



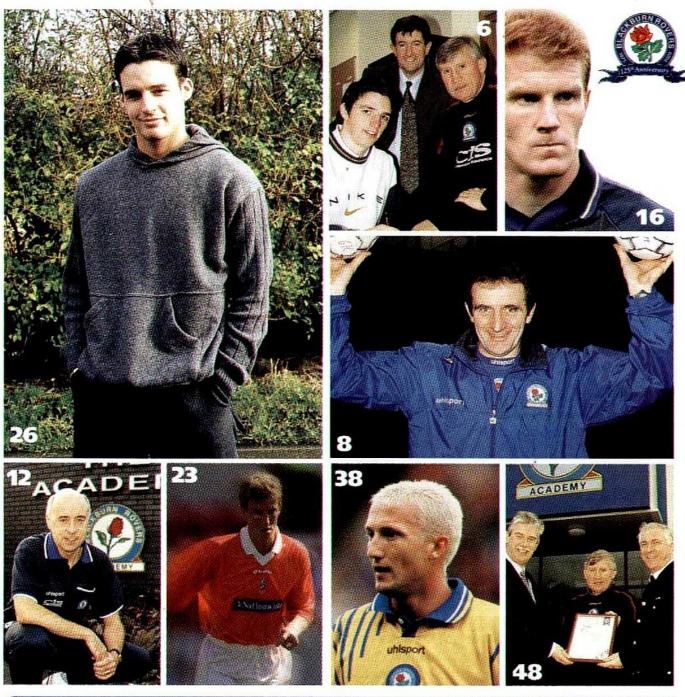
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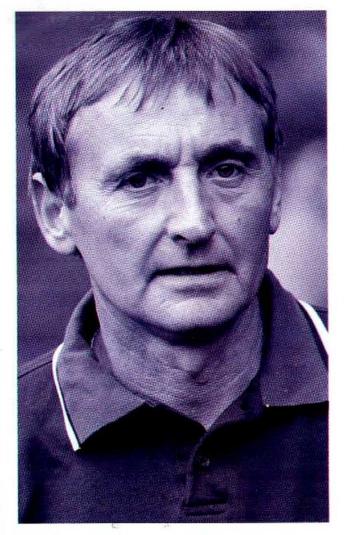


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f our destiny was determined only by the outcome of matches here at Ewood Park then we would be sitting pretty right now.

Over the past few months we have gone about our "home-work" with real conviction, energy and enthusiasm to earn some excellent results, convincingly beating the likes of Huddersfield, Fulham, Bolton, Nottingham Forest and Stockport.

Add to that hard-fought draws against Wolves and Ipswich and we have got to be more than satisfied with the points yield.

Unfortunately, there has been a flip side to all that.

TONY

We have not managed (certainly of late) to repeat that form on our travels and that is something we clearly need to rectify with immediate effect.

We were very disappointed to lose out in the local derby at Bolton last weekend, but we could have no qualms whatsoever about the scoreline.

We just didn't hit the standard required and expected and, to be blunt, Bolton were the better team on the day - end of story.

But football is all about bouncing back and when you lose the next game always takes on increased importance.

That is the case today with the visit of Swindon Town.

We must get back on track and make sure our focus is 101 per cent on collecting the three points.

Swindon are fighting for their very survival at First Division level and if we can assume anything it will be that they will roll up their sleeves and play with a passion.

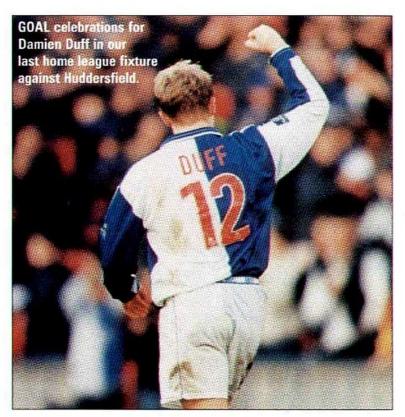
We must match them in that respect and then trust we have enough about us to take things on from there and go forward to win the game. There is a score to settle too as we lost down at the County Ground back in late September.

In closing I would like to welcome everyone connected with Swindon, especially their manager Jimmy Quinn who we all know from his playing days here.

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6	Wolves	30	8	4	3	25	16	4	6	5	15	18	6	46
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15	Grimsby Town	30	7	5	3	21	21	3	2	10	13	28	-15	37
16	Tranmere Rovers	29	7	4	3	23	15	3	2	10	15	26	-3	36
17	Crystal Palace	30	6	6	3	25	16	3	3	9	18	33	-6	36
18	Notts Forest	30	6	6	3	19	13	1	2	11	12	27	-9	30
19	West Brom Albion	30	2	9	4	13	16	3	6	6	12	18	-9	30
20	Portsmouth	30	5	5	5	22	16	2	4	9	13	29	-10	30
21	Walsall	30	4	5	6	15	18	3	4	8	18	29	-14	30
22	Crewe Alex	30	5	5	5	16	16	2	3	10	14	25	-11	29
23	Port Vale +	29	5	3	7	16	17	1	7	6	16	22	-7	28
24	Swindon Town	30	2	6	7	14	25	1	4	10	7	26	-30	19

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Executive Editor for BRFC: Jim Quick

RoversShorts

DOUGLAS SIGNS O

DOUGLAS will always be a famous and respected name within the corridors of **Ewood Park.**

And now, following on from the exploits of England winger Bryan Douglas in the '50s and '60s, comes namesake Jonathan Douglas. The Irish midfield starlet hopes to emulate the Ewood legend by carving out his own successful career with Rovers.

For 18-year-old Jonathan has just signed professional forms after coming through the club's ranks.

Jonathan, a native of Monaghan in the Republic or Ireland, has already represented his country at youth level and played a major role in Rovers winning the inaugural FA Premier Academy League last Spring.

"I am delighted to be signing professional terms and recognise the chance it gives me to further my career. I have always been very happy here and the future looks very exciting," said Jonathan.

Academy Director Bobby Downes added: "Jonathan has progressed well during his time with us and we feel he has what it takes to take this important step up to senior level. He does so with the best wishes from everyone at the Academy."



Sign here please...Jonathan Douglas puts pen to paper watched by Bobby Downes and Rovers Secretary Tom Finn.

ROVERS' youth policy witnessed the end of an era at the recent home game against

Newcastle.

The long-running "Youth Aid" group has decided to disband after 14 years of sterling work for Rovers and the local community. Members Jim Furnell and. Stuart Joseph made the break-up official during the FA Cup fifth round tie at Ewood as they presented a brand-new trophy to Rovers' Academy Director Bobby Downes.

"We have done a lot of work over the years to raise money for the Rovers' youth team," said Jim. "We thought this would be a fitting way to sign off.

"The award is to be used as a player-of-the-year

trophy for the under-17's side, as a lasting memorial to Youth Aid.



"We are very proud of the work done since formation in 1986, but it is time to call it a day.

"It used to be a vital source of revenue but cue to change in circumstances Youth Aid has recently concentrated on raising funds for local teams.

"We started with 24 members, now we have

just seven and it is obvious that the time has come to pack in. Hopefully this trophy will ensure our efforts are not forgotten."

Left to right: Jim Furnell, Bobby Downes, Stuart Joseph and Tom Finn.

EGIL CLEANS UP

ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY Egil
Ostenstad donned
his number 10 shirt
to celebrate the
10th birthday of the
National Spring
Clean campaign.

The Norwegian striker is one of several soccer stars who share the same squad number who joined forces with the Tidy Britain Group to help promote a decade of keeping the country tidy.



PENPALS WANTED

We recently received a letter all the way from Bulgaria from one Vasil Tzomkov, a Rovers fan for 10 years who is looking for pen-pals here in England.

Dear RoverTime;

My name is Vasil Tzemkov. I am 18 years old and I am from Bulgaria. I am a keen Blackburn Rovers fan and I have supported Rovers for over 10 years. I watch every game on Sky Sports and a channel called Premiere, I love the Rovers style of play.

I would like to exchange letters with other fans in England. Please print my address in your programme - please!

Good tuck & COME ON ROVERS! Best Wishes, Vasil Tzomkov.

If anyone would like to correspond with Vasil, please write to this address; ul, Hristo Botev "1bl, Novost, ap 20, Sevlievo, 5401 Bulgaria

STEWARD QUALIFICATION

ROVERS have become one of the first clubs in the country to be accredited with a brand new award.

The Football Stewarding Qualification measures how effectively steward training has been carried out at individual clubs.

The scheme was launched last September and Rovers, along with Leeds United and Shrewsbury Town, are the first to achieve its criteria.

On application, clubs are visited by national verification manager Clive Warne who assesses whether they meet the standards laid down.

And Clive, a former police officer and football club safety officer, was highly impressed by the levels at Ewood Park: "The standards set are superb. Rovers can be very proud."

Football League Chairman Peter Middleton was due to present the award during the half-time interval at today's game.

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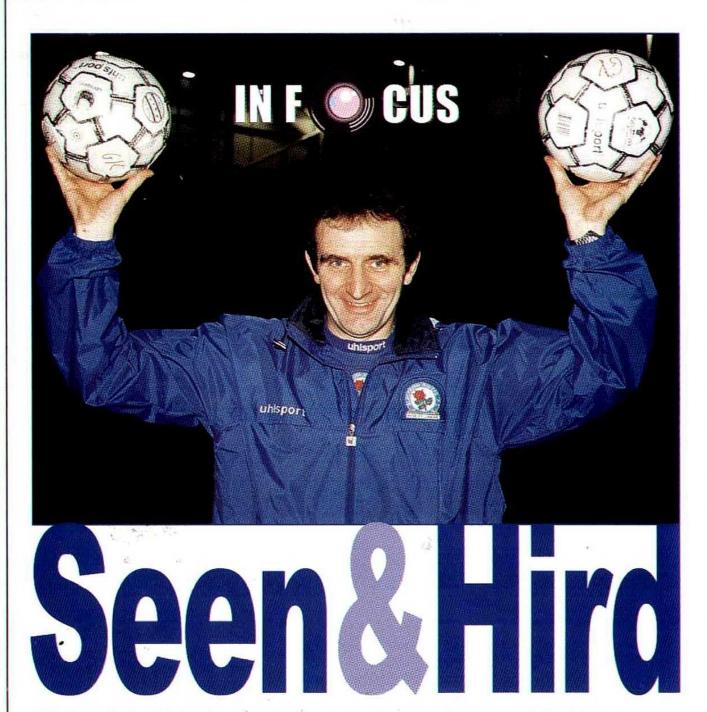


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All aboard the BRFC time-capsule...as we head back to Ewood Park for a typical Saturday match day in the late '70s.

Rovers are on the offensive, the play switches out to the right wing and an overlapping full back with a shock of curly hair latches onto a pass.

His way is blocked by an opponent jockeying back in the accepted style of a defender keen not to commit to a tackle.

The full back suddenly and audaciously flicks the ball up between right instep and left heel, over his own head and that of a bewildered opponent and runs on to retrieve his own pass.

Gathered in the Nuttall Street Stand and Enclosure, those Rovers fans in close proximity gasp as one. It is what football people do in response to witnessing a moment of true skill; nay, genius.

evin Hird always knew how to turn on the style. It made him a darling with the fans and finally persuaded Leeds United to part with £350,000 to land him some 21 years ago.

Nowadays, Kevin is teaching a trick or two to the youngest of Rovers future stars, coaching the under-8's group at the all-new Rovers Youth Academy. It will surprise no-one who had the pleasure of watching him perform that the ball is used rather a lot by this particular coach.

"Fitness training comes very much down the league of priorities - it is wall-to-wall ball work.

"They only train for an hour a week," says Kevin, "So it would be pointless having them do anything other than ball work.

"I try to teach them the most important thing in football, confidence on the ball. If they are frightened of the ball they will never make it. "Good players have a relationship with the ball, they are in absolute control. That is something you can only learn at a young age. The rest, fitness, tactical

Kevin ran soccer schools for 10 years before his former teammate and close friend Derek Fazackerley pointed him in the direction of Ewood Park.

awareness, that all comes later."

"Faz put me onto Chris Sulley, who was at the Centre of Excellence at the time. That's where it all started and I have never looked back.

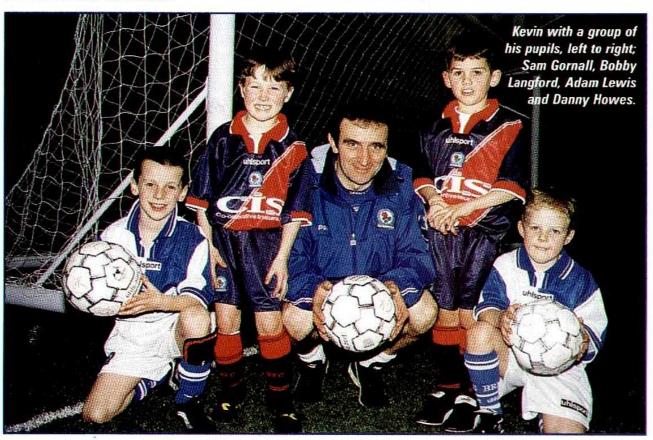
"When the Academy was built my role changed very little. The young players still needed coaching and it was decided that I was the man for the job. It made me very proud that after spending so much money on the place they wanted me to be a part of it. "The under eight's have no actual team, they just come for the coaching. Mind you, that doesn't put them off.

