place in the evenings and in the respective communities. At Bristol Rovers we are confident in our abilities and skills to deliver such a programme.

The timescale for the bid was very short and we had to pull out all the stops as a team to draw up a local scheme and to present our written bid as strongly as we could. Our proposal bid is now with The Football League for their consideration and approval and we expect to learn as to whether we are successful or not by mid May. ■■■■

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Jim Finney

Referees are seldom accorded a mention by the clubs they monitor, but Jim Finney, who died in Hereford on 1st April 2008 at the age of 83 was an exception.

Born on 17th August 1924, he qualified as a Football League referee in time for the

1959/60 season and quickly made a name for himself, controlling the 1959 Amateur Cup Final, two League Cup Finals and the 1962 FA Cup Final between Spurs and Burnley.

A linesman at the 1960 European Nations Final, Finney was also the referee who abandoned the Scotland v Austria game in May 1963 due to poor behaviour by the players, and sent off two Uruguayans in their World Cup quarter final against West Germany at Hillsborough in 1966.

His career was ended abruptly, by injuries received in a car accident shortly before he was due to referee the 1971 European Cup Final between Ajax and Panathinaikos and he was later an official at Hereford United and, until 2000, at Cardiff City.

Finney refereed seven League games involving Rovers. He took charge of the 2-0 defeat at home to Middlesbrough in April 1960 and two local derbies in the calendar year of 1963, Rovers losing 4-1 at Ashton Gate before Geoff Bradford's last ever Rovers goal helped the club towards a 4-0 demolition of their rivals that Christmas. Rovers defeated QPR 2-1 in April 1967, then defeated Scunthorpe 4-0, Bournemouth 3-2 and Torquay over the next few months.

During the Scunthorpe match in 1968, Finney refused to tolerate racial abuse being directed towards the visitors' winger Peter Foley and, once the ball had gone dead, informed a police officer who ejected the offending spectator from the ground.

Finney also refereed the two FA Cup ties with Oldham Athletic in 1961/62, which Rovers lost in a replay.



Jim Finney

Johnny Steele

The former Barnsley manager, Johnny Steele, whose side played Rovers in 11 league matches in the 1960's, died of a stroke on 14th January 2008, at the age of 91.

Glaswegian born on 24th November 1916, John Steele had been a decent inside forward in his day, joining East Fife in 1934 from Lesmahagow Juniors and playing in 27 Scottish Second Division games, scoring three times. Apart from two loan spells at Raith Rovers, he was on the books of Ayr United from 1935 for three years and scored seven times in 45 matches in the Scottish League. In June 1938 he moved south of the border to join Barnsley in a £2,500 deal.

A regular in 1938/39, in when the Tykes were Third Division (North) champions, he also scored Barnsley's final league goal before World War Two and returned to the side in 1946, having recorded 101 wartime appearances for the club, his 56 goals including a four and three goal haul on successive Saturdays in February 1942 against Stockport County.

He retired from playing in 1948 and became a coach at junior level with Barnsley, progressing to club manager from March 1960 until September 1971 and then from November 1972 to April 1973, when he became a director. Steele's many years at the helm at Oakwell saw relegation to Division Four in 1964/65 and promotion back up in 1967/68. In his first game against Rovers,

Barnsley won 4-0 with Eddie O'Hara scoring a hat-trick, but Rovers were to win six and draw two of the eleven fixtures during that era.

Wally Fielding

Wally Fielding, who appeared in 410 games in all competitions for Everton, scoring 54 goals, was a clever inside forward, and his two league matches against Rovers came in the 1953/54 season.

Rovers had been promoted as Third Division (South) champions and Everton were to be crowned Division Two champions that campaign, so the two fixtures that season remain the only occasion Rovers' path has crossed Everton's in the Football League. Fielding played in both games, the Toffees' convincing 4-0 victory at Goodison Park on Christmas Day and a goalless draw at Eastville three days later.

Alfred Walter Fielding was born in Edmonton on 26th November 1919 and progressed through Aldersmeade, Walthamstow Avenue and a trial with Charlton Athletic to sign, after wartime service in the Middle East, as an Everton player in September 1945. 'Everton's favourite cockney' stood just 5' 7", but his precision passing, his remarkable reading of the game and his trademark through ball, perfectly weighted inside the full back, helped maintain his club's position as a major force in English football. In all, 'Nobby', as he was also known, was to appear in 380 league games for Everton and he scored 49 times. In January 1959 he moved to Southport as player manager, his twenty league games and a goal against Millwall resulting in the fact that his career finished against Doncaster Rovers in May 1960, at the age of 40. Thereafter, assistant trainer and scout at Luton Town, these roles sandwiched around eight years as a youth team coach at Watford, where he 'discovered' Luther Blissett, preceded a move to Cornwall in 1981. It was at home in that county that Wally Fielding, believed to be the oldest former Everton player, died on 18th January 2008 at the age of 88.

♦♦♦♦

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Setanta struggle for quality

Good evening everyone, and a warm welcome tonight to the nice couple who bought me a pint before their superb 6-0 demolition of beleaguered Port Vale last Saturday!

Thanks folks, I know you are here tonight, but I hope you don't enjoy yourselves too much!

A special welcome also to my own son, Jordan, who is Ian Holtby's commercial mascot for this evening. He has brought his mate Rob Colemeadow with him, so I hope Rob enjoys tonight's game too, even though he's actually a Wolves supporter!

Tonight's game should be a good one as both teams can now play in a more

relaxed mode after the weekends results. We obviously want to finish above our local rivals and of course, take some 'revenge' for the earlier somewhat harsh result at their place last November.

Further to the editor's comment of me having 'no chance' of a TV appearance in the Gillingham programme column, I have actually been contacted by Setanta Sports to 'star' in a one hour documentary on a day in the life of a chief scout in football. So, stick that, Ed! (Not sure how they can make an hour long documentary from five minutes work! - Ed). What next, Molesy the Movie?! After all, there are 92 league clubs, and they chose me. I'll be in the Uplands Suite tonight if



Think I'd rather watch 'Coronation Street' than suffer an hour long documentary on Molesy!

anyone wants to take about my new career! (You're too modest! - Ed).

Enjoy the game and give my kid a cheer!

