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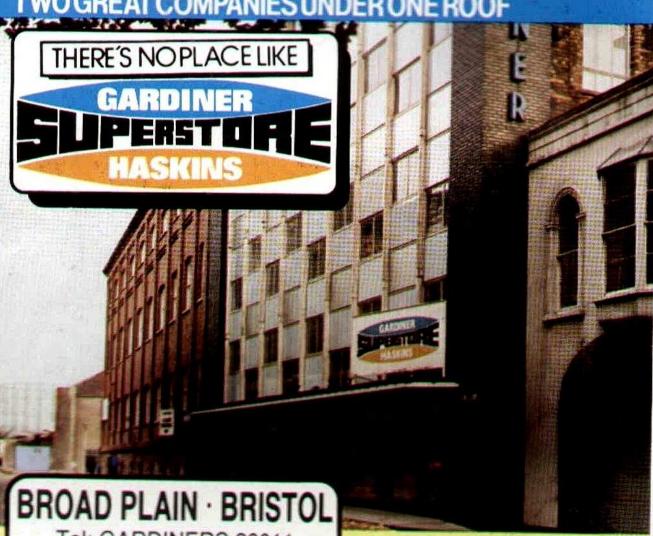
SWINDON TOWN

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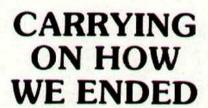








TEAM TALK



Everyone seems to be expressing surprise that we have made such a good start away from home.

In fact, the wins at Bolton and Swindon were a continuation of an impressive run of away results at the end of last season.

Following our defeat at Sheffield United, we drew at Wigan, won at Gillingham and Bradford City and completed the League programme with a draw at Hull City.

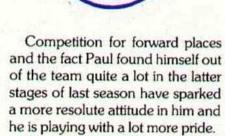
But the manager and I are very aware that our away record earlier last season was not good enough and have stressed the need for the team to keep tighter and play with more patience away from home.

The signs are encouraging. Over the first two away matches we scored six goals and created a dozen chances while Ray Cashley was beaten only once.



It is good to see Paul Randall looking really sharp again. Not only is he scoring goals but also putting in a lot more work off the ball.

During the tour matches and the games at Bolton and Swindon, he was chasing 30 yards to get in tackles on defenders. And on several occasions, his determination and pace turned a seemingly lost cause into a situation to our advantage.



We are pleased that Mark O'Connor has settled in so well after joining us on loan from QPR.

The timing of his arrival was perfect because he was able to get to know the lads much more quickly by coming with us on the tour to Lancashire.

Mark has skill and a willingness to work, putting him in a similar mould to Ian Holloway.

I was glad to see our supporters giving him such a warm reception when he went near to their section of the crowd at Swindon last week.

It is not easy for Mark to take over from someone as popular as Mike Barrett and the encouragement he is receiving is appreciated by him and everyone else in the club.

WAYNE JONES

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB



Registered Office: Hambrook Training Ground, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol BS16 1JG, Tel. 573687 Vice Presidents: H.E.L. BROWN, Dr. W.T. CUSSEN, E.W.H. GODFREY, G.A.W. HOLMES, A.I. SEAGER, CON. A.L. STEVENS

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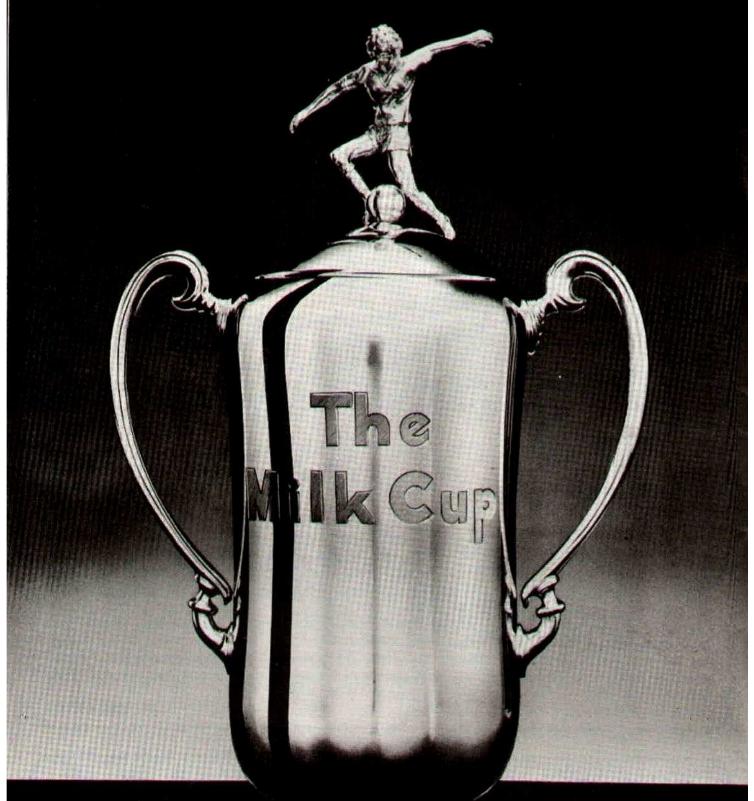
OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE
Editor Gordon Bennett. Contributors: Mike Allen (Western Daily Press), James Bond, Mike Jay and Alan
Lacock, (Freelance), Ralph Ellis (Birmingham Sports Argus), Colin Howlett (B.B.C. Radio Bristol), Steve
Meecham (Western Daily Press) and Robin Perry (Bristol Evening Post).

Photographs: Alan Marshall (Club Photographer) and staff of Bristol United Press.

Printed by A.J.C. (Bristol), Printers to Industry. Tel. 719641. Typeset by BC Typesetting. Tel. Bitton 4980.

Published by Bristol Rovers Football Club P.L.C. – Individual contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the club.

Voted first in Division Three in the Wirral Programme Club Awards and third in Division Three in the Programme Monthly and F.L.E.S.A. Awards in Season 1983-84.



Who's got the bottle to get through to the next round?

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WE MUST AVOID COMPLACENCY!

It's a nice feeling going into tonight's second leg sitting on the 5-1 lead we took at Swindon last week.

But we have to forget about what happened in the first leg and treat this as a game on its own which has to be won.

It would be so easy for a team in our situation to become complacent. Swindon could pop in a couple of early goals, their tails would go up and we would have a battle on our hands.

I remember playing for Newcastle in the UEFA Cup during the 1977-78 season, when Stewart Barrowclough, another player to later come to Bristol, was also in our side.

To Corsica

We went to Corsica to play Bastia in the second round first leg. We were 1-0 up at half-time and although they came back and won 2-1, we felt we had done the difficult part by restricting them to a one-goal lead.

Johnny Rep was playing for Bastia then. He gave a TV interview before the second leg at St James's and said he thought Bastia were as good as out of the competition.

But they kicked us right in the teeth, winning 3-1 with Rep scoring twice!

So I have learnt from bitter experience you can't take anything for granted in football - especially cup football.



BARROWCLOUGH shared a bitter Cup experience at Newcastle

Apart from winning them both, the pleasure of our two opening games was playing on nice flat, grassy pitches. A decent surface can make a lot of difference to teams such as ourselves who always try to play good football.

