



THE LIBRARIATE

ISSUE 18

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
OF BRISTOL ROVERS FC
Season 2010/2011



SWINDON TOWN

■ Saturday 22nd January 2011 kick off 3.00pm



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MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE:
Jon MOSS



ASSISTANT REFEREE:
Sasa IHRINGOVA



ASSISTANT REFEREE:
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FOURTH OFFICIAL:
Simon KNAPP

BRISTOL ROVERS

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THE PIRATE

The Official Matchday Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

CLUB 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

BRISTOL ROVERS

Manager Dave PENNEY

1	Luke DANIELS (GK) *
2	Carl REGAN
3	Gary SAWYER
4	Chris LINES
5	Danny COLES
6	James TUNNICLIFFE **
7	Stuart CAMPBELL
8	Will HOSKINS
10	Darryl DUFFY ††††
11	Jeff HUGHES
12	Gasheads
13	Mike GREEN (GK)
14	Wayne BROWN
15	Byron ANTHONY
16	Dominic BLIZZARD
17	Jo KUFFOUR
18	Eliot RICHARDS
19	Cian BOLGER ***
20	Charlie REECE
21	Charlie CLOUGH
22	Harry PELL
23	Ben SWALLOW
24	Ollie CLARKE †
25	George BOOTH ††
26	Mark COOPER †††
27	Jack MCKENNA ††††
28	Lamar POWELL
29	Darren JEFFERIES
30	Robbi MAGGS
31	David McCracken ****

- * On loan from West Bromwich Albion
- ** On loan from Brighton & Hove Albion
- *** On loan from Leicester City
- **** On loan from Brentford
- † On loan to Mangotsfield United
- †† On loan to Longwell Green
- ††† On loan to Frome Town
- †††† On loan to Chippenham Town
- ††††† On loan to Hibernian

LAST TIME OUT...

BRISTOL ROVERS 0
HARTLEPOOL UNITED 0



SWINDON TOWN

Manager Danny WILSON

1	David LUCAS (GK)
2	Scott CUTHBERT
3	Michael ROSE
4	Jonathan DOUGLAS (Capt)
5	Andrew FRAMPTON *
6	Paul CADDIS
7	Jon-Paul MCGOVERN
8	Simon FERRY
9	Vincent PERICARD
10	David PRUTTON
11	Michael TIMLIN
12	Phil SMITH (GK)
14	Sean MORRISON
15	Kevin AMANKWAAH
17	Callum KENNEDY
18	Alan O'BRIEN
19	Lecsinel JEAN-FRANCOIS
20	Thomas DOSSEVI
21	Alan SHEEHAN
22	Matt RITCHIE
23	Nathan THOMPSON
26	Jakub JESIONKOWSKI (GK)
28	Mark SCOTT (GK)
31	Billy BODIN
32	Charlie AUSTIN
24	Will EVANS

- * On loan from Millwall until 30/5/11

SWINDON TOWN 0
YEovil TOWN 1





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

David McCracken and Cian Bolger joined us, on loan, this week and I would like to formally welcome them to the club.

Dave has played at this level with MK Dons and with Wycombe, and has captained both clubs, and we know the type of character he is and that he's a leader. I spoke to both of his previous managers to get references on his character and his strengths because we wanted someone

who was a winner, and a talker, and someone with experience. He gives us that, and gave us a quality performance on Tuesday.

He's the kind of player that we want here and I'm hoping to bring two or three more in like him who can help the younger, and talented, boys here, to get the best out of them. Cian, on the other hand, is a young player making his way in the game. We've had him watched, and he's a good size, and it will be a case of integrating him into the team when we can. We needed some cover, with Danny Coles being suspended, but he's a player I like.

Dave and James Tunnicliffe played together at MK Dons, and knew each other so we went with them as a pairing.

We hadn't kept a clean sheet since October, so the one we kept against Hartlepool was really important. I'd watched the three previous games, when we conceded three, two and four goals respectively, so it was important we kept a clean sheet to give us something to build on. That, in turn, gives the midfielders and the forwards the belief we can keep it tight at the back and that we can push on and score goals ourselves.

It's important that we get the right balance between losing a game 3-2, as we did against Plymouth, and getting at least a point from a game. If we had enjoyed a little bit of luck, and taken our chances, we might have won on Tuesday but everyone is happy when you keep a clean sheet.

It's very much a case of building from the back and in training we have focussed on our defensive work and how to prevent goals being scored against us.

We have concentrated on that in three or four training sessions now and we have been talking to everyone, and organising them, to make them more aware of their defensive responsibilities, and that has not only included the back four, but the whole team.

Hopefully, Tuesday's was the first of many clean sheets and we can kick on and try to work on the midfield and attacking parts of our game, which we know are



there, as it's important we have a good base to build from.

I thought the service to our front two was poor on Tuesday. We can't just keep knocking the ball up to them and expect them to get hold of it when there are two giant defenders coming through the back of them, so that will be the next thing we try to work on. We need to get quality balls up to them but, by the same token, they need to be better with the ball when they receive it.

I've spoken of the need to bring other players in, but they need to be the right characters as well. Dave McCracken is the type of player, in terms of character leadership, and experience that we need



THE PIRATE

The Official Matchday Programme of
BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB



Programme Editor Keith Brockman

Photography

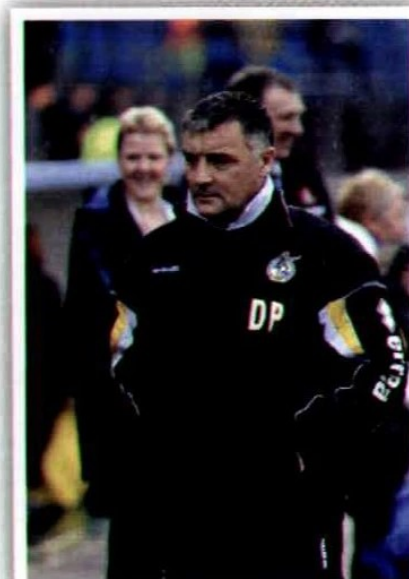
Jeff Davis, Neil Brookman, Marc Giddings
and Alan Marshall

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Chris Lines,



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and, hopefully, the other couple of players we bring in are of that ilk.

Dave is only 29 and I'm sure he has four or five years left in him in terms of playing. I don't want people who are totally finished as players, and simply come here to see out their careers, as they have to be able to offer us something. In general terms, that age group have the experience to keep doing things right even when things aren't going well.

There are a number of talented young players here, but we have to get balance right, and nurture them through. The club has lost a few experienced players in the past, and we need to get a couple more characters back in the club.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Danny Wilson and his Swindon team this afternoon. I know Danny quite well from when I was manager at Darlington and he was in charge at Hartlepool. His side enjoyed a great 2009/10 campaign, and he's done well at the clubs he's been at, so it will be a tough game but it's one we are looking forward to.

Every game is vital and we want to try to pick up as many points as possible, as quickly as we can. I think there will be a real cup tie

atmosphere here this afternoon and it's a game I'm looking forward to.

Elsewhere in today's programme you will find a report of our Third Round FA Youth Cup tie, played on Wednesday evening. It's a game I watched, as it gave me an opportunity to see them in action and gauge what we have in the building below the younger professionals.

I've also been watching DVD's of players such as Wayne Brown, Charlie Reece, Charlie Clough, and Eliot Richards as I don't know a great deal about them and I want to get as much information about them as I can so I'll know if they can come on and make an impact.

Winning games boosts confidence and we have been close to wins against both Walsall and Hartlepool, so we need to take three points as quickly as possible and then look to achieve back to back wins as that would quickly lift us up the table.

I'm hoping that the clean sheet on Tuesday will give us, as a group, a lot of confidence and give us a solid base to work on and enable us to push on.

I hope that you get behind us, once again, this afternoon.

Enjoy the game, and have a safe journey home.



“
WINNING
GAMES
BOOSTS
CONFIDENCE

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Chairman Nick Higgs

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Rod King, Ken Masters, Edward Ware

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Manager Dave Penney

Assistant Manager Darren Patterson

Head of Youth Ken Oram

Youth Team Coach Jerry Gill

Goalkeeping Coach Len Bond

Physiotherapist

Phil Kite, BSc Hons, MCSP, SRP

Assistant Physiotherapist

Steve Bissix

Club Doctor Dr Tim Jenkinson

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

Club Chaplain Rev David Jeal

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Ticket Office Coordinator

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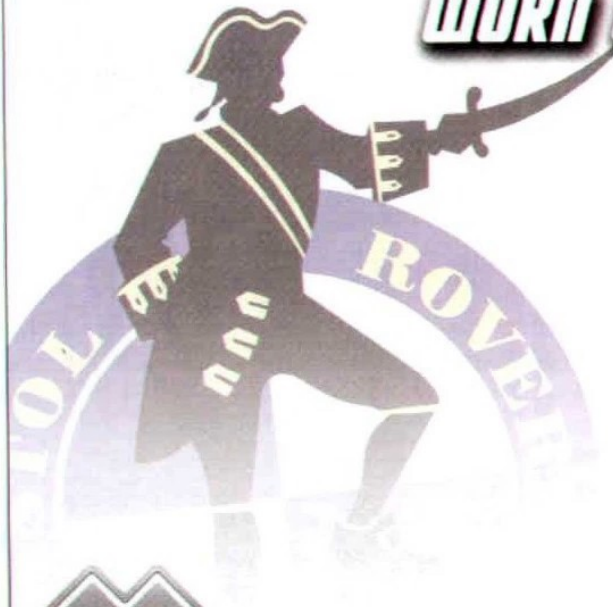
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TEAM TALK

by Keith Brookman

■ He'd barley got to know his new team mates before he was starting his first game for the club but David McCracken's performance on Tuesday evening, against Hartlepool, saw him pick up the Man of the Match Award.

The central defender spent nine years with Dundee United where, I'm reliably informed, he used to clean Darren Patterson's boots!

From Dundee he moved to Wycombe Wanderers, in 2007, and then on to MK Dons two years later before signing for Brentford last summer.

He's arrived on a one month loan from Griffin Park, and is looking forward to getting as many games as possible under his belt during his time with Rovers.

Speaking after the Hartlepool game, he said; "I only travelled down this afternoon, so it's just been good to get going and get some game time again.

"I think things went OK for me on the pitch. The other lads were great, and made it easy for me to fit in. I'm a forward looking person, anyway, and like to go on and make myself known so it was very easy to settle in."

As well as knowing Darren, there was another familiar face in the dressing room.

"I played alongside James Tunnicliffe at MK Dons last season, so it was very easy to play with him again."

As for the game, it would be fair to say it wasn't a great spectacle, but the important thing was that we kept a clean sheet, the first in quite a while, and gained a valuable point.

"Speaking to the manager beforehand, the main thing was to get a clean sheet and try to stabilise things. We did that and that has given us something to build. If we can continue to keep clean sheets, I'm sure that the goals will come for us at the other end of the pitch."

His one month loan takes in quite a few games.



David McCracken

Clean sheets a must

"I think we are due to play eight games while I'm here, or so it's going to be a tough time. On a personal level it will be good to get some games, but I want to do well for myself, the club, and the team.

"I think all the boys out there worked hard tonight, and whilst it probably wasn't the prettiest of performances, we picked up a point. We need to continue putting points on the board and if it is going to be the ugly way, then so be it.

"I think you could see that there are a few players lacking in a little bit of confidence, but that happens when you take some heavy defeats. However tonight showed that there is a belief in the side and the boys can pull together and grind out a result."

Prior to Tuesday's game he'd made just three first team appearances for Brentford.

"I've not been playing for a good while

“

SPEAKING TO THE MANAGER BEFOREHAND, THE MAIN THING WAS TO GET A CLEAN SHEET AND TRY TO STABILISE THINGS

now, and I need regular football. I spoke to the Brentford manager about it a few months ago and made my situation clear with him. Now, finally, I've been able to get out on loan and get some game time so it's just good to get back into the swing of things."

In spite of a lack of games, his fitness doesn't appear to have suffered.

"At Brentford we've done a lot of running and worked hard to maintain fitness levels. I think I'm quite fit, there's always a bit of a difference in match fitness, and sustaining it for ninety minutes, but I actually felt quite good tonight and so it's just a case of building on that."

Having played at this level for his previous clubs, he's well aware of what lies ahead.

"It's going to be hard, and there are going to be a lot of tough games coming up. Fortunately a few of them are at home, which gives us an advantage, but at the same time I think we've shown tonight that there's something to build on."

It's his first experience of playing in a side at the bottom of the league in England, though there were times when Dundee United flirted with the lower reaches of their league in Scotland.

"There were some years when we were at the bottom of the league, so I know that sometimes you're going to have to play ugly, and not pretty, football but you need to give yourself something to build on so that confidence returns.

"We were all delighted with a clean sheet this evening, and I think we showed that we are very resolute as a unit and everyone worked their socks off."

This afternoon we face our nearest League One rivals, Swindon Town.

"It's a big game and, hopefully, the fans will turn out and we can get a result."

Stars of the Future



SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY

EXETER CITY 3

BRISTOL ROVERS..... 1

Our U-18 side slipped to a 3-1 defeat against Exeter last Saturday in what Youth Team Coach Jerry Gill described as their worst performance of the season.

"It was probably our worst performance since I joined the club. We weren't strong enough in our challenges, and came out second best all over the pitch.

"Few players came out of the game with any credit, and the majority of them failed to adapt to the heavy conditions.

"We didn't get going at all, and looked lack lustre. It was an inept performance, and we conceded three very sloppy goals.

"Our goal, which was no more than a consolation, came from substitute Ellis Harrison, who did very well when he went on. He scored a great goal following a run down the channel. He then cut inside and shot across the keeper at the near post. Ashley Bowle also played well, and his attitude was exemplary."

Team: Matt Hyslop, Mitch Harding (Ashley Bowle), Tom Seery, Jordan Tillson, Alex Hoyle, Jordan Goddard, Darren Jefferies, Jack Camm, Lamar Powell, Lewis Parker (Ellis Harrison), Robbi Maggs
Substitutes: Ross Staley, Tyrone Rhoden, James Dale

WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY

BRISTOL ROVERS 0

ASTON VILLA 1

Rovers bowed out of the FA Youth Cup at the Third Round stage, beaten 1-0 by Aston Villa.

The sides were separated by an unfortunate own goal by Rovers defender Tom Seery in the 75th minute.

Rovers, though, can take heart from a disciplined and determined performance. They were well organised and kept their shape well throughout and although Villa

“ I'M VERY PROUD OF THE WAY OUR PLAYERS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES

Youth Team Coach,
Jerry Gill

enjoyed a great deal of possession they were unable to make it count. When they did break through, they found goalkeeper San Butler in inspired form.

Butler made an early save from Samir Carruthers before Rovers went close at the other end when Jack Camm's twenty yard volley just cleared the crossbar.

Jordan Graham showed some nice touches down the left flank before cutting inside and firing a cross shot well wide of the target before Camm again went close with another 20 yard effort, this time drawing a fine save from goalkeeper Calum Barrett.

Butler saved a close range header from Michael Drennan, while at the other end Alex Hoyle saw his low shot saved by Barrett.

There was a let off for Rovers when, with only Butler to beat, Carruthers completely missed a cross from the right.

The goalkeeper then made an outstanding save when he touched a thundering drive from Graham over the bar.

Butler was soon in action after the restart, diving low to his left to keep out Jordan Graham's free kick.

Robbi Maggs went close to opening the scoring on 55 minutes when, from a well worked corner, he received the ball from Lamar Powell and saw his low drive come back into play off the post.

Drennan was denied by another fine save from Butler when he looked odds on to score and Joshua Barton fired over the bar after the keeper had parried a cross from the left, while central defender Daniel Devine rolled a shot inches wide of the upright.

The only goal of the game came, unfortunately, from the head of defender Tom Seery who, in trying to clear Barton's cross from the right, headed past Butler and high into the net.

Jerry Gill said he was very proud of his side's performance after he had watched them make their Premiership opponents fight hard for their victory.

"I'd watched DVD's of Villa in action, and seen them play, and they are a good outfit," said Jerry, adding, "they reached the final of this competition last year with five of the players who appeared against us.

"I've told my players that I am very proud of the way they conducted themselves. They worked incredibly hard, tried to pass the ball around, and created some chances."

"Robbi Maggs and Jack Camm went close to scoring for us and every player applied



Ellis Harrison takes on an Aston Villa defender



Name: Lamar Powell
Date of Birth: 03/09/93
Position: Striker



- What do you spend your money on?
Clothes.
- Favourite Food
Pasta.
- Any superstitions?
No, none at all.
- If you weren't playing football what would you be doing?
Studying sport at College.
- Which part of training is the worst?
When it comes to an end!
- Biggest influence on your career?
My Mum, my brothers and my sister
- Do you need an alarm clock in the mornings?
Definitely, I thought everyone did!
- What would your specialist quiz subject be?
Football.
- Do you ever read your horoscope?
No, never.

- Is there anything in your wardrobe that you've never worn?
Of course there isn't, my stuff is all top of the range clobber!
- If you could choose another sport to play professionally, what would it be?
Rugby.
- If you were the star of a film, who would your leading lady be?
Beyonce.
- Is there any number shirt you wouldn't like to wear on your back?
I just wear number 10.
- Sporting event you would pay the most to see - and to miss?
I would pay to watch the World Cup Final, but there's no way I'd pay to watch bowls!
- In five years I'll be...?
Playing for Arsenal!

themselves, and worked so hard, and they deserve a lot of credit.

"Villa boss Tony McAndrew was full of praise for how we played and thought his side were a little bit fortunate to win the game.

"As for the goal that won the game, no blame at all is attached to Tom Seery, as it came after a great piece of play by Villa's Joshua Barton down the right flank.

"It was a great team performance and I really wouldn't want to single anyone out. We worked hard in training, and did a lot of work on our shape going into the match and everyone took it on board.

"We did have one or two players out of position, as Ashley Bowle was ill, and goalkeeper Sam Butler played even though he is still recovering from a broken jaw."

While Villa move on to Round Four of the competition, Rovers turn their attention to this afternoon's away tie against Stevenage in the Alliance Youth Cup.

"I've told the lads that we can go on and win that competition and have a good run in the league. However, we mustn't lose sight of the bigger picture, which is to get as many of them as possible through to the pro ranks."

Bristol Rovers: Sam Butler, Alex Hoyle, Tom Seery, Jordan Tillson, Lewis Parker, Jordan Goddard, Jack Camm, Darren Jefferies (James Dale), Ellis Harrison, Lamar Powell, Robbi Maggs
 Substitutes: Ashley Bowle, Tyrone Rhoden, Mitch Harding, Ross Staley



Jordan Goddard beats Villa's Ebby Nelson-Addy

YOUTH ALLIANCE U18'S SOUTH WEST - FIXTURES 2010/11

Month	Date	Opposition	Time	Result
AUG	14 Sat	SWANSEA CITY	A	1-5
	21 Sat	OXFORD UNITED	A	2-1
SEPTEMBER	4 Sat	EXETER CITY	H	6-3
	11 Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	1-1
	18 Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	H	6-0
	25 Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	A	2-1
OCTOBER	16 Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	H	4-2
	23 Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	3-1
	30 Sat	LEYTON ORIENT FLYAUIB CUP	H	2-1
NOVEMBER	1 Mon	NEWPORT COUNTY FAYC1	A	2-1
	10 Wed	DAGENHAM & RED. FAYC2	A	2-2*
	27 Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	A	P-P
DECEMBER	18 Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	H	P-P
	21 Tue	SWINDON TOWN KO 13.00	H	P-P
JANUARY	8 Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	1-2
	15 Sat	EXETER CITY	A	1-3
	19 Wed	ASTON VILLA FAYC3	H	0-1
	22 Sat	STEVENAGE FC FLYAUIB CUP	A	
FEBRUARY	29 Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	H	
	5 Sat	HEREFORD UNITED	A	
	12 Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	
	19 Sat	EXETER CITY	H	
	26 Sat	SWINDON TOWN	A	
MARCH	5 Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	H	
	12 Sat	SWANSEA CITY	H	
	19 Sat	CHELTHAM TOWN	A	
	26 Sat	OXFORD UNITED	H	
APRIL	9 Sat	YEOVIL TOWN	A	
	30 Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	

* 4-2 on penalties

Home KO 10.30am Away KO 11.00am unless stated
 Home Venue: AXA Sports Ground, Station Road,
 Henbury, Bristol BS10 7TB

JANUARY 1956

**BRISTOL ROVERS
HUMILIATED
MAN UNITED 4-0
IN THE F.A. CUP.**



**UNITED'S FACES
MATCHED THEIR SHIRTS.**

Come on Pirates! Let's make it a season to remember.

