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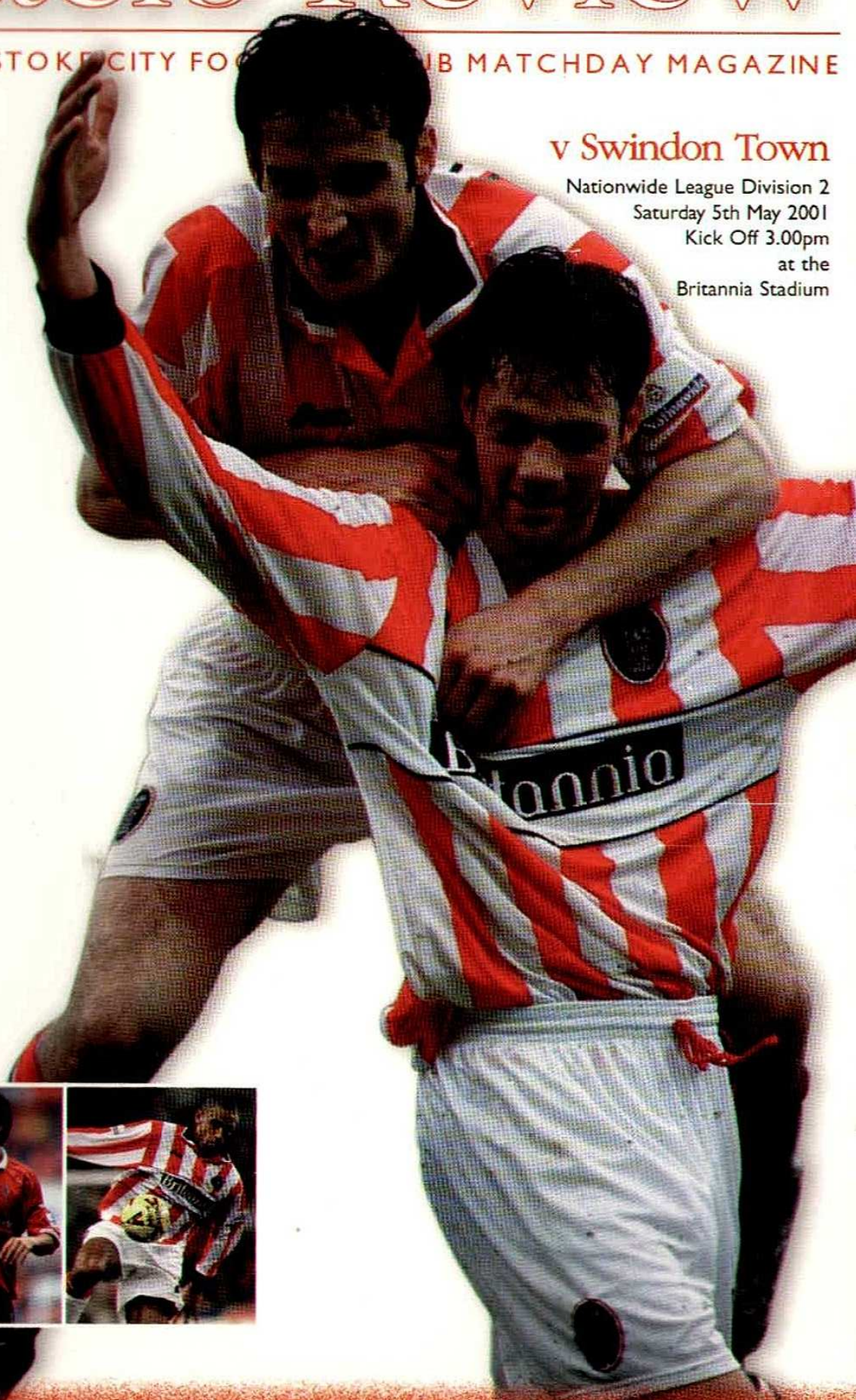
Nationwide League Division 2

Saturday 5th May 2001

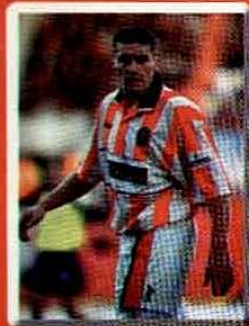
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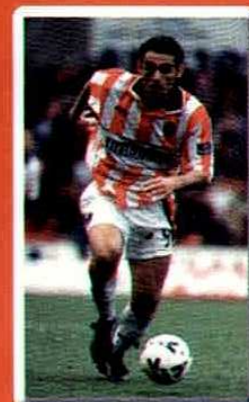
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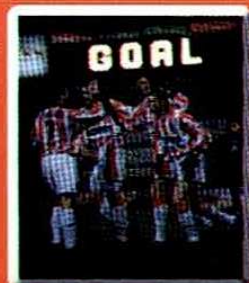
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A Word From The Chief Executive

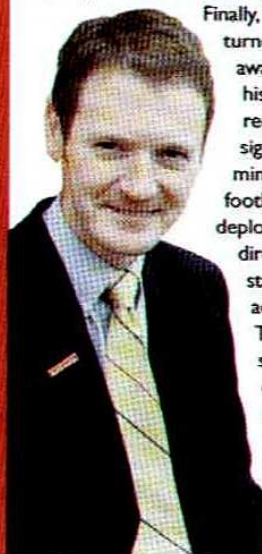
Good afternoon and welcome to the Britannia Stadium for the most important match of the season, until next week that is.

At this stage of the season, it is time to say thank you to many people. First of all I would like to thank over 3,000 of you who have taken advantage of the offer to purchase 2002/02 season tickets over the last month without knowing whether we would be in the play-offs or not. That offer of 'Division One football at Division Two prices' was obviously well received, and it ended yesterday. As from Tuesday, 8th May until Friday 25th May, supporters can still purchase season tickets for next season at 'Division Two prices' but, on the Club achieving promotion, a subsequent small payment will be required prior to supporters receiving their season ticket book. This offer still means a saving of up to £20 on Division One prices - full details can be found on page 49 of this programme. I would also like to thank the Fans Forum for their constructive comments regarding these prices, and for the suggestion to introduce an under-13 price for all parts of the stadium which has been taken up by the Club. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Stoke City for their support during my first season at the Club, and without whom the many changes and improvements that have been implemented over the last 12 months would not have been possible.

On behalf of the Club, I would also like to thank the many part time staff who make match days possible - stewards, turnstile operators, Community staff, box office personnel, caterers, shop assistants, ball boys and many more besides.

Finally, I would like to thank all our supporters who have turned out in great numbers and voice both home and away this season. Gudjon has already placed on record his thanks for the tremendous backing the team received last Saturday at Oldham, which played a significant part in our comeback. Unfortunately, a mindless minority attracted the headlines from the non-footballing media for all the wrong reasons. This Club deplores hooliganism in all forms, but especially when it is directed specifically at ethnic minorities. As has been stated many times this season - anyone involved in such activity can expect automatic bans from this stadium. The assistance of the majority of fair-minded supporters is required to back the True Supporters campaign and help eradicate these incidents from our matches. Over the next couple of weeks, this Club will be in the national spotlight during the play-offs, which gives us the ideal opportunity to show the true side of Stoke City.

Please get behind the team, and thank you, as ever, for your support.



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The Manager



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It's the last day of the league season but I hope it is far from over.

At 5pm this afternoon I want us to be preparing for another game next weekend. Although it's been a long campaign, we all want it to go on that little bit longer. If we are still talking about and playing football at the end of this month then that's fine by me.

I think we would all enjoy our summer break that much more with the club back in Division One.

Of course, there is a long way to go and we are not even certain of our place in the play-offs yet.

There is plenty of work to be done this afternoon before we can rest assured of even that.

It's been an intriguing promotion race and the battle for places has gone right to the very last day, as it usually does.

I would like to offer my congratulations to Millwall and Rotherham, who both secured automatic promotion last weekend.

They have done exceptionally well and been very consistent over the last nine months and any team achieving 90 or

Gudjon Thordarson

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6 *It's been an intriguing promotion race and the battle for places has gone right to the very last day...*

more points deserves to go up. We no longer need to worry about meeting either in the play-offs, although having said that some very good sides remain.

Reading, Walsall, Wigan and Bournemouth are a strong quartet, though we would be confident of our chances against any. Reading are already there, Walsall are strong and I expect them to make it, along with ourselves, leaving Wigan and Bournemouth to fight out the last place. I think Wigan will snatch it.

This week I was asked who I would prefer to meet in the play-offs, but I cannot give an answer to that - firstly because we are not there yet but also because I don't see any weaknesses among those sides nor anything we could not cope with.

The character, professionalism and determination the players showed in coming from behind to win at Oldham makes me confident of that.

It looked for a long time as if it might be one of those days when we were not destined to score, but we showed patience

and perseverance.

That sort of spirit and attitude would enable us to overcome anyone in the play-offs.

The other decisive factor at Boundary Park was your support, which was magnificent.

It is always important for the players to have you behind them. It gives them an extra gear and it was like having a twelfth man on the pitch.

I would like to thank you all for the loyalty you have shown us throughout the season. You have stood behind the players and pulled them through some difficult games and helped to keep them going.

We will need that support - and more - today and hopefully beyond because victory this afternoon means the job is only half-done. Then the real business starts.

I hope Swindon come here today with their status assured. They have had a difficult season fighting against relegation and, depending on midweek results, may still need points.

People like Andy King have worked very hard to try and get them out of trouble and I admire him.

But if they are still battling for survival they cannot expect favours from us. We have our own mission to complete.

Enjoy the game.



Evans Halshaw

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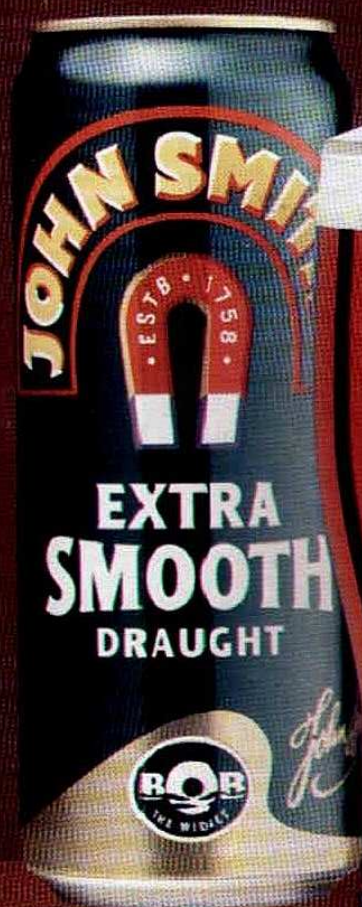
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Captain's Comments



It's amazing how quickly things can turn around in football. With twenty minutes to go at Oldham, and 1-0 down while

Wigan and Bournemouth were winning, it looked as though we might go into today's game with our fate taken out of our hands. Then we scored twice and suddenly we are back in control.

That was a terrific character test for the lads and they came through brilliantly. The pitch was a mudheap, it was raining, it was windy, we were undeservedly a goal down, and their goalkeeper was playing a blinder and stopping everything we threw at him. But we kept going.

First and foremost, the players would like to thank you for your terrific support. I know the manager said after the match how impressed he was with your non-stop backing but the players would like to express our gratitude as well.

It just shows what can happen by never giving up and, let's face it, we really needed those three points.

We still do today, so the same level of support again, if not even better, would be much appreciated.

It's one of those days when we just have to concentrate on the job in hand while letting the rest of you worry about who is beating who elsewhere. As at Oldham, we can't afford to be thinking about what might be going on at other grounds. We just have to think about what we are doing. In our favour, we know that as long as we win we are in the play-offs and other results become incidental.

So we can do a lot to take the tension

out of the afternoon by playing well and getting the right result.

At least we've had a free week to prepare for the game. Conditions like we had at Oldham take a terrific toll on the legs and we were grateful there was no midweek fixture.

The only fixture we had was attending the club's annual awards night and Gala evening at the stadium on Wednesday evening.

That was an occasion enjoyed by everyone who was involved and congratulations to the lads who picked up Player of the Year awards.

I've actually had to write these notes before the results were announced, although I think I can pretty safely say well done Peter Thorne on his Golden Boot award as leading scorer again!

Talking of awards, it was nice to see Graham Kavanagh included in the PFA all-star team for Division Two.

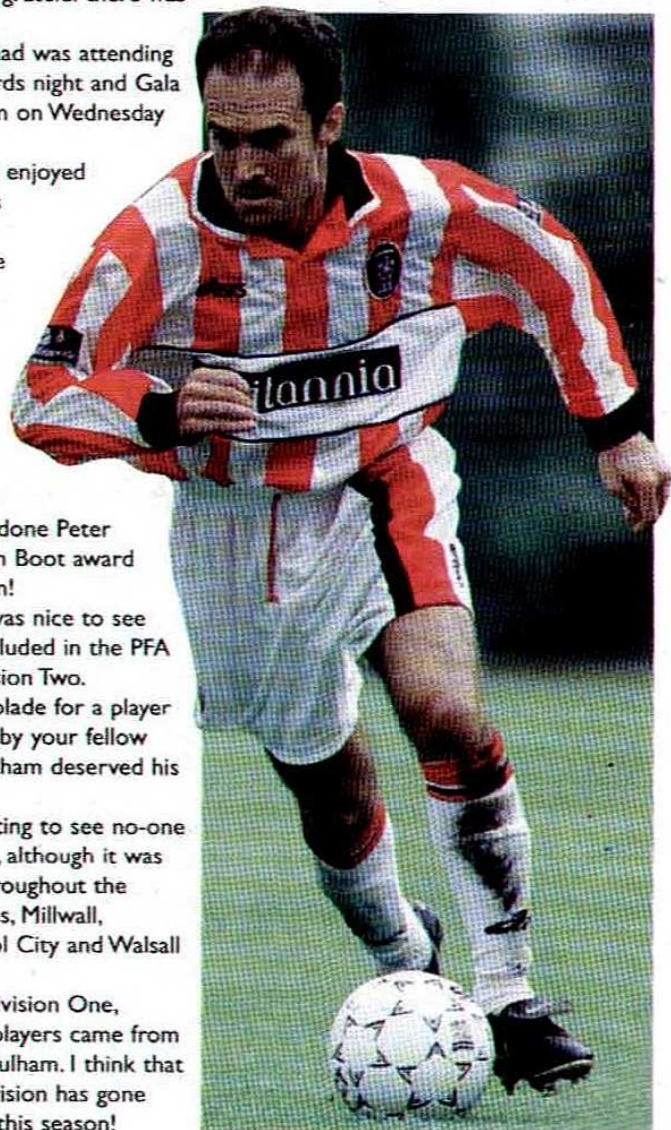
There is no finer accolade for a player than to be honoured by your fellow professionals and Graham deserved his place.

It was a bit disappointing to see no-one else made the line-up, although it was pretty well spread throughout the division with ourselves, Millwall, Reading, Wigan, Bristol City and Walsall all represented.

Contrast that with Division One, where ten of the 11 players came from either Blackburn or Fulham. I think that tells you the First Division has gone pretty much to form this season!

...we know that as long as we win we are in the play-offs and other results become incidental.

with Tony Dorigo



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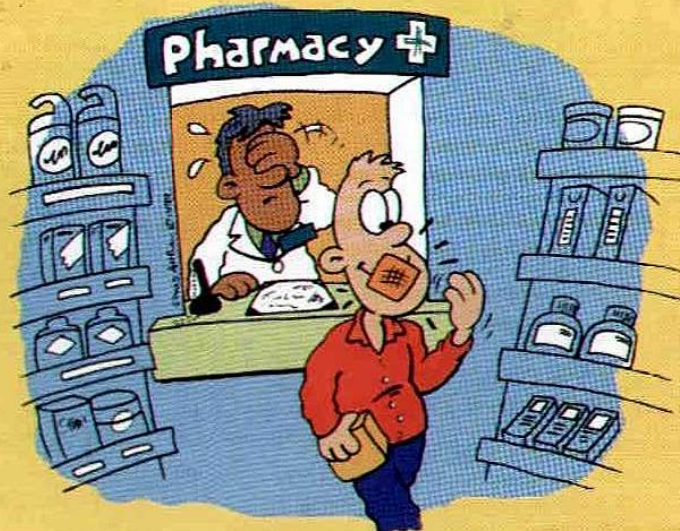
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Don't Give Up Giving Up

Visiting Manager

Andy King is no stranger to the difficulties of managing a club on a tight budget. He did it at Mansfield for three years in the mid-1990's and was handed the task again when Colin Todd left Swindon in December to join Derby County.

King, 44, was brought to the County Ground by Todd as his assistant last summer after working as a scout for Peter Reid at Sunderland.

