

The ROYAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 1996

KICK OFF 3.00PM

**SUPPORTER GETS
ELM PARK BAN**

Page 6

**TOMMY'S RIGHT MAN
FOR THE ROYALS**

Page 12

**ROBINS FLYING
HIGH AGAIN**

Pages 30-32

READING FC



versus

SWINDON TOWN



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



hp HEWLETT
PACKARD
Express Support

Match Sponsors

**Auto
Trader**

Official Club Sponsors

PRICE £1.50

HEAD TO HEAD



The NEW PREMIUM trucks from RENAULT TRUCKS, READING

- * HEAVY TRUCK WORKSHOP * LIGHT VEHICLE WORKSHOPS * ALL MAKE SERVICING
- * PAINT SHOP * MOT TESTING * BODY REPAIR SERVICE
- * RECOVERY & ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE * PARTS * USED VEHICLES * CONTRACT
HIRE * CONTRACT MAINTENANCE * TACHOGRAPH



RENAULT

Renault Trucks Reading, Bennet Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0QX.
Tel: 0118 975 2355. Tel: Day Parts: 0118 975 6241.
Tel Night: 0118 942 9707. Fax 0118 931 3040.

**RENAULT TRUCKS READING and READING FOOTBALL CLUB...
THE DRIVING FORCE**

WELCOME TO Elm Park

The Reading Football Club plc
Elm Park, Norfolk Road, Reading RG30 2EF
Tel: 0118 950 7878
Fax: 0118 956 6628



Founded 1871

Chairman:

John Madejski

Director:

Ian Wood-Smith

Chief Executive:

Nigel Howe

Patrons:

J. Byrne G.W. Marshall

D. Clarke F.E.P. Orton

A. Craig J.F.E. West

Managers:

Mick Gooding & Jimmy Quinn

Coach:

Richard Hill

Youth Coach:

Steve Kean

Youth Development:

Bobby Williams

Physiotherapist:

Paul Turner

Hon. Medical Officer:

Dr. G.W. Williams, MB, BCh, MRCP

Company Secretary &

Financial Controller

Bryan Stabler

Football Secretary:

Andrea Barker

Commercial Manager:

Kevin Girdler

Promotions Manager:

Dawn Denton

Community Officer:

Chris Whalley

Safety Officer:

Ray Booth

Groundsman:

Gordon Neate

Supporters' Club Chairman:

Richard Wickson

Royals Rendezvous

Tilchurst Road, Reading RG30 2LY

Managers: Mike & Grace Kearney

Tel: 0118 959 6958

Programme Editor:

Maurice O'Brien

Programme Printers:

Morganprint Ltd

1 Lombard Trading Estate

Anchor and Hope Lane

Charlton, London SE7 7SJ

Tel: 0181 293 9386

Fax: 0181 853 1073

Volume 51 Issue No. 10

Cover photo: Steve Lindsell, ALLSPORT

After a one season break we renew one of the oldest local derby fixtures in football which now stretches back just over 102 years to our days as founder members of the Southern League.

And there's plenty at stake in this afternoon's game, like there has been in most of our meetings since 1894, with the Royals boasting a four-game unbeaten run and Swindon Town looking for a fourth successive League victory.

Of course commiserations to the Robins on the ending of their Coca Cola Cup run at Old Trafford in midweek when, despite Peter Thorne's equaliser, they weren't able to take advantage of Manchester United's shadow squad and were edged out 2-1.

And it looked like that was going to be the winning scoreline for the Royals' youth team at Ashton Gate on the same night when they came from behind, with goals by Luke Dowling and Neville Roach, to lead Bristol City in round two of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. But an injury time penalty spot equaliser means a replay back here at Elm Park.

A warm welcome to today's match sponsors, Hewlett Packard Express Support, and here's hoping that the Royals are able to respond speedily to their highly prized backing.

And our thanks to sports clothing and kit manufacturers Mizuno - responsible for the eye-catching and exclusive new strip worn for the 1996-97 season by both the Royals and the Robins - who are sponsoring the match ball and would presumably be quite content with a draw!

Funny man Lenny Henry is looking for a result when Tranmere Rovers visit us on November 9 - because he'll be filming scenes inside the ground for a pilot for his new BBC Television comedy series. It will involve plenty of singing and chanting on your part - but make sure you get here early, remember to buy that day's programme and watch the local media for more details.

But don't forget that the excitement on offer at Elm Park doesn't just happen when the first team's playing because, as a half term treat on Wednesday night, we've declared our reserve meeting with Sutton United a Kid-for-a-Quid match.

Goals are guaranteed and admission's just £1 for any youngster who'd like to come along to join in the fun!

And while we're on the subject of the Royals saving you money, that Tranmere Rovers match is the next Passport to Leisure game on the list.

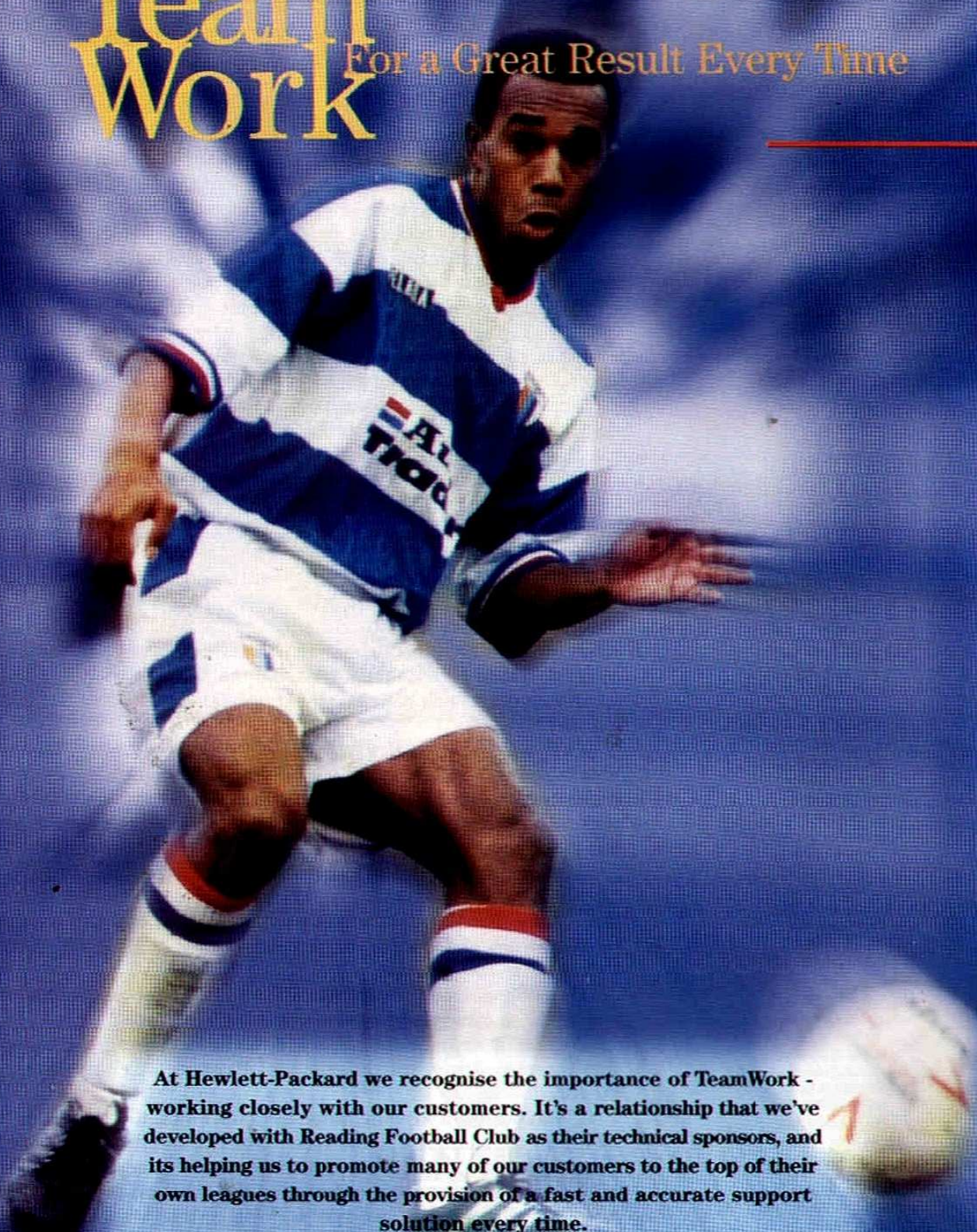
If you possess a Reading Borough Council Passport to Leisure there's £1 off admission to the West Terrace, using the special signed turnstiles 11 to 13. And you can also use your Passport card to get £1 off seat prices if you apply in person at the ticket office in Norfolk Road seven days in advance and pay with cash or a cheque.

However we're sure we couldn't put a price on the excitement we're expecting this afternoon so let's hear you roaring the Royals on to take that unbeaten run to five games.



Team Work

For a Great Result Every Time



At Hewlett-Packard we recognise the importance of TeamWork - working closely with our customers. It's a relationship that we've developed with Reading Football Club as their technical sponsors, and its helping us to promote many of our customers to the top of their own leagues through the provision of a fast and accurate support solution every time.

To find out more about TeamWork with
Hewlett-Packard Service & Support call 01344 361386

**HEWLETT
PACKARD**

Service & Support
Technical Sponsors to the Royals

TWO'S COMPANY

WITH MICK GOODING AND JIMMY QUINN

This is one of those days the fans of both clubs look forward to from the moment the fixtures are published and we can assure you that the Reading players are determined that our supporters will be the ones smiling this evening.

We're sure we don't need to urge anyone to make a lot of noise when it's a local derby but our fans were magnificent for the Manchester City game and some more of the same would be much appreciated.

It's impossible to stress often enough that when the fans give us that type of backing it gives the players an unbelievable lift and, as you know, they will always respond.

We thank all of you for your support against City and if you get behind the lads from the start, as you did that night, then we can hopefully reward you with another cracking game and another great result.

old enemy

It's nice to have a second local derby in such a short space of time, particularly as we didn't have any last season, and while nobody needs any incentive to go looking for three points there's certain to be a little extra at stake for everyone.

Swindon Town are the old enemy who come here today with our congratulations to Steve McMahon for doing such a brilliant job in getting his team out of the Second Division at the first time of asking.

They've enjoyed a great Coca Cola Cup run, similar to the one we had last season, and are definitely the form team at the moment so we know that if we let our standards fall today then they are capable of punishing us.

But we also know that on our day we're a match for anyone in this division, as we keep proving to the doubters, and Steve will certainly



have warned his players that being above us in the League is no excuse for complacency.

clean break

Of course our unbeaten run now stretches to four matches and if we can extend it with a few more wins then we'll be in the top half of the table and breathing down the necks of the so-called fancied clubs.

Nobody's managed to make a clean break at the top yet, because of the fact that every team seems capable of beating everyone else on the day, and while that situation continues we can all fancy our chances.

We know that after the great result against City we weren't at our best against Oldham last Saturday, but in a way that sums up what this season's been like for us. It's a fact that we've played far better than that on a number of occasions - and finished up losing!

This afternoon local rivalry naturally plays a big part but come 4.45 the only thing that will matter is where the three points have gone. And with our fans on their best vocal form the odds should be very much in our favour.



ELM PARK BAN

One of our supporters who ran onto the pitch during the Crystal Palace game last month has received an official caution from Thames Valley Police and is now banned from Elm Park for the rest of the season.

The incident happened when the referee awarded a penalty to the visitors but Reading Football Club wishes to stress that it will never condone or tolerate such conduct in any circumstances.

The potential consequences of such behaviour are extremely serious for the club and we will not hesitate to use the full force of the law if there is any repeat.

We have all worked hard to build Elm Park's excellent reputation and anyone who attempts to harm that will be severely dealt with.

HOW TO GET THERE

Burnden Park, BOLTON

Use the M62, following signs for the M61 at junction 14. Leave the motorway two miles further on, taking the B6536 which is the first exit off the roundabout. After two miles turn right into Croft Lane for Bolton Wanderers and look out for the Rosehill car park, which is a short walk from the ground.

There are 2,900 terrace places available at £11 for adults and £8 for youngsters and pensioners, plus 200 seats at £15 with £9 concessions. All are available on the night.

There are also facilities for disabled supporters but you should apply to us here at Elm Park for your tickets. Admission for wheelchair users is free with an adult helper paying £11 and a child or OAP paying £8.

Roots Hall, Victoria Avenue, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

If using the M25, exit at junction 29. Either way take the A127 into Southend and when you reach the main roundabout take the third exit into Victoria Avenue.

The car park at the ground is for season ticket holders and guests only but there are parking facilities in the town centre and there is some street parking. Nearest station: Prittlewell (see facing page).

We have tickets for the Roots Hall Family Stand on sale at the office in Norfolk Road at £4 for children and £8 for an accompanying adult. Otherwise it's pay on the day for 2,000 visitors' seats at £12 with no concessions.

MASCOT QUARTET

Alexander Harper might be one of the smallest mascots we've had this season but he had a big birthday on Thursday when he reached the age of three - so we're passing on a bundle of best wishes from mum Linda, dad Dave and sister Lauren. Alexander can't wait to start school but in the meantime he keeps himself busy playing with his

Power Rangers toys and

teaching his dad a few

footballing lessons. His

favourite Royal is our very own Power Ranger - Michael Gilkes.

Ten year old Oliver Pulling goes to Blackwell County Primary School at East Grinstead in Sussex but he's been a loyal Royal since he was six and always stands on the South Bank.



Alexander Harper

He plays for Manor Colts under 12 'B' team and his dad tells us his hobbies are "playing football, watching football and talking about football" - although he also has time for model making, swimming and computer games. Oliver's favourite players are Bobby Mihaylov and Martin Williams.

And the Robins will be hoping to cause

a flutter this afternoon with the help of mascots Sam Eddolls and Daniel Richardson who are both pupils at

Burford Community College in

Oxfordshire.

Sam is 11 and as well as being a season ticket holder at the County Ground he's a regular at Junior Robins events. He plays for Carterton Town, either in goal or as a striker, and also enjoys a round

of golf. His

favourite

players are

Ian Culverhouse

and Wayne Allison.

Twelve year Daniel plays in the

centre of Carterton Town's defence

and his other hobbies include

cricket, golf and swimming. His

favourite Robin is striker Wayne

Allison.

TODAY'S REFEREE

Making his first Football League visit to Elm Park is Manchester-based referee Eddie Lomas who's a capital projects manager with the Salford NHS Trust.

The father of a teenage son and daughter, Mr Lomas began

refereeing back in 1974 and graduated through the Cheshire

League to become a Football League linesman, joining the Referees' List in 1993.

In a linesman's role he officiated at a 1990 European Cup Winners' Cup tie between Sampdoria and Kaiserslautern and an epic

European Cup clash involving AC Milan and FC Porto three years

later. He was reserve referee for last season's Auto Windscreens

Shield Final between Rotherham United and Shrewsbury Town.

Mr Lomas is chairman of the Eccles and District Referees' Association and also chairs his region of the Association of

Premier League and Football League Referees. In his spare time he

enjoys golf, cycling and gardening.

HALF TERM TREAT

Any youngsters looking for a super night's entertainment during their half term break next week can pop along to Wednesday's reserve match here against Sutton United - when admission will cost just £1 for a child.

With our kid-for-a-quad scheme in operation you'll be able to make as much noise as you want, get a close look at some of your favourite Royals and see plenty of goals. We kick off at 7.30 p.m. - see you here!

PENALTY POTSHOTS

The lads from Newbury's Thorn Grove edged out their rivals from Winchester's Princess Mead 10-8 in the penalty shootout at halftime in the Manchester City game.

Princess Mead: William Houghton; Stephen Ward, Andrew Bromfield, Chris Turner, Edward Griffiths, Edward Taylor, Ben Waite. Thorn Grove: Max Agar; Richard Morris, Robert Fox, James Pugsley, Ben Carthew, Chris Tiley, Alex Hoyes.



Oliver Pulling



Sam Eddolls



Daniel Richardson



FROM TRAIN LINE TO TOUCH LINE

**This season, follow the Royals
with Thames Trains**

**Saturday 2 November
Nationwide League Division 1
Southend United v Reading
kick-off 3pm**

**Depart Reading 11.38, arrive London Paddington 12.19.
Take Circle Line Underground to London Liverpool Street Station.
Depart Liverpool Street 13.10 arrive Prittlewell 14.12.**

The ground is approximately 10 minutes walk from the station.

