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# Elm Park

## ENTRÉE

**W**ELCOME to our first League meeting with old rivals Swindon Town at Elm Park for more than seven years which takes place on a day when, for different reasons, both teams are hungry for maximum points.

And while we wish the Robins all the best in their fight for First Division survival the Royals will be hoping to send them bobbing back down the M4 empty-handed this evening.

Our thanks to match sponsors Telecental for helping us transmit the message that Elm Park is the tops for entertainment. And we also raise our glasses to the folk from the Wallingford Arms, who'll be looking for a repeat of last season's match ball sponsorship when we beat Cambridge United 3-1.

But before you sit down for this afternoon's main course make sure you turn swiftly to page six to see if you've won the latest Royals treat - dinner for two at the Calcot Hotel.

**STOP PRESS 1:** The Royals Community Scheme is running a family coach to the Luton Town game on Easter Monday when the only condition will be that every adult is accompanied by a child.

The fare is £12 for adults and £8 for children and the coach will leave the Royals Rendezvous at 12 noon on April 17. There's bound to be great demand so call Tony Russell or Bob Hussain on Reading 560898 as soon as possible.

**STOP PRESS 2:** Family Stand tickets for the Bolton Wanderers game will go on sale from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18.

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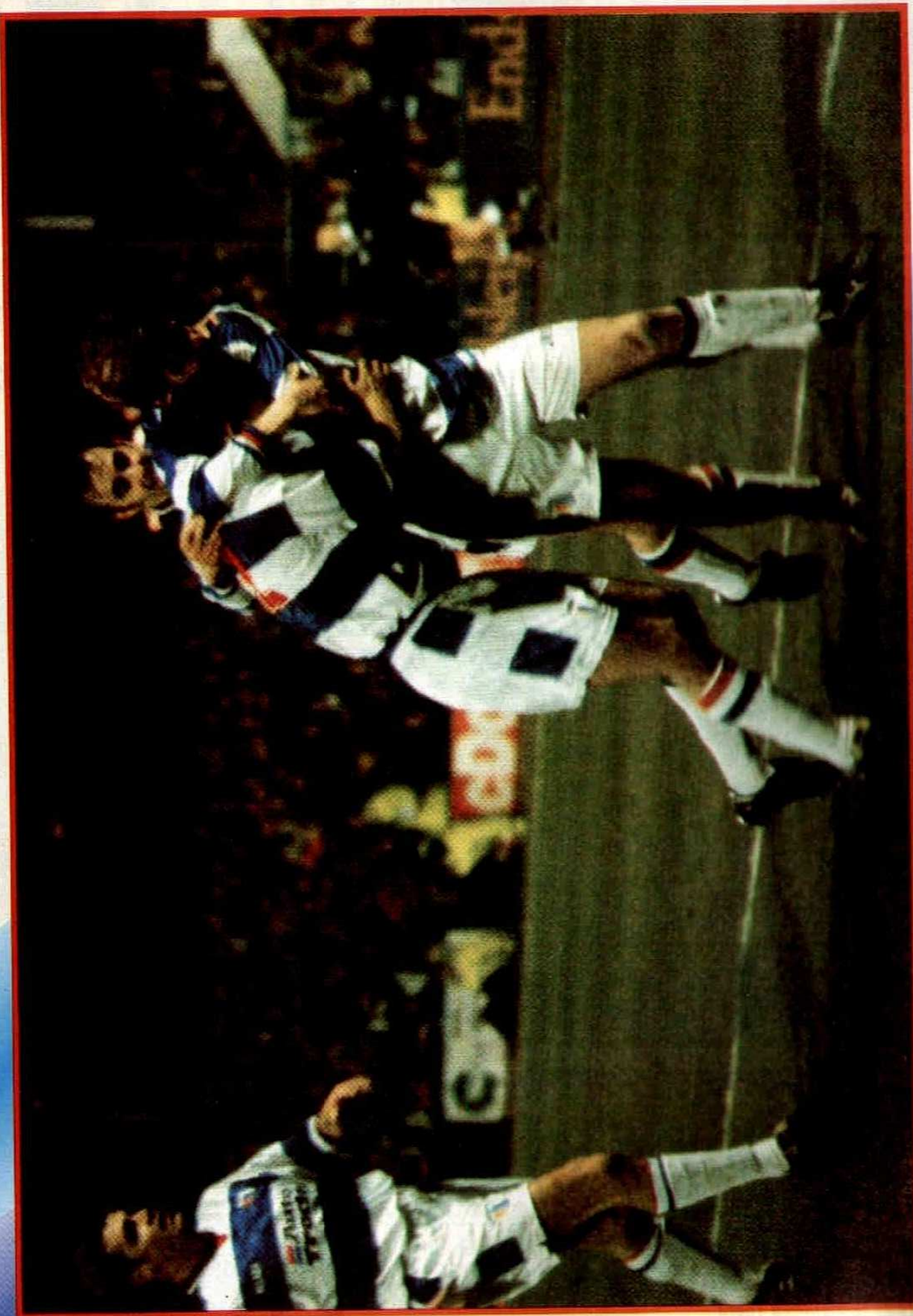
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*Lee Nogan almost lost his head after getting the equaliser against Oldham. Picture: Stuart Fletcher.*

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# FROM *the* TOP



*Picture: Andy Batt, Reading Chronicle*

## With Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding

**W**E'VE had to keep in touch by phone this week but another 100 per cent performance by the lads at Sheffield United meant that our conversations have all been upbeat.

Bramall Lane is never an easy place to get a result but, after the fightback against Oldham, we went there full of confidence and there were never any doubts in our minds that we wouldn't get something out of them.

In fact at halftime the talk in the dressing room was all about winning the game, instead of hanging on to what we'd got, and the lads went back out for the second half in that positive frame of mind.

We felt that we needed to raise the tempo by about five per cent and unfortunately we didn't manage to do that until after they scored, but we were back on level terms quickly and, with a little more self-belief, could have gone on to win it.

But every one of the players gave 100 per cent, which is all we can ask of them, and it was great to see Lee Nogan's confidence flooding back after his second goal in as many games.

### **bouncing back**

All strikers thrive on goals and fret when they don't come. Lee's no exception but we felt he was being put under a lot of unwarranted pressure just because things hadn't been running for him of late.

However he got a smashing goal against Oldham to turn the game and last Saturday he displayed a great first touch to set himself up and then put the ball away in fine style.

Obviously, for different reasons, neither of us could be involved at Sheffield and it's worth reminding people that we were unable to call on another four players suffering from various injuries.

Someone must have put a curse on us last summer because there's hardly been a week when we haven't had several players out, but while some people seem to be waiting for us to slip up we just keep plugging away and proving there's nothing false about our position.

Throughout the season the doubters have come out of the woodwork every time we've had a couple of poor results, but the lads always come bouncing back to prove them wrong and we intend to keep doing that right to the last game.

### **positive mood**

We know that if we can win our last seven games we'll definitely be in the playoffs, and could even be champions. The players are full of confidence and it would be nice to think that all our supporters share that feeling.

There are certain grounds we visit during a season when we know that, if we can keep it tight for the first 20 minutes, the home supporters become frustrated and we can cash in when they start getting on the backs of their players.

We certainly don't want visiting teams coming to Elm Park and thinking they can do the same to us, but it's in danger of happening if certain sections of our home crowds don't get the message soon.

It's great to hear you making plenty of noise when we're a goal up, but no visiting teams ever come here content to let us play our natural game and the players need you in positive mood to lift them right from the kickoff.

The local derby atmosphere will be a bit special today and League placings often mean little on such occasions. But Swindon are in the position where they need to win every game to be sure of survival so they'll be feeling the pressure and, with your full backing, we can make that count in our favour!



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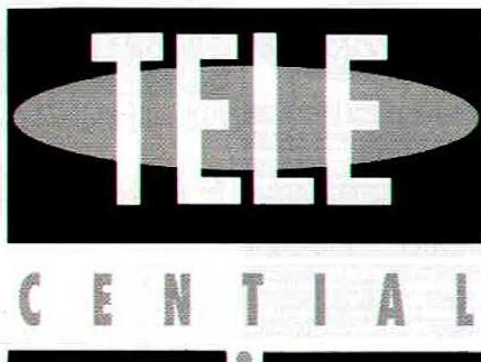
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# SUPPORTING CAST...

## GERRY MCGREEVY'S NEWS - AND SOME PERSONAL VIEWS - FROM THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

**G**OOD afternoon and welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Swindon Town. They have had an unusual season so far, looking a good bet for promotion early on, reaching the Coca Cola Cup semi-final, and now struggling against a second successive relegation.

When they were relegated last season, after just one year in the Premiership, it caused a certain amount of amusement locally, but at least they got there. I must confess I would settle for one season at the top, visiting the likes of Liverpool and Manchester United.

Hopefully Reading will be there next season and perhaps emulate Oxford and Brighton, who managed to hang around for a while, or, even better, match clubs like Southampton, QPR and Norwich.

Like Reading and Swindon, these are clubs who, at one time, appeared destined to spend their time in the Third Division, with the occasional foray into the Second.

### BACK TO THE FUTURE

There hasn't been too much mentioned recently about the proposed Premiership Division Two (that's the one where Reading and Southend are replaced by Huddersfield and Birmingham, irrespective of results on the field).

I think it would be too much to hope that it has gone away - after all, the Premiership was formed when no-one thought it would be.

Regardless of whether Reading are promoted this season, it makes the need for a new ground all the more important. The club are keeping their plans quiet and, while this is frustrating for supporters, it is probably prudent, given the problems encountered by Portsmouth and Southampton in finding sites for their proposed moves.

At least Reading have the advantage of a sympathetic local council. It is worrying, though, that whenever the council help the club it brings letters of complaint in the local press. Their latest offer of assistance, to part fund a feasibility study into a site for a new ground, has attracted the usual moans about wasting ratepayers' money.

A new ground could be an important local amenity and a successful club can bring recognition to a town. After all, what is Accrington known for, apart from once having a League club? Perhaps if Reading miss the boat and end up playing part-time in a reorganised League, their importance to the town might become more apparent.

### SEASIDE SHUFFLE

Around this time last year Reading played at Blackpool, and many supporters took the opportunity to spend the weekend in the Playground of the North. Some are still on medication after it (they know who I mean!).

Next Saturday we play Grimsby Town in Cleethorpes. Strangely enough, this fixture doesn't seem to have captured the imagination of the Royals' travelling army in quite the same way! As I write there is a blizzard outside - perfect preparation for a trip to the east coast's holiday hotspot.

If you still feel that you can only manage a single day up there, then the Supporters' Club coaches will be leaving Elm Park at 8.30 a.m. The fare is £13 and you can book at the Royals Rendezvous today.

### FOXED AND HOUNDED

The second round of the Reading Chronicle Supporters' Club football quiz started last week. Group G was won by Yellow Pages, followed by The Loyals and British Telecom.