Training

Actually, Eastville has become almost like an away ground. We played our first two games of the season before even having a training session at the stadium.

The only time we stepped on the surface so lovingly prepared by Jackie Pitt and his staff was for our press and TV photocall!

But the boss took us down there last Thursday so that we could get the feel of the place again in a practice match before facing Preston.

AIDAN McCAFFERY

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DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Tonight's match obviously has particular significance to Tony Wood and myself. Both of us came to Bristol Rovers from tonight's visitors Swindon Town.

Swindon it was who gave me the opportunity to realise a life's ambition and attain a job in the Canon League. I spent a happy six months there before the opportunity suddenly arose to join Rovers.

Martin Flook and Gordon Bennett took about ten minutes to persuade me to make an early exit from Swindon to work in my home town.

That decision in October 1983 has been a major milestone in my life because job satisfaction and a happy atmosphere have been most predominant.

The relationship between the playing staff, administration staff and commercial staff is excellent with no real demarcation lines. If someone in one area can help someone in another it will be done.

If this atmosphere can help to produce results we shall win everything this season, including the Grand National!

I still remember my time at Swindon with pleasure, the whole set up there is aching for success — I hope Lou Macari can provide it for them.

My involvement with the whole commercial scene as opposed to just the lottery has been the real challenge at Bristol Rovers — I think I am winning.

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BOOSTER

Our other signing from Swindon Town – Tony Wood – has done a super job in putting on new agents for our new instant lottery for retail outlets. Rovers tickets are now widely on sale in pubs, shops, clubs and hotels (over 200 new agents here) in addition to our weekly Pirates Lottery largely doing the business door-to-door. Tony would like to hear from you on 573687 if you have not been signed up yet.

UPLIFTING

We welcome a new Company to match sponsorship for tonight's game in the shape of **Sparrows**. The Installation Services division based at South Liberty Lane are also sponsoring the match against Orient on April 27th, 1985.

If your Company would like to know about match sponsorship or joint match sponsorship there are a few gaps in the calendar. Get in touch with me for full details on Bristol 573687. It really is a good value advertising exercise for Companies.

MIKE BARRETT MEMORIAL FUND

Money has poured into the club from all sorts of sources. The latest venture is now started by a Rovers supporter of 32 years. **Tony Cook** (not the old City goalkeeper) is coughing up 50p for every goal scored by Rovers in the Canon League this season. Anyone else interested in joining the scheme should contact Tony on Bristol 693392 or myself on 573687.

Also remember the events sponsored by Bristol & West

Motor Auction in aid of the fund.

Wednesday 26th Sept: Chipping Sodbury Golf Club Amateur Tournament, £100 team of 4.

Friday 28th Sept: Redwood Lodge Barbecue. £3 tickets. Sunday 30th Sept: The Studio Allstar Cabaret. £5 tickets.

RUBBISH PROMOTION

Look out for the **Pirates Lottery** advertisements on the refuse disposal vehicle in the Kingswood area. This ties in with a canvassing campaign for the lottery in that area. We are big enough to take the obvious remarks about the venture!

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TALKING FOOTBALL

I'LL TAKE PRIDE IN SWINDON-LOU

Lou Macari's first instruction to his Swindon players this season might sound unusual - he wants them to make mistakes.

If that sounds a recipe for managerial disaster then you have to let the former Manchester United winger explain his aims a little further.

"As far as I'm concerned if players at this club don't make mistakes they won't make anything", says Macari. "I told them I'm expecting them to make mistakes, and I'm expecting them to play anywhere they are asked.

"If they are not making mistakes then they are not doing anything. I don't want anybody who is happy to hide and pass the buck to somebody else."

Macari admits that he has found his transition from a player with one of the world's most famous and glamorous clubs to manager of a Fourth Division outfit something of a shock.

Treatment Table

"The day I started work at Swindon we had just 11 players, and three of those were on the treatment table", he recalls. "It didn't seem a happy club, and there were obvious signs in the dressing room that players didn't want to play.

"There were clear indications of slackness in minor things - like the players' pants had holes in them. The pitch was in such a state that I had to cancel three friendlies which had been arranged."

Macari's response has been swift and decisive, and already there are signs that his arrival and influence could breathe new life into a club which until a couple of years ago was looking ambitiously at the higher levels of the game.

"We've tidied the place up a bit, and that all helps to get things going again. And the players all now want to play football.

"I know now we will go out to play, and we will lose games. But we will be in a happy mood, and if we are in that frame of mind we will win more than we lose.

"I've been impressed by the attitude of the elder players, people like Alan Mayes and Andy Rowland



LOU MACARI in his days as an idol of Old Trafford.

who have set a great example to the young players."

Macari's change of lifestyle from player to manager is significant. But he's loving every minute of the new challenge, however tough it may be.

"At Old Trafford I was leaving the house at about 9.30, and then training until midday. Here I go out the door in the morning at 8 a.m. and don't get home until midnight. And that's been before the season gets under way when I can expect to be on scouting missions looking for players.

"But I'm excited about the season, and I'll take a pride in what happens. It's always meant a lot to me to be part of a successful club, and to be part of a team that is winning. It will mean even more to me now because it's going to be MY team."

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EASTVILLE ECHOS

BUMPER GATE FOR VILLA MATCH

A bumper attendance is expected at Eastville next Tuesday when Aston Villa, European Cup winners two years ago, play Rovers in the Mike Barrett Memorial Match (kick-off 7.45 p.m.).

All proceeds will be devoted to the Appeal Fund which has been set up to provide for Mike's teenage widow, Louise, and the child she is expecting later this month.

Villa manager Graham Turner has promised to bring his full strength international-studded side to Eastville and Rovers hope the combination of star opposition and widespread public sympathy will help the appeal fund reach its £25,000 target.

The fund is rapidly approaching the £3,000 mark, with donations pouring into Rovers'. Hambrook offices at the rate of over £200 per day.

Stand tickets are now on sale - at greatly reduced prices. Tip-up seats will cost £3.50 for adults and £2.00 for juveniles and senior citizens. Bench seats will cost £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for under-16's and O.A.P.'s.

Normal terrace prices will apply with admission through the turnstiles in the normal way - except for season ticket holders who will be able to purchase their tickets in advance at the same concessionary prices as were applicable for tonight's game.





MIKE BARRETT - his widow and child will benefit.

TOWN'S TARGET

Swindon need to score at least five goals tonight to go through to round two of the Milk Cup.

Rovers' 5-1 victory at the County Ground eight days ago has left Town with a particularly uphill battle.

For if they win 4-0 tonight to level the aggregate scores and hold out for the 15 minutes each way of extra time. Rovers will still be declared winners.

The rules of the competition stipulate that if the aggregate scores are level at the end of normal time then extra time shall be played but if at the end of extra time the aggregate scores are still level then the tie is decided by away goals counting double.

This rule produces some quirks as Rovers found out last year, when they lost 4-2 at Brighton but won 2-1 in the second leg, after extra time, only to be eliminated because Brighton held a 4-3 aggregate advantage, whereas had the away goals rule applied at the end of normal time Rovers would have been declared 6-5 winners!

