



100 Years at Edgeley Park



Nationwide League Division Two
Stockport County v Swindon Town

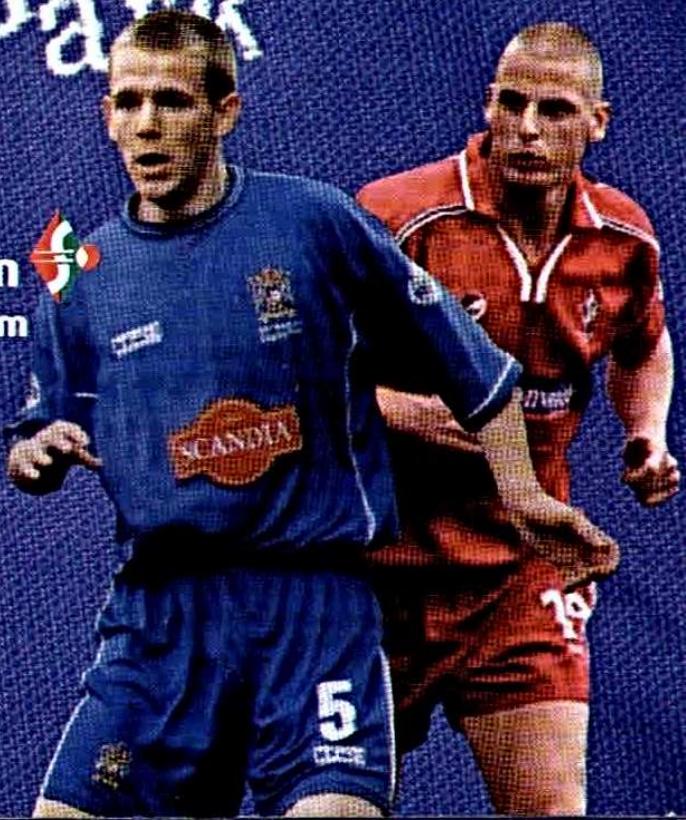
Saturday 18th January 2003 - Kick Off 3.00pm



Match Sponsor:
Day & Zimmermann
Club Sponsor:



Official Matchday Magazine - £2.00



May I start my note today by explaining why I have allowed Ben Burgess to go on loan to Oldham and why I've sold Neil Ross and Keith Briggs.

As far as Ben is concerned, although he was improving, I don't think he was doing as well as we would have liked. I was going to leave him out last Saturday at Notts County before it was called off and I then got a call from Iain Dowie.

Sometimes you go to a club and things don't work out for you so we thought it would be beneficial for Ben, and us, to see how he does in a different environment.

I looked long and hard at Briggsy's situation. He's on good money for the Second Division and if he's not in the team then he's an expensive substitute. He's good cover in a lot of positions but, unfortunately, the positions I think he's suited to, which is right back or right midfield, are currently occupied. I thought the offer from Norwich was a good offer and we've built in a 30% sell-on clause should he move on.

With Rossy I always knew that once Alby was fit then, unfortunately, he'd be surplus to requirements. Macclesfield have paid us good money and to be quite honest, we had to take it.

I'd like to wish Keith and Neil all the best at their new

A PIECE OF palmer

THE VIEWS OF COUNTY BOSS CARLTON PALMER

clubs. I hope Ben is a big success at Boundary Park as well because the door certainly isn't closed on him here at Edgeley Park. Today is a very important game for us. I've said to the



▲ Martin Pemberton... straight replacement for Anthony Tonkin.

players that we don't want to get dragged into the bottom four.

I've also told them to keep working hard and keep trying to pass the ball and hopefully things will begin to go our way. I don't think we could be a little bit of luck at the moment.

Like us, Swindon have a striker who has scored most of their goals. Sam Parkin is a handful, that's for sure, but so is Luke and to be honest, it's not a habit of mine to talk too much about the opposition.

I'm much more concerned about what we do. It's going to be a difficult game, we know that, but we will approach it in the right way. We need to produce the form we showed in our last game at Queens Park Rangers when our performance had everything but a goal.

Once again, though, luck went against us when they were awarded a penalty. It was never a penalty and I know people are telling me to stop talking about the official but what else can I do?

It wasn't a penalty and the video clearly proved that.

"I'm much more concerned about what we do. It's going to be a difficult game, we know that, but we will approach it in the right way."

The decision, though, cost us a point and the lads were absolutely gutted.

On a positive note, though, when I looked around the dressing room after the game everyone was as sick as me and that's probably the first time this season that's happened.

To me that's a good sign that shows what we are doing is heading in the right direction.

We will need to make a couple of changes this afternoon. Jon Daly will start in place of Burgess and Martin Pemberton will be a straight replacement for Anthony Tonkin who is suspended after collecting his fifth yellow card of the season against Port Vale. Please get behind the team from the first whistle. Your vocal support is so important and very much appreciated.

Carlton



▲ Jon Daly will start in place of Ben Burgess.



T.N. ROBINSON LTD
WHOLESALE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS

Registered Office: Daw Bank, Stockport SK3 0EH.

Telephone: 0161 480 9141 Fax: 0161 429 8010

**ELECTRICAL SUPPLIERS
TO STOCKPORT COUNTY
FOOTBALL CLUB**



SECOND string

GEOFF THOMAS' RESERVE REPORT



Aaron ▶
Wilbraham...
immediate
impact.

The freezing weather put paid to County's home match on January 8th against Rochdale. Only one game took place in the week when Doncaster Rovers drew 2-2 with Chesterfield and County remain in fourth place in the League.

Cheshire Cup Senior Cup

The next game for the reserves is the Semi Final of the Cheshire FA Unibond Senior Cup when Conference side Northwich Victoria visit Edgeley Park next Wednesday January 22nd for a 7.15pm start. County's route to the Semi Final saw a 1-1 draw at Nantwich Town on September 16, 2002, where David Holt scored the Hatters' equaliser. Holt gave County the lead in the replay at Edgeley Park seven days later with Kevin Ellison scoring the winner five minutes from the end. In the Second Round Chester City won 3-1 after extra time at Edgeley Park on November 4, 2002. However, the Deva Stadium outfit were expelled from the

◀ Craig Madden
reserve team
manager.

competition for playing Chris Tate, who was on loan from Leyton Orient, as the rules of the competition do not allow teams to play loan players. Neil Ross was on the mark after 30 minutes to give County the lead but goals by Tate and two from Danny Byrne in the extra half hour gave the Seasiders the win.

The Vics had to start in the Preliminary Round with a 3-1 win at Ewen Fields against Hyde United. Manager Jimmy Quinn gave the visitors an early lead before ex-County reserve Lee Evans scored the Tigers' equaliser. Northwich won the game with two goals from Greg Blundell in the last two minutes. In the First Round the Vics won 2-1 at Wincham Park against Stalybridge Celtic with two second half goals from Garvey. In the Second Round Northwich won 3-0 at Winsford United to qualify for the Semi Final with goals from David McNiven, Rickie Norris and a Jimmy Quinn penalty.

Duo Depart

Two of the reserve team squad have left the club recently after being informed they are not in County's plans for next season. One is Jon Scragg who joined the club's Centre of Excellence at 13 and was in his first year as a professional. The other is Mark Byrne who joined County last season from Blackburn Rovers after impressing for the youth team. He was given an 18-month contract and played five times for the first team.

Blackpool 2 County Reserves 4

Aaron Wilbraham made an immediate impact when he made his first appearance of the season at Bloomfield Road on Wednesday afternoon.

The big striker came off the bench to replace David Holt with 30 minutes remaining to set up two goals as the Hatters came from behind to complete the double over the Seasiders.

With the scores locked at 2-2 Wilbraham was brought down on the edge of the box by Tommy Jaszcun and Rickie Lambert scored against his former club, curling the resultant free kick past the helpless Mark Russell in the home goal.

And five minutes from time Lambert added his second, and County's fourth, after Wilbraham had laid a cross from Chris Williams into his path.

Martin Pemberton had given County a 24th minute lead when he pounced on the loose ball after Russell could only parry Peter Wild's shot.



▲ Rickie Lambert... scored against his former club.

The Seasiders were back on level terms, though, within two minutes when Lee Collins released Scott Taylor and the former County striker ran on to beat Ben Copinger.

Eight minutes after the break Paul Dalglish gave the Tangerines the lead from the edge of the box.

But thoughts of avenging their 5-1 hammering at Edgeley Park earlier in the season disappeared within four minutes when Williams scored from the spot after he'd been upended by John O'Kane.



RESERVES APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2002-03

| | Lge | Gls | Cup | Gls |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Damian Allen | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Jamie Baguley | 1+1 | 0 | 0+1 | 0 |
| Mat Bailey | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Sean Brolly | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Keith Briggs | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ben Burgess | 2 | 1 | | |
| Mark Byrne | 1+2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Danny Campbell | | | 0+2 | 0 |
| Michael Carter | | | | 0+1 |
| Rob Clare | 1 | 0 | | |
| Ben Copinger | 2 | 0 | | |
| Jon Daly | 4 | 2 | | |
| Haydn Eames | 1+3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Ryan Elderton | 6+3 | 1 | 1+1 | 0 |
| Kevin Ellison | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Karin Fadi | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Jim Goodwin | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Glyn Hancock | 2 | 0 | | |
| John Hardaker | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| David Holt | 3+2 | 0 | 2+1 | 2 |
| Anthony Kiethy | 9 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Michael Ingham | 2 | 0 | | |
| Lee Jones | 1 | 0 | | |
| Rickie Lambert | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Aaron Lescott | 3 | 0 | | |
| Fraser McLachlan | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Michael O'Brien | 1+3 | 0 | 1+2 | 0 |
| Carlton Palmer | 1 | 0 | | |
| Martin Pemberton | 3 | 1 | | |
| Mark Prudhoe | 1 | 0 | | |
| Neil Ross | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Jon Scragg | 2+3 | 0 | | |
| James Spencer | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Andrew Thomas | 10 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Anthony Tonkin | 1 | 0 | | |
| Gareth Walsh | 4+1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Oliver Warriner | 1 | 0 | | |
| Andy Welsh | 2 | 0 | | |
| Aaron Wilbraham | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Peter Wild | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Chris Williams | 3+2 | 1 | 0+1 | 0 |
| James Womack | 2 | 0 | | |
| Own Goals | | 2 | | |

AVON INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 WEST

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | PTS |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Stoke City | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 11 | 20 |
| Rochdale | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 15 | 19 |
| Shrewsbury Town | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 12 | 17 |
| COUNTY | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 16 | 17 |
| Wigan Athletic | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 11 | 14 |
| Wrexham | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 19 | 21 | 12 |
| Doncaster Rovers | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 21 | 11 |
| Macclesfield Town | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 9 |
| Chesterfield | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 28 | 4 |
| Blackpool | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 3 |

Up to and including January 25th



CM



The youth team's two League games in 2003 have been postponed due to frozen pitches. The Tranmere Rovers game has been rearranged for Monday February 5 with a 1pm start at Timperley. The away game at Bury is still to be arranged.

County 3 Lancaster City 2

Three friendlies have been played since the last League game against Rochdale. The first on December 21, 2002, at Timperley, saw a 3-2 win over Lancaster City. The visitors took a two goal lead with strikes after 3 and 47 minutes. Danny Meadowcroft scored from an Oliver Warrender corner a minute after the second visitors' goal to pull one back. Zhang Xiabin hit the crossbar with a 25-yard effort before scoring the equaliser after 87 minutes with a cracker from 30 yards. The winner a minute later saw Zhang hit the bar from a Daniel Newby cross with Sean Brolly on hand to head home the rebound.

County: McEwen, Lewis (Callery), Brolly, Zhang, Brownhill, Lord, Warrender, Campbell, La Fondre (Douglas), Meadowcroft, Newby.
Unused sub: Davies.

County 2 Witton Albion 2

The second friendly on December 31 saw a 2-2 draw with Witton Albion at Timperley. Witton also took a two goal lead with a goal after 2 minutes and a penalty after 60 minutes. Mat Bailey scored both County goals, the first a header after 75 minutes from a Damien Allen cross. The second came ten minutes later with an effort from a Liam Brownhill through ball.

County: Coppering, Lewis, Jones, McAllister, Brownhill, Callery, Allen, Meadowcroft, La Fondre, Davies, Kay.
Unused subs: Douglas, Jordan, Bailey, Pearson, Brooks.



Ben Coppering... four stitches.

Coventry City 1 County 0

The final friendly was played on January 7, 2003, at Warwickshire University against Coventry City who were using the game to prepare for the Fourth Round FA Youth Cup tie against Sheffield United. The youngsters competed well in an excellent game with both sides creating chances. Centre forward Mat Bailey took over in goal after 15 minutes when County keeper Ben Coppering collided with the Sky Blues centre forward and needed four stitches to a head wound. Bailey was praised afterwards by Coventry's Academy Director and ex-goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic for an excellent save but was unable to prevent the only goal of the

game after 85 minutes from a Coventry corner.

County: Coppering (Newby) (Baguley), Jones (Brownhill), Brolly (Campbell), Hilton, Meadowcroft, Lord, Warrender, Baguley (Gollup), Davies (La Fondre), Bailey, Campbell (Cartner).

Next Game

The youth are at home next Saturday when Preston visit Timperley for an 11am start.

In The Spotlight

This week's youngster in the spotlight is first year youth trainee Damien Allen. Damien comes from Cheadle and was born on August 1, 1986. A midfield player he joined County's Centre of Excellence at 13 and represented Stockport Boys before signing as a trainee in the summer of 2002. Damien's reserve team debut came at Wigan Athletic in November when he replaced Jamie Baguley whilst he was a non-playing substitute at Chesterfield in December. Damien has scored once in 13 appearances for the youth team this season.



Damien Allen.

YOUTH APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2002-03

| | Lge | Gls | Cup | Gls |
|------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Damien Allen | 6+4 | 1 | 2+1 | 0 |
| Jamie Baguley | 10+1 | 5 | 3+2 | 0 |
| Mat Bailey | 6 | 3 | | |
| Sean Brolly | 1 | 0 | | |
| Danny Campbell | 5+4 | 3 | 4+1 | 1 |
| Michael Carter | 1+1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Ben Coppering | 8 | 0 | | |
| Mattie Davies | 3+4 | 3 | 0+1 | 0 |
| Paul Douglas | 0+1 | 1 | | |
| Haydn Eames | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Ryan Elderton | 5+1 | 0 | | |
| Wesley Gollup | 4+1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Ben Henry | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Oliver Hilton | 7 | 1 | 1+2 | 0 |
| David Holt | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Matt Jones | 7 | 0 | 0+1 | 0 |
| Adam Le Fondre | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Alex Lord | 8 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Chris McGrath | 3 | 0 | | |
| Daniel Newby | 0+1 | 0 | | |
| Michael Ogden | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Danny Paterson | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Daniel Riding | 1 | 0 | | |
| Jon Scragg | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| James Spencer | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Gareth Walsh | 7 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Oliver Warrender | 6+2 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Chris Williams | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| James Wonfor | 2+2 | 0 | 1+1 | 0 |

ON DUTY FOR deeley YOUTH TEAM UPDATE

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE NORTH WEST CONFERENCE 2002/2003

| | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Preston North End | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 31 |
| Wigan Athletic | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 24 | 19 | 18 |
| Bury | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 24 | 29 | 18 |
| Tranmere Rovers | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 32 | 12 | 17 |
| COUNTY | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 23 | 16 |
| Burnley | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 20 | 16 |
| Carlisle United | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 24 | 15 |
| Oldham Athletic | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 28 | 14 |
| Rochdale | 13 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 21 | 35 | 7 |
| Blackpool | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 33 | 6 |

Up to and including December 14th

Youth Manager
Nigel Deeley.

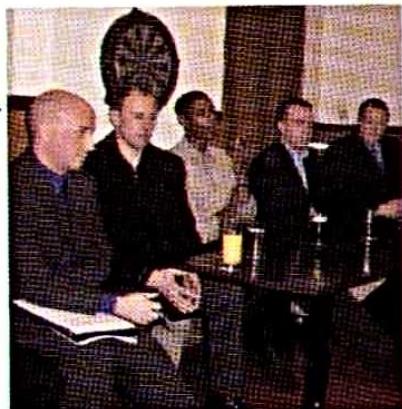


ND

PAUL HARRISON OF THE STOCKPORT EXPRESS

ADMIRE CARLTON'S self belief...

Carlton took the forum in his stride.



Whatever your opinion of Carlton Palmer you have to admire his self-belief. To walk into a room full of supporters after transfer-listing two of the club's most popular players and sending his biggest buy out on loan took bottle.

I don't know how many other managers would have gone to last week's fans' forum with criticism coming from all angles.

But Carlton took it in his stride and honestly answered intelligent questions for more than two hours.

Whether he put supporters' minds at rest remains to be seen by the reaction he gets today.

But at least he offered honest appraisals of the players he is letting go and gave an insight into what life is really like at a Second Division club.

I have always said a manager needs at least three years to prove himself and unless things go horribly wrong between now and the end of the season, I believe Carlton should be given that much time. He has always said he won't be at Edgeley Park forever, but that he wants to leave with his head held high and the club in a strong position.

Hopefully we can build on two solid

performances against Port Vale and QPR over the New Year period.

Against Port Vale we created enough chances to win half a dozen games but ended up drawing 1-1.

It might have been different had the visitors not had a man sent off, but how often do we see a side playing better with ten men than with 11?

They had to wait 20 minutes for their first sight of goal while we forced seven corners in the first half but all we had to show after an excellent game of football was a Ben Burgess penalty.

A couple of days later County put together their best football of the season as QPR struggled to cope with their high tempo game.

But once again the Hatters paid the price for failing to convert chances into goals and were denied any glory by Kevin Gallen's highly contentious last minute penalty.

I know the players have been looking forward to a return to playing after last weekend's postponement and I'm sure if we carry on the good work from our last two games we'll all be celebrating at 4.45pm.

Still supporting Stockport County



Stockport
Express
On sale every Wednesday

WELCOME

Welcome back to Edgeley Park for this afternoon's clash with Swindon Town. Can we also offer a particularly warm welcome to all the supporters who have made the long trip from Wiltshire to back the Robins. Enjoy the game and return home safely, and pointless, of course!



▲ Good Luck at Norwich Briggsy.

THANKS ... AND GOOD LUCK, LADS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil Ross and Keith Briggs for all their hard work during their time at Edgeley Park and offer best wishes at their new clubs, Macclesfield Town and Norwich City, respectively.

MAGPIES DATE

The rearranged game against Notts County will take place this Tuesday, January 21st, kick-off 7.45pm. Supporters Club coaches will leave Edgeley Park at 4.15pm priced £8.50 with the usual £1 reduction for members.

To book contact Paul Wilkinson at the club shop on 0161 286 8899.

Don't forget that under-12s will be admitted to Meadow Lane free of charge. Adults will be charged £14, OAPs £8 and 12 - 15-year-olds £5; pay at the gate.

BRISTOL CITY

Admission to next Saturday's game at Ashton Gate is also pay-at-the-gate. Prices are £14 (adults), £11

(OAPs), £10 (students with valid NUS card) and £5 (under-16s).

Supporters Club coaches leave Edgeley Park at 9.45am priced £15. Once again, the £1 reduction for members will apply.

To book contact Paul Wilkinson at the club shop on 0161 286 8899.

CHESHIRE SENIOR CUP

Our semi-final tie against Northwich Victoria takes place this Wednesday, January 22nd, at Edgeley Park.

An estimated 400 Vics supporters are expected to attend the game and the club would ask as many County fans as possible to come along to make sure we are not outnumbered!

Full bar and catering facilities will be available on the night and kick off time is 7.15pm.

Check out pages 44 and 45 in this afternoon's matchday magazine for our special Cheshire Senior Cup report.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We currently have a number of vacancies in our Marketing, Lottery and Conference and Banquet departments.

Telephone 0161 286 8888 for full details.

**FANS FORUM**

Don't forget that our Fans Forum - in conjunction with Stockport County Supporters Club - will be held in the UK Handling Pavilion Suite on Thursday, January 30th.

Further details will be provided in the local papers and the club's official website www.stockportcounty.com

COME AGAIN

Our next first-team game here at Edgeley Park takes place on Saturday, February 1st, when we entertain Colchester United.

Kick off time is 3.00pm and tickets (normal admission prices) are now on sale. Thank you for your continued support.

**CLUB HONOURS****Division Two**

Runners-up: 1997

Division Three (North)

Champions: 1922 & 1937

Runners-up: 1929 & 1930

Division Four

Champions: 1967

Runners-up: 1991

Division Three (North) Cup

Winners: 1935

Finalists: 1934

Football League Play-Offs

Division Two Finalists: 1994

Division Three Finalists: 1992

Autoglass Trophy

Finalists: 1992 & 1993

Lancashire League

Champions: 1900

Lancashire Combination

Division 1 Champions: 1905

Manchester Senior Cup

Winners: 1898, 1899, 1915 & 1923

Cheshire Medal

Winners: 1923, 1925, 1929, 1930 & 1931

Cheshire Bowl

Winners: 1949, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959 & 1961

Cheshire Premier Cup

Winners: 1970 & 1971

Cheshire Senior Cup

Winners: 1906, 1915, 1947, 1949 & 1966

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to Edgeley Park. However, if you have experienced anything that you feel is unsatisfactory or, indeed, have any ideas on how we can improve things, please contact Steve Bellis.

c/o Stockport County Football Club, Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road, Edgeley, Stockport SK3 9DD.

Thank you for your support.

HATTER matters

THE LATEST NEWS & VIEWS FROM EDGELEY PARK

SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

HEALTHY STOCKPORT COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

Healthy Stockport Community Grant Scheme was set up by Stockport Health Authority in order to recognise the vital role community groups play in promoting the health and well-being of Stockport residents. The grant scheme is able to offer small sums of money to local community groups to help support them in their health promoting activities by developing new and existing projects.

Who can apply?

- Any self-help group, community group or small voluntary group (or field worker on behalf of a group) for projects which promote the health of the group.
- The most disadvantaged groups or communities will receive priority.

The project must:

- Emphasise prevention rather than treatment
- Benefit Stockport residents
- Involve the community in its own health
- Demonstrate fresh approaches and new ideas in promoting health

We also look for projects which:

- Demonstrate fresh approaches and new ideas in promoting health
- Encourage groups to work in partnership with other organisations

What types of project might get a grant?

Here are a few examples from previous years:

- Friends of Etherow – towards material for a sensory garden.
- Offerton Hall Allotments Association – to purchase a polytunnel.
- Reddish Community Church – towards kitchen equipment.
- Pavilion Community Association – to support three members with disabilities.

Who will decide which projects receive a grant?

The grants are allocated by a panel with representation from the Health Services, Local Authority and the Voluntary Sector. The maximum amount allocated to any project is £500.

How can I apply for a grant?

For more information and an application form contact Amanda Peet, Health Promotion Assistant, Stockport Centre for Health Promotion, 188 Buxton Road, Stockport, SK2 7AE.

The closing date for the second round of applications is 28th February 2003.



For information on local services, support groups and keeping healthy ring the Information Line
0161 429 7010

I N T O
HEALTH

Minicom 0161 429 8225
InfoHealth@stockport-ha.nwest.nhs.uk
www.stockport.nhs.uk/intohealth/

GENITO URINARY MEDICINE (GUM/SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC)
HELEN CLEGG GUM CLINIC
OUTPATIENTS B, STEPPING HILL HOSPITAL, STOCKPORT, SK3 8BL
Telephone(s): 0161 419 5377 Women: 0161 419 5370 Men
Email: Janet Ford 419 5377 Health Advisor

Service for Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
HIV clinic is every Monday (except Bank Holidays).
There is a walk in testing service between 4.30-6.30pm. Results will be advised by Health Advisor. If very anxious you can be booked into 24 hr testing session each Tuesday morning. Between 8.00-9.00am (by appointment only). Results will be available the following morning. If these days are not convenient you can book an appt in the STD screening sessions, results being arranged by Health Advisor.
Confidentiality assured.



Central Youth - "Stockport Young People's Advice, Information and Health clinic".

Tel 0161 480 9600 (24 hour ansaphone)

STEVE THE snapper

THE WEIRD AND
WONDERFUL WORLD
OF STEVE SOUTHART



The best job in the world?