BLACKTHORN

THE MATCH ...

by Keith Brookman



V WALSALL

TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2011

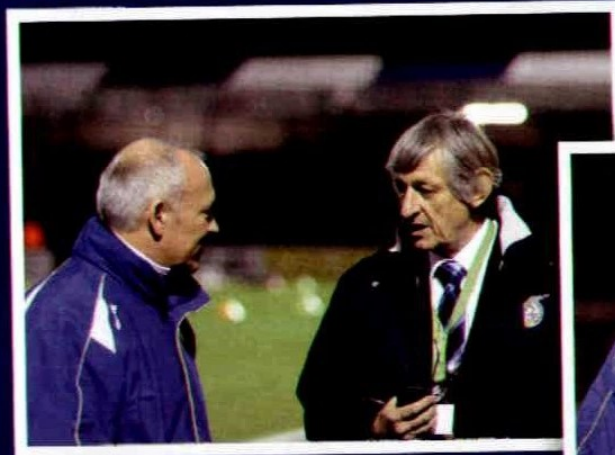
@ THE MEMORIAL STADIUM



Goalkeeper Luke Daniels gets a feel of the ball before making his Rovers debut

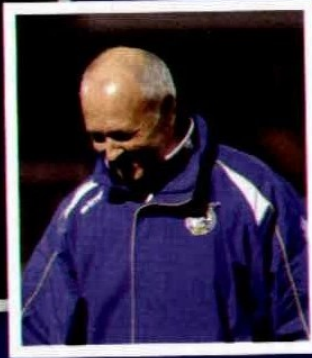


Stuart Campbell and Danny Coles go through their warm up routine

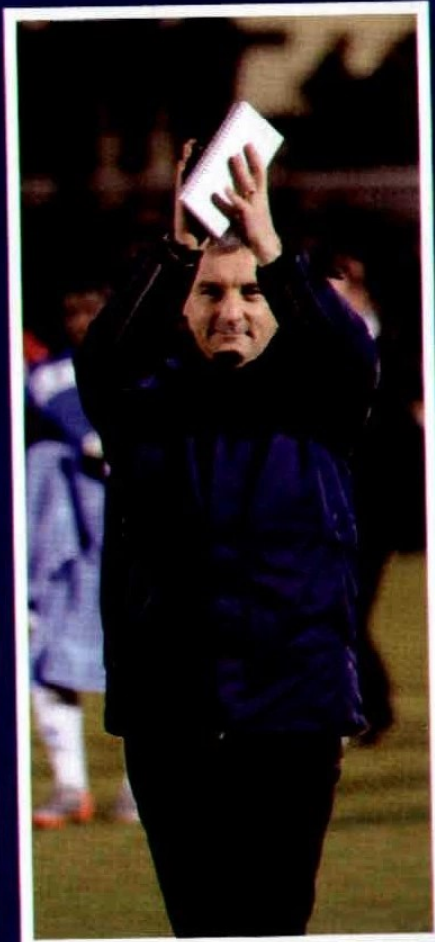


Chief Scout Paul Molesworth tells the programme editor he should have more space in The Pirate...

...actually, I told him he needed a haircut!



The teams are out



New manager Dave Penney acknowledges the Rovers supporters

THE MATCH ...

by Keith Brookman

BRISTOL ROVERS 2

WALSALL 2

Aaron Lescott, of all people, denied new Rovers boss Dave Penney a win in his first game in charge.

Lescott, who scored his first goals for Rovers in a 5-0 win against the Saddlers in a 5-0 win in March 2009, equalised for his new club against his former employees with just eight minutes remaining.

The visitors made a bright start and Luke Daniels had already saved from Jonathan Macken when Will Grigg gave them a fifth minute lead.

When Alex Nicholls crossed from the right, the striker had time and space to hit a left foot shot past Daniels from six yards.

Danny Coles went close to putting Rovers back on level terms but his glancing header, from a corner, drifted just wide of the upright.

Goalkeeper David Bevan then did well to prevent Will Hoskins from getting a shot away when he smothered the ball at the strikers feet, but Walsall created more chances before the break, the best of which came on the stroke of half time when Daniels dived full length to touch a shot from Grigg.

Rovers upped the tempo after the break and the introduction of Jo Kuffour made a difference with just seven minutes of the half gone.

Picking up the ball from Hoskins he ran on before squaring the ball to his strike partner who slid the ball home to register his 14th goal of the campaign.

One minute later Hoskins returned the favour, when his ball found Kuffour on the edge of the area and he beat Bevan with a well struck volley.

Rovers threatened to score again as they took the game by the scruff of the neck, but they were knocked back when Lescott found space inside the area to drill the ball past Daniels from Macken's pass.

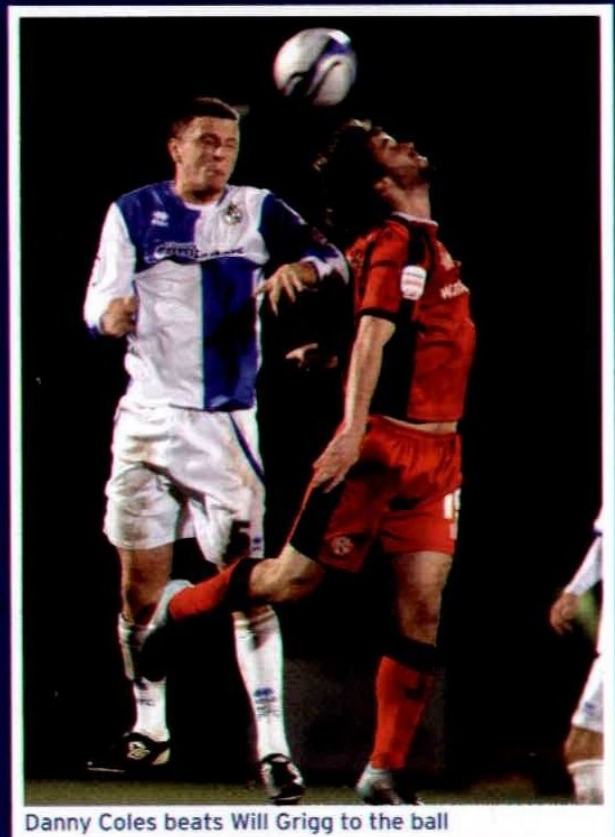


Chris Lines races past Matt Richards

“

WE DIDN'T START THE WAY I WANTED BUT IN THE SECOND HALF WE GOT MORE TEMPO

Bristol Rovers Manager, Dave Penney



Danny Coles beats Will Grigg to the ball

“

WE WENT TO SLEEP AND THEY PUNISHED US. IT WAS SEVEN MINUTES INTO THE SECOND HALF AND IT WAS DISAPPOINTING

Walsall Caretaker Manager, Dean Smith



“ I WAS PLEASED TO GET A GOAL, BUT IT WAS DISAPPOINTING WE COULDN'T GET THE WIN

Jo Kuffour



Right: Will Hoskins takes on Andrew Butler, watched by Aaron Lescott

BRISTOL ROVERS

- 1 Luke Daniels
- 2 Carl Regan
- 5 Danny Coles
- 6 James Tunnicliffe
- 3 Gary Sawyer
- 18 Elliot Richards
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 4 Chris Lines
- 11 Jeff Hughes
- 23 Ben Swallow
- 8 Will Hoskins

Substitutes

- 13 Mike Green
- 14 Wayne Brown
- 16 Dominic Blizzard 4 (90)
- 17 Jo Kuffour 18 (46)
- 20 Charlie Reece
- 21 Charlie Clough
- 22 Harry Pell

WALSALL

Caretaker Boss Dean Smith

- 21 David Bevan
- 2 Darryl Westlake
- 32 Andrew Butler
- 6 Emmanuel Smith
- 3 Aaron Lescott
- 11 Alex Nicholls
- 8 Matt Richards
- 12 Paul Marshall
- 18 Julian Gray
- 19 Will Grigg
- 10 Jonathan Macken

Substitutes

- 1 Jonny Brain
- 4 Clayton McDonald
- 5 Oliver Lancashire
- 7 Steve Jones
- 15 Jamie Paterson 11 (72)
- 20 Sean Geddes
- 23 Ryan McGivern

MATCH STATS

	BRFC	W
Shots on target	7	5
Shots off target	6	9
Corners	6	6
Fouls conceded	10	13
Offside	6	2

Referee: Simon Hooper

Rovers Goalscorers:

Hoskins (52), Kuffour (53)

Rovers Man of the

Match: Will Hoskins

Walsall Goalscorers:

Grigg (5), Lescott (82)

Walsall Man of the

Match: Will Grigg

Attendance: 5,369

Opposition Fans: 130

Actual Time Played: 95 minutes



Above: Eliot Richards hurdles over a challenge from Aaron Lescott, while the assistant referee has to take evasive action!



Right: The goalscorers, Jo Kuffour and Will Hoskins, celebrate

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TEAM TALK

by Keith Brookman

A new situation

Defender Byron Anthony had to sit out the game against Walsall here at the Mem ten days ago, and was only fit enough to take his place on the bench at Carlisle last Saturday.

"I had food poisoning for five days, and was bedridden for three of those days. It wasn't nice, but I got over it and now I'm fit and ready to go again now."

Results from both of the games weren't really what was required, a draw against the Saddlers being followed by a heavy defeat at Brunton Park, where he was able to make a second half substitute appearance.

"We could have done with better results, without a doubt. The game against Walsall was a bit disappointing, as we took a 2-1 lead in second half. If we could have held on to that it would have been a fantastic result for us but wasn't to be, and they managed to nick an equaliser and we only took a point from a game when we were hoping to take all three."

Saturday's game at Carlisle was equally disappointing as, after a first half in which they created a number of scoring opportunities, Rovers were victims of a harsh penalty decision on the stroke of half time and an equally harsh red card for Danny Coles five minutes into the second half.

"I thought we were really impressive in the first half last Saturday and we could have scored a few goals. However we conceded, from the penalty spot, just before half time and that seems to sum us up at the moment, in that we are on top in games and then, for whatever reason, we seem to concede sloppy goals. It's one of those things, and we have to put it behind us and get on with things."

Had one of those first half chances been converted, then Dave Penney might well have been on the way to his first win

“ WE NEED TO STRING A COUPLE OF GOOD RESULTS TOGETHER TO GET OURSELVES OUT OF IT

as Rovers manager.

"Danny Coles hit the bar, while both Jo Kuffour and Will Hoskins had good chances to score, as did Jeff Hughes.

They were good chances and it wasn't easy going in 1-0 down after creating so many chances, and the fact that their goal came from what appeared to be a very harsh penalty decision.

"From where I was, on the bench, the ball seemed to come off Gary Sawyer's thigh and just hit him on the arm.

"As for the red card shown to 'Colesy', that also looked harsh. It seems that the art of tackling is fast disappearing from the game and you certainly can't tackle as aggressively as you would like. The ball was there to be won, and Danny has gone to win it fair and square. However the referee deemed it to be a sending off offence and we had to move on."

After a second goal had been conceded, Byron was called into action.

"It was a difficult time to go on, given the scoreline, and we went on to concede two more goals.

"Sloppy marking from a corner led to the third, and the fourth came from their second penalty of the game.

"Everything seemed to be going against us on the day, but we have to stick together. We know we have to get out of the situation we find ourselves in and the only way to do it is through hard work and, perhaps, grinding out results to enable us to push on up the table."

He admits he didn't expect this side to be struggling at the wrong end of the



Byron Anthony

table, and that it's a new experience for him.

"It's a strange feeling, because I've never been involved in a relegation dogfight before and neither have quite a few of the lads.

"We haven't played really well this season, as our results have shown, and that's why we are down there. We need to string a couple of good results together to get ourselves out of it.

"This was always going to be an important week, with two home games and, with Byron back in the starting lineup, a point was gained in Tuesday's goalless draw against Hartlepool.

"We need to get back to winning ways, hopefully starting today, against Swindon and I hope our supporters really get behind us. I'm sure they will, as they have been fantastic in the five years I've been here. This is a massively important time to get behind us and to push the boys. They really can be the twelfth man and try to help us push up the league."

With a new manager in place, players have to get used to change.

"Every manager has different opinions and styles, and the players have adapted to the new manager's style straight away. First impressions are that he is a good manager and, hopefully, he will be a successful in his time at the club."

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Carl REGAN 88	Darryl DUFFY 88
Eliot RICHARDS 88	Jeff HUGHES 11
Charlie CLOUGH 88	Wayne BROWN 14
Harry PELL 88	Byron ANTHONY 88
George BOOTH 88	Dominic BLIZZARD 88
Jack McKENNA 88	Eliot RICHARDS 88
Lamar POWELL 88	Charlie CLOUGH 88
Darren JEFFERIES 88	Ben SWALLOW 88
Available for AWAY:	Jack McKENNA 88
Mikkel ANDERSEN 1	Lamar POWELL 88
Carl REGAN 88	Darren JEFFERIES 88
James TUNNICLIFFE 88	



THE MATCH...

by Keith Brookman



V CARLISLE UNITED

SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY 2011

@ BRUNTON PARK



The home terrace at Brunton Park



A Rovers flag on the away terrace



It can get pretty lonely...



...waiting for fellow Rovers supporters to arrive!

They like their foxes at Carlisle, dressed up and...

...and stuffed!



THE MATCH ...

by Keith Brookman

CARLISLE UNITED **4**

BRISTOL ROVERS **0**

Having created a number of opportunities in the first half, two harsh decisions either side of half time saw Rovers slip to defeat at Brunton Park.

The home side created three early chances; Ben Marshall's shot was deflected behind for a corner, Luke Daniels saved a shot from Craig Curran, and Marshall hit a long range effort just wide of the upright.

Danny Coles almost gave Rovers the lead when he powered a header against the crossbar following Ben Swallow's free kick, while Kuffour scuffed a shot just wide and Jeff Hughes fired over the bar.

At the other end Daniels touched a long

range effort from James Berrett over the bar and Lubomir Michalek headed just wide of the upright.

Will Hoskins rounded keeper Adam Collin before rolling a shot towards goal, only to see his effort cleared off the line.

Daniels saved from Marshall at the other end, before Kuffour created a chance for Hoskins, who glanced a header wide of the upright.

The home side took the lead with a minute of the half remaining. As the ball was played into the Rovers area, referee Paul Tierney ruled that it had hit Gary Sawyer on the arm and from the resulting penalty James Berrett sent Daniels the wrong way.

Five minutes into the second half Coles was red carded for a challenge on Francois Zoko. Once Coles had departed, the resulting free kick saw Daniels beat away Lubomir Michalik's powerful free kick.

Craig Curran scored the second goal when he slid the ball past Daniels from 18 yards, while Liam Cooper added a third on 72 minutes when he headed home from a corner from the right.

After Stuart Campbell had cleared a Curran header off the line, Berrett scored his second penalty of the afternoon, blasting his spot kick high into the net after Sawyer was adjudged to have brought down Marshall.



Jo Kuffour beats Craig Curran to the ball



ROVERS MADE IT ANYTHING BUT COMFORTABLE FOR US, PARTICULARLY IN WHAT WAS A VERY TIGHT FIRST HALF

Carlisle Manager, Greg Abbot



FOR 43 MINUTES I FELT WE PUT IN PRETTY MUCH A PERFECT AWAY PERFORMANCE APART FROM NOT SCORING



Danny Coles on the ball



“

I THINK TWO BIG DECISIONS WENT AGAINST US IN THE GAME

Stuart Campbell



Right: Gary Sawyer takes on Frank Simek

CARLISLE UNITED

- Boss** Greg Abbott
- 1 Adam Collin
 - 2 Frank Simek
 - 24 Liam Cooper
 - 25 Lubomir Michalek
 - 6 Peter Murphy
 - 14 Ben Marshall
 - 11 Paul Thirlwell
 - 12 Tom Taiwo
 - 21 James Berrett
 - 13 Francois Zoko
 - 15 Craig Curran



Substitutes:

- 5 Danny Livesey
- 7 Kevan Hurst 13 (89)
- 17 Liam Noble 11 (72)
- 23 Tony Caig
- 27 Ben McKenna
- 29 Nahki Wells 14 (84)
- 33 Marco Gbarssin

BRISTOL ROVERS

- 1 Luke Daniels
- 2 Carl Regan
- 5 Danny Coles
- 6 James Tunnicliffe
- 3 Gary Sawyer
- 23 Ben Swallow
- 7 Stuart Campbell
- 4 Chris Lines
- 11 Jeff Hughes
- 8 Will Hoskins
- 17 Jo Kuffour



Substitutes

- 13 Mike Green
- 14 Wayne Brown 17 (76)
- 15 Byron Anthony 23 (63)
- 16 Dominic Blizzard 3 (84)
- 18 Eliot Richards
- 20 Charlie Reece
- 22 Harry Pell



Luke Daniels gathers under pressure

MATCH STATS

	BRFC	CU
Shots on target	3	10
Shots off target	6	6
Corners	-	9
Fouls conceded	13	10
Offside	1	1

Referee: Paul Tierney

Rovers Man of the Match: Stuart Campbell

Carlisle Goalscorers: Berrett (pens. 44 & 82), Curran (57), Cooper (72)

Carlisle Man of the Match: Ben Marshall

Attendance: 4,229

Opposition Fans: 172

Actual Time Played: 95 minutes



Ben Swallow on a determined run

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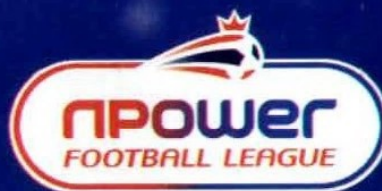
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THE YOUTH MATCH ...

by Keith Brookman



V ASTON VILLA YOUTH

WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2011

@ THE MEMORIAL STADIUM



Darren Jefferies challenges Sebastian Jenkins



Lewis Parker clears, under pressure from Joshua Barton



Robbi Maggs on the ball...

...and watching his shot, that hit the post, safely gathered by keeper Calum Barrett



Lamar Powell makes a break



Jack Camm shields the ball from his marker



Goalkeeper Sam Butler, who made some excellent saves during the match.

WHO ARE YA...?

by Keith Brookman

My likes...

- ❑ 'X Factor' or 'Britain's Got Talent'?
It's 'X Factor' for me
- ❑ Tea, Coffee, or something else?
Tea with one sugar, please
- ❑ 'Corrie', 'Eastenders', or 'Emmerdale'?
I'm a bit of an Eastenders fan
- ❑ Scrambled egg on toast or pasta?
It has to be pasta

My first...

- ❑ ...Team I played for:
Bideford Blues
- ❑ ...Football memory:
Playing football in the local park with my Dad and my brother
- ❑ ...Football hero:
Teddy Sheringham
- ❑ ...Team supported:
Tottenham Hotspur
- ❑ ...Foreign holiday:
France
- ❑ ...Car:
A Metro



Name: Gary Sawyer

Date of Birth: 05/07/85

Position: Left Back

Previous Clubs: Plymouth
Argyle, Exeter City (loan),
Bristol City (loan)

My last...

- ❑ ...Book read:
The Vinnie Jones
Autobiography
- ❑ ...Film watched:
'Jackass 3D'
- ❑ ...Music bought or downloaded:
The latest Devlin album
- ❑ ...Item of clothing bought:
A big warm coat!
- ❑ ...Website visited:
Youtube
- ❑ ...Restaurant visited:
Nando's
- ❑ ...Game I paid to watch:
England v Estonia



Gary Sawyer

My everything...

- ❑ The best player I've played with:
Swansea's Scott Sinclair who began his career at Rovers, and who I played with when he was on loan at Plymouth.
- ❑ The loudest manager I've played for:
Paul Sturrock
- ❑ Hobbies outside of football:
Golf, X-box (Call of Duty), Snooker
- ❑ Me, in three words:
Dedicated, honest, easygoing
- ❑ TV pundit most respected:
Jamie Redknapp
- ❑ My best mate in football is...
Marcus Martin, who plays for Truro FC and Jamie Mackie, who is at QPR

and finally...

- ❑ The worst dressed player at the club is...
Charlie Clough, for his size 12 Airforce Ones and skinny jeans combo!
- ❑ I wouldn't want to share a lift with...
I'm afraid it's 'Cloughie' again, as his banter is as bad as his breath!

ROVERS REVIEW

For our visitors... **THE ROBINS**

NEW ARRIVALS RAISE HOPES

by Peter Gibson

The four match ban handed to **DANNY COLES following his dismissal at Carlisle last Saturday was the last thing **DAVE PENNEY** needed in his efforts to strengthen a defence whose clean sheet on Tuesday was its first since October.**

On Monday he recruited 18 year old central defender **CIAN BOLGER** on loan from Leicester. Brentford's **DAVID McCRACKEN** followed a day later. A 29 year old former Scottish U-21 cap, **McCRACKEN**, who made his debut for the Pirates on Tuesday, started with Dundee United and later spent two seasons with Wycombe. He helped the Chairboys to reach League One and was a member of the PFA League Two Team of the Year in 2008/09. He spent a season at MK Dons before switching to the Bees last summer. **BOLGER**, a Republic of Ireland U-19 international, was on the bench on Tuesday. He was the Foxes' Academy Player of the Year in 2009.

Welsh U-21 central defender **BYRON ANTHONY**, formerly with Cardiff City, played at right back on Tuesday with **McCRACKEN** and **JAMES TUNNICLIFFE** in central defence. **TUNNICLIFFE**, on a season long loan from Brighton, partnered **DANNY COLES** in the centre of defence until the former Bristol City trainee's dismissal last week. **TUNNICLIFFE**, a former Stockport County trainee, ended last season on loan at MK Dons. **COLES** left Hull City in November 2007. He spent a month on loan at Hartlepool before joining Rovers, initially on loan. **CARL REGAN**, who is usually seen at right back, moved up to the right flank against the Monkey Hangers before being replaced by **CHARLIE REECE** after 67 minutes. **REGAN** left Everton to join Barnsley in June 2000. Before signing for Rovers in the summer of 2009 he played for Hull, Chester, Macclesfield and MK Dons. Left back **GARY SAWYER**, a former Bristol City loanee, played over 100 games for Plymouth Argyle.

West Brom keeper **LUKE DANIELS** has succeeded **MIKKEL ANDERSEN** between the posts after the on loan Danish U-21 cap returned to Reading. **DANIELS'** previous loan spell with Rovers ended prematurely due to a back injury. The Baggies' keeper has

previously played on loan for Motherwell, Shrewsbury Town and Tranmere Rovers. His deputy **MIKE GREEN**, who was on loan at Gloucester last season, made his League debut in September.

