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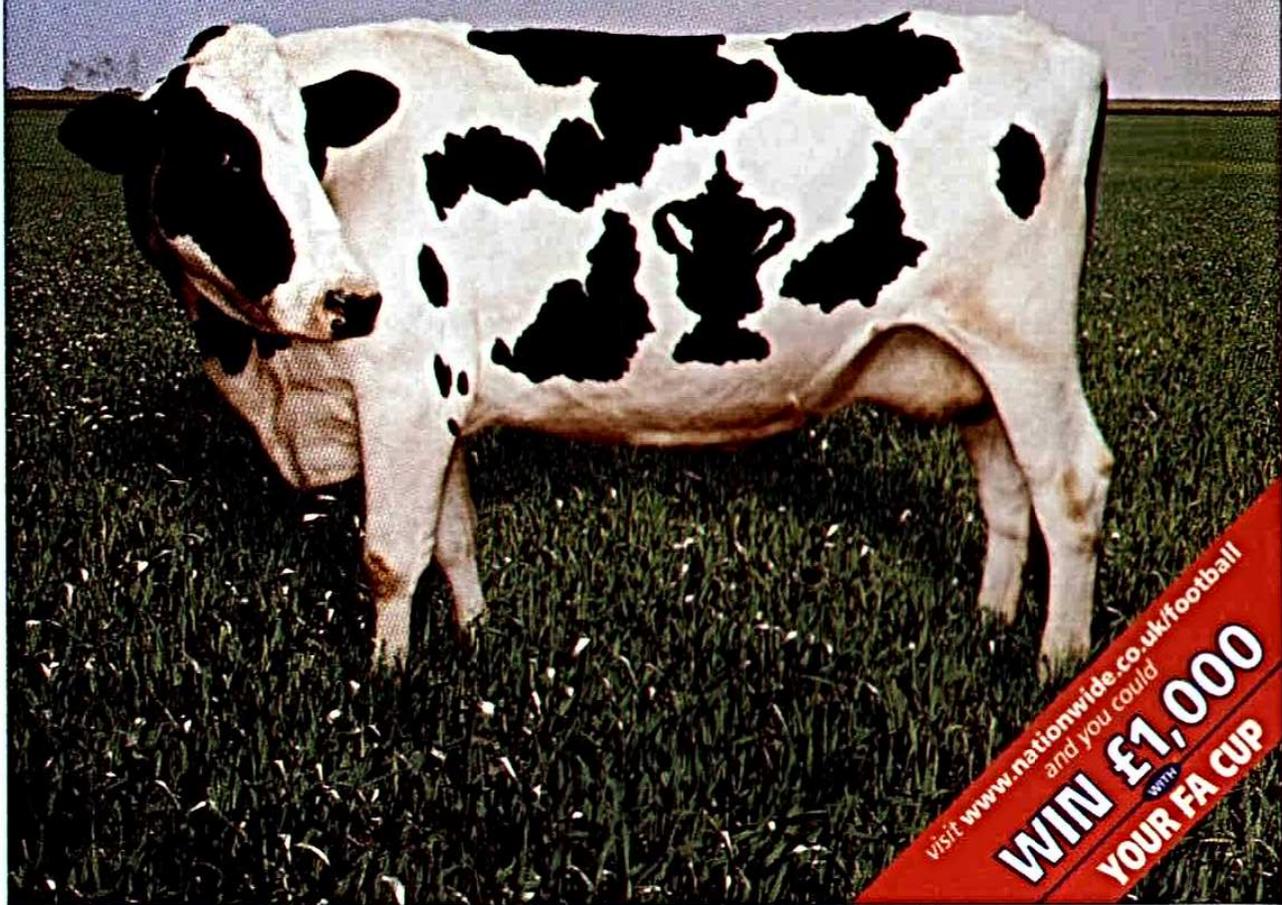
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Honours 1969 League Cup Winners, 1971 Anglo-Italian Cup Winners, Division Four Champions 1985/86, 1996 Division Two Champions.

Record Attendance 32,000 v Arsenal 1971/72

Biggest League Win 9-1 v Luton Town 1920/21

Most capped player Rod Thomas, Wales 30

Most goals in a season Harry Morris 47 1926/27

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Soccer Centres Co-ordinator Jun Fraser

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Nick Judd

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Administration

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Sales Dept

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01793 333780

Community Office

01793 421303

Club Superstore

01793 333778

Website www.swindontownfc.co.uk

Clubcall 09058 121 640

Photography Action Images, Empics, Chris Adams, Mike Judd, Richard Tilling and Wes Strange.



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design: wes strange & Bradley Sharp

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THE GAFFER

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A WARM WELCOME BACK TO THE COUNTY GROUND AFTER WHAT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT COUPLE OF DAYS ON THE ROAD FOR US. UNFORTUNATELY THESE NOTES WERE PENNED BEFORE THE TRIP TO CARDIFF, BUT I'M HOPING THAT WE WERE SLIGHTLY MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THE WELSH CAPITAL THAN WE WERE AT WIGAN AS WE ENTER THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON.

Before I go any further may I take this opportunity in wishing you all a Happy New Year – unfortunately the fixture list sent us all over the country in the last week and so it's a belated Happy New Year message. Not only that but we were forced to face the two top sides in the Division and after the victory against Brentford, I hope that we could at least add another point to our festive tally ahead of today's encounter with Chesterfield.

I must admit that the Wigan defeat disappointed me, especially after we had played so well in our previous two games at home. Wigan are obviously a very strong side, but I feel that we gave them too much respect and I can't accept that. If we are going to succeed in this league, and I think we've proved that we can, then we are going to have to become stronger in order to compete with those at the top end of the table. After the game I told the lads that they mustn't give teams like that as much respect as they did because in doing so, they made their task even harder. Against Wigan we seemed to be a little bit frightened and as a result, dropped far too deep on numerous occasions allowing them to come at us. Granted they are a good side and the gulf in finance between the two clubs is pretty big – but you have to give yourself a chance and we never did that. Whilst they do have a more expensive squad than we do, as do Cardiff, I don't believe that there are any teams in this league that deserve that much respect. Manchester United and Arsenal have both profited from teams giving them respect and I just hope that we had more confidence in our abilities at Cardiff because there should be no team in Division Two that frightens us. The previous week had highlighted many plusses for us and despite the Crewe defeat, I thought we played some magnificent football. Make no mistake, Crewe are one of the strongest sides in the league and I doubt we'll play a better footballing team all season – the game itself was a great advert for the game. But with that said I thought we competed with them and to be honest,

THE GAFFER CONT'D...



even looked the better of the two sides. Once again it was our luck in front of goal that prevented us from getting more out of the game, but the fact that we got ourselves in those scoring positions pleased me and we made up for it when we beat Brentford five days later. Brentford were a slightly different proposition than Crewe and were a more physical side. They're a young team and although they play good football, their game is based more upon their speed and strength. Once again I thought we outfought them and played the better football. We attacked well and put them under a lot of pressure with crosses across the face of their goal and that made for a very entertaining game. Unfortunately, having taken an early lead we didn't make sure of the game until the second half and even then, a silly mistake allowed them back into it. But we deserved a win and I was really pleased for the lads. Not only them but the crowd too because they were fantastic, it was a bumper attendance and they made so much noise – it was brilliant.

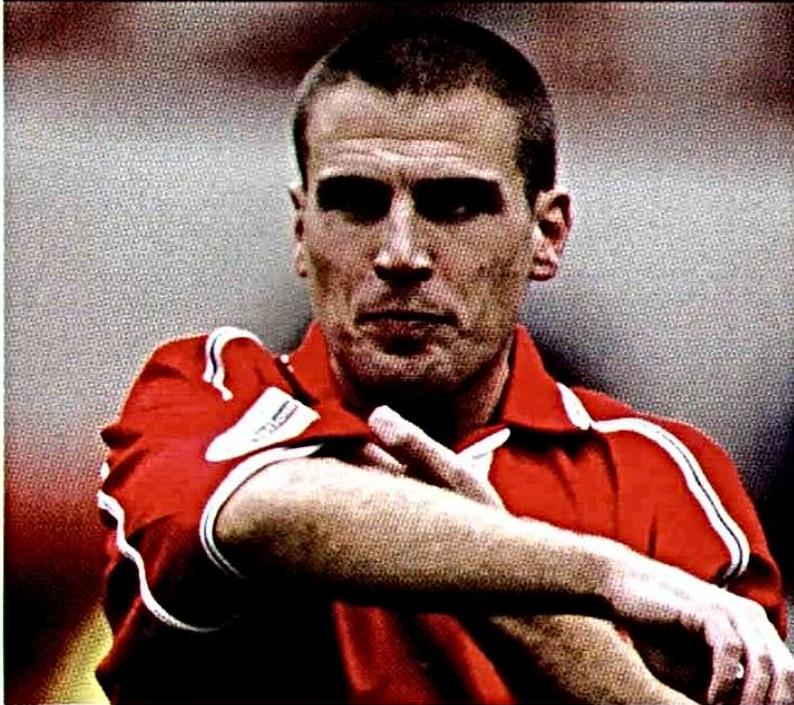
Those of you that have followed us in the last week or two will have noticed a couple of new faces. Luke Nightingale (Pictured - Portsmouth) and Dean Marney (Tottenham) have both joined us on a month's loan and I am delighted to have them in our squad. Both lads have been keen to help us out and so far, they've worked very hard and I'd imagine they'll figure at some stage today.

I only hope that those that came to the game on Boxing Day return today because Chesterfield will prove to be a difficult side to beat. Like us, Chesterfield haven't got that much money to spend on players and they have done remarkably well to achieve what they have this season and they currently find themselves in the top 10. A win for us today would see us close the gap on them and the rest of the top half of the table, after the Brentford game we were just six points behind the Bees, unfortunately the Wigan game didn't do us any favours but a win this afternoon would see us heading in the right direction once again.

Once again a Happy New Year to you all and enjoy the game.

CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

WIN TWO TICKETS! 25 YEARS AGO WITH DAVE WALLIS



GOOD AFTERNOON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL. AFTER TWO GAMES ON THE ROAD IT'S NICE TO BE AT HOME AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON!

It's been a tough week on the road for us since we last spoke. Few teams will go and get anything out of Wigan and Cardiff, I just hope that as you read these notes we are sitting pretty in mid-table having got a result on New Year's Day. At the time of writing we sit 15th in the league and after the poor run we had in October/November, I think we would all have taken that. However, having played so well against Crewe it would have been nice to put a bit more space between ourselves and those at the bottom - unfortunately it wasn't to be. It was a great team performance though, and had we taken our chances and defended a bit better then it could have been so different. Against Brentford we were equally as impressive and took our chances too - the amount of games where we have performed to a high level

and not won anything can be counted on two hands, fortunately luck seemed to be with us against the Bees.

After the Brentford victory we moved up the table and were six points behind Wally Downes' side. It just goes to show that if we can string a few wins together, anything is possible and it's fair to say that our toughest run in the league (in terms of teams at the top) is out of the way. With two home games in succession I'll be looking for six points. It won't be easy, Chesterfield and Blackpool are both sides that have surprised us with their achievements so far, even when we won up at their place, Chesterfield showed that they can play some nice football. With your support and some luck in front of goal - let's hope for a winning start to 2003.

Simply send in the correct answer to the highlighted question below and you could win two tickets to a Nationwide League game of your choice - here at the County Ground.

Chris Kamara was on the score sheet for the fourth time in a week as Town twice led to take a point in a 2-2 draw at Gillingham on New Year's Eve 1977. David Moss scored Town's second. Goals by Danny Westwood and an 85th minute penalty converted by Damien Richardson retrieved the game for the Gills. The result maintained Town's sad record of never having won a game at Priestfield.

On January 2 1978 Town benefited from a penalty of their own with Ray McHale producing the only goal of the game at home to Tranmere. The result meant that Town entered the New Year on a high note, undefeated in seven games, and had hoisted themselves up to ninth in the Third Division league table.

With an attendance of over 11,000, the worth of such a run is clearly apparent. Oh that we should have an attendance like that this afternoon...

1 On the Town bench for the game against Tranmere was a left back who played 138 times for Swindon and later 62 times for Gillingham. Who?

2 Making just one appearance for Tranmere in 1977/78 was a former England goalkeeper of three caps. Who was this?

3 On January 2 1978, England Manager Ron Greenwood announced that a legendary managerial partnership would head up the England Youth team set up. Who were they?

4 On the fifth, Dario Gradi took over a caretaker manager of which Fourth Division club? Think carefully!

5 On the sixth, Leeds and Manchester United agreed a joint club record fee of £350,000 for which future Bristol City manager?

Answers
1 Andy Ford, 2 Gordon West, 3 Brian Clough and Peter Taylor, 4 Answers on a postcard please, 5 Joe Jordan

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SHOPPINGTOWNS

Good afternoon and welcome back to the County Ground for our first fixture of 2003. On behalf of the board of directors I would like to extend a warm welcome to the directors, management, players and supporters from Chesterfield. Because of print deadlines these notes have been penned before our Boxing Day match and so I cannot yet comment at our results over the Christmas and New Year period or indeed, the AGM, which was held prior to the match in the Winners Lounge. By now I'm sure a full AGM report has been posted on www.swindontownfc.co.uk (and in on pages 60-61 too - Ed.) and I will comment further in next Saturday's programme.

Pricing has been at the forefront of many discussions and I would like to bring you up to speed with the responses to our initiations.

Firstly, following several pieces of correspondence from visiting fans, we trialled usage of the Stratton Bank seats which are priced the same as the Town End. Sadly, both Tranmere and Peterborough's travelling support fell short of the numbers from last season. Whilst not being totally conclusive, I think it's fair to say that pricing is not the 'deal breaker' when it comes to following your team away from home. Current form, club unity and the weather conditions probably figure more highly. At this point in time I do not anticipate running a similar promotion for visiting fans this season. The Season Ticket holders' £5/£2 offer for the Crewe game was much more successful. Just over 800 fans came to the game via the promotion and we have collected data for future marketing use on virtually all of them.

I am also delighted that we received an overwhelming 'yes' from those Season Ticket holders who responded to our request to review matchday pricing. Whilst we have not yet reached a final decision - we are looking at the possibility of reducing advance and Matchday prices in the Nationwide and Arkells Stands by £2. We need to do the mathematics before making any changes as we cannot afford to reduce the amount of money coming into the club through the turnstiles - obviously! In fact I would hope that the reduction will see a return of many lapsed fans and increase our average attendance over the remainder of the season. We will look to compensate Season Ticket holders and thank them for their



Our young fans have shown great support

MARK DEVLIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STFC.

support by offering existing Season Ticket holders a discount if they renew next season.

Finally, our Half Season Ticket offers have been well received with over 200 being sold, including the Half Season Ticket offer for the Town End. The majority of these have been for juniors and it is vitally

important that we work hard to develop the support of local youngsters. Our Season Ticket numbers now stand well over 2,000 and from everyone at the club we thank you all for your tremendous support. I will endeavour to give you a 'half-term' report on the progress being made at the club in next Saturday's programme notes.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



26.12.02

PARKIN WINS PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARD

The Haine & Smith Player of the Month Award, in memory of Rupert Smith, was awarded to Sam Parkin. Striker Sam Parkin took his goals tally to fifteen with another strike against Brentford on Boxing Day. With a penalty against Crewe the week before, Parkin has made a valuable contribution so far this season at the half way stage. The Haine and Smith Player of the Month award has been kindly donated by Barry Smith, whose son Rupert tragically died in 2001. Rupert was a keen supporter of the club and attended as many games as possible.

26.12.02

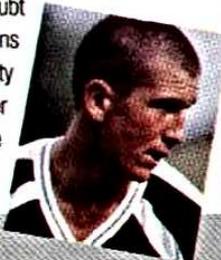
BOARD AND FANS UNITE AT AGM

Both Town's board and its shareholders agreed that the future is looking brighter for the club following last week's AGM. With the board divulging its plans for the future, Town's shareholders also aired their views in what was a positive Annual General Meeting in the Winners Lounge – the general consensus that both the club and its fans should work together to give the club a brighter future. For a full report turn to page 60-61.

24.12.02

COLLINS JOINS NEWPORT ON LOAN

Young Town defender Chris Collins has joined Newport County on a month's loan. The 19-year old defender is yet to make a first team appearance for Town and will no doubt benefit from a spell at Newport. Collins spent a spell in pre-season with Cardiff City but nothing came about and the defender returned to the County Ground, where he has since played for Town Reserves.



24.12.02

DUO JOIN ON MONTH'S LOAN

Luke Nightingale and Dean Marney join the club on a month's loan ahead of the Brentford fixture on Boxing Day. Nightingale joins us from Portsmouth, Marney from Spurs – to find out more about the new boys in Town turn to page 34-35.

23.12.02

GURNEY MAKES TEAM OF WEEK

Andy Gurney is the Swindon latest player to be selected for Nationwide Division Two's team of the week. Town's skipper announced his return to Town's First Team squad (from suspension) by claiming a wonder-goal against Plymouth. 'Gurns' scored what looked to be the winner, direct from a free-kick 25 yards out, but a last minute penalty gave Argyle a share of the spoils. In 61 league games for Town, the former Reading defender has now bagged 11 goals.



23.12.02

DYKES IMP-RESSING AT LINCOLN

Swindon Town midfielder Daren Dykes, currently on loan with Lincoln City, made his first appearance for The Imps against York two weeks ago. Dykes appeared for Lincoln from the bench as a 79th substitute for on-loan Steve Watts. The former Buckingham Town player could not make a winning impact as York equalised in the 81st minute, however a win against Swansea followed last week. Swindon Town youth team player Ian Herring also made an appearance for Salisbury City on work experience, making a favourable impression on the side.