I would have to say pensioner, I think.

I'm getting a bit of a taste for the way of the blue rinse brigade because I'm off work for a couple of weeks, and we haven't booked to go anywhere. Suddenly, it all becomes clear. After a couple of days cooped up in the house, I see the attraction of getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning and going to stand outside the Post Office. You could see the indignation on the faces of the old dears as they roll up at 5.30 a.m. to see this young whipper-snapper at the head of the queue. I only wanted to buy a first-class stamp (it would have been second-class if I were really an O.A.P.) but it seems to be a badge of honour for them. They positively bristled, made a mental note to set the alarm 5 minutes earlier next week...and then at 8.45 they started slowly, ever so slowly, edging their way in front of me in the queue. So slowly it was imperceptible, being sure to inadvertently dig me in the ribs with a rolled-up brolly as they stampeded past. Yes, it's the pensioner's life for

me.

You must not mistake my comments for criticism. Some of my favourite relatives are of pensionable age. I reckon it is just a wasted opportunity having that much fun at a time when your body can't cope with the excitement...surely it would make more sense to be a pensioner between the ages of, say, 30 and 50, and then spend the rest of your life at work.

Here's an example of how a seemingly everyday activity takes on a whole new magical lustre when seen through the eyes of the silver-haired. The other day, I stopped off at a motorway service station, for nourishment and a rest. I intended to stay for maybe 15 minutes and then get on my way. Then I heard it...the slow "whoosh" of the coach door opening, followed by the calls of this most feared pack animal. "Have you got your stick, Gladys?" "This reminds of during the war..." and finally, "£1.99 for beans on toast?"

When a pensioners' coach pulls up at a service station, there is no escape. If you seek refuge in the toilets, you will overhear medical details, which are frankly indescribable. If you try the shop, you will not be able to get past the swarm around the reasonably-priced Frank Ifield cassettes. A trip to the restaurant will see another grey battalion crowding round the self-service area, but crucially never ordering anything. This can last up to an hour, in fact the coach trip is actually to a series of motorway service stations, so when they've grown bored, this very slow

whirlwind just moves on to the next services.

And when they are not terrorising other motorway users, or running over your toes with their tartan trollies (I have actually seen the document which proves they do this on purpose) they are watching telly at volumes sufficient to make your ears bleed.

And can't you just tell that TV advertisers have latched on to the possibilities of luring the grey pound out from under the mattress. If it isn't John Stalker trying to protect you from the "continual glare of the sun" (very much a problem in Stockport), you've got that nice Frank Windsor worrying you with life insurance, and June Whitfield cheering you up by asking if your funeral is paid for.

Pensioners have a great time (have you noticed how they always know each other?) and good luck to them, I say. They have earned the right to grow old disgracefully, and we should accord them the proper respect. I personally can't wait, although looking at how my pension fund is currently being invested by the financial whiz-kids; it looks like I may have to. I told them to put it into pork-bellies, but they went and put it into dot coms and, well, maybe that's for another time.

Have a good week, and if you are of a certain age, I'll see you down the Post Office.

Yours in Sport,
Steve Southart.

Steve's big question...if a man says something in a forest, and there are no women around to hear him, is he still wrong?



**3 YEARS, 100,000 MILES WARRANTY.
3 YEARS, 100,000 MILES SERVICING.
3 YEARS VAN AID RESCUE AND RECOVERY.
1 DEDICATED DEALER.**

**THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL
GREAT SUPPORT.**

CONVOY

Chatfields of Manchester

40-46 Ashton Old Road, Ardwick, Manchester M12 6NA.

Tel: 0161 273 7351

Contact: Rob or Mark

We Know Your Game!

- football
- rugby
- cricket
- golf
- ice hockey
- boxing
- all types of commercial design and print



*designers and printers.
proud to be associated with
Stockport County Football Club*

Colourplan Design & Print
Tel: (01744) 23868
e-mail: info@colour-plan.co.uk
ISDN: (01744) 752956
Fax: (01744) 753316



We don't support teams that aren't local

We're based in the Stockport pyramid •

We support Stockport County FC •

We are the official sponsor of the smile Learning Centre at Stockport County

We do have two new mascots called Carlton and Palmer

Happy heart

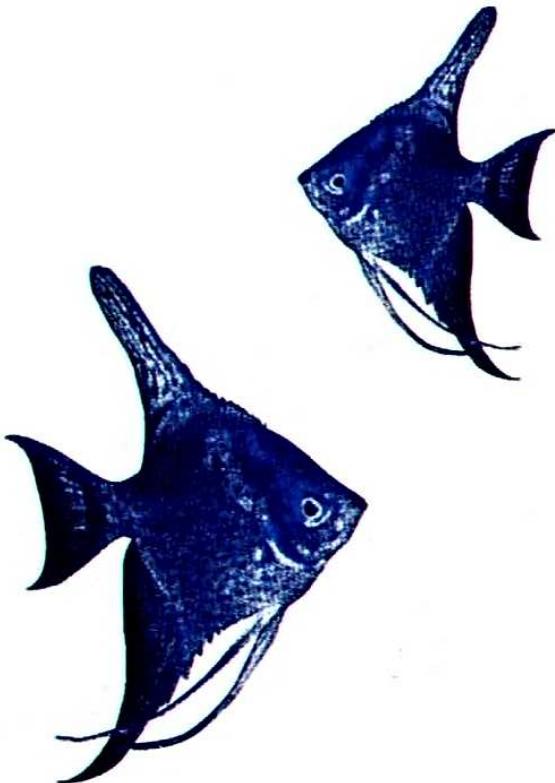
3.04% gross AER on •
your current account

Guaranteed £500 fee-free •
overdraft at 9.9% EAR

Preferential rates on credit cards and •
savings for current account holders

BS 7799 for information •
security management

Happy wallet



from the co-operative bank

www.smile.co.uk
We're not just about great rates

Gross means the contractual rate of interest payable before income tax is deducted. AER is the notional rate illustrating the contractual rate as if paid and compounded annually. EAR is the equivalent annual rate. Rates are variable and correct as at 1/10/02. Written quotations available from smile at P.O Box 600, Delf House, Skelmersdale, WN8 6GF. Credit facilities are subject to status and not available to anyone under 18 years of age. The Co-operative Bank reserves the right to decline any application.

The Study Centre

HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Stockport County FC

STUDY CENTRE

...helping make a difference.

Children, parents and teachers from a record eight local Stockport Schools packed the Pavilion suite on the evening of Wednesday 8th January 2003 for a "Signing On Evening". They were given the opportunity to meet future County starlets Michael Cartner, Matt Jones and Danny Meadowcroft. It was the boy's first public appearance and although rather apprehensive initially, the boys were absolutely fantastic!! and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Staying to sign autographs and have pictures taken by eager pupils and parents.

The Study Centre will be giving the eight schools the opportunity to interview the three lads in the coming weeks. The interviews will then be

videoed and burned onto a DVD. Not only is this very good for the players it also helps raise pupil's confidence and self-esteem. It is also excellent for improving pupils Speaking and Listening skills.

The children started their ten-week course of "Out Of School Hours Study Support", at the Study Centre on the week beginning Monday 13th January. They were each given Study Centre Folders and signed contracts of commitment with Michael, Matt and Danny.

The evening was superbly attended, and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Keep reading the "Study Centre Spread" to find out what exciting activities the children will be following during their ten-week period at the Study Centre!

Many thanks to Michael, Matt and Danny!!

The schools involved were:
 Adswood Junior School
 Bridgehall Junior School
 St Ambrose Junior School
 Springwood Junior School
 Bramhall Secondary School
 Offerton High School
 Hazel Grove High School
 Stockport School

Gary Richards
 Study Centre Manager

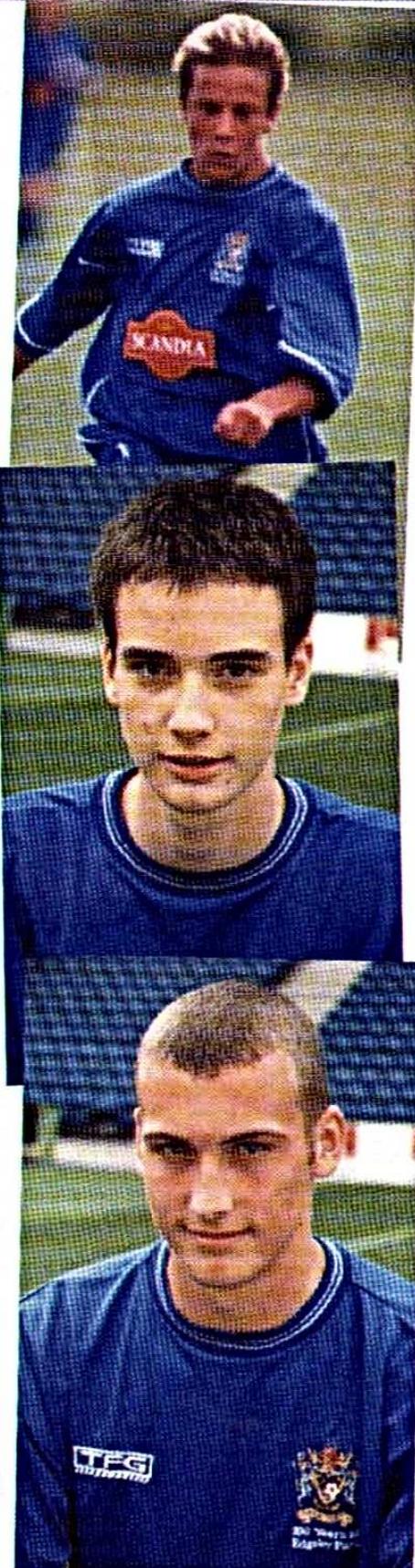
learn direct

ADULTS ARE WELCOME TOO!

FREE
computer courses
 for all County fans.

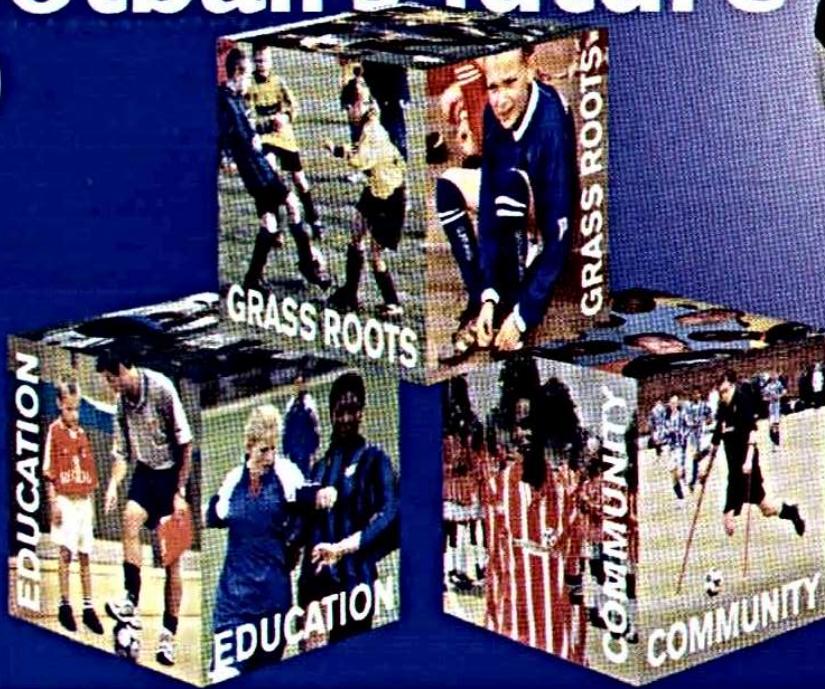
CONTACT TINA OR BARRY ON
0161 429 7392

to claim your
FREE COURSE



▲ First public appearance for Michael Cartner (top), Matt Jones (middle) and Danny Meadowcroft (above).

building football's future



Football Foundation
football's biggest supporter



Helpline 0800 0277766 www.footballfoundation.org.uk

ULTIMATE
POWER
MAXIMUM
CONTROL



ULTIMAX
the best football in the world

Mitre
www.mitre.com

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR LOOKERS NISSAN



...supporters of Stockport County

Lookers Nissan

St. Mary's Way, STOCKPORT. Tel: 0161 333 3355
Bancroft Road, HALE. Tel: 0161 903 9000

Visit our website at www.lookers.plc.uk



RADIO Ga-Ga

IMAGINE FM'S JON KEIGHREN AND MATTHEW RUDD

I lost count of the number of supporters I bumped into last Saturday wandering aimlessly around Stockport town centre following the postponement at Notts County. We just didn't have a clue what to do with ourselves. But following an enforced two-week break, this afternoon gives us a chance to record our first "double" of the season against Swindon Town.

Our early-season victory down at the County Ground was a truly unforgettable afternoon. Under the cosh for long periods of the game, Carlton Palmer's men performed a real smash and grab act, thanks to a super goal from Luke Beckett, which gave us all three points.

Star performer that day, however, was wide man Ali Gibb who ran the Robins ragged with some terrific wing play. Even Town boss Andy King was prompted to single out Ali after the game, despite King's obvious disappointment at his own strikers' inability to put the ball in the back of our net.

You can bet your life that Ali will be tightly marked this afternoon, but with the return to fitness of Kevin Ellison, hopefully he can exploit some space down the opposite flank. At the Fans' Forum in Hazel Grove last week, Assistant Manager Kevin Richardson spoke volumes for the ability of Ali Gibb when he explained how many teams this season have

"doubled up" when marking the winger. Ali has become a marked man as teams realise the importance of that particular supply line, but Kevin Ellison will

hopefully give opposition defences something else to think about, as well.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Royal Oak Forum last week. After some fairly hefty criticism in some quarters, Carlton and Kevin could have been forgiven for finding an urgent appointment, which would have prevented their attendance. However, they came, they saw and, in my opinion, they conquered. Every question was answered fully and no one could fault the gaffer for his openness and honesty on the night.

Sadly, words don't win football matches; otherwise I think we would be pushing for automatic promotion! But if the player-boss can convey as much passion to the players as he did to the supporters last week, we won't go far wrong.

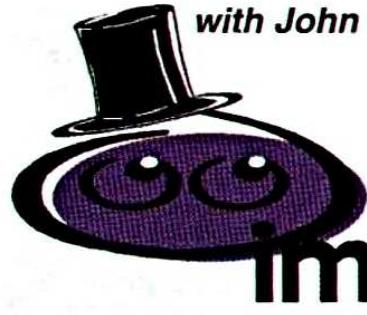
Finally, today marks a very rare occasion as I have managed to persuade the football-hating Mrs Keighren to make an appearance at Edgeley Park for only the second time this season. When we bumped into Rob Clare in the Merseyway on Saturday, she did her best to appear interested in our football chat, but seemed much more interested in what he'd been buying instead. But her attendance today comes at a price - in return, I have to go and watch the musical Chicago at the Palace Theatre next month. I hope the bar's open.



Ali Gibb...
star performer.

After the game, tune in to the 104.9 Imagine FM match phone-in

*Your news and views on today's match
with John Keighren and Matthew Rudd*



104.9

imagine fm
South Manchester's Best Variety of Hits



Grate Expectations
The Fire Place People

THE SUP CLUB

THE NEW SUPPORTERS CLUB

Welcome back to Edgeley Park in what seems like an eternity since my last notes against Port Vale. Those notes were actually written mid-December due to printing deadlines so plenty has been happening at the Football Club since.

On the field the results have been about as consistent as my recent success at the Greyhound track ... bad!!

And off the field activities have caused a stir amongst many County supporters.

A tremendous win against a poor Northampton side was followed by poor performances against Mansfield Town, Bristol City and Port Vale.

Then County produced one of their best performances of the season when we travelled to QPR. A dodgy penalty against us, though, saw us leave Loftus Road without the points but everyone was happier following the gutsy performance.

Off the field activities have seen Lee Jones & Keith Briggs transfer listed and Ben Burgess loaned out to Oldham Athletic. In addition Neil Ross has left for near neighbours Macclesfield Town.

Hopefully the Burgess deal will not be a permanent one as I'm sure Ben will be a success for us one day and a change of scenery just may do him the world of good and kick start his career again. If he can gain some confidence whilst at Oldham, I don't see any reason why he is not partnering Luke Beckett next season and competing with him for top goalscorer.

Today is another 'six pointer' as so many of the remaining games of the season will be. Swindon are currently three points and two places above us in the League so a win today is vital.

Similar to Port Vale, Swindon are another club who seem to have fell foul of the ITV Digital collapse and have needed the administrators to sort out their affairs. Last August saw us travel to the County Ground and claim all three points in a hard fought contest. Hopefully, another similar performance will see us claim our first 'double' of the season.

We are now up to 1,300 members for the Supporters Club and hopefully we can still achieve our 'Target 2000' aim by the end of the season. As previously mentioned, 2003 is going to be a busy year for the Supporters Club with plenty of events planned for the coming months. In conjunction with Scandia Lager we are organising a 'Fans Forum' here at Edgeley Park on Thursday 30 January. We have also arranged a 'Race Night' again here at Edgeley Park on Saturday 22 March. More details will be announced shortly via the official Stockport County website @ www.stockportcounty.com and through the local press.

As usual, please help your Supporters Club by supporting these events and the many more that will be organised

over the next few months. Since my last notes we have held the 'Zoo Club' draw for December and January. The December winners were 1st Jack Dodgeon (10) £21.25, 2nd David Scott (41) £12.75 & 3rd Andrew Green (70) £8.50. January's winners were 1st Mr & Mrs R Hudson (17) £21.75, 2nd Paul McEvoy (47) £13.05 & 3rd Andrew Holehouse (82) £8.70.

Congratulations to all the winners and prizes should have all been received by now, if not then contact one of the committee members in the Supporters Club Bar.

To alleviate some of the problems we have been having in the Supporters' Lounge could I ask everyone not to congregate around the bar area after obtaining a drink as this is causing heavy congestion.

Also, to make things easier for yourself, why not pre-order your drinks for half time. A quick and easy way to avoid the queues in that short period you have before the second half starts.

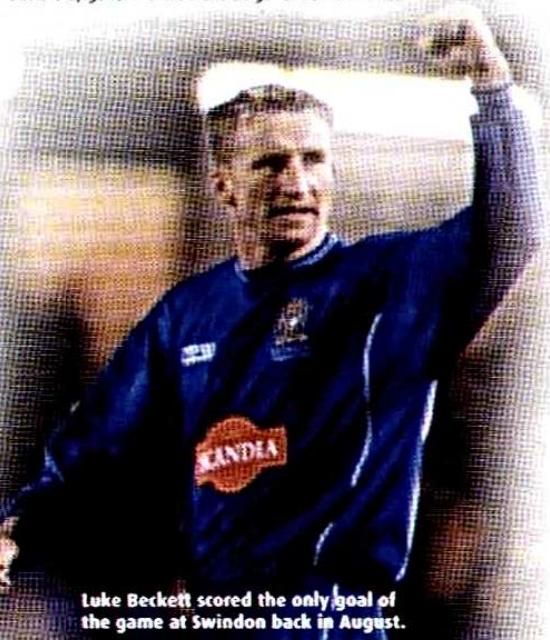
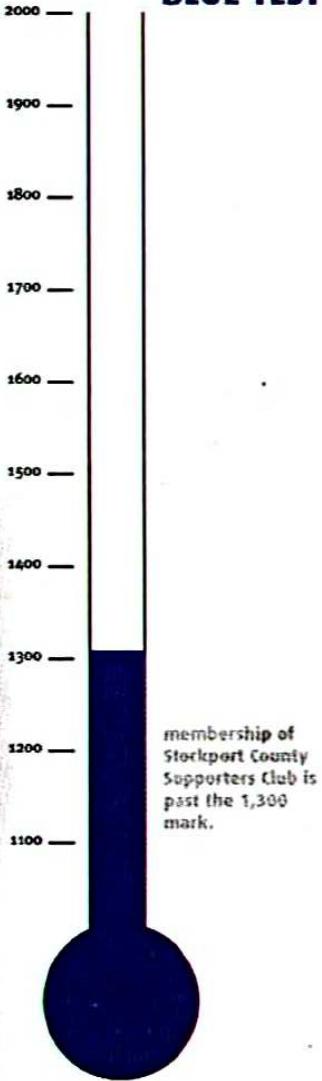
The Supporters Club will be running coaches to Notts County and Bristol City next week. The Notts County coach on Tuesday will depart Edgeley Park at 4:15pm. Cost of coach travel is £7.50 for members and £8.50 for non-members.

The coach for the match against Bristol City next Saturday departs from Edgeley Park at 9:45am and the cost is £14 for members and £15 for non-members.

Contact the Club Shop on 0161 286 8899 if you wish to book a seat.

As always give the team your full support throughout the 90 minutes today as I'm sure the management and players appreciate it.

target 2000 BLUE TEST



Luke Beckett scored the only goal of the game at Swindon back in August.

270 VEHICLE SATELLITE CONTROLLED FLEET



SUPPORTING STOCKPORT COUNTY
1-16 PASSENGERS CALL 480 8000

GORVINS

More than just a number

Gorvins. South Manchester's Premier Law Firm.

How many times do you hear the words "leading" or "foremost" in an ad? At Gorvins we don't mince words because we don't need to. We're **number 1** and proud of it. With over 150 staff, 14 partners, 70 fee earners and 11 specialist departments employing some of the best lawyers in the business; our position is clear. Pole position.

So if you're looking for the commercial law firm that's the best in the business speak to Gorvins.

call Gorvins on 0161 930 5151 or email enquiries@gorvins.com www.gorvins.com



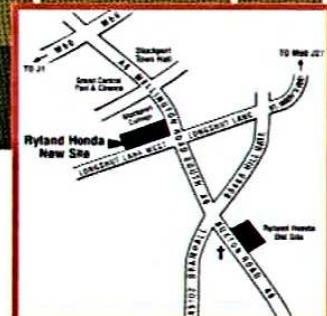
CORVINS
solicitors

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

Visit Ryland Honda's new dealership

THE PREMIER STADIUM

for New & Used Car Sales, Service, Parts, Tyres, Exhausts, half price MOTs, servicing from £65.00, bodyshop facilities, full air conditioning servicing, while-u-wait facilities. Please ask for details.



Ryland Honda

214 Wellington Road South, Stockport

0161 480 4244

E-mail: enqsto@rylandhonda.co.uk www.ryland.co.uk

Opening Times

Mon-Fri 9.00am-6.30pm

Sat 9.00am-5.00pm

Sun 11.00am-5.00pm



May I start by wishing you all a very happy new year! Welcome back to Edgeley Park this afternoon where we entertain Swindon Town.

Ballboys/girls

Fifteen players from Unicorn Athletic Junior Football Club, based in Timperley, Altrincham,

join us today. The players are as follows:- David Harries, Jim Collins, Dan Holland, Jamie Munro, Niall Towe, Jake Hawkins, Ben Shawcross, Tom Welby, Will Aldred, James Crosby, Josh Bullock, Stuart Ellis, Chris Defreitas, Aydan Tutty and Lawrence James. Unicorn JFC are long standing supporters of our Community Shield Junior Football Tournament, we hope you all enjoy your visit to Edgeley Park.

Football Foundation

We here at Football in the Community have been awarded a grant from the Football Foundation, for a period of three years. The funding is to develop Girls/women's football, develop our work with people with a disability, to provide opportunities to young people at risk and to carry out projects in areas of social deprivation. The funding enables us to fill two posts for the delivery of the project. Jacci Cooper (Community Development Officer) and Jayne Benns (Assistant) have joined us on a full time basis to implement the activities. I will bring you news of the various events etc in due course. We wish both the girls all the best in their new posts, and hope that Football in the Community can now have a major impact in all areas of Stockport and surrounding areas.

Railtrack Playsafe Trophy under 11's

Last Wednesday saw the second phase of the above competition take place at Power League, Heaton Mersey. Ten schools/teams were battling for a place in the final, to then go onto represent Stockport County FC in the Area Finals, against other North West Football in the Community



▲ Unicorn JFC will provide our ballboys this afternoon.

winners. The teams in the second phase were:-

Moorfield Junior, Hazel Grove
St. Winifred's Primary, Heaton Mersey
Manor Green Primary, Denton
St. Stephen's Primary, Droylsden
Rosehill Primary, Marple
Greave Primary
Gee Cross Holy Trinity, Hyde
North Reddish Junior, Reddish
Norbury Hall Primary, Hazel Grove

Due to printing deadlines I will give you all the results in the next programme.