WAYNE, STEVE RECOVERING



WAYNE NOBLE



STEVE WHITE

Teenager Wayne Noble, unlucky to break three of his toes in Rovers' first pre-season friendly against Stapleton just over five weeks ago, is rapidly regaining fitness.

Unfortunate Wayne, recommended by manager David Williams for possible inclusion in the England Youth team, was deprived by the injury of first chance of claiming Mike Barrett's vacant left wing berth - but he is expected to resume playing again in the Reserves next week.

Rovers' other injury victim, Steve White, has already recovered sufficiently to participate in the Reserves' game at Swindon last Wednesday.

Steve's been side-lined by a troublesome knee but his display at Swindon was sufficient to prompt this encouraging verdict from David Williams: "Considering he's only had one pre-season game, I was pleased with Steve's fitness and work rate."

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PRAISE FROM EX-KEEPER

I enjoyed the match at Bolton and think Rovers have the makings of a very good team.

No. 2 (Neil Slatter) and No. 5 (Tim Parkin) may not be with you for long as I think they will be snapped up by First Division clubs, as were Ronnie Dix, Phil Taylor and Jack Woodman in my days, the only surprise was that Ray Warren never joined them.

I remember one particular incident from my days with Rovers. We lost 8–1 in the F.A. Cup to Q.P.R. at home. Percy Smith, a former Spurs manager, was in charge and the chairman George Humphreys wanted to get rid of him. When it was pointed out that Percy had two years of his contract to run and would have to be paid about £4,000, Mr. Humphreys just pulled out his cheque book and wrote out a cheque for that amount — which was a lot of money in those days — without batting an eyelid.

At the following Board meeting a colleague noticed an awful smell coming from a paper parcel he was carrying and was told: "It's only fish — I've bought a couple of pounds because it's a penny a pound cheaper here in Eastville than it is in Clifton".

JACK ELLIS (Rovers' goalkeeper 1934–37) 80 Crawford Avenue, Tyldesley, Manchester.





NEIL SLATTER

TIM PARKIN

- impressed Jack Ellis.

GOOD LUCK!

We wrote towards the end of last season, just before going down South on duty, wishing the team good luck on its final push for promotion – we send our commiserations in just failing.

We also send our best wishes for the forthcoming season. We hope to be back soon, cheering Rovers all the way to the top.

Good luck, David Williams, the players, and supporters of our great club!

TINY WISEMAN and CHATS HARRIS, H.M.S. Andronoda, B.F.P.O. Ships.

WRONG CLUB!

As the new season approached, imagine my delight when I had learned I had won two consolation tickets in the Evening Post's football competition. I would be able to watch Rovers from the lofty heights of the stands. A perfect view and a perfect start to the season. . . .

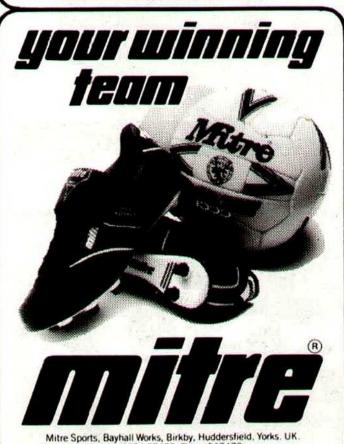
Imagine my horror then, as — with trembling fingers — I opened the letter containing the coveted prize and two tickets fell to the floor, bearing the name of Bristol City!

And they call it a prize! What's the punishment, I wonder?

ROGER SHERMAN, 15c Dalrymple Road, St. Pauls, Bristol.

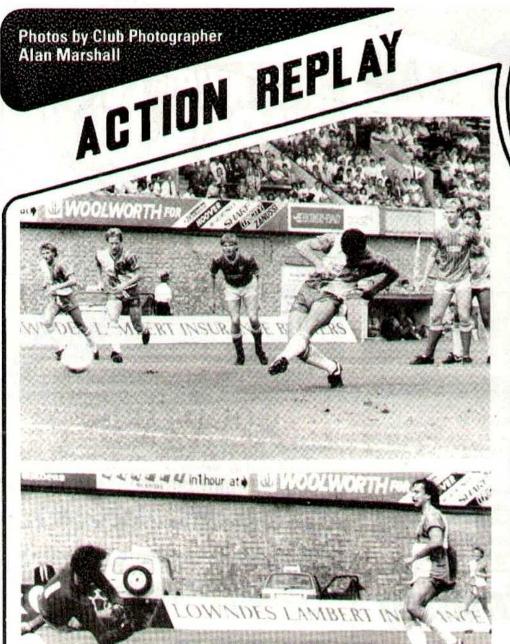
PLEASE WRITE

We welcome readers letters — on these or other topics. There's a pair for free stand tickets as the prize for the star letter in each programme. Letters should not exceed 150 words in length and may have to be edited because of lack of space — and be sent to: "Fanmail", Bristol Rovers F.C., Hambrook Training Ground, Filton Road, Bristol BS16 1JG.



Tel: 0484 37488. Telex: 517470







Top - BRIAN WILLIAMS marking his return to his old club by converting the penalty which put Rovers on the road to their 5-1 first leg victory.

Middle – PAUL RANDALL breaks through to slot home the second goal past Alister Sperring.

Bottom - DAVID WILLIAMS bursts past two defenders to side-foot goal No. 3.

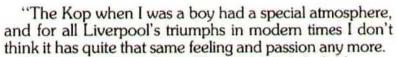
More photos of the goals at Swindon on page 35.











"As a boy I stood on the terraces at Anfield every Saturday, and my hero was Ian St. John. He and Roger Hunt scored the goals for a tremendous team with names that still roll off my tongue now.

"Hunt was special, he had the ability like Jimmy Greaves to sniff around the box waiting for goalscoring chances and then pounce on them.

"I suppose all boys watch the goalscorers, and so they were bound to be my heroes. But one moment made lan St. John that extra bit special – his winning goal against Leeds in the 1965 F.A. Cup Final.

The Ultimate

"It is everybody's dream to get the winning goal in a Wembley Cup Final – but to do it in extra time with a diving header must be the ultimate, and that's what St. John did. It was the first time Liverpool had won the Cup, and they were very definitely the underdogs.

"Of course he is better known now for introducing ITV's Saturday "On The Ball" programme. But I don't think I would want to be interviewed by him! All that meeting your heroes does is destroy your illusions about them, and I'd sooner remember him diving full length to meet Ian Callaghan's cross and send it into goal at Wembley."

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Bristol Rovers Football Club

Con. A. L. Stevens (Chairman). J. P. Hare, J. R. Bissicks, H. A. S. Hoare, E. C. Lloyd, G. Humphreys, L. Champeny.

> Medical Officer : Dr. C. B. Mora, M.R.C.S.

Official Programme

Kick Off 30 p.m.

22. Brighton

6th April, 1946

Right

BRISTOL ROVERS

Left

2 Smith, W.

Watkins

Bamford

Warren (Capt.)

Robbins

Butterworth

Lambden

Davis

Hargett

Referes Mr. J. M. WILTSHIRE. Williams Painter Derrick Jones Lucas Cousins Lloyd McDonald Preece 2

Burton

Left

SWINDON

Right

HOME MATCH Saturday, April 13, 1946.