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SWINDON TOWN 1

PARKIN (PEN) 75

CREWE ALEXANDRA 3

ASHTON 18, FOSTER 40, JACK 59

If you ever needed to describe Town's season so far, then the encounter with Crewe was a pretty good yard stick, for the visitors dampened the Christmas spirit with some devastating finishing – that despite Town dominating once again.

Town couldn't apply the finishing touch to their attacking prowess and whilst Crewe's finishing was awesome, the home side weren't helped by some absolutely disgusting, despicable and altogether confusing officiating by the men in the middle. A healthy crowd braved the fog and damp conditions as both sets of supporters were treated to a thoroughly entertaining game of football. Crewe, attractive on the ball and lethal in attack, Town tenacious in the tackle and hungry going forward made for an end-to-end game – the only difference being the finishing of the two sides. The final score was harsh on the home side who, for long periods dominated the visitors, yet if Town don't take their chances they will be punished. Crewe had just three chances in the opening period in comparison to Town's six or seven – yet the fact that they led by two goals to nil spoke volumes about Town's luck in the final third.

Sam was in the thick of the action as early as the first minute when his rampaging run on the right deserved more. Soon after both Danny and Eric were unlucky not to get on the end of a Miglioranzi cross, the New Yorker firing a left-footed effort across Clayton Ince's goal. However, the visitors soon showed why they have one of the best goalscoring records in the division, with Rodney Jack eluding Reeves only to see his effort hit the side netting. Jack's pace was electrifying, yet it was Dean Ashton that eventually managed to break the deadlock on 17 minutes. Kenny Lunt dispatched a pinpoint pass from just inside the Town half to Ashton's feet and the unmarked striker took full advantage. After his first touch had let him down, Ashton managed to slot the ball under the body of Griemink. In fact, Ashton had been unlucky not to score two minutes earlier when he shot inches over from 30 yards.

The goal seemed to be the catalyst Town needed to edge forward and for the rest of the half, King's troops heaped pressure on Crewe's defence. It seemed as though it'd be a case of 'when' and not 'if' town would score, as Invincibile, Miglioranzi and Sabin enjoyed chance after chance. Miglioranzi was unlucky when he was put through by Robinson, the Brazilian-American shooting wide with just the keeper to beat, albeit under pressure from Crewe's defence. Miglioranzi came close once again soon after when, after Invincibile's cross evaded everyone in the Crewe box, 'Mig' shot wide having been supplied by Hewlett. 'Mig' turned provider soon after when, having foraged into

Crewe's box, he fed the ball back to Invincibile who shot straight at Ince. Sabin then found himself with a great chance inside Crewe's box and with just the 'keeper to beat, lacked composure and blazed wide.

Town, despite all their pressure were punished in the 36th minute. An incredible free-kick, whipped in with pace by Kenny Lunt, found Ashton's head which cannoned off the cross bar. Unfortunately, Tierney reacted quicker than Town's defence and angled a low header to make it 2-0. Just before the break 'Mig' had a great chance to pull one back when he broke free on the left-hand side. 'Stet' eluded his defender before sending a thunderous strike towards Ince in the Crewe goal. Unfortunately for Town, Ince managed to palm the ball over the bar for a Town corner, which was subsequently cleared as the referee blew the whistle for half time.

Town made no changes at half time and straight 'from the off' Robinson sent a speculative shot just wide from 25 yards before Crewe somehow cleared off the line following Gurney's free-kick. Gurney, who'd scored from a similar range a week earlier against Plymouth, saw his effort pushed away by Ince before the visitors cleared from the resultant goalmouth scramble, with Invincibile seemingly ready to pounce on the goal line. On 51 minutes Hewlett really should have done better from eight yards out. The Bristol-born midfielder was put in by Sabin's lay-off but he could only send a feeble effort straight at Ince. The game was pushed firmly out of Town's reach on 57 minutes. Against the run of play Dean Ashton was released on the left hand side (in what looked like an offside position). As he strode towards goal and with Griemink advancing, Ashton slotted the ball across to Jack who converted into the empty net. Town were clearly devastated by Crewe's devastating strike ratio, yet just minutes later they had the best chance of the game. Invincibile twisted and turned by the Crewe corner flag before sending in a wicked cross to Parkin's head. Parkin, who connected sweetly, could only see his header find Ince's grateful arms.

In the end it took a Parkin penalty to give Town any hope of getting anything out of the game. Parkin nonchalantly slotted home following a hand ball offence in the visitors' area. Town then had another hand ball shout turned down seconds later as they rallied forward, urged on by a vociferous crowd. Sutton was brought on for the hapless Sabin as he joined Danny and Sam in attack – but Town for all their effort, guile and purpose – could not break Crewe's resolute defence. Instead, the closing moments were encapsulated by some comical refereeing – never before has such incompetence been seen on the pitch by an officiating trio.

TOWN: Griemink, Gurney, Reeves, Heywood, Duke, Miglioranzi, Robinson, Hewlett, Invincibile, Parkin, Sabin (Sutton 65) **Subs not used:** Farr, Eds, Willis, Bampton.

CREWE: Ince, Wright, Walton, Foster, Tierney, Sorvel, Brammer, Lunt, Vaughan (Ashton, Jack [Rix 62])

Subs not used: Bankole, Walker, Jones, Miles.

MATCH

Images courtesy of
the Evening Advertiser



SWINDON TOWN 2

GURNEY 2, PARKIN 66

BRENTFORD 1

VINE 76

Swindon welcomed Brentford to The County Ground on Boxing Day in desperate need of three points ahead of the trips to Wigan and Cardiff. Luke Nightingale was thrust straight into Town's starting line-up as he joined Invincibile and Parkin in Andy King's three-man attack, the former Portsmouth attacker joining the club on loan alongside Dean Marney from Tottenham. Nightingale's first touch showed signs of promise, a neat back-heel to Parkin who tried to return the favour with the ball running out of play in the first minute.

A minute later and Town had taken the lead - a corner from Stefan Miglioranzi was headed back across goal by Sam Parkin before Andy Gurney headed the ball straight into the back of the net to put Town one nil to the good. Town looked confident and assured in the early stages and Brentford, in the top five, struggled to keep hold of the ball. On seven minutes Danny Invincibile picked up the ball in his own half before turning and playing a great ball out to Nightingale. The on-loan striker ran at the defender before floating a ball over to Parkin at the back post. The ball skipped off the surface just ahead of the former Chelsea striker and out for a goal kick in what was a great piece of football from Town, applauded by the vociferous home crowd.

On 12 minutes, whilst Brentford tried to put some pressure on the Town midfield, Miglioranzi threaded a clever ball through to Nightingale, but his ball to Parkin found the 14-goal striker offside. Goal scorer Andy Gurney was then booked on 15 minutes for a challenge on Brentford striker Steven Hunt. Although Gurney seemed to win the ball cleanly, the over-zealous referee, Mr T Parkes, saw a foul and awarded the free kick. Just two minutes later an acute ball through from Hewlett found Invincibile in the box. The Australian turned Scott Marshall and found some space, but his left foot effort dragged just wide of the left hand post. Town nearly made it two nil on 24 minutes when Hewlett scuffed his shot from just six yards out, only for Alan Julian to turn the ball round the post. The resulting corner was cleared after a weak header from Parkin.

Just before the half hour in another Town forward move, Robinson found himself in space on the right hand side. His cross whipped into the box and hit the face of the crossbar before rolling out to Duke, whose cross was cleared. At this stage of the game Town had Brentford on the back foot with some slick passing and clever interplay. As the half drew on, Brentford began to come back into the contest. Martin Rowlands began to find space on the right hand side behind

David Duke and Bart Griemink had to be on his guard to collect numerous crosses. In the 35th minute Matt Hewlett was fouled 40 yards out. Miglioranzi and Gurney stood over the ball but it was Gurney who took the shot. His 40-yard pile driver was palmed away to his left by Julian in the away goal as the referee blew for half time. Swindon made a great start to the second half with Hewlett threading a ball through to Parkin. Parkin raced clear but his shot from inside the box could only find the side netting. At the other end a corner from Hunt found Dobson who headed down towards goal but Griemink was equal to the challenge with a good save from almost point-blank range. Steve Robinson then played a long ball over to Parkin, but Captain Michael Dobson made a good intervention to head back to his keeper Alan Julian, denying Parkin a chance at goal.

Fullarton was then sent off innocuously for a lunge on Nightingale to leave Brentford with ten men and 37 minutes still to play. As is often the case, the ten men rallied and a short spell of pressure followed. However, Eric Sabin was introduced for the flagging Luke Nightingale on 65 minutes and the Frenchman's first touch saw him race into the box before Marshall put the ball behind for a corner. The ball was floated into the box and was met by Sabin, but it was 'Super Sammy Parkin' - the Player of the Month for November - who got the final touch for his fifteenth goal of the season. Just a minute later Stefani Miglioranzi brought the crowd to their feet with a 30 yard shot which flashed just wide of the upright into the vocal Town End.

Brentford then replaced Evans with Mark McCammon in a bid to get them back into the game, and the effects were almost immediate, the tall striker looking lethal just as he did in the two sides' previous encounter at Griffin Park. McCammon picked up a long ball down the left hand side and crossed the ball for Hunt who squared the ball back to Rowan Vine who curled the ball past Griemink from 8 yards out.

Hewlett hit a long ball over the top to Invincibile in reply as Town looked to make the points safe. The Australian raced past Somner and then squared the ball to Parkin six yards out. With an open goal, Town's top scorer completely missed the ball and also a golden opportunity to seal the points for Town. Sabin then found space down the right and crossed the ball to Parkin who laid the ball off to Invincibile. However Town could not convert the chance with Invincibile shooting wide of the goal. But it didn't matter, the referee signalled the end of the game moments later as Town picked up three valuable, yet deserved points.

TOWN: Griemink, Gurney, Reeves, Heywood, Duke, Miglioranzi, Hewlett, Robinson, Invincibile, Parkin, Nightingale (Sabin 65). **Subs not used:** Judge, Edds, Willis, Marney.

BRENTFORD: Julian, Dobson, Sonko, Marshall (Williams 89), Somner, Rowlands, Evans (McCammon 74), Fullarton, Hunt, Vine, O'Connor. **Subs not used:** Marchena, Jay Smith, Hughes

MATCH

Images courtesy of
the Evening Advertiser.



WIGAN ATHLETIC 2

TEALE 42, ELLINGTON 90

SWINDON TOWN 0

A solitary effort from Gary Teale was enough to see league leaders Wigan Athletic collect all three points in a quiet and eerie JJB Stadium last week. In a fiercely contested game, Wigan's powerful presence in midfield was enough to overcome a lack-luster Town side. In fact, the only time Town looked like getting anything out of the game was in the dying moments and a Nathan Ellington goal deep into stoppage time killed any chance the visitors' had of snatching a point, the former Bristol Rovers star converting in classic counter-attacking style after Reeves had gone close with a stunning volley. Andy King was forced to make one change from the side that beat Brentford on Boxing Day last week, with loan signing Dean Marney replacing the suspended David Duke. As a result, Town were forced to change tact and play with four at the back, Marney taking up a right back role leaving Heywood and Reeves in the middle as usual. Andy Gurney filled the vacant left-back berth, whilst Invincible dropped back into midfield leaving Parkin and Nightingale to lead the line.

Wigan are unbeaten at the JJB Stadium since August and their attacking capabilities were in full flow when Nathan 'the Duke' Ellington shot from 25 yards following Dillan's clever lay-off. Wigan, like Brentford were a physical side and all over the pitch Town were contesting a number of battles. One of which was Dean Marney's continual wrangle with Nathan Ellington and on 18 minutes the former Bristol Rovers had the best chance of the first half. A cross from the left hand side found Ellington, as well as a number of other Wigan players unmarked in the box before 'the Duke' fired over from six yards. Marney, who had lost out to Ellington on this occasion was the pick of the Town players. Continual hard work on the right hand side and passionate in the tackle, Marney will have impressed King on his first team debut. That despite the step up in class too, Marney previously plying his trade in Tottenham's youth and reserve set up. At the other end Marney was called into action once again following Nicky Eaden's cross. With McCulloch looking to get on the end of the cross, the Tottenham defender cleared much to the delight of Griemink and Reeves and as the 30-minute mark drew closer, it was becoming clear that both sides were canceling each other out. However, there was still time for another chance for Ellington on 37 minutes who, having been put through by his midfield, outpaced Alan Reeves to find himself through on goal. Ellington raced away from Reeves and with Griemink advancing and standing tall, the Wigan forward knicked the ball just inches wide of Town's goal with the outside of his right foot. Griemink appeared to have done enough

when he stood tall against Ellington and Town were relieved to see the ball drift wide of their upright. Town's midfield foursome began to tire as the half drew to a close and Wigan's strong quartet began to exert their influence over the visitors. And just when it looked as though Town might have been able to hold until half time Gary Teale popped up to break the deadlock. McCulloch's continual good work found Teale in the box and he made no mistake in giving the home side the lead before the break. Despite the lack of chances previously in the half the goal had been coming as a result of Wigan's tough style of play and as the half time whistle blew, Town boss Andy King seemed relieved to have the opportunity to marshal his troops.

And whatever King told the lads at half time seemed to have worked as Town started the second half with more purpose, that despite the home side's continual brutal style of play. Yet, despite coming more into the game in the early stages of the second period, Wigan looked more dangerous going forward once again and Ellington was in the thick of the action – the visitors' defence clearing early on. Eric Sabin was then introduced for Luke Nightingale and the Frenchman's impact was immediate, Sabin shooting just wide having beaten Matt Jackson. Sabin's fragility looked to have the visitors' defence scared of the tackle, but De Vos did enough to ensure that Sabin's effort didn't find the back of the net. At the other end Ellington came close when his snap shot forced Griemink into a fine reaction save. A Wigan Player, on the floor from the resultant maelstrom, was unable to force the ball home and Griemink forced the ball away for a Wigan corner. Soon after the home side pressed on once again and Dinning, having controlled the ball well, saw a fantastic effort shave the cross bar from 20 yards. Griemink was called into action again soon after. Ellington forced the Dutchman into an impressive double save with a snap shot.

With minutes remaining Invincible forced a corner for Town and Miglioranzi's spot kick was subsequently cleared. Moments later Reeves almost snatched an undeserved point when his left-footed volley was headed off the line by a Wigan defender, Town imposing a small amount of pressure on the home defence as the game drew to a close. Reeves' effort was text-book stuff and had the 'keeper beaten, but following Wigan's clearance they then went down the other end and made sure of the points. In classic counter-attacking style Ellington broke away and dealt what proved to be a decisive blow as the game ended.

WIGAN: Filan, Eadon, De Vos, Jackson, Mitchell, Teale, Dinning, McCulloch [Flynn 82], Kennedy, Roberts [Liddell 71], Ellington. **Subs not used:** Beasant, Green, Breckin.

TOWN: Griemink, Marney, Gurney, Heywood, Reeves, Hewlett, Robison [Willis 81], Miglioranzi, Invincible, Nightingale [Sabin 55], Parkin. **Subs not used:** Judge, Edds, Halliday.



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Congratulations to...

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Haine & Smith opticians have been looking after Wiltshire's eyes for over 27 years and have 19 local practices, including 3 in Swindon - one of which, Swindon Contact Lenses, can be found on Regent Street, in the town centre. For all your optical needs, simply log onto the website and find your local practice.

The Haine & Smith Player of the Month award has been kindly donated by Barry Smith, whose son Rupert tragically died in 2001. Rupert was a keen supporter of the club and attended as many games as possible.



www.haineandsmith.co.uk

Haine & Smith
OPTICIANS

11 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR SWINDON'S KIDS

The entire **Swindon Town** First Team Squad visited the Children's Ward at the new Great Western Hospital just days before Christmas.

Along with Manager Andy King and Rockin' Robin, the players handed out Christmas stockings to all Children currently in the ward. The Christmas Stockings contained a Matchday Programme, STFC Teddy Bear and a complimentary ticket to an upcoming home game at The County Ground. The players spent time speaking to each child and staff, also posing for photos for various members of the press.

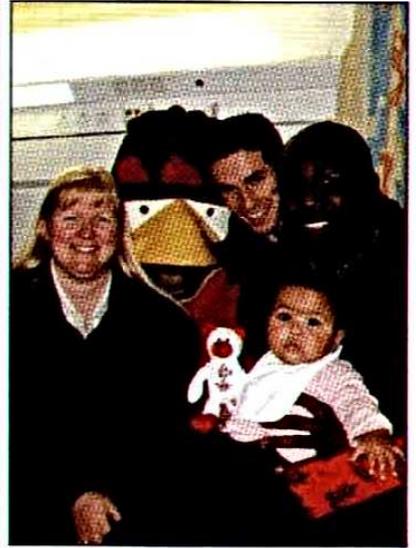
As you can see by the photos, the visit was a resounding success and put a smile on many faces in the run-up to Christmas!



▲ Rockin' with one lucky lady!



▲ Rockin', 'Dukky', 'Robbo' and 'Gurrs'



▲ Duke and Rockin' with a young 'townie'



▲ Rockin' muscles in!



▲ Two lads with Parkin, Scott, and co.



▲ Smile!

ARSEN-WHO?

Who says we're jealous that Oxford are playing Arsenal today in the FA Cup Second Round? Here are five reasons why it's better to be at the County Ground than Highbury this afternoon:

5. Traffic – The Magic Roundabout might be a nightmare to negotiate for some of us, but it beats heading into London at this time of year. Just imagine the tube delays, crowd congestion – what a stinker!

4. Concentrating on the league – Granted, it's an old-fashioned cliché, but without the distraction of the cup we can now concentrate on climbing the table – only a few wins off the play-offs...