Honours in Group H went to The Premier Division Society (an omen, perhaps?) who came out ahead of the Rose & Thistle and the Fox & Hounds. The round was due to end last night and the quiz will commence again on April 21, with the semi-final of the cup competition.

Next Friday, April 7, there will be a pop quiz in the Royals Rendezvous at 8 p.m. Entry is £5 per team of up to four people, and there are cash prizes. The last pop quiz proved very popular, so come along. I can promise that this time there won't be a round on Albanian heavy metal!

### ALMOST PROUD TO WEAR THE COLOURS

I'm afraid that the much-requested 'Proud To Wear The Colours' sweatshirts will probably not have arrived by today. They are due in early next week and will be available at the Port Vale game. However, the shops should by now have received a new range of car stickers, tax disc holders and room hangers.

### DISCO DANCING

The North Hants branch will be holding their annual end of season disco and presentation evening at the Royals Rendezvous on Friday, May 12. Further details will be available in future programmes.



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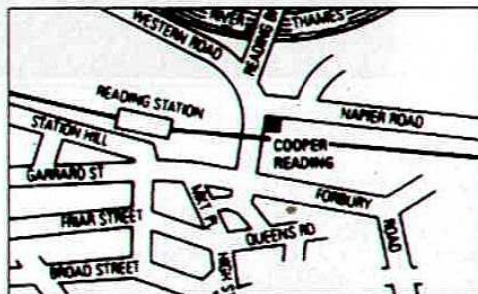
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# BACKPASS

**ALAN SEDUNARY**

*looks at match days past*

**D**ESPITE the fact that Reading and Swindon Town were both having uninspiring seasons and our 1949 'derby' was staged on December 17 - the Saturday before Christmas - the game still attracted a 16,033 crowd.

A high scoring game was always on the cards because neither side was exactly defensively minded - indeed Reading had let in 30 goals in 20 games.

The game was played in a near gale force wind and, having won the toss, Swindon elected to play towards the Town End in the first half with the gusts at their backs.

This was beginning to look a very good decision when Reading keeper **Joe McBride** miskicked on the edge of his area in the 10th minute and **Joe Simner** put the visitors ahead.

Despite the wind, Reading fought back with **Gordon Brice** heading against the post and then **Maurice Edleston** seeing a shot kicked off the line by **Albert Young**. And to add insult to injury Young promptly went down to the other end to head Swindon 2-0 in front from a wind-assisted corner.

Fortunately for Reading the wind of change didn't blow at halftime and they were able to take full advantage of the conditions with skipper Edleston setting up **Bryn Allen** to volley home, before getting the equaliser himself with a great 25 yard shot.

But Swindon wouldn't lie down and, two minutes later, they regained the lead when **Simner** went through to put them back in the lead.

However that only inspired Reading to greater efforts and on 74 minutes Allen made it 3-3 from a goalmouth scramble when he forced the ball over the line - even though the goal was only allowed to stand after the referee conferred with a linesman.

And for the second time in the game a further goal followed two minutes later - but on this occasion it fell to Reading as Edleston knocked the ball in to clinch a remarkable 4-3 win.

**Reading:** McBride, Moyse, Gulliver, Henley, Brice, Reeve, Fisher, Edleston, Blackman, Allen, Amor.

**Swindon:** Burton, White, Young, Cowie, Ithell, Kaye, Lunn, Jones, Owen, Simner, Bain.

To complete Swindon's misery they had centre forward **Maurice Owen** carried off in the last minute, following an accidental collision with Brice, to put the lid on a day to forget.

**THAT WAS THE DAY THAT WAS** - a look at April 1 down the years

1944: We travel to White Hart Lane to play...Chelsea(!) in the Southern League Cup. **Maurice Edleston** gets our equaliser to make it 1-1 after 90 minutes. Chelsea's "vigorous" style reduces us to 10 men on several occasions and takes its toll during extra time as we lose 3-2 with **Williams** getting our late consolation.

1961: We wait 40 years to play a League game at Elm Park on April Fools Day but the joke's on us as, despite **Jimmy Wheeler's** goal, we go down 2-1 to Tranmere Rovers.

1966: A crowd of 13,758 turns up for a Friday evening clash with Swindon. Current Elm Park groundsman **Gordon Neate** marks **Don Rogers** out of the game for all but two moments, which each bring a goal - the first a fluke and the second a classic!

1989: A win at last as second placed Port Vale are swept aside 3-0. **Stuart Beavon** follows up to score when his penalty's saved. **Michael Gilkes** gets the second just after the break and **Trevor Senior** heads another in injury time. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to former Welsh rugby union star **J.J. Williams**, 47 today, and cricketing genius **David Gower**, born in 1957.

Other 'birthdays' include weather reports, first printed in The Times on April 1, 1875, the 87 year old Territorial Army and the Royal Air Force, formed this day 77 years ago.

**AND FINALLY...**Reading's players got a surprise when they ran out at Newport County on April 1, 1950 to be greeted by the strains of 'Land of my Fathers', played by a brass band and introduced by the leader of the growing Welsh Nationalist movement **Sir Alf Pool**.

The match programme is a real collectors' item because it was printed in both Welsh and English. But the name **Ron Blackman** meant goals in any language and he found a 'leek' in the County defence to head our equaliser.



# The Young Ones

## BOBBY WILLIAMS

*brings you the youth team news*

**P**LENTY of smiles from the boys when we beat Brentford 1-0 for our first South East Counties win since October 22 - and for good measure we kept a second clean sheet in a row.

It wasn't the best of games, because of the very windy conditions, but the lads produced a great, battling display against a big Brentford side who like to knock the ball long into the spaces and give you a chasing.

It was important that we kept it tight at the start and didn't concede the early goal and although they put us under a lot of pressure we kept our heads and held firm.

We kept trying to pass the ball and got our reward on the half hour when Bobby Wilkinson slid a nice ball through and Gareth Randell ran on to knock the ball wide of the keeper and into the corner.

Brentford had the wind behind them in the second half but we defended well and, although we had a few scares and lived a bit dangerously at times, we survived quite comfortably.



*Gareth Randell - winning goal*

Near the end Randell lifted a shot just over the bar and Lee Lough had a chance which he couldn't take, and if either of those had gone in it would really have put the icing on the cake.

**Reading: Steve Staples; Paul Freeman, Andy Forbes, Matthew Stowell, Luke Dowling; Lee Lough, Bobby**

**Wilkinson, James Curran, Matt Jones (sub Charlie Higgs); Gareth Randell, Mick Murphy. Sub not used: Russell Jones.**

We were punished for a dreadful first half display against Bristol City last Saturday, when we trailed 3-0 at the break, but the boys pulled their socks up and we restricted them to just one more goal.

City went ahead after 10 minutes with a ball over the

top of the defence and our boys let themselves get involved in a bit of a war as they tried to fight fire with fire.

The other two goals came from defensive errors and we were guilty of playing hit and hope balls forward which didn't give Mick Murphy and little Gareth Randell much chance to capitalise.

But in the second half we began knocking the ball about a lot better and probably produced the best move of the game when we worked it from midfield out to the left and Matty Jones got over a great cross for Murphy to shoot narrowly wide.

Randell had a couple of chances but just couldn't get enough power on his shots from the edge of the area and, with his split boot under his arm, Murphy shot over from outside the area - with his stockinged foot!

We had young Andy Dugdale, a pupil at Reading School, making his South East Counties debut in the centre of the defence and I was very pleased at the way he grew in confidence after taking a while to find the pace of the game.

City had a couple of really slippery customers up front who caused us a lot of problems throughout, and when one of them got through about 15 minutes from time Steve Staples was forced to bring him down for a penalty.

Just to sum up our luck, Stevie kept out the kick with a good save but he couldn't hold on and one of the other City lads nipped onto the rebound to make it 4-0.

**Reading: Steve Staples; Paul Freeman, Andy Dugdale, Matthew Stowell, Derek Simpson; Leigh Lough (sub Russell Jones), Bobby Wilkinson, James Curran, Matt Jones; Gareth Randell (sub Charlie Higgs), Mick Murphy.**

Unfortunately, the way the fixtures have fallen and because we've had few postponements, we've now got to wait more than a month to play our final game of the season - away at Bristol City.

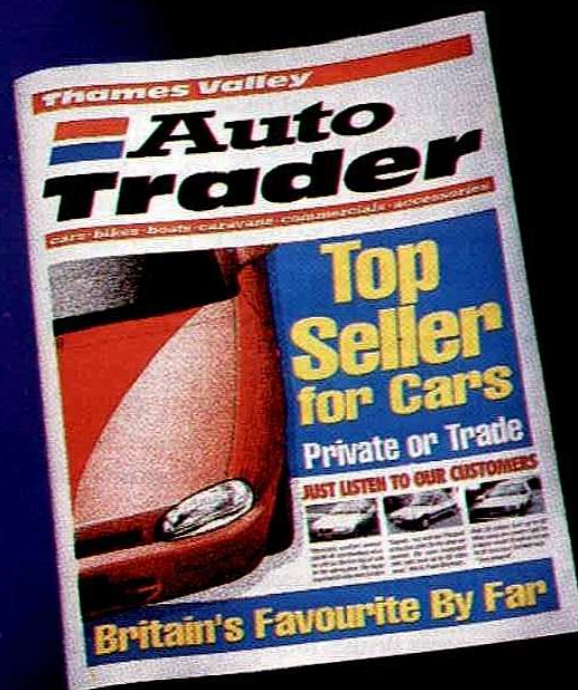


## Youth team fixtures

### South East Counties League Division Two 1994-95

Aug 13 v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR H	0-6	Dec 10 v AFC Bournemouth A	0-1
Aug 20 v CRYSTAL PALACE H	0-4	Dec 17 v AFC BOURNEMOUTH H	1-2
Aug 27 v WYCOMBE WANDERERS H	3-1	Dec 31 v Tottenham Hotspur A	2-3
Sept 3 v Brighton and Hove Albion A	3-1	Jan 7 v Crystal Palace A	2-2
Sept 10 v LUTON TOWN H	0-4	Jan 14 v Wycombe Wanderers A	1-3
Sept 12 v COLCHESTER UTD H SJFC (1)	1-2	Jan 21 v BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION H	3-6
Sept 17 v Brighton and Hove Albion LC (1) A	0-3	Jan 28 v Luton Town A	1-1
Oct 1 v Southampton A	3-1	Feb 11 v Swindon Town A	1-1
Oct 8 v OXFORD UNITED H	1-4	Feb 18 v WIMBLEDON H	1-3
Oct 15 v Bristol Rovers A	1-1	Mar 4 v Colchester United A	1-7
Oct 22 SOUTHAMPTON H	2-1	Mar 15 v BRISTOL ROVERS H	0-0
Oct 25 Southampton FAYC(1)A	0-1	Mar 18 v Brentford A	1-0
Oct 29 v COLCHESTER UNITED H	0-2	Mar 25 v BRISTOL CITY H	0-4
Nov 5 v Wimbledon A	2-5	Apr 29 v Bristol City A	
Nov 12 v BRENTFORD H	0-2	LC: League Cup	
Nov 26 v Oxford United A	1-1	SJFC: Southern Junior Floodlit Cup	
Dec 3 v SWINDON TOWN H	0-1	FAYC: FA Youth Cup	

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# ELM PARK ECHOES

**W**HOD have believed it if someone had told us this time last year that, in the space of eight days, we'd complete League 'doubles' over Stoke City and Oldham Athletic and grab our fourth point of the season from Sheffield United?