RESERVES v. PEASEDOWN MINERS

WESTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Secretary: CHAS. F. FERRARI

Reg. Offices: EASTVILLE BRISTOL STADIUM

PRICE 2d.

Today we feature a simple four page programme, size 5" × 4 4" - worth over £5 - 500 times the original cover price!

It's from the Rovers v. Swindon Third Division (South) League Cup-tie on 6th April 1946, which ended in a 0-0 draw in front of 9,029 spectators.

Professional soccer resumed after the war in January 1946 with a regionalised Cup competition - Rovers reaching the semi-final before losing to Walsall.

Altogether Rovers and Swindon met six times during the season. Rovers won three and drew two of the games.

SWINDON TOWN

DIGEST

- * Lou Macari's claim that Swindon Town are to the Fourth Division what Manchester United are to Division One was given early credence on the opening day of the season when the top gate of their section - 3,591 - entered the palatial County Ground for the 2-1 win over Wrexham.
- * Their new North Stand, which is particularly impressive, was built in 1971, midway through Town's halcyon spell just over a decade ago - which embraced winning the League Cup in 1969, the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970 and enjoyed Second Division status from 1969 to 1974.
- Former Rovers coach and manager Fred Ford succeeded Danny Williams as Swindon boss in August 1969 and had two years in charge before being replaced by ex-Spurs star Dave MacKay.
- * Season 1981-82 was a most traumatic one for the Robbins. Their 4-1 win over Rovers on 17th October took them to the top of Division Three – but by the end of the campaign they had slumped to a relegation position.
- Life in Division Four has proved tough financially and but for the sale of Paul Rideout to Aston Villa for a six-figure fee two summers ago there might not even have been a Swindon Town in existence today.
- Success again was elusive last season. But a few months ago a fairy godmother in the shape of local insurance company Lowndes Lambert came up with a £200,000 sponsorship offer which has resulted in the arrival of ex-Manchester United, Celtic and Scotland star Lou Macari as their player-manager.
- Although appointed after his players had already reported back for pre-season training, Lou has acted quickly to strengthen his squad with three recent additions in Peter Coyne, Alister Sperring and Chris Ramsay.



THE MAN IN CHARGE

Lou Macari – player-manager arrived at the County Ground during the summer as part of Swindon's massive sponsorship deal, having made his name during a glittering career with Celtic. Manchester United and Scotland.



WHO'S WHO

Scott Endersby - goalkeeper broke into the first team last season when Jimmy Allan was injured. and became the first choice goalkeeper. Player of the year last season, his first year at the club after arriving from Tranmere Rovers.

Alister Sperring - goalkeeper snapped up by Lou Macari on a month's loan from Southampton straight after Saints signed Phil Kite from Rovers. Made his League debut ten davs ago.

Simon Gibson - defender joined Swindon during last season from Chelsea, his brother is, and father was, a professional footballer too.

Chris Ramsay - defender another loan signing, clinched last Thursday. Former Bristol City apprentice, has made 30 appearances for Brighton, injured in 1983 F.A. Cup Final against Manchester United and missed the replay.

Andy Rowland - defender - Mr. Versatility, he played everywhere last season, including in goal, and ended up as a centre half, having spent his career as a striker.

Mike Graham - defender - left the County Ground at the end of the season, but returned during the summer, he began his career with Bolton in 1978, arriving Swindon in 1981.



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Mike Graham – defender – left the County Ground at the end of the season, but returned during the summer, he began his career with Bolton in 1978, arriving at Swindon in 1981. Colin Baillie – defender – made his debut for Town, the club to which he was apprenticed, in 1982 and is now an established member of the team.

Paul Batty – midfield – a promising player who makes up for his lack of height with his enthusiasm, he is another one who was an apprentice at the County Ground.

Leigh Barnard – midfield – moved to Swindon in June 1982 from Portsmouth where he made 79 appearances, during the summer he has gained a full F.A. coaching badge.

Garry Nelson – striker – joined the club last season from Southend where he played 140 times. Marked his debut for Swindon with a goal.

Dave Hockaday – striker – fast and tricky winger who signed from his only other club, Blackpool, last summer.

Alan Mayes – striker – topped the goalscoring charts last season after his return to Swindon from Chelsea, but was transfer listed after a series of clashes with previous boss Ken Beamish.

Peter Coyne – striker – Lou Macari's first capture, from non-League Hyde United. After scoring a Wembley hat-trick in an England schoolboy international and signing for Manchester United, he looked set for stardom, but drifted out of the League after spells with Bolton and Crewe.

Back row: Charlie Henry, Simon Gibson, Alan Churchward, Nigel Gray, Scott Endersby, Andy Wollen, Mark Hughes. Centre row: Harry Gregg (asst. manager), John Trollope (youth coach), Jamie Reynolds, Mark Gardiner, Martin Davison, Sean Prowse, Mike Graham, Dave Hockaday, Kevin Morris (physio). Front row: Paul Batty, Gary Nelson, Leigh Barnard, Lou Macari (player manager), Andy Rowland, Alan Mayes, Colin Baillie. Seated: Mark Payne; Sheldon Lee.



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HOW THEY STOOD

Last season's final Fourth Division table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
York City	46	31	8	7	96	39	91	
Doncaster Rovers	46	24	13	9	82	54	85	
Reading	46	22	16	8	84	56	82	
Bristol City	46	24	10	12	70	44	82	
Aldershot	46	22	9	15	76	69	75	
Blackpool	46	21	9	16	70	52	72	
Peterborough United	46	18	14	14	72	48	68	
Colchester United	46	17	16	13	69	53	67	
Torquay United	46	18	13	15	59	64	67	
Tranmere Rovers	46	17	15	14	53	53	66	
Hereford United	46	16	15	15	54	53	63	
Stockport County	46	17	11	18	60	64	62	
Chesterfield	46	15	15	16	59	61	60	
Darlington	46	17	8	21	49	50	59	
Bury	46	15	14	17	61	64	59	
Crewe Alexandra	46	16	11	19	56	67	59	
SWINDON TOWN	46	15	13	18	58	56	58	
Northampton Town	46	13	14	19	53	78	53	
Mansfield Town	46	13	13	20	66	70	52	
Wrexham	46	11	15	20	59	74	48	
Halifax Town	46	12	12	22	55	89	48	
Rochdale	46	11	13	22	52	80	46	
Hartlepool United	46	10	10	26	47	85	40	
Chester City	46	7	13	26	45	82	34	

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TACTICAL TALK-IN

Welcome to tactical talk-in, a new series in which Rovers boss David Williams will attempt to explain the ideas used at Eastville and by other teams.

If you are puzzled by any aspect of soccer, explain your query simply and send it to "Tactical Talk-In", Bristol Rovers F.C., Hambrook Training Ground, Filton Road, Bristol BS16 1JG.



SIMPLE

"Football is basically a simple game, and at times it is easy to get bogged down in theories and forget what the sport is all about. So I'll aim to keep this series as straightforward as possible.

"I thought it worth starting by explaining the basic system which we at Rovers try to play, which is a 4-4-2 formation. Four defenders, four midfield men, and two attackers.

"It is the system played by Liverpool, and therefore copied by many teams, although I like to think we use it with a little more flair than most because we encourage our wide midfield men to play more like old-fashioned wingers.

