

THE PIRATE

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2009

v SWINDON TOWN



£3 ■ NO. 15

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BRISTOL ROVERS ■ SEASON 2009/2010



CLUB PERSONNEL

Chairman Nick Higgs

Directors

Barry Bradshaw, David Brain,
Geoff Dunford, Rod King, Ken Masters,
Edward Ware

President Denis Dunford

Honorary Vice Presidents

Bob Andrews, Arthur Holmes,
Roy Redman, Vernon Stokes

Director of Finance Toni Watola

Director of Football Lennie Lawrence

Manager Paul Trollope

Head of Youth Darren Patterson

Centre of Excellence Manager

Stewart Naughton

Goalkeeping Coach Steve Book

Physiotherapist

Phil Kite, BSc Hons, MCSP, SRP

Assistant Physiotherapist Steve Bissix

Club Doctor Dr Tim Jenkinson

Fitness Consultant Lee Southernwood

Kit Manager Roger Harding

Chief Scout Paul Molesworth

Community Officer Peter Aitken

Stadium General Manager Ian Holtby

Director of Administration Rod Wesson

Safety & Liaison Officer Dave Harper

Player Liaison/Press Officer

Keith Brookman

Press Officer Kirsty Pugh

Photographic Manager Jeff Davis

Club Chaplain Rev David Jeal

HONOURS

Football League Division Three (South)
Champions: 1952/53

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

THE PIRATE

The Official
Matchday Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Programme Editor Keith Brookman

Additional & archive photography

Neil Brookman, Marc Giddings and Alan
Marshall

DVD production Screen Soccer

Programme designed & produced by

Ann Walter

Printed by Pensord, Blackwood, South Wales

■ PAUL TROLLOPE ■

THE MANAGER

THE FUTURE IS VERY BRIGHT

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

Our last home game, against Exeter, brought us three points, but our performance wasn't up to our normal standards. We failed to pass the ball to our usual levels which brought a lot of frustration to myself, and the players, because one of the main factors of our progress over the last few years has been passing the ball well. When we don't do that it's very noticeable and it does lead to frustration, which is understandable, but to grind out a result when we weren't playing at our best bodes well for the future.

I don't think we deserved anything at Colchester last week, where we came up against a very organised, strong, and methodical team that we found very difficult to break down and our play going into the final third wasn't up to the level required to create and score goals.

However we did make some progress in our passing, which was better than it was against Exeter, but football is about being good in both boxes. Against Colchester, unfortunately, we weren't good enough in their box to warrant getting anything out of the game.

We are currently seventh in the table and I think there were only two or three occasions last season when we were in the top half of the table, and one of those was the final weekend of the season, so we are pleased with the progress we've made. Obviously expectations rose when we found ourselves third in the league for a number of weeks in September, but we found it tough going when we had a run of games against the top teams in the division.

At the start of the season we identified that embedding ourselves in the top half of

the table would signify progress. If we can continue the form we've shown over the first twenty games, we are looking to make it an interesting end to the season with the play offs being a realistic possibility. Certainly we are still looking up, and although the league is very tight, we don't want to feel we have under achieved because of the

fantastic start we made because the league position is still a decent one.

We've been pleased with the progress we've made in League One, in the two years we've been in it, but now we are trying to step up into a group of big teams with recent Premiership history and big budgets. Our aim is to do that, but getting there isn't going to happen overnight. We can't wave a magic wand to get there and

we are trying to do it in a sustainable way, which means steady progress.

We have had some disappointments over the last two months in terms of results and, at times, performances but we feel some of the newer players coming into the squad are making decent progress. With January round the corner, when we will be looking to add a couple of players to the squad, we feel that the future is very bright and that we are still on target with our progress.

It's been a very sad week at the club following the death of former Chairman Ron Craig, after his illness. Ron played a huge part in the Bristol Rovers family for almost 25 years, in a number of capacities, and was a huge supporter of football at all levels of the club. He will be sorely missed by everyone, and we will remember him today with a minute's applause before kick off.

We all send our love and best wishes to his wife Ann, who will be attending the game, on this sad occasion.

Those of you who travelled to Colchester last week will be aware that a one minute's silence was observed in Ron's memory

**"WITH JANUARY
ROUND THE
CORNER, WHEN WE
WILL BE LOOKING
TO ADD A COUPLE
OF PLAYERS TO THE
SQUAD, WE FEEL
THAT THE FUTURE IS
VERY BRIGHT AND
THAT WE ARE STILL
ON TARGET WITH
OUR PROGRESS."**



before the match. No doubt Ron's great friend John Ward, now assistant manager at Colchester to former Rovers player Aidy Boothroyd, had a lot to do with that but nevertheless it was a fantastic gesture by everyone at Colchester United Football Club.

As the league stands at the moment, there are a lot of clubs looking to consolidate in the play off places. Two or three sides at the top of the table have managed to pull away a little bit, but certainly Swindon and ourselves are in the group trying to sustain a play off place.

That adds to this afternoon's occasion. Games between the clubs are always keenly contested, and over the last two or three years we have certainly had some tight encounters and no little controversy. Today, though, I think today you will see both teams trying to play football in the right way.

I would like to welcome manager Danny Wilson and his staff to the Memorial Stadium and it will be good to see Danny again. We have come up against his teams on a number of occasions over the last few years, and you can guarantee that his teams do play in the right way.

I appreciate that our last home game wasn't anywhere near the standard we



look for, but your support during that game was constant, and very good. Today we'll be hoping to perform to a better level to give you all something to cheer about and I hope that we can take all three points.

Enjoy the game and, on behalf of everyone at the club, have a very Happy Christmas.

MANAGER **TROLLOPE** Paul
SOS Group Ltd 08452 308080
Electrical Office Equipment



Available for sponsorship

FRONT COVER:

■ Steve Elliott pictured at Colchester last week when he made his 200th League start for Rovers



CLUB CONTACTS

Stadium

Tel: 0117 909 6648
Fax: 0117 908 5530
email: jenholtby@bristolrovers.co.uk

Youth Department

Tel: 0117 952 2580

Community Department

Tel: 0117 952 2581

Ticket Office (Matchdays Only)

Tel: 0117 909 8848

BRFC Official Website

www.bristolrovers.co.uk

Pirate Leisure

Tel: 0117 909 6648 Fax: 0117 908 5530
email: shop@bristolrovers.co.uk

Supporters Club

Tel: 0117 961 1772 Fax: 0117 961 1773
email: brsc199@btconnect.com

website: www.bristolroverssc.co.uk

Share Scheme Administrator

Clare McDonagh

email: clare@bristolrovers.co.uk

Programmes Phil Draper

email: phildraper@bristolrovers.co.uk

Website: www.geocities.com/piratesprogs

Stadium Contacts

Trish Elvy (Conference Bookings)

email: trish@bristolrovers.co.uk

Liz Jack (Corporate Hospitality)

email: lizjack@bristolrovers.co.uk

Helpline membership Kate Radnedge

Tel: 01454 321191

Presidents Club Roger Hynam

Tel: 0117 976 0568

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Chairman Jim Chappell

SC Director on Football Club Board and SC

Vice Chairman Ken Masters

SC Director on Football Club Board and

Share Scheme Chairman David Brain

Treasurer Jane Browne

Secretary Sue Williams

Commercial Chairman Clive Farquhar

Social Chairman Dave Hewett

Communications Dennis Payter

Matchday Chairman Marc Rodford

Committee members

Janet Wooster, Pete Collins, Ralph Shaw

STAND TICKETS available from:

THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

Ticket Office (Matchdays Only):

Tel: 0117 909 8848

and online @ www.bristolrovers.co.uk

Pirate Leisure At the Memorial Stadium

Tel: 0117 909 6648 Fax: 0117 908 5530

BRFC Supporters Club

199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood,
Bristol BS15 1AZ

Tel: 0117 961 1772 Fax: 0117 961 1773

WIN A TRAINING DAY EXPERIENCE WITH Coca-Cola

GET CLOSER TO YOUR TEAM ...THE EASY WAY

GET BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE TRAINING GROUND
TAKE A TOUR, MEET THE PLAYERS, WATCH THE SESSION,
THEN WALK AWAY WITH SOME SIGNED KIT!* ENTER AT:
www.cokezone.co.uk/football

from 01/12/09



*Only entries from 01/12/09 to 31/12/09 are valid. Visit www.cokezone.co.uk for full terms and conditions.



A MINUTE'S APPLAUSE



RON CRAIG

THIS afternoon we pay our respects to former Rovers Chairman and Director and, above all, Rovers supporter Ron Craig who passed away last week.

Current Chairman Nick Higgs led the tributes to Ron, saying: "We were all deeply saddened by the death of our dear friend and colleague Ron Craig. Although we were aware that Ron was ill, nothing can prepare you for the shock of losing someone close to you.

"A lot of wonderful tributes have been paid to Ron this week and I can only add that he was a fantastic man, a great friend and a wonderful colleague.

"I remember, when I joined the Board, that Ron welcomed me with open arms and offered me all the support and advice he could while I got to grips with the workings of the club. I was then fortunate enough to be asked to become his Vice Chairman during his period of Chairman, and we worked very closely together. When I took over as Chairman, Ron was still on hand as a Director to offer me his invaluable knowledge and support.

"His passion and commitment to the club were clear for everyone to see, and he was always at the ground ready to lend a hand or a friendly ear. Although his main roles were with the Youth and Community Departments, he actively supported everybody in their daily duties. You could always rely on Ron to be there to make the difficult decisions as well as the easy ones.

"Ron was always the first to put his name forward to attend club functions and he was known and well respected by all the fans as a true gentleman with Bristol Rovers at heart. He had a no nonsense, practical approach to problems, but always carried out his role with a smile and a sense of humour.

"Ron will be sadly

missed by all who knew him, and will leave a big hole in the heart of this football club."

Ron first joined the Bristol Rovers Board of Directors in 1986 following the move to Twerton Park, though he had been a Rovers supporter for some thirty years prior to that.

He was always a familiar figure on the team coach for away matches and seldom missed a game.

He became Chairman of the club in April 2007, the day after Rovers had lost to Doncaster Rovers in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final at the Millennium Stadium.

That game proved to be the club's last defeat of the season, and they went on to gain promotion via the play offs. Many said that he was a lucky charm and that he had the longest unbeaten run of any Chairman and Ron clearly enjoyed fulfilling the Chairman's role and there was no prouder man than he on that never to be forgotten day at Wembley.

Ron stepped down as Chairman last year after presiding over a very successful period in this club's long history, though he remained a Director of the club.

On his appointment as Chairman, Ron said: "I'm delighted and honoured that my fellow Directors have elected me to be their Chairman.

"However it is not only an honour, but a responsibility, to uphold both the long traditions of our club, to help take it

forward, and to make progress as befits a club in a large city like Bristol."

He also spoke of his hopes for the future and of how he would co ordinate the work of his fellow Directors and ended by saying: "I would ask for your full support in my new job. I promise you that I will do my very best for Bristol Rovers."

It was a promise he fulfilled, not only as Chairman, but in everything he did for Bristol Rovers.

He took what can only be described as a hands on role in helping to develop both the Youth and Community Departments of the Football Club.

His main interest outside of the club was golf and he played the game regularly, and with a passion.

He will be missed greatly his fellow board members, past and present staff and players, and by the many supporters he met at home and away games.

Those who met him whilst he was representing the club at the many meetings he attended on its behalf will also miss him. He was held in the highest regard by Football League and Football Association delegates, as well as his contemporaries from the many other Football League clubs he regularly came into contact with when on club business.

That fact was very much in evidence at the club's own dinner to mark its 125th anniversary in May of this year, when the principal guest, Lord Mawhinney, spoke of

his regret that Ron was not able to attend and expressed the hope that he would soon be well enough to watch his club in action again.

We all have our own personal memories to remember Ron by, and our thoughts and best wishes go out to his wife Ann and his family and friends at this sad time.

A one minute's applause in Ron's memory will be held prior to kick off this afternoon.



LOOK TO THE FUTURE

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE U16'S SOUTH WEST - FIXTURES 2009/10

SEP 5	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	4-1
SEP 12	Sat	CHELtenham TOWN	A	5-1
SEP 19	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	1-3
SEP 26	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	5-2
OCT 3	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	H	9-0
OCT 10	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	H	4-0
OCT 17	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	A	1-0
OCT 24	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	H	3-0
OCT 31	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	2-3
NOV 7	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	0-0
NOV 14	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	0-1
NOV 21	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	A	3-0
DEC 5	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	3-2
DEC 12	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	
DEC 19	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
JAN 23	Sat	CHELtenham TOWN	H	
JAN 30	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	
FEB 6	Sat	WALSALL	A	
FEB 13	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	
FEB 27	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	H	
MAR 6	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	
MAR 13	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	
MAR 20	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	
MAR 27	Sat	CHELtenham TOWN	H	
APR 10	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	A	
APR 17	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED TBC	A	
APR 24	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	H	
MAY 1	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	
MAY 8	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	
MAY 15	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	A	

YOUTH ALLIANCE U18'S SOUTH WEST - FIXTURES 2009/10

AUG 15	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	2-1
AUG 22	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	4-2
AUG 29	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	H	2-1
SEP 5	Sat	EXETER CITY YAC	A	3-4
SEP 12	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN YAC	H	2-3
SEP 19	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE YAC	A	0-0
SEP 26	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED YAC	H	3-2
OCT 3	Sat	SWANSEA CITY YAC	A	2-0
OCT 10	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	A	2-0
OCT 17	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	5-1
OCT 24	Sat	A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	H	4-2
OCT 31	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	A	0-3
NOV 3	Tue	A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH FAYC	H	1-3
NOV 7	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN YAC	H	4-1
DEC 5	Sat	EXETER CITY	A	4-1
DEC 12	Sat	CHELtenham TOWN	H	
DEC 19	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	
JAN 9	Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	
JAN 16	Sat	CUP RD 3		
JAN 23	Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	
FEB 6	Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	A	
FEB 13	Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	H	
FEB 27	Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	
MAR 6	Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	H	
MAR 13	Sat	A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	A	
MAR 20	Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	
APR 10	Sat	EXETER CITY	H	
APR 17	Sat	CHELtenham TOWN	A	

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TALENT IN WAITING

SAT 5TH DECEMBER
EXETER CITY 1
BRISTOL ROVERS 4

JACK McKenna scored a hat trick and Robbi Maggs was also on target as our U-18 side beat Exeter City 4-1 last Saturday.

Head of Youth Darren Patterson said afterwards that he feels his side are becoming much fitter and stronger, although there is still room for improvement.

"It was an excellent game," said Darren, "and I felt that both sides should to be credited on an excellent game of football played on a difficult surface."

"It was quite even in the first half, with play quickly switching from box to box. I felt we were working harder, and playing better, but that Exeter actually edged it in both boxes. We didn't defend very well, and our movement and end product was poor, and I felt that Exeter had a little bit more quality and looked the more likely team to score."

"At half time I asked the lads to improve things at both ends, in the second half, and continue with our work ethic and improve our passing. All credit to them, because they did that and we scored a good goal 20 minutes in and didn't look back."

That first goal came from McKenna, direct from a free kick and he completed his hat trick before the end of the game, sidefooting home two crosses from triallist Shane Williams.

"We scored again before the end, and that one was the pick of the four. It came at the end of a fantastic passing movement, from back to front, was finished in superb style by Robbi."

"The good thing, as far as I'm concerned, is that we are scoring late goals

on a regular basis which suggests that we are beginning to get fitter and stronger. That means we are reaching the level I want, and was hoping the boys would have achieved in the summer. It's been a lot of hard work, but we aren't going to stand still. I really want to use this as a springboard to improve again."

Team: Rob Holmes, Mark Cooper, Tom Seery, Steve Kingdon, Ashley Bowle, Jack McKenna, George Booth, Jack Camm, Shane Williams, Eliot Richards, Lamar Powell (Robbi Maggs).

SAT 28TH NOVEMBER
BRISTOL ROVERS 7
YATE TOWN 1

OUR U-16's played a friendly fixture against Yate Town, on an Astroturf pitch, following the cancellation of their scheduled game against Walsall due to the extremely wet weather.

"Yate recently joined the newly formed Midland League," said Centre of Excellence Manager Stewart Naughton, "but we were on top for the majority of the game and ran out 7-1 winners thanks to



■ Jack McKenna



■ Robbi Maggs

KEY TO FIXTURE TABLES

FAYC — FA Youth Cup
Home KO 10.30am

YAC — Youth Alliance Cup
Away KO 11.00am unless stated



JACK GAMM

goals from Ellis Harrison (3), Luke Cullum (2), Ross Staley and Dave Pollinger."

Team: Ben Williams (Lewis Pierre), Ollie Clements (Sam Sarre), Sam Rees, Alex Goodwin, Ryan Thwaite, Lee Evans, Sam Kamara, Ellis Harrison, Ross Staley, Dave Pollinger (Luke Cullum), Tom Stockwell

SAT 5TH DECEMBER

BRISTOL ROVERS 3

OXFORD UNITED 2

THE U-16's recorded another win last Saturday, beating Oxford United 3-2 courtesy of goals from Tom Stockwell, Ross Staley and Sam Rees.

Having registered a 5-2 away win against Oxford earlier in the season, there were high hopes of a repeat performance, but that never materialised.

"We didn't anticipate too many problems," said Stewart Naughton, but we made hard work of winning, on a very muddy pitch, and failed to take a number of first half chances.

"In fact we fell behind after Oxford scored on the break and were a goal down at the half time interval.

"However we started strongly in the second half and scored two early goals through Stockwell and Staley.

"After that I expected us to win comfortably, but it didn't work out that way and Oxford got back on level terms before Rees hit the winner for us with two minutes of the game remaining. I think we deserved to win, but we made hard work of it.

"Tom Stockwell is a triallist, from Swindon, and Shaquille Hunter one of our U-15's, who has played a couple of games for us before.

"Man of the Match was second half substitute Ryan Thwaite, a left back who defends well and also likes to get forward. He's been with the club a long time and is starting to come good and we believe that he's a real prospect for the future."

Team: Ben Williams (Lewis Pierre), Ollie Clements, Sam Rees, Mike Baker, Alex Goodwin Ryan Thwaite), Pat Keery, Shaquille Hunter, Lee Evans, Ellis Harrison, Ross Staley, Luke Cullum (Tom Stockwell).



PLAYER PROFILE ...

■ DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

17/01/932, Bristol

■ POSITION: Centre Midfield

■ NICKNAME: 'Cammy'

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:

Manchester United

PLAYER IN YOUR POSITION

MOST ADMIRER:

Steven Gerrard/Paul Scholes

CAREER HIGHLIGHT TO DATE:

Captaining the winning side in the Amsterdam Cup, a competition for junior sides, played in Amsterdam

COUNTRY YOU'D MOST LIKE TO VISIT:

Brazil

WHAT WAS THE LAST FILM YOU WATCHED:

Twilight 'New Moon'

CURRENT FAVOURITE MUSIC/ BAND:

The Specials

FAVOURITE FOOD:

Roast Dinner

FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME:

Soccer AM

HOBBIES:

Football and golf

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN:

'You get out what you put in'

IF NOT PLAYING FOOTBALL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING:

I'd probably be working in Asda, or doing something similar!

CHARLTON ATHLETIC



TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2009 ■ THE VALLEY

TWO goals down after just 16 minutes, Rovers pulled one goal back before half time and were on level terms early in the second half, and looking the most likely winners.

Charlton took the lead after only four minutes. Lloyd Sam whipped in a cross that found Dean Burton. His low shot was saved by Mikkel Andersen but the keeper could only palm the ball to his fellow Reading loanee David Mooney who swept the ball home from close range.

The home side doubled their advantage on 16 minutes when Pat Baldwin and Miguel Llora tussled as the ball came into the box from a corner. Llora went to ground, a penalty was awarded and duly despatched by Burton.

Chris Lines saw a 25 yard effort touched round the post by Carl Ikeme before Rovers were awarded a penalty of their own after Christian Dailly tugged Jo Kuffour's shirt.

Jeff Hughes stepped up to send Ikeme the wrong way with his penalty.

Rovers made a positive start to the second period and were deservedly back

on level terms in the 56th minute.

Stuart Campbell's corner from the right was met by Lines, whose downward header beat Ikeme. Rovers continued to press and went close to taking the lead when Blizzard hit an angled drive inches wide of the upright.

However they were caught on the break with 68 minutes on the clock when Mooney's header struck the underside of the bar and Nicky Bailey was first to react and knocked the ball into the net.

Charlton substitute Akpo Sodje headed just over before putting the final nail in the coffin as far as Rovers were concerned, when he was first to reach a corner from the right and hit a low shot past Andersen.



■ Dominic Blizzard on the ball as Christian Dailly closes in

**"...NOW WE KNOW
WE ARE CAPABLE
OF OVERCOMING
DIFFERENT
DEFENSIVE
STRATEGIES THAT ARE
PUT UP AGAINST US'."**

Charlton Assistant Manager
TIM BREACKER



■ Mikkel Andersen is beaten from the penalty spot as Charlton go 2-0 ahead

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 4 BRISTOL ROVERS 2

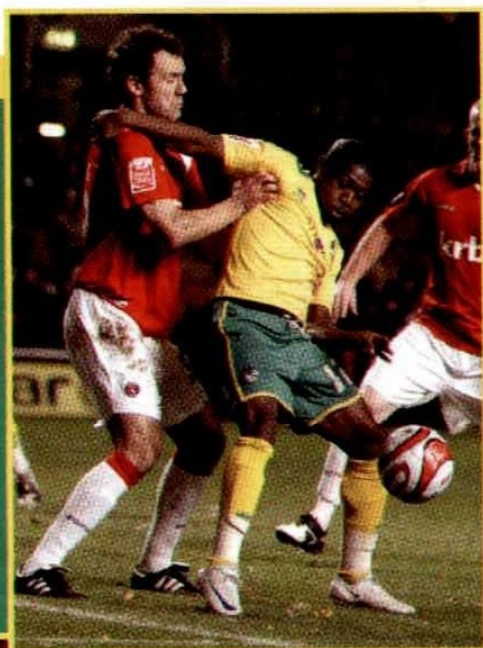
MATCH REPORT



■ Left:
Danny Coles
on the ball

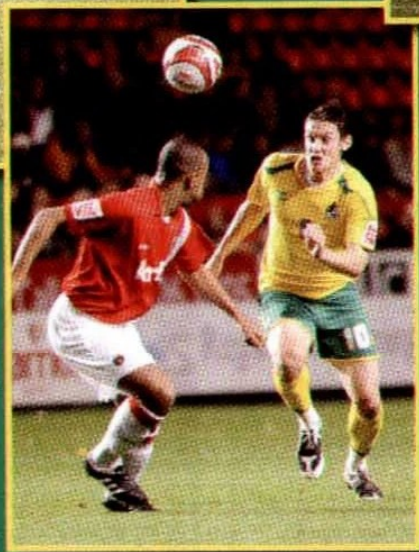
■ Right:
Jo Kuffour
shields the
ball from his
marker

■ Below:
A determined
Darryl Duffy
closes down a
Charlton
defender



**"IN GENERAL PLAY
WE FEEL WE CAN
MATCH MOST TEAMS
IN THE DIVISION, BUT
GAMES ARE WON AND
LOST IN BOTH BOXES."**

Rovers Manager
PAUL TROLLOPE



**"I THOUGHT THE
DECISION WAS A BIT
HARSH."**

PAT BALDWIN

MATCH FACTS...

	BR	CA
SHOTS ON TARGET	4	8
SHOTS OFF TARGET	2	7
CORNERS	4	6
FOULS CONCEDED	16	17
OFFSIDE	4	1

REFEREE: Steven Cook

GAS GOALSCORERS: Hughes
(pen, 41), Lines (56)

CHARLTON GOALSCORERS:
Mooney (4), Burton (pen, 16), Bailey
(68), Sodje (86)

GAS MAN OF THE MATCH:
Darryl Duffy

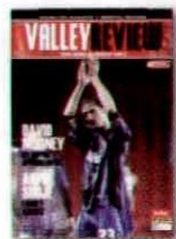
**CHARLTON MAN OF THE
MATCH:** Lloyd Sam

GAS CONNECTIONS: Rovers
Director of Football, Lennie
Lawrence, is a former Charlton
manager and a bit of a legend in
SE7!

ATTENDANCE:
15,885

**OPPOSITION
FANS:** 851

**ACTUAL TIME
PLAYED:**
97 minutes



CHARLTON ATHLETIC

- 24 Carl Ikeme
- 3 Kelly Youga
- 35 ■ Christian Dailly
- 5 Miguel Llera
- 6 Jose Semedo
- 7 Jonjo Shelvey
- 4 Nicky Bailey
- 11 ■ Lloyd Sam
- 12 Grant Basey
- 23 David Mooney
- 10 Deon Burton



Substitutes

- 8 Therry Racon
- 14 Matt Spring
- 15 Izale McLeod
- 16 Scott Wagstaff 7 (75)
- 25 Darren Randolph
- 31 ■ Elliot Omozusi 3 (23)
- 33 Akpo Sodje 23 (83)

BRISTOL ROVERS

- 27 Mikkel Andersen
- 47 ■ Pat Baldwin
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 5 ■ Danny Coles
- 11 Jeff Hughes
- 8 Andy Williams
- 4 ■ Chris Lines
- 16 Dominic Blizzard
- 7 ■ Stuart Campbell
- 11 ■ Darryl Duffy
- 17 Jo Kuffour



Substitutes

- 2 Carl Regan
- 3 Mark Wright 8 (86)
- 6 Steve Elliott
- 20 Charlie Reece
- 21 Charlie Clough
- 23 Ben Swallow 16 (74)
- 51 Rhys Evans

THE PERFECT PARTNERSHIP



www.erreasport.co.uk

ITALIAN TECHNICAL SPORTSWEAR



'Bird in Hand'

High Street, Saltford

Tel: (01225) 873335

www.birdinhandsaltford.co.uk

*Where you will find the unique atmosphere
of an 'English country inn and the
warm and friendly welcome that goes with it*



We wish every success to
Bristol Rovers Football Club for
the 2009/10 season

Georgian

01761 451457

**PORTABLE TOILET HIRE
ALL TYPES SUPPLIED**

**WEEKLY SERVICING ON
CONTRACT HIRES**

**ON SITE SERVICING FOR
OUTDOOR EVENTS**

**TEL: 01761 451457
FAX: 01761 451458**

South Rock Ind. Est., Chilcompton, Bath BA3 4LD

AROUND ROVERS



ENTER JEFF HUGHES

THE Football League has now written to all clubs asking them to nominate for the annual awards for 2009 in conjunction with the FourFourTwo magazine.