But even if some people still need pinching it's a fact that, going into the corresponding game on April 2 last year, we only had 11 more points than the lads have already got in the bag today!

That fighting Royals spirit was there for everyone to see against Oldham at Elm Park after making a present of a tragi-comical opening goal to Gunnar Halle.

Lee Nogan came off the bench in determined fashion and took just four minutes to snatch the equaliser when he bravely threw himself at a curling Michael Gilkes cross, and the injury time winner flew in off Archie Lovell's shin after yet another brilliant Scotty Taylor run.

The only rueful Royals supporters were the sad folk who gave up the ghost and legged it 10 minutes from the end!

Big Shaka was grabbing all the headlines again at Bramall Lane last Saturday but, 13 minutes after Nathan Blake took advantage of a 54th minute defensive mixup, Lee Nogan cracked home the equaliser when Phil Parkinson blocked a clearance on the edge of the area.

**Y**OU might have thought it was some kind of record when Dariusz Wdowczyk became the seventh Royals player to take over the captaincy this season, but you'd be wrong!

Club skipper Adrian Williams' absences have seen Jimmy Quinn, Mick Gooding, Jeff Hopkins, Phil Parkinson, Dylan Kerr and Dariusz pulling on the captain's armband.

But Elm Park historian David Downs tells us that during the 1969-70 season Jack Mansell's team also boasted seven different skippers - Dennis Allen, Dennis M. Butler, Les Chappell, George Harris, Dick Spiers and brothers Tony and Barrie Wagstaff.

**W**ITH Elm Park's centenary coming up a year next September the old place will become unique among British football grounds with plans to put up a bust of former manager Mark McGhee on the South Bank.

Sculptor Charlie Wright is already working on the bronze masterpiece at his studio in the Spanish resort of

Solar Polfi and the idea is to site it on a plinth just beneath the clock on the South Bank - where the club's most loyal fans can pay homage.

The unveiling ceremony will take place a year today, and when we move to our new ground the sculpture will go with us to take pride of place in the foyer in the style of Herbert Chapman's bust at Highbury.

**W**E don't know if it's anything to do with Dariusz, but our fame has now spread to Poland and we had a letter this week from Warsaw-based Royal and souvenir collector Czeslaw Dabrowski.

Czeslaw writes: "I am a keen football fan and collector. I very much like British football and your League. I am a keen Reading FC fan and would like to correspond with your fans. I have no souvenirs of Reading FC and if someone can help me, please write to me." His address is Klaudyny 32m23, 01-684 Warszawa, Poland.

**T**HE Reading Schools FA's programme of centenary events, following the highly successful dinner at the Calcot Hotel and the match against an England XI at Elm Park, continues later this month with an old boys reunion.

It's open to all former Reading Schools representative players, managers, committee members and referees and will be staged at Presentation College in Southcote Lane at 7.30 p.m. on April 28.

Admission, including a buffet, is free but a cash bar will be open throughout the evening. Apart from some famous faces there will be an exhibition of RSFA memorabilia - medals, trophies, caps and programmes - and some memory-nudging videos of past matches and tours.

Numbers are limited though and allocation of places will be dealt with on a first come-first served basis, so don't delay, write to RSFA chairman David Downs with a stamped addressed envelope at: 'Midfield', 91 Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6YW.

**A**POSER for your next football quiz night. In which League table do the Royals trail behind Portsmouth, Southend United and Swindon Town? Answer: The one on the wall of Meridian's sports department listing the season's showpiece televised matches!

**H**APPY Birthday: To joint boss Mick Gooding, who's 36 on April 12, and defender Jeff Hopkins who'll be 31 two days after that.





# Local Business Lottery

Now's the time to become part of the Reading F.C. Local Business Lottery, sponsored by the Reading Evening Post roaring around with the Royals. The simple but unique scheme means that for just £1 you can buy a chance for a member of your staff to receive a free scratch-card lottery ticket in their pay packet. Just think how exciting it will be for one of your employees to win the £2,000 jackpot prize! As you can see from the impressive list below there are already a lot of companies participating in the Business Lottery but there's room for plenty more and if you'd like to help your local football club then contact us on 0734-464008.

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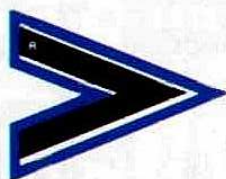
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# A Striking Partnership...with Reading Borough Council and Reading F.C.



**Reading**  
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## DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT

As well as offering money off admission to some matches at Elm Park, Reading Borough Council's Passport to Leisure also offers Reading residents the chance to get discounts at a number of sports shops in the town.

With summer coming, and time to try out some other leisure activities besides watching the Royals, why not take advantage of this great scheme at the following shops.

\* **Bikes 'n' Tools, 651 Oxford Road (Tel 391197)** - 10 per cent discount on certain goods and cycle helmets.\* **Reading Racket Shop, The Emporium, Merchants Place (503800)** - 10 per cent discount on selected items.\* **Sports Player, 104 Broad Street Mall (580273)** - 10 per cent discount on cash sales, five per cent on credit card sales.\* **The Sweatshop, 44 Station Hill (573826)** - ten per cent off sports and leisure goods.\* **YHA Adventure Shop, 3 Market Place (587722)** - 10 per cent off clothing and equipment.

And don't forget you can also use your Passport to get money off all sorts of activities, from swimming to gym workouts, at any Reading Sport and Leisure Centre. For more information, phone 390386 or visit Level 4 at the Civic Centre.

## GET INTO GOLF

Perhaps you'd like to have a try at golf during the close season, or work on getting your handicap down. Thanks to

Reading Borough Council, the town now has its very first driving range.

The Richfield Golf Driving Range (next to Rivermead Leisure Complex) has 39 bays, which can be used seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. throughout the year.

There's also the Thameside Golf Academy where you can correct your faults and improve your game, plus a well-stocked golf shop. Passport to Leisure discounts are available at both the driving range and academy and who knows, you might even see some Royals stars practising their swings! For more information phone 573700.

## SPECIAL BUS SERVICES

With just three home games to go, and big crowds expected for the promotion run-in, here's a reminder of the Park and Ride and special bus services to get you to the match easily and avoid those parking problems.

You can park your car at Prospect School in Honey End Lane any time from 1.45 p.m. (weekend games) and 6.15 p.m. (midweek) for just £1.50, and catch a special bus straight to Elm Park. Buses run in the opposite direction after the game.

Reading Buses are also running Football Specials for all first team home games from Woodley (calling at Earley crossroads), Caversham Park Village (calling at Caversham and Reading town centre) and Whitley (calling at Coley). For more information on these services call Reading Buses on 594000.

STRIKING PARTNERSHIP

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# ROYAL SPOTLIGHT

## Alan's Irish eyes are smiling

**H**IS birth certificate might say he was born in London but the ever-present smile on Alan Carey's face is guaranteed to vanish for a split second at any suggestion that that makes him an Englishman.

Because the chirpy 19 year old striker, who hit 30 goals in youth team football last season, is as Irish as shamrock itself and jokes: "If I got the chance to pull on a Republic shirt just once at Lansdowne Road I could retire happy."

The young Carey spent his early years in the Greenwich area of London until, when he was four, his parents returned to County Clare in the west of Ireland where he grew up playing Gaelic football rather than soccer.

Playing as a wing forward he represented Clare under 16s at the Gaelic game and after the family moved across the River Shannon to the town of Thurles he played for Tipperary's Under 21 team.

But Alan says: "With my mates we used to watch all the English games on the telly and whenever I got the chance I'd be out playing football from morning till night. But there weren't the opportunities to get proper coaching like young lads have in England."

Ironically it was while playing as a sweeper for a team called St Pat's in Thurles that he was spotted by local sports shop owner John Freeman and recommended to the Royals in August 1993.

With a smile, Alan recalls: "I was a Franz Beckenbauer-style sweeper, coming forward a lot, and I used to end up top scorer each season, so I suppose you could say I was actually a defender when I came over to Reading."

An impressive two week trial led to the offer of a 12 month YTS contract and Alan quickly built up a fine understanding with Mick Murphy in the South East Counties side as the goals started to flow.

He says: "I couldn't believe my luck because here I was playing proper football for the first time and everything was going so well. I got 26 goals for Reading and four in one game for an FA Youth XI - although I checked to make sure it wouldn't affect my Irish qualification."

"Then in February I was told one Thursday to report with the first team. I thought it was because they wanted someone to make up the numbers for a practice match until I was told I'd be involved on the Saturday against Brentford."

"I was only on the bench and I didn't get on the field but it was fantastic just to be part of it. It was a big local derby with a 10,000 crowd and the lads got a great result."

"I actually made my debut in the next home game when I came on for 20 minutes against Wrexham. It seemed to be over very quickly and, even though we lost, it was another terrific occasion for me."

"I stayed involved with the first team over the next few weeks and then I was offered a professional contract and that really was a dream come true."

"Not many of my friends at home had heard of Reading before I came over, but they certainly had by the time I went back for the summer. I was very proud to be able to say I was a Reading player."

With his youth team days behind him, Alan shared in the frustrations caused by the lack of reserve team football but he says: "I've just worked at gaining experience and I suppose you could say the highlights of the season have been the Berks & Bucks Cup games."

"For the past month I've been on loan at Weymouth, Trevor Senior's club, which has also been good experience but I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we might have a reserve team next season."

"From what the other lads have told me, some of the reserve teams which used to come here were stronger than the sides the first team were playing. I'd love to get the chance to play against Premier League defenders."

Apart from getting the nod from Jack Charlton, Alan's immediate ambitions are fairly straightforward.

He says: "My aim is to get into the side on a regular basis. I'm confident that with experience I can do well and I'd love to be able to do it for Reading to repay them for giving me my chance."



SATURDAY, APRIL 15th v PORT VALE

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## *Introducing... Alan Carey*



Picture: John Hawken

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# ROYALS FACT FILE

## HOW TO GET THERE

Blundell Park, CLEETHORPES

Use M40 to junction 10 and then take A43 to Towcester, joining M1 northbound until junction 2. Take M18 until junction 5 and then onto M180 until motorway ends. Follow A180 towards Grimsby, following signs for Cleethorpes, and Grimsby Town FC is on your left.