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Team Squad 2007/08

PLAYER	No.	BIRTHDATE	SEE NOTES	ROVERS CAREER					THIS SEASON					Prev Club								
				League		Cup		Ratio	League		Cup		Ratio									
				Total Apps	+Sub Goals	Apps	+SubGoals		Total Apps	+SubGoals	Apps	+SubGoals										
Wayne ANDREWS	39	25/11/1977	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	Coventry C							
Byron ANTHONY	15	20/09/1984		53	39	4	1	10	-	2	1:17.23	20	16	1	1	3	-	1:19.67	Cardiff C			
Stuart CAMPBELL	7	09/12/1977		189	134	18	3	35	2	-	1:60.80	53	43	-	-	10	-	-	Grimsby			
Chris CARRUTHERS	11	19/08/1983		128	90	13	1	22	3	-	1:122.72	24	13	4	-	6	1	-	Northampton T			
Danny COLES	16	31/10/1981		30	24	-	1	6	-	2	1:10.00	30	24	-	1	6	-	2	1:10.00	Hull City		
Craig DISLEY	20	24/08/1981		192	138	21	23	31	2	5	1:6.59	49	38	3	6	7	1	3	1:5.30	Mans'f'd		
Steve ELLIOTT	6	29/10/1978		189	157	1	12	30	1	-	1:15.70	36	30	-	3	5	1	-	1:11.89	Blackpool		
Ryan GREEN	2	20/10/1980		56	44	4	-	7	1	-	-	14	12	-	-	2	-	-	-	Sheffield Wed		
Matt GROVES	27	11/12/1988		2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-		
Lewis HALDANE	26	13/03/1985		175	93	56	15	13	13	2	1:8.95	37	22	9	1	3	3	-	-	1:33.04		
Craig HINTON	5	26/11/1977		160	116	12	2	30	2	3	1:31.08	33	21	3	2	8	1	3	1:6.34	Kidd'r		
Jeff HUGHES	22	29/05/1985	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Crystal Pal		
Sammy IGOE	4	30/09/1975	4	94	55	20	4	15	4	2	1:14.35	28	9	12	-	3	4	-	-	Millwall		
Joe JACOBSON	3	17/11/1986		59	42	8	1	8	1	-	1:56.03	46	31	6	1	8	1	-	-	1:43.69	Cardiff C	
Josh KLEIN-DAVIES	29	06/07/1989		8	2	6	1	-	-	-	1:6.02	8	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	1:6.02	-	
Rickie LAMBERT	9	16/02/1982		103	70	12	22	19	2	7	1:3.39	54	39	4	13	10	1	6	-	1:2.76	Rochdale	
Aaron LESCOTT	32	02/12/1978		166	128	8	-	28	2	-	-	40	31	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	Stockport Co	
Chris LINES	18	30/11/1985		46	27	9	3	7	3	-	1:14.01	33	22	2	3	7	2	-	-	1:10.56	-	
Tom PARRINELLO	21	11/11/1989		1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Steve PHILLIPS	1	06/05/1978		113	90	-	-	23	-	-	-	54	43	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	Bristol City	
David PIPE	14	05/11/1983		47	34	3	2	10	-	-	1:23.01	47	34	3	2	10	-	-	-	1:23.01	Notts County	
Anthony PULIS	17	21/07/1984	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Stoke City	
Charles REECE	30	08/09/1988		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sean RIGG	19	04/02/1988		60	12	36	3	3	9	-	1:15.05	35	11	17	1	2	5	-	-	1:27.74	-	
Richard WALKER	10	08/11/1977		176	119	27	50	22	8	12	1:2.65	31	13	11	4	2	5	-	-	1:6.43	Blackpool	
Andrew WILLIAMS	8	14/08/1986		49	19	19	4	9	2	2	1:7.01	49	19	19	4	9	2	2	-	-	1:7.01	Hereford

NOTES:

1. Was on loan from Stoke City
2. Was on loan from Coventry City
3. Was on loan from Crystal Palace
4. On loan to Hereford Utd

Playing for the Gas

Football historian **LEIGH EDWARDS** traces every Bristol Rovers player from 60 post war league seasons.

RAY WHITE

Goalkeeper Ray White understudied Laurie Taylor while at Bristol Rovers. A former Southend United apprentice, he made his League debut as a 16 year-old in their 4-2 defeat at Reading in April 1964 and appeared in Southend's record 9-1 defeat at Brighton in November 1965. He moved to Eastville Stadium in July 1968 and appeared in Rovers' 2-2 draw at Northampton two months later as well as the next two matches against Swindon and Reading. Joining Dave Bumpstead's Brentwood in July 1969, he helped them win promotion in 1968/69, then played for Dover and Tonbridge, running an industrial cleaning business.

STEVE WHITE

Ex England Schoolboy striker Steve White had two spells at Bristol Rovers. Previously with Mangotsfield United, he joined Rovers in July 1977 and scored twice on his home debut. He moved to Luton Town for £195,000 in December 1979 and helped win the Second Division title in 1981/82, joining Charlton Athletic as part of the Paul Walsh deal in July 1982. Returning to Rovers for £35,000 in August 1983, he netted 44 goals in 151 League games overall before joining Swindon Town in July 1986. A promotion winner in 1986/87 and 1992/93, he later played for Hereford United, Cardiff City, then managed Chippenham Town.

TOM WHITE

Central defender Tom White made a significant contribution as Bristol Rovers qualified for the Second Division play offs in 1997/98. Locally born, he turned professional with Rovers in July 1994 and made his League debut in the 2-1 defeat at Bradford City seven months later. He provided cover for Billy Clark as John Ward's side reached the Second Division play off final that season. Scoring once in 54 League games for Rovers, he was loaned to Kingstonian and Hereford United before joining Yeovil Town in August 2000. He has since played for Mangotsfield United and is now manager of an estate agents in Bedminster.

WILF WHITFIELD

Wing half Wilf Whitfield played for Bristol Rovers either side of the Second World War. Initially with Birtley, he joined Bury in July 1932 and made his League debut in their 1-0 defeat at Southampton two months later. 'Baggy' was ever-present in 1935/36 and starred as the Shakers narrowly failed to win promotion to the top flight in 1936/37. Moving to Bristol Rovers in June 1938, he was a corporal in the Army during the war and scored once in 26 Third Division (South) games before joining Torquay United in January 1947. Later with Bath City and Bridgwater, he resided in Bath until his death in February 1971.

DAVID WHYTE

Striker David Whyte briefly appeared as Bristol Rovers qualified for the Second Division play offs in 1997/98. Initially with Greenwich Borough, he joined Crystal Palace in February 1989 and featured in their 1993/94 First Division title campaign. He moved to Charlton Athletic for £450,000 in July 1994 and was leading marksman in 1994/95. Sidelined by a knee injury, he had an unsuccessful trial at Reading before joining Ipswich Town in October 1997. He moved to Bristol Rovers in January 1998 and made four substitute appearances prior to joining Southend United in March 1998 but retired in September 1999.

DAVE WIFFILL

Midfielder Dave Wiffill briefly played for Bristol Rovers during the 1987/88 season. Locally born, he impressed with Bath City before moving to Manchester City for a then non league record £25,000 in April 1980. He failed to make an impact and spent four years with Hong Kong side Happy Valley until a broken leg necessitated a return to Britain. After a trial with Bristol Rovers, he appeared for Gloucester City and Bath City before rejoining Rovers in August 1987, featuring in the 3-1 win over Rotherham on the opening day, then the 2-1 defeat at Blackpool. He later had spells with Stroud, Clevedon Town and Thornbury.

ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Welsh U-21 goalkeeper Anthony Williams had a loan spell at Bristol Rovers at the end of the 1998/99 season. A former Blackburn Rovers trainee, he turned professional in July 1996 and was loaned to Macclesfield before joining Rovers on loan in March 1999. He made nine Second Division appearances, including the televised 2-2 draw at home to Manchester City. Also loaned to Gillingham, he joined Hartlepool in July 2000 and was ever present in their 2002/03 promotion success. He moved to Grimsby in July 2004 and was ever present again in 2004/05, joining Carlisle in August 2005. Now with Wrexham.

BOBBY WILLIAMS

Inside forward Bobby 'Shadow' Williams provided reliable cover for Wayne Jones and Ken Ronaldson while at Bristol Rovers. Locally born, he turned professional with Bristol City in May 1958 and played alongside England international John Atyeo. He featured in their 1964/65 promotion campaign before being sold to Rotherham United for £10,000 in February 1965. Moving to Bristol Rovers in March 1967, he netted five goals in 29 League games prior to joining Reading in August 1969. He later played for ASO Ostend, Cheltenham, Weymouth and Keynsham, then gave Reading lengthy service as youth team boss.

BRIAN WILLIAMS

Experienced left back Brian Williams was twice ever present for Bristol Rovers. Initially with Bury, he starred in their 1973/74 promotion campaign and was sold to QPR for £70,000 in July 1977. He joined Swindon Town for £50,000 in June 1978 and featured in their 1979/80 League Cup run, moving to Rovers in exchange for Gary Emmanuel in July 1981. Voted Player of the Year in 1983/84, he netted 21 goals in 172 League games, following Terry Cooper to Bristol City in July 1985. He played in two Freight Rover Trophy finals, joining Shrewsbury in July 1987, then was community officer at Hereford and Shrewsbury.

DANNY WILLIAMS

Welsh U-21 midfielder Danny Williams played for Bristol Rovers at the end of the 2003/04 season. A former Liverpool trainee, he turned professional in May 1997 but was unable to make an impact and joined Wrexham in March 1999. He moved to Kidderminster Harriers in July 2001 and missed just one match in 2002/03. After a loan spell at Chester City, he joined Bristol Rovers on deadline day in March 2004 and his solitary goal in six Third Division games came on his debut in the 3-0 victory at home to York City. He returned to Wrexham in August 2004 and featured in their 2005 LDV Vans Trophy final success.

DAVID WILLIAMS

Influential midfielder David Williams was capped five times by Wales after leaving Bristol Rovers. He became the first amateur to appear in the League for Rovers for 13 years when given his debut against Oldham Athletic in August 1975. Turning professional after completing a teacher training course, he was ever present in 1978/79 and 1981/82, becoming player-boss at 28 in May 1983. He netted 65 goals in 352 League games before joining Norwich City for £40,000 in July 1985. Helping win the Second Division title in 1985/86, he has coached at Norwich, Bournemouth, Everton, Leeds United and Manchester United.



Tom White

GERAINT WILLIAMS

Welsh U-21 midfielder Geraint Williams gained 13 full caps after leaving Bristol Rovers. A former apprentice at Eastville Stadium, he turned professional in January 1980 and made his league debut in Rovers' 3-3 draw at home to Sheffield Wednesday nine months later. He netted eight goals in 141 League games before being sold to Derby County for £40,000 in March 1985. Starring in their rise back to the top flight, he joined Ipswich Town for £650,000 in July 1992 and helped them qualify for the First Division play offs in successive seasons. He moved to Colchester United in July 1998 and is now their manager.

JOHNNY WILLIAMS

Experienced wing half Johnny Williams played for Bristol Rovers against Arsenal in the 1966/67 FA Cup Third Round. Locally born, he grew up in Plymouth and turned professional with Plymouth Argyle in October 1952, starring in their 1958/59 Third Division title triumph. He was ever present for them in three successive seasons and scored in the 1964/65 League Cup semi final first-leg. Moving to Eastville Stadium in December 1966, he netted ten goals in 68 Third Division games for Bristol Rovers before returning to Plymouth as reserve team coach for a year in June 1969. He has since run two garages in Plymouth.

KEITH WILLIAMS

Inside forward Keith Williams was Bristol Rovers' leading marksman in 1962/63. Signing professional for Everton in March 1954, he failed to secure a first team slot and joined his older brother Ray at Tranmere Rovers in May 1957. He



Brian Williams

topped their goalscoring charts on three occasions but was unable to prevent relegation in 1960/61, joining Plymouth Argyle in June 1961. Moving to Rovers for £6,500 in January 1962, he experienced relegation again that season and netted 18 goals in 49 League games until banned in April 1963 after a major bribery scandal. He later emigrated to South Africa, settling in Johannesburg.

RYAN WILLIAMS

Ex England Youth winger Ryan Williams regularly featured as a substitute while at Bristol Rovers. A former Mansfield Town trainee, he made his League debut as a 17 year old in their 1-0 defeat at Leyton Orient in January 1996 and moved to Tranmere Rovers for £70,000 in August 1997. He failed to secure a regular first team slot and joined Chesterfield for £80,000 in November 1999. Sold to Hull City for £150,000 in July 2001, he joined Bristol Rovers in October 2003, netting four goals in 43 League games while at Memorial Stadium prior to joining Aldershot Town in January 2006, following a loan spell.

STEVE WILLIAMS

Welsh Youth striker Steve Williams appeared in Bristol Rovers' 1980/81 relegation battle. A former apprentice at Eastville Stadium, he made his League debut in Rovers' 1-0 defeat at home to Wrexham in December 1980 and his solitary goal in eight Second Division games clinched that month's 1-1 draw with Notts County. He turned professional in April 1981 and moved to hometown Barry in August 1982. Leading marksman in three successive Welsh League title triumphs, he joined Sully in August 1985, then had a season with Bideford before rejoining Barry in August 1988. He later played for Barry based Denhome. ■■■



Ryan Williams



Past...

Today sees the eightieth league meeting between Rovers and Swindon, with the Wiltshire club having the upper hand in terms of victories.

Whilst this is only their third visit to the Memorial Stadium, Swindon have beaten Rovers at three other home venues: Eastville, Twerton Park and at Ashton Gate when we played a league match there in the 1986/87 season.

Rovers home record against our near neighbours is 21 wins, five draws and 13 defeats, have won 21 matches against Swindon at home drawing a further five losing thirteen, whilst our record at the County Ground is eight wins, eight draws and 24 defeats.

Present...

On Saturday, Swindon recorded a 6-0 win against Port Vale at the County Ground.

They were five goals ahead at half time, thanks to goals from Lee Peacock, Craig Easton, Jack Smith, Anthony McNamee and Michael Timlin while substitute Ben Joyce was on target in the second half.

Swindon boss Maurice Malpas, speaking on the official club website, had this to say afterwards:

To play the way we did in the first half was fantastic. Port Vale, coming here already relegated, had a tough task to face but I really enjoyed the first half. We were sharper and we did the job well.

We now have a derby game against Bristol Rovers and I told the players before today that we wanted four wins from the remaining four games. We have one of those wins on board and now we can look forward to the Bristol Rovers game.

Future...