**Return from Prittlewell 17.25, arrive Liverpool Street 18.30.
Take Circle Line Underground to Paddington.
Depart Paddington 19.30, arrive Reading 20.26.**

Cheap Day Return from Reading Adult £14.20 Child £7.10

**For full train service information
please call 0345 48 49 50**

On track with the Royals



Thames Trains

MATCH SPONSORS

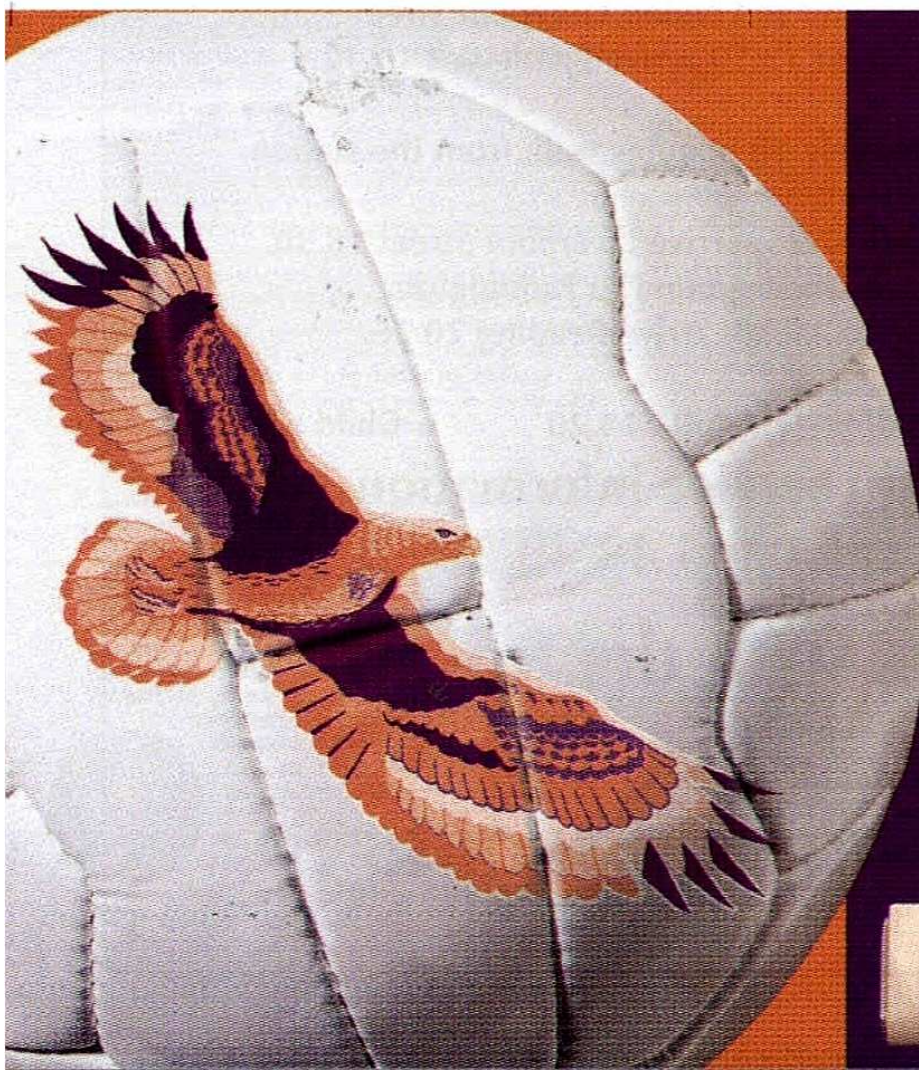
Bringing us their usual first class backing are
today's match sponsors ...



HEWLETT®
PACKARD

Express Support

Our thanks to Hewlett Packard Express Support for their
continuing help and we wish them and their guests an
exciting Elm Park evening.



ON
THE BALL
FOR LOCAL
SPORT,
NEWS, JOBS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
MOTORS
AND PROPERTY.





SKIPPER SPEAKS

Captain BARRY HUNTER writes for The Royal

Well, what a brilliant result against Manchester City and what a superb night it was all round with a fantastic crowd producing the kind of atmosphere I thought the boys had been lying to me about.

It was also great to see the two goals being scored in such terrific style by one of the strikers, and here's hoping that Lee and the other lads can build on that now.

City are very much one of the fancied sides so it was a real feather in our caps to outplay them like we did, although I was sorry to see my great pal Steve Lomas making an early exit.

I certainly don't think he'd got anything personal against Parky, more a case of frustration at the efforts of some of his team mates!

Unfortunately we couldn't hit the same heights at Oldham, where we didn't play well at all really, but if we can find the happy medium then we'll definitely be going places.

winning habit

Once again we had what seemed to be a marginal penalty decision going against us. But they do say that what comes around goes around and maybe we'll start getting the rub of the green soon.

It's great to see so many players, particularly Jeff and Keith McPherson at the back, playing such a major part in the fact that we've now gone four games without defeat.

Funnily enough it's not that long ago since we'd have loved to have been in this position, but now we're annoyed with

ourselves because two games out of the four were only draws. But make no mistake, Oldham are going to fight for their lives all season and there will be times when getting a point from them will seem like a bonus.

If we can master becoming a difficult team to beat then the next step will be to make sure we get the winning habit and keep it. And all the players know that because it's a local derby you'd like nothing better than for us to start doing that today.

Personally I'll be hoping my luck holds against them because, when I was with Wrexham last season, we were one of the only teams to take four points off them.

great incentive

I got the winner in a 4-3 thriller at our place and then later in the season we drew 1-1 in the return.

And, of course, one man all the boys would love to get a result for today is Paul Bodin who's proved such a great signing for Reading since he arrived here with me in the summer.

It's a great incentive for Paul and a chance to show Swindon what they're missing because there's no doubt that in every way he's been our Mr Consistency this season.

He just gets on with his job without any fuss and not only has he not missed a game - he hasn't even missed a training session!

Anyway none of us should need any incentives to do well today, especially you fans. So if we can have another helping of that Manchester City atmosphere please then that'll do nicely.



The Auto Trader Dictionary of Footballing Terms and Expressions

Free Kick: The kick you get when we come to you and photograph your car for free.

Home: (*Yours*) Where we come to photograph your car (or any other vehicle) for your photo ad.

Whistle: You whistle, we come running. (You could sell within 3 days of calling us!)

Away: (any distance) Where your buyer comes from.

Booking: Calling us to place an ad to sell your car. (0345 10 10 20)

Save: What you do with our 'money back' offer.

Score: (£20). A Photo-Ad costs you far less.

Over the moon: How you feel when your Photo ad gets you the legendary Auto Trader response.

Result: You sell your car.

Foul: We'll come out in any weather to get your photo-ad.

Wall: Hard things drivers avoid. Otherwise see Marking, Injury time, Stretched off.

Dummy: Careless Volvo driver. See above.

Offside: The side you get in to drive off in your new motor.

Boot: Something you put things in. Not to be confused.

Tackle: Alright you lot at the back!

Shoot: (*yourself*) for wasting time and/or money advertising anywhere else. Also Penalty Kick, (no) Defence and Sick as a Parrot.

Pass: Pass

Performance: Just one of 17 classifications in Auto Trader every week. Also Sports, Classic, Prestige.

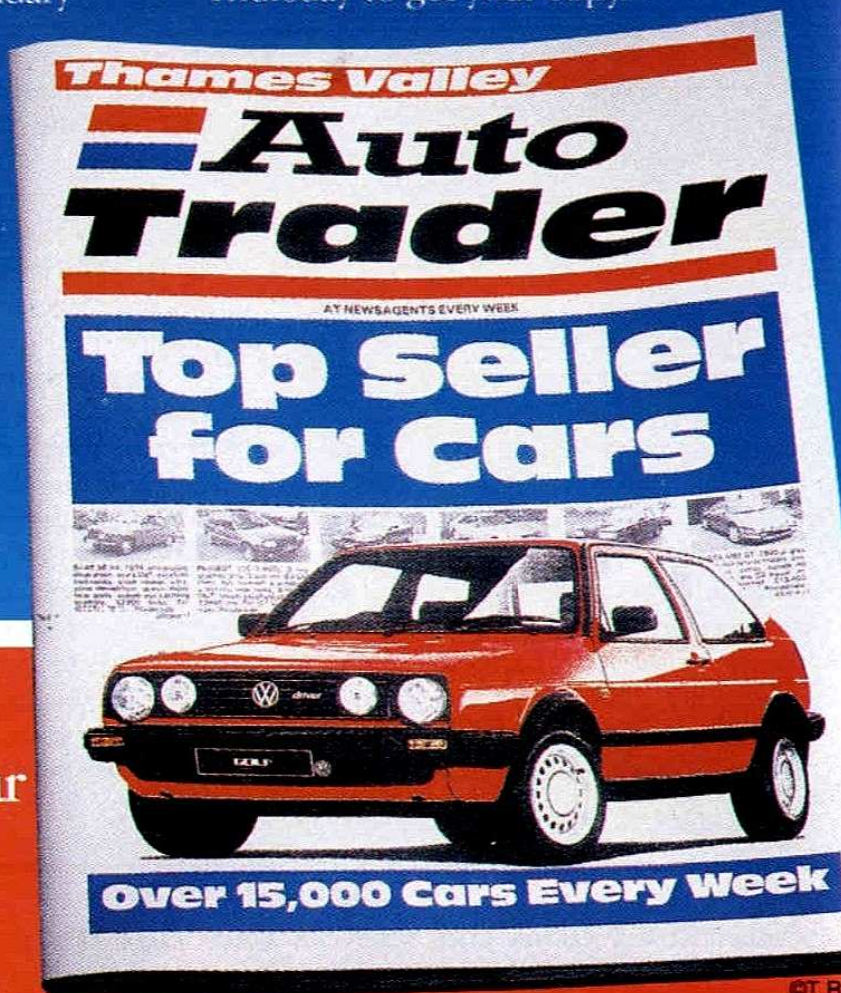
Body Check: Part of the RAC inspection you can get discounts on. See also Box, Head, Wing.

Capacity: (*packed to*): 15,000 vehicles in every issue of Thames Valley Auto Trader.

Substitute: There isn't one. You won't find a choice like this anywhere.

Shoot out: ...to your newsagent every Thursday to get your copy.

Kick-off: Start with Auto Trader for the car you want, or for the car you want to sell.



Thames Valley
Auto Trader
AT NEWSAGENTS EVERY WEEK
Top Seller for Cars
Over 15,000 Cars Every Week

A SHOT FROM THE ARCHIVES

ALAN SEDUNARY introduces the best of enemies

Pretenders like Aldershot and Oxford United may have tried to lay claim to the title but, as far as Reading fans are concerned, the derby game is the one against Swindon Town.

It is certainly the fixture with the longest history because the very first game the two clubs played in any league was back in 1894 - against each other.

At the time we were both members of the newly-formed Southern League, a competition which Reading, along with Millwall, had been instrumental in getting off the ground.

When the Southern League kicked off Reading were still amateurs, unlike Millwall and Swindon, after a recent vote taken by our players and officials almost unanimously rejected professionalism on the grounds that "the sport would be purer and more honest" without it.

We'd already played a couple of pre-season friendlies, coming from behind in the first of them to beat the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the YMCA ground - a game which was delayed while the Reading players got their "togs" out of a locked cupboard.

The second game went much smoother when we beat the Vampires 4-0 - although presumably our opponents' keeper was frightened of crosses! (Yes, on this page even the jokes are ancient.)

On September 22, 1894 Reading made the short journey to The Croft, Swindon's ground, and were led out for this historic fixture by skipper Frank Deane, the man who'd seconded the proposal to retain the club's amateur status.

A crowd of around 3,000 saw Swindon's Andrews almost score early on by "banging the ball at the goal with his head", but it was Reading who were in front at halftime when inside right Moore finished off a long passing movement for our first goal in the new competition.

Swindon's pressure brought them an equaliser through Reynolds soon after the break but Fletcher quickly restored our lead and fellow Worcester Regiment soldier Kelsey made it 3-1 when he headed in a Jimmy Stewart cross.

Andrews reduced the lead with what contemporary reports described as "a pretty goal" before Reynolds equalised again but, with the minutes ticking away in a heavy downpour, Stewart pounced in an almighty goalmouth scramble to hit the Reading winner.

Curiously, for a team which had just won 4-3 away, Reading made six changes for our next game a week later and promptly lost 3-2 at home.

Equally curious is the fact that the excellent *Centenary History of the Southern League* records that on the day we were playing Swindon, we were also losing 9-0 at Millwall. Something wrong there somewhere, but one thing that's right is our first league lineup which read: **Findlay; White, McQuade, Deane, Turner, Knight, George, Moore, Stewart, Kelsey, Fletcher.**

Elsewhere that month author J.B. Priestley and actress Fay Compton were born, while in London cabbie George Smith was fined £1 when he became the first person to be prosecuted for drunken driving, and two gentlemen named Simon

Marks and Thomas Spencer opened their first shop!

Since that first game with Swindon we've met up on a fairly regular basis and our 84 Football League clashes date back to when we joined the original Third Division in 1920.

One of those games, in January 1933, produced our biggest ever win when Jack Palethorpe contributed four goals to a 7-1 scoreline. On the other hand March 29, 1958 was a black day for the Elm Park faithful when Swindon hit four without reply - a game I painfully remember as the only time I've ever left the ground before the final whistle!

The last Royals-Robins meeting was on April 1 last year, and although the programme was littered with highly dubious items (when will work start on the Mark McGhee statue?) the real joke was on the visitors.

Archie Lovell had the last laugh when our 3-0 win came courtesy of his only League hatrick to date and an even rarer pre-planned goal celebration when he cheekily mimicked the airplane routine of Swindon's just departed star Jan-Aage Fjortoft.

AND FINALLY....the last Swindon Town player to score a competitive goal at Elm Park was none other than Jimmy Quinn.

In my view that can be the only reason for the treatment he's been subjected to by some idiots recently, but he can shut all his critics up this afternoon by getting a goal for us. That would make him only the second man - Pat Terry was the other - to have scored for both sides in post-war derby games.



ROYAL IN THE FRAME

TOMMY'S RIGHT ON

TARGET FOR A

RETURN TO THE

GOOD TIMES

One of football's most well-worn cliches is the one about taking each game as it comes but when you hear it from keeper Tommy Wright you know he doesn't use the phrase lightly.

Because not only has the Northern Ireland international fought back from a career-threatening knee injury, but he and wife Anne have also had to deal with the personal tragedy of the death of five year old son Andrew.

Andrew, the Wrights' only child, suffered from cerebral palsy and he died just after Tommy underwent the first of three operations on his right knee - within a year of what should have been a dream £450,000 move from Newcastle United to Nottingham Forest.

And Tommy admits: "You don't really ever get over it because he left such a big gap in our lives. It certainly puts into context all the other things, including my injury, which people like to describe as tragedies."

Born in Belfast 33 years ago, Tommy began his career with Linfield and was already in his early twenties by the time he joined the Magpies during the 1987-88 season.

His League debut came in the old First Division at Aston Villa in the January of the following campaign when he lined up in a Newcastle side which contained such diverse characters as Brazilian striker Mirandinha, Danish international Frank Pingel and future Reading players Ray Ranson and Lee Payne.

In all he made 73 League appearances for the St James' Park side, with another six on loan at Hull City added to his CV, before moving to Forest in September 1993. He'd already played three times for United in that season's Premiership but saw the writing on the wall when Mike Hooper arrived from Anfield.

Says Tommy: "Kevin Keegan said it was up to me but they'd had a good offer from Forest and I decided it would be a good move for me."

He took over from Mark Crossley in a Forest side adjusting to the shock of relegation, but his part in their return to the Premiership at the first attempt was limited to just 10 games before he injured his knee in training.

Tommy says: "It put me out for two seasons. The first operation was a cartilage and the second was to remove a piece of bone. I then tried to get back too quickly, I broke down again and had the third operation last Christmas when I was told just to aim for the start of this season.

"I'd had three reserve games before I got the call to say Reading wanted me to come here on loan. I appreciate that by bringing me down Jim and Micky were taking a bit of a chance on me, but I hope that we've done each other a good turn.

"I only knew about the move the morning before and that didn't leave my any time to worry about Wolves. But I think the fact that I've been through so much meant that I knew I just had to get out there and enjoy it, and playing in front of 23,000 at Molineux is what it's all about.

"I was very surprised by the position Reading were in when I arrived because there are a lot of good players here - as we showed against Manchester City - and I'm sure they can do well this season.

"Personally I'm just happy to take each game as it comes and, whatever happens at the end of my loan period then I'll certainly be grateful to Reading for giving me the chance to show what I can do."

There's no doubt that the gratitude is mutual because the Royals are unbeaten in the four games since his arrival - a run which started with that magnificent win at Molineux.

And, another thing Tommy's sure he can do is win back his place in the Northern Ireland side - alongside Royals skipper Barry Hunter - even though the current number one keeper is Forest club mate Alan Fittis.