"When I was that young all we could do was kick a ball around in the streets and parks. Football clubs didn't even look at young players until they were fifteen or sixteen.

"Now the kids have the chance to be involved at a real club - the realisation of the dream to be a footballer. Because they are involved at Blackburn Rovers it adds to their enthusiasm, their enjoyment and their discipline; the professionalism appeals. I even find myself laying out kits ready for them!" So ten years down the line can we expect to see a full team of players prepared to flick the ball over their heads in the middle of a vital Premiership match?

"I don't teach the players arrogance," says Kevin. "I teach them to be confident. If they want to do things like that then that is up to them, I don't want to say "never do this" or "always do that."

"But it would be nice to see someone try it in a game if only to see my influence out on the pitch again after all these years!"



ogrammes from the past

season 1989/70

SWINDON T

69/70 Sat. 3 Jan. 1970

FA Cup Third Round Rovers 0 Swindon 4

Third placed Rovers were stunned by newly promoted Swindon, who had won the League Cup final against Arsenal as

a third division side the previous season. Rovers had already accounted for the second division new boys 2 - 0 at Ewood on the opening day of the season and weren't expecting to be knocked out of the FA Cup by such a big margin.

Three full pages of match action from the 0 - 3 defeat at home to Portsmouth are spread throughout the programme. There was a chance for Junior Rovers members to win a 1970 colour calendar by answering three questions in Ewood Ernies quiz. Visitors Swindon have a full page dedicated to their pen pictures. The Rovers Supporters Association had raised £2,000 to make a total of £7,000 since May 1969 to donate to the club and were hoping to make it £10,000 by April

'From the Record Books' shows Swindon Town became a professional club in 1894 and that this was their first season as high as the second division. There is a price list for the souvenir shop, including scarves for 14s and a Rovers teddy bear for 37s 6d. 'Stars in Action' features a young Allan Clarke who had recently become the costliest player in British soccer history, following his £165,000 move from Leicester to Leeds. The programme is numbered for a competition to win two match tickets and also includes a ringed spectator, who wins a similar prize.

Priced at 1s the programme is made up of 24 pages.

79/80 Sat. 25th March 1980 Division Three Rovers 2 Swindon 0

Two goals from Andy Crawford helped Rovers to another victory, which was part of 13 wins and 1 draw in a 14 game run which helped Rovers gain promotion back to the 2nd division. Howard Kendall was doing a great job as manager, though he was obviously no Carol Vorderman. He begins his column "Six at home, four away, which makes it nine matches to go." Swindon, still in the hunt for promotion themselves, included lan Miller who would soon be joining Rovers and who is now employed as the

reserves team manager, and Bryan Hamilton, who would go on to manage Northern Ireland. Mike Horne was the Telegraph's sports writer before Peter White and he gets a full page advert next to the match sponsor R. Sandersons Cleaners.

A new director is welcomed to the club, 33 year old builder

Mr. Robert Coar. A fervent supporter of the club since he was six years old, Mr. Coar is the club chairman these days. Geoff Butterfield was the commercial manager, whose job included promoting Rovers lottery tickets. Two pages of facts and figures bring up the rear of the programme, which cost 20p.

93/94 Sat. 26th March 1994 Premiership Rovers 3 Swindon 1

Almost 14 years to the day Swindon returned to Ewood propping up the table. Second place Rovers were closing in on leaders Manchester United. Jan Fjortofts early goal shocked Rovers, but the blues managed to avoid a surprise defeat, scoring three times to win comfortably in the end. Mike Newell is pictured on the front of the programme, which was priced at £1.30. Manager Kenny Dalglish reflects on Rovers impressive

performance at Sheffield Wednesday, where Newell's late goal clinched a deserved win. Swindon, managed by John Gorman, take up three pages of information, including a look at

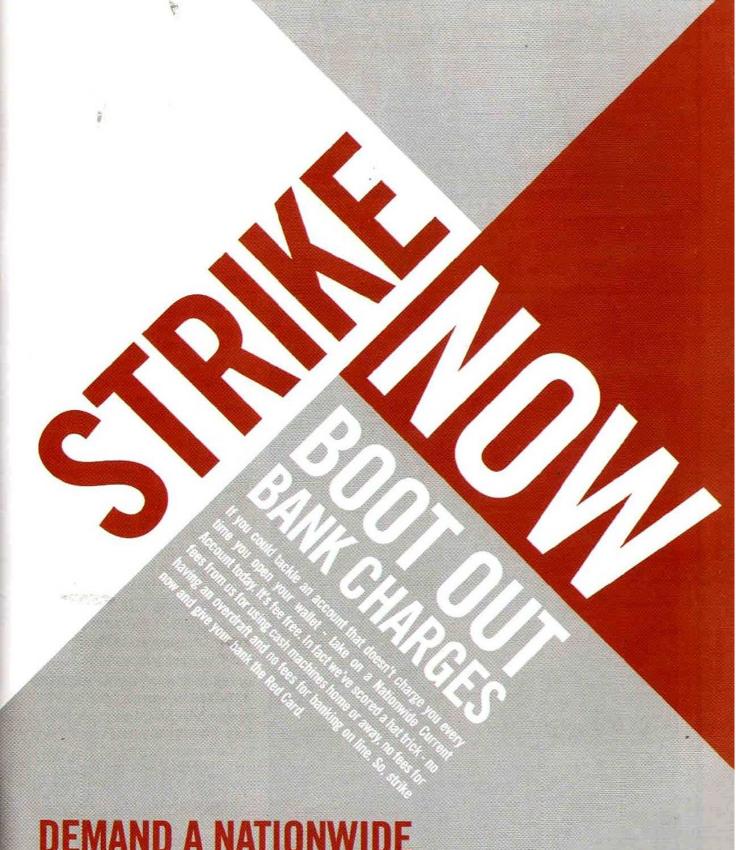
'Star Man' Brian Kilcline. Rovers full back Graeme Le Saux had recently made his England debut and this is reviewed inside. The photo action covers Rovers' 2 - 0 win over Liverpool, with Jason Wilcox and Tim Sherwood sharing the goals. Andy Morrison takes 'Centre Stage,' in the middle of the programme, before 'Spotlight on Europe' rounds up the European leagues latest happenings. More photo action

shows Le Saux and Alan Shearer in action for England against Denmark.



Eddie Crossan is featured in 'Shooting Stars.' Crossan played 287 league games for Rovers in the forties and fifties, scoring 73 goals. The rear of the programme consists of Junior, commercial and reserves news, before two pages of results and tables finish off the tidy 32 page programme. Rovers eventually finished runners-up to complete their best season for 80 years.

* John has a variety of programmes and autographs - including many Rovers - for sale on car park E before every home game. Alternatively for a catalogue send a large SAE (with 40p in stamps) to John Holden, 15 Devonshire Street, Accrington, Lancs, BB5 1DL. Tel no: 01254 238092.



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But very few get a foot in both camps.

Okay, so Ian Wright can carry a tune, John Gregory can hold his own with a guitar and who could forget Gazza's timeless rendition of "Fog on the Tyne"?

But it's usually one or the other...until now.

Rovers' Academy coach Ian McMinn has made his living in both football and the music business for most of his working life.

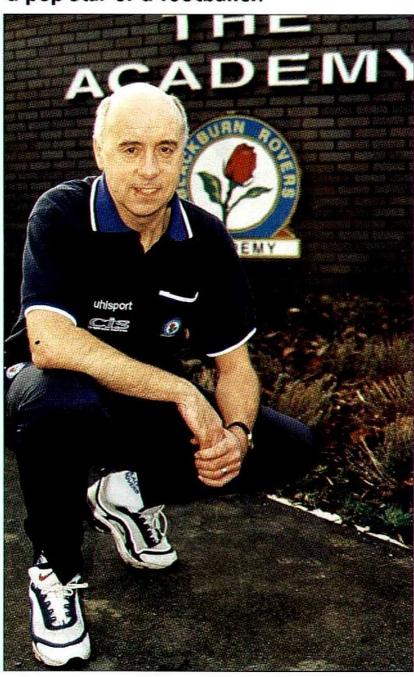
After being released by Oldham as a teenager, lan went into sales and eventually landed a dream job with internationally acclaimed RCA records.

He went on to work in sales and promotion for music giants EMI and has helped promote such top acts as Louise, Kate Bush, Eternal and Crowded House.

But all the while, lan kept a hand in the soccer world: "The two careers are things most people dream about so I feel very lucky to have experienced both." says lan. "Football was my first passion and I knew that I wanted to keep my hand in if possible."

A native of Anfield - albeit an Everton supporter - Ian started coaching part-time 20 years ago with local non-league outfit Marine.

He trained the youth teams there and so was a regular visitor to



Ewood Park in the Lancashire League.

After getting to know then youth boss Jim Furnell, he was initially asked to scout in the Liverpool area and was then invited to coach part-time at Ewood in 1985.

"That was a good move for me because Blackburn were a bigger club and I've enjoyed my time here so much that I've never wanted to leave. It is a very homely club and the people here have always been very good to me."

lan assumed a coaching role when the Academy system came into play at the beginning of last season but more recently he was asked to join the Academy staff on a full time basis. After Tony Parkes was appointed manager everyone below took a step upwards. Under 19's coach Ian Miller moved up to coach the reserves, Robert Kelly now coaches the under 19's and Sean Kimberley stepped up to become under 17's coach.

Sean left a void which needed to be filled and Ian was the obvious choice: "My role now is half coaching-based and half administrative.

"I look after all the fixture arrangements for the 9-16 yearolds and I act as physio to the under 17's as well as training the under 14s team.

"Youth coaching is a very rewarding job. To see the lads come right up through the ranks and eventually make it in the first team is brilliant.

"The likes of David Dunn and Damien Duff were in the youth teams I coached a few years ago and you feel proud that you've had a hand in their development."

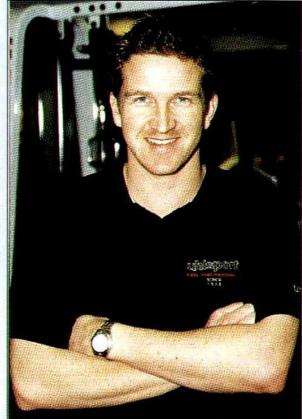
TONY FAULKNER ASSISTANT ACADEMY PHYSIO

TONY Faulkner is a Manchester lad, born and bred.

He grew up in the shadow of Manchester City's Maine Road ground and has supported the club since he was old enough to walk through the turnstile.

And that made it all the more special when he came up through City's youth ranks and made it to reserve team level.

But his love of football and City in particular



doubled the force of the blow that his career would be cut short by a serious back injury.

"It was a major setback because I had no idea what other career path to take. I'd been preparing to play football since I was ten years old." remembers Tony. "I just knew I wanted a career and not some dead-end job."

Eventually Tony settled on the idea of physiotherapy as a way of staying in the game he loved so much.

He went through the motions of qualifying and managed to land a work experience post back at Maine Road.

"I worked with the youth teams in my spare time and after I had qualified a position came up as the Academy's head physio."

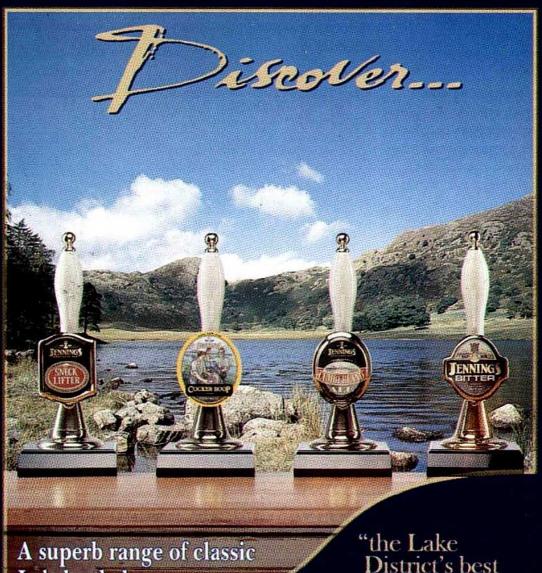
Now 28, Tony spent two years working full-time in the Maine Road youth set-up but the lure of moving to the superb facilities at Brockhall Village along with the appeal of working in a team of physios proved too much and Tony signed on at the Academy earlier this season.

"I knew head physio Dave Hancock and first team physio Mark Taylor from my time with City and felt it was a great chance and the right way to further my career.