On Saturday we face Brighton in our final home game of the season, and the last at the Mem before redevelopment commences (kick off 3.00pm).

TUESDAY 8TH APRIL

Swansea maintained their four point lead at the top of the table after coming away from Carlisle with a goalless draw.

Southend, thanks to goals from Mark Gower and Adam Barrett beat Brighton 2-0 at Roots Hall and moved into fourth place, above Nottingham Forest who drew 1-1 with Rovers at the City Ground. Lewis McGugan gave Forest a first half lead, but that was cancelled out by Steve Elliott's second half equaliser.

WEDNESDAY

9TH APRIL

Colchester will be playing League Two football next season, as Barnsley's win at Watford confirmed their relegation.

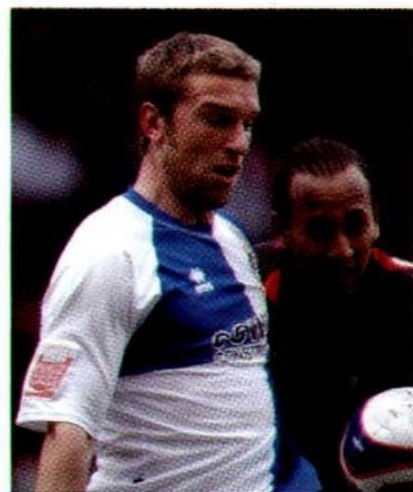
FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

Doncaster beat Swindon 2-0 at the Keepmoat Stadium, thanks to goals from Sean McDaid and Brian Stock. The three points kept them in third place and guaranteed them a place in the play offs at the very least.

SATURDAY

12TH APRIL

Swansea's promotion to the Championship was confirmed following



Bournemouth's Josh Gowling closes in on Rickie Lambert

their 2-1 win at Gillingham. The Swans fell behind to a Dennis Oli strike, but two goals from Guillem Bauza just before the interval saw them to victory.

The win extended their lead at the top of the table to seven points ahead of second placed Carlisle, who were beaten 3-2 at Leeds. The Cumbrians took the lead through Scott Dobie but fell behind early in second period, when Dougie Freedman and Jonathan Howson scored. Danny Graham then equalised, but a second goal from Freedman saw Leeds to victory and they remained in the final play off spot.

Nottingham Forest, with goals from Nathan Tyson and Wesley Morgan, were 2-0 winners at Tranmere and moved back

Steve Elliott and Bournemouth's Jo Kuffour in action at the Fitness First Stadium



	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GO	Pts	Form
Swansea	44	12	5	5	34	20	13	6	3	43	21	36	66	LWDLWD
Carlisle	44	17	2	3	38	15	8	8	9	25	27	21	79	LWDLWD
Doncaster	44	13	4	5	32	18	9	7	6	30	21	23	77	DWDLWD
Northampton	44	12	8	2	34	11	8	8	6	26	19	30	76	WWDLWL
Southend	44	12	5	5	34	19	10	4	8	35	34	16	75	WDWWWW
Leeds	44	14	4	4	39	17	11	6	5	30	20	32	70	WLWWWW
Brighton	44	12	6	4	37	24	6	6	10	19	25	7	66	WWLLDL
Walsall	44	7	8	7	25	24	9	7	6	25	18	8	63	LLWWLD
Tranmere	44	12	4	6	31	18	5	7	10	19	27	5	62	LLWLWL
Northampton	44	11	6	5	36	20	5	8	9	20	32	4	62	WDWDL
Oldham A	44	9	7	8	30	20	7	6	9	22	24	8	61	LWLWDL
Huddersfield	44	11	4	7	27	22	7	2	13	20	40	-15	60	WWDLWL
Leyton O	44	8	6	8	24	28	7	6	9	21	30	-13	57	DLWL
Swindon	43	11	5	6	39	23	3	7	11	20	31	5	54	WLWL
Hartlepool	44	11	5	6	40	25	4	3	15	21	38	-2	53	LLWLWL
Bristol R	43	5	10	6	25	27	7	7	8	19	20	-3	53	DWLDWL
Yeovil	44	9	4	9	19	26	5	8	11	17	29	-19	52	WLWLWL
Crewe A	44	8	6	8	26	29	4	8	10	20	31	-14	50	WWLDWL
Millwall	44	8	4	10	27	26	5	6	11	14	32	-17	49	WLWLWL
Cheltenham	44	9	6	5	21	20	3	4	15	18	41	-22	48	LLWLWL
Gillingham	44	9	8	5	25	21	2	4	16	17	40	-28	45	DLDWL
Bournemouth	44	9	4	9	30	35	7	2	13	30	36	-11	44	WWWWWW
Port Vale	44	5	7	10	24	33	4	2	16	20	45	-34	36	LWLWLWL
Luton	44	10	5	7	29	24	1	5	16	14	36	-17	33	LLWLWL

into fourth place, above Southend. The Shrimpers were held to a 1-1 draw by Northampton at Roots Hall after Lee Barnard's goal cancelled out Colin Larkin's opener for the Cobblers.

The race to avoid relegation continued, as Millwall and Crewe secured away victories. The Lions, thanks to an early goal from Jay Simpson, won at Hartlepool for the first time since November 1959, while the Railwayman ran out 3-0 winners on their first ever visit to Yeovil. On target for Crewe were Nicky Maynard (2) and Tom Pope.

Cheltenham slipped nearer to the danger zone after losing 2-1 at home to Walsall. Goals from Tommy Mooney and Paul Connor put the Saddlers in the driving seat before Paul Connor scored a consolation goal for the Robins.

Bournemouth continued their run of good form with a fourth successive win, as they beat Rovers 2-1 at the Fitness First Stadium. Goals from Darren Anderton and Jo Kuffour put the Cherries two up before Rickie Lambert pulled one back.

Port Vale were held to a goalless draw by Huddersfield at Vale Park, a result that confirmed their relegation to League Two. They will be joined in the basement division by Luton, following their 2-1 defeat by Brighton at Kenilworth Road. Sam Parkin had given the Hatters the lead before Ian Westlake and Glenn Murray scored to give the Seagulls victory, their first at that venue since April 1934.

Leyton Orient slipped to their fifth consecutive defeat, losing 2-0 at Oldham, where Chris Taylor and Mark Allott were on target for the home side.

Leyton Orient

Saturday 3rd May (ko 3.00pm)

For our final Coca Cola League One match at the Matchroom Stadium, Brisbane Road, Supporters Club coaches leave the Memorial Stadium and Kingswood at 9.45am and Eastville at 10.00am.

Coach Fare: £15.00

Matchday Programme: £3.00

Matchday Prices (All seats)

Adults: £20.00

Juv, U16 / 65+ £13.00

Rovers season ticket holders can claim Early Bird prices, on production of Voucher D, up until Friday 9th

November (Adults (£15.00, Juv U16 / 65+ £11.00).