Since making his international debut against Malta in 1989 Tommy's won 22 full caps for his country but the last of those was more than two years ago and he says: "It's another target you set yourself when you're recovering from injury.

"Alan's in the side at the moment but he's only playing in Forest's reserves and there isn't much cover, so it would be another small achievement to get into the squad for the game against Germany next month."





Picture: Stu Forster, A.S. SPORT



IN THE FRAME WITH

tommy
WRIGHT

GARY PURSER'S NEWS - AND SOME PERSONAL VIEWS - from the SUPPORTERS' CLUB

You may remember that earlier in the season I accused some clubs of inciting away supporters by playing a fanfare of some description over the tannoy when the home team scores.

Oldham Athletic were one of the examples I gave, and I'm sad to say that they are still guilty of this tacky American trend (Wolves do it as well although not for a while).

But at Oldham last week not only did we have to endure this rubbish, we also ran into our oldest of enemies - the brass band!

Before the game and at half time we had to sit and listen to these five old codgers - wearing ill-fitting Oldham replica shirts which had obviously been supplied by the club because they'd all been badly washed so that the dye had run into the white numbers - while they pumped out 'traditional football fan tunes' like "here we go".

It was awful. I've said it before and I'll say it again, I sincerely hope that this is not the sort of thing we have to look forward to at the new ground.

The British clubs were back in Europe last week and the English ones seem to have done well. Newcastle will still be pleased with their two away goals, having returned to St James' Park with a 2-3 defeat at the hands of Ferencvaros in Hungary, although the game was really there for them to win.

Once again sloppy defending at vital times cost them dear, not to mention the fact that Kevin Keegan should pick his other goalkeeper.

In the Cup Winners' Cup Liverpool will be more than happy with their 2-1 win against Sion in Switzerland as, barring a complete disaster, it effectively means they are through to the next round with the Anfield leg still to come.

The Champions' League saw Manchester United grab a good 2-0 win in Istanbul (not Constantinople) against Fenerbache. From my vantage point (armchair, front room) the highlight was the way the Turkish p.a. announcer went that step further even than Oldham, by shouting and playing music full blast while play was in progress to get the crowd going. Actually I was a bit disappointed when the UEFA official made him turn it off.

The week's main controversy came from the other British club in the Champions League, Rangers. Losing 2-0 in Amsterdam against 1995 champions Ajax (no controversy there) Paul Gascoigne kicks out at a Dutchman and receives another European red card and, along with the alleged domestic dispute with his wife, that's brought all the knives out again from the English press.

"This man should not play for England again", they cry, just as they did before Euro 96, after the Far East tour. It was amazing how a couple of blinding performances and a stunning goal against Scotland made them all change their tune and remember how vital Gazza is to England's success.

I agree that his on-the-field disciplinary

problems could be a worry, but he takes great pride in pulling on an England shirt (as well he should) and has never been sent off while representing his country. I don't think off-the-field allegations should come into it.

If incidents taking place away from the game are allowed to influence events on the pitch then the game as a whole will suffer even more. For example Tony Adams wouldn't have been allowed to be such a key figure in Euro 96 because he'd have been banned for being jailed in the past for drink driving.

Whether Gascoigne plays for England again or not should be decided by his form on the pitch and by Glenn Hoddle - and by nothing and nobody else!

AWAY WE GO!

Our next away game takes us to Bolton Wanderers on Tuesday night. For this game we have a mere 2,900 terrace places at £11 for adults and £8 concessions with 200 seats at £15 with £9 concessions - so be sure to get there early! Disabled entry is free, with helpers paying terrace prices, and you can apply for these through RFC.

The coaches will be leaving at 1.45 p.m. with a £14 fare and you can book your seat by seeing Denny Fullbrook in the Rendezvous today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a football quiz at the Rendezvous on Wednesday, October 30. It costs just £4 to enter a team of four and the big event starts at 8 p.m. And we swing into next month with a pop quiz at the same venue on Friday, November 8, kicking off at 8.30 p.m.

We also have two local bands making appearances upstairs at the Rendezvous in the next few weeks. On November 15 'Take It Or Leave It' will be here and on November 23 'Catscratch' will be performing. Entry's free for members but £2 for visitors.

NEW GEAR

The club shop has recently put a new batch of leisurewear - bearing the Elm Park centenary badge - on sale. Among other items are sweatshirts, rugby shirts, rain jackets (only £35) and a range of enamel badges.

It's worth checking out - remember there are a mere 61 days to go to Christmas!

DOORMAN WANTED

The Royals Rendezvous is on the lookout for a new doorman, and more bar staff. If you are interested and would like more information please contact Mike or Grace Kearney on 0118 959 6958.

SUPPORTERS Standpoint



TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF.



How long will it take for you to appreciate fully how much the new BMW 728i has to offer?

In terms of aesthetics, the briefest inspection of its elegantly understated lines will tell you all you need to know.

And, once inside, you won't need long to recognise that every creature comfort you could possibly wish for is provided.

An impressive array of standard equipment includes air conditioning, leather seats with electronic memory,

multi-function steering wheel and cruise control.

But, of course, what sets any BMW apart from its competitors is the driving experience - and that simply can't be rushed.

Which is why we're now inviting you to take an extended test drive* in the new 728i - which can be yours for £36,460, or for just over £600 per month with BMW Contract Hire†.

To find out more, call us today. Or why not visit our showroom, soon?

Cooper Reading

The BMW Centre, Kings Meadow Road, Reading,
Berkshire RG1 8BN, 0118 950 0100



THE NEW BMW 728i

*SUBJECT TO APPLICANT STATUS AND AVAILABILITY. MODEL SHOWN IS BMW 728i AT £36,460. PRICE INCLUDES VAT, 3 YEAR BMW DEALER WARRANTY, BMW EMERGENCY SERVICE, DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD FUND LICENCE. †BMW CONTRACT HIRE AVAILABLE TO BUSINESS USERS ONLY. QUOTE BASED ON A 24 MONTH AGREEMENT, 6 RENTALS IN ADVANCE, SPREAD RENTAL PATTERN, 12,000 MILES PER ANNUM AND GOOD CONDITION. FURTHER CHARGES WILL BE INCURRED IF THE ANNUAL MILEAGE IS EXCEEDED. FIGURES EXCLUDE VAT AND ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

READING F.C. KICK OFF THE NEW SEASON WITH ITS LATEST SIGNING.

Reading Football Club will be looking better than ever.
Thanks to their exclusive new Mizuno strip.
Available now from The Club Shops.



RESERVES AND YOUTH

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Barnet 0 Reading 1

The Royals mastered the sloping Mill Hill pitch to swap places with Barnet at the bottom of the table thanks to a brave header from Max Rooke. Reading dominated the first 20 minutes before taking their foot off the pedal, but despite that their first shot on goal didn't arrive until just before the break.

The game's only goal came midway through the second half when a left wing cross from Neville Roach ran along the crossbar and Rooke dived between two defenders to head home - his first South East Counties goal of the season. Reading: Martyn Hutt; Andy Forbes, Jason Bristow, Neil Holloway; Richard Curtis, Max Rooke, Greg Fenner, Luke Dowling; Ross Harrison; Steve Green, Neville Roach. Subs not used: Jordan Norris, Danny Dowling, Nathan Woodley.

OPTIMUM INTERIORS CAPITAL LEAGUE

Wycombe Wanderers 2 Reading 1 Jimmy Quinn's opening goal wasn't enough to save a makeshift Royals side after Wycombe refused to play the good neighbour by agreeing to a postponement. With a lengthy injury list, and the visit to Adams Park coming just 24 hours after the Manchester City game, it was all hands to the pump with 15 year old schoolboy Jamie Ashdown making his debut in goal.

Reading still went ahead when a corner fell nicely for Quinn, playing in a sweeper's role at the back, but the home side levelled before the break.

Both Quinn and emergency striker Guy Sanders hit the woodwork later on but a near full strength Wycombe side bounced back to snatch the winner.

Coach Richard Hill, forced into action as a second half sub himself, said: "We may have been understrength, with a few people playing out of position, but we didn't pass the ball with enough care. With a little more attention and discipline we'd have beaten them." Reading: Jamie Ashdown; Steve Swales, Andy Forbes, Michael Thorp, Jimmy Quinn, Luke Dowling; Michael Meaker (sub Andy Robertson), Andy Freeman (sub Richard Hill), Alan Carey (sub Neville Roach); Guy Sanders, Martin Williams.



Max Rooke



Jimmy Quinn

ALLIED COUNTIES LEAGUE

Bracknell Town 2 Reading 3

The all-conquering Reading youngsters were given a real fright before making it eight wins out of eight to strengthen their hold on the leadership.



Ross Harrison

The Royals were ahead early on when Steve Green burst powerfully down the right and squared the ball perfectly for Ross Harrison to drive the ball low into the corner.

But the Bracknell boys were level before the break when a long ball forced a mistake and a left wing freekick was knocked in early in the second half to put the home side 2-1 in front.

Team boss Bobby Williams immediately introduced defender Jason Bristow and midfield man Greg Fenner to the fray in a bid to hang on to that 100 per cent record.

Reading duly drew level when a freekick just outside the box was drilled to the far post by Richard Curtis and Green rose to thump the ball high into the net. And with 10 minutes to go Curtis himself glided through from midfield to tuck the ball beneath the keeper for the winner.

Reading: Martyn Hutt; Jordan Norris, Andy Higgs (sub Luke Bristow), Nathan Woodley, Matt Bicknell; Danny Dowling (sub Greg Fenner), Richard Curtis, Max Rooke, Steve May; Steve Green, Ross Harrison. Subs not used: Neil Holloway, Gareth Evans.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP

Southampton 1 Reading 0 (after extra time)

A goal midway through the first period of extra time settled the Royals' second round visit to Southampton - on the same pitch where they'd been hammered 6-1 in the season's opening league game.

Said team boss Bobby Williams: "It was no consolation but we made them look very ordinary and certainly didn't deserve to lose. Our boys were unlucky but at least we showed how much we've improved since that 6-1 beating they gave us at the start of the season."

With skipper Andy Forbes and fellow defender Neil Holloway again winning all the praise, Steve Green was twice put through in normal time only to be foiled by a couple of excellent saves. But the winner just about summed up the lads' morning because Martyn Hutt, who's already made a couple of fine saves, managed to get his fingers to a fiercely hit freekick from outside the

area - only to see the ball hit the upright and ricochet over the line. Reading: Martyn Hutt; Andy Forbes, Jason Bristow, Neil Holloway; Steve May, Greg Fenner, Max Rooke, Luke Dowling; Ross Harrison (sub Richard Curtis); Neville Roach, Steve Green. Subs not used: Nathan Woodley, Jordan Norris.

OPTIMUM INTERIORS CAPITAL LEAGUE

Reading 5 Cambridge United 2

The Royals hit five for the second home game in a row after finding themselves trailing just after the break. They took the lead early on when Andy Freeman rifled home a superb volley from a yard inside the box, but United levelled and went ahead a minute into the second half when stand-in keeper Dave Smalley superbly blocked a speedy breakaway - only to be beaten by the follow-up shot.



Darren Caskey

The Royals were level within a minute when Darren Caskey's left wing cross to the far post was nodded back by Martin Williams and Steve Swales darted in to guide a

header wide of the keeper. And they were back in front almost immediately when Swales and Jimmy Quinn worked a fine move down the left, Williams shielded the ball and Caskey nipped in to send a delightful little chip over the sprawling keeper. The Royals then lost limping keeper Smalley, injured trying to stop that second Cambridge goal, to be replaced by coach Richard Hill who made the job look easy with a couple of athletic stops.

Michael Meaker then sent Williams down the right and his cross was accurately headed home at the back post by Quinn, and it was 5-2 via the same route when Meaker knocked over a high ball from the by-line. Reading: Dave Smalley (sub Richard Hill); Andy Freeman (sub Alan Carey), Steve Swales, Phil Parkinson, Michael Thorp, Guy Sanders, Michael Meaker, Darren Caskey, Jimmy Quinn, Byron Glasgow (sub Andy Robertson), Martin Williams.



Steve Swales



**NOBODY KNOWS
READING FC
LIKE**



Clive Baskerville

READ HIM EVERY DAY

Only in your

Reading Evening

POST



FOLLOW
"The Hound"

GOSS

*Celebrating a strong relationship
with Reading Football Club,
involving support, sponsorship and
insurance expertise since the 1920's.*

For all insurance and travel telephone 01734 584146

RESERVE TEAM STATS

CAPITAL LEAGUE 1996-97

Aug	21	Cambridge United	0-0
Aug	26	Southend United	1-1
Sep	4	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	1-3
Sep	23	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	3-1
Oct	7	WOKING	5-0
Oct	16	Wycombe Wanderers	1-2
Oct	21	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	5-2
Oct	30	SUTTON UNITED [H]	
Nov	6	Wycombe Wanderers (PC) [A]	
Nov	11	BRENTFORD [H]	
Nov	18	STEVENAGE BOROUGH [H]	
Nov	27	Fulham [A]	
Dec	2	COLCHESTER UNITED [H]	
Dec	11	Rushden & Diamonds [A]	
Dec	16	CRAWLEY TOWN [H]	
Jan	6	NORTHAMPTON TOWN [H]	
Jan	29	Leyton Orient [A]	
Feb	17	GILLINGHAM [H]	
Mar	5	Barnet [A]	
Mar	10	Northampton Town [A]	
Mar	19	Brentford [A]	
Mar	26	Woking [A]	
Apr	7	FULHAM [H]	
Apr	21	WELLING UNITED [H]	
Apr	23	Peterborough United [A]	

To be arranged: Stevenage Borough [A]
PC: Presidents Cup B&B: Berks & Bucks Cup

OPTIMUM INTERIORS CAPITAL LEAGUE

UP TO AND INCLUDING 22.10.96

Peterborough United	8	8	0	0	24	5	24
Brentford	7	5	2	0	18	3	17
Gillingham	9	5	2	2	15	11	17
Fulham	9	5	0	4	21	11	15
Southend United	10	4	3	3	19	14	15
Colchester United	8	4	1	3	11	10	13
READING	7	3	2	2	16	9	11
Rushden & Diamonds	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
Wycombe Wanderers	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Stevenage Borough	8	3	1	4	8	18	10
Northampton Town	5	3	0	2	11	7	9
Cambridge United	6	2	1	3	8	16	7
Barnet	5	2	0	3	3	10	6
Woking	7	2	0	5	7	22	6
Leyton Orient	7	1	1	5	10	13	4
Crawley Town	7	1	1	5	7	11	4
Sutton United	7	1	1	5	7	15	4
Welling United	8	1	1	6	5	20	4

RESERVE APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS 1996-97

	L	Cup	B&B	Goals
Janis Ashdown	1	0	0	0
David Bass	0 (1)	0	0	0
Sal Bibb	4	0	0	0
Andy Bernal	1	0	0	0
Marvin Bosty	1	0	0	0
Alan Carey	1 (2)	0	0	0
Darren Gasky	3	0	0	1
Luke Dowling	1	0	0	0
Andy Forbes	1	0	0	0
Andy Freeman	2 (3)	0	0	1
Jimmy Gorrley	0 (1)	0	0	0
Michael Giller	4	0	0	0
Byron Glasgow	1	0	0	0
Mark Gooding	0 (1)	0	0	0
Eric Gravelkin	1	0	0	0
Ross Harrison	0 (1)	0	0	0
Jeff Hopkins	3	0	0	0
Paul Holmgren	2	0	0	0
Richard Hill	0 (2)	0	0	0
James Lambert	1 (2)	0	0	0
Stuart Lovell	4	0	0	4
Clive Lytle	1	0	0	0
Keith McPherson	2	0	0	0
Michael Meaker	5	0	0	0
Trevor Moxley	2	0	0	0
Lee Nogan	1	0	0	1
Phil Packison	1	0	0	3
Jimmy Quinn	4	0	0	4
Andy Robertson	1 (2)	0	0	0
Neville Roach	0 (1)	0	0	0
Guy Sanders	4 (1)	0	0	0
Derek Simpson	4	0	0	0
Dave Smalley	1	0	0	1
Steve Swales	6	0	0	1
Michael Thorp	5	0	0	0
Dariusz Wdowczyk	1	0	0	0
Martin Williams	4	0	0	1