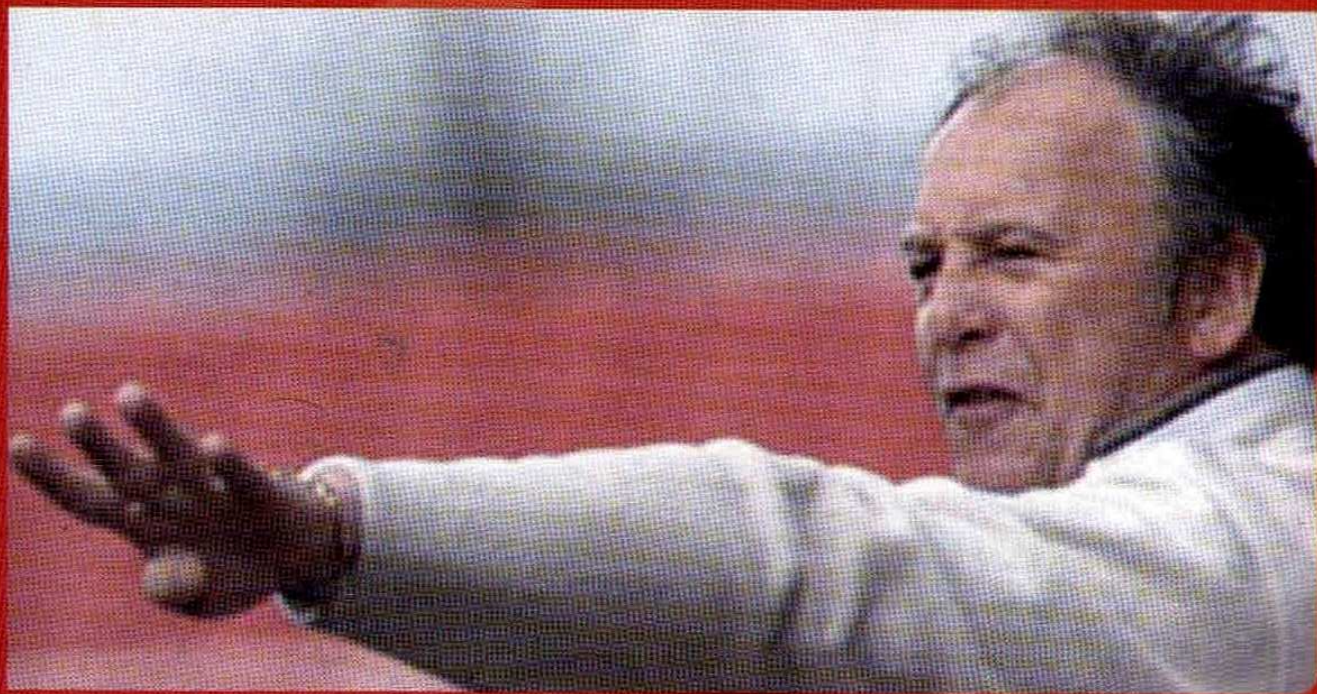
Influenced by the likes of Howard Kendall, Colin Harvey and Bill Nicholson as a player, he starred for his home-town club Luton in two spells, along with Everton and Queens Park

Rangers, and later in his career had a stint at Wolves and in Holland playing for SC Cambuur.

An attacking midfielder, he netted 92 goals - perhaps the most famous of all for Everton against Liverpool in 1977 to break seven years of non-stop Mersey derby success for the Reds.

His first job in management at Field Mill saw him steer Mansfield to a high of sixth in Division Three, along with a shock Coca-Cola Cup win over Leeds.

He initially took charge of Swindon on a temporary basis after Todd's departure, but was quickly handed the job permanently by chairman Terry Brady after an upturn in results. Some astute buys encapsulated a successful transition period for King, whose animation from the sidelines is a clear indication of his passion for the challenge.



...Andy King

Today's Opposition...

Swindon arrive at the Britannia Stadium this afternoon on the final lap of a nerve-wracking season.

The Robins went to great lengths to secure their Second Division safety with last weekend's dramatic 2-1 home win over Peterborough, then sat back to see whether relegation rivals Cambridge United and Bristol Rovers would put the pressure on again in midweek to set up a heart-stopping finale today. That's the sort of roller-coaster ride the club's fans have been through over the last nine months - but then Swindon's fortunes have risen and plummeted on a regular basis for the last 15 years.

In 1984 Lou Macari began the groundwork which saw the Wiltshire club rise from bottom of the old Fourth Division to claim a Premiership place in 1993 - by which time, ironically, he was guiding City to the Second Division title.

The adventure lasted only one year, they finished bottom of the Premiership, and within two seasons Town were in the Second Division. Steve McMahon led them back into Division One, where they stayed for four years before coming down last May, and they have since flirted with another relegation 'double'.

A troubled campaign began badly with a draw on the opening day followed by three defeats and took a further turn for the worse when manager Colin Todd quit to rejoin his old club Derby as assistant to Jim Smith.



Mark Robinson

It was left to Andy King - best known as an Evertonian during his playing days and who spent three years as Mansfield boss in the 1990's - to pick up the pieces.

King has done well under trying conditions, keeping Swindon just above the danger zone since taking over in December.

Their form in March, when they were unbeaten in six games, was a decisive factor, although results deteriorated after and last weekend's timely victory was only their second in nine attempts.

Swindon haven't been in the basement division since they leaving it as champions with a club record 102 points under Macari in 1986. The 1969 League Cup winners have, in fact, spent all but three seasons since that overwhelming title triumph in the top two divisions.

King believes his team can sign off on a high.

Swindon's form away from home has helped keep them out of deeper trouble and they have won more games on their travels - seven - than any other side in the lower half of the table.

He says: "Last weekend's win gave



Guillermo Grazia

everyone a lift.

Without it, it could have looked very ominous today but we are brimming with confidence and there's no reason why we can't get a result."

A Look at some of The Robins' Key Men

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, Mark is now the Town's longest serving player since Swindon paid a Club record £600,000 for his services in July



...Swindon Town



1994. He has been a consistent and versatile performer ever since, however, he could face competition from new signing Juan Cobian for the right-back slot this season.

ADAM WILLIS

Released by the Sky Blues after failing to make the grade in the Premiership, Adam was called into action from the reserves towards the end of last season to cover for injuries and suspensions. Adam worked very hard in the gym after training to improve his physical presence and it paid off. His confident displays earned him a place in the starting line-up on merit and he was rewarded with a new contract under Colin Todd after being previously told that he could leave the club.

MATTHEW HEWLETT

An attacking midfielder that signed for Town on a free transfer in July 2000. A hot prospect at local rivals Bristol City in 1998/99. At the time a succession of injuries meant that he missed most of the season and failed to live up to his potential. A fresh start may be just the challenge he needs and there will be no better place to impress and improve his performances than at the County Ground this season. If he can find his form he may just be the attacking spark the Town midfield is

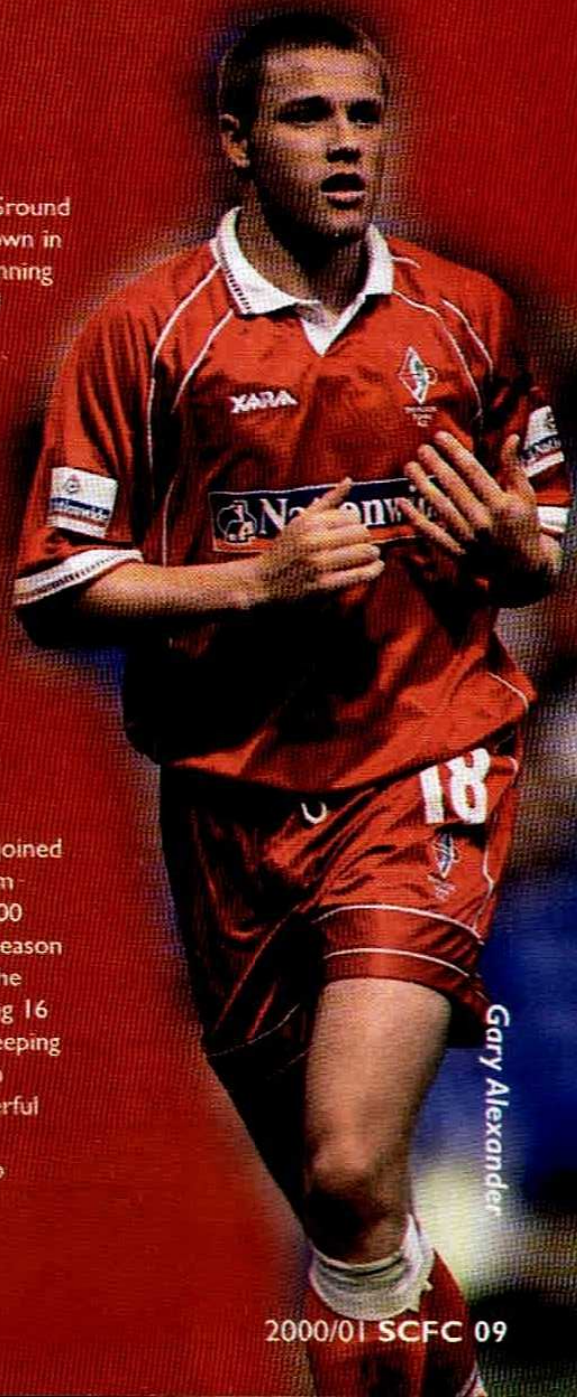
so dearly missing.

GIULIANO GRAZIOLI

Signed in June 1999 on a free transfer from his former club Peterborough Utd. Giuliano's previous visit to the County Ground was in 1997 with Stevenage Town in the FA Cup 3rd round. His winning goal dumped Swindon out and handed Stevenage a money-making 4th round tie against Newcastle Utd. Missed most of last season through injury, but when he did play he was the shining light in a very dull season for Swindon. Following the departures of fellow strikers Chris Hay and Iffy Onuora, 'Graz' established himself as the Town's main threat. If he stays fit, he will be a handful for opposing defences this season.

GARY ALEXANDER

Highly-rated 21-year-old who joined the Robins in early August from West Ham United in a £300,000 deal. Gary spent most of last season on loan at Exeter City where he made a big impression - scoring 16 goals in 20 appearances and keeping The Grecians out of relegation trouble in the process. A powerful and hard-working forward, Alexander could be the one to watch this season.



Gary Alexander

Watch out for... Danny Invincible

What's in a name? Well, it's not true to say Swindon have been unbeatable this season, but they would have been a lot worse off without the contribution of shooting star Danny Invincible.

The 20-year-old Aussie midfielder is the Robins, leading scorer with nine goals.

His last-minute winner against Peterborough last weekend could prove priceless, yet it was his first in 2001 after a form dip since the turn of the year.

The former Marconi Stallions star, who has represented his country at under-20 level, went through a troubled spell hampered by injuries, but is now back to his best.

Manager Andy King thinks so - and is tipping a bright future for a player spotted and snapped up by previous manager Colin Todd after

impressing in a trial match for West Ham.

Invincible scored on his debut and his eye for goal, allied to his pace and ability to run at defences, has

made him a favourite with the Swindon fans - and a clear danger to the opposition.

Predominantly a right-sided midfielder, King says:

"He's finishing with a flourish and that's going to make people sit up and take notice.

"He has a wonderful talent and if that can be nurtured and if he works at his game then he can have a very good future."



Andy King pulled off something of a coup with one of his first signings after taking over as Swindon manager in December.

He persuaded a former Premiership player with plenty of life still left in his boots to join the relegation fight at the County Ground.

Fans were surprised, not to say shocked, when Ian Woan arrived. The left-sided midfielder, just turned 33, was a cornerstone of Nottingham Forest's side in the 1990's after stepping out of non-league at Runcorn, but had lost his way after an unhappy spell at Barnsley earlier this season.

In fact, he was ready to write-off his career in England and head for the United States until King stepped in.

He made an immediate impact with a stunning free-kick as the Robins recorded one of their best results of the campaign when they defeated Rotherham at home 2-1 just before Christmas.

Woan has chipped in with two more goals since and has made over 20 appearances, consistently performing well in

midfield and offering the team a dimension so often lacking at this level - a player who appears to have time on the ball.

King describes Woan as 'Premiership' quality in the Second Division, and would like to extend his contract beyond the end of the current season.



Player Focus...

Ian Woan

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BIG WINS

The Potters won 3-0 at The County Ground earlier this season to register their best victory (in terms of goal-difference) over the Robins.

Prior to that mark Stein's double-strike earned the Potters a 2-0 home win in December 1996.

The Robins hammered Stoke 6-0 at home in November 1989 (Division 2) while in two Southern League fixtures in 1911-12, Swindon won 3-0 at home on Christmas Day and 4-1 at The Victoria Ground 24 hours later.

WINNER

Peter Thorne scored Swindon's winner in their 1-0 home win over his future and current club Stoke City in March 1997 (Division 1).

FA CUP ACTION

Two goals by Frank Mountford helped Stoke defeat Swindon 3-1 in a 3rd round tie at The County Ground in January 1949 when the crowd was an impressive 26,335.

FIRST AT THE BRIT

Swindon Town were the first League visitors - and indeed the first winners - at The Britannia Stadium, beating Stoke City 2-1 in a Second Division game on 30 August 1997 in front of a full-house crowd of 23,000.

Later in the season the Robins doubled up with a 1-0 win at home.

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Among the many players who over the last 25 years or so have served with both clubs we have: Paul Allen, Dave Bamber, Steve Foley, Dave Hockaday, Chris Kamara, Paul

Richardson, hot-shot Peter Thorne, Keith Scott and Mark Walters.

MANAGER

Lou Macari, now in charge of Huddersfield Town, held the post of team manager at both Stoke City and Swindon Town; Louis page was a Stoke player and Swindon manager while Chic Bates also played for the Robins and was assistant-manager/coach under Macari at Stoke.

STAR MAN

On 5 May 1979, midfielder Paul Richardson scored a dramatic goal at Meadow Lane to earn Stoke City a 1-0 victory over Notts County and as a result guaranteed promotion to the First Division. Some 14,000 fans followed the Potters to the game and there was a terrific atmosphere inside the crowd as the 21,579 crowd looked on nervously. But it was Paul's decisive effort late on which won the day.

Born near Selston (Notts) in October 1949, he played initially for Nottingham Forest and had one outing for Chester before joining Stoke City (signed by George Eastham) in June 1977 for £50,000. Paul went on to score 11 times in more than 140 appearances for the Potters before transferring to Sheffield United for £25,000 in August 1981. After that he assisted Blackpool, Swindon Town (1983-84) and Swansea City and then became player-manager of Gloucester city before later taking charge of Fairford FC whilst working for British Telecom. An England youth international, Paul made 435 Football League appearances all told and netted 32 goals.

*PETER THORNE...
played for both clubs*



Past Encounters

This is the Potters' playing record against The Robins:

Football League

Venue	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	6	3	2	1	7	4
Away	7	2	0	5	4	14
Totals	13	5	2	6	11	18

Southern League

Home	2	0	1	1	2	5
Away	2	0	0	2	2	6
Totals	4	0	1	3	4	11

FA Cup

Home	1	0	0	1	0	1
Away	2	1	1	0	4	2
Totals	3	1	1	1	4	3

League Cup

Home	1	0	1	0	2	2
Away	1	0	0	1	1	2
Totals	2	0	1	1	3	4

Summary	22	6	5	11	22	36
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Stoke City v Swindon Town

by Tony Matthews

Connections

True Supporters Against Violence

Stoke City will take the strongest possible action against so-called supporters who are identified as being involved in the reported racially-motivated disturbances outside Boundary Park and around Oldham before and after Saturday's match.

The Club can confirm that this action could include life bans from the Britannia Stadium.

Revealing the hard-line stance today, Chief Executive Jonathan Fuller has reiterated the Club's determination to defeat the hooligans.

He says, 'It is with great dismay that we have had to read about and hear the reports of the troubles in Oldham on Saturday. It is extremely unfortunate that a small minority of our so-called supporters chose to use the name of our football club. We deplore hooliganism in all forms - but especially that directed specifically against ethnic minorities at a time when society, not just

football, is working hard to achieve good race relations. Stoke City F.C. remains wholehearted in our support of both True Supporters Against Violence, which aims to stamp out hooliganism in it's broadest form, and the Kick It Out campaign, which is designed to stop racism, not just within the game, but around it as well. The City of Stoke on Trent is a multi-cultural city and has one of the best records for race relations in Britain. As a football club we want to reflect that, and we believe the vast majority of our supporters do too.'

Those arrested and charged with public order offences on Saturday can expect automatic bans from the Britannia Stadium. The Club has the power to eject and ban from the stadium any supporters who indulge in racist chanting, which is also an arrestable offence.

TRUE SUPPORTERS INITIATIVE STATEMENT

No true supporter of Stoke City wishes to see hooliganism at our football

grounds, and this applies equally to racism. Racist behaviour has absolutely no place in football; it is illegal, derogatory and highly offensive, bringing shame to those who partake in it, and more widely to Stoke City supporters as a whole. The True Supporters Initiative is totally committed to eradicating racism from football. We hope that you, the supporters, will help us to help yourselves in banishing the scar of racism - raising the profile of Stoke City football fans nationwide, and creating a truly supportive atmosphere at our multi-racial club.

**LETS LOCK THE
VIOLENCE AND
RACISM OUT; LOCK
THE PASSION IN.**

Anyone who has any information regarding racist or hooligan behaviour, and who wishes to pass it on in the strictest of confidence, can call the True Supporters Hotline on the following number;

01785 23 85 95

Coming to the Britannia Stadium, Sunday 20th May
THE SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS
FOUNDATION LEGEND'S TOURNAMENT
AND PRE-TOURNAMENT DINNER.....
with very special guest BRIAN CLOUGH and
guest speaker DEREK DOUGAN.