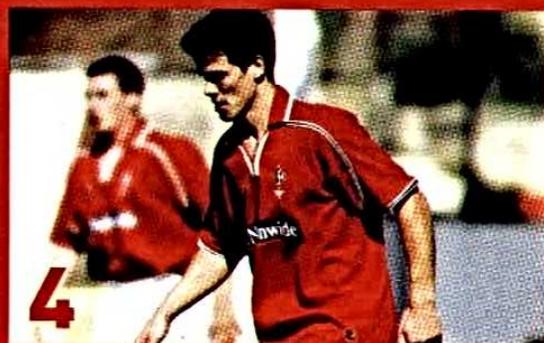
3. Patrick Viera – With our squad as small as it is, we can't afford any more injuries and Viera's track record suggests that messrs Robinson, Hewlett and Miglioranzi would be in for a difficult afternoon.

2. Match of the Day – Just think of how much fun it's going to be watching Oxford get demolished on television this evening!

1. Victory – Whilst there may have been an outside chance of snatching something at Highbury, we've got more of a chance of winning today now that we're playing Chesterfield (no offence Spirites!).







5 OF THE BEST

They scored – you voted, there were some great goals scored in 2002 and amongst your candidates were a number of different goals from the back end of last season and the first half of the current campaign. However, these are the winners as you voted – why not relive some of them by watching them on STFC World? Enjoy...

5 JOHNNIE JACKSON V NORTHAMPTON

Johnnie Jackson may have taken a game or two to get accustomed to life in Division Two, but there's no doubting the fact that the Tottenham midfielder had a sweet left foot. Jackson caused countless defences problems with his wicked crosses, especially from corners and his reputation as a free-kick taker grew during his short visit. The best of which was this marvellous effort against Northampton. From 20 to 25 yards away from goal, Jackson whipped in a fierce, curling left-footed effort that left Lee Harper with no chance in the Cobblers goal. It's amazing what being on the front cover can do to a player!

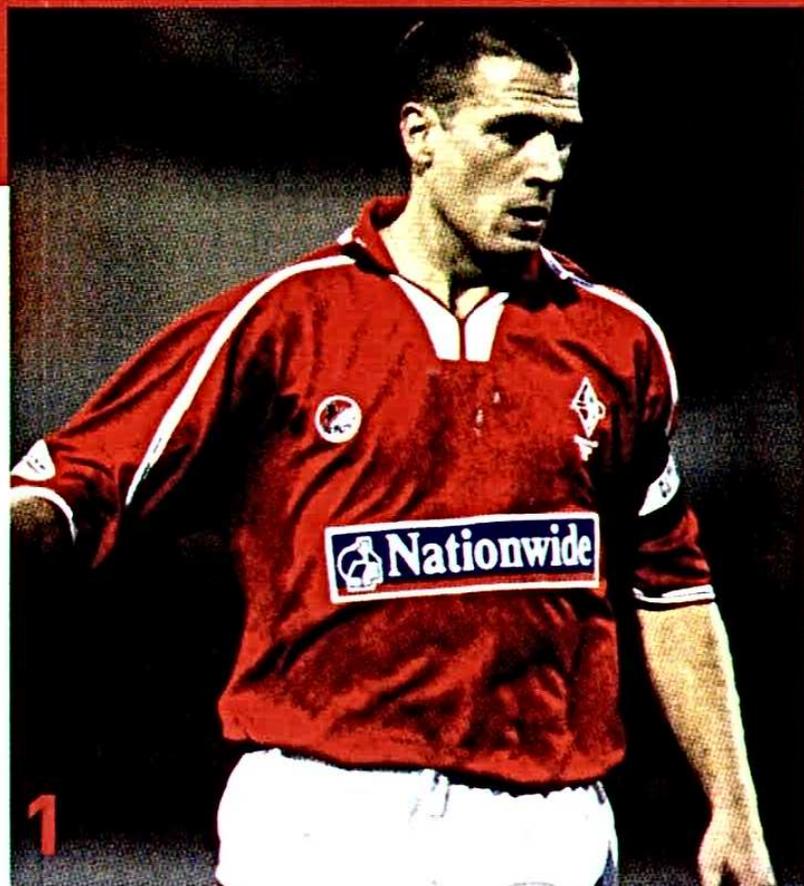
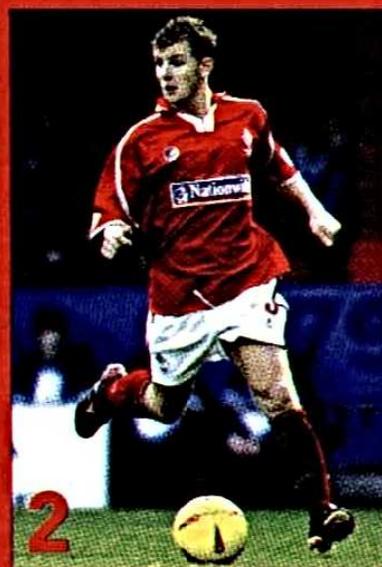
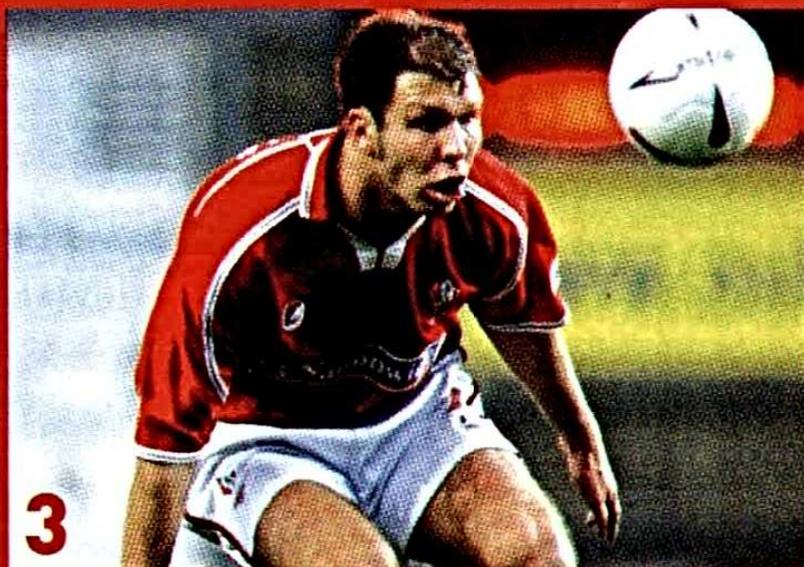
4 STEFANI MIGLIORANZI V SOUTHEND UNITED

The boy's got a fierce shot on him and to be honest, a goal like this had been coming for some time. Operating

in the centre of midfield, 'Stef' is more of a creative midfielder rather than an attacking one, yet such was the game against Southend that he was given the opportunity to get forward on a number of occasions. However, it took until the 89th minute for the New Yorkan-Brazilian to register his first goal for the club. Having swung in a corner Johnnie Jackson saw his effort cleared to Miglioranzi who, from some distance, rifled a speculative effort past Flavahan in the Southend goal.

3 SAM PARKIN V WYCOMBE

OK, perhaps not as good as some other goals but the mere context in which it came sees Sam's second goal enter the top five. With the clock ticking down and Town level with the Chairboys at 2-2 – Super Sam popped up with a dramatic winner. Jimmy Davis, scorer of the first, crossed into a crowded box to find Invincible who's shot could only find



Talia's arms in the Wycombe goal. However, the ball was parried and Sam was on hand to volley home in front of the delighted Town fans. Cracking stuff!

2 JIMMY DAVIS V WYCOMBE

What a player. And what a goal too,

the diminutive winger breaking the deadlock against Wycombe at Adams Park in November this year. It always surprised me how few goals Davis scored considering he was such a dominating and talented player. Nevertheless, this goal was something special and, having broken away down the left hand side, Davis

fought off a number of challengers before sliding the ball underneath the body of Frank Talia. Unfortunately Town threw their early lead away, but won in dramatic fashion late on when 'Super-Sam' bagged a brace.

1 ANDY GURNEY V PLYMOUTH

And he nearly bettered it against Brentford too! Gurney has, since Jackson's departure seized control of free-kick taking responsibility and he's not done a bad job too. This goal in particular, from about 30-35 yards, gave Plymouth's hapless goalkeeper no chance. Unfortunately his dramatic strike couldn't prevent the home side from snatching a late point. Talking after the game Town's skipper admitted, "Normally those shots find row Z, but fortunately that one flew in! I get mocked from the lads from trying these things but my motto is if you don't shoot you'll never score!"

SP DIVISION 2 STATS SP

due to print deadlines, stats up to date on Dec 27

check out the stats @ www.soccer-stats.com

Most Scoring chances per game

	On Target	Off T		On Target	Off T
Wigan	6.30	7.35	Swindon	5.09	5.17
Cardiff	6.43	6.39	Blackpool	5.09	5.09
QPR	5.78	6.87	Huddersfield	5.13	4.96
Barnsley	6.13	6.22	Bristol City	5.30	4.61
Plymouth	5.09	6.61	Oldham	4.39	5.43
Mansfield	6.52	5.17	Notts County	5.26	4.48
Crewe	6.17	5.43	Port Vale	4.48	5.17
Peterborough	6.17	5.17	Northampton	5.04	4.52
Wycombe	5.96	5.17	Stockport	5.04	4.43
Tranmere	5.65	4.91	Chesterfield	3.96	4.52
Luton	4.87	5.48	Colchester	3.70	4.13
Cheltenham	5.83	4.52	Brentford	3.30	4.22

TOP GOALSCORERS

goals in last 10 mins

Player	Club	Tot
Howard	Luton	6
Counago	Ipswich	5
Earnshaw	Cardiff	5
Bramble	Southend	5
Harris	Millwall	4
Asaba	Sheff Utd	4
Murray	Bristol City	4
Clarke	Peterborough	4
Kitson	Cambridge	4
Boyd	Kilmarnock	4

penalty scorers

Player	Club	Tot
Ferguson	Rangers	8
Beattie	Southampton	5
Alexander	Preston	5
Blake	Burnley	4
Dickov	Leicester	4
Merson	Portsmouth	4
Sonner	Walsall	4
Hunt	Brentford	4
Parkin	Swindon	4

Average Shots On and Off target per game

Goals in 1st 15 Mins of match

FOR	0-15	Tot	%	AGAINST	0-15	Tot	%
Plymouth	7	30	23	Oldham	4	17	24
Swindon	6	28	21	Swindon	8	35	23
Tranmere	6	30	20	Cheltenham	7	33	21
Northampton	4	21	19	Stockport	7	35	20
Cardiff	7	37	19	Barnsley	7	37	19
Colchester	4	23	17	Brentford	5	27	19
Brentford	5	29	17	Wycombe	6	33	18
Notts County	6	35	17	Huddersfield	5	28	18
Huddersfield	3	18	17	Notts County	6	35	17
QPR	5	31	16	Port Vale	6	36	17
Wigan	6	38	16	Colchester	5	30	17
Stockport	5	32	16	Luton	5	30	17

ordered by early goals as % of all goals

Goals from Set Pieces for and against

SCORED	Co	FK	CONCEDED	Co	FK
Plymouth	9	6	Mansfield	9	9
Brentford	7	6	Blackpool	7	8
Bristol City	4	6	Huddersfield	6	6
Crewe	3	7	Barnsley	3	7
Oldham	4	6	Cheltenham	5	4
Wigan	5	5	Northampton	1	7
Mansfield	2	6	Port Vale	6	2
Notts County	1	7	Cardiff	2	5
Tranmere	4	4	Notts County	3	4
Wycombe	6	2	Peterborough	4	3
Blackpool	7	0	Stockport	7	0
Luton	5	2	Swindon	1	6
QPR	2	5	Tranmere	5	2

Co = Corners FK = Free Kick Routines

COMEBACKS

Won from	-3	-2	-1	Tot
Luton	0	0	4	4
Bristol City	0	1	2	3
Blackpool	0	0	3	3
Mansfield	0	0	3	3
Port Vale	0	0	3	3
Swindon	0	0	3	3
Tranmere	0	0	3	3

THROWAWAYS

Lost from	+3	+2	+1	Tot
Cheltenham	0	0	4	4
Notts County	0	0	4	4
Mansfield	0	1	2	3
Barnsley	0	0	3	3
Plymouth	0	0	3	3
Stockport	0	0	3	3

number of games when clubs have come behind to win or been ahead and lost

Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1gl	2gl	3gl	4gl	5+gl
Wigan	6	9	1	0	0
Cardiff	9	2	1	2	0
Bristol City	5	5	3	1	0
Crewe	4	5	2	1	1
Oldham	6	3	0	2	1
Chesterfield	8	1	0	1	0
Tranmere	6	2	1	1	0
Brentford	6	2	0	0	1
QPR	2	5	1	1	0
Blackpool	4	2	3	0	0
Luton	5	2	2	0	0
Stockport	4	2	1	1	0
Mansfield	3	2	0	0	0
Northampton	3	1	3	0	0
Plymouth	5	1	1	0	0
Port Vale	6	1	0	0	0
Swindon	4	3	0	0	0
Wycombe	3	3	1	0	0
Barnsley	5	1	0	0	0
Colchester	5	1	0	0	0
Peterborough	2	1	1	1	0
Cheltenham	3	2	0	0	0
Huddersfield	3	1	1	0	0
Notts County	2	0	3	0	0

Scorers' Points Gained & Scoring Run

Club	Cls	Cl/gm	Pts	Run	1stG
Sam Parkin	14	0.70	15	6	2
Robert Earnshaw	18	0.78	12	3	2
Rob Hulse	15	0.79	11	3	2
Luke Beckett	17	0.74	10	4	2
Nathan Ellington	9	0.39	9	3	2
Martin Smith	8	0.50	8	1	3
Iyaseden Christie	14	0.67	7	5	2
Scott Murray	12	0.52	7	3	2
Mark Stallard	11	0.48	7	2	3
Paul Wotton	5	0.22	7	4	1
Dean Morgan	4	0.20	7	1	2
Steven Howard	11	0.52	6	4	5
Marco Gabbiadini	10	0.50	6	1	4
Andy Clarke	10	0.45	6	3	2
Rowan Vine	8	0.36	6	1	2
Bruce Dyer	7	0.35	6	2	2

eg if player scores the goal in a 1-0 win, the goal is worth 2 pts as score would have been 0-0, or if 2 goals in 2-1 win, goals worth 3 pts. Also shown is goals per game figure and number of games player scored 1st goal

Fouls and Offsides per game

avg. fouls per game	avg. offsides per game		
Brentford	14.26	Luton	5.26
Luton	14.00	Barnsley	5.00
Wycombe	14.00	Tranmere	3.96
Tranmere	13.87	Cheltenham	3.78
Oldham	13.83	Peterborough	3.78
Swindon	13.48	Wycombe	3.74
Bristol City	13.17	Crewe	3.70
Chesterfield	13.00	Stockport	3.65
Notts County	12.91	Plymouth	3.57
QPR	12.91	Northampton	3.43
Wigan	12.91	Oldham	3.43
Mansfield	12.57	Brentford	3.26
Barnsley	12.48	Colchester	3.17



YOUR FREE SPORTS PAPER WITH



Swindon Town v Chesterfield

Location <http://www.soccer-stats.com/headtohead>



Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored		
14	Shots	8
3	Headers	1
4	Volleys	6
5	Penalties	2
2	Free Kicks	2
0	Own Goals	0

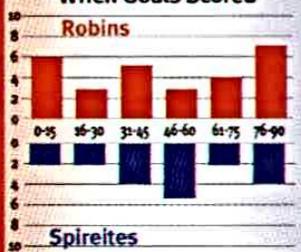
Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored

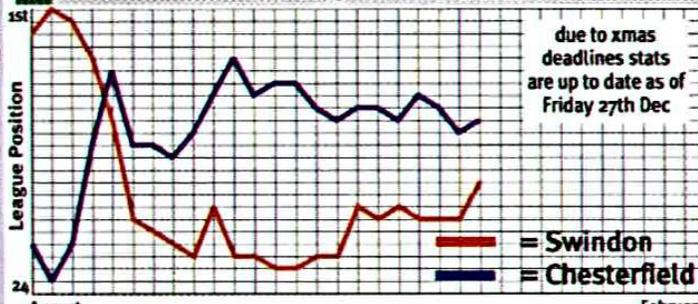


Form Guide - Last 6

2	Won	2
3	Drawn	0
1	Lost	4
9	For	3
9	Against	5
9	Points	6
0	Goal Difference	-2
DWDDLW	Sequence	LLWLLW

Yellow & Red Cards	
35	Yellow
1	Red

Seasonal Progress Comparison



2002-2003 Attendances

Robins	Aggregate	Spireites
61,872	44,644	
7,564	Highest 4,676	
4,136	Lowest 3,189	
5,156	Average 4,059	
36	% of Capacity	58

10 Year Record

Robins	Avg Pos.	Spireites
45.1	among 92 clubs	61.6
15,011	Avg Att 1993	3,141
5,087	Avg Att 2002	4,059
-66	+ / - %	29

Top League Scorers

Player	League Goals	Games Played	Lge Goals/Game	Points Gained	Scoring Run	Hat-Tricks	Close Range	Inside Area	Long Range	Shots	Headers	Volleys	Penalties	Direct FKs
Parkin	14	20	0.70	15	6	1	3	11	0	7	1	2	2	4
Brandon	4	21	0.19	4	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	2	0	0

Average Goals per game

	For	Against
1.22	0.83	
1.25	Home For 1.18	
1.18	Away For 0.50	
1.52	Against 1.04	
1.25	Home Against 0.55	
1.82	Away Against 1.50	

2002-2003 Figures

22	Players Used	26
2	Clean Sheets	12
8	Failed to Score	10
Goals scored from...		
1	Corners	1
2	Free Kicks	4
Goals conceded from...		
1	Corners	2
6	Free Kicks	2

Swings

ST	Games Won from:	C
0	3 Goals Down	0
2	Goals Down	0
3	1 Goal Down	0
Lost from:		
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
1	1 Goal Up	1
Drawn from:		
0	3 Goals Down	0
1	2 Goals Down	0
1	1 Goal Down	0
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
3	1 Goal Up	0

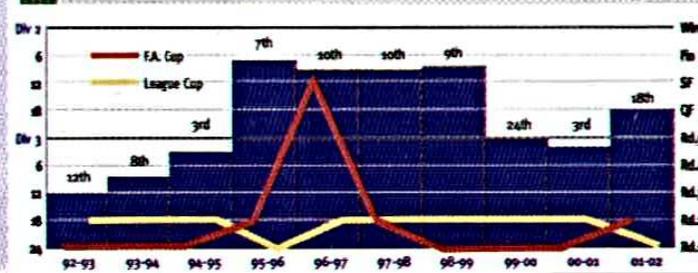
Margins

4	Won by 1 Gl	8
3	Won by 2 Gl	1
0	Won by 3 Gl	0
0	Won by 4 Gl	1
0	Won by 5+ Gl	0
Games		
4	Lost by 1 Gl	4
5	Lost by 2 Gl	4
1	Lost by 3 Gl	1
0	Lost by 4 Gl	1
0	Lost by 5+ Gl	0

Misc stats

1	Highest Pos.	5
22	Lowest Pos.	23
2	Winning Run	3
7	Unbeaten Run	5
6	Losing Run	2
7	No Win Run	3

Chesterfield's 10 Year History



Season	Leading Scorer	Ave Att
01/02	Hurst9	4,391
00/01	Beckett16	4,846
99/00	Reeves14	2,935
98/99	Reeves10	4,564
97/98	Willis8	4,749
96/97	Howard9	4,639
95/96	Lormor13	4,884
94/95	Davies11	3,528
93/94	Norris20	3,141
92/93	Norris11	3,214



IT'S BEEN AN AMAZING FEW SEASONS FOR CHESTERFIELD BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD, AND THE SALTERGATE FAITHFUL WILL NOW BE HOPING FOR SOME BRIEF CALM TO DESCEND ON THEIR CLUB AS THEY TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BUSINESS OF ACCUMULATING LEAGUE POINTS AND MOUNTING A SURPRISING PROMOTION CHARGE.