There is some side street parking available, but no official facilities. Nearest rail station: Cleethorpes.

Supporters should head for the Osmond area of Blundell Park where there are 550 seats and 3,000 terrace places available. It's pay on the day with seats at £11 and standing places £8, with no concessions.



*Sam Ward*

## MASCOT TREBLE

Mascot Sam Ward, who celebrates his seventh birthday this month, is a pupil at Rivermead County Primary School at Woodley and tells us his favourite Royals are Stuart Lovell and Jimmy Quinn.

He plays football whenever he gets the chance and on Saturday mornings he trains with the Woodley Saints under seven side.

Sam's joined by eight year old Steven Bucksey, who's been supporting the Royals for two seasons and has clocked up several away trips during the current campaign, including the visits to Charlton and Bolton.

Steven goes to Hatch Warren Junior School in Basingstoke and plays left back for the Hatch Warren Colts. His favourite Reading players are Michael Gilkes and keeper Shaka Hislop and when he's not involved in football he likes cricket, swimming, chess and computer games.



*Steven Bucksey*

Hoping to bring the Robins some luck today is six year old Anthony Whitaker who's a pupil at Northview Primary School in Highworth, Swindon.



*Anthony Whitaker*

His favourite player is Andy Mutch, and Anthony lists his hobbies as football, collecting sticker books and playing with his Gameboy.

## TODAY'S REFEREE

Bristol-based technical engineer Steve Dunn makes his second visit of the season to Elm Park after taking charge of our first home game in Division One against Portsmouth in August.

Keen cricketer Mr. Dunn, who is married with a son and daughter, began refereeing in the Bristol area in 1976 and graduated through the Great Mills League, becoming a Football League linesman in 1986.

He joined the Referees' List in 1992, and became a FIFA linesman the same year when he ran the line in FA Cup and Coca Cola Cup semi-finals, a European Cup tie and a World Cup qualifier in Romania.

## MARATHON APPEAL

We've been asked to draw your attention to the fact that, even if you're not planning to run in tomorrow's London Marathon, you can still donate money to the event's official nominated charity - the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

All cash raised by the event will help the Foundation (registered charity number 218186) provide more care and support nationwide for people with severe disabilities. If you can help please send your donation to: The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, FREEPOST, London SW1P 2YZ.

## LIFEBOAT HELP

Members of the Tilehurst and Purley Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution will be at Elm Park today making a collection to raise cash for a new lifeboat station at Hayling Island.

The existing station is beyond repair and, while £90,000 of the replacement cost has already been raised, there's still £10,000 left to find. The RNLI (registered charity number 209603) exists entirely on voluntary contributions and is independent of central government.

The Royals would urge all supporters to give generously to today's appeal to ensure that the RNLI and its brave, volunteer crew members can continue their essential and lifesaving work.

## BURGER KING SCHOOLS

The Burger King Halftime Penalty Shootout at the Oldham game - marking the Reading Schools FA Centenary Celebrations - saw Westwood Farm County Junior School beat Southcote Primary School 7-5.

Southcote Primary: Dawfydd Williams; Gary Heath, Andrew Beddow, Lewis Clarke, Andrew Beaty, Ben Champion, Stephen Martin. Westwood Farm: James Beisly; Marc Headland, Daniel Josey, Simon Herbert, Johnny Leacock, James Rapley, Ben Paintin.





## *The Event of the Year*



# *Reading Football Club End of Season Ball*

at



(ASCOT RACECOURSE)

on

*Saturday, May 20th, 1995*

*7.30 pm for 8.00 pm*

*Music by NewDimension*

*Tickets: £35 including VAT (Tables of ten available)*

*Dress: Black Tie*

*Sponsored by*



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*For booking details telephone* **KEVIN GIRDLER** *or*  
**SUE REID**

*on* **READING** (01734) 507878

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# Royal gallery



Pictures: Stuart Fletcher

**Mick Gooding shows the master's touch.**



Andy Bernal keeps his  
eye on the ball while  
(inset) Scotty Taylor's  
flying again.







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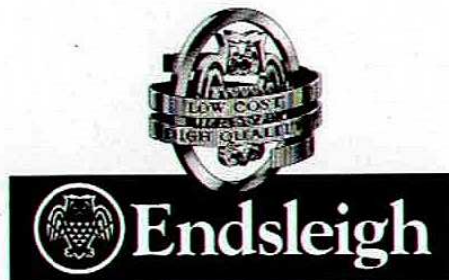
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<b>1 – £20 per goal</b> A. Starr, N. Broome, Z. Garland	0	<b>9 – £1 per goal</b> J. Avenell, C. Joyce, I. Evered, R.F. Evans, P. Harris, Miss C. Taylor, N. Broome, Mr Sopp, M. Turner, A. Colao	13
<b>2 – £5 per goal</b> B. Franklin	0	<b>10 – £1 per goal</b> K. Purser, A. Spiller, D.I. Dorrell, E.J. East, P. Hobbs, S. Norris, M. Welch, R. Pitt, M. Bullock, M. Savin, A. Colao, R. Solly, D. Tolan	7
<b>3 – £5 per goal</b> S. Wilkinson, N. Deaves, K. Norris, A. Hankin, J. M. P. Hayes	2	<b>11 – £3 per goal</b> A. Stamp, M. Smith, M. J. Neilan	7
<b>4 – £5 per goal</b> Harry Arlett, J. Paul	2	<b>12 – £5 per goal</b> A.C. Withers	6
<b>5 – £5 per goal</b> L.H. Voke, Wendy House Playgroup, J. Paul	0	<b>14 – £5 per goal</b> P. Jones	3
<b>6 – £5 per goal</b> J.E. Brown	4	Up to and including 25.03.95	
<b>7 – £3 per goal</b> G. Allaway, I. Johnson, D.L. Wilson, B. Cripps, C.H. Townsend, Jean Smith	8		
<b>8 – £3 per goal</b> C.J. Stamp, D.M. Spencer, D.E. Arlett, Aidan Rose, G.S. Downing	0		

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# SWINDON TOWN



Back row, left to right: Paul Bodin, Luc Nijholt, Brian Kilcline, Fraser Digby, Keith Scott (now Stoke City), Nicky Hammond, Shaun Taylor, Andy Thompson, Edwin Murray.  
Middle row: Jonathan Trigg (physio), Ross MacLaren, Mark Robinson, Austin Berkeley, Adrian Viveash, Jan Aage Fjortoft (now Middlesbrough), Chris Hamon, Andy Mutch, Marcus Phillips, Ty Gooden, Eddie Buckley (kit manager).  
Front row: Joey Beauchamp, Martin Ling, Andy Rowland (coach), Steve McMahon (player manager), John Trollope (youth team manager), Kevin Horlock, Wayne O'Sullivan.  
Front: Ben Worrall, Jamie Pitman, Stuart James, David Elsey.

**T**HE swashbuckling exploits of Jan Aage Fjortoft will occupy part of a chapter in the Swindon Town history book but the Robins are determined that there will be life after the 25-goal Viking.

With their side in relegation trouble for the second season in a row, some of Swindon's supporters were stunned both by Fjortoft's departure on transfer deadline day and the £1.3 million fee paid by First Division leaders Middlesbrough - which certainly looks like a bargain at today's prices.

But player-boss Steve McMahon was quick to stress that everybody has his price and he undoubtedly bore in mind the Norwegian's recent widely publicised remarks which suggested that long-term plans for his future might not include building a permanent home in Wiltshire.

And McMahon could also point to an eight game spell between the end of January and the beginning of March when Fjortoft's name was absent from the scoresheet while his team was sliding into the relegation zone and going out of the FA Cup at Watford.

Fjortoft top scored last season too but that didn't prevent them spending the whole campaign propping up the Premiership as they learned just how much it takes to survive in that free-spending world of closed shop.

They won plenty of friends - and were the only side to put four League goals past champions Manchester United - but a 'double' over Queens Park Rangers and home victories against Southampton, Spurs and Coventry weren't enough to keep them among the elite.

Those traumas appeared to be behind them when they were permanent fixtures in Division One's top five for the first three months of the new season, but a sparkling run in the Coca Cola Cup merely proved a distraction from the alarming League decline which followed.

Manager John Gorman, who loyally stayed to steer them through the Premier League minefield when Glenn Hoddle took the gloss off their first-ever elevation to the top flight by defecting to Chelsea, departed himself in November. And even the arrival of no-nonsense McMahon to take up his first managerial post couldn't halt a Robins run which saw them fail to take maximum points between the 3-2 beating of Wolves on October 8 and the 2-1 win over Middlesbrough on January 15.

In contrast they were within 33 minutes of a Coca Cola Cup trip to Wembley when Fjortoft put them 3-1 ahead on aggregate in the second leg of their semi-final at Burnden Park, but three Bolton goals in that last half hour put an end to dreams of repeating their 1969 success against Arsenal.

That cup exit was followed by a 2-0 defeat at Watford but a solitary goal from new hero Peter Thorne was enough to take three points from Sunderland, a prelude to their most astonishing result of the season at The Hawthorns.

With half an hour left West Brom were leading 2-1 but Thorne completed a superb hat-trick, Fjortoft weighed in with a goal of his own and youngster Ty Gooden struck in injury time as Swindon ran out 5-2 winners.

Three days later they lost 3-1 at Derby County despite a first half equaliser from Adie Viveash, recalled at the end of February from his second spell on loan at Elm Park, and last Saturday's 1-0 home defeat by Charlton Athletic left them firmly in 22nd place in the table.

That result, coming just 48 hours after Fjortoft's departure, sparked scenes of rebellion from some sections of their support which was apparently not eased by the arrival of £340,000 Newcastle United defender Jason Drysdale.

Much water has passed under the bridge since September 14 when more than 11,500 saw a goal after 81 minutes from Keith Scott - since departed for Stoke City - dislodge the 10-man Royals from second spot in the table after defender Dariusz Wdowczyk had collected a red card.

And there have been one or two tidal waves since the Robins last visited Elm Park for a League game back on Boxing Day 1987 when promoted Swindon were heading for mid-table security in the old Second Division and we were destined for the drop.

The only goal of the day came from one Jimmy Quinn and, as the Irishman had also been on target when we lost 4-0 at the County Ground the previous September, it was a safe bet that he wasn't the most popular man in Berkshire that Christmas.

However their most recent trip to Elm Park was in August 1992, when the Royals emerged 2-1 winners in a pre-season friendly with both goals deftly stroked home by someone named Mark McGhee.

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## REPORT: By Maurice O'Brien

### MEET THE BOSS



Former England international **Steve McMahon** left Manchester City last November to take over as player manager at the County Ground following the departure of John

Gorman.

The Liverpool-born 33 year old began his playing career at Everton and made 100 League appearances for the Goodison Park club before moving to Aston Villa for £300,000.