The League is asking for nominations in a number of categories. Work in the community features again, as does the matchday programme. On the football side there is an award for apprentice professionals and for best goals scored in the Championship, and Leagues One and Two respectively.

Now in its fifth year, the awards event gives clubs the recognition they deserve for both on and off the field excellence. The ceremony to present the awards will be held at some time in the early spring. The closing date for entries for the best goal will be early in the New Year.

Rickie Lambert went so close to picking up the award for League One Goal of the Year 2007. The goal was selected by Rovers supporters and short listed for its spectacular quality. Rickie was just pipped for top spot by Leeds United's Jermaine Beckford.

Rickie's wonder strike against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road, came early in the 2007/2008 season. It was a wonderful goal from a long way out and scored with every intention. It was very unlucky not to take the top prize in that year and was easily the best goal in my view.

Remember that the Goal of the Year award is for the calendar year January to December, and that it is not a seasonal award. This time around we will be looking for nominations for goals scored in the second half of last season, 2008/09 and in the first half of this one 2009/10.

In 2008 we again made the top 20 list, with Joe Kuffour's magnificent effort at The Walkers Stadium against table topping Leicester City. Many of us thought Joe had done enough to win us the game, but Leicester's late burst denied us on the day. It was a great strike, and well deserving of a place on the short list.

The League is very keen that supporters



■ Jeff Hughes celebrates another goal

picked his spot and pulled the trigger was unforgettable.

Chris Dickson's well timed lob at Brentford is also attracting attention as a strong contender. Then there is the excellent Jeff Hughes effort to level the scores in the home fixture against Carlisle

should be involved in the nominations from each club. I am raising the issue again so that you can look out for the goal that you think deserves nomination from Bristol Rovers, and one that stands a chance for making it through to the shortlist and perhaps picking up the award for 2009.

Players no longer with the club can, of course, still be nominated. For me Rickie Lambert's goal in the home game with Cheltenham Town in the spring was a real peach. Those of us up at Hartlepool United earlier in the season saw a quality bit of football from Joe Kuffour. On the stroke of half time Joe demonstrated tremendous close control on the turn before shooting beautifully to give us the lead and, ultimately, to secure all three points on the night.

The wonderful effort by 'Willo' at Saints down at Saint Mary's, in our League match there, will feature in any competition. The football leading up to the goal was quality and the way that Andy cut in from the left,

just a few weeks ago; great footwork by the former Crystal Palace man, after moving up the field from the left back position and curling a shot into the far corner of the net just inside the post and giving the opposition keeper no chance.

The goal spurred us on to win the game with a last gasp goal from Chris Lines, so bringing to an end to our poor run of results. Who knows what's to come today, up at Tranmere, on Boxing Day against Walsall, and at the final game of 2009 at Millwall?

Supporters are invited to nominate for Goal of the Year, 2009. A nomination form can be found at the bottom of this page. Please keep it safe, complete and return the form in January. Leave the form with Pirate Leisure or at 199. Alternatively, pass to me on a matchday in the New Year; Stockport County or Hartlepool United would be good. You can also email kirstypugh@bristolrovers.co.uk

GOAL OF THE YEAR - 2009

Player:

Fixture and date:

Which Goal: eg Willo's winner

Reason for nomination:

Nominated by:

JUST ONE LOOK

LEAGUE ONE ROUNDUP

**SAT 28TH
NOVEMBER**

NORWICH, Exeter and Walsall were the only League One clubs to bow out of this season's FA Cup competition.

All were beaten at the Second Round stage, Norwich losing 3-1 at Carlisle, Exeter 4-3 at MK Dons and Walsall 1-0 at Brentford.

Liam Dickinson scored twice for Brighton in their 3-2 win over Rushden & Diamonds, while a late Gordon Greer goal gave Swindon victory at Wrexham.

Curtis Weston, scored the only goal of the game, for Gillingham, against Burton Albion, while John-Joe O'Toole scored an injury time winner for Colchester who won through against Hereford.

Southampton captain Dean Hammond scored at both ends in their 3-2 win at Northampton, and Nathan Clarke was Huddersfield's match winner at Port Vale. Tranmere were held to a goalless draw by Aldershot and Millwall drew 1-1 at Staines Town.

SUN 29TH NOVEMBER

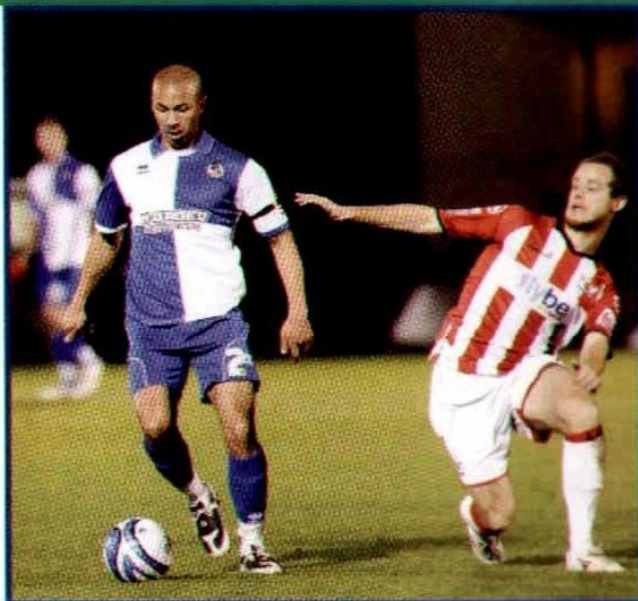
KETTERING and Leeds drew 1-1 in their Second Round FA Cup tie.

TUE 1ST DECEMBER

NEIL Kilkenny and Luciano Becchio scored for Leeds in their 2-0 win at Oldham, putting them six points clear at the top of the table.

Second placed Charlton also won 2-0, at Brighton, thanks to first half goals from Deon Burton and Scott Wagstaff. Thanks to a 3-0 win at Southend, Norwich moved into third place. Grant Holt (2), and Korey Smith were on target for the Canaries in their first away win against the Shrimpers since October 1952.

Colchester were beaten 1-0 at Brentford, for whom Charlie MacDonald scored the



■ Carl Regan in action against Exeter...

all important goal. Huddersfield, who led three times in the match, were held to a 3-3 draw by Tranmere. Lee Novak, Michael Collins and Antony Kay were on target for the Terriers, while Ian Thomas-Moore, Craig Curran and Michael Ricketts replied for Tranmere. Here at the Mem, Darryl Duffy's first league goal of the season was enough to give Rovers all three points against Exeter.

Rickie Lambert's goal for Southampton was enough to give them all three points against Wycombe, and enabled them to move out of the bottom four.

Elsewhere, Darren Byfield, Steve Jones and Sam Parkin were on target for Walsall

who won 3-1 at Yeovil. Jermaine Easter scored twice for MK Dons, but it was to no avail as they lost 3-2 at Millwall, for whom Steve Morison scored an injury time winner.

Carlisle also won 3-2, against Hartlepool, thanks to Matthew Robson scoring the deciding goal against his former club. Gillingham lost 3-1 at Leyton Orient, their first defeat at Brisbane Road since March 1983, after three of their players failed to arrive in time for the kick off and they had to play in borrowed kit.

SAT 5TH DECEMBER

LEEDS were held to a 2-2 draw at Elland Road by near neighbours Huddersfield.

Twice in front, through Robert Snodgrass and Max Gradel, they were pegged back by goals from Lee Novak and Jordan Rhodes. Charlton earned a 1-0 win against Southend courtesy of a Deon Burton goal. The Shrimpers were playing their 3,700th league game. Norwich, with goals from Grant Holt and Wes Hoolahan, eased to a 2-0 win over Oldham, while Rovers were beaten 1-0 at Colchester where Kevin Lisbie scored the decisive goal. Swindon

■ ...and Jo Kuffour in action at Colchester





BOSSIES QUOTES:

**"WE GOT FRUSTRATED
AND TRIED TO FORCE
THE ISSUE."**

Tranmere's **LES PARRY**

**"WE STARTED
WELL BUT WE KEEP
CONCEDING GOALS."**

Brighton's **GUS POYET**

**"YOU ARE NEVER
SAFE WITH TWO GOAL
LEADS."**

Exeter's **PAUL TISDALE**

**"WE DIDN'T DESERVE
ANYTHING BECAUSE
WE WEREN'T GOOD
ENOUGH."**

Stockport's **GARY ABLETT**

**"I THINK I'VE GOT
TO GO BACK AND
UNDERSTAND THE
RULES."**

Yeovil's **TERRY SKIVERTON**

moved up to sixth place following their 3-2 win over Leyton Orient.

Craig Curran scored the only goal of the game to give Tranmere victory against Brentford, while Stockport were beaten 2-1 at Wycombe. They had taken the lead through Carl Baker before the Chairboys hit back with goals from Chris Westwood and Scott Davies. A last minute goal by Andrew Crofts was enough to give Brighton a 1-0 win at Exeter.

David Connolly, Dean Hammond and Rickie Lambert were on target for Southampton in their 3-1 win at Walsall, where they haven't lost since September 1953.

Yeovil were twice in front against MK Dons, but had to settle for a point from a 2-2 draw while Hartlepool recorded their best ever victory over Millwall, winning 3-0 at Victoria Park. Gillingham and Carlisle played out a goalless draw at Priestfield.

BBC RADIO BRISTOL ROUNDUP

LINEAS AT SCHOOL!

BBC BRISTOL

94.9FM | 104.6FM | 103.6FM

bbc.co.uk/bristol

In an era where even Tiger Woods can't avoid negative publicity, it's nice to report a positive story within the Rovers camp.

Earlier this week, I visited Orchard School, Bristol (formally known as Monks Park School) with Rovers midfielder Chris Lines.

A stone's throw from the Memorial Stadium, on Filton Road, this is the Secondary School where Chris was educated.

I asked Chris to recall his schooldays as part of the BBC Radio Bristol Sports Review of the Year, which you'll be able to hear next Saturday. I fully expected the pupils to get excited about his visit, what I didn't expect were the faces of the teachers at the school to light up too.

Dr Helen Holman (the headmistress at Orchard School, Bristol) and her staff were clearly proud of Chris. Not only because he's starting to establish himself as one of Rovers most influential players, but because he's a credit to the school.

I soon learnt this wasn't the first time Chris has visited the school in recent years, far from it. Instead he's a regular visitor, talking to students, passing on advice and attending presentations.

What impressed me most was that Chris didn't do this because he had to, he did it because he wanted to.

And so to the BBC Radio Bristol Sports Review of 2009. You'll be able to hear it next Saturday (19th December) at 12noon, and again on Monday 28th December, after our commentary of the Millwall match at 6.00pm.

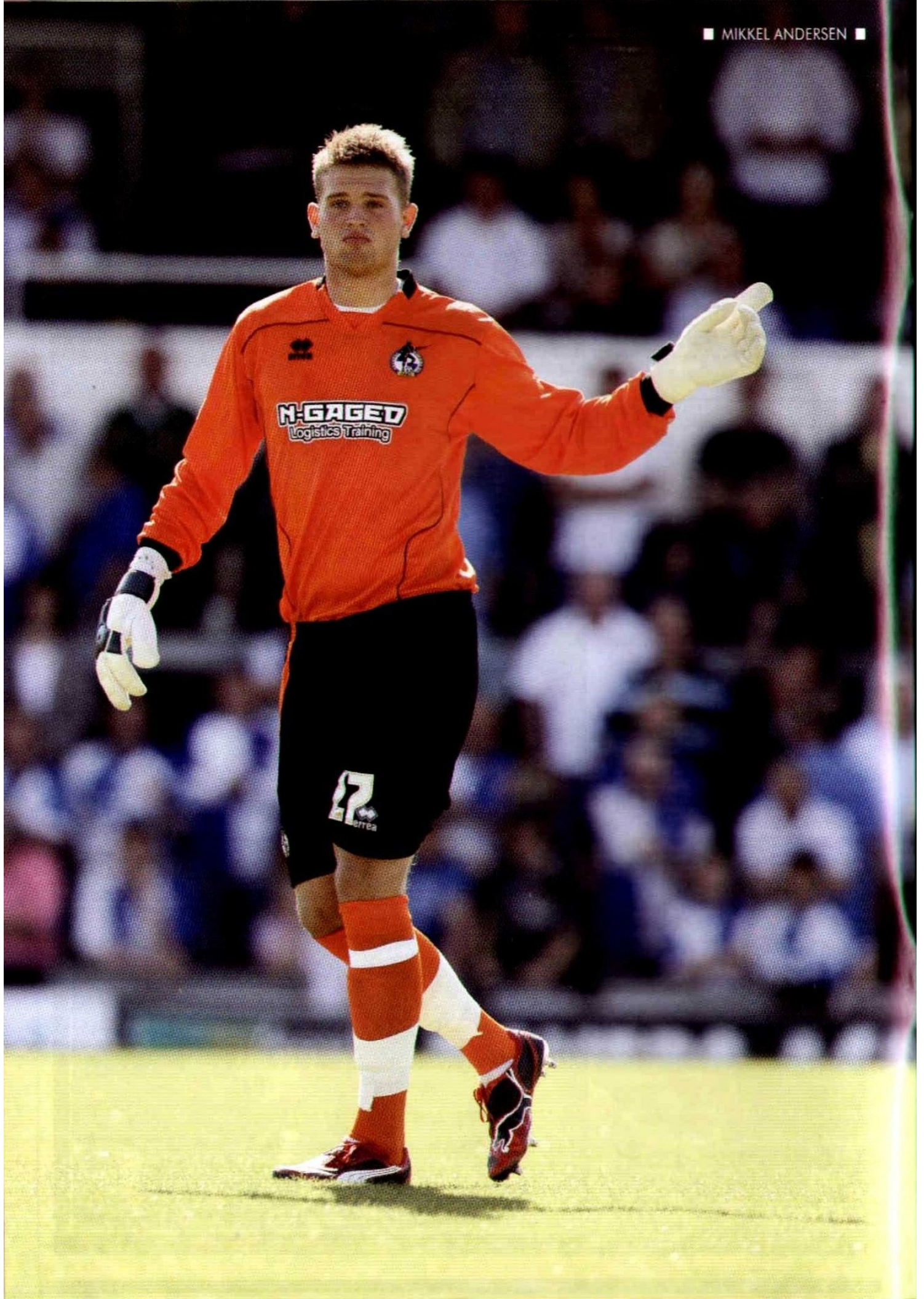
Chris looks back at 2009 with his former Head of Year (you'll have to tune in to find out what Chris was really like as a teenager!) and some pupils at the school who just happened to support Rovers. Some of their questions suggest Orchard School have some budding journalists in their ranks!

Away from Rovers, the review will also reflect on Paul Hull's first year in charge at Bristol Rugby, Justin Langer's final year with Somerset, Bristol golfer Chris Wood winning 'Rookie of the Year' and Jenson Button's World Championship success in Formula One.

But I hope it's the Chris Lines contribution you'll enjoy the most. As he looks back at his past, at only 24 years of age, he can start to look forward to an even brighter future.

■ Chris Lines holds the ball up against Exeter City.





MIKKEL ANDERSEN

MASTERCHEF MIKKEL!

Q01 What was the last TV programme you watched?

The Mentalist

Q02 What did you have for breakfast?

Toast with marmite and scrambled eggs

Q03 What do you spend the most money on?

My rent and my car

Q04 If you were on a long haul flight, who would you avoid sitting next to and why?

Please don't let me sit next to Chris Dickson, as he talks far too much and I'd never have a quiet moment!

Q05 If you weren't a footballer, what would you be doing?

I would either be a coach, or I'd be running my own restaurant

Q06 Which four people would you invite to dinner?

Former Heavyweight Champion Mohammed Ali, Danish Hip Hop duo Nik and Jay, and current Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho

Q07 If there was no reason for you to be late for training, what would be your excuse?

The traffic was really bad!

Q08 If you could have free tickets to any sporting event, what would it be?

I'd love to go the Super Bowl

Q09 Who is your closest friend in football?

Werder Bremen's Andreas Granskar Hansen

Q10 Who was the biggest influence on your early career?

My former goalkeeping coach, Jens Peterson

Q11 What was your favourite non sporting subject at school?

English and Danish

Q12 What's your favourite game from last season and why?

Playing for Brentford, against Bradford City. Rhys Evans was in goal for Bradford but we won

the match and I picked up the Man of the Match Award and Brentford were the Team of the Week for that performance.

Q13 If someone was to play a practical joke on you, who would it be?

There would be a few suspects, but I reckon I'd have to point the finger at Danny Coles!

Q14 What's the most over used phrase in football?

"To be fair"

Q15 What song would you sing at Karaoke?

The Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam) song Father and Son, which was also covered by Ronan Keating

Q16 When you retire, do you see yourself as a coach/manager?

Yes, I see myself staying in the game, but I'm not sure in what capacity

Q17 If you could play another sport professionally, what would it be?

Handball, or Boxing

Q18 Marooned on a Desert Island, what music would you like with you?

The aforementioned Nik and Jay, along with some Motown Classics

Q19 What's the best piece of advice a manager has given you?

You are yourself closest

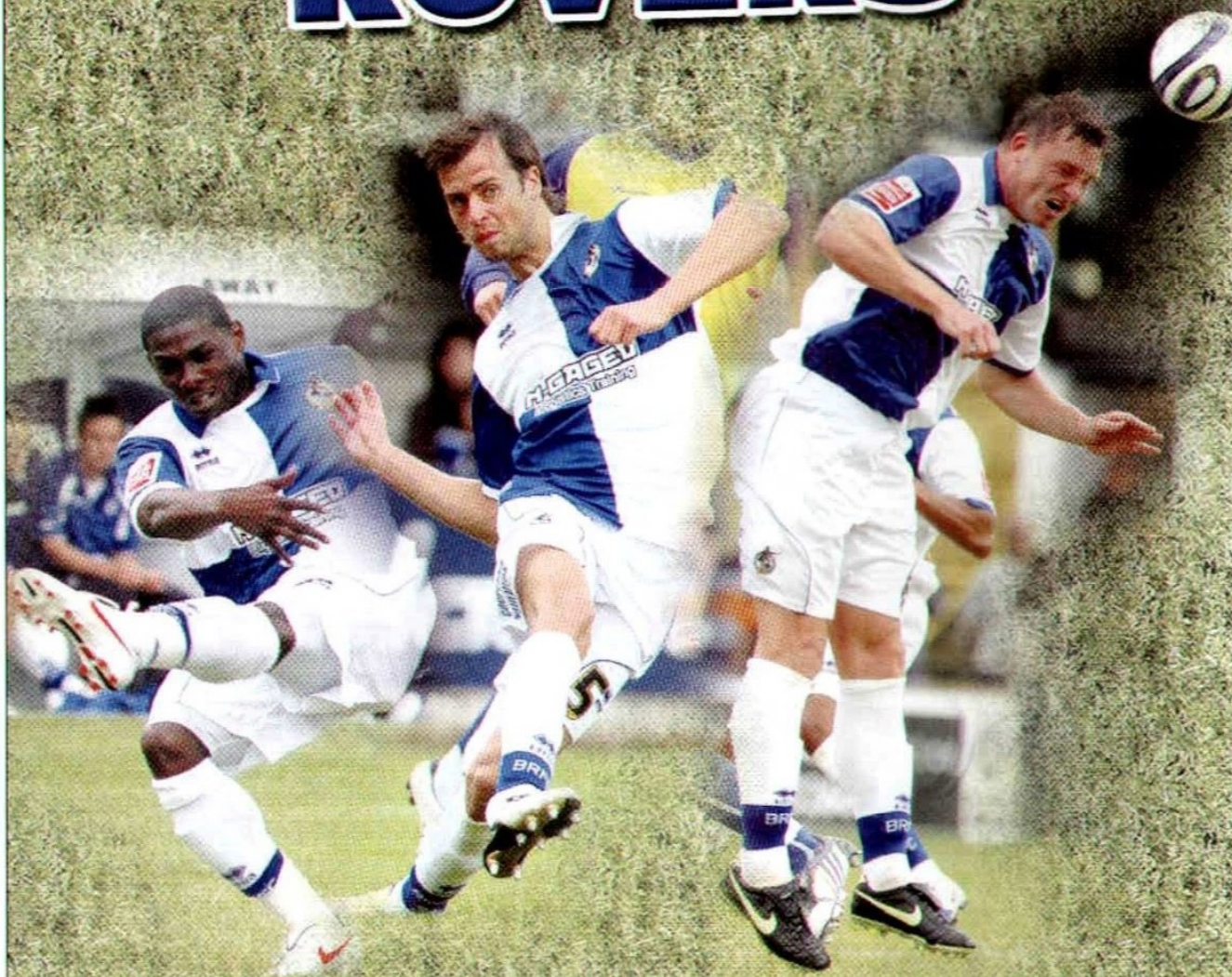
Q20 If you were a chef, what would be your speciality dish?

Lasagne



EVENING POST

FOR THE BEST COVERAGE OF ROVERS



visit www.thisisbristol.co.uk

DOMINIC BLIZZARD

KEEP BELIEVING

HAVING started the last two games, midfielder Dominic Blizzard is the first to admit that, in the matches against Exeter and Colchester, we haven't exactly played free flowing football.

However we still did enough to collect all three points against Exeter, though we returned home empty handed from Colchester last Saturday.

"We have to be honest and say that we haven't been anywhere near what I imagine would be our best at all.

"We need to work a lot better on keeping the ball, and getting it and passing it. We can't let other teams dictate how the game is going to go and we have to establish ourselves in the game by playing how we should be playing.

"In our last two games we have probably been second best, in both matches, though we did manage to win the game against Exeter."

The consistency required is still not quite there, perhaps, but if the side could play and pass the ball as they did in the second half at Charlton less than three weeks ago, they shouldn't have too many problems maintaining a top ten position.

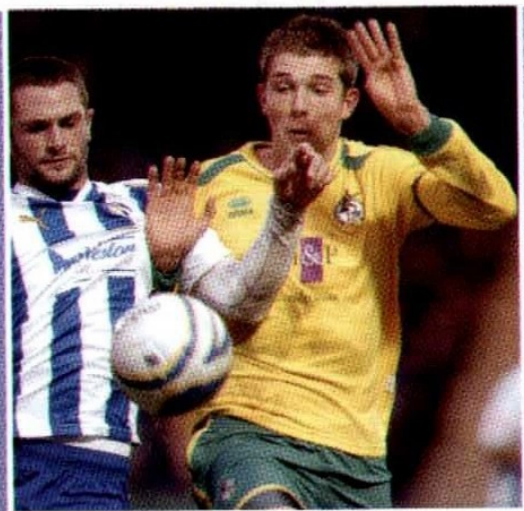
"We do need to be doing what we did in the second half at the Valley for longer periods in a game, as that gives you the best chance of winning a football match, but we haven't done that and not got a foothold in the last two games at all. We enjoyed a good spell at Charlton but we need to be doing it consistently and for longer periods."

There are ways of improving things, though.

"I think it's just about continuing to work hard and keep believing in ourselves. We need to avoid spells in games when we aren't doing our job, and we can't afford to take our foot off the pedal. We need to get back to basics and be brave, getting on the ball and passing it, and playing for each other and that will make the difference, I think."

We need to remember that we are still seventh in the league and looking up, rather than down, the table.

**"WE HAVE
SOME DECENT
PLAYERS HERE
AND I DON'T
SEE WHY WE
CAN'T PLAY
THE FOOTBALL
WE WANT TO,
BECAUSE I SEE
IT IN TRAINING
EVERY DAY."**



"We are in that position, yet we haven't been playing that well. It just shows that had we picked up a few more points recently we could be sitting in third or fourth place, and in a really comfortable position.

"We haven't really performed in the games we've lost but, apart from Leeds and Norwich, we haven't really been outclassed and there's not a massively high standard in the league. We've lost games yet come away thinking the opposition didn't have a lot to offer, either, so it's been very frustrating."

This afternoon's game offers the chance of getting back to winning ways after last week's defeat, and registering a fourth successive home win, but it won't be easy.

"It's almost a local derby, against a side that's doing very well. I'm sure that it will be a very competitive game but it's a chance for us to get ourselves going again and, hopefully, get a good result.

"We go into the game on the back of three home wins and you always want to be strong at home, because it gives you a massive platform to build on. Any points picked up away from home are a bonus, but we fancy our chances at home, where we feel we are a very strong side."

At present he's not playing in his favoured central midfield role and he admits he's having to learn a new role.

"Because I'm not playing in my natural position, I feel as though I'm only doing half a job for the team but getting more games and minutes on the pitch is a bonus for me.