"I think people like to see wingers, but there are very few sides which play out and out wide men in the way sides used to. You have to encourage them to do their share of defensive work, because these days full backs do more attacking, and somebody must both mark the opposing full back, and cover the space left when his own full back goes on an attacking raid.

"A winger who didn't defend would be a luxury, and you would need to have somebody with outstanding ability to be willing to give him that freedom.

"It would also be probable that in that situation the full back would do less attacking. Teams have got very good at exploiting space behind a defence down the wings, and to allow two men to come forward would be taking a gamble."

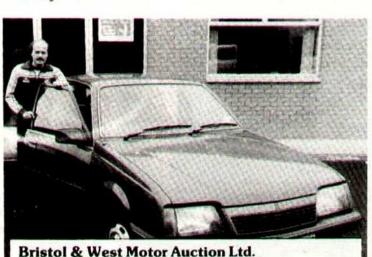
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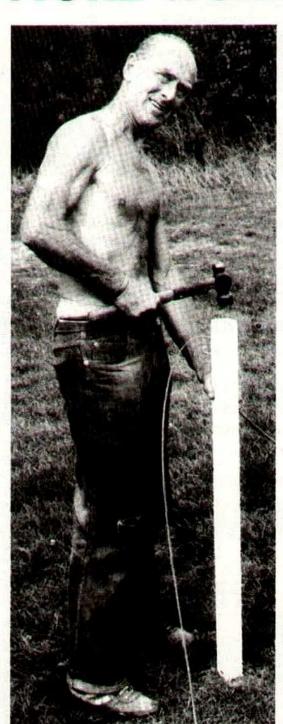
sponsor Wayne Jones.

Mike Allen interviews a key figure

BACKSTAGE



MORE WORK FOR BUSY JACK



Groundsman Jack Pitt has a new challenge ahead of him this season - looking after the club's artificial playing surface.

During the summer at Hambrook the synthetic pitch has been laid, but that's far from the end of the work that has to be done on it.

Jack has been told the best way of looking after it is to water it before players go on. "I'm not sure I'll be around at 10 o'clock at night to do that", he said.

He has already been out on it with a roller, but says: "The experts say the best thing is for people to play on it.

"It will be about four months before it's settled down, but can take about four inches of rain."

It's just another thing for Jack, and his assistants Gary Vile and Mike Walker, to think about as they keep themselves busy looking after the pitch at Eastville and the training ground at Hambrook.

Credit Harry Smith

Modest Jack, who became head groundsman five years ago, says of the pitch at Eastville which is in such a great condition: "The credit must really go to Harry Smith, my predecessor.

"He started all the good work, I just try to carry on where he left off."

But that can be time consuming for the man who graced Eastville so many times in the seasons that followed the

He probably spends more time on the pitch now than he ever did as a player. After each match he reckons to walk about four miles in three-and-a-half hours treading in the divots.

Just to add a further complication to his task, he can't get onto the pitch on Mondays or Thursdays because of the greyhounds, and they cause him other headaches too.

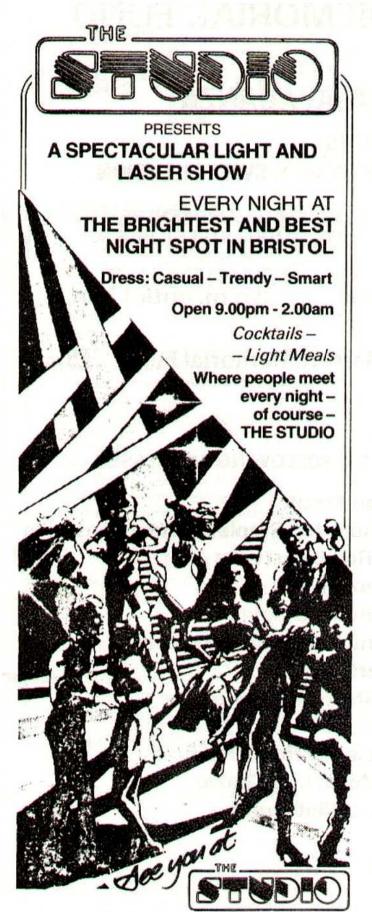
Where they put the starting traps on the corners of the pitch I have to re-lay the grass every summer."

But Jack loves his job. "I couldn't work anywhere but outside, it's what keeps me so fit."

At the end of the season Jack will be 65, but still weighs the same as in his playing days – just over $10\frac{1}{2}$ stones.

And any suggestions that he might like to retire are quickly dispelled: "Oh no, not so long as they'll let me keep going", he said.

JACK PITT



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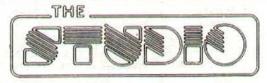
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Colston Service Station, Lewins Mead, City Centre
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HOW YOU'LL READ ALL ABOUT IT TOMORROW

Twenty-two players at Eastville tonight will be working to a deadline.

They know they have to score more goals than their opponents in exactly 90 minutes.

But they're not the only ones this evening in a race against time.

Glance up at the press box and you'll see sports journalists already preparing their reports for tomorrow morning's papers.

Take my colleague Mike Allen, who covers Rovers for the Western Daily Press. In football terms, he's the star striker – the man who gets all the glory (or the criticism if his reports don't find their target).

Front Man

But he'd be the first to admit that he's just the front man, one of a team.

Before Mike even left the office he was given what journalists call "a length" to write to. It doesn't matter whether the game is dull or a ten goal thriller he will have to supply exactly the ordered number of words – neither more nor less.

Throughout the game he'll make his notes. Then, with 15 minutes left, he'll begin mapping out his report in rough — knowing that he'll have to rewrite it completely if something major happens before the end.

As soon as the referee blows his whistle, Mike will be on the phone to the office, dictating his report to the typists – known as copytakers – as the race to produce tomorrow's paper begins in earnest.

His report must be on the Chief Sports Sub-Editor's desk by 9.30 p.m. It's his job to decide exactly where the Rovers story will go on the sports pages. Perhaps it will be "back page lead". Perhaps it will take second place to a Cram world record or a Botham exclusive.

Once the Chief Sports Sub has made his decision he will immediately issue his headline instructions to the other sports subs.

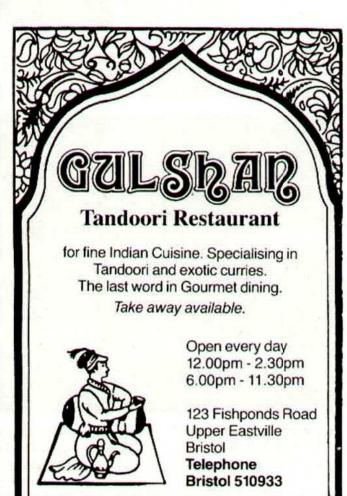
They read Mike's report, check it for any errors, mark in the printing instructions and then think up a suitable headline.

Huge Presses

By now it is nearing 10 p.m. and the printers will be getting desperate for copy. Within the next hour and a half the story passes from one printing department to another, from keyboard operators to readers, from compositors to the men who actually operate the huge presses.

By midnight the presses are actually rolling and the first copies of tomorrow's Western Daily Press — complete with a report of the Rovers v. Swindon match — will be printed, ready to be rushed across the West Country to the various newspaper wholesalers.