New Opportunities Fund

We have also received funding from the New Opportunities Fund, to provide 'Out of school hours Childcare'. The funding is for a three-year period and will be based at Adswood Primary School, Adswood. We will be working with pupils from Adswood Primary, St. George's Primary, St. Ambrose Primary, Bridge Hall Primary and Cale Green Primary. The courses will be held during each week of school holidays and will be limited to 40 places, on a first come, first served basis.

The dates confirmed are as follows:-

NOF 1 - 17th - 21st February 2003
NOF 2 - 22nd - 25th April 2003
NOF 3 - 28th April - 2nd May 2003
NOF 4 - 26th - 30th May 2003
NOF 5 - 2nd - 6th June 2003

The courses will run from 9am to 5pm each day, and are open to both boys and girls, aged between 8 and 12 years old. The cost of the week is £35.00. Forms are available from the above schools.

Soccer Courses

Our next holiday soccer course takes place during the February 2003 half term:

Dates: Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2003

Time: 10am - 12Noon 6/7 year olds
10am - 3pm 8/14 year olds

Cost: 6/7 year olds £20.00
8/14 year olds £35.00

Venue: Stockport School, Mile End Lane, Heaviley, Stockport

Requirements: Warm clothing, boots/trainers, shin pads, packed lunch, drinks, change of clothes

All participants will take part in small-sided games, fun games, tournaments, competitions and structured coaching sessions.

Stockport County players will be in attendance during the week to sign autographs and chat to the children, with each child receiving two tickets to see Stockport County in action.

For more information and an application form, contact the Community Office on 0161-282-2971.

Yours in sport

Mike Smith
Community Officer

grassroots

STUFF
YOUR CLUB IN THE COMMUNITY



RAILTRACK
SAFETY IS OUR GOAL



SWEDISH FURNITURE SHOPS, SEA BASS AND...

the pint that thinks it's a quart!

STEVE BELLIS TAKES HIS USUAL SIDEWAYS LOOK AT LIFE WITH STOCKPORT COUNTY...

Saturday was an unmitigated disaster! Having finally sweet talked my better half into the fact that the game at Notts County could make or break our season and I had to go, I was given a small penance. I had to get up early and take my four year old daughter, with my ten month old baby in tow to ballet class.

This wasn't much to ask, so at some unearthly hour (well for me anyway) I set off with my beautiful offspring to do my penance. I knew there was to be a pitch inspection but I was still horrified when Mr. Glendenning told me it was off just minutes after me arriving at the ballet class. Even more distressing was the fact that Gary had informed my wife first so I couldn't even sneak off for a pint. Even more worrying was the fact that my wife told Gary and indeed a few other callers that I had gone to ballet school conjuring up dodgy images of me in a tutu but to be honest I would probably need a fourfour!

So, there I was stuck at a bloody ballet class and with no football to look forward to and worse was to follow.

On my return home to a gleeful looking Mrs. Bellis I was informed that I was off to IKEA. I would rather have stuck hot knitting needles in my eyes to be honest but she had that look in her eye that would have made arguing futile, so I called on my Dad to join me and off we set.

It was even worse that I had imagined. It took us twenty minutes to park and we then trawled all the way through the blasted one way system unique to Swedish furniture firms only to be sent back to the beginning because the sideboard that I wanted wasn't actually kept in the shop....Great!

Nearly two hours after leaving home I was paying for my sideboard and then came the bombshell. I was informed that I could pick it upin one and a half hours. I looked

for the Beadle microphone but it was nowhere to be seen and realised that they were actually serious. What were we going to do for ninety minutes? My Dad came up with the answer, we could find a pub! So off we trotted and found one of those brewers droop places. We went to the bar and enquired what their range of bitter was. They had the massive selection of one and that

was Trophy bitter which I thought had been discontinued just after the Ark sank. Could things really get any worse? Oh yes they certainly could.

Having forced down a couple of pints that thought they were quarts (Do you remember that ad?) we returned to IKEA to pick up the sideboard. We were given two of the longest and heaviest boxes ever created and were soon on route home.

Having thanked my Dad who was as chuffed as I was at spending a Saturday afternoon at Ikea, I opened the boxes. After a quick Victor Meldrew impression I punched the wall and screamed in frustration. They had sent me two of the same boxes and the box that was missing was the one with the instructions and the nuts and bolts.

So on Sunday afternoon I was back on the M62 heading for that same furniture shop. To be fair they paid me my petrol money but I can tell you now that I will never return to the land of flat packs and trophy bitter ever again in my lifetime (unless they finally build one here in Stockport).

So, it was a stressful weekend but at least we didn't lose. The week that followed was much more pleasurable, the highlight being the fabulous steamed sea bass we consumed at the best Chinese restaurant in Manchester, the New Hong Kong.

The occasion itself was not so pleasant. It was the leaving bash for our trusty marketing secretary Liz Fletcher. Liz has been an absolute gem and all those of you who have had any dealings with her will know full well of her efficiency and professionalism. Sadly another company noted her talent too, and made her an offer she could not refuse. I will miss her greatly and our office will never be the same again. Good luck Liz, you deserve the best and will without doubt succeed. I can feel a tear coming on!



"Do you remember pints that thought they were quarts?"

Try the NEW
County Classic
Curries

MIDWEEK MADNESS AT
The Bengal Dynasty
FOUR COURSE MEAL FOR JUST £7.95

Try the NEW
County Classic
Curries

From Sunday to Thursday (Inclusive) you can enjoy a fabulous four course meal for just £7.95.

Enjoy warmed crunchy pappadoms with fresh mango chutney, crunchy onions, cool mint yoghurt and fiery lime pickle and then choose any starter* and then any main course* from the amazing a la carte menu.

Finish off with freshly brewed coffee and after dinner mints and then pay just £7.95 for the lot.

BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW ON 0161 483 5346 OR 0161 487 5311

Booking advised on Sundays and Thursdays

*Please note that the mad midweek offer excludes Steak dishes, King Prawn dishes and takeaways.

The Bengal Dynasty - the County players favourite Indian Restaurant

5/6 The Precinct, Amlwch Avenue, Offerton, Stockport.

THEY CALL HIM **skip**

THE VIEWS OF COUNTY CAPTAIN
DAVE CHALLINOR



There have been a number of players leaving Edgeley Park recently, which, I suppose, is part and parcel of being involved in professional football.

It looks as though the Gaffer wants to bring a couple of new faces in and to do that he's had to move people on.

To be fair to the boss, though, he's sorted good moves out for the lads and I'd like to wish Briggsy and Rossy all the best at Norwich and Macclesfield. As for people coming in, we'll just have to wait and see if Carlton's successful now before the transfer window closes at the end of the month.

Today gives us the opportunity to get our first double of the season and, if we can produce the form we showed at Queens Park Rangers, then there is no reason why we can't be celebrating at 4.45pm.

All that was lacking at Loftus Road was a goal. I thought we dominated the game for long periods and I always felt comfortable at the back. I can't remember Rangers having a chance in the first half and, after the break, Jonah wasn't exactly over worked.

Okay they hit the post and Lee made a particularly good save

from Gallen but that was it. We created a number of good opportunities throughout the game but we don't seem to be getting any luck.

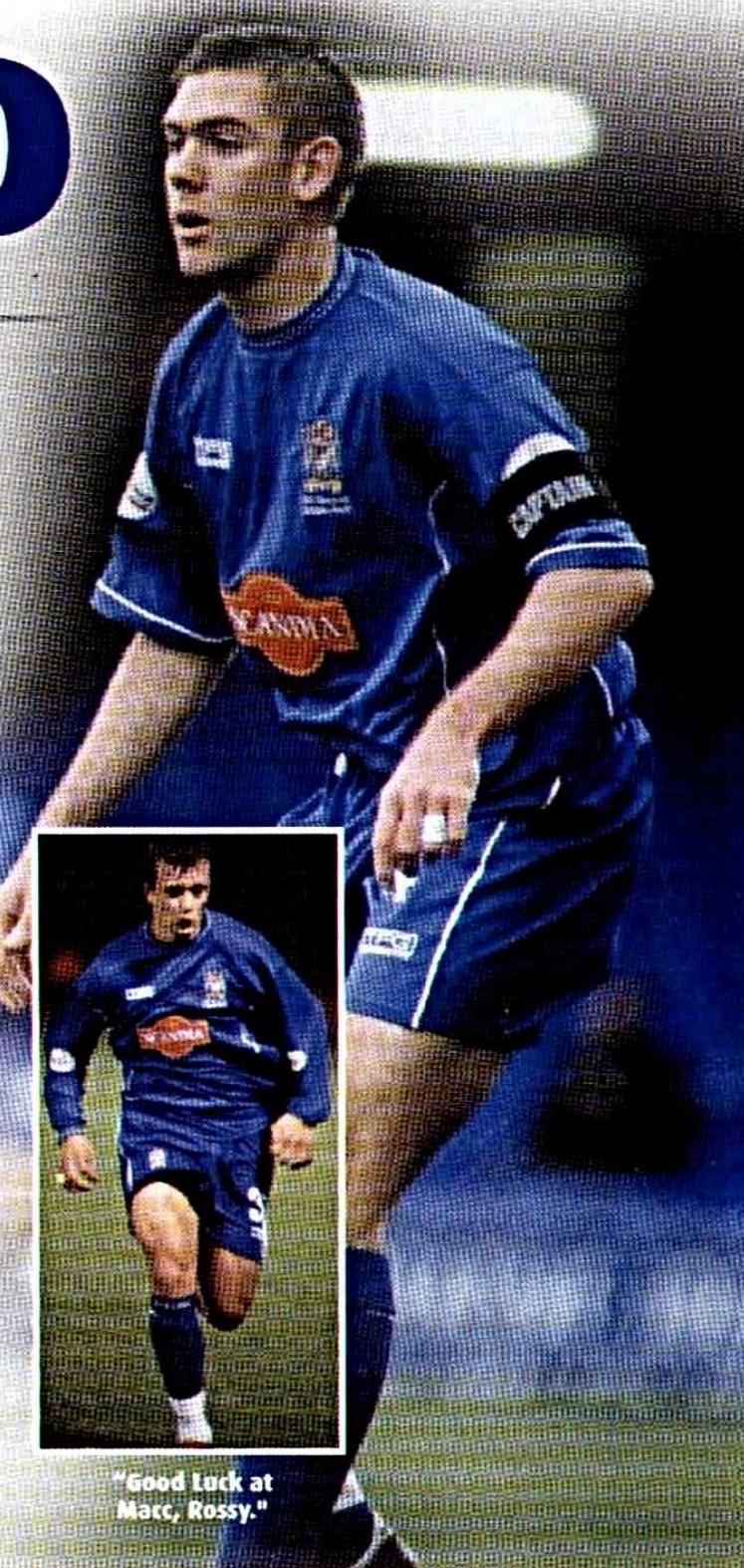
And that was underlined when they were awarded a penalty in the final minute. We knew it was the wrong decision at the time and video evidence proved conclusively that Tonks' foul was committed outside the box.

As I've said, we don't seem to be getting the rub of the green at the moment. Hopefully that will change this afternoon. It won't be easy, though, Swindon have moved up the table recently and in Sam Parkin they have a player like Luke who will punish any mistakes.

He's a big, strong lad who has scored something like half of all their goals so, it goes without saying, that he'll need some watching today.

We defended superbly down at the County Ground, though, and won the game thanks to another opportunist goal from Luke.

A similar result this afternoon will set us up very nicely for the trip to Notts County on Tuesday night.



"Good Luck at
Macc, Rossy."



Grate Expectations

The Fire Place People



0161 483 3669 • 247 London Road • Hazel Grove

SCORE

WITH THE VERNON
THE FIRST TEAM FOR

FINANCIAL ADVICE

VERNON



MORTGAGES

RE-MORTGAGES

FINANCIAL PLANNING TRAVEL INSURANCE

TAX FREE SAVINGS

INVESTMENTS

Visit your local branch or call free phone 0800 32 82 229 See our website at www.thevernon.co.uk

Vernon Building Society

Vernon Building Society is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority, for the purposes of making introductions to other representatives for advising on life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. The Society's Financial Planning Service is provided through Vernon Financial Services Limited.

Vernon Financial Services

Vernon Financial Services is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority, for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Vernon Financial Services Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vernon Building Society.

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

BEARING UP

VERNON BEARS ALL

Hi Bear folks!

Well did you see my mates? They were on the telly on Sunday afternoon in Canada, the big grizzly bears! It's not easy being a bear you know, coz when we hibernate.... erm.... Hibernate we have to eat ourselves silly and then we just curl up and fall asleep, a bit like Christmas Day eh folks? My mates ate things like Salmon and shrubs and roots and them ant type things! Don't mind the Salmon but the ants and roots need a little salt and pepper on them, then they might appeal to me! Oh Dear, them as well, no not that dear, the other Deer, we scoff them as well. What they didn't show was what got the bears to sleep that long, and that's a secret, well between me and you and you and me and I, all they do is watch a snooker video for 5 minutes and that sends them off straight away.

They struggle for drinks in Canada so they drink the river! Yep honest, it was ever since Ron Jutter went there, apparently he drank "Canada Dry!" Eh, I heard a whisper the other day and do you know what it was? It went like this "wiss, wiss, wiss, wiss, wiss, jjarkko wiss, wiss, wiss, wiss!" So I don't know what he said but it wasn't worth a whisper, unless it was a chocolate one!

I gave over the money the other day to Marie Curie Cancer Care thing when I did that free fall thing at Maine Road, many thanks folks to all who donated spondulicks. I handed over 2 cheques, I could have handed one over but I thought I'd double check!!!

My mate Irwin Bear is doing a great job in the sssssupporterssss lounge! There's too many 's's' there ssssurely! You should get up there folks coz I was there last time and it was great fun, people got confused though when Irwin walked in as they thought he was me and I was he and really he was he and I was me! You can buy calendars from him and there's a piccy of me in there too. You don't get discount though for buying in Feb, I thought you may get the cost of January off, but January is a very cheap month as everyone is sailing, yep honest there's sales everywhere! Speaking of Irwin Bear I know a story about Irwin and it goes like this.

One day Irwin was in a taxi in Liverpool and the driver said to Irwin in the mirror ' the person in the mirror is the person's father's son!' Irwin was a bit confused so he asked the driver to repeat what he said and he said to the mirror ' the person in the mirror is the person's father's son!' Irwin then asked the driver ' well who is it then?' The driver said it was him as he was his father's son! Irwin began to understand and thought he'd used this when he got to County on his mate Jon Keyring, Irwin asked Jon to look in the Irwins make up mirror and say to the mirror ' The person in the mirror is the person's father's son!' Jon was not only little but was a little confused, so Irwin asked Jon to repeat what he said and then asked Jon 'who is the person?' Jon then thought ' aha! It's me!' Irwin was wise and said 'no Jon it's not

you mate!' Jon was really sad and disappointed and really really confused Jon said ' if it's not me then who is it Irwin?' Irwin replied 'it's not you Jon it's a taxi driver from Liverpool!'

I'm going now folks as I've only got a little one.. erm I mean a little room left. Have a safe trip to all the people from that place where even when they lose they always have a win, yep honest there's a win in Swindon, but not today please! See ya at halftime

Chow Bearbinos
Vernon

PS: Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?



The Continuing Adventures of

VERNON BEAR

VERNON IS SHOCKED TO SEE HIS NAME ON THE TRANSFER LIST



HE HAS A MEETING WITH STAN TURNIP ...



AND IS SOON SIGNING FOR BEARNLEY ...



WHAT A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!



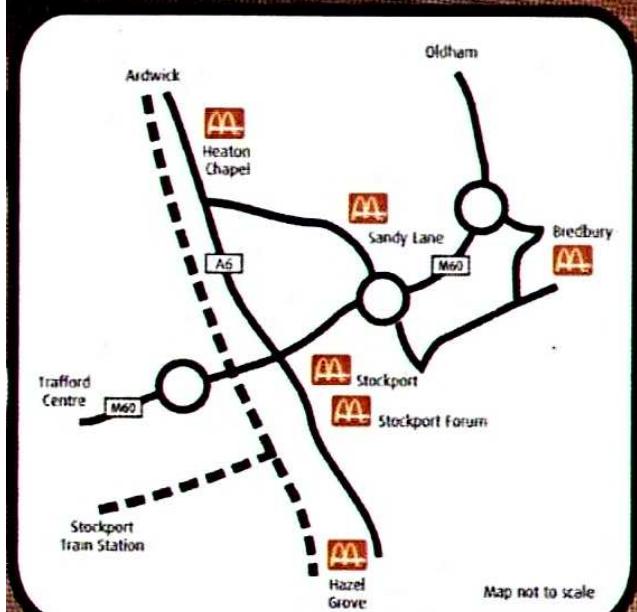
He Shoots... He Scores!



©McDonald's Corporation 2002
The Golden Arches logo is a registered
trademark of McDonald's Corporation
and its affiliates.



Your nearest
McDonald's
Restaurants are:



Stockport Grand Central
Stockport Town Centre

Sandy lane, Reddish
Whitefield Road, Bredbury

A6 Heaton Chapel

NEW! A6 Hazel Grove

Map not to scale

**THE FABULOUS
NEW 'HOME' SHIRT
NOW IN STOCK
IN ALL SIZES**

ADULTS £39.99

YOUTH £34.99

CHILD £29.99

GET YOUR

kit off

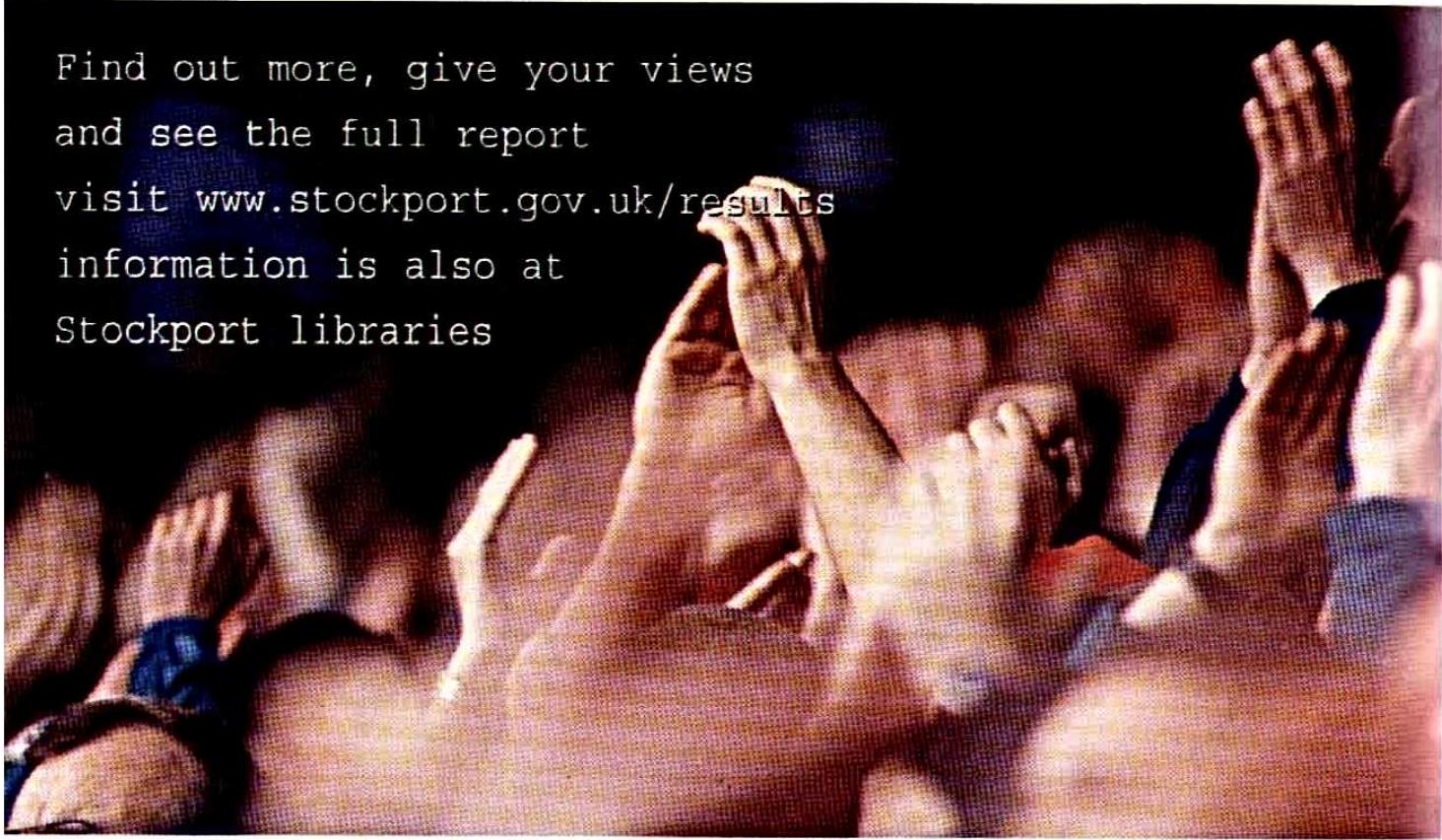
THE STOCKPORT COUNTY CLUB SHOP

get yours today!

What's the latest score...?

.....Stockport Council has been officially classed as "Good" after an in-depth government check on performance.....

Find out more, give your views and **see** the full report
visit www.stockport.gov.uk/results
information is also at
Stockport libraries

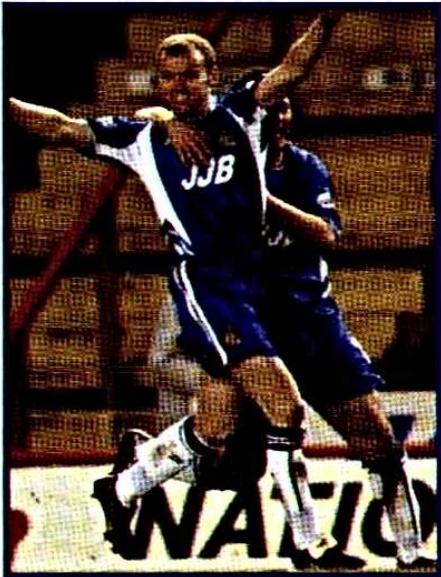


STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

cleaner greener safer stronger

SECOND thoughts

CHRIS PEEL'S REGULAR DIVISION TWO ROUND UP



Peter Kennedy... first goal for Latics.

Although the cold weather restricted action in the Nationwide Second Division last Saturday, the Friday night clash between Bristol City and Wigan Athletic at Ashton Gate went ahead and showed just how healthy a position Paul Jewell's now find themselves in. Peter Kennedy's first goal for Wigan Athletic ensured the Latics won 1-0 last on Friday to move 12 points clear at the top of the Second Division table. The Northern Ireland international's 49th minute

goal proved to be enough to secure a vital win. In a very tight game the Latics showed why they have moved so far clear at the top of the table as they produced a hard-working, disciplined performance. Mickey Bell fired just over the bar in the opening minute for the Robins while at the other end Nathan "Duke" Ellington was denied by 'keeper Steve Phillips. Gary Teale also went close for Wigan while at the other end Joe Burnell saw his shot saved by John Filan. The closest either side came to breaking the deadlock before the interval came in the 26th minute when Ellington rattled the woodwork. Jewell's side started the second period strongly and the winning goal came during their best spell of the match. The goal seemed to knock Danny Wilson's team out of their stride and it took them some time to create any worthwhile chances. Substitute Liam Rosenior fired wide on the hour while Scott Murray had his effort saved by Filan. At the other end Ellington almost doubled Wigan's advantage while Brian Tinnion and Murray went closest to grabbing a late equaliser. They defeat leaves Bristol City fourth in the table but they have now won just one of their last five games.