"The facilities here are second to none and it's a privilege to work here alongside such experienced personnel."



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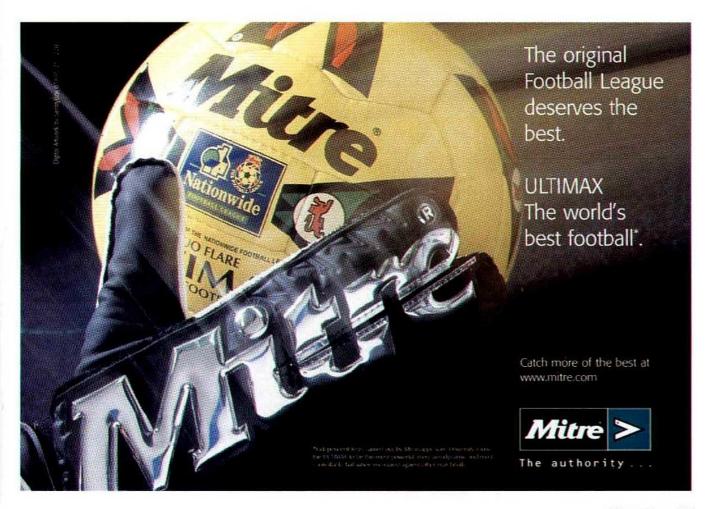
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FOOTIN

he name of Shearer will forever echo around Ewood Park.

But one thing many Rovers fans may forget is that one time idol Alan was not the only Shearer to figure on the teamsheet.

Those who occupied the Ewood stands (and terraces) in the early 90's will remember another striker of the same name.

We refer, as you have probably guessed, to one Duncan N. Shearer. Born in Fort William in 1962, he and brother David both began their careers at Inverness. In November 1983 Duncan's exploits as a goal-hungry striker earned himself a lucrative move south of the border, to Chelsea.

However, his first team opportunities at Stamford Bridge proved few and

far between. A move to Huddersfield in 1986

brought about Shearer's rise in English football. 38 goals in 80 games attracted attention from several top

clubs. Swindon Town the team who eventually landed his signature. After

further success at Swindon the big time

beckoned. Kenny Dalglish's Blackburn Rovers were on the up, sitting pretty at the top of the Second Division. When Dalglish declared an interest in acquiring the services of the master marksman, Shearer had few doubts

about coming to Ewood Park.

The deal was sealed in March 1992. Much was expected of Shearer as Rovers looked for a top quality striker to follow on from the legendary Simon Garner.

But Shearer had to bide his time and watch from the sidelines as Rovers' battled through the playoffs and into the Premier League. He also managed a goal for his new club, coming on as a substitute against Barnsley.

Duncan Shearer

oth Camps



The summer of 1992 saw an influx of stars in preparation for the all-new, elite Premier League. Shearer's position in the squad looked safe, however, as Dalglish had enjoyed his services for just a matter of weeks.

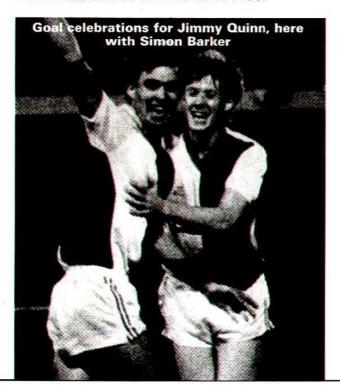
However, when a certain striker was brought in from Southampton for a British record £3.3 million, it became clear that the Rovers squad was not big enough for two Shearers.

Aberdeen declared an interest in taking Duncan back to his native Scotland and that was that. Rovers fans, although surprised at first, soon forgot all about the shock departure when their new acquisition began scoring goals at a remarkable rate.

Nowadays, Duncan could expect a warm reception from the Ewood crowd.

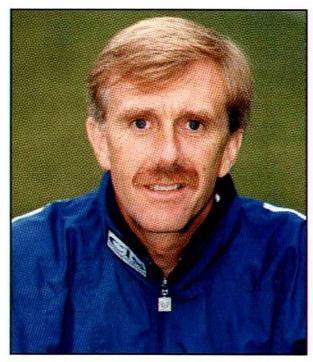
Many Rovers fans feel he was unfortunate and feel a certain sympathy for him. After all, who could compete with arguably the greatest goalscoring machine England has ever produced?

Others with a foot in both camps include current Swindon manager **Jimmy Quinn**, who scored 23 goals in 70 full appearances for Rovers after his move to Ewood in 1984. Quinn returned to the Robins in 1986.



Frank Talia, a Rovers goalkeeper in the early 90's, never played a first team game after arriving at Ewood from Australian outfit Sunshine GC.

However, a move to the County Ground in 1995 proved slightly more successful, Talia finding himself in and out of the first team. Although he did not figure in the Swindon squad for Rovers' 2-1 defeat earlier in the season, look out for him on the bench this afternoon.

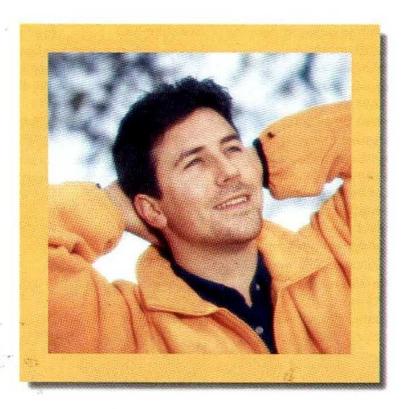


Rovers' reserve team coach lan Miller (above) was signed from Swindon by Bob Saxton back in 1981. Miller later retuned to the club in a coaching capacity and recently moved into his reserve team duties after managing the Academy's under-19's team.

Going a little further back, **Horace Cope**'s fate was written in the stars - a reliable Ewood goalkeeper back in the 1930's he left for the County Ground.

Defender **Tim Parkin** was a former Ewood apprentice who had spells at Malmo and Bristol Rovers before joining Swindon in 1986.

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Complete Value of Swindon Town by Derek Jones



TOTALS	1		H	lom	e		Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	Α	P	W	D	L	F	A
FA Premier League	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	3	1
Football League -												
Div.2 (now Div.1)	7	5	2	0	9	3	8	1	2	5	9	15
Div.3 (now Div.2)	2	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	0	4
Total	10	8	2	0	16	4	11	2	2	7	12	20

League doubles: Rovers 1, Swindon 0.

Biggest win:

3 - 1, away, Prem Lge, October 2, 1993 and home, Prem Lge, March 26, 1994.

Heaviest defeat:

0 - 4, home, FA Cup Third Round, January 3, 1970.

Hat-tricks: None.

Summary: Played 21, Won 10, Drawn 4, Lost 7, Goals For 28, Goals Against 24.

Previous League Meetings

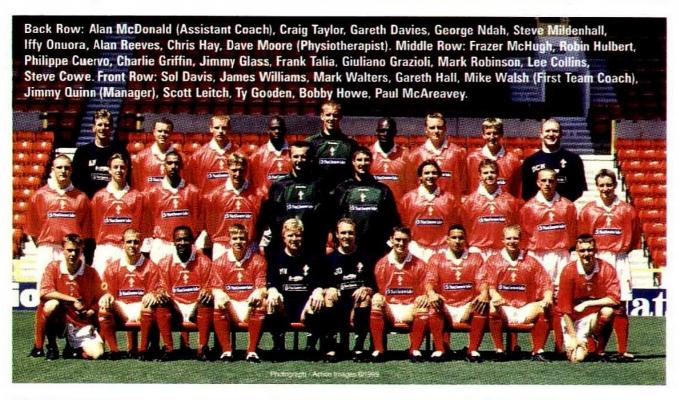
HOME				AW	AY
Season	Div	Res	ScorersAttendan	ce Res	ScorersAttendance
1969-70	2	2 - 0	Martin, Connelly 12,9	53 0 - 1	
1970-71	2	1 - 0	Conlon	30 0-3	
1974-75	3	2 - 0	Parkes, Martin	21 0-2	The state of the s
1979-80	3	2 - 0	Crawford 2	71 0-2	
1987-88	2	0 - 0		63 2-1	Archibald 2
1988-89	2	0 - 0		22 1 - 1	
1989-90	2	2 - 1	Garner, Atkins 10,6	89 3-4	Garner, Kennedy(pen), Gayle 8,426
1990-91	2		Garner, Livingstone 6,5		Stapleton
1991-92	2	2-1	Hendry, Speedie 14,8		Speedie
1993-94			Shearer 2 (1pen), Sherwood .20,0		Shearer 2, Ripley
1999-00	1				Ostenstad
Footb	all L	eag	ue Play-Offs (Semi-fina	1)	
1989-90	2	1 - 2	Kennedy	36 1 - 2	Gayle12,416
FA C	up	Me	etings		
Season					Attendance
67-68	3	0 -	1 (A)		
69-70	3	n-	4 (H)		11 538

Season	Rnd	Res (H/A)	ScorersAttendance
67-68	3	0 - 1 (A)	
69-70	3	0 - 4 (H)	
Foot	ball	League	Cup Meetings
68-69	3	0 - 1 (A)	
95-96	2/1	3 - 2 (A)	Sutton, Shearer 2
	2/2	2 - 0 (H)	Shearer 2
			Aggregate 5 - 2
Full	Mer	nbers C	up .
97-99	1	1 2 (4)	Roid 2.529

Did you know?

Swindon's 4 - 0 win over Rovers in 1970 is the biggest by any visiting team to Ewood in the FA Cup.

SwindonTown ()



Goalkeepers

FRANK TALIA

Ex-Rover Frank was spotted playing for Australia's Under 21 team and after trials with several English clubs. eventually signed us in August 1992. Failed to make a first team appearance and was brought in on loan at Swindon before signing in November 1995. He was back-up to Fraser Digby until he broke through with some terrific displays to earn him a regular place, and the No. 1 shirt. Frank has an infectious character with plenty to say both on and off the field. BORN: Melbourne, Australia, 20.7.72. Height: 6'1", Weight: 13.6 Former Clubs: Blackburn Rovers

STEVE MILDENHALL

Hartlepool (loan)

One of Swindon's home grown talents, Steve is in his third year as a professional after successfully coming through the Club's YTS system. Made two first team appearances in 1995/96, came off the bench to play as an outfield player in 1996/97 and made his full league debut between the posts for Swindon in October 1997. In this match he suffered a terrible groin injury but with no keeper

on the bench, he bravely played on to earn the 'Man of the Match' award in front of the Sky cameras and put Swindon on top of the 1st Division for 24 hours.

BORN: Swindon, 13.5.78. Height: 6'5", Weight: 13.5 Former Clubs: From Trainee

Defenders

GARETH HALL

Signed from Sunderland under the Bosman ruling, 30-year-old- Hall has a wealth of experience. Best known as a full-back, he's versatile enough to play anywhere across the back. Started his career at Chelsea where he flourished under ex-Swindon boss Glenn Hoddle. Moved to Sunderland in 1995 and was a regular in the Premiership for the Wearsiders. Capped nine times for Wales. BORN: Croydon, 12.03.69 Height: 5'8", Weight: 12.0 Former Clubs: Chelsea. Sunderland, Brentford (loan)

ALAN REEVES

Quit Wimbledon's "Crazy Gang" in search of first team football. Tall central defender, who cost the Dons £300,000 from Rochdale five years ago when he was signed as a replacement for John Scales. Excellent header of the ball, 31-yearold Reeves can be an asset in attack on set pieces.

BORN: Birkenhead. 19.11.67 H: 6'0", W:12st. Former Clubs: Norwich City, Gareth Hall

Gillingham (loan), Chester City, Rochdale, Wimbledon

MARK ROBINSON

Started his career at West Bromwich Albion, joined Barnsley on a free in June 1986 and such was his form there that Newcastle snapped him up for £450,000 in March 1993. After losing his place in the first team through injury, Swindon paid a Club record £600,000 for his services in July 1994 and he has been a regular and consistent performer ever since. Mark can play at full-back, central defence and was also a success as a sweeper.

BORN: Rochdale, 21.11.68. Height: 5'9", Weight: 12.4

Former Clubs: West Bromwich Albion,

Barnsley, Newcastle Utd

GARETH DAVIES

Was signed on a free transfer in March 1999, Gareth made the short trip down the M4 from Reading and despite being a firm favourite with the fans, he did not figure in Tommy Burns' plans. Gareth is well known for his commitment and aggressive style.

Born: Hereford, 11.12.73 Height: 6'1", Weight: 11.12 Former Clubs: Hereford Utd, Crystal Palace, Cardiff City, Reading

SOL DAVIS

Left-sided fullback/wing back who was offered his first pro contract in the summer of '98 after a series of impressive performances in the reserves. Made his league debut as a substitute at home to QPR, shortly after his 18th birthday. First start in a Swindon shirt came six months later in the heat of a local derby clash away at Oxford United. Last season he established himself as reliable first team player making 23 appearances.