Brian Clough has agreed to make a rare outing to attend our pre-tournament dinner on the 19th May to pay respect to the memory of Sir Stanley Matthews, and help raise funds towards the Matthews statue. 'Brian Clough is a big coup for us,' says Nigel Johnson, Chairman of the Matthews Foundation fund-raising committee. 'It's his respect and admiration for Sir Stanley which has persuaded him to make such a rare appearance in public, and we are very grateful that he should wish to be associated with everything it is trying to achieve, which is to give less privileged

children the opportunity to play the game of football.' The dinner precedes a Legend's tournament the following day at the Britannia Stadium which kicks off at 2 pm and is attracting teams of yesteryear from Stoke City, Port Vale, Manchester United, Manchester City, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest. Tickets for the tournament are available on the day for £5 (£2 concessions) or £10 for a family of four. Executive facilities are available by ringing the commercial department on 01782 592211.

Tickets for the dinner, including an auction for which Paul Gascoigne has donated a signed shirt, are £40 (£400 for a table of 10) and are available from Julie Cadman on 01782 592120. Along with the events on the field, there will be lots of activities taking place around the stadium, including fun fairs, face

painting, a Supporters Club Programme Fair, and Calvin Drey will be attempting to break the world 'Spinathon Record.' This Tournament would not be possible without the backing of the Professional Footballer's Association, who have supported the Sir Stanley Matthews Foundation since its origin.



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Player Interview with ...

...Rikhardur Dadason

Rikhardur Dadason may have altered the course of history with his late but vital winner at Oldham last weekend.

Time will tell, but if ever a goal was greeted with an explosion of relief it had to be the one scrambled home by our Icelandic international striker at muddy Boundary Park.

One thing's for sure, though - today's final league game of the season would have had a totally different complexion without it.

For starters, City would be kicking-off in seventh place, not fifth.

And we would be going into the match knowing that even three points might not be enough to claim a play-off place if Wigan and Bournemouth also won.

So maybe at 4.50pm today there will be a debt owed to the player who is hoping last Saturday's timely intervention - his eighth goal for the club - will not only prove to be a turning point in our season, but his.

By his own admission, Rikhardur has endured a stop-start time since his arrival from Norwegian outfit Viking Stavanger last autumn.

There was the drama of an injury-time goal on his debut - within minutes of coming on as a substitute - to knock First Division Barnsley out of the Worthington Cup in November.

That was followed by a back injury suffered in training which hampered his transition from Scandinavian to English football.

Things looked up again in the first couple of months of the New Year with a run in the side and a few goals to boot, but the last few weeks have been frustrating.

With leading scorer Peter Thorne and Andy Cooke in pole position for claiming places, Rikhardur's opportunities have largely boiled down to the boss deciding between two and three up front.

"It has been disappointing, because I've not been on the bench so much in my career," he says. "It's the first time since I left Iceland and started to play abroad that I have

felt I haven't really been moving forward.

"The last couple of months have kind of been a backward step for me, but hopefully that's now going to change over the next few weeks.

"There is still plenty of time, especially because of the play-offs. Our season could easily have another month to go, and in football while there's another game coming up things can always change."

As they did at Oldham. A goal down with less than twenty minutes to go - and with Wigan and Bournemouth winning - City needed inspiration and it was Gudjon Thordarson's substitutions and switch to 4-3-3 which did the trick.

The manager elected to play that way against Wrexham in our last home game from the off, and if he does so again today then Dadason can expect to be involved from the start.

"I hope that's the way we go. When you haven't played that much, as I haven't lately, you are always dying to get into the side," he says.

"We've used 4-3-3 late in games quite often recently, and whenever we have we have always put teams under pressure.

"At Oldham we got the goals to go with it, but against Wrexham it worked well for the whole match and we created a huge number of chances.

"Okay, we scored three and the forwards didn't get any of them, but we could easily have done because we were always pressing for goals and if those chances are made again this afternoon I would back us to pop one or two in. "Everybody knows how important a result is for us again, and we will all be up for it. Ideally, we would have clinched a play-off place by now and taken away some of the tension, but that didn't happen and we just have to deal with the situation facing us."

When Rikhardur scores they tend to be vital goals - the winner against Barnsley, last Saturday's, the only goal in the 1-0 home win over Brentford in January, the late equaliser at Brentford in March. The scene, therefore, may just be set for him once more...



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things can always change 7



1 Gavin
WARD

Home Ian Holmes
Away



2 Mikael
HANSSON

Home Maintech
Services
Away



3 Clive
CLARKE

Home June Forrester
Away



4 Henrik
RISOM

Home Jeff Conley
Away



5 Nicky
MOHAN

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14 Carl
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15 Tony
DORIGO

Home Jeff Conley
Away



16 Paul
CONNOR

Home Jeff Lea & Family
Away



17 James
O'CONNOR

Home Southern
Supporters Club
Away



18 Ben
PETTY

Home Julia Zuk
Away



19 Stefan
THORDARSON

Home Hobbs Computer
Services
Away Bargain Booze
Cross Health



23 Wayne
THOMAS

Home She Stood There
Laughing
Away



Gudjon
THORDARSON

Home Steve Hill -
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When end of season play-offs were first introduced, many were critical of the system. They said that it was unfair for a team which finished in third place to maybe lose out in the semi-finals to the sixth placed team. Managers were also dubious, but I know that everybody within the game is now totally converted. From Stoke City's point of view, we scraped in last year, and were unlucky to lose out. Whoever wins the pay-offs will be the deserving winners, no matter where they finished in the final placings. To come through three high pressure games is testimony enough of a good side.

Talking of pressure, you can imagine the feelings of Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger when Patrick Vieira and Roy Keane are openly critical of their team mates. Stating that the clubs' lack big occasion players, is a reflection on both managers. I'm sure players on both sides wouldn't react favourably to those statements expressed by the midfield dynamo's.

When you consider that Arsenal won the double only three years ago, the press have been fairly critical of Wenger. Consider that they have finished runners up in the League in the last two years, have reached the F.A. Cup Final again, and were somewhat unlucky to lose out to Valencia in the quarter finals of the Champions League. Now if you think that's failure, well I would settle for that record any time, and I'm sure all of our supporters would do the same.

Ferguson has a problem of another kind. He knows that

A Wing & A Prayer


they will be favourites to win the Premiership again next season, but is that good enough for him? He doesn't want to retire without adding another Champion's League pennant to his C.V. He is aware of the record of the great Liverpool teams of the past, and their record in Europe. Signing Van Nistelrooy will be a major asset, but he knows that the team needs strengthening in other areas. Two new defenders are vital if they are to have any say in next year's competition. In order to compete with Real Madrid and others, they will have to spend a considerable amount of money. Yet the PLC company which controls Manchester United have urged caution, and therein lies Ferguson's problem. They have obstructed his plans to bring in new players, and this has frustrated him to the point of wondering that the success he has brought them over the last 10 years really doesn't count for much. Summer signings will be viewed with greater interest than is usual. He could also bring in £20 million overnight by selling Yorke and Butt. We shall see!


Hope to see you all in the First Division next season.

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with Terry Conroy




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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS™

Stoke City's Player Of The Season Brynjar Gunnarsson

talks to BBC Radio Stoke's Nigel Johnson
before Wednesday night's Gala Evening



Have you enjoyed your experiences playing with Iceland?

Yes, very much so, especially as it gives you the chance to play against countries like France, Sweden, Norway and Russia. To play in front of 70 to 80,000 people is a wonderful experience. The opportunity to play against world class

internationals is a wonderful learning curve.

How many caps have you got so far for Ireland?
I have been awarded 26 caps so far, and obviously, I would like to increase this total.

Are you disappointed that the Club has not been promoted automatically?

A little bit, yes, because that was the aim at the start of the season, so we have to put that behind us and concentrate very hard on doing the best we can to get into the play offs.

Do you prefer playing in the midfield, or at centreback?

I get asked that question very often, and I must admit that I am not bothered which position I play. There is the opportunity from midfield to move forward more often, and this creates goal scoring chances. At centreback you are able to see the developments in the game more clearly, and to take up the relevant positions as a result.

Swindon will prove difficult wont they?

Swindon are fighting for their lives in this Division

and it will not be easy, however, if Bristol Rovers have lost their game in hand, this will mean that Swindon are safe. Today that can work to our advantage or, if they are relaxed they may create unforeseen problems. Whatever happens we have got to win.

Do you feel promotion is a possibility?

If you get into the playoffs the teams involved have an equal chance of making it into the first Division, and if you reach the final, and have luck on the day, you will be the team to triumph.

Is there a confidence in the dressing room?

Yes, there is a lot of confidence in the dressing room, we all want to go up into the First Division, and we are sticking together to do our utmost to achieve that aim.

Have you a message to the supporters?

The support from the Stokies at Oldham was tremendous, and the players are grateful for this. The attendances at home, in the region of 13 to 14,000 have been magnificent. We can be very proud, as players, of our support.

Have you enjoyed this season so far?

Yes, I have, and I feel that I have played reasonably well. We would have wished to have been in one of the top two spots, but other than that, it has been a reasonably good season.

Would you like to be voted player of the year?

That decision is not left to me, but it would be a great honour if that particular award was given to me.

On Wednesday night at the Gala Dinner, Brynjar actually was awarded player of the season. Stefan Thordarson's goal against Charlton was voted best goal of the season, Peter Thorne was top scorer, and young player of the year is Gareth Owen.

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Football in the Community
in association with...



Britannia

Welcome to this afternoon's final League home fixture against Swindon. It's been a long season, but let's hope we will be coming back for one more game. (Sunday 13th.) Football in the Community would like to wish Happy Birthday to Tim Mullet and Eric Sykes from Tulsar. Enjoy the game! Hursty.

SOCCER SCHOOLS

Once again it's time to announce the dates for the forthcoming Soccer Schools in the Whitsun half term holidays. (Don't they seem to come around quickly?) Details are listed below, and for further information please contact Simon Bradley on 01782 592252.

TWO DAY COURSES

TUESDAY 29th - WEDNESDAY 30th MAY

TRENT VALE.....St. Joseph's Playing Fields
STONE.....St. Michael's First School
CHEADLE.....Cheadle High School
UTTOXETER.....Windsor Park Middle School

THURSDAY 31st MAY -

FRIDAY 1st JUNE

POWER LEAGUE CENTRE - NEXT TO THE BRITANNIA STADIUM

CLAYTON.....Clayton High School
LEEK.....Birchall Playing Fields
BLYTHE BRIDGE.....Marsh Primary School

Football in the Community

Penalty Shootout Proved To Be Top Choice



When we first started Sponsored Penalty Shootouts three years ago, I was very sceptical as to how successful they would become, but now, three years on, local schools and Football in the Community are currently reaping the benefit of a thriving activity. From just the two schools over £9000 has been shared equally between the School and Football in the Community. Pictured above left are Simon Bradley and Will Clowes with children from St. Wulstan's Primary School, Wolstanton, and pictured above right is me, Adrian Hurst, alongside children from Woodhouse Primary School.

Railtrack Area Winners



Pictured above are boys who represented Stoke City in the area finals of the Railtrack 'Play Safe Cup'. On hand to present certificates and prizes to the boys from Sneyd Green Primary School was Chief Executive Jonathan Fuller.

St. John Fisher High School



To celebrate the achievements of the Adidas Community Cup girls U13 area representatives, Jonathan Fuller was again on hand to present prizes and certificates to the girls from St. John Fisher High School.

Railtrack Message

As part of the national arrangements with RAILTRACK, all Football in the Community Projects around the country are keen to support and promote the awareness of the dangers which surround the railways. Vince Lucas, Railtrack Commercial Manager, also sends this message to all children, parents and everyone who looks after children, 'With the light nights now upon us, and the school holidays fast approaching, children look to play outside. This brings an increased danger of them playing on or near railway lines. At Railtrack, through our involvement with the national Football in the Community Scheme, we want to encourage children to play football and keep away from the dangers of the railway. Our theme for this year is 'Stay Safe, Play Safe!' Please help to keep children away from the tracks.'



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Fans Update Forum

"Please take two minutes to complete and return the form, as it will form the basis of the service you get in the future."

This may be the final League game of the season, but if events go according to 'Gudjon's Plan' we should have another home match, hopefully on a Wednesday. That will give me the opportunity to let you know about recent activity with the SCFF on top of what is contained here.

Extracts from the minutes of the last meeting with the Club concerning ticket prices for 2001/02 are reproduced below, however, today, the SCFF are after your help.....we have agreed with the Club to survey fans for their views about various aspects of matchday catering at the Britannia Stadium.

Catering

Around 15,000 questionnaires are being distributed which ask your opinion on service, product range, product quality, value for money, as well as your views on where you believe catering is best from the grounds you have visited in the last two seasons. In doing this, we want the Club to benchmark us with the best in the land.

The outcome of the exercise will be an agreement with the Club, laying down minimum standards supporters expect from Stoke City's catering provider in the short, medium and long term. PLEASE TAKE TWO MINUTES TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM, AS IT WILL FORM THE BASIS OF THE SERVICE YOU GET IN THE FUTURE!!

Ticket Pricing

■ Given the strength of feeling from supporters and the number of unanswered questions surrounding ticket prices and policies for next season, it was felt that everyone would benefit by focusing on ticket pricing during the next meeting.

■ The forum is committed to supporting the Club to attract more supporters into the stadium. But

having reflected on the pricing for next season, forum members were disappointed that it appeared that the Club had not incorporated suggestions made at previous meetings, with the exception of the price reduction for 'helpers' who attend games with disabled supporters.

■ The Club expressed surprise at this, and were under the impression that feedback from fans and the SCFF had been positive.

■ Forum representatives stated there was a need to explain to supporters why our prices must go up when many Premier League clubs were holding their prices for next season.

■ Since the take over the new board has invested £6 million into the team and ground, and would hope that supporters could see some improvement. This season the Club will lose an estimated £1.8 million and will continue to lose money whilst they remain in Division Two. It is a very difficult act to balance the books and some costs have to be passed on to the customer. However, the Club is listening to supporters, and taking ideas on board.

■ The Club stated they had looked at the pricing policies of many clubs and as a result of this student prices have been introduced on a promotional basis. Leaflets had been delivered to local universities and they had sold 400 student tickets for the Wrexham game. None of the forum members were aware of this, and suggested the need for more advertising.

■ The Club was asked why prices in the Boothen End has risen by £2 per game when everywhere else was only £1. They stated that for the previous season only, supporters in the Boothen End were given a loyalty bonus, but that the new prices still represented a good deal for supporters (pay for 18 games, get 5 games free.)

■ Representatives were concerned that the 4th May deadline had not been extensively communicated, and asked the Club how many season tickets had been sold so far? The Club stated that they had sold 750 to date. (20th April.)

■ Representatives voiced their concerns that supporters may have budgeted to buy their season tickets in June, and were now worrying how to buy their 'bargain' ticket earlier.

■ The club stated that the idea to reward supporters who buy their season tickets early, guaranteeing 2nd Division prices was a good one.

■ The Club was asked why it was now charging £10 season ticket insurance?

■ They stated that in offering the insurance they were trying to provide another service for supporters, and it was not compulsory. They also stated that they would review the wording of the offer as it appears a little ambiguous.

■ The Club was asked about it's policy regarding credit card charges. They stated that it is standard practice to pass on these charges to cardholders, and that last season the Club's service charge bill was substantial.

■ Representatives expressed concern over the large increase in car parking prices at the stadium. It was suggested that as the Trentham Lakes site was developed supporters may get more choice on parking alternatives, and that improved safety features may be a way of offering supporters a return for the increase in charges.

■ The Club was asked if they had given any more thought to implementing a loyalty card scheme? They stated that they were still looking at this possibility.

■ Representatives asked about OAP's in the Family Stand having to pay their price increase in one season. The Club replied that the price for OAP's in the Family Stand for last season was a mistake that they need to correct in time for next season.

■ Representatives enquired about the age a female supporter needs to be to become an OAP. The Club stated that the Football League recommended 65 years, and that most clubs will be implementing this policy.

■ The Club was asked why they haven't promoted Vice President's and Waddington Suite prices yet? They stated that the packages hadn't been finalised, and prices would be announced shortly.

■ Mr. Gislason stated that following the take-over the new board hoped to be in Division One by the end of their second year at the Club, and they are still optimistic that we would go up this season.

■ The Club was asked if it intended to change their pricing policy for away supporters? Representatives stated that Stoke fans were now paying more at away matches as a consequence of this policy. The Club replied that there are no plans to alter the pricing policy for away fans, as the Football League supported their approach, but they would look into reports that travelling Stoke supporters are now being asked to pay more.

■ Representatives stated that although the new Family Stand had been a great success, there was disappointment that the Club had not looked at some price reductions for children in other areas of the stadium. It was brought to their attention that a child of 6 years had watched the England/Poland World Cup qualifying game at Liverpool for £11. This is the price charged for the same child to watch 2nd Division football at Stoke in the Upper John Smiths (Premier Club.) It was felt that adults with children were being penalised for choosing to be in the Premier Club, and were left with a feeling of being pushed out. The Club stated that they would look at prices for U13's throughout the stadium.

■ Forum members agreed that it had been an extremely useful exercise to concentrate on ticket pricing issues, and thanked the Club for the opportunity to do so.