In central midfield skipper and ex Scottish U-21 cap **STUART CAMPBELL**, who has played over 300 games for Rovers, has been alongside former Filton College student **CHRIS LINES**. **CAMPBELL** came through the ranks at Leicester. He played twice on loan for Birmingham before switching to Grimsby, initially on loan, at the start of the 2000/01 campaign. **DOMINIC BLIZZARD**, a former Watford trainee signed from Stockport in July 2009, made late substitute appearances against Walsall and Carlisle. 19 year old summer signing **HARRY PELL** featured regularly in Charlton's U-18 team.

WAYNE BROWN moved from Fulham, initially on loan, in February. **REECE**, a product of Filton College, has played on the right wing but in recent games the left sided **BEN SWALLOW**, another Filton College graduate, and **JEFF HUGHES** have been operating on the flanks. **HUGHES**, who was ruled out by illness on Tuesday, left Northern Ireland to join Lincoln in 2005. He scored against Rovers in both play off games during the Pirates' promotion campaign in May 2007. The former U-21 cap joined Rovers in 2008 after a £250,000 move to Crystal Palace followed by a stint on loan at Peterborough.

This term's leading scorer, **WILL HOSKINS**, signed from Watford in the summer, scored 16 for Rotherham in the first half of the 2006/07 campaign. He has played on loan for Millwall and Nottingham Forest. **HOSKINS** and **JO KUFFOUR**, combined to produce both goals against Walsall before Rovers were denied a win by former Pirates' defender **AARON LESCOTT**. **KUFFOUR**, last season's top marksman and hat trick hero in the JPT victory at Wycombe, was an Arsenal trainee who played for Swindon on loan before spending the best part of four years at Torquay. His one season with Brentford saw him voted the Bees Player of the Year as top scorer with 12 goals. He turned out for Bournemouth before joining Rovers. 19 year old **ELIOT RICHARDS** started the game



David McCracken

against Walsall and replaced **SWALLOW** on Tuesday with two minutes remaining. **LAMAR POWELL**, 17, recently signed a two year professional contract. Yet to make a senior appearance, **POWELL** scored 52 goals for the U-16 side in 2008/09 before stepping up to the U18 squad. Striker **DARRYL DUFFY**, signed from Swansea in July 2008, is on a season long loan at Hibs. 18 year old youth team striker **ROBBI MAGGS** is a recent addition to the senior squad.

Midfielders **GEORGE BOOTH**, **OLLIE CLARKE** and **JACK McKENNA** all trained and travelled with the seniors last term, while right or left back **MARK COOPER** was an unused substitute. **McKENNA** and **COOPER** are on loan at Chippenham and Frome respectively. **CLARKE**, previously at Gloucester on loan, is now at Mangotsfield. 20 year old **CHARLIE CLOUGH**, a product of Rovers' Centre of Excellence, has had a spell on loan at Newport. 17 year old midfielder Darren Jeffries was given a 2½ year professional contract in October.



Ben Swallow

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY

Charlton manager Phil Parkinson and his backroom staff were relieved of their duties, and Walsall boss Chris Hutchings also lost his job.

Two Will Hoskins goals put Rovers in control against Plymouth at the Memorial Stadium, but the visitors claimed all three points thanks to second half goals from Bradley Wright-Phillips, Joe Mason and Stephane Zubar.



Will Hoskins in action against Walsall

THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY

After selling Craig Noone to Brighton and Reda Johnson to Sheffield Wednesday Plymouth announced that they had cleared their outstanding tax bill.

SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY

Bournemouth moved into second place with a 3-0 win over Plymouth, with goals from Danny Hollands, Warren Feeney and Marc Pugh.

MK Dons drew 1-1 at Exeter, where substitute Jabo Ibehre equalised after Jamie Cureton had put the Grecians ahead. Oldham, with goals from Chris Taylor and Dale Stephens, beat Swindon 2-0, but Walsall remained bottom of the league even though they gained a point from a 3-3 draw at Tranmere. Matt Richards scored for both sides before Aaron Cresswell and Lateef Elford Alliyu put Rovers two goals ahead, but Jonathan Macken and Andy Butler scored to earn Swindon a point.

Chris O'Grady scored the only goal of the game in Rochdale's win at Dagenham & Redbridge, while Paul Huntington and Andy Williams were on target for Yeovil goals in their 2-0 home win over Brentford.

Five League One clubs progressed to the Fourth Round of the FA Cup. Notts County took pride of place with 2-1 win at Sunderland, while Southampton completed a 2-0 home win over Blackpool. Sheffield

Wednesday beat Bristol City 3-0, Leyton Orient beat Norwich 1-0, and Brighton beat Portsmouth 3-1, and Huddersfield were 2-0 winners against Dover Athletic.

Peterborough lost 6-2 at Fulham, Hartlepool went down 4-1 at Watford, Carlisle lost 1-0 at Torquay and Colchester lost 4-0 at Swansea.

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY

Peterborough dispensed with the services of manager Gary Johnson, while Dave Penney was appointed to the vacant managerial post at Rovers.

TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY

Southampton's 6-0 win at Oldham saw them move into second place, while Huddersfield moved up to fourth after recovering a two goal deficit in their 3-2 win against Plymouth.

Two Joe Mason goals put the Argyle in command, but there was a red card for Curtis Nelson and manager Peter Reid was sent to the stand before a Kari Arnasson own goal and goals from Jordan Rhodes and Peter Clarke put the Terriers ahead. Argyle finished with nine men after Stephane Zubar was dismissed in the second half.

Jonathan Obika scored a late winner for Peterborough in their 2-1 win against Brentford, while here at the Mem Walsall took the lead through Will Grigg before goals from Will Hoskins and Jo Kuffour put Rovers in

front, only for Aaron Lescott to equalise for the Saddlers.

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY

Darren Ferguson returned to Peterborough for a second stint as manager.

FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY

Bournemouth lost 2-1 at Colchester after Steve Fletcher had given them the lead, but Steven Gillespie scored twice to give the U's all three points. A late Nicky Forster goal gave Brentford a point from a 1-1 draw with Exeter, who had taken the lead through John O'Flynn.

SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY

Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe took over as boss at Burnley, while Chris Powell became Charlton's new manager.

Top of the table Brighton beat Peterborough 3-1, with the help of two goals from Chris Wood. Huddersfield won 4-2 at Walsall, thanks to late goals from Peter Clarke and Jordan Rhodes.

Southampton were held to a goalless draw by Notts County, while MK Dons beat



...and Jo Kuffour in action at Carlisle

Tranmere 2-0 thanks to goals from Daniel Powell and Jabo Ibehre. Charlton took a two goal lead at Sheffield Wednesday through Scott Wagstaff and John Jackson, but Paul Heffernan and Reda Johnson rescued a point for the Owls.

Galvin Tomlin's goal gave Dagenham & Redbridge a single goal victory at Hartlepool, while James Berrett scored two penalties in Carlisle's 4-0 win against Rovers at Brunton Park, where Danny Coles was sent off.

Yeovil beat Swindon, who had Michael Rose sent off, 1-0 at the County Ground thanks to a Dean Bowditch goal. Leyton Orient and Rochdale shared the points in a 1-1 draw while Dale Stephens was again on target in Oldham's 2-0 win at Plymouth.

WHAT THE BOSSES SAID...

“ IT WAS A DREADFUL START AND A GOOD SECOND HALF PERFORMANCE

Sheffield Wednesday boss Alan Irvine

“ THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR US

Brighton boss Gus Poyet

“ WE ARE THERE TO BE SHOT AT WHEN WE MAKE MISTAKES

Swindon boss Danny Wilson

“ FOR WHATEVER REASON, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN FOR US

Southampton boss Nigel Adkins

“ WE NEED TO GET BACK TO KEEPING CLEAN SHEETS

Plymouth Argyle boss Peter Reid

“ IF I WERE A SUPPORTER I WOULD NEVER, NEVER, NEVER HAVE WATCHED THAT MATCH

Rochdale boss Keith Hill

“ I THOUGHT THAT A POINT WAS THE LEAST WE DESERVED

Brentford boss Andy Scott

BBC RADIO BRISTOL ROUNDUP

by Geoff Twentyman



An inspiration

Charlie Austin could be wearing the number 32 shirt for Swindon today.

He is cracking player, an instinctive finisher with a great work ethic. Furthermore he is an incredibly likeable and modest guy.

At the age of 20 Charlie was plucked from the obscurity of non league football when Swindon signed him from Poole Town. I heard or read somewhere that the transfer meant an elevation of six levels up the football pyramid. To say he has made light of it, is today's understatement. If he continues to work hard and develop he could well play in the top flight one day.

Austin should be the source of considerable hope and inspiration to many lads who play non-league football. Fate will always play a big part as you need to be spotted if you are playing well in the semi pro ranks.

I have a huge interest in the non league scene as I evolved, at the age of 24, from Chorley in the then Northern Premier league (now Conference North)

and I have fond memories of training two nights a week and the close bond with the hard core set of fans who would support with gusto both home and away. I remember in 1983 when I joined Preston from Chorley, Gillingham had plucked Tony Cascarino from the non league world. We played at The Priesfield early in the season. A local newspaper journalist had the idea to do a feature on who would come out on top in the battle of the non league graduates.

There was only one winner! Marking Cascarino was a considerable task. He was a real handful and came out on top. If folklore is true and the Gills 'paid' for his services with a set of kit and a few track suits and balls then it was the signing of the decade!


Charlie Austin sends out a strong message to many non league players. If you are good enough you can always make the quantum leap into the Football League. It also raises the question as to how active clubs are in scouring the world of non league football. I am convinced there are more 'Charlie Austins' out there (not all prolific strikers) and it's where the likes of Bristol Rovers should be more active in looking to uncover hungry talented individuals. Players who are so grateful for the opportunity will wear the shirt with pride.

A final thought. Rovers centre backs will have to do a better job on Charlie Austin this afternoon than I did on Big 'Cas' if they are to prosper today!

Enjoy the game.





Charlie Austin pictured in last season's match against Rovers at the County Ground.



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

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by Ian Holtby

Welcome to the Mem

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

Welcome, also, to everyone connected with Swindon who have made the short trip to Bristol this afternoon.

This afternoon's Match Sponsor is **Mazars** and I would like to welcome Tim Ball and his guests too to the match.

Mazars are business advisors and accountants, specialising in audit, tax and advisory services and pride themselves on being independent, integrated and international.

In the UK Mazars have 106 partners and over 1,100 employees in 18 offices throughout the country including Clifton in Bristol.



Our Match and Matchball Sponsors for Tuesday's match against Hartlepool, Gregor Heating and SH&P selected David McCracken as their Man of the Match and David is pictured here in action during the match.

Internationally Mazars are a unique independent, integrated, international partnership with over 12,500 people worldwide. Mazars has the ability to provide large corporate multinational firms with seamless tailored solutions. Its complete, adaptable and flexible range of services also makes Mazars perfectly able to serve smaller companies and owner-managed businesses as well as high net worth individuals.

Our Matchball Sponsor today is **Four Seasons Maintenance Ltd** and I would like to welcome Dave Short and his guests.

The Four Seasons Group aims to be the 'Perfect environment provider', creating comfortable indoor surroundings for people at work and leisure. Using the latest in energy saving technologies, it supplies efficient equipment which optimise running costs whilst minimising the impact on the environment. It provides system design, installation and maintenance services.

For more information, please contact The Four Season Group on **01628 648 648**, sales@hmailcooling.co.uk or go to www.fourseasonscontrol.co.uk

Locally you can call **0117 952 2571** and speak to Dave Short or one of his team.

Today's Programme Sponsor is **Adrian Hill of Into Heat** and we extend a warm welcome to Adrian and his colleagues.

Into Heat was formed in 1996 and they are a Building Services Engineering Company based in Whitehall, Bristol serving the whole of the South West.

Our Commercial Mascots are **Jack and Tom Bigwood**.

Nine year old Jack and seven year old Tom live in Nailsea and attend Grove Primary School. Both play football for Nailsea Juniors, Jack is a midfield player for Nailsea Athletic U-9's and Tom is a striker for the U-8's. They both enjoy all sports. Their favorite player is Danny Coles and we hope they enjoy being our mascots this afternoon.

We are hosting our annual **Valentines Ball** at the Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel on Saturday 19th February 2011, this is a great event that Directors, players, wives and sponsors all attend and the cost for a fantastic evening is £55 including VAT, and takes place straight after our home game against Oldham. The price includes a four course dinner and dancing to Magic Mirror till 1am. For further information please contact Ian Holtby or Leah Stevens on **0117 9524010** to make a reservation. It will be a great opportunity to meet

the new manager and mix with the players in a fantastic hotel.

1883 SPONSORS CLUB

We are still running our 1883 Sponsors Club for next Season and this is an excellent opportunity for national or local companies to be involved with Bristol Rovers.

Opportunities like this can usually cost between £50,000 to £100,000 - but there's an opportunity for your business to win a MAJOR sponsorship deal for just £1,000.00!

As a member you'll get a fabulous Corporate Hospitality package PLUS a chance to win one in FIVE incredible sponsorship prizes for the duration of the 2011/12 season.

1st Prize - Your company name on the Bristol Rovers home strip for 2011/12

2nd Prize - Your company name on the Bristol Rovers away strip for 2011/12

3rd Prize - Sponsorship of the South Stand for 2011/12

4th Prize - Yours company logo on a stadium perimeter board for 2011/12

5th Prize - A full colour, full page programme ad for the 2011/12 season

The closing date is not far away so if you are interested in taking part please call Leah Stevens on **0117 9524010** or Ian Holtby on **0117 9524049**.

Lets get an important three points today.

C'mon Ye Blues!



Our Commerical Mascots Tom and Jack Bigwood

THE VISITORS

by Bob Ford

Danny Wilson was appointed manager of Swindon Town in December 2008, less than two weeks after being sacked by Hartlepool United.

He started the sixth job of his managerial career by saving the Robins from relegation then, in his first full season, led Swindon into the 2010 League One play off Final against Millwall.

Danny's playing career spanned 20 years, during which he played over 750 games and earned 24 international caps for Northern Ireland. He started with Wigan Athletic, gained League

The Gaffer



Cup winners medals with Luton Town in 1988, and Sheffield Wednesday in 1991, and finished at Barnsley where he was promoted to player manager in 1994.

In 1997 Wilson guided Barnsley to a single season in the Premier League. In the summer of 1998 he accepted the poisoned chalice at Sheffield Wednesday, but could not revive the Owls fortunes and departed in March 2000. Three months later he joined Bristol City.

In June 2004, just days after City lost in the Division Two play offs for the second season running, he was dismissed.



Danny Wilson

Eighteen months at MK Dons ended in May 2006, following their relegation to League Two. But his success story continued at Hartlepool, where he won promotion to League One in 2007.

Swindon Town

SATURDAY 22ND JANUARY 2011 KO 3.00PM @ THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

We might have won the two matches last season by an aggregate of 7-0, but it was DANNY WILSON who led out the Robins in the Play Off Final at Wembley in May.

And, having gained a 2-1 victory at the County Ground in October, it will be Swindon seeking a double this afternoon. Having won just two matches since the middle of November, three points would be more than welcome to halt our visitor's slide toward the relegation scrap.

The Robins started their travels after the New Year with a 4-5-1 formation that earned an impressive 4-2 win at Charlton. They could not repeat the performance at Oldham a few later, and sunk further into the mire losing at home to Yeovil Town last Saturday despite starting with two strikers.

PHIL SMITH made his thirteenth League appearance of the season between the sticks against Yeovil, and will hope to retain his place when **DAVID LUCAS** recovers from a knee injury. **MARK SCOTT** has been on the bench recently, ahead of **JAKUB JESIONKOWSKI**.

SMITH was a Millwall trainee and

played for Folkestone Invicta, Dover Athletic, Margate and Crawley Town before joining Swindon in 2006. He made his 100th appearance for the Robins last month. **LUCAS** was signed from Leeds United in June 2009. He spent ten years with Preston North End and won England U-21 honours before moving to Sheffield Wednesday in 2004, after two loan spells.

He helped the Owls to promotion in 2005 via the League One Play Off Final against Hartlepool United in Cardiff. He moved to Barnsley in January 2007 and to Leeds nine months later, where he had to play second fiddle to **CASPER ANKERGREN** for most of his stay.

SCOTT started as a schoolboy with Southampton and Whitchurch United,



Swindon Town 2010/11

then joined Aldershot Town in 2006. He joined Swindon a year later, and has loan spells with Chippenham Town and Swindon Supermarine while waiting for his first team chance. **JESIONKOWSKI** is a Polish U-21 international who was acquired from Zagłębie Lubin in August 2009.

PAUL CADDIS and **MICHAEL ROSE** filled the full back places at Charlton and Oldham, with **ALAN SHEEHAN** sidelined by a thigh injury suffered on New Year's Day against Bournemouth. But **ROSE** was red carded last Saturday, so **SHEEHAN** is likely to start today ahead of **KEVIN AMANKWAAH**, **CALLUM KENNEDY** and **NATHAN THOMPSON**. **ANDY FRAMPTON** and **SCOTT CUTHBERT** could be the preferred pairing in the centre of defence. But the transfer of **SEAN MORRISON** to Reading earlier in the week could allow **JEAN-FRANCOIS LECSINEL** to make his second appearance of the year, and might make room for first year professional **WILL EVANS** to sit on the bench.

CADDIS came through the ranks at Celtic, and made twenty five appearances for the Bhoys plus another eleven on loan at Dundee United before transferring to Swindon in August 2010. **ROSE** joined Town on a free transfer from Stockport County in June 2010. He was a Manchester United trainee and played for Chester City, Hereford United, Yeovil Town, Cheltenham Town and Scunthorpe United until joining Stockport County in 2006. He made over 120 appearances for the Hatters, including a scoring visit to

the Mem in March 2007. He finished last season on loan with Norwich City and played his last game in the yellow and green when they came and won here 3-0 at the beginning of May.

SHEEHAN was a trainee at Leicester City, who moved to Leeds United in January 2008 and played twenty four games on loan with the Robins last term. He returned on a permanent deal in August. **AMANKWAAH** started with Bristol City and, after loan spells with Torquay United and Cheltenham Town, was transferred to Yeovil Town in 2005. He moved to Swansea City in 2006 and Swindon two years later. **KENNEDY** is a former Reading youngster who made his debut in a 4-1 win over Brentford in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in September 2007. He played three games on loan with Gillingham during November 2010. **THOMPSON** progressed through the youth team to make his League debut against Charlton Athletic in November.

FRAMPTON is on loan from Millwall. He was a Crystal Palace trainee and played over 160 games for Brentford. He played his 100th game for Millwall in November 2009. **LECSINEL** is a Haiti international who made his Swindon debut in February 2009. He began his career in France, playing for the reserve teams of Paris Saint Germain and Sedan. He had a loan spell during 2006 at Falkirk before returning to France with Guingamp.

The win at Charlton prevented



Kevin Amankwaah

JONATHAN DOUGLAS returning from a three match suspension straight into the starting eleven at Oldham, so he sat on the bench alongside **JON-PAUL MCGOVERN**. **MICHAEL TIMLIN**, **SIMON FERRY** and **DAVID PRUTTON** continued in the centre of midfield with **MATT RITCHIE** and **ALAN O'BRIEN** playing wide. Although



Callum Kennedy



Michael Rose

ROVERS v SWINDON TOWN IN THE LEAGUE

	HOME	AWAY
Played	42	43
Won	22	9
Drawn	6	8
Lost	14	28
GF	72	52
GA	51	76



ROVERS

Most appearances:

Ray Warren (17)
Jesse Whatley (17)

Most goals:

William Culley (5)

Players used:

351

Selected debuts:

Bert Hoyle
Frankie Prince

Selected red cards:

Steve Elliott
Brian Williams



SWINDON

Albert Denyer (19)

David Morris (9)

346

Anthony Finnigan

Lee Collins

Sofiene Zaaboub

Jerel Ifil

THE VISITORS

by Bob Ford

the same five started at Oldham five days later O'BRIAN and FERRY dropped to the bench last weekend.

McGOVERN was a junior at Heart of Midlothian and joined Celtic in June 2000. After a spell on loan with Sheffield United he moved to Livingston in 2003. PAUL STURROCK recruited him for Sheffield Wednesday in 2004 and after a season with MK Dons STURROCK brought him to Swindon. TIMLIN was a trainee with Fulham and played on loan at Scunthorpe and Doncaster Rovers before arriving at the County Ground on loan in November 2006. He made twenty four appearances as Town won promotion from League Two. Former manager MAURICE MALPAS offered a permanent contract in May 2008.

FERRY progressed through the Glasgow Celtic ranks with PAUL CADDIS and SCOTT CUTHBERT but was sidelined for nearly two years with a serious ankle injury. He



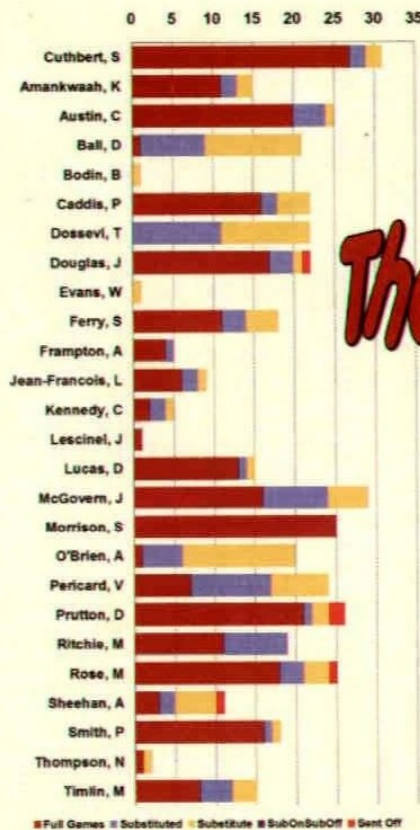
Vincent Pericard in action against Huddersfield Town

played 46 games on loan with the Robins last term and signed a permanent deal during the summer. PRUTTON visited the Mem while on loan with Colchester United last year and with Leeds United in 2007 and 2009. He made over 150 appearances for Nottingham Forest before moving into the Premier League with Southampton in

January 2003.