By Car: Take the M4 East and then the M25 North. Exit the M25 at Jct 27, and take the M11 South into London. After 7.1 miles, where the road divides, bear right (A406, North Circular). Keep in left hand lanes and take the first exit after 0.6 miles (Walthamstow & City A104), then Whipps Cross A104, West End (A503). At roundabout turn left into Woodford New Road (A104). At next roundabout, take the second exit and follow the road round to the left into Lea Bridge Road. After 0.5 miles turn left at the lights into Leyton Green Road. Filter left after 0.3 miles and turn left into Leyton High Road and the ground is another 1.2 miles (on your right).

Helpline...

■ Martyn Radnedge



This has been a strange year in the football world.

In recent years the game has been turned on its head with the advent of Sky money TV and the introduction of foreign owners and their cash which made football more of a business at the top and less of a sport.

Amazingly this season we have seen unfashionable clubs get to the FA Cup Final (how close were we to that!). The Championship has very few points between those at the top and those at the bottom and nobody appears to be very keen to try their luck at the higher level. In our division and the one below

several clubs have been deducted points because of administration problems. All in all, a very topsy turvy year.

However, here at Rovers it could be argued we have been on the up. If we can consolidate or better in the next year or so during our temporary exile then a very bright future beckons. Helpline will be doing all we can to keep funds flowing into the club. You can help us by joining and giving your support whilst also standing a chance of winning a holiday. Ring Kate on **01454 321191** or e mail to helpline@bristolrovers.co.uk

BRISTOL HOSPITALS BROADCASTING SERVICE

The service broadcasts live commentaries on Rovers games to hospitals throughout the region. If you would like to sponsor a season, contact John Kay at the Press Box or on 01225 872981. We would like to thank the following sponsors:

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CCTV

The Stadium is equipped with CCTV installed with the help of a grant from THE FOOTBALL TRUST

SMOKING

Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the Memorial Stadium.

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12th December 07
27th February 08
2nd February 08
Wednesday 30th April 08
Wednesday 4th June 08
Wednesday 25th June 08





Constant changing

The Home International Championship looks set to be re introduced without England, but 50 years ago the talk was of how to get rid of that competition and play less football.

European football was just taking off, and top clubs felt their star players were playing too many games and the popularity of the Home Internationals was on the wane.

The only big crowds were in the games featuring England, with the annual contest against Scotland as the major clash and often the tournament decider.

In 1959/60, the top Football League clubs wanted to see a reduction in the number of sides they played against as the leagues were made up of 22 clubs and Rovers finished joint sixth in the old Division Two, but there were no play offs and only the top two were promoted.

Villa and Cardiff went up, with Liverpool missing out in third position while Rovers finished on 47 points, the same as Rotherham, Huddersfield and Charlton.

A 4-0 defeat at Anfield, with three matches left, put paid to the Pirates chances of promotion to the top tier for the first time ever.

Just two years earlier, the old Third Divisions North and South were scrapped and merged into the existing Third and Fourth Divisions.

But yet again the Management

Committee of the Football League had plans for more reorganisation by splitting the competition into five divisions of 20 clubs, while England and Southampton star Mike Channon (who appeared in nine games for the Gas in 1982/83) wanted a structure of 1,000 clubs!

Channon advocated three Premier Divisions and then regionalised divisions North and South right down to Division Eight, which gave a chance for every ambitious club to rise up the pyramid.

League President Joe Richards proposed five divisions of 20 clubs, bringing in eight non league sides including Headington (now called Oxford), and Wigan Athletic.

Richards was also a strong believer of four up and four down, a controversial proposal at the time. He gave as an example that Second Division table of 1959/60, when Rovers finished joint seventh.

Richards said it was an example of how the interest can be killed long before the end of the season;

because it was obvious that Villa and Cardiff were going up to the First Division and the academic question remained as to who would be champions.

The most exciting season the lower two divisions of the league had ever enjoyed was 1957/58, when they had to fight for places in the top half in view of the switch to the new Third and Fourth Divisions. It was not decided until the last day of the season which teams were

going to be fortunate enough to finish on the right side of the halfway line.

The fact that the management committee was already considering a return to regional sections for the new Fifth Division was that the recent scrapping of the Third North and South had been a failure.

During the first two years of the new set up, a bigger proportion of Southern clubs had won promotion from the new Fourth Division and

more Northern clubs had been relegated from the Third Division. As a result the Fourth had become largely a Northern body and Southern sides like Aldershot, Millwall, Exeter, Gillingham and Crystal Palace were trapped in a section where costs were steadily rising because they had to play so many games in the north and had fewer profitable matches against local rivals.

Joe Richard's new proposal for five divisions did not get through. Yet FA secretary Sir Stanley Rous had wanted to see a Super League of 16 clubs, paying higher wages, employing the best players and coaches, and having regular games against the best foreign teams; how familiar does that sound!

Sir Stanley felt that:

only by an organisation like that would British football begin to regain their rightful place in the world.

If only Sir Stanley could have seen the adverse effect the Premiership has had on our national game he might have changed his mind.

But even then in the 1960's Manchester United manager Matt Busby was complaining that the race for the League title had become a test of endurance rather than skill and called for 18 clubs in all divisions.

Another proposal back then, which is still being talked about today, came from Wolves manager Stan Cullis who wanted a mid season break during the bad weather months of January and February.

Cullis felt that because of the heavy pitches the emphasis in training was too much on stamina work and not enough on ball control. He said:

The Continentals have the advantage of concentrating more on work with the ball.

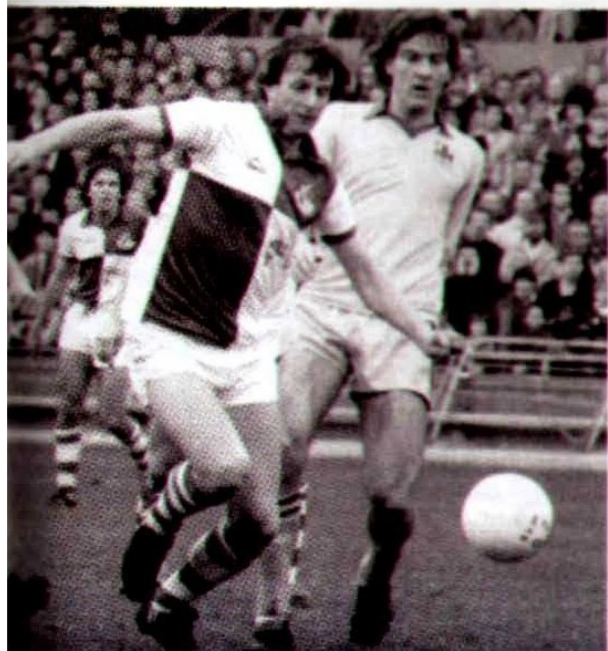
He told how Ferenc Puskas, the former captain of Hungary turned up at Molineux to train for that famous match between Wolves and Honved in 1954.

Puskas took one look at the heavy mud, kicked a ball about for a couple of minutes and retired to the dressing room saying:

The pitch is not fit for training, let alone playing.

He did not train, but his ball control did not suffer during the match. I wonder what Puskas would have made of our Memorial Stadium playing surface?