Another deadline will have been successfully reached - we hope!



PAGE OF THE WEEK

ARCHIE'S DEBUT

Popular Archie Stephens made his Rovers' debut on the 5th September 1981 when he came on as substitute during a 2-0 away defeat at Chesterfield.

And the following Saturday he had his first full game, scoring both goals in a 2-1 home win over Reading.

It was a remarkable transition from playing in the Western League for Melksham Town the previous season and local parks football in Liverpool three years earlier.

Now, of course, Archie's never-say-die spirit has made him a folk hero amongst the Eastville regulars in the same way as the effervescent Bill Roost was in the Fifties.



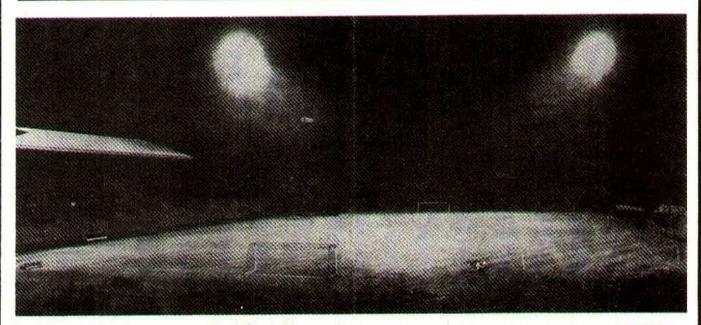
ARCHIE STEPHENS - celebrating his goal in Rovers' 5-2 defeat in a League match at Swindon in March 1982.



Cornish inside forward Johnny Brown, who joined Rovers on a free transfer from Plymouth Argyle earlier in the summer, scored both goals in his debut on the 7th September 1963 in a 2-2 home draw with Peterborough United.

He linked up with one of the most prolific attacks in the club's history - during that season Alfie Biggs smashed all records with 37 goals, Ian Hamilton and Harold Jarman both hit 17, and Johnny chipped in with 15.

Johnny left Rovers in 1968, joining Torquay United because his father was in poor health and needed help on the family farm in Cornwall.



NIGHT

Sunday the 6th SEPTEMBER 1959 was the day Rovers' FLOOD-LIGHTS were switched on for the first time. The players trained under the lights the same evening in preparation for their Second Division game against Ipswich Town the following evening – which Rovers won 2-1 in front of a 24,093 crowd thanks to two goals from Peter Hooper.



GERAINT WILLIAMS
- in the "sociable"
group.

IT'S NOT SO EASY

Whoever says professional footballers have life all their own way should have a serious rethink.

Following a challenge from manager David Williams, I recently joined the Rovers staff for training at the British Aerospace sports ground at Filton when the squad reported back after the summer break. He said that I, a hack journalist, wouldn't be able to stay the pace.

Well, I'm glad to say I managed to complete everything – but it didn't half take it out of me.

The session included running and sprinting flat-out round the two-mile perimeter of the ground, stop-start sprinting and short, sharp exercises at a furious rate.

Mad Keen

And even though I was in the "sociable" group (their own description) of Phil Bater, Archie Stephens and Geraint Williams, the going was still tough. Thank goodness I wasn't paired with Ian Holloway, the mad keen — or just mad, depending on how you look at it — human dynamo who managed to do everything at a hundred m.p.h.

Even so, as Wayne Jones cracked the whip for the final 200-yard sprint, I found my legs just wouldn't go any faster.

But Jones was kind to say afterwards he was impressed with my accomplishments. "For someone who's not professionally fit and who's not done anything over the summer, you were very determined and kept up with the pace well", he told me. And he was spot-on there: often sheer will-power had kept my legs going.

But how much exercise are the players expected to do over the summer? "Obviously they've got to look after themselves, and we set them no strict programmes", said Jones. "The club's played in a number of five-a-side tournaments, which has helped some of the players, and some also play other sports like tennis and golf.

"If any of them did nothing though, they'd certainly feel it in the first few days of training."

Without question I can vouch for that. Muscles ache where you never knew you had muscles.

Called James

Jones takes charge of training as player-manager Williams gets stuck in with the rest of the playing staff—and he gets called a few names as he pushes everyone to the peak of their physical ability.

"But that doesn't bother me", he said. "In fact, I expect it.

"The rewards for success in football are great, but there's no easy short cut to that success. It can only be achieved through working extremely hard.

"I don't think there's any player who doesn't enjoy playing — but the discipline of pushing yourself in training, not going out drinking when perhaps all your friends are, and facing up to all the pressures of striving all the way for success on the field, not for 90 minutes but for seven days a week, can sometimes be very hard to take."

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Departures To Stop

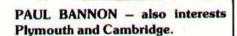
Paul Bannon joined Cardiff City on a loan transfer which could lead to a permanent move - to Wales, Devon or East Anglia.

For besides Cardiff, Plymouth Argyle and Cambridge United expressed a definite interest in signing him for a month with a view to a full transfer.

Comments manager David Williams: "Both Paul and I would have preferred that he had signed for a club on a permanent basis straight away, but all three clubs insisted they wanted to have him for a month first before deciding to go the whole hog.

"I'm sure both Argyle and United will monitor his progress with Cardiff closely during the month."

Paul's possible eventual departure is likely to mark the end of the spell of shedding players which has been a prominent feature at Rovers in the last three months - with Mark Hughes joining Swansea City, Tony Pulis going



to Newport County and Phil Kite moving to Southampton.

Adds David Williams: "We are certainly not in the business of selling any more players. If a big club came in for a promising youngster we would have to consider the lad's own wishes, but other than that, I have no thoughts of selling.

"Apart from Paul Bannon, no one wants to leave. In fact, we want to build our squad. If we progress in the Milk Cup, a plum draw might provide cash for a signing."

David and his assistant Wayne Jones are busy studying reports on players ready to pounce should the need arise.

The Lid Stays On

Every time Graeme Souness used to hold the Milk Cup aloft at Wembley the lid would fall off that problem has been solved by Liverpool's three successive victories enabling them to win it outright and place it permanently in the Anfield trophy room.

Now a new Milk Cup, costing £6,000, has been made and in the words of Peter Raymond of the Football League's marketing company: "The lid will stay on this one. It's better looking too!'

The National Dairy Council has also increased the prize fund by £30,000 to £490,000 - mainly for the benefit of the less successful clubs.

The 28 first round losers will pick up £1,500 instead of £1,000 and the 32 second round losers £2,500 instead of £2,000.

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Every First Team Home Match

Request a record (sensible please!) that the boys cannot play at the following home match and we will give you two free stand seats.

Write to Keith and Mike: c/o Bristol Rovers Football Club Hambrook Training Ground, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol BS16 1JG.

THE THINGS THEY SAY ...

"I've always wanted to become a manager and Swindon is a marvellous place to start. After spending all my career at Manchester United and Celtic, there aren't many Fourth Division clubs which could have excited me - but Swindon do."

 LOU MACARI, on the day he was appointed boss at the County Ground.

"I'll tell you how seriously I take the job - I haven't been to a race meeting since the beginning of August and you know how much I love the horses and a bet. It must be the longest I've kept away from a horse track in my adult life."

 ALAN BALL, illustrating his dedication to the Portsmouth manager's job.