BORN: Cheltenham 4.9.79 Height: 5'8", Weight: 11.0 Former Clubs: From Trainee

ANDY WILLIAMS

Andy moved from Southampton in October 1999 in a £65,000 deal after an impressive loan spell at the County Ground. Andy is an extremely versatile player and has featured in both wing-back positions though Andy admits he usually plays on the left wing. A

regular Under21 international he made his debut coming on as substitute against Brazil in the Maracana Stadium.

BORN: Bristol, 8.10.77 Height: 5'10", Weight: 10.10 Former Clubs: Southampton

Midfielders

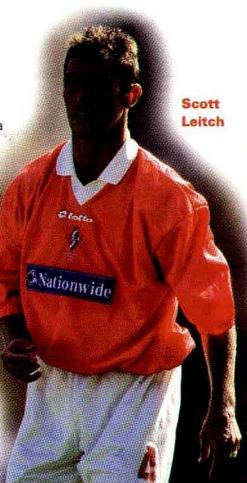
SCOTT LEITCH

Former Dunfermline and Hearts midfielder signed for Swindon in the summer of 1996 for a bargain price of £15,000. Enjoyed a successful loan spell at the County Ground during their Second Division Championship season and former manager Steve McMahon was quick to bring him in on a permanent basis. Scott was named 'Club Captain' by Jim Quinn in the summer after the retirement of Brian Borrows. He works hard in the Town's engine room, possesses a strong tackle and is capable of spreading the play.

BORN: Motherwell, 6.10.69. Height: 5'9", Weight: 11.8

Former Clubs: Dunfermline Ath, Heart

of Midlothian





Manager JIMMY OUINN

This former Town player and fans favourite has gathered a wealth of experience over his career playing at the likes of Leicester City, West Ham, and of course Rovers, playing a total of 70 games for us (14 as sub) and he scored a respectable 23 goals.

During his time as a player at Swindon he scored 43 goals in 86 appearances and then went on to score 94 goals for Reading.

Jimmy picked up 48 caps for Northern Ireland, before beginning as a player/manager at Reading.

Still a member of the playing staff, he is currently on 699 career apearances (01.02.00)

Born: Belfast, 18.12.59

Height: 6'0" Weight: 13.10

Former Clubs

Rovers, Leicester City, Bradford City, West Ham Utd, Bournemouth, Reading, Peterborough Utd.



ROBIN HULBERT

Gifted young midfielder, he gained Premiership experience on-loan with Newcastle Utd and showed much improvement last season. Six full starts last season gave him added experience and incentive. Will be looking to become a regular this season.

BORN: Plymouth, 14.3.80. Height: 5'9", Weight: 10.5 Former Clubs: From Trainee, Newcastle (loan)

LEE COLLINS

Joined Swindon from Scottish Club Albion Rovers for £15,000 in November 1995. Lee was probably Swindon's most improved player in 1997-98. After being banned for seven games and told to clean up his act, he successfully channelled his aggression and energies into developing as a player and his tough tackling remained, but with control. A terrible shoulder injury forced him to miss all but two games of last season. BORN: Bellshill, 3.2.74.

Height: 5'8", Weight: 10.8 Former Clubs: Albion Rovers

PHILIPPE CUERVO

This gifted Frenchman impressed during a trial period and was quickly signed on a three-year contract from Sochaux (free transfer) 1997. He was a revelation during the first two months of the season but then spent several months out with a hip problem.

He has not had the best of luck with





BOBBY HOWE

An attacking midfielder who signed for Swindon in January 1998 from Nottingham Forest, where his first team opportunities had dried up. He made 17 appearances for Forest and has had loan spells at Kettering and Ipswich Town. Bobby made 23 appearances last season scoring three valuable goals.

BORN: Annisford, 6.11.73. Height: 5"7", Weight: 10.4 Former Clubs: Nottingham Forest, Ipswich Town (loan)

Sitting it

Forwards

CHRIS HAY

This pacy young striker was drafted in from Scottish giants Celtic for £330,000, and quickly made a good impression scoring 13 goals in 18 appearances before Christmas 1997. A number of niggling injuries hampered his last campaign but he is raring to go this season. He still managed to notch six goals in 18 starts last season.

BORN: Glasgow, 28.8.74. Height: 5'11", Weight: 11.7 Former Clubs: Celtic

GIUILIANO GRAZIOLI

Signed by manager Jim Quinn in June 1999 on a free transfer from his former club Peterborough Utd. He scored 15 goals last season for Peterborough and Jim Quinn is certain that his former strike partner will continue his good form with Swindon. (Broke his foot in Nov 99, and likely to be out today).

Born: 23.03.75

Height: 5'11", Weight: 12.0

Former Clubs: Stevenage Town (non-

league), Peterborough Utd

CHARLIE GRIFFIN

Like manager Jim Quinn, Charlie started his career in non-league football. He was signed for £10,000 from Chippenham Town where he was top scorer in the Screwfix League with 30 goals. At nineteen years old he is a prospect for the future and the coaching staff believe that with a handful of reserve games under his belt he will be ready to step into first team football.

His first start in the first team came in the final game of last season against Barnsley, where he opened his account after only seven minutes.

BORN: Bath, 25.6.79 Height: 6'0" Weight: 12.8 Former Clubs: Chippenham Town

(non-league)

Other squad members

Steve Cowe, Adam Willis, Sam Campagna, Frazer McHugh, Nicky Burke, Jamie Mills. Ricky Culbertson, Alan Flanagan, Paul McAreavey, Alan Hughes, James Williams.





Head-to-Head Nathan Blake v Chris Hay

Brawny frontman Nathan Blake is starting to establish himself in the Rovers first XI under new boss Tony Parkes.

Today he goes head-to-head with Swindon's former Celtic star Chris Hay. The cashstrapped Robins are being run by administrators and are in dire financial trouble. The fact that they are also nine points adrift at the foot of the table – and 12 points from safety – is incidental by comparison.

Hay has put his injury woe of the last few years firmly behind him and in a season during which Swindon have had trouble even scoring, yet alone winning, he has been in super form, with five goals already.

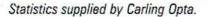
Blake has three league goals to his name so far this season, his most recent coming last week against Bolton, but his overall contribution to the side should not be overlooked.

His passing has been more accurate than Hay's, and he has set up three goals for team-mates with his deft flicks and incisive through balls.

Nathan has also contributed more defensively, his height being useful when Rovers are defending opposition corners and free-kicks. But he has a less impressive disciplinary record, with that red card at home to Ipswich in November and the same number of fouls committed as Hay despite playing less football. He will definitely be looking to add to his goal tally against a Swindon side which has kept only one clean sheet in 23 league games.

Hay, meanwhile, has got more of his efforts on target than off, so in-form goalkeeper Alan Kelly is certain to have some work to do this afternoon if Rovers are to ensure all three points.

Carling Opta 9	9/20	00 S	tats B	lake /	Hay	
Minutes On Pitch Goal Attempts	1043	1736	Cross Completion % Dribbling	0%	22%	
Goals Shots On Target (inc goals) Shots Off Target Blocked Shots Strike Rates Shooting Accuracy %	3 14 14 7 50%	5 20 18 8	Dribbles & Runs Dribble Completion % Defending Tackles Made Tackles Won % Blocks	28 75% 8 38% 5	42 76% 20 40% 3	
Goals-to-shots Ratio % Passing Goal Assists	11%	13%	Clearances Interceptions Discipline	13 1	1	
Total Passes Pass Completion % Crossing	373 66%	352 61%	Fouls Offside Yellow Cards	23 18 1	23 10 2	







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2nd Prize Swatch Wristwatch Winning Number 040980 NOT CLAIMED

3rd Prize Autographed Ball Winning Number 046723 Winning NameMr. P Wright of Blackburn

4th Prize Twiglets Special Prize Winning Number 042729 Winning Name: Mr. G. Bolton of Gt. Harwood

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8th Jan 204 D. Wright (Blackburn)

15th Jan 667 L. Adams (Blackburn)

22nd Jan 288 M. Nightingale (Blackburn)

29th Jan 835 A. Newham (Oswaldtwistle)

There are still a few numbers available

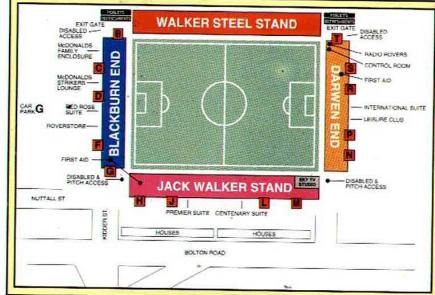
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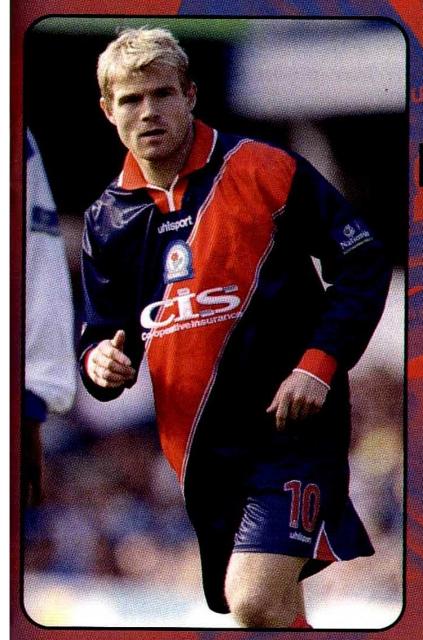
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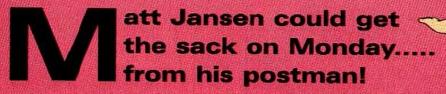
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Getting to know...Matt Jansen



For the young Rovers striker is one of those "first class males" who can expect cards by the van load every time February 14th comes around.

It was anything but romantic when the turn came to interview of one Matthew B. (Don't ask what the B stands for!) Jansen in our popular Getting to Know You feature.

A typical wet and blustery day in the windswept Ribble Valley with intermittent showers always going to hamper the photography (aside from the weather, water was very much a running theme throughout the interview)

More of that later....for now let's get back to the heart of the matter and Valentine's Day.

RoverTime: How many cards did you get last year?

Matt: (A modest laugh) Quite a few - too many to count.

RoverTime: More than a hundred?

Matt: Somewhere around that...you can't print this, the lads are gonna hammer me.

RoverTime: What is the most romantic thing you have ever done?

Matt: Nothing I'm going to reveal here.

RoverTime: How much fan mail do you get?

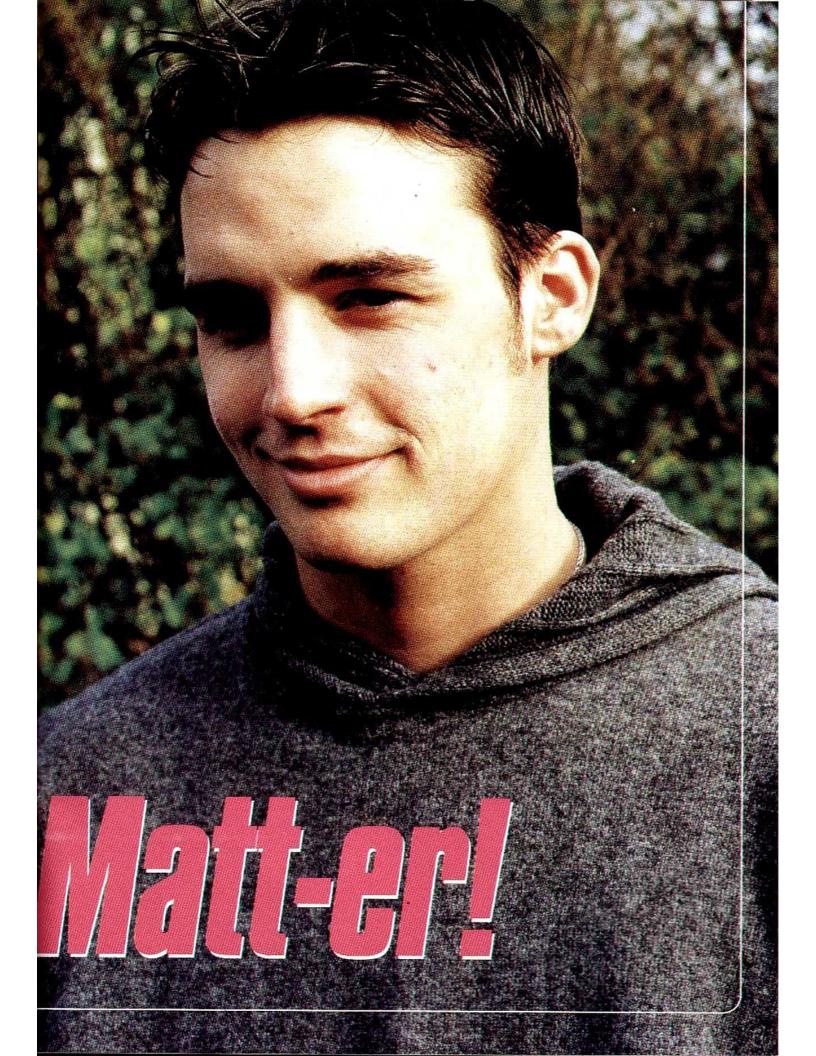
Matt: Quite a bit but it varies from week to week. I'm hoping to get quite a few envelopes on Monday!