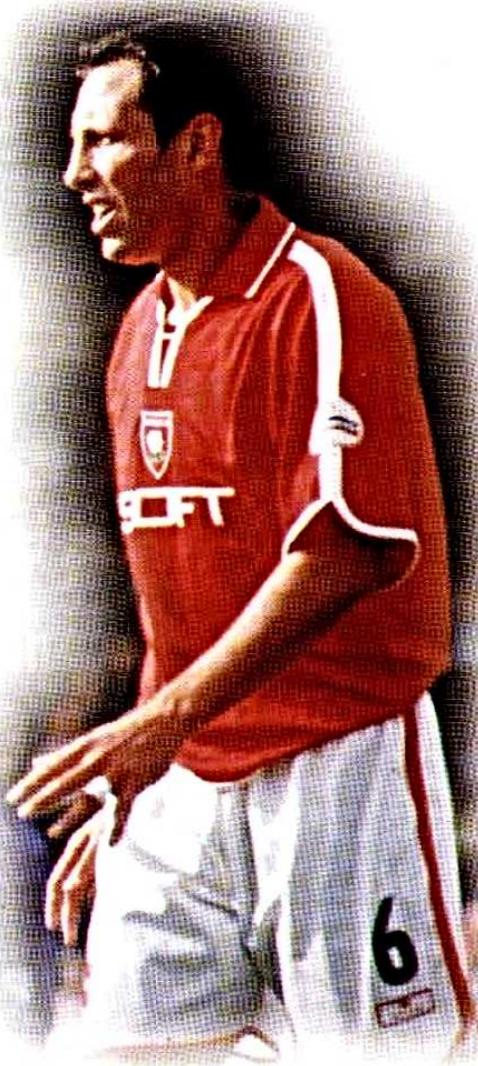
Of the four games that survived on Saturday, Peterborough United won the relegation six-pointer 1-0 at the McAlpine Stadium against Huddersfield Town. Andy Edwards' late close-range finish from Dave Farrell's cross gave Posh the three points and lifted Barry Fry's men out of the bottom four, while the Terriers stay rooted to the foot of the table and in severe financial difficulties.

Huddersfield Town chairman David Taylor has confirmed that he is involved in crisis talks with the club's players in a bid to help the Terriers' current cash problems. Taylor has said that the wage bill for December has still not been paid as the club remains £6million in debt. Basically the club cannot afford to carry the contracts currently in existence and although the PFA are prepared to assist, deferring payments is not really a long-term option for the club, merely shifting the problem down the line rather than solving it. Crewe Alex came from behind to beat Colchester United 2-1 at Layer Road. Veteran Micky Stockwell netted the opener for the home side four minutes before the break. However, the Alex drew level 11 minutes into the second half as Steve Jones curled in a left-footed shot past Simon Brown and the former Leigh RMI winger repeated the effort

six minutes later with a right foot shot to secure the three points.

Richard Pacquette fired QPR ahead after 11 minutes at Loftus Road against Barnsley, netting from Matthew Rose's knockdown following a Richard Langley cross. Kevin Donovan struck the crossbar for the Tykes right on half time, but the visitors were unable to find a way back into the game and fell to a 1-0 defeat. The three points consolidated Rangers' sixth place in the league. The only other game saw Mansfield Town draw 0-0 at home to Wycombe Wanderers, although the Stags went close on several occasions through Iyseiden Christie. Liam Lawrence also hit the woodwork for the home side.

One transfer of note saw Blackpool manager Steve McMahon complete the signing of Barnsley defender Mike Flynn on a three-month loan deal. The 33-year-old has been brought to Bloomfield Road because of the current defensive crisis at the club, which sees Colin Hendry, Ian Hughes and Chris Clarke all currently injured.



Mike Flynn... three months at the seaside!

THE DAY'S SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES

- Barnsley v Luton Town
- Blackpool v Northampton Town
- Brentford v Notts County
- Cardiff City v Cheltenham Town
- Chesterfield v Mansfield Town (11am)
- Crewe Alexandra v Huddersfield Town
- Peterborough United v Port Vale
- Plymouth Argyle v Queens Park Rangers
- Tranmere Rovers v Bristol City
- Wigan Athletic v Colchester United
- Wycombe Wanderers v Oldham Athletic

EDGELEY SPORTS

ONE VISIT AND YOU'RE HOOKED

A comprehensive selection of all
Coarse, Sea, Game, Carp Tackle
The Anglers choice for tackle, bait & service
Opening times: Mon - Thurs 8.00am - 5.30pm
Fri - Sat 8.00am - 7.00pm
145 - 147 Castle Street, Edgeley,
Stockport. SK3 9AR



0161 480 2511

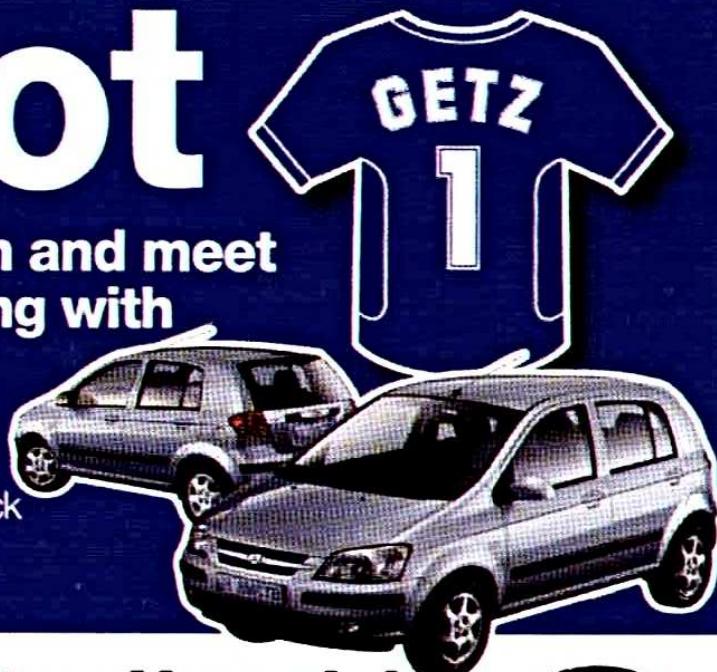


The All New Hyundai Getz - it's here, now at Wellington Hyundai

Shoot

down to Wellington and meet
our new star signing with
European flair.

The all new Hyundai Getz,
great up front, superb down
the wings, outstanding at the back
- a stunning all-round performer!

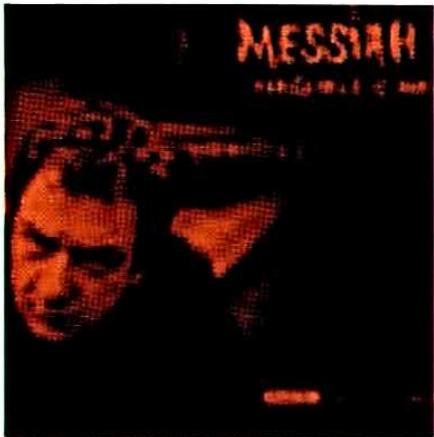


Wellington Hyundai

26 School Lane, Heaton Chapel, Stockport
Telephone 0161 432 4790


HYUNDAI

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.wellingtonhyundai.co.uk



As I may have mentioned elsewhere in today's programme...Sorry, matchday magazine, I have a bit more time on my hands this week than usual. All the better to do my usual exhaustive televisual research. How is it then, that after trawling through channel after channel, hour after hour, inputting the results into a very powerful computer, it would appear that the very best programme on this week was a 1972 episode of Columbo?

Of course there have been other supposed highpoints, but nothing which quite

SOUTHART ON the box

STEVE
SOUTHART'S
T.V. REVIEW...

measures up. Messiah 2 ("Vengeance is Mine" apparently...what a corny title) had it's disturbing moments, but I struggled with the fact that my TV screen just got darker and darker as the programme progressed. Plus, our telly is a very good judge of quality and actually turned itself off halfway through. I took that as an omen.

Leslie Ash's lips provided some amusement during yet another police "drama" whose name escaped me as my life-force drained from my body while I was watching it. Coronation Street seems to be taking on Eastenders in the darkness stakes. Last Monday's episode, with the dastardly Richard doing for poor old Emily B left me unable to sleep...so over-the-top was the acting. Has Richard got one evil eye on next year's Panto season, perhaps? Holby City, Red Cap, Wild About Harry, all touted as the next big must-see TV, all very

disappointing. Go and do something more constructive with your time, like build the Titanic in only 550 weeks, at a cost of only £1900.

Oh, and just one more thing, sir, I almost forgot...Columbo, Channel Five weekdays at 2.25pm. Have you forgotten how good it is?



the best
90 minutes
of your week

If you're in business, the most rewarding hour-and-a-half you'll ever spend is on Thursday mornings at County Business Club.

Find new customers, increase sales and valuable business contacts in friendly, like-minded company. If your business needs a boost, you'll get it at County Business Club.

Ring Martin on 0161 286 8901 for details

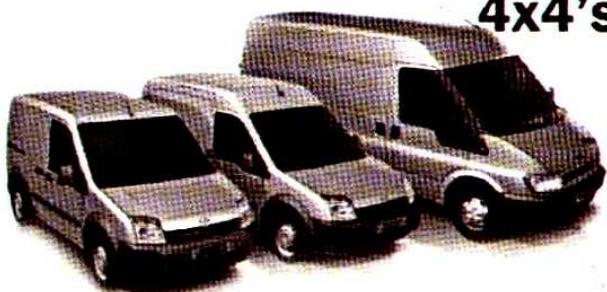
Special meeting for guests and visitors on 6th February.

Networking that works



We're in a League of our own.

With **42 nationwide locations** and a fleet team in excess of 10,000 including **MPV's, 4x4's, estates, trucks, vans & specialist vehicles** there's never any injury worries at ARRIVA.



So, the next time you need an exceptional, on-loan star player contact ARRIVA Vehicle Rental, **we're in a league of our own!**



*Unit 1 Sovereign Business Park
Wyvern Avenue (off Greg Street)
South Reddish, Stockport.*

Tel: 0161 476 0084

www.arrivarental.co.uk



ARRIVA
Vehicle Rental



100 Years at
Edgeley Park

Throughout the season, Richard Harnwell and Phil Brennan look back at the good and the bad times that make up the history of Stockport County since admission to The Football League in 1900.

Part 16 - The 'deerstalker' comes and goes.

The 1983/84 season saw the start of a new Cup competition, which had been the brainchild of County Chairman Dragan Lukic. The Associate Members Cup was designed as a 'second half of the season competition for Third and Fourth Division teams. The competition was originally based on the notion that most, if not all, of clubs in the two lower Divisions would have no further interest in the two 'major' domestic Cups.

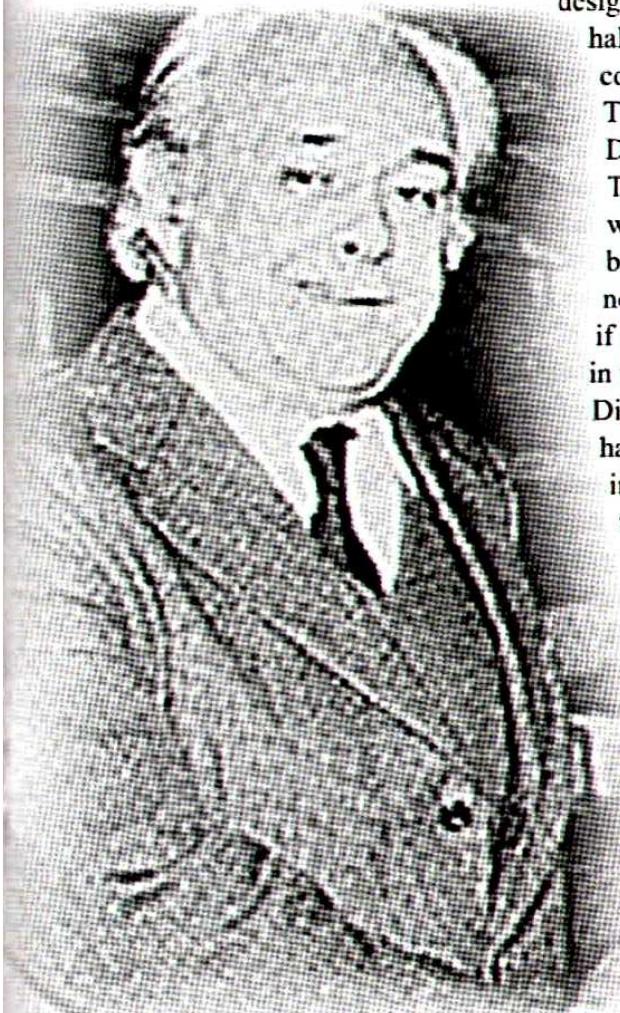
County were to play twelve games, over six seasons, before they were to win their first ever game in the competition,

defeating Burnley 2-0 at Turf Moor in November 1989. In true County style, having won only 2 of a total 18 games in the competition, spanning 8 seasons, the club were then to reach two successive Finals in the early 90's.

The club's first ever game in the competition, a draw at home to Crewe Alexandra in February 1984, was notable for the fact that County, having already missed a spot kick during normal time, were to lose a penalty 'shoot out' by missing their first three kicks.

In the eighties a period relative stability in the Managers chair, which saw the club utilising the services of just two managers in a little under six years, then saw a further six managers incumbent over the next four. Following Jimmy McGuigan and Eric Webster's spell in the hot seat, the club were managerless for closed season of 1985 until the appointment

County Chairman Dragan Lukic



of Colin Murphy, for the first of his two spells as number one at Edgeley Park in August.

Although Murphy's tenure was brief it was eventful. Due to safety concerns raised by the Bradford City fire on the final day of the previous

season, Edgeley Park was still awaiting a safety certificate. The campaign began with County playing their first seven League and Cup fixtures away from home. His team were to play just four times at home under his leadership, before Murphy was lured away by a lucrative deal in Saudi Arabia.

Senior player Les Chapman was promoted to player/manager seeing out the remainder of the season. Having taken over a side in 19th place, Chapman led his side steadily up the Fourth Division table to fifth position by the end of March. Following this five-month spell, the best for twenty years, disaster struck once again as the 'Hatters' lost six of their last eight games finishing eleventh. Despite the fact that the club had not finished in a higher position for 17 years, Chapman was inexplicably dumped during the closed season.

The decision to sack Les Chapman was to have near



Colin Murphy



Colin Murphy

catastrophic repercussions for Stockport County. The 1986/87 season saw the implementation of automatic relegation for the team that finished bottom of the Fourth Division. On the face of it, the 'high profile' appointment of Jimmy Melia as County's new manager did not appear to be a bad bet. Just three seasons previously the former England International, had taken unfashionable Brighton & Hove Albion to within a whisker of lifting the FA Cup. Sadly Melia was unable to reproduce the form he had showed during his playing career, in his role as a manager. A closer look at his managerial record, the FA Cup run apart, shows him to have had unsuccessful spells at Aldershot, Crewe, Southport and abroad. On his return to England he took over at Brighton in 1983, despite their glorious FA Cup run, the South Coast club were relegated, prompting

Melia to resign.

Another unsuccessful spell abroad, with Beleneses in Portugal, preceded his arrival at Edgeley Park.

Accustomed as County fans were to seasons of dire performances the last 100 years paled into insignificance during Melia's four months in charge. The abysmal record of won one, drawn three, lost ten, goals for 6, goals against 29 speaks volumes for his fourteen League games. To add insult to injury County were battered into oblivion by Sheffield Wednesday ten nil on aggregate in the First round of the League Cup. The second leg, seven nil defeat, equaling the clubs highest ever in the competition.

With the club facing certain relegation and possible extinction, it came as no surprise that Melia was sacked in November 1986.

In desperation the board of directors turned once again to Colin Murphy, still working in the Middle East, to save a near impossible situation.

Taking into consideration the teams League position, compounded by the further demoralizing First Round FA Cup defeat at the hands of non-league Caernarfon Town, Murphy's task seemed insurmountable.

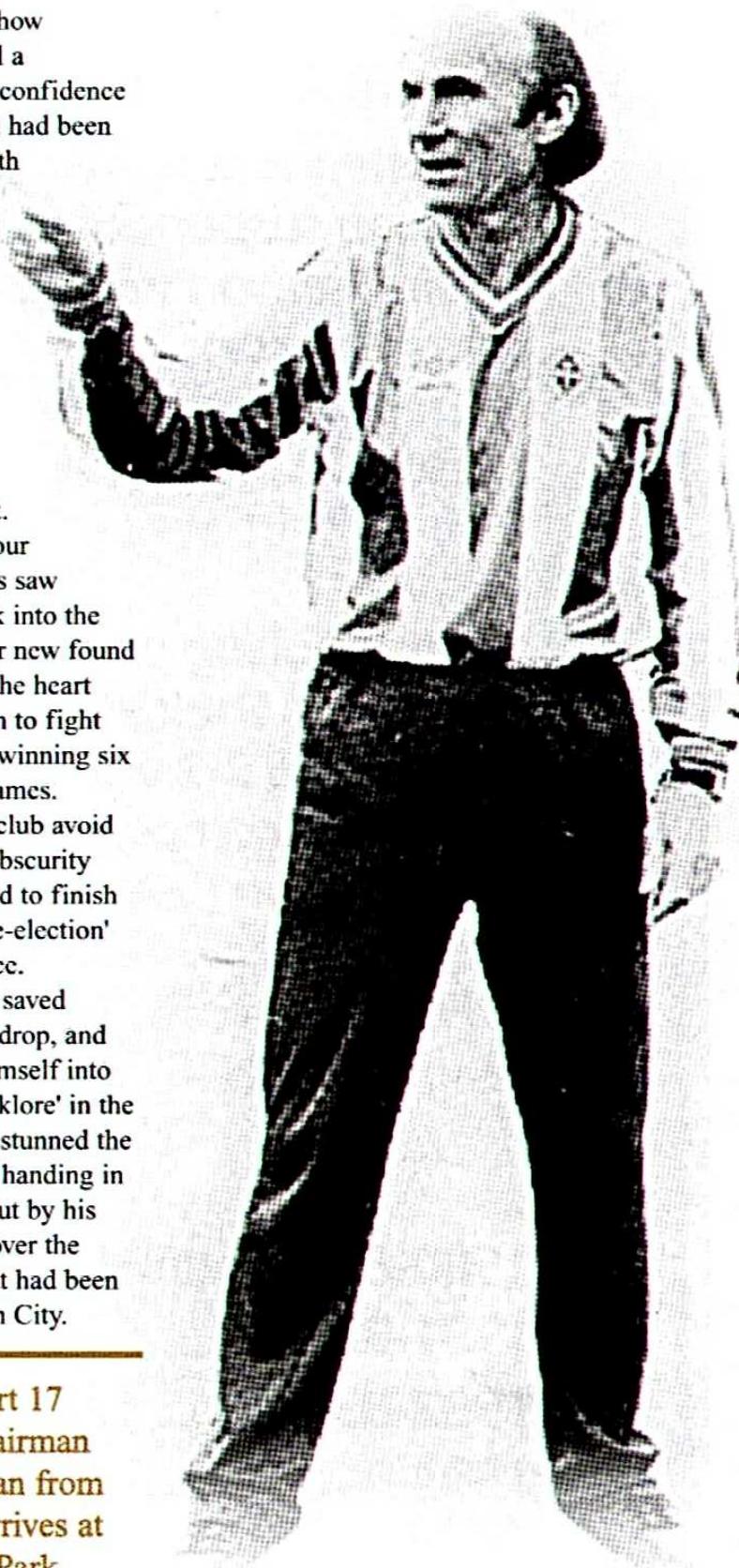
Aided by several inspired

signings he somehow managed to instill a commitment and confidence in his players that had been sadly lacking. With the team suffering only two defeats in his first fourteen games in charge, morale both on and off the pitch received a tremendous boost.

Whilst a run of four successive defeats saw County drop back into the danger zone, their new found spirit gave them the heart and determination to fight back once more, winning six of the last nine games.

Not only did the club avoid the trap door to obscurity they also managed to finish outside the old 're-election' zone, in 20th place.

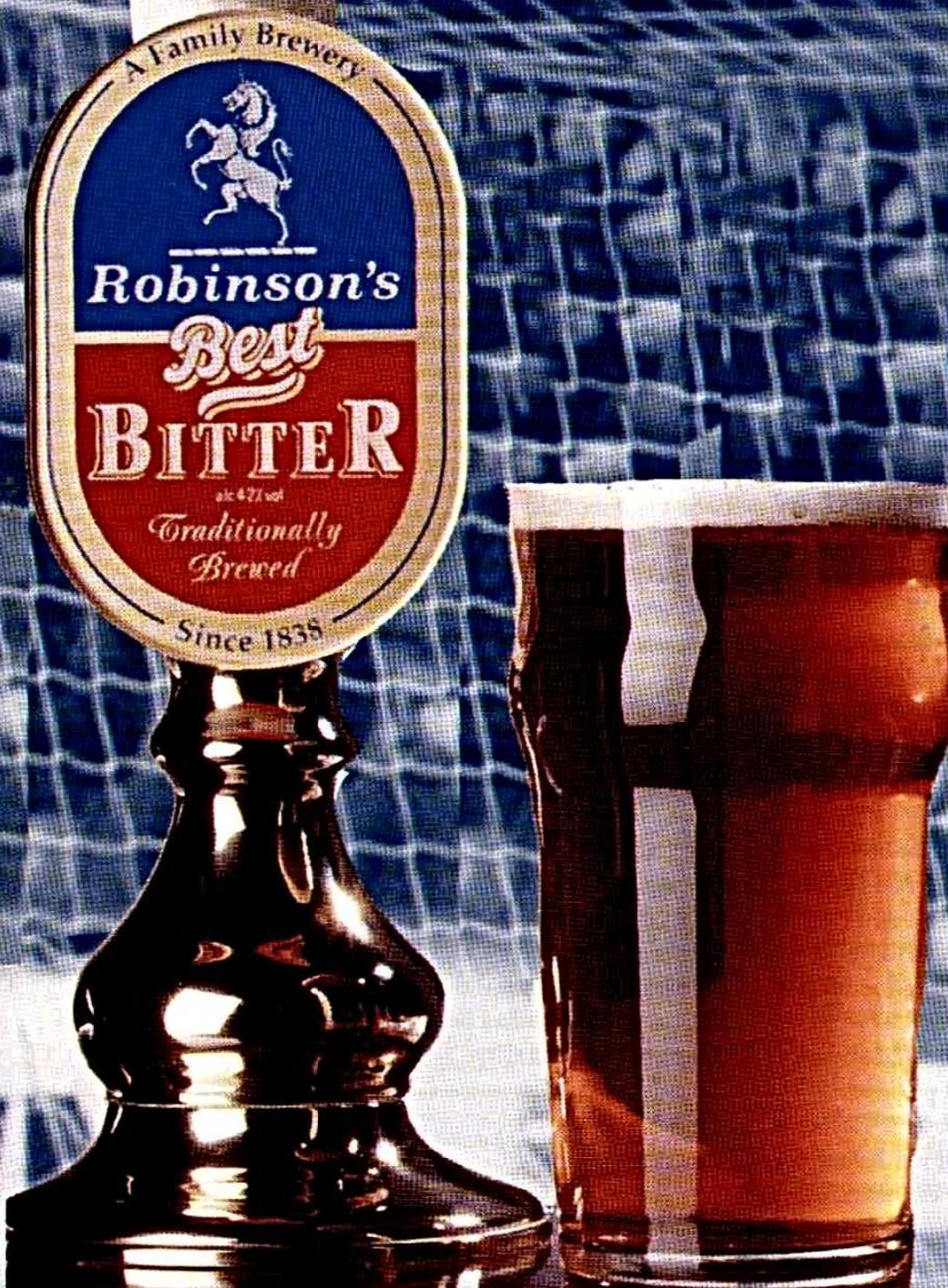
Ironically having saved County from the drop, and having written himself into Edgeley Park 'folklore' in the process, Murphy stunned the club, not only by handing in his resignation, but by his decision to take over the Football Club that had been relegated, Lincoln City.



Next: Part 17
A new Chairman
and 'The man from
Uruguay' arrives at
Edgeley Park.

Jimmy Melia





A Stand Sponsor

Robinson's Brewery



www.frederic-robinson.co.uk

THERE'LL ALWAYS...

be an england...

JOHN ENGLAND'S VIEW

ONLY IN AMERICA!