After two years at Villa Park, McMahon became Kenny Dalglish's first major signing in September 1985 when he joined Liverpool for £375,000, and he picked up League and Cup winners' medals in his first season at Anfield.

He won 17 caps for England and figured large in the Liverpool success story until his £900,000 switch to Maine Road on Christmas Eve 1991.

First choice keeper **Fraser Digby** was with Manchester United as a youngster but found himself behind the likes of Gary Bailey, Chris Turner and Gary Walsh in the first team queue and is approaching the 400-game mark for the Robins since his arrival in 1986.

Deputy **Nicky Hammond** was signed on a free transfer from Arsenal a year later and had to wait until 1991 for an extended run in the first team, but apart from more than 60 Swindon appearances he's also picked up experience on loan with Bristol Rovers, Peterborough United and Aberdeen.

Skipper **Paul Bodin** returned to the County Ground in 1991 for a second spell after a £550,000 cheque had taken the Welsh international to Crystal Palace for an unhappy ten months, while 20 year old **Andy Todd** - son of former

England defender Colin - is on extended loan from Middlesbrough.

The Robins' defence was boosted on transfer deadline day last week when 24 year old former Watford defender **Jason Drysdale** arrived from Newcastle United for £340,000, but 33 year old Dutch defender **Luc Nijholt** has been with them since summer 1993 when he cost £175,000 from Motherwell.

**Shaun Taylor** joined Exeter City from non-League Bideford Town at the age of 23 and made over 200 appearances for The Grecians before joining Swindon in 1991, while Northern Ireland Under 21 international **Kevin Horlock** was a free transfer signing from West Ham.

Youth scheme graduate **Andy Thomson** made his League debut against Leeds United in the Robins' final Premiership game last year, and Cyprus-born **Wayne O'Sullivan** is another youngster who has broken into the first team this season.

Giant central defender **Brian Kilcline** skippered Coventry City to the FA Cup in 1987 and cost £90,000 from Newcastle United in January last year, while 26 year old **Mark Robinson** became the club's record signing when he followed him from St James' Park in a £600,000 move last summer.



One player who needs no real introduction is 25 year old **Adrian Viveash**, who returned to Wiltshire last month after a second successful loan spell at Elm Park. He began his first six match stint with the Royals, in January 1993, with an Autoglass Trophy goal at Bournemouth but missed most of the last campaign with a broken leg and suffered a similar injury on pre-season tour to Cyprus.

**Edwin Murray** joined the Robins as a schoolboy and made his League debut three years ago at the age of 17, while former Spurs defender **Ian Culverhouse**

moved from Norwich City for £250,000 last December after a spell on loan.

After being sidelined with injury for 12 months, former Derby County midfielder **Ross MacLaren** now combines playing with his duties as reserve team manager, and hard-running **Martin Ling** is another in his second spell at the County Ground after a five year stay at Southend United.

Highly-rated **Joey Beauchamp** hit the headlines last summer when he made a controversial move to West Ham United from home club Oxford United before deciding it was a big mistake, and he stayed at Upton Park less than a month before joining the Robins.

Waiting in the wings are former Coventry City youngster **Lee Middleton**, 24 year old Channel Islander **Chris Hamon** and 22 year old **Austin Berkley** who scored on his Swindon debut in an Anglo Italian Cup game against Oxford United in September 1992.

**Ty Gooden** found himself out of a job when Wycombe Wanderers released him after they joined the Football League, but the 22 year old won a contract with



the Robins 15 months ago and grabbed a brilliant maiden goal in last month's amazing 5-2 victory at West Brom.

England B international **Andy Mutch** ended his deadly striking partnership with Wolves legend Steve Bull - to which he contributed 97 goals in 289 League games - when he left Molineux for £250,000 at the start of Swindon's season in the Premier League.

Fellow striker **Peter Thorne** has proved an instant hit since arriving from Blackburn Rovers in January, finally emerging from the shadow of hotshots Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton, and his goalscoring should help Swindon followers forget the departed Jan Aage Fjortoft.



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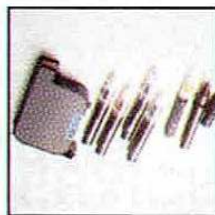
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### ARE YOU THERE JUNIOR ROYALS?

Nominations for the Junior Royal of the Year award have hardly been flooding in, and that's very disappointing because we're sure there must be some of you out there who are more than worthy of the title.

There's still time to get your name in, or to nominate someone else, because the closing date is the end of April. Remember it's open to any of our younger supporters who, for example, go to great lengths to support the Royals or have perhaps done something special at home, school or in the community.

Come on, let's hear from you!

### ROYAL GUEST JAMES

James Aylott and his dad David were our special guests at the Barnsley game when they made Elm Park the 66th port of call on their mission to visit every Premiership and Endsleigh League ground to raise cash for the St John Ambulance.

We donated a signed football, which they'll be using as a quiz prize at the end of the season, and were able to introduce them to the players and wish them every success with their venture.

David, who's Milton Keynes divisional president of the St John Ambulance, has written to us to say: "The warmth of welcome we received at Reading Football Club was terrific. I don't think we stopped talking the whole of the journey home about what a great time we had had."



### EASTER SIX-A-SIDE

The closing date for our Easter Six-a-Side tournament is officially Monday, April 3, but we will accept entries until April 6. This is your last chance to enter, so don't forget to pick up an application form from the Community Scheme office.

The event takes place on Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, that's April 16 and 17, at the Reading College of Arts and Technology campus in Crescent Road. There are still places available in most age groups, as well as the ladies and business competitions, and there will be trophies for all winners and runners-up.

### HOLIDAY SOCCER SCHOOLS

We'll be holding some of our ever-popular soccer schools in the Easter holidays and, for the first time, the course will include a trip to Wembley Stadium.

The sessions will take place at Highdown School in Emmer Green (April 10 to 13 inclusive), Theale Green School (April 10 to 13) and Kennet School at Thatcham (April 18 to 21).

They offer quality coaching by FA-qualified coaches as well as six-a-side games and a tournament with trophies for the winners. Each three day course costs £40 (£35 for Junior Royals) and daily sessions last from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### TERRIFIC THAMESIDE

Congratulations to Caversham's Thameside Primary School on a magnificent performance in the Southern regional finals of the Refuge Assurance schools' Six-a-Side competition at Queens Park Rangers last month.

They finished top of their group with fine victories against Crystal Palace and Fulham and a 1-1 draw with Portsmouth but, unfortunately, they lost 2-0 in the semi-finals to an older Farnborough side, who coped better with the torrential rain. Well done to all of them for a terrific effort!

The Thameside squad was: Ben Keable-Elliott, James Russell, Danny Lingwood, James Goff, Russell Hodges, David Waite, Cheryl George, Matthew Folly, Kevin Bromley.

### HOW TO REACH US

If you'd like details on any of our activities then please call Tony Russell, Bob Hussain or Clifton Soares on Reading 560898, or drop a line to Reading FC Community Scheme, Elm Park, Norfolk Road, Reading RG3 2EF.



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**Listen out to Ron Brown on the Weekday Breakfast Show to find out who the guests will be each week.**

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# At First Glance



## MAURICE O'BRIEN LOOKS AT LIFE IN THE REST OF DIVISION ONE

**W**OLVES' fans are in the doghouse with the Molineux management because of their quaint interpretation of the tune which traditionally greets the players as they run onto the pitch.

For years now the supporters have trilled along to the pre-match strains of the extremely monotonous 'Liquidator', by Harry J and the All Stars, but lately they've been singing the blues and the club are calling a halt.

We can't spell out the offending phrase in a family publication but suffice to say that, from all sides of the ground, the last line is greeted with a chant which starts with a four-letter word and ends in "...off West Brom!"

Says Wolves chairman Jonathan Hayward: "It's got to the point where the club could be accused of incitement.

"Unless the bad language comes to an end we will have to seriously consider choosing some other piece of music when the teams come out." Aren't we fortunate that we've got Kevin Girdler's squeaky clean Royals Anthem?

**T**ALKING of bad language, Stoke City boss Lou Macari's son was in trouble last week for an over-enthusiastic defence of the honour of his dad's team.

Michael Macari was up before the local beaks for getting into a shouting match with angry supporters outside the Victoria Ground in February moments after City had lost 2-0 to Portsmouth.

Police said the 22 year old swore at fans criticising Stoke's performance and refused to move on when asked, but the prosecution dropped an offensive behaviour charge and he was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months.

**B**URNLEY'S new £300,000 striker Kurt Nogan - younger brother of our own Lee - got into hot water with manager Jimmy Mullen after throwing his shirt at the bench when he was substituted at Bristol City two weeks ago.

An equally peeved Mullen hit the 24 year old former Brighton marksman with a fine and said: "Who does he think he is? I've just signed him from Brighton where he was a big fish in a little pond. Now he's a little fish in a big pond and he'll have to pay

for behaving like that."

Ironically, the way things are going it looks as if Burnley and Brighton will be splashing in the same pond next season!

**D**AVE Bassett was equally scathing when talking to reporters recently about Aussie striker Carl Veart's loss of form, which apparently came to a head against Charlton when he seemed incapable of keeping the ball in play.

Said Bassett: "I asked him afterwards if he needed a drugs test or if he was just practising for the All Blacks!"

**B**RYAN Robson's £1.6 million double transfer swoop on deadline day for Swindon Town's Jan Aage Fjortoft and Ipswich Town defender Phil Whelan didn't quite have the impact he'd planned.

First of all Fjortoft was called up by Norway, who invoked the five-day rule to prevent him making his Boro debut against Port Vale last Sunday, and then Robson discovered he'd completed Whelan's signing too late and he can't play him until next season!

**T**HE other big deadline day spenders were Sunderland, who paid Everton £600,000 for striker Brett Angell and took Liverpool defender Dominic Matteo on loan, while Luton Town shipped Kerry Dixon out to Millwall and paid £200,000 for Bradford City goalscorer John Taylor.

Swindon Town used some of that Fjortoft cash to buy defender Jason Drysdale from Newcastle United, where he was still waiting to make his League debut after last summer's move from Watford.

Derby County spent £150,000 on Aston Villa defender Chris Boden, Southend United paid Doncaster Rovers £55,000 for centre back David Roche and Port Vale got midfielder Ian Bogie from Leyton Orient for £5,000 less than that.

And Stoke City were busy, bringing in wordy winger Gomes Andrade Jose-Manuel from Portuguese club Academico on non-contract terms and letting Graham Shaw and Micky Gynn go on frees to Rochdale and Mansfield respectively.



# READING MATTER



*ROGER TITFORD looks back on time and rivals*



Picture: Evening Post

**G**OAL! And Reading go on to beat Swindon Town, our oldest rivals, again.

Swindon fans will recognise that boyish face in the centre of the picture, if not quite the boyish figure below it. It's Neil Webb, who spent some time on loan at the County Ground earlier this season.