RoverTime: How do you manage to reply to them all?

Matt: My mum is brilliant and she helps out with a lot of it - I have to hide the saucy ones though!

Continues on page 29.







Fish seem to be an appropriate topic given the events that follow Matt's last answer.

There we were sitting peacefully in the reception at the Brockhall training HQ when Steve Harkness popped his head around the door and showered us both with a full bottle of Evian!

Ish seem to be an approperents that follow Matt's

There we were sitting at the Brockhall trair Harkness popped showered us br

Before I had dampened corridor caugh mor w Before I had time to shake the water from my dampened notepad Matt was off down the corridor like a whippet chasing a hare. He caught up with Steve in the car park but was far more merciful than his attacker and decided a

A quick dab with a towel and Matt was back in

RoverTime: Aside from giving chase to water-wielding maniacs, what is the most dangerous activity you have ever participated in?

Matt: I'd love to try ski-ing but obviously I can't really do that while I'm playing football. I wouldn't be allowed and I probably couldn't get the insurance but I will definitely have a go when I've finished playing football.

RoverTime: What has been the proudest moment of your career so far?

Matt: Your debuts are always special. I scored on my debut for Crystal Palace and I was particularly happy with my goal against Spurs in my first game for Rovers. Playing for England under 21's was also quite a proud moment.

RoverTime: Do you have a most memorable goal?

Matt: My favourite would have to be one against Aston Villa when I was at Palace. It was Atilio Lombardo's first match as manager and we went 3-0 down after about half an hour. Although it didn't affect the final scoreline I enjoyed scoring that goal in the second half.

RoverTime: What is your best talent off the field?

Matt: I play a bit of golf with the boys, my handicap is six so I'm a bit behind Callum yet. I have also just started playing the piano. I started a couple of months ago just to fill my spare time. I played the saxophone at school and so I can read music but I'm just having a bit of difficulty getting my hands to do two different things at once.

RoverTime: What was the best thing about playing for your home-town team (Carlisle)?.

Matt: It's always your boyhood dream to one day be good enough to play for your own club but it can also work against you depending on how well you are playing.

RoverTime: Are you religious?

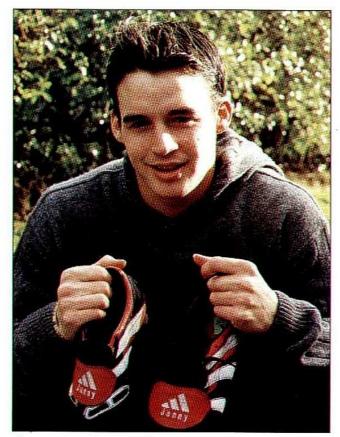
Matt: Yes, quite. I go to church whenever I can.

RoverTime: If you could have followed another career what would it have been and why?

Matt: I wouldn't have minded playing golf for a living. Otherwise I think I'd like to do something sports-related like teaching PE or being a PT instructor.

RoverTime: Do you have a favourite film?

Matt: I have a few - The Shawshank Redemption, Seven and most things starring Robert De Niro.



RoverTime: When was the last time you shouted at

Matt: Every day on the training pitch!

RoverTime: What was the last charity you supported?

Matt: We did one with Terry (Darracott) a few days ago in training. For every bad cross you put in you had to donate a tenner to a multiple sclerosis charity - my bill came to around three grand!

RoverTime: Are you any good at video games?

Matt: I have Nintendo 64 and I play Super Mario Kart with a few of my mates but I'm not the world's greatest.

RoverTime: What is the most extravagant item you have splashed out on?

Matt: I bought myself a Porsche but last year I took my whole family on holiday to America. There were ten of us altogether

RoverTime: Do you read your stars?

Matt: Never.

RoverTime: Do you read your player ratings in the

newspaper? Matt: Never.

RoverTime: Which newspapers do you read?

Matt: I get the News of the World, the Star the ones that are full of scandal and gossip.

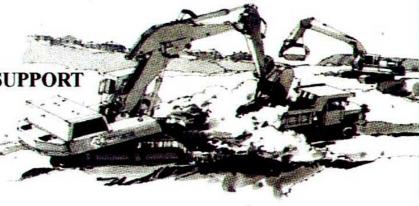
RoverTime: Where do you recommend for a good night out?

Matt: I love going out in London, Cafe de Paris and all that. But when I'm back home in Carlisle I go to a restaurant called the Fantails.





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A C		10+ch(C+	a +c	KEY: Play	ver in bold =Go	alscorer, p=p	enalty, 2=nur	nber of goals	bv one plave
MITE ET LABORE	V	/latch	JC	au		1	1	T	1	1
			ff/Result	Att.(away)						
Sat Aug 7	H	Port Vale	D 0-0	20,530 (1,808)	Filan	Grayson	Short	Broomes	Davidson	Dunn*
Fri Aug 13	A	Huddersfield Town	L 2-3	13,670 (2,001)	Filan	Grayson	Dailly	Broomes	Davidson	Gillespi
Sat Aug 21	H	Barnsley	L 1-2	19,537 (1,907)	Filan	Grayson	Short	Broomes	Davidson	Gillespie
Sat Aug 28	A	Norwich City	W 2-0	15,407 * (742)	Filan	Grayson	Short	Dailly	Kenna	Dunn*
Sat Sep 11	H	Tranmere Rovers	W 2-0	17,899 (999)	Filan	Grayson	Short	Dailly	Kenna	Dunn*
Wed Sep 15	A	Portsmouth (Worth Cup 2/1)	W 3-0	8,542 (140)	Kelly	Kenna	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Gillespie
Sat Sep 18	A	West Bromwich Albion	D 2-2	16,902 (1,710)	Filan	Grayson	Short*	Dailly	Davidson	Dunn*
Wed Sep 22	H	Portsmouth (Worth Cup 2/2)	W 3-1	7,512 (120)	Kelly	Kenna	Peacock	Taylor	Harkness*	Gillespie
Sat Sep 25	H	Walsall	W 2-0	18,232 (802)	Filan	Kenna	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
Tue Sep 28	A	Swindon Town	L 1-2	7,354 (412)	Filan	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Wilcox
Sat Oct 2	A	Queens Park Rangers	D 0-0	14,002 (1,420)	Filan	Grayson	Peacock*	Dailly	Kenna	Wilcox
Wed 13 Oct	Α	Leeds United (Worth Cup 3)	L 0-1	24,353 (1,366)	Filan	Kenna	Short	Taylor	Richardson	Johnson
Sat Oct 16	H	Grimsby Town	D 1-1	17,575 (746)	Filan	Kenna	Short	Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
Wed Oct 20	H	Crystal Palace	D 1-1	15,819 (266)	Filan	Grayson	Short	Dailly	Davidson	Wilcox
Sat Oct 23	A	Manchester City	L 0-2	33,027 (2,350)	Filan	Kenna*	Short	Dailly	Davidson	Wilcox
Tue Oct 26	A	Walsall	D 1-1	6,484 (780)	Filan	Kenna	Short	Dailly	Davidson	Wilcox
Sat Oct 30	H	Queens Park Rangers	L 0-2	17,491 (804)	Filan	Kenna*	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Wilcox
Sat Nov 6	H	Ipswich Town	D 2-2	18,512 (1,321)	Kelly	Grayson	Taylor	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
Sat Nov 20	H	Fulham	W 2-0	18,543 (1,109)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
ue Nov 23	A	Crewe Alexandra	D 0-0	6,495 (1,350)	Kelly	Grayson	Short	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
at Nov 27	H	Stockport County	W 2-0	17,592 (1,228)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
ue Nov 30		Charlton Athletic	W 2-1	18,939 (640)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
Sat Dec 4	_	Port Vale	D 0-0	6,084 (1,481)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
Tue Dec 7	H	Bolton Wanderers	W 3-1	21,046 (3,089)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
Sat Dec 11	A	West Bromwich Albion (FAC3)	D 2-2	10,609 (1,287)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Harkness	McAtee
Sun Dec 19		Sheffield United	L 1-2	10,437 (891)	Kelly	Grayson	Taylor	Dailly	Harkness*	McAteer
Ved Dec 22	H	West Bromwich Albion (FAC3r)		11,766 (1,185)	Kelly	Kenna	Taylor	Dailly	Davidson	McAteer
Sun Dec 26	H	Nottingham Forest	W 2-1	23,406 (1,242)	Kelly	Kenna	Taylor	Dailly	Davidson	
ue Dec 28	A	Portsmouth	W 2-1	15,208 (918)	Kelly*	Kenna*	Taylor	Dailly		Johnson
Non Jan 3		Wolverhampton Wanderers		24,743 (3,848)	Filan	Kenna	Peacock	Section 1	Davidson	McAtee
	A	Liverpool (FAC4)		32,839 (2,986)	Filan	Kenna*	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
		Huddersfield Town		21,420 (3,384)	Filan*	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
at Jan 22	_	Barnsley		18.088 (2,051)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
		Newcastle United (FAC5)		29,946 (7,150)	Kelly	Grayson		Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
		Bolton Wanderers		17,687 (2,961)	Kelly		Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	McAtee
	_	Swindon Town	3pm	17,007 (2,301)	Kelly	Grayson	Peacock	Dailly	Davidson	Johnson
CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		Birmingham City	7.45pm							
The state of the s	_	Stockport County	3pm							
at Feb 26		West Bromwich Albion	3pm							
ue Feb 29	-		7.45pm					_		
THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN		Tranmere Rovers	3pm							
ue Mar 7		Ipswich Town	7.45pm							
Charles and the state of		Crewe Alexandra	1pm							
the state of the s	10000	Fulham	3pm							
		CALL CHARLES	7.45pm							
		Nottingham Forest	3pm							
		Sheffield United	3pm							
		Wolverhampton Wanderers	3pm							
		Portsmouth	3pm							

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3pm

3pm

3pm

3pm

1.30pm

Sat Apr 15

Sat Apr 22

Sat Apr 29

H Portsmouth

Mon Apr 24 H Charlton Athletic

Sun May 7 H Manchester City

A Grimsby Town

A Crystal Palace

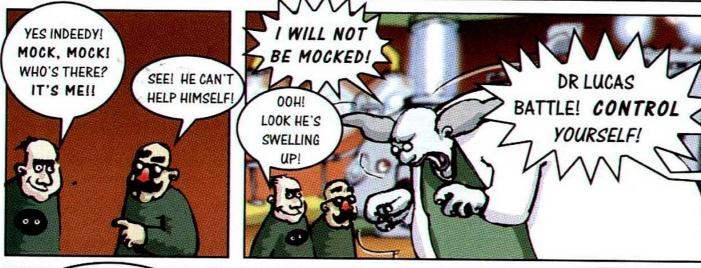
*=1st sub, '=2nd sub, *=3rd sub, so=sent off, aet=after extra time. Appearances: Full - Start, Sub - On bench, (P) - Came on.



Wilcox	Carsley	Duff	Davies	Jansen*	Kenna	Dailly	Johnson*	Gallacher*	Kelly	No Player	Eull Cub
Flitcroft	Carsley	Wilcox	Davies*	Gallacher*	Kenna	Duff-	Johnson	Blake*	Fettis	1 FILAN	Full Sub
Flitcroft*	Carsley	Wilcox-	Ostenstad	Ward	Kenna	Dunn*	Johnson •	Jansen'	1	2 KENNA	The second line is not a second line in the second line in the second line in the second line is not a second line is no
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Frandsen	Carsley	Blake	Ostenstad*		Kenna	Taylor	Duff*	Ostenstad*	Kelly	10 OSTENSTAD	17 14
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randsen	Carsley*		Jansen	. Blake*	Dunn	Taylor	Ward*	Ostenstad	Kelly	15 JANSEN	11 11
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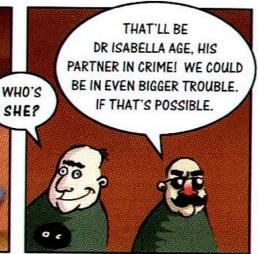










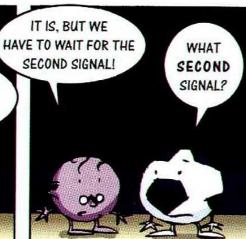


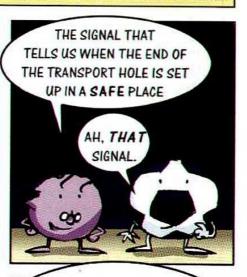
THE STORY SO FAR ...