STOKE CITY FANS FORUM

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Newcastle Under Lyme

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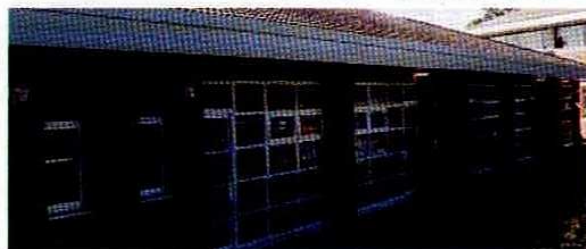
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Pot of Gold

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Have you checked your ticket yet? There are still come consolation prizes to be claimed. If your Potteries Lottery half-time draw ticket for Wrexham matches three of the numbers, you have won a consolation prize of £5.00. Collect your winnings from the Lottery counter at the back of the Club Shop.

Make sure you check your ticket this afternoon. We have a top jackpot prize of £1,000 today!!

If you miss the numbers on the scoreboard at half-time, just telephone the Potteries Lottery Hotline, Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. to find out if you are a winner - 01782 592288.

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW

'DRAW ON THE ROAD'

On Thursday, 26th April, 2001, Lynn, Rita and John from the Promotions Department, together with Pottermus, took the Pot of Gold Draw to the Black Cock Pub in Blythe Bridge. There was a very good atmosphere at the pub, as you can see from the photo's below. Look out for the draw again in the Finney Gardens, Werrington Road, Bucknall.



The Business Draw Members are:-

Wagon & Horses, Bentilee
Clews Construction, Stoke
Cheshire Bakeries, Congleton
Moving Menu, Stoke
Lally Contractors, Sneyd Green
Norton News, Norton
J & J Comley News, Fenton
The Golden Lion, Newcastle

Brownsword Associates, Stockport
Acorn Garage, Baddeley Green
Roy Evans & Sons, Fenton
Woodlea China, Fenton
J G Meats, Hanford
Kraftkabin, Stoke
Shelton Auto Spares, Shelton
Kirsty Jayne China, Fenton

Last Option.Com Ltd. London
Johnson Walsh Engineering, Norton
Barney's Barbecue, Tunstall
Booth Newsagents, Bentilee
GMR Plumbing & Heating, Congleton
Tollgate News, Shelton
PK. Ceramica, Tunstall

Numbers of the Pot of Gold Weekly Draw are still rising, so why not be a winner like the members below. It only costs £1 per week to win big cash prizes. To join ring Tracey or Jo in the Promotions Department on 01782 592288 NOW. 6000 people can't be wrong!! Join the team.



We have had a very busy couple of weeks in the Promotions Department, as Kwik Save in Kids Grove re-opened after having a re-fit, and invited the Promotions team and Pottermus to open the store.

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW - BUSINESS DRAW

This afternoon our Business Draw winners are:-

SKY BOXANDY COOKSON, BARNEY'S BARBECUE.
GREENHOFF SUITE ..CRAIG MCCARTHY, CHESHIRE BAKERIES.
10 MATCH TICKETSJEFF COMLEY, J & J COMLEY NEWS

At the Wrexham game, we had our Business Draw company day, and took the opportunity to hold a 'team photo' shoot!! If you would like further details on the Pot of Gold weekly draw - business draw, just telephone the Promotions Department on 01782 592288.



The Promotions team would like to thank all Pot of Gold Weekly Draw agents, members, and Business Draw members, as well as everyone who supports the Potteries Lottery half-time draw, for all your support during the year.

Best wishes for this afternoon, and let's hope next Saturday we'll be playing once again in the play-offs. **OF COURSE WE WILL!!!**

IT'S WORTH BEING A MEMBER OF THE POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW.

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW - WINNERS - WEEK 48

WEEK ENDED FRIDAY 27TH APRIL, 2001.

£1000	Winning Number	B0642	Martin Gater, Birches Head
£500	Winning Number	A4780	Roy Warrilow, Fenton
£200	Winning Number	G0119	Steve Wilshall, Tunstall
£100	Winning Number	C0913	Stephen Heath, Fenton

Lawsons Travels

On the Road with The Potters

The final home League fixture of the season, and an opportunity to look back at the away campaign with all its highs and lows, both on and off the pitch.

It has certainly been a season of long distance mid-week away fixtures and more than a fair share of traffic and weather problems during one of the wettest winters on record. However, the scene was set with weather of another extreme back in the heat of summer last year when the August Bank Holiday game down in the West Country at Bristol City saw hundreds of Stoke fans caught up in horrendous traffic problems on the M5 motorway and in the City of Bristol following an earlier accident - many fans, including myself, arriving at Ashton Gate half an hour after kick-off. Contrast that with the frost bound scene greeting Potters fans at the Shay, home of Halifax Town, for a mid-week LDV Vans Trophy game in early January, and the soaking

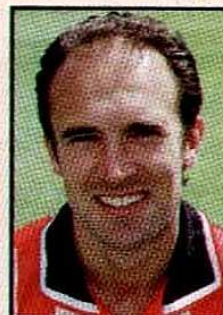
November night that saw that ignominious FA Cup First Round exit at Nuneaton Borough.

On the playing front, best away performances were at the Valley, where the Potters progressed in the Worthington Cup at the expense of Premiership Charlton Athletic, where, despite defeat on the night 4 - 3, Stefan Thordarson's magnificent strike (surely the Stoke goal of the season) was enough to send the Potters through on the away goals rule. Another great win at Bristol Rovers - Peter Thorne 3 - Pirates 0 - and an excellent team performance at Wigan where a last minute own-goal denied the Potters a well deserved victory. Comprehensive victories at Swindon by 3 - 0 and at Peterborough by 4 - 0 saw the Potters gain almost as many away points as against those earned at the Britannia Stadium.

Amongst the grounds visited, the modern stadia at Reading, Wigan and Millwall contrasted sharply with the Swansea's, Colchester's and Oxford's of the Division. My vote for this season's best away venue goes to the Madejski Stadium, where Reading got the catering act together after last season's fiasco, the stadium offering excellent

views and facilities for visitors. Worst ground taking the Bloomfield Road award goes to the Manor at Oxford, but relegation to the new stadium at Minchery Farm means we must have seen the last of the rain soaked steel cage that is the away end.

Programme of the Season - that blockbuster mega edition of Northampton Town (Cobblers, I hear you say!) - all 80 pages of it.



Finally, the Away Player of the Season - a difficult one to call, with injuries, suspensions and inconsistencies all taking their toll, but Tony Dorigo takes the award in possibly his

final League season for his undoubted quality on the ball and leadership on the field.

Next season - will it be a return to familiar pastures in the First Division or familiar pastures at Loftus Road, Prenton Park, Ninian Park, and a first visit to the Withdean Stadium?

Supporters Club

IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

Today we welcome Swindon Town and their supporters as the season reaches its exciting conclusion. The Potters need three points to guarantee a place in the play-offs, with Walsall, Wigan, Bournemouth and ourselves vying for the three places below third placed Reading. Swindon may also need all three points to ensure they avoid relegation and so it's set-up to be one hell of a game!

PLAYER OF THE SEASON

Voting is now complete for the 2000-01 Supporters Club 'Player of the Season.' In one of the closest contests in recent years the eventual winner was Wayne Thomas who polled some 34% of the votes with second place Brynjar Gunnarsson pulling in 13%. Our congratulations go to Wayne, who will be presented with the trophy prior to today's game by committee member Dave Harrison and club member Tony Tams. Our thanks go to all the members and non-members who took the time to vote.

PLAYER'S SOCIAL

The Supporters Club 'Player's Social' evening held in the Legends Bar at the Britannia Stadium on Tuesday, 24th April, turned out to be a very enjoyable occasion. We were promised by the manager that ALL OF THE FIRST TEAM PLAYERS would be present at the event, with the only exceptions being those players called up on international duty. This was indeed the case, and even an untimely false fire alarm did not disturb proceedings too much. In fact, the firemen who had quickly arrived on the scene joined in with one or two of the players for photographs etc. Our thanks go to all the players who turned up on the evening, to Mr. G. for allowing them to do so, and to Nicki Yates for co-ordinating the event at Stoke City.

POLICE SOCIAL

Our 'Police Social' involving darts, crib, dominoes competitions etc., took place at Longton Police Station recently. The supporters' side were overall victors with a final scoreline of 16-6. Thanks to the police for being such generous hosts, and to everyone who attended on the evening. Hopefully, the event will be repeated during next season.

PROGRAMME FAIR

The annual Supporters Club Programme Fair is to be held in the Legends Bar at the Britannia Stadium on Sunday, 20th May. The event starts at 11 a.m. and there is the possibility of an auction of particularly rare programmes/memorabilia due to take place at 12.30 p.m. Admission to the event is FREE and there will be a discount on many items available at the Supporters Club stall for Club members, on production of a current membership card. If anyone has any items of interest which they may like to include in the special auction, please contact the Club Secretary on 01782 744674.

CLUB CONTACTS

Supporters can contact us throughout the close season and our e-mail address is:

STOKECITYSUPPORT@FAXVIA.NET

We also have our '24-7-365' service to supporters with our postal, telephone/answer-phone and fax arrangements. If you wish to contact us, please write to the Secretary, 11, Westland Street, Penkhull, Stoke on Trent, ST4 7HE, and include a stamped addressed envelope for a reply. You can also telephone or fax us on 01782 744674.

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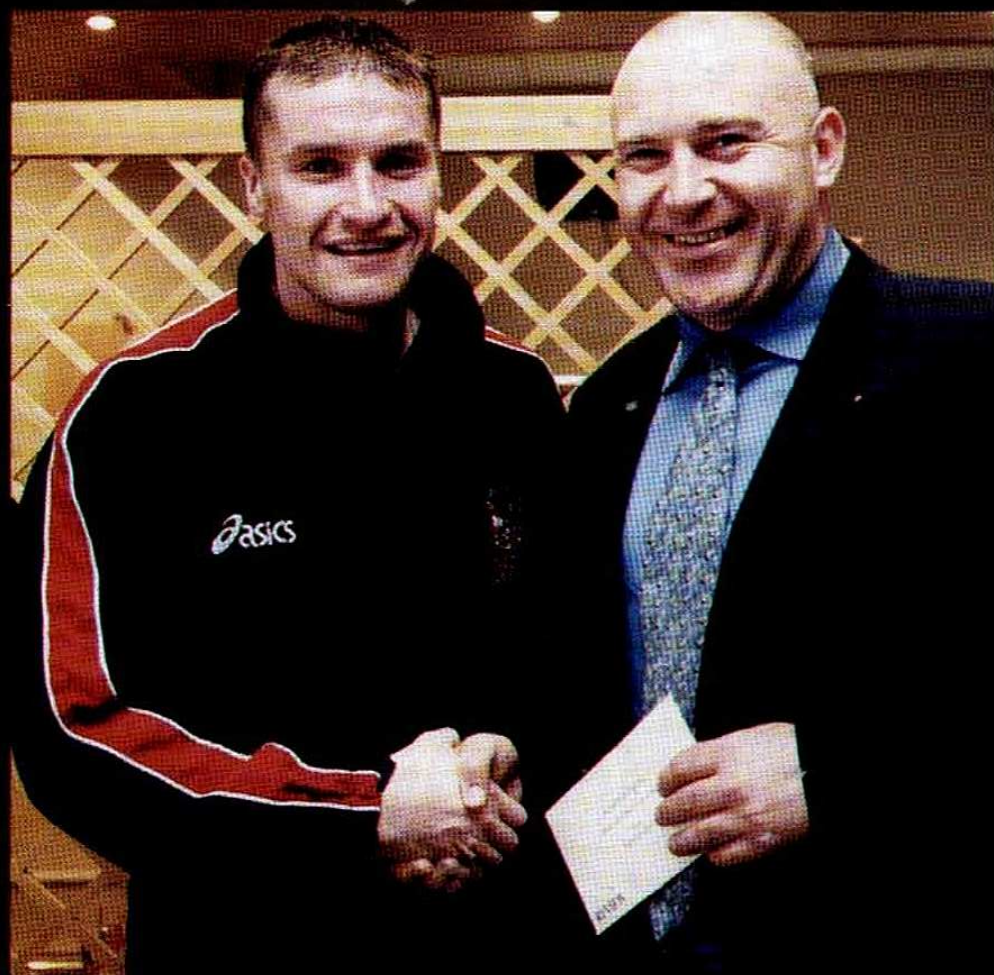
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MAN OF THE MATCH



The Review Man of the Match v Wrexham was **ANDY COOKE**. Andy is pictured with Craig McCarthey.

GIORGIO ARMANI

STONE ISLAND

RALPH LAUREN

ARMANI JEANS

HACKETT

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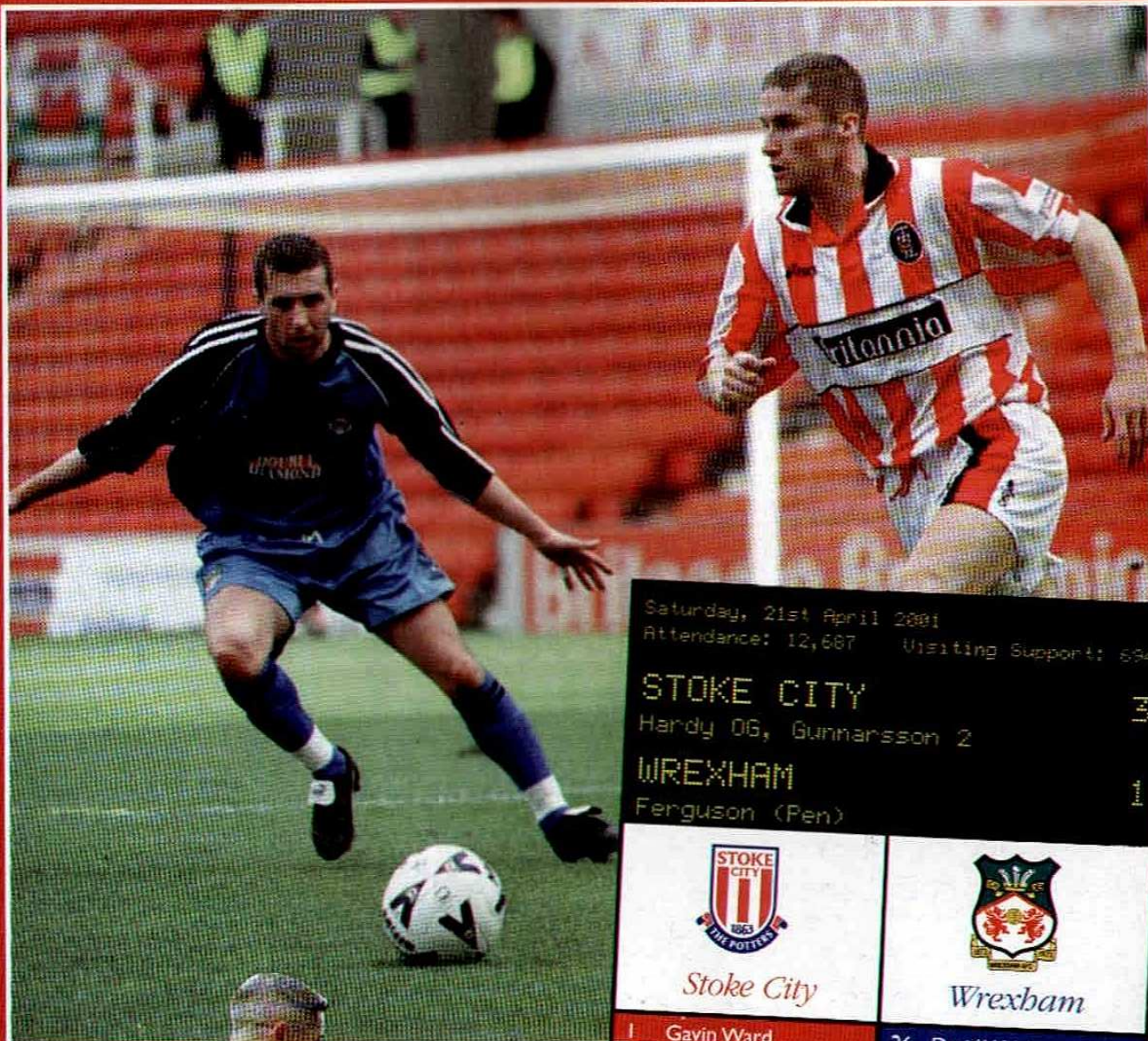
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STOKE CITY

Hardy 06, Gunnarsson 2

WREXHAM

Ferguson (Pen)



Stoke City



Wrexham

1 Gavin Ward	26 David Walsh
2 Mikael Hansson	2 Mark McGregor
3 Clive Clarke	3 Phil Hardy
6 Brynjar Gunnarsson	5 Brian Carey (c)
8 Graham Kavanagh	8 Kevin Russell
9 Peter Thorne	9 Craig Faulconbridge
10 Rikhardur Dadason	10 Darren Ferguson
17 James O'Connor (c)	16 Danny Williams
23 Wayne Thomas	19 Carlos Edwards
27 Frode Kippe	20 Michael Blackwood
34 Andy Cooke	21 Lee Roache