RITCHIE was Man of the Match in the reverse fixture while on loan from Portsmouth and has recently signed a permanent contract. He made one Premier League start for Pompey and has played over 80 times during loan spells with Dagenham & Redbridge, Notts

SWINDON TOWN - STATS



League Sequences

Since Last Clean Sheet	16
Since Last Home Clean Sheet	9
Since Last Away Clean Sheet	6
Since a Draw	4
Since a Home Win	3
Since an Away Draw	3
Consecutive Defeats	2
Consecutive Home Defeats	2
Since a Home Draw	2

The Robins

Best/Worst Stats this season

Biggest Home Win	2 - 1 Sheff W
Biggest Home Defeat	0 - 3 Charlton
Biggest Away Win	2 - 4 Charlton
Biggest Away Defeat	2 - 0 Oldham A

Home League Attendances

Average	8882
Highest	11087 (South'n - 11/09/2010)
Lowest	7679 (Colch U - 13/11/2010)

Away League Attendances

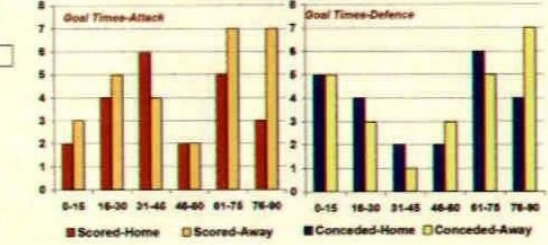
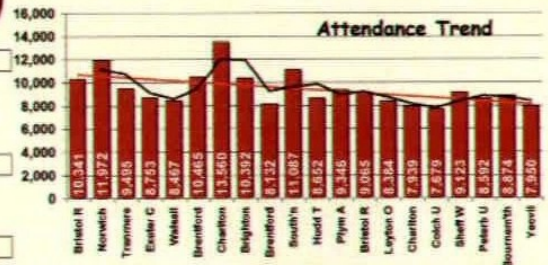
Average	6578
Highest	14740 (Charlton - 03/10/2011)
Lowest	2767 (Dag & Red - 02/10/2010)

League Record 2009-10

Total	Wins	Draws	Defeats
7	7	10	
Home	5	3	5
Away	2	4	5

Scorer

Scorer	Goal Ratio	G	Lge	Cup
Austin, C	1:1.45	17	12	5
Pericard, V	1:3.62	6	2	4
Morrison, S	1:5.00	5	4	1
McGovern, J	1:6.84	4	2	2
Ritchie, M	1:4.75	4	3	1
Ball, D	1:5.68	3	2	1
Dossevi, T	1:6.12	3	3	0
Rose, M	1:8.00	3	3	0
Prutton, D	1:12.67	2	2	0
Cuthbert, S	1:30.34	1	1	0
Sheehan, A	1:9.35	1	1	0
Timlin, M	1:14.01	1	1	0



Focus ON ... ROBINS STARS



Simon Ferrv

County and of course Swindon. Republic of Ireland international **O'BRIEN** began with Newcastle United and after going on loan to Carlisle United in 2005 joined Hibernian in July 2007. He moved to Wiltshire two years later.

DAVID BALL has completed his temporary move from Manchester City

4 JONATHAN DOUGLAS The club captain arrived on a free transfer in July 2009 from Leeds United.

He moved from Monaghan United to Blackburn Rovers and made his debut in October 2000 against West Ham United in the Carling Cup. Loan spells with Chesterfield, Blackpool and Gillingham preceded another loan to Elland Road in August 2005 which became permanent a year later. The Republic of Ireland international was a near ever present for Town last term.



2 SCOTT CUTHBERT The central defender was signed in July 2009 from Glasgow Celtic where he had captained the club's U-19 and reserve teams.

Scott saw first team action in Scotland on loan with Livingston and during a season long loan at St. Mirren. He also captained the Scotland U-19 side that reached the final of the UEFA U-19 Championships in 2006 and represented his country at U-20 level in the 2007 World Cup in Canada.



32 CHARLIE AUSTIN Several Championship clubs are reported to be interested the prolific striker. The transfer window opened with Charlie's tally standing at 35 goals from 52 starts since signing from Poole Town in October 2009.

The former Reading trainee worked for his father's building firm after leaving school. He joined Poole in 2008, scored 46 goals in as many games and attracted interest from Bournemouth but their transfer embargo prevented them from making an offer.



FIXTURES 2010/11 SWINDON TOWN

Date	Opposition	Result	Att	Comp
07-Aug	Brighton	L 1-2	10,382	Lge 1
10-Aug	Leyton O	L 1-2	4,450	LC1
14-Aug	Hartlepool	D 2-2	2,893	Lge 1
21-Aug	Brentford	D 1-1	8,132	Lge 1
28-Aug	MK Dons	L 1-2	7,866	Lge 1
31-Aug	South'n	W 3-0	8,333	JPT(S)1
04-Sep	Carlisle	D 0-0	5,689	Lge 1
11-Sep	South'n	W 1-0	11,087	Lge 1
18-Sep	Walsall	W 2-1	4,580	Lge 1
25-Sep	Hudd T	W 1-0	8,682	Lge 1
28-Sep	Plym A	L 2-3	9,346	Lge 1
02-Oct	Dag & Red	L 1-2	2,767	Lge 1
05-Oct	Torquay	W 2-0	3,625	JPT(S)2
11-Oct	Bristol R	W 2-1	9,065	Lge 1
16-Oct	Peterb U	L 4-5	7,077	Lge 1
23-Oct	Leyton O	D 2-2	8,384	Lge 1
30-Oct	Yeovil	D 3-3	4,671	Lge 1
02-Nov	Charlton	L 0-3	7,939	Lge 1
06-Nov	Plym A	W 4-0	5,226	FAC1
09-Nov	Brentford	D 1-1 (2-4)	3,489	JPT(S)QF
13-Nov	Colch U	W 2-1	7,879	Lge 1
20-Nov	Rochdale	D 3-3	2,886	Lge 1
23-Nov	Notts C	L 0-1	4,644	Lge 1
26-Nov	Crawley	D 1-1	3,895	FAC2
04-Dec	Sheff W	W 2-1	9,123	Lge 1
07-Dec	Crawley	L 2-3	2,955	FAC2(R)
28-Dec	Peterb U	D 1-1	8,592	Lge 1
01-Jan	Bournem'th	L 1-2	8,874	Lge 1
03-Jan	Charlton	W 4-2	14,740	Lge 1
06-Jan	Oldham A	L 0-2	3,573	Lge 1
15-Jan	Yeovil	L 0-1	7,950	Lge 1
22-Jan	Bristol R	-	-	Lge 1
25-Jan	Tranmere	-	-	Lge 1
29-Jan	Exeter C	-	-	Lge 1
01-Feb	Bournem'th	-	-	Lge 1
05-Feb	Rochdale	-	-	Lge 1
08-Feb	Leyton O	-	-	Lge 1
12-Feb	Colch U	-	-	Lge 1
15-Feb	Exeter C	-	-	Lge 1
19-Feb	Carlisle	-	-	Lge 1
26-Feb	South'n	-	-	Lge 1
05-Mar	Walsall	-	-	Lge 1
06-Mar	Plym A	-	-	Lge 1
12-Mar	Dag & Red	-	-	Lge 1
19-Mar	Hudd T	-	-	Lge 1
26-Mar	Brighton	-	-	Lge 1
02-Apr	Hartlepool	-	-	Lge 1
09-Apr	Brentford	-	-	Lge 1
16-Apr	MK Dons	-	-	Lge 1
23-Apr	Notts C	-	-	Lge 1
25-Apr	Sheff W	-	-	Lge 1
30-Apr	Oldham A	-	-	Lge 1
07-May	Tranmere	-	-	Lge 2

leaving **THOMAS DOSSEVI**, **VINCENT PERICARD** and teenager **BILLY BODIN** to compete with **CHARLIE AUSTIN** for possibly the lone striker role.

DOSSEVI signed a one year deal at The County Ground in August 2010 after impressing on trial after being released by French club Nantes. He is a Togo international who was part of his country's squad at the 2006 World Cup. **PERICARD** scored the deciding goal over the Gas in October. He was recruited twelve months ago after rejecting a contract extension at Carlisle United. He had previously played for Juventus, Millwall, St Etienne, Portsmouth, Sheffield United, Plymouth Argyle, Stoke City and Southampton.



David Prutton

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES - LEAGUE ONE

HOME	AWAY	KO
AFC Bournemouth	v Brighton & Hove Albion	15:00
Charlton Athletic	v Plymouth Argyle	15:00
Dagenham & Red.	v MK Dons	15:00
Exeter City	v Walsall	15:00
Huddersfield Town	v Colchester United	15:00
Leyton Orient	v Sheffield Wednesday	15:00
Notts County	v Carlisle United	15:00
Oldham Athletic	v Brentford	15:00
Peterborough United	v Hartlepool United	15:00
Tranmere Rovers	v Southampton	15:00

DIVISION ONE - LEAGUE TABLE 2009/10

POS	NAME	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Brighton	23	13	7	3	42	18	24	46
2	Huddersfield	25	13	3	9	42	32	10	42
3	Southampton	24	12	5	7	43	20	23	41
4	Bournemouth	25	11	7	7	45	27	18	40
5	Peterborough	23	11	3	9	46	46	0	36
6	MK Dons	25	11	3	11	33	37	-4	36
7	Charlton	23	9	8	6	39	35	4	35
8	Oldham	23	9	8	6	34	33	1	35
9	Sheffield Wed	23	10	4	9	36	24	12	34
10	Colchester	22	8	10	4	32	31	1	34
11	Rochdale	24	8	9	7	34	30	4	33
12	Hartlepool	23	9	6	8	26	30	-4	33
13	Plymouth	26	9	6	11	34	41	-7	33
14	Brentford	24	9	5	10	28	30	-2	32
15	Carlisle	22	8	7	7	33	24	9	31
16	Exeter City	24	8	7	9	35	42	-7	31
17	Notts County	22	9	3	10	30	29	1	30
18	Leyton Orient	22	7	7	8	32	34	-2	28
19	Swindon Town	24	7	7	10	36	41	-5	28
20	Tranmere	23	7	5	11	27	37	-10	26
21	Yeovil Town	23	7	5	11	24	36	-12	26
22	Bristol Rovers	24	5	9	10	27	45	-18	24
23	Dagenham & R	23	5	6	12	24	38	-14	21
24	Walsall	24	5	4	15	26	48	-22	19



David McCracken

MATCH STATS

2010/2011 SEASON

All Saturday matches KO 3.00pm unless stated.
All evening matches KO 7.45pm unless stated.

PLAYED: 1 2 3 Number indicates goals scored
S indicates player was substituted

USED SUB: 1 2 3 Number indicates player replaced

1 Booked 1 Sent off

FAC = FA Cup CC = Carling Cup JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy

Date	Day	Opponent	H/A	Result	H Att.	A Att	Pos	Referee
7	SAT	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	A	0-3	7,113	661	23	G L Ward
10	TUE	OXFORD UNITED CC 1	A	1-6	5,008	661	23	F Graham
14	SAT	YEOVIL TOWN	H	2-1	6,438	552	13	M Oliver
21	SAT	EXETER CITY	A	2-2	7,401	1,078	13	M Russell
28	SAT	SOUTHAMPTON	H	0-4	8,226	1,771	19	G. Scott
4	SAT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A	1-1	4,039	219	17	G. Eltringham
11	SAT	BRENTFORD	H	0-0	5,609	469	17	S. Matthieson
18	SAT	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	A	3-0	2,287	523	15	T. Kettle
25	SAT	NOTTS COUNTY	H	2-1	5,962	332	13	D. Whitestone
28	TUE	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	0-1	5,589	117	15	C. Sarginson
2	SAT	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	A	1-0	12,344	257	9	K.G. Evans
5	TUE	ALDERSHOT TOWN JPT 2 7:15PM KO	H	1-0	4,050	133	9	P. Gibbs
11	MON	SWINDON TOWN	A	1-2	9,065	870	15	A. Taylor
16	SAT	ROCHDALE	H	2-1	5,872	343	9	C. Pawson
23	SAT	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	A	2-2	2,792	170	12	M. Hayward
30	SAT	CARLISLE UNITED	H	1-1	6,144	336	12	O. Langford
2	TUE	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A	1-3	7,413	755	12	R. Shoebridge
6	SAT	DARLINGTON FAC 1	A	1-2	1,602	197	12	J. Waugh
9	TUE	WYCOMBE WANDERERS JPT 3	A	6-3	1,571	231	12	K.D. Hill
13	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT	H	0-3	5,541	282	15	A. Woolmer
20	SAT	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	A	2-2*	7,407	268	16	K. Stroud
23	TUE	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	A	1-1	13,468	393	16	M. Russell
11	SAT	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	A	2-6	19,242	1,220	21	C. Webster
14	TUE	EXETER CITY JPT ASF	H	2-2†	3,881	799	21	D. McDermid
1	SAT	MILTON KEYNES DONS	A	0-2	7,185	609	21	A. Woolmer
4	TUE	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	2-3	5,983	785	21	R. Booth
11	TUE	WALSALL	H	2-2	5,369	130	22	S. Hooper
15	SAT	CARLISLE UNITED	A	0-4	4,229	172	22	P. Tierney
18	TUE	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H	0-0	5,285	58	22	D. Sheldrake
22	SAT	SWINDON TOWN	H					
29	SAT	WALSALL	A					
2	WED	MILTON KEYNES DONS	H					
5	SAT	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H					
8	TUE	ROCHDALE	A					
12	SAT	LEYTON ORIENT	A					
19	SAT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H					
15	TUE	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H					
26	SAT	BRENTFORD	A					
1	TUE	COLCHESTER UNITED	H					
5	SAT	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	H					
8	TUE	TRANMERE ROVERS	A					
12	SAT	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H					
19	SAT	NOTTS COUNTY	A					
25	FRI	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H					
2	SAT	YEOVIL TOWN	A					
9	SAT	EXETER CITY	H					
16	SAT	SOUTHAMPTON	A					
23	SAT	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H					
25	MON	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	A					
30	SAT	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	H					
7	SAT	COLCHESTER UNITED	A					
14	SAT	FAC FINAL						

* 1 own goal † Lost 5-4 on penalties

by Leigh Edwards



Swindon Town

STAN HARLAND: Central defender Stan Harland captained Swindon Town's 1968/69 promotion and League Cup 'double' triumph. He had spells with Burnley, New Brighton, Everton and Bradford City before joining Carlisle United in June 1964. Ever present in their 1964/65 Third Division title campaign, he moved to the County Ground in August 1966. Also skipping Swindon's 1970 Anglo Italian Cup final success, he netted six goals in 237 League games prior to joining Birmingham City in December 1971 and captained them to promotion that season. He was later Yeovil Town's player boss and died in Yeovil in September 2001.

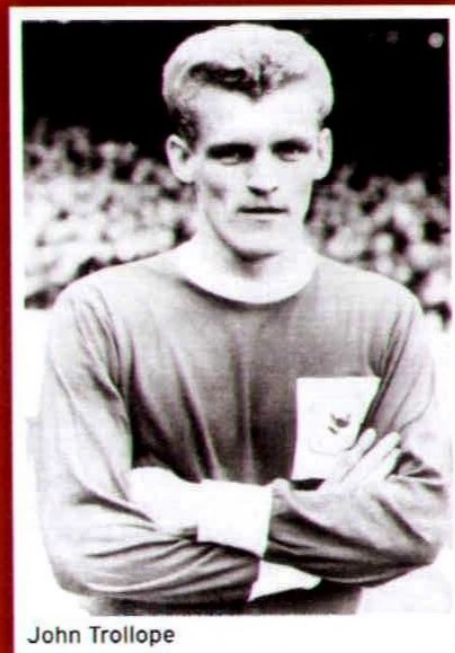
ROD THOMAS: Welsh international right back Rod Thomas was capped 30 times while at Swindon Town. Initially with Gloucester City, he moved to the County Ground in July 1964 and was an important figure in Swindon's 1968/69 promotion and League Cup 'double' success. He also starred in their 1970 Anglo Italian Cup final triumph and netted five goals in 296 League games before following Dave Mackay to Derby County in November 1973. Featuring in their 1974/75 League Championship campaign, he moved to

Cardiff City in November 1977, then had spells with Newport County and Gloucester again before becoming a publican.

JOHN TROLLOPE: Long serving left back John Trollope holds Swindon Town's appearance record. Signing professional at the County Ground in July 1960, he made his League debut in Swindon's 1-1 draw at home to Halifax Town a month later and was ever present in seven consecutive seasons including the 1962/63 promotion success. He featured in Swindon's 1968/69 promotion and League Cup 'double' campaign as well as their 1970 Anglo Italian Cup final triumph. Scoring 21 goals in 770 League games for Swindon, he was their coach, then manager between November 1980 and March 1983. Later youth team boss, he was awarded an MBE.

COLIN CALDERWOOD: Commanding central defender Colin Calderwood was capped 36 times by Scotland after leaving Swindon Town. Signing professional for Mansfield Town in March 1982, he moved to the County Ground in July 1985 and starred as Swindon won the Fourth Division title in 1985/86. He was also an important figure as they won promotion in 1986/87, then featured in two further play off finals including their 1993 Wembley triumph. Scoring 20 times in 330 League games for Swindon, he moved to Tottenham Hotspur in July 1993 and later played for Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest. He has managed Northampton Town and Forest.

GLENN HODDLE: Ex England international midfielder Glenn Hoddle led Swindon Town to First Division play off final glory in 1992/93. Signing professional for Tottenham Hotspur in April 1975, he starred in their 1981



John Trollope

and 1982 FA Cup final successes and was a finalist again shortly before joining Monaco in June 1987. He helped win the French League title in 1987/88 and was appointed Swindon's player boss in April 1991, scoring once in 64 League games while at the County Ground. Moving to Chelsea in a similar capacity in June 1993, he guided them to the 1994 FA Cup final and has since managed England, Southampton, Spurs and Wolves.

SHAUN TAYLOR: Influential central defender Shaun Taylor captained Swindon Town to the Second Division title and FA Cup Fifth Round in 1995/96. He impressed with Bideford before moving to Exeter City in December 1986 and skippered their 1989/90 Fourth Division title triumph. Joining Swindon in July 1991, he was ever present as they won promotion to the Premiership in 1992/93. He was their 'Player of the Year' three times and netted 30 goals in 212 League games while at the County Ground. Moving to Bristol City in September 1996, he captained them to promotion glory in 1997/98 and has since become their development coach.



Colin Calderwood

SATURDAY TEAM CLUBS

ONLY THREE SATURDAY TEAM CLUBS MATCHES LEFT

A Saturday Team Club is a great way to come and join Dave Penney as he starts a new era for Bristol Rovers.

For a bargain £22 you will become part of Bristol Rovers for the day, meeting the players, having a guided tour of The Memorial Stadium, watching the game, as well as a number of other great activities.

The Club is available for only three more Saturday League One home matches:

19th February v Oldham
5th March v Dagenham
12th March v Huddersfield

This is a unique opportunity for any organised group of children to enjoy a day at Bristol Rovers in a fun and relaxed atmosphere with the professional coaches of our Community team.

THE DAY INCLUDES:

- Training session and small sided tournament at Golden Hill Sports Ground.

- Tour of the Memorial Stadium.
- Lunch supplied for everyone.
- Visit to the club shop.
- Meet some of the Bristol Rovers players for autographs and photos.
- Seats in the South Stand for the game*
- Photo on the pitch at half time, which is then included in the next available matchday programme.
- Signed official Bristol Rovers football for the group.

All this for only £22 per head, child or adult.

There is a minimum number of 20 children per group and a maximum of 50. This is a popular day out and most bookings are taken early in the season.

All of our coaches are FA qualified and have an enhanced CRB check via The FA CRB Unit.

If you would like to book a Saturday Team Club or need more information, please call us on **0117 9522581** or visit

www.bristolroverscommunity.org.uk

*Subject to change dependent on fixture.



Above: Our Saturday Team Club against Tranmere Rovers



Meet the players!



Right: Our Saturday Team Club against Southend

SEE YOUR
EVENING  POST
FOR THE
BEST
COVERAGE
OF ROVERS



Young PIRATES

by Karl Davies & Andy Matthews



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Shipmates!

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

- JAN 1 Joseph Ledbury
- JAN 6 Ava Coombs
- JAN 3 Adam Lowry
- JAN 20 Taylor Thatcher
- JAN 24 Louie Griffiths
- JAN 27 Kieran Mock
- JAN 28 Thomas Hepworth
Matthew Shallis
Harry Waters
- JAN 30 Regan Whitbread
- JAN 30 Christopher White
- JAN 31 Lukas Humphries

A belated Happy Birthday to Joe Denman, who was 14 on 20th December, and welcome to the following Young Pirates; Lennon Wicks, Lola May Spiller and Sophie White.



Our mascot for the game against Hartlepool was Calum Chilcott, pictured here with team captains, match officials and Captain Black Arab...



...and with Will Hoskins

We must get back to winning ways, so let's start today!

Good afternoon all you Young Pirates out there, and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our game against Swindon Town.

The games we play against Swindon are always special

because really it is a local derby and it all gets a tad nervous when Swindon come to Bristol.

We would also like to welcome Sharon and the members of the Junior Robins to the Mem, and we hope you enjoy your visit and hopefully we will see you next season.

We would also like to applaud the Young Pirates who travelled up to Carlisle last Saturday; your dedication is fantastic, and it's a shame the result wasn't what we wanted. We must be positive and shout and roar on the Gas today.