THE LIKEABALLS ARE A FUN LOVING RACE OF BALL-LIKE ALIENS WHO LIVE TO PLAY 'THE BEAUTIFUL GAME'.

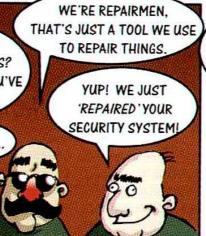
THE LIKEABALLS CRASHLAND ON EARTH IN PREHISTORIC TIMES WHERE THEY FAIL TO TEACH PRIMITIVE MAN THE BEAUTIFUL GAME. STRANDED ON EARTH, THE LIKEABALLS ARE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO ENTER SUSPENDED ANIMATION UNTIL HUMANKIND EVOLVES INTO A GAME PLAYING RACE. THEY AWAKE IN PRESENT DAY TO FIND THAT HUMANITY HAS TAKEN THE BEAUTIFUL GAME AND MOULDED IT INTO A WONDROUS NEW FORM - FOOTBALL! OVERJOYED, THE LIKEABALLS SET UP THEIR OWN SQUAD, 'TEAM LIKEABALL' AND THE LIKEABALL LEAGUE! AN ANTI ALIEN ORGANISATION KNOWN AS 'THRAAPF' THREATEN THE FUTURE OF TEAM LIKEABALL. LAUGHABALL AND DISGUISABALL SMUGGLE THEMSELVES INTO THRAAPF'S HQ, WITH A PLAN TO LOWER IT'S DEFENSES SO THAT TEAM LIKEABALL CAN ENTER UNDETECTED, BUT THINGS DON'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN...

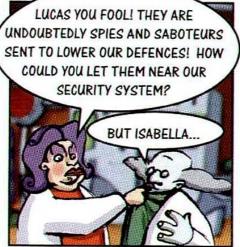






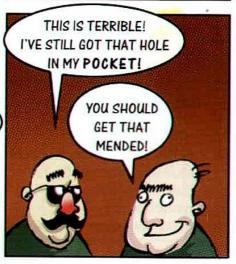












TheAcademy



Saturday 29th January 2000 MAN UTD U19 0 ROVERS U19 0

THE Old Trafford youngsters put up much more of a fight than in the corresponding

fixture back in October.
Rovers were 2-1 victors
on that occasion
thanks to goals from
Gary Hamilton and Jon
Douglas but United
proved much tougher
to break down on
home turf.



Rovers fielded a strong

side, which included Scottish starlets David McNamee (pictured) and Burton O'Brien. But the strikeforce of Ryan Baldacchino and Steve Foster couldn't quite find the net. To their credit though, Rovers prevented United from finding a way through with some resolute defending throughout the 90 minutes.

ROVERS: Bingham, McCann, Nutter, D Dunning (Douglas, 40), Hawe, Murphy, McNamee (Hardy, 80), O'Brien, Foster (Richards, 60), Baldacchino, Forsyth. Subs not used: Hind, Howson.

MAN UTD U17 1 ROVERS U17 0

TESTING weather conditions turned a potentially classic clash into a hard-fought battle as both sides struggled to get to grips with strong winds and driving rain.

The home side were strong at the back but Rovers created several chances to take the lead and even had a goal disallowed.

United had fewer clear-cut goal-scoring opportunities but managed to bury one midway through the second half, smashing the ball into the roof of the net from inside the box - the strike which eventually proved the winner.

ROVERS: Renton, Hockenhull, Woodhead, P Murray (Creasy, 60), Taylor, Stone, Danns, Blakeman, Bell, Byrne (Donnelly, 55), Hevicon.

Subs not used: Robinson, Gibson.

Saturday 5th February 2000 ROVERS U 19 1 LIVERPOOL U 19 0

STEVE Foster bagged his tenth goal of the season as Rovers coasted to another comfortable league victory.

The Manchester-born target-man showed great finishing skills after good work by Marc Richards to blast Rovers into the lead on 15 minutes.

But Rovers didn't rest on their laurels and continued to take the game to the visitors, Lee Hardy going close when he bounced a first-half free-kick off the cross-bar.

After the break, Liverpool threw everything they had at Rovers in search of an equaliser but the rear-guard of Stuart Howson and Jonathan Douglas held out superbly.

Coach Robert Kelly said: "It was a very competent performance from all concerned which took us three points clear of second-placed Everton, who are our next opponents."

ROVERS: Bingham, R Dunning, F Murray, O'Brien, Howson, Douglas, Derbyshire (McNamee, 55), Flitcroft, Richards, Foster, Hardy (Nutter, 30).

Subs not used: Hind, Chamberlain, Doyle.

ROVERS U17 1 LIVERPOOL U17 0

MARK Byrne's first-half strike made the difference between Rovers and the visiting Anfield youngsters last weekend.

After 20 minutes the Billinge-born hit-man buried an Andy Bell flick-on in the bottom right hand corner to put Rovers in front.

And Rovers dug their heels in to hang on to the advantage, despite some heavy pressure from the visitors, and seal a double victory over Liverpool opposition.

Three points helped stretch the gap between Rovers and fourth-placed Liverpool and pulled the Brockhall boys to just two points adrift of second-placed Crewe.

ROVERS: Renton, Hockenhull (P Murray, 45), Woodhead, Blakeman, Taylor, Stone, Creasy, Donnelly (Atkinson, 80), Bell (Walters,70,) Byrne, Hevicon.

Subs not used: Robinson, Gibson.

ACADEMY LEAGUE RESULTS AND APPEARANCES

UNDER	19	UNDER 17
28th Aug	Newcastle United	28th Aug Newcastle United
4th Sept	Leeds United	4th Sept Leeds United
11th Sept	Huddersfield Town	11th Sep Leeds UnitedL 2-
18th Sep	Middlesbrough W 6-1	18th Sept Middlesbrough
25th Sep	Coventry City	25th Sep Coventry City
2nd Oct	Sheffield Wed	2nd Oct Sheffield Wed
16th Oct	Bolton Wanderers	16th Oct Bolton Wanderers
23rd Oct	Crewe Alex	23rd Oct Crewe Alex
30th Oct	Manchester Utd	30th Oct Manchester Utd
6th Nov	Manchester City	6th Nov Manchester City L 0-
13th Nov	Liverpool	13th Nov Liverpool L 1-
20th Nov	Everton	20th Nov Sheffield Wed
27th Nov	Barnsley L 3-2	27th Nov Barnsley
4th Dec	Bolton Wanderers	15th Jan Bolton Wanderers
11th Dec	Crewe Alex	22nd Jan Manchester City
22nd Jan	Manchester City	29th Jan Manchester Utd L 0-
29th Jan	Manchester Utd D 0-0	5th Feb Liverpool
5th Feb	Liverpool	12th Feb Birmingham City
12th Feb	Everton a	19th Feb Aston Villa
19th Feb	Aston Villaa	26th Feb Sunderland
26th Feb	Sunderlanda	4th Mar Barnsley
4th Mar	Barnsley	11th Mar Crewe Alex
UND	ER 19 APPEARANCES	UNDER 17 APPEARANCES
	A (S) G A (S) G	A (S) G A (S) G
Baldacchi		Atkinson 12 (1) 2 McVeigh 2
Bingham	16 Hawe 17 2	Bell 7 (5) 4 Murray P 9 (2)
Burgess	7 (1) 7 Hind 2	Blakeman 11 2 Renton 8
Chamberl Derbyshir	AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	Byrne 17 5 Robinson 9
Douglas	e 3 Lawless 4 (2)	Creasy 14 (1) 1 Stevenson 1

and Oct	Sheffield Wed
6th Oct	Bolton Wanderers
3rd Oct	Crewe Alex
Oth Oct	Manchester Utd
th Nov	Manchester CityL 0-2
3th Nov	Liverpool
Oth Nov	Sheffield Wed D 1-1
7th Nov	Barnsley
5th Jan	Bolton Wanderers
2nd Jan	Manchester City
9th Jan	Manchester UtdL 0-1
th Feb	Liverpool

	A	(S)	G	The state of	A	(S)	G
Baldacchino	11	(1)	2	Hardy	2	(3)	
Bingham	16		3	Hawe	17		2
Burgess	7	(1)	7	Hind	2		A NE
Chamberlain	3	(1)	1	Howson	11		1
Derbyshire	3			Lawless	4	(2)	
Douglas	12	(1)	4	McCann	14		
Doyle	3	(3)		McNamee	3	(1)	1
Dunning D	15		2	Murphy	4		7
Dunning R	14	(2)		Murray F	6	(1)	
Flitcroft	4	(3)	17	Nutter	3	(3)	
Forsyth	16		3	O'Brien	4	7	1
Foster	12	(1)	10	Richards	5	(2)	1
Hamilton	8	(2)	8	Taylor S	2	(1)	
A=Full Appe	aran	ces,	(S)=5	Sub Appearanc	es, G	= Goa	ls

	A	(S)	G		A	(S)	G
Atkinson	12	(1)	2	McVeigh	2		
Bell	7	(5)	4	Murray P	9	(2)	
Blakeman	11		2	Renton	8		
Byrne	17		5	Robinson	9		
Creasy	14	(1)	1	Stevenson	1		
Danns	16		10	Stone	16		
Donnelly	3	(9)	1	Taylor M	17		
Gibson	6	(2)		Walters	2	(4)	4
Hevicon	15		3	Watt		(9)	
Hill		(1)		Woodhead	18		
Hockenhull	14			own goals			1
Martin		121					

A=Full Appearances, (S)=Sub Appearances, G= Goals

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE LINDER 10 CROUD P TABLE

	pl	W	d	1	f	a	pts
ROVERS	18	13	3	2	49	16	42
Everton	18	12	3	3	33	14	39
Manchester City	17	10	1	6	37	26	31
Manchester United	18	8	4	6	36	17	28
Liverpool	17	8	3	6	35	27	27
Crewe Alexandra	18	5	7	6	23	28	22
Bolton Wanderers	18	2	2	14	14	50	8

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE UNDER 17 GROUP B TABLE

	pl	W	d	1	f	a	pts
Manchester United	18	11	1	6	46	20	34
Crewe Alexandra	17	10	3	4	60	28	33
ROVERS	17	9	4	4	34	23	31
Liverpool	17	9	1	7	29	27	28
Manchester City	17	8	2	7	35	21	26
Bolton Wanderers	18	2	1	15	14	49	7

Reservere MEBACK DUO **NSPIRE YOUNGSTE**

Middlesbrough Reserves 0 Rovers Reserves 0 Wednesday February 2nd 2000

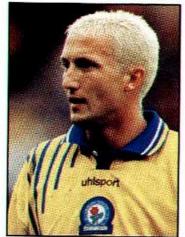
ROVERS held Boro to a goalless draw at Billingham as Ian Miller's team took a valuable point away from this FA Premier Reserve League clash.

But what was even more pleasing for Rovers was the continuing return of midfield duo Garry Flitcroft and Billy McKinlay (right) from long-term injuries.

Flitcroft has been sidelined for 18 months with knee problems while McKinlay, has been out for a similar period with a groin injury.

But both players looked to be rediscovering their true fitness, turning in impressive displays as they helped to keep the Middlesbrough threat to a minimum in a tense affair.

Boro did threaten early on, striker Alun Armstrong forcing a fine save from Alan Fettis. Hamilton Ricard then turned on the style to set up Armstrong for a second chance, but the finish was poor from the former Stockport man.



On the half-hour mark Paul Forsyth picked up the ball in midfield and embarked on a surging run which ended in a vicious shot that flew just over the crossbar

Rovers further enforced their presence in the second half when Leam Richardson's effort hit the post. Flitcroft almost made the fairy tale complete later in the half, but Marlon Beresford denied the former Manchester City man the opening goal.

At the end both teams had to settle for the draw, but Rovers surely left the field the happier, boosted by the progress of two such influential stars.

Rovers lined up: Fettis, Richardson, Murphy, Flitcroft, Hawe, Broomes, Gillespie, Burgess, McKinlay, Baldacchino, Forsyth.

Subs: Corbett, Dunning, Douglas, O'Brien, Bingham

· Rovers Reserves clash with Sunderland was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

FA Premier Reserve League Fixtures

Wed Aug 18	A	Barnsley	Tues Jan 18 H Leeds UnitedL 0-	1
Tues Aug 31	H	Bolton WanderersL 0-1	Tues Jan 25 H Aston Villa	
Tues Sep 7	A	Everton L 0-1	Wed Feb 2 A Middlesbrough (BillinghamSFC) D 0-(
Wed Sep 29	A	Bradford City D 1-1	Tues Feb 8 H Sunderland	
Tues Oct 5	H	Sheffield WednesdayW 4-0	Wed Feb 16 H Manchester United7pm	
Mon Oct 11	Α	Newcastle United L 0-3	Tues Feb 22 A Leeds United	
Wed Oct 27	Α	Aston Villa	Wed Mar 8 H Liverpool	
Tues Nov 9	H	Middlesbrough W 2-1	Tues Mar 14 A Sheffield Wednesday 7pm	
Wed Nov 17	A	Man United (Gigg Lane) D 1-1	Tues Mar 28 H Bradford City	
		Liverpool (St Helens R.L.) D 3-3	Tues Apr 5 H Barnsley	
		Sunderland (New Ferens Park)L 0-2	Tues Apr 25 H Newcastle United7pm	
		Bolton Wanderers W 2-0	Wed May 3 H Everton7pm	

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With Barbara Magee

Lucky Mascot

Our away day mascot at Bolton was Ashley Bibby.