YOUTH TEAM STATS



SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1996-97

(Kickoff 11 a.m. unless stated)			
Aug	17	Southampton	1-6
Aug	24	Luton Town	0-7
Aug	31	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	1-1
Sep	7	Oxford United	4-6
Sep	14	BRISTOL CITY (LC1)	4-0
Sep	16	FULHAM (SJC1)	2-3
Sep	21	SWINDON TOWN	2-3
Sep	28	Wimbledon	2-1
Oct	5	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	0-1
Oct	12	Barnet	1-0
Oct	19	Southampton (LC2)	0-1
Oct	21	Bristol City (SJC2) (7.30) [AET]	
Oct	26	AFC BOURNEMOUTH [A]	
Nov	2	Brighton & Hove Albion [A]	
Nov	9	BRENTFORD [H]	
Nov	16	Bristol City [A]	
Nov	30	BRISTOL ROVERS [H]	
Dec	7	Crystal Palace [A]	
Dec	14	Colchester United [A]	
Dec	21	SOUTHAMPTON [H]	
Jan	4	COLCHESTER UNITED [H]	
Jan	11	Tottenham Hotspur [A]	
Jan	18	OXFORD UNITED [H]	
Jan	25	Swindon Town [A]	
Feb	1	LUTON TOWN [H]	
Feb	8	WIMBLEDON [H]	
Feb	15	Wycombe Wanderers [A]	
Feb	22	BARNET [H]	
Mar	1	AFC Bournemouth [A]	
Mar	8	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION [H]	
Mar	15	BRISTOL CITY [H]	
Mar	22	Brentford [A]	
Apr	5	Bristol Rovers [A]	
Apr	12	CRYSTAL PALACE [H]	

SJC: Southern Junior Floodlit Cup
LC: League Cup - FAJC: FA Youth Cup

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

UP TO AND INCLUDING 19.10.96

Crystal Palace	8	5	3	0	17	5	13
Swindon Town	9	4	3	2	21	12	11
Brighton & Hove A.	9	5	1	3	13	13	11
Luton Town	8	4	2	2	19	8	10
Southampton	8	5	0	3	13	7	10
Oxford United	8	4	2	2	16	11	10
Tottenham Hotspur	9	4	2	3	11	6	10
AFC Bournemouth	8	4	2	2	14	13	10
Wycombe Wanderers	9	4	2	3	13	12	10
Colchester United	8	3	2	3	13	13	8
Bristol City	8	1	4	3	8	10	6
Brentford	9	2	2	5	11	15	6
Bristol Rovers	8	3	0	5	13	22	6
Wimbledon	8	2	1	5	9	13	5
READING	8	2	1	5	11	25	5
Barnet	9	1	1	7	7	24	3

YOUTH TEAM APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	SECL	Cups	ACL	Goals
Matt Bicknell	2	0 (1)	6 (2)	0
Jason Bristow	8	3	3 (3)	1
Richard Curtis	3 (3)	0 (1)	5	4
Danny Dowling	0 (3)	0	8	3
Luke Dowling	6	3	1 (4)	5
Gareth Evans	0	0	6	1
Greg Fenner	8	3	6 (1)	3
Andy Forbes	7	3	0 (1)	0
Byron Glasgow	1	0	0	0
Steve Green	4 (1)	3	6	7
Ross Harrison	7	3	7	6
Andy Higgs	0	0	5 (1)	0
Neil Holloway	6 (2)	3	3	0
Martyn Hunt	2	1	7	0
Clive Lytle	6	2	1	0
Steve May	5	3	3 (1)	2
Jordan Norris	1 (2)	0	7	0
Neville Roach	8	3	2 (5)	16
Max Rooke	7 (1)	3	5 (1)	2
Nathan Woodley	2 (1)	0	6	0

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
IN AND
AROUND
YOUR CLUB

insider's ELM PARK

The last time we beat Manchester City was on September 18, 1926 but a sparkling Royals display - crowned by Lee Nogan's double strike - meant that the 70 year wait was well worth it.

Several members of the City side had each cost past or present clubs more than the whole Royals side put together, but famous names like Clough and Kinkladze were rendered virtually anonymous.

In the current refereeing climate Darren Wassall was possibly fortunate to escape with a yellow card for the lunge which stopped Lee in his tracks on the edge of the box after 20 minutes but the Welsh international certainly made him pay for that indiscretion.

On the half hour he linked superbly with Andy Bernal on the right and a delightful backheel sent Trevor Morley in for a shot which was parried by Andy Dibble.

But five minutes later livewire James Lambert caught Paul Dickov dithering on halfway and, dancing imperiously away from three challenges, he delivered a sliderule pass into Lee's path and the left foot shot left Officer Dibble totally bemused.

Tommy Wright had to look sharp on 49 minutes when Dickov cut in from the left and attempted to underline his worth with a fierce drive. But by the next time the on-loan keeper was called into action - beating away a 71st minute freekick from fellow Irishman Steve Lomas - the game was already wrapped up. The clincher arrived on 67 minutes when sub Phil Parkinson broke up an attack and found the

lurking Michael Gilkes, revelling in an unusually central midfield role, who looked up to see a gaping chasm opening up all the way to the City area.

Gilkesy took to his heels with the City midfield in pursuit, he left Eddie McGoldrick on his backside on the edge of the box, waited long enough for Dibble to commit himself and calmly squared the ball for Lee to slide home his second of the night. Lomas livened up the closing stages by collecting a red card from referee Mick Pierce for an ugly jump at Parky, and City boss Steve Coppell had to admit that his new team were second best in every department.

It was a case of after the Lord Mayor's Show when the Royals switched from Elm Park's best gate of the season to a half full Boundary Park where basement club Oldham Athletic didn't exactly prove an inspiration.

Still keeper Tommy Wright got the chance to prove to watching Northern Ireland boss Bryan Hamilton that, if he's needed for the visit to face Germany next month, then he's right at the top of his form.

Tom produced fine saves from Shaun Garnett, Toddy Orlgsson and Nicky Banger - the latter having promised all sorts of goalscoring mayhem in the morning papers - and the only time he was beaten was from the penalty spot.

That came on 65 minutes when 18 year old Andy Hughes plunged theatrically to the ground in the box - Paul Bodin would have needed a small guided missile to have hit him that hard - and Orlgsson scored his first goal for the Latics.

But 10 minutes later sub Jimmy Quinn didn't need to be theatrical when young Hughes' horribly mistimed tackle whipped his legs away, and the Royals joint boss climbed to his feet to send Alan Kelly the wrong way.

We can definitely confirm that mine hosts Mike and Grace Kearney are looking for a new doorman at the Royals Rendezvous. But it seems a visit to the doctor to have the old ears syringed is on the cards for the member of the Reading Chronicle staff who recommended that potential recruits contact some fellow called Michael Grace-Vearney!!!

Martin 'The Kid' Williams caught the eye of the sages in the Vice-Presidents' Lounge with some superb September displays to win their latest player-of-the-month award.

The now traditional cut glass decanter was the prize and Martin



showed he's got a safe pair of hands as well when Ken Darvall made the presentation after the Grimsby Town game.

Best wishes to reserve team midfielder man David Bass who, having honed his match fitness on loan at ICIS League Basingstoke Town, has joined Third Division Colchester United for a month. Meanwhile another one-time Elm Park starlet Neil Webb has signed for Basingstoke's First Division rivals Aldershot Town until the end of the season.

Old Reading number nines never die they simply end up extolling each other's virtues - witness Doncaster Rovers boss Kerry



GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP, 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

Dixon when his side became the latest victims of Third Division leaders Fulham a couple of weeks back.

The former Reading, Chelsea and England marksman ought to be a fairly useful judge of a good goalscorer and, after another Elm Park old boy had done the business for Fulham, Kerry noted: "Mike Conroy's the best striker we've come across this year."

Talking of Fulham we've been asked to draw the attention of anyone interested in preserving the game's heritage to the current situation at Craven Cottage.

The Londoners have secured their future at the 100 year old riverside ground and have at last obtained planning permission for a redevelopment scheme involving flats and new stadium facilities. But it's conditional on the club restoring the Stevenage Road stand and the famous old Cottage itself - both listed buildings.

Unfortunately that work alone is going to cost £1 million and a message from the Fulham 2000 appeal fund reads: "We are appealing to supporters of all clubs to help us restore this important part of football's heritage to its former glory and all donations, however small, would be greatly appreciated."

If you'd like to help it won't cost you a stamp, simply write to: Fulham 2000, Freeport, London W14 0BR.

Former Reading boss Ian Porterfield parted company with Bolton Wanderers in the summer but certainly hasn't plumped for the easy life because he's just taken over as manager of Zimbabwe - alongside player-coach Bruce Grobbelaar.

Ian's already managed one country whose name's on the last page of the FIFA address book, having rebuilt the Zambian side after a plane crash wiped out their first team.

But he's got barely two weeks to prepare Zimbabwe, who haven't even qualified for the closing stages of the African Nations Cup for 16 years, for a World Cup qualifier in Angola.

If you happen to spot blushing bride Gia Larratt in full wedding regalia at Elm Park this afternoon don't even bother looking for Jeremy Beadle.

Gia and 33 year old fiance Tony Screen had originally planned to get married today - until they discovered that the fixture computer had paired us with old rivals Swindon Town and they knew they simply couldn't miss the local derby. So they brought their wedding forward 24 hours, postponing the start of their

honeymoon until Monday, and 21 year old Gia says: "Because the Saturday was the original date one of our friends suggested we come to football in our wedding outfits."

"Unfortunately I thought it might be a bit cold standing at the Tilehurst End in a wedding dress so we had a word with Kevin Girdler and hired an executive box for some of our guests."

Incidentally Gia and Tony, who hail from Whitley Wood, are such fervent Loyal Royals that they've even named one year old daughter Lily's hamsters Micky and Jimmy after you-know-who!

Anyway best wishes to the happy couple from all players and staff at Elm Park and we're all confident that this is one Royal marriage which will run and run!

What is it with us and goalkeeping injuries? In varying states of disrepair Bobby Mihaylov, Nicky Hammond, Sal Bibbo and youth team keeper Clive Lyttle have all been admiring Tommy Wright's handiwork lately.

And when Hampshire-based triallist Dave Smalley, who'd previously had a run out in a pre-season friendly at Fareham Town, was called up to keep goal for the reserves against Cambridge United on Monday afternoon - he lasted barely an hour before the jinx struck and he limped off with a foot injury!

Royals chairman John Madejski was able to take a peek into the past when Roger Titford presented him with a limited edition print featuring a fascinating impression of how 100 year old Elm Park looked in its early days.

Only 100 copies have been produced of this line drawing, re-created from old photographs and documentary evidence Roger uncovered for the book he's writing on the history of the ground. They can be ordered through the club shops at £25 framed and mounted, £19.50 framed and £7.50 unframed.



The sympathies of everyone at the club go to the family and friends of Basingstoke-based supporter Wesley Hutt, a Reading supporter for 50 years, who died last week at the age of 65 after a long illness.

Happy birthday to first year YTS defender Nathan Woodley, 17 on Monday, youth team keeper Clive Lyttle, who'll be 18 on November 5, and reserve midfielder man Andy Robertson, 19 on November 7.



**What if
a house went up for sale
that was only 50 yards
from the ground ?**




Nationwide Mortgages :

You know the last house in the street you pass every Saturday just before the entrance to the ground? Well it could go on the market at any time. Imagine living in that house. You could leave for the match at five to three and still have time to get a burger before kick off, wake up every morning to see the glorious sight of deserted turnstiles, the same birds that eat worms from the pitch would also eat from your bird table. It's nice to know that should it become available you could get a mortgage quote and a decision, in principle, within an hour. To find out more about Nationwide mortgages or any other financial matter just give us a call. All the best for the season!

Call free on: **0800 30 20 10** quoting ref: FB08

or visit our football site on
<http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

 **In tune with people**

 **Nationwide**
THE BUILDING SOCIETY.

Mortgages are subject to status, valuation and security. Available to those aged 18 or over only. Written quotations available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN38 1NW. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Life Limited and Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited represent only the Nationwide Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by IMRO. Nationwide Telephone Advisors are introducers for the Nationwide Marketing Group. Please note that for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements your call will be recorded. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE
OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

ROYALS IN THE



With Football & Community Development Officer
CHRIS WHALLEY

COMMUNITY

The Half Term holiday is here but don't despair mums because there's still time to book the kids on our Hot Shots week of activities which cater for boys and girls aged five to 14.

The courses will be happening at the Kensington Road recreation ground, Coley Park, Shinfield Primary School, Woodford Park at Woodley, Victoria Park in Tilehurst and the Theale Green Recreation Centre.

Everyone who takes part is invited to play in a grand six-a-side tournament involving teams from all the different centres at Kensington Road next Friday, November 1. To book your place contact the office and get out your shooting boots.

JUNIOR WELCOME

A big welcome today to the youngsters from the Junior Robins who were scheduled to take part in a couple of friendly footballing encounters at under 10 and under 12 levels with our own Junior Royals at Prospect Park this morning.

The football was followed with refreshments and a ground tour for our guests.

Our next Junior Royals game is planned for November 23 against Queens Park Rangers. So if you'd like to represent our junior supporters' team - and it's open to both boys and girls - please contact us at the Community Office.

MATCH DAY CLUB

What better way to celebrate a birthday than to spend a day with some pals at your favourite football club, taking part in a variety of exciting activities and then watching a cracking match.

That's clearly what today's two Match Day Club guests thought so a warm welcome to Jamie Underwood, a pupil at St Edward's School, who was 11 on October 16 and is here this afternoon with his friends. Slightly more belated birthday wishes to Philip Edmonds, whose big day was last month, but hopefully it's been worth the wait!

KIDS' FUN AT KIDMORE

As you can see from the picture there was plenty to laugh about when, as part of our Schools Community



Scheme, we called in at Kidmore End Primary recently.

We offer coaching and games for the children and we can guarantee a good time is had by all. A big thanks once again to the Reading Evening Post for their ongoing support and financial backing for our excellent schools programme.

GOING AWAY

Our next Junior Royals charabanc takes us to Southend United on Saturday, November 2. Like all our excursions it's open to all Junior Royals and their families and friends - it's excellent value and a great way to support the team.

If you'd like to come along then contact the office or Chris Best (evenings only) on Reading 624819.

TOP TREATMENT

There are still a couple of places left on our F.A. Basic Treatment of Injury course, starting on Tuesday, November 4 at 6.30 p.m. here at Elm Park.

Royals physio Paul Turner is the course instructor and he will be dealing with the treatment, prevention and management of injuries over the six weeks. It costs just £25 and to enrol all you've got to do is contact the Community Office.

Incidentally we will also be organising further F.A. Emergency Aid Courses at a later date. Watch this space!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Many happy returns to Junior Royals Simon Gregg (10) and Shaun Woodbridge (11) who had birthdays earlier in the week, and to James Brind who is 11 today.

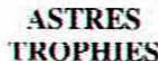
QUICK QUIZ

Question: Name FOUR sports which use nets but no ball. Answers to the office where a suitable prize awaits.

HOW TO REACH US

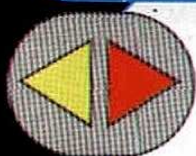
You can contact us by calling the Community Office on 0118 956 0898, or on our mobile 0468 295381. And of course you can keep up to date with all our activities by reading this page or our column in the Weekend Evening Post.

Supported by:



ROYAL

vs GRIMSBY TOWN



Replay

READING 1 GRIMSBY TOWN 1

Right: James Lambert's brave face
deters Tony Gallimore ...

Below: ... but Mick Gooding wasn't so
lucky.

*Pictures: Geoff Pugh,
Reading Evening Post*



GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP, 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

Right: Michael Gilkes
curses Jason Pearcey's
fingertip control.

Below: Trevor Morley
feels a bit of a
dunce ...

... but his spotkick
technique puts him
top of the class.

*Pictures: Geoff Pugh,
Reading Evening Post*



NEW away strip on sale NOW

SHIRTS

- available in sizes from 22/24" chest to 50/52" chest.

Prices from £26.99 to £36.99

SHORTS

- 18/20" to 38/40" waist.

Prices from £12.99 to £15.99

SOCKS

- £6.99 to £8.99

NOW AVAILABLE from
THE CLUB SHOP, Norfolk Road
or telephone your order on
0118-950 7878 Fax: 0118-956 6628



**01734
596958**

*Royals
Rendezvous*

**01734
596958**

Open Mon-Fri
11 - 3pm • 7 - 11pm

Bar Lunches Available
11.30 - 3pm

* £5.00 ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP*

Relaxing friendly environment to be enjoyed

Offering full conference facilities

Your ideal meeting place (non-members welcome)

Attractive surroundings – recently refurbished

Lasting memories

Superb catering – to suit every occasion

FULLY AIR
CONDITIONED

5 MINS FROM READING
TOWN CENTRE

CONFERENCES, FUNCTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, DINNER DANCES, PRODUCT LAUNCHES, WEDDINGS ... OR ANY SPECIAL EVENT

TREATMENT WITH

Turner

PHYSIO PAUL TURNER WRITES

Nicky Hammond's back operation went to plan and his recovery was going so well that he was allowed to leave hospital and go home earlier than expected.



Nicky Hammond

He's still at home now, taking it easy, and when he's ready to begin his rehab he will be

spending quite a bit of time up at Lilleshall.