SUBSTITUTES

4 Henrik Risom (2)
7 Bjarni Gudjonsson (6)
15 Tony Dorigo (3)
19 Stefan Thordarson (NU)
31 Birkir Kristinsson (NU)

SUBSTITUTES

7 Martyn Chalk (20)
18 Hector Sam (NU)
22 Stephen Thomas (16)
32 Mark Evans (NU)
2 Kevin Dearden (NU)

Referee

Mr PR Richards

Assistant Referees

Mr S Castle

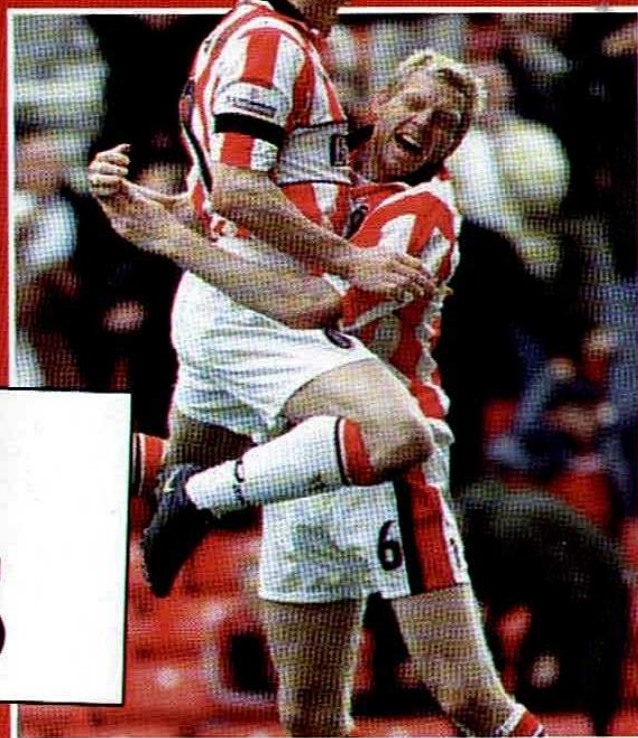
Mr DJ Hine

4th Official

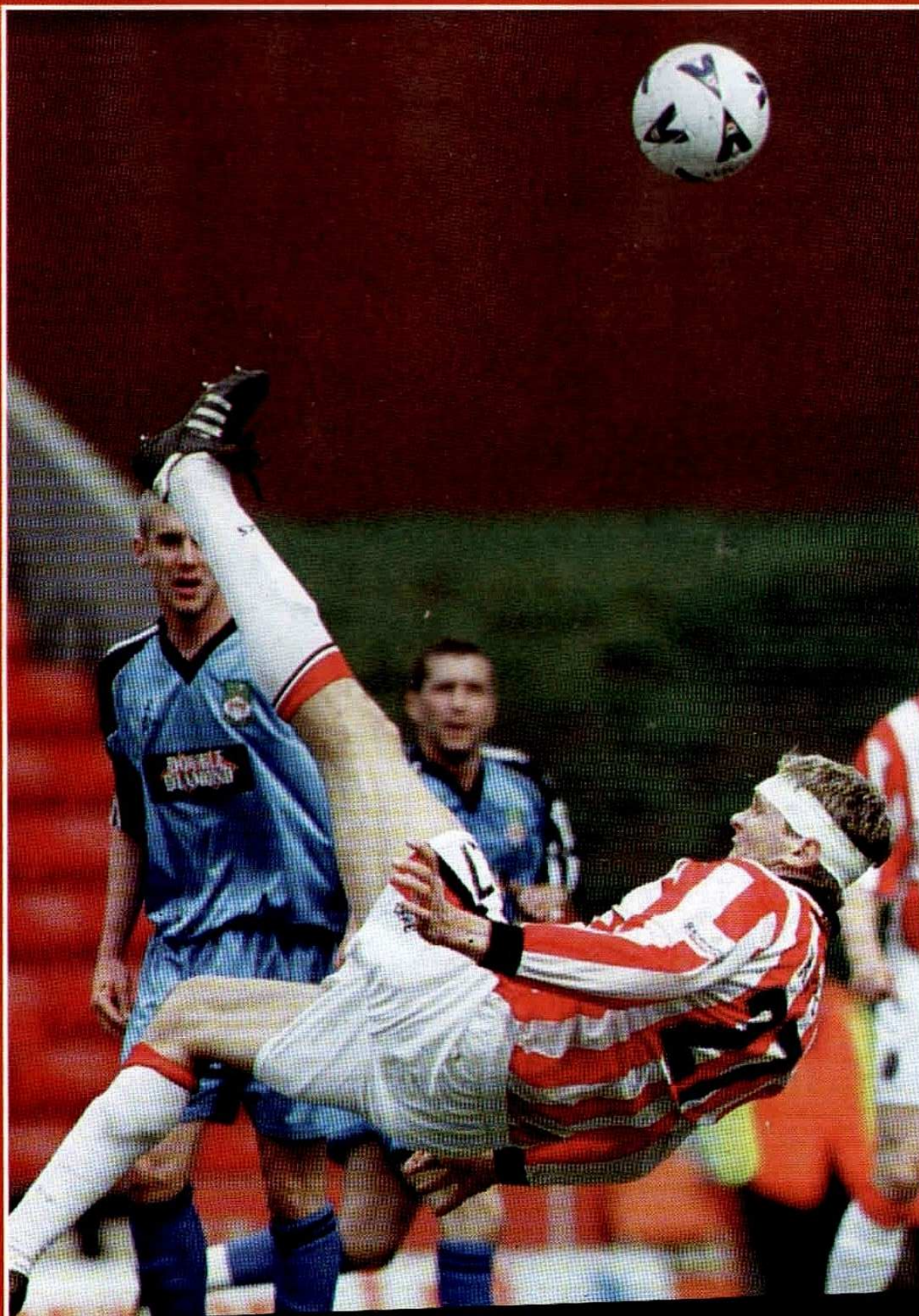
Mr RJ Martin

Man of the Match

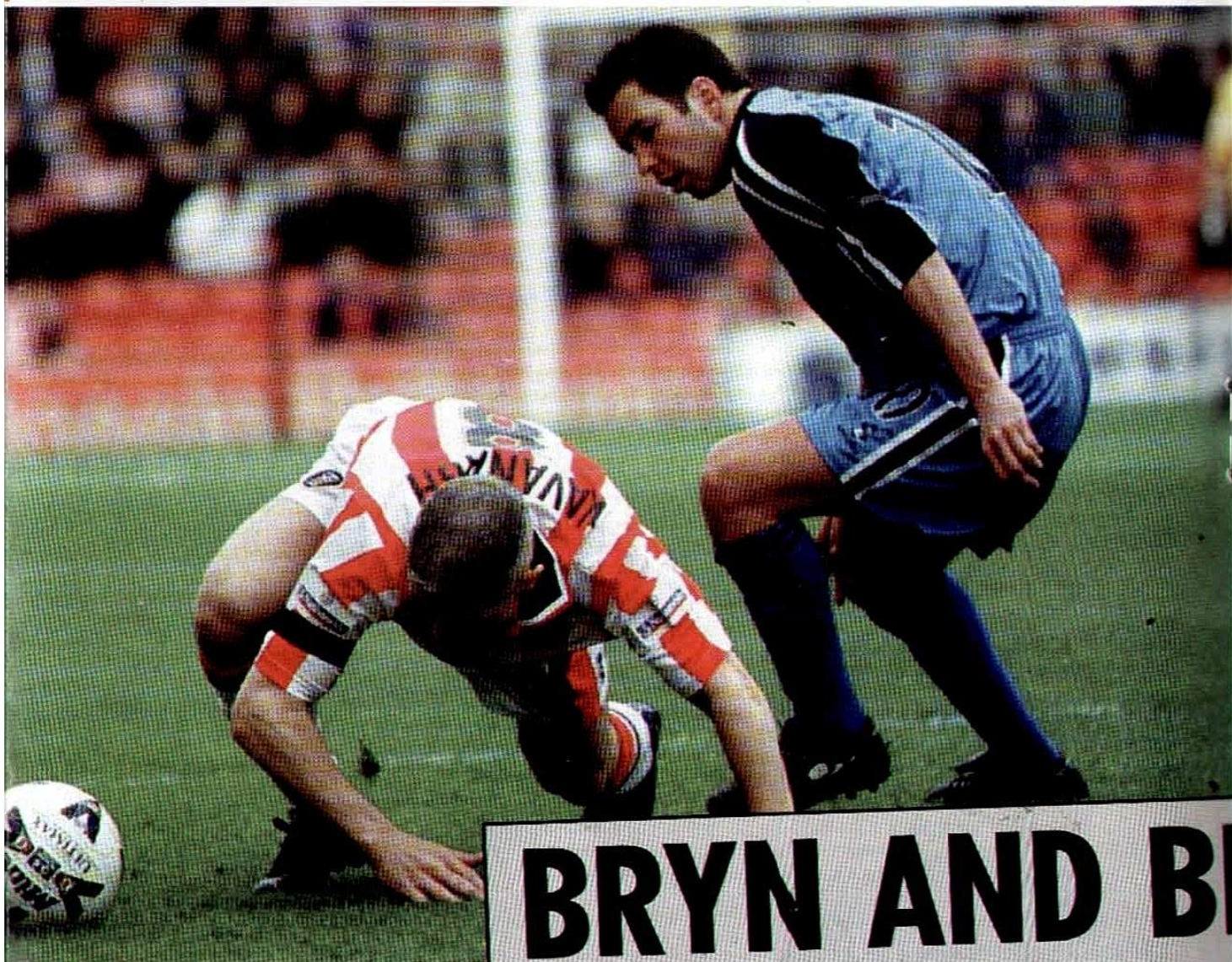
Brynjar Gunnarsson (pictured right)



S



Gudgon's back probl



BRYN AND B



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JM SHERRIFF
SPORTS EQUIPMENT



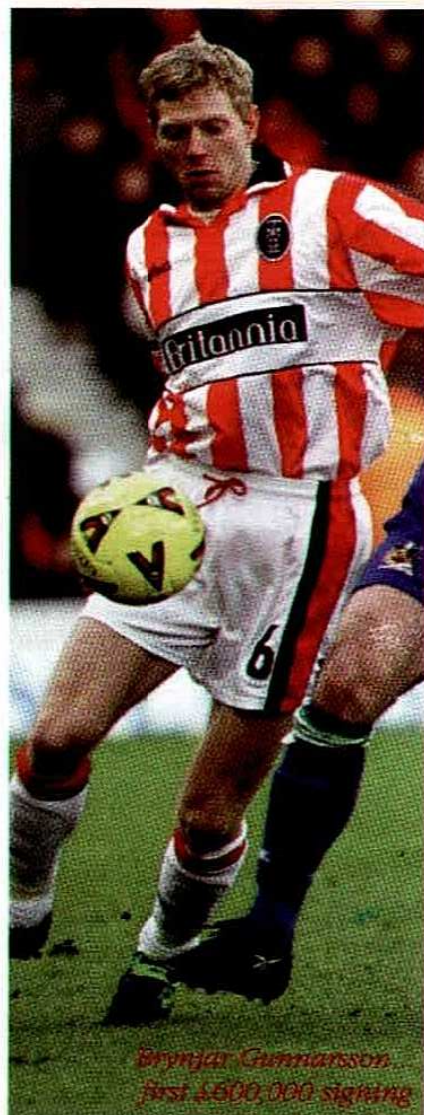
Official Team Kit

lecoqsportif 

Stoke City Firsts

Today we take a
look at **TRANSFER**
FIRSTS in Stoke
City's history.

- The **FIRST** £100,000 player to join the club was inside-forward Jimmy Greenhoff who was secured from Birmingham City in August 1969.
- Alan Hudson was the Potters' **FIRST** £200,000 acquisition. The England international joined the club from Chelsea for £240,000 in January 1974.
- Goalkeeper Peter Shilton, at £325,000, became the club's **FIRST** £300,000 capture when he crossed the Midlands from Filbert Street in November 1974.
- Ian Cranson, the club's current coach, was the first £400,000 signing, moving to The Victoria Ground from Sheffield Wednesday for £450,000 in July 1989.
- Canadian international striker Paul Peschisolido was the Potters' first half-million footballer. He was recruited from Birmingham City for £580,000 in July 1994.
- The first £600,000 signing made by the club arrived as recent as December 1999 when the Icelander Brynjar Gunnarsson joined the club from Orgryte for precisely that amount of money.
- In the opposite direction, the Potters' first £500,000 sale was striker Lee Chapman, who moved to Arsenal in August 1982.
- Adrian Heath was Stoke's first £700,000 player - transferred to Everton in January 1982 and then, for the **FIRST** time, the million pound barrier was broken when Mark Stein departed for Chelsea in a £1.5 million deal in October 1993.
- Fellow striker Mike Sheron then became Stoke City's first £2 million-rated footballer when he moved to Queen's Park Rangers for £2.5 million in July 1997 (some record books give the transaction figure as £2.75 m).



*Brynjar Gunnarsson,
first £600,000 signing*



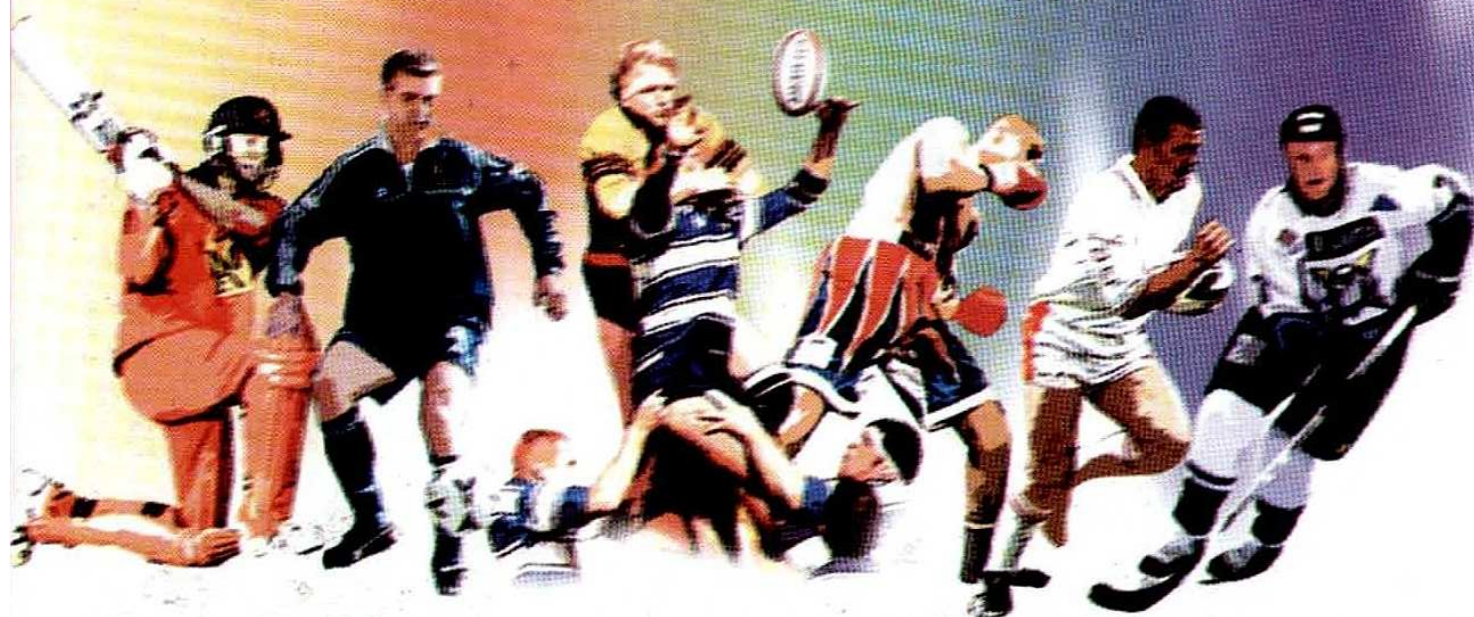
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Hi Stokies!

Last week I said that I had a long chat with two Stokies, both full backs, and both England internationals. Our last League game of the season brings me one to one with a Stokie who I could quite easily fill this programme with his career and memories. Perhaps the rest will be told in more depth next season - until then, join me with Mike Pejic.

Mike's Stoke career began after his father took him to meet Frank Mountford. That meeting led to him signing for Tony Waddington and his journey through the junior ranks began. Progress was swift, and after signing professional forms on his 18th birthday, he made his senior League debut on the 12th April, 1969 at Queens Park Rangers. In a glittering Stoke career that included a League Cup winners medal, Mike was a firm favourite with the supporters, and a player that no one expected to leave, but he did, in February, 1977. So, why was that? 'The reason I left was solely down to lack of ambition from the board. Good players were brought in by Waddo, but they were then sold. Everton's boss, Gordon Lee, came in for me, and I left for £135,000. Before I left Waddo said that the Club would find it difficult to stay in the Division.'

Mike's career, though, came to an end through an injury that nobody could diagnose. 'I didn't want to leave Everton, but with the injury I just couldn't handle it. I then joined Aston Villa and signed a two year contract, but after only two and a half months, I broke down with the same injury, which proved to be a double hernia.'