A couple of months ago I wrote in this column about how others, specifically Americans, see us. I wrote of how they genuinely seem to like us, like our history and our heritage but tend to look on us (justifiably I thought) as being slightly eccentric. I think it's now only fit and proper that I should turn the tables around and take a look at how we see them. We can't really escape America can

we? The USA has influenced the world like no other country in the last hundred years or so. Just get in your Ford, fly in a Boeing, drink a Coke or munch on a Big Mac whilst watching a movie or CNN and you'll see what I mean. Put on your Levis or if you're a female (or even if you're not – let's be broad minded here!) hitch up your stockings and smoke a Marlboro Light and get the same feeling, the feeling of America. All these items and plenty more besides started out life in that great country across the pond. American influence and culture is everywhere. Where, for example, would pop music be without Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly to name but three?

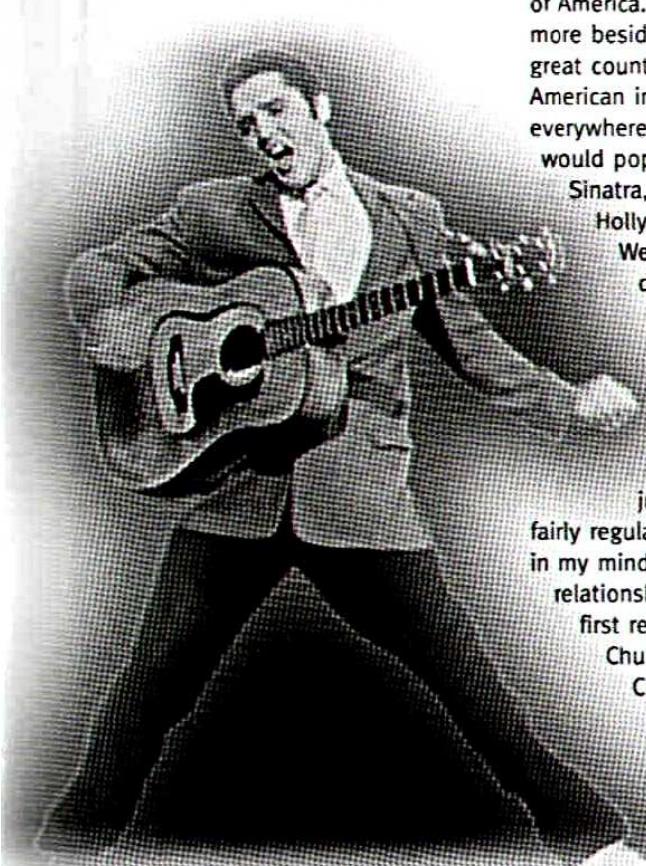
We flock to the States in droves, whether it's to visit the Big Apple, Disney or just to soak up the sun in California and Florida. The USA has a particular pull for British visitors and it seems we just can't get enough. I visit fairly regularly and there is no doubt in my mind that the "special relationship" between our countries

first referred to by Sir Winston Churchill still holds true. It was Churchill also who described the UK and USA as being "two countries divided by a common language". How right he was. I've



lost count of the number of times I've used a word in an English context only to find it means something quite different in the USA. It happens in reverse too.

Stories abound over the confusion caused by words such as "fag" (slang for cigarette in England of course but in the USA slang for homosexual) or "fanny" (meaning bottom to an American but something totally different in this country!). My favourite story, and a true one at that, relates to a dance popular in the state of South Carolina called the "shag". Now in England that word means a breed of sea bird, a type of pipe tobacco or something else totally unrepeatable in a respectable publication such as this. One evening a party of English tourists arrived at a South Carolina hotel to be greeted by a notice in the lobby announcing "Shagging contest tonight!" Two elderly ladies fainted, three gentlemen were injured in the rush to the function room door and one woman loudly exclaimed "How disgusting, we're not staying here!" (I lied about the first two but the third is true!). Peace and harmony were only restored when the hotel manager explained to his guests that the notice referred to a dance rather than the activity they initially envisaged. So, visit the USA by all means. It's a wonderful country populated in the main by warm, friendly and hospitable people. You'll have a great time, I'm sure, but it might be an idea to take a phrase book with you – just in case!



Fly The Flag

www.flytheflag.net





PROUD SPONSORS OF STOCKPORT COUNTY

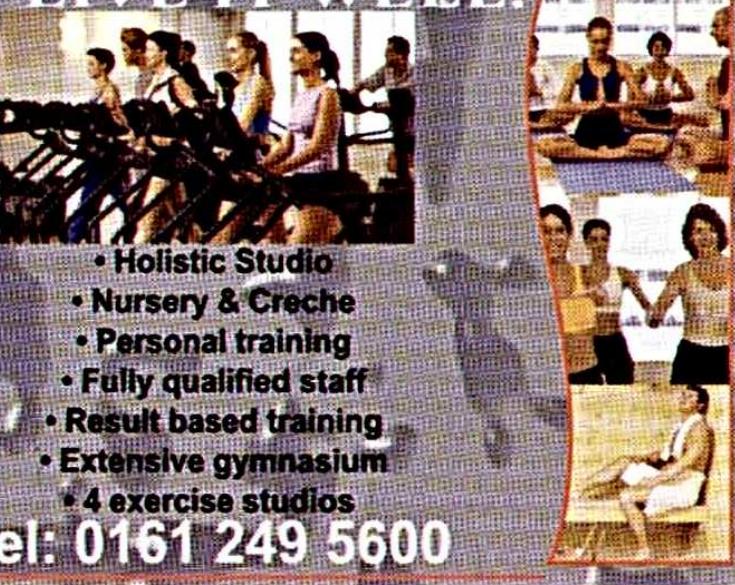
EXCLUSIVELY
AVAILABLE TO
THE TRADE AT

Parfetts
Cash & Carry

HOLMES PLACE

ONE LIFE. LIVE IT WELL.

25m Ozone Swimming pool & Teaching pool



- Holistic Studio
- Nursery & Creche
- Personal training
- Fully qualified staff
- Result based training
- Extensive gymnasium
- 4 exercise studios

Tel: 0161 249 5600

Parrswood Entertainment Centre,
Wilmslow Road, Didsbury

Or enjoy Holmes Place at the
Printworks, Manchester
0161 831 9922

kidding

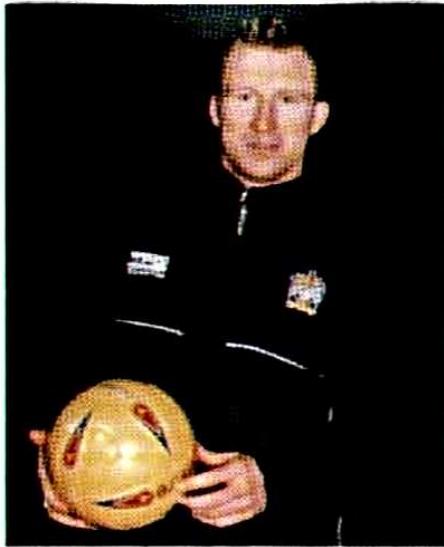
ONLY

THE LATEST FROM THE JUNIORS

Hello again and welcome back to Edgeley Park for this afternoon's match with Swindon Town. A warm welcome to the party of Swindon Juniors who are here this afternoon as our guests.

Hopefully we have played football with them down at Powerleague before lunch and onto Edgeley Park. We hope you have enjoyed your visit and have a safe journey home.

It seems ages since I wrote for the programme due to early Christmas deadlines – doesn't our great win against Northampton seem a long time ago. Certainly the results have not gone for us over the festive period. Still, a new year and hopefully things will turn around.



Luke Beckett made sure he went home with the match ball after scoring his first career hat-trick, against Northampton Town.

A good run of results and a climb up the table would be a good way of starting 2003.

That's all for now
Enjoy the match
Ian Butterworth
County Juniors

Away Travel

Our next away travel will be next Saturday January 25 for the trip to Bristol City where we will be guests of the City Juniors. For further information or to book your seats please contact either Brenda on 0161 487 2766 or myself on 0161 456 7606 ASAP after today's match.

Further Coaches To:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Cheltenham Town | February 8 |
| Peterborough United | February 22 |
| Barnsley | March 8 |

Meetings

Your next County Juniors meeting will be held here at Edgeley Park on Sunday February 9, usual start time of 10.45am. We will leave for football at Powerleague at 11am. As usual County players will be along to join us.

Just For Fun

Can you name the grounds of these Scottish teams?

Rangers
Falkirk
Celtic
Aberdeen
Ayr United
Dundee United
Motherwell
Hibernian

MATCH MASCOTS



Jack Taylor

Age: 8
School: St. Christopher's, Romiley.
Hobbies: Football and Guitar.
Favourite County Players: Luke Beckett.



Sam Oliver Lynch

Age: 10
School: Stockport Grammar Junior School.
Hobbies: Football, golf, tennis, swimming and Playstation.
Favourite County Player: Luke Beckett.



Adam Johnson

Age: 12
School: Hulme Hall Grammar School.
Hobbies: Football
Favourite County Players: Luke Beckett and Carlton Palmer

Graham's

Manchester

The North West Leading Supplier of Clearance & Bulk Confectionery

0161 442 4432

TRADE ONLY

W.H. POTTS LTD.

Established 1888

WE SELL THE TOOLS YOUR
NEIGHBOUR LIKES TO
BORROW

IRONMONGERY ★ TOOLS ★ HARDWARE
88/90 Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport.

0161 480 2577

www.stockportcounty.com

Stockport Fencing Ltd.

Manufacturers and Erectors of
Domestic and Industrial
Fencing

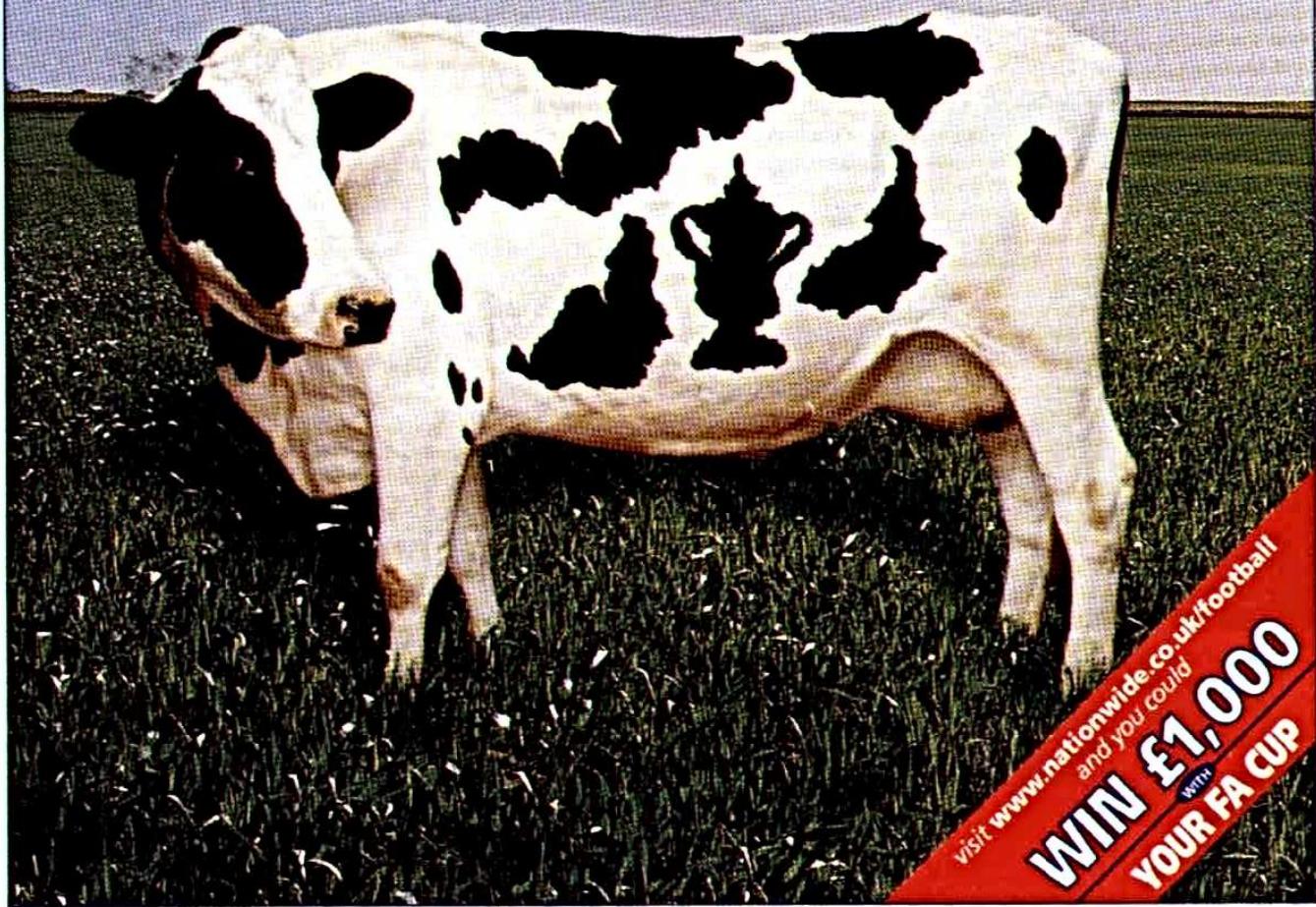
Prestige Concrete Garages
Grantham Road, Green Lane Ind. Estate
Heaton Norris
Tel: 0161 477 0010 - 0161 491 2282

FOOTBALL

 Nationwide

Something on your mind?

FA CUP FEVER COURTESY OF NATIONWIDE. IT'S ONLY NATURAL



visit www.nationwide.co.uk/football
and you could
**WIN £1,000
WITH
YOUR FA CUP**

The FA CUP
OFFICIAL PARTNER

 Nationwide

An Official Partner of The FA Cup

Banking | Credit Card | Insurance | Investments | Loans | Mortgages | Pensions | Savings

The Football Association have rejected the proposals from the Conference League to add one or two divisions to their constitution next season, albeit temporary. Thank goodness for that. Call me an old traditionalist but radical change in football goes against the grain.

The Conference are trying to add more strength to their already considerable armour by increasing the number of clubs in their competition. This would obviously seriously weaken the Unibond, Dr Martens and Ryman Leagues and whilst they would easily make up the numbers, I am totally against clubs 'jumping the gun' by obtaining promotion under false pretences. Hyde United, who are bottom of the Unibond League and who look certain for relegation, have applied and with their ground being up to standard they would almost certainly get into the Conference League. Isn't it morally wrong that a team deemed for relegation should suddenly gain promotion because of a new shake up? It is very similar to what could happen in the Football League. There has been talk of a Premier Division Two with invites to selected clubs. Sheffield Wednesday may be relegated at the end of the season to Division Two, but

because they are a 'big' club, they would be promoted if this idea came about for next season. Any plans for League re-structuring should be planned for at least two years ahead so that EVERY club has the same chance of promotion.

What a shame that Farnborough can't stage their glamour FA Cup game at home. Imagine Mr Wenger squeezed into a dug out that fits six people and the world press clamouring into a press area where you couldn't swing a cat. Two ex-County players could be lining up against Arsenal, goalkeeper Tony Pennock and forward Ken Charlery.

Carl Alford has got the move he wants by going to Conference club Nuneaton. He turned down a move to Droylsden but this move is fraught with danger. Apparently the fans are helping to pay his wages and that to me just doesn't sound right. Whilst Nuneaton manager John Askey knows Alford well from his Macclesfield days, it only wants Alford to struggle scoring goals and the fans would soon be asking questions. Nuneaton lost the first League game that Alford played and then got dumped out of the FA Trophy at Tamworth. Alford needs to score goals to keep the fickle fans happy.



Former County players Tony Pennock (above) and Ken Charlery (in action below) could be lining up against Arsenal.



ON THE ladder

CHRIS DAVIES' LOWDOWN ON NON-LEAGUE SOCCER

D & C

WIDESCREEN TV
PLASMA & LCD TV's
PROJECTION SCREENS
DVD & VIDEO
HOME CINEMA
HI-FI & AUDIO
SATELLITE
TV & FM AERIELS

**SATELLITE & TELEVISION
INTERNATIONAL**
0161 480 3500

SALES SERVICE REPAIRS INSTALLATIONS

WHY PAY MORE?
at DIXONS CURRY'S COMET

We promise to beat prices from any other high street store, and we deliver and install our products free of charge

5% DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD AS VOUCHER - Offer applies to products only



61 Buxton Rd (main A6)
Didsbury, Stockport

Visit the north west's
finest showroom for
a demonstration



thin on the ground...

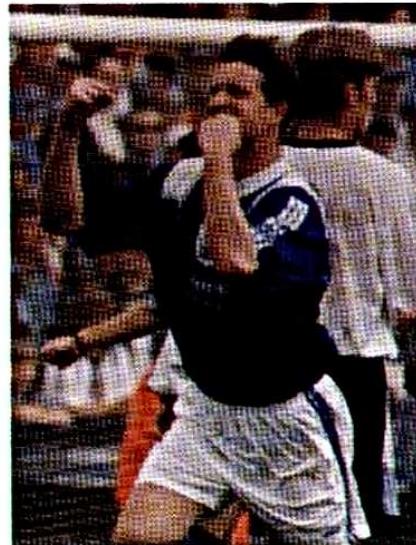
Players who have played for County and this afternoon's visitors are thin on the ground. But those that have, have made significant contributions to Hatters' history. Keith East and Tommy Henderson were teammates at the County Ground before moving north in 1966 to help the Blues clinch the Fourth Division championship later that season. And another former Robin also played a part in securing our last piece of silverware. Bill Atkins was registered as a County player just four minutes before transfer deadline in March 1967. He then played the final fourteen games in our championship campaign, scoring three goals. Our former player-manager Mike Summerbee started his illustrious career with the Town back in 1960 whilst super-sub Andy Mutch spent two years in Wiltshire after leaving Wolves in the summer of 1993.

The matchday music played at Edgeley Park is kindly supplied by...



top dog for music • video • games

Hugely popular at Edgeley Park, Mutchy had the chance to spoil Swindon's promotion party on the final day of the 1995-96 season, but he headed John Jeffers' cross over the bar from point-blank range. Victory could have secured a play-off spot for Dave Jones' men – the game finished goalless – but it would have been academic as Bradford made sure of sixth place by winning at Hull. Andy, though, played a key role twelve months later – mainly from the bench – when the Hatters regained their place in English football's second tier for the first time in 60 years. Who will ever forget his late winner – and subsequent celebrations – against Burnley that sent the majority of the 9,187 inside Edgeley Park into raptures? His eleven County League goals included a hat trick, against? ... Swindon's arch-rivals Oxford United in March 1996!



CHEER UP ADRIAN HEATH ... Mutchy celebrates his winner against Burnley in 1997.

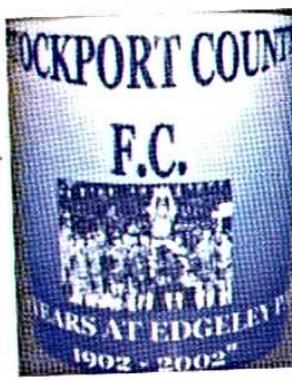
| Name | Stockport County | | | Swindon Town | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------|-----|----------------|------|-----|
| | Seasons Played | Apps | Gls | Seasons Played | Apps | Gls |
| Tommy Henderson | 1966 | 19 | 4 | 1965 | 11 | 3 |
| Bill Atkins | 1966-68 | 92 | 37 | 1959-64 | 75 | 28 |
| Keith East | 1966-67 | 25 | 7 | 1964-66 | 45 | 21 |
| Mike Summerbee | 1977-79 | 87 | 6 | 1959-64 | 218 | 39 |
| Andy Mutch | 1995-97 | 64 | 11 | 1993-94 | 50 | 6 |

GALA CASINO

american roulette • electronic roulette
 blackjack • casino stud poker • 3 card poker (brag)
 jackpot machines • bar • restaurant
 free car park

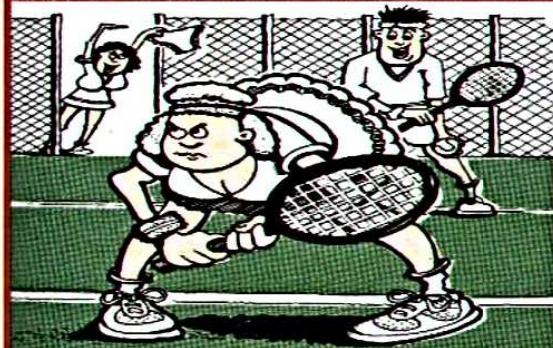
shop til you drop...

Have you checked out the Club Shop at Edgeley Park lately? Manager Paul Wilkinson has recently received delivery of a number of super items at really affordable prices. And he tells us that the special limited edition mug, commissioned to celebrate 100 years of football at Edgeley Park, is still available but stocks are diminishing quickly. For motorists the mini County kit, and pennant would enhance any vehicle. Younger fans are not forgotten either with County Autograph Books and cuddly County Bears now available. And for those fans who collect our excellent Matchday Magazine then the County Programme Binder is a must.



THE FAR POST...

KEVIN ELLISON, A PLAYER ALWAYS PREPARED TO TAKE ON DEFENDERS ...



A cartoon paints a thousand words

Cartoons • Illustration • Graphic Design
Contact: Sid Richards

Tel: 0161-427 1426

e-mail: SidDesigns@aol.com
www.cartoonists.co.uk/sid

Strips • Gags • Characters • Caricature

If you are **crazy** about sports
then why not **channel** some
energy into one of our many
sports courses:



**Myerscough
College**

- NVQ Level 1 Sport and Recreation
- FD Sports Studies
- GNVQ Advanced Leisure and Recreation
- ND Football Studies
- ND Sports Studies
- ND Outdoor Recreation

- ND Golf Studies
- HND Sports Studies
- HND Golf and Leisure Management
- BSc (Hons) Golf Studies

Ring our Course Enquiries Unit for more
information: **01995 642211**

Career Advice Sessions 2001/2002

Wednesday 23rd October 2002 (3pm - 8pm)

Saturday 2nd November 2002 (10am - 12.30pm)

Saturday 7th December 2002 (10am - 12.30pm)



**Myerscough
College**
Providing opportunities for all



Myerscough College also offers FE & HE courses in the following subjects:

- AGRICULTURE • ANIMAL STUDIES • ARBORICULTURE • BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT
 - CREATIVE DESIGN • COUNTRYSIDE STUDIES • EQUINE • GOLF STUDIES
- HORTICULTURE • LANDSCAPE PRACTICE • MECHANISATION & MOTOSPORTS
 - SPORTS TURF • SPORT & LEISURE STUDIES • VETERINARY NURSING

MCUK

lottery lines

CASH BONANZA

EVERYBODY'S FAVOURITE GAME!



Half-Time Draw Winners v Port Vale

DATE: 01/01/03

| | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1ST PRIZE | No.18025 | £243.00 |
| 2ND PRIZE | No.18328 | Executive Day |
| 3RD PRIZE | No.18860 | Pair of Match tickets |
| 4TH PRIZE | No.18663 | Pair of Match tickets |
| 5TH PRIZE | No.11807 | Case of Beer |

ALL ABOVE PRIZES MUST BE CLAIMED FROM THE LOTTERY OFFICE WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS. NO CASH EQUIVALENT WILL BE GIVEN. MATCH TICKETS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE. THE PROMOTERS DECISION IS FINAL.

Thank you for your support
Any queries ring Matthew 0161 286 8890

STADIUM REFURBISHMENT SOCIETY
REGISTERED WITH S.M.B.C.
WWW.STOCKPORTCOUNTY.COM

You've got to be in it to win it!

HALF TIME DRAW SELLERS REQUIRED

Do you have two hours to spare before every home game?

Would you like to watch Stockport County for free?

Would you like to earn extra cash?

Are you over 16 years old?

If the answer to the above questions is 'yes' we need you to sell our popular half time draw.

For more information telephone 0161 286 8890

Deanprint
LIMITED

- Colour Printers • Bookbinders •
- Design • Typesetting •

Traditional Techniques
with Advanced Technology
working as one!