Our trip to Walsall has been cancelled, but please pop into our room and see about our up and coming trips. Don't forget Andy's world famous 50p mix ups, and John and Marilyn's souvenirs.

We would welcome any photos of our Young Pirates if you wish to be featured in future programmes; all you have to do is pop along to our room with a photo and ask for Karl who will take a few details off of you and he will do his best to get it in a programme.

Today's MASCOT

Eight year old **EMILY HOLBROOK** lives in Southmead and attends Charborough Road Primary School.

Her hobbies are football, cycling and PE. Emily works hard at everything she does and she has lots of school certificates.

Emily's favourite players are Jo Kuffour, Will Hoskins, and Stuart Campbell, and says that being a Rovers mascot is a dream come true.

We hope that she enjoys her time with us this afternoon.



Will Hoskins, one of Emily's favourite players

WORDSEARCH

T	I	C	K	E	T	Q	N	U	L
G	C	F	V	V	P	D	R	S	Z
Q	T	A	D	K	E	V	U	E	C
V	D	P	S	R	O	B	I	N	S
P	E	N	N	E	Y	Q	L	X	I
H	F	O	I	F	Y	L	M	H	O
P	O	I	N	T	S	L	H	S	F
K	E	A	E	T	Y	X	V	L	G
V	C	O	U	N	T	Y	L	U	Q
M	B	G	R	O	U	N	D	S	X

RED
ROBINS
COUNTY
GROUND

PENNEY
DAVE
TICKET
POINTS

Answers on page 43

PLAY OUR PART

Good afternoon and welcome to all at the Memorial Stadium for today's encounter with near neighbours Swindon Town.

In the past few seasons the fixture has marked a top half game as was the case in the promotion season for both clubs from League Two and more recently in League One. Both sets of supporters will be disappointed that the game today will be seen as a relegation battle, even though we have only just marked the mid point in the season and there is still a lot of football to be played between now and early May.

Swindon supporters will be especially concerned given that last season saw their club on the brink of promotion to the Championship. The departure of a couple or so of their key players from last season will undoubtedly be seen as a major contributing factor. Charlie Austin was a big find for them from non league football and is still scoring a good number of goals in spite of the clubs failure to bring in a replacement for the departed Billy Paynter; even with those goals Swindon have struggled to find the consistency required to mount a challenge so far this season and find themselves at the wrong end of the table.

The weather up at Carlisle last Saturday was atrocious, with very heavy rain and a strong wind. Many of us were surprised to find the game on. Travelling up to Cumbria was difficult, and so was the return journey down as far as Manchester. All credit to our supporters at the game. The singing was massive as we tried to keep our spirits up in the second half of the game. It was so good to see Dave Penney lead the team over to acknowledge that after the final whistle was blown; fair play to him.

The Severn Vale Branch again raised local transport to maintain their one 100% record for away travel this season. I travelled up from Keele Services on the Supporters Club coach which picked up



Will Hoskins in action against Hartlepool on Tuesday

at the Mem, Eastville and Kingswood. I was proud and privileged to be part of such great support for our club in the circumstances. If we stick together we will get out of this. Hard work, commitment and desire will pull us through. We cannot be divided in any way, shape or form.

The first team needs our total support. I know them and I do not believe any of them wish to play badly and to lose football matches. Many of them are comparatively young and inexperienced in this situation. We can play our part in pulling them through. A couple of wins will make all the difference.

Today is an important a game and we are up against a group that can win away at Charlton and yet lose at home to Yeovil. On the other hand we know we can play as we did in the away fixture up at Huddersfield where we came home with three excellent points.

I accept that these notes represent a rallying cry and I do not apologise for that. We all pay our money and we are all entitled to our say but for ninety plus minutes this afternoon we are The Gas; supporters, directors, staff and players. Come on you Blues, wear the quarters with pride, together we can do this.

Ken Masters, BRSC director.

SHARE SCHEME NEWS

Membership at the end of December 2010 stood at 215 bronze, 58 silver, 6 gold, 2 platinum, giving a total of 281.

Contributions received totalled £4,009 from the 281 members.

Cumulative members' contributions received from commencement of the Scheme totalled £882, 866.

The Supporters Club total holding at 31st December 2010 was 390,920.

Percentage holding by the Supporters Club was 7.87%.

SHARE SCHEME – IT'S NOT TOO LATE

The Board has agreed that the Share Scheme can continue this year and joining information can be found here:- <http://www.bristolroverssc.co.uk/Share-Scheme/4/Share-Scheme-Membership-Forms.html>

If you would like to join or introduce someone else please contact Clare McDonagh at Pirate Leisure on **0117 9524001** clare@bristolrovers.co.uk If you would simply like to know more about the scheme then please contact David Brain; on 07765 254110 or davidbrain1883@talktalk.net

WEBSITE

Check out our website for full details of away travel, notes from our pages in previous programmes, a list of Gold Bond winners and bargains on offer at our shop in Two Mile Hill, Kingswood.

TABLE FOOTBALL

We are hoping to stage a table football competition here in the Memorial Stadium next March or April and would be grateful if

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jim Chappell



With Rovers playing catch up on all their postponed home fixtures over the Christmas and New Year holiday period we are again writing this Supporters Club column before the last home game.

Whatever the result of last Tuesday's match against Hartlepool United, this afternoon's game has taken on the label of a six pointer with Swindon having become one of the teams we need to catch if we are to maintain League 1 status next season!

They say that when you are down things keep going wrong for you, and that was certainly the case last Saturday against Carlisle at Brunton Park. Our longest trip of the season, which looked so promising after 40 minutes, turned into something of a nightmare when the first of three contentious refereeing decisions all went the way of our hosts. A delay free Supporters Club coach trip got me back home from the borders in time to watch Match of the Day and similar incidents from the Premiership that afternoon were dealt with in completely the opposite way from those that condemned Rovers to another big defeat at Brunton Park.

There were a couple of ball to hand penalty appeals turned down on the box when Gary Sawyer seemed unable to escape giving away the vital spot kick that set the home side on the road to victory just before the break. Manchester United's Raphael only received a booking for a foul that looked far worse than Danny Coles' ball winning tackle which earned him an immediate red card and four match suspension just as we are so thin on the ground for defenders.

I'll have to go along with Mr. Tierney's second penalty award at Brunton after viewing Gary Sawyer's tackle second time around on the Football League show, but by then Rovers were a well beaten team. I have to say that in my 50 years of watching Rovers I have

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 Sandra Jacques

Secretary Sue Williams

Social Chairman Dave Hewett

Communications Dennis Payter

never seen such a Jeekyll & Hyde team in the quartered shirts. During the first half, against a gale force wind as well, we played some great football and could have scored three or four goals. However, once we fell victim to that first penalty award just before the interval there was nothing else at all to cheer despite the gale being in our favour in the second half. Similar spells of great play have interspersed some truly dire and ineffective football by the Pirates this term and the one good thing to come out of it is that our new manager has truly seen us at our best and worst in the short time since he took over. Dave has promised signings and, even by the time of writing, he has been true to his word with the capture of Leicester City's Cian Bolger on loan for a month from the Foxes. Judging by Cian's stature alone we seem to have acquired a giant of Devon White proportions so he should bring a welcome presence to the back line.

I really don't want to be negative about the club's present situation and whatever view you might have on recent events and the appointment of the new manager, at the very least Dave Penney is proven at this level and he has half of the season to turn things round. We know this team can play great football but we have not, at the time of writing, won a game for three months so a big turn around is required. We supporters have a big part to play by getting behind the boys no matter what the circumstances on the day. There was some great support for the team up at Carlisle despite everything going against us. Dave and the boys need that type of support in every game so please let's hear it against the Robins this afternoon.

Up the Pirates!

Jim Chappell, BRSC Chairman

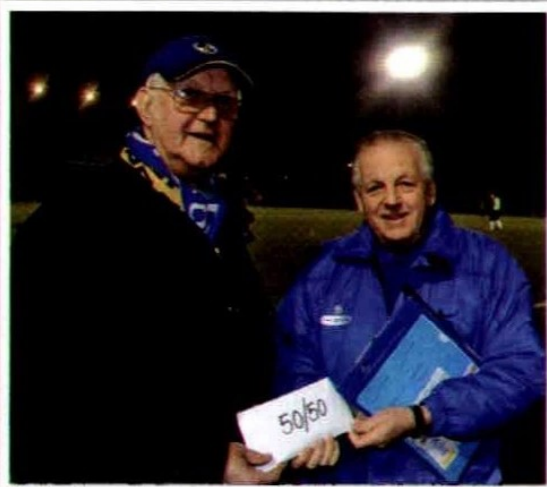
people could lend us the appropriate tables.

For more details
contact David Hewett
on 0117 9560128.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The first prize
of £1,000 in the
Supporter's Club
Christmas Draw was
won by Mrs J. Drake;
2nd L. Johnson £150;
3rd N. Chappell £50.

Eleven £10 vouchers were
won by: T. Allen, I Storr, I Storr, P. Jordan,
H. Hulbert, M. Whelan, Cornick, I. Hall,
A. Munro, R. Emery, M. Trafford.



QUIZ NIGHT

The next Supporters Club
General Knowledge Quiz is on

Thursday, February 24th, in The Clubhouse at the Stadium.

Entry is £1 per person, maximum of 5
per team with a cash prize for the winners.
There will be a raffle with proceeds going
to the Share Scheme.

50/50 DRAW

Ivor Maggs won £534 in
Tuesday's 50/50 draw, with
ticket number 63102 and is
seen in the photo left receiving
his winnings from Jim Chappell.

There was also a second prize of a
Peter Pies Hamper, which was won by Dave
Taylor, with ticket number 61332.

NEXT AWAY...

by Dave Pritchard

SAT 29TH JANUARY - 3.00PM

nPOWER LEAGUE ONE

WALSALL



**Banks's Stadium
Bescot Crescent, Walsall WS1 4SA**

Estimated time by car: 1 hour 40 minutes

Distance: 90 miles

Nickname: The Saddlers

Year Formed: 1888

Ground Capacity: 11,300

Last season: Saddlers 0-0 Pirates

Supporters Club coaches leave the Memorial Stadium and Kingswood at 11.45am and Eastville at 12.00pm

Coach fare: £11.00

Tickets (All seats):

Adults: £20.50

60+/U-18's: £14.50

A £2.00 Early Bird reduction applies to tickets purchased in advance. These must be purchased from the Walsall ticket office, tel. 01922 651416. Tickets are NOT available from the BRSC shop or Pirate Leisure

NEXT HOME...

by Bob Ford

Karl Robinson's men, our visitors next
Wednesday week, lost at home to Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday evening after goals from Daniel Powell and Jabo Ibehere against Tranmere Rovers took them into the play off zone last Saturday.

Ibehere also scored in the Dons' draw at Exeter a week earlier. Robinson has lost the services of Jermaine Easter, who signed for Crystal Palace after returning from his loan spell at Swansea, but has boosted his strike force with the addition of loan signing Rowan Vine, who was recruited by OPR from Birmingham City in January 2008.

The 28 year old front man scored three times in 15 games in his first season at Loftus Road before breaking a leg in a training ground accident. He joins Michael McIndoe, the former Bristol City wide man who has been

WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

- 7.45PM

nPOWER LEAGUE ONE

MK DONS



on loan from Coventry City since November.

Powell and Peter Leven scored the goals in our defeat at stadiummk on New Year's Day. Leven's goal was the sixth of the season so far for the former Rangers, Kilmarnock and Chesterfield midfielder who was the Dons' first signing after their promotion from League Two in 2008. Player/coach Dietmar Hamann, a former Champions League winner with Liverpool, who has not had a first team outing since October, was on the bench against Tranmere last week.

We can expect to see Luke Chadwick, the former Manchester United trainee, a £200,000 signing from Norwich, in midfield and long serving one club man Dean Lewington at left back.

BRISTOL ROVERS FC - MATCHDAY TICKET PRICES

Blackthorn Terrace	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£18.00 £11.00 £10.00
Uplands East Terrace	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£18.00 £11.00 £10.00
Family Enclosure	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£18.00 £11.00 £7.00
DAS West Enclosure	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£20.00 £12.00 £11.00
Uplands East Stand	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£24.00 £15.50 £14.50
DAS West Stand	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£26.00 £20.50 £19.50
South West Stand (seating)	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£21.00 £13.00 £12.00
South Stand (seating)	Adult 65+/Student Under 16	£20.50 £12.50 £11.50
Ambulant Disabled (SW Stand)	Adult/65+/Stud Under 16	£11.00 £10.00
Wheelchair Bay	Adult/65+/Stud Under 16	£11.00 £10.00
Wheelchair/Disabled Carer	Adult/65+/Stud Under 16	FREE FREE
Visitors Terrace	Adult/65+Stud/U16	£18.00/£11.00/£10.00
Visitors Seating	Adult/65+Stud/U16	£20.50/£12.50/£11.50

AVAILABLE FROM:

THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

Ticket Office (Matchdays Only): Tel: 0117 9098848
and online @ www.bristolrovers.co.uk

Pirate Leisure At the Memorial Stadium
Tel: 0117 9096648 Fax: 0117 9085530

BRFC Supporters Club

199 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood,
Bristol BS15 1AZ
Tel: 0117 9611772 Fax: 0117 9611773

EARLY BIRD

£2.00
SAVING IF
BOOKED
BY 5.00PM
ON DAY
PRECEDING
MATCH.

U11's free of charge when accompanied by a full paying adult (£10 joining U11's scheme)



ALL REVVED UP!

by David Jeal



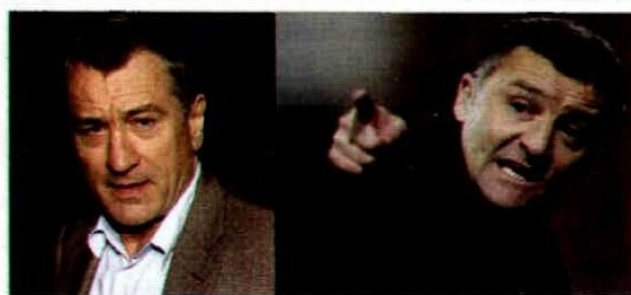
Will the real Dave Penney please stand up

Dear Rev

I am writing out of pure frustration.

I feel very angry that someone who is a doppelganger has taken my position as manager at Bristol Rovers. I believe that the imposter is actually Robert De Niro who, by the way, has never managed a football club in his life.

It all started getting a bit odd when I was at the supermarket at home in Yorkshire and this bloke bumped into me. I said "hey steady on pal," as you do, to which he replied "You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? Then



Ey up - who are ya?

who the hell else are you talking to? You talkin' to me? Well, I'm the only one here."

It was as though I was on the set of Taxi driver. I looked at this rude American and thought "blimey he doesn't half look like me?" and since that incident the man has turned up everywhere; outside my house, at different footy matches.... the man's been stalking me. Rev I am at a loss as to what to do and would ask for your wisdom in this matter.

Yours,

The real Bristol Rovers Manager,
Dave Penney

Dear Dave

We all know you're **The Godfather** but who would have thought De Niro would make The swap. Everyone here at Rovers knows you're one of the **Goodfellas** and if he thinks he is one of the **Untouchables** he is going to have a rude **Awakenings** because

The Fan will just not put up with it. Now we know **The Score**. He is going to feel the **Heat** and I don't think it will be long before we get **True Confessions** from him either. I bet you felt like a **Raging Bull** but when you look back and **Analyze** this you will see it's probably a **Godsend**. But it's **Showtime** now and The gang who couldn't shoot straight are forgotten because we have **Great Expectations**. We know that this team are **Born to Win** and will be playing like Brazil in no time.

God Bless, The Rev.

HELPLINE

by Martyn Radnedge

Firstly Helpline would like to welcome Dave Penney, and wish him well as our new manager.

Although we are not in a very good position in the table at the moment, we look forward to seeing an improved situation in the months ahead and a climb towards League One safety.

The game against Hartlepool gave us our first clean sheet since 5th October. I suppose it was not too surprising that the result finished 0-0 after the point was made in the Post that only one of the last 18 games had finished goalless.

All these records are bound to go at some point! However, a much tighter defence against one of the Division's best away records was not to be sniffed at.

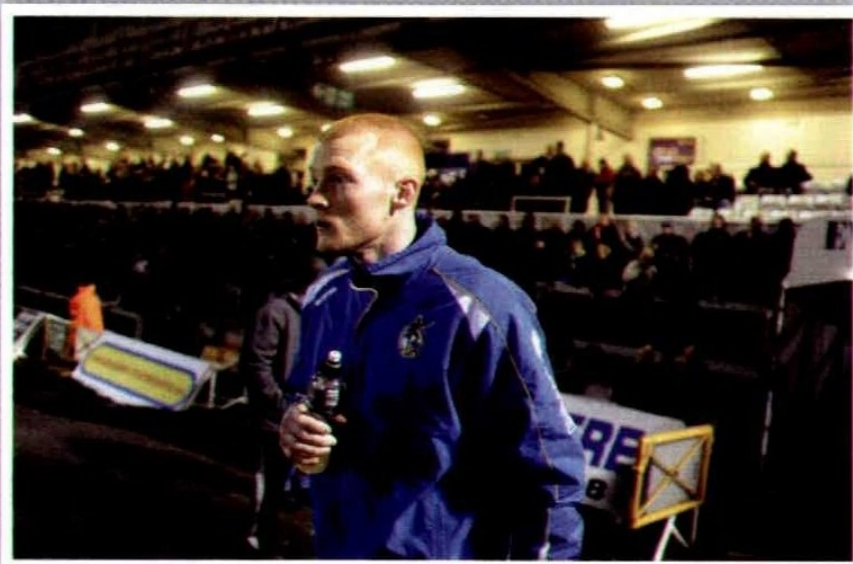
Today, hopefully, we can go one better against local rivals Swindon. Jeff Hughes' goal at their place was not enough to get any reward earlier in the season but perhaps we can put that right today.

You can help to put things right by giving yourself the chance to win a holiday by joining Helpline. Its so easy just ring Kate on **01454 321191** or get in touch through brfcdirect.co.uk and join online. If you're not in it, you can't win it!

Welcome Cian

A warm welcome to the Memorial Stadium to Cian Bogle, who has joined us, on loan, from Leicester City.

Cian was on the bench for Tuesday evening's match against Hartlepool and we wish him every success during his time with us.



It's all about you!

FANZONE

by Kirsty Pugh

A group of Bristol Rovers fans are attempting to get the club anthem 'Goodnight Irene' into the Top 40 charts at the end of the month).

Earlier this month the club marked the 60th anniversary of the song before the game against Plymouth, and now the fans want to see the song receive national recognition. Fans are asked to download the Maximum Roverdrive version of the song from iTunes between January 24th and January 29th. Rovers fans first started singing the song during a home game against Plymouth in 1950. Rovers were winning and the few Argyle supporters present began to leave early prompting a chorus of 'Goodnight Argyle' from the Rovers supporters - the tune stuck and Irene became the club song.



Altogether now... 'Irene Goodnight Irene...'

The song will be available to download on iTunes, priced at 79p, with all profits to local charities St Peter's Hospice and Shine Together, a charity helping both Southmead and Frenchay Hospitals. For more information email goodnight.irene@groups.facebook.com or visit Facebook and search for the group Let's get Goodnight Irene into the Top 40.



The Memorial Stadium - through the lens of a Study Centre student...

Hello and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for the visit of local rivals Swindon. These derby games are always hotly contested occasions, so let's hope for another exciting game today.

The Fanzone page is the perfect place for you to help friends and loved ones celebrate a range of special occasions, including birthdays, anniversaries and births. You can also send in pictures of yourselves wearing your Rovers shirts on holiday or in front of famous landmarks. So why not get in touch, just look at the contact details at the bottom of the page.

Happy birthday to:

Charlie Walker, Sophie Matthews, Kim Price, Michelle Rossetto, Stuart Jones, Kavell May, Chris Mountford, Lisa Campbell, Miquel Guillem, Michael Laver and Pat Beeton who all celebrated their birthdays this week. And Kevin Chiddy, Josh Davies and Sean Fitzgerald who celebrate their big days today.

The Bristol Rovers Study Centre is about to go through a number of changes.

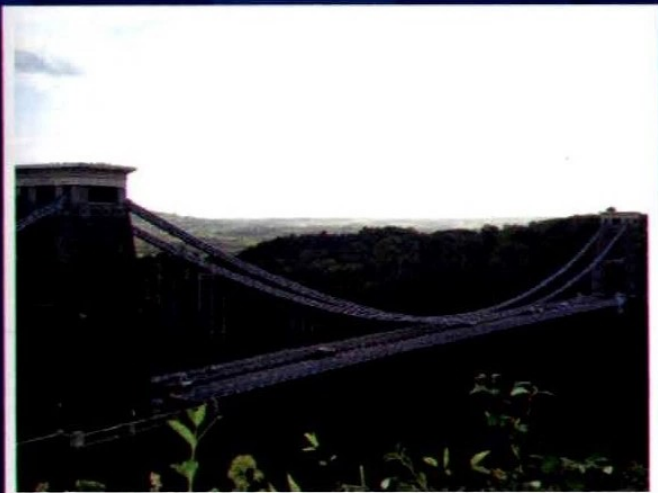
The centre has been operating at the stadium since 2006, and has allowed hundreds of children to take part in a number of creative courses, including photography, movie making and animation. These images come from a student who took part in one of the recent creative photography courses which are aimed at year 5 or 6 primary

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.



...and the Suspension Bridge

school children. The centre will be carrying on with this great work, but now aims to branch out and take on other projects with other community groups in the local area. More details about the changes to the centre will be announced soon. Schools or community groups interested in working with the Study Centre can contact Adam Tutton on adam@bristolrovers.co.uk

You may have noticed a large number of blonde wigs in the crowd for today's game.