"I expect Bristol City to finish above Rovers!"

- RICHARD LATHAM, Evening Post soccer 'expert' assessing this season's prospects.

B.B.C. Radio Bristol's **Colin Howlett** writes . . .

VOICE OF ROYERS



31

IS THIS BEST POST-WAR XI?

Season ticket holders were given the opportunity this summer of entering a free competition - with a Leyland Metro car from Victoria Garage, Weston-super-Mare as the prize - to name the best team from Rovers' post-War players.

So for a few evenings managing director Gordon Bennett chaired a meeting between local journalists David Foot, Robin Perry and myself to select what we considered to be the best eleven.

The qualifications required included a minimum of 25 appearances in Rovers' colours - which, of course, ruled out the likes of Alan Ball and Mike Channon.

Thinking back over the years produced a most enjoyable evening, but the good natured arguments raged to such an extent, that we had been round the table for the best part of 3 hours, before we finally came up with our team.

And the position of goalkeeper probably caused us more heart searching than any other. There were so many candidates of equal merit.

Justified Claims

The names of Dick Sheppard and Bert Hoyle had very justified claims, but we eventually decided on Jim Eadie, primarily because of his remarkable record while at the club, and but for recurring back trouble, it's likely that Jim would have gone on to represent his native Scotland.

The name of Harry Bamford had very little competition for the right-back spot, and I am sure that many supporters voted for him purely due to his reputation.

I can assure those supporters that Harry's reputation was thoroughly justified.

Gary Mabbutt won the left back spot, with his main competitor Terry Cooper. But although Gary filled practically every position for the club, Terry played either as a sweeper or in midfield while at Eastville.

For the twin central defence spot, we opted for Larry Lloyd and Ray Warren. Ray was captain of what was probably Bristol Rovers' best ever team, and although our side did not require a skipper, if it had needed one, then Ray Warren would certainly have been my personal choice.

We decided on two players for midfield, and, again, after much discussion, we came up with the skill of Jackie Pitt, and the power of Brian Godfrey.

The competition in this department was particularly fierce – and it was with the utmost reluctance that we had to pass over even the illustrious claims of our gifted present management team of David Williams and Wayne Jones.



HARRY BAMFORD reputation justified.

To give the fans a real treat, we decided to play two men up front, and also two genuine wingers.

Alan Warboys and Bruce Bannister were strong candidates for the striking roles, but eventually we opted for Geoff Bradford and Alfie Biggs. But for two crippling knee injuries, Geoff would probably have reached for the sky, and in the case of Alf, perhaps a slight lack of ambition was all that prevented him from reaching the very top.

For the number seven shirt, Harold Jarman just pipped George Petherbridge, and on the other side of the field the choice was Peter Hooper, who could not only cross the ball with deadly accuracy, but also had just about the hardest shot that I've ever seen in football, and that includes Bobby Charlton.

Our apologies to the very many fine players who did not quite make our team because the number of names mentioned during the evening by Robin, David and myself could probably have made up three or four teams, and very good teams at that.

Anyway, that's our team, but I am sure that many readers heartily disagree, and probably for a variety of reasons. If that is the case and if you do feel strongly enough about it, write to: Fan Mail, Bristol Rovers Football Club, Hambrook Training Ground, Filton, Bristol BS16 1JG.

THE WINNER

The winner of the car in the competition was Mr. R. W. Highfield of 10 Gladstone Road, Hengrove, Bristol BS14 9LP. His team came closest to that selected by the panel – with just two variations, having Vic Lambden and George Petherbridge instead of Brian Godfrey and Harold Jarman.

"It was amazing how everyone's selections varied. Out of the hundreds of entries, I don't think there were hardly two identical. Mr. Highfield's was the only one with two differences from the panel's selection, and there were half a dozen entrie's with three variations", reports Gordon Bennett.

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SUPPORTERS NEWS



During November we shall be holding our third Mastermind football quiz. It will be run on the same lines as the popular television programme with a round of specialist questions and a round of questions on general football knowledge. If you would like to enter, please write to me c/o 468 Stapleton Road enclosing your name, address and your first and second choices of specialist subject from the list below. Your second choice is needed as we can only accept the first three entries on any topic.

1. European Cup Finals 1956-1983

F.A. Cup Finals 1946–1983

British Clubs in European Cup 1955–1983

- British Clubs in European Cup Winners Cup/ UEFA Cup
- Bristol Rovers in F.A. Cup 1946–1983
- 6. Bristol Rovers in Football League Cup 1960-1983
- 7. Football League Cup Finals 1960-1983
- 8. Bristol City Players 1960-1983
- England International Players and Matches 1960–1983
- Wales International Players and Matches 1960–1983
- Scotland International Players and Matches 1960–1983
- Northern Ireland International Players and Matches 1960–1983

 Any Other League Club Players 1960–1983 (except Bristol Rovers)

Bristol Rovers Players 1946–1983
 World Cup Tournaments 1950–1982

Our highly successful Sunday football team will shortly be commencing their new League campaign and will be hoping to match the success achieved during the last few years. You may recall that last season they won Division One of the Bristol and

District Sunday League finishing with thirteen successive victories. This takes them to within three wins of their existing record of successive victories which was achieved between April and December 1979.

Malcolm Norman has compiled a very interesting statistical survey of the team since they started playing competitive matches in 1977–78. A total of 150 matches have been played with an impressive 97 victories having been recorded. 591 goals have been scored with only 286 conceded. The all-time appearances chart is headed by Dave Richardson with 159 and the leading scorer is John Bond with 178 goals.

I should like to take this opportunity of wishing the team a successful season. Regular reports on their progress will appear in this column throughout the season.

Nigel Andrews

PRESIDENTS CLUB

Congratulations to manager David Williams and all his staff on a great start to the season, a just reward for all the hard work they have put in preparing for a successful campaign.

The Presidents Club have also been working hard. Secretary Roy Cowell informs us that only a few of last season's members have not re-joined and therefore only a few vacancies exist.

So, if any member requires an extra seat or has a friend with a love for Bristol Rovers, please contact Roy – quickly!

Our Buffet-Supper Dance at the Crest Hotel on Wednesday 3rd October has been organised as a "thank you" for the support we have received from our members in recent seasons. An invitation has also been extended for each member to invite a friend to what we all hope will be an enjoyable evening.

During the evening we will be launching our 200 Club – but more about that later. . . .

Edwin Duke is also working hard arranging away travel for members – any suggestions and help will be appreciated as we hope more members will be supporting the team away from home.

We welcome all our friends from Swindon for tonight's game and hope they enjoy their evening at Eastville.

John Goodchild





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Substitute used

t includes own goals

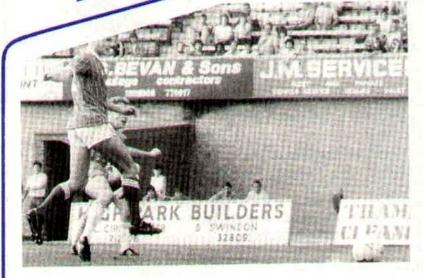
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ACTION REPLAY







MORE ACTION FROM SWINDON

Above - DAVID WILLIAMS steers home Rovers' fourth goal in the 5-1 first leg victory at Swindon.