On the international front Mike has great memories. 'After I kept my place in the under 23 team, I had the call from Alf Ramsey to join the first team, and I joined such greats as Banksie, Martin Peters and Bobby Moore. Life was great, and after my first full cap in Portugal I was picked for the three home internationals. With only Emlyn Hughes and myself as left sided players, all looked well, but then Alf was sacked and Joe Mercer took over and I was dropped for the Argentina game. Alec Lindsay took my place and I remember Les Cocker telling me that I didn't suit Don Howes style. Instead of facing up to it, I felt anger, but then the injury cropped up and you reflect on what might have been. I did have lots of highs in the game, but you tend to remember the lows. I can say that I played all my football at the highest level.'

Looking back on his time at Stoke, Mike recalls a tussle with Dennis Tueart. 'I'd had a few tussles with Dennis before, but this time the game was televised. I pulled Dennis back and ripped his shirt off his

back and threw it into the paddock. The referee sent me off, which was fair enough, but I felt angry when after the game he said I had head butted him. Thankfully, I was cleared by commentator Brian Moore and the T.V. evidence.'

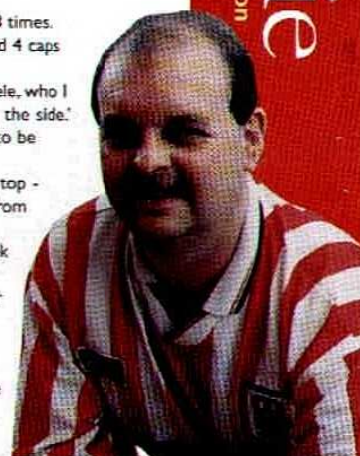
Mike did have the last laugh though some time later as he recalls, 'Dennis and I were going by train with the England lads, and I had arranged to meet him on the Post House car park. It had been raining and the car park was covered in leaves. Dennis arrived and ran over to me and slipped on the leaves! He lay there, his white shirt soaked, with leaves stuck all over him. Did I laugh, and did I pick him up? Draw your own conclusions!

Mike's busy schedule means he gets very little time to watch Stoke, but he says it's going to take a lot of finance and skill to get the Club to where it once was.

Once again, space has beaten me, but in a future programme (hopefully the play-off one) I'll be telling you about Mike's thoughts on his time at the Vale, his time as manager of Chester, and his thoughts on Chris Kamara, Lou Macari, and much much more.

Did You Know!

- Born Chesterton on January 25th, 1950.
- Appeared 336 times for the Potters, scoring 8 times.
- Represented England at Under 23 (8 caps) and 4 caps at senior level.
- Hardest opponent:- 'Mike Summerbee and Pele, who I played against when I was the youngest player in the side.'
- Best player played with:- 'That's easy, it's got to be Banksie, simply the best.'
- Mike tips 2 young lads to make it to the very top - they are Chopra from Newcastle, and Pennant from Arsenal.
- Career reads - Stoke, Everton, Aston Villa, Leek Town (coach/manager) Northwich Victoria (manager), Port Vale (assistant manager), Chester (manager), Stoke (coach), Zimbabwe (manager, prem team), Malazia Celangor (manager.)
- Currently Mike coaches England Under 18's and is the North East Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Director, which covers players development, coaching and education.



Great Stokie

with Dave Coxon

A Nostalgic look with Julian Boodell

Collectors Corner

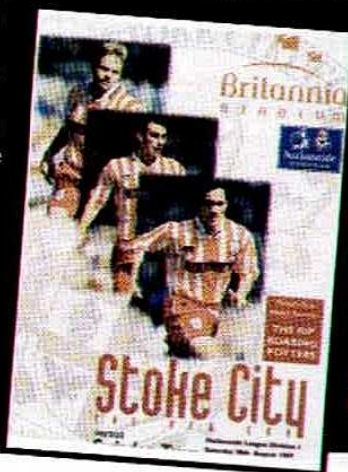
Stoke's first season at the Brit was not a happy one. The new stadium was not to prove a 'lucky one' Stan Matthews set the tone failing to 'score' from ten yards out before the inaugural home fixture against Swindon had started.

With problems behind the scenes, which was apparent in the 0-7 home defeat against Birmingham City, the culmination of which was Manager Chic Bates final severing of ties and Stoke's relegation to the Second Division.

Our playing record finished as Home played 23, W8 D4 L10 For 30 Against 40, and Away P23 W3 D8 L12 F14 A34

with a points total of 46, four more than bottom placed Reading and two less than Man City who accompanied us down. No one was ever present and Peter Thorne was top scorer with 16. We failed to the double over anyone and seven clubs including today's visitors Swindon managed home and away wins over the Potters. Stoke failed to get beyond Round 3 losing to West Brom (despite having an unbeaten record against the Baggies which stretched back to 1988) Leeds Utd put paid to our Coca-Cola (League) Cup hopes in the Third Round 1-3 AET, after Stoke had dispatched Rochdale and Burnley in Round's One and Two respectively.

Stoke's first home game of the league campaign



was versus Swindon Town.

23,000 were drawn to the new stadium up from the 12,768 who had turned out for the opening game against Rochdale in the League Cup a 1-1 draw three days earlier. Only a short sighted regime headed by Coates & Humphries would have the inaugural game at the stadium against fourth division opposition - compare it to Sunderland's sell out game versus Ajax at the Stadium of Light. Richard Forsyth (featured on the front cover of the featured programme) scored the opening goal on 37 minutes. Sadly two second half goals on a hot sunny afternoon (surely the only one ever at the Brit) from Allison and Hay finished the Potters off and set the tone for the season.

This time Swindon offer the chance to become Stoke's sixth double of the season. Stoke having already beaten our Wiltshire opponents 3-0 at The County Ground back in November Stoke

old boy Richard Dryden og and Kyle Lightbourne (2) the scorers. The three points available will guarantee Stoke a play-off spot - let the lottery commence!

If anyone has any Stoke programmes for sale I can offer £100 for any pre-war homes in good condition and £50 for aways. I also have number of rarer Stoke progs for sale / exchange including the pre-season friendly at Akranes, and 1993-34 Man City away in the FA Cup (record attendance outside Wembley in England & Wales)

Please contact Julian Boodell 020 7207 1186, julianboodell@hotmail.com
69 Gayville Road Battersea
London SW11 6JW.



ONdigital Raises Football To A Different League

COUNTDOWN STARTS TO NEW SPORT CHANNEL LAUNCH ON AUGUST 11th

The way the Football League is covered on television is to change forever this summer. A new sports channel to be launched in August by ONdigital will be about much more than the 80 live games it will show a season. A whole raft of programming concentrating on the Nationwide League, it's clubs, players and fans is also planned.

So rather than being forced to survive on a diet of live matches and goal round-ups the new channel will bring the depth of sports programming to Football League fans that has so far only been available to supporters of Premiership clubs.

The Football League coverage will run alongside the Worthington Cup and the most prestigious club competition in world football, the UEFA Champions League, which ONdigital have been

showing for the past two seasons.

Among the comprehensive package of programming being lined up includes for the very first time a Saturday night Match-of-the-Day style show dedicated to the First Division which will enable fans to have the chance to see extended highlights and extensive analysis from that day's games.

There will also be tailored Second and Third Division highlight shows that will not simply show the goals scored but also highlights, analysis and interviews with the people that matter.

A Saturday afternoon results service which will focus first and foremost on Football League scores from all divisions, updates, results and tables is also planned so fans can keep tabs on how their side and their rivals are doing without having to wait for results from elsewhere to be covered first.

A top quality team of presenters, reporters, technicians and production staff are also working on a wealth of other programmes aimed at giving the Football League fan the informative, intelligent and entertaining coverage that they have been denied - until now.

An ONdigital spokesman said: 'This channel will usher in a new era for Football League fans who for too long have been given a bad deal where coverage of their clubs is concerned.'

THE LINE UP FOR SEASON 2001/02

ONdigital:

Nationwide Division One, Nationwide Division Two, Nationwide Division Three, Worthington Cup, UEFA Champions League.

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In The Net

Seven City fans are celebrating after landing fantastic prizes on the official club website.

Robert Townley, from Northwich, and 12-year-old Gemma Tomkinson, from Newcastle, will be among the smartest Potters around next season after winning the new Le Coq Sportif home AND away strips.

And they'll be watching every home game FREE after winning a season ticket of their choice for 2001/02.

They'll both be making great saves, too, with £100 deposited in newly-opened Britannia Save and Support accounts.

Robert and Gemma were the lucky website regulars who played the Quiz Match last month.

Robert topped the scoring averages in our first competition week with an all-conquering score of 1066 to earn his super bundle of goodies, while Gemma was picked out in the second week from our 500 registered players.

Meanwhile, five new home shirts were up for grabs in another super web competition.

We asked who were City's first-ever shirt

sponsors and had an amazing response - over 1300 answers by e-mail!

The five fans who answered correctly (Ricoh) and who were the first picked out were:

Andrew Robinson, of Walton, Stone; Chris Dobson, of Ashby, Leicestershire; Janine Holdway, of Lightwood; Linda Hancock, of Fenton; Sandra Shepherd, of Talke.

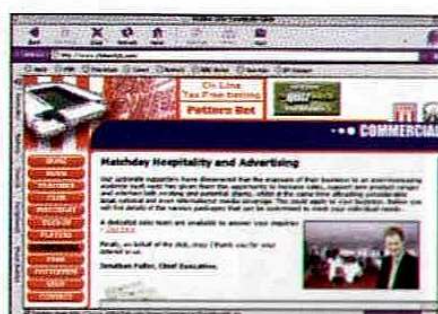
They'll be among the first to receive one of the new home shirts when they become available next month.

We've been overwhelmed by the support for the new official club website since its launch in December.

Hits have been averaging a staggering 3 million a month - shooting us from nowhere into the top 25 Nationwide League club official sites. Says Web Administrator Julian Boulton: "It has been a fantastic response from supporters and we are delighted.

"We would like to thank them all for their support - and we encourage everyone to keep visiting the site because the more people who do, the more money the club will receive from the Football League via the new deal with NTL."

And there's another great reason to visit the site. If you are over 18, register for Potters Bet and you could win a fabulous holiday in Iceland. For further details log on to the official club website and while there keep up to date with all the very latest City news - as it happens!



www.stokecityfc.com

On the Ball

with **Ladbroke's**

STOKE CITY v SWINDON TOWN

A must win game for both sides for different reasons, Stoke to confirm their place in the play-offs, and Swindon depending upon the midweek results, possibly to avoid relegation. With Bournemouth having the opportunity to sneak into the play-offs at the expense of Wigan or Stoke, I fancy the Potters to get the three points with a 2 - 0 victory, with the in form Gunnarsson netting the first goal.

IN THE OTHER WEEKEND'S ACTION CHELSEA v EVERTON

Chelsea played well in defeat last weekend against in form Leeds United, and are taken to beat a struggling Everton side.

MILLWALL v OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Millwall and Rotherham have been promoted to Division One, but the title is up for grabs, therefore I predict a home win for Millwall, and with their superior goal difference, clinching the Championship at the

same time.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED v ROTHERHAM UNITED

Peterborough's home record is not too bad, but as they have nothing left to play for and with Rotherham hoping to go up as Champions, I expect this season's surprise package Rotherham to take the spoils.

READING v AFC BOURNEMOUTH

With Reading guaranteed third spot and a play-off place, they might rest key players, so as not to risk injuries or suspensions for their forthcoming play-off matches, therefore, with Bournemouth all out to try to get into the play-offs, I think backing the away side is the value bet.

CHESTERFIELD v HALIFAX TOWN

Chesterfield should register another home victory over a poor Halifax side.

SHREWSBURY TOWN v BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

Brighton are taken to beat a struggling Shrewsbury side, on their way to claiming the Division Three title.

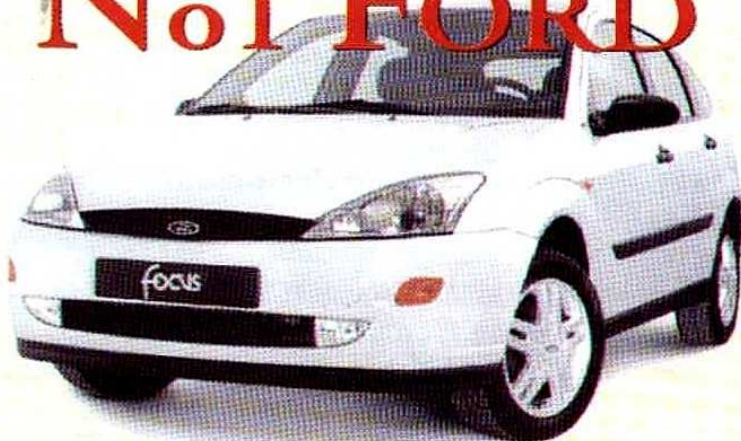
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3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
4	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
5	10	10	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	26
6	15	20	15	6	1	-	-	-	-	57
7	21	35	35	21	7	1	-	-	-	120
8	28	56	70	56	28	8	1	-	-	247
9	36	84	126	126	84	36	9	1	-	502
10	45	120	210	252	210	120	45	10	1	1013

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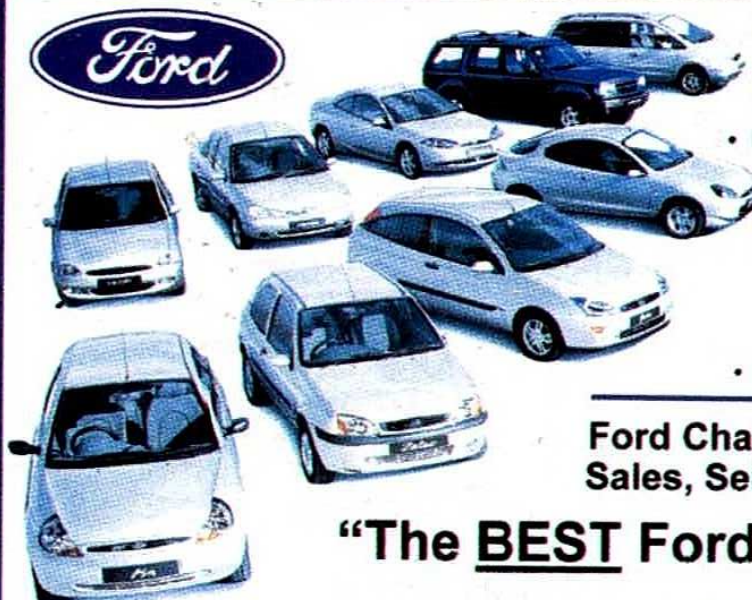
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Stoke City's Family Area

Many thanks to Lucky Bags for their continued support to the Family Area.

Purfect Computer Solutions sponsoring the playstations in the family area concourse.

Get Involved!!!!
Join in the Fun!!!!
The ultimate match day experience



1. Thomas Roden presents the Family Area man of the match award to Wayne Thomas before the Wrexham game.



2. Lost picture found! Matthew Blair seen here, finally, presenting his vote for the Family Area man of the match before the Walsall fixture. Matthew's picture was lost, but dad came to the rescue. Many thanks, Mr. Blair.

3-4. **IT'S THE FINAL!** The two schools which have won through to today's Stoke City School's Three Legged Cup Final are Brookhouse Green Primary, Bucknall, and St. Mary's Primary from Leek.

Today's teams are:
BROOKHOUSE GREEN

Jodie Allen
Wayne Harrington
Kieron Collins
Joanna Wilshaw
Amy Hall
Christopher Wootton
Sadie Boulton
Matthew Wright
Jade Lahey
Mel Gibson
April Barnett
Shawn Barker

ST. MARY'S

Joshua Wilkes
Kimberley Bond
Anthony Wakefield
Charlotte Wilkes
Alex Thorpe
Emily Jeffery
Joseph Watson-Lazowski
Emily Whatley
Alex Watson-Lazowski
Rebecca Clowes
Edward Frish
Keira Reed

Many thanks to **BREWSTERS** of Ash Bank, Werrington, who are kindly giving away goodies in the Family Area. They are also providing balloon modellers and face painters.



5. After the horse race which took place at the last game between two panto horses, the Club has been inundated with requests for a **HORSE v HIPPO** race!
So Pottiermus has thrown down the challenge and will be taking on Horsey during the half-time break at today's game. May the best animal win!!!

6. Junior Stoke supporters had a fantastic day when they played football against juniors from Wrexham. The newly opened Power League was the venue. Many thanks to Marg and all the coaches for making it a fabulous day.

Face in the Crowd

Is this you? If so contact Andy Morgan on 01782 592217 to claim your prize.



7. **HOTSEAT WINNER, NOT!!** Mr. Broad is not a Save and Support Account holder so he doesn't win the £100. Listen out at half-time and you could be the winner if you've got an account.

Thanks to **'WHITE DOG GAMES'** who have donated a number of prizes for the winner and runner up of the Family Area Play Stations competition. The presentation will take place at the next home game.

The Club would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the success of the Family Area, in particular Dave Budd and his team, who have entertained the families all season. We hope to see all the families back next season where we aim to make the Family Area even better.

COME ON FAMILY AREA..... LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!!!!!!



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www.stokecityfc.com

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Marketing & News

Presentations v Wrexham



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The Ladbrokes guests Man of the Match award went to Mikael Larsson.



Match Sponsors SEDDONS

The guests of Seddons chose James O'Connor.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON THE 8th MAY TO PETER SADULA, WHO HAS BEEN A STOKE CITY SUPPORTER FOR 25 YEARS, FROM CHRISTINE, DANIEL, ANTHONY, EMMA AND JACKIE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ROGER ANDERSON AND MORTEN HELLINGSRUD FROM NORWAY, WHO ARE OVER HERE FOR THE WEEKEND TO SUPPORT STOKE CITY. HOPE YOU ENJOY THE GAME LADS.