Away Days

Our Away Day trips are proving ever popular, and the forthcoming trip to Stockport is now sold out.

Following Stockport we are off to Tranmere Rovers on Saturday 4th March. Cost of this trip inclusive of match ticket is £8.00.

Competition Time

How would you like the chance to win an autographed Rovers Pennant? Well all you have to do is tell me the name of the Rovers player who was recently transferred to a Premier League club and the name of the club he now plays for. First correct answer drawn on Friday 25th February will be the winner.

Answers on a postcard, with your name, membership and telephone number to me by Friday 25th February. The winner will be announced in the Crewe programme.

Here is junior member Robert Savage, up to mischief as usuall Having a great time in the tots area in Strikers before a recent home game.



Strikers Competitions

Starting shortly will be our Connect 4 and Table Tennis knockouts. Members wishing to take part need to sign

the entry forms today in Strikers.

Both competitions will commence at the West Brom game.

Easter Competitions

We are planning to run two Easter Competitions for our junior members and you can choose to enter both or just one and we thought we would tell you about them before half term then if the weather is bad and you can't play outside you will be able to work on your entry.

Both competitions will be judged on Monday 24th April before the Crystal Palace game.

Competition Number One

Make a 3D Easter Garden, you can even put plants in if you want to!

Competition Number Two

Design and make an Easter Card. There will be prizes for winners and runners up in both competitions.

ERS MASCOT

Name: DANNY MARISH From: Otterton, Devon School: Otterton Primary Age: 10 years, Danny will be 11 on the 17th February Favourite player: John Filan Hobbies: Football, Chess. Swimming, Playing Guitar & Computers This is only the 2nd time

Danny has ever been to

Ewood Park.





BRSA Present

An Evening with Tony & Terry

(Tony Parkes & Terry Darracott)

Along with members of the

First Team Squad

Ticket prices for advance purchases **£2.50 Members £3.00 Non-Members**Tickets limited - Advance booking recommended Pay on the night £3.00 - subject to availability

Premier Suite, Ewood Park Thursday, 24th February, 2000 7.30pm for 8.00pm

PENPALS WANTED

I am a big fan of Blackburn Rovers and I am looking for pen pals for myself and my friends, Leevest and Lancelot.

We will be proud to have information and news about the team and will reply to all letters. Finally greetings and good luck to the team. 'Bigboy' C. Chimimba, Makokoba TownShip, 2271, 10th Road, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe



Young Rovers fans celebrate a fine win over Huddersfield

ASSOCIATION BRANCHES

Irish Branch

Dan Roddy, 10 Sycamore Court, Cariglea Downs, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

London Branch

Roger Williams, 7 St. Martins Road, Rose Hill, Oxford OX4 4RR

Scottish Branch

Neil Clarkson, 59 Cameron Toll Gardens, Edinburgh.

Swedish Branch

Chris Tanner, Savastz 5, 961 47 Boden, Sweden.

Junior Rovers

Barbara Magee, Blackburn Rovers, Ewood Park.

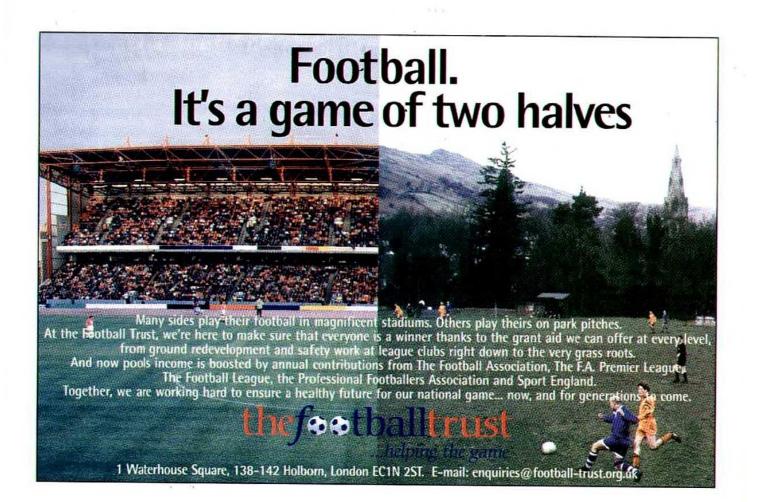
For general supporters club enquiries, Junior Rovers and / or supporters association membership, or if you would like to set up a branch in your area, contact BARBARA MAGEE on 01254 296208.



Simon Moyle from Simon Jersey visited Mali in West Africa in January and he found a Rovers fan!

CLUBCALL: FOR THE TRUE BRFC STORIES 09068 12 11 79

Calls charged at 60p per minute at all times



SEAT Competition

HAVE YOU
WON A SIGNED
ROVERS SHIRT?

CIS Cooperative Insurance

You're a winner!

Please take this disk, along with your ticket stub or season ticket book, to the RoverStore after the game to collect your prize.

Look under your seat to see if there's a disk - like the one shown here.







Official Sponsor of the Family Stand and Community Scheme.



CommunityNews





Schools Coaching

Women's football is growing day by day at Blackburn Rovers. With the ladies team, the new centre of excellence for girls and now the schools are getting involved.

Moorland Secondary School, Darwen have taken up the opportunity to run a girls only after school along with the Rovers coaches going into the



school once a week to give a helping hand in the P.E. lessons.

Pictured here are some of the girls picking up a few ball skills.

During February the community office is running the Adidas Predator 5-a-side competition. 32 Secondary Schools have already entered their U13's girls teams and the competition looks to be of huge interest.

Saturday Club

Today we'd like to welcome three teams to Ewood Park. Northampton Town and Ripon City Panthers have travelled from North Yorkshire today for coaching, lunch and to cheer Rovers on. Bruche Athletic have once again visited.

Pictured here are the Under12's team.



Standing: James Harrison, Tom Meachin, Neil Glendinning, Matthew Duane, Jonathan Yates, Chris Ure, Sean Myers, Danny McCarthy, Mike Grinnell.

Kneeling: Wesley Hardman, Ryan Finch, Jason Costello, Kallum Farrell, Chris Jacques, Andy Shaw. Not pictured Danny Watson, Mike Forrest. Bruche play in the Solvay Division, the top league of Warrington's Solvay/Interox League. They were promoted last year after losing only 3 league games in the whole of last season.

All three teams are in the Darwen End of the ground to watch the game. Enjoy the game and come again soon.

Coaches Wanted

FA qualified coaches wanted for Matchdays and School Holidays. Apply, in writing to;

Coaches Wanted.

BRFC Community Office,

Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF.

February Soccer Schools

During half-term we will once again be holding the ever popular Soccer-Sixes.

To receive an application call the Community Office, but hurry, places are going quick!



If you would like any further info, call the Community Office on 01254 296256

2 Hours Football and Lunch Only £5 Every Matchday Call Michael on 296259.



ROAR is sponsored by J. West & Sons Carpet Mill, Oswaldtwistle



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BoxOffice

Home League Games

v WEST BROM ALBION Sat 26th Feb 3pm

Tickets on open sale now.

v NORWICH C!TY Tue 29th February 7.45pm

Tickets on open sale now.

v CREWE ALEXANDRA Sun 12th March 1pm

Tickets on open sale from Monday 21st February

Away League Games

v BIRMINGHAM CITY Tue 15th Feb 7.45pm

Tickets are now on open sale and are priced at £16 adults and £8 juniors and senior citizens. Tickets will not be on sale on the day of the game at Birmingham.

v STOCKPORT COUNTY Sat 19th Feb 3pm

Tickets on open sale now, priced at: Standing - Adults £13, OAP's £9, Juniors £6; Seating - Adults £14, OAP's £9, Juniors £6. Please note that the seating tickets are now sold out.

v TRANMERE ROVERS Sat 4th March 3pm

Tickets are on open sale from Wednesday 16th February and are priced at: Adults £13, OAP's £6, Juniors £3. Please note: No concessions on the day.

v IPSWICH TOWN Tue 7th March 7.45pm

Tickets are on open sale from Thursday 17th February and are priced at: Adults £17, OAP's £12, Juniors £7.

HOW TO BOOK

IN PERSON AT THE MAIN TICKET OFFICE

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday....... 9am-5.30pm
Any pre-match <u>WORKING</u> day. 9am-7pm
Match Saturday 9am-Kick-off
Non-match Saturday 9am-12.30pm

BY POSTAL APPLICATION

Send a letter stating which match, number of tickets required and correct remittance (cheques or postal orders, no cash) together with a SAE:

Ticket Office, BRFC, Ewood Park, BB2 4JF.

BY TELEPHONE ON THIS NUMBER

O8080-10-10-10

Please Note: Hotline closes at 12.30pm Matchdays

There is a £1 booking fee per ticket when booking by phone this applies to Credit & Debit Cards.

CANWANY STRANVELL

OFFICIAL COACH TO BIRMINGHAM - 15/2/00 7.45pm

ACCRINGTON 3.20pm EWOOD 4.00pm CHORLEY 3.20pm Members: £10.00, Non-Members: £11.00.

OFFICIAL COACH TO STOCKPORT - 19/2/00 3pm

ACCRINGTON 12.20pm EWOOD 12.45pm CHORLEY 12.15pm

Members: £7.50, Non-Members: £8.00.

Would all supporters please note that the away travel coaches departing from Ewood will now leave from the Blackburn End of the ground. Supporters wishing to leave their vehicles are asked to use Car Park H and while you are waiting for the coaches to depart drop into Blues Cafe Bar and we will let you know when the coaches are ready to leave.

WATCHDAY PRICES

STAND	Supporter	Price
Blackburn End Family Stand	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£15 £8 £10
Blackburn End Lower Tier	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£15 £8 £10
Walkersteel (All Areas)	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£15 £8 £10
Darwen End	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£15 £8 £10
Jack Walker Lower Outer	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£15 £8 £10
Jack Walker Lower Central	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£18 £8 £10
Jack Walker Upper Outer	Adult Junior Sen Cit.	£18 £8 £10
Jack Walker Upper Central	All Tickets	£20

All prices include VAT at 17.5%.

The Jack Walker Stand and the Family Stand are NON-SMOKING STANDS

RoversShorts

ROVERS' Academy, one of the biggest and parents of the youngsters in our care, that the

has another claim to fame.

For the £7 million youth complex was this week officially named the safest of its kind in the country.

The club has received a coveted police safety award in recognition of the efforts made to keep visitors, staff and residents as safe as possible.

Rovers' Stadium Manager Mel Highmore said; "It is a tribute to the architects and builders that the club has received this award.

"We hope this reassures everyone, especially the

best youth facilities in the country, now safety of the Academy players is of the utmost

importance to us."

"It is a national standard award and as such it sets us apart from all the other Academy clubs.

"We now have the honour of being the only club to be recognised in this way for our commitment to keeping our young players safe and secure."

 Chief Superintendent Eddie Walsh of the Lancashire Constabulary presents the safety award to Rovers' Chief Executive John Williams and Academy Director Bobby Downes.



Ome Thoughts From Burnley

WE have featured several poems in RoverTime recently, but none as inventive as this piece of verse from Mr. John Aubin. John is a Rovers fan in exile in (quietly) Burnley and doesn't get to the games as much as he used to do, but was kind enough to write in with his thoughts on Rovers.

There's a little bit of heaven that's Called Ewood Park, It's on t'left 'and side goin' to Darren. It's posh now cos Jack Walker's med it that way, But, by 'Ell in t'past it were barren.

It's fifty years sin' I first set foot in t'ground, I'd just graduated from t'pram. From Clithera to Blackburn were by Ribble bus, From t'boulevard to t'ground were by tram.

T'Blackburn End were open to whatever come down. If it were rainin,' t'best gait were to waddle. If the went fer a pee on a fine day late on, Tha could lay Lincoln Odds tha'd to paddle.

Reg Elvy were t'first bloke I saw between t'sticks, Bill Eckersley were a "giant" at left back. There were loads o'good blokes at t'club around then, Who could put th'opposition on t'rack.

They said they were good old days after t'war, To this day I'm never quite sure. I were lucky, I'd warm clothes and a good pair o'shoes, But a lot o' kids round me looked poor.

We all 'ad a good laugh one cold winter's day, The Rovers 'ad really lost t'plot. One bloke at t'back shouted "Yon Quigley wants droppin,'" His mate yelled "Bring Pierpoint, drop t'lot."