TODAY'S VISITORS

CHESTERFIELD



Saltergate, home of Chesterfield

THIS SEASON

Ins: Chris Brandon (Torquay), Alan O'Hare (Bolton), Shayne Bradley (Mansfield), David Reeves (Oldham)

Outs: Sean Parish (Kidderminster), Daniel Walsh (Kettering), Roger Willis (Peterborough), Daniel Williams (Hereford), Nathan Abbey (Northampton), Jamie Ingledow (Halifax)

Odds for promotion: 16/1
(odds courtesy of www.swindonbet.co.uk)

Last five games: WLLWD

LAST SEASON

Position last year: 17 (Division Two)

Biggest win: 4-0 (v Swindon)

Biggest defeat: 1-4 (v Cambridge, Port Vale)

Top scorer: Glynn Hurst 9

Most League apps: Nathan Abbey 53

HISTORY BOOK

Formed: 1866

Biggest win: 10-0 v Glossop (17/01/1903)

Most capped player: Walter McMillen (Northern Ireland:4)

Most league goals: Ernie Moss (161: 1969/86)

Biggest buy: Jason Lee £250,000

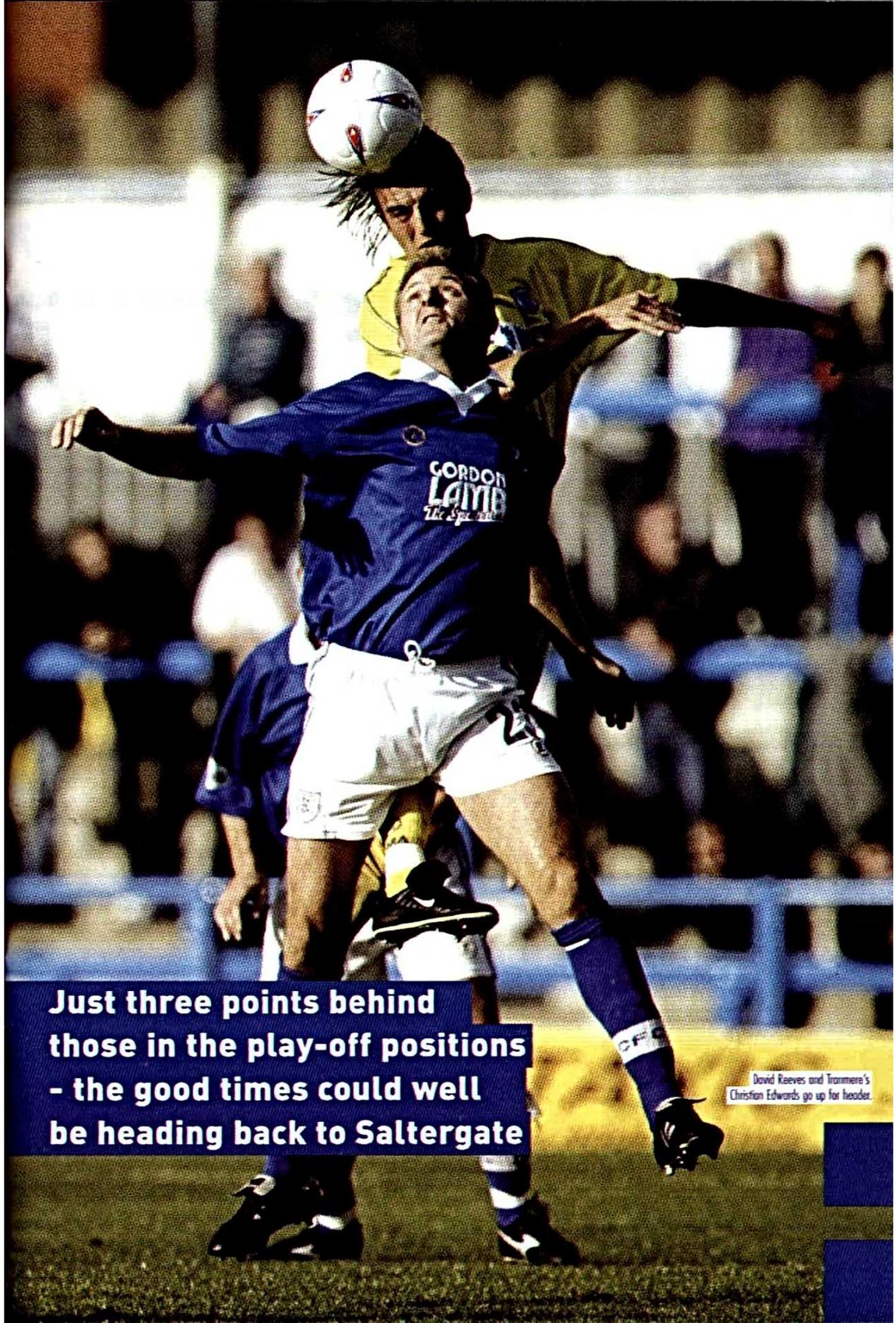
Record against the Town: Town wins 17, Chesterfield wins 13, Draws 5

In the past five years they have reached the FA Cup semi-finals, suffered relegation and been found guilty of financial irregularities. This led to a points deduction which, to the frustration of other clubs, did not prevent them achieving promotion back to Division Two.

Yet for once the goings on at Chesterfield aren't making front page news and instead, Dave Rushbury's side have been making the headlines of the right sort, his side now 11th in the table after a prosperous first half of the season. Not bad for a side that, only a few years ago had its very foundations rocked by an incredible chain of events. Having disposed of Nottingham Forest in round five and Wrexham in the Quarter-finals, Chesterfield took on Premiership Middlesbrough in an Old Trafford FA Cup semi-final that will live long in the memory. Unbelievably, against a side containing Emerson, Juninho and Ravanelli, Chesterfield raced in to a two goal lead and looked Wembley bound. Yet Boro bounced back and turned the game on its head scoring three times and themselves looking on the verge of final glory before a late equaliser took the game to a replay. Boro won the second game comfortably, but the endeavour of a brave Chesterfield side remains fresh in the memory.

With money in the bank and success on the pitch thoughts turned to possible promotion to Division One, yet after two near misses the Spireites sunk and were relegated in 2000. Crowds had plummeted and John Duncan was replaced as manager by Nicky Law. In the eyes of the supporters, the ship was righted the following year with the club sailing towards promotion. But only then did news of possible financial irregularities threaten to scupper their success. As the months passed, more and more information came to light, the administrators were called in and a winding up petition was lodged following the discovery that hundreds of thousands of pounds had gone missing from the club's coffers under the regime of chairman Darren Brown. After a thorough investigation, the club was deducted nine points by the Football League for irregularities in the purchase of striker Luke Beckett. But this wasn't enough to prevent their promotion back to Division Two albeit under a very black cloud and after months of uncertainty, the Spireites were finally saved from extinction by the Chesterfield Football Supporters Society who took over and ensured football would continue at Saltergate. Last season, the Blues did little more than tread water in the bottom half of Division Two, but after the dramatic ups and downs of recent times, such mediocrity was almost a blessing. However, Dave Rushbury was installed as the new club manager as the club looked to a brighter future.

Yet if you thought his task would be made even harder this year then you'd be wrong. Recently boosted by the return of David Reeves and the signing of Mansfield's Shayne Bradley - Chesterfield's hard-working squad has been boosted at a critical time of year when others are being trimmed and already they seem to have excelled themselves, the club seemingly ready to mount an unlikely promotion push. Just three points behind those in the play-off positions - the good times could well be heading back to Saltergate.

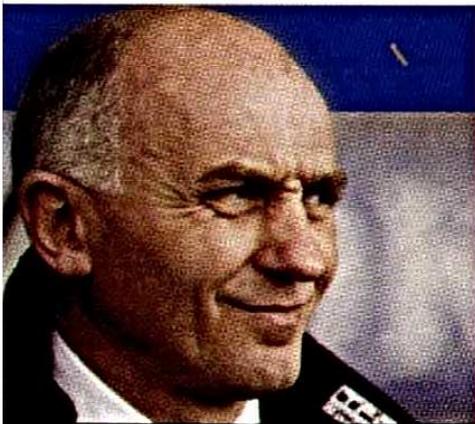


Just three points behind those in the play-off positions - the good times could well be heading back to Saltergate

David Reeves and Trimmere's Christian Edwards go up for header.

THE GAFFER

THE SQUAD



DAVE RUSHBURY

Dave Rushbury started out at West Bromwich Albion under the guidance of the influential Don Howe before Johnny Giles sold him to Sheffield Wednesday. At Wednesday, Dave moved to the left-back berth and was part of an Owls side that finished in eighth position in the division in his first season. The following season, the manager Ashurst left Hillsborough after a dreadful start to the campaign and was replaced by the future manager of the Republic of Ireland, Jack Charlton.

After Terry Curran and Mel Sterland came to prominence, Rushbury moved on to Swansea City and after promotion to the top flight in the 1980/81 season Dave appeared in a dozen of the games Swansea played that term before he moved to Carlisle in the close season. Under the guidance of Sunderland legend Bob Stokoe, Dave missed just one match as they won promotion with a young Peter Beardsley and a not-so-young Bryan "Pop" Robson in the team. After his time at Carlisle, Dave moved to Gillingham where Keith Peacock was manager. He moved back to the North and joined Doncaster Rovers. A spell at Bristol Rovers under Bobby Gould was the last stop before the end of Dave's playing career.

In 1988, he arrived at Chesterfield as coach/physio and served as assistant manager at the club under Paul Hart, reverting to his role as physio after Hart's departure. Dave remained as the club's physio thereafter before his appointment as Chesterfield manager on Friday February 22 2002 after a successful spell as caretaker boss at Saltergate having stepped in when Nicky Law moved to Bradford City.

MANAGERIAL CAREER

Chesterfield 2002- G47 W17 D19 L11

ANDY RICHMOND (left)

Big Andy moved ahead of Joel Armstrong in the pecking order last season and understudied Nathan Abbey throughout the campaign. Signed a pro contract in the summer and will hope to carry on making progress. Has deputised in the Spireites last two fixtures.

STEVE BLATHERWICK (left)

Joined Chesterfield from Burnley after a loan spell and he's now in his fifth season at Saltergate. Player of the Year in 2000/01 when winning promotion but last season was a disaster as injury ruined his chance to build on his burgeoning Spireites career and this term a hamstring problem has reduced his appearances. Loan spells at Wycombe, Hereford and Reading preceded his move to Turf Moor.

YOUNG GUN JAMIE BURT (left)

Made a sensational start to his League career after joining Chesterfield from Whitby Town, with whom he starred in a couple of FA Cup ties with Plymouth Argyle. After a schoolboy career with Newcastle United, Jamie dropped out of League contention with a number of North Eastern Non League teams before moving into the Conference with Scarborough. Financial problems at Seamer Road prompted his move to Whitby.

STEVE PAYNE (left)

Reigning Player of the Year, Steve signed a two-year Contract in the

summer after spending two seasons with Chesterfield after John Duncan brought him to the Club. The reliable defender began his career with Huddersfield Town but failed to break into their first team before moving to Macclesfield Town, then in the Conference. Won England Semi-Pro honours and helped the Silkmen into the League, he scored two goals in a match against Chesterfield and soon after joined The Spireites' ranks.

STUART HOWSON (left)

Joined Chesterfield last season from Blackburn Rovers and immediately showed his abilities with a stunning debut here at Swindon. The Chorley-born defender is assured on the deck and strong in the air.

MARTYN BOOTY (mid)

Last season was his first at Saltergate, Martyn played at right back, wing back but finished the season as the ball winning central midfielder. Began his career at Coventry City where he played in five Top Flight games before joining Dario Gradi at Crewe Alexandra. Moved on to Reading and then Southend United, featuring regularly for both Clubs. Club Captain.

ROB EDWARDS (mid)

Vastly experienced and reliable left sided player who plays equally well at full back or wing back and occasionally plays further up front, he often appeared as a striker in his Crewe Alex days, his first Club. Left Gresty Road for Huddersfield Town in 1996 and he became a firm favourite with the Yorkshire Club before joining Chesterfield early in the 2000/01 promotion season.



Chris Brandon converts a penalty against West Ham United



!DANGER!
CHRIS BRANDON

A summer signing, the 5'7" midfielder is at home on the right side of midfield and can also play as a striker. Spent three seasons at Plainmoor before joining The Gulls, Chris had appeared in Non-League football during two

spells with his home town Club, Bradford Park Avenue, between which he'd played at Stafford Rangers and briefly at Lancaster City. Firmly established as a fans favourite at Saltergate already, his overhead kick goal v Port Vale is the main early contender for Goal of the Season.

GLYNN HURST

Scored last season's 'Goal of the Season', a stunning run and strike in injury time against Oldham Athletic just a few weeks after signing for Chesterfield from Stockport County. Began with Spurs as a trainee, returned to his home town Club, Barnsley, had loan spells at Swansea and Mansfield before dropping out of the League with Emley, with whom he

participated in a memorable Cup Run which ended closely at West Ham.

GARETH DAVIES

Signed as a pro in the summer, Gareth is an all action midfielder who has broken into the first team picture this season. A product of the link with Chesterfield College, Gareth gained vital competitive experience on loan at Matlock Town in the latter stages of last season. Powerful player who'll run all day.

AND THE REST

Stuart HOWSON Steve PAYNE
Marcus EBDON, Mark INNES
Carl HADFIELD, David D'AURIA
Andy RUSHBURY, Gareth DAVIES
Jon HOWARD, David REEVES
John WILKINSON, Adam SMITH

THEM AND US

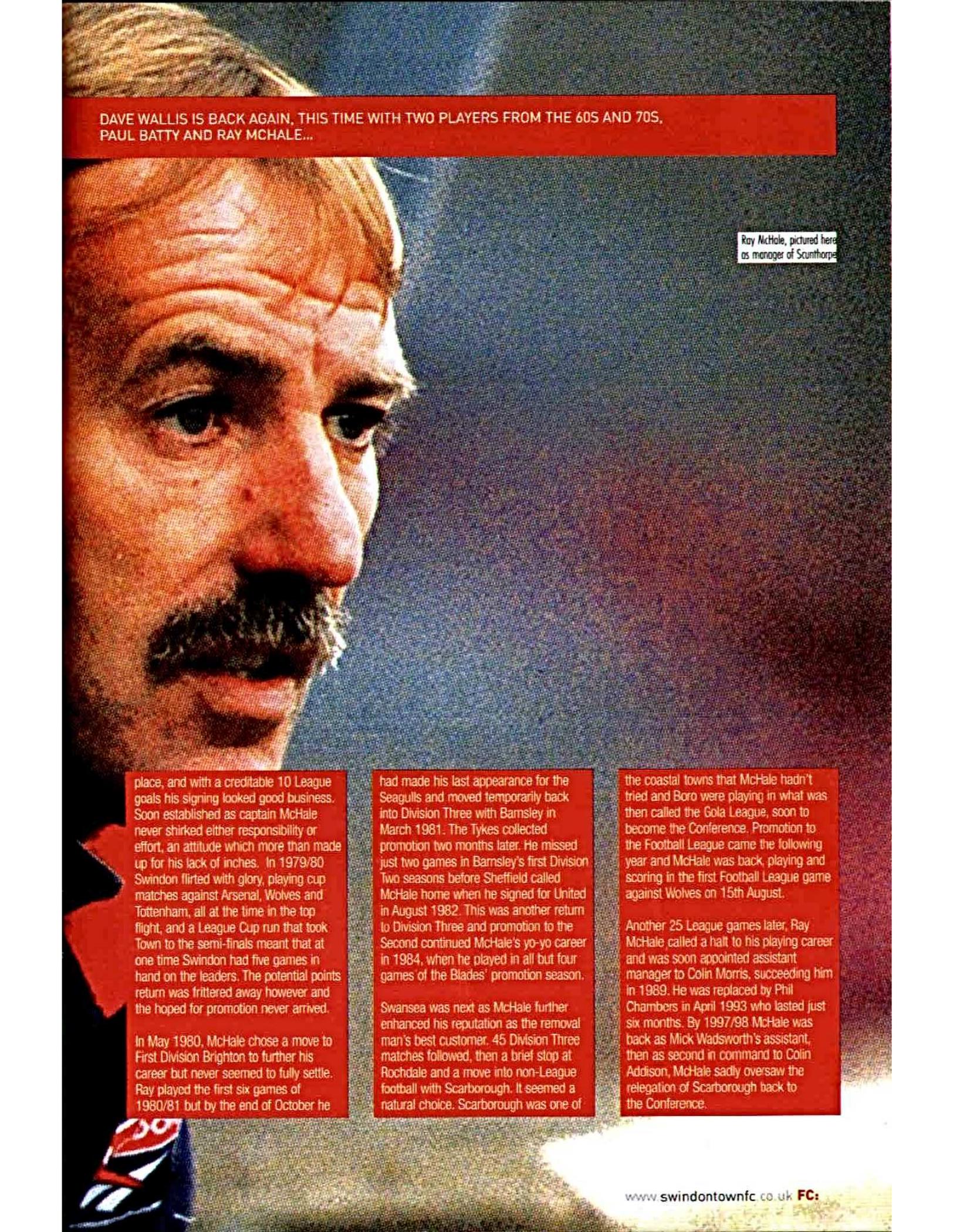
Born in East Dington, Doncaster on January 9 1964, Paul Batty was a Town apprentice who signed professional forms after his 18th birthday, and at only 5ft 7in Paul had a lack of inches to overcome. Making his debut against last month's opponents Crewe Alexandra on September 25 1982, he missed just two games to the end of a season that saw Town finish eighth in the Division Four table. While manager Lou Macari perhaps empathised with the vertically challenged midfielder, with another 40 matches the following season Paul was commanding a regular place on merit. A disappointing campaign saw Town again finish eight from the end of the table, but this time eighth from bottom and July 1985 saw him move on to Chesterfield after 108 League games and seven goals. Playing his football at the height of

the 'Last of the Summer Wine' era it was inevitable that Batty would be christened Nora on the terraces, and a move to the north helped crystallise that image. Chesterfield were plying their trade in the old Division Three and staying just a year at the Recreation Ground, Paul made 26 League appearances. Also on the books at the time was striker Dave Caldwell who had a five game stint at the County Ground on loan from Mansfield, and Northern Ireland hero Gerry Armstrong, scorer of the goal that beat the host nation in the World Cup of 1982 in Spain.