"Playing out wide, whether that be right or left, is just different for me and the way we play the game here is completely different to what I'm used to. It's something I didn't realise, and it's taken me a while to adapt.

"Last season I was more used to having a lot of the ball, whereas I'm not getting that at the moment as we are grinding out results and I'm trying to do a job for the team. Hopefully, the nice flowing football will come in time."

He's confident, though, that the side can remain in the upper reaches of the league.

"We have some decent players here and I don't see why we can't play the football we want to, because I see it in training every day. It just takes a bit of confidence, and self belief, to be able to do it in a game and while we might be lacking a little bit of that at the moment it will come, along with the results.

"We are approaching a crucial time of the season, when a lot of games are played in a short period. Any team that can get a bit of form going now can find themselves pushing right up the table and it's something we need to remain positive about."

PLAYER PROFILE ...

■ AGE: 25 ■ PREVIOUS CLUBS: Watford, Stockport County (loan), MK Dons (loan), Stockport County ■ GAS LEAGUE APPEARANCES: 6 +9 sub

EXETER CITY

TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2009 ■ THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

DARRYL Duffy's first half goal was sufficient to give Rovers a third successive home win.

Exeter, perhaps with some justification, might consider themselves a little hard done by, but although they played some very good football in two thirds of the pitch, they lacked a cutting edge.

**"IT'S AN EXCELLENT
SIGN IF YOU CAN WIN
WHEN YOU AREN'T
FIRING ON ALL
CYLINDERS."**

**Rovers Manager
PAUL TROLLOPE**

The visitors certainly made a lively start and Carl Regan needed to be alert to glance a Scott Golbourne cross behind for a corner.

Mikkel Anderson made a fine save from Richard Logan's angled drive and the same player also struck the woodwork before Darryl Duffy went close with a long range effort at the other end, which sailed just wide of the upright

Exeter shot stopper Andy Marriott was then called into action to save from Mark Wright before Duffy scored his first league goal of the campaign to put his side ahead.

Jo Kuffour escaped his marker and hit an angled drive from 20 yards which Marriott could only parry as far as Duffy who drove the ball into the net from close range.

The visitors went close to levelling early in the second

**"IF WE CONTINUE TO
PLAY LIKE THAT WE'LL
WIN MORE THAN WE
LOSE."**

**Exeter Manager
PAUL TISDALE**

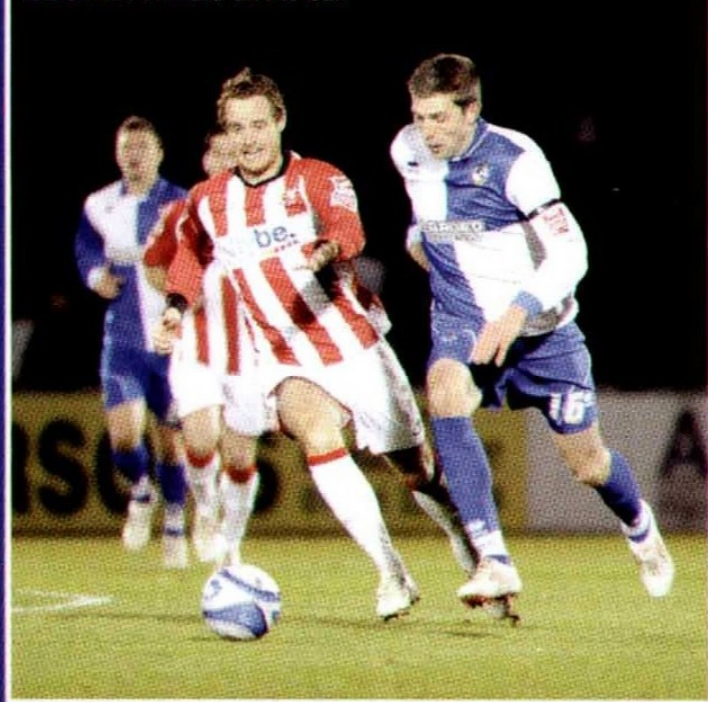


■ Jo Kuffour sets off for goal

half when Logan's shot was deflected wide off a team mate and Alex Russell's volley sailed over the bar.

Russell again went close with a 20 yard shot that hit the outside of the post and was then denied by Andersen who

■ Dominic Blizzard on the ball



■ Stuart Campbell takes on Alex Russell



BRISTOL ROVERS EXETER CITY

1
0

MATCH REPORT

touched away another effort from the influential midfielder.

Andersen saved again, from Ryan Harley, and Logan went close to scoring a last minute equaliser but headed straight into Andersen's arms.

It was a game that saw Rovers create few chances, but their back line was solid and Exeter were, in the main, restricted to long range attempts on goal.

■ Right: Darryl Duffy gets past James Dunne

■ Below: Chris Lines tackles Scott Golbourne



**"I'D SETTLE FOR
A GOAL LIKE THAT
EVERY WEEK."**

DARRYL DUFFY



MATCH FACTS...

	BR	EC
SHOTS ON TARGET	4	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	4	8
CORNERS	6	11
FOULS CONCEDED	9	6
OFFSIDE	2	-

REFEREE: Andy Penn

GAS GOALSCORER: Duffy (34)

GAS MAN OF THE MATCH:

Pat Baldwin

EXETER MAN OF THE

MATCH: Alex Russell

GAS CONNECTIONS: There

were two former Rovers players

amongst the Exeter personnel.

Marcus Stewart went on as a second

half substitute, while Andy Tillson,

now a member of the coaching staff

at St James' Park, was on the bench

as part of the visiting management

team.

ATTENDANCE:

7,313

OPPOSITION

FANS: 1,235

ACTUAL TIME

PLAYED:

95 minutes



BRISTOL ROVERS



- 27 Mikkel Andersen
- 2 Carl Regan
- 47 Pat Baldwin
- 5 Danny Coles
- 11 Jeff Hughes
- 3 Mark Wright
- 4 Chris Lines
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 16 Dominic Blizzard
- 10 Darryl Duffy
- 17 Jo Kuffour

Substitutes

- 6 Steve Elliott
- 8 Andy Williams 3 (67)
- 9 Chris Dickson 10 (80)
- 15 Byron Anthony
- 20 Charlie Reece
- 23 Ben Swallow 16 (75)
- 51 Rhys Evans

EXETER CITY



- 1 Andy Marriott
- 2 Steve Tully
- 5 Danny Seaborne
- 6 Matt Taylor
- 11 Scott Golbourne
- 4 Alex Russell
- 7 Ryan Harley
- 14 Bertie Cozic
- 3 Richard Duffy
- 9 Adam Stansfield
- 20 Richard Logan

Substitutes

- 12 Barry Corr 14 (75)
- 15 Rob Edwards
- 16 Marcus Stewart 2 (64)
- 21 James Dunne
- 22 Liam Sercombe
- 45 Stuart Fleetwood 9 (73)
- 46 Oscar Jansson



Vote for your greatest 'League Cup' moment and have the chance to win an even better one!

To celebrate the League Cup's 50th anniversary we are giving you the chance to win 1 of 50 pairs of tickets to the 2010 Carling Cup Final, with 200 special edition footballs also up for grabs.*

Join in with the celebrations and vote now at:

Leaguecup50.com



*Terms and Conditions apply. See www.Leaguecup50.com for details.

IN THE COMMUNITY

LATEST COMMUNITY NEWS

Telephone 0117 952 2581

Email: peteraitken@bristolroverscommunity.org.uk
or john@bristolroverscommunity.org.uk



christmas FUN DAYS

OUR popular Bristol Rovers Fun Days are back for Christmas!

We have three days at Fairfield High School using their indoor Sports Hall, so everyone will be nice and warm.

WHEN? Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd December, 10.00am - 3.00pm

WHERE? Fairfield High School, Allfoxton Road, BS7 9NL

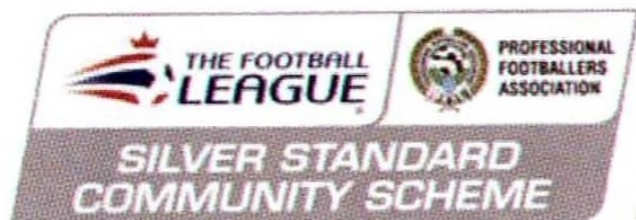
WHO? Boys and girls aged 6 to 12, of all abilities.

HOW MUCH?

Each day is only £10 for five hours of fun, football and entertainment for your child.

To book your child on a Bristol Rovers Fun Day please visit www.bristolroverscommunity.org.uk to download an application form or phone 0117 9522581 and ask for Wayne if you have any questions.

Fun Day forms will also be available from Pirate Leisure and at a number of local primary schools.



WE are delighted to announce that Bristol Rovers Football in the Community has successfully become a Silver Standard Community Scheme, and at half time today we will be presented with our Football League plaque to commemorate our success.

After a number of months working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we met all the intricate criteria to evolve from a Bronze Scheme to a Silver Scheme, we recently submitted our Silver bid to the Football League Trust.

We were informed by the Football League Trust that we had successfully met the criteria to become a Silver Standard Community Scheme. This is fantastic news as, by becoming a Silver Scheme, we will receive greater access to potential new projects which, in turn, will benefit our community in the longer term.

I feel that this is just reward for the Community Department, who over a number of years, have probably not had the recognition for the day to day work in which

it performs in and around Bristol.

This also supports the high standard of working practice in which we deliver through our projects and representing Bristol Rovers. Last but not least I would like to thank Wayne Noble and John Moody for their support and enthusiasm in representing the Community Department and achieving this award.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELLIE AND TOM

A very happy tenth birthday to Ellie Wookey and her twin brother Tom with love from Mum, Dad, Granny, Dudley, Grand-dad, Nanny and Pop.

We hope you both have a very Happy Birthday and Rovers win to give you the perfect present!

BRISTOL ROVERS ABILITY FC

BRISTOL Rovers Ability FC is a club for people with learning disabilities and physical impairments.

Training takes place every Sunday at Filton College's WISE Campus, and new members and first time players are always welcome to come along and play.

Anyone who would like to know more about Bristol Rovers Ability FC or how to get involved, contact Jay Lee on 01454 863852 or email jaylee@southglos.gov.uk

WHO?

11 - 15 year old junior sessions

WHEN?

10.00am - 11.00am

WHO?

16 and over senior sessions

WHEN?

11.00am - 12.00pm

HOW MUCH?

£3 per training session

B B C BRISTOL

94.9FM | 1548AM | DAB

Talk about ROVERS
Call us after the match
0845 900 5 955

Be part of it

A word cloud featuring various names of districts and areas in Bristol, including Almondsbury, Westbury on Trym, Yatton, Long Ashton, Bedminster, Avonmouth, and others. The word 'BRISTOL' is prominently displayed in the center in a large, bold, black font. Other names are in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow) and orientations (horizontal, vertical, diagonal).



AB FLUID POWER LTD

HYDRAULICS, PNEUMATICS, DRIVES & CONTROLS

Rexroth
Bosch Group

Sales Partner

TEL (0117) 986 6169

FAX (0117) 986 6170

UNITS 6 & 7, PIXASH BUSINESS CENTRE
PIXASH LANE, KEYNSHAM, BRISTOL BS31 1TP
email: sales@abfluidpowerltd.co.uk

GIACOMO LICATA

Gentlemen's Barber Shop Est. 1986

- Open 6 days a week 9am-6pm
- OAP rates £4.50
- Ear Piercing
- Hair Products available
- No appointments needed

Thanks to our existing clients and
a warm welcome to new ones

374 Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol
Telephone (0117) 923 6663
www.giacomolicata.co.uk



DARRYL DUFFY

BETTER THAN LAST SEASON

A return to the starting lineup, and his first league goal of the season, sees Darryl Duffy looking forward to this afternoon's match against Swindon.

"I think I've come back into the side at a strange time, because we did really well in the second half at Charlton and then played against Exeter and Colchester when I think it's probably fair to say that the whole team was a little bit below par."

Rovers ground out a result against Exeter, courtesy of Darryl's first half strike, but slipped to defeat at Colchester last Saturday.

"Exeter enjoyed a great deal of possession, but they never really hurt us with it. We worked hard, and defended well, and they never really had a finishing touch. Perhaps we enjoyed a little bit of luck to get the win, but it gave us our third successive home victory. We would like to extend that run against Swindon and, hopefully, put in a slightly better performance as well."

"Last Saturday, we couldn't get our passing going at all. I think I got the ball to my feet twice in the whole time I was on the pitch, so it was just one of those games when nothing went right."

Today's local encounter sees him come up against a side managed by Danny Wilson, someone he knows from his time at Hartlepool.

"I've played in a few local encounters in my career, including this fixture of course, and know what to expect. When I started out there were the 'old firm' games in Glasgow, and Falkirk against Dunfermline was also classed as a local derby. Unfortunately, though, I never got to play for Swansea against Cardiff in my time with the Welsh club."

"Swindon went ahead of us last week and, with both teams looking to stay in and around the top six, there's a lot more

than local pride at stake in this fixture. They are doing really well this year and, knowing Danny Wilson from my time at Hartlepool, I anticipate that his side will prove to be tough opponents and we are going to have to be on top of our game to get anything from it."

Rovers go into the game in seventh position, better placed than at the same stage last season.

"I think people seem to forget that we finished in 11th place last year and that it's a harder league this time around. There are stronger teams in the division this year, and we are actually doing better than we did last season, so we are definitely improving."

"You aren't going to go from finishing 11th to challenging in the top three the following season. It's just not going to happen; it's all about progression and, at the moment, we are 7th which is an improvement on last year, so I think we need to be realistic in our expectations."

As we enter a crucial phase of the season, having played most of the teams in the division, it's a good tie to assess how things might turn out.

"Saying that the Christmas and New Year periods are a crunch time is a little bit of a cliché, but evidence suggests that it tends to be true. So, if we are there or thereabouts at Christmas and replicate similar form in the second

half of the season, then we could finish in a play off position. Just saying it makes it sound really easy, but we know it's not going to be and that it will be very hard to achieve that."

"What we have learnt is that there are no easy games in this division, though Leeds are by far the best team we've played, and Norwich showed us a few



things about how they play football when we went to Carrow Road. As far as all the other teams are concerned, none of them have been miles better than us and it shows that if we do well every week, and everyone plays to the highest level every week, then we have a chance."

On a personal level, he's delighted to be back in the starting lineup.

"It is good, but we need to start performing well, get the ball down and start playing. We seem to have lost that since I've been back in the team, apart from at Charlton when we passed the ball really well. We didn't do that against Exeter, or Colchester, so if we can get back to people looking for the ball and everyone wanting it and helping each other out, then that will enable us to put in some good performances." He feels that his partnership up front with Jo Kuffour can flourish.

"It depends on your view of the game, and how you want to play it, of course, but I believe if you play football properly you don't need a big man up front. If you play football, the ball will never be in the air to the front men. We just need two players up front with good footballing ability and a football brain, and I think Jo and I both have that."

**"THERE ARE STRONGER
TEAMS IN THE DIVISION
THIS YEAR, AND WE
ARE ACTUALLY DOING
BETTER THAN WE DID
LAST SEASON..."**

PLAYER PROFILE ...

■ AGE: 25 ■ PREVIOUS CLUBS: Glasgow Rangers, Brechin City (loan), Falkirk, Hull City, Hartlepool United (loan), Swansea City
■ GAS LEAGUE APPEARANCES: 37 + 24 sub ■ GAS LEAGUE GOALS: 14

FANZONE

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!



TODAY Bristol Rovers fan and MS sufferer **Aly Pillinger** has organised a bucket collection to raise money for the Bristol and Avon Multiple Sclerosis Centre (BrAMS).

Aly has had MS since she was 23, but has been a Rovers season ticket holder for more than two decades. As well as raising money at today's game, Aly also wants to raise awareness for the centre, which is available to anyone with MS through referral from their GP. She said; "I have treatment at the BrAMS centre at Frenchay Hospital every four weeks; it is unlike any other centre for MS in the country, providing instant relapse clinics and one to one MS specialist nurse care - it is a truly refreshing place.

"MS has totally changed my life but I am still determined to do all the things that everyone else does, including watching the Rovers! I have been following them since the Eastville days and have gone through every emotion possible, but I still love them and the club will always be a huge part of my life.

"With the club's help I am able to promote the BrAMS Centre and also hopefully raise the much needed funds to keep it growing from strength to strength thus helping others in my situation."

GOOD afternoon, and welcome to today's game against Swindon Town.

Don't forget that we rely on your contributions to make this page a success, so if you have any photos or requests please get in touch.

So what will you be doing on your 88th birthday?

A quiet day at home with your family, or even a day out for lunch, maybe.

Not so for Doris Luker who is 88 next week as she and her husband, Ken, will be flying the 4,000 plus miles to Florida where she will be spending Christmas with her son Geoff, his wife Bev and their three sons, Ben, Tom and Jack.

Doris, who has been a member of the Presidents Club ever since it was formed in the late 1960's, will miss a few matches during December and January while she is away but normally gets to all matches at the Memorial Stadium. She and Ken were at the Millennium Stadium and Wembley in 2007, with the Presidents Club, supporting Rovers.

Doris, who started her working life as a nurse at Stoke Park Hospital, later moved into the catering industry where she became a well known personality in Bristol having a senior role in the Berni Inns organisation working at the Poseda, and Llandoger Trow among others.

During her time with the Presidents Club, Doris has made many friends among the football fraternity and those who always look out for her include Bruce Grobbelaar and John Ward as well as the many players who have worn the famous blue and white quarters.



■ Doris Luker

We would like wish **Liz Brain** a Happy 21st birthday for next Tuesday, 15th December.

Liz is currently at Plymouth University, in her second year, undertaking a Mental Health Nursing degree but has managed to get back for all but two home games this season.

FINALLY we would like to welcome today's special guests the King family, who will be watching the game from the Boardroom.

Many of you will remember the recent touching story in the news about war hero James King who flew home from Afghanistan to donate a kidney to his son. The Royal Marine returned from his tour and was admitted to Southmead Hospital where he donated one of his kidneys to his three year old son, also called James, who has suffered kidney problems since birth. The operation was a success although James junior still requires treatment. It will be James junior's first live game, and we hope that he has a brilliant time with us.

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

REMEMBERING RON

RON CRAIG

WHEN my father and I took control of Bristol Rovers in 1985 things were as bad as they could get financially, without actually putting the club into receivership.

We were playing at Eastville, the rent had not been paid for five months and we were threatened with being locked out of our traditional home which was 'given away for a pittance' during the 1940's. The playing squad had little or no value, so it was not a question of selling anyone to recoup a transfer fee to ease the mounting debt.

To make matters worse, we also found that VAT returns had not been completed for six months, so debt was coming out of the closet from all directions. Indeed the club had not paid anyone for a while, and accounts with our suppliers were being closed down by the hour. It seems the single objective was to funnel all the cash available to pay the players wages and keep the club playing in the Football League.

On top of this mess, the club owed their bankers over £150k in loans, which doesn't seem much money now in football terms, but was a horrendous amount when you didn't have a penny to your name. The first question we asked ourselves was why on earth we had joined the board to take on this task when it was not of our making.

Roy Redman, who now resides in the USA, was the third director on the board and we set about trying to recover the business from a seemingly impossible position. The only asset we had was the Hambrook Training Ground which was in Green Belt and had little or no chance of planning.

We were meeting in the offices of our company secretary, who worked for a major accounting firm in Clifton, and before every board meeting (usually three times a week) he officially advised us we were insolvent. Indeed, it was difficult to see where the next



■ Ron and Geoff, pictured before setting off for the JPT Final against Shrewsbury in 2007

penny was coming from, when we were notified that a Bristol business man wanted to join us!

How should we react to this news, after all the financial state of the club was shrouded in mystery when I joined, and it was still not fully understood when my father came on board as Chairman. But now we had discovered the true position, no one would surely want to invest in a football club in this financial mess?

Ron Craig turned up a few days later. He had a successful engineering business in Bristol. He was advised immediately by our auditors, very bluntly, that the club was insolvent. Roy, Dad and I had already put in large amounts of cash on a regular basis just to keep the club afloat. Why on earth would anyone want to join a business in our position?

Ron understood the situation and we expected him to walk out immediately, but he sat there and said: "When do I start?"

I advised him that as soon as he signed his cheque over, the money would disappear in a black hole and there was very little chance of him seeing it again. This did not deter Ron and he stayed for the meeting and signed over his cheque. Ron wanted to

help the club and be part of it. He realised it was not going to be an easy ride, but he wanted to join three people, who he had never met before, and fight for the future of Bristol Rovers Football Club.

The sale of the Hambrook Training Ground, for twice its value, to a group of local business men, and a move to Twerton Park Bath, were, if you excuse the pun, ground breaking decisions for a Football League Club, but they worked, and with due prudence the club paid its debts and stayed in business.

After ten years playing away from our home city we returned to Bristol. Without Ron Craig's help it may never have happened. Ann Craig

also played her part, along with my mother, in providing the food at Twerton Park to save on catering costs.

Ron never missed many matches in his association with Bristol Rovers, always travelling with the team, and he was a great ambassador for the club at away games and at Football League meetings.

Ron was particularly interested in the youth team and was in charge of that department for many years. He would always speak his mind and his judgment of people was rarely wrong. He did not suffer fools gladly, but if you needed help, Ron would never let you down.

When I decided to step down as chairman, I was delighted when Ron offered to take my place, as he deserved the opportunity, and our promotion via the play offs at Wembley was a fitting tribute to Ron's long term service with Bristol Rovers.

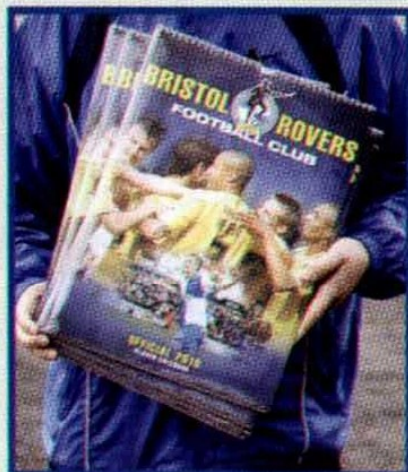
Ron, the board and all of our supporters thank you. We are eternally grateful for your support and your dedication in helping to safeguard the future of our beloved Bristol Rovers. We will remember you and we will treasure your friendship.

Our thoughts are also with Ann, who has looked after you with love and dedication over this last year.

God Bless you both.

GAS GOODIES

HAVE YOU GOT YOURS YET?



CALENDAR

- £6.99

CHRISTMAS MUG

- £5.99



SANTA HAT

- £6.00

BENCH JACKET

Adult sizes only:

S - 2XL

- £49.99



RUGBY TOP

Adult sizes

only:

S - 2XL

- £49.99

SOCKS (Pack of 2) - £6.50



Gifts available from
Pirate Leisure at the Memorial Stadium or the
Supporters Club Shop at 199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood.

YOUNG PIRATES

WELCOME TO OUR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS

GOOD afternoon and welcome to the Young Pirates home page.

This afternoon we welcome the Robins to the Memorial Stadium and would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the Swindon players, staff and supporters who have made the trip here today for what promises to be a great game against our near rivals.

It is also great to welcome Sharon and the other Young Robins who are returning for another of our ticket exchange games. We are certainly looking forward to our return visit which is scheduled for 6th March and we will, of course, be taking a coach to that game so if you want to travel with us then, we are taking bookings now!

Last Thursday saw your annual favourite, The Young Pirates Christmas Party and as Geoff will have been there with his camera there should be plenty of photo's to put in the next programme. Some of the players were due to attend, to so let's hope they have recovered enough and are on fine form this afternoon.



■ Our mascot for the game against Exeter City was Jonathan Fry, pictured here with Jo Kuffour...

■ ...and with team captains, match officials, the Exeter mascot and Captain Black Arab prior to kick off



TODAY'S MASCOT

Eight year old **JACK STEPHENS** lives in Lockleaze and attends Filton Avenue Junior School.

His hobbies are rugby, swimming and golf and he likes watching Rovers with his Dad.

He has no particular favourite

Rovers player - they are all his favourites! We hope that Jack enjoys being our mascot this afternoon.



This is our last home game before Christmas, so if you still need some ideas for Christmas presents why not pop into our room today to see the large selection of souvenirs we have for sale, or even sign someone up to the Young Pirates. It is certainly great value, and at only £7 makes a great stocking filler. What a lovely surprise it is when you receive a Christmas card and Birthday card and certainly something to show all of your friends! We also stock a good range of sweets and drinks and don't forget we also sell programmes.

Time is also running out to book onto our long awaited trip to Millwall on Monday 28th December, so will be a great excuse to get away from all that turkey and it is certainly going to be a cracker! We only have ten places left, so why not call in for details or call Baggie Sue on 01384 443777 and don't forget the price includes both your coach and matchday ticket.

Finally, on behalf of all of us at the Young Pirates, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and look

forward to seeing you at our next home game on Boxing Day. Young Pirates signing off...



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Dec 9	Alex Goad
Dec 10	Ellie Wookey
	Tom Wookey
Dec 11	Liam Elvin
	Kayleigh Harris
	Eleanor Collins
Dec 13	Eleanor Marshall
Dec 14	Mitchell Jefferies
Dec 15	Joe Smith
Dec 16	Lewis Pearce
	Katie Watts
Dec 18	Kyran Garrett
Dec 18	Lucy Duggan
	Harry Stride
	Joe Dicker

BRISTOL ROVERS ...



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

WELCOME to the Memorial Stadium for what promises to be quite a sombre occasion for those of us connected with Bristol Rovers.