That is because Rovers fans were this week encouraged to wear blonde wigs to the game as a tribute to striker Will Hoskins. Our top goal scorer has developed a habit of dying his hair bright blonde, and a group of Gasheads decided to recognise his contribution so far this season by donning the wigs. The initial idea came from Jon Richardson, 35, a lifelong Gashead who stands in the Blackthorn End. Jon said: "This is a great way for us fans to show our appreciation to our leading goal scorer.

"We all know that Will likes to change his hair style frequently and he seems to like dying it blonde.

"Our fans already show their appreciation to all the

players in the squad, but I thought this idea would make for an entertaining afternoon.

"This idea will hopefully give Will and the rest of the squad that added boast snatch a much needed three points."

Follow Rovers on Facebook and Twitter.

Looking for new ways of keeping up to date with news from Bristol Rovers? Want to chat about the latest issues with like minded Gasheads? Then why not become part of the social media revolution and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Rovers have been on Facebook for sometime, but are reasonably new to Twitter, so we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to follow us [@Official_BRFC](https://twitter.com/Official_BRFC)

We will tweet all the latest news, as well as give tweet score updates during home matches. You can also get in touch with us via tweet and give us your views and opinions. What are you waiting for, log on today.

Answer to Wordsearch on page 37

T	I	C	K	E	T	Q	N	U	L
G	C	F	V	V	P	D	R	S	Z
Q	T	A	D	K	E	V	U	E	C
V	D	P	S	R	O	B	I	N	S
P	E	N	N	E	Y	Q	L	X	I
H	F	O	I	F	Y	L	Y	O	C
P	O	I	N	T	S	M	H	S	F
K	E	A	E	T	Y	X	V	L	G
V	C	O	U	N	T	Y	L	U	Q
M	B	G	R	O	U	N	D	S	X

SCOUTING AROUND

by Paul Molesworth



A big game

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome back to the Memorial Stadium for the second time this week.

Welcome, also, to Danny Wilson and our 'rivals' from Wiltshire for this afternoon's big game.

Last season this match was more focused on who could push for the play off positions. Unfortunately things have changed for both of us in a short space of time and this is now a 'six pointer' for entirely different reasons.

However a good, tense, local derby could just be the type of game that we need and we have built a good platform by keeping a much needed clean sheet against Hartlepool.



Hopefully, we can now build on that and find the happy medium of winning tightly contested games.

We have been exceptionally busy, and very active, this week in trying to bring in new players.

At the time of writing we have managed to bring in two centre backs, one young and one experienced, who made a big difference against Hartlepool.

We missed out on a big target man, but we are hopeful that someone may be in place for today's game. We have been covering non league and reserve games and, of course,

we had Swindon watched last Saturday as well. We have some trialists coming in next week, and we are trying to arrange a reserve friendly game as well.

There will be a cracking atmosphere here today, and I'm sure the lads will respond to your support.

We seem to be surrounded by 'Robins' in the West Country, let's clip their wings and make them an endangered species!

I hope you all enjoy the game.

C'mon the Gas!



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Russian football

Following on from that article I thought that I would take a look at Russian football, as they were awarded the 2018 Finals at England's expense (it's taken me this long to get over the disappointment/anger of England not getting the Finals!).

As with most countries the origins of football in Russia can be traced to Englishmen. Mill owners Clement and Harry Charnock formed a team at Morozov Mill near Moscow back in 1887. There are records to show that local leagues existed in both Moscow and Saint Petersburg at the turn of the century. The national side was formed in 1911 and entered a team in the 1912 Olympics losing 2-1 against Finland in their first competitive match. In 1923 Russia became RSFSR (Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic) before becoming the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) from 1924 to 1991.

After the Russian Revolution toppled the Romanov dynasty football continued to thrive as the Soviet Union encouraged growth of the game. In fact pitches were laid in Red Square in 1942 and 1943 for games to be played during the May Day celebrations. It wasn't until 1946 that the Soviet Union joined FIFA and 1952 that the 'new' nation played its first official game, beating Bulgaria 2-1 at the 1952 Olympic Tournament. Four years later the Soviet Union won the Olympic Football tournament in Melbourne, Australia.

This triumph laid the foundations for Quarter Final placings in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups. However, they scooped their first major trophy by winning the inaugural UEFA European Championships in 1960 beating Yugoslavia 2-1 in the final. However, four years later they were defeated in the final.

Goalkeeper Lev Yashin was the Soviet Union's most famous player and a regular throughout the 1950's and 1960's. His heroics helped Russia to the semi finals in the 1966 World Cup. During the 1970's and 1980's they were losing finalists in the

In my last article I looked at football in the nation of Qatar following the awarding of the 2022 World Cup Finals to that country.

1972 and 1988 European Championships but won Olympic gold for a second time in 1988.

The break up of the Soviet Union in 1991 saw the country compete as CIS (Commonwealth of the Independent States) in the 1992 European Championships but since 16th August 1992 they have competed in international competition as Russia.

There is currently a great deal of debate in Russian football at present as the Russian Football Union (RFU) decided last year to switch the season to the 'autumn/spring' model used by most major European nations. The last games of the 2010 season took place in November whilst the first of the 'transitional' seasons will run from early spring 2011 and end in late spring 2012. The first 'autumn/spring' season will be held soon afterwards.

investors. However, as usual, it is the lower league clubs that will suffer. They are not convinced that they will have enough funds to meet the new requirements.

Russian sports expert Dmitry Navashova said; "Absolutely all Russian football clubs are loss making thus they have to get money from regional budgets and companies." Even top clubs in Russia make little money from television rights sold at home and abroad and it is thought that most of them operate with a deficit of millions! Football clubs in Russia tend to keep their budgets secret however CSKA Moscow are one of the exceptions and are budgeted to make a profit of \$168,000.

Lower league clubs have very modest funds and any money received is barely enough to survive let alone modernize their stadiums! (Not dissimilar to this country!). Another problem to the new 'spring/autumn' season is that both government and company budgets are drawn up according to a calendar year starting on January 1st. In this case clubs could find themselves in a state of uncertainty as they would only be funded for half the season without knowing their income from January to the seasons end.

On the plus side the RFU argues that the new season would allow the clubs to make more money. Fewer people attend matches during the summer months, choosing to go on holiday or spend weekends in their country houses instead. They also insisted that it would be easier to sell television rights, attract big sponsors and buy good players from abroad if the national tournament is in line with other major European championships.

Whatever the outcome it appears that the small clubs will continue to struggle, whilst the 'big' clubs will get 'bigger'. Sounds familiar!



Wonder how much they pay referees in Russia?

The head of the RFU, Sergei Fursenko, argues that the changes will lead to considerable improvements in Russian football's infrastructure, including that of the lower leagues. This includes upgrading existing stadiums and building indoor football arenas with artificial grass suitable for hosting games during the winter months.

Mr Fursenko has estimated that up to 10bn roubles (£204m) would be needed for these upgrades. He suggested that the money would come from federal and regional governments as well as private



Horse jumping not allowed!

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's near local derby against our old friends from Swindon.

You do not, of course, need me to tell you all the things for which our visitors' home town is famous.

Railways, the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, the Magic Roundabout and the Oasis swimming pool to name but four.

In fact, Liam Gallagher named his popular beat combo outfit after Swindon's much loved swimming facility after seeing it on a poster for Inspiral Carpets (ask your parents who they are, kids).

Oh, and the town has given us a football team, rather cleverly known as Swindon Town! (How do they think of these things?)

For those of us of a certain age, the first we really got to hear about 'The Robins' was on a certain afternoon in March in 1969, for this was the day Swindon Town won the League Cup.

This was quite an achievement because then, as now, Swindon were in the Third Division and their opponents, Arsenal, were flying high in the First Division. (Note for young people: the First Division is the name by which us more senior folk knew the Premier League.)

I suspect the game was not shown 'live' on TV because televised football in those days meant 'Match of the Day' or its London based ITV equivalent the London centric 'The Big Match'.

Swindon, incredibly, turned over the mighty Arsenal 3-1 on the day, but that was only the half of it.

People complain about the state of the Wembley pitch these days and well they might when the stadium hosts everything from football matches to rock concerts but you should have seen it on League Cup final day.

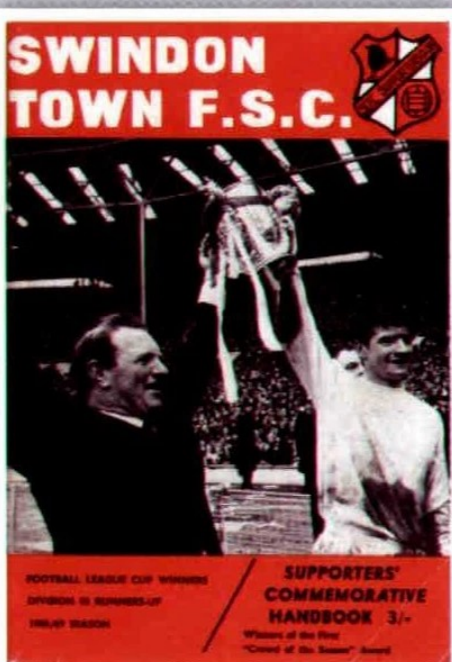
The previous week had seen the place host the 'Horse of the Year' show (I am not making this up) and, not surprisingly, the pitch was a quagmire.

My memory could be playing tricks but I think Arsenal defended the shallow end in the first half and the deep end in the second. It was not the greatest footballing spectacle ever witnessed, unless you

enjoyed seeing Arsenal get beaten in which case it was the greatest game of the season.

I am not sure the Wembley authorities thought too deeply about the implications of allowing horses to leap over huge fences on the same pitch that would soon be hosting a minor football trophy. I am just surprised that they didn't allow stock car raising on the playing surface.

It's all there on You Tube by the way, complete with commentary from the quite wonderful, and almost hysterical, Brian Moore!



Swindon Town Supporters Club produced a handbook to commemorate their League Cup win in 1969

There were a few good names in that Swindon Town as well. Rod Thomas, the Welsh international, John Trollope, and the legendary Don Rogers.

I know Swindon have had a few legends at their club over the years, including Ossie Ardiles and Glenn Hoddle, but Rogers was the man. No one who watched him tear Arsenal apart with his wing wizardry would have remained unimpressed.

There have been few shades of grey at the County Ground, at least that's how it appears from a distance (of 30 odd miles).

A sensational League Cup victory, promotion to the top flight, relegation following financial irregularities, high profile managers and players and, the ultimate contrast, when in 2006 Swindon became the first Premier League club to plummet into the fourth tier (or League Two as we football folk call it).

We, at Bristol Rovers, are quite tame by comparison.

An occasional foray into what we now call the Championship or League Two, but mainly in League One you will find us.

Today may go a long way in telling us which of the two teams will still be in it next season.

I didn't really expect Rovers or Swindon to be at the lower end of League One. In fact, I thought Swindon might go close to promotion and we might be on the edge of the play offs.

I was not expecting to re open my book of clichés with a 'relegation six pointer' at the Memorial Stadium.

But it is really a relegation six pointer?

I am not renowned for my in depth understanding of basic arithmetic but I have worked out that almost half the season remains to be played and, including today, there are 66 points to play for.

I would be amazed if, under Dave Penney's management, we are still near the relegation trapdoor come May.

No team is too good, no club too big, to go down but relegations are often brought about through events over which you have little control.

One thing is for sure: our pitch is in marvellous shape, as ever.

This is due to the expertise of our excellent ground staff and the fact that we do not permit show jumping to take place on the playing surface.

It's not really a local derby today - the only proper one is against the City and we will have to wait until next season for another one of those (fingers crossed) - but it's the next best thing.

Enjoy the game!

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PIRATE SOUNDS

by Kevin & Lance Cook



Don't give up the day job!

We would like to welcome the management, players and supporters of The Robins who have made the short journey to BS7 this afternoon.

Last year I went to Cardiff to watch a gig by Fozzy, whose singer is none other than WWE wrestler Chris Jericho. Quite a surreal sight it was, to see the muscle bound wrestler on stage singing songs as opposed to grappling in the squared circle. This got me thinking about whether footballers use music as a hobby on the side. I assumed it is not high on the list for the majority of footballers to strap on a guitar, or to come up with some funky beats, so I set about to do some research to see if there is a common bond between making music and making a great play on the pitch.

What was obvious from looking into this was the fact that aside from the usual novelty songs that come from FA Cup finals and World Cup summers, there has been minimal success for football crossover songs. The first song I came across was Paul Gascoigne's cover of the Lindisfarne

Good afternoon and welcome to the Memorial Stadium for our League One clash with Swindon Town.

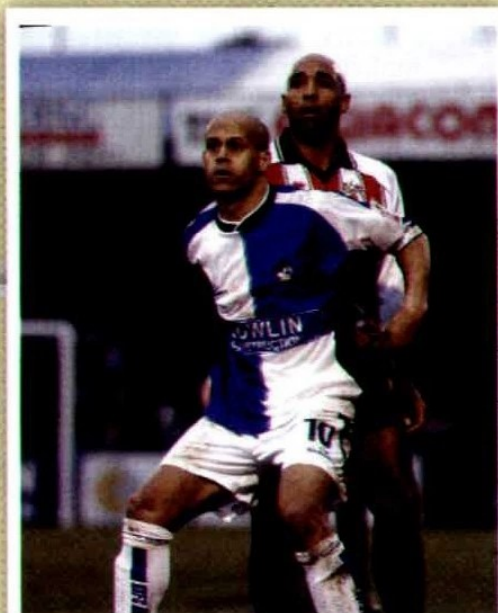
hit 'Fog On The Tyne' that somehow reached number 2 in the charts in late 1990. This featured the Geordie legend rapping about such subject matter as sausage rolls, and was released at the height of Gazzamania, which I guess explains the high chart entry.

Nine years later former Manchester United striker Andy Cole had a dabble too, by releasing his version of The Gap Band's 'Outstanding' after The Red Devils treble winning season. Outstanding it certainly wasn't, as it didn't even make the top 40 singles chart, making Gazza's effort sound like a masterpiece!

At this stage, I didn't want to endure any more rubbish pop songs from footballers who think they have The X Factor. So then I came across a YouTube clip of a rock band called Rawbau, which has Croatia coach Slaven Bilic as a guitar player in it. This was, literally, music to my ears and the song I heard wasn't that bad. Bilic is renowned for being a lover of rock music, and has great taste in guitars too; his weapon of choice is a Gibson Explorer.

Following on from this song, I went from Croatia to Argentina, to a band called Piola Vago, that boasts Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez in its line up, and plays music

from what I can only describe as chilled out Latin vibes. Those were some of the more interesting finds in my research for this topic, maybe I will play some of these songs over the PA system but then again, maybe it's best that I don't. The general feeling I got was that these footballers should concentrate on what they do on the pitch, rather than what they do in a recording studio!



Lee Thorpe in action against Cheltenham in January 2005

THROUGH THE ARCHIVES: ON THIS DAY IN ROVERS AND MUSICAL HISTORY

SATURDAY 22ND JANUARY 2005

MATCH:

**BRISTOL ROVERS
V CHELTENHAM TOWN**

NUMBER 1 ALBUM:

The Killers - 'Hot Fuss'

On this day in 2005 The Killers were number 1 in the album chart with their debut album Hot Fuss.

The album boasts four top 20 singles and we will be playing one of those hits in the shape of 'All These Things That I've Done'.

Rovers were in action on this day where they entertained local rivals Cheltenham Town in a League Two match at The Memorial Stadium. Cheltenham

striker Steven Gillespie opened the scoring with a 38th minute goal, but Lee Thorpe equalised just seven minutes later and it was 1-1 going into the half time break. In the second half Cheltenham were reduced to 10 men when Grant McCann was given a red card in the 77th minute, to create a tense finish. However there was to be no winning goal for either side, as the match finished 1-1 in front of a crowd of 6,954.

THIS AFTERNOON'S HOT NEW TRACK:

Rival Sons - 'Radio'

Our Hot New Track this afternoon comes from one of the most exciting bands to emerge out of the year already.

Rival Sons hail from Southern California, and they play rock & roll music the proper way. 'Radio' is from their digital only EP which is out now, and is a superb track with swaggering riffs. This is just a taste of what's to come as they will be releasing their new album later this year. If you're a fan of Led Zeppelin this will be your new favourite band, trust me!

DEEP HEAT

by Sue Chappell

Despite my misgivings about Facebook at times, I have, I must admit, succumbed to the world of Twitter.

The mere mention of the word may leave you enthralled or completely disinterested at this juncture but footballers, like everyone else remotely famous, have started using this fast growing social forum to air their views.

Personally, I don't tweet. (Is 'tweet' in the dictionary yet? Is 'to tweet' even a verb?). Who wants to know my opinions on things or what I am doing at any moment of the day.

Yet, if you follow a celebrity, suddenly it becomes much more interesting: learning that your favourite pop star is having dinner in Nando's or that your favourite cricketers are in a heated PS3 war is, I have to admit, of interest.

I grew up in an age where, in order to get closer to your favourite star, you wrote a letter to them and enclosed a stamped addressed envelope and hoped upon hope you'd get a reply back in the post.

SAE... I bet youngsters today don't even know what that stands for! (LOL). I can still remember the thrill of seeing one of 'my' envelopes drop onto the doormat and pulling out an autographed photograph.

Anyway, I digress. Being 'closer' to your favourite stars via Twitter is harmless and fun.

However, not so for some. Especially if you're Ryan Babel. Or Bradley Orr. Or Paddy Kenny.

The three players, Liverpool star Babel and the QPR duo have been given a dressing down in recent days for their behaviour on Twitter.

Firstly, Ryan Babel was in the headlines for the wrong reasons when he tweeted a photo shopped picture of referee Howard Webb in a Manchester United shirt after he believed the official showed preferential treatment to the Old Trafford club in the FA Cup.

Then the QPR pair of Orr and Kenny displayed their anger at El-Hadji Diouf of Blackburn, who'd shouted a torrent of abuse at QPR's Jamie Mackie as the striker lay injured with a broken leg, via their Twitter pages.



I think I might have a 'tweet' about this!

All of a Twitter!

Babel's humorous response to his frustration, however, has seen the striker handed a £10,000 fine and warned of his future conduct. Admitting a charge of improper conduct at a FA Regulatory Commission hearing, Babel was given his ticking off as Chairman Roger Burden went on to say: "Social network sites like Twitter must be regarded as being in the public domain... participants need to be aware, in the same way as if making a public statement in other forms of media, that any comments would be transmitted to a wider audience."

For Bradley Orr and Paddy Kenny, however, their tweets concerned a bigger issue. They slammed Diouf, condemning their opponent's appalling behaviour, with Orr declaring him a "repulsive human being" in one. Kenny used a four letter word and stated "what goes around comes around." This was after their manager Neil Warnock, never a man to shy away from voicing his feelings, had told the waiting media that Diouf was "lower than a sewer rat."

They all have a point. As Jesse Whittock puts it, writing in 'When Saturday Comes': "Diouf [is] never the most popular of men thanks to his penchant for spitting, fighting and generally acting as though he's owed respect despite never truly earning it."

And yet it is the QPR players who are now at the centre of an FA probe. It will be interesting to see how the FA deal with this

issue, as it is the despicably behaved Diouf who should surely be the one facing the heaviest of punishments.

Yet, understandably, the FA will need to implement their guidelines for the use of social networking via Twitter; this public platform is here to stay and players will continue to use it to speak their minds. Kenny's threat, now deleted along with all other tweets, added magnitude to what they had said.

But surely it is understandable that players, often kept wrapped up in cotton wool by managers, have enjoyed the freedom of their own Twitter pages. But with power of free speech comes responsibility and unfortunately it is not going to be deemed appropriate for players to tweet in this way. Part of me applauds the QPR players for articulating their reaction in this way, and for showing zero tolerance to, let's be honest, dumbfoundingly awful behaviour by a fellow professional. Or, as Neil Warnock put it, "a nasty little person... the lowest of the low."

Before the FA come down too hard on players trying to express their reactions to a seeing a badly injured team mate verbally abused by an opponent, they should at first deal with the vermin of the football world, whose behaviour on the pitch is, in my opinion, far more awful and inexcusable than a handful of well meant but misplaced responses on Twitter.



Nat Lofthouse OBE

On Sunday morning, having returned from the long trip up to Carlisle and not having tuned in to any news or switched on to any sports channels, I found this on the FIFA website.

Former England international Nat Lofthouse OBE has died aged 85.

After quickly clicking onto the official Bolton Wanderers website I found a statement from Bolton Chairman Phil Garside:

"On behalf of everyone at Bolton Wanderers Football Club, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Nat's family, who are very much in our thoughts at this time.

"Nat undoubtedly is a Bolton Wanderers legend. He was a one club man and our football club meant as much to him as he did to us. We will miss him but we will celebrate his life, his legacy and great times that he brought to Bolton Wanderers."

No one can argue with that and my mind quickly turned to Geoff Bradford and what he meant, and still means, to us at Bristol Rovers; one club man, same position on the field, natural goalscorer, England international, a legend in the game and a gentleman.

FIFA reported that Nat Lofthouse made more than 450 appearances for the Trotters, scoring 255 goals for the club between 1946 and 1960. He also represented England 33 times and scored 30 goals. With a record like that I wonder just what he would be worth in today's market and how many in today's market who are on contracts worth a lot of money by anybody's standard would be able to hold up a candle to the man.

Bolton announced Lofthouse had died peacefully in his sleep at his nursing home.

Garside told the club's website that after finishing playing, Lofthouse remained at the club in a number of off field positions including chief coach, chief scout, caretaker manager and club president, in which he remained until his death.