After a loan spell at Cambridge that failed to produce an appearance a move back to the West Country took Paul to Exeter in July 1986. Three seasons of mid-table finishes followed, culminated in the

Division Four championship in 1989/90 when Exeter triumphed ten points clear of second placed Grimsby. Paul helped City to stabilise their new status before retiring from League football at the end of 1990/91 after 111 games and 11 goals for the Devon side.

Ray McHale was a tough tackling midfielder signed by Danny Williams in September 1976 for £8,000. Having already completed over 200 games for Halifax and Chesterfield, Sheffield born McHale was recruited to a team who had spent the previous season fighting against relegation from Division Three. Making his first Town appearance in an away 0-0 draw at Lincoln, McHale went on to play in all of the 41 remaining League games in a season which saw the team finish in a comfortable 11th



DAVE WALLIS IS BACK AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH TWO PLAYERS FROM THE 60S AND 70S,
PAUL BATTY AND RAY MCHALE...

Ray McHale, pictured here
as manager of Scunthorpe

place, and with a creditable 10 League goals his signing looked good business. Soon established as captain McHale never shirked either responsibility or effort, an attitude which more than made up for his lack of inches. In 1979/80 Swindon flirted with glory, playing cup matches against Arsenal, Wolves and Tottenham, all at the time in the top flight, and a League Cup run that took Town to the semi-finals meant that at one time Swindon had five games in hand on the leaders. The potential points return was frittered away however and the hoped for promotion never arrived.

In May 1980, McHale chose a move to First Division Brighton to further his career but never seemed to fully settle. Ray played the first six games of 1980/81 but by the end of October he

had made his last appearance for the Seagulls and moved temporarily back into Division Three with Barnsley in March 1981. The Tykes collected promotion two months later. He missed just two games in Barnsley's first Division Two seasons before Sheffield called McHale home when he signed for United in August 1982. This was another return to Division Three and promotion to the Second continued McHale's yo-yo career in 1984, when he played in all but four games of the Blades' promotion season.

Swansea was next as McHale further enhanced his reputation as the removal man's best customer. 45 Division Three matches followed, then a brief stop at Rochdale and a move into non-League football with Scarborough. It seemed a natural choice. Scarborough was one of

the coastal towns that McHale hadn't tried and Boro were playing in what was then called the Gola League, soon to become the Conference. Promotion to the Football League came the following year and McHale was back, playing and scoring in the first Football League game against Wolves on 15th August.

Another 25 League games later, Ray McHale called a halt to his playing career and was soon appointed assistant manager to Colin Morris, succeeding him in 1989. He was replaced by Phil Chambers in April 1993 who lasted just six months. By 1997/98 McHale was back as Mick Wadsworth's assistant, then as second in command to Colin Addison, McHale sadly oversaw the relegation of Scarborough back to the Conference.



SWINDON TOWN

CALENDAR



14 ERIC SABIN



11 DAVID DUKE



17 DANNY INVINCIBILE



1 BART GRIEMINK



6 ANDY GURNEY

JANUARY

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2003



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SWINDON FC CALENDAR

FC



0 ROCKIN ROBIN



19 MATTHEW HEYWOOD



9 SAM PARKIN



25 STEVE ROBINSON



22 ALAN REEVES

APRIL

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New Arrivals

Luke Nightingale
Dean Marney



Those of you that couldn't make it to any of Town's fixtures over the festive period will, no doubt, recognise two new faces in the ranks today – both Luke Nightingale and Dean Marney joining the club on a month's loan.

Luke Nightingale is a 5'11 striker from Portsmouth. He made his first team debut at 17, scoring both goals in a win over West Brom.

The 22-year old started against Brentford and Wigan and as he told swindontownfc.co.uk last week, he is grateful for the first team football: "It will be good to get some first team football here at Swindon, I was just sat in the Reserves at Portsmouth and as a professional that's not what you want."

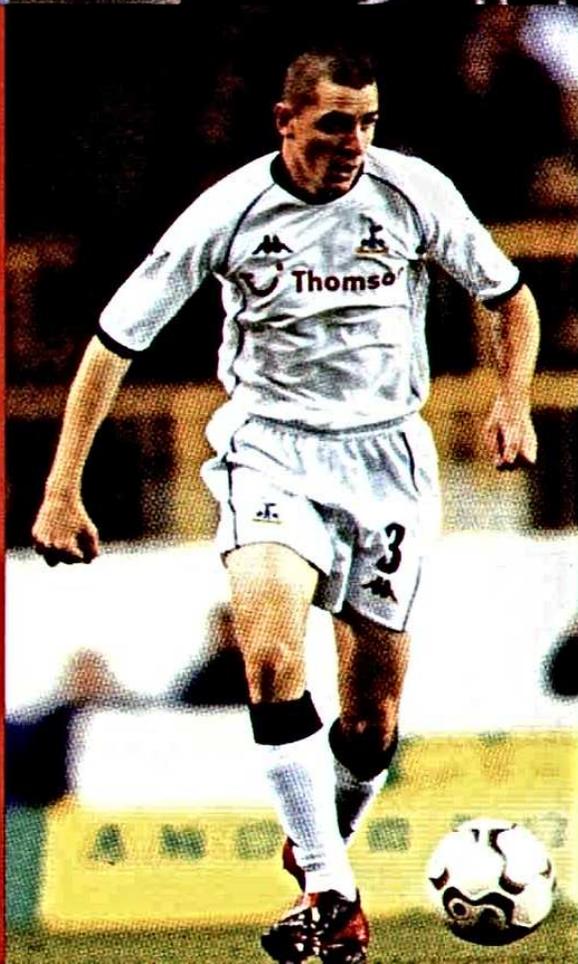
"It is difficult to get a game at the moment because they're flying. Harry Redknapp is talking about getting more strikers in down there so that doesn't help my chances. It is a good move for me to go out on loan 'Stef' (Miglioranz) is also a good friend of mine from Pompey so it is good to see someone I know here as well."

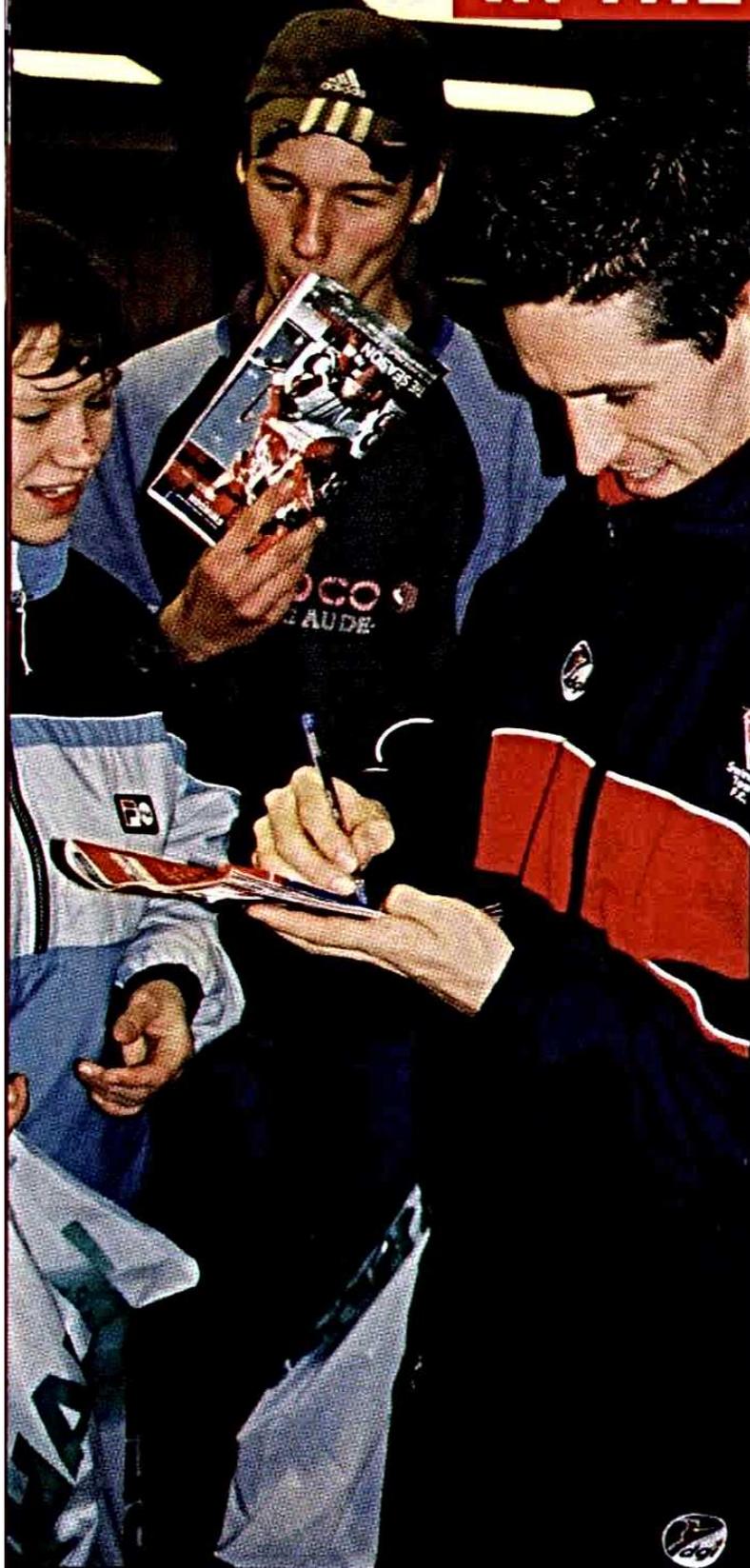
Dean Marney follows in the footsteps of Johnnie Jackson who made a loan move to The County Ground a few months back, but has since returned to White Hart Lane in search of first team football. Marney is a tenacious midfielder and was the second highest goalscorer for their Under-19s last season with eight goals in 25 appearances. The Barking-born midfielder made seven appearances for Tottenham's second string last season. Marney, who was arguably Town's star against Wigan, agreed that First Team football was a priority. "As soon as I heard that I could come here I said yes, it is a great chance to play some League football. I was playing regularly for the reserves, so I think this will help me to push on."



Town Manager Andy King has compared Marney to Spurs' Stephen Carr, but the youngster was quick to dispel any comparisons. "I think the gaffer has said that just because we have the same hairstyles. I don't think there is much comparison although I do watch how he plays. I like to get forward that's for sure. I was pleased with my goalscoring record last season, but this season I have been playing wing-back rather than midfield. I spoke to Colin Calderwood (Spurs Reserve Team Manager) and he said it would be a good chance for me here."

SWINDON
TOWN
FC





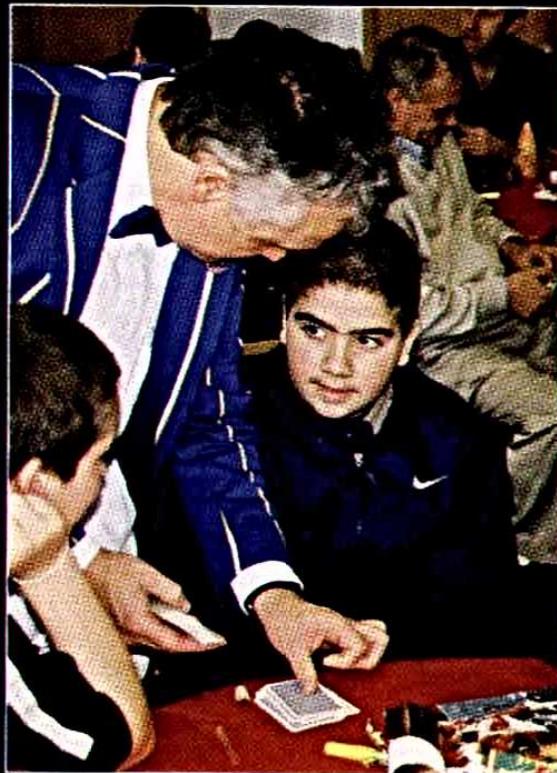
A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

Swindon Town Football Club, in partnership with **Greenham, Meteor Parking Limited, Wyvern Staff, Swindon Chamber of Commerce, Tesco** and the **Swindon Town Supporters Club**, last week invited a number of under-privileged children to the game against Brentford.

The club played host to children and adults from The North Swindon Family Centre, The Walcot Family Centre, The Swindon 10 - 18 Project, The Clivey Project, Stepping Forward and The Welcome Centre. Unfortunately, most of these children are now being looked after by foster families or social care and as a result, weren't able to spend Christmas with their families.

It proved to be a day to remember for the children who were entertained by a magician, Santa Claus and Rockin' Robin. Nathan Edwards, Craig Farr and Kevin Halliday also popped in to lend a hand.

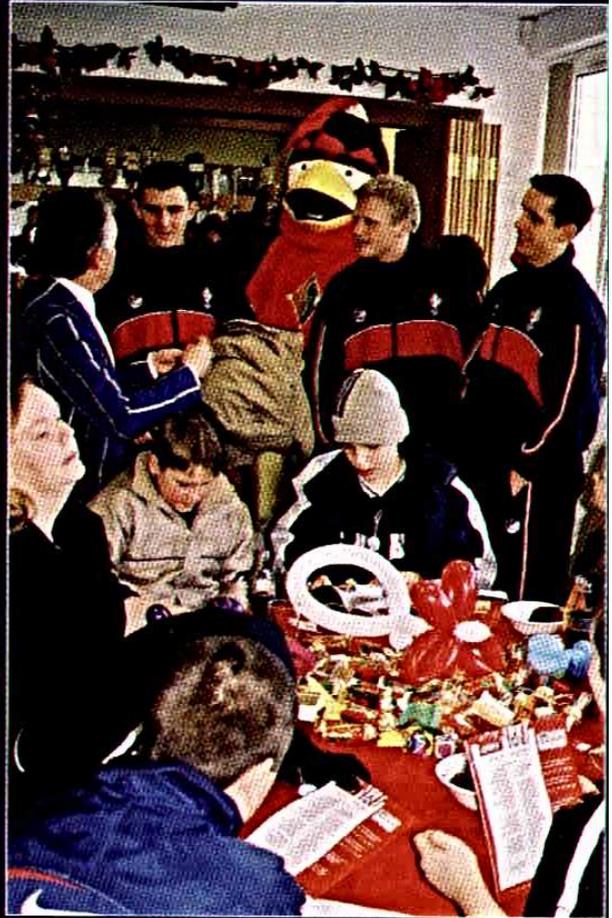
The club would like to thank all those that made the day possible, in particular the sponsors that made the day such a wonderful experience for everyone involved.



▲ "Now watch my hands..."



▲ Dukey and Rockin' with the group



▲ The magician impresses Halliday, Farr and Edwards



▲ Smile!



▲ What was that supposed to be?!



▲ Santa dishes out the presents



A WARM NEW YEARS WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME AGAINST CHESTERFIELD AND IN PARTICULAR, TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS, GREENHAM.