Today we'll be holding a minute's silence in respect of long serving Director and former Chairman Ron Craig, held over from our last home match so that Ron's wife Ann and other members of his family could be in attendance. Ron epitomised what our football club is all about, and it goes with saying that the thoughts of every true Rovers' supporter are with Ann and the family at this very sad time.

Last Saturday I was very pleasantly surprised when our hosts Colchester United also took the trouble to hold a minute's silence in respect of Ron and some very nice words were said about him over the public address system. The silence was impeccably observed by both the travelling 'Gas' and home supporters alike and credit is due to everyone at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. For those of us who knew him personally, it was a really good sporting gesture and says everything about football people at the 'grass roots' level of the game. Thanks, then, to the 'U's!

Unfortunately, Rovers managed only a couple of shots at goal during the match and could well have been despatched by a much greater margin had the 'U's taken all their chances. Our defence generally held up well, but the ball just kept coming back at them as the lack of a target man up front made it difficult to ease the pressure. Things were better in the second half, but it was generally not a good day with today's opponents leap frogging us into the final play off position. We have now been defeated by all four of the five teams previously above us that we had played so far this season which underlines what I said in my last column against Exeter. Although three of those games, plus MK Dons of course, were away from home all were quite comprehensive and it is certain that Swindon are going to provide stern opposition today.

Having said that, most Gasheads would have settled for our current position, having been defeated in the opening game at home and then losing Rickie Lambert to Southampton the following week. I'm sure Lennie and 'Trolls' don't need me to tell them where the side needs tweaking to keep the pressure up on the

top six. With Swindon here this afternoon, it's fascinating to note all the four teams that were promoted together two seasons ago, (today's pairing plus Walsall and Hartlepool United), are currently locked in a battle for what could be the final play off place should things stay more or less the same come next May. It must have been something in the 2007 vintage champagne!

The Supporters Club Newsletter has, unfortunately, been delayed at the printers but should by now be on its way out to members. This publication includes our Christmas Draw tickets so it is doubly unfortunate that it is delayed so near to the big day. The draw is another one of our important fund raisers, so I hope that you will all buy and sell as many tickets as you can and return the stubs to us care of '199' in Kingswood, Pirate Leisure or our matchday cabin here in the stadium. The draw will be held on Boxing Day.

Thanks again for your great support and a very Happy Christmas to every Rovers fan, and especially to our army of volunteers and matchday sellers. See you here on Boxing Day. Up the Pirates!

■ Jim Chappell,
BRSC Chairman

GOOD afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's encounter with nearby Swindon Town.

A warm welcome to supporters of the other Robins, Cheltenham Town also carry the name of course. Good to have you with us this afternoon and a safe trip back along the M4 and to other parts after the game.

This week has been a sad time for all of us at Bristol Rovers. Ron Craig was a fine director, a good man and a good friend. I have yet to speak to, or know of, a Bristol Rovers supporter who does not think so. He will doubtless be remembered as the Chairman who took us out of the bottom tier. His legacy is all consuming. His special interest in youth, education and community was without parallel. His knowledge of the workings of The Football League and of the Football Association was total.

Above all, Ron was first and foremost a Bristol Rovers supporter just like all of us. He loved the club and all that it stands for. He hardly missed a game home or away. You could count on one hand the times when Ron was not there to work for, and to support, our club and our team.

Those of us who made the trip to Essex last Saturday witnessed a wonderful moment in football. The respect shown to

Ron from every single area of the ground was absolute. It was my privilege to thank the directors and management team at Colchester United after the game. Today I take this opportunity to publicly thank the supporters of Colchester for the way they conducted themselves during the minutes silence in memory of Ron; it was exemplary.

Back to the action and to a home game where we can make it four on the bounce. When a team comes out of a bad run, perhaps it does not matter how it looks. Three points is three points, and they cannot be taken away. We have surely played our part to keep us in and around the play off places and we can do so again today.

■ Ken Masters, BRSC Director



■ Mikkel Andersen picks up the Man of the Match Award for his performance against Exeter City

SUPPORTERS CLUB



50/50 V EXETER

Shane Dale (pictured here) of Redfield won £764 at the Exeter game with ticket number 16941. Brian Parkin presented the cash and Jackie Chapple sold the winning ticket.

I would like to thank Ron Craig for being very supportive when I first entered the Boardroom. You will be missed, Ron, Rest in Peace.

■ David Brain

SHARE SCHEME - IT'S NOT TOO LATE

I would like to wish all Gasheads a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year and special thanks to all Share Scheme Members for their continued support.

Today we welcome Swindon, so hopefully it will generate a special atmosphere. Hopefully the Blackthorn Ultras can 'pump up the volume' and out sing our Wiltshire rivals. We are not number 12 on the team sheet for no reason!

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 Supporters Bar of the rebuilt Memorial Stadium. Get your name added to those who have helped our club at the time it was needed most. You will also be entered into our matchday draw for a signed shirt. In 2010 we will continue to strive towards the primary objectives of the Share Scheme, which are to maximise its shareholding

on behalf of the Supporters Club and income into the football club. This will ensure that, through the Supporters Club, a sufficient shareholding is held to influence any major Football Club boardroom decision. We have two full directors which have been achieved through the Share Scheme.

With the Share Scheme due to finish in a year's time, we are planning for its successor and we would welcome any suggestions from fans.

SHARE SCHEME BENEFITS

MEMBERS entitled to matchday meals (and any of the other benefits) need to book through Clare McDonagh at Pirate Leisure.

Please call during office hours on 0117 9096648 or e-mail to clare@bristolrovers.co.uk

Any members unsure of their entitlement can contact Clare for further advice.

The remaining matches have been designated for meals for those entitled:-
Saturday 9th January 2010 - Stockport
Saturday 23rd January 2010 - Hartlepool
Saturday 13th March 2010 - Tranmere

SHARE SCHEME NEWS

Membership at the end of October 2009 was as follows: Bronze 228, Silver 71, Gold 6, Platinum 2, Total 307.

The total monthly income is £4,876.

The Supporters Club has now handed over a total of £819,316 in return for 370,640 shares, which represents a shareholding of 7.55%.

Please contact Clare McDonagh at Pirate Leisure on 0117 9096648, or clare@bristolrovers.co.uk for joining details or if you would simply like to know more about the scheme then please contact David Brain on 07765 254110 or davidbrain1883@talktalk.net

■ David Brain
BRSC Director and Share Scheme Chairman

TOMBOLA

FOLLOWING the success of the Tombola held annually at the Fun Day, the Supporters Club is running a pre Christmas Tombola before today's game.

It's only £2 a go and every entry wins a prize. The Tombola will begin at approximately 12.15pm in the Clubhouse and is an ideal way of getting a stocking filler or two, without the hassle of Christmas shopping!

Prizes include; Signed Shirt, Eastville Print, Magic Moments at The Mem DVD, Bristol Derby Days book, other football DVDS, chocolates and much, much more and remember, every entry is guaranteed to win a prize!

SHARE SCHEME SIGNED SHIRT DRAW

TODAY we will be presenting Michael Froggart with the signed shirt he won in the draw at the Exeter game.

At that game Andrew Ledbury, the latest winner, was presented with the shirt he won in the draw at the Gillingham game, as pictured below.



COMMERCIAL CORNER

COME AND JOIN US!

GOOD afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our match against near rivals Swindon Town.

A warm welcome is extended to the Directors, management team, players and supporters who have made the short journey along the M4 to be here today and I hope we see an entertaining match between two sides looking to cement a place in the top six.

This afternoon's Match Sponsor is **Brunel Professional Risks Ltd.**, a company that specialise in the placement of Professional Indemnity.

They act for all types of business from very small to Public Quoted Companies. The head office is based in Bristol and they are the leading broker in the South West for PII. They are committed to providing a high quality professional service with the aim of developing long term partnerships.

Brunel are keen to continue their support for Bristol Rovers and develop the relationship in the future. Russell Lane, the Managing Director, has been a long standing and loyal supporter of the club and wishes the team every success today against Swindon.

Our Matchball Sponsor today is **ADT**, who offer the total Fire and Security Solutions.

Our Programme Sponsor today is **BSCL Ltd.**, Integrators of Cable and Network Solutions with over 25 years of experience supporting the Telecomms, Manufacturing, Retail, Defence and Construction industries via three regional offices in the South West (Bristol), South East (Wickford) and Midlands (Birmingham).

BSCL employ over 100 staff with 85 x engineers deployed nationwide. Today BSCL are among friends from Comtec and ADC Krone and are very proud to sponsor Bristol Rovers FC against our local rivals from Swindon! Come on the Gas!

Joining us today are representatives from a number of companies who took part in our Shirt Sponsorship Draw this year.

It will be a pleasure to meet everyone and thank them for their support. I hope that everyone enjoys their day with us and will give some thought to participating in next year's scheme for sponsorship.

The companies with us today are:

- **ARAG Plc**
- **Rateavon Ltd**
- **C R Windows**
- **Global MSC Security**
- **Drillcut Ltd**
- **Chiller Technical Solutions**
- **Chef for all Seasons**
- **Sport & Leisure Management Ltd**
- **McCarthy Waste Management**

We have very few tickets left for our **Annual Valentines Ball** on **13th February**, so if you would like to join us please contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We believe that our Corporate Hospitality packages are excellent value for money, and our new scheme to promote the Executive Boxes makes it more affordable for our



■ Our sponsors for the game against Exeter City selected **Stuart Campbell** as their Man of the Match and Stuart is pictured here with a representative of Match Sponsor **Stone Supplies**...

supporters. If you would like to join us and enjoy a unique matchday experience, please contact Liz Jack on **0117 9524023** for more details.

Finally, a date for your diary: On **Saturday 16th January** Phil Charles will be returning to the stadium to appear at our first **Cabaret Night** of the New Year.

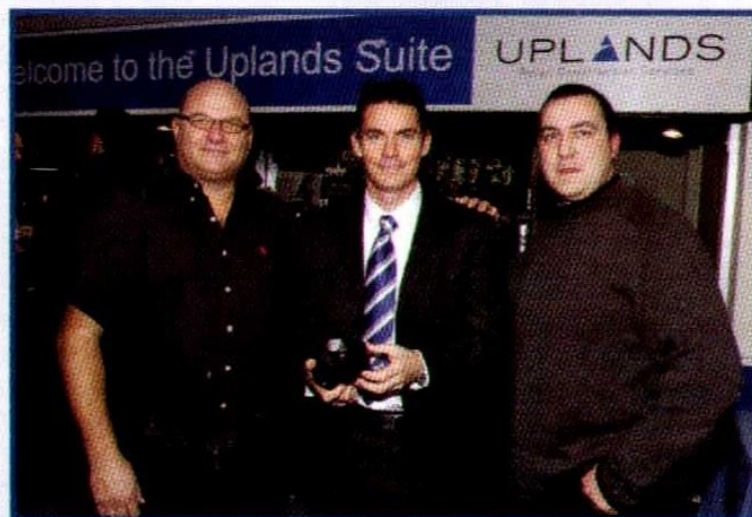
Phil is a superb comedian with endless adult comedy throughout his act that he

enhances with his brilliant singing. Sure to be a complete night of entertainment, that is guaranteed to have the audience in stitches.

Tickets are available at the cost of **£8** each which includes a basket supper, offering fantastic value for an evening of live entertainment and a supper.

Contact Trish on **0117 9524004** to reserve your places.

■ ...and representatives of Matchball Sponsor **Brenntag**



ROVERS REVIEW

SOMETHING FOR OUR VISITORS ... A RETURN FOR THE DOG?

PIRATES' defender **DANNY COLLES** will be missing today after receiving his fifth yellow card of the campaign at Colchester last Saturday.

The absence of **COLLES** could mean a return for **PAT BALDWIN**, who is on loan from the Essex club and was not allowed to play in last week's game. **COLLES**, once with Bristol City, made his move from Hull permanent in January last year after an initial loan spell. Confusion reigned over the availability of **JEFF HUGHES**, a former Lincoln City midfielder, who has been playing at left back in the absence through injury of **AARON LIESCOTT**. **HUGHES** left Sincil Bank for Crystal Palace in July 2007 and later went to Peterborough on loan. A later loan spell here was blighted by injury but he came here permanently in June last year. His booking at Colchester was thought to be his fifth of the campaign but the yellow card he received at Southampton in September turned out to be a case of mistaken identity and was withdrawn. **HUGHES** could occupy his more accustomed left wing role this afternoon, allowing **LIESCOTT** to return at left back.

Dubbed 'The Dog' by former manager **IAN ATKINS** for his tenacious qualities in midfield, **LIESCOTT**, who joined us from Stockport, initially on loan, in March 2004, has been sidelined since the end of October. **BALDWIN** could be re-instated alongside **STIEVE ELLIOTT** in the centre of defence. Baldwin made his debut for Rovers, in last month's win against Gillingham, at right back as **CARL REGAN** was suspended. **REGAN**, a summer signing from MK Dons, began his career with Everton before moving to Barnsley in June 2000. He made 37 League appearances for the Tykes before switching to Hull. Loan spells at Chester and Droylsden were followed by a return to Deeside and a switch to Macclesfield 15 months later.

ELLIOTT, formerly of Derby County and Blackpool, has been on the bench of late but was recalled for last week's visit to Essex. He was preferred to former Cardiff City defender **BYRON ANTHONY**, a former Welsh U-21 international, who

last featured at Charlton. Central defender **ALEX KITE**, 20, son of Rovers' physio and former keeper **PHIL**, is currently on loan at Paulton Rovers, while 21 year old keeper **MIKE GRIEN** is at Gloucester City on a season long loan.

Last month **HUGHES** and former Filton College scholar **CHRIS LINES** each scored in three consecutive games. **LINES'** form during November resulted in a shortlisting for the League One Player of the Month award, but the accolade went to Huddersfield's **ROBBIE WILLIAMS**. **DOMINIC BLIZZARD**, a close season signing from Stockport, played eight games for MK Dons during a two month loan spell from Watford in 2007. 20 year old **BEN SWALLOW** has emerged from the youth ranks to make an impact on the left flank. He replaced **BLIZZARD** after an hour of last Saturday's game, and a later substitution saw **ANDY WILLIAMS** take the place of **MARK WRIGHT**. Often used on the right wing, **WILLIAMS**, now off the transfer list, spent most of the 2008/09 campaign on loan back at Hereford after his July 2007 transfer from the Bulls. **WRIGHT**, a deadline day signing from Brighton, left Milton Keynes for the Seagulls in the summer but was unable to settle on the south coast. He started as a trainee at Walsall. Skipper **STUART CAMPBELL** was a trainee at Leicester before **LIENNIE LAWRENCE** took him to Grimsby nine years ago. Former Aston Villa youngster **CHARLIE RIECE** and **CHARLIE CLOUGH**, 19, a product of the club's Centre of Excellence, who made his League debut against Brighton in April last year, have been on the bench in recent games.

Former Arsenal trainee **JO KUFFOUR** played for Torquay, Brentford



■ Chris Lines

and Bournemouth before joining us from the Cherries in August last year. Loan signing **CHRIS DICKSON**, from Charlton, played on loan for Crewe and Gillingham in 2007. Last week he came off the bench to replace **DARRYL DUFFY**, a former Rangers' junior who joined us from Swansea in the summer of 2008. **DUFFY** scored the winner

against Exeter last Tuesday week.

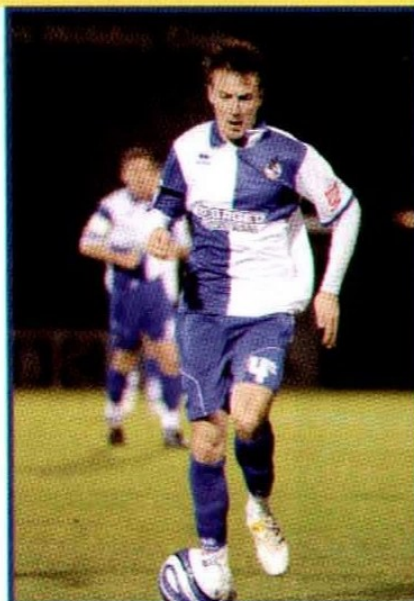
Last season's ever present keeper **STIEVE PHILLIPS**, previously on loan with Shrewsbury, is currently on loan at Crewe with the possibility of a permanent switch in January. **MIKKEL ANDERSEN**, a Danish U-21 international keeper on loan from Reading, has been first choice between the posts ahead of **RHYS EVANS**, who played four games on loan for Rovers in 2000 and was released by Bradford in the summer. **EVANS**, whose career started at Chelsea, also played for Swindon, Blackpool and Millwall with loan spells at QPR and Leyton Orient. 18 year old keeper **ROB HOLMES**, formerly with Kidderminster Harriers, was on the bench for the cup tie against Southampton.

18 year olds **NEIKELL PLUMMER**, a striker, and left back or central defender James Tyrrell have both been on loan to Zamaretto League side Paulton Rovers. **SEAN RIGG** and **LEWIS HALDANE**, both of whom are on the transfer list, have impressed on loan at Forest Green Rovers and Port Vale respectively.

RIGG, on loan at Vale Park until next month, previously spent three months at the New Lawn. **HALDANE** spent three months with the Valiants and could join them permanently next month. **JOE WHITE**, 19, son of former Rovers' striker **STIEVE**, has been on loan at Yate. **BEN HUNT**, also 19, joined West Ham at the age of 11 and joined Rovers in the summer of 2008.

■ Ben Hunt

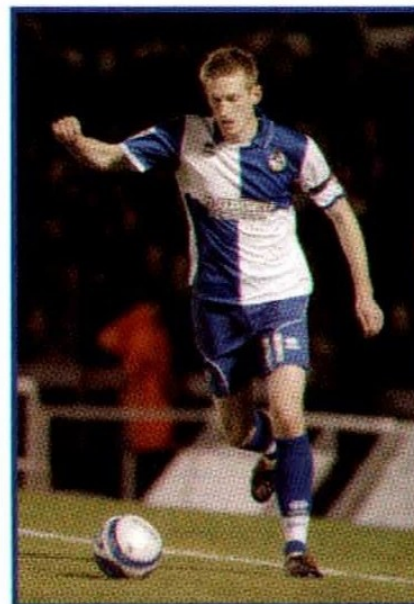




■ Chris Lines



■ Stuart Campbell



■ Jeff Hughes

BRISTOL ROVERS

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2009 ■ KO 3.00PM

- Manager
Paul TROLLOPE
- 1 Steve PHILLIPS (GK) *
- 2 Carl REGAN
- 3 Mark WRIGHT
- 4 Chris LINES
- 5 Danny COLES
- 6 Steve ELLIOTT
- 7 Stuart CAMPBELL
- 8 Andy WILLIAMS
- 9 Chris DICKSON °
- 10 Darryl DUFFY
- 11 Jeff HUGHES
- 12 GASHEADS
- 13 Mike GREEN (GK) ‡
- 14 David PIPE *
- 15 Byron ANTHONY
- 16 Dominic BLIZZARD
- 17 Jo KUFFOUR
- 18 Ben HUNT
- 19 Sean RIGG †
- 20 Charlie REECE
- 21 Charlie CLOUGH †
- 22 Joe WHITE
- 23 Ben SWALLOW
- 24 Alex KITE †
- 25 James TYRRELL
- 26 Lewis HALDANE
- 27 MIKKEL ANDERSEN (GK) °
- 28 Eliot RICHARDS
- 29 Neikell PLUMMER
- 30 Dan CAYFORD †
- 31 Mark COOPER
- 32 Aaron LESCOTT
- 33 Ollie CLARKE
- 34 George BOOTH
- 35 Steve KINGDON
- 36 Jack McKENNA
- 46 Rob HOLMES (GK)
- 47 Pat BALDWIN †
- 51 Rhys EVANS (GK)

* On loan to Crewe Alexandra
° On loan from Charlton Athletic
‡ On loan to Gloucester City
† On loan to Cheltenham Town
‡ On loan to Port Vale
† On loan to Paulton Rovers
† On loan to Chippenham Town
† On loan from Reading
† On loan from Colchester United



LAST TIME OUT...
COLCHESTER UNITED 1
BRISTOL ROVERS 0



BRISTOL ROVERS

WELCOMES...

TODAY'S SPONSORS

- MATCH SPONSOR
BRUNEL PROFESSIONAL RISKS LTD
- MATCHBALL SPONSOR
ADT
- PROGRAMME SPONSOR
BSCL LTD
- HOME SHIRT SPONSOR
N-GAGED
- AWAY SHIRT SPONSOR
SH&P
- BOX NETS SPONSOR
ROGERS & TOWNSEND
DECORATORS 01793 827629

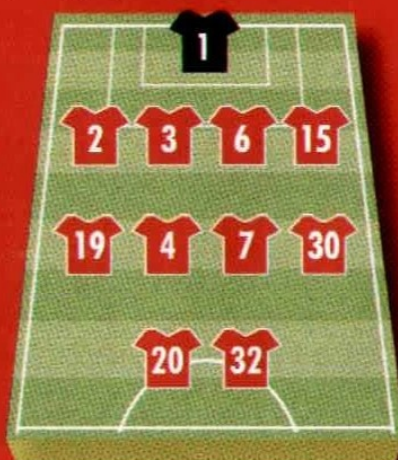
SWINDON TOWN

THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

- Manager:
Danny **WILSON**
- 1 David **LUCAS** (GK)
- 2 Scott **CUTHBERT**
- 3 Alan **SHEEHAN**
- 4 Jonathan **DOUGLAS**
- 6 Gordon **GREER**
- 7 Jon-Paul **McGOVERN**
- 8 Craig **EASTON**
- 9 Ben **HUTHINSON**
- 10 Michael **TIMLIN**
- 11 Anthony **McNAMEE**
- 12 Phil **SMITH** (GK)
- 14 Sean **MORRISON**
- 15 Kevin **AMANKWAH**
- 16 Hasney **ALJOFREE**
- 17 Callum **KENNEDY**
- 18 Alan **O'BRIEN**
- 19 Lescinel **JEAN-FRANCOIS**
- 20 Billy **PAYNTER**
- 21 Lee **PEACOCK**
- 22 Lloyd **MACKLIN**
- 23 Nathan **THOMPSON**
- 24 Danny **WARD**
- 25 Mark **MARSHALL**
- 26 Jakub **JESIONKOWSKI** (GK)
- 27 Yinka **CASAL**
- 28 Mark **SCOTT**
- 29 Kurt **HAMMONDS**
- 30 Simon **FERRY**
- 31 Alex **REVELL**
- 32 Charlie **AUSTIN**
- 33 Alex **HENSHALL**
- 34 Matty **BARNES**



LAST TIME OUT...
SWINDON TOWN 3
LEYTON ORIENT 2



MATCH OFFICIALS



■ REFEREE:
Peter **WALTON**



■ ASSISTANT REFEREE 1:
Paddy **KEANE**



■ ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:
Graham **SCOTT**



■ FOURTH OFFICIAL:
John **MARTIN**

MATCH STATS:

RESULT:

GOALSCORERS - ROVERS:

GOALSCORERS - OPPOSITION:

ATTENDANCE:



■ David Lucas



■ Scott Cuthbert



■ Jonathan Douglas



SWINDON TOWN...

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2009

OUR Wiltshire neighbours replaced the Gas in the final play off position in last Saturday's table, with a 3-2 win over Leyton Orient.

It was the Robins fourth win on the bounce, fuelling expectations that **DANNY WILSON's** rebuilt squad has clicked into gear.

The departure of League One Golden Boot joint winner **SIMON COX** in the summer left a huge gap to fill. But there have been encouraging signs that the

search could be over. Former bricklayer **CHARLIE AUSTIN** was plucked from Wessex Premier League Poole Town in October. He scored the only goal of the game just three minutes into his full debut, at Brunton Park, three weeks ago. He then hit the winner over Huddersfield Town, and a double against Orient, to take his current tally to four goals from three starts. **AUSTIN** was working for his for his dad's building company and knocking in the goals for Poole Town. He bagged 46 goals in 46 games for The Dolphins last season and another 18 goals in 11 this term. A transfer embargo put paid to a move to League Two Bournemouth over the summer.

BILLY PAYNTER will probably partner **AUSTIN**, and will be the only survivor from the Robins starting eleven at the Mem last November. Last Saturday **BEN HUTCHINSON**, on loan from Celtic, did not even get a place on the bench. **DANNY WARD**, **LEE PEACOCK** and **ALEX REVELL** were the preferred attacking options.

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, 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. **WARD** left the Leeds United Academy in 2007 to sign for Bolton Wanderers, and has made two brief Premier League substitute appearances this season. He is in the third week of a one month loan deal.

PEACOCK was a Carlisle trainee who made over 80 appearances for the Cumbrians until transferring to Mansfield Town in October 1997. He moved to Manchester City two years later, but could not command a regular place and moved to Bristol City in August 2000. After 175 games for City, he moved to Sheffield Wednesday in 2004, then to Swindon in January 2006. **REVELL**, who joined Swindon at the start of September on a six month loan from Southend United, has also played for Cambridge United, Braintree Town and Brighton.

A settled midfield has recently had to be disrupted after former Watford winger



MANAGER'S PROFILE... DANNY WILSON

DANNY Wilson the Northern Ireland international midfielder made over 600 appearances with Bury, Chesterfield, Nottingham Forest, Brighton, Luton, Sheffield Wednesday and Barnsley.

He won the Littlewoods Cup with Luton in 1988 and the Rumbelows Cup with Sheffield Wednesday in 1991.

At Barnsley he began his managerial career by taking the difficult step from player to player manager. He guided the Tykes to the Premiership in 1997 then, after relegation the following year, accepted the poisoned chalice at Sheffield Wednesday.

He could not halt the Owls demise, and departed Hillsborough in March 2000

with relegation inevitable.

Bristol City were his next employers where he enjoyed four successful years, twice coming third in the League only each time to suffer heartbreak at the Play Off stage. Danny took charge of MK Dons in December 2004. He steered them to safety on the final day of his first season, but was dismissed in May 2006 after their relegation.

In June he joined Hartlepool and achieved immediate success, winning promotion to League One in his first season. However, after two and a half years he was surprisingly sacked as Pools fell into the bottom half of the table.

Ten days later, on Boxing Day 2008, Wilson was announced as Manager of Swindon Town.

OPPOSITION FILE

AT THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

ANTHONY McNAMEE decided to join Norwich City on loan. The regular trio of **JONATHAN DOUGLAS**, **JON-PAUL MCGOVERN** and **SIMON FERRY** are likely to be joined by **ALAN SHEEHAN**.

MICHAEL TIMLIN, **ALAN O'BRIEN** and **CRAIG EASTON** all remained on the bench last Saturday. Former Eastleigh winger **MARK MARSHALL** made eight starts while on loan at Hereford United and returned at the end of November to sit on the bench during the FA Cup win at Wrexham. Teenagers **LLOYD MACKLIN** and **KURT HAMMONDS** are recovering from injuries, and unlikely to be available until the New Year.

Republic of Ireland international **DOUGLAS** joined Blackburn Rovers from Monaghan United in 2000 but did not make his Premier League debut until November 2002. He went on loan to Chesterfield, Blackpool, Gillingham and, in August 2005, for a whole season with Leeds United before making the move permanent twelve months later. His 100 plus league appearances for Leeds include the Yorkshire club's 3-0 win at the Mem in September 2007 and a

2-2 draw here in March 2009. He signed for Swindon Town on a free transfer four months later. **MCGOVERN** was a Celtic trainee who played on loan for Sheffield United before transferring to Livingston in 2003. **PAUL STURROCK** took him to Sheffield Wednesday a year later. He was ever present during the Owls promotion to the Coca Cola Championship in his first season at Hillsborough. He moved to MK Dons in 2006 then Swindon in 2007.

FERRY was also a Celtic trainee. He was a member of the Scotland U-19 side that reached the final of the European Championships in 2006, and made his senior debut in green hoops a few months later during a pre season tour of Poland. After missing almost three years with various injuries, he made the bench for many of Celtic's games in the 2008/09 run in and agreed a loan move to Swindon in the summer. **SHEEHAN** joined Leicester City from Belvedere FC in 2003 and made 20 league starts before joining Leeds United in January 2008. He has already appeared at the Mem this term, when Oldham went down 0-1 in September. His loan spell with the Latics expired at the beginning of November,

WE'VE MET BEFORE...

Number of times we've met in the league:

82

Overall record:

29 wins, 14 draws, 39 defeats

Goals scored: 116

Goals conceded: 125

Most recent league meetings:

22/11/08

Bristol Rovers 2 Swindon Town 2

25/4/09

Swindon Town 2 Bristol Rovers 1

Last meeting in the FA Cup:

26/11/49

Swindon Town 1 Bristol Rovers 0

Last meeting in the League Cup:

4/9/84

Bristol Rovers 0 Swindon Town 1

Last Rovers hat trick

Francis Curran (4), 25th March 1939

Bristol Rovers 5 Swindon Town 0

Last Swindon Town hat trick

Kevin Harlock, 16th September 1995

Bristol Rovers 1 Swindon Town 4

Number of players who have played for both clubs:

39

Most Rovers appearances against Swindon Town:

Jesse Whatley and Ray Warren, 17

Most Swindon Town

appearances against Rovers:

Albert Denyer, 19

Most Rovers goals against Swindon Town:

William Culley, 5

Most Swindon Town goals against Bristol Rovers:

David Morris, 9



■ Gordon Greer



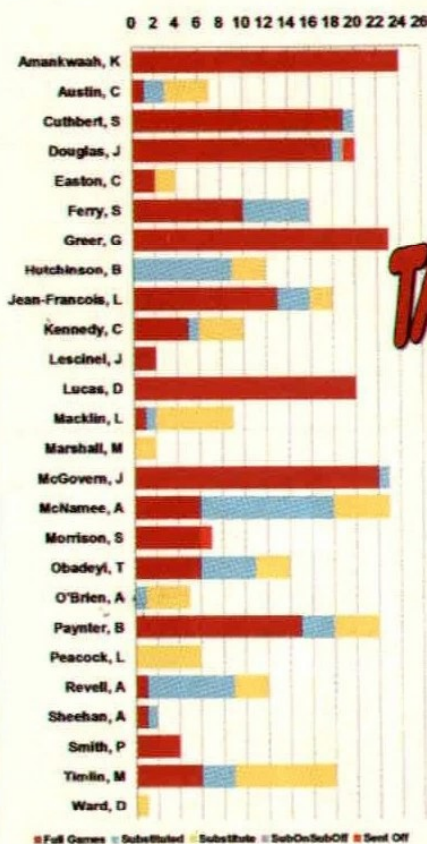
■ Jean-Paul McGovern



■ Alan O'Brien

SWINDON STATS

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2009



League Sequences

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

The Robins

Best/Worst Stats

Biggest Home Win	3-2 Leyton O
Biggest Home Defeat	0-2 Hartlepool
Biggest Away Win	1-4 Tranmere
Biggest Away Defeat	5-0 Gillingham

Home League Attendances

Average	7343
Highest	11673 (South'n - 18/08/2009)
Lowest	6417 (Southend - 28/08/2009)

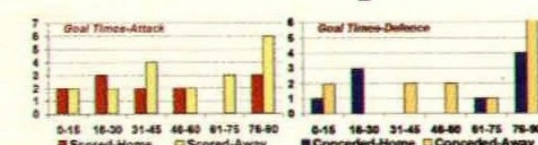
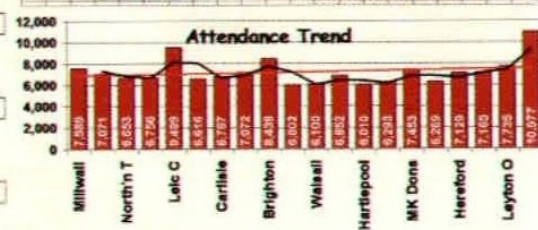
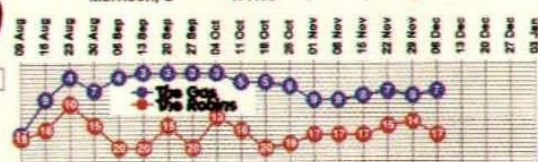
Away League Attendances

Average	7438
Highest	24959 (Norwich - 24/10/2009)
Lowest	4148 (Walsall - 19/09/2009)



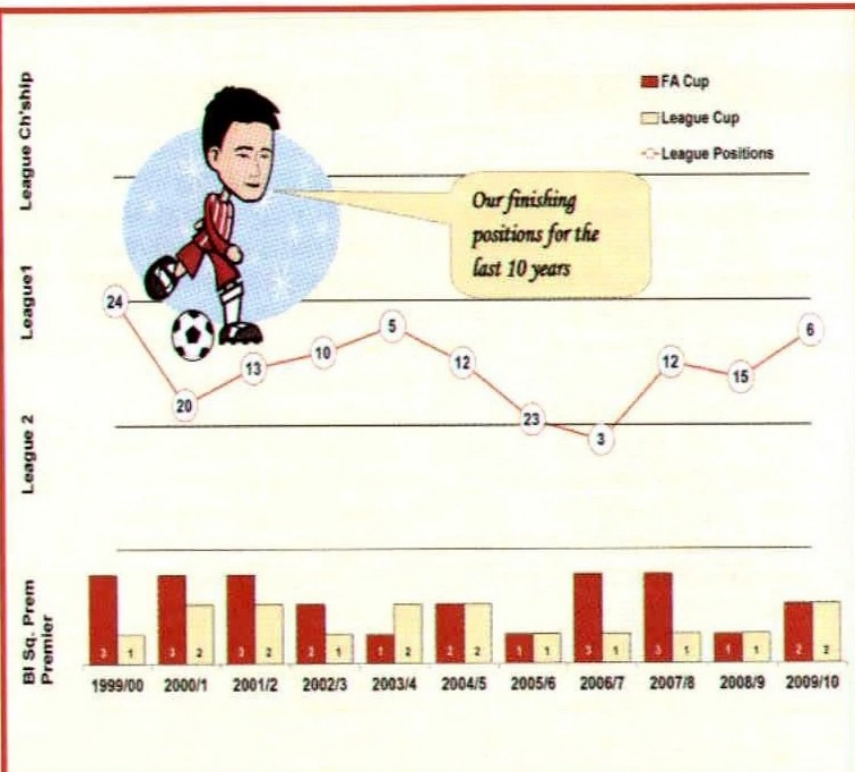
Scorer

Scorer	Goal Ratio	G	Lge	Cup
Paynter, B	1: 2.30	9	6	3
Austin, C	1: 1.42	4	4	0
Amankwaah, K	1: 12.00	2	2	0
Cuthbert, S	1: 10.00	2	2	0
McGovern, J	1: 11.50	2	1	1
McNamee, A	1: 10.68	2	1	1
Obadeyi, T	1: 6.51	2	2	0
Revell, A	1: 5.51	2	2	0
Ferry, S	1: 16.00	1	1	0
Greer, G	1: 23.00	1	0	1
Hutchinson, B	1: 11.01	1	1	0
Morrison, S	1: 7.00	1	1	0



Swindon Town fixtures 2009/10

Date	Opposition	Score	Att	Comp
06-Aug	Gillingham	L 0-5	6,852	Lge 1
11-Aug	MK Dons	W 4-1	4,812	LCT
15-Aug	MK Dons	D 0-0	6,692	Lge 1
18-Aug	South'n	W 1-0	11,673	Lge 1
22-Aug	Oldham A	D 2-2	4,229	Lge 1
25-Aug	Wolves	D 0-0 (6-5)	11,416	LCT
29-Aug	Southend	W 2-1	6,417	Lge 1
05-Sep	Yeovil	W 1-0	4,507	Lge 1
12-Sep	Colch U	D 1-1	6,621	Lge 1
19-Sep	Walsall	D 1-1	4,148	Lge 1
26-Sep	Wyc W	D 1-1	6,929	Lge 1
29-Sep	Exeter C	D 1-1	5,337	Lge 1
03-Oct	Brentford	W 3-2	6,471	Lge 1
06-Oct	Exeter C	D 1-1 (3-4)	2,006	JPT(S)2
10-Oct	Millwall	D 1-1	7,222	Lge 1
17-Oct	Hartlepool	L 0-2	7,096	Lge 1
24-Oct	Norwich	L 0-1	24,959	Lge 1
31-Oct	Tranmere	W 4-1	5,811	Lge 1
07-Nov	Woking	W 1-0	4,805	FAC1
10-Nov	Norwich	D 0-0 (3-5)	4,978	JPT(S)QF
21-Nov	Carlisle	W 1-0	4,339	Lge 1
24-Nov	Hudd T	W 2-1	6,630	Lge 1
28-Nov	Wrexham	W 1-0	3,011	FAC2
01-Dec	Stockport	TBA	-	Lge 1
05-Dec	Leyton O	W 3-2	6,815	Lge 1
12-Dec	Bristol R	-	-	Lge 1
19-Dec	Brighton	-	-	Lge 1
26-Dec	Charlton	-	-	Lge 1
28-Dec	Yeovil	-	-	Lge 1
02-Jan	Oldham A	-	-	Lge 1
09-Jan	MK Dons	-	-	Lge 1
16-Jan	Gillingham	-	-	Lge 1
23-Jan	South'n	-	-	Lge 1
26-Jan	Leeds	-	-	Lge 1
30-Jan	Southend	-	-	Lge 1
06-Feb	Charlton	-	-	Lge 1
13-Feb	Hudd T	-	-	Lge 1
20-Feb	Carlisle	-	-	Lge 1
23-Feb	Stockport	-	-	Lge 1
27-Feb	Leyton O	-	-	Lge 1
06-Mar	Bristol R	-	-	Lge 1
13-Mar	Brighton	-	-	Lge 1
20-Mar	Norwich	-	-	Lge 1
27-Mar	Hartlepool	-	-	Lge 1
03-Apr	Leeds	-	-	Lge 1
05-Apr	Tranmere	-	-	Lge 1
10-Apr	Colch U	-	-	Lge 1
13-Apr	Exeter C	-	-	Lge 1
17-Apr	Walsall	-	-	Lge 1
24-Apr	Wyc W	-	-	Lge 1
01-May	Brentford	-	-	Lge 1
08-May	Millwall	-	-	Lge 2



OPPOSITION FILE

AT THE MEMORIAL STADIUM



■ Lescinel Jean-Francois



■ Billy Paytnier



■ Lee Peacock

and a new loan deal was agreed between Leeds United and today's visitors three weeks later.

TIMLIN was a trainee at Fulham, who had loan spells with Scunthorpe United and Doncaster Rovers before joining the Robins for the first time on loan in November 2006 and returning on a permanent contract in November 2008. Republic of Ireland international winger **O'BRIEN** made his league debut against the Gas while on loan at Carlisle United in October 2006. It was quite an occasion, as he scored after only seven minutes, and that remains the only senior goal of his career to date. He had joined Newcastle United's Academy from St Joseph's Boys club in Dublin, and made his debut for the Magpies in January 2006, after completing his loan at Brunton Park. He moved to Hibernian in 2007 and made over 50 appearances for the Edinburgh club before moving to Swindon this summer. **JEASTON** played over 200 games for Dundee United, and 36 for Livingston before making his Football League debut for Leyton Orient in August 2005. He arrived at The County Ground in June 2007.

A settled defence has been constructed with previously out of favour **KEVIN AMANKWAH**, reunited with his former boss at Ashton Gate, becoming

a fixture at right back joined by four summer signings. Scotland 'B' internationals **SCOTT CUTHBERT**, from Celtic, and **GORDON GREER** from Doncaster Rovers have been introduced into the centre of defence. Haitian international **LESCINEL JEAN-FRANCOIS** has established a regular place on the left and in the nets is **DAVID LUCAS** from Leeds United.

LUCAS spent ten years with Preston North End, two with Sheffield Wednesday and a short period at Barnsley before joining The Whites in September 2007. His deputy is former Margate keeper **PHIL SMITH** signed from Crawley Town in July 2006.

AMANKWAH was a trainee with Bristol City, and made his debut in March 2000 at Oldham. After loan periods at Torquay and Cheltenham he joined Yeovil Town in 2005 and transferred to Swansea City in 2006. He was released by the Swans and became a Robin again in July 2008. **CUTHBERT** came through the ranks at Celtic Park and captained the Scotland side that included current team mate **SIMON FERRY** at the finals of the UEFA U-19 Championships in 2006. He joined St. Mirren on a season long loan last term, and signed for Swindon in July.

Robins skipper **GREER** started his career with Clyde, and moved to

Blackburn Rovers in 2001. He made just one Worthington Cup appearance at Ewood Park and went on loan to Stockport County before returning to Scotland in 2003. In three seasons with Kilmarnock he played over 100 times, until moving south again with Doncaster Rovers. But after ten league games he joined Swindon in January 2009. **JEAN-FRANCOIS** has also played in Scotland. During 2006 he was on loan at Falkirk and in 2008 on trial with Aberdeen. In France, he has played for the reserve teams of Paris Saint Germain and Sedan and in Ligue 2 for current French Cup holders Guingamp.

Former skipper **HASNEY ALJOFREE** has recently made a long awaited return to action for the reserves, but needs time to regain his full fitness. The former Plymouth and Dundee United defender had been out of action for over 10 months with an ankle injury. Nigerian U-20 international **YINKA CASAL** who was signed from Dutch club Cambuur in 2008 is recovering from a knee operation and **SEAN MORRISON** is on loan at Southend, so former trainees **CALLUM KENNEDY** and **NATHAN THOMPSON** provide defensive cover.

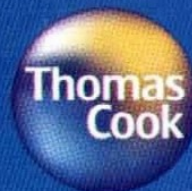
BE YOUR CLUB'S BEST ARMCHAIR SUPPORTER!



**Bristol Rovers
Holiday Club**

Guaranteed holiday savings simply for being a fan,
and we also give the club a few quid too!

Stores nationwide
thomascooksport.com/bristolroversholidays



No membership or proof of being a supporter required. Supporters receive a guaranteed discount on package holidays operated by a Thomas Cook tour operator and on holidays operated by selected non-Thomas Cook tour operators. Applies to summer and winter package holidays, city breaks, cruises, worldwide travel and UK weekend breaks/hotel-only. All holidays are subject to availability and relevant tour operator's booking conditions. Terms and conditions apply to all bookings - see www.thomascooksport.com for details. Discount can vary - please ask for details at time of booking. Discount cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Bookings must be made at a Thomas Cook or Going Places store, by calling 0870 751 9954 or online at thomascooksport.com/bristolroversholidays. Calls are charged at local rate plus network extras. Thomas Cook Sport is a trading name of Thomas Cook Retail Ltd, ABTA J8601, acting as an agent for Thomas Cook Tour Operations Ltd, ATOL Protected 0020.



IN SAFE KEEPING

LEIGH EDWARDS profiles seven leading post war Swindon Town goalkeepers

NORMAN UPRICHARD

Northern Ireland international goalkeeper Norman Uprichard gained the first five of his 18 caps while at Swindon Town. Initially with Distillery, he moved via Arsenal to Swindon in November 1949. He contested a first team slot with Sam Burton, helping Swindon reach the FA Cup Fifth Round in 1951/52 and making 73 League appearances prior to joining Portsmouth in November 1952. Starring as they finished third in the top flight in 1954/55, he moved to Southend United in July 1959 and later played for Hastings United. He became a publican, then ran the Queen's University bar in Belfast and has since settled back in Hastings in retirement.



■ Peter Downsborough

PIETER DOWNSBOROUGH

Goalkeeper Peter Downsborough was ever-present in Swindon Town's 1968/69 promotion and League Cup 'double' success. Signing professional for hometown Halifax in September 1960, he moved to the County Ground in an exchange deal involving Bill Atkins in August 1965. He was ever present as Swindon reached the FA Cup Sixth Round in 1969/70 and made 274 League appearances prior to joining Bradford City in November 1973. Twice ever present, he starred as they reached the FA Cup Sixth Round in 1975/76 and won promotion in 1976/77. He had a testimonial match in May 1980 and later worked at a power station, settling in Stainland.

JIM BARRON

Goalkeeper Jim Barron starred as Swindon Town took eventual winners West Ham to an FA Cup Fourth Round replay in 1974/75. Initially with Newcastle West End, he joined Wolverhampton Wanderers in November 1961 and had a spell as Peter Bonetti's understudy at Chelsea before joining Oxford United in March 1966. He was an important figure in their 1967/68 Third Division title triumph, moving to Nottingham Forest in July 1970. Ever present in 1970/71, he joined Swindon in August 1974 and made 79 League appearances prior to joining Peterborough United in August 1977. He managed Cheltenham Town and has since held various coaching posts.

KENNY ALLEN

Tall goalkeeper Kenny Allen was a key figure in Swindon Town's 1985/86 Fourth Division title triumph. He had spells with Tow Law, Hartlepool and Hellenic prior to joining Bath City in September 1973, starring in their 1977/78 Southern League title success. Moving to AFC Bournemouth in August 1978, he helped win promotion in 1981/82 and reunited with David Webb at Torquay United in March 1984. He joined Swindon in September 1985 and made 45 League appearances before rejoining Torquay in December 1986. Ever present as they were Fourth Division play off finalists in 1987/88, he also appeared for them in the 1989 Sherpa Van Trophy final.

FRASER DIGBY

England U-21 goalkeeper Fraser Digby featured in Swindon Town's 1992/93 First Division play off final triumph. Signing professional for Manchester United in April 1985, he reunited with Lou Macari at Swindon in September 1986 and appeared in their 1986/87 promotion success. He was ever present in 1988/89, starring as the Robins qualified for the play offs in consecutive seasons and were Coca-Cola Cup semi

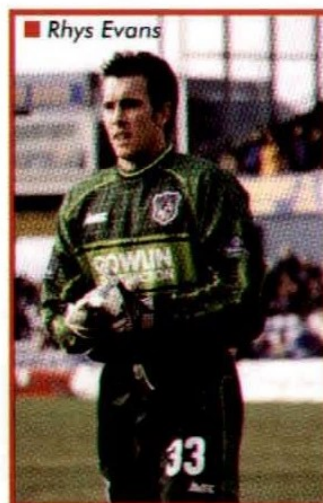
finalists in 1994/95. Also featuring in their 1995/96 Second Division title triumph, he had a testimonial in July 1997 and played 417 League games, moving to Crystal Palace in August 1998, then Barry Town, QPR and Kidderminster Harriers.

BART GRIEMINK

Big Dutch goalkeeper Bart Griemink missed just one match for Swindon Town in 2001/02. Initially with WK Emmen in his native country, he joined Birmingham City in November 1995 and was a League Cup semi finalist that season. He followed Barry Fry to Peterborough United in October 1996 and featured in their 1999/2000 promotion campaign, moving to the County Ground in July 2000 after a loan spell. A fine shot stopper, he made a significant contribution to Swindon's improved results and made 124 League appearances for the Robins before joining Southend United in July 2004. His playing career was ended by knee problems in June 2006.

RHYS EVANS

England U-21 goalkeeper Rhys Evans starred as Swindon Town qualified for the Second Division play offs in 2003/04. A former Chelsea trainee, he turned professional in February 1999 but failed to make an impact at Stamford Bridge and was loaned to Bristol Rovers, QPR and Leyton Orient before joining hometown Swindon in July 2003. He missed just one match in 2004/05 and made 118 League appearances while at the County Ground. Moving to Blackpool in July 2006, he featured in their 2006/07 promotion campaign and joined Millwall in January 2008. He returned to Bradford City in August 2008 and missed just one match last season and is now back with Bristol Rovers.



■ Rhys Evans



DEEP HEAT

FOOTBALL? IT'S JUST A RELIGION!

LAST weekend, a disgruntled Rovers fan called in to *Saturday Sport* and, after cataloguing his woes concerning Rovers' current situation, he then declared; "What have we done for the last 40 years?"

Quite how lying seventh in the table can cause anyone to have that much grievance, I was still intrigued by his views. He was quite unhappy about players and team selection but from this stemmed the bigger picture of what Rovers had achieved - or not, as the case may be - in his time as a Gashead.

Admittedly our history is barely peppered with success stories; an awful lot of clubs only have intermittent success throughout the decades, though. Judging what we have done in the Trollope years alone, however, we have gone from 19th in League Two to seventh in League One, where we are today. That's a whopping 36 places in four years, which, objectively, is great progress. We have also had two memorable cup runs, in the Johnstone's Points Trophy and the FA Cup since then. So in our recent history, at least, we have done well.

The caller went on to say that, throughout the years, we have seen the likes of Fulham and Blackburn become big clubs. Yes, they've had money to help, but they'd become established top flight teams.

True. But arguably, we've survived difficult times whereas bigger clubs have slipped down the divisions, such as Nottingham Forest, Norwich and Leeds. So overall, we haven't had much to shout about in the last 125 years, but equally, things could be a lot, lot worse right now.

Let's be honest, success is not what you or I come to the Mem for. Of course, we would love Rovers to be doing even better, but would we be happier? Just listening to the regular moaners of the City persuasion on the radio shows that being in a higher division doesn't make you more chuffed with your team's progress. Yes, we could say that City fans

are never happy, ha ha; but we're just the same. We moan and grumble and criticise. Most football fans, sadly, do.

Football offers us so much more than whether we pick up three points on a Saturday or who scored what goal. I'm not a Rovers supporter for the hope that one day they'll be one of the biggest clubs in the Premier League. Sure, a few Europa League jaunts might be fun, but, let's be honest, it's not going to happen anytime soon. Dreaming of Premier League and European success, to me, is like dreaming of winning the lottery. A nice idea that's very unlikely to come true.

No. Football offers us so much more.

I was interested in a recent interview with Delia Smith where she drew on the comparison between football and religion. Talking to Aled Jones on Radio 2, she spoke of her perception of football as offering a sense of community; "I do think that football has a lot to commend it" she said, "because it is the one place where you find in its entirety, the whole meaning and purpose of community... you have little babies, ninety nine year olds all together... becoming a community."

Surely, whether we acknowledge it or not, that is one of the things that draws us to our football teams? We love our club but it's other human needs that fuel our sense of belonging to one special team - and that is sharing our club with others. Delia,

famous of course for her role at Norwich as well as her 40 years as a cookery writer, went on to say, "I feel very much joined to all other football supporters everywhere in the world. You seem to belong to this wonderful community of people and what you share together is the deepest pain and the greatest joy. I happen to believe that joy is greater than pain and it always makes up for the pain in the end. It's a good way to be a community and to experience joy and hope together." I could not agree more. Our community grows at times of success - 40,000 at Wembley for example - and shrinks to a handful at some away games, but each gathering offers the community environment.

When asked whether being inside a football stadium was like being in church, Delia responded; "Well, it is exactly the same. I feel that if you are worshipping your football team, then you are worshipping God anyway as it is part of human life."

Her notion that football gives us our community and that it is our church could not be more apparent than when we come together to sing, or to remember during a minute's silence.

Today, we will do both, for the late Ron Craig, who will be sadly missed here at Rovers. Let's let our Gashead community come together today to remember Ron and to celebrate his life with a Rovers win.

■ The faithful at Colchester last week!



LOOT IN THE LOFT!

GET YOUR BIDS IN

RECENTLY DAVE AND I WERE GIVEN A FAIRLY LARGE COLLECTION OF ROVERS PROGRAMMES AND TODAY WE ARE FEATURING THOSE FROM SEASON 1996/97

We will be featuring one season each week, and invite you send us your bids for them. All money raised from the sale of these programmes will go our charity that sends football kits to underprivileged children overseas. Our thanks go to the anonymous donor of these programmes.

As for 1996/97, I'm sure you will recall that Ollie had returned as player manager and that we were all looking forward to kicking off our first game back in Bristol. Things never go that smoothly here, though, and the first game of the season, against Peterborough United, had to be staged at Twerton Park!

The programme for that last ever game at Twerton is here, as is the historic first ever game at The Memorial Ground, against Stockport County. These two programmes alone make this a collection worth buying. On looking through them I find that every league and cup game is here, so you are looking at a complete season of home games. They come with an official programme binder, though I'm afraid it's

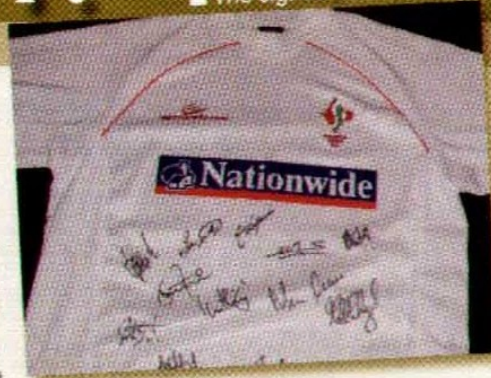
not quite large enough to house all of them! All of the programmes are in mint, or as close to mint, condition as they can be.

We also have the away programmes from that season, beginning with a copy of the Gloucestershire Cup game against Bristol City. During the first half of the season our benefactor didn't manage to get to that many games, as only five programmes are present. They are from the games against Plymouth Argyle, Rotherham United, Walsall, Bristol City and Bournemouth. For more programmes are available from the second half of the season and include the games at Brentford, Gillingham, Wycombe Wanderers, Watford, Peterborough United, Stockport County, Crewe Alexandra and Blackpool.

All of these programmes are in at least very good condition. It has to be said, though, that quite a few of them have neat team changes and one or two have been folded in the past. To give you some idea of how much to bid, if you were to go to bristolrovermemorabilia.co.uk you will find that the average price for this season is 50p.

There are 41 programmes here, plus a binder, that would make a great start to a collection for a youngster or may be just what you need to fill the gaps in an older collection.

■ The signed Swindon shirt



Please get your bids in by next Saturday, and they could be yours.

Unusually I also have an item for sale today for our friends from Swindon. This is an away shirt (Large) from around 10 years ago. As you can see from the picture it is multi signed, though I have no idea who the players are. Profits from this one will also be donated to our charity.

The system works like this. If you bid £10 and the next highest bid is £5 then you will be asked to pay just £5.50. Then you can either pick your item up from us at the stadium or, if you prefer, it can be posted but we will have to ask for you to cover postage costs.

Please don't forget that we are looking for your 'Loot in the Loft' to feature on this page. Please contact me on jamiegas@blueyonder.co.uk or via the Supporters Club shop in Kingswood.

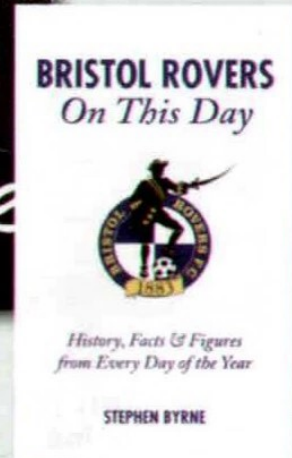
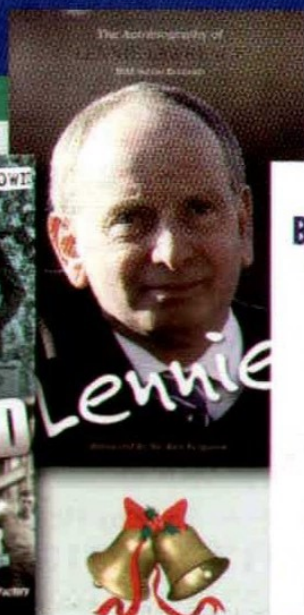
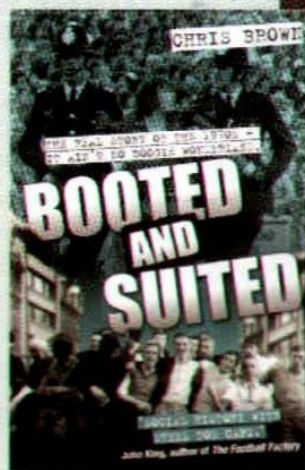
■ KEITH BROOKMAN ■

BOOKSHELF

LAST MINUTE PRESENTS

IF you find yourself stuck for Christmas presents for the football supporter in your life, you could do worse than give them a book, and we have many on offer at our retail outlets here at the stadium and at the Supporters Club Shop in two Mile Hill Road.

Chris Brown's 'Booted and Suited' costs £7.99, Lennie's Autobiography £14.99, Ollie's Autobiography £7.99, Neil Palmer's 'Derby Days' £14.99 and Stephen Byrne's 'On This Day' £9.99.



SOS **GLASS & GLAZING LTD**

Specialist Glazing Contractors

*Specialists in Aluminium Commercial Windows, Doors,
Shopfronts, Curtain Walling, Entrance Door Systems*

Tel: 0117 9711488
3 Repton Road, Bristol BS4 3LS



BRISTOL ROPE & TWINE CO.

80 FEEDER ROAD, ST. PHILIPS MARSH,
BRISTOL BS2 0TQ

Tel: (0117) 977 7033 (3 lines)

Fax: (0117) 971 7621



- Natural & Synthetic Ropes
- Cords & Twines
- Cargo & Safety Nets
- Wire Ropes
- Lifting Equipment
- Strapping – Machines – Accessories
- Hardware Sundries



eagle coaches



*Sports clubs, company outings, schools, colleges,
groups of girls, bundles of blokes*

*Football match, wedding, funeral, theatre,
Paris weekend, seaside day trip,
night club night trip*

*Up the club, down the road, mystery tour,
continental cruising*

*you name it –
we take you there*

Fireclay House, Netham Road, Bristol BS5 9PJ

Tel: (0117) 955 7130 & 955 6784 Fax: (0117) 941 1107

e-mail: any@eagle-coaches.co.uk website: www.eagle-coaches.co.uk

PIRATE SOUNDS

TRACKS OF OUR YEARS - ON THIS DAY WE WERE LISTENING TO...



GOOD afternoon Gasheads and welcome to the Memorial Stadium.

Welcome, also, to the Swindon Town fans who have made the short jaunt west along the M4 for what is bound to be a

hotly contested game given our respective places in the current league table.

Swindon's boss Danny Wilson has completed a west country double of managing 'Robins' as he was at the helm south of the river in BS3 during a time period spanning June 2000 to June 2004.

One game against these Robins that springs to my mind was a 3-4 loss at Twerton Park, on 19th August 1992.

Following a rule change brought about by tactics used in the 1990 FIFA World Cup, this was the first season where goalkeepers were banned from handling deliberate back-passes. Although the new rule was greeted with scepticism by some at first, in the fullness of time it would become widely appreciated. However, Rovers became early victims of this new rule that evening, when a free kick inside the penalty box was awarded, which led to a goal being scored at close range, an amazing sight to witness really, as it seemed like every Rovers player was on the goal line but somehow, the ball still managed to hit the roof of the net.



■ Swedish central defender Marcus Andreasson

AND FINALLY...

Pirate Sounds will always dig out musical connections some tenuous and some not, here are three quick ones;

- XTC, hail from Swindon, their highest placed chart single was Senses Working Overtime in 1982.
- Danny Wilson, a band formed in Dundee in Scotland, who took their name from the

1952 Frank Sinatra film, 'Meet Danny Wilson' had a UK top 3 hit in 1988 with 'Mary's Prayer'

- Paul Trollope was born in Swindon in June 1972 and on the 14th August 1972, Alice Cooper hit number 1 in the UK for three weeks with Schools Out, the tenuous connection? 37 years on and the legendary Alice Cooper has recently played a show at Swindon's up and coming venue the Oasis Centre!

We would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas, Enjoy the game today and make some noise for the boys, come on you blues!

PLAY LIST FOR TODAY'S MATCH ...



PINK Floyd's classic album 'The Wall' celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, and one of the most well known songs from the album was number one on this day in 1979.

'Another Brick in the Wall (Part 2)' spent five weeks at the top of the singles chart, and was the Christmas number one, selling almost one million copies in this country.

We also have a great cover of the Sweet track 'Fox on the Run' coming from former Kiss guitarist Ace Frehley. We will be catching Ace at his only British show of the year in London's Shepherd's Bush Empire this Thursday and it is sure to provide one of the highlights from what has been a great year for the Space Ace, who released his first album for almost 20 years in September.

Our next tune comes from someone else who has had an incredible year. It is safe to say that 2009 has belonged to an artist who is well known for her eccentric style as well as being a fantastic live performer. Lady Gaga has produced some of the year's best pop music and a fine example of this is her brand new single 'Bad Romance'

And finally, as this will be the last time we visit the Mem before Christmas, it wouldn't be right if we didn't sprinkle some Christmas tunes into the mix. Be sure to listen out for Christmas songs from Darlene Love, Wham, and The Darkness.

FEATURED TRACK...

U2 - 'BEAUTIFUL DAY' -

'ALL THAT YOU CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND'

Today marks our last meeting with Swindon in this decade, so we look to our first meetings with The Robins in the decade for our featured track. 'Beautiful Day' was the fourth chart topping single for the Irish rock band, where it spent just one week at number one in October 2000. It would also land them three Grammys including the coveted award for Record of the Year in 2001.

It was in the season of 2000/2001 where the clubs competed in the old Division

One and the first game took place at The County Ground on 21st October 2000, the date of our featured track. Rovers won 3-1 that day, and took a 3-0 first half lead with goals from Marcus Andreasson, Mickey Evans and an own goal from Martin Williams. Swindon scored a consolation goal from a last minute penalty scored by Mark Robertson. The return game at The Mem on, 24th March 2001, was a goalless draw, and Rovers were reduced to ten men late in the second half when Simon Bryant received a red card. The season would end in disaster for Rovers as we were relegated to the bottom division after finishing in 21st place. Swindon survived the threat of relegation by finishing one place above, us in 20th, with just a single point more to their tally.



DEAR REV...

SEEING RED

Dear Rev,

May I firstly wish all your readers a very Happy Christmas.

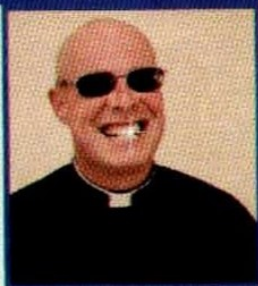
My name is Bishop Nicholas of Myra, in Turkey, but you may know me by one of my other names, such as Santa Claus or Father Christmas.

Rev, I am writing because there seems to be some confusion....people are thinking I am the 'reason for the season'.

This really is not good, as I am already rushed off my feet and don't have time to be the Messiah as well as all my other duties. You may not realise, but I am also the Patron Saint of sailors, merchants, archers, pawnbrokers, children and students in the Balkans.

Oh, and one of my more challenging roles is that of Patron Saint of Liverpool! That can keep me quite busy, as you can imagine.

Please, please, please tell your extensive readership that Christmas is not just about



me, it's about God. All those presents I give out are so people remember it's baby Jesus' birthday party.

Many thanks,
Nick

Dear Nick,

I am a great admirer of your work, especially sorting all the kids out with presents that they want.

Though I understand there are many kids in Ireland not too happy with the new Nintendo football game you gave them. The one called Thierry on Wii? I appreciate you are busy and you mention in your job spec that you are Patron Saint of Liverpool; I was just wondering do you know what Liverpool fans do after winning the league? Turn off the Play Station and go to bed..

That aside, maybe the problem is all those not so fetching red numbers you always wear, though the ermine round the edge is a cheeky little touch. All that red is enough to do anyone's head in. Plus children all over North Bristol are going to refuse you entry to their homes. How about wearing blue next year?

I do agree that Christ needs to be put back into Christmas. He brings meaning to the seasonal celebrations... He is after all the hostest with the mostest, cos He's the Holy Ghostest

God Bless you all, and have a good un!

■ It's going to be blue this Christmas!



THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO JOIN DAVID LLOYD...

...because there's more for our members from day one. Take advantage of our exclusive New Member Package:



FREE Personal Training Session



FREE Racquets Welcome Session



FREE Personalised Fitness Programme

CALL 0117 9597140 NOW

OR VISIT DAVIDLLOYD.CO.UK/LIFE

Terms and Conditions apply. Facilities may vary per club.

David Lloyd Club, Bristol, David Lloyd Bristol Westbury Greystoke Avenue, Westbury on-trym, Bristol BS10 6AZ

LIFE. Be fit for it
DAVIDLLOYD.CO.UK/LIFE

NOW
in
Westbury-On-Trym

David Lloyd

ECLECTIC BLUE

PAYING TRIBUTE

GOOD afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium.

For once, I am setting aside the semi humorous nature of this column to write about something that, like paying tax, is inevitable.

Before the kick off this afternoon, we will all stand and pay tribute to one of our own who is no longer with us; Ron Craig.

Now I cannot regale you with stories of my life with Ron Craig, because we were not close friends.

I knew him, as many supporters did. He was Ron Craig, Bristol Rovers fan, all round decent bloke.

I got to know him, in the very loosest sense, when I was invited to help out at the Rovers with fundraising events and writing for the programme.

I had known of him for many years. Many people spoke of the work he did for Bristol Rovers when he joined the board. The consensus was that but for the likes of Ron Craig, the Rovers may never have survived the years at Bath City. I don't think that is, in any way, an exaggeration.

As the new millennium came and went, our club slipped into the fourth tier of English football. Just when it couldn't get any worse, it got worse.

The fans were revolting and the bars were not always a good place to be, before or after the match.

The directors were, as ever, to blame, even though they never kicked a ball. Some of them became real hate figures as the club sank lower.

As the directors sought refuge and, more importantly, the safety of the boardroom (and who could blame them?) one man still went into the bars to talk to fans.

Not only did Ron walk the bars before the match, he would usually do the same thing after the match too.

I thought the same thing; that bloke has got some neck!

Hardly a towering giant, Ron would face the brickbats, deflect and even absorb the anger and then move on



■ Ron and his fellow directors, pictured with the Lord Mayor of Bristol, at the Civic Reception to celebrate promotion in 2007

As a mere terrace dweller, I have little first hand knowledge of what directors at a football club do. I am guessing that, like a queen queens, a director directs! But people who know for more than I do, say he directed an awful lot!

I have friends at the Centre of Excellence, where Stewart Naughton grooms the boys destined to wear the blue and white quarters. Ron took a very active interest in the youth department and you could be sure that if there was a special talent coming through

Ron would have marked his card!

There were times, in recent years, when friendships at Bristol Rovers were strained and even broken.

By now, Ron had achieved the position of club chairman, a position I know filled him with great pride.

I wrote a private letter to him and to my surprise he wrote back very quickly; a letter of conciliation, for sure, but also one of blunt honesty.

Several months later, I attended a cricket match at the County Ground and who should wave at me but Ron Craig, who was with a party that included Paul Trollope.

The first thing he said was; "Did you get my letter?"

Now and again, I would bump into Ron and his lovely wife Ann, often by the 'deli' at Sainsburys, and he would always have the time to talk about his beloved Rovers.

After one such meeting, my partner said; "Who was that man? He was very nice!"

She was right about that, as she is right about most things.

If someone like me who knew Ron a little bit can fill a page with memories, just think what his close friends and family could do!

Thanks for everything, Ron.

Rest in peace.

somewhere else to face it all again.

And he knew my name.

If I had been him, my terrible memory would have seen me creating all manner of problems as I forgot people's names more often than I remembered them!

Even after yet another dismal defeat, Ron would leave me totally convinced it was just another blip! We'd be far better next week! If anyone else had said it, I'd have asked to count their marbles, but if he said it, well it must have been true.

He always supported the fundraising events too.

In the early years of this century, there was a skittles match in the Bristol Room where all the great and good were in attendance. We even managed to persuade Nathan Ellington to come along and play.

Now Nathan Ellington could do a lot of things with a football but I am afraid he could not hold a candle to Ron Craig on the skittle alley!

Although on the field this was a terrible time for the Rovers, off it we seemed to be all in it together. Through my sepia toned memory, I can still see Ron bowling the ball to its inevitable conclusion, encouraged by his playing partner Denis Dunford.

There was a lot of noise that night and an awful lot of laughter.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

IT'S good to welcome Swindon Town today, and interesting to note that their current run of seven games without losing has propelled them into promotion contention, with games in hand over their rivals.



■ Pat Baldwin collects the Presidents Club Man of the Match Award for his performance against Exeter

Danny Wilson, who manages today's visitors, having moved there less than a year ago is one of those managers who, when they move to a new club, make an impact and his record there of 18 wins, against 11 losses is impressive.

Last Saturday we suffered defeat against another team managed by an 'impact' manager in Adrian Boothroyd, whose record of nine wins and only two losses has similarly propelled his team into a promotion chasing spot.

Both have historical links with Bristol

clubs, of course, as has another 'impact' manager Ian Holloway who is making good progress with Blackpool in the Championship.

Do these men possess good man management skills, or just good luck?

If it is the latter then hopefully that luck will desert Danny just for today!

Whatever the result, let's hope we see a game of good football.

HELPLINE

BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

HERE is a list of recent winners on Helpline;

1745	1035	1510	1501
1296	1349	1785	2025
1183	2067	1485	2522
1170	1747	1508	2227
2393	1574	1327	2236
2110	1344	1032	1249
2732	2347	2602	1182
2072	1149	2278	1585
2199	2135	2480	2411
1538	2320	1761	1251
1373	1664	1637	1362
2471	1162	2183	1702
2623	2312	2527	1210

To make sure you could be in with a chance of being on the next list, you need to be a member. Join online via BRFCDirect or ring Kate on 01454 321191.

To win, you have to be in it.

Our goal is to change people's lives through sport

The Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, continues to deliver a unique programme of new and improved community sports facilities in towns and cities across the country. Offering support to thousands of clubs and community groups and with a focus on social inclusion, health, education and equalities, we are increasing participation in grass roots football and making dreams come true.

www.footballfoundation.org.uk

improving facilities • creating opportunities • building communities

Charity No 1079309 Company No 3876305

FootballFoundation
football's biggest supporter



• BUILDING PARTNERS •

STEVE ELLIOTT

LET'S KEEP THE HOME RUN GOING

WHEN he looks back on his career, it's unlikely that Steve Elliott will recall his 200th league start for the club with as much fondness as his first game in the blue and white quarters.

That first match, against Mansfield at Field Mill, marked the only substitute appearance made by the central defender and ended in a 2-1 win for a side then managed by Ian Atkins. That game was played on 7th August 2004, while his 200th league start came last Saturday at Colchester.

"I don't think I'll remember too much about it, as it wasn't a particularly good game. It was just very disappointing, to be honest," said Steve earlier this week.

"Colchester are a very direct side. They make it difficult for you and play to their strengths and, love it or hate it, they got a result and three points. It's not the way we like to play football but it's the way they play, and it gets them results, so each to their own."

The only goal of the game came when Rovers failed to clear a long throw in.

"I think there had been had five or six of them into the box before that one, and we had defended them pretty well. Still, the law of averages says that if you get the ball into the box enough, something's going to happen for you and, unfortunately for us, the clearance fell to their top goalscorer and he stuck it in the bottom corner.

"It was disappointing, because I felt we defended quite well throughout the game, in difficult circumstances. We were just unfortunate in that we couldn't make the breakthrough, or create many opportunities, and we have say that it was just one of those games that we'll try and forget and move on to the game against Swindon."

The fact that Rovers created very little was rather surprising, given the number of chances that have arrived in previous games.

"It's true it hasn't really been a problem this season, so it was quite surprising. There might have been any one of a number of reasons for that, the conditions, the way they played, or something else.

"I'm sure that 'Trolls' and Lennie will have looked at the game closely and that we will have worked on improving in the build up to the game against Swindon, one we are all looking forward to.

"Games against them are usually tight and quite difficult, but I guess the one that really stands out is the game at the Memorial Stadium in the promotion year when 'Lambo's' goal gave us a 1-0 win which meant that a win in our final game of the season, a week later, would guarantee a play off spot.

"Both sides are in, or around, the play off places and it's very tight in the top ten positions. It alters with every win or draw, so it will be important that we get something from the game and if we can pick up all three points that will put us back in a play off place."

His start last week was only his seventh of the season.

"It was difficult, obviously, because there's no reserve league and games only come around every couple of weeks or so. But I try to work hard in training and do a little bit extra with the fitness coach on my programme and when I get the chance, as I



did on Saturday, I'll aim to perform to a level that I know I can perform to. If that's good enough to stay in the team then it is, and if it isn't then that's the manager's choice, but I'm fit enough and I'm ready to play."

With Danny Coles missing through suspension today, he's hopeful of retaining his place. "Obviously this is a game you want to play in so, hopefully my performance on Saturday showed that I am fit, ready

and able to come in and perform."

An injury sustained in the close season means he hasn't been an automatic choice this time around, for the first time since he arrived at the club.

"It has been hard, if I'm honest, but I just kept my spirits up. I enjoy playing for Rovers and enjoy being at the club, and it makes things a lot easier when you enjoy your football. Being around the players makes it a lot easier as well, and although it's been difficult it's just one of those things that happens in football.

"You have to get on with it, and have to keep your spirits up, keep training and keep working hard and hope that it will all come right in the end and when get your chance, take it, and hopefully stay in the team."

Today the team goes in search of a fourth successive home win.

"When away results aren't good, home wins are important. If we can keep the home run going, and then start to pick up some wins on the road, somewhere along the line it will come together and we will be there or thereabouts."

"I ENJOY PLAYING FOR ROVERS AND ENJOY BEING AT THE CLUB, AND IT MAKES THINGS A LOT EASIER WHEN YOU ENJOY YOUR FOOTBALL."

PLAYER PROFILE ...

■ AGE: 31 ■ PREVIOUS CLUBS: Derby County, Blackpool
■ GAS LEAGUE APPEARANCES: 200 + 1 sub ■ GAS LEAGUE GOALS: 15

On great saves

SO, TOMMY,
WHAT'S YOUR
FAVOURITE SAVE OF
THE SEASON SO FAR?



THE BOSS
NOT TURNING ON
THE HAIRDRYER
AT HALF TIME.

The goal of Great Saves is to help families reduce the amount of energy they use at home. There are lots of useful tips on our website and we're giving everyone the chance to win great football prizes. If you're an E.ON customer, you could also win Football League tickets, training day visits and signed shirts. To enter, play our 'A Question of Saves' game online. It's well worth a shot.



For your chance to win,
visit eongreatsaves.com

e-on

Terms and conditions apply. Go to eongreatsaves.com



■ DENNIS PAYTER ■

THE GAS PRESS

■ SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2009 ■



THEY SAID WHAT...

Aidy Boothroyd told *The Colchester Gazette* he felt the U's display against Rovers "was one of their best since he took over as manager in September."

He said; "It was good to get back to winning ways, especially in the manner in which we did it."

"It was as good a performance as we have had this year and we played football. We did the right things at the right time and I thought that we played some terrific stuff in their half, as well."

"People want us to play sexy football and so do I, but you can't play sexy football in November when the pitch is wet - you have to play both ways."

"I've always found that it's best to win first - you get the style and efficiency afterwards and I thought that we got a great balance."

Boothroyd, the former Rovers' full back told *The Gazette*; "We've shown what we can be like when we're on our game."

"The players have set standards and now I can measure them up to that on a regular basis. The game was a fair reflection of what we're trying to do here. We're trying to attack teams and to give them problems and get behind them."

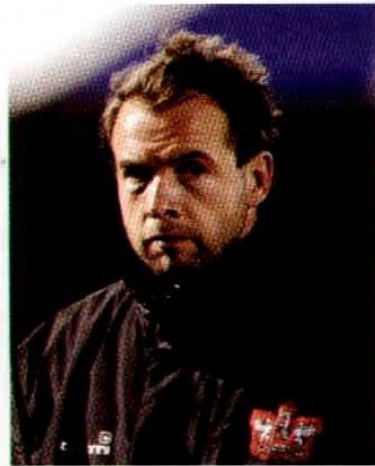
Paul Trollope told *The Bristol Evening Post* that he thought Rovers' attacking display was "the poorest of the season so far" after they suffered their fifth away defeat on the trot at Colchester.

And the manager acknowledged that the Pirates will look to the January transfer window to beef up their front line after they barely managed a shot in the 1-0 weekend reverse in Essex.

Once Colchester took a first half lead



■ Darryl Duffy



■ Marcus Stewart

through Kevin Lisbie, Rovers never looked like getting back into the game.

"We were very poor in the final third - in terms of creating chances, probably the poorest we've been all season," admitted Trollope. "I don't think their goalkeeper had a shot to save, which shows what we produced in that area of the pitch."

"At times we produced some very good defending and passed the ball quite well. But at no stage in the game were we good enough to create or score a goal."

"It's not been a problem all season, but when we got into some good areas in and around the box, we had a catalogue of poor decisions, poor movement and poor quality."

"We've got what's available at the moment - January is around the corner and that situation may change," he said,

The Exeter Express and Echo had feared that Marcus Stewart would face a "hostile reception" when he faced Rovers at the Memorial Stadium.

But the Devon newspaper underestimated Gasheads who gave 'Stewey' a generous round of applause when he came on as sub. It was the first time I have seen a player applaud the opposition fans which to his credit he did although rather sheepishly.

Stewart had told the **Express and Echo** in the build up to the game; "There are Rovers fans who appreciate what I did and I always gave my all. I did a professional job when I was there. I

haven't been back to Rovers since I left. They were at Twerton Park back then and I am glad they are back in Bristol."

"The stadium might have changed, but the people behind the scenes haven't."

"People say I am a City fan, and I am a City fan, but I want what's best for Bristol because I am a Bristolian and the more teams we have from this part of the world

playing at a higher level, the better - and that includes Rovers."

"I support City - I did as a kid - but I support Rovers too and I always look out for their results and would never wish anything bad on them."

"I would never want them to lose. I am sure there are City fans who do, but I am not one of them. The time I had there was fantastic and I loved it. I came through the youth ranks and the managers looked after me."

"They gave me the morals in the game I have today and made me the player I am. That is something I will never forget."

"I would never have a go at Rovers - they are the club I joined as a kid because I felt they had the better youth system. Maybe if I had joined City I would have had the same career. I don't know."

Darryl Duffy's goal just about got Rovers across the winning line but Exeter boss Paul Tisdale told the **Express and Echo**; "I think it would be hard to argue that we weren't the better side on the night."

"Ultimately we lost the game and didn't score but we created a lot of half chances, one or two good chances and we controlled the game. But the black and white of it was we lost, but it's very hard for me to go away today unhappy. You can't be dictated to by results too much and I'm very pleased with the way we played. I'm disappointed we didn't get at least a draw but that's life."

LAST YEAR WE SCORED OVER
40,000,000 GOALS
HELP US IMPROVE OUR GAME THIS SEASON



OUT NOW



EASPORTS.CO.UK/FIFA
LET'S FIFA 10



THE EX FILES

THE CUP RUNNETH OUT - ALMOST

LOCAL interest in the FA Cup is now all but over following the Second Round derby at Twerton Park and the subsequent Third Round draw which was to prove so unkind to the winners!

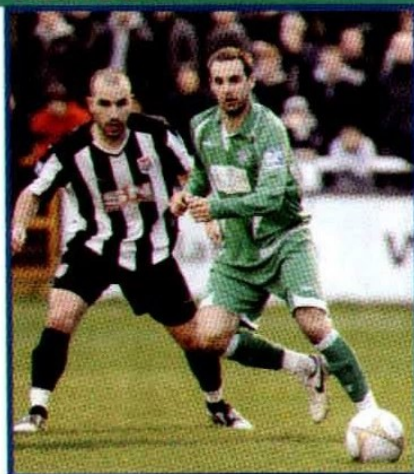
I, along with a number of Gasheads, went along to our old home a fortnight ago to witness Bath City's biggest day for many a long year as the 'Romans' contested qualification for the great draw with local Conference Premier opponents Forest Green Rovers.

Some of our interest in the tie had already been diluted with the return to us of on loan striker Sean Rigg after he had helped Green through the First Round at the expense of Mansfield Town. 'Rigg' subsequently joined Lewis Haldane on loan at Port Vale, leaving our former midfielders Lewis Hogg and Marcus Browning to play for City in front of Bath's biggest crowd for many years. As it was, Marcus only warmed the bench, whilst club captain Lewis headed a fine equaliser as City laid siege to FGR's goal just before the interval in a keenly contested tie.

Unfortunately for the 'Romans' an unmarked Mark Preece, who began his career with us, scored an equally good winning header just after the break and, try as they might, City couldn't quite get back on terms. It was a bit like us against Exeter the following Tuesday - the better team lost!

Forest Green did not fare well in the following day's Third Round draw, as they were pulled out to visit Notts County on 2nd January. I'm sure there will be plenty of hype and a large sprinkling of TV cameras following Sven around as he tries to find out where Nailsorth is in case the 'Magpies' can't do the expected first time out! More importantly, where will the ground hopping Gasheads go now on another free Saturday afternoon? Surely not Meadow Lane!

Elsewhere it was difficult to spot former 'Gasmen' on the TV highlights, with Jamie Cureton's Norwich making a surprise exit at Carlisle, Sammy Igoe's Bournemouth going out at home to the aforementioned Notts County, Marcus Stewart's plucky Exeter losing by the odd goal in seven at



Bath City's Lewis Hogg...

Stadium MK, Gareth Taylor's Wrexham falling to a late winner by today's visitors Swindon and no sign of Lewis Haldane at Port Vale or Ryan Green at Hereford. Rickie Lambert was the only success I could find from Round Two, with 'South' edging out Craig Hinton's 'North' in the battle of the 'Hamptons' at Sixfields.

Away from the FA Cup, it's been good to see a couple of our former strikers finding the net again in the Premier League, with Jason Roberts and Bobby Zamora both bringing lean spells to an end for Blackburn and Fulham respectively. On the books here with those two was a certain Barry Hayles, who has also been finding the net recently alongside his four colleagues from the early 'Mem' days, at Cheltenham Town.

Paulton Rovers had a number of mentions in this column for their exploits in the qualifying rounds of the FA Cup, as both our on loan youngsters, Neikell

...and Forest Green Rovers' Mark Preece in action against each other in the FA Cup tie at Twerton Park



Plummer and James Tyrrell, starred for the Winterfield Road outfit alongside former striker Rob Claridge. Unfortunately James' loan time was up following the Norwich tie, but he has now been replaced at Paulton by another of our young centre backs, Alex Kite.

Paulton are going well in pursuit of promotion from Zamaritto Southern League South & West so it will be interesting to see how things develop both for the Somerset side and also for our youngsters plying their trade with them! I mentioned before how few former Rovers' professionals there are now compared to earlier years with our local non league sides. One club bucking the trend, though, are Mangotsfield United where Phil Bater has acquired no less than eight 'Gasmen' onto his books. The latest to rejoin is the former Bitton player coach Michael Meaker, who has been brought in to add experience to the Cossham Street outfit.

This leaves only a couple of our former first teamers at Western League level, with Jeff Meacham still managing at Brislington and Nick Tanner recently taking up a similar position with Hellenic League Winterbourne United. The latter made big headlines locally by getting his former Liverpool team mate Bruce Grobelaar to appear for United in their GFA Cup tie with County League Patchway Town, although the great keeper didn't play, out of respect for the competition!

Finally, the answers to my little teasers in the Gillingham programme about Dave Savage's current club, Zamaritto South & West Oxford City and the 1966 World Cup;

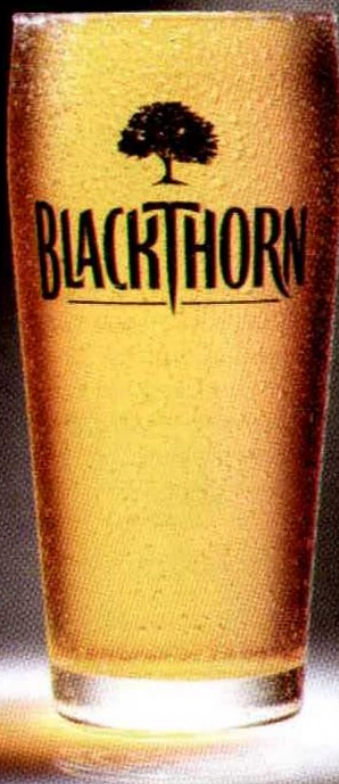
- 1 One of England's 1996 World Cup Stadiums shared a similarity with Oxford's then White House Ground, what and where? Answer: Both the White House and Everton's Goodison Park have/had a church situated in one corner.
- 2 One of England's 1966 heroes later had a part to play in Oxford City's history, who and what? Answer: England Captain Bobby Moore later became Manager at Oxford.

Did the Editor get the answers I wonder! (Only to question 1, I'm afraid! - Ed)

Enjoy the game!



BLACK IS BACK



REFRESHINGLY NEW,
DISTINCTIVELY

BLACKTHORN

Drink Blackthorn Responsibly www.drinkaware.com

www.blackthorn.uk.com

LOOKING BACK

PART 33 – SEASON 1920/21

PRESENTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, BRISTOL ROVERS SET OUT ON THE JOURNEY WHICH WAS TO SEE LEAGUE STATUS PRESERVED INTO THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY.

It was certainly a fresh start for the club and required careful preparation. Sixty-year-old club chairman George Humphreys made the first move by appointing Ben Hall, in July 1920, as Rovers' first full time manager. Alf Homer, stepping down from managerial duties, became the club secretary, a post he was to hold for a further eight years.

Hall had enjoyed a successful playing career as a centre half with Grimsby, Derby, Leicester Fosse and South Shields and a post war spell as trainer at Huddersfield preceded his move to Eastville.

His was the task of creating a side to represent Rovers in league action and building a team spirit worthy of the club. Four regular players from 1919/20, club captain Steve Sims, Joe Walter, Ellis Crompton and Bill Palmer, as well as emerging goalkeeper Jesse Whatley, became the backbone of the side.

In all, eleven Southern League players reappeared for Rovers in the Football League. Bill Panes, who had broken into the side at left back, formed a full back partnership with Jock Bethune, a Glaswegian who had gained considerable experience in Division Two with Barnsley and was to represent England at indoor bowls between 1936 and 1938.

At half back, David Steele was joined at



Jesse Whatley

the end of 1919/20 by Scotsman David Kenny and, on the eve of the new season, by Derby County's Harry Boxley. Homer's last signings, inside forwards Bill Bird and Joe Norton, a former Manchester United player, were joined shortly before the new season by inside right Harold Bell. Another

former Barnsley player, Bell was to play in the inaugural league game and on only one further occasion in his sole season at Eastville.

Before the season started, Humphreys held a special meeting to introduce Hall. At this occasion, he was also able to inform the gathering that the club was now out of debt. He had paid for the Eastville ground in full and the club now owned nineteen acres of land, including property right up to the famous Thirteen Arches railway bridge, which overlooked the ground until its demolition in May 1968.

The club was also planning to dispose of striped shirts and play in white tops with navy blue shorts, a kit to which Rovers were to adhere to for their opening decade in the Football League. Hall made one additional signing during the season, that of wing half George Gane.

A Bristolian by birth, Gane had played league football north and south of the border, once commanding an alleged transfer fee of £750, a world record at the time. He had moved into non league football and, though now aged 34, was able to make one final league appearance in the 2-2 draw at home to Norwich City.

To be continued...

■ Programme cover...

BRISTOL ROVERS'
Official Programme.

No. 6. SATURDAY, SEPT. 25th, 1920. 2d.

• • The • •
SPORTS NEWS
— 15 —
BRISTOL'S BEST.

Never miss — Saturday Night's
SPORTING PINK
It always contains Full Reports of the Rovers' Matches, whether home or away, and the latest news from the Rovers' Training Camp.

RACING EDITION
Times meeting at 10 a.m. The races in the West.

■ ...and centrefold from the programme for the game against Brighton, 25th September 1920

<p>BUY THE</p> <p>BOOT</p> <p>PROJECTORS</p> <p>THEY NEAR LIKE SEEDS AND DON'T BREAK OFF THE SHOES.</p>	<p>PRINCE'S THEATRE</p> <p>TO-NIGHT at 7.30 The D'Oyly Carte Opera Co. PRINCESS IDA</p> <p>Telephone 506.</p> <p>Bristol Rovers v. Brighton</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>BRISTOL ROVERS</td> <td>BRIGHTON</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Goalkeeper: CHANCE</td> <td>Goalkeeper: BENTLEY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Defence: BETHUNE, WALTER, LITTLE, BIRD</td> <td>Defence: BENTLEY, LITTLE, BIRD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Half-backs: BENTLEY, LITTLE</td> <td>Half-backs: BENTLEY, LITTLE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forwards: BENTLEY, LITTLE</td> <td>Forwards: BENTLEY, LITTLE</td> </tr> </table>	BRISTOL ROVERS	BRIGHTON	Goalkeeper: CHANCE	Goalkeeper: BENTLEY	Defence: BETHUNE, WALTER, LITTLE, BIRD	Defence: BENTLEY, LITTLE, BIRD	Half-backs: BENTLEY, LITTLE	Half-backs: BENTLEY, LITTLE	Forwards: BENTLEY, LITTLE	Forwards: BENTLEY, LITTLE	<p>Theatre Royal</p> <p>King Street, Bristol.</p> <p>TO-NIGHT 6.45 Twice Nightly 8.50 The Wife and the Other Woman</p> <p>Monday Next The Old Times Back Again. Popular Prices. Phone 735</p> <p>TAILORING. FREDERICK LEVINS Wife "Tailor Specialist" In view of 32 BRIDGE STREET</p>
BRISTOL ROVERS	BRIGHTON											
Goalkeeper: CHANCE	Goalkeeper: BENTLEY											
Defence: BETHUNE, WALTER, LITTLE, BIRD	Defence: BENTLEY, LITTLE, BIRD											
Half-backs: BENTLEY, LITTLE	Half-backs: BENTLEY, LITTLE											
Forwards: BENTLEY, LITTLE	Forwards: BENTLEY, LITTLE											

TWENTY YEARS ON



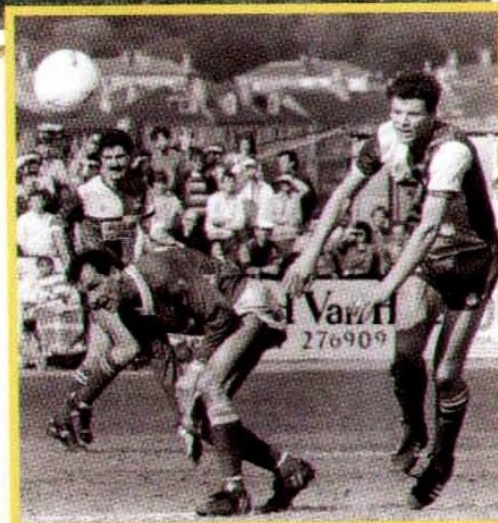
PETER CAWLEY



BIG CENTRAL DEFENDER PETER CAWLEY HAD TWO SPELLS AT BRISTOL ROVERS. INITIALLY WITH WOKING, HE MOVED VIA CHERTSEY TOWN TO WIMBLEDON IN JANUARY 1987 AND WAS LOANED TO BRISTOL ROVERS THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

He played for the Dons in the 1988 FA Charity Shield and rejoined Rovers in

July 1989. A fringe member of the 1989-90 Third Division title squad, he made 13 League appearances overall before moving to Southend United in July 1990, then had spells at Exeter City and Barnet. He joined Colchester United in July 1992 and played at Wembley again in the 1997 Auto Windscreens Shield final, since holding various Academy coaching posts.

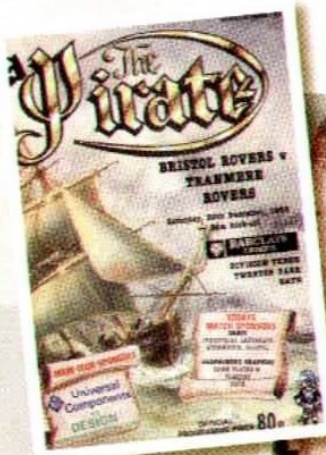


■ Peter Cawley in action

ROVERS CAREER SUMMARY:

	Appearances	Goals
League	10 + 3 sub	
FAC		
LC		
AMC		
P/off		
Total	10 + 3 sub	

THE FINAL LEAGUE FIXTURE OF 1989 SAW ROVERS REGISTER A 2-0 WIN AT TWERTON PARK, AGAINST TRANMERE ROVERS, COURTESY OF A STEVE VICKERS OWN GOAL AND A STRIKE FROM PAUL NIXON.



■ Front and back covers of Rovers final league game of 1989, against Tranmere Rovers

A crowd of 6,821 were at that game and saw Rovers maintain their promotion push as the win kept them in second place.

On New Year's Day 1990, Rovers slipped to only their third league defeat of

the season, going down 3-2 at Rotherham. Goals from David Meheew and Ian Holloway couldn't prevent defeat, but in spite of that the side remained in second place.

Although they were out of the FA Cup going into the New Year, Rovers still had an interest in one competition, namely the Leyland DAF Cup, and had a preliminary round tie against Exeter City to look forward to.

SENT TO COMMENTARY

RECOLLECTIONS OF APRIL 2007

MEETINGS between Rovers and Swindon have been feisty affairs in recent years, and with both teams in and around the play off places, don't be surprised if this afternoon's game continues the trend.

Only those with a long memory had any fond recollections of matches with our Wiltshire rivals until an unforgettable sun kissed afternoon at the Mem in April 2007.

Paul Trollope knew that in order to sneak into the top seven, Rovers really needed to beat Swindon and then hope for Stockport (who held the final play off place with a week of the season to go) to slip up. Equally, however, Paul Sturrock's side was looking to clinch promotion in front of a boisterous travelling army who had travelled down the M4 hoping to secure an instant return to League One.

Without looking up any facts from the day, I simply remember a fantastic Rovers performance, with Steve Elliott and Byron Anthony ensuring the ex City 82 duo of Christian Roberts and Lee Peacock caused about as much trouble as choir boys after a glass of ginger beer.

But the highlight of the day was of course Rickie Lambert's dream goal, the type us lesser mortals fantasise about scoring in a kickabout with mates, let alone in a game of such magnitude. Andy was commenting that day, and he was in his element with some wonderfully spontaneous lines such as "Scouse Heaven Mark II" (referring to Lambo's winner against City two months earlier), and the beautifully alliterative summary "Sturrock stuffed!". There was also an X-rated prefix to "... get in there" at the time of the goal which came out on the soundtrack even though he moved the microphone away from his mouth. The Gordon Ramsayesque uttering had to be erased with some careful audio editing during the compilation of the season's DVD, Sixth Sense.

Rovers secured a glorious win, Stockport were held to a draw at home, and for only the second time that season, Trolls was about to begin a week in one of the play



■ The bench celebrates a famous win over Swindon in April 2007

off places. (The other time had been after Lambo had scored the winner on his return to Rochdale in January). There was still a huge task ahead with a trip to another team about to be automatically promoted, Hartlepool, but Rovers' fate was finally in their own hands and that proved vital, as any Stockport fan who cheered their meaningless five goals at Darlington on the same day will testify.

That wonderful finale to the campaign was only just over two and a half years ago, which should be remembered when people criticise the performance of the current squad. Yes, we would all like to have seen a few more clean sheets this season, an instant replacement for Rickie Lambert and five away defeats in a row has to be seen as a disappointment. However, with a visit to struggling Tranmere to come after today's massive match, Rovers have a great chance to go into the Christmas programme as a top six team. If we can hang in there until we have the chance to strengthen the squad in January, we could have another grandstand finish to a season, just as when Rickie dazzled in the sunshine with that moment of genius at the Blackthorn End.

Then, once the domestic campaign is over, we can all look forward to what proves to be a spectacular World Cup. I am not a daily reader of The Sun, but I often read a copy on a Saturday, and despite the newspaper's questionable integrity they have the best headline writers in British journalism. They struck gold again by

illustrating our Group C opponents as:

■ England ■ Algeria ■ Slovenia ■ Yanks.

Although USA are a respectable outfit these days, and a far cry from the rabble of no-hopers that inflicted England's most infamous World Cup defeat in 1950, you have to say that if they are our strongest opponents then it is a terrific draw.

Algeria upset the odds by winning a play off against Africa's best team for the last four years, Egypt, but I think Fabio Capello would prefer to face them than the Ivory Coast, Didier Drogba and all. Likewise, Slovenia did brilliantly to oust Russia in a head to head, but again we'd take them over even an off colour Portugal or France. England are therefore hot favourites to win the section, and should that be the case, John Terry and Rio Ferdinand could be shadowing Chris Dickson in the second round, if his Ghana team can clinch runners up spot in Group D after facing Germany, Serbia and Australia. It should be quite a summer.

Finally, I must pay my respects to former Rovers chairman Ron Craig, who sadly died last week. Ron was one of the brave directors who helped to keep the club alive in the dark days soon after leaving Eastville, and I express my sincere condolences to his wife Ann, a truly charming lady, and the rest of his family at this difficult time.

On that sad note, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and hope the boys deliver three more points in Ron's memory today.

Come On You Blues!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT STEVE BURNS - 0117 9096648

1 PHILLIPS Steve

David Langley & Co,
Commercial Property Solicitors

In memory of Mary Marks



13 GREEN Mike

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



2-4 KITE Alex

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



2 REGAN Carl

Nailsea Financial Services Ltd
01275 852000

B & D (Electrical) Ltd



1-4 PIPE David

David, Cat, Evan & Ryan Williams,
Hargrave Gas

MCF Painting and Decorating



25 TYRRELL James

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



3 WRIGHT Mark

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



15 ANTHONY Byron

Councillor Steve Comer,
Liberal Democrat, Eastville

Bristol Rovers Supporters Club



28 RICHARDS Eliot

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



4 LINES Chris

BAS Bristol Ltd, Bookkeeping &
Accounting Services 0117 9728804

Bristol Rovers Supporters Club



16 BLIZZARD Dominic

WDS Associates, Legal Services Ltd

Brian Seymour-Smith, Sky Sports



29 PLUMMER Neikell

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



5 COLES Danny

Ben, Lorraine & Clive

Mike Fitzpatrick



17 KUFFOUR Jo

The Hi-Life Companion, Top Bristol Pop!
Listen to us at

www.myspace.com/thehilifecompanion

Avents Interiors Ltd, Office Partitions,
Suspended Ceilings, Dry Lining,
08456 439668



30 CAYFORD Dan

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



6 ELLIOTT Steve

Everett King Accountants
0117 9291186

On behalf of Doidge Computing Ltd,
Rebecca & Hannah Doidge



18 HUNT Ben

Victoria Diamond-Cockwell

Kevin Barry



31 COOPER Mark

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



7 CAMPBELL Stuart

William, Nathan, Emily & Jess,
Arward Building & Maintenance

Bob Seymour



19 RIGG Sean

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



32 LESCOTT Aaron

Derrick and Sheila Gulwell

Farquhar Partnership
Tax and Accounts



8 WILLIAMS Andy

Geoff Dunford

Available for sponsorship



20 REECE Charlie

Joseph Lewis

Available for sponsorship



33 CLARKE Ollie

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



9 DICKSON Chris

Wembley Gas

Available for sponsorship



21 CLOUGH Charlie

David Marks Carpets & Flooring,
Tounton 01823 254080
www.carpetsandflooringtaunton.co.uk

Available for sponsorship



3-4 BOOTH George

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



10 DUFFY Darryl

Scottish Gasheads

www.gmtelectronics.co.uk
Residential & Commercial
Security Solutions



22 WHITE Joe

Excel Gas

Available for sponsorship



51 EVANS Rhys

Available for sponsorship

Available for sponsorship



11 HUGHES Jeff

Webber & Spencer Ltd, Curtains & Blinds
0117 9564626

Will Tunnicliffe and Matthew Yeater
Attribute Sports Development Ltd.
www.attribute-sports.co.uk



23 SWALLOW Ben

John Bradshaw
Flying Gashead - 1945-2010

Available for sponsorship



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT STEVE BURNS
0117 9096648**

SCOUTING AROUND



A SIX POINTER ALREADY!

GOOD afternoon everyone, and welcome back to the Memorial Stadium for a 'tasty' fixture against Swindon Town.

Welcome, also, to Danny Wilson and his highflying 'Robins' for what some are labelling a 'six pointer'.

Swindon are currently on a great run and, with two games in hand as well, find themselves in a very promising position amongst the play off hopefuls.

I watched them last Saturday, when they beat Leyton Orient 3-2, but they were never in any real danger of any other result than a win.

I also got to Stockport four days earlier to see them in action at Edgeley Park, but the game was called off just as I arrived! The joys of travel!

We also covered their game at Carlisle which, amazingly, did go ahead even though the car park was flooded and half the pitch was underwater the previous day!

All credit to Carlisle for getting that one on! It's a good job we played at Stockport in August!

Hopefully a large crowd will not suffer from the elements today for what should be a hard fought local derby. Swindon have a large ex Leeds United flavour in the team at present in Lucas, Douglas and Sheehan. They certainly seem to be doing the trick, but they are due a defeat and we are very capable of beating anyone here and with your support we can do that today.

A win today will put us back in the top six, as well, so that must be our motivation. If we can hang on in the top eight until January, then strengthen where we need to, we will give ourselves a great chance of the play offs. That's why your added



backing between now and then is all important.

I would also like us to win today for Ann Craig, widow of our former Chairman Ron. We all attended his funeral on Wednesday and it was obvious that he was a very well respected man.

I know that Ann and Ron's immediate family will be here this afternoon, as we all pay our respects with a minute's silence before the game.

Finally, a special welcome to our U-15's team from the Midlands Bristol Rovers Central Academy, who have travelled down today to play a trialists XI and then take in the game before going back to Birmingham.

Hope they enjoy the day!