Telephone:

0161 428 2236

Cheadle Heath Works
Stockport • Cheshire • SK3 0PR
www.sales@deanprint.co.uk

COUNTDOWN

was brought to you today
courtesy of

DHMM

Digital Editing
Professional Filming
Corporate CD's & Videos
Tel: 07775 724699

FINGERPOST



HOTEL

SCFC



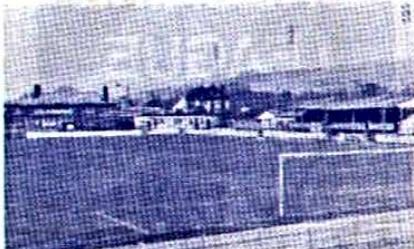
Tel: 0161 480 4138

Dinah and Eddie Welcomes you
The Fingerpost a true
county Pub!!

target 1000!

Make sure we out number the Northwich Green & White Army on Wednesday night.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED



CHESHIRE FA SENIOR CUP FINAL
NORTHWICH VICTORIA v.
STOCKPORT COUNTY

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL, 1966

Kick off 3 pm

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

WEEK No. 29

2 Prizes each of £1 Premium Bond
for Lucky Numbers
Drawn at Half Time

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

6d.

A 12-page programme was issued for our Cheshire Senior Cup Final against Vics.

Edgeley Park is bracing itself for a Green and White invasion when Northwich Victoria come to town on Wednesday night.

More than 400 fans are expected to follow Jimmy Quinn's side on their first appearance in Stockport for almost 29 years.

Their last visit was back on February 23rd, 1974 when the non-leaguer's won a Senior Cup tie 1-0.

That game, incidentally, was the first time we'd been drawn out of the bag first against Vics in a competition that dates back to 1880.

We have played four ties at Drill Field, though, (1 win and 3 defeats), and four games on neutral venues, (3 wins and one defeat).

The last game played on neutral turf was at Macclesfield's Moss Rose on Saturday, April 16th.

And, after hammering Chester and Tranmere 4-0 in earlier rounds, Northwich were red-hot favourites to lift the grand old trophy for the first time in more than a decade.

But, roared on by more than 2,000 travelling fans, it was County Reserves who triumphed 2-0, thanks to a couple of goals from Frank Beaumont.

Whilst that following may sound incredible, an even bigger Blue Army made the journey to Stalybridge for the semi-final against the, then, mighty Altrincham.

The Robins, arguably the top non-league side in the country, arrived at Bower Fold on March 19th, 1966 boasting a record that showed just two defeats all season – a Cheshire

League game against Runcorn and an FA Cup fourth round tie against the mighty Wolves!

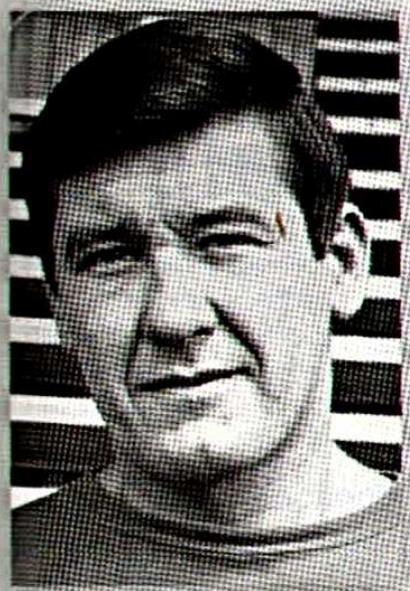
But County Reserves stunned them with a 65th minute goal from 18-year-old amateur Malcolm Abbott and then refused to buckle under an Alty onslaught thanks, largely, to a terrific performance from 'keeper Steve Fleet. The Stockport Express described Abbott's big moment: "And then it happened. Left-half Mike Eckersall dropped a free kick into the Alty penalty area, right-wing Frank Peacock pushed the ball through a gap in the Robins defence for fellow winger Malcolm Abbott to scissor kick into the back of the net. It was a goal that rocked the Robins and sent the large army of County fans wild with delight."

County's success in 1966 was the fifth time they'd lifted the Senior Cup. Our first was 60 years earlier when Northwich, strangely, were beaten 2-1 at Gresty Road Crewe.

Other victories came in 1915, 1947 and 1949.

We have also tasted defeat at the final stage in 1939, 1958 and, much more recently, 2001.

Vics also have a proud history in the competition. Such was their early domination – similar to Real Madrid



Goalkeeper Steve Fleet was in inspirational form when County last lifted the Cheshire Senior Cup in 1966.

in the European Cup – they won the first competition in 1880 and then saw their name engraved on the trophy for the next five years.

Their overall record of 17 successes can only be bettered by Macclesfield Town, with 20.

Northwich actually played the 1971 final against the Silkmen here at Edgeley Park, one of nine occasions the showpiece game has been staged by County.

And did you know that other semi-finals and finals have been held here in Stockport? In the late 19th century Cale Green Cricket Club, then home of

Stockport Association, was used a number of times by the Cheshire FA as a neutral venue.

On the playing side, many familiar faces have worn County blue and Northwich green.

Jimmy Collier, the youngest player to play for County, moved across Cheshire when he left Edgeley Park in 1974.

And, over the next couple of years, he was joined by Les Ormrod, Bev Wilson, the late Jimmy Golder and Tony Keyes, four players who played alongside Collier when our 'A' team gloriously lifted the Lancashire League title in 1973.

Two heroes from our epic League Cup victory against West Ham United that season, Tommy Spratt and Ray Charter, also spent time at the Drill Field following their release by County.

More recently Darren Knowles, Adie Mike and Rob Matthews have all spent time with both clubs.

County fans are urged to come along on Wednesday to support the Hatters ... we don't want to be outnumbered by away fans, do we?!

With all the bar and catering facilities open in the Stockport Express Stand the club are hoping to attract the biggest gate in this season's competition.

An attendance of 1,000 is a realistic target so make sure you play your part to help Craig Madden's youngsters reach the final. Kick off time is 7.15pm.



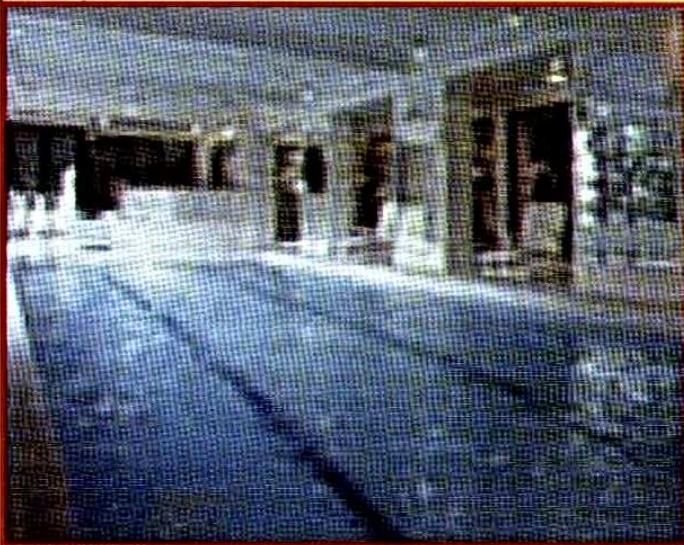
Adie Mike is one of many former County players who have played for Northwich.



Nearly 3,000 County fans invaded Stalybridge in 1966 ... for a reserve game!

BRITANNIA HOTELS

A Lasting Impression



Spindless Health & Leisure:

available at some Britannia Hotels

- Heated Swimming Pool
- Fully Equipped Gymnasium
- Jacuzzi - Sauna - Steam Room
- Hair & Beauty Salon

"Christmas & New Year Party Bookings now being taken

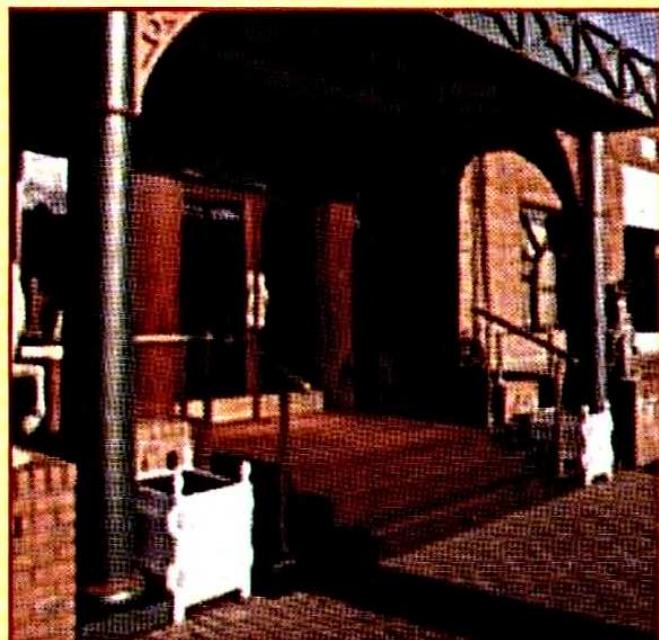
Reserve your party for 10 or more before 28th October and get a 10% discount
Call Tracy Wild on 0161 930 1000"

All Our Rooms Include:

- En-Suite Bathrooms
- Complimentary Tray
- Trouser Press
- Direct Dial Telephone
- Colour Television & Radio

Join Us For:

- Conferences
- Business Events
- Weddings
- Celebrations



Manchester - Liverpool - Birmingham - Coventry - Wolverhampton
Warwickshire - London - Brighton - Bournemouth - Aberdeen - Newcastle

Supporting Stockport County FC - Nationwide

www.britanniahotels.com

media mania...

Are you thinking of working in the media when you leave school or college?

How would you like to put your skills to the test by interviewing a County player?

You do? Then why not drop a line to 'Interview A Player,

Stockport County Football Club, Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road, Edgeley, Stockport SK3 9QG.

When writing please provide your name, age, school or college and the player you would like to interview.

The most exciting task of 2003?
It undoubtedly has to be interviewing at the age of fourteen.

My name is Leanne Turnbull, and I am presently at Bramhall High School.

I was intensely nervous doing this with it being my first interview as a journalist. As I entered the room, I could tell he was going to be a pleasure to interview. And I was not proven wrong. He really put me at ease.

Ali Gibb has been playing at Stockport County for three years, and is one of the most popular players, and rumour has it, (count me in), that he is one of the most striking and fanciable players in the team! When confronting him with this, he claimed he'd never heard anything of the sort, and passed the book to Kevin Ellison. Obviously, Ali is not the stereotypical 'bigheaded' footballer that we all hear about and loathe!

Moving swiftly on to the Christmas period - Ali, has played eight times in three years over the festive period - he told me that the holiday isn't as special as the rest of us conceive it to be. Christmas Day is just like any other day, although he did admit that the first year of being away from his family was difficult. Most people would be shocked that he isn't apprehensive about being away from his loved ones, but according to Ali work comes first.

His family want Ali to spend time with them at Christmas, but he only has Christmas morning and afternoon to offer them before he goes to work in the evening.

Unfortunately, Ali's partner spends

Christmas alone as she doesn't live near them.

Whilst the rest of us are sitting comfortably eating our Christmas dinner, Ali was tucking into his mouth-watering carbohydrates diet, consisting of pasta and potatoes, ready for the match on Boxing Day against Mansfield. To make Ali feel in the dumps (of course the blame goes to their special Christmas dinner the previous evening) County got beat, which compounded Ali's emotions as Mansfield were at the bottom of the league!

Ali didn't desire to be a footballer whilst young - he thought it was a dream that could not be fulfilled - but, inspired by his father, he took the first steps to being a professional at the age of eleven, playing for the youth team at Southampton for three years.

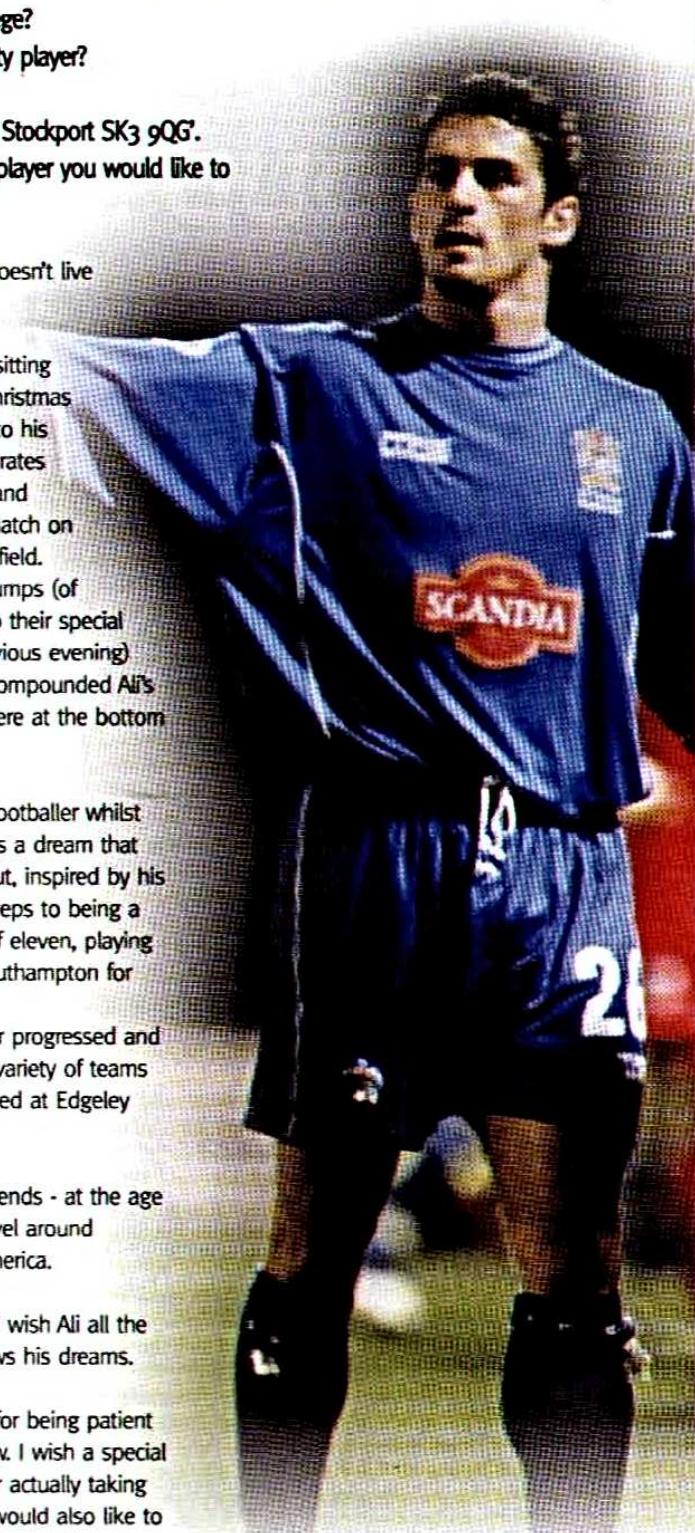
Over the years his career progressed and he played for a different variety of teams before he eventually arrived at Edgeley Park.

When his football career ends - at the age of 33? - Ali hopes to travel around Australasia and South America.

Looking ahead to 2003, I wish Ali all the best and I hope he follows his dreams.

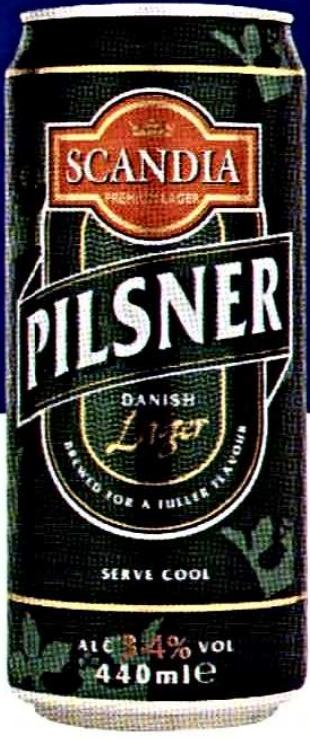
I would like to thank Ali for being patient and delightful to interview. I wish a special thanks to Steve Bellis, for actually taking me on to do this! And I would also like to thank my mum for encouraging Steve to let me do it, and some teachers at school who believed in me to do this interview.

▲ Ali Gibb... patient and delightful to interview.





PROUD SPONSORS OF STOCKPORT COUNTY



**Levenshulme
Convenience Store**
115 Levenshulme Road
Gorton, Manchester

Middle Hillgate Store
Middle Hillgate, Stockport

Nisha Off Licence
12 Ludlow Road, Stockport

A.P.E. Baker
522 Hempshaw Lane
Offerton, Stockport

Hartley's
53 Wellington Grove
Shaw Heath, Stockport

Londis
173 Thornley Lane South
Reddish, Stockport

Stubb's
208 Cheadle Old Road
Edgeley,
Stockport

**Major News
& Off Licence**
204 Manchester Road
Heaton Norris
Stockport

Unicorn Wines
100 Albion Road,
New Mills,
Stockport

**Woodsmore
Post Office**
64 Woodsmore Lane
Woodsmore,
Stockport

West Coast Wines
294 Gorton Road
Reddish, Stockport

Mo's Supermarket
2-6 Penshurst Road
Brinnington, Stockport

Gardner's
6 Bowland Road
Woodley,
Stockport

Smithy Green Store
21 Smithy Green
Woodley,
Stockport

NJR Minimarket
200 Lowndes Lane
Offerton,
Stockport

Euro Wines
50 Osbourne Street
Lower Bredbury
Stockport

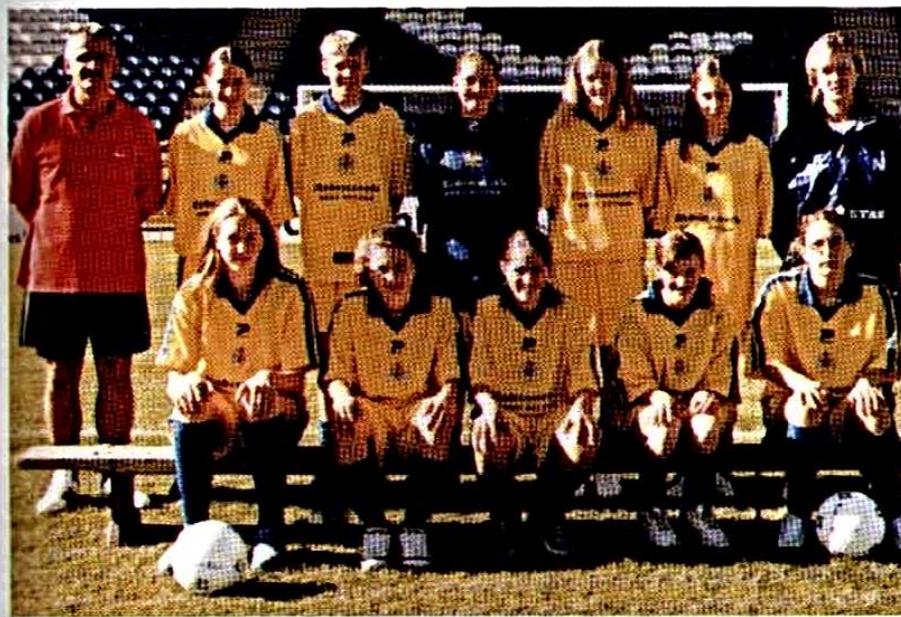
Westcoast Wines
134-136 Lower Bents Lane
Bredbury, Stockport

Town Street Stores Ltd
7 Town Street
Marple Bridge
Stockport

Barratt's Wine
136 Stockport Road
Marple, Stockport

D.J. Stores
4 Goyt Avenue
Hawk Green
Marple, Stockport

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL STORE



▲ WE ARE TOP OF THE LEAGUE ... County's Under-15s Hatters.

Freezing weather = unplayable pitches = no games. None of our team have been able to play since before Christmas - the girls will have forgotten what a ball looks like!

It also means that I have nothing to report on so instead I will take this opportunity to introduce you to some of our younger teams who are enjoying a successful season so far.

Sitting on top of the Lancashire Girls League are our excellent U16's team who play fantastic football. The girls in the squad are Katie Brusell, Carley Davies, Caroline Dixon, Jennifer Doherty, Claire Fitzpatrick, Dionne Frankland, Emma Gould, Jenny Halstead, Vicki Johnston, Victoria McConnell, Samantha Mansfield, Amanda Openshaw, Charlotte Outram, Melissa Palmear, Kirsten Rennie, Nicola Twohig.

Also top of their table are the U15's Hatters squad who are Danielle Airey, Kirsty Allen, Karrina Bertinshaw, Katie Brusell, Hannah Clarke, Tara Davenport, Kirsty Dawson, Dionne Frankland, Rachel Hall, Tanya Jones, Rachel Lee, Lucy Milward, Jody Palmer, Kate Pickup, Laura Poole, Ruth Preston, Kate Quinn, Amy Silgram, Heather Skilling, Rachael Walton.

The U15's Blues have also been playing well this season and have been unlucky not to take more points. The players in this squad are Peggy Aherne, Jodie Bagley, Rebecca Berry, Ashley Booth, Nicola Connor, Alex Foat, Emma Holdforth, Claire Holmes, Kelly Hutchinson, Sophie Kalinowski, Rebecca Lee, Katie Needham, Rebecca Nolan, Laura Owen, Hayley Parle, Vicky Penny, Gemma Smith, Rochelle Smith, Lauren Taylor.

**Lancashire Girls League Under 16's
as at 19th December 2002
(Top half of table)**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Stockport County | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 73 | 11 | 24 |
| Burnley | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 15 | 18 |
| Huyton Girls | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 43 | 9 | 17 |
| Everton Girls | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 39 | 18 | 16 |
| Bury Girls & Ladies | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 62 | 18 | 15 |
| Manchester United | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 46 | 20 | 12 |

A BIG thank you to Lamb's Coaches of Buxton Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4BB. Telephone 0161 483 5011 for their help in transporting County Ladies this season.

LEADING ladies

HOW ARE OUR GIRLS SHAPING UP? (SO TO SPEAK!)

Christy
EST. 1850

After a tough match and a cold shower, what could be more rewarding than wrapping yourself in a soft and luxurious Christy Towel?

(Except possibly winning the game, of course).

CHRISTY

P.O. Box 19, Newton Street,
Hyde, Cheshire. SK14 4NR
0161 368 1961

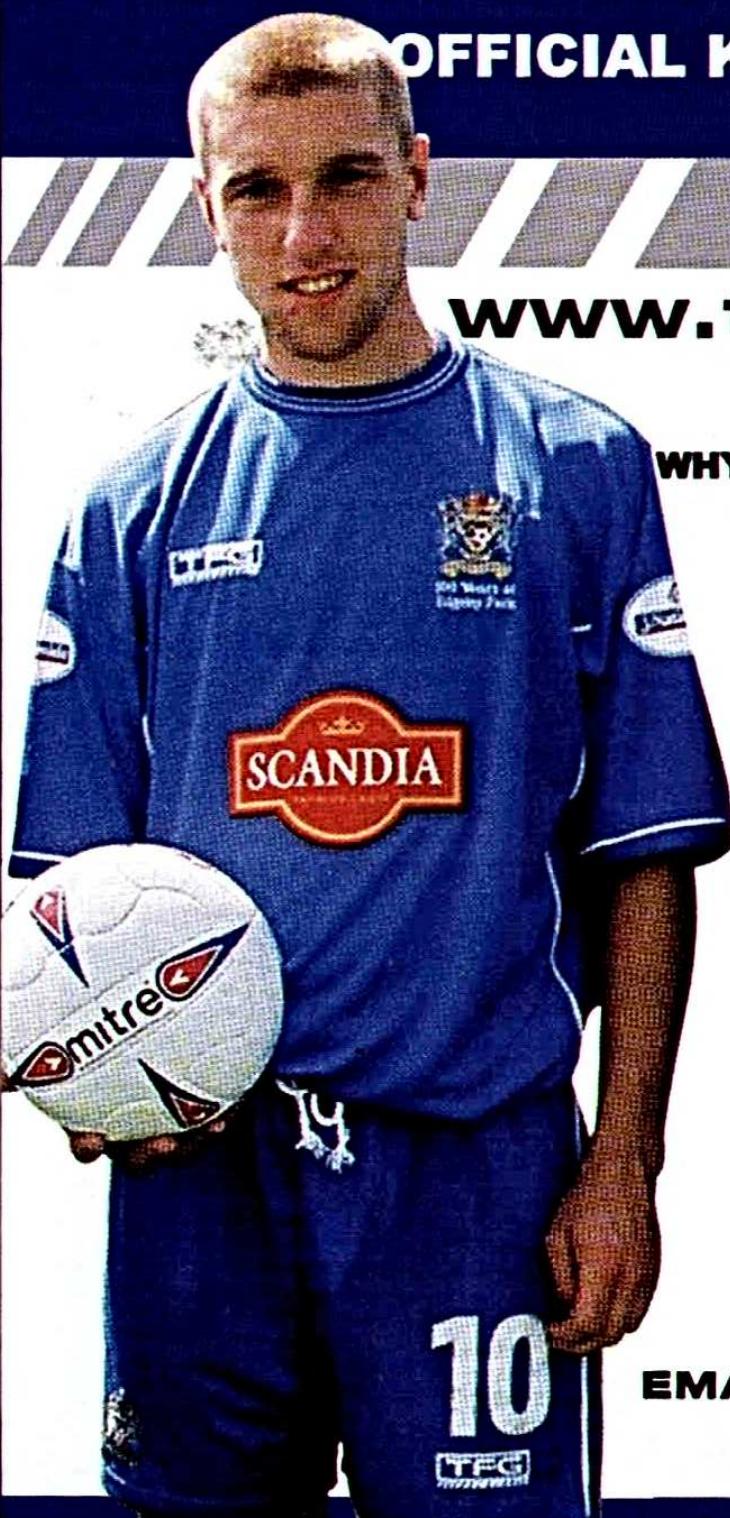


ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
STOCKPORT COUNTY FC
OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER

www.tfgsports.com

FOR A WINNING COMBINATION
WHY NOT KIT OUT YOUR TEAM IN TFG?