COMMERCIAL VIEW WITH MIKE SULLIVAN

Greenham, as I'm sure you're all aware now, are one of our more regular sponsors and throughout 2002, supported the club in so many ways. They have 19 Branches nationwide, with the nearest branches to Swindon being in Newbury, Oxford, Bristol and Cardiff. Their trade shops are open weekdays from 8.00am to 5.30pm, and on Saturdays from 8.00am to 12.30pm for all your 'One Stop Shopping Needs'. Experienced staff are always on hand to give friendly help and service for the vast range of personal protection, hose, ducting and accessories, contractor's site equipment/industrial cleaning, hygiene and maintenance products.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR DRAW

Don't forget that all sold ticket counterfoils for the Christmas/New Year draw need to be returned to the Marketing Department by no later than 2.00pm next Saturday. The draw for the four main prizes will take place on the pitch, during the half time interval at our home game v Blackpool. The prizes consist of £1,000 cash, a weekend for two people in Amsterdam, Tea for Two at the Ritz plus tickets for a top London show of your choice and a years membership to a Fitness First Health Club. There are also 30 runners up prizes also to be won, and the draw for these will take place in the Executive Lounge at 5.00pm on the same day. It is still not too late to buy a ticket for this draw. Each ticket costs £1 and as an extra incentive, anybody who sells a complete book of ten tickets will go into a separate draw to win a VIP day out for two at a Swindon Town home league game this season.

BOOK NOW TO SEE A WORLD CUP LEGEND

Our first Sporting Club Dinner of 2003 sees 1966 World Cup legend, GEOFF HURST, as our special guest speaker. Still the only player ever to score a hat trick in a World Cup Final, Geoff will be telling many nostalgic stories relating to England's greatest ever day in Soccer history. Included in the ticket price is a three-course dinner and the evening promises to be something special. Once again Barry Williams will be our compere and he will be joined by a top class comedian. Tickets for the evening are bound to sell fast, so why not ring the club's Marketing Department on 01793 333719 and book your places now? Our last Sporting Dinner with Jack Charlton sold out and no doubt this will do the same - so book now to avoid disappointment.

To all of our sponsors from 2002 - a Happy New Year to you all, here's looking forward to a prosperous 2003!



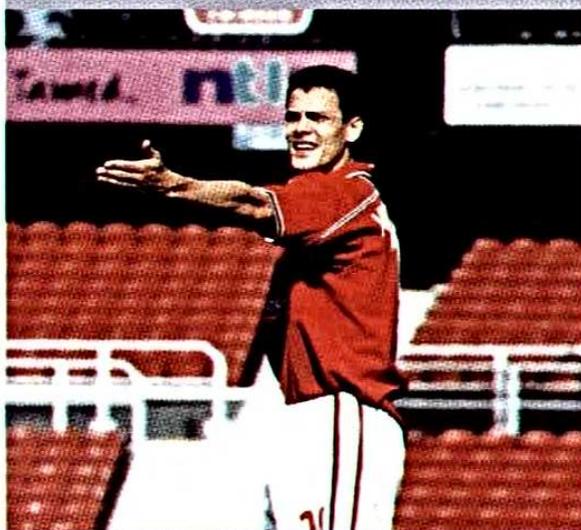
MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE



MAN OF THE MATCH

STEFANI MIGLIORANZI

V BRENTFORD 26.12.02



Pictured here is Stefani Miglioranzi in action for the Town. 'Stef' was presented with a bottle of Moët and Chandon after the Brentford game having been awarded the Man of the Match award - the presentation was made by a representative from Greenham.

Moët & Chandon Brut Imperial is the most fashionable fizz, setting the trend and appreciated by those with an innate sense of style. A champagne for every occasion, Moët & Chandon is pale gold, mature and refined. A truly unique combination of a soft yet dry finish. Moët & Chandon's reputation for turning an event into an occasion is legendary - so feel free - enjoy!

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MATT HEWLETT

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FAMILY

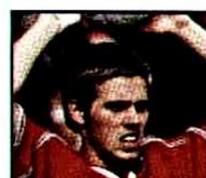


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ROCKIN' ROBIN

LUKE BACHHUBER



VINTAGE RED

DICK MATTICK RE-LIVES THE EIGHTIES AND TAKES US BACK TO NEW YEAR'S DAY AND AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE SPIREITES.

The first Division Three clashes between Town and Chesterfield took place during the 1958/59 season. Jimmy Kelly scored a hat trick for Swindon in a 3-1 win at Chesterfield in September, but the following February Chesterfield got their revenge with a 2-1 win. The first Fourth Division clashes came in the 1983/84 season when Chesterfield did the double over Town, winning 1-0 at home on the opening day of the season, and 2-1 at the County Ground in January. Today's feature match took place on New Year's Day 1985. Visitors Chesterfield were in fifth position in Division Four, just four points behind leaders Bury and with games in hand on three of the clubs above them. Town on the other hand, occupied a mid-table position. Colin Gordon had overcome a groin injury and this meant Lou Macari was able to field an unchanged side. With Town's midfield trio of Bamard, Batty and Nelson in fine form Town dominated the first half exchanges, but with 40 minutes gone they had failed to find a way through the tall Chesterfield defence.

Then a foul on Paul Batty enabled Gary Nelson to centre for Colin Gordon to nod down to Andy Rowland who fired home a right-footed shot from 12 yards through a crowd of players to give Town the lead. A forward run by Colin Bailie minutes later ended with a cross to Gordon who used his chest to good effect cushioning the ball to set himself up for a left-foot volley which whistled past Chris Marples in the Spireites' goal to give Swindon a 2-0 lead at the interval. Chesterfield came back strongly in the second half and were unlucky not to reduce the arrears when Phil Brown had the ball in Town's net - only for it to be ruled out for offside. Referee, Danny Vickers was less popular with Town fans two minutes later after he awarded a penalty, Bob Newton having been impeded by Andy Rowland in the area. Brown hit the resulting penalty well, but Scott Endersby hurled himself to his left to push the ball away. After 56 minutes a beautiful move between Bailie and Peter Coyne ended with a header by the full-back being saved by Marples, only for

Colin Gordon to react quickest to stab home the loose ball. Gordon nearly completed a hat trick minutes later only for his header to be disallowed for a foul on the 'keeper. The final goal came in the 74th minute when a corner by Nelson was met by Rowlands at the near post and headed in. It was an excellent Hogmanay result for Lou Macari, but at the season's end it was Chesterfield who finished as champions with 91 points and a magnificent +29 goal difference. Swindon, who finished in eighth spot, had to wait until the following season to enjoy their own Championship triumph.

Swindon: Endersby, Ramsey, Bailie, Bamard, Gray, Rowland, Hookaday, Coyne, Gordon, Batty & Nelson. Sub: Macari (not used)

Chesterfield: Marples, Bellamy, Hoskins, Matthews, Baines, Hunter, Brown, Moss, Newton, Ferguson (Seasman 46) and Kendal

Attendance: 3,575

442

THIS WEEK WATFORD, EVERTON, MAN UNITED AND CHELSEA GO UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF FOURFOUR TWO'S MARK HANRAHAN.

Two multi-million pound signings have found their contracts terminated by Watford as boss Ray Lewington continues to count the cost of their rapid rise and fall through Divisions One, Two and the Premiership. Former Arsenal and England U21 midfielder Stephen Hughes and goalkeeper Norwegian goalkeeper Espen Baardsen have found themselves on the fringes of the first team this season, despite their status as two of Watford's high earners. Hughes had signed from Everton in the summer of 2001, making 17 first team appearances. Baardsen cost £1.25m when he arrived from Spurs two seasons ago, making 46 appearances for the club.

Everton's former Aston Villa defender David Unsworth, has lost his appeal against the red card he received against Chelsea meaning he will now serve a full three-match ban. Red-carded following a tussle with Chelsea's live-wire winger Jesper Gronkjaer, Unsworth had hoped to have the card rescinded, especially since Gronkjaer himself leapt to Unsworth's defence, claiming no intentional contact was made by the Everton man.

Manchester United's French international defender Mikael Silvestre has ended

speculation about a possible departure from Old Trafford by signing a new four-year deal. The 25-year-old was out of contract at the end of the season prompting suggestions he could enter into talks with foreign clubs in January. Silvestre though insists he never entertained the suggestion himself despite failing to oust Wes Brown, Rio Ferdinand, Laurent Blanc or John O'Shea from his preferred central role. With Ferdinand set to return from injury during the festive program, it is likely Sir Alex Ferguson will continue opting to play him at left-back.

UEFA has confirmed it has set the disciplinary wheels in motion following Leeds midfielder Lee Bowyer's alleged stamp on a Malaga player. Bowyer will be investigated for "unsporting behavior" after UEFA officials reviewed video evidence of the incident from Leeds' 2-1 UEFA Cup defeat at Elland Road.

Following his sparkling form at the spearhead of Chelsea surge up the Premiership, boss Claudio Ranieri is set to open contract talks with his mercurial Italian ace Gianfranco Zola. At 36, Zola was tipped to retire at the end of the current campaign. However, after topping the goal-scoring charts, and forcing

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Eidur Gudjohnson to long spells on the bench, it is expected Zola will extend his West London stay for another season.

Whilst Zola's form has forced Chelsea's hand this season, another ageing London-based star is perhaps finding his advancing years prohibitive despite his good form. As things stand, Spurs' forward Teddy Sheringham could well be without a club at the end of the season. Sheringham is out of contract at the end of the campaign, and his club are yet to offer the 36 year-old veteran an extension.

Middlesbrough's loan star Geremi has hinted that he will end his stay on Teeside this summer and return to Real Madrid to scrap it out for a first team spot when loan spell at The Riverside expires this summer. Geremi – so impressive in his goal-scoring supershoot against Chelsea recently – has also attracted the attention of a host of European giants with his outstanding displays at the heart of the Middlesbrough midfield.

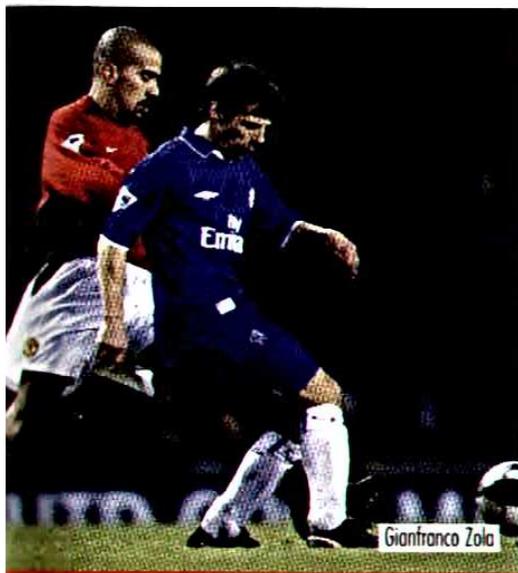
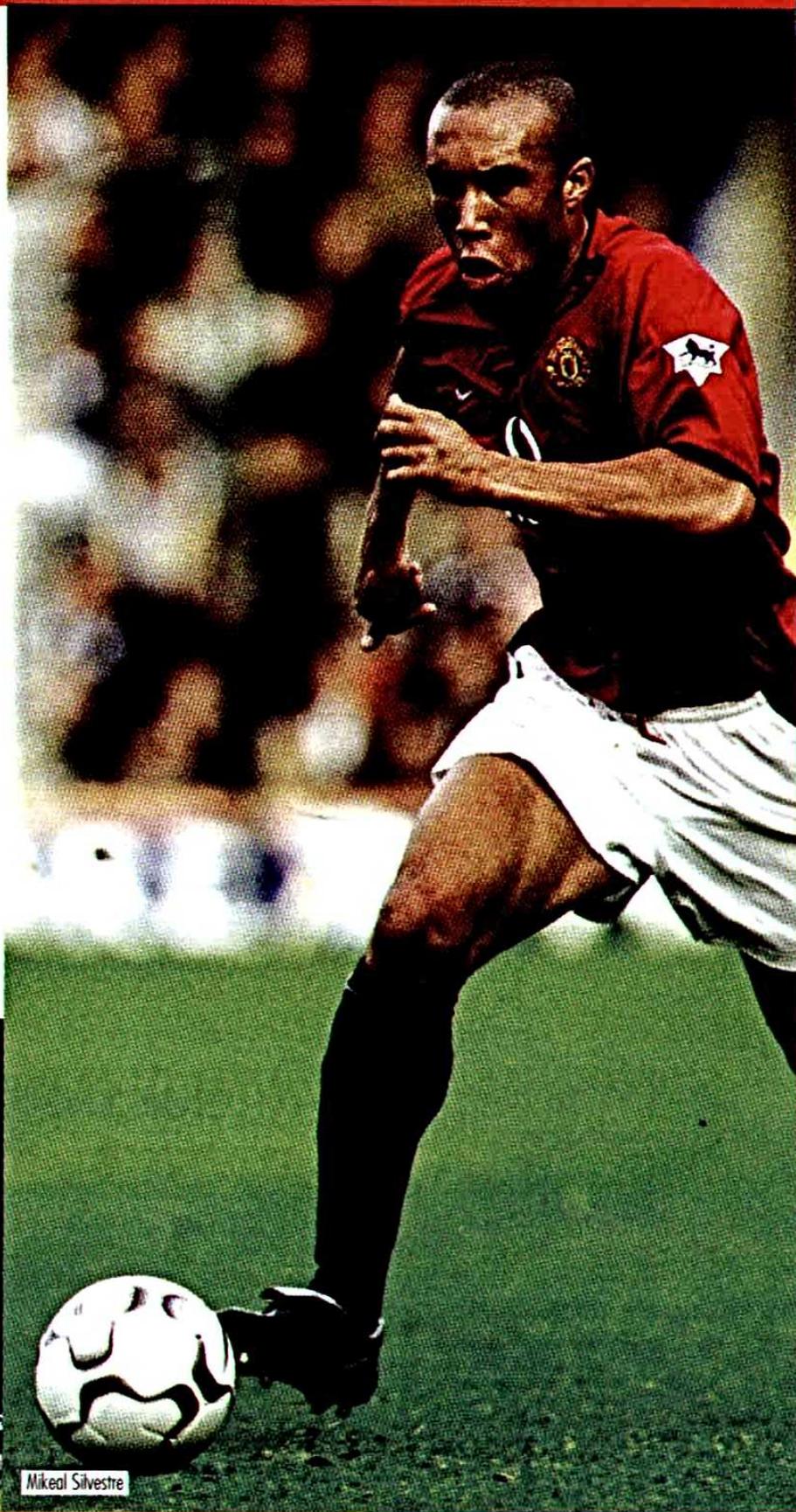
Gabriel Batistuta has confirmed his intention to leave Roma next summer and move to the Premiership. 'Batigol' had been expected to join the Premiership this

coming January with goal-shy West Ham amongst a host of clubs tipped for his signature.

Gap-toothed Brazilian ace Ronaldo ended a highly successful year by being named 2002 European Footballer of the Year. Ronaldo returned to full fitness in time for Brazil's World Cup assault, finishing the tournament as top scorer with eight goals. His World Cup exploits led to a £29.8million pound transfer from Italian giants Internazionale to Real Madrid. Teammate at the Bernabeu, Roberto Carlos, was runner-up, whilst German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn came third.

Hull City have confirmed that Sunderland will be travelling to the third division's club for a friendly marking the official opening of their new 25,000-capacity Kingston Communications Stadium. Hull had been at their old Boothery Park ground for over 55 years and a crowd in excess of 14,000 turned out for the ground's last competitive fixture – a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Darlington.

Former Everton and Blackburn striker Mike Newell has been named as the permanent manager of Division Three Hartlepool. Newell has also confirmed his ex-Everton teammate and former Republic of Ireland midfielder Kevin Sheedy as his assistant, following the departure of Chris Turner to Sheffield Wednesday in November.



Gianfranco Zola

Mikeal Silvestre

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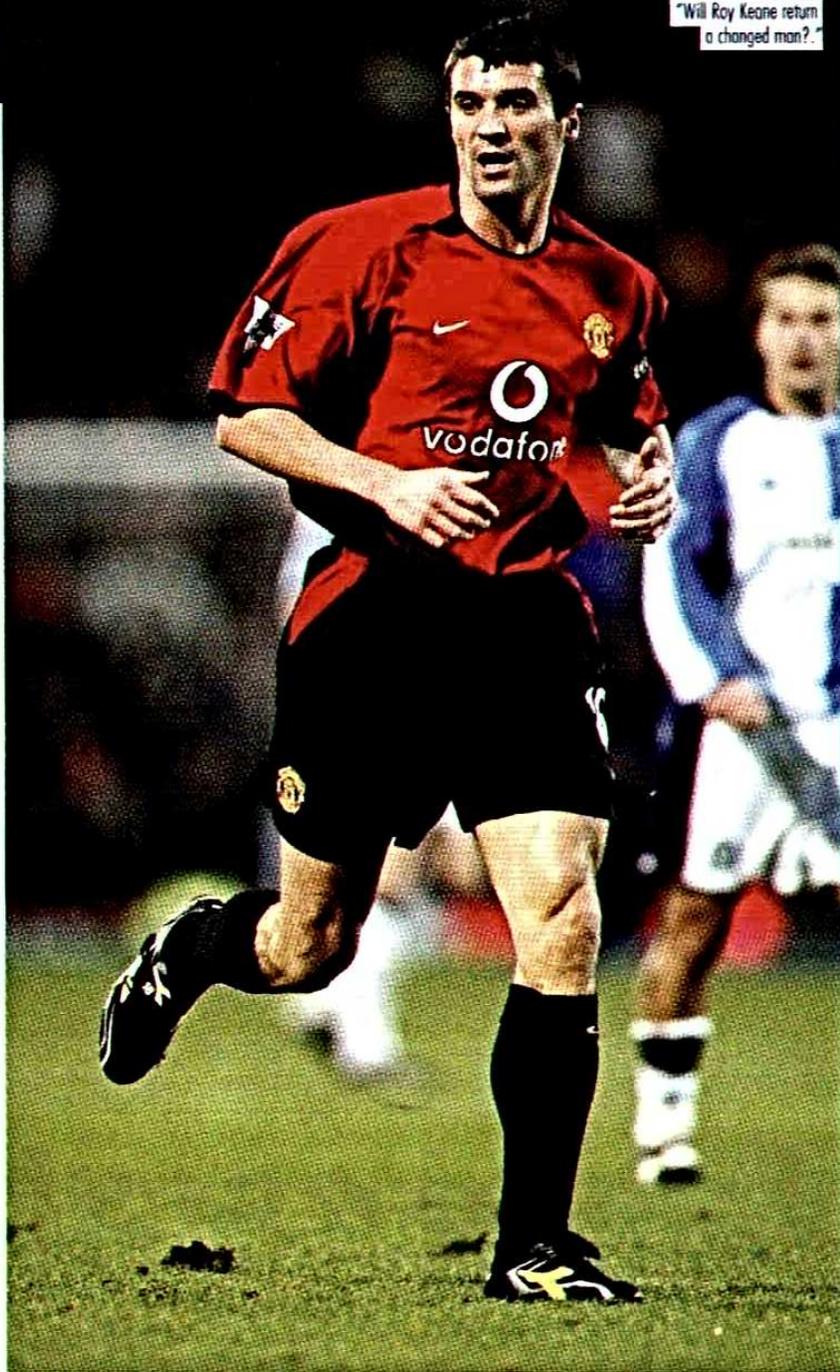
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"Will Roy Keane return a changed man?"