This is what FIFA says of him; "Nat Lofthouse was one of the most feared

Sometimes, when scanning the good number of football websites to find stories and articles that would be of up to date and topical interest, I am drawn to that which serves to remind us of the deep rooted history of the game, its legends and finest moments.

centre forwards of his generation, renowned for his strength and finishing ability on the ground and in the air. He became known as the 'Lion of Vienna' after a goalscoring, match winning, and pain defying, performance in England's 3-2 win over a fearsome Austria side in 1952.



Nat Lofthouse

"Lofthouse opened the scoring but was then subjected to some tough tackling throughout the rest of the game. He played on and was knocked unconscious in the process of netting the late winner."

How does that compare with the game today, when players appear to dive and fall over at the slightest of touches. How many ankle grabbing, leg clutching, back rolling incidents do we see only for a player to resume without a care once a free kick or a penalty has been given and the further up the pyramid we go to internationals, World Cups and so forth the worse it seems to get. I well remember a manager saying to me in my playing days; "Never show him you're hurt son." How times have changed.

Thanks to my son, Gareth, who bought it for me as a present, I have on my shelves at home the DVD of the 1953 FA Cup final. This is what it says on the cover: "Bolton's newly crowned footballer of the year Nat Lofthouse maintained his record of scoring in every round as early as the second minute and the Wanderers looked in control. Of course a certain Stanley Mathews of Blackpool had something to add to that in one of the most famous finals of them all. I shall watch the game again when I have finished writing this article.

The other game for which he became synonymous with was the 1958 FA Cup final, when he scored twice in Bolton's 2-0 victory over Manchester United. Lofthouse controversially barged United goalkeeper Harry Gregg into the net in the process of scoring one of his goals. Might have got a yellow, or even a red, card for doing that these days but in those days it was the sign of a tough and uncompromising centre forward.

Nat Lofthouse retired in 1960 after a serious knee injury. He played at Bolton throughout his career, after signing for his hometown club at the age of 14. Lofthouse was reported to have been seriously ill last month.

Manchester United and England legend Sir Bobby Charlton says of him; "He was a leader, he had fantastic ability in the air, and he was strong, but he was also a talisman. I'm really sorry, and anybody in this part of the world will be very sorry, that he isn't with us any more because he was a fantastic credit to the game."

Not just in the North West but anybody anywhere, Bobby, who loves the game of football as we all do.

Rest well Nat Lofthouse, and thank you.

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by Ed Ashton

■ It's typical that after deciding to change the name of my page to 'Foreign Affairs' due to 95% of the articles being about football away from these shores, that I would feel compelled to write about domestic issues!

Rovers are one of a raft of clubs who have dispensed with their managers over the Holiday and New Year period.

Some decisions have been inevitable and predictable - as far as anything can be in the football world these days - but some have bordered on the ridiculous.

If you start in the top flight, the biggest departure has been Roy Hodgson, a very decent man who for one reason or another had a torrid time at Liverpool and left with the team languishing miserably in mid table.

Liverpool aren't usually ones for dispensing with their manager so quickly, but their fall from grace has been quite spectacular over the last 18 months. Hodgson inherited a squad stacked with mediocrity.

Relying on Gerrard and an injury prone and out of form Fernando Torres is not enough to challenge for the title, let alone Europe. Kenny Dalglish has hardly turned things round, proving that a change of manager sometimes doesn't work.

Perhaps the most crazy decision of all has been at Newcastle, where Chris Hughton did an admirable job and was fired for no reason whatsoever, with his team settling as well as to be expected in the Premier League.

Replacing him with Alan Pardew, who wasn't deemed good enough for Southampton in our division, makes it all the more remarkable. And what about Blackburn, where the new Indian owners saw fit to dispense with the services of Sam Allardyce with the team plodding expectedly towards mid table, surely an acceptable level of success for a team of that stature?

Apparently not, as yet more foreign owners want to get their new team in the Champions League, a fanciful

Managerial merry go round

nonsense when there are already several teams well established in the top five. Manchester City at least had a big fan base and city name behind their transformation - what do Blackburn have?

Meanwhile other jobs are constantly under threat; Chelsea's wobble has made Ancelotti's job more tenuous, while West Ham were thinking of firing Avram Grant at the time of writing.

The managerial merry go round has well and truly become part of British football now, and teams in the lower divisions are following the trigger happy example of the top division.

Writing this now I can't really remember them all, but it felt like someone was sacked every day as I logged onto the internet to check the cricket score in Australia!

Preston, Burnley, Barnet, Aldershot, Peterborough (who despite some erratic results were still near the play offs), Charlton (another team hardly in an awful position), Walsall and of course Rovers are some who have decided to make the change.

No wonder the League Manager's Association have been vocal in their condemnation of the antics of board members everywhere, who always sack the only person they can - the manager.

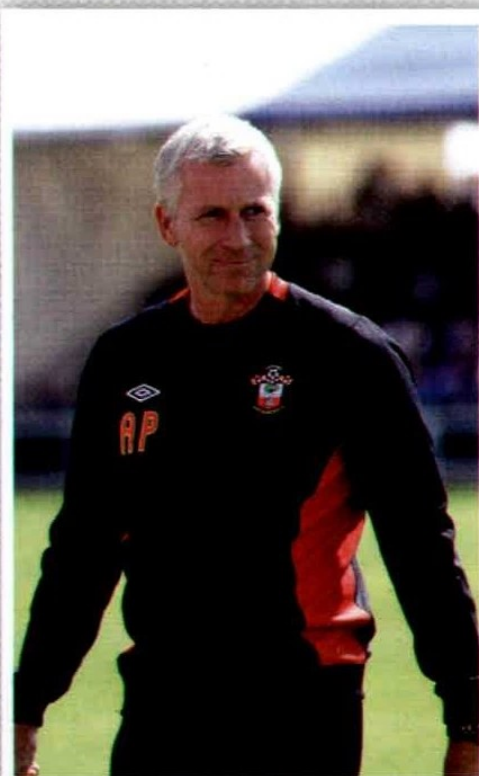
And so to our own situation. Troll's departure felt as though as it was coming, purely down to results over the best part of a 2010 that wasn't that good to us. He lasted a lot longer than most managers these days, taking charge for over 250 games in his tenure that lasted just over five years, and brought us some of the greatest successes ever at the football club, and for that we should be forever grateful.

But such is the nature of football in the past decade, even more so than the 1990's, is that no one likes to stand still. Fans are no longer happy to watch a team ambling along in mid table year after year. They want commitment and entertainment, and rightly so, but there are unreasonable expectations from too many supporters nowadays for their team to have constant success.

Maybe everyone got a little bored over the last couple of seasons that saw us never realistically challenge at the top, nor be in danger of relegation. Well we certainly have a fight on our hands now to preserve the status we took for granted before.

When clubs change manager they want an instant upturn in fortunes, and that hasn't happened so far for Dave. Today is another 'must win' game and the players need to take responsibility and fight for each other and the club.

And for their new manager.



Alan Pardew, pictured on the occasion of his last match in charge of Southampton, here at the Memorial Stadium last August

A MINUTE'S SILENCE - IN MEMORY OF...

by Keith Brookman

RON HENLEY

Rovers Director Barry Bradshaw, along with Darren Patterson, Will Hoskins, Byron Anthony and Danny Coles, visited Ron Henley in the Bristol Oncology Unit on 26th December.

We were very sorry to learn that Ron passed away shortly after their visit and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Ron was a lifelong Rovers supporter and long time season ticket holder and a proud Gashead, who watched games from the Blackthorn End.

He was a devoted husband to Alison, and loving Dad to Matthew and Gemma, and is dearly missed by everyone who knew him.

Rovers were represented at Ron's funeral and his family will be here as our guests this afternoon.



Ron Henley pictured with his family



Will Hoskins



Danny Coles



Byron Anthony

CLIFFORD BAKER

We were also very sorry to learn of the death of one of our former players, Clifford Baker, who passed away just before Christmas.

Clifford was born in Bristol in 1924 and joined the RAF during the Second World War. After the war was over he played football for Coalpit Heath FC and was signed by Rovers in the 1946/47 season, as an inside forward.

The club were impressed by his performances and asked him to re-sign for the following year, but Clifford declined the invitation as he could earn more money playing part time and working at BAC.

Clifford went on to play football for Bath City and then for many other clubs.

He died, after a long illness, on December 14th 2010 and at the funeral the family laid a blue and white quartered wreath and the

undertakers all wore Rovers ties.

As well as being a former player, Clifford was a lifelong Rovers fan.

His five games in Rovers colours came during the 1946/47 campaign and were against Reading, Crystal Palace, Aldershot, Torquay and Mansfield, when he replaced Vic Lambden in the starting lineup, and he scored against Palace and Aldershot.



Programme centre spread from the game against Crystal Palace, on 4th January 1947, which shows that Clifford wore the number 10 shirt. He scored one of Rovers goals that day, to help his side to a 2-1 win.

Left: Clifford is on the back row, second from left, of this team photo, thought to be of Coalpit Heath FC.

<p>MORRIS and RILEY CARS</p> <p>Bristol</p> <p>For PRIVATE PARTIES, OUTINGS and TOURS and MONARCH COACHES</p> <p>STAPLETON RD, EASTVILLE</p>	<p>SHOKE RINGERS' BLACK BELL SHAG</p> <p>WE BARE THE CUP</p> <p>23rd Dec 10</p>
<p>WICK'S SURGICAL SUPPLIES</p> <p>BRISTOL</p>	<p>WINDGON CAPE DUNDHAM BOWNA</p>

by Zoe Young-Kirkby

Good afternoon everyone, welcome back to the Memorial Stadium for today's League One fixture against our West Country rivals, Swindon Town.

As we all know over recent years, this fixture has become a definite 'derby' match with all the passion and drama we've come to expect, complete with the unpredictable results... no matter what the form or league tables may say at the time.

Though Swindon aren't our only West Country rivals in League One, none of the others - Yeovil, Exeter or Plymouth respectively - seem to quite match up to that 'derby' feel like Swindon do. It could be that our visitors remind many Gasheads of that other team not too far away, with their likeness in kit colour and nickname, which heightens the sense of the 'derby', though I might be wrong about that!

Last season, Norton Radstock Gas Supporters' Branch took a coach the short distance up the motorway to the County Ground. It was my son's first ever experience of that special 'derby' atmosphere and, as it turned out, it's a game he'll never forget due to the emphatic result Rovers recorded that day. When asked if he wanted to go there this season, he decided straight away that he didn't want to. His reason was to keep the memory of that day and not ruin it with new memories of a different result - a wise decision as it turned out.

Many of us have memories of our first 'derby' game, whoever it was against. I can still remember mine clearly - 2nd May 1990, Twerton Park, Bath, Bristol Rovers versus Bristol City, and I'm very sure I don't need to remind Gasheads about what happened there that night!

Recently, I brought my good friend Debs to The Mem to see our 'West



Jo Kuffour pictured in action against Plymouth Argyle

A football first

Country derby' match against Plymouth. The game was a football first for Debs as she'd never been to a proper football match in her life, having only ever seen the sport on the television. Like many of you Gasheads, I've been coming to watch Rovers since I was a child, and can't imagine what life would be like without football in it. I know Debs says the same thing about handbags, so I wondered what it was like for someone who had no expectations or comparisons to make when coming to watch Rovers, or indeed football, for the first time.

Debs, who has a passion for fashion and loves the colour red, found the way that I associate colour highly amusing. I'm sure I'm not the only one here that associates certain colours with certain teams. Having listened to me going on about Rovers for the last few years, she knew well enough not to wear a red hat and scarf that evening (but I lent her a Rovers scarf just in case!). I'm sure there can't be many - if any - Rovers fans that would wear a red hat and scarf at all, let alone to a Rovers match! Equally, I can't imagine that Swindon fans would wear a blue hat and scarf either, especially on a 'derby' day like today.

How close we supporters are to the pitch and to the action surprised Debs,

as well as the way we can interact with the players in and around the ground. I explained that this is what it's like at most clubs, and it's only the high profile ones that you can't get within 20 feet of the players where they're escorted in and out of the stadium. While both sets of fans were singing and shouting at each other, Debs said how different actually being there, right in amongst the fans, was to watching it on the TV. Hearing all the noise and the passion of the supporters made her feel a part of the match in a way, even if she didn't

understand what was being said.

I did pre warn Debs just how cold it can be sat in that little stand (South West Stand) and just how many layers of clothes were needed if you wanted to watch the game without violently shivering throughout. But despite my advice, Debs was freezing and took hours to warm up afterwards. Still, we become hardened to the cold over the years and so we forget what it's like, though that's probably because we're so caught up in the action and too busy shouting and producing our own hot air to take much notice of the temperatures!

I'm pleased to say that Debs enjoyed her trip to the Mem, and thankfully the cold hasn't put her off coming to watch a Rovers game again, though she has indicated that it better be a lot warmer the next time. Who knows, another rural (though fair weather) Gashead may just have been found!

Right then, let's get behind the boys and be the loudest twelfth man that we can, and Gasheads... don't forget to get behind Maximum Roverdrive's version of Goodnight Irene by downloading it from iTunes or Amazon from 24th - 29th January. Wouldn't it be fantastic to get our song into the Top 40 music charts?

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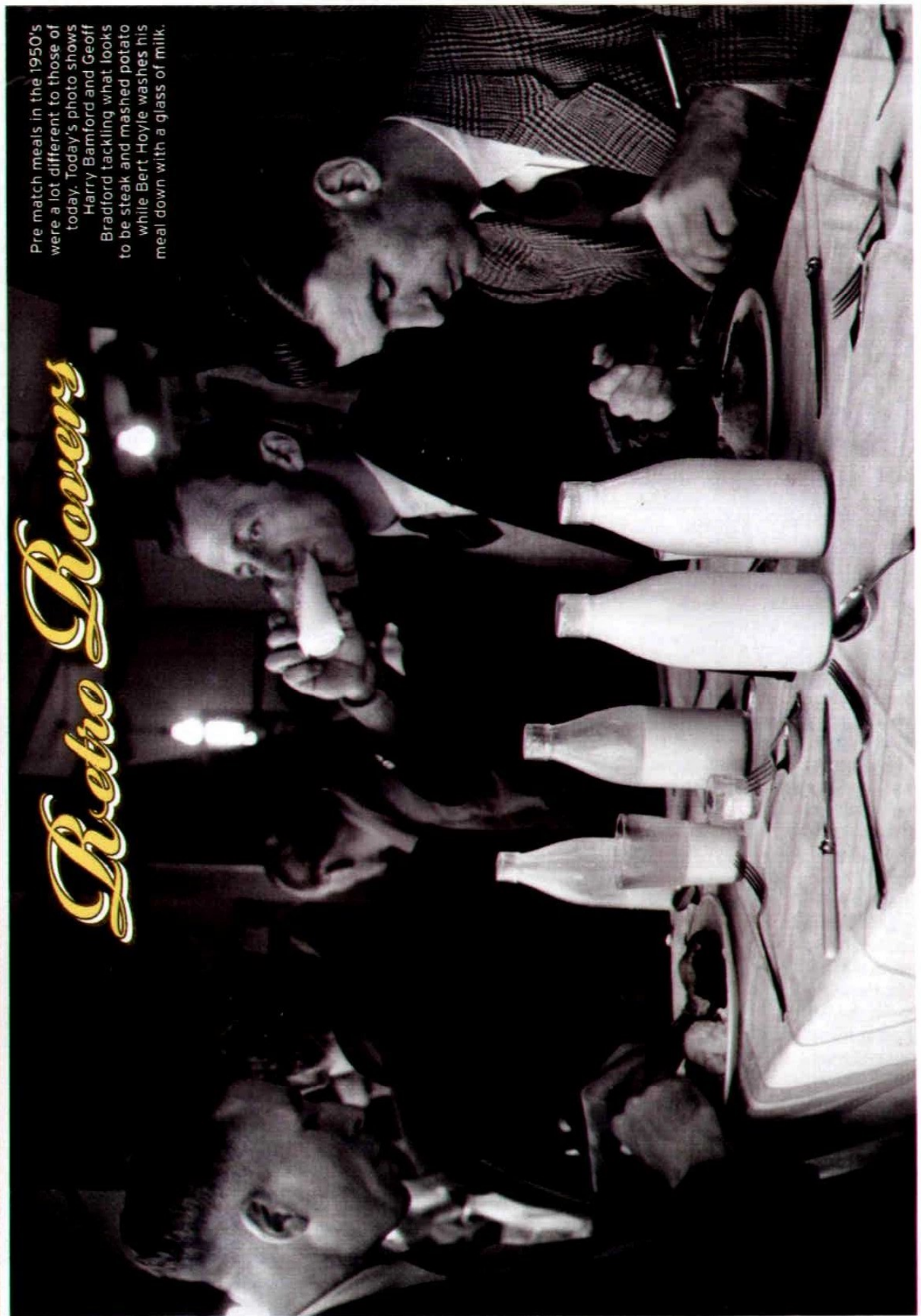
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Retro Ravens

Pre match meals in the 1950's were a lot different to those of today. Today's photo shows Harry Bamford and Geoff Bradford tackling what looks to be steak and mashed potato while Bert Hoyle washes his meal down with a glass of milk.



Mark's Double Bubble

by Mark Leesdad

GARY EMMANUEL

Life was never dull when Gary Emmanuel was playing.

His last season with Birmingham City saw the club relegated. In his second full season at Rovers they were also relegated and the main stand burnt down. His first season at Swindon also ended with relegation and a serious back injury saw him miss most of the season when he went to Newport. His last league club, Swansea City, was relegated and went bust.

The start of Gary's football career went smoothly enough. Spotted by a Birmingham scout, Gary joined the club as a youngster in 1971. Altogether he made over 80 appearances for Birmingham, but spent a lot of time as a sub; "I was on the bench so often I must have got splinters in my backside!" So when the chance of a move to Rovers, and regular first team football, came about in December 1978, Gary jumped at it.

"I loved it at Rovers. It was a nice part of the country, the supporters were very good and everyone was so friendly." It was also home from home for Swansea born Gary. "There was a very strong Welsh contingent, with Tony Pulis, Vaughan Jones, Martin Thomas and David Williams, to name but a few," he recalled.

Signed by Bobby Campbell, Gary went on to play under Harold Jarman and Terry Cooper in his two and a half years with The Pirates, notching up over 70 appearances.

"The fire at Eastville was a body blow to everyone at the club and getting relegated at the end of that season made it a terrible year," said Gary.

In the summer of 1981, Gary moved up the road to Swindon Town. "It was a good move because it meant we didn't have to move house," pointed out Gary.

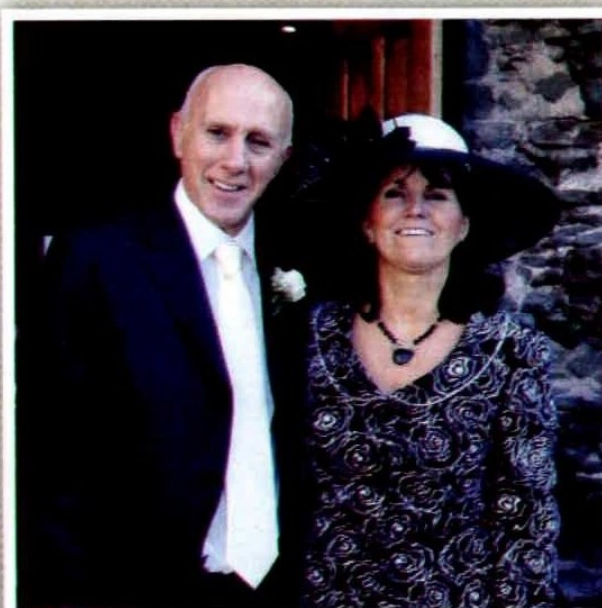
Relegated to the (old) Fourth Division in his first year, Gary made over 100 appearances for Swindon, before moving back home 'over the bridge' in 1984, when he signed for Newport County, then a Third Division side.

"I went to Newport on a year's contract, did my back in during pre season and was out of the game for six months," he revealed.

Released after just a dozen or so games for County, Gary trained with non league Forest Green Rovers with a view to getting his fitness back. "I had a trial with Lincoln City and they offered me a year's contract. The only problem was they wanted me to move up there, so I turned it down," he explained.

Gary followed that up with a very short spell at Rovers' rivals, Bristol City.

"That was a disaster," admitted Gary. "Terry Cooper, who I'd played for at Rovers, offered me monthly contracts. But I didn't get off to the best of starts and it just wasn't working out. I went to see Terry and had my contract cancelled by mutual consent."



Off to daughter Sarah's wedding, Gary and wife Lynne



Gary in action for Rovers

A move back to his home town - Swansea - seemed the perfect answer. "It was a great move for me, being a Swansea boy, but the club ran into serious financial difficulties and nearly went out of existence."

Relegation at the end of that dramatic year was a little easier to take, given that the club had managed to recover from their financial problems. And, at least, Gary had some good luck for a change, when, in his last season with The Swans, the club won promotion from the Fourth Division.

After that Gary dropped down to non league football, but a broken leg at the age of 38 saw him hang up his boots.

Married to Lynne, the couple have a son and daughter and live in Swansea. Like so many former footballers, Gary became a postman after playing.

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

In February 1935, Rovers led Crystal Palace 3-1 after only 12 minutes and 4-1 by half time, eventually holding out for a 5-3 win after being reduced to ten men following an injury to Taylor.

Five weeks later it was Taylor's turn to shine as his sole league hat trick contributed to another 5-3 win, against Newport County. His first goal came after only two minutes, and all three before half time as he became, after Sid Leigh in 1921 and Ernie Whatmore six years later, the third Rovers player to complete a first half league hat trick.