FOR TEAM KITS,
LEISUREWEAR,
TRAINING & ACCESSORIES



TFG HOUSE
EYN COURT ROAD
WOODSIDE ESTATE
DUNSTABLE
BEDS

LU5 4TB

TEL: 01582 832 300

EMAIL: enquiries@tfgsports.com

cavalier studios ltd

EST: 1980

Filming

Digital Editing

DVD-R Duplication

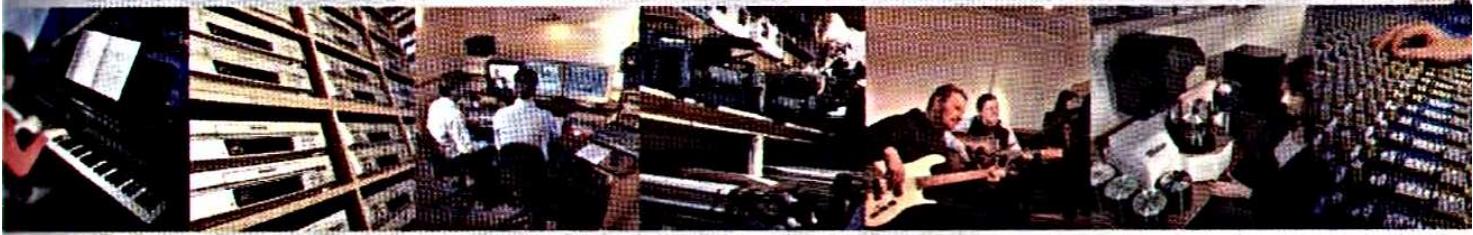
CD Duplication

CD Business Cards

Video Duplication

24 Track Audio Studio

Screen / Thermal / Inkjet printing



Cavalier Studios Ltd

280 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6ND

Tel: 0161 480 6073 Fax: 0161 429 8492



www.cavalierstudios.co.uk

corporate

INTRODUCING OUR MATCH AND MATCHBALL SPONSORS

MATCH SPONSOR



Day & Zimmermann

We do what we say.®

- Founded 1901, owned by the Yoh family (3rd generation) and headquartered in Philadelphia, USA.
- Won 1998 National Family Business of the Year Award in the United States.
- Annual revenues in excess of \$1.5 billion, 20,000 employees in 150 locations world-wide with completed projects in over 75 countries.
- Our Core Values: Safety, Integrity, Diversity & Success.
- The basis of our culture and our trademark is: We Do What We Say.
- In Europe we have our main office in Manchester, and regional offices in Teesside, Gloucester and Cumbria.
- In Europe our project teams have a wealth of experience of designing highly volatile chemical plants such as ethylene oxide, sulphuric acid, paraquat plants, solvent recovery for uranium oxide and have a vast experience on COMAH sites.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR



P2PCARS simply endeavour to ease the stress of buying your new vehicle. We specialise in new or late model high-spec cars with a high residual value. We can provide a wide range of finance options for personal and corporate customers which are especially attractive to those who seek to opt out of company car schemes, bearing in mind the ever-increasing taxation burden.

Our finance director, John Williams, has followed County through both thick and thin for over 35 years, but he says that nothing will beat the scenes at Chesterfield when we got into Division One – what a night (not even picking up his new car!!) Here's to a great result here today against Swindon Town.

John believes that P2PCARS can help you, so call Darren, our sales manager, on 0870 770 6700 or e-mail him at darren@p2pcars.com for further information.

SCOTPLAS

**PVCu Merchants to the Window,
Roofline & Building Industry**

Unit 1, Carrington Field St, Higher Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3JN

Tel: 0161 474 1818 • Fax: 0161 474 1868

Siroflex
SPECIALIST SEALANT SUPPLIER

*Also at Preston, Chester, Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Bedford, Cheltenham
Ayr, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Dartford, Rotherham*

JUST FOR YOU...

OUR VISITORS THAT IS!

1. Lee Jones - goalkeeper

A £50,000 buy from Bristol Rovers in the summer of 2000. Recently transfer-listed but won a place in the Division Two team of the week for his performance at QPR.

4. Dave Challinor - defender

Moved across Cheshire last season when we paid Tranmere Rovers £120,000 for his services. Dave is now established at the heart of our defence where his accomplished performances have seen him handed the captain's armband.

5. Robert Clare - defender

Still hard to believe that Rob is still only 19. A product of our highly successful youth programme the cultured defender won his first England Under-20 cap earlier this season.

6. Carlton Palmer - defender/midfield

The Gaffer! Inspirational figure who leads on and off the pitch. Although 37, Carlton remains a top-class player.

7. Aaron Lescott - midfield

Aaron became Carlton's first signing when the boss went back to Hillsborough to pay his former club £75,000 for the former England Schoolboy international last November.

8. Aaron Wilbraham - striker

Alby has yet to start a first-team game this season after going under the surgeon's knife to correct a long-standing back problem. He came through the last 30 minutes of our reserve win at Blackpool on Wednesday afternoon, though, and might just make the bench today.

9. Luke Beckett - striker

Luke arrived from Chesterfield just before last Christmas for what's proved to be a bargain £100,000. The former Barnsley and Chester City hitman quickly endeared himself to the Hatters faithful with his hard-working performances and eye for goal. Became only the fifth

County player to hit 20 goals before New Year's Day when he scored against Bristol City.

10. Rickie Lambert - midfield

Rickie joined us from our Cheshire neighbours Macclesfield in the summer for a cool £300,000. The former Blackpool trainee scored twice against his former club when we beat the Seasiders' Reserves 4-2 at Bloomfield Road on Wednesday.

11. Martin Pemberton - defender/midfield

Martin decided to move to Edgeley Park on a Bosman free just weeks after helping Mansfield win promotion last season. The 26-year-old has also served Oldham, Doncaster, Scunthorpe and Hartlepool. Could replace the suspended Tonkin this afternoon after scoring for our reserves in midweek.

12. Jim Goodwin - defender

Jim turned down the opportunity of a new contract with Celtic to head south to Edgeley Park in the summer on a Bosman free. Jim captained Ireland Under-21s in their recent EURO 2004 qualifier against Switzerland.

13. James Spencer goalkeeper

James became the youngest goalkeeper, at 16, to play for the club when he made his debut in our 2-1 victory over Watford last April. The Stockport-born shot-stopper also turned in a man-of-the-match performance when he replaced red-carded Andy Dibble inside the first 60 seconds of our final game at Norwich.

14. Fraser McLachlan - midfield

Dismissed at Colchester on the opening day of the season Fraser is a product of our highly successful School of Excellence. Earned an extended contract following some impressive performances over the final weeks of last season.

15. Kevin Ellison - midfield

A former Leicester City winger who

Doesn't it drive you crazy when you get a programme at an away game only to read everything you already know about your own players, when what you really want is to know who you're up against? Well folks this is for you!

scored a spectacular 25-yarder to set us up for victory at Blackpool. Has shown his best form since returning from injury recently.

16. Jonathan Daly - striker

A prolific scorer with our youth and reserve teams the Dubliner became our second-youngest first-team player when he made his debut at Walsall in 1999. Now a regular in the Ireland Under-21 squad Jon has scored three goals this season. Is likely to replace Ben Burgess – on loan at Oldham – this afternoon.

17. Karim Fradin - midfield

Joined us from OGC Nice in 1999. A summer operation has hindered his progress this season but he has made an immediate impact on his return to full fitness.

18. John Hardiker - defender

John became the Conference's most-expensive defender when we paid Morecambe £150,000 to bring him to EP in January. Scored on his Football League debut at Rotherham and he gained cult status by hitting both goals in our pulsating victory over Manchester City in March. Man-of-the-match at QPR.

26. Ali Gibb - midfield

Last season's Supporters' Club player of the Year Ali started his career at Norwich and moved to EP from Northampton in February 2000 for £50,000. Scored his first goal for the club at Blackpool in October.

32. Ben Burgess - striker

The former Blackburn Rovers striker, who cost us £450,000 in the summer, is currently on loan at Oldham Athletic.

35. Anthony Tonkin - defender

Our latest acquisition joined us from Yeovil for a fee of £50,000 on September 26th. Lightening-quick he has already made a big impression on everyone here at Edgeley Park. Misses today's game through suspension.



▲ Jim Goodwin... turned down Celtic.



▲ Jon Hardiker... cult status.

CUP WINNING PIES



CUP WINNING PIES



IT HAS TO BE HOLLAND'S

KICK OFF with the right Insurance

C & C INSURANCE BROKERS
Bridge House 80 Compstall Road Romiley Stockport Cheshire SK6 4 DE
Telephone: 0161 406 4800 Fax: 0161 406 4817

- Stockport County's official broker
- Official Stockport County's China trip insurers
- Specialist in commercial, home and motor insurance
- One of the biggest motor fleet brokers in the North West

C & C
INSURANCE BROKERS
call the winning team on
0161 406 4800

Registered in England
No. 2293342



TOGETHER WE'RE A WINNING TEAM

**Cheshire
Saab**



TELEPHONE SAAB ON:

0161 483 6271

FAX:

0161 483 6190

TELEPHONE SUZUKI ON:

0161 483 8833



**Cheshire
Saab**

Parts Direct Line

TELEPHONE:

0161 456 2122

SALES:
MON-FRI: 8.30-6.30
SAT: 9.00-5.00
SUN: 11.00-4.00

SERVICE:
MON-FRI: 8.00-6.00
SAT: 8.30-1.00
SUN: CLOSED



SUZUKI
Stockport
Suzuki

31 Buxton Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport

WELCOME

swindon town

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR VISITORS

County go into this afternoon's game unbeaten in their last nine matches against the Wiltshire club - which represents quite a turnaround in fortune.

Since the first-ever meeting between the teams in 1958 here at Edgeley Park, to the 1995-96 season, honours were fairly even with County winning four and Town three.

Our record at the County Ground over

the corresponding period, though, was X-rated. Seven games played, no points and just one goal scored! We didn't manage to score in our eighth game in Wiltshire, either, but at least we returned home with a point from a goalless draw on the final day of the 1995-96 season when the Robins were presented with the Second Division championship trophy. The next three games, all in the First Division, saw a win and two draws, and the record was improved further back in August when a Luke Beckett goal gave us a 1-0 victory thanks, in the main, to a tremendous defensive performance and some terrific saves from Lee Jones.

Back in Stockport, a 1-1 draw in 1995, was followed by three wins at First Division level.

There's no doubt that the main threat to our unbeaten run will come from Sam Parkin. The former Chelsea striker has already scored 16 times - half of the Robins 32-goal total.

The promising forward spent the whole of last season on loan at Northampton Town from Chelsea before signing for Swindon during the summer.

Although he failed to break into the first team at Stamford Bridge he has also scored goals during loan spells with Millwall,

Wycombe Wanderers and Oldham Athletic. The fantastically named Danny Invincible is likely to partner Parkin. The Australian signed

for Town on a free transfer in August 2000 after West Ham manager Harry Redknapp had recommended him to then-Robins boss Colin Todd.

After a slow start at the County Ground he went on to finish the 2000-01 campaign as top scorer with ten goals including a 90th minute equaliser against Peterborough in the last home game of the season - a goal that some fans say kept the club in Division Two. He finished last season with eight goals, attracting interest from a whole host of clubs. Eric Sabin also provides boss Andy King with striking options. The Paris-born hitman - who King has compared with Thierry Henry - joined Swindon in July 2001 from French Second Division club Wasquehal. His electrifying pace and ability to run at defenders with the ball causes problems for defenders and he looks a terrific acquisition.

Whilst both Invincible and Sabin provide plenty of potential, a combined total of just six goals between them is a worry to King who was linked earlier in the week with a loan move for Chelsea striker Robert Wolleaston.

King started the season with an adventurous 4-3-3 formation but has, in recent weeks, reverted to a more conservative 4-4-2.

Dean Marney, a youngster on loan from Spurs, Stefani Miglioranzi, Matthew Hewlett and Steve Robinson occupied the midfield places in the 3-0 victory over Chesterfield - the Robins last game.

Miglioranzi is a product of the American College football system in which the best players are drafted into Major League Soccer. The midfielder played for Chicago Fire before a trial with Everton who were

Sam Parkin ▶



interested in signing him although nothing came of it. Portsmouth then beat off competition from Liverpool to take him on trial and signed him shortly afterwards. He has impressed in the centre of Swindon's midfield since joining at the start of this season. Hewlett began his career at hometown club Bristol City where he was tipped to reach the top by the coaching staff at Ashton Gate. A catalogue of injuries, though, curtailed his flourishing career following his selection to the England Under-21 squad.

After more than 100 appearances for City he joined Swindon on a Bosman free in the summer of 2000. He played just 26 League games in his first season at the County Ground before injury struck once again. He played more regularly last season and scored his first goal for the club in their 2-0 victory at Port Vale in September 2001.

Robinson is a tough-tackling midfielder who started his career at Birmingham City. Although Barry Fry handed him a first-team debut at St. Andrew's in 1995, injury limited his Blues' appearances to 50 and, after a potential move to Sheffield United fell through on medical grounds, Swindon took him to the County Ground in February 2001 for £50,000. Since then he has become a virtual automatic choice in the starting line-up with his tireless displays and never-say-die attitude. Adam Willis, a centre-back, replaced Robinson against the Spireites. The defender started his career with Coventry City but, after he failed to make an appearance at Highfield Road, he became Steve McMahon's final signing when he took him to Swindon on a free transfer in April 1998.

He was loaned out to Mansfield Town after Jimmy Quinn told him he could leave the club but, when Colin Todd took over, he handed him a new contract. He impressed last season and scored his first League goal for the Robins in their 3-0 victory against Port Vale in March.

Willis will probably have to settle for a place on the bench again today, though. The vastly experienced Alan Reeves looks certain to partner Matthew Heywood in the middle with Andrew Gurney and David Duke providing support from the flanks. Birkenhead-born Reeves had spells with Norwich City, Gillingham, Chester City, Rochdale and Wimbledon before joining Swindon on a free transfer in June 1998. The Robins' team captain put in his usual battling performances last season although he picked up three red cards along the way. Alan, now 35 and twin brother of Chesterfield striker David Reeves, is quickly approaching the impressive landmark of 400 League appearances. Heywood started his career with Burnley but struggled to make any real impact in the Claret's first team. He was snapped up by Swindon in January 2001 and failed to miss a game in the latter half of the season. He only missed four games last campaign and walked away with an incredible six Player of the Season awards. The tough centre back adapted to play in every position along the back line last season and even played as an emergency striker in the Robins' 2-0 defeat at Stoke City on April Fools Day.

Gurney made more than 100 appearances with Bristol Rovers, his hometown club, before heading west to Torquay in July 1997. Reading monitored his progress as the Gulls reached the play-offs and paid £100,000 to take him to Berkshire in January 1999. Although he played a key role in the Royals promotion campaign last year King snapped him up on a Bosman-free early this season and quickly appointed him club captain. Duke, a naturally left-sided player, began his career with Sunderland but never broke into the first team. He moved to the County Ground on a free transfer in August 2000 and the Scotsman - dangerous when running at opponents and capable of delivering accurate crosses - should

pass 100 League appearances for the Robins later this season. Groningen-born goalkeeper Bart Griemink is an ever-present this season. The former Dutch Under-21 International enjoyed a successful loan spell with Swindon before signing for them prior to the 2000-01 season. On his arrival in England he joined Barry Fry's Birmingham City and then followed the extrovert manager to Peterborough United in October 1996 where he lost his place to Mark Tyler. He has since made the goalkeeper's jersey his own at the County Ground with some consistent performances but although the 30-year-old has improved his confidence and handling, his kicking is still somewhat questionable at times.



◀ Bart Griemink



VISITORS view

CHRIS LAPHAM GIVES US THE LOW-DOWN ON FOLLOWING SWINDON TOWN

How is the season going?

A bit mixed. It's much better than I expected. In previous seasons we have been battling against relegation. Andy King was not the most popular appointment as manager. Parkin is banging in the goals, which has helped a lot. The worrying thing is what happens if he is not there. Our next top scorer is defender Andy Gurney.

What is the financial state of the club?

Previous directors of the club were owed money and this left us in the lurch. The good news is that the embargo has been lifted. We are now able to sign players on loan. This has certainly helped our league position.

Do away fans turn up at the County Ground?

There are a lot of complaints about the cost of getting into the ground. Rightly so. For the cost of getting into Swindon you could get into any First Division club and even some Premiership grounds. It really is crazy money. I think Brentford are a good role model. They have got the kid for a quid scheme. Get the fans

in and encourage the future supporters of the club.

Were you glad to see the back of Neil Ruddock?

What a character. He was idolised by the young players at the club. It was a crippling contract from our point of view. We do miss the man but we had to buy out his contract, as we could not afford it. He is now a free agent. A few fans were calling for him to be the next manager

What is the must win game?

In the league this season its Bristol City. Our traditional rivals are Oxford United. We got drawn against them in the FA Cup this season. Unfortunately we lost to them. It was made worse by the fact that it was live on television.

Best ever Swindon kit?

The away kit in the Premiership was a Brazil kit. Did it make us play like Brazil? No jokes about Alan Brazil please!

Worst Ever Kit?

Before we got promoted into the top flight we have a horrible green and white flecked kit. It made us

look as if we had been dive bombed by seagulls. I think there should also be a special mention for this season's home kit. The numbers are on the front of the shirts. This is to make it look as if we are attacking all the time (The old ones are the best!)

Who always gets a rough reception at Swindon?

Steve McMahon. There was a very sour taste for the last few months when he was in charge here. Some fans have long memories when it comes to things like that. Still, Blackpool seem to be doing OK under him.

Worst own goal?

Nicky Hammond. Well it was as good as an own goal. All the worse for being a goalkeeper. It was in our Premier League season in an FA Cup tie. The ball was passed back to him and he missed the ball completely. Check your Danny Baker videos it's in there somewhere.

Who are the real Robins: Swindon, Bristol City or Cheltenham?

There is a fourth one out there as well. Can't think who it is. Anyway we are the real Robins, make no mistake!

Chris will be here with his son Jordan today and the rest of Swindon juniors visiting the County juniors. We hope they enjoy the day.





This afternoon County look to get back to winning ways and record a double over our visitors from Wiltshire, Swindon Town. A Luke Beckett strike and a stout defensive display, with Lee Jones in inspirational form, earned County maximum points at the County Ground on the final day of August. Furthermore, victory for the Hatters today would see us overtake our visitors who are three points above us and whose negative goal difference is currently just one goal better off.

The current campaign could hardly have started any better for Town and in particular striker Sam Parkin who netted an opening day treble as Swindon saw off Barnsley 3-1 at home. Their first away fixture saw Parkin again on the mark, his goal allied to one from Eric Sabin and a brace from Danny Invincible earned Town a 4-2 away win at Chesterfield. Their third fixture was again on the road and neither Swindon nor their hosts Blackpool could muster a goal at Bloomfield Road. The impressive start to the campaign was soon forgotten as their next six fixtures failed to muster a point. This horror run seeing home defeats at the hands of Cardiff City (0-1), County (0-1) and Port Vale (1-2), whilst they endured fruitless away days at Brentford (1-3), QPR (0-2) and Cheltenham Town (0-2). The run of defeats was brought to an end with a 2-0 success at home to Northampton Town but further defeats came away at Luton Town (0-3) and at home to Oldham Athletic (0-1).

Since early October Swindon have been picking up

points on a more consistent and regular basis. Overall, they have picked up 18 of their 31 points on home soil and boast a won 5, drawn 3, lost 5 record. Other home victories have come against Mansfield Town (2-0), Brentford (2-1) and in the last home game which saw a relatively easy 3-0 win over Chesterfield thanks to goals from Parkin, Invincible and Reeves. Since their poor sequence of results covering late August to early October, the Robins certainly have rectified their home form as only Crewe Alexandra have picked up maximum points, the Railwaymen winning 3-1, whilst only Tranmere Rovers and Peterborough United have shared the spoils with Town, both by 1-1 scorelines. On their travels Swindon visit County with a won 3, drawn 4, lost 6 record. All their away wins have been high scoring affairs since. In addition to their 4-2 win away at Chesterfield their other two wins have been by 3-2 scorelines at Wycombe Wanderers and Huddersfield Town. The draws picked up by Swindon on enemy territory have certainly been meritorious particularly their 1-1 draw at Notts County in their last away fixture, indeed only a late Eamshaw effort stopped Town returning to Wiltshire with all three points. The other two draws of late have also been by 1-1 scores at Notts County and Plymouth Argyle. Since early October Town have only lost two away League games and these were at the current Division Two form teams, Bristol City and Wigan Athletic - both by 2-0 margins.

In cup action Swindon have had limited success. Despite having ex-jockey Willie Carson's chairman they fell at the first hurdle in the Worthington Cup going down 2-1 at home to Wycombe Wanderers

after extra time, the regulation ninety minutes having failed to produce a goal. The LDV saw Southend thrashed 6-1 at the County Ground in the Southern Section First Round game. Extra time was again to prove the undoing of the Robins in Round Two away at Kidderminster Harriers. After 90 minutes Swindon had squandered a 2-0 lead and allowed their hosts to pull level, Kiddy scoring the decisive golden goal winner. In the FA Cup Swindon went down in a televised Second Round tie at Oxford United in a game which it would be fair to say hardly had the nation gripped to the edge of their seats. Their passage to this financially lucrative televised tie had been earned with a 1-0 First Round win away at Huddersfield Town.

A glance at the Division Two goalscoring charts shows that two of the division's leading lights meet up today. County fans will be hoping that the goal scoring prowess of Luke Beckett will prevail over Sam Parkin.

This season's scorers (all competitions):
Parkin 17, Gumey 6, Invincible 5, Davis, Sabin 3, Jackson 2, Duke, Heywood, Miglioranzo, Reeves, Willis, Young 1.

FOR THE record

LOCAL knowledge

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT SWINDON

Famous Fans - The Jockey Club

There's a huge racing connection at the County Ground with Willie Carson, Jenny Pitman, John Francome and Julian Wilson all listed as Robins fans. Swindon's most famous son (although he's really from the village of Purton just outside) is Sir Desmond Morris and he counts himself amongst the Swindon Town faithful.

Other Swindon Glitterati

Swindon can be held responsible for a number of top celebs who may or may not be your cup of tea. Blonde bombshells Diana Dors and Melinda Messenger are both from the town along with Julian Clary and pop quizmeister general Mark Lamarr. In the world of popular music recording artists, Swindon can boast the eclectic mix of Billie Piper, XTC and Gilbert O'Sullivan.