There were characters in t'crowd as well as on t'pitch, They'd shout and they'd rattle and sing. You could laugh and joke then with other teams' fans, Cos kickin' and spittin' weren't in.

In t'seventies they battled in lumps up in't crowd, Luckily the bobbies didn't yield, Of crowd safety in t'nineties everyone could be proud, Kickin' and spittin' is now done on t'field.

They've 'ad some lean times this last year or two, But our Tony 'as sorted things out. If I ever win t'lottery or t'Littlewood's pools, I'll attend more to give t'lads a shout.

I were reet suited watchin' t'Liverpool match, Every Man Jack give it 'is very best try. I watched it all spellbound on t'telly at 'ome, I'll perhaps spend some brass on it next tie.

PUTTING THE HEART BACK IN

Rovers are putting the heart back into football...with a little help from their friends.

The club's financial controller Barbara Hoyle helped raise a whopping £780 for the British Heart Foundation after linking up with Darwen Masters Swimming Club.

Sunnyhurst-based Barbara not only captained a team of five Ewood employees to first place in Darwen's gruelling annual Biathlon, but also coorganised the contest, sponsored by Wolstenholme Rink.

Denis Tobain, Chairman of Blackburn with Darwen and District Branch of the BHF, is delighted with the end result.

It is the first time the Masters Club has raised money for the BHF, prompted by the successful treatment of a member who suffered



with a heart condition. They have previously raised thousands of pounds for charities including Blackburn-based Tomos, Macmillan Nurses and Cerebal Palsy.

HEADLINE GRABBERS

NEWSBOYS – and girls from all over Blackburn and Darwen rushed their paper rounds this morning...to be at today's match.

All had reason to be cheerful.....but one, Gary Moore, had special cause for celebration.

Rovers donated 70 tickets to the region's brightest and best newspaper boys and girls as

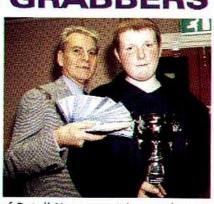
part of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents' annual news deliverer of the year awards.

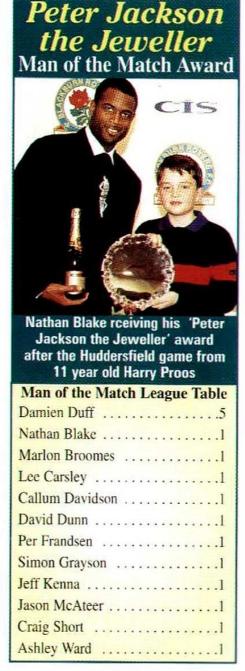
The awards ceremony, held earlier this week at East Lancs Cricket Club, crowned 14-year-old Gary from Feniscowles with the coveted title. Gary is pictured with David Collier, Branch President of the Blackburn, Darwen, Great Harwood and Clitheroe branch of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents.

Today's Niall Malone Box Sponsor

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Millennium Lounge Easter Special 250 per person inc. VAT

Blackburn Charlton
Rovers -V- Athletic
Monday 24th April 2000

Will the Addicks

Put all their eggs
in one basket?

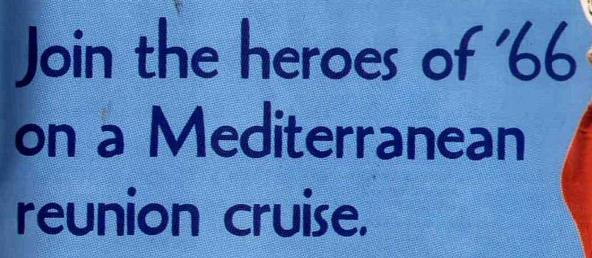


Blackburn Rovers have put together a great Millennium Lounge Easter Special package to include:

- ·Three course hot buffet meal and coffee
 - · Pay bar facilities (open 12pm until 6pm)
 - Complimentary matchday magazine
- · Seats in the Upper Tier of the Jack Walker Stand
 - · Car park pass (one for every four guests)
 - Chance to meet a First Team player after the game

Hurry! Book Early Call 01254 690909

Only 65 places available



7 nights from L849*



A UNIQUE EVENT OFFERING YOU THE ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE WITH THE TEAM WHO WON THE WORLD CUP.

This October, Airtours launches the 'Official 1966 World Cup Winners Reunion Cruise', bringing together nine[†] of the heroes of '66. Our ship, the Sundream, departs Southampton on 7th October, and you can join for 7 or 14 nights. As well as a full range of reunion activities, you'll enjoy all the advantages of an Airtours Sun Cruise, including six sumptuous meals a day, fantastic entertainment and superb service, visiting fascinating ports of call along the way.

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Airtours Holidays Ltd., acting as agents for Airtours plc. ATOL 1179, ABTA V6896. Insurance extra. Subject to availability. *£849 price includes £50 special discount offer for all Airtours Cruises departing in October 2000 if booked before end of February 2000 based on 2 adults sharing standard inside cabin for 7 nights from/to Manchester. Number of team members subject to availability. See Airtours Summer 2000 Cruise brochure for full terms & conditions. Photograph © Popperfoto.



BARNSLEY

Saturday Jan 22nd, 2000

For those people whose memories of Oakwell are of an open terrace, with a howling wind, pouring rain and the need for outdoor clothing akin to an Antarctic expedition, wouldn't you have been surprised.

Oakwell has undergone a transformation in recent years, with three new stands being built. The away fans are seated behind the goal in a single tiered stand, with tickets priced at £16 and £9. Sat towards the back, the view was good albeit too high for some. Seats in the last few rows may well suffer from obstructed views.

The small concourse underneath the stand was obviously built from a recycled wind tunnel. All the basic facilities and fare was available. There are apparently two pubs for away fans but unfortunately directions were not provided.

The 48 page programme cost £2 and was fairly standard stuff, though not much to read.

From the motorway the ground is well signposted and directs you to the away fans car park which is a field next to the ground.

A.J. Carter

NEXT TRIP: BIRMINGHAM CITY

Tuesday 15th February 2000 St Andrews, Birmingham

Tel: (0709) 111 25837, Fax (0121) 766 7866

Website: www.bcfc.com

ST ANDREWS

IT may sound like a golf course but St Andrews is one of E ngland's most famous football venues, a 30,000 capacity stadium which has been the Blues' home since 1906.

Pubs around the stadium are members only and visiting supporters who fancy a pint before the game advised to drink inside the ground or travel to the city centre which is only couple of miles away. City provide 22 spaces for visiting wheelchair users while deaf and vision-impaired fans share 24 places with home fans. Commentary head-sets are available for use anywhere in the ground and special car-parking arrangements can be made in advance The Blues 48 page match-day magazine is priced £2.

TRAVEL ROUTE

BY CAR: Leave the M6 at junction 6 and take the A38 (Aston Expressway.) Leave at 2nd exit and take first exit at roundabout. Continue along the Dartmouth Middleway for 1.5 miles and the ground is to the left.

Limited car-parking space is available at the Railway End Stand but there is an abundance of street parking around the ground.

BY TRAIN: The nearest railway station is Bordesley which is only open on match-days and is just a five-minute walk from the ground (the route is sign-posted).

CLUB CONNECTIONS

FORMER Rovers striker Mike Newell, whose penalty strike shot Rovers into the inaugural Premier League in 1992, left Rovers for Birmingham City in July 1996 for a fee of £775,000. He scored 28 goals in 130 games for Rovers after signing from Everton. This week he has joined Blackpool from non-league Doncaster.

THE BLUES AT HOME

Birmingham are one of our main rivals to land a play-off place and they have underlined their intentions with some great performances at home - Charlton and Huddersfield are among the mighty to have fallen at St Andrews. But the Blues are far from invincible as Man City and Sheffield United have both proved this season.

ROVERS' RECORD AT ST ANDREWS

by Derek Jones

Played 44, Won 4, Drawn 13, Lost 27, Goals For 40 Against 84 Last six league and cup visits: LWDLLD

Last time: October 4th 1994 League Cup 1-1 (Sutton)





FOLLOWING TRIP: STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday 19th February 2000 Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road, Stockport. Tel:(0161) 286 8888, Fax (0161) 286 8900. Website: www.stockportmbc.guv.uk/county

EDGELEY PARK

NO less than six grounds have been home to Stockport County since their formation back in 1883. The Hatters played out of Heaton Norris Recreation Ground, Heaton Norris Cricket Ground, Chorlton's Farm, Wilkes' Field and Nursury Inn, Green Lane before arriving at their current home in 1902. Edgeley Park currently holds a maximum of 11,540.

FACILITIES

COUNTY don't have many problems with hooliganism and so most the of local pubs are happy to welcome visiting supporters.

"Sir Robert Peel" offers bar snacks TV and a beer garden, "Prince Albert" also has TV and families are welcome and "The Greyhound" have sandwiches and pies available plus two TV's.

The nearby Grand Central retail complex offers a range of shopping outlets as well as fast food restaurants such as McDonalds, Burger King and Pizza Hut.

The ground has six places for visiting wheelchair users and while there is no special provision for the deaf or the ambulant disabled, ticket price concessions are available.

TRAVEL ROUTE:

BY CAR: Get onto the M60 (either via the M61 or M62) and take junction 1 (sign-posted Stockport town centre).

At the roundabout follow the signs to Cheadle A560 into Hollywood way. Go straight on at the first set of lights and turn right at the next set (sign-posted Cheadle A560, Stockport County FC).

Continue for 1 mile and then turn left by the Farmer's Arms onto the B5465 Edgeley Road. After 1 approx. mile turn right at the traffic

lights into Dale Street and take the second left into Hardcastle Road.

BÝ RAIL: Edgeley Park is only half a mile from Stockport station. Walk up the cobbled Station Road, cross the main road and turn left. At the roundabout, take the exit sign-posted Cheadle A5464 into Mercian Way where the floodlights are visible to the left.

ONE TO WATCH-TONY DINNING

WALLSEND born Tony Dinning has established himself as County's danger-man in front of goal this season.

A former St James'
Park trainee, he
turned professional at
Edgeley Park after
being released by
Newcastle United.
Now 24 years old, he is
nearing the milestone



of 200 appearances in County colours.

FORM GUIDE

Stockport's home form has been steady and with memorable victories over the likes of Birmingham, Fulham, Tranmere and Wolves they have forced their way into play-off contention and currently hold 9th spot in Division One. Unfortunately they don't really have the crowds to match, County's highest attendance being around 10,000 for the visit of Wolves and their average being a little over 7,000. A decent turnout is expected for our own trip to Edgeley Park.

ROVERS RECORD AT EDGELEY PARK

By Derek Jones

Surprisingly, Rovers have made just one league visit to Edgeley Park - in October 1937 - when a goal from Bob Mortimer secured a 1-0 victory. Since then Rovers have only travelled to Stockport twice in the League Cup (1969-70 and 1974-75) when they came away 2-1 winners on both occasions.

В	LACKBURN ROVERS	SWINDON TOWN
1	John FILAN	1 Frank TALIA
2	Jeff KENNA	2 Mark ROBINSON
3	Callum DAVIDSON	3 Gareth HALL
4	Jason McATEER	4 Scott LEITCH
5	Darren PEACOCK	5 Gareth DAVIES
6	Lee CARSLEY	7 Bobby HOWE
7	Garry FLITCROFT	10 Giuliano GRAZIOLI
9	Ashley WARD	12 Alan REEVES
10	Egil OSTENSTAD	
12	Damien DUFF	15 Chris HAY
13	Alan KELLY	16 Lee COLLINS
14	Nathan BLAKE	17 Steve COWE
15	Matt JANSEN	18 Steve MILDENHALL
16	Marlon BROOMES	19 Adam WILLIS
17	Billy McKINLAY	20 Charlie GRIFFIN
18	Keith GILLESPIE	21 Sol DAVIS
	Damien JOHNSON	22 Robin HULBERT
20	Per FRANDSEN	23 Phillipe CUERVO
21	Jim CORBETT	25 Frazer McHUGH
22	Alan FETTIS	32 James WILLIAMS
23 '	Christian DAILLY	33 Andy WILLIAMS
24	David McNAMEE	40 Jim QUINN
	Burton O'BRIEN	
26	James THOMAS	MatchOfficials
27	David DUNN	Match Officials
28	Martin TAYLOR	Referee:
	Craig SHORT	R J Beeby (Abington Vale)
	Anthony WILLIAMS	Assistants:
	Simon GRAYSON	R.A. Pashley (Chesterfield)
	Peter MURPHY	
	Steve HARKNESS	B. Pollock (Merseyside)
	Wayne GILL	4th Official:
	Leam RICHARDSON	B. Ward (Waterfoot)



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NEXT NATIONWIDE GAME AT EWOOD

Blackburn Rovers v West Bromwich Albion

Saturday February 26th 2000 • Kick Off 3pm