So the start of a New Year is upon us and the turkey has finally been eaten. All the joys of a family Christmas have been enjoyed/suffered (delete as appropriate), and the Christmas fixtures have thrown up its' usual mix of bizarre results.

So what have we to look forward to in the coming 12 months? With my clairvoyant powers, I am able to look into my crystal ball to tell you that the following will definitely happen....

1. After a close, sometimes, brutal encounter England will finally beat Australia after a brilliant performance by the captain. No, not the Ashes but an International friendly in February.
2. Alex Ferguson will be gracious in defeat and admit that Man Utd's opponents were worthy of their hard-earned victory.
3. Arsene Wenger will actually see a dirty foul committed by one of his players.
4. Sven Goran Erikson will finally know his best team and find a solution to the left side of midfield problem.
5. Gerard Houllier will dip into the transfer market and buy two wingers, to help his team play with flair and width.
6. Roy Keane will return a changed man. A gentleman both on and off the pitch, he plays with a smile on his face and is not booked for the remainder of the season.
7. 'Gazza' returns to the premier league and is a revelation. His form bringing him a place in the England squad.
8. Howard Wilkinson will keep Sunderland in the Premiership by playing a brand of free flowing attractive football that wins him the Manager of the Year award.
9. Wayne Rooney will disappear back into obscurity and we never hear of him again.
10. Andy Gray will get himself a new suit and stop wearing that garish pinstripe on Monday night football.



HELEN WINGROVE



BBC RADIO SWINDON

11. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank will play with a smile on his face and wins the 'club man of the year' at Chelsea's end of season bash.
12. Harry Redknapp decides to keep a settled squad, and makes no more transfer deals at Portsmouth.
13. Swindon have an amazing run of form and force their way into an

automatic promotion spot.
14. Wimbledon have a fantastic run in the FA cup, knocking out several Premiership teams and then sell out their full allocation for the final.

Mmmmm, maybe I should try and get a new crystal ball in the sales. This one is obviously faulty.

CLASSIC DERBIES REVISITED



To walk near Stanley Park on the day of a game between Liverpool and Everton is to experience a scene very different from others in football. The streets are a sea of colour, people bounce merrily along the roads and pavements, and songs are sung that start at one end of the street and end at the other. Pubs too are designated either Everton or Liverpool, and are decorated in the appropriate colour. Whilst it is fair to say that if you are a fan of the opposing team, you'd be best advised to stay clear, for those supporting the right team, life is sweet. The bars are packed with people vying to buy each other a drink and pints are raised to the sky in hope of a 5-0 thrashing. The streets are divided: You are either Everton or blue or Liverpool and red. There is no middle ground. What is remarkable on these occasions is the unity of the fans. To the outsider they seem to be acting as one. The Evertonians take their place away from the Liverpoolians and the

Liverpudlians do the same. Masses of fans from the same side flock in unity towards the pubs and then on to the ground. The scene is like one from a well-rehearsed war film in which armies march in to combat towards the battlefield. Perhaps the reason for why these events seem to be so well structured is the close proximity of the two clubs' stadiums. Anfield is sat on the top of a hill, at the bottom of which, only a kilometre away, is Goodison Park. It is within the walls of Anfield, originally owned by Everton FC, that both teams began their life. However in 1893, five years after Everton were founded, a boardroom dispute led to the team and its officials storming out of Anfield never to return. John Houlding, the owner of Anfield, realised that his stadium no longer had a team to fill it and wasted no time in establishing a new club that took the name of Liverpool. He hurriedly brought in eleven new players from the Scottish community, and began a

BEN LEACH RETURNS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A DERBY CLOSER TO HOME, ONE THAT TOWN'S 'GAFFER' CAN CERTAINLY RELATE TO! YEP, THIS WEEK IT'S THE LIVERPOOL V EVERTON MERSEYSIDE MATCH-UP. NOW WHO SCORED THE WINNER FOR EVERTON BACK IN 19....



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard tries to power a free-kick past the Everton defensive wall.

new existence, a new allegiance (for Scotland and Liverpool FC) and a new rivalry.

The rivalry between Everton and Liverpool quickly became as competitive as we now know it to be. Each team became determined to out-perform the other and the rivalry became more and more heated as the conflict grew. On the contemporary side Liverpool can perhaps claim to be the more appraised club. Their trophy cabinet is the largest in England, having won a record 18 league titles, four European Cups, three UEFA cups and six FA Cups. Without a doubt they are the most successful side in English footballing history. Yet make this claim to any Evertonian and they will defend their heritage until blue in the face. Although their trophy cabinet is not as large or impressive, their history has been perhaps the most consistent of any English team.

Everton can make a claim to having been there or thereabouts for most of the century. They won their first of their nine championships in 1891 and several more in the years leading up to the 1920's and 1930's. Between 1927-28 Dixie Dean set a record of 60 goals in one season. To this day the record still stands. These goals came in the middle of a period in which, along with a team from London who called themselves Arsenal FC, Everton dominated. Since the thirties and forties, Everton have rarely been out of the top ten let alone out of the top division (the past ten years are not included!). In fact both teams, and perhaps the Merseyside area in general, could make a bold claim at being the top region in English football, due (with no disrespect to Tranmere) almost entirely to the successes of Liverpool and Everton. In a new twist of fate, it's the blue half of Everton that currently sit above the reds in the league table. Under David Moyes (and

with a bit of help from Wayne Rooney) the Toffees are enjoying their most fruitful season in recent years.

Whilst Liverpool is probably not the most touristy of cities it is clear to any visitor that the city eats, sleeps and breathes football. It is set in the windswept and rain trodden northwest of England, where two hundred years ago thousands of Irish labourers landed in hope of finding work. The city fortified its place as one of the focal points within the Industrial revolution and today the city remains almost as working class as it ever has been. Perhaps it is for this reason that the Merseyside derby matters so much. As clubs founded in the midst of this working class environment, Everton FC and Liverpool FC have become embedded in the identities of the population of Liverpool. Perhaps only now, with multi-million pound foreign signings commonplace, are we beginning to lose sight of this.

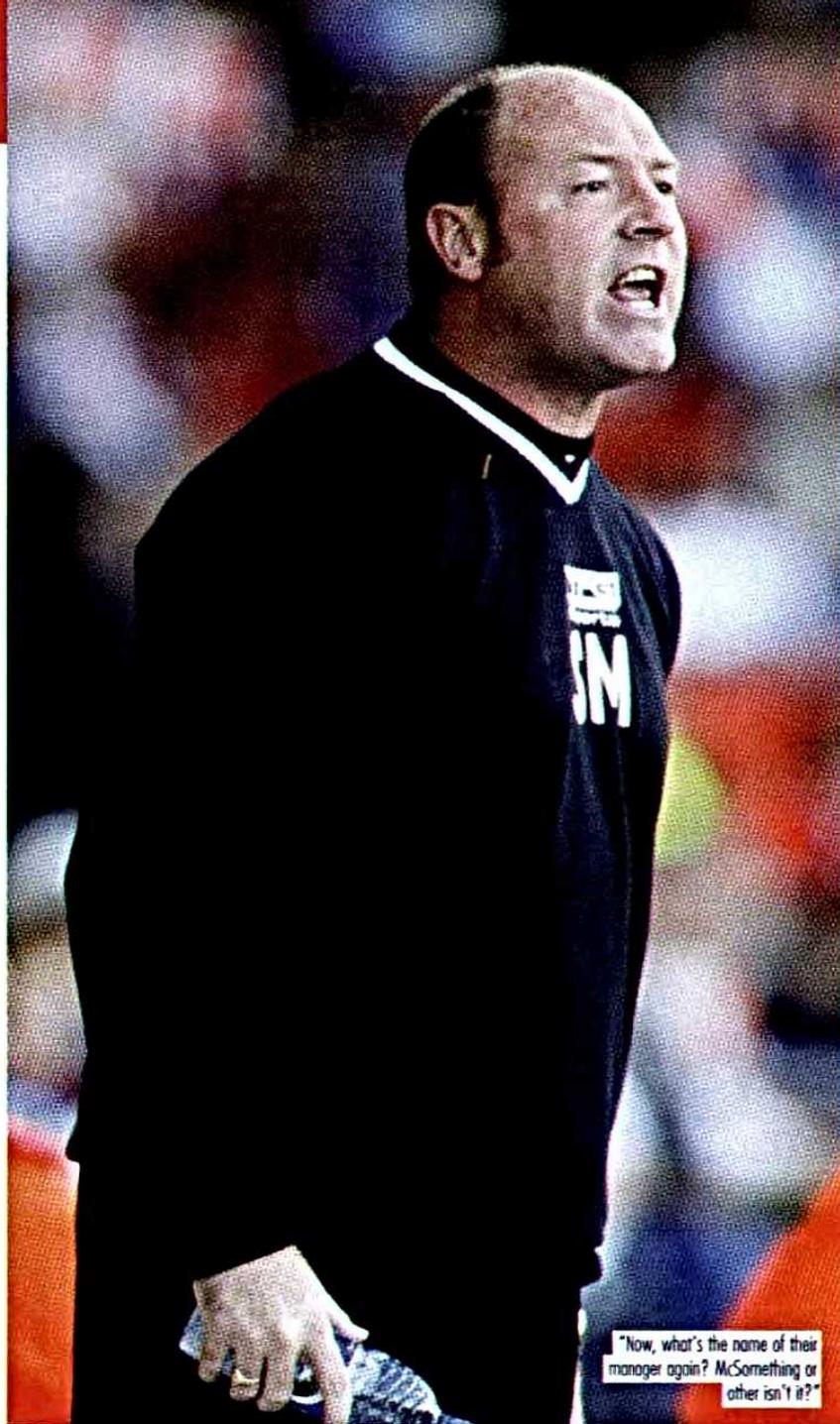
There's no escaping the fact that most of us would rather this fixture was not taking place today.

Sorry to start on such a gloomy note but you can't help but wonder what might have been. An FA Cup trip to Highbury and some titanic battles on the pitch. Thierry Henry against Matty Heywood, Sol Campbell against Sam Parkin. It would have been a fantastic chance for the lads to shine. Still, it wasn't to be and with no sour grapes whatsoever, we can only hope that Oxford suffer a humiliating pasting at Highbury today. But then with quarter of million pounds (plus) guaranteed from the game, Ian Atkins and his directors probably won't care what the score is.

I will not begin to kid you that these notes were penned the night before. I hope and pray that we had a great Christmas and a cracking start to the New Year. But whatever has happened over the festive period, today's match is clearly important. Cast your mind back to a warm August evening to a ram shackle stadium in Derbyshire.

The season had started with a Sam Parkin hat trick against Barnsley and hopes were high as we headed north to face the Spireites. It was the stuff of dreams. Three-nil up at half time, 4-2 winners and top of the league. Surely it couldn't last? Sadly, it didn't. But what has really changed since that night? We have lost Jimmy Davis (who only came on as a substitute) but the same squad of players is still in tact. There is no reason why the second half of the campaign should be a struggle. Money may be tight but at least the transfer embargo has been lifted and Andy is at last able to bring some loan players in. Today's game sees yet another installment of the Reeves v Reeves saga. Let's hope it's Alan who comes out on top today (judge for yourself on page 54-55).

Chesterfield already look well on the way to securing mid-table comfort, something Town will be hoping to do at the earliest opportunity (again, apologies if the results against



"Now, what's the name of their manager again? McSomething or other isn't it?"

JON RITSON



EVENING ADVERTISER

Brentford, Wigan and Cardiff dramatically change the picture).

But whatever happens today, let's just hope that 2003 brings some happier times for Swindon Town. Both 2001 and 2002 were riddled with fear, anger, confrontation and that cannot be allowed to continue. Let's hope it's football that dominates the headlines

for the next 12 months. Anyway, get behind the boys today and really make some noise. Then it's back here in a week's time for a game against Blackpool. Now, what's the name of their manager again? McSomething or other isn't it? Popular chap in these parts isn't he? Or am I thinking of someone else? Come On You Reds!

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By way of extra bonus for the support we have received in recent weeks, at today's match we will for the very first time, award a second prize of two match tickets for next weeks game against Blackpool. Payment to the first prize winner today will not be affected by the award of this second prize. We will still pay the main winning ticket, a prize of 50% of the tickets sold.

Ian Ratcliffe

Some fans may be aware that

Ian, who is Chairman of our disabled group, had to undergo a major operation just before Christmas. Ian is very much in our thoughts and we are pleased to report that his recuperation appears to be on track. Hopefully it will not be too long before we see him returning to the County Ground.

Just before his hospitalisation, Ian was invited to visit the changing rooms prior to a match and had a great time with Andy King and the team. Thanks to everyone for allowing this visit. It was a great boost.

Programme shop

We have recently been delighted to receive a donation of £400 from Mike Skinner's sterling efforts in running the shop. The programme shop can be found within the building housing the away travel organisation and is open prior to matches. Why don't you pay it a visit?

Sales are not limited to just STFC programmes, There are many different club programmes

available, running from non-league through to the highest levels. There are also programmes relating to this season and many historical items. If any fans out there have programmes gathering dust in the attic and you would like to donate them to the shop, Mike would be delighted to hear from you.

Forthcoming events

We hope to include in next week's programme details of our event programme for the New Year including more fan road shows and other fund raising activities.

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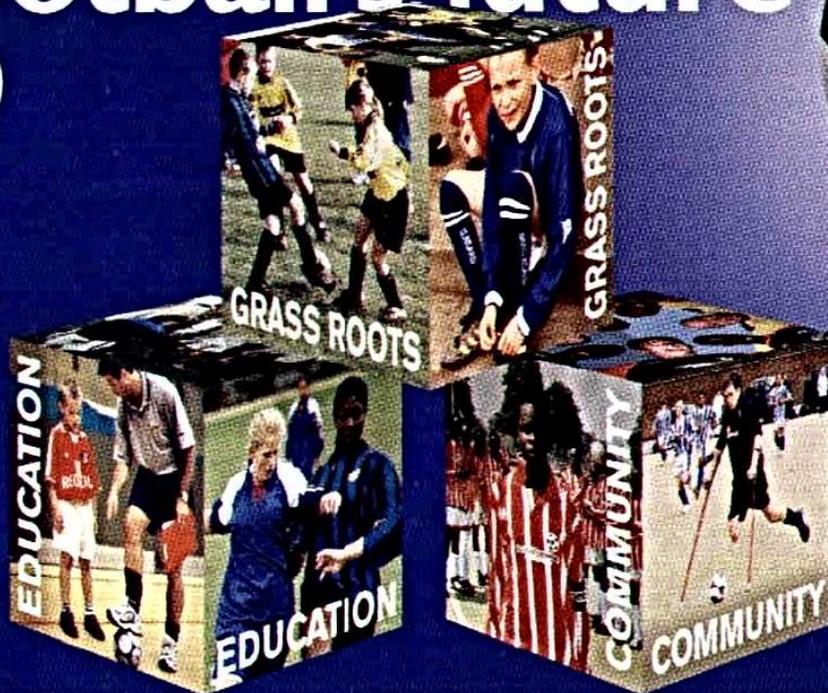
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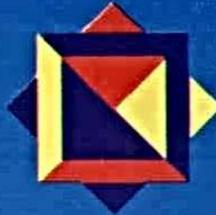
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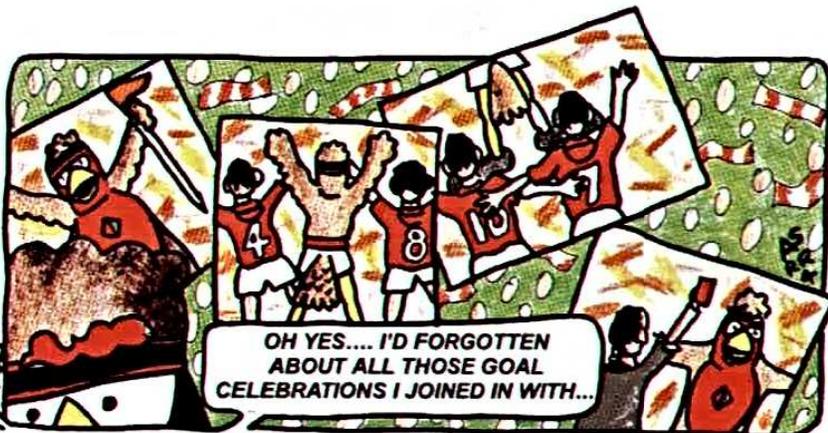


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by Alyn



HEAD 2

**THE TWO BROTHERS
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ALAN REEVES

Height **6'**

Weight **12.00**

Date of birth **19-11-1967**

Clubs **Swindon, Wimbledon,
Rochdale, Chester, Gillingham,
Norwich, Hessewell**

Apps (Swindon) **169**

Goals (Swindon) **10**



LARA

2 HEAD

REEVES GO HEAD TO AFTERNOON, BUT OUT ON TOP?

DAVID REEVES

Height **6'**

Weight **11.05**

Date of birth **20-11-1967**

Clubs **Chesterfield, Oldham, Preston, Carlisle, Notts County, Bolton, Burnley, Scunthorpe, Heswell, Sheff Wed**

Apps (Chesterfield) **216**

Goals (Chesterfield) **57**


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STFC LADIES - THE SEASON SO FAR

THE TOWN LADIES RUN SIX TEAMS; TWO SENIOR SIDES AND FOUR FOR YOUNGER GIRLS AND AT THE HALF WAY STAGE OF THE SEASON, WE FELT IT A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW THE CLUBS' PROGRESS.

The senior side play in the South West Combination League and coach Neil Ashman says that the team started the season with several new players as six of the regular players from last season had moved away or retired. The 'new' team took time to settle but performances and results are improving. The side has been hampered by a long lay off due to opponents being involved in other cup competitions and Town have only played one league game since the start of October. The biggest disappointment was the FA Cup defeat at Oxford (sounds familiar) and Neil feels that if the side continues to improve the best is yet to come. The Reserves compete in the Wiltshire County League and are currently in third spot with three games in hand of the other clubs. Manager John White is pleased with the team's performance as he is forced to make weekly changes to the personnel. Several youngsters have progressed from junior football and are now regular members of the squad. The best performances have been saved for the matches against second place Chippenham Town as John's side have won both the home and away games. In addition to the league the team are still in the League Cup.

The Under 14 11-a-Side team play in the Surrey Primary League and are second on goal difference. Ian Keene has been impressive with quality of football that they've played and even against the more robust sides they have stuck to their game. The number of chances that are being put away is increasing and goals are coming from throughout the team. The Under 14 seven-a-Side team is run by John White and is part of the Wiltshire County League. The team are currently mid-table as the side have had several new players and girls that have moved up from the Under 12's.

The Under 12's play in the Wiltshire County Seven-a-Side League and are currently in third place. Stuart White's side have won three out of the four games played. He has about twenty players signed on and rotates the side to ensure that everyone gets a game. The best result of the season so far was completing the double over Swindon Spitfires. The Under 10's side have been training regularly since the summer and are now playing in friendlies and tournaments. Martin Coe is full of praise for the way that the girls have developed their game and their attitude.

Town Fans Air Views at Boxing Day AGM

Both Town's board and its shareholders agreed that the future is looking brighter for the club following the AGM ten days ago.

With the board divulging its plans for the future, Town's shareholders also aired their views in what was a positive Annual General Meeting in the Winners Lounge – the general consensus that both the club and its fans should work together to give the club a brighter future. Bob Holt (Director who will largely focus on the litigation), Willie Carson (Director who continues to help attract investors), James Wills (Director), Sandy Gray (Company Secretary, working closely with outstanding accounts) and Mark Devlin (Director – and day to day overseer) were all overwhelmingly voted onto the board before the floor had the opportunity to air any other business.

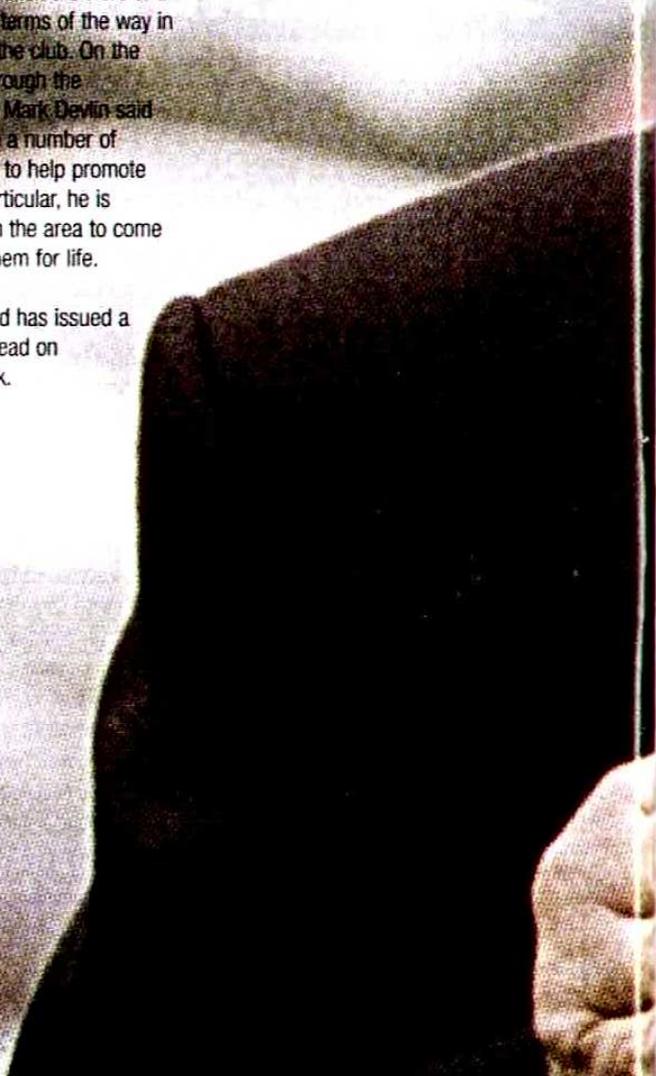
The first question raised was that of the debenture and the latest regarding the club's position, to which Bob Holt answered that a hearing is to be held in June. Holt also explained that the Club had, in October, won an injunction against the holders of the debenture that prevented them from activating it. That now means that the club has until June to strengthen its case and Holt admitted that they are collating more and more evidence which hopefully, will make the club's case stronger. Then, predictably, the Board was asked about its position regarding a member of the

STFCTrust on the board. Justin Tomlinson's name had been proposed by TrustSTFC, and Bob Holt agreed that should the right candidate come forward, then the club will have no problem in allowing them to be put forward. He also explained however, that any candidate would have to be agreed to by the board, and the Wills family (who have in excess of 60% worth of shares in the club). Holt admitted that the Wills family were unlikely to want anything changed at the moment, and that an EGM (due to be held in January) would be a better time to look at the option.

Holt also enthused that the club had been working closely with a number of investors with regards the club's position in the future. He hinted that the Board had been speaking to four potential investors, with one in particular very interested in working closely with the Football Club. More details will be divulged in the EGM.

Other issues addressed included Neil Ruddock and ways in which the club could encourage supporters to actively get more fans through the door. The finer details of the Neil Ruddock issue could not be disclosed for legal reasons, but shareholders were told that work was ongoing in terms of the way in which he was brought to the club. On the subject of fans coming through the turnstiles, Chief Executive Mark Devlin said that it was his plan to use a number of initiatives in the New Year to help promote bigger attendances. In particular, he is hoping to entice kids from the area to come along in a bid to attract them for life.

Since the AGM - the Board has issued a statement which can be read on www.swindontownfc.co.uk.





TOWN STATISTICS 2002/03

STFC FACT FILE

KICK-OFF 3PM SATURDAYS, 7.45PM MIDWEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

DATE	FIXTURE	RES	ATT	POS
Sat 10 Aug	Barnsley	Home	3-1	6,120 4
Tue 13 Aug	Chesterfield	Away	4-2	3,189 1
Sat 17 Aug	Blackpool	Away	0-0	6,404 2
Sat 24 Aug	Cardiff City	Home	0-1	7,564 5
Mon 26 Aug	Brentford	Away	1-3	6,299 10
Sat 31 Aug	Stockport County	Home	0-1	5,456 18
Sat 7 Sep	Port Vale	Home	1-2	5,029 19
Wed 11 Sep	Wycombe W (WC 1)	Home	1-2 ST	2,993 N/A
Sat 14 Sep	QPR	Away	0-2	11,619 20
Tue 17 Sep	Cheltenham Town	Away	0-2	5,761 21
Sat 21 Sep	Northampton Town	Home	2-0	4,719 17
Sat 28 Sep	Luton Town	Away	0-3	6,393 21
Sat 5 Oct	Oldham Athletic	Home	0-1	4,326 21
Sat 12 Oct	Colchester United	Home	2-2	4,152 22
Sat 19 Oct	Bristol City	Away	0-2	13,205 22
Sat 22 Oct	Southend United (LDV1)	Home	6-1	1,747 N/A
Sat 26 Oct	Mansfield Town	Home	2-1	4,136 21
Tue 29 Oct	Notts County	Away	1-1	4,797 21
Sat 2 Nov	Wycombe Wanderers	Away	3-2	6,021 17
Sat 9 Nov	Tranmere Rovers	Home	1-1	5,077 18
Tue 12 Nov	Kidderminster (LDV2)	Away	2-3 ^W	1,322 N/A
Sat 16 Nov	Huddersfield Town (FAC1)	Home	1-0	4,210 N/A
Sat 23 Nov	Huddersfield Town	Away	3-2	8,334 17
Sat 30 Nov	Peterborough Utd	Home	1-1	4,709 17
Sun 8 Dec	Oxford United(FACup2)	Away	0-1	11,645 N/A
Sat 14 Dec	Plymouth Argyle	Away	1-1	8,111 18
Sat 21 Dec	Crewe Alexandra	Home	1-3	4,957 18
Thur 26 Dec	Brentford	Home	2-0	6,045 15
Sat 28 Dec	Wigan Athletic	Away	0-2	6,114 15
Wed 1 Jan	Cardiff City	Away	1-1	13,062 16
Sat 4 Jan	Chesterfield	Home		30
Sat 11 Jan	Blackpool	Home		
Sat 18 Jan	Stockport County	Away		
Sat 25 Jan	Wigan Athletic	Home		
Sat 1 Feb	Barnsley	Away		
Sat 8 Feb	Tranmere Rovers	Away		
Sat 15 Feb	Wycombe Wanderers	Home		
Sat 22 Feb	Port Vale	Away		
Sat 1 Mar	QPR	Home		
Wed 5 Mar	Cheltenham Town	Home	(7.45)	
Sat 8 Mar	Northampton Town	Away		
Sat 15 Mar	Mansfield Town	Away		
Wed 19 Mar	Bristol City	Home	(7.45)	
Sat 22 Mar	Notts County	Home		
Sat 29 Mar	Colchester United	Away		
Sat 5 Apr	Peterborough United	Away		
Sat 12 Apr	Huddersfield Town	Home		
Sat 19 Apr	Crewe Alexandra	Away		
Wed 23 Apr	Plymouth Argyle	Home	(7.45)	
Sat 26 Apr	Oldham Athletic	Away		
Sat 3rd May	Luton Town	Home		

THE KEY FAC = F.A CUP WC = WORTHINGTON CUP DENOTES SCORER *DENOTES BOOKING

Griemink	Edds	Duke	Heywood*	Willis	Hewlett	Robinson	Miglioranzi	Invincible					
Griemink	Edds	Duke	Heywood	Willis	Hewlett	Robinson*	Miglioranzi	Invincible					
Griemink	Edds	Duke*	Heywood	Willis	Davis	Robinson	Miglioranzi*	Invincible					
Griemink	Edds	Willis	Gurney	Heywood	Duke*	Davis*	Miglioranzi	Robinson					
Griemink	Edds	Willis*	Heywood	Duke	Gurney	Miglioranzi	Robinson	Sabin*					
Griemink	Edds	Duke	Heywood	Reeves	Gurney	Robinson	Miglioranzi	Sabin					
Griemink	Edds	Heywood	Reeves	Duke	Miglioranzi	Gurney ¹	Robinson*	Davis*					
Griemink	Gurney	Willis ¹	Heywood	Duke*	Hewlett*	Miglioranzi	Robinson*	Davis					
Griemink	Gurney	Reeves*	Heywood	Duke	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Jackson	Robinson					
Griemink	Edds*	Gurney*	Heywood	Duke	Invincible	Robinson	Hewlett	Jackson					
Griemink	Gurney	Willis	Heywood	Duke*	Jackson ¹	Hewlett	Robinson	Invincible					
Griemink	Gurney	Heywood	Willis*	Duke	Robinson	Hewlett	Jackson	Invincible					
Griemink	Gurney*	Willis	Heywood	Reeves	Duke	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Jackson					
Griemink	Duke	Heywood	Reeves ¹	Gurney	Jackson	Hewlett	Robinson	Invincible					
Griemink	Gurney	Heywood	Reeves	Duke	Robinson	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Invincible					
Griemink	Willis	Gurney	Heywood ¹	Edds	Miglioranzi ¹	Jackson ¹	Davis ¹	Duke					
Griemink	Gurney	Heywood	Reeves	Duke	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Jackson	Davis					
Griemink	Gurney	Reeves	Heywood	Duke	Robinson*	Hewlett	Jackson	Sabin					
Griemink	Heywood	Gurney	Reeves	Davis ¹	Robinson	Jackson	Hewlett*	Duke					
Griemink	Duke	Heywood	Reeves	Gurney*	Jackson	Hewlett	Robinson	Invincible					
Farr	Edds	Willis	Reeves	Heywood	Jackson	Robinson	Miglioranzi	Young					
Griemink	Duke	Heywood	Reeves	Gurney ¹	Jackson	Hewlett	Robinson	Invincible					
Griemink	Duke ¹	Heywood	Reeves*	Gurney ^{1*}	Jackson	Hewlett	Robinson*	Miglioranzi					
Griemink	Gurney	Duke	Heywood*	Reeves	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Jackson	Sabin					
Griemink	Edds	Heywood*	Reeves	Duke	Miglioranzi	Hewlett*	Jackson	Sabin					
Griemink*	Gurney ¹	Heywood	Reeves	Duke*	Miglioranzi	Hewlett	Robinson*	Invincible					
Griemink	Gurney	Duke	Heywood	Reeves	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Robinson	Sabin*					
Griemink	Gurney ^{1*}	Duke	Heywood	Reeves	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Robinson	Invincible					
Griemink	Gurney	Marney	Heywood	Reeves	Hewlett*	Miglioranzi	Robinson	Invincible					
Griemink	Gurney*	Heywood	Reeves	Duke	Hewlett	Miglioranzi	Robinson	Marney*					

TODAY'S MASCOTS



A warm welcome to today's mascot, Henry Finnegan. Henry, from Swindon, is nine years old and as well as supporting the Town, he also likes Manchester United. Needless to say that his favourite player is David Beckham, Henry also plays for his school team (Wanborough School) and Croft under 10s.



Last week we failed to mention that we had two other mascots against Brentford. Stuart Tarrett, who is 56 years young and lives in Axminster, Devon, is an avid Town fan and was pleasantly surprised when his family gave him a Mascot package.



Along with Stuart was Lee Coombes who attends Lavington School. Lee was 12 on December 29 and he plays football for Worton and Cheverell under 12s as a goalkeeper. Lee's favourite Grandad is Stadium Manager, Ron Topp and he has been a massive Town fan for years.



SWINDON

Manager **Andy King**

CHESTERFIELD

Manager **Dave Rushbury**

✓ = PROBABLE STARTING LINE-UP

BART GRIEMINK ✓	1	✓	CARL MUGGLETON
GARETH EDDS	2	✓	MARTYN BOOTY
DEAN MARNEY	3	✓	ROB EDWARDS
MATTHEW HEWLETT ✓	4		KEVIN DAWSON
ADAM WILLIS	5	✓	STEVE BLATHERWICK
ANDREW GURNEY ✓	6	✓	STUART HOWSON
KEITH O'HALLORAN	7	✓	STEVE PAYNE
	8		JAMIE BURT
SAM PARKIN ✓	9	✓	GLYN HURST
STEFANI MIGLIORANZI ✓	10	✓	MARCUS EBDON
DAVID DUKE ✓	11		MARK INNES
JUAN COBIAN	12		CARL HADFIELD
	13		
ERIC SABIN	14	✓	CHRIS BRANDON
DAREN DYKES	15		KEITH ROWLAND
LUKE NIGHTINGALE ✓	16		DAVID D'AURIA
DANIEL INVINCIBILE ✓	17	✓	ANDY RICHMOND
CRAIG FARR	18		ANDY RUSHBURY
MATTHEW HEYWOOD ✓	19	✓	GARETH DAVIES
ALAN JUDGE	20		JON HOWARD
DAVID BAMPTON	21	✓	MARK ALLOTT
ALAN REEVES ✓	22		
NATHAN EDWARDS	23		DAVID REEVES
KEVIN HALLIDAY	24		JOHN WILKINSON
STEVE ROBINSON ✓	25		ADAM SMITH
	26		ALAN O'HARE
	27		
STEVE SMITH	28		
ALAN YOUNG	29		
CHRIS COLLINS	30		STEPHEN WARNE
	33		LEE RICHARDSON
	41		

MATCHDAY SPONSOR

MUSIC SUPPLIER

GREENHAM



SPONSOR

KIT SUPPLIER

PROBABLE STARTING LINE-UP

FORM GUIDE

TOWN'S

Last 10 Home League Results

L-L-L-W-L-D-W-D-D-L

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	2	3	5	10	13

CHESTERFIELD'S

Last 10 Away League Results

W-L-D-W-L-L-L-L-L-L

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	2	1	7	4	13

LAST COUNTY GROUND MEETING

Saturday February 26 2002

**Swindon Town 2
Chesterfield 1**

MEN IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: **S. G. Tomlinson**
Assistant 1: **A. D. Sainsbury**
Assistant 2: **S. J. Tanner**
4th Official: **J. Flynn**

See off the Seasideers

Help the King's men see off Steve McMahon's Blackpool side next Saturday by getting behind the Town. For more information log on to www.swindontownfc.co.uk, or call the Ticket Office on **01793 333777**.



09068 121640

news updates, match commentaries and all the latest ticket information

*Calls charged at 60p at all times