Beware! Low Bridge

Swindon is officially home to Britain's most battered bridge. Whitehouse Bridge carries the railway over a Whitehouse Road in Swindon with a mere 10ft clearance, not enough for a coach to pass under. Yet apparently numerous double decker bus drivers have tried their luck. In the 1990's alone, the bridge was hit 130 times by all manner of vehicles!! Even after a bright yellow, all-over paint job and with the words 'Low Bridge' plastered across it in two foot high letters, it would appear that some bus drivers still seem dead-set on trying to navigate under it.

You Only Film Twice

Swindon has, perhaps surprisingly, featured in not one but two James Bond films. First up in 1984, 'View

to a Kill' used the award-winning Renault building as a backdrop to scenes involving Roger Moore and Patrick MacNee.

Then in 2000, 170 actors and film crew, including Pierce Brosnan, Dame Judi Dench and Sophie Marceau descended on the local Motorola building which was to double up as the high-tech oil pumping station from the 'World is not Enough'.

Magic Roundabout

No guide to Swindon would be complete without a mention for the Magic Roundabout. Tragically nothing to do with Zebedee, Dougal & the gang and all too much to do with a piece of town planning madness. The sheer lunacy behind the construction of this highway anomaly can only be wondered at. Anyone who has been to the County Ground may well have experienced the delights of the roundabout but just in case you haven't, - it's actually six roundabouts in one, five mini-roundabouts located in orbit around one central one. The trick is that you go round the mini-roundabouts the normal way (clockwise) but you have to go round the larger central roundabout the 'wrong' way (anti-clockwise), before picking up another mini-roundabout at the exit of your choice. Simple eh?





EDGELEY PARK

“so much more than a football club...”



Apart from celebrating its' 100 year anniversary as a successful and much loved football club. Stockport County FC is fast developing an enviable reputation for its' Conference & Banqueting facilities.

We understand that your expectations are high and we aim to exceed them. Our experienced team have the ability to accommodate the needs of both small meetings right through to large scale events. Our main suite, The Pavilion, can seat up to 600 guests in its wood panelled elegant surroundings. Something no other venue locally can boast.

In business, if you have the responsibility of keeping customers happy, our Matchday Hospitality is second to none, offering the

finest cuisine, outstanding service and great football.

For life's celebrations you couldn't be in better hands. Weddings – we have a civil ceremony licence, birthdays, christenings & dinner parties. Rest assured we have a package to suit your every need. At Edgeley Park we are in the business of creating memorable occasions.

For further details of what Edgeley Park is able to offer you please contact us by telephone on 0161 286 8891.

stats

THE WAY IT IS ANDY GOSLING'S FACTS & FIGURES

2002/03 SEASON DIVISION TWO DATABASE

Largest Win

HOME: 6-1 Oldham Athletic V Mansfield Town (14/9),
5-0 Mansfield v Tranmere Rovers (5/10)
5-0 Brentford v Blackpool (2/11)

AWAY: 5-0 Crewe Alexandra at Mansfield Town (31/8)

Highest Crowd: 18,085 Bristol City v Plymouth Argyle (26/12)

Lowest Crowd: 2,721 Colchester United V Wigan Athletic (31/8)

Penalty Scorers: 4 Eynes (Oldham), Hunt (Brentford), Parkin (Swindon),
Tinnion (Bristol C.), 3 Two Players, 2 Five Players, 1 Twenty Three Players.
Total successful penalties: 65 (Home Team 33, Away Team 22)

SECOND DIVISION HOTSHOTS 2002/03 SEASON

| | League | Cup | Total |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-------|
| Eamshaw (Cardiff) | 21 | 4 | 25 |
| BECKETT (COUNTY) | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| Hulse (Crewe) | 16 | 4 | 20 |
| Murray (Bristol City) | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| Ellington (Wigan) | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Parkin (Swindon) | 16 | 1 | 17 |

COUNTY GOAL TIMINGS (League) 2002/03

| Minutes | 0-15 | 16-30 | 31-45 | 46-60 | 61-75 | 76-90 | Tot |
|----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Goals Scored | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 34 |
| Goals Conceded | 7 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 43 |

OUR VISITORS GOAL TIMINGS (League) 2002/03

| Minutes | 0-15 | 16-30 | 31-45 | 46-60 | 61-75 | 76-90 | Tot |
|----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Goals Scored | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 32 |
| Goals Conceded | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 38 |

EDGELEY PARK GOAL SUMMARY (League & Cup) 2002/03

| | Cheadle End | Railway End |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| For | 17 | 12 |
| Against | 13 | 13 |

Statistical Shorts

■ Swindon Town were the first team County beat this century - goals from Moore, Lawson and Connelly securing a 3-0 win here at Edgeley Park on 24th April 2000. It would be fair to say that the Hatters have not enjoyed too much tangible success since the turn of the millenium winning just 27 games out of the 139 league matches played with 17 wins here at Edgeley Park and 10 on the road.

■ Wigan Athletic chalked up their tenth consecutive win with their recent 1-0 success against Bristol City at Ashton Gate. The run is based on a miserly defence which conceded just one goal in that period, Stallard netting for Notts County in their 3-1 defeat at the JJB Stadium.

SECOND DIVISION ATTENDANCES AND LEADING LEAGUE GOALSCORERS 2002/03

| TOTAL ATT | HIGHEST ATT | AVERAGE ATT | 2002/03 AVERAGE | LEADING LEAGUE GOALSCORER |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Barnsley 130,400 | 51,222 | 10,031 | 13,323 | Dyer 7 |
| Blackpool 88,823 | 8,201 | 6,833 | 5,993 | Murphy 7 |
| Brentford 71,441 | 7,145 | 5,953 | 6,714 | Vine 8 |
| Bristol City 158,036 | 18,085 | 12,157 | 11,220 | Murray 13 |
| Cardiff City 170,446 | 15,239 | 13,111 | 12,523 | Eamshaw 21 |
| Cheltenham Town 59,869 | 6,382 | 4,989 | 4,073 | Alsop 6 |
| Chesterfield 53,374 | 4,676 | 4,106 | 4,391 | Hurst 5 |
| Colchester United 44,284 | 3,760 | 3,163 | 3,839 | Keith 5 |
| Crewe Alexandra 84,177 | 9,006 | 6,475 | 7,129 | Hulse 16 |
| Huddersfield Town 121,864 | 11,989 | 9,374 | 10,881 | Smith 8 |
| Luton Town 82,098 | 9,477 | 6,842 | 6,853 | Howard 13 |
| Mansfield Town 61,015 | 7,258 | 4,693 | 4,919 | Christie 14 |
| Northampton Town 65,619 | 5,750 | 5,048 | 5,253 | Gabbadini 10 |
| Notts County 74,456 | 10,302 | 6,205 | 5,958 | Stallard 12 |
| Oldham Athletic 89,505 | 9,415 | 6,885 | 5,800 | Wijnhard 8 |
| Peterborough United 65,937 | 7,767 | 5,072 | 5,457 | Clarke 11 |
| Plymouth Argyle 124,895 | 11,922 | 9,607 | 8,788 | Friis, Wotton 5 |
| Port Vale 56,238 | 6,395 | 4,687 | 5,206 | Bridge-Wilkinson 6 |
| Queens Park Rangers 178,804 | 15,491 | 12,772 | 11,749 | Gallen 9 |
| STOCKPORT COUNTY 66,733 | 6,468 | 5,433 | 6,245 | Beckett 18 |
| Swindon Town 66,416 | 7,564 | 5,109 | 6,362 | Parkin 16 |
| Tranmere Rovers 98,827 | 9,795 | 7,602 | 8,655 | Haworth 12 |
| Wigan Athletic 82,890 | 8,047 | 6,376 | 5,717 | Ellington, Liddell 10 |
| Wycombe Wanderers 78,462 | 8,383 | 6,036 | 6,621 | Devine, Faulconbridge 5 |

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 2002/03

| League Apps | Cup Apps | County Apps | League Career Gls | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|------------|
| | | | Goals | Goals |
| Luke Beckett 26 | 18 | 5 | 2 | 43 (2) 25 |
| Alan Blayney 2 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Keith Briggs 13 (6) | 1 | 6 | 1 | 47 (11) 2 |
| Ben Burgess 17 (2) | 4 | 3 (2) | 2 | 17 (2) 4 |
| Mark Byrne - | - | - | - | 1 (4) |
| Dave Challinor 26 | - | 5 | - | 44 |
| Rob Clare 16 (3) | - | 2 | 1 | 56 (8) |
| Peter Clark 5 | - | - | - | 50 (6) 2 |
| Jon Daly 8 (9) | 2 | 1 (1) | 1 | 19 (15) 3 |
| Kevin Ellison 8 (6) | 1 | 1 | - | 14 (11) 1 |
| Karim Fradin 7 (1) | - | 4 | 1 | 7 (1) 9 |
| Ali Gibb 25 (1) | 1 | 5 | - | 126 (4) 1 |
| Jim Goodwin 11 (9) | 2 | 5 | - | 11 (9) 2 |
| John Hardiker 13 (3) | - | 5 | - | 24 (4) 3 |
| Michael Ingham - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Brad Jones 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Lee Jones 22 | - | 3 | - | 70 (2) |
| Rickie Lambert 9 (2) | - | 4 | - | 9 (2) |
| Aaron Lescott 18 (5) | - | 2 (2) | - | 35 (5) |
| Fraser McLachlan 8 | - | 2 | - | 19 |
| Carlton Palmer 20 | 1 | 3 (1) | 1 | 40 (1) 4 |
| Martin Pemberton 11 (2) | - | 1 (1) | - | 11 (2) |
| Neil Ross 1 (3) | 1 | 3 (2) | - | 3 (6) 2 |
| James Spencer 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 (1) |
| Andrew Thomas - | - | - | - | 7 (3) |
| Anthony Tonkin 17 | - | 3 | - | 17 |
| Andrew Welsh 1 | - | 0 (1) | - | 10 (6) |
| Aaron Wilbraham - | - | - | - | 78 (38) 20 |
| Peter Wild - | - | 0 (1) | - | 1 |
| Chris Williams - | - | - | - | 1 (4) |
| Own Goals - | - | 3 | - | - |



Ian Moore scored in the 3-0 win over Swindon back in April 2000, County's first victory of this century!

Stockport County Football Club

Fixtures & Results Season 2002-2003

Stats it!

| DATE | OPPONENTS | VEN | REF | POS | ATT | VIZATT |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| SAT AUG 15 | COLCHESTER UNITED | A | 0-1 | 18 | 3300 | 540 |
| TUE AUG 17 | QUEENS PARK RANGERS | H | 1-1 | 17 | 5811 | 668 |
| SAT AUG 21 | NOTTS COUNTY | H | 0-0 | 21 | 5047 | 528 |
| SAT AUG 24 | PORT VALE | A | 1-0 | 15 | 4070 | 615 |
| TUE AUG 26 | MANSFIELD TOWN | H | 2-0 (0) | 8 | 5150 | 786 |
| SAT AUG 31 | SWINDON TOWN | A | 1-0 | 6 | 5456 | 303 |
| TUE SEP 10 | LINCOLN CITY (WC) | A | 3-1 | 6 | 2084 | 213 |
| SAT SEP 14 | CARDIFF CITY | A | 1-2 | 12 | 11546 | 225 |
| TUE SEP 17 | CHESTERFIELD | A | 0-1 | 13 | 4088 | 771 |
| SAT SEP 21 | BARNESLEY | H | 4-1 | 11 | 5690 | 711 |
| SAT SEP 28 | TRANMERE ROVERS | A | 0-1 | 14 | 7513 | 827 |
| TUE OCT 1 | GILLINGHAM (WC) | H | 1-2 | 14 | 2395 | 166 |
| SAT OCT 5 | LUTON TOWN | H | 2-3 | 17 | 5922 | 686 |
| TUE OCT 8 | PETERBOROUGH UNITED | H | 2-1 | 10 | 4726 | 129 |
| SAT OCT 12 | CREWE ALEXANDRA | H | 0-1 | 11 | 4148 | 1092 |
| SAT OCT 19 | WIGAN ATHLETIC | A | 1-2 | 15 | 7276 | 977 |
| TUE OCT 22 | DARLINGTON (DW 1) | H | 1-2 | 13 | 1093 | 34 |
| SAT OCT 26 | BRENTFORD | H | 2-3 | 15 | 4601 | 224 |
| TUE OCT 29 | BLACKPOOL | A | 3-1 | 13 | 7047 | 764 |
| SAT NOV 2 | OLDHAM ATHLETIC | A | 0-2 | 14 | 8251 | 1461 |
| SAT NOV 9 | CHELTENHAM TOWN | H | 2-1 | 15 | 4531 | 338 |
| TUE NOV 12 | CARLISLE UNITED (DW 2) | A | 0-1 | 15 | 5118 | 126 |
| SAT NOV 16 | ST ALBANS CITY (FAC) | H | 4-3 | 15 | 3303 | 354 |
| SAT NOV 23 | PLYMOUTH ARGYLE | A | 1-1 (0) | 18 | 7746 | 372 |
| SAT NOV 30 | WYCOMBE WANDERERS | H | 2-1 | 15 | 4731 | 272 |
| SAT DEC 7 | PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (FAC 2) | H | 0-3 | 15 | 3571 | 799 |
| SAT DEC 14 | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | A | 1-2 | 17 | 7878 | 575 |
| FRI DEC 20 | NORTHAMPTON 7:45PM | H | 4-0 | 12 | 4516 | 231 |
| THUR DEC 26 | MANSFIELD TOWN 1:00PM | A | 2-0 (0) | 13 | 6436 | 907 |
| SAT DEC 28 | BRISTOL CITY | H | 1-0 | 14 | 5100 | 843 |
| WED JAN 1 | PORT VALE | H | 0-1 | 15 | 4390 | 270 |
| SAT JAN 4 | QUEENS PARK RANGERS | A | 0-1 | 15 | 10,387 | 348 |
| SAT JAN 11 | NOTTS COUNTY | A | 0-0 | | | |
| SAT JAN 18 | SWINDON TOWN | H | | | | |
| SAT JAN 25 | BRISTOL CITY | A | | | | |
| SAT FEB 1 | COLCHESTER UNITED | H | | | | |
| SAT FEB 8 | CHELTENHAM TOWN | A | | | | |
| SAT FEB 15 | OLDHAM ATHLETIC | H | | | | |
| SAT FEB 22 | PETERBOROUGH UNITED | A | | | | |
| SAT MAR 1 | CARDIFF CITY | H | | | | |
| TUE MAR 4 | CHESTERFIELD | H | | | | |
| SAT MAR 8 | BARNESLEY | A | | | | |
| SAT MAR 15 | BRENTFORD | A | | | | |
| TUE MAR 19 | WIGAN ATHLETIC | H | | | | |
| SAT MAR 23 | BLACKPOOL | H | | | | |
| SAT MAR 29 | CREWE ALEXANDRA | A | | | | |
| SAT APR 5 | WYCOMBE WANDERERS | A | | | | |
| SAT APR 12 | PLYMOUTH ARGYLE | H | | | | |
| SAT APR 13 | FA CUP SEMI-FINAL | H | | | | |
| FRI APR 18 | NORTHAMPTON TOWN | A | | | | 745PM |
| MON APR 21 | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | H | | | | |
| SAT APR 26 | LUTON TOWN | A | | | | |
| SAT MAY 3 | TRANMERE ROVERS | H | | | | |
| SAT MAY 17 | FA CUP FINAL | H | | | | |

Nationwide Division 2



| | OVERALL | | | | | | HOME | | | | | AWAY | | | | | PTS | GD |
|--------------|---------|----|----|----|----|----|------|---|---|----|----|------|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Wigan | 26 | 19 | 5 | 2 | 44 | 14 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 62 | 30 |
| Oldham | 27 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 42 | 20 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 53 | 22 |
| Crewe | 26 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 44 | 21 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 13 | 50 | 23 |
| Cardiff | 25 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 42 | 21 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 13 | 50 | 21 |
| Bristol City | 26 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 51 | 30 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 27 | 21 | 49 | 21 |
| QPR | 27 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 35 | 30 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 17 | 43 | 5 |
| Tranmere | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 36 | 40 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 26 | 38 | -4 |
| Luton | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 37 | 33 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 37 | 4 |
| Chesterfield | 26 | 11 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 30 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 21 | 37 | -7 |
| Plymouth | 25 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 34 | 31 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 16 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 15 | 36 | 3 |
| Brentford | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 31 | 29 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 23 | 36 | 2 |
| Blackpool | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 33 | 35 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 24 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 36 | -2 |
| Wycombe | 27 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 38 | 36 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 26 | 22 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 14 | 34 | 2 |
| Swindon | 26 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 32 | 38 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 31 | -6 |
| Northampton | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 23 | 40 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 29 | -17 |
| COUNTY | 26 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 34 | 41 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 11 | 21 | 28 | -7 |
| Peterborough | 27 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 36 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 13 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 27 | -8 |
| Port Vale | 25 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 29 | 39 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 21 | 27 | -10 |
| Colchester | 26 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 27 | 37 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 27 | -10 |
| Barnsley | 26 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 29 | 41 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 13 | 22 | 27 | -12 |
| Notts County | 25 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 36 | 39 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 20 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 19 | 26 | -3 |
| Mansfield | 26 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 41 | 58 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 26 | 29 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 29 | 25 | -17 |
| Cheltenham | 25 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 23 | 38 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 23 | -15 |
| Huddersfield | 26 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 19 | 34 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 20 | 22 | -15 |



*Caricatures copyright Bob Bickerton

| Position | John Hardiker | Andy Welsh | 20 | Andrew Thomas | Peter Wild | Chris Williams | Anthony Kielthy | Glynne Hancock | Ali Gibb | Michael Ogden | Gareth Walsh | Haydn Eames | Ryan Elderton | Ben Burgess | Neil Ross | Michael Ingham | Anthony Tonkin | Ben Coppieter | Alan Blasmy | Brad Jones | |
|----------|---------------|------------|----|---------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----|
| 18 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 19 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 20 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 21 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 22 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 23 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 24 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 25 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 26 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 27 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 28 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 29 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 30 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 31 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 32 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 33 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 34 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 35 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 36 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 37 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 38 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

Division One West



LEAGUE

| Date | Opposition | Venue | K-O | Res | Att | Scorers |
|--------|----------------------|-------|--------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| Aug 21 | Rochdale | Away | 2.00pm | 0-4 | 64 | |
| Aug 28 | Blackpool | Home | 7.00pm | 5-1 | 202 | Daly 2, Ross, O.G. 2 |
| Sep 05 | Nantwich Town * | Away | 7.45pm | 1-1 | 118 | Holt |
| Sep 12 | Wrexham | Home | 7.00pm | 0-1 | 225 | |
| Sep 19 | Nantwich Town * | Home | 7.25pm | 2-1 | 219 | Holt, Ellison |
| Sep 30 | Stoke City | Away | 2.00pm | 3-2 | 228 | McLachlan |
| Oct 16 | Shrewsbury Town | Away | 7.00pm | 2-2 | 77 | Ross, Elderton |
| Oct 30 | Doncaster Rovers | Home | 7.00pm | 1-2 | 134 | Ross |
| Nov 04 | Chester City * | Home | 7.30pm | 1-2 | 212 | Ross |
| Nov 13 | Wigan Athletic | Away | 2.00pm | 1-1 | 48 | Warrender |
| Nov 20 | Macclesfield Town | Home | 7.00pm | 2-0 | 237 | Walsh, Kielthy |
| Dec 11 | Chesterfield | Away | 2.00pm | 4-1 | 55 | Burgess, Lambert, Hardiker, Lames |
| Jan 15 | Blackpool | Away | 2.00pm | 4-2 | 83 | Lambert 2, Pemberton, Williams (pen) |
| Jan 22 | Northwich Victoria * | Home | 7.35pm | | | |
| Feb 05 | Wrexham | Away | 7.00pm | | | |
| Feb 19 | Stoke City | Home | 7.00pm | | | |
| Feb 26 | Doncaster Rovers | Away | 2.00pm | | | |
| Mar 12 | Shrewsbury Town | Home | 7.00pm | | | |
| Mar 26 | Wigan Athletic | Home | 7.00pm | | | |
| Apr 02 | Macclesfield Town | Away | 2.00pm | | | |
| Apr 23 | Chesterfield | Home | 7.00pm | | | |

* Cheshire Senior Cup
TBA Rochdale (Home)

North West Conference 2002/03



| Date | Opposition | Venue | Result | Scorers |
|--------|--------------------|-------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Aug 17 | Blackpool | Home | 2-2 | Davies, Holt |
| Aug 24 | Preston North End | Away | 0-5 | |
| Sep 07 | Bury * | Home | 1-1 | Campbell |
| Sep 14 | Rochdale * | Away | 1-0 | Holt |
| Sep 21 | Oldham Athletic * | Home | 3-1 | Holt 2, Warrender |
| Sep 28 | Tranmere Rovers ** | Home | 0-4 | |
| Oct 05 | Wigan Athletic | Home | 0-2 | |
| Oct 12 | Oldham Athletic | Away | 1-0 | Davies |
| Oct 19 | Doncaster Rovers - | Home | 1-1 | Holt |
| Oct 26 | Carlisle United | Home | 2-3 | Baguley, Campbell |
| Nov 09 | Bury | Home | 2-3 | Bailey, Douglas |
| Nov 16 | Oldham Athletic | Home | 5-1 | Baguley 2, Walsh, Holt, Davies |
| Nov 23 | Wigan Athletic | Away | 2-1 | Baguley, Bailey |
| Nov 30 | Carlisle United | Away | 2-1 | Baguley 2, Bailey |
| Dec 07 | Burnley | Home | 2-3 | Allen, Williams |
| Dec 14 | Rochdale | Home | 4-2 | Campbell 2, Hilton, Bailey |
| Jan 13 | Burnley | Away | 3-0 | Warrender 2, Hilton |
| Jan 20 | Bury | Away | | |
| Jan 25 | Blackpool | Away | | |
| Feb 01 | Preston North End | Home | | |
| Feb 03 | Tranmere Rovers | Away | | |
| Feb 08 | Rochdale | Away | | |

* League Cup Group Four; ** League Cup Knock-out

- FA Youth Cup - lost 3-1 on pens after extra time, TBA Bury (Away)



Stockport

1. Lee Jones
2. Keith Briggs
3. Peter Clark
4. Dave Challinor
5. Robert Clare
6. Carlton Palmer
7. Aaron Lescott
8. Aaron Wilbraham
9. Luke Beckett
10. Rickie Lambert
11. Martin Pemberton
12. Jim Goodwin
13. James Spencer
14. Fraser McLachlan
15. Kevin Ellison
16. Jonathan Daly
17. Karim Fradin
18. John Hardiker
19. Andy Welsh
21. Andrew Thomas
22. Peter Wild
23. Chris Williams
24. Anthony Kielthy
25. Glynn Hancock
26. Ali Gibb
28. Michael Ogden
29. Gareth Walsh
30. Haydn Eames
31. Ryan Elderton
32. Ben Burgess
35. Anthony Tonkin
36. Ben Coppinger
37. Alan Blayney
38. Brad Jones



→ Swindon

1. Bart Griemink
2. Gareth Edds
3. Johnnie Jackson
4. Matthew Hewlett
5. Adam Willis
6. Andrew Gurney
7. Keith O'Halloran
8. Jimmy Davis
9. Sam Parkin
10. Stefani Miglioranzo
11. David Duke
12. Juan Cobain
14. Eric Sabin
15. Darren Sykes
16. Neil Ruddock
17. Daniel Invincible
18. Craig Farr
19. Matthew Heywood
21. David Bampton
22. Alan Reeves
25. Steve Robinson
26. Alan Young
28. Nathan Edwards
30. Chris Collins
31. Kevin Halliday



**Matchball Sponsor:
P2PCARS.COM Limited**

EganReid

BREDBURY IND PARK, STOCKPORT SK6 2SU

COMMERCIAL STATIONERS



- Office Stationery
- Office Furniture
- I. T. Supplies
- Business Machines
- Business Gifts
- Presentation Equipment Hire

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

TEL : 0161 406 6000 FAX: 0161 406 6591 EMAIL: sales@eganreid.co.uk