Today's Mascots

HUY NGUYEN

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football, swimming, cricket and running

Favourite Players: Peter Thorne, Graham Kavanagh,

Bjarni Gudjonsson, Tony Dorigo



JOHNATHON RICHARDSON

Date of Birth: 12-08-87 Nickname: Johnno

School: Millfield High School

Hobbies: Football and Pool

Favourite Player: Graham Kavanagh

Ambition: To work with computers and go to Australia



CHRISTOPHER BOOTE

Date of Birth: 06-04-92 Nickname: Chris

School: Thursfield C.P.

Hobbies: Football and Playstation

Favourite Player: Gavin Ward

Ambition: To play for Stoke City



ISAAC SMITH

Date of Birth: 02-12-92 Nickname: Isi

School: Brooke Hill Primary, Oakham

Hobbies: Football, rugby and cycling

Favourite Player: Graham Kavanagh

Ambition: To be a football player



JAMES PEARSON

Date of Birth: 19-01-93

Nickname: Super Ted

School: Nethergreen Junior School

Hobbies: Football, cricket and tennis

Favourite Player: Graham Kavanagh and Peter Thorne

Ambition: To be a footballer



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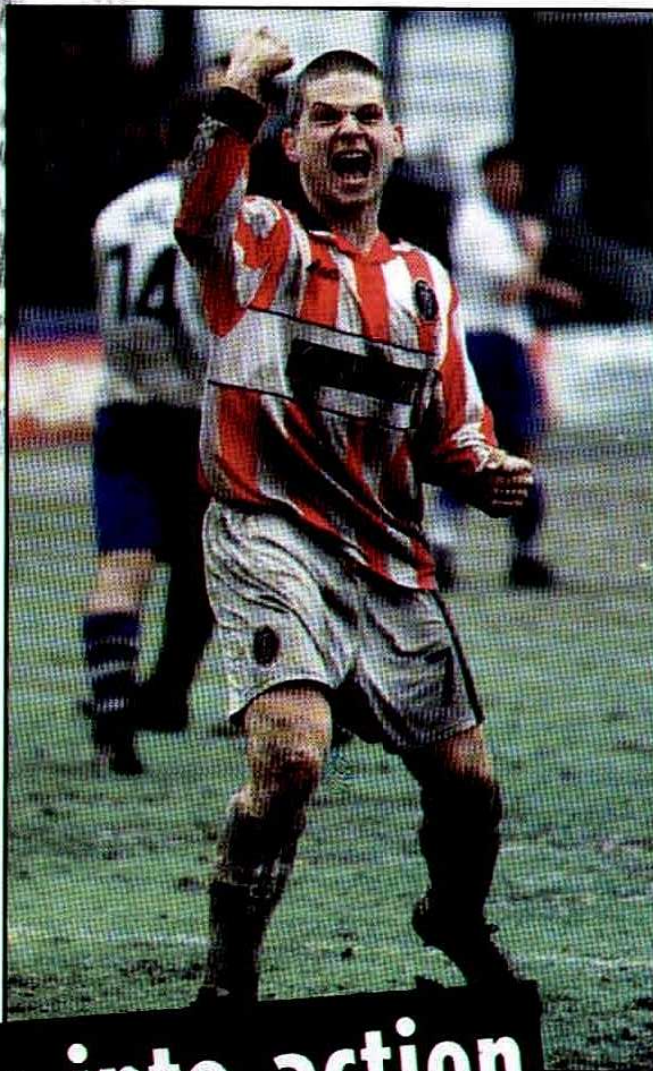
Potters in action

Oldham Athletic 1
Stoke City 2

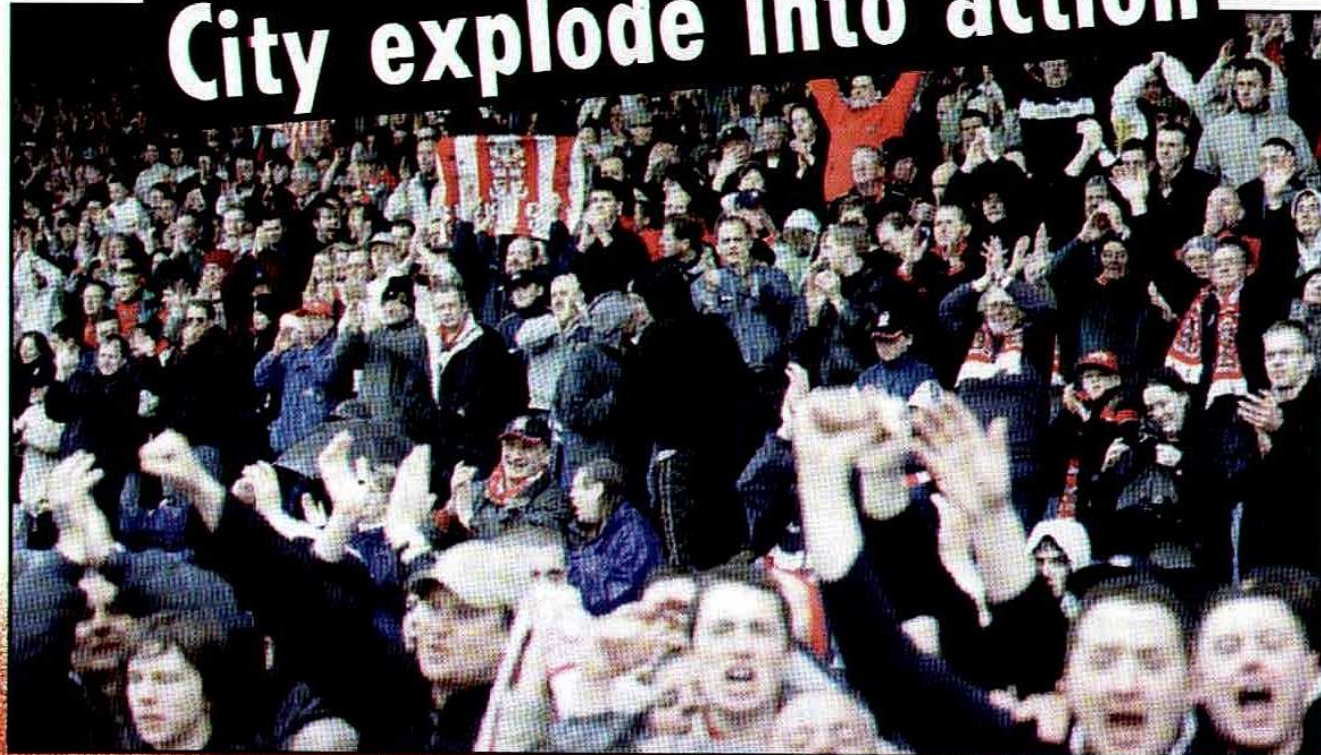
Nationwide League Division 2

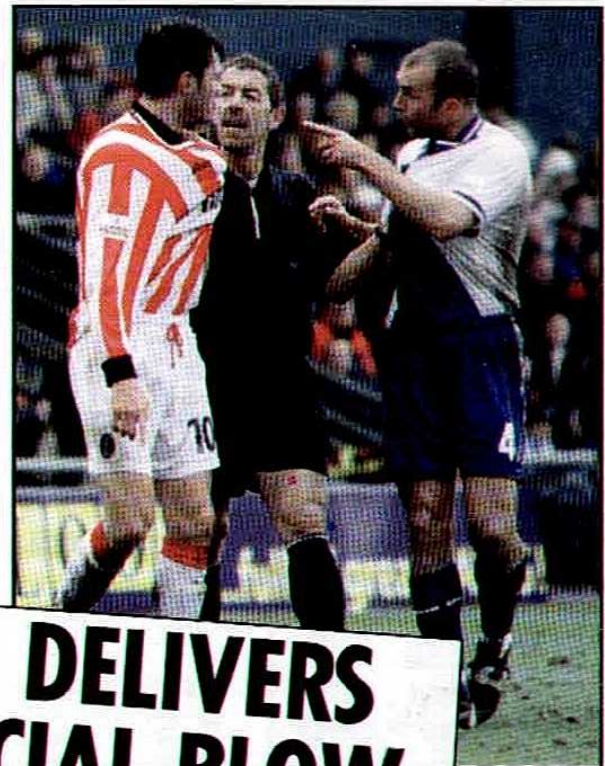
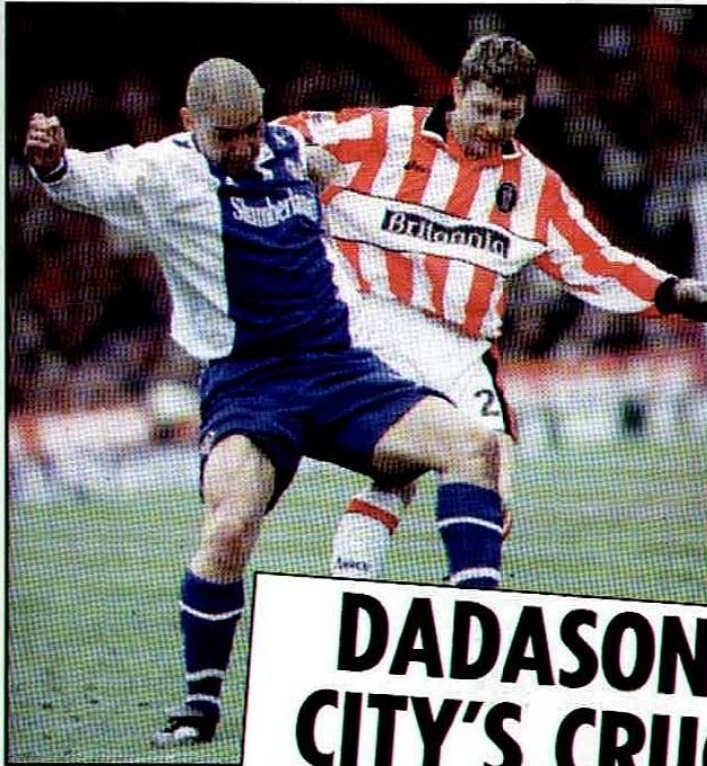
Saturday 28th April 2001

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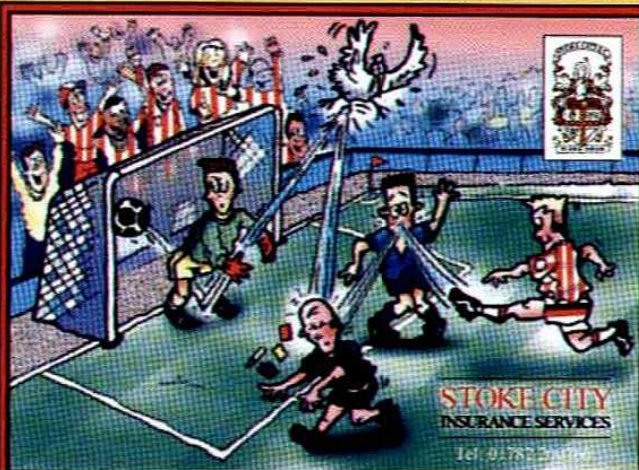
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Calling All Stoke City Supporters

Stoke City, in association with SCFF, is conducting a survey via a questionnaire requiring supporters thoughts and views regarding the stadiums catering services, both in it's present form and what they would like to see provided in the future.

A questionnaire is being conducted at today's game, on supporter's views in respect of the catering services available, and If you have not filled in the survey on your entrance into the

stadium you still have time. Questionnaires are available in the concourses, along with post boxes. You can also drop completed forms into the Club Shop, or post them into the Club at your leisure.

The Club's catering contract expires in 2002 and an input from supporters would be an integral part of the formulation of a document that will be supplied to potential customers tendering for such a contract.

This is again a show of solidarity between the club and the fans forum on issues that are in the best interests of supporters.

Football League Division 2 Provisional Play Off Details

v To Be Advised (Home)

Sunday 13th May, 2001 K.O. 3 p.m.

or Wednesday 16th May, K.O. 7.45 p.m.

THIS FIXTURE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS STRICTLY TICKET ONLY, AND THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES OR CASH TURNSTILES ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH.

NORMAL TICKET PRICES APPLY.

Boxholders, VP's, Premier/Legends Members and Season Ticket Holders will be able to purchase a maximum of 4 match tickets (which includes their own) from 10 am on Sunday, 6th May, 2001 (open until 1 pm) and have up until 7pm on Wednesday, 9th May 2001 to purchase their own seats.

WorldWide Fan Club Members, City Loyals & Pot of Gold Members will be able to purchase a maximum of 2 tickets from Monday, 7th May, 2001 from 10.00 am until 1pm.

Any remaining tickets will go on general sale on Tuesday, 8th May, 2001 on the basis of 2 tickets per person.

Postal and fax applications will only be accepted from 2000/2001 season ticket holders wishing to purchase their own seats, and tickets are to be collected on the matchday only. Daytime and evening telephone numbers must be clearly stated on the application.

Stoke City will not accept any telephone bookings for this fixture as ALL telephone bookings will be handled by ticketmaster on 08705 133221 from 9.00 am on Tuesday, 8th May, 2001.

Normal arrangements apply to the Legends Bar (prices £2.00 adults, £1.00 juniors.)

Premier & Legends members will have to purchase their own seat but will not be charged the £4 matchday membership fee on John Smith's upper tier tickets, and Legends cards are valid for entry into the Legends Bar.

South car park passes are available at a price of £3.00 each (seasonal passes are valid.)

Admission for visiting supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY (prices £16 adults, £9 concessions.)

The Britannia Stadium Ticket Office will be open LATE - until 7 p.m. from Tuesday, 8th May, 2001 to Friday 11th May, 2001.

Tickets will be available from Stoke City 'The Store' in Hanley by personal visit, during their normal opening hours only.

Bookings for corporate hospitality will be taken from 10.00 am on Monday, 7th May, 2001 (open until 1pm.)

ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND AVAILABILITY



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John Smiths Upper*	Adult	£71	£19	£342	£16	£358	£15.54	£378	£20
	U17/OAP	£12	£7	£79	£8	£96	£8.95	£216	£10
	U13***	£5	£7	£126	£8	£134	£5.82	£144	£10
John Smiths Lower	Adult	£90	£14	£324	£26	£340	£14.76	£360	£20
	U17/OAP	£11	£9	£180	£8	£188	£8.17	£198	£10
	U13***	£5	£7	£126	£8	£134	£5.82	£144	£10
Genesis Communications Booth End	Adult	£14 £14**	£15 £13**	£234	£8	£242	£10.52	£252	£10
	U17/OAP	£10 £9**	£9 £8**	£144	£8	£152	£6.60	£162	£10
	U13***	£5	£7	£126	£8	£134	£5.82	£144	£10
Sentinel	Adult	£19	£17	£306	£16	£322	£14	£342	£20
	U17/OAP	£11	£10	£180	£8	£188	£8.17	£198	£10
	U13***	£5	£7	£126	£8	£134	£5.82	£144	£10
Family Area	Adult	£16	£14	£252	£16	£268	£11.65	£288	£20
	OAP	£11	£10	£180	£8	£188	£8.17	£198	£10
	U17	£9	£8	£92	£8	£100	£4.34	£115	£15
	U13***	£5	£4	£35	£6	£41	£1.78	£46	£5
US	U13***	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
	U13***	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
All Stands	Wheelchair (inc. car park space) Holder	£7	£6	£115	£8	£123	£5.34	£138	£15
	Holder	£7	£6	£115	£8	£123	£5.34	£138	£15

* Season tickets in this area are only available to supporters with Premier Legends Club membership. Annual Premier memberships are available at £40 per person. Match tickets subject to a £4 one day membership fee. Annual Legends club memberships are available at a price of £40 Adults, £20 Concessions and one day match day memberships are available at a price of £2 Adults, £1 Concessions.

** Admission prices in the Booth End will be discounted if purchased before the day of the game.

*** The new special price for under 13's will not be available on cash turnstiles.

Spread the cost of your season ticket by using the season ticket instalment plan.
Payment plan available from the Britannia Stadium Box.

South Car Park	Match Day	Premier/Legends Club Members	Season Ticket Holders	Non Season Ticket Holders
	£4	£70.00	£75.00	£80.00

Fullback City Ground Ltd. will be responsible in writing from Ticket Office or at participating newspapers. A list is available from the Ticket Office.

with Ian Cranson

Reserves



FIXTURES 2000-01

Mon 14th Aug	Shrewsbury Town (2pm)	1-1
Wed 30th Aug	York City (7pm)	0-3
Wed 6th Sept	Scunthorpe United (7pm)	2-1
Mon 18th Sept	Sheffield United (2pm)	0-0
Wed 27th Sept	Wrexham	3-1
Wed 4th Oct	Grimsby Town (7pm)	3-1
Mon 9th Oct	Darlington (2pm)	1-3
Wed 25th Oct	Wrexham (2pm)	3-1
Wed 8th Nov	Blackpool (2pm)	2-1
Wed 15th Nov	Lincoln City (7pm)	2-2
Mon 20th Nov	Walsall	0-1
	(Newcastle Town)	
Mon 4th Dec	Wigan Athletic	0-1
	(Newcastle Town)	
Mon 15th Jan	York City	2-0
	(Newcastle Town)	
Wed 24th Jan	Wigan Athletic (2pm)	2-1
Tues 30th Jan	Wrexham (2pm)	0-2
Mon 5th Feb	Scunthorpe Utd	0-1
	(Newcastle Town)	
Wed 14th Feb	Sheffield United (7pm)	0-1
Mon 26th Mar	Blackpool (12pm)	4-2
Wed 11th Apr	Wrexham (7pm)	5-3
Wed 18th Apr	Walsall (2pm)	1-4
Mon 23rd Apr	Shrewsbury (KO TBC)	A
Wed 25th Apr	Lincoln	3-0
	(2pm Britannia Stadium)	
Mon 30th Apr	Grimsby	2-2
	(2pm Britannia Stadium)	
Wed 2nd May	Darlington (7pm)	A

Kick-off times are in brackets.