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Mick Channon in action for Rovers - after his plans for leagues consisting of 1,000 clubs were scrapped!

Brighton & Hove Albion

The Seagulls' hopes of making the play offs are soaring again after last Saturday's win at Kenilworth Road condemned Luton to the drop.

19 goal leading scorer Nicky Forster missed the game with a knee injury, but two crosses from Dean Cox enabled Ian Westlake and Glenn Murray to secure victory.

Today's visitors must wish they could still call on the fire power of Forster, whom they sold to Brentford in 1996. He hoped to be fit to face Hartlepool last Saturday, along with on loan Ipswich defender Matt Richards.

Another ex Gill we may see next Saturday is central defender Guy Butters, now 38, who spent six years at Priestfield before joining Albion early in the 2002/03 campaign. Westlake is on loan from Leeds for the rest of the season. Dean Wilkins splashed out £300,000 to sign Murray from Rochdale in January. Jonny Dixon, who arrived from Aldershot in January in a £55,000 deal, made his first senior start for Albion against the Hatters in the absence, through illness, of Brighton born striker Jake Robinson. French midfielder Thierry Racon, on loan from Charlton, made his Albion debut in the Easter games against Swindon and Nottingham Forest.

Former Australian youth international Paul Reid, a long term absentee due to a cruciate ligament injury, was on the bench a fortnight ago for the first time in three months. Michel Kuipers, number one choice between the posts this term, played one game for Rovers before signing for Albion in July 2000.

Smash and Grab

We are hosting an evening with Alan Warboys and Bruce Bannister, alias 'Smash and Grab', on Friday 25th April here at the Memorial Stadium, and tickets are priced at £40.00 per person.

The evening will include an appearance by Glenn Catley, the ex world champion and holder of the super WBC middleweight title, who is an ardent Rovers fan. He is embarking on a sideline of after dinner speaking, and we are delighted that he will be joining us.

Season 07/08 Match STATS

2 1 Played • Number indicates goals scored
S indicates player was substituted

Played •
Booked

Used Substitute • Number indicates
Player replaced

Played • Booked
and sent off

COCA COLA APPEARANCE
COCA COLA GOALS
CUP APPEARANCE
CUP GOALS
TOTAL APPEARANCE
TOTAL GOALS

All Saturday matches
KO 3.00pm unless stated.

All evening matches
KO 7.45pm unless stated.

FAC = FA Cup

CC = Carling Cup

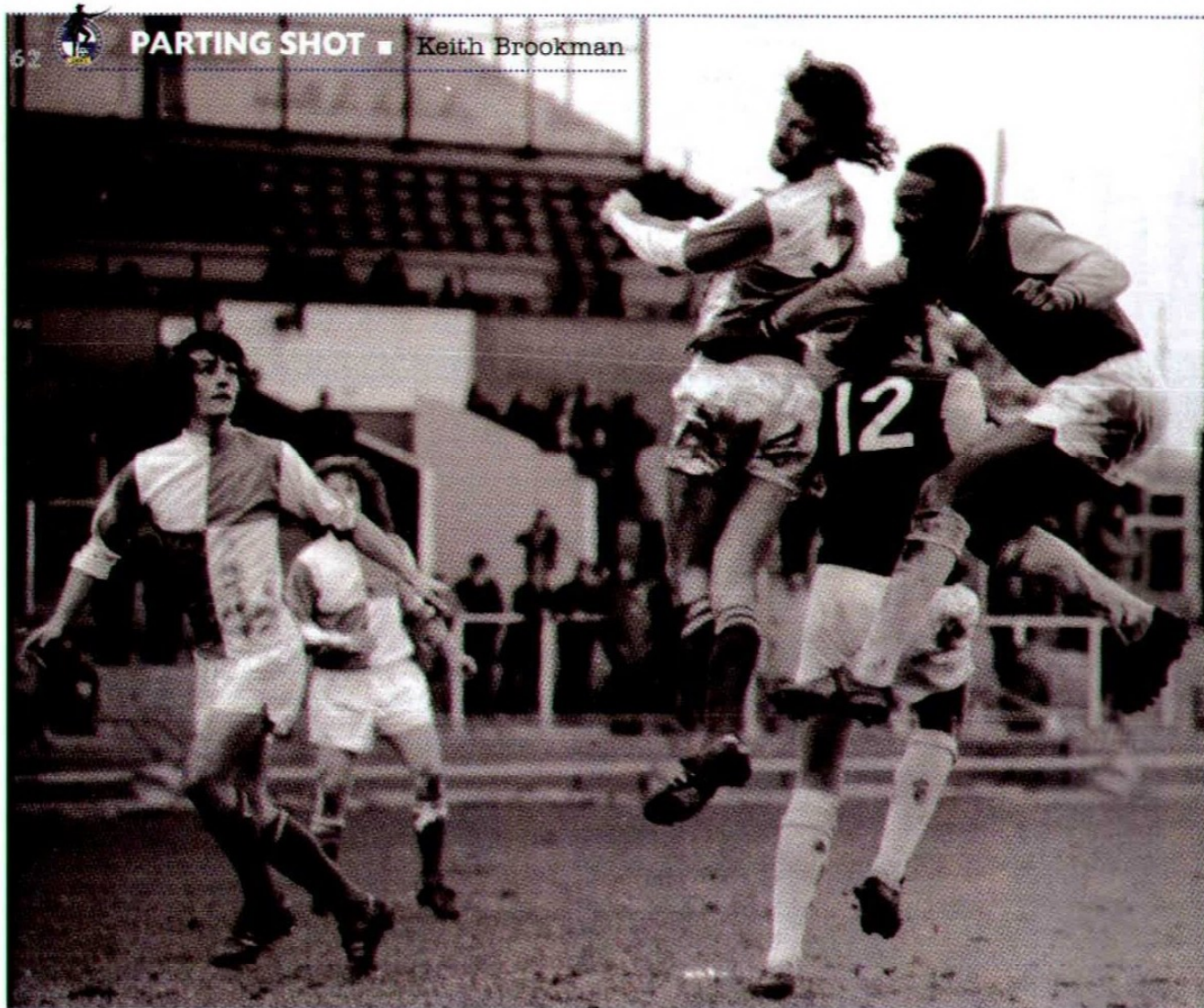
JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy

				VENUE	F-A	H	ATT	A	POS
AUG 11	SAT	PORT VALE		A	1-1	6,808	1,770	7	
AUG 14	TUE	CRYSTAL PALACE	CARLING CUP RD1	H	1-1*	5,566	719	7	
AUG 18	SAT	CREWE ALEXANDRA		H	1-1	7,750	287	14	
AUG 25	SAT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC		A	1-0	5,348	500	9	
AUG 28	TUES	WEST HAM UNITED	CC RD 2	H	1-2	10,831	1,463	9	
SEP 1	SAT	NOTTINGHAM FOREST		H	2-2	9,080	1,191	8	
SEP 8	SAT	LUTON TOWN	ko 12noon	A	2-1	6,131	564	6	
SEP 14	FRI	LEEDS UNITED		H	0-3	11,883	1,195	7	
SEP 22	SAT	CARLISLE UNITED		A	1-1	6,106	345	9	
SEP 29	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT		H	2-3	7,181	404	14	
OCT 2	TUE	SOUTHEND UNITED		H	1-1	5,762	295	12	
OCT 6	SAT	BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION		A	0-0	5,826	610	13	
OCT 9	TUE	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	JPT RD 2	H	0-1	3,313	193	15	
OCT 12	FRI	HARTLEPOOL UNITED		A	0-1	4,963	143	13	
OCT 20	SAT	YEovil TOWN		H	1-1	7,726	927	17	
OCT 27	SAT	GILLINGHAM		A	2-3	5,333	215	19	
NOV 3	SAT	AFC BOURNEMOUTH		H	0-2	6,405	407	19	
NOV 6	TUE	NORTHAMPTON TOWN		A	1-0	5,126	284	18	
NOV 10	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT	FAC RD1	A	1-1	3,157	453	18	
NOV 17	SAT	MILLWALL		H	2-1	6,991	449	17	
NOV 24	SAT	SWINDON TOWN		A	0-1	9,342	2,096	18	
NOV 27	TUE	LEYTON ORIENT	FAC RD1 replay	H	3-3†	3,742	135	18	
DEC 1	SAT	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	FAC RD 2	H	5-1	4,816	215	18	
DEC 15	SAT	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN		A	1-2	8,118	275	19	
DEC 22	SAT	LEEDS UNITED		A	0-1	27,863	2,781	19	
DEC 26	WED	LUTON TOWN	ko 3.00pm	H	1-1	7,556	413	20	
DEC 29	SAT	CARLISLE UNITED		H	3-0	6,254	432	20	
JAN 1	TUE	SOUTHEND UNITED	ko 1.00pm	A	1-0	7,664	289	19	
JAN 6	SUN	FULHAM	FAC RD 3 ko 2.00pm	A	2-2	13,634	6,976	19	
JAN 11	FRI	TRANMERE ROVERS		A	2-0	5,887	304	16	
JAN 19	SAT	WALSALL		H	1-1	6,273	573	16	
JAN 22	TUE	FULHAM	FAC RD 3 replay	H	0-0*	11,882	683	16	
JAN 26	SAT	BARNET	FAC RD 4	A	1-0	5,190	1,943	18	
JAN 29	TUE	CREWE ALEXANDRA		A	1-1	3,942	283	17	
FEB 2	SAT	PORT VALE		H	3-2	6,927	176	17	
FEB 5	TUE	CHELTHENHAM TOWN		H	2-0	6,780	615	15	
FEB 9	SAT	DONCASTER ROVERS		A	0-2	8,168	543	16	
FEB 12	TUE	OLDHAM ATHLETIC		H	1-0	5,778	239	13	
FEB 16	SAT	SOUTHAMPTON	FAC RDS	H	1-0	11,920	1,200	15	
FEB 23	SAT	TRANMERE ROVERS		H	1-1	7,777	433	15	
MAR 1	SAT	MILLWALL		A	1-0	9,202	600	13	
MAR 4	TUE	DONCASTER ROVERS		H	0-1	5,933	285	14	
MAR 9	SUN	WEST BROMWICH ALB	FAC 6 6.00pm	H	1-5	12,011	2,000	17	
MAR 12	WED	NORTHAMPTON TOWN		H	1-1	4,657	223	16	
MAR 15	SAT	CHELTHENHAM TOWN		A	0-1	5,187	1,582	16	
MAR 18	TUE	SWANSEA CITY		H	0-2	6,410	885	16	
MAR 22	SAT	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN		H	2-3	6,585	340	17	
MAR 24	MON	SWANSEA CITY	ko 5.45pm	A	2-2	15,048	442	18	
MAR 29	SAT	YEovil TOWN		A	0-0	6,654	1,630	18	
APR 5	SAT	HARTLEPOOL UNITED		H	0-0	5,526	150	17	
APR 8	TUE	NOTTINGHAM FOREST		A	1-1	15,860	734	16	
APR 12	SAT	AFC BOURNEMOUTH		A	1-2	6,867	1,053	16	
APR 15	TUE	WALSALL		A	1-0	4,500	700	15	
APR 19	SAT	GILLINGHAM		H	1-1	6,614	472	16	
APR 22	TUE	SWINDON TOWN		H					
APR 26	SAT	BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION		H					
MAY 3	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT		A					

* AET, Rovers won 4-1 on penalties

* AET, Rovers won 5-3 on penalties

† AET, Rovers won 6-5 on penalties



Reserves at Eastville

Tonight's photo was taken during the reserve team game against West Ham, at Eastville, on 16th February 1974.

Central defender Graham Day appears to have won this aerial challenge against two West Ham players, while striker Wayne Powell looks on.

The Hammers won this game 1-0 and the brief match report went as follows.

Failure to turn the chances they created into goals proved costly for Rovers as they tamely surrendered both points in this Football Combination game at Eastville.

Rovers badly missed the finishing of David John, who was surprisingly relegated to the substitutes bench.

John made a belated appearance in the 77th minute, when he replaced centre forward Wayne Powell. West Ham's goal was scored by Ylmes Orhan in the 37th minute.

Rovers: Crabtree, Bater, Aitken, Moore, Day, Coombes, Britton, Jones, Powell (John (D)). John (M), Williams (G).

Graham Day, now mine host at the Flowerpot Inn Kingswood, represented Bristol Boys from U-11 through to the U-15's and was playing for Bristol City's 'A' side at the age of 15. The expected offer of an apprenticeship never materialised, however, and he moved on to Bristol St George.

It was Joe Davis, a former Rovers player, who recommended Graham to try his luck at Eastville and, after graduating through the 'A' team and reserves he eventually made his debut against Fulham in March 1975.

From then until 1979 he was a regular in the first team, partnering Stuart Taylor at the heart of defence.

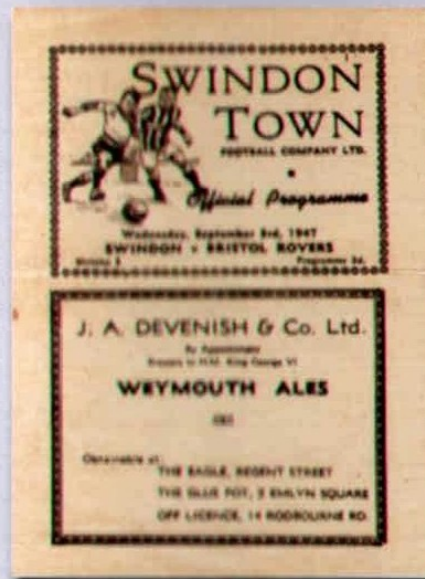
In spite of playing in a struggling Rovers side, though, he also played alongside some of the world's greatest players of the time, thanks to three spells

with Portland Timbers, in America. Twice he signed for the Timbers on loan, before finally making the move permanent when former Rovers boss Don Megson paid £40,000 to secure his signature.

