



Our Man Flint



It **IS** about time, I'm sure you'd agree. We'd been waiting for, what, three years? Can it really have taken three managers that long to find one centre-half capable of getting in the way, putting body on the line, *defending*? Well, we have, in my opinion, one now. Aden Flint. Flawless? No. Best we've had in years? Maybe not. Meaty and gert whacking? Yup. Remember, thenatchwall: it's all about opinions. This is just mine.



Not as classy as MacPhail or as tenacious as Rooks, as versatile as Biffer or as fearless as Dave Rodgers or perhaps not even as influentially robust as Taylor or effective as McCombe. But so far I've got to hand it to him: he has won more than his fair share of aerial challenges thrown his way (right from his debut v. some rather 1980s target-man football from the likes of Bradford); he has cleared the danger with uncompromising oomph when needed instead of shilly-shallying and, by Jove, he is proving a team-player and leader. Opening game of the season he gave Fielding an absolute slaughtering for being a clown and his booming voice could be heard at places like Carlisle and Gillingham. From Bristol; he looked crestfallen at Vale and right-up wound when he or the defence hasn't performed as they should; and he's been one of the first to celebrate with each and every scorer. And one of the very few who always acknowledges the fans no matter the result, something of value for me.



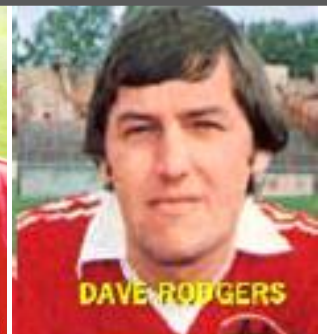
Steven Caulker



JOHN PENDER
Bristol City's Centre Back



ROB NEWMAN



DAVE RODGERS

Good?

Better?

Best?

Never mind, I say Flint's ok

It's unfair to compare him to too many former City centre-backs. He's not going to be the best we've ever had. And admittedly, he is unsteady with a skittish little striker at his feet, but this *is* the 3rd Division and we didn't buy him for that. We bought him to be dominant in the air and to lead by example. And that he is doing. Plus, look at the bloody boots the lad wears (*top*)!