Right - MARK O'CONNOR demonstrates his superb ball control.

Below - PAUL RANDALL completes Rovers' nap hand with this fine header.







BURNLEY

BURNLEY AND READING TESTS



Welsh international Brian Flynn (above) is one of the many ex-First Division stars Rovers will face at Burnley on Saturday.

Despite the departure of manager John Bond - who's been replaced by his assistant John Benson - and several leading players. Burnley still possess one of the strongest squads in Division Three.

And with newly-promoted Reading spearheaded by free-scoring Trevor Senior - due at Eastville on Saturday week. Rovers face two tough tests of their ability to be amongst the section's leaders for the third season in succession.

For the benefit of our supporters intending to travel to our next away Canon League fixture at Burnley next Saturday, kick-off 3 p.m., we are pleased to provide the following information.

Ground: Turf Moor, Burnley (Tel: 0282 27777).

Visitors Enclosure: Entry from Belvedere Road (Turnstiles 46 to 54). No price reductions for Juveniles/Senior Citizens.

Supporters Club Coaches: Fare £8.00. depart Eastville Stadium 9.30 a.m.

A.A. Recommended Route: Leave Bristol via M5 Motorway northbound and after 871/2 miles take the right hand lane (signposted North) to join the M6. Continue for 74 miles to Junction 21A. branching left to join M62 Motorway eastbound (signposted Rochdale). Continue for approx. 17 miles to Junction 18, branching left to join M66 (signposted Burnley). At end of motorway, continue via A56 to enter Burnley. At roundabout, take 3rd exit into Yorkshire Street, shortly, at crossroads, enter Brunshaw Road, Burnley F.C. is 300 yards, on the left hand side.

Car Parking: Car parks in Church Street and Fulledge Recreation Ground, both approx. 5 minutes walk from Turf



VILLA THRILL

The visit of Aston Villa for the Mike Barrett Memorial match next Tuesday affords the Bristol public with a rare opportunity of seeing top First Division players live in action.

Their line-up includes so many household names . . . Withe ... Gary Shaw ... Gordon Cowans . . . Nigel Spink . . . Dennis Mortimer . . . Steve Foster . . . Allan Evans . . . the list is endless.

New boss Graham Turner has made an immediate impact on the European champions, creating a bubbling enthusiasm which augurs well for a successful season.

Mr. Turner reckons he will need five years to restore Villa to their former glories - we shall have an ideal opportunity next week to assess if he has the material to reduce that schedule significantly.

Attractions at Eastville

NEXT MATCHES

Tomorrow (7.30 p.m.)

BOURNEMOUTH YOUTH (Southern Junior Floodlit Cup)

Saturday (3.00 p.m.) READING RESERVES (Football Combination)

Next Tuesday 11th September (7.45 p.m.) ASTON VILLA (Mike Barrett Memorial Match)

Saturday Week 15th September (3.00 p.m.) READING

ROVERS FROZEN OUT AT READING

Rovers and Reading look certain to enjoy far more pleasant playing conditions when they clash at Eastville on Saturday week than when they met in matches at the beginning and the end of the infamous big freeze during the 1962-63 winter.

Rovers went to Elm Park on the Boxing Day. The pitch was frozen and lumpy and light snow was falling.

The decision by World Cup referee Ken Aston that the surface was playable was surprising.

A hardy crowd of 5,204 watched players struggle through miserable, dangerous conditions for an hour before Mr. Aston. decided that enough was enough and abandoned the game.

Rovers' Skipper

Predictably, the decision was unpopular with the Elm Park crowd, whose team were leading by a Dennis Allen goal set up by Johnny Petts, later to become Rovers' skipper.

Referee Aston was booed back to the dressing rooms but insisted he had made the right ruling to start the game and was correct in abandoning it an hour later because conditions had deteriorated.

That was Rovers' last taste of football for six weeks, during which arctic conditions caused an almost total shutdown of British soccer.



brilliant display in re-played game.

37

Rovers, desperate for turnstile income, restarted earlier than most.

A slight thaw was seized upon by the club as a chance to get the Eastville pitch playable. Hundreds of volunteers cleared it of snow and braziers were lit all around the touchlines to prevent the surface freezing again.

It was worth the effort. Rovers beat Brighton 4–1 on February 9 with goals by Alfie Biggs (2), Keith Williams and Bobby Jones.

But another 17 days passed before Rovers played again. Reading came to Eastville and lost 1–0 to a Williams goal.

Fixture Backlog

The abandoned game at Reading was replayed on May 8 after the season had been extended to the end of May for clubs to catch up on the backlog of fixtures.

Perhaps appropriately, that resulted in a 1-0 win for the home side - despite a brilliant goalkeeping display for Rovers by Bernard Hall.

Jimmy Wheeler, a player Rovers had wanted to sign the previous summer, scored the goal 20 minutes from the end.



READING RESERVES HERE SATURDAY . . .

Most of Rovers' Football Combination fixtures will be played this season here at Eastville — and Reading Reserves are the next visitors on Saturday (k.o. 2.30 p.m.).

With a 2–0 home defeat by West Ham United on the opening day of the season and a 3–1 reverse at Swindon four days later (our scorer: Paul Bannon), Rovers' young second string will be looking for their first points of the season.

. . AND BOURNEMOUTH YOUTH TOMORROW

Rovers' youth team kick off their Southern Junior Floodlit Cup campaign with a first round tie against Bournemouth here at Eastville tomorrow (k.o. 7.30 p.m.).

This is rated the No. 2 under-18 competition after the F.A. Youth Cup – virtually all the major clubs south of Birmingham enter – and the reward for tomorrow's winners is a home tie against Norwich City in round two. Last year Rovers met Norwich away at the same stage of the competition, going down to a 6–3 defeat.

In the F.A. Cup, incidentally, Rovers' record over the last six years has led to their being amongst the 30 clubs exempt until the second round proper of the competition for the very first time – an honour which firmly establishes the club as one of the consistently best in youth football.

HALF TIMES

IN RESERVE

Bristol Rovers (5) v Swind

DIVISION ONE

Arsenal v Newcastle United

Everton v Ipswich Town

Luton Town v Liverpool

Queens Park Rangers v Stoke City

Sheffield Wednesday v Southampton

DIVISION TWO

Carlisle United v Shrewsbury Town
Fulham v Birmingham City
Grimsby Town v Charlton Athletic
Huddersfield Town v Blackburn Rovers
Notts County v Barnsley
Wolverhampton W v Manchester City

MILK CUP

(First Round – Second Leg) (First Leg Score in Brackets)

Crewe Alexandra (2) v Burnley (1)

Hull City (2) v Lincoln City (0)

Middlesbrough (0) v Bradford City (2)

Millwall (1) v Reading (1)

Oldham Ath (1) v Bolton W (2)

Rotherham United (2) v Darlington (1)

York City (3) v Doncaster Rovers (2)

(Blue and White)

- Ray Cashley
- Neil Slatter
- **Brian Williams**
- **Geraint Williams** 2
- Aidan McCaffen **Tim Parkin**
 - David Williams ian Holloway 9 7 00
- Archie Stephens
 - Paul Randall
- Mark O'Connor

Phil Bater

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Linesmen:

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