We've been paying for that awful winter and all those postponements with a backlog of Avon Insurance league fixtures to plough through.

We've played three games since my last report two weeks ago - and first up was a 4-1 defeat to Walsall.

It wasn't a good game for us - we lost Nicky Mohan early on with recurrence of a calf injury and a young side lost their legs in the second-half. Mark Cromie put us back in the game before the break after Walsall had gone ahead, but we conceded three goals inside seven minutes in the second period to go down to our heaviest defeat of the season.

We needed a win just to make sure there would be no last-gasp struggle to get clear of the bottom two and relegation and that's what we got in our next outing against Lincoln.

It was a comfortable 3-0 victory at the Britannia Stadium, of which the highlights were a composed performance by Karl Henry after being pushed back from midfield to the centre of defence.

Karl showed what a mature head he's got on his young shoulders by coping well, while fellow youngsters Ashley Wooliscroft and Lewis Neal grabbed the first two goals. A convincing win was topped off with Dean Crowe's first goal since November.

We were back at the Britannia

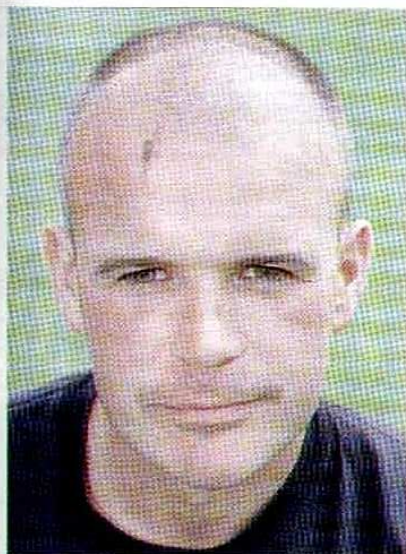


this week when we faced Grimsby on Monday. We missed a fair few chances in this one, and didn't really play at full tilt until we went behind in the second-half. Chris Iwelumo equalised only for Karl Henry to put through his own net before Dean Crowe grabbed a late, and deserved equaliser, from the penalty spot after he had been brought down.

Ben Foster, our recent goalkeeping signing from RC Warwick, did well and Bertie Brayley, a former West Ham trainee on a short trial after being released by QPR, was lively.

6 We needed a win just to make sure there would be no last-gasp struggle...





Like the reserves, we've been piling in the fixtures as the season draws to an end. It's not ideal for the youngsters, but we have been left with little alternative thanks to the weather.

Results have understandably been mixed as players feel the strain, but performances have generally held up well and I can confidently say the team is much better and much stronger than it was at the start of the season.

Since the turn of the year, we have comfortably held our own at this high standard of football. Marc Goodfellow's first-half goal gave us the lead against Huddersfield but we went down 2-1 after conceding twice after the break.

It was a game we should never really have lost and in less demanding circumstances I don't think we would have done. But the lads deserved credit for the way they played.

Our game against Liverpool at the Lyme Valley Stadium was held up for five hours while the pitch dried out, kicking off in the evening instead of the afternoon. Liverpool caught us out with two breakaway goals in the first-half, but we came roaring back to level the score through Kris Commons and Jason Ashby, our striker on trial from Coventry City.

This was a match we could, and should, have won against some of the cream of young talent in the North-west.

Next up were Wolves - whom we have had some tough games against this season in league and cup - and despite once again battling well the lads were unable to produce the result their efforts truly deserved and we went down 1-0.

Goalkeeper Ben Foster made his debut for us in this one and there is no doubt he has potential and could be one for the future.

So mixed results but when we evaluate the progress the players have made over the last nine months there is still plenty of reason for satisfaction and optimism.

with Dave Kevan

Academy

UNDER 19'S FIXTURES 2000-01

Sat 26th Aug	Southampton	2-2
Sat 2nd Sept	Norwich City	2-2
Sat 9th Sept	Sheffield Wednesday	2-2
Sat 16th Sept	Nottingham Forest	3-6
Sat 23rd Sept	Newcastle United	1-5
Sat 30th Sept	Middlesbrough	3-3
Sat 7th Oct	Barnsley	2-3
Sat 21st Oct	Leicester City	0-2
Sat 28th Oct	Everton	0-3
Sat 4th Nov	Bolton Wanderers	3-1
Sat 11th Nov	Crewe Alexandra	0-1
Sat 18th Nov	Manchester United	0-3
Sat 25th Nov	Manchester City	0-1
Sat 2nd Dec	Liverpool	P-P
Sat 16th Dec	Wrexham	3-0
Sat 13th Jan	Wolverhampton Wanderers	0-3
Sat 27th Jan	Manchester City	1-4
Sat 3rd Feb	Manchester United	1-4
Sat 10th Feb	Wrexham	P-P
Sat 17th Feb	Liverpool	3-1
Sat 24th Feb	Blackburn Rovers	0-0
Sat 3rd Mar	Wolverhampton Wanderers	2-1
Sat 10th Mar	Everton	1-2
Sat 17th Mar	Bolton Wanderers	3-0
Sat 24th Mar	Crewe Alexandra	P-P
Wed 28th Mar	Blackpool	H
Sat 7th Apr	Derby County	H
Sat 21st Apr	Huddersfield Town	1-2



...I can confidently say the team is much better and much stronger than it was at the start of the season.

NEIDA

- Trentham Lakes South,
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www.strokecity.co.uk

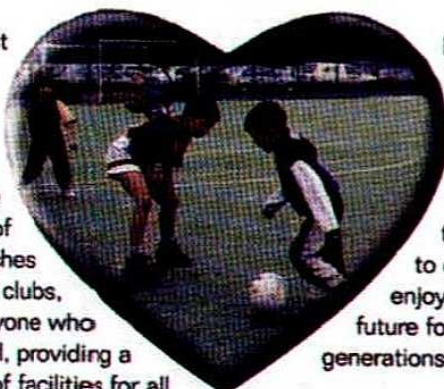
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DATE		OPPONENTS	VENUE	F-A	ATT.	V. SUPP.
Aug 12	Sat	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	0-0	14532	479
Aug 19	Sat	Bristol City	A	2-1	12590	1195
Aug 22	Tue	York City Worthington Cup 1 (1) 7.45pm KO	A	5-1	2035	585
Aug 26	Sat	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1	13041	483
Aug 29	Tue	Reading	A	3-3	10668	1221
Sept 6	Wed	YORK CITY Worthington Cup 1 (2) 7.45pm KO	H	0-0	3478	48
Sept 9	Sat	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H	3-0	13011	835
Sept 13	Wed	OXFORD UNITED	H	4-0	9600	92
Sept 17	Sun	Port Vale	A	1-1	8948	4500
Sept 20	Wed	CHARLTON A Worthington Cup 2 (1) 7.45pm KO	H	2-1	9388	264
Sept 23	Sat	ROTHERHAM UNITED	H	1-1	13472	754
Sept 26	Tue	Charlton A Worthington Cup 2 (2) 8.00pm KO	A	3-4	10037	983
Sept 30	Sat	Colchester United	A	1-0	3758	841
Oct 14	Sat	Swansea City	A	1-2	6498	803
Oct 17	Tue	Cambridge United	A	1-1	4433	672
Oct 21	Sat	MILLWALL	H	3-2	13752	1056
Oct 24	Tue	Walsall	A	0-3	6996	1900
Oct 28	Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	2-1	11572	208
Nov 1	Wed	BARNSELY Worthington Cup 3	H	3-2	10480	445
Nov 4	Sat	Wrexham	A	2-1	6447	2447
Nov 7	Tue	Northampton	A	2-2	5475	692
Nov 11	Sat	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	0-1	12503	557
Nov 18	Sat	NUNEATON BOROUGH FA Cup 1	H	0-0	8437	2109
Nov 21	Tue	Nuneaton Borough FA Cup 1 Replay	A	0-1	4477	581
Nov 25	Sat	Swindon Town	A	3-0	4904	980
Nov 29	Wed	LIVERPOOL Worthington Cup 4	H	0-8	27109	4427
Dec 2	Sat	LUTON TOWN	H	1-3	12389	499
Dec 6	Wed	SCARBOROUGH LDV Vans Trophy 1	H	3-1	2336	79
Dec 16	Sat	Bristol Rovers	A	3-0	6338	588
Dec 23	Sat	Wigan Athletic	A	1-1	8957	2075
Dec 26	Tue	BURY	H	2-1	16499	488
Dec 30	Sat	BRISTOL CITY	H	1-0	14629	1498
Jan 1	Mon	Notts County	A	2-2	9125	3300
Jan 9	Tue	Halifax Town LDV Vans Trophy 2	A	3-2	1917	634
Jan 13	Sat	READING	H	0-0	14154	693
Jan 17	Wed	BRENTFORD	H	1-0	9350	125
Jan 27	Sat	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	2-0	16859	1708
Feb 3	Sat	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-1	13235	1003
Feb 7	Wed	WALSALL LDV Vans Trophy 3	H	4-0	5624	306
Feb 10	Sat	Peterborough United	A	4-0	7568	1955
Feb 17	Sat	PORT VALE	H	1-1	22133	2028
Feb 20	Tue	Oxford United	A	1-1	4856	1157
Feb 24	Sat	Rotherham United	A	1-2	8211	2450
Mar 3	Sat	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	3-1	11714	203
Mar 5	Mon	PORT VALE LDV Vans Trophy 4	H	1-2 (GG)	11323	1950
Mar 7	Wed	SWANSEA CITY	H	1-2	10091	144
Mar 10	Sat	Brentford	A	2-2	5518	1270
Mar 13	Tue	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	5385	555
Mar 17	Sat	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H	2-3	11,939	314
Mar 27	Tue	Bury (7.45pm KO)	A	0-1	4224	1,315
Mar 31	Sat	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	4-1	12274	703
Apr 3	Tue	Millwall (7.45pm KO)	A	0-2	11639	615
Apr 7	Sat	Luton Town	A	*2-1	6456	1086
Apr 14	Sat	WALSALL	H	0-0	16603	1380
Apr 17	Tue	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-1	5373	795
Apr 21	Sat	WREXHAM	H	*3-1	12687	694
Apr 28	Sat	Oldham Athletic	A	2-1	9359	4183

[illegible]

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Safety Messsage - Pitch Incursions

All supporters are aware that the Club has received previous warnings from the F.A. regarding pitch invasions, which include end of season invasions. They take a very strong view on the subject, and so does the Club, and so, as most people are aware, anyone who goes onto the pitch or track will always be arrested and placed before the Courts. This ALWAYS results in a ban from the Britannia Stadium. End of season pitch invasions used to be accepted, but are seriously frowned upon now, for obvious safety reasons.

Since we have been at the Britannia Stadium our supporters have behaved impeccably in respect of not going onto the pitch after the final matches of the season.

The Club really appreciates the co-operation of all supporters in helping us to maintain a safe environment at the stadium, and we again ask for your continued support in this matter.

PLEASE, PLEASE.....STAY OFF THE PITCH

Stoke City Website:
www.stokecityfc.com

Teamsheets



Stoke City v Swindon Town

1	Gavin WARD	1	Bart GRIEMINK
2	Mikael HANSSON	2	Mark ROBINSON
3	Clive CLARKE	3	Sol DAVIS
4	Henrik RISOM	4	Matthew HEWLETT
5	Nicky MOHAN	5	Adam WILLIS
6	Brynjar GUNNARSSON	6	Antoine VAN DER LINDEN
7	Bjarni GUDJONSSON	7	Keith O'HALLORAN
8	Graham KAVANAGH	8	Bobby HOWE
9	Peter THORNE	10	Guiliano GRAZIOLI
10	Rikhardur DADASON	11	David DUKE
12	Kyle LIGHTBOURNE	12	Juan COBIAN
14	Carl MUGGLETON	14	Steve COWE
15	Tony DORIGO	15	Andy WILLIAMS
17	James O'CONNOR	16	Michael REDDY
18	Ben PETTY	17	Danny INVINCIBLE
19	Stefan THORDARSON	18	Gary ALEXANDER
20	Kris SIGURDSSON	19	Matthew HEYWOOD
21	Robert HEATH	20	Frazer McHUGH
22	Chris IWELUMO	21	Gareth DAVIES
23	Wayne THOMAS	22	Alan REEVES
24	Matthew BULLOCK	23	Steve MILDENHALL
25	Ashley WOOLISCROFT	24	Adrian BAKALLI
27	Frode KIPPE	25	Steve ROBINSON
28	Lewis NEAL	26	Alan YOUNG
29	Marc GOODFELLOW	27	Paul McAREAVEY
31	Birkir KRISTINSSON	28	Jamie MILLS
34	Ardy COOKE	29	James WILLIAMS
		30	Gareth HALL
		31	Ian WOAN
		32	Sam CAMPAGNA

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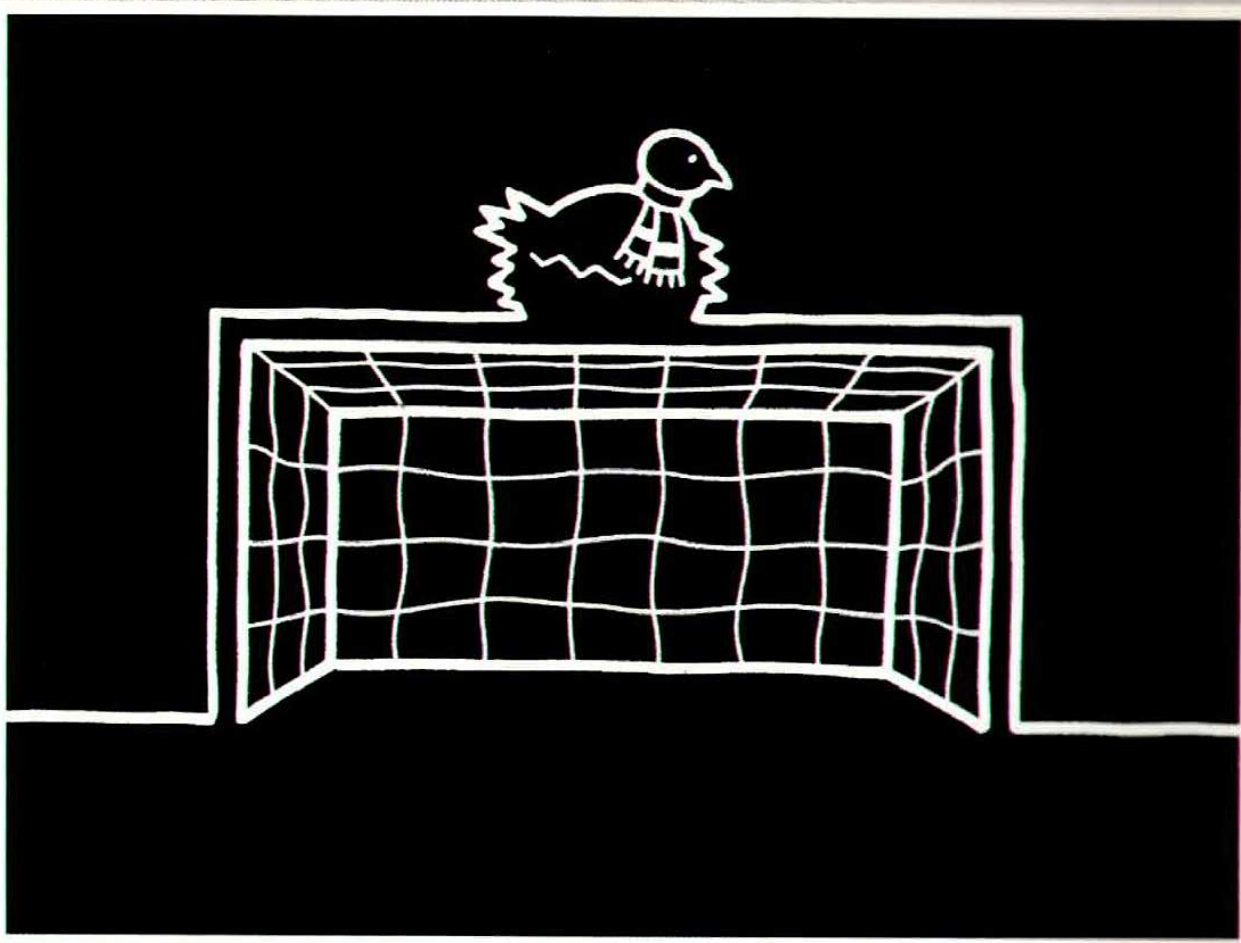
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