During his time in America, he rubbed shoulders with the likes of Pele, Alberto, Best, Cruyff, Muller and Beckenbauer. However it all came to an end with the collapse of the National League and on his return to this country he signed for Forest Green Rovers and appeared for them in the FA Vase Final at Wembley.

He did enjoy a short spell with Bournemouth, at the same time as George Best, but his only appearance for them was in a Hampshire Cup Final before ending his career at Bath City, where he picked up a Somerset Cup medal to go with the Hampshire one and the Gloucester Cup medal he picked up when with Rovers - quite a unique hat trick!

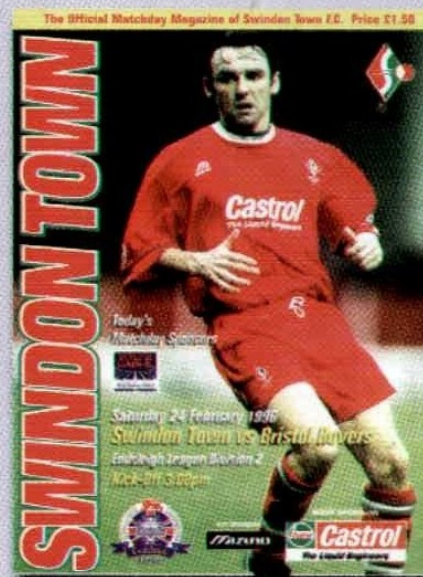
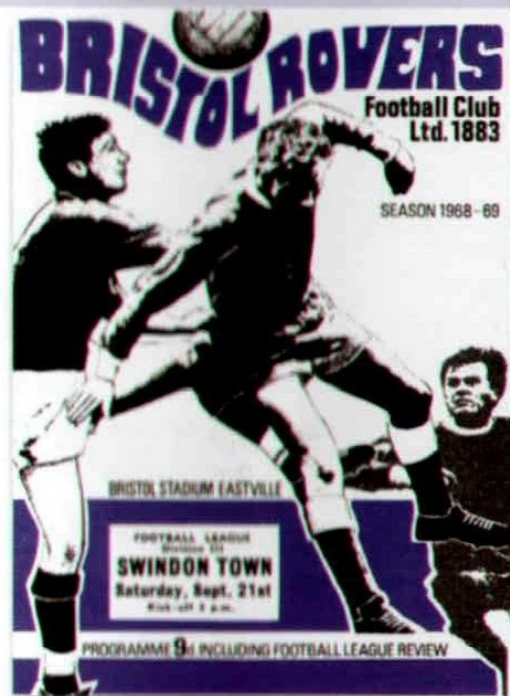
♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Kick Off 3.15 p.m. 20th October, 1945

BRISTOL ROVERS										
Right					Left					
Weare					Watkin					
Topping					Whitfield					
McGahie					Warren (Capt.)					
Butterworth					Clark					
Long					Lambden					
Tallbot					11					
Referee—Mr. C. J. WAKLEY					Linesmen—Mr. W. R. EVANS, Mr. C. F. JACOBS					
11 Holland					7 Jakeman					
10 Skinner					Tainter					
6 Mather					4 Cousins					
3 McDonald					1 Woodman					
Wildman										
Left					Right					
SWINDON TOWN										

NEXT MATCH Saturday, 27 Oct. 1945 K.O. 3.15 p.m.
Rovers Res. v Aero Engines, Kingswood
WESTERN LEAGUE



1 Swindon Town 1 Bristol Rovers 1
3rd September 1947
Football League Division Three (South)

2 Bristol Rovers 2 Swindon Town 1
21st September 1968
Football League Division Three

Bristol Rovers 2 Swindon Town 0
20th October 1945
Football League Division Three (South)

Swindon Town 2 Bristol Rovers 1
24th February 1996
Endsleigh League Division Two

3

4

THE SQUADS



Bristol Rovers

Coach PAUL TROLLOPE

1	Steve PHILLIPS (GK)	1
2	Ryan GREEN	2
3	Joe JACOBSON	3
4	Sammy IGOE	4
5	Craig HINTON	5
6	Steve ELLIOTT	6
7	Stuart CAMPBELL	7
8	Andy WILLIAMS	8
9	Rickie LAMBERT	9
10	Richard WALKER	10
11	Chris CARRUTHERS	11
12	GASHEADS	12
13	Mike GREEN (GK)	13
14	David PIPE	14
15	Byron ANTHONY	15
16	Danny COLES	16
17	Anthony PULIS	17
18	Chris LINES	18
19	Sean RIGG	19
20	Craig DISLEY	20
21	Tom PARRINELLO	21
23	Ryan PADDOCK	23
24	Alex KITE	24
25	Tom GODSELL	25
26	Lewis HALDANE	26
27	Matt GROVES	27
28	Adam MAHDI	28
29	Josh KLEIN-DAVIES	29
30	Charlie REECE	30
31	Charlie CLOUGH	31
32	Aaron LESCOTT	32
33	Steve BOOK (GK)	33
34	James FRASER	34



COVER SHOT:
Rickie Lambert, pictured here in action against Hartlepool, scored his 18th goal of the season at Walsall last Tuesday

Tuesday 22nd April 2008



Swindon Town

Manager MAURICE MALPAS

1	Phil SMITH (GK)	
2	Jack SMITH	
3	Jamie VINCENT	
4	Lee PEACOCK	
5	Jerel IFIL	
6	Ady WILLIAMS	
7	Christian ROBERTS	
8	Craig EASTON	
9	Barry CORR	
10	Jon-Paul MCGOVERN	
11	Sofiene ZAABOUB	
12	Peter BREZOVAN (GK)	
14	Miguel COMMINGES	
15	Andy NICHOLAS	
16	Hasney ALJOFFREE	
17	Chris BLACKBURN	
19	Michael POOK	
20	Billy PAYNTER	
21	Blair STURROCK	
23	Kaid MOHAMED	
24	Chris ALLEN	
25	Sean MORRISON	
26	Patrick KANYUKA	
27	Anthony MCNAMEE	
30	Moses ASHIKODI	
31	Simon COX	

Kick off 7.45pm

Match Officials



REFEREE
STEVE BENNETT
Kent



ASSISTANT REFEREE
RON GANFIELD
Somerset



CERI RICHARDS
Carmarthenshire



FOURTH OFFICIAL
KEVIN FRIEND
Leicester

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The Pirate

The Official Match Programme of
**BRISTOL ROVERS
FOOTBALL CLUB**

Programme Editor: KEITH BROOKMAN
Additional & archive photography
NEIL BROOKMAN & ALAN MARSHALL
Video production: SCREEN SOCCER
Programme designed & produced by
ANN WALTER
Printed & published by
TL VISUALS LIMITED
Yate 01454 319553

Next up...

At the Mem

Brighton & Hove Albion
Saturday 26th April 2008
Kick off 3.00pm

On the road

Leyton Orient
Saturday 3rd May 2008
Kick off 3.00pm