Rovers' largest league win between the wars was the 7-1 hammering of Northampton in January. Goalkeeper Ellis was missing from the side and Rovers, with four changes following defeat at Luton, gave league debuts to the Somerset cricketer Newman Bunce in goal and James Durkan at right back. Undeterred, Rovers scored seven times, McNestry and Taylor notching two each. Northampton's Brown put a penalty wide of Bunce's goal. This match, however, was watched by a crowd of only 1,500, the lowest ever at a league game played at Eastville.

There were also some heavy defeats. Luton's third goal of the six they put past Rovers in January, was the 1,000th Rovers had conceded in league football. This goal was in fact an own goal, sliced in after 33 minutes by McLean as Rovers, conceding four goals in 25 first half minutes, crashed 6-2. Ball completed his hat trick after 87 minutes, but Rovers maintained that his first strike, following a goalmouth scramble after a quarter of an hour, had not actually crossed the line.

Southend, Reading and Orient all put five goals past Jack Ellis before Christmas, Halliday scoring a hat trick for the O's. Over Easter, when Rovers conceded nine goals in a four day spell, the side wore unconventional red shirts for the 3-0 defeat at Watford. Baldwin, who scored twice in Gillingham's high scoring victory at Eastville in the run up to Christmas, was to win the 1965 All England Bowls Cup. On April 13th, for a 4-1 home victory over Bournemouth, Rovers fielded five Macs in their side. This was,

Looking Back



George McNestry



John Ellis

in effect, the culmination of a distinct policy between the wars to cultivate scouting links in Scotland and, in some respects, reflected the cosmopolitan make up of the side. Wing half McArthur was a Yorkshireman, McNestry from County Durham and McCambridge from Northern Ireland, while both McKay and McLean were born north of the border.

In the final game of the season Rovers drew 1-1 at Gillingham in an incident packed afternoon. McNestry scored his 19th goal of the season, a penalty, but the home side missed two spot kicks through Doncaster and Wiggins. This was the second of five league matches featuring Rovers in which three penalties have been awarded. Elsewhere, Charlton played through this season with three future Rovers managers in their squad. Fred Ford and Bert Tann could not break into the side, but Bill Dodgin's 25 league appearances included one in a 2-0 victory over Rovers at The Valley in February. Dodgin was to join Rovers as a player in 1936, and as manager in 1969. Charlton were Division Three (South) champions, finishing eight points clear of runners up Reading.

In the FA Cup, victories over non league sides Harwich and Dartford, without conceding a goal, earned Rovers a plum Third Round tie with Second Division Manchester United. Harwich had held out for 28 minutes but, after Smith scored, McNestry netted the rebound from his own saved penalty on the stroke of half time and Prout added a third after the break. A successfully converted McNestry penalty saw off a spirited Dartford performance. Rovers had conceded six at Luton in the run up to the United game, losing goalkeeper Jack Ellis in the process with a broken collar-bone. Incredibly, a low McNestry drive after 25 minutes gave Rovers a half time lead, before three second half goals in the space of 17 minutes, two from Bamford and one from Mutch, brought United a comfortable victory.

Rovers beat Bristol City 2-1 in the Gloucestershire Cup Final, with Jimmy Smith scoring the winning goal, to win the trophy for the first time since 1928. Rovers retained the Allan Palmer Cup, which the club had won in 1927 and 1933, but which had not been contested in 1934. As holders, Rovers were invited to play Southampton and found themselves two goals ahead inside 20 minutes through McNestry and Taylor. Saints pulled level through goals from Tully and McAlwane, but Rovers ran out 5-2 winners, with Irvine Harwood scoring twice and Taylor adding his second of the game.

On this day in history - last five on 22nd January

1994	LD2	Bradford City	A	W 1-0	Archer
2000	LD2	Oxford Utd	A	W 5-0	Cureton (3), Pethick, Ellington
2002	LD3	Swansea City	H	W 4-1	Ellington (3), Ommel
2005	LGE2	Cheltenham	H	D 1-1	Thorpe
2008	FAC	Fulham	H	D 0-0	

Programmes Past

**CHARLTON,
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
& SWINDON**
by Jamie Howarth

If you want to peruse BRSC's stock then it can be found at www.footballprogrammecentre.co.uk. Click on 'Market Place' then 'Members Mini Stores' and you will find us at the top of the list under Past Pirate. There are many unique aspects to this site, including a section where you can list your wants and a wonderful forum where people help each other find those elusive programmes to fill the gaps in their collections.

Today I'm taking a look at the programmes issued by Charlton and Sheffield Wednesday. Both programmes cost £3.00 but that's where the similarities end. Wednesday's has 76 pages and is the same size as 'The Pirate', while Athletic have produced a slightly smaller issue consisting of 60 pages.

Wednesday have approximately 19 pages for the home fans to read, but away fans have to make do with a very poor four pages which is just about the worst so far. I wonder why clubs produce such large programmes when they simply don't have anything like enough content to fill them? This one contains a lot of adverts, together with a huge amount of pictorial content to fill the pages. Many of the articles are so spaced out that there actually isn't much to read. I felt that what there is, is well written, so it's a shame that there isn't more of it.

Charlton have done much better and packed their

issue with loads of column inches. The home supporters get a whopping 31 pages to keep them occupied after the game and there are six for the travellers as well. There seems to be no lack of photos in the Charlton Programme and, as ever, there are a fair few commercial pages but they have still found room to pack in a lot to read. Bearing in mind it is smaller than Wednesday's, and has 16 fewer pages, this is a superb effort from Editor Matt Wright.

With 244 points Charlton move into third place while Wednesday are in eighth with 235.

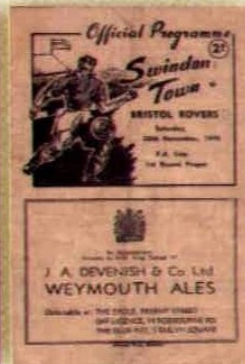
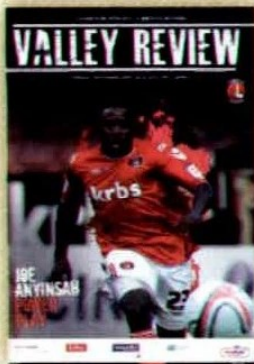
Our older offering today is from just a few years after the end of the war.

The County Ground, Swindon, hosted an FA Cup First Round game against

Rovers in November 1949. The cover, as you can see, has an illustration of a player in action interspersed with the match details at the top while Weymouth Ales advertise their products below. 'Club Notes' appear on pages two and three, while the lineups are featured on the centre spread, surrounded by adverts for local businesses.

Page six continues with 'Club Notes' and page seven has a list of the music that would be played at the ground by a live band. Punters were able to hear a Fox

Trot, a Waltz and a Cornet Duet amongst others. Fancy music like that this afternoon everyone? Finally the back page contained the half time scoreboard. Costing 2d at the time I have seen issues from this era sell for anything between £10 to £100.



Special Reserve

**SWINDON TOWN RESERVES
9TH FEBRUARY 1952** by Keith Brookman

The single sheet programme for this game, costing 1d, was edged in black.

The reason for this was the death of King George VI just three days before the game and the programme carried a tribute to the late King and advised spectators that the hymn 'Abide with Me' would be followed by a one minute silence and the playing of the National Anthem.

There weren't too many recognised first team players in the starting lineup, though the names of Maurice Lockier, Les Edwards, Ken Powell

and Andrew Micklewright might be familiar to some of our long standing supporters.

Rovers won the game 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Horler (sorry, Christian name not known!) in front of a crowd of 3,549 who generated gate receipts of £5 19s 6d while 1,439 of those in attendance actually purchased a programme.

On the same day, Rovers fielded five other teams. The team competing in the Church of England League

beat St Simons 5-0, the fifth team lost 3-0 to Fishponds Youth Club, and Suburban Senior side recorded an 8-0 win against Frenchay United. The Colts were beaten 5-0 by Chippenham Town, while the first team went down 1-0 to Norwich City at Carrow Road.



Memorable Match

by
Leigh
Edwards



Goals by Wayne Jones and Ray Graydon gave Bristol Rovers a 2-1 Third Division victory over Swindon Town in front of 10,364 at Eastville Stadium on 21st September 1968.

The Robins achieved a promotion and League Cup double that season. Football historian **LEIGH EDWARDS** traces what happened to Rovers' team:

RAY WHITE: Ex Southend United goalkeeper who understudied Laurie Taylor, making three League appearances for Bristol Rovers before joining Dave Bumpstead's Brentwood in July 1969. He helped them win promotion in 1968/69, then played for Dover and Tonbridge, running an industrial cleaning business.

LINDSAY PARSONS: Long serving full back who made 358 League appearances before reuniting with Mike Green at Torquay United in July 1977. Later with Taunton Town, Gloucester City, Forest Green Rovers and Yate Town, he was Cheltenham Town's manager before assisting Tony Pulis at various clubs.

RAY MABBUTT: Versatile favourite who netted 27 goals in 394 League outings for Bristol Rovers prior to joining Newport County in September 1969, then played for Trowbridge, Bath City, Clevedon, Frome Town, Mangotsfield, Clevedon again and Keynsham. Now a retired insurance broker, living in Winford.

STUART TAYLOR: Tall central defender who was ever present in four successive seasons and netted 28 goals in a club record 546 League games before becoming Bath City's player boss in May 1980. Rejoining



Bristol Rovers 1968/69

Swindon Slip up

Rovers as Commercial Manager, he was a plumber and now mine host at the Beaufort Hunt in Downend.

LARRY LLOYD: Central defender who scored once in 43 Third Division games for Rovers before joining Liverpool in April 1969. Moving via Coventry City to Nottingham Forest in October 1976, the England international later managed Wigan Athletic and Notts County, becoming a publican in Nottingham.

FRANKIE PRINCE: Welsh U-23 midfielder who starred in Rovers 1972 Watney Cup final triumph and 1973/74 promotion success. Netting 22 goals in 362 League games, he joined Exeter City in July 1980, then played for Gloucester City. He has been Torquay United's Community Officer for the past 20 years.

RAY GRAYDON: Flying winger who starred as Rovers reached the FA Cup Fifth Round in 1968/69. He netted 33 goals in 131 League outings prior to joining Aston Villa in May 1971, then played for Coventry City and Oxford United. After coaching Oxford and Southampton, he managed Walsall and Bristol Rovers.

VIC BARNEY: Midfielder who scored three times in 31 League outings before moving to Glastonbury in September 1969. Later with

Trowbridge, Mangotsfield, Clevedon, Taunton, Paulton and Glastonbury again, he spent 29 years with Rolls Royce, then was a local postman. Now a driver for Alliance Unichem.

BOBBY JONES: Fast, skilful striker who was in his second spell at Eastville Stadium, netting 101 goals in 421 League games overall for Rovers before joining Minhead in August 1973. He coached and managed several clubs, including Paulton Rovers, Bath City, Mangotsfield and Yate Town, settling in Kingswood.

WAYNE JONES: Welsh international midfielder who helped reach the FA Cup Fifth Round in 1968/69, then win the Watney Cup in 1972. Scoring 28 goals in 224 League games until injury ended his career, he has been physio/assistant boss at Shrewsbury, Rovers, Huddersfield, Notts County, Hereford and Yeovil.

HAROLD JARMAN: Long serving favourite who scored 127 goals in 452 League games before moving to Newport County in May 1973, then played for Mangotsfield United. He managed Bristol Rovers between December 1979 and April 1980, since holding various posts at other clubs, settling in Westbury.

It is now 16 years since the finest hour in the history of Raith Rovers, when they were leading 1-0 at half time away to mighty Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup.

The lights on the scoreboard in the famous Olympic Stadium lit up the ground with the shock score during the break, but unfortunately Raith eventually lost 2-1 and the overall tie 4-1 on aggregate.

Many Raith fans today have that Munich scoreboard as screen savers while their English based supporters Rovers down South marked the anniversary with a Bavarian Night in London, attended by some of the players from the game in 1995.

The previous year Raith, managed by former Manchester United full back Jimmy Nicholl, had won the Scottish League Cup for the first time by beating Celtic 5-4 on penalties.

The win meant Raith qualified for Europe for the first time in their history, and after eliminating both the Faroese and Icelandic champions (GÍ Gøta and ÍA Akranes respectively) they met Bayern Munich. They were beaten 2-0 by the German side in the first leg, which was played at Easter Road, home of Hibernian.

Winning the League Cup, selling Steve McAnespie and playing in Europe, generated the money needed to redevelop Stark's Park as an all seater ground to a capacity of just over 10,000 with Bayern Munich playing a friendly in the first match at the redeveloped ground.

Raith Rovers have now played at Stark's Park for 120 years.

The club was founded in 1883 in the Scottish town of Kirkcaldy, playing at Robbie's Park. Though there were other teams who incorporated the town name, such as Kirkcaldy Wanderers and Kirkcaldy United, Raith became the most successful of the local teams, winning five trophies in the 1890's.

There had been a much earlier (and unrelated) Raith Rovers which merged with what is now Cowdenbeath in 1882.



Raith Rovers 2010/11

In 1889 they were forced to leave their Robbie's Park ground and moved to Stark's Park, named after, and run by, Councillor Robert Stark.

The club turned professional by 1892 and was the first football team in Fife to be elected to the Scottish League in season 1902/03.

After two consecutive successful seasons in the Second Division, the club elected to join the First Division in 1909/10. Three years later, they made their first (and only) appearance in the Scottish Cup Final, losing 2-0 to Falkirk.

Raith had its highest ever league finish in the Scottish top division, when they came third to the Old Firm in 1921/22. This was followed by an unusual incident when the players were shipwrecked in 1923. The team had been en route to play friendly matches on the Canary Islands when the boat ran aground. Fortunately, the players were able to safely disembark and continue on their way a few days later.

Season 1937/38 saw Raith set a British League Record with 142 goals in just 34 league matches while winning the Second Division championship. The record still stands today.

Another remarkable chapter in the club's history came at the start of the 2004/05 season, Claude Anelka (brother of French Striker Nicolas) offered £300,000 to any team who would offer him a manager's job and was subsequently appointed the manager of Raith Rovers!

Anelka signed a team of (mostly) continental players from the lower leagues in France. A disastrous season followed, despite Anelka resigning halfway through, and his signings either leaving or having their contracts terminated. Raith were

relegated to the Scottish Second Division after finishing bottom of the First Division with just 16 points after managing to win just three games all season.

Raith's most famous former players include Alex James, who moved to Preston before becoming part of a famous Arsenal side. Jim Baxter signed for the club in 1958 before moving to Rangers and Sunderland, while Ian Porterfield went on to score the winning goal for Sunderland in the 1973 FA Cup Final.

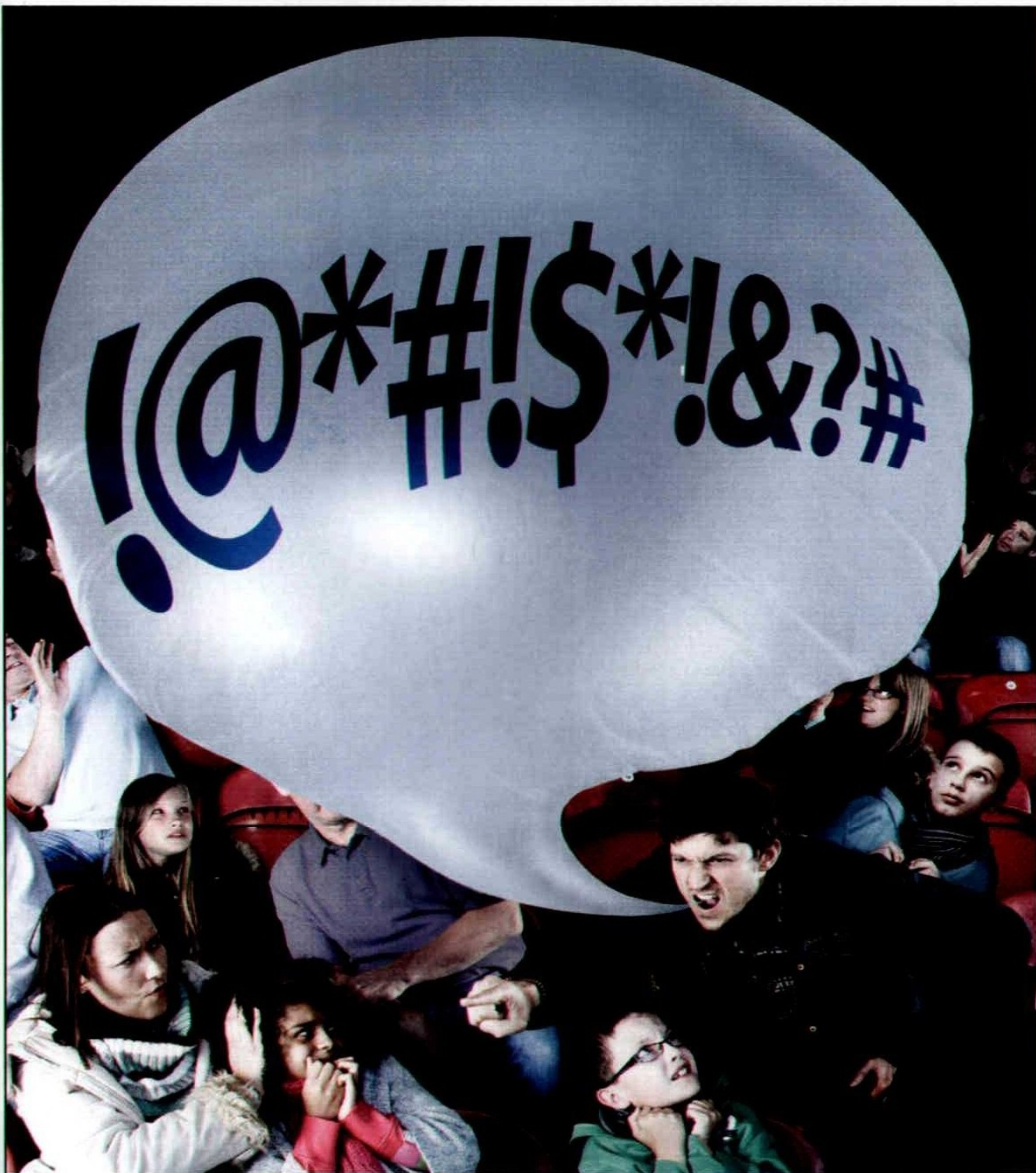
The club's most famous fan, and shareholder, is former Prime Minister Gordon Brown. As Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2005 he assisted in a £1.2m community buy out (The New Raith Rovers Limited consortium) which secured the future of the club.

Current Scotland manager Craig Levein, a Raith supporter as a boy, briefly managed the club on a non contract basis in 2006.

I dug deep to find what I believe is the only link between the Rovers of Bristol and Raith who, to my knowledge, have never played each other.

But Walter Currie, who played for Raith between 1916 and 1919 in the Eastern League and Scottish League, was an ever present at Eastville Stadium in 1922/23 playing wing half in all 42 Third Division South games before he retired. That team also included cricket legend Wally Hammond who played 10 games, scoring two goals-and he still holds the record for the most runs in a series against Australia, despite England's recent magnificent Ashes win.

Another link, albeit tenuous, is that Kirkaldy born Wille White played for Bristol Rovers eight times between 1928-30.



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PIRATES v ROBINS

The 85 league meetings to date have yielded 31 wins for Rovers, 40 for Swindon, and 14 draws. The first ever league meeting ended in a 2-1 win for Swindon, at the County Ground, on 15th January 1921.



Bristol Rovers 1981/82



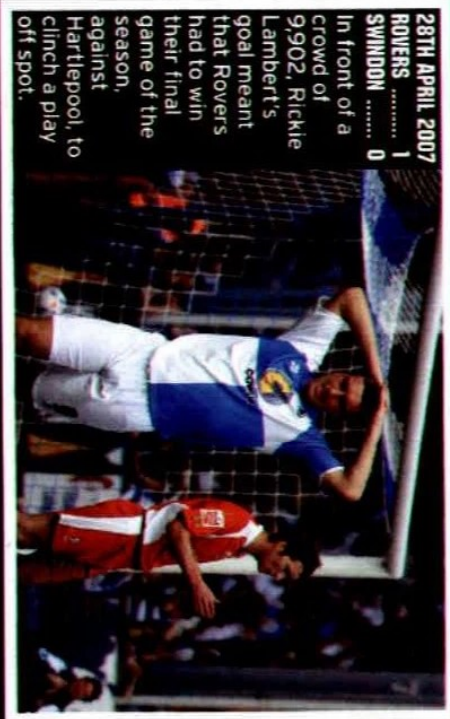
Swindon Town 1981/82



12TH SEPT 1992

Above: Watched by SWINDON 2 Rovers 2

Glenn Hoddle, Marcus Stewart scores from the penalty spot at the County Ground. Rovers other goalscorer that day was John Taylor.



28TH APRIL 2007

Rovers 1 SWINDON 0

In front of a crowd of 9,902, Rickie Lambert's goal meant that Rovers had to win their final game of the season, against Hartlepool, to clinch a play off spot.



19TH AUGUST 1950

Left: Goalkeeper Rovers 1 SWINDON 0

Bert Hoyle kept a clean sheet on his debut in a game won by Rovers thanks to a goal from Viv Lambden.



4TH MAY 1868

Rovers 1 SWINDON 2

Below: Frankie Prince made his debut in this game, as Rovers slipped to defeat in front of a crowd of 8,928.



6TH MARCH 2010

SWINDON 0 Rovers 4

Above: Pauli Hefferan, pictured here in action during the game, scored for Rovers, along with Jo Kuffour, Chris Lines and Jeff Hughes.



24TH MARCH 2001

Left: Christian Rovers 0 SWINDON 0

Lee made his Rovers debut in this goalless draw, watched by a crowd of 8,114 at the Memorial Stadium.