First Team Squad 2009/10

PLAYER	Sq No	BIRTH DATE	SEE NOTE	ROVERS CAREER				TOTAL CAREER/ PREV CLUB			
				League	Cup	League	Cup	League	Cup	League	Cup
Mikkel ANDERSEN	27	17/12/1988	1	15	15	-	-	24	-	-	-
Byron ANTHONY	15	20/09/1984		110	86	5	3	91	3	21	3
Patrick BALDWIN	47	12/11/1982		3	3	-	-	45	1	4	-
Dominic BLIZZARD	16	02/09/1984		19	7	8	-	118	6	18	2
Stuart CAMPBELL	7	09/12/1977		263	196	20	2	408	14	74	2
Charlie CLOUGH	21	03/09/1990		1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Danny COLES	5	30/10/1981		52	46	-	3	228	9	39	4
Chris DICKSON	9	28/12/1984	2	12	9	3	4	50	11	8	6
Daryl DUFFY	10	16/04/1984		68	37	24	14	181	55	35	15
Steve ELLIOTT	6	29/10/1978		240	200	1	15	298	17	61	1
Rhys EVANS	51	27/01/1982		5	1	-	-	243	-	28	-
Fraser FORSTER	27	17/03/1988	3	4	4	-	-	24	-	4	-
Mike GREEN	13	23/07/1989		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis HALDANE	26	13/03/1985	4	176	90	57	15	147	15	30	3
Jeff HUGHES	11	29/05/1985		70	63	-	12	143	21	14	4
Ben HUNT	18	23/01/1990		16	-	14	-	14	-	2	-
Alex KITE	24	07/03/1989	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jo Osei KUFFOUR	17	17/11/1981		65	46	15	17	302	72	31	8
Rickie LAMBERT		18/02/1982	6	155	114	14	51	227	110	37	10
Aaron LESCOTT	32	02/12/1978		233	189	9	5	312	6	51	-
Chris LINES	4	30/11/1985		120	92	10	14	102	14	18	-
Steve PHILLIPS	1	06/05/1978	7	165	136	-	-	383	-	81	-
David PIPE	14	05/11/1983		100	78	8	3	248	9	31	-
Charles REECE	20	08/09/1988		5	1	3	-	4	-	1	-
Carl REGAN	2	04/01/1980		22	18	-	-	236	2	30	-
Sean RIGG	19	04/02/1988	8	74	15	41	2	56	2	18	1
Ben SWALLOW	23	20/10/1989		13	1	8	-	9	-	4	-
Andrew WILLIAMS	8	14/08/1986		76	23	39	6	129	16	24	3
Mark WRIGHT	3	24/02/1982		15	11	3	-	213	27	31	2

NOTES:

- 1 On loan from Reading
2 On loan from Charlton
3 Was on loan from Newcastle Utd
4 On loan to Port Vale
5 On loan to Paulton Rovers
6 Now with Southampton
7 On loan to Crewe Alexandra
8 On loan to Forest Green

Best/Worst vs The Robins			
Biggest Home Win	5 - 0	25-Mar-39	
Biggest Home Defeat	1 - 4	29-Dec-28	
Biggest Away Win	1 - 5	27-Aug-84	
Biggest Away Defeat	5 - 2	06-Mar-82	
Pos	League	2 Hotshots	2009-10
1	Lambert, R	South'n	14
2	Holt, G	Norwich	13
3	Barnard, L	Southend	12
4	Beckford, J	Leeds	12
24	Hughes, J	Bristol R	6
Last 6 Home and Away clashes with The Robins			
F - A	Home	A - F	Away
2 - 2	22-Nov-08	League 1	2 - 1
0 - 1	22-Apr-08	League 1	1 - 0
1 - 0	29-Apr-07	League 2	2 - 1
0 - 0	24-Mar-01	Div 2	1 - 3
1 - 4	18-Sep-96	Div 2	2 - 1
3 - 4	19-Aug-92	Div 1	2 - 2
1 - 1	12-Apr-82	Div 2 (old)	0 - 2
2 - 1	20-Mar-81	Div 2 (old)	1 - 2
Top Attendance Averages (League)			
Leeds	25,554	19,873	26,217
Norwich	25,205	23,841	21,932
South'n	13,551	14,402	19,441
Charlton	16,351	15,306	14,980
Hudd T	17,317	11,269	11,448
Bristol R	7,415	5,862	

AWAY DAY TRAVEL

TRANMERE ROVERS ■ CCL1 ■ SAT 19TH DECEMBER 2009 ■ KO 3.00PM

Tranmere Rovers
Prenton Park
Prenton Road West
Prenton
Wirral
CH42 9PY



Estimated time by car:
 3 hours 15 minutes

Supporters Club coaches leave the
 Memorial Stadium and Kingswood
 at 9.45am and Eastville at 10.00am

Coach Fare: £17.50

Tickets (All Seats)

Adults: £17.50

17 U-23 & 60+: £9.50

U-16's: £5.00

Programme: £3.00

THE last fixture before Christmas sees the Gas travel north to face lowly Tranmere Rovers.

After finishing in a respectable 7th place at the end of last season yet missing out on the play offs, a slide in form during the current campaign has seen Tranmere win just five games in 20, with John Barnes being removed as manager in the process. After a disappointing 2-0 loss to the Scouse Rovers in the previous game at Prenton, the Gas look well placed to be able to snatch all three points this time around.

Prenton Park can be found from the M6/M56 by joining the M53 and exiting at Junction 4. Take the B5151 Mount Road turning via the fourth exit of the roundabout, and you will find the ground is signposted from hereon in. After around 2 and a half miles you will enter Storeton Road, and by turning into Prenton Road West, the 17,000 seater stadium should become visible to your right.

There is a good size car park at the ground, and users of this facility will incur a £4 charge. Street parking is generally not advised, as there is a strict residential parking scheme in the neighbouring roads surrounding the stadium, so don't get caught out. If you opt for the train, the closest stations are Rock Berry and Birkenhead Central, however both are a sizeable walk at around 15-20 minutes from each.

The ground is favourably located amongst many local amenities. If you are looking for a hostelry prior to kick off, the Prenton Park Hotel is just 20 yards away from the visting turnstiles, and is usually popular with away fans. Alternatively, The Mersey Clipper (behind the main stand) and The Sportsman's Arms (on Prenton Road East) are both a short walk away. Alcohol is also served within the ground itself, however if you are in need of something to eat, there are many restaurants and takeaways in the local vicinity.

MILLWALL ■ CCL1 ■ MON 28TH DECEMBER 2009 ■ KO 3.00PM

Millwall FC
The Den
Zampa Road
London
SE16 3LN



Estimated time by car:
 2 hours 35 minutes

Supporters Club coaches leave the
 Memorial Stadium and Kingswood at
 9.30am and Eastville at 9.45am.

Coach Fare: £18.00

Tickets (All Seats)

Adults: £20.00

60+: £13.00

U-16's: £11.00

U-12's: £8.00

ROVERS will be looking to finish 2009 in style by putting in a good performance against the Bermondsey based Londoners Millwall.

After five away losses on the bounce and a flood of conceded goals, along with Tranmere this is sure to be another important away fixture if the Gas are to force their way back into the play offs.

Following a respectable run of form that saw them beat pacesetters Leeds in late October, the Lions have seemingly failed to build on those solid early season results and also remain an inconsistent side, with just one win on the road a prime example. With this said, just one loss at The New Den suggests they are a force to be reckoned with on home turf.

The 20,000 all seater venue for the match, and home to Millwall since 1993, can be found by taking the A2 to New Cross and then by following signs for Surrey

Quays into Kender Street. Turn left into Old Kent Road and then a right at the turning signposted 'car pound', into Ilderton Road. Keep count of the turnings, and you will find Zampa Road is the seventh on the right! Unfortunately there are no parking facilities at the ground or any sizeable car parks in the surrounding area, so if you have travelled by car it would be best to try on street parking in the small estate just past the ground. Perhaps a better option in this instance would be to travel by coach or, failing that, South Bermondsey train station is just a five minute walk away from the stadium (a walkway link is also available on matchdays for away fans).

For refreshments prior to kick off, there are bars located around the ground itself and some hot food is also on offer. Alternatively, if you arrive early and have some time on your hands, the London Bridge area has plenty of places to grab a drink or bite to eat before moving on to The Den.

NEXT UP AT THE MEM

SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2009 ■ WALSALL

OUR Boxing Day visitors boosted their strike force in the summer when they recruited Steve Jones, Darren Byfield and Sam Parkin.

Jones, currently the Saddlers' leading scorer, scored his ninth goal of this campaign at Yeovil eleven days ago.

Byfield's consolation effort against Southampton last Saturday was the 100th goal of his career. His contract with the Saddlers expires next month but the Jamaican international, whose former employers include Aston Villa, Preston North End, Sunderland, Millwall and Bristol City, is keen to extend his stay.

Parkin, who netted for the third time this season at Huish Park, spent three seasons with Swindon before a £450,000 move to Ipswich in the

summer of 2005. Troy Deeney, signed from Chelmsley Town in February 2007, took his tally for the season to six with his brace against Oldham last month. His twelve last term included a twenty yard effort in the Saddlers' 1-1 draw at Scunthorpe in March which was voted Walsall's 'Goal of the Season'.

The Saddlers' midfield is likely to include Dwayne Mattis and the home grown Mark Bradley. Mattis's move from Barnsley was made permanent in August last year after a month on loan at the Banks's Stadium towards the end of 2007. Bradley, a former youth team skipper, has played in the centre of defence for Walsall's second string and at right back as a Wales youth international. First choice between the posts is Trinidad & Tobago international Clayton Ince, the Saddlers' fans' 'Player of the Season' in 2008/09.

TODAYS OTHER FIXTURES - LEAGUE ONE

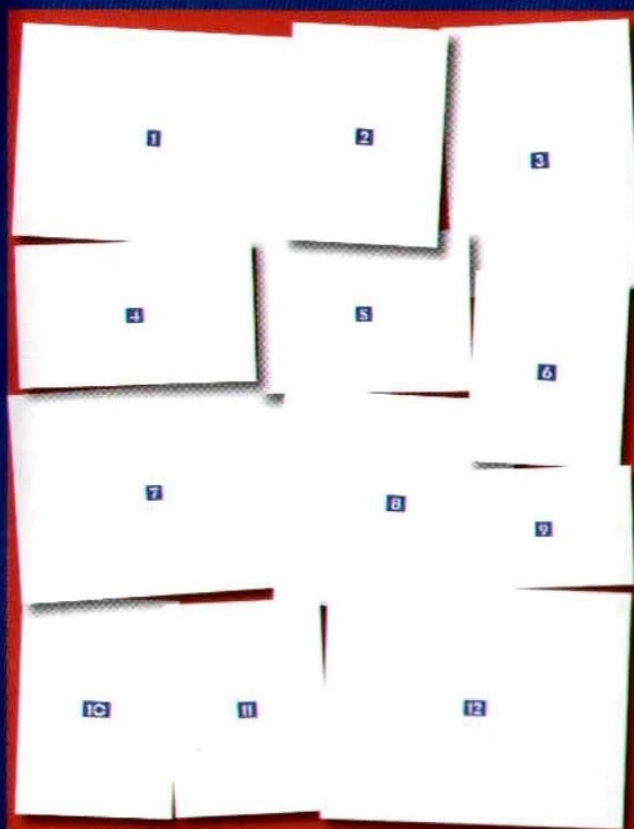
Home	Away	K.O
Brentford	v Leeds United	15:00
Carlisle United	v Wycombe Wanderers	15:00
Huddersfield Town	v Gillingham	15:00
Leyton Orient	v Milton Keynes Dons	15:00
Millwall	v Walsall	15:00
Oldham Athletic	v Exeter City	15:00
Southampton	v Tranmere Rovers	15:00
Southend United	v Hartlepool United	15:00
Stockport County	v Charlton Athletic	15:00
Yeovil Town	v Norwich City	15:00

LAST FIVE MATCHES ON THIS DAY - 12TH DECEMBER

Date	Comp / Team	H-A	Res	Scorers
1970	FAC Aldershot	A	D 1-1	Jarman
1987	Div3 Walsall	A	D 0-0	
1997	LD2 Grimsby	H	L 0-4	
1998	LD2 Manchester City	A	D 0-0	
2006	FAC Bournemouth	A	W 1-0	Walker

BRISTOL ROVERS v SWINDON TOWN

DID YOU IDENTIFY THE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE BACK COVER?



- 1 Nicky Tanner appeared in 107 league games for Rovers before a dream move to Liverpool in 1988. He later appeared in 7 games for Swindon, when on loan from Anfield.
- 2 Teamsheet from last season's encounter at the Memorial Stadium, that ended 2-2 thanks to a dramatic late equaliser from Chris Lines.
- 3 Mark Walters, 115 league appearances for Swindon, 82 for Rovers, and several more for Southampton, Wolves, Stoke, Liverpool, Rangers and Aston Villa!
- 4 A rather battered single sheet programme from the game between Rovers and Swindon, played on 25th October 1945. Rovers won 2-0 on that occasion.
- 5 Press pass from the game at the County Ground on 16th December 2006, which ended in a 2-1 win for Swindon.
- 6 Brian Williams appeared in 99 league games for Swindon and 172 for Rovers. He also played league football for Bury, QPR, Bristol City and Shrewsbury Town.
- 7 In two spells with Rovers, Steve White scored 44 goals in 151 league appearances and there were to be 83 league goals for Swindon in 244 appearances.
- 8 In two spells at Eastville Bobby Jones scored 101 goals in 421 league appearances. He also appeared in 11 league games for Swindon in 1966/67.
- 9 Christmas Greetings from Swindon - we've asked if our present can be three points!
- 10 Programme from the game played at the County Ground on 3rd September 1947, a game that finished 1-1.
- 11 Tony Gough made his only appearance for Rovers in 1958/59 and scored twice in 25 league appearances for Swindon, over a decade later.
- 12 Vitalis Astafjevs is challenged by Bobby Howe in Rovers 3-1 win at the County Ground on 21st October 2000.

MATCH STATS

2009/2010 SEASON

KEY

PLAYED: Number indicates goals scored
 2 1/2 S indicates player was substituted
 Booked Sent off

USED SUBSTITUTE: Number indicates player replaced
 Booked Sent off

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

THE SEASON BY NUMBERS*

PLAYERS
USED BY
ROVERS:

24

11

ROVERS GOALS
AT THE
BLACKTHORN END

SUBSTITUTIONS
MADE BY
ROVERS:

60

77

YELLOW CARDS
DEALT IN
ROVERS GAMES

FREE KICKS
AWARDED
TO ROVERS:

412

23

EX-GAS IN THE
OPPOSITION
RANKS**

MINUTES
ADDED:

128

*All competitive games
 ** Players and staff

DIVISION ONE - LEAGUE TABLE 2009/10

POS	NAME	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Leeds United	19	14	4	1	37	10	27	46
2	Chorlton	20	12	6	2	37	19	18	42
3	Norwich City	20	11	5	4	42	24	18	38
4	Colchester	20	10	6	4	33	18	15	36
5	Huddersfield	20	9	5	6	43	24	19	32
6	Swindon Town	18	8	7	3	24	22	2	31
7	Bristol Rovers	20	10	1	9	29	32	-3	31
8	Walsall	20	8	6	6	29	25	4	30
9	MK Dons	20	9	3	8	27	29	-2	30
10	Millwall	20	7	8	5	27	21	6	29
11	Hartlepool	20	7	5	8	26	25	1	26
12	Carlisle	20	6	6	8	27	30	-3	24
13	Yeovil Town	20	5	8	7	24	28	-4	23
14	Southend	20	6	5	9	22	26	-4	23
15	Southampton	20	8	8	4	35	25	10	22
16	Gillingham	20	6	4	10	24	29	-5	22
17	Exeter City	20	5	7	8	23	29	-6	22
18	Brentford	20	5	7	8	19	25	-6	22
19	Leyton Orient	20	6	4	10	24	35	-11	22
20	Oldham	20	5	6	9	15	25	-10	21
21	Brighton	20	5	5	10	23	37	-14	20
22	Wycombe	20	4	5	11	20	33	-13	17
23	Tranmere	20	5	2	13	19	40	-21	17
24	Stockport	19	3	5	11	16	34	-18	14

Date	Day	Opponent	H/A	Result	H Att.	A Att.	Pos	Referee
AUG 8	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT	H	1-2	7,745	508	17	G. Salisbury
AUG 11	TUE	ALDERSHOT TOWN/CARLING CUP 1	H	2-1	3,644	371	17	G. Horwood
AUG 15	SAT	STOCKPORT COUNTY	A	2-0	4,084	426	9	D. Webb
AUG 18	TUE	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	A	2-1	3,137	130	6	K. Evans
AUG 22	SAT	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H	1-0	6,052	610	4	K. Hill
AUG 26	WED	CARDIFF CITY / CARLING CUP 2	A	1-3	9,767	1,376	4	R. East
AUG 29	SAT	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	A	1-2	5,214	762	7	P. Gibbs
SEP 1	TUE	HEREFORD UNITED / JPT 1	A	0-0*	970	330	7	D. Sheldrake
SEP 5	SAT	MILLWALL	H	2-0	6,038	380	4	J. Moss
SEP 12	SAT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	1-0	6,674	208	3	S. Bratt
SEP 19	SAT	BRENTFORD	A	3-1	6,528	1,421	3	S. Hooper
SEP 26	SAT	BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION	H	1-1	8,098	673	3	F. Graham
SEP 29	TUE	SOUTHAMPTON	A	3-2	19,274	2,872	3	D. Deadman
OCT 3	SAT	NORWICH CITY	A	1-5	24,117	1,089	3	A. Hall
OCT 17	SAT	SOUTHEND UNITED	A	1-2	6,853	369	5	C. Pawson
OCT 24	SAT	YEOVIL TOWN	H	1-2	7,812	626	6	N. Swarbrick
OCT 27	TUE	LEEDS UNITED	H	0-4	11,448	1,640	6	A. Woolmer
OCT 31	SAT	MILTON KEYNES DONS	A	1-2	9,711	734	8	D. McDermic
NOV 6	FRI	SOUTHAMPTON F.A. CUP 1	H	2-3	6,446	1,457	9	K. Hill
NOV 14	SAT	CARLISLE UNITED	H	3-2	5,862	272	8	G. Hegley
NOV 21	SAT	GILLINGHAM	H	2-1	6,210	372	7	K. Evans
NOV 24	TUE	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	A	2-4	15,885	851	8	S. Cook
DEC 1	TUE	EXETER CITY	H	1-0	7,313	1,235	6	A. Penn
DEC 5	SAT	COLCHESTER UNITED	A	0-1	4,942	293	7	T. Kettle
DEC 12	SAT	SWINDON TOWN	H					
DEC 19	SAT	TRANMERE ROVERS	A					
DEC 26	SAT	WALSALL	H					
DEC 28	MON	MILLWALL	A					
JAN 9	SAT	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H					
JAN 16	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT	A					
JAN 19	TUE	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	A					
JAN 23	SAT	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H					
JAN 30	SAT	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H					
FEB 6	SAT	WALSALL	A					
FEB 13	SAT	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H					
FEB 20	SAT	GILLINGHAM	A					
FEB 23	TUE	EXETER CITY	A					
FEB 27	SAT	COLCHESTER UNITED	H					
MAR 6	SAT	SWINDON TOWN	A					
MAR 13	SAT	TRANMERE ROVERS	H					
MAR 20	SAT	YEOVIL TOWN	A					
MAR 27	SAT	SOUTHEND UNITED	H					
APR 2	FRI	CARLISLE UNITED	A					
APR 5	MON	MILTON KEYNES DONS	H					
APR 10	SAT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A					
APR 13	TUE	SOUTHAMPTON	H					
APR 17	SAT	BRENTFORD	H					
APR 24	SAT	BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION	A					
MAY 1	SAT	NORWICH CITY	H					
MAY 8	SAT	LEEDS UNITED	A					

* Hereford win 4-2 on penalties

† Southend own goal

GOOD afternoon and welcome back to the Memorial Stadium, the home of Bristol's original football club, for this afternoon's clash with Swindon Town.

A warm (and you'll all probably need some warmth) welcome to those of you from Wiltshire who have joined us today.

No doubt over the past few days the local media will have tried to hype this game up by dubbing it 'The West Country Derby' much as they did when Rovers played Yeovil Town, but the truth is this is not a derby at all.

I had a quick check on the information super highway that is the interweb, and was not surprised, in the least, to discover that Swindon lies closer to Oxford than it does to Bristol so how on earth can this be a derby? I suppose media types need to need to clutch at any straws to sell their wares and the easiest/laziest* (*delete where not applicable) way is to claim the game as a derby.

Just for the record for any 'real' journalists reading this, Rovers only have one derby and that's not against Swindon Town, Cheltenham Town, Torquay United, Exeter City, Cardiff City, Swansea City or Plymouth Argyle - it against them from the Darkside south of the river.

I know some Gasheads (and a couple of Swindonians) who believe there to be some 'thing' between the two clubs, but I have to

admit something about my relationship with Swindon Town - I don't dislike them. In fact I have no feelings about them at all. As far as I am concerned, we may as well be playing Accrington Stanley or Bradford City.

Rovers simply have a team put in front of them who have to be beaten (and beaten well). Although not a great drop in League position, the past few weeks have seen a huge dive in performances. Recently we arguably stole the points off of Carlisle United, desperately clung on to the points with our fingertips against Gillingham and picked the pockets of Exeter City.

A decent winning performance is long overdue and if there was ever a day for this to happen, then today it is as we remember the contribution to the Club of ex Chairman Ron Craig.

I am sure that Ron's history with the Club will be reported in detail elsewhere in this esteemed publication so I'll not even try to cover any of that, but I'll instead give you some of my memories of Ron.

I was first introduced to Ron some ten years ago by my very good friend and ex Pirate contributor Tim Blake. Tim and I used to spend some lunchtimes here at the Memorial Stadium chatting with groundsman Pete Prior about, well, groundsmanship (I believe I've created a new word) and generally chewing the cud. It was just a change of scenery and some fresh air during a lunch break.

One lunchtime, as we were figuring out how Rovers would fare that coming

weekend, Ron wandered out of the Club offices and stopped for a chat with Tim who introduced Ron and I. We spent a few minutes nattering about, well nothing at all really, before Ron had to go to a meeting and we said our goodbyes.

About three or four weeks later, I popped to the Stadium with my two boys to buy something or other from the Club Shop and who should also be there but Ron, who was with his wife Ann. Straight away, Ron came over, shook my hand and said; "Hello Steve, how are you?" I was amazed that someone who must've met stacks of people and had been introduced to me only the once, would even recognise me let alone remember my name.

Both Ron and Ann stopped and chatted about how things were in general at the Club and how things were specifically on the playing side - even taking the time to talk to my two boys about their favourite players.

I went on to meet Ron (and Ann) on a number of occasions and was always struck by his passion for football in general and Bristol Rovers in particular. He was always ready and willing to stop for a chat (even with riff raff like me) and to answer people's questions and he was particularly interested in the youth setup at the Club - I am sure he would have loved to have seen nothing more than Rovers to line up with four or five good young players who were all products of the youth system.

Looking back over my time being involved with this great Football Club, one of the overriding factors has always been the accessibility to fans of players, employees and Directors and that was epitomised by Ron Craig.

My personal condolences and, I am sure, those of all Gasheads go out to Ann and the rest of Ron's family. Bristol Rovers have not only lost a good servant, but a good friend.

■ Ron's memory was impeccably observed at Colchester last Saturday.



THE FINAL SHOT

THE 'H' SQUAD ARE ON TARGET



FOLLOWING A 3-1 DEFEAT AGAINST COLCHESTER, AT LAYER ROAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK, ROVERS RETURNED TO EASTVILLE ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 1966, WHERE THEY TOOK ON SWINDON TOWN.

They ran out comfortable 3-0 winners, thanks to goals from the 'H' squad of Hillard, Hamilton and 'H' himself, Harold Jarman who was making his 249th appearance for the club.

Today's photo comes from that match and shows Doug Hillard in the foreground, looking as though he's failed to cut out a cross from Swindon's John Trollope, while Jarman looks on.

The first goal arrived after 24 minutes; "Assisted by a marginal error of judgement by goalkeeper Downsborough, who carried the ball a foot too far outside his area. The linesman spotted him and Rovers were awarded a free kick smack in front of goal.

"Hillard moved up to take it and blasted the ball into the net off the wall of the Swindon defenders positioned between himself and the goal."

It was the only goal of the first half, though

Swindon did come close to equalising just before half time but Bernard Hall produced a brilliant save to deny Dawson a goal.

Rovers took the lead, in controversial circumstances, after 74 minutes; "A long pass out of defence found Jarman just over the halfway line. He looked several yards offside and the referee's whistle blew. But then it was realised that the injured Dawson was still standing alongside the goalkeeper, so referee Mr Burns allowed play to continue. Jarman moved into Swindon's penalty area, and took the ball round the advancing Downsborough."

The third goal came four minutes from time; "Hamilton nipped in to steer a superb through pass from Jones wide of Downsborough, and slipped it into the net."

Press reports indicated that it was the side's best performance of the season to date and said that; "Rovers were full of blustering enthusiasm."

Victory saw the side move into second place in the Third Division table, with six points from nine games. League leaders at the time were Workington while Swindon were down in 17th place with four points from their six matches.

By the end of the season things had changed somewhat, particularly for Workington, who finished bottom. Rovers ended up in fifth place, just two points behind runners up Middlesbrough, while Swindon were just three points and three places worse off.

There were a couple of interesting news stories concerning Rovers in the week leading up to the match. First it was announced that Wayne Jones was to be given a two month trial to see if he could earn himself a professional contract, and secondly proposals of a merger with local rivals City were given short shrift; "Rovers, struggling against the tide of rising costs and falling attendances, rejected the idea of amalgamating with City."

A crowd of 10,907 saw these two sides in action some 43 years ago.

Rovers: Hall, Hillard, Davis, Frude, Stone, Mabbutt, Jarman, Brown, Biggs, Hamilton, Jones.

Swindon: Downsborough, Butler, Trollope, Smart (Nurse, 36), Giles, Harland, Dawson, Brown, East, Thomas, Rogers.