The facilities there are second to none and he can receive the essential personal attention which, with the best will in the world, it would be impossible to give him here.

Overall our pre-season programme seems to have done the trick, with fewer strains and muscle problems, and with very few injuries the situation was better than it has been for a long time.

But just in case we thought we'd cracked it we suddenly got four training injuries, a couple more players were injured in a match and we found we had eight potential first team players under treatment.

Obviously we've pulled out all the stops to get them back to fitness and with the

players themselves working very hard I was hoping to have everyone except the long-term casualties back in training by this weekend.

Dariusz Wdowczyk has made good progress with his thigh strain and, having worked well in training with me, he is one of the players who should have gone back to work with the rest of the lads by the time you read this.

And hopefully the same will apply to Paul Holsgrove who suffered an Achilles tendon strain two weeks ago. He's worked hard and responded well to treatment.

Coincidentally Bobby Mihaylov was also in for treatment on a strained Achilles tendon this week but at the time of writing he was also close to getting back to training.

Martyn Booty was a bit unfortunate because he'd done everything right, he'd had a reserve game to sharpen up his match fitness and was then unlucky enough to pick up another minor injury in the same place on his knee.

Happily everything seems to have settled down again and he's well on the road to recovery and there's no reason to believe there should be any recurrence.



As you know keeper Sal Bibbo, who's changed his squad number to 99, suffered quite a bad ankle injury against Oxford United last month.

Fortunately it's only a soft tissue injury and we've been able to treat it with ice cream, sorry, I mean ice, and he should be ready to rejoin the lads for training and begin playing again very soon.

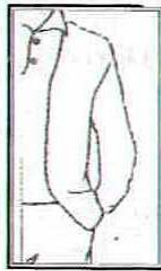
We've had him jogging around cones to get a flavour of what's ahead and I believe he's really got the problem licked now.

Fellow keeper Clive Lyttle's knee has improved with rest and treatment but we are still waiting for the results of his scan which will tell us whether he needs surgery or not.

And finally Archie Lovell damaged his troublesome hamstring in training before the Grimsby game - same hamstring different place - and we sent him off to Lilleshall for the week where he can receive one-to-one treatment.



Sal Bibbo



Basilica

For Him For Her

Hugo Boss	Moschino Cheap and Chic
Canali	Sara Sturgeon
Kenzo	Ritmo Di Perla
Armani Jeans	Moschino Bags and Belts
Valentino Jeans	Armani Jeans

As supporters of The Royals we will offer a 10% reduction on production of this advertisement

8 THE FORBURY, SUSSEX HOUSE, READING 01734 508133
81 HIGH STREET, WINCHESTER, HANTS 01962 840365



WARD CONSULTANCY PLC

"Total Financial Solutions"
for

***Corporate Employee Benefit Programmes**
***Personal Financial & Tax Planning Requirements**

Hill House, Milley Lane, Hare Hatch, Reading,
Berkshire RG10 9TH

Tel: 01734 404111 Fax: 01734 403392
E-Mail: 100566.2122@COMPUSERVE.COM

**TUNE INTO CLASSIC GOLD 1431 AM
FOR EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE
OF READING FOOTBALL CLUB**



"SPORT WITH MIKE"
EVERY SATURDAY FROM 1 to 2pm
HAVE YOUR SAY WITH MIKE LEWIS ON 01734 63 88 88

"THE ROYALS FOOTBALL SHOW"
COVERING EVERY HOME AND AWAY GAME
WITH 3 HOURS OF EXCLUSIVE FOOTBALL COVERAGE
INCLUDING LIVE COMMENTARY
OF ALL AWAY GAMES.

CLASSIC GOLD 1431 AM FOOTBALL COVERAGE PROUDLY
SUPPORTED BY
HEWLETT PACKARD
TEAMWORK FOR A GREAT RESULT EVERYTIME.

FACING THE ROYALS

Last month the Robins announced plans which would make the County Ground the first football stadium in Europe to have its own casino.

But when their ill-fated Premiership adventure was followed by an undignified slide out through the bottom of Division One, few punters would have risked a bet on them bouncing back sooner rather than later.



Steve McMahon

They seemed to be preparing for a long spell in exile when players of the ilk of Jan-Aage Fjortoft - the Norwegian with mannerisms guaranteed to get up the nose of every rival supporter - were shipped out and seemingly not replaced.

The after-effects and lingering symptoms of life on Millionaires' Row could have come close to being fatal but instead they proved no worse than a deeper than usual flesh wound.

In fact Steve McMahon's side, even though injury to the player-manager himself meant he played no part on the field from Christmas onwards, found life in Division Two something of a breeze.

Apart from a three day spell in December and a two week interval in March - when Crewe and Blackpool had the temerity to muscle in - Swindon never relinquished top spot and they finished a nine point distance ahead of our mutual Thames Valley neighbours Oxford United.

Wayne Allison arrived from Bristol City to score 17 times in the League, Steve Finney emerged from Manchester City's reserves to hit 12 goals, despite injury

Peter Thorne found the target 10 time to underline the previous season's promise and Kevin Horlock also grabbed a dozen from midfield.

And although hopes of boosting their bank balance in the Coca Cola Cup ended with second round defeat against Blackburn Rovers, they went all the way to the round five of the FA Cup before losing to Southampton at the second attempt.

That blend of steel, power and guile which has been a hallmark of McMahon's own game during some 500 League appearances for Everton, Aston Villa, Liverpool, Manchester City and the Robins is now a distinctive feature of his team's approach.

Bryan Robson's presence in the England set up was probably to blame for the fact that McMahon won no more than 17 full caps for his country, but that abrasive edge to his nature has never diminished albeit these days it's more verbal than physical.

Injury has ruled him out so far this season but he must surely be fairly content with the way his side is handling things in his absence.

Three straight wins this month have taken Swindon into seventh spot - a low key local derby triumph over Oxford, the pulverisation of a Huddersfield Town outfit for whom former Reading keeper Steve Francis exceeded even his own worst nightmares and then last Saturday they became the first side to win at the Palace this season.

Regardless of the outcome of their midweek visit to a Manchester United side still smarting from the previous Sunday's indignities, Swindon have made hard work of this season's Coca Cola Cup run.

In the first round goals from Allison and Scott Leitch put them in the driving seat against Wolves, but when ex-Royal Simon Osborn pulled one back within five minutes of the second leg kicking off at Molineux they had to hang on in nailbiting fashion.

Two late goals meant Mark Walters' strike wasn't enough for a home win in round two against Queens Park Rangers. But once again Swindon showed their durability with Wayne O'Sullivan and Allison forcing extra time at Loftus Road and Thorne sealing a 3-1 victory.

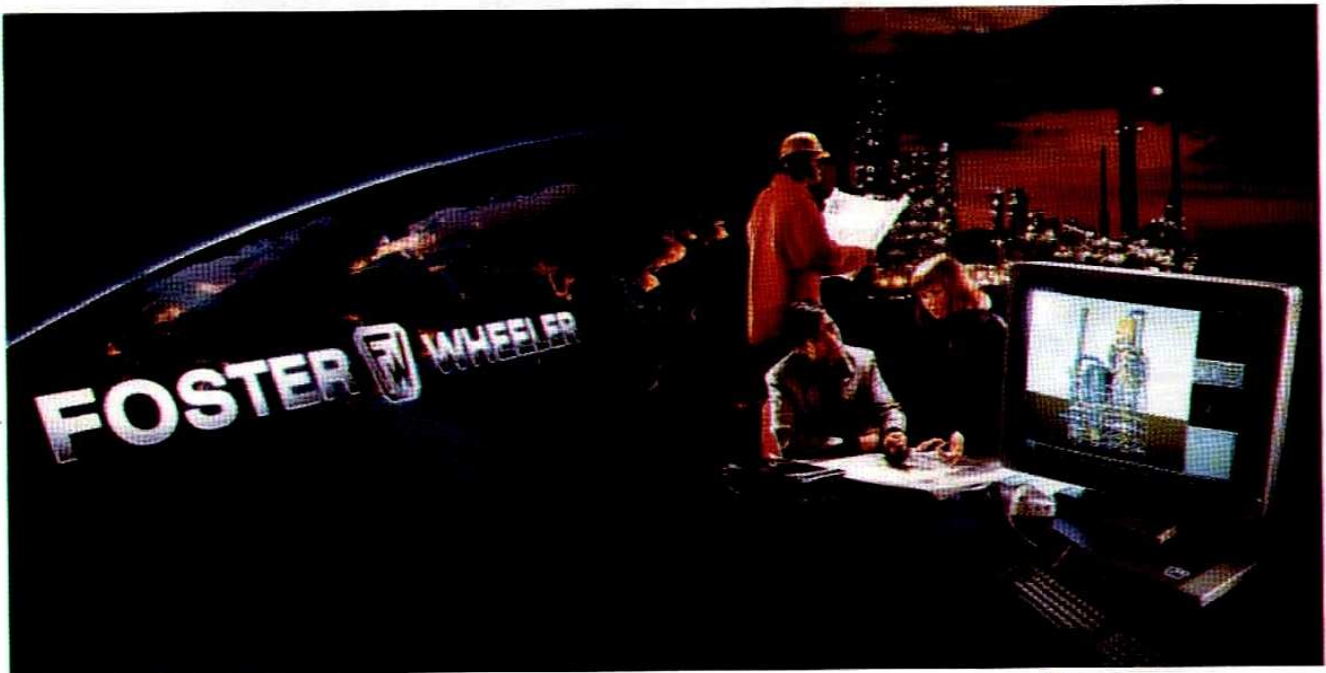
The axe was poised when the Robins last visited Elm Park on April Fools Day 1995 and the vultures were watching every false step.

Archie Lovell's three-card trick dealt us a 3-0 win which helped to ensure that the Royals would be heading for a Wembley playoff date but our visitors would soon be cashing in their chips. Place your bets please!



Back row, left to right: Peter Thorne, Wayne Allison, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talia, Shaun Taylor, Kevin Watson, Kevin Horlock.
Middle row: Jonathan Trigg (physio), Lee Collins, Mark Robinson, Edwin Murray, Steve Finney, Mark Seagraves, Mark Walters, Ty Gooden, Frederic Darras, Dean Hooper, Steve Cowe, Ross McLaren (reserve team coach).
Front row: Scott Leitch, Ian Culverhouse, Jason Drysdale, Andy Rowland (coach, left club), Steve McMahon (team manager), Paul Allen, Alex Smith, Wayne O'Sullivan.





FOSTER WHEELER

We are pleased to be associated with
READING FOOTBALL CLUB
in its Centenary Season

Engineering
Design
Construction
Project Management
Plant Operations
Environmental Services



FOSTER WHEELER ENERGY LIMITED
FOSTER WHEELER HOUSE STATION ROAD READING RG1 1LX
TEL: (0118) 958 5211 FAX: (0118) 939 6333

Offices in Reading, Glasgow, Teesside and Sriracha (Thailand)

swindon Town



SWINDON
TOWN
F.C.

SWINDON TOWN

LEAGUE RESULTS 1996-97

Date	Opponents	Pos.	Result	Scorers
Aug 17	Norwich City	-	0-2	-
Aug 24	PORT VALE	20	1-1	Robinson
Aug 28	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	11	1-0	Allison
Aug 31	Southend United	8	3-1	Watson, Cowe, Finney
Sep 7	Grimsby Town	8	1-2	Cowe
Sep 11	PORTSMOUTH	15	0-1	-
Sep 14	TRANMERE ROVERS	10	2-1	Walters, Horlock
Sep 21	Queens Park Rangers	12	1-1	Cowe
Sep 27	WOLVES	12	1-2	Horlock
Oct 2	Bradford City	16	1-2	Walters
Oct 12	OXFORD UNITED	15	1-0	Horlock
Oct 16	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	9	6-0	Walters, Thorne 3
				Allison, Horlock
Oct 19	Crystal Palace	7	2-1	Allison, Thorne

ROBINS FACTS AND FIGURES

Winners:

Division Two 1996, Division Four 1986

League Cup 1969

Anglo-Italian Cup 1970

Best League Win:

9-1 v Luton Town, Div 3(S) 28.08.20

Best Cup Win:

10-1 v Farnham Utd Breweries, FA Cup Rd 1,
28.11.25

Worst Defeat:

1-10 v Manchester City, FA Cup Rd 4, 25.01.30

Record Crowd:

32,000 v Arsenal, FA Cup Rd 3, 15.01.72

Most League Appearances:

John Trollope, 770, 1960-80

Most League Goals:

Harry Morris, 216, 1926-33

Most Capped Player:

Rod Thomas, Wales, 30 (Total 50)

Record Transfer Fees:

Received: £1.3 million from Middlesbrough, Jan-Aage
Fjortoft, March 1995

Paid: £800,000 to West Ham United, Joey Beauchamp,
August 1994

READING v ROBINS

LEAGUE RECORD 1920-95

HOME

W	D	L	F	A
25	9	8	86	47

AWAY

W	D	L	F	A
6	15	21	36	73

ELM PARK MEETINGS

1946-1995

22.03.47	Reading 3	Robins 3	Div 3(S)
22.11.47	Reading 2	Robins 3	Div 3(S)
30.04.49	Reading 0	Robins 0	Div 3(S)
17.12.49	Reading 4	Robins 3	Div 3(S)
14.10.50	Reading 3	Robins 1	Div 3(S)
23.04.52	Reading 2	Robins 0	Div 3(S)
01.05.53	Reading 4	Robins 1	Div 3(S)
19.04.54	Reading 3	Robins 1	Div 3(S)
29.01.55	Reading 2	Robins 1	Div 3(S)
26.11.55	Reading 0	Robins 1	Div 3(S)
13.04.57	Reading 1	Robins 0	Div 3(S)
29.03.58	Reading 0	Robins 4	Div 3(S)
21.03.59	Reading 3	Robins 1	Div 3
05.03.60	Reading 3	Robins 0	Div 3
03.12.60	Reading 1	Robins 1	Div 3
02.03.62	Reading 1	Robins 1	Div 3
08.03.63	Reading 1	Robins 2	Div 3
01.04.66	Reading 0	Robins 2	Div 3
24.09.66	Reading 2	Robins 1	Div 3
04.10.67	Reading 2	Robins 1	Div 3
09.10.68	Reading 0	Robins 1	Div 3
02.10.76	Reading 4	Robins 1	Div 3
10.10.79	Reading 2	Robins 1	Div 3
30.08.80	Reading 4	Robins 1	Div 3
20.02.82	Reading 1	Robins 1	Div 3
29.10.83	Reading 2	Robins 2	Div 4
26.12.87	Reading 0	Robins 1	Div 2
01.04.95	Reading 3	Robins 0	Div 1



GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP, 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

FACING THE ROYALS

INTRODUCING swindon town

The riches of Blackburn Rovers lured Melbourne-born Australian Under 21 keeper Frank Talia away from the sunshine but his League baptism in this country didn't arrive until he got 15 games on loan in the slightly less glamorous surroundings of Hartlepool United. He also had a loan spell with the Robins before, with Tim Flowers and Shay Given blocking his path to the number one spot at Ewood Park, he joined them on a permanent basis almost a year ago. His current rival for the Swindon keeper's jersey is 29 year old Fraser Digby, who also knows what it's like to have his ambitions stifled because he served his apprenticeship at Old Trafford at a time when Gary Bailey, Chris Turner and Gary Walsh were all in residence.

Digby, an England international at schoolboy, youth and under 21 level, failed to make the Manchester United first team but his £32,500 move to the County Ground proved a bargain in every sense because he's since played more than 400 games and has just started his testimonial season.

Sweeper Ian Culverhouse, voted into the PFA Second Division side last season, was also rated a bargain when he played 370 times for Norwich City after they'd paid Spurs £50,000 for him in October 1985 - particularly as the Canaries made a £200,000 profit when he joined Swindon a little over nine years later. Left back Jason Drysdale helped Watford win the 1989 FA Youth Cup before a £450,000 switch to Newcastle United in August 1994, but his £350,000 move to Swindon seven months later was followed by a string of injury problems.

Republic of Ireland under 21 defender Wayne O'Sullivan and Redbridge-born Edwin Murray have both graduated through the club's youth scheme but 30 year old French youth and under 21 cap Frederic Darras was signed from Corsican club Bastia during the summer after spending 11 years of his career with Auxerre.

Wallingford-born Gary Elkins had eight seasons at Fulham before joining Wimbledon, and he'd made more than 100 appearances for the Dons before last month's £100,000 move to Wiltshire, while former West Brom and Barnsley defender Mark Robinson's £600,000 fee was a new

club transfer record when he left Newcastle in July 1994.