The chap whose face is behind Webby's left wrist helped us out last week with a goal against Tranmere. It's Kerry Dixon. It must all seem like yesterday.

In fact this picture is almost 15 years old and Reading haven't beaten Swindon at Elm Park in a competitive fixture since then.

Who scored, you ask? Well, the three Reading players nearest the ball all scored during the match, which we won 4-1.

The note on the reverse of the photo says it was Reading's third which, according to Rothmans, was a Richie Bowman penalty. Either there's a mistake somewhere...or a record amount of encroachment.

Of Reading's goalscorers that day, two (Webb and Dixon) went on to represent England in the World Cup finals and a third (Pat Earles) became a probation officer, despite getting the vital opener. But that's no excuse for being shot-shy at 0-0 today.

The Reading-Swindon rivalry goes back over 100 years. We spent a quarter of a century together in the old Southern League before both became founder members of Division Three in 1920.

One feature in the picture has been an ever-present at our Elm Park meetings. It's not the stand, a mere sixty eight and a half years old, but that portion of the Spread Eagle pub seemingly hovering over the ball in the back of the net.

From that window, had you lived long enough, you could have seen it all. Provided it happened at the Tilehurst End, of course.



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BEN AND SI  
= 5, 6 & 7



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JUSTIN SLADE  
= 1 & 2  
JAMIE YOUNG  
= 5, 6 & 7



**KEITH McPHERSON**  
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### The new AA Homeline service

Join the new AA Homeline service and you'll instantly see the difference - as our Code of Practice shows. AA Homeline is brought to you by the 4th Emergency Service.

We've established a nationwide network of professional, reliable tradespeople. You can contact us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We will put you in touch with vetted and monitored tradespeople who can solve your household emergency and repair problems.

The progress of every job is carefully monitored. We also check all invoices. So you pay a fair price for quality work.

### Annual membership is just £18.50\*\*

Take the guesswork out of choosing a tradesperson - become a member of the new AA Homeline service. You don't have to be an existing AA member. Everyone is welcome. The annual membership is just £18.50\*\*.

## AA Homeline CODE OF PRACTICE

1. Recommended tradespeople are thoroughly vetted and monitored.
2. All urgent work carried out at fair rates set by the AA and pre-agreed by you.
3. All hourly rates approved by the AA.
4. You pay us, we deal with the trade.\*
5. Quality of work and all charges are continually monitored.
6. If you are not satisfied, we provide a quality assurance inspector to act on your behalf.
7. For assistance in the home, you can contact us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### To Join AA Homeline

To become an AA Homeline member or for more information, call the number below.

**0345 38 38 38**

Ask for Extension: 116

Calls charged at local rates.

\* For jobs up to £250, AA Homeline acts as the tradesperson's agent for payment collection.

\*\* When you pay your annual subscription by direct debit or credit card continuous authority, (£23.50 if paying by cheque or credit card single payment.)

TO OUR  
MEMBERS WE'RE  
THE 4TH  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICE

**AA**



# FACE in the CROWD

*Sponsored by the  
Reading Chronicle*

**IS YOURS THE FACE IN THE CROWD RINGED?  
THEN THERE'S A CRISP TENNER AWAITING YOU.**

Simply visit the main office of the Reading Football Club in Norfolk Road, Reading before 5.30 pm next Wednesday taking the programme containing this photograph along with you. Then, provided the officials are satisfied you are indeed the person circled, you will be handed a £10 note. If you're not the winner this time watch this space – and watch the pages of the *Reading Chronicle*.

After each Saturday home match a crowd photo will be published in the next edition of the *Reading Chronicle*.

Look out for it. If you are in the frame then make sure you buy the programme at the next home game to see if you are the lucky winner of a tenner.

Members of the staff of the Reading Football Club and the *Chronicle* are ineligible.

The decision of the Elm Park personnel will be final and no correspondence can be entertained by either the club or the newspaper.



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*Calls cost 39p/minute cheap, 49p/minute other times (24 hours a day 7 Days a week)*



READING F.C.  
1871

# PROMOTING THE ROYALS

## LOTTERY BOOST

The jackpot prize in the Royals Lottery has now been increased by £2,000 to a fabulous £5,000, so forget Anthea Turner and instead start looking for pin-up pictures of our Promotions Manager Phil Chant. And that means that the prize for the agent who sells the jackpot ticket also goes up, to £500, so if you'd like to be one of our sellers or want to find out where to buy your 50 pence ticket than call Phil on Reading 464008. Says Phil: "We're obviously coming under a lot of pressure from the National Lottery at the moment, and it's by no means a fair fight, so we need as much help as we can get from people to either sell tickets or buy them - or both!"

## COUNTING ON GILKESY!



Chartered accountants Price Waterhouse sponsored the Oldham Athletic game and, after Michael Gilkes was voted their man-of-the-match, senior partner Paul Fairweather made sure the evening ended on a sparkling note.

## HOWARD'S GOLDEN GAMBLE



Crowthorne-based supporter Howard Joyce wasn't hedging his bets when he tried his luck with a Golden Gamble before the Oldham game - because it won him the night's £460 cheque. He collected his winnings from Promotions Manager Phil Chant right after the final whistle, and so could you because it's really that simple. Buy your £1 Golden Gamble ticket before kickoff, watch the draw being made at half-time and pick up your cheque on your way out of Elm Park.

## TENSE FOR TIPSTERS

It's tight at the top for our tipsters in the Royals Skills Competition with just three of the front runners - D.J. Horwood, A. Colao and P. Kietluczki - getting the 1-0 win at Stoke exactly right.

With just today's game and the Easter visit to Luton to go, the top 14 tipsters are: G.S. Downing and D.J. Horwood 105; G. Dearlove 104; N. Patey 102; R. Ouseley 100; D. Woodyer 99; P. Downing and G. Norris 98; A. Colao, G. Foley, K. Goodchild, P. Kietluczki and P. Rouse 95; P. Allen 94.

## SCOTTY RAISES THE ROOF



Scott Taylor was named man-of-the-match by Elm Park's executive boxholders for his display against Oldham and Glenn Hall, from Wantage-based Thames Ceilings, handed over the champagne.

## BUILDERS' BALL



Builders Denton and Gibson sponsored the winning match ball against Oldham and Royals chairman John Madejski was all smiles as he presented an autographed souvenir of the occasion to Robert Thorne.

# NINO'S

*Restaurants kindly supply all our match sponsors' wine and the Man-of-the Match champagne.*

**NINO'S** One, Market Place, Reading 0734-588966

**NINO'S** Two, Church Street, Caversham, 0734-472097

**NINO'S** Quattro, Prospect Street, Caversham, 0734-483070

**GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE**

**41**

**0891 12 1000**

**Calls cost 39p/minute cheap, 49p/minute other times (24 hours a day 7 Days a week)**



# the ROYALS STATS 'n' FACTS



## ROYAL CLUB LINE

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Calls cost 39p/minute cheap,  
49p/minute other times

### HALF TIME POSERS

1. Who was Swindon Town's top scorer in the 1992-93 season?
2. How many Premiership points did Swindon get last season?
3. Who was last season's PFA Young Player of the Year?
4. Which club are known as The Pirates?
5. Who were Reading's first Football League opponents in August 1920?

### GOAL TIME ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### ADIDAS SPORTS WATCHES

### DIVISION ONE SEASON 1994/95

Date	Opponents	Res	Pos	Att		
AUG	13 Wolverhampton Wndrs.	0-1	-	27,012	Hialop	Bernal
	16 Gillingham (CCC 1-1)	1-0	-	2,556	Hialop	Bernal
	20 PORTSMOUTH	0-0	-	9,106	Hialop	Bernal
	23 GILLINGHAM (CCC 1-2)	3-0	-	3,436	Hialop	Hopkins
	27 Barnsley	2-0	12	4,771	Hialop	Hopkins
	30 STOKE CITY	4-0	5	7,103	Hialop	Hopkins
SEPT	3 MILLWALL	0-0	6	8,715	Hialop	Hopkins
	10 Oldham Athletic	3-1	2	8,412	Hialop	Hopkins
	14 Swindon Town	0-1	4	11,551	Hialop	Bernal
	17 SHEFFIELD UNITED	1-0	3	9,036	Hialop	Bernal
	20 DERBY COUNTY (CCC2-1)	3-1	-	6,056	Hialop	Bernal
	24 Watford	2-2	5	8,015	Hialop	Hopkins
	28 Derby County (CCC2-2)	0-2	-	9,476	Hialop	Bernal
OCT	1 NOTTS COUNTY	2-0	3	7,465	Hialop	Hopkins
	8 Charlton Athletic	2-1	3	10,544	Hialop	Bernal
	15 BRISTOL CITY	1-0	2	9,389	Hialop	Bernal
	22 SUNDERLAND	0-2	2	10,757	Hialop	Bernal
	29 West Bromwich Albion	0-2	4	14,313	Hialop	Hopkins
NOV	2 Derby County	2-1	4	10,585	Hialop	Bernal
	5 BURNLEY	0-0	4	8,150	Hialop	Bernal
	19 Southend United	1-4	5	5,511	Hialop	Hopkins
	26 TRANMERE ROVERS	1-3	8	7,887	Hialop	Bernal
DEC	3 Sunderland	1-0	5	14,021	Hialop	Bernal
	6 MIDDLESBROUGH	1-1	5	10,301	Hialop	Bernal
	10 Portsmouth	1-1	6	8,578	Hialop	Bernal
	18 WOLVERHAMPTON W.	4-2	5	10,136	Hialop	Bernal
	26 LUTON TOWN	0-0	6	11,623	Hialop	Bernal
	28 Port Vale	2-0	4	7,891	Hialop	Bernal
	31 GRIMSBY TOWN	1-1	4	8,526	Hialop	Bernal
JAN	2 Bolton Wanderers	0-1	6	14,705	Hialop	Jones
	7 OLDHAM ATHLETIC (F.A. Cup 3)	1-3	-	8,886	Hialop	Jones
	14 WEST BROMWICH ALBION	0-2	7	9,390	Hialop	Jones
	21 Burnley	2-1	4	9,841	Hialop	Bernal
FEB	4 Middlesbrough	1-0	5	17,982	Hialop	Bernal
	11 DERBY COUNTY	1-0*	4	8,834	Hialop	Hopkins
	18 Tranmere Rovers	0-1	5	8,744	Hialop	Hopkins
	21 SOUTHEND UNITED	2-0	4	7,895	Hialop	Jones
	25 Notts County	0-1	6	7,183	Hialop	Jones
MAR	4 WATFORD	4-1	4	9,705	Hialop	Bernal
	8 Millwall	0-2	6	7,546	Hialop	Bernal
	11 BARNLEY	0-3	6	7,556	Hialop	Bernal
	18 Stoke City	1-0	6	10,006	Hialop	Bernal
	21 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	2-1	4	6,921	Hialop	Bernal
	25 Sheffield United	1-1	5	19,241	Hialop	Bernal
APRIL	1 SWINDON TOWN					
	8 Grimsby Town (F.A. Cup Semi)					
	15 PORT VALE					
	17 Luton Town					
	22 BOLTON WANDERERS					
	29 Bristol City					
MAY	6 CHARLTON ATHLETIC					
	20 F.A. Cup Final					

Key: Goalscorer - CAPITALS - Penalty - (P) \*OG Karanagh (Derby)

### Endsleigh Insurance League Division One Up to and including 28/03/95

	HOME					AWAY					HOME LEAGUE ATTENDANCES 1994/95				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Average	Highest
Middlesbrough	38	13	3	4	36	16	7	6	5	20	16	69	18,028	23,343 v Burnley	
Bolton Wanderers	37	14	4	1	40	12	4	7	7	20	25	65	12,647	18,370 v Middlesbrough	
Tranmere Rovers	38	15	2	1	44	17	4	6	10	14	25	65	7,920	15,810 v Grimsby Town	
Wolverhampton Wanderers	36	14	3	3	36	16	5	3	8	25	30	63	25,937	28,298 v Stoke City	
READING	39	9	6	4	24	16	9	3	8	21	21	63	8,868	11,623 v Luton Town	
Sheffield United	39	11	7	2	33	15	5	7	7	31	29	62	14,407	20,693 v Middlesbrough	
Barnsley	37	13	4	2	37	16	4	4	10	17	28	59	5,835	9,207 v Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Derby County	38	10	5	3	32	16	6	5	9	20	23	58	13,334	16,839 v Swindon Town	
Watford	37	10	6	2	26	14	4	7	8	17	25	55	8,343	10,108 v Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Grimsby Town	39	10	6	4	34	19	3	7	9	21	32	52	5,715	8,930 v Sheffield United	
Charlton Athletic	38	7	5	7	28	23	7	5	7	24	30	52	7,158	8,953 v Sunderland	
Millwall	37	9	4	6	28	22	5	5	8	22	30	51	9,998	13,638 v Notts County	
West Bromwich Albion	38	10	6	3	31	17	3	6	10	18	32	51	7,769	12,289 v Watford	
Oldham Athletic	39	11	2	6	25	20	3	6	11	16	29	50	14,888	21,071 v Bristol City	
Southend United	37	9	7	3	29	19	3	4	11	20	31	47	8,322	11,962 v Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Port Vale	39	10	2	7	25	21	3	6	11	17	45	47	4,852	6,856 v West Bromwich Albion	
Portsmouth	38	10	4	5	27	20	2	6	11	20	35	46	9,435	19,510 v Stoke City	
Stoke City	39	7	7	6	27	26	4	5	10	16	29	45	8,129	13,466 v Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Sunderland	36	7	5	5	23	15	4	7	8	14	28	45	13,031	17,662 v Swindon Town	
Bristol City	39	3	10	6	17	19	6	5	9	17	21	42	14,962	19,758 v Bolton Wanderers	
Swindon Town	39	7	8	5	24	25	3	3	13	13	28	41	7,939	11,127 v Sunderland	
Burnley	37	7	4	5	22	22	3	4	12	23	39	40	9,693	13,466 v Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Notts County	38	6	6	6	28	27	3	5	12	11	36	38	12,132	17,765 v Wolverhampton Wanderers	
	38	6	7	6	23	22	2	3	14	18	32	34	7,320	11,102 v Sheffield United	

1. Craig Maskell
2. 30
3. Andy Cole
4. Brian Roberts
5. Newport County





Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	Taylor	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Gilkes(7)	Hopkins(4)
Kerr	<b>HOPKINS</b>	Williams	Parkinson	Taylor	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Hartenberger	Holgrove (6)
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	Taylor	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Hopkins	Gilkes(7)
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	<b>QUINN</b>	<b>LOVELL</b>	Osborn	Taylor	Holgrove (6)
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	<b>OSBORN</b>	<b>TAYLOR(2)</b>	Holgrove
<b>KERR</b>	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	<b>GILKES</b>	Gooding	Quinn	<b>LOVELL</b>	Osborn	<b>TAYLOR(2)</b>	Holgrove(11)
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Holgrove	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Taylor (8)	Jones (6)
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	<b>LOVELL</b>	<b>OSBORN</b>	Taylor	Bernal
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Taylor (9)	Parkinson
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	<b>QUINN</b>	Lovell	Osborn	Taylor (6)	Parkinson (2)
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	<b>HOLSGROVE</b>	Gilkes	Gooding	<b>QUINN</b>	Lovell	Osborn	Taylor (10)	Hopkins (2)
Parkinson	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Taylor	<b>OSBORN</b>	Kerr (3)	Sheppard
Kerr	Hopkins	Williams	Holgrove	Parkinson	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Taylor (7)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	Gilkes	Parkinson	Quinn	<b>LOVELL</b>	Osborn	Taylor (8)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	<b>GILKES</b>	Gooding	Quinn	Hartenberger	<b>OSBORN</b>	Taylor (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Holgrove	<b>GILKES</b>	Gooding	Quinn	Hartenberger	Osborn	Parkinson (6)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Taylor	Osborn	Lambert (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Williams	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Hartenberger	Jones	Osborn	Taylor (11)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Hopkins	Parkinson	<b>GILKES</b>	Gooding	<b>TAYLOR</b>	Jones	Osborn	Lambert	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Hopkins	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Taylor	Jones	Osborn	McPherson (4)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Jones	Taylor	Gooding	<b>QUINN</b>	Barnard	Osborn	Carey (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Hopkins	<b>JONES</b>	Taylor	Gooding	Quinn	Barnard	Osborn	McPherson (5)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Jones	Barnard	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	<b>TAYLOR (7)</b>	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Jones	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	<b>TAYLOR (6)</b>	Sheppard
Kerr	Taylor	McPherson	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	<b>QUINN (7)</b>	Lovell	Osborn	Jones	Sheppard
Kerr	Taylor	McPherson	Parkinson	<b>GILKES</b>	Gooding	<b>QUINN</b>	Lovell	<b>OSBORN</b>	Jones	Sheppard
Jones	Taylor	Wdowczyk	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Hartenberger	Sheppard
Jones	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	<b>QUINN (7)</b>	Lovell	Osborn	<b>TAYLOR (9)</b>	Sheppard
Jones	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Osborn	Taylor (2)	Sheppard
Taylor	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Lambert	Hartenberger (11)	Sheppard
<b>TAYLOR</b>	Wdowczyk	Bernal	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Lovell	Holgrove	Hopkins (3)	Sheppard
Taylor	Hopkins	Bernal	Parkinson	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Nogan	Holgrove	Lovell (9)	Sheppard
Jones	Holgrove	Hopkins	Viveash	Gilkes	Gooding	<b>NOGAN</b>	Quinn	<b>TAYLOR</b>	Lovell (9)	Sheppard
Wdowczyk	<b>HOLSGROVE</b>	Hopkins	Viveash	Gilkes	Gooding	Nogan	Quinn	Jones	Taylor (2)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Viveash	Holgrove	Gilkes	Taylor	Nogan	Quinn	Jones	Parkinson (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	Viveash	Holgrove	Taylor	Parkinson	Nogan	Quinn	Jones	Hartenberger (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Hopkins	Viveash	<b>HOLSGROVE</b>	Lambert	Parkinson	<b>NOGAN</b>	Hartenberger	Taylor	Quinn (7)	Sheppard
Kerr	Hopkins	Viveash	Parkinson	Lambert	Parkinson	Nogan	Hartenberger	Taylor	Williams (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Hopkins	Williams	<b>HOLSGROVE</b>	<b>GILKES</b>	Gooding	Nogan	<b>HARTENBERGER</b>	Taylor	Quinn	Sheppard
Kerr	Hopkins	Williams	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	Nogan	Hartenberger	Taylor	Quinn (10)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Hartenberger	Taylor	Lambert (6)	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Holgrove	Gilkes	Gooding	Quinn	Parkinson	<b>TAYLOR</b>	Lovell	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Holgrove	Gilkes	Parkinson	Quinn	<b>LOVELL</b>	Taylor	<b>NOGAN (9)</b>	Sheppard
Kerr	Wdowczyk	McPherson	Holgrove	Gilkes	Parkinson	<b>NOGAN</b>	Lovell	Taylor	Hartenberger (10)	Sheppard

**BURGER KING PENALTY SHOOTOUT  
TODAY**  
**READING SCHOOLS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CENTENARY**  
**MOORLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**v**  
**RANIKHET PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Reading Appearances and Goalscorers Up to and including 25/03/95**

League	FA	1994/5 CCLC	GOALS	APPS	GOALS
0	0	0	0	9 (8)	1
3 (1)	0	0	0	3 (1)	0
0	0	0	0	7 (1)	0
26	1	3	0	30	0
0(2)	0	0	0	0 (3)	0
31 (2)	1	2	8	330 (37)	48
31 (1)	1	4	0	246 (5)	25
7 (5)	0(1)	0	2	7 (16)	4
39	1	4	0	110	0
21 (1)	1	2(2)	4	24 (3)	4
20 (1)	0(1)	3 (1)	1	108 (5)	4
18 (1)	1	0	1	54 (7)	2
31 (1)	0	4	1	46 (1)	3
3 (8)	0	0	1	17 (3)	4
19 (5)	1	4	7	131 (32)	44
0 (1)	0	0	0	0 (1)	0
12 (4)	0	0 (1)	0	184 (7)	6
11 (2)	0	0	4	11 (2)	4
25	0	4	5	29	5
24 (4)	1	3	0	118 (5)	8
31 (3)	1	4	9	135 (3)	67
0	0	0	0	0	0
24 (13) 1	1	2 (1)	9	175 (49)	28
0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	11	0
31 (1)	1	2	0	34 (1)	0
15 (1)	0	4	0	183 (4)	13

**South East Counties League Division 2  
Up to and including 25.03.95**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	21	15	4	2	55	24	34
Oxford United	24	12	8	4	47	29	32
Wimbledon	20	14	3	3	76	31	31
Swindon Town	23	14	2	7	51	28	30
AFC Bournemouth	25	12	6	7	50	51	30
Bristol City	20	13	3	4	48	19	29
Brentford	25	11	6	8	35	34	28
Luton Town	25	9	4	12	47	39	22
Southampton	23	7	7	9	32	33	21
Tottenham Hotspur	22	9	3	10	44	46	21
Colchester United	26	7	6	13	36	52	20
Brighton & Hove Alb.	20	7	3	10	36	49	17
READING	27	5	6	16	30	67	16
Bristol Rovers	22	1	10	11	20	40	12
Wyncombe Wanderers	27	2	3	22	24	89	7

\*Career totals for Reading, include League, FA Cup, League Cup only.





# SKIPPER'S SOAP BOX

*Captain ADRIAN WILLIAMS  
writes for The Royal.*

**I** left Elm Park with no fingernails and a few grey hairs after that exciting finish to the Oldham game and even though I've had to do more watching this season than I'd like, I can assure you it doesn't get any easier.

We gave away a goal very early, which can sometimes be a good thing because having to come from behind really drives the boys on, but unfortunately we didn't really get it together until the last 20 minutes or so.

However Oldham finally cracked under the intense pressure and we at last got the run of the ball - and the three points!

It was great to see Lee Nogan come off the bench to get the equaliser with a very brave, striker's header after a really excellent cross from Gilkesy.

Lee's taken a bit of stick lately which we all think is unjustified because it was always going to take him a little time to settle, just like any player who comes to a new club.

## **tricky game**

Now he's certainly getting back to his sharpest and he's sure to be a big success, so get behind him and he'll keep knocking in those vital goals.

The winner was a bit of a scramble, with Archie getting the last touch after an excellent run from the in-form Scotty, and there was no way Oldham could come back from that.

Last Saturday we had a potentially very tricky game away to Sheffield United and I was delighted to see Lee again come up with a

priceless goal just when we needed it.

With just seven games left - and four of them here at Elm Park - it's clear that we've got what it takes to go all the way and you can have no fear that the lads will give everything to do it.

It would be nice to hear the home fans equalling that effort to help us make that final push and we know you can do it - remember Stockport, Brentford and Brighton last season?

## **another twist**

It gives everyone a tremendous lift when you're really giving it some and making a right old racket, so let's hear it!

You'll probably be aware that my season took another twist, literally, just as I thought I was ready to play a full part in the closing stages.

Having collected a suspension immediately after coming back from my neck injury I thought nothing else could go wrong and I was looking forward to making the trip to Sheffield United.

But with 40 minutes gone in a reserve friendly at Peterborough I went in for a tackle on a bumpy pitch and just went over on my ankle. It was one of those things that happen in football but just my luck that it should happen then.

At first I thought it would mean another two or three weeks out but the swelling began to go down and the bruising came out a lot quicker than expected and, at the time of writing, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that my second comeback's not far off.



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*Parky's down but are the Oldham defenders owning up? Pictures: Stuart Fletcher.*



# NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

*ALAN SEDUNARY proves there's no fool like a football fool*

**I**T'S April the First, the day all programme editors dread because they need to be at their sharpest to guard against mischievous contributors who might try to sneak in the odd spoof!

But fear not, this page is guaranteed prank-free, although it hasn't always been the case in our programme.

Some may recall that a few seasons back we told how Reading were forced to field a 'ringer' at Sheffield Wednesday when a pre-match bout of food poisoning depleted our playing resources. However, anagram fans quickly realised that Norwegian international Lars Poiflo didn't exist!

Fellow programme contributor Roger Titford pulled off a masterly April Fool joke in the magazine 'When Saturday Comes' when he claimed, 20 years after the event, that Reading shouldn't have been relegated to Division Four in 1971.

The rascal related how Reading scored a last minute goal at Tranmere, which would have given us a 1-0 win, but the result was recorded as a goalless draw because the Press Box hacks had already departed for the bar (a foul slur on a fine body of persons. Ed.) and the League tables credited us with one point instead of two.

Roger wrote that the error wasn't discovered until the summer, by which time the new season's fixtures had been drawn up and it was too late to reverse our relegation. All lies of course, but a number of affronted Reading fans fell for it.

Even more believed Radio 210 in 1986 when they reported that, with both keepers injured, Trevor Senior would be in goal for our vital trip to Notts County. Both Ian Branfoot and Trevor were interviewed on air to add authenticity to the spoof and the station switchboard was swamped with horrified callers.

The joke was that our Trev was really a very good keeper and subsequently went between the posts in emergency situations on four occasions - including his last game for Reading - never letting in a goal! Mind you some of the events that really have taken place on April 1 would make a good wind-up if they weren't true.

Take England's game with Scotland on April Fools Day 1903. Reading's legendary skipper Herbert

Smith was winning his second cap and he and his English team mates must have had quite a shock when the Scots trotted out wearing Lord Rosebery's racing colours - a manly shade of primrose and white hoops!

Scotland lost 1-0 and the colours have never been worn again, although Manchester United could well be planning to use them for their next away strip which should be due any day now.

Part of the attraction, until 1920, of Reading's Southern League membership was the absence of long away trips for our part-time players. But they must have thought it was an April Fool in 1907 when they had a league game...at Bradford Park Avenue!

Quite what the Yorkshire side were doing in the SOUTHERN League is beyond me but it was certainly a bad joke because they did the 'double' over us before, to everyone's relief, joining the Football League the next season.

Although it didn't happen on April Fools Day goalkeeper 'Peggy' Gyngell's appearance at Elm Park in 1908 for Maidenhead Norfolksians contained, with hindsight, all the ingredients of a good hoax.

Reading Reserves beat the Norfolksians 9-1 but none of the blame should be placed at the feet (or should it be 'foot?') of keeper Gyngell. He made a string of fine saves, deflecting shots high and wide...with his wooden leg.

Despite his handicap it appears that 'Peggy' enjoyed a long career because 20 years later newspaper reports talk of him playing in a friendly and saving a penalty from our Irish international Billy McConnell.

But when it comes to silly stories, how about our game at Elm Park with Exeter in 1922 when visiting skipper Kirk swallowed his false teeth after a heavy challenge? (Editor's note: What this has to do with April Fools Day I don't know, but any readers allergic to bad puns should turn the page now.)

Captain Kirk's life was saved by Exeter's physio who showed great Enterprise to help him bring his dentures up in a Vulcanised bucket. This saved Exeter having to see their Star Trek off the pitch and enabled them to Klingon for a draw. (Beam me up Scotty. Ed.)



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# READING FOOTBALL CLUB

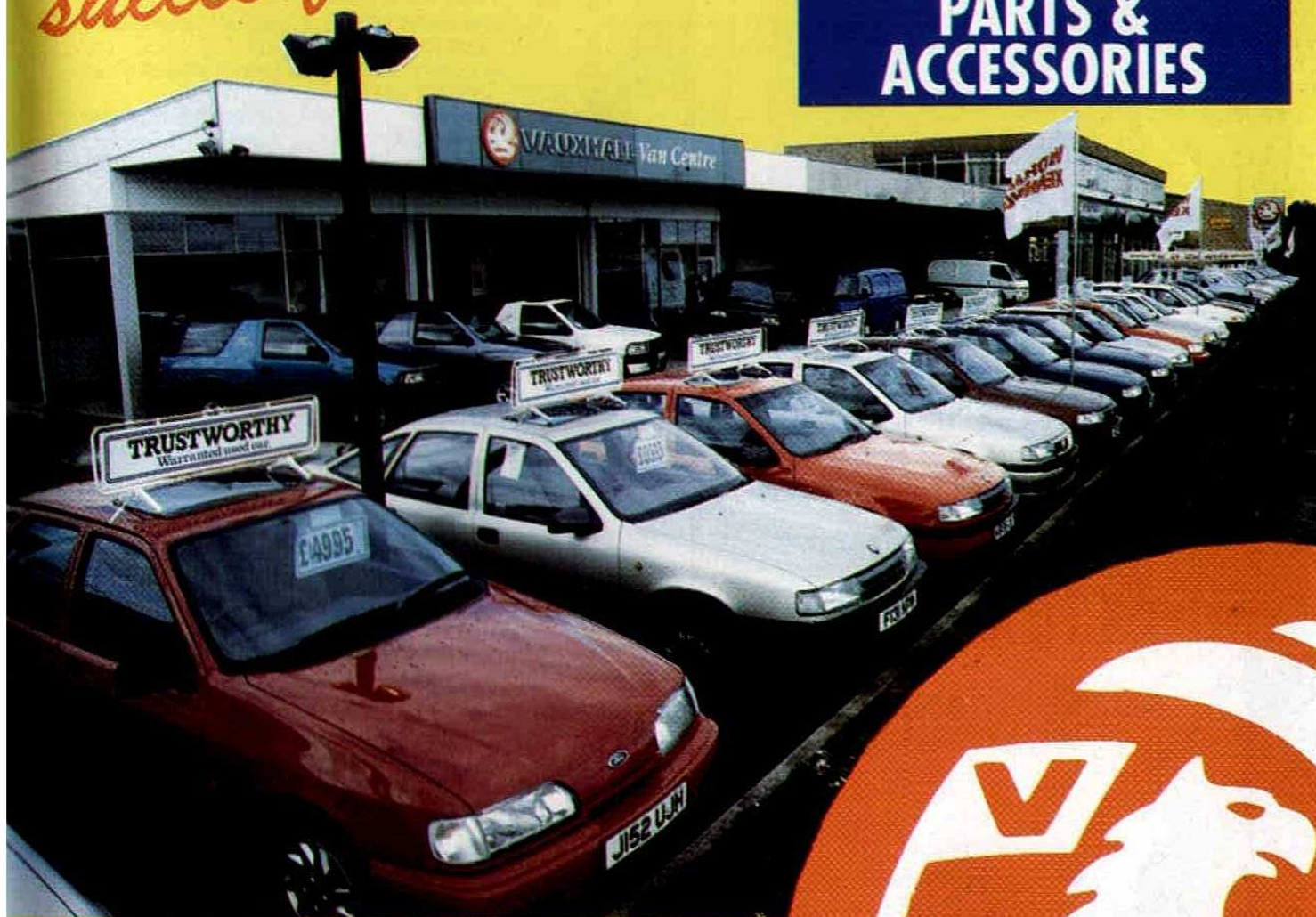
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team



line-up

READING

## Match Officials

Referee: STEVE DUNN  
(Bristol)

Linesmen:  
M. Dearing (yellow)  
M. Sims (red & yellow)

Reserve Official:  
R. Booth

## Next Home Game

Endsleigh League Division One  
Saturday, April 15th, 1995  
PORT VALE  
Kick Off 3.00 pm

Mitre Matchball  
Sponsors



The Wallingford Arms

- 1 Shaka Hislop
- 2 Andy Bernal
- 3 Dylan Kerr
- 4 Dariusz Wdowczyk
- 5 Keith McPherson
- 6 Paul Holsgrove
- 7 Michael Gilkes
- 8 Phil Parkinson
- 9 Lee Nogan
- 10 Stuart Lovell
- 11 Scott Taylor
- 12
- 14

SUB GK: Simon Sheppard

## SWINDON TOWN

- 1 Fraser Digby
- 2 Andy Todd
- 3 Jason Drysdale
- 4 Adrian Viveash
- 5 Mark Robinson
- 6 Shaun Taylor
- 7 Ty Gooden
- 8 Joey Beauchamp
- 9 Martin Ling
- 10 Peter Thorne
- 11 Steve McMahon
- 12
- 14

SUB GK: Nicky Hammond