One-time West Ham United trainee Kevin Horlock, now a fully fledged Northern Irish international, is comfortable in defence but has scored a hatful of goals in a more advanced midfield role, and former Manchester City stopper Mark Seagraves was in Bolton Wanderers' First Division playoff squad in May 1995 but became a £100,000 Robin a month later.

Midfield man Paul Allen cost Spurs £400,000 from first club West Ham in 1985 and moved to Southampton for £550,000 eight years later but the 34 year old, who owns two FA Cup winners' medals, arrived at the County Ground a year ago on a free transfer.

Ty Gooden was snapped up in 1993 when Wycombe Wanderers let him go, and made 30 appearances in last season's Second Division championship campaign, 22 year old Kevin Watson played 12 times for the Spurs senior side and 20 year old Alex Smith made the Everton side during their foray into last season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

Scott Leitch, once of Dunfermline Athletic and Hearts, cost the Robins £15,000 while fellow Scotsman Lee Collins left Albion Rovers to move south almost a year ago. Winger Mark Walters, a former Villa Park and Anfield team mate of boss Steve McMahon, collected three championships with Rangers north of the border and an FA Cup winners' medal with Liverpool when he returned south, and he moved to the County Ground in the summer after a brief spell with Southampton.

Gloucester-born striker Steve Cowe made his League debut in March after graduating through Aston Villa's youth ranks and the 22 year old's already shown he's capable of building a partnership with experienced Wayne Allison, a consistent scorer with Halifax Town and then Bristol City before his £475,000 journey along the M4 in the summer of last year.

Former Preston North End YTS boy Steve Finney (no relation to the great Tom) played alongside McMahon at Manchester City and contributed 16 goals to the Swindon cause in last season's Second Division title charge before breaking an ankle in March, while former Blackburn Rovers striker Peter Thorne chipped in 10 from only 22 League games despite suffering injury problems of his own.



JASON DRYSDALE



TY GOODEN



MARK SEAGRAVES



Nationwide and The Football League – A winning team –

Nationwide Building Society is delighted to be sponsoring The Football League and is proud to be associated with the national game. Millions of people around the country enjoy League games, with an increasing number of families attending matches.

Similarly, Nationwide has a relationship with many households in the UK – around one in four. It looks after the financial needs of over seven million people and is the UK's largest building society intending to remain customer owned, committed to putting customers first.

Nationwide is an organisation with strong roots in the community and we are always looking for new ways to promote awareness of the benefits we can offer and to strengthen relationships with customers even further. With 72 league

clubs and 630 Nationwide branches throughout England and Wales, we are looking forward to working with The League and its member clubs to support community initiatives and forge even closer links with local people. Wherever you find a football team you'll find a Nationwide team.

Nationwide's philosophy is to be "in tune with people", and we believe that the help we can give in investing in football's future will further demonstrate this and underline our general commitment to meeting customers' needs.

We would like to take
this opportunity to wish your
club a successful season.



EMMER GREEN GARAGE
0 1 7 3 4 4 7 3 3 4 4

Drive a hard bargain



SEAT IBIZA

Price on the road, including 12 months Road Tax. 1.4 Petrol £8,400 1.9 Diesel £8,900

- ★ RDS Stereo Radio Cassette ★
- ★ Engine Immobiliser ★
- ★ Rear Wash Wipe ★
- ★ Power Assisted Steering ★
- ★ Unlimited Mileage 3 Year Warranty ★
- ★ 5 speed Gearbox ★
- ★ 6 Ring Safety Cage ★
- ★ Side Impact Bars ★
- ★ 1.4 Multi point Injection Engines ★
- ★ 1.9 Diesel Engines ★

FREE MOBILE PHONE
and Connection
when you take
a test drive



UNLIMITED
MILEAGE



3
YEAR
WARRANTY

SEAT

**Where can you
go wrong?**

**EMMER GREEN GARAGE 236-8 PEPPARD ROAD,
CAVERSHAM TEL: 01734 473344**

Prices correct at time of going to press



Caught.
Ball watching!

The official ball supplier to



Mitre ➤

DON'T JUST WATCH THE ACTION



**LEARN NEW SKILLS AND ENJOY
A HOBBY WITH PAY**

**JOIN YOUR LOCAL TA - 2ND (V) BATTALION THE ROYAL
GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & WILTSHIRE REGIMENT
BROCK BARRACKS, OXFORD RD, READING. TEL: 01734 530231**



WADHAM KENNING



**FOR
VAUXHALL
IN
READING**

**PRODUCE THIS ADVERTISEMENT
ON ANY NEW OR USED CAR SALE
AND WE'LL TAX IT FOR 6 MONTHS**

38-40 PORTMAN RD 01734 394394

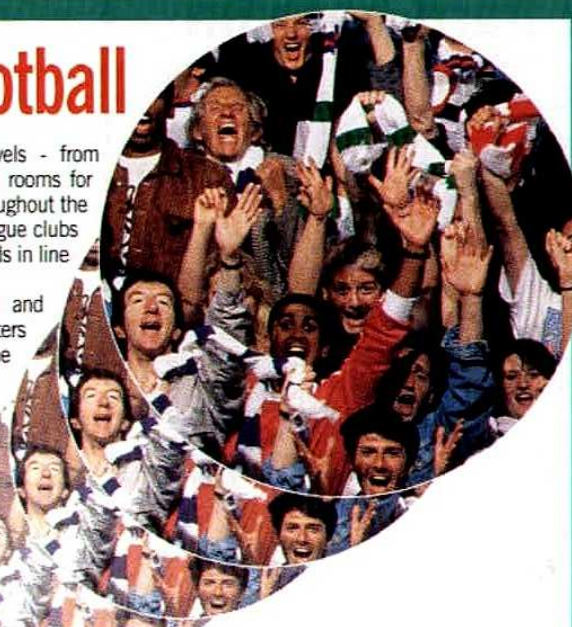


Trust us to help football

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping their grounds in line with the Taylor Report.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has received and distributed £250m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettors Pools and Littlewoods Spot the Ball competition for the benefit of football.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game



LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS
*Making sure football wins
the Pools each week*

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

ONE

ON

ONE



MAURICE O'BRIEN looks at life in Division One

Something of a shaggy dog story was behind the conspicuous absence of Lee Richardson - Oldham Athletic's top scorer last season - when the Royals visited Boundary Park at the weekend.

The 27 year old former Aberdeen man became the fifth experienced player to join the Latics' lengthening injury list, when he collected a mass of stitches and a badly damaged hand - complete with a broken finger - after taking his pet dogs for a walk in a local park.

Richardson and pets were attacked by two Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and by the time he'd managed to fight them off he'd collected a catalogue of wounds which will apparently sideline him until Christmas.

You'd have thought Mark McGhee might be an expert on famous last words by now - even before his declaration at the start of last month that he wanted to turn Molineux into "a fortress" by not losing there for the whole season.

However, having remained unbeaten at home for three games they've seen their last four visitors - Sheffield United, Bolton Wanderers, the Royals and Port Vale - depart with maximum spoils. After Vale's victory last Saturday McGhee was complaining that half

his £10 million 34-man squad are on the injury list - even though that still leaves him with a bigger and more expensive first team set-up than most.

But he declared: "If we lose 1-0 to Port Vale when I put out my strongest team, that's when I can expect the worst." There he goes again!

Port Vale are in something of a crisis themselves with chairman Bill Bell putting the club and its star players up for sale after an angry demonstration by supporters followed last week's home defeat by Crystal Palace.

Mr Bell, quite justifiably, points out that he wasn't playing against Palace and couldn't have personally influenced the result but added: "Not only did I have to suffer abuse at the match but also my wife and family.

"I don't believe I deserve to be treated like this. If they want me out they've got it." He threatened that if he didn't find a buyer then he'd shut the whole place down by this weekend but the problems found central defender Gareth Griffiths, who cost Vale just a grand from non-League Rhyl three years ago, prepared for the worst.

Griffiths, already a qualified draughtsman, is about to take exams to get a degree in sports science and he joked: "The way things are going with our chairman it might come in handy because I could be on the dole soon."

Portsmouth winger Jimmy Carter got 'crazy ganged' after he won the man-of-the-match award as his side went out of the Coca Cola Cup to Premiership surprise packages Wimbledon.

For the past couple of seasons Coca Cola have been giving away much sought after mountain bikes to the winner of each tie's star man award, but when Carter went to ride his home from Fratton Park he discovered that some of his Wimbledon 'mates' had let the tyres down.

Meanwhile Swindon Town winger Mark Walters must have been tempted to have a real stinker during Wednesday's trip to Old Trafford - because his Coca Cola displays this season have already brought him no less than THREE mountain bikes.

Chairman Mike Spearman reckons Walters ought to open his own bike shop but perhaps he should have loaned one of the machines to team mate Peter Thorne when the Robins flew in to London at the end of last month.

Thorne scored in Swindon's 4-1 Football Combination win at Charlton Athletic in the afternoon and then nipped across to west London to link up with the first team....coming on as a sub to score a Coca Cola Cup extra time winner at Queens Park Rangers!

Sheffield United keeper Alan Kelly showed he's certainly got the secret of perfect timing after a goalless draw against Tranmere Rovers at Bramall Lane persuaded him to give up the captaincy.

The Republic of Ireland star said: "I felt it was better for the team if an outfield player did the job. It hurt to give it up but if we are promoted the sacrifice will have been worth it."

Result? The Blades' next two games saw them hand out 3-0 and 4-0 stuffings to Charlton Athletic and Stoke City respectively. Now that's what you call a captain's decision!

Poor old West Brom must once again be wondering about the wisdom of paying £600,000 for striker Paul Peschisolido with Canada's drive to qualify for the next World Cup going ahead at full steam.

A combination of suspension, from his spell at Birmingham City last season, and international duty ruled him out of the first four games of the new campaign.

Now Peschisolido is scheduled to miss games against Bradford City, Swindon and Portsmouth after flying out at the end of last Saturday's 1-1 draw at Grimsby Town - and that was only his second outing since his absence when Huddersfield Town visited earlier in the month.

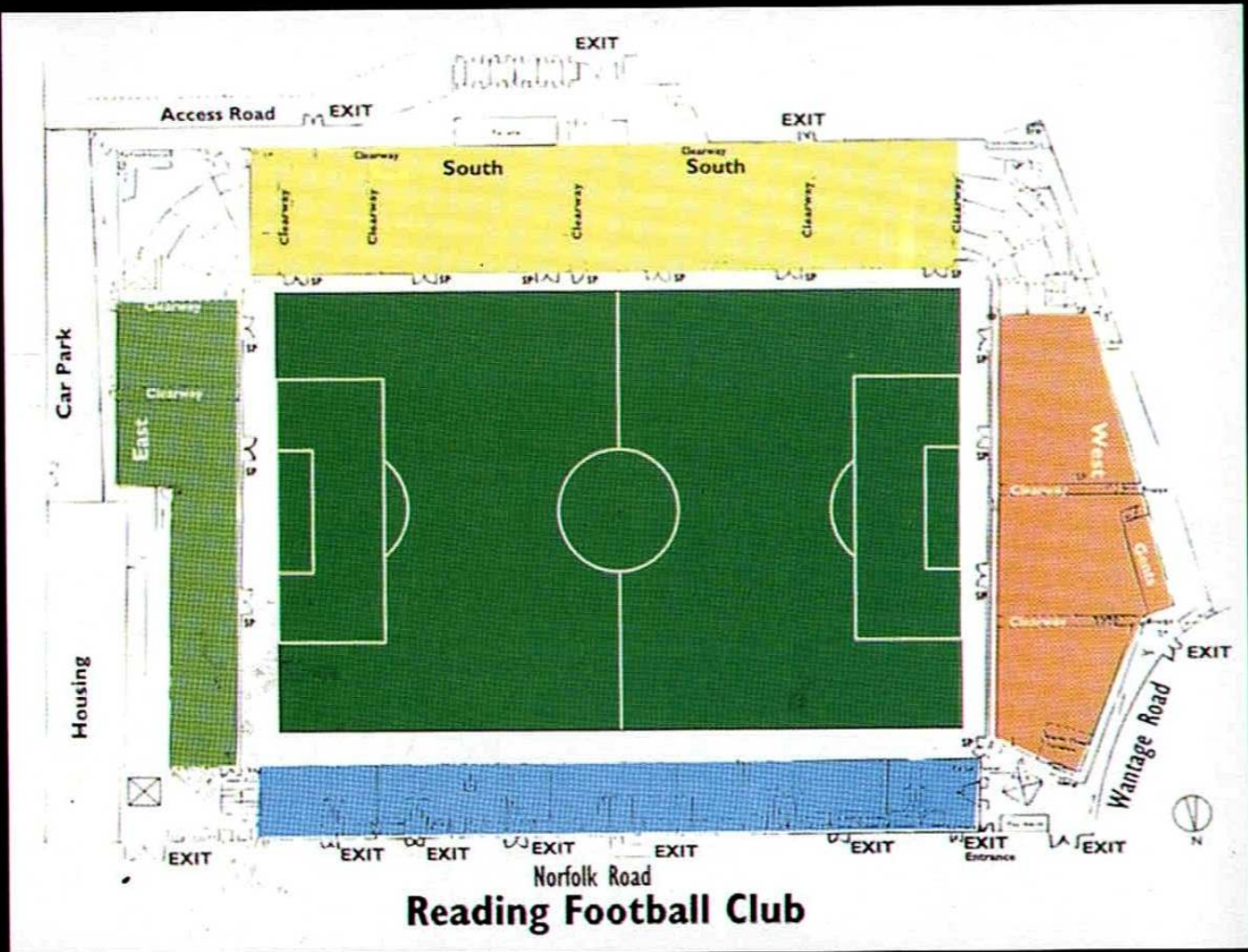
Bolton Wanderers winger Alan Thompson presumably won't want too many opponents to know that he's teetering on the brink with 20 disciplinary points....another black mark any time in the next month will bring him a three match ban!



ELM PARK SAFETY

We would like to remind all supporters of the safety procedures at Elm Park, so please take a few minutes to study this page.

All exit points are clearly marked on the plan - please ensure you know which exit is closest to you.



In the event of an emergency you will hear a loud hooter - which is tested before each game - followed by an announcement giving clear instructions. Please listen carefully and co-operate fully with police and stewards to ensure any emergency can be dealt with swiftly.

We would also like to remind all supporters that any encroachment on the pitch is strictly forbidden and is viewed extremely seriously. We have all worked hard to build Elm Park's excellent reputation and anyone who attempts to harm that will be severely dealt with and may be banned from the ground.



Please remember that a NO SMOKING ban is in force in all seated areas of the ground. For reasons of safety and crowd control smokers are not permitted to leave the North Stand during the interval and return for the second half. We regret that anyone who does this will NOT be readmitted to the ground.

LOCAL BUSINESS LOTTERY

The Reading F.C. Business Lottery is available to all companies. This simple but unique scheme means that for just £1 you can buy a chance for a member of your staff to win prizes of up to £25,000!

The companies below support the Business Lottery. If you would like to join then please call Promotions Manager Dawn Denton on 0118 946 4008. Sponsors: Reading Evening Post.

MANY THANKS TO THE
FOLLOWING COMPANIES FOR
THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT:

ABBEY WINDOWS
ARMOUR PRINT AND DESIGNS
AUTOWORLD
BAYWELLS ENGINEERING
BENHAM OFFICE SUPPLIES LTD
BERKSHIRE CARAVANS
BERKSHIRE MEATS
BIG WHEELERS
BROADBEAR BROS LTD
BUSINESS CRATE HIRE
C.F. TAYLOR
CAMEO CARPETS OF READING
CAVERSHAM PK. VILLAGE MOWERS
CAVERSHAM TILES
CELEBRATION CARS
CHRIS THOMAS SIGNS LTD
CLEAR DRAINS U.K.
CLOVER LEAF
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECT
CUMBERS BUTCHERS
CYPHERMET
DAVID GARDNER
DELTA AUTO SERV
DENTON AND GIBSON
ELGEE PLASTICS
ELITE WHEELS & TYRES
FAIRLEY BROWN & CO LTD
FORCE COMPONENTS 89 LTD
FOX PRINT FINISHERS
FRANK THAKE SIGNS
FRASERS OFFICE SUPPLIES
FRED WEBBER
G E DAY

G.S. HAYWARD HYDRAULIC ENGINEER
GILBERTS BUTCHERS
GOSS & CO
GUARDIAN FENCING
HALL & CLARKE
HASLEMS CHARTERED SURVEYORS
HERALD GRAPHICS
HOME VIEW TV AND RADIO
I.M.P. LTD
IAN TATTOOS
INTEC
J.P. MORAN & CO LTD
JAMES WHITE & SONS (ENG) LTD
JAMES WHITE POOLS LTD
JEWSON
JOHN GRIFFITHS - MERCEDES BENZ
JOHN PALMER STUDIO
JUST PRECISION SHEET METAL
KEA DARTS (U.K.)
KREMER BODY REPAIRS
LAMBERTS (SOLICITORS)
LOVE CARE
M&H HIRE CENTRES LTD
MOTORWAY TYRES
NURDIN AND PEACOCK
P.M.E. ENGRAVING AND SCREEN PRT
PEARMAINS
PET SUPPLIES (SONNING COMMON)
PIRTEK READING
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SURVEYORS
QUALITY PRINTERS
RENAULT TRUCKS READING
RICHARD HOLDER
ROBERT DARVALL
ROBERTS OF READING

ROCHFORD SIGNS
RONAN ENGINEERING
ROWBERRY MORRIS
SAAB READING
SIMPSON SPRING & PRESSINGS
SOUNDS GOOD CASSETTE DUP.
ST. ANDREWS FLOORING
STAYSURE TYRES
STEVIE BS GREENGROCERS
SWALLOW METALS & COMPONENTS LTD
SWAYPOINT LTD
SYSTEL U.K. LTD
T.R. FASTENINGS
TERRONOVA LIFTING
THAMES VALLEY CLEANING
THAMES VALLEY TAXIS
THOMPSON AND LEATHERDALE
TRAVIS PERKINS
TRAVIS PERKINS READING
V I PRECISION GRINDERS
VECCER LTD
VILLAGE BUTCHERS
VILLAGE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
WADHAM KENNING PARTS DEPT
WARNERCOMM
WICKS CARPETS
WILMOTTS
WOOD & DOUGLAS



GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP. 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

STRIKING PARTNERSHIP

JOIN IN WITH THE FIREWORK FIESTA



Are you planning to celebrate Bonfire Night this year? Well, why not do it a few days early at Reading's annual spectacular firework display!

The event to head for is Reading Round Table's annual Firework Fiesta - one of the town's largest organised events and a popular family occasion for an amazing 21 years now.

The Firework Fiesta will take place next Saturday, November 2, at King's Meadow in Reading when more than 12,000 people are expected to attend to catch the highlight - a dramatic 30 minute firework display. Other attractions include the 2-TEN FM Roadshow, funfair, refreshment stalls and sideshows. The event is supported by Reading Borough Council, Thames Valley Auto Trader, the Reading Evening Post and Thames Water and proceeds will go to Duchess of Kent House, Brain Injured Children and the Give a Child a Chance Appeal. Gates open at 5.30 p.m., with the display starting at 7.30, and admission prices (no refunds offered if event is cancelled) are as follows:

	On Gate	In Advance	With Passport to Leisure
Adult	£ 4.00	£3.50	£3.00
Child	£ 2.00	£1.50	£1.00
Family	£10.00	£8.00	£7.00

(Family = Two adults + two children)
Tickets can be obtained in advance from: Hexagon Box Office * Civic Centre * Town Hall Tourist Information Centre * 2-Ten FM * Reading Transport Travel Shop, Duke Street * Brooking Travel, Bristol &

West Arcade * Ship Hotel, Duke Street * Campus Travel, Reading University Students' Union * Town News, Union Street * Newscentre, Woodley Shopping Precinct.

Demand is always great, so buy your tickets now and enjoy the firework fun!

LOOK OUT FOR SAFER BUS!

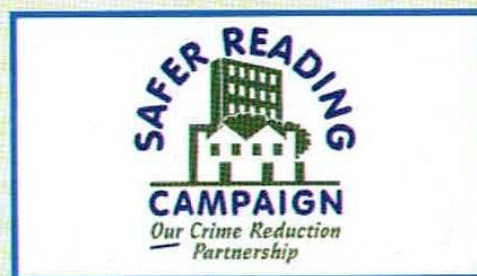
If you travel to Elm Park by bus you might find that it's a big yellow one. A new-look bus - kindly sponsored by Smiths Securities - has taken to Reading's streets to promote the Safer Reading Campaign.

The Safer Reading Campaign is a partnership between Reading Borough Council, Thames Valley Police and a number of other organisations in the town - Victim Support, Neighbourhood Watch, Reading Council for Racial Equality and the Berkshire Probation Service.

The campaign's aim is to work together to tackle crime, and the fear of crime, in Reading.

One of the most important aspects is the formation of six Safer Community Forums across the town, enabling people to get involved and work with local police officers and other agencies in their own areas on ways to tackle crime and the fear of it. This could mean anything from installing closed circuit TV cameras or simply setting up schemes to keep young people away from crime.

If you'd like to find out more about the Safer Reading Campaign and your local Safer Community Forum please call 390393 or pick up a leaflet when you see the Safer Reading bus.



MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

NOW'S THE TIME TO ACT!

More and more local companies have come to appreciate the benefits of corporate hospitality and advertising at Elm Park – here are just some of the opportunities available for our Centenary Season.

EXECUTIVE BOX FOR THE SEASON

(Subject to availability)

Hiring an Executive Box for the season provides you with exclusive use of a comfortable, centrally heated facility seating 8 people. Package includes:

- 2 Car Park Passes.
- Advertising on the Executive Box and in the matchday programme.
- Use of the Executive Lounge Bar, Norfolk Road, before and after the game.

THE ROYALS EXECUTIVE CLUB

Our Executive Club provides the opportunity for companies or individuals to enjoy Division One football at Elm Park in the knowledge that their seat is reserved for every home match, i.e. cup and League games, with the added attraction of a bar facility before and after the match. The Club provides members with the following:

- Seats in the North Stand (B) for all home League fixtures.
- FA and Coca-Cola cup home matches.
- Matchday programme.
- Use of the Executive Lounge Bar, Norfolk Road, before and after the game.
- Tea/coffee with biscuits at half time.
- Priority match tickets available for "away" cup games.

REACH A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS AT ELM PARK
LIMITED NUMBER OF PERIMETER ADVERTISING BOARDS
AVAILABLE FOR THE NEW SEASON

PLUS NOW IS THE TIME TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN OUR
SUPER FULL COLOUR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME FOR THE WHOLE SEASON
– BUT HURRY SPACE IS LIMITED!

For further details on any of our corporate opportunities
Telephone Kevin Girdler or Sue Reid NOW on 0118-9507878
or Fax 0118-9566628

KIT SPONSORS

If you would like to sponsor the kit of your favourite Royal then call Sue Reid on 0118 950 7878 for more details.

PK = Playing Kit £100 · TK = Training Kit £50 · AC = Accessories £5 (Children only)



JIMMY QUINN

PK MDR Football Coaching
TK MDR Football Coaching
AC Daniel & James Watts



NICKY HAMMOND

PK
TK
AC Lisa Whitcher



BARRY HUNTER

PK O.E. Internationals
TK John M. P. Hayes
AC Charlotte MacKechnie



MICK GOODING

PK
TK
AC Joanna & Victoria Herring



JEFF HOPKINS

PK
TK
AC Archie Prout



MICHAEL THORP

PK
TK
AC Alexander & Christopher Burrows



BOBBY MIHAYLOV

PK
TK
AC Chris Adaway



DARIUSZ WDOWCZYK

PK Gardner Mechanical Services
TK Westwood Wanderers FC
AC Sean & Emma Woodbridge



ANDY BERNAL

PK Internet Royals
TK
AC Joe & Kevin McGowan



SAL BIBBO

PK
TK
AC Nicholas & Katy Clements



KEITH McPHERSON

PK
TK
AC Ben Wickson



DARREN CASKEY

PK Justin Slade
TK Laura & Abbie Gilbert
AC Wesley & Carolyn Clark



PAUL BODIN

PK Town News, Union Street
TK Town News, Union Street
AC Richard Callaway



STEVE SWALES

PK
TK
AC William Jones



MARTYN BOOTY

PK
TK
AC Sarah Clark



DEREK SIMPSON

PK
TK
AC Claire Randall



ANDY ROBERTSON

PK
TK
AC Steven Belcher



BYRON GLASGOW

PK
TK
AC Rachel & Laura Abraham



ALAN CAREY

PK
TK
AC Tom Buckingham



GUY SANDERS

PK
TK
AC Koral Prout



TREVOR MORLEY

PK
TK
AC Jade & Thomas Rawlings



PHIL PARKINSON

PK Lisa Gardner
TK
AC Kirsty-Anne Randall



MICHAEL GILKES

PK M Sommer Electrical
TK M Sommer Electrical
AC Michael Langford



LEE NOGAN

PK Caroline Gardner
TK Vincent Bullion
AC Rebecca MacKechnie



ANDY FREEMAN

PK
TK
AC Shauna Prout



PAUL HOLSGROVE

PK
TK
AC Rye Harding



STUART LOVELL

PK Cheryl Bullion
TK Jo-anne Bernes
AC Kerry-Ann Adaway



DAVID BASS

PK
TK
AC Kirsty Wickson



MARTIN WILLIAMS

PK Elaine Maynard
TK Elaine Maynard
AC Matthew Sommer



RICHARD HILL

PK
TK
AC Justin Prout



MICHAEL MEAKER

PK
TK
AC Victoria Clark



JAMES LAMBERT

PK Justin Slade
TK
AC Dan Buckingham

GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP, 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

MATCH SPONSORS

17.08.96 v Sheffield United - M - Wadham Kenning

B - Razzmatazz International Ltd

20.08.96 v Wycombe Wanderers (CC Cup) - M - Rivervale of Reading

B - Sterling SPP

31.08.96 v Stoke City - M - Chris Thomas Signs

B - Quality Stationers & Printers

08.09.96 v Oxford United - M - Westcoast

B - Thames Valley Cleaning

21.09.96 v Crystal Palace - M - Thames Trains

B - Solo Office & Secretarial

12.10.96 v Grimsby Town - M - Reading Chronicle

B - Gary Purser & Tony Ella (Supporters' Club Committee)

15.10.96 v Manchester City - M - BDO Stoy Hayward

B - Rathbone C.I.

26.10.96 v Swindon Town - M - Hewlett Packard Express Support

B - Mizuno

09.11.96 v Tranmere Rovers - M - Bermic Cheese Specialists

B -

23.11.96 v Queens Park Rangers - M - Hewlett Packard

B - Sterling SPP

26.11.96 v Birmingham City - M - Armstrong World Industries

B - Lloyds Bank

07.12.96 v Port Vale - M -

B -

21.12.96 v Portsmouth - M - Data General/Information Support Ltd

B -

26.12.96 v West Bromwich Albion - M -

B -

11.01.97 v Charlton Athletic - M - Westcoast

B - Lingwoods Cleaning Services

28.01.97 v Huddersfield Town - M - Business Moves/John Holt & Partners

B -

08.02.97 v Bolton Wanderers - M -

B - Justin Slade

22.02.97 v Southend United - M -

B -

04.03.97 v Norwich City - M - Price Waterhouse

B - Test Houses Ltd

15.03.97 v Bradford City - M - Lamport Gilbert

B - C E Heath

22.03.97 v Ipswich Town - M - Burns Stewart Distillers

B - MDR Football Coaching

31.03.97 v Barnsley - M -

B -

12.04.97 v Wolverhampton Wanderers - M - Haslams Chartered Surveyors

B - Thames Valley Cleaning

26.04.97 v Oldham Athletic - M - Goss & Co

B - Michigan Enterprises

KEY - M = Matchday Sponsor

B = Match Ball Sponsor

For full Sponsorship details call Kevin Girdler on 0118 950 7878

BOX HOLDERS

NatWest

Abbey Gardens, 4 Abbey Street, Reading,
Berkshire RG11 7AZ

Pitmans
Solicitors

47 Castle Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7SR

CAMAS

PO Box 60, Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire RG9 4EZ

HORSEMAN COACHES

Bennet Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0HT

ERNST & YOUNG

Apex Plaza, Reading RG11 7AZ

Reading Chronicle

RSC

READING SPORTING CLUB
18 RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING RG1 8PA

CCF

Unit 4, W&G Ind. Estate, East Challow,
Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9TF

BURGER KING

Gowrings Food Services Ltd
The Grange, 18-21 Church Gate,
Newbury, Berks

2000

Grafton House, Grafton St, High Wycombe,
Bucks HP12 3AJ

PEARMAINS

Central Garage, High Street,
Crowthorne, Berks RG11 7AZ

Scott Wood & Co
LIFE & PENSIONS

ti

Technical Indexes Ltd

Willoughby Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8DW, England
Tel (01344) 426311

JBS

JBS MAILING SERVICES LTD
2 Lawrence Way, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3 DL

ARGYLL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD

19 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7JB

KPMG

Arlington Business Park, Theale,
Reading RG7 4SD

Auto Trader

Auto Trader House, Donehill,
Reading RG6 4UT

GRAVITY PERSONNEL LIMITED

1-2 West Street, Reading,
Berkshire RG1 1TT

COURAGE THAMES VALLEY

Imperial Way, Basingstoke Road,
Reading, Berkshire RG2 0RS

WINTERTON BROS.

34 HURST ROAD, TWYFORD,
BERKS RG10 0AJ
TEL: 0734 340692 FAX: 0734 320906

SAVILL FINANCIAL PLANNING

25B Coborn Street,
London E3 2AB

Member of the Berkeley Independent Advisers Ltd.
Network Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

hp HEWLETT PACKARD

Cain Road, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 1HN

ARTHUR ANDERSEN

Abbots House, Abbey Street
Reading RG1 3BD
01734 508141 Telephone
01734 508101 Facsimile



GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P MINUTE (CHEAP, 50P MINUTE OTHER TIMES)
(24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

LEE AT THE DOUBLE



Striker Lee Nogan hit two superb goals to leave Manchester City singing the blues and every Royals fan counting their blessings.

With chartered accountants BDO Stoy Hayward generously taking care of the night's sponsorship it didn't take them long to calculate that Lee was their man-of-the-match - and he stepped into the Sponsors' Lounge later to collect the customary champers from Richard Cantor.

* Incidentally there are still a few fabulous opportunities for companies to sponsor a game at Elm Park this season - starting with Port Vale's visit on December 7.

Remember we can come up with deals to suit every kind of budget, but if you want the best in corporate hospitality you can't go wrong if you give Commercial Manager Kevin Girdler a call here at the club first thing on Monday.



ANY QUESTIONS?

The latest episode of our fabulous Quiz with a Difference - the one where each three-man team becomes a Premiership club for the night to battle it out for the championship and FA Cup - takes place at the Royals Rendezvous on the night of November 28. It's open to 16 teams and all you've got to do to enter, or find out more, is call Commercial Manager Kevin Girdler or Commercial Co-ordinator Sue Reid soonest on 0118 950 7878. The entry fee's just £50 plus VAT per team and that includes a tasty chicken-in-the-basket supper.

JACK'S ROYALS UNION

England Rugby Union coach Jack Rowell was the special guest of Royals chairman John Madejski at the Manchester City game and he certainly appreciated the things our lads did with the ball - despite its shape.

And Jack joined the line after the game when Richard Hurst, from matchball sponsors Rathbone C.I., collected his signed souvenir of the occasion from the chairman in the Sponsors' Lounge.



GILKESY WAS BUBBLING

Michael Gilkes was at his sparkling best when the Royals beat Manchester City and that made the choice of executive boxholders' man-of-the-match a fairly straightforward one for Steve Bradley, Customer Support Director of Hewlett Packard.



ANDY AND MICK BOOKED

If you still haven't bought your official Reading FC 1996-97 Yearbook then make sure you get yourself down to Blackwells bookshop in Kings Road between 1 p.m and 3 p.m. on October 30 - that's next Wednesday afternoon.

As a special halfterm treat for all our fans, Blackwells have invited Royals defender Andy Bernal and joint boss Mick Gooding to spend a couple of hours at the shop signing copies of the yearbook.

So, apart from the fact that it's packed full of facts, figures, fascinating pictures and everything you ever wanted to know about the Royals, by popping along to Blackwells you can get your copy personalised.

The 72-page yearbook costs just £3 and is the kind of souvenir you'll want to keep forever - but think how much more valuable it will be in years to come with those autographs in it!

GOLDEN DIP FOR DAWSON

The Manchester City game proved a golden night all round for South Bank regular Dawson Jennings because he went home with a cheque for £1,125 sitting in his pocket. It was the first time he'd been tempted to have a Golden Gamble but, by the time Dariusz Wdowczyk had dipped his hand into the box to make the draw at halftime, Dawson was wondering why he hadn't had a go before. He lined up during the interval with son Sam to collect his winnings from Dariusz and



Golden Gamble girl Rachel Lewendon, and you know it really is as simple as that. You pay £1 for your ticket before kickoff, listen out for your number to be drawn at halftime and the cheque's yours to take home.

NINO'S

NINO'S Restaurants kindly supply all our **Man-of-the Match** champagne

One, Market Place Reading 01734 588966	Two, Church Street, Caversham 01734 472097	Quattro, Prospect Road, Caversham 01734 483070
---	---	---

GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP, 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)

Commercial Break

NATION'S PRIDE PAUL

Defender Paul Bodin has spent the whole season showing the class which made him a Welsh international and of course the folk from League sponsors Nationwide gave quality their vote when they named him man-of-the-match in the televised win over Oxford United. Apart from a handsome medal Paul was also given a £100 cheque to be presented to a local school, and last week he and chief executive Nigel Howe made a flying visit to Denefield in Tilehurst's Long Lane to do the honours. The cheque, guided into the hands of pupil Gary Lunn by the Nationwide's Nicola Du-Puget, will be used to fund a revision course next term.



ROWELL GIVES A ROYALS VIEW

Chartered accountants BDO Stoy Hayward's match sponsorship produced the best result and the highest gate of the season, and Richard Cantor got some more handsome figures when he accepted a souvenir team photo from Royals chairman John Madejski and England Rugby Union coach Jack Rowell.

STRIKE IT RICH WITH READING FC MONEY MATCH

Sponsored by
ORACLE
Enabling the Information Age

MONEY



Match

DO NOT REMOVE

WIN UP TO

£25,000

INSTANTLY

£1



ANY 3 CASH AMOUNTS THE SAME WINS THAT PRIZE.

**TICKETS
JUST
£1**

**£25,000
could be
yours**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ELM PARK AND LOCAL RETAIL OUTLETS

Promoter: R. Tranter, Unit 12B Southview Park, Caversham, Reading RG4 5AF
Registered with the Gaming Board for Great Britain No. LOT 160/1523/1

GOWRINGS ROYAL LINE 0891 12 1000

CALLS COST 45P/MINUTE CHEAP. 50P/MINUTE OTHER TIMES
(24HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS WEEK)



ROYAL STATS

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Up to and including 20.10.96

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Average	Highest
Bolton Wanderers	13	6	1	0	17	4	3	2	1	14	13	30	14,800	18,257 v Manchester City
Norwich City	13	4	3	0	10	3	4	0	2	10	6	27	14,988	22,056 v Ipswich Town
Barnsley	12	3	2	2	11	7	3	2	0	8	5	22	9,477	13,003 v Queens Park Rangers
Crystal Palace	13	3	2	1	13	5	2	4	1	13	7	21	14,462	17,638 v Manchester City
Wolverhampton Wanderers	14	2	1	4	5	7	4	2	1	13	7	21	24,095	26,540 v Bolton Wanderers
Sheffield United	11	3	2	1	13	7	3	0	2	10	5	20	15,532	20,867 v Manchester City
SWINDON TOWN	13	4	1	2	12	5	2	1	3	8	9	20	8,733	10,811 v Oxford United
Queens Park Rangers	14	2	2	3	8	10	3	3	1	10	8	20	12,178	16,265 v Manchester City
Tranmere Rovers	14	4	1	2	14	11	1	3	3	4	6	19	6,560	8,458 v Birmingham City
Stoke City	12	3	1	1	8	9	2	3	2	9	11	19	13,860	21,116 v Manchester City
Huddersfield Town	12	4	2	1	10	4	1	1	3	7	14	18	10,616	11,858 v Charlton Athletic
Oxford United	13	3	2	1	10	2	1	2	4	3	7	16	7,140	7,626 v Portsmouth
Manchester City	12	4	0	1	7	4	1	1	5	6	12	16	27,276	29,126 v Ipswich Town
Birmingham City	11	4	2	0	8	1	0	2	3	4	9	16	18,809	25,157 v Bradford City
Port Vale	14	1	4	2	6	8	2	3	2	5	8	16	7,992	14,936 v Stoke City
Ipswich Town	13	2	3	1	11	9	1	3	3	7	9	15	10,050	10,661 v Huddersfield Town
West Bromwich A.	12	1	2	3	7	11	2	4	0	8	5	15	16,542	20,711 v Wolverhampton Wanderers
READING	13	3	2	1	9	9	1	1	5	6	14	15	9,275	11,724 v Manchester City
Portsmouth	14	2	2	3	7	8	2	1	4	7	12	15	6,900	7,511 v Norwich City
Southend United	14	3	3	1	12	9	0	3	4	1	14	15	4,192	5,550 v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Grimsby Town	14	2	1	4	7	12	1	3	3	9	14	13	5,541	7,910 v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Bradford City	14	3	2	2	10	10	0	1	6	1	12	12	10,438	12,034 v Bolton Wanderers
Charlton Athletic	11	3	2	0	8	4	0	0	6	2	12	11	10,448	12,178 v Oldham Athletic
Oldham Athletic	14	1	3	3	9	10	0	1	6	4	13	7	6,681	8,021 v Stoke City

HOME LEAGUE ATTENDANCES

1996-97

Highest

READING APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

1996-97

Up to and including 19.10.96

Career

Lge	FA	CCLC	Goals		Apps	Goals
0	0	0	0	David Bass	7 (1)	0
9	0	1 (1)	0	Andy Bernal	90	2
3	0	0	0	Sal Bibbo	3	0
13	0	2	0	Paul Bodin	15	0
5	0	2	0	Martyn Booty	24	1
5	0	0	0	Kenny Brown	20	1
0	0	0	0	Alan Carey	0 (3)	0
5 (3)	0	1	0	Darren Caskey	21 (3)	2
0	0	0	0	Andy Freeman	0 (1)	0
7 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	Michael Gilkes	386 (52)	48
11 (1)	0	2	0	Mick Gooding	310 (10)	28
1	0	0	0	Nicky Hammond	7	0
5	0	1	1	Paul Holsgrove	66 (6)	6
6	0	1	0	Jeff Hopkins	129 (7)	4
8	0	1	1	Barry Hunter	9	1
5 (1)	0	0	1	James Lambert	34 (41)	10
1 (3)	0	1	0	Stuart Lovell	172 (44)	61
6	0	0	0	Keith McPherson	219 (7)	6
2 (6)	0	0	0	Michael Meaker	17 (12)	0
5	0	2	0	Bobby Mihaylov	24	0
10 (1)	0	1	5	Trevor Morley	29 (4)	11
9 (3)	0	1 (1)	3	Lee Nogan	70 (13)	26
5 (4)	0	1 (1)	1	Phil Parkinson	168 (17)	9
5 (2)	0	1 (1)	3	Jimmy Quinn	166 (26)	88
0	0	0	0	Andy Robertson	0	0
0	0	0	0	Guy Sanders	0	0
0	0	0	0	Derek Simpson	0	0
0	0	0	0	Steve Swales	5 (6)	0
0	0	0	0	Michael Thorp	5	0
8	0	2	0	Dariusz Wdowczyk	84 (2)	0
6 (1)	0	2	1	Martin Williams	19 (5)	2
4	0	0	0	Tommy Wright	4	0

*Career totals for Reading include League, FA Cup, League Cup, Play-offs only.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

FIXTURES 1996-97

Date	Opponents	Res	Pos	Att
Sat Aug 17	SHEFFIELD UNITED	1-0	-	11,081
Tue Aug 20	WYCOMBE WANDERERS (CC1-1)	1-1	-	6,210
Sat Aug 24	Ipswich Town	2-5	12	9,767
Wed Aug 28	Barnsley	0-3	16	7,523
Sat Aug 31	STOKE CITY	2-2	15	8,414
Tue Sep 3	Wycombe Wanderers (CC1-2)	0-2	-	5,069
Sun Sep 8	OXFORD UNITED	2-0	8	8,099
Tue Sep 10	West Bromwich Albion	2-3	10	13,096
Sat Sep 14	Charlton Athletic	0-1	18	10,831
Sat Sep 21	CRYSTAL PALACE	1-6	19	9,675
Sat Sep 28	Huddersfield Town	0-1	21	10,330
Sat Oct 5	Wolverhampton Wanderers	1-0	20	23,193
Sat Oct 12	GRIMSBY TOWN	1-1	20	6,656
Tue Oct 15	MANCHESTER CITY ★	2-0	15	11,724
Sat Oct 19	Oldham Athletic	1-1	18	7,171
Sat Oct 26	SWINDON TOWN			
Tue Oct 29	Bolton Wanderers			
Sat Nov 2	Southend United			
Sat Nov 9	TRANMERE ROVERS ★			
Sat Nov 16	Norwich City			
Sat Nov 23	QUEENS PARK RANGERS			
Tue Nov 26	BIRMINGHAM CITY			
Fri Nov 29	Swindon Town (KO 7.45pm)			
Sat Dec 7	PORT VALE			
Sat Dec 14	Bradford City			
Sat Dec 21	PORTSMOUTH ★			
Thu Dec 26	WEST BROMWICH ALBION			
Sat Dec 28	Oxford United			
Wed Jan 1	Crystal Palace			
Sat Jan 4	F.A. Cup 3			
Sat Jan 11	CHARLTON ATHLETIC			
Sat Jan 18	Birmingham City			
Sat Jan 25	F.A. Cup 4			
Tue Jan 28	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN			
Sat Feb 1	Tranmere Rovers			
Sat Feb 8	BOLTON WANDERERS ★			
Sat Feb 15	Queens Park Rangers (FAC5)			
Sat Feb 22	SOUTHEND UNITED			
Sat Mar 1	Port Vale			
Tue Mar 4	NORWICH CITY ★			
Sat Mar 8	Portsmouth (FAC6)			
Sat Mar 15	BRADFORD CITY			
Sat Mar 22	IPSWICH TOWN			
Sat Mar 29	Sheffield United			
Mon Mar 31	BARNSELEY			
Sat Apr 5	Stoke City			
Sat Apr 12	WOLVERHAMPTON W. (FACSF)			
Sat Apr 19	Grimsby Town			
Sat Apr 26	OLDHAM ATHLETIC ★			
Sun May 4	Manchester City			
Sat May 17	FA CUP FINAL			

GOALSCORERS (CAPITALS) PENALTY (P)



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mihaylov	Booty	Bodin	Bernal	Hunter	Wdowczyk	Williams	Caskey	QUINN	Lovell	Gooding	Gilkes (7)	Parkinson (8)	Nogan (10)
Mihaylov	Booty	Bodin	Bernal	Hunter	Wdowczyk	Williams	Caskey	QUINN	Lovell	Gooding	Parkinson (7)	Gilkes	Nogan (9)
Mihaylov	Booty	Bodin	Bernal	HUNTER	Wdowczyk	Parkinson	Caskey	Quinn	NOGAN	Gooding	Lovell (10)	Gilkes (3)	Meaker (8)
Bibbo	Booty	Bodin	Bernal	Hopkins	Wdowczyk	Parkinson	Caskey	Quinn	Nogan	Gooding	Morley (2)	Meaker (3)	Holsgrove
Bibbo	Booty	Bodin	HOLSGROVE	Hopkins	Wdowczyk	Parkinson	Williams	MORLEY (P)	Nogan	Gooding	Quinn	Gilkes (7)	Lovell (10)
Mihaylov	Booty	Bodin	Holsgrove	Hopkins	Wdowczyk	Parkinson	Williams	Morley	Nogan	Gooding	Quinn (6)	Gilkes (7)	Bernal (2)
Bibbo	Bernal	Bodin	Holsgrove	Hopkins	Wdowczyk	Gilkes	WILLIAMS	MORLEY	Nogan	Gooding	Quinn	Caskey (11)	Meaker (8)
Hammond	Bernal	Bodin	Holsgrove	Brown	Wdowczyk	Caskey	Williams	MORLEY (P)	Nogan	Gooding	Quinn (6)	Meaker (8)	PARKINSON (10)
Mihaylov	Brown	Bodin	Holsgrove	Hunter	McPherson	Gilkes	Parkinson	Morley	Quinn	Meaker	Hopkins	Caskey (8)	Nogan (9)
Mihaylov	Brown	Bodin	Holsgrove	Hunter	McPherson	Gilkes	Parkinson	MORLEY (P)	Quinn	Meaker	Gooding (7)	Nogan (8)	Lambert (11)
Mihaylov	Brown	Bodin	Bernal	Hunter	Wdowczyk	Williams	Lambert	Morley	Nogan	Gooding	Lovell (10)	Meaker (7)	Caskey
Wright	Brown	Bodin	Bernal	McPherson	Wdowczyk	Gilkes	LAMBERT	Morley	Williams	Gooding	Nogan (8)	Meaker (10)	Caskey (6)
Wright	Booty	Bodin	McPherson	Hunter	Hopkins	Gilkes	Lambert	MORLEY (P)	Caskey	Gooding	Nogan	Meaker	Williams (2)
Wright	Bernal	Bodin	McPherson	Hunter	Hopkins	Gilkes	Lambert	Morley	NOGAN 2	Gooding	Quinn	Parkinson (2)	Williams
Wright	Bernal	Bodin	McPherson	Hunter	Hopkins	Gilkes	Lambert	Morley	Nogan	Gooding	QUINN (9) (P)	Parkinson (8)	Swales

HALFTIME PENALTY SHOOTOUT TODAY

Burghfield Boys Under 11

v

Thatcham Tornadoes Colts Under 11

KEY TO SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

*OG

★ PASSPORT TO LEISURE DISCOUNT

© COPYRIGHT: FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

TEL: (01734) 390386

final thoughts

FOOTBALL FUNDAMENTALIST

JOHN MARTIN

FINDS IT HARD

TO HIDE A SMIRK

Who cannot resist the temptation of indulging in a bit of *schadenfreude* at the expense of our current divisional companions Manchester City?

I would lay money that most of the 3,000 plus Royals who made the trip to Moss Side in 1993 for that thrilling FA Cup game will now be smiling wryly.

The less gentlemanly amongst us will surely be sniggering unsympathetically at their present plight, much as they might have laughed at us if we'd made it to the Premiership and become cannon fodder for the so-called 'big clubs' and the hackneyed scribblers of Britain's sports pages, along with our 'crumbling and outdated' facilities.

Why is Maine Road such a poisoned chalice? Is it the end result of years of mismanagement and neglect? Or could it be what I suspect, the first real example of the downside of having such a monstrous entity at the pinnacle of our football system - the much vaunted but illusionary Premiership?

It's a wagon which has come loose from the rest of the train, pursued in a futile, desperate chase by those left stranded by the self-inflicted uncoupling. And now an important passenger has fallen off!

As the television-fuelled lolly pours into the sport at the top level to pay ridiculous salaries to mostly average personnel, delusions of grandeur run manifest, given credence by the new breed of 'sugar daddy' chairmen and a voracious, frenetic media.

Of course it's not the fault of the clubs that they have had to redevelop stadia which dated from Victorian times in some cases, but as the shining new edifices have risen along with the sport's profile (not to mention ticket prices!) the levels of humility and reality have plummeted.

The 'health' of a club is now measured in bank balances and share prices, irrespective of what's going on on the pitch.

For me, the true and only representative indicator of a club's health is its team. How it plays that simple old game, football.

Back in the winter of 1993 at Maine Road the signs were already there. Poor old City were ailing then, already succumbing to Premiership altitude sickness.

A glittering, executive-boxed stand towered incongruously over the rest of the ground as City struggled against a club which was fundamentally healthy where it mattered, on the pitch, even though the sides were separated by two divisions.

Health or wealth? Maybe that's something they can debate in the 'Media Theatre' at Blackburn Rovers should they return to reality come next May! And Carling can move over for Bisto, now that the Premiership's a runaway train!

*** Have you any Final Thoughts? Why not have a crack at writing for this page? If you've got something to say and it's legal, decent, relevant, and around 450 words in length then send it to The Editor here at Elm Park. The club reserves the right to edit, correct or amend any contribution.**



WESTCOAST



FOR THE FULL KIT

Authorised distributor for computer products

Westcoast
YOU WILL PROFIT FROM OUR EXPERIENCE

Call 0118 952 1500
www.westcoast.co.uk

Reading F.C.



CHANGES



Swindon Town

1 Tommy Wright

2 Andy Bernal

3 Paul Bodin

4 Keith McPherson

5 Barry Hunter

6 Jeff Hopkins

7 Michael Gilkes

8 James Lambert

9 Trevor Morley

10 Lee Nogan

11 Mick Gooding

12

13

14

1 Frank Talia

2 Mark Robinson

3 Gary Elkins

4 Scott Leitch

5 Mark Seagraves

6 Ian Culverhouse

7 Mark Walters

8 Frederic Darras

9 Peter Thorne

10 Wayne Allison

11 Kevin Horlock

12

13

14

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Referee: Eddie Lomas (Manchester)



Assistants: M. Baker

S. Gagen

Reserve official: S.A. Collins

NEXT AT ELM PARK

Optimum Interiors Capital League, Wednesday, October 30, 1996

SUTTON UNITED (Kid-for-a-Quid Match)

Kick off 7.30 p.m.



Nationwide League Division One, Saturday, November 9, 1996

TRANMERE ROVERS

Kick off 3.00 p.m.

MATCHBALL